



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
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**A REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) FOR THE  
PROPOSED RIETFontein MANOR X 20 RETIREMENT CENTRE ON THE  
FARM RIETFontein 485 JQ, NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: AE11126

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## SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was appointed by Landscape Dynamics to conduct a heritage impact assessment relating to cultural heritage resources for the proposed Rietfontein Manor X 20 Retirement Centre. This is situated at Ifafi, close to the Hartebeestpoort Dam in the Northwest Province.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed no sites of cultural heritage significance. The area is largely disturbed by past human activities such as agriculture. However indications of historical activities were identified.

**The proposed development may therefore continue and this report is seen as ample mitigation in this regard. As historical objects were found the developer however needs to take note that more such finds may occur during the work on site. In such a case an archaeologist should immediately be called in to investigate.**

# CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY .....	3
CONTENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION .....	5
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE .....	5
3. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS .....	5
4. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS .....	6
5. METHODOLOGY .....	9
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA.....	10
7. DISCUSSION.....	12
8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
9. REFERENCES .....	16
APPENDIX A.....	17
APPENDIX B .....	18
APPENDIX C .....	19
APPENDIX D.....	20

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Archaetnos cc was appointed by Landscape Dynamics to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment (HIA) relating to cultural heritage resources for the proposed Rietfontein Manor X 20 Retirement Centre. This is situated at Ifafi, close to the Hartebeestpoort Dam in the Northwest Province.

The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, 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 (Appendix A). 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 occur.

#### **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 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 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

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

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)**.



## **4.2 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.

## **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 by a physical survey via vehicle and 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.

### **5.5 Evaluation of Heritage sites**

The evaluation of heritage sites is done by using the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit

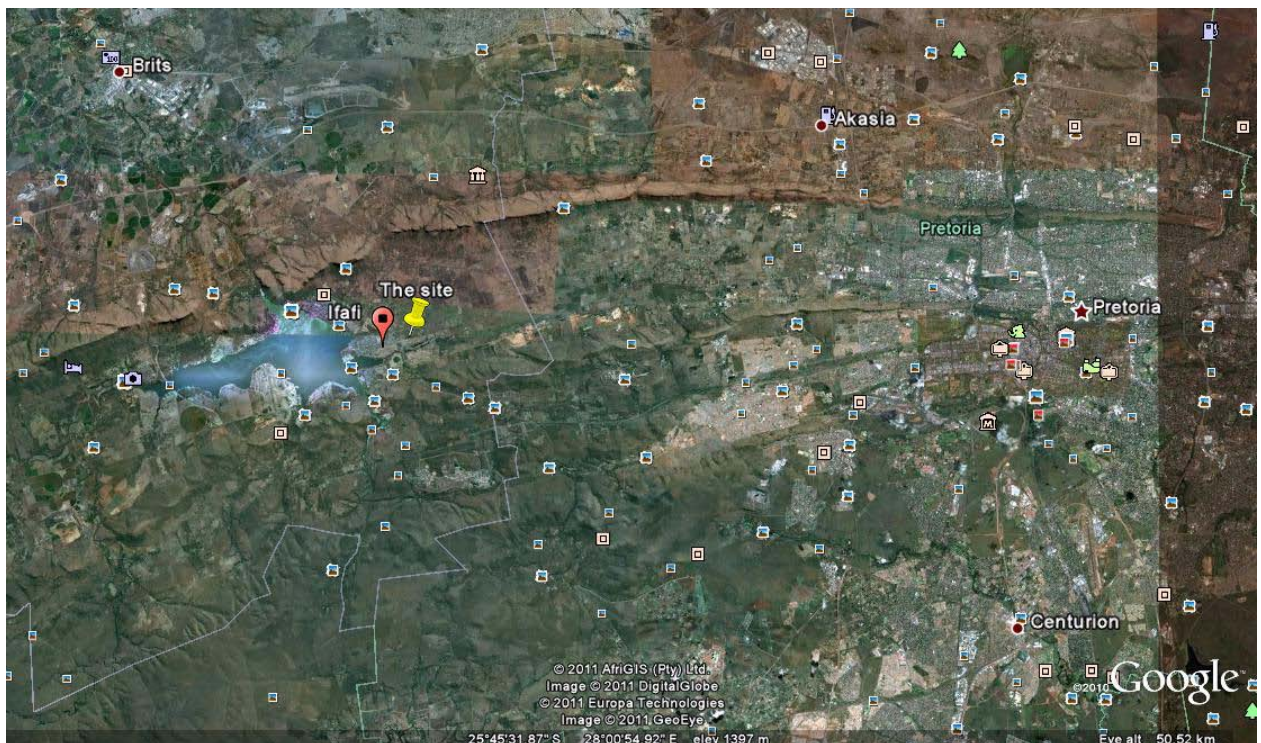
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area where the planned power line and substation will be erected is situated on four portions of the farm Rietfontein 485 JQ, being portions 301, 308, 309 and 310. This is at Ifafi on the eastern side of the Hartebeestpoortdam in the Northwest Province (Figure 1-2). The development comprises the building of a retirement centre.

The environment of the area is mostly disturbed by past human activities, mainly agriculture. It consists of old fields dominated by pioneer plant species (Figure 3). During the survey the grass cover was medium sized. Areas not used for agriculture in the past were most likely used for grazing.

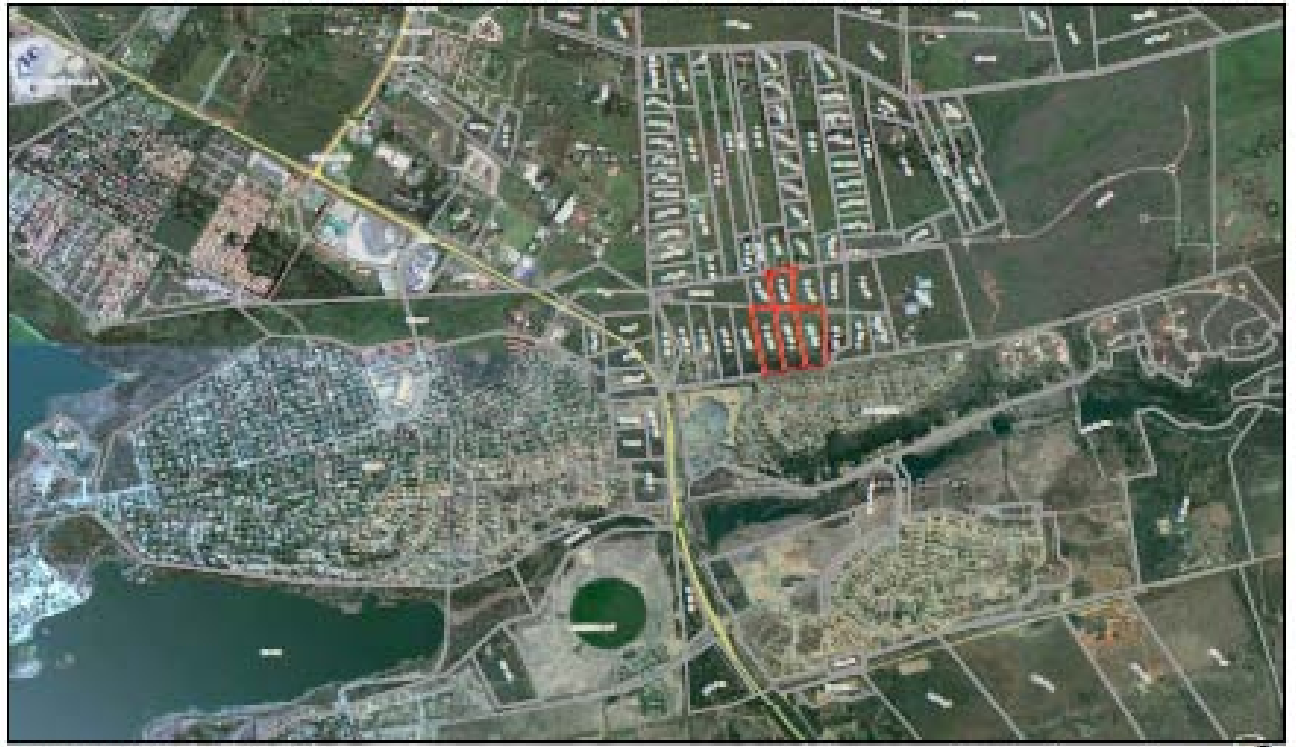
The topography of the area is reasonably flat with a slight fall to the north. No distinctive features are found within the landscape.



**Figure 1** Location of the surveyed area.

### Google Earth - Locality Map

Proposed Residential Development on Portions 301; 308; 309 & 310 of the Farm Rietfontein 485-JQ  
Prepared for Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants, November 2011



Proposed Residential Development: Land portions

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Kilometers  
1:20 000 Topographical base map (SAGP/DA/2007/12)  
© A. Prokhorov 20 Nov 2011

**Figure 2** Location of the site.



**Figure 3** General view of the surveyed area.

## 7. DISCUSSION

During the survey no sites of cultural heritage significance was located in the area to be developed. A GPS co-ordinate taken at the site is: 25°44.497'S; 27°54.836'E.

However, there always is a possibility that sites may become known later and that those need to be dealt with in accordance with the legislation discussed above. Artefacts dating from all three phases in the southern African human past were indeed identified. For this reason and in order to enable the reader to better understand possible archaeological and cultural 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.

The closest known Stone Age in the vicinity of Ifafi is known as the Magaliesberg Research Area. It consists of nine sites including rock shelters in the Magaliesberg Mountain. These date back to the Middle and Late Stone Age (Bergh 1999: 4; Korsman & Meyer 1999: 94-95).

The surveyed area does not contain shelters or any other indication of living areas. One can therefore assume that Stone Age people would have stayed somewhere in the Magaliesberg Mountain and would have passed this area during their hunting and gathering activities. Stone Age material from the Middle and Late Stone Age were identified during the survey (Figure 4). These were however random finds found out of context.



**Figure 4** Stone artifacts 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 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.

Previous research indicates that one of the few Early Iron Age sites that have been properly researched, are situated at Broederstroom (Bergh 1999: 6). The site is dated to 350 AD and apart from hut remains indications of iron smelting was also found (Van der Ryst & Meyer 1999: 98).

Late Iron Age sites have been identified in the area around the town of Brits. In a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west many Iron Age sites have been discovered previously (Bergh 1999: 7-8).

Again the presence of water and natural grass cover may have contributed to people settling in the surveyed area during the Iron Age. Although no sites were found a single undecorated potsherd was identified (Figure 5). This indicates the presence of Iron Age people in the area.



**Figure 5 Potsherd found 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.

During earlier times and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century different Tswana groups, including the Po, Kwena and Kgatla, inhabited the area (Bergh 1999: 10-11). During the Difaquane these people moved further to the north and northwest and this area was then inhabited by the Ndebele of Mzilikazi (Bergh 1999: 11).

Early travelers have moved through this part of the Northwest Province. This included David Hume in 1825, Robert Scoon and William McLuckie in 1829 and Dr Robert Moffat and Reverend James Archbell in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12, 117-119). In 1830 the area was again visited by David Hume. The expedition of Dr Andrew Smith traveled through this area in 1835 and William Cornwallis Harris in 1836. The well-known explorer Dr David Livingston passed through this area in 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13, 119-122). The Voortrekkers moved into this area in the 1830's (Bergh 1999: 15).

The Magaliesberg area was extensively utilized during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) as both Boer and British troops moved through the area. The nearest battlefield to the surveyed area is the Battle of Silkaatsnek which took place on 11 July 1900 (Bergh 1999: 51, 54).

Many blockhouses (British fortifications) were also erected in the area. Information about these is limited as it was mostly destroyed since the War. Blockhouses close to the surveyed area includes some at Kalkheuvel, Hekpoort and Broederstroom to the south of Ifafi, at Pampoennek, Kommandonek, Nooitgedacht and Breedtsnek to the west of the surveyed area, at Silkaatsnek to the east and one at Ifafi called the Rietfontein fort (Van Vollenhoven 1999: 23-24). The one at Ifafi was most likely called the Rietfontein blockhouse as it is situated on the farm Rietfontein, the same one that the survey has been done on, but further to the west. Here ammunition from the War was excavated during 2002 (Van Vollenhoven & Van der Walt 2002: 63-64).

One artefact dating to this period in time was found. It is small CO<sub>2</sub> canister which was used to make soda water (Figure 6). Such canisters are frequently found on Anglo-Boer War sites, for instance the northernmost outpost of Steinaecker's Horse close to Letaba in the Kruger National Park (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 2003: 39). One however needs to remember that these do not only date to the War, but probably a few years before and after that (Late 19<sup>th</sup> to Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century).



**Figure 6** Late 19<sup>th</sup>-Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Co2 canister found in the surveyed area.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is concluded that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. In the surveyed area no sites of cultural significance have been found.

The final recommendations are as follows:

- The report is seen as ample mitigation and the development may therefore proceed.

- The subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. As indications of all three phases of past human activities were found this increase the possibility. Especially the possible Anglo-Boer War connection is of great importance. Therefore care should be taken when development work commences that if any more artifacts are uncovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate.

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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