



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
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**A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE  
PROPOSED NEW HOMES HAVEN EXTENSION 1 TOWNSHIP  
ON PORTION 10 OF THE FARM ROODEKRANS 183 IQ  
MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
GAUTENG**

For:

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**REPORT: AE 918**

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**Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the survey of study areas, the nature of archaeological and historical sites are as such that it always is possible that hidden or subterranean sites could be overlooked during the study. Archaetnos and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result thereof.**

## SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was contracted by PLAN2SURVEY AFRICA, on behalf of JHB Plant, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment Study for a proposed new residential development (Homes Haven Extension 1) on part of Portion 10 of the farm Roodekrans 183 IQ near Krugesrdorp (Mogale City Local Municipality), Gauteng.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed some features and objects of low (archaeological or historical) heritage significance in the area of proposed development. **The proposed development can however continue, as there will be no impact on any significant heritage resources, taking cognizance of some assumptions and recommendations put forward in the conclusions.**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Archaetnos cc was contracted by PLAN2SURVEY AFRICA, on behalf of JHB Plant, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment Study for a proposed new residential development (Homes Haven Extension 1) on part of Portion 10 of the farm Roodekrans 183 IQ near Krugesrdorp (Mogale City Local Municipality), Gauteng.

The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

## **3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS**

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, due to factors such as vegetation and the subterranean presence of objects, features and sites. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.

#### **4. 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).

##### **4.1 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 or 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.

## **4.2 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.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Survey of literature

A desktop study, to place any cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites, features or objects that might be identified during the survey in a local and general context, was undertaken. A basic description of the various periods in the archaeology of southern Africa is also given.

### 5.2 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, while the area's parameters were determined by vehicle.

### 5.3 Documentation

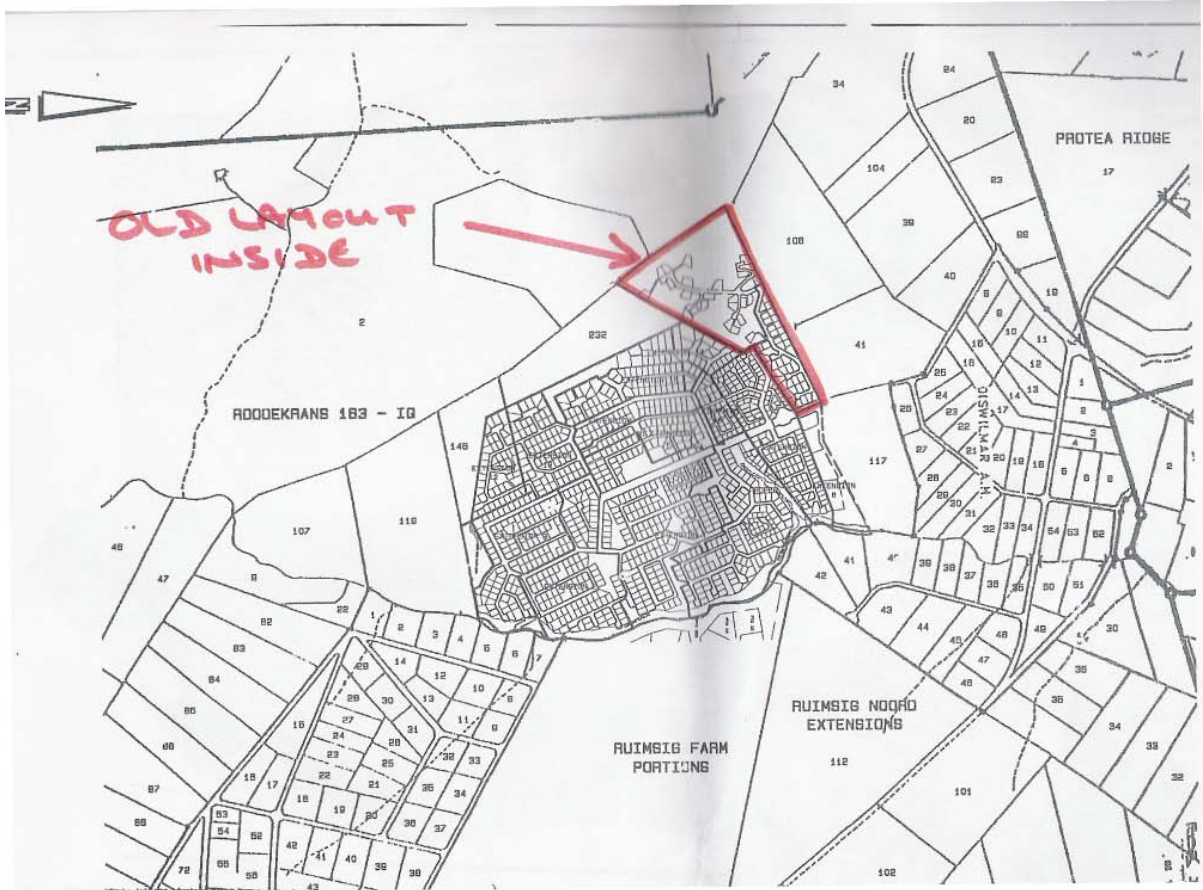
All sites, objects features and structures identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description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

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The development area is located on a part of portion 10 of the farm Roodekrans 183 IQ in the Mogale City Local Municipality area, near Krugersdorp, Gauteng (**Figure 1**). The land is 25,6900ha in extent, but a large percentage of the land is lost to protection of environmental aspects and potential usage of areas in favour of the Witwatersrand Botanical Gardens.

Actual township area is only 11,7068ha, with approximately 3,5542ha to be used for open space. The largest percentage of the area has not been disturbed through agricultural activities in the recent past (ploughing and crop growing), and most of the original vegetation (trees, shrubs and grass cover) still exists. The development site is situated on the slopes of a rocky ridge at the foot of the mountain. Very dense grass and shrub cover made archaeological visibility difficult (**Figure 2**).





**Figure 1: Location of the area**



**Figure 2: General view of the survey area**

## 7. DISCUSSION

In order to introduce the reader to the archaeology of the South Africa, a short background to the various time periods relevant to southern African archaeology is given.

### 7.1 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.

One stone tool was identified on the property, and although very worn might date to the Early/Middle Stone Age (**Figure 3**). Although no other stone tools or sites were identified in the immediate vicinity of the site, it is possible that more Stone Age occurrences might exist in the larger geographical area. A possible area where rock shelters could be found is visible higher up on the hills west of the development (**Figure 4**). Stone Age hunter-gatherers could have sheltered here, moving through the area to hunt.

A number of Early and Middle Stone Age sites have been recorded in the larger area, while the well known Early Hominid sites of Swartkrans and Sterkfontein (Cradle of Humankind) is situated less than 20km north of here (Bergh 1999:4). Sites with rock art (engravings) have also been found in the Krugersdorp area (Bergh 1999:5).



**Figure 3: Early/Middle Stone Age stone tool found in the area**



**Figure 4: Area with possible shelters near the development**

## 7.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce tools and weapons (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.

Very few Iron Age sites have been identified in the area. The closest stone-walled, Late Iron Age sites are those at Melville Koppies and Bruma (Bergh 1999:7).

No Iron Age sites, features or objects were identified in the development area.

## 7.3 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 first farms in the vicinity of Roodepoort/Krugersdorp were already measured out in 1839/40 (Bergh 1999: 15). This means that it is one of the first areas where white farmers settled. In 1857 the area formed part of the district of Pretoria as few other towns were established (Bergh 1999: 17). However, the town and district of Krugersdorp were established in 1894 (Bergh 1999: 21, 147).

One site, the remains of a brick and cement/mortar building with steel door frames, were identified during the survey (**Figure 5**). The building is probably less than 60 years of age, and not highly significant. Although the development will impact on it, it can be destructed without any further investigation being necessary.



**Figure 5: Remains of old building on the property**

## **8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion it is possible to say that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. Some features or sites of cultural (archaeological or historical) origin were located during the survey. None of these are very significant. It must be added that visibility was made difficult by dense grass and vegetation cover and locating and identifying cultural (archaeological & historical) heritage sites were severely hampered.

The proposed development will therefore not impact on any known significant heritage resources and therefore no mitigation measures will have to be implemented to minimize any potential impacts. **It is therefore recommended that the proposed development can continue. However, the subterranean presence of archaeological or historical objects, features or sites should also always be considered. If any of these are uncovered during any construction work or other development activities a professional archaeologist should be called in to investigate. Because of the relative proximity of the Early Hominid sites of Swartkrans and Sterkfontein (Cradle of Humankind) to the development area, it might also be necessary, if deep trenching is going to be undertaken (bedrock disturbed) during construction work, to undertake a Palaeontological study of the area.**

## **REFERENCES**

Location of development: Map provided by client (Plan2Survey Africa)

**Aerial view of location of development area (Appendix C): produced on Google Earth**

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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.

Appendix C – Aerial view of the location of the survey area

