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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALVEDA EXTENSION 2

A Phase 1 Report prepared for Van der Schyff, Baylis, Gericke and Druce

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SYNOPSIS

Two stone-walled complexes require further work. They should be mapped and possibly excavated, depending on development plans.

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INTRODUCTION

Developers plan to establish a township on Portions 183-187 Olifantsvlei 327 IQ. The Development Consultants-Van der Schyff, Baylis, Gericke and Druce-commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to assess archaeological features noted by the geological team.

METHOD

One ARM staff visited the area on 28 February 1998. The sites noted by the geologist were examined, and the remaining area searched on foot. Although the grass was high, a few more sites were located. Sites were recorded with a GPS instrument and then transferred to the 1:50 000 maps 2627 BD Grasmere and 2628 AC Alberton.

RESULTS

Site 1 (26.19.22S 28.00.10E) at the southern end of the property was noted by the geologist as an ash heap. It also included the collapsed remains of mud buildings that were part of the African workforce for a small holding. The remains of a road leads south from this area past a cemetery for the workers.

Site 2 (26.18.59S 28.00.04E), discovered by the geologist, was a cluster of about three stone-walled homesteads built around a prominent rock outcrop in the middle of the area. The low outer walls marked the edges of former homesteads while the inner circles were cattle kraals. Some of the walling appears to have been removed, possibly for the old European farm to the west. The remaining walls represent the first occupation of the area by Sotho-Tswana speaking people, dating to about AD 1500.

Part of the outer wall of another similar homestead (Site 3) was located to the northwest at 26.18.45S 27.59.57E, and the remains of a third (Site 4) stood to the northeast, next to the small hill on the boundary at 26.18.49S 28.00.12E. Both sites had been damaged.

Site 5 (26.18.28S 27.00.02E) at the north end of the property was noted by the geologist and was on our files as Site 2628 AC 7. It comprised a 15th century stone-walled homestead partially overlain by walling, probably dating to the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The earlier component has been damaged by excavations for a sewage pipeline.

Some of the exposed rock near Site 5 appears to have been used as a source of stone for Later Stone Age artefacts. Older material dating to the Early Stone Age (+/-250 000 years ago) was found about 100 m away, around an old excavation.

Finally, African church groups use the area today for religious meetings. One new dance area lies west of Site 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Site 1 is not important, little remains of Sites 3 and 4 and the Early Stone Age artefacts are isolated finds. These sites do not require further work.

Sites 2 and 5, however, are better preserved. Furthermore, sites of this period are not as common as the later walled homesteads found scattered over the Kipriviersberg. These two sites therefore require mitigation. At the least, they should be mapped.

A part of Site 2 will be inside a special education area, according to the proposed township plan, while a part of Site 5 lies outside the housing area. Before development proceeds, archaeologists should test excavate those portions that will be destroyed.