

P.O.BOX73703

LYNNWOOD RIDGE

0040

Tel: 083 459 3091

Fax: 086 695 7247

Email: apac.heritage@gmail.com



Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

2017-07-20

To: Whom it May Concern

GLENCORE OPERATIONS SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD
Goedgevonden Colliery

**RE: ASSESSMENT OF GRAVE SITES AND GRAVES TO BE EXHUMED & RELOCATED FROM
VARIOUS FARM PORTIONS – GGV COLLIERY**

This document represents a short report on a recent site visit and assessment of graves on various sites, conducted during the 19th of July 2017, in conjunction with Selala Funerals and a representative of Goedgevonden Colliery. The aim was to determine the number of graves on each site and also to try and determine their approximate ages (dates of death), as well as to determine what is still needed in order to complete the pre-exhumation processes. Site A (the one site not visited during February 2017) was also assessed during this visit.

Site B – S26.06657 E29.04916

This site was not re-visited during the July 2017 assessment. This site is located close to the remains of old farm labour houses and an ESKOM Powerline corridor. The site was densely covered by grass and other vegetation that made visibility and documentation difficult during the February visit (See Report APAC017/06). **However it estimated that there are around 25 graves located here, although this number could increase once proper site cleaning has been done.** The graves are mostly unmarked (without headstones) and only dressed with bricks, cement and stones, while some are identifiable through soil heaps and depressions. Three graves were identified with headstones and legible inscriptions. Their details are as follows:

1. Magdalena Mabhena. Birth 1880-July 4. Died 1952-Nov.16. Cement headstone.
2. Mis.KC.Phiwe Palule (was difficult to read). Born 9.3.1921. Died 14.9.1960. Cement headstone
3. Klara Sindane. No dates provided on headstone for years of birth and death. Granite headstone.

Site G – S26.11227 E29.04731

This was a site not assessed during the initial surveys, and it is located close to the old Goedgevonden Village on Goedgevonden Farm. **There are approximately 15 graves** there, with some marked by cement and slate headstones with some legible inscriptions. The dates of death on some of these range

AJ Pelsers BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology) [WITS], MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

between 1937 and 1940. The family surnames that could be identified is Van der Merwe and Strydom/Rheeder. The site needs to be properly cleaned and the graves marked and numbered before exhumations are undertaken, while social consultation needs to be completed as well.



Fig.1: A view of Site G.



Fig.2: One of the identified graves on Site G.



Fig.3: Another of the identified graves on Site G.



Fig.4: The 3rd identified grave on the site.

Site A

This site consists of two separate sites (numbered A1 & A2) situated not too far from each other. A1 is a site identified by community members and showed to GGV staff, while A2 is the original Site A known to the mine.

Site A1 – S26.06802 E29.02732

This site is located close to the conveyor belt, and consists of a number of stones/stone-packed possible graves that were difficult to identify and document. **There are at least 5 possible graves.** Site clearance and marking of the graves will have to be conducted as well. The ages of the graves and the identities of those buried there are currently unsure.



Fig.5: Location of Site A1.



Fig.6: One of the possible graves on A1.



Fig.7: Another of the possible graves on Site A1.

Site A2 – S26.06902 E29.02589

This site contains between 20 and 30 graves, with some demarcated by bricks and stones and others with clear headstones including inscriptions, while some are just demarcated with single cement headstones and soil heaps. A number of gaps between rows of clearly visible graves could also contain unmarked graves/burials that will have to be tested during the exhumation process. The dates of death that could be seen on some of the graves range from 1961 to 1967? (on what seems to be the earliest graves on the site) and could date the site to between the 1960's and 1970's or even later. Site clearance and marking of the graves need to be completed as well.



Fig. 8: A view of Site A2.



Fig.9: One of the graves on Site A2 with a single headstone.



Fig.10: Another grave with a headstone on A2 (no inscription).



Fig.11: One of the soil heap graves on A2.



Fig.12: A grave demarcated by bricks on Site A2.



Fig.13: One of the graves on A2 with formal headstone.



**Fig.14: Close-up of the above grave.
The date of death of 1967 is visible.**



Fig.15: A 2nd grave on A2 with formal headstone.



Fig.16: The date 1961 is visible on the above headstone.

Summary & Way Forward

The following is noted:

1. The estimated number of graves for the three sites under investigation (A1/A2; B and G) is **approximately 80**. This number could increase once site clearance has been completed.
2. At this stage there are 31 consent forms available, of which 18 is for Site A and 13 are for Site B (as marked on the forms).
3. None of these individuals have been on the sites physically (as indicated by Selala) and needs to be taken to the various sites to physical indicate which graves belong to them so that they can be properly marked to ensure that no “wrong” graves are given to each individual claimant.

4. During the site visits with the individual family members the aim will also be to identify some of the other graves on the sites and to obtain dates of death for the graves and the starting date for the informal graveyards. Once this has been done then APAC would be able to finalise the permit application to SAHRA for the graves that are unknown and/or older than 60 years of age. At this stage it seems as if only Site G contains graves that are definitely older than 60 years of age.
5. Consultation in terms of Site G needs to be undertaken by Selala Funerals to try and locate possible descendants of the deceased individuals buried there as a matter of urgency. If no one can be traced, which is highly likely taking the age of the graves into consideration, the graves will be seen as unknown and older than 60 years of age. SAHRA just requires that an effort is made to trace family members before they will issue a permit.
5. The exact farm portions and farm names where the 3 sites (A1/A2; B & G) are located need to be provided to APAC for the permit application to SAHRA as well.
6. Proper site clearance on all 3 sites needs to be done as a matter of course in order to clearly mark and number each grave on each site for exhumation and relocation purposes. This needs to be done prior to family/community members being taken to site to ensure clear and easy identification of their graves.

Thank you very much once again for the opportunity to provide you with our services.

Should there be any questions or comments please contact me directly.

Kind regards,



Anton Pelser

AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology) [WITS], MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

Beatrix Bed & Breakfast Trading as A Pelser Archaeological Consulting