

**IDENTIFICATION OF GRAVES ON THE FARM  
HARTEBEESTHOEK 301JR, AKASIA MUNICIPAL AREA,  
WONDERBOOM DISTRICT, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

For:

**PLATINUM JOINT VENTURE**

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BON ACCORD  
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**SUMMARY**

**Identification of graves on the farm Hartebeesthoek 303JR in the Akasia municipal area, Wonderboom District, Gauteng Province.**

The aim was to identify, evaluate and document graves found within the road reserve of the new Platinum Toll Highway.

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:

- The identified graves must be relocated before any further work takes place. This involves the relocation of all grave goods associated with any of the graves.
- 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.

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**IDENTIFICATION OF GRAVES ON THE FARM  
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WONDERBOOM DISTRICT, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

## 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **Platinum Joint Venture** to identify and evaluate a number of graves found in the road reserve of the new Platinum Toll Highway.

## 2. 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).

### 2.1 South African Heritage Resources Act

#### 2.1.1 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.

### 2.1.2 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 are 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)**.

## 2.2 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.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Investigation

The site was identified to the investigator by members of **Platinum Joint Venture**, civil engineering contractors for the Platinum Toll Highway. The site was inspected and the location of the graves were determined by means of GPS.<sup>1</sup>

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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.

#### 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The graves are located within the road reserve of the new N4 Platinum toll road north of Pretoria in the Akasia municipal area, Gauteng Province. The coordinates of their location are: S 25°39'23.6"; E 28°05'37.9" (X 2838865.463; Y 90987.803). As such it will directly be impacted upon by the proposed road and will have to be relocated.

None of the graves have any headstones or formal markers, and are indicated by means of packed stone. It seems as if some earlier graves were "robbed" of their stones, which was then used to mark later graves.

At some stage sisal plant were planted in the area, hiding some of the graves and making it difficult to determine the exact number.

#### 5. DISCUSSION

This area was inhabited during pre-colonial times by Tswana-speaking groups. They were forced out by the arrival of Mzilikazi and his Nguni-speaking followers during the 1820s. White settlers started to arrive in the area by the 1840s.

This area originally consisted of only two farms, Hartebeesthoek 303JR and Witfontein 301JR. However, over time they were subdivided and other names were given to different portions.

The first owner of the farm Hartebeesthoek 303JR was Michiel Frederik Horn (junior) and registration of the farm took place on 29 November 1858. In the case of Witfontein 301JR the first owner was J L J Pretorius, who registered the farm on 11 Mei 1860. The first maps for these farms are dated: Hartebeesthoek 303JR - July 1892 and Witfontein 301JR - June 1892.

Considering that the practice of marking of graves only started during colonial times, as result of the influence of Western religion, these grave are dated to be later than 1850, but prior to the 1970s when large scale urbanisation started in the area.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim was to identify, evaluate and document graves found within the road reserve of the new Platinum Toll Highway.

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:

- The identified graves must be relocated before any further work takes place. This involves the relocation of all grave goods associated with any of the graves.
- 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.

## 7. REFERENCES

### 7.1 Unpublished sources

#### 7.1.1 Data base

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

Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

### 7.2 Published sources

#### 7.2.1 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 Schalkwyk, J.A. 1994. *'n Opname van kultuurhulpbronne in die Akasia-munisipale gebied*. Ongepubliseerde verslag 94KH01. Pretoria: Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese Museum.

## 8. 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: 2528CA48

Location: Hartebeestfontein 303JR: S 25°39'23.6"; E 28°05'37.9"

Description: Approximately 20 graves marked with stone cairns.

Discussion: Although some grave goods were identified on some of the graves, all look as if they have not been attended to for quite a significant period of time.

Significance of impact: High

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Recommended management action: Relocation of graves

Legal requirements: Notification, consultation, permits.

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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

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