

Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters

CK 2006/014630/23 VAT NO.: 4360226270

# FIRST REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HIA CONDUCTED ON PORTION 109 OF WITKOPPPEN 194IQ (LONGLAND HOUSES), NEAR FOURWAYS, MONTE CASINO BOULEVARD GAUTENG PROVINCE

For:

Abland (Pty) Ltd Abcon House – Fairway Office Park 52 Grosvenor Road BRYANSTON 2021

REPORT: APAC013/13

by:

A.J. Pelser Accredited member of ASAPA Professional Member of SASCH

February 2013

P.O.BOX 73703 LYNNWOOD RIDGE 0040

Tel: 083 459 3091

Fax: 086 695 7247

Email: pelseranton@gmail.com

Member: AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

# ©Copyright APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING

The information contained in this report is the sole intellectual property of APELSER Archaeological Consulting. It may only be used for the purposes it was commissioned for by the client.

# **DISCLAIMER:**

Although all efforts are made to identify all sites of cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) significance during an assessment of study areas, the nature of archaeological and historical sites are as such that it is always possible that hidden or subterranean sites, features or objects could be overlooked during the study. APELSER Archaeological Consulting can't be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result thereof.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or one of its subsidiary bodies is required to provide Review Comments on this report and clients are advised not to proceed with any action before receiving these.

## **SUMMARY**

APelser Archaeological Consulting was appointed by Abland (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portion 109 of Witkoppen 194IQ, located close to Fourways in Gauteng. The site is situated just off Monte Casino Boulevard, opposite the Monte Casino entertainment center. There are a number of structures located on the property, which according to oral testimony, were farmsteads and related buildings originally, but that has been changed over time significantly. The one (the original farmhouse with associated cottage) were apparently built in around 1944/45, and burnt down in the 1990's, while the second one was constructed in about 1957. Abland is planning the development of an Office Park on the property and would want to obtain a Demolition Permit for the structures here.

A desktop study and site visit with the client formed part of the Heritage Assessment. The aim with the assessment was to determine the age and significance, as well as state of preservation of the various structures, and then to present the findings and recommendations on the way forward. This document represents a First (draft) Report on the findings of the desktop work and physical field visit. Based on this it is clear that the structures are not of high cultural significance and that there should be no objection to their demolition. A number of recommendations are made in terms of the way forward. Furthermore, a Public Participation process still needs to be undertaken and once completed a Final Report will be submitted to the client and the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Authority for comments and eventual application for the Demolition Permit.

# **CONTENTS**

pag
SUMMARY
CONTENTS
1. INTRODUCTION
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE 5
3. LEGLISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS
4. METHODOLOGY
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA
6. DISCUSSION
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
8. REFERENCES
APPENDIX A – DEFINITION OF TERMS
APPENDIX B – DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 29
APPENDIX C – SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING
APPENDIX D – PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES
APPENDIX E – HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IMPACT  ASSESSMENT PHASES

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting was appointed by Abland (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portion 109 of Witkoppen 194IQ, located close to Fourways in Gauteng. The site is situated just off Monte Casino Boulevard, opposite the Monte Casino entertainment center. There are a number of structures located on the property, which according to oral testimony, were farmsteads and related buildings originally, but that has been changed over time significantly. The one (the original farmhouse with associated cottage) were apparently built in around 1944/45, and burnt down in the 1990's, while the second one was constructed in about 1957. Abland is planning the development of an Office Park on the property and would want to obtain a Demolition Permit for the structures here.

A desktop study and site visit with the client formed part of the Heritage Assessment. This document represents a First (draft) Report on the findings of the desktop work and physical field visit. At the end of this document a number of recommendations are made in terms of the way forward.

A required Public Participation, which will include Site Notices and Legal Notice in a newspaper process, still needs to be undertaken and once completed a Final Report will be submitted to the client and the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Authority for comments and eventual application for the Demolition Permit.

The client indicated the location of the development property and its boundaries and the assessment was limited to this. A field visit was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2013.

## 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study were to:

- 1. Conduct a desktop study regarding the history of the area and the property and to undertake a physical assessment of the affected structure
- 2. Assess the cultural heritage significance of the property and structures on it;
- 4. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on the property;
- 5. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on it;
- 6. Review applicable legislative requirements;

# 3. 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).

# 3.1 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 or 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 on these resources. 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 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

# 3.2 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 regarding mitigation measures to minimize or negate these impacts should be 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.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

# **4.1** Survey of literature

A survey of literature and archival sources was undertaken in order to place the development area in a historical context. The sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

#### **4.2** Field Assessment

The property where the structures are located was visited and then documented photographically, while the individual structures were also photographed in order to identify any possible features that could be deemed unique and significant. The client, as well as owners of the properties, also provided some information on the structures.

#### **4.3** 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. A Public Participation Process will be followed during the next phase prior to the application for a demolition permit. This will include Site Notices and Newspaper Advertisements wherein the public will be asked to respond and provide information on the property itself.

#### **4.4** 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.

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The study area/property is located on Portion 109 (a portion of portion 49) of the farm Witkoppen 194IQ, near Fourways in Gauteng. It is situated opposite the Monte Casino Entertainment Centre, between Monte Casino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive. Originally agricultural holdings, the area has been completely changed and developed over time and the properties are surrounded by commercial, industrial, residential and other developments.

Abland (Pty) Ltd is planning the development of an Office Park on the property, and as a result would want to demolish the current structures located here. The aim of the assessment was therefore to determine the age and significance of the structures and to recommend the best way forward in terms of mitigation of the impact of the proposed development. The structures on the property include a restaurant (originally a farmhouse) and office buildings for Longland Investments (original farmstead and cottage). Abland obtained the property for development purposes from Longland. The study area is characterized by gardens and large trees (some of which date back to the original building and occupation of the farmsteads here). Only a very small portion of the area still retains its original agricultural holding character.



Figure 1: Aerial view of property location (provided by Abland). The property under discussion is marked 64/1 RE of 194IQ.



Figure 2: Google Earth view of site location (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2012/14/06).



Figure 3: Closer view of property with structures located on it (Google Earth 2013).

The portion with the restaurant and office/farmhouse will be used for the

Office Park development.



Figure 4: View of garden behind restaurant.



Figure 5: Another view of the property, with large trees visible.

This Acacia was planted around the time when the original

Farmhouse was built.



Figure 6: View of property adjacent to the study area.

A small portion of the area still retains its agricultural holding characteristics.



Figure 7: Parking area for Eco Nursery and tea garden bordering the property.

# 6. **DISCUSSION**

As part of the assessment a desktop study was undertaken to put the property and the general geographical area in a historical and archaeological context.

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for

interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

```
Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago
```

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

The closest known Stone Age sites to the area are located at Melville Koppies (MSA), Glenferness, Pietkloof and Zevenfontein (all LSA)[Bergh 1999: 4], while Revil Mason also mentions Stone Age occurrences at Witkoppen (Mason 1989). Should any Stone Age material (stone tools) be found on the property these would be scattered, individual tools. However, this is unlikely.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (in Berg 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 closest Iron Age sites are located at Melville Koppies (Bergh 1999: 7). If any sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age did exist here in the past it would have been completely disturbed or destroyed as a result of recent historical developments.

The historical age starts with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans to move through this area were the early traveller and hunter Cornwallis Harris in 1836, and then Dr. David Livingstone in 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13). These groups were closely followed by Voortrekker farmers.

Maps obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's database (<a href="www.csg.dla.gov.za">www.csg.dla.gov.za</a>) provide some more historical background. A 1904 dated map (Document 10J63B01) indicates that the whole farm was originally granted to one P.E.Labuschagne on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1859. At this time the farm was known as Witkoppen 36, situated in the Witwatersrand Ward. According to a 1924 map (Document 10JCNA01) Portion 49 was granted to one S.J. van der Walt in 1873, while a map dated to 1941 (Document 10320971) shows that Portion 109 (a portion of portion 49) was surveyed in July 1941.

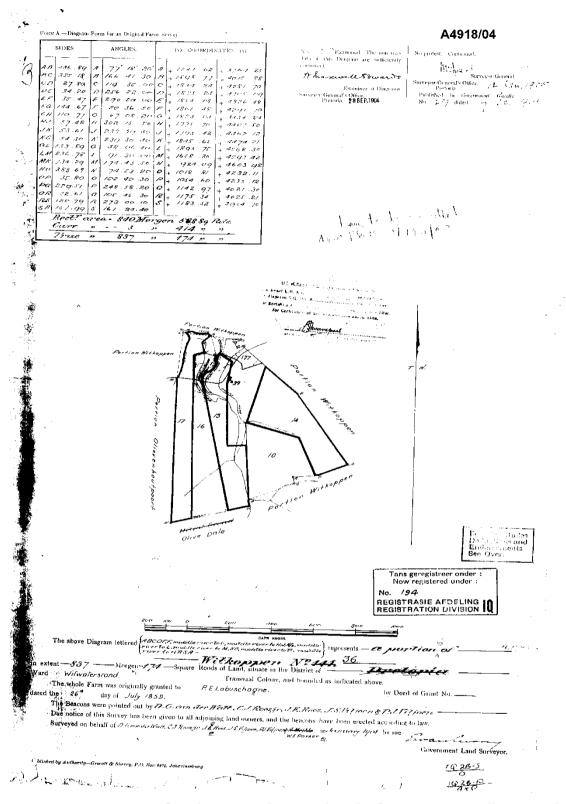


Figure 8: 1904 Map of Witkoppen indicating that the farm was originally granted to P.E.Labuschagne in 1859 (CSG Document 10J63B01).

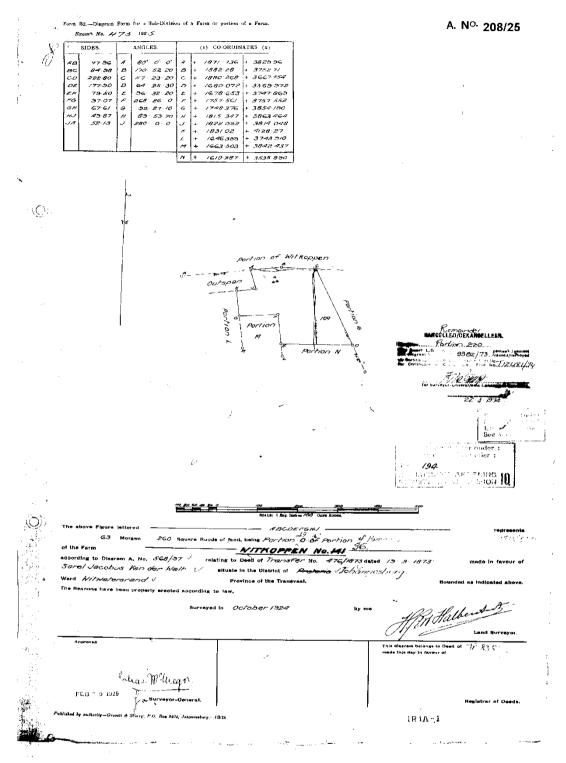


Figure 9: 1924 Map showing that Portion 49 was granted to S.J. van der Walt in 1873 (CSG Document 10JCNA01).

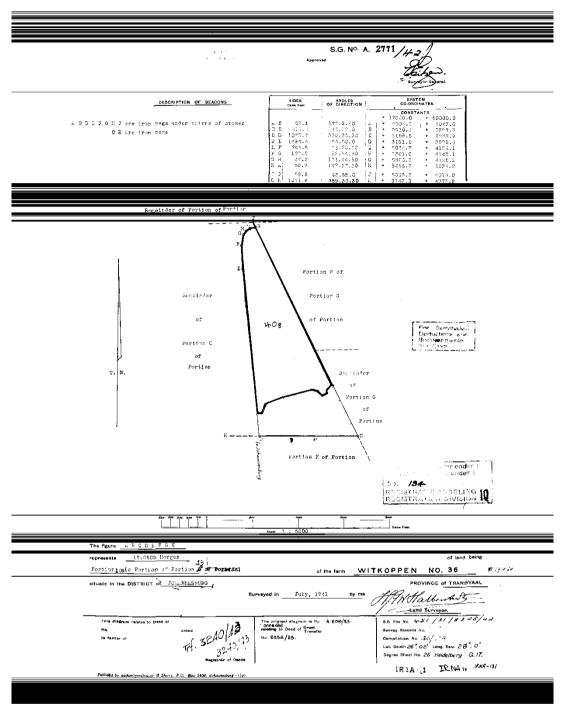


Figure 10: 1941 Map of Portion 109 (CSG Document 10320971).

Further information on the history of the property and the structures on it that had to be assessed were provided by the client and current/previous owners (Longland Investments). According to this the first structure here was built in around 1944/45, and consists of a farmhouse with a cottage built at the same time. The property originally belonged to Richard R.Currie, who was a well-known business man in the area and Johannesburg during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Old photographs show that his business was known as Richard R. Currie (Pty) Ltd, Auctioneers, Estate, Insurance and General Agents. At some point the business was located at the Old Mart in Fox Street, Johannesburg. The house (although this

information was not given to the specialist) was built by Donald Richard Currie (his son). Portion 109 was transferred from him to Longland Investments in 1995.

The second structure located here (now a restaurant/function venue) was originally built around 1956/7 as a farmhouse for his parents. Later on (date not known) the house and property was owned by the well-known South African garden expert Keith Kirsten. This structure is therefore not older than 60 years of age and has been changed substantially over time since 1957 as well.

The original farmhouse (which includes the cottage) built in 1944/45 is in terms of age older than 60 years of age, and therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act. However, the house was extensively damaged during a fire in the 1990's and effectively had to be rebuilt. Only the shell (based on photographs provided) remained after the fire and none of the original internal elements, roof and other features remained. As a result the house has been completely altered and the heritage significance has been severely diminished. The only feature remaining is the cottage which still retains the original thatch roof and construction style that would have characterized the farmhouse. Other historical features that remain are large Acacia trees planted around 1946. However, according to the client, these trees will be retained in the development to provide shading.

Based on this assessment and observations on site the following can be said regarding Heritage Significance and ratings (See Appendix B & C):

Historical Value: Low Aesthetic Value: Low Scientific Value: Low Social Value: Low

Rarity: Low

Representivity: Low

# **Significance & Field Rating**

Cultural Significance: Low Heritage Significance: Low

Field Rating: General Protection C (IV C). Phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may

be demolished (low significance).

It is therefore recommended that the proposed development can proceed and that a Demolition Permit should be granted. However, before the can be applied for SAHRA and the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Authority will have to provide comments on the assessment report. A Demolition Permit will only be granted once a Public Participation process has been undertaken. This will include the erection of Site Notices and the placement of a Notice in a newspaper wherein the developer indicates their intent to develop and demolish the structures. This will allow any possible Interested & Affected Parties to comment on this development. Once this has been completed (a 30 day period has to be allowed for comments) a Demolition Permit can be applied for.



Figure 11: Old photo of Richard R. Currie's business in Fox Street, Johannesburg.



Figure 12: Another old photograph of Richard Currie's business.



Figure 13: Front view of restaurant (originally farmhouse).



Figure 14: Another view of the restaurant.



Figure 15: Restaurant.



Figure 16: Another view of the restaurant/old farm house.



Figure 17: Back view of restaurant/house.



Figure 18: View of 1944/45 farmhouse.



Figure 19: Closer view of house with front entrance.



Figure 20: View of cottage behind house. The tree in front of the cottage was planted in 1946.



Figure 21: Wall feature in garden next to cottage and farmhouse.

The date 1967 indicates that there were some changes to the layout of the property at that time.



Figure 22: Images of house after being burnt down.



Figure 23: More images showing the extensive damage done by the fire.



Figure 24: House being rebuilt.



Figure 25: The final product.

#### 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 heritage assessment of the property and the structures located on it was completed successfully. Abland (Pty) Ltd is planning to develop an Office Park here, and would want to demolish the structures situated here. There are two structures here, namely a restaurant/function venue (old farmhouse) and an office building for Longland Investments (originally a farmhouse and cottage). Last mentioned farmhouse was built around 1944/45, but was burnt down in the 1990's and had to be nearly completely rebuilt. The restaurant structure was originally built in 1956/7.

As the 1944/45 farmhouse was extensively damaged and had to be rebuilt very little of the original fabric remains. Although the original dates to more than 60 years ago, and is protected by the Heritage Resources Act, its significance has been severely diminished. The other house was only built in the late 1950's and is therefore less than 60 years old. Also – it has been changed/altered over the years since 1957.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view therefore the development should be allowed to continue. However, Public Participation still needs to be undertaken before a final decision is made on the issuing of a Demolition Permit. This process would include Site Notices declaring the intent to develop and demolish and newspaper advertisements. A final report with the proof of and results of the Public Participation will then be submitted and a Demolition Permit be applied for.

Finally the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility, and this aspect needs to be kept in mind at all

times. 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.

## 8. REFERENCES

Aerial views of the location of the area and property – Google Earth 2013: Imagery date 2012/14/06.

Aerial view of Property Location: Abland (Pty) Ltd.

Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies.** Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

Knudson, S.J. 1978. **Culture in retrospect.** Chicago: Rand McNally College Publishing Company.

Lombard, M., L. Wadley, J. Deacon, S. Wurz, I. Parsons, M. Mohapi, J. Swart & P. Mitchell. 2012. **South African and Lesotho Stone Age Sequence Updated (I).** South African Archaeological Bulletin **67** (195): 120–144, 2012.

Mason, R.J. 1989. **A Guide to Archaeology Sites: Johannesburg.** Occasional Papers 23. Archaeology Research Unit. University of the Witwatersrand. Johannesburg.

Republic of South Africa. 1999. **National Heritage Resources Act** (No 25 of 1999). Pretoria: the Government Printer.

Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

Chief Surveyor General Database – <u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u> Document Numbers: 10J63B01, 10JCNA01 & 10320971

Photographs of farmhouse burnt down and rebuilding process: Provided by Longland Investments

Old photographs of Richard R. Currie Business – taken at offices of Longland Investments.

# APPENDIX A

# **DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

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

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

**Object**: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

#### APPENDIX B

## **DEFINITION/ STATEMENT 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:

# **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.

# 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

## Field ratings:

i. National Grade I significance	should be managed as part of the national estate
ii. Provincial Grade II significance	should be managed as part of the provincial estate
iii. Local Grade IIIA	should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
iv. Local Grade IIIB	should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/ medium significance)
v. General protection A (IV A)	site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
vi. General protection B (IV B)	site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
vii. General protection C (IV C)	phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

## APPENDIX D

# PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

# **Formal protection:**

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

# **General protection:**

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

#### **APPENDIX E**

# HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

- 1. Pre-assessment or Scoping phase Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
- 2. Baseline Assessment Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
- 3. Phase I Impact Assessment Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
- 4. Letter of Recommendation for Exemption If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
- 5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
- 6. Phase III Management Plan For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.