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REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED WITFONTEIN EXTENSION 88 TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON A PORTION OF THE FARM WITFONTEIN 16 IR NEAR KEMPTON PARK, GAUTENG

For:

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REPORT: APAC018/13

by:

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SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by M&T Development (Pty) Ltd, in conjunction with Nali Sustainability Solutions, to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Witfontein Extension 88 development on a portion of the farm Witfontein 16 IR. The study area is located close to Kempton Park next to the R21 in Gauteng.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. Although there are no known sites in the specific study area, some were identified during the physical assessment in February 2018. The report will discuss the results of the desktop and field assessment and provide recommendations on the way forward at the end of the document.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view the development actions can continue, once the mitigation measures proposed in the report has been implemented.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by M&T Development (Pty) Ltd, in conjunction with Nali Sustainability Solutions, to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Witfontein Extension 88 development on a portion of the farm Witfontein 16 IR. The study area is located close to Kempton Park next to the R21 in Gauteng.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. Although there are no known sites in the specific study area, some were identified during the physical assessment in February 2018.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the Study Area, and the assessment focused on this.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

- 1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
- 2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
- 3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
- 4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
- 5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. 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).

3.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned 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.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding $10\ 000\ m^2$
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial)

- 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 (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. 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 to) 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).

3.2 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 thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Survey of literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The field assessment section of the study was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while detailed photographs were also taken where possible.

4.3 Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4 Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by M&T Development (Pty) Ltd, in conjunction with Nali Sustainability Solutions, to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Witfontein Extension 88 development on a portion of the farm Witfontein 16 IR. The study area is located close to Kempton Park, next to the R21 Highway, in Gauteng.

The topography of the area is flat and open, although there are some tree cover (stretches of bluegum & black wattle) in the northern section of the area. Dense grass cover in this section made visibility difficult. The largest part of the study area is however open and ploughed and during the field assessment crop growing and ploughing was being undertaken (sugar beans and soy beans). Eskom Powerlines/Pylons also cross over sections of the northern par of the study area. This, as well as the agricultural activities, has impacted heavily on the study area in the recent past. Informal dumping of household and building refuse & rubble has also occurred in parts of the study area.

If any sites of cultural heritage nature or origin (archaeological and/or historical) did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree.



Fig.1: General location of study area in red polygon (Google Earth 2018).



Fig.2: Closer view of study area (Google Earth 2018).



Fig.3: A view of a section of the study area showing the ploughed field.



Fig.4: Another view showing the ESKOM Powerline & Pylons over a section.



Fig.5: A view of dense grass cover and trees in some sections.



Fig.6: Dense grass cover in a section. The R21 is visible here.



Fig.7: Building rubble dumped in the area.



Fig.8: Some household refuse dumped in the area.

6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

According to Bergh (1999) no Stone Age sites or occurrences are known in the direct area. The closest known Stone Age sites are those of Zwartkops & Hennopsrivier (Bergh 1999: 4). Huffman did however record some Middle and Later Stone Age material & sites during an assessment for a development on Portion 28 of Witfontein 15IR a few kilometers to the southwest of the study area (Huffman 2012: 4-7).

No Stone Age sites or objects (such as stone tools) were identified in the area, and if any were to be found it would most likely be single, out of context, stone tools.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

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Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.
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Huffman (2007: xiii) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

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Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.
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As with the Stone Age, Bergh (1999) does not indicate any known Early (EIA) Iron Age sites in the specific or larger geographical area, although extensive stone-walled Late Iron Age sites are known to exist in the much larger geographical area (e.g. at Klipriviersberg)[Bergh 1999: 6].

Based on Tom Huffman's research it is possible that LIA sites, features or material could be present in the larger area. This will include the Ntsuanatsatsi facies of the Urewe Tradition, dating to between AD1450 and AD1650 (Huffman 2007: 167); the Uitkomst facies of the same tradition (AD1700 to AD1820 (p.171), as well as the Buispoort facies of Kalundu, dating to around AD1700 – AD1840 (p.203). Huffman also recorded some Pastoralist/Later Iron Age stone-walled remains during his 2012 assessment of Portion 28 of Witfontein 15IR (Huffman 2012: 8-9).

No Iron Age sites, features or objects were identified during the assessment of the area. If any did exist the extensive disturbance in the recent past would possibly have destroyed all evidence.

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans travelling close to this area were the early travelers Schoon (1836) and Cornwallis Harris in the same year, and later Livingstone in 1847. These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 13-14).

The sites identified and recorded during the field assessment all date to the recent historical period. These will be discussed in the section below.

The oldest map obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's database (www.csg.dla.gov.za) for the farm Witfontein 16IR dates to 1927 (Document 10577013). It is for Portion 6 and shows it was then known as Witfontein 7 (prior to that No.558) and was situated in the District of Kempton Park (previously Pretoria) and ward of Witwatersrand. It was given by deed of transport to one W.M.J Opperman on 23.3.1922 and was surveyed in July 1927. No archaeological or historical sites or features could be identified on the map however.

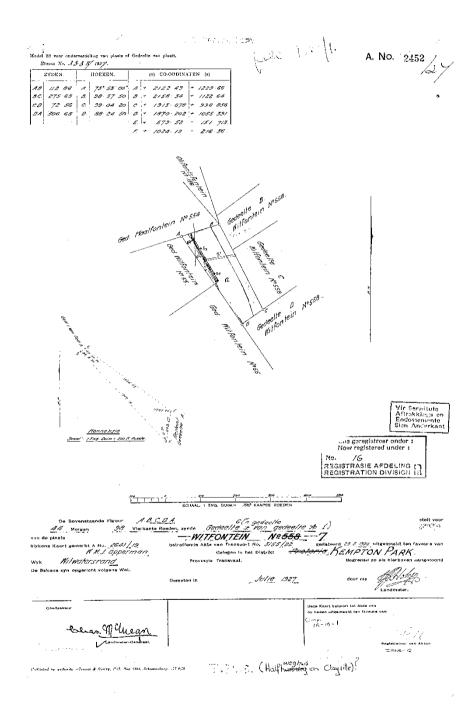


Fig.9: 1927 map of Witfontein 15IR, Portion 6 (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Results of the February 2018 Fieldwork

Four sites of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) nature, origin & some significance were identified in the study area during the physical assessment. Two of these are informal cemeteries, while the 3rd and 4th consists of the remains of recent farmworker homesteads and related structures.

Grave Sites 1 & 2

Grave Site 1 contains a number of unknown, stone-packed graves without headstones, located in a clump of wattle trees in the north-eastern section of the study area. The site is densely vegetated and the exact number of graves is difficult to determine at this stage. It is estimated that there could be as many as 20 or more. One of the graves has a metal cross as marker.

Grave Site 2 is located on the western boundary close to the R21 and contains a fairly large number of graves. Because of dense grass cover it is difficult at this stage to determine the exact number but it could be in excess of 50 graves. Although most of the graves are stone-packed and without headstones, there are some graves with formal demarcations and headstones with inscriptions. The inscriptions on some of these are hard to read but the following individuals and dates could be identified at this point:

- 1. Nimrod Ngwenya (born and died in 1964)
- 2. Belesia Ngwenya (born 1966 & died 1967)
- 3. Winei Mathibatsolo died 1968

A 4th headstone could not be read clearly but it seems as if the individual was either born in 1952 or passed away in 1952.

With both the grave sites it is difficult to determine the exact number of graves located here due to the dense grass cover and other vegetation. It is therefore recommended that the sites be cleared in order for the graves to be counted and numbered more precisely.

From a Cultural Heritage perspective Graves and Graveyards are always of **High Significance**, and all efforts should be made to avoid negative impacts on such sites. With both sites located within the footprint of the proposed developments area, the sites should be protected and any negative impacts avoided at all costs by fencing them in and keeping them clean. If this cannot be done there is the option of exhuming and relocating the graves to a new location. This however entails complex and detailed social consultation that needs to be conducted and could be a lengthy and fairly costly exercise.

GPS Locations: Grave Site 1 - S26 00 41.30 E28 15 40.60; Grave Site 2 - S26 00 51.50 E28 15 30.20

Cultural Significance: High – Graves always carry a High Significance rating

Heritage Significance: Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field Ratings: Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/ medium significance).

Mitigation: Normally if graves cannot be protected in situ and is to be negatively impacted then they could be exhumed and relocated after detailed consultation with possible

descendants have been concluded and permits have been obtained from various local, provincial and National government departments.



Fig.10: The location of Site 1.



Fig.11: One of the stone-packed graves at Site 1.



Fig.12: Another of the stone-packed graves here.



Fig.13: The grave with the metal cross at Site 1.



Fig.14: The location of Site 2.



Fig.15: One of the stone-packed graves at Site 2.



Fig.16: Another stone-packed grave Site 2.



Fig.17: The grave of Nimrod Ngwenya.



Fig.18: The grave of Belesia Ngwenya at Site 2.



Fig.19: The grave of Winei Mathimbatsolo.



Fig.20: Another grave with formal dressing & headstone at Site 2. The inscription is difficult to read.

Sites 3 & 4 Homestead ruins

The remains at these sites are mostly demolished already and consist in the main of foundations and some low standing walls. These are brick and cement constructed, although one associated structure is of sundried clay bricks and plaster. Although the age of these could not be determined without a doubt, they are most likely from the late 1950's/1960's to more recent. The structures most probably represent the homesteads of farmworkers and the graves found on Sites 1 & 2 are possibly related.

The sites and remains found on them are not deemed as of any cultural heritage significance and they can be demolished. Care should however be taken when this is done as there is always the possibility of unmarked/unknown burials of still-born babies and young infants being associated with these homesteads.

GPS Locations: Site 3 - S26 00 49.80 E28 15 28.60; Site 4 - S26 00 47.19 E28 15 26.06

Cultural Significance: Low **Heritage Significance**: None

Field Ratings: General protection C (IV C): Phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it

may be demolished (Low significance).

Mitigation: No further mitigation required. Care should be taken when the structures are demolished as there is always the possibility of unmarked/unknown burials of still-born babies and young infants being associated with these homesteads.



Fig.21: Some of the homestead remains on Site 3.



Fig.22: Another view of the homestead remains.



Fig.23: More remains.



Fig.24: Remains of a clay-brick structure.



Fig.25: Aerial view of location of sites found in the study area (Google Earth 2018).

Based on the assessment it is therefore recommended that the development can continue, taking consideration of the recommendations made at the end of this report. Furthermore it should be noted that although all efforts were made to cover the total area and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. This will include low stone-packed or unmarked graves. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by M&T Development (Pty) Ltd, in conjunction with Nali Sustainability Solutions, to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Witfontein Extension 88 development on a portion of the farm Witfontein 16 IR. The study area is located close to Kempton Park, next to the R21 Highway, in Gauteng.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. Although there are no known sites in the specific study area, some were identified during the physical assessment in February 2018. Huffman did identify some Stone Age and Pastoralist/Later Iron Age site during a 2012 assessment on Portion 28 of Witfontein 15IR, a few kilometers to the southwest of the study area, but nothing similar was found here.

Four sites of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) nature, origin & some significance were identified in the study area during the physical assessment. Two of these are informal cemeteries, while the 3rd and 4th consists of the remains of recent farmworker homesteads and related structures.

With both the grave sites it is difficult to determine the exact number of graves located here due to the dense grass cover and other vegetation. It is therefore recommended that the sites be cleared in order for the graves to be counted and numbered more precisely. From a Cultural Heritage perspective Graves and Graveyards are always of High Significance, and all efforts should be made to avoid negative impacts on such sites. With both sites located within the footprint of the proposed developments area, the sites should be protected and any negative impacts avoided at all costs by fencing them in and keeping them clean. If this cannot be done there is the option of exhuming and relocating the graves to a new location. This however entails complex and detailed social consultation that needs to be conducted and could be a lengthy and fairly costly exercise.

No mitigation measures are recommended for the Sites 3 & 4 homesteads related structures as they are deemed of low significance. Care should be taken when the structures are demolished as there is always the possibility of unmarked/unknown burials of still-born babies and young infants being associated with these homesteads.

Finally, it should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

From a cultural heritage point of view the development can therefore continue, taking cognizance of the above recommendations.

8. REFERENCES

General & closer view of study area location and Sites Found: Google Earth 2018.

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APPENDIX A DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

Aestetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, landuse, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

APPENDIX D PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states Structures – Older than 60 years Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites Burial grounds and graves Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

- 1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
- 2. Baseline Assessment Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
- 3. Phase I Impact Assessment Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
- 4. Letter of recommendation for exemption If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
- 5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
- 6. Phase III Management Plan For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.