



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED UPGRADING AND CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AT
THE BAOBAB SHAFT OF LONMIN PLATINUM NEAR LEBOWAKHOMO,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: **AE957**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by SRK Consulting to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment (HIA) for the proposed upgrading and construction of infrastructure at the Baobab Shaft of Western Platinum Limited near Lebowakomo, Limpopo Province. The development constitutes work on the farm Kaffirkraal 167 KS and Turfpan 122 KS.

The current development includes the upgrading of the existing concentrator, construction of a new concentrator including a site for stockpiling of ore, upgrading of the existing tailings dam, construction of a new tailings dam and construction of a road and conveyor for ore transport. The client indicated the areas where the proposed development is to take place (through the provision of drawings), and the survey was confined to this area.

A survey of the available literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. This included looking at previous HIA reports on the wider geographical area. This was followed by the field survey which was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices, aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development.

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to photographs and the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

During the survey one site of cultural heritage significance was located in the area to be developed and two nearby. All three sites are grave yards. No other cultural resources were identified. It is however known that some Stone and Iron Age occurrences were identified before as well as remains from the recent past.

The three grave yards date to the Historical Age. Consultation with members of the community indicated that these are the only graves in the surveyed area. However it is believed that this may not be true.

All three sites will be left as they are, as they are not in the area to be developed. Grave yard no 1 is close to mine infrastructure and a fence around it will be maintained. The community needs to have access to the graves.

It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts is always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when construction commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by SRK Consulting to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed upgrading and construction of infrastructure at the Baobab Shaft of Western Platinum Limited near Lebowakhomu in Limpopo Province. The development constitutes work on the farm Kaffirkraal 167 KS and Turfpan 122 KS.

The current development includes the upgrading of the existing concentrator, construction of a new concentrator including a site for stockpiling of ore, upgrading of the existing tailings dam, construction of a new tailings dam and construction of a road and conveyor for ore transport. The client indicated the areas where the proposed development is to take place (by the provision of drawings), and the survey was confined to this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Undertake a desk top study of available information on the area.
2. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
3. Documenting such sites in a report including photographs and indicating them on a map with GPS references.
4. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
5. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
6. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
7. Recommend and describe suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
8. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. THE AUTHOR

Dr Anton Carl van Vollenhoven:

Tertiary education

- BA 1986, University of Pretoria
- BA (HONS) Archaeology 1988 (cum laude), University of Pretoria

- MA Archaeology 1992, University of Pretoria
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Museology 1993 (cum laude), University of Pretoria
- Diploma Tertiary Education 1993, University of Pretoria
- DPhil Archaeology 2001, University of Pretoria.
- MA Cultural History 1998 (cum laude), University of Stellenbosch
- Management Diploma 2007 (cum laude), Tshwane University of Technology

Currently busy with DPhil in History at the University of Stellenbosch

Relevant positions held

- *1988-1991*: Fort Klapperkop Military Museum - Researcher
- *1991-1999*: National Cultural History Museum. Work as Archaeologist, as well as Curator/Manager of Pioneer Museum (1994-1997)
- *1999-2002*: City Council of Pretoria. Work as Curator: Fort Klapperkop Heritage Site and Acting Deputy Manager Museums and Heritage.
- *2002-2007*: City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. Work as Deputy Manager Museums and Heritage.
- *August 2007* – present – Managing Director for Archaetnos Archaeologists.
- *1988-2003*: Part-time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Pretoria and a part-time lecturer on Cultural Resources Management in the Department of History at the University of Pretoria.

Experience and professional affiliations

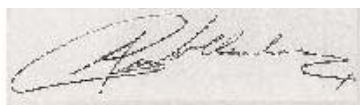
- Has published 67 articles in scientific and popular journals on archaeology and history.
- Has been the author and co-author of over 160 unpublished reports on cultural resources surveys and archaeological work.
- Has published a book on the Military Fortifications of Pretoria.
- Has delivered more than 40 papers and lectures at national and international conferences.
- Member of SAHRA Council for 2003 – 2006.
- Member of the South African Academy for Science and Art.
- Member of Association for South African Professional Archaeologists.
- Member of the South African Society for Cultural History (Chairperson 2006-2008).
- Has been editor for the SA Journal of Cultural History 2002-2004.

4. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Anton Carl van Vollenhoven from Archaetnos, hereby declare that I am an independent specialist within the field of heritage management.

Signed:

Date: 7 October 2009



5. SCOPE, PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

5.1 Scope and purpose

The scope for the survey was to identify any archaeological and cultural resources on the sites indicated. It was necessary to work in an area of 20 m around the conveyor route, but other areas were assessed as completely as possible.

5.2 Survey of literature

A survey of the available literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. This included looking at other reports from areas close to the Baobab shaft. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

5.3 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken on foot and via an off-road vehicle.

5.4 Documentation

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

6. ASSUMPTIONS, UNCERTAINTIES AND GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.
3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix B).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.
7. In this particular case certain areas were densely vegetated and it was impossible to penetrate. These refer to all areas where dense patches of thorn trees and long grass were found in between areas with less vegetation. Also the exact location of the conveyor could not be provided by the mine. Although it is indicated on the plan provided, this was not to scale and the staff members of the mine who assisted the consultant were unsure of the exact location. It was therefore difficult to be sure if the location of certain heritage sites found is indeed situated in the areas to be directly impacted on by the planned development. By criss-crossing the larger area this problem may have been countered.
8. Although care was taken to give a comprehensive background on the history of the area, it has to be stated that it is impossible to give a complete indication on human activities of the past as sources are not always readily available. The information given in the report should however give a fair reflection of the past.

7. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

7.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned law the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

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 that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

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 of 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 (i.e. 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)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

7.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

8. BASELINE INFORMATION

8.1 Description of the area

The proposed development area is located to the south of Lebowakhomo in the Limpopo Province (Figure 1 and 2). The area has been mostly disturbed by past human activities, including previous mining activities and over-grazing. Signs of this are the lack of groundcover in certain areas and pioneer plant species such as sickle bush in others (Figure 3 and 4). Old prospecting holes and other mining rubble was also identified. The topography is very flat, with a slight slope to the east.

A number of villages are situated on the property. These are Hwelereng to the east of the existing Baobab plant, Makushwaneng to the south-west and Turfpan to the south of the mining property. These are typical rural settlements consisting of houses and other buildings with dirt roads and live-stock roaming around.

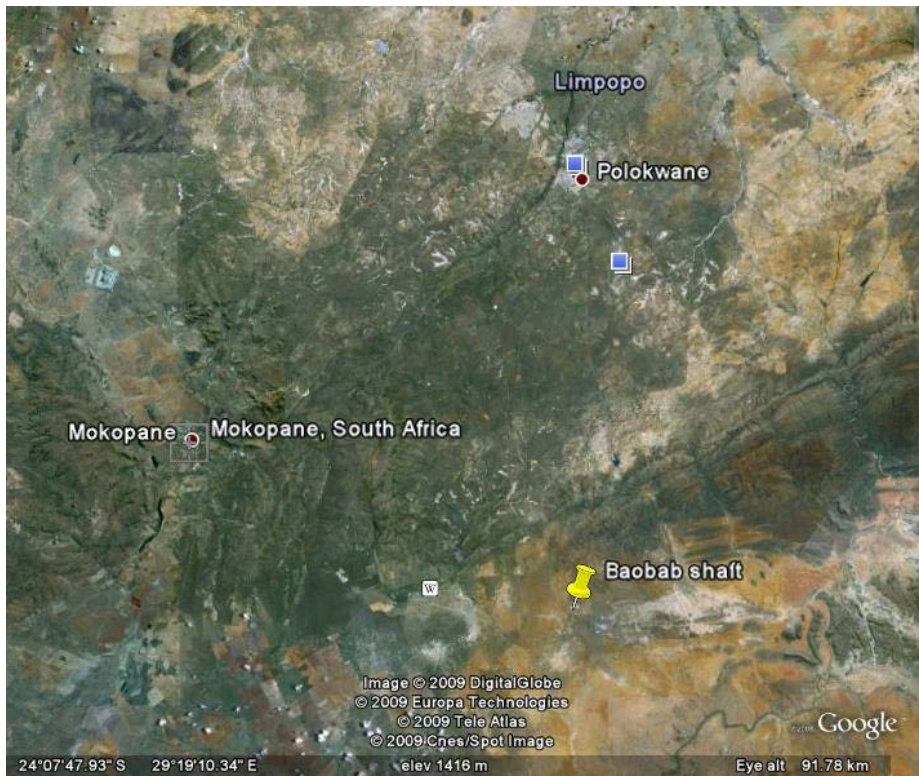


Figure 1 Location of the Baobab shaft.

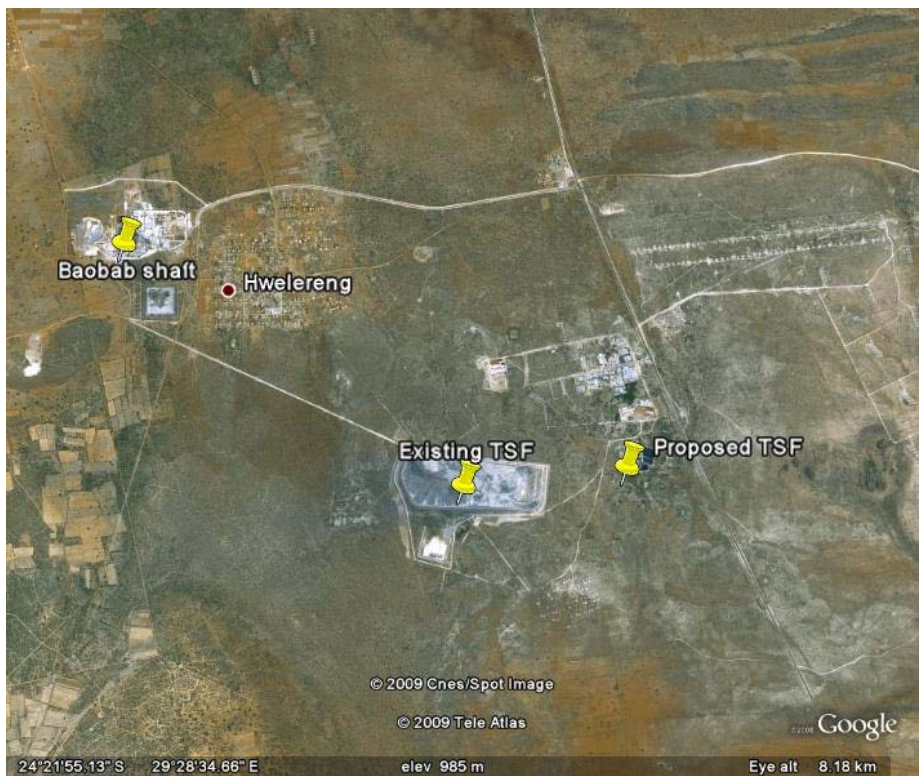


Figure 2 Google image of the surveyed area indicating the position of Baobab Shaft and the tailings and storage facilities.



Figure 3 General view of the surveyed area close to the existing plant.



Figure 4 General view of the surveyed area where the new tailing dam will be built showing dense sickle bush encroachment.

8.2 History of the area

During the survey no sites of cultural heritage significance were located in the area to be developed. However, some graves were found in the surrounding areas. This report indicates

suitable mitigation measures in this regard. In order to enable the reader to better understand this, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history.

Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is, however, important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

Four important Stone Age sites are known in the vicinity of Baobab/ Mokopane. At the Cave of Hearths and at Skoonheid, Early Stone Age sites were identified. Sites dating to the Middle Stone Age were found at the Rufus cave and at the Cave of Hearths. Late Stone Age assemblages are known from the Cave of Hearths and Magazine shelter. Rock paintings, associated with Late Stone Age hunter-gatherers are found in abundance around Mokopane (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

During previous heritage surveys close to Baobab, both Pistorius (2002: 32-33; 2009: 26-27) and Roodt (2003: 5) discovered Middle Stone Age lithic tools, but indicated that these were scattered around the area and therefore did not constitute a site. Pistorius also indicated that not much research has been done in the wider geographical area and therefore little is known about the pre-historical context (Pistorius 2002:19).

During this survey no additional indication of Stone Age activities was found.

Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however, indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

A total number of 42 Late Iron Age sites have been identified to the east of Mokopane (Bergh 1999: 7). Although it is known that Iron Age people probably utilized this environment in the past, no such sites were identified during the survey. Northern Ndebele people moved into the

area as early as AD 1600. It is indicated that Northern Sotho speaking tribes moved into this area from AD 1700 followed by some Tswana groups (Pistorius 2002: 22; Pistorius 2009: 19-21).

Historical information indicates that this area was inhabited during earlier times and in the 19th century. One of the indigenous historical trade routes passed through the Strydpoort Mountains. Groups who settled here included the Kekana Ndebele and various Northern Sotho groups such as the Pedi, Roka, Koni and Tau. During the Difaquane (1822) these people fled to the north, but they returned by 1828 (Bergh 1999: 9-11; Pistorius 2002: 22).

During the survey no indication of Iron Age settlement was identified. However Roodt (2003: 5-6) found Late Iron Age remains at the base of the Maralaneng Mountain. It included low stone walling and pottery, but this falls outside of the boundaries of the proposed mining activities.

Historical Age

The Historical Age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write.

The only early traveler who visited this area was Robert Scoon who passed through during 1836. The Voortrekker leaders Louis Tregardt and Hans van Rensburg also moved through the Strydpoort Mountains during 1836/7 (Bergh 1999: 13-14). The town of Ohrigstad to the south-east of the surveyed area was established in 1845, but white farmers only settled in the study area much later (Bergh 1999: 16). By 1899 many of the groups mentioned earlier were permanently settled here (Bergh 1999: 40-41).

Since the 1840's the Pedi and Voortrekkers were in conflict resulting in various wars. In 1879 the Pedi was finally subjugated by the British (Bergh 1999: 31; Pistorius 2002: 23). However, none of these happened in close proximity to the study area. The town of Potgietersrus (Mokopane) was only established in 1861 (Bergh 1999: 20).

Roodt (2003: 6) makes mention of abandoned mine works, a homestead and industrial rubble, whilst Pistorius (2009: 28) has also recorded old mining remains. These are remains from the recent past in the larger study area.

Apart from graves, no sites dating to the Historical Age were found during the survey. These grave sites are discussed below.

8.3 Discussion of sites identified during the survey

Two grave sites were identified in the surveyed area, but no other archaeological, historical or cultural sites, structures or objects were identified. After discussions with representatives of the local communities another grave yard was identified. It was indicated that no other graves are to be found in the surveyed area (Personal communication: Ms Agnes Mashiloane & Ms Dorcas Madala).

Site 1

This is a graveyard consisting of at least 25 graves. Most of the graves were packed with stones, but some have bricks, concrete and granite as grave dressing. Only a few have headstones, some of which are made out of granite. A few of the graves are fenced into their own steel fence (Figure 5).

Five of the graves do not indicate a date of death. The oldest date identified was 1935 and the youngest 2006. Two graves are older than 60 years.



Figure 5 Site 1, a graveyard close to the current plant, but probably just outside of the mine property.

GPS: 24°21'18"S
29°26'42"E

The development will not have a direct impact on the site, but there will be a secondary impact. However, due to the sensitivity of this issue, graves are always regarded as having a **high** cultural significance.

As the mining activities will not impact directly on the graves or the descendants of those laid to rest there (such as removal), the graves should remain in-tact. It should then be fenced properly and easy access should be allowed to the families.

Site 2

This is a graveyard consisting of at least 170 graves at the village of Hwelereng. Most of the graves were packed with stones, but the more recent ones have bricks, cement and granite as

grave dressings. Some also have headstones of which some are made out of granite. A number of the graves have their own steel fence around them (Figure 6).

Unfortunately it was not possible to get closer access to the graves as it is fenced off. One can however, safely assume that the grave yard is still in use, but some graves will probably be older than 60 years with some of an unknown date of death.

GPS: 24°21'37"S
29°27'21"E



Figure 6 **Site no 2.**

As the development will have no impact on the site it will be left as it is. However, due to the sensitivity of this issue, graves are always regarded as having a **high** cultural significance. Proper access for the families must be ensured.

Site 3

This is a graveyard consisting of at least 60 graves close to the south of the surveyed area. Most of the graves were packed with stones, but the more recent ones have bricks, cement and granite as grave dressing. Some also have headstones of which some are made out of granite. A number of the graves have their own steel palisade around them. A few are covered with branches (Figure 7).

The oldest date seen on a headstone is 1947 and the youngest 1981. However most of the graves are of an unknown date of death. The date of 1981 gives the impression that the grave yard is not in use any more, but it may be that the younger graves have not been provided with headstones yet.

GPS: 24°23'20"S
29°28'43"E



Figure 7 Site no 3.

The development will not have any impact on the grave yard. Graves are always regarded as having a **high** cultural significance, but as the mining activities will not impact directly on the grave yard, it will be left as it is.

9. POTENTIAL FATAL FLAWS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES OF CONCERN

Although the people spoken to indicate that there are no other graves in the area, this probably is not the case. Past experience has proved that single graves are frequently found close to homesteads and scattered in the veldt. It is possible that the community members spoken to didn't understand or do not want to share this kind of information. However, since there will be no impact on the communities there will also not be an impact on graves situated within the villages.

The grave yards will be left as they are and the communities will be allowed controlled access to grave yard no 1 which lies within the mine property.

The mine could not give a clear indication of exactly where the conveyor route will be. Mr Johan Grobler did however send a member of his staff to accompany the consultant in order to clarify this matter. Nevertheless it was difficult to determine the exact perimeters for the route and therefore the area was criss-crossed a few times in order to counter this problem. Although this methodology is aimed at covering a larger portion than necessary it is still possible that some spots may have been missed in the process. However, the nature of the

area, to a great extent being disturbed by previous mining activities, does give the impression that not much cultural features may exist.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is recommended with regards to the mitigation of sites found during the survey:

- All three grave yard sites (figure 10) should be kept in situ and fenced of properly. The community needs to have access to them.
- The proposed development may continue.
- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts is always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence.



Figure 8 Location of the three grave yards indicated in the report.

11. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Contact was made with the Ward Councilor, Ms. Agnes Mashiloane. During field work Ms. Dorcas Madala was also consulted with. Ms Dorcas Madala indicated the location of site no 3.

It was indicated that there are no other graves in the area. However, due to communication difficulties between the specialist and the local people, it can not be ruled out that more grave sites may be present.

12. CONCLUSION

In conclusion it can be stated that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. Three sites, of which one is outside of the area to be directly impacted upon have been found. The other two may be indirectly impacted upon. The three sites are all grave yards dating to the recent past and are of a high cultural significance. However, fencing them and giving the communities controlled access would suffice.

Care should be taken when development commences that if any uncharted occurrences are discovered, a qualified archaeologist should be called in to investigate the occurrence.

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APPENDIX A

Definition of terms:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.

- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.

- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.