

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Title: Proposed Breede Valley De Doorns Housing Project.

Proposed development on municipal land on the urban edge, south of the N1, to provide 2650 informal residential erven (36 ha) as well as business, communal and open space erven occupying a total of 116 ha.

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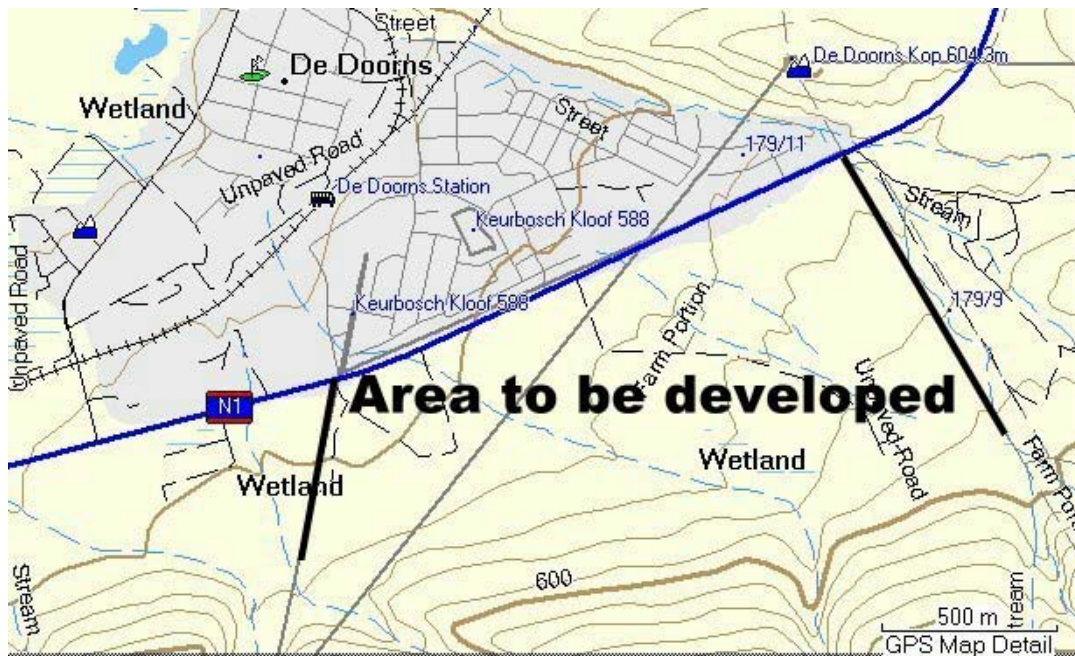


FIG. 1. Location in relation to town of De Doorns and the N1 (1:50 000 sheet 3319 BC).

Executive Summary

An archaeological impact assessment of the area confirmed the significance of the three graveyards, the Main or Municipal cemetery with several thousand graves, the Hindle farm cemetery with some 70 graves and the Titus family cemetery with 17 graves. The boundaries of the cemeteries have been mapped in the field. The Municipal cemetery is more extensive than shown on the layout plan of the development. Adjustment to the plan is needed to ensure none of the graves are impacted. It is recommended that metal palisade fencing be erected to enclose the three cemeteries. It is also recommended that the Breede River Municipality as the developer and ASLA as its agent should ensure there is consultation with the relevant families and the community in the rehabilitation and future management of the cemeteries.

No precolonial archaeological or palaeontological sites were recorded in the survey. There is a dwelling in the southeast part of the property that is identified as probably older than 60 years. It is recommended that this be retained as part of the development.

Background Information

The property is Keurbosch Kloof Farm (Portion of Farm No. 179/10, 179/7 and portion of Farm No. 588 Worcester). The Breede Valley Municipality owns the property and the application is to develop three sites on the property for informal housing (Fig. 2). Informal housing has already occupied sites 1 and 2 and only site 3 is relevant to this report. An informal settlement consisting of some 500 erven was established on site 3 in 2007. The proposed development will add in excess of 2500 erven and make provision for schools and other facilities (Fig. 3).

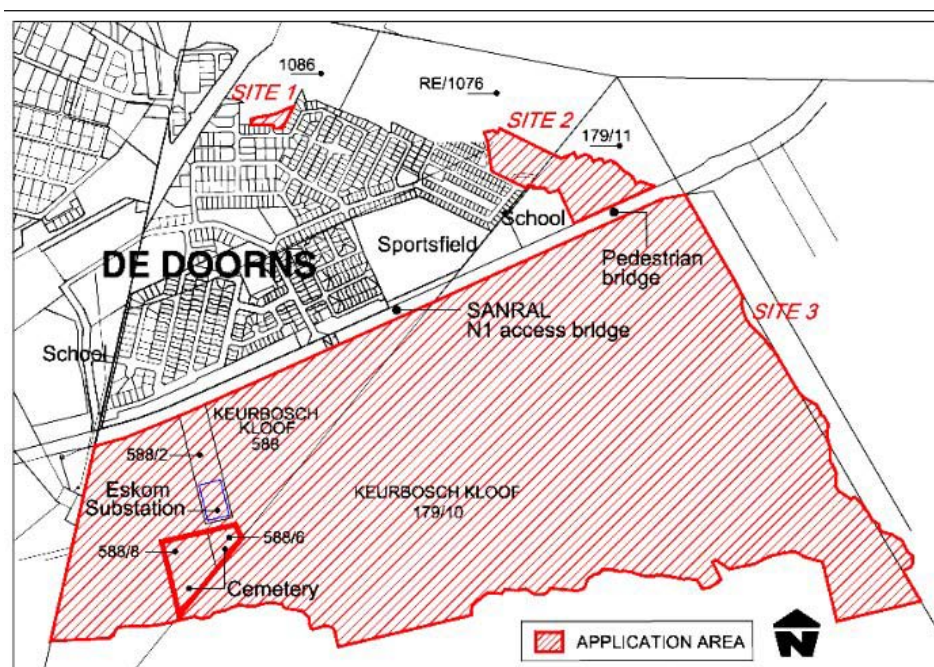


Fig. 2. The application area – only site 3 is relevant to this report.

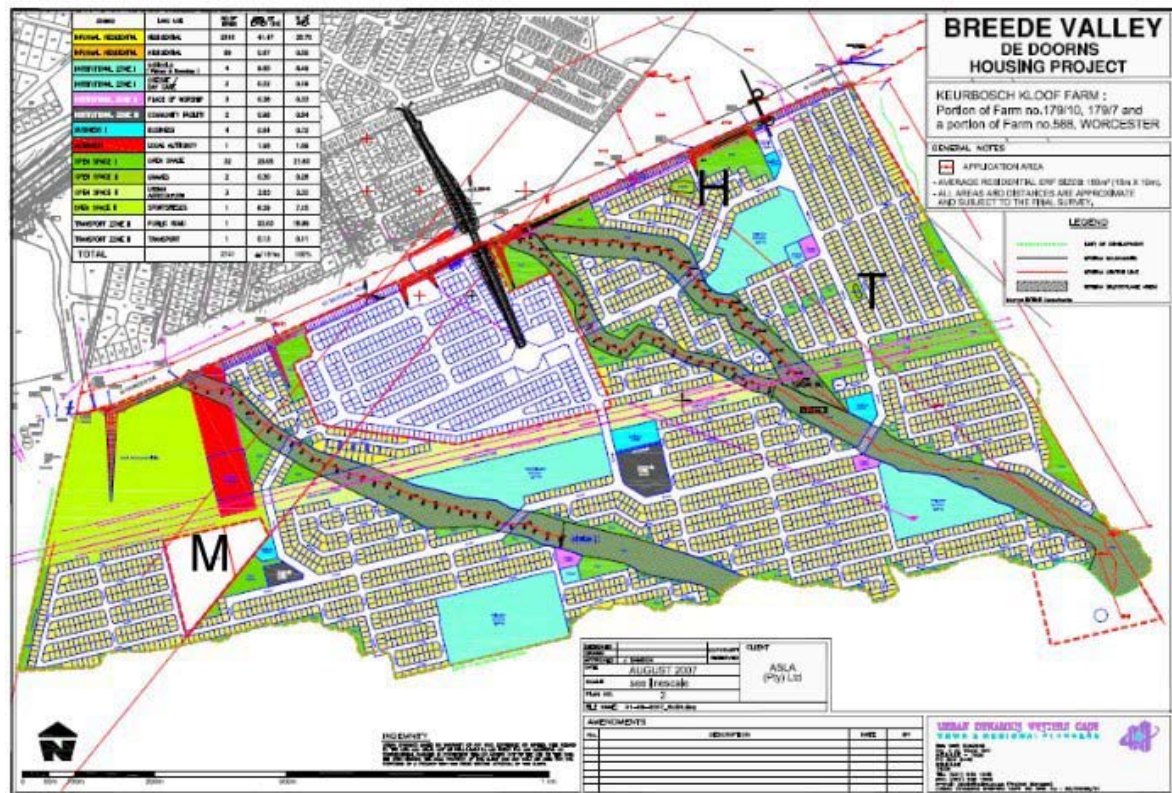


Fig. 3. The proposed layout of erven and facilities – M (Municipal), H (Hindle) and T (Titus) are three established cemeteries. Existing informal housing is shown in blue.

The property is zone as agricultural and rezoning is required.

Archaeological Background

The De Doorns area is well known for its rock art. However this is restricted to the kloofs and higher lying areas. There is the possibility that stone artefacts of different ages may occur in well-watered lowlands and valley margins.

Description of the property

The property occupies the southern margin of the valley between the mountain and the N1 highway opposite the De Doorns town centre. It is old agricultural land and the degree of disturbance is relatively high.

The established informal settlement fronting the N1 occupies a central position in the northern section and is serviced by a bridge over the N1.

The only standing structures are a dwelling and outbuilding in the southeast corner of the property.

Methodology

The area was covered by a random search in different terrain types and inspecting natural exposures. Special attention was given to mapping the areas of graves.

Observations and Results

The most important observation is the occurrence of three cemeteries. These have been labelled the Main (Municipal) cemetery in the southwest and the Hindle cemetery (after one of the names on a headstone) close to the N1 and the Titus cemetery (the name on a restored grave) both on the eastern side of the property.

Main Municipal Cemetery

The cemetery is a rectangular area some 270 m by 125 m in extent (Fig. 4). A count of 750 graves in one third of the cemetery indicates there are well over a thousand graves in total. Most graves are simply heaps of earth but they are laid out in a regular arrangement. There are no recent graves and the cemetery is not currently in use. Few of the graves show signs of maintenance and broken crosses indicate vandalism. The cemetery is not fenced nor clearly demarcated and has suffered neglect.

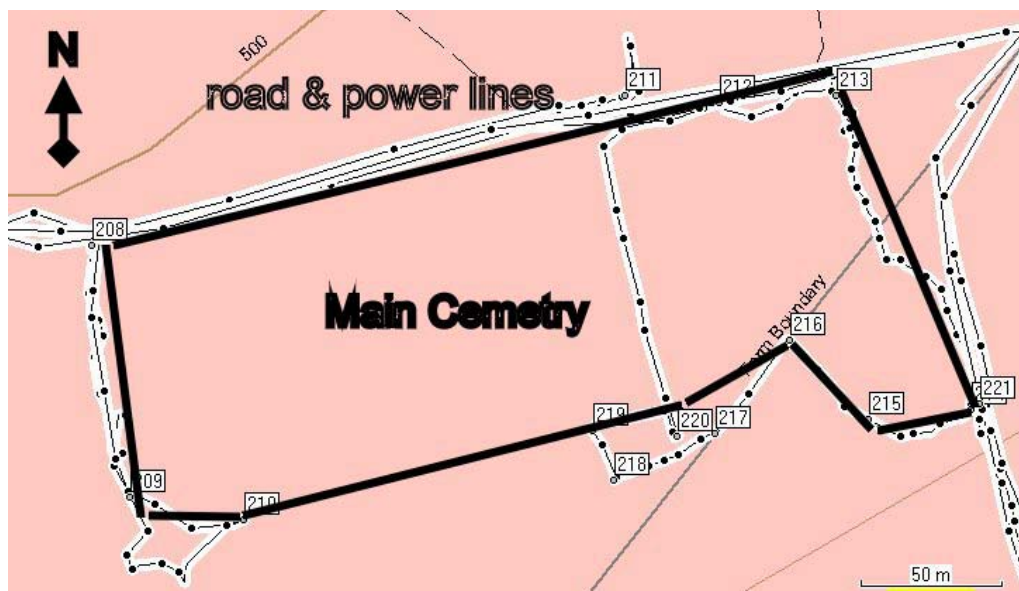


Fig. 4. The cemetery is rectangular in shape, 270 m by 125 m. The cemetery extends beyond the farm boundary in the southeast corner. The farm boundary is a useful reference for comparison with Fig. 5. The numbers refer to GPS waypoints.

The development plan (Fig. 5) shows a trapezoid area that is to be excluded from development to conserve the cemetery. The distribution of the graves is a rectangular not trapezoidal area and the linear east-west extent is almost 100 m greater than allowed. The

planned conservation or reserved area will not include all the graves and its boundaries need to be adjusted.



Fig. 5. The trapezoidal area on the development plan set aside to conserve the cemetery does not include all the graves. The lower red diagonal line is the farm boundary shown in Fig. 4. Graves occur east of this line as well as almost 100 m beyond the western limit of the conservation area.

The cemetery, which appears to include graves younger than 60 years, would fall under the jurisdiction of the local municipality and be regulated by its by-laws. The normal requirement in respect of cemeteries under the jurisdiction of local authorities is that a process of public consultation be entered into before the alteration or removal of any graves.

The co-ordinates (degrees, minutes, seconds - WGS 84) of the cemetery are as follows:

NW corner: S 33 29 16.7: E 19 40 06.6

SW corner: S 33 29 19.5: E 19 40 07.2

NE corner: S 33 29 14.6: E 19 40 16.7

SE corner: S 33 29 18.5: E 19 40 18.8

The Hindle Cemetery

This cemetery adjacent to the N1 is partly enclosed by a vibracrete wall. Within the enclosure are headstones with the names Middleditch (1856), Smecton (1921, 1934, 1941, 1967) and Hindle (1975, 1984). These would be the graves of the farm owners. On the east side of the enclosure and unfenced are the graves, mostly simple heaps of earth, of individuals who are presumed to have been workers on the farm. These are laid out in a regular order. All the graves can be considered as part of this cemetery with equal merits for conservation. The total is estimated at over 70.

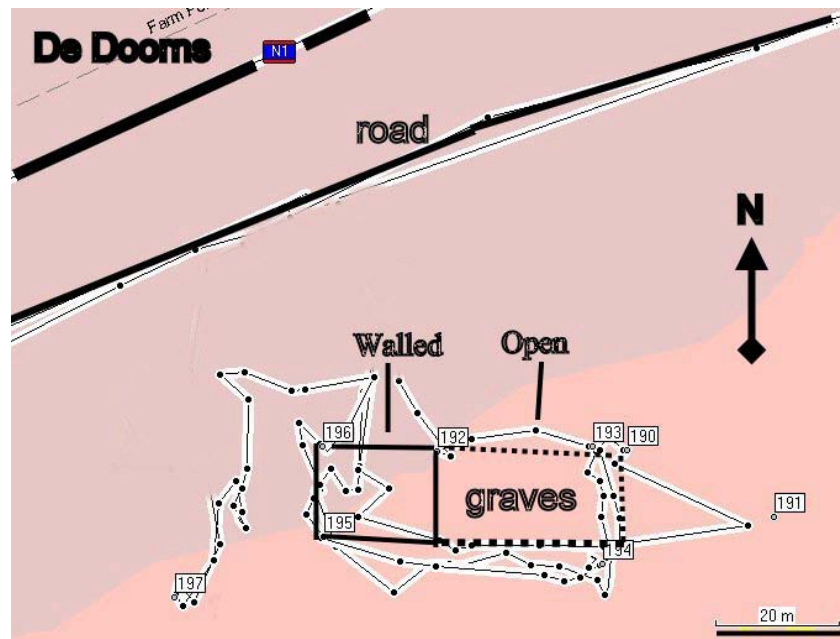


Fig. 6. GPS map of the Hindle or farm cemetery is 52 m by 16 m in extent and includes some 70 graves.



Fig. 7. The development plan shows a buffer zone in green around the graves. The buffer zone in the northeast corner of the cemetery is limited and it is important to ensure the graves are not impacted by road or other development.

The coordinates of this cemetery are:
 NW corner: S 33 28 54.1: E 19 40 46.9
 SW corner: S 33 28 54.6: E 19 40 47.0
 NE corner: S 33 28 54.1: E 19 40 48.9
 SE corner: S 33 28 54.8: E 19 40 49.7

The Titus Cemetery

The cemetery on the east side of the property includes 17 graves. One of the graves, that of D Titus, an ex-service man who died in 1964, is fenced. The fencing was done within the last year by an official military-war graves agency according to a sister who lives at 28 Dal Street, De Doorns (Tel: 023 356 2654). Although the other graves are unmarked they are of the Titus and Mentoor families and the older generation may retain knowledge of which grave belongs to which member. The graves are laid out in a regular order.



Fig. 8. GPS map of the Titus cemetery that is approximately 20 m by 10 m. The grave of the ex-service man D Titus is indicated.

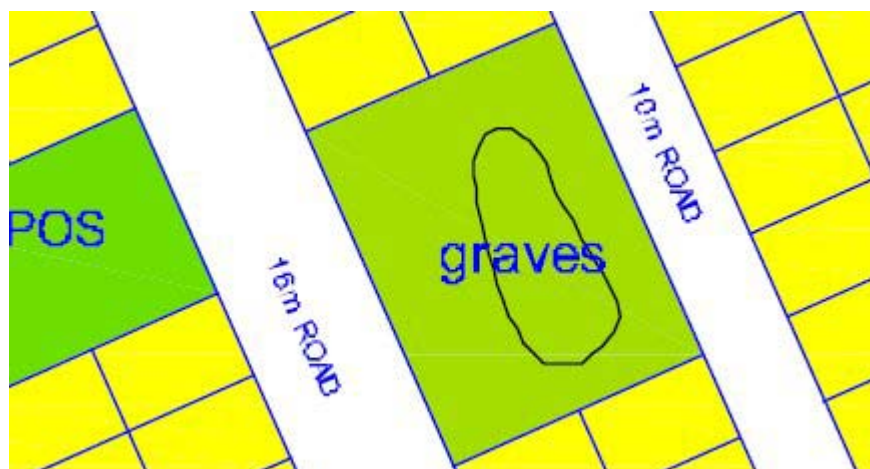


Fig. 9. The development plan provides for an adequate buffer around these graves of the Titus family.

The coordinates are:

NW corner: S 33 29 00.5: E 19 41 00.4

SW corner: S 33 29 01.3: E 19 41 00.8

NE corner: S 33 29 00.5: E 19 41 00.6

SE corner: S 33 29 01.1: E 19 41 01.0

Standing structures

The standing structures are on a werf or farmyard in the southeast corner of the property. The shed is a modern construction but the dwelling; a rectangular structure with a lean-to is older. There is a door with a wooden lintel in the end wall and it may have been a farm outbuilding. Although the architectural merits are not high it is old fabric and therefore conservation worthy. It is probably older than 60 years would require permission from Heritage Western Cape to demolish. Incorporation in the proposed layout is an option.



Fig. 10. The dwelling on the south east of the property is an old structure (S 33 29 16.93; E 19 41 05.75).

Sources of Risk and Statement of Significance

The main risk in development is uncovering or disturbing graves associated with or outside the known cemeteries. Features like burials can occur in unpredictable locations and contingency plans need to be in place during the construction phase to stop work in any areas where bones are uncovered and to alert the appropriate authorities.

The significance of all graves is rated as high. They are protected by the municipal by-laws in the case of graves younger than 60 years and by the South African Heritage

Resources Act in the case of graves older than 60 years as in the case of the Hindle cemetery.

Although the dwelling in the southeast has medium to low architectural significance it is a tangible link to the past land use and therefore rated as conservation worthy.

Recommended Mitigations

1. It is recommended that the main or municipal cemetery, defined by the coordinates given here and shown on the GPS plan (Fig. 4) be excluded from the development. The area proposed for the conservation of the cemetery as shown in Fig. 5 needs adjustment. The cemetery with a buffer zone approximately 10 m wide around it should be fenced and gated with appropriate signage. A palisade metal fencing would be preferable to walling. If not done already, there is a need to identify and consult with members of the community in De Doorns whose relatives are interred in the cemetery. Community participation is necessary to develop a viable management program. The responsibility to initiate this action falls to the Breede River Municipality and the project manager.

2. It is recommended that the graves referred to as the Hindle cemetery, the walled and associated graves, be enclosed by a gated metal palisade fence with an adequate buffer zone between the graves and fence. Consultation with the community of interested persons is recommended with a view to the community sharing responsibility for and participating in future management of the cemetery.

3. It has been established that the graves in the Titus cemetery are those of members of families still resident in the town. One grave is adequately fenced. An outer palisade fence enclosing the reserved area on the development plan (Fig. 9) would be appropriate. The Titus family has expressed an interest in being consulted and contact details are given in the report.

4. It is recommended that the dwelling on the werf in the southeast corner of the property (Fig. 10) be made part of the development.

5. Further, it is a legal requirement that should any excavations by chance uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological materials including human remains that Heritage Western Cape is notified (Senior Administrator, Heritage Resource Management Services, HWC, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town 8000, Tel:021 483 9743, Fax:021 483 9842, Ltyali@pwc.gov.za).

6. The Hindle cemetery includes graves older than 60 years and they may not be disturbed, altered or removed without permission of the South African Heritage Resources Agency. The contact persons are Ms Leslie/Dr Jerardino, Tel: 021 462 4502, Fax: 021 462 4509, mleslie@sahra.org.za .