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Heritage Assessment

Subdivision of Portion 5 of the farm  
Rietfontein 532 JQ, Gauteng

Version 1.0

16 November 2009

**Professional Grave  
Solutions (Pty)  
Limited**

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- iii. The recommendations delivered to the Client.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Professional Grave Solutions Heritage Unit was appointed by Prism Environmental Management Services to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Assessment that forms part of the Basic Environmental Assessment for the subdivision of Portion 5 of the farm Rietfontein 532 JQ, Gauteng.

**During the survey 5 sites were identified of which only has heritage significance.**

**The heritage site consists of a single grave not older than 10 years.**

The current structures present on the site are younger than 60 years as depicted in the 1943 and 1969 topographical maps of the area, where no structures are present on the surveyed area.

The following mitigations measures are recommended for the grave site identified if it is to be impacted by the subdivision.

### ***Graves and Cemeteries***

Mitigation of these sites will require a fence around the grave with a buffer of at least 10 meters. If the development impact will have a direct impact it is recommended that the grave be relocated after a full grave relocation process that includes comprehensive social consultation. The grave relocation process must include:

- A detailed social consultation process, that will trace the next-of-kin and obtain their consent for the relocation of the graves, that will be at least 60 days in length;
- Site notices indicating the intent of the relocation
- Newspaper Notice indicating the intent of the relocation
- A permit from the local authority;
- A permit from the Mpumalanga Department of health;
- A permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency if the graves are older than 60 years or unidentified and thus presumed older than 60 years;
- An exhumation process that keeps the dignity of the remains and family intact;
- An exhumation process that will safeguard the legal implications towards the development company;
- The whole process must be done by a reputable company that are well versed in relocations;
- The process must be conducted in such a manner as to safeguard the legal rights of the families as well as that of the development company.

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*ANNEXURE A: Legislation, Terminology and Assessment Criteria*

*ANNEXURE B: Heritage Sites*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Professional Grave Solutions Heritage Unit was appointed by Prism Environmental Management Services to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Assessment that forms part of the Basic Environmental Assessment for the subdivision of Portion 5 of the farm Rietfontein 532 JQ, Gauteng.

The aim of the study is to identify all heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within Local, Provincial and National context. From this we aim to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, in order to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA).

The report outlines the approach and methodology utilised before and during the survey, which includes in Phase 1: Information collection from various sources and public consultations; Phase 2: Physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; and Phase 3: Reporting the outcome of the study.

General site conditions and features on site were recorded by means of photos, coordinates location, and description. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report.

This report must also be submitted to SAHRA's provincial office for scrutiny.

## **2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The developer aims to subdivide the existing 20 hectares in to twenty one hectare portions.

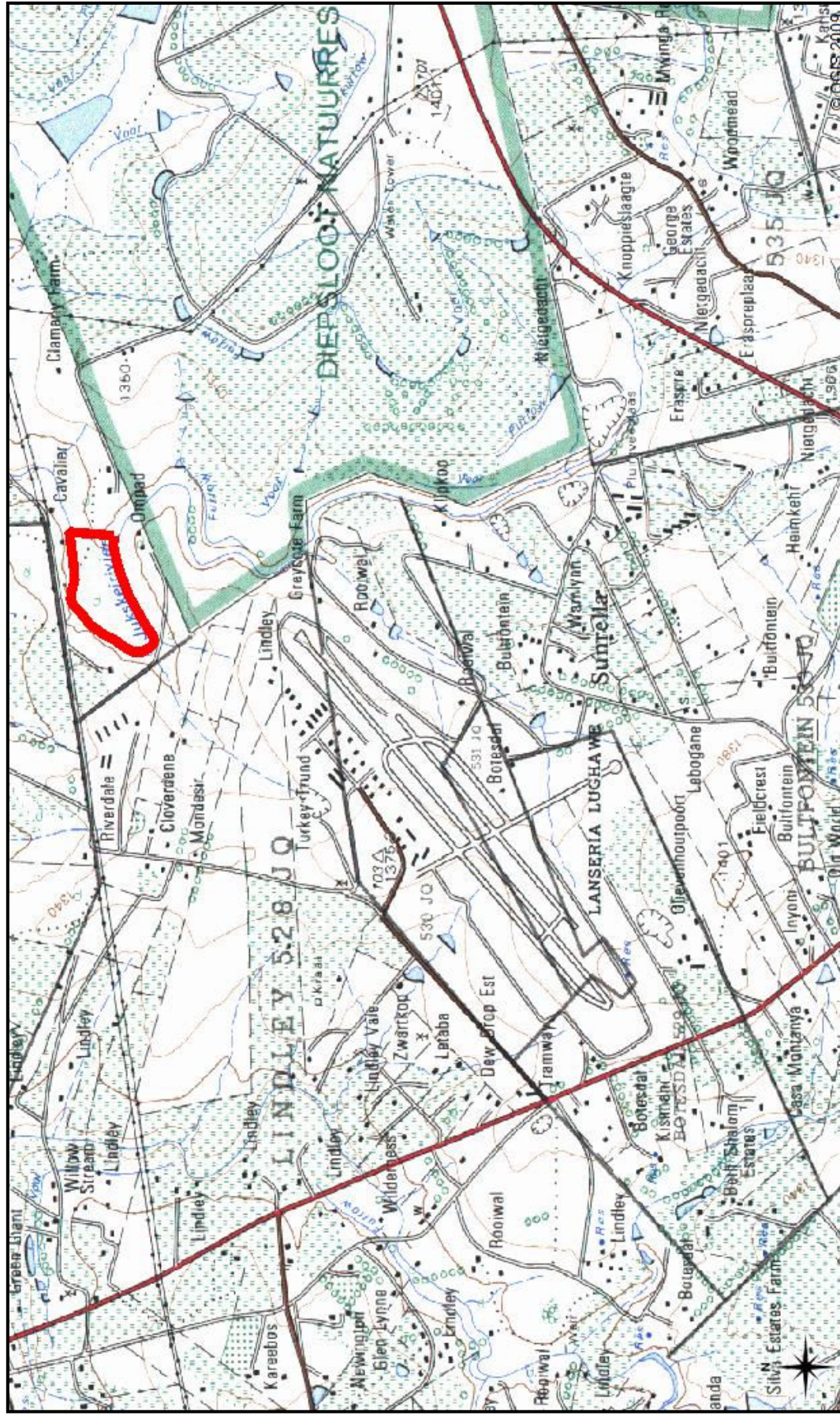


Figure 1 – Locality Map



## 2.1 METHODOLOGY

This report have been compiled by PGS for the proposed subdivision of Portion 5 of Rietfontein 532 JQ, including applicable maps, tables and figures, as stipulated in the NHRA (no 25 of 1999), the NEMA (no 107 of 1998) and the MPRDA (28 of 2002). The process consisted of three steps:

- Step I – Literature Review: This step was aimed at gathering information relating to known archaeological and heritage resources within and surrounding the proposed development area, which included a desktop study and literature reviews of project information.
- Step II – Physical Survey: A physical survey was conducted on foot through the proposed project area by qualified archaeologists (10-30 August 2009), aimed at locating and documenting sites falling within and adjacent to the proposed development footprint.
- Step III – The final step involved the recording and documentation of relevant archaeological and heritage resources, as well as the assessment of resources in terms of the archaeological impact assessment criteria (Annexure A) and report writing, as well as mapping and constructive recommendations

## 2.2 PHYSICAL SURVEYING

The study area for the proposed projects covers approximately 20 hectares. Due to the nature of cultural remains, with the majority of artefacts occurring below surface, an intensive foot-survey that covered the study area was conducted. A controlled-exclusive surface survey was conducted over a period of 1 day, by means of vehicle and extensive surveys on foot by an archaeologist of PGS Heritage Unit.

Aerial photographs and 1:50 000 maps of the area were consulted and literature on the area were studied before undertaking the survey. The purpose of this was to identify topographical areas of possible historic and pre-historic activity. All sites discovered both inside and bordering the proposed development areas were plotted on 1:50 000 maps and their GPS co-ordinates noted. In addition digital photographs were used to document all the sites.

## 3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The NHRA stipulates that cultural heritage resources may not be disturbed without authorization from the relevant heritage authority. Section 34 (1) of the NHRA states that “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 National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998) states that an integrated environmental management plan should (23:2 (b)) “...identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage...” In accordance with legislative requirements and EIA rating criteria, the regulations of SAHRA and ASAPA have also been incorporated to ensure that a comprehensive legally compatible report is compiled. The heritage impact assessment criteria are described in more detail in Annexure A.

## 4. BACKGROUND OF AREA

### 4.1 Archaeological Time frame

The Stone Age is divided in Earlier; Middle and Later Stone Age and refers to the earliest people of South Africa who mainly relied on stone for their tools.

*Earlier Stone Age:* The period from  $\pm$  2.5 million yrs -  $\pm$  250 000 yrs ago. Acheulean stone tools are dominant.

*Middle Stone Age:* Various lithic industries in SA dating from  $\pm$  250 000 yrs – 22 000 yrs before present.

*Later Stone Age:* The period from  $\pm$  22 000-yrs before present to the period of contact with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the Pre-Historic and Historic periods. Similar to the Stone Age, it too can be divided into three periods:

*The Early Iron Age:* Most of the first millennium AD.

*The Middle Iron Age:* 10th to 13th centuries AD

*The Late Iron Age:* 14th century to colonial period.

The Wits Archaeological Resources Management Database indicates 14 known archaeological sites on the topographical map 2527DD. However none of these sites are close to the study area.

Previous studies conducted to the east of the study area on the farm Doornrandje 386 JQ have revealed some Late Iron Age stonewalling and evidence of Iron smelting.

### 4.2 Historical Time frame

#### *Diepsloot Nature Reserve / Northern Farms*

The Diepsloot Nature Reserve is bordering Rietfontein farm to the south

The Nature Reserve was proclaimed in 1954 to provide a buffer zone around the Northern Waste Works.

Conversations with Mr Wayne Claassen has shown that the farm was only developed in the mid 1970's when his father bought sections of the farm Reitfontein.

### 4.3 Consultation with local inhabitants

The following persons were contacted and information gathered during the survey:

1. Mr Wayne Claassen – Current owner and grew up on the farm since the 1970's;
2. Mr Stephen Niarenda – Worker on the Portion 5 for the past 5 years;



3. Mr Fanie Sibangu – Resident on Portion 34 for the past 30 years.

## **5. HERITAGE SITES**

During the survey a total of 1 heritage sites was identified and a further 4 structures on site that is not older than 60 years.

The area is situated on topographical maps 2527DD. The area is currently utilised as a stud farm with areas that was previously utilised as farm lands lying fallow at the moment..

### **5.1 Site 1**

*GPS:* S25.91776 E27.94297

The site consists of a single stone packed grave aligned east-west. No inscription is present on the grave. Discussions with Mr Fanie Sibangu who have been living on the property since the early 1980's indicated that, although he could not recall the person buried in the grave, the grave was approximately 8 years old.

*Site size:* Approximately 5m x 5m.



Figure 2 - General view of site

Impact	Impact Significance	Heritage Significance	Certainty	Duration	Mitigation
Negative	High	GP.A	Unsure	Short term	B

*Mitigation:* Although the subdivision of the property may not directly impact on the grave, the subsequent development on the portion of the property may impact on the grave. Mitigation of this site will require a fence around the grave with a buffer of at least 10 meters. If the development will have a direct impact it is recommended that the grave be relocated after a full grave relocation process that includes comprehensive social consultation.

## 5.2 None heritage Sites

Site No	Description	Coordinates
2	Current house on site	S25.91657 E27.93965
3	Rondawel on river	S25.91937 E27.93873
4	Old horse enclosure	S25.91735 E27.94214

The topographical map (Figure 3) surveyed and produced in 1943 were consulted to identify the presence of structures older than 60 years on the property.

The Topographical map surveyed and produced in 1969 was also consulted and has shown no structures on the properties.

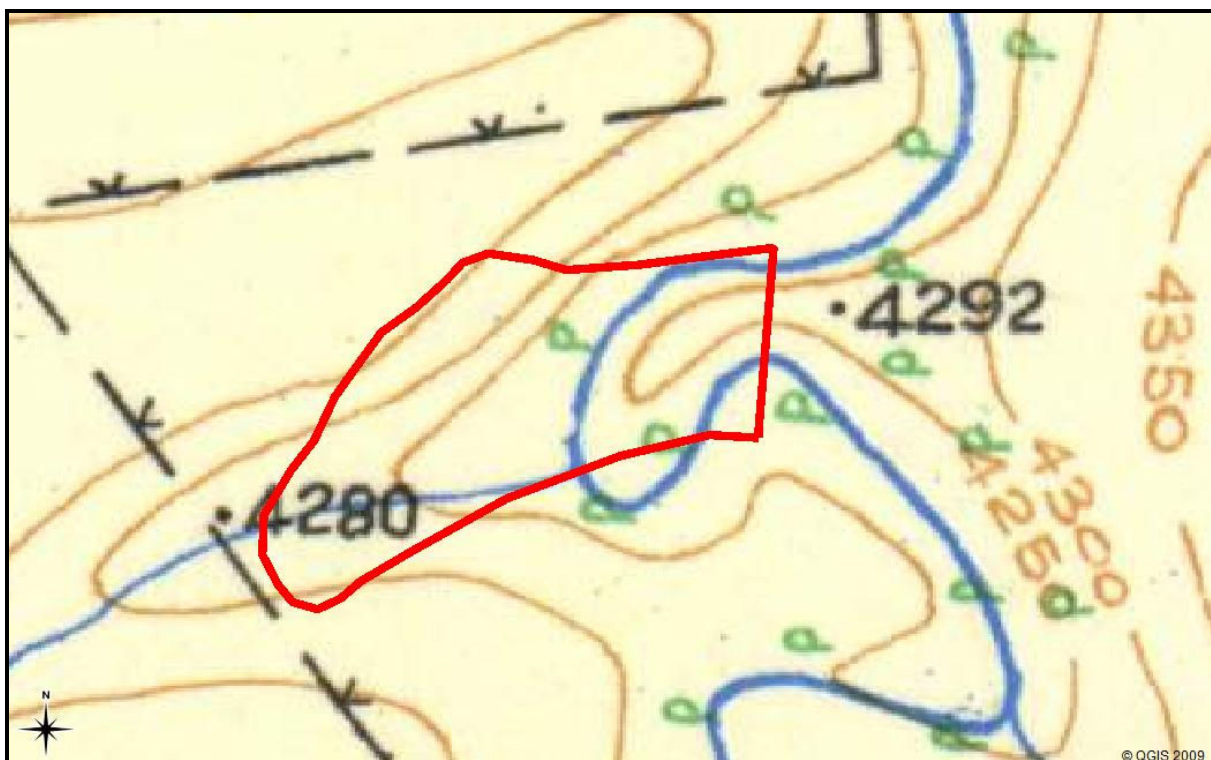


Figure 3 – Topographical map 2527DD, First edition dated 1943





Figure 4 -Topographical map 2527DD, Second edition dated 1969



Figure 5 - View of main house



*Figure 6 - View of stables*



*Figure 7 - View of rondawel ruins on river*





*Figure 8 – View of old horse enclosure*

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Impact Significance</b>	<b>Heritage Significance</b>	<b>Certainty</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Negative	Low	None	Unsure		None

*Mitigation:* No further mitigation required

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

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 possible heritage resources present within the area. Various factors account for this, including the subterranean nature of some archaeological sites and the current 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 had been able to make an assessment as to the significance of the site (or material) in question. This applies to graves and cemeteries as well. In the foregoing discussion the long history of occupation of the region by black farmer communities has also been pointed out. In the event that any graves or burial places are located during the development the procedures and requirements pertaining to graves and burials will apply as set out below.

## 7. ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*A heritage map is provided in **Annexure B***

During the survey 5 sites were identified of which only has heritage significance

The heritage site consists of a single grave not older than 10 years.

The current structures present on the site are younger than 60 years as depicted in the 1943 and 1969 topographical maps of the area, where no structures are present on the surveyed area.

The following mitigations measures are recommended for the grave site identified if it is to be impacted by the subdivision.

### **Graves and Cemeteries**

Mitigation of these sites will require a fence around the grave with a buffer of at least 10 meters. If the development impact will have a direct impact it is recommended that the grave be relocated after a full grave relocation process that includes comprehensive social consultation. The grave relocation process must include:

- A detailed social consultation process, that will trace the next-of-kin and obtain their consent for the relocation of the graves, that will be at least 60 days in length;
- Site notices indicating the intent of the relocation
- Newspaper Notice indicating the intent of the relocation
- A permit from the local authority;
- A permit from the Mpumalanga Department of health;
- A permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency if the graves are older than 60 years or unidentified and thus presumed older than 60 years;
- An exhumation process that keeps the dignity of the remains and family intact;
- An exhumation process that will safeguard the legal implications towards the development company;
- The whole process must be done by a reputable company that are well versed in relocations;



- The process must be conducted in such a manner as to safeguard the legal rights of the families as well as that of the development company.

**10. LIST OF PREPARES**

Wouter Fourie, BA (Hon) Archaeology (UP) – ASAPA CRM Member – Field Director

**11. REFERENCES**

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**ANNEXURE A:  
Legislation , Terminology and Assessment Criteria**

## LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS – TERMINOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### 1.1 Legislation

The identification, evaluation and assessment of any cultural heritage site, artefact or find in the South African context is required and governed by the following legislation:

- i. National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998
- ii. National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999
- iii. Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002
- iv. Development Facilitation Act (DFA) Act 67 of 1995

The following sections in each Act refer directly to the identification, evaluation and assessment of cultural heritage resources.

- i. National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998
  - a. Basic Environmental Assessment (BEA) – Section (23)(2)(d)
  - b. Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) – Section (29)(1)(d)
  - c. Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) – Section (32)(2)(d)
  - d. Environmental Management Plan (EMP) – Section (34)(b)
- ii. National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999
  - a. Protection of Heritage resources – Sections 34 to 36; and
  - b. Heritage Resources Management – Section 38
- iii. Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002
  - a. Section 39(3)
- iv. Development Facilitation Act (DFA) Act 67 of 1995
  - a. The GNR.1 of 7 January 2000: Regulations and rules in terms of the Development Facilitation Act, 1995. Section 31.

### 1.2 Terminology

<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>Description</b>
AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA	Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
CRM	Cultural Resource Management
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
EIA practitioner	Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESA	Early Stone Age
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
I&AP	Interested & Affected Party
LSA	Late Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age

NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
PSSA	Palaeontological Society of South Africa
ROD	Record of Decision
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

### ***Archaeological resources***

This includes:

- i. 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;
- ii. 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;
- iii. 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 in the Maritimes Zones Act, 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;
- iv. features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the site on which they are found.

### ***Cultural significance***

This means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance

### ***Development***

This means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in the change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place or influence its stability and future well-being, including:

- i. construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change in use of a place or a structure at a place;
- ii. carrying out any works on or over or under a place;
- iii. subdivision or consolidation of land comprising a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;
- iv. constructing or putting up for display signs or boards;
- v. any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and
- vi. any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil

### ***Heritage resources***

This means any place or object of cultural significance

## 2. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

This chapter describes the evaluation criteria used for the sites listed below.

The significance of archaeological sites was based on four main criteria:

- **site integrity** (i.e. primary vs. secondary context),
- **amount of deposit, range of features** (e.g., stonewalling, stone tools and enclosures),
- **uniqueness** and
- **potential** to answer present research questions.

Management actions and recommended mitigation, which will result in a reduction in the impact on the sites, will be expressed as follows:

A - No further action necessary;

B - Mapping of the site and controlled sampling required;

C - Preserve site, or extensive data collection and mapping of the site; and

D - Preserve site

Impacts on these sites by the development will be evaluated as follows

### 2.1 IMPACT

The potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed development activities.

#### 2.1.1 Nature and existing mitigation

Natural conditions and conditions inherent in the project design that alleviate (control, moderate, curb) impacts. All management actions, which are presently implemented, are considered part of the project design and therefore mitigate impacts.

## 2.2 EVALUATION

### 2.2.1 Site Significance

Site significance classification standards prescribed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (2006) and approved by the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, were used for the purpose of this report.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; National Site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; Provincial Site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High Significance	Conservation; Mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High Significance	Mitigation (Part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	-	High / Medium Significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	-	Medium Significance	Recording before destruction

Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low Significance	Destruction
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### 2.2.2 Impact Rating

#### VERY HIGH

These impacts would be considered by society as constituting a major and usually permanent change to the (natural and/or social) environment, and usually result in **severe** or **very severe** effects, or **beneficial** or **very beneficial** effects.

**Example:** The loss of a species would be viewed by informed society as being of VERY HIGH significance.

**Example:** The establishment of a large amount of infrastructure in a rural area, which previously had very few services, would be regarded by the affected parties as resulting in benefits with a VERY HIGH significance.

#### HIGH

These impacts will usually result in long term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as HIGH will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually long term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. Society would probably view these impacts in a serious light.

**Example:** The loss of a diverse vegetation type, which is fairly common elsewhere, would have a significance rating of HIGH over the long term, as the area could be rehabilitated.

**Example:** The change to soil conditions will impact the natural system, and the impact on affected parties (in this case people growing crops on the soil) would be HIGH.

#### MODERATE

These impacts will usually result in medium- to long-term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as MODERATE will need to be considered by society as constituting a fairly important and usually medium term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are real but not substantial.

**Example:** The loss of a sparse, open vegetation type of low diversity may be regarded as MODERATELY significant.

**Example:** The provision of a clinic in a rural area would result in a benefit of MODERATE significance.

#### LOW

These impacts will usually result in medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as LOW will need to be considered by the public and/or the specialist as constituting a fairly unimportant and usually short term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are not substantial and are likely to have little real effect.

**Example:** The temporary change in the water table of a wetland habitat, as these systems is adapted to fluctuating water levels.

**Example:** The increased earning potential of people employed as a result of a development would only result in benefits of LOW significance to people who live some distance away.

#### NO SIGNIFICANCE

There are no primary or secondary effects at all that are important to scientists or the public.



**Example:** A change to the geology of a particular formation may be regarded as severe from a geological perspective, but is of NO significance in the overall context.

### 2.2.3 Certainty

**DEFINITE:** More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data exist to verify the assessment.

**PROBABLE:** Over 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of impact occurring.

**POSSIBLE:** Only over 40% sure of a particular fact or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

**UNSURE:** Less than 40% sure of a particular fact or likelihood of an impact occurring.

### 2.2.4 Duration

**SHORT TERM:** 0 to 5 years

**MEDIUM:** 6 to 20 years

**LONG TERM:** more than 20 years

**DEMOLISHED:** site will be demolished or is already demolished

Example

*Evaluation*

Impact	Impact Significance	Heritage Significance	Certainty	Duration	Mitigation
Negative	Moderate	Grade GP.B	Possible	Short term	B

## 3. LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 General principles

In areas where there has not yet been a systematic survey to identify conservation worthy places, a permit is required to alter or demolish any structure older than 60 years. This will apply until a survey has been done and identified heritage resources are formally protected.

Archaeological and palaeontological sites, materials, and meteorites are the source of our understanding of the evolution of the earth, life on earth and the history of people. In the new legislation, permits are required to damage, destroy, alter, or disturb them. People who already possess material are required to register it. The management of heritage resources are integrated with environmental resources and this means that before development takes place heritage resources are assessed and, if necessary, rescued.

In addition to the formal protection of culturally significant graves, all graves, which are older than 60 years and are not in a cemetery (such as ancestral graves in rural areas), are protected. The legislation protects the interests of communities that have interest in the graves: they may be consulted before any disturbance takes place. The graves of victims of conflict and those associated with the liberation struggle will be identified, cared for, protected and memorials erected in their honour.

Anyone who intends to undertake a development must notify the heritage resource authority and if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected, an impact assessment report must be compiled at the developer's cost. Thus, developers will be able to proceed without uncertainty about whether work will have to be stopped if an archaeological or heritage resource is discovered.

According to the National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999 section 32) it is stated that:

An object or collection of objects, or a type of object or a list of objects, whether specific or generic, that is part of the national estate and the export of which SAHRA deems it necessary to control, may be declared a heritage object, including –

- objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
- visual art objects;
- military objects;
- numismatic objects;
- objects of cultural and historical significance;
- objects to which oral traditions are attached and which are associated with living heritage;
- objects of scientific or technological interest;
- books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic material, film or video or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 (xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 ( Act No. 43 of 1996), or in a provincial law pertaining to records or archives; and
- any other prescribed category.

Under the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), provisions are made that deal with, and offer protection, to all historic and pre-historic cultural remains, including graves and human remains.

### **3.1 Graves and cemeteries**

Graves younger than 60 years fall under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the Office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning, or in some cases the MEC for Housing and Welfare. Authorisation for exhumation and reinterment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. In order to handle and transport human remains the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA). The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36(5) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in the category located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority will also require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years over and above SAHRA authorisation.

If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws set by the cemetery authority must be adhered to.

**ANNEXURE B:  
Heritage Sites**

