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Prepared for:

The Developer

**A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY
FOR A PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT NEAR BARBERTON IN
THE MPUMALNGA PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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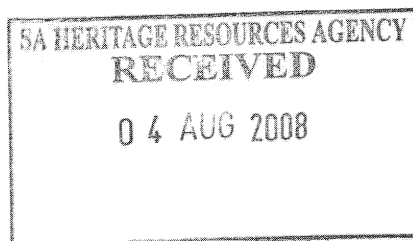
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Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (PHRA) which would allow for the destruction of such buildings. It is possible that the historical architect may recommend that historical structures be incorporated in the new development. Alterations to historical buildings also require the PHRA's permission before these structures may be renovated or restored.

Heritage resources of significance in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area have been geo-referenced and mapped (Figure 2, Tables 1 & 2). Their levels of significance have also been determined while the magnitude of the impact on the heritage resources and other remains has been indicated (Tables 1 & 2).

It is possible that the historical village (Site HV01) may represent the remains of one of the numerous informal villages which existed near Barberton when gold mining occurred in a more haphazard way when miners occupied numerous, scattered informal settlements in the De Kaap Valley in Barberton. The village was composed of a few residences, cattle enclosures and other less conspicuous structures. The glass wares, tin plate and porcelain associated with the site suggest that it date from a considerable period from the past. It is therefore clear that Site HV01 has historical significance.

The graveyards in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area can be considered to be of outstanding significance as all graves are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graveyards includes the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (No 25 of 1999), the Ordinance on Exhumations, 1980 (No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act, 1983 (No 65 of 1983 as amended).

The solitary gold mine shaft along the foot of one of the mountains located on the eastern perimeter of the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area has been operational during the 1980's. This shaft therefore dates from the recent past and has no historical significance.

The two informal villages in the northern and southern part of the project area rate as follow:

The village in the northern part of the project area has no historical significance as it dates from the recent past. A substantial part of this village has already been demolished.

It is possible that some of the individual structures in the second village may approach sixty years and therefore may qualify as historical structures in the near future. However, it is doubtful whether this village has outstanding historical and cultural significance when considering the following criteria:

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1 INTRODUCTION

Focused archaeological research has been conducted in the Mpumalanga Province for at least three decades. This research consists of surveys and of excavations of Stone Age and Iron Age sites as well as of the recording of rock art sites in this area. Ecologically speaking, the region includes parts of the Eastern Bankeveld, the higher western Drakensberg escarpment and parts of the lower lying Eastern Lowveld. The area has a rich cultural heritage, consisting of remains dating from both the prehistoric and the colonial periods of South Africa. These archaeological and historical remains include:

- Stone Age sites which may be associated with the San people and which date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- rock engraving sites located along rocky outcrops and dating from the last 20 000 years;
- rock painting sites in the Drakensberg which date from the last 10 000 years;
- Early Iron Age sites occupied by Bantu-Negroid agriculturists and possibly cattle herders which date back 1 500 years;
- Late Iron Age sites dating from the last 500 years;
- remains dating from the previous century when the first Immigrant Boers settled in various places to the west of the Drakensberg from the 1840's onwards;
- block houses built by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1900) on mountain ranges; and
- numerous other formal historical features (the Pelgrimsrest Museum, the historically reconstructed Nederlandsch Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij (NZASM) tunnel near Waterval-Boven, the Middelburg Museum with a Ndebele *umuzi* as one of its satellite museums, the Mapoch's Caves near Roosenekal, the Merensky Missionary station near Middelburg, etc).

Heritage resources in the Mpumalanga Province therefore constitute a rich and wide diversified range (comprising the 'national estate') as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (see Box 1, next page).

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The developer is planning to develop the proposed new Concession Creek Dam for Moodies Estate. The proposed new development incorporates a residential development, a hotel, restaurant, conference centre, a dam and other facilities between some of the foothills of the Drakensberg on the farm Oorschot 692JT near Barberton in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

The new development may have an impact on possible heritage resources that may occur in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area. The developer therefore commissioned the author to undertake a Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study of the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area with the following aims:

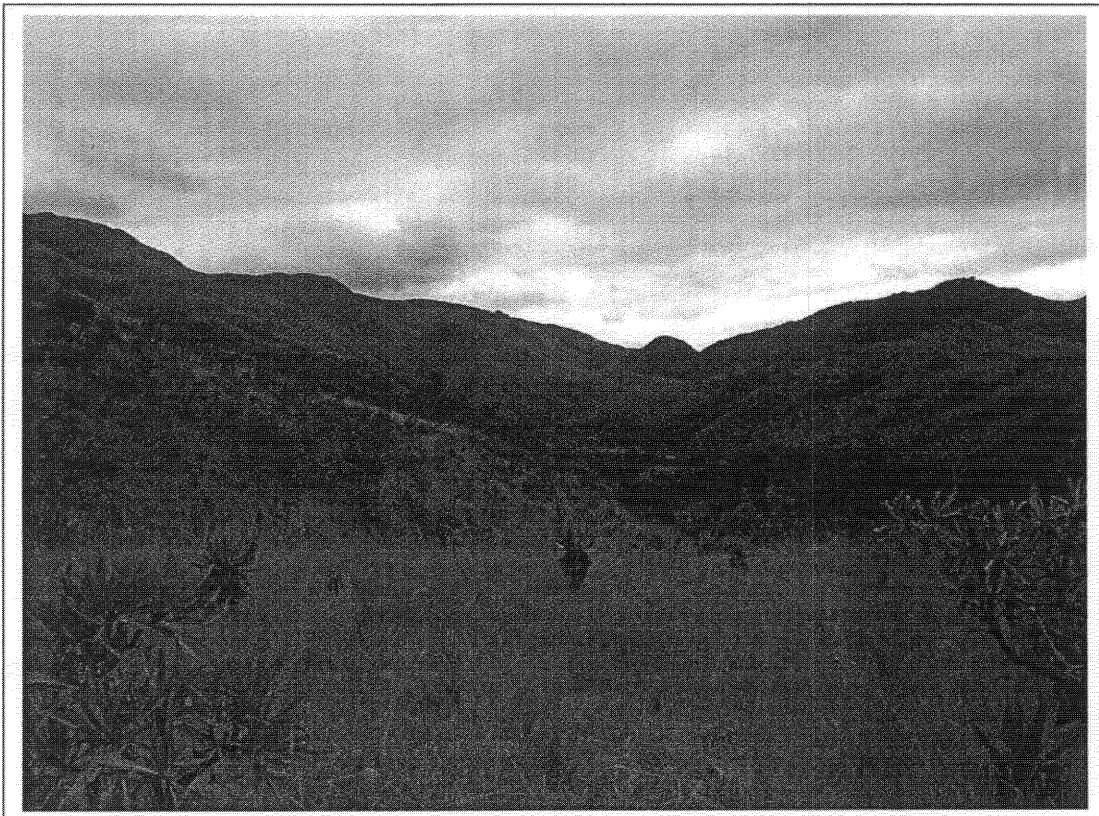
- to establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources (the 'national estate', see Box 1) as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) occur within the perimeters of the proposed new project area and, if so;
- to determine the level (or degree) of significance of these heritage resources; and
- to make recommendations regarding the mitigation or the conservation of these heritage resources if they are to be affected by the development project.

The proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area is still relatively pristine despite the presence of two informal villages, recent mining activities and the construction of dirt roads and power lines in the project area.

3.3 On the fringes of a cultural landscape

The proposed new Concession Creek Dam for Moodies Estate is located in the midst of a cultural landscape with a wide range of heritage resources. It is therefore necessary that the archaeological and historical significance of this landscape be outlined before the results of the Phase I HIA study are discussed (see Part 5).

Figure 1- View across the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area near Barberton in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa (below).



Box 2. Terminologies that may be used in this report

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) (See Box 1).

Heritage resources (cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are the result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyles of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term 'pre-historical' refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in a particular area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought to Barberton by the first Colonists who settled in this area during the 1880's.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may, in the near future, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on observations alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains, or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or, when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floor plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However, circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The term 'sensitive remains' is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between 'formal' and 'informal' graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values with regard to their ancestors. These values have to be recognised and honoured whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age peoples lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Earlier Stone Age (3 million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years to 40 000 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17th century and the 19th century and can therefore include the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refer to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or the relatively recent past.

The term 'study area', or 'project area' refers to the area where the developer wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan).

Phase I studies refer to surveys using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in any given area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include the documenting of rock art, engraving or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavations of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of graveyards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialists and requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

Creek. At the time a prospector's camp had already been established. The mine commissioner, David Wilson, hereupon proclaimed the camp the township of Barberton in 1884.

The first gold boom occurred in 1882 at Kaapsehoop, on hills bounding the Barberton valley in the west. Although the finds proved to be uneconomic the village became the base for prospectors who worked further afield. The first payable gold was mined at Pioneer Reef which was discovered by Auguste Roberte, nicknamed French Bob in June 1883. Barber's Reef was the next to follow in 1884. Sheba's Reef, the richest of all, was discovered by Edwin Bray in May 1885.

These discoveries lead to the greatest gold rush the country has experienced up to that time. In 1886 more than 4 000 claims were worked. The first newspaper, the Barberton Herald was published on 4 April 1886. A post office soon followed in what at the time became the biggest town in the ZAR. It boasted one bar or canteen for every 15 residents. Many legends are still told about the town's outrageous social life in those years, particularly about mysterious bar ladies who appeared from nowhere and who were the life and soul of parties.

The richest gold mines in the world at the time lead to the opening of South Africa's first stock exchange on 13 April 1887. (Barberton had two stock exchanges). However,

'... the very richness of the limited reefs and the presence of two stock markets bore within them the seed of ruin. Soon too much money was chasing too little genuine equity'. (Erasmus 2004)

Thousands of shares were sold in bogus companies and in useless claims across the entire De Kaap Valley. Many mining operations became hopelessly overcapitalised and many investors in Transvaal and in Britain in particular lost fortunes. The discovery of the goldfields on the Witwatersrand further contributed

6 THE PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

6.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources and other remains in and near the project area

The Phase I HIA study of the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area revealed the following types and ranges of heritage resources and other remains in and near the project area, namely:

- Possible historical remains consisting of the foundations of residences, pot holes, cattle enclosures and other associated features in the project area.
- A gold mine shaft dating from the recent past in the project area.
- Informal villages for labourers and other residents in the project area.
- Informal graves and graveyards in the project area.
- Houses and structures of historical significance on the perimeter, outside the project area.

6.2 Heritage resources and remains in the project area

Only heritage resources and remains located in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area will be affected by the proposed new development project. These heritage resources and remains include the following:

- Possible historical remains consisting of the foundations of residences, pot holes, cattle enclosures and other features on a small plateau and part of the slope of a mountain in the north-eastern part of the project area.
- A gold mine shaft dating from the recent past in the north-eastern part of the project area.
- Informal villages for labourers and local residents in the northern and southern part of the project area.
- Informal graves and graveyards in the northern and in the southern part of the project area.

prospecting activities. It is highly likely that clay were collected from these holes in order to built and to plaster the walls of the residences which may have been constructed with clay and upright pieces of slate. At least one of these holes contains a small amount of glass and porcelain and was therefore possibly used as a rubbish dump.

- A few square enclosures built with stacked dolerite which probably served as cattle enclosures.
- At least two smaller structures built with stone. One of these structures have the appearance of a grave while the second is a larger oval-shaped structure which may have been used as a kraal for small stock (goats) or even as a chicken shed that was raised from the ground.

It is possible that Site HV01 may represent the remains of one of the numerous informal villages which existed near Barberton when gold mining occurred in a more haphazard way with miners occupying numerous, scattered informal settlements in the De Kaap Valley in Barberton. Considering the glass wares and porcelain associated with the site, it is clear that these remains date from a considerable period from the past and therefore have historical significance.

Heritage resources	Coordinates	Level of significance	Magnitude of impact
HV01	25° 49.343' 31° 00.464'	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH
Mine shaft	25° 49.450' 31° 00.134'	LOW	HIGH

Table 1- Coordinates for a possible historical village (Site HV01) and a modern mine shaft in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area, the level of significance of these remains and the magnitude of the impact of the development on these remains.

Figure 3- A bottle and a piece of porcelain that were dumped with tin wares in one of the potholes in the historical village (below).

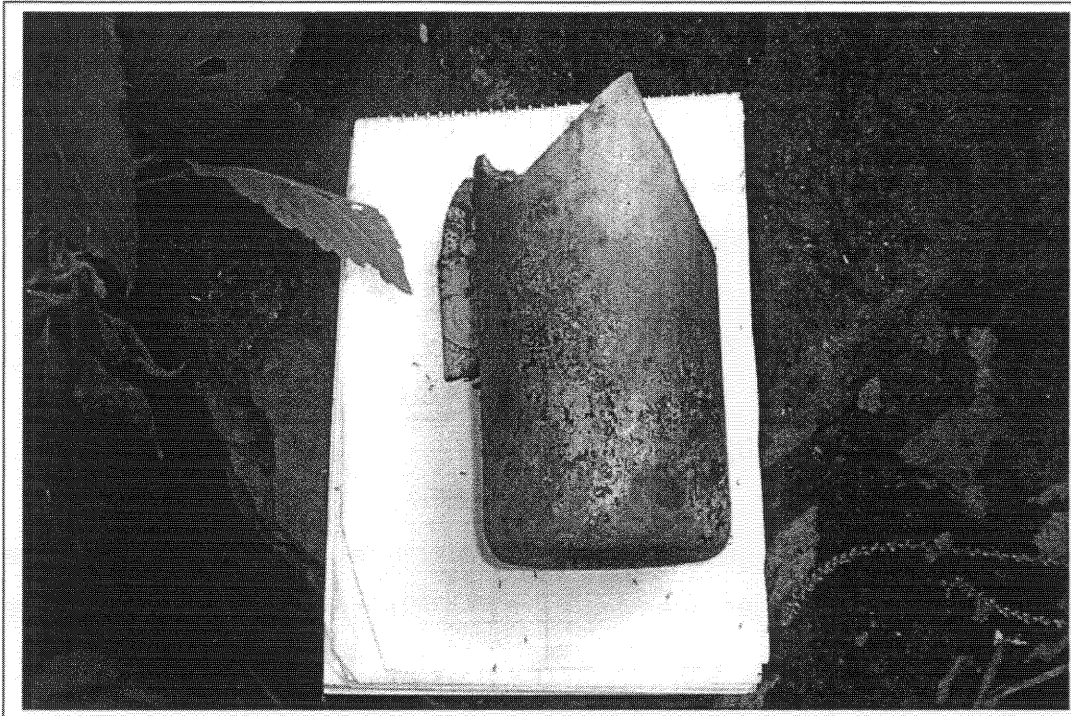
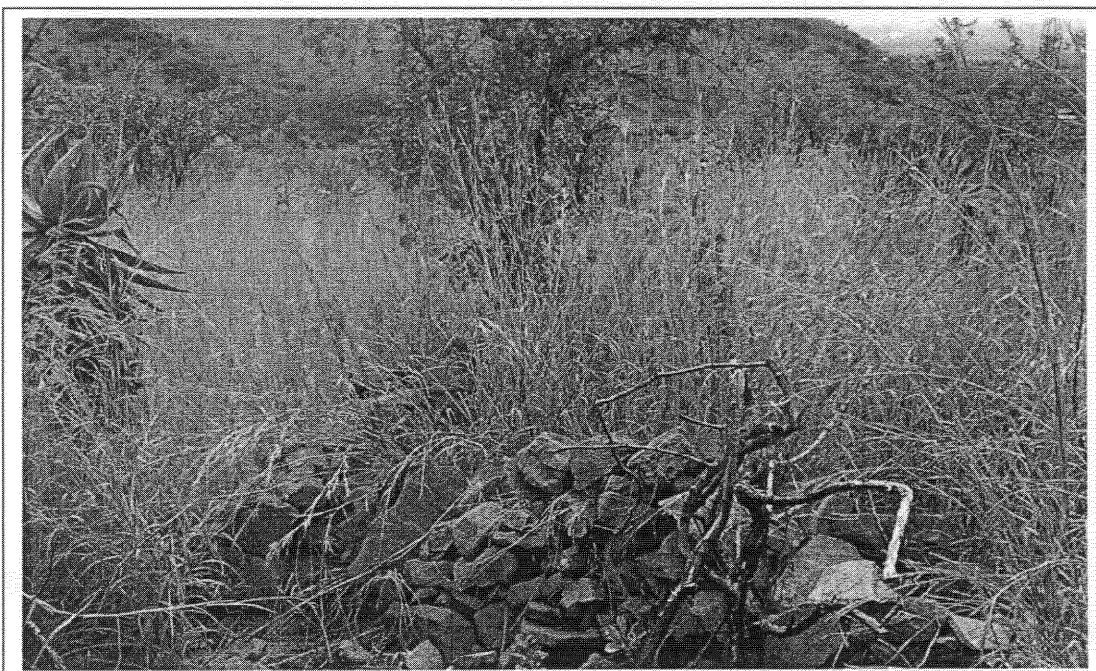


Figure 4- Wall of a possible cattle enclosure stacked with dolerite stone (below).



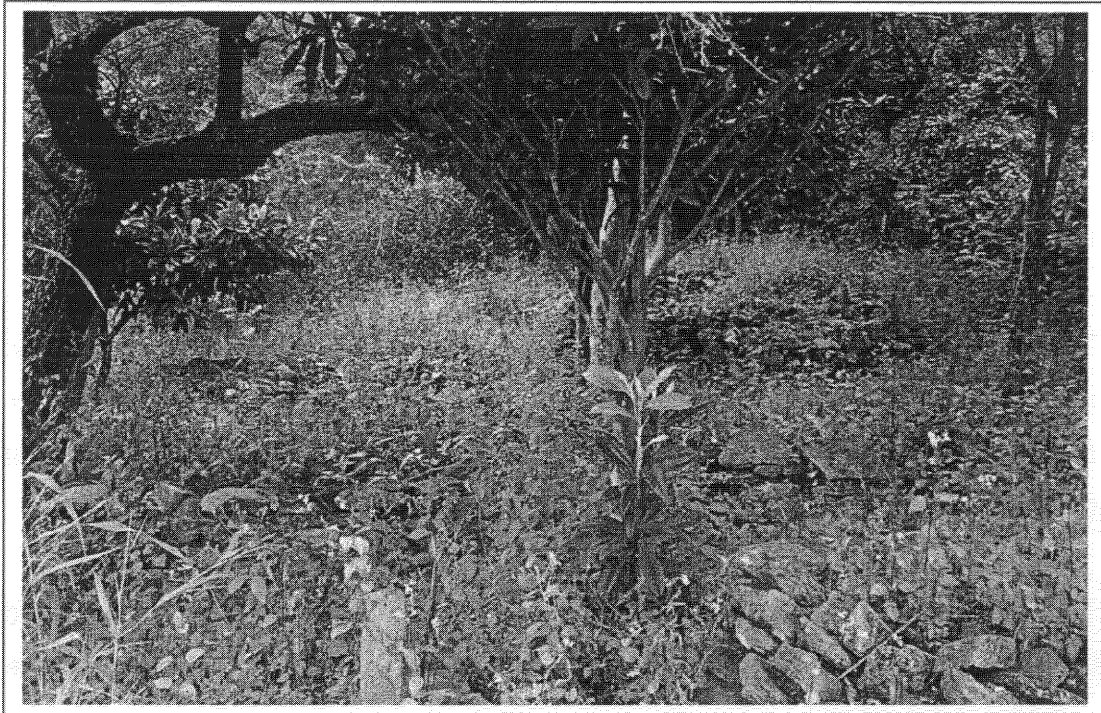


Figure 6- GY02 is also located near the informal village in the southern part of the project area (above).

6.3.2.2 Graveyard 02

This graveyard is also located near the informal village in the southern part of the project area. It contains at least eleven graves that are covered with stones.

6.3.2.3 Grave 03

This is a single grave along the lower foot of a mountain close to the informal village in the southern part of the project area.

Grave 03 is also covered with stones.

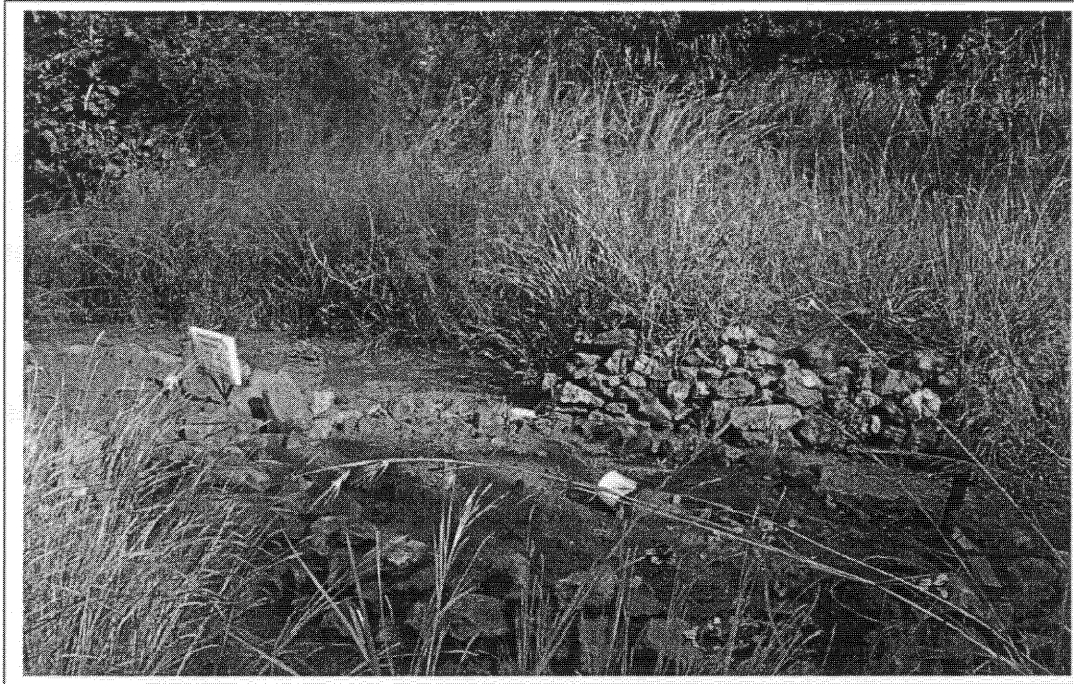


Figure 8- GY08 is located near the northern border of the project area (above).

6.3.2.6 Graveyard 06

GY06 is located on the eastern shoulder of the Concession Stream running through the valley where the proposed new development is planned. This graveyard is covered with thick bush but it seems as if at least eight graves, all covered with stones, may occur in the graveyard.

6.3.2.7 Graveyard 07

GY07 is located in the middle, close to the eastern border of the project area. It consists of five piles of stone located in open grass veldt up the lower slope of a mountain.

6.4 Remains without significance

Remains without significance which occur in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area are the following:

- A gold mine shaft dating from the recent past in the north-eastern part of the project area.
- Informal villages for labourers and other residents in the northern and southern part of the project area.

6.4.1 The gold mine shaft

The solitary gold incline shaft along the foot of one of the mountains located on the eastern perimeter of the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area has been operational during the 1980's.

6.4.2 The informal villages

Two informal villages occur in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area, namely:

- A village (compound) composed of square cement brick dwellings covered with corrugated iron roofs in the northern part of the project area.
- A second village consisting of square and circular structures that were constructed with stacked slate foundations; wooden frameworks for walls that were filled with upright pieces of slate and clay; and grass-thatched and corrugated zink roofs in the southern part of the project area.

7 THE SIGNIFICANCE, IMPACT AND MITIGATION OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AND OTHER REMAINS

The level of significance of the heritage resources and other remains in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area as well as the magnitude of the impact of the development on these heritage resources and remains has to be established (Tables 1 & 2).

7.1 Heritage resources with significance

7.1.1 Possible historical village

It is possible that Site HV01 may represent the remains of one of the numerous informal villages which existed near Barberton when gold mining occurred in a more haphazard way and miners occupied numerous, scattered informal settlements in the De Kaap Valley in Barberton. This village was composed of a few residences, cattle enclosures and other less conspicuous structures. The glass wares, tin plate and porcelain associated with the site suggest that the site date from a considerable period from the past

It is clear that Site HV01 has historical significance.

7.1.2 Graves and graveyards

The graveyards in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam project area can be considered to be of outstanding significance as all graves are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graveyards includes the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (No 25 of 1999), the Ordinance on Exhumations, 1980 (No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act, 1983 (No 65 of 1983 as amended).

7.3 Impact of the development and mitigating the heritage resources

All the significant heritage resources as well as the remains without any historical or cultural significance in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area will be destroyed by the proposed new development. The magnitude of the impact on these heritage resources have been indicated (Tables 1 & 2).

The following mitigation measures have to be applied to heritage resources with significance.

7.3.1 Possible historical village

Any buildings or structures which are older than sixty years or which approach this age are considered to be historical significant and may not be affected (damaged, altered or demolished) by any development project *prior* to these remains being investigated by means of a Phase II investigation. The Phase II investigation implies that the historical village must be mapped and where necessary that small excavations be conducted before the remains can be destroyed.

The destruction of these remains therefore can only occur after an archaeologist in good standing with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has obtained a permit from a Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) which would authorise the Phase II investigation *prior* to the destruction of these remains.

It is possible that the archaeologist may recommend that some of the historical structures and features be incorporated in the new development.

8 CONCLUSION

The Phase I HIA study of the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area revealed the following types and ranges of heritage resources and other remains in and near the project area, namely:

- Possible historical remains consisting of the foundations of residences, pot holes, cattle enclosures and other associated features in the project area.
- A gold mine shaft dating from the recent past in the project area.
- Informal villages for labourers and other residents in the project area.
- Informal graves and graveyards in the project area.
- Houses and structures of historical significance on the perimeter, outside the project area.

Only heritage resources and remains located in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area will be affected by the proposed new development project. These heritage resources and remains include the following:

- Possible historical remains consisting of the foundations of residences, pot holes, cattle enclosures and other features on a small plateau and part of the slope of a mountain in the north-eastern part of the project area.
- A gold mine shaft dating from the recent past in the north-eastern part of the project area.
- Informal villages for labourers and local residents in the northern and southern part of the project area.
- Informal graves and graveyards in the northern and in the southern part of the project area.

Several buildings on the perimeter, but outside the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area, are older than sixty years. However, these structures need not to be affected by the proposed new development.

All buildings or structures older than sixty years or approaching this age are

The graveyards in the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area can be considered to be of outstanding significance as all graves are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graveyards includes the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (No 25 of 1999), the Ordinance on Exhumations, 1980 (No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act, 1983 (No 65 of 1983 as amended).

The solitary gold mine shaft along the foot of one of the mountains located on the eastern perimeter of the proposed new Concession Creek Dam Project Area has been operational during the 1980's. This shaft therefore dates from the recent past and has no historical significance.

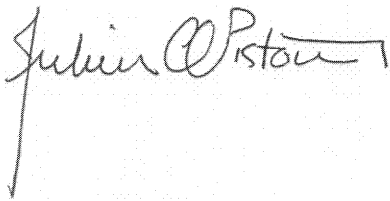
The two informal villages in the northern and southern part of the project area rate as follow:

The village in the northern part of the project area has no historical significance as it dates from the recent past. A substantial part of this village has already been demolished.

It is possible that some of the individual structures in the second village may approach sixty years and therefore may qualify as historical structures in a few years. However, the historical and cultural significance of this village can be questioned when considering criteria such as the following:

- Many hundreds similar village complexes still exist in the larger Barberton area. Many of these village complexes have a larger variety of structures (residences, outbuildings, cattle kraals, agricultural fields, graveyards) and therefore represent better examples of cultural historical landscapes which are also better preserved than the village in the project area. The village in the project area therefore does not represent a single or a unique example of a particular cultural historical landscape in the wider Barberton area.
- Several of the limited number of individual structures in the village complex are severely dilapidated and not worth preserving any longer.

legislation, which means that an accredited specialist must obtain a permit from SAHRA and that a 60 day public participation process has to be followed. Standard procedures include that the laws, provincial regulations and administrative procedures that regulate this activity should be adhered to. Permission must be obtained from the descendants (if known), the National Department of Health, the Provincial Department of Health, the Premier of the Province and the local police.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julius CC Pistorius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the 'J'.

DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS
Archaeologist &
Heritage Management Consultant
Member ASAPA

10 SPOKESPERSONS CONSULTED

Kevin Buyskes, owner of Moodies Estate.

Raphael Macina, local resident on Oorschot 692JT.

Sipho Magagula, local resident on Oorschot 692JT.

Lucky Mcongwane, local resident on Oorschot 692JT.