

**CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES
IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE FARMS
GROOTHOEK 220 KR, NYHOFFSBULT 231
KR AND ZWARTKOP 219 KR STERKRIVIER
NABOOMSPRUIT LIMPOPO**



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE FARMS GROOTHOEK 220 KR, NYHOFFSBULT 231 KR AND ZWARTKOP 219 KR STERKRIVIER NABOOMSPRUIT LIMPOPO

- PORTION 3 OF THE FARM GROOTHOEK 220 K.R.
- REST. PORTION OF THE FARM GROOTHOEK 220 K.R.
- PORTION 8 OF THE FARM ZWARTKOP 219 K.R.
- PORTION 2 OF THE FARM GROOTHOEK 220 K.R.
- THE FARM NYHOFFSBULT 231 K.R.

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 RESOURCES 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 visually inspected.

4. RESULTS

The farms and proposed development sites were visited together with one of the owners. The following heritage sites were recorded (See map 1 and 2).

Site 1. This site lies just underneath a rock cliff in a very steep and rocky area against the foot of the mountain (S24° 07' 32.5" and E28° 38' 35.6"). Small stone terraces have been built between large rocks to form level living areas. The site has dense vegetation and is difficult to reach (see photographs 1 and 2).

This is a typical Late Iron Age site built during a time of conflict when people moved their settlements higher up the mountains. A single Moloko type decorated potshard was found at the rock art site adjacent to the site. Most of the Late Iron Age sites in the Waterberg belong to the Moloko cultural grouping (Aukema J.A. 1988, Huffman T.N. 1990 and Van der Ryst M.M. 2006).

Site 2. This site at (S24° 07' 31.8" and E28° 38' 33.3") is a rock art site against a large open rock face. The rock face contains more than twenty individual paintings, which have faded badly because of direct sunlight, which shines onto the rock face most of the day. Notwithstanding this the paintings are interesting and should be recorded in detail. This site lies just above site one and was also later used by the Iron Age people as pottery shards as well as large grinding depressions occur on the rock floor of the site (see photographs 3 – 5). It is a known fact that Late Iron Age people used rock art sites as rain making sites (Van der Ryst M.M. 1998). What is also interesting is that these are remains of a clay floor between two large rocks. Schoeman M.H. 2006 recorded the association of rock shelters and clay floors in the Soutpansberg (see photographs 6 - 7).

Site 3. This rock art site at S24° 07' 45.6" and E28° 39' 10.6" is situated under an overhanging rock face. The site has a good variety of rock art of various periods as some paintings have been done on top of older ones. These are also Late Iron Age white finger paintings (see photographs 8 – 10) and potshards on the floor surface (see photograph 11). In a large crack in the shelter floor is a good archaeological deposit of at least Late Stone Age and possible Late Iron Age material. Pieces of ostrich eggshell are also visible on the shelter floor (Eastwood E.B. and Smith B.W. 2005).

Some of the paintings have unfortunately been damaged by local school children that have scratched some paintings to produce their own. “*Artwork*” (see photograph 12).

This site as in the case of site 2 was most probably also later used as a rainmaking site by local Africans (Van der Ryst M.M. 1998 and Schoeman M.H. 2006).

The site is open to visitors on a hiking trail. There is no control or supervision on the site.

Site 4. The site at (S24° 07’ 50.0” and E28° 38’ 43.8”) is an initiation site with a (stone Phiri cairn) and was found right next to one of the farm roads. These sites are found in isolated areas and are associated with boy’s initiation schools. The site is more or less 400 metres from site 1 but whether there is a link between the two sites is difficult to determine. From experience I believe that this site is much younger and could date to the 1940/50s. According to the farm owner who was born on the farm they had allowed local Africans to hold initiation schools on the farm in the passed (see photograph 13).

Site 5. Two small graves were shown to me at (S24° 07’ 10.2” and E28° 39’ 18.2”) in an overgrown area. The small tombstones contain the surnames Thompson and Collis but no date. According to local legend these two gentlemen were owners of the farm long ago (see photograph 14).

Site 6. Two farm worker graves were recorded at (S24° 07’ 21.6” and E28° 39’ 27.1”). The graves are hardly visible except for two headstones (see photograph 15).

Site 7. Six graves were found at (S24° 05’ 00.9” and E28° 39’ 14.9”). Only one has a date of 1967 with the name A.R. Molekoa written on the grave (see photograph 16).

Site 8. This site contains thirty-five or more graves and is situated at (S24° 05’ 10.4” and E28° 40’ 40.7”). The dates on the graves are from 1968 to 1992.

5. DISCUSSION OF ROCK ART SITE

According to Dr Ben Smith the director of the Rock Art Research Institute at the Witwatersrand University, C van Riet Louw already recorded these sites in the 1930s. They are of the best-preserved sites in the Waterberg.

At present the eastern site is open to the public on a hiking trail. Some of the paintings have been damaged by local school children that scratched the paintings with pieces of hard rock.

Dr Smith has indicated that he would be prepared to document the sites and compile a heritage management plan in accordance with SAHRA’s Minimum Standards for archaeological site museums and Rock Art Sites open to the public (G4.3 SAHRA

APMHO Committee). The other archaeological sites on the farm also need a heritage management plan.

6. CONCLUSION

The two-rock art sites the Late Iron Age site and the initiation sites are important cultural heritage resources. They will need proper care and protection. The cemeteries are also important and should be dealt with according to applicable legislation.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- The two rock art sites be properly protected and fully recorded in a Phase II investigation
- No visitors should be allowed to the two sites till a proper management plan approved by SAHRA is in place
- a management plan for the heritage sites be compiled and implemented
- the cemeteries need special attention and should be cleaned and fenced in or be moved to a new locality in accordance with present legislation (see attached annexure).

Should any cultural heritage resources or graves be found during construction all work has to be stopped till the site has been inspected and mitigated by a cultural heritage resources practitioner.

8. SITE INFORMATION

Owners contact details: Mabote Investments (Edms) Bpk PO Box 36257, Menlo Park 0102 Tel (012) 991 7974 Fax (012) 348 0044 muller@lantic.net
Developers contact details: Same as above
Consultants contact details: African EPA PO Box 13776 Hatfield, 0028

<p>Tel: (012) 366 0100 Fax: (012) 366 0111 E-mail: zvw@aepa.co.za</p>
<p>Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.) Approximately 850 residential units/ eco-lodges A conservation area on the remaining land.</p>
<p>Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved:</p> <p>Agricultural to residential</p>
<p>Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number: portion 3 of the farm groothoek 220 k.r. limpopo province rest. portion of the farm groothoek 220 k.r. limpopo province portion 8 of the farm zwartkop 219 k.r. limpopo province portion 2 of the farm groothoek 220 k.r. limpopo province the farm nyhoffsult 231 k.r. limpopo province</p>
<p>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):</p> <p>Attached</p>

8. REFERENCES

- Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum Pretoria
- 1/50 000 Map 2428 BA Sterkrivier
- Aukema, J.A. 1988. *Lephalala: >n argeologiese opname*. Unpublished Report, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, Unisa.
- Eastwood, E.B. & Smith, B.W. 2005. Fingerprints of the Khoekhoen: a study of geometric and handprinted rock paintings in the Central Limpopo Basin, southern Africa. In Blundell, G. (ed.) *Further approaches to southern African rock art*. Cape Town: South African Archaeological Society. Goodwin Series 9:63-76.
- Schoeman, MH. 2006. *Clouding power? Rain-control, space, landscapes and ideology in Shashe-Limpopo state formation*. Unpublished PhD, University of the Witwatersrand.
- Van der Ryst, M. 1998b. Die Ystertydperk. Met kaart. In Bergh, J.S. (red.) *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika: die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. Pretoria: Van Schaik, pp 6-7, 96-100.

- Van der Ryst, M. 2006. *Seeking shelter: Later Stone Age hunters, gatherers and fishers of Olieboomspoort in the western Waterberg, south of the Limpopo*. Unpublished PhD, University of the Witwatersrand.
- G4.3 SAHRA APMHO Committee. SAHRA Minimum Standards for archaeological site museums and Rock Art Sites open to the Public.

9. MAPS

See maps on pages 17 - 19

PHOTOGRAPHS



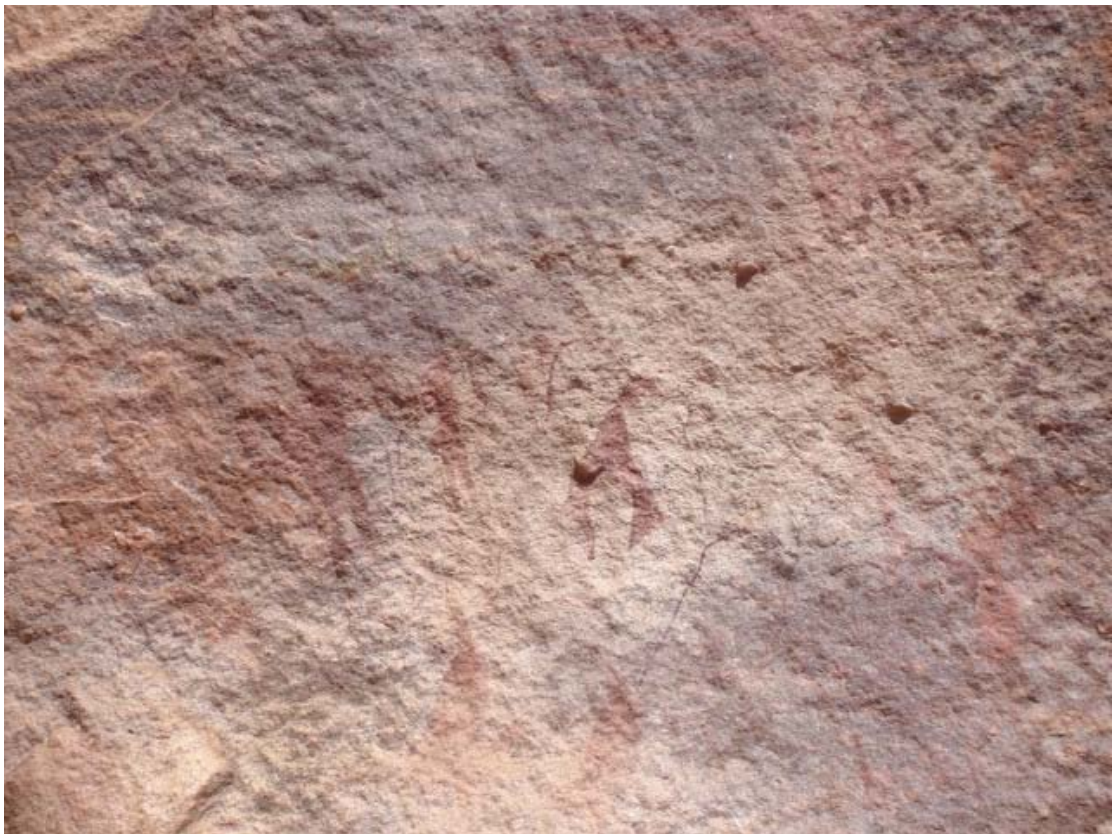
No. 1 Remains of stonewalling on the Late Iron Age Site



No. 2 Single Moloko type potshard found



No. 3 Rock painting of antelope



No. 4 Human figurines



No. 5 Large grinding hole



No. 6 Remains of clay floor



No. 7 View from rock shelter



No. 8 Human figurines



No. 9 Eland and warthog



No. 10 White finger paintings associated with Late Iron Age people



No. 11 Potshards



No. 12 Damaged painting of rhino with two calves and a human figure.



No. 13 Phiri or initiation cairn



No. 14 Tombstone of Thomson



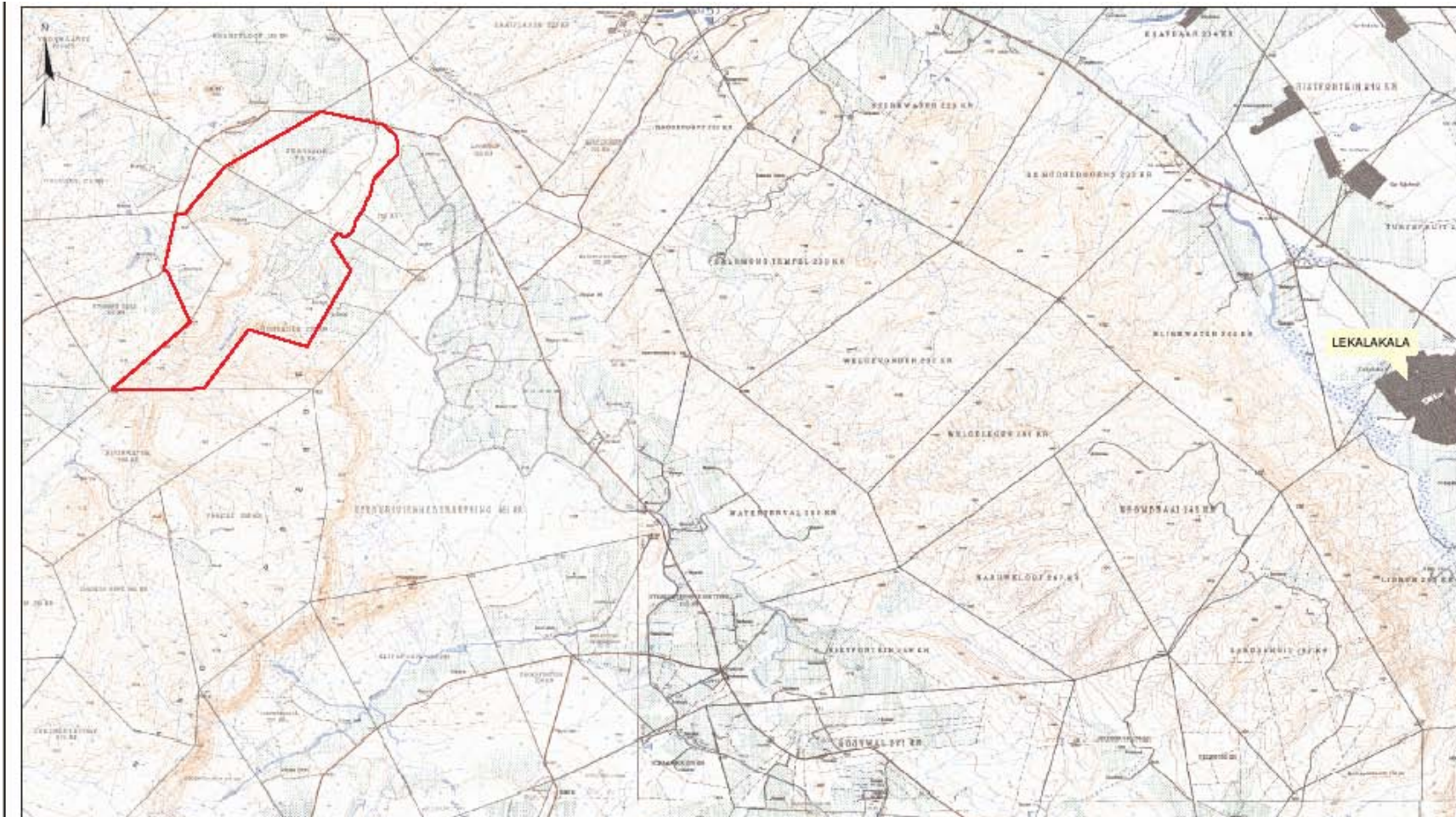
No. 15 Site with two graves



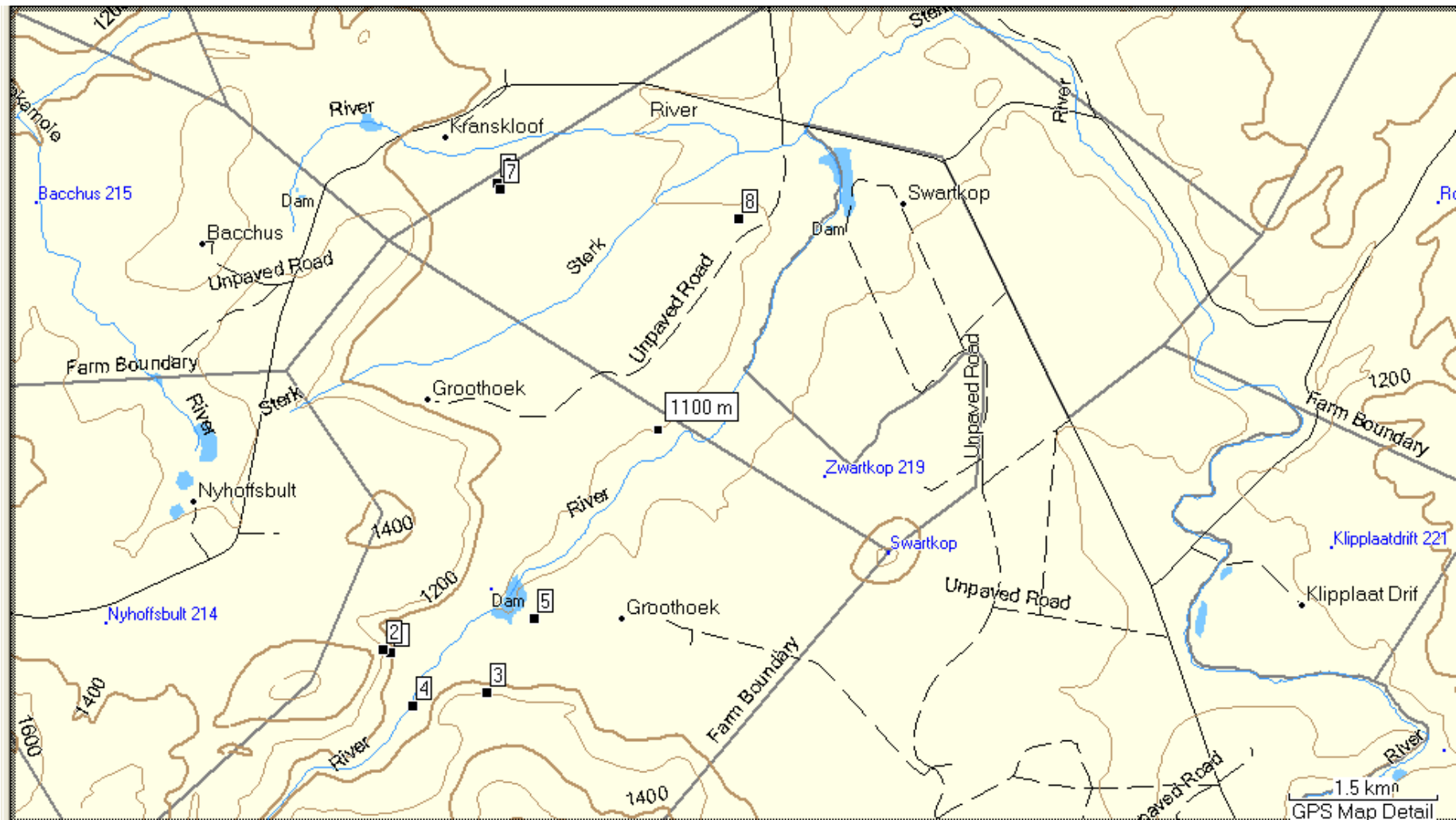
No. 16 Site with six graves

No. 17 Site with thirty-five graves





Map 1. Showing proposed development area in red



Map 3. Note that waypoints 1 & 2 and 6 & 7 are so close to each other that 2 and 6 are not visible.

ANNEXURE A

ARCHAEOLOGY, GRAVES AND THE LAW

- In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:
 - (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
 - (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or 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
 - (c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.
- Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations.
- Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925). Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.
- A registered undertaker can only handle human remains or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).
- Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise

THE PROCESS/STEPS THAT ARE TAKEN

SITE VISIT: WHAT IS DONE DURING THIS SITE VISIT?

Physical documentation of graves prior to exhumation: Photographic, GPS, Site Maps, Final counting etc...

Determining context of graves: If any, are they associated with other sites such as farmhouses/structures etc...

SITE SIGNS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Notices (in compliance with the National Heritage Resources Act) must be placed on the site/s, indicating the intent of relocation. This must be in at least 3 languages and has to be up for a minimum of 60 days.

As part of the preliminary social consultation, newspaper ads as well as radio announcements has to be made as well

This is in order that family members/descendants, if any, can reply/come forward to indicate if any of the graves belong to them

SOCIAL CONSULTATION

If any individuals responded during initial consultation/public participation, then full social consultation undertaken. This will include speaking to individuals regarding graves, their family wishes, getting consent for relocation/reburial etc...

It could also include an Open Day/Traditional Ceremony (or more than one if necessary)

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Undertakers permits applied for and obtained during social consultation
Only after all necessary documents, family consent obtained, landowner letter, can SAHRA Permit be applied for and obtained. A few weeks should be budgeted for this

EXHUMATION & RELOCATION

When permits obtained physical exhumation, investigation and reburial commences

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF BURIALS: DOCUMENTATION FORM

This form contains the following information for each burial:

Feature/Burial No	Site Name/No	GPS Reading	Farm Name/No
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Province	Location of new cemetery		
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It also includes information on the

Burial Type

Burial Dimensions

Grave Type

Grave Dimensions

Associated sites/features

Specimens or grave goods found

The state of preservation and percentage completeness of the human skeletal material

Sex and Age of the individual

Further Remarks

Information on the headstone and grave dressing (if any)

Photographs of each grave, headstone (if any), the skeletal remains, grave goods etc... are also taken and used in the final documentation