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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESMENT FOR THE WILGESPRUIT PROJECT, ROODEPOORT

A Phase 1 report prepared for Seaton Thompson and Associates

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No archaeological or historical sites were found within the project area.

INTRODUCTION

The developers, Well Done Projects, intend to build a residential complex on Portion 243 of the Farm Wilgespruit 190 IQ, next to the Kloofendal Nature Reserve, Roodepoort (Figure 1). The proposed development will only cover some 3.6 hectares. In terms of environmental and heritage legislation, the environmental coordinators for the project, Seaton Thompson and Associates, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the area for graves, as well as sites of historical and archaeological value in terms of Sections 35 and 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

METHOD

One ARM staff traversed the project area on foot on 29 August 2007. Sites are always recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument calibrated to Garmin WGS 84. The project area occurs on the 1: 50 000 map 2627BB Roodepoort.

For all projects site significance is based on five main criteria: site integrity (i.e. primary vs. secondary context), amount of deposit, range of features (e.g., middens, hearths and houses), uniqueness and potential to answer present research questions. Sites with no significance do not require mitigation, low to medium may require further work before development, sites with high significance must be mitigated, while sites with maximum significance should not be disturbed at all. Graveyards automatically have high social significance.

RESULTS

Much of the proposed project area was covered in gum trees and orchards. According to members of a local church community, there are no graves in the area. Furthermore, no other sites were noted.

RECOMMENDATION

There are no archaeological or historical reasons why the project should not continue.

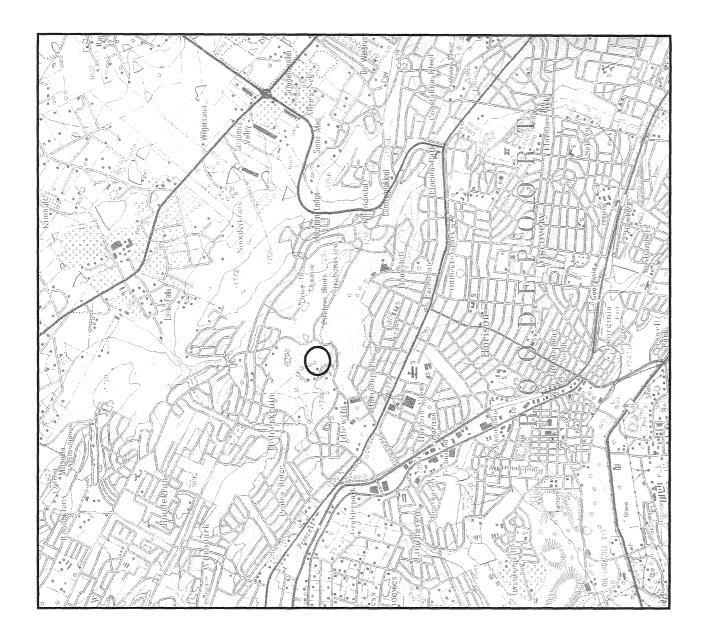


Figure 1. Wilgespruit Project Area on Map 2627BB.