

**SPECIALIST REPORT**

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF A LIFESTYLE RETIREMENT VILLAGE ON *PORTION 11 & 12 OF THE  
FARM NOOITGEDACHT 62, WHITE RIVER, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE***

**REPORT COMPILED FOR  
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**JULY 2015**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for the proposed Nooitgedacht Retirement Village, on *portion 11 and 12 of the farm Nooitgedacht 62JU*. The property is located along the R40 between the town of White River and the Caster Bridge Complex, within an urban area. The size of the study area is 11ha.

The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2531AC, *WITRIVIER*, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Mbombela Local Municipality, and the Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999)(NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act.

The area for the proposed development (11ha) is currently vacant land that extends down to the White River in the south. Historical Google Earth imagery (2004 / 2013) shows that most of the study area is situated on transformed agricultural lands. The area comprises largely of alien vegetation with small sections of indigenous bush.

A small graveyard was identified to the north-east of the study area. Mitigation measures are proposed. The survey revealed no other archaeological or historical features in the study area. Some ruins, an old bridge and road were identified during the survey but they are not older than 60 years and are of no significance. No archaeological material or features with heritage value were identified during the survey.

Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants states that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue if the mitigation measures for the small graveyard are adhered to.

**Disclaimer:** *Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study, Christine Rowe trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.*

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- 1) The results of the project;*
- 2) The technology described in any report;*
- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*

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CHRISTINE ROWE  
JULY 2015

## CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
DISCLAIMER	3
A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT	5
• Terms of Reference	6
• Legal requirements	6
B. BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA	8
• Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments	8
• History of White River	14
C. DESCRIPTION OF AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT	15
D. LOCALITY	16
• Description of methodology	18
• GPS Co-ordinates of perimeters	18
E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES	19
F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	21
• Summarised identification & cultural significance assessment of affected Heritage resources: General issues of site and context	21
• Summarised recommended impact management interventions	25
G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA	27
• Evaluation methods	27
• NHRA	27
• Graves	28
• Significance & evaluation	28
• Field rating	28
H. RECOMMENDATION	29
I. CONCLUSION	29
REFERENCES	30
<b>Map 1:</b> Van Warmelo 1935	10
<b>Map 2:</b> Topographical map: 2531 AC WITRIVIER	16
<b>Map 3:</b> Google image: Nooitgedacht Village within the wider urban context	17
<b>Map 4:</b> Google image (2013) of the study area and Heritage features	18
<b>Map 5:</b> Google image 2004	20
<b>Appendix 1:</b> Layout of the proposed development	32
<b>Appendix 2:</b> Tracks & paths	33
<b>Appendix 3:</b> Photographic documentation	34

## ***SPECIALIST REPORT***

### **PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RETIREMENT VILLAGE ON *PORTION 11 & 12 OF THE FARM NOOITGEDACHT 62, WHITE RIVER, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE***

#### **A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT**

The Nooitgedacht Retirement Estate Pty (Ltd) (the applicant of the project), has identified a need for a Retirement village in the urban area of White River. Loufrandini Consulting is the managing company for the development and has appointed Nkululeko Environmental and Development (NEDA) as the Environmental Practitioner to conduct the necessary studies in order to obtain environmental authorization for the proposed project.

The proposed Retirement Village development is situated on *portion 11 & 12 of the farm Nooitgedacht 62JU* along the R40 between White River Town and the Castor Bridge Complex. The proposed development is a practical progression and extension of the existing town. The study area of approximately 11ha falls within the Mbombela Local Municipality and the Ehlanzeni District Municipality. It is currently zoned as Residential 1 and Residential 3, and will be rezoned to "Special" for the retirement village and frail care purposes. There are three houses on the property that is occupied.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by *NEDA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS*, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (AIA / HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources on the study area. A literature study, relevant to the study area was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon. (See Map 2: Topographical Map: 2531AC *WITRIVIER*).

The aims of this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study area, and to advise the client on sensitive heritage areas as well as where it is viable for the development to take place in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). It will prevent the destruction or unsympathetic alteration of heritage resources which are protected, such as archaeological sites and objects, graves and burial grounds, structures older than 60 years and public monuments and memorials. Recommendations for mitigation and maximum conservation measures for any heritage resource will be made. The study area is indicated in Maps 1, 2, & 3. Photographic evidence is in Appendix 3.

This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *NEDA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS*, P.O. Box 210, Matsulu, 1203, Tel: 0829718538 / Fax: 0866034915 / cell: 0724017028; e-mail: [mthethwa@vodamail.co.za](mailto:mthethwa@vodamail.co.za).

- Type of development: 11ha, are earmarked for the proposed development of a Retirement Village, on *portion 11 & 12 of the farm Nooitgedacht 62JU*, in an approved urban area (town of White River), Mpumalanga Province.
- The site is currently vacant. It is zoned as Residential 1 and Residential 3, and will be rezoned to *Special* for the retirement village and frail care purposes.
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Mbombela Local Municipality, and Ehlanzeni District Municipality.
- Land owners: Owned by the developer Loufrandini Consult.

**Terms of reference:** As specified by section 38 (3) of the NHRA, the following information is provided in this report.

- a) The identification and mapping of heritage resources where applicable;
- b) Assessment of the significance of the resources;
- c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
- d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

**Legal requirements:**

The legal context of the report is grounded in the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act (1998) (NEMA):

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the development. The proposed development is a listed activity in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of a HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and its provincial offices and counterparts.

Section 38 of the NHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by an independent heritage management consultant, for the following development categories:

- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
  - The construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;

- The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site; and
- exceeding 5000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;
- the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent

In addition, the new EIA regulation promulgated in terms of NEMA, determine that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert *NKULULEKO ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY* (NEDA), the client, and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings or structures older than 60 years prior to demolition, in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and also other sections of this act dealing with archaeological sites, buildings and graves.

The NHRA section 2 (xvi) states that a “heritage resource” means any place or object of cultural significance, and in section 2 (vi) that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.

Apart from a heritage report assisting a client to make informed development decisions, it also serves to provide the relevant heritage resources authority with the necessary data to perform their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resource, whether the development may proceed as proposed or whether mitigation is acceptable, and whether the heritage resource require formal protection such as a Grade I, II or III resource, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such a grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction. This section does not apply, since no archaeological material was found on the property.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, 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. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during construction work. A small graveyard was identified and mitigation measures are proposed.

- **Section 34 of the NHRA**

Section 34 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may alter, damage, destroy, relocate etc, any building or structure older than 60 years, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. This section does not apply since no structure older than 60 years were identified during the survey.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

This section deals with public monuments and memorials but does not apply in this report.

- **NEMA**

The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998), provides for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard.

## **B BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA**

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

In order to place the areas in and around White River / Hazyview in an archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Küsel, Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray and Van der Ryst were consulted, as well as historic sources by Makhura and Webb.

Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the study area. The author was involved in Heritage Impact assessments in the area namely:

- 2013: *Phase 1 AIA/HIA for the proposed construction of the Mpumalanga Cultural and Creativity Hub: on the remainder of the farm Agricultural Holding 56JU, White River:* - An agricultural farm which revealed no archaeological remains;
- 2014: *Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the proposed Township establishment, portion 127 & 131 of the farm DE Rust 12JU, Hazyview:* - An agricultural farm which revealed historical buildings;
- 2013: *Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the proposed Nkambeni cemetery portion A of the farm Kaap Block,*



*Numbi*: The survey revealed no archaeological remains apart from upper and lower grinders;

- 2013: *Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the proposed traffic training academy: Remainder of the farm Calcutta 294KU, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge* – clay potsherds and a lower grinder of no significance.
- 2010: *Phase 1 AIA/HIA for the proposed 132kV powerlines from Kiepersol substation (Hazyview) to Nwarele substation (Dwarsloop)* – Several graveyards were encountered and mitigation measures were recommended;
- 2001: *Inspection of Umbhaba LIA Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and produced no results for the White River region. One report for Bushbuckridge (F. Roodt), and one for Acornhoek (JP Celliers) revealed no archaeological sites of significance.

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. Later Stone Age sites in the Kruger National Park date to the last 2500 years and are associated with pottery and microlith stone tools.<sup>1</sup> The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site in the immediate area, besides those in the Kruger National Park, is the Plaston site (east of White River), dating ca 900 AD.<sup>2</sup> No other archaeological excavations have been conducted to date within the study area, which have been confirmed by academic institutions and specialists in the field.<sup>3 4</sup>

Several early ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the study area was inhabited by Eastern Sotho groups (Pulana, Kutswe and Pai), the Tsonga (Nhlanganu and Tšhangana), from before the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>5 6</sup>

The whole district is divided in two, with the Drakensberg Escarpment in the west, and the Low Veld (in which the study area is situated) towards the east. Today, we found that the boundaries of groups are intersected and overlapping.<sup>7</sup> Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlanganu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.<sup>8</sup>

When the Swazi began to expand northwards they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or

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<sup>1</sup> J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red). *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

<sup>3</sup> Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17 / 2013-05-23.

<sup>4</sup> Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

<sup>5</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

<sup>6</sup> H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 16.

<sup>7</sup> N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

<sup>8</sup> M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 21.



Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the amount of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to actually indicate how many people were living in one area.<sup>15</sup>

The only early trade route mentioned, which crossed this section, was a footpath used by the African groups from Delagoa Bay towards Bushbuckridge (Magashulaskraal as it was previously named), along the Sabie river, up the Escarpment, and further north to the Soutpansberg.<sup>16</sup> There is however, no physical evidence left of this early route.

### **Swazi**

The Swazi people descend from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>17</sup> The differences between the Swazi and the Natal Nguni were probably never great, their culture as far as is known from the comparatively little research being carried out, does not show striking differences. Their language is a 'Tekeza' variation of Zulu, but through having escaped being drawn into the mainstream of the Zulus of the *Shaka* period, they became independent and their claim to be grouped apart as a culture is now well founded.<sup>18</sup>

### **Eastern Sotho group: The Pai**

Van Warmelo identified the groups in northern Swaziland and the Pilgrim's Rest district before 1886, as Eastern Sotho (Pulana, Pai and Kutswe). According to Von Wielligh, the **Pai** occupied the area as far south as the Komati River (umLumati). Most of the younger generation has adopted the Swazi language.<sup>19</sup>

The Swazi constantly attacked the Eastern Sotho groups during the nineteenth century. The Pai fled to the caves in the mountains near MacMac (between Sabie and Pilgrim's Rest), while some of them (which were subjugated by a Swazi leader) fled from *Mswazi* in about 1853 to Sekukuniland (Steelpoort area), but decided to turn back towards their country along the Sabie River (1882). By this time, Europeans had already settled in this area when gold was discovered in 1873.<sup>20</sup>

### **Eastern Sotho group: The Pulana**

The history of the **Pulana** goes back to the Barberton area from where they trekked via Krokodilpoort (Nelspruit district) to settle north-east of Pretoriuskop. When the Swazi invaded them, they moved on and

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<sup>15</sup>N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

<sup>16</sup>L. Changuion & J.S. Bergh, Swart gemeenskappe voor die koms van die blankes, in *J.S. Bergh (red)., Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 104.

<sup>17</sup><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

<sup>18</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

<sup>19</sup>D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, pp. 3-5.

<sup>20</sup>D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 11.

split up under several chieftainships,<sup>21</sup> of who chief Kobêng (after which Kowyns' Pass was named), is well-known in the area's history.

The Pulana roughly lived in the following areas: north of the Crocodile River, west of the western boundary of the Kruger National Park as far north as its crossing the Sabie River, south of the Sabie river until its cutting through the main road from Pretoriuskop (including Hazyview and close to White River), to Bushbuckridge, west of this road as far as Klaserie, south of a line drawn from Klaserie to the confluence of the Blyde and Orighstad rivers, and east of the Blyde River. This large area is divided in two by the main road from Pilgrim's Rest to Bushbuckridge. This road was since ancient times the only connection between the Low Veld and Escarpment, and became known as "Kowyns' Pass".<sup>22</sup> The majority of Pulana lived to the north of this line, while south of this line the Pulana are scattered in groups into which are wedged Pai groups on both sides of the Sabie River, and Swazi peoples in the south, and south-eastern portions.<sup>23 24</sup>

It was the Pulana clans who, under chief Maripi Mashile, defeated the Swazi at Mariepskop in the Blyde River Canyon, ca 1864.<sup>25</sup>

### **Eastern Sotho group: The Kutswe**

The **Kutswe** trekked from the northern parts of Swaziland northwards as a result of pressure from the Swazi in the south.<sup>26</sup> The Kutswe settled north-east of the present Nelspruit at a river called Kutswe (Gutshwa)<sup>27</sup> from where they got their present name. From here they moved on and settled at various places, and ruins of their kraals are scattered from Pretoriuskop, Hazyview (Phabeni) as well as on the farms Welgevonden 364, Lothian 258, Boschhoek 47, Sandford 46, Culcutta 51 and Oakley 262.<sup>28</sup> They occupied additional areas between **White River** and Sabie, and had sufficient influence amongst the Pai during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, to establish authority over more than 2000 individuals living on farms on both sides of the Sabie River from the town of Sabie as far as the main road from **White River** / Hazyview to Bushbuckridge.<sup>29</sup> They had chief jurisdiction over the following farms near Bushbuckridge: Oakley 262, Culcutta 51, Madras 50, Alexandria 251, Cork 60 and Ronoldsey 273. They intermarried with Nhlangu (Shangaan), Swazi and Pai.<sup>30 31</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 108.

<sup>22</sup> M. De Jongh, (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 21.

<sup>23</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 107.

<sup>24</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

<sup>25</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 107.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>27</sup> T. Makhura, Early Inhabitants, in *Delius, P. (ed.), Mpumalanga: History and heritage*. p.105.

<sup>28</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 110.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-10.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

The ruins of the kraals of Kutswe chiefs are still known on the following farms,<sup>32</sup> where they were most probably buried as well:

Mogogong:	near Pretoriuskop (KNP)
Senwapitsi	between Pretoriuskop & Skukuza (KNP)
Phabêng	Phabeni gate in KNP (close to Hazyview)
Phandane	Farm Welgevonden
Makgate	Farm Lothian
gaMoépé	Farm Boschhoek
Lesaba la Mbanyêlé	Farm Sandford
Khubuthamaga	Farm Calcutta
Matsabane	Farm Lothian
Selôkôtšô	Farm Oakley

### **Tsonga groups: The Nhlanganu and Tšhangana**

The Nhlanganu and Tšhangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)<sup>33</sup> form part of the larger Tsonga group of which the original group occupied the whole of Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa), and it has been recorded that by 1554, they were already living around the Delagoa Bay area (Maputo).<sup>34</sup> They fled from the onslaughts of the Zulu (Nguni) nation from the Natal area, and great numbers of emigrants sought safety in the “Transvaal” as recently as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially in the greater Pilgrim's Rest district (including the study area that we are concerned with). The Tsonga also moved west from Mozambique into the “Transvaal”. They have never formed large powerful tribes but were mostly always subdivided into loosely-knit units, and were absorbed under the protection of whichever chief would give them land.<sup>35</sup> They were originally of Nguni origin.<sup>36</sup> The term “Shangaan” is commonly employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.<sup>37</sup>

The **Nhlanganu** occupied the Low Veld area in their efforts to escape the Zulu raids during 1835-1840. They lived side by side with the Tšhangana, and the differences between the two are inconsiderable. They have mixed extensively with other tribes.<sup>38</sup>

The **Tšhangana** are also of Nguni origin who fled in the same way as the Nhlanganu, settled in the “Transvaal” a little later than the former. Most of the Tsonga were subjects to *Soshangane*, who came

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<sup>32</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>33</sup>M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 24.

<sup>34</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

<sup>35</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

<sup>36</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

<sup>37</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92

<sup>38</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

from Zululand.<sup>39</sup> The downfall of *Ngungunyana* (son of *Soshangane*) saw his son seeking sanctuary in the “Transvaal”, and the latter became known as *Thulamahashi*,<sup>40</sup> the name that is still used for the area east of Bushbuckridge.

The historical background of the study area confirms that it was occupied since the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Eastern Sotho (Pai, Kutswe and Pulana) as well as Tsonga groups (Nhlanganu and Tšhangana). These groups have intermarried extensively or were absorbed by other groups in time, and today groups such as Eastern Sotho, South-Ndebele, Swazi, Tsonga and the Northern-Sotho occupy this area.<sup>41</sup>

These early settlements all developed into larger settlements by the descendants of the groups mentioned above, and the entire area to date, consists of villages, settlements or farms of which some are only a few kilometers apart, around bigger towns such as Hazyview and **White River**.

- **History of White River**

Early white settlers report that there were relatively few black people in the district at the turn of the century, due to a combination of malaria, tsetse fly and the marauding Swazi impi's. There were however isolated kraals from the present Drum Rock Hotel in White River to Bushbuckridge.<sup>42</sup>

Just after the Anglo-Boer War, the High Commissioner of South Africa, Lord Alfred Milner, was investigating areas with favourable and healthy climates, fertile soil and lots of water, for farming. The ideal area that was identified was White River (or the White River Valley as it was then known).<sup>43</sup> Many ex-servicemen settled in the area but conditions were harsh and by 1911 only a Scot named Macdonald successfully farmed with citrus.<sup>44</sup>

Today citrus from this area is one of the main forms of agriculture in the Province.<sup>45</sup> Massive timber plantations were planted around White River and one of the biggest timber mills with the latest technology was built in 1982 in the town.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>39</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 57.

<sup>40</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92.

<sup>41</sup>M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 40.

<sup>42</sup>Nevill C., *White River Remembered*, p. 68.

<sup>43</sup>Borman, H., *Baanbrekers van die Laeveld*, p. 39.

<sup>44</sup>Nevill, C., *White River Remembered*, p. 3.

<sup>45</sup>Delius, P. & Hay, M., *Mpumalanga, an illustrated history*, p. 156.

<sup>46</sup>*Ibid.* p. 162.



White River in 1905, consisted of a hotel, a general dealer and the managers' house. Photo copied from: *Baanbrekers van die Laeveld*, p. 39: Photo by Shirley Swanepoel.

### C. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed retirement village and frail care project will involve the following:

- Approximately 11 ha are earmarked for the proposed Retirement Village, which will include the upgrade of an existing power supply system, a water pipeline, roads, housing facilities and a frail care section;
- Amendment to zoning will take place from Residential 1 and Residential 3 to *Special* for the retirement village purposes;
- Increase in residential density in respect of the two higher density residential erven;
- Conversion of the zoning "use for clubhouse" to "use for frail care."<sup>47</sup>

The site is currently vacant. The 2004 (see Map 5) & 2013 (see Map 4) Google images show that the land was largely used for agricultural purposes and has therefore been transformed. Most of the property comprises of alien vegetation with a large bamboo infestation as well as avocado and syringa trees. A small section on the western and north-eastern side still consists of indigenous vegetation. The study area is characterized by a short, low grass cover. The floristic status is determined by the intensity of grazing by cattle and by the surface excavations where vegetation and topsoil was removed. Open land is also used for illegal dumping of domestic waste.

Several soil samples were taken at various points on the property, which assisted with the investigation. No archaeological material was observed in the soil samples (see Map 4, Fig. 5). Most of the farm was

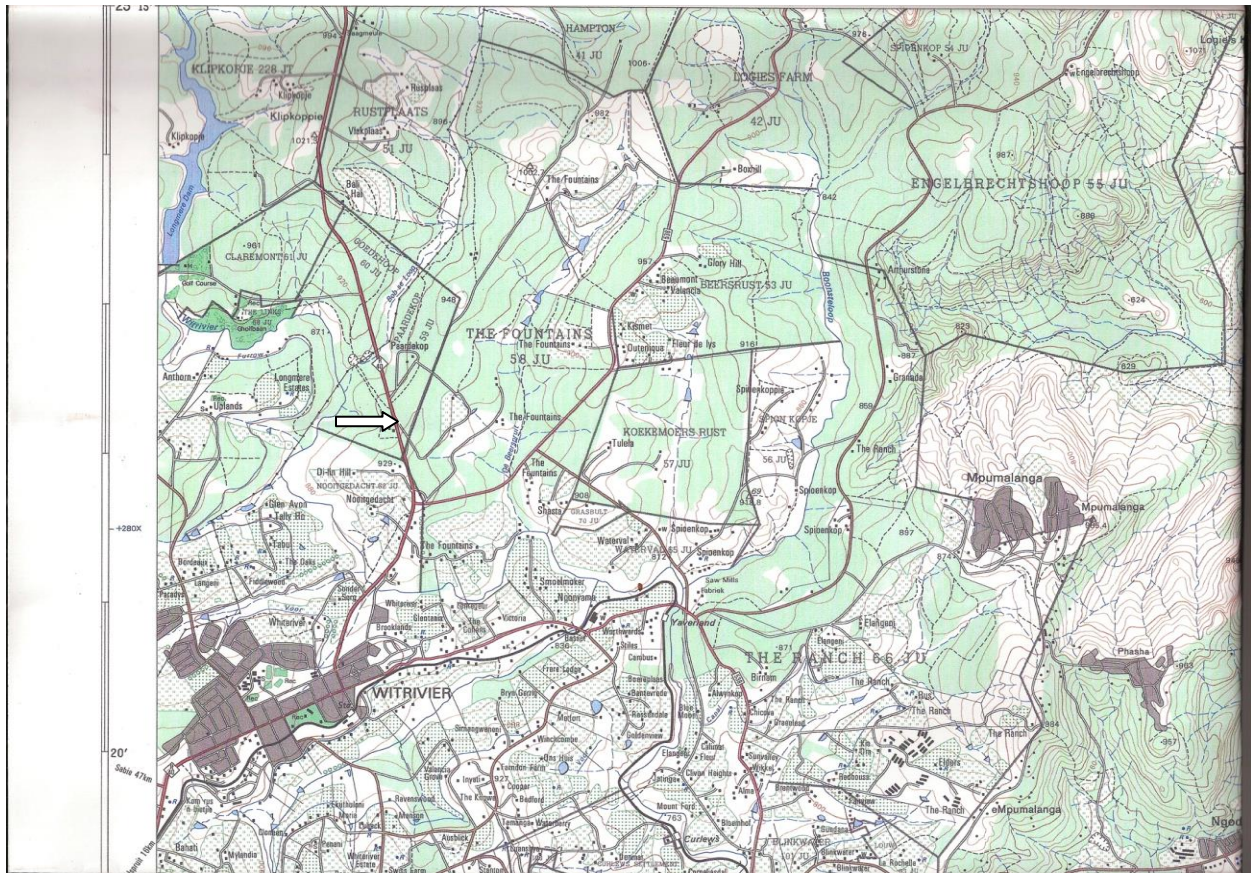
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<sup>47</sup> Themba Mthethwa. Draft Basic Assessment Report, July 2015.

recently transformed agricultural farm land, with small sections of natural habitat. There are no rocky outcrops on the property (Fig. 1- 10). The area is classified as the Sabie River Thicket ecozone. The granite and dolerite plains have shallow sandy soils, which is claysodic along the footslopes.<sup>48</sup>

#### D. LOCALITY

The proposed project site is located along the R40 between the town of White River and the Castor Bridge Complex within the Mbombela Local Municipality. The site is located on the *portion 11 & 12 of the farm Nooitgedacht 62JU*. The property is approximately 11ha in extent. The land is currently vacant which extends to the White River in the south (Map 2, Topographical Map & Maps 3 & 4 Google images of site). The study area falls within the urban zone of the town of White River and is zoned as residential.<sup>49</sup>

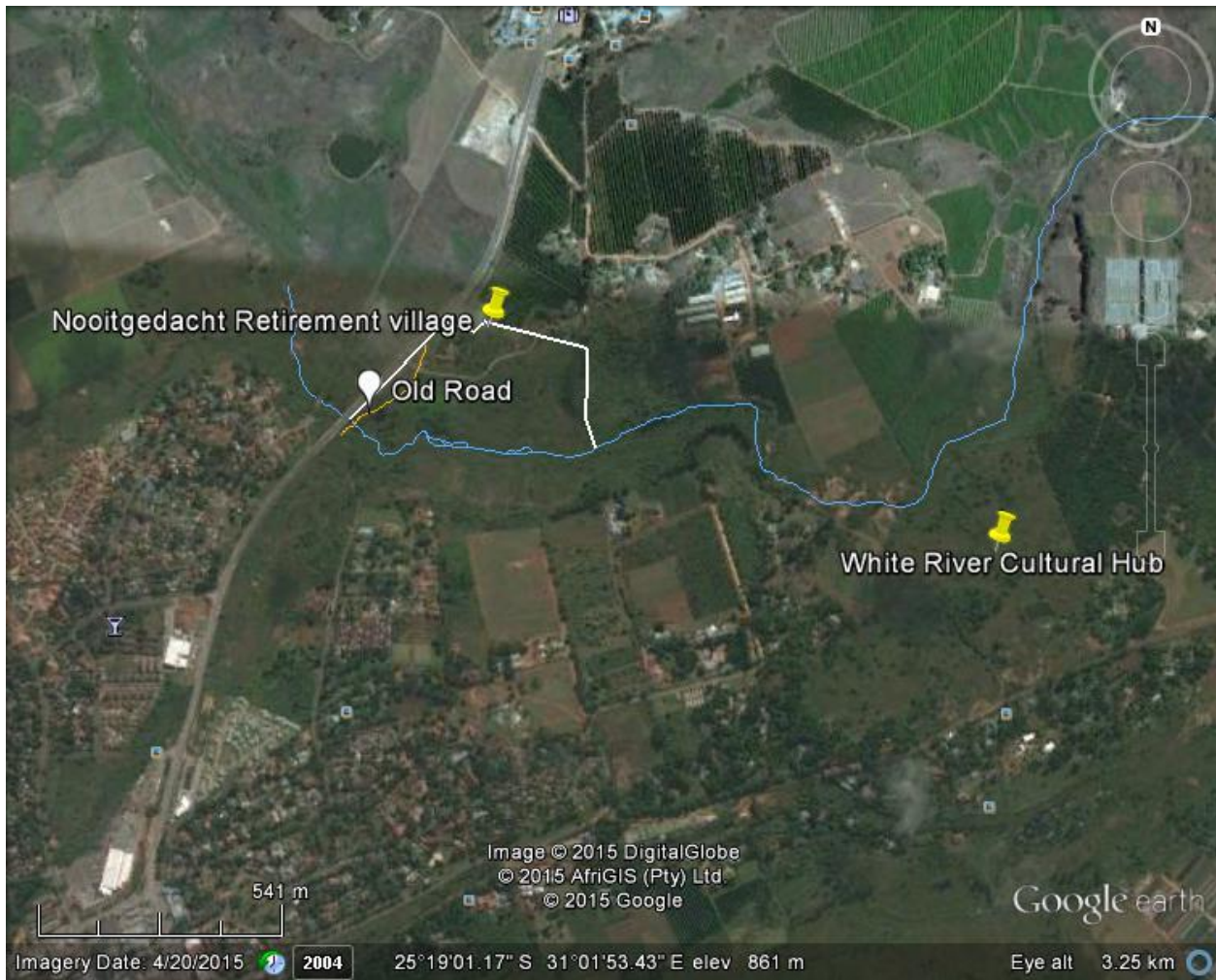


Map 2: Topographical map 1:50 000, 1984: 2531AC, WITRIVIER

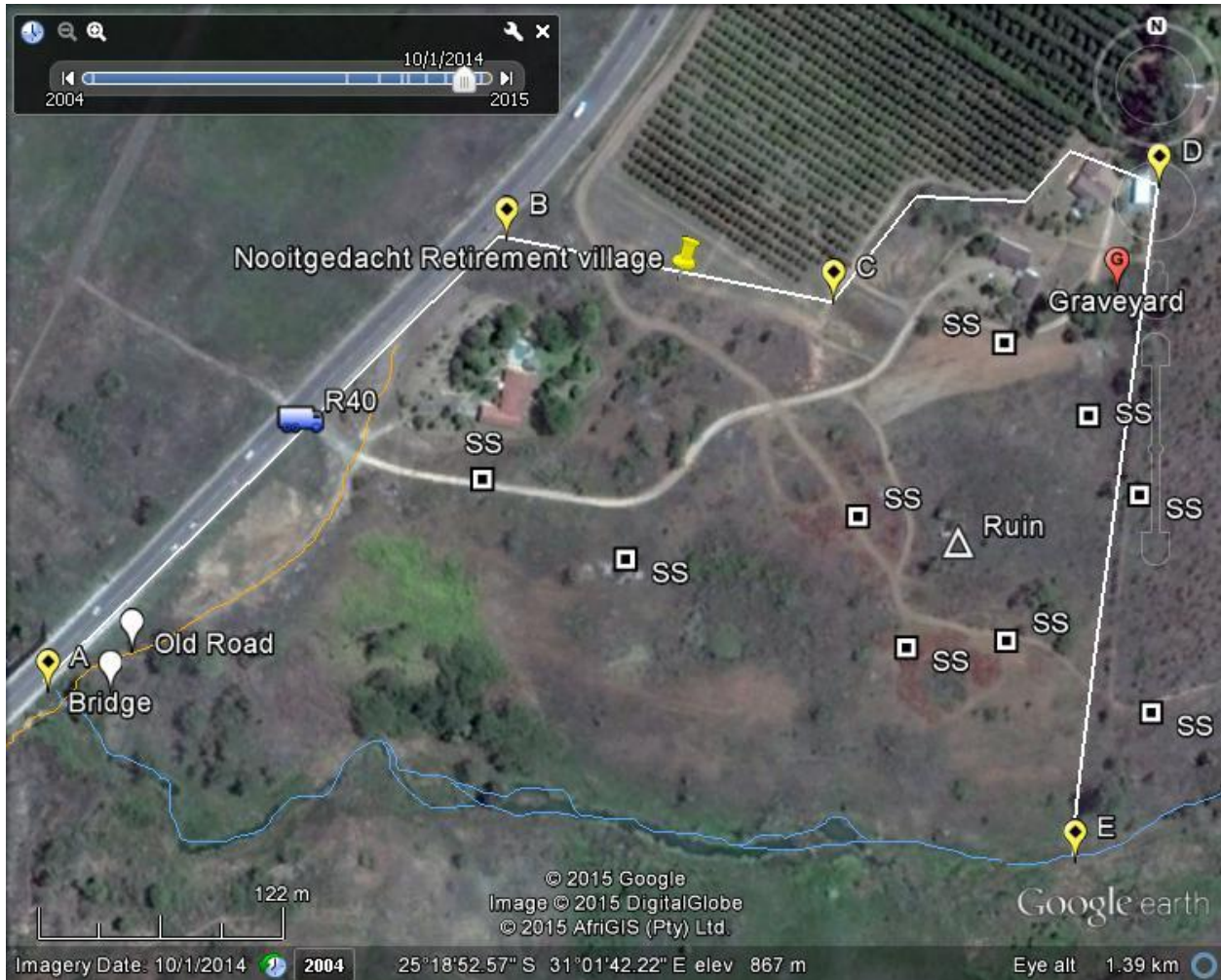
<sup>48</sup> SANPARKS, Visitors Guide to the Kruger National Park, p. 2.

<sup>49</sup> Themba Mthethwa. Draft Basic Assessment Report, July 2015.





Map 3: The study area within the wider urban context.



Map 4: Google image 2013: Study area & Heritage features and soil samples on the study area.

SS = Soil Sample

G = Graveyard

A – E = GPS points

- **Description of methodology:**

The topographical Map (Map 2), and Google images of the site (Maps 3 – 5), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information.
- Several specialists currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology have also been

consulted on the subject.

-Literary sources: A list of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were consulted, but revealed sparse information;

-Archaeological database of SAHRA as well as the National Cultural History Museum were consulted.

- The fieldwork and survey was conducted extensively on foot and with a vehicle, with two people.
- The entire area is vacant land of which most was transformed agricultural farm lands (see Map 5, Google image 2004). The structures on the site are all of recent origin.
- The terrain was even but sections were overgrown with tall grass and pioneer weeds which restricted visibility (Fig. 1-10).
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Etrex) datum WGS 84, and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 4-6 meters of identified sites (See Appendix 2 for Tracks and Paths).
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999);
- Personal communication with relevant stakeholders on the specific study area, was held.
- **GPS: Co-ordinates of the perimeters of the study area** (Co-ordinates provided by NEDA):

GPS CO-ORDINATES			
Location	South	East	Elevation
<b>Study area:</b>			
<b>A – at river</b>	S 25° 18' 55.58"	E 31° 01' 32.23"	857m
<b>B</b>	S 25° 18' 48.49"	E 31° 01' 40.18"	872m
<b>C</b>	S 25° 18' 49.53"	E 31° 01' 46.38"	874m
<b>D</b>	S 25° 18' 47.66"	E 31° 01' 51.46"	880m
<b>E – at river</b>	S 25° 18' 58.34"	E 31° 01' 50.58"	853m

## E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The proposed Retirement Village (11ha) will consist of the construction of housing facilities, roads, pipelines and a frail care section (See Appendix 1: Layout of proposed development). There are three existing houses on the property.

The study area is indicated in Maps 2 - 5, and photographic evidence in Appendix 3. The terrain was even but visibility ranged from good to restricted. Geotechnical studies were done previously at several points on the site (see Map 4, Fig. 5), and all the exposed areas were also studied for evidence of archaeological material. None was however found in the study area. There are three modern residences on the property (Fig. 2 & 7). Some recent ruins, a bridge and the old tarred road to White River were also identified during the survey (Fig. 8 – 10). None of these features have any historic or cultural value, which will be impacted upon by the proposed development. A small graveyard consisting of 5 unmarked graves was identified (Fig. 6 & 7), and mitigation measures are recommended for this site.



Map 5: Google image 2004: The agricultural lands are clearly visible in this image.

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps and appendices, which indicate the general view of the study area. No archaeological sites of significance were identified during the survey, apart from a small graveyard. Photographs in Appendix 3.

Feature	Description / Comments	Site Location
Graveyard	5 x unmarked graves were identified near one of the recent houses.	S25° 18' 49.1" E31° 01' 50.8" Elev: 859m Fig. 6 & 7
Ruins of previous homestead	The ruins of a recent homestead were identified. Most of the bricks which were used for the buildings were modern large concrete bricks. Banana and avocado trees were observed.	S25° 18' 53.2" E31° 01' 48.2" Fig. 8 Elev: 842m
Bridge and old tarred road	The old tarred road and bridge towards White River is still visible and of a recent nature.	S25° 18' 55.7" E31° 01' 33.0" Fig. 9 & 10 Elev: 788m

The study area was surveyed on foot and per vehicle by two people for any remains of archaeological or historical remains. Visibility varied from good to restricted due to a thick vegetation cover. The 2004 and 2013 Google images show that most of the property was previously used for agricultural purposes and the land was ripped and cultivated. Currently most sections are overgrown with tall grass and weeds. One small graveyard consisting of 5 graves was identified in the north-eastern section of the property. There are some ruins of a recent nature on the study area but none have any historic or archaeological significance. The study area borders the *White River* towards the south and the R40 in the west. The soil is of a sandy and sedimentary nature. No features of heritage significance apart from the graveyard, were identified during the survey.

#### F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO-NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None present
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Yes	Mitigation measures are recommended
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

- **Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources: General issues of site and context:**

<b>Context</b>		
Urban environmental context	Yes	Vacant land
Rural environmental context	No	NA

<b>Context</b>		
Natural environmental context	No	Previous cultivated farm land
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	NA
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<b>Property features and characteristics</b>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	A large section of the property was previous cultivated lands. The recent ruins of farm buildings were identified, a bridge and tarred road
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	NA
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	No	NA
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	It is bordered by the <i>White River</i> to the south

<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
<b>General protection (NHRA)</b>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA

<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	Yes	Mitigation measures are recommended
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELE-MENTS</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>											<b>RISK</b>	
		Histo- rical	Rare	Sci- enti- fic	Typi- cal	Tech- nolog- ical	Aes- thetic	Person / com- munity	Land mark	Mate- rial con- dition	Sust- aina- bility			
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Recent ruins bridge and tarred road are of no significance
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Historical settlement / townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



<b>NHRA</b>	<b>ELE-</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
Landscap e of cultural significanc e	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importanc e	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeolo gical / palaeontol ogical sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Mitigation measures are recommended
Areas of significanc e related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- **Summarised recommended impact management interventions**

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource categorv</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural significance rating</b>			
		<b>Cultural significanc</b>	<b>Impact significanc</b>		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	Recent structures are of no significance
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance rating</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeological/ palaeontological sites	No	None	None	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	No	Yes	-	Mitigation measures are recommended
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Graveyard present	Mitigation measures are recommended

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

## **G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA**

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above is made for all identified heritage features.

- **Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

- **National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed, and contributes to redressing past inequities.<sup>50</sup> It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section 3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or any other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

<sup>51</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

- **Graves**

**SAHRA Policy on burial grounds**

NHRA Sections 27 & 36: The policy is that graves and cemeteries should be left undisturbed, no matter how inaccessible and difficult they are to maintain. It is our obligation to empower civil society to nurture and conserve our heritage. It is only when essential developments threaten a place of burial, that human remains should be disinterred to another cemetery or burial ground.

From a historical point of view and for research purposes, it is vital that burial sites are not disturbed. The location and marking of an individual's grave tells a life story, possibly where he / she died defending (or attacking) a particular place or situation and makes it easier to understand the circumstances of his / her death.<sup>52</sup>

**Please note:** All graves are rated as *High* and are of outstanding significance as specified by the NHRA.

- **The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features in the study area, can be summarised as follows:**

<b>Site no</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage features</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Measures of mitigation</b>
G1 (Map 2)	Small graveyard with approximately 5 unmarked graves  <b>GPS co-ordinate:</b> Elev. 859m S 25° 18' 49.1" S 31° 01' 50.8"	High	The graveyard must be fenced off and access must be allowed to family members <b>alternatively</b> the graves should be relocated.
See Map 4	Ruin of recent homestead, the bridge and old road	No significance	No measures of mitigation are necessary

- **Field rating:**

None of the features as described in section E, such as the ruins of the recent homestead, the bridge and the tarred road to White River have any significance in terms of historic or cultural value which might prevent the proposed development to continue. The small graveyard is of high significance and should be fenced off. Access must be allowed to family members, and a buffer zone of at least 10m should be left around the graveyard.

<sup>52</sup>SAHRA, Burial sites, <http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm>, Access, 2008-10-16.

## H. RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed project site, *portion 11 & 12 of the farm Nooitgedacht 62JU*, is mainly situated on vacant agricultural land within the urban area of the town of White River. The property is zoned as Residential 1 and Residential 3 and will be rezoned as *Special* to accommodate the Retirement Village and frail care centre. It is bordered by the R40 in the west, and the *White River* in the south.

The features that were identified, are all of a modern or recent nature (see sections above) and have no historic or cultural value. They are not close to or in the vicinity of any visible archaeological sites. The geotechnical studies that were done on the property, were investigated for any archaeological remains, but none were present.

A small graveyard was identified in the north-eastern corner, and although it might not directly be impacted by the proposed development, it falls within the proposed site. It is recommended that the graveyard be fenced off and that access be allowed to family members. A buffer zone of at least 10m should be kept around the site. Should this not be feasible, the developer may enter into negotiations to relocate the graves. The developer will then be responsible for all costs involved.

Should the applicant adhere to the mitigation measures for the small graveyard, and based on the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants, have no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed Retirement Village project to continue.

## I. CONCLUSION

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during construction activities of the proposed development. It is therefore recommended that the developers be made aware of this possibility and when human remains, clay or ceramic pottery etc. are observed, a qualified archaeologist must be notified and an assessment be done. Further research might then be necessary in this regard for which the developer will be responsible.

**Adansonia Heritage Consultants cannot be held responsible for any archaeological material or graves which were not located during the survey.**

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