



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA ON THE FARMS BUFFELSKLOOF 382JT, WATERVAL 385 JT. ROODEWALSHOEK 17 JT, NAAUWPOORT 11 JT AND BELVEDERE 385 KT MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, ACT NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- 2.1 Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
- 2.2 Archaeological sites and objects.
- 2.3 Palaeontological sites.
- 2.4 Meteorites.
- 2.5 Ship wrecks.

- 2.6 Burial grounds.
- 2.7 Graves of victims of conflict.
- 2.8 Public monuments and memorials.
- 2.9 Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette.
- 2.10 Any other places or object, which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance.
- 2.11 Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
- 2.12 Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
- 2.13 Objects to which oral traditions are attached.
- 2.14 Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history.

3, METHODOLOGY

The site was visited, inspected on foot and by vehicle. All appropriate documents on the area were studied.

4. RESULTS (see attached map)

The proposed development area is very mountainous with mainly Highveld grassland on top of the mountains and bushveld in the valleys. The proposed development will be very low density.

The following heritage sites were found:

4.1 Graves

At S24° 57' 47.7" and E30° 15' 52.7 a possible grave was found. Though it looks like a grave it might only be a heap of stones (see photograph 1).

At S24° 57' 58.4" and E30° 15' 04.6" two graves were found, possible of farm workers (see photograph 2).

Another single grave dating to 1912 was found at S25° 01' 15.8 and E30° 16' 53.2". According to the present owner of the farm this is the grave of a young child (see photograph 3).

4.2 Animal Enclosures (kraal)

On top of the mountain a number of square animal enclosures were found.

They all have stacked dry stonewalling, are square and have an opening on one side. They differ in size from about 400m² to about 60m². These were most probably used for sheep and the larger one for cattle.

It is very difficult to determine their age. Taken into consideration the large trees, which grow in some of the walls, some of them might be sixty years old and some less than sixty years.

These animal enclosures were found at the following localities.

- S25° 00' 37.0" and E30° 16' 50.7". This is the largest of all the enclosures (see photograph 4).
- S24° 59' 24.1" and E30° 17' 01.5" (see photograph 5).
- S24° 58' 34.7" and E30° 16' 54.2".
- S24° 58' 25.4" and E30° 16' 55.9".
- S24° 59' 49.3" and E30° 16' 64.4".
- S25° 01' 24.7" and E30° 16' 40.3".

4.3 Archaeological Sites

Two archaeological late Iron Age sites were found against the northern slope of the mountain near the Buffelskloof dam.

- S24° 58' 35.1" and E30° 14' 44.4". Modern farming has damaged this site as most of the stones of the Iron Age site were reused to build square cattle enclosure right in the middle of the site (see photograph 6).
- S24° 58' 31.7" and E30° 14' 45.7". This late Iron Age site is still in a very good condition, with stonewalls still more than a meter high. The settlement is about sixty-meters in diameter and more or less circular. On the inside there are a number of circular walls to demarcate the various functional areas. The site is most probably a Northern Sotho site dating to approximately 16-1800 (see photograph 7 & 8).

4.4 Farm Workers Settlement (A)

At S24° 58' 30.2" and E30° 14' 39.2" the remains of a farm workers settlement were found. The walls were built of stone and clay and others only of clay (see photograph 9).

4.5 School House

The old so-called schoolhouse (S24° 58' 55.0" and E30° 14' 17.8") is still used today. The house is largely still in its original state except for a new veranda on the western side. The school and house were built in the 1930s. Unfortunately the old school has been demolished many years ago (see photograph 10). This site falls outside the development area.

4.6 Oral History

All the previous farm workers have left the farms. The new generation did not grow up on the farm and no nothing of the oral history of the farms. Only the present owner Mr. Paul Malan knew of the old school and schoolhouse. His mother helped to plant the large palm trees in front of the schoolhouse in the 1930s.

5. CONCLUSION

Though the proposed development will cover a large area relative few cultural heritage resources were recorded. This is most probably due to the fact that the area is mountainous as well as the fact that climatic wise it is a very cold area. The new development will be a low-density development, which should not impact negatively on the recorded sites. The developers intend to preserve the recorded sites within the new proposed development.

6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the recorded sites be preserved and protected in the new development and that a cultural heritage resources management plan be compiled for the development area. If the developers undertake in writing that the new development will not impact negatively on the recorded sites there is no objection to the development from a cultural heritage resources point of view.

PHOTOGRAPHS



No. 1. Possible grave



No. 2. One of the two graves of farm workers



No. 3. The grave dated 1912



No. 4. The largest of the animal enclosures with a large wild Fig tree growing on the wall



No. 5. One of the smaller animal enclosures



No. 6. Square cattle enclosure built in the middle of an archaeological site



No. 7. Large Late Iron Age Site



No. 8. Internal walls of the Late Iron Age site



No. 9. Remains of farm workers settlement



No. 10. Schoolhouse dating to the 1930s

PROJECT DATA

<p>Owners contact details: Paul Maarten Malan Paul Malan PO Box 1152 Lydenburg 1102 Tel: (013) 235 4595 Cell: 082 337 6117 Fax: (013) 235 4595 e-mail: haggie@sentechsa.com</p>
<p>Developers contact details: Mr. Leon Lourens Buffelskloof Development Holdings POBox 7059 Centurion 0046 Tel: (011) 695 4800 Cell: 082 371 5490 Fax: (011) 695 4811 e-mail: leon@sbti.co.za.</p>
<p>Consultants contact details: Interdesign Landscape Architects Claudia Coetzee / Karen Botes PO Box 74648 Lynwood Ridge 0040 Tel: (012) 348 1922 Cell: 082 8934702 Fax: (012)3487154 e-mail: info@ilaweb.co.za</p>
<p>Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.) Township establishment</p>
<p>Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved: Yes, rezoning</p>
<p>Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number: Ehlanzeni District Municipality Thaba Chweu Local Municipality</p>
<p>Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint):</p>

If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site.

