

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF HARTBEEESTPORT D, BRITS**

**A Phase-I report prepared for Environmental Design Partnership**

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## Introduction

Mr. K Madden, proprietor, intends to develop a portion of Hartebeestpoort D 412JQ for ecotourism. He contracted Environmental Design Partnership (EDP) to help develop the plans and to conduct a limited Environmental Impact Assessment. EDP in turn commissioned Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) to examine the property for sites of historical and archaeological interest.

## Methods

One ARM staff visited the farm on 5 March 1999 in the company of Mr. Madden. They examined the southeast corner of the farm, the north ploughed field, the main lodge and conference centre on the northeast hill, the base of the northeast hill, an open area called the "valley of desolation," and the bushcamp area at the base of the kopje at the northwest boundary. Sites were located on the 1:1000 Site Plan provided by EDP and then transferred to the 1:50 000 2527DA Wolhuterskop (Figure 1).

## Results

Site 1 (25.30.28S 27.40.09E)

Middle Stone Age (c. 200,000 to 30,000 years ago) material lay scattered on a gentle slope in an old ploughed field. The material included several irregular cores, a discoidal core and a parallel flake. Most of these artefacts were made from quartzite river cobbles. The number of cores suggest that manufacturing took place here. Although these artefacts lay scattered



Figure 1. Location of sites on 2527DA Wolhuterskop.

over a large area, the low flat rock outcrop may have been a focal point.

#### Site 2 (25.30.10S 27.39.10E)

Some Late Iron Age pottery was found next to the old watercourse and in an exposed area ('the valley of desolation') about 100 metres away. The decoration is typical of the Olifontspoort facies of Moloko and the pottery therefore dates to the 16th century. A few stone concentrations may have been the foundations of grainbins. If this was their function, then the open area was a residential site.

#### Site 3 Complex (25.30.08S 27.38.40E)

Several stone-walled units are located in the far northwestern corner of the farm near the proposed bushcamp. At least 6 were noted but more could exist. Units A and B lay around the base of a rock outcrop northeast of the boundary kopje, while Unit E stands on the kopje itself and the remainder around the base. Without mapping these units it is not possible to describe their precise spatial organization. They appear to include outer walls, outer small-stock enclosures, and inner cattle kraals. Presumably, these units were all contemporaneous, and the unit on the hill was occupied by the headman. Whatever, the case, they all date to the difagane-about AD 1750 to 1820.

### **Recommendations**

Sites 1 and 2 are not in the proposed development areas, and there are no archaeological sites a the main lodge and conference centre.

Only part of the Site 3 complex could be endangered by the bushcamp. Development will take place near Unit D, but the walling can be avoided. In any case Unit D is not unique nor sufficiently important on other grounds to warrant full protection. If the walling will be destroyed, the whole unit should be mapped before development begins.