

CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE BOKSBURG MINING BELT DEVELOPMENT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
HISTORIC PERIOD	Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1836 in this part of the country
IRON AGE	Early Iron Age AD 200 - AD 1000 Late Iron Age AD 1000 - AD 1830
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 and associated regulations (2006).
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and associated regulations (2000)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
STONE AGE	Early Stone Age 2 000 000 - 250 000 BP Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A cultural heritage survey of the Boksburg mining belt development identified no heritage features adjacent to the proposed development. There is no archaeological reason why development may not proceed as planned. However, attention is drawn to the South African National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) which requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Table 1. Background information

Consultant:	Frans Prins
Type of development:	Residential development
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
Terms of reference	To carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment
Legislative requirements:	The Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

Footprint: See Figure 1

Current land use: open space adjacent to residential area.

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Gauteng area has been well surveyed for heritage sites by various archaeologists employed by the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Pretoria and South Africa as well as the Northern Flagship Museums during the period 1960-2004. Heritage sites of significance, especially buildings of the industrial era, has also been documented and listed in an inventory by the then National Monuments Council. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the successor to the National Monuments Council, has also listed various buildings and sites associated with the more recent struggle period in South African history.

The available evidence indicates that Gauteng contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These range from Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, Later Stone Age, Middle Iron Age, Later Iron Age sites, and also the more recent periods associated with the early Boer Republic of the ZAR and the national liberation struggle.

Stone Age sites covering various periods have been located near the Hennops River Valley to the immediate north of Johannesburg, Jubilee shelter in the Magaliesberg and at the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage site. Early Iron Age sites have been located at various locations, but the site of Broederstroom at the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage site is perhaps the best known and documented. Later Iron Age sites ascribed to Sotho-Tswana people are abundant especially in the foothills of the Magaliesberg and adjacent areas. Most of these have been recorded by archaeologists such as Prof Thom Huffman of the University of the Witwatersrand. The majority of these later Iron Age settlements were abandoned with the onset of the *Difaqane* (period of tribal turmoil associated with the expansion of the Zulu Kingdom in the 1820's). Some may have been inhabited by groups such as the Ndebele of Mzilikazi who also transversed this area during the 1840's.

Perhaps the greatest portion of Gauteng's heritage relates to the period of industrialisation of the city and associated landscape transformations. Buildings belonging to various periods since the early colonial era of the 1860's can be found throughout the area. Buildings and battlefields associated with the first South African War or Boer War is well represented in the larger Pretoria area. Structures associated with the gold rush and the mining industry occurs in various localities in the larger Johannesburg and East Rand areas. Unfortunately, many older buildings belonging to interesting periods, such as the 'Art Deco' style of the 1930's, has been demolished in the wake of rapid development and expansion. With new heritage legislation in place, the destruction of these, and any structure older than 60 years would be a transgression of the law.

The more recent history of South Africa is also well represented in various buildings, monuments, and grave sites associated with the liberation struggle. A good synopsis of various sites in the area can be found at the "Apartheid Museum" in southern Johannesburg. Although not necessarily older than 60 years, it is important to realise that these sites are also protected by heritage legislation.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites. Unfortunately this database is incomplete and of only limited use.

In addition, a ground survey of the proposed developments following standard and accepted archaeological procedures was conducted.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility during the site visit was good.

3.2.2 Disturbance.

No disturbance of any potential archaeological stratigraphy has been noted. However, the remains of piping and structures associated with more recent mining activities do occur on the site. Some of these structures have been partially demolished.

3.3 Details of equipment used in the survey

GPS: Garmin Etrek

Digital cameras: Canon Powershot A460

All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a level of 5 m.

4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

4.1 Locational data

Province: Gauteng

Town: Boksburg

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The area surveyed consisted of a rehabilitated mine dump and associated land adjacent to a residential development area. The area is covered in grass and Eucalyptus trees in some areas.

4.3 Description of sites

No heritage or archaeological features have been located. However, the remains of a built structure associated with the former mining activities of the area occur on site. However, this structure is most probably younger than 60 years and is of no particular heritage significance. The remains of mining houses, possibly older than 60 years, do

occur on the site but they have been completely demolished by a previous owner of the property. There are no tangible heritage features left of these structures on the ground and their former occurrence is only evident from indentations visible on aerial photographs of the area.

4.4 Dating the findings

Not applicable.

4.5 Description and distribution of archaeological material found

Not applicable.

4.6 Summary of findings

No heritage and archaeological features of significance have been located.

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

Not applicable.

5.1 Field Rating

Not applicable.

Table 2. Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)

Level	Details	Action
National (Grade I)	The site is considered to be of National Significance	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade II)	This site is considered to be of Provincial significance	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority
Local Grade IIIA	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be retained as a heritage site
Local Grade IIIB	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be mitigated, and part retained as a heritage site
Generally Protected A	High to medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	The site needs to be recorded before destruction
Generally Protected C	Low significance	No further recording is required before destruction

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The development may proceed in terms of heritage values.

7 RISK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION

Not applicable.

8 MAP

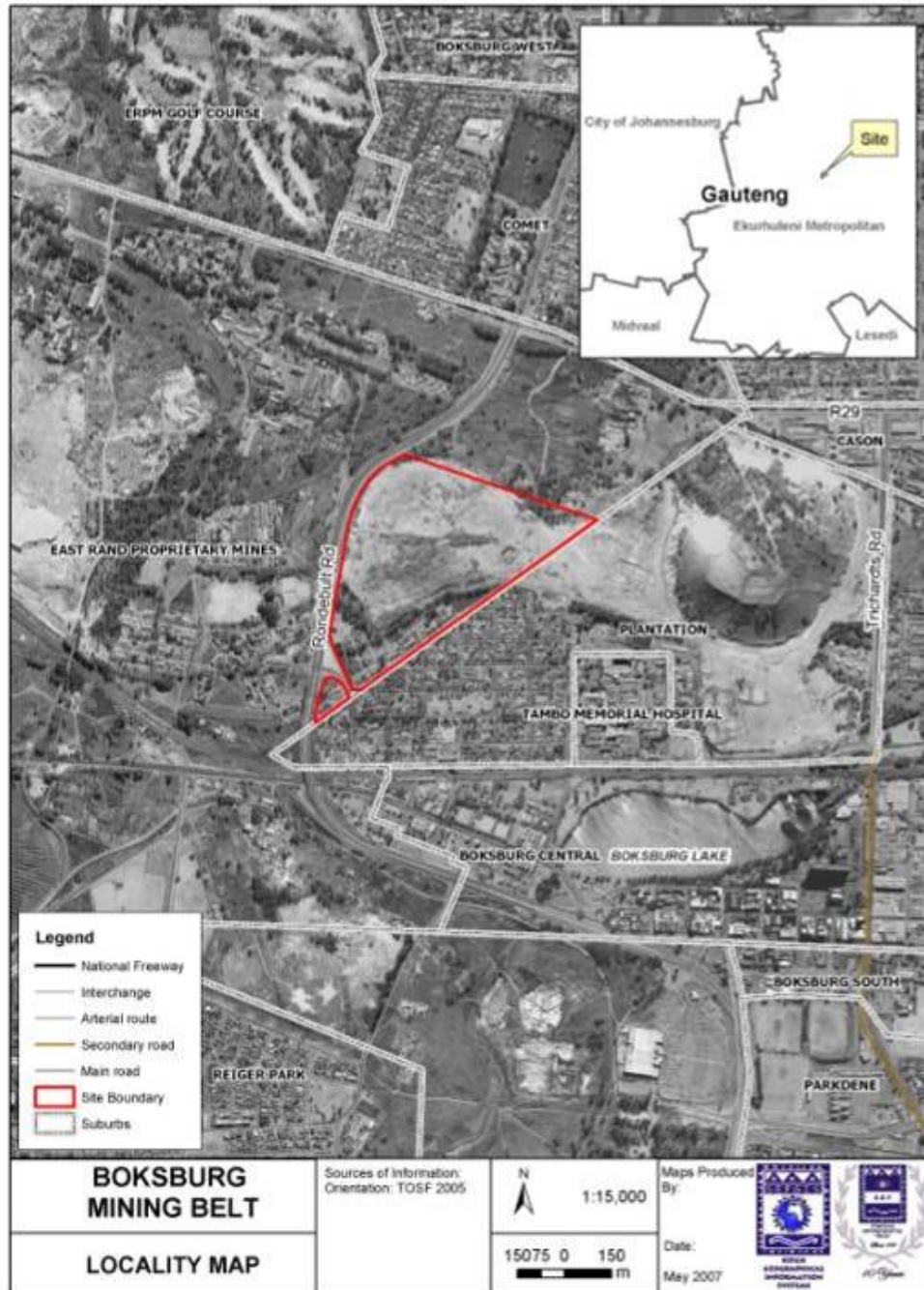


Figure 1. Footprint of the Boksburg Mining Belt proposed development. No heritage sites or features have been located during the survey.

9 REFERENCES

SAHRA, 2005. Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and the Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports, Draft version 1.4.

