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**FINAL REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION
& EXHUMATION OF APPROXIMATELY 174 KNOWN AND UNKNOWN
GRAVES FROM THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 221 OF THE
FARM ZUURFONTEIN 33IR,
EKHURHULEMI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
TO BE IMPACTED ON BY TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT (ESTHER PARK
EXT.38).**

For:

**M&T Developments
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CENTURION**

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REPORT: APAC018/65

October 2018

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', located at the bottom center of the page.

SUMMARY

Anton Pelsler (of APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc) was appointed by M&T Developments in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg to undertake the archaeological investigation & exhumation of approximately 174 known and unknown graves located on a site located on the Remainder of Portion 221 of the farm Zuurfontein 33IR, near Kempton Park in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng. The graves are to be impacted on by the proposed development of Esther Park Extension 38. The site is also known as Sophie's Place.

Social consultation, which included the erection of Site Notices, Newspaper advertisements and Radio Announcements (undertaken for well over a 12 months period) was unable to trace any descendants or family members related to these graves. Most of the graves, except ten (10), were unmarked (without any headstones) and only demarcated with stones. Of those with headstones only some provided evidence (inscriptions) on the deceased and their dates of death. These ranged between 1935 and 1944. It is therefore believed that the others fall within a similar time-frame (early 1930's to 1940's). Grave goods found with some of the others seem to concur with this finding. There is however also some graves that might date to a later period (1950's to 1960's). After the various required permits were obtained work was done in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg during October 2018. This document discusses the results of the fieldwork and investigations carried out.

The archaeological portion of the work was carried out under SAHRA Permit No.: 2793 – Case ID No.: 1184.

It is concluded that the work was done successfully and that the planned development actions in the area can continue, taking cognizance of the conclusions & recommendations put forward at the end of this document.

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INTRODUCTION

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AIMS

The main aims with the investigation and exhumation of the graves (in this case) situated on the Remainder of Portion 221 of the farm Zuurfontein 33IR (also known as Sophie's Place) were the following:

- (a) the detailed investigation of all possible burials located on the site,
- (b) the successful exhumation and relocation of all the burials and remains recovered to the Mooifontein Municipal Cemetery

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

1.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned law the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. **Grave yards and graves older than 60 years**
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act states that 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 that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of 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 or 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, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

1.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation must be made.

METHODOLOGY

Background information – The results of previous work carried out in the area (Heritage Impact Assessments) are normally used to provide background to the project and the graves identified and recorded in the area under discussion.

Mapping and Photographing – A Google Earth image of the area, providing a location for the area and grave site, are produced. Photographs of the area, as well as each individual burial, any skeletal remains and grave goods that are recovered were also taken as part of the documentation process.

Investigation and Exhumation – Normally graves are exhumed by hand using picks and shovels and where possible remains are documented photographically in position. Remains are then removed, placed in coffins, described and documented. In cases where no skeletal remains or cultural material are found in a burial a soil sample is taken for reburial as standard practice. In this case, an earthmoving machine (TLB) was used to open up the trenches up to the level of the burial pits and to assist with removing of soil overburden and remains.

Burial Forms – A Burial form for each individual burial is normally completed. Basic information on burial position, grave goods, general preservation and other general observations are included on these forms. These forms will not be reproduced in this report while the information on the burials will be summarized and interpreted at the end. The forms will however be archived for future reference if required. Photographs of all the graves and the remains from the each burial are provided as well.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AND SITE

Anton Pelser (of APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc) was appointed by M&T Developments in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg to undertake the archaeological investigation & exhumation of approximately 174 known and unknown graves located on a site located on the Remainder of Portion 221 of the farm Zuurfontein 33IR, near Kempton Park in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng. The graves are to be impacted on by the proposed development of Esther Park Extension 38.

The site is also known as Sophie's Place. The possible graves investigated, exhumed and relocated are situated in two areas. The first contained around 171 graves, marked by stone-packed cairns and some with formal headstones. The 2nd area consisted of a small area demarcated by a low stone-packed perimeter wall containing a possible 3 graves packed with stone. All the graves and the remains contained in them were exhumed and relocated to the Mooifontein Municipal Cemetery.

GPS Location: S26 06 23.17 E28 10 47.09

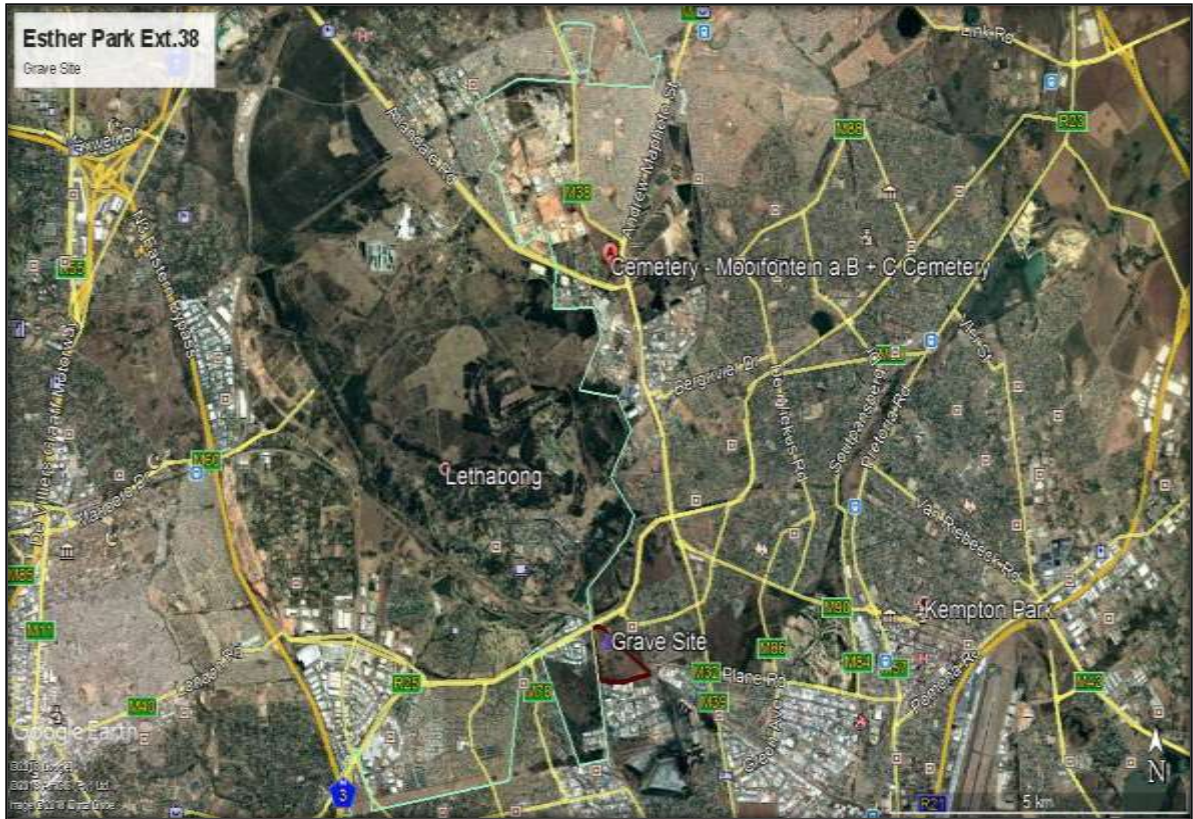


Fig.1: General location of Grave site & proposed development, also showing the Mooifontein Cemetery where the graves were relocated to (Google Earth 2018).

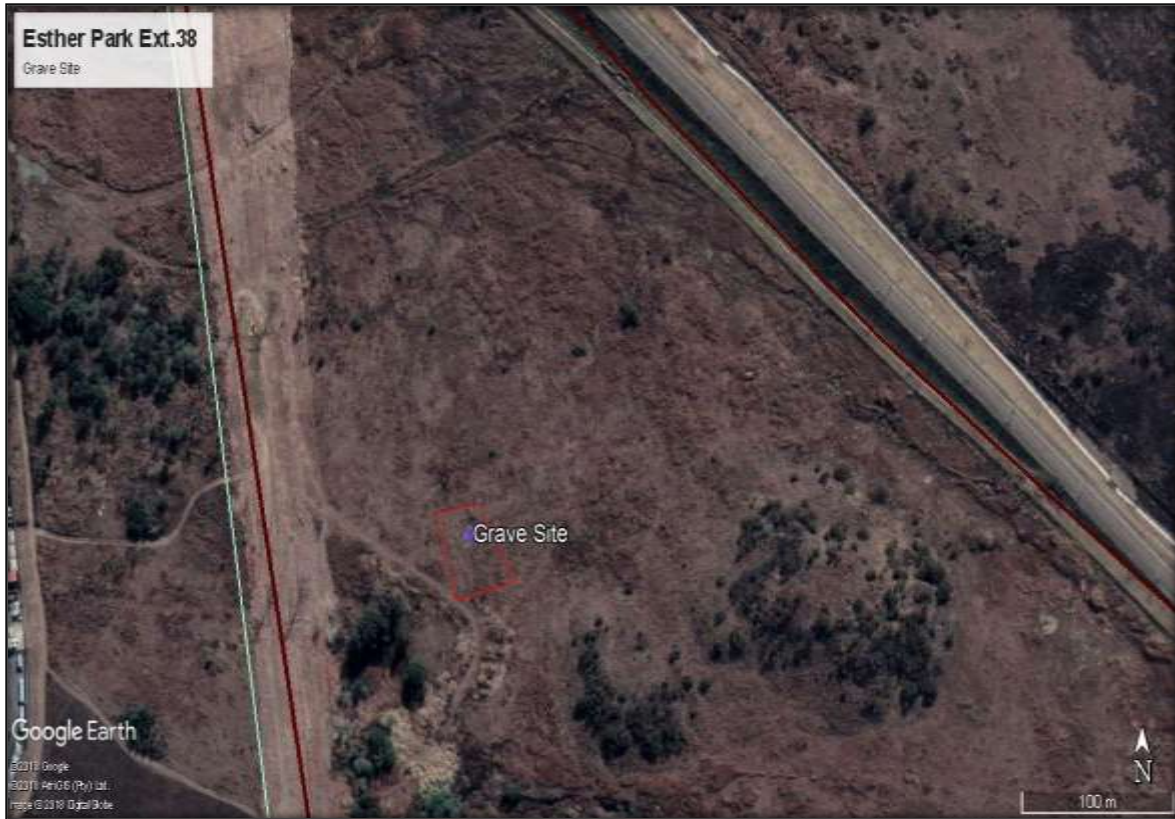


Fig.2: A closer view of the main Grave Site location (Google Earth 2018).



Fig.3: General view of the main Grave Site.



Fig.4: The 2nd area with possible graves.

INVESTIGATION AND RELOCATION OF THE BURIALS

The site (named & numbered SP for Sophie's Place) contained a total of 174 possible graves located in two (2) separate locations. Of these, only 10 had formal headstones while the others were all stone-packed without any identificatory markings.

At the end a total of 170 positively identified graves and burials were exhumed and relocated from the site. All 170 were located in the large, semi-formal cemetery. The possible 4 other graves that were investigated (1 in the large area and the other 3 in the smaller stone-walled section) provided no evidence of them representing burial locations and was declared as NONE-GRAVES.

In general the preservation of the remains (of the adults) were fair to poor and fragmented, while for the small infant/baby or children graves the preservation was poor to very poor with barely any skeletal remains present. Determining the age and sex of some of the unknown individuals were made possible through dental (tooth), cranial (skull) and pelvic remains. A wide range of grave goods were recovered including corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood, nails, screws and handles, as well as some personal items. These will be discussed in the next section where every burial will be presented in more detail.

Of the 170 burials (based on the remains & some headstone inscriptions) the following regarding age & sex can be provided:

- (a) Infants/Babies/Young Children: 107 (**62.94%**)
- (b) Juvenile Individuals/Young Adults/Adults: 53

- (c) Old/Senile adults: 10
- (d) Males: 12
- (e) Females: 8

The graves were all dug up to the level of the original bedrock or up to the level where remains were found and the remains then excavated and removed by hand and then placed in the coffins for reburial. The depth of the burials were on average more than 1.60m below the present surface level, although in some cases remains were found at less or more than that. Sterile, undisturbed layers were characterized by large stones and weathered sandstone/shale. All the graves were relocated to the Mooifontein Municipal Cemetery.

The graves were individually photographed prior to the exhumation commencing. With most only demarcated by stones without headstones only those with clear headstones and those where legible inscriptions could be seen will be shown in this report.

As indicated earlier only 10 of the graves had formal headstones, with only 6 of these having any legible inscriptions on them to assist with identifying the name, date of birth or date of death of the deceased individual. The graves with headstones were:

- SP23: Mose Shabalala. Died in November 1944. Aged 72 years.
- SP27: Elizabeth Nkabinde. Died 31.8.35. A second stone found in the packed heap has the inscription Ister 1935 on it.
- SP48: Cledis Mawaci. 3=8=42 on it (died 3.08.42)
- SP49: Abram Mawaci. 6 May 1937
- SP87: No inscription
- SP107: No inscription
- SP119: No inscription
- SP140: No inscription
- SP161: (Reverend) J.S.M. Rampeba. No date of birth or death recorded
- SP169: Sarah Maria (surname could not be read). No date of birth or death visible.



Fig.5: SP23 Headstone.



Fig.6: SP27 1st headstone.



Fig.7: SP27 2nd Headstone.



Fig.8: SP48 Headstone.



Fig.9: SP49 Headstone.



Fig.10: SP87 Headstone.



Fig.11: SP107 Headstone.



Fig.12: SP119 Headstone.



Fig.13: SP140 Headstone.



Fig.14: SP161 Headstone.



Fig.15: SP167 Headstone.

RESULTS OF GRAVE INVESTIGATIONS & EXHUMATIONS

All the graves were laid out in an E/W direction with the headstones/heads to the West. The remains were relocated to the Mooifontein Municipal Cemetery. In cases where no remains were found a soil sample were taken for reburial as is standard practice.

Each grave/burial will be discussed briefly below, with photographs of each showing the skeletal remains and cultural material found where applicable provided at the end.

SP01: This was the grave of an unknown Adult individual based on the skeletal remains found which included longbone and other fragments and teeth. Metal coffin handles and some pieces of cloth were also recovered.

SP02: No skeletal remains were found, and based on the size of the burial pit and grave this was likely the burial of an infant or small child. Fragments of corrugated iron sheeting and coffin nails were found. A soil sample was taken for reburial purposes

SP03: No remains found except for a coffin nail. Probably an infant/child.

SP04: Same as SP03.

SP05: Coffin wood pieces were found. No skeletal remains and probably an infant or young child's burial

- SP06:** No remains were found at all and only a soil sample taken for reburial purposes. Probably the burial of an infant or young child.
- SP07:** Again some coffin nails and corrugated iron fragments were found. No skeletal remains were recovered and this was likely the burial of an infant or child as well.
- SP08:** Same as SP06.
- SP09:** Same as SP08.
- SP10:** No skeletal remains were found and a soil sample was taken for reburial purposes. Probably an infant or young child represented. A small glass perfume bottle was recovered from the burial.
- SP11:** Coffin wood and nails were recovered. No skeletal remains. Infant or young child.
- SP12:** No remains found and only a soil sample taken. Infant or young child.
- SP13:** One nail as well as some coffin plastic found. Infant or young child.
- SP14:** One nail found. Infant or young child.
- SP15:** Coffin plastic and coffin wood recovered. An enamel mug on top of grave and piece of glass inside burial pit found as well. Infant or young child.
- SP16:** Pieces of coffin wood and a coffin nail recovered. Infant or young child.
- SP17:** Found coffin wood, nails and handles, as well as a hair comb. Also found skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Possibly female based on comb.
- SP18:** Coffin wood fragments and metal handles. Adult skeletal remains recovered.
- SP19:** Found pieces of porcelain bowl on top of grave. Coffin handles, nails and screws. Recovered the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual.
- SP20:** Some coffin nails found, as well as the skull, teeth and long bone fragments of an Adult
- SP21:** Only coffin nails found. Size of grave and burial indicated a possible burial of an Infant or young Child. A soil sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- SP22:** Same as SP21.
- SP23:** This was the grave of Mose Shabalala who passed away in November 1944 aged 72 years old. Fragmented skeletal remains were found, including skull, teeth and long bones.

- SP24:** Pieces of glass, ceramic and porcelain vases and bowls were found on top of the grave, while a metal rod was found in the grave/burial pit. The skeletal remains found were those of a Young Adult individual.
- SP25:** Coffin handles, wood and nails were found. The skeletal remains are those of an Adult individual (possibly Female based on the pelvis).
- SP26:** Again coffin wood, handles and nails were found. The skeletal remains are those of a Young Adult, and possibly a Male based on the mandible.
- SP27:** This was the grave of Elizabeth Nkabinde who died in 1935 (31-8-35). The skeletal remains were found partially in situ, although brittle and fragmented.
- SP28:** Coffin wood fragments (some with copper nails preserved) were recovered, as well as nail. No human remains were found and this was most likely the burial of an Infant or Young Child. A soil sample was taken for reburial.
- SP29:** Some coffin nails were found, but no skeletal remains. Again this was probably the grave of an Infant or Young Child. Soil sample taken.
- SP30:** No cultural material or human remains recovered. Most likely the grave of an Infant or Young Child. Soil sample taken.
- SP31:** Fragments of corrugated iron sheeting and coffin nails found. Fragments of skull and long bones of a Young Child/Juvenile individual were recovered.
- SP32:** Coffin wood fragments with nails found, as well as some long bone fragments. Based on these pieces this could have been the burial of an Adult individual.
- SP33:** This grave possibly belonged to an Adult Female individual, although the skeletal remains recovered were only a couple of long bone and skull fragments. The grave goods found consisted of a leg bracelet/anklet made of coiled copper wiring and remnants of strings of glass beads.
- SP34:** No remains found and only a Soil Sample taken for reburial. Possibly the grave of an Infant or Young Child.
- SP35:** Fragments of corrugated iron sheeting and coffin nails found, as well as the fragmented skull and long bone fragments of an Adult Individual.
- SP36:** Some coffin nails. Skull and long bone fragments, as well as teeth of a Young/Juvenile individual. One of the molars found were still not a permanent one.
- SP37:** Only coffin wood and nails found. Possibly burial of an Infant or Young Child. Soil sample taken for reburial purposes.

- SP38:** Part of ceramic vase found on top of grave. Skull fragments and long bones found, as well as mandibles and teeth representing an Old/Senile Adult individual. Teeth very worn down. Possibly Female based on mandibular shape.
- SP39:** Part of glass vase (the ear) found. No other remains. Probably an Infant or Young Child's burial. Soil sample taken for reburial purposes.
- SP40:** Corrugated iron sheeting fragments and coffin nails found, as well as the long bone fragments of an Adult Individual.
- SP41:** Corrugated iron sheeting fragments and a coffin nail found. No other remains. Probably the burial of an Infant or Young Child.
- SP42:** A few fragments of corrugated iron sheeting and a coffin nail. Long bone and other fragments of a Juvenile/Young Adult.
- SP43:** No remains found and only a Soil Sample taken. Probably the burial of an Infant/Young Child.
- SP44:** Same as SP43.
- SP45:** Some coffin nails, wood, a coffin handle and fragments of corrugated iron sheeting was found, as well as the remains of a wristwatch. The skeletal remains included fragments of skull, long bones and other parts representing an Adult individual.
- SP46:** No remains were found and only a Soil sample was taken. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP47:** Same as SP46.
- SP48:** This was the graves of Cledis Mawaci who died in 1942 (3-8-42). The grave was small and Cledis was likely an Infant or small child. A Soil sample was taken for reburial.
- SP49:** The grave of Abram Mawaci who passed away on 6 May 1937. Again the grave was small and no remains were found. A Soil sample was taken for reburial.
- SP50:** Same as SP46.
- SP51:** A coffin nail and some long bones, fragmented pelvic bones and toes/fingers were recovered. Based on pelvic features this was possibly an Adult female individual.
- SP52:** Some coffin nails were found, as well as a few fragments of bones. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child.

- SP53:** Besides some coffin nails and wood, the fairly well preserved remains of an Adult individual were recovered from the burial. Based on the pelvis this was probably a Male.
- SP54:** Corrugated iron sheeting fragments and nails were recovered. The skeletal remains included some incomplete long bones and other fragments representing a Juvenile/Young Adult.
- SP55:** A small glass vessel was found on top of the grave, while a few coffin nails were recovered from the burial. No skeletal remains were found and a Soil sample was taken. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP56:** Coffin nails found. Skull fragments, long bones and other bones (including a mandible) were recovered. This was an Adult individual. The sex could not be determined.
- SP57:** No remains were found and a Soil sample was taken for reburial. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP58:** Coffin nails were recovered, as well as strands of coiled copper wire bangles. The fragmented skull, long bones and teeth represent a Young Adult individual.
- SP59:** Same as SP57.
- SP60:** Again some coffin nails were recovered together with fragmented skull, long bones and teeth of an Adult individual.
- SP61:** Coffin nails. No remains. Soil sample. Infant or young child's burial.
- SP62:** No remains. Soil sample. Infant or young child's burial.
- SP63:** Same as SP62.
- SP64:** Glass salt shaker on top of grave. No remains found and soil sample taken. Probably burial of Infant or young child
- SP65:** Part of porcelain saucer on top of grave, as well as animal bone fragments in grave (cattle). No other remains. Soil sample taken. Probably burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP66:** Coffin wood and coffin nails recovered. Fragments of skull, ribs and long bones, as well as teeth found. Probably an old Adult individual based on the very worn down teeth.
- SP67:** Coffin nails, wood and handles found. Fragmented skull and other parts, as well as long bones and teeth. Adult individual represented.

- SP68:** Coffin nails. No other remains. Soil sample taken. Probably Infant or young child's burial.
- SP69:** Coffin nails. 1 small fragment of long bone. Possibly Juvenile/young Adult individual.
- SP70:** Coffin nails and small fragments of coffin wood. Soil sample taken. Infant or young child's burial.
- SP71:** A single coffin nail found. No other remains. Soil sample taken. Infant or young child.
- SP72:** Coffin handles, coffin wood and nails recovered. Fragmented skeletal remains include skull, long bones and other parts as well as teeth. Adult individual.
- SP73:** Fragments of glazed ceramic vase on top of grave. Coffin nails. Skull, long bones and other skeletal fragments. One tooth found as well. Adult individual.
- SP74:** Coffin wood and nails found. No other remains and a soil sample taken. Infant or young child's burial.
- SP75:** Coffin nails and fragment of coffin wood. Skull and other fragments, as well as long bones and some teeth. Adult individual represented.
- SP76:** Coffin nails found, as well as fragments of long bones. Juvenile/Young Adult.
- SP77:** Small coffin handles and coffin nails, as well as skull and long bone fragments. Based on size of handles and skeletal remains most likely burial of Infant or young child.
- SP78:** Only coffin nails found. No other remains. Soil sample taken. Probably Infant or young child's burial.
- SP79:** Corrugated iron sheeting, small coffin handles and nails found. No other remains. Based on size of coffin handles most likely the burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP80:** Some coffin nails and fragments of coffin wood. Small long bone fragments. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP81:** Some coffin nails were recovered, as well as a 1935 coin (South Africa ?Shilling). George V Rex Imperator. The skeletal remains found included some skull fragments and long bones, as well as a part of the mandible indicating the remains of a young child.
- SP82:** Nail found. No other remains. Soil sample taken. Probably burial of an Infant or young child.

SP83: Same as SP82.

SP84: Same as SP83

SP85: Same as SP84.

SP86: Some coffin nails and wood recovered. Fragmented skull, ribs, vertebrae, long bones and teeth were also found and represent the remains of a Young Adult individual.

SP87: Fragments of a ceramic vase was found on top of the grave (containing a headstone without inscription). Some coffin nails were recovered, as well as fragments of skull and long bones of an Infant or young child.

SP88: Only coffin nails found. No other remains. Soil sample taken. Probably burial of Infant or young child.

SP89: Same as SP88.

SP90: Pieces of porcelain cup and glass vase found on top of grave. Porcelain with Willow Pattern decoration typical of late 19th to mid-20th century. No other remains found and a soil sample taken for reburial. Probably burial of Infant or young child.

SP91 to SP96: These were all burials of Infants or young children based on the sizes of the graves and the fact that no skeletal remains were found. Coffin nails, coffin wood fragments were found and in some burials fragments of corrugated iron sheeting that was placed on top of the burial pits and coffins. Soil samples were taken for reburial purposes.

SP97: Coffin wood fragments and nails were recovered, as well as a copper ring (from a canvas sail or tarpaulin cover). The skeletal remains found include skull fragments, long bones and other parts, as well as teeth. Based on the mandible this was possibly a Male Adult individual.

SP98: Over and above some coffin nails, the skeletal remains found included skull fragments, ribs, vertebrae and long bones. Upper and lower jaw pieces (with teeth) show that this was an Adult individual, and possibly a female.

SP99 to SP102: These were all graves of Infants or young children based on the size of the graves and the fact that no skeletal remains were recovered. A piece of a porcelain saucer was found on SP99, while a glass drinking glass was found on SP101. A coffin nail and fragments of glass was found in SP100, while a medicine bottle was recovered from SP101 and a fragment of glass from SP102. In all cases a Soil sample was taken for reburial purposes

- SP103:** Coffin wood fragments and coffin nails were recovered. Some skull fragments, long bones and teeth were also found, representing a Juvenile/Young Adult individual.
- SP104:** Corrugated iron sheeting fragments were found, but no other remains. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP105:** Coffin nails and coffin wood fragments found. Also fragmented skeletal remains, including skull, long bones and others. A lower jaw fragment and teeth indicates the remains belong to an Adult individual.
- SP106:** No remains were found an a soil sample taken for reburial purposes. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child.
- SP107:** This grave had a book-shaped headstone without an inscription. Part of a Heinz tomato sauce bottle was found on top of the grave. A large amount of coffin nails were recovered. The skeletal remains found include skull fragments, long bones, other parts, as well as teeth and a lower jaw fragment of an old Adult individual.
- SP108 to 111:** These were again the graves of either Infants or young children based a grave/burial pit size and the fact that no skeletal remains were found. A coffin nail was recovered from SP109, while coffin wood, a coffin nail, glass medicine bottle and pieces of a metal tin with lid was found in SP110. Coffin wood and nails were found in SP111. Soil samples were taken reburial purposes for all four burials.
- SP112:** Coffin wood and nails were recovered, as well as some skull fragments, long bones and teeth of a young child/juvenile individual.
- SP113 to SP117:** These were all burials of either Infants or young children based on grave/burial pit sizes, and the fact that no skeletal remains were recovered. A small skull fragment of an infant individual was recovered from SP114. Corrugated iron fragments (SP113); coffin nails (SP114); a metal coffin handle (SP115); coffin nails and coffin wood (SP116 & SP117) was recovered from these graves. Pieces of a porcelain cup or vase were found on top of grave SP114. Soil samples were taken for all 5 graves.
- SP118:** A large amount of coffin wood was recovered from this grave that also contained the fairly well preserved skeletal remains of a Juvenile/Young Adult individual.

SP119: This grave had a headstone without any inscription. Two coffin nails were recovered, as well as some small skull fragments of either an Infant or young child.

SP120: This grave contained some coffin nails, as well the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual. The remains included skull, rib, vertebrae, long bones, pelvic remains and teeth.

SP121 to SP125 & SP127-128: These graves contained the burials of Infants and young children based on grave/burial pit size, the fact that no remains were found in some, and the skeletal remains found in SP123 (skull, long bones, teeth of a young child). Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood and nails (SP121); coffin wood, nails and a medicine bottle (SP122); coffin nails (SP123) and coffin wood, nails, coffin handles and a medicine bottle (SP124) were recovered from these graves. Soil samples were taken for reburial purposes for all 7 burials. The medicine bottles from SP122 & SP124 were found on top of the graves and both had the word/name Talana embossed on the bottom. Due to a shortage of glass during the First World War a Mr. Newton formed a syndicate in Durban to manufacture medicine bottles from remelted broke glass. The company was established as Glass Ltd in Orange Grave, Durban in June 1917 with Otto Siedle as chairman. Then, early in 1918, Glass Ltd closed down in Durban and formed a new company at Talana near Dundee where coal and sand were more readily available. In 1919 Siedle's company and South African Breweries amalgamated to form Union Glass Ltd (Lastovica & Lastovica 1990: 23). In 1954, Union Glass at Talana was acquired by Consolidated Glass (Consol). These bottles thus postdate 1918, but was probably not manufactured and used after 1954.

SP126: Coffin wood and nails were recovered, as well as the fairly complete (although fragmented) remains of an Adult individual between 25 and 30 years of age (based on teeth). Possibly female based on pelvis (sciatic notch).

SP129: No remains were found and this was probably the burial of an Infant or young child. A soil sample was taken for reburial purposes.

SP130: Coffin wood fragments were recovered, as well as some long bones of a Young child/Juvenile individual.

SP131 to SP133: No remains were recovered from these graves and they probably represent the burial of either Infants or young children. Soil samples were taken for all 3. Corrugated iron sheeting was found in SP133 and coffin wood and nails from SP132.

SP134: Coffin wood, coffin nails, metal coffin screws and large coffin handles were recovered from this burial. The skeletal remains included skull & pelvis fragments, as well as long bones, mandible pieces and teeth. This indicated an old Adult individual and possibly a Male based on the pelvis.

- SP135:** The cultural material (coffin handles, nails, screws and wood), as well as skeletal remains are very similar to that found in SP134. An adult individual is represented. A medicine bottle was also found in the burial pit.
- SP136:** This burial contained the fairly complete remains of another Adult individual. Some coffin nails, as well as the remains of a pocket knife were also recovered from the burial. This, together with the characteristics of the pelvis identifies this individual as possibly Male.
- SP137:** Part of a porcelain cup was found on top of the grave, while coffin nails were the only remains recovered from the burial pit. Probably the grave of an Infant or young child. Soil sample taken for reburial purposes.
- SP138:** This grave had parts of a wooden and metal baby bed on top. Besides corrugated iron sheeting, coffin nails, wood and some iron rods no other remains were found. Soil sample taken for reburial purposes.
- SP139:** Part of a porcelain plate was found on top of the grave. Coffin nails were also recovered. The skeletal remains found included skull, ribs, vertebrae, long bones, mandible and teeth of an Adult individual (possibly female based on mandibular shape).
- SP140:** This grave had a headstone without any inscription. A glass medicine bottle was found on top of the grave. Coffin wood and nails were recovered, but no skeletal remains. Probably the burial of an Infant or young child. Soil sample taken for reburial purposes.
- SP141:** Coffin wood, nails and corrugated iron sheeting fragments found. The fairly complete (although fragmented) skeletal remains of an Adult individual was recovered from the burial.
- SP142 to SP152:** These 11 graves all represent the burials of either Infants or young children based on grave/burial pit size and the fact that either no skeletal remains were recovered OR based on the size and characteristics of the fragments of bone found in others. Skeletal remains were recovered from SP143, SP147 & SP148. Coffin nails were found in SP143, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149 and SP152, while coffin wood fragments were recovered from SP142 & 144. No material at all was found in SP150 & SP152. Soil samples were taken for all 11 burials.
- SP153:** Some coffin nails were recovered, as well as fragments, teeth and long bones of a young child/juvenile of around 7 or 8 years of age.

- SP154 to SP156:** These were graves of either Infants or young children. No remains were recovered from SP154, while some coffin wood and a small bone fragment were found in SP155. Parts of a porcelain vase and a cup were also found on top of SP155. Coffin wood fragments were found in SP156. Soil samples were taken for reburial purposes.
- SP157:** Coffin wood, nails and handles were found. The skeletal remains included parts of the skull, lower jaw and teeth and other parts of a Juvenile/young Adult individual.
- SP158:** Coffin wood and nails were found. Skull fragments, parts of the mandible, teeth and long bones indicate a Juvenile/young Adult individual.
- SP159:** A porcelain plate fragment was found on top of the grave, while a medicine bottle (Talana embossed on the bottom and coffin wood and nails were recovered from the burial pit. Fragmented skull, long bone and other parts recovered indicates a Juvenile/Young individual.
- SP160:** Some coffin nails were recovered. No skeletal remains were found and this is probably the burial of an Infant or young child. A soil sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- SP161:** This was the grave of Rev. J.S.M. Rampeba. No date of death (or birth) is indicated on the headstone. The base of a drinking glass was found on top of the grave. No skeletal remains were found in the burial pit, although parts of the corrugated iron sheet cover were recovered as well as a heavy metal “koevoet” that was placed over the burial pit.
- SP162:** Coffin nails and a coffin handle were recovered. The skeletal remains were relatively complete although fragmented. A young Adult individual are represented by the remains. Possibly Male based on mandibular shape.
- SP163:** Some coffin nails and wood fragments were recovered, as well as a tin (enamel) mug from the top of the grave. The skeletal remains included fragmented skull, long bones and other remains such as mandible and teeth. The remains represent a Juvenile/Young Adult. One of the molars found are not yet permanent.
- SP164:** No remains were recovered and this burial was probably that of an Infant or young child. A soil sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- SP165:** A tin (enamel) mug was found on top of the grave, while corrugated iron sheeting fragments, coffin handles, coffin nails and wood was also found in the burial. The skeletal remains were fragmented and included skull,

long bones and other parts representing an Adult individual. The two femurs show evidence of rachitis (Vitamin D deficiency in childhood).

SP166: A tin (enamel) mug was also found on top of this grave. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin handles, coffin wood and nails were recovered as well. The fragmented skeletal remains (including skull, long bone and other parts are those of an Adult individual. Once again the femurs show evidence of rachitis.

SP167: This grave had a headstone with a partially legible inscription. The grave of one Sarah Maria... Some coffin handles and coffin wood fragments were recovered. The skeletal remains were fairly complete although fragmented and represents an Adult individual

SP168: A tin (enamel) mug, parts of a ceramic vase and three snuff holders were found on top of this grave. Coffin nails, coffin handles and some coffin wood fragments were recovered. The skeletal remains were fragmented although fairly complete. An Adult individual is represented and based on mandibular features this was possibly a female.

SP169: A tin (enamel) mug was once again found on top of the grave. Coffin wood, nails and a coffin handle was recovered from the burial pit as well. The skeletal remains included skull, long bones and other fragments and represents an Old Adult individual.

SP170: Some coffin nails, a coffin handle, coffin wood pieces and coffin plastic were recovered from this grave. The skeletal remains were fragmented and included skull fragments, long bones and other parts. The mandible found shows that this was probably an Old Adult individual and possibly a female.

SP171 – 174: These four locations were investigated for the possible location of graves. SP171 to SP173 were situated close to a stone-packed enclosure a few meters east of the main cemetery and were characterized by stone cairns. The investigation of these showed no evidence of it being graves and these features are most likely associated with a small livestock enclosure that was located here. SP174 was an open space in a row of graves (south of SP83 and between SP83 and SP84). A long trench (3m x 0.80m wide) was dug here to see if there might be an unmarked burial located here, but no evidence was found.

PHOTOS OF THE INDIVIDUAL BURIALS AND THE CULTURAL MATERIAL AND SKELETAL REMAINS RECOVERED WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT AND WILL BE PROVIDED IN A SEPARATE FOLDER FOR INFORMATION AND PERUSAL.



Fig.16: The main cemetery area after exhumation and removal has been completed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Anton Pelser (of APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc) was appointed by M&T Developments in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg to undertake the archaeological investigation & exhumation of approximately 174 known and unknown graves located on a site located on the Remainder of Portion 221 of the farm Zuurfontein 33IR, near Kempton Park in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng. The graves are to be impacted on by the proposed development of Esther Park Extension 38. The site is also known as Sophie's Place.

Social consultation, which included the erection of Site Notices, Newspaper advertisements and Radio Announcements (undertaken for well over a 12 months period) was unable to trace any descendants or family members related to these graves. Most of the graves, except ten (10), were unmarked (without any headstones) and only demarcated with stones. Of those with headstones only some provided evidence (inscriptions) on the deceased and their dates of death. These ranged between 1935 and 1944. It is therefore believed that the others fall within a similar time-frame (early 1930's to 1940's). Grave goods found with some of the others seem to concur with this finding. There is however also some graves that might date to a later period (1950's to 1960's). After the various required permits were obtained work was done in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg during October 2018.

The archaeological portion of the work was carried out under SAHRA Permit No.: 2793 – Case ID No.: 1184.

A total of 170 graves were investigated, exhumed and removed for reburial in the Mooifontein Municipal Cemetery at the end, with 4 possible grave locations investigated and concluded to not contain burials. More than 62% of the graves contained the burials of either infants or young children, with just more than 37% representing those of adult individuals. Of these only 12 males and 8 female individuals could be identified with some degree of certainty. The remains were in general fairly fragmented and in a bad state of preservation, although some of the skeletal material was relatively complete. Grave goods included corrugated iron sheeting fragments, coffin nails & screws, coffin handles, coffin wood and some coffin plastic and cloth fragments, while some personal effects such as a pocket knife, wristwatch, coin, copper bangles and beads were found in a few burials. In a few graves medicine bottle were also found, while personal items found on top of graves included ceramic vases, porcelain saucers and cups, as well as drinking glasses and enamel mugs. On one of the graves the remnants of a metal and wood bed was found.

As indicated earlier only 10 of the graves had formal headstones, with only 6 of these having any legible inscriptions on them to assist with identifying the name, date of birth or date of death of the deceased individual. The graves with headstones were:

SP23: Mose Shabalala. Died in November 1944. Aged 72 years.

SP27: Elizabeth Nkabinde. Died 31.8.35. A second stone found in the packed heap has the inscription Ister 1935 on it.

SP48: Cledis Mawaci. 3=8=42 on it (died 3.08.42)

SP49: Abram Mawaci. 6 May 1937

SP87: No inscription

SP107: No inscription

SP119: No inscription

SP140: No inscription

SP161: (Reverend) J.S.M. Rampeba. No date of birth or death recorded

SP169: Sarah Maria (surname could not be read). No date of birth or death visible.

It can be concluded that the work was done successfully and that the proposed development in the area can continue as planned.

However, it needs to be stated that although all efforts are made to identify all possible graves in an area of impact, and to remove all possible remains from these graves, there is always a possibility that previously unknown and unmarked graves and remains could be present in the area. Should any be uncovered during the development actions, work in the area should be stopped and an expert be called in to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

REFERENCES

Location of Study Area and Grave Site: Google Earth 2018.

Lastovica, E & Lastovica, A. 1990. **Bottles & Bygones. A Guide for South African Collectors.** Don Nelson: Cape Town.