

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
RAMA LAND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT,
GA-RANKUWA AREA, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

For:

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**NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
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SUMMARY

Heritage impact assessment for the Rama Land residential development, Ga-Rankuwa area, Gauteng Province.

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area in which it is proposed to develop a residential area and its infrastructure.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- The cemetery should be left in place and be upgraded to a formal status.
- Care should be taken when working in the vicinity of the old homesteads as there might be the odd grave associated with them.
- It is recommended that the developer approach the community and try to establish if there are any individual or incident/event of significance that can be linked to any of these houses. This can probably be done through the land claims committee. If the community identify any such person/event, it should be documented by some-one versed in oral tradition research, in order to make it part of the much neglected peoples history.
- The developer should be notified that if archaeological sites are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

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HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE RAMA LAND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, GA-RANKUWA AREA, GAUTENG PROVINCE

1. THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was contracted by Strategic Environmental Focus to survey an area in which it is proposed to develop a residential area. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area that is to be impacted by the developed.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The scope of work consisted of conducting a Phase 1 archaeological survey of the site in accordance with the requirements of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

This include:

- Conducting a desk-top investigation of the area
- A visit to the proposed development site

The objectives would be to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

- X **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 artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- X The **significance** of the sites and artefacts are 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.
- X 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.

- X The latitude and longitude of archaeological sites are to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts. These are the South Africa 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

In terms of Section 35(4) of this act, no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or material or any meteorite; bring onto, or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Structures:

Section 34(1) of this act states that 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.

“Structure” means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith;

“Alter” means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or other decoration or any other means.

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 are 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 are to be formulated.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Preliminary investigation

5.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted - see the list of references below. Nothing pertaining to the archaeology of this particular area was found.

5.1.2 Data bases

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)**, housed at the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria, was consulted. The **Environmental Potential Atlas** was also consulted.

5.1.3 Other sources

The topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

5.2 Field survey

The field survey was done according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. The area that had to be investigated was identified by Strategic Environmental Focus by means of maps and ortho-photos. The area was investigated by walking across it. Special attention was given to unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes, outcrops and clusters of trees were investigated.

5.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System (GPS)**¹ and plotted on

¹¹ According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however, taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

a map. This information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

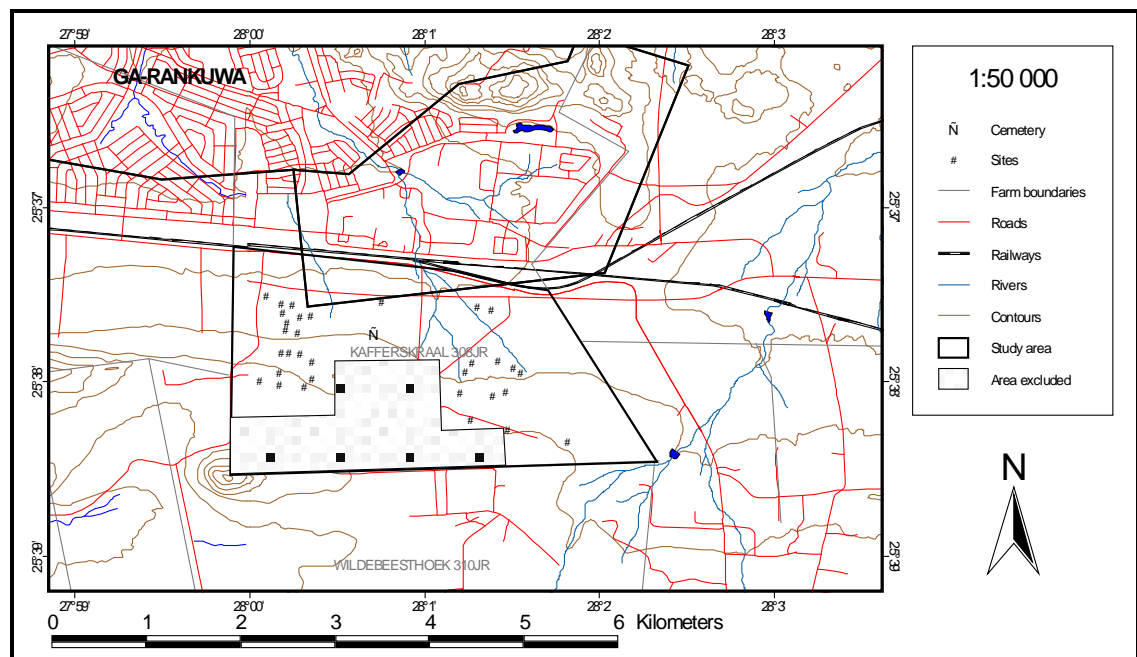


Figure 1. The location of the study area.

The area that was investigated is located on the farm Kafferskraal 308JQ in the Wonderboom district of Gauteng (see Fig. 1).

The topography of the area varies from low hills, to plains, bisected by a number of smaller streams. The geology consists of gabbro, with an outcrop of quartzite in the south western corner of the proposed development area.

The original vegetation of the area consisted of Mixed Bushveld. However, agricultural activities – ploughing and grazing – and harvesting of wood, has turned sections into scrub veld. In the sections where quarrying activities are taking place, the vegetation has been destroyed totally.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Stone Age

No stone tools were noticed and no sites likely to be inhabited by Stone Age people occur in the area.

7.2 Iron Age

No sites dating to the Iron Age were identified.

7.3 Historical period

The remains of a large number of old houses occur in the survey area. Some were plotted on the map (Fig. 1) as they were identified, but it is believed that there might be twice as many. However, the identified sites are deemed to be a sufficiently representative sample to serve to evaluate the others as well.

It is obvious that different shapes, sizes, layouts and materials were used in building of the individual structures. A few structures not used as houses, eg. sheds, garages and even a (?) swimming pool was also identified.

Presently, all structures seem to conform to the same pattern:

- all are in ruin, consisting only of the foundation of the structures (a few, built from clay, have some walls remaining);
- most of the rubble from the demolished structures was removed;
- any indication of a garden or yard associated with the houses were destroyed;
- no refuse dump of significance could be identified, singly or in association with a house.

Only vague indications of roads leading to the various houses can be identified.

Mr S. Moifatswane, is a staff member at the Museum who lived in this area during the 1960s. According to him the inhabitants were forcibly removed from here during the late 1960s. (See also De Jong (1995) who did comprehensive research on this topic, although he does not refer to this particular community.) Therefore it is possible that some of the structures could be older than 60 years by now, as is stipulated by the Heritage Resources Act. However, it is judged that none of these structures are currently in such a state of conservation that they can contribute any scientific knowledge on settlement in the area.

It is our experience that similar houses and settlement patterns can still be identified in contiguous areas, where it would be possible to get sufficient comparative evidence if need be.

At this stage it is not known if any person important to the local community, or on a larger socio-political or cultural level, can be linked to any of these houses, nor if any important incident/event took place in any of them. This is a very important factor, as, because of the manner in which these resettlement actions took place in the past, such information was never recorded. With the emphasis being placed on so-called peoples history by the current government, it is perhaps important to look into this.

A huge informal cemetery containing a large number of graves was identified (see Appendix 2).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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9. REFERENCES

9.1 Data bases

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

Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

9.2 Literature

Carruthers, V. 2000. *The Magaliesberg*. Pretoria: Protea Book House.

De Jong, R.C. 1995. "The need for a total removal": An exploratory survey of urbanisation of Africans in Pretoria, with particular emphasis on townships that disappeared in the process. *Research by the National Cultural History Museum* 4:17-80.

Holm, S.E. 1966. *Bibliography of South African Pre- and Protohistoric archaeology*. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

Mason, R.J. 1962. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

Richardson, D. 2001. *Historic sites of South Africa*. Cape Town: Struik Publishers.

Van Riet Lowe, C. n.d. *The distribution of Prehistoric rock engravings and paintings in South Africa*. Archaeological Survey, Archaeological Series No. 7.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1935. *A Preliminary survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. Ethnological Publications No. 5. Pretoria: Government Printer.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1977. *Anthropology of Southern Africa in Periodicals to 1950*. Pretoria: Government Printer.

9.3 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps – 2528CA

10. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk
S Moifatswane

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: More than 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only more than 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

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 RESULTS²

[Previous site numbers relate to other known sites on a particular ¼ degree sheet already documented in the ADRC, and does not necessarily refer to sites occurring on or close to the specific area of development.]

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

1. Site number: 2528CA68

Location: Kafferskraal 308JQ: S 25E37'44.0"; E 28E00'43.0" [S -25.62880; E 28.01191]

Description: Huge cemetery with probably as many as 500 graves.

Discussion: Because of its size, it would be best if this site is left alone. It should be upgraded to a more formal cemetery, with a proper fence, entrance gate, etc.

Significance of impact: High

Recommended management action: 4 = preserve site at all costs

Legal requirements: See section 4 of this report.

²² See Appendix 1 for an explanation of the conventions used in assessing the cultural remains.

APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This section is included to give the reader some necessary background. It must be kept in mind, however, that these dates are all relative and serve only to give a very broad framework for interpretation.

STONE AGE

Early Stone Age (ESA)	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age (MSA)	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age (LSA)	30 000 - until c. AD 200

IRON AGE

Early Iron Age (EIA)	AD 200 - AD 1000
Late Iron Age (LIA)	AD 1000 - AD 1830

HISTORICAL PERIOD

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 in this part of the country

ADRC - Archaeological Data Recording Centre

core - a piece of stone from which flakes were removed to be used or made into tools

PHRA – Provincial Heritage Resources Agency

SAHRA - South African Heritage Resources Agency