

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE MOUND ON
HONEYDEW MANOR EXTSION 5**

An archaeological study prepared for Eagle Canyon Golf Estate (Pty) Ltd

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INTRODUCTION

Eagle Canyon Golf Estate (Pty) Ltd has obtained approval from the relevant authorities to establish a township on a site that is known locally as the Honeydew Quarry. The development is primarily for residential purposes and has an associated golf course. The site has been extensively mined over the years, and the golf course will be part of the major rehabilitation initiative for the mined areas.

A mound was found on the site at 26 05 50.8S 27 55 03.7E. The mound was thought to be a grave, as it was known that there were at least two graves on the property. Subsequently the two grave sites were found elsewhere. Consequently the likelihood of the mound (called a “midden” in SAHRA correspondence) being a grave was reduced considerably, but it nevertheless had to be investigated. Archaeological Resources Management was contracted to investigate the mound.

METHOD

Ms Schoeman accompanied Mr Taylor to the mound on Friday 13 February 2004. Three parallel trenches had been dug across the mound with a back-actor before Ms Schoeman visited the site (Figure 1). The trenches were approximately thirty to fifty centimeters deep, seventy centimeters wide and three meters long. They were approximately one to one and a half meters apart. This exposed the stratigraphy of the mound.

RESULTS

The first (Figure 2) and third trenches (Figure 3) revealed no disturbance through the red soil layer, which lies below the gray-brown surface soil. Neither layer contained artifacts.



Figure 1. Mound on Honeydew Manor Extension 5 development with three trenches dug through it.



Figure 2. Trench 1 through the mound, revealing undisturbed red soil below the gray-brown surface layer.



Figure 3. Trench 3 through the mound showing undisturbed gray-brown surface soil on top of red layer.

The second trench (Figure 4) through the center of the mound contained a stone feature with flat sheet metal on top as well as a ceramic pipe, which lead to it (Figures 5 and 6). Surface soil had accumulated on top of this feature. The red layer below it seems undisturbed. The deposit contained no artifacts.

The undisturbed red layer below the surface gray-brown soil suggests that the area has not been disturbed by earlier excavation (as graves would have), and the absence of artifacts indicates that it wasn't a midden. Other features near the mound provided a possible explanation for the stone and metal feature. There is a rectangular concrete, gravel and brick foundation about ten meters to the east, as well as an open pit, which was part of a pit-latrine. The proximity of these two features to the mound suggests that its origin is recent historical and that it was associated with a domestic structure such as part of a septic tank structure, or drainage system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no archaeological reason why development should not proceed. It is not a midden and is unlikely to contain graves.



Figure 4. Trench 2 through the centre of the mound, exposing rock and flat metal feature.



Figure 5. Rock, metal and pipe feature in Trench 2.



Figure 6. Close-up photograph of the feature in Trench 2, showing the layer of metal on the rocks.