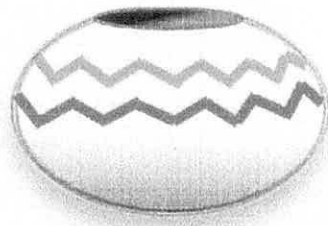


Report on Archaeological Survey on portion 95 of the farm The Rest,
Nelspruit Extension 30, 454 JT

Compiled by

Kudzala Antiquity



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*Missing Site location map.
Site Plot - map indicates
geographical location*

*JP Celliers
083 462 1482.*

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1. Introduction

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999) requires of individuals (engineers, farmers, mines and industry) to have impact assessment studies undertaken whenever any development activities are planned.

This includes guidelines for impact assessment studies to be done whenever cultural resources may be destroyed by development activities. Against this background a preliminary Archaeological or Cultural Resources Management (CRM) survey was carried out during July 17 on portion 95 of the farm The Rest 454 JT.

Van Vollenhoven (1995:3) describes all cultural resources as unique and non-renewable physical phenomena (of natural occurrence or made by humans) that can be associated with human (cultural) activities. These would be any man-made structure, tool, object of art or waste that was left behind on or beneath the soil surface by historic or pre-historic communities. These remains, when studied in their original context by archaeologists, are interpreted in an attempt to understand, identify and reconstruct the activities and lifestyles of past communities. When these items are disturbed from their original context, any meaningful information they possessed is lost, therefore it is important to locate and identify such remains before construction or development activities commence.

Actually this comes from the Act.
Refer to Act.

A preliminary CRM survey consists of three phases, this document deals with the first phase. This (phase 1) investigation is aimed at getting an overview of cultural resources in a given area, thereby assessing the possible impact a proposed development may have on these resources. When the archaeologist encounters a situation where the planned project will lead to the destruction or alteration of an archaeological site, a second phase in the survey is normally recommended.

During a phase 2 investigation the impact assessment of development activities on identified cultural resources is intensified and detailed investigation into the nature and origin of the cultural material is undertaken. Normally at this stage, archaeological excavation is carried out in order to document and preserve the cultural heritage.

Phase three consists of the compiling of a management plan for the safeguarding, conservation, interpretation and utilization of cultural resources (Van Vollenhoven, 2002).

Standard practice (as described by Van Vollenhoven!)

Continuous communication between the developer and surveyor after the initial report has been compiled may result in the modification of a planned route or development to incorporate or protect existing archaeological sites.

2. Description of surveyed area

The survey was carried out on an undeveloped part of land that is about 3, 5 hectares big, situated in Nelspruit Extension 30. Two site locations were found during the survey. During a previous survey conducted on the same farm, (Nelspruit Ext. 11) earlier this year, the location of a site found there was named NR 1. Therefore the two new locations will be named NR 2 and NR 3. The geographic location of the surveyed land is S 25° 30' 09.38169" and E 30° 59' 22.91206" (the actual location of site NR 2, see Appendix A, List of Site Locations).

There is no perennial water source but a dry streambed stretching roughly in an East-West direction. An electric fence forms the western and south-western boundary of the property and an existing road forms the north and north-eastern boundary (see Appendix B, aerial photograph).

3. Aim and method of survey

As stated earlier the aim of the survey is to establish the whereabouts and nature of cultural heritage sites should they occur in the area. This includes settlements, structures and artefacts which have value for an individual or group of people in terms of historical, archaeological, architectural and human (cultural) development. It is the aim of this study to locate and identify such objects or places in order to assess whether they are of significance and warrant further investigation and/or protection.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) formulated guidelines for the conservation of all cultural resources and therefore also divided such sites into three main categories. These categories might be seen as guidelines that suggest the extent of protection a given site might receive. They include sites or features of local (Grade 3) provincial (Grade 2) and national (Grade 1) significance.

The survey was carried out on foot in an effort to locate any cultural remains in the area where the proposed development will take place.

Some cultural remains were found during the survey, although it should be noted that most archaeological remains are found beneath the soil surface and might still be revealed during excavation and/or land moving activities.

After the two sites were discovered, the geographical location (GPS co-ordinates) was documented and the perimeters of these sites established. The sites were also photographed as well as some cultural material found elsewhere on the surveyed area (see Appendix C, List of Photos).

4. Description and evaluation of sites

The first site, NR 2 (S 25° 30' 09.38169" and E 30° 59' 22.91206") is located approximately 50 meters south of the existing road, towards the north-western corner of the surveyed area (see Appendix B). The site consists of at least two slightly elevated rectangular ruins which probably date to more recent historic times.

The first of these ruins is situated approximately 20 meters to the north of the streambed and measures 5m x 4m.

The second structure on this site location is situated about 14 meters to the south-west and consists of the remains of a wall roughly stretching from east to west and is approximately 4 meters long (see Appendix C, List of Photos). It is believed that this structure is related to the one mentioned above and probably formed part of a dwelling of some kind. It is believed that these might have been living quarters for farm workers during earlier times. These structures are therefore not considered significant cultural resources.

The second site (NR 3) is probably of more ancient origin and is located a couple of meters (about 30) south of NR 2. The geographic location of this circular stone wall structure is S 25° 30' 11.34111" and E 30° 59' 22.92393". This particular structure is circular in shape and measure 4 meters across with an entrance situated roughly in an eastern direction. These circular stone walls are normally associated with traditional Bantu Kraal Complexes and an indication of either Early Iron Age (AD. 200-1500 approx.) or Late Iron Age (AD. 1500-1800 approx.) settlement. This structure is isolated though and no similar structures, which would suggest a larger settlement complex, could be found on the remainder of the surveyed area.

Some scattered and non-diagnostic cultural material was observed approximately 30 meters south-east of the streambed on a slope. These were broken shards of pottery that probably date to the Iron Age. Because these were so few in number (only four located) and non-diagnostic, it is difficult to discern whether they date from either the EIA (Early Iron Age) or LIA (Late Iron Age). It is believed that these may have been deposited by Iron Age people during activities that included the fetching of water which was carried in ceramic vessels to where they dwelled.

Unfortunately research regarding the identity and history of historic communities in this area is limited. It is therefore difficult to accurately define the identity of the people to which these remains (circular stone wall and broken pot shards) can be ascribed to.

Some research was done during the 1970's at sites belonging to the EIA, location Plaston, a settlement close to White River (Evers, 1977). This site contained cultural material (shards of pottery) which had characteristic decorative patterns and form attributes linking it to the Late Iron Age (LIA) sites of the Lydenburg area (Bantu-speaking communities i.e. the Pedi). It is however believed that the remains located at the surveyed area are of the making of Bantu-speaking tribes probably dating from the early phases of the Late Iron Age era (AD 1500-1800).

Various historians and ethnographers describe that the areas of Barberton, Nelspruit and surrounds were frequented by Swazi and Sotho-Tswana groups in historic times (Myburgh, 1949; Herbst, 1985; Bornman, 2002; Pienaar, 1990; Barnard, 1975).

It is believed that the circular stone-walled structure probably forms part of a larger scale settlement in the area (Celliers, 2004). Further investigation is necessary to validate this. A previous survey done on the farm Shandon, a couple of kilometers to the east of the surveyed area, described a larger settlement that possibly belongs to the Late Iron Age (Rowe, 2002).

5. Findings and recommendations

It is important to note that the bulk of archaeological remains are normally located beneath the soil surface. It is therefore possible that some significant cultural material or remains were not located during this survey and will only be revealed when the soil is disturbed. Therefore it is recommended that the owner of the land or developers take this into consideration when such activities are planned and executed at this location.

Should excavation or large scale earth moving activities reveal any human skeletal remains, broken pieces of ceramic pottery, large quantities of sub-surface charcoal or any material that can be associated with previous occupation, a qualified archaeologist should be notified immediately. This will also temporarily halt such activities until an archaeologist have assessed the situation. It must also be noted that if such a situation occurs, it will probably have further financial implications for the developers.

Regarding the site numbered NR 3 it is recommended that the proposed motorway passing close to the eastern side of this stone circle be moved a little to accommodate the structure rather than destroy it. It is also recommended that no earth moving activities be done in the close proximity of this structure (i.e. radius of at least 5 meters).

6. Bibliography

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Appendix A

7. List of site locations

During the survey, the location of the sites was plotted with aid of a GPS (Global Positioning System). The sites were also numbered in the following fashion:

The initials NR followed by a number marks the identity of the site. The “N” stands for Nelspruit and “R” for the farm The Rest. These sites were then numbered NR 2 and NR 3.

1. Site name: NR 2

Date of compilation: 17/07/2004

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 59' 22.91206" E

Latitude, 25° 30' 09.38169" S

2. Site name: NR 3

Date of compilation: 17/07/2004

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 59' 22.92393" E

Latitude, 25° 30' 11.34111" S

Appendix B

9. Map of site locations

MAP OF SITE LOCATIONS

Need to supply legend
mark this sites
where does this fit in
national grid
what do yellow dots
mean?



Appendix C

10. List of photos

Photo 1: Photo of some pottery shards found south-east of the dry streambed.

Photo 2: A view of the slope where the pot shards were found. The Photo was taken in the southern direction.

Photo 3 and photo 4: Photos of circular stone wall structure named NR 3. Photo 3 taken in southern direction and photo 4 taken in northern direction.

Photo 5, 6 and 7: Photos of rectangular structure named location NR 2. Photo 5 taken in north-western direction, photo 6 taken in eastern direction.

Photo 8 and 9: Photos of location NR 2 with structures situated 14 meters south-west from photos 5 and 6.

List of Photos



Photo 1. Pottery shards found south-east of the dry streambed



Photo 2. Slope where the pot shards were found



Photo's 3 and 4. Circular stone wall structure (NR 3)



Photo's 5, 6 and 7. Rectangular structure (NR 2).



Photo's 8 and 9. Location NR 2 with structures situated 14 meters south-west from photo's 5 and 6.