



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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SITE VISIT FOR BERGENDAL MONUMENT

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1. Introduction

Sections 50 of National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 give provision for the designation of the heritage inspectors. Section 50(7) state that the heritage inspectors, may at all reasonable time enter upon any land or premises for the purpose of inspecting any heritage resources protected in terms of the provision of the NHRA, or any other property in respect of which the heritage resources authority is exercising its functions in terms of the Act. Bergendal monument site is listed in SAHRA listing as a potential heritage site.



Picture 1: Bergendal Monument in Mpumalanga

2. Purpose of the site visit

The site visit was conducted as part of the serial site inspection in Mpumalanga that included the Samora Machel crash site and Waterval Boven. The site visit was to assess the physical status of the memorial and maintenance need of the site if any. Main objectives are to identify challenges, risk and possible maintenance of the heritage resources in the Country. Section 5 (1) (a) of the NHRA clearly state that, heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the



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origins of South Africa society and as they are valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival.

3. Significance and status

The Bergendal Monument was erected to honour the soldiers killed during the Battle of Bergendal, which was one of the biggest and most significant battles of the Anglo-Boer War at the turn of the 20th century. It took place on the Bergendal Farm in August of 1900, when South African General Louis Botha led the local troops against the British, but was forced to retreat. The remains of those killed in the battle were re-interred under the monument when it was unveiled in 1970. Sadly, not even this battle achieved peace, and the war continued until 1902, resulting in the loss of many more lives. The site is protected by section 36 of National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 under general protection. In terms of section 36(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with grave referred in subsection (1) and must maintain such memorials.

4. Methodology of the site visit

The site visit took place on the 21st February 2016 around 13:00. Walk around the monument took place and various pictures were taken.



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Picture 2: Bergendal Gedenksteen fallen soldiers during the Battle of Bergendal.



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Picture 3: Rifle Brigade soldiers who died during the Battle of Bergendal on the 27th August 1900.

Assessment

The monument still in good condition and no physical damage to the monument or the fencing is evident. Risk assessment should be conducted as there is no access control over the monument.



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Picture: 4 The history of the Battle of Bergendal (History will tell of a British victory without glory and of a Boer defeat without shame)

Conclusions

SAHRA must liaise with the Mpumalanga provincial authority to establish different responsibilities and economic benefits that can be generated from the monument.