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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESMENT OF VAN WYKS RESTANT,
KRUGERSDORP**

A Phase 1 report prepared for Seaton Thompson and Associates

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EXCECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project area contains one Middle Stone Age site that has no significance. A few Historic buildings will need to be documented before development begins.

INTRODUCTION

Blue Nightingale, Pty, intends to build a large shopping centre on the Farm Van Wyks Restant 162 IQ, near the junction of the M47 (Hendrik Potgieter) and R28 (also the N14) north of Krugersdorp. The proposed development encompasses those portions (RE/2 - RE/3, 36 – 37, 55, 65 and 74 – 75) on the east side of the R28, totalling about 48 hectares (Figure 1). As another aspect, the northeast corner of the road junction will also be shifted. The environmental coordinators for the project, Seaton Thompson and Associates, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the area for graves, and sites of archaeological and historical significance in terms of Sections 35 and 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

METHOD

One ARM staff traversed the project area on foot on 29 August 2007. Sites were recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument calibrated to Garmin WGS 84. The project area occurs on the 1: 50 000 map 2627BB Roodepoort.

Site significance was 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, and 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

The road junction appeared to have been scraped by a bulldozer when the R28 was upgraded some years ago. Whatever the cause, this portion was highly disturbed.

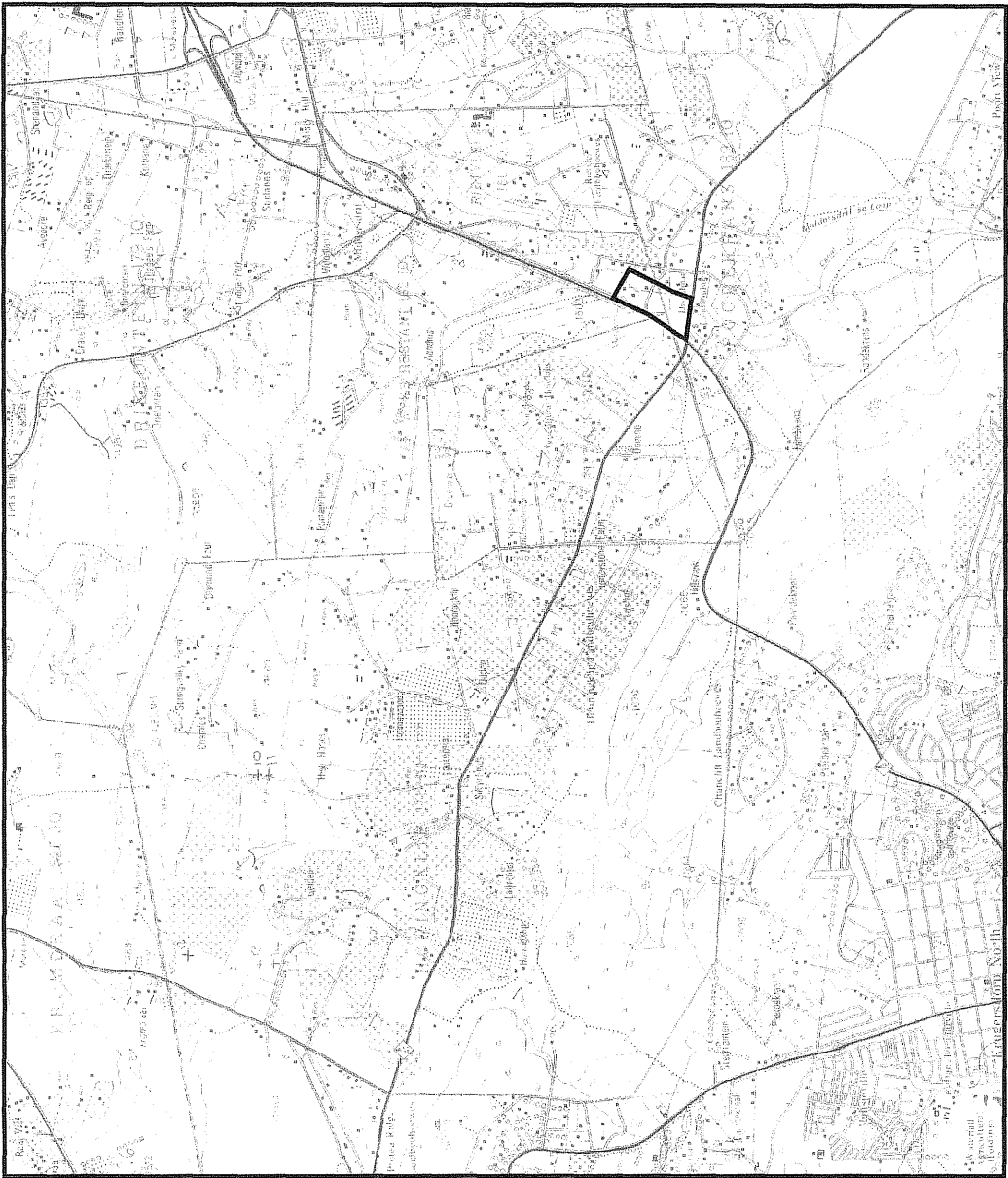


Figure 1. Van Wyks Restant Project Area on Map 2627BB.

A small (3m diameter) outcrop of blue/white chert (26 03 31.4S 27 50 11.8E) may have been quarried during the Middle Stone Age (MSA), for a few MSA flakes of the same material occurred among a rocky outcrop a few metres away (**Site 1**). The chert outcrop has been damaged recently, and Site 1, including the few flakes, has *no significance*.

The 1976 edition of the 1: 50 000 map (aerial photography 1952) shows a few European buildings and African housing in the project area. The African housing has disappeared, but two buildings in the Berg Vlei wedding venue (**Site 2**: 26 03 21.4S 27 50 22.6E) may be over 60 years old. The present office incorporates a house with wooden ceilings (Figure 2), while the kitchen is built around an older building with thick walls (Figure 3). These building have *medium significance*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Site 1 has no significance beyond its recording, and it does not require further consideration.

Site 2, on the other hand, needs some mitigation. An architectural historian will need to document the two buildings before development begins.

With this proviso, there are no major archaeological or historical reasons why the Van Wyks Restant project should not continue.



Figure 2a. Office.



Figure 2b. Wooden ceiling inside office.

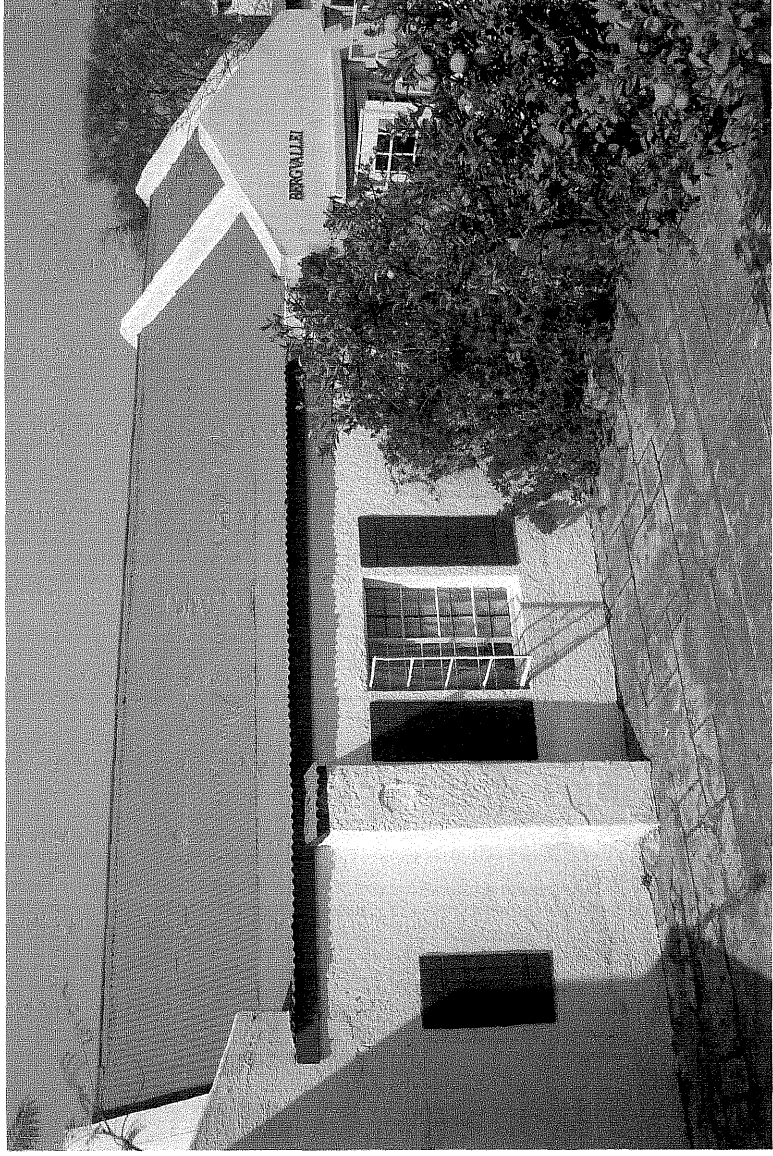


Figure 3. Kitchen: thick wall marks old portion.