



# **AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC**

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## **CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PORTION 62 YZERVARKFONTEIN 194 IR DELMAS MPUMALANGA**

### **1. DEFINITION**

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

### **2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, Act. NO. 25 OF 1999**

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials

- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited, evaluated and inspection on foot for possible sites.

### **4. RESULTS**

The proposed development area originally was highveld grassland. A large portion of the proposed development area was ploughed over a long period of time which would have destroyed any possible archaeological sites. From a heritage point of view the highveld region was not a popular settling area in prehistoric times except where there are hills.

The only important cultural heritage resources found on the proposed development area is a cemetery. There are twenty seven graves visible on the surface. The graves look old. Only one of the graves has a date on it namely 20/1/1931 (see photograph 1, S26° 03' 34.5" And E28° 31' 28.9"). Whether all the graves date to this period is difficult to establish.

South east of this cemetery just outside the proposed development area is a more modern cemetery with more than hundred graves. It is still in use as it has a number of relatively new graves (see photograph 2) (S26° 03' 39.5" and E28° 31' 37.7"). All the graves are most probably those of farm workers.

No other important cultural heritage resources are present on the proposed development area.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

The cemetery found on the property with its twenty seven graves is most probably older than sixty years and thus is protected by Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999.

## 6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the cemetery be properly cleaned, protected and fenced off in the new development or an application can be made to the South African Heritage Resources Agency to relocate the graves to a new site (for detail on procedures see appendix A).

If during construction any cultural heritage resources or graves are unearthed all work has to be stopped until the site has been inspected and mitigated by a cultural heritage practitioner.

## 7. SITE INFORMATION

<b>Owners contact details:</b>  <b>Mr. Jan Morgan. Porcupine Investments. P.O. Box 127, Persequor Park 0020. (012) 349 2500. Fax: (012) 349 2507</b>
<b>Developers contact details:</b>  <b>As above</b>
<b>Consultants contact details:</b>  <b>Dr. J van Niekerk. Cell 083 324 0470. (011) 974 6006.</b>
<b>Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.)</b>  <b>Light industrial park for fresh produce ware houses.</b>
<b>Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved:</b>  <b>Yes rezoning and town planning is being performed under the auspices of Metreoplan.</b>
<b>Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number):</b>  <b>Portion 62 of the farm. Yzervarkfontein 194 IR. Gauteng Province. Kungwini local authority</b>
<b>Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint):</b>  <b>See attached document</b>

**If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site.**

**See attached document**

## **8. REFERENCES**

- Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum Pretoria.
- 1/50 000Map 2628 BA
- Huffman T.N. 2007 Handbook to the Iron Age

## **9. MAP**

See map on pages 6 and 7

## **10. PHOTOGRAPHS**

Se photographs on page 5

## PHOTOGRAPHS

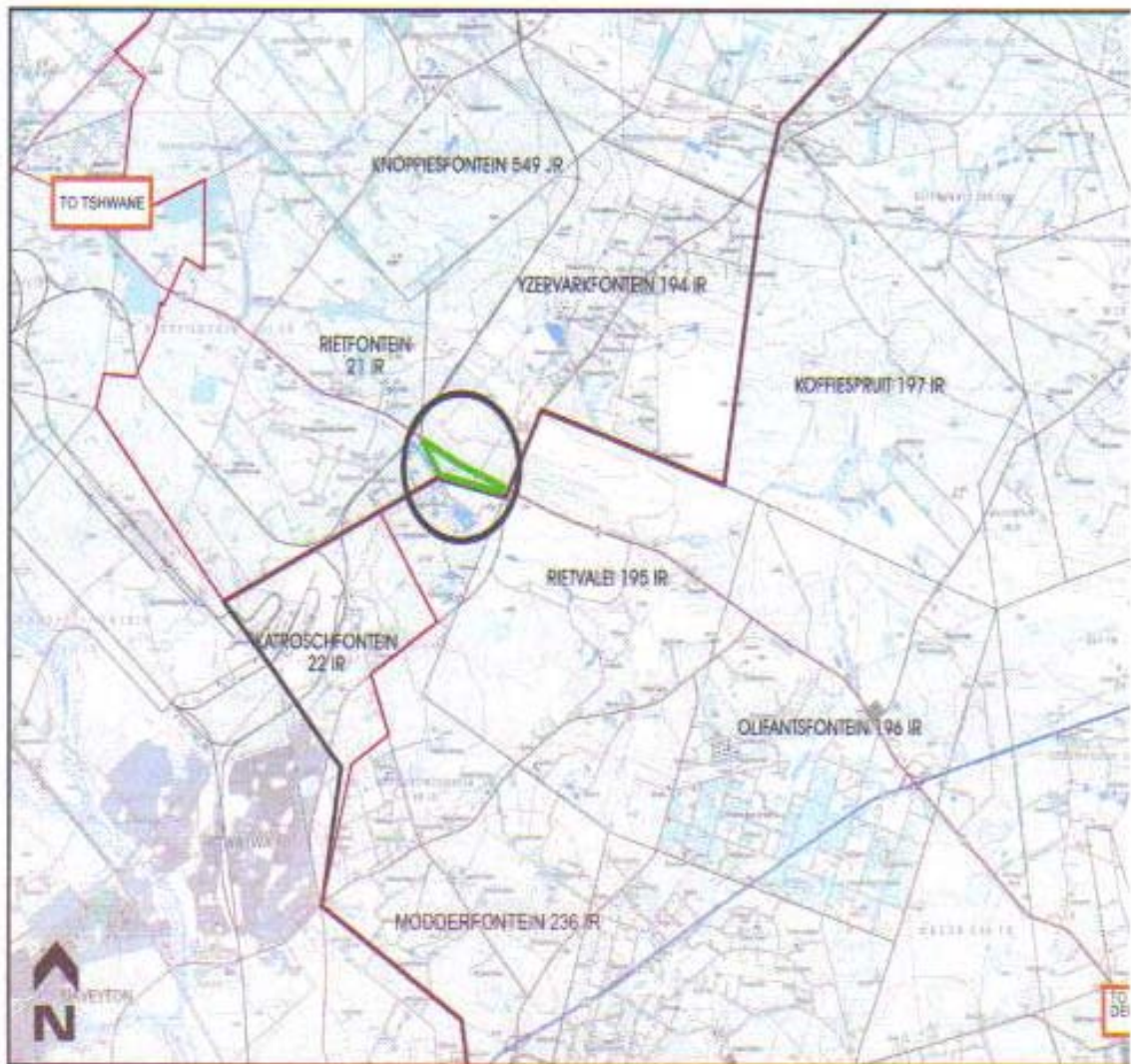


**No. 1 The old cemetery in the proposed development area**

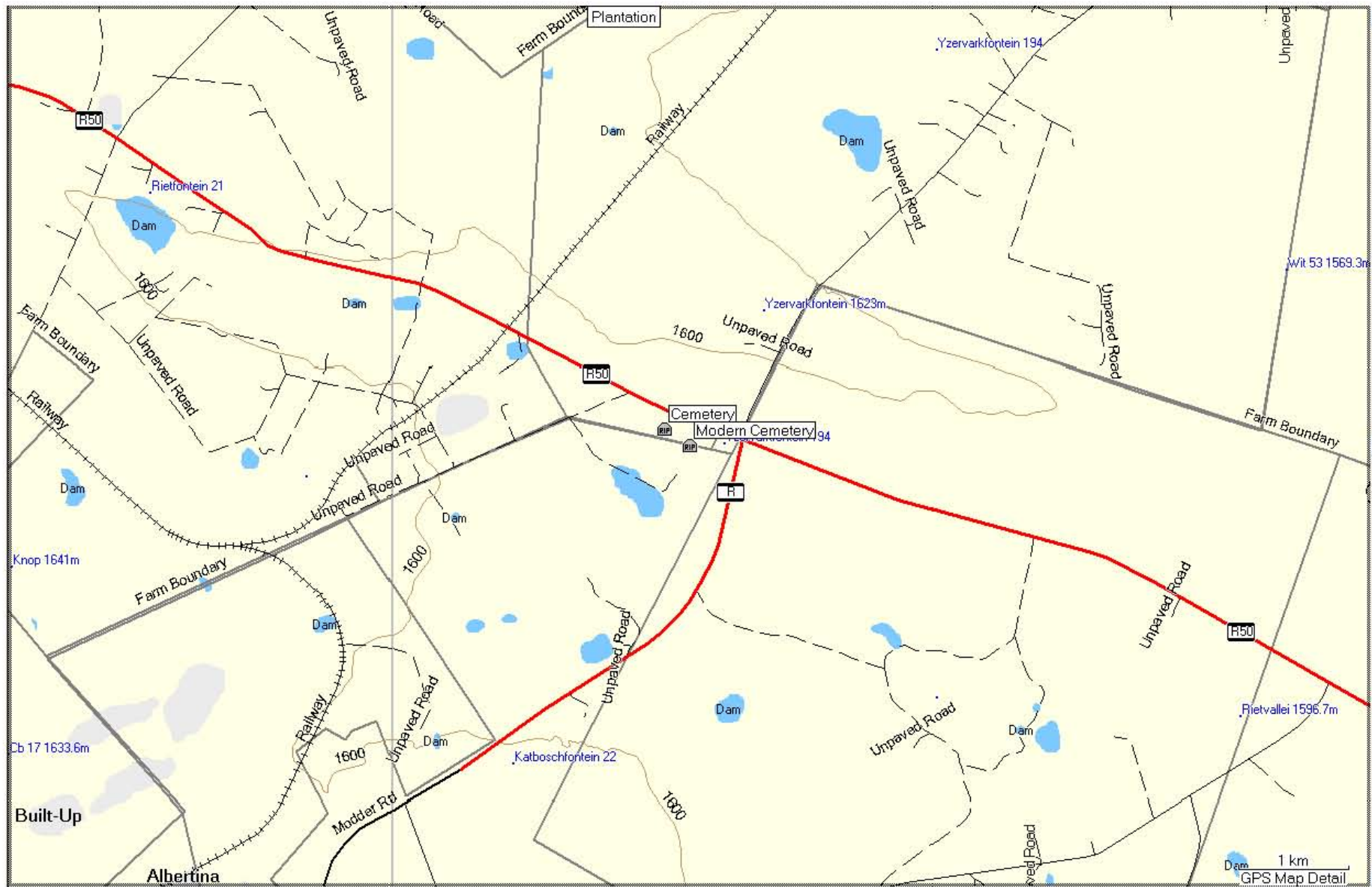


**No. 2 The large cemetery just south of the proposed development area**

# THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM YSERVARKFONTEIN



**LOCALITY MAP 1:50 000**



## ANNEXURE A

### **ARCHAEOLOGY, GRAVES AND THE LAW**

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.
  - A registered undertaker can only handle human remains 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

### **THE PROCESS/STEPS THAT ARE TAKEN**

#### **SITE VISIT: WHAT IS DONE DURING THIS SITE VISIT?**

Physical documentation of graves prior to exhumation: Photographic, GPS, Site Maps, Final counting etc...

Determining context of graves: If any, are they associated with other sites such as farmhouses/structures etc...

### **SITE SIGNS AND ADVERTISEMENTS**



Notices (in compliance with the National Heritage Resources Act) must be placed on the site/s, indicating the intent of relocation. This must be in at least 3 languages and has to be up for a minimum of 60 days.

As part of the preliminary social consultation, newspaper ads as well as radio announcements has to be made as well

This is in order that family members/descendants, if any, can reply/come forward to indicate if any of the graves belong to them

### **SOCIAL CONSULTATION**

If any individuals responded during initial consultation/public participation, then full social consultation undertaken. This will include speaking to individuals regarding graves, their family wishes, getting consent for relocation/reburial etc...

It could also include an Open Day/Traditional Ceremony (or more than one if necessary)

### **PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Undertakers permits applied for and obtained during social consultation

Only after all necessary documents, family consent obtained, landowner letter, can SAHRA Permit be applied for and obtained. A few weeks should be budgeted for this

### **EXHUMATION & RELOCATION**

When permits obtained physical exhumation, investigation and reburial commences

### **THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF BURIALS: DOCUMENTATION FORM**

This form contains the following information for each burial:

<b>Feature/Burial No</b>	<b>Site Name/No</b>	<b>GPS Reading</b>	<b>Farm</b>
<b>Name/No</b>			
<b>Province</b>	<b>Location of new cemetery</b>		

**It also includes information on the**

**Burial Type**

**Burial Dimensions**

**Grave Type**

**Grave Dimensions**

**Associated sites/features**

**Specimens or grave goods found**

**The state of preservation and percentage completeness of the human skeletal material**

**Sex and Age of the individual**

**Further Remarks**

**Information on the headstone and grave dressing (if any)**

Photographs of each grave, headstone (if any), the skeletal remains, grave goods etc... are also taken and used in the final documentation.