

**Heritage Assessment of the Proposed Industrial Development: Platinum Park,  
Klerksoord, Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng**

For

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## Executive Summary

No archaeological artefacts, features or structures were recorded during the survey of the proposed area of development. The foundations of several brick and mortar structures were recorded, however, none of these structures are older than 60 years and are therefore not protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999).

An informal cemetery, with approximately 20 graves, was recorded on the northern periphery of the area. If the cemetery cannot be fenced off, and impact inevitable the graves will have to be exhumed, relocated and buried in a formal cemetery. Informal cemeteries fall under the protection of Section 36 (and possibly even Section 35) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). In this regard a Phase 2 investigation (i.e. grave relocation) is proposed.

Please note the following:

- Exhumation and reburial of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)**. Permission must be obtained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and the local police. In addition, permission must be obtained from the various landowners (where the graves are located and where the graves are going 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 Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

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 the proposed Platinum Park in Klerksoord near Rosslyn, Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. The proposed development is listed as Industrial 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

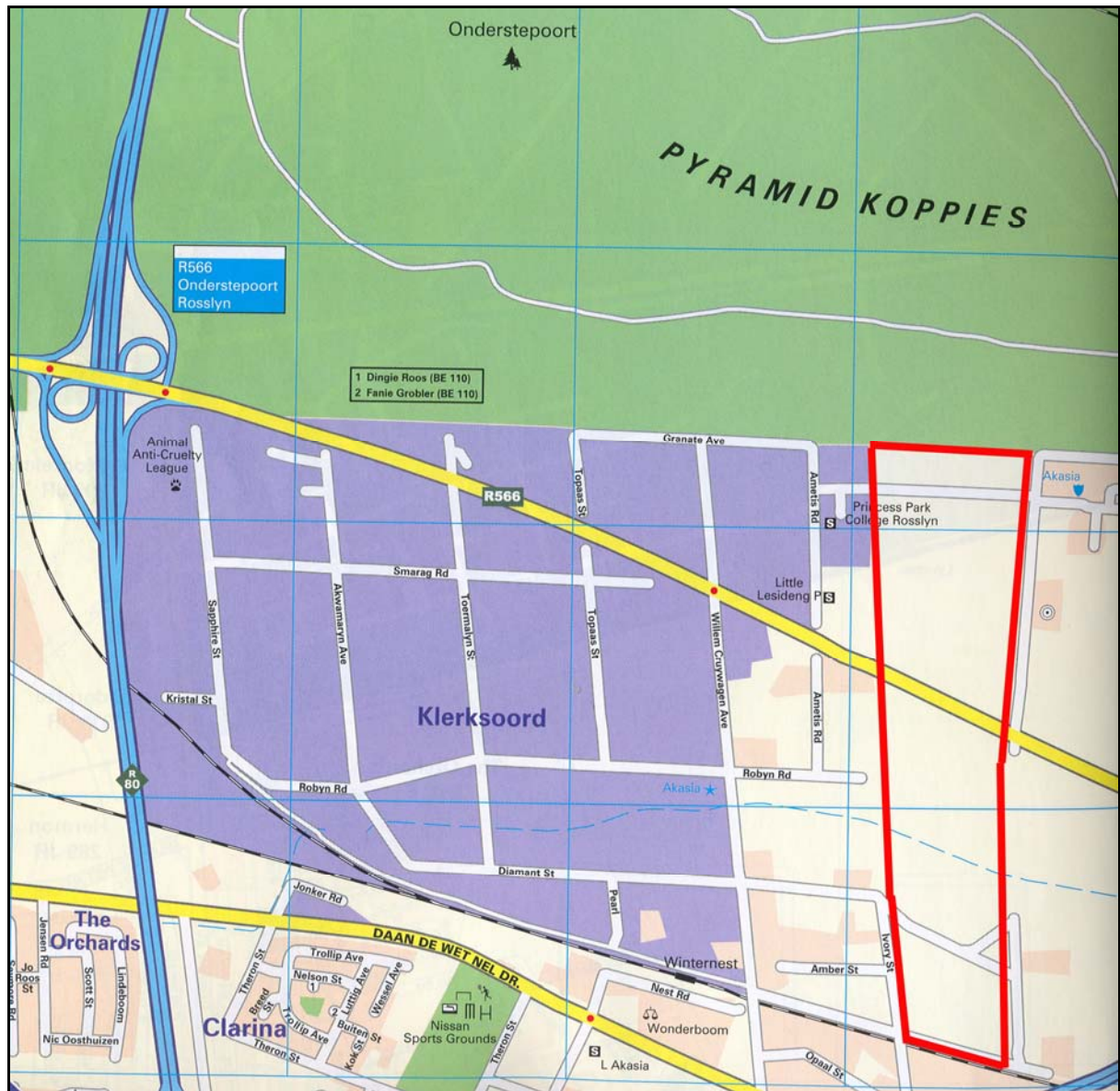
- Archaeological remains can be defined as human-made objects, which reflect past ways of life, deposited on or in the ground.
- All archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 100 years and historic structures older than 60 years are protected by the relevant legislation, in 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).



Map 1: Location of proposed area of development.

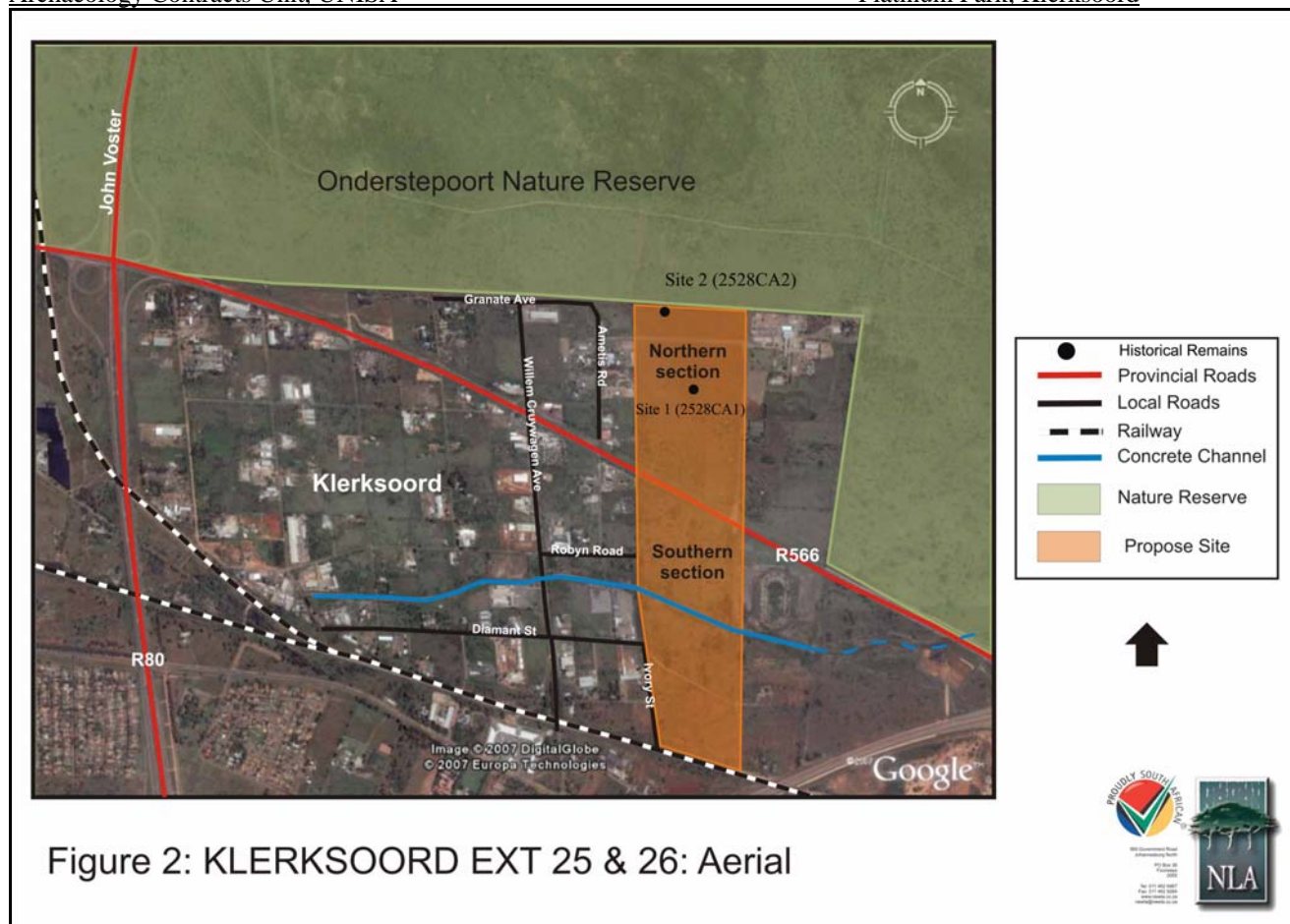


Figure 2: KLERKSOORD EXT 25 & 26: Aerial

Map 2: Location of historical sites.

### 4.3 Fieldwork

On-site investigations were conducted on 10 and 16 March 2006 and 11 March 2008. The orientation and location of the sites were determined by using a Global Positioning System (GPS)<sup>1</sup> correlated with the geographic features (i.e. rivers, fields, topography etc.) of the survey area.

## 5. Area Description

The survey area consists of Portions 146 and 147, and the remainder of Portions 145, 160 and 164 of the farm Witfontein 301JR. The site is delineated by a railway track on the south, a school and industrial concerns on the west, industrial buildings on the east and Onderstepoort Nature Reserve (Pyramid Koppies) on the north. The area is generally open and flat with grass cover and intermittent trees.

The area has been disturbed extensively by previous development activities. Infrastructure

<sup>1</sup> According to the manufacturer a standard deviation is to be expected when determining the location of sites. However, care has been taken to correlate the reading with the topography and to obtain a low dilution of precision (DOP) before plotting sites on a map. The datum point is WGS 84.

development in the survey area includes a tarred road that transects the site in the north, the R566 Road that cuts the area in two halves (Ext 25 and Ext 26) and various dirt roads. The title deed to the Portions of the farm Witfontein 301JR is T71490/2003.

## 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 (c. 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 Site Description

### 8.1 Site 1 (2528CA1)

The foundations of several brick and mortar structures were recorded. They seem to be of recent construction and no other associated features (i.e. middens) were recorded (Fig. 1).

**Action:** No further action required.



Figure 1: Foundation remains of building.



## 8.2 Site 2 (2528CA2)

The site consists of an informal cemetery (outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority), which is approximately 20 X 30 metres in extent and is situated on the northern periphery of the development. Approximately 20 graves were identified, each demarcated by a packed heap of stones and a headstone (Fig. 2 & 3). The graves are orientated east-west with the headstones on the western side. Except for one partial notation no inscriptions were visible on the headstones. As such, it is impossible to determine the date of the burials and together with the fact that it is an informal cemetery, the site falls under the protection of Section 36 (and possibly even Section 35) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983, as amended). Recent offerings were noted on the graves which might indicate a social connectedness between the graves and people living in the area.

### Action:

- The site can be fenced off as it is located on the northern periphery of the development.
- A buffer zone of at least 20 metres should be observed around the graves.
- If an impact is inevitable the graves in the cemetery will have to be exhumed, relocated and buried in a formal cemetery.



Figure 2: One of the graves with headstone.





Figure 3: Another grave with headstone.

## 9 Summary of Sites

Site No	Site Type	Location	Significance	Impact
Site 1 (2528CA1)	Foundations (Recent)	25°38'08,5" S 28°08'14,9" E	Low	High
Site 2 (2528CA2)	Cemetery	25°37'51,6" S 28°08'10,3" E	High	Low (if not moved)

## 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

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