

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF SOME  
INDUSTRIAL SITES IN THE ROSSLYN INDUSTRIAL AREA,  
AKASIA, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: 2002KH14

Date of survey: March 2002      Date of report: March 2002



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## **SUMMARY**

### **An archaeological investigation of some industrial sites in the Rosslyn industrial area, Akasia, Gauteng Province**

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

No sites of cultural significance were found in the area investigated and based on this, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- The developer should 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.

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## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF SOME INDUSTRIAL SITES IN THE ROSSLYN INDUSTRIAL AREA, AKASIA, GAUTENG PROVINCE

### 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was contracted by **PD Naidoo & Associates**, to survey an area in which it is proposed to develop industrial sites. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance 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 artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- X The **significance** of the sites and artefacts 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**

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 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)**.

#### 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 archaeology of this particular area was found, although 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 members of PD Naidoo & Associates. The area was investigated by walking across it in a grid pattern. 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)**<sup>11</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

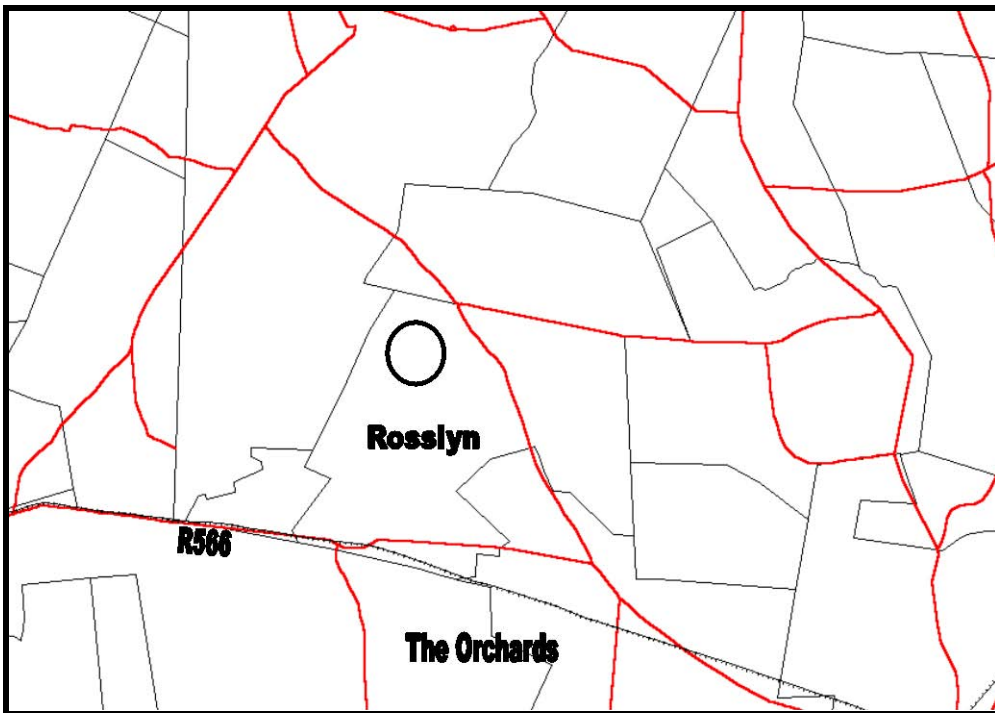


Figure 1. Approximate location of the area that was investigated.

The area that was investigated is located on the farm Klipfontein 268JR in the Rosslyn Industrial area of Akasia (Fig. 1). As such it is a very small area, comprising a number of erven bounded by Fosfor and Helium Streets and a railway siding on the north (Fig 2).

The vegetation of the area can be described as Thorny woodland and the soil is classified as clay (Turf). Recently, the area has been used as informal dumping ground by unscrupulous people.

<sup>11</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.

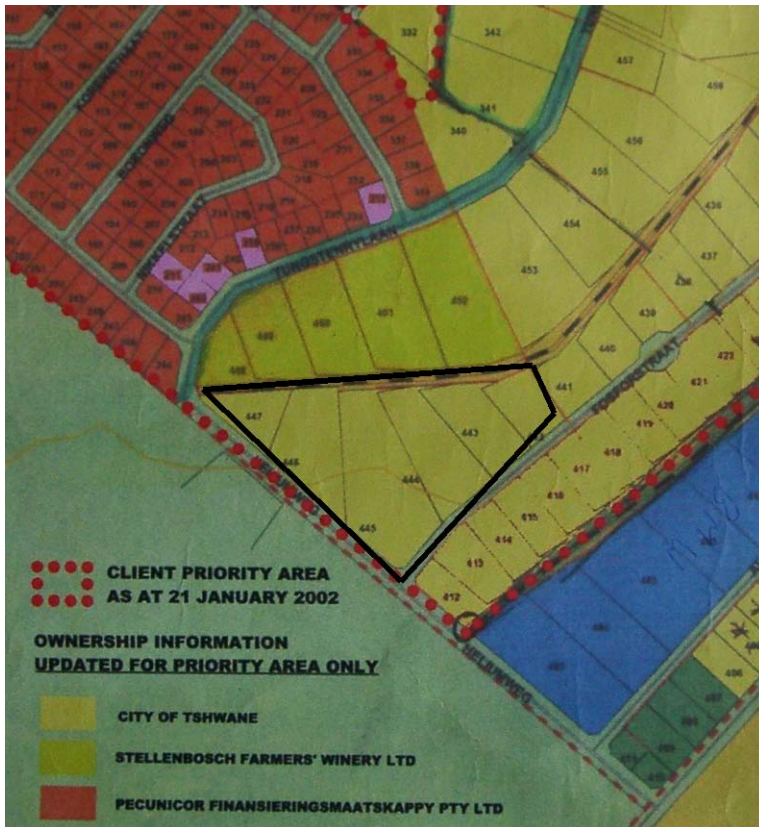


Figure 2. The survey area, indicated by the black lines.

## 7. DISCUSSION

This type of environment was not viewed as ideal area to settle on, Iron Age people preferring the small norite outcrops in the area for settlement. Neither did the later colonial farmers settle here, and these areas were largely used for agricultural purposes.

No sites, objects or features of cultural significance were identified in the area surveyed.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

No sites of cultural significance were found in the area investigated and based on this, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:



- The developer should 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 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 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. 1994. *'n Opname van kultuurhulpbronne in die Akasia Munisipale gebied*. Verslag 94KH01. Pretoria: Nasional Kultuurhistoriese 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.

#### 9.2.2 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps – 2528CA

## 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.]

Nil

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<sup>22</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

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