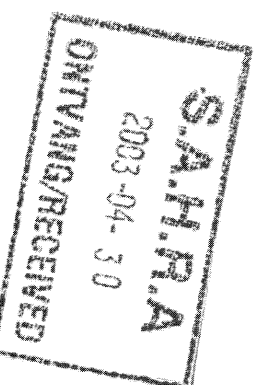


09/02/2003

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# JACO van der Walt & Associates

**Cultural Resource Consultants**

## PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A cultural heritage evaluation for the proposed service station in Acornhoek

By: Jaco van der Walt BA Hons Archaeology Wits Jaco van der Walt & Associates 16 April 2003
For: Bio 8

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## CONTENTS

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1. Executive summary	2
2. Introduction	2
3. Aim of this report	3
4. Location	4
6. Methodology	4
a. Survey on foot	4
b. Assumptions and Limitations	4
c. Categories of significance	4
d. Explanation of terminology	5
5. Relevant Legislation	6
6. Archaeological Finds	6
7. Evaluation & Interpretation	7
8. Recommendation	7
9. Bibliography	8
10. Appendix A: Photos	9
11. Appendix B: Locality Map	11

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**Site name and location: Acornhoek Service Station**

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**Environmental Consultant: Wilhelm Joubert - Bio 8**

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**Consultant: Jaco van der Walt & Associates, PO Box 317 Mokopane 0600**

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**Date of fieldwork: 5 April 2003**

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**Date of report: 16 April 2003**

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**Findings: One Iron Age site of low significance was found, consisting of a low scatter of undecorated ceramics. No mitigation is required for the development of the service station in Acornhoek.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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The **Project Proposal** constitutes an activity that is listed in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989), for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to satisfy the requirements of the List of Activities and Regulation for EIA's – Government Gazette of 5 September 1997 - provided for in terms of sections 21, 22 and 26. In addition, the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), protects all archaeological, palaeontological and historical sites and graves, and requires heritage resource impact assessments in terms of Section 38. To satisfy the requirements of the above legislation, a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (scoping and evaluation) of the proposed service station at Acornhoek was undertaken. In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources that occur on the demarcated area, and their significance. This will enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

## 2. THE AIM OF THIS REPORT

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The author was contracted by Wilhelm Joubert of Bio 8 to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed Acornhoek service station.

The aims of this assessment are:

- To determine whether the presence of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance will have an impact on the nature of the proposed development.
- To assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources
- To provide the developer with appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

This report aims to provide an overview of the heritage resources that were detected within the proposed development area. The impact and significance of the heritage resources were assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section.

## 2. LOCATION

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Refer to map, South Africa (1:50 000 2431CA.)

The demarcated area is situated just east of the R40 between Klaserie and Bosbokrand. The site is situated adjacent to the tar road next to the new community centre.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

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### 3.1 Information gathered in a survey on foot

The archaeologist visited the proposed site as part of a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment on April 5, 2003. An area of approximately one hectare was set aside for the proposed service station in Acornhoek; the area was thoroughly surveyed by foot and by vehicle to determine its cultural heritage status prior to the proposed development. Standard archaeological practices for observation were used to evaluate findings.

Most archaeological material occurs in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface and therefore special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as clearings and paths, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Locations of archaeological material were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin E Trex). Archaeological material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Canon digital camera.

### 3.2 Assumptions and Limitations

It is important to keep in mind that although the area was subjected to a very thorough cultural heritage survey, all heritage resources may not have been detected in the given study area. The discovery of previously undetected heritage remains, below the surface that might occur only as development commences, must be reported and may require further mitigation measures.

### 3.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

No Significance	Do not require mitigation
Low Significance	May require mitigation
Medium Significance	Require mitigation
High Significance	Must not be disturbed at all

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage

Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

An important aspect to consider when determining the heritage significance and protection status of a resource is mostly whether the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. There are however many aspects that must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, scientific importance, national significance, cultural and religious significance and community preferences. When the protection of a heritage site is deemed to be not necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information that would be lost otherwise. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

### 3.4 Explanation of terminology

<b>Cultural Heritage Assessment</b>	Includes an evaluation of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act
<b>Iron Age</b>	<p>The Iron Age includes both Pre historic and Historic period. The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking people. It too can be divided into three categories:</p> <p>Early Iron Age Most of the first millennium AD</p> <p>Middle Iron Age 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD</p> <p>Late Iron Age 14<sup>th</sup> century to colonial period.</p>
<b>Phase 1 assessments</b>	Represents surveys using different sources of information to establish the presence of and to evaluate all types of heritage resources in a given area.
<b>Phase 2 assessments</b>	In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features or, alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling.
<b>Sensitive remains</b>	Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place as well as ideologically significant places such as ritual / religious / sacred places. Graves are only considered heritage resources if they date from the historic past or before and have tombstones older than sixty years. <u>Sensitive</u> may also refer to an entire

landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains
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### 3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

One set of legislation is relevant for this study with regard to protection of heritage resources and graves.

#### 3.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) (NHRA)

The National Heritage Act was established by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and makes provision for the establishment of Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities (PHRA). The Act makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibilities and functions for heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial authorities and Local authorities, depending on the grade of the Heritage resources. The Act defines cultural significance, archaeological and palaeontological sites and material (Section 35), historical sites and structures (Section 34), graves and burial sites (Section 36) that falls under its jurisdiction. Archaeological sites and material are generally those resources older than a hundred years. Section 34 also protects structures and cultural landscapes older than 60 years, including gravestones. Procedures for managing graves and burial grounds are clearly set out in Section 36 of the NHRA. Graves older than a 100 years are legislated as archaeological sites and must be dealt with accordingly

Section 38 of the NHRA makes provision for application by developers for permits before any heritage resource may be damaged or destroyed.

### 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

**SITE 1** General Co-ordinates: *S 24° 36' 08.4"*  
*E 31° 02' 37.9"*

This is the location of the proposed service station. A slope accompanied by extensive sheet erosion characterizes the site. No artifacts of significance were found regarding cultural heritage. Surface finds consisted of a low concentration of scattered, undecorated ceramics.

<b>Significance: This site is of low significance and will not require mitigation.</b>
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No decorated ceramics were found during the field survey and therefore it is not possible to connect the site to an Iron Age cultural group. Moreover, due to the low density of ceramics this is not regarded as an archaeological site. Previous development adjacent to the site might also have destroyed further traces of archaeological sites.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

This Phase 1 Archaeological impact assessment found no significant evidence of cultural heritage resources on the site demarcated for the proposed service station. It is therefore suggested that development can commence, as there will be no implications regarding cultural heritage resource mitigation.

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BA Hons Archaeology

Maia vd Ryst

### Principle investigator



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## Appendix A

Photos: Fig 1. General site conditions.

Fig 2. Undecorated ceramics.

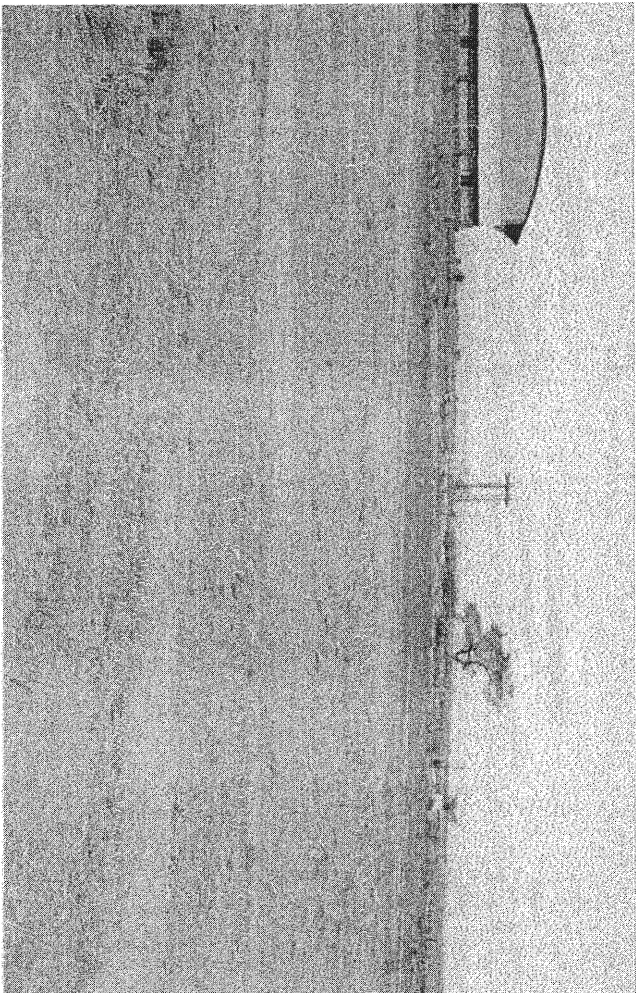


Fig 1. General site conditions.

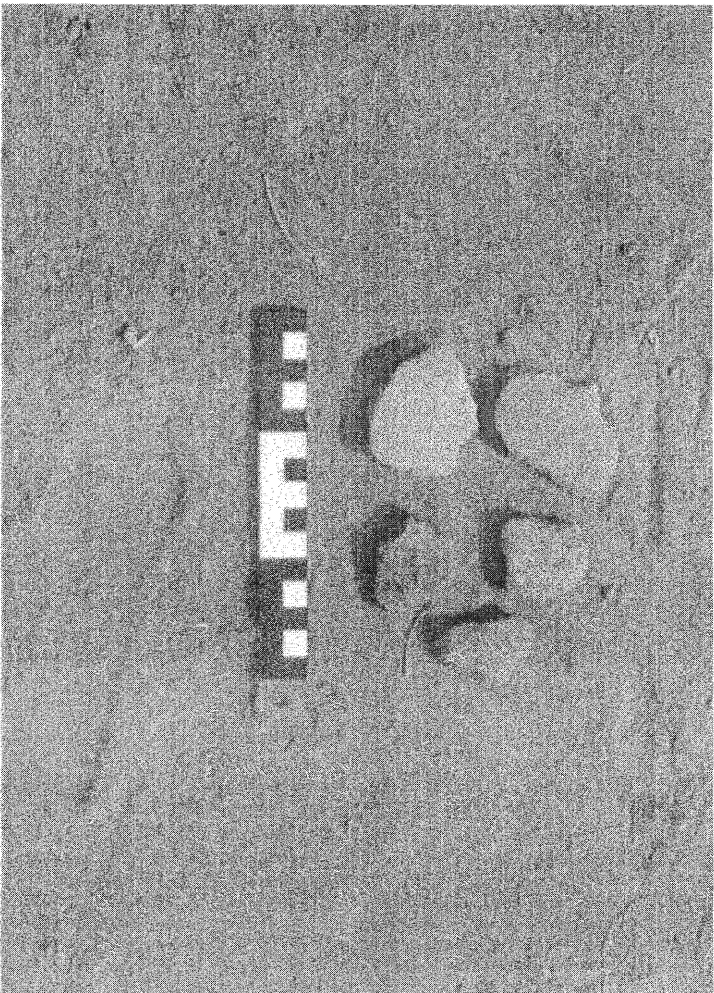


Fig 2. Undecorated ceramics.

# Appendix B

Locality map.

ACORNHOEK  
1 : 50 000 MAP  
2431 CA

