



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
BK 98 09854/23

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**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LETHABONG EXT 3 LOCATED IN THE  
RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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**On behalf of:**

***Rustenburg Local Municipality  
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**REPORT: AE815**

by:

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***April 2008***

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## SUMMARY

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

The fieldwork undertaken revealed no sites and features, but it did reveal some objects of cultural heritage significance on the property. These 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 Lethabong extension 3, located in the Rustenburg Local Municipality, Northwest Province. This is a residential development close to the town of Brits.

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. It is however situated northwest of the town of Brits (Figure 1). The map supplied by the client indicates that the area has been used for agricultural purposes in the past. This was also clear on site from ploughed furrows in the area.

The area where the development is to take place slopes down to the east where river flows on the eastern boundary of the property. Large erosion dongas here indicate that further disturbance in this case by natural factors. It is clear that in the rain season a large amount of water runs down from west to east. Factors, such as the presence of water would have made the environment suitable for utilization by past people.

The vegetation consists of long grass, with large bushveld bushes and trees spread around the area (Figure 2). The plant cover was very dense during the survey except for the eastern side where the erosion dongas are and at the extreme western side where a cleared area is visible.

This is probably used for parking related to the cemetery on the western boundary of the surveyed area.

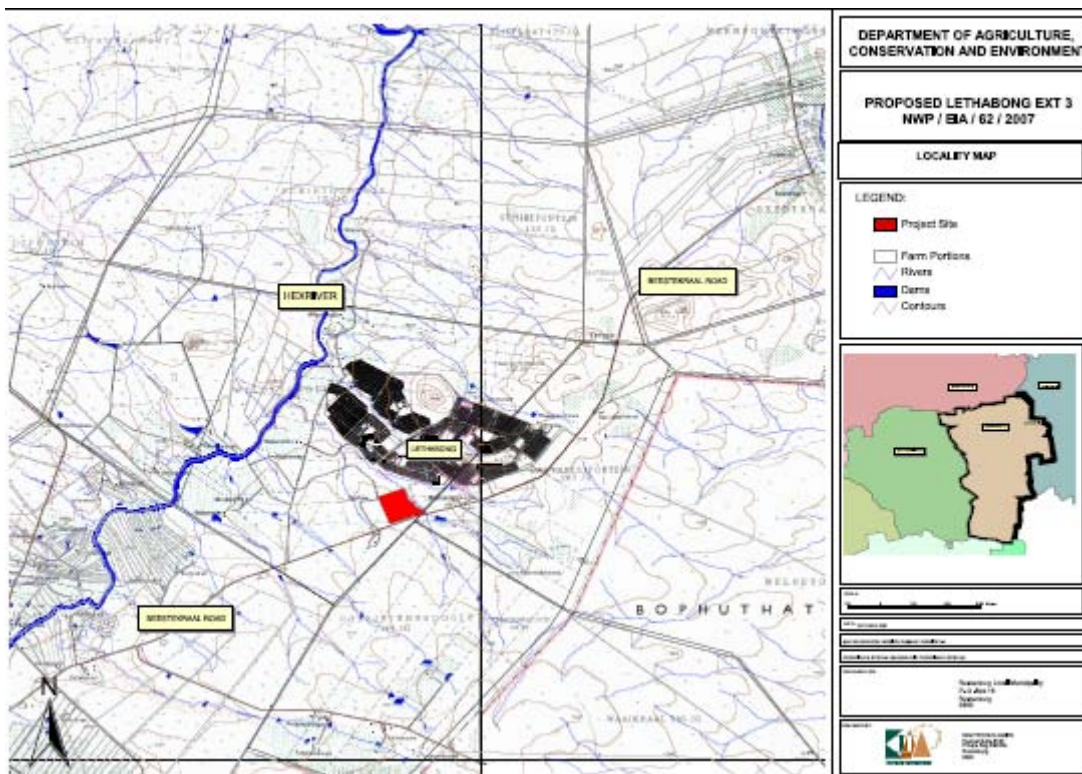


Figure 1 Locality map indicating the surveyed area.





Figure 2 General view of the surveyed area.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

During the survey no sites or features of cultural heritage significance were located on the property. However some objects of cultural significance were found. Although these will be impacted upon by the development, this report is seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard.

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 and Brits, but these are all to the south of the investigated area and in the Magaliesberg Mountain (Bergh 1999: 4-5). Stone Age material is frequently found close to rivers and in this case it was no exception. In the erosion dongas some Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools were found (Figure 3-4).



Figure 3 Middle Stone Age core which was also used as large chopping tool.



Figure 4 Early Stone Age chopper (Olduwan?) found in the erosion dongas. It is a cobblestone from which flakes were struck in order to create a working edge on the stone. The flakes may also have been struck off during the process of using the cobblestone as a hammering tool.

Apart from those shown in the pictures, a few other stone tools were also identified, both in the dongas and in the sloped area to the west thereof. The latter included Middle and Later Stone Age material (Figure 5-6).



Figure 4 Late Stone Age core identified in the surveyed area. A core is a piece of stone from which stone tools are struck. The GPS coordinate for this ~~27°10'25~~ and ~~27°29'02~~°E. This coordinate was only taken as no site was found in the surveyed area.



Figure 5 A Late Stone Age core (left) and scraper (right). Last mentioned were used to scrape hair from animal skins or bark from trees.

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.

It is therefore clear that the area had been used by Stone Age from the Early Stone Age up to the Late Stone Age.



Figure 4 Late Stone Age core used for the manufacturing of lithic tools.

## 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 northeast of the surveyed area (Bergh 1999: 8).

During earlier times the area was inhabited by a Tswana group, the Fokeng. In the 19<sup>th</sup> 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).

However no indication of Iron Age people was found during the survey.

### **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 and Brits, 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) and Brits in 1928 (Bergh 1999: 24).

No sites from this era were found during the survey.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion it can be stated that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. Although no cultural heritage sites and features were identified, some objects were found. These all belong to the Stone Age and range from the Early to the Late Stone Age. None of them are highly significant. The final recommendations therefore are as follows:

- This report is seen as ample mitigation for the cultural objects 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.

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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.