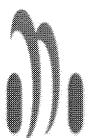


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ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS

**On Human Remains
Inadvertently discovered during
Construction at Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate,
Pretoria district, Gauteng Province**

This report provides an assessment of, and recommendations for the mitigation of human remains inadvertently discovered on 2005/03/02 during construction at Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate, Pretoria District, Gauteng Province. It is based on observations made during a site visit on 20045/03/04.

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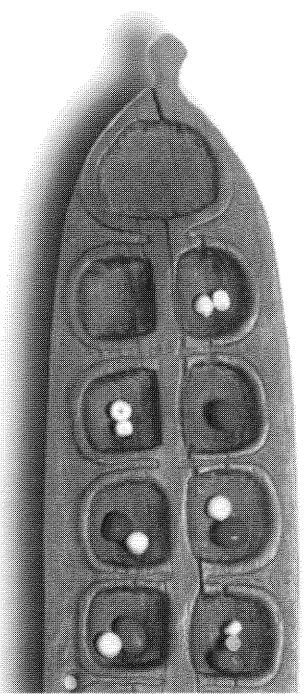


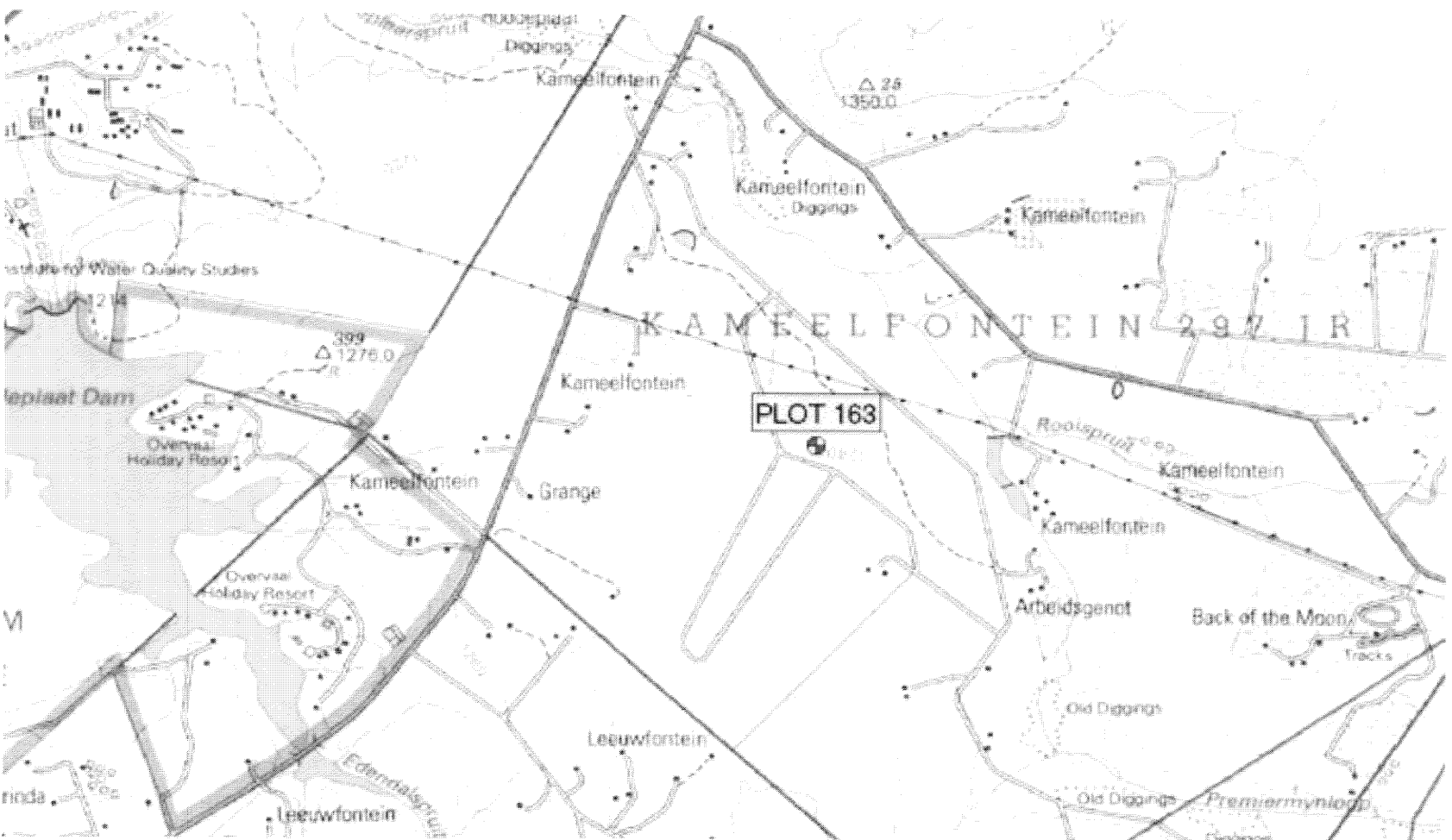
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	Page 3
2.	Events leading to the discovery of the remains	Page 5
3.	Survey and Assessment of affected graves	Page 6
4.	Possible Cultural Affinity and age of the affected remains and graves, based on assessment	Page 10
5.	Recommendations	Page 11
6.	Limitations	Page 12

1. INTRODUCTION

Human remains were discovered during construction activities at Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate, Pretoria District, Gauteng Province (Fig. 1) at 25°37'39.7" South and 028°24'37.8" East (GPS). Anthropology Private Practice, under the auspices of BE@UP was contracted on 2 March 2005 to access the remains and recommend a course of action in mitigating the find. A site visit took place on 4 March 2005, culminating in this report.

Figure 1. The location of the human remains discovered on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate, Pretoria District, Gauteng Province. (Based on Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping 2528CB geotiff version).

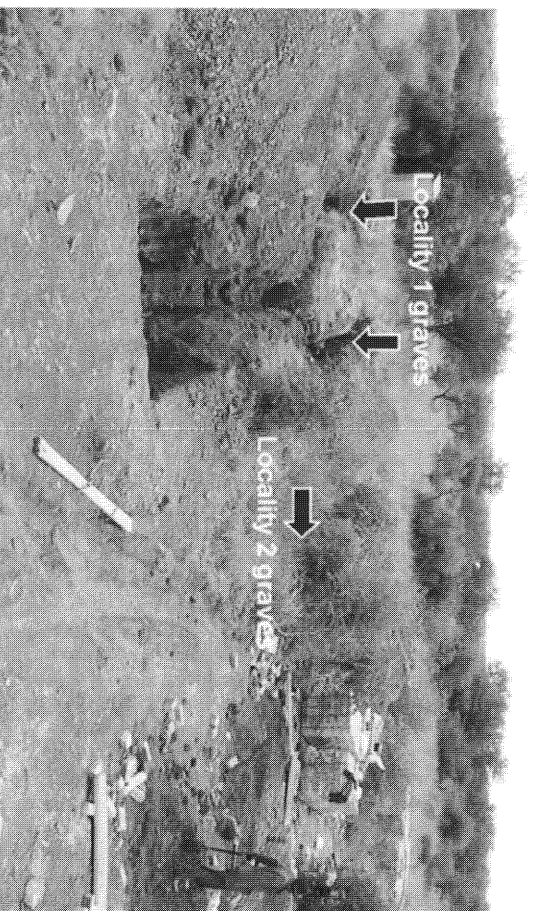


Plot 163 is a privately owned residential property on which the construction of a private dwelling recently commenced. Since the development is smaller than the minimum required to be an activity that is listed in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989)(which requires Environmental Impact Assessments to satisfy the stipulations of the List of Activities and Regulation for EIA's (Government Gazette, 5 September 1997) provided for in terms of sections 21, 22 and 26), no Heritage Impact Assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken.

2. EVENTS LEADING TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE REMAINS

Human remains were discovered during the mechanical digging of sewage trenches for the house (Fig. 2). All work at the locality was stopped and the discovery of the remains was reported to the local (Kameeldrift) SAPS. A docket was opened for case no. : Kameeldrift MAS/6/3/2005, but none of the remains were recovered or handled before the arrival of members of the SAPS Forensics Laboratory, who was contacted for assistance in recovering the remains. Inspector Ian van der Nest of the SAPS Forensics Laboratory recognised that the remains were of a historical, not a forensic nature. He in turn contacted WC Nienaber of APP, leading to the recommendations reflected in this report.

Figure 2. The house under construction at Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate showing the location of human remains and graves inadvertently discovered during construction.



3.SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT OF AFFECTED GRAVES

Locality 1

Human remains were encountered during mechanical excavation of sewage trenches approximately 12m west-north-west of the house under construction. Due to the extensive disturbance caused by the mechanical excavation of the trenches it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of graves affected by the construction activities. The mechanical digging of the sewage trenches disturbed at least two, but possibly as many as four graves. In the profiles of the trenches evidence for the existence of two graves were observed (Figs. 3 & 4), but human bone in the up-cast dumps might represent further individuals (Figs. 5). These remains were poorly preserved and mostly fragmentary. No cultural remains, apart from fragments of corrugated iron still visible in the side of one of the trenches (Refer fig. 4), were observed. No evidence for additional undisturbed graves in this locality could be found.

Figure 3. Evidence suggesting the presence of a grave in the profile of a sewage trench at Locality 1 on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate.





Figure 4. Evidence suggesting the presence of a grave in the profile of a sewage trench at Locality 1 on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate.



Figure 5. Human bone in the up-cast dumps from the sewage trenches at Locality 1 on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate.

Locality 2

At 4m west of the north-western corner of the house under construction a further four possible graves are located (Refer fig.2). These structures have not been disturbed by the construction activities. The surface structures marking these possible graves consist of low, roughly rectangular shaped stone cairns, oriented east-west (Figs. 6 -9). These structures are almost completely obscured by dense vegetation. No cultural objects were observed in association with the graves.

Figure 6. *In situ* structure (possible grave) at Locality 2 on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate.



Figure 7. *In situ* structure (possible grave) at Locality 2 on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate.



Figure 8. *In situ* structure (possible grave) at Locality 2 on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate.



Figure 9. *In situ* structure (possible grave) at Locality 2 on Plot 163 Kameelfontein Estate.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for mitigation of the disturbed human remains are limited by the availability of funds for a grave relocation project. The owner is a private individual constructing a residential home for him self. There are no immediate commercial gains on the part of the owner. The following recommendations strive to achieve a compromise between the mitigation and conservation of affected culture heritage structures and the construction budget of a private individual:

5.1. Locality 1

- 5.1.1. It is recommended that all human remains be recovered from the up-cast dumps.
- 5.1.2. That the recovered remains be analysed to establish the minimum number of individuals, to indicate the number of graves disturbed during construction, and that general physical characteristics for each individual (such as age, sex, etc.) and characteristics of individualization be established where possible.
- 5.1.3. That the remains be returned to the trenches where they were found after analysis and that the trenches be backfilled.
- 5.1.4. ✖ That the french drain sewage system be moved to a different locality on the property. An area directly north of the house, that contains no indications of the presence of possible graves or any other cultural structures or materials have been identified as suitable.
- 5.1.5. ✖ That the area where the remains are re-buried be maintained as a historical cemetery until funds are available for the relocation of the graves.

5.2. Locality 2

- 5.2.1. That the structures remain *in situ* and that the area where the structures are located be maintained as a historical cemetery until funds are available for the relocation of the graves.

5.3. Locality 3

Since these structures are most probably not graves, or any other structure or cultural remains protected in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999) no action is required.

6. LIMITATIONS

These recommendations are only applicable to the mitigation of the structures and human remains observed during the site visit of 2005/03/04. If any other cultural remains are impacted in the process of implementing these recommendations further mitigation will be required.