

# Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for Plot 32 Shannon Valley, Bloemfontein, Free State Province.

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## **Introduction**

The application relates to a proposed residential development at Plot 32 Shannon Valley, Bloemfontein (**Fig. 1 & 2**). The 4 ha site is situated in Glover Street Shannon Valley, about 2 km east of the M10 going south and 500 m south of the old Thaba Nchu Road.

Site Coordinates (see Fig. 2):

A) 29° 8'40.37"S 26°17'19.17"E

B) 29° 8'42.72"S 26°17'26.95"E

C) 29° 8'48.39"S 26°17'24.63"E

D) 29° 8'46.03"S 26°17'16.59"E

Map Ref.:

1:50 000 scale topographic 2926 AB Maselspoort

1:250 000 scale geological 2926 Bloemfontein

The heritage significance of the affected area was evaluated on the basis of existing field data, database information and published literature. This was followed by a field assessment by means of a pedestrian survey. A Garmin Etrex Vista GPS hand model (set to the WGS 84 map datum) and a digital camera were used for recording purposes. Maps and aerial photographs (incl. Google Earth) were consulted and integrated with data acquired during the on-site inspection. Site significance classification standards prescribed by SAHRA (2005) were used to indicate overall significance and mitigation procedures where relevant (**Table 1**).

## **Background**

The Stone Age archaeological record of the Modder River catchment east of Bloemfontein spans back to the early Middle Stone Age. Prehistoric archaeological remains previously recorded in the region include stone tools and mammal fossil remains from sealed and or

exposed contexts. The incidence of surface scatters usually decreases away from localized areas such as alluvial contexts and dolerite-shale contact zones when stone tools largely occur as contextually derived individual finds in the open veld. As a result, intact stone tool assemblages may occur within nearby Bloemspruit alluvium or stone tool factory sites may be found near dolerite-shale contact zones such as the one at Usherwood located about 10 km northwest of the study area.

Following the capture of Bloemfontein by British forces during the Anglo-Boer War, military movements occurred well towards the east of Bloemfontein around Sannaspos and Thaba Nchu. War journals further record extensive military activity east of Bloemfontein ca. 1900. One record show that the Gordon Highlander regiment bivouaced near Springfield to the north of the study area during April 1900 before engaging the retreating Boers at the Modder River east of Sannaspos.

### **Field Assessment**

Historical maps indicate possibly >60 year old dwellings within the study area (**Fig. 1**). However, a foot survey of the terrain indicates that the site has been extensively disturbed and trampled by previous human activities, with no evident traces of historically significant structures, *in situ* Stone Age archaeological material, capped or distributed as surface scatters on the landscape, rock art (engravings), prehistoric structures or graves (**Fig. 3**).

### **Impact Statement & Recommendation**

Potential archaeological impact at the site is considered to be non-existent. The terrain in general is assigned a site rating of Generally Protected C (GP.C). Based on the nature of the building materials used (eg. bricks and window frames), the present house and associated outbuildings appear to be less than 60 years old (**Fig. 4**). Nevertheless the house and associated outbuildings are assigned a site rating of Generally Protected B (GP.B). It is recommended that a destruction permit is obtained from SAHRA before the structures are removed as part of the development.

### **References**

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Partridge, T.C. *et al.* 2006. Cenozoic deposits of the interior. **In:** M.R. Johnson, *et. al.* (eds). *The Geology of South Africa*. Geological Society of South Africa.

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#### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Lloyd Rossouw, declare that I act as an independent specialist consultant. I do not have or will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity other than remuneration for work as stipulated in the terms of reference. I have no interest in secondary or downstream developments as a result of the authorization of this project and have no conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Rossouw', with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

13 / 02 / 2017

## Tables & Figures

**Table 1.** Field rating categories as prescribed by SAHRA.

<b>Field Rating</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
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



Figure 1. Map (left) of the proposed development at Plot 32 Shannon Valley, Bloemfontein (portion of 1:50 000 scale topographic map 2926 AB Maselspoort, circa 1992) and portion of 1:18 000 scale topographic map 2926 C3 Maselspoort, circa 1952 (right).



Figure 2. Aerial view of the study area.



Figure 3. General view of the area, looking east (top), and west(bottom).



Figure 4 Present house and associated infrastructure, looking southeast.