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A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PROPOSED  
HOST AREAS OF THE TWICKENHAM-HACKNEY-PACHASKRAAL  
PLATINUM MINE DEVELOPMENT, NORTHERN PROVINCE

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**SUMMARY**

**A survey of cultural resources in the proposed host areas of the Twickenham-Hackney-Pachaskraal platinum mine development, Northern Province**

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area in which the proposed development is to take place.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue, but only after suitable mitigation measures for the identified sites are implemented. This consist of:

- The Early Iron Age site, 2430AC7 (see Appendix 2), should be avoided, or subjected to Phase 3 mitigation.
- All graves should be left alone, or relocated in consultation with the local communities.
- The developers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should be reported immediately to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

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**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PROPOSED  
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## 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **Naledi Development** to survey to areas in which it is proposed to relocate existing villages that will be affected by the development of the Twickenham-Hackney-Pachaskaal platinum mine in Northern Province. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area that is to be impacted by the developed.

## 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 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 and scientific value.
- 2.3 Determine the possible impacts on the known and potential cultural resources in the area of interest.
- 2.4 Develop mitigation or control measures for impact minimization and cultural resources preservation.
- 2.5 Develop procedures to be implemented if previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during the construction.

## 3. DEFINITIONS 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 are 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.

- 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 archaeological sites are to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.

#### 4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts: These are the South Africa Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989).

##### 4.1 South African Heritage Resources Act

###### 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 which assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

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 is 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 (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)**.

#### 4.2 Environmental Conservation Act

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas 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.

### 5. METHODOLOGY

#### 5.1 Preliminary investigation

##### 5.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted - see the list of references below. Nothing pertaining to the particular area was found, although a number of survey reports from adjacent areas exist.

##### 5.1.2 Data bases

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)**, housed at the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria, was consulted. The **Environmental Potential Atlas** was also consulted.

##### 5.1.3 Other sources

The topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

#### 5.2 Field survey

The field survey was done according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. The areas that had to be investigated were pointed out by one of the field workers. The areas were investigated by walking across it. Special attention was given to unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes and clusters of trees were investigated.

Where possible, local people were interviewed in an effort to obtain information on the existence of known sites.

Most of the agricultural fields were newly planted during the period when the field survey was undertaken, making the investigation of these areas difficult.

### 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)**<sup>1</sup> and plotted on a map. This information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The areas that were investigated are located on the farms Hackney 116KT (areas A1 & A2) and Mecklenburg 112KT (area B) of the Sekhukhune land district of Northern Province.

Areas A1 (centre around coordinates S 24°27'15.8", E 30°03'20.0") & A2 (centre around S 24°26'43.6", E 30°03'36.6") are located on turf soil, that has been subjected to intensive agricultural activities. The implication is that any archaeological material would have been disturbed by these activities.

In Area B (centre around S 24°21'18.6", E 30°04'32.1"), the vegetation is largely natural (Mixed Bushveld), as the area have been used for grazing. A few homesteads, some currently still inhabited, occur towards the foot of the mountain.

## 7. DISCUSSION

A number of sites were identified. The search was, however, hampered by the current dense vegetation.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

### 7.1 Stone Age

Stone tools and flakes occur as surface material in all three areas. These date to the Middle Stone Age, but as it is surface material, they are not viewed as important.

### 7.2 Iron Age

An Early Iron Age site occur on the edge of site A2. It also contains some Late Stone Age tools. The site is quite large (50 x 60 m). It is possible that it might even be bigger, but that sections was ploughed under by farming activities.

### 7.3 Historical period

Potsherds dating to historical times occur in areas 1A & 1B. However, none of these can be associated with a formal site and are seen as surface material.

A number of abandoned homesteads are located in area B. These seem to belong to local people and were abandoned within the last few years. A grave was identified in one such settlement.

The larger area is probably best know for the so-called Sekhukhune War of 1877-1878 against the British. However, none of the sites pertaining to this event occur in the areas under consideration.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area in which the proposed development is to take place.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue, but only after suitable mitigation measures for the identified sites are implemented. This consist of:

- 8.1 The Early Iron Age site, 2430AC7 (see Appendix 2), should be avoided, or subjected to Phase 3 mitigation.
- 8.2 All graves should be left alone, or relocated in consultation with the local communities.
- 8.3 The developers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should be reported immediately to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.





## 9. REFERENCES

### 9.1 Unpublished sources

#### 9.1.1 Data base

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

Environmental Potential Atlas. Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

### 9.2 Published sources

#### 9.2.1 Books and journals

Holm, S.E. 1966. *Bibliography of South African Pre- and Protohistoric archaeology*. Pretoria: J.L. van Schalk.

Mason, R.J. 1962. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

Van Riet Lowe, C. n.d. *The distribution of Prehistoric rock engravings and paintings in South Africa*. Archaeological Survey, Archaeological Series No. 7.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1977. *Anthropology of Southern Africa in Periodicals to 1950*. Pretoria: Government Printer.

#### 9.2.2 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps - 2430AC

## 10. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk

## APPENDIX 1: STANDARDIZED SET OF CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROJECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Significance of impact:

- low where the impact will not have an influence on or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design
- medium where the impact could have an influence which will require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation
- high where 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: More than 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only more than 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

### 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/action necessary
- 2 = controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary
- 3 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation and/or mapping necessary
- 4 = 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 RESULTS<sup>2</sup>

[Previous site numbers relate to other known sites on a particular ¼ degree sheet already documented in the ADRC, and does not necessarily refer to sites occurring on or close to the specific area of development.]

### 1. Site number: 2430AC7

Location: Hackney 116KT: S 24°26'38.8"; E 30°03'40.1"

Description: Area with EIA pottery, as well as LSA tools.

Discussion: The site stretches for at least 100 m south of the Escom servituted, into Area IB. Ideally it should be avoided. However, it will also be impacted by a proposed pipeline (report in preparation) and therefore mitigation is proposed.

Significance of impact: High

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Recommended management action: 3 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation and/or mapping necessary

Legal requirements: SAHRA permit

### 2. Site number: 2430AC8

Location: Mecklenburg 112KT: S 24°20'49.9"; E 30°04'34.3"

Description: Single grave

Discussion: This area should be avoided if possible

Significance of impact: Low

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Recommended management action: Relocation of graves if necessary

Legal requirements: If relocation is necessary: permits and notification

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1 for an explanation of the conventions used in assessing the cultural remains.

### 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

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 in this part of the country

core - a piece of stone from which flakes were removed to be used or made into tools

SAHRA - South African Heritage Resources Agency