



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**REPORT ON THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN EDEN PARK WEST AND EDEN PARK EXT 1,
EKHURULENI, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

For:

SUPERWAY CONSTRUCTION CC

REPORT: AE1075

by:

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by Superway Construction CC to conduct a heritage impact assessment (HIA) for a proposed housing development in Eden Park, Ekurhuleni. This is in the Gauteng Province.

During the survey two sites of heritage significance were located. These are discussed and recommendations relating to the mitigation thereof are made. The proposed development may only continue in lieu of the recommendations made in this report.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Archaetnos cc was requested by Superway Construction CC to conduct a heritage impact assessment for a proposed housing development in Eden Park and Eden Park West Ext 1 in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan area. This is in the Gauteng Province on the farm Palmietfontein (Figure 1).

The client indicated the areas to be surveyed and the survey was confined to this area.

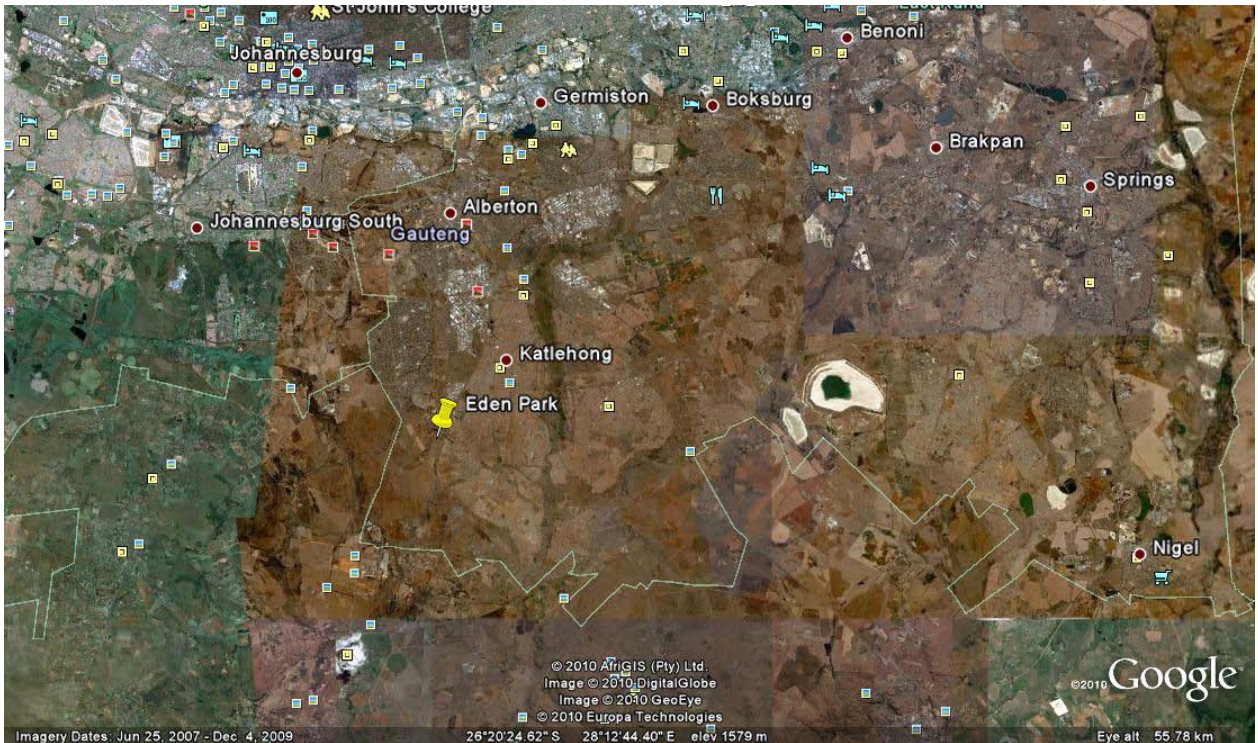


Figure 1 Map indicating the location of Eden Park.

2. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Anton Carl van Vollenhoven from Archaetnos, hereby declare that I am an independent specialist within the field of heritage management.

Signed:

Date: 23 November 2010

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of cultural heritage importance located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Documenting such sites in a report including photographs and indicating them on a map with GPS references.
3. Assess the significance of the cultural heritage resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures relating to the identified cultural heritage resources.
5. Review applicable legislative requirements.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Survey of literature

A survey of the available literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices endorsed by SAHRA and ASAPA. It was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of archaeological significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken on foot and via an off-road vehicle.

4.3 Documentation

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources (including archaeological resources) are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either

individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development (Appendix A). Graves and cemeteries are included in this.

2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, architectural, technological, spiritual, linguistic and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects (see Appendix B).
3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix C).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.
7. Although care was taken to give a comprehensive background on the history of the area, it has to be stated that it is impossible to give a complete indication on human activities of the past as sources are not always readily available. The information given in the report should however give a fair reflection of the past.

6. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

6.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites

- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The national estate (see Appendix D) includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A 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.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- 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 that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

6.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act (Act 107 of 1998) states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Eden Park West is situated to the south of Alberton in the Gauteng Province on the farm Palmietfontein. The topography of the surveyed area is very flat with no specific features. The area mostly is already being used for residential purposes and the surveyed area is the most western part of Eden Park (Figure 2).

Here it is bordered by a railway track where the other sides are bordered by roads and houses. A number of eucalyptus trees are found here, indicating past human disturbance. The grass cover is reasonably short, but also shows signs of having been disturbed previously.

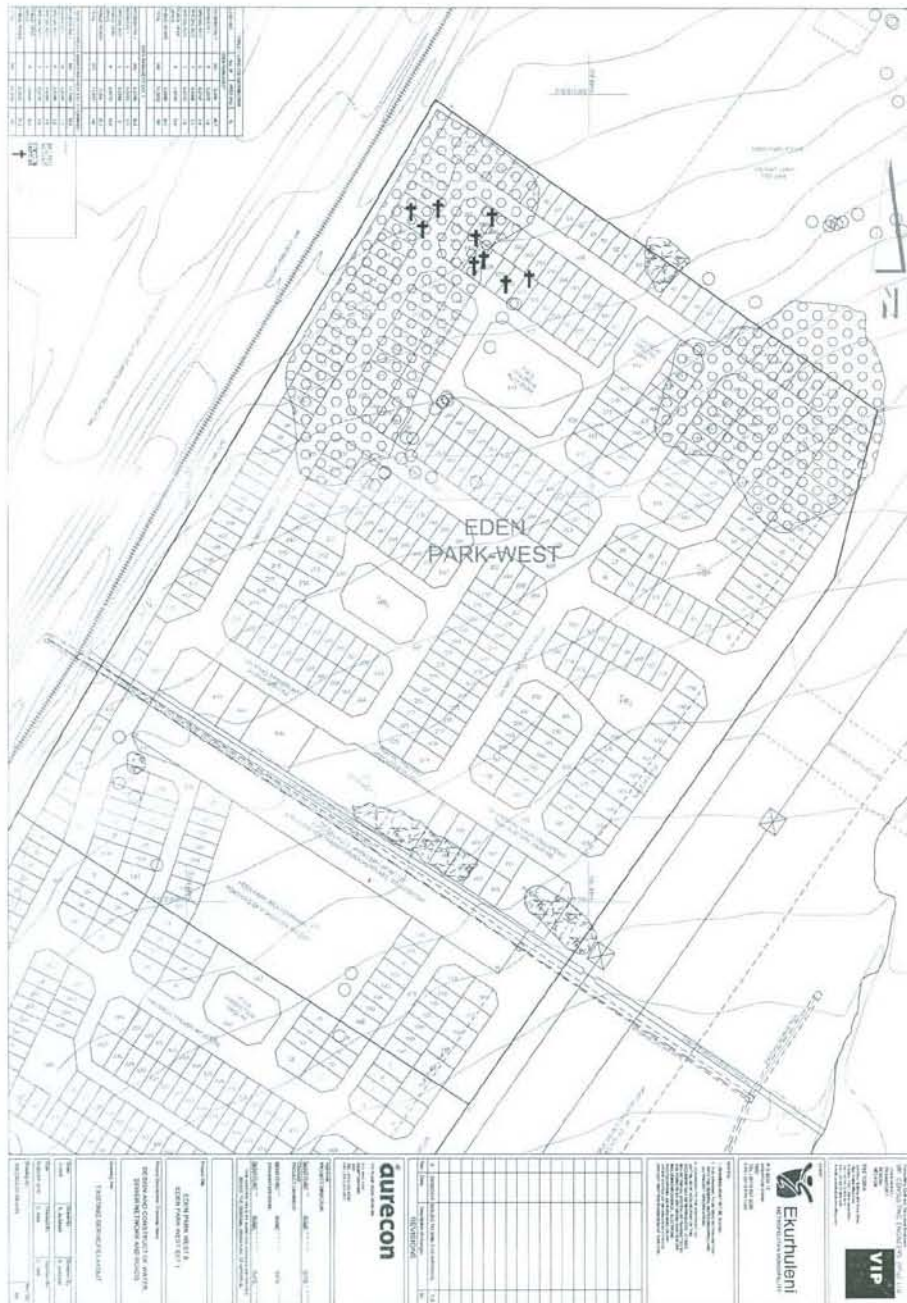


Figure 2 Plan of the development showing the location of graves.

8. DISCUSSION

During the survey two sites of cultural heritage significance was located in the area to be developed. However in order to be able to get a better understanding of the past in this area, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history.

8.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is, however, important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

Middle Stone Age sites have been identified to the north and west of the surveyed area at Aasvoëlkop, Melvillekoppies, Linksfield and Primrose. At Aasvoëlkop a Late Stone Age site was also identified (Bergh 1999: 4).

The environment is such that it does not provide much natural shelter and therefore it is possible that Stone Age people did not settle here for long periods of time. They would have however been lured to the area due to an abundance of wild life as the occurrence of water and natural vegetation would have provided ample grazing. One may therefore find small sites or occasional stone tools.

8.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however, indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Late Iron Age sites have been found to the south of Johannesburg (Bergh 1999: 7). Sites such as these are known for extensive stone building forming settlement complexes. No

indication of metal smelting was identified at any of these sites (Bergh 1999: 8). It is also known that the early trade routes did not run through this area (Bergh 1999: 9).

No Iron Age sites, features or objects were found during the survey. The type of environment however is suitable for human habitation. One would therefore expect that Iron Age people may have utilized the area. This is the same reason why white settlers later on moved into this environment.

8.3 Historical Age

The Historical Age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write.

In 1827 the Ndebele of Mzilikazi moved through this area. During this time, called the Difaquane, many groups moved around here in order to flee from the Ndebele (Bergh 1999: 11).

The first white traveller to visit these surroundings was WC Harris in 1836. In 1847 Dr David Livingstone also travelled through close to this area (Bergh 1999: 13). The first white farmers only settled here between 1839 and 1840 (Bergh 1999: 16).

All the sites identified during the survey date to this period in time. These are discussed below.

8.4 Sites identified during the survey

Site no 1:

This is the remains of a graveyard (Figure 3-4) consisting of at least 33 graves. These are all marked by stone dressing and none have headstones. There may even be more graves, but this is difficult to see within the vegetation on site. The graves are therefore all of an unknown date and are therefore considered to be heritage graves.

GPS: 26°22'04,9"S
28°06'54,6"E

Due to the sensitivity of this issue, graves are always regarded as having a **high** cultural significance. Graves with an unknown date are always handled as if older than 60 years. Graves older as 60 years are regarded as heritage graves.

The developer has indicated that the development will definitely have an impact on the graves. The pressure relating to providing housing is very high and therefore it would not be possible to fence the graves in and preserve is in situ.

The only mitigation option would therefore be to exhume the graves and have the bodies reburied. However, it needs to be stated that for this a process of social consultation is needed and the wishes of the descendants should be considered. This process is a lengthy process including social consultation in order to find families of the deceased and to obtain their permission.

In the case of graves older than 60 years and those with an unknown date of death archaeologist as well as an undertaker will have to be part of the team involved. For graves with a date of death of younger than 60 years, only an undertaker is involved.



Figure 3 **Some of the graves at site 1.**



Figure 4 More graves at site 1.

Site no 2:

This is the remains of a farm yard consisting of stone walls, ruins and other features (Figure 5-6). From the building material it is probably older than 60 years, but it is in a very bad state of repair and therefore has a **low** cultural significance. It does not need to be preserved and may be demolished if necessary.

GPS: 26°22'03,3"S
28°06'55,3"E



Figure 5 Remains of a stone wall at site 2.



Figure 6 A water trough at site 2.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the HIA in the area has been conducted successfully. Two sites of cultural heritage importance (Figure 7) were identified during the survey.

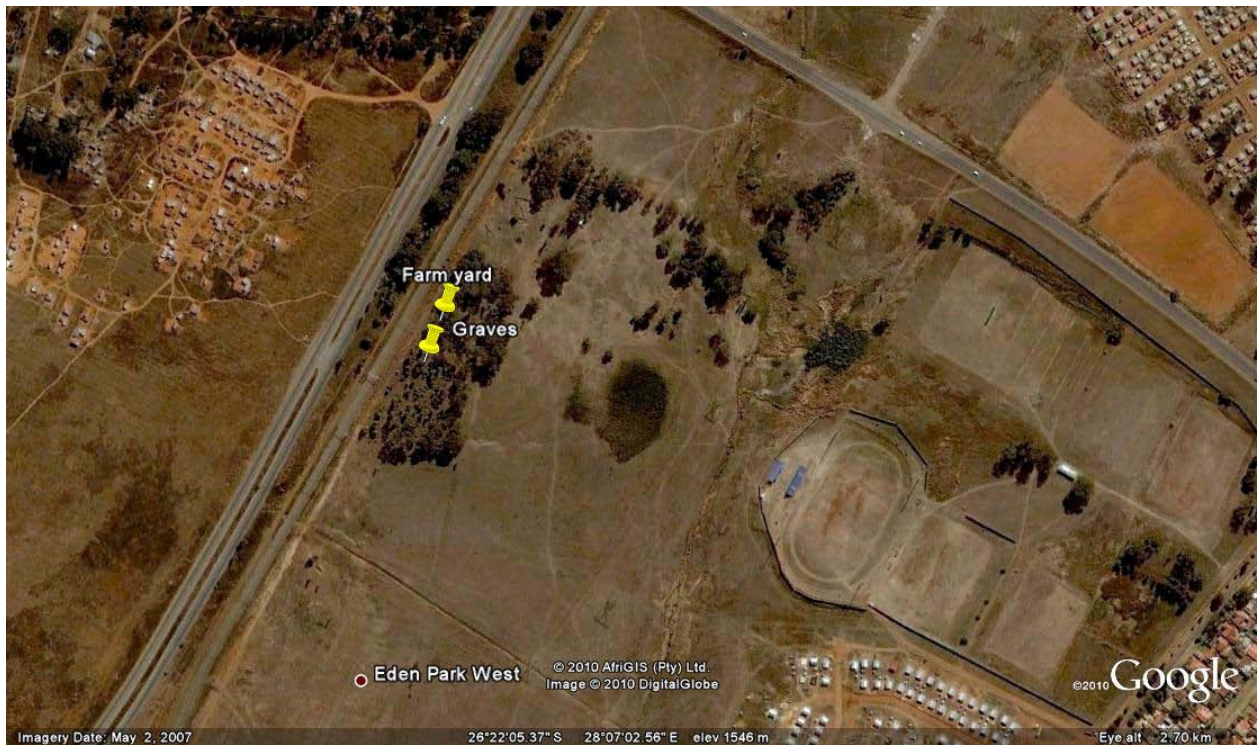


Figure 7 Google image showing the location of the two sites within the development area.

The following is recommended:

- Site number 1, the grave yard, has a **high** cultural significance.
- The development will definitely impact on the site and it would not be an option to fence it in.
- The only option is to exhume the graves and have the bodies reburied. For this a process of social consultation is needed and the wishes of the descendants should be considered. This process is a lengthy process and one should try to obtain the permission of families.
- In the case of graves older than 60 years and those with an unknown date of death archaeologist as well as an undertaker will have to be part of the team involved. For graves with a date of death of younger than 60 years, only an undertaker is involved.
- Site number 2 (farm yard) is of a low cultural significance. It may be demolished. As it probably is younger than 60 years no heritage permit is needed.

- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts is always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when any development commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence. This is especially true of the large eucalyptus bush in the west. Graves have been found inside of such forestry areas in the past and therefore special care should be given to this.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

Definition of terms:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

Definition of significance:

- Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.
- Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.
- Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period
- Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.
- Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C

Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

APPENDIX D

Protection of heritage resources:

- Formal protection

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – grade I and II

Protected areas - an area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – for a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – listing grades II and III

Heritage areas – areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

- General protection

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials