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August 28, 2013

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOPING & EVALUATION)

Proposed Private Hospital Site, Polokwane Portion 175 of the Farm Tweefontein 915 LS, Limpopo Province

Map reference: South Africa 1:50 000 2329 DC.

Co-ordinates

- 01.** S 23°51'59.54" E 29°31'21.96"
- 02.** S 23°51'53.75" E 29°31'18.78"
- 03.** S 23°51'49.37" E 29°31'26.15"
- 04.** S 23°51'54.23" E 29°31'29.14"

INTRODUCTION

The archaeologist was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of the proposed Private Hospital on Portion 175 of the farm Tweefontein 915 LS. 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.

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 the coordinates. Surface visibility was poor to fair due to the grass cover.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

The proposed development area is adjacent to the Modjadiskloof Road (R81) on the north-eastern outskirts of Polokwane, approximately 1,38 km from the Mall of the North, located to the north-west of Polokwane. In 2007 a Phase 2 Assessment on Portion 8 of the farm Tweefontein 915 LS was conducted and in 2009 another Phase 2 followed for the Mall of the North.

Based on background knowledge of the area provided by Jannie Loubser's in-depth research *Ndebele Archaeology of the Pietersburg Area* (completed in 1981 and published in 1994), it was postulated that the site was most likely associated with a Northern Ndebele occupation and then again post-1800. Both portions (8 and 154) contained a single-component Badfontein site classified as terminal Late Iron Age.

The reason for including this information is due to its proximity of the present site earmarked for the proposed hospital complex. Although no cultural features were observed during the site visit, and no signs of occupation is visible on the landscape, its proximity to the large Badfontein site could be important since it is possible that smaller outlying or older habitation could have occurred there. All evidence would have been destroyed by previous ploughing activities.



Figure 1. Portions 8 and 154 on the farm Tweefontein where a large Badfontein site was identified.



Figure 2. The proximity to the site (encircled in red) to the Mall of the North (Portion 154) and Portion 8 (encircled in black) is clearly visible in this image.

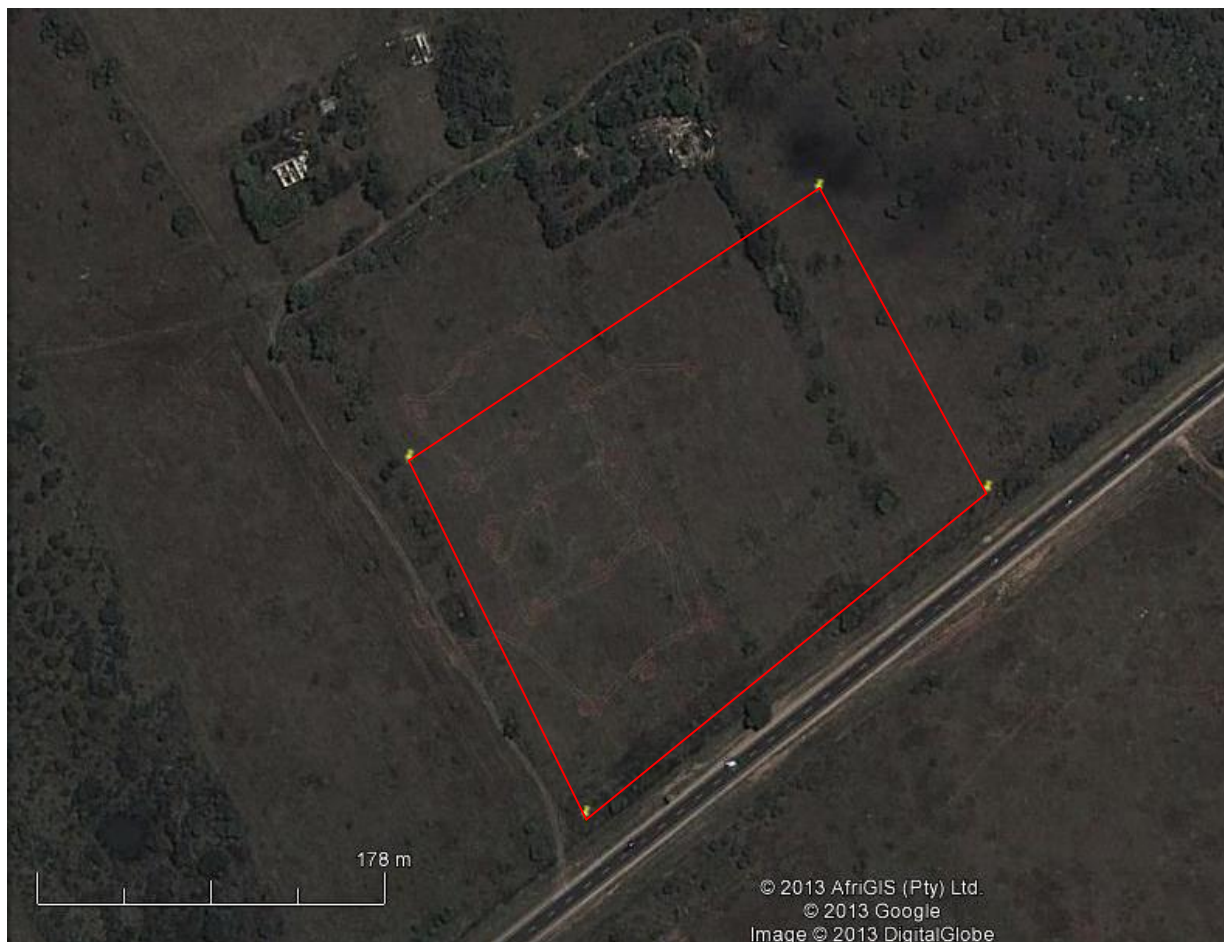


Figure 3. Google Earth image. The area to be developed is delineated in red. The geotechnical pits and excavator tracks are visible in the image.



Figures 4 & 5. General view of the terrain. In some places the grass covers the surface to such an extent that observation is difficult.





Figures 6 and 7. The various geotechnical pits were used as standard reference for assessment of possible cultural content. No stratification or difference in soil was observed, and no cultural material, e.g stone age tools/flakes or pottery was observed.

DISCUSSION

No signs of archaeological or historical sites and features, graves or places of religious and cultural significance were located on the surface. The proximity of the Badfontein complex, however, is cause for concern. It is possible that outlying occupation areas could have been present on the proposed site.

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 heritage remains must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.**

REFERENCES

Loubser JHN. 1981. *Ndebele archaeology of the Pietersburg area*. MA Thesis, University of the Witwatersrand: Johannesburg.

Loubser JHN. 1994. Ndebele archaeology of the Pietersburg area. In: *Navorsinge van die Nasionale Museum Bloemfontein, Vol 10 Part 2*. Bloemfontein: National Museum.

Roodt F. 2009. *Phase 2 Heritage Impact Assessment Report, Permit No. 80/08/09/008/51. Report of the Investigation of a Late Iron Age Site on the Farm Tweefontein 915 Ls - Ptn 154, Polokwane - Combined with the Assessment of the Adjacent Portion 8*. For: Brodsky Investments (PTY) LTD.



August 28, 2013

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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:

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.