

Physical address
Room 8-26
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
Humanities Building
University of Pretoria
Lynnwood Road
Pretoria
0002

Postal address
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
Faculty of Humanities
University of Pretoria
Pretoria
0002
Republic of South Africa



Members: J Nel & GC de Kamper

Company registrations nr.: 1999-019984-23CK
Tax registration nr.: 9451097647
VAT registration nr.: 4350228880

Contact numbers
Office: 012 420 5169
Fax: 086 618 3744
Email: info@archaic.za.net

<http://www.archaic.za.net>

Vox Populi cc t/a

Archaic Heritage Project Management

FINAL CONSOLIDATED REPORT

Exhumation of three graves of unknown individuals.

Southstock Colliery, Xstrata Coal SA, Witbank, Mpumalanga Province

PREPARED BY:

Johan Nel

Archaic HPM

PREPARED FOR:

Mr Victor Kloke

Doves Funerals

Witbank Branch 6300

4 Paul Kruger Street

Witbank

1035

Tel: 013 656 1441 Fax: 013 656 0823

17 July 2007

Project type			Grave/Burial Exhumation
Authors			Johan Nel - Archaic HPM, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, UP
SAHRA permit number			80/07/03/015/51
Project code			ARC2007/003
Project name			Southstock Graves (SOO)
Report type			Final Consolidated Report
Project duration			February 2007 to 26 June2007
Report date			17 July 2007
Client			Doves Funerals, Witbank
Province:			Mpumalanga
Magisterial district:			Emalahleni District Municipality
1: 50 000 Map number (or SAN chart):			2629AA
Latitude and Longitude:			S 26°10.765 E 029°08.977
Recording method:			Garmin Etrex GPS; 4m accuracy; 1591masl
Farm Name and Nr:			Portion 17/60 of Nooitgedacht 37 IS
Town/Nearest Town:			Witbank
Reviewed:	Name	Date	Comments

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

Archaic HPM was contracted by Doves Funerals, Witbank to assist in the exhumation of three graves. The graves were located on portion 17/60 of the farm Nooitgedacht 37 IS in the Mpumalanga Province. No relatives or other interested parties were identified as possible claimants of the remains. The graves were in immediate danger of damage and destruction due to coal mining activities. The site was situated within an area that had already been developed for mining activities, and needed to be relocated urgently.

Findings

The graves contained the remains of two adults and an infant/child. The remains were relocated and interred at Witbank cemetery.

Recommendations

In the event of any disputes arising from the exhumation, relocation and re-interment of the graves, a retrospective social consultation process should be implemented.

Stakeholders

Xstrata Coal SA was the primary stakeholder in its position as landowner and developer.

INTRODUCTION

Archaic HPM specialises in the management of heritage projects. The field of expertise include the generation of desktop surveys, the undertaking of scoping surveys and Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessments and/or Specialist reports, Phase 2 Mitigation of archaeological and/or heritage sites, and Phase 3 Site Management Plans, and grave relocation projects.

The parameters within which Archaic HPM operates are firstly the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and minimum standards provided in terms of this act by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). Secondly, Archaic HPM endeavours to comply with the code of ethics and standards of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA). Thirdly, complementary national and provincial legislation such as the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), the Environment Conservation Act No. 73 of 1989 (ECA), and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) required by the Department of Minerals and Energy form key components of every project.

As such, Archaic HPM has been contracted by Doves Funerals, Witbank to assist in the exhumation process of three unidentified graves. Doves Funerals were responsible for all preliminary research, social consultation and provincial permit applications in terms of all applicable legal requirements. Archaic HPM's responsibilities were limited to duties as circumscribed in the Heritage Resources Act Nr 25 of 1999.

Social consultation and advertising commenced in November 2006. SAHRA granted the exhumation permit (Nr 80/07/03/015/51) on 11 June 2007, after which exhumation took place on 26 June 2007.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999;

The South African Heritage Resources Agency's minimum standards for Heritage Impact Assessments;

Letter requiring assistance: Doves Funerals, Witbank (refer to Annexure A)

Archaic HPM's duties and responsibilities were identified in the original brief submitted by Mr Victor Kloke on behalf Doves Witbank. These were:

Completing and applying for a SAHRA Burial grounds and graves permit (Permit Application 305);

Providing assistance to the undertaker during the exhumation process.

Doves Funerals were to attend to the following:

Advertising as per SAHRA regulations that included the placement of site notices and publishing of press releases;

Detailed process of social consultation (refer Annexure B);

Completing and applying for all relevant provincial and municipal permits;

Arrange transport of the remains from the site to the new graves, in suitable containers;

Purchasing new graves at the Witbank cemetery;

Re-interring the remains at the new location.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Relevant legislation

National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), with specific reference to Section 36;

Environmental Conservation Act No. 73 of 1989 (ECA);

National Environment Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA);

List of Activities and Regulation for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Government Notice No. R1183;

Human Tissues Act No. 65 of 1983;

Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance 7 of 1925 and provincial and municipal by-laws.

According to Mr Kloke, application to the Mpumalanga Provincial authority had been made by Doves Witbank to allow for the exhumation and re-internment. Doves Witbank, a registered funeral undertaker assisted during exhumation, transport and re-internment of the remains. The remains were reburied at the Witbank cemetery.

The mining consortium, Xstrata Coal (South Africa) covered all costs incurred.

The requirements of the NHRA were complied with as follows (refer Annexure B: Report on Social Consultation):

- A legal advertisement had been placed in the *Witbank News* on Tuesday 7 November;
- Site notices have been placed at the entrance to the mining area, as well as at the cemetery on 1 November 2006;
 - No replies or any objections were received in reaction to the notices.
- Doves Witbank has undertaken a process of social consultation. No information relating to living relatives of the deceased have been forthcoming.

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Xstrata Coal (South Africa) is the current landowner of the site on which the graves were located. The site was located on the farm Nooitgedacht 37 IS Portion 17/60, close to ruins of a farm house. Xstrata commenced their mining activities in and around the area of the graves in late 2006. The graves were only then discovered. Xstrata appointed Doves Funerals Witbank to assist with the exhumation and relocation of the graves. However, Doves Funerals did not comply with section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act Nr 25 of 1999 (NHRA). In January 2007 Doves appointed Archaic HPM to assist Mr Victor Kloke in terms of the NHRA.

According to Mr Bennie Mokgwajana (environmental co-ordinator: Xstrata) both Environmental Impact and Heritage Impact Assessments were conducted on the affected property. However, no evidence of graves was recorded in this area. According to Mr Kloke and representatives of Xstrata, the graves were located in dense growths of poplar trees.



The site contained at least three graves, one of which had inscriptions on the headstone (grave SOO/02). The cemetery was orientated east to west and fenced off with a steel fence. As the fence did not have any entrance gate, it may be possible that it was erected some time after the graves were made. No cultural material was found in context of the graves. The site had however been cleared by Doves Witbank prior to Archaic HPM's initial site visit. Several green glass vase sherds and a wire basket containing porcelain flowers were recorded outside the fenced-off area.

All three graves were orientated east-west. On the initial site visit (11 January 2007), the area immediately around the cemetery had already been disturbed by mining activities, leaving the graves on an “island”. An area of approximately 25 meters had been left surrounding the site in an attempt to protect it.



On the date of exhumation (26 June 2007), however, extensive excavation had taken place approximately 10 meters immediately north of the cemetery. Large mining refuse mounds also flanked the site approximately 10-15 meters east and west of the graves.

The graves were exhumed according to standard archaeological practice in terms of human remains (refer to Methodology). Each set of remains was placed in a marked coffin. The remains were transported to the Doves mortuary in Witbank, where they were curated until arrangements for re-interment were finalised. They were re-interred in the same order as that in which they were initially recorded.

Old Grave Number Portion 16/70 of Nooitgedacht 37 IS	New Grave Number Witbank Cemetery
SOO / 001	K1365
SOO / 002	K1366
SOO / 003	K1367

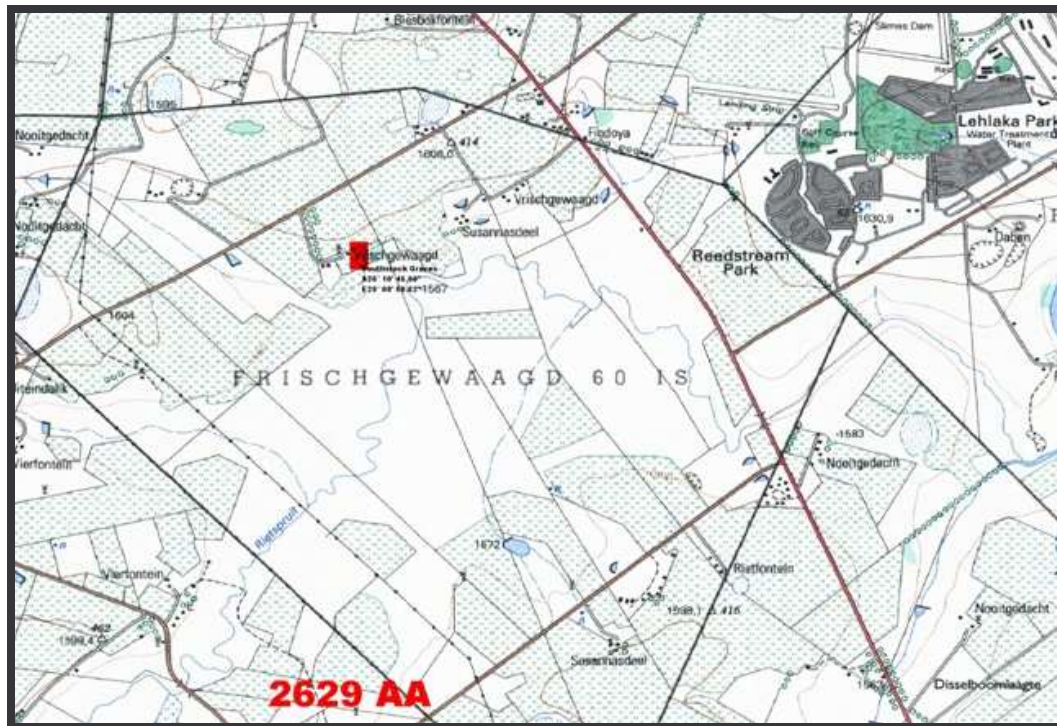
Project details

Report type	Grave Exhumation
Development type	Coal mining
Rezoning and/or land subdivision	Mining and mineral rights and operations
Developer	Xstrata Coal SA
Landowner	Tavistock Collieries Ltd. Private Bag X7265 Witbank 1035 Contact person Bennie Mokgwajana T el: +27 13 690 5450 Cell: +27 82 297 6762 Fax: +27 13 690 5456 Email: bmokgwajana@xstratacoal.co.za
SAHRA permit nr	80/07/03/015/51

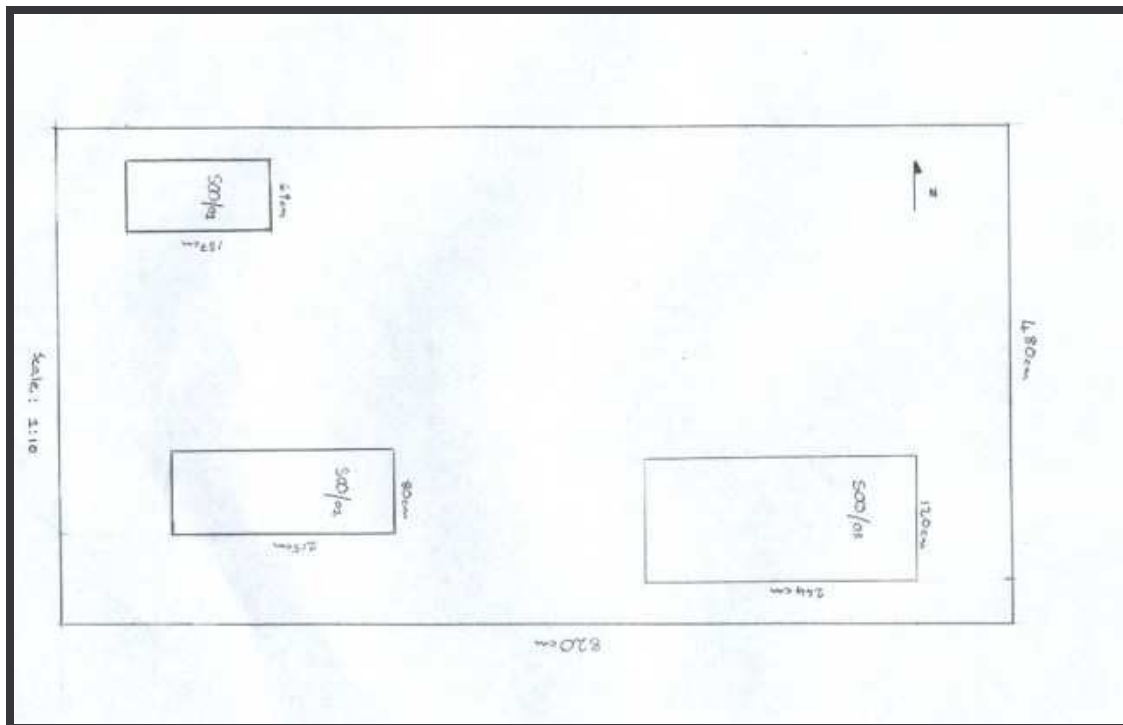
Location Data

Province:	Mpumalanga
Magisterial district:	Emalahleni District Municipality
1: 50 000 Map number (or SAN chart):	2629 AA
Latitude and Longitude:	S26°10.765 E29°08.977
Recording method (GPS, Trig., Other):	Garmin Etrex GPS; 4m accuracy; 1591masl
Farm Name and No.:	Frischgewaagd 60 IS
Town/Nearest Town:	Witbank

Location Maps



Site sketch



METHODOLOGY

The methods employed during exhumation aimed to recover all the remains, to minimise damage to the remains, to record the three-dimensional context of the remains and to preserve and respect the dignity of the buried individual. All evidence that might allude to the events leading to the death of the individual and circumstances regarding the event were recorded and interpreted. The information gathered was presented in a technical report.

The excavation methods employed accomplished the in situ exposure of the burial and associated artefacts (Nienaber and Steyn, 1999). The focus was on accurate and complete documentation (Nienaber, 1977). Various methods for the excavation of graves have been proposed by different authors (Hester, 1975; Joukowsky, 1980; Krogman and Iscan, 1986; Morse, 1978) and all stress the need for adequate workspace around the exposed remains and a systematic approach to the removal of individual bones. The archaeological method, including extensive test trenching to prevent damage to the remains, was employed. This approach was largely similar to that of forensic archaeology where buried body cases are concerned. The approach was adapted for each situation since graves vary in shape, size, depth and content (Nienaber, 1999). The methods used in forensic archaeology are discussed by Steyn, et al. (2000).

In each case, the surface features of the grave were cleaned and documented. A contractor specialising in the erecting of new grave dressings, and with some experience of demolishing and re-erecting existing grave dressings, was appointed to remove and re-erect the headstones. This was done under close supervision of the archaeologist. All observations regarding construction, materials and characteristics of the surface features were documented.

After the removal of the surface features the extent of the burial pit was ascertained through excavation and observation of differences in the matrix. After the indications of the presence and characteristics of the burial pit were documented, the in-fill was excavated to expose the human remains and associated cultural materials. Removal of the matrix of the burial pit was accomplished through the test-trench approach whereby a narrow trench (25-30 cm wide) is excavated with a trowel to a depth of between 15 and 20 cm in the lower third of the burial pit (in this instance the lower third usually constituted the eastern side of the grave). This area is chosen since it is most likely that the femurs of the skeleton occur in this part of the grave. Since the femur is a robust bone, it is usually not easily damaged through excavation. If no indications of the



presence of human remains are observed in the test trench the remaining in-fill matrix, down to the depth of the test trench, was removed with a shovel. The removed matrix was carefully screened to retrieve any possible cultural artefacts associated with the burial. This process was repeated until indications of the presence of human remains were observed.

As soon as human remains were encountered, care was taken to leave as much of the skeleton as possible covered in order to protect the remains from damage by excavation and to preserve the integrity of the context of the skeletal elements and possible associated cultural remains. The extent and characteristics of the burial pit were now documented and the workspace was assessed and enlarged if not sufficient. This was only done after documentation of the features of the burial pit and without sacrificing any vital information.



The excavation then continued with the aim of ascertaining the extent of the skeletal remains and the location of the different skeletal elements. As soon as the location and extent of the skeleton was established, a trench was dug around the remains so that the skeleton was enclosed in a low pedestal of matrix. The remains were then uncovered, starting from the middle and working outwards. This method again ensures the minimum disturbance of the remains and associated cultural materials. As soon as the skeleton was uncovered, it was documented in situ, removed, and packed for analysis, where this was required. A further test trench of 15 cm deep was dug in the area directly underlying the location of the remains to ensure that all possible remains and artefacts were found and recovered.

GRAVE DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS

Grave S00 / 01 (New grave number: K1365)

Dressing dimensions											
Headstone	Height:	53cm	Slab	Length:	137cm	Grave pit	Length:	113cm	Remains	Length:	113cm
	Width:	25cm		Width:	69cm		Width:	54cm		Width:	54cm
	Thick:	20-17cm		Height:	14cm		Depth:	142cm		Depth:	128cm
Condition of remains											
None		Poor	✓	Fair		Good		Excellent		Soft tissue	
Dressing description and inscription details											
<p>The headstone was placed at the western head of the grave. It comprised of a rectangular cement block, narrowing from the bottom (20cm) to the top (17cm), and rested on a plastered brick base. No inscription was visible on the headstone.</p> <p>The dressing further consisted of a plastered brick outline, filled with grey gravel (≤10mm). No cultural material was associated with the grave. The grave was oriented due east-west.</p>											
Description of remains											
<p>A piece of corrugated tin covered the remains at a depth of 100cm. The grave pit was rectangular and oriented due east-west. It was 142cm deep, 54cm wide and 113cm long.</p> <p>No skeletal parts were present. Only a few milk teeth (incisors, molars and canines) were recovered at a depth of 128cm, at the western extent of the grave pit. The soil seemed to be very acidic, which may have contributed to the poor preservation. Yellowish-white clay soil was found in the approximate positions of the upper and lower limbs.</p> <p>Cultural material associated with the remains included nails, glass sheet fragments, and disintegrated yellow plastic.</p>											

Grave S00 / 02 (New grave number: K1366)

Dressing dimensions													
Headstone	Height:	28 & 68cm	Slab	Length:	215cm	Grave pit	Length:	195cm	Remains	Length:	175cm		
	Width:	34/60 & 39cm		Width:	80cm		Width:	55cm		Width:	50cm		
	Thick:	7.5cm		Height:	10cm		Depth:	175cm		Depth:	16cm		
Condition of remains													
None		Poor		Fair	✓	Good		Excellent		Soft tissue			
Dressing description and inscription details													
<p>The headstone consisted of a piece of black slate situated at the western head of the grave. The stone was rectangular with bevelled edges and a domed top, resting on a plastered brick base. An inscription beneath a dove carrying a branch was chiselled into the stone. The slate measured 68 cm at maximum height, 39cm at maximum width and was 7.5cm thick. The plastered brick base measured 28cm at the maximum height, 60 x 34cm at the maximum widths.</p> <p>The inscription read:</p> <p><i>HIER RUS ONS</i> <i>GELIEFDE SEUN</i> <i>WILLEM JACOBUS</i> <i>PRINSLOO</i> <i>GEB. 10 MRT – 1912</i> <i>OORL. 2 AUG – 1930</i> <i>RUS SAG ONS LIEWE</i> <i>WILLIE</i></p> <p>The dressing further consisted of a rectangular plastered brick outline with grey gravel fill ((≤10mm).</p> <p>No material culture was associated with the grave. The grave was oriented due east-west.</p>													
													
Description of remains													
<p>A piece of corrugated tin was found at a depth of 140cm. The grave pit was rectangular and oriented due east-west. It was 175cm deep, 55cm wide and 195cm long.</p> <p>All long bones and the skull were present, but fragmented and very brittle. No hand or foot bones were found. Imprints of the vertebrae, ribs and pelvis were visible. However, these were completely disintegrated and only evidenced by a yellowish-white clay soil in the thoracic, abdominal and pelvic regions. The remains measured 161 at maximum length (cranium to distal ends of tibiae), 45cm in maximum width (from elbow to elbow), and 10cm in height (skull height).</p> <p>The remains were oriented due east-west. The skull faced south with the lower mandible resting on the</p>													

chest/sternum. The arms were extended along the sides, with the forearms bent inward at the elbows and the hands rested in pelvic region. Both legs were extended east along the length of the grave.

Cultural material associated with the remains included nails and screws, disintegrated coffin wood and handles.



Grave S00 / 03 (New grave number: K1367)

Dressing dimensions											
Headstone	Height:	32cm	Slab	Length:	264cm	Grave pit	Length:	243cm	Remains	Length:	170cm
	Width:	48cm		Width:	120cm		Width:	62cm		Width:	43cm
	Thick:	30-6cm		Height:	7cm		Depth:	147cm		Depth:	12cm
Condition of remains											
None		Poor		Fair	✓	Good		Excellent		Soft tissue	
Dressing description and inscription details											
<p>The headstone consisted of a triangular cement block measuring 30cm in width at the bottom and narrowing to 6cm at the top. The headstone rested on the ground at the western head of the grave. No inscriptions were visible.</p> <p>The dressing further consisted of sandstone "cores", approximately 10cm in diameter and ranging in length from 10-30cm. These were packed as a rectangular curb around the grave. No cultural material was associated with the grave.</p>											
Description of remains											
<p>A piece of corrugated tin was found at a depth of 123cm. The grave pit was rectangular and oriented due east-west. It was 147cm deep, 62cm wide and 243cm long.</p> <p>All long bones, the skull and fragmented ribs and vertebrae were present. No hand or foot bones were found. The vertebrae, ribs and pelvis were completely fragmented, brittle and disintegrated. The skull was also very fragmented and only a general assumption of its position could be made. The remains measured 170 at maximum length (cranium to distal ends of tibiae), 43cm in maximum width (from elbow to elbow), and 12cm in height (skull height).</p> <p>The remains were oriented due east-west. The skull faced approximately north-east. A full set of dentures were located above the right shoulder, approximately 30cm of the skull. The arms were extended along the sides, with the forearms bent inward at the elbows, hands in pelvic region. Both legs were extended east along the length of the grave.</p> <p>Cultural material associated with the remains included nails and screws, disintegrated coffin wood and handles.</p>											
											



CONCLUSION

The three graves were excavated in a single day. Doves Funerals provided coffins for and transport of the remains to Witbank. The remains were reburied on 2 July 2007 in the Witbank Cemetery. Archaic HPM has met all responsibilities as per the Terms of Reference.

To date, no enquiries from any interested parties exist regarding the graves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaic HPM strongly recommends that in the event of any claims, queries or possible identification of living relatives related to the deceased, a retrospective process of social consultation be implemented by Doves Funerals, Witbank. SAHRA should also be notified immediately should the above take place.

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DOVES FUNERALS
WITBANK TAK 6300
4 PAUL KRUGER STR
WITBANK
1035
TEL: 013 656 1441
29/01/2007

AANDAG MNR J NEL

RE: OPGRAWINGS EXTRATA MYN

HIERMEE WIL ONS BEVESTIG DAT DIE GRAFTE WAT GELEë IS BY
NOITGEDACHT PLAAS ERF NOMMER 371S PORSIE 17/60 OP
BOGENOEMDE PLAAS HET MNR PIET PRINSLOO, KONTAK NOMMER
082 652 2135 WAT NOU WOONAGTIG IS OP 'N PLAAS LANGS
BOGENOEMDE PLAAS VIR 45 JAAR GEBOER HET. HY HET BEVESTIG
DAT NIEMAND BOGENOEMDE GRAFTE BESOEK HET VIR 45 JAAR
WAT HY WOONAGTIG WAS OP DIE PLAAS NIE.

DAAR WAS OOK NAVRAAG GEDOEN BY OMLIGGENDE BOERE EN
NIEMAND IS BEKEND MET ENIGE VERWANTE PERSONE WAT DALK
VERDERE INLIGTING KAN VERSKAF EN IS DIE BETROKKE GRAFTE
NIE BESOEK VOLGENS HULLE VANDAT HULLE IN GEBIED WOON.

HIERBY WIL EXSTRATA MYN GRAAG DRINGEND AANSOEK DOEN
OM BOGENOEMDE GRAFTE TE VERSKUIF NA WITBANK
BEGRAFFPLAAS.

ALLE ADVERTENSIE VELDTOGTE SAL DEUR DOVES WITBANK
HANTEER WORD.

BYVOORBAAT DANK
V. KLOKE

Regional Office: Pretoria, 199 Church Street West, Pretoria, 0183 PO Box 586, Pretoria, 0001 Tel: +27 (12) 327 4714 Fax: +27 (12) 337 4712/3
Johannesburg Office: 10 Jordaan Street, Braamfontein, 2001 PO Box 5497, Johannesburg, 2000 Tel: +27 (11) 339 5967 Fax: +27 (11) 403 1357
Bloemfontein Office: c/o Krause & Pake Street, Bloemfontein, 9301 PO Box 1082, Bloemfontein, 9300 Tel: +27 (51) 447 3532 Fax: +27 (51) 447 7751

R.J.J. van der Walt (Chairman), Directors: A.J. Amundsen, L.P.C., B.Sc.; M.S. Dordick.
A. J. van der Walt (Chairman), Directeurs: A. J. Amundsen, L.P.C., B.Sc.; M. S. Dordick.

Physical address:
Room 8-26
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
Humanities Building
University of Pretoria
Lynwood Road
Pretoria
0002

Postal address:
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
Faculty of Humanities
University of Pretoria
Pretoria
0002
Republic of South Africa



Members: J Nel & GJ de Kamper

Company registration nr.: 1999/019984-23/C
Tax registration nr.: 943600547
VAT registration nr.: 4350228880

Contact numbers:
Office: 012 420 3168
Fax: 086 618 3744
Email: info@archaic.za.net

<http://www.archaic.za.net>

ANNEXURE B

Vox Populi ex Vix

Archaic Heritage Project Management

Social Consultation Report

Graves affected by the development of Southstock Colliery by Xstrata Coal SA

Prepared for
Mr. Bennie Mokgwajana
Tavistock Collieries Ltd.
Private Bag X7265
Witbank
1035

Tel: +27 13 686 4365 Cell: +27 82 297 6762 Fax: +27 13 690 5456
Email: bmokgwajana@xstratacoal.co.za

On behalf of
Mr. Victor Kloke
Doves Funerals & Insurance, Witbank
4 Paul Kruger Street
Witbank
1035
Tel: 013 656 1441

By
Johan Nel
Archaic HPM
Tel: 012 420 5169 Cell: 072 288 5496 Fax: 086 618 3744
Email: johan.archaic@up.ac.za

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Summary

The following is a brief report on the process and results of the social consultation procedure for three affected graves. The graves are located on the farm Frischgewaagd 60 IS, which is currently being developed and mined by Xstrata Coal SA. Due to apparent negligence by the mine's surveyors the graves were not recorded before mining developments commenced. At present the graves are in immediate threat of damage and destruction. Doves Funerals & Insurance, Witbank, was appointed by Xstrata Coal to mitigate the exhumation and relocation of the graves. Archaic HPM was contracted in January 2007 to assist with this process.

Introduction

Doves Funerals & Insurance, Witbank, a division of the HT Group (Pty) Ltd, was approached by Xstrata Coal SA to exhume and relocate three graves. The graves are located on the farm Frischgewaagd 60 IS, property of Xstrata Coal SA. The area is currently being mined for coal and is known as the Southstock Colliery. Mr. Victor Kloke from Doves Witbank was appointed to undertake the necessary legal requirements, as per the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999.

Mr. Kloke has submitted documentation detailing the results of the social consultation process. However, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) requested a more detailed report. Archaic HPM, who has been contracted by Doves Witbank to assist with the exhumation and relocation of the affected graves, was asked to assist with the social consultation.

General Description of Site

The graves are located on the farm Frischgewaagd 60 IS. The site is currently on an 'island' of soil amongst large scale open cast mining activities. The cemetery is situated approximately 150 meters southwest of a dilapidated farm house. The exact position of the cemetery is at latitude S 26°10.765 and longitude E 029°08.977 (recorded by a Garmin Etrex handheld GPS, accuracy 4 meters). A steel fencing surrounds the graves. Most overgrowth has been removed by Mr. Victor Kloke from Doves Witbank. Three graves exist within the steel enclosure, of which only one has a formal headstone with an inscription.

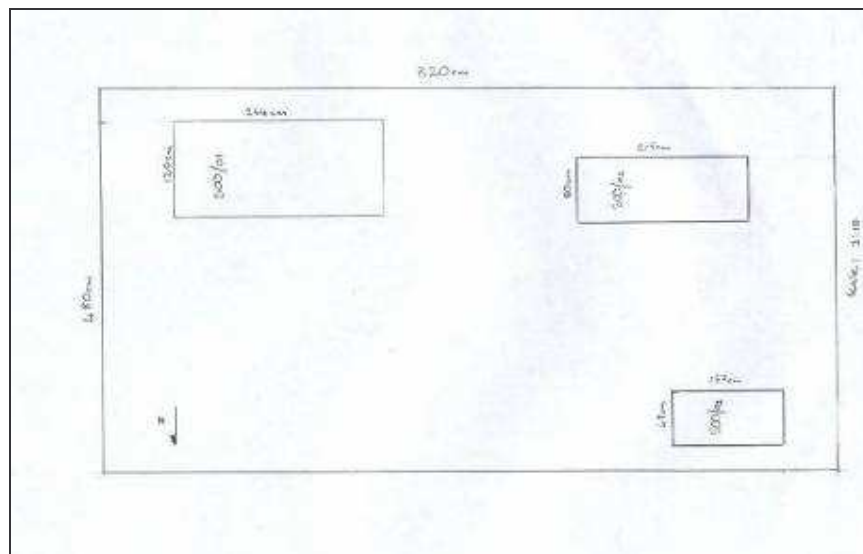


Figure 1: Site map of graves



Figure 2: General site location on 2629AA 1: 50 000 map



Figure 3: Detail of grave SOO/01



Figure 4: Detail of grave S00/02



Figure 5: Detail of grave S00/03



Figure 6: Detail of inscription on grave S00/03

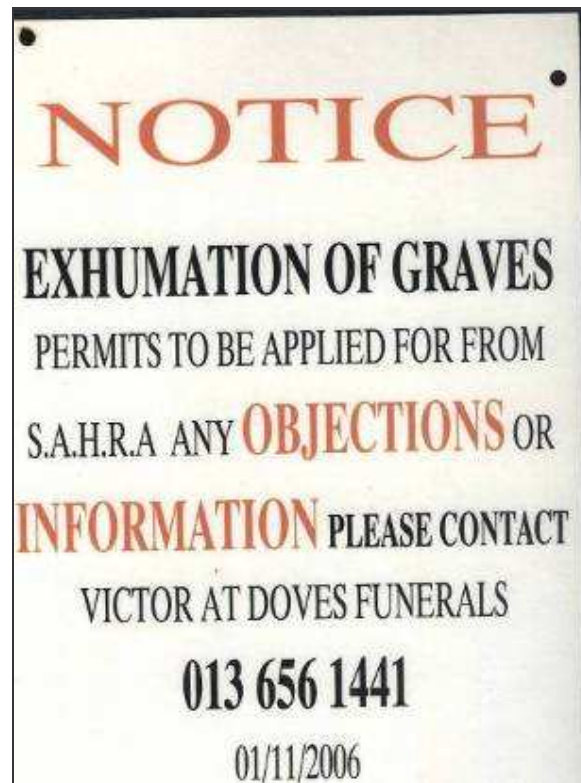


Figure 7: Site view from NE, old farm house located in trees in upper right corner

Social Consultation Schedule

Site Notices

Notices have been erected at the site and the access routes to the site. The notices were placed on 1 November 2006.



Advertisements were placed on a weekly basis in the Witbank News by Mr. Kloke.

Community Participation

Mr. Piet Prinsloo

Previous landowner.

082 891 0340

Landowner of neighbouring farm.

No other members of the public and/or Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) have been identified during the social consultation process.

Conclusion

One grave (SOO/02) can be identified as that of a Willem Jacobus Prinsloo by the inscription on the headstone: *Hier rus on / geliefde seun / Willem Jacobus / Prinsloo / Geb. 10 Mrt -1912 / Oorl. 2 Aug -1930 / Rus sag on lieue / Willie.*

Although this indicated a possible relation to the above individuals, this link was denied by all. Both Messrs. Piet Prinsloo, and Hendrik Prinsloo, including the latter's wife who grew up on the farm Nooitgedacht, stated that they have no knowledge regarding any living relatives of the graves.

Mr. Piet Prinsloo was resident on the property for over 45 years. His residence was close to the cemetery, approximately 150m. He maintains that throughout this period no person visited the graves. Mr. Hendrik Prinsloo and his wife reiterated Mr. Piet Prinsloo's statement.

It is recommended that a process of retrospective social consultation also take place subsequent to the exhumation and relocation of the affected graves.