



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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DR. UDO S KÜSEL

Tel/fax: (012) 567 6046

Cell: 082 498 0673

E-mail: udo.heritage@absamail.co.za

P.O. Box 652

Magalieskruin

0150

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CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PORTIONS 206(R) 300 AND 301 OF THE FARM ZWAVELPOORT 373 JR SWAVELPOORT TSHWANE GAUTENG

1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, Act. NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials

- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

3. METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited, evaluated and inspection on foot for possible sites.

4. RESULTS

The proposed development area lies on the eastern slopes of the Bronberg just north of the Zwavelpoortspruit. The area is covered by dense mountain vegetation amongst large sandstone rocks.

The area was walked on foot with two farm workers who know the area well and were of great help.

A number of small circular stonewall enclosures were found which are between 2 and 5 metres in diameter with an opening to one side.

The sites found are as follows:

1.	Two stone circles at	S25° 49' 32.3"	E28° 22' 46.8"
2.	Two stone circles at	S25° 49' 33.0'	E28° 22' 49.7"
3.	One stone circle at	S25° 49' 32.5'	E28° 22' 51.0"
4.	Four stone circles at	S25° 49' 34.1"	E28° 22' 49.3"
5.	One stone circle at	S25° 49' 34.5"	E28° 22' 50.9"
6.	One low stone circle at	S25° 49' 34.4"	E28° 22' 44.3"
7.	Two stone circles at	S25° 49' 35.5"	E28° 22' 37.9"

The stone circles have no archaeological remains or deposits. Some have been built on the rock face itself and others include large rocks, which formed part of the walls

(see photographs 1 – 4). Their method of construction is not African as found on Iron Age Sites where the outer face of the walls were built with large stones filled in the middle with rubble. In the case of the site under discussion the walls have no rubble filling.

5. DISCUSSION

The group of recorded stone circles are most probably redoubts made during the Diamond Hill battle in the Second Anglo Boer War. After the British forces had taken over Pretoria the Boer forces withdrew to the eastern portion of the Magaliesberg and took up position from north of Roodeplaat, Kameeldrift and Pienaarspoort (near the present Mamelodi) to Donkerhoek and Morskop.

The British forces attacked from a western position all along the eastern foot of the Bronberg. The Boer forces consisted of 4000 men with some 30 cannons. The British forces were some 20 000 men strong with 83 canons.

The main battle took place on the 11 and 12 June 1900 after which the Boer forces retreated to the Eastern Transvaal (see Bergh 1998: 52-3 as well as map of Battlefield).

The recorded redoubts are just west of position 10 on the battlefield map. These redoubts were most probably those of single infantry plateau, which had to prevent any attack from the west. Redoubt positions 1 to 5 face east towards Diamond Hill. Position 6 most probably was the camping site. At position 7 the redoubts face west to prevent any surprise attacks from the west (see map of redoubts).

6. CONCLUSION

The recorded stone circles were most probably redoubts of British soldiers during the Battle of Diamond Hill, which took place on the 11, and 12 June 1900.

No graves were found on the proposed development site.

7. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- A phase two documentation of the site takes place
- The redoubts must either be retained in open spaces within the development or an application must be made to SAHRA for the destruction of the sites before any development can take place.

If during construction any cultural heritage resources or graves are unearthed all work has to be stopped until the site has been inspected and mitigated by a cultural heritage practitioner.

8. SITE INFORMATION

Owners contact details: Dr Pieter Fourie PO Box 14031, Lyttleton, 0140 Tel (012) 664-8846
Developers contact details: Same as above
Consultants contact details: Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd Tel: (012) 366 0100 P.O. Box 13776 Fax: (012) 366 0111 Hatfield E-mail: ZvanWyk@golder.co.za 0028
Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.) Residential
Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved: Yes, agricultural to residential
Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number): Portions 206 R, 300 & 301 of the Farm Zwavelpoort 373 JR
Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint): Yes

9. REFERENCES

- Berg J.S. 1998. Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika –Die vier Noordelike Provinsies
- Küsel U.S. 2002. Bronberg Project Cultural Heritage Resources
- A.E. Breytenbach. Die Slag van Donkerhoek 11-12 Junie 1900 MA Unisa 1979

- J.C. Visagie Voortrekker stam ouers 1835-1845 Universiteit van Suid Afrika, Pretoria. Bl. 151
- C. J van Vuuren Die aard en betekenis van Etnisiteit onder die Suid-Ndebele. DPhil, Universiteit van Pretoria, 1992

10. PHOTOGRAPHS

See page 6 & 7

11 MAPS

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No. 1 Two of the larger redoubts



No. 2 Redoubt with Diamond Hill in the centre on the horizon



No. 3 Possible camping site



No. 4 A redoubt on the western side facing Pretoria

Battlefield Map





