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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL ASSESSMENT OF LODGES AND  
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 4  
(REMAINDER) AND PORTION 5 OF THE FARM RIETVLEY 28-KU  
PHALABORWA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.



PREPARED FOR LIONS WALK (PTY) LTD  
And  
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## **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed lodge development was visited and inspected from 25 October to 29 October 2004 in the company of Ralf Kalwa and Wikus van der Walt of Rhengu Environmental Services, Terry Bevilacqua of Pure African Investment, and Francois de Lange, of Lions Walk (Pty) Ltd., as well as the investigating botanist, Mervyn Lotter. The presence of representatives of the development team presented an opportunity to expose them to the requirements of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and to educate them in terms of our cultural heritage.

We were accompanied throughout by Jim Ngwenya, born on Rietvley in 1956, of Malawian parents who were involved in the construction of the original farmhouse, and who remembers details of every aspect of Rietvley.

The site was examined for the possible presence of archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

## **LOCALITY**

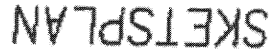
The proposed lodge developments are planned on parts of Portion 4 (Remainder) and Portion 5 of the farm Rietvley 28-KU Phalaborwa Magisterial district, Bohlabele District, Limpopo Province, and will consist of privately owned lodges, managers' and rangers' houses and miscellaneous staff units, as well as a network of access roads. An extensive road network system is already existent, some of which will be decommissioned, others will be upgraded and all will be in accordance with the low impact gravel road requirements of the Kruger National Park.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The survey was conducted on foot, each proposed structural site is marked with a stake, all of which were found with the guidance of Jim Ngwenya. Some of the roads, particularly the small access roads to individual lodges were similarly investigated on foot, while the main roads were surveyed from the bull bar of a vehicle moving at 10 - 20 kilometres per hour. The roads infrastructure is approximately 40 kilometres in extent.

As the survey was conducted at the end of winter, and the area is arid, and neither heavily wooded nor grassed, visibility was good, and features highly visible. The position of artefacts was plotted by means of GPS, and they were photographed in situ.

See map 1.



## FINDS

Early Stone Age tools formed the bulk of the finds, and were widely and sparsely scattered. For ease of reference, each stand is dealt with separately, and in sequence.

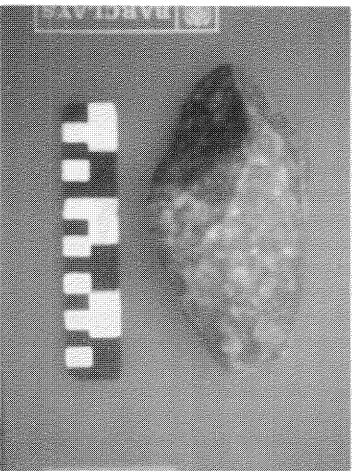
Stands indicated by a solid circle are to be developed, those scored through are no longer scheduled for development. (Map 1)

Stands 1-10.

Nothing found.

Stand 11.

Early Stone Age handaxe.



GPS reading: S 24 07 749

E 31 18 668

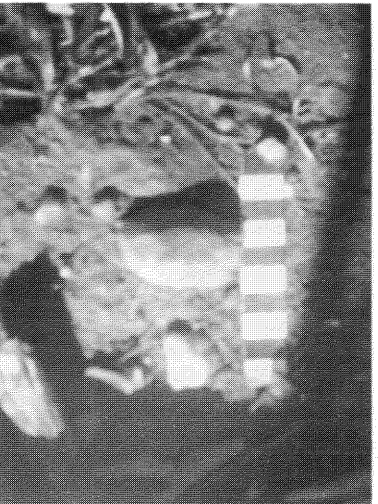
Photo 1

Stands 12-15.

Nothing found.

Stand 16.

Flake.



GPS reading: S 24 07 749

E 31 18 272

Photo 2

Stand 17.  
ESA chopper.

GPS reading: S 24 07 915  
E 31 18 192

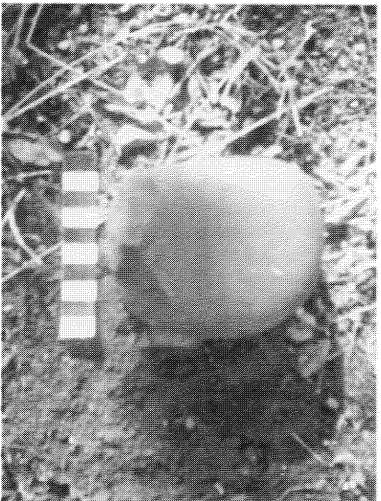


Photo 3

Stands 18-25, and stand N3.  
Nothing found.

Stand 37.  
Nothing found

Stand 38.  
1. Anvil stone with flakes removed.

GPS reading: S 24 06 925  
E 31 18 984

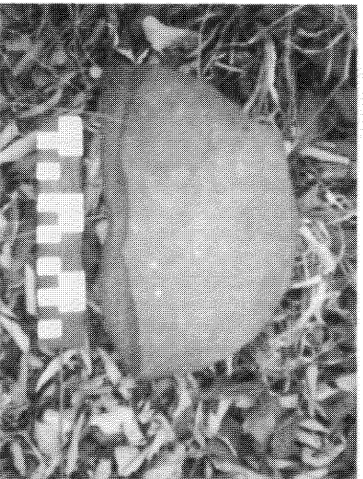


Photo 4

2. ESA Chopper.

GPS reading: S 26 06 926  
E 31 18 980



Photo 5

3. ESA Handaxe with 2 flaked cobbles.

GPS reading: S 26 06 899  
E 31 18 963



Photo 6

Stands 39-41.  
Nothing found.

Stand 42.  
1. Irregular core.

GPS reading: S 24 07 053  
E 31 18 863

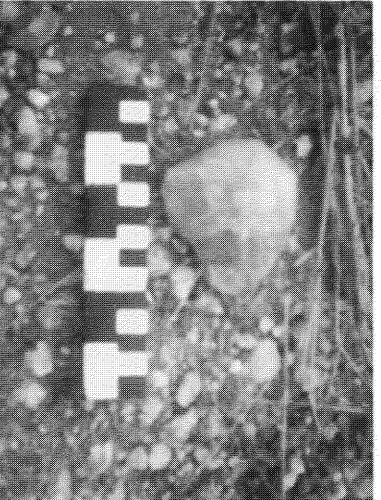


Photo 7

2. Late Iron Age Perforated soapstone.

GPS reading: S 24 07 042  
E 31 18 831

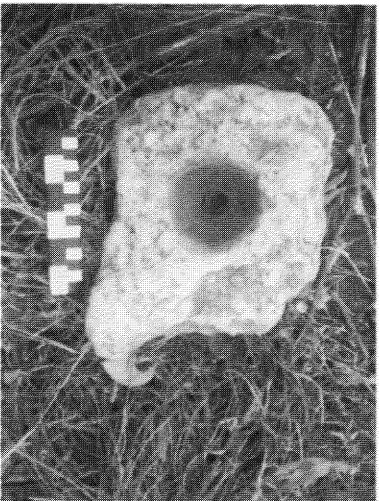


Photo 8

Stand 43.  
Nothing found.

Stand 44.  
Flake.

GPS reading: S 24 07 116  
E 31 18 640

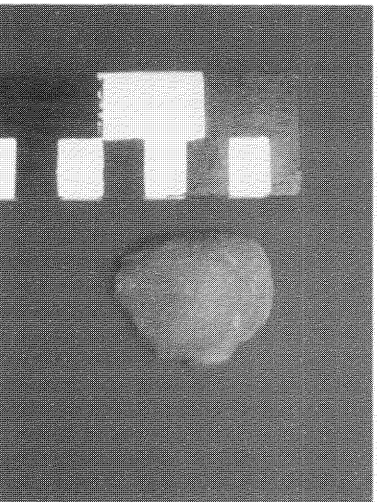


Photo 9

Stand 45.

1. ESA Chopper with irregular cores.



Photo 10

GPS reading: S 24 07 216  
E 31 18 433

2. Irregular core.

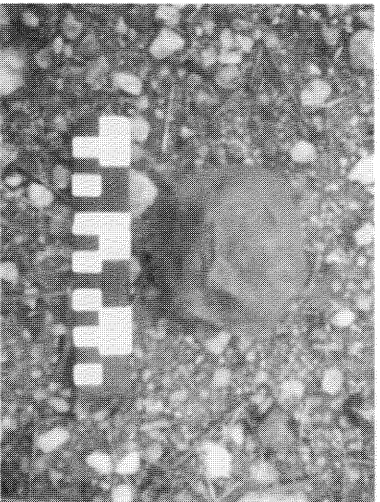


Photo 11

GPS reading: S 24 07 268  
E 31 18 370

Stand 46.

1. Irregular core.



Photo 12

GPS reading: S 24 07 375  
E 31 18 172



2. Anvil stone with flakes removed.

GPS reading: S 24 07 378  
E 31 18 165

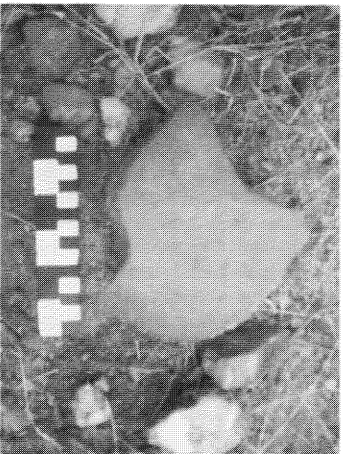


Photo 13

Stand 47.

1. Cores.
2. ESA Handaxes.

GPS reading: S 24 07 453  
E 31 18 128

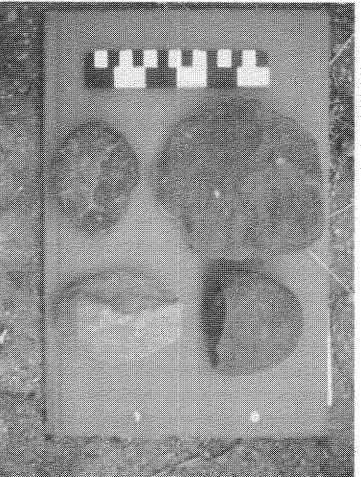


Photo 14

3. Anvil stone. (In access road  
between stands 47 and 48.)

GPS reading: S 24 07 469  
E 31 18 140

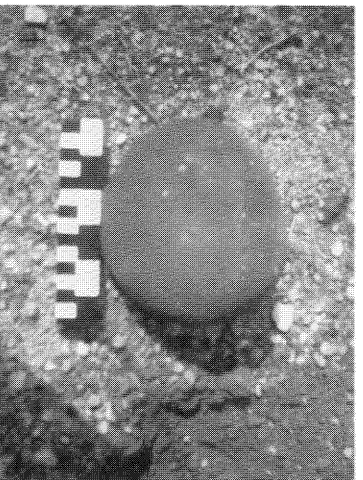


Photo 15

4. Core.

GPS reading: S 24 07 470  
E 31 18 150

Stand 48.

1. Triangular flake.

GPS reading: S 24 07 627  
E 31 18 035

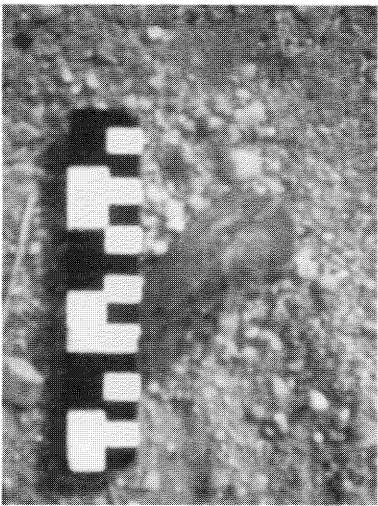


Photo 16

Stand 49,50.

Nothing found.

In service road near to stand 50.

1. Utilized flake.

GPS reading: S 24 07 352  
E 31 18 573

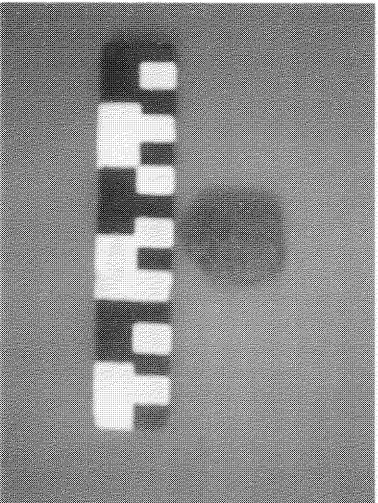


Photo 17

2. Hammer stone.

GPS reading: S 24 07 320  
E 31 18 594

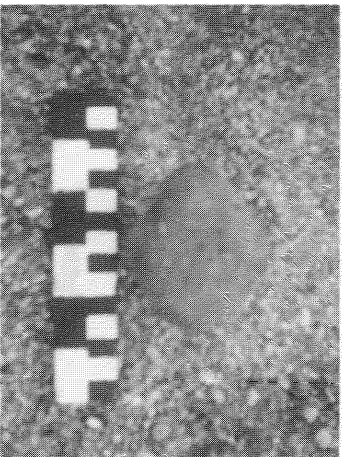


Photo 18

Stands 50,51,52,53.

Nothing found.

Stands 60-64.

Nothing found.

Main Lodge.

The main lodge will be constructed in the immediate area of the present farmhouse, in a highly disturbed area where nothing was found. The farmhouse will be demolished, and is of no historical or cultural significance (completed in 1954).

Reception, staff houses and units.

These will be constructed on the plain south west of the main lodge. Nothing was found on the site.

Jim Ngwenya, who was born, grew up, and currently works on Rietvley, has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the natural history and topography of the area and informed us that there are no cultural or historical remains, other than a sparse scatter of artefacts of the nature that we found.

**RECOMMENDATIONS.**

1. Ralf Kalwa of Rhengu Environmental Services requested photographs, which we will supply, of what might possibly be revealed during construction in order that the construction team might be made aware of any possible cultural remains. The development team is aware of and interested in any cultural remains, and undertakes to advise us should anything of this nature be revealed during construction.
2. There can be no objection to the proposed development on Rietvley.