

**GRAVES ON PORTION 40 AND THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 9 OF THE  
FARM OLIFANTSFONTEIN 410 JR, LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION**



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Leonie Marais-Botes Heritage Practitioner was requested by MT-Development to locate and identify graves situated on Portion 40 and the Remainder of Portion 9 of the Farm Olifantsfontein 410 JR, Gauteng Province.

*The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), Ordinance on Exhumations (no 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended) are the guideline documents for a report of this nature.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During an initial site visit (16 June 2015) graves were discovered on the site earmarked for development.

## 2. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

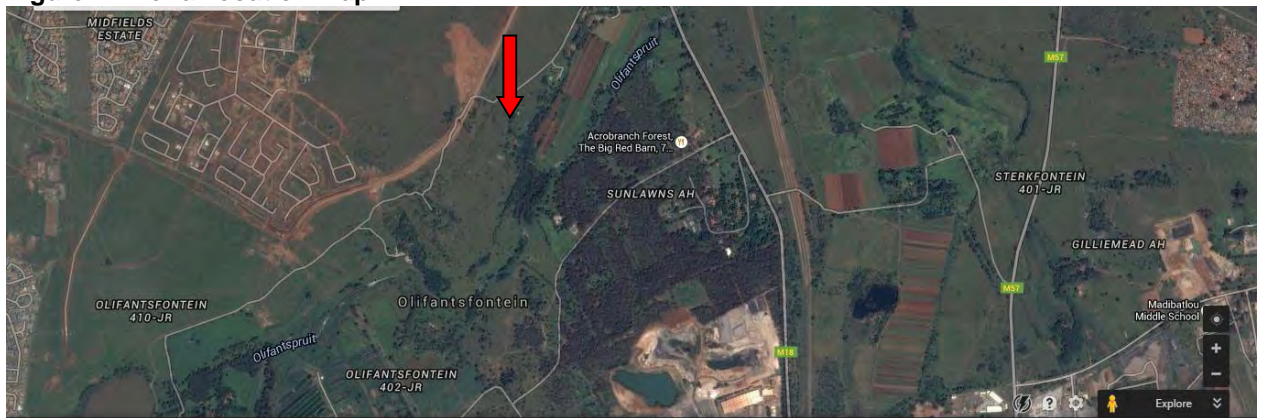
The graves are situated on Remainder 9 and Portion 40 of the Farm Olifantsfontein 410, Registration Division JR, located within the Province of Gauteng.

## 3. HISTORII OF THE STUDY AREA

The farm Olifantsfontein 410 JR was originally Olifantsfontein 1. (Surveyor – General Office Pretoria 1960/61). Archival search on the farm was very difficult as the name Olifantsfontein is a very common name for farms in South Africa. In the Pretoria district there are three farms with the same name. The National Archives list nearly has 500 documents under the name. Unfortunately the farm numbers are not given on the documents which make it very difficult to locate documents on this specific farm. In TAB Volume 2370/01 WH Boshoff senior offered his farm to the Government for sale. A portion of this farm later became the town of Olifantsfontein between Pretoria and Kempton Park. As far as mining is concerned the only document that could be traced is TAB 1741/04 in which a description of the mineral value of the farm is required. Who established the lime mine and how long it was operational could not be traced in the cemeteries, the mine started somewhere after the beginning of the 20th century and closed down in the 1960's<sup>1</sup>.

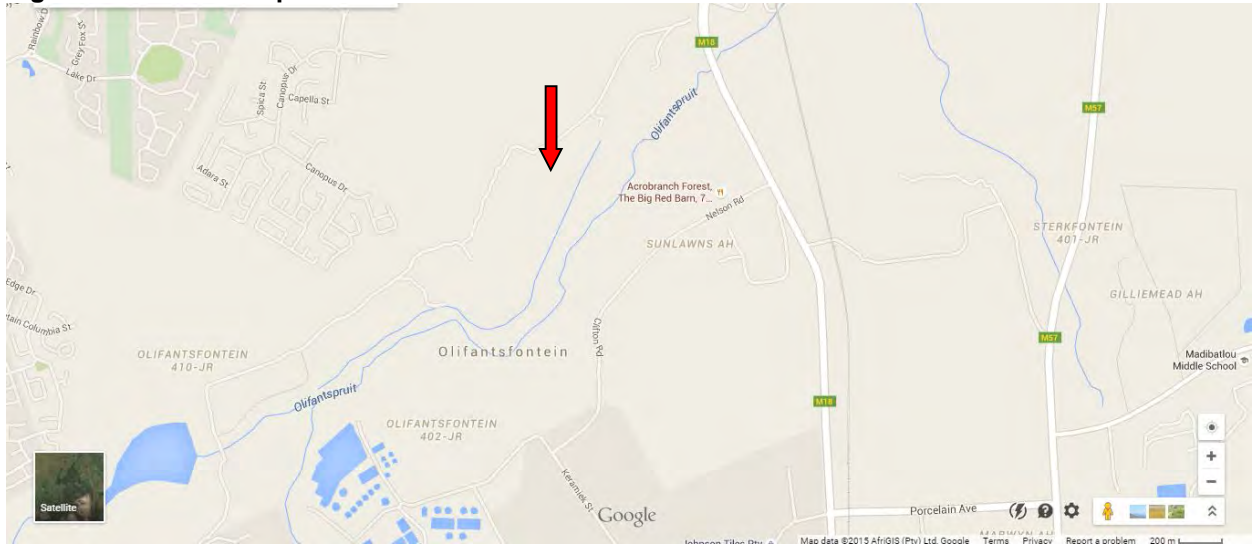
## 4. LOCATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF STUDY AREA

Figure 1: Aerial location map



<sup>1</sup>UDO S KÜSEL (AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC), UNPUBLISHED CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF MIDRAND ESTATE PORTIONS 35, 39, A PORTION OF PORTION 48 AND 128, REMAINDER OF PORTION 34 AND THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM OLIFANTSFONTEIN 410 JR EKURHULENI GAUTENG, 3 April 2012

**Figure 2: Location map**



**Figure 3: Location of graves S 25°55'26" E28°13'16"**



## **5. GRAVES CATEGORISATION**

Graves are categorised as follow:

- Graves younger than 60 years;
- Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years;
- Graves older than 100 years; and
- Graves of victims of conflict or of individuals of royal descent).



6. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF GRAVES SITUATED AT CO-ORDINATES S 25°55'26" E28°13'16"

Figure 4: Possible unmarked grave, south of fenced area (older than 60 years).



Figure 5: Five graves to the east of fenced area (3 marked, two unmarked) (older than 60 and 100 years). In foreground the grave of Erich van As (died 1935) (grave older than 60 years).



**Figure 6: Marked grave. Engraving of headstone has deteriorate to such a degree that it is not visible anymore (older than 60 years).**



**Figure 7: Grave of Schalk Engelbrecht (died 1900) (grave older than 100 years).**





**Figure 8: Graves of D. J. Strydom (died 1956) (grave not yet 60 years old) and and Frikkie Strijdom (died 1921) (grave older than 60 years).**



**Figure 9: Fenced cemetery area.**



## **7. DISCUSSION**

The possibility of graves not visible to the human eye always exists and this should be taken into consideration in the Environmental Management Plan.

It is important to note that all graves and cemeteries are of high significance and are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graves includes the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) whenever graves are 60 years and older. Other legislation with regard to graves includes those when graves are exhumed and relocated, namely the Ordinance on Exhumations (no 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

If sub-surface graves are discovered work should stop and a professional preferably an archaeologist contacted to assess the age of the grave/graves and to advice on the way forward.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The *in situ* conservation of the grave sites and the proper fencing and maintenance of the said site is recommended.