



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF REMAINDER 13 AND PORTION 287 - 296 OF THE FARM MOOPLAATS 367 JR TSHWANE 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 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 area consists of a small hill and low laying areas of grassland and dense thorn tree veld. The visibility in most areas is very bad because of the dense vegetation, which made the finding of archaeological sites difficult.

At the following localities Late Iron Age sites and historic sites were recorded.

1	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 33.6"	E28° 25' 24.5"
2	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 34.0"	E28° 25' 23.6"
3	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 30.1"	E28° 25' 24.1"
4	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 28.4"	E28° 25' 23.3"
5	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 25.3"	E28° 25' 21.8"
6	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 22.1"	E28° 25' 18.8"
7	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 24.0"	E28° 25' 15.1"
8	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 27.3"	E28° 25' 17.2"
9	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 26.5"	E28° 25' 15.6"
10	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 25.3"	E28° 25' 14.8"
11	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 20.7"	E28° 25' 12.2"
12	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 17.3"	E28° 25' 11.0"
13	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 17.1"	E28° 25' 09.1"
14	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 11.2"	E28° 25' 05.2"
15	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 29.2"	E28° 25' 13.2"
16	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 40.3"	E28° 25' 14.9"
17	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 08.9"	E28° 25' 03.8"
18	Square kraal	S25° 50' 07.2"	E28° 25' 05.9'
19	Late Iron Age site	S25° 50' 05.3"	E28° 25' 05.9"
20	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 50' 07.0"	E28° 25' 03.8"
21	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 50' 03.7"	E28° 25' 00.3"

22	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 50' 00.6"	E28° 24' 54.8"
23	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 49' 57.4"	E28° 24' 53.9"
24	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 49' 54.8"	E28° 24' 51.7"
25	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 49' 51.2"	E28° 24' 51.9"
26	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 49' 51.4"	E28° 24' 51.3"
27	Late Iron Age Site	S25° 49' 47.7"	E28° 24' 50.2"
28	Cemetery	S25° 49' 35.6"	E28° 24' 54.6"
29	Furrow South	S25° 49' 27.8"	E28° 24' 47.0"
30	Furrow North	S25° 49' 19.2"	E28° 24' 55.4"

4.1 Late Iron Age Sites

The Late Iron Age Sites are most probably Ndzundza Ndebele Sites dating to the period \pm 1800. The Ndzundza Ndebele was concured in this area in the 1820s by Mzilikazi and incorporated into his tribe (see Küsel 2002 and Van Vuuren 1992).

The Ndzundza Ndebele sites are concentrated in the area west of Donkerhoek (Diamond Hill) and the Bronberg up to the present Mamelodi southern border. This whole area is under severe pressure from township development. The present site investigation lies halfway between Donkerhoek and the Bromberg (Küsel 2002 and Database of the National Cultural History Museum).

A typical site consists of an outer stone circle and an inner stone circle. In many cases the inner stone circle is again sub-divided. Some of the sites are only 10 metres in diameter while others are 50 to 100 metres and more in diameter (see photographs 1 – 4).

On average the stonewalling is les than one meter high though some stonewalls are nearly two metres high. It is also clear that some of the stonewall have been reused for modern cattle kraals (square) while others may even have been used as redoubts during the battle of Diamond Hill in the Second Anglo Boer War (see Berg 1999 p 52 – 53).

From an archaeological point of view many sites have been recorded but nothing has been published on these early Ndebele sites (National Cultural History Museum Database). Prof. Chris van Vuuren of Unisa who has mainly worked on oral history of the Ndebele has done the most extensive work on these sites. According to him the main settlement of the Ndzandza Ndebele was more or less where the Silver Lakes Golf Estate is today. The sites on Mooiplaats would thus form part of the Ndzundza settlements in the area, most probably associated with a headman and his followers (Van Vuuren 1992).

At present it is impossible to assess the sites interrelation ship to each other because of the dense vegetation. From the fieldwork it seems that most sites are relatively small (one family unit) but a number of the sites are much larger (up to 100 metres in diameter and more). From this it can be conducted that a large site most probably has up to ten smaller sites associated with it. This can possibly be a settlement of a headman with a number of families under his jurisdiction. Some of the sites as

already mentioned have been reused possible during the Diamond Hill Battle or by later White farmers (Berg 1999 p 51 –52).

4.2 Cemetery

At S25° 49' 35.6" and E28° 24' 54.6 a large cemetery of fairly recent times was found. The graves are mostly just heaps of stones. Some are difficult to see because of the vegetation and stones, which have over the years been scattered. There might be up to forty graves. From the grave goods it is clear that these graves are not older than sixty years and thus fall outside the jurisdiction of Act 25 of 1999, but are protected by Provincial legislation (for detail see annexure A).

Two of the graves are in a good condition and according to one of the present farm workers are still visited by family members.

4.3 Canal

The remains of a canal was found on the north-western portion of the site near the river. This canal is typical of early Boer farm settlements.

A Furrow was dug to bring water to the house and for irrigating fields and orchards. Farming and the new road have destroyed the northern portion of the canal. The original farm settlement most probably was north of the present road. The canal will most probably date to the 1860 when the first farms were allocated to White farmers in the area (see photograph 5).

5. CONCLUSION

The Ndzundza sites in the area are all under threat and many have already been destroyed by township development and farming activities. The sites on Mooiplaats 367 JR (Remainder 13 and portion 287 - 296) are still in a relative good state of preserving and most probably are of a Field Rating Grade II. This would not necessary apply to all the sites but at least two or three of them with nearby associated sites. Dense vegetation made proper recording and evaluation difficult. For this reason a detailed phase II investigation and even a phase III development might be necessary.

The graves are important and should be properly cleaned and protected or mitigated.

The old canal is typical of early Boer pioneer settlements. A canal was essential for bringing water for household and irrigation purposes to the farm settlement.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- A phase II investigation of the archaeological site be conducted. For this purpose the veld will have to be burned in the spring to get rid of the tall grass. Some bush clearing will also have to take place so that individual sites can be recorded.
- Two or possible three of the most important sites should be preserved in a heritage park in the new development and be properly restored in a phase III investigation.
- The possibility to declare these preserved sites; provincial heritage sites should be investigated.
- After the phase II investigation an application for mitigation and destruction of the rest of the sites can be made.
- A heritage management plan must be compiled for the preserved heritage sites after the completion of the phase II and III mitigation.
- The cemetery should be cleaned the graves recorded and a decision must be taken to either preserve the cemetery or to move the graves to a new locality in accordance with present provincial legislation.
- The old water canal should be recorded in detail and be preserved as a feature in the new development if possible. If not a permit for destruction must be applied for

7. SITE INFORMATION

Owners contact details: Platinum Mile Investments 542 (Pty) Ltd PO Box 608, La Montagne 0184 Tel (012) 802 1128 Fax (012) 802 1227
Developers contact details: Same as above
Consultants contact details: African EPA PO Box 13776 Hatfield, 0028 Tel (012) 366 0100 Fax (012) 366 0111
Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.) App 150 residential units on 210 ha
Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved: Agricultural to residential

**Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number):
Portions R/13 and 287 – 296 of the Farm Mooiplaats 367 JR**

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):

If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site.

8. REFERENCES

- National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999
- Bergh J.S. Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika Die vier Noordelike Provinsies 1999
- A.E. Breytenbach. Die Slag van Donkerhoek 11 – 12 Junie 1900 MA Unisa 1979
- J.C. Visagie Voortrekker stam ouers 1835 – 1845 Universiteit van Suid Afrika Pretoria Bl. 151
- C.J. van Vuuren Die aard en betekenis van Etnisiteit onder die Suid-Ndebele DPhil, Universiteit van Pretoria 1992
- 1/50 000 Map 2528 CD
- Küsel 2002 Unpublished report – Bronberg project – Cultural Heritage Resources
- Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum Pretoria

PHOTOGRAPH



No. 1 Typical stonewalled site with dense vegetation



No. 2 One of the sites with high walling



No. 3 A Typical site showing outer and inner walls



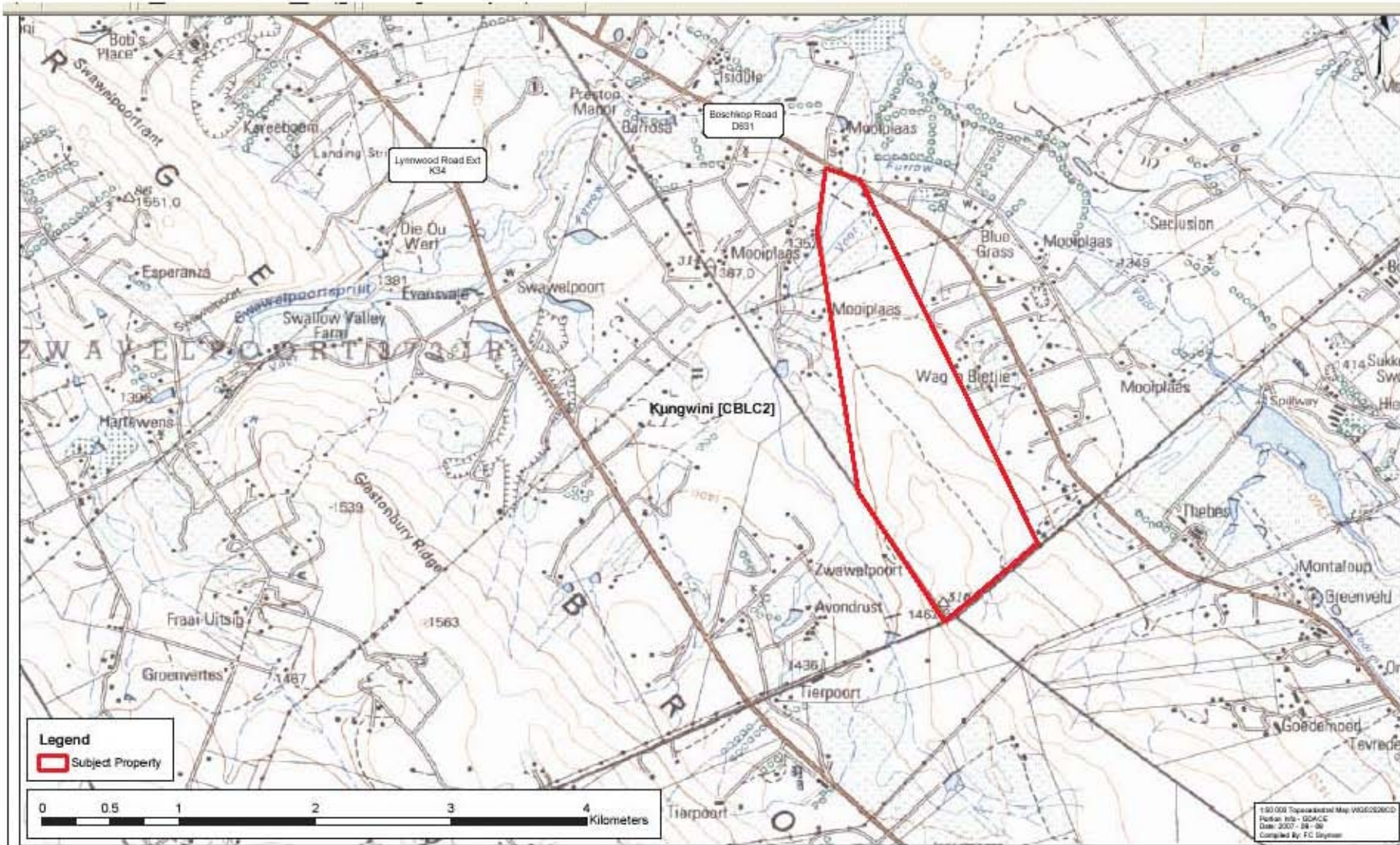
No. 4 One of the sites where the walls were reused for a modern cattle kraal



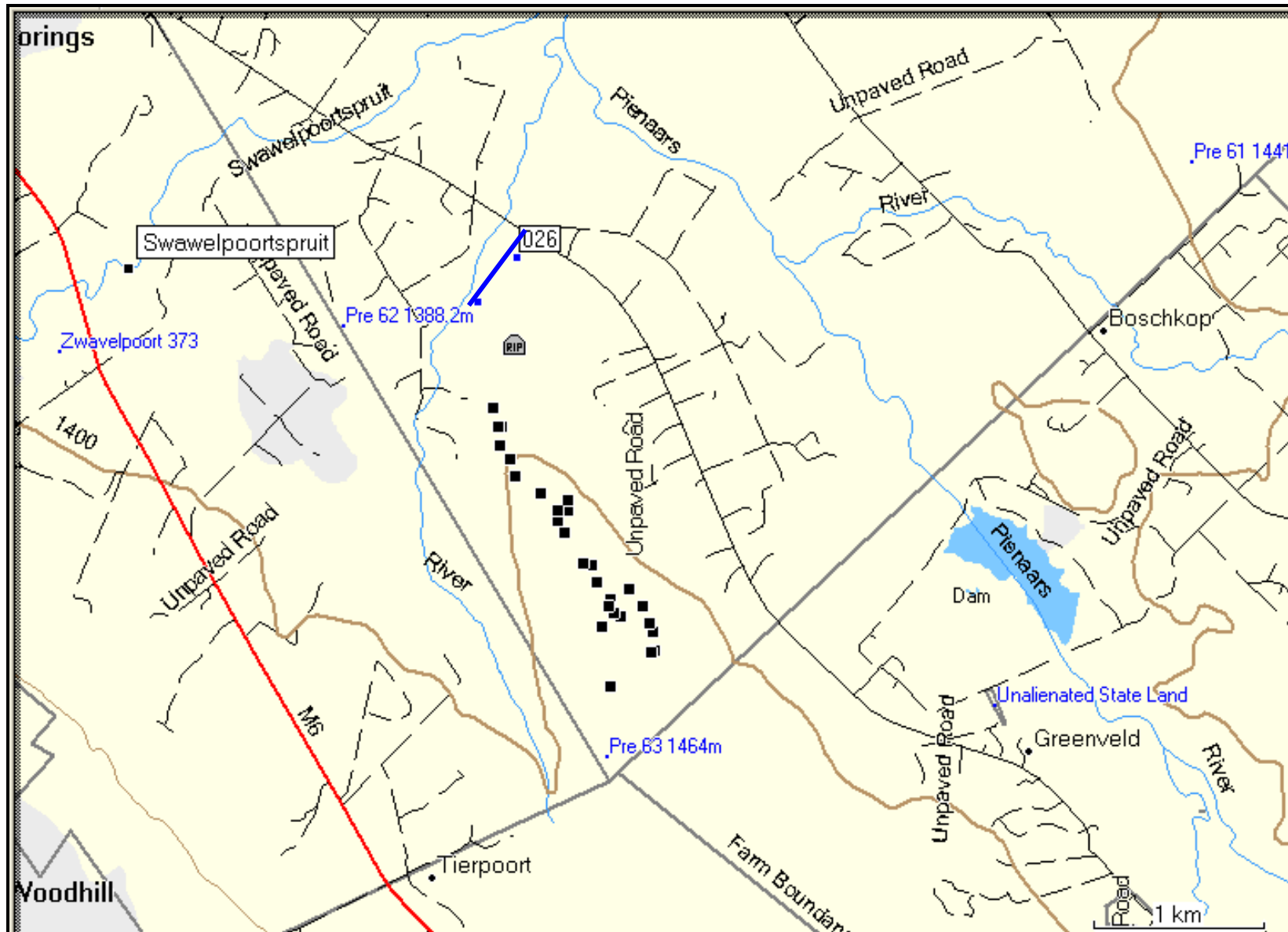
No 5 General view of the cemetery



No. 6 Remains of the water canal



MAP



Map showing archaeological sites, cemetery and canal indicated by the blue line.

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 Province	Site Name/No Location of new cemetery	GPS Reading	Farm Name/No
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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