

A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HISTORICAL GRAVES, GAMKA WILDERNESS RESERVE, LITTLE KAROO

Prepared for

Withers Environmental Consultants

May 2006



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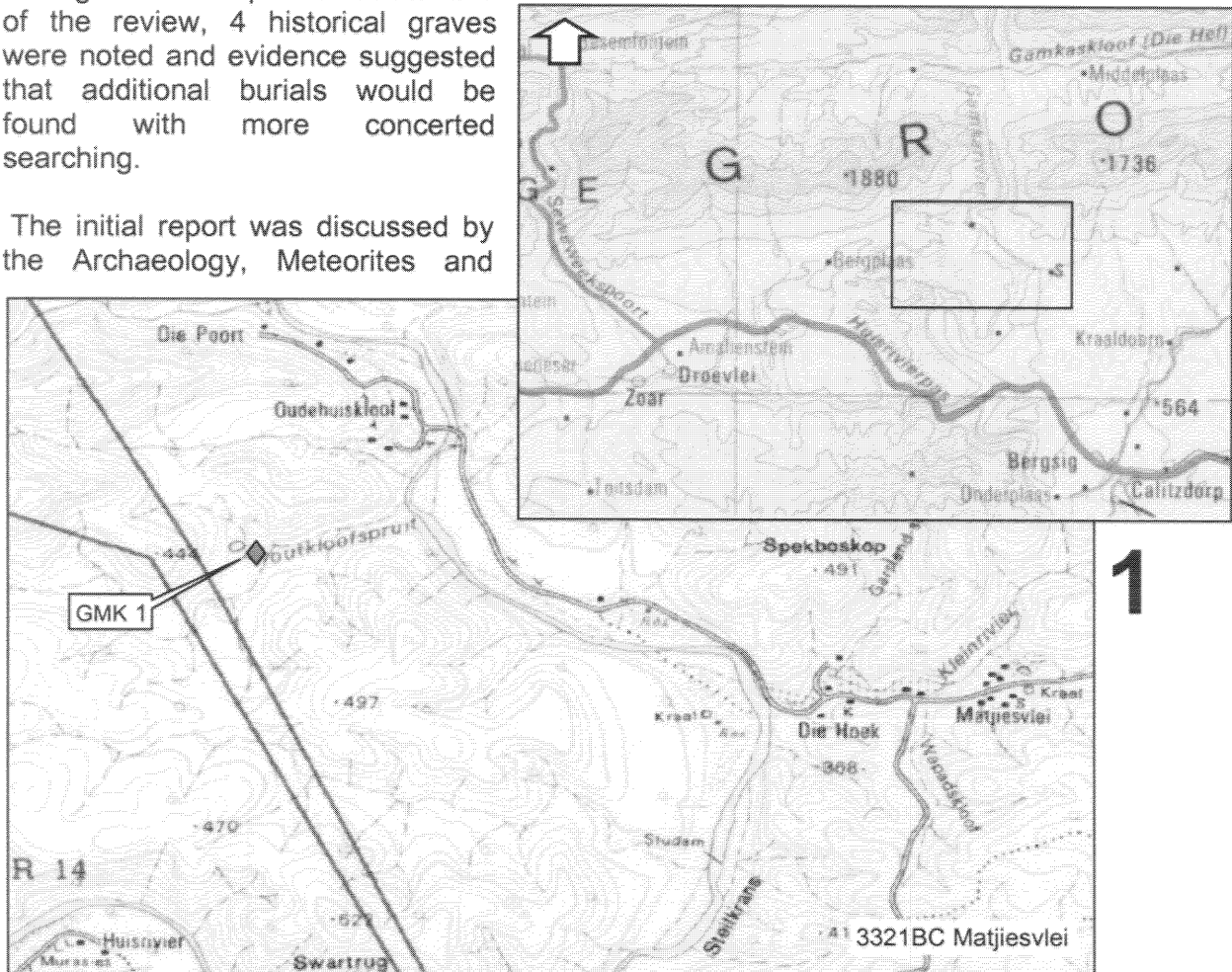
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1. INTRODUCTION

An Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development on the farm Huisrivier, (Figure 1) was undertaken by the Agency for Cultural Resource Management in April 2005¹ and the mitigation suggested in that report was reviewed by the ACO in February 2006². During the site inspection at the time of the review, 4 historical graves were noted and evidence suggested that additional burials would be found with more concerted searching.

The initial report was discussed by the Archaeology, Meteorites and



Mapping information supplied by: Chief Directorate Surveys and Mapping. Website: w3sli.wcape.gov.za

Palaeontology Committee of the Western Cape provincial heritage resources authority, Heritage Western Cape (HWC), at a meeting on the 7th June 2005, and a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on 10th June 2005.³ The presence of the graves and the re-assessment of GMK 1 meant that the original ROD was inaccurate and was updated and re-issued on 5th April 2006⁴.

The main concern of this report is the management of the graves and the archaeological site in the vicinity of development.

¹ Kaplan, J. 2005. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed Gamka Private Wilderness Reserve, Calitzdorp. Prepared for Withers Environmental Consultants by Agency for Cultural Resource Management, Riebeek West.

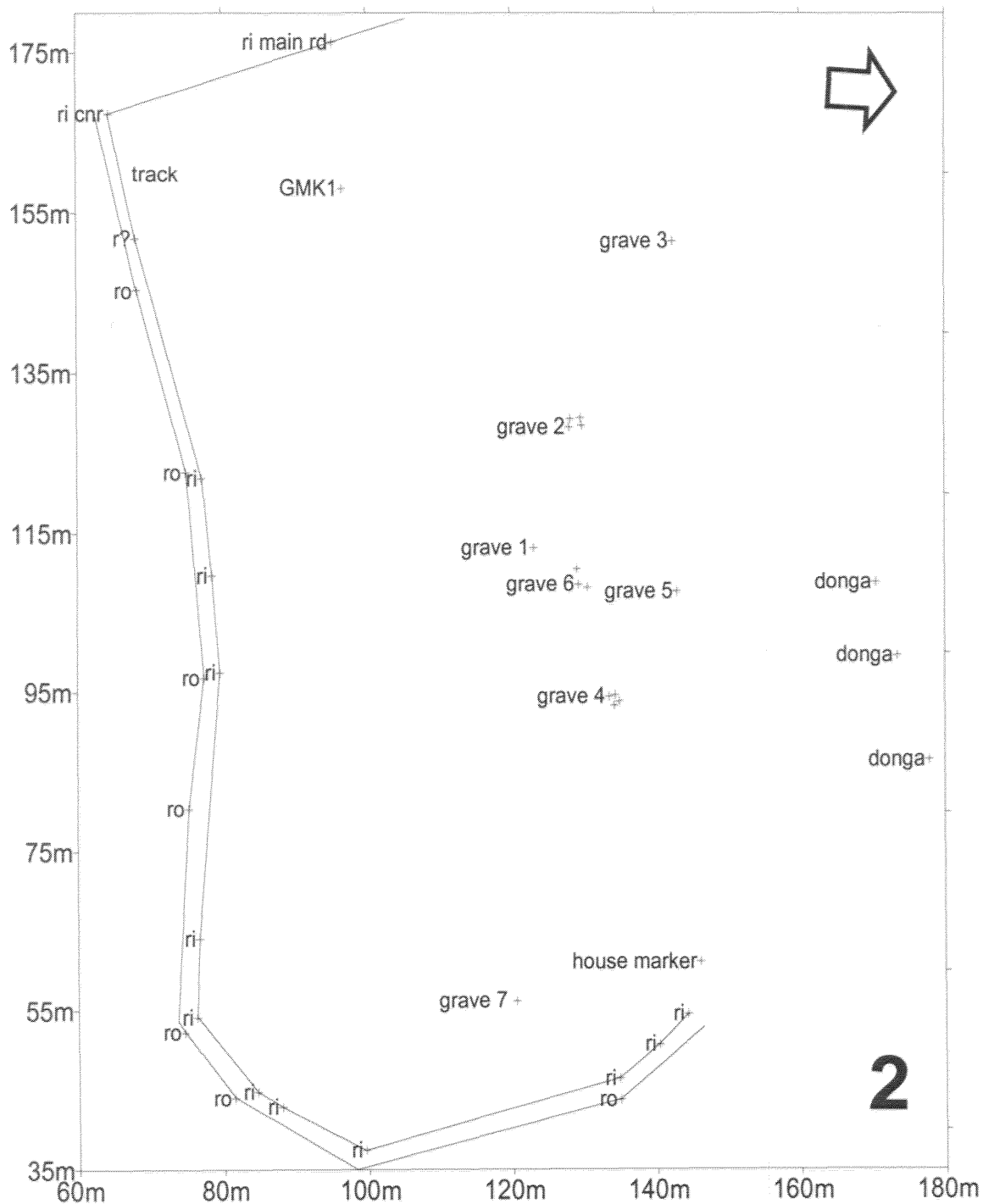
² Halkett, D. 2006. A re-evaluation of proposed mitigation of the site GMK 1, Gamka Wilderness Reserve, Little Karoo. Unpublished report prepared for Withers Environmental Consultants. Archaeology Contracts Office.

³ HWC ref. no. C13/3/6/2/1/1/1/C15

⁴ The ROD reference number has remained the same.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The archaeological site GMK1 and at least seven graves lie on a sediment fan at the head of the Houtkloofspruit ravine. The surveyed positions of these graves and other aspects of the site are shown in Figure 2. Photographs of the various features are presented at the back of the report.



2.1 Graves

The location of graves at this site is not unexpected since silt deposits (outwash fans) at the junctions of rivers have often been used for this purpose in the past. These locations provide a depth of soft deposit whereas the surrounding landscape is rocky and hard. Graves are marked by accumulations of large stones. Erosion over time has caused the stone mounds to become dispersed so that they sometimes have become almost unrecognisable. Graves are found at the following locations -

Grave 1: 33° 26' 26.1" S 21° 36' 48.8" E
Grave 2: 33° 26' 25.9" S 21° 36' 48.1" E
Grave 3: 33° 26' 25.3" S 21° 36' 47.4" E
Grave 4: 33° 26' 25.8" S 21° 36' 49.5" E
Grave 5: 33° 26' 25.6" S 21° 36' 49.0" E
Grave 6: 33° 26' 26.0" S 21° 36' 48.9" E
Grave 7: 33° 26' 26.6" S 21° 36' 50.8" E

It is possible that more graves could be present but the stones have become too dispersed to recognise or as we believe, in some instances stones from the graves have been used to prevent erosion in gulleys which traverse the site. The distance between the proposed house and the closest grave is approximately 20 meters.

2.2 Pre-colonial artefactual material

An archaeological site (GMK 1) is also present on the slope. We have noted fragments of indigenous ceramics as well as quartz flaking debitage and we therefore believe that the site is less than 2000 years old. A number of lower grindstones are found on the slope but it is our contention that these were originally placed on the graves. The presence of a grindstone amongst the stones covering one of the graves would seem to strengthen this assertion.

3. MANAGEMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES

There are three phases to be addressed in the management of the resources –

- construction phase – short term
- ownership phase – long term
- maintenance phase – long term

Each of these carry risks with respect to the heritage resources and the following steps should go some way towards eliminating impacts. The positions of the graves have been surveyed and marked by pegs.

3.1 Construction phase

A line of pegs has been erected on site between the site of the house and the graves to indicate the area which is off-limits during the construction phase for the purposes of the procurement of any local materials. The developer's representative on site must make the builders aware of the restrictions on their activities at this site. The restriction applies primarily

and dumping?

to the collection of building materials and any other items that may be used during the building period (eg wood for fires etc). Similarly, no services may traverse this area and septic tanks must preferably be constructed to the east of the house. No vehicles may leave the existing roads in this area. The developer's representative must make regular inspections to ensure compliance.

If any human remains are encountered during building, they must be left as is and SAHRA must be informed immediately (Ms Mary Leslie or Ms Collette Scheermeyer at 021-4624502).

A copy of the instruction is summarised in Appendix 1 and should be posted on site during the building phase.

3.2 Ownership phase

Following completion of construction, poles delimiting the off-limits area and the graves will be removed. Owners and users of the property must be made aware of the presence of graves and archaeological materials in the vicinity through this report. A copy must be made available and kept at the house at all times. Similar restrictions apply to use of the area as with the building i.e. no materials of any kind may be collected from the slope to the west of the house. This applies particularly to grindstones, and other types of artefactual material that may be observed, but also applies to ad hoc materials. Children particularly should be made aware of the restrictions as they often collect materials out of curiosity. No vehicles are to leave the established roads in this area. Compliance with the restrictions must be by the owner/owners association.

A copy of the instruction is summarised in Appendix 2 and should be posted at the house for the information of owners/users of the house.

3.3 Maintenance phase

Rainfall has over the years caused shallow gulleys to form on the slope to the west of the house. These will continue to develop if not attended to. Although not specifically part of the construction phase, if anti-erosion measures are instituted, materials must not be collected locally. In addition, the materials used must be easily identifiable and of such a type to avoid confusion with graves in the future.

4. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

The following pages of photographs record the state of the graves as at May 2006. The red divisions on the scale indicates 10cm divisions.



Grave 1



Grave 2



Grave 3



Grave 3



Grave 4



Grave 4



Grave 5



Grave 6



Grave 6

A lower grindstone is still present amongst the rocks on the grave as indicated by Ms Dewar

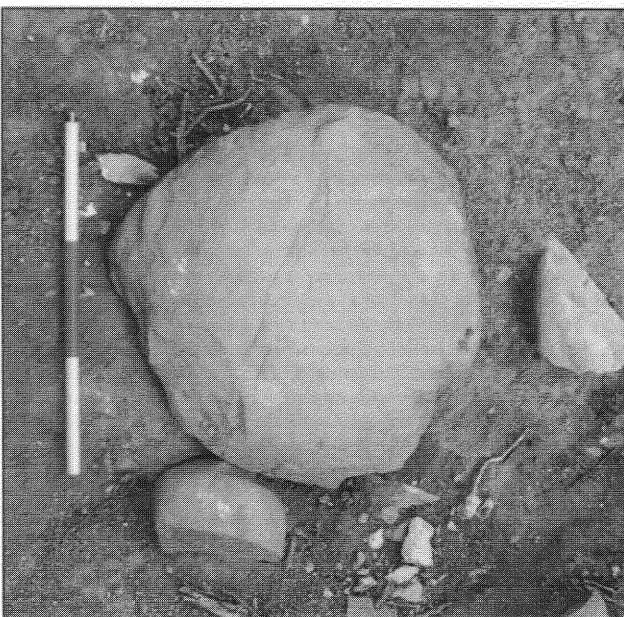


Grave 7

A lower grindstone (at center)
closely associated with
disturbed stones of the mound



Grave 7



Grave 7

Detail of associated lower
grindstone

APPENDIX 1

Seven graves are present on the slope beyond the line of wooden pegs.

No building or any other material may be collected beyond this point.
No vehicles may leave the established roads in this area.

If any human remains are encountered during building, they must be left undisturbed and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed immediately (Ms Mary Leslie or Ms Collette Scheermeyer at 021-4624502).

These features are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999.

Seve grafte is teenwoordig in die area wat met die hout penne afgebaken word.

Geen bou of ander materiaal mag in hierdie area versamel word nie.
Geen voertuie is toegelaat om in hierdie area die huidige paaie te verlaat nie.

As enige geraamtes gevind word gedurende bouwerk moet hulle ongesteurd gelaat word en die Suid Afrikaanse Erfenishulpbron Agentskap (SAEHA) moet onmiddelik in kennis gestel word (Ms Mary Leslie or Ms Collette Scheermeyer at 021-4624502).

Hierdie graftes word onder die Nasionale Erfenisbronne Wet van 1999 beskerm.

APPENDIX 2

Seven graves and an archaeological site are found on the slope to the west of the house. To assist with the conservation of these features you are requested not to disturb these in any way. A copy of a report showing the locations of the features must be present in the house at all times.

No building or any other materials may be collected from the slope.
No vehicles may leave the established roads in this area.

These features are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999.

Sewe grafte en argeologiese terrein is teenwoordig teen die helling op die wes kant van die huis. Om te voorsien dat hierdie bronne bewaar word, is u versoek om hulle ongesteurd te laat. Verslag wat die posisies van die verskillende terreine wys, moet ten alle tye in die huis beskikbaar wees.

Geen bou of ander materiaal mag in hierdie area versamel word nie.
Geen voertuie is toegelaat om in hierdie area die huidige paaie te verlaat nie.

Hierdie terreine word onder die Nasionale Erfenisbronne Wet van 1999 beskerm.

WIP HULP
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