



DIGBY WELLS
ENVIRONMENTAL



Burial Grounds and Graves: Grave Relocation Report

Exxaro Arnot Mooifontein Expansion Project

Project Number:

EXX 2589

Prepared for:

Exxaro Coal (Pty) Ltd

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Name	Responsibility	Signature	Date
Johan Nel	Report compiler Permit holder		7 June 2016

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Exxaro Coal (Pty) Ltd (hereafter Exxaro) has asked Digby Wells Environmental (hereafter Digby Wells) to undertake a Grave Relocation Process (GRP) of graves that will be affected by the Arnot Mooifontein Opencast Mine Expansion Project (AMEP). Exxaro will mine portions 1, 5, 7 and the Remaining Extent (RE) of the farm Mooifontein 448 JS using opencast mining methods.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the AMEP was conducted in 2010 in which several graves were identified as part of the HIA and recommendations were made that a GRP be implemented (Pistorius 2011).

Digby Wells was appointed by Exxaro to undertake the necessary consultation to identify and consultation with next-of-kin (NoK) of the deceased buried in the affected graves. This culminated a Burial Grounds and Graves Consultation (BGGC) report that was submitted in support of an exhumation and reburial permit application in accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and Government Notice Regulation (GN R) 548 (NHRA: Regulations).

The BGGC report was submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) unit and the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (MPRHA) on 17 October 2014. The submission was made via the online South African Heritage Information System (SAHRIS) platform. See Table 1 for relevant SAHRA references.

The report also supported local and provincial applications for exhumation and reburial made to the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (STLM) and the Mpumalanga Department of Health (DoH) respectively. See Table 1 for relevant SAHRA references.

The BGGC report contained proof of concerted efforts made to identify NoK and a record of consultation with NoK to exhume and relocate their deceased. This included agreements between Exxaro and NoK (NoK Agreements) with regard to ceremonial practices in respect of grave relocation.

Following the receipt of all relevant permits and approvals from the responsible authorities, Exxaro requested Digby Wells to implement a Grave Relocation Process (GRP) to exhume and relocate the affected graves.

The GRP was completed from August to October 2015.

Table 1: Project reference on SAHRIS

SAHRA case ID	6251
Case reference	Exxaro Arnot Mooifontein Expansion Project Grave Relocation
Case Officer	Itumeleng Masiteng
Permit ID	1952
Permit duration	2 December 2014 to 2 December 2015
Permit holder	Johan Nel
Case link	http://sahra.org.za/sahris/cases/exxaro-arnot-mooifontein-expansion-project-grave-relocation

1.2 Project Description

The AMEP is situated approximately 43 km by road from Middelburg, 65 km from Carolina and approximately 25 km from Hendrina in the Mpumalanga Province. The burial grounds and graves that will be impacted on by the AMEP are located on portions 1, 5, 7 and RE of Mooifontein 488 JS. Detailed location details are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: AMEP geographical location details

Province	Mpumalanga
District Municipality	Nkangala District Municipality
Local Municipality	Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
Magisterial District	Middelburg
Nearest Town/s	Rietkuil, Middelburg, Hendrina
Properties	Portions 1, 5, 7 and RE of Mooifontein 486 JS
Map reference/s	1:250 000 2528 Pretoria & 1:50 000 2529 DD Arnot

1.3 Summary of legislative compliance

The exhumation and reburial was done in accordance with the following Acts, Regulations and policies:

- National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA);
- Government Notice Regulation (GN R) 548 of 2 June 2000 (SAHRA Regulations);
- Mpumalanga Cemeteries, Crematoria and Exhumation of Bodies Act, 2005 (Act No. 8 of 2005) (MCCEBA);
- GN R 363 of 22 May 2013 (Human Remains Regulations);
- South African Heritage Resources Agency Burial Grounds and Graves (SAHRA BGG) unit draft Guidelines to Burial Grounds and Graves Permitting Policy, 2013.

The various permits and approvals were issued to Digby Wells in terms of the above Acts and Regulations. These permits and approvals included:

- NHRA Section 36 exhumation permit (permit number 1952);
- Steve Tshwete Local Municipality exhumation and reburial approval (reference 16/6/3);
- Mpumalanga Department of Health (DoH) exhumation and reburial approval (7 July 2015).

The conditions in the permits and approvals were complied with as follows:

- The identified NoK were informed of the NHRA Section 36 permit issued by the SAHRA BGG unit to enable the families to appeal the decision should they wish;
- Similarly, the identified NoK were informed of the local municipal and Mpumalanga DoH approvals as issued;
- The district environmental health officer and the local SAPS station commander were informed of the dates of exhumation and relocation, in accordance with the Mpumalanga DoH approval conditions;
- All exhumation and reburial processes were supervised by a qualified archaeologist (Johan Nel) and completed by a funeral undertaker registered within the local municipality (Selala Funerals); and
- This report constitutes a complete record of the exhumation and reburial process, including additional stakeholder engagement undertaken, in terms of the conditions contained in the NHRA Section 36 permit issued by the SAHRA BGG unit.

1.4 Purpose and outline of report

This GRP report was compiled to comply with the conditions contained in the permit issued by the SAHRA BGG unit, with specific reference to following:

- 2. Adequate recording methods as specified in the Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to the NHRA must be employed. Note that the position of all excavations and objects collected must be marked on a plan of site;
- 5. All remains recovered, including relics and artefacts, as well as field notes and records, must be kept with the skeletal material and be reburied at the local cemetery; and
- 6. Reprints of all published papers or copies of theses and/or reports resulting from this work must be lodged with the relevant provincial heritage authority and SAHRA.

The report structure is as follows:

- Chapter 2 describes the actions completed during the GRP project;
- Chapter 3 discusses on additional stakeholder engagement that was undertaken following awarding of all permits and approvals;
- Chapter 4 reports on the exhumation and reburial of the affected graves; and
- Chapter 5 concludes the AMEP GRP report and project.

2 Methodology

The activities that were completed for the AMEP GRP included:

- Procuring and delivering of items requested by NoK to complete rituals and ceremonies as agreed between Exxaro and NoK and formalised in the individual NoK Agreements attached to the BGGC report and permit applications;
- Additional NoK consultation;
- Exhumation and reestablishment of graves; and
- Reporting on process and results.

2.1 Procurement and delivery of NoK requirements

During the preceding AMEP BGGC projects, NoK were requested to submit lists of items to perform ceremonial activities as per their individual cultural and customary requirements. Digby Wells procured and delivered the agreed-on items on behalf of Exxaro in place of financial compensation.

This included the following per family:

- Mokwana family: purchasing and delivering a live goat ram, a live bull and grocery items to the family residence in Ntwane, Limpopo on 14 October 2015.
- Mtshweni family:

- Purchasing and delivering grocery items to the family residence in Dennilton, Limpopo on 25 July 2015; and
 - Purchasing and slaughtering a goat ram, cow and bull, delivered to the family residence in Dennilton on 27 August 2015.
- Ngoma family:
- Purchasing and delivering grocery items to the family residence on FARM, Mpumalanga on 25 July 2015; and
 - Purchasing and slaughtering a cow, delivered to the family residence on FARM, Mpumalanga on 14 August 2015.

2.2 Additional NoK consultation

Additional consultation meetings were held with NoK following the submission of the permit applications and after receiving the SAHRA BGG unit permit in December 2014.

These meetings included:

Date	Venue	Purpose
4 July 2015	The Corn and Cob, Arnot	Group NoK meeting
15 July 2015	SAHRA BGG unit office, National Museum of National History, Pretoria	Authority meeting
25 July 2015	Mokwana family residence, Ntwane, Limpopo	Individual NoK family meeting
17 August 2015	Mokwana family residence, Ntwane, Limpopo	Individual NoK family meeting
23 September 2015	W de Beer Attorneys, Groblersdal, Limpopo	Individual NoK family and legal representative meeting
11 December 2015	Digby Wells Environmental, Pretoria office	Individual NoK family meeting

2.3 Exhumation and relocation

Exhumation followed standard exhumation practice, informed by archaeological excavation methods. This entailed:

- Recording surface features and grave dressings through written notes and photographs;

- Removal of surface dressings – where such comprised formal granite dressings these features were removed by Selala Funerals and curated until such time that the dressings could be re-erected at the reburial locations;
- Manual excavation of the grave pit by two-man teams using picks and shovel. Excavations were completed in arbitrary layers, on average a spade depth or around 30 cm. Excavation of each layer started in the lower third of the grave pit, i.e. the areas where it was assumed the lower limbs would be located. This enabled ‘early warning’ when skeletal remains may be encountered by first exposing the more robust leg bones. Close attention was paid to changes in soil colour and texture, as well as artefacts, to determine the location of remains. Once remains (or any other evidence for a burial such as corrugated iron sheets, iron nails or remnants of coffins or other burial containers) were noted, shovel and picks were abandoned and excavation continued using trowels and brushes. Where actual remains still existed, the remains (or containers) were exposed.
- Once the remains or containers were exposed, the remains were disinfected in accordance with the Mpumalanga DoH approval conditions.
- The remains were recorded photographically and the depth of the burial recorded in written notes. Remains that were still inside coffins or wrapped in blankets were not exposed any further.
- All remains were removed and placed into plastic body bags and the bags placed into new replacement coffins, in the presence of family representatives (where applicable), Exxaro Arnot Coal Mine representatives and the district environmental health officer.
- The coffins were transported to the reburial sites by Selala Funerals in a hearse and re-interred in previously prepared graves. Once placed into the grave pits, the coffins were photographed and the pits backfilled.
- Headstones were erected around four months after reburial, to allow the backfilled soil to subside and settle.

3 Summary of additional stakeholder engagement

3.1 Additional consultation with Mokwana family

At the time that the SAHRA permit application was submitted in October 2014, agreement between the Mokwana family and Exxaro regarding the exhumation and relocation their family grave could not be reached. SAHRA issued a permit notwithstanding the absence of agreement, based on the risk to the grave and the family.

Exxaro, however, requested Digby Wells to continue consulting with the Mokwana family to reach an agreement.

A meeting between the Mokwana family, Digby Wells and Exxaro was held at the Mokwana family's residence in Ntwane, Limpopo on 18 July 2015. The Mokwana family made certain demands at this meeting for Exxaro to consider (see Appendix A for records of the meeting).

Consequently, another meeting between the Mokwana family, Digby Wells and the SAHRA BGG unit (represented by Ms. Itumeleng Masiteng) was held at the Mokwana family's residence in Ntwane, Limpopo on 17 August 2015. The Mokwana family indicated at this meeting that they still did not consent to the exhumation and relocation of the grave of April Mokwana (see Appendix A for records of the meeting).

The Mokwana subsequently obtained legal advice from Mr Willem de Beer, a Groblersdal-based attorney representing the Mokwana family. Digby Wells and Exxaro were requested to attend a consultation meeting on 23 September 2015 with the Mokwana family at Mr de Beer's chambers in Groblersdal.

The Mokwana family finally consented to the exhumation and relocation of their deceased relative's grave, on advice from Mr de Beer (see Appendix A for records of the meeting).

3.2 Mahlangu family claim

Representatives from the Mahlangu family contacted Exxaro on Saturday 15 August 2015, during the exhumation and relocation of the Ngoma family graves. Digby Wells and Exxaro met the family at the Mhluzi Cemetery, Middelburg, during the reburial of the Ngoma family's graves.

The Mahlangu family alleged that the grave of one of their family members was exhumed and relocated without their consent. The grave in question, GY01-103, was exhumed and relocated to Mhluzi Cemetery on 4 August 2015. Digby Wells explained that due process was followed to obtain the necessary permits and approvals to exhume and relocate the grave. At the time that the grave was exhumed, it was still considered as an unknown grave.

The family was shown the new grave and informed that Digby Wells will consult with them in an attempt to retrospectively address any issues. However, the Mahlangu family did not contact Digby Wells again in this regard until November 2015, when Mr Jeffrey Jiyane requested that a copy of the BGGC report be forwarded to him.

Digby Wells submit the BGGC report to Mr Jiyane via email on 1 December 2015. A meeting with the Mahlangu family was arranged and held at Digby Wells' Pretoria offices on 11 December 2015 (see Appendix A for details).

It was agreed that a second meeting with the family will be arranged on 15 December 2015. However, the Mahlangu family did not attend the meeting as scheduled. The family has, to date, not contacted Digby Wells again in this regard.

4 Records of exhumations and reburials

The graves were exhumed and relocated over a span of three months, commencing on 3 August 2015 and ending on 17 October 2015. Table 3 summarises the relocated graves per NoK.

Table 3: List of exhumed graves and reburial information

Grave ID	New grave number	Reburial site	Deceased name	Date of exhumation and reburial
Mokwana family				
GY 03-101	NA	Ntwane, Dennilton, Limpopo	April Leshoka Mokwana	Exhumed 17 October 2015 Reburied 18 October 2015
Mtshweni family				
GY 10-359	NA	Enkeldoorn, Dennilton, Limpopo	Andries Motshoene	9 August 2015
GY 10-350	NA		Toerkie Motshoene	
Ngoma family				
GY 08-353	623	Mhluzi, Middelburg, Mpumalanga	Sesi Martha Ngoma	15 August 2015
GY 08-355	624		Zodwa Catharina Ngoma	
GY 08-0	625		Johannes Ngoma	
Rossouw family				
GY 02-107	90759	Fontein, Middelburg, Mpumalanga	Anna M. H. Rossouw	3 August 2015
GY 02-100	90760		Hannes L. A. Rossouw	
GY 05-102	7680		Frans Pieter Rossouw	
GY 05-104	90760		Johannes L. A. Rossouw	
Unknown graves				
GYA01-01	631	Mhluzi, Middelburg, Mpumalanga	Unknown	17 October 2015
GYA01-02	632			
GY03-105	621			

Grave ID	New grave number	Reburial site	Deceased name	Date of exhumation and reburial
GY01-103	617			4 August 2015
GY04-111	618			
GY08-64	619			
GY08-351	620			

4.1 Mokwana family and unknown graves (GY03)

The gravesite was located on Portion 7 of Mooifontein 448 JS and included two graves. One grave is associated with the Mokwana family (GY03-106) and one unknown grave (number 105).

Both graves were exhumed on Saturday 17 October 2015. The unknown grave was relocated to the Mhluzi cemetery in Middelburg on the same day. The exhumation process was witnessed by members of the Mokwana family, Exxaro Arnot Coal Mine representatives, the district environmental health officer and members of the SAPS.

The process was supervised by Johan Nel (Digby Wells) and exhumation and reburial undertaken by Selala Funerals.

4.1.1 Records of exhumation and reburial

4.1.1.1 GY03/101

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 110 cm below surface where iron nails were found. No remains were recovered and a soil substitute was taken with approval from the family. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 180 by 80 cm. The pit was further excavated to terminal depth, i.e. to bedrock rock at a depth of around 120 cm.

The soil substitute was taken for reburial at Ntwane. Reburial took place on Sunday 18 October 2015 as per requests from the family. See Figure 1 for photographic records.



Top left to right: Mokwana family at GY03-101 grave site, grave dressing on actual grave, and formal grave dressing beside actual grave
Bottom left to right: Completed exhumation, reburial and original granite grave dressing re-erected at new grave

Figure 1: GY03-101 photographic records

4.1.1.2 GY03/105

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 110 cm below surface where iron nails were found. No remains were recovered and a soil substitute was taken with approval from the Mokwana family. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 180 by 80 cm. The pit was further excavated to terminal depth, i.e. to bedrock rock at a depth of around 120 cm.

The soil substitute was taken for reburial at Mhluzi. See Figure 2 for photographic records.



Left to right: GY03-105 grave dressing, completed exhumation, reburial and new headstone.

Figure 2: GY03-105 photographic records

4.2 Mtshweni (Motshoene) graves (GY10)

The gravesite was located on Portion 5 of Mooifontein 448 JS. The site included two graves associated with the Mtshweni family. Grave dressings comprised cement headstones and borders.

The Mtshweni graves were exhumed on Saturday 9 August 2015 and relocated to the Enkeldoorn cemetery in Dennilton, Limpopo on the same day. The exhumation processes were witnessed by members of the Mtshweni family, Exxaro Arnot Coal Mine representatives and the district environmental health officer.

The process was supervised by Johan Nel (Digby Wells) and exhumation and reburial undertaken by Selala Funerals.

4.2.1 Records of exhumation and reburial

4.2.1.1 GY10-350

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 190 cm below surface. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 200 by 80 cm. The burial was identified by fragments of coffin wood, iron nails and remnants of a red and yellow blanket. Skeletal remains were very poorly preserved, with some fragmented long bones and teeth recovered.

The remains and artefacts were collected and taken for reburial at Enkeldoorn cemetery, Dennilton. See Figure 3 for photographic records.



Top left to right: Mtshwene family at gravesite, GY10-350 grave dressing, completed exhumation
Bottom left to right: extended Mtshwene family at reburial, completed reburial, new headstone

Figure 3: GY10-350 photographic records

4.2.1.2 GY10-359

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 230 cm below surface. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 200 by 90 cm. the only indicators for the burial comprised some iron nails. No remains were recovered.

A soil substitute was collected, as agreed by the family, and reburied at Enkeldoorn cemetery, Dennilton. See Figure 4 for photographic records.



Top left to right: GY10-359 grave dressing, completed exhumation, completed reburial
Right: new headstone

Figure 4: GY10-359 photographic records

4.3 Ngoma family and unknown graves (GY08)

The gravesite was located on the RE of Mooifontein 448 JS. The site included five graves, all of which comprised stone cairn grave dressings. Three graves were associated with the Ngoma family (graves GY08-0, -353 and 355).

The unknown graves (GY08-64 and -351) were exhumed on 4 August 2015 and relocated to the Mhluzi cemetery in Middelburg on the same day. The Ngoma graves were exhumed on 15 August 2015 and relocated to the Mhluzi cemetery in Middelburg on the same day. The exhumation processes were witnessed by members of the Ngoma family, Exxaro Arnot Coal Mine representatives and the district environmental health officer.

The process was supervised by Johan Nel (Digby Wells) and exhumation and reburial undertaken by Selala Funerals.

4.3.1 Records of exhumation and reburial

4.3.1.1 GY08-64

Glass bottle sherds were collected from the surface and in the grave dressing. The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 110 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 100 cm by 80 cm.

The burial container had decayed completely and only iron nails were found, indicating that the remains were buried in a wooden coffin. The remains were wrapped in a blanket and not

exposed; it was assumed that all skeletal remains were present. The burial was that of an infant. See Figure 5 for photographic records.



Top left to right: GY08-64 grave dressing, completed exhumation, completed reburial

Right: new headstone

Figure 5: GY08-64 photographic records

4.3.1.2 GY08-351

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 110 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 100 cm by 80 cm.

The burial container had decayed completely and only iron nails were found. The remains were wrapped in a blanket and not exposed; it was assumed that all skeletal remains were present. The size and manner of burial indicated that the grave was that of an infant.

The remains were reburied in Mhluzi Cemetery. See Figure 6 for photographic records.



Top left to right: GY08-351 grave dressing, completed exhumation, completed reburial

Right: new headstone

Figure 6: GY08-351 photographic records

4.3.1.3 GY08-0

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 150 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 193 cm by 75 cm.

Fragments of decayed coffin wood were found. The remains were wrapped in a blanket and not exposed more than necessary, as the exhumation took place in the presence of the deceased's spouse.

All artefacts (i.e. blanket) and remains were recovered reburied in Mhluzi Cemetery in the presence of Ngoma family members. See Figure 7 for photographic records.



Top left to right: GY08-0 grave dressing, corrugated iron sheeting covering remains, exposed remains
Bottom left to right: reburial, new headstone

Figure 7: GY08-0 photographic records

4.3.1.4 GY08-353

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 85 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 103 cm by 93 cm.

The burial was covered by corrugated iron sheeting. When this was removed, a decayed grass mat was found, covering the remains. The remains of an infant were wrapped in a green-blue blanket. Unlike the other GY08 graves that were all oriented east-west, these remains were oriented north-south. The remains were not exposed more than necessary, as the exhumation took place in the presence of the family.

Artefacts (i.e. blanket, reed mat and pieces of the corrugated iron) and remains were recovered and reburied in Mhluzi Cemetery in the presence of Ngoma family members. See Figure 8 for photographic records.

4.4 Rossouw family burial grounds (GY02 and GY05)

Two burial grounds were associated with the Rossouw family, i.e. GY02 and GY05, both located on Portion 7 of Mooifontein 448 JS.

GY02 contained the graves of two young children. GY05 contained graves of an adult male and a young boy. The grave dressing of grave 102 comprised a sandstone headstone and borders. The dressing of grave 104 comprised a large, double granite headstone and borders. The dressing of the latter grave was not relocated, on request from the Rossouw family. The stone was, however, collected by the van Eeden family to create grave markers for a recently discovered historical cemetery in Middelburg.

All the Rossouw graves were exhumed on 3 August 2015 and relocated to the Fontein Cemetery in Middelburg on the same day. The exhumation process was witnessed by members of the Rossouw family, Exxaro Arnot Coal Mine and a journalist.

The process was supervised by Johan Nel (Digby Wells) and Selala Funerals.

4.4.1 Records of exhumation and reburial

4.4.1.1 GY02-100

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 110 cm to bedrock. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 155 cm by 75 cm.

The remains were covered by metal sheeting, possibly a flattened oil drum. Preservation was very poor; fragments of right humerus, pelvis and both femora and tibiae were recovered. The rest was too fragmented to record and recovered as part of the surrounding matrix.

The remains and the surrounding matrix were recovered and reburied in Fontein Cemetery, together with the remains recovered from GY05-104, as per the Rossouw family's request. See Figure 10 for photographic records.



Left to right: Flattened metal sheeting covering burial, completed exhumation, reburial, new headstone

Figure 10: GY02-100 photographic records

4.4.1.2 GY02-107

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 105 cm to bedrock. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 160 cm by 85 cm.

No remains were found. The only evidence of the burial was some iron nails.

A soil substitute was taken, as agreed with the Rossouw family and reburied in Fontein Cemetery. See Figure 11 for photographic records.



Left to right: Flattened metal sheeting covering burial, completed exhumation, reburial, new headstone

Figure 11: GY02-107 photographic records

4.4.1.3 GY05-102

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 150 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 205 cm by 95 cm.

Decayed pieces of coffin wood and nails were recovered. The remains were fairly well preserved, but fragmented. All major skeletal parts were recovered, including all long bones, the skull and pelvis. The rest of the skeletal material (i.e. ribs, vertebrae, carpals and tarsals) was, however, recovered as part of the surrounding matrix.

The remains and the surrounding matrix were recovered and reburied in Fontein Cemetery, in the same grave as the deceased's spouse, as per the Rossouw family's request. See Figure 13 for photographic records of the reburial and new headstone¹.



Left to right: GY05-102 reburial, new headstone

Figure 12: GY05-102 photographic records

4.4.1.4 GY05-104

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 110 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 160 cm by 85 cm.

No remains were found. The only evidence of the burial was some iron nails.

A soil substitute was taken, as agreed with the Rossouw family and reburied in Fontein Cemetery, together with the remains recovered from GY02-100, as per the Rossouw family's request. See Figure 13 for photographic records of the reburial and new headstone.

¹ The camera used during the exhumation of GY05-102 and -104 malfunctioned. No photographic records were therefore taken of the exhumation process.



Left to right: GY05-104 reburial, new headstone

Figure 13: GY05-104 photographic records

4.5 Unknown graves (GY01, GY04 and GYA-01)

The gravesites were located on Portion 7 of Mooifontein 448 JS. The grave dressing of GY01 comprised a stone packed cairn with no identifying features. No associated Next-of-Kin (NoK) was identified through the consultation recorded in the BGGC report (Nel, 2014).

However, after the grave was exhumed and the contents reburied on 4 August 2015, claims by a certain Mahlangu family were made as recorded in Section 3 above.

Grave GY04 had no surface features indicative of any grave. In addition, the area was impacted on by animal burrowing activity.

Graves GY01 and GY04 were exhumed on 4 August 2015 and relocated to the Mhluzi cemetery in Middelburg on the same day. Burial ground GYA-01 was exhumed on 17 October 2015 and relocated to the Mhluzi cemetery in Middelburg on the same day. The exhumation processes were witnessed by Exxaro Arnot Coal Mine representatives.

The process was supervised by Johan Nel (Digby Wells) and exhumation and reburial undertaken by Selala Funerals.

4.5.1 Records of exhumation and reburial

4.5.1.1 GY01-103

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 180 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 210 cm by 95 cm.

The only remains that were found were forearm fragments (i.e. pieces of a radius and ulna) and a few iron nails. The remains and a soil substitute were recovered and reburied in Mhluzi Cemetery. See Figure 14 for photographic records.



Top left to right: GY01-103 surface c grave dressing, completed exhumation, reburial, new headstone

Figure 14: GY03-103 photographic records

4.5.1.2 GY04-111

This integrity of this gravesite site was significantly changed by bioturbation caused by animal burrowing activity. A decision was therefore taken to remove the topsoil by mechanical means. A front-end loader was used to clear the topsoil, in an attempt to identify a grave pit.

Although no grave pit was identified, artefacts were exposed that included porcelain teacups and a ceramic urn. Excavation continued manually after these artefacts were identified. However, due to the extensive bioturbation, changes in soil texture and colour could not be determined that may have indicated the extent of a burial pit.

The site was excavated to bedrock, with no further artefacts or any skeletal remains exposed. The artefacts and a soil substitute were taken for reburial in Mhluzi Cemetery. See Figure 15 for photographic records.



Top left to right: GY04-111 surface conditions, evidence of bioturbation, completed exhumation
Bottom left to right: Reburial, new headstone

Figure 15: GY04-111 photographic records

4.5.1.3 GYA01-01

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 170 cm where the burial was found. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 180 cm by 80 cm.

No remains were found. The only evidence of a burial was some iron nails and a fragment of a copper bracelet. The artefacts and a soil substitute were recovered and reburied in Mhluzi Cemetery. See Figure 16 for photographic records.



Figure 16: GYA01-01 photographic records

4.5.1.4 GYA01-02

The grave pit was excavated to a depth of 110 cm into the bedrock. The extent of the burial pit was approximately 180 cm by 80 cm. No remains were found. A soil substitute was taken and reburied in Mhluzi Cemetery. See Figure 17 for photographic records.



Left to right: GYA01-02 grave dressing, completed exhumation, reburial, new headstone

Figure 17: GYA01-02 photographic records

5 Conclusion

The Exxaro AMEP GRP project was completed over a period of more than 24 months, commencing in February 2014. The project was finalised in March 2016 when the last headstones were erected at the new burial grounds.

A total of 17 graves were exhumed and relocated, of which 10 were associated with identified next of kin, namely:

- The Mtshweni family associated with two graves;
- The Mokwana family associated with a single grave;
- The Ngoma family associated with three graves; and
- The Rossouw family associated with four graves.

In addition to the identified *bona fide* families, representatives of a Mahlangu family claimed one of the seven unknown graves. However, the family has failed to provide proof of their bona fides and the grave is still considered to that of an unknown individual.

This report was compiled to comply with the conditions contained in the NHRA Section 36 permit issued by the SAHRA BGG, specifically condition (6) that required the report to be lodged with the SAHRA BGG.

Appendix A: Records of additional consultation

Appendix B: Copies of permits and approvals