

**RECONNAISSANCE OF FIVE AREAS PROPOSED
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER PURIFICATION PLANT
IN THE MOOT AREA, WEST OF PRETORIA, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

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SUMMARY

Reconnaissance of five areas proposed for the development of a water purification plant in the Moot area, west of Pretoria, Gauteng Province

A reconnaissance to establish the nature, extent and significance of cultural resources were made in four proposed mining areas in the Brits and Odi 1 districts, North-West Province.

The areas under consideration are largely undisturbed by mining and agricultural activities. Due to dense vegetation and irregular topography, the location of primary archaeological sites is very difficult. A number of sites were, however, identified during the survey. It is judged that they would eventually be impacted upon by the proposed development. It is recommended (see section 7) that the development can continue, but only if detailed surveys of all the areas are done and mitigatory measures implemented as necessary.

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1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **GOuws Uys & White** to do a reconnaissance of five different areas in the Moot area, west of Pretoria. The aim was to evaluate the archaeological, historical and cultural importance of the areas.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study was to assess the significance of the cultural resources in the identified areas, in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.

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 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 are 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 cognizance of the relevant legislation, in this case the National Monuments Act (No 28 of 1969).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Preliminary investigation

4.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of all relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and to determine the potential of the area. In this regard various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted - see list of references below.

4.1.2 Data sources

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre** (ADRC), housed at the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria, was consulted.

4.1.3 Other sources

The relevant topocadastral and other maps were studied - see list of references below.

4.2 Field survey

Due to the irregular nature of the terrain, the dense vegetation and size of the areas involved, and due to time and budget constraints, it was impossible to completely cover all four areas by foot. It was therefore decided to a number of spot checks. This was done according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. Each area was divided into blocks, making use of natural and human-made topographical elements. A number of these blocks were then surveyed in detail. In each block, areas with a potential for human use were investigated. Special attention was given to outcrops, cliffs were inspected for rock shelters, while stream beds and unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes and clusters of exotic (and indigenous) trees were investigated.

4.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standard accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System** (GPS)¹ and plotted on a map. The information was added to the description to

¹According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however,

facilitate the identification of each locality.

4.4 Presentation of the information

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

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA SURVEYED

The areas studied are located on the farms Elandsfontein 352JR, Schurveberg 488JQ, Welgegund 491JQ en Kameeldrift 313JR.

To the west, the proposed areas are located in areas where the geology of the area is made up of andesitic lava locally interbedded with agglomerate, shale and tuff of the Daspoort Stage of the Pretoria Series of the Transvaal System

The site to the north of the Daspoortrant, is made up of shale partly carbonaceous, hornfels locally interbedded with chert, calcareous layers and agglomerate of the Magaliesberg Stage of the Pretoria Series of the Transvaal System.

The most eastern site is located on a diabase dyke of Pre-Transvaal age

The vegetation of the study area is classified by Acocks (1978:48-49) as Sourish Mixed Bushveld. This is a rather open savanna with **Acacia caffra** the dominant tree, in a fairly tall and dense grassveld dominated by **Cymbopogon**, **Hyparrhenia** and **Themada**. However, due to large scale agricultural activities, the vegetation currently does not reflect this veld.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Stone Age

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 Unpublished sources

8.1.1 Data base

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, (former) Tvl section, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

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.
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- Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 1994. **A survey of cultural resources in the Akasia Municipal area**. Unpublished report. Pretoria: National Cultural History Museum.
- Van Warmelo, N.J. 1977. **Anthropology of Southern Africa in Periodicals to 1950**. Pretoria: Government Printer.

8.2.2 Maps

- 1:50 000 topocadastral series - 2527DB; 2527DD; 2528CC
 1:50 000 geological series - 2527DD; 2528CC