

LUIPAARDSVLEI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, RANDFONTEIN

A Phase 1 report prepared for Seaton Thompson and Associates

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No archaeological or historical sites of value were found within the project area. The new cemetery on the south side of Toekomsrus should be avoided.

INTRODUCTION

Munback Development intends to erect affordable housing on Portions 66 and 67 of the Farm Luipaardsvlei 243 IQ, to the south of Randfontein (Figure 1). The township will be known as Mohlakeng X, and cover some 150 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).

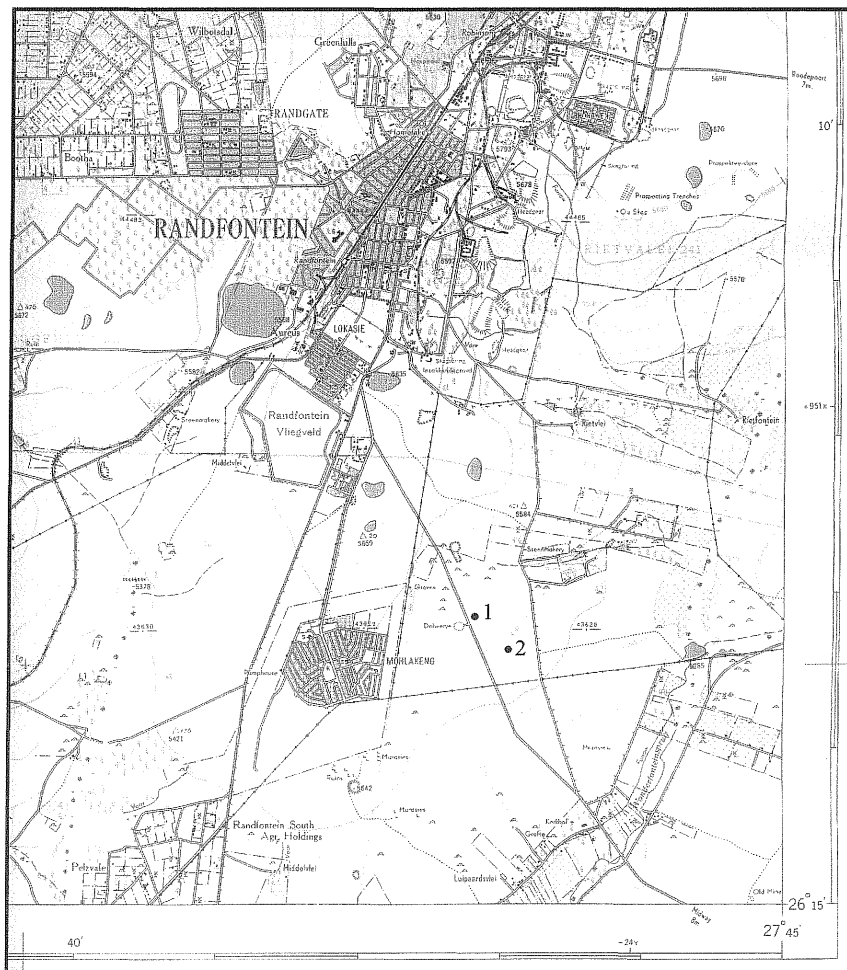


Figure 1. Location of sites in project area, on 1:50 000 map 2627BA.

METHOD

One ARM staff traversed the project area on foot and by vehicle on 18 November 2007. Although excluded, Portions 128 and 129 were also examined because the boundaries were difficult to identify. Sites were recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument calibrated to Garmin WGS 84. The project area occurs on the 1: 50 000 map 2627BA Randfontein.

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 area around Portions 128 and 129 has been prospected, and many heaps and trenches cover the otherwise flat landscape. The spoil heaps suggest that the prospectors were after manganese. Manganocrete (manganese rich ferrocrete) is a common feature in the dolomites (Brink 1979: 203-205), and it was exploited after WWII. Remains of a rectangular building (about 4 x 8m) stand among the diggings (**Site 1**: 26 13 10.2S 27 42 47.7 E). This may have been a shed for digging operations. There is nothing further to record, and **Site 1** has *no significance*.

The remains of another structure (3 x 5m), built out of ferrocrete (Figures 2 and 3), stand in the southern part of the project area (**Site 2**: 26 13 21.4S 27 43 04.0E). A small mound of coal cinder lay about 10m to the west, and farm labourers may have once stayed here. There is nothing further to record, and **Site 2** has *no significance*.

The people in Toekomsrus, on the northern edge of the project area, have established a large cemetery (Figure 4). The proposed K 102 runs nearby. This cemetery is modern and has *high social value*.



Figure 2. General view of the project area looking south.



Figure 3. Sub rectangular structure at Site 2.



Figure 4. Modern cemetery on the edge of Toekomsrus.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sites 1 and 2 do not require further attention. Their record in this report is sufficient. The Toekomsrus cemetery, on the other hand, should not be disturbed. It may require protection during construction activities.

With this proviso, there are no archaeological or historical reasons why the proposed township should not be developed.

REFERENCES

Brink, A.B.A. 1979. **Engineering Geology of Southern Africa**. Silvertown: Building Publications.