

Cultural Heritage Assessment of Blue Hills Development, Midrand, Gauteng Province

For

Newtown Landscape Architects
PO Box 36
Fourways
2055

By

**The Archaeology Contracts Unit
University of South Africa
PO Box 392
Pretoria
0003**

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Survey conducted and report compiled by:
Francois Coetzee

Executive Summary

No archaeological artefacts, features or structures (both Stone Age and Iron Age) were recorded during the survey. The various structures and houses have been photographed and recorded. None of these houses and structures are older than 60 years and are therefore not protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999). No further action is required.

Also note the following:

- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).

1. Introduction

The Archaeology Contracts Unit (UNISA) conducted an investigation, focussing on the archaeological and historic remains of the proposed Blue Hills Development, Midrand, Gauteng. This report forms part of an EIA and was requested by Newtown Landscape Architects.

As such, the aim of this investigation is to locate, identify and document visible archaeological and historical artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements of cultural significance within the boundaries of the proposed area of development (see Fig 1).

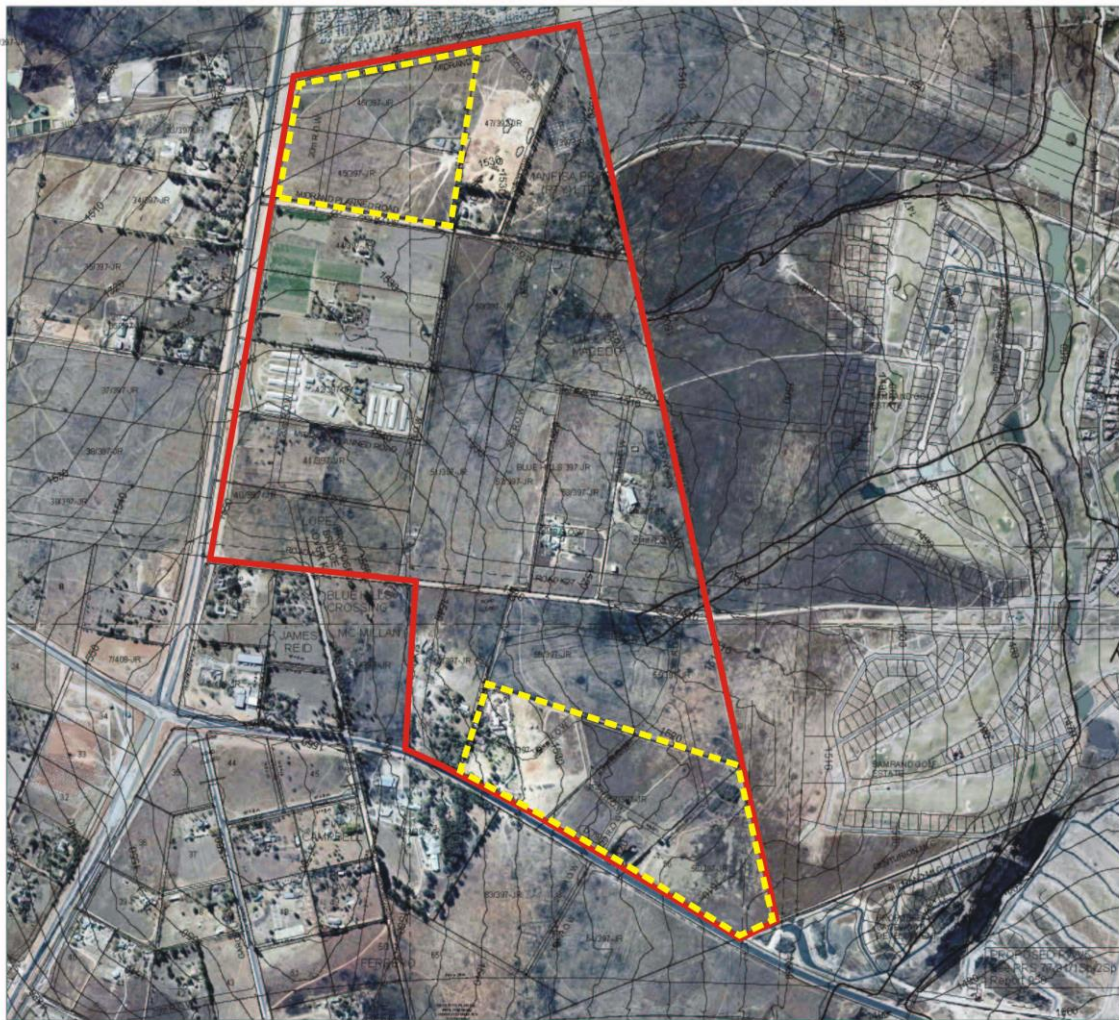
2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of this survey are as follows:

- * Detailed description of all archaeological artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements documented in the area (including photographs)
- * The impact prediction (and associated ratings) will include the nature, probability, duration, extent and intensity of impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological remains of the area
- * The level of sensitivity/importance of the archaeological remains in the area. Oral traditions related by the local communities will be a high priority when establishing the significance of archaeological and historical remains as well as graves in formal cemeteries and as informal burials
- * Practical mitigation measures will be proposed for predicted impacts as a result of the proposed development

3. Definitions and Approach

- Archaeological remains can be defined as human-made objects, which reflect past ways of life, deposited on or in the ground.
- All archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 100 years and historic structures older than 60 years are protected by the relevant legislation, in this case the **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999)**. The Act makes an archaeological impact assessment as part of an EIA and EMPR mandatory. No archaeological artefact, assemblage or settlement (site) may be moved or destroyed without the necessary approval from the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**. Full cognisance is taken of this Act in making recommendations in this report.
- Cognisance will also be taken of the **Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991)** and the **National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998)** when making any recommendations.



- Entire Site
- - - Excluded Portions

BLUE HILLS DEVELOPMENT

Figure 1: Aerial Photograph

- Human remains older than 60 are protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act**, with reference to Section 36. Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected by the **Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.
- Rating the **significance of the impact** on a historical or archaeological site is linked to the significance of the site itself. If the significance of the site is rated high, the significance of the impact will also result in a high rating. The same rule applies if the significance rating of the site is low.
- Cultural resources are finite and non-renewable.
- With reference to the evaluation of sites, the certainty of prediction is definite, unless stated otherwise.
- The guidelines as provided by the **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)** in Section 3, with special reference to subsection 3, and the Australian ICOMOS Charter (also known as the Burra Charter) are used when determining the cultural significance or other special value of archaeological or historical sites.
- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).
- A copy of this report will be lodged with the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)** as stipulated by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 38 (especially subsection 4).

4. Methodology

4.1 Maps and Other Sources

The area of the proposed development is indicated on an aerial photograph (see Fig. 1) and correlated with the 1:50 000 topographic map 2528CC (Verwoerdburg) (see Fig. 2).

4.3 Fieldwork

An on-site investigation was conducted on 27 April 2005. The orientation and location of the sites were determined by using a Global Positioning System (GPS)¹ correlated with the geographic features (i.e. rivers, fields, topography etc.) of the survey area. Emphasis was placed on indications of significant historical and prehistorical settlements and structures (including graves).

¹ According to the manufacturer a standard deviation is to be expected when determining the location of sites. However, care has been taken to correlate the reading with the topography and to obtain a low dilution of precision (DOP) before plotting sites on a map. The datum point is WGS 84.

5. Area Description

The survey area consists of Portions 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 of the farm Blue Hills 397JR and is approximately 100 hectares in extent, sloping from west to east (towards the drainage system). The area is demarcated by Summit Road in the south, the R512 Road in the west, Diepsloot in the North and Blue Hills Golf Estate in the east.

The area has been disturbed extensively by previous development activities and several building projects have left several ditches, heaps of waste building material and old foundations. Existing structures and infrastructure include dirt roads, driveways, houses, house foundations, industrial complexes, ploughed fields, chicken farming, several dilapidated structures and informal settlements.

6. Chronological Framework

PERIOD	APPROXIMATE DATE
Early Stone Age	more than c. 2 million years ago - c. 250 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age	c. 250 000 years ago – c. 25 000 years ago
Later Stone Age (Includes San Rock Art)	c. 25 000 years ago – c. AD 200 (up to historic times in certain areas)
Early Iron Age	c. AD 400 - c. AD 1025
Late Iron Age (Stonewalled sites)	c. AD 1025 - c. AD 1830 ©. AD 1640 - c. AD 1830)

7. Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Context

7.1 Stone Age

Large concentrations of Early Stone Age (ESA) sites are usually located on the flood plains of perennial rivers and may date to over 2 millions years ago. These ESA open sites may contain, firstly, scatters of stone tools and second, large concentrated deposits which range from pebble tool choppers to core tools such as handaxes and cleavers. The early hominids who made these stone tools, did not actively hunt.

Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites also occur on flood plains but are in many cases associated with rock shelters (overhangs). Sites usually consist of large concentrations of knapped stone flakes such as scrapers, points and blades. They may have been hafted but organic materials do not always preserve. Limited drive hunting activities are associated with this period.

Sites dating to the Late Stone Age (LSA) occur primarily in rock shelters (though open sites have been recorded in the Northern Cape). Well protected deposits in shelters allow for stable conditions that result in the preservation of organic materials such as wood, bone, hearths, ostrich egg shell beads and even bedding material. By using San (Bushman) ethnographic

data a better understanding of this period is sometimes possible. South African rock art is also associated with this period.

7.2 Iron Age Sequence

In the northern regions of South Africa at least three settlement phases, which pertain to prehistoric agropastorists, have been distinguished for the **Early Iron Age** (EIA). The first phase of the Early Iron Age is known as **Happy Rest**, representative of the Western Stream of migrations, and dates to AD 400 - AD 600. The second phase known as **Diamant** is dated to AD 600 - AD 900. The third phase, characterised by herringbone-decorated pottery of the **Eiland** tradition, is regarded as the final expression of the Early Iron Age (EIA) and occurs over large parts of the North West Province, Northern Province, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. This phase has been dated to about AD 900 – AD 1200. These sites are usually located on low-lying spurs close to water.

The **Late Iron Age** (LIA) settlements are characterised by stone-walled enclosures situated on defensive hilltops (especially c. AD 1640 - AD 1830s). This occupation phase has been linked to the arrival of the Northern Sotho, Tswana and Southern Ndebele (Nguni-speakers) in the region dated from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries AD. The terminal LIA is represented by late 18th/early 19th century settlements with multichrome Moloko pottery, commonly attributed to the Sotho-Tswana. This correlates with oral traditions about various people who sought refuge in the mountains during the processes of disruption in the northern interior of South Africa, caused during the so-called *difaqane* (or *Mfecane*). Mzilikazi, the leader of a Zulu regiment, to whom this period of disruption is attributed, reached the Midrand-area during the 1820s.

8. Description of Sites

Although no archaeological artefacts (both Stone Age and Iron Age), features or structures (including formal graves) were recorded during the survey of the proposed area of development, several houses, industrial buildings and structures in various stages of preservation were recorded. None of these houses and structures are older than 60 years and are therefore not protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999).

8.1 Structure 1 (see Fig 3)

The site is the extensive industrial facility of Connotville Civil Engineering.

8.2 Structure 2 (see Fig 3)

The site is an informal settlement consisting of a brick structure expanded by corrugated iron sheeting (25°56'10,1"S; 28°06'04,2"E). No graves were recorded in the area.

8.3 Structure 3 (see Fig 3)

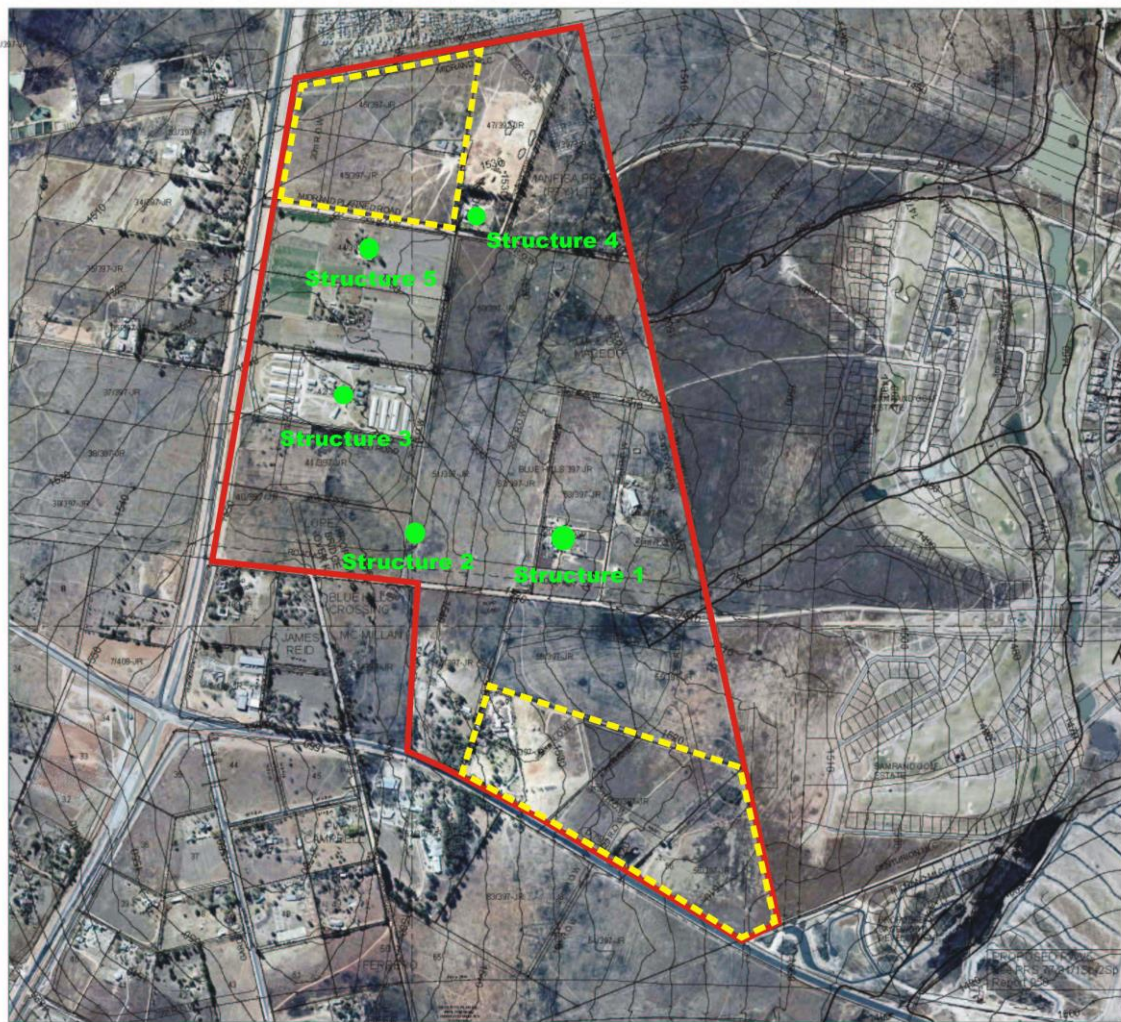
The site consists of extensive chicken farming facilities on the western periphery of the area.

8.4 Structure 4 (see Fig 3)

The site consists of a dilapidated house and foundation structures. Most of the structures have been demolished (25°55'44,7"S; 28°06'10,0"E).

8.5 Structure 5 (see Fig 3)

The site consists of a modern house with various associated outbuildings (25°55'44,8"S; 28°06'01,5"E).



— Entire Site
- - - Excluded Portions

BLUE HILLS DEVELOPMENT

Figure 3



Figure 4: Structure 1



Figure 5: Structure 2



Figure 6: Structure 4



Figure 7: Structure 5



Figure 8: Structure 3

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

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