

**CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE FARM  
VLAKLAAGTE 161 TSAKANE BENONI  
GAUTENG**



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2001/077745/23

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**APRIL 2007**

# **CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE FARM VLAKLAAGTE 161 TSAKANE BENONI GAUTENG**

## **1. DEFINITION**

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

## **2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, Act. NO. 25 OF 1999**

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials
- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

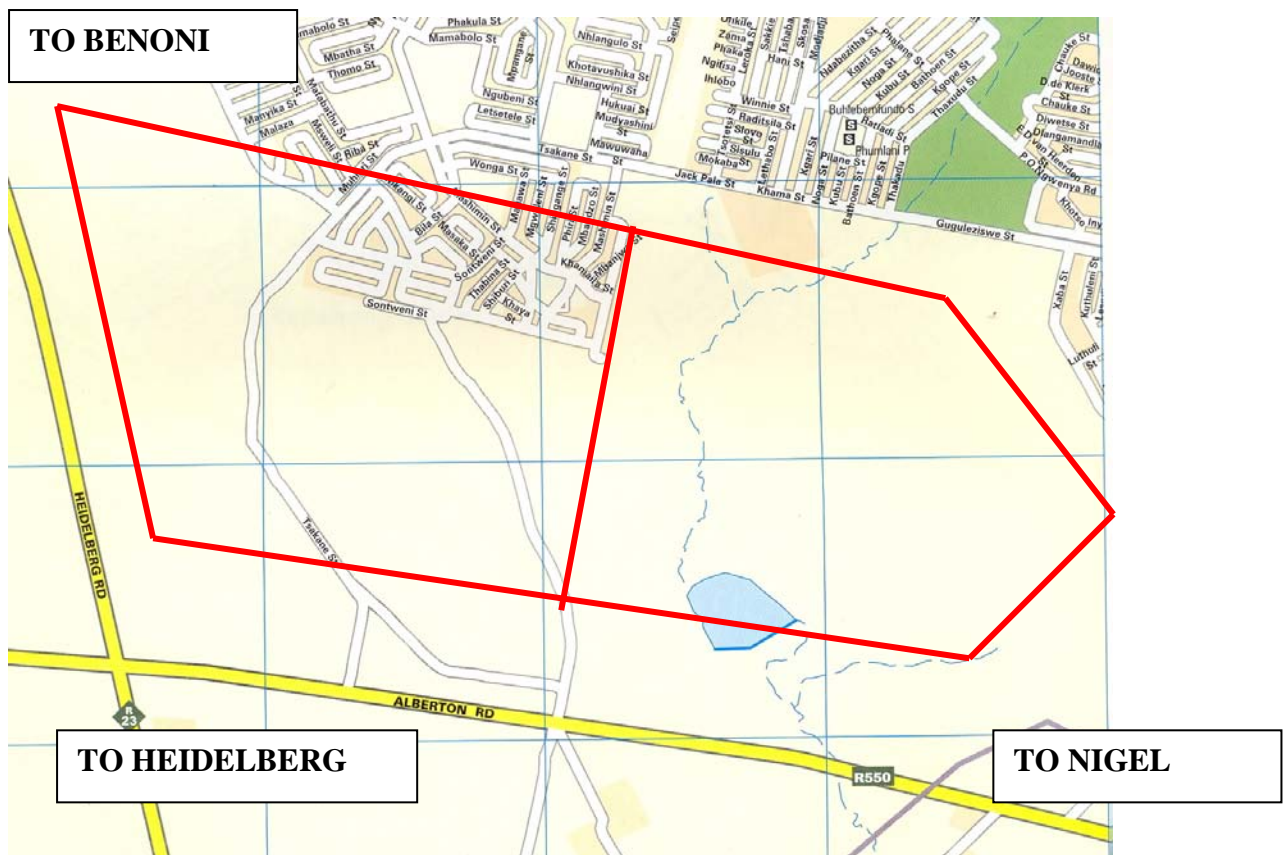
All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited and documented to the level of necessity by measurements and by photographs.

#### 4. RESULTS

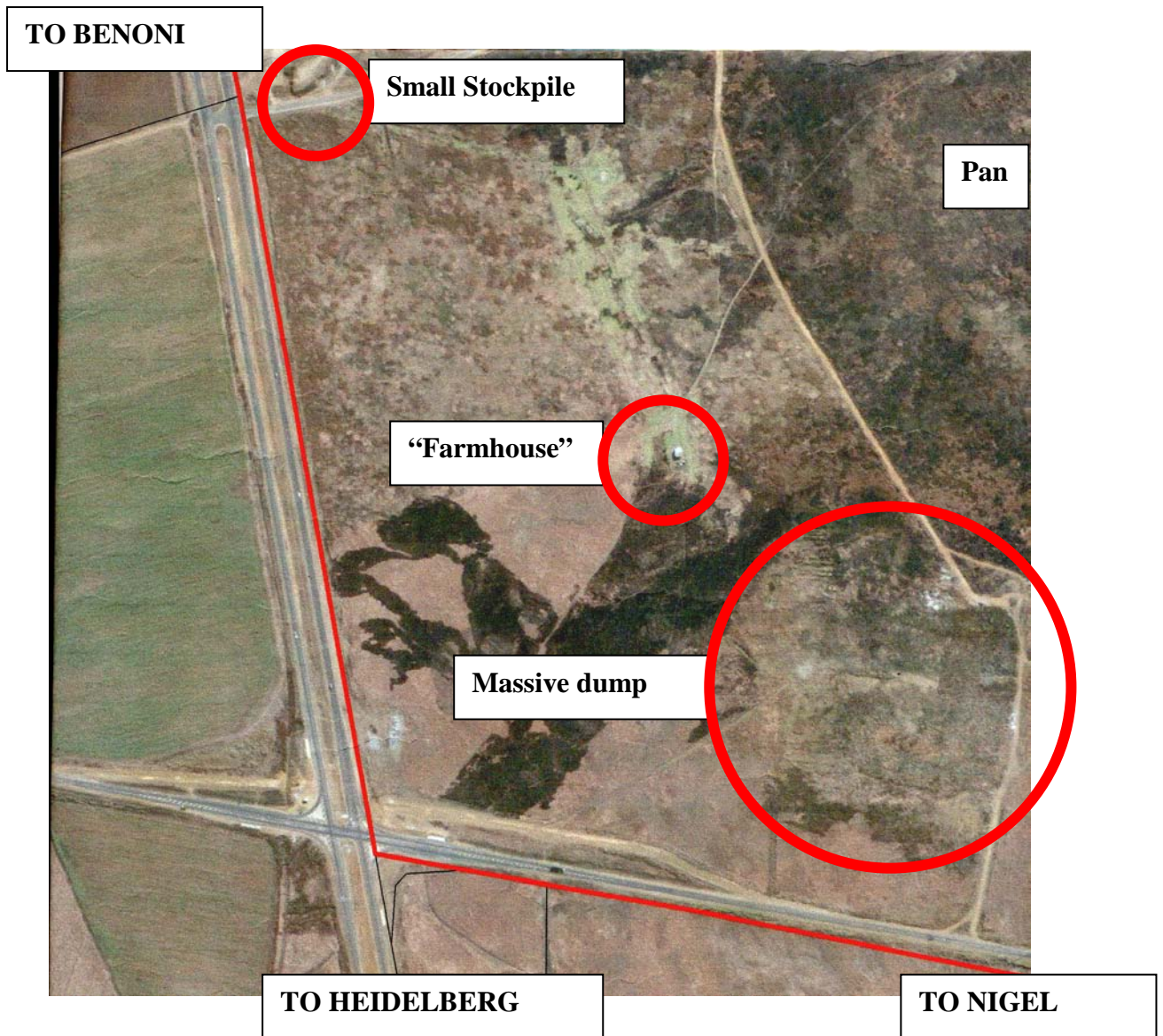
There are a number of structures and graves present on the land investigated. The structures are remains of farming that can be dated to the last fifty years, and are therefore not of concern. The graves though are an issue of greater concern. There are at least one hundred of these on the northeastern border of the property. These will either have to be relocated or negotiations with relatives will have to be undertaken.

The cemetery is situated at S26° 23' 15.1" and E28° 22' 14.2"

No archaeological or other important cultural heritage resources could be found on the property.



**LOCALTY MAP OF TSAKANE LAND**



*Figure 1. Aerial view of the western portion of the property investigated.*



*Figure 2. Small stockpile of soil, possibly a leftover from the building of the Tsakane–Nigel link road.*



On the aerial photograph above a “massive dump” is indicated. The structure is approximately 200 x 200 meters in extent and averages about two to three meters thick. As the original material is overgrown and also covered with typical small loads of rubbish it is not clear what the original purpose of this dump was.



*Figure 3. The geological structure in the northwest of the property is, what is generally known in South Africa, a pan. In the pre-historical past these were often the focal points of hunter-gatherer activities. Owing to the dumping of rubble all around the pan, it is impossible to see if any stone tools are present. On the other hand, the much larger pan just to the east of Benoni , would have relegated this much smaller pan to a secondary role.*



*Figure 4. These large excavations in the central section of the property next to the Nigel road appear to be a quarry for good quality road building material. It is possible that this material was used in the building of the infrastructure of Tsakane.*



*Figure 5. In the central portion of the property there exist quite a large reservoir. Its original purpose was possibly to have sufficient water for farming purposes. The proximity of a very large cattle kraal is indicative of the above comment. At present though it serves as a buffer for the rather large sewerage treatment works that is situated directly north of the property under investigation.*



*Figure 6 Directly east of the property there exist a large informal settlement that appears to be on the verge of encroaching onto the property.*



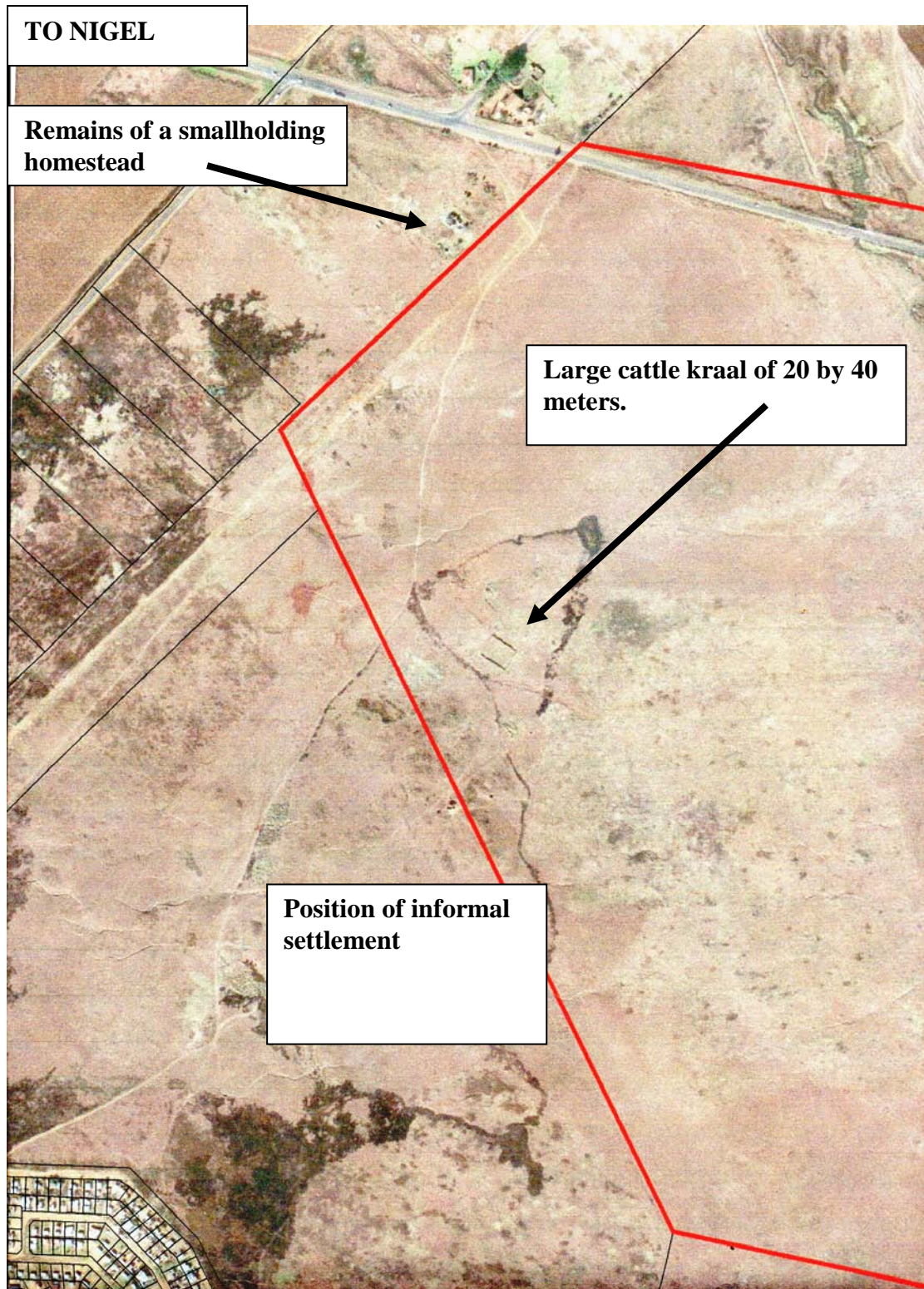
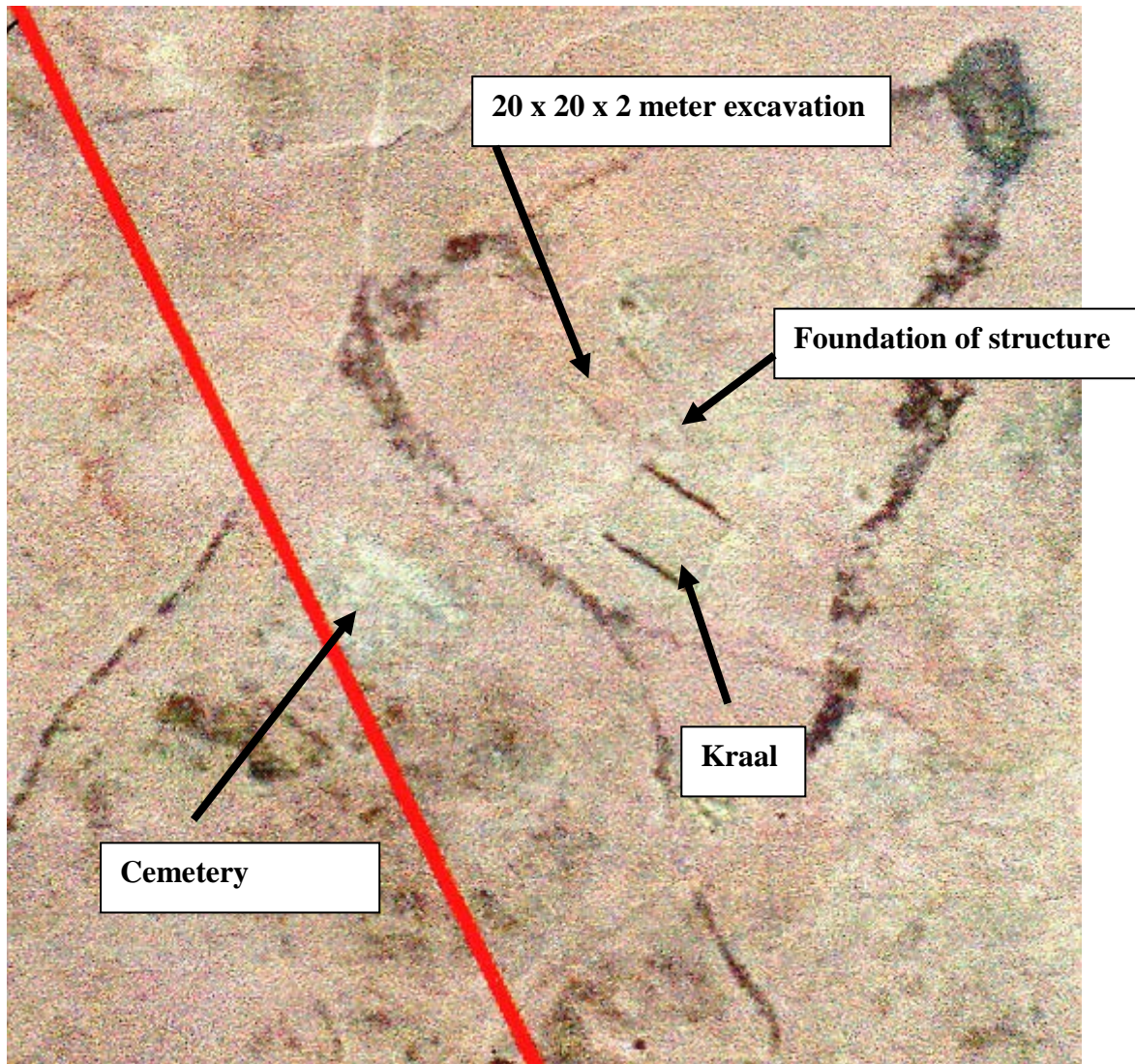


Figure 7. Aerial view of the eastern end of the property.





*Figure 8. Close-up of the area surrounding the large kraal.*



*Figure 9. Inside the large kraal. Note the informal settlement directly north of the kraal.*





*Figure 10. The wall of the kraal is built of stone but cement mortar was used as binding material.. There is no apparent reason why this should be preserved.*



*Figure 11. The excavation east of the kraal. Its purpose is unknown.*





*Figure 12. The loading ramp to the south of the kraal.*



*Figure 13. The foundation of a structure adjacent to the kraal. The size and material suggests that this was a store for materials and equipment associated with the kraal.*





*Figure 14. To the east of the kraal there are two more foundations. These appear to have been dwellings for personnel associated with the kraal.*



*Figure 15. These foundations appear to be associated with a “contractor camp”. It is also marginal whether they do in fact occur on the land under investigation.*





*Figure 16. Two views of the large graveyard on the eastern border of the property. These will have to be relocated or arrangements will have to be made to protect them in-situ. Some hundred graves were discovered in the neglected cemetery.*

## **5. CONCLUSION**

None of the structures found on the proposed development site are older than sixty years. There are also no archaeological sites present. What is important is the cemetery, which should either be properly fenced in or maintained or an application for mitigation should be made.



## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the area of the cemetery be properly fenced of and maintained as a feature in the township or

- The graves be mitigated and moved to an existing cemetery in compliance with the relevant legislation controlling graves.

## 7. SITE INFORMATION

<b>Owners contact details:</b> Leon de Klerk Tsakane Village Investments (Pty) Ltd 78 Charles Jacksons Street, Weavind Park, 0184 Fax: 012-804 5182 / Cell: 083 752 2214 / email: <a href="mailto:kabelano@lantic.net">kabelano@lantic.net</a>
<b>Developers contact details:</b> Leon de Klerk Tsakane Village Investments (Pty) Ltd 78 Charles Jacksons Street, Weavind Park, 0184 Fax: 012-804 5182 / Cell: 083 752 2214 / email: <a href="mailto:kabelano@lantic.net">kabelano@lantic.net</a>
<b>Consultants contact details:</b> <b>Johan Goosen of African EPA</b> PO Box 13776 Hatfield 0028 Tel: 012 366 0100 / Fax 012 366 0111 Email: <a href="mailto:aepa@aepa.co.za">aepa@aepa.co.za</a> / <a href="mailto:jg@aepa.co.za">jg@aepa.co.za</a>
<b>Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.)</b> Some commercial, mostly affordable residential land use
<b>Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved:</b> Yes, each stand will be full title, number of stands still to be determined
<b>Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number):</b> Gauteng, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Portion 3 and 7 of the Farm Vlakfontein 161-JR, (Tsakane Area)
<b>Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint):</b>
<b>If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site.</b>