

Archaetnos



Culture & Cultural Resource Consultants

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2011-01-20

Attention: Mr. Brian Gardner
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RE: SHORT REPORT ON BASIC ASSESSMENT (HERITAGE) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMERCIAL OFFICE PARK, LONGMEADOW EXT.11, ERVEN 142 & 143 – EDENVALE, GAUTENG

To whom it may concern

This document represents a short report on a basic assessment carried out on said property during January 2011. Our terms of reference was to assess the area that will be developed in terms of possible cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites, features or objects that could exist here and be possibly impacted on by any development activities. Based on observations in the field, as well as our expertise and knowledge we would then recommend the way forward from a heritage point of view.

Location of development

The development is located on Erven 142 & 143, Longmeadow Ext.11, north of the Longmeadow Business Estate in Edenvale, Gauteng (Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality) and east of the new Lafarge Ash Resources Office complex. It is located at S 26 06' 16.68" E 28 08'26.13".

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DPhil (Archaeology) [UP], Man Dip [TUT], D Phil (History) [US]
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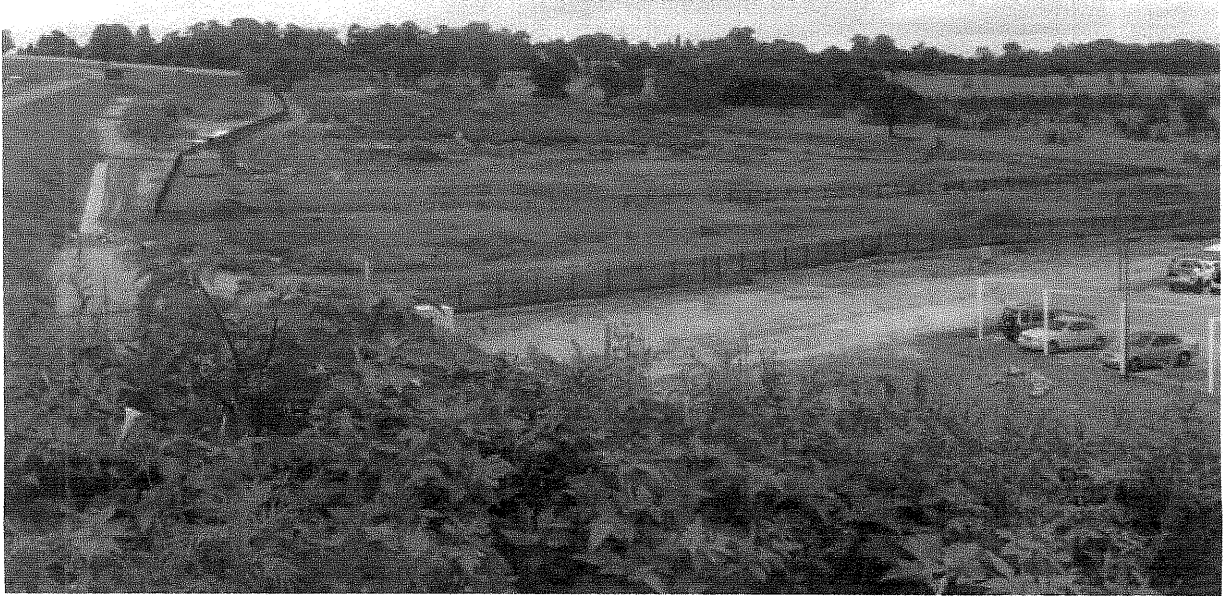


Description of site and discussion of observations

The area where the development will take place has been completely disturbed, and if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance did exist here in the past it would have been completely disturbed or destroyed. Very little if any of the original vegetation still exists, and large scale residential dumping (building rubble etc) has been taking place. Large soil heaps also cover portions of the area. Dense vegetation (grass/weeds/shrubs) also made visibility difficult.

No Stone Age or Iron Age sites are known to occur in the area. During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the Battle of Modderfontein was fought in the area between 29 and 31 May 1900 (Berg 1999:54).

Although no sites, features or objects were identified during the assessment, and while the area has been heavily disturbed over the past, the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or objects should always be taken into consideration. Should any of these, including graves, be unearthed during development activities, an archaeologist/heritage specialist should be called in to investigate.



General view of the area taken from the Lafarge Office area



Another view of the area



Close-up of soil heaps and residential dumping in the area

Final Comments and Recommendations

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Basic Assessment (Heritage) of the area as been completed successfully, No sites, features or objects of cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) origin was identified in the area. If any did exist here in the past it has either been disturbed or completely destroyed as a result of recent activities (i.e dumping, site clearance, etc). From a Heritage point of view there should therefore not be any reason why the development can not take place. However, should anything be found during the development, a heritage specialist should be called in to investigate.

References

Google Location of development: Provided by client

Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies.** Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik

I also declare hereby that I am an Independent Heritage Practitioner, accredited as CRM Practitioner at the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) – Professional Membership No. 106

Anton Pelsers: Archaeologist & Co-director – Archaetnos cc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Pelsers'.