

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES ON THE
FARMS SRUITFONTEIN 341JQ AND KAFFERSKRAAL
342JQ, RUSTENBURG DISTRICT**

For:

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REPORT: 99KH18

Date of survey: November 1999

Date of report: December 1999

SUMMARY

A survey of cultural resources on the Farms Spruitfontein 341 JQ and Kafferskraal 342 JQ in the Rustenburg District

A survey to establish the nature, extent and significance of cultural resources was made on the Farms Spruitfontein 341 JQ and Kafferskraal 342 JQ in the Rustenburg District.

A number of sites of cultural significance were identified during the field survey. Most of these sites will be directly or indirectly impacted upon by the proposed mining development. It is, however, recommended that the development can continue, but only after suitable mitigation measures were taken. Recommendations are put forward in section 8 of this report.

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342 JQ, RUSTENBURG DISTRICT**

1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **Metago Environmental Engineers (Pty) Ltd** to conduct a survey of archaeological and cultural historical sites on the farms Spruitfontein 341 JQ and Kafferskraal 342 JQ in the Rustenburg District. Large-scale mining development in the area is being planned. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document the sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the proposed development, but also in the general area of the farms. A number of graves known to be in the area also had to be identified and assessed.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

- 2.1 Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural resources) located in the area of the proposed development.
- 2.2 Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic, scientific and tourism value.
- 2.3 Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
- 2.4 Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.

3. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following aspects have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

-**Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made occurrences, as well

as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.

- The **significance** of the sites 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. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.
- Significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium to high significance require further mitigation.
- The latitude and longitude of an archaeological site is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer, and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
- All recommendations are made with full cognisance of the relevant legislation, in this case the National Monuments Act (**Act 28 of 1969, as amended**).

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Currently two of the more important Acts concerning cultural resources are the National Monuments Act (Act 28 of 1969) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989). It is however important to note that new legislation is being prepared and this might come into effect before the end of 1999.

4.1 National Monuments Act

According to this law the following appropriate cultural resources are protected:

- a. Meteorites and fossils
- b. Prehistoric rock art
- c. Prehistoric tools, ornaments and structures
- d. The Anthropological and archaeological contents of graves, rock shelters, caves, middens etc.
- e. Historical sites and archaeological or paleontological finds, material or artifacts
- f. Declared national monuments
- g. Cemeteries and graves older than 50 years

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit to do so from the National Monuments Council. A person is only regarded an archaeologist if he/she has a Honours degree in archaeology.

4.2 Environmental Conservation Act

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in area where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made. The impact of the development on the cultural resources should also be determined and proposals to mitigate this impact is to be formulated.

4.3 Graves, cemeteries and skeletal remains

There are several laws and bylaws pertaining to the exhumation and reinterment of human remains. All graves older than 50 years are protected under the **National Monuments Act**. This holds true for unmarked as well as marked graves. In the latter case, it also includes the headstone.

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 (ie 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)**.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Preliminary investigation

5.1.1 Data sources

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)** of the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria was consulted. This was done in order to determine if any archaeological sites have been documented previously in the area of the survey.

5.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. Special attention was given to the area of proposed development, while areas in the proximity of the planned development were also investigated. All natural features such as prominent hills and outcrops, streambeds, clumps of trees and erosion trenches were investigated.

5.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System (GPS)**¹ and plotted on a map. The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5.4 Presentation of the information

In discussing the results of the survey, a chronological rather than a geographical approach was followed in the presentation of an overview of human occupation and land use in the area. This helps the reader to better understand and facilitate the potential impact of the development. Information on the individual objects, sites, occurrences and structures is presented in Appendix 2.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA SURVEYED

The topography is basically flat, open veld with stretches of more dense bush and clumps of trees. There are a few small hills and ridges. The Brakspruit is the main watersource in the area. Most of the area has been agriculturally developed in the past, with large tracts of land ploughed up.

The vegetation consists of a combination of Mixed Bushveld and Sour Bushveld (Acocks, 1988). The geology of the area is characterised by quartzite, shale, sandstone, norite, gabbro and chromite.

7. DISCUSSION

A survey of this nature has not been carried out in this area before. A few archaeological and historical sites were identified and documented during this survey.

7.1 Stone Age

No evidence of the Stone Age, such as the characteristic stone tools left by Stone Age people, were found in the survey area.

¹ ¹ According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however, taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

The possibility of Stone Age people moving around in the area in earlier times can however not be ruled out entirely.

7.2 Iron Age

Evidence of Iron Age settlement in the area was found at two locations during the survey. The one site (2527CB12) is of no real significance, as only a few undecorated potsherds were found, out of context, on the surface. A few grinding and hammerstones were also identified here, but no indication of stone walling. The other Iron Age site (2527CB14) is fairly extensive, and consists of cattle kraals, agricultural terraces and other stone-built structures, all in a very good state of preservation. This site needs to be more fully documented and researched.

7.3 Historic and more recent times

Six sites, mainly graves and cemeteries, dating to historic and more recent times were identified during the field survey. One site (2527CB 11) is the remains of an old mud-brick and cement structure (possibly a homestead or farm labourer's house). The majority of the graves are unmarked (without headstones) and packed with stone. The exact age of these graves are not known, but could be older than 50 years. There are also a large number of graves with headstones, especially in the 2 more formal, 'European', cemeteries. The marked graves date to between 1896 (the earliest) and more recent times (1990's). Most of the graves (marked and unmarked) will have to be relocated if the mining activities are going to impact upon the sites.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the sites identified during the survey will be impacted upon, directly or indirectly by the proposed mining activities in the area. The direct mining activities such as exploration, blasting and structural development will have a heavy impact on these sites, as well as the area in general. The mining will not only lead to the damage or destruction of sites, but will also have a negative effect on many of these sites 'sense of place' and will lower the cultural tourism potential of the sites. The influx of people and machinery, as a result of the mining, will also affect the sites.

The following recommendations are made:

- *Two of the sites (2527CB11 and CB12) have no real historical, cultural, social, aesthetic, technological or scientific value and needs no mitigation.
- *All the grave sites and cemeteries, if they are going to be impacted upon by the mining activities, will have to be mitigated. This will entail the relocation of all the

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graves, in consultation with all relevant parties (family, National Monuments Council, etc...).

*The large Iron Age site (2527CB14) will also need some mitigation. It is recommended that this site be properly documented, mapped and drawn, photographed and possibly excavated before mining activities commence.

*It is also recommended that if, during any part of the development, sites or artifacts of cultural importance are found, the National Cultural History Museum be contacted to undertake proper scientific investigation of the finds.

9. REFERENCES

9.1 Data base

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

9.2 Literary sources

Acocks, J.P.H. 1988. **Veld Types of South Africa**. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No. 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

9.3 Maps

1:50 000 Topographic series - 2527CB Rustenburg (East)

10. PROJECT TEAM

Dr. J.A van Schalkwyk - Principal Investigator
A. Pelser - Field Supervisor

Significance of impact:

- lowwhere the impact will not have an influence on or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design
- mediumwhere the impact could have an influence which will require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation
- highwhere it would have a "no-go" implication on the project regardless of any mitigation

Certainty of prediction:

- Definite: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data to verify assessment
- Probable: Over 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only over 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring
- Unsure: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact, or the likelihood of an impact occurring

Status of the impact:

With mitigation and the resultant recovery of material, a negative impact can be turned positive. Describe whether the impact is positive (a benefit), negative (a cost) or neutral

Recommended management action:

For each impact, the recommended practically attainable mitigation actions which would result in a measurable reduction of the impact, must be identified. This is expressed according to the following:

- 1 = no further investigation necessary
- 2 = controlled sampling of the site necessary
- 3 = test excavation to determine if further work is necessary
- 4 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation necessary
- 5 = preserve site at all costs

Legal requirements:

Identify and list the specific legislation and permit requirements which potentially could be infringed upon by the proposed project, if mitigation is necessary

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY RESULTS²

[See Appendix 1 for explanation of the conventions used in assessing of the cultural remains]

1. Site number: 2527CB10

Description: Unmarked grave (possibly older than 50 years). Packed with stones.

Location: The site is located at 25° 44' 01.1" S; 27° 26' 38.9" E (y - 156136.092; x - 2848013.540)

Discussion: Next to dirt road on boundary between Kafferskraal 342 JQ and Spruitfontein 341 JQ

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Probable

Status of impact: Negative

Recommended management action: reburial

Legal requirements: Relocation of the graves will have to be done in accordance with Transvaal Ordinance (No.7 of 1925) and the National Monuments Act (No.28 of 1969). However, the local Authority might also have its own requirements concerning this matter, which will have to be pursued by the developer self.

2. Site number: 2527CB11

Description: Foundations/remains of an old homestead/farmstead.

Location: 25° 43' 47" S; 27° 25' 34.2" E (y - 157945.147; x - 2847600.956)

Discussion: Remains of structure built of mud-brick and cement. Situated on Spruitfontein within large-scale dumping area. Age unknown.

Significance of impact: Low

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Neutral

Recommended management action: (1) - no further investigation necessary.

Legal requirements: None.

3. Site number: 2527CB12

Description: Iron Age Site. Pottery and grinding/hammerstones.

Location: 25° 44' 22.5" S; 27° 24' 23.5" E (y - 159903.189; x - 2848717.266)

Discussion: Undecorated pottery found on the surface of the site. No indication of stone walling. Next to low quartzite ridge. Some grinding stones and hammerstones also identified in the vicinity.

Significance of impact: Low

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Neutral

Recommended management action: (1) - no further investigation necessary.

Legal requirements: None

4. Site number: 2527CB13

¹ ² Previous site numbers relate to other known sites on a particular 1/4 degree sheet already documented in the ADRC, and does not necessarily refer to sites occurring on or close to the specific area of development.

Description: Unmarked grave (possibly older than 50 years). Packed with stones.

Location: 25° 44' 06.5" S; 27° 24' 48" E (y - 159226.064; x - 2848216.570)

Discussion: Right next to dirt road.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Probable

Status of impact: Negative

Recommended management action: reburial

Legal requirements: See 2527CB10

5. Site number: 2527CB14

Description: Iron Age settlement site on hill. Stone walling.

Location: 25° 44' 06.7" S; 27° 25' 26.4" E (y - 158155.381; x - 2848209.893)

Discussion: Extensive site consisting of cattle kraals, terraces and other stone structures.
Exact age unknown.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Negative

Recommended management action: (2) - controlled sampling of the site necessary

Legal requirements: None

6. Site number: 2527CB15

Description: Family cemetery containing 6 graves with headstones.

Location: 25° 43' 53.2" S; 27° 27' 33.2" E (y - 151625.020; x - 284775.623)

Discussion: 2 graves (Kloppers) 1975; 2 graves (Janse van Rensburg) 1962 and 2 graves (Van Rensburg children) 1942 and 1943 respectively.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Probable

Status of impact: Negative

Recommended management action: reburial

Legal requirements: See 2527CB10

7. Site number: 2527CB16

Description: Cemetery with approximately 10 unmarked graves. Packed with stone.

Location: 25° 43' 58.2" S; 27° 27' 36.5" E (y - 154531.217; x - 2847905.441)

Discussion: Some fairly recent, while some could be older than 50 years.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Probable

Status of impact: Negative

Recommended management action: reburial

Legal requirements: See 2527CB10

8. Site number: 2527CB17

Description: Large formal cemetery with about 195 graves.

Location: 25° 44' 12" S; 27° 28' 15.5" E (y - 153438.953; x - 2848317.536)

Discussion: More than half the graves has got headstones, while most of the graves packed with stone are unmarked. Oldest grave 1896, with a number very recent. Also one grave of a Johannes Christiaan Janse van Rensburg who died in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and who was re-buried here in 1938 by the Sentrale Burgergrafte Komitee.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Probable

Status of impact: Negative/Neutral

Recommended management action: Reburial, if mining will impact upon site.

Legal requirements: See 2527CB10

APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This section is included to give the reader some necessary background. It must be kept in mind, however, that these dates are all relative and serve only to give a very broad framework for interpretation.

STONE AGE

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present

Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 - 30 000 BP

Late Stone Age (LSA) 30 000 - until c. AD 200

IRON AGE

Early Iron Age (EIA) AD 200 - AD 1000

Late Iron Age (LIA) AD 1000 - AD 1830

HISTORICAL PERIOD

Largely since the late 1840's to the mid 20th century.