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An Archaeological Investigation on the farm Roodekuil 496 KR, Northern Province, with reference to a Vodacom Communication Tower

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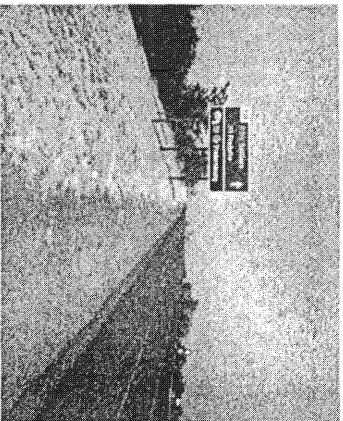
Survey conducted and report compiled by:

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Executive Summary

No archaeological remains were found in the vicinity of the erected Vodacom tower. No further archaeological investigation, documentation or mitigation is recommended.

1. Introduction



The Archaeology Contracts Unit (UNISA) has conducted an archaeological investigation of a site on which a Vodacom communications tower (B05413) has been erected. The site is situated adjacent to a Caltex filling station, approximately 200 metres west of the N1 highway at the R516 offramp. The filling station-complex is situated on the farm Roodekuil 496KR.

The aim of this investigation is to locate, identify and document visible archaeological artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements of cultural significance on and in the vicinity of the Vodacom tower-site.

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of this survey are as follows:

- * Compile a brief contextualisation of the area's ethnographic and colonial history
- * Provide a detailed description of all archaeological artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements in the area
- * Assess the significance of impact by the proposed additional shafts on the archaeological remains of the area
- * Estimate the level of sensitivity/importance of the archaeological remains in the area under development
- * Propose possible mitigation measures, provided that such action is necessitated

3. Definitions and Approach

- Archaeological remains can be defined as human-made objects deposited in or on the ground which reflect past ways of life.
- All archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 100 years and historic structures older than 60 years are protected by the relevant legislation, in this case the **National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)**. The Act makes an archaeological impact assessment as part of an EIA and EMPR mandatory. No archaeological artefact, assemblage or settlement (site) may be moved or destroyed without the necessary approval from the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**. The recommendations made, take full cognisance of this Act.
- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should artefacts or skeletal material be revealed during construction, a university or museum has to be notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place.
- A copy of this report will be lodged with the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**.

4. Methodology

4.1 Literature Study

Various ethnographic and historic sources were consulted to compile a cultural framework of the area under investigation.

4.2 Maps and Other Sources

The survey area was studied by using the 1:50 000 Topocadastral Map 2428CD (Warmbad). The orientation and location of the site was determined by using a Global Positioning System (GPS)¹.

An interview was also conducted with a local farmer whom has been living on the adjacent farm Turfbult 494KR for the past 25 years. According to him there are no archaeological sites that he is aware of, on his farm or in the vicinity.

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)** was consulted to determine whether known archaeological settlements are listed for the area under investigation.

4.3 Fieldwork

An on-site visit was conducted on 05-09-2000, which consisted of exploring the area on foot and documenting structures and features with photographs.

5. Chronological Framework

PERIOD	APPROXIMATE DATE
Early Stone Age	more than c. 2 million years ago - c. 200 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age	c. 200 000 years ago - c. 25 000 years ago
Later Stone Age (Includes San Rock Art)	c. 25 000 years ago - c. AD 200 (up to historic times in certain areas)
Early Iron Age	c. AD 200 - c. AD 1000
Late Iron Age (Stonewalled sites)	c. AD 1000 - c. AD 1830 (c. AD 1600 - c. AD 1830)

¹ According to the manufacturer a standard deviation is to be expected when determining the location of sites.

6 Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Context

6.1 Stone Age

The occurrence of scatters of stone tools is usually associated with perennial rivers and streams and occur widespread throughout this area. No shelters suitable for occupation by Stone Age people and for the execution of rock art were found in the area.

Open-air Middle Stone Age and Later Stone Age occupation sites as well as special activity sites are usually situated in the vicinity of water sources, such as rivers, tributaries and springs.

6.2 Iron Age

At least three settlement phases have been distinguished for the **Early Iron Age** (EIA) in the North-West Province and the western regions of the Northern Province for prehistoric agropastoralist utilisation of this area. The first phase of the Early Iron Age is known as **Happy Rest**, representative of the Western Stream of Bantu migrations, and dates to AD 400 - AD 600. The second phase known as **Diamant** is dated to AD 600 - AD 900. The third phase, characterized by herringbone-decorated pottery of the **Eiland** tradition, is regarded as the final expression of the Early Iron Age (EIA) and occurs over large parts of the Northern Province. This phase has been dated to about AD 900 - AD 1200. These sites are usually located on low-lying spurs close to water.

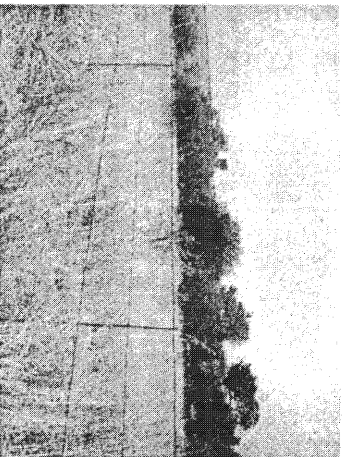
The **Late Iron Age** (LIA) settlements are characterised by stone-walled enclosures situated on defensive hilltops. This occupation phase has been linked to the arrival of the Northern Sotho, Tswana and Northern Ndebele (Nguni-speakers) in the region, dated from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries AD. The terminal LIA is represented by late 18th/early 19th century settlements with multichrome Moloko pottery, commonly attributed to the Sotho-Tswana. This correlates with oral traditions about various people who sought refuge in the mountains during the processes of disruption in the interior caused during the so-called *difaqane* (c. 1820s).

6.3 Ethnography

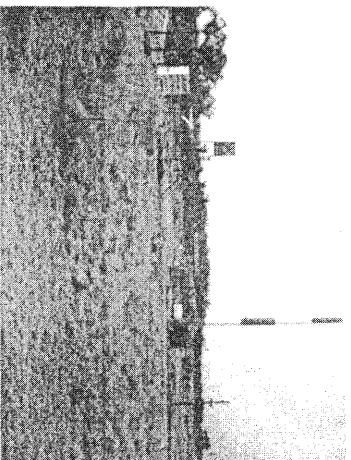
According to ethnographic sources the area between Nylstroom and Hamanskraal was traditionally inhabited and controlled by the baKgatia ba Mosêhla, a Tswana-speaking group (cf. Van Warmelo 1935).

7. Site Description (2428CD1)

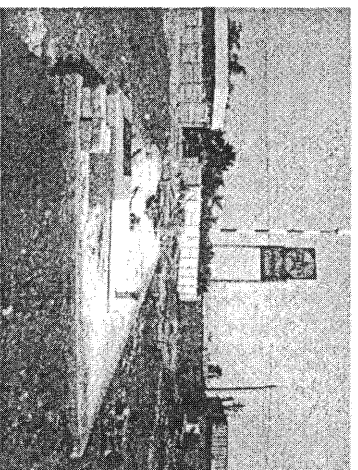
It is evident that the area in and around the filling station complex has been and is still being extensively disturbed and developed. Firstly, due to the large scale construction of the N1 highway and additional R516 offramp the whole landscape was changed. Evidence of this can still be seen in the young Acacia trees and grassveld growing adjacent to and on the banks of the N1 highway.



Acacia trees and grass with junction of the N1 highway and R516 offramp in the background



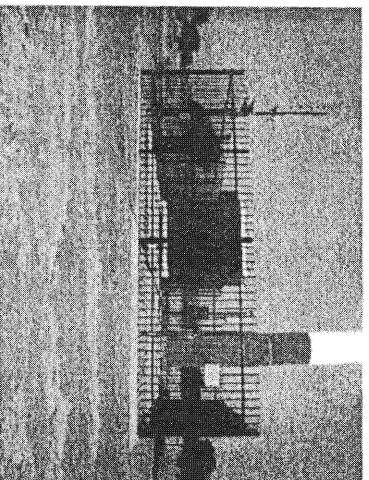
Service station complex with Vodacom tower



Recent additions to the service station complex

Secondly, the construction of a filling station, outbuildings and recent communications tower further adds to the history of disturbance of this landscape.

As a result of such large scale construction, the likelihood of any archaeological artefacts or structures surviving on the surface, is minimal.



Site 2428CD1 (Vodacom communications tower)

The coordinates of the site (2428CD1) are
24°54'59,2" S, 28°22'13,2" E.

8. Conclusions

No archaeological remains were found in the vicinity of the erected Vodacom tower. No further archaeological investigation, documentation or mitigation is recommended.

Bibliography

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1935. *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*.
Government Printer: Pretoria.