

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR
EXT. 34, 36 & 38 OF THE FARM
HARTEBEEFONTEIN 324JR,
PRETORIA**

For:

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SUMMARY

A survey of cultural resources for the farm Hartebeesfontein, 324JR, Ext. 34, 36 & 38, Pretoria

A survey to establish the nature, extent and significance of cultural resources was made on the farm Hartebeesfontein, Ext. 34, 36 and 38.

We recommend that the development in the area can continue as the Stone Age tools and the Iron Age pottery seem to come from another area and are not in their original context.

It is also recommended that the rectangular stone structure be investigated as it could be a grave. As this is part of the development area, the rectangular stone structure needs to be mitigated (full documentation) if they are going to be demolished and a permit needs to be obtained from SAHRA. (In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act)

If at any time during the development process any archaeological and/or historical sites or objects are found, specialists should be informed to come and conduct detailed investigations.

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**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR EXT. 34, 36 & 38
OF THE FARM HARTEBEEFONTEIN 324JR,
PRETORIA**

1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by John Drummond Landscape Architects to conduct a survey on the farm Hartebeesfontein, extensions 34, 36, and 38. The aim of the survey was to locate, and identify the sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the 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 proposed development. The survey was to be confined to this area.

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 South African Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts. These are the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989).

4.1 South African Heritage Resources Act

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority:

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- (e) alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after

receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Human remains:

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old is subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations.

Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925). Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (ie where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

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.

5. METHODOLOGY

Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. The survey was done on foot and areas with potential for human use were investigated. Special attention was given to outcrops, hills and unploughed natural areas, while stream beds

and unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes and clusters of exotic and indigenous trees were investigated.

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.

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 certain areas. This helps the reader to better understand and facilitate the potential impact of development.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA SURVEYED

The site investigated is approximately 180ha in size. The investigation was conducted in the total area indicated on the map, (found on map supplied by John Drummond Landscape Architects), (See Appendix 3).

The topography of the area is basically flat open veld with areas close to the streams being of a turf and wetlands. The area has been disturbed by the development of the residential area of Montana, and the Radio Antennae Tracking Station. This area was in some sections was used as a rubbish dump.

The geology of the survey area is varied and includes, quartzite, and shale with some conglomerate and limestone, as well as a thin tillite horizon and several volcanic horizons (Mountain 1968: 52).

The vegetation found is a variation of turf thornveld. Mixed bushveld can also be found in this area, consisting of small trees, quite dense and sometimes almost scrub-forest bush (Acocks 1975: 37 & 49).

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The area that has been surveyed has been disturbed in places by the residential area of Montana, some area's were used as a rubbish dumping site for building material. In this area close to the Radio Antennae Tracking Station a number of concrete platforms can be found, these were probably used for the antennae. An abandoned structure can also be found in this area. This structure has no historical value as it is not older than 60 years.

- 7.2 A number of Middle Stone Age tools were found close to and in the confluence of two streams, (Montana and Blinkblaar streams). These Middle Stone Age tools have been worn out from the turbulence of rushing water. These Middle Stone Age tools have been brought down the stream from a different area.
- 7.3 Some Iron Age pottery was also found close to the confluence of the two streams, (Montana and Blinkblaar streams). These Iron Age pieces pottery also seem to have been washed down the streams as no other indication of Iron Age settlement can be found in this area surveyed. It is believed that the koppies in the surrounding area (not influenced by this development area) may contain Iron Age sites.
- 7.4 A rectangular stone feature was found in the area. This does not seem to date from the Iron Age, as no other Iron Age structures are found in this area surveyed. It could indicate the boundary of a grave.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made:

- 8.1 We recommend that the development in the area can continue as the Stone Age tools and the Iron Age pottery seem to come from another area and are not in their original context.
- 8.2 It is also recommended that the rectangular stone structure be investigated as it could be a grave. As this is part of the development area, the rectangular stone structure needs to be mitigated (full documentation) if they are going to be demolished and a permit needs to be obtained from SAHRA. (In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act)
- 8.3 If at any time during the development process any archaeological and/or historical sites or objects are found, specialists should be informed to come and conduct detailed investigations.

9. REFERENCES

9.1 Unpublished sources

9.1.1 Data base

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

9.2 Published sources

9.2.1 Books and journals

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

Mountain, E. D. 1968. **Geology of Southern Africa**. Cape Town: Books of Africa (Pty) Limited.

9.2.2 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps - 2528CB Silverton

10. **PROJECT TEAM**

Dr J. Van Schalkwyk - Principle Investigator

F. E. Teichert - Field Investigator

A. Pelsler - Field Assistant

APPENDIX 1: STANDARDIZED SET OF CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROJECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Significance of impact:

- low where the impact will not have an influence on or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design
- medium where the impact could have an influence which will require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation
- high where it would have a "no-go" implication on the project regardless of any mitigation

Certainty of prediction:

- Definite: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data to verify assessment
- Probable: Over 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only over 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring
- Unsure: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact, or the likelihood of an impact occurring

Status of the impact:

With mitigation and the resultant recovery of material, a negative impact can be turned positive. Describe whether the impact is positive (a benefit), negative (a cost) or neutral

Recommended management action:

For each impact, the recommended practically attainable mitigation actions which would result in a measurable reduction of the impact, must be identified. This is expressed according to the following:

- 1 = no further investigation/action necessary
- 2 = controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary
- 3 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation and/or mapping necessary
- 4 = preserve site at all costs

Legal requirements:

Identify and list the specific legislation and permit requirements which potentially could be infringed upon by the proposed project, if mitigation is necessary

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY RESULTS

[See Appendix 1 for explanation of the conventions used in assessing of the cultural remains]

1. Site number: 2528 CB/45

Description: A Rectangular Stone Structure

Location: The site is located at 25° 40' 00.9" S; 28° 15' 46.2" E

Discussion: A rectangular stone structure that could be a boundary to a grave

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Positive

Recommended management action: (2) - controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary

Legal requirements: SAHRA

APPENDIX 3: MAP OF AREA SURVEYED