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PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SWAVELPOORT SUBDIVISION GAUTENG: PRETORIA

FOR: Executive Environmental Network
P O Box 14020
Sinoville
0129

Recommendations.

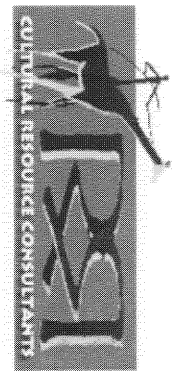
⊕ Protect Site 1 and surrounding area
(Map of 2/2/2003)

Sites 8-13 must be included
under permit from S.A.H.R.A
before development commences.

Frans Roodt
August 2003

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14 OCT 2003
ONTVANG/RECEIVED

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1. INTRODUCTION

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 resources impact assessments in terms of Section 38. To satisfy the requirements of the above legislation, a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (scoping & evaluation) of the proposed subdivision development was undertaken. In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that occur in the proposed development area. This will enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

The author was contracted by *Executive Environmental Network* to undertake a Phase 1 *Heritage Impact Assessment* of the proposed demarcated area. The aim was to determine the presence of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance; to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that were detected. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. It is indicated that these resources may be affected by the proposed development and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimise the adverse effect of the proposed development on these heritage resources. The mitigation measures also apply to heritage resources not detected during the survey, but which may be uncovered during the construction phase.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Source of information

The source of information was predominantly the field reconnaissance.

The survey was undertaken on foot. Standard archaeological practices for observation were followed. As most archaeological material occur^N in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Changes in vegetation that could indicate archaeological deposits were also inspected. Locations of heritage resources were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin 12). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a KODAK DC120 Digital camera.

2.2 Limitations

This was a scoping exercise and although the foot survey was thorough, it is possible that certain archaeological sites and features may have been missed due to the dense vegetation and grass coverage in places. Archaeological sites are often beneath soil surface and if undisturbed may not be detected. ***The discovery of previously undetected heritage remains must be reported and may require further mitigation measures.***

2.3 Categories of significance

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

No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
Low significance: sites, which may require mitigation.
Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
High significance: sites, which 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.

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

2.4 Terminology

Archeological: Cultural material remains older than 100 years which are in disuse, rock art, wrecks of any vessel older than 60 years, and remains associated with military history older than 75 years.

Historical: Structures and features older than 60 years that are still in use, material remains older than 60 years, and a place/site associated with living heritage or regarded as culturally significant by a section of the population.

Cultural significance: Aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value or significance.

Early Stone Age: Predominantly the acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.

Middle Stone Age: Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yr. before present.

Late Stone Age: The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD

Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD

Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

Phase 1 assessment: Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area.

Phase 2 assessment: 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. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by means of collecting surface material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling.

Sensitive: Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place as well as ideologically significant places such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant cultural remains.

3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Two sets of legislation are relevant for this study with regard to the protection of heritage resources and burials.

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

This Act established 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 as integral part of EIA's or independently 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 and protects, archaeological and palaeontological sites and material (Section 35), historical sites and structures (Section 34), graves and burial sites (Section 36) and mine dumps (Section 28 (c)) which falls under its jurisdiction. Archaeological sites and material are generally those resources older than a hundred years, while structures and cultural landscapes older than 60 years, including gravestones, are also protected by Section 34. 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 *developers to apply for a permit before any heritage resource may be damaged or destroyed.*

3.2 The Human Tissues Act (65 of 1983)

This Act protects graves younger than 60 years. These fall under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Departments. Approval for the exhumation and re-burial must be obtained from the relevant Provincial MEC as well as the relevant Local Authorities.

Graves 60 years or older fall under the jurisdiction of the National Heritage Resources Act as well as the Human Tissues Act, 1983.

4. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Map reference: South Africa 1:50000 2528 CD.

The proposed development is located on the farm Swawelpoort east of Pretoria.

For a detailed environmental description, refer to main EIA-Report.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

5.1 STONE AGE REMAINS

Middle Stone Age flakes were noted in the eroded sections of the drainage area, but no concentration of any significance was found, and only one site recording was made at coordinates S25° 50' 56.0" E28° 25' 07.4" (**site 1** on map).

Significance: None.

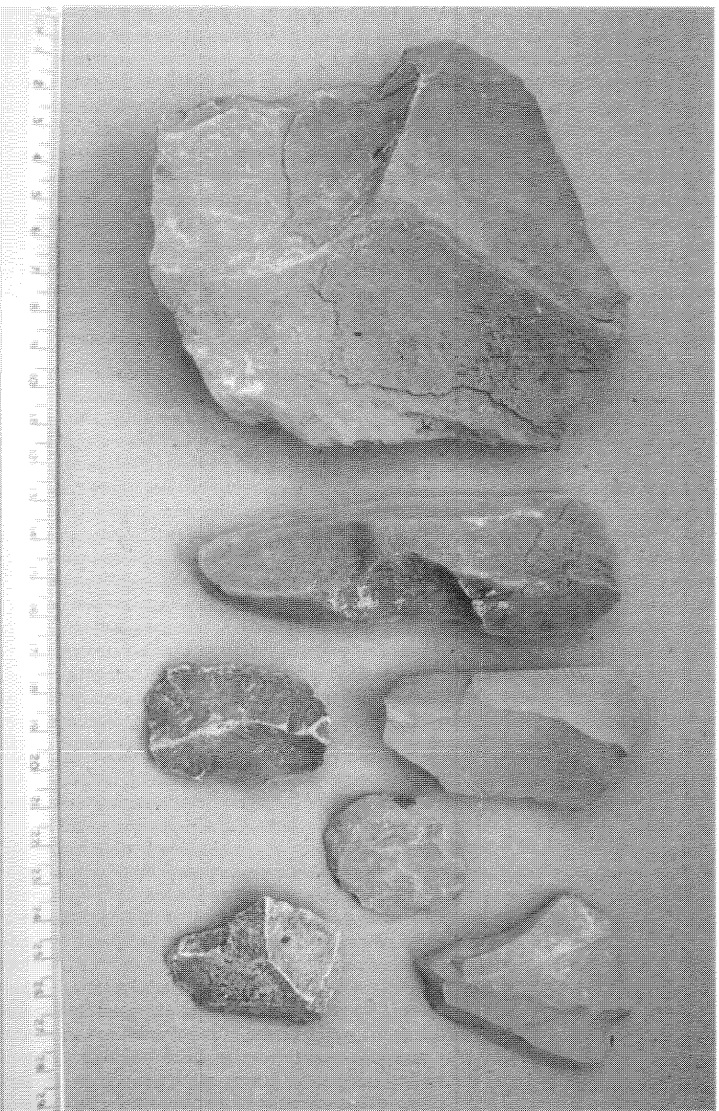


Fig 1. Middle Stone Age flakes

5.2. IRON AGE REMAINS

SITE: 3 S25° 51' 02.0" E28° 24' 56.3" A number of isolated and unidentified pottery fragments was recorded here. It probably relates to site 4.

SITE: 4a S25° 51' 05.1" E28° 24' 50.5" +
4b S25° 50' 53.2" E28° 24' 47.7" Site 4 is a fairly large Sotho/Tswana stone walled complex located in the south-eastern corner of the property. The layout consists of well built circular stone wall enclosures, but it overlaps property boundaries to which we did not have access. The full extent of the site could thus not be determined. Damage was previously done by a road that was made through a section of the site. Pottery fragments were noted, but none of these were diagnostic. The distribution area and simple layout pattern of circular enclosures, however, suggests that it is a group 1 settlement of the "*Uitkoms*" phase of the "*Moloko*" Sotho/Tswana Branch. It would then date to between the 15th century and 17th century AD.

Significance: **High** – it what remains of the site should be protected and omitted from the development.



Fig 2. Stone wall at site 4.

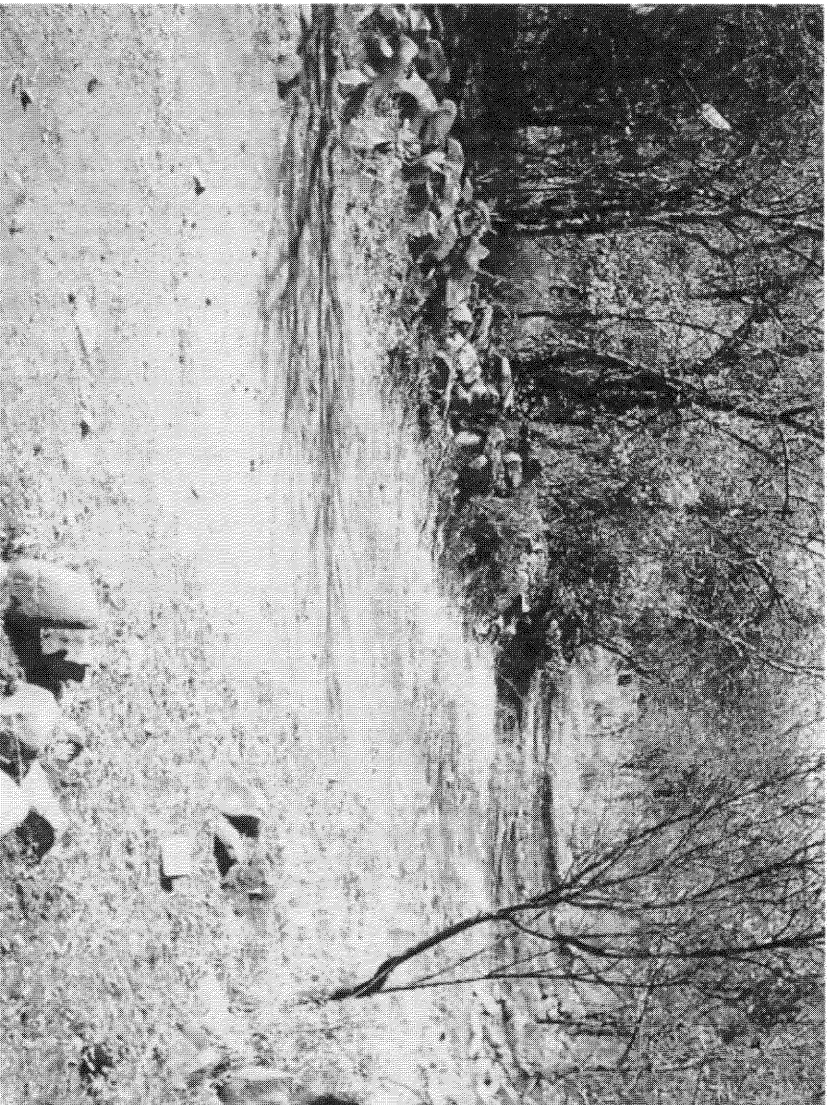


Fig 3. Road damage at site 4

SITE: 8 S25° 50' 28.5" E28° 24' 27.7" This is a recording of an ashy soil deposit which contains non-diagnostic pottery fragments, located in a farm road adjacent to the boundary fence in the south-western corner of the farm.

Significance: **Low** – it may not be disturbed without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority.



Fig 4. Site 8

SITE: 9 S25° 50' 31.8" E28° 24' 31.7" This is the location of an unidentified stone pile or cairn.

SITE: 10 S25° 50' 26.7" E28° 24' 31.3" This is the location of a single unidentified circular stone walled enclosure.

SITE: 11 25° 50' 27.8" E28° 24' 30.8" This is the location of a single unidentified irregular stone walled structure.

SITE: 12 S25° 50' 25.3" E28° 24' 31.0" This is the location of a single unidentified circular stone walled enclosure.

Sites 9 – 12 probably belong to the same settlement complex that may have been destroyed over the years, with the result that it no longer forms a single unit.

Significance: **Low** – it may not be disturbed without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority.

SITE: 13 S25° 50' 36.8" E28° 24' 37.1" This is the location of a disturbed stone walled complex similar to site 4. The size and layout pattern could not be determined as a result of the disturbance and the fact that it is overgrown by dense vegetation. It probably is an "Uitkomst" settlement as noted at site 4.

Significance: **Medium** – it may not be disturbed without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority.



Fig 5. Stone wall at site 13

5.3 RECENT HISTORICAL REMAINS

SITE: 2 S25° 51' 00.1" E28° 24' 57.5" The remains of an unidentified stone structure was noted here.

Significance: **None.**

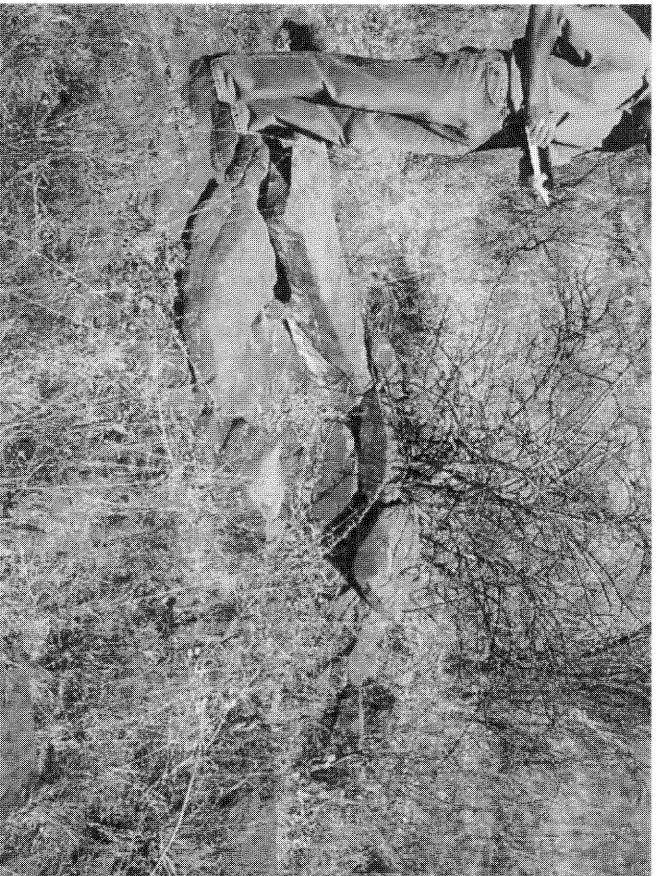


Fig 6. Stone structure, site 2

SITE: 5 S25° 50' 42.1" E28° 24' 50.5" This is the location of the remains of a pump and tank stand and a borehole.

Significance: **None.**

SITE: 6 S25° 50' 42.1" E28° 24' 50.5" This is the location of a linear stone foundation approximately 50m long at the edge of what seems to be an old field, and may have been a retaining wall for agricultural purposes.

Significance: **None.**



Fig 7. Stone foundation at site 6

SITE: 7 S25° 50' 42.1" E28° 24' 50.5" The remains of an unidentified rectangular stone structure was noted here. It measures approximately 2m X 2.2m. It probably was a shelter for farming activities.

Significance: **None.**

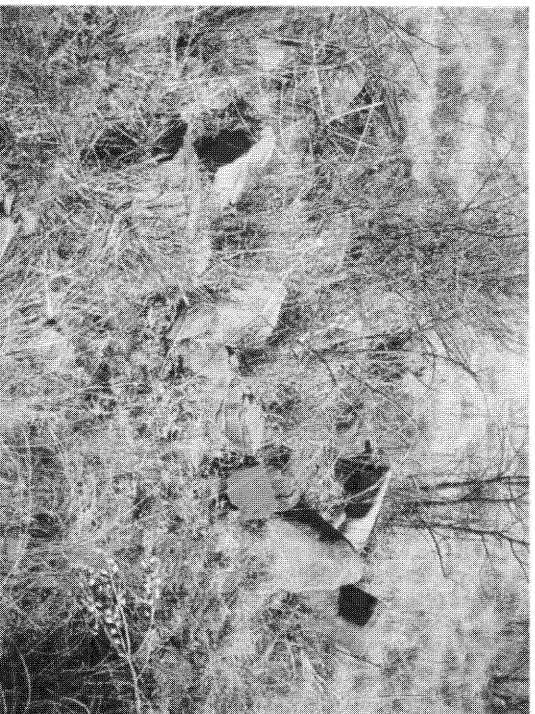


Fig 8. Stone structure at site 7

6. EVALUATION

Middle Stone Age material, as recorded at site 1, is found scattered in the low lying eroded area. No significant concentration was noted and because of the depth of the material, it would be unpractical to attempt an assessment of this material. No further action is required.

The main archaeological feature on the property is the three distinct areas of Late Iron Age stone walled structures that were noted, namely, site 4, sites 9-12 and site 13. Site 8 probably relates to sites 9-12. The above mentioned sites form part of a larger settlement pattern of the “*Uitkomst*” cultural Phase of the Sotho/Tswana people and would date to between the 15th and 17th century AD. Although much disturbed, the remains are significant for recording the distribution pattern on a regional scale of this particular archaeological Phase, and important to establish the historical cultural layering of the area.

Site 3 requires no further attention. Site 4 is regarded as significant and must be protected. The immediate area around site 4 must be omitted from the development. Sites 8-13 do not warrant protection status, but has scientific significance and require mitigation measures before a permit for their destruction will be issued. These sites will in all probability contain unmarked burials which may be exposed during earth works. Human remains must be treated with sensitivity and must be reported to the relevant heritage resources authority.

The recent historical sites recorded here, namely sites 2, 5, 6, and 7 are not regarded as significant and require no further action. No graves or burial sites were noted.

From a heritage resources management point of view we have no objection with regard to the proposed development on condition that the recommendations below are implemented.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above it is recommended that:

- ◆ Site 4 is omitted from the development.
- ◆ Should the areas at sites 8-12 and 13 be developed, mitigation measures for phase 2 assessments are implemented before any development commences.

8. **Extracts from:
The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).**

Structures

Subsection 34. (1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Subsection 35. (3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

Subsection 35. (4) 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.

Burial grounds and graves

Subsection 36. (6) Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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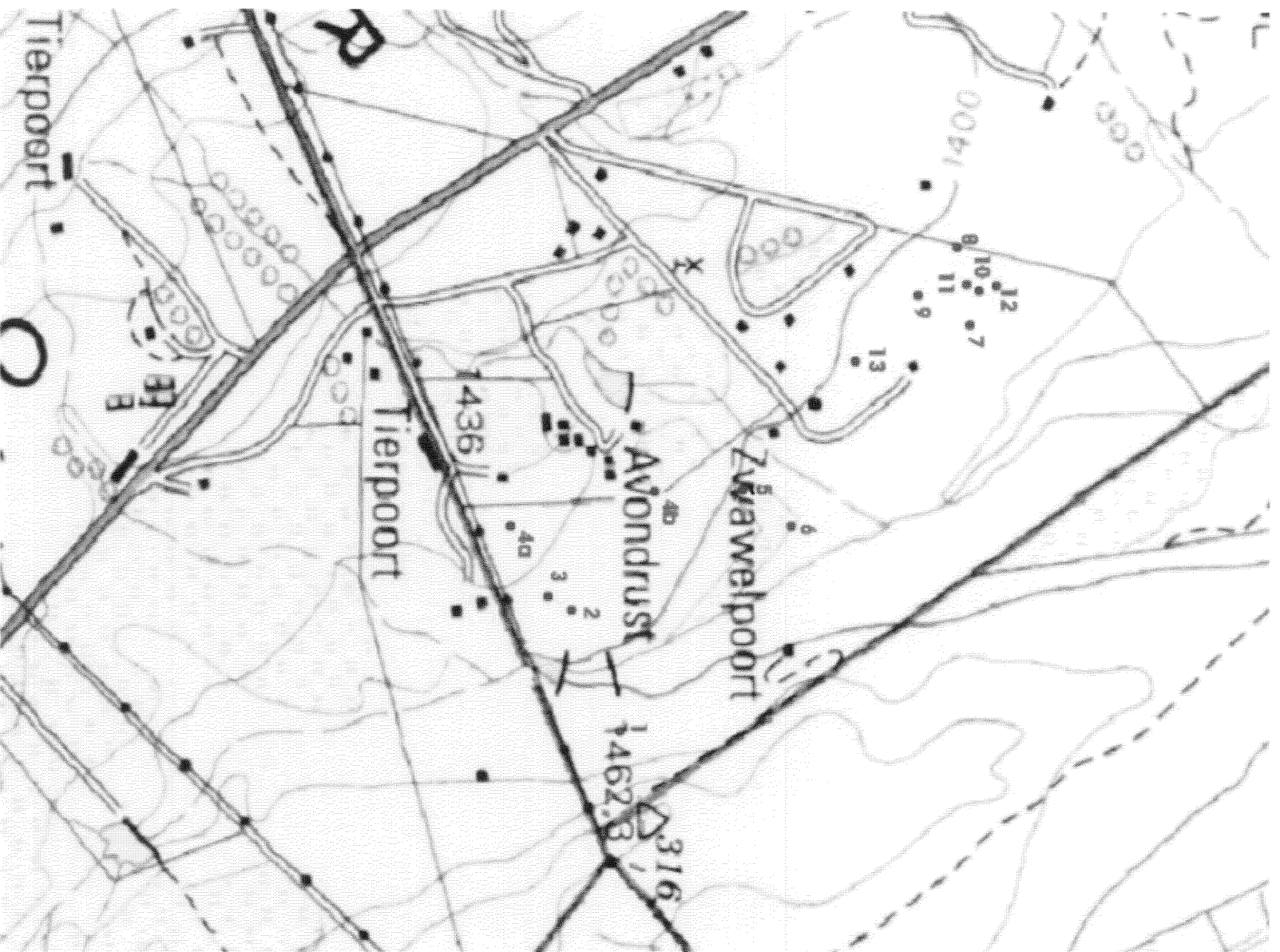


Fig 9. MAP