Heritage impact assessment for the PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRI-ESTATE ON THE FARM MELKSTROOM EAST OF UPINGTON, GORDONIA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRI-ESTATE ON THE FARM MELKSTROOM EAST OF UPINGTON, GORDONIA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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Declaration:

I, J.A. van Schalkwyk, declare that I do not have any financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment and management services.

Scha Kingk

J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil) Heritage Consultant March 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRI-ESTATE ON THE FARM MELKSTROOM EAST OF UPINGTON, GORDONIA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

It is proposed to develop an agri-estate on 135 ha of land on the farm Melkstroom, approximately 10 km east of Upington.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **MEG Omgewingsimpakstudies** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop the agri-estate.

• A low density surface scatter of stone tools dating to the Middle Stone Age was identified in an area of approximately 30 x 30 metres square on a low hill in the centre of the study area. As this material is located on the surface it is not in primary context anymore and therefore is viewed to have a low significance. No further mitigation action is required.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue. However, it is requested that should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

J A van Schalkwyk Heritage Consultant March 2011

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Property details						
Province	North	Northern Cape				
Magisterial district	Gorde	onia				
Local municipality	//Kha	//Khara Hais				
Topo-cadastral map	2821AD					
Closest town	Upington					
Farm name	Portions 8 and 10 of the farm Melkstroom and Portion 1 of the Farm 563					
Coordinates	End points					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	S 28.43129	E 21.31061	2	S 28.41068	E 21.33147

Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHR Act	Yes/No
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of	No
development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length	No
Development exceeding 5000 sq m	Yes
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	No
Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years	No
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m	Yes
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds	No

Land use

Lana use	
Current land use	Farming
Proposed land use	Farming/agri-estate

Develo	
Develo	ner
001010	201

Developer	
Name	
Address	-
Telephone no.	-
E-mail	-

Environmental Specialist

Environmental Specialist	
Name	Ms Marquerite Geldenhuys
Address	Private Bag X5879, Postnet Suite 63, Upington, 8800
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TERMS

Study area: Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1 - 2.

Stone Age: The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present (BP)Middle Stone Age150 000 - 30 000 BPLater Stone Age30 000 - until c. AD 200

Iron Age: Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to Southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. As they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 900
Middle Iron Age	AD 900 - AD 1300
Late Iron Age	AD 1300 - AD 1830

Historical Period: Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 - in this part of the country

ABBREVIATIONS

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
CS-G	Chief Surveyor-General
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRI-ESTATE ON THE FARM MELKSTROOM EAST OF UPINGTON, GORDONIA MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. INTRODUCTION

It is proposed to develop an agri-estate on 135 ha of land on the farm Melkstroom, approximately 10 km east of Upington.

South Africa's heritage resources, also described as the 'national estate', comprise a wide range of sites, features, objects and beliefs. According to Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act 25 of 1999, no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **MEG Omgewingsimpakstudies** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop the project.

This HIA report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 Scope of work

The scope of work for this study consisted of:

- Conducting of a desk-top investigation of the area, in which all available literature, reports, databases and maps were studied;
- A visit to the proposed development area.

The objectives were to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

2.2 Limitations

• It must be remembered that archaeological material, by its very nature, occurs below ground level and in many cases such buried cultural remains are difficult to detect.

Table 1: Applicable category of heritage impact assessment study and report.

Type of	Aim	SAHRA	SAHRA
study		involved	response
Heritage Impact Assessment	The aim of a full HIA investigation is to provide an informed heritage-related opinion about the proposed development by an appropriate heritage specialist. The objectives are to identify heritage resources (involving site inspections, existing heritage data and additional heritage specialists if necessary); assess their significances; assess alternatives in order to promote heritage conservation issues; and to assess the acceptability of the proposed development from a heritage perspective. The result of this investigation is a heritage impact assessment report indicating the presence/ absence of heritage resources and how to manage them in the context of the proposed development. Depending on SAHRA's acceptance of this report, the developer will receive permission to proceed with the proposed development, on condition of successful implementation of proposed mitigation measures.	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	Comments on built environment and decision to approve or not Comments and decision to approve or not

3. HERITAGE RESOURCES

3.1 The National Estate

The NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) defines the heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations that must be considered part of the national estate to include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including-
 - ancestral graves;
 - royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - o graves of victims of conflict;
 - o graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - o historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including-
 - objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - ethnographic art and objects;
 - military objects;
 - objects of decorative or fine art;
 - o objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as

defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

3.2 Cultural significance

In the NHRA, Section 2 (vi), it is stated that "cultural significance" means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This is determined in relation to a site or feature's uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

According to Section 3(3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of

- its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Extent of the Study

This survey and impact assessment covers the area as presented in Section 5 and as illustrated in Figures 1 - 2.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 Preliminary investigation

4.2.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological, historical sources and heritage impact assessment reports were consulted (Couzens 2004; De Beer 1992; Lange 2006; Morris 1995; Morris & Beaumont 1991; Parsons 2007; Richardson 2001; Rudner 1953; Rudner & Rudner 1968; van Schalkwyk 2011).

 Information on the prehistory as well as the history of the area was obtained from these sources. It also produced information on the location of known heritage sites in the larger region.

4.2.1.2 Data bases

The Heritage Atlas Database, the Environmental Potential Atlas (ENPAT), the Chief Surveyor General (CS-G) and the National Archives of South Africa (NASA) were consulted.

• Database surveys produced information on a number of heritage sites located in the larger region.

4.2.1.3 Other sources

Aerial photographs and topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

• Information of a very general nature was obtained from these sources.

4.2.2 Field survey

The area that had to be investigated was identified by **MEG Omgewingsimpakstudies** by means of maps. The site was surveyed by walking a number of transects over it.

During the site visit, Mr B Lombaard, the manager of the farm, was interviewed as to the possibilities of heritage sites and features occurring in the study area.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Site location and description

The area under investigation is Portions 8 and 10 of the farm Melkstroom and Portion 1 of the Farm 563.

The geology is made up of tillite, changing to granite in the east of the study area. Tillite is a sedimentary rock, usually formed by the burial and subsequent hardening of glacial till. It is usually not material that is suitable for the making of stone tools. The morphology of the region is described lowlands with hills. The vegetation is classified as Orange River Broken Veld (ENPAT). The site borders on the Orange River.

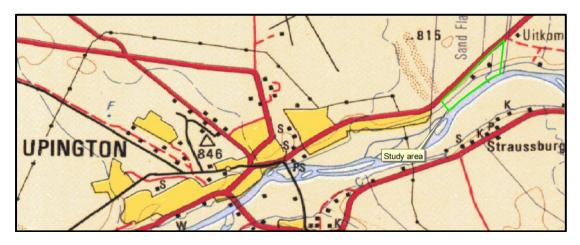


Fig. 1. Location of the study area in regional context (outlined in green). (Map 2820: Chief Surveyor-General)

The farm Melkstroom was granted by title deed to Johannes Zwarts in 1892, when the area was still known as British Bechuanaland. Large sections of the property have been subjected to farming, with vineyards occupying at least 50% of the property.

Most of the study area has been turned into vineyards. This would have had a negative impact on any heritage resources that might have existed in the area.

In addition a number of farmsteads and farming related features occur sporadically all over. Fortunately, these structures are well defined and in most cases fenced off, as well as excluded from the proposed development.



Fig. 2. Views over the site.



Fig. 3. Existing farming related structures that occur on the site.



Fig. 4. Aerial view of the study area.

5.2 Regional overview

Stone Age

Surveys done for example by Sampson (1985) to the south-east of the study area indicated a rich legacy in Stone Age sites in the Karoo. However, the region of the study area seems to have been a bit more marginal as no major sites or traditions have been identified in the region.

Occupation by early humans would probably date to the Middle Stone Age and would consist of open sites in the vicinity of stream beds or hills and outcrops. Population density might have increased during the Later Stone Age and people would have occupied rock shelters where available as well as open sites. During this later period they also produced rock engravings, although none are known from the immediate region.

Historic period

The town of Upington, originally known as Olijvenhoutsdrift, was founded in 1871 as part of a mission station by the German missionary Rev Schröder. The town was renamed in 1884

after Sir Thomas Upington, who was the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony and who visited the town in 1884.

An irrigation canal was started by Rev Schröder in 1883. It was completed in 1885. By 1884 there were already 77 irrigation farms. Nowadays, it is disputed that Schröder was the original builder of the canal, and it is claimed that he only carried on with an idea that was started by a local inhabitant by the name of Abraham September.

5.3 Heritage potential

Based on the above sources and experience in the region, the following heritage sites, features and objects are expected to occur in the proposed development area:

- Stone Age sites located near the foot of hills, with an increased likelihood if there are rock shelters in the vicinity;
- Graves dating to the Stone Age located in the vicinity of the river.

Historic period

- Houses and other structures older than 60 years;
- Farming infrastructure such as irrigation channels;
- Graves and cemeteries, both formal and informal.

5.4 Identified sites

The following cultural heritage resources were identified in the study area:

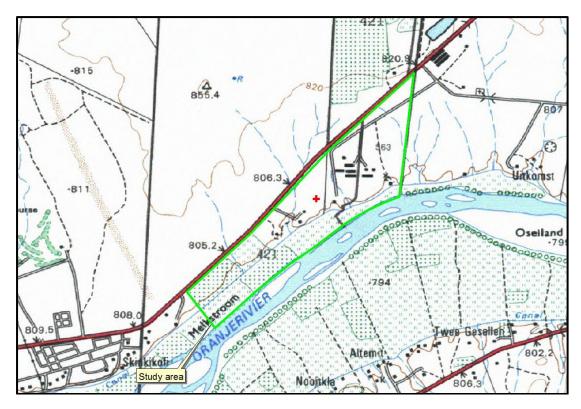


Fig. 5. The study area showing the location of the identified sites.

5.4.1 Stone Age

Archaeological sites

NHRA Catego	ory Archaeolo	gical and palaeontological sites				
Protection st	atus					
General Protection - Section 35: Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites						
Location	1	-28.42200	21.32241			
Description						
A number of stone tools, all dating to the Middle Stone Age were identified on a small ridge that occurs in the centre of the study area, where it is exposed in small flash flood stream beds. The material is mostly banded iron stone, but a few made from a dense chert-like material also occurs. Cores, flakes and unspecific tools (probably all scrapers) were identified. The high ratio of cores to other tools seems to indicate that this was a factory site where material, probably obtained from the river, was worked into tools. In contrast to the rest of the study area where no stone tools were identified, in this area it has a density of approximately 2 objects per 5 m ² . Significance Low on a regional level – Grade III Mitigation						
Significance	Low on a regi					



Fig. 6. The stone tools that were identified.

5.4 2 Iron Age

• No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

5.4.3 Historic period

 No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study areas.

6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

6.1 Heritage assessment criteria and grading

The NHRA stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I**: Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II**: Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- Grade III: Other heritage resources worthy of conservation on a local authority level.

The occurrence of sites with a Grade I significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the applicable of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

6.2 Statement of significance

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria, as set out in Sections 3(3) and 7 of the NHRA, No. 25 of 1999, were applied for each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites. Three categories of significance are recognized: low, medium and high. In terms of Section 7 of the NHRA, all the sites currently known or which are expected to occur in the study area are evaluated to have a grading as identified in the table below.

Identified heritage resources				
Category, according to NHRA	Identification/Description			
Formal protections (NHRA)				
National heritage site (Section 27)	None			
Provincial heritage site (Section 27)	None			
Provisional protection (Section 29)	None			
Place listed in heritage register (Section 30)	None			
General protections (NHRA)				
structures older than 60 years (Section 34)	None			
archaeological site or material (Section 35)	Yes			
palaeontological site or material (Section 35)	None			
graves or burial grounds (Section 36)	None			
public monuments or memorials (Section 37)	None			
Other				
Any other heritage resources (describe)	None			

Table 2. Summary of identified heritage resources in the study area.

6.3 Impact assessment

Impact analysis of cultural heritage resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development.

• A low density surface scatter of stone tools dating to the Middle Stone Age was identified in an area of approximately 30 x 30 metres square on a low hill in the centre of the study area. As this material is located on the surface it is not in primary context anymore and therefore is viewed to have a low significance. No further mitigation action is required.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural significance found within the area of the proposed development, to assess the significance thereof and to consider alternatives and plans for the mitigation of any adverse impacts.

• A low density surface scatter of stone tools dating to the Middle Stone Age was identified in an area of approximately 30 x 30 metres square on a low hill in the centre of the study area. As this material is located on the surface it is not in primary context anymore and therefore is viewed to have a low significance. No further mitigation action is required.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue. However, it is requested that should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 Data bases

Chief Surveyor General Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Heritage Atlas Database, Pretoria. National Archives of South Africa SAHRA Archaeology and Palaeontology Report Mapping Project (2009)

8.2 Literature

Acocks, J.P.H. 1975. *Veld Types of South Africa*. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No. 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

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Parsons, I. 2008. Five Later Stone Age artefact assemblages from the interior Northern Cape province. *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 63(187):51-60.

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Rudner, J. & Rudner, I. 1968. Rock-art in the Thirstland areas. South African Archaeological Bulletin 23:75-89.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2011. Heritage impact assessment report for the proposed establishment of the Inca Solar PV Power Plant, Kakamas region, Northern Cape Province. Unpublished report 2011/JvS/030.

Wilson, M.G.C. & Anhaeusser, C.R. 1998. *The Mineral Resources of South Africa*. Sixth Edition. Handbook 16. Pretoria: Council for Geosciences.

8.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps: 2821DB Google Earth

8.4 Interviews

Mr B Lombaard, manager of the farm.

APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

Significance

According to the NHRA, Section 2(vi) the **significance** of heritage sites and artefacts is determined by it aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Matrix used for assessing the significance of each identified site/feature

1. Historic value				
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history				
Does it have strong or special association with the life or wor	Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group			
or organisation of importance in history				
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery				
2. Aesthetic value				
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group				
3. Scientific value				
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute of natural or cultural heritage	to an unde	erstanding		
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or te at a particular period	chnical acl	hievement		
4. Social value				
Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural				
group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons				
5. Rarity				
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of	of natural of	or cultural		
heritage				
6. Representivity				
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of				
natural or cultural places or objects				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes				
or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics				
(including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use		design or		
technique) in the environment of the nation, province, region of		T	-	
7. Sphere of Significance	High	Medium	Low	
International				
National				
Provincial				
Regional				
Local				
Specific community				
8. Significance rating of feature				
1. Low				
2. Medium				
3. High				

APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

All archaeological and palaeontological sites and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

(a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;

(b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological 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 palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and reinterment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.