

Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
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**PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT
OF A CEMETERY (DAWKINSVILLE) ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 1
OF THE FARM TOWNLANDS OF KLERKSDORP 424IP
CITY OF MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (KLERKSDORP
NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: **APAC021/83**

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SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by EnviroVision Consulting cc, on behalf of Malankane Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd, to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed establishment of a new cemetery (Dawkinsville Cemetery) on the Remainder of Portion 1 of the farm Townlands of Klerksdorp 424IP. The study area is located in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality (Klerksdorp) of the Northwest Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. The assessment of the specific study area did not identify any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance. This report discusses the results of both the background research and physical assessment.

It is recommended that the proposed Dawkinsville Cemetery establishment be allowed to continue, taking into consideration the recommendations put forward at the end of the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by EnviroVision Consulting cc, on behalf of Malankane Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd, to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed establishment of a new cemetery (Dawkinsville Cemetery) on the Remainder of Portion 1 of the farm Townlands of Klerksdorp 424IP. The study area is located in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality (Klerksdorp) of the Northwest Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. The assessment of the specific study area did not identify any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment concentrated on this portion.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
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. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. 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).

3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the 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 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. Sites of Archaeological and paleontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, 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 (AIA) 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 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the 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 the 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 paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological 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 paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological 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 or 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 to) 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)**.

3.2. 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.

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.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Survey of literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2. Field survey

The field assessment section of the study was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites,

features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

4.3. Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes 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.

4.4. Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The study & proposed Dawkinsville Cemetery establishment area is situated on the Remainder of the original farm Townlands of Klerksdorp 424IP, in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality of the Northwest Province.

The topography of the study area is mostly flat and open with no rocky outcrops, ridges or hills present. Vegetation (grass and tree cover) was not dense during the field assessment and visibility on the ground was therefore good. The informal dumping of residential refuse and building rubble occurs throughout the area as well. The area would have been used in the past for agricultural purposes and if any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance existed here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result. Other recent impacts include an Eskom Powerline and servitude that crosses through the area, as well as some dirt roads and tracks.

The area surrounding the proposed development has been substantially impacted in the recent past through urban residential, business & industrial related developments and as a result the original natural and historical landscape has been completely altered.

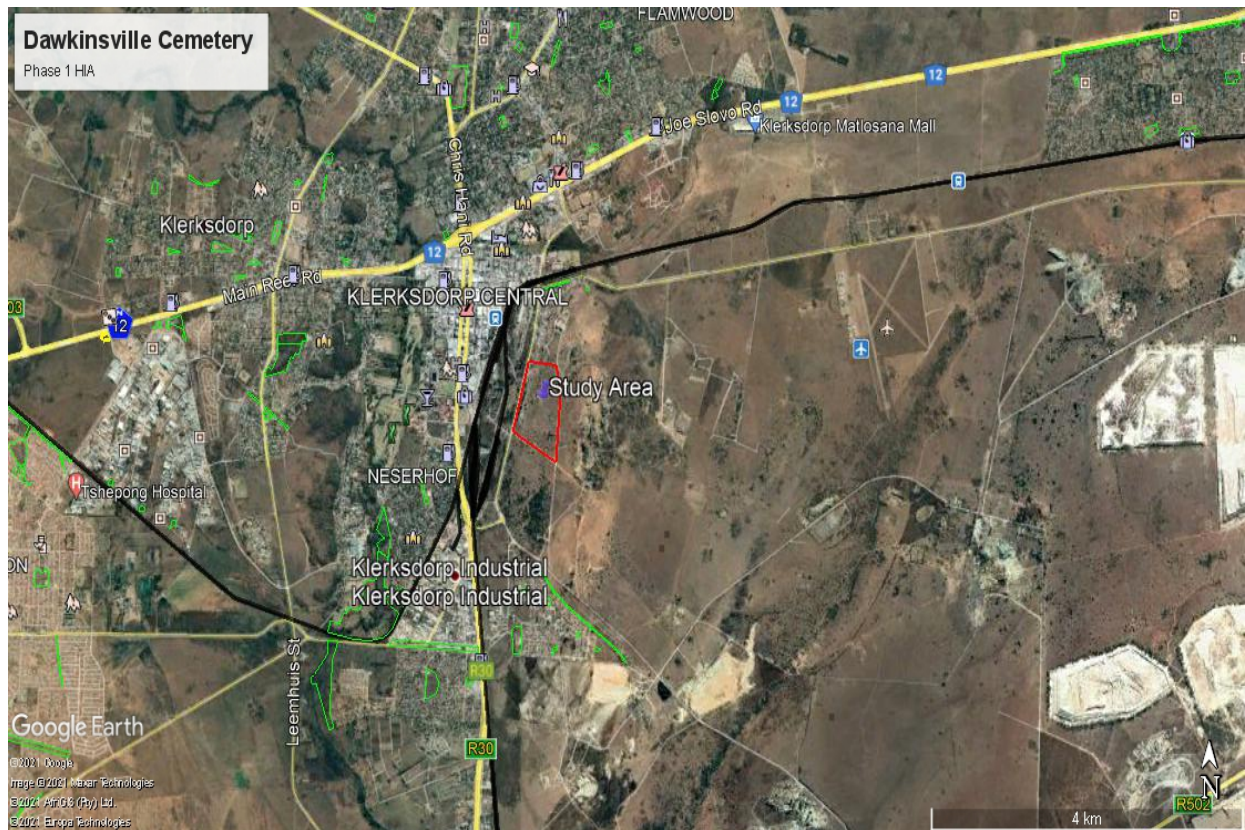


Figure 1: General location of the study & proposed Dawkinsville Cemetery area (Google Earth 2021).

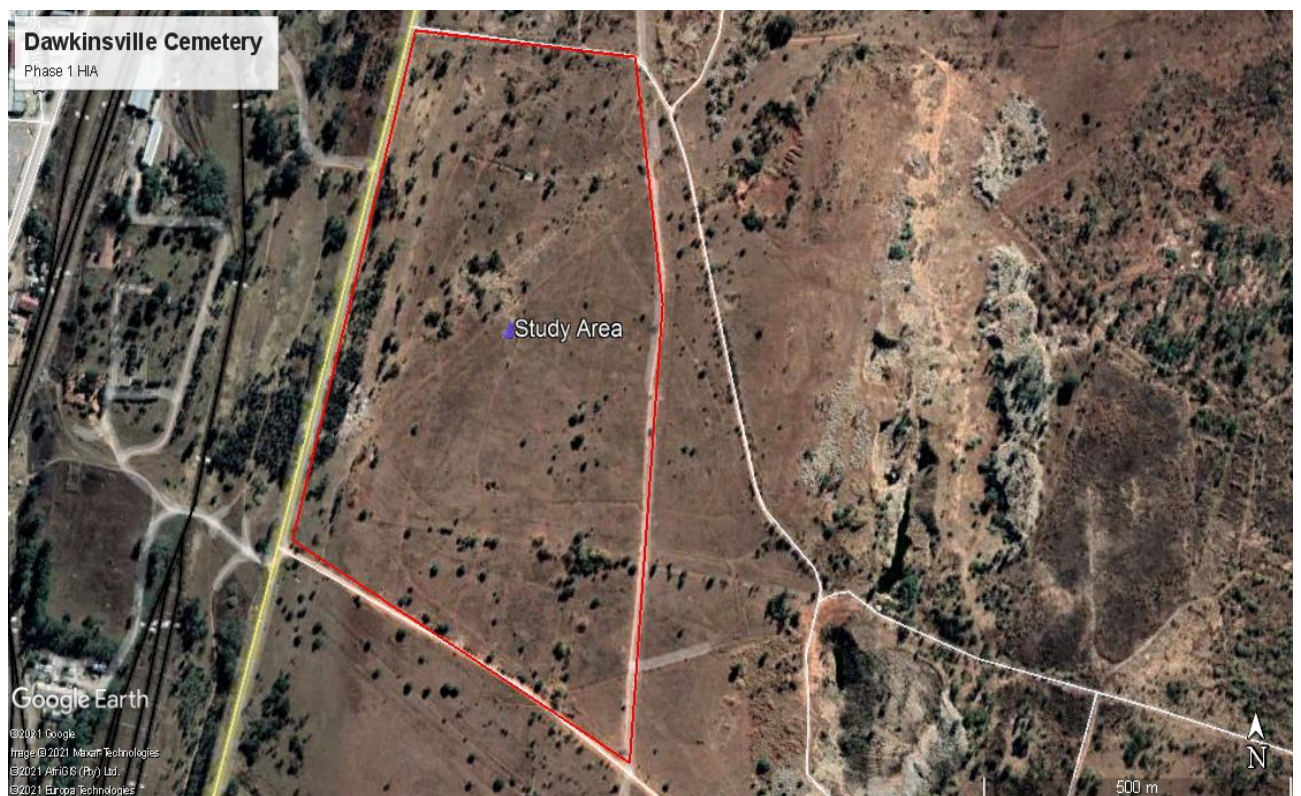


Figure 2: Closer view of study area and proposed cemetery footprint (Google Earth 2021).

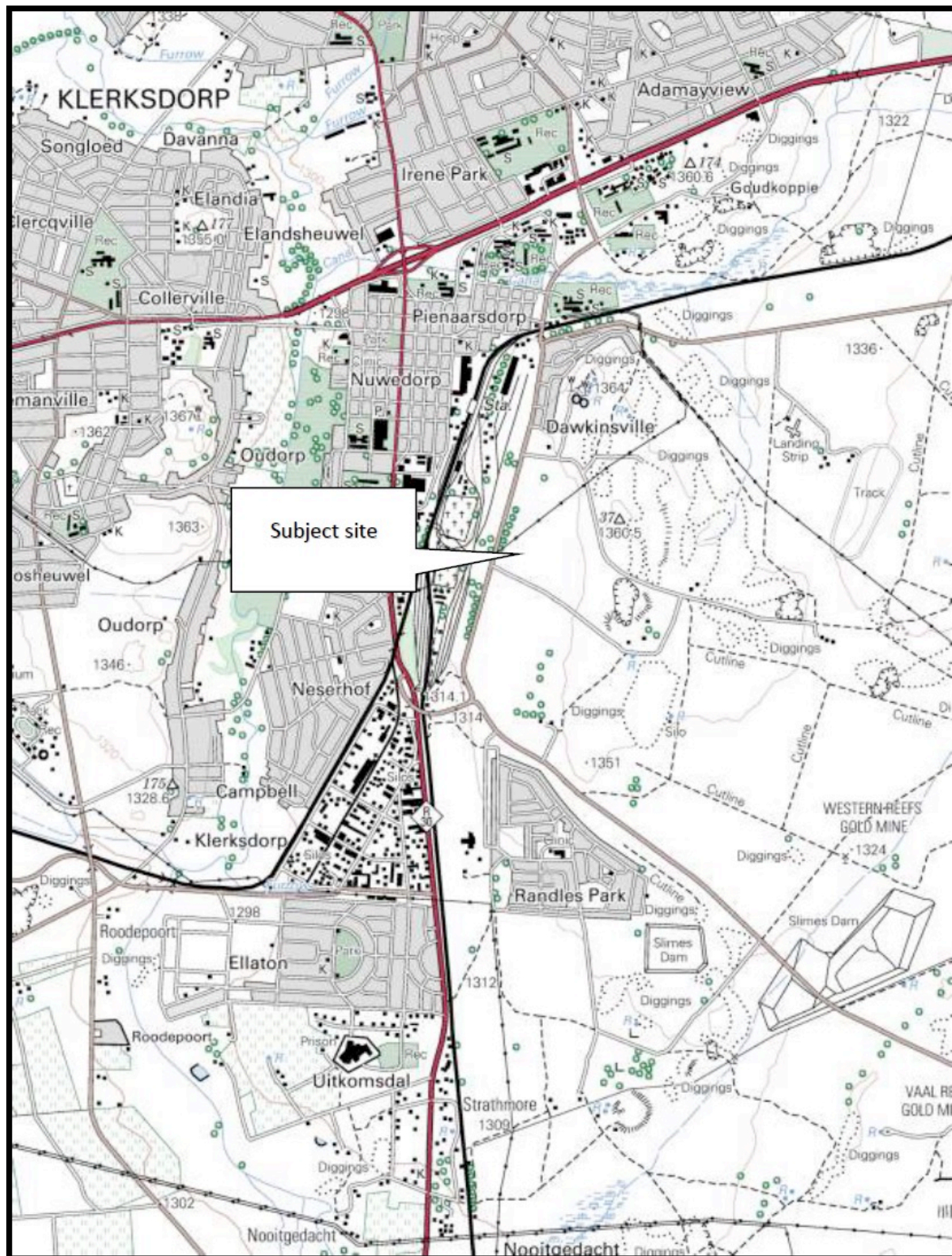


Figure 3: Topographical Location of the proposed Dawkinsville Cemetery (provided by EnviroVision Consulting cc).

6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago

Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago

Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

According to Bergh there are no known Stone Age sites close to Klerksdorp, although a number of rock engraving sites are known to occur in the larger geographical area (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

No Stone Age sites or material (stone tools) were identified in the study area during the September 2021 assessment. If any are to be present it would be more likely out-of-context individual tools or small scatters of artifacts.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are 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.

There are no known EIA/MIA sites in the area, although there are some Late Iron Age sites in the larger geographical area north and west of the town (Bergh 1999: 6-7). One such site is Palmietfontein (around 30km north of the town), excavated in 1975 by D.A.White. In an article on this work it is also indicated that the area north of Klerksdorp is relatively rich in terms of Late Iron Age sites, and that the Rolong capital of Thabeng lies within this area (White 1977: 89).

Based on the research by Huffman it is possible that sites related to the so-called Olifantspoort facies of the Urewe Tradition, dating to around AD1500-1700, and the

Thabeng facies of the same tradition (AD1700-1840) could possibly be found in the area (Huffman 2007: 207). No Iron Age sites, features or cultural material was found during the assessment of the area.

No Iron Age occurrences were identified in the study area during the assessment.

The historical age generally starts with the first recorded oral histories in an area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The earliest traveller through this area was Cornwallis Harris in 1836, followed by missionaries and the Voortrekkers (Bergh 1999: 13-14).

Information from Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org.za).

Klerksdorp was founded in 1837 when the Voortrekkers settled on the banks of the Schoonspruit which flows through the town. Most prominent of the first settlers was C.M. du Plooy who claimed a large farm called Elandsheuwel. He gave plots of land and communal grazing rights on this farm to other Voortrekkers in return for their labor in building a dam and an irrigation canal. This collection of smallholdings was later given the name of Klerksdorp in honor of the first landdrost (magistrate) of the area, Jacob de Clerq.

In August 1886 gold was discovered in the Klerksdorp district by M.G. Jansen van Vuuren as well as on the Witwatersrand, which lies about 160 km to the east. As a consequence, thousands of fortune-seekers descended on the small village, turning it into a town with 70 taverns and even a stock exchange of its own. However, the nature of the gold reef demanded expensive and sophisticated equipment to mine and extract the gold, causing the majority of diggers to move away in the late 1890s and leading to a decline in the gold mining industry.

During the Second Boer War (1899-1902), heavy fighting occurred in the area, which also housed a large concentration camp. The most famous of the battles around Klerksdorp, is that of the Battle of Ysterspruit during which the Boers under General Koos de la Rey achieved a great victory. On April 11, 1902, the Battle of Rooiwal, the last major engagement of the war, was fought near Klerksdorp during which a Boer charge was beaten off by entrenched British troops. The graves of the victims of the British Concentration Camps near Klerksdorp are located in the old cemetery just outside of town.

Klerksdorp was connected by rail to Krugersdorp on 3 August 1897 and to Kimberley in 1906. The gold mining industry was revived by large mining companies in 1932, causing the town to undergo an economic revival, which accelerated after World War II.

No historical sites, features or material were found in the area during the assessment.

Results of the June 2021 study area assessment

No sites, features or cultural material were found in the study area during the assessment. The area would have been used in the past for agricultural purposes and as a result if any

sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance did exist here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result. Other recent developments such as the Eskom Powerline & servitudes would also have impacted on any archaeological and historical sites and features that might have been present here.



Figure 4: General view of a section of the study area. Note the general flat and open nature of the landscape.



Figure 5: Another view of a section of the study area.



Figure 6: The Eskom Powerline that runs across part of the area.



Figure 7: Informal dumping of residential refuse and building rubble in part of the area.



Figure 8: Another general view of the proposed cemetery area.



Figure 9: The open and flat nature of the area is again evident here.

Based on the desktop research & physical field assessment of the area it is concluded that the proposed Dawkinsville Cemetery establishment can therefore continue.

Although all efforts are made to cover a total area during any assessment and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. This will include low stone-packed or unmarked graves. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by EnviroVision Consulting cc, on behalf of Malankane Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd, to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed establishment of a new cemetery (Dawkinsville Cemetery) on the Remainder of Portion 1 of the farm Townlands of Klerksdorp 424IP. The study area is located in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality (Klerksdorp) of the Northwest Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. No sites, features or cultural

material were found in the study area during the assessment. The area would have been used in the past for agricultural purposes and as a result if any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance did exist here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result. Other recent developments such as the Eskom Powerline & servitudes would also have impacted on any archaeological and historical sites and features that might have been present here.

It should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

Finally, it is concluded that the proposed Dawkinsville Cemetery establishment can therefore continue taking the above measures into mind.

8. REFERENCES

General and Closer Views of study area location and footprint: Google Earth 2021.

Topographical Location Map of proposed Dawkinsville Cemetery: Provided by EnviroVision Consulting cc

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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/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE 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: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

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

Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

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

APPENDIX E: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase – Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
2. Baseline Assessment – Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
3. Phase I Impact Assessment – Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
4. Letter of recommendation for exemption – If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue – Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
6. Phase III Management Plan – For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.