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**FINAL REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION, EXHUMATION AND
RELOCATION OF A NUMBER OF UNKNOWN & UNCLAIMED GRAVES
IMPACTED BY THE EZEE TILE ADHESIVE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
ON ERVEN 178 & 179, VULCANIA EXTENSION 2**

For:

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REPORT: APAC022/07

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', is centered on the page.

SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was initially appointed by KMFE Environmental, on behalf of Ezee Tile Adhesives (Pty) Ltd, to undertake a site visit and assessment of accidentally discovered human remains found at the location (Erven 178 & 179, Vulcania Extension 2) of the new Ezee Tile Adhesive Facility. After SAHRA was contacted by KMFE Environmental, they informed the client to appoint an archaeologist to assess the bones and provide recommendations on the way forward. Anton Pelser of APAC cc was then contracted to undertake this assessment, with a site visit conducted on the 17th of June 2021 (**See Report APAC021/50**).

After the initial assessment, the Burial Grounds & Graves Unit (BGG Unit) of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) was approached on the way forward. They then recommended that test excavations be conducted to try and determine if there could be previously unknown and unmarked burials still located in the area. A permit for this was applied for from the BGG Unit, and after obtaining the permit (**Case ID#16663 & Permit ID#3277**) test excavations were conducted at the site.

The physical Test Excavation work was undertaken on the 25th of June 2021 and the resultant report (**See Report APAC021/55**) provided recommendations on the way forward. The work conducted found a number of fairly intact and partially disturbed burial pits in the area where soil has been removed for use on other parts of the site for leveling and compaction associated with the approved development work. Although the exact number of burials located here could not be determined without a doubt, it was estimated to be at least 90 or more. The age of the burials seemed to be between the early 19th and mid-20th century, with the site possibly related to an earlier cemetery associated with the Sallies Village/Witpoort “Native” Hospital in the area. The possibility that there were earlier efforts to exhume and relocate graves from this site as part of the establishment of industrial sites and structures on the property could not be excluded at the time.

It was then recommended that a formal investigation, exhumation & relocation of the burials be undertaken after the required Public Participation processes had been completed and all relevant permissions had been obtained. A registered undertaker (Roseleigh Funeral Home) was subsequently appointed with APAC cc to conduct the work. The Public Participation process did not result in any individuals coming forward to identify or claim the remains or burials. Once all permissions were obtained the physical work was undertaken during January 2022. A total of 89 burials were identified in the end, with some scattered remains found on the surface of the site also included in the reburials.

The archaeological portion of the work was carried out under SAHRA Permit Case ID#17452 & Permit ID#3411.

It is concluded that the work was done successfully and that the ongoing development activities can continue, taking cognizance of the recommendations put forward at the end of this document. All the graves and remains from the burials were reburied in the Phumulani Municipal Cemetery in Springs.

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INTRODUCTION

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From the initial site assessments it was evident that the area and development site had been completely impacted and disturbed by past industrial and recent activities related to

the approved new development (most recently the site was used for the manufacturing of precast concrete units). Over and above the remains discovered on the 11th of June 2021 by the on-site Contractor, more scattered human remains were found during the site assessment conducted on the 17th of June 2021.

It was also clear that the first human remains found here most likely originated from a previously unknown and unmarked grave and burial pit. The recent activities associated with the approved Ezee Tile Adhesives Facility development on the property accidentally uncovered the remains, and as a result the grave was no longer intact and the remains had been scattered across the area. It was found to be very likely that the remains were fairly localized between their origin (the soil cutting/trench around 120m to the south-west) and the spoil heaps where the 1st remains were identified on the 11th of June and the new remains were identified on the 17th of June.

Older aerial images (Google Earth) of the study and development area clearly showed that the site was extensively used for industrial purposes and that the location of the human remains were covered by various structures until fairly recently. It was therefore likely that these structures already covered the historical grave and that there was no way that it would have been visible or marked before the newly proposed development actions commenced. From the human remains itself, as well as the possible coffin wood fragments, it was concluded that these remains had a historical origin and that it could have been associated with historical farming in the area (pre-industrial and the extensive urban expansion in the Brakpan area). A mining origin was also possible but could not be determined at the time.

The aims of the 25th of June 2021 test excavations were to recover any scattered and loose human remains across the site, disturbed as a result of earlier work when soil was removed from the cutting for use as leveling and compaction material on other sections of the development site. The spoil heaps where these remains were flagged was sorted through and carefully leveled and all human remains recovered, bagged and boxed for safekeeping on site until formal exhumation and relocation work could be undertaken.

The area around the cutting/trench was then investigated in detail for the presence of possible previously unknown and in situ graves or burial pits. This was done by cleaning/brushing the edges of the trench/cutting on both sides (northern & southern profiles), as well as scrutinizing the middle portion where top soil has already been removed for other evidence of skeletal material and grave goods.

It became evident quickly that there were a number of in situ and previously unknown graves and burial pits present here, with some obviously disturbed by the recent trenching. It needs to be noted here again that there was no surface evidence for the presence of graves here. Earlier aerial images (Google Earth) show that the area where these burials are located was until recently situated underneath various structures and features associated with earlier industrial activities. It was when these were demolished and removed for the newly approved development and when trenching commenced that these burial pits were exposed.

Once the visible in situ burial pits were identified by brushing the profiles of the trench, the on-site Contractor was requested to assist with an earthmoving machine to carefully make a smaller cutting in the area not yet exposed to see if more intact burials could be seen so that the approximate extent of the burial site could be determined. This exercise resulted in the discovery of a number of more pits, while the approximate extent of the site could be demarcated. This area was cordoned off and no further work was to take place here until the formal archaeological investigation, exhumation and relocation work had been concluded.

Determining the exact number of in situ and remaining burials on the site proved difficult at the time, but with at least 30 pits visible in the southern profile of the trench and with similar pits visible in the northern profile it was determined that there could possibly be 30 rows of around 3 graves per row in the area covered by the site. This indicated in excess of 90 graves and possibly more, but with some already disturbed by the trenching in the central part of the site.

In terms of the origin and age of these burials there are some evidence that have come forward from both the on-site finds, as well as documentary and archival searches. Based on the coffin wood fragments, clothing and blanket pieces, coffin nails and other evidence these burials have a relatively recent historical origin. These coffins were not machine made or mass-produced but more likely hand-made. Furthermore, a few coins found close to one burial pit had dates of 1952 and 1954 on them. It was assumed that the burial site dates to between the early and mid-20th century and was therefore older than 60 years of age at least.

The origin of the burial site was a bit more difficult to determine. The area of Vulcania (in this part of Brakpan) has been used for industrial activities since the 1930's and prior to that the larger area saw extensive mining (coal and gold) activities. It is therefore possible that the individuals buried here used to work on the mines and in the various related industries and that this cemetery was established for people who used to work on and lived in the various villages and locations established here. Searches in the National Archives Database show that the farm Schapenrust or Vulcania was being purchased for industrial sites between 1935 and 1943 (**TAB: MBP Volume 2/2/539 Reference 9/3/1 Part 1**). Of further interest are documents from the Archives regarding the proposed removal of a so-called "Native Cemetery at the Sallies/Witpoort Native Hospital, dating to between 1959 & 1971 (**TAB: MBP Volume 2/2/210 Reference 3/219 Part 1**). Both Sallies Village and the current Witpoort Care Centre is not far south from the site. A plastic hospital-type arm bracelet found with one of the burials seemed to point in the direction of this origin for the burials. It is also not inconceivable that there was a process to exhume and relocate burials from this site from the late 1950's onwards for the establishment of the previous factories and industrial sites here, but that not all the graves were successfully removed. The fact that various buildings were clearly covering the still- intact burial pits now uncovered after their recent removal and trenching in the area could be further evidence for this. However, with no clear indication of the original geographical location of the Sallies/Witpoort Native Hospital cemetery, it is not possible to conclude this without a doubt.

AIMS

The main aims with the investigation, exhumation & relocation of the graves from the Erven 178 & 179, Vulcania Extension 2 site 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 Phumulani Municipal Cemetery in Springs 14km north-east of 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 Act 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 the 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 paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological 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 paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or

- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological 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.

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.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AND SITE

The Ezee Tiles Adhesive Facility Burial/Grave Site is located on Erven 178 & 179, Vulcania Extension 2, in Brakpan Gauteng. The site and remains are impacted on by the new Ezee Tiles Adhesive Facility development on the property.

A total of 89 burial pits, as well as the remains of several unidentified individuals on the surface of the site, were identified on the site. There were no surface indicators for the presence of graves and burials on the site, with their existence only revealed after construction and trenching work related to the approved development had commenced.

The results of the physical investigation, exhumation and relocation work conducted in January 2022 will be presented in the next section of the report. All the remains were relocated to and reburied in the Phumulani Municipal Cemetery in Springs.

GPS Location of the Vulcania Burial/Grave Site: S26 15 41.20 E28 23 01.30
Phumulani Municipal Cemetery Location (approximate): S26 11 13.29 E28 30 34.96



**Figure 1: Location of the Vulcania Grave Site (in red polygon).
Google Earth 2021.**

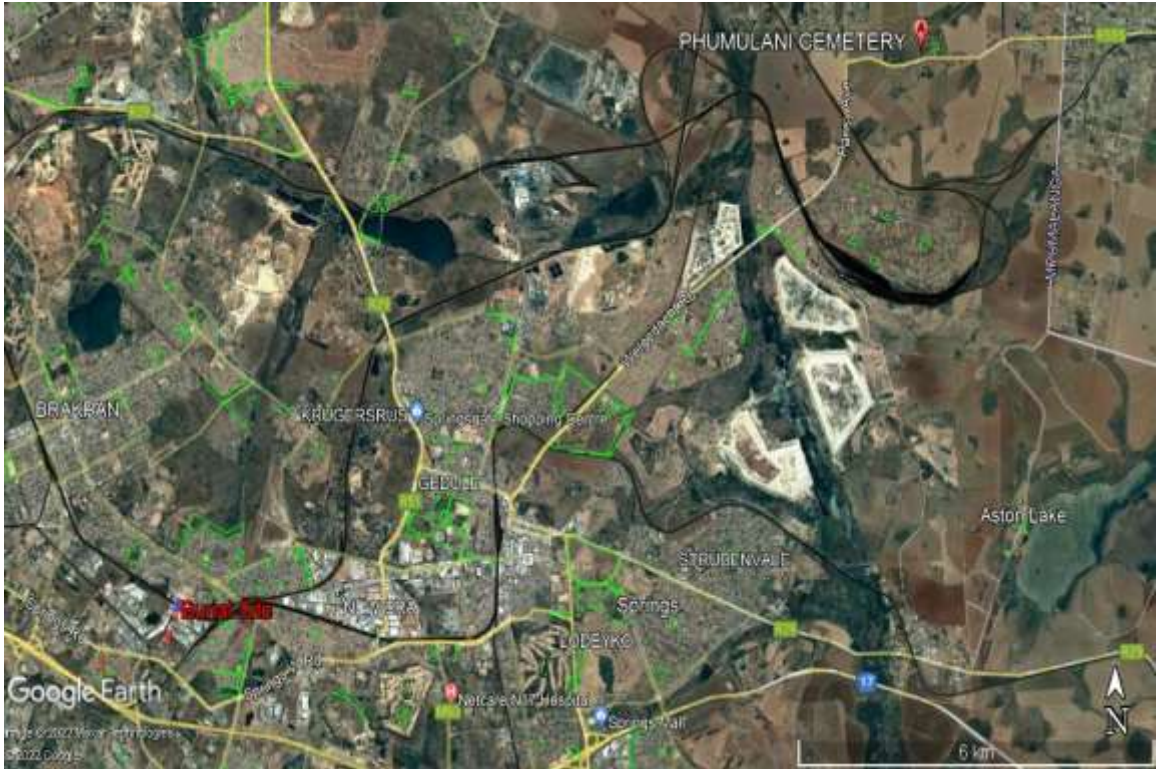


Figure 2: Location of the Vulcania Burial/Grave Site in relation to the Phumulani Cemetery (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 3: The location of the Burial/Grave site in June 2021.



Figure 4: The approximate extent of the site as determined in June 2021. This area was cordoned off and no work done here until the January 2022 investigations & exhumation work was completed.



Figure 5: General view of the site in January 2022. Heavy & constant rains over the December/January period caused some damage to the site.



Figure 6: A view of the Burial/Grave site after the position of intact burial pits had been determined and the physical work had commenced.

INVESTIGATION AND RELOCATION OF THE BURIALS

A total of 89 burial pits were identified & investigated in the end, with some human skeletal remains & associated material (grave goods) recovered from the surface of the site during the initial discoveries, site assessments and test excavations also included in the reburial process. “Burial Pits” 87 & 88 turned out to be just loose skeletal remains from unknown individuals found on a heap of loose soil resulting from earlier trenching in the area, and these remains together with the previously recovered skeletal remains, were placed into separate coffins (Numbered 87 & 88) to be reburied.

Social consultation, which included the erection of Site Notices & Newspaper advertisements, undertaken between July 2021 & September 2021, was unable to trace any descendants or family members related to these graves. In the period between September 2021 and the eventual issuing of the SAHRA permit in early 2022, similarly no individuals came forward in this regard. The physical investigation, exhumation & relocation work was conducted during January 2022.

In general the identified burial pits were not completely intact, with most only partially complete and in most cases already disturbed. In many of the pits only remnants of the original pits could be seen, with no human or other remains present. In those where remains were found these consisted mainly of single complete bones, fragmented skeletal

remains, a few items such as clothing fragments, coffin wood fragments, and personal items such as spoons, buttons, belt buckles and medicine bottles. This could indicate that these graves were previously exhumed and relocated as hinted at in the earlier documentation found and that only some pits were not completely relocated and/or that during the time of the previous relocation work that some remains were left behind. However, this can't be determined without a doubt, and environmental factors such as soil type, erosion, underground water and others in the bad preservation of the human remains and cultural material should not be discounted.

The burial pits and remains were located not very deep below the Present Surface Level (PSL), with most between 0.10m and 0.50m deep at the most. Where human remains and grave goods were not found, the original burial pits and coffin remnants were visible as layers of dark brown and/or black stains in the soil or the bottom sections of coffins. In a few instances only a few long bones were still present in the pits – visible in the profiles of the exposed original pits. In burial pits where no remains (human skeletal or cultural material) were found a soil sample was taken for reburial purposes as is a standard requirement.

As a result of the bad preservation of the recovered human remains, it was not possible to determine the ages and sex of the individuals buried here, but it is assumed that most would have been male and relatively young if an early 20th mining-related origin is taken into consideration. Based on the few skull fragments (mandibles and maxilla's) with teeth these individuals were relatively young looking at the teeth (not worn down badly).

The burial pits/graves were all laid out in a North/South direction, with the heads seemingly on the Southern side based on those graves where skull fragments were recovered from. All the graves were relocated to the Phumulani Municipal Cemetery in Springs, approximately 14km north-east of the site. The remains were all reburied in a new section of the cemetery.



Figure 7: The graves/burial pits being excavated.



Figure 8: A view of the site showing the excavated burial pits.



Figure 9: The new burial plot in Phumulani Municipal Cemetery.



Figure 10: Some of the 89 coffins ready for reburial at Phumulani.



Figure 11: One of the coffins in its new burial pit.

Each confirmed grave/burial will be discussed briefly below:

- 01:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 02:** No human skeletal remains were recovered, although some fragmented pieces of bone and coffin wood were found in the burial pit. *Mistakenly no photograph of these remain were taken however.*
- 03.** Although no skeletal remains were found, part of what could be a rubber boot (gum boot?) was recovered from the area of the pit. Remnants of the burial pit was visible still as well
- 04:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit. A recent water pipe (related to the earlier factory situated here was also exposed just above the burial pit.
- 05:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit & wooden fragments of the bottom of the coffin were visible in the pit.

- 06:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 07:** Some fragments human skeletal remains were recovered from this pit that included a clavicle and part of a long bone shaft (possibly from either a radius or ulna (arm). Other remains found include a piece of a leather belt and a piece of leather shoe.
- 08:** Although no human skeletal remains were recovered from this pit, a fair amount of cultural material/grave goods were found. This included fragments of leather shoes, coffin wood and coffin nails, a piece of corrugated iron sheeting that could have been part of the coffin, as well as fragments of cloth.
- 09:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 10:** Again no human skeletal remains were recovered, but some interesting grave goods were found in this pit. This consisted of fragments of leather shoe and part of what could be a rubber gum boot (similar to that found in Grave 3). The most fascinating find in this grave was however the two cricket-player protective pads. The size of these indicates that they were more likely pads used by a wicket-keeper.
- 11:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 12:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 13:** Fragments of coffin wood, some coffin nails and a piece of leather (possibly from a shoe) were found in this burial pit.
- 14:** No human remains were recovered from here, but some cultural material was found in the burial pit. This included a coffin nail, as well as the handle-section of a metal spoon or fork and part of the wooden handle/grip of possibly a knife.
- 15:** Only a single coffin nail was recovered from this burial pit, with the remnants of the pit visible. A soil sample was also taken for reburial purposes in this case.

- 16:** This was one of the better preserved burial pits, with some human skeletal remains and part of the original coffin still intact (albeit the bottom). The human remains included part of a scapula (shoulder blade), long bone shaft (arm bone) and other bone fragments. The grave goods recovered consisted of coffin wood and coffin nails.
- 17:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 18:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 19:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 20:** Some skull and other bone fragments were recovered from this burial pit. No other grave goods were found however.
- 21:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 22:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 23:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 24:** A fragment of bone (possibly from a skull) and coffin wood was found in this burial. The original burial pit is also clearly visible in the trench.
- 25:** Part of a leather shoe, as well the metal handle-part of either a spoon or fork was recovered from the burial pit.
- 26:** A weathered long bone fragment was the only remains recovered in this burial pit.
- 27:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.

- 28:** No human remains were found in this burial pit, but a metal object that could have formed part of a coffin handle was recovered. This, together with a soil sample, was taken for reburial purposes.
- 29:** A glass medicine bottle (early to mid-20th century period) and some coffin nails were recovered from the burial pit only.
- 30:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 31:** Some skull fragments as well as part of a maxilla (upper jaw) of a young individual (based on the teeth that are not worn down much) was found in this burial pit.
- 32:** Part of a lower jaw (mandible) and teeth of a young individual, as well as two patellas (knee caps) were recovered from this pit. Coffin wood fragments were also found.
- 33:** Bone fragments, coffin wood and an unidentified fibrous object were recovered from this burial pit.
- 34:** A number of bone fragments and a longbone shaft (ulna – arm bone) were found, as well as coffin wood fragments.
- 35:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 36:** Fragments of bone, a longbone shaft (possible radius – arm), coffin wood fragments and remnants of a blanket were recovered from this burial pit.
- 37:** Some skull fragments (cranium), as well as coffin wood pieces and a few coffin nails came from this burial pit.
- 38:** A section the original coffin (bottom part) was found in this burial pit, No human skeletal remains were present in the pit, but some coffin nails and plastic/bakelite clothing buttons were however recovered.
- 39:** A skull fragment and a piece of an unidentified bone was recovered, while some coffin nails and a small piece of cloth also came from this burial pit.
- 40:** Besides two coffin nails, no other cultural material or human skeletal remains were found here. A soil sample was also taken for reburial purposes.

- 41:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible in the pit.
- 42:** No human skeletal remains were recovered and a soil sample was taken for reburial purposes. Besides a fragment of a glass bottle, only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 43:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 44:** No human skeletal remains were recovered and a soil sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible, while some metal fragments of a pipe and ring-like object were also recovered.
- 45:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 46:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 47:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 48:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 49:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible. Some yellowish loose soil at the bottom of this pit (and a few neighboring it) is the remnants of later structures related to the previous factory buildings that were constructed here and removed recently for the new development.
- 50:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 51:** Similar to Grave 49.

- 52:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 53:** Similar to Grave 49 & 51.
- 54:** A small bone fragment, some coffin wood, a single coffin nail and a piece of cloth (possibly from a blanket) was found in this pit.
- 55:** Similar to Graves 49, 51 & 53.
- 56:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 57:** Similar to Graves 49, 51, 53 & 55.
- 58:** Besides some fragments of coffin wood, no other material or human skeletal remains were found. A soil sample was also taken for reburial purposes.
- 59:** Coffin wood, parts of leather belt, a brass belt buckle and the remains of a cloth object (possibly a blanket) was found in this burial pit.
- 60:** The partially intact bottom part of the original coffin was found in this burial pit, but no human skeletal remains or any other grave goods were present.
- 61:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 62:** Coffin wood fragments, coffin nails, a few unidentifiable metal objects, as well as pieces of cloth (blanket and clothing remains?) were recovered from here.
- 63:** Only some fragments of coffin wood could be recovered and a soil sample was also taken from this burial pit for reburial purposes.
- 64:** The finds in this burial pit consisted of coffin wood, a coffin nail and some human rib fragments.
- 65:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.

- 66:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 67:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 68:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 69:** Besides a small fragment of coffin wood, no other material or human remains were found. A soil sample was taken for reburial as well.
- 70:** Coffin wood fragments, pieces of bone and some human ankle bones (calcaneus) were found in this burial pit.
- 71:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 72:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 73:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 74:** The only material from this burial pit is represented by a single metal coffin handle. No other grave goods or skeletal remains were recovered.
- 75:** No human skeletal remains were present, and besides a piece of metal wire only a soil sample could be taken for reburial purposes. Traces of the original burial pit were visible.
- 76:** A piece of a glass liquor bottle (rum or wine?) and an unidentified metal object was recovered from the burial pit. Traces of the burial pit were visible as well.
- 77:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.

- 78:** Besides a coffin nail and some metal wire no other remains were found and a soil sample was taken for reburial purposes.
- 79:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 80:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 81:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 82:** A coffin nail as well as a small bone fragment, together with a longbone shaft (radius – arm) were recovered from this location.
- 83:** Coffin wood fragments, pieces of cloth and a skull (cranium) fragment were found in this burial pit, with traces of the pit also visible.
- 84:** No human skeletal remains or other grave goods were recovered and a Soil Sample was taken for reburial purposes. Only the remnants of the original burial pit were visible.
- 85:** Two human ankle bones (calcaneus) and another foot bone were recovered from this pit.
- 86:** A fragmented longbone shaft, two foot bones and a few coffin nails were found in the location of this pit.
- 87:** This burial pit/area was represented by a single human rib fragment located on a pile of loose soil created by earlier trenching in the area. No other remains were found here during the excavation work, and together with surface material recovered during the earlier assessments of the site in June 2021, were placed in a separate coffin for reburial.
- 88:** This burial pit/area was represented by a longbone shaft (radius or ulna) and two skull fragments located on a pile of loose soil created by earlier trenching in the area. No other remains were found here during the excavation work, and together with surface material recovered during the earlier assessments of the site in June 2021, were placed in a separate coffin for reburial.
- 89:** Traces of the burial pit was visible in the side of the construction trench in the area, with some loose bones protruding from it as well. Some more

human skeletal remains (longbone fragments, and foot bones) were recovered, as well as coffin wood fragments and pieces of leather shoes.

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 FILE FOR INFORMATION AND PERUSAL.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was initially appointed by KMFE Environmental, on behalf of Ezee Tile Adhesives (Pty) Ltd, to undertake a site visit and assessment of accidentally discovered human remains found at the location (Erven 178 & 179, Vulcania Extension 2) of the new Ezee Tile Adhesive Facility. After SAHRA was contacted by KMFE Environmental, they informed the client to appoint an archaeologist to assess the bones and provide recommendations on the way forward. Anton Pelsler of APAC cc was then contracted to undertake this assessment, with a site visit conducted on the 17th of June 2021.

After the initial assessment, the Burial Grounds & Graves Unit (BGG Unit) of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) was approached on the way forward. They then recommended that test excavations be conducted to try and determine if there could be previously unknown and unmarked burials still located in the area. A permit for this was applied for from the BGG Unit, and after obtaining the permit test excavations were conducted at the site.

The test excavation work was undertaken on the 25th of June 2021 and the resultant report provided recommendations on the way forward. The work conducted found a number of fairly intact and partially disturbed burial pits in the area where soil has been removed for use on other parts of the site for leveling and compaction associated with the approved development work. Although the exact number of burials located here could not be determined without a doubt, it was estimated to be at least 90 or more. The age of the burials seemed to be between the early 19th and mid-20th century, with the site possibly related to an earlier cemetery associated with the Sallies Village/Witpoort “Native” Hospital in the area. The possibility that there were earlier efforts to exhume and relocate graves from this site as part of the establishment of industrial sites and structures on the property could not be excluded at the time.

It was recommended that a formal investigation, exhumation & relocation of the burials be undertaken after the required Public Participation processes had been completed and all relevant permissions had been obtained. A registered undertaker (Roseleigh Funeral Home) was subsequently appointed with APAC cc to conduct the work. The Public Participation process did not result in any individuals coming forward to identify or claim the remains or burials. Once all permissions were obtained the physical work was undertaken during January 2022. A total of 89 burials were identified in the end, with some scattered remains found on the surface of the site also included in the reburials.

In general the identified burial pits were not completely intact, with most only partially complete and in most cases already disturbed. In many of the pits only remnants of the original pits could be seen, with no human or other remains present. In those where remains were found these consisted mainly of single complete bones, fragmented skeletal remains, a few items such as clothing fragments, coffin wood fragments, and personal items such as spoons, buttons, belt buckles and medicine bottles. Again, this could be an indication that these graves were previously exhumed and relocated, as hinted at in some documentation found, and that only some pits were not completely relocated and/or that during the time of the previous relocation work that some remains were left behind. However, this can't be determined without a doubt, and environmental factors such as soil type, erosion, underground water and others in the bad preservation of the human remains and cultural material should not be discounted.

Where human remains and grave goods were not found, the original burial pits and coffin remnants were visible as layers of dark brown and/or black stains in the soil or the bottom sections of coffins. In a few instances only a few long bones were still present in the pits – visible in the profiles of the exposed original pits. In burial pits where no remains (human skeletal or cultural material) were found a soil sample was taken for reburial purposes as is a standard requirement.

It can be concluded that the work was done successfully and that the ongoing development activities can continue, taking cognizance of the recommendations put forward below. All the graves and remains from the burials were reburied in the Phumulani Municipal Cemetery in Springs approximately 14km north-east of the original burial site.

Finally, it needs to be stated that although extensive efforts are made to identify all possible graves/burials in an area of impact, and to remove all possible remains from these location, that 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.

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4. Republic of South Africa. 1999. National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999). Pretoria: the Government Printer.
5. Republic of South Africa. 1998. National Environmental Management Act (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.
6. National Archives Database of South Africa. Documents: (1) **TAB: MBP Volume 2/2/539 Reference 9/3/1 Part 1.** (2) **TAB: MBP Volume 2/2/210 Reference 3/219 Part 1.**