

**Follow-Up Report:
Heritage Assessment of the Proposed Residential Development Southdowns, Irene,
Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality
Orphanage and School Complex**

For

EcoAssessments Pty (Ltd)

By

**The Archaeology Contracts Unit
University of South Africa
PO Box 392
Pretoria
0003
Tel: (012) 429 6297
Fax: (012) 429 6091**

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Survey conducted and report compiled by:
Francois Coetzee

Executive Summary

This report focuses on a follow-up investigation of the Southdowns Development Project. A Phase 1 heritage survey was conducted in 2001.

The aim of this report is to indicate the location and evaluate the significance of the Orphanage and School Complex which was occupied between October 1902 and September 1907. As such the Complex is highly significant and older than 100 years and is therefore protected as a historical and archaeological site under the National Heritage Resources Act (act no 25 of 1999).

The following mitigation measures are proposed.

- To revise the development plans to such an extent that no further impacts will take place on Site 10 (2528CC10).
- If impact is inevitable, to retain some of the more prominent structures, such as the dining room and dormitories.
- An application for a destruction permit must be obtained from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) to destroy the site. Such a permit is only issued at their discretion.

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 archaeological investigation of the Irene Rural Residential in Irene (Centurion) in August 2001 (Coetzee & Miller 2001). Since then the development has been renamed Southdowns Development Project. The aim of this report is to indicate the location and evaluate the significance of the Orphanage and School Complex which was occupied between October 1902 and September 1907.

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
- * Estimate the level of sensitivity/importance of the archaeological remains within the area
- * Assess the significance of the impact on 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 location and extent of the Southdowns Development Project are indicated on the 1:50 000 Topographic Map 2528 CC (Centurion) (see Map 1) and aerial photograph (see Map 2).

4.3 Fieldwork

An on-site investigation was conducted on 18 March 2006. The orientation and location of the sites were determined by using a Global Positioning System (GPS)¹ correlated with the geographic features (i.e. rivers, fields, topography etc.) of the survey area.

5. Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Context

The extended geographic area south of the Magaliesberg, known as Pretoria is generally rich in archaeological sites due to the availability of water and migrating game (i.e. Wonderboom Poort). Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age and Later Stone Age sites are abundant in the area. Revil Mason excavated Hennops River Cave and attributed the Later Stone Age tools to the Middle Smithfield Tradition indicating Stone Age occupation as recently as a few thousand years ago. The Iron Age occupation, reflected in the pottery excavated in the upper layers, was attributed to the Uitkomst Tradition (Mason 1962:70,78).

Oral history suggests the presence of amaNdebele and BaKwena people (people of the crocodile) in the Pretoria area. Stone-walled settlements attributed to the BaKwena people

¹ 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.

were known in the Irene area. In 1826, during Mzilikazi's sojourn through the area his impi's annihilated many of the groups in the region (Kotzé 1983:8-11).

6. Historical Context

Development in Irene was interrupted by the South African War which commenced on 11 October 1899. Of importance is the location of the concentration camps and related activity areas which resulted from the war. The construction of the well known Irene Camp (Camp 1) was initiated on 9 December 1900. It was initially situated north of the Hennops River and west of the railway line but later moved further north and west of the railway station. With the transfer of people from the Nylstroom (Modimolle) Camp in March 1902 to Irene, a new camp (Camp 2) was laid out. It was situated approximately 1,5 kilometres south of Camp 1 and approximately 800 metres west of the Hennops River (*Sesmylspruit*). It was apparently situated on a slope which provided protection against the cold south-easterly wind (Kotzé 1983:78-79, Hattingh 1967:97). It would appear that Camp 2 was probably situated near the south-western boundary of the newly acquired so-called, 'Irene Estate'. Badenhorst located the site at 25°53'15" E; 28°12'10" S (2001:43) which is situated on land belonging to the Agricultural Research Council. The transfer from the Nylstroom Camp, which necessitated Camp 2 introduced 2000 new inhabitants to the area. A small hospital was erected 'oorkant die rivier' to attend the sick (Hattingh 1967:153) and a school was opened which operated until December 1902 (Hattingh 1967:171).

The cultural landscape of the area changed dramatically after the war. An orphanage was erected in October 1902 and consisted of a dormitory, an eating hall, reading room, kitchen, warehouse, scullery, sickroom, offices, bathrooms, various workshops, ironing room and accommodation for two matrons. By November the orphanage accommodated 50 girls and 21 boys. After the amalgamation of the Pietersburg (Polokwane), Potchefstroom and Irene orphanages with Potchefstroom as the new head office, the Irene orphanage closed on 20 September 1907 (Badenhorst 2001:49, Kotzé 1983:98).

Furthermore, a fort was built on the highest hill in the area by the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry to safeguard the railway station from post-war raids. The suburb of Irene was proclaimed on 21 September 1902 with the first 337 stands surveyed. One of the last large scale developments was the construction of a nine-hole golf course in 1912 (which was later extended to eighteen holes), situated on the southern section of the farm (Kotzé 1983:129-130&139). Amongst the trees near the fifteenth green stood the cottage of Nellmapius' manager which was rebuilt by John Henry van der Byl in 1950 (Van der Byl 1963:17).

5. Area Description

The area is characterised by thick undergrowth and a high concentration of Bluegum (*Eucalyptus globosus*) trees. The area is demarcated by a fence and accessed by a dirt road leading into a central open space. The area is surrounded by cultivated fields. The site is situated on the south-western periphery of the Southdowns Development Project. Several access roads and three test trenches were excavated near the site.

6. Description of Sites

6.1 Site 10 (2528CC10)

The site has been surveyed and the extent and layout indicated on a map (see Map 5). Map 5 provides a detailed layout of the various structures of which only foundations were recorded. These include:

- a dining room (for the remains of the steps leading into the building, see Fig. 1)
- various gardens
- an open air oven
- a kitchen
- several boys and girls dormitories
- an ironing room
- a training centre
- an office
- the matron's residence

The school building is located 150 metres west of the orphanage complex and is indicated with the letter 'C'. The various aspects of the orphanage complex occupy an area of approximately 200 X 100 metres.

Note, however, that several years ago two intrusive structures namely a shed (see Fig. 2) and ablution facilities were erected within the compound. These are used during gatherings and camping activities by the Voortrekker Commando.

Legislation: The site is older than 100 years and therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) as a historical and archaeological feature.

7. Summary of Site

Site No	Location	Significance	Impact
Site 10 (2528CC9) Orphanage	25°53'38,3" S 28°12'37,3" E	Very High	Unknown

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Orphanage and School Complex is a highly significant site, which has been surveyed and researched in detail.

Impact: Depending on the proposed revised development plans, some impacts may occur.

Action: The following mitigation measures are proposed.

- To revise the development plans to such an extent that no further impacts will take place on Site 10 (2528CC10).
- If impact is inevitable, to retain some of the more prominent structures, such as the dining room and dormitories.
- An application for a destruction permit must be obtained from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) to destroy the site. Such a permit is only issued at their discretion.

Reference

Badenhorst, S. 2001. 'n Ondersoek na die Oorblyfsels van die Irene Weeshuis en -Skool (1902-1907). *Journal of Cultural History*. Vol 15 (2). pp. 41-60.

Coetzee, F.P. & Miller, S. 2001. An Archaeological Investigation of the Irene Rural Residential Development, Irene, Centurion District, Pretoria, Gauteng. Unpublished Survey Report. Archaeology Contracts Unit, UNISA for Van Riet & Louw Landscape Architects.

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