



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
BK 98 09854/23

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**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A RURAL VILLAGE ON A PORTION OF  
PORTION 5 OF THE FARM VLAKVARKFONTEIN  
213 IR AND A PORTION OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF VAN DYKSPUT 214  
IR, DELMAS, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

For:

**ADIENVIRONMENTAL  
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**REPORT NO.: AE01851V**

By:

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**29 October 2018**

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## **SUBMISSION OF REPORT**

**Please note that the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or one of its subsidiary bodies needs to comment on this report.**

**It is the client's responsibility to do the submission via the SAHRIS System on the SAHRA website.**

**Clients are advised not to proceed with any action before receiving the necessary comments from SAHRA.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Purpose:

Archaetnos cc was requested by AdiEnvironmental CC to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment (HIA) for the proposed development of a rural village on a portion of portion 5 of the farm Vlakvarkfontein 213 JR and a portion of the remaining extent of Van Dykspuit 214 JR. This is close to Delmas in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

### Project description:

The project entails the formalization of an existing settlement, known as Arbor Village. As part of this project, additional residential stands and a cemetery will be provided. The heritage study forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

### Methodology:

The methodology for the study includes a survey of literature and a field survey. The latter was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development.

If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed. The survey was undertaken by doing a physical survey via off-road vehicle and on foot and covered as much as possible of the area to be studied. Certain factors, such as accessibility, density of vegetation, etc. may however influence the coverage.

All sites, objects, features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. 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.

### Public consultation:

General public consultation will be done by AdiEnvironmental. The various specialist reports will be utilized for this purpose.

### Findings:

The survey of the indicated area was completed successfully. Four sites were identified.

The following is recommended:

- Three grave sites have been identified (sites 1-3). Graves are always regarded as having a **high** cultural significance. The field rating thereof is Local Grade III B. It should be included in the heritage register but may be mitigated.

- Two possibilities for mitigation exist. The first option would be to fence the graves in and have a management plan drafted for the sustainable preservation thereof. This should be written by a heritage expert. This usually is done when the graves are in no danger of being damaged, but where there will be a secondary impact due to the development activities.
- The second option is to exhume the mortal remains and then to have it relocated. This usually is done when the graves are in the area to be directly affected by the development activities. For this a specific procedure should be followed which includes social consultation. For graves younger than 60 years, only an undertaker is needed. For those older than 60 years and unknown graves an undertaker and archaeologist is needed. Permits should be obtained from the Burial Grounds and Graves unit of SAHRA.
- Site no. 1 will remain as a cemetery. Sites no. 2 and 3 are included in a 'wetland' area, adjacent to the new proposed cemetery. Option 1 is therefore recommended for all three sites. Sites 2 and 3 can be included into the proposed cemetery.
- Site no. 4, the stone and corrugated iron building receive a field rating of Local Grade IIIC. The description in this phase 1 heritage report is seen as sufficient recording (low significance) and it may be granted destruction at the discretion of the relevant heritage authority without a formal permit application, subjected to the granting of Environmental Authorisation.
- The development may therefore proceed, once the above measures had been commented on by SAHRA and the related mitigation measures have been implemented.
- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts is always a distinct possibility. It is possible that some sites may only become known later on. Operating controls and monitoring should therefore be aimed at the possible unearthing of such features. Care should therefore be taken when development commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence.

It is also important to take cognizance that it is the client's responsibility to do the submission of this report via the SAHRIS System on the SAHRA website. No work on site may commence before receiving the necessary comments from SAHRA.

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**Prof Anton Carl van Vollenhoven**

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- BA (HONS) Archaeology 1988 (cum laude), University of Pretoria
- MA Archaeology 1992, University of Pretoria
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Museology 1993 (cum laude), University of Pretoria
- Diploma Tertiary Education 1993, University of Pretoria
- DPhil Archaeology 2001, University of Pretoria.
- MA Cultural History 1998 (cum laude), University of Stellenbosch
- Management Diploma 2007 (cum laude), Tshwane University of Technology
- DPhil History 2010, University of Stellenbosch

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

- *1988-1991*: Fort Klapperkop Military Museum - Researcher
- *1991-1999*: National Cultural History Museum. Work as Archaeologist, as well as Curator/Manager of Pioneer Museum (1994-1997)
- *1999-2002*: City Council of Pretoria. Work as Curator: Fort Klapperkop Heritage Site and Acting Deputy Manager Museums and Heritage.
- *2002-2007*: City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. Work as Deputy Manager Museums and Heritage.
- *August 2007* – present – Managing Director for Archaetnos Archaeologists.
- *1988-2003*: Part-time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Pretoria and a part-time lecturer on Cultural Resources Management in the Department of History at the University of Pretoria.
- *2014-2015*: Part-time lecturer for the Honours degree in Museum Sciences in the Department of History and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria
- *Since 2015*: Extraordinary Professor of History at the Mahikeng campus of the Northwest University

**OTHER**

- Has published 79 articles in scientific and popular journals on archaeology and history.
- Has been the author and co-author of over 845 unpublished reports on cultural resources surveys and archaeological work.
- Has published books on the Military Fortifications of Pretoria and Heritage Guidelines.
- Contributed to a book on Mapungubwe.
- Has delivered more than 66 papers and lectures at national and international conferences.
- Member of SAHRA Council for 2003 – 2006.
- Member of the South African Academy for Science and Art.
- Member of Association for South African Professional Archaeologists.

- Member of the South African Society for Cultural History (Chairperson 2006-2008; 2012-2014).
- Has been editor for the SA Journal of Cultural History 2002-2004.
- Member of the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, Gauteng's Council.
- Member of Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, Gauteng's HIA adjudication committee (Chairperson 2012-2015).

A list of reports can be viewed on [www.archaetnos.co.za](http://www.archaetnos.co.za).

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Anton Carl van Vollenhoven from Archaetnos, hereby declare that I am an independent specialist within the field of heritage management.

Signed:



Date: 29 October 2018

### LIST OF ACRONYMS:

AIA – Archaeological Impact Assessment  
CMP – Cultural Management Plan  
EAP – Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment  
HIA – Heritage Impact Assessment  
PIA – Palaeontological Impact Assessment  
SAHRA – South African Heritage Resources Agency

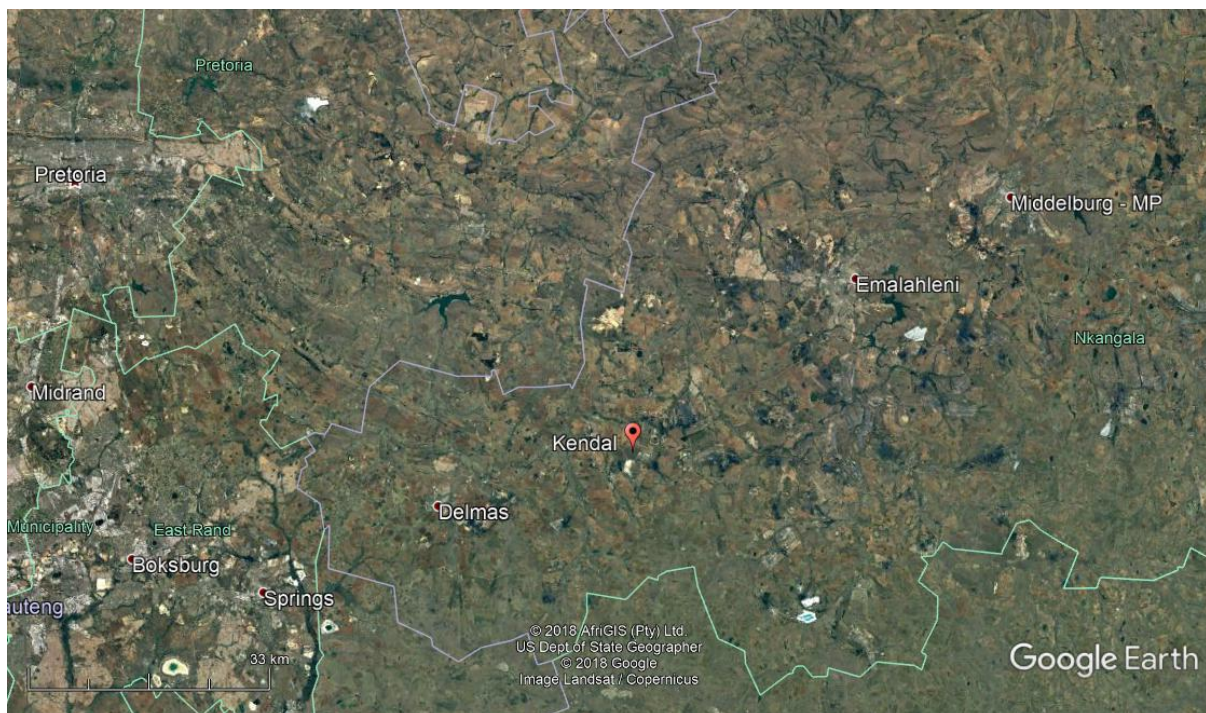
# CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
CURRICULUM VITAE OF SPECIALIST .....	5
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE .....	6
LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	6
CONTENTS .....	7
1. INTRODUCTION.....	8
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	12
3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS.....	12
4. METHODOLOGY .....	16
5. ASSUMPTIONS, GAPS, RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS .....	19
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT .....	19
7. RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT .....	24
8. HISTORICAL CONTEXT.....	24
9. SITES IDENTIFIED DURING THE SURVEY.....	26
10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	36
11. REFERENCES.....	37
APPENDIX A – DEFENITION OF TERMS.....	39
APPENDIX B – DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE .....	40
APPENDIX C – SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING .....	41
APPENDIX D – PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES.....	43
APPENDIX E – HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES.....	44

## 1. INTRODUCTION

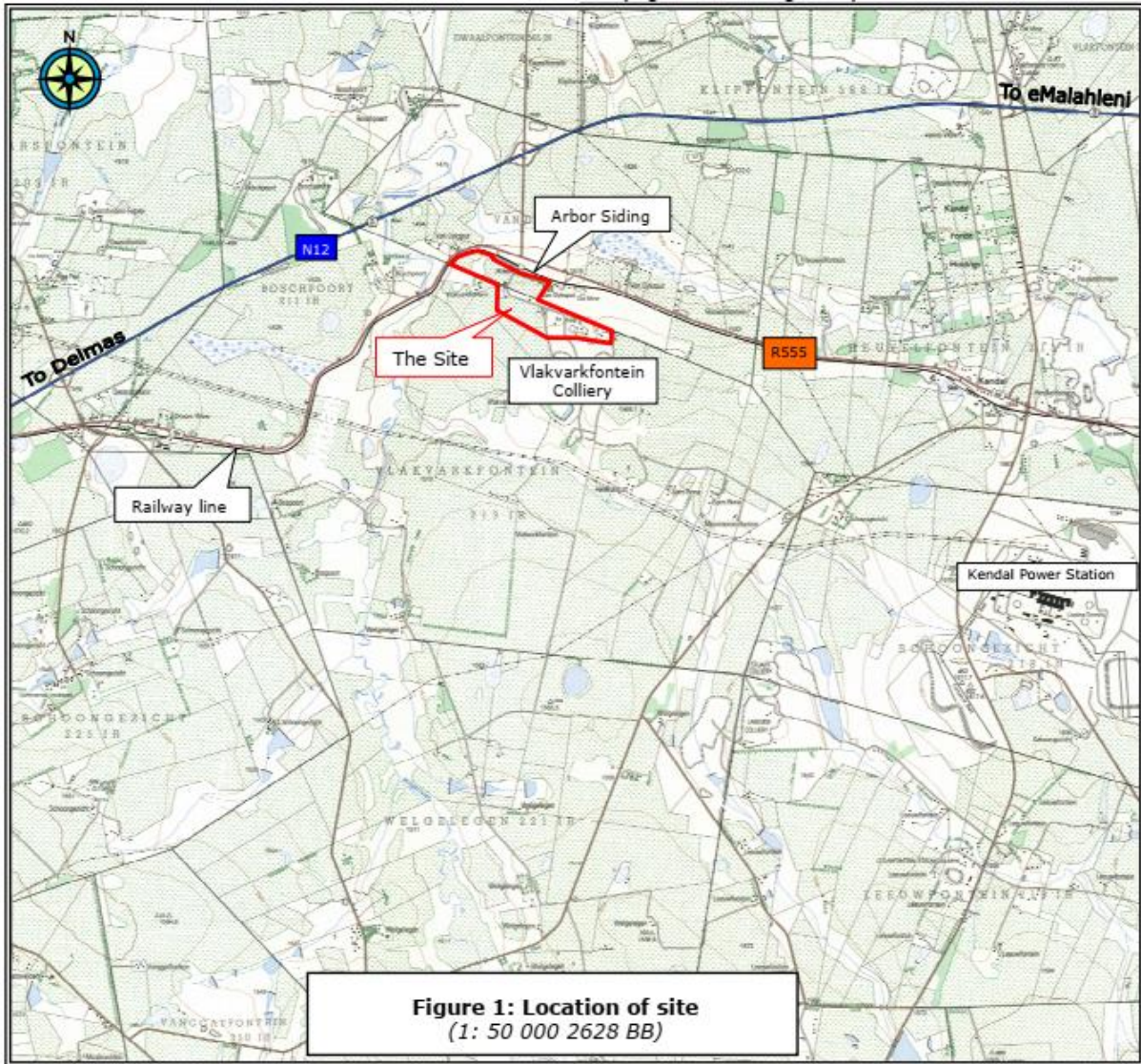
Archaetnos cc was requested by AdiEnvironmental CC to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment (HIA) for the proposed development of a rural village on a portion of portion 5 of the farm Vlakvarkfontein 213 JR and a portion of the remaining extent of Van Dyksput 214 JR. This is close to Delmas in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province (Figure 1-2). The 1: 50 000 topographic map details are map 2628BB.

The project entails the formalization of an existing settlement, known as Arbor Village (Figure 3-4). As part of this project, additional residential stands and a cemetery will be provided. The heritage study forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. The Client indicated the area to be surveyed. This was done on foot and via off-road vehicle in October 2018.



**FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF DELMAS IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**





**FIGURE 2: SITE LOCATION (ADIENVIRONMENTAL).**



**FIGURE 3: ZOOMED IN VIEW OF SURVEYED SITE.**



## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Document the found cultural heritage sites according to best practice standards for heritage related studies.
3. Study background information on the area to be developed.
4. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
5. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
6. Recommend suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources by the proposed development.
7. Review applicable legislative requirements.

## **3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. The first of these are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) which deals with the cultural heritage of the Republic of South Africa. The second is the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) which inter alia deals with cultural heritage as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

### **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 (see Appendix D) 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. Archaeological and paleontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, 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.

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is an assessment of palaeontological heritage. Palaeontology is a different field of study, and although also sometimes required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)<sup>1</sup>, should be done by a professional palaeontologist.

The different phases during the HIA process are described in Appendix E. 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 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Please consult SAHRA to determine whether a PIA is necessary.

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 paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological 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 paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological 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 or 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.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

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) before exhumation can take place. Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **National Health Act (Act 61 of 2003)**.

### **3.2 The National Environmental Management Act**

This act (Act 107 of 1998) 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 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.

### **3.3 THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATIONS' PERFORMANCE STANDARD FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

This standard recognizes the importance of cultural heritage for current and future generations. It aims to ensure that clients protect cultural heritage in the course of their project activities.

This is done by clients abiding to the law and having heritage surveys done in order to identify and protect cultural heritage resources via field studies and the documentation of such resources. These need to be done by competent professionals (e.g.

archaeologists and cultural historians). Any possible chance finds, encountered during the project development, also needs to be managed by not disturbing it and by having it assessed by professionals.

Impacts on the cultural heritage should be minimized. This includes the possible maintenance of such sites in situ, or when not possible, the restoration of the functionality of the cultural heritage in a different location. When cultural historical and archaeological artifacts and structures need to be removed, this should be done by professionals and by abiding to the applicable legislation. The removal of cultural heritage resources may, however, only be considered if there are no technically or financially feasible alternatives. In considering the removal of cultural resources, it should be outweighed by the benefits of the overall project to the affected communities. Again, professionals should carry out the work and adhere to the best available techniques.

Consultation with affected communities should be conducted. This entails that such communities should be granted access to their cultural heritage if this is applicable. Compensation for the loss of cultural heritage should only be given in extra-ordinary circumstances.

Critical cultural heritage may not be impacted on. Professionals should be used to advise on the assessment and protection thereof. Utilization of cultural heritage resources should always be done in consultation with the affected communities in order to be consistent with their customs and traditions and to come to agreements with relation to possible equitable sharing of benefits from commercialization.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Survey of literature**

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

### **4.2 Reference to other specialist studies**

On the existing SAHRA Database (SAHRIS) three heritage reports done on the farm Vlakvarkfontein was noted. Two of these were on different portions (2 and 16) of the farm of which one yielded no heritage features. Graves were identified during the other one. The third was done for the adjacent Vlakvarkfontein Mine and identified eight sites (SAHRIS). The SAHRIS database is an internet-based tool, updated constantly. No applicable information was found on the Archaetnos Database. The latter is a computer-based tool, updated constantly.

### **4.3 Public consultation and stakeholder engagement**

General public consultation will be done by AdiEnvironmental. The various specialist reports will be utilized for this purpose.



#### 4.4 Physical field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. One regularly looks a bit wider than the demarcated area, as the surrounding context needs to be taken into consideration.

If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS)<sup>2</sup>, while photographs were also taken where needed. The survey was undertaken by doing a physical survey via off-road vehicle and on foot and covered as much as possible of the area to be studied (Figure 5).

Certain factors, such as accessibility, density of vegetation, etc. may however influence the coverage. In this instance the area was found to be reasonably disturbed. The vegetation cover was mostly between low and medium in height and with dense under footing. The horizontal archaeological visibility was therefore good and the vertical archaeological visibility fair. The size of the surveyed area is approximately 138 Ha. The survey took 4 hours to complete.



**FIGURE 5: GPS TRACK OF THE SURVEY.**

<sup>2</sup> A Garmin Oregon 550 with an accuracy factor of a few meters.

#### **4.5 Documentation**

All sites, objects, features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. 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.

#### **4.6 Evaluation of Heritage sites**

The evaluation of heritage sites is done by giving a field rating of each (see Appendix C) using the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

#### **4.7 Documentation**

All sites, objects, features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. 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.

#### **4.8 Evaluation of Heritage sites**

The evaluation of heritage sites is done by giving a field rating of each (see Appendix C) using the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

## **5. ASSUMPTIONS, GAPS, RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity (Appendix A). These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.
3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix C).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.
7. Large sections of the surveyed area have been disturbed by recent human interventions and therefore it is seen as low risk areas to reveal heritage sites.
8. The vegetation cover in certain areas was reasonably low and open, which had a positive effect on archaeological visibility.

## **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

The area that was surveyed can be divided into two sections. The first is the existing village which of course is almost entirely disturbed. It consists of informal housing (Figure 6) and other activities. The northern section mainly consists of open fields. Characteristics of the area includes open areas without any or limited vegetation

(Figure 7), earthwork activities (Figure 8) and building activities (Figure 9). The vegetation cover is low consisting of grassland. Signs of old agricultural fields are present (Figure 10) as well as pioneer plant species such as weeds and the regrowth of former plantations, consisting of alien tree species (Figure 11-12).

The topography of the area is reasonably flat. No rivers or outstanding natural features are present.



**FIGURE 6: HOUSES IN THE SURVEYED AREA.**



**FIGURE 7: OPEN SECTION OF LAND IN THE SURVEYED AREA.**



**FIGURE 8: EARTHWORK ACTIVITIES AT THE SURVEYED AREA.**



**FIGURE 9: BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN THE SURVEYED AREA.**



**FIGURE 10: OLD FIELDS IN THE SURVEYED AREA.**



**FIGURE 11: VIEW OF VEGETATION IN THE SURVEYED AREA.**



**FIGURE 12: VIEW OF VEGETATION AND ALIEN TREES IN THE SURVEYED AREA.**

## **7. RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

This is handled by the EAP. It is done in accordance with the EIA regulations and should anything related to heritage surface, the archaeologist will be contacted to address this. In fact, one of the sites identified (no. 6), were brought to attention by the community.

## **8. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

This geographical area is not well-known as one containing many prehistoric sites. One however has to realize that this most likely only indicates that not much research has been done here before.

Many heritage surveys have been done close to the site (SAHRA's SAHRIS database). Archaeos has also done previous studies in the broader geographical area, some which delivered cultural heritage sites (Archaeos' database). As indicated above, a few heritage reports were done on the farm Vlakvarkfontein. The information from these are included below.

### **8.1 Stone Age**

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is, however, important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago  
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago  
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

The closest Stone Age occurrence found near the Delmas area is the Late Stone Age site at Fort Troje, close to Cullinan (Bergh 1999: 4). This probably only indicates a lack of research as the area definitely was suitable for human occupation.

However, no natural shelters were seen during the survey and therefore it is possible that these people did not stay here for long periods. The nearby water and good vegetation in the surrounding area indicated that ample grazing may have been available, making it a prime spot for hunting in the past. Therefore one may assume that Stone Age people probably would have moved through the area.

### **8.2 Iron Age**

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can



be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.  
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however, indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.  
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.  
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Bergh (1999: 7) does indicate that Late Iron Age sites have been identified in the Delmas area but gives no additional detail. During the Difaquane (1832) the Zulu moved through this area in order to attack the Ndebele (Bergh 1999: 11). This indicates that Iron Age people probably utilized this environment in the past.

However, during the survey no such sites were identified. The existence of a permanent water source and the good grazing in the broader environment however would have provided a good environment for Iron Age people although building material would have been reasonably scarce. One would therefore expect that Iron Age people may have utilized the area. The white settlers moved into this environment later on for the same reason.

### **8.3 Historical Age**

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. This era is sometimes called the Colonial era or the recent past.

Due to factors such as population growth and a decrease in mortality rates, more people inhabited the country during the recent historical past. Therefore and because less time has passed, much more cultural heritage resources from this era have been left on the landscape. It is important to note that all cultural resources older than 60 years are potentially regarded as part of the heritage and that detailed studies are needed in order to determine whether these indeed have cultural significance. Factors to be considered include aesthetic, scientific, cultural and religious value of such resources.

The first early traveler who visited this area was Robert Scoon who passed through during 1836. In 1847 Dr. David Livingstone also visited the area during his travels. The parties of the Voortrekkers Louis Tregardt and Hans van Rensburg also moved through here during 1836 (Bergh 1999: 13-14). White farmers only settled in the study area between 1841 and 1850 (Bergh 1999: 15).

One may therefore expect to find farm buildings and objects in the area as well as graves. Five sites, including stone-built kraals, houses and stone enclosures were

identified in the past (SAHRA's SAHRIS database). One of these lies within the boundary of the current study (see below). Also many graveyards from this period in time have also been identified in surrounding areas during past surveys (Archaetnos database; SAHRA's SAHRIS database). Three graveyards were identified on the farm, of which one is inside of the current study area (discussed below).

## 9. SITES IDENTIFIED DURING THE SURVEY

Six sites were identified during the survey (Figure 13).

### 9.1 Sites no. 1-3: Graves

**Cultural significance Table**

<b>A place is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance because of -</b>	<b>Applicable or not</b>	<b>Rating: 1 - Negligible/ 2 -Low/ 3 - Low-Medium/ 4 - Medium/ 5 - Medium-High/ 6 - High/ 7 - Very High</b>
Its importance in the community or pattern of South Africa's history	Y	H
Its possession of uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural history	N	-
Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage	Y	H
Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects	Y	H
Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community cultural group	N	-
Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period	N	-
Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons	Y	H
Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person,	N	-

group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa		
Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa	N	-
<b>Reasoned assessment of significance using appropriate indicators outlined above:</b>		6 – High

**Integrity scale:**

- 1 – Bad state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 2 – Bad state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 3 – Reasonable state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 4 – Reasonable state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 5 – Good state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 6 - Good state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 7 – Excellent state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 8 – Excellent state of preservation and includes contextual information

**Field-rating = Cultural significance x Integrity**

$$= 6 \text{ (High)} \times 4$$

$$= 24$$

Graves are always regarded as having a **high** cultural significance. The field rating thereof is Local Grade III B. It should be included in the heritage register but may be mitigated.

Two possibilities exist. The first option would be to fence the graves in and have a management plan drafted for the sustainable preservation thereof. This should be written by a heritage expert. This usually is done when the graves are in no danger of being damaged, but where there will be a secondary impact due to the development activities.

The second option is to exhume the mortal remains and then to have it relocated. This usually is done when the graves are in the area to be directly affected by the development activities. For this a specific procedure should be followed which includes social consultation. For graves younger than 60 years, only an undertaker is needed. For those older than 60 years and unknown graves an undertaker and archaeologist is needed. Permits should be obtained from the Burial Grounds and Graves unit of SAHRA.

Site no. 1:

This is a formal graveyard, also identified by Tomose (2011), site VVF07. It contains at least 800 graves. It likely is still in use. A large variety of different grave dressing and headstones are to be seen (Figure 13).

Surnames identified includes Sibeko, Mahkangu, Masango and Vetman. All three categories of graves were identified, being those older than 60 years (Heritage graves), those without a date of death (called unknown graves), and those younger than 60 years. Unknown graves are handled similarly to heritage graves (older than 60 years).

GPS: 26°02' 42.50"S  
28°53'02.48"E



**FIGURE 13: SOME OF THE GRAVES AT SITE NO. 1.**

Site no. 2:

This is an informal graveyard, containing at least 21 graves. These are all stone packed. Some have headstones (stone or cement) and some not (Figure 14).

No legible information could be found. Therefore only one of the three categories of graves were identified, being those without a date of death (called unknown graves). Unknown graves are handled similarly to heritage graves (older than 60 years).

GPS: 26°02'22.09"S  
28°52'38.01"E



**FIGURE 14: SOME OF THE GRAVES AT SITE NO. 2.**

Site no. 3:

This is a single grave. It is stone packed, without a headstone (Figure 15). No legible information could be found. The grave thus is categorised as unknown. Unknown graves are handled similarly to heritage graves (older than 60 years).

GPS: 26°02'23.45"S  
28°52'37.00"E



**FIGURE 15: SINGLE GRAVES - SITE NO. 3.**

**9.2 Historical buildings:**

The houses are similar and therefore receive a similar rating.

**Cultural significance Table: site 4 and 5**

<b>A place is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance because of -</b>	<b>Applicable or not</b>	<b>Rating: 1 - Negligible/ 2 -Low/ 3 - Low-Medium/ 4 - Medium/ 5 - Medium-High/ 6 - High/ 7 - Very High</b>
Its importance in the community or pattern of South Africa's history	N	-
Its possession of uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural history	N	-
Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage	N	-
Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's	N	-

natural or cultural places or objects		
Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community cultural group	Y	N
Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period	N	-
Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons	N	-
Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa	N	-
Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa	N	-
<b>Reasoned assessment of significance using appropriate indicators outlined above:</b>		1 – Negligible

**Integrity scale:**

- 1 – Bad state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 2 – Bad state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 3 – Reasonable state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 4 – Reasonable state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 5 – Good state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 6 - Good state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 7 – Excellent state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 8 – Excellent state of preservation and includes contextual information

**Field-rating = Cultural significance x Integrity**

$$= 1 \text{ (Negligible)} \times 3$$

$$= 3$$

The building receives a field rating of Local Grade IIIC. The description in this phase 1 heritage report is seen as sufficient recording (low significance) and it may be granted destruction at the discretion of the relevant heritage authority without a formal permit application, subjected to the granting of Environmental Authorisation.

Site 4:

The site consists of an old stone and corrugated iron store (Figure 16). It is in a bad state of repair and is currently used as a tavern. The site was also identified by Tomose (2011) – site VVF08. It is a common building for its time and therefore not of high significance.

GPS: 26°02'37.40"S  
28°52'52.10"E



**FIGURE 16: STONE AND CORRUGATED IRON HISTORICAL BUILDING.**

Site 5:

The used to be an old house dating to approximately the 1920's (Figure 17). It is not very unique as it is typical from this time period. The house have however recently been changed by the owner to such an extent that it has no heritage significance left (Figure 18).

GPS: 26°02'53.25"S  
28°53'28.57"E





**FIGURE 17: THE HOUSE MARKED AS SITE NO. 5.**



**FIGURE 18: A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HOUSE AT SITE NO. 5.**

### 9.3 Tree:

Site 6:

Community members indicated that the tree has cultural significance and that it should therefore remain (Figure 19). Apparently the tree has been here since the 1960's. It is unique from other trees in the larger vicinity and is green in summer and winter (Personal communication: E. Sindane). It is used by the community as a meeting place since no other trees are present. It is known *Searsia pyroides* and is commonly known as a wild currant or fire-thorn karee. The wood is utilised to make handles for hoes and fences. It also has medicinal properties.

GPS: 26°02'50.51"S  
28°53'04.26"E



FIGURE 19: THE TREE AT SITE NO. 6.

Cultural significance Table: Tree (site 6)

A place is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance because of -	Applicable or not	Rating: 1 - Negligible/ 2 -Low/ 3 - Low-Medium/ 4 - Medium/ 5 - Medium-High/ 6 - High/ 7 - Very High
Its importance in the community or pattern of South Africa's history	N	-

Its possession of uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural history	Y	M
Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage	Y	M-H
Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects	Y	H
Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community cultural group	N	
Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period	N	-
Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons	Y	VH
Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa	N	-
Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa	N	-
<b>Reasoned assessment of significance using appropriate indicators outlined above:</b>		5,5 – High

**Integrity scale:**

- 1 – Bad state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 2 – Bad state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 3 – Reasonable state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 4 – Reasonable state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 5 – Good state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 6 - Good state of preservation and includes contextual information
- 7 – Excellent state of preservation, but no contextual information
- 8 – Excellent state of preservation and includes contextual information

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Field-rating} &= \text{Cultural significance} \times \text{Integrity} \\ &= 5,5 \text{ (High)} \times 6 \\ &= 33\end{aligned}$$

The tree receives a field rating of Local Grade IIIA. It should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance). It should thus be maintained in situ with a protected buffer zone and a CMP must be drafted.

## 10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey of the indicated area was completed successfully. Six sites were identified (Figure 20).



**FIGURE 20: LOCATION OF SITES IDENTIFIED DURING THE SURVEY.**

The following is recommended:

- Three grave sites have been identified (sites 1-3). Graves are always regarded as having a **high** cultural significance. The field rating thereof is Local Grade III B. It should be included in the heritage register but may be mitigated.
- Two possibilities for mitigation exist. The first option would be to fence the graves in and have a management plan drafted for the sustainable preservation thereof. This should be written by a heritage expert. This usually is done when the graves are in no danger of being damaged, but where there will be a secondary impact due to the development activities.

- The second option is to exhume the mortal remains and then to have it relocated. This usually is done when the graves are in the area to be directly affected by the development activities. For this a specific procedure should be followed which includes social consultation. For graves younger than 60 years, only an undertaker is needed. For those older than 60 years and unknown graves an undertaker and archaeologist is needed. Permits should be obtained from the Burial Grounds and Graves unit of SAHRA.
- None of these sites will be directly impacted on. Site no. 1 will remain as a cemetery. Sites no. 2 and 3 are included in a 'wetland' area, adjacent to the new proposed cemetery. Option 1 is therefore recommended for all three sites. Sites 2 and 3 can be included into the proposed cemetery.
- Site no. 4, the stone and corrugated iron building and site no. 5, the old house both receive a field rating of Local Grade IIIC. Both are included in new erven in the development and will therefore be impacted on. However, the description in this phase 1 heritage report is seen as sufficient recording (low significance) and it may be granted destruction if necessary, at the discretion of the relevant heritage authority without a formal permit application, subjected to the granting of Environmental Authorisation.
- Site no. 6, the tree of cultural significance, is located on the proposed stands 218 and 219. These have been earmarked for Public Open Space and will therefore not be impacted on.
- A CMP needs to be drafted for all the grave sites (no. 1-3) and the tree (site no. 6) in order to ensure the sustainable preservation of these.
- The development may therefore proceed, once the above measures had been commented on by SAHRA and the related mitigation measures have been implemented.
- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts is always a distinct possibility. It is possible that some sites may only become known later on. Operating controls and monitoring should therefore be aimed at the possible unearthing of such features. Care should therefore be taken when development commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence.

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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.
- Aesthetic 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, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.



## **APPENDIX C**

### **SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:**

#### **Cultural significance:**

- Negligible – The site has no heritage significance, although it may be older than 60 years.
- Low - A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings. A site with minimal importance which is decreased by its bad state of decay.
- Low-Medium - A site of lesser importance, which is increased by a good state of preservation and contextual importance (e.g. a specific community).
- 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.
- Medium-High - A site that has high importance due to its age or uniqueness, but which decreases due to its bad state of decay.
- High - Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Also, any important object found within a specific context.
- Very High - A site of exceptional importance due to its age, uniqueness and good state of preservation.

#### **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:**

National Grade I significance: The site should be managed as part of the national estate, should be nominated as Grad I site, should be maintained in situ with a protected buffer zone and a CMP must be recommended. Score above 50.

Provincial Grade II significance: The site should be managed as part of the provincial estate, should be nominated as Grade II site, should be maintained in situ with a protected buffer zone and a CMP must be recommended. Score between 41 and 50.

Local Grade IIIA: The site should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance), should be maintained in situ with a protected buffer zone and a CMP must be recommended. Score between 31 and 40.

Local Grade IIIB: The site should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/ medium significance). Mitigation is subject to a permit application lodged with the relevant heritage authority. Score between 6 and 30.

Local Grade IIIC: The description in the phase 1 heritage report is seen as sufficient recording (low significance) and it may be granted destruction at the discretion of the relevant heritage authority without a formal permit application, subjected to the granting of Environmental Authorisation. Score below 5.

## **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.**