



Archaeetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED MOONOOI TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT
ON PORTION 34 AND THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 1
OF THE FARM ELANDSDRIFT 467 JQ, NEAR MOOINOOI, NORTHWEST**

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REPORT: AE01207P

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MARCH 2012

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SUMMARY

Archaeon cc was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of a township on Portions 34 and the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the farm Elandsdrift 467 JQ, near Mooiooi in the Northwest Province.

The area has been fairly extensively disturbed in the recent past by various activities including mining, rural/urban developments (large scale squatter camp included), as well as agriculture and other developments (roads, powerlines). If any sites, features or objects of an archaeological nature or significance existed in the area during the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. One site (portion of a stone walled Late Iron Age settlement) was identified during the assessment on the boundary of the development area. During previous work in the area by Archaeon cc a number of archaeological and historical sites were identified in close proximity, and these sites will also be discussed in the report as background. Dense vegetation in the area of the assessment made identifying sites and features difficult. Recommendations regarding the mitigation of impacts on any sites located in the area are given at the end of this report.

If the recommendations put forward at the end of this document are implemented, then, from an Archaeological Heritage point of view, there would be no objection to the continuation of the proposed development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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The area has been fairly extensively disturbed in the recent past by various activities including mining, rural/urban developments (large scale squatter camp included), as well as agriculture and other developments (roads, powerlines). One site (a portion of a stone walled Late Iron Age settlement) was identified during the assessment on the boundary of the development area. During previous work on other portions of the same farm by Archaeon cc a number of archaeological and historical sites were identified in close proximity, and these sites will also be discussed in the report as part of the background to the archaeology of the area.

The client indicated the extent/boundaries of the proposed development, and the assessment was to be confined to this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located in the area of the proposed development (**see Appendix A**).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (**see Appendix B**).
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources, should this be applicable.
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 above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The national estate (**see Appendix D**) includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (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 mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or

- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

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)**.

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

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 literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The assessment was conducted according to generally accepted HIA/AIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural (archaeological and historical) significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs are also taken where needed.

The assessment was undertaken partially on foot, although certain portions were traversed by vehicle.

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 the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. 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 proposed development area is located on Portion 1 and the Remaining Extent of the farm Elandsdrift 467 JQ, north of the town of Mooi-nooi in the Northwest Province. The topography of the area is relatively flat, with only one or two small outcrops and hills. The Elandsdrift spruit crosses through the area on its eastern most section.

The area has been extensively disturbed in the past through agricultural activities, rural and residential and other developments. This includes the development of a large squatter settlement, while some mining activities are also found in the larger geographical area. If any sites of any real cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) significance did exist here in the past these would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. The 1:50 000 topographic map of the area (2527DA Bapong), dating to 1996, indicates mainly agricultural fields, as well as ruins and other structures/homesteads in the area. No grave sites or other historical features are shown.

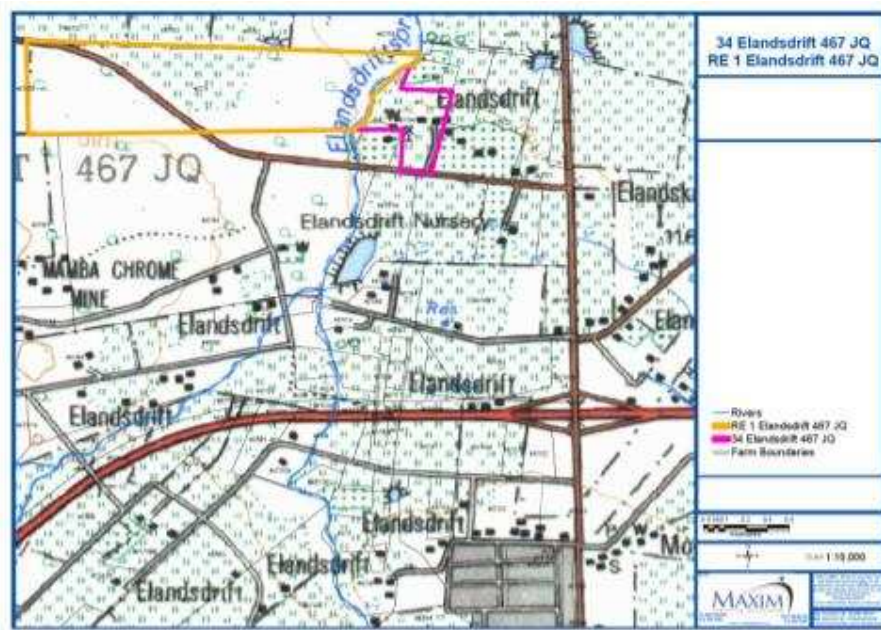


Figure 1: Topographic Locality map (courtesy Maxim Planning Solutions).

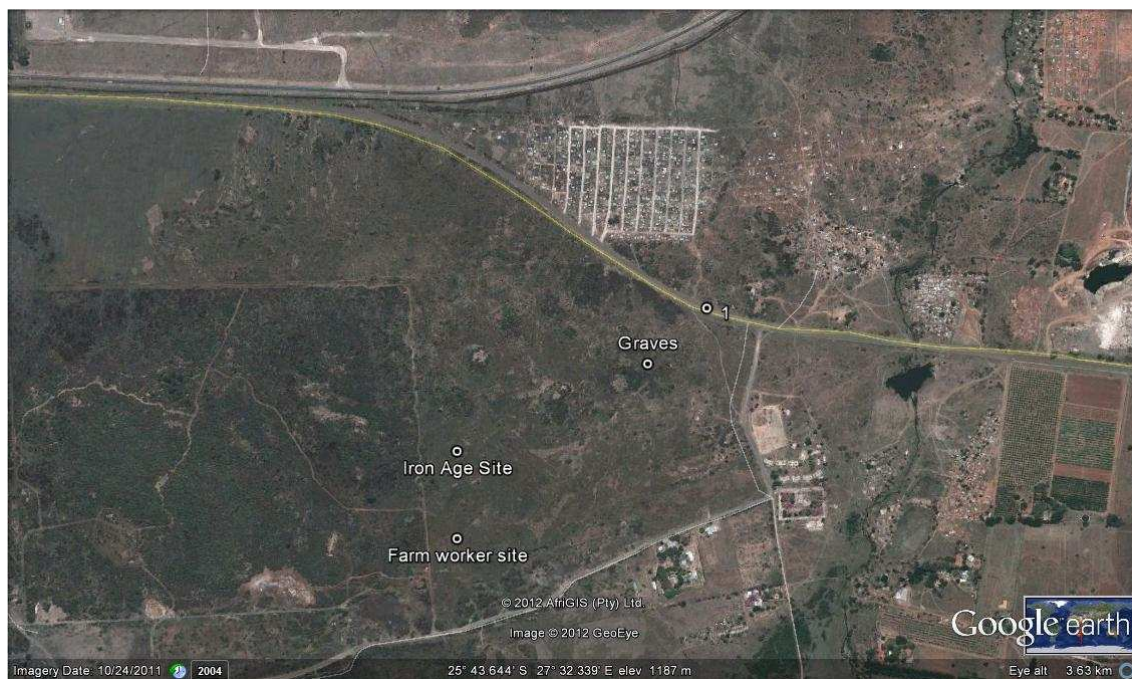


Figure 2: Aerial view of the area. Note the squatter settlement and other disturbances in the area. Site No. 1 was located during this assessment, while the others are some found during other surveys on the farm.



Figure 3: A view of the dense vegetation in the area.



Figure 4: Another view of the area. Note the tall grass cover, and the densely vegetated rocky outcrop.



Figure 5: A view of a section of the squatter settlement in the area.

6. DISCUSSION

A short, general, background to the archaeology and history of the area is given in the following section.

6.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

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

The area does not contain shelters or any other indication of living areas. One can therefore assume that Stone Age people would have stayed somewhere in the hills and would have passed this area during their hunting and gathering activities.

Stone Age material is frequently found close to rivers, but none was found during this survey.

6.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Late Iron Age sites have been identified in the area around the town of Mooi-nooi. In a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west many Iron Age sites have been discovered previously (Bergh 1999: 7-8). These all belong to the Later Iron Age (Bergh 1999: 8-9). A copper smelting site was identified along the Hex River to the northwest of the surveyed area (Bergh 1999: 8).

During earlier times the area was inhabited by a Tswana group, the Fokeng. In the 19th century and even today, this group still inhabits this area with other Tswana groups, the Kwena and the Po (Bergh 1999: 9-10). During the difaqane these people moved further to the west, but they returned later on (Bergh 1999: 11).

A large Iron Age complex was found during earlier surveys for mining development on other portions of Elandsdrift (van Vollenhoven & Pelser 2008: 12-15), and it is possible that remnants of this could have been located on this section of the farm as well. However, recent developments (such as the squatter settlement) could have obscured all evidence of this.

A section of possible LIA stone walling was identified in the area, although it is located on the outer boundary of the area. This site could be related to the one recorded during 2008. It is not significant.

GPS Location of site: S25.72653 E27.54231.

6.3 Historical Age

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write.

Early travelers have moved through this part of the Northwest Province. This included David Hume in 1825, Robert Scoon and William McLuckie in 1829 and Dr Robert Moffat and Reverend James Archbell in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12, 117-119).

Hume again moved through this area in 1830 followed by the expedition of Dr Andrew Smith in 1835 (Bergh 1999: 13, 120-121). In 1836 William Cornwallis Harris visited the area. The

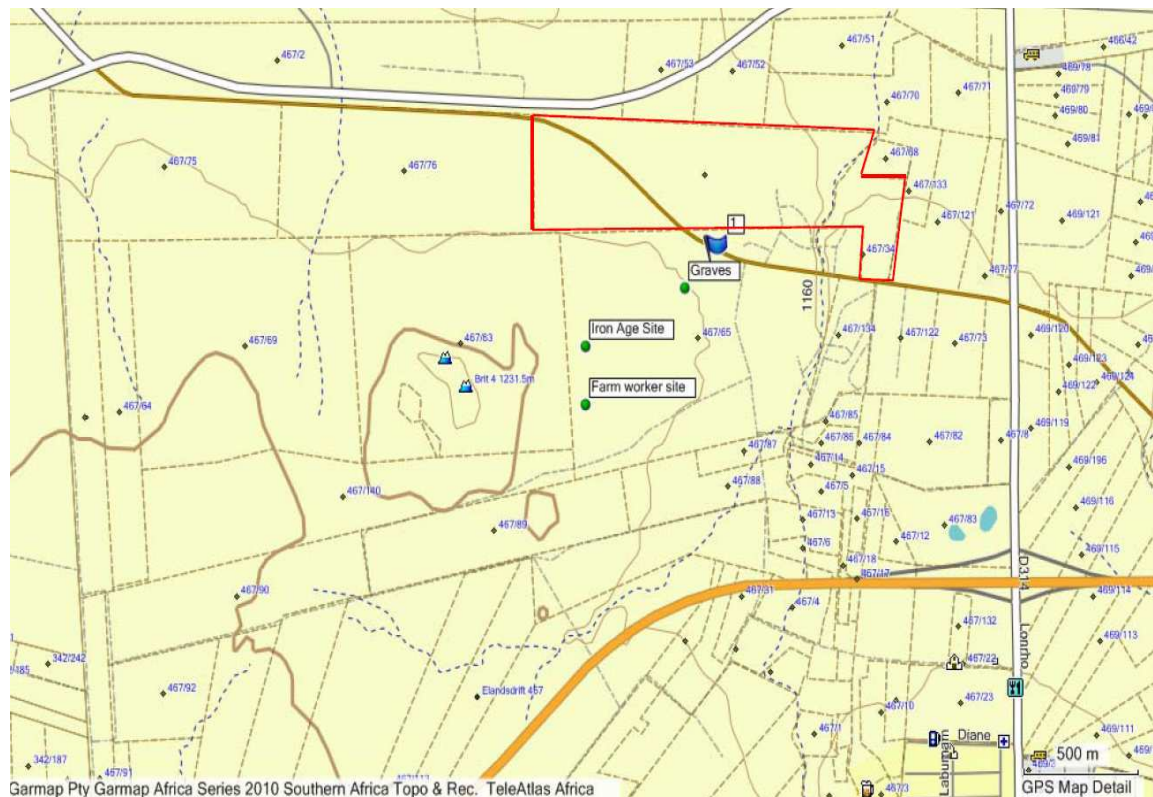
well known explorer Dr David Livingston passed through this area between 1841 and 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13, 119-122).

The area around Mooinooi, including the surveyed area was inhabited by white pioneers as early as 1839 (Bergh 1999: 15).

No historical sites or features were identified during the assessment. However, a number were recorded during the 2008 assessment on other portions of the farm. These included farm and farm worker related structures and homesteads, as well as graves. Although none were identified during 2012 it should be noted that sites could be identified during the development process. This would include low stone packed or unmarked graves.



Figure 6: Section of stone walling visible through the dense vegetation in the area.



7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the assessment of Portion 34 and the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the farm Elandsdrift 467 JQ, for a proposed township development near the town of Mooiooi in Northwest was conducted relatively successfully. Besides a small section of possible Late Iron Age stone walling on the outer boundary of the area, no other sites, features or objects of archaeological or historical origin or significance were identified. It is known that other sites, including stone walling from the LIA, recent historical (farm related) structures and graves are located on other portions of the farm, in fairly close proximity to the development area. It is therefore possible that similar sites could still be found in the area, although past and fairly recent developments (such as the squatter settlement) and agricultural activities (ploughing and crop growing) would have extensively disturbed or destroyed any evidence of these if it did exist here in the past. The very dense vegetation in the area also made assessing the area difficult.

Finally, it should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken during any development activities that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate. This would include the discovery of previously unknown graves. With farming related activities in the area, including the settlement of farm laborers here, last mentioned is a distinct possibility. Graves related to the squatter residents would also have to be taken into consideration.

8. REFERENCES

Locality map provided by Maxim Planning Solutions

Aerial view of the area and location of sites: Google Earth 2011

Topographic location of area and sites: Map Source 2010

1:50 000 Topographic Map Series: 2527DA Bapong (1996)

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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

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.

APPENDIX C

Heritage significance:

- Grade I Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

APPENDIX D

Protection of heritage resources:

- Formal protection

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – grade I and II

Protected areas - an area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – for a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – listing grades II and III

Heritage areas – areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens,
visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

- General protection

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials