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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PECANWOOD EXTENSION 17,
NORTHWEST PROVINCE

A phase - 1 report prepared for Ninham Shand

Professor T N Huffman

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

November 2001

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INTRODUCTION

Pecanwood estates intends to develop their property to the south of the present complex. In time, the new development will include residential units, swimming pool and sports field. Because of its proximity to Broederström, the well-known Early Iron Age site, community representatives were particularly concerned about the possibility of significant archaeological sites in the project area. Consequently, Ntshang Shand, the environmental coordinators for the project, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to survey the area for sites of archaeological significance.

METHOD

On 17 November, 2001, one ARM staff met Mr B Johnson of Ntshang Shand on site. After Mr Johnson outlined the proposed development, ARM staff then traversed the area on foot. Sites were first recorded with a GPS instrument and then transferred to the 1:50 000 map 2527 DD Broederström.

ARM determines the significance of sites on the basis of the integrity of deposit (i.e. *in situ* versus secondary), amount of deposit, range of features and potential to answer present research questions. Sites with none or low significance do not normally require mitigation; medium significance requires mitigation; while sites with high significance should not be disturbed at all.

RESULTS

The area has been highly disturbed by historic buildings, landscaping, parking areas and exotic trees. The small ridge supporting most buildings consists of exposed shale, and there are no visible archaeological deposits anywhere.

A few stone artefacts, probably dating to the Early (about 1.8 million to 250 000 years ago) and Middle Stone Age (about 250 000 to 25 000 years ago), lie downslope to the north of the buildings. A thin scatter occurs for about 100m with a small cluster at 25 46 25S 27 51 36E. Most artefacts were made on quartzite from river cobbles. These cobbles increase towards the north end of the property, and presumably they are related to an ancient location of the Magalies River.

Significance

- The Stone Age artefacts have no significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stone Age material does not require mitigation.

It is worth remembering that the main historic building (Barrache) on the property needs to be recorded in terms of Heritage legislation before it is demolished or significantly altered. The recording should take into account the wider landscape, for example the gardens and tree-lined entrance from the north.