

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE
PROPOSED NORTHGATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON
PORTIONS OF THE ORIGINAL FARM ROODE PAN 70, NEAR
KIMBERLEY IN THE SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY OF THE
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to establish if any heritage sites were present on portions of the original farm Roode Pan 70 that are situated some 10 km north of central Kimberley in the Sol Plaatje Municipality of the Northern Cape Province. An inspection of the ~200 ha area involved revealed a very low density of stone artefacts brought up by bioturbation from below the superficial Hutton Sands, but nowhere were any archaeological sites, palaeontological bones, or graves of any age to be seen there. It is consequently considered that this terrain has no heritage significance and that its use for a large gated housing development will have no impact whatsoever on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ongoing urbanization, a preference shift to smaller, secure, residential stands, and growing affluence amongst the employed, is leading in Kimberley, as elsewhere in South Africa, to a firm demand for gated formal housing. To meet this need, developers are now planning to construct Northgate, a security – fenced housing complex, catering for the middle income sector, on the northern periphery of the Sol Plaatje Municipality.

This report is part of an EIA that is being prepared by Peter Roux of Turgis Consulting, a Johannesburg – based consulting firm, on behalf of Group 1, the Northgate housing complex developers.

LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Prehistoric sites in the broad vicinity include pecked engravings and Ceramic LSA occurrences at Wildebeest Kuil, about 7 km to the west (Beaumont & Vogel 1989) and the Fauresmith locality at Roseberry Plain, some 12 km to the east (Mason 1988). Further away are the Fauresmith and Acheulean sequences at Roodam 1 & 2, about 25 km to the west, the Fauresmith and Acheulean occurrences at Pniel 6 & 7, 25 km to the WNW and, further in the same direction, the Acheulean succession at Canteen Koppie (Beaumont & Morris 1990).

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The proposed Northgate township, covering Portions 70/42, 70/16 and 70/70 of the original farm Roode Pan 70, is located about 10 km north of central Kimberley in the Sol Plaatje Municipality of the Northern Cape (Figs. 1 – 3). This heavily – overgrazed ground with a fair tree cover is flat on its eastern side, from where it slopes down in a generally western direction to flamingo – linked Kamfers Dam, a few hundred metres beyond its eastern limit (Figs. 4 – 6). I

walked over the full extent of this terrain, in the company of Peter Roux, on the morning of Thursday 28 February, and thereafter, by myself, on the mornings of Saturday 1 March and Saturday 8 March 2008.

SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY

Outcrops show that bedrock is usually Ventersdorp andesite, but shale fragments, in warthog burrow debris piles, suggest that this volcanic rock must, over the flat western part of the terrain, be overlain in places by a veneer of Karoo Sequence sediments (Kent 1980). Also present in many of the burrow piles in that area are calcrete clasts, which may indicate a calcrete zone in or on the shales, that is certainly absent on the slopes further east, where no traces of shale or calcrete were seen. Forming the modern surface are unstratified red aeolian Hutton Sands that seem to be generally shallow (<1.0 m deep), as they are over much of the Kimberley region, where deeper accumulations, like those at Roseberry Plain, are rare (Mason 1988).

HERITAGE FINDINGS

Stone artefacts were found to be very sparse within the investigated area, with many finds being from near extant burrows, which seem to be a major means by which specimens are brought up over time to the surface, from their original setting at the base of the Hutton Sands. Of the retrieved specimens (Figs. 7 – 8), one is on quartzite, two are on green chert, and the rest are on hornfels, with such items being often heavily patinated, with scar ridges varying from fresh to barely recognizable. The sample is largely comprised of irregular flakes and cores, often broken, but Peter Roux did find a small coarse unifacial point, at 28° 40' 00.1" S, 24° 44' 35.0" E (Fig. 9). This material, as a whole, compares most closely with the many Fauresmith collections that have been recovered from the same stratigraphic context in and around Kimberley, of which a number are housed at the McGregor Museum.

On the eastern slopes, at 28° 40' 05.2" S, 24° 44' 54.0" E, we came across the foundation / floor of an early rectangular structure, built of andesite cobbles, and about 2.5 x 5.0 m in extent. Nearby, stones of a similar size had been used at various points to block further erosion along some gullies, which could mean that the walls of the building were dismantled at some later time for that purpose. Finds in the vicinity included a number of very thick and rusted container / tin fragments and two pieces of a porcelain cup (Fig. 10), all of which are likely to date to the early 20th century. Nowhere within the inspected terrain did I see any archaeological sites, fossil bones, or graves of any age.

CONCLUSIONS

A foot survey of Portion 70/42, 70/16 and 70/70 of the original farm Roode Pan 70 produced only a sparse scatter of lithics that are probably attributable to the Fauresmith. My conclusion is therefore that the use of this ground for the proposed Northgate township will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

REFERENCES

Beaumont, P.B. & Vogel, J.C. 1989. Patterns in the age and context of rock art in the Northern Cape. *S. Afr. Archaeol. Bull.* **44**, 73 – 81.

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Kent, L.E. (ed.) 1980. Stratigraphy of South Africa Part 1. *Geol. Survey S.Afr. Handbook* **8**, 1 – 690.

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Vehicle costs: 90 km @ R 2.00 per km	R 180.00
Traveling time: 2 hours @ R 240 per hour	R 480.00
Fieldwork time: 8 hrs @ R 240 per hour	R 1 920.00
Desktop time: 6 hrs @ R 240 per km	R 1 440.00

TOTAL **R 4 020.00**

For electronic transfer, please credit the following account:

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