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Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: (Portion of) Bellsbank Farm  
85, Barkley-West District, Northern Cape, South Africa

2005-05-25



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McGREGOR MUSEUM, KIMBERLEY

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# Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: (Portion of) Bellsbank Farm 85, Barkley-West District, Northern Cape, South Africa

Report to –  
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(No 25 of 1999)

For the Attention of –

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## 1) Project Brief

The Archaeology Department, McGregor Museum, CRM Unit, was contacted by the developer, Free State Diamond Mines (Pty) Ltd, to conduct a Phase 1 Cultural Resources Management (CRM) impact assessment for the reworking of an old mine dump. The impact assessment was requested in compliance with requirements as set out in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002, represented by the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) and the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999, represented by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

The proposed development is situated in the dolomite rich area atop the Ghaap plateau, on the property Bellsbank Farm 85, in the Barkley-West District of the Northern Cape, South Africa. The assessment was not restricted to the 1.5 ha dump, other dumps and areas of envisioned future operations / impact were also inspected.

This document reports on the findings of the assessment.

## 2) Methodology

One McGregor Museum CRM Unit staff member visited the site on 2005-05-22. The assessment was limited to a Phase 1 surface survey. No excavation or subsurface testing was done since a permit from SAHRA is required to do so. GPS co-ordinates were taken with a Garmin e-trex vista GPS (5-7 m error margin). Photographic documentation was done with a Casio exilim EX-S2 camera.

In accordance with current legislation no development had started prior to the CRM impact assessment.

## 3) Location and Surface Observations

### LOCATION & MINING OPERATIONS:

The area intended for development, under the current DME application [NC 30/5/1/3/2/100 MP] can be described as a 1.5 ha mine dump situated on Bellsbank Farm 85, Barkley-West, Northern Cape, South Africa (1:50 000; 2824 AB Bellsbank). Additional envisioned operations will involve approximately 8 other dumps (situated on the same property) to be reworked in future.

Dump material will be reworked through an existing plant after which material will be re-deposited on a selected area of the property. All existing dump areas will be rehabilitated. Work under the current DME application and envisioned future operations will make use of the existing road system. No additional accommodation or facilities will need to be erected for the proposed work.

### HISTORY OF MINING IN THE AREA:

Former mining operations, dating from the 1950's, and thereafter again from the 1970's and 80's, involved sub-surface excavation, reworking of old dumps and crushing of dump material into approximately 0.5x1 cm and larger flakes / rubble. No records are available to relate specific surface dump material to particular sub-surface mining localities.

The existing road network is built from / supported by crushed dump rubble. Accommodation and other facilities were erected during the various periods of development.

### SURVEY, OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION:

#### 1) THE 1.5 ha DUMP [NC 30/5/1/3/2/100 MP].

The dump, roughly 1.5 ha in extent and 1.5-2 m high, is situated at approximately S 28°04'28.2" & E 24°23'48.0" (Image 1). Material can be described as finely crushed (0.5x1 cm and larger) by former mining operations (Image 2). A few flakes, probably dating to the latter part of the Middle Stone Age (MSA), were recovered from the dump (Image 3).

MSA flakes on the dump testify to the fact that former mining operations must have went through an archaeological deposit. However, neither the extent nor the location of this deposit has been documented and the majority of the material has been crushed to fine pieces (together with non-artefactual material). The few identified pieces are in themselves of no scientific / heritage value. I would not recommend a recovery / mitigation program; former crushing left, what might remain artefactually in the dump and any conclusion drawn thereof, biased and without proximity.

#### 2) DUMP, PLANT and SILT DAMS COMPLEX

The complex is situated at approximately S 28°04'35.3" & E 24°23'58.8" and comprises a large dump (Image 4), the plant through which dump material will be reworked under the current DME and envisioned future development applications, two silt dams (Image 5), foundations of an old hostel (Image 6) and a relatively extensive network of access roads.

A surface survey of the dump and access road network brought a few MSA artefacts to the fore. Artefacts were, as in the 1.5 ha dump, discovered in small quantities and between finely crushed material. The artefacts are of no scientific / heritage value, and I would not recommend formal conservation or a recovery / mitigation program as this would add little value to their presence.

Cement foundations of an old hostel (H1), dating to the 1970's / 80's, is still clearly visible. The present DME application will not impact on the foundations. To date it is unclear if proposed future development will. Foundations are not older than 60 years and thus not protected by the Act (NHRA, 1999). (In the event of future development impacting on the site, the developer need not apply to SAHRA for a destruction permit prior to destruction of / impact on the site.) Scattered associated and later material was observed in the area; including metal remains such as wire, tins and cans, rusted drum pieces, remains from vehicle seating etc. The remains do not comprise a 'site' as defined in the Act. Remains are not older than 100 years, thus not protected by the Act. Furthermore they will not add value to any culturally important period of the past as defined in the Act. I would not recommend any conservation / mitigation program for these remains.

### 3) RE-DEPOSITION SITE

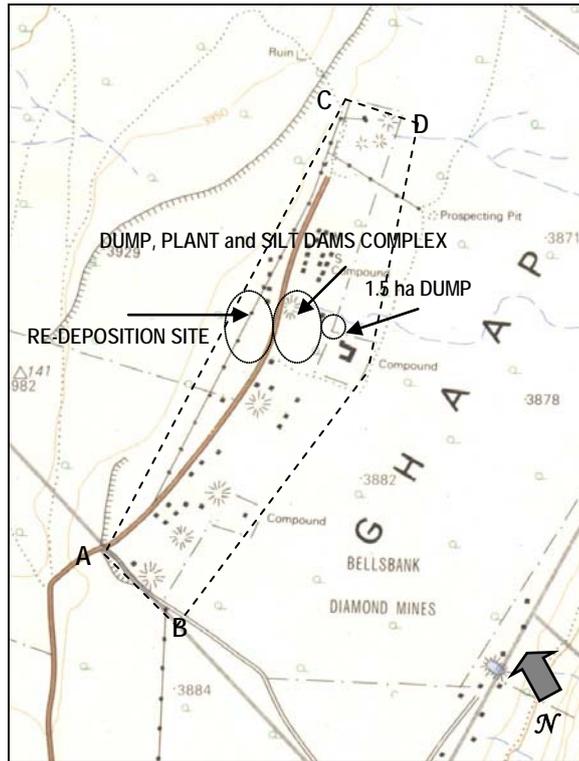
All dump material, after having been reworked (under the current and envisioned future development applications), are to be re-deposited at a site located to the north, north-west of the dump, plant and silt dams complex. The surface area of this deposition site is partly intact, partly covered by former silt-wash (Image 7).

A few MSA flakes were observed at dolomite outcrops in the area, on average 1-2 flakes / 5 m<sup>2</sup>. Artefacts (dating to the earlier part of the MSA) were observed in a disturbed access road context between finely crushed rubble (Image 8). Earthenware (Image 9) and glass scatters, of singular or small collections (< 15) of containers, testify to the recent mining history of the area. Pre-historic and historic remains can be described as 'findplaces', rather than 'sites' and I do not recommend any mitigation as this will add little value to our understanding of the past.

A historic building and outbuildings (H2) (Image 10-12) dating to the 1970's / 80's mining operation is located at approximately S 28°04'37.7" & E 24°24'06.4". The building is constructed of cement and stone. Ruined remains of the outbuildings indicate that these were constructed primarily by stone. Current and proposed future re-deposition may well impact on the remains, probably resulting in total destruction of the complex. The historic building and outbuildings are not older than 60 years and thus not protected by the Act. Their conservation will not further our understanding of any culturally significant period of the past as defined in the Act. The developer need not apply for a destruction permit from SAHRA prior to destruction of, or re-deposition activities impacting on the site.

Development section	Recorded sites / findplaces / features	Image nr	Co-ordinates	
			South	East
Property Co-ordinates:				
A			S 28°05'15.3"	E 24°23'06.4"
B			S 28°05'30.9"	E 24°23'25.4"
C			S 28°03'43.9"	E 24°24'00.9"
D			S 28°03'47.3"	E 24°24'14.8"
GPS co-ordinates courtesy the Developer				
1.5 ha Dump			S 28°04'28.2"	E 24°23'48.0"
	MSA artefacts	Image 3		
Dump, Plant & Silt Dams Complex			S 28°04'35.3"	E 24°23'58.8"
	Dump	Image 4		
	Silt dam	Image 5		
	Hostel foundations (H1)	Image 6		
Re-deposition site				
	MSA artefacts	Image 8	S 28°04'38.1"	E 24°24'04.4"
	Earthenware findplace	Image 9		
	Building & outbuildings (H2)	Image 10-12	S 28°04'37.7"	E 24°24'06.4"

TABLE 1: GPS co-ordinates of the proposed development area, identified and associated sites and features



MAP 1: Extract of the 1:50 000 2824 AB Bellsbank map

#### 4) Image Gallery



IMAGE 1: The 1.5 ha dump



IMAGE 2: Finely crushed dump rubble



IMAGE 3: MSA artefacts from the 1.5 ha dump



IMAGE 4: Large dump from the dump, plant and silt dams complex



IMAGE 5: Silt dam from the dump, plant and silt dams complex



IMAGE 6: Hostel foundations from the dump, plant and silt dams complex



IMAGE 7: Silt-wash over the re-deposition site

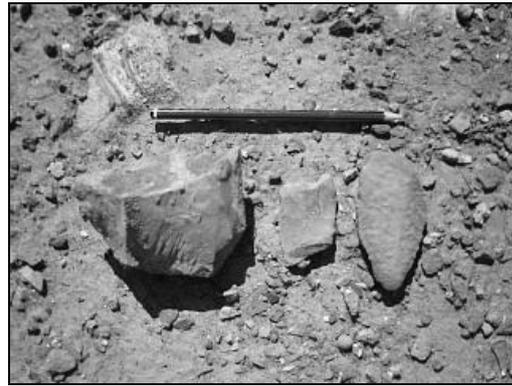


IMAGE 8: MSA artefacts in from a disturbed access road context in the re-deposition area



IMAGE 9: Earthenware findplace in the re-deposition area



IMAGE 10: Historic building site at the re-deposition area



IMAGE 11 & 12: Rectangular shaped outbuildings associated with the historic building site at the re-deposition area

## 5) Conclusion and Recommendations

A Phase 1 CRM impact assessment of the 1.5 ha mine dump, the dump, plant and silt dams complex and the re-deposition site indicated that both the Historical and Stone Age period is represented, either in a non-significant or disturbed context.

**HISTORICAL FINDS:** Historical structures and artefacts were identified at the dump, plant and silt dams complex and the re-deposition site. Structures and artefacts are not older than 60 and 100 years respectively and thus not protected by the Act. Neither will their conservation / mitigation add value to our understanding of a culturally significant period of the past as defined in the Act. The developer need not apply for destruction permits prior to destruction of, or impact on sites H1 and H2.

**LITHIC FINDS:** MSA artefacts were discovered at the 1.5 ha dump site, the dump, plant and silt dams complex and the re-deposition site. Former mining activities involved large-scale moving and crushing of lithic material (artefactual and non-artefactual) into fine rubble constituting the present day mine dumps. The few identified artefacts are thus interpreted as 'survivors' from the former mining operations. Neither their presence nor localities have the ability to add scientific / cultural heritage value to our understanding of the past. From their presence we can however conclude that (at least) the MSA was represented in the broad geographical area of former mining operations.

Seven other mine dumps are present on the property all of which resulted from the same mining procedure as those inspected during the survey. It would thus be reasonable to infer that artefactual material might well be present in them. However, such material would have lost their context, proximity and association with the related assemblage and would be of little scientific / heritage value. I would recommend that proposed future reworking of these dumps continue without being reassessed by a CRM practitioner.

Access to the re-deposition site, for the currently applied for and envisioned future operations, will be via an existing road network. Roads are supported / built with crushed mine rubble making artefactual occurrences therein inevitable. I would recommend that existing roads be used and where upgrades are necessary required material be taken from existing mine rubble. Any new quarry site or any area where new roads or re-routed roads need to be built will have to be inspected, prior to development, by a CRM practitioner.

*The proposed development, namely the reworking of the 1.5 ha mine dump (and envisioned future reworking of the dump, plant and silt dams area and additional 7 dump sites), at the existing plant site and the deposition of reworked material on the re-deposition site will not impact on any heritage resources as defined in the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999.*

The developer may contact Mary Leslie, SAHRA, in due time to enquire about the outcome of the report.

**NOTE:** Cultural heritage management is an integrated specialist sub-section of environmental management. An exemption / no objections reply from SAHRA do not exempt the developer from compliance with other environmental requirements.

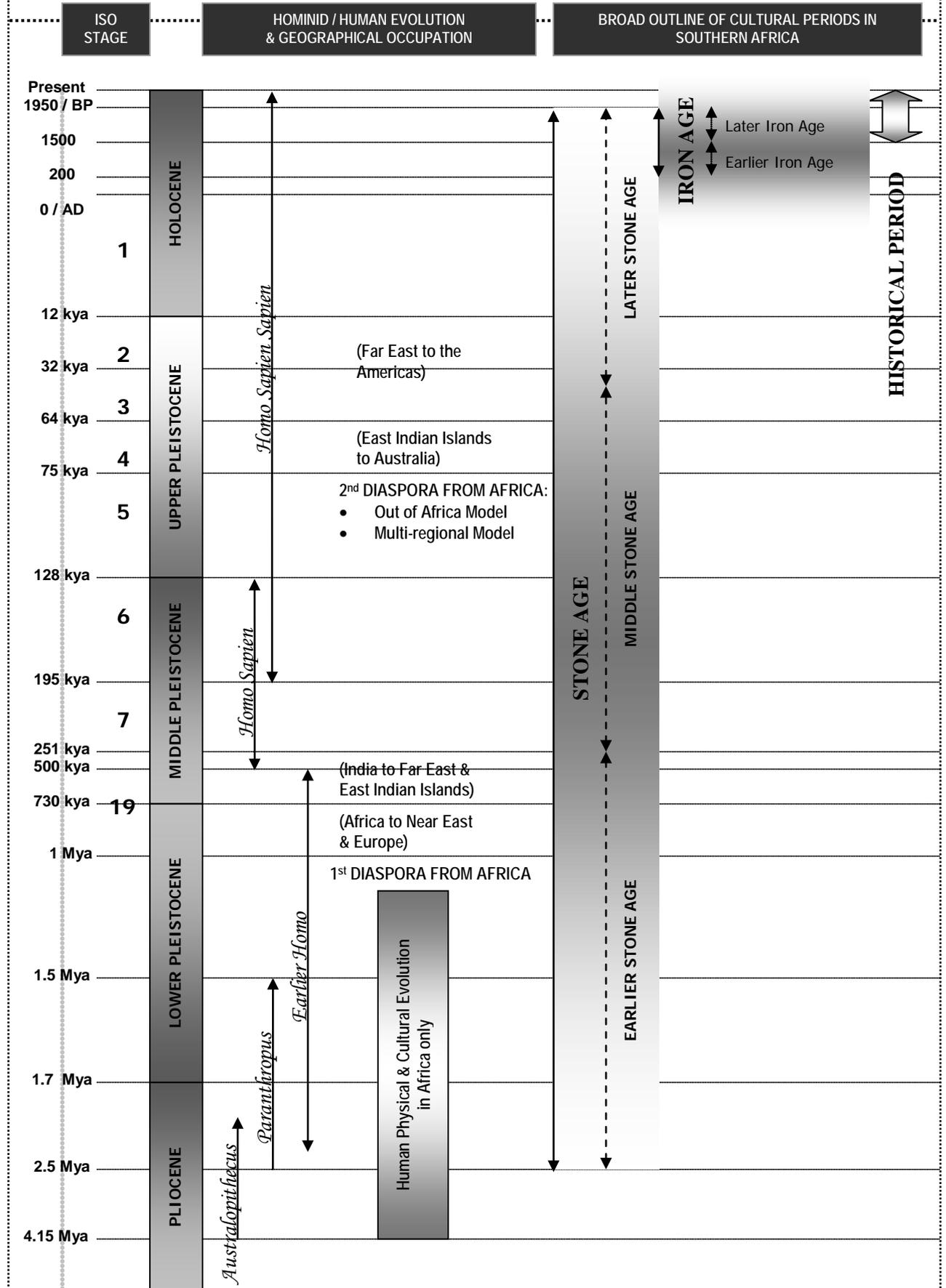
In accordance with the Act, the developer should report any *in situ* artefacts / sites, discovered during the course of development, immediately to SAHRA or an ASAPA accredited CRM specialist.

## 5) Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Gert van Niekerk and Marcy Churchouse (Free State Diamond Mines) for the provision of information, maps and orthophotos. A further word of thanks to Tsholofelo Chinkuli (McGregor Museum, Rock Art) for assisting me with the survey.

McGregor Museum, Department of Archaeology, CRM Unit		
Name	Designation	ASAPA Accreditation
David Morris	Head of Archaeology	Principal Investigator
Karen van Ryneveld	Archaeologist	Field Director
Elizabeth Voigt	Archaeologist	N/A

## Schematic Outline of the Pre-historic and Historic Periods



## National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)

### DEFINITIONS

#### Section 2

In this Act, unless the context requires otherwise:

- ii. *"Archaeological"* means –
  - a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
  - b) rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10 m of such representation;
  - c) wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic, ... and any cargo, debris, or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation.
- viii. *"Development"* means any physical intervention, excavation or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of a heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including –
  - a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or structure at a place;
  - b) carrying out any works on or over or under a place;
  - c) subdivision or consolidation of land comprising, a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;
  - d) constructing or putting up for display signs or hoardings;
  - e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and
  - f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;
- xiii. *"Grave"* means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place;
- xxi. *"Living heritage"* means the intangible aspects of inherited culture, and may include –
  - a) cultural tradition;
  - b) oral history;
  - c) performance;
  - d) ritual;
  - e) popular memory;
  - f) skills and techniques;
  - g) indigenous knowledge systems; and
  - h) the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships.
- xxxi. *"Palaeontological"* means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trances;
- xli. *"Site"* means any area of land, including land covered by water, and including any structures or objects thereon;
- xliv. *"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;

### NATIONAL ESTATE

#### Section 3

- 1) For the purposes of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection 1), the national estate may include –
  - 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 natural features of cultural significance;
  - e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
  - f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
  - g) graves and burial grounds, including –
    - i. ancestral graves;
    - ii. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
    - iii. graves of victims of conflict
    - iv. graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
    - v. historical graves and cemeteries; and

- vi. other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No 65 of 1983)
- h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- i) movable objects, including –
  - i. objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - ii. objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - iii. ethnographic art and objects;
  - iv. military objects;
  - v. objects of decorative or fine art;
  - vi. objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - vii. 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 1xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No 43 of 1996).

## STRUCTURES

### Section 34

- 1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

## ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY AND METEORITES

### Section 35

- 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 assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- 5) When the responsible heritage resources authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or palaeontological site is under way, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resources management procedure in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may –
  - a) serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order;
  - b) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not an archaeological or palaeontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
  - c) if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection 4); and
  - d) recover the costs of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or palaeontological site is located or from the person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two weeks of the order being served.
- 6) The responsible heritage resources authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or palaeontological site or meteorite is situated, serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or meteorite.

## BURIAL GROUNDS AND GRAVES

### Section 36

- 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 of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection 3a) 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.
- 5) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection 3b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority –
    - a) made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and
    - b) reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such grave or burial ground.
  - 6) Subject to the provision of any other law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority –
    - a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
    - b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangements as it deems fit.

## HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

### Section 38

- 1) Subject to the provisions of subsections 7), 8) and 9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as –
  - a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
  - b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length;
  - c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site –
    - i. exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
    - ii. involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
    - iii. involving three or more erven or subdivisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
    - iv. the costs which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
  - d) the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
  - e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority,

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

- 2) The responsible heritage resources authority must, within 14 days of receipt of a notification in terms of subsection 1) –
  - a) if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected by such development, notify the person who intends to undertake the development to submit an impact assessment report. Such report must be compiled at the cost of the person proposing the development, by a person or persons approved by the responsible heritage resources authority with relevant qualifications and experience and professional standing in heritage resources management; or
  - b) notify the person concerned that this section does not apply.
- 3) The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection 2a) ...
- 4) The report must be considered timeously by the responsible heritage resources authority which must, after consultation with the person proposing the development decide –
  - a) whether or not the development may proceed;
  - b) any limitations or conditions to be applied to the development;
  - c) what general protections in terms of this Act apply, and what formal protections may be applied, to such heritage resources;
  - d) whether compensatory action is required in respect of any heritage resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the development; and
  - e) whether the appointment of specialists is required as a condition of approval of the proposal.

## APPOINTMENT AND POWERS OF HERITAGE INSPECTORS

### Section 50

- 7) Subject to the provision of any other law, a heritage inspector or any other person authorised by a heritage resources authority in writing, may at all reasonable times enter upon any land or premises for the purpose of inspecting any heritage resource protected in terms of the provisions of this Act, or any other property in respect of which the heritage resources authority is exercising its functions and powers in terms of this Act, and may take

photographs, make measurements and sketches and use any other means of recording information necessary for the purposes of this Act.

- 8) A heritage inspector may at any time inspect work being done under a permit issued in terms of this Act and may for that purpose at all reasonable times enter any place protected in terms of this Act.
- 9) Where a heritage inspector has reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence in terms of this Act has been, is being, or is about to be committed, the heritage inspector may with such assistance as he or she thinks necessary –
  - a) enter and search any place, premises, vehicle, vessel or craft, and for that purpose stop and detain any vehicle, vessel or craft, in or on which the heritage inspector believes, on reasonable grounds, there is evidence related to that offence;
  - b) confiscate and detain any heritage resource or evidence concerned with the commission of the offence pending any further order from the responsible heritage resources authority; and
  - c) take such action as is reasonably necessary to prevent the commission of an offence in terms of this Act.
- 10) A heritage inspector may, if there is reason to believe that any work is being done or any action is being taken in contravention of this Act or the conditions of a permit issued in terms of this Act, order the immediate cessation of such work or action pending any further order from the responsible heritage resources authority.