



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED REFENKGOTSO EXTENSION TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON THE
REMAINDER OF THE FARM KNOPPIESFONTEIN NO 94, FREE STATE
PROVINCE**

For:

***KoJoCo Eiendomme BK
POSBUS 756
MEYERTON
1960***

REPORT: AE968

by:

***A.C. van Vollenhoven (L.AKAD.SA.) & A.J. Pelser
Accredited members of ASAPA***

November 2009

Archaetnos
P.O. Box 31064
WONDERBOOMPOORT
0033
Tel: **083 291 6104**/083 459 3091
Fax: 086 520 4173
E-mail: antonv@archaetnos.co.za

Members: AC van Vollenhoven BA, BA (Hons), DTO, NDM, MA (Archaeology) [UP], MA (Culture History) [US], DPhil (Archaeology) [UP], Man Dip [TUT]
AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

©Copyright

Archaetnos

The information contained in this report is the sole intellectual property of Archaetnos CC. It may only be used for the purposes it was commissioned for by the client.

DISCLAIMER:

Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the survey of study areas, the nature of archaeological and historical sites are as such that it always is possible that hidden or subterranean sites could be overlooked during the study. Archaetnos and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result thereof.

SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was appointed by KoJoCo Eiendomme BK to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment on the remainder of the farm Knoppiesfontein 94. This is for the proposed Refenkgotso Extension township development near Deneysville in the Heilbron district of the Free State Province.

In the area to be impacted upon by the proposed development one site of cultural heritage significance was found, dating to the recent Historical Age. This was a graveyard. The report gives a discussion of the site and also gives an indication of the methodology followed. It also indicates how to deal with any archaeological material that may be unearthed during construction activities in the future.

The site is of high cultural significance, and although it might be located on the boundary of the proposed development, certain mitigation measures needs to be implemented to minimize any possible negative impacts on it. Once these measures have been implemented, and the conclusions and recommendations at the end of the report have been taken into cognizance, the development may continue.

CONTENTS

	page
SUMMARY	3
CONTENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	5
3. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS	5
4. LEGALISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	6
5. METHODOLOGY	8
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA.....	8
7. DISCUSSION.....	10
8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	16
9. REFERENCES	17
APPENDIX A.....	18
APPENDIX B	19

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was appointed by KoJoCo Eiendomme BK to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment on the remainder of the farm Knoppiesfontein 94. This is for the proposed Refenkgotso Extension township development near Deneysville in the Heilbron district of the Free State Province.

The area is earmarked for a township development which will be called Refenkgotso Extension. The client indicated the boundaries of the area to be investigated and the survey was confined to this area.

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 on the property (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.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

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

1. Cultural 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. 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, technological 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.

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 B).
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 be found.
7. In this particular case certain areas had a thick grass cover which made archaeological visibility difficult.

4. 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).

4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned law 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.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;

- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment 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.

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.

4.2 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.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Survey of literature

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

5.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural 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.

5.3 Oral histories

People from local communities are 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.

5.4 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 the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The surveyed portion is situated to the north of the town of Deneysville, with the town flanking it on the south and also north of the existing Refenkgotso township. The Vaal Dam lies to the southeast (Figure 1). The topography of the area runs down to the southeast in the direction of the Vaal River and Vaal Dam.

It is clear that the area has been disturbed by past human activities. Large portions of the area have been ploughed in the past, and if any sites existed here it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed. Grass cover in the area is fairly dense, and made visibility difficult. Very few trees are found here, typical of the Highveld (Figure 2-3).

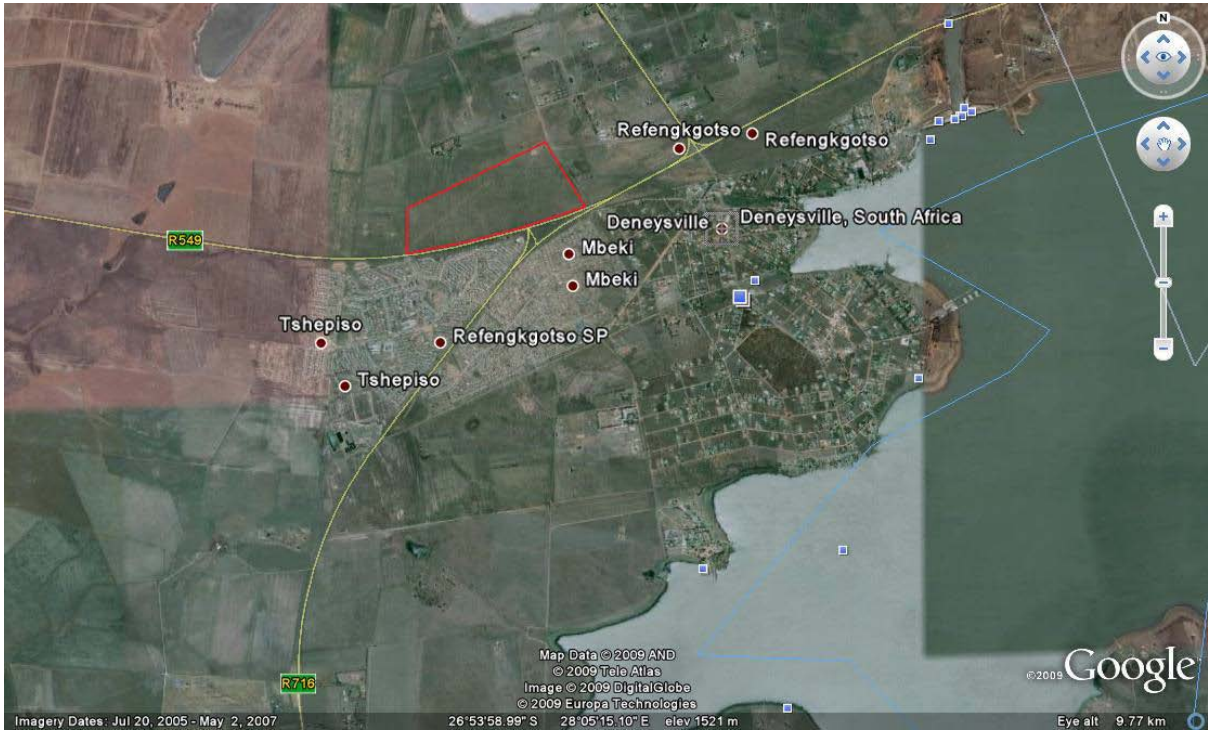


Figure 1: Location of the proposed township development. Area marked in red



Figure 2: General view of the surveyed property.



Figure 3: Another closer view of the surveyed area.



Figure 4: Existing Refenkgotso township north of the area

7. DISCUSSION

During the survey one site of cultural heritage significance was located in the area to be impacted upon by the proposed development, and although it might be located just outside or on the boundary, there might be impact on the site. In order to enable the reader to understand archaeological features that may be unearthed during construction activities, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history.

7.1 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.

Many Stone Age occurrences have been identified close to the Vaal River. This mostly consists of ESA sites in and around Vereeniging. LSA tools have also been identified here and close to Sasolburg (to the northwest of the surveyed area) the Klipplaatdrif site is well known. Rock engravings were also identified in the area surrounding the surveyed one. These are associated with the LSA (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

However, no natural shelters were seen on the property and therefore it is possible that these people did not stay here for long times. The close vicinity to the Vaal River of course makes it a prime spot for hunting and obtaining water. Therefore one may assume that Stone Age people probably would have moved through on their way to the river. No Stone Age material was found during the survey.

7.2 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.

Iron Age sites have been identified all around the town of Deneysville, but none very close thereto (Bergh 1999: 7). According to Huffmann (2007: 432) the Fokeng stayed here around the 1650's. During the 19th century the Khudu inhabited the land to the north of Deneysville (Bergh 1999: 10).

The good grazing and access to water in the area would have provided a good environment for Iron Age people although building material seem to be reasonably scarce. No Iron Age occurrences were identified during the survey.

7.3 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.

The first white people to move through this area were the Voortrekkers who moved across the Vaal River during the 1830's. These include the parties of Hans van Rensburg and Louis Tregardt. The fighting commando's who set out to battle with Mzilikazi also moved through this area (Bergh 1999: 14).

The site identified during the survey dates to this era in the history of South-Africa.

7.4 Discussion of sites identified during the survey

Site 1- Graveyard

The site contains at least 39 graves, mostly stone packed and unknown (without any names or other information). A few have cement and marble headstones with inscriptions. The graves probably belong to farm workers. The oldest identifiable date of death is 1949, while some is 1959. The 1949 graves are therefore 60 years and older, and deemed as historical, and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The site is located at **S 26.88577 & E 28.08435**.

Because some of the graves are older than 60 years of age, or unknown and therefore taken as older than 60 until proven otherwise, the site has a high significance. If the site is to be impacted on by the development, mitigation measures will have to be implemented to minimize the potential impacts. These measures are discussed in the Conclusions & Recommendations.



Figure 5: The graveyard



Figure 6: One of the graves with a headstone



Figure 7: A grave with a cement headstone and inscription



Figure 8: Close-up of figure 7 – Note the date of death

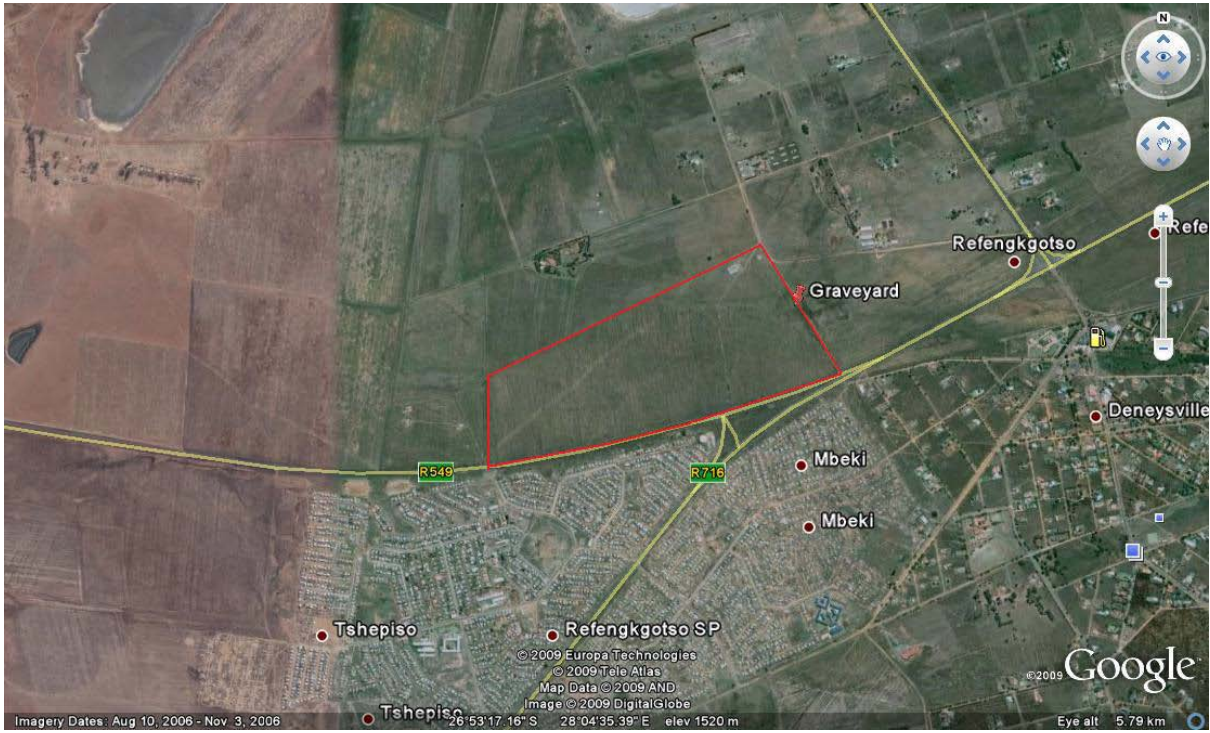


Figure 9: Location of graveyard in the surveyed property.

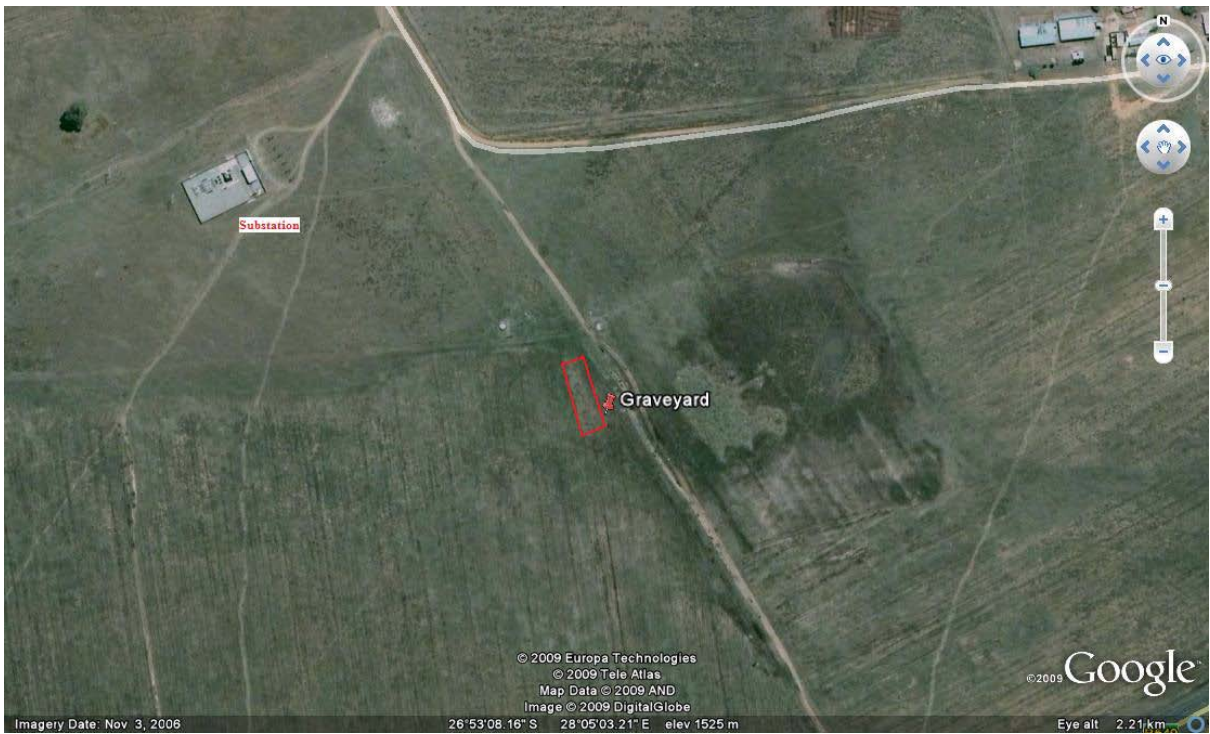


Figure 7: Close-up Google image of the site. From this image the graves seems to fall just inside the development area

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be stated that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. Almost the entire area where the development is being planned has been disturbed by human activities in the past. Only one site was identified.

The final recommendations are as follows:

- The site (a graveyard) that was found is of a high cultural significance. Because some of the graves are older than 60 years of age they are deemed as historical and fall under SAHRA's jurisdiction.
- The graves might therefore not be disturbed in any way. It is recommended that the graves be fenced-in properly to prevent damage to them and that the area around them be cleaned. Access to the site or the graves, for descendants or family members, should be made possible.
- If the graves can not be kept in tact within the development, then they are to be exhumed and relocated, taking all due processes into consideration. Social consultation with local communities needs to be undertaken in order to identify descendants or family members. Qualified undertakers and archaeologists should be involved and permits to conduct the exhumation and relocation will have to be obtained.
- The proposed development may continue once either of these two recommendations have been implemented.
- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. This includes graves. Care should therefore be taken when construction work commences that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate.

9. REFERENCES

- Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies**. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.
- Coertze, P.J. & Coertze, R.D. 1996. **Verklarende vakwoordeboek vir Antropologie en Argeologie**. Pretoria: R.D. Coertze.
- Erasmus, Mr. D. 2009.11.11. Developer. Personal communication.
- Huffman, T.N. 2007. **Handbook to the Iron Age: The Archaeology of Pre-Colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa**. Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
- Knudson, S.J. 1978. **Culture in retrospect**. Chicago: Rand McNally College Publishing Company.
- Korsman, S.A. & Meyer, A. 1999. Die Steentydperk en rotskuns. Bergh, J.S. (red.). **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies**. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.
- Republic of South Africa. 1999. **National Heritage Resources Act** (No 25 of 1999). Pretoria: the Government Printer.
- Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.
- Van der Ryst, M.M. & Meyer, A. 1999. Die Ystertydperk. Bergh, J.S. (ed.).

Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

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.