

P.O.BOX73703

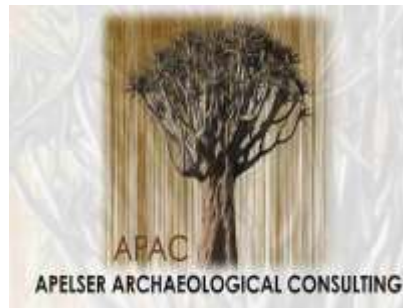
LYNNWOOD RIDGE

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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

Reference: APAC018/63

2018-09-18

To: **Whom it May Concern**

RE: 1ST SHORT REPORT ON THE DOCUMENTATION OF AND SOCIAL CONSULTATION RELATED TO GRAVES ON TWO GRAVE SITES LOCATED ON PORTIONS OF THE FARM WITFONTEIN 16IR TO BE IMPACTED BY TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENTS (WITFONTEIN EXT.88 & WITFONTEIN EXT.96).

APAC & AVBOB Funerals Johannesburg was appointed by M&T Development, in conjunction with Nali Sustainability Solutions, to undertake the assessment, exhumation and relocation of an estimated 90 graves located in two informal cemeteries from the above land parcel. The establishment & development of townships (Witfontein Extension 88 & Witfontein Extension 96) is being undertaken here and will impact on the graves situated here (named Grave Site 1 & 2). This necessitated the appointment to conduct the work and the follow the required processes to successfully exhume and relocate the graves from here prior to the development commencing.

The grave sites were identified and recorded during Heritage Impact Assessments conducted for the proposed developments (reported on in separate HIA Documents). Originally the two sites (Grave Site 1 & Grave Site 2) were estimated to contain around 30 and 60 graves respectively.

As part of the required social consultation process a site visit was undertaken during the 3rd of September 2018 by the Specialist Team of APAC and AVBOB. During this visit the grave sites and graves were individually documented (photographed and GPS location data recorded), as well as the graves counted and numbered. Site Notices (as required by law) were also erected at the Main Entrance to the area as well as on the Grave Sites as well, indicating the intent of exhumation & relocation and requesting members of the public to come forward to identify and claim these graves and to register as Interested & Affected Parties. Similar notices have also been placed in the printed media (local and national newspapers) for the same reason. This forms part of the Social Consultation process required to try and identify possible family members/descendants of the deceased individuals buried here in order to get possible consent for the exhumations.

The results of the 3rd of September site visit and assessment are the following:

AJ Pelsers BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology) [WITS], MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

Beatrix Bed & Breakfast Trading as A Pelsers Archaeological Consulting

Grave Site 1

Grave Site 1 contains a number of unknown, stone-packed graves without headstones, located in a clump of wattle trees in the north-eastern section of the study area. The site was fairly densely vegetated during the initial HIA study and the exact number of graves was difficult to determine at the time. It was estimated that there could be as many as 30 graves here. During the site visit of the 3rd of September 2018 the site was more open, with a section recently burnt as well. A total of **56 GRAVES** were identified and numbered in the process. One of the graves has a metal cross as marker, while a few of the stone-packed graves have single stones placed at the heads only. No inscriptions with names or dates could be identified on any of these graves.

It is very possible that these graves are all older than 60 years of age. As they are unmarked and unknown at this stage all the graves on Site 1 is therefore also deemed as older than 60 years if no one comes forward to claim and identify these graves through the social consultation process.

GPS Location - S26 00 41.30 E28 15 40.60



Fig.1: Partial view of Site 1.



Fig.2: One of the stone-packed graves on Site 1.



Fig.3: The grave with the metal cross marker.



Fig.4: A grave with a single stone at the head as marker.



Fig.5: A grave with a stone-packed border.

Grave Site 2

Grave Site 2 is located on the western boundary close to the R21 and contains a fairly large number of graves. Because of dense grass cover it was difficult initially (during the HIA) to determine the exact number but it was estimated to be as much as 60 graves. Although most of the graves are stone-packed and without headstones, there are some graves with formal demarcations and headstones with inscriptions. The inscriptions on some of these are hard to read but the following individuals and dates could be identified at this point:

1. Nimrod Ngwenya (born and died in 1964)
2. Belesia Ngwenya (born 1966 & died 1967)
3. Winei Mathibatsolo – died 1968

A 4th headstone could not be read clearly but it seems as if the individual was either born in 1952 or passed away in 1952.

During the 3rd of September 2018 site assessment a total of **42 GRAVES** were identified and numbered at Site 2.

GPS Location: S26 00 51.50 E28 15 30.20



Fig.6: View of location of Site 2.



Fig.7: One of the stone-packed graves.



**Fig.8: Another grave at Site 2.
The plant grows on top of the stone-packed grave.**



**Fig.9: One of the graves with a formal headstone.
The inscription cannot be read, but a date of 1952 was visible.**



Fig.10: Another of the stone-packed graves.



Fig.11: The headstone on Nimrod Ngwenya's grave.



Fig.12: The headstone on Belesia Ngwenya's grave.



Fig.13: The headstone of Winei Mathibatsolo's grave.



Fig.14: A view of some of the marked & numbered graves on Site 2.

Site Notices, Newspaper Advertisements & Consultation with previous Landowners

Site Notices were placed at the main entry point to the area, as well as on each site. It is hoped that this will attract possible descendants, workers and community members to come forward and identify & claim some of the graves located at these two sites.

Notices were also placed in various newspapers (The Daily Sun, City Press & Sowetan). Copies of the original advertisements will also be provided when the various permit applications are done.

The team is also in the process of consulting with the previous landowners regarding these grave sites in order to try and determine if they possibly have any information on the sites, the deceased buried here and/or possible family members and descendants.



Fig.15: Site Notice at the Main entry point to the area.



Fig.16: Close-up of Notice.



Fig.17: View of Notice at Site 1.

**EXHUMATION AND
RELOCATION OF
GRAVES FROM:
Portion 2 of the farm Witfontein
16R (Witfontein Extension 88 &
Witfontein Extension 96)**

Notice is hereby given that Avbob (Funeral Service) Ltd. Intends to exhume and relocate graves from two sites located on above mentioned farm. This is in accordance with Section 36 of the National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999) and Section 2(1) of the Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance of 1925 (Ordinance 7 of 1925). It is the intention to relocate the graves to Waterfall Cemetery or any other Local Municipal Cemetery as prescribed by the Local Municipality.

Information on graves:

Site 1

1. Number of graves: Approximately 56 graves. All Unknown

Site 2

1. Number of graves: Approximately 60 graves.

2. Unknown graves = 40

Marked Graves:

(1) Nimrod Ngwenya. Born and died in 1964

(2) Belesia Ngwenya. Born 1966 and died in 1967

(3) Winei Mathibatsolo. Died 1968

Any person wishing to object to the proposed exhumation and re-internments or wishes to submit any representations, must do so in writing within 14 days of the date of publication of this notice, to:

THE CHIEF DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL
AFFAIRS
PRIVATE BAG X86,
Marshalltown 2107
TEL: 011 355 5270/5456/5003 or
079 524 0733 (Jacqueline Obando)
or to AVBOB (FUNERAL SERVICE)
LTD. PO BOX 1661,
PRETORIA 0001.

011 482 1027 or 083 302 7166

NANTIE CROUCAMP

Or to Me. Thingahanwi Tshivhase
SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves
Unit

Tel: 012 941 4960

Fig.18: Detail of Notice placed in the newspapers.

In conclusion it can be stated that the process regarding the investigation, exhumation and relocation of graves from the Witfontein sites (Sites 1 & 2) has commenced, Site notices have been erected, the graves have been recorded and numbered and Newspaper Advertisements placed. Consultation with the previous landowners is also being undertaken. Once the required time-frames related to the Social Consultation has been run and the process completed, the various permit applications will be submitted. As soon as these permits have been issued the physical exhumations and relocations will be scheduled and undertaken.

The following is recommended on the way forward:

1. Continuation of the Social Consultation process
2. Obtaining consent from possible family members/descendants of the deceased individuals buried here
3. The provision of a Motivation letter from M&T Development (Pty) Ltd to APAC and AVBOB Funerals Johannesburg motivating the reasons why the exhumations and relocations are required. These letters are required for the permit applications as well.

Finally, the initial number of graves estimated to be at the sites was 90. After the site assessments and numbering of the graves the total is 98. The extra costs involved for these 8 graves need to be taken into consideration and it is requested that a Variation Order be provided for this purpose.

Should there be any questions or comments on the contents of this document please contact the author as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Anton Pelser

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anton Pelser', located below the typed name.