

A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES ON THE  
FARM KROONDAL 304 JQ,  
EAST OF RUSTENBURG

For:

KROONDAL PLATINUM MINES  
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<b>SUMMARY</b>
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**A survey of cultural resources on the Farm Kroondal 304 JQ, east of Rustenburg**

A survey to establish the nature, extent and significance of cultural resources was made on a section of the Farm Kroondal 304 JQ, east of Rustenburg. A tailings dam for Kroondal Platinum Mine are being developed in this area.

No sites of cultural significance were identified during the survey, and it is recommended that the development can continue.

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### 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **DRA** to conduct a survey on a section of the Farm Kroondal 304 JQ east of Rustenburg. A tailings dam are being developed for the existing Kroondal Platinum Mine on this section of the original farm. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document the sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the proposed development.

### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

- 2.1 Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural resources) located in the area of the proposed development.
- 2.2 Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.
- 2.3 Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
- 2.4 Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.

We were informed by the client about the extent of the area that will be affected by the proposed development. The survey was to be confined to this area.

### 3. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following aspects have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- **Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- The **significance** of the sites 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. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation

of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

- Significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium to high significance require further mitigation.
- The latitude and longitude of an archaeological site is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer, and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
- All recommendations are made with full cognisance of the relevant legislation, in this case the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

#### 4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts. These are the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989).

##### 4.1 South African Heritage Resources Act

###### **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 which assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

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 is 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 (ie 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)**.

#### **4.2 Environmental Conservation Act**

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made. The impact of the development on the cultural resources should also be determined and proposals to mitigate this impact is to be formulated.

### **5. METHODOLOGY**

#### **Field survey**

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. The survey was done on foot and areas with potential for human use were investigated. Special attention was given to outcrops, hills and unploughed natural areas, while stream beds and unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes and clusters of exotic and indigenous trees were investigated.

#### **Documentation**

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

#### **Presentation of the information**

In discussing the results of the survey, a chronological rather than a geographical approach is followed in the presentation of an overview of human occupation and land use in certain areas. This helps the reader to better understand and facilitate the potential impact of development.

### **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA SURVEYED**

The topography of the area is basically flat open veld with stretches of more dense bush and thorn trees. Large sections of the area has been and are being used for agricultural purposes (sunflower fields).

The geology of the survey area is characterised by quartzite, shale, sandstone, norite, gabbro and of course chromite. Quartzite is very suitable for the manufacturing of stone tools. Stone Age inhabitants of the area would therefore have had ample raw material available for making their tools.

The vegetation consists of a combination of Springbok Flats Thornveld and Sourish Mixed Bushveld and Sour Bushveld. The thornveld is generally open, but tends to thicken up when the grass cover is reduced by grazing mismanagement. The bushveld is largely open savanna with 'Acacia caffra' the dominant tree in a fairly tall and dense grassveld (Acocks, 1975:35 & 54-56). Although most of the survey area has been agriculturally disturbed (ploughed, etc.), patches of original thornveld and bushveld still prevail. The Iron Age inhabitants of the area would have favoured this vegetation because it would have provided them with excellent grazing for their cattle, as well as with rich soil for their lands.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Though a fair amount of archaeological research has been done in the Rustenburg District (see list of references below), little has been done in the area of this particular survey. We know from anthropological sources (Breutz, 1953) that the Hermannsburg Mission founded a Mission Station at Kroondal in 1885. We also know that the baPhalane tribe, a section of the bigger Sotho-Tswana, originally lived in the Kroondal area.

### 6.1 Stone Age

A limited number of Middle Stone Age tools were identified throughout the area that was surveyed. These consists of a few very weathered flakes.

### 6.2 Iron Age

A few small potsherds, without decoration, were found scattered on the surface of the area. No stone walling associated with Late Iron Age occupation was found. That people were living in the area during this period is however known, as evidenced by previous surveys done here (1997 and 2000).

### 6.3 Historic

Apart from the historic town of Kroondal, which falls outside the study area, no sites or objects of historical context was found.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made:

- 7.1 We recommend that the development can continue. It is, however, suggested that the developers be notified that archaeological sites or objects could be exposed

during the construction activities. If anything is noticed, it should be reported immediately to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of that find can be made.

7.2 It is also recommended that when the next phase of the tailings dam is developed, the archaeological sites identified there during 2000 be investigated as planned.

## 8. REFERENCES

### 8.1 Unpublished sources

8.1.1 Data base

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

8.1.2 Interviews

None.

### 8.2 Published sources

8.2.1 Books and journals

Acocks, J.P.H. 1975. **Veld Types of South Africa**. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No. 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

Pistorius, J.C.C. 1992. **Molokwane An Iron Age Bakwena Village. Early Tswana Settlement in the Western Transvaal**. Johannesburg:Perskor Printers.

Breutz, P.L. 1953. The Tribes of Rustenburg and Pilanesberg Districts. **Department of Native Affairs, Ethnological Publications No.28**.

8.2.2 Maps

1 : 50 000 Topocadastral maps - 2527CB

## 9. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk - Principal Investigator

A.Pelser - Field Supervisor



## APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This section is included to give the reader some necessary background. It must be kept in mind, however, that these dates are all relative and serve only to give a very broad framework for interpretation.

### STONE AGE

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present

Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 - 30 000 BP

Late Stone Age (LSA) 30 000 - until c. AD 200

### IRON AGE

Early Iron Age (EIA) AD 200 - AD 1000

Late Iron Age (LIA) AD 1000 - AD 1830

### HISTORICAL PERIOD

Largely since the arrival of the Hermannsburg Mission, who founded a Mission Station at Kroondal in 1885.