

**Heritage impact assessment for the  
PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SAPS VERDRAG TRAINING  
CENTRE, THABAZIMBI REGION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

## HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SAPS VERDRAG TRAINING CENTRE, THABAZIMBI REGION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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**Prepared for:**

Interdesign Landscape Architects  
Project Manager: Ms C Coetzee

Postal Address: P O Box 74648, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040  
Tel: 012 348 1922  
Fax: 012 3487154  
E-mail: Claudia@ilaweb.co.za

**Prepared by:**

J van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil), Heritage Consultant  
ASAPA Registration No.: 168  
Principal Investigator: Iron Age, Colonial Period, Industrial Heritage

Postal Address: 62 Coetzer Avenue, Monument Park, 0181  
Mobile: 076 790 6777  
Fax: 012 347 7270  
E-mail: jvschalkwyk@mweb.co.za

**Declaration:**

I, J.A. van Schalkwyk, declare that I do not have any financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment and management services.



J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)  
Heritage Consultant  
January 2012

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SAPS VERDRAG TRAINING CENTRE, THABAZIMBI REGION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

The SAPS Tactical Training Centre (Verdrag) east of Thabazimbi, has been in existence since 1983. Apart from specialised training facilities (shooting ranges, etc.), it also includes administration facilities and accommodation for permanent as well as temporary staff. Most of the facilities have become inadequate and it has been determined that some of these have to be expanded.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **Interdesign Landscape Architects** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to expand existing or develop new facilities within the training centre.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region essentially consist of one component. The first is a rural area in which the human occupation is made up of a pre-colonial element (Stone Age and Iron Age) as well as a much later colonial (farmer and industrial) component. The following sites and features have been identified:

- Old farmstead dating to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to the SAPS staff this is the old farmhouse and is still in use by them and was somewhat upgraded a few years ago. This structure is located in the new residential area. If the structure is to be demolished it should be documented in full, after which a permit for its demolishing can be obtained from SAHRA.
- Remains of the old Groenfontein farmstead. This structure is located just east of the area of proposed new E Training camp. It is unlikely that there would be an impact on it. However, if there is to be an impact, the site should be documented in detail before the development takes place.
- A small informal cemetery with approximately 10 graves. This site is located inside the existing A Training camp, which is to be upgraded. It is known to the SAPS authorities and is protected by a fence. It is recommended that it is kept in place and that the site is formalised and maintained. If this is not possible, the graves can be relocated after proper procedures have been followed and all the necessary permits are in place.
- Memorial to a young police officer who drowned during a training exercise in 2004. This feature is located outside the area where development will take place and therefore there will be no impact. No further action is required.

Based on current information regarding sites in the surrounding area, all sites known to occur in the study region are judged to have Grade III significance and therefore would not prevent the proposed development for continuing after the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and its acceptance by SAHRA.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue. However, we request that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J A van Schalkwyk'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

J A van Schalkwyk  
Heritage Consultant  
January 2012

**TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Property details						
Province		Limpopo Province				
Magisterial district		Waterberg				
Local municipality		Modimolle				
Topo-cadastral map		2427DA, 2427DB				
Closest town		Thabazimbi				
Farm name		Groenfontein 458KQ, Buffelskloof 452KQ, Buffelspoort 459KQ				
Portions/Holdings		-				
Coordinates		Polygon				
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	S 24.55234	E 27.68534	2	S 24.53416	E 27.73112
	3	S 24.52661	E 27.78294	4	S 24.58105	E 27.82785
	5	S 24.59910	E 27.70107			

<b>Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHR Act</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	Yes
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length	No
Development exceeding 5000 sq m	Yes
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	No
Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years	No
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m	Yes
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds	No

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	II
TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....	IV
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	V
LIST OF FIGURES.....	V
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....	VI
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE .....	1
3. HERITAGE RESOURCES .....	2
4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY .....	3
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT .....	4
6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT .....	12
7. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES .....	13
8. CONCLUSIONS .....	14
9. REFERENCES.....	15
APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES .....	16
APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION .....	17

**LIST OF FIGURES**

	Page
Fig. 1. Location of the study area in regional context. ....	5
Fig. 2. Views over the study area.....	5
Fig. 3. The development site.....	6
Fig. 4. Typical Stone tools.....	7
Fig. 5. Late Iron Age sites in the region. ....	7
Fig. 6. Heritage features dating to the historic period found in the region. ....	8
Fig. 7. The study area showing the location of the identified sites. ....	9
Fig. 8. Views of the two farmsteads. ....	10
Fig. 9. The identified cemetery.....	11
Fig. 10. The identified monument. ....	12

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### **TERMS**

**Study area:** Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1 & 2.

**Stone Age:** The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age	30 000 - until c. AD 200

**Iron Age:** Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. These people, according to archaeological evidence, spoke early variations of the Bantu Language. As they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 900
Middle Iron Age	AD 900 - AD 1300
Late Iron Age	AD 1300 - AD 1830

**Historical Period:** Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 - in this part of the country

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
BP	Before Present
CS-G	Chief Surveyor-General
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

# HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SAPS VERDRAG TRAINING CENTRE, THABAZIMBI REGION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The SAPS Tactical Training Centre (Verdrag) east of Thabazimbi, has been in existence since 1983. Apart from specialised training facilities (shooting ranges, etc.), it also includes administration facilities and accommodation for permanent as well as temporary staff. Most of the facilities have become inadequate and it has been determined that some of these have to be expanded.

South Africa's heritage resources, also described as the 'national estate', comprise a wide range of sites, features, objects and beliefs. However, according to Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act 25 of 1999, no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **Interdesign Landscape Architects** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to expand existing or develop new facilities within the training centre.

This HIA report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

## 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 2.1 Scope of work

The scope of work for this study consisted of:

- Conducting of a desk-top investigation of the area, in which all available literature, reports, databases and maps were studied.
- A visit to the proposed development area.

The objectives were to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

### 2.2 Limitations



- The unpredictability of buried archaeological sites and graves.
- During the sites visit the vegetation was very high and dense, limiting archaeological visibility.

Table 1: Applicable category of heritage impact assessment study and report.

Type of study	Aim	SAHRA involved	SAHRA response
Heritage Impact Assessment	<p>The aim of a full HIA investigation is to provide an informed heritage-related opinion about the proposed development by an appropriate heritage specialist. The objectives are to identify heritage resources (involving site inspections, existing heritage data and additional heritage specialists if necessary); assess their significances; assess alternatives in order to promote heritage conservation issues; and to assess the acceptability of the proposed development from a heritage perspective.</p> <p>The result of this investigation is a heritage impact assessment report indicating the presence/ absence of heritage resources and how to manage them in the context of the proposed development.</p> <p>Depending on SAHRA's acceptance of this report, the developer will receive permission to proceed with the proposed development, on condition of successful implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p>	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority	Comments on built environment and decision to approve or not
		SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	Comments and decision to approve or not

### 3. HERITAGE RESOURCES

#### 3.1 The National Estate

The NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) defines the heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations that must be considered part of the national estate to include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including-
  - ancestral graves;
  - royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
  - graves of victims of conflict;
  - graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
  - historical graves and cemeteries; and
  - other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);

- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including-
  - objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - ethnographic art and objects;
  - military objects;
  - objects of decorative or fine art;
  - objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

### 3.2 Cultural significance

In the NHRA, Section 2 (vi), it is stated that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This is determined in relation to a site or feature’s uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

According to Section 3(3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of

- its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria were applied for the determination of the significance of each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites.

## 4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Extent of the Study

This survey and impact assessment covers the area as presented in Section 5 and as illustrated in Figures 1 & 3.

## 4.2 Methodology

### 4.2.1 Preliminary investigation

#### 4.2.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological, historical sources and heritage impact assessment reports were consulted – Bergh 1999, Hall 1985; Mason 1969; Praagh 1906; Walker & Bothma 2005. Other sources are unpublished reports, mostly scoping studies and HIAs done in the region (Van Schalkwyk 2005).

- Information on events, sites and features in the larger region were obtained from these sources.

#### 4.2.1.2 Data bases

The *Heritage Atlas Database*, the *Environmental Potential Atlas*, the *Chief Surveyor General (CS-G)* and the *National Archives of South Africa (NASA)* were consulted.

- Database surveys produced a number of sites located in the larger region of the proposed development. The original Title Deed for the farms were accessed.

#### 4.2.1.3 Other sources

Aerial photographs and topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

- Information of a very general nature was obtained from these sources.

### 4.2.2 Field survey

The area that had to be investigated was identified by **Interdesign Landscape Architects** by means of maps.

During the field survey, the heritage practitioner was accompanied by senior staff at the training facility who pointed out all known heritage sites. As this is a very large area, only the areas where the proposed new developments are to be located were subsequently subjected to a foot survey.

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 Site location and description

The study area is located approximately 30 km east of Thabazimbi in Limpopo Province (Fig. 1). For more information, please see the Technical Summary Presented above.

The geology is mostly made up of arenite, whereas the ridges to the south made up of dolomite and granite and norite in the south. The topography of the area can be described as low mountains, formed by the abovementioned ridge that runs in an east-west direction. The vegetation is classified as Waterberg Moist Mountain Bushveld, changing to Mixed Bushveld west of the study area. A number of small unnamed streams pass through the area, running in a south westerly direction to later link up with the Sandrivier.

The SAPS Training Centre was originally established in 1983. Prior to that, the area was used for farming purposes. Most of this latter activities consisted of grazing, although some sections were used for agricultural fields.

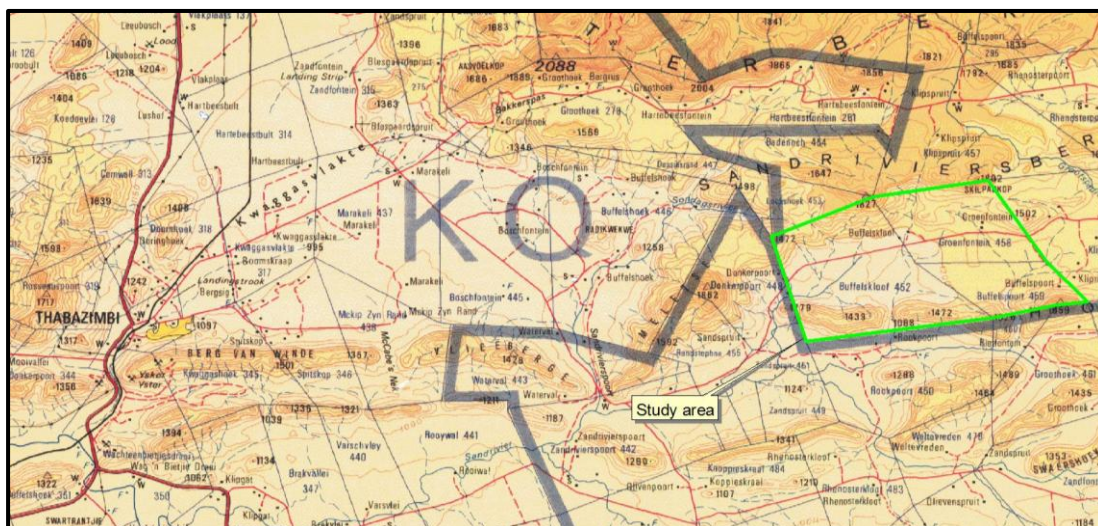


Fig. 1. Location of the study area in regional context.  
(Map 2426: Chief Surveyor-General)



Fig. 2. Views over the study area.

## 5.2 Project description

Most of the new development will occur in areas surrounding existing facilities (Fig. 3), and will include the following:

- New Residential Area east of existing A training camp;
- New E Training camp, west of existing E training camp;
- New A Training camp;
- New landing strip;
- 3 New Gravity feed sewer lines;
- New shooting Range & Admin block.

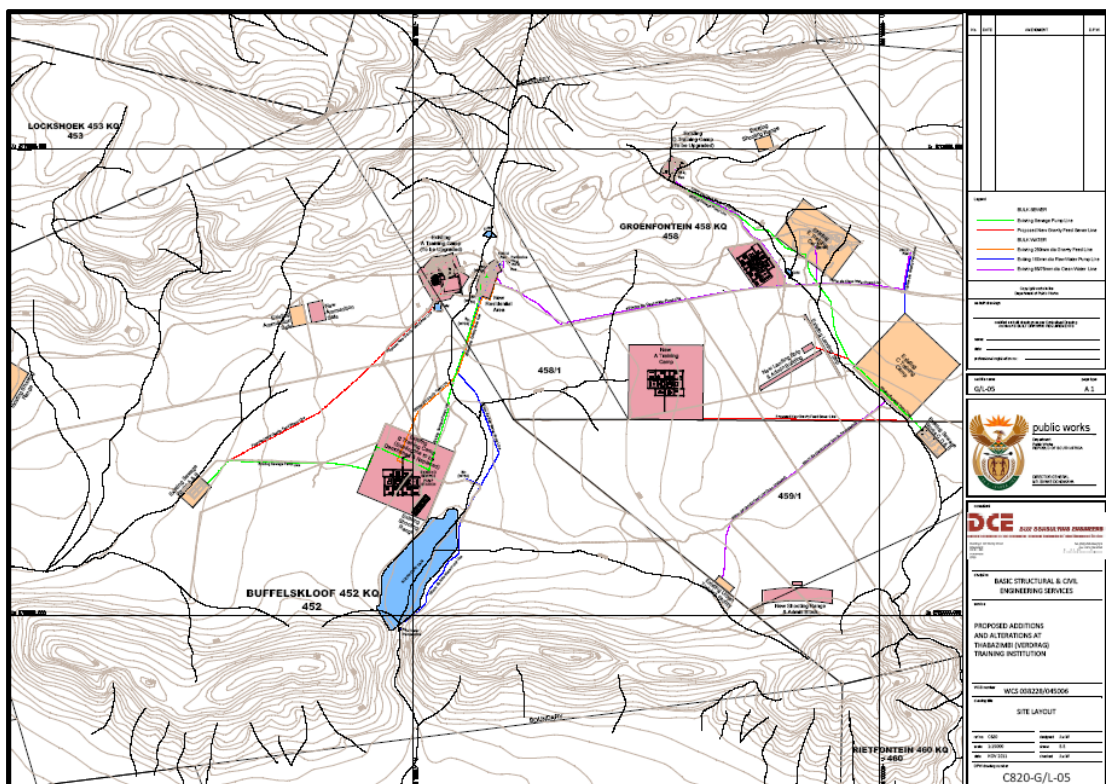


Fig. 3. The development site.

## 5.3 Overview of the region

The cultural landscape qualities of the region essentially consist of a rural setup. In this the human occupation is made up of a pre-colonial element consisting of Stone Age occupation and Late Iron Age occupation, as well as a much later colonial (farmer) component.

The larger Waterberg region is rich in heritage sites covering all time periods and all peoples.

Stone Age people have settled in the area since Early Stone Age times. Most sites are in the open, located in the vicinity of water sources. The same hold true for the Middle Stone Age occupation. During the Late Stone Age human population increased and, in a departure from previous periods, they preferred to occupy rock shelters which were occupied either on a



cyclical manner or were re-occupied after a period of absence. During the Later Stone Age people also produced a rich legacy in rock art found in many of these shelters.



Fig. 4. Typical Stone tools.

*The stone tools in the picture to the right are not from the region and are only used to illustrate the difference between Early (left), Middle (middle) and Later Stone Age (right) technology.*

Iron Age people started to enter the area by the 8<sup>th</sup> century in limited numbers. They preferred to settle close to rivers, using the rich alluvial soils to cultivate for their crops. These villages were usually very large, with the homestead spread out, covering in some cases areas of up to as much as 400 x 400 metres.

But it was only by the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century that Late Iron Age people started to enter the area in large numbers. However, due to a number of reasons, this was a period of stress, and the people used to aggregate in compact stone walled villages located in easily defensible positions on hilltops (Boeyens et al 2009, Hall 1985, Van Schalkwyk 2005).

During this time the rich mineral wealth of the area was also exploited: tin was mined at Rooiberg, iron was mined and smelted all over, especially in the region of Thabazimbi and specularite south of Thabazimbi. Although the iron and specularite was used locally, the tin was probably all exported via the East Coast.



Fig. 5. Late Iron Age sites in the region.  
(A stone walled settlement and an ancient mine)

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, white settlers also arrived on the scene. Subsequently the area was surveyed and subdivided into farms. It has remained a largely farming community up till now, although game ranching has replaced agriculture over large sections of the Waterberg.



Fig. 6. Heritage features dating to the historic period found in the region.  
(Graves and an old mill)

A survey of the Title Deeds revealed the following information of the three farms included in the study area:

- Buffelskloof 452KQ (original number 320) was granted to H.J. Steyn by Deed of Grant 2073 dated 25 June 1869. In November 1904 it was surveyed on behalf of W. Palfrey and W. Mortimer, implying that it was not Steyn's property any longer.
- Groenfontein 458KQ (original number 319) was granted to H.J. Steyn by Deed of Grant 2672 dated 25 June 1869. In November 1904 it was surveyed on behalf of the Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co. Ltd. This Company had extensive mining holding in the former Transvaal Province and was started in 1883 by a London-based financier David Benjamin.
- Buffelspoort 459KQ (original number 234) was granted to D.J. Koekemoer by Deed of Grant 111 on 27 May 1868. In November 1904 it was surveyed on behalf of M.J. van der Hoff, implying that it was not Koekemoer's property any longer.

#### 5.4 Identified heritage sites

Based on the above sources and the field visit, the following heritage sites, features and objects were identified in the proposed development area (Fig. 5):

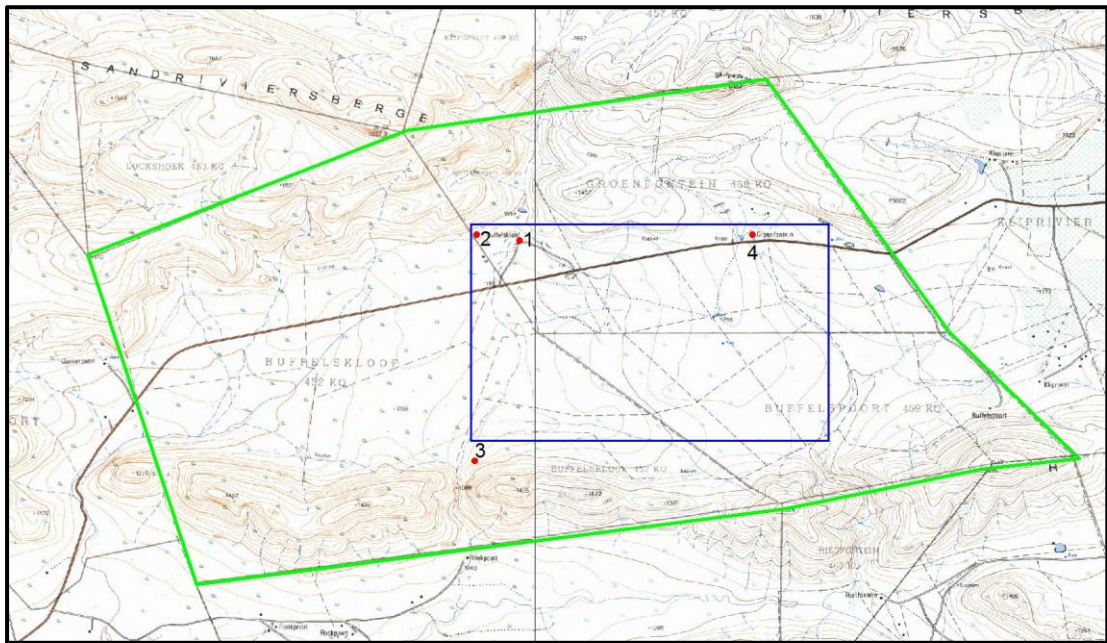


Fig. 7. The study area showing the location of the identified sites.

(The area indicated in green represents the whole SAPS property and the blue area is approximately where the development will take place.)

(Map 2427DA, 2427DB: Chief Surveyor-General)

#### 5.4.1 Stone Age

No sites, features or objects of cultural significance dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

#### 5.4.2 Iron Age

No sites, features or objects of cultural significance dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

#### 5.4.3 Historic period

The following sites, features and objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study area:

- Farmstead

Farmsteads are complex features in the landscape, being made up of different yet interconnected elements. Typically these consist of a main house, gardens, outbuildings, sheds and barns, with some distance from that labourer housing and various cemeteries. In addition roads and tracks, stock pens and wind mills complete the setup. An impact on one element therefore impacts on the whole.

The architecture of these farmsteads can be described as an eclectic mix of styles modified to adapt to local circumstances. In some cases outbuildings would be in the same style as the main house, if they date to the same period. However, they tend to vary considerably in style and materials used as they were erected later as and when they were required.



<b>NHRA Category</b>	Buildings, structures, places and equipment of cultural significance
<b>Protection status</b>	
General Protection - Section 34: Structures older than 60 years	

<b>Location</b>	No. 1	S 24.55002	E 27.74781
<b>Description</b>	Old farmstead dating to the beginning of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. It is rectangular, built with brick and has a corrugated iron roof. According to the SAPS staff this is the old farmhouse and is still in use by them and was somewhat upgraded a few years ago.		
<b>Significance</b>	High on a regional level – Grade III		
<b>Mitigation</b>	This structure is located in the new residential area. If the structure is to be demolished it should be documented in full, after which a permit for its demolishing can be obtained from SAHRA.		

<b>Location</b>	No. 4	S 24.54911	E 27.78152
<b>Description</b>	Remains of the old Groenfontein farmstead. Only foundation of an old rondavel structure remains, as well as some jacaranda and conifer trees that were planted in a lane along to road leading to the house.		
<b>Significance</b>	High on a regional level – Grade III		
<b>Mitigation</b>	This structure is located just east of the area of proposed new E Training camp. It is unlikely that there would be an impact on it. However, if there is to be an impact, the site should be documented in detail before the development takes place.		

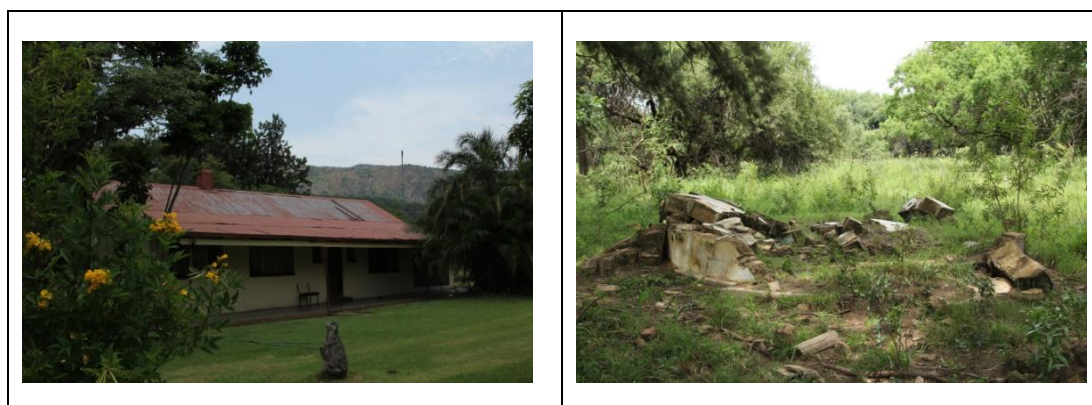


Fig. 8. Views of the two farmsteads.

- Cemeteries

Apart from formal cemeteries that occur in municipal areas (towns or villages), others quite informal, i.e. without fencing, can occur sporadically all over, usually in the vicinity of a farmstead. Many might also have been forgotten, making it very difficult to trace the descendants in a case where the graves are to be relocated.

Most of these cemeteries, irrespective of the fact that they are for land owner or farm labourers (with a few exceptions where they were integrated), are family orientated. They therefore serve as important 'documents' linking people directly by name to the land.

<b>NHRA Category</b>	Graves, cemeteries and burial grounds
<b>Protection status</b>	
General Protection - Section 36: Graves or burial grounds	

Location	No. 2	S 24.54917	E 27.74169
Description			
A small informal cemetery with approximately 10 graves. All are marked with stone cairns and no headstones with inscriptions occur. The graves are probably of former farm labourers.			
Significance	High on a local level – Grade III		
Mitigation			
This site is located inside the existing A Training camp, which is to be upgraded. It is known to the SAPS authorities and is protected by a fence. It is recommended that it is kept in place and that the site is formalised and maintained. If this is not possible, the graves can be relocated after proper procedures have been followed and all the necessary permits are in place.			



Fig. 9. The identified cemetery.

- Monuments/memorials

Public monuments and memorials means all monuments and memorials erected on land belonging to any branch of central, provincial or local government, or on land belonging to any organisation funded by or established in terms of the legislation of such a branch of government; or which were paid for by public subscription, government funds, or a public-spirited or military Organisation, and are on land belonging to any private individual.

<b>NHRA Category</b>	Public monuments and memorials
<b>Protection status</b>	
General Protection - Section 37: Public monuments and memorials	

Location	No. 3	S 24.58180	E 27.74136
Description			
Memorial to a young police officer who drowned during a training exercise in 2004. The monument was erected by his colleagues in his memory.			
Significance	Grade III		
Mitigation			
This feature is located outside the area where development will take place and therefore there will be not impact. No further action is required.			



Fig. 10. The identified monument.

## 6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Heritage assessment criteria and grading

The NHRA stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation on a local authority level.

The occurrence of sites with a Grade I significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the applicable of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

### 6.2 Statement of significance

Based on current information regarding sites in the surrounding area, all sites known to occur in the study region are judged to have **Grade III significance** and therefore would not prevent the proposed development for continuing after the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and its acceptance by SAHRA.

### 6.3 Impact assessment

Impact analysis of cultural heritage resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development.

#### 6.3.1 Impacts during construction

<b>Issue</b>	Impact on heritage sites and features
<b>Potential</b>	Discovery of previously unknown heritage sites or features during

<b>impact</b>	construction can halt work in the vicinity of the finds
<b>EMP</b>	Management measures to be included in the EMP for actions to be taken on uncovering unknown sites and features.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Known sites
	The mitigation measures indicated in Section 5.4 should be implemented for each site prior to development taking place.

## 7. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Heritage sites are fixed features in the environment, occurring within specific spatial confines. Any impact upon them is permanent and non-reversible. Those resources that cannot be avoided and that are directly impacted by the proposed development can be excavated/recorded and a management plan can be developed for future action. Those sites that are not impacted on can be written into the management plan, whence they can be avoided or cared for in the future.

### 7.1 Objectives

- Protection of archaeological, historical and any other site or land considered being of cultural value within the project boundary against vandalism, destruction and theft.
- The preservation and appropriate management of new discoveries in accordance with the NHRA, should these be discovered during construction activities.

The following shall apply:

- Known sites should be clearly marked in order that they can be avoided during construction activities.
- The contractors and workers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction activities.
- Should any heritage artefacts be exposed during excavation, work on the area where the artefacts were discovered, shall cease immediately and the Environmental Control Officer shall be notified as soon as possible;
- All discoveries shall be reported immediately to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. Acting upon advice from these specialists, the Environmental Control Officer will advise the necessary actions to be taken;
- Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site; and
- Contractors and workers shall be advised of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or palaeontological artefacts, as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 51. (1).

### 7.2 Control

In order to achieve this, the following should be in place:

- A person or entity, e.g. the Environmental Control Officer, should be tasked to take responsibility for the heritage sites and should be held accountable for any damage.
- Known sites should be located and isolated, e.g. by fencing them off. All construction workers should be informed that these are no-go areas, unless accompanied by the individual or persons representing the Environmental Control Officer as identified above.

- In areas where the vegetation is threatening the heritage sites, e.g. growing trees pushing walls over, it should be removed, but only after permission for the methods proposed has been granted by SAHRA. A heritage official should be part of the team executing these measures.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural significance found within the areas in which it is proposed to expand current facilities or develop new ones.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region essentially consist of one component. The first is a rural area in which the human occupation is made up of a pre-colonial element (Stone Age and Iron Age) as well as a much later colonial (farmer and industrial) component. The following sites and features have been identified:

- Old farmstead dating to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to the SAPS staff this is the old farmhouse and is still in use by them and was somewhat upgraded a few years ago. This structure is located in the new residential area. If the structure is to be demolished it should be documented in full, after which a permit for its demolishing can be obtained from SAHRA.
- Remains of the old Groenfontein farmstead. This structure is located just east of the area of proposed new E Training camp. It is unlikely that there would be an impact on it. However, if there is to be an impact, the site should be documented in detail before the development takes place.
- A small informal cemetery with approximately 10 graves. This site is located inside the existing A Training camp, which is to be upgraded. It is known to the SAPS authorities and is protected by a fence. It is recommended that it is kept in place and that the site is formalised and maintained. If this is not possible, the graves can be relocated after proper procedures have been followed and all the necessary permits are in place.
- Memorial to a young police officer who drowned during a training exercise in 2004. This feature is located outside the area where development will take place and therefore there will be no impact. No further action is required.

Based on current information regarding sites in the surrounding area, all sites known to occur in the study region are judged to have Grade III significance and therefore would not prevent the proposed development for continuing after the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and its acceptance by SAHRA.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue. However, we request that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

## 9. REFERENCES

### 9.1 Data bases

Chief Surveyor General  
Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.  
Heritage Atlas Database, Pretoria.  
National Archives of South Africa  
SAHRA Archaeology and Palaeontology Report Mapping Project (2009)

### 9.2 Literature

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Praagh, L.V. (ed.) 1906. *The Transvaal and its mines*. London: Praagh & Lloyd.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2005. *Heritage impact assessment for the proposed Tholo Bush Estate development, Lephalale District, Limpopo Province*. Unpublished report 2005KH 078. Pretoria.

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### 9.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps: 2427DA, 2427DB  
Google Earth

## APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

### Significance

According to the NHRA, Section 2(vi) the **significance** of heritage sites and artefacts is determined by its aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Matrix used for assessing the significance of each identified site/feature

<b>1. Historic value</b>			
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history			
Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history			
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery			
<b>2. Aesthetic value</b>			
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group			
<b>3. Scientific value</b>			
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage			
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period			
<b>4. Social value</b>			
Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons			
<b>5. Rarity</b>			
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage			
<b>6. Representivity</b>			
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects			
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class			
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province, region or locality.			
<b>7. Sphere of Significance</b>	High	Medium	Low
International			
National			
Provincial			
Regional			
Local			
Specific community			
<b>8. Significance rating of feature</b>			
1.	Low		
2.	Medium		
3.	High		

## APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

All archaeological and palaeontological sites, and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(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 offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(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;
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- (b) 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
- (c) 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 the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.