

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE
BAFOKENG DISTRICT, NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

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1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

This preliminary survey aimed to locate, identify and evaluate sites, objects and structures of cultural importance within the borders of the **Bafokeng District** of North West Province. The assignment was carried out on the request of **Ekokonsult Ing.**

2. STUDY AREA

The study area comprises the Bafokeng district of North West Province. It is located between Rustenburg in the south, and Pilanesberg in the north. This area has always been in the possession of the Fokeng people, and only a small section fell under white ownership. Recently, the area formed part of the homeland and later 'independant' state of Bophuthatswana.

3. METHODOLOGY

The relevant 1:50 000 maps covering the study area were consulted, as well as the available literature. The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)**, housed at the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria, was consulted.

A short visit was made to the area, with the specific aim of looking at a particular site at Phokeng and obtaining a feel of the general layout of the area.

4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The people known as the Fokeng of Rustenburg can be regarded as an important and large branch of the Sotho-Tswana-speaking groups of people in Southern Africa. It seems as if the baFokeng moved southward with the great Sotho-Tswana groups that moved east through Botswana and through (former) western Transvaal in two main streams. The Fokeng is said to be part of the second stream which came with the Hurutshe.

According to tradition, the Fokeng entered the former Transvaal near Tweedepoort at the beginning of the 18th century or even earlier. They seem to have settled at a place that is now known as Boschpoort (not in area of the survey). During the 18th century the Fokeng settled at or near the settlement of Phokeng on the farm Kookfontein 265JQ.

The tribal area of the Fokeng stretched from the Magaliesburg, south of Rustenburg, to the western border that was along the Selons River (Ngwaritsi); to the eastern border that was the Sterkstroom River (Gwatlhê) to Mamogale's Location and then northwards to the Hex River (Matsukubyanne) and the Elands River (Kgetleng). It is known that the Fokeng also used to move north of the Elands River to use the land for agriculture. The heart of the tribal area was therefore north of Rustenburg.

On some of the farms in the Bafokeng area one can find the names of some of the chiefs of the Fokeng. On the farm Welbekend 117JQ one of the hills is named Nape. Chief Phôgôlê seems to have settled near the present tribal area but later moved to Basutoland; his name (Phôgôlê) can be found near the railway siding on the southern border of the district. The chiefs Maelangwe, Modibiane, Phate and Mafole are said to have lived and died in the surrounding area of Phokeng.

It is said that there is a sacred hill on the farm Turffontein 302JQ, called Malejane. The story goes that chief Thêthê placed a sacred pot or medicine pot on top of this hill. On the farm Morgenzon 261JQ there are two heaps of stones, where passersby would throw stones onto the pile to propitiate the mountain spirits. These stone heaps can be found in the pass, "Phata ya Mathêbê".

The Fokeng had many tribal disputes, and there seems to have been a civil war between certain chiefs, until Mzilikazi defeated the Fokeng. Sekete III who reigned in the beginning of the 18th century or earlier, settled at a place called Boschpoort. Sekete's son seems to have fled to a place called Bope (Buffelshoek). Diala was the next chief in the middle of the 18th century. He had four sons. When Diala had grown old the Hurutshe wanted to castrate all the bulls, as was the custom, but Diala's sons objected, so conflict arose and the Hurutshe were defeated by the Fokeng. The main battle took place in the neck, on the farm Morgenzon 261JQ, and the Fokeng have been independent of the Hurutshe since then.

It is believed that the body of chief Thêthê was buried at Matsukubyanne (Hex River) by his brother Nôgê. It was Nôgê's army that was defeated by Mzilikazi at Bleskop, east-south-east of Rustenburg. Mokgatle supported the Boers in their struggles, so Potgieter rewarded him with a farm, Kookfontein 265JQ.

5. RESULTS

The desktop survey yielded a variety of cultural resources, which are categorised and listed below. Some of these resources are "definites" (i.e. those that can be positively identified), whilst the remainder are either "possibles" or "probables".

5.1 Stone and Iron Age sites

Currently, there are no known archaeological sites of importance in the area. A intensive field survey might reveal some new sites. A visit to the farm Morgenzon 261JQ yielded no sites of significance.

Based on available information and the geographical, topographical and botanical features of the study area, we can predict that it will probably contain Stone and Iron Age sites. Early and Middle Stone Age artefacts will be found along river courses, and Late Stone Age artefacts on the slopes and crests of hills and under overhanging cliffs.

Iron Age sites, in particular sites dating from the later part of the Late Iron Age (AD 1600 and later) are to be found on the slopes and crests of hills. Most of these sites would probably be associated with Tswana settlements. The closest Iron Age sites of significance are to the west of the study area on the farms Shylock 256JQ and Selonskraal 317JQ.

These latter settlements are very big (they had an estimated population of up to 10 000 inhabitants) and have impressive stone wall architecture. However, they originated from Kwena settlement and not the Fokeng. Though development of these sites for eco-tourism would be advantageous, it will have to be done in cooperation with the Kwena people.

5.2 Farm structures

Settlement by white farmers began during the early 1850s, and a number of historic farm structures (i.e. 50 years or older) will probably be found in the study area. Such structures include farm houses, outbuildings, sheds, walls, irrigation systems and dipping troughs.

5.3 Roads

A network of roads services the area. It is possible that some historic road alignments/routes, bridges and culverts still exist. One example is the old steel bridge across the Elands River on the road to Pilanesberg.

5.4 Towns and villages

Some houses showing very interesting architectural characteristics were noticed in some of the villages. It is possible that some of these might be older than 50 years, bringing them under the jurisdiction of the National Monuments Act of 1969.

5.5 Shops, post offices, school buildings

A number of these were observed on the 1:50 000 maps and it is possible that some of these buildings could have historic value.

5.6 Mission stations

The Saron Mission Station (? Hermansburg Mission Society) is located on the farm Kookfontein 265JS, in the Phokeng township. This site was not visited, but is judged to

be of conservation-worthy status. It is possible that a cemetery might be associated with this station.

5.7 Monuments

In Phokeng township the grave marked as "Monumental grave", the burial site of a person who died in tribal fighting c. 1870's, is found. More information about this person is needed.

5.8 Mines

According to the 1:50 000 maps, a large number of mines are located in the area. It is obvious that the majority are of recent origin, but, with reference to the important role that mining has played in the history of the country, it is vital that this aspect be investigated in order to locate some of the older mines.

5.9 Boer War sites

Although the Magaliesberg contains a number of blockhouses, as well as British and Boer forts, dating back to the period 1899-1902, none are known from this particular area. No major battles took place in the study area.

5.10 Historic cemeteries

It is expected that a number of cemeteries are located on farms, and most of these probably contain graves of local inhabitants.

5.11 Place names

The meaning and significance of names of farms, rivers, hills, towns, etc, is as yet largely unknown.

5.12 Oral history

It is probable that an amount of local oral knowledge about the resources listed above (5.1 to 5.11) will exist.

6. CONCLUSION

Based on the information as discussed above, it can be concluded that the study area could contain a variety of significant cultural resources, that need to be taken into consideration if large scale development takes place. However, the number, status and value of these resources is largely unknown.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that a comprehensive survey of the cultural resources in the study area be undertaken in order to gain a better knowledge in terms of numbers (quantity), location, status and significance of cultural resources. It is essential that such data become available before further planning is undertaken. Cultural resources enhance visitor experience in terms of tourism and education. Proper cultural resource management can play a role in establishing good relationships between land owners and neighbouring communities, and can benefit the image of developers and land owners.

8. SOURCES CONSULTED

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APPENDIX A: LIST OF FARMS IN THE AREA

The farms were found on the maps 2527 AC; 2527 AD; 2527 CA and 2527 CB of the 1:50 000 topocadastral series.

1. Styl drift	90 JQ
2. Haartebeestspruit	88 JQ
3. Rhenosterfontein	86 JQ
4. Rietspruit	83 JQ
5. Doornspruit	84 JQ
6. Roodekraalspruit	113 JQ
7. Toulon	111 JQ
8. Goedgezicht	110 JQ
9. Doornspruit	109 JQ
10. Goedgezicht	114 JQ
11. Klein Doornspruit	108 JQ
12. Boschkoppie	104 JQ
13. Uitvalgrond	105 JQ
14. Doornspruit	106 JQ
15. Klipgatkop	115 JQ
16. Welbekend	117 JQ
17. Waagfontein	89 JQ
18. Zanddrift	82 JQ
19. Haakbosh	70 JQ
20. Honingfontein	122 JQ
21. Swartbank	121 JQ
22. Sandbult	119 JQ
23. Diepkuil	116 JQ
24. Bierkraal	120 JQ
25. Tweedepoort	283 JQ
26. Rooiwal	285 JQ
27. Wildebeestfontein	274 JQ
28. Kookfontein	265 JQ
29. Morgenzon	261 JQ
30. Uitvalgrond	257 JQ