

PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SONLANDPARK EXTENSION 1 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITUATED ON PORTIONS 110 AND 114 OF THE FARM HOUTKOP 594-IQ, GAUTENG PROVINCE



Compiled by:

ARCHAEOLOGY AFRICA CC
P.D. BIRKHOLTZ

Tel: +27 12 332 5305
Fax: +27 12 332 2625
Cell: +27 82 717 6661
E-mail: polke@lantic.net



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeology Africa cc was appointed by *Africon (Pty) Ltd* to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portions 110 and 114 of the farm Houtkop 594-IQ. The said portion is earmarked for the construction of the Sonlandpark Extension 1 Residential Development.

The developer is the *Masingita Group of Companies* and the contact person Mr. Julius R. Katzke.

Five heritage sites were identified within the study area, namely:

- Historic farmstead dating from the early 20th century (see Site 1)
- Possible grave (see Site 2)
- Early historic farmstead dating from the late 19th century to early 20th century (see Site 3)
- Historic to recent farm labourer dwelling dating from the mid to late 20th century (see Site 4)
- Historic to recent cemetery dating from the early to mid 20th century (see Site 5)

While all five sites are located within an area where no residential development would be allowed as a result of dolomites, the development of sports fields in this area may be a possibility. It was however recommended that no development of any sort may be allowed near the early historic farmstead (see Site 3) or the cemetery (see Site 5).

Mitigation measures for the remainder of the sites were made should they be impacted upon by the proposed development.

It is the opinion of the author of this report that on the condition that all the recommendations made in this report are adhered to, the development may be allowed to continue.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeology Africa cc was appointed by *Africon (Pty) Ltd* to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portion 110 AND 114 of the farm Houtkop 594-IQ. The said portion is earmarked for the construction of the Sonlandpark Extension 1 Residential Development.

2. DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA AND DEVELOPMENT

2.1 The Study Area

The property is located on Houtkop Agricultural Holdings in Vereeniging (refer Annexure A Locality Plan) and is situated in the Emfuleni Local Municipality. It is bounded by Southern Road in the north, Susan Engelbrecht Road in the west and Vlakfontein Road in the east. In the far southern corner of the property there is a paved street known as Skippie Botha Avenue. The site is situated west of Sonland Park with Falcon Ridge situated to the north-east.

The eastern and southern portions of the study area are comprised of agricultural land where maize and lusern were produced.

A small chert ridge with scattered rock outcrops is situated in the northern and western portions of the site and slopes towards the south and the east.

The vegetation of the study area is predominantly arable farm land with open grassland to the west.

2.2. The Proposed Development

The study area is earmarked for the construction of the Sonlandpark Extension 1 Residential Development. At present the proposed development is comprised of 590 erven of which 500 will be Residential I, 72 Residential II and four Residential III. The development will also include three places of instruction, two schools and one business area. The objective is to plan and design an integrated and sustainable development which would compliment the surrounding land uses, while being sensitive to the existing and evolving urban fabric (Refer Annexure C for the Proposed Development Layout Plan).



Plate 1 Panoramic view of a section of the study area.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Desktop Study

The desktop study is aimed at compiling as much information as possible on the heritage resources of the area. Such a study also helps in providing historical context for any located sites. It focussed on the study of published and unpublished source material, archival records as well as historical and archival maps. These were primarily sourced from National Archives, the UNISA Library and the Directorate: Surveys and Mapping.

3.2 Field Surveys

The fieldwork took place on Friday 11th July 2008 and consisted of foot surveys of the entire study area with priority placed on the undisturbed areas. All located sites were briefly documented. This documentation includes photographs (where possible) and descriptions as to the nature and condition of the located material. A hand-held Global Positioning System (Garmin GPSmap 60CSx) set to datum WGS84 was used to obtain site coordinates. The sites were numbered from Site 1 to Site 5.

3.3 Consulting with Local Interested and/or Affected Parties

A public participation process was undertaken by *Africon (Pty) Ltd*. This process included site notices, press advertisements and flyers. No issues with regards to heritage have so far been raised. Public meetings are scheduled to take place shortly and should heritage issues be raised, the South African Heritage Resources Agency will be duly informed.

3.4 Aspects regarding Visibility and Constraints

Not subtracting in any way from the comprehensiveness of the fieldwork undertaken, it is necessary to realise that the heritage resources located during the fieldwork do not necessarily represent all the heritage resources located there. This may be due to various reasons, including the subterranean nature of some archaeological sites and dense vegetation cover. As such, should any heritage features and/or objects not included in the present inventory be located or observed, a heritage specialist must immediately be contacted. Such observed or located heritage features and/or objects may not be disturbed or removed in any way until such time that the heritage specialist has been able to make an assessment as to the significance of the site (or material) in question. This is true for graves and cemeteries as well.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Desktop Study Findings

4.1.1 Cartographic findings

As heritage impact assessments primarily deal with the locating of heritage resources within a pre-defined geographic landscape, the study of historic and archival maps as part of such a study can be very useful.

Two primary sources for maps were utilised, namely the cartographic section of the National Archives in Pretoria, as well as the archives of the Directorate: Surveys and Mapping in Cape Town.

4.1.1.1 Vereeniging Map, Major Jackson Series, Revised June 1902

This map forms part of the series of British maps produced under the supervision of Major Jackson of the Royal Engineers by the Mapping Section of the Field Intelligence Department, Army Headquarters. The sheet is the Vereeniging sheet (sheet number 45) of the map series and was originally produced during December 1900. The sheet used for the study is the revised edition of the 1900 map, dated to June 1902. (National Archives, Maps, 3/613)

As can be seen from the map depicted in **Figure 1**, three buildings were located in the central portion of the farm. These structures appear to have been the original farm buildings but are located some distance to the south and outside of the present development area. No other features are depicted for the farm.



Figure 1 Enlarged section of the Vereeniging sheet of the Major Jackson Series dated June 1902 (National Archives, Maps, 3/613). The approximate position of the study area is marked in red dotted line.

4.1.1.2 Vereeniging Map, Transvaal and Orange Free State Series, 1913

The sheet discussed here is the Vereeniging sheet for the 1:125 000 Transvaal and Orange Free State Series compiled by the Geographical Section, Transvaal, and dates from 1913 (National Archives, Maps, 3/1421).

As can be seen from the depiction below no heritage features are shown anywhere near the present development area.

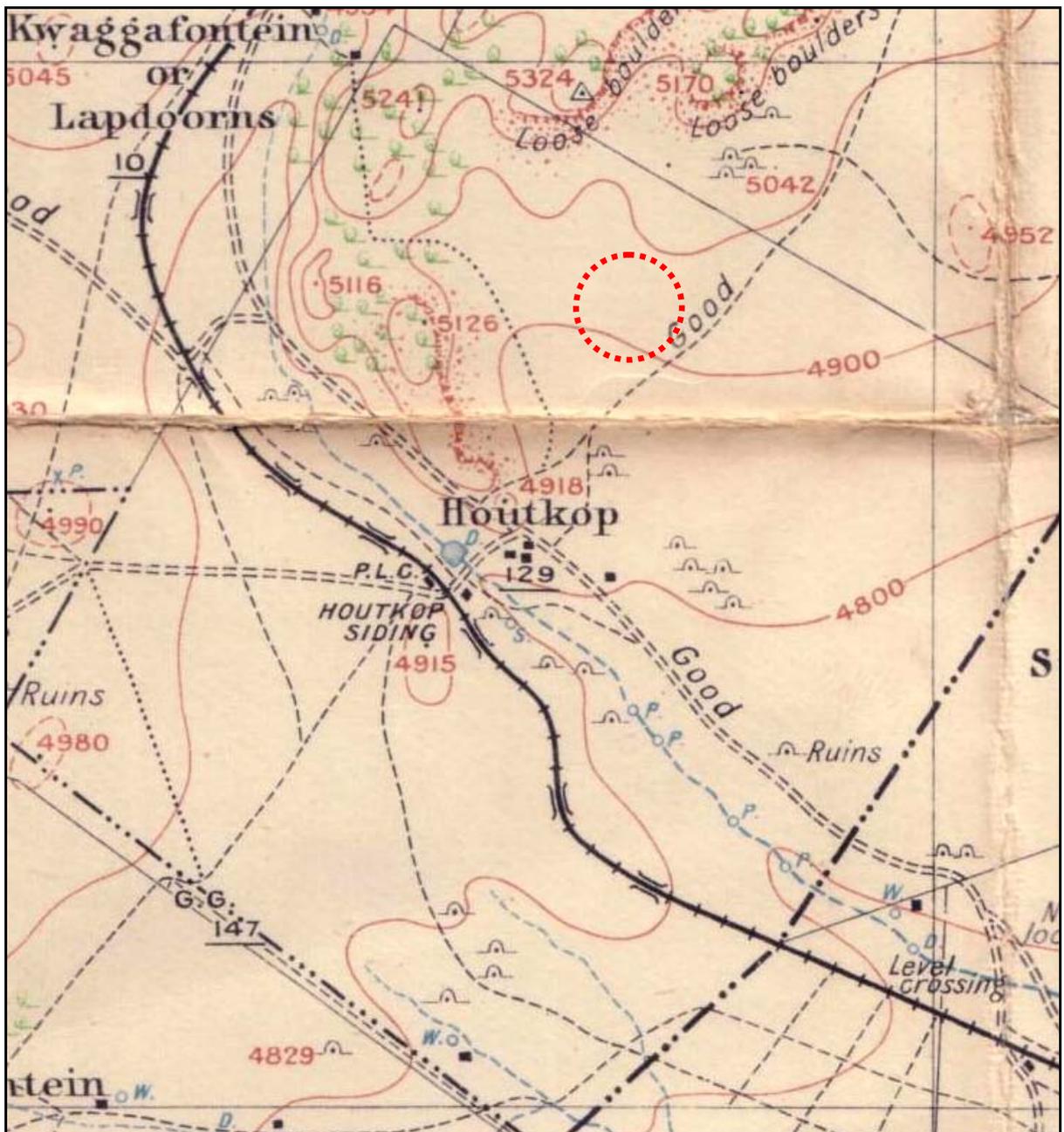


Figure 2 Enlarged section of the 1:125 000 map (National Archives, Maps, 3/1421). The approximate position of the study area is marked in red dotted line.

4.1.1.3 First Edition of the 2627DB Vereeniging sheet dated 1943

This sheet is the first edition of the 2627DB 1:50 000 topographical map and is held in the archives of the Directorate: Surveys and Mapping, Mowbray, Cape Town. It was first compiled and drawn by the Survey Depot (Tech.) S.A.E.C. in 1941 and revised in the field by 45 Survey Company S.A.E.C. in March 1943.

The following observations can be made from the map:

- One building is depicted within the study area and is marked in dark blue on the depicted map. This building is the farmhouse which was identified during the fieldwork and is discussed below as Site 1. Its presence on the map indicates that it was constructed before 1943, and as a result can be considered to be older than 60 years.
- One “native hut” is depicted within the study area and is marked in light blue on the depicted map. This feature could not be located during the fieldwork as the whole area is presently covered in agricultural lands.
- The agricultural lands on the northern, south-western and south-eastern ends of the study area were already in existence during the early 1940s.

4.1.1.4 Second Edition of the 2627DB Vereeniging sheet dated 1952

The second edition of the 2627DB 1:50 000 topographical map is also held in the archives of the Directorate: Surveys and Mapping, Mowbray, Cape Town. It was based on aerial photography undertaken in 1952, was surveyed in 1954 and drawn in 1957 by the Trigonometrical Survey Office.

The following observations can be made from the map:

- The farmstead identified as Site 1 in this report is depicted as containing three buildings. This means that two of the buildings (the garage and another outbuilding) were added to the farmhouse between 1943 and 1954. The farmstead buildings are marked in dark blue. As a result all three buildings can be considered to be older than 60 years.
- The single “native hut” depicted on the first edition is now associated with a further three dwellings. They are all marked in light blue. None of these buildings could be located in the field as the whole area is covered in agricultural lands.

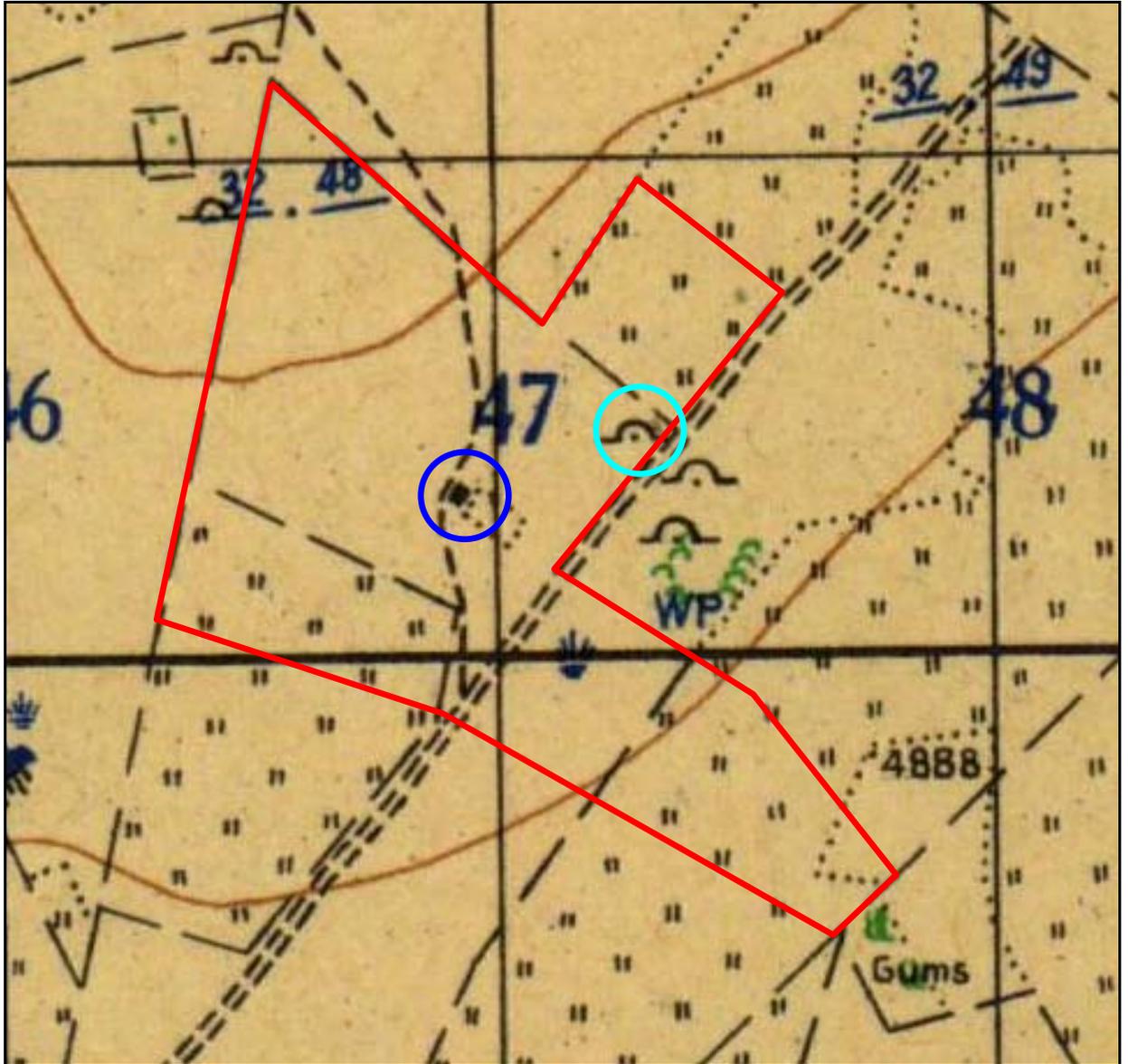


Figure 3 Enlarged section of the First Edition of the 2627DB topographical sheet which dates from 1943. The dark blue circle indicates a building and the light blue circle a "hut".

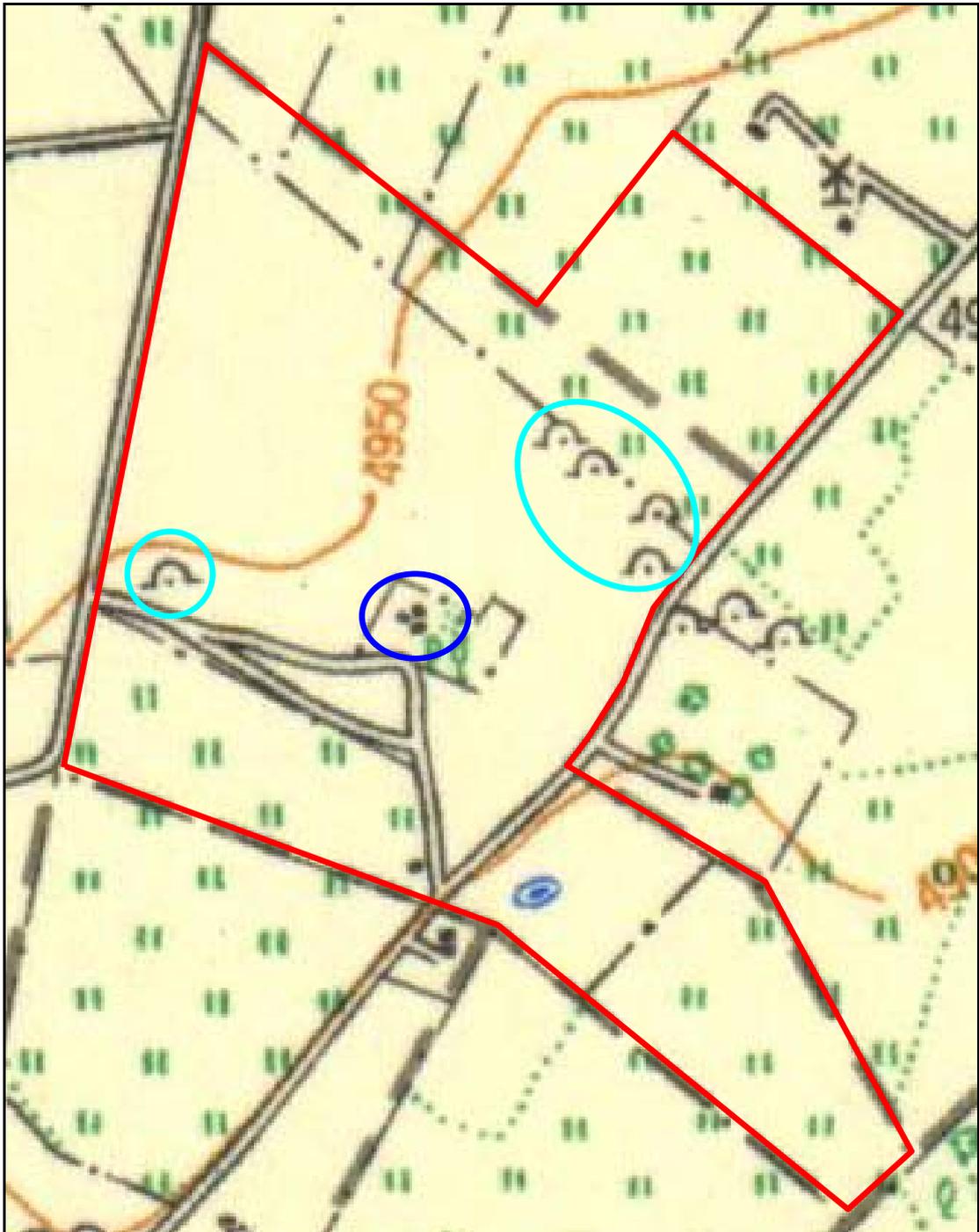


Figure 4 Enlarged section of the Second Edition of the 2627DB topographical sheet which dates from 1954. The dark blue circle indicates buildings and the light blue circles "huts".

4.1.2 Farm Ownership History

The farm Houtkop was originally numbered farm 129 of the Potchefstroom district after which it was renumbered as farm 28 of the Vereeniging district. It was first inspected by P. Lindeque on 10 May 1852 and later by C. Dreyer on 28 February 1859. Its "grondbrief" is dated 24 August 1869 and is registered in favour of Hendrik Christoffel and Jacobus Christiaan van der Merwe. These two owners remained in possession of the farm for 21 years, when on 1 July 1890 they subdivided it with H.C. Van der Merwe receiving 3,249 acres and J.C. Van der Merwe 2,562 acres. The two parties continued to subdivide their respective portions over the years, with only family members acquiring portions of the farm. After the death of J.C. van der Merwe in 1917 the remainder of his portion was subdivided amongst his children. The first portion of the farm not to be transferred to a Van der Merwe was transferred on the 10th of August 1920 to Thomas Frederick Cronje. This 399 acre portion was later used to establish Sonlandpark on. From this date onward the farm underwent several subdivisions to various new parties.

The only direct information for Portion 110 is that it was transferred in 1953 to Hans Clausen Setzkorn. In terms of Portion 114 the archival information has shown that it was transferred to David Schalk Coetzer in 1964. According to neighbouring resident Mr. Frans Ferreira the portion was later owned by the Botha family and specifically by a person by the name of Albertus J. (Skippie) Botha. According to a website on the history of Vereeniging (www.vaaltriangleinfo.co.za) Skippie Botha was a town councillor of Vereeniging for 17 years during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. As mentioned before the tar road between the study area and Sonlandpark is named Skippie Botha Avenue.

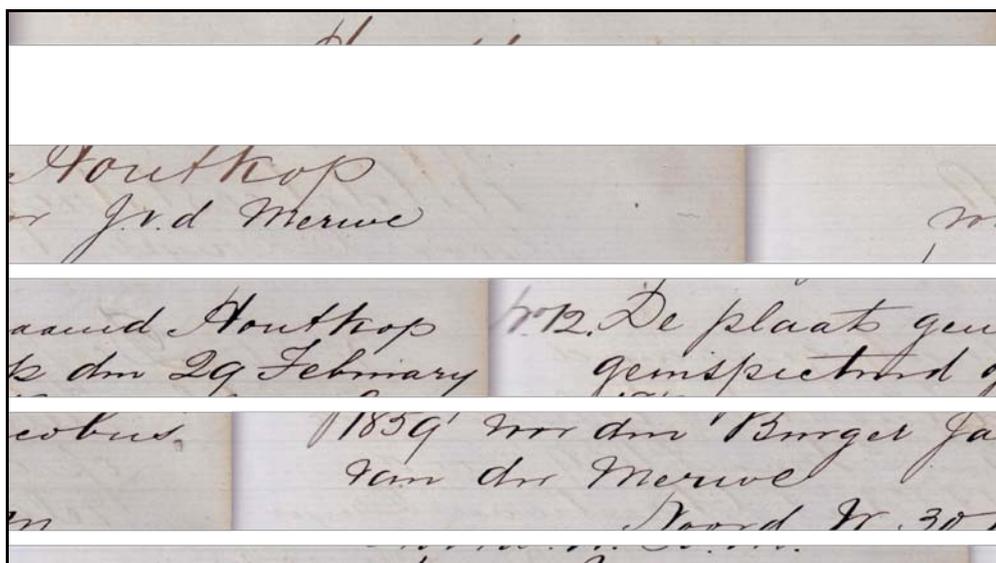


Figure 5 Original inspection report of the farm Houtkop undertaken for Jacobus van der Merwe on the 29th of February 1859 (RAK, 2798).

4.1.3 Sonlandpark Township

According to a document written by P.W.J. van Heerden of the Transvaal Provincial Administration's Department of Local Administration the town of Sonlandpark was proclaimed on the 16th of May 1966. It was developed on Portion 149 (a portion of portion 58) of the farm Houtkop 594IQ and is located directly to the east of the study area.

4.1.4 Houtkop Agricultural Holdings

During the 1950s an application was made by Hendrik Christoffel van der Merwe for the subdivision of Portion 109 of the farm Houtkop 594IQ into agricultural holdings. On the 17th of April 1956 the Minister of Lands of the Union of South Africa, Paul Oliver Sauer, approved the establishment of the Houtkop Agricultural Holdings. A total of 38 holdings (each 2.5 acres in extent) were subsequently established.

The Houtkop Agricultural Holdings is located directly north of the study area.

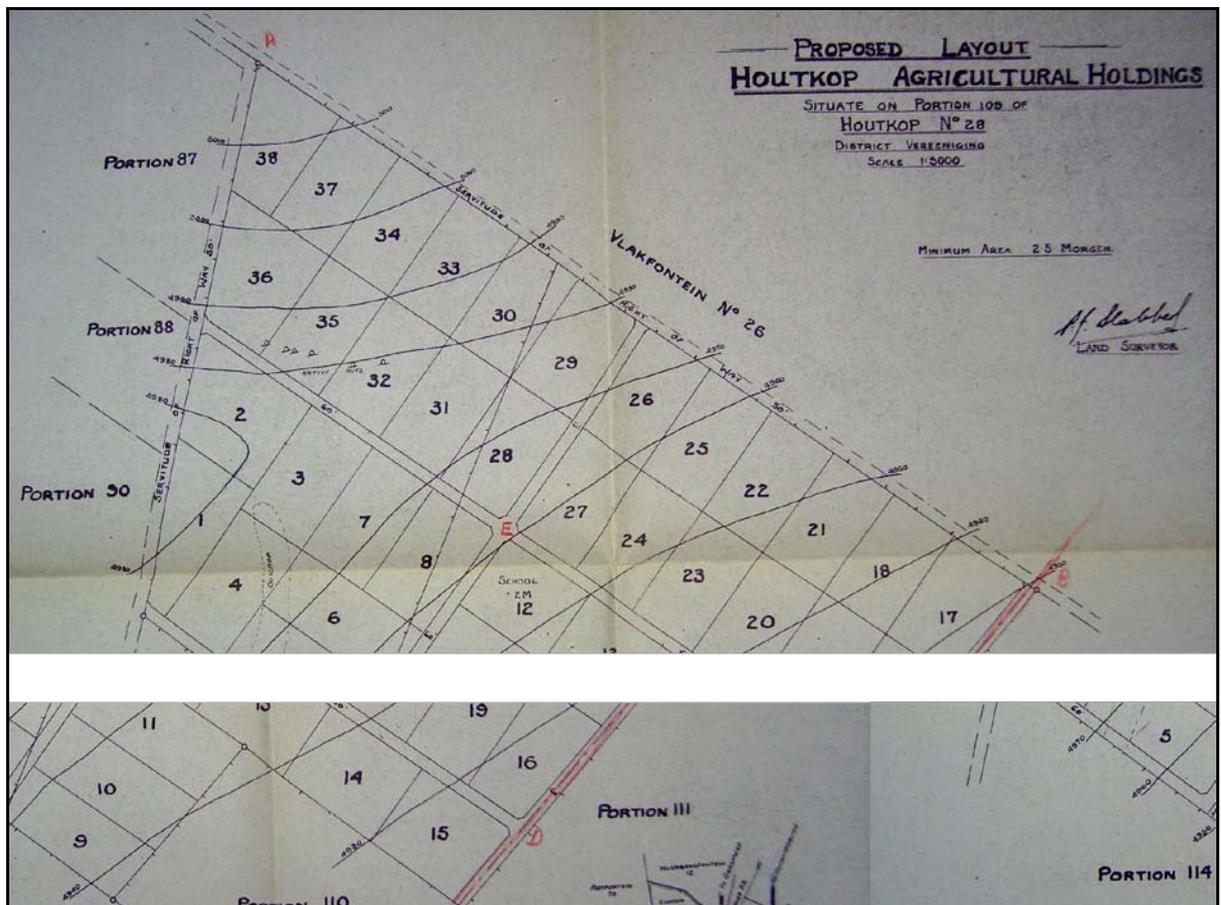


Figure 6 The proposed layout plan for Houtkop Agricultural Holdings.

4.1.5 Discovery of Coal and the Establishment of Vereeniging

The town of Vereeniging owes its existence to two individuals, namely George William Stow and Samuel (Sammy) Marks. While Stow was the discoverer of the vast coal field located in this area, Sammy Marks made the discovery commercially viable (Leigh, 1968)

In December 1876 President Brand of the Republic of the Orange Free State acquired authority from his Volksraad *"to expend a sum, not exceeding £2,000 to engage the services of Mr Stow, and to have practical experiments made where advisable"* (Leigh, 1968: 15), aimed at undertaking prospecting surveys.

In 1878 Stow conducted test shafts in the vicinity of the Taaiboschspruit and Vaal River confluence as well as on the farms Maccauvlei and Leeuwspruit. His investigations on both these latter farms indicated the presence of extensive coalfields.

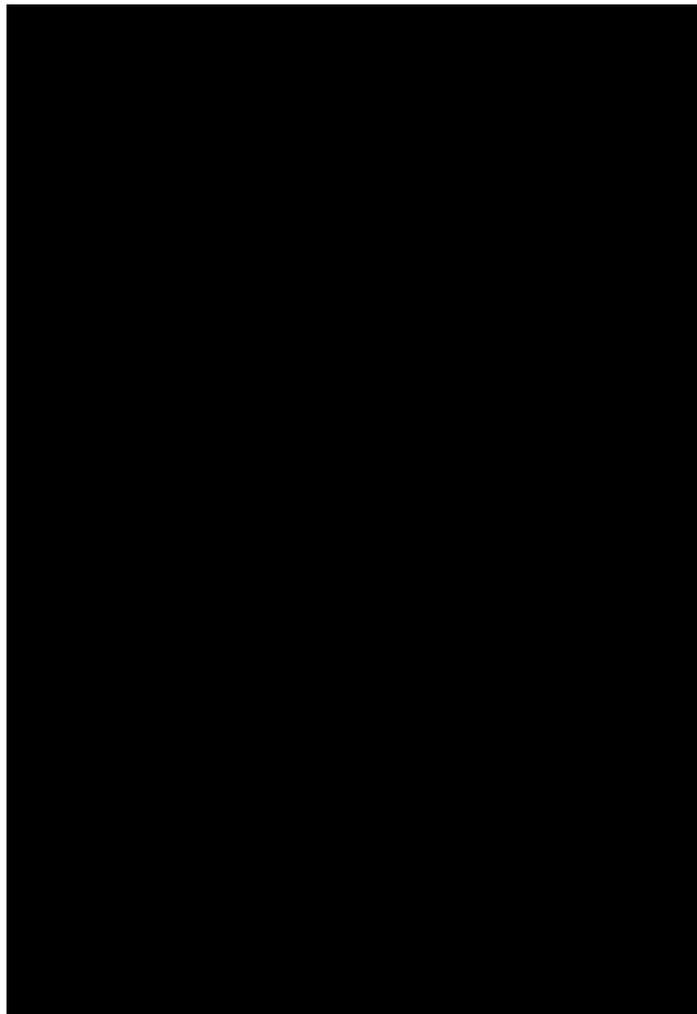


Figure 15 George William Stow (Leigh, 1968)

During this time Sammy Marks was a diamond magnate in Kimberley. After hearing of Stow's discoveries, he immediately realized the significance of it. The significance observed by Marks was that Kimberley, and especially the mines located there, had a tremendous demand for fuel, a demand that the local firewood supplies were not fulfilling.

A meeting took place between Stow and Marks, the result of which was the formation in 1880 of "*De Zuid Afrikaansche en Oranje Vrijstaatsche Kolen en Mineralen Vereeniging*", which was later to become the nucleus of the *Vereeniging Estates Limited*.

With the establishment of a company concluded, Stow and Marks were faced with the logistical problems of transporting the coal from this area all the way to Kimberley. Stow devised a plan whereby the mined coal would be transported to Kimberley by boat. Two boats were bought, and Stow was given the assignment of acquiring as many farms as possible on which coal is believed to exist, and to commence development and mining on these farms. Later a flat-bottom boat named the "Cecil Rhodes" was also built as part of this plan.

As a result, the farms Leeuwkuil, Klipplaatdrift, Maccauvlei and Rietfontein were acquired. The first mining activities were undertaken in the vicinity of the test shaft on Leeuwkuil, which later was to become Bedworth Colliery.

Although the idea of transporting coal using boats soon proved impractical, a new plan was proposed by Marks. He attracted transport riders to the area by offering favourable conditions. In a short time as many as 200 wagons were daily loading coal from the Bedworth Colliery's pits. By 1884 some 720 tons of coal were annually dispatched to the diamond fields, with each wagon carrying 4 tons.

A few years before Stow's discovery, a market master from Kimberley, Donald McKay, had observed a coal ridge outcropping on the farms Kookfontein and Waldrift. As he knew Cecil Rhodes, he informed him of his observations. As a result, Rhodes acquired both farms in 1881. In the end the mining activities undertaken here resulted in the Springfield colliery.

In 1882 the *Vereeniging Estates Limited* applied to the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek to establish a village on the farms Leeuwkuil and Klipplaatdrift. On 4 July 1884 the Volksraad approved the application as well as the proposed name "Vereeniging", which was derived from the company's name.

4.2 Social Consultation Findings

No heritage issues were raised during the public participation process undertaken so far. During the fieldwork a neighbouring farmer Mr. Frans Ferreira was met. He indicated that he has been staying here for 25 years and stated that Portion 114 used to be owned by Skippie Botha. He added that they had cattle and also produced maize and lucern.

4.3 Survey Findings

4.3.1 Site 1

4.3.1.1 Coordinates

S 26.60667

E 27.88921

4.3.1.2 General Site Description

The site comprises a historic farmstead which is located in the centre of the farm at the base of a ridge. Although the entire site is in a very poor condition, a number of components could be identified including the farmhouse, garage, cottage and milking sheds.

The farmhouse is a multi-roomed rectangular building of which only the walls still stand. It comprises a total of eight rooms including two bedrooms, one living room, one kitchen, one bathroom, one possible pantry as well as a closed veranda. In front of the bedroom and possible pantry a short hallway is located. While almost all the doors, windows, roofing, ceilings, floors and other removable fittings and details of the house have been removed, it was possible to observe that the window and door frames were of wood whereas sections of the floors could also be identified. The two bedrooms and living room evidently had wooden parquet flooring while the kitchen had a vinyl floor. The hallway had contemporary wooden floors. All the inner and outer walls (except those on the veranda extension) comprise a double row of bricks. The ventilation blocks are all decorative pressed vents.

The garage has an extra store room attached to it and the cottage, which currently consists of three rooms, was built onto an existing much older single roomed structure, noticeable from the broader walls and wooden windows. One of the new rooms in the

cottage was utilised as a bathroom. Both the cottage and garage have also been stripped.

Other associated outbuildings include a brick shed a short distance to the west of the garage as well as a milk shed some 50 m to the south. It was constructed of a double row of stones held together with clay. The upper portion of the shed's wall has periodic ventilation and lighting gaps, these pillars were later cemented on the outside and are what supports the concrete corrugated roof. The concrete feed troughs, both inside the milk shed and outside remain and inside remnants of the steel poles utilised to divide the milk stalls are still evident.

The entire site is in an extremely poor condition and it is evident that all the buildings have been stripped of anything removable or remotely valuable. According to neighbouring farmer Mr. Frans Ferreira the house was at one stage resided in by Skippie Botha. As indicated elsewhere Mr. Botha was a town councillor for Vereeniging for 17 years during the 1950s to 1970s.

The cartographic data have shown that the farmhouse was constructed before 1943 while the garage and cottage were constructed between 1943 and 1954. It is therefore evident that at least one (and likely all) building(s) from the site could be 60 years and older.

4.3.1.3 Current Protection Status

The site comprises historic structures older than 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.1.4 Site Significance

The site must be assessed by an architectural historian. Provisionally, it can be stated that although the site is associated with a town councillor of Vereeniging, its condition is very poor. It is therefore provisionally rated as of **Low Significance**.

4.3.1.5 Impact of Proposed Development on Site

The site is located in an area classified as containing dolomites and none of the residential development components would be established here. However, the possibility exists for sport fields to be constructed over the dolomite section.

4.3.1.6 Mitigation

The site must be assessed by an architectural historian and any recommendations made should be adhered to. Provisionally, it can be indicated that the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 states that no structures older than 60 years may be altered or demolished without a permit from the relevant heritage authority. The following mitigation measures would normally be required:

- Recording: measuring the floor plan, elevations and details.
- Drafting measured drawings (1:100scale).
- Photographic recording with descriptions using standard architectural vocabulary
- Compiling the drawings, photographic recordings and descriptions into a report.
- Submission of the report to the SAHRA to acquire a destruction permit.



Plate 2 Eastern (frontal) façade of the farmhouse. The closed veranda is visible on the left and the one bedroom on the right.



Plate 3 View from inside the closed veranda on the eastern end of the farmhouse. Note the remains of one of the veranda's pillars.



Plate 4 Northern façade of the farmhouse. The window is for the living room while the door passes into the kitchen.



Plate 5 The kitchen with a section of the garage visible through the window on the left and a section of the cottage visible through the door on the right.



Plate 6 Western façade of the farmhouse. The window on the left is for the kitchen, the one in the middle for the possible pantry and the third window on the right for the bathroom.



Plate 7 Interior view of the bathroom.



Plate 8 Southern façade of the farmhouse. The short hallway ends in the window visible in the centre.



Plate 9 The hallway with doors to the possible pantry and bathroom on the right.



Plate 10 The south-western corner of one of the bedrooms with high skirting boards evident along the walls.



Plate 11 Remnants of wooden parquet flooring such as these are evident in both bedrooms as well as the living room.



Plate 12 An example of one of the decorative pressed ventilation blocks.



Plate 13 General view of the outbuildings directly associated with the farmhouse. The garage is visible on the left with the cottage on the right.



Plate 14 The room on the northern end of the garage which appears to have been a domestic worker's bathroom.



Plate 15 The shed to the rear of the homestead.



Plate 16 The remains of the stone milk shed.

4.3.2 Site 2

4.3.2.1 Coordinates

S 26.60406

E 27.88754

4.3.2.2 General Site Description

The site consists of a stone concentration which may indicate the presence of a grave. Until such time that the site has been proven otherwise, it must be considered as a grave.

4.3.2.3 Current Protection Status

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

4.3.2.4 Site Significance

Until such time that the presence of a grave here has been confirmed or disproved, the site must be viewed as containing a grave. All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **High Significance**.

4.3.2.5 Impact of Proposed Development on Site

The site is located in an area classified as containing dolomites and none of the residential development components would be established here. However, the possibility exists for sport fields to be constructed over the dolomites.

4.3.2.6 Mitigation

The residential components of the development will have no impact on the site. Should sports fields be planned for the area, the following mitigation measures are required:

- Reconnaissance excavation by a suitably qualified heritage specialist.

The stone concentration must be investigated by way of reconnaissance excavation. The excavation will result in one of two outcomes, namely that evidence (i.e. skeletal material, coffin remains etc.) for the existence of a grave is found, or alternatively that no such evidence is found. If no evidence for a grave is found, the site can be destroyed. However, should it be found, the excavation pit must be backfilled upon which a standard grave relocation process must take place. Such a relocation process must always be inclusive of a detailed social consultation process, must be respectful to the deceased and must be undertaken in cognisance of all the relevant legislation.



Plate 17 The possible grave at **Site 2**.

4.3.3 Site 3

4.3.3.1 Coordinates

S 26.60050

E 27.88664

4.3.3.2 General Site Description

A historic site is situated here near the north-western corner of the study area. It is comprised of a large rectangular stone foundation (\pm 11m x 4m) as well as a smaller square foundation (\pm 3m x 3m) to its east. An associated rubbish dump is located a short distance to the south-east. A number of porcelain fragments, glass bottle fragments, ironstone fragments and bone were observed on the surface of the dump.

A small sample of ceramics was taken to Ms. Corine Meyer at the National Cultural History Museum for identification and dating. She was able to identify and date the following pieces:

Description of shard	Date
White glazed porcelain shards of a small plate and/or saucer decorated with moulded spiral patterns	Ca 1900 -1910
Transfer-printed blue and white porcelain shard	Ca 1890
Rim of coffee cup with solid blue border decoration (transfer-printed over the glaze)	Ca 1905 -1910
Shard of moulded ironstone large shallow dish (probably oval-shaped), transfer-printed with brown decoration under the glaze. This platter was used for serving meat. It had lateral grooves extending from a central groove, giving it somewhat the appearance of a tree, for the purpose of draining gravy into a well at one end.	Ca 1890
Part of tea or coffee cup with red and blue stencilled decoration on the glaze	Ca 1890 -1900

The dating of the visible surface component of the rubbish dump to 100 years and older suggests that the site is the remains of an early farmstead.

4.3.3.3 Current Protection Status

Based on the dating of the porcelain fragments from the surface of the rubbish dump, the site can certainly be dated as older than 60 years and very likely as older than 100 years as well. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority. Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years. Archaeological sites may not be destroyed or disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.3.4 Site Significance

Early historic farmsteads are not that common and should the rubbish dump prove to be extensive the site would contain valuable information on the life of early white farmers in the area during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The site is of **Moderate Significance**.

4.3.3.5 Impact of Proposed Development on Site

The site is located in an area classified as containing dolomites and none of the residential development components would be established here. However, the possibility exists for sport fields to be constructed over the dolomite section.

4.3.3.6 Mitigation

The residential sections of the proposed development will have no impact on the site. Should sports fields be planned for the area they must be kept away from the site.

On the condition that these sports fields are kept away from the site the following mitigation measures would be required:

- The compilation of a site management plan with which the future conservation and management of the site during the construction and operational phases can be ensured.



Plate 18 General view of a section of the large rectangular structure from **Site 3**.



Plate 19 The small square structure from **Site 3**.



Plate 20 One of the white glazed porcelain shards dated to ca. 1900 – 1910. The shard is approximately 4 cm at its widest point.

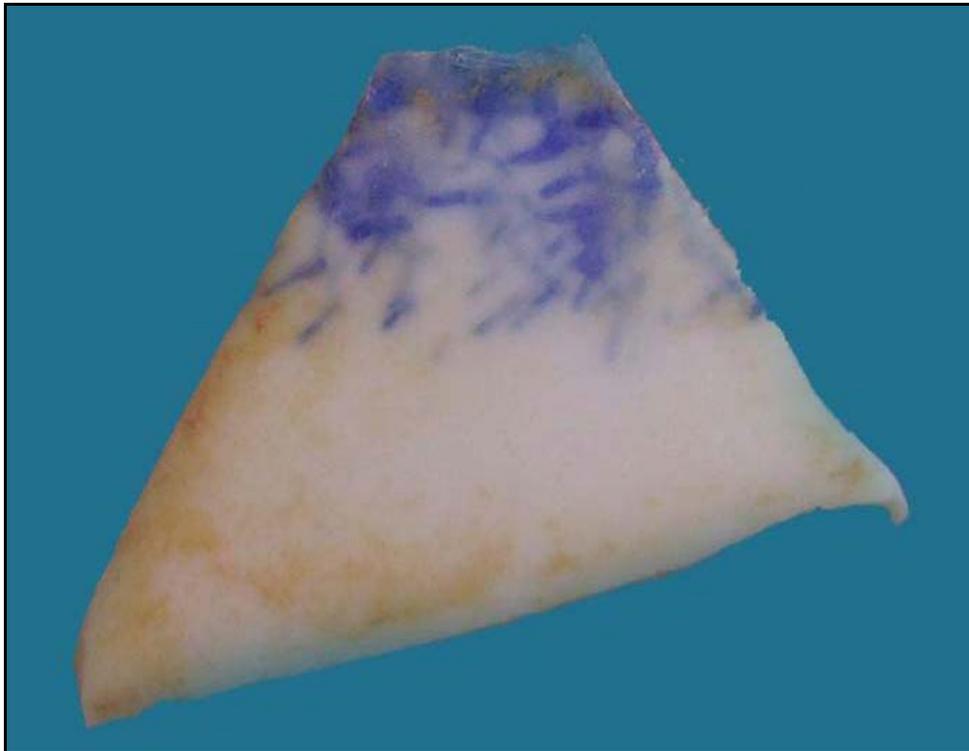


Plate 21 Transfer-printed blue and white porcelain shard which is approximately 2 cm wide and dates to ca. 1890.



Plate 22 Shard of moulded ironstone which had been transfer-printed with brown decoration under the glaze. The shard dates to ca. 1890 and is 5 cm at its widest point.

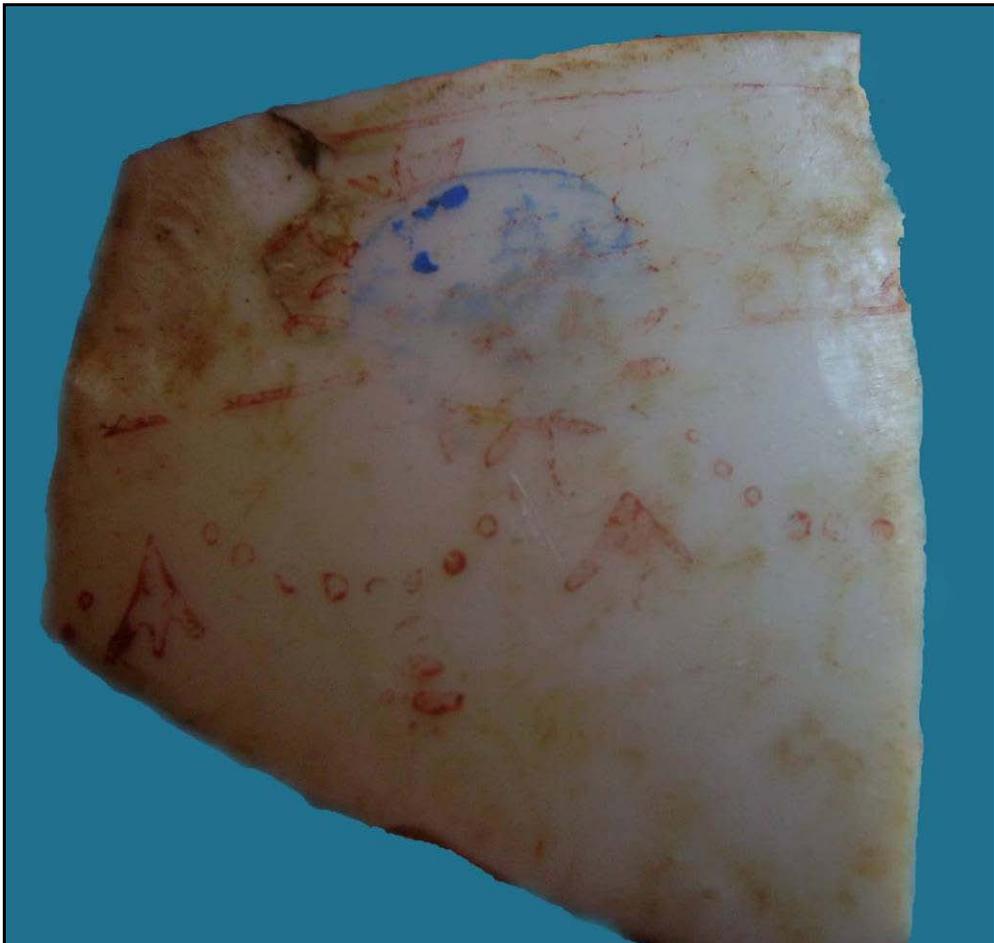


Plate 23 Porcelain shard from a tea or coffee cup which bears red and blue stencilled decoration on the glaze. The shard is 3 cm at its widest point.

4.3.4 Site 4

4.3.4.1 Coordinates

S 26.60564

E 27.88519

4.3.4.2 General Site Description

The site consists of a long rectangular brick foundation (16 m x 4 m) located near the western boundary of the study area. The structure is comprised of four square rooms (4 m x 4 m) and has the appearance of farm labourer accommodation. This is supported by the second edition of the 2627DB topographical sheet that was surveyed in 1954 and which depicts a "*native hut*" here. As the feature is not depicted on the first edition that was surveyed in 1943, it can be assumed that it was built between 1943 and 1954.

Past experience has shown that in some cases stillborn babies were buried close to the homes of their parents and especially along the sides of the dwellings. As the site appears to have been abandoned some time ago, no direct information with regards to the presence (or not) of graves here has yet been found.

4.3.4.3 Current Protection Status

All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the grave is located as well as its age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance No. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissue Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance No. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place. Refer Annexure B for a more detailed outline of the legislation discussed here.

4.3.4.4 Site Significance

Until such time that the presence of a grave here has been confirmed or disproved, the site must be viewed as containing a grave. All graves and burial grounds have high levels

of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **High Significance**.

4.3.4.5 Impact of Proposed Development on Site

The site is located in an area classified as containing dolomites and none of the residential development components would be established here. However, the possibility exists for sport fields to be constructed over the dolomites.

4.3.4.6 Mitigation

At present no development is proposed for the area in which the site is located. However, should the sports field developments be proposed for this area, the following mitigation measures are required:

- The structure must be documented with measured drawings and photographic recording.
- A concerted effort should be made to locate the erstwhile residents of the site. They would be able to indicate whether any stillborn babies were buried here.
- However, should the erstwhile residents not be located the structure must be investigated by way of test excavations. These excavations will result in one of two outcomes, namely that evidence (i.e. skeletal material, coffin remains etc.) for the existence of a grave (or graves) is found, or alternatively that no such evidence is found. If no evidence for graves is found, the site can be destroyed. However, should evidence for a grave be found, the excavation pit must be backfilled upon which a standard grave relocation process must take place. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation component to try and identify the family of the deceased.



Plate 24 A section of the structure at **Site 4** can be seen.



Plate 25 One of the square rooms from the structure at **Site 4** can be seen.

4.3.5 Site 5

4.3.5.1 Coordinates

S 26.60629

E 27.88452

4.3.5.2 General Site Description

A historic / recent cemetery is located here. It is situated on the western boundary of the study area near its south-western corner. The cemetery contains approximately 17 graves of which the largest majority have oval shaped stone-packed dressings. All the grave dressings are orientated along the East-West axis. Formal headstones from the site comprise a cement headstone with brick-lined rectangular dressing and a concrete headstone with concrete lined dressing. The only legible inscription from the cemetery comes from the cement headstone and reads:

*DANIEL MONA(K?)E
HE WAS BORN 10 OCT 1920
HE DIED ON THE 19 DECEMBER 1940*

The general characteristics of the cemetery and grave dressings, as well as the one legible inscription, suggest that the cemetery was the burial ground for black farm workers.

4.3.5.3 Current Protection Status

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

4.3.5.4 Site Significance

All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **High Significance**.

4.3.5.5 Development Impact

The site is located in an area classified as containing dolomites and none of the residential development components would be established here.

4.3.5.6 Mitigation

As all developments would be kept as far away as possible from the site, no development impact is expected. The following mitigation measure is required:

- A concerted effort must be made to locate the family (ies) of the buried individuals. All aspects of the site's management must be discussed with them.
- A fence must be erected around the entire cemetery. It may be necessary to erect a cement fence rather than a metal wire one. The fencing must be undertaken under supervision of a suitably qualified heritage specialist.
- A gate must be installed within the fence. This gate must be kept locked at all times, with the key kept by the site engineer or developer during the construction phase and a suitably responsible person during the operational phase. When someone wants to visit the graves their name(s), contact details and reason for visiting the cemetery must be recorded in a visitor's book kept by the responsible person. A deposit can be paid to ensure that the keys are returned.
- A system of vegetation clearing must be undertaken to ensure that the cemetery is never overgrown. To ensure that no damage is done to the graves, it is recommended that the first vegetation clearance must be undertaken under supervision of a heritage specialist. Once informed of the correct way of doing the clearing, the cemetery can be cleaned every now and then without supervision from the heritage specialist. Any deterioration or damage caused by these unsupervised activities will be identified as part of the monitoring and acted upon.
- A monitoring process must be undertaken with which any impacts on the site can be identified and acted upon. At first a reasonably limited monitoring schedule can be implemented consisting of a monitoring visit once every year. However, should any impacts on the site be identified, these must be acted upon and at the same time the monitoring schedule will be increased (i.e. once every six months). Monitoring should ideally be undertaken by a suitably qualified heritage specialist.



Plate 26 General view of the cemetery at **Site 5**.

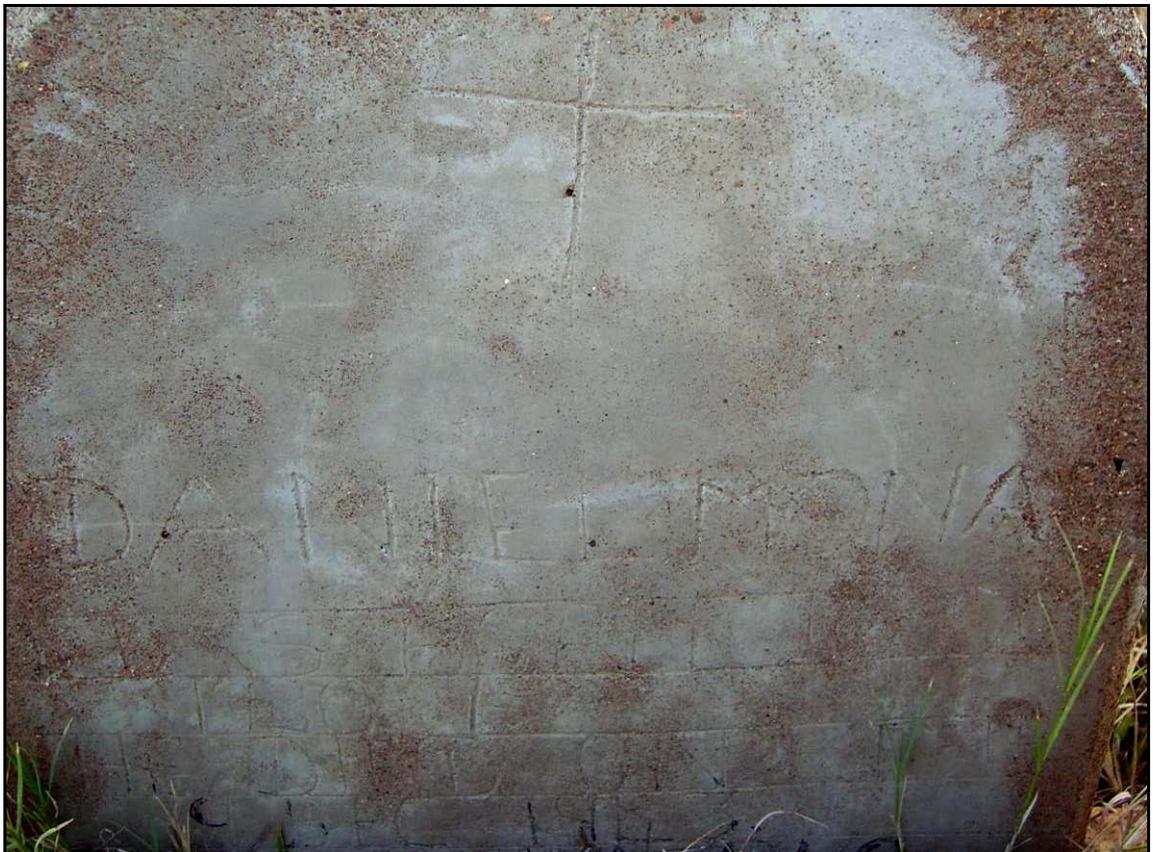


Plate 27 Close-up view of the cement headstone on the grave of Mr. Daniel Mona(k?)e.



Plate 28 The dressing on the grave of Mr. Daniel Mona(k?)e.



Plate 29 The concrete dressing from the cemetery at **Site 5**.

5. HERITAGE REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF SECTION 38 (3) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT NOT DEALT WITH IN THE PREVIOUS SECTION.

5.1 "The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected"

This requirement has been suitably addressed in Section 4.3 Survey Findings. The GPS coordinates obtained from the field were used to plot the five located heritage sites. Refer Annexure B Site Distribution Map.

5.2 "An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development"

Population growth in Gauteng has resulted in the need for affordable housing increasing from 32% to 35%, with the number of people residing in informal settlements increasing from 24% to 27% (Government Communication and Information System, Nov 2004).

Two of the key priorities for the Department of Housing up to 2014 are:-

"The formalisation and eradication of informal settlements; and the establishment of Mixed Housing developments." (Address by the Housing MEC, Nomvula Mokonyane)

With the above statement in mind there is considerable need for the establishment of mixed-cost housing developments in Gauteng, as well as provision of commercial and education facilities in these areas. The project will provide a large number of fully serviced erven within an affordable residential development within the urban edge an existing formal settlement. The project will not only provide housing but also promote densification within the urban edge. The construction of schools within the development will promote access to education facilities within the community, and construction of a shopping centre will generate employment opportunities within the community.

It is therefore evident that the proposed development will entail very significant social and economic benefits. If one compares this with the impact of the development on the mitigated heritage sites located there, it becomes evident that the social and economic benefits will far outweigh the impact of the heritage resources located within the study area.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaeology Africa cc was appointed by *Africon (Pty) Ltd* to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portions 110 and 114 of the farm Houtkop 594-IQ. The said portion is earmarked for the construction of the Sonlandpark Extension 1 Residential Development.

Five heritage sites were located during the study. While all five sites are located within an area where no residential development would be allowed as a result of dolomites, the development of sports fields in this area may be a possibility. It was however recommended that no development of any sort may be allowed near the early historic farmstead (see Site 3) or the cemetery (see Site 5).

Mitigation measures for the remainder of the sites were made should they be impacted upon by the proposed development.

It is the opinion of the author of this report that on the condition that all the recommendations made in this report are adhered to, the development may be allowed to continue.

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RAK 3050

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Archival Maps

MAP 3/613

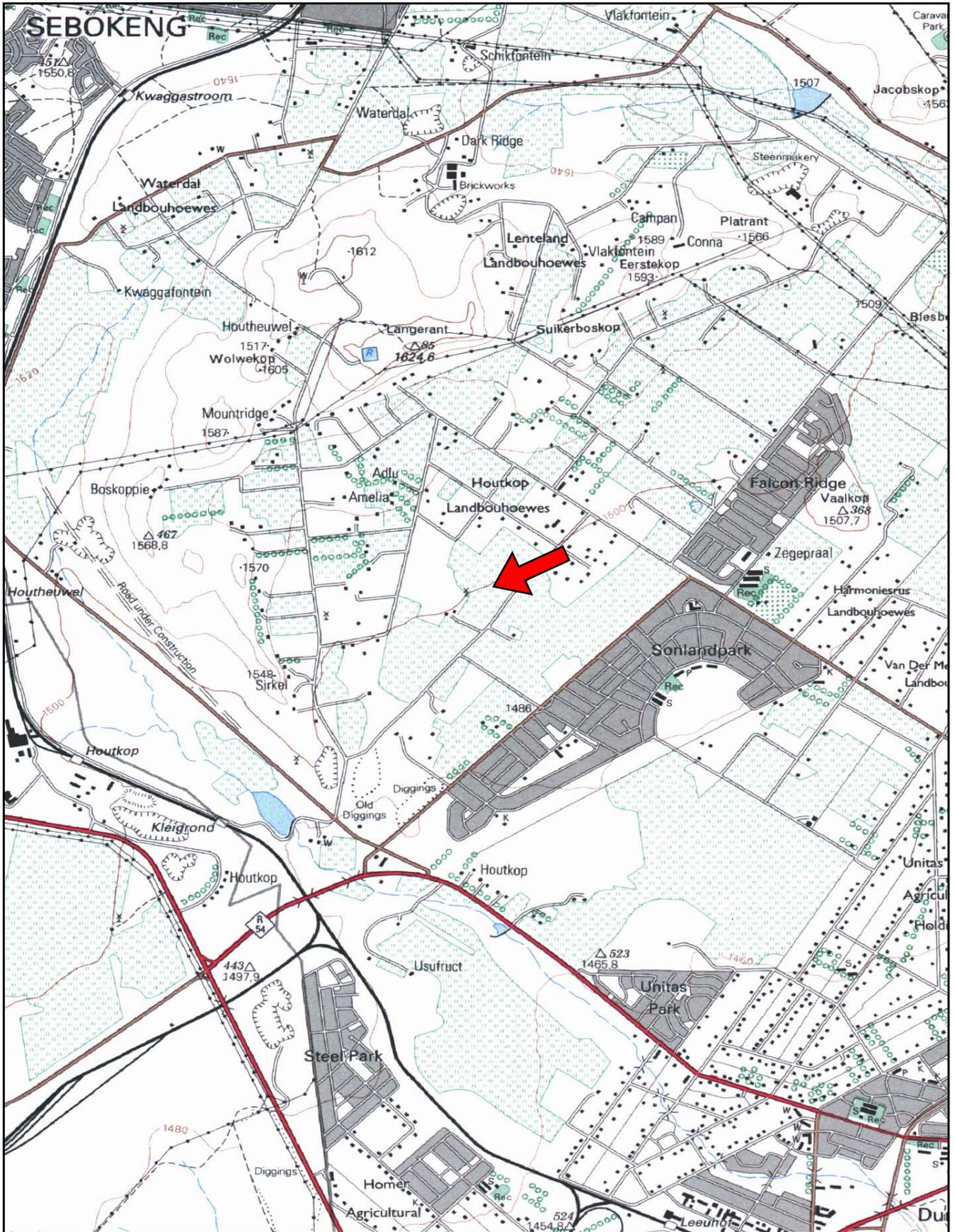
MAP 3/1421

Historical Maps

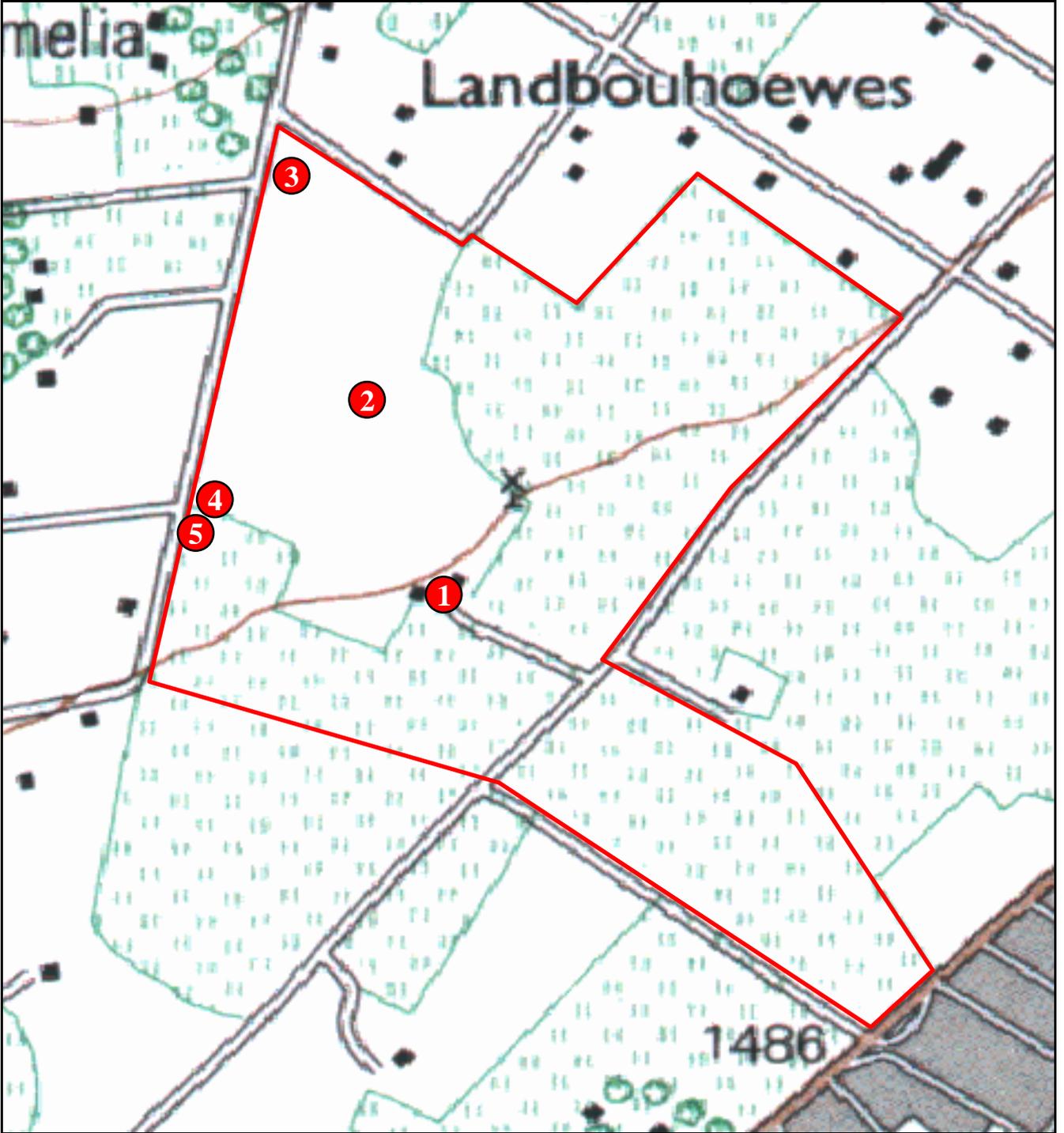
Directorate: Surveys and Mapping, 2627DB VEREENIGING 1:50 000 Topographical Sheet, 1943

Directorate: Surveys and Mapping, 2627DB VEREENIGING 1:50 000 Topographical Sheet, 1954

ANNEXURE A- LOCALITY PLAN



ANNEXURE B – SITE DISTRIBUTION MAP



ANNEXURE C – LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

South Africa has a number of legislative measures in place aimed at protecting its heritage resources. Of these the most important is the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.

1. National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999

The promulgation of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 brings the conservation and management of heritage resources in South Africa on par with international trends and standards.

Section 38 (3) of the act provides an outline of ideally what should be included in a heritage report. The act states:

“(3) The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection (2) (a): Provided that the following must be included:

- (a) The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;*
- (b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6(2) or prescribed under section 7;*
- (c) an assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;*
- (d) an evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;*
- (e) the results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;*
- (f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and*
- (g) plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.”*

Replacing the old National Monuments Act 28 of 1969, the Heritage Resources Act offers general protection for a number of heritage related features and objects (see below).

Structures are defined by the Heritage Resources Act as *“...any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated with it.”* In section 34 of the Act the general protection for structures is stipulated. It is important to note that only structures older than 60 years are protected. Section 34(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act reads as follows: *“No person may alter or demolish any structure or*

part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority."

The second general protection offered by the Heritage Resources Act which is of relevance for this project, is the protection of **archaeological sites and objects (as well as paleontological sites and meteorites)**. Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act states that:

"No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;*
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;*
- (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or*
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites."*

In order to understand exactly what is protected, it is important to look at the definition of the concept "**archaeological**" set out in section 2(ii) of the Heritage Act:

- "(a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;*
- (b) rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation;*
- (c) wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic, as defined respectively in sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation; and*
- (d) features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found;..."*

The third important general protection offered by the Heritage Resources Act that is of importance here, is the protection of **graves and burial grounds**. Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act states that:

“No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.”*

Of importance as well is section 36 (5), which relates to the conditions under which permits will be issued by the relevant heritage authority should any action described in section 36 (3), be taken. Section 36(5) reads that:

“SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection (3)(b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority –

- a) made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and*
- b) reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such grave or burial ground.”*

This section of the Act refers to graves and burial grounds which are older than 60 years and situated outside of a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

Section 36 (6) of the act refers to instances where previously unknown graves are uncovered during development and other activities.

“Subject to the provision of any other law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must

immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such a grave is protected in terms of the Act or is of significance to any community; and*
- b) if such a grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangement for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any arrangements as it deems fit."*

2. Other Legislation

In terms of graves, other legislative measures which may be of relevance include the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

ANNEXURE D – DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT PLAN