

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF BLUE HILLS FARM, MIDRAND

A Phase-1 Report Prepared for Cooper Drummond Environmental Consultants.

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INTRODUCTION

Mr P Krause, owner of Blue Hills Farm, Midrand, intends to develop his property for residential and conference use, and therefore commissioned Cooper Drummond to coordinate the environmental impact assessment. Cooper Drummond in turn contracted Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the property for sites of archaeological and historical interest. The designated area consists of portions R/1, 10 & 13 of Witpoort 406 JR and Holdings 116-119 of Witbos 409 JR.

METHOD

One ARM staff met with Mr A. Cooper on 10 November 1999 to outline the project. ARM staff then examined the two koppies in the designated area and randomly traversed the intervening ploughed lands. Site locations were determined with a GPS and then transferred to the 1:50 000 map 2528 CC Centurion, sixth Edition, 1995.

RESULTS

The survey recorded a few sites of low significance dating to the Later Stone Age and Historic Period.

Later Stone Age

Stone artefacts, such as a thumbnail scraper and small core, were found around the small hill (25.57.23 S 28.04.57 E) at the north end of the property. Most artefacts were made from white quartz. The hill itself presents an ideal location to observe game in the valley below.

Historic Period

The small northern hill was also the focus for a farm compound dating to about the 1950s. The foundations of rectangular structures occur on the north, east and west sides of the hill as well as 300m northwest (25.57.24 S 28.04.49 E) and west (25.57.27 S 28.04.49 E). Associated remains include ash and cinder dumps, glass and metal. Graves were not noted, but they could be covered by grass or bush.

The first Krause farm house (25.57.43 S 28.04.33 E) is still in use. Built by Mr Krause's grandfather in the 1930s, this building will continue to be used in the new development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no archaeological or historical reasons why the development should not take place. Nevertheless, some mitigation may be necessary depending on the scope of development.

First, if future development will destroy the old farm compound, qualified specialists must map the foundations and their relationship to surface features such as the ash dumps. A representative sample of artefacts should also be collected.

Secondly, if future development locates any graves, then they should either be left in situ, or removed and reburied according to existing regulations. The most important requirements include notification of the removal in a local newspaper at least two weeks in advance and a proper reburial in an existing cemetery.