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July 27, 2013

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOPING & EVALUATION)

Proposed Township of Marulaneng Portion of the Farm Hartebeestlaagte No 529-KS

Map reference: South Africa 1:50000 2429 BC.
Co-ordinates: S 24° 27' 31.76" E 29° 32' 8.05"

INTRODUCTION

The archaeologist was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of the proposed township development at Marulaneng Extension on portion of the farm Hartebeestlaagte No 529-KS. In order to comply with the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA – Act No 25 of 1999 – see *the attachment*), the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance.

The aim of the Phase 1 assessment was to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to management measures that may be required at affected sites/features. This survey forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

The proposed development area is located immediately adjacent to the existing Marulaneng Township. The area is level and slightly sloping towards the south-eastern corner. It was previously used for agricultural purposes, the contours still being visible on the ground as well as on the Google Earth image. The vegetation has been altered by human action and consists of grass and pioneer acacia bush. The soil is not very deep, as can be seen in the images where erosion occurs. The underlying rock is igneous.



Figure 1. Google Earth image. The area to be developed is delineated in red.



Figure 2. General view of the terrain – note grass and acacia shrubs.



Figure 3. *The slight erosion exposed the underlying igneous rock.*



Figure 4. *The erosion in this area is half a metre deep, and this is where a MSA stone flake was observed. Coordinates: S24°27'23.2" E29°32'02.9".*



Figure 5. *These two MSA flakes were observed on the terrain. Although these are not tools, it is indicative of previous occupation during the Stone Age.*

METHODOLOGY

A survey of the demarcated area was undertaken on foot during which standard methods of observation were applied. A Garmin Nüvi was used for recording of the coordinates. Surface visibility was good.

DISCUSSION

No archaeological or historical sites and features, graves or places of religious and cultural significance were located. Only two stone flakes, indicative of tool making, were recovered. These probably date to the Stone Age, but it is not possible to ascribe it to a specific period since it was not found in context with other cultural material and was probably exposed during the previous agricultural usage of the land. No concentration of flakes was located which would be indicative of a manufacturing site.

Although the area was utilised for agricultural purposes in the recent past, it is possible that the community might be unaware of historical and/or prehistorical use of the site, e.g it is possible that it could have been used for burial by the Stone Age communities. Such graves would not be visible on the surface.

RECOMMENDATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

No significant heritage resources such as archaeological or historical material, burials or places of social or religious significance were located on the proposed area of development. No mitigation or management actions are required.

From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development. However, the discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Roodt'.

Hester Roodt

BA Hons Archaeology - UP; BSc Hons Anatomy – UP

For: R & R Cultural Resource Consultants

The **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999)** protects all structures and features older than 60 years (**Section 34**), archaeological sites and material (**Section 35**) and graves and burial sites (**Section 36**).

In terms of the act, the following is of relevance:

Historical remains

Section 34(1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

Archaeological remains

Section 35.(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

Section 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite.

Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (b) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Section 36 (6) Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

Culture resource management

Section 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

***‘development’** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place*;
- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

***‘place’** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure* ...

***‘structure’** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ...

Terminology:

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|---------------------|---|
| Early Stone Age: | Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs before present. |
| Middle Stone Age: | Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr - 30 000 yrs before present. |
| Late Stone Age: | The period from ± 30 000-yr to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists. |
| Early Iron Age: | Most of the first millennium AD. |
| Middle Iron Age: | 10 th to 13 th centuries AD. |
| Late Iron Age: | 14 th century to colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i> |
| Historical: | Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD 1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA. |
| Phase 1 assessment: | A scoping survey to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area. |
| Phase 2 assessment: | An in depth culture resources management study which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required. |