

# AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

2001/077745/23

### DR. UDO S KÜSEL

Tel: (012) 567 6046 Fax: 086 594 9721

Cell: 082 498 0673

E-mail: udo@nconnect.co.za

P.O. Box 652 Magalieskruin

0150

Website: www.africanheritage.co.za

**9 December 2011** 

# CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PORTIONS OF PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BUFFELSKLOOF 511 IO NORTH WEST PROVINCE

### 1. **DEFINITION**

The broad generic term Cultural Heritage Resources refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

# 2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, Act. NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- 1.1 Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
- Archaeological sites and objects. 1.2
- 1.3 Palaeontological sites.
- 1.4 Meteorites.
- 1.5 Ship wrecks.
- Burial grounds. 1.6
- 1.7 Graves of victims of conflict.

- 1.8 Public monuments and memorials.
- 1.9 Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette.
- 1.10 Any other places or object, which is considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance.
- 1.11 Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
- 1.12 Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
- 1.13 Objects to which oral traditions are attached.
- 1.14 Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The site was visited and inspected on foot. All appropriate documents on the area were studied.

### 4. **RESULTS**

The possible heritage sites on the farm were visited together with farm workers who have been on the farm for many years.

The following heritage sites were recorded:

• Two graves of the Möller family underneath a large tree at S26° 52' 6.5" & E27° 17' 0.9" were recorded. Christina Möller died on 18 December 1930 and another Christina Möller died on 16 December 1931- see photograph below and Google Map page 9, No 1.



According to the farm workers the original house stood where the modern swimming pool is situated at present.

• A second cemetery with eight graves was recorded at S26° 52' 17.87" & E27° 17' 23.4". The graves might also date to the 1930/40's and are overgrown by trees and shrubs to such an extent that the graves are difficult to spot – see photograph below and Google Map page 9, No.2.



• At S26° 52' 8.2" & E27° 17' 16.7" are eight modern graves of farm workers – see photograph below and Google Map page 9, No.3



• Gold was mined in the Vredefort Dome area at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A number of small gold digging quarries occur on the farm. The two largest are at:

 $\rm S26^{\circ}~52^{\circ}~10.5^{\circ}$  & E27° 17' 11.0" - see photograph below and Google Map page 9, No.4



 $S26^{\circ}$  52' 24.6" & E27° 17' 23.4" - see photograph below and Google Map page 9, No.5



• A Late Iron Age archaeological site was found at S26° 52' 1.3" & E27° 17' 1.7". The site is relative small and consists of a number of low semi circular stone walls. The site is overgrown by dense bush veldt vegetation – see photograph below and Google Map page 9, No.6.



The two cemeteries will be cleaned and fenced in. The archaeological site will also not be affected by the proposed development.

# 5. EVALUATION AND RATING (FIELD RATING)

#### **5.1** Cemeteries

The cemeteries are important and should be cleaned and fenced in. They are given a field rating of IV C.

### **5.2 Gold Quarries**

In the area where the gold quarries were recorded far better sites exists on the mountain slopes. The quarries are only of local interest and given a field rating of IV C.

### **5.3** Late Iron Age Site

The site is a typical Late Tswana site of the south Transvaal. The site is relatively small and of local interest and is given a field rating of IV B.

### **6.** STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

All the recorded sites are of low heritage value.

### 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- **7.1 Cemeteries -** The recorded cemeteries should be cleaned and fenced in. If the developer intends to move the cemeteries this should be done in accordance with existing legislation affecting cemeteries see appendix A.
- **7.2** Gold Quarries These are of low significance and can be destroyed.
- **7.3 Late Iron Age Site** This site must be protected. If any development take place near the site it should be fully recorded and mitigated.

### 8. SITE INFORMATION

Owners contact details:
Dr M N Hermann (representing Seriso 530 (Pty) Ltd): 0824537358
Developers contact details:
Same as above.
Consultants contact details:
Nico Blignaut (Welwyn Town Planners) Cell: 0825625590
Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.)
Recreational / rural residential.
Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved:
Rezoning and the possible subdivision of land is involved.
Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number:
North West Province. Tlokwe Local Municipality. Portions of Portion 3 Buffelskloof 511 IQ.

Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint):

Attached

If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site.

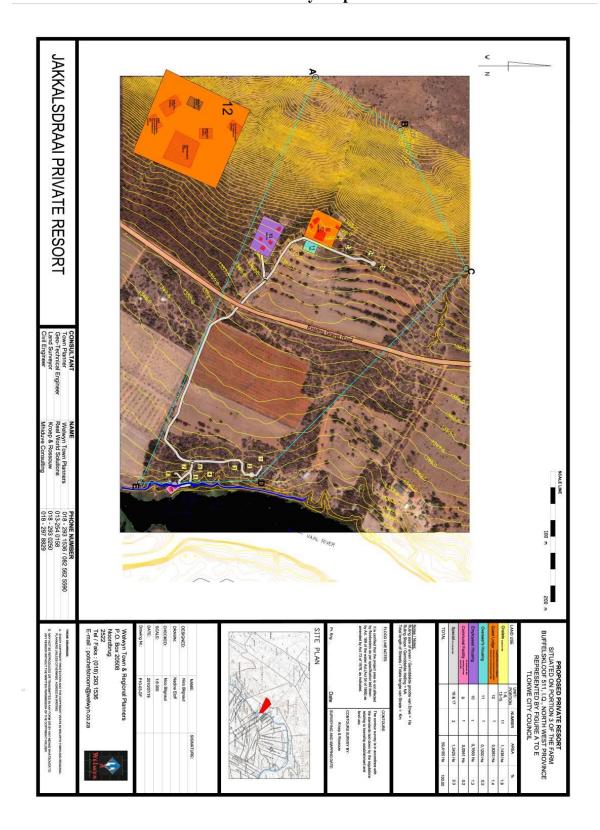
Attached

### 9. REFERENCES

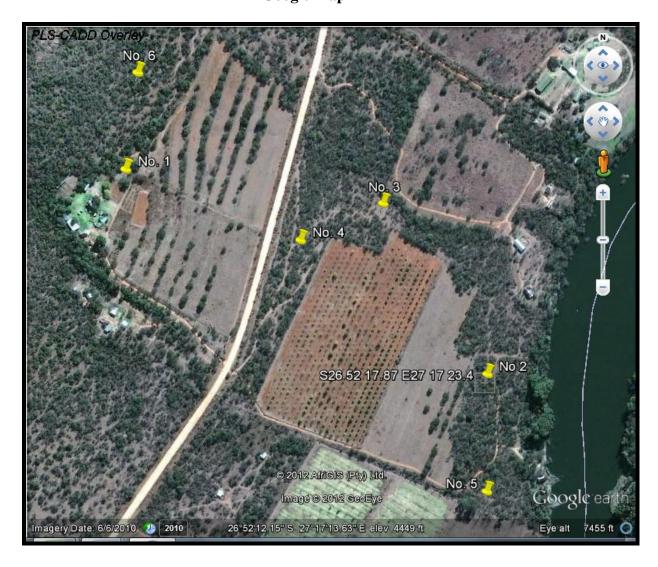
- 1/50 000 Map 2627 CD
- Google map.
- Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum Pretoria.
- De Jager O.C. 2003, Monuments in the History of the Transvaal Section of the Vredefort Dome. The South African Philatelist (October).
- Küsel U.S. 2006, Impact Assessment of Historic Heritage Resources in the Vredefort Dome Conservation Area.
- Naude M. 2005, Beyond the Frontier History of the VREDEFORT dome Area in meteorite Impact.
- Oberholster A.G. 1978, Parys on the Vaal.
- Pelser A. 2005, Travelling through time: Archaeology and the Vredefort Dome in Meteorite Impact.
- Pretorius F. 2001, The Great Escape of the Boer Pimpernel.
- Vredefort Dome Cultural Heritage survey and Conservation Management Plan with contributions by K Bakker, M. Naude, N. Clark, J. van Schalkwyk, C. van Vuuren and C. van Zyl.

# 10. Maps and Appendix A

- Locality Map page 8
- Google Map page 9
- Appendix A Archaeology, graves and the Law page 10 -11



### **Google Map**



- No. 1 Graves of the Möller family
- No. 2 Cemetery with 8 graves
- No. 3 Modern cemetery with 8 graves of farmworkers
- No. 4 Gold digging quarry
- No. 5 Gold digging quarry
- No. 6 Late Iron Age archaeological Site

#### APPENDIX A

### ARCHAEOLOGY, GRAVES AND THE LAW

- 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.
- A registered undertaker can only handle human remains 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

#### THE PROCESS/STEPS THAT ARE TAKEN

#### SITE VISIT: WHAT IS DONE DURING THIS SITE VISIT?

Physical documentation of graves prior to exhumation: Photographic, GPS, Site Maps, Final counting etc...

Determining context of graves: If any, are they associated with other sites such as farmhouses/structures etc...

#### SITE SIGNS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Notices (in compliance with the National Heritage Resources Act) must be placed on the site/s, indicating the intent of relocation. This must be in at least 3 languages and has to be up for a minimum of 60 days.

As part of the preliminary social consultation, newspaper ads as well as radio announcements has to be made as well

This is in order that family members/descendants, if any, can reply/come forward to indicate if any of the graves belong to them

### SOCIAL CONSULTATION

If any individuals responded during initial consultation/public participation, then full social consultation undertaken. This will include speaking to individuals regarding graves, their family wishes, getting consent for relocation/reburial etc...

It could also include an Open Day/Traditional Ceremony (or more than one if necessary)

#### PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Undertakers permits applied for and obtained during social consultation

Only after all necessary documents, family consent obtained, landowner letter, can SAHRA Permit be applied for and obtained. A few weeks should be budgeted for this.

#### **EXHUMATION & RELOCATION**

When permits obtained physical exhumation, investigation and reburial commences

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF BURIALS:

#### **DOCUMENTATION FORM**

This form contains the following information for each burial:

Feature/Burial No Site Name/No GPS Reading Farm Name/No

**Province** Location of new cemetery

It also includes information on the

**Burial Type** 

**Burial Dimensions** 

**Grave Type** 

**Grave Dimensions** 

Associated sites/features

Specimens or grave goods found

The state of preservation and percentage completeness of the human skeletal material

Sex and Age of the individual

**Further Remarks** 

**Information on the headstone and grave dressing (if any)** 

Photographs of each grave, headstone (if any), the skeletal remains, grave goods etc... are also taken and used in the final documentation