

KAMEELDOORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ZEERUST

A Phase 1 report prepared for Seaton Thompson Associates

Professor TN Huffman

Archaeological Resources Management
School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies
University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg

April 2008

KAMEELDOORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ZEERUST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Century Properties intends to develop a Part of the Remainder of the Farm Kameeldoorn 271 JR, next to the N4 turn onto the Lobatse Road, outside Zeerust (Fig. 1). The project area covers some 10 hectares and will include a shopping complex with a large entrance roadway known as Century Close.

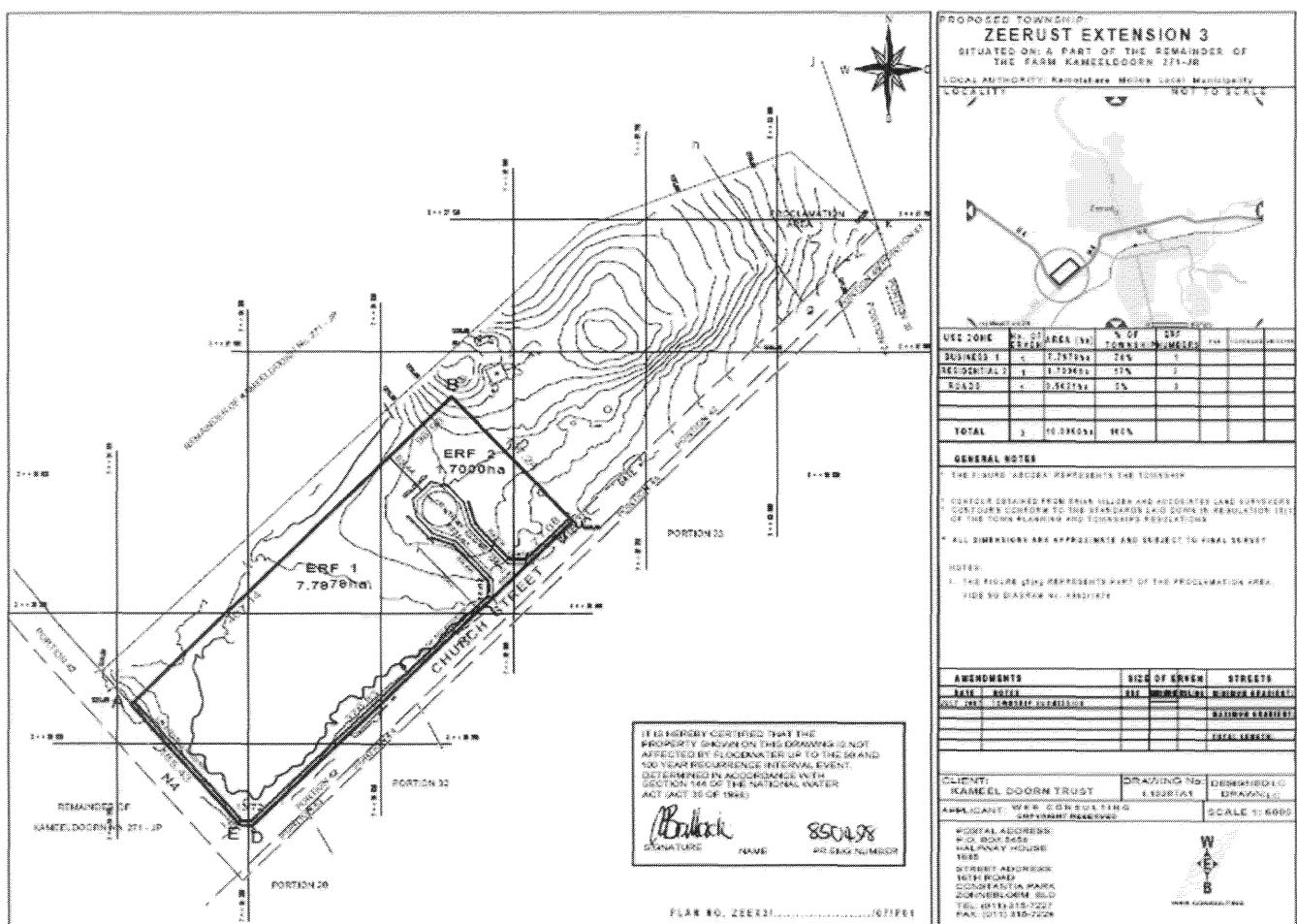


Figure 1. Project area.

The environmental coordinators for the project, Seaton Thompson & Associates, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the area for sites of archaeological and historical value in terms of Sections 35 and 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

METHOD

One ARM staff visited the project area on 1 March 2008. The owner, Mr W Erasmus, outlined the project and the physical boundaries. The area was then traversed on foot, concentrating on likely areas such as rocky outcrops. Sites were recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument calibrated to WGS 84, and then transferred to the 1: 50 000 map sheet 2526CA Zeerust (Fig. 2).

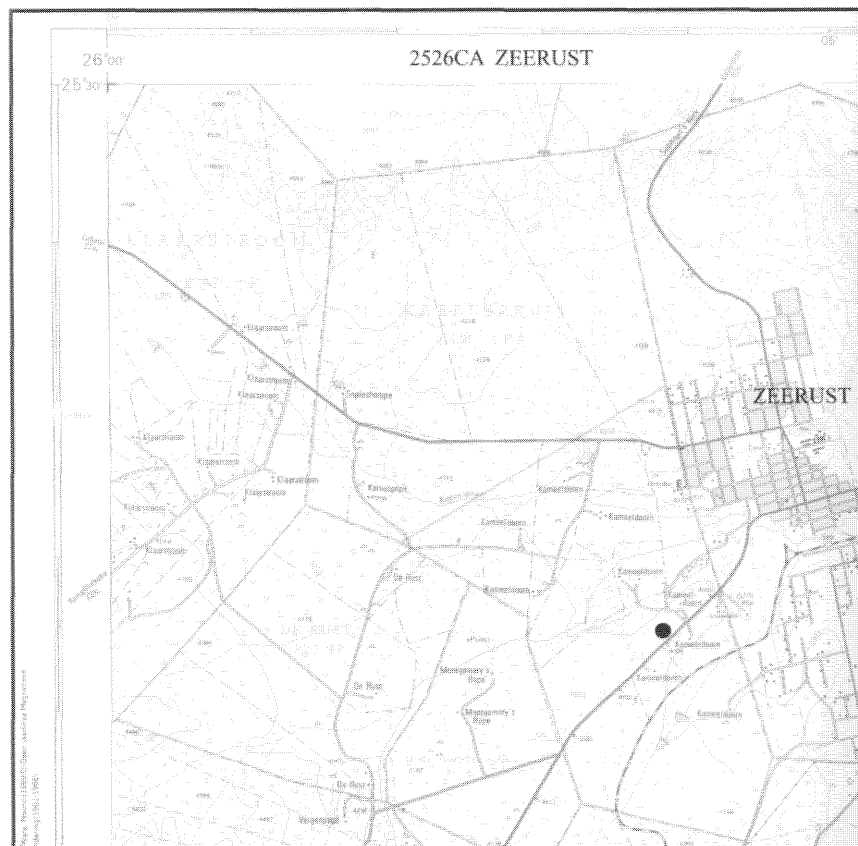


Figure 2. Location of Late Iron Age Tswana settlement.

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

A small hill at the northeast corner of the project area includes outcrops of quartzite suitable for making stone tools. The quartzite extends west towards the Lobatse Road, and a few Earlier Stone Age tools lay scattered across the northern boundary (Fig. 3). This thin scatter has *no significance*.

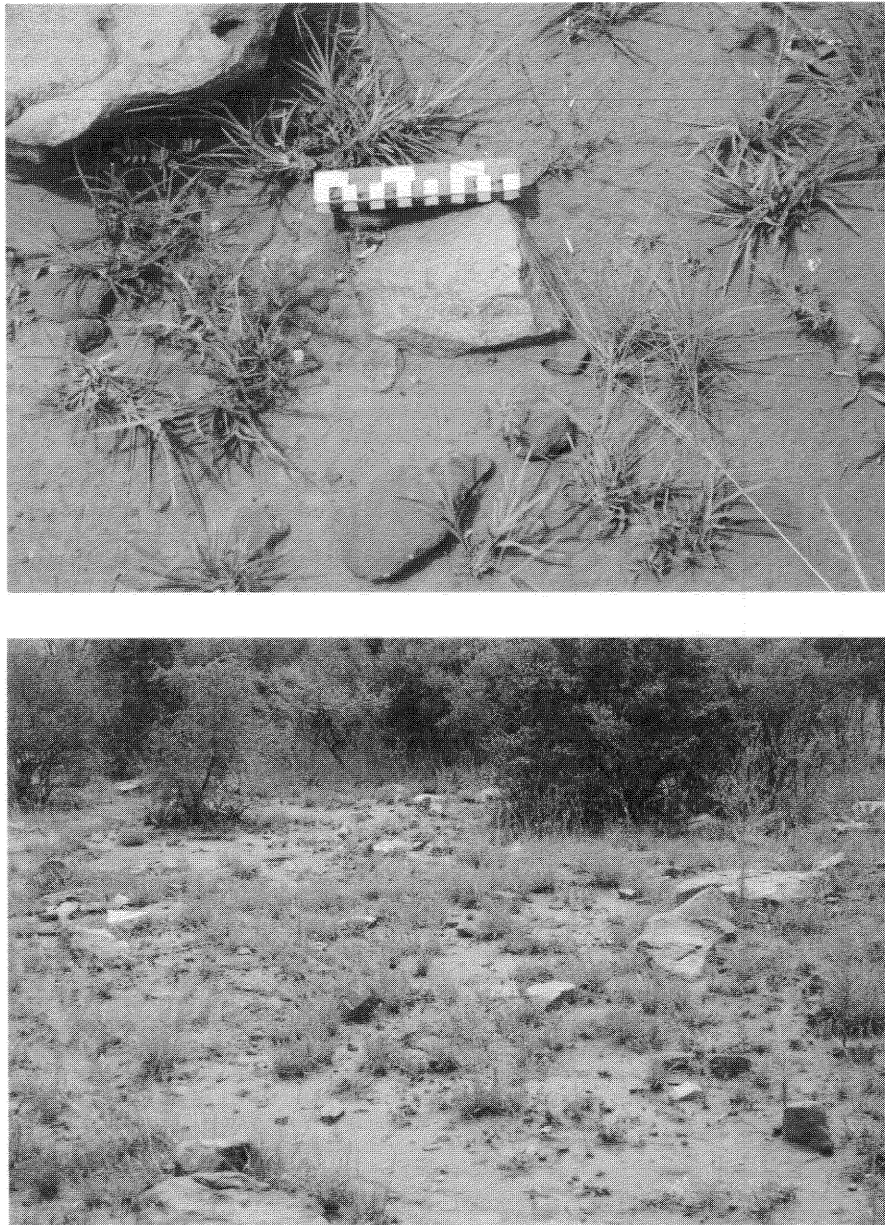


Figure 3. Early Stone Age flaking in northern portion of project area.

Of greater interest is a stonewalled complex in the southwest corner. A long outer wall (25 33 26.9S 26 03 48.5 E) appears to form a circle some 100m in diameter (Fig. 4). This was a

residential unit for a Late Iron Age Tswana settlement, probably dating to the 19th century. This settlement has *medium significance*.



Figure 4. Late Stone Age stonewalled site. Stick in background is 1 metre high.

The households of African labourers lay close to the older Tswana settlement. One household (25 33 28.4S 26 03 44.8E) includes rectangular courtyards and stone lines in association with metal, glass, porcelain and plastic. The second (25 33 25.6 26 03 52.3E) includes a standing building and large ash midden (Fig. 5). These households have *low significance*.

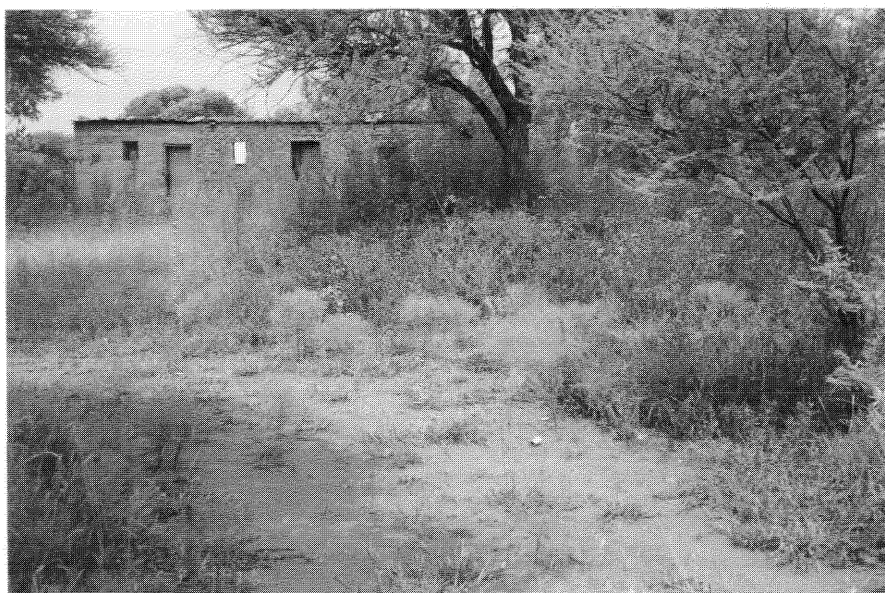


Figure 5. African housing. Midden on right.

Two historic features outside the project area are worthy of note. A house and outbuildings next to the small hill were built more than 100 years ago, while the original Erasmus/Wiesland family cemetery stands to the north (Fig. 6).



Figure 6. Erasmus/Wilsenach family cemetery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Earlier Stone Age material and recent labourer households do not require further consideration. The photography and locations are sufficient.

The stonewalled Tswana settlement, on the other hand, requires mitigation. In the first place the walls need to be mapped to determine settlement organisation and size. Secondly, well-preserved features such as house remains and middens, if they exist, should be excavated. Thirdly, the nearby BaHurustwe community should be approached for traditions about the area.

This mitigation should be completed before development begins. With this proviso, there is no archaeological reason why the development should not proceed.