



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
BK 98 09854/23

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**A CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE  
WONDERBOOM NATURE RESERVE, CITY OF TSHWANE**

For:

***THE CITY OF TSHWANE, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, CITY PLANNING  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, DIVISION NATURE  
CONSERVATION AND RESORTS***

**REPORT: AE810**

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***July 2008***

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## SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by M2 Environmental Connections cc to conduct an archaeological and heritage impact assessment on the site for the proposed Lesedi Industrial Park in the Mooinooi district, North West Province. The site is situated on portions 41 and 133 of the farm Buffelsfontein 465 JQ.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed one site, but this does not have enough cultural significance to be preserved. It will be directly impacted upon by the development.

This report is however seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard. Therefore the proposed development can continue.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Division Nature Conservation and Resorts of the Department of Housing, City Planning and Environmental Management, of the City of Tshwane requested the writer of this document to write a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the Wonderboom Nature Reserve. In order to be able to write the plan it was necessary to know what cultural resources do exist in the reserve. Therefore an archaeological and heritage survey was conducted as a starting point for the management plan. This management plan is the result of this survey and the conventions for the sustainable preservation, conservation and management of such cultural resources.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
3. Review applicable legislative requirements.
4. Indicate possible future impact on the cultural resources and suitable mitigation measures should these become real.
5. Write a management plan for the Wonderboom Nature Reserve.

## **3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS**

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

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures 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. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.
3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance May be demolished should there be a need for development in those areas. Such sites have been recorded in full. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation in future if

future development have an impact thereon. The type of mitigation will be discussed with every individual site. Sites with a high cultural significance are more important than any foreseeable future development and should therefore be preserved at all cost (see appendix B).

4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. In this case the grass cover was very dense making visibility extremely difficult. The CoT should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might be found in future.
7. In this particular case it needs to be mentioned that the vegetation, consisting mainly of grass cover and pioneer species, was very dense. This makes visibility on the ground extremely difficult and may result in some cultural features not being picked up during the survey.

#### **4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

##### **4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act**

According to the above-mentioned law the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

##### **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 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.
- 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 of 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 (i.e. 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)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

## **4.2 The National Environmental Management Act**

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The

impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

## **5. METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 Field survey**

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted AIA and HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken on foot.

### **5.2 Documentation**

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

### **5.3 Management principles**

The management principles used in this management plan is in accordance by those established by Van Vollenhoven (2000). These principles include prescriptions for the content of management plans and is in line with the National Heritage Resources Act.

## **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**

The Wonderboom Nature Reserve is situated on the remaining portion of portion 18, the remaining portion of portion 19 and portions 7, 55 and 56 of the farm Wonderboom 302 JR. The Magaliesberg Mountain runs through the farm from east to west en portion 56 almost entirely consist of a part of this mountain.

The vegetation on the property mainly consists of natural indigenous species, but disturbance is evident via invader and pioneer species in certain areas, especially close to the river (west) and on the southern side of the reserve. This was probably caused by grazing of livestock as the farm used to be a commercial farm in the days of the old South African Republic (ZAR – Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek).

On the western side the boundary of the reserve is formed by the Apies River and a tribinary thereof. The river drains the area in a northern direction. The northern boundary is formed by the extension of Lavender Road and the eastern boundary by the extension of Voortrekker Road. Lombard Street forms the southern boundary of the reserve. On this side residential dwellings are found just across the street.

The topography of the area is very steep due to the Magaliesberge Range running through it. On the western side the mountain has vertical cliffs, giving access to some caves A ravine

cuts the western slope into two areas. The southern slope is less steep and some natural terraces are formed before the crest is reached. The eastern slope is more steep than the south, but not as much as the west. The northern slope also shown signs of natural terracing resulting in steep rocky areas alternated by flat areas. The crest of the mountain is relatively flat.

The part of the reserve furthest to the north is used as the resort area. This area is flat with a very slight fall from south to north. This area has been developed in the past and includes offices, an entrance building, pickinick and braai facilities as well as some roads. The famous Wonderboom tree is situated in the northeast of this area.

The presence of water would have made the area suitable for keeping livestock. Mountainous areas also provides suitable shelter for people. The natural terracing also may have provided suitable agricultural space for prehistpric people. One would therefore suspect that the area would have been used during the past by prehistoric people as the environment would have suited their needs just fine. During times of turmoil the mountain would also have provided a safe haven from attacks.

## 7. DISCUSSION

Before discussing the cultural resources of the reserve in detail a background regarding the different phases of human history is needed. This will enable the reader to better understand the sites found during the survey.

### 7.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago  
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago  
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

No Stone Age material was found during the survey. This probably is due to the dense vegetation. However it is known that Stone Age people were present in the Magaliesberg area as well as in and around Pretoria.

VOEG HIER INLIGTING BY UIT BERGH 1999 EN PROEFSKRIF 2000.

### 7.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.



Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

VOEG HUFFMAN SE DATUMS HIER IN.

The surveyed area falls within a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west where many Iron Age sites have been discovered previously (Bergh 1999: 7). The area was inhabited by Tswana speaking people since early times (Bergh 1999: 10).

### 7.3 Historical Age

The historical age started when the first people that were able to read and write moved into the area. Early travelers have moved through Northwest and may have moved through the area during the early 1800's. The travelers Robert Moffat and James Archbell visited the area between Brits and Rustenburg during 1829. David Hume visited the area in 1830, followed by WC Harris in 1836 and David Livingstone in 1847 (Bergh 1999: 12-13).

After this the Missionaries came into the area. The area between Pretoria and Zeerust, including Brits and Mooinooi was inhabited by white farmers between 1839 and 1840 (Bergh 1999: 15).

The site found during the survey date from the Historical Age. This indicates that the area was occupied during the historical period.

Apart from the above mentioned, an old mining area in the northwest, was also identified. Since this clearly of a fairly recent age, it is only mentioned here. It is not old enough to have any cultural significance.

### 7.4 Discussion of sites identified during the survey

#### Feature 1

This feature was found to the east of the old mining area. It consists of the ruin of a building, probably an old farm workers dwelling. Associated features include a small circle of stones and a row of bricks (Figure 4). A few cultural artifacts were also identified.

The GPS measurement of the site is 25°43'50"S and 27°35'57"E.

The site is of low cultural significance. It will be directly impacted upon by the proposed development. This report is however seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is clear that the feature found is of a recent origin. It has a low cultural historical or archaeological importance. This report is seen as ample mitigation in this regard and the development may therefore continue. Resultantly the indicated feature may also be demolished if necessary.

It has been indicated that the dense vegetation may have resulted in some cultural features being missed. The developer should therefore note that should any archaeological feature be unearthed during construction activities, an archaeologist should immediately be contacted to investigate the find.

## 9. REFERENCES

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**Definition of terms:**

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

### Cultural significance:

- Low            A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
  
- Medium        Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
  
- High            Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorised as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

**List of Figures:**

- 1. Old mining area with industrial equipment visible.**
- 2. General view of the area with dense vegetation visible in the background.**
- 3. General view of the area with industrial equipment visible.**
- 4. Row of bricks, part of the remains of feature 1.**