



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
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**A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) FOR  
THE PROPOSED SEDAVEN DEVELOPMENT ON  
PORTIONS 8 & 25 OF THE FARM BOSCHOEK 385 IR,  
HEIDELBERG, GAUTENG**

For:

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**REPORT: AE1074**

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## SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by Plan2Survey Africa, as part of a team of expert consultants contracted by the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Transvaal Conference, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Sedaven Development on portions 8 & 25 of the farm Boschoek 385 IR, situated near Heidelberg in Gauteng. Ad hoc development has taken place in the area over the years, but any future developments on the property need to be formalized, and this necessitated the assessment.

Besides a number of known formal and semi-formal cemeteries recorded on the property, some other archaeological and historical sites and features were also identified. Although it is uncertain how the proposed development activities will impact on these, these sites are seen as significant and necessary mitigation measures will have to be implemented in order to minimize any negative impacts. The report discusses the findings made during the survey and also gives an indication of the methodology followed. A background to the archaeology and history of the area is also provided. It also indicates how to deal with any cultural heritage material that may be unearthed during the development activities.

**Mitigation measures to minimize the impact of the development on the sites and features found are put forward at the end of this report.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by Plan2Survey Africa, as part of a team of expert consultants contracted by the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Transvaal Conference, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Sedaven Development on portions 8 & 25 of the farm Boschoek 385 IR, situated near Heidelberg in Gauteng. Ad hoc development has taken place in the area over the years, but any future developments on the property need to be formalized, and this necessitated the assessment.

The client (Plan2Survey) provided us with background documentation on the proposed development, as well as the locality of the development area and the extent of the area that had to be surveyed. The work 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**). This included known grave sites and cemeteries
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. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.

3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see **Appendix B**).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might be found.

#### **4. 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).

##### **4.1 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 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof**
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- 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) 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.**



## **4.2 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.

## **5. METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 Survey of literature**

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the archaeology and history of the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

### **5.2 Field survey**

The survey 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 survey was undertaken mainly on foot, although parts of the area was traversed by vehicle.

### **5.3 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.

### **5.4 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.

## **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**

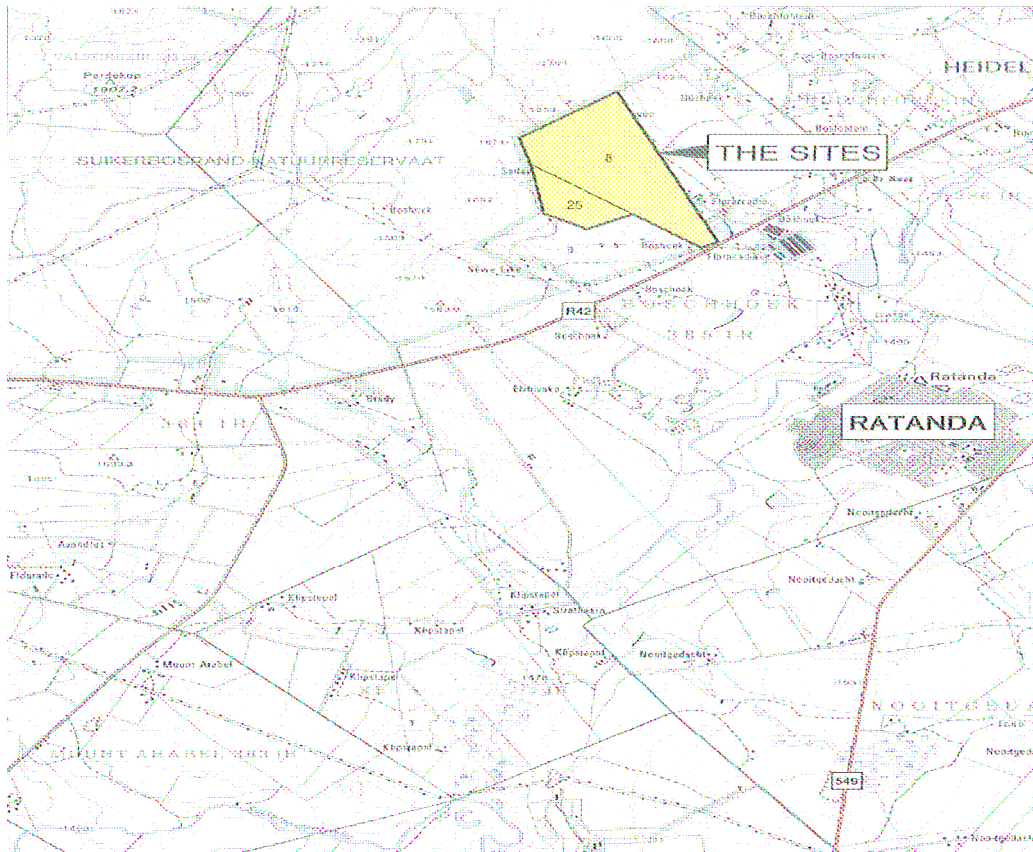
The development area is located approximately 8km west of Heidelberg, along the Heidelberg/Vereeniging road, in Gauteng. Portions of the area have been developed in the

past and include a school, an old age home, retirement village facilities and staff housing. Past agricultural activities has also impacted on the area, with large sections consisting of ploughed fields. Dense grass cover and other vegetation hampered visibility to some degree and it is possible that some heritage sites and features, including low stone-packed graves, could have been missed during the survey. Although the topography of the area is mostly relatively flat, some rocky outcrops and hilly areas (part of the Suikerbosrand) does exist.

The Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve borders the area to its west and north.



**Figure 1: Aerial view of location of area (©Google Earth).  
Image provided by Plan2Survey Africa**



Adapted from the topographical map 2628 CB HEIDELBERG (GAUTENG).  
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**LOCALITY PLAN**  
**PORTIONS 8 AND 25**  
**OF THE FARM**  
**BOSCHHOEK No 385-IR**



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**Figure 2: Topographic location of area Provided by client – (Plan2Survey Africa)**



**Figure 3: One view of the area – note the ploughed fields**



**Figure 4: Another view of the area –  
Note the grass cover and other vegetation**

## **7. DISCUSSION**

During the assessment a number of sites and features of some cultural heritage significance, including some gava sites, were found in the area. The area has been disturbed to some degree by agricultural activities (ploughing) in the recent past, while development activities such as the school, retirement village and related facilities, the building of staff housing and less formal settlement would also have had an impact. Anything from a cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) point of view would. At this stage the impact of the proposed development on the sites that were identified is not known, but the sites are significant to varying degrees and this has to be taken into consideration in any development plans. In order

to enable the reader to understand archaeological objects, features and sites that could possibly be unearthed and disturbed during development, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history.

### **7.1 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 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.

No Stone Age artifacts, such as scatters of or single stone tools, were identified during the survey. The closest known Stone Age sites in the larger geographical area are those of Riverview and Badfontein (Bergh 1999: 4), while rock art (engravings) are known between Heidelberg and Vereeniging (Bergh 1999: 5).

### **7.2 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, features (stone walled structures) and objects (such as pottery) were identified and recorded in the area during the survey. These finds will be discussed later on in the document. Bergh indicates that no Early Iron sites are known in the area (p.6), while a large concentration of Late Iron Age sites are known (p.7).

### **7.3 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. The earliest Europeans that moved through the area were the Voortrekkers between 1836 and 1844 (Bergh 1999: 14). They moved through the area to the southeast of the present-day town of Heidelberg (Bergh 1999: 124). Heidelberg was finalised established early in 1866 (Bergh 1999: 20), although

earlier attempts were made when the town was measured out in 1860, erven were registered in their owners' names between 1861 and 1865 and the church foundation stone was laid in 1864 (Bergh 1999: 142).

The historical features, including the grave sites, are part of this time period, although they are much more recent in age.

### *Discussion and assessment of cultural heritage sites identified*

#### **Site 1 – Large cemetery**

This is the site of the existing large Seventh Day Adventist cemetery (Sedaven Cemetery). The site will more than likely not be impacted on by any development. The oldest grave in the cemetery (date of death) is 1963, and the cemetery and graves therefore falls outside SAHRA's jurisdiction as the graves are less than 60 years of age. As the site and graves are part of church history the site is however fairly significant from a cultural and religious point of view and should not be disturbed in any way. It is therefore recommended that the site and graves be left intact and that no development should take place within a 15m perimeter from the fence surrounding the site.

**Cultural Significance: High**

**Heritage Significance: Grade III (local)**

Site location: S 26.52588 E 28.29625



**Site 1: Sedaven cemetery**

#### **Site 2 – Late Iron Age find-spot**

This site is located near Site 1 and constitutes a number of scattered undecorated potsherds and some very insignificant, low stone walling sections, possibly remnants of a larger settlement of which very little remains. **The site is not significant.**

Site location: **S 26.52659 E 28.29691**

### **Site 3 – Large Late Iron Age stone walled settlement**

This is a fairly large and relatively well preserved Late Iron Age stone walled settlement. Although the walls are not all that well defined and has evidently been robbed, the layout of the settlement, comprising at least 3 or more individual homesteads or units, can be identified. Individual features, such as cattle enclosures, surrounding perimeter wall and other enclosures is visible. Scattered finds of pottery and other material (ash, bone) was also identified.

A preliminary interpretation of the site, based on observations during the assessment, place the site within the latter phases of the Iron Age (LIA). It seems as if the settlement layout has a so-called centre-side organization, with cattle enclosures in the centre, an enclosing perimeter wall around the settlement, containing smaller (goat?) enclosures on this wall, as well as hut bays. This is typical of the so-called Type N (Ntsuanatsatsi from the site where it was first identified) or Klipriviersberg/Uitkomst settlement patterns. Type N dates to between AD 1450 and 1650 and Klipriviersberg/Uitkomst to AD1650 – 1820 (Huffman 2007: 167; 171).

Although it is not possible to determine at this stage if the development will have any impact on the site, it is recommended that certain mitigation measures will have to be implemented to minimize any possible negative impacts. These are the following:

- 1. Mapping and drawing the settlement in order to determine its layout and organization and full extent**
- 2. Fencing-in the site to ensure that no further damage to the walling occurs**
- 3. Drafting a Management Plan for the site**

If the development is going to impact on the site, and no alternatives are possible, then further mitigation measures should be implemented. This should include archaeological excavations to gather as much information and cultural material as possible. After completion of this a destruction permit can be obtained.

**Cultural significance: Medium**

**Heritage significance: Grade III**

Site location: **S 26.52240 E 28.29615**



**Site 3: Section of stone walling visible through the vegetation**



**Site 3: Pieces of pottery found on the site**

#### **Site 4 – Late Iron Age stone walling**

This site is similar to, albeit much smaller, than Site 3, and possibly formed part of the same Settlement Complex.

Site Location: S 26.52104 E 28.29638



### **Historical buildings in School/Village area**

Although it is highly unlikely that any new developments would impact here, a number of possible historically significant structures were identified here – the age of which are currently not known. Should there be any future plans to change any structures here, or to demolish them, a permit is required from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

In the unlikely event that the development will impact on the school and other structures in the village, it is recommended that an Architectural Historian be employed to assess the age and significance of these.

**The Cultural and Heritage Significance is at this stage unknown.**

Site/area location: **S 26.52202 E 28.29884**



**Section of old sandstone structure at School**

### **Site 5 – Old silo and dairy/farmstead**

This is the site of an old grain silo and dairy (Pers.Comm.; Mr. Kobus Beukes of the Seventh Day Adventist Church 19/11/2010). The age of the silo and related structures are not known, although it could possibly be older than 60 years of age.

If the development is going to impact on the site it is recommended that an architectural historian should assess the site and recommend suitable mitigation measures.

**Cultural significance: Medium**

**Heritage significance: possibly Grade III**

Site location: **S 26.51831 E 28.30134**



**Site 5: Old grain silo**



**Site 5: Dairy**

**Site 6 – Informal cemetery**

This is the site of an informal cemetery, containing around 42 graves or more. Some of the graves have headstones and proper grave dressings, while some are only stone packed. The oldest known date of death identified is 2003, although some of the others could be much older or younger. The graves most likely belong to local farm workers and informal settlers, as well as staff workers at Sedaven.

Although the graves are less than 60 years of age, and falls outside of SAHRA's jurisdiction, graves are always significant from a cultural heritage and religious point of view. Care should therefore be taken that all efforts are made not to disturb or destroy the graves during any development activities. It is recommended that the area is fenced-in and that no development

should take place within 15m from the fence around it. A Management Plan for the grave yard, to be incorporated in the development plans, should be drafted as well. Should this not be an accepted alternative then graves can be exhumed and relocated, taken all legal processes into consideration.

**Cultural significance: High**

**Heritage significance: Grade III**

Site location: **S 26.52130 E 28.30669**



**Site 6 – Informal cemetery**



**Aerial view of location of sites mentioned in the report (© Google Earth 2010)**



**Close-up of stone walling in the area (© Google Earth 2010)**

## **8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion it can be stated that the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the area was conducted successfully. A number of sites of some cultural heritage significance were found, including a two cemeteries, a large Late Iron Age stone walled settlement and possible historical structures related to earlier agricultural activities and other activities. Many more sites could have existed here in the past, although earlier agricultural and development activities could have disturbed or destroyed them to a large degree.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view a number of mitigation measures are required to be implemented to ensure that any proposed development activities do not impact negatively on them. These mitigation measures are put forward in the Discussion portion of this document.

**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. Also, low stone packed graves could have been missed during the field survey. A good lookout for these should therefore also be kept.**

## 9. REFERENCES

Aerial view of area location: Provided by client Plan2Survey Africa (Google Earth)

Topographic Location of area: Provided by client Plan2Survey Africa

Aerial views of site distribution and close-up of stone walled Iron Age sites (Courtesy Google Earth 2010)

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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.

### **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 C

### 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