

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF RATUNDA EXTENSION 8,
HEIDELBERG**

A Phase-1 Report prepared for Strategic Environmental Focus

Professor T N Huffman

Archaeological Resources Management
Archaeology Department
University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg

December 1999

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF RATANDA EXTENSION 8, HEIDELBERG

INTRODUCTION

The Heidelberg Municipality intends to expand the Ratanda township between Extension 3 and 7. The environmental coordinators for the project, Strategic Environmental Focus (SEF), commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the project area for sites of archaeological and historical interest.

METHOD

One ARM staff examined the project area on December 14. It was traversed on foot, with special attention paid to soil pits. Sites were first placed on a 1:10 000 map supplied by SEF and then transferred to the 1:50 000 map 2628 CB Heidelberg (T^vl).

RESULTS

Virtually the whole project area has been under the plough for at least twenty five years. A few Stone Age flakes lie scattered over a wide area in the plough zone, but they have no significance.

Closer to the stream below the project area a few more flakes and Middle Stone Age (dating from 200 000 to 25 000 years ago) cores lie on top of a layer of laterite (also called ferricrete). These artefacts are made from quartzite cobbles deposited by the river. These occurrences have low significance.

One African graveyard lies just outside the project area (26.33.59S 28.18.40E) near the river. The graveyard includes three graves at the north end, one with an inscribed headstone and the other two marked by low stone cairns (about 1.5 x 1m). Two larger (1.5 x 2.5) graves lie about 40m south.

The laterite foundations of a rectangular structure (about 8 x 9m) stand about 100m south of the cemetery. This structure was probably part of the original farm, but it now lacks context and has a low significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The historic structure and Stone Age artefacts do not require mitigation.

The cemetery, however, is more important. Although the cemetery is outside the project area, it should be marked in some way to avoid damage during construction.

The cemetery can be protected and the Stone Age material has little value. Consequently, there are no archaeological or historical reasons why Ratanda Extension 8 should not be developed.