

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF BORROW PIT 33,  
N4 PLATINUM TOLL ROAD**

A report prepared for the Platinum Joint Venture

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## INTRODUCTION

Stone walling was discovered in the side Borrow Pit 33 on De Onderstepoort near sections 28 & 29 of the N4 Platinum Toll Road. The environmental coordinator for the project, E van der Leith, and A Hodgkinson asked Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the borrow pit area and assess the significance of the walling.

## METHOD

On October 29, 2001, Messirs Hodgkinson and Van der Leith took one ARM staff to the designated area. The team traversed the project area on foot, examining the walling and some known graveyards.

## RESULTS

Recent fires have cleared much of the area, and ground visibility was good. Part of this area was an active quarry in the 1960's, and much of the surface has been disturbed. The remains of one Late Iron Age (LIA) homestead (25 37 56.1S 28 13 17E) was noted in the flat saddle near the well-known stone-walled complex (KwaMnyamana) on Doornpoort 295 JR. The small homestead was probably part KwaMnyamana. Most of the homestead walling was removed in more recent times, and little now remains.

### Significance

- The LIA homestead has low significance.

Another LIA complex stands at the western end of the borrow pit area (25 37 54S 28 12 54E). The present tarred road cuts through the bottom half of the site, but other walling is still well-preserved. Presumably, this site is also associated with KwaMnyamana.

### Significance

- The better preserved walling has medium significance.

The remains of various rectangular dwellings (25 37 55.5S 28 13 10-17E) extend along the southern side of the hill between the two LIA sites. The shape of the structures as well as broken glass, metal and heaps of coal cinder show that this area was inhabited by farm labourers in recent times.

### Significance

- The farm labourer dwellings have low significance.

Other labourers lived on the northeast side of the hill where there was an active quarry in the 1960's. At least two African graveyards are known in this area. The first (25 37 43.6S 28 13 08.4E) contains about ten graves, marked by east/west orientated mounds, about 2m long and 1m wide, framed by stone walling one to two courses high. The second, smaller cemetery (25 37 49.6S 28 13 12.8E) contains about four graves built in the same way.

#### Significance

- The two graveyards have medium significance.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

While on site, it was agreed that the borrow pit would stop just east of the LIA site with medium significance. Furthermore, the graveyards would not be disturbed. If the graves must be moved later, then trained personal must direct the removal in accordance with existing Heritage and other relevant legislation. Finally, if other graves are discovered, they must be treated in the same manner.

With these few stipulations, there is no archaeological reason why the proposed borrow pit should not be used.