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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE FARM  
ZWARTKOPPIES**

A phase 1 Report prepared for Seaton Thompson & Associates

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# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE FARM ZWARTKOPPIES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Sable Homes is considering the development of portions of the Farm Zwartkoppies 364 JR east of the Silver Lakes Golf Estate, Pretoria. The main residential, retail and commercial portions lie next to Silver Lakes, east of a proposed new road, the PWV 17 that will link the area to the existing N4. In keeping with Environmental and Heritage legislation, Seaton Thompson, the environmental coordinators for the project, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to survey the area for sites of archaeological interest. Several graveyards are already known, and their precise location and social details are part of a separate exercise.

## **METHOD**

One ARM staff visited the project area on 18 February 2005 in the company of Mrs S Malleson, representing the landowners. Sites were recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument and then transferred to the 1: 50 000 map 2528 CD Rietvleldam (Figure 1).

For this project, five criteria determine site significance: integrity of deposit (primary versus secondary context), depth of deposit, number and variety of features, uniqueness and potential to answer present research questions. Following these criteria, sites with no significance do not require further consideration, low significance may require mitigation, sites with medium significance will require mitigation while sites with high significance should not be disturbed at all.

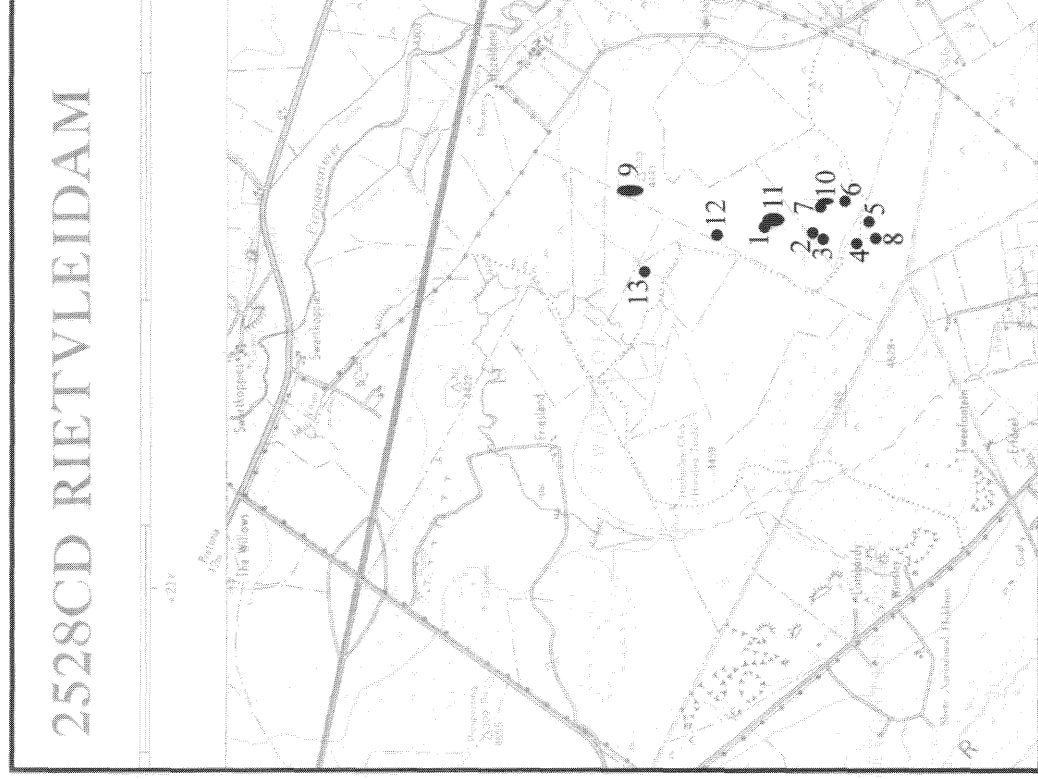


Figure 1. Archaeological sites recorded during the assessment on the Farm Zwartkoppies.

## RESULTS

Grass was high and ground visibility low. But it was nevertheless possible to identify the main areas with archaeological sites.

The residential and commercial areas east of the proposed road have been cultivated for several years and therefore highly disturbed. Random examinations along farm tracts and open areas did not reveal any archaeological sites. The proposed alignment of the PWV 17, on the other hand, crosses a number of Late Iron Age stonewalled sites and historic African homesteads built along a prominent dolerite dyke.

### *Late Iron Age*

**Site 1** (25 47 09S 28 23 19-23E). Generally, the walls appear to form a series of arcs around central cattle kraals, somewhat like a 'sunflower' in plan. At least one deep midden (rubbish heap) is banked against an outer wall. Pottery from this midden belongs to the *Uitkomst facies* (Mason 1962) and the style of walling belongs to **Klipriviersberg**, or Group III (Taylor 1979). The ancestors of the BaFokeng made both the walling and pottery (Huffman 2002).

Although tall grass obscured the full extent of any one settlement, there appear to be at least seven other similar units in the vicinity.

- **Site 2:** 25 47 18S 28 23 20E
- **Site 3:** 25 47 22S 28 23 18E
- **Site 4:** 25 47 30S 28 23 17E
- **Site 5:** 25 47 31S 28 23 22E
- **Site 6:** 25 47 27S 28 23 28E
- **Site 7:** 25 47 20S 28 23 26E
- **Site 8:** 25 47 34S 28 23 18E

These units probably formed one contemporaneous community:

- *Sites 1 to 8 have medium significance.*

Another large area of stonewalled kraals is located near the Trig Beacon PRE 305 55. This area, **Site 9**, extends from 25 46 34S 28 23 31E to 25 46 38S 28 23 30E. Thick vegetation prevented more precise readings.

- *The Site 9 complex has medium significance.*

### *Historic Period*

Other stonewalling marks the homesteads of African labourers.

- **Site 10:** 25 47 24-21S 28 23 27E
- **Site 11:** 25 47 08-12S 28 23 20-23E
- **Site 12:** 25 46 55-58S 28 23 18-19.5E

Long front and back walls show that these people were probably Southern (Transvaal) Ndebele. Traditionally, Manala Ndebele lived in the Pretoria area, and some of these sites could date to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- *Site 11 has medium significance because of its good preservation, while Sites 10 and 12 have low significance.*

×Other stonewalling stands at the north end of the dyke next to Mrs S Malleon's house (Site 13: 25 46 39S 28 23 08E). The affinity of this walling is not clear.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

All sites with medium significance in the path of the new PWV 17 require mitigation. Each unit needs to be mapped and some of the middens should be excavated. These mitigation measures will be costly and will take time.

Under the circumstances, it would be better to realign the roadway to the east, away from the walled areas.

The portions designated for residential, retail and commercial use west of the proposed roadway are devoid of archaeological sites. There are thus no archaeological reasons why development in these areas should not proceed.

### REFERENCE

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