

Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BELLEVUE EXTENSION 3 RESIDENTIAL
TOWN, LOCATED IN THE RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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On behalf of:

***Rustenburg Local Municipality
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REPORT: AE817

by:

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed development of the Bellevue extension 3 residential town, located in the Rustenburg Local Municipality, Northwest Province. As the name indicates this is for a residential development in the town of Rustenburg.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed only one feature and no sites and objects of cultural heritage significance on the property. This will be impacted upon by the development, but this report is seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard.

The proposed development can therefore continue.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed development of the Bellevue extension 3 residential town, located in the Rustenburg Local Municipality, Northwest Province. This is for a residential development in the town of Rustenburg.

The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area.

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. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

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 have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix B).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer 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. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.
7. In this particular case the vegetation was dense and the grass cover high, which may have the result that not everything of cultural significance was identified.

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 Survey of literature

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

5.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted 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.

5.3 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.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed development area is located in the Rustenburg Local Municipality area of the Northwest Province. The area is situated in Rustenburg, to the west of existing residential areas and to the northeast of the Magaliesberg Mountain (Figure 1).

The area where the development is to take place is against the northern slope of the mountain and therefore slopes down to the north. A tar road cuts the area to be developed into a northern and southern portion. A non-perennial stream cuts through the northern portion from east to west. From the stream the slope again goes uphill to the north as some foothills are situated on this side, just outside of the area to be developed.

The northern portion includes areas with natural vegetation which does not seem to be disturbed. It however also includes areas that were clearly disturbed (Figure 2). This can be seen in the overgrowth of weeds and other pioneer species, especially along the stream bed. Signs of illegal dumping were also found. A large part of the northern portion includes a sand quarry (Figure 3) which clearly would have created a large disturbance. Squatters also reside in this area.

The southern portion is extremely disturbed on its western side. Apart from illegal dumping, this area has been converted to a 4 x 4 track and almost no natural vegetation are visible here (Figure 4). However, a small ridge cuts through this portion, just to the east of the 4 x 4 track.

This ridge and the area to the east thereof seem to be mostly undisturbed, except for the eastern boundary where disturbance is visible.

It does not seem as if the portions have been used for agricultural purposes. It was therefore probably used for grazing of livestock. Some wooden fence posts were found (Figure 5-6) indicating the need to contain animals to a certain area.

Factors, such as the presence of water would have made the environment suitable for utilization by past people. However the area is very close to the mountain and one would rather expect settlement in the mountain due to it providing suitable shelter.

The natural vegetation consists of long grass, with large bushveld bushes and trees spread around the area. The plant cover in the natural areas was very dense during the survey. This may have resulted in smaller indications of cultural material not being identified.

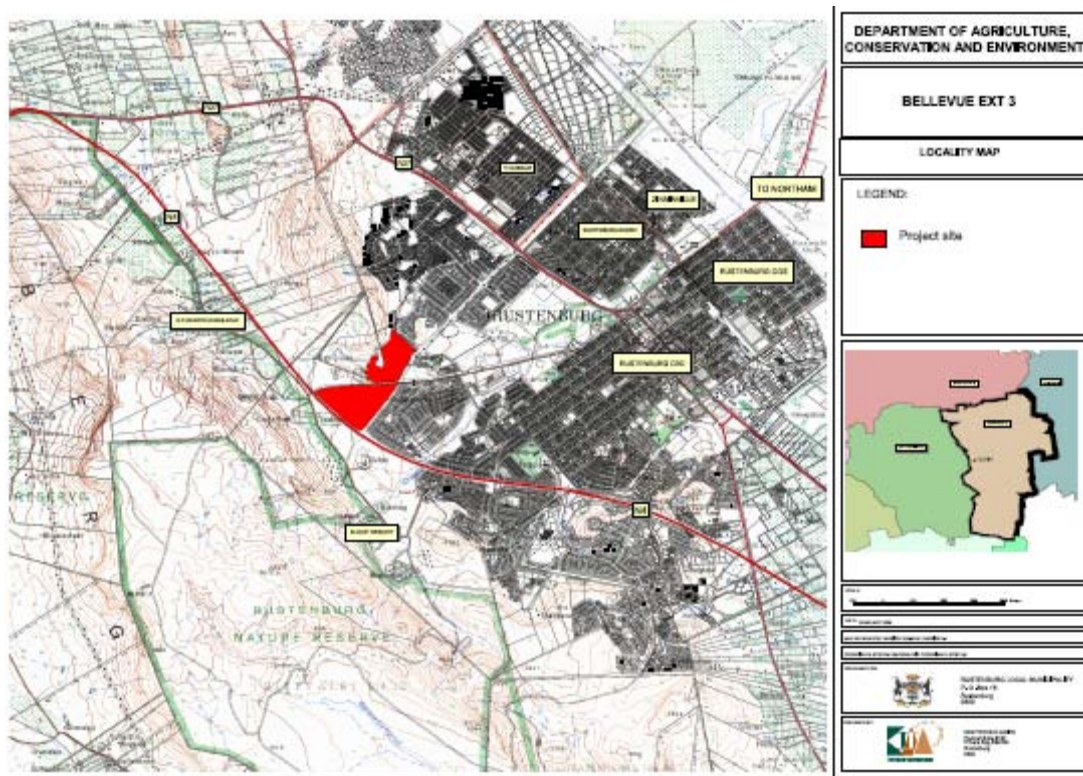


Figure 1 Locality map indicating the surveyed area.



Figure 2 General view of the northern portion.



Figure 3 View of the northern portion including part of the sand quarry.



Figure 4 The 4 x 4 track in the southern portion.



Figure 5 One of the wooden fence posts found in the southern portion.



Figure 6 Another wooden fence post in the southern portion.

7. DISCUSSION

During the survey one feature features of cultural heritage significance was located. This was in the southern portion of the proposed development area. In order to enable the reader to better understand these objects, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history. The found objects will be integrated with this discussion.

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.

A few Stone Age sites has been documented in the vicinity of Rustenburg, but these are all to the east of the investigated area and in the Magaliesberg Mountain (Bergh 1999: 4-5). Stone Age material is frequently found close to rivers and one may expect to find some stone tools along the stream in the northern portion. The developer should therefore be on lookout for such occurrences.

The area does not contain shelters or any other indication of living areas. One can therefore assume that Stone Age people would have stayed somewhere in the hills and would have passed this area during their hunting and gathering activities, especially to hunt for animals close to the river.

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 (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Previous research indicates that Iron Age sites have been identified in this area. In a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west many Iron Age sites have been discovered previously (Bergh 1999: 7). These all belong to the Later Iron Age (Bergh 1999: 8-9). A copper smelting site was identified along the Hex River to the east of the surveyed area (Bergh 1999: 8).

During earlier times the area was inhabited by a Tswana group, the Fokeng. In the 19th century and even today, this group still inhabits this area with another Tswana group, the Kwena (Bergh 1999: 9-10). During the Difaquane these people moved further to the west, but they returned later on (Bergh 1999: 11).

The one feature found during the survey may have an Iron Age origin, but no other such indications were found.

7.3 Historical Age

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. Early travelers have moved through Northwest and Botswana. The first white people to move through this area were the travelers Robert Scoon and William McLuckie in 1829. Later that year the missionaries Dr Robert Moffat and James Archbell followed (Bergh 1999: 12). The expedition of Dr Andrew Smith traveled through this area in 1835 (Bergh 1999: 13, 120-121).

The area around Rustenburg, including the surveyed area was inhabited by white pioneers as early as 1839 (Bergh 1999: 15). The town of Rustenburg was established in 1851 (Bergh 1999: 17).

It is believed that the feature found during the survey can be linked to the Historical era.

7.4 Discussion of features identified during the survey

Feature 1

On the ridge running roughly from north to south in the southern portion a low stone wall was identified (Figure 7-8).

GPS: 25°40'34"S
27°11'47"E

The wall runs from east to west and is approximately 20 m long. The two ends of the wall curve to the south, giving it a bit of a semi circular shape. It is 0,50 m high.

In some places the natural rock is used as extensions to the wall. It creates the impression of being one of the following:

- Part of a farm boundary (it does seem as if the wall is in line with the fence poles mentioned earlier). In this case it would also serve as a cattle enclosure.
- Part of a cattle enclosure.
- An enclosing wall for other features such as huts and cattle kraals. It should be mentioned that such other features could be identified.

The first possibility seems to most likely, but the developer should be on the lookout for other features that may be hidden between the grass and under the surface, to the south of the wall.

The cultural significance of the feature is **low**. It is not clear if there will be a direct impact on the wall as it might not be possible to build on this ridge. However there will be a secondary impact.

This report is seen as ample documentation of the feature and no other mitigation measures are necessary. It is not necessary to obtain a destruction permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). However, if the wall is not in the direct way of the development, it should be left in situ.



Figure 7 Part of the stone wall identified during the survey.



Figure 8 Another part of the identified stone wall.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be stated that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. One feature of cultural heritage significance was identified. This seems to belong to the early white farming history of the Rustenburg area. The final recommendations therefore are as follows:

- This report is seen as ample mitigation for the cultural feature found during the survey.
- The development can continue.
- It should however be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development work commences that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate. There are especially two areas of concern, namely the area around the stream bed and the area to the south of the wall that has been identified.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

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).

APPENDIX B

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 categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.