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Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation)
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CHICKEN HOUSES ON FARM BOSCHFONTEIN
1141 PORTION 41 HEIDELBERG, GAUTENG PROVINCE.

Map reference: South Africa 1:50000 2628 IR
Project location: Plot 41 on Farm Boschfontein 1141, Heidelberg
General GPS: S26° 30' 18" E28° 18' 57"

INTRODUCTION

The statement with regard to heritage resources management addresses the proposed construction of 4 Chicken Houses on farm Boschfontein 1141 Portion 41 Heidelberg, Gauteng Province.

The Project proposal constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur on the demarcated site. This would enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects, which the development could have on any heritage resources.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The author was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 *Archaeological Impact Assessment* for the proposed construction of Chicken Houses on farm Boschfontein 1141 Portion 41, Heidelberg, Gauteng Province.

The aim of the assessment was to determine the presence of heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and features, graves stipulated in the NHRA and places of religious and cultural significance; to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features. This survey forms part of the EIA-scoping process and data regarding the environmental and socio-demographic conditions and issues should be read in the main report.

Consequently, a letter containing a qualified statement of the *status quo* with regard to heritage resources, instead of a full report, is deemed sufficient.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

The terrain is currently utilised for agricultural purposes and the proposed area to be developed is already disturbed. The proposed Construction of Broiler Housing Units sites are situated on agricultural land seriously disturbed by long history of ploughing. The nature and extent of the ground surface disturbance in some sections made it unlikely for archaeological site to have survived *in situ* (see figure: 1).



Figure 1: View of the proposed site for development



Figure 2: View of the structures currently on site

METHODOLOGY

A pedestrian survey of the demarcated area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and

erosion. Special attention was given to disturbances, either natural or man-made, as well as changes in vegetation that may have resulted from previous human intervention.

DISCUSSION

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2010), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings:

Farming people did not inhabit the Greater Johannesburg region until the Late Iron Age. Then, beginning in the 15th century, BaFokeng dominated the landscape. A few other Sotho-Tswana people, most notably BaKwena, also lived in the region. Large stonewalled settlements of both BaKwena and BaFokeng characterised the troubled times of the *difaqane/mfecane* at the end of the 18th century. Mzilikazi, however, depopulated the region in 1823; and so, the land appeared empty when Voortrekkers arrived.

To understand this brief outline, it is necessary to start at the beginning of the Iron Age, 1800 years ago.

About 1800 years ago, Bantu-speaking people brought a new way of life to South Africa. For the first time, people lived in settled villages, cultivating such crops as sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, ground beans and cowpeas. These new farmers also herded cattle, sheep and goats, and so they are called agropastoralists. Because they also produced their own metal tools, archaeologists call this time the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age (AD 300-900) people chose to live in broken country that had sufficient woodland, water and soils that could be cultivated with iron hoes. The climate also had to be sufficiently warm and wet to meet the biological requirements of the domestic crops. Archaeologists trace the movements of these and other people through characteristic material-culture remains, usually ceramic style. It is possible to use ceramic style this way for two reasons. First, language is the principal vehicle for thinking about the world and transmitting those thoughts to others; and so, there is a vital relationship between language, worldview and material culture. Secondly, provided that the makers and users belong to the same material-culture group, the distribution of a ceramic style represents the distribution of a group of people who speak the same language.

MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

No management or mitigation measures are required. This letter serves to confirm that *no significant heritage resources* such as archaeological or historical material or places of social or

religious significance were found on the site of the proposed development. *From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.*

The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to Gauteng Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

REFERENCE

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Yours faithfully

Mathoho Ndivhuho Eric (BA.Hons.Archaeology. Univen) MA candidate UCT)

Archaeological and Cultural Sites

No archaeological sites or materials were identified in association with the proposed Construction of Broiler Housing Units. The proposed Broiler Housing Units will be Construction on the already disturbed areas, by agricultural fields existing linear developments such as Telkom lines and farm boundary lines. The proposed sites are situated on agricultural land seriously disturbed by long history of ploughing. The nature and extent of the ground surface disturbance in some sections made it unlikely for archaeological site to have survived *in situ*. Furthermore, although the grass height was low, the cover was dense and prevented effective ground surface inspection.

Historical and Recent sites - these sites are associated with white settlers, colonial wars, industrialization, African population settlements, contemporary ritual sites and settler farming communities are the most common and visible. The more common functions of places of cultural historical significance include:

- Domestic
- Recreation & culture
- Commerce & trade
- Agriculture & subsistence
- Social
- Health care
- Religion
- Designed landscape
- Funeral (cemeteries, graves and burial grounds)
- Civil and Structural Engineering
- Education
- Defence /Military

There is no listed monument in the area affected by the proposed project. No historical sites of significance were identified. However, it should be noted that the general area has a long history of human occupation, making the entire landscape a cultural landscape.

Burial grounds and graves

In terms of the Section 36 (3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or 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 equipment, or any equipment, which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Therefore, in addition to the formal protection of culturally significance graves, all graves which are older than 60 years and which are not already located in a cemetery (such as ancestral graves in

rural areas), are protected. Communities, which have an interest in the graves, must be consulted before any disturbance can take place. The graves of victims of conflict and those associated with the liberation struggle will have to be included, cared for, protected and memorials erected in their honor where practical. Regarding graves and burial grounds, the NHRA distinguishes between the following:

- Ancestral graves
- Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- Graves of victims of conflict
- Graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
- Historical graves and cemeteries
- Other human remains, which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No.65 of 1983).

Significance valuation Burial Ground, Historic Cemeteries and Graves

The significance of burial grounds and gravesites is closely tied to their age and historical, cultural and social context. Nonetheless, every burial should be considered as of high significance. Should any grave previously unknown be identified during construction, every effort should be made not disturb them.

DEFINITIONS

Archaeological material remains resulting from human activities, which are in a state of disuse and are in, or on, land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures.

Chance Finds archaeological artefacts, features, structures or historical cultural remains such as human burials that are found accidentally in context previously not identified during cultural heritage scoping, screening and assessment studies. Such finds are usually found during earth moving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

Cultural Heritage Resources same as Heritage Resources as defined and used in the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Refer to physical cultural properties such as archaeological and palaeontological sites; historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and material remains; cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or *graves* and their associated materials; geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge.

Cultural Significance the complexities of what makes a place, materials or intangible resources of value to society or part of, customarily assessed in terms of aesthetic, historical, scientific/research and social values.

Excavation principal method of extracting data in archaeology, involving systematic recovery of archaeological remains and their context by removing soil and any other material covering them.

Grave a place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as being situated in a cemetery.

Historic material remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artefacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

In Situ material, material culture and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

Material culture buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

Site a distinct spatial cluster of artefacts, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

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Project:

The proposed Construction of Broiler Housing Units in Heidelberg

