

**A SURVEY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HISTORICAL
RESOURCES IN THE AMANDELBULT MINING LEASE AREA**

For:

RUSTENBURG PLATINUM MINES LTD

AMANDELBULT

P.O. Box 2

CHROMITE

0362

Survey done and report prepared by the:

NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

P.O. Box 28088

SUNNYSIDE

0132

Telephone - (012) 3411320

Telefax - (012) 3416146

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SUMMARY

A survey of archaeological and cultural historical resources in the Amandelbult mining lease area

A survey of the mining lease area was undertaken with the aim of identifying all objects, features and structures of archaeological and cultural historical importance. From this it was deduced that humans have been living in this area since the Middle Stone Age, a period

spanning approximately 150 000 years. Sites dating to the Iron Age were identified, as well as a number of structures from the historical era.

Most of the sites identified fall within the borders of the Madeleine Robinson Nature Reserve, and mining development would therefore have potentially little negative impact on them. It is suggested that a policy for the management of the cultural resources be developed in conjunction with the existing nature conservation activities of the mine.

OPSOMMING

'n Opname van argeologiese en kultuurhistoriese hulpbronne in die Amandelbult mynkonseessie gebied

'n Opname van die mynkonseessie gebied is gedoen met die doel om alle voorwerpe, verskynsels en strukture van argeologiese en kultuurhistoriese belang te identifiseer. Hieruit blyk dit dat die omgewing reeds sedert Middel Steentydperktye deur die mens bewoon is, dit wil sê 'n periode van nagenoeg 150 000 jaar. Terreine daterende uit die Ystertydperk is geïdentifiseer, asook 'n aantal strukture behorende tot historiese resente tye.

Die meerderheid van die terreine wat geïdentifiseer is, is binne die grense van die Madeleine Robinson Natuurresewaat geleë en die potensiaal vir die bedreiging daarvan deur mynaktiwiteite, is gevolglik skraal. Daar word voorgestel dat 'n beleid ontwikkel word vir die bestuur van die kulturele hulpbronne in die gebied en dat dit saamval met die bestaande program vir natuurbewaring.

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1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

This survey had as aim the locating, identifying and documenting of sites, objects and structures of archaeological and cultural historical importance within the borders of the mining lease area of Rustenburg Platinum Mines: Amandelbult Section. This assignment was carried out by request of Rustenburg Platinum Mines Ltd, as formulated in a letter dated 12 August 1994 (reference 1572/94/S21).

2. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

- For this survey cultural resources are taken to include all physical manmade as well as natural occurrences, that are associated with human activities. This includes 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 its historical, social, aesthetic and scientific values. It must be kept in mind that these aspects are not mutually exclusive and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these. The sensitivity of each such site is then determined in terms of its uniqueness, condition and its research potential.

- Following on the former, it is not the purpose of this report to write a history of the area, based on the results of the survey, but purely to list and evaluate what is found.

- All recommendations are made with recognition of the **National Monuments Act, Act 28 van 1969**. Because this Act indicates in some cases a cutoff point of 50 years, the opinions expressed in this report should be interpreted with reference to the situation in 1994. The situation should be reviewed regularly every 10 to 15 years.

- Only a few artifacts were collected for purpose of illustrating the report (see figures 2, 3 and 4). This was deemed necessary to supply essential background to the reader, who, in most cases, would not be familiar with the material. These artifacts will be accessioned in the collection of the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

- A large numbers of objects, sites and features that obviously originated from the

mining activities were located. These were ignored for purpose of the survey, as it was assumed that the relevant authorities would be knowledgeable of its existence and purpose.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA SURVEYED

The survey was done on certain sections of the farms Zwartkop 369KQ, Haakdoorndrift 374KQ, Elandskuil 378KQ, Middellaagte 382KQ, Amandelbult 383KQ, Schilpadnest 385KQ and Elandsfontein 386KQ, in the Thabazimbi district and is indicated in figure 1, on maps 2427CB and 2427CD of the South African 1:50 000 topocadastral series. The total area surveyed covers 7527 hectare .

The area surveyed is cut in two by the main Rustenburg-Thabazimbi road (R510) and railway line. Of these two sections, the westerly part is dominated by two conical hills in the south and the Bierspruit that runs approximately parallel to the tar road. This latter feature gave rise to a somewhat broken topography, consisting mainly of outcrops of large boulders. To the eastern side of the tar road the area is very flat, with no single distinctive topographical feature except on the eastern border of the survey area where it is bisected in part by the Crocodile river.

The geology of the area is mainly made up of gabbro, norite and pyroxenite rocks of the Bushveld Igneous Complex. The soil is turf, which cracks open during winter, and becomes very slippery when wet in summer. The vegetation of the area is classified by Acocks (1975:33) as turf thornveld, with *Cenchrus ciliaris* as one the more common grass and the trees being *Acacia karroo*, *Acacia nigrescens* and *Grewia flava*.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Preliminary investigation

4.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of all relevant literature was done with the aim to determine the previous research done and the potential of the area. In this regard various anthropological, archaeological

and historical sources were consulted - see list of references.

4.1.2 Data sources

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

4.1.3 Other sources

The relevant topocadastral and other maps were also studied.

4.2 Field survey

The next step was to visit the area to be surveyed. The survey team was orientated by members of the Survey Section of the mine (mr. C. Nel and mr. D. Jordaan) in relation to the beacons and borders of the survey area, security, etc.

The survey was then done according to generally accepted archaeological practices and was aimed at locating all possible sites. This was done by dividing the whole area up into blocks, making use of natural and manmade topographical elements.

Within each block, all areas considered to have a high potential for human use were investigated, such as areas of secondary vegetation growth. Cliffs were inspected for rock art, while stream beds and unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches and holes

were investigated.

It soon became clear that the northwestern section would be most difficult to survey due to the very nature of the environment, as already described. Accordingly a "windscreen survey" was undertaken along known roads. This was supported by observations from elevated positions in the landscape such as old dump sites and the slimes dams. Features thus identified were then further inspected.

4.3 Documentation

All sites, occurrences and structures identified, were documented according to the general standard accepted by the profession. The specific coordinates of each locality were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS),¹ converted to the South African Co-ordinate System and plotted on a map. This information was added to the description (Appendix A) to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DISCUSSION

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

Based on the preliminary investigation and the field survey, the following can be said about the human habitation of the area under consideration.

1. No sites or occurrences were identified east of the tar road, due to the fact that people avoided the turf thornveld in prehistoric times. Settlement occurred almost exclusively close to the Bierspruit, which also served as watersource for the area.

2. No Early Stone Age material was recovered during the survey.

3. From the survey it became clear that Middle Stone Age artifacts (figure 2) are well represented in the area west of the tar road, and in fact most parts of this section, except for the more northwesterly part. Typically, these artifacts were not located in concentrations signifying activity areas, but rather as single occurrences.

4. A number of Late Stone Age artifacts (figure 3) were also identified, though fewer in number than with the Middle Stone Age material. These were predominantly found at the bigger outcrops, as individual pieces or in small concentrations signifying activity areas.

5. It seems that it is possible to distinguish various phases of Iron Age occupation. This, however, is purely a preliminary division and would only be confirmed by excavation and radio carbon dating.

6. Two sites (A.32 and A.34) possibly date to the Early Iron Age. At present not very

much can be said about them, as the particular occurrences are small in size with very limited pottery. Two other sites which possibly date to the later part of the Early Iron Age are no. A.46 and A.47.

7. The majority of Iron Age sites date to the Late Iron Age and can be subdivided into a number of phases. Earlier sites such as A.3, A.35 and A.36 can be distinguished from more recent sites according to the building techniques used - two rows of stones filled in with smaller stones and rubble - as well as by the pottery, which in this case was too limited to be of much help (figure 4). The rest of the sites seems to belong to a single phase and is distinguished by the same building techniques, settlement lay-out and pottery. The occurrence of artifacts of Western origin on almost all of these sites seems to indicate that they are all recent in origin.

Sites from this Late Iron Age/Early Historical period conform to the information supplied by Breutz (1953). In this regard, he has the following to say.

At about 1820 the Kwena baPhalane were settled on the western bank of the Crocodile river, possibly on the farm Haakdoorndrift 374KQ or Buffelshoek 351KQ, roughly opposite from where the Sand river joins the Crocodile. However, it is Breutz's opinion that they were actually settled on the eastern side of the Crocodile river, i.e. outside of the area under survey. In any event, by about 1840 they had already left this site (Breutz 1953:324, 328).

Chief Pilane of the Kgatla бага Kgafela settled with his people on the farm Schilpadnest

385KQ before 1820. Approximately 1828 they were attacked here by the Ndebele of Mzilikazi and they fled. A few years later they returned here, but left in 1837, again due to pressure of the Ndebele (Breutz 1953:257).

According to Breutz (1953:324) the Kwena baPhalane then settled on Schilpadnest 385KQ in about 1870 and in 1953 the farm was still in their possession.

6. This last statement of Breutz is taken to point to sites such as A.21 - A.27, A.37, A.40, A.42 and A.45 identified during the survey, all of them belonging to the more recent Historical period.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Most of the sites identified fortunately falls within the borders of the Madeleine Robinson Nature Reserve. As such it is largely protected from mining development. Two factors, however, contribute to the degeneration of some of the sites.

2. The large number of game concentrated in the area contribute to the destruction of especially the pottery, as it is easily broken up by the sharp hoofs of the animals.

3. Previous development, such as the establishment of camping spots and infrastructure for

the reserve, has damaged the some of the sites. The damage, however, is minimal and could be reduced by the implementation of site and visitor management measures.

4. Some developers tend to view all contemporary sites just as rubble that must be cleaned up. Perhaps these should be seen as the archaeological sites and should therefore be preserved along with the Iron Age sites.

5. As there are a large number of sites which belong to the same late phase, it can be argued that a few may be forfeited during development. It would, however, be good policy if they are investigated by an archaeologist beforehand and the relevant material collected and archived.

6. The Amandelbult Section of the Rustenburg Platinum Mines is to be commended for their efforts to conserve nature and for their interest in the cultural heritage on their property. The implementation of a cultural heritage policy based on the sites in the area, would greatly enhance the image of the mine. Such a policy need not be complicated or a financial drain, since it can be linked to the existing nature conservation activities.

7. REFERENCES

1. Unpublished sources

1.1 Data base:

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

2. Published sources

2.1 Books and journals

Acocks, J.P.H. 1975. *Veld types of South Africa*. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, no. 40. 2nd Edition. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

Breutz, P-L. 1953. *The tribes of Rustenburg and Pilansberg*. Department of Native Affairs: Ethnological Publications No. 28. Pretoria: Government Printer.

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Hall, S.L. 1981. *Iron Age sequence and settlement in the Rooiberg, Thabazimbi area*. Unpublished MA thesis. Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand.

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

Mason, R. 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.

2.2 Maps

1:250 000 Geological map - 2426 Thabazimbi

1:50 000 Topocadastral maps - 2427CB Thabazimbi and 2427CD Northam

8. PROJECT TEAM

J.A. van Schalkwyk: Assistant director: Anthropology and Archaeology (Project

A. Mthombeni: Research assistant (Field survey)

M. Enslin: Graphic designer (Artist)

9. APPENDIX A: SURVEY RESULTS

The various sites are presented in the order by which they were found (figure 5). This serves to give an indication of how the survey progressed.

A.1 Settlement site

Description: A number of circular stone walls (c. 10 - 25 metres diameter), forming in each case a terrace slightly higher than the surrounding area, occurring for about 60% around the base of a hill. Each of these terraces possibly formed part of an individual household. A large number of artifacts, eg. potsherds, pieces of glass and earthen ware, grindstones and pieces of metal is found for 90% around the base of the hill. Middle Stone Age tools also occur in a significant number all over the site.

Location: A small rocky hill on the farm Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 42.3" (+2748699.11)

E 27° 17' 32.2" (-29543.25)

Importance: From the layout, the pottery and the other artifacts found on the site, this site is dated to relative recent times, possibly from 1850 and younger. Concerning the layout and content of material, it shows much comparison with a large number of other sites identified in the area surveyed.

Impact: Currently the impact is low, but in the long term, with people staying in the tent camp on the southern side of the hill, the impact will be high.

A.2 Settlement site

Description: A large number of circular stone structures occurring for more than 50% around the base of a large hill. A number of smaller structures are also found. Pottery, grinding stones, pieces of metal, glass and porcelain occurs. In two places, small amounts of iron slag was found, but no signs of furnaces could be observed. Similar stone structures occur

at the base of the second conical hill, but are few in number and duplicate those on the western hill.

Location: At base of a conical hill on farm Elandsfontein 386KQ. Only one GPS was taken right in front of camp with rondavel structures.

GPS: S 24° 51' 03.5" (+2749351.15)

E 27° 17' 28.3" (-29432.35)

Importance: Concerning the layout and content of material, this site shows much comparison with other sites identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Currently the impact is low, but in the long term, with people staying in the camp on the northern side of the hill, the impact will be high.

A.3 Settlement site

Description: Stone walling forming terracing. No additional items of material culture were found.

Location: On the southern side of a small hill on the farm Elandsfontein 386KQ.

GPS: S 24° 51' 46.7" (+275679.29)

E 27° 17' 10.9" (-28941.03)

Importance: This is a very interesting site and the technique used for building the stone walls and their general appearance indicates that it is older than the other sites in the vicinity. Only on the western side of the Bierspruit were sites found that can be related to this one. It is also comparable to sites found in the Waterberg area, dating to the 17th century.

Impact: The close proximity of the "Hunter's hut" will eventually have a high impact on the site.

Reference: Hall (1981)

A.4 Settlement site

Description: Large circle of packed stone approximately 50 metre in diameter. Ash, potsherds and pieces of bone occurs. Twenty to thirty metres to the west and north, small remnants of other walls also occurs.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ.

GPS: S 24° 50' 53.1" (+2749028.48)

E 27° 16' 42.5" (-28147.11)

Importance: Concerning the layout and content of material, this site shows much similarity with other sites identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.5 Grave

Description: An oblong heap of stone orientated east-west. It is approximately 1,5m by 1,0m in size.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ, close to the fence.

GPS: S 24° 50' 55.8" (+2749111.46)

E 27° 16' 40.8" (-28099.20)

Importance: Approximately 100 metre to the east there occurs a circular structure of stone, similar to others in the area. At this stage the relationship between the two sites, if any, is not clear. It is not always easy to identify graves as such, but due to its proximity to the mentioned settlement site, the chances are that this might be one.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.6 Settlement site

Description: A circular structure of stone, situated amongst an outcrop of boulders. A few pieces of pottery were found.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 59' 05.5" (+2747551.82)
E 27° 17' 32.3" (-29528.43)

Importance: Concerning the layout and artifacts found, this site shows much similarity with others identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.7 Settlement site

Description: Two large circular stone structures situated in an outcrop of boulders. No artifacts were found here.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 11.4" (+2747748.38)
E 27° 17' 40.0" (-29558.09)

Importance: Concerning the layout, this site shows much similarity with others identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.8 Grave

Description: An oblong heap of stones, approximately 1,5m long.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 59.9" (+2747395.69)
E 27° 17' 51.1" (-30076.76)

Importance: The identification of this feature as a grave is not certain. However, as it is linked with no. A.9 below, there exist a strong possibility for this to be the case.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.9 Settlement site

Description: A large number of circular stone structures located amongst some big boulders. Pottery and other material occurs.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 59.9" (+2747395.75)
E 27° 17' 52.0" (-30102.03)

Importance: Concerning the layout and content of material, this site shows much similarity with other sites identified in the vicinity, but covers a larger area than the others close by.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.10 Settlement site

Description: Circular walls build of stone and located at the bottom and top of an outcrop of boulders. A large number of potsherds were found here.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 13.3" (+2747807.38)
E 27° 17' 41.2" (-29797.87)

Importance: Concerning the layout and content of material, this site shows much similarity with other sites identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present

A.11 Settlement site

Description: Circular structure of stone on the eastern and western side of an outcrop of large boulders.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 07.3" (+2747622.99)

E 27° 17' 44.8" (-29899.36)

Importance: Concerning the layout and content of material, this site shows great similarity with other sites identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.12 Settlement site

Description: Circular structure of stone. Potsherds and Late Stone Age material occurs.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 11.8" (+2747761.23)

E 27° 17' 41.2" (-29797.98)

Importance: Concerning the layout and content of material, this site shows much similarity with other sites identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.13 Find-spot

Description: Concentration of potsherds, but no stone walling or other material.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 54.7" (+2747236.52)

E 27° 18' 04.3" (-3447.78)

Importance: From the lack of context, this seems to be a case of a single clay pot being broken here. The pottery is similar to that found on the stone walling sites.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.14 Find-spot

Description: A big open space with potsherds and pieces of magnetite. Also a large number of Middel Stone age tools.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 53.4" (+2747196.93)

E 27° 18' 10.9" (-30633.19)

Importance: Because of the lack of context, nothing can be deduced from this occurrence.

Impact: Medium impact because herds of animals concentrate under the trees, trampling the pottery to pieces.

A.15 Cemetery/dumpsite

Description: Eleven oblong heaps of stone scattered in a random manner.

Location: In and old quarry on the farm Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 41.7" (+2746837.66)

E 27° 18' 22.3" (-30954.13)

Importance: These features might be interpreted as graves, or it might simply be the manner in which loads of stones were dumped. The location, inside old quarry, is not typical for a cemetery. However, it should be investigated further if future development should take place here.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.16 Settlement site

Description: Circular structure of stone. An ash-heap occurs with pieces of pottery occurs twenty metres west of here.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 22.3" (+2746241.30)

E 27° 18' 30.8" (-31194.17)

Importance: Does not differ significantly from other sites in the vicinity. The ash-heap, might be interesting to investigate at some stage.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.17 Settlement site

Description: Circular structure of stone. Potsherds and grinding stones occur.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 25.8" (+2746348.93)

E 27° 18' 29.8" (-31165.84)

Importance: Does not differ significantly from other sites in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.18 Settlement site

Description: A circular structure of stone next to an outcrop of boulders. An ash-heap occurs next to it and the pottery seems to be of recent origin.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 40.0" (+2746785.63)

E 27° 18' 26.6" (-31075.00)

Importance: Concerning the layout and content of material, this site shows much similarity with others identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.19 Settlement site

Description: A circular structure of stone. No other material culture items were found.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 09.5" (+2745848.08)

E 27° 18' 40.4" (-31464.66)

Importance: Concerning the layout, this site shows much similarity with others identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.20 Kraal

Description: Circular structure of stone located on top of an outcrop of boulders.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 04.5" (+2745694.00)

E 27° 18' 36.6" (-31358.29)

Importance: Might be linked with structure no. A.19, eg. as cattle kraal.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.21 Cemetery/settlement site

Description: Cemetery next to a settlement site. Foundations of structures, plastic, glass and motor car wrecks occur on the site.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 02.6" (+2745635.48)

E 27° 18' 35.7" (-31333.15)

Importance: Abandoned within living memory. Fenced in and known to the relevant authorities. Due to the current debate on the repossession of land, this site must be kept

intact.

Impact: Very low at present.

References: Breutz (1953)

A.22 Settlement site

Description: Very recent settlement site. On the southwestern side an oblong heap of stones, that might be a grave, occur.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 26.6" (+2744527.35)

E 27° 18' 27.9" (-31116.60)

Importance: Due to the current debate on the repossession of land, this site must be kept intact.

Impact: Very low at present.

References: Breutz (1953)

A.23 Settlement site

Description: Small site of relative recent date, as indicated by material found here.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 28' 32.0" (+2744693.68)

E 27° 18' 30.9" (-31200.48)

Importance: Being small, it does not seem to be very important, but should be interpreted together with the other sites of recent origin.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.24 House

Description: Rectangular structure, at foundation level, of bricks and cement.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 39.6" (+2744928.34)

E 27° 18' 43.8" (-31562.25)

Importance: These seem to be the remains of a dwelling of a farm labourer which were recently abandoned. Due to the current debate on the repossession of land, this site must be kept intact.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.25 House

Description: Rectangular structure, at foundation level, of bricks and cement.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 36.5" (+2744833.13)

E 27° 18' 46.4" (-31635.49)

Importance: These seem to be the remains of a dwelling of a farm labourer which were recently abandoned. Due to the current debate on the repossession of land, this site must be kept intact. A third similar structure occurs approximately 200 metre south of this one.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.26 House

Description: Rectangular structure of brick. Ash-heap containing contemporary glass, metal and plastic.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 52.8" (+2745334.53)

E 27° 18' 44.5" (-31580.99)

Importance: This seems to be the remains of a dwelling of a farm labourer that was recently abandoned. Due to the current debate on the repossession of land, this site must be kept intact.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.27 Settlement site

Description: Circular structures of stone. A few pieces of pottery were found.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 11.9" (+2747764.81)

E 27° 17' 49.5" (-30031.03)

Importance: Concerning the layout, this site shows much similarity with others identified in the vicinity.

Impact: Impact high as it was damaged by road construction.

A.28 Settlement site

Description: Two circular stone structures approximately 10 metres from each other. No other context can be deduced.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 22.0" (+2748071.58)

E 27° 16' 42.3" (-28143.44)

Importance: Concerning the layout, this site is similar to others in the immediate vicinity, but differ from those on the southern side of the Bierspruit and might be somewhat older.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.29 Settlement site

Description: Circular structure of stone, with a monolith at the entrance.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 30.8" (+2748341.91)

E 27° 16' 34.8" (-27932.30)

Importance: Does not differ from the other sites in the immediate vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.30 Settlement site

Description: Circular structure of stone with other walls in close proximity.

Location: Elandsfontein 398KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 38.2" (+2748569.31)

E 27° 16' 29.8" (-27791.45)

Importance: Similar to others in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.31 Settlement site

Description: Circular structure of stone.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 36.6" (+2748520.20)

E 27° 16' 31.8" (-27847.70)

Importance: Possibly linked to no. A.30

Impact: Very low at present.

A.32 Settlement site

Description: Small occurrence of hut debris and pottery. No stone walling.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 35.2" (+2748477.00)

E 27° 16' 29.6" (-27786.02)

Importance: Similar to what is usually associated with Early Iron Age. If correct, it is one of only few in the area and would be interesting to investigate further.

Impact: Impact high as there was some digging done by means of a bulldozer in the immediate vicinity, possibly to get soil for the road.

A.33 Settlement site

Description: Stone walling east and west of an outcrop of boulders.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 31.5" (+2748363.25)

E 27° 16' 31.2" (- 27831.17)

Importance: Considered to be of recent origin due to porcelain found on the site. Might link up with the types of sites on the southern side of Bierspruit.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.34 Occurrence

Description: Occurrence of pottery exposed in roadbed - possibly more than one vessel. No stone walling.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 25.0" (+2748162.79)

E 27° 16' 22.8" (-27595.71)

Importance: Pottery seems to be older than that found on most of the other sites, and might relate to material found in the Waterberg. Site might possibly link up with no. A.32, though pottery might be too recent for that.

Impact: Impact very high, as the road has already been made through the site.

References: Hall (1981)

A.35 Settlement site

Description: Circular structures of stone, approximately 0,5 metres high. Monolith occurs at entrance to largest circular structure.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 08.7" (+2747664.31)

E 27° 17' 15.6" (-29079.34)

Importance: Concerning the layout, this site is similar to others in the immediate vicinity, but differ from those on the southern side of the Bierspruit and is also older.

Impact: Impact medium, as rubbish was dumped in close proximity of this site. However, it can be cleaned up.

A.36 Settlement site

Description: A large number of circular stone structures. In some sections the walls are still about 0,5 metres high. The entrance to the main gathering place is marked by a 'monolith'.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 50' 11.2" (+2747740.31)

E 27° 16' 59.8" (-28635.51)

Importance: This undamaged site might be one of the most extensive and best preserved of the older sites. Concerning the layout, this site is similar to others in the immediate vicinity, but differ from those on the southern side of the Bierspruit and is also older, except no. A.3.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.37 Cemetery

Description: A fenced area with a large number of elongated heaps of stone serving as markers.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 49' 26.0" (+2746351.68)

E 27° 17' 34.8" (-2961.29)

Importance: Of relative recent origin. However, a number of small pieces of pottery were picked up in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present. As this site is known to the relevant authorities and it is already fenced in, chances are slim that it will be damaged due to mining activities.

A.38 Stone circle

Description: A small circle of stone, 1,5m in diameter. Approximately 20m southwest of this an elongated pile of stones occurs.

Location: Elandsfontein 386KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 49.0" (+2745209.38)

E 27° 16' 28.3" (-27754.08)

Importance: This is a very isolated occurrence. No function can be derived from the

structure itself and it is suggested that it was only temporarily used for some purpose, eg. to overnight.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.39 Stone circle

Description: A very small circular structure of stone.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 37.3" (+2744852.87)

E 27° 17' 11.3" (-28964.50)

Importance: As the context is not known, the function could not be determined.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.40 House

Description: Rectangular structure of bricks and cement. Approximately 200 metres to the southwest a small circular structure of stones occurs - possibly a pig pen. Directly behind, i.e. on the northern side of the outcrop, a second, smaller rectangular structure occurs.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 00.1" (+2743710.20)

E 27° 17' 59.1" (-30309.50)

Importance: Possible house of a farm labourer.

Impact: Very low at present.

Reference: Breutz (1953)

A.41 Settlement site

Description: Large complex of circular structures of stone.

Location: Next to the same small hill as no. A.40 on Schilpadnest 385KQ.

GPS: S 24° 48' 00.1" (+2743710.20)

E 27° 17' 59.1" (-30309.50)

Importance: Superficially these structures seem to differ from that in the southern part of the nature reserve, in being more complex in layout. It might link up with older sites such as no. A.35 and A.36.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.42 House

Description: Rectangular structure of brick and cement.

Location: On the western side of the same small hill as no. A.40 on Schilpadnest 385KQ.

GPS: S 24° 48' 00.1" (+2743710.20)

E 27° 17' 59.1" (-30309.50)

Importance: Remains of recently abandoned structure, such as used by farm labourers.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.43 Settlement site

Description: Circular structures of stone.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 47' 51.1" (+2743433.33)

E 27° 17' 59.7" (-30330.02)

Importance: Does not differ from sites in the immediate vicinity. It actually falls just outside the mining lease area.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.44 Settlement site

Description: A small number of low, circular stone structures.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 47' 53.0" (+2743492.22)

E 27° 18' 06.6" (-30520.64)

Importance: Does not differ significantly from other sites in the vicinity.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.45 House

Description: Rectangular structure built of brick and cement.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 18.3" (+2744271.21)

E 27° 18' 15.8" (-30777.32)

Importance: Recent structure, possibly serving as house for farm labourers.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.46 Settlement site

Description: Site similar to others known from northern Transvaal and Botswana. No distinctive physical characteristics, apart from ashy soil, a few potsherds and the occurrence of *Cenchrus ciliaris* grass, which prefers disturbed soil.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 17.0" (+2744231.09)

E 27° 18' 13.8" (-30721.23)

Importance: One of only two such sites identified in the area. Might be older than the stone

walling sites, but not really Early Iron Age.

Impact: Very low at present.

References: Denbow (1979)

A.47 Settlement site

Description: Site similar to others known from northern Transvaal and Botswana. No physical characteristics, apart from ashy soil, a few potsherds and the occurrence of *Cenchrus ciliaris* grass. See no. A.47 above.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 48' 26.3" (+2744515.83)

E 27° 17' 51.2" (-30085.85)

Importance: One of only two such sites identified in the area.

Impact: Very low at present.

References: Denbow (1979)

A.48 Settlement site

Description: A number of low, circular stone structures occurring on the eastern and western side of a large outcrop of boulders.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ, quite close to the road.

GPS: S 24° 47' 54.7" (+2743546.42)

E 27° 18' 36.8" (-31368.79)

Importance: This site is one of the most northwesterly of all Iron Age/contact period sites in the survey area, but does not differ much from the others.

Impact: Very low at present.

A.49 House

Description: Rectangular structure of large cement bricks, now broken down to foundation level.

Location: Schilpadnest 385KQ

GPS: S 24° 47' 51.5" (+2743448.16)

E 27° 18' 39.9" (-31456.09)

Importance: This structure is identified as the possible remains of a farm labourer's house.

Impact: Very low at present. As this structure is close to the road, any development such as construction of pipelines, will have a high impact on it.

A.50 Settlement site

Description: A number of low, half circular structures of stone. Approximately 200 metres to the north a second grouping occurs.

Location: Zwartkop 369KQ

GPS: S 24° 47' 18.6" (+2742436.35)

E 27° 18' 46.8" (-31652.22)

Importance: These sites do not differ from the majority of others identified in this area. They are identified as of recent origin due to the method of construction and the contemporary items of material culture found here.

Impact: Very low at present. As these sites fall right on the border of the mining lease area, it is not likely that they will be endangered by mining activities.

10. APPENDIX B: CHRONOLOGY

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

STONE AGE

Early Stone Age	1 500 000 - 150 000
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 (or younger)
Late Stone Age	between 40 000 - 20 000 until c. AD 200

IRON AGE

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 1000
Late Iron Age	AD 1000 - AD 1830


HISTORICAL PERIOD

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1830

Figure 2. Examples of Middle Stone Age artifacts found.

Figure 3. Examples of Late Stone Age artifacts found.

Figure 4. Examples of Iron Age pottery found.

 <p data-bbox="288 481 555 555">NASIONALE KULTUUR-HISTORIESE MUSEUM NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM</p>	<p data-bbox="555 360 1278 414">FIGURE 1: Map of the area surveyed</p> <p data-bbox="555 504 1278 555">REPORT 94KH03 RUSTENBURG PLATINUM MINES</p>
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