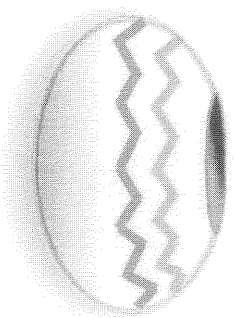


Report on Archaeological Survey of the Central Waste Disposal Site –  
Tekwane, Mbombela Municipality on portion 5 of the farm Tekwane 573  
JU

compiled by

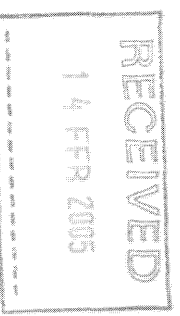
# Kudzala Antiquity



January 31, 2005

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Surveyor, Mr JP Celliers BA (Hons) Archaeology.



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## 1. Introduction

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999) requires of individuals (engineers, farmers, mines and industry) to have impact assessment studies undertaken whenever any development activities are planned.

This includes guidelines for impact assessment studies to be done whenever cultural resources may be destroyed by development activities.

Against this background a preliminary Archaeological or Cultural Resources Management (CRM) survey was carried out during January 22, 2005 on the farm Broedershoek 129 JU. This survey was done as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Central Waste Disposal Site of the Mbombela Municipality.

Van Vollenhoven (1995:3) describe cultural resources as all unique and non-renewable physical phenomena (of natural occurrence or made by humans) that can be associated with human (cultural) activities.

These would be any man-made structure, tool, object of art or waste that was left behind on or beneath the soil surface by historic or pre-historic communities.

These remains, when studied in their original context by archaeologists, are interpreted in an attempt to understand, identify and reconstruct the activities and lifestyles of past communities. When these items are disturbed from their original context, any meaningful information they possessed is lost, therefore it is important to locate and identify such remains before construction or development activities commence.

A preliminary CRM survey consists of three phases, this document deals with the first phase. This (phase 1) investigation is aimed at getting an overview of cultural resources in a given area, thereby assessing the possible impact a proposed development may have on these resources.

When the archaeologist encounters a situation where the planned project will lead to the destruction or alteration of an archaeological site, a second phase in the survey is normally recommended. During a phase 2 investigation the impact assessment of development activities on identified cultural resources is intensified and detailed investigation into the nature and origin of the cultural material is undertaken. Normally at this stage, archaeological excavation is carried out in order to document and preserve the cultural heritage.

Phase three consists of the compiling of a management plan for the safeguarding, conservation, interpretation and utilization of cultural resources (Van Vollenhoven, 2002).

Continuous communication between the developer and surveyor after the initial report have been compiled may result in the modification of a planned route or development to incorporate or protect existing archaeological sites.

## 2. Description of surveyed area

The survey was carried out on approximately 50 ha of portion 5 of the farm Tekwane 573 JU.

Typical Lowveld vegetation occur in the vicinity of the surveyed area, the area earmarked for the waste disposal site is clearly terraced and was utilized for cultivation in the past. The identified land is bordered on all sides by a number of granite hills, thereby creating a small valley. Two large dongas created by water erosion meet one another approximately in the middle of the site from roughly a western and eastern direction respectively.

The R 37 road forms a southern boundary and will eventually serve as the access road to the site.

### 3. Aim and method of survey

An archaeological survey aims to establish the whereabouts and nature of cultural heritage sites should they occur in the area.

This includes settlements, structures and artefacts which have value for an individual or group of people in terms of historical, archaeological, architectural and human (cultural) development.

The purpose of this study is to locate and identify such objects or places in order to assess whether they are of significance and warrant further investigation and/ or protection.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) formulated guidelines for the conservation of all cultural resources and therefore also divided such sites into three main categories. These categories might be seen as guidelines that suggest the extent of protection a given site might receive. They include sites or features of local (Grade 3) provincial (Grade 2) and national (Grade 1) significance.

The survey was carried out on foot and with a motor vehicle in an effort to locate any cultural remains in the area where the proposed development will take place.

Some cultural remains were found during the survey, although it should be noted that most archaeological remains are found beneath the soil surface and might still be revealed during excavation and/or land moving activities.

Remains of archaeological nature were discovered on one location only ( See photos 1 and 2 Appendix A and also Map and Aerial Photo Appendix B and C). The geographical location (GPS co-ordinates) was documented and the perimeters of these site established. The site, as well as some cultural material were photographed as well.

The remains consist of a few broken shards of pottery and a metal object believed to have been a part of a plough or related agricultural equipment.

The pottery shards were found inside a small erosion donga and at varying levels. These pieces of broken pottery are associated with Bantu-speaking tribes and are a good indication that they probably settled the area in the past, i.e. before the land was cultivated by modern farmers using ploughs, tillers and so forth.

Because of the cultivation activity combined with the erosion, the pottery shards were most probably not found in their original context and is therefore meaningless in terms of further archaeological assessment.

The location of the find was documented at S 25° 27, 326' and E 31 ° 07, 509' at altitude 646 metres.

No other or similar remains were located during the survey.

### 4. History of the area

Some finds of Archaeological and cultural significance have been documented in this area. These are rock-art sites or better known as Bushman paintings.

A survey conducted about three years ago at the nearby Bongani Mountain Lodge and surrounding area, revealed some 100 sites of San Rock Art (Hampson et. al. 2002). Although no similar sites could be located during the survey, it is believed that some may be found in the near vicinity.

Before europeans settled the area in large numbers, native bantu-speaking tribes occupied the land.

The first of these groups were encountered by the odd traveller who documented their existence in their diaries. This area was notorious for the abundance of Tsetse flies that made cattle herding

impossible. Subsequently the groups that settled here before were few and consisted of small family units (Barnard, 1975; Borman, 1995).

Among these smaller groups were the baKutswe and the baPai. The latter group initially resided in Swaziland but were forced northwards by the Swazi's in the first part of the nineteenth century as far as emPakeni or Crocodile Gorge. The maPulana was another small tribe who initially resided in the Barberton area and later moved to Crocodile Gorge they also had to flee northwards because of the marauding Swazi and eventually settled in the vicinity of Pilgrim's Rest (Barnard, 1975).

The pieces of broken pottery found during the survey is surely indicative of previous Bantu settlement. These remains unfortunately serve little to provide more information than this because of the context in which they were found.

In the first place it is clear that this area used to be cultivated land for some period which means that any original context in which these remains may have occurred was destroyed when the land was first tilled or ploughed for cultivation.

The fact that these shards of pottery were exposed by soil erosion when located by the surveyor, further enhances the fact that any meaningful context was destroyed already.

It is possible that these finds may be related to the Early Iron Age (635 AD approx.) settlement discovered and excavated by Evers (Evers, 1977) near Plaston a few kilometers to the north northwest of this site. The disturbance of context however makes it almost impossible to validate this.

## 5. Findings and recommendations

As stated earlier, no significant archaeological or cultural material were located during the survey.

It is important to note that the bulk of archaeological remains are normally located beneath the soil surface. It is therefore possible that some significant cultural material or remains were not located during this survey and will only be revealed when the soil is disturbed.

Therefore it is recommended that the developers take this into consideration when such activities are planned and executed at this location.

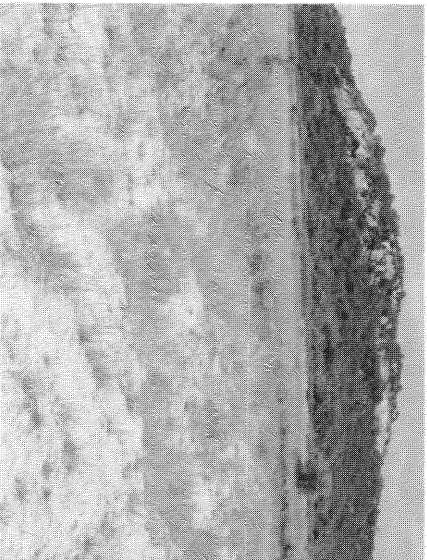
Should excavation or large scale earth moving activities reveal any human skeletal remains, broken pieces of ceramic pottery, large quantities of sub-surface charcoal or any material that can be associated with previous occupation, a qualified archaeologist should be notified immediately.

This will also temporarily halt such activities until an archaeologist have assessed the situation. It must also be noted that if such a situation occurs, it will probably have further financial implications for the developers.

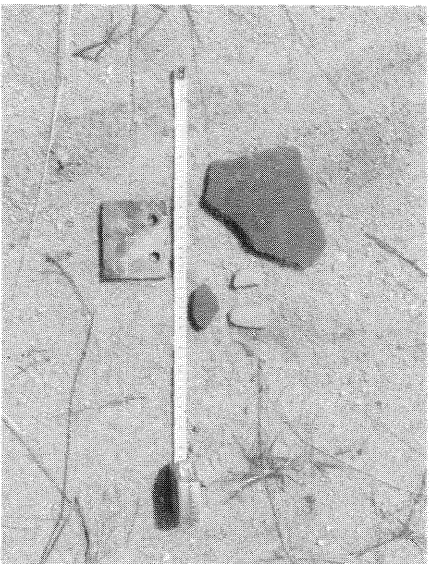
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## Appendix A – Photos



**Figure 1: Photo 1. Photo of danga where potsherds were found. Photo taken in western direction.**

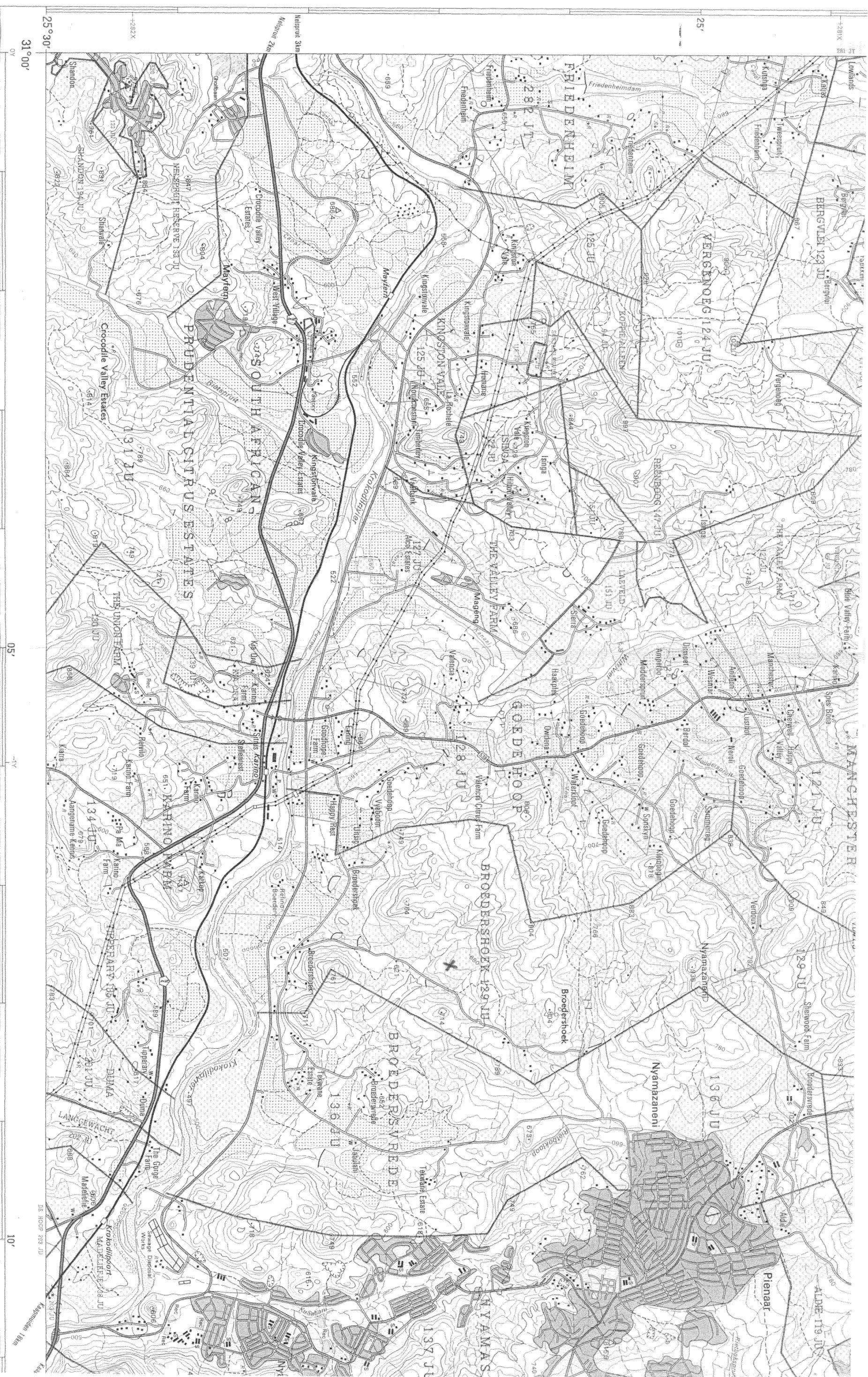


**Figure 2: Photo 2. Close-up photo of scattered potsherds found in the danga. Below the measuring tape lies an iron object believed to have been part of a plough.**



## Appendix B – Maps

## Appendix C – Aerial Photos



Published by the Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping, Private Bag X10, Mowbray.  
 Gepubliseer deur die Hoofdirektorat: Opmetings en Kartering, Privatsak X10, Mowbray.

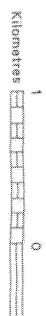
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**REFERENCE**

- National Freeway: Nasionale Route
- Arterial Road: Hoofverkeersroete
- Main Road: Hoofpad
- Secondary Road, Bench Mark: Sekondêre Pad; Hoogtemerk
- Other Road, Bridge: Ander Pad; Brug
- Track and Hiking Trail: Dowms Pad en Voetslaanpad

**VERKLARING**



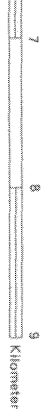
Kilometres 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Kilometer

Mean magnetic declination 15° 2' West of True North (1987.0). Mean annual change 3' Eastwards (1980-1985)



Heights are in metres above mean sea level  
 Hoogtes is in meter bo gemiddelde seepepel

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 20 METRES KONTERTUSSENRUIMTE 20 METER



Kilometres 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Kilometer

The grid lines of the South African Co-ordinate System are indicated in margin by short black ticks at 10 000 metre intervals, with co-ordinate values in units of 10 000 metres in blue.

Die ruitlyne van die Suid-Afrikaanse Koordinaatstelsel word in die kern aangestoon deur kort swart strepies 10 000 meter van mekaar, met koördinaatswaardes in sekerde van 10 000 meter in blou.

## Appendix D – List of site locations

During the survey, the location of the site was plotted with aid of a GPS (Global Positioning System). The site was also numbered in the following fashion:  
The initials MT followed by a number marks the identity of the site. The “M” stands for Mbombela and “T” for the farm Tekwane.

Site name: MT 1

Date of compilation: 22/01/2005

GPS S 25° 27, 326'

E 31° 07, 509'

Alt: 646 metres

Photo: 1, 2