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**VAT NO.: 4360226270**

**2019-06-26**

**To: Me. Thingahangwi Tshivase**

**South African Heritage Resources Agency  
Burial Grounds and Graves Unit (BGG Unit)**

**RE: APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO INVESTIGATE, EXHUME AND RELOCATE GRAVES FROM A  
SITE LOCATED AT GLENCORE OPERATIONS'S GOEDGEVONDEN COLLIERY NEAR OGIES,  
MPUMALANGA**

This short report serves as background information to and motivation for the permit application related to the above site. The site (named Site G) is located on a portion of the farm Goedgevonden 10IS, near Ogies/Phola in Mpumalanga, close to an area called Goedgevonden Village. The site will be directly impacted on by expanding opencast coal mining operations and the graves will have to be investigated, exhumed and relocated. There are approximately 15 graves located on the site, with most unknown and not properly marked. There are however a few graves located on the site with formal headstones and partially legible inscriptions which indicates that members of the Van der Merwe, Rheeder and Strydom families were buried here between the early 1930's and 1940.

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

Beatrix Bed & Breakfast Trading as A Pelsers Archaeological Consulting



Figure 1: General location of Site G (Google Earth 2019).



Figure 2: Closer view of the location of Site G Graves (Google Earth 2019).





**Figure 3: A view of a section of Site G.**



**Figure 4: Another view of Site G.**



**Figure 5: One of the graves on Site G.**



**Figure 6: Close-up of another grave's headstone.**



**Figure 7: Another grave on the site.**



**Figure 8: Another grave with headstone on Site G.**





**Figure 9: Grave with headstone.**



**Figure 10: An unknown and sunken-in grave.**



**Figure 11: Another grave with fallen over headstone.**

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC), in conjunction with Selala Funerals in Witbank, was approached by Glencore in 2017 already to assess the site for the possibility of exhuming and relocating the graves, but due to external factors out of the mine's control, the physical work did not take place. APAC (together with Selala) has now been appointed finally by Glencore Operations to undertake the required work in terms of the Site G graves.

In July and August 2017 Mr. Simon Selala (in an effort to try and locate family members/descendants of the deceased buried at Site G) consulted with community members Mrs. Gumede and Mr Shezi living nearby. Mrs. Gumede explained that she has been living at GGV Village since 1963 and has never seen any family members/descendant of the graves visiting such graves/site G. She said that those graves belong to an European family who sold the farm and relocated long ago. The person who bought the farm also relocated thereafter. Mr Shezi explained that the age of this grave site is from between 1948/1958.

It is believed that the age of the graves and the fact that the descendants of the deceased buried there had relocated long ago will make it difficult to identify and get into contact with anyone related to these graves. However, should it be deemed necessary then Site Notices will be erected and notices placed in newspapers in an effort to try and identify any possible family members.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Kind regards

Anton Pelser