

**GRAVE IDENTIFICATION & VERIFICATION REPORT ON THE EXISTING GRANITE
QUARRY ON THE FARM ROODEKOPJES OF ZWARTKOPJES 427JQ, IN MATEBELENG ,
DISTRICT OF BRITS, NORTH WEST PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

HERITAGE CONSERVATION & MITIGATION REPORT

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Conducted on behalf of:



Compiled by:
REACH ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTING

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Note that all location information, geographic co-ordinate information, site-specific geodata, and site-specific co-ordinate data and details presented in this report were obtained using a hand-held Garmin Global Positioning (Garmin Series Wearable) and/or an associated software device. The manufacturer indicates the accuracy reading to be within +/-5m.

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ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Reach Archaeology Consulting (Pty) Ltd, promotes and advocates for the conservation, protection, and preservation of sensitive cultural heritage resources ethically and morally conscious. We support the adherence to all local legislation, ordinance's and policies as well as international best practice methodological approaches in the mitigation of cultural resources.

Reach Archaeology Consulting (Pty) Ltd, upholds the Minimum Standards regarding the compilation of Archaeological and Palaeontological components of Impact Assessments as set out by the South African Heritage Resources (SAHRA) and the Cultural Resources Management (CRM) division of the national Association for the South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA)

Expertise: Ms AM Matabane

Specialist Expertise

Ms Annlin Mantshebi Matabane, MA. (Archaeology), BA Hons (Archaeology), BA (Archaeology and Physical Geography) (Univ. of Pretoria). ASAPA (Professional member) with more than 8 years' experience in the compilation of archaeological and heritage impact assessments and cultural heritage resources management.

Ms Matabane is an accredited member of the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA Mem No 429) in good standing, with heritage compliance experience from Amafa a-KwaZulu Natali Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (AMAFA)/ Research Institute as well as the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Ms Matabane has reviewed and conducted AIA/HIA's and fieldwork assessments, Section 36, 35 and 38 permit specialist historical studies, heritage mitigation work archival and historical research, legislation policy reviews and policy implementation.

Ms Matabane has completed projects varying from Phase 1 and Phase 2 cultural heritage impact assessments as well as heritage management government institutions, repatriation and memorialisation projects, and several private companies and grave relocations for several small and large scale farms and mines across South Africa.

Due to POPIA Act, separate specialist curriculum vitae (including qualifications and certificates) only available upon written request*

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Signed: 

Date: 31 August 2023

Report Reviewer by: **AM Matabane**
Field Archaeologist

SPECIALIST DECLARATION

The author of this report hereby formally declares:

- that I act in my capacity as an independent specialist
- all results and related data have been obtained through careful and precise execution of recognized methods of evaluation and are related to the scope of required investigations
- the opinions and interpretations are embraced through judgement, discernment and comprehension to the best of my available knowledge and are outside the scope of any accreditation.
- it performed the work relating to this project in an objective manner, notwithstanding the results, views and findings,
- it has expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this project, including knowledge of the framework, protocol, legislation, regulations and strategies,
- it has no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity,
- it undertakes to disclose to the client and authorities all material information it possesses that reasonably has or may have the potential of objectivity influencing any decision based on the results and findings of this project.
- all the particulars furnished by *Reach Archaeology Consulting (Pty) Ltd* in this report are 'true and correct, as far as possible, and any false declaration is a punishable offence.
- I have provided the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not; and
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 71 of GN No. R. 543.

Signed: 

Mr Lesiba Phahladira

Date: 31 August 2023

Anthropologist: Reach Archaeology Consulting (Pty) Ltd
Specialist: Heritage Consultant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION
SPECIALIST DECLARATION
LIST OF FIGURES & TABLES
TERMINOLOGY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
INTRODUCTION
PURPOSE
PROJECT SCOPE
PROJECT BACKGROUND
METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK
ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS
GRAVE IDENTIFICATION, VERIFICATION RESULTS
DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS
REFERENCE LIST
APPENDIX A: ATTENDANCE REGISTER
APPENDIX B: GRAVE IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT FORM

LIST OF FIGURE & TABLES

Table 1: Table of Grave Register (BGG01)

Figure 1: Aerial Map of Brits Quarry indicating location of burial ground

Figure 2 : Northern view of the burial grounds east of the site's quarry block storage area on the Brits quarry mine grounds.

Figure 3: North-eastern view of proximity from quarry block storage area (100m buffer is maintained)

Figure 4: South westerly view of one of the burial grounds showing grave dressing without headstone.

Figure 5: South westerly view of the burial grounds showing graves with headstones with the furthest to the right without a headstone.

Figure 6: One of the newly installed permanent signage posts (in English) indicating the demarcation of the burial grounds.

Figure 7: An extensive view of the burial grounds showing newly installed permanent signage posts on the west end of the burial grounds indicating the demarcation around the burial grounds.

Figure 8: An extensive north easterly view of the burial grounds showing the installation of permanent signage posts in Setswana, English and Afrikaans

TERMINOLOGY

- Archaeology- the study of past human cultures through human being's material culture remains
- Artefact- Entities whose characteristics result in or partially result from human activity. The shape and the other attributes of the artefact are not altered by the removal of the surroundings in which they are discovered. Examples of artefacts include potsherds, iron objects, lithics, beads, hut remains, shells etc.
- Assemblage- A group of artefacts recurring together at a particular time, space and place, and representing the sum of human activities.
- Archaeological Material- artefacts resulting from human agents which are in a state of disuse and are in, or on land, which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains, features, structures and sites.
- Conservation- means all the processes of looking instead after a place so as to retain its cultural significance
- Cultural Heritage Resources- refers to physical, and cultural properties such as archaeological and palaeontological sites, historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and materials, cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or graves and their associated materials, geological or natural features of cultural significance or scientific significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religious practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge, structures, places, natural feature aesthetics and scientific architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.
- Culture- defined as the learned and shared commonalities that people have, do and think
- Cultural landscape- refers to a distinctive geographic area with cultural significance
- Excavation: The method of data acquisition in archaeology involving the systematic unearthing of remains through the removal of lithospheric deposits of soil, stone and rock materials covering and accompanying it.
- Heritage- That which is inherited and forms part of the National Estate (Historical places, objects, fossils as defined by the NHRA Act 25 of 1999.
- Phase 1 HIA Assessment- Is an in-depth investigation which identifies archaeological and heritage resources, sites, assets and objects, assessment of their significance and comments on the impact of a given development on the sites. Recommendations for the site mitigation of conservation are also made in this phase.
- Site: A distinct spatial clustering of artefacts, objects, features, structures and organic environmental remains indicating human agency and activity. These include surface sites, caves and rock shelters, more significant open-air sites, sealed sites (deposits) and rover deposits.
- Impact- the positive or negative effects on human well-being and/ or the environment.
- In Situ-material culture and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example, an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming
- IA- Iron Age period is an archaeological term used to define a period associated with domesticated livestock and grains, metalworking and ceramic manufacture.
- Mitigation- Anticipating and preventing adverse impacts and risks, then to minimise them, rehabilitate or repair has implications to the extent feasible.
- Public participation process- means a process of involving the public in order to identify issues and concerns and obtain feedback on options and impacts associated with a proposed project, programme or development. Public Participation Process in terms of NEMA refers to a process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to specific matters
- Palaeontology- Any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.
- GIS- Geographic Information systems are computer software that allows layering of various types of data to produce complex maps; useful for predicting site location and for representing the analysis of collected data within sites and across regions.
- Management- actions associated with the proposed development, that avoid, mitigate, restore, rehabilitate or compensate for the negative or adverse impacts and implications.
- Oral Histories- The historical narratives, stories and traditions passed from generation to generation by word of mouth

- Fossil- mineralised bone and / organic material of animals, shellfish plant and marine life.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reach Archaeology Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by *Mizmor Granite* to undertake a grave identification and verification assessment on the existing Granite Quarry on the farm Roodekopjes of Zwartkopjes 427JQ, Matebeleng in Brits, North West Province, South Africa.

Reach Archaeology Consulting was appointed to affect the identification and verification as well as recording of alleged graves and/or burial grounds adversely impacted and/ destroyed/ demolished in the study area. This section presents the appropriate mitigatory recommendations and conclusions of the findings of this assessment. To guide and facilitate the process of heritage resources management through a public participation approach.

A total of two burial grounds/ gravesites were indicated by the community on-site, appropriately labelled BGG01 and BGG02. Other heritage objects were recorded, and this section presents the findings thereof. The identified burial grounds are considered of high value and are rated HIGHLY significant. No other areas, objects, artefacts, materials, structures and/ or fossils were identified, observed and or sassed, as this falls outside the scope of this report.

An informal burial ground was identified, while the larger quarry was not surveyed for any cultural heritage resources that may be adversely impacted. No Ground-Penetration Radar (GPR) or archaeological test excavation process was undertaken.

The potential impact on any identifiable cultural material, paleontological and/or burial grounds and graves remains moderate to high.

A community engagement process was undertaken to identify and verify grave sites, and associated cultural heritage areas that may have been possibly overlooked in previous heritage studies and/or reports for their comprehensive inclusion in an integrated cultural heritage management plan. The cultural heritage management plan will be in line with the Minimum Standards of the NHRA 25 of 1999 and the associated Regulations.

The findings of this report have been informed by a desktop review, physical, on-site field assessment.

It is therefore recommended for the rehabilitation, conservation and management of the burial ground (BGG01) be maintained *in situ*, provided that adequate conservation protocols are maintained. Including the erection of fencing, a memorial be installed as well as the appropriate buffer of 100m afforded around the graves. This burial ground is to be maintained, and the signage boards demarcating the area can be sustained. An access road and gate with appropriate dust monitoring and grave monitoring for any collapsed and disturbed graves to be

stabilised. The conditions of access to be further elaborated in the proposed development of a heritage management plan to follow a complete Phase 1 HIA process.

INTRODUCTION

Reach Archaeology Consulting was appointed by Mizmor Granite to assist with the identification and verification of heritage resources located within the grounds of their mining rights property in the district of Brits, North West Province, South Africa. This heritage input report compiled by Reach Archaeology Consulting documents the outcomes of the process and provides compliant recommendations on the effective management approaches that coincide with the national heritage resources act 25 of 1999.

The project scope entails the identification of heritage resources, including but not limited to heritage sites, objects, historical structures, burial grounds, graves and initiation and cultural sites of significance as defined by the NHRA. The project methodological approach includes the field-based site documentation with the relevant community and affected next-of-kin/ family representatives, with the aim of developing a heritage management plan that considers the culture of the people, in line with best practice methodological approaches in cultural heritage resources management.

No other businesses or land-use aside from mining have been documented on the site and larger area. Through a preliminary review of the previous Heritage impact assessment, a number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area of Brits with varying scales of significance.

The process of identification and verification was undertaken to document areas, sites, objects and features that may have been overlooked and/or were not identified in previous heritage studies and/or reports in an effort to provide for their conservation and protection in line with the legislation. The development of an integrated cultural heritage management plan to guide and facilitate the process of heritage resources management through an extensive public participation approach.

This report presents the identified findings, discussions and process of documentation of cultural heritage resources undertaken by the field archaeologist as well as the relevant and affected community forum and groups, including the affected next-of-kin. No desktop and field assessments were conducted as such, and a heritage impact assessment and/or archaeological impact assessment is recommended to provide for heritage grading, significance assessment and ratings, impact assessment as well as heritage mitigation recommendations in future. The development of an integrated heritage management plan is proposed for the urgent conservation of known and identified cultural resources in the quarry.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the compilation of this grave identification and condition assessment report is to satisfy the request by the grave claimants for the management of their families graves on the Mizmor Granite Quarry, in Brits, North west Province of South Africa. An online and web-based survey of the relevant literature was not conducted to determine the area's heritage potential, as this falls outside of the scope of this report.

According to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession, the sites, objects, and structures identified were documented, as provided for by the relevant community and/ or affected families.

PROJECT SCOPE

This verification and identification aims to inform the integrated cultural heritage management plan proposed for development at Mizmor Granite Quarry in the Brits area. To assist the developer in managing the identified heritage resources in a responsible, ethical and compliant manner, as per sections 36 (3), 36 (4) and 36 (6) of the NHRA. This document will inform the development of a comprehensive heritage management plan.

This scope was specific to the extent of the quarry also referred to as mine herein, farm Roodekopjes of Zwartkopjes 427JQ, Matebeleng in Brits, North West Province, South Africa did not include areas or regions outside of the mining area.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Mizmor Granite quarry's mining area is located on the farm Roodekopjes of Zwartkopjes 427JQ Brits, Bojanala District Municipality, in the North West Province, South Africa. The open-pit granite quarry is located between the Letlhabile Road and the Dinaledi Substation with a dimension of the granite quarry extending to 128,80Ha, approximately 6 km east of the town of Brits.

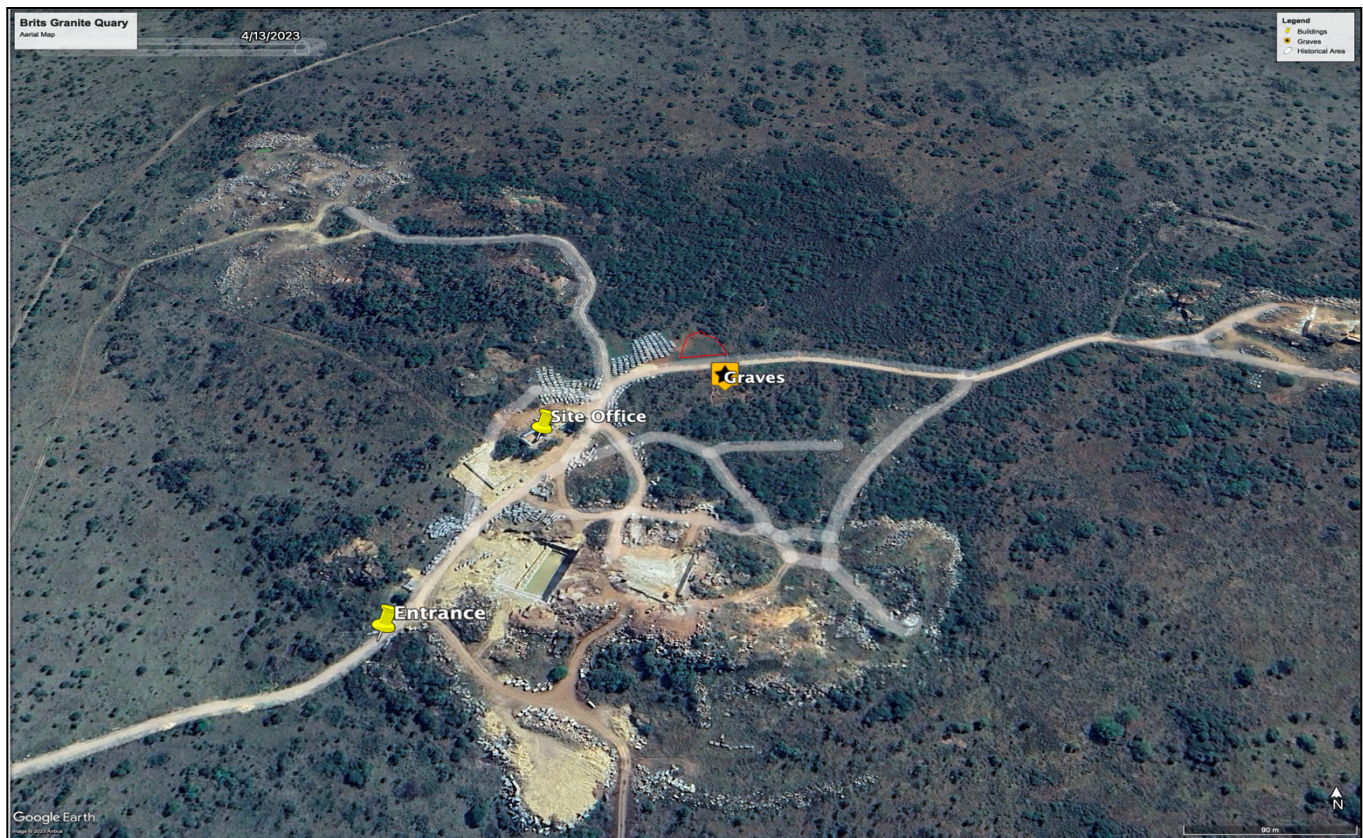


Figure 1: Aerial Map of Brits Quarry indicating location of burial ground

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The section below outlines the methodologies used in the compilation of this assessment, in order of completion:

Summary of Methodology

1. An on-foot field investigation and condition assessment of the known grave site was undertaken in April 2023 to physically identify and determine the state and assess the condition of heritage resources, and/or assess the likelihood/ degree of heritage assets adversely affected by mining activity.
2. Recommendations, alternatives and/ mitigation options were proposed herein for consideration implementation.

Public Participation Process

1. The next-of-kin and/ or grave claimants who came forward were interviewed on site through an informal meeting, numerous telephonic conversations, WhatsApp messaging as well as consistent email communication with the Mabelane family were conducted in order to gather the specific information regarding their deceased and/ or families buried in the known grave site.

Demarcation & Signage

1. For demarcation of the areas around the burial grounds, granite blocks were used as opposed to the erection of metal pole and mesh fencing. This was due to previous incidents of theft and/or security risks on the mine's premises. SAHRA did not object, provided the families granted their approval. The next-of-kin were in support of the intervention.
2. On 19 July 2023, 3 permanent signage boards were installed on the grave site; this demarcation indicates the area of the burial ground. The installed signage boards were three, in three languages: Setswana, English and Afrikaans (See figure 2-8 below)

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The identification and handling assessment of cultural heritage resources in South Africa is governed by the following legislative prescripts:

- i. National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) legislates the necessity for cultural and heritage impact assessment in areas earmarked for development, which exceed 0.5 ha (5000 sq. m) or linear development exceeding 300 metres in length. The Act makes provision for the potential destruction to existing sites, pending the archaeologist's recommendations through permitting procedures. Permits are administered by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Section 34, 35, 36 and 38 speak directly to, my person undertaking any development in the above categories, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development. Section 38 (2) (a) of the NHRA also requires the submission of a heritage impact assessment report for authorization purposes to the responsible heritage resources agencies (SAHRA/PHRAs).

- ii. National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998, Regulation 19 and 22, 23. The new regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the NEMA provide for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for Specialist Studies in this regard. The applicant, environmental consultant, SAHRA or PHRA and interested and affected parties must report to its existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and record mitigatory measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources
- iii. Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002, Section 39(3)
- iv. The Human Tissue Act 65 of 1983 and Ordinance on the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies of 1925
- v. Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002)

The general principles for heritage resources management are provided to ensure ethical parameters for conservation and management for heritage practitioners:

5. (1) All authorities, bodies and persons performing functions and exercising powers in terms of this Act for the management of heritage resources must recognize the following principles:
 - (a) Heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of South African society and as they are valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival;
 - (b) every generation has a moral responsibility to act as trustee of the national heritage for

succeeding generations and the State has an obligation to manage heritage resources in the interests of all South Africans;

- (c) heritage resources have the capacity to promote reconciliation, understanding and respect, and contribute to the development of a unifying South African identity; and
- (d) heritage resources management must guard against the use of heritage for sectarian purposes or political gain.

(2) To ensure that heritage resources are effectively managed—

- (a) the skills and capacities of persons and communities involved in heritage resources management must be developed; and
- (b) provision must be made for the ongoing education and training of existing and new heritage resources management workers.

(3) Laws, procedures and administrative practices must—

- (a) be clear and generally available to those affected thereby;
- (b) in addition to serving as regulatory measures, also provide guidance and information to those affected thereby; and
- (c) give further content to the fundamental rights set out in the Constitution.

(4) Heritage resources form an important part of the history and beliefs of communities and must be managed in a way that acknowledges the right of affected communities to be consulted and to participate in their management.

(5) Heritage resources contribute significantly to research, education and tourism and they must be developed and presented for these purposes in a way that ensures dignity and respect for cultural values.

(6) Policy, administrative practice and legislation must promote the integration of heritage resources conservation in urban and rural planning and social and economic development.

(7) The identification, assessment and management of the heritage resources of South Africa must—

- (a) take account of all relevant cultural values and indigenous knowledge systems;
- (b) take account of material or cultural heritage value and involve the least possible alteration or loss of it;

(c) promote the use and enjoyment of and access to heritage resources, in a way consistent with their cultural significance and conservation needs;

(d) contribute to social and economic development;

(e) safeguard the options of present and future generations; and

(f) be fully researched, documented and recorded.

Burial grounds and graves national policy (extracted 2021)

36. (1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(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 the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) (a) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority—

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
 - (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.
- (4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.
- (5) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection (3)(b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority—
- (a) made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and
 - (b) reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such graves or burial grounds.
- (6) Subject to the provision of any other law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in cooperation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority
- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
 - (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangements as it deems fit.
- (7) (a) SAHRA must, over a period of five years from the commencement of this Act, submit to the Minister for his or her approval lists of graves and burial grounds of persons connected with the liberation struggle and who died in exile or as a result of the action of State security forces or agents provocateur and which, after a process of public consultation, it believes should be included among those protected under this section.
- (b) The Minister must publish such lists as he or she approves in the Gazette.
- (8) Subject to section 56(2), SAHRA has the power, with respect to the graves of victims of conflict outside the Republic, to perform any function of a provincial heritage resources authority in terms of this section.
- (9) SAHRA must assist other State Departments in identifying graves in a foreign country of victims of conflict connected with the liberation struggle and, following negotiations with the next of kin, or relevant authorities, it may re-inter the remains of that person in a prominent place in the capital of the Republic.

SAHRA General policy

47. (1) SAHRA and a provincial heritage resources authority—

- (a) must, within three years after the commencement of this Act, adopt statements of general policy for the management of all heritage resources owned or controlled by it or vested in it; and
 - (b) may from time to time amend such statements so that they are adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge; and
 - (c) must review any such statement within 10 years after its adoption.
- (2) Each heritage resources authority must adopt for any place which is protected in terms of this Act and is owned or controlled by it or vested in it, a plan for the management of such place in accordance with the best environmental, heritage conservation, scientific and educational principles that can reasonably be applied taking into account the location, size and nature of the place and the resources of the authority concerned, and may from time to time review any such plan.
 - (3) A conservation management plan may at the discretion of the heritage resources authority concerned and for a period not exceeding 10 years, be operated either solely by the heritage resources authority or in conjunction with an environmental or tourism authority or under contractual arrangements, on such terms and conditions as the heritage resources authority may determine.
 - (4) Regulations by the heritage resources authority concerned must provide for a process whereby, prior to the adoption or amendment of any statement of general policy or any conservation management plan, the public and interested organisations are notified of the availability of a draft statement or plan for inspection, and comment is invited and considered by the heritage resources authority concerned.
 - (5) A heritage resources authority may not act in any manner inconsistent with any statement of general policy or conservation management plan.
 - (6) All current statements of general policy and conservation management plans adopted by a heritage resources authority must be available for public inspection on request.

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

The sub-surface archaeological, palaeontological heritage site, objects and features. These heritage resources may only be identified during the earthmoving, clearing phase of development. These heritage assets located during the fieldwork do not necessarily represent all the possible heritage resources present within the development area. Some assumptions were made as part of the study and, therefore, some limitations, uncertainties and gaps in information would apply. These are presented below alongside the limits of the assessment:

- The larger mining area was not surveyed
- The field survey did not include any form of subsurface inspection beyond the inspection of any disturbed and/ collapsed graves

The author notes the following **considerations**:

- The surveyed area was limited to areas identified; the larger area was not surveyed as this falls outside the scope of this report
- This assessment was undertaken in the winter season with fair visibility in areas covered with vastly overgrown grass vegetation.
- This report contains no assessment of palaeontological records or physical assessment

-No excavations or sampling were undertaken since a permit from heritage authorities is required to disturb a heritage resource. As such the results herein discussed superficially surficial observed indicators. However, these surface observations concentrated on the known burial ground,

-the assessment was limited to the known burial ground and included a detailed inspection of. The known may be adversely affected by the current mining activities.

-Condition assessments were provided for burial grounds (sites) and not individual graves due to time limitations and scope.

-it is assumed that the client and relevant community members are aware of the known burial ground

-no intangible heritage sites were identified, recorded and/or denoted herein or provided by the representatives mentioned in this report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

On 04 April 2023, Reach Archaeology Consulting heritage and archaeological practitioners met with Mizmor Granite staff and the next of kin who had previously approached the mine management regarding their families graves located on the site. A preliminary Grave identification and site ground truthing exercise was undertaken to establish the condition and positioning of the graves (see attached verification & documentation form, **Appendix B**), relative to the quarries immediate area of operations.

The Mabelane family (See attached Attendance register, **Appendix A**) representatives were on site, on 13 April to provide their inputs on the conservation, memorialisation, and sustainable management of the grave site. Reach Archaeology field technical support cleared the vegetation around the area and demarcated the grave site with appropriate danger tape (see attached site images), and provided the mine with recommendations on ensuring no disturbance:

The following was noted:

1. Previous fencing poles were noted.
2. No graves had been disturbed by the mine's activities (.i.e no evidence of machinery on the grave site was observable)
3. A 100m buffer around the graves to be maintained
4. The development of a heritage conservation management plan is to be compiled for implementation and inclusion of the Integrated Environmental Impact Plan
5. A larger survey of the entire mining area is to be undertaken to identify any further heritage resources on the property (Phase I)
6. A public engagement process is to be undertaken to ensure cultural and spiritual processes by the families and/ or next-of-kin are appropriately addressed

On 13 April 2023, on site interviews were conducted with the families to understand the relationship to the deceased. These were captured in a grave register (see below Grave register, Table 1). A total of 7 graves were claimed by the Mabelane family including adult graves, all south-west facing, as well as children's graves measuring 1-3m x 2m in size/or extent.

As per the request of the next of kin, in situ conservation of the graves is the preferred mitigation method. They further requested that a paved access route to the graves from the informal road be constructed as well as the fencing of the graves with a locked gate. The Malelane family noted that some headstones had been adversely affected by the quarries activities, and the headstones had collapsed, and dust had settled on many, with granite grave markers.

The larger burial ground however denotes approximately 30 graves with associated headstones, grave markers, recent grave dressings as well as historical and archaeological graves (> 60-100 years), stone packed where noted (see site images below).

GRAVE IDENTIFICATION, VERIFICATION RESULTS

1. Installation of signage boards conducted on 19 July 2023.
2. A total of 3, signage boards were installed in three official languages to designate the burial ground.
3. Fencing installation to be conducted following the stakeholder engagement process with the relevant families.



Figure 2 : Northern view of the burial grounds east of the site's quarry block storage area on the Brits quarry mine grounds.



HERITAGE INPUT: GRAVE IDENTIFICATION & VERIFICATION REPORT



Figure 3: North-eastern view of proximity from quarry block storage area (100m buffer is maintained)



Figure 4: South westerly view of one of the burial grounds showing grave dressing without headstone.



Figure 5: South westerly view of the burial grounds showing graves with headstones with the furthest to the right without a headstone.



Figure 6: One of the newly installed permanent signage posts (in English) indicating the demarcation of the burial grounds.



Figure 7: An extensive view of the burial grounds showing newly installed permanent signage posts on the west end of the burial grounds indicating the demarcation around the burial grounds.



Figure 8: An extensive north easterly view of the burial grounds showing the installation of permanent signage posts in Setswana, English and Afrikaans

4. Given that the descendants/ those related to the graves have since relocated and live scattered in different places, the information gathered by the community is not very detailed. The sizable information that they collected is mostly indicative of the family names of the deceased and to a greater degree with an indication of their sex, and whether they were adults or children.

HERITAGE INPUT: GRAVE IDENTIFICATION & VERIFICATION REPORT



Table 1: Table of Grave Register (BGG01)

Grave Number	Name Surname &	Male/Female	Age of grave /Date of burial/ date of death	Tombstone/ Grave marker (TS/GM)	Mitigation Recommendation
GY_01	Mashego	Male	1960s	TS (with ceramic bowl)	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_02	Kwediehlaba Mabelane	Male	1958	TS	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_03	Johanna Mabelane	Female	1970	TS	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_04	Elfas Mabelane	Male	2004	TS	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_05	Motlabaile Mabelane			Stone packed	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_06				Stone packed	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_07	Morobabatho Mabelane	Male	2010-01-24	Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_08	Boyyane Mabelane	Male		Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_09	Surgeon Sebulelo	Male		Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_10	Maidi	Female		Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_11	Daughter of Sabina Mabelane	Female		Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_12	(Another) Daughter of Sabina Mabelane	Female		Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_13	Masipa	Male		Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer
GY_14	Sinuous Mabelane			Stone outlined	In situ Conservation, 100m buffer

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Reach Archaeology Consulting was appointed to affect the identification and verification as well as recording of known and/or burial grounds and graves on their property. An investigation of the request by the grave claimants led to a grave identification and verification heritage input report being commissioned by Mizmor Granite. The next-of-kin approached the mine to request the maintenance and management of the grave site on the Mizmor granite quarry located on farm Roodekopjes of Zwartkopjes 427JQ in Matebeleng, Brits.

This report presents the findings of the investigation as well as provides mitigation recommendation for the identified cultural heritage resources and further presents the proposal for the development of a heritage management plan following a Phase 1 HIA/AIA report and inclusive of a field-based survey to ensure adequate ground reconnaissance. This section presents the appropriate mitigatory recommendations and conclusions of the findings of this assessment.

The known existing burial grounds on the Brits quarry mining area, have been demarcated and a total of approximately 30 graves where identified, consistent with burial topographical placement (S/W) Facing, in a sequenced burial pattern. Recent tombstones erected on recent burials, historical graves as well as archaeological graves where denoted. The identified, verified and confirmed graves have been appropriately mapped, recorded, and demarcated. The proposed 100m buffer recommendation is currently being implemented by Mizmor Granite, who seek to ensure compliance with NHRA 25 of 1999.

While there may be other cultural heritage resources including burial grounds and graves within the larger mining area. However, for the purposes of this report, the known and reported burial ground (BGG01) with approximately 30 graves identified was the primary focus.

At the request of the next of kin, to safely, secure and maintain the graves on the quarry supports the mitigation recommendation provided by the specialist to develop an integrated Heritage Management Plan for adoption by Mizmor Granite.

The following proposed recommendations are provided in line with the minimum standards of heritage conservation and best-practice methods of cultural heritage conservation in line with the NWHRA, NHRA and the NEMA.

1. Compilation and Submission of an integrated heritage management plan (HMP) to the appropriate competent heritage authority (South African Heritage Resources Agency -SAHRA) for approval and implementation by Mizmor Granite. The HMP should include site management and the management of the requested memorial plaque to ensure the protection of the graves on site.
2. This HMP is to be conducted following an extensive stakeholder engagement process to ensure the cultural, ritual and spiritual practices of all affected interested parties are taken into consideration.

HERITAGE INPUT: GRAVE IDENTIFICATION & VERIFICATION REPORT



3. Chance finds protocols for any archaeological remains, artefacts and/ burial grounds and/or subsurface material finds and objects to be adhered to as prescribed by the NHRA Regulations.
4. HMP to be included in the IEMP for implementation, and annual review by appointed heritage practitioners to ensure compliance is maintained and sustainable.

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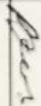



SAHRA. 2020. Treat Human Remains with Respect National Policy.

SAHRA. 2021. Burial Grounds and Graves Permitting National Policy.

APPENDIX A: ATTENDANCE REGISTER

MOLOI GRANITE (BRITS)
GRAVE VERIFICATION & IDENTIFICATION
ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 13 April 2013 TIME: 07:00 VENUE:

NAME, SURNAME	CELL NUMBER	EMAIL/ PHYSICAL ADDRESS	FAMILY/ REPRESENTATION	SIGNATURE
Dion Whateley	0823 32 7953	goldentrac3@gmail.com		
Ben Mabelane	071 7385309		MABELANE	
Ala Mabelane	071 996111		MABELANE	
William MABELANE	0604954632	williemabelane@yahoo.com	MABELANE	
A Mabelane	071 847 2301	rearchaeology@gmail.com	Recher Archaeology	

APPENDIX B: GRAVE IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT FORM

REACH ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTING

GRAVE SITE IDENTIFICATION & VERIFICATION DOCUMENT
MOLOI GRANITE MINE (BRITJS)

ASSESSED BY: A. Ndlovu SITE ID: 116.01 DATE: 13 May 2023

PROVINCE: North West MUNICIPALITY: North West TIME: 15:15

JURISDICTION: Brits Police Station NAME OF BURIAL GROUND: Adult Graves

GRAVE CLAIMANT NAME: Nabeleane FAMILY NAME: Natlego GRAVE NUMBER: 01.02.03.04.05.06

LOCATION (GPS): 25°22' S 18°17' E 7780.80 S1 IMAGE #: _____ CONTACT NO: 082454652

GENERAL CONDITION: FAIR GOOD POOR SEVERE CRITICAL

GRAVE STONE (ONLY COMPLETE WHERE PRESENT)

INSCRIPTION DETAILS: N/A 19605 04/01 04/02 04/03 04/04 04/05 04/06

HEADER X	ZIM GRANTITE	CONCRETE	SLATE	~RUSTENBURG GRANITE
LEDGER X	MARBLE & GRANITE	CONCRETE & PEBBLES	SANDSTONE	NATURAL
FOUNDATION: X	BELFAST GRANITE	CONCRETE & GRANITE	BRICK	CONCRETE & GRANITE

DAMAGE: Chemical Stains Burrow Flooded RISK/THREATS
Plant Roots Lichen Present Fire Damage Theft
Decrepit Stone Stone Colour Chips on Stone Distraction (Mechanical Animal, Human)
Sunken Other (specify): Fire Natural Weathering

PROPOSED MITIGATION: IN SITU CONSERVATION STABILISATION RESCUE EXCAVATION GRAVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____ ASSESSOR SIGNATURE: _____

C Adult Graves
Mortuary 15m
500 facing
Stone material
0-100 structure