



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural Resource Consultants  
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**A CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GROENKLOOF  
NATURE RESERVE, CITY OF TSHWANE**

For:

***THE CITY OF TSHWANE, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, CITY PLANNING AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, DIVISION NATURE CONSERVATION AND  
RESORTS***

REPORT: **AE837**

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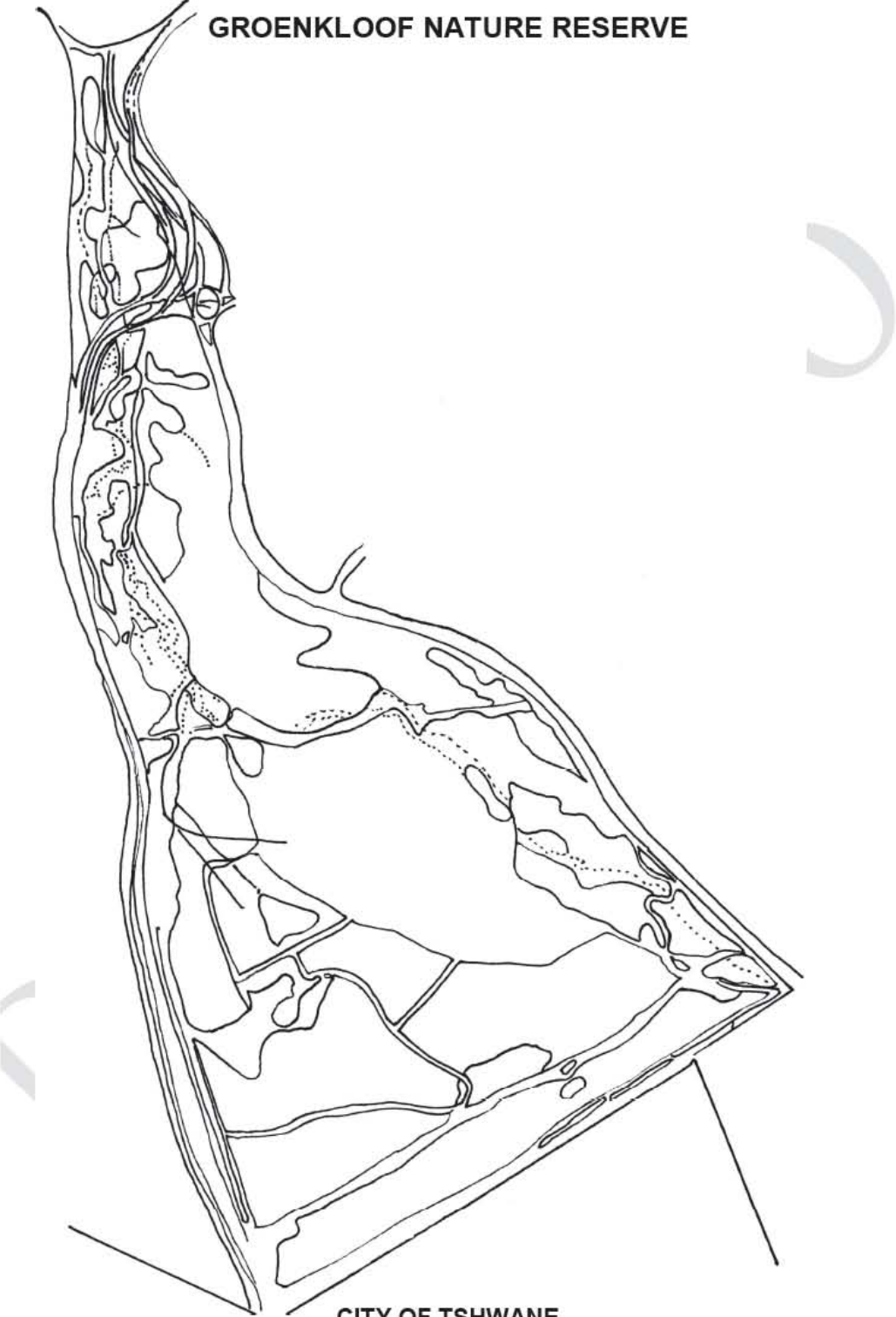
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**A CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR  
GROENKLOOF NATURE RESERVE**



**CITY OF TSHWANE**

**Department Housing, City Planning and Environmental Management.**

**2006**

## **CONTINUATION**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT A MANAGEMENT PLAN IS AN OPEN DOCUMENT. ACCORDINGLY IT CAN BE CHANGED CONSTANTLY.**

**THIS PARTICULAR MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOULD BE RELOOKED AT LEAST EVERY FIVE YEARS AND ALSO WHENEVER A SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT IS PLANNED.**

**THE PLAN SHOULD THEN BE ADAPTED IN ACCORDNACE WITH THOSE PLANS AND ANY DVELOPMENTS IN THE TIME THAT LAPSED UP TO THAT PARTICULAR POINT IN TIME.**

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## **i. Definitions**

### **Alien Species:**

Species or genotypes that is not indigenous to the GNR, including hybrids and genetically altered organisms.

### **Authority:**

Means the management authority for the GNR established by City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality as defined and required as per the National Environmental Management: protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003.

### **Biodiversity / Biological Diversity:**

Means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part and also includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems as defined and required as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004.

### **Bioprospecting:**

In relation to indigenous biological resources, means any research on, or development or application of, indigenous biological resources for commercial or industrial exploitation, and includes –

The systematic search, collection or gathering of such resources or making extractions from such resources for purposes of such research, development or application as defined and required as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004.

### **Buffer Zone:**

Means an area surrounding cultural heritage (see def. cultural heritage) which has restrictions placed on its use or where collaborative projects and programs are undertaken to afford additional protection to the site.

### **Conservation:**

In relation to heritage resources, includes protection, maintenance, preservation and sustainable use of places or objects so as to safeguard their cultural significance as defined

### **Cultural Significance:**

Means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance as defined and required as per the National Heritage Resources Act No.25 of 1999.

### **Co-management:**

Managing in such a way as to take into account the needs and desires of stakeholders, neighbours and partners, and incorporating these into decision making through, amongst others, the promulgation of a local board.

### **Cultural Heritage:**

As defined in the National Heritage Resource Act (No. 25 of 1999) Cultural heritage is

considered as those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations and may include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including:
  - o ancestral graves;
  - o royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
  - o graves of victims of conflict;
  - o graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*;
  - o historical graves and cemeteries; and
  - o other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including:
  - objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens
  - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - ethnographic art and objects;
  - military objects;
  - objects of decorative or fine art;
  - objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

**Eco-cultural Tourism (ecotourism):**

Means to travel to natural areas to learn about the way of life and cultural history of people and the natural history of the environment, while taking care not to change the environment and contributing to the economic welfare of the local people.

**Ecosystem:**

Means a dynamic complex of animal, plant and micro-organism communities and their nonliving environment interacting as a functional unit as defined and required as per the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003.

**Grade/Grading:**

The South African heritage resource management system is based on grading, which provides for assigning the appropriate level of management responsibility to a heritage resource.

Grading is a step in the process towards a formal declaration, such as a declaration as a National Heritage Site, Provincial Heritage Site, or in the case of Grade 3 heritage resources the placing of a resource on the Register. It is not an end in itself, but a means of establishing an appropriate level of management in the process of formal protection. Grading may be carried out only by the responsible heritage resources authority or in the case of a Grade 3 heritage resource by the Local Authority. Any person may however make recommendations for grading. These are known as Field Ratings and usually accompany surveys and other reports.

**Heritage-based Resources:**

Refers

**Historic:**

Means significant in history, belonging to the past; of what is important or famous in the past.

**Historical:**

Means belonging to the past, or relating to the study of history.

**Interested Parties:** (See stakeholders)**Iron Age:**

In archaeology, the Iron Age is the stage in the development of any people where the use of iron implements as tools and weapons is prominent. The adoption of this new material coincided with other changes in some past societies often including differing agricultural practices, religious beliefs and artistic styles, although this was not always the case.

**Local Community:**

Means any community of people living or having rights or interests in a distinct geographical area as defined and required as per the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003.

**Maintenance:**

Means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place. It does not involve physical alteration.

**Management:**

In relation to a protected area, includes control, protection, conservation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the protected area with due regard to the use and extraction of biological resources, community based practices and benefit sharing activities in the area in a manner consistent with the Biodiversity Act as defined and required as per the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003.

**Management Unit:**

Means the specific geographic area / sector of the *Reserve* for which a manager has been appointed that is responsible for conservation management in that area / sector – normally each management unit will be provided with its own budget and associated management infrastructure. The boundaries of these areas do not necessarily follow original protected area boundaries.

**Minister:**

Means the National Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

**Municipality:**

Means the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality established by General Notice 6770 in *Provincial Gazette Extraordinary* 141 of 1 October 2000 in terms of the provisions of the local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998), and includes the Municipality's Council, Executive Mayor and Mayoral Committee and any other committee established by the Council and any employee or official of the Municipality duly authorised to perform any duty, power or function in terms of these bylaws.

**Nature conservation area:**

Means any area classified as such according to the method used by the Nature Conservation and Resorts Section of the Municipality to classify nature conservation areas and includes the following, as well as any new areas which may be classified as such at any future stage.

**Notice:**

Means a clearly visible notice in one official language or more which is exhibited at or in a public amenity by or under the authority of the Municipality.

**Partnership/s:**

Means a co-operative and/or collaborative arrangement/s between *Reserve* management and a third party that supports the achievement of *Reserve* objectives.

**Preservation:**

Refers to protecting and maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration or change, and may include stabilization where necessary. Preservation is appropriate where the existing state of the fabric itself constitutes evidence of specific cultural significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.

**Public amenity:**

Means:

- any land, square, camping site, swimming-bath, public resort, recreation site,
- zoological, botanical or other garden or park, or hiking trail, including
  - any portion of and any facility or apparatus in or on the land, square,
  - camping site, swimming-bath, public resort, recreation site, zoological,



- botanical or other garden or park or hiking trail, which is owned, leased, administered, managed or controlled by the Municipality and to which the general public has access, whether on payment of admission fees or not;
- any public road, road reserve, street, lake, dam, river, stream or spruit which is owned, leased, administered, managed or controlled by the Municipality and to which the general public has access, whether on payment of admission fees or not;
- any building, structure, hall, room or office, including any part of and any facility or apparatus in the building, structure, hall, room or office, which is owned, leased, administered, managed or controlled by the Municipality and to which the general public has access, whether on payment of admission fees or not;
- any public amenity contemplated in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) which is lawfully administered, managed or controlled by a person other than the Municipality in terms of an agreement between such person and the Municipality; and
- any nature conservation area, including -
  - any nature reserve;
  - any protected natural area;
  - any nature conservation-worthy area; and
  - any natural open space, which is owned, leased, administered, managed or controlled by the Municipality and to which the general public has access, whether on payment of admission fees or not.

**Public gathering or procession:**

Means a public gathering or procession of 12 persons or more.

**River or dam**

Means any natural or man-made water surface which is situated within the area of jurisdiction of the Municipality and which is owned, leased, administered, managed or controlled by the Municipality and to which the general public has access, whether on payment of admission fees or not, and includes the banks or shores of the river or dam and adjacent land to which the general public has access.

**Site:**

Means any area of land, including land covered by water, and including any structures or objects thereon.

**Stakeholders / Interested Parties:**

These are interested individuals or groups concerned with or affected by an activity and its consequences. These include the authorities, local communities, investors, work force, consumers, environmental interest groups and the general public. According to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004, “stakeholder” means a person, an organ of state or a community contemplated in section 82 (1) (a), or an indigenous community contemplated in section 82(1) (b).

**Stone Age:**

The period encompasses the first widespread use of stone for the manufacture of tools and weapons in human evolution and the spread of humanity from the savannas of East Africa to the

rest of the world. It ends with the development of agriculture, the domestication of certain animals and the smelting of copper ore to produce metal. It is termed *prehistoric*, since humanity had not yet started writing.

**Sustainable:**

In relation to the use of a biological resource, means the use of such resource in a way and at a rate that would not lead to its long-term decline; would not disrupt the ecological integrity of the ecosystem in which it occurs; and would ensure its continued use to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations of people (as per National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004).

**Structure:**

Means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

**ii. Naming Conventions**

**Pretoria:**

On 26 May 2005 the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC), which is linked to the Directorate of Heritage in the Department of Arts and Culture, approved changing the name of Pretoria to Tshwane. Although the name change has been approved by the AGNC, it has not yet been approved by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Pallo Jordan, as of 31 March 2006. The matter is currently under consideration while he has requested further research on the matter. Should the Minister approve the name change, the name will be published in the Government Gazette, giving the public opportunity to comment on the matter. The Minister can then refer the public response back to the SAGNC, before presenting his recommendation before parliament, who will vote on the change. For the purpose of this report when referring to geographic location and history the name Pretoria will be used.

**Tshwane:**

Refers to the Metropolitan Municipality in which Pretoria, and a number of surrounding towns are located.

**iii. Abbreviations**

CTMM - City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality  
CRM - Cultural Resource Management  
GNR - Groenkloof Nature Reserve  
NHRA - The National Heritage Resources Act  
NZASM - Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorwegmaatschappij  
PRHA - Provincial Heritage Agency  
SAHRA - South African Heritage Resources Agency

#### **iv. Preface**

*This Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Heritage Sites located in the GNR is the first of such a document for the area since 1 April 2000 when the Heritage Act (25 of 1999) came into operation. It forms the framework within which the Groenkloof Reserve will be managed and developed towards the achievement of its management objectives derived in collaboration with the reserve's stakeholders during 2006. This report has been designed to meet the statutory requirements of the National Heritage Act (25 of 1999.) The protected area management planning process requires participation from the GNR stakeholders, the general public and specialists during the various stages of plan development and implementation. The Department of Housing, City Planning and Environmental Management, City of Tshwane hereby commits itself to the implementation of this plan.*

*The cultural heritage in the Reserve is significant, diverse, extensive (ranging from Stone-Age through to the Historical Period) and importantly non-renewable. The resource is therefore fragile and needs specialist capacity with post graduate archaeological qualifications to support Reserve management with consistent and effective conservation of cultural resources. Conservation of the cultural heritage will involve the maintenance of a site inventory register, the identification and documentation of new sites, monitoring, research, and interpretation of sites.*

# 1. PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE THE GROENKLOOF NATURE RESERVE AS HERITAGE SITE

## 1.1 DEPARTMENTAL VISION AND MISSION

### 1.1.1 Vision

An economically viable, attractive, efficient and environmentally friendly city that promotes ecological integrity, the efficient disposal of waste and a delivery focused, people-centered agricultural activity that accelerates and promotes sustainable economic growth.

### 1.1.2 Mission

To ensure a sustainable and affordable environment, facilitating the development of a robust agricultural sector for the benefit of the current and future community in co-partnership with the community of Tshwane and other spheres of government.

## 1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Reserve* is:

To continue with its contribution to the achievement of Provincial and National conservation targets through protecting a representative portion of the farm Groenkloof as a reserve.

Further more:

- Preserve and conserve the ecological and cultural integrity of the area;
- Safeguard the archaeological, historical, palaeontological and living cultural heritage of the area.
- Promote awareness of the natural beauty and outstanding aesthetic value of the area.
- Provide access by the public to the area and its resources, including the spiritual values provided by wilderness areas.
- Contribute to local, regional, and national economies through sustaining water production and other life support systems, eco-cultural tourism, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

## 1.3. SIGNIFICANCE

The significant value of the sites in the *Reserve* was evaluated in terms of a framework of themes developed to assist with understanding the historical development of South Africa.

### 1.2.1. South Africa's earliest inhabitants.

Significant features of cultural, historical and archaeological interest are present in the *Reserve*. The Stone Age is represented and distributed throughout the area and one site with definite Iron Age occupation has been identified. These sites may be representative of the oldest, undisturbed evidence of occupation in the Pretoria area. The sites are of great value in terms of research and

education and are in need of long-term management and monitoring to enable the continuation of the area as a recreation and tourism destination.

### **1.2.2. Migrating, arrival and settling.**

Historically speaking, the first people to have occupied the area were the San and the Khoi-Khoi followed by the Sotho-Tswana groups. When Mzilikazi arrived in the area in the 1820s they found mainly Sotho tribes and tribes of the Transvaal Ndebele and it is believed that these Ndebele were absorbed by the Sotho-Tswana majority. The first arrival of the white pioneers in Pretoria and with them early 19th century architecture is also strongly represented in the *Reserve*.

### **1.2.3. The displacing of peoples and resisting displacement**

The *Reserve* represents one of the only untouched areas in Pretoria where traces of the occupation and displacement of the different groups of people may still be found and studied.

### **1.2.4. Interaction between different peoples within South Africa**

The area is representative of not only the interaction of the white pioneers with the indigenous people but also the interaction between different tribes of indigenous people. The behaviour of the occupying people towards the white pioneers before the establishment of European hegemony in their particular region adds to the significance of this area. 'Contact' in this case may provide some potentially useful insights into the behaviour of both the pioneers and the peoples on whom they impinged.

### **1.2.5. Water Production**

Up to 1930 all Pretoria's water was obtained from here. Today the GNR does not constitute the principal water production for the City of Pretoria anymore but it does deliver 8% high quality unpolluted water to the area, from one of the strongest and most consistent springs in the country.<sup>1</sup> The remnants of the old water system are still to be found here.

### **1.2.6. Eco-cultural Tourism**

It was the second protected area to be proclaimed on the African continent and having both natural and cultural values of great significance, the *Reserve* is an important part of the cities tourism industry and a major attraction for local visitors.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Küsel , *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of Fountain Valley*, (Unpublished Report, African Heritage Consultants CC, Pretoria, 2006), p. 5.

### 1.2.7. Wilderness.

The uniquely undeveloped and intrinsically wild character of the area, in the heart of the City, result in vast wilderness area that provide outstanding opportunities to experience solitude and for spiritual renewal for the citizens of Pretoria.

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1. HERITAGE RESPONSIBILITIES

The *Reserve* may be considered for serial nomination of Grade 2 status. The aforementioned is based on the fact that the sites in the *Reserve* may have greater significance, or tell a fuller story when viewed as a group rather than as single sites. Serial nomination allows for the linking of complimentary sites that are being considered for Grade 1 or 2 status into a single declaration.<sup>2</sup> A nomination for the NZASM bridge to be declared a Grade 1 site has already been submitted to SAHRA.

### 2.2. GRADING SYSTEM AND CRITERIA

The criteria to be applied in assessing the significance of a heritage resource are as follows:

Grade 1 Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance should be applied to any heritage resource which is:

- a) of outstanding significance in terms of one or more of the criteria set out in section 3(3) of the Act;
- b) authentic in terms design, materials, workmanship or setting; and is of such universal value and symbolic importance that it can promote human understanding and contribute to nation building, and its loss would significantly diminish the national heritage.

Grade 2 Heritage resources with special qualities which make them significant in the context of a province or region should be applied to any heritage which:

- a) is of great significance in terms of one or more of the criteria set out in section 3(3) of the Act; and
- b) enriches the understanding of cultural, historical, social and scientific development in the province or region in which it is situated, but that does not fulfill the criteria for Grade 1 status.

Grade 3 Heritage resources worthy of conservation should be applied to any heritage resource which fulfils one or more of the criteria set out in section 3(3) of the Act ; or

- b) in the case of a site contributes to the environmental quality or cultural significance of a larger area which fulfils one of the above criteria, but that does not fulfill the criteria for Grade 2 status.

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<sup>2</sup> A short guide to grading. *South African Heritage Resource Agency*. December 2004.

As per the Deputy Manager: Museums & Heritage, CTMM the following institutional arrangements or decisions have been made:

- The compilation of a proper heritage management plan for the area that must be implemented as soon as possible.
- All structures that are older than 60 years be properly protected, restored and maintained.
- That the original water supply system and canals be researched and the remains thereof, protected and interpreted.
- The Bronkhorst ruin must be properly protected and interpreted.
- Visits and management consultation for the Du Preezhoek grave site in the GNR.
- Consultation with regard to the historic NZASM bridge across the Apies River.
- That the old miniature steam train be kept in working order.
- To develop an interpretive centre for the interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- To develop a heritage hiking trail.

### 2.3. LEGISLATION GUIDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GROENKLOOF NATURE RESERVE

This section sets about describing the responsibilities regarding the cultural heritage of the GNR. This particular report sets out the information in the following format. Firstly, an overview of heritage aspects that govern the *Reserve* will be given and thereafter the key statutes that the reserve is subject to.

The following is applicable in terms of the Management as per the Deputy Manager: Museums & Heritage, City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality:

- According to section 7 of the NHRA all heritage sites will be graded into three ranks, which are:

Formally protected sites:

- o Grade 1 or national heritage sites, which are managed by SAHRA
- o Grade 2 or provincial heritage sites, which are managed by the PHRA.
- o Grade 3 of local heritage sites, which are to be managed by the local authority, once competency has been established.

Generally protected sites:

- o Human burials older than 60 years.
- o Archaeological and palaeontological sites.
- o Shipwrecks and associated remains older than 70 years.
- o Structures older than 60 years.

- According to the NHRA, SAHRA replaces the former National Monuments Council and will deal with matters regarding National heritage sites.

- Section 8 of the Act states that Grade 3 sites are of local importance and should therefore be dealt with by local authorities. It also states that local authorities are accountable for their actions and decisions and the performance of functions under this system. It is therefore clear that the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality is bound by law to be in a position to fulfill this duty.
- Section 9 of the Act explains the rights, duties and exemptions of bodies regarding their responsibilities. It however is sufficient to state here that there are certain time limitations to implementing this process.
- The next section applicable to local authorities is Section 25(e). It outlines the powers and duties of heritage resources authorities. It states that heritage authorities (and it is clear that the CTMM is seen as such an authority) must take measures to conserve and manage all heritage resources under its jurisdiction and owned by them.
- The management of these is done according to ethical guidelines given in the law. This includes a three step process of surveying, evaluating and drawing up management plans for heritage resources. This is mostly done in consultation with professionals in the field of architecture, archaeology and cultural history. Although the Act does not specify the details of this process it has been published by some scholars and SAHRA.
- The Act also indicates the different types of protection given to heritage resources, as well as the different types of resources to be protected. In this regard Section 30 is important to local authorities. It states that heritage registers should be maintained by the provincial heritage authorities, but that local authorities should assist concerning Grade 3 heritage resources.
- The different types of heritage resources include those formally protected by the Act and those that receive general protection. Formally protected resources include:
  - Grade I, II and III resources
  - protected areas
  - provisional protection
  - heritage registers
  - heritage areas
  - heritage objects
- General protection includes:
  - objects protected by the laws of foreign states
  - structures
  - archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites
  - burial grounds and graves
  - public monuments and memorials
- Section 38 of the Act gives guidelines for the management of heritage resources. From this it is clear that any developer planning to do a development of infrastructure of



whatever kind, should first do an investigation into the heritage of the area to be developed. This should comply with the process already stated above. Since the CTMM serve as a developer and also work with private developers, it should adhere to this Section.

- Section 45 of the Act warns that an owner of a heritage resource (such as the CTMM) may be ordered to repair such a resource should this have been neglected. It is also clear that in accordance with section 51(9) such an authority could be held accountable and responsible for vandalism of a heritage resource.
- According to Section 48 a heritage plan should also be submitted to SAHRA. This should include all resources under the jurisdiction of such an authority.
- Local authorities may also make by-laws concerning the heritage. However, according to Section 54 of the Act these should be approved by the provincial heritage authority. Such by-laws could regulate the protection, utilization and management of Grade III heritage resources.
- The Reserve is subject to the following key statutes – it is acknowledged that this list is not exhaustive. Managers must familiarize themselves with the contents of these statutes and their subsequent amendments.

#### **Biodiversity and Cultural Resource Management and Development:**

- Animals Protection Act [No. 71 of 1962]
- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa [No. 108 of 1996]
- Criminal Procedures Act [1977]
- Cultural Institutions Act [1998]
- Cultural Laws Second Amendment Bill [2000]
- Environment Conservation Act [No. 73 of 1989]
- National Heritage Council Act [11 of 1999]
- National Environmental Management Act [No. 107 of 1998]
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act [No. 10 of 2004]
- National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act [No. 57 of 2003]
- National Heritage Resources Act [No. 25 of 1999]
- National Water Act [No. 36 of 1998]
- National Water Amendment Act [No. 45 of 1999]
- National Veld and Forest Fire Act [No 101 of 1998]
- Nature Conservation Ordinance [No. 15 of 1974]
- Tourism Act [1993]

#### **2.4. PROCLAMATION STATUS OF THE GROENKLOOF NATURE RESERVE**

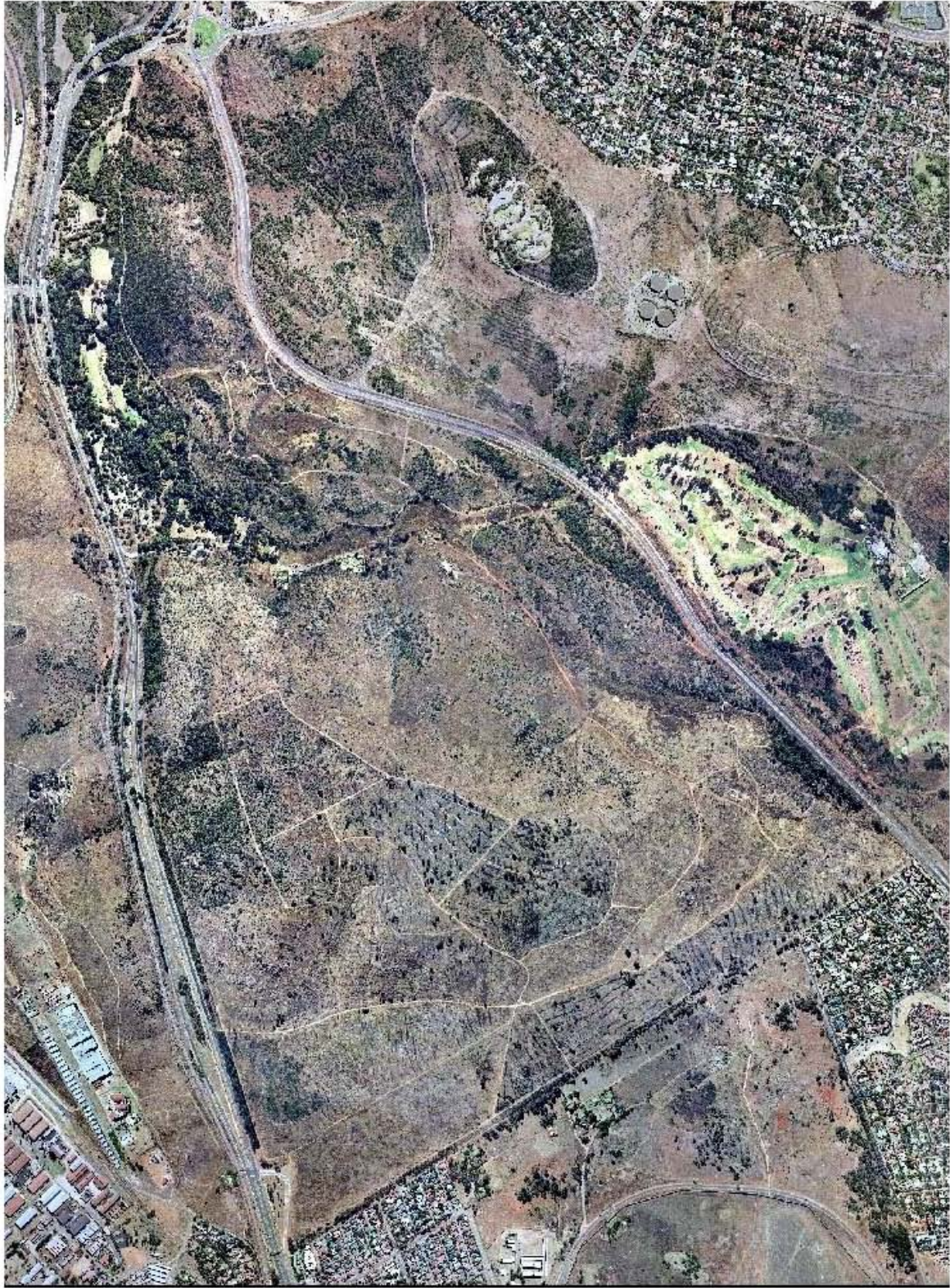
The *Reserve* was proclaimed a game sanctuary 25 February 1895.

## 2.5. DEFINING THE GROENKLOOF NATURE RESERVE BOUNDARIES

The *Reserve* may be described in terms of a large triangle facing north to south. It is bounded by two highways the M18 and R21 that form two of the major entrances to the city centre. The suburb Monument Park extension 2, Waterkloof Airforce Base and the suburb Kloofsig serve as the southern border.



**Figure 1** Map of the hiking routes in the Groenkloof Nature Reserve from which the boundaries can be seen.



**Figure 2** Aerial photograph of the Groenkloof Nature Reserve.

### 3. BACKGROUND STUDY

#### 3.1. INTRODUCTION

The Groenkloof Nature Reserve is situated on the Farm Groenkloof (358-JR). The *Reserve* as a whole is a national asset due to its natural and cultural values, and as such in 1895 President Paul Kruger proclaimed the farm as a game sanctuary, which makes it one of the oldest game sanctuaries on the African continent. To the south the area is characterized by a broken hilly landscape and to the north it is dominated by level geography that form part of the Apies River floodplain. The Apies River is the most significant geographical feature of the area. In addition, the *Reserve* is home to many historic and cultural significant sites of local importance. This includes the Bronkhorst Ruin, a grave site, a historic bridge, Stone Age as well as Iron Age sites and other sites from the Historical period. The remains of a complex water supply system that played a key role the first 75 years of the City of Pretoria's existence are situated in the Fountains Valley recreational area. It still produces high quality water from its natural fountains that constitutes 8% of the City's water supply.

#### 3.2. LOCATION AND EXTENT OF THE RESERVE

This section sets about describing the geographical location and properties of the area of the *Reserve*. Firstly, the location with details of position, landscape and environment of the particular site as a whole is given. This is followed by a detailed description of specific sites with cultural heritage significance, using evidence of both a historical and archaeological nature.

The Groenkloof Nature Reserve, which includes the Fountains Valley Recreation Resort, is about 450 hectares in extent and is situated in Pretoria, Gauteng Province of the Republic of South Africa. Pretoria is situated in the transitional area between the Highveld and the Bushveld, approximately 50 km north of Johannesburg in the north-east of South Africa. It lies in a warm, well sheltered, fertile valley, surrounded by the hills of the Magaliesberg range, 1,370 m (4,495 ft) above sea level. The city's coordinates are approximate 25°43'S and 28°17'E.

#### 3.3. HISTORY OF CONSERVATION

Nguni-speaking settlers, who later became known as the Ndebele (derived from the Sotho word for 'refugees'), were as far as can be ascertained the first people to recognise the suitability of the river valley which was to become the location of the future city of Pretoria for settlement. In the 1820s Mzilikazi, breakaway Zulu chief who founded the Matabele (also known as the Matabele of Mzilikazi) nation arrived in this area and slaughtered the Bakwena tribe who in turn had already driven the San people out.

Lucas Cornelus Bronkhorst built his house in this area in 1839-1840. Bronkhorst's brother Gerhardus Stephanus and field cornet Andries van der Walt also settled here. After Bronkhorst's death in 1874 the farm was sold to H.J. Frames for £1.250. Frames then sold the farm to Jesse Jeans. At this stage it had been realised that this farm and more in particular the springs should be public property and in 1883 the Supreme Court ordered Jeans to transfer the farm to Government. Thus the farm Groenkloof became the property of the State.

The main purpose for the proclamation of the farm as a game reserve in 1895 was to protect the large herds of animal on the outskirts of town from hunters who were responsible for their demise as well as protection for the shy and timid Oribi which occurred here. A ban on hunting put an end to poaching in the Valley. As a result of the Valley's appeal to the general public an enterprising business man built a hotel there that became a popular meeting place with a big number of senior Hollander officials.

Shortly after the British occupation of Pretoria on the 5th of June 1900 a military pumping station was erected. In 1910 wars in the rest of the world resulted wood and paper shortages and portions of the farm were rented out for the establishment of commercial wood plantations. Old planting plans indicate that most old portions were planted in 1915.

In June of 1922 a Mr. J.H. Venning submitted a report to the council for practical consideration of a scheme to develop the Fountains Valley and provide the public with recreational facilities. In 1924 the Council agreed in principle to have a kiosk built at the fountains on the site formally used for a nursery. The plans for the kiosk was submitted in May 1927 and in October of the same year the Mayor, Mr. C.M. de Vries laid the foundation stone and the kiosk opened in May the following year. In 1930 the town Engineer was authorised to build a tea room at the swimming bath.



**Figure 3** UNISA main campus in Pretoria, photograph taken from Klapperkop on 25 August 2006 by Petrus Potgieter.

By the late 1950's ownership of the farm was handed over to the City Council of Pretoria. The area around Bronberg or Muckleneuk Kop which is part of Groenkloof was quickly developed

and in 1965 the Pretoria City Council divided the summit in two. One section went to the University of South Africa and the other section to the National Parks Board.<sup>3</sup>

The Klapperkop part was developed into a plantation and Fort Klapperkop became the property of the South African Defence Force. The museum which was established here was taken over by The City Council of Pretoria in 1994. For a number of years the *Reserve* formed an important part of the City of Pretoria's recreation and conservation and presently it is managed by the City of Tshwane.

Detailed scientific information regarding the history of the town and this area can be obtained from the following sources:

- Lourens, L.J. 2006. The origin and meaning of the place name Tshwane. **South African Journal of Cultural History** 20(1).
- Van Vuuren, C.J. 2006. Ndebele place names and settlement in Pretoria. **South African Journal of Cultural History** 20(1).
- Van Vollenhoven, A.C. 2005. Die eerste blanke bewoner van die Pretoria-omgewing. **South African Journal of Cultural History** 19(2).
- Van Vollenhoven, A.C. 2006. Die prehistoriese en vroeë historiese tydvak in Pretoria. **South African Journal of Cultural History** 20(2).

The Fountains Valley recreation area which is still part of the *Reserve* is administrated separately. In 1994 the Department of Nature Conservation assumed responsibility for the *Reserve* and preparation for the re-release of game were set in motion.

As a result Impala, Kudu, Blue Wildebeest and Ostrich were reintroduced to the *Reserve* in 1999 this was followed by the release of giraffe and red hartebeest in 2002 and Sable Antelope. A complete list of mammals and birds are available at the Council offices.

Currently cleanup operations to rid the area of alien vegetation. The Fountains Valley recreation facility is governed by the Department of Housing, City Planning and Environmental Management, City of Tshwane. For the purpose of this report the term *Reserve* refers to both the Fountain Valley recreation area and the Groenkloof Nature Reserve.

### 3.4. DESCRIPTION

#### 3.4.1. Climate and Weather

The Gauteng region has a summer rainfall climate dominated by subtropical anticyclones. In winter, the subsidence of air causes atmospheric stability and consequently a distinct dry season. Between November and February summer thunderstorms produce flashes of lightning and brief

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<sup>3</sup> H.P.H. Behrens, Fountains Valley: A Gem to be Cherished. *Pretoria News.*; J van Wyk, Groenkloof Nature Reserve, The oldest in Africa? *Wildlife Africa*. Vol. 58, No. 2 Autumn 2004. Municipality.

but torrential afternoon downpours. These rainstorms are often accompanied by devastating floods in the area of the Apies River.



**Figure 4** Photograph of the Apies River in flood (1897), Van der Waal collection, University of Pretoria Archives.

### 3.4.2. Geology

The biggest part of the *Reserve* comprises of chert. The consistency is fine and granular. Quartz is also present with a hard, fine and gritty consistency, which contribute to a high resistance of the rock to erosion. In addition, the chert is associated with dolomite which is not as resistant to erosion, especially when it comes into contact with water. On the one hand the dolomite results in the occurrence of sinkholes which is detrimental to development in the *Reserve* but on the other hand it allows for the forming of strong flowing fountains which is the main reason for the first settlement of people in the area. In prehistoric times, chert was often used as a source material for stone tools.

### 3.4.3. Cultural Heritage

This section sets about describing the cultural heritage located in the *Reserve*. This particular report sets out the information in a chronological format. This is done to ensure a logical frame of reference and to assist in forming a complete view of occupation and utilisation of the area.

In 1993 a survey of the GRN was conducted with the aim of recording all objects, features and structures of archaeological and historical significance.<sup>4</sup> Another survey was conducted in March of 2006 concentrating mainly on archaeological and historical remains located in the recreation area of the GNR.<sup>5</sup>

#### 3.4.3.1. Stone Age

The Stone Age is represented and distributed throughout the area but at present no traces of the Earliest and Latest phases of the Stone Age have been found.

According to the 1993 report the tools are mostly found along the banks of the Apies River and at sites referred to as activity areas scattered throughout the *Reserve* (GPS coordinates: S 25° 47' 31.5" - E 28° 12' 48.2"; S 25° 47' 42.7" - E 28° 11' 49.4" and S 25° 47' 54.4" - E 28° 12' 12.7") and also including three small caves.<sup>6</sup>

#### Activity areas

The activity areas are mostly surface sites located near exposed chert. Three sites that were investigated and mentioned in the 1993 report are located on the escarpment overlooking the valley and the river.<sup>7</sup> The areas were classified as workshops since by-products of tool manufacture including flakes and cores were also found at these sites. The Middle Stone Age is especially well represented although some Later Stone Age artefacts were also found at one of the three sites.

**As far as can be ascertained these sites are not under any immediate threat thus the contents of these sites forming part of the cultural significance should not be removed unless this is the sole means of ensuring their survival. If removed, such contents should be returned when changed circumstances make this practicable.**

#### Caves

There are some small caves close together in at an outcrop in the *Reserve* (GPS coordinate: S 25° 47' 37.7" - E 28° 12' 24.1") and deposits are present in all three.

**According to the 1993 report the above mentioned sites may be representative of the oldest, undisturbed evidence of occupation in the Pretoria area. The sites are of great value in terms of research and education<sup>8</sup>. The management should be aware that monitoring of the**

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<sup>4</sup> J.A. van Schalkwyk & S.M. Moifatswane. *'n Argeologiese ondersoek van die Fonteinedalgebied, gelëe op die plaas Groenkloof 358-JR, Pretoria*, (Unpublished Report, National Cultural History Museum, 1993).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Küsel. *Cultural Heritage Impact assessment of Fountain Valley*. (Unpublished Report, African Heritage Consultants cc, Pretoria, March 2006).

<sup>6</sup> J.A. van Schalkwyk & S.M. Moifatswane. *'n Argeologiese ondersoek van die Fonteinedalgebied, gelëe op die plaas Groenkloof 358-JR, Pretoria*, (Unpublished Report, National Cultural History Museum, 1993), p. 7.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p.8.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p.8.



**above mentioned sites is important to ensure the sustainable use in terms of cultural heritage. The integrity of the sites must be kept in line with SAHRA requirements and legislation.**

### 3.4.3.2. Iron Age

#### **Cave Site**

Only one site has been identified where definite Iron Age occupation is visible. This site is a cave located in a dolomite outcrop, east of the road that led to the old Fountains drive-in bioscope (GPS coordinate: S 25° 47' 07.7"; E 28° 11' 55.6").

Caves such as these are normally associated with the Stone Age and in all probability it was occupied by Stone Age people at some time but since little evidence such as Stone Age tools are present this is hard to establish. Apparently this particular cave is not very deep. At the entrance of the cave is a terrace which was formed in all likelihood by human activity. Iron Age potshards and some Stone Age tools are to be found on this terrace. It is assumed that, in times of crises, Iron Age people found refuge in caves such as these. The Potsherds that are found at this site is broadly associated with the Moloko Tradition. This tradition is an Iron Age pottery style linked to proto Sotho-Tswana speaking peoples.

**The cave is open, unprotected and easily accessible which unfortunately enable visitors to take artefacts from the site as souvenirs. It is therefore recommended that access to the cave be restricted. According to the conservation principles of SAHRA, conservation is based on respect for the existing material and structure and should involve the least possible intervention. It should not distort the original natural state of the site. Therefore it is not recommended that the site be fenced off. Visits to the site by appointment only and accompanied by personnel from the *Reserve* may be sufficient to protect the site from further looting. A sign close to the site must indicate access as restricted. If however, this does not remedy the problem more drastic fencing should be done in such a way that, if they were to be removed in the future, the original natural state of the site would be retained.<sup>9</sup>**

**Again the site is of great value in terms of research and education and as was recommended by the 2006 report management may consider a formal exhibition or field museum where the remains of these early people are exhibited.<sup>10</sup> The management should be aware that monitoring of the above mentioned site is important to ensure the sustainable use in terms of cultural heritage. The integrity of the site must be kept in line with SAHRA requirements and legislation.**

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<sup>9</sup> J.A. van Schalkwyk & S.M. Moifatswane. *'n Argeologiese ondersoek van die Fonteinedalgebied, gelêe op die plaas Groenkloof 358-JR, Pretoria*, (Unpublished Report, National Cultural History Museum, 1993), p10.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p.8.; U.S. Küsel. *Cultural Heritage Impact assessment of Fountain Valley*, (Unpublished Report, African Heritage Consultants cc, Pretoria, March 2006), p. 6.

#### .4.3.3. HISTORICAL PERIOD

##### **The Bronkhorst Ruin**

*“...Then when a suitable place had been found, in which we women normally had some considerable say, the men built a hartebeest-house. This took the form of a rectangular oblong, divided into two or three rooms, the walls being also temporarily built of wattle and daub, or of clay only, under a thatched roof...The permanent dwelling which again came into being perhaps a year or more after the hartebeesthouse had been put up...retained the oblong form, but was built either of stone or brick.”<sup>11</sup>*

The foundations of a house believed to be the one that is described in the quote above is still to be seen at the *Reserve* and it is believed to be the remains of the house of Lucas Bronkhorst who settled here in c. 1840. It is properly fenced and sufficient information concerning its origin is available. The area surrounding the ruin is well maintained.

**This ruin is of great cultural significance in terms of research and education. It represents the first arrival of the white pioneers in Pretoria and with them early 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture. According to the conservation principles of SAHRA, all buildings and their environments should be recognised as products of their own time and as evidence of a continuous historical development.**

**The recommendation, in the 2006 report that the character and symbolism of the Bronkhorst-ruin be incorporated in any development that is planned in its vicinity is reiterated.<sup>12</sup> Restoration of the ruin may be viewed as an improvement to its current state and strengthen the cultural significance of the site. According to the NHRA (25 of 1999) restoration in relation to heritage resources, includes the repair, restoration and rehabilitation of a place.**

**It is critical that the current information at the site be changed as these were disproved. It should be replaced by the correct scientific information.**

**Restoration may be considered but it is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the original *Hartebeest-house*. It must be noted that no person may carry out any work of restoration or repair of a heritage object, listed in Part II of the register of heritage objects, without a permit issued by a duly authorized representative of SAHRA. On application by the owner or custodian of a heritage object listed in Part II of the register of heritage objects, SAHRA may at its discretion assist in funding any restoration or repair work undertaken by a restoration or repair craftsman approved by SAHRA.**

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<sup>11</sup> 14 G.S. Preller. *Old Pretoria*, (Published under the auspices of the City Council and Die Afrikaanse Kultuurraad, Pretoria, 1939) p. 13.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Küsel. *Cultural Heritage Impact assessment of Fountain Valley*, (Unpublished Report, African Heritage Consultants cc, Pretoria, March 2006), p. 6.

**Alternatively, it may be considered to earmark this site as an open-air museum and cover the ruin in order to protect it against further deterioration.**

### **The Fountains Water System**

The two fountains in the *Reserve* were the reason why the early settlers, including the Bronkhorst brothers, selected this area to establish their farm. The two fountains are completely independent of each other, being separated by a dyke. Both produce an abundance of pure water from the dolomite formation between Pretoria and Irene.

Originally the water was led to Pretoria along open furrows. Some remnants of later slate lined sloods are still present under the cement pavements of Du Toit, Paul Kruger, Andries and Bosman Streets. Eventually by the 1900s the water was piped (18 inch and 12 inch pipes) and the water was delivered by gravity to a water tower in town. Many complaints, however, were received from the citizens of Pretoria that due to rusted pipes the water was contaminated. In 1902, during the British occupation, a pumping station at the Fountains Valley was erected to pump water for the Military. A steam pump delivered 900 000 litres of water per day. The pump house still stands in the Valley, but the steam engine has been replaced by electric motors. It is unfortunate that when this change took place the boiler room and its tall chimney were demolished.<sup>13</sup>

To commemorate the importance of the two fountains in the history of Pretoria, a large stone with a plaque was placed at a point in the middle between the two fountains in 1955.

**The mentioned stone and plaque should be preserved.**

### **The Weir**

The first feature of this system under scrutiny is the stone weir with metal sluice. This weir is still viewed as a very good example of 19th century industrial architecture and was built in the 1880s.

**This structure forms an integral part of the water supply system and it is recommended that this feature be restored and protected.**

### **The ZAR Pumping Station**

This square brick is of great cultural and architectural significance in terms of research and education. It is an example of industrial architecture which makes conservation essential. This report proposes that the ZAR Pumping Station be declared a National Heritage Site since it

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<sup>13</sup> D.C. Panagos, The ZAR pumping station at Groenkloof, Pretoria, 1898, in M. Willmer, (ed.), *Yearbook*.

played such a vital role in the history and establishment of Pretoria and because it is associated with two forts that have already been declared National Heritage sites, Schanskop and Klapperkop.

**Restoration of the ZAR Pumping Station is to be considered since there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the original building and it is in need of repair. Restoration may strengthen the cultural significance of the building, especially if it can be used as an information centre for the *Reserve*.**

The 2006 report suggested, that this particular building be utilised as a formal exhibition centre, as this will be of great value to the preservation of this structure.<sup>14</sup> After consulting with John Cooper, at this stage this is not viable since the pumping station is still in use and generates a fair amount of noise.<sup>15</sup> If restoration is considered careful attention must be given to the policies set out by SAHRA.



**Figure 5** ZAR pumping station, Van der Waal collection, University of Pretoria Archives.

### **Water-Furrow**

The portions of the water-furrow that are left are of great cultural and architectural value since they form part of the old water system (see the discussion of the Fountains Water System). The

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<sup>14</sup> U.S. Küsel. *Cultural Heritage Impact assessment of Fountain Valley*, (Unpublished Report, African Heritage Consultants cc, Pretoria, March 2006), p. 8.

<sup>15</sup> Personal communications with John Cooper, Deputy Manager: Resorts, Pretoria, 20 September 2006.

portions that are left consist mainly of two furrows running parallel to each other. They meet and grow narrower to the north of the research area. The last section of the furrow is lined with stone and cement. The remains of this furrow system is in need of attention since most of it is covered with lush vegetation. In addition the individual structures are relatively small and neglected. It is feared that visitors to the *Reserve* may not recognise the significance of these remains and therefore preservation of these features are important.

**It is recommended that the vegetation around these features be completely cleared in order to assist with a proper assessment of the condition of these features. An assessment of the remains of the furrow system will aid in pointing out those portions of the feature that may be considered for restoration. It is also recommended that a formal exhibition explaining the furrow system be included in the management plan for the *Reserve*.<sup>16</sup>**

### Early Victorian Architecture

The Fountains Hotel



**Figure 6** Fountains Valley hotel, Van der Waal collection, University of Pretoria Archives.

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid, p.7-9.; J.A. van Schalkwyk & S.M. Moifatswane. *'n Argeologiese ondersoek van die Fontainedalgebied, gelêe op die plaas Groenkloof 358-JR, Pretoria*, (Unpublished Report, National Cultural History Museum, 1993), p15-17

In the 1880's Victorian- Style hotel was built in the *Reserve* which became a popular meeting place with a big number of senior Hollander officials. This particular building is an integral part of the history of the Reserve, despite the fact that it has undergone many changes and is no longer architecturally representative of its time and culture.

According to John Cooper<sup>17</sup> this building was used as kiosk about 60 years ago and was later converted into a two storey hotel. Up to 1995 it functioned as a restaurant called *Toulouse*. Plans to convert it back into a hotel was made by SAMRAND but this never got off the ground which resulted in the building being vacant for a considerable period and this in turn resulted in it being severely vandalized. The building was then handed back to the Department of Housing, City Planning and Environmental Management which is now using part of the building for offices. Plans are being considered to restore the rest of the building to function as a restaurant and information centre.<sup>18</sup>

**According to NHRA (25 of 1999) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance may be part of the National estate, and therefore all efforts must be geared towards preserving and preventing further architectural changes. Using this building as a small site museum or information centre may be ideal.**

### **Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture**

There are five structures in the Reserve that date to the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The consultants, who produced the 2006 report, investigated these structures and numbered them alphabetically from A-E. <sup>19</sup> To avoid confusion and for the sake of continuation the same numbering will be applied by this report. Structure A is situated near the proposed day-visitors area, Structure B is situated near the pool and Caravan Park and the other three structures (C-E) on the ridge south of the Reserve. These buildings are being utilized as homes for the personnel of the Reserve and appear to be in good structural condition.

**According to the NHRA (25 of 1999) these buildings/ structures are of cultural significance and they may be part of the National estate, and therefore all efforts must be geared towards preserving and preventing further architectural changes.**

### **The NZASM Bridge**

On the Northern border of the *Reserve* the remains of the old NZASM Bridge are found. This feature, though incomplete, is an important heritage site since it forms part of the history of railway development in South Africa.

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<sup>17</sup> Personal communications with John Cooper, Deputy Manager: Resorts, Pretoria, 20 September 2006.

<sup>18</sup> Personal communications with John Cooper, Deputy Manager: Resorts, Pretoria, 20 September 2006.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Küsel. *Cultural Heritage Impact assessment of Fountain Valley*, (Unpublished Report, African Heritage Consultants cc, Pretoria, March 2006), p. 9.

**It is important that this feature be interpreted and protected from further damage. It was noted on the first visit to the *Reserve* that this area in particular is a security risk to visitors so urgent attention needs to be given to proper security. Upon consulting with David Boshoff<sup>20</sup> it was stated that the problem is being addressed and plans have the area fence the off with daily patrols are being considered to remedy the problem<sup>25</sup>. Visitor access to the remains of the bridge also needs to be improved by means of a path and proper signage. The area around the bridge seems to be neglected and the vegetation needs to be cleared and kept in check, this may already greatly contribute to the securing the area.**



**Figure 7      Photograph with the NZASM bridge in the foreground taken from the south-east looking towards where Pretoria station is today.**

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The cultural significance of GNR as an integral part of South Africa's history cannot be overstated. Due to its value as water source it is the birth place of the city and was protected as a conservation area in the late 19th century. It is one of the oldest conservation areas in South Africa and may contribute greatly to the culture and tourism industry to Pretoria.

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<sup>20</sup> Personal communications with David Boshoff, CTMM : Environmental Management Chief: Nature Conservator West & North Sector, Pretoria, 20 September 2006.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of the area in term of research and education is that it is relatively untouched by the fast growing and encroaching development of the city. In addition, enough evidence exists in the *Reserve* of settlement by people from the Middle Stone Age through to the first white pioneers.

Therefore it is important to bring the cultural significance of this site to the attention of the public by means of a museum or education centre. The site is presently managed by staff from the GNR. Greater public interest and participation would benefit the long-term wellbeing of the various sites located in the *Reserve*.