

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE
KHUTALA COLLIERY BLOCK A MINING AREA,
WITBANK DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

For:

KHUTALA COLLIERY

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OGIES

2230

Survey conducted and report prepared by the:

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NASIONALE KULTURHISTORIESE MUSEUM
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SUMMARY

A survey of cultural resources in the Khutala Colliery Block A mining area, Witbank District, Mpumalanga 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 it is proposed to develop the mine and its infrastructure.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- All graves should be left alone, or relocated in consultation with the local communities and according to requirements as set out in the relevant legislation.
- The developer should also be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY 1

CONTENTS 2

1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY..... 3

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE 3

3. DEFINITIONS..... 3

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS 4

5. METHODOLOGY 5

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA..... 6

7. DISCUSSION 7

8. RECOMMENDATIONS 7

9. REFERENCES 8

10. PROJECT TEAM 8

APPENDIX 1 9

APPENDIX 2 10

APPENDIX 3 12

APPENDIX 4 13

A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE KHUTALA COLLIERY BLOCK A MINING AREA, WITBANK DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was contracted by KHUTALA COLLIERY to survey an area in which it is proposed to develop an opencast coal mine. 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:

- X **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.
- X 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.

- X 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.
- X 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

In terms of Section 35(4) of this act, no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or material or any meteorite; bring onto, or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Structures:

Section 34(1) of this act states that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

“Structure” means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith;

“Alter” means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or other decoration or any other means.

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 or 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)**.

For more detail, see Appendix 4 of this report.

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 are 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 archaeology of this 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 area that had to be investigated was identified by staff of the environmental section of Khutala Mine, who also acted as guides.

The area was investigated by driving and walking across it. Special attention was given to unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes, outcrops and clusters of trees 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)**¹¹ and plotted on a map. This information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

Map datum used: WGS84

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

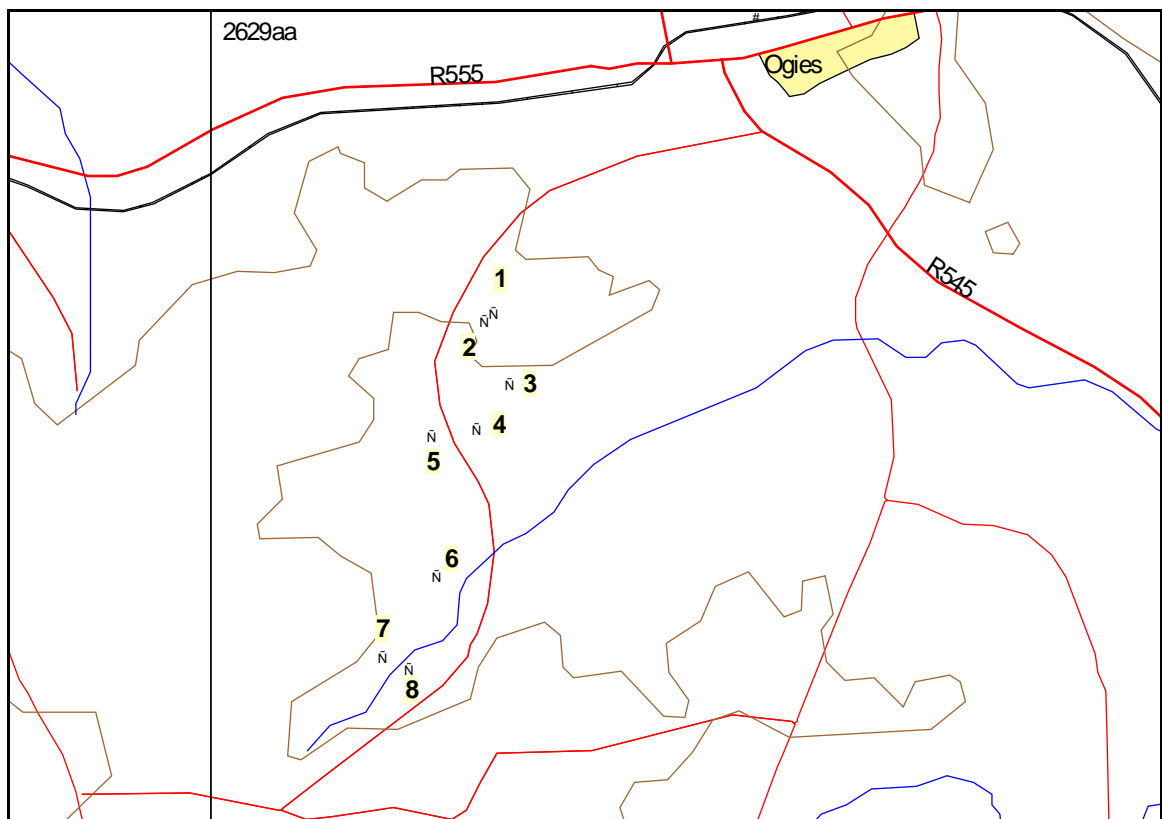


Figure 1. Location of the identified sites (see Appendix 2).

¹¹ 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 area that was investigated consists of the farm Zondagsvlei, located to the southwest of the hamlet of Ogies, in the Witbank district of Mpumalanga (Fig. 1).

The land use of the above area consists largely of agricultural fields, currently planted with maize, beans, sunflowers, etc. The rest of the area is either used for grazing or is too wet for habitation.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Stone Age

No stone tools were noticed and no sites likely to be inhabited by Stone Age people occur in the area.

7.2 Iron Age

No sites dating to the Iron Age were identified.

7.3 Historical period

A number of old farmsteads occur in the area. All are either abandoned or in ruin. None can be related to significant events or persons. A few informal cemeteries containing a varied number of graves were also identified. Some of these have headstones that are older than 60 years and as such are protected by the law.

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 it is proposed to develop the mine and its infrastructure.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- All graves should be left alone, or relocated in consultation with the local communities and according to requirements as set out in the relevant legislation.
- The developer should also be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should immediately be reported 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 Data bases

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

Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

9.2 Literature

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

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 Schalkwyk, J. A. 2002. *A survey of cultural resources in the proposed Klipspruit mining area, Witbank District, Mpumalanga*. Unpublished report: 2002KH07. Pretoria: National Cultural History Museum.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1935. *A Preliminary survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. Ethnological Publications No. 5. Pretoria: Government Printer.

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

9.3 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps – 2629AA

10. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk

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

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 RESULTS²

[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: 2629AA26

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°04'37.2"; E 29°01'41.8" [26.07703; 29.02823]

Description: Cemetery containing 3 graves of Aslett, Prinsloo and LaGrance

Discussion: If this feature is to be impacted upon by open cast mining, it will have to be relocated.

Recommended management action: Avoid if possible, otherwise relocate.

Legal requirements: If relocate, notification and permits.

2. Site number: 2629AA27

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°04'40.3"; E 29°01'38.1" [26.07778; 29.02722]

Description: Old farmstead

Discussion: Only ruins remain. This is a mixture of older and new building techniques. Overall, the remains are deemed not to be significant.

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

3. Site number: 2629AA36

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°05'02.6"; E 29°01'47.0" [26.08406; 29.02972]

Description: Cemetery containing approximately 12 graves, one with a marble headstone and six with cement slabs as headstones.

Discussion: If this feature is to be impacted upon by open cast mining, it will have to be relocated.

Recommended management action: Avoid if possible, otherwise relocate.

Legal requirements: If relocate, notification and permits.

4. Site number: 2629AA37

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°05'19.2"; E 29°01'35.2" [26.08866; 29.02646]

Description: Cemetery containing more than 30 graves, three with marble headstones, 12 with cement slabs.

Discussion: If this feature is to be impacted upon by open cast mining, it will have to be relocated.

Recommended management action: Avoid if possible, otherwise relocate.

Legal requirements: If relocate, notification and permits.

5. Site number: 2629AA38

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°05'21.3"; E 29°01'19.2" [26.08926; 29.02200]

Description: Ruins of an old farmstead.

Discussion: Only ruins remain. Overall, the remains are deemed not to be significant.

²² See Appendix 1 for an explanation of the conventions used in assessing the cultural remains.

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary
Legal requirements: None

6. Site number: 2629AA39

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°06'11.4"; E 29°01'21.2" [26.10317; 29.02255]

Description: Ruins of an old farmstead.

Discussion: Only ruins remain. Overall, the remains are deemed not to be significant.

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

7. Site number: 2629AA40

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°06'40.5"; E 29°01'01.8" [26.11126; 29.01717]

Description: Old farmstead

Discussion: This is a mixture of older and new building techniques. Overall, the remains are deemed not to be significant

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

8. Site number: 2629AA41

Location: Zondagsvlei 9IS: S 26°06'44.8"; E 29°01'11.1" [26.11246; 29.01976]

Description: Cemetery with more than 30 graves – Bosman, Wentzel, Ungerer, Smal and Kotze. Approximately 10 of the headstones are older than 60 years.

Discussion: If this feature is to be impacted upon by open cast mining, it will have to be relocated.

Recommended management action: Avoid if possible, otherwise relocate.

Legal requirements: If relocate, notification and permits.

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

ADRC - Archaeological Data Recording Centre

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

SAHRA - South African Heritage Resources Agency

APPENDIX 4: BURIAL GROUNDS AND GRAVES

36. (1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

(a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.

(5) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection (3)(b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority-

(a) made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and

(b) reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such grave or burial ground.

(6) Subject to the provision of any other law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

(a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and

(b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangements as it deems fit.

(7) (a) SAHRA must, over a period of five years from the commencement of this Act, submit to the Minister for his or her approval lists of graves and burial grounds of persons connected with

the liberation struggle and who died in exile or as a result of the action of State security forces or agents provocateur and which, after a process of public consultation, it believes should be included among those protected under this section.

(b) The Minister must publish such lists as he or she approves in the Gazette.

(8) Subject to section 56(2), SAHRA has the power, with respect to the graves of victims of conflict outside the Republic, to perform any function of a provincial heritage resources authority in terms of this section.

(9) SAHRA must assist other State Departments in identifying graves in a foreign country of victims of conflict connected with the liberation struggle and, following negotiations with the next of kin, or relevant authorities, it may re-inter the remains of that person in a prominent place in the capital of the Republic.