

LENASIA SOUTH EXTENSION, GAUTENG ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Phase I report prepared for Seaton Thompson & Associates

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February 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological and heritage sites do not exist within the project area.

INTRODUCTION

The Al Tawheed Islamic Centre intends to develop Portion 113 of the farm Roodepoort 302 IQ, Gauteng, for mixed land use. The project area covers about 21 hectares in front of a mosque and Muslim school, bordering Lenasia South.

The environmental coordinators for the project, Seaton Thompson and Associates, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the project area for sites of archaeological and historical interest. It was ARM's task to assess the significance of any sites in terms of Sections 35 and 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

METHOD

One ARM staff visited the project area on Thursday, 14 February 2008. The area was traversed on foot with special attention paid to pipe trenches in front of the school, soil sections exposed by grading and the ridge on the eastern boundary. Sites were recorded with a handheld GPS instrument calibrated to Garmin WGS 84. The project area occurs on the 1: 50 000 map 2627BD Lenasia (Figure 1).

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, houses and stonewalls), uniqueness (rare vs. common) and potential to answer present research questions. With these criteria, 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 regardless of historic value.



Figure 1. Location of project area.

RESULTS

Much of the project area has been significantly altered, and only the ridge remains more-or-less undisturbed (Figure 2). One Stone Age site occurs on the flat plateau above the ridge. Small cores made from quartzite along with small quartz flakes lay scattered across a shallow basin (26 23 10.5S 27 52 05E) among an outcrop of rocks (Figure 3). This material probably belongs to the Late Stone Age (figure 4), and dates to between 8 000 and 2 000 years ago. An upright rock painted with the words 'Jesus Saves' shows that a congregation of the ZCC has also used this area. This area lies outside the project boundary and will not be impacted.

The ridge itself does not have stone suitable for the manufacture of tools, and therefore stone artefacts were not noted in the ground below the ridge.

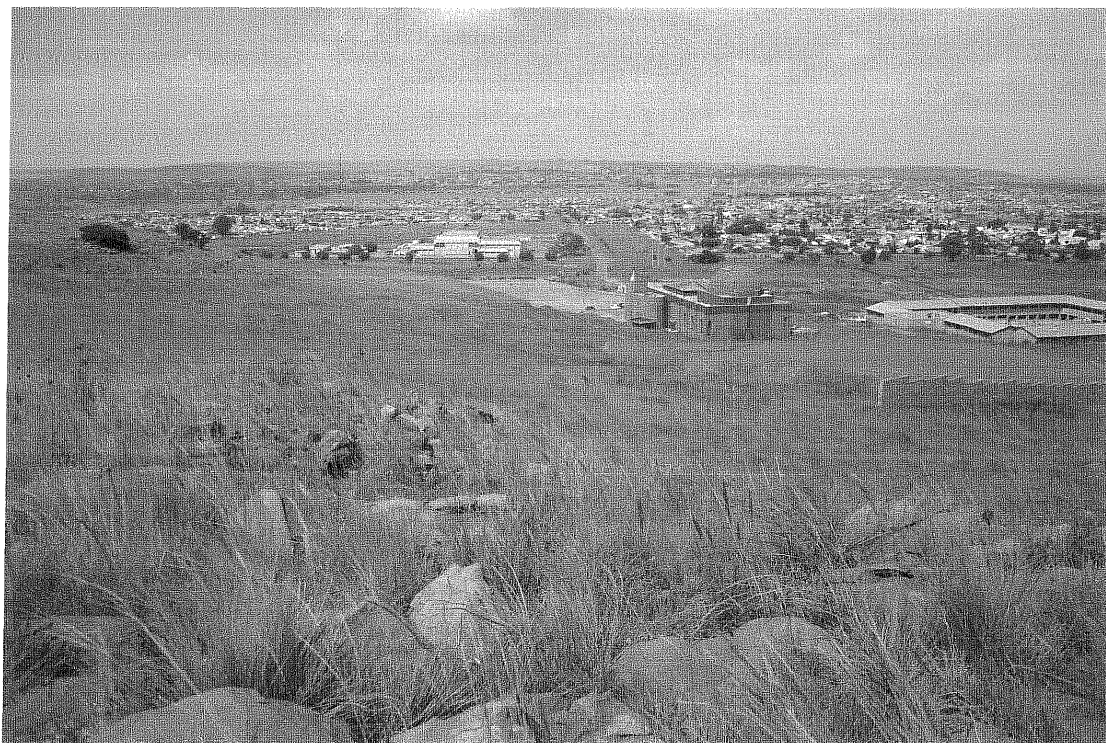


Figure 2. Project area showing undisturbed ridge on eastern boundary.



Figure 3. Stone Age site in shallow basin, centre, and among rocks on left.



Figure 4. Late Stone Age material on top of ridge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological or heritage sites occur inside the project area. Therefore, in terms of the Heritage Act, there are no reasons why the Lenasia South Extension project should not continue.