



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
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**A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) FOR
A PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
ON ERF 675, KURUMAN, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE**

For:

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REPORT: AE01237P

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was appointed by Mr.Thabo Phokoje, to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Erf 675 in Kuruman, Northern Cape Province.

The area has been disturbed to a large extent and is located within an urban setting. Dense vegetation and grass cover made visibility difficult. A number of stone tools were however recorded in the area, located close to a low dolomite outcrop. The report provides a discussion of the finds and observations made during the fieldwork and also gives an indication of the methodology followed. It also indicates how to deal with any archaeological material that may be unearthed or disturbed during the development activities.

From an Archaeological point of view there should be no objection to the continuation of the proposed development, taking into consideration the conclusions and recommendations made at the end of this report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeos cc was appointed by Mr.Thabo Phokoje, to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Erf 675 in Kuruman, Northern Cape Province.

The area has been disturbed to a large extent by recent residential developments (especially on neighbouring properties), including residential dumping and is located within an urban setting. Dense vegetation and grass cover also made visibility difficult. A number of stone tools were recorded in the area, located close to a low dolomite outcrop.

The client indicated the boundaries of the area to be surveyed and the work was 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.
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value.
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.
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 due to number of reasons such as visibility, accessibility and the subterranean nature of many sites, features and objects. 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 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) 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 history and archaeology 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 assessment was undertaken mainly on foot

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. This process was not required in this case.

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 project area is located on Erf 675, an open lot, in Kuruman, Northern Cape. It is bounded by Armstrong, Bergh, Duvenhage and Van der Merwe streets. Urban residential developments surround the area.



Figure 2: Topographic Location of development (© Map Source 2010).



Figure 3: Aerial view of the development area bounded by Bergh, Armstrong, Duvenhage & Van Der Merwe streets (Google Earth 2012 – Image 2/28/2010).



Figure 4: General view of a section of the area.



Figure 5: Another view of the area, showing dense grass cover, shrubs and thorn trees.



Figure 6: View of a section of the low dolomite outcrop in the area.



Figure 7: Dumping building material in the area.

7. DISCUSSION

During the assessment a number of individual, scattered Stone Age objects (stone tools) were recorded in the area, located close to and around the low dolomite outcrop. In order to enable the reader to understand cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) 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 in South Africa, as well the general history and archaeology of the area.

7.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when stone 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
Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 AD

According to David Morris of the McGregor Museum in Kimberley the archaeology of the Northern Cape is rich and varied, covering long spans of human history. The Karoo is particularly bountiful. Some areas are richer than others, and not all sites are equally significant. The significance of sites encountered in the study area may be assessed against previous research in the region and subcontinent. The region's remoteness from research institutions accounts for a relative lack of archaeological research in the area. The area has probably been relatively marginal to human settlement for most of its history, yet it is in fact exceptionally rich in terms of Stone Age sites and rock art, as a relatively few but important studies have shown (Morris 2006).

Stone Age sites are known to occur in the larger geographical area, including the well-known Wonderwerk Cave in the Kuruman Hills, Tsantsabane, an ancient specularite working on the eastern side of Postmasburg, Doornfontein, another specularite working north of Beeshoek and a cluster of important Stone Age sites near Kathu. Additional specularite workings with associated Ceramic Later Stone Age material and older Fauresmith sites (early Middle Stone Age) are known from Lylyfeld, Demaneng, Mashwening, King, Rust & Vrede, Paling, Gloucester and Mount Huxley to the north. Rock engraving sites are known from Beeshoek and Bruce (Morris 2005: 3).

Studies done by Kusel (2009) and by Pelsler & Van Vollenhoven (2011) at Black Rock and Gloria Mines near Hotazel, revealed a number of Early to Later Stone Age artifacts and sites in the area. The stone tools found during the assessment of Erf 675 probably date to the Middle and Later Stone Ages.

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.

The expansion of early farmers, who, among other things, cultivated crops, raised livestock, made ceramic containers (pots), mined ore and smelted metals, occurred in this area between AD 400 and AD 1100 and brought the Early Iron Age (EIA) to South Africa. They settled in semi-permanent villages (De Jong 2010: 35).

While there is some evidence that the EIA continued into the 15th century in the South African Lowveld, on the escarpment it had ended by AD1100. The Highveld became active again from the 15th century onwards due to a gradually warmer and wetter climate. From here communities spread to other parts of the interior. This later phase, termed the Late Iron Age (LIA), was accompanied by extensive stonewalled settlements, such as the Thlaping capital Dithakong, 40 km north of Kuruman (De Jong 2010: 35-36).

Sotho-Tswana and Nguni societies, the descendants of the LIA mixed farming communities, found the region already sparsely inhabited by the Late Stone Age (LSA) Khoisan groups, the so-called 'first people'. Most of them were eventually assimilated by LIA communities and only a few managed to survive, such as the Korana and Griqua. This period of contact is sometimes known as the Ceramic Late Stone Age and is represented by the Blinkklipkop specularite mine near Postmasburg and finds at the Kathu Pan (De Jong 2010: 36).

No Iron Age sites, features or objects were found during the survey.

7.3 Historical Age

Factors such as population expansion, increasing pressure on natural resources, the emergence of power blocs, attempts to control trade and penetration by Griquas, Korana and white communities from the south-west resulted in a period of instability in Southern Africa that began in the late 18th century and effectively ended with the settlement of white farmers in the interior. This period, known as the *difaqane* or *Mfecane*, also affected the Northern Cape Province, although at a relatively late stage compared to the rest of Southern Africa. Here, the period of instability, beginning in the mid-1820s, was triggered by the incursion of displaced refugees associated with the Tlokwa, Fokeng, Hlakwa and Phuting tribal groups.

The *difaqane* coincided with the penetration of the interior of South Africa by white traders, hunters, explorers and missionaries. The first was PJ Truter's and William Somerville's journey of 1801, which reached Dithakong at Kuruman. They were followed by Cowan, Donovan, Burchell and Campbell and resulted in the establishment of a London Mission Society station near Kuruman in 1817 by James Read. Robert Moffat and his wife Mary came to Kuruman in 1820 and the mission has been known as The Moffat Mission Station ever since.

The Great Trek of the Boers from the Cape in 1836 brought large numbers of Voortrekkers up to the borders of large regions known as Bechuanaland and Griqualand West, thereby coming into conflict with many Tswana groups and also the missionaries of the London Mission Society. The conflict between Boer and Tswana communities escalated in the 1860s and 1870s when the Korana and Griqua communities became involved and later also the British government. The conflict mainly centered on land claims by various communities. For

decades the western border of the Transvaal Boer republic was not fixed. Only through arbitration (the Keate Arbitration), triggered by the discovery of gold at Tati (1866) and diamonds at Hopetown (1867) was part of the western border finally determined in 1871. Ten years later, the Pretoria Convention fixed the entire western border, thereby finally excluding Bechuanaland and Griqualand West from Boer domination (De Jong 2010: 36).

Kuruman's name is thought to be derived from the name of an 18th century San leader Kudumane (Kalahari Tourism Information Booklet p.32).

Discussion of sites, features or objects found during the assessment

Two areas with scatters of individual stone tools were found in the area. These artifacts probably date to between the Middle and Later Stone Age (MSA/LSA) and is located close to and around the periphery of the dolomite outcrop found in the area. Although the number of tools found is not high, it is possible that more tools are present as the dense grass cover made visibility difficult. Stone Age objects might also be covered by sand and soil in the area.

GPS Locations: **S27.45140 E23.42493 & S27.45165 E23.45527**

Significance of finds: **Low to medium.**

Mitigation: **Surface sampling and mapping**



Figure 8: MSA/LSA cores and flake-tools found in the area.



Figure 9: Another stone tool found in the area.

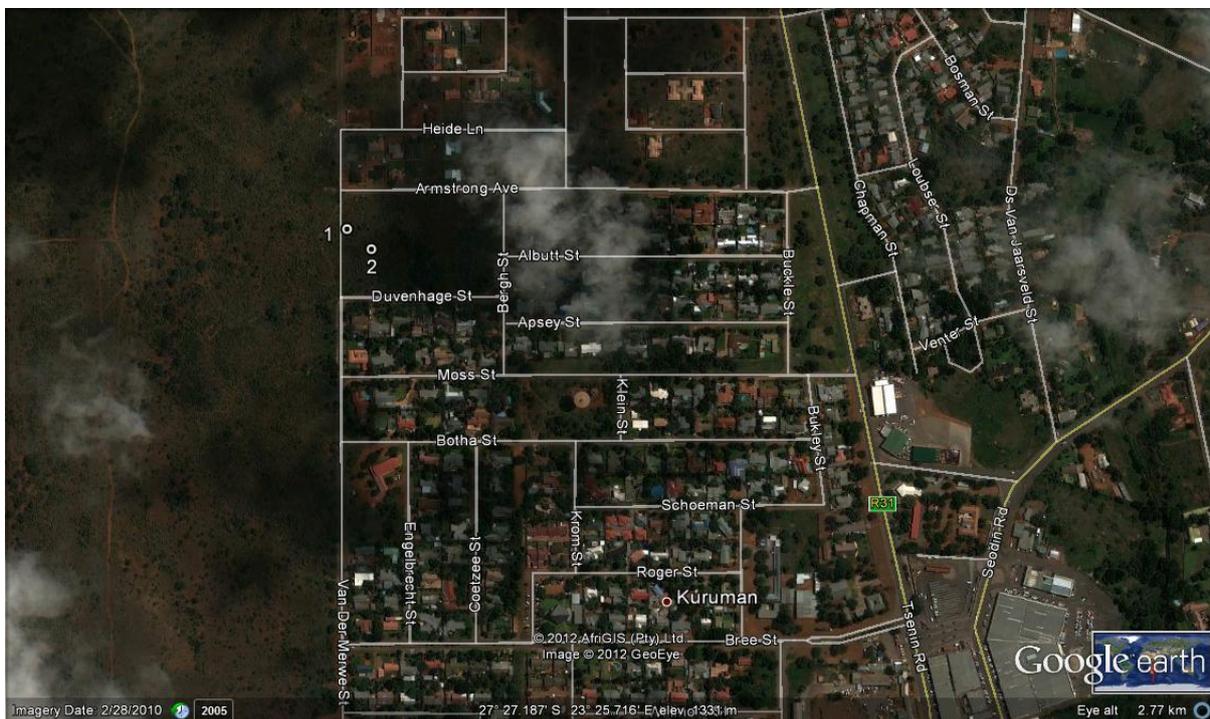


Figure 10: Aerial view of area showing location of stone tools (Google Earth 2012 – Image 2/28/2010).

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be stated that the AIA for the housing development on Erf 675 was conducted successfully. A number of individual, scattered, MSA/LSA, stone tools were identified in the area in two locations. However, there might be more tools in the area, with dense grass cover and soil probably covering others. The stone tools were found in close proximity to and around the periphery of the low dolomite outcrop in the development area.

The following is recommended:

1. that should the proposed development continue detailed sampling of the stone tools in the area be undertaken.

From an Archaeological point of view there is however no objection to the continuation of the planned development. **However, 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, it is virtually impossible to locate or identify all possible sites, features or objects in a given area. This would include low, stone packed or unmarked graves.**

9. REFERENCES

General map of location of Erf 675: Map provided by client

Topographic Location of development: Courtesy Map Source 2010

Aerial views of development location and site distribution: Google Earth 2012 – Image date 2/23/2010

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APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS:

Site: Means 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: Means a permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: Means a coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Means an Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

DEFINITIONS/STATEMENTS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- Historic value:** Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.
- Aesthetic value:** Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.
- Scientific value:** Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period
- Social value:** Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Rarity:** Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.
- Representivity:** Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C

SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Field ratings:

- National Grade I significance: Should be managed as part of the national estate.
- Provincial Grade II significance: Should be managed as part of the provincial estate.
- Local Grade IIIA: Should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance).
- Local Grade IIIB: Should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/ medium significance).
- General protection A (IV A): Site should be mitigated before destruction (high/ medium significance).
- General protection B (IV B): Site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance).
- General protection C (IV C): Phase 1 is seen as a sufficient recording of the existing structure and it may therefore be demolished of (low significance) .

APPENDIX D

PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

1. Formal protection:

Formal protection is applicable to the following:

- National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – grades I and II
- Protected areas – which is described as an area surrounding a heritage site
- Provisional protection – described as protection for a maximum period of two years
- Heritage registers – listings of grades II and III
- Heritage areas – areas which include more than one heritage site
- Heritage objects – heritage objects include inter alia archaeological, paleontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic and books.

2. General protection:

General protection is applicable to:

- Objects protected by the laws of foreign states
- Structures – older than 60 years
- Archaeology, paleontology and meteorites
- Burial grounds and graves
- Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

- Phase 1: Pre-assessment or scoping phase – the establishment of the scope of the project and the terms of reference.
- Phase 2: Baseline assessment – the establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
- Phase 3: Assessment of potential impacts – the identification of sites, assessment of their significance, commenting on the potential impact of the proposed development and recommending mitigation measures or the conservation thereof.
- Phase 4: Letter of recommendation for exemption –submitted in the event that no likelihood exists that any sites will be impacted upon.
- Phase 5: Mitigation or rescue – planning the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
- Phase 6: Compilation of and implementation of a management plan – in rare cases where sites are regarded as of high importance such that development cannot be permitted unconditionally.