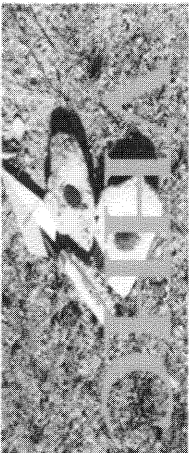


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# PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL STANDS  
AND BUSINESS PROPERTIES AT PORTION OF THE FARM  
RIETFONTein IN HARTEBEEsPOORT**

**MADIBENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

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**Compiled for:**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE .....	- 3 -
Historical remains .....	- 3 -
Archaeological remains.....	- 3 -
Burial grounds and graves .....	- 4 -
Culture resource management .....	- 4 -
2. METHOD .....	- 5 -
2.1 Sources of information .....	- 5 -
2.2 Limitations .....	- 6 -
2.3 Categories of significance .....	- 6 -
2.4 Glossary of Terms .....	- 6 -
3. STUDY AREA.....	- 8 -
4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....	- 10 -
5. RESULT AND EVALUATION OF THE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT .....	- 13 -
5.1 Historic Buildings .....	- 14 -
5.1.1 Description of the building .....	- 15 -
5.2 Burial Grounds .....	- 15 -
5.3 Archaeological Remains .....	- 16 -
6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	- 17 -
7. MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES .....	- 18 -
8. REFERENCES .....	- 19 -
9. STUDY TEAM .....	- 19 -

**1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The application constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

**Historical remains**

**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.

**Archaeological remains**

**Section 35(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

### Burial grounds and graves

**Section 36 (3)(a)** No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (c) 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
- (b) 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 detection or recovery of metals.

### Culture resource management

**Section 38(1)** Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development\* ...

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

**\*‘development’** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the 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 a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place\*;
- (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;

**\*\*place** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure\* ... ”

**\*\*structure** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ”

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants was contracted to undertake a heritage assessment of the area demarcated for a new residential stands and business properties development at portion of the farm Rietfontein in Hartbeespoort. The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on the heritage resources.

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1 Sources of information

The source of information was predominantly the field reconnaissance.

A site inspection of the demarcated area was undertaken. Literary sources were consulted especially from the state of the Environment and Heritage Resources Report 2002, North West Province. The report has shed more light on the Hartbeespoort and Magaliesberg areas, which has diversity in the traditional architecture and Early Iron Age settlement dating back to AD500.

## 2.2 Limitations

Site surface inspection for possible archaeological materials was not effective enough due to high grass cover and thick shrubs.

## 2.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.

Low significance: sites, which may require mitigation.

Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.

High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

*A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. There are many aspects that must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.*

## 2.4 Glossary of Terms

**Archaeological monitoring:** an on-site examination of non-archaeological activities to identify archaeological resources during the disturbance of subsurface deposits, or the periodic revisiting of archaeological sites to determine condition.

**Archaeological reconnaissance:** an examination of a defined area to locate archaeological resources using methods that do not include disturbance of subsurface deposits, but may involve limited surface collection.

**Archaeological survey:** an examination of a defined area, including subsurface deposits, for the purpose of obtaining information on the archaeological resources located on, in or under the land.

**Archaeological resource impact assessment:** an inventory and evaluation of archaeological resources and the assessment of impacts in connection with development proposals which will potentially disturb or alter the landscape, thereby endangering sites.

**Archaeological resource:** means a work of past human activity, or zoological, botanical, geological or other natural materials found in association with such activity that:

- Is primarily of value for its prehistoric, historic, cultural or scientific significance, and
- Lay on, or was buried or partially buried in land in the province, including land covered by water.

**Artifact:** means an object, or any part of an object, that was made or used by human beings and that has been deposited, discarded, lost or abandoned in or on the land, including land covered with water.

**Burial:** means human remains and objects placed with human remains either at the time of burial or later.

**Early Iron Age:** Most of the first millennium AD

**Middle Iron Age:**10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD

**Late Iron Age:**14<sup>th</sup> century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

**Historical:** Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

**Phase 1 assessment:** Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area

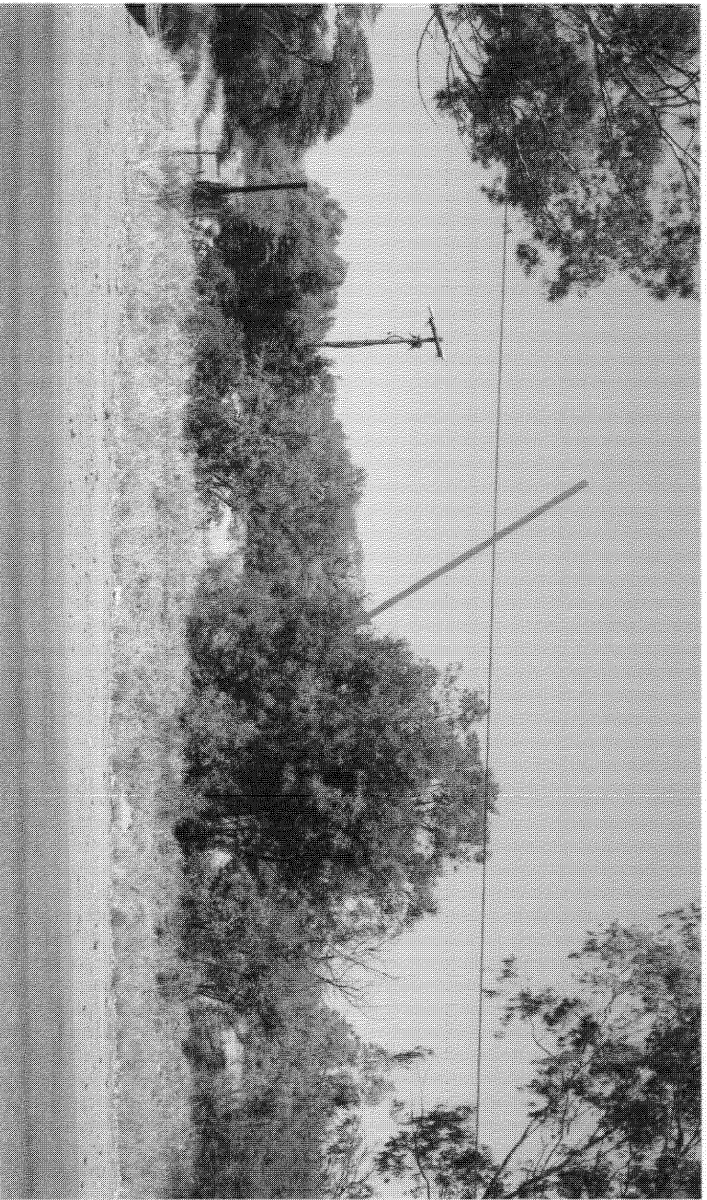
**Site:** means land, including land covered by water, that contains an artifact, a structure, a burial or a combination thereof associated with past cultural activities.

**Overview:** means an identification and assessment of archaeological resource potential or sensitivity within a specific area.

### **3. STUDY AREA**

The proposed development is located on portion of the farm Rietfontein, along Van den Hoff road from Pretoria to Brits. Map reference: South Africa 1:50 000 2527 CD. The intention is to demolish the existing historic farm buildings, rezoning, and subdivision of the site and to construct new residential stands and business infrastructures.

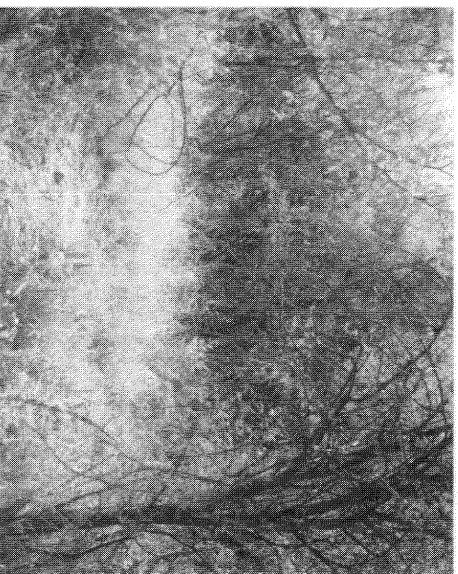




**Fig 1.** View of the area affected by the proposed development bound by tared road to the northern side. The arrow indicates the area earmarked for development.



**Fig 2.** The southern end of the affected area was previously used for agricultural activities.



**Fig 3.** Some sections of the affected area are highly covered with some thick shrubs and limited an effective site surface survey.

#### 4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hartebeespoort and Magaliesberg area has a rich variety of cultural resources, which include: archaeological sites, graves, forts and historic buildings. Prof. Mason of Wits who recorded numerous archaeological and historical sites in the Magaliesberg area, i.e., both north and south of the mountain, did pioneering work here. At Ifafi nearby an Iron Smelting site was excavated by Prof Mason and a little further to the southeast lies the well-known Broederstrroom Early Iron Age site. Type-sites of great significance in the Magaliesberg are Olifantspoort and Uitkomst cave, which relate directly to early Sotho-Tswana pre-history. Huffman has recently refined the archaeology of the Sotho-Tswana and thrown light on the origins and development of the Sotho-Tswana stonewalled settlements

Archaeologically, the Sotho-Tswana language is associated with the ceramic cluster known as **Moloko** (Evers 1983). The earliest recorded facies of **Moloko** is *Icon* (Hanisch 1979). *Icon* pottery first appears in the Phalaborwa area in the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987) and then slightly later in the Limpopo Province (Hanisch 1979). *Icon* in both areas forms major disjunctions with the local sequences: it cannot be derived from *K2* and *Mapungubwe* in the Limpopo Province or from *Kgofpolwe* to the southeast. Furthermore, *Icon* cannot be derived from the

*Happy Rest* – *Eiland* sequence elsewhere in Limpopo. Because of the constraints within an historical tradition, *Icon* cannot be derived from other **KALUNDU** facies in Botswana, Zimbabwe or Zambia. By a process of elimination, then, Sotho-Tswana most likely had Early Iron Age **UREWE** sources somewhere in East Africa (Huffman 1989, 2007).

Sites with this pottery are limited to the Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga and perhaps Botswana, dating to between about AD 1300 and 1500. According to the ceramic evidence, in some places *Icon* incorporated earlier *Eiland* elements (e.g. Loubser 1994). This phase predates the oral record.

\* Extracted from **Huffman, T.N.** In Press. *The Last 500 years in the Trans-Vaal.*

The next phase of **Moloko** includes at least three separate facies derived from *Icon*, each with a similar direction of change in motifs: *Letsibogo* in Botswana, *Madikwe* in the North West Province and Botswana, and *Olifantspoort* in the Magaliesberg. Emphases on different decoration techniques separate these three facies: punctates in Letsibogo, stabs and fingernail impressions in Madikwe, and fine hatching in Olifantspoort. Radiocarbon dates place this second phase between about AD 1500 and 1700. In all three areas, the second phase predates stonewalling ascribed to Sotho-Tswana speakers.

The *Madikwe facies* has been recorded from the Makapansgat area west into Botswana, and so it is of particular interest. *Madikwe* pottery developed into Mason's (1962) *Buispoort*. This group includes the well-known sites of Boshhoek (Huffman 1986), Buffelshoek (Taylor 1979a), Kaditshwene (Boeyens 1998, 2000), Molokwane (Pistorius 1992) and Olifantspoort (Mason 1986). Some of these settlements were inhabited at the beginning of the Historic Period and then abandoned during Mzilikazi's rule between 1823 and 1838.

Early historic records identify some of these sites with the Hurutshe Cluster. Thus, we know from Campbell (1822) that the Hurutshe capital was at Kaditshwene in the Report Prepared by Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants

1820s (see Boeyens 2000 for the archaeological identification of this capital). Similarly, we know that various Kwena groups lived at Molokwane (Pistorius 1992), Olifantspoort Site 20/71 (Mason 1974, 1986) and in the Suikerbosrand (Rasmussen 1978). All these areas have *Buispoort* pottery. Because both Hurutshé and Kwena belong to Western Sotho-Tswana, we can trace that cluster back to the *Madikwe facies* and the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. This is the same depth of time determined from oral tradition.

The third facies, *Olifantspoort* — Mason's (1986) 'middle iron age' — spread from Brits to Platberg to the Marico. The *Olifantspoort facies* developed into the kind of pottery recorded at Platberg, or Thabeng. Although there are few radiocarbon readings, the developmental sequence eliminates dates before the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining radiocarbon dates place this *Thabeng facies* at the beginning of the Historic Period.

Burchell (1824) records the Tlhaping at Dithakong, and Broadbent shows that Rolong lived on top of Platberg (Maggs 1972; Mason 1962), while the Kubung occupied several known places in the Free State such as OMB 1 (Webb in Maggs 1976). These related groups form a Southwestern Sotho-Tswana cluster that can be identified with *Thabeng* pottery (see Maggs 1976). This cluster can then be traced back to *Olifantspoort* and the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. *Olifantspoort* pottery found near Marico (housed at the University of Pretoria) supports the oral tradition of Rolong predating Hurutshé in the Mosega area.

The fourth and final cluster involves the Fokeng. According to tradition, Kwena (from the Hurutshé cluster) moved southeast across the Vaal between about AD 1550 and 1650 and found Fokeng at Ntsuanatsatsi Hill. Conceptually similar to Lowe, humankind is said to have emerged from the marsh of Ntsuanatsatsi. The Kwena apparently legitimated their take over by intermarriage with Fokeng. Once together, the Kwena/Fokeng are said to have moved north across the Vaal.

The pottery at Ntsuanatsatsi differs markedly from the other three facies because of the predominance of comb stamping and appliqué (or finger pinching) as decoration techniques. This facies also lacks bows decorated with multiple spaced bands of

texturing and colour so characteristic of the *Icon* sequence. Indeed, on present evidence *Ntsuanatsatsi* pottery cannot be derived from *Icon*, or a common ancestor, and it belongs to a separate Branch associated with Nguni speakers. This is an entirely new assignment and differs substantially from earlier archaeological interpretations. Bryant (in Legassick 1969b), on the other hand, thought the Fokeng were originally Nguni from northern KwaZulu-Natal. Nguni archaeology must now be considered.

Thus, according to Huffman *Ntsuanatsatsi* pottery derives from *Blackburn* in KwaZulu-Natal and that *Ntsuanatsatsi*, and Fokeng, represent the first Nguni movement out of KwaZulu-Natal in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. These early Fokeng introduced stonewalling to both Western and Southwestern Sotho-Tswana.

Of particular note too are the Taung archaeological site and Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (actually within the boundary of North West province and Gauteng). Evidence, however, suggests that there has been considerable degradation of many of the areas cultural resources. This degradation has taken place because of:

- Natural degradation due to the harsh climate;
- Vandalism and removal of artefacts;
- Demolition and disturbance due to urban expansion and development;
- Negative perceptions of some sites by certain cultural groups; and
- Poor monitoring and management.

However, there is a possibility of identifying archaeological resources within the affected area for the proposed establishment of residential properties and business infrastructures.

## **5. RESULT AND EVALUATION OF THE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

The demarcated position of the residential stands and business facilities includes the original historical farmstead (*as seen in fig.4*). The heritage impact assessment

team identified two historic farm buildings and two graves within the vicinity of the area earmarked for development.

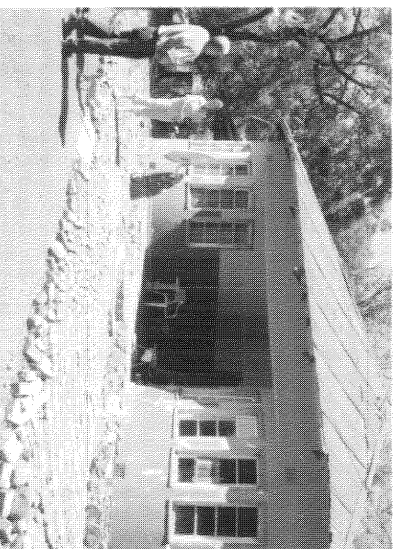
### **5.1 Historic Buildings**

Assessment of the significance of historic buildings is an integral part of conservation planning and management. In the context of new developments historic building assessments informs decisions regarding the retention versus demolition of unprotected historic buildings. Vhufa Hashu Heritage Specialists recently carried out an assessment of historic buildings at portion of the farm Kareen Draai in Hartbeespoort to assist in planning for development of the residential and business infrastructures. The identified historical building located within the farmland earmarked for development contains one of the best preserved stretches of the Victorian and Dutch architectural design.

From the archaeological heritage perspective the identified historical building within the area earmarked for development is of historical significance. However, (there are physical problems that threaten the building's architectural and structural integrity) the building has lot of cracks and is a threat to the occupants. Therefore, the procedures for dealing with this historical building can be best accomplished by seeking assistance from qualified historic preservation professionals in the planning stage of the project. Such professionals include architects, architectural historians, and historians who are skilled in the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings.



**Fig 4.** Back view of the identified historic house.



**Fig 5.** Front view of the historic farm house dating back to late 1920's.



**Fig 6.** View of the cracks which are threatening the house.

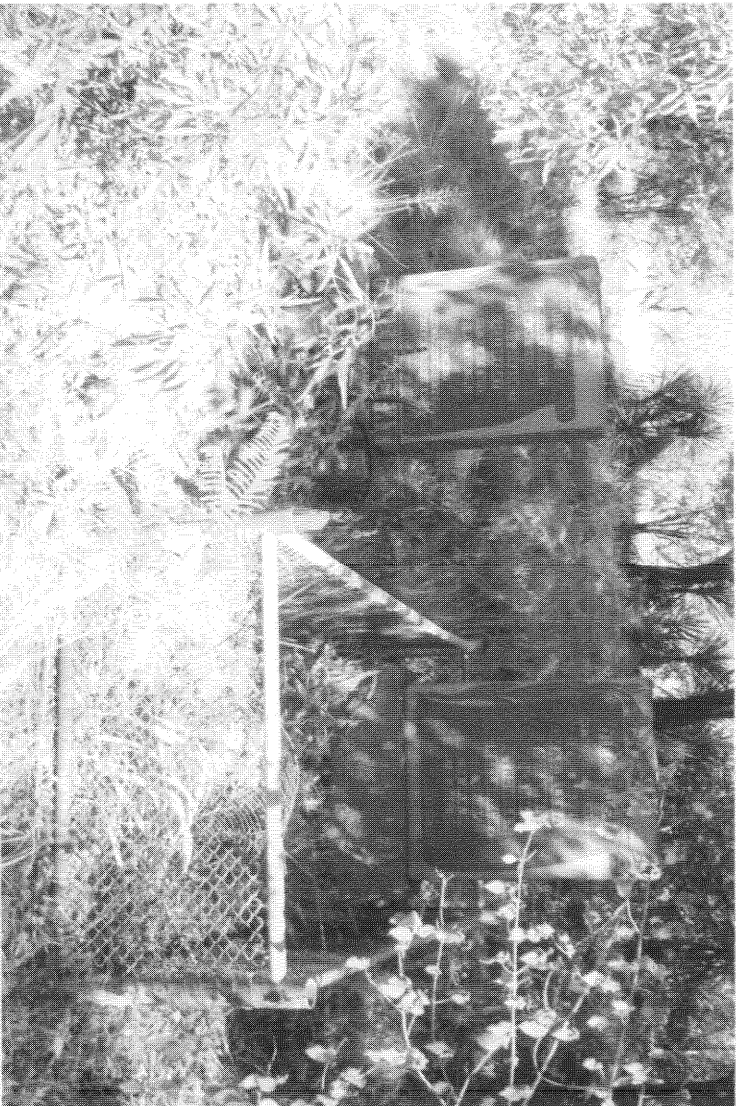
### **5.1.1 Description of the building**

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Residential dwelling house dating back to the 1920's with prison shaped corrugated iron roof, veranda on southern side, original steel windows, original wooden floor, walls plastered and painted, stone foundation, red plastered step to step, original wooden frames and doors.

### **5.2 Burial Grounds**

The heritage impact assessment team identified two historic graves within the area earmarked for development. The identified graves are likely to be culturally affiliated with a particular White pioneers within the study area. These graves are clearly marked and fenced off. Therefore, the graves may not be disturbed during construction activities. It is, however, preferable to exhume the graves for reburial elsewhere following the proper procedures and consent from the family involved.

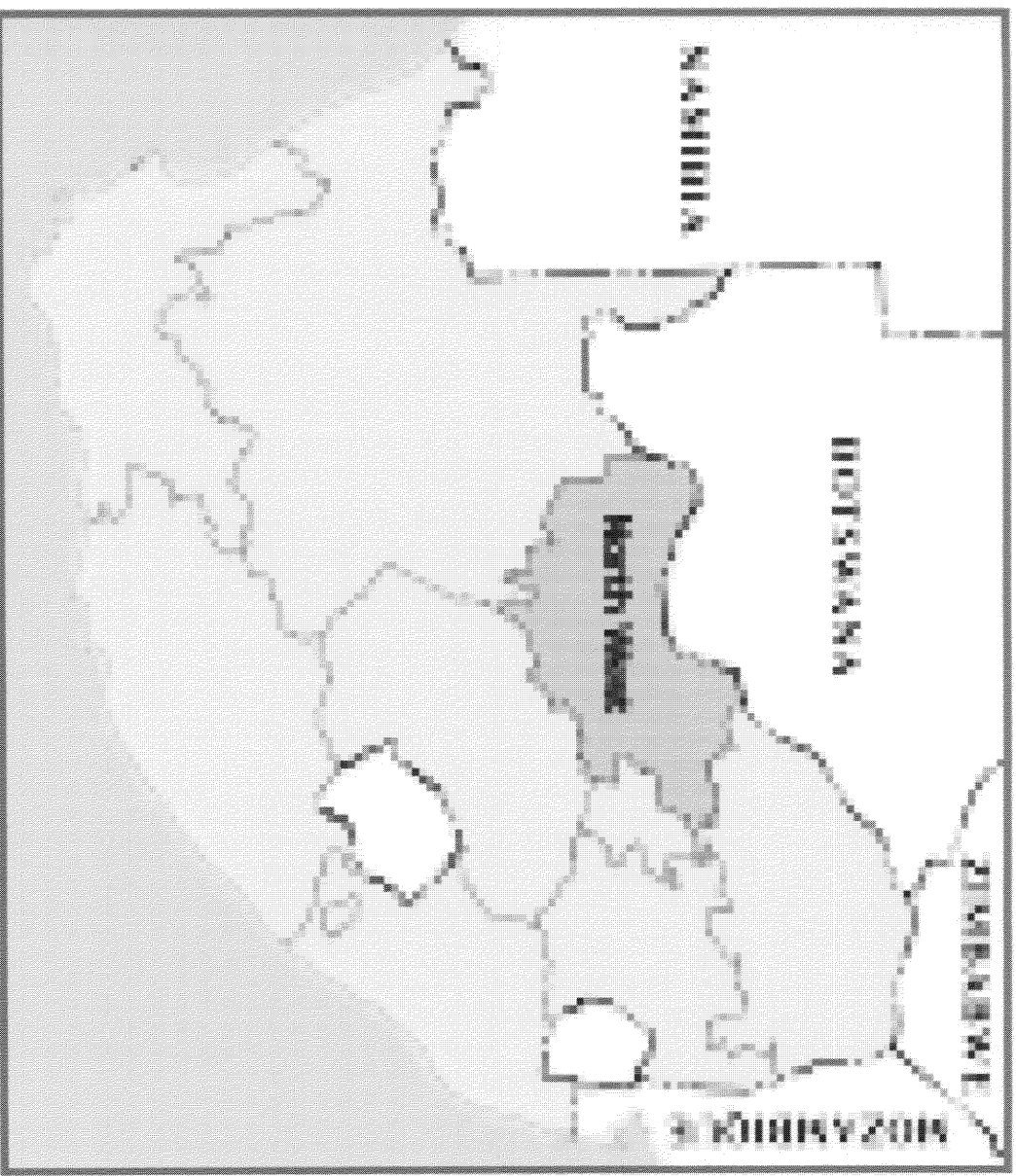


**Fig 7.** View of the identified historic graves within the vicinity of the area affected by the proposed development.

### **5.3 Archaeological Remains**

No archaeological materials were identified on site but this does not rule out the possibility of identifying artifacts during vegetation clearing and earth moving activities.





**Fig 4.** South African map showing the position of North West Province.

### **6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The proposed development project might have a negative impact on the archaeological deposits and features within the affected area. From a heritage resources management point of view we recommend that the construction contractor should work very closely with the archaeologist during earth moving and construction activities, so that archaeology did not stand to delay this prestigious new development in one of the worlds most highly valued areas of land.

Historic buildings are physical records of past inhabitants and may not be disturbed during development activities without a permit from the relevant heritage authority in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA. Although the building represents interesting architectural designs, they are not regarded as unique or significant. If a phase 2

heritage assessment is undertaken we will not oppose an application for a demolition permit. It will probably not be possible or practical to design a modern complex sympathetic to these specific historical structures.

## 7. MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

On the basis of the above discussion the following management and mitigation measures are recommended:

1. **The graves:** for practical reasons concerning care and maintenance in the context of a new development it is recommended that the graves be re-interred with consent from the descendants and family of the deceased. This will require a social consulting process in terms of legislation and the obtaining the necessary permission and permits from the relevant authorities.
2. **The historical structures:** it is recommended that a heritage impact assessment be undertaken of the historical structure and pending the outcome a decision be made whether to demolish or restore them in consultation with the heritage authority.
  - ❖ The character-defining aspects of the historic building need to be identified and evaluated including the form and detailing of interior materials, such as wood and metal; exterior features such as roofs, porches, and windows; interior materials, such as plaster and wood; and interior features, such as mouldings and stairways, room configuration, and spatial relationships, as well as structural and the architectural changes that have been made over time during successive occupancies.
  - ❖ New infrastructure development must be sensitive to the archaeological and cultural remains and should blend into the cultural and natural landscape and not intrude on it.
  - ❖ A monitoring system must be put in place during the construction phase to record and collect data of significance that may be exposed during construction.

8. REFERENCES

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9. STUDY TEAM



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**Mr Richard Munyai** (BA Gen. Archaeology, University of Venda)  
Heritage Specialist

*I herewith confirm that this report was reviewed by me and I find the assessment to be a true reflection of the status of the heritage resources in the project area.*



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**Mr Frans Roodt** (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad Dip. In Museology, UP)  
Principal Investigator listed by SAHRA. Member of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA).

# LOCALITY MAP

