

Salene Mining (Pty)

**TO:
METAGO ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS
SALENE MINING (PTY) LTD**

**A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED NEW SALENE MINING AREA NEAR MARIKANA IN
THE CENTRAL BANKEVELD IN THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCE
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The heritage impact assessment study

This heritage impact assessment study was based on a literature survey, a study of the topographical map of the area in which the study area is situated as well as an aerial photograph and a survey with a vehicle and on foot.

The survey of the literature included a brief review of literature on the pre-history and history of the Central Bankveld in general, and the pre-history and cultural history of the Rustenburg and Marikana areas in particular (see Bibliography, Part 7).

Further data used was the 1:50 000 topographical map of Rustenburg East (2527CB) which includes the study areas. An aerial photograph of the study areas (provided by Metago Environmental Engineers) also served as an invaluable source for detecting large stone walled complexes such as Site (complex) LIA01 and Site (complex) LIA02 in the peripheral area. (Single graves, small cemeteries and small archaeological sites are not visible on the aerial photograph, while historically significant structures cannot be identified as such).

The survey on foot focused on parts of the study area that have not been affected by agricultural activities in the past and on topographical features such as kopjes or granite knolls where heritage resources and sensitive remains were expected to occur. Agricultural fields cover large parts of the study area. Given the fact that these areas have been disturbed by human activities in the past, a complete survey of the clearly altered areas on foot was not warranted.

The heritage resources discovered in the critical and in the peripheral areas were mapped (Figure 1). The co-ordinates of the resources (inconspicuous stone walls) in the critical area were also tabulated (Table 1).

2.2 Assumptions and limitations

It must be kept in mind that cultural heritage surveys may not detect all heritage resources in any given study area. While certain remains may simply be missed during surveys (observations), others may occur below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once development (such as mining) commences. Mitigation measures considering all ranges of heritage resources are therefore outlined in

remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or, when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floor plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However, circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The term 'sensitive remains' is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have tombstones that are older than sixty years.

The term Stone Age refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age peoples lived in the area well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Earlier Stone Age (3 million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years to 20 000 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (20 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17th century and the 19th century and can therefore include the historical period.

The critical area refers to the area where the Salene Mine intends to focus its development activities

The 'peripheral area' refers to the area where the Salene Mine does not intend to focus any development activities in the near future.

Phase I studies refer to surveys using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in any given area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping and excavating, the documenting of rock art/engraving sites or of dwellings or other architectural features and structures, the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks, the exhumation and reburial of human remains, etc. Phase II work requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

Archaeological context refers to archaeological remains (sites, features, structures and tools) that have been disturbed and which do not occur in their original three-dimensional location any more.

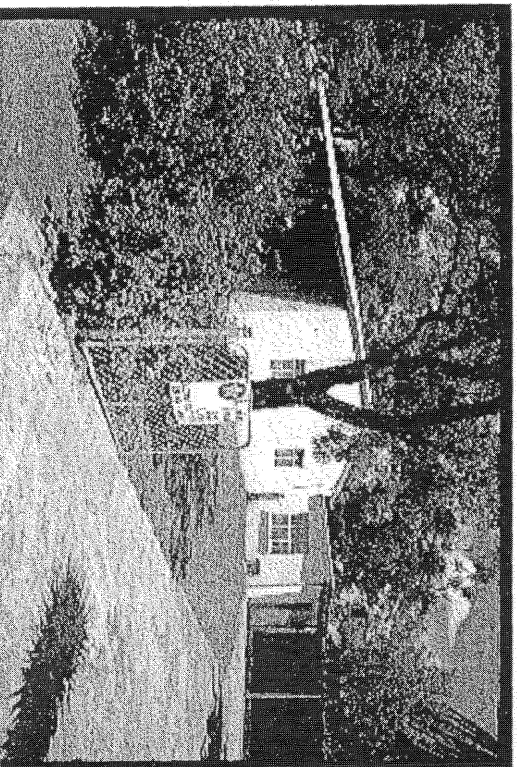
areas). Tobacco and citrus farming, together with cattle herding, became a subsistence pattern that has lasted to this day. Old farm homesteads, agricultural implements and other infrastructure such as tobacco drying sheds may still exist on farms adjacent to the study area.

Before the discovery of the Merensky Reef, farmers practising crop planting, citrus farming and stock herding occupied the area. These farmers and their workers have therefore occupied this area since the 19th century. After the discovery of the Merensky Reef in 1929, the economy of the area was gradually changed from farming into platinum and chrome mining. Farmers, farm-workers and, more recently, mine workers have therefore occupied the area without interruption for more than a hundred and fifty years. Remains dating from this historical (colonial and modern) period and from the relatively recent past therefore exist in or near the study area.

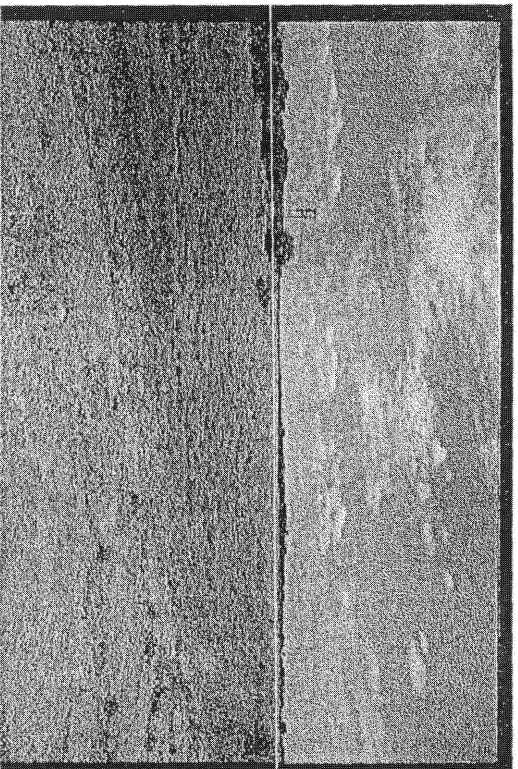
3.3 The altered state of the study area

The study area has long being utilised for agricultural activities such as crop planting and citrus farming. However, the study area has also been scarred by younger development activities such as the building of dirt roads and homesteads. The homesteads in the peripheral area in the south-eastern corner of the study are relatively new and have no architectural or cultural significance.

Other development activities that have altered the study area include the laying of pipelines, the construction of power lines, the digging of furrows and the building of soil dams. These development activities have changed the indigenous vegetation, landscape and appearance of the study area so that it cannot be described as a pristine piece of land anymore.



Figures 4 & 5. Additional development activities that have altered the study area and which may have affected the presence of possible heritage resources include the building of modern homesteads (above) and earth-walled dams (below).



also contain stone walled sites dating from the Late Iron Age. These granite knolls and protrusions provided building material for smaller residential sites and for sites such as cattle posts located in flatter parts where there is abundant grazing. (Cattle posts were usually located away from residential sites).

The stone walled sites discussed below occur in the peripheral area of the Salene Mining study area. These sites and features are categorised as clusters or complexes of sites and as isolated, scattered stone walls. Large clusters of stone walled sites represent the various wards or villages (*dikgoro*) that constituted large traditional Tswana villages (*metse*). Isolated, inconspicuous stone walls may be the remains of cattle outposts, the start of new villages or small homesteads occupied by one or two family groups during the Late Iron Age.

Site (complex) LIA01

Site (complex) LIA01 is situated on the relatively low part of the range of kopjes collectively known as the 'Ysterklippkoppes' on the mid-western border of the Salene Mining area on the farm Spruifontein 341 JQ. This complex is scattered over the lower, north-eastern part of the Ysterklippkoppes. Several settlement units in this complex were located on the eastern foot of the kopjes but were destroyed when these areas were cleared for agricultural fields (Figures 2 & 3).

Site (complex) LIA01 is located in the peripheral area and will not be affected by the development of the new mine.

Site (complex) LIA02

This complex of stone walls sites occurs on the higher and more pronounced part of the series of kopjes known as the Ysterklippkoppe. This complex is similar in its composition to those that occur on the north-eastern extremity of the range. The Ysterklippkoppe must have contained a considerable population during the Late Iron Age. A third large Late Iron Age complex used to exist on the farm Kroondal 304JQ, to the west of the study area. This complex was archaeologically investigated during 1999 (see Bibliography, Part 7).

Site (complex) LIA01 and Site (complex) LIA02 can be associated with the ancestors of the Tswana and date from the 17th century. They were probably abandoned during the pre-*difaqane* and *difaqane* wars that were fought during the last quarter of the 18th century and during the first quarter of the 19th century.

Isolated, inconspicuous stone walls

At least two isolated stone walls (probably part of enclosures) occur in the granite ridge that runs from the north to the south on the western border of the critical area. These structures are not associated with any archaeological deposits or with any archaeological material. These walls were destroyed when roads were built through the necks through the ridge (Figures 8a & 8b).

These isolated walls may have been parts of cattle outposts associated with the larger residential sites located at the Ysterklippkoppe.

These isolated, crude stone walls have been mapped (Figure 1), their co-ordinates determined and their significance rated according to a set of criteria. The walls cannot be considered to be of high significance (Table 1).

3.5 Remains from the historical (colonial) period

The first immigrant Boers who settled north of the Magaliesberg established the town of Rustenburg in the 1840's. The farm Schaapkraal 292JQ, located to the north of the study area, was another early point of settlement in the Central Bankeveld. Farmers and their co-workers have therefore occupied the Marikana area uninterruptedly for at least the last hundred and fifty years. However, no remains dating from the historical period (and which are older than sixty years) were observed in the critical or peripheral area of the Salene Mining study area.

3.6 Remains from the relatively recent past

Remains from the relatively recent past refer to remains not older than sixty years and usually include dwellings or graves. A wide range of sites, landscapes, structures, features and phenomena that date from the recent past and which are still intact may fall into this category.

The following remains dating from the relatively recent past were observed in the peripheral area:

A retaining wall and red bricks (Site RRP01)

A low retaining wall, approximately fifteen metres long, occurs to the west of the ridge situated on the western perimeter of the critical area. This wall is situated between the ridges and agricultural fields further to the west and may have supported a soil platform on which a red brick dwelling was built. It is possible that a red brick building may have been a dwelling for labourers or a pump house (Figure 9).

Site RRP01 dates from the relatively recent past, is situated in the peripheral area and has little significance.

A village built with brick dwellings (Site RRP02)

Site RRP02 is situated in the peripheral area to the south-west of the mining area and is associated with GY01.

Site RRP02 is composed of two to three dwellings that were built with red bricks (Figure 10). These dwellings were probably those of black people who worked as labourers on the farm. The graveyard (GY01) with nine graves situated next to the village supports this assumption.

It is possible that Site RRP02 was built on top of the ruins of a Late Iron Age village as the dilapidated remains of the red brick dwellings are superimposed on at least two stone walls that may date from the Late Iron Age. An iron spear-head was picked up on this site. The spear-head may date from the Late Iron Age and was retrieved from the surface of a midden. The midden may contain a mixture of rubbish from the Late Iron Age and from the relatively recent past.

Site RRP02 is associated with GY01 and is located in the peripheral area where Site RRP02 and the graveyard (GY01) will not be affected by the mining activities.

Site RRP02 is of some significance as the midden may contain Late Iron Age material. However, this midden and the Late Iron Age remains have been disturbed. Considering the presence of the Late Iron Age complexes (Site [complex] LIA01 and Site [complex] LIA02) on the perimeters of the Salene Mining area which contain an abundance of archaeological material, these disturbed Late Iron Age remains (including the midden) do not warrant any special mitigation measures.

Remains of red bricks in a dirt road (Site RRP03)

The remains of red bricks are visible in one of the numerous dirt roads running across the Salene Mining premises. These bricks may be the remains of a structure, such as a small dwelling or pump house. They were found near one of the earth dams, near the central part of the Salene Mining premises (Figure 11).

Site RRP03 is situated in the peripheral area. It dates from the relatively recent past and will not be affected by the mining activities.

Site RRP03 has little significance.

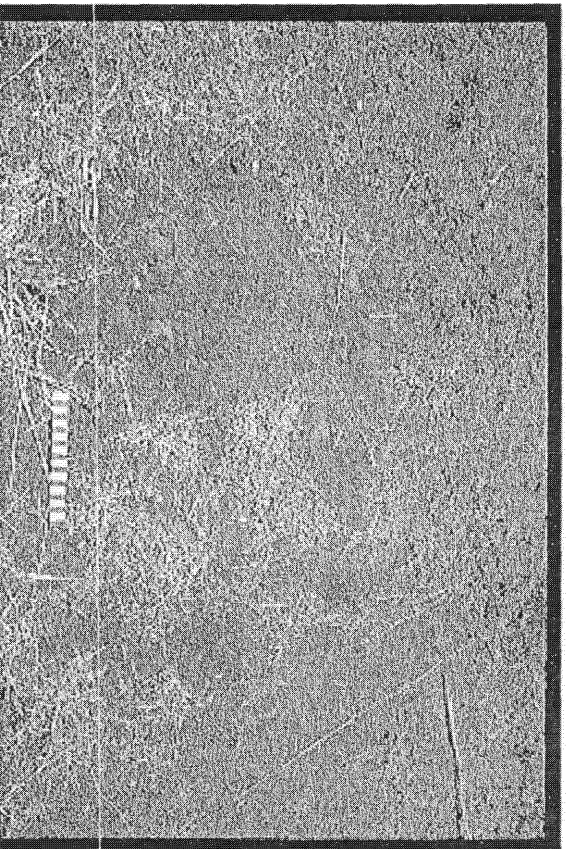


Figure 11. Red bricks in a dirt road on the Salene Mining premises must be the remains of a small dwelling or a pump house.

Graveyard 02 (GY02)

This graveyard contains twenty-four graves including the graves of at least two members of the Manganesi family (Figure 13). The majority of the graves have no tombstones and therefore no inscriptions. The graveyard is neatly maintained, regularly visited by family members or friends of the deceased and is well maintained.

Graveyard 02 (GY02) is located outside the mining premises and will not be affected by the mining activities.



Figure 13. Graveyard 02 is located on the outskirts of the borders of the Salene Mining premises. This graveyard will not be affected by the mining activities.

still used for burials, is neatly maintained and therefore regularly visited by family members and friends of the deceased.

4.2 Rating the significance of the heritage resources and sensitive remains

A rating scheme was devised to determine the levels of significance of the inconspicuous stone walls located along the ridges running across the northern part of the study area (Table 1). The ratings accorded to each of these categories varied between 1 (low significance), 2 (medium significance) and 3 (high significance). This scheme considers criteria such as the following:

Ideological (symbolic) significance

This category of significance refers to sites, structures or features that may have symbolic or ideological significance, e.g. cattle kraals that may have been used as burial grounds, or stone cairns in initiation schools that symbolise the regiments (of men) moulded during these puberty ceremonies, etc.

Burial grounds, individual graves, cemeteries and sites that are venerated would also score high on ideological significance.

Aesthetic significance

This category of significance refers to the beauty, craftsmanship or workmanship evident in sites, structures or features of historical and pre-historical sites. In this regard, one thinks of the spatial composition and layout of settlements, the spatial location of settlements on majestic or impressive mountains or kopjes, etc.

Other aesthetic aspects include architectural style and building features such as stone walls, stone platforms, the shape and size of enclosures, etc.

Unique(ness)

The uniqueness of sites, structures and features refers to the fact that such sites and the structures or features of these sites may be scarce and may not be repeated in other sites or at other places.

HERITAGE RESOURCES AND THEIR CO-ORDINATES IN THE CRITICAL AREA	Ideological/symbolic significance	Aesthetic significance	Uniqueness	Cultural Historical significance	State preservation of	Research value
AT LEAST TWO INCONSPICUOUS STONE WALLS ALONG THE RANDJES RUNNING ACROSS THE NORTHERN PART OF THE STUDY AREA 25° 43' 32" S; 27° 26' 23" E 25° 43' 32" S; 27° 26' 22" E	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 1. Different levels of significance distinguished for at least two inconspicuous stone walls along the randjes that bisect the northern part of the Salene Mining area.

- 1= low significance
- 2= medium significance
- 3= high significance

5.2 Graves, the exhumation and relocation of human remains

Different legislation applies to different categories of graves, namely:

5.2.1 Graves younger than 60 years

Graves younger than 60 years are protected by Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no 7 of 1925) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983). These graves fall under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health. Approval for the removal of graves and bodies must be directed to the Office of the relevant Provincial Minister. (This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning, or, in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare). Authorisation for exhumation and re-interment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must be adhered to. In order to handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation must have authorisation under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (the Human Tissues Act).

5.2.2 Graves older than 60 years

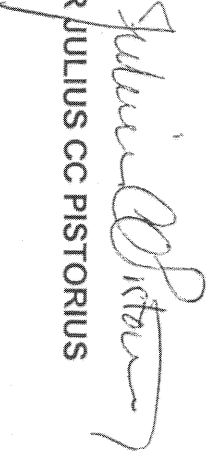
Graves older than 60 years but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (the National Heritage Resources Act) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and under the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). The Procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[f] of Act 25 of 1999, National Heritage Resources Act) is applicable to graves older than 60 years which are situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. Graves in this category located inside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority also require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, over and above SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws set by the cemetery authorities must be adhered to. In order to handle and to transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation needs authorisation under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (the Human Tissues Act). Any alteration to a grave in this category or the relocation thereof must be supervised by an archaeologist accredited by SAHRA and the Cultural Resource Management Section of the South African Association for Archaeologists.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

At least three ranges of heritage resources and sensitive remains were identified in the critical and in the peripheral areas of the Salene Mining area. Only two inconspicuous stone walls along the western foot of the ridges that run in the northern part of the study area have been affected by the mining activities. These two stone walls were accidentally destroyed when dirt roads were bulldozed through the necks of the ridges. As these walls are not considered to be of high significance (see Table 1), no permit for the destruction of these features is requested from SAHRA. However, SAHRA will be made aware of the destruction that has been caused to these heritage remains, as a copy of this report will be forwarded to SAHRA's regional office in Mafekeng.

The wide range of heritage resources in the peripheral area is not endangered by the mining activities. However, legislation requires mitigation measures whenever heritage resources or sensitive remains such as graveyards are to be affected by development activities. The relevant legislation includes the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999), the Ordinance on Exhumations (Ordinance No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (Act No 65 of 1983 as amended). Mitigation measures (or procedures) to be adopted with regard to graveyards, historical structures and Late Iron Age sites are outlined in Table 2. These mitigation measures and procedures must be adhered to when heritage resources may be discovered or may be affected during the development, operation and closure of the mine.

The Salene Mine must also ensure that GY01 is fenced-in and that access is made available to family members or friends of the deceased whenever they want to visit this graveyard.


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Figure 1. The Salene Mining area on the farms Brakspruit 299 JQ and Spruitfontein 341 JQ, north of the Magaliesberg Mountain Range and within the catchment of the Sterkstroom in the Crocodile River Basin. Note the heritage resources and sensitive remains discovered in the critical and in the peripheral areas.