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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE GRACEVIEW  
INDUSTRIAL PARK, CAUTENG**

A Phase I report prepared for Seaton Thompson and Associates  
P.O. Box 936, IRENE, 0062

Professor T.N. Huffman

SA HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY  
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Archaeological Resources Management  
School of Geography, Archaeology & Environmental Management  
University of the Witwatersrand  
Johannesburg

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE GRACEVIEW INDUSTRIAL PARK, GAUTENG

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*There are no sites of archaeological significance, and therefore mitigation is not required.*

### INTRODUCTION

Dr R. Graca, trading as Blue Rose Developments, intends to establish an Industrial Park on portions of the Farm Waterval 150 IR south of Johannesburg (Fig. 1). The environmental coordinators for the project, Seaton Thompson and Associates, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM), to examine the area for sites of archaeological and historical interest. It was ARM's task to assess the significance of any sites in terms of Sections 35 and 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

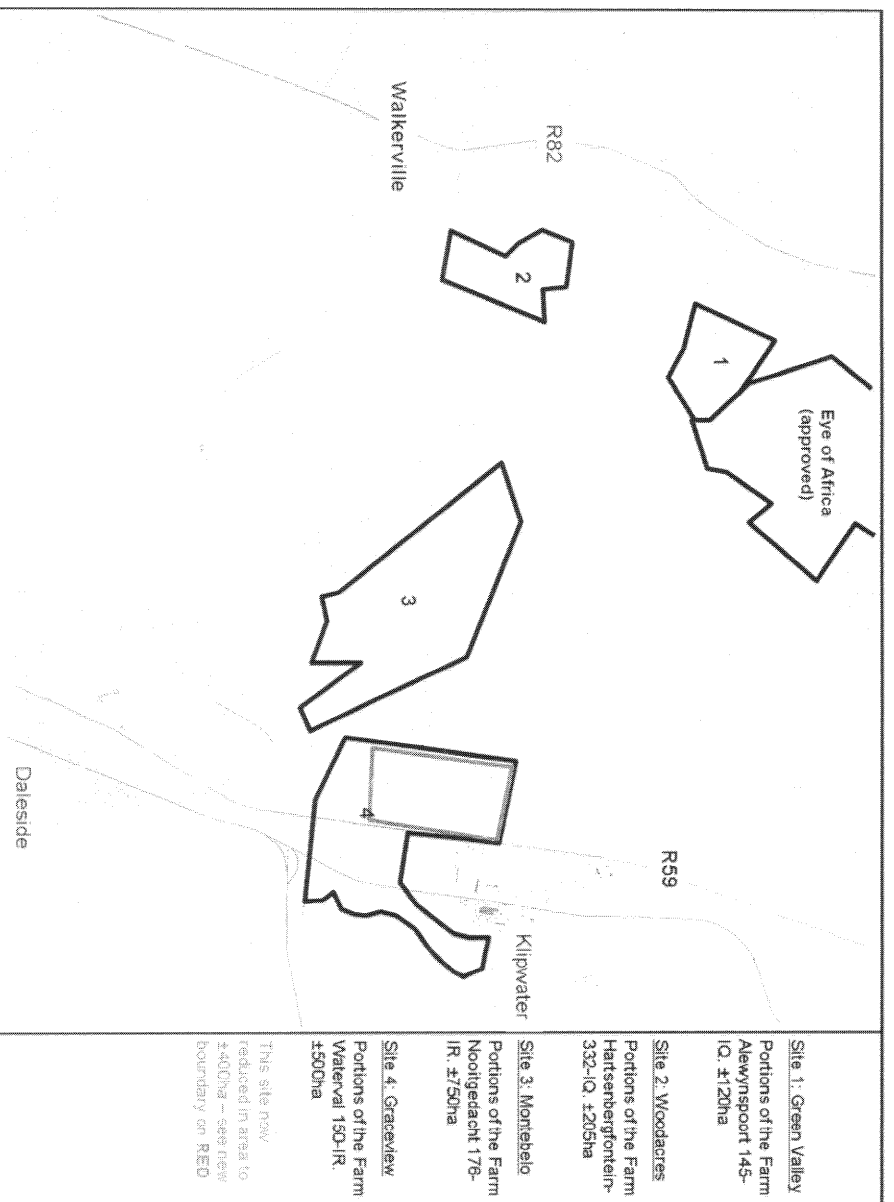


Fig. 1. Location of project area number 4.

## BACKGROUND

There has been little previous archaeological investigation near the project area. In the larger district, Stone Age and Historic sites are on record in the Archaeological Survey files at the University of the Witwatersrand. For the Stone Age, some Earlier Stone Age (about 1 million to 400 000 years ago) artefacts, such as handaxes, cleavers and other bifaces, occur in river gravels of the Vaal system, while Middle Stone Age (400 000 to 40 000 years ago) sites with points and blades are more common. Later Stone Age (40 000 to 1000 years ago) sites cluster in areas, such as the Magaliesberg, that have rock shelters. A British blockhouse still stands just to the south of the project area.

## METHOD

Two ARM staff visited the project area on 18 February 2007. The team traversed the ground on foot. Sites were recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument calibrated to WGS 84, and then transferred to the 1 : 50 000 map sheet 2628AC Alberton.

Site significance is based on five main criteria: (1) primary versus secondary context; (2) amount of deposit; (3) number and variety of features; (4) uniqueness; and (5), potential to answer present research questions. Sites with no significance do not require mitigation, low to medium sites may require limited mitigation, high significance requires extensive mitigation, while outstanding sites should not be disturbed at all. Recognizable graves have high social value regardless of their archaeological significance.

## RESULTS

Cultivated grass covered most of the ground, and visibility was poor. Nevertheless, we are satisfied with the results (Fig. 2).

As part of agricultural activities, farmers have cleared surface stone from the fields and placed them in piles. Two piles (**Site 1** : 26 25 27.8S 28 04 31E & **Site 2**: 26 26 S 28 03E) contained a few Earlier Stone Age artefacts. The field itself lies on the ancient floodplain of the Kliprivier, and these artefacts were probably not *in situ* even before they were removed. Consequently, they have *no significance*.

In contrast, a few Middle Stone Age artefacts lay around the edge of a small drainage in an unploughed zone (**Site 3**: 26 26 03.4S 28 04 24.9). Quartzite flakes were scattered among

outcrops of laterite and conglomerates. These few artefacts were probably discarded in the general area, but they are probably not in their original position. Consequently they have *low significance*.

A few MSA artefacts also lay around an outcrop of dolomite (**Site 4: 26 26 21.5S 28 04 06.4**) next to another drainage. Because they now lay on the surface, natural forces have probably shifted them from their original position of discard. They have *low significance*.

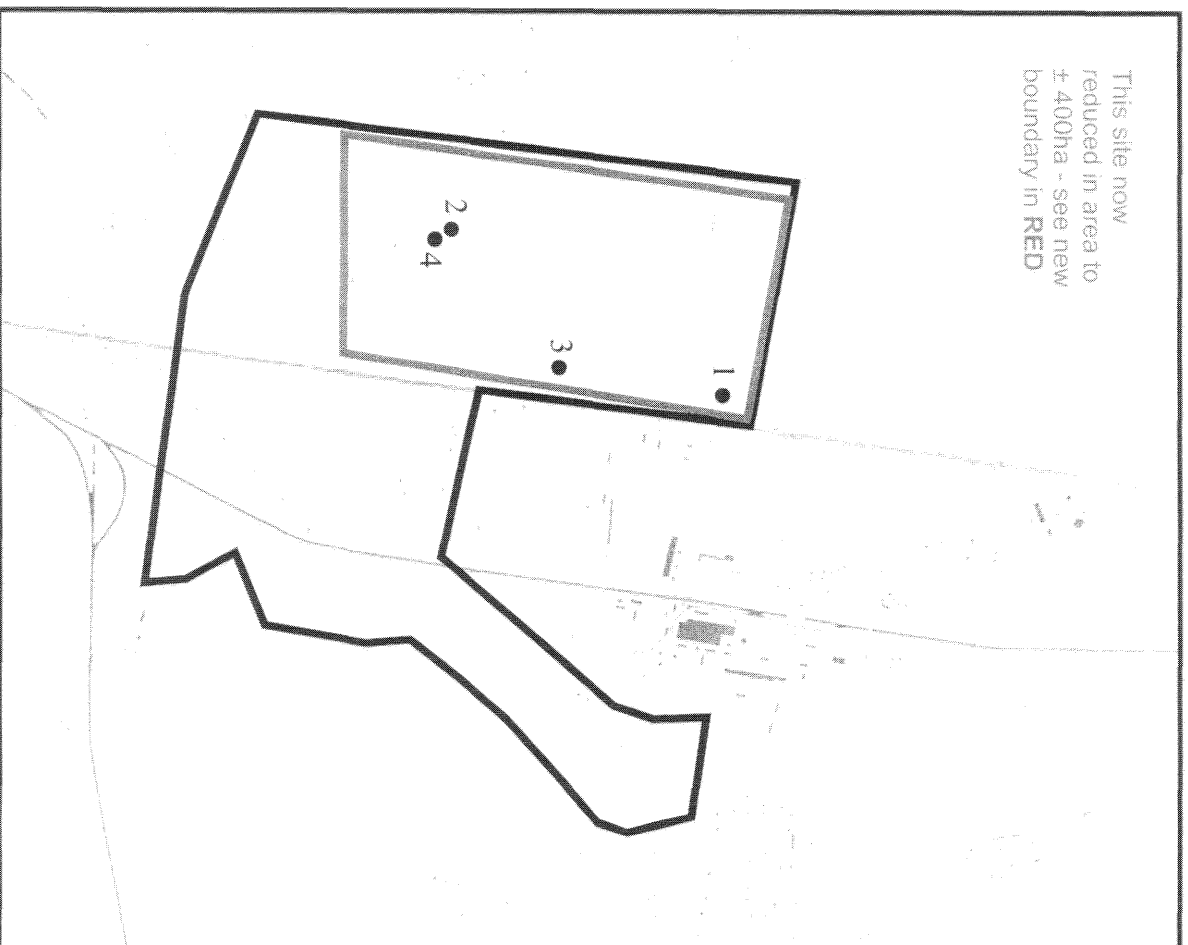


Fig. 2. Location of Sites inside the project area.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The sites have no research value beyond their present recording because they are not in primary context, and artefact numbers are too low. Further investigation is therefore not required. Blue Rose Development must remember, however, that if *in situ* deposits are uncovered in the course of development, the South African heritage Resource Agency must be notified so that the material can be examined.

With this proviso, there are no archaeological reasons why the development should not proceed.