

Report on Heritage Impact Assessment and Archaeological Survey  
for the Karino Urban Development on Portions 7, 15, 16, 18, 19,  
20, 26, 44 and 73 of the farm Goedehoop 128 JU, Portion 23 of the  
farm Broedershoek 129 JU, Mbombela.

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September 26, 2006

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## 1. Introduction

Kudzala Antiquity cc was contracted to perform an Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed development to take place on portions of the farms Goedehoop 128 JU and Broedershoek 129 JU. The study forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment as required by legislation, the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25, 1999).

This act requires of individuals (engineers, farmers, mines and industry) to have impact assessment studies undertaken whenever any development activities are planned. This is to ensure that heritage features or sites that qualify as the National Estate are not damaged or destroyed.

Heritage resources considered to be part of the national estate include those that are of cultural significance or have other special value to the present community or future generations.

The national estate may include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds including:
  - (i) ancestral graves;
  - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
  - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
  - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*;
  - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; andother human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects including:
  - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
  - (iv) military objects
  - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
  - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and

books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

Against this background, an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) or Cultural Resources Management (CRM) survey was conducted on Portions 7, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 26, 44 and 73 of the farm Goedehoop 128 JU and Portion 23 of the farm Broedershoek 129 JU, Mbombela. , 2006 as part of the required Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Van Vollenhoven (1995:3) describes cultural resources as all unique and non-renewable physical phenomena (of natural occurrence or made by humans) that can be associated with human (cultural) activities.

These would be any man-made structure, tool, object of art or waste that was left behind on or beneath the soil surface by historic or pre-historic communities.

These remains, when studied in their original context by archaeologists, are interpreted in an attempt to understand, identify and reconstruct the activities and lifestyles of past communities. When these items are disturbed from their original context, any meaningful information they possessed is lost, therefore it is important to locate and identify such remains before construction or development activities commence.

A CRM survey consists of three phases, this document deals with the first phase. This (phase 1) investigation is aimed at getting an overview of cultural resources in a given area, thereby assessing the possible impact a proposed development may have on these resources.

When the archaeologist encounters a situation where the planned project will lead to the destruction or alteration of an archaeological site, a second phase in the survey is normally recommended.

During a phase 2 investigation the impact assessment of development activities on identified cultural resources is intensified and detailed investigation into the nature and origin of the cultural material is undertaken. Normally at this stage, archaeological excavation is carried out in order to document and preserve the cultural heritage.

Phase three consists of the compiling of a management plan for the safeguarding, conservation, interpretation and utilization of cultural resources (Van Vollenhoven, 2002).

Continuous communication between the developer and surveyor after the initial report have been compiled may result in the modification of a planned route or development to incorporate or protect existing archaeological sites.

## 2. Description of surveyed area

The survey was carried out on approximately 500 ha of previously cultivated agricultural land near the settlement of Karino. The various properties on which the survey was conducted are located on either side of the D636 road between Karino and Plaston. Local residents were consulted to aid in the identification and location of historically and archaeologically significant sites and features. The survey was conducted on foot and with the use of a motor vehicle in an effort to locate cultural remains.

## 3. Aim and method of survey

The purpose of the archaeological survey is to establish the whereabouts and nature of cultural heritage sites should they occur on the surveyed area.

This includes settlements, structures and artifacts which have value for an individual or group of people in terms of historical, archaeological, architectural and human (cultural) development.

It is the aim of this study to locate and identify such objects or places in order to assess whether they are of significance and warrant further investigation or protection.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) formulated guidelines for the conservation of all cultural resources and therefore also divided such sites into three main categories. These categories might be seen as guidelines that suggest the extent of protection a given site might receive. They include sites or features of local (Grade 3) provincial (Grade 2) and national (Grade 1) significance.

For practical purposes the surveyor uses his own classification for sites or features and divides them into three groups, those of low or no significance, those of medium significance, those of high significance.

### **Sites of low significance:**

These are sites or features indicating some form of human activity in the form of a structure, shelter or materials used by historic settlers but which is in such a weathered state that it will provide very little information that warrants further investigation. Features or structures that are not considered as national treasures also fall within this category.

### **Sites of Medium significance:**

A good number of sites fall into this category. These include sites which are moderately to well-preserved and is of such a nature that they may be utilized for future research. Sites of this type also fall into an archaeologically well-known category. This means that in most instances they will provide little new or significant information during further investigation.

### **Sites of High significance:**

There exist archaeological sites that contain invaluable data which may significantly enhance the knowledge that archaeologists currently have about our cultural heritage. These sites are rare and normally of more ancient origin (Stone Age shelters and Early Iron Age settlements are among the more common ones). In all instances these sites should be preserved and not damaged during construction activities.

When development activities do however jeopardize the future of such a site, a second and third phase in the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) process is normally advised which entails the excavation or rescue excavation of cultural material along with a management plan to be drafted for the preservation of the site or sites.

Graves are considered very sensitive sites and should never under any circumstances be jeopardized by development activities. Graves are incorporated in the National Heritage Resources Act under section 36 and in all instances where graves are found by the surveyor, the recommendation would be to steer clear of these areas. If this is not possible or if construction activities have for some reason damaged graves, specialized consultants are normally contacted to aid in the process of exhumation and relocation of the human remains. This implies that construction activities at the particular grave site will be brought to a halt temporarily.

## **4. History of the area**

Karino is located near the historic “Oosterlijn” Railway line located east of the Nelspruit district. According to Bornman and Whittall (1997) the name is derived from the Italian word Carissimo which means “sweetheart”. This name was given by Italian railway workers employed during the construction of railway bridges between 1880-1886.

Karino was also where one of the historic trade routes passed through underway to Crocodile Gorge in an effort to avoid the eastern-tsetse fly belt. This route was known as the “Salvation Valley” and linked the Barberton Gold Fields with the interior via the established Lydenburg-Delagoa Bay trade route.

The first inhabitants of the eastern Lowveld were probably the San or Bushmen. They were a nomadic people who lived together in small family groups and relied on hunting and gathering of food for survival. Evidence of their existence is to be found in numerous rock shelters throughout the Lowveld where some of their rock paintings are still visible. A number of these shelters have been documented in the Nelspruit area (Bornman, 1995; Schoonraad in Barnard, 1975).

It has been argued that the red ochre source for these paintings is to be found at Dumaneni, near Malelane (Bornman, 1995).

It was only later when Bantu-speaking tribes moved into this area from the northern parts of Southern Africa and settled here. This period is referred to as the Early Iron Age (AD

200-1500 approx.). These were presumably Sotho-Tswana herder groups. Some research was done during the 1970's at sites belonging to the EIA (Early Iron Age), location Plaston, a settlement close to White River (Evers, 1977).

Early Iron Age pottery was excavated by archaeologist, Prof. Tom Huffman during 1997 on location where the Riverside Government complex is currently situated (Huffman, 1998).

Various historians and ethnographers describe that the areas of Barberton, Nelspruit and surrounds were frequented by Swazi and Sotho-Tswana groups in historic times or Late Iron Age times during the period AD 1500-1800. (Myburgh, 1949; Herbst, 1985; Bornman, 2002; Pienaar, 1990; Barnard, 1975).

## 5. Located sites and their description:

The located sites were numbered K1 to K19. The K indicates "Karino" followed by the number of the site. A spatial location with the aid of a GPS (Global Positioning System) was added to each site.

### 5.1. Site name: K1 (Site 1)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 791' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 366' S

Altitude: 660 m

Photo: Photo not included as this site is north of footprint area.

### 5.2. Site name: K2 (Site 2)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 790' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 371' S

Altitude: 659 m

Photo: Photo not included as this site is north of footprint area.

### 5.3. Site name: K3 (Site 3)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 779' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 315' S

Altitude: 648 m

Photo: Photo not included as this site is north of footprint area.

### 5.4. Site name: K4 (Site 4)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 757' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 337' S

Altitude: 665 m

Photo: Photo not included as this site is north of footprint area.

5.5. Site name: K5 (Site 5)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 645' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 973' S

Altitude: 648 m

Photo: Fig. 1, 2.

Description: This is the location of the current Karino Roller Mills. After consultation with individuals that have been residing in the area for the last 50 years it was established that these buildings are not older than 60 years and have been used as a depot rather than a roller mill for the last couple of years.

5.6. Site name: K6 (Site 6)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 377' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 810' S

Altitude: 605 m

Photo: Fig. 3, 4.

Description: This is an informal graveyard that contains 6 graves. People buried here are related to the informant Mr Filemon Nyathi. The graves are mostly unmarked. The site is of high significance.

5.7. Site name: K7 (Site 7)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 373' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 829' S

Altitude: 605 m

Photo: none.

Description: This is an informal graveyard located about 25 metres south of site 6. At least 3 graves were identified but that number may be more. The area is much overgrown and the graves are very hard to distinguish, therefore no photos were taken. This site was also revealed by informant Mr Filemon Nyathi. The graves are unmarked and the informant does not know who is buried here. The site is of high significance.

5.8. Site name: K8 (Site 8)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 406' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 859' S

Altitude: 615 m

Photo: Fig. 5, 6

Description: This site consists of the remains of a building or dwelling. Only the foundation is visible. The site is of low significance.

5.9. Site name: K9 (Site 9)

Date of compilation: 18/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 402' E

Latitude, 25° 27, 134' S



Altitude: 501 m

Photo: Fig 7,8.

Description: This is an informal graveyard located on the northern slope of a koppie (see map). At least 15 graves were identified of which one is clearly marked. One of the headstones visible in fig. 7 is written 26/01/1975 and Sara Kosa, Epoko Easato 26/01/75. This site was also revealed by informant Mr Filemon Nyathi. Some of the people buried here were known by the informant. A large number of the graves are not marked and most probably older than 60 years. The site is much overgrown. The site is of high significance.

5.10. Site name: K10 (Site 10)

Date of compilation: 26/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 709' E

Latitude, 25° 27, 692' S

Altitude: 528 m

Photo: Fig 9, 10.

Description: This site is characterized by two different features. The first is two unmarked graves which were shown to the surveyor by informant Mr Alfred Lubisi. The identities of the individuals buried here are not known. The second is a building that was used to make fodder for cattle during earlier years. The informant indicated that the building was erected in 1953. This date is supported by Mr Patrick Simmons, owner of the land and son of the late Mr Brian Simmons.

5.11. Site name: K11 (Site 11)

Date of compilation: 26/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 549' E

Latitude, 25° 27, 764' S

Altitude: 562 m

Photo: Fig 11, 12, 13.

Description: This site is a large graveyard shown by informant Mr Alfred Lubisi. There are at least 60 graves located here. Some of the graves are marked while the majority are not. Some of the informant's relatives are buried here. The site is of high significance.

5.12. Site name: K12 (Site 12)

Date of compilation: 26/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 740' E

Latitude, 25° 26, 482' S

Altitude: 807 m

Photo: no photo taken.

Description: A much-weathered Late Iron Age site with signs of stone-walling and a very small sample of broken pieces of clay pottery. This site is located north of the proposed development area.

5.13. Site name: K13 (Site 13)

Date of compilation: 26/08/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 06, 429' E

Latitude, 25° 27, 524' S  
Altitude: 626 m  
Photo: Fig 14.

Description: Approximately 4 graves are located here. This site is located on a portion which is not part of the proposed development area.

5.14. Site name: K14 (Site 14)  
Date of compilation: 26/08/2006  
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 06, 225' E  
Latitude, 25° 27, 826' S  
Altitude: 582 m  
Photo: Fig 15.

Description: Ruins of a dwelling located at the southern slope of a koppie. This site is located on a portion which is not part of the proposed development area.

5.15. Site name: K15 (Site 15)  
Date of compilation: 16/09/2006  
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 06, 210' E  
Latitude, 25° 26, 658' S  
Altitude: 682 m  
Photo: Fig 18.

Description: At least seven unmarked graves.

5.16. Site name: K16 (Site 16)  
Date of compilation: 16/09/2006  
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 06, 231' E  
Latitude, 25° 27, 007' S  
Altitude: 691 m  
Photo: Fig 19-21.

Description: Some 28 graves located in a formal graveyard. Informant, Mr Albino Masiya indicated that he does not know who the people are that was buried here, they are probably individuals who worked on the farm.

5.17. Site name: K17 (Site 17)  
Date of compilation: 16/09/2006  
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 06, 017' E  
Latitude, 25° 27, 099' S  
Altitude: 624 m  
Photo: Fig 22, 23.

Description: Remains of farm worker's lodgings.

5.18. Site name: K18 (Site 18)  
Date of compilation: 16/09/2006  
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 979' E  
Latitude, 25° 26, 992' S  
Altitude: 629 m

Photo: Fig 24.

Description: The remains of a pump room.

5.19. Site name: K19 (Site 19)

Date of compilation: 16/09/2006

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 05, 818' E

Latitude, 25° 27, 819' S

Altitude: 575 m

Photo: Fig 25.

Description: The home of the late Mr Brian P. Simmons. Informant Mr Patrick Simmons, son of Mr Brian Simmons, confirmed that the house was built between 1954-1956. This means that in terms of section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, the dwelling is not significant in heritage terms.

## 5. Findings and recommendations

A total of 19 site locations were documented. Seven of these are considered to be of high significance, they are grave sites and numbered site K6, K7, K9, K10, K11, K15 and K16.

It is recommended that these grave sites be fenced off in an effort to minimize damage to them during construction activities. Alternatively the graves may be exhumed and relocated. Specialised consultants are normally contracted for this purpose.

TABLE 5.1. Significance of located sites.

Site no.	Type/ description	Significance
K 1	Grave	None, not located within footprint area.
K 2	Grave	None, not located within footprint area.
K 3	Graves	None, not located within footprint area.
K 4	Grave	None, not located within footprint area.
K 5	Buildings, Karino Roller Mills	Low, not older than 60 years.
K 6	Graves	High, located within footprint area.
K 7	Graves	High, located within footprint area.
K 8	Building foundations	Low.
K 9	Graves	High, located within footprint area.
K 10	Graves, silo	High for graves, low for silo.
K 11	Graves	High, located within footprint area.
K 12	Iron Age remains	None, not located within footprint area.
K 13	Graves	None, not located within footprint area.
K 14	Ruins (western)	None, not located within footprint area.
K 15	Graves	High, located within footprint area.
K 16	Graves	High, located within footprint area.
K 17	Ruins (western)	Low.
K 18	Ruins (western)	Low
K 19	Building, house	Low.

It is important to note that the bulk of archaeological remains are normally located beneath the soil surface. It is therefore possible that some significant cultural material or remains were not located during this survey and will only be revealed when the soil is disturbed.

Therefore it is recommended that the owner of the land or developers take this into consideration when such activities are planned and executed at these locations.

Should excavation or large scale earth moving activities reveal any human skeletal remains, broken pieces of ceramic pottery, large quantities of sub-surface charcoal or any material that can be associated with previous occupation, a qualified archaeologist should be notified immediately.

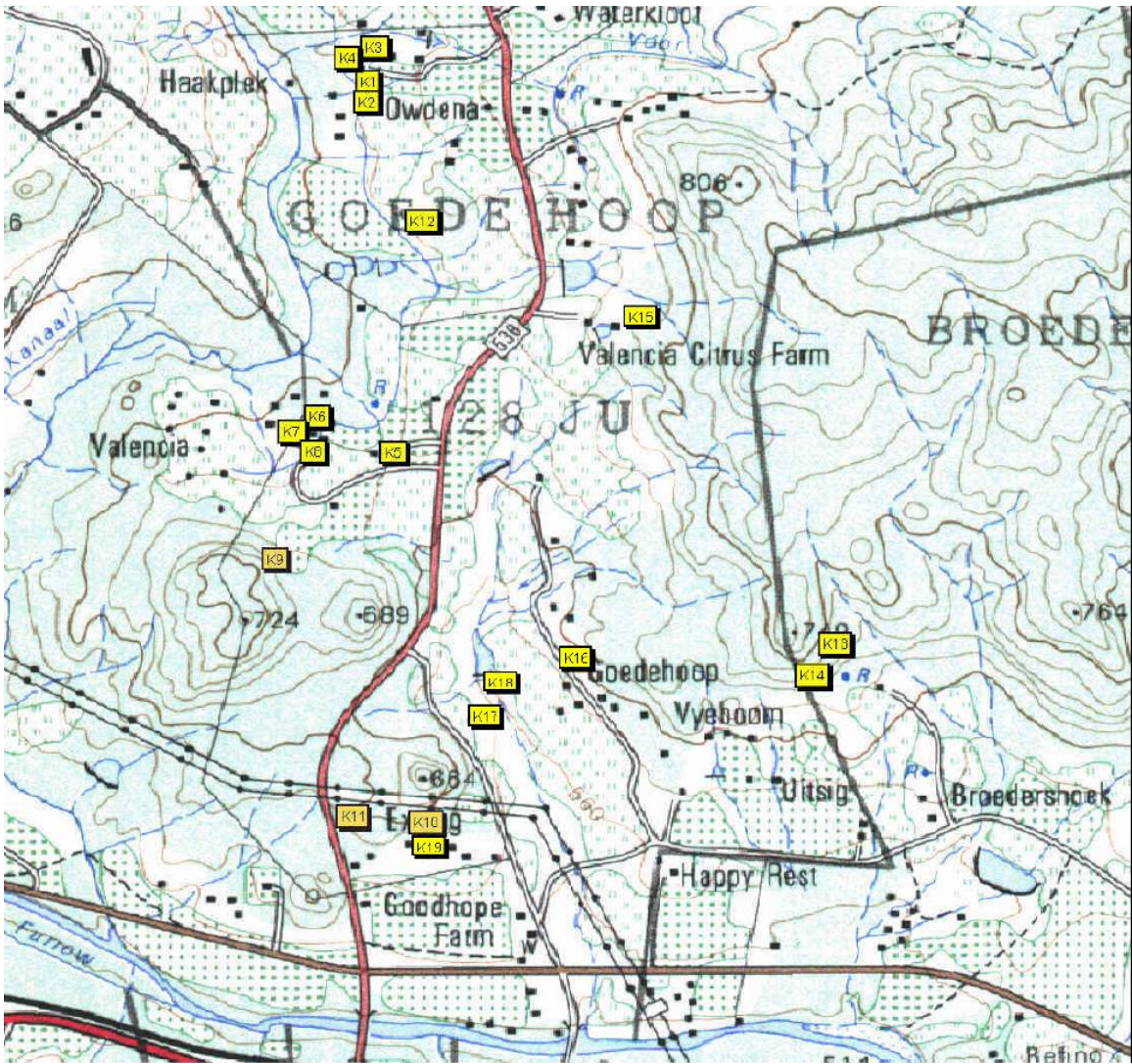
This will also temporarily halt such activities until an archaeologist have assessed the situation.

It must also be noted that if such a situation occurs it may have further financial implications for the developers the developers.

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Appendix A – Maps





## Appendix B – Photos



**Figure 1. The original Karino Roller Mill.**



**Figure 2. A northern view of the buildings at the Karino Roller Mill.**





**Figure 3. Site 6. Graveyard where relatives of informant Filemon Nyathi are buried. Six graves.**



**Figure 4. Photo of graves at site 6 taken in southern direction.**



**Figure 5. Photo of ruins located at site 8.**



**Figure 6. Ruins located at Site 8 visible from a different angle.**





**Figure 7. One of the graves located at Site 9. Note headstone.**



**Figure 8. Photo of graves at Site 9. Photo taken in southern direction.**



**Figure 9. Two graves located at Site 10.**





**Figure 10. An interesting building located near Site 10. This building was used in the manufacture of cattle feed.**



**Figure 11. Graves located at Site 11, photo taken in northern direction.**



**Figure 12. Graves located at Site 11. Informant Mr Alfred Lubisi to the right. Photo taken in southern direction.**



**Figure 13. Photo of graveyard at Site 11. Photo taken in northern direction.**





**Figure 14. Location of graves at Site 13 on southern slope of koppie.**



**Figure 15. Ruins located close to Site 13, photo taken in northern direction.**



**Figure 16. Ruins located at Site 14, photo taken in eastern direction.**



**Figure 17. Ruins located at Site 14. Photo taken in eastern direction.**





**Figure 18. One of the graves located at Site 15.**



**Figure 19. Some of the graves located at Site 16 shown by informant Mr AlbinoMasiya. Photo taken in northern direction.**



**Figure 20. More of the graves located at Site 16. Photo taken in eastern direction.**



**Figure 21. More graves at Site 16.**





**Figure 22. One of the dwellings for farm workers located at Site 17.**



**Figure 23. A second dwelling of farm workers located at Site 17.**



**Figure 24. A pump room located at Site 18.**



**Figure 25. The home of the late Mr Brian Simmons captured as Site 19.**