

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PROPOSED
PAARDEPOORT VODACOM TOWER**

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SERVICES

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted by to undertake a heritage survey of the proposed Paardepoort Vodacom tower, near Utrecht (Fig. 1). The project includes an area for the tower as well as the electrical powerline that links up to the nearby line north of the farm buildings.

The project site is located on the farm Paardepoort 77 at the top of Bulwane Hill. The area is currently infested with wattle trees, and the tower zone is near the top of the hill. Whilst the specific area appears to be sensitive in terms of heritage sites, it is situated too high up to have been settled by people in the past – summer thunderstorms would make it dangerous.

No archaeological sites were observed during the survey; however, a historical farmstead has been noted.

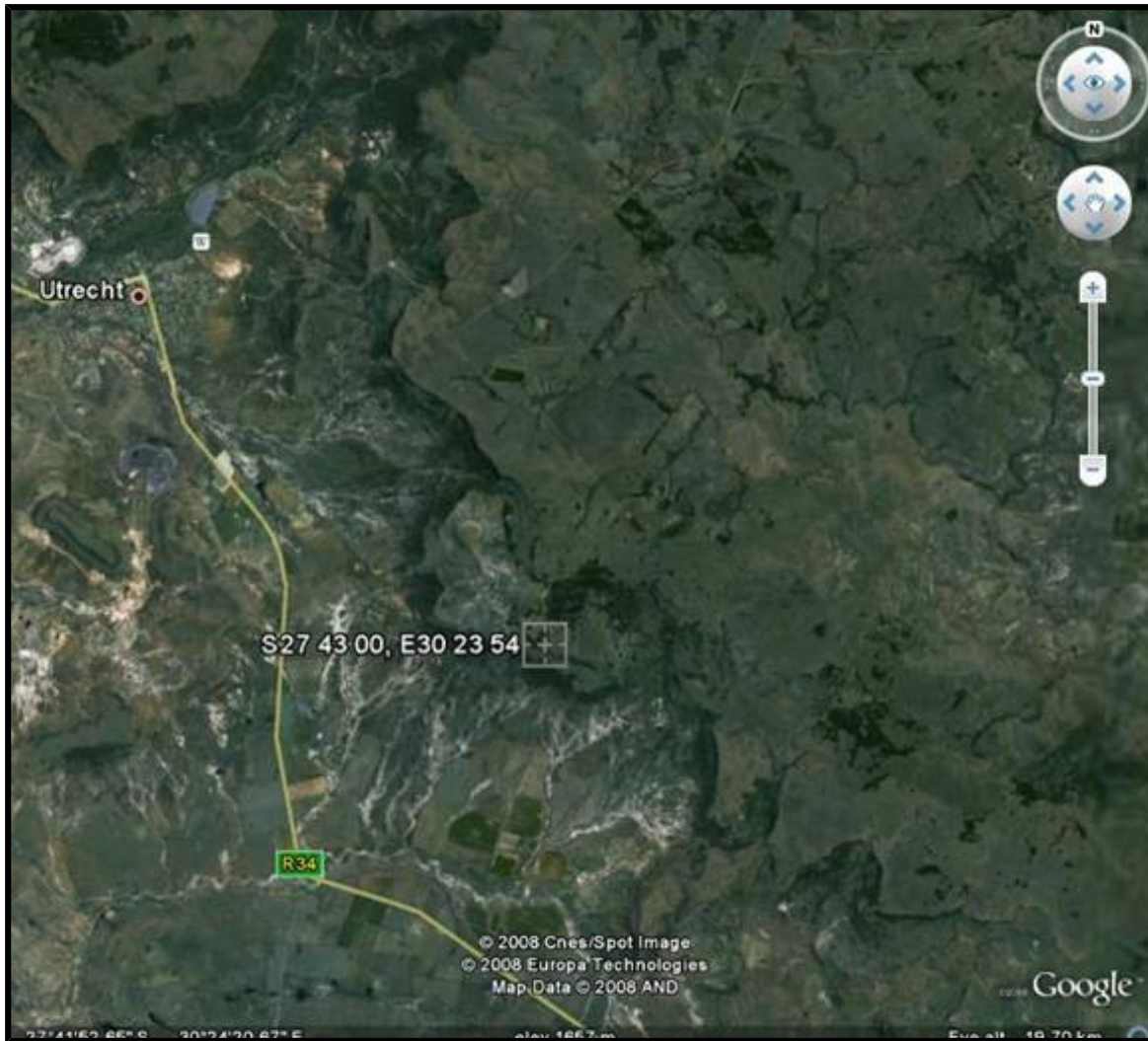
METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases from both Umlando and the Natal Museum. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal. This database does; however, tend to be restricted to archaeological and palaeontological sites. We consulted an archive that lists possible old homesteads, and we then consulted with an historical architect.

The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) will consisted of a foot survey of the affected area. Any heritage sites would be noted and assessed in terms of their significance.

FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP OF THE AFFECTED AREA



Defining significance

Archaeological sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

1.1. Organic remains:

1.1.1. Faunal

1.1.2. Botanical

1.2. Rock art

1.3. Walling

1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit

1.5. Features:

1.5.1. Ash Features

1.5.2. Graves

1.5.3. Middens

1.5.4. Cattle byres

1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

2.1. Internal housing arrangements

2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns

2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?

3.2. Is it a type site?

3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?
- 5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

- 6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

- 7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?
- 7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?
- 7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

- 8.1. Historical buildings
- 8.2. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites
- 8.3. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.4. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.5. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes.

RESULTS

No archaeological sites were recorded in the immediate vicinity of the proposed tower and servitudes. However, three sites had been previously

recorded: 2730CB008, 2730CB011, 2730CB012. These sites are located 250m, 440m, and 700m away from the affected area, respectively. These sites occur on the lower plateau in front of the affected area and will not be affected. These sites are briefly discussed below but are not assessed, as they will not be affected.

2730CB008

This site is a small shelter that has an archaeological deposit, artefacts and some faint images of humans and antelope.

2730CB011

This site consists of very faded rock art images on the cliff face.

2730CB012

The site consists of a scatter of pottery between boulders as well as a complete pot.

Paardepoort farm

Paardepoort Farm is a historical site since the buildings are older than 60 years (see fig. 2). The Potgieter family cemetery occurs in the area as well.

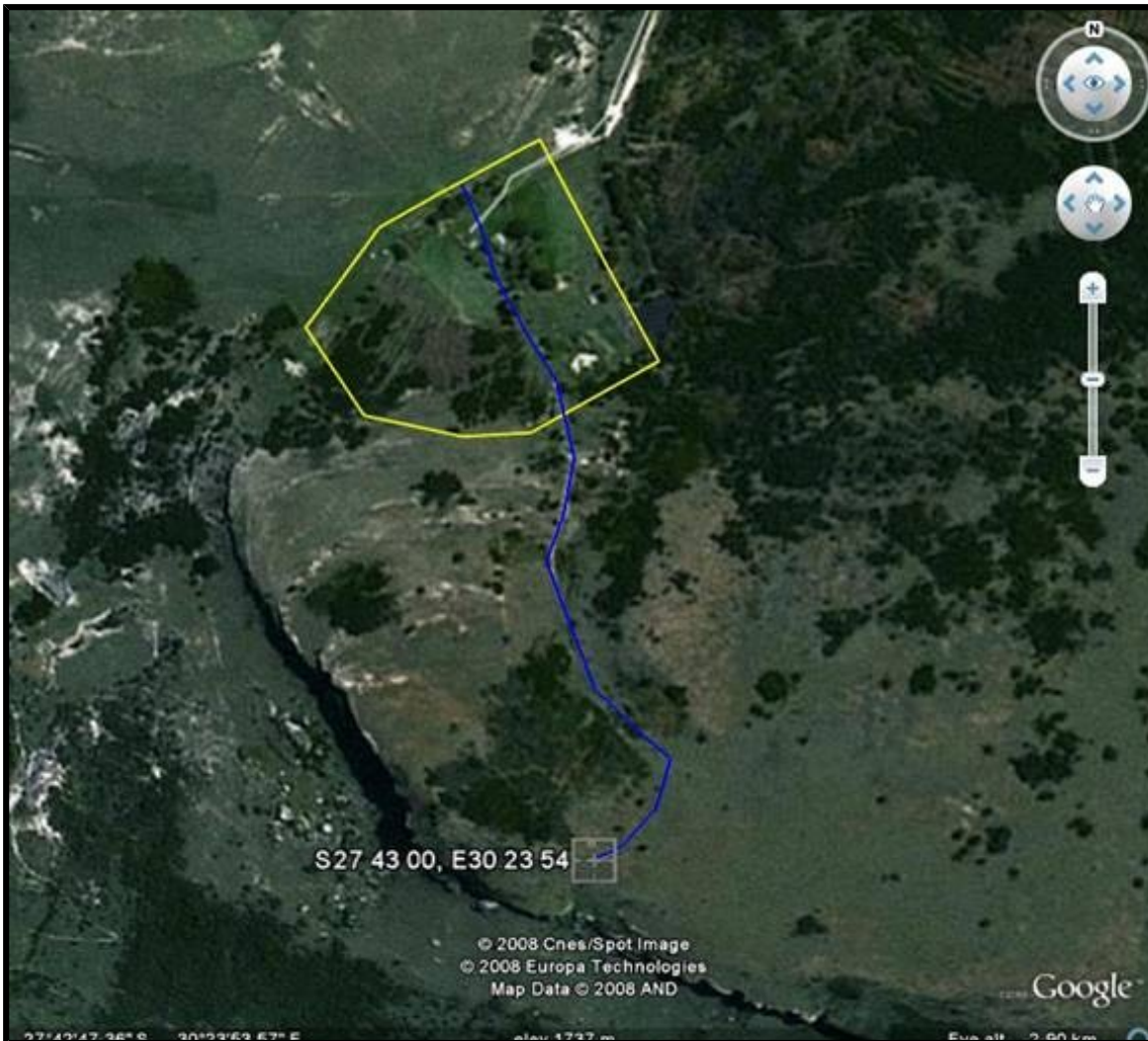
Management Plan

The Paardepoort farm buildings and related structures may not be affected in any manner without the approval of Amafa KZN. The powerline from the existing powerline to the affected area must follow the existing track to the top of Bulwane Hill (see fig. 3). The area in figure 2 should be monitored, by a competent practitioner, during any earthmoving activity in case historical middens or isolated artefacts occur.

FIGURE 2: PAARDEPOORT FARMSTEAD



FIGURE 3: LOCALITY OF PROPOSED POWER LINE AND PAARDEPOORT FARMSTEAD BOUNDARY



**APPENDIX A
HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REPORT AND DEEDS OFFICE SEARCH**



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architecture: research: conservation: anthropology: impacts consulting

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Notes on Paardepoort Farm no 77 Utrecht District

Debbie Whelan from Archaic Consulting was requested by Gavin Anderson of Umlando to carry out a short preliminary investigation based on photographs and readily available information provided of the structure on Paardepoort Farm, Utrecht district. Gavin Anderson provided the photographs which have been inserted into this document. Maps, Land Registers, Survey diagrams and archival references were consulted.

Short Report on the farm

Possibly due to the situation within the ZAR, the land records for the early history of Paardepoort 77 are scanty. Indeed, the date of this early grant is not registered in the Land Register, and the earliest recorded land transfer is in 1860. The first grant of land was 2503 morgen (the Survey diagram notes 5299 Engelsch Acres) to Petrus Johannes Uys. This was then transferred to Pieter Uys and then in 1860 to both Margaretha Johannes Uys and Alida Maria Uys. It is not surprising that one of the three koppies amongst which it sits is known as Uys Kop.

Subdivision A (extent unknown) was registered in 1880 in the names of Maria Johanna Potgieter, Hans Jurie Potgieter and Cornelis Janse Potgieter. The first indication of the size of this property is only in 1891 where Subdivision A is noted as being 1251 morgen and 489 roods. In this last land transaction, Maria Potgieter has fallen away and the property is registered as Hans Jurie and Corenlis Janse owning the whole. (it seems as though she went and married Matthys Lourens). Then, in 1910 this was sold to Matthys Johannes Lourens who, in 1929 transferred the property to his wife Maria Lourens. This was through Deceased Estate as the Archival Records note that he died in 1928 and also that his wife's maiden name was Potgieter (MSCE O 74/1928 Lourens, Matthys Johannes Uys. (S/S Maria Johanna, Born Potgieter). This would suggest that Matthys Potgieter, in whose name the farm was registered in 1943, was still a descendent.

Subdivision A is the portion that was excised off the main farm to the north east. The house in question is on the Remainder.

Also in 1890, **Subdivision B** was registered in the name of Petrus and Ledew de Jager, with the property being sold by Margaretha Johannes Uys. Ledew transferred his portion to Petrus in 1891. In the April of that year, a holding known as B+B" was transferred by Petrus de Jager to Johannes Nicholaas Moolman. This is reflected as being the **Remainder of B**, consisting of 1251 morgen and 489 roods. In 1897, Moolman transferred the portion to Matthys Johannes Uys Lourens and then in 1910, Lourens to Cornelis Potgieter. In 1930, this remainder was transferred to the name of Anna Potgieter, and Subdivision 2, consisting of 2 morgen, was transferred to the Union Government.

In 1965, the Remainder of B, now consisting of 1169 morgen, was moved from the Estate of the Late Anna Adendorff (married) into the names of Cornelis Tobias Vermaak and David Doyes Vermaak. In 1979, the former ceded his half share to David Vermaak.

How the property transaction occurred between the Uys family and the Potgieters and De Jagers is not certain, although Alida Maria Uys was born Potgieter, so the family could have claimed inheritance. (MSCE 0 14332/1929 Potgieter, Alida Maria. (Born Uys). Thus, the entire property has essentially been in the hands of two families for over a century.

The House on the Remainder of Paardepoot

The author was hoping that the land registers would assist in establishing a date for the house which is a good example of rural vernacular architecture, Fig 1 shows an elevation particularly reminiscent of properties constructed between 1890 and 1920. Since the part of the farm on which this structure sits was not the original excised portion, and that the siting of the house close to water and against hills is sensible, there are more than likely portions of this structure which date back to the first Uys habitation on this property (as noted, undated due to lack of information on the land register)

The house is constructed of mixed construction and largely local shale under a corrugated sheeting roof. There is a low shale/stone podium on which the extended portion of the house sits. It is suspect by the author that the rear portion formed the original house, and that the extended portion, prominent in Figure 1, was a slightly later extension. Some of the windows are timber and many have been replaced with steel casement versions. There is a generous wrap around veranda to three sides which appears to be supported by steel posts. There is little gentrification, suggesting little need or money for such frippery, and typical of such houses which are both remote and situated in hard farming areas. The rear portion of the house is characterized by the chimney, adding to the supposition that this was the early part of the house.



Fig 1: Front view of house, showing suspected later extension



Fig 2: Showing rear portion, with suspected original building and kitchen chimney.



Fig 3 showing relationship of extended portion to rear house



Fig 4: Showing suspected early part of house and inappropriate addition of steel windows

Conclusions:

This structure is part of a long tradition in the Uys Family. As the author's brief is of a restricted nature, the follow up would be better photographic material or a site inspection, and clarity as to where the descendents of this family have moved to in latter years and what their sensitivity is regarding the house. In addition to canvassing local emotions regarding the farmstead, the investigation of options and alternatives is also recommended as part of a greater brief.

The house is a good example of a rural vernacular building, constructed incrementally to suit position and economy. At face value the property has much to recommend it in terms of scale, proportion and a certain discreet elegance. Should its retention be an option, support from professionals in the field and Amafa for like building materials could be sought.

Justification for its retention, or demolition at this stage cannot form a part of a document of this brevity.

References:

Land Register: Paardepoort 77

Survey Diagram: Paardepoort 77

Provincial Archives Repository Database:

MSCE O 74/1928 Lourens, Matthys Johannes Uys. (S/S Maria Johanna, Born Potgieter).

MSCE O 14332/1929 Potgieter, Alida Maria. (Born Uys).

Topocadastral Series 1989 2730CB