

Trojan Platinum (Pty) Ltd

**Scoping Study for the Proposed Access Road to Planned
Winnaarshoek Mine**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE WINNAARSHOEK
ACCESS ROAD**

A Phase-1 report submitted to SRK Consulting

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE WINNAARSHOEK

ACCESS ROAD

INTRODUCTION

Trojan Platinum (Pty) Ltd intends to construct an access road to the Winnaarshoek Mine, paralleling the off-take pipeline from the main Lebalelo Water Supply Scheme. The road reserve will be 30 metres wide and 6 kilometres long. The environmental coordinators for the project, SRK Consulting, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the proposed route for sites of archaeological or historical interest.

METHOD

Two ARM staff visited the study area on 5 June 2001. SRK provided maps of the proposed route at scales of 1:2000 and 1:10 000. The route was followed by vehicle and on foot. Sites of interest were recorded with a GPS instrument and then transferred to the 1:50 000 maps 2430AC Mecklenburg and 2430CA Steelpoort.

In addition the ARM team examined part of the main pipeline trench on the farm Mooihoek 255KT where it paralleled the R37 Pietersburg / Burgersfort Road.

RESULTS

A few sites occur in the study area, ranging from the Middle Stone Age to the Historic Period.

Middle Stone Age (ca 250 000 to 25 000 years ago) artefacts lie on the surface along the route, particularly at river crossings. None of these occurrences are *in situ* and therefore are not significant.

The remains of Historic Pedi homesteads were marked by characteristic pottery, grindstones and the occasional stone feature, such as grainbin foundations. Some of these remains also occurred near river crossings.

- 1) 24.28.53.5S 30.06.45.7E
- 2) 24.28.59.7S 30.06.42.4E
- 3) 24.30.12.0S 30.05.04.6E

4) 24.30.18.6S 30.04.54.4E

These homesteads have already been destroyed by agricultural activities and therefore have no significance now.

Site 4, however, incorporates several graves, and the cemetery is culturally significant. The graves are located about 200 metres west of WH 17 (24.30.20.3S 30.04.49.5E) next to a new road to a temporary construction camp. They appear to be slightly south of the proposed route. People have surrounded the graves with stones to make them more prominent.

Another cemetery was noted during the archaeological assessment for the Winnaarshoek Mine (Huffman 2000). These graves stand near the junction of the farms Driekop 253KT, Clapham 118KT and Winnaarshoek 250KT.

Finally, the pipe trench exposed an Early Iron Age site (ca. AD 500-700) at 24.34.10-13S 30.09.34.5E. At least seven ancient storage pits containing ash, pottery and cattle dung were visible in the sides of the trench. Representative samples were collected. The original village horizon lay about 30 cm below the present surface, and this is why the site was not found during the archaeological assessment of the Lebalelo pipeline (see Huffman & Schoeman 2000).

RECOMMENDATIONS

No sites of archaeological or historical significance were noted from the surface remains. The Early Iron Age site, however, shows that sites could be buried under the surface.

Archaeologists should therefore examine the pipe trench after it is excavated.

If possible, the access road, and pipe trench, should avoid the grave areas. If avoidance is not possible, then the graves must be relocated according to the wishes of the descendants.

With these two constraints, there is no archaeological reason why the road project should not proceed.

REFERENCES

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