

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
ON A PORTION OF THE FARM TWEEFONTEIN 372 JR,
PRETORIA DISTRICT, GAUTENG**

For:

METSIQUAL CC.
Posbus 38224
GARSFONTEIN-OOS
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Survey conducted and report prepared by the:

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REPORT: 98KH20

Date of survey: September 1998

Date of report: September 1998



NASIONALE KULTURHISTORIESE MUSEUM
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SUMMARY

A survey of cultural resources on the a portion of the farm Tweefontein 372 JR, Pretoria District, Gauteng

A survey to establish the nature, extent and significance of cultural resources was made on a portion of the farm Tweefontein 372 JR, Pretoria District, Gauteng. The development of a water resevoir is proposed.

No significant cultural (archaeological & historical sites, features and artifacts) resources were identified. Two sites with structures, one of fairly recent age and the other possibly earlier, Late Iron Age, were identified. Not one of the two are situated close to the area of proposed development and this will therefore have no impact on any significant cultural resource and it is recommended that the development of the proposed water resevoir continue. However, if alternative sites for development are identified and decided upon, the National Cultural History Museum must be contacted in order to do a complete survey before development can start. It is also recommended that if, during any part of the development, sites or artifacts of cultural importance are found, the Museum be contacted to undertake proper scientific investigation of the finds.

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1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **MetsiQual CC** to survey an area on the farm Tweefontein 372 JR, Pretoria District, Gauteng, where a water reservoir are to be developed. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document possible sites, objects and structures of cultural importance within the boundaries of the area of proposed development.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

- 2.1 Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural resources) located in the area of the proposed development.
- 2.2 Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.
- 2.3 Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
- 2.4 Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.

We were informed by the client about the extent of the area that will be affected by the

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3. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following aspects have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- **Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- The **significance** of the sites and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.
- Significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium to high significance require further mitigation.
- The latitude and longitude of an archaeological site is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer, and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
- All recommendations are made with full cognisance of the relevant legislation, in this case the National Monuments Act (Act 28 of 1969).

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Currently two of the more important Acts concerning cultural resources are the National Monuments Act (Act 28 of 1969) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989). It is however important to note that new legislation is being prepared and this might come into effect before the end of 1998.

4.1 National Monuments Act

According to this law the following appropriate cultural resources are protected:

- a. Meteorites and fossils
- b. Prehistoric rock art
- c. Prehistoric tools, ornaments and structures
- d. The Anthropological and archaeological contents of graves, rock shelters, caves, middens, etc.
- e. Historical sites and archaeological or paleontological finds, material or artifacts
- f. Declared national monuments

- g. Cemeteries and graves older than 50 years

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after obtaining a permit to do so from the National Monuments Council. A person is only regarded an archaeologist if he/she has an Honours degree in archaeology.

4.2 Environmental Conservation Act

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made. The impact of the development on the cultural resources should also be determined and proposals to mitigate this impact is to be formulated.

4.3 White Paper in Heritage Resources

The white paper is currently being discussed by parliament and is destined to become law before the end of 1998. It will replace the National Monuments Act. The types of sites protected by this act will be more or less the same than that covered by the National Monuments Act, but provides more strict measures of protection. An important change is that all graves, cemeteries and structures older than 60 years will be protected.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Field survey

A thorough survey of the area of proposed development (section of the farm Tweefontein 372 JR) was undertaken. The survey was conducted according to generally accepted archaeological practises, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures of archaeological and historical (cultural) importance. Special attention was given to the area of proposed development, while areas in close proximity of the planned development were also investigated. All natural features such as prominent hills and outcrops, streambeds, clumps of trees and erosion trenches were investigated.

5.2 Data sources

The Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC) of the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria was consulted. This was done in order to determine if any archaeological and/or historical sites have been documented previously in the area of the

survey.

5.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the **Global Positioning System** (GPS) and plotted on a map. The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5.4 Presentation of the information

In discussing the results of the survey, a chronological rather than a geographical approach is followed in the presentation of an overview of human occupation and land use in the area. This helps the reader to better understand and facilitate the potential impact of the development.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area is situated on the Bronberge, on the Elliot Ridge section. The geology of the area is basically quartzite and shale, with intrusions of diabase, quartz diabase, dolerite, etc. The original vegetation of the area is classified as Bankenveld (Acocks 1975:99). This is open savannah with *Acacia caffra* and *Celtis africana* trees dominating. A large variety of grass species occurs. Acocks indicates that intensive cultivation of this type of veld by Iron Age people resulted in *Hyparrhenia hirta* (blougras/steekgras) becoming very dominant in the disturbed areas.

7. DISCUSSION

The search in the ADRC of the National Cultural History Museum revealed no sites of cultural (archaeological and historical) importance in the area of proposed development. A survey done by the Archaeology Department of the Museum in 1995 on the Bronberge did however reveal a large number of Iron Age stone structures and settlements, as well as more recent initiation sites. A few historical sites, such as Boer fortifications dating to the Anglo-Boer War, was also identified during that survey. The survey did however not cover the complete area, and excludes the area of Tweefontein 372 JR.

The survey done in the area of proposed development revealed two sites, one of which is located in the close vicinity of the proposed water reservoir development (See enclosed map). None of the sites are of great cultural (archaeological and historical) importance and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.

Site 1

The site is located between 25°47'42.4" S and 28°20'59.2" E. It consists of the remains of structures built of stone and clay mortar, with stone foundations. Metal, glass, corrugated sheet iron and ceramics are found on the site and inside the structures. A small, 2m x 2m stone and clay structure could have been an outside oven. The age of the site could not be determined, but could be fairly recent (historical times).

Site 2

This site is situated close to the water reservoir and is located between 25°47'14.9" S and 28°20'43.7" E. It consists of the remains of at least 6 circular stone structures, possibly dating to the Late Iron Age. They could be linked to the Ndebele who moved into the area around the 1830's. They could also be linked to more recent initiation ceremonies, which are known to have taken place in the area up to very recently.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although Site 2 are situated fairly close to the area of proposed development, the site will not be physically impacted upon by the development. The site is also of no great importance culturally. It is therefore recommended that the development continue, but that, if during any stage of development any archaeological sites or artifacts are uncovered or if alternative sites for the development is decided upon, the National Cultural History Museum be contacted to conduct proper scientific investigation.

9. REFERENCES

Acocks, J.P.H. 1975. **Veld Types of South Africa**. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No.40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

Data Sources

National Cultural History Museum: Archaeological Data Recording Centre

Maps

1:50 000 Topographical Series: 2528CD Rietvleidam

1:50 000 Geological Series: 2528CD Rietvleidam

10. PROJECT TEAM

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