



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
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**A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
ON PORTION 30 OF THE FARM KAMEELFONTEIN 297 JR,
ROODEPLAATDAM AREA, GAUTENG**

For:

TRIVIRON EAP (PTY) LTD

REPORT: AE851

by:

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by Triviron EAP (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed residential development on Portion 30 of the farm Kameelfontein 297 JR.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed a number of objects, features and sites of archaeological heritage significance on the property. **The proposed development can continue once the mitigatory measures to minimize the impact on these resources, put forward in the conclusions and recommendations, have been implemented.**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by Triviron EAP (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of their client Me. T. Rothmann, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed residential development on Portion 30 of the farm Kameelfontein 297 JR.

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, as it will be very time consuming. 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 of 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 survey of literature, to place the archaeological sites identified during the survey in context, was undertaken in this case.

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.

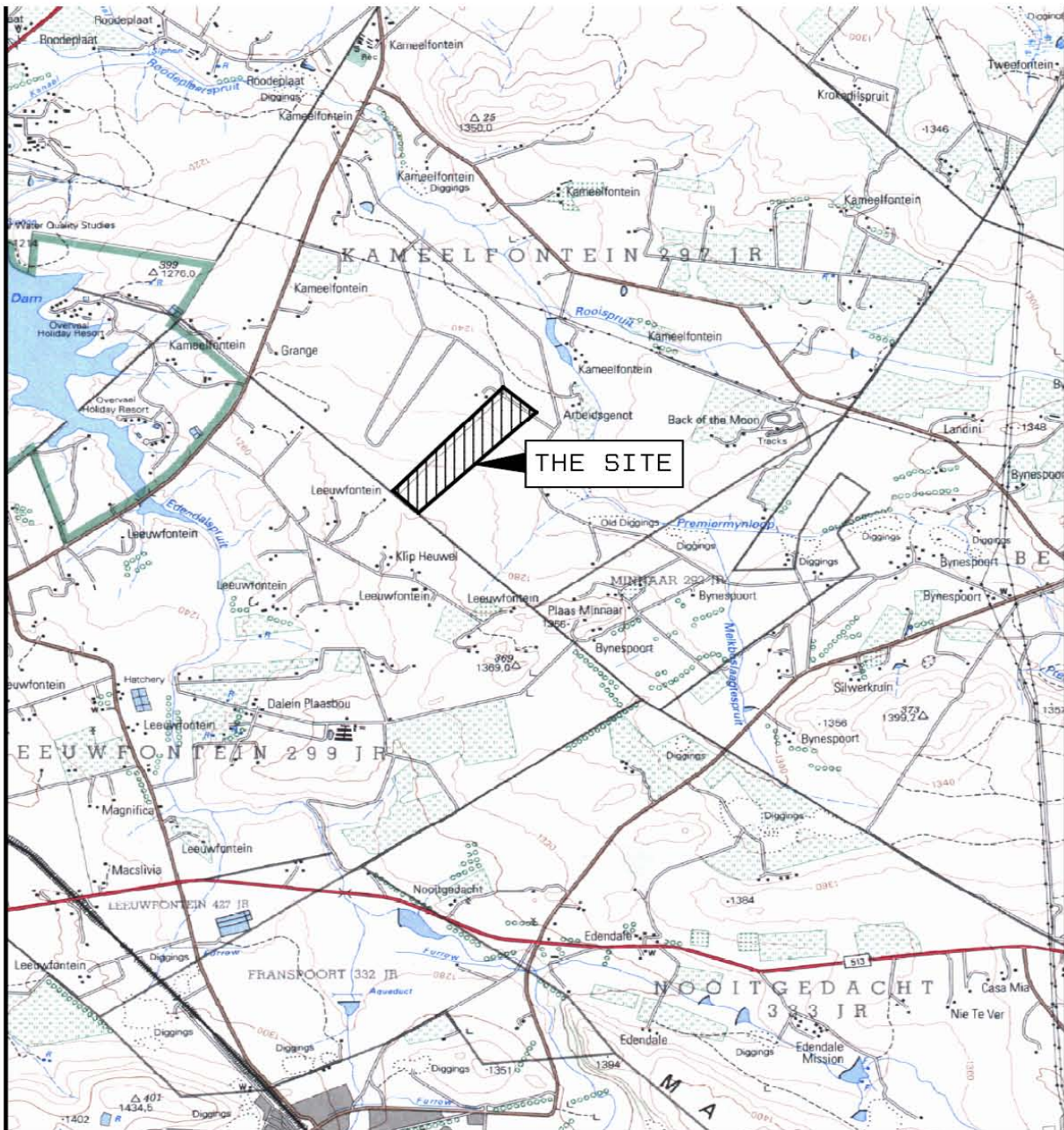
5.3 Documentation

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

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed development area is located on the farm Kameelfontein 297 JR, in the Roodeplaat Dam area of Gauteng (**Figure 1**).

A small portion of the area have been disturbed through agricultural activities in the recent past (cattle grazing), although the largest portion of the area is still made up of its natural vegetation (Mixed Bushveld?)[**Figure 2**].



Adapted from the topographical map 2528 CB SILVERTON.
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LOCALITY PLAN

PORTION 30 OF THE

FARM KAMEELFONTEIN

No 297-JR



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Figure 1: Location of development area



Figure 2: General view of the survey area

7. DISCUSSION

During the survey some objects, features and sites of archaeological (cultural heritage) significance were identified on the property. The new development will impact to some degree on these heritage resources.

The resources recorded include some Late Iron Age stone walled sites, as well as scattered Stone Age stone tools. To put these into context we include a short discussion on the different periods mentioned.

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

7.2 Iron Age

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

Middle Stone Age (MSA) stone tools, including some cores and more formal tools (**Figure 3**), were found scattered over the area, an indication of the presence of hunter-gatherers in the area between 150 000 and 30 000 years ago.



Figure 3: MSA stone tools found in the area

Site 1 – Late Iron Age stone walled site (LIA)

This stone walled site is located between **25.64362° S 28.40962° E & 25.64440° S 28.40898° E**. It consist a surrounding enclosure wall and a number of secondary enclosures (huts), livestock enclosures (kraals), while other features include granary stands and ash middens (see **Figures 4 – 5**). Some undecorated pottery were also identified (**Figure 6**).



Figure 4: Stone walling at Site 1



Figure 5: Possible granary stand



Figure 6: Undecorated pottery from Site 1

Site 2 – LIA Stone walled site

This site is similar to Site 1, although it might be a bit more extensive. It contains the same features and is located between **25.63986° S 28.41212° E & 25.63912° S 28.41238° E**. This site, together with Site 1, is probably part of the same Settlement Complex.

The LIA stone walled sites on Portion 30 of Kameelfontein 297 JR is fairly well preserved, and although not unique, is of some archaeological significance. They are probably related to the Southern Ndebele (more specifically the Manala). Not many of these sites have been archaeologically investigated, except for a settlement on the farm Hatherley 331 JR near Mamelodi (Van Schalkwyk et al. 1996).

The Southern Ndebele group was most probably among the earliest Nguni-speaking people in the immediate area north of the Magaliesberg range north of Pretoria. Through oral history a settlement near the present Bon Accord Dam, under a founding ruler (chief) called Musi was identified. During his reign the tribe allegedly split into four or five separate migrating groups, including the Manala (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996: 47-48). The Manala settled over a wide area towards the east of Pretoria, roughly north and north east of the Bronberge range, south of the Magaliesberg and Pienaarspoort and from Mamelodi in the west towards the Cullinan intersection on the N4 in the east (p.48). The Manala chiefdom was destroyed almost completely by Mzilikazi in around 1825. Remnants of the tribe regrouped in scattered settlements or clusters up to recent times, with many Manala becoming labour tenants on European farms.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. Two archaeological sites of medium significance were identified. Both date to the Late Iron Age/early Colonial period. Some scattered Middle Stone Age stone tools were also identified.

The development will impact on the stone walled sites, and because of their significance some mitigation measures will have to be implemented to minimize these impacts. These are the following:

- (a) if the areas where the stone walled sites are located can not be avoided by the development we recommend that the sites be mapped and drawn in detail to determine their layouts. Minimal archaeological excavations will also have to be conducted
- (b) if the sites can be avoided it is proposed that they be fenced in and that a Management Plan for the sites be drafted to preserve them

It is therefore recommended that the proposed development on portion 30 of Kameelfontein 297 JR can continue once the recommended mitigation measures have been conducted. 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.

REFERENCES

1:50 000 Topographical Map location of development: Map provided by client (Triviron) and produced by Plan2Survey Africa Town and Regional Planners – 2528CB Silverton

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

Knudson, S.J. 1978. **Culture in retrospect**. Chicago: Rand McNally College Publishing Company.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A., A.Pelser & C.J. van Vuuren. 1996. **Investigation of Late Iron Age sites on the farm Hatherley 331 JR, Pretoria district**. Research by the National Cultural History Museum Vol.5.

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

