

# LENASIA SOUTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT, GAUTENG

A Phase I report prepared for Seaton Thompson and Associates  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An extensive complex of Anglo Boer War fortifications cover the ridge on Portions 58 and 59. Various Stone Age sites also occur along the ridge. All sites within the project area require mitigation.

## INTRODUCTION

True North Development intends to establish medium to high-level housing and schools on Portion 58 of the Farm Roodepoort 302 IQ, Lenasia South in Gauteng. The project area incorporates some 14 hectares of sloping ground below a rocky crest. The environmental coordinators for the project, Seaton Thompson and Associates, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the area for sites of archaeological and historical value in terms of Sections 35 and 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

## METHOD

One ARM staff examined the project area on 22 February 2008. The entire area was traversed on foot. Sites were recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument calibrated to WGS 84, and then transferred to the 1: 50 000 map sheet 2627BD Roodepoort (Fig. 1).

Site significance is based on five main criteria: (1) primary versus secondary context; (2) amount of deposit; (3) number and variety of features; (4) uniqueness; and (5), potential to answer present research questions. Sites with no significance do not require mitigation, low to medium sites may require limited mitigation, high significance requires extensive mitigation, while outstanding sites should not be disturbed at all. Recognizable graves have high social value regardless of their archaeological significance.



Figure 1. Location of Sites recorded during assessment.

## RESULTS

There are two main types of archaeological sites inside the project area: Late Stone Age tool scatters and Anglo Boer War fortifications.

### Late Stone Age

**Site 1** (26 22 30S 27 50 34.2E) comprises a 40m circle of quartz and quartzite flakes and tools, such as thumbnail scrapers, in the saddle of the low crest in the western portion of the project area. There is little soil here, perhaps 15cm at the most, but the material appears to be *in situ*. **Site 2** is a similar concentration further upslope (26 22 25.3S 27 50 37.9), near Surveyor Point 'D'. One Early Stone Age core was found in a footpath here. Once again the soil is no greater than 15cm deep. These two concentrations represent hunting camps dating to the Late Stone Age (ca. 15 000 to 2000 years ago). They both have *low significance*.

### Anglo-Boer War fortifications

An extensive complex of blockhouses, *sangars* and other walling extend from the summit of the rocky crest, on Portion 59, to the lower slopes inside the project area. Some face north towards Johannesburg, while others face Lenasia South. This complex originally guarded the railway line running through Roodepoort to the west, as well as southern approaches to Johannesburg. The entire complex has *high significance*.

Inside the project area, **Site 3** (26 22 32.9S 27 50 30.2E) is a stonewalled redoubt (Fig. 2) next to the present-day water facility. An 8m arc of stone, about 1m wide, formed the redoubt, or gun emplacement. A ditch in front both served as a source of stone and as a protective moat. This redoubt faces south. As an individual feature, **Site 3** has *medium significance*.



Figure 2. Site 3: Redoubt facing south.

**Site 4** (26 22 31.7S 27 50 32.2E) is another arc of walling, about 6m across, a few metres upslope from the redoubt (Fig. 3). Soldiers had simply moved existing stone to form the arc. This feature is an example of a *sangar*, or firing line: a concept brought from India by the British Army. As an individual feature, **Site 4** has *low significance*.



Figure 3. Site 4: *Sangar* facing south. Stick equals 1 metre.

A string of four more *sangars* (**Site 5**) stand on the north side of the crest (26 22 29.3S 27 50 29.2E), opposite Sites 3 and 4. Each *sangar* is some 4 to 5m across, separated by straight walling in all but one case (Fig. 4). As an individual complex, **Site 5** has *medium significance*.



Figure 4. Site 5: *Sangar*.

Another *sangar* (**Site 6a**) guards a natural path up the ridge on the north side, near Surveyor Point 'D', just outside the project area. This *sangar* is associated with another blockhouse (**Site 6b** 26 22 23.2S 27 50 38.7E) overlooking the path (Fig. 5). A quarry behind the blockhouse supplied much of the stone. This appears to be the largest blockhouse and it is well preserved; it therefore has *high significance*.

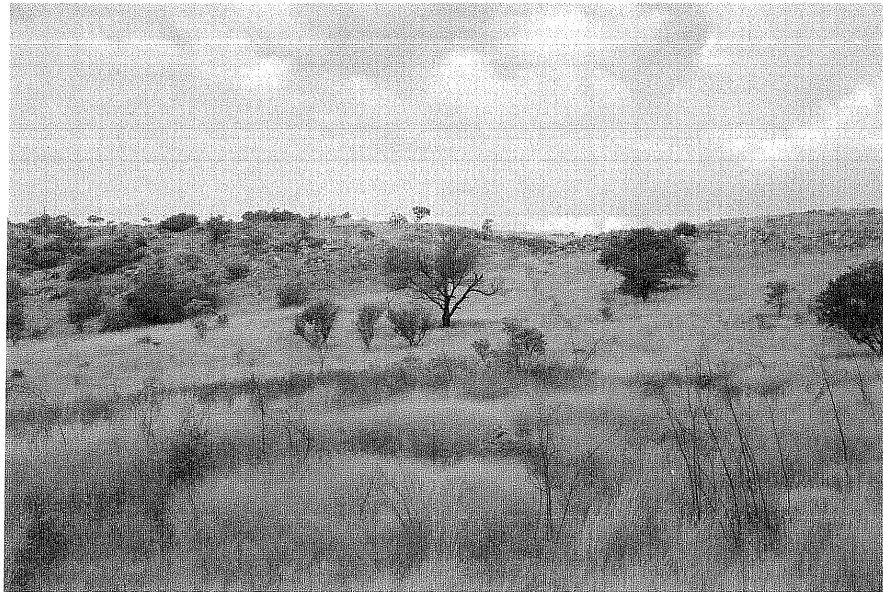


Figure 5. Site 6b: Natural pathway up ridge. Blockhouse on left.

Another blockhouse (**Site 7**) stands on the edge of the project area on the crest (26 22 24.1S 27 50 46.2E) above the underground reservoir in Portion 104. Like the redoubt, a defensive moat surrounds the southern front. The walls are about 1m wide and 8m across, and the northern entrance is still clear (Fig. 6). The plateau behind the blockhouse is free of stone, and soldiers must have cleared this area as part of the fortification. (There is also Late Stone Age material here). Site 7 has *high significance*.



Figure 6. Site 7: Blockhouse. Note railway line in background.

Further upslope, outside the project area, stand the remains of a tent circle (Fig. 7) about 7m in diameter (**Site 8** 26 22 20.2S 27 50 58E) and two more blockhouses opposite each other (**Site 9a**: 26 22 18.7S 27 51 05E and **Site 9b**: 26 22 17.5S 27 51 04.8E). **Site 9a** faces (Fig. 8) south and **Site 9b** north (Fig. 9). Although filled in, the side entrance to **Site 9b** is still visible. Each blockhouse is about 8m across with 1m wide walls. In addition, the flat areas around the blockhouses contain Late Stone Age artefacts, while an Oakhurst-Period quarry (about 14 000 years ago) stands next to Site 8 (Fig. 10).



Figure 7. Site 8: Tent circle.

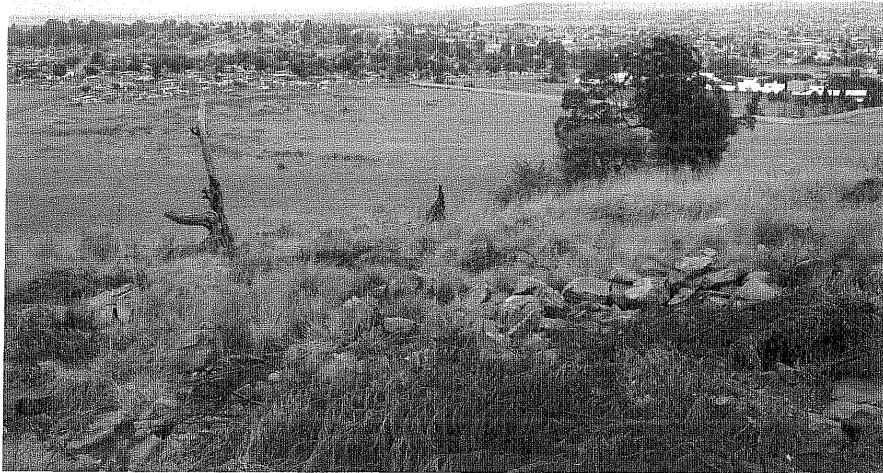


Figure 8. Site 9a: Blockhouse.



Figure 9. Site 9b: West entrance to blockhouse site 9b.



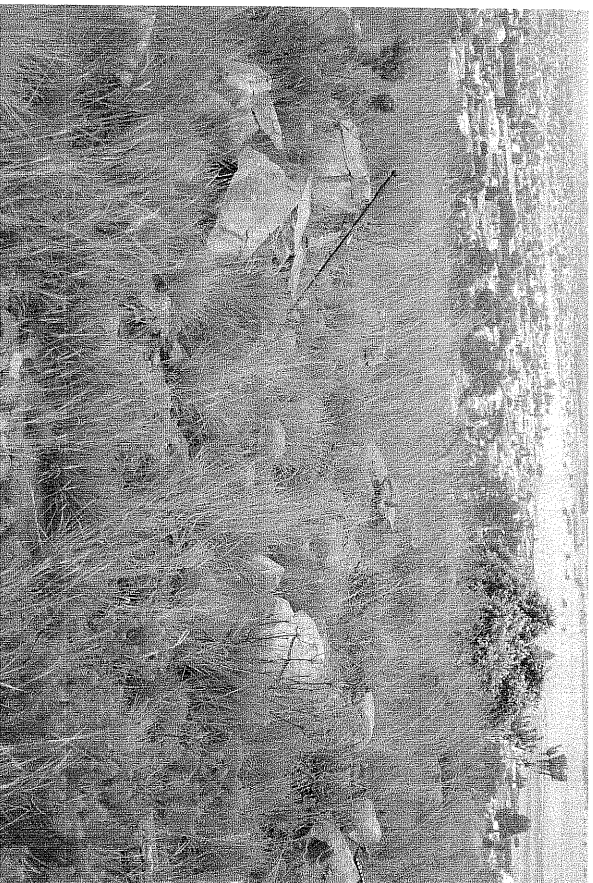


Figure 10. Oakhurst-Period quarry next to Site 8.