

**Heritage Assessment of the Proposed Residential Development: Orchards Extension 25,
Rosslyn, Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng**

For

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By

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Executive Summary

No archaeological or historical artefacts, features or structures (including formal graves) were recorded during the survey of the proposed area of development. No further action is required.

Also note the following:

- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).

1. Introduction

The Archaeology Contracts Unit (UNISA) conducted an investigation, focussing on the archaeological and historic remains of Orchards Extensions 49-53 in Rosslyn, Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. The proposed development is listed as Residential 1.

As such, the aim of this investigation is to locate, identify and document visible archaeological and historical artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements of cultural significance within the boundaries of the proposed area of development.

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of this survey are as follows:

- * Provide a detailed description of all archaeological artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements
- * Assess the significance of the impact on the archaeological remains within the area
- * Estimate the level of sensitivity/importance of the archaeological remains within the area
- * Propose possible mitigation measures provided that such action is necessitated

3. Definitions and Approach

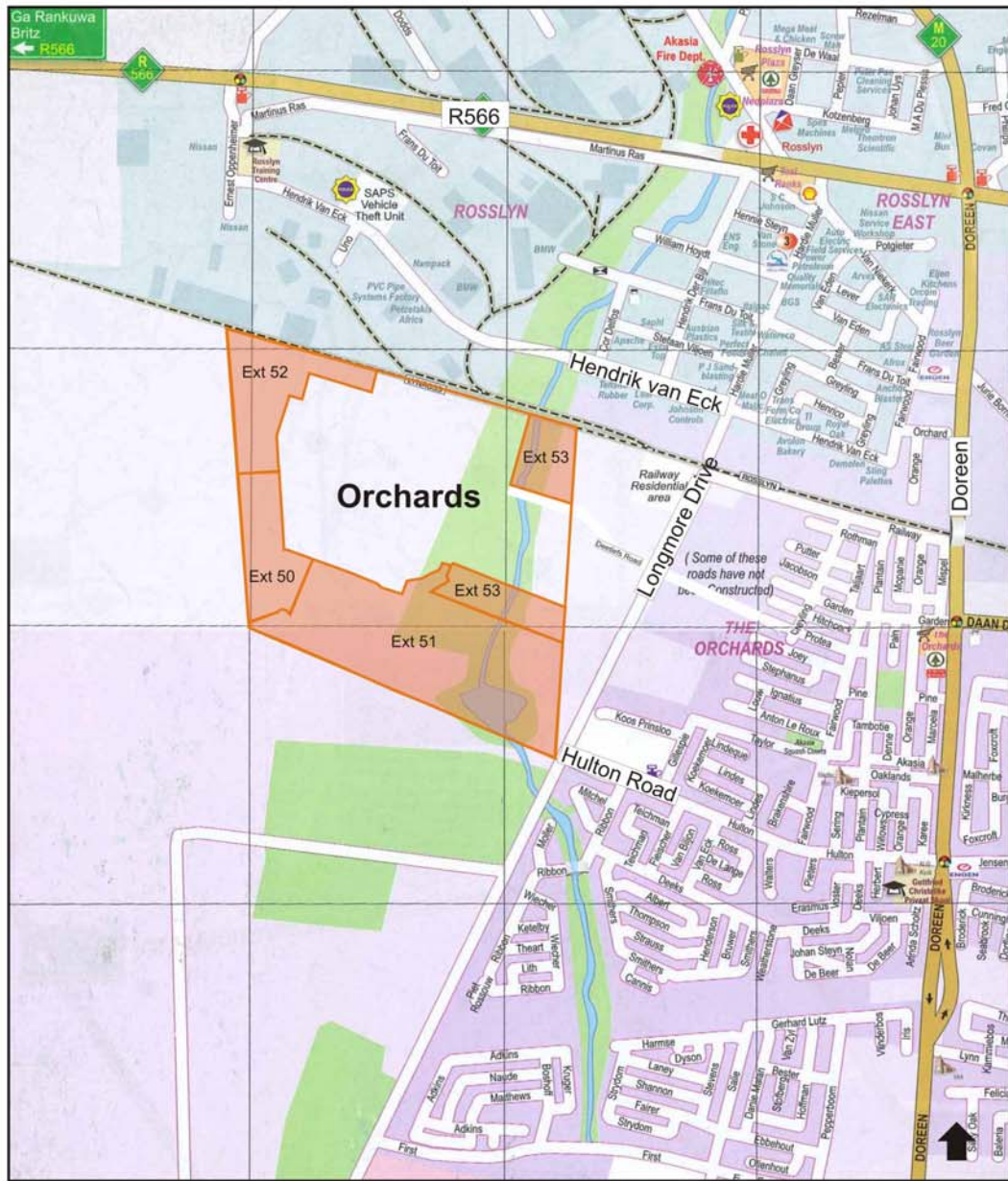
- Archaeological remains can be defined as human-made objects, which reflect past ways of life, deposited on or in the ground.
- All archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 100 years and historic structures older than 60 years are protected by the relevant legislation, in this case the **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999)**. The Act makes an archaeological impact assessment as part of an EIA and EMPR mandatory. No archaeological artefact, assemblage or settlement (site) may be moved or destroyed without the necessary approval from the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**. Full cognisance is taken of this Act in making recommendations in this report.
- Cognisance will also be taken of the **Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991)** and the **National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998)** when making any recommendations.
- Human remains older than 60 are protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act**, with reference to Section 36. Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected by the **Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.
- Rating the **significance of the impact** on a historical or archaeological site is linked to the significance of the site itself. If the significance of the site is rated high, the significance of the impact will also result in a high rating. The same rule applies if the significance rating of the site is low.

- Cultural resources are non-renewable.
- With reference to the evaluation of sites, the certainty of prediction is definite, unless stated otherwise.
- The guidelines as provided by the **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)** in Section 3, with special reference to subsection 3, and the Australian ICOMOS Charter (also known as the Burra Charter) are used when determining the cultural significance or other special value of archaeological or historical sites.
- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).
- A copy of this report will be lodged with the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)** as stipulated by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 38 (especially subsection 4).

4. Methodology

4.1 Maps and Other Sources

The site is localised on the 1:50 000 topographic map 2528CA (Pretoria). The boundaries and position of the proposed development are indicated by orientation maps supplied by the client (Map 1 & 2).

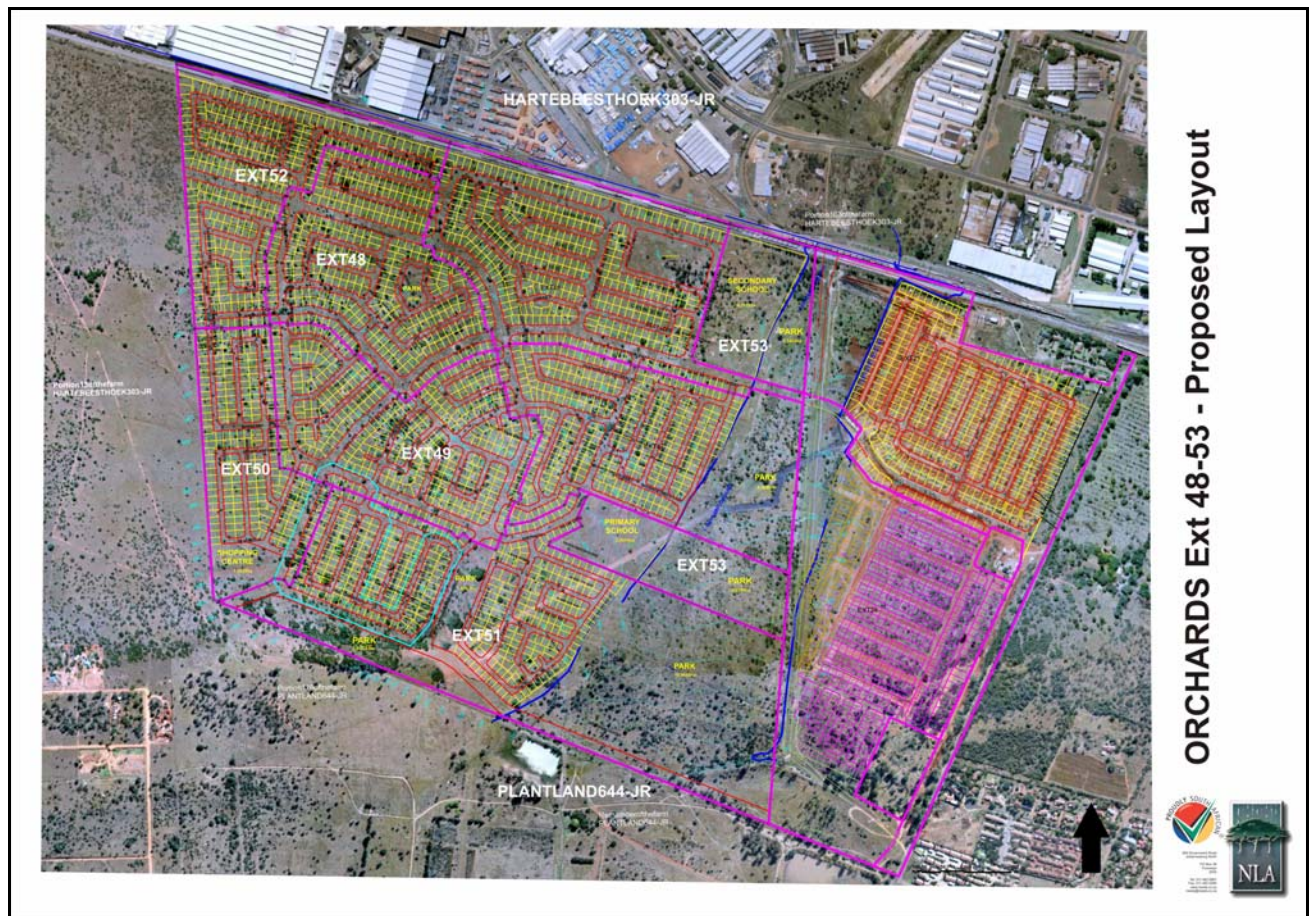


- Proposed Site
- Stream/Wetland

Figure 1: ORCHARDS Ext 50-53 - Locality



Map 1: Location of the survey area.



Map 2: Proposed settlement layout of development.

4.3 Fieldwork

An on-site investigation was conducted on 16 March 2006 and 11 March 2008. The area was surveyed by vehicle (several access roads) with possible features investigated on foot

5. Area Description

The survey area consists of Orchards Extensions 46 -53 which are situated on Portion 143, of the farm Hartebeesthoek 303JR. The area is 93 hectares in extent. The topography of the region is generally flat and open, with an isolated ridge on the southern side. The vegetation is characterised by grassland expanses and intermediate islands of trees (Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Conditions of the area of investigation.

The area seems to have been used for the grazing of livestock and is divided into several camps by a system of fences. Several large dams were also constructed in the south-eastern section of the survey area. The site is delineated by Malan and Sons Nursery, Orchards Ext 24 and a railway line. No archaeological or historical structures, features or artefacts assemblages were recorded. The title deed to Portion 143 is T17394/2002.

6. Chronological Framework

PERIOD	APPROXIMATE DATE
Early Stone Age	more than c. 2 million years ago - c. 250 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age	c. 250 000 years ago – c. 25 000 years ago
Later Stone Age (Includes San Rock Art)	c. 25 000 years ago - c. AD 200 (up to historic times in certain areas)
Early Iron Age	c. AD 400 - c. AD 1025
Late Iron Age (Stonewalled sites)	c. AD 1025 - c. AD 1830 ©. AD 1640 - c. AD 1830)

7. Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Context

7.1 Stone Age

Large concentrations of Early Stone Age (ESA) sites are usually located on the flood plains of perennial rivers and may date to over 2 millions years ago. These ESA open sites may contain, firstly, scatters of stone tools and second, large concentrated deposits which range from pebble tool choppers to core tools such as handaxes and cleavers. The early hominids who made these stone tools, did not actively hunt.

Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites also occur on flood plains but are in many cases associated with rock shelters (overhangs). Sites usually consist of large concentrations of knapped stone flakes such as scrapers, points and blades. They may have been hafted but organic materials do not always preserve. Limited drive hunting activities are associated with this period.

Sites dating to the Late Stone Age (LSA) occur primarily in rock shelters (though open sites have been recorded in the northern Cape). Well protected deposits in shelters allow for stable conditions that result in the preservation of organic materials such as wood, bone, hearths, ostrich egg shell beads and even bedding material. By using San (Bushman) ethnographic data a better understanding of this period is sometimes possible. South African rock art is also associated with this period.

7.2 Iron Age Sequence

In the northern regions of South Africa at least three settlement phases, which pertain to prehistoric agropastorists, have been distinguished for the **Early Iron Age** (EIA). The first phase of the Early Iron Age is known as **Happy Rest**, representative of the Western Stream of migrations, and dates to AD 400 - AD 600. The second phase known as **Diamant** is dated to AD 600 - AD 900. The third phase, characterised by herringbone-decorated pottery of the **Eiland** tradition, is regarded as the final expression of the Early Iron Age (EIA) and occurs over large parts of the North West Province, Northern Province, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. This phase has been dated to about AD 900 - AD 1200. These sites are usually located on low-lying spurs close to water.

The **Late Iron Age** (LIA) settlements are characterised by stone-walled enclosures situated on defensive hilltops (especially c. AD 1640 - AD 1830s). This occupation phase has been linked to the arrival of the Northern Sotho, Tswana and Southern Ndebele (Nguni-speakers) in the region dated from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries AD. The terminal LIA is represented by late 18th/early 19th century settlements with multichrome Moloko pottery, commonly attributed to the Sotho-Tswana. This correlates with oral traditions about various people who sought refuge in the mountains during the processes of disruption in the northern interior of South Africa, caused during the so-called *difaqane* (or *Mfecane*). Mzilikazi, the leader of a Zulu regiment, to whom this period of disruption is attributed, reached the Pretoria-area during the 1820s.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

No archaeological or historical artefacts, features or structures (including formal graves) were

recorded during the survey of the proposed area of development. No further action is required.

Also note the following:

- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).