



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

Website: www.africanheritage.co.za

P.O. Box 652
Magalieskruin
0150

9 December 2011

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vredefort Dome area has many stonewalled Late Iron Age sites associated with the Sotho-Tswana. A small stonewalled Late Iron Age Site was recorded on the proposed development area.

Since 1836 white farmers moved into the area. Most farm settlements were burnt down during the Anglo Boer War. The area still has many old farm settlements older than sixty years.

The area had a short boom period with the discovery of gold and the establishment of the town of Venterskroon. Remains of gold diggings were recorded on the site. Three cemeteries were also recorded.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. Background Information on Project	3
2. Definition	5
3. Methodology	5
4. Historic Background of the Area	5
5. Results	8
6. Evaluation and Rating (Field rating)	11
7. Statement of Significance (Heritage Value)	11
8. Recommendations	12
9. References	13
. Maps:	
• Locality Plan	13
• Locality Map	14
• Google Map with detail	15
 Appendix A (Activity Information):	
• Archaeology, graves and the law	16

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROJECT:

(a) Whether the report is part of a scoping report/EIA/HIA or not

Yes, the report is part of a Basic Assessment (BA) report

(b) Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc).

Rural residential development

(c) Whether re-zoning and/or subdivision of land is involved.

Yes, both re-zoning and subdivision of land is involved

(d) Developer and consultant and owner and name and contact details;

Prepared for: Developer and owner

Dr. M.N. Hermann (for Seriso 530 (Pty) Ltd, 126 Raubenheimer Street, Heilbron, 9650

Tel: 058 852 1445; Cell: 082 453 7358; E-mail: hermann@telkomsa.net

Consultants contact details:

Town Planner

Mr. N. Bignaut (Welwyn Town Planners)

P.O. Box 20508, Noordbrug, 2522

Tel: 018 293 1536; Cell: 082 562 5590; Fax: 018 293 1536

E-mail Potchefstroom@welwyn.co.za

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Mr. C. Linde (Envirovision Consulting CC)

333 Rosemary Street, Menlo Park

Tel: 012 348 0807; Cell: 082 444 0367; Fax: 086 557 9447

E-mail: envirovision@lantic.net

Heritage Report prepared by:

Dr Udo S. Küsel, African Heritage Consultants CC, P.O. Box 652,

Magalieskruin, 0150

Tel: (012) 567 6046, Fax: 086 594 9721, Cell: 082 498 0673

E-mail: udo@nconnect.co.za

(e) Legislative requirements of Act 25 of 1999.

Protected sites in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25 of 1999

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

- Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
- Archaeological sites and objects.
- Paleontological sites.
- Meteorites.
- Ship wrecks.
- Burial grounds.
- Graves of victims of conflict.
- Public monuments and memorials.
- Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette.
- Any other places or objects, which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance.
 - 1.1 Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
 - 1.2 Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
 - 1.3 Objects to which oral traditions are attached.
 - 1.4 Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

(f) 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 paleontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

(g) Description of the Property of Affected Environment

Details of area surveyed:

- Full location Data for Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority and property (e.g. farm/erf) name and number etc.;

North West Province. Tlokwe Local Municipality. Portions of Portion 3 of the farm Buffelskloof 511 IQ.

- Location map(s)/ orthophotos of the general area. These must include the map name and number (e.g. 3313 DC Bellville). Maps must include at least a 1:50 000 and (if) available also a 1:10 000 (i.e. most detail possible). Large scale colour satellite photos make a useful addition. Maps should be preferable at least A4 size.

Attached

- Either the Location Map or the Site Map must have the polygon of the area surveyed marked on it and full geographical co-ordinates for all relevant points and where applicable, indication of the area to be developed (footprint).

Attached

2. 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.

3. METHODOLOGY

The proposed development site was visited and inspected on foot together with two farm workers who know the area very well. The Vredefort Dome area is well documented and the author has visited it several times. The author has also been involved in a Heritage Survey for the Vredefort Dome area. All appropriate documents on the area were studied.

4. HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF THE AREA

In recent years the Vredefort Dome area has received attention as part of its declaration as a World Heritage Site (*Bakker 2004*). A major archaeological survey has been done by (*Anton Pelsner 2006*).

4.1 Stone Age

According to Pelsner, very little research on Stone Age material has been done in the area. He only recorded two sites in eroded areas. Unfortunately the material is out of context because of erosion.

4.2 Iron Age

No Early Iron Age sites have been recorded in the Dome area. In contrast herewith Late Iron Age sites are widespread throughout the Southern Highveld including the Dome area. Previous work on these sites were done by, *Maggs (1976) and Taylor (1979)*.

The Vredefort Dome was densely populated during this period and various stonewalled settlements can be distinguished including Type V Z and M accordingly to Maggs clarification (*Maggs 1976: 44 & Taylor 1976: 105 – 107*) the Z type is related to the Rolong of the South-western Sotho – Tswana. According to Pelsers (2006) most sites in the area date to the period 1650 – 1840.



Typical Late Iron Age stonewalling on the Farm Koedoekop 664 IQ
Küsel (2008)

Most of the sites were most probably abandoned with the arrival of Mzilikazi in the 1820`s (*Pelsers 2006*).

4.3 Historic period

The first white farmers moved into the area in 1836. The area has seen turmoil along the Anglo Boer War period with the British burning down almost all farm settlements (*Küsel 2006: 4) (Pretorius 2001)*.

The area also has seen a short boom period in the 1880`s with the discovery of gold and the establishment of the small town of Venterskroon in 1887. The boom was short lived and the last small mine closed down in 1920 (*Küsel 2006: 4*)

The town of Venterskroon has beautiful old buildings which have survived because no real development took place in the town after the gold boom had ended. The main gold digging activities were on the farm Rooderand.



Deserted 1930`s Farmhouse



Ruin of farmhouse built according to the “opklei” method

In a survey done by the author more than 150 structures older than sixty years were recorded. This also includes the town of Parys (*Küsel 2006 and Oberholster 1978*).

The outstanding cultural features of the landscape are the old farm settlements with their houses, outbuildings, cattle kraals and exotic trees (*Küsel 2006 & Naude 2005*)

5. 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 19th and beginning of the 20th century. A number of small gold digging quarries occur on the farm. The two largest are at:

S26° 52' 10.5" & E27° 17' 11.0" - see photograph below and Google Map page 9, No.4



S26° 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.

6. EVALUATION AND RATING (FIELD RATING)

6.1 Cemeteries

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

6.2 Gold Quarries

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

6.3 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.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

All the recorded sites are of low heritage value.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Gold Quarries** - These are of low significance and can be destroyed.
- 8.3 Late Iron Age Site** – This site must be protected. If any development take place near the site it should be fully recorded and mitigated.

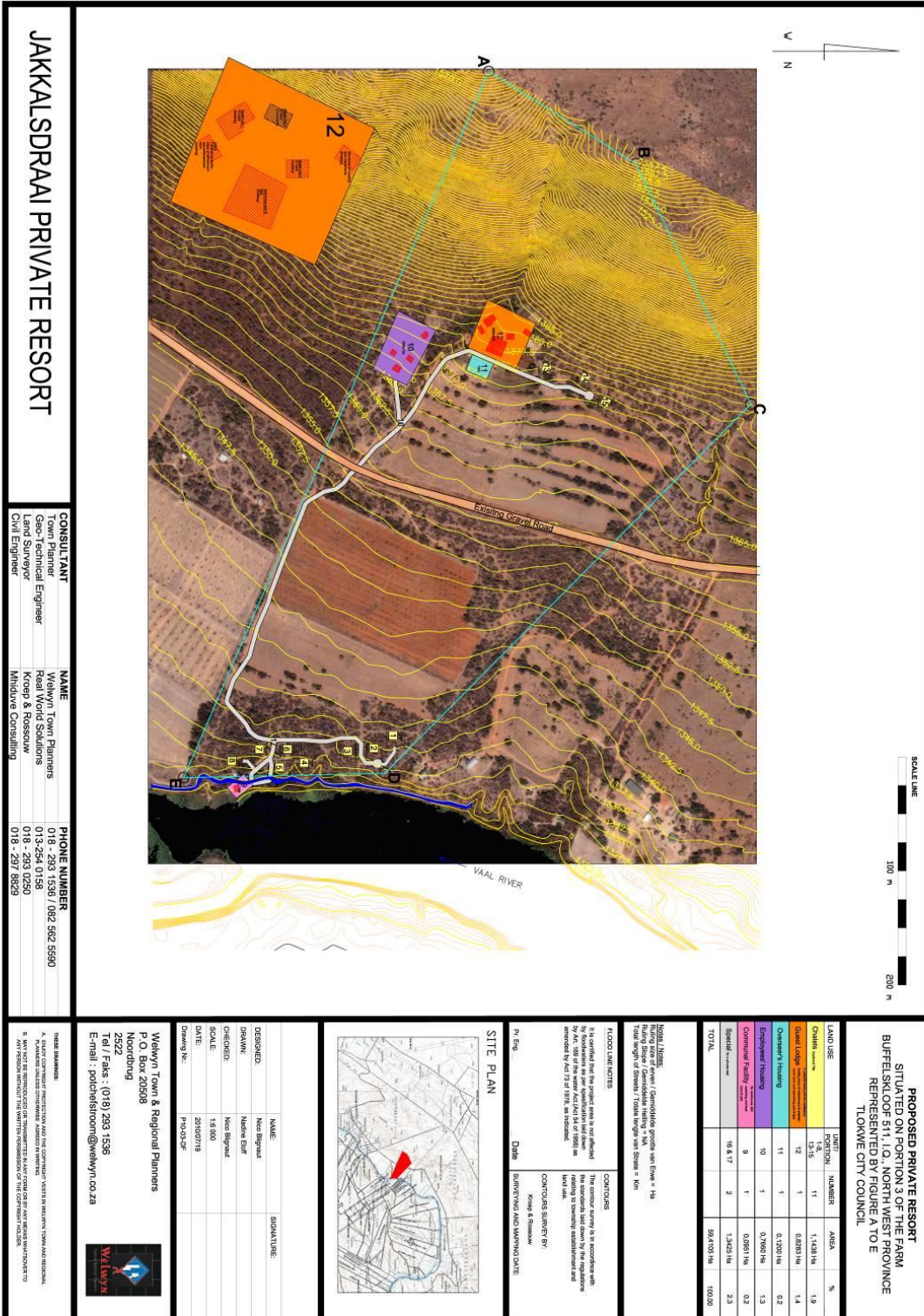
9. REFERENCES

- 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.
- Küsel, U.S. 2008. Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of the Farm Koedoekop 664 IQ North West Province.
- Maggs, T.M.O`C. 1976. Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld. Pietermaritzburg Occasional Publication of the Natal Museum No.2.
- 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. 2006. An assessment of archaeological sites in the Vredefort Dome World Heritage site.
- Pretorius, F. 2001. The Great Escape of the Boer Pimpernel.
- Talor, M.O.V. 1979. Late Iron Age settlements on the northern edge of the Vredefort Dome. Unpublished M.A. University of the Witwatersrand.
- 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.

Maps and Appendix A

- Locality Plan page 13
- Locality Map page 14
- Google Map with detail page 15
- Appendix A Archaeology, graves and the Law page 16

Locality Plan



JAKKALSDRAAI PRIVATE RESORT

CONSULTANT	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
Town Planner	Welwyn Town Planners	018 - 293 1536 / 082 562 5590
Geo-technical Engineer	Real World Solutions	013-254 0158
Land Surveyor	Koop & Rossouw	018 - 293 0250
Civil Engineer	Minibus Computing	018 - 297 8829

PROPOSED PRIVATE RESORT SITUATED ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BUFFELSKLOOF 511, L.O., NORTH WEST PROVINCE REPRESENTED BY FIGURE A TO E TLOKWE CITY COUNCIL

LAND USE	PORTION	NUMBER	AREA	%
CHIEFS RESERVE	14.5	11	1,1430 Ha	1.9
GRAND LODGE	12	1	0,8201 Ha	1.4
CHIEFS RESERVE	11	1	0,1200 Ha	0.2
CHIEFS RESERVE	10	1	0,7661 Ha	1.3
CHIEFS RESERVE	9	1	0,0861 Ha	0.2
CHIEFS RESERVE	16.8.17	2	1,3420 Ha	2.3
TOTAL			59,4163 Ha	100.00

Notes:
 1. The proposed private resort is situated on Portion 3 of the Farm Buffelskloof 511, L.O., North West Province.
 2. The total length of the proposed private resort is 1.9 km.
 3. The total length of the proposed private resort is 1.9 km.
 4. The total length of the proposed private resort is 1.9 km.

FLOOD LINE NOTES:
 It is certified that the project area is not affected by flooding as per the flood line notes provided by Act 73 of 1971, see attached.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

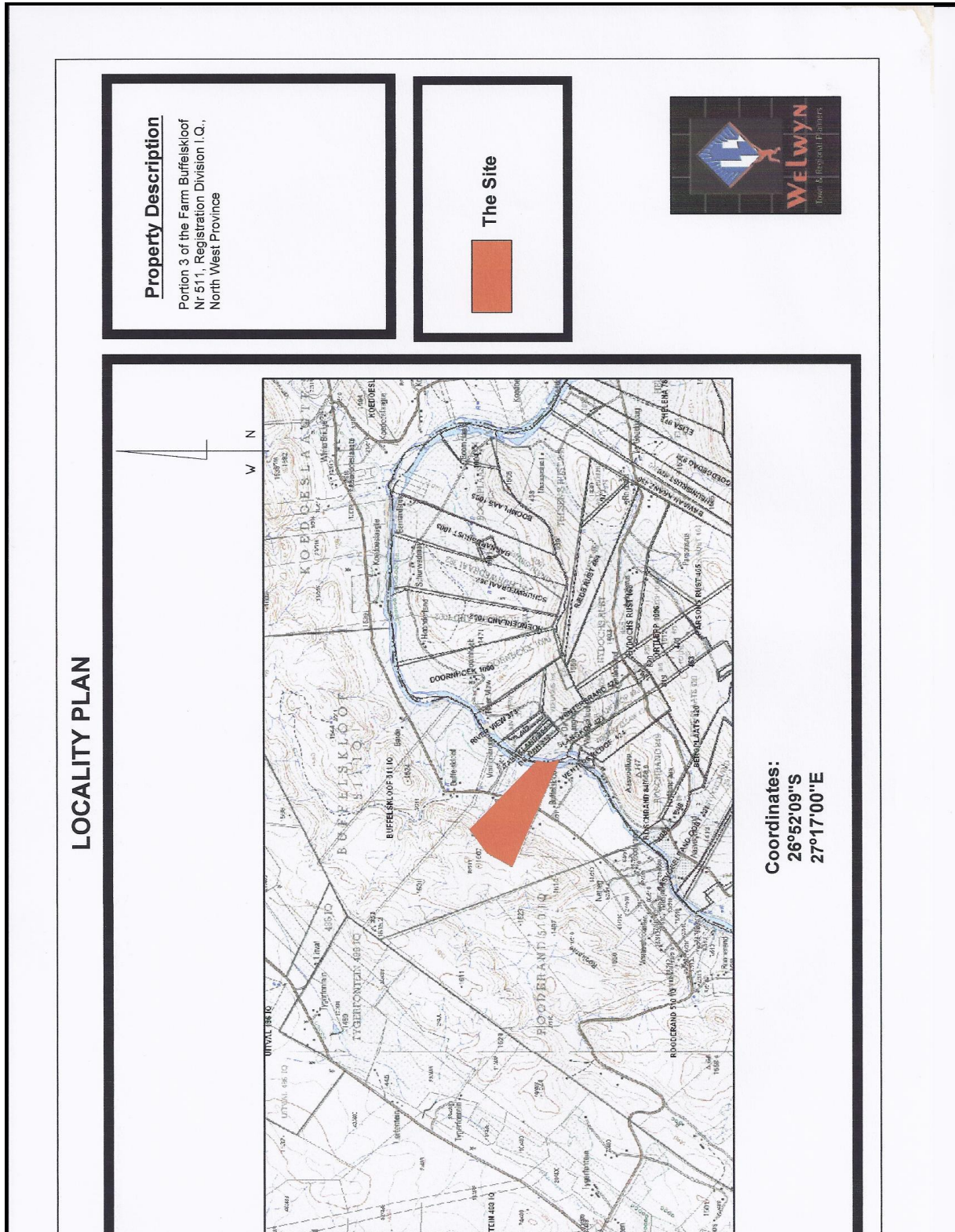
CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

CONTRACTS:
 The contract is in accordance with the contract conditions and the contract conditions of the contractor.

Locality Map



LOCALITY PLAN

Property Description

Portion 3 of the Farm Buffelskloof
Nr 511, Registration Division I.Q.,
North West Province

The Site



Coordinates:
26°52'09"S
27°17'00"E

Google Map with detail



- 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 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 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