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**FINAL REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION, EXHUMATION AND
RELOCATION OF A NUMBER OF KNOWN AND UNKNOWN GRAVES
FROM PORTION 1 OF THE FARM KENBAR 257IR (SITE OI WEST)
IMPACTED ON BY OPENCAST COAL MINING OPERATIONS (EXXARO
LEEUPAN COAL MINE) NEAR DELMAS, MPUMALANGA**

For:

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SUMMARY

Anton Pelsler (of APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc) was appointed by SLR Consulting (on behalf of Exxaro Leeuwan Coal) in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg to undertake the archaeological investigation, exhumation & relocation of a number of graves located on a site located on Portion 1 of the farm Kenbar 257IR, near Delmas in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality of Gauteng. The graves are to be impacted on by ongoing and expanding Open-cast Coal Mining Operations in the area. A total of 96 graves were initially identified on the site. At the conclusion of the investigations and exhumation work **117** graves were uncovered and the remains removed. A further **28** possible graves (spaces in between known graves and rows) were tested but no evidence of burials found. This brings the total number of graves and possible graves investigated to **145**. Details on this will be discussed in the report.

Of the 117 graves only 37 had formal headstones, with 25 of these containing legible inscriptions that provided names and dates. A few of these were found underground/buried in the graves where they were originally erected and were not visible prior to work commencing on site. The dates of death range between the early 1930's and late 1970's, with the earliest being 1931 and the youngest 1979. Most of the graves however remain unidentified in terms of the dates of death and burial. The bulk of the graves were only demarcated by stones and/or bricks and cement borders without formal headstones, while some had single unmarked stones as headstones or were only visible as slight soil heaps or depressions between marked graves and rows of marked graves.

Social consultation, which included the erection of Site Notices & Newspaper advertisements, undertaken between December 2018 & November 2019, was unable to trace any descendants or family members related to these graves. On the back of this a SAHRA permit was issued to APAC cc in January 2020. After the various required permits were obtained work was done in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg during February 2020.

Subsequent to the work commencing on site in February 2020 a number of families (previously unknown to the Specialist Team) came forward to claim graves and visit the site. At the end of the process a total of 36 graves were claimed by these families. Although the families were able to indicate the date of death for some of the deceased (late 1940's and 1950's) most could not be dated. Details on this and the graves claimed are included in the report.

The archaeological portion of the work was carried out under SAHRA Permit No.: 3057 – Case ID No.: 13513.

This document discusses the results of the fieldwork and investigations carried out.

It is concluded that the work was done successfully and that the planned & ongoing mining actions in the area can continue, taking cognizance of the conclusions & recommendations put forward at the end of this document. Although most of the remains were reburied in the Delmas Botleng Extension 14 Municipal Cemetery,

some were reburied in other cemeteries as chosen by the families that came forward to claim some of the graves. This includes Hammanskraal, KwaMhlanga (Vlaklaagte), Mamelodi, Secunda and Vriscgewaagd Cemeteries.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

AIMS

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

METHODOLOGY

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA & SITES

INVESTIGATION AND RELOCATION OF BURIALS

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REFERENCES

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AIMS

The main aims with the investigation and exhumation of the graves from Grave Site OI West (in this case) situated on Portion 1 of the farm Kenbar 257IR were the following:

- (a) the detailed investigation of all possible graves & burials located on the site,
- (b) the successful exhumation and relocation of all the burials and remains recovered to the Botleng Extension 14 Municipal Cemetery near Delmas, or any other cemetery chosen by possible family members that might come forward to claim graves on the site.

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 – Aerial images (Google Earth) of the area, providing a location for the area and the grave site, are produced. Photographs of the area, as well as each individual grave/burial, any skeletal remains and grave goods that are recovered are also taken as part of the documentation process. Detailed maps for the OI West grave site and the graves on it were also drawn and will be included in the report.

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. A separate file containing detailed photographs of all the graves and the remains from the each of these are provided as well.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AND SITE

Grave Site OI West is located on Portion 1 of the original farm Kenbar 257IR, close to Delmas in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality of Gauteng. The site is located at Exxaro's Leeuwpan Colliery, and will be impacted on by their ongoing and expanding Open-Cast Coal Mining Operations in the area.

Initially a total of **around 96** graves were identified on the site prior to work commencing on site in February 2020. Further investigation led to the identification of a **possible 145** graves which included indistinct soil heaps and depressions in between known graves and clear rows of graves. It was decided to test these features for the

presence of possible unknown/unmarked graves as well in order to reduce the liability of the mine of exposing possible unknown graves here once mining operations commence here. A **total of 117** graves were finally identified as a result, **with 28** of those tested turning out to be **No Graves**.

GPS Location of OI West Site: S26 11 03.29 E28 44 31.33.



Figure 1: General location of Site OI West (Google Earth 2020).



Figure 2: Closer view of Site OI West (Google Earth 2020).



Figure 3: Site OI West prior to site clearance.



Figure 4: Site OI West after site clearance and numbering.



Figure 5: Site OI West after completion of the work.

INVESTIGATION AND RELOCATION OF THE BURIALS

Initially around **96** graves were identified on Site OI West. At the conclusion of the investigations and exhumation work **117** graves were uncovered and the remains removed. A further **28** possible graves (spaces in between known graves and rows) were tested but no evidence of burials found. This brings the total number of graves and possible graves investigated to **145**.

Of the **117** graves only **37** had formal headstones, with **25** of these containing legible inscriptions that provided names and dates. A few of these were found underground/buried in the graves where they were originally erected and were not visible prior to work commencing on site. The dates of death range between the early 1930's and late 1970's, with the earliest being 1931 and the youngest 1979. Most of the graves however remain unidentified in terms of the dates of death and burial. The bulk of the graves were only demarcated by stones and/or bricks and cement borders without formal headstones, while some had single unmarked stones as headstones or were only visible as slight soil heaps or depressions between marked graves and rows of marked graves.

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Subsequent to the work commencing on site in February 2020 a number of families (previously unknown to the Specialist Team) came forward to claim graves and visit the site. At the end of the process a total of 36 graves were claimed by these families. Although the families were able to indicate the date of death for some of the deceased (late 1940's and 1950's) most could not be dated. Details on this and the graves claimed are included in the report.

The following families were represented by the graves claimed by descendants and from headstones with inscriptions:

Mabe
Ndlovu
Mahlangu
Mnyakeni
Sekgothe
Masukua
Mgidi
Mabena
Motsogi
Sekitla
Nyakale

Ngwenya
Mawane
Mbonani
Mosheledi
Mgidi
Ngoma
Kgabo
Sibanjone

In general the preservation of human skeletal remains from the burials was poor with most of the skeletons being incomplete. A few were better preserved and nearly complete. The remains from baby/infant and juvenile graves were nearly all incomplete, with a large number not preserved at all. In cases where no remains were found in known graves soil samples were taken for reburial purposes as is standard practice. Grave goods found included coffin wood, coffin plastic, coffin handles, nails and screws, as well as pieces (some small fragments & other larger sections) of corrugated iron sheeting that were placed on top of the burial pits and coffins. Personal items from the burials were few, but included fragments of clothing, blankets, combs and money.

Of the final 117 confirmed graves 44 contained no human skeletal remains, with 9 also containing no other grave material. Only soil samples were taken from these burials. Thirty-five (35) other graves contained no skeletal remains but did provide material such as coffin wood, corrugated iron sheeting, nails or other coffin material and clothing fragments for instance.

Of the total of **117** confirmed graves the following regarding age & sex can be provided:

- (a) **Infants/Babies/Juveniles:** 64
- (b) **Adults:** 53
- (c) **Males:** 27
- (d) **Females:** 20

The graves from which the soil samples were recovered were mainly those of infants or children (based on the size of the stone-packed graves on the surface) although some could be of adults as well. With children (due to a variety of factors) sometimes no skeletal remains are preserved and only material such as coffin remains or clothing is found.

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. Sterile, undisturbed layers were characterized by gravel & undisturbed clay and other soil layers.

All the graves were laid out in an E/W direction with the headstones and heads in the west, facing east. The individuals were buried on their backs and most of them in coffins.

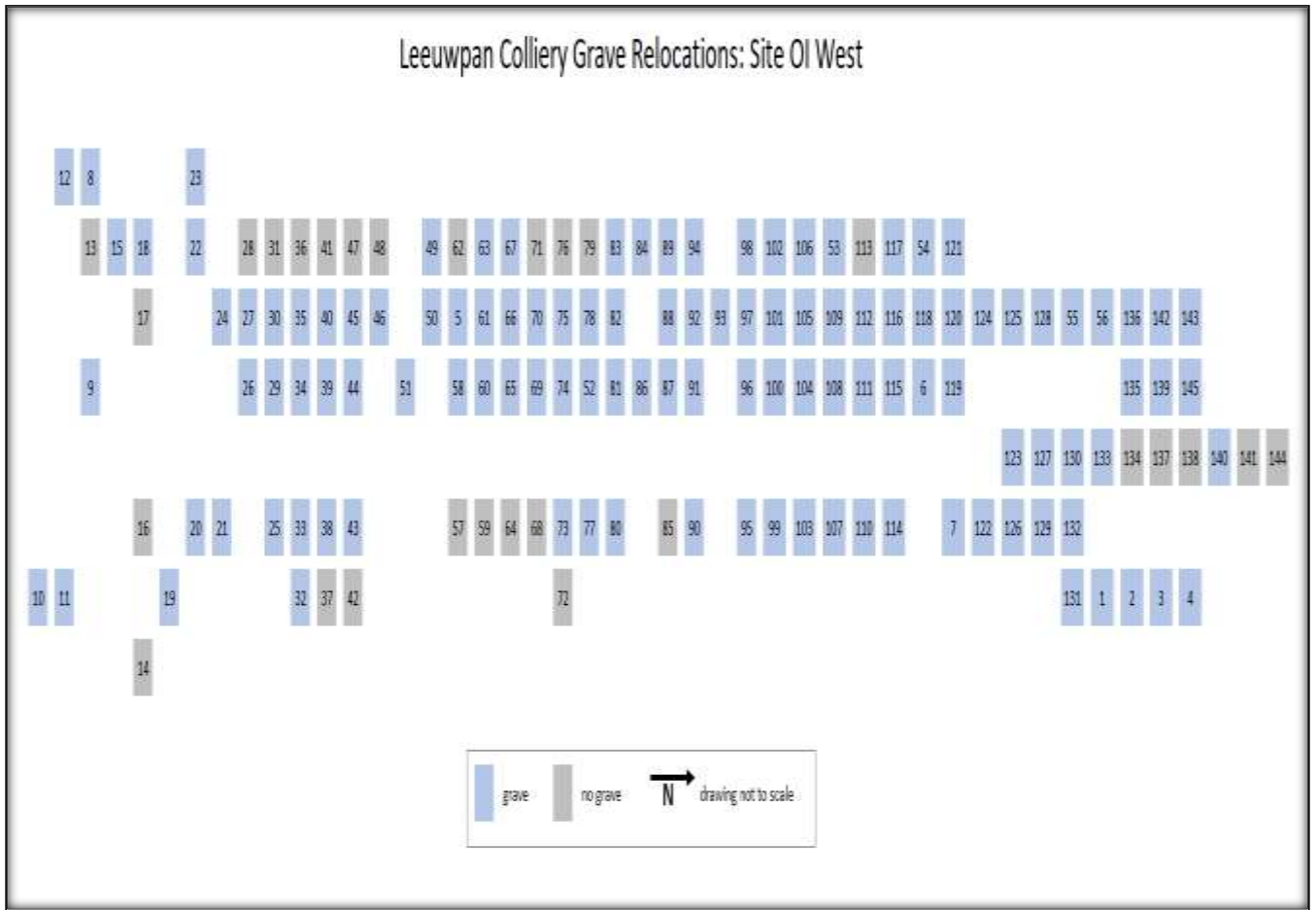


Figure 6: Map of OI West Grave Site. This shows the No Graves vs the Confirmed Graves.



Figure 7: This map shows the graves according to the ages of the individuals buried there.

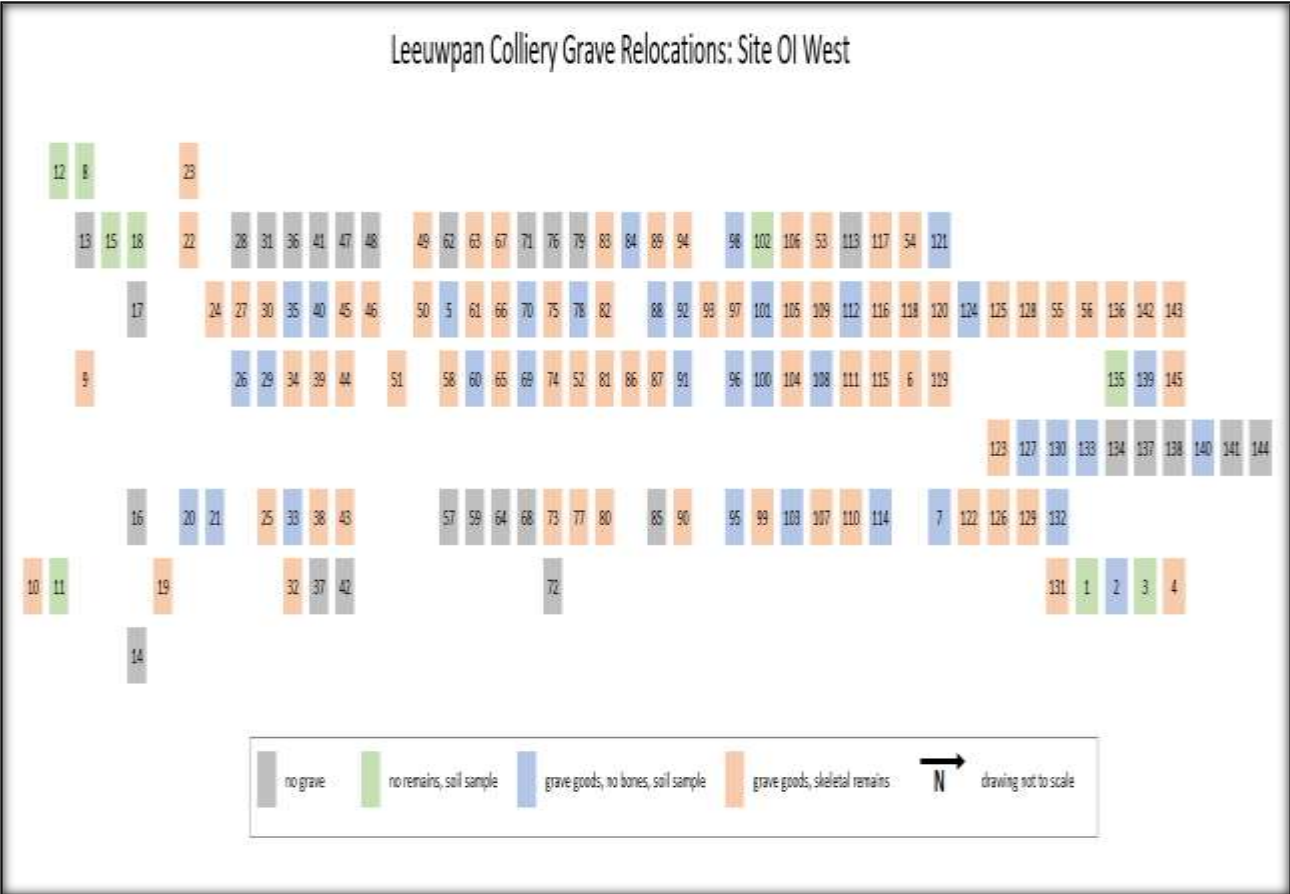


Figure 8: Map of OI West Grave Site indicating the state of preservation of the remains.

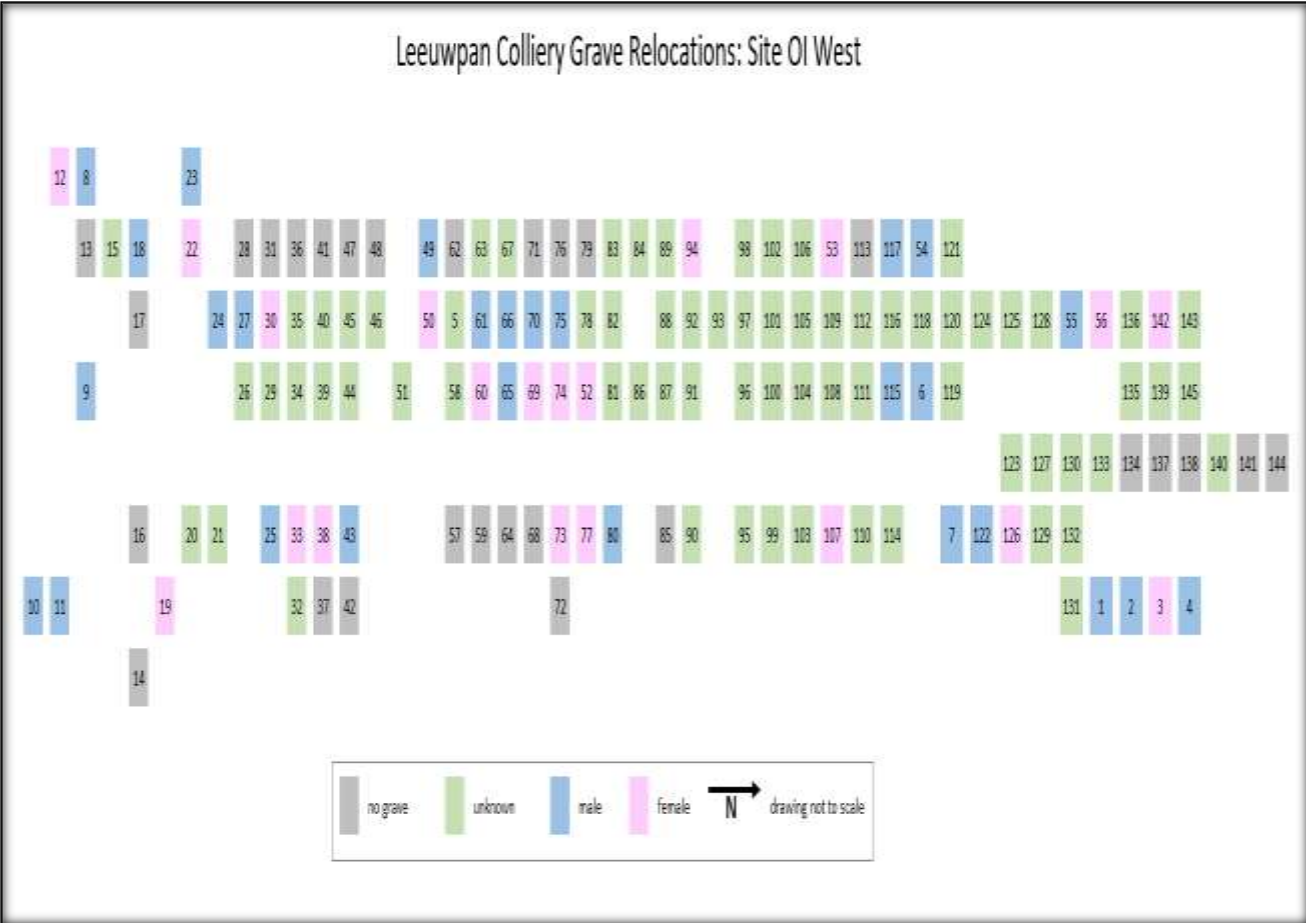


Figure 9: Map of site showing the sex of the individuals buried at the site.

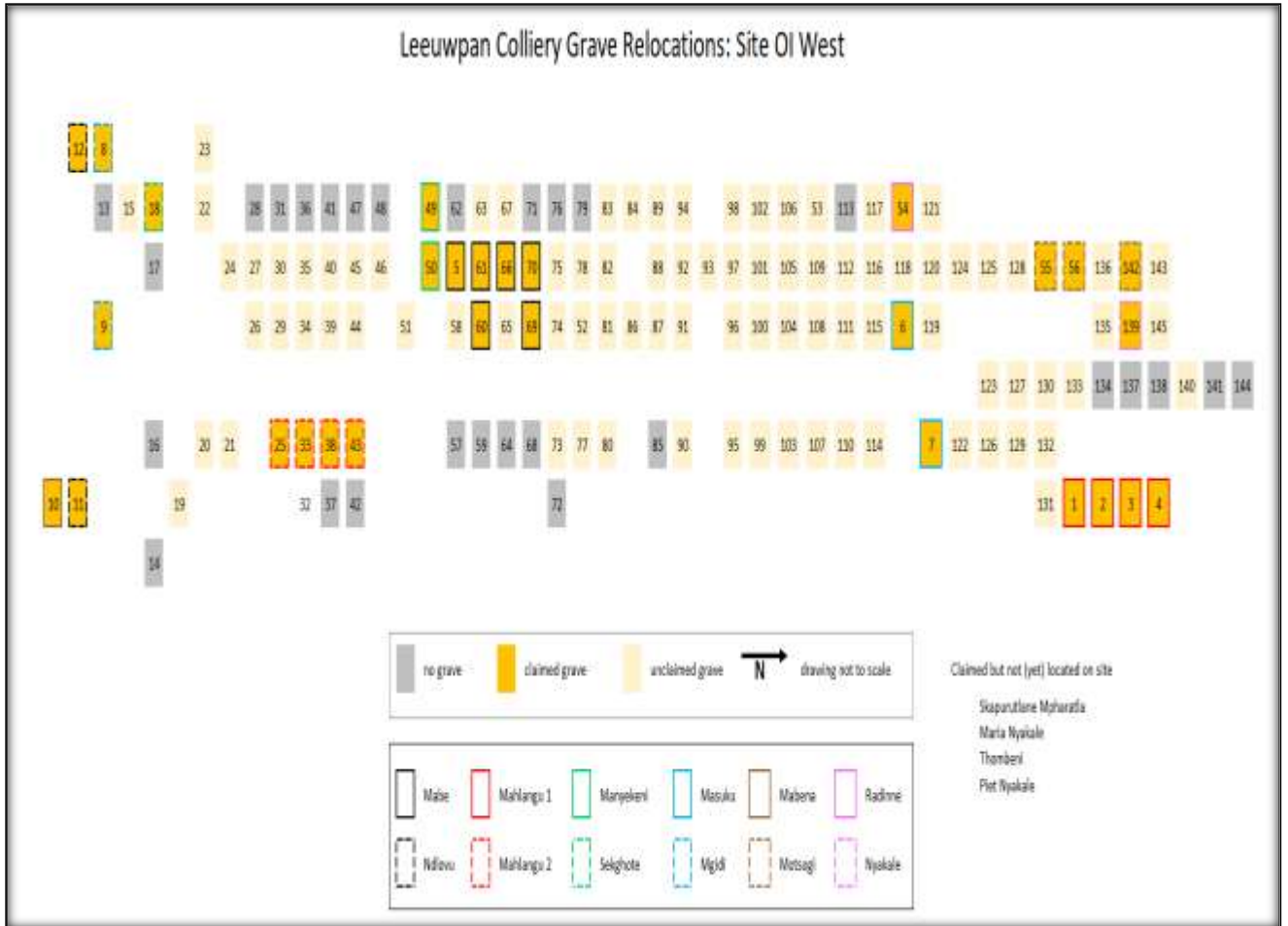


Figure 10: Map of OI West showing the claimed graves per family.

The following possible graves were tested and declared as NO GRAVES:

13; 14; 16; 17; 28; 31; 36; 37; 41; 42; 47; 48; 57; 59; 62; 64; 68; 71; 72; 76; 79; 85; 113; 134; 137; 138; 141; 144.

Each confirmed grave/burial will be discussed briefly below:

- 01:** No stones but position indicated by Mahlangu/Mabena family who claimed the grave. The grave of Hleziphi Mahlangu who died in 1972.03.12. Young infant. No remain were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Buried in Botleng/Delmas.
- 02:** Stone-packed grave. No headstone. Indicated by Mahlangu family as the grave of Johannes Mnyamane Mahlangu. They could not indicate a date of death or birth but said that he was an Adult male. The skeletal remains found confirmed this. Coffin plastic, wood and handles were recovered as well as a plastic Boxer Tobacco bag. The address on the bag reads Siding

Laan Boksburg Oos, Transvaal which gives it a date of at least pre-1994.
Buried in Botleng/Delmas

- 03:** A few stones and soil heap. Indicated by Mahlangu family as the grave of Pitane Mahlangu, a young baby/infant. The family could not provide a date of birth or death for Pitane. No remains were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Buried in Botleng/Delmas.
- 04:** Stone-packed grave. According to the Mahlangu family this was the grave of Peter Mahlangu. They could not provide a date of birth or death but indicated that he was a Young Adult Male. The fragmented skeletal remains confirmed this. Coffin wood and plastic was also recovered. Buried in Botleng/Delmas.
- 05:** The grave was demarcated by a single stone at the head. The Mabe family initially claimed this as one of their graves but could only indicate that the individual buried here was a baby. The age and sex of the baby, as well as dates of birth and death was not given. Besides some fragments of coffin wood no other remains were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Buried in Botleng/Delmas.
- 06:** Stone-packed grave with metal plaque at head. Claimed by the Masuku family. The grave of Libangeni. Masuku. According to the family he passed away around 1948/50 but they were unsure. Besides one coffin nail the very fragmented remains of an Adult individual was recovered. Buried in Botleng/Delmas.
- 07:** A cement and brick demarcated grave with a Cement headstone with legible inscription. Claimed by the Masuku family. The grave of Johannes Masuku who passed away in 1945.05.09. The family indicated that Johannes was born around 1899. Coffin wood and nails were recovered together with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Buried in Botleng/Delmas.
- 08:** Grave with granite headstone and dressing. Claimed by the Mgidi family. The grave of Phillmon Mthethiswa Mgidi. His date of birth and death is unknown. Besides some objects on the grave, no remains were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Buried in Mamelodi Cemetery.
- 09:** Grave with granite headstone and dressing. Claimed by the Mgidi family. The grave of Madzima Mgidi. The dates of birth and death could not be provided. The fragmented remains of a juvenile/young adult were recovered. Other material remains included coffin wood fragments. Coffin plastic, nails and a plastic snuff holder lid. Buried in Mamelodi Cemetery.

- 10:** Stone-packed grave. Claimed by Mabena family. The grave of Khelekhel John Mabena. Dates of birth and death could not be provided. The fairly well preserved remains of an Adult individual still wrapped in coffin plastic was recovered, as well as coffin wood and coffin handles and some clothing fragments. Buried in Vlaklaagte Cemetery.
- 11:** Grave demarcated by cement border and headstone. Claimed by the Ndlovu family. The grave of Vusi Ndlovu who passed away when he was a small baby. They did not indicate the dates of birth or death. No remains were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Buried in Vlaklaagte Cemetery.
- 12:** Grave indicated by soil and some bricks. Claimed by the Ndlovu family. According to them this was the grave of Marriam Mawane a small baby girl. They did not indicate a date of birth or death. No remains were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Buried in Vlaklaagte Cemetery.
- 15:** Grave indicated by soil heap and some bricks. No remains were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Possible grave of a baby. Botleng/Delmas.
- 18:** Grave with cement headstone and border. Claimed by family. The grave of Enock Ramkgumane Sekgothe who was born in 1922 and died in 1955. No remains were found in the burial pit and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Botleng/Delmas.
- 19:** Stone-and brick packed grave without headstone. Coffin wood, plastic, coffin handles and pieces of clothing were found together with the fairly well preserved skeletal remains of an Adult Female. The clothing also indicates this. It seems as if the individual was an old age person based on the mandible (jaw) recovered. Botleng/Delmas.
- 20:** Stone-and brick packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood fragments, coffin plastic wrapping (for a baby coffin) as well as coffin nails and handles were recovered. No skeletal remains were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Botleng/Delmas.
- 21:** Stone-packed grave without headstone. A small piece of coffin wood was recovered, as well as a baby jersey. No skeletal remains were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Botleng/Delmas/
- 22:** Grave with cement border and headstone. Inscription indicates this was the grave of Manela Ngwenya who passed away on the 30th of May 1974. The skeletal remains were poorly preserved but do indicate a baby/young infant individual. Coffin wood, coffin plastic as well as clothing was

recovered. The pink knitted jersey indicates that this was a baby girl buried here. Secunda Cemetery.

- 23:** Grave with cement border and headstone (found under the surface). The inscription on the headstone indicates that Riched Ngwenya was buried here and that he died on the 23rd of September 1979. Coffin wood, coffin plastic, coffin handles and clothing was recovered. The poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult were found. Secunda Cemetery.
- 24:** Grave with cement border and headstone. The inscription indicates that Meriom Mawane was buried here. No date of death is indicated. Coffin plastic and clothing was found including a white baby jersey and yellow bonnet indicating that Meriom Mawane could be a boy. The skeletal remains were very fragmented but also indicate that a baby was buried here. Botleng/Delmas.
- 25:** Stone-packed grave with small cement headstone. No inscription. The Mahlangu family claimed this grave as being that of David Mahlangu. They did not provide a date of death or birth of the deceased. Coffin wood, coffin plastic and handles were recovered as well as pieces of corrugated iron sheeting and clothing. The skeletal remains were fairly well preserved and indicates an Adult individual – possibly Male based on the pelvis (v-shaped sciatic notch). Botleng/Delmas.
- 26:** Stone-packed grave without headstone. Pieces of a baby jersey were recovered, but no skeletal remains were found. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes. Botleng/Delmas.
- 27:** Stone-packed grave with cement headstone. No inscription. Coffin wood and handles were recovered, as well as some pieces of clothing. The skeletal remains were fairly well preserved and based on the robust long bones and pelvis could be those of an Adult Male individual. Botleng/Delmas.
- 29:** Small stone-packed grave without a headstone. Besides a small piece of a baby jersey or blanket no other remains were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Botleng/Delmas.
- 30:** Stone-packed grave without a headstone. Coffin wood fragments and coffin plastic, as well as clothing were recovered. The clothing included purple-colored stocking and a pink scarf indicating that this was the burial of a female individual. The skeletal remains were fragmented but clearly those of an Adult. Botleng/Delmas.
- 32:** Cement and brick demarcated grave. A fallen cement headstone with inscription indicates the name Siphon Ndlovu. The grave was not claimed.

No dates of birth or death are indicated. Pieces of clothing were recovered. The very fragmented and incomplete skeletal remains that were found indicates that the individual was a small child when he passed away.

- 33:** Grave with granite border and headstone. Claimed by Mahlangu family. The grave of Rosi Mahlangu who died in 1978.05.20. A jersey and other clothing pieces were found together with the fragmented remains of a young infant individual. Vrischgewaagd Cemetery.
- 34:** Grave packed with bricks and no headstone. Coffin wood fragments were recovered together with the poorly preserved and fragmented skeletal remains of an infant. Botleng/Delmas.
- 35:** Grave indicated by soil heap and small stones. No headstone. Coffin plastic and a baby jersey were found. No skeletal remains were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Botleng/Delmas.
- 38:** Grave demarcated with granite border and headstone. Claimed by the Mahlangu family. The grave of Josephine Ntombi Mahlangu who died in 1976.06.12. Coffin wood and plastic as well as handles was recovered. Pieces of clothing and a blanket were also found with the fragmented remains of an Adult Female. Vrischgewaagd Cemetery.
- 39:** Stone-packed grave without headstone. Fragments of coffin wood, nails and enamel drinking mug were recovered from the burial pit. Some skull fragments of an infant were also found. Botleng/Delmas.
- 40:** Grave with single stone at the head. Although some coffin wood fragments and a piece of red-colored rope/thread were recovered, there were no skeletal remains. It is assumed that an infant was buried here. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Botleng/Delmas.
- 43:** Stone-packed grave without headstone. Claimed by Mahlangu family as that of Lettie Nomadlozi Mnguni Mahlangu. Coffin wood, plastic and clothing remains were found. A blue colored shirt was found. The skeletal remains were fairly well preserved and represent an Adult. Botleng/Delmas.
- 44:** Stone and brick-packed grave without headstone. Coffin wood fragments and nails were found, as well as pieces of clothing for an infant. The skeletal remains were fragmented and small. Botleng/Delmas.
- 45:** Stone-packed grave without headstone. Coffin wood and blanket fragments were found together with the fragmented skeletal remains of an infant/juvenile child. Botleng/Delmas.

- 46:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood, coffin plastic and the small metal handles of a baby/infant coffin was recovered. The small, fragmented, skeletal remains of an infant/juvenile individual were found. Botleng/Delmas.
- 49:** Stone-packed grave with roof-tile for headstone. Claimed by Mnyakeni family. Inscription (painted on) on headstone indicates Simon Mnyakeni. According to the family he was born in 1911 and passed away somewhere in 1978. Coffin wood and plastic and some pieces of clothing were found. The skeletal remains were fragmented but were those of an Adult individual. Vrischgewaagd Cemetery.
- 50:** Grave demarcated by a metal frame and decorative metal frame headstone. Claimed by Mnyakeni family. The grave of Maria Mnyakeni who passed away in October 1963. According to the family she was 15 years old when she died. Coffin wood fragments and fragmented skeletal remains were recovered from the burial pit. Vrischgewaagd Cemetery.
- 51:** Grave indicated by a single stone at the head. Coffin wood, plastic, nails and blanket pieces were recovered. The skeletal remains are fairly well preserved and belong to a juvenile/young Adult individual. Botleng/Delmas.
- 52:** Grave with granite border and headstone. The grave of Sarah Mbonani who died in 1936. Pieces of corrugated iron sheeting were found together with the fragmented remains of an Adult individual. Botleng/Delmas.
- 53:** Grave with granite border and headstone. The grave of Annah Nonono Mosheledi who died in 1954. Coffin wood, nails and handles as well as pieces of corrugated iron sheeting were found. The fragmented skeletal remains were those of an Adult individual. Botleng/Delmas.
- 54:** Grave with granite border and headstone. Claimed by Sekitla family. The grave of David Radinne Sekitla who died on 28.06.67. Coffin wood, coffin nails, handles and screws were recovered together with the fragmented remains of an Adult. Botleng/Delmas.
- 55:** Grave with granite border and headstone. Claimed by Motsogi family. The grave of Willem.R.Motsogi who died on 12.7.1957. Coffin wood, handles and coffin metal was found with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult Male individual. Botleng/Delmas.
- 56:** Grave with granite border and headstone. Claimed by the Motsogi family. The grave of Plantina M. Motsogi who died on 24.11.1964 at the age of 98 years old. Fragments of coffin wood and the poorly preserved skeletal remains of an old Adult individual were recovered. Botleng/Delmas.

- 58:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap. Pieces of coffin wood and coffin handles were found, as well as the poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Botleng/Delmas.
- 60:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap and small stones. Claimed by Mabe family. They indicated that it was the grave of a baby girl named Siphonono. Born 01/04/1972 and passed away 04/03/1973. Only coffin nails were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Stinkwater, Hammanskraal Cemetery.
- 61:** Stone-packed grave without a headstone. Claimed by the Mabe family who indicated that a baby named Samson was buried here. Born 08/09/1973 and passed away 22/12/1973. Some small pieces of coffin wood and a piece of corrugated iron sheeting were found, as well as small fragments of skeletal remains. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes. Stinkwater, Hammanskraal Cemetery.
- 63:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood fragments and pieces of clothing were found. The poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult individual were recovered from the burial pit. Botleng/Delmas.
- 65:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap and loose stones. Coffin wood and coffin handles recovered. The fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult were found. It could possibly be a Young Male individual based on the v-shaped sciatic notch on the pelvis and the open sutures (not completely fused yet) on the cranium. Botleng/Delmas.
- 66:** Stone-packed grave without a headstone. Claimed by Mabe family. They indicated that an infant named Samson was buried here. Died in 1975? Some coffin wood fragments and nails were found together with the small fragmented skeletal remains of an infant/juvenile individual. Stinkwater, Hammanskraal Cemetery.
- 67:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap and loose stones. Coffin wood fragments, metal handles and some clothing pieces were found. The poorly preserved skeletal remains were those of a Young Adult individual. Botleng/Delmas.
- 69:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap and loose stones. Claimed by the Mabe family who indicated that a baby girl named Sibongile was buried here. Born 13/04/1974 and passed away 10/10/1974. Although some coffin nails were found, not other remains were present. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Stinkwater, Hammanskraal Cemetery.

70: Grave indicated by slight soil heap and loose stones. Claimed by the Mabe family who indicated that an Adult Male named Samson (born 1918 and passed away in 1976) was buried here. Besides coffin wood fragments and a coffin nail that was found, no skeletal remains were found and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Stinkwater, Hammanskraal Cemetery.

The rest of the graves below were all reburied in the Botleng/Delmas Cemetery.

73: Stone-packed grave with no headstone. The NO GRAVE at 72 was part of the same burial. Coffin wood, nails and coffin handles, as well as pieces of women's clothing was recovered with the very fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual.

74: Stone-packed grave with cement headstone. The inscription on the headstone indicates that Julia Mgidi who died sometime in November 1944 was buried here. Unclaimed grave. Corrugated iron sheeting pieces and coffin nails were found together with the very poorly preserved skeletal remains of an old Adult individual.

75: Stone-packed grave with cement headstone. The inscription on the headstone indicates that one J. Mgidi who died on 17.9.1947 was buried here. Unclaimed grave. Corrugated iron sheeting and wood was recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual – possibly male based on the v-shaped sciatic notch on the pelvis.

77: Grave with cement & brick border and headstone. Inscription indicates grave is that of Selinna Ngoma who died on 30.3.1954. Unclaimed grave. Coffin handles were found together with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual.

78: Grave indicated by slight soil heap. Corrugated iron sheeting was found. No skeletal remains were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. It is assumed that this was a grave for a baby/young infant.

80: Grave indicated by cement and brick border and headstone. Inscription on headstone indicates that Phillimon Mgidi who died on 25.10.1948 was buried here. Unclaimed grave. Coffin handles and nails were found as well as the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual.

81: Brick demarcated grave with small cement headstone. No inscription visible. One coffin nail recovered as well as the skull fragments of an infant. Soil Sample taken as well for reburial purposes.

- 82:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood fragments recovered together with fairly well-preserved skeletal remains of a young Adult individual. Sutures on cranium not completely fused yet and teeth not badly worn. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 83:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap and single stone at head. The fragmented skeletal remains (including longbones, skull and teeth) of an infant/juvenile individual were recovered.
- 84:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap and single stone at head. Besides corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments and nails no skeletal remains were recovered. It assumed that an infant was buried here/ A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 86:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting and coffin wood fragments were found. The fragmented skeletal remains of an infant/juvenile individual were recovered from the burial.
- 87:** Stone-packed grave without headstone. Coffin wood fragments were found together with the poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Determining the sex of the person was not possible.
- 88:** Grave indicated by a single stone at the head. Besides corrugated iron sheeting and coffin wood fragments no skeletal remains were recovered. It is assumed that an infant/juvenile individual was buried here. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 89:** Grave indicated by a single stone at the head. Corrugated iron sheeting and coffin wood was found, as well as an enamel mug and comb. The skeletal remains are fragmented, but the long bones are robust and could indicate an Adult Male individual. A v-shaped sciatic notch on the pelvis also indicates possible Male.
- 90:** Grave indicated by a slight soil heap. The fragmented skeletal remains of a Young Adult individual were recovered. Determining the sex of the person was not possible.
- 91:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments and coffin nails were found. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant (the size of the grave also seemed to show this). A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 92:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood fragments were found. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that the grave

was that of an infant (the size of the grave also seemed to show this). A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.

- 93:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood fragments and corrugated iron sheeting were found. One deciduous tooth (a molar) was recovered indicating that young infant was buried here. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 94:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood, coffin nails and handles were found. The well-preserved skeletal remains recovered were that of a possible young Adult female individual based on the pelvis and the very gracile longbones.
- 95:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap. Besides coffin wood fragments no skeletal remains or other material was recovered. It is assumed that an infant was buried here. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 96:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting and coffin wood fragments were found. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant (the size of the grave also seemed to show this). A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 97:** Stone-packed with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments and coffin nails were found. The skull fragments of an infant and one deciduous tooth (a molar) was recovered from the burial.
- 98:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting and coffin wood fragments were found. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant (the size of the grave also seemed to show this). A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 99:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap. Coffin wood fragments and coffin nails were found. The fairly fragmented skeletal remains recovered are those of a young Adult individual as the sutures on the cranium had not completely fused yet. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 100:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments and coffin nails were found. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 101:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments and coffin nails were found. Some skull fragments of an infant were found. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.

- 102:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. No skeletal remains or other material were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 103:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Small pieces of coffin wood were recovered. No skeletal remains or other material were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 104:** Grave with cement border and headstone. No visible inscription. Pieces of corrugated iron sheeting were found. The very fragmented and poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult individual were recovered. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 105:** Grave with cement border and headstone. No visible inscription. Pieces of coffin wood and coffin nails were found. The very fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual were recovered. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 106:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Parts of corrugated iron sheeting were recovered, as well as longbone and skull fragments of an infant. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 107:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments and coffin nails were recovered together with the fragmented skeletal remains of a young Adult individual. The teeth are not badly worn and the sutures on the cranium of the individual are not completely fused. This might be a Female individual based on the wide and open sciatic notch on the pelvis.
- 108:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Besides corrugated iron sheeting no skeletal remains or other material were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 109:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting, wood fragments and nails were recovered. The fragmented and poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult individual were found in the burial. The sex of the individual could not be determined.
- 110:** Grave indicated by a slight soil heap. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood and nails were recovered together with skull fragments of an infant individual.
- 111:** Soil heap and a single stone at the head indicated the presence of a grave. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments and nails were recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of a young Adult individual.

- 112:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Besides corrugated iron sheeting, coffin nails and a glass cooldrink bottle no skeletal remains or other material were found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 114:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap. Besides coffin wood and nails not skeletal remains or other material was found and it is assumed that the grave was that of an infant. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 115:** Stone-packed grave. A cement headstone was found below the surface in the grave. The inscription indicates this was the grave of Hendrick Mosheleli who was born in November 1909 and passed away in January 1931. Corrugated iron sheeting and some coffin nails were recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual.
- 116:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood and nails were found with the small fragmented remains of an infant individual.
- 117:** Stone and brick-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood was recovered, as well as a blue colored cloth belt, metal axe head, metal snuff tin and asbestos vase. Pieces of the tail (hair) of a possible ox were also recovered. The skeletal remains were those of an Adult individual – possibly a male based on the v-shaped sciatic notch on the pelvis.
- 118:** Grave with cement border and headstone. No inscription visible. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood fragments, nails and a green ceramic vase were recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 119:** Grave indicated by a slight soil heap. Corrugated iron sheeting was recovered with the very fragmented and poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult.
- 120:** Grave with cement border and headstone. No inscription visible. Corrugated iron sheeting was recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 121:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. A metal flat bar and one coffin nail was found together with a yellow and black baby/infant jersey/dress (girl). No skeletal remains were recovered and a Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.

- 122:** Grave with cement border and headstone. The partial inscription visible indicates that (So)Lomone Sibanjone was buried here. He passed away in September 1933. Unclaimed grave. Corrugated iron sheeting and coffin wood as well as the base of a glass were recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of an old Adult individual.
- 123:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting was found together with the fragmented and poorly preserved skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 124:** Grave with cement border and headstone. No inscription visible. Corrugated iron sheeting and some fragments of cloth was recovered. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that this was the grave of an infant/juvenile individual. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 125:** Grave with cement border and headstone. No inscription visible. Corrugated iron sheeting and coffin handles were found together with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 126:** Grave with cement border and headstone. The partial inscription visible indicates that Johanna Sibanjone was buried here. She passed away in April 1938. Unclaimed grave. Corrugated iron sheeting was recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual.
- 127:** Grave with single stone at head. Corrugated iron sheeting was found, but no skeletal remains or other material. It is assumed that a baby/juvenile individual was buried here. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 128:** Grave with cement border and headstone. No inscription visible. Corrugated iron sheeting, coffin wood and nails were recovered with the fragmented skeletal remains of an infant/juvenile individual.
- 129:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting was found together with the very fragmented skeletal remains of a possible infant/juvenile individual.
- 130:** Grave indicated by slight soil heap and single stone at the head. The grave of Maria Nyakale. Besides pieces of corrugated iron sheeting no skeletal remains or other material was found. It is assumed that this was the grave of an infant/juvenile individual. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.

- 131:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. A drinking glass was found on top of the grave. Coffin wood fragments, coffin plastic and coffin handles were found together with the fragmented skeletal remains of an Adult individual.
- 132:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Corrugated iron sheeting fragments, coffin wood and nails were recovered. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that this was the grave of an infant/juvenile individual. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 133:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. The grave of Marukhoane Kgabo. Corrugated iron sheeting fragments and nails were recovered. No skeletal remains were found and it is assumed that this was the grave of an infant/juvenile individual. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 135:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. NO Grave 134 was part of this grave (one clear burial pit). Some corrugated iron sheeting and coffin wood was recovered, but no skeletal remains or other material. This might have been the grave of an infant/juvenile individual as well and only a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 136:** Stone-packed grave with no headstone. Coffin wood, coffin plastic and coffin handles were recovered from the burial pit. A 1977 R1.00 coin was also found in the grave and provides a possible date for the burial. The skeletal remains were fragmented and represented an Adult individual. Determining the sex of the individual was not possible.
- 137:** Grave was indicated by slight soil heap and some loose stones. It is situated at the feet of Grave 142. Claimed by the Nyakale family. They indicated that Peter Nyakale was buried here. They did not provide a date of birth or death. Besides a baby jersey/blanket and a small ceramic plate no skeletal remains or other material were found and it is assumed that Peter Nyakale was an infant or juvenile individual. A Soil Sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 140:** Stone-packed without a headstone. The grave of Mpharathla Motsogi. Coffin wood fragments and plastic was recovered, but no skeletal remains. It is assumed that the individual buried here was an infant/juvenile individual. A Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 142:** Grave with cement and brick border and cement headstone. Name painted on headstone indicates that this was the grave of Sina Motsogi who died on 7.7.1974. Claimed by the Motsogi family. Coffin wood, plastic and clothing was found with the fairly well-preserved skeletal remains of a young Adult individual.

- 143:** Stone-packed grave with single stone at the head. Coffin wood, handles, screws and plastic was found. The fairly well preserved skeletal remains of a juvenile individual were found still wrapped in the coffin plastic.
- 145:** Grave indicated by a slight soil heap. The grave of Piet Nyakale. Coffin wood, plastic and coffin handles were found together with the fairly fragmented remains of an old-aged Adult individual.

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

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Anton Pelsler (of APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc) was appointed by SLR Consulting (on behalf of Exxaro Leeuwpan Coal) in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg to undertake the archaeological investigation, exhumation & relocation of a number of graves located on a site located on Portion 1 of the farm Kenbar 257IR, near Delmas in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality of Gauteng. The graves are to be impacted on by ongoing and expanding Open-cast Coal Mining Operations in the area.

Social consultation, which included the erection of Site Notices & Newspaper advertisements, undertaken between December 2018 & November 2019, was unable to trace any descendants or family members related to these graves. On the back of this a SAHRA permit was issued to APAC cc in January 2020. After the various required permits were obtained work was done in conjunction with AVBOB Johannesburg during February 2020.

Initially around 96 graves were identified on Site OI West. At the conclusion of the investigations and exhumation work 117 graves were uncovered and the remains removed. A further 28 possible graves (spaces in between known graves and rows) were tested but no evidence of burials found. This brings the total number of graves and possible graves investigated to 145.

Of the 117 graves only 37 had formal headstones, with 25 of these containing legible inscriptions that provided names and dates. A few of these were found underground/buried in the graves where they were originally erected and were not visible prior to work commencing on site. The dates of death range between the early 1930's and late 1970's, with the earliest being 1931 and the youngest 1979. Most of the graves however remain unidentified in terms of the dates of death and burial. The bulk of the graves were only demarcated by stones and/or bricks and cement borders without formal headstones, while some had single unmarked stones as headstones or were only visible as slight soil heaps or depressions between marked graves and rows of marked graves.

Subsequent to the work commencing on site in February 2020 a number of families (previously unknown to the Specialist Team) came forward to claim graves and visit the site. At the end of the process a total of 36 graves were claimed by these families. Although the families were able to indicate the date of death for some of the deceased (late 1940's and 1950's) most could not be dated.

In general the preservation of human skeletal remains from the burials was poor with most of the skeletons being incomplete. A few were better preserved and nearly complete. The remains from baby/infant and juvenile graves were nearly all incomplete, with a large number not preserved at all. In cases where no remains were found in known graves soil samples were taken for reburial purposes as is standard practice. Grave goods found included coffin wood, coffin plastic, coffin handles, nails and screws, as well as pieces (some small fragments & other larger sections) of corrugated iron sheeting that were placed on top of the burial pits and coffins. Personal items from the burials were few, but included fragments of clothing, blankets, combs and money.

Of the final 117 confirmed graves 44 contained no human skeletal remains, with 9 also containing no other grave material. Only soil samples were taken from these burials. Thirty-five (35) other graves contained no skeletal remains but did provide material such as coffin wood, corrugated iron sheeting, nails or other coffin material and clothing fragments for instance.

Of the total of 117 confirmed graves the following regarding age & sex can be provided:

- (a) Infants/Babies/Juveniles: 64
- (b) Adults: 53
- (c) Males: 27
- (d) Females: 20

The graves from which the soil samples were recovered were mainly those of infants or children (based on the size of the stone-packed graves on the surface) although some could be of adults as well. With children (due to a variety of factors) sometimes no skeletal remains are preserved and only material such as coffin remains or clothing is found.

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. Sterile, undisturbed layers were characterized by gravel & undisturbed clay and other soil layers.

All the graves were laid out in an E/W direction with the headstones and heads in the west, facing east. The individuals were buried on their backs and most of them in coffins.

The archaeological portion of the work was carried out under SAHRA Permit No.: 3057 – Case ID No.: 13513.

It is concluded that the work was done successfully and that the planned & ongoing mining actions in the area can continue, taking cognizance of the conclusions & recommendations put forward at the end of this document. Although most of the remains were reburied in the Botleg Extension 14 Municipal Cemetery, some were reburied in other cemeteries as chosen by the families that came forward to claim some of the graves. This includes Hammanskraal, KwaMhlanga (Vlaklaagte), Mamelodi, Secunda and Vrischgewaagd Cemeteries.

Finally, it needs to be stated that although extensive 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 2020.