

**SPECIALIST REPORT**  
**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR**  
**PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL TOWNSHIP:**  
**EXTENSION 5 OF PORTION 13 OF THE FARM KLIPFONTEIN 385JS,**  
**BELFAST**

**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT COMPILED FOR**  
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**FEBRUARY 2012**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for the proposed residential township situated on portion 13 of the farm Klipfontein 385JS, Belfast.

The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2529DB BELFAST, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Emakhazeni Local municipality, Nkangala district.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999)(NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act.

The Emakhazeni Local Municipality (the current owners of the site), is requesting the township development to meet the growth demand of the existing Siyathuthuka Township. The proposed site is Extension 5 (11,69 ha).

The area for the proposed township development (11,69 ha), is currently vacant, and zoned as agricultural. It is in the process of being rezoned as a township. It was previously divided into small sections and partially used as cultivated lands and commercial blue gum plantations.

This area borders on the southern side of the existing Siyathuthuka settlement and the locals use the area for grazing their cattle and agricultural activities. Ms Senzo Nkosi (who lived there for 12 years) has knowledge of old graves which are now incorporated in the new cemetery. The survey revealed no other archaeological or any other heritage features.

Based on the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants cc, states that there are no compelling reasons that may prevent the proposed development to continue.

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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR  
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL TOWNSHIP:  
EXTENSION 5 OF PORTION 13 OF THE FARM KLIPFONTEIN, 385JS,  
BELFAST**

**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT**

The Emakhazeni Local Municipality, (the current owners of Portion 13 of the farm Klipfontein 385JS, is requesting the extension of human settlement development to meet the growth demand of the existing Siyathuthuka Township. Housing is at the forefront of the national agenda for delivery and the government is taking overall responsibility for providing houses to all. The total of extent of extension 5, is 11,69 ha. Other portions are also proposed for township development around Siyathuthuka, they are Extension 8(4), 6 & 7, which are discussed in separate reports.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by *WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES cc.*, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources on the study area.

A literature study, relevant to the study area was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon. (See **Appendix 1: Topographical Map: 2529DB BELFAST**).

The aims for this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study area, and to advise the client on sensitive heritage areas as well as where it is viable for the development to take place in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resource will also be made. The study area is indicated in **Appendix 1, 2, 3 & 4; Photographs is in Appendix 5.**

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES cc.*, P.O. Box 1072, Nelspruit, 1200, Tel: 013-7525452 / Fax: 013-7526877 / e-mail: [mandla@wandima.co.za](mailto:mandla@wandima.co.za)
- Type of development: 11,69 ha, are earmarked for residential development, on

portion 13 of the farm Klipfontein 385JS, Belfast, Mpumalanga Province.

- This section is currently zoned as agricultural but is in the process to be zoned as a township (See **Appendix 4**).
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms):  
The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Emakhazeni local municipality. It includes portion 13 of the farm Klipfontein 385JS.
- Land owners: Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Belfast.
- **Terms of reference:** As specified by section 38 (3) of the NHRA, the following information is provided in this report.
  - a) The identification and mapping of heritage resources where applicable;
  - b) Assessment of the significance of the resources;
  - c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
  - d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

- **Legal requirements:**

The legal context of the report is grounded in the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act (1998) (NEMA):

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the development. The proposed development is a listed activity in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of a HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA).

Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and its provincial offices and counterparts.

Section 38 of the NHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by an independent heritage management consultant, for the following development categories:

- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
  - exceeding 5000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;
  - the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent

In addition, the new EIA regulation promulgated in terms of NEMA, determines that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert *WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES cc.*, the client, and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings or structures older than 60 years prior to demolition, in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and also other sections of this act dealing with archaeological sites, buildings and graves.

The NHRA section 2 (xvi) states that a “heritage resource” means any place or object of cultural significance, and in section 2 (vi) that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.

Apart from a heritage report assisting a client to make informed development decisions, it also serves to provide the relevant heritage resources authority with the necessary data to perform their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resource, whether the development may proceed as proposed or whether mitigation is acceptable, and whether the heritage resource requires formal protection such as a Grade I, II or III resource, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds

and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction. This section does not apply, since no archaeological material was found which might be impacted upon by the proposed development.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, 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. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during construction work. This section applies since a formal cemetery has been identified in the in the study area, which is currently used by the residents of the Siyathuthuka township.

- **Section 34 of the NHRA**

Section 34 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may alter, damage, destroy, relocate etc, any building or structure older than 60 years, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. This section does not apply since no buildings / structures older than 60 years were identified during the survey.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

This section deals with public monuments and memorials but does not apply in this report.

- **NEMA**

The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998), provide for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard.

## **B. BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA**

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

In order to place the study area and Belfast in archaeological context, primary and

secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel, Theal and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Küsel and Bergh, were consulted, as well as historic sources by Makhura and Webb.

There are no museums in the town of Belfast which could be consulted, and no historical information was available at the municipality. The Lydenburg museum (the closest museum to the study area), was consulted, but Mr. JP Cilliers (archaeologist and Head of the Museum), indicated that there is no information regarding Belfast at the museum. The author had to rely on the assistance of local people documenting relevant history in the area. The 1974 topographical map 2529DB BELFAST revealed that large areas in the study area consist of wetlands. The soil type is of a sedimentary slate nature (see **Appendix 5, fig. 4**). Today it is utilized for cattle grazing and agricultural activities. Visibility during the survey was good, extensive cattle grazing is taking place and the grass is currently short. The area was easy accessible (See **Appendix 1, 2, 3 & 4**).

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. According to Bergh, there are no recorded sites that date from the Stone Age, (including Rock paintings or engravings), or Early Iron Age. It can be confirmed that none of the above mentioned sites were encountered during the survey. The section falls within the general zone of Late Iron Age stone walled settlements,<sup>1</sup> although none were encountered during the survey.

The Belfast area was very sparsely populated during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and only a few Late Iron Age settlements are known in the direct vicinity (Dullstroom), by the author. Bergh<sup>2</sup> does not indicate any cultural group specific to the Belfast area, and even ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, does not include the Belfast area. It may be assumed that some of the *Ndzundza abaga* (Ndebele), and various tribes of the *baSotho* (baKôpa, baPedi),<sup>3</sup> inhabited this area as they do occur extensively towards Stofberg and Middelburg which are situated to the north of Belfast.

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<sup>1</sup> J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, pp. 4-7

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 18.



The local inhabitants of the Siyathuthuka township, currently consists of various groups including Ndebele, Sotho, Swazi and Zulu, according to Mr. Elmon Mabuza who was interviewed during the survey.<sup>4</sup> This information is confirmed by statistics of Belfast on the internet.<sup>5</sup>

- **AmaNDEBELE**

According to Van Warmelo, the *amaNdebele* are the earliest known offshoot of the *Nguni* group. The Ndebele is divided into two groups, the Southern and the Northern, and they are separated from one another. A certain legendary chief *Msi* or *Musi* heads a list of about twenty-five successive chiefs who lived just north of where Pretoria now stands. His two sons were *Manala* and *Ndzundza* and form the most important tribes of the Southern group. The *abagaNdzundza* moved eastwards and settled near Roos Senekal, approximately 60km north of Belfast, and it is said that some of *Manala's* followers, the *abagaManala*, settled in the Witbank district. The tribes slowly broke up after the days of the Republic.<sup>6</sup>

- **CENTRAL SOTHO**

The tribes in this group were at one time largely under the rule of the baPedi, who's last independent king was *Sekhukhune*, who's stronghold was to the north of Belfast (Steelpoort area), although his domain was extremely large.<sup>7</sup> Great numbers of *baSotho* who belong to the above group, who still speak *sePedi* but which became detribalized, live in the districts of Middelburg, Lydenburg, Witbank and Springs. They mingled freely with other groups such as the Zulu, Swazi and Tonga.

- **HISTORY OF BELFAST**

Belfast, also known as eMakhazeni, on the Highveld, is today renowned for its excellent trout fishing conditions. Sheep and dairy farming take place here as well as maize, potatoes and timber are produced. Coal and black granite are mined around Belfast. Belfast is 2025m above sea level and one of the coldest and highest towns in South Africa. It was named after Richard O'Niell from *Belfast*, Northern Ireland, who owned the

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<sup>4</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Elmon Mabuza, 18 Feb 2012.

<sup>5</sup> Belfast Mpumalanga, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,\\_Mpumalanga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,_Mpumalanga)

<sup>6</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 87.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 108.

farm on which the town was built.<sup>8</sup>

During the Anglo-Boer War several battles and skirmishes took place in and around the town. The British built a concentration camp here during the Boer War to house Boer women and children. Several Victoria Crosses were awarded for action at *Monument Hill* which is on the edge of the town.<sup>9</sup>

### **C. DESCRIPTION OF AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The proposed project will involve the following:

- Approximately 11,69 ha, is earmarked for residential township development;

### **D. LOCALITY**

The proposed project site is located approximately 3-4 km northwest of the town of Belfast. The site falls under the Emakhazeni Local Municipal jurisdiction, which in turn falls within Nkangala District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province (**Appendix 1: Topographical Map & Appendix 2 & 3**, Google image of sites).

The proposed area for development is situated on a portion of the farm Klipfontein 385JS and is currently vacant land which belongs to the Emakhazeni Local Municipality. It is zoned as agricultural, but is in the process of being zoned as a township. The site shares boundaries with *portion 1 of the farm Mineraal 394JS* on the north-west, *remainder of portion 3 of the farm Klipfontein 385JS* on the south-west and *portion 1 of the farm Paardeplaats 380JT* on the south-east.

The general study area is largely intact but disturbed by cattle grazing and cultivated lands closer to the existing Siyathuthuka township. Large areas in this portion are wetlands.

GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area.

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<sup>8</sup> Belfast Mpumalanga, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,\\_Mpumalanga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,_Mpumalanga)

<sup>9</sup> Belfast Mpumalanga, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,\\_Mpumalanga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,_Mpumalanga)

- **Description of methodology:**

The topographical Map, (**Appendix 1**), and Google images of the site (**Appendix 2 & 3**), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historic disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information.
- Several specialists currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology have also been consulted on the subject.

-Literary sources: A number of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were consulted, and revealed some information;

-Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum were consulted.

- The fieldwork and survey was conducted extensively on foot and with a vehicle, with two people.
- The entire area is used for cattle grazing and as well as cultivated land, closer to the township. Large sections in the study area consist of wetlands.
- The terrain was even and accessible and visibility was good. The grass was fairly short due to cattle grazing.
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Etrex) datum WGS 84, and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 4-6 meters of identified sites.
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999);
- Personal communication with relevant stakeholders on the specific study area, were held, such as the ecologist, Mr. Danie van der Walt and Mr. JP Cilliers (archaeologist and Head of the Lydenburg Museum), as well as local inhabitants of Siyathuthuka, Mr. Elmon Mabuza and Me. Senzo Nkosi.

- **GPS: Co-ordinates of the perimeters of the study area** (Co-ordinates provided by Mr. Danie van der Walt):

CO-ORDINATES		
Ext 5	LONG	LAT
5- 1	29° 58' 50.5" E	25° 40' 26.0" S
5- 2	29° 58' 25.3" E	25° 40' 38.5" S
5 - 3	29° 59' 30.6" E	25° 41' 03.6" S

#### E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the appendices, which indicate the areas, and which corresponds with the summary below. Photographs in **Appendix 5**, show the general view of the study area. Visibility was good and access easy.

Site location	Description/Comments	Heritage feature
<b>Appendix 3: Cemetery</b>	A demarcated formal cemetery was identified which might have incorporated old graves as mentioned by Me. Senzo Nkosi.	Cemetery: S25° 40' 59.3" E29° 59' 20.7" Fig. 8.

#### Extension 5

The study area was extensively surveyed on foot and per vehicle for any remains of archaeological or historical nature. Visibility was good and footpaths made access very easy). Extension 5 is situated directly south of the existing Siyathuthuka township (See **Appendix 5**, Fig. 1 – 6).

The inhabitants of the Siyathuthuka township utilizes the area for livestock grazing and cultivated lands on the border of the township. Ms. Senzo Nkosi mentioned the old graves that are now incorporated in the new formal cemetery. To her knowledge there are no stone walls in this section<sup>10</sup>. The area is mostly grassland with large sections consisting of wetland (See **Appendix 1 & Appendix 3**).

A storage yard, which is fenced off with a concrete fence (See **Appendix 3**) is situated in the southern section, near the cemetery. This feature is of no significance.

The survey revealed no other archaeological or historical remains of any kind.

<sup>10</sup> Personal communication: Me S. Nkosi, 2012-02-18.

**F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPO-NENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Cemetery present	Mitigation measures needed
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

- **Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources: General issues of site and context:**

<i>Context</i>		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	Vacant land
Natural environmental context	No	Natural area but sections where cultivation and cattle grazing takes place
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
<i>Other</i>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	NA

<b>Context</b>		
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<b>Property features and characteristics</b>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	No	Livestock grazing takes place and sections used for agricultural activities bordering the current established residential township.
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	NA
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	Yes	A small rocky outcrop in the western section.
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	A spring is situated near the north-west corner, and large sections are wetland.

<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
<b>General protection (NHRA)</b>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	Yes	Formal cemetery in the south – east corner.
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELE- MENTS	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Histo rical	Rare	Sci enti fic	Typi cal	Tech- nolog ical	Aes thetic	Pers on / com munit y	Land mark	Mate rial con dition	Sust aina bility		
Buildings / structure s of cultural significan ce	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Historical settleme nt/ townscap es	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landsca pe of cultural significan ce	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geologic al site of scientific/ cultural importan ce	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeol ogical / palaeont ological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	Cemetery will be impacted upon by the proposed development



<b>NHRA</b>	<b>ELE-</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- **Summarised recommended impact management interventions**

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural significance rating</b>			
		<b>Cultural significanc</b>	<b>Impact significanc</b>		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance rating</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	None	None	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	Yes	Will be impacted upon	Cemetery will be excluded from the proposed development	Residents of the Siyathuthuka township are using the cemetery
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPONENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Formal cemetery	Mitigation needed: recommend that cemetery be excluded from development
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

## **G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA**

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above is made for all identified heritage features.

- **Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

- **National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed, and contributes to redressing past inequities.<sup>11</sup> It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section 3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

<sup>12</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

- **Graves**

**SAHRA Policy on burial grounds**

The policy is that graves and cemeteries should be left undisturbed, no matter how inaccessible and difficult they are to maintain. It is our obligation to empower civil society to nurture and conserve our heritage. It is only when essential developments threaten a place of burial, that human remains should be disinterred to another cemetery or burial ground.

From a historical point of view and for research purposes, it is vital that burial sites are not disturbed. The location and marking of an individual's grave tells a life story, where he / she died, possibly defending (or attacking) a particular place or situation and makes it easier to understand the circumstances of his / her death.<sup>13</sup>

- **The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features in the study area, can be summarised as follows:**

<b>Site no</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage features</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Measures of mitigation</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b> Formal Cemetery	A formal cemetery incorporates old graves that were known in this area. The formal cemetery is currently used by the Siyathuthuka residents	High	The formal cemetery must be excluded by the proposed development, as residents are using the cemetery.

- **Field rating:** All graves are rated as High and are of outstanding significance as specified by the NHRA.

According to Ms. S. Nkosi, the old graves are in the area that is now demarcated (with a concrete wall), as a formal cemetery and is now used by the inhabitants of the

<sup>13</sup>SAHRA, Burial sites, <http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm>, Access, 2008-10-16.

Siyathuthuka township. It is recommended that the area be left undisturbed and excluded from the new residential development.

## **H. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The proposed extensions 5 on Portion 13 of the farm Klipfontein 385JS, is situated towards the existing Siyathuthuka township. Some areas in this section have already been disturbed by cultivation and extensive livestock grazing.

No archaeological or other heritage features were identified during the extensive survey. A formal fenced off cemetery is situated in the south-east corner of the proposed development. This cemetery is currently used by the Siyathuthuka residents and this area will have to be excluded from the proposed development.

A fenced off store yard in the study area (**Appendix 3**) is of no historical or cultural significance.

Should the developer adhere to the above recommendation in terms of the formal cemetery, and based on the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants, have no compelling reasons that may prevent the proposed residential township development, to continue.

## **I. CONCLUSION**

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during construction activities of the proposed development. It is therefore recommended that the developers be made aware of this possibility and when human remains, clay or ceramic pottery etc. are observed, a qualified archaeologist must be notified and an assessment be done. Further research might then be necessary in this regard for which the developer will be responsible.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants can not be held responsible for any archaeological material or graves which were not located during the survey.

## **SOURCES**

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

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### **LITERARY SOURCES**

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Belfast Mpumalanga, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,\\_Mpumalanga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,_Mpumalanga)

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

- Mr. JP Cilliers, (Archaeologist) Lydenburg Museum, 2012-02-21.
- Mr. Elmon Mabuza, (Resident, Siyathuthuka), 2012-02-18.
- Ms. Senzo Nkosi, (Resident, Siyathuthuka), 2012-02-18.
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