



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED LANSERIA COMMERCIAL CROSSING
DEVELOPMENT ON VARIOUS PORTIONS
OF BULTFONTEIN 533 JQ, NOOITGEDACHT 534 JQ AND NIETGEDACHT 535
JQ, NEAR LANSERIA GAUTENG**

For:

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2022***

REPORT: AE11116

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November 2011

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by the Cavaleros Construction Co (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Proposed Lanseria Commercial development, situated on various portions of Bultfontein 533 JQ, Nooitgedacht 534 JQ and Nietgedacht 535 JQ, in Gauteng. A large-scale warehousing and other industrial development are being planned.

The area has been fairly extensively disturbed in the recent past by rural and urban residential developments, agricultural activities and other recent activities such as roads and other commercial and industrial developments. If any sites, features or objects of a heritage nature or significance existed in the area during the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. The only sites of significance recorded in the area are a number of informal cemeteries, one which will have to be relocated. The others might fall outside the development boundaries, although this will have to be confirmed. Ruins of farmsteads and related structures are also scattered throughout the area. Recommendations regarding the mitigation of impacts on these sites are given at the end of this report. It should also be mentioned that members of the Mahlangu family still reside in the area, and they will be relocated as well. Some of the graves in the one cemetery belong to the family.

If the recommendations put forward at the end of this document are implemented, then, from a Cultural Heritage point of view, there would be no objection to the continuing of the proposed development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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The area has been fairly extensively disturbed in the recent past by rural and urban residential developments, agricultural activities and other recent activities such as roads and other commercial and industrial developments. The only sites of significance recorded in the area are a number of informal cemeteries, one which will definitely have to be relocated. The others might fall outside the development boundaries, although this will have to be confirmed. The ruins of farmsteads and related structures are also scattered throughout the area. It should also be mentioned that members of the Mahlangu family still reside in the area, and they will be relocated as well. Some of the graves in the cemetery belong to the family.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located in the area of the proposed development (**see Appendix A**).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (**see Appendix B**).
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources, should this be applicable.
5. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. 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).

3.1 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. Sites of 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 (AIA) 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 to) 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.

3.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Survey of literature

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

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

The survey was undertaken partially on foot, although certain portions were traversed by vehicle.

4.3 Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography. **In this case it was the intention to interview a local resident of the land (Me.Sanna Mahlangu, allegedly aged 99 years), who has been living here since the 1930's. However, due to legal matters involving the Mahlangu families' relocation from the property that are still unresolved, she was not willing to grant an interview. However, as graves that are located on the property belong to the family and will be relocated, oral histories will still be obtained during the process of social consultation for the relocation of these graves.** Mr. Solly Mahlangu, her grandson, has subsequently provided valuable information on the graves, while also indicating other grave sites in the larger area to the heritage specialist.

4.4 Documentation

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

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed development area is located on portions of the farms Bultfontein 533 JQ, Nootgedacht 534 JQ and Nietgedacht 535 JQ, near Lanseria, Gauteng Province. The establishment of the so-called Lanseria Commercial Crossing, a warehousing, some high density residential, retail/office and industrial development, is being proposed. A total of around 121ha, after all road expropriations has taken place, will be affected.

The topography of the area is also relatively flat, with gentle rolling grass veldt prevalent. Original tree cover is sparse, but there are remnants of bluegum plantations in the area. Vegetation cover was not dense and archaeological visibility during the survey was good. A section/tributary of the Jukskei River passes through the area as well.

The area has been extensively disturbed in the past through agricultural activities, rural and more urban residential and other developments. If any sites of any real cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) significance did exist here in the past these would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. The 1:50 000 topographic map of the area (2527DD Broederstroom), dating to 2011, indicates mainly agricultural fields, as well as ruins and other structures/homesteads in the area. No grave sites or other historical features are shown.

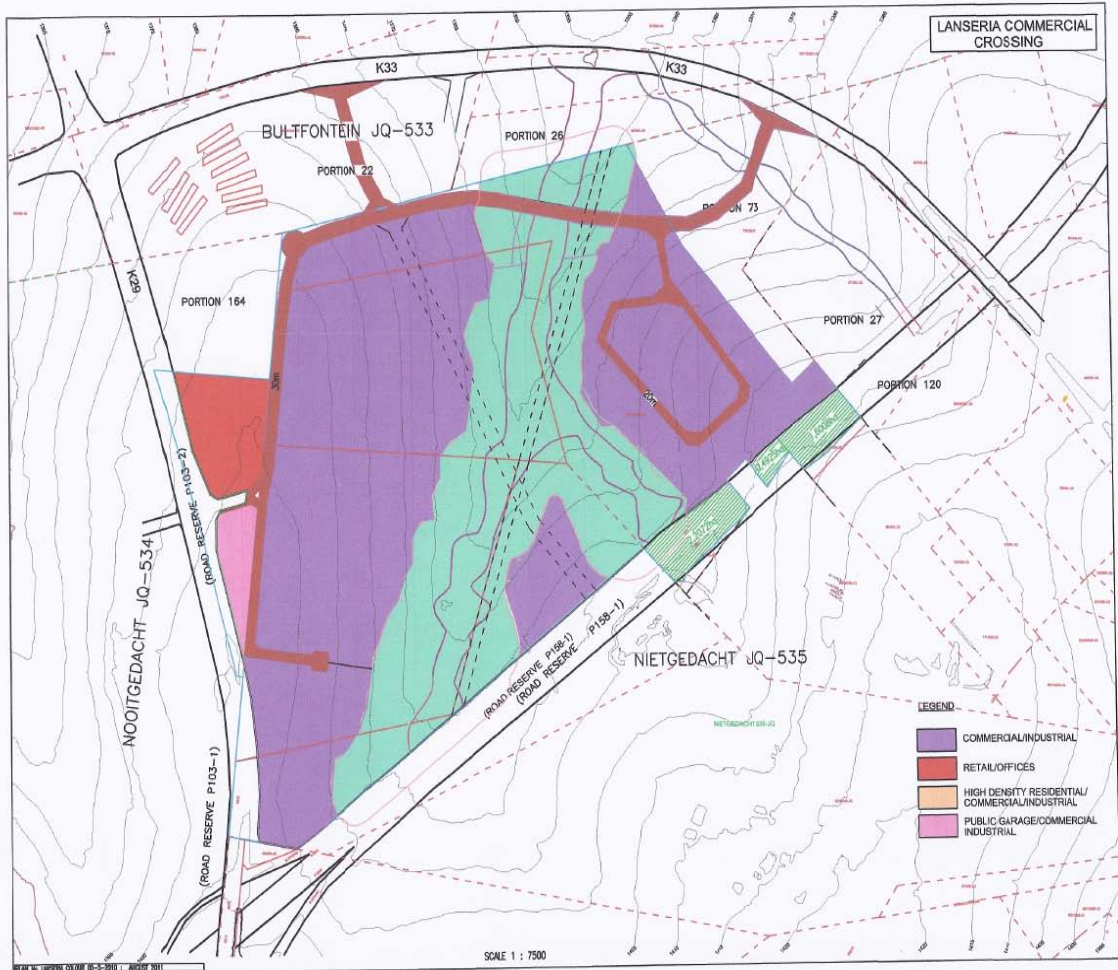


Figure 1: Layout and Locality plan (courtesy Cavaleros Construction Co (Pty) Ltd).



**Figure 2: General view of a section of area.
Note the old ploughed fields.**



**Figure 3: Another view of the area.
Note the open grass veldt and sparse tree cover.**



**Figure 4: A view of the area, showing the location of
the Mahlangu family homestead.**

6. DISCUSSION

A short, general, background to the archaeology and history of the area is given in the following section.

6.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in basically into 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.

No known Stone Age sites (Bergh 1999: 4) are found in the direct area of development. There is however a number of Stone Age sites in the larger geographical area, including Pietkloof and Uitkomst Cave, as well as sites in the so-called Magaliesberg Research Area to the north of the development area (Bergh 1999: 4). The sites date from the Early to Later Stone Age and are found mostly in caves/shelters and not in open areas. Included here is a number of rock engraving sites (Bergh 1999: 5).

6.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce 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.

Again, no Iron Age sites, features or artifacts were identified in the area. The closest known Iron Age site (EIA) is situated at Broederstroom to the north of the study area (Bergh 1999: 6). The Broederstroom site belongs to the so-called Mzonjani facies of the Urewe pottery tradition and dates to AD450 – AD750 (Huffman 2007: 127). The closest LIA sites are found at Bruma and Melvillekoppies (Bergh 1999: 7). It's also possible that sites belonging to the Ntsuanatsatsi facies of the Urewe tradition (AD1450-AD1650), the Uitkomst facies of the same tradition (AD1650-AD1820), the Olifantspoort facies of Urewe (AD1500-AD1700) and the Buispoort facies of Urewe (AD1700-1840) could be found in the larger geographical area (Huffman 2007: 167; 171; 191 & 203). During the difaqane, Mzilikazi's Ndebele moved through and settled in the area between 1827 & 1832 (Bergh 1999: 11). Sites dating to Olifantspoort are also located at Broederstroom.

6.3 Historical Age

In essence the historical age in South Africa starts when the first people who could read and write moved into the area. The earliest Europeans who moved through the area were the groups of Schoon & McLuckie and those of Archbell & Moffat (the famous missionaries), both during 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12). They were closely followed by others, including the Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 13-14). Based on old maps of the area, Nietgedacht

was first surveyed in 1869 for P.A.Brits and Nooitgedacht in 1876 for C.J.Smit (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Farm related remains

The remains of a number of farm related structures (farmsteads, farm labour houses and outbuildings, etc) are found throughout the area. These structures are more than likely less than 60 years of age, and are nearly completely destroyed/broken down. Although they will be impacted on by the development it is not necessary to conduct any mitigation measures and the recording done during the field survey is deemed sufficient enough. GPS coordinates were not taken at all the locations, but a Google image of the area will indicate such.

It should however be mentioned that there is always a possibility of the existence of burials close to some of these structures, especially if they are related to farm labourers. In some cases they would bury their still born or young infants inside or close to the homesteads. Therefore, once the relocation of the people commences and before the structures are torn down it should be determined if there are any close to or inside these structures. Social consultation should be able to determine this possibility. Mr. Solly Mahlangu has spoken to his grandmother regarding the possibility, and she has indicated that this has not happened here. The reason is that they were living in a more urban setting and there were specially allocated areas where they were allowed to bury family members by the farmers (Pers.comm.: Mr.Solly Mahlangu 2011-11-28).

Site Location: **S25.97271 E27.93422**

Significance: **Low**

Impact & Mitigation: **Documentation during survey sufficient mitigation.**

Grave Site 1

The grave site contains a possible 20 graves, of which some belongs to the Mahlangu family still residing on the property. None of the graves have headstones with legible inscriptions, and only a few have formal grave dressings. These are in the form of cement or concrete and bricks. A number are stone packed graves. The graves will be impacted on by the development and it has been indicated that they will have to be exhumed and relocated, following all necessary legal processes. The developers are also in the process with social consultation and have obtained permission from the Mahlangu family to relocate the graves belonging to them. Advertisements and other means will be utilized to try and get hold of descendants of the other deceased individuals.

It should be mentioned that graves always carry a High Significance. Furthermore, although it is not known whether or not there are any other graves in the area, there are always a possibility that some unknown, low stone packed graves could still be located during the development process. Should this happen these graves should be reported and the necessary investigations carried out.

Site Location: **S25.97416 E27.92616**

Significance: **High**

Impact & Mitigation: **Definite impact. Exhumation and Relocation.**

Grave Site 2

This grave site contains around 35 graves, mostly stone packed and without any headstones. At least 5 distinct rows of graves are visible. Two of the graves have headstones with visible (painted on) inscriptions, namely **Elizabeth Saile Ntasi. Died 17/7/1956** and **Sarah M.Segaile**. Last mentioned has no date. According to Mr. Solly Mahlangu most of the people buried here were farm workers and their children and mainly migrants from countries outside of South Africa such as Malawi (Pers.comm: Solly Mahlangu 2011-11-28).

Site Location: **S25.97365 E27.993768**

Significance: **High**

Impact & Mitigation: **If impacted then mitigation measures will have to be implemented. Possible exhumation and relocation.**

Grave Site 3

This is another grave site location pointed out by Solly Mahlangu. It contains at least 2 stone packed graves, although the graves are not as highly visible as the others. According to Mr.Mahlangu the family lived close by.

Site Location: **S25.96997 E27.93605**

Significance: **High**

Impact & Mitigation: **If impacted mitigation measures will have to be implemented. Possible exhumation and relocation.**

Grave Site 3

This grave site was again shown to us by Solly Mahlangu. It is located near the fence of the chicken farm bordering the property and seems to fall within the development area. The graves are not visible on the surface, but according to Mr.Mahlangu the grave dressings were removed when the fence was erected by the people of the chicken farm. The presence of the graves will have to be verified.

Site Location: **S25.96982 E27.92839**

Significance: **High**

Impact & Mitigation: **Possible impact. Exhumation and Relocation**

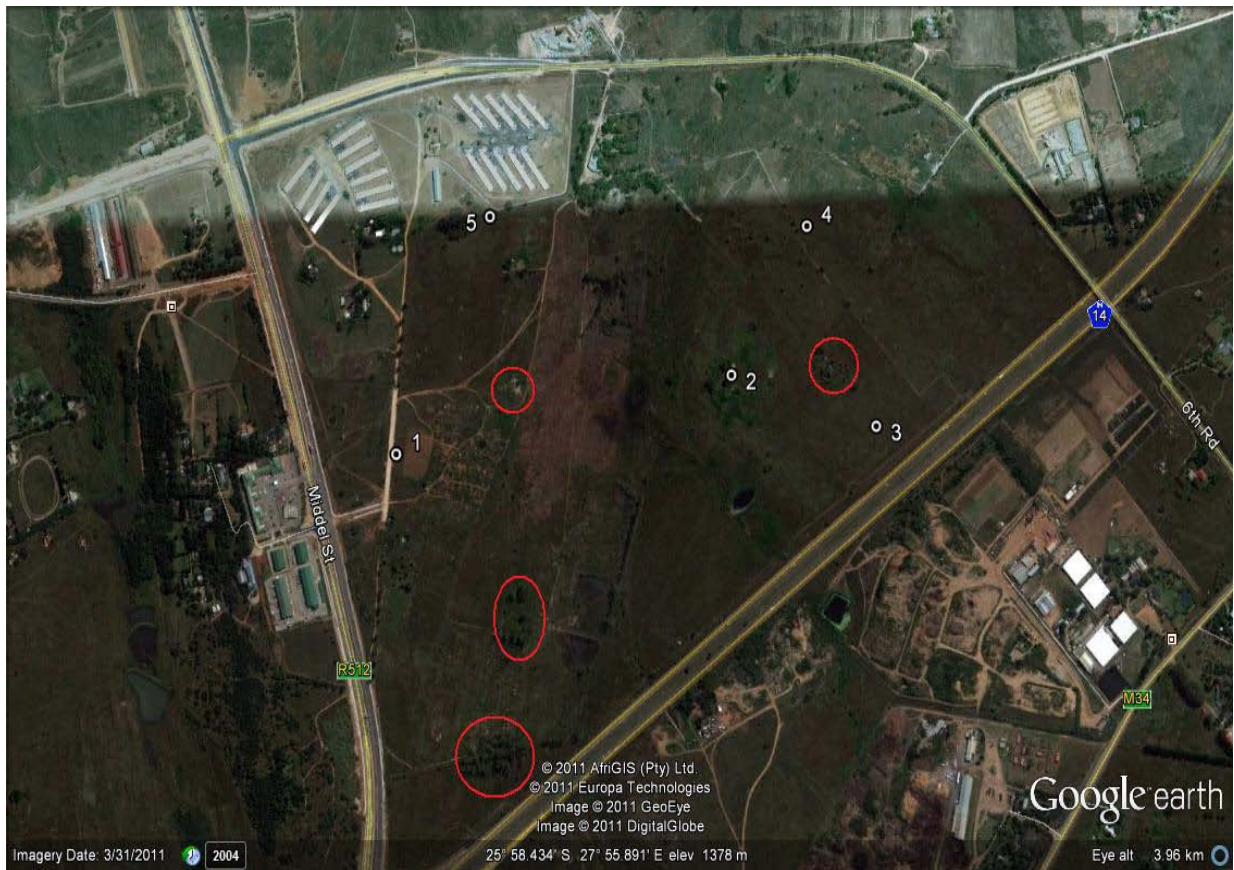


Figure 5: Aerial view of location of sites. 1, 3,4 & 5 is the graves and 2 farm related ruins. The red circles indicate other recent farm related remains. Note the old ploughed field as well.

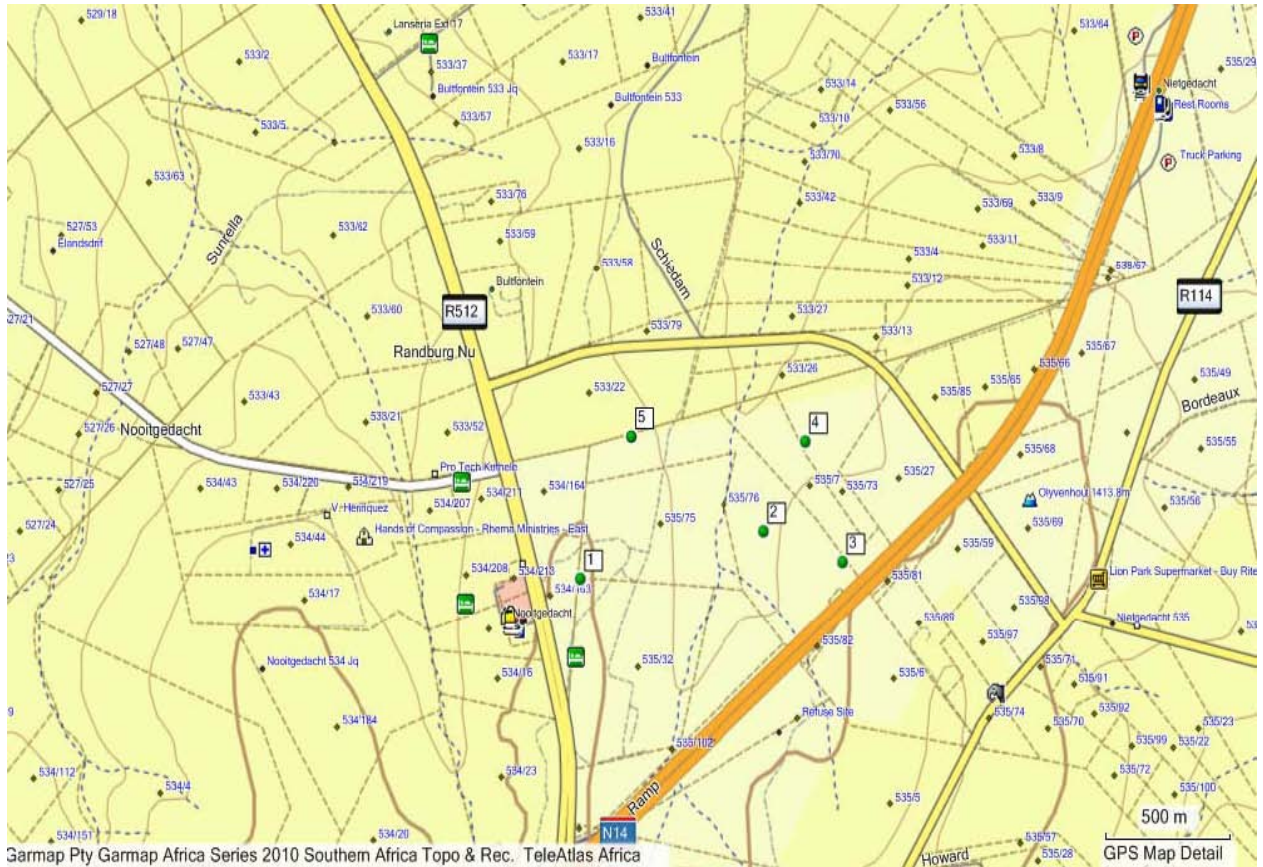


Figure 6: Topographic location of the grave sites & ruins recorded at Lanseria Commercial Crossing (Map Source 2010).



Figure 7: Remains of an old cement dam in the area.



Figure 8: Typical structural remains in the area.



Figure 9: More farm related remains.



Figure 10: Grave Site 1.



Figure 11: One of the brick-dressed graves on Site 1.



Figure 11: Another grave on Site 1.



Figure 12: Location of Grave Site 2.



Figure 13: One of the identifiable graves on Site 2.



Figure 14: The other identifiable grave on Site 2.



Figure 15: One of the stone packed graves on Site 3.



Figure 16: Location of Grave Site 4 near the chicken farm.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the assessment of various portions of the farms Bultfontein 533, Nooitgedacht 534 and Nietgedacht 535 JQ, for the proposed Lanseria Commercial Crossing Development near Lanseria in Gauteng was conducted successfully.

Besides a number of ruins of recent farming related structures (such as labourer and other homesteads and outbuildings), as well as a fairly recent cemetery, no sites, features or objects of real cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) origin or significance were identified. Past developments and related agricultural activities (ploughing and crop growing) would have extensively disturbed or destroyed any evidence of these if it did exist here in the past.

The following is recommended regarding the cemetery:

1. the graves will have to be exhumed and relocated. Social consultation will have to be undertaken (this process has already commenced) and permits obtained from SAHRA and from the Provincial Department of Health for this purpose as well. Many of the graves are unknown (in terms of age) and it is assumed that they are older than 60 years of age
2. the recent structures in the area can be removed, but it should be taken into consideration that unknown burials could occur inside or close to these buildings. Social consultation should be undertaken in order to determine if this possibility does exist. If the case then these burials will also have to be exhumed and investigated before relocation.

Finally, it should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken during any development activities that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate. This would include the discovery of previously unknown graves.

8. REFERENCES

Locality map and Layout plan provided by Cavaleros Construction Co (Pty)Ltd

Aerial views of the area and location of sites: Google Earth 2011

Topographic location of area and sites: Map Source 2010

1:50 000 Topographic Map Series: 2527DD Broederstroom (2001)

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www.csg.dla.gov.za

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

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.

APPENDIX C

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