

2014-08-11

Project proposal:

KANONKOP SECOND ANGLO BOER WAR (1899-1902) CONCENTRATION CAMP CEMETERY, KAREE STR, MIDDELBURG MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Introduction

The presence of Second Anglo Boer War (1899-1902) concentration camp graves at Kanonkop is well known and documented (Figure 2). However, the extent of the cemetery beyond the graves currently marked on the surface is unknown. Historical sources indicate in excess of 1200 graves in this area and some surface indications of the presence of graves outside of the fenced area are visible on the surface (Figure 3).

Aims of the proposed study

The aims of the proposed study are to establish whether there is clear evidence for the presence of additional graves at Karee street cemetery which are not marked on the surface specifically the open property north of the marked, fenced graves. This area is of interest due to the fact that it might be subject to future development. This area comprised approximately 4 000 m² (Figure 1).

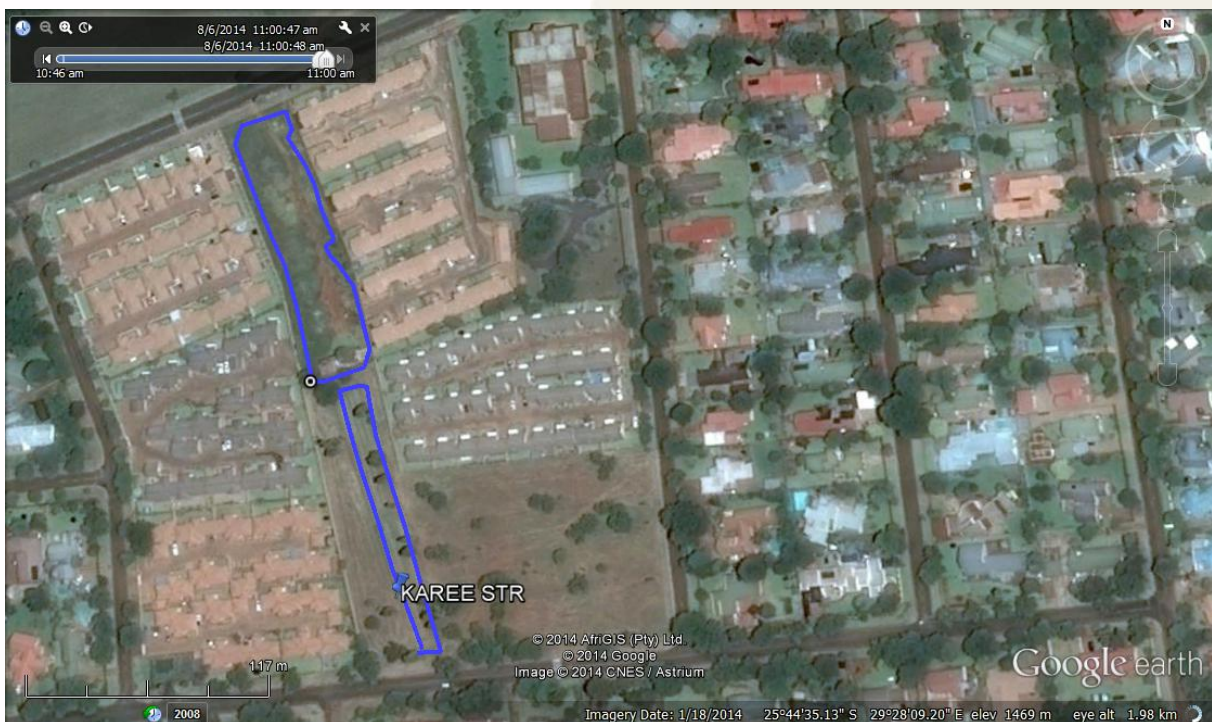


Figure 1. Satellite view of Karee str cemetery indicating the marked graves and surrounding open spaces.

Proposed methods

Subject to obtaining a permit from the SAHRA Burial Ground and Graves Unit it is proposed that a limited Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the indicated area be conducted followed by appropriate ground truthing of observed anomalies to establish whether any graves are present.

Limitations of the proposed study

The proposed work can only indicate the presence or absence of anomalies that might be consistent with graves in the indicated area. This study will not be able identify the exact number or specific locations of graves not currently visible or marked at the surface. It will also not be possible to identify any characteristics of buried individuals using the methods proposed here.

Recommendations

If any anomalies consistent with the presence of additional graves are found during this study it is proposed that the study is expanded to include the following additional work:

- 1) Extensive documentary and archival research
- 2) Extensive and detailed geo-physical prospecting of the total open areas
- 3) Large scale ground truthing and archaeological test excavations to verify the geo-physical results and observations.
- 4) Excavation and *in situ* analysis of a representative number of graves to determine a demographic profile for the individuals buried in this cemetery. This can be done without removing the remains from the graves but will entail excavating the graves and exposing the remains.



Figure 2. Graves at Karee str, Kanonkop Middelburg

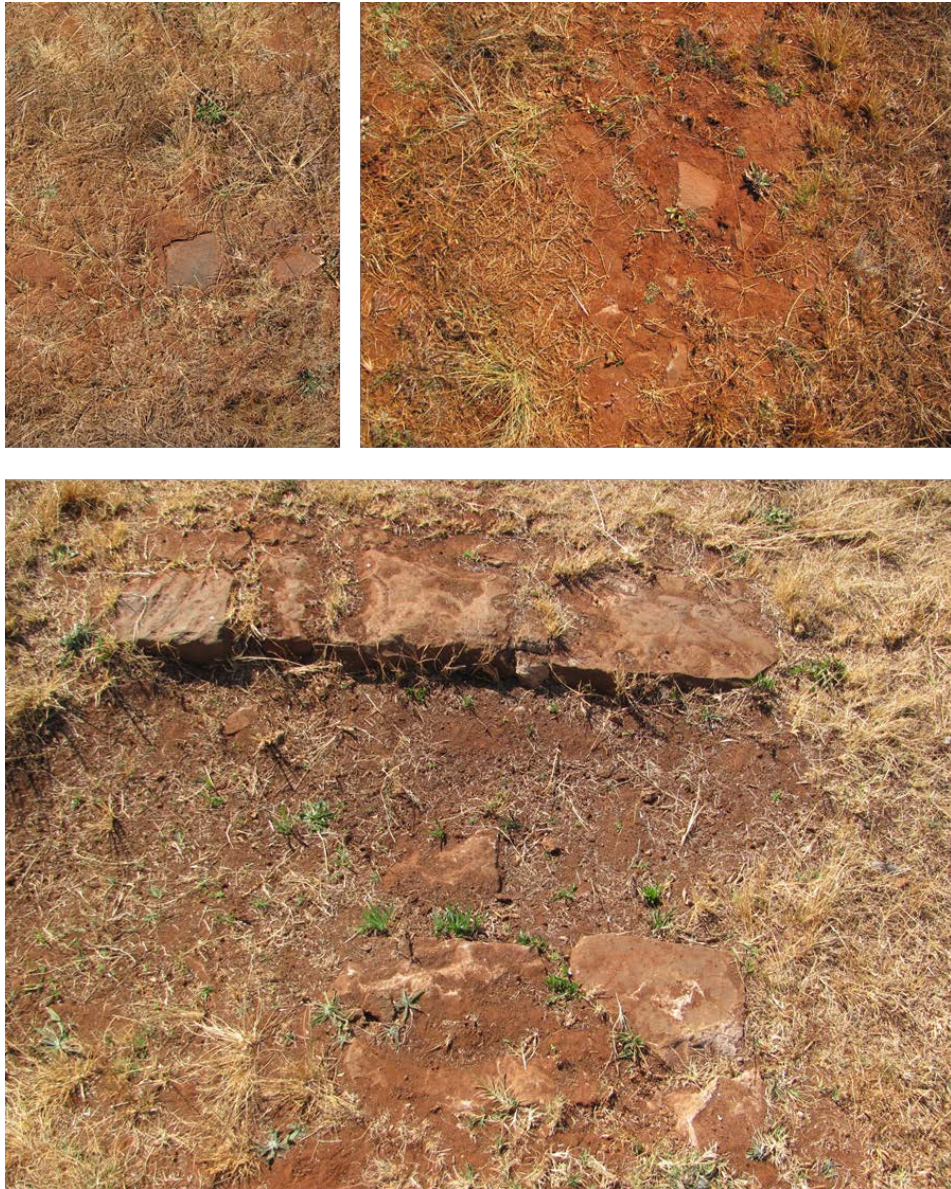


Figure 3. Surface indications of possible graves outside of the fenced area at Karee str.