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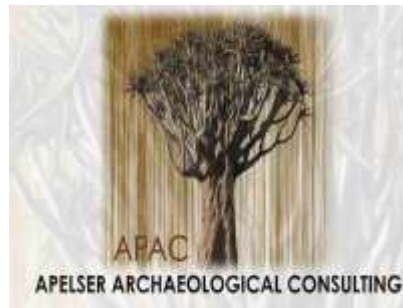
LYNNWOOD RIDGE

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Tel: 083 459 3091

Fax: 086 695 7247

Email: apac.heritage@gmail.com



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CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

APAC020/115

2021-01-05

To: **Platinum Mile Investments 542 (Pty) Ltd**

**P O Box 608
LA MONTAGNE
0184**

RE: SHORT REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE GRAVE SITE & HISTORICAL WATER FURROW SITUATED ON PORTIONS OF THE FARM MOOIPAATS 367JR – MOOIPAATS CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Platinum Mile Investments 542 (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Phase 2 Archaeological Assessment of various historical & archaeological sites on Portions 287-297 of the farm Mooiplaats 367JR. The study area is located to the east of Pretoria and the sites will be impacted by their Campus Development here. This short report focuses on the December 2020 assessment of a known grave site and historical water furrow.

Background to the Project

In 2007 African Heritage Consultants cc undertook a Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment on the Remainder of Portion 13 and Portions 287 - 296 of the farm Mooiplaats 367 JR in Tshwane, Gauteng. During this assessment a total of 30 sites were identified and recorded, including 27 stonewalled Late Iron Age sites, a recent historical cemetery and the remains of a water furrow (See Kusel 2007).

Kusel recommended the following:

- A Phase II investigation of the archaeological sites should be conducted. For this purpose the veld will have to be burned in the spring to get rid of the tall grass. Some bush clearing will also have to take place so that individual sites can be recorded.
- Two or possible three of the most important sites should be preserved in a heritage park in the new development and be properly restored in a phase III investigation.
- The possibility to declare these preserved sites; provincial heritage sites should be investigated.

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

Beatrix Bed & Breakfast Trading as A Pelser Archaeological Consulting

- After the Phase II investigation an application for mitigation and destruction of the rest of the sites can be made.
- A Heritage Management Plan must be compiled for the preserved heritage sites after the completion of the phase II and III mitigation.
- The cemetery should be cleaned the graves recorded and a decision must be taken to either preserve the cemetery or to move the graves to a new locality in accordance with present provincial legislation.
- The old water canal should be recorded in detail and be preserved as a feature in the new development if possible. If not a permit for destruction must be applied for.

In October 2019 APAC cc was requested to undertake a secondary assessment of these sites and to determine the way forward regarding the recommended mitigation measures (**See Short Report APAC019/104**). After consideration of the recommended mitigation measures on the way forward, APAC was eventually appointed to conduct the required Archaeological/Historical work in December 2020.

The following Terms of Reference was agreed upon:

1. Detailed documentation of the Grave Site for inclusion in a Graves Management Plan. The site will be preserved in situ.
2. Mapping and documentation of the historical water furrow. It is intended that a section of the furrow will be demolished, while the rest will be preserved in situ
3. Archaeological investigation of the LIA Stone-walled sites. This will include detailed mapping and drawing as well as archaeological excavations on certain sections and at some features associated with these sites.

The December 2020 assessment focused on the Grave Site and Water Furrow. The results of this assessment will be discussed in short below, while the way forward regarding the work on these two sites will also be provided.

Relevant Legislation

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act No.107 of 1998), as amended.

The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artefacts, 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; and
- 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; and
- 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.

According to Section 38 (1) of the Act, 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 000m².
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of the SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

Description of the Study Area

The larger study area on which these sites are located is on Portions 287-296 of the farm Mooiplaats 3675JR, to the east of Pretoria and within the Greater Tshwane Municipal area of Gauteng.

The general topography of the area is relatively flat and open, although there are some rocky outcrops and ridges present in sections. The grave site and water furrow is situated in fairly flat and open portions of the study area, although dense vegetation during the December 2020 fieldwork hampered visibility in both instances.



Figure 1: General location of the study area (Google Earth 2021).



Figure 2: Closer view of the location of the Grave Site & Water Furrow in the study and development area (Google Earth 2021).

Results of the December 2020 Assessment

Grave Site – S25 49 36.50 E28 24 54.60

The 1st site assessed was the Grave Site. In his 2007 report Kusel mentions that the site contained around **40** graves that are mostly just heaps of stones. Some were difficult to see because of the vegetation and stones, which have over the years been scattered. From the grave goods it seemed that these graves were not older than sixty years and thus fell outside the jurisdiction of Act 25 of 1999, but is protected by Provincial legislation. At the time two of the graves were in a good condition and according to one of the present farm workers were still visited by family members.

The October 2019 assessment found that there are around **59** graves located on the site. Most were only stone-packed, with only a few containing formal headstones. It was only possible to read the inscription on one of the headstones, with the others either illegible or fallen over. The inscription on the readable headstone indicated that the grave was that of one Phangwabo Thubana who was born in 1872 and died in 1962.

In December 2020 the site and graves on it was less visible due to dense vegetation, but at least **50** graves could be counted. Most of the graves are stone-packed without any headstones, although there were two with formal granite headstones and a few with metal plaques used as headstones. Besides Phanwabo Thubana that was identified in 2019, the name of Koos Thubana (born in 1943 and died in 1964) could also be seen on the 2nd granite headstone. A cement headstone on another grave did have an inscription but it was difficult to read and only the date 1935 could be seen. It is unsure if this is a birth date or date of death. On another grave a metal plaque contained the surname Mahlangu. A low stone wall demarcating the grave site was identified in December 2020 and although the dense vegetation made it difficult to record completely it does provide an interim boundary for the site that can be used when the formal fencing is erected at a later stage. Damage to the site and some of the graves is visible, with cattle seemingly walking through the site and over the graves. Some headstones and stones demarcating the graves have been pushed over as a result.

Stone Wall Coordinates: (1) **S25 49 36.30 E28 24 54.10** (2) **S25 49 35.50 E28 24 54.10** (3) **S25 49 35.40 E28 24 55.10** (4) **S25 49 36.30 E28 24 54.70**

It is recommended that the site be properly cleaned and the vegetation cut under supervision of the Heritage Specialist. Once this has been done all the graves on the site can be finally counted and recorded individually for inclusion in a Grave Site Register as part of the Grave Site Management Plan. Once the cleaning has been completed a proper fence with access gate needs to be erected as a matter of urgency to protect the graves against any further damage.



Figure 3: View of the Grave Site in December 2020.



Figure 4: Another view showing some of the graves on the site.



Figure 5: Some of the graves on site.



Figure 6: The headstone on the grave of Phangwabo Thubana.



Figure 7: Headstone on the grave of Koos Thubana.



Figure 8: Cement headstone with the date 1935 visible.



Figure 9: Metal plaque with the surname Mahlangu.



Figure 10: Section of the stone wall boundary at the grave site.



Figure 11: Cattle track through/across the grave site.



Figure 12: Aerial view of Grave Site showing approximate boundary based on the low stone wall around it (Google Earth 2021).

Water Furrow – S25 49 27.80 E28 24 47.00 (South); S25 49 19.20 E28 24 55.40 (North)

According to Kusel this furrow (or canal) is typical of Boer farm settlements and probably dates to around 1860. He was able to provide two coordinates for the feature (North & South ends), but during the December 2020 it was not possible to follow the furrow route in total due to grass and vegetation cover obscuring sections of it. From what was visible it seems as if it was constructed of stones and earth and might have been covered in sections.

The following is recommended for the detailed assessment and recording of the water furrow to be completed:

1. Removing grass and other vegetation around and on the feature under supervision of the Heritage Specialist.
2. Once the features has been thoroughly cleared the feature will be mapped and photographed in detail and a report on it submitted
3. A final decision on the sections of the furrow that will be preserved and/or demolished will then be taken



Figure 13: Part of the water furrow in the Northern section.



Figure 14: Sections of the furrow is covered by grass and other vegetation.



Figure 15: Another section of the furrow. The two thorn trees are situated on the edges of the feature.



Figure 16: A section showing the stone and earth construction of the furrow.

Conclusions & Recommendations

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It is recommended that the site be properly cleaned and the vegetation cut under supervision of the Heritage Specialist. Once this has been done all the graves on the site can be finally counted and recorded individually for inclusion in a Grave Site Register as part of the Grave Site Management Plan. Once the cleaning has been completed a proper fence with access gate needs to be erected as a matter of urgency to protect the graves against any further damage.

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- 3. A final decision on the sections of the furrow that will be preserved and/or demolished will then be taken**

Should there be any questions or comments on the contents of this document please contact the author as soon as possible.

Kind regards



Anton Pelser

References

1. General and Closer views of study area and Heritage Sites: Google Earth 2021.
2. Kusel, U. 2007. **CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF REMAINDER 13 AND PORTION 287 - 296 OF THE FARM MOOIPLAATS 367 JR TSHWANE GAUTENG.** Unpublished Report AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC. For: African EPA. August 2007.
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