

**CULTURAL HERITAGE STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED WITFIELD  
STORMWATER NETWORK, EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY,  
GAUTENG PROVINCE**

**Report No:** 2016/JvS/055  
**Status:** Final  
**Revision No:** 0  
**Date:** June 2016

**Prepared for:**

Delta Built Environment Consultants  
Representative: Ms J Steyn

Postal Address: 320 The Hillside Road, Rynlal Building, Lynnwood, 0180  
Tel: 084 735 6221  
E-mail: jana.steyn@delabec.com

**Prepared by:**

J van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil), Heritage Consultant  
ASAPA Registration No.: 164  
Principal Investigator: Iron Age, Colonial Period, Industrial Heritage

Postal Address: 62 Coetzer Avenue, Monument Park, 0181  
Mobile: 076 790 6777  
Fax: 086 611 3902  
E-mail: jvschalkwyk@mweb.co.za

**Copy Right:**

This report is confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed or to whom it was meant to be addressed. It is provided solely for the purposes set out in it and may not, in whole or in part, be used for any other purpose or by a third party, without the author's prior written consent.

**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, for which a fair numeration is charged.



J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)  
Heritage Consultant  
June 2016

## 1. Introduction

Delta Built Environment Consultants was appointed by Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) for the design, EIA, procurement, and construction supervision in order to improve the current stormwater management in the Witfield area.

According to the Preliminary Design Report compiled by Messrs Bigen Africa, the houses located in the Witfield area are prone to flooding. A preliminary design report was compiled with proposals to mitigate the effects of the flooding, as well as cost estimates for the different designs. The report further states that houses were permitted to be built over an existing stormwater culvert, which subsequently resulted in flooding.

The Witfield Dam is located towards the south east of the drainage area and currently the aim is to reroute all the stormwater into the dam to serve as an attenuation facility (Fig. 1 below).



Fig. 1. Layout of the proposed development.

## 2. Terms of reference

In accordance with Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), No. 25 of 1999, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by Delta Built Environment Consultants to conduct a desktop heritage assessment to determine if the proposed development would have an impact on any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance. This 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) as amended and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

This includes:

- Conducting a desk-top investigation of the area.

The objectives were to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development areas;
- 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.

The investigation has been influenced by the following factors:

- It is assumed that the description of the proposed project, provided by the client, is accurate.
- No site visit was undertaken.
- It is assumed that the public consultation process undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is sufficient and that it does not have to be repeated as part of the heritage impact assessment.
- The unpredictability of buried archaeological remains.
- This report does not consider the palaeontological potential of the site.

### 3. Location of the study area and review of the region

The study area is located in the Witfield region of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. It is approximately 5km northeast of the centre of Germiston and roughly a similar distance northwest of Boksburg (Fig. 1).

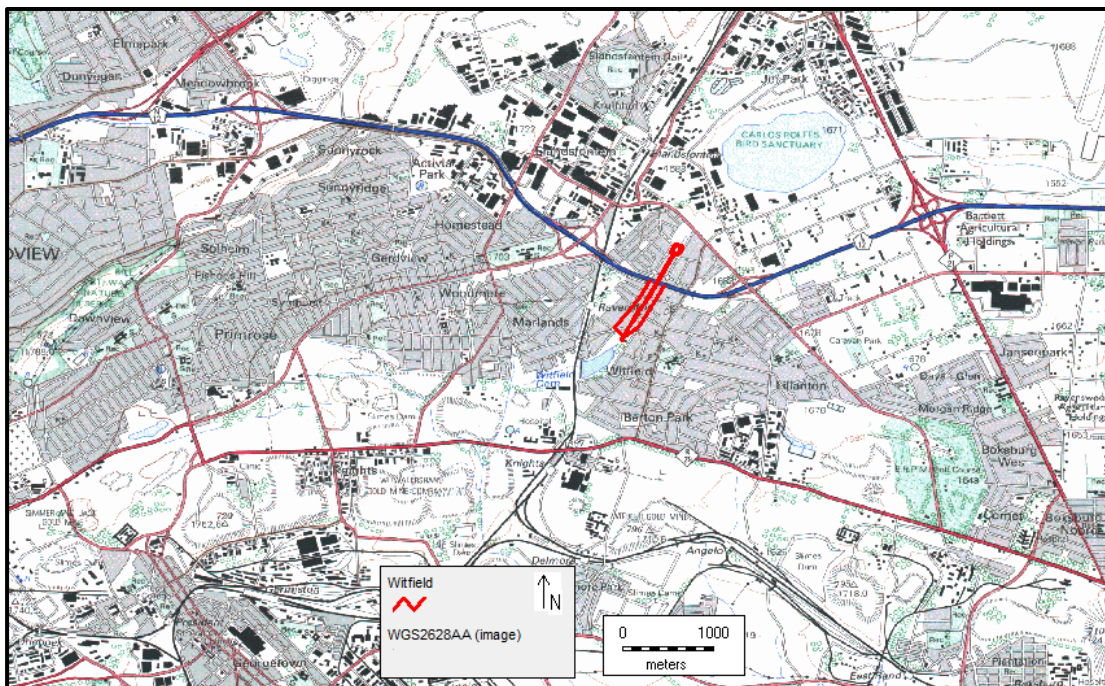


Fig. 1. Location of the proposed development in regional context.

The study area is located in a highly urbanised region of the East Rand. In the past it was largely used for agricultural purposes, as can be determined from the 1939 version of the 1:50 000 version of the topocadastral map (Fig. 2). As the need for housing increased, these farming activities were replaced. This phenomenon happened in the past fifty years. Therefore most of the built fabric, date from this period. The result was that any historic farmsteads older than 60 years that may have existed have either disappeared or have been 'upgraded'.

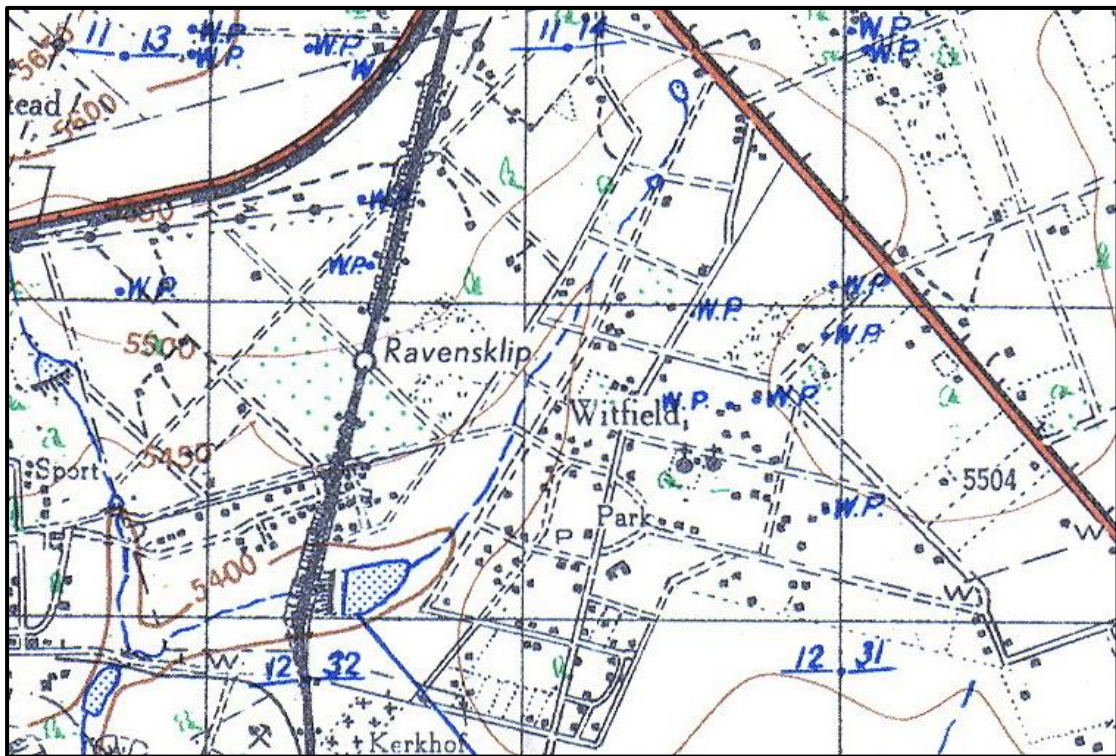


Fig. 2. The 1939 version of the topocadastral map.

The town of Germiston was laid out in 1887 on the farm Elandsfontein, and was known by that name until 1904, when it was officially renamed Germiston after a farm near Glasgow in Scotland, birthplace of John Jack, a gold-mining pioneer. It has the largest railway junction in South Africa (Raper 2007). Some of the mines in the region are/were Knights, Rose Deep and Wits Deep Gold Mine

On 15 October 1886 Pieter JJD Kilian informed the Transvaal State Secretary that he had discovered a profitable gold-reef on the farm Vogelfontein (which was state property) and on 9 February 1887 it was declared public diggings together with the adjoining farm Leeuwpoort. The proclamation came into force on 21 March 1887, which can be regarded as the founding day of Boksburg, named after the then State Secretary, WE Bok. Prospectors poured in as seekers after gold began crowding in tents. In 1887 the first 547 building plots were sold. After Johannesburg Boksburg is the oldest town on the Witwatersrand (Praagh 1906).



Fig. 3. The dense urban development in the region.

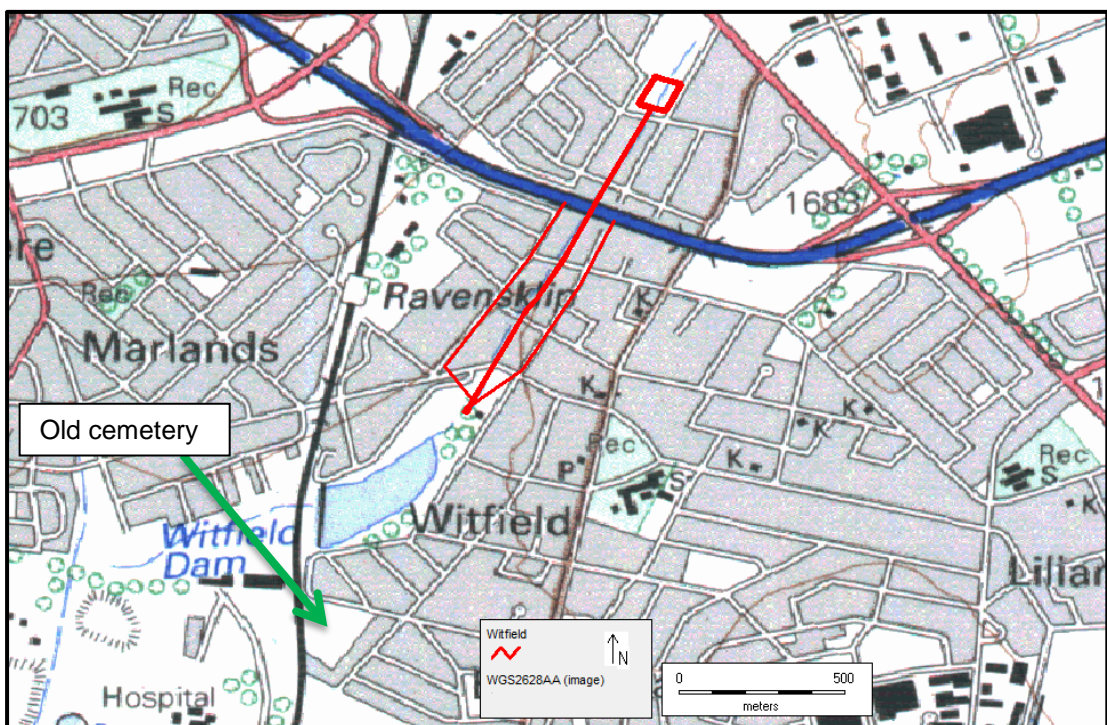


Fig. 4. Layout of the proposed development.

The only known site of cultural heritage significance in the larger region is an old cemetery in Abrahamson Road, approximately 750 m southwest of the southern end of the proposed development (Fig. 4) (see Schoeman & van Doornum 2001).

#### **4. Summary and recommendations**

From the above it can be determined that:

- The area has a low possibility for heritage sites, especially dating to the pre-colonial era.
- As a result of the dense urbanisation and the fact that houses were built over the canal, any heritage sites or features that might have occurred here in the past, would have been destroyed.

##### Impact assessment:

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

- It is my opinion that there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development of the stormwater network and as such I request SAHRA for granting of exemption from doing a HIA for the site.

##### Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should be authorised:

- From a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue, on condition of acceptance of the mitigation measures presented below.

##### Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation:

- Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction activities, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

## 5. Reference

### 5.1 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)

### 5.2 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.

Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1998. *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika: die vier noordelike provinsies*. Pretoria: J.L. Schaik.

Praagh, L.V. (ed.) 1906. *The Transvaal and its mines*. London: Praagh & Lloyd.

Raper, P.E. 2004. *South African place names*. Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Richardson, D. 2001. *Historic sites of South Africa*. Cape Town: Struik Publishers.

Schoeman, M.H. & Van Doornum, B. 2001. *Archaeological Assessment of the Abrahamson Cemetery, Boksburg*. Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand.

SRK Consulting, 2003. *State of the environment report: Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality*.

### 5.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps  
Google Earth

**APPENDIX 1: INDEMNITY AND TERMS OF USE OF THIS REPORT**

The findings, results, conclusions and recommendations given in this report are based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information. The report is based on survey and assessment techniques which are limited by time and budgetary constraints relevant to the type and level of investigation undertaken and the author reserve the right to modify aspects of the report including the recommendations if and when new information may become available from ongoing research or further work in this field, or pertaining to this investigation.

Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. The author of this report will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

Although the author exercises due care and diligence in rendering services and preparing documents, he accepts no liability and the client, by receiving this document, indemnifies the author against all actions, claims, demands, losses, liabilities, costs, damages and expenses arising from or in connection with services rendered, directly or indirectly by the author and by the use of the information contained in this document.

This report must not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the author. This also refers to electronic copies of this report which are supplied for the purposes of inclusion as part of other reports, including main reports. Similarly, any recommendations, statements or conclusions drawn from or based on this report must make reference to this report. If these form part of a main report relating to this investigation or report, this report must be included in its entirety as an appendix or separate section to the main report.



## 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 re-interment 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.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) 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, and which prescribes heritage resources assessment criteria, consistent with the criteria set out in section 3(3), which must be used by a heritage resources authority or a local authority to assess the intrinsic, comparative and contextual significance of a heritage resource and the relative benefits and costs of its protection, so that the appropriate level of grading of the resource and the consequent responsibility for its management may be allocated in terms of section 8.

Presenting archaeological sites as part of tourism attraction requires, in terms 44 of the Act, a Conservation Management Plan as well as a permit from SAHRA.

(1) Heritage resources authorities and local authorities must, wherever appropriate, co-ordinate and promote the presentation and use of places of cultural significance and heritage resources which form part of the national estate and for which they are responsible in terms of section 5 for public enjoyment, education, research and tourism, including-

- (a) the erection of explanatory plaques and interpretive facilities, including interpretive centres and visitor facilities;
- (b) the training and provision of guides;
- (c) the mounting of exhibitions;
- (d) the erection of memorials; and
- (e) any other means necessary for the effective presentation of the national estate.

(2) Where a heritage resource which is formally protected in terms of Part I of this Chapter is to be presented, the person wishing to undertake such presentation must, at least 60 days prior to the institution of interpretive measures or manufacture of associated material, consult with the heritage resources authority which is responsible for the protection of such heritage resource regarding the contents of interpretive material or programmes.

(3) A person may only erect a plaque or other permanent display or structure associated with such presentation in the vicinity of a place protected in terms of this Act in consultation with the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of the place.

**APPENDIX 3. SPECIALIST COMPETENCY**Johan (Johnny) van Schalkwyk

J A van Schalkwyk, D Litt et Phil, heritage consultant, has been working in the field of heritage management for more than 30 years. Based at the National Museum of Cultural History, Pretoria, he has actively done research in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, museology, tourism and impact assessment. This work was done in Limpopo Province, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland. Based on this work, he has curated various exhibitions at different museums and has published more than 60 papers, many in scientifically accredited journals. During this period he has done more than 2000 impact assessments (archaeological, anthropological, historical and social) for various government departments and developers. Projects include environmental management frameworks, road-, pipeline-, and power line developments, dams, mining, water purification works, historical landscapes, refuse dumps and urban developments.