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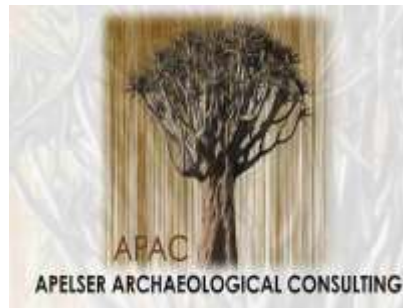
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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters

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To: VanderbijlPark Estate Company
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Vanderbijlpark
1900

RE: SHORT ASSESSMENT REPORT – GRAVES TO BE EXHUMED AND RELOCATED FROM MASIZA TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CE7) IN VANDERBIJLPARK, GAUTENG

Anton Pelser, in conjunction with AVBOB Vanderbijlpark, was appointed by VESCO to undertake the investigation, exhumation and relocation of a grave or graves located at their Masiza Township Development (CE7) in Vanderbijlpark. The development is situated on the Remainder of Vanderbijlpark 550JQ and a part of portion 12 of the farm Vyffontein 592JQ.

As part of the work that needed to be undertaken by the heritage specialist a site visit had to be conducted to assess the grave or graves that had to be relocated and to provide information on the way forward and the processes to be followed. This document represents a short report on the results of the site assessment.

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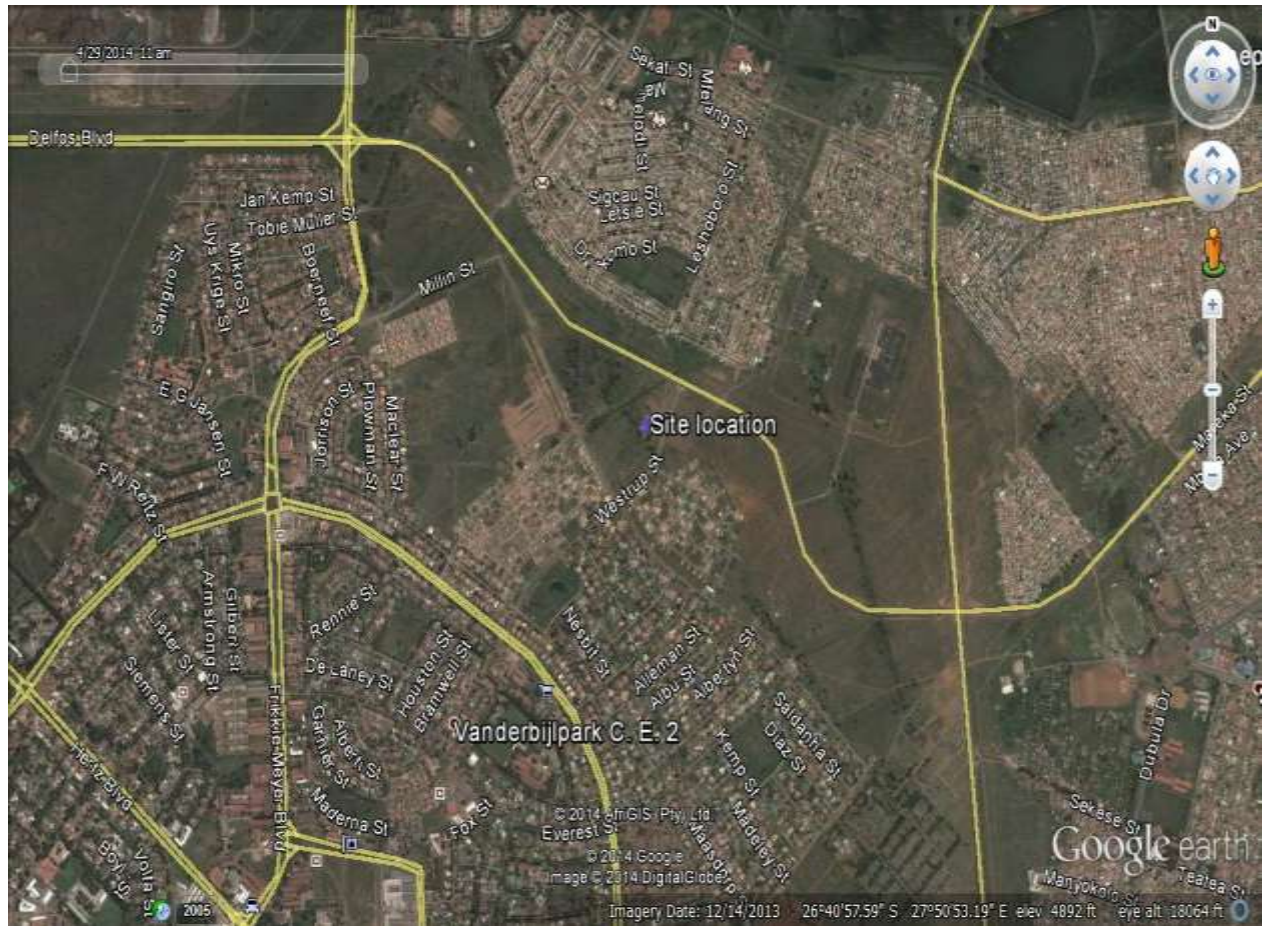


Figure 1: General location of site in Vanderbijlpark (Google Earth 2014).

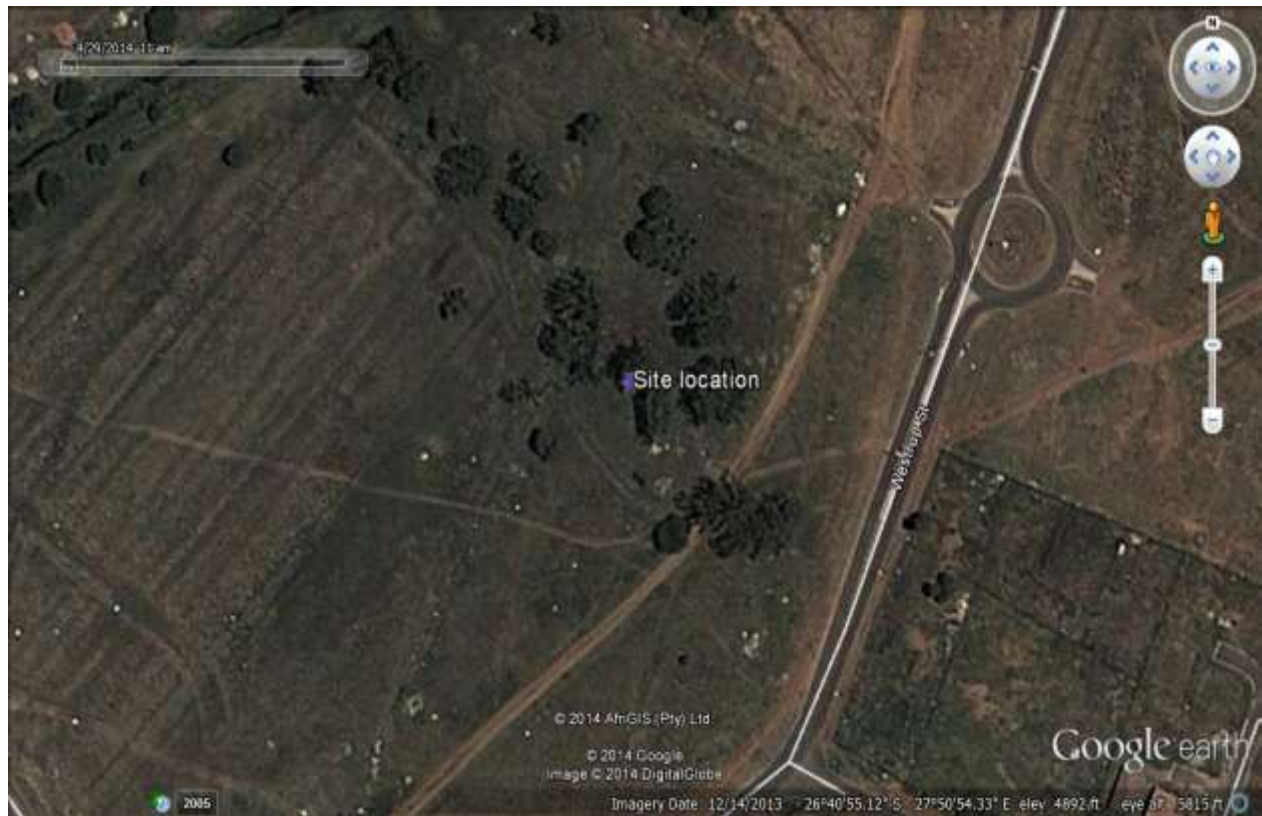


Figure 2: A closer view of site location. This aerial view dates to before the township development commenced. Clearly the area was used in the past for agricultural purposes (Google Earth 2014).



Figure 3: A view of the area taken during the assessment. Development has clearly progressed very far and the graves need to be exhumed and relocated as soon as possible.



Figure 4: A view of the grave site location within the development area. The site is currently demarcated with danger tape.

Site Assessment Results

No other heritage sites, features or objects were identified in the area, and although there might have been some existence prior to development, any that might have been present would have been destroyed in the recent past.

Two possible graves were identified on the site. The site is located at S26 40 55.0 E27 50 54.20. The first grave consists of a flat lying granite slab inscribed with the details of the deceased individual buried here. The grave is that of one Susanna Theodora Kok, born Scheepers, who died on the 6th of April 1920 aged 68 years and 3 months of age. The grave is therefore more than 94 years of age and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA and the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). A permit for the exhumation and relocation therefore needs to be obtained from SAHRA.

The second grave has no headstone and is demarcated with a cement/concrete border. The identity of the deceased and age of the grave is unknown, but is more than likely in the same age-range as the first one. It seems as if the headstone that had been on the grave was removed at some stage, and it is unlikely that the granite headstone/slab of Grave 1 would have fitted on this grave (the space is too small). The conclusion is therefore that there are two graves on the site. As with the first grave a permit from SAHRA will be required before the exhumation and relocation can be conducted.

The Chief Surveyor General's database was scrutinized for information on the farm portion on which the site is located, but no information on the previous or first landowners could be obtained. A search in the National Archives Database only found one document (dated to 1911) on Susanna Theodora Kok that indicated that she is the surviving spouse of one Ignatius Michael Kok.



Figure 5: Grave 1.



Figure 6: Close-up of Grave 1 Headstone.



**Figure 7: Grave 2. Note that the headstone is missing.
The headstone/slab on Grave 1 is too large to fit the space here.**

The way forward

The following needs to be done to ensure that the exhumation and relocation of the two graves are conducted successfully:

1. an effort should be made to try and locate any possible descendants of the deceased individuals in order to obtain consent for their exhumation and relocation. The undertakers (AVBOB) should place advertisements in local newspapers for this purpose, while consultation with local community members should also be conducted.
2. should any descendants be traced they should indicate where they would want the reburial to take place. If no relatives are found then a local cemetery should be used for the reburial

3. once social consultation has been completed the permit applications to SAHRA and the local and Provincial Authorities (by AVBOB) should be completed as soon as possible. Once the permits has been issued the physical work can be undertaken

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

Anton Pelser

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anton Pelser', written in a cursive style.