
VAALPLAN TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS

Heritage Scoping Report



MATAKOMA - ARM

MATAKOMA - ARM

HERITAGE CONTRACTS UNIT

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Proposed new
residential
development on
Portion 22 of the farm
Bronkhorstfontein
652IQ; North West
Province and on
Portion 3 of the farm
Patriotsfontein 558 IQ,
Gauteng Province

Version 1.0

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we know from legislation the surveying, capturing and management of heritage resources is an integral part of the greater management plan laid down for any major development or historic existing operation. With the proclamation of the National Heritage Resources Act 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) this process has been laid down clearly. This legislation aims to underpin the existing legislation, which only addresses this issue at a glance, and gives guidance to developers and existing industries to the management of their Heritage Resources.

The importance of working with and following the guidelines laid down by the South African Heritage Resources Agency cannot be overemphasised. This document forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed new residential development that falls on the border between North West and Gauteng. The impacted areas are portion 22 of the farm Bronkhorstfontein 652 IQ; North West Province and portions of Portion 3 of the farm Patriotsfontein 558 IQ, Gauteng Province.

The following outline the findings of the report:

During the survey no archaeological or historical sites was found within the footprint of the proposed development area. A database search also did not yield any significant features inside the study area.

From a Heritage point of view there is no reason why the development can not commence.

General

If during construction any possible finds are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist be contacted for an assessment of the find.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Matakoma-ARM Heritage Contracts Unit was contracted by Vaalplan Town and Regional Planners to conduct a Heritage Scoping Assessment for the proposed new residential development on portion 22 of the farm Bronkhorstfontein 652 IQ; North West Province and portions of Portion 3 of the farm Patriotsfontein 558 IQ, Gauteng Province.

The aim of the study is to identify all heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within Local, Provincial and national context. From this we aim to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, in order to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

The report outlines the approach and methodology utilised before and during the survey, which includes in Phase 1: Information collection from various sources and public consultations; Phase 2: Physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; and Phase 3: Reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey, no cultural heritage sites of significance were identified. General site conditions and features on site were recorded by means of photos, GPS location, and description. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report.

This report must also be submitted to SAHRA provincial office for scrutiny.

2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the study is to extensively cover all data available to compile a background history of the study area; this was accomplished by means of the following phases.

2.1 PHYSICAL SURVEYING

Due to the nature of cultural remains, the majority that occur below surface, a physical walk through of the study area was conducted. MATAKOMA-ARM was appointed to conduct a survey of the proposed development area together with access routes and entrances to the proposed residential development. The total area of impact comprised an area of approximately 100ha in total. The study area was surveyed over one day, by means of vehicle and extensive surveys on foot by MATAKOMA-ARM.

Aerial photographs and 1:50 000 maps of the area were consulted and literature of the area were studied before undertaking the survey. The purpose of this was to identify topographical areas of possible historic and pre-historic activity. All sites discovered both inside and bordering the proposed development area was plotted on 1:50 000 maps and their GPS co-ordinates noted. 35mm photographs on digital film were taken at all the sites.

3. WORKING WITH LEGISLATION

It is very important that cultural resources be evaluated according to the National Heritage Recourse Act. In accordance with the Act, we have found the following:

- These sites are classified as important based on evaluation of the National Heritage Recourses Act 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) section 3 (3).

A place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of-

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;

- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
 - (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
 - (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
 - (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
 - (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
 - (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
- (Refer to Section 9 of this document for assessment)
 - These sites should be managed through using the National Heritage Recourses Act 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) sections 4,5 and 6 and sections 39-47.
 - Please refer to Section 9 for Management Guidelines.

4. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

This chapter describes the evaluation criteria used for the sites listed below.

The significance of archaeological sites was based on four main criteria:

- **site integrity** (i.e. primary vs. secondary context),
- **amount of deposit, range of features** (e.g., stonewalling, stone tools and enclosures),
- **uniqueness** and
- **potential** to answer present research questions.

Management actions and recommended mitigation, which will result in a reduction in the impact on the sites, will be expressed as follows:

- A - No further action necessary;
- B - Mapping of the site and controlled sampling required;
- C - Preserve site, or extensive data collection and mapping of the site; and
- D - Preserve site

Impacts on these sites by the development will be evaluated as follows

4.1 IMPACT

The potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed development activities.

4.1.1 Nature and existing mitigation

Natural conditions and conditions inherent in the project design that alleviate (control, moderate, curb) impacts. All management actions, which are presently implemented, are considered part of the project design and therefore mitigate against impacts.

4.2 EVALUATION

4.2.1 Site Significance

The significance rating scale is as follows:

HIGH: Must be mitigated or not impacted on at all.

LOW - MEDIUM: May require further work before development can commence.

NO SIGNIFICANCE: Do not require mitigation.

4.2.2 Certainty

DEFINITE: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data exist to verify the assessment.

PROBABLE: Over 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of impact occurring.

POSSIBLE: Only over 40% sure of a particular fact or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

UNSURE: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact or likelihood of an impact occurring.

4.2.3 Duration

SHORT TERM: 0 to 5 years

MEDIUM: 6 to 20 years

LONG TERM: more than 20 years

DEMOLISHED: site will be demolished or is already demolished

Example

Evaluation

IMPACT	SIGNIFICANCE	CERTAINTY	DURATION	MITIGATION
Negative	high negative	definite	long	C

5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF AREA

As heritage surveys deal with the locating of heritage resources in a prescribed cartographic landscape, the study of archival and historical data, and especially cartographic material, can represent a very valuable supporting tool in finding and identifying such heritage resources.

The historical background and timeframe can be divided into the Stone Age, Iron Age and Historical timeframe. These can be divided as follows:

Stone Age

The Stone Age is divided in Early; Middle and Late Stone Age and refers to the earliest people of South Africa who mainly relied on stone for their tools.

Early Stone Age: The period from \pm 2.5 million yrs - \pm 250 000 yrs ago. Acheulean stone tools are dominant.

Middle Stone Age: Various lithic industries in SA dating from \pm 250 000 yrs – 22 000 yrs before present.

Late Stone Age: The period from \pm 22 000-yrs before present to the period of contact with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

Iron Age

The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the Pre-Historic and Historic periods. Similar to the Stone Age it can be divided into three periods:

The Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.

The Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD

The Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period.

Historic Timeframe

The historic timeframe intermingles with the later parts of the Stone and Iron Age, and can loosely be regarded as times when written and oral recounts of incidents became available.

Database search

Most archaeological research in the area focused on the Vredefort Dome. The Vredefort Dome has an extremely rich and diverse cultural heritage and an archaeological past that stretches back thousands of years. Stone Age hunter-gatherers were the first inhabitants, leaving behind their stone tools (e.g. hand axes, spears and arrow heads), shelters and rock art. They were followed by Iron Age farmers and cattle herders, who settled more permanently as seen through the numerous stone walled ruins located in the Vredefort Dome area. During the mid 19th century the first European groups started settling in the area.

Some excavations were conducted on Iron Age Stone walled sites in the Dome to determine when and for how long the sites was occupied, what types of activities took place (way of life), to reconstruct the settlement layout or organization and also to figure out whom its occupants were of these sites. One such site Askoppies (named after the numerous ash middens) was a huge settlement complex, covering an area of few square kilometers and possibly housing a few thousand people. Only a fraction of this site has been archaeologically investigated.

Dates obtained for the site indicated that the settlement was occupied between the late 1600's and early 1800's. A glass bead found here is similar to ones found by archaeologists in Namibia, dating to the 18th and mid 19th centuries. It must be noted however that these dates only represent a time span

and not a specific date for settlement. Finally, the complete lack of European artefacts from the excavations suggests that Askoppies was abandoned before or around the time when the first European settlers arrived in the area (ca. 1840 – 1845).

The way of life (day to day activities) were interpreted through the artefacts that were found during the excavations. Excavations concentrated on the huts and ash heaps – areas where one would expect to find most of the everyday objects – and thousands of artefacts were recovered. It is clear that agriculture played a major role, with sorghum the principal crop utilized (clumps of these were found), although other cereals and maize might also have been used. The large number of grinding stones, as well as granary stands (where grain pots and baskets would have been placed) found at Askoppies is further evidence of the success of agriculture. The settlement plan at Askoppies is reflective of a society that preferred cattle as a main source of status and bride wealth (***lobola***). Cattle were essential to normal life. Some clay oxen found at the site have features typical of the so-called Sanga cattle, and have short horns, legs and large humps on their backs.

Cattle were also used as a source of food. The analysis of animal bone recovered during excavations showed that cattle, sheep, goat, steenbok, springbok, blesbok and zebra were consumed, with around 50% of all slaughtered animals non-domestic. Other sources of meat, in smaller numbers, included springhare, scrub hare, tortoise and guinea fowl. Barbel and other fish, as well as crab and freshwater mussel, also supplemented the diet. Herding, hunting, snaring, fishing and gathering therefore constituted a major part of the day to day activities. Trade also contributed to the economy. This is evidenced through the ivory and copper artefacts (bangles, earrings), cowry shells and single glass bead found here. The

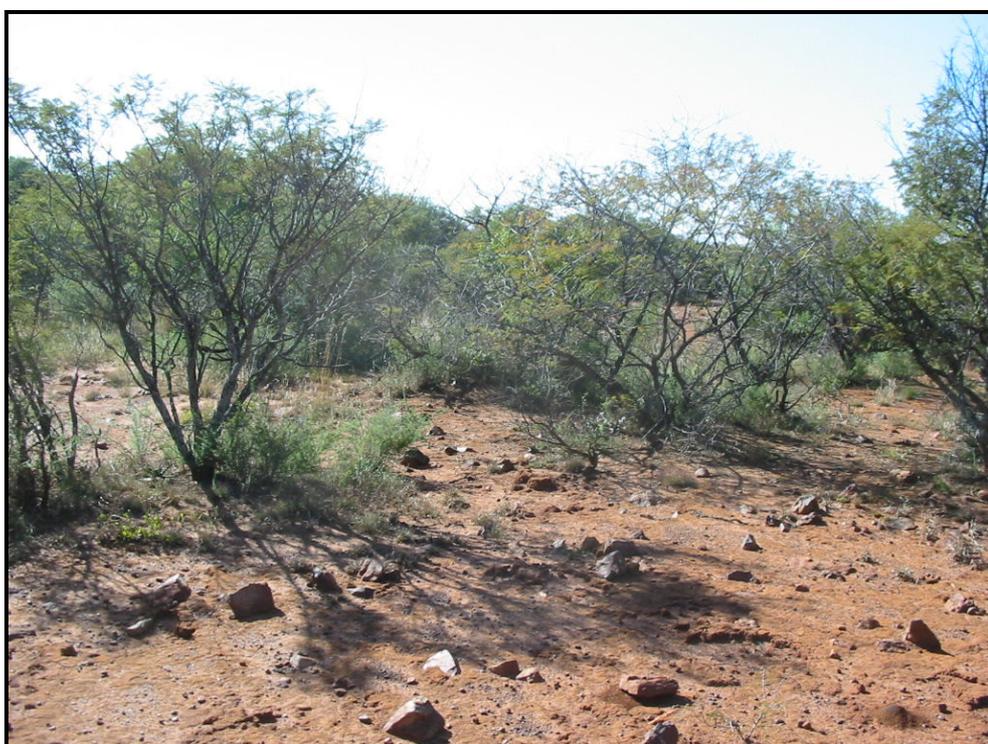
cowry shells come from the east coast of southern Africa, a distance of more than 400km away. Artefacts indicating animal skin working (also for trading) include bone scrapers, needles and awls.

The settlement organization, or layout, of Askoppies, is typical of the so-called Central Cattle Pattern model, meaning that the cattle and other live stock enclosures (or kraals) are situated in the centre of each settlement unit, surrounded by huts. Smaller features that are found include granary stands, the **kgotla**, or meeting place of the men and communal ash heaps outside the settlement walls. Each hut was located in a stone walled scallop (semi-circle) - these forming a discontinuous boundary wall around each settlement unit. The various individual settlement units make up the larger settlement complex. Based on settlement organization and the types of decorated pottery found, both markers that can be used to determine cultural identity, it is most likely that the settlement was inhabited by the BaRolong, or at least a group that was part of the southwestern Sotho-Tswana. The impact of the **difaqane**, a period of upheaval during the 1820's to 1830's when Mzilikazi was moving through the interior of the country, should not be disregarded. During this period many groups moved together into large settlements for mutual protection, and more than one cultural group might therefore have settled at Askoppies for a period of time.

To conclude, Askoppies was a major Iron Age settlement complex in the Vredefort Dome area during the late 17th up to early 19th century. Agriculture, herding, hunting, snaring and fishing played a major role in the day to day lives of its occupants, while trade with other groups was also practiced. A few thousand people possibly lived in this complex that covered a few square kilometers.

6. SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Visibility in the study area is excellent although a few patches are highly overgrown. No heritage sites were identified during the survey except for a few isolated finds of Middle Stone Age flakes. The lack of archaeological sites in this area could be possibly ascribed to the concentration of heritage sites inside the Vredefort Dome that are close by that had more suitable conditions for habitation. Other explanations could be the long distance to the nearest water source in the study area.



• *Figure 1: General Site conditions*



• *Figure 2: General site conditions*

7. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Due to the nature of cultural remains that occur, in most cases, below surface, the possibility remains that some cultural remains may not have been discovered during the survey. Although MATAKOMA-ARM surveyed the area as thorough as possible, it is incumbent upon the developer to inform the relevant heritage agency should further cultural remains be unearthed or laid open during the process of development.

8. LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS

In areas where there has not yet been a systematic survey to identify conservation worthy places, a permit is required to alter or demolish any structure older than 60 years. This will apply until a survey has been done and identified heritage resources are formally protected.

Archaeological and palaeontological sites, materials, and meteorites are the source of our understanding of the evolution of the earth, life on earth and the history of people. In the new legislation, permits are required to damage,

destroy, alter, or disturb them. People who already possess material are required to register it.

The management of heritage resources are integrated with environmental resources and this means that before development takes place heritage resources are assessed and, if necessary, rescued.

In addition to the formal protection of culturally significant graves, all graves, which are older than 60 years and are not in a cemetery (such as ancestral graves in rural areas), are protected. The legislation protects the interests of communities that have interest in the graves: they may be consulted before any disturbance takes place.

The graves of victims of conflict and those associated with the liberation struggle will be identified, cared for, protected and memorials erected in their honour.

Anyone who intends to undertake a development must notify the heritage resource authority and if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected, an impact assessment report must be compiled at the developer's cost. Thus developers will be able to proceed without uncertainty about whether work will have to be stopped if a heritage resource is discovered.

According to the National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999 section 32) it is stated that:

An object or collection of objects, or a type of object or a list of objects, whether specific or generic, that is part of the national estate and the export of which SAHRA deems it necessary to control, may be declared a heritage object, including –

- objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
- visual art objects;
- military objects;
- numismatic objects;
- objects of cultural and historical significance;
- objects to which oral traditions are attached and which are associated with living heritage;
- objects of scientific or technological interest;
- books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic material, film or video or sound recordings,

excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 (xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996), or in a provincial law pertaining to records or archives; and

- any other prescribed category.

Under the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), provisions are made that deal with, and offer protection, to all historic and pre-historic cultural remains, including graves and human remains.

- Graves younger than 60 years fall under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the Office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning, or in some cases the MEC for Housing and Welfare. Authorisation for exhumation and reinterment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. In order to handle and transport human remains the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

- Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA). The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36(5) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in the category located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority will also require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years over and above SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery but is to be relocated to one,

permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws set by the cemetery authority must be adhered to.

9. ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*A locality map is provided in **Annexure A***

During the survey no archaeological sites was found within the footprint of the proposed development area. A database search also did not yield any significant features inside the study area.

From a Heritage point of view there is no reason why the development can not commence.

General

If during construction any possible finds are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist be contacted for an assessment of the find.

10. LIST OF PREPARES

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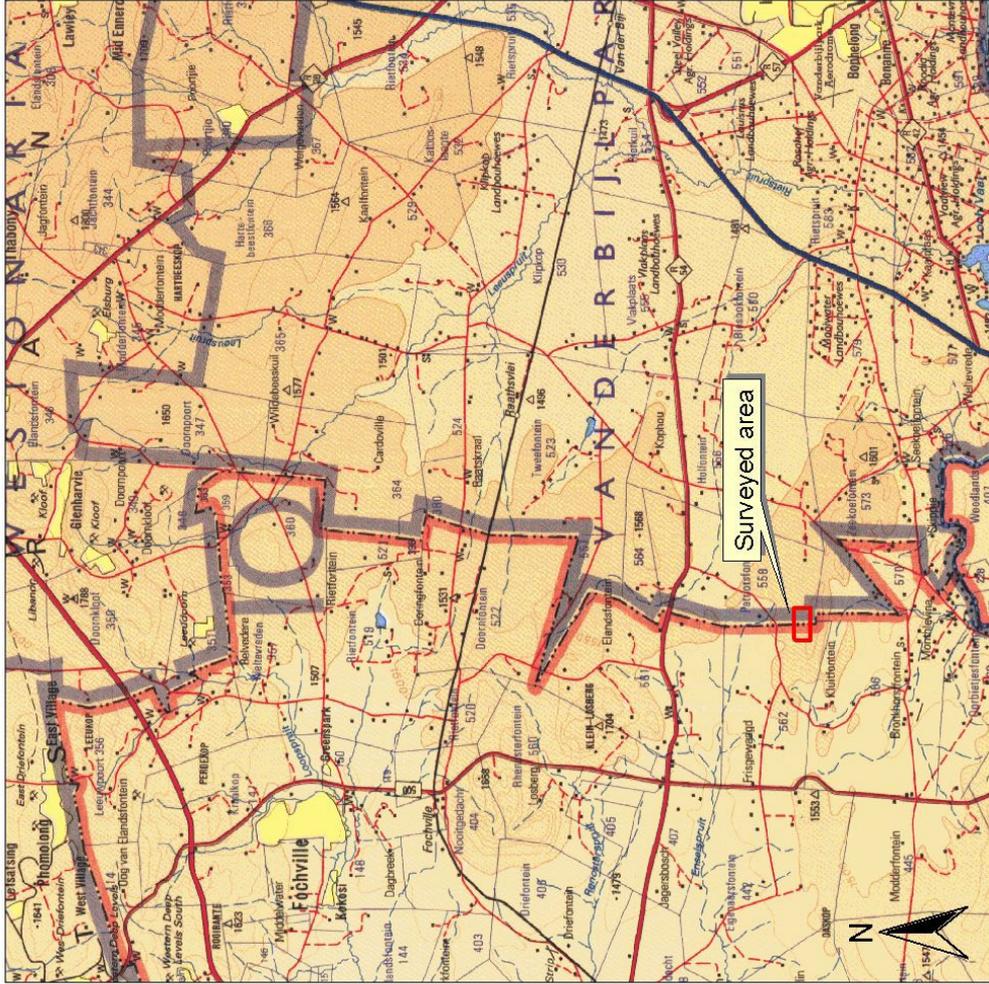
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ANNEXURE A: Locality Map

**Bronkhorstfontein Ptn 22
Locality Map**



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BRONKHORSTFONTEIN PORTION 22 - HERITAGE SCOPING REPORT

Bronkhorstfontein Ptn 22
Locality Map

