

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR  
LAEZONIA, CENTURION**

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## SUMMARY

### **A survey of cultural resources for an area in the Laezonia District, Centurion**

A survey to establish the nature, extent and significance of cultural resources was made in an area in Laezonia.

We recommend that the development in the surveyed area can continue as there are no cultural resources found.

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 LAEZONIA, CENTURION

### 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by Eco Assessments cc to conduct a survey in the Laezonia area, along the R28, north of Midrand. 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 5ha in size. The investigation was conducted in the total area indicated on the map, (found on map given by Eco Assessments cc). (See Appendix 3)

The topography of the area is basically flat open veld with a large area that has been cultivated. The area has been disturbed by the development of the residential area of Diepsloot, which is close to the surveyed area, as well as a garage with shops, within a couple of meters of the site. Some corrugated iron shack houses can also be found on the site, with people still living in them. Some sections of the site was used as a modern dumping area.

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 soils are very poor and acidic in this region, either being stoney or sandy. The vegetation found is a particularly sour, wiry grassveld, virtually ungrazable in winter. Rocky hills and ridges carry a Bushveld vegetation and in sheltered valleys and sinkholes there are traces of temperate or transitional forest (Acocks 1975: 113 & 114).

## **7. DISCUSSION**

7.1 The area that has been surveyed has been disturbed by cultivation and in places there are small rubbish dumps. There are also corrugated iron shacks with people living in them. The rubbish dumps found in this area are probably made by these people living on the surveyed area. No cultural resources were



found in the surveyed area indicated on the map (provided by Eco Assessments cc).

- 7.2 A structure outside the survey area was noted. This structure was a labourers home, and is less than 60 years old (South African Heritage Resources Act, Section 35(4)). A G.P.S. reading of the structure was taken and is located at: 25° 53' 53.3" S; 28° 01' 49.8" E.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made:

- 8.1 We recommend that the development in the surveyed area can continue as there are no cultural resources of any significance were found.
- 8.2 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 - 2528CC Centurion

## 10. PROJECT TEAM

Dr J. Van Schalkwyk - Principle Investigator

F. E. Teichert - Field Investigator  
A. Pelser - 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. None

**APPENDIX 3: MAP OF AREA SURVEYED**