



# **AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC**

2001/077745/23

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**30 July 2008**

## **NEW UPDATED REPORT OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PORTIONS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 18, 19, 27 AND 28, OF THE FARM MAROELAESFONTEIN 366 KQ LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**PREPARED FOR:  
ANDALUSITE RESOURCES (PTY) LTD: MAROELAESFONTEIN  
OPERATION**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment study, as required in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act no 25 of 1999, was requested by Andalusite Resources (Pty) Ltd: Maroeloesfontein Operation, prior to the extension of their mining activities, currently confined to Portion 28 of the farm Maroeloesfontein 366 KQ.

Graves were found on Portions 1, 6, 19, 18 and 28 and no other cultural material was found. As stands of impenetrable *Dichrostachys cineria* (sickle bush) occur at several sites, it is advised that an archaeologist be present when the overburden is removed at these sites as sickle bush has been found to coppice continuously on disturbed areas, and often hides Iron Age sites in the surrounding areas. Where the thickets are small or occur in narrow strips on the edges of roads or agricultural lands they are not included.

Aside from the recommendation of appropriate action regarding the graves, there is no objection to the extension of mining activities.

## **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:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials
- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The Heritage Impact assessment was conducted by means of:

1. A foot survey, unless not possible due to dense vegetation.
2. Interviews with all current landowners.
3. Interviews with local farm workers.
4. Scrutiny of the aerial photograph of the area provided by Andalusite Resources (Pty) Ltd.
5. Consulting Google Earth maps of the area.
6. Consulting Topocadastral maps 2427CC and 2427AC

Visibility ranged from excellent to very poor.

## 4. RESULTS

### HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED AREA TO BE MINED

#### PORTION 1

This Portion includes cultivated lands, roads, sickle bush thickets, areas grazed by cattle, and foothills which are excluded from mining. Buildings are newer than sixty years.

A low earth mound, bounded by rocks, appears to be a large grave. All people interviewed denied any knowledge of the purpose of the mound, the cattle herder, known only as Johannes, was not found despite attempts to do so over a period of five days.

Interviews: conducted with lesser Alistair McNab, owner Egon Mauss, and farm worker Twoboy, and numerous casual workers.



**Possible grave**

S 24° 45 .015' E 27° 13 .318'



**Sickle bush thicket**

S 24° 44 .374' E 27° 12 .778'

## **PORTION 4**

This Portion consists of cultivated lands, and areas heavily grazed by cattle, visibility is therefore good. No cultural material was found.

Interview: owner Mrs. Graham. In 1972 a farmhouse was built on this property. What are of interest are the large Leadwood trees near the house. These are indigenous trees and fall outside the scope of Act 25 of 1999.



**Farmhouse**

## **PORTION 5**

This Portion consists of land heavily grazed by cattle. No cultural material was found.

Interview: owner Mr. and Mrs. Engelbrecht.

## **PORTIONS 6 AND 7**

These Portions consist of land which was heavily grazed by cattle, old lands, and lands currently under cultivation to the east of the road, a new house and outbuildings lie to the west of the road. Portion 6 has four marked graves and one unmarked grave. The foothills west of the house are heavily wooded and will not be mined. No cultural material was found on Portion 7.

Interview: owner Mr. Schoeman.





### **Marked graves**

S24° 45 .826' E27° 12 .302'

The graves are those of D.J. Venter, Oberholzer, J.A.J. Pretorius and L. van Wyk. It is strange that all four people died in 1928 this is possibly as a result of the flu epidemic.



### **Unmarked grave**

## **PORTION 18**

This Portion consists of old lands, heavily wooded areas patchily grazed by cattle, and impenetrable sickle bush thickets. It is recommended that an archaeologist be present if the overburden is removed for mining.

The foothills are very steep and wooded, the house is new. The foothills will not be mined.

Six unmarked graves were pointed out by informant Frans Mokwona, but fall just out of the area, as was a possible unmarked single grave. Although these graves are not threatened by current proposed mining they should be noted in case of future mining activities. More than one hundred farm workers graves, most of which are unmarked, were also pointed out.

Interviews: farm foreman Mr. Frans Mokwona, owner Mr. Hauptfleisch.





**Sickle bush thicket**  
S24° 46 .344' E27° 12 .714'



**Sickle bush thicket**  
S24° 46 .389' E27° 12 .330'



**Six graves without names**  
S24° 46 .098' E27° 12 .114'  
S24° 46 .109' E27° 12 .128'



**Possible grave without a name**  
S24° 46 .092' E27° 12 .002'



**± 100 Farm worker graves**  
S24° 46 .373' E27° 12 .226'



**± 7 Unmarked farmers' graves**  
S24° 46'07.02" E27° 12'25.24"





## **PORTION 19**

This Portion consists of land heavily grazed by cattle to the east of the road, and old lands to the west of the road. All buildings are newer than sixty years. The heavily wooded foothills will not be mined. Interview: owner Mr. and Mrs. Engelbrecht.

East of the farmhouse at S24° 45' 42.8" E27° 12' 27.4" are two graves in a cemetery. The one grave is unmarked. The other is that of J.C.J. van Schalkwyk who died on 9 January 1961 (see photograph)



**Cemetery with 2 graves**



## **PORTION 27**

This Portion consists of a few buildings less than sixty years old, prospecting grids which provided a passage through the sickle bush, roads and tracks, cattle grazed areas and foothills and koppies which will not be mined. No cultural material was found.

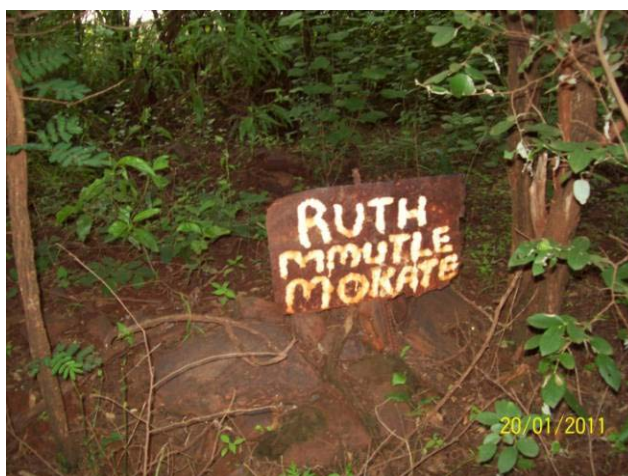
## **PORTION 28**

This Portion is largely taken up by current mining activities, the small un-mined area consists of old lands and prospecting grids, very little undisturbed land exists. Freshly graded roads and shallow removal of overburden provided a good opportunity to look for cultural material.

A grave site is present west of the mine workings located next to the D1590 road. Approximately 42 unmarked graves are to be found at this location  $S24^{\circ} 46'38.58''$   $E27^{\circ} 12'22.45''$  (see photographs below). Two marked graves were also identified at this location.



**Unmarked graves**



**Marked grave**



**Marked grave**

### **OTHER FINDINGS**

The foundations of an old building were visited together with Mrs. Anna van Wyk at S24° 45.741' E27° 12.535' (portion 19). According to her these foundations are those of a small farm school which also housed a post office (see photograph below). Except for the foundations of this building nothing else has survived.



**Remaining foundations**

At another site S24° 46' 28.6" E27° 12' 21.3" seven blue gum trees indicate that some settlement had existed on the site. Only a few stones were found which may have been part of a foundation of a building.

## **5. EVALUATION**

Except for the graves no important cultural heritage resources were found. The mine intends to properly fence in all the cemeteries which will protect them from being damaged.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The dense vegetation made the finding of heritage resources very difficult.

No cultural materials other than graves were found. The possible graves and graves on Portion 1, 6, 19, 28 and 18 may be affected by proposed mining activities and appropriate action to either preserve them *in situ* and allow access to them must be taken, or, should relocation become necessary, a specialist study and appropriate action will have to be undertaken in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act 65 of 1983).

An archaeologist should be present when the overburden in the sickle bush thickets on Portions 1 and 18 are removed.

## 7. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the graves be fenced of and properly protected or they have to be relocated in accordance with existing legislation see annexure A.

Because of the dense vegetation in certain areas there might be archaeological sites which were not found. If these areas are cleared for mining they should be inspected for possible heritage resources or graves.

If during construction any cultural heritage resources or graves are unearthed all work has to be stopped until the site has been inspected and mitigated by a cultural heritage practitioner.

## 8. SITE INFORMATION

<b>Owners contact details:</b>  Andalusite Resources (Pty) Ltd PO Box 436 Witkoppen 2068
<b>Developers contact details:</b>
<b>Consultants contact details:</b>  Vanessa Marais Galago Environmental CC P.O. Box 886, Irene, 0062 Tel: 012-345 4891 Fax: 086 675 6136 Cell: 082 322 5688



<b>Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.)</b>
Mining of Andalusite
<b>Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved:</b>
N/A
<b>Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number):</b>
Ptn. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 18, 19, 27, 28 Maroeloesfontein 366 KQ
<b>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):</b>
Attached

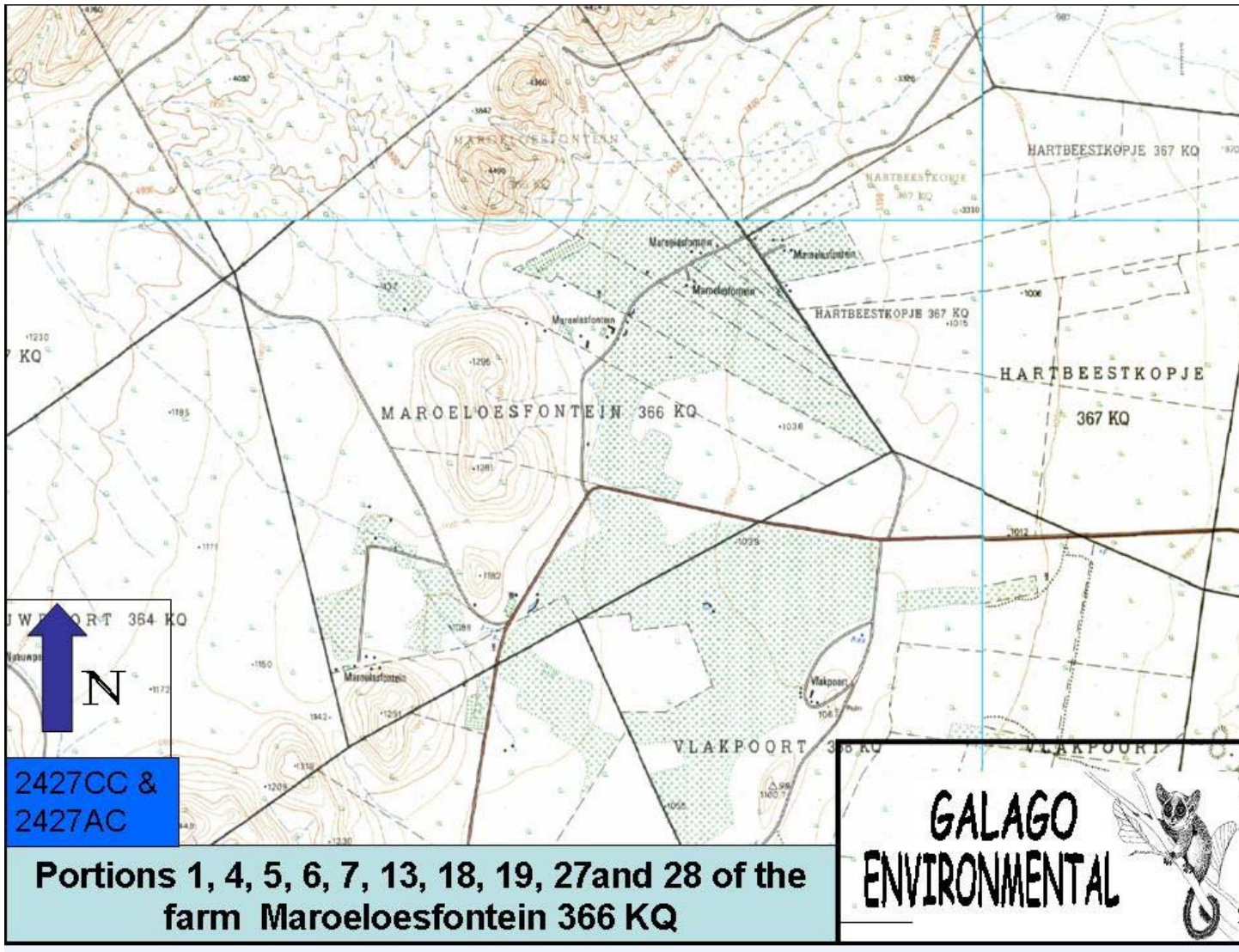
## 9. REFERENCES

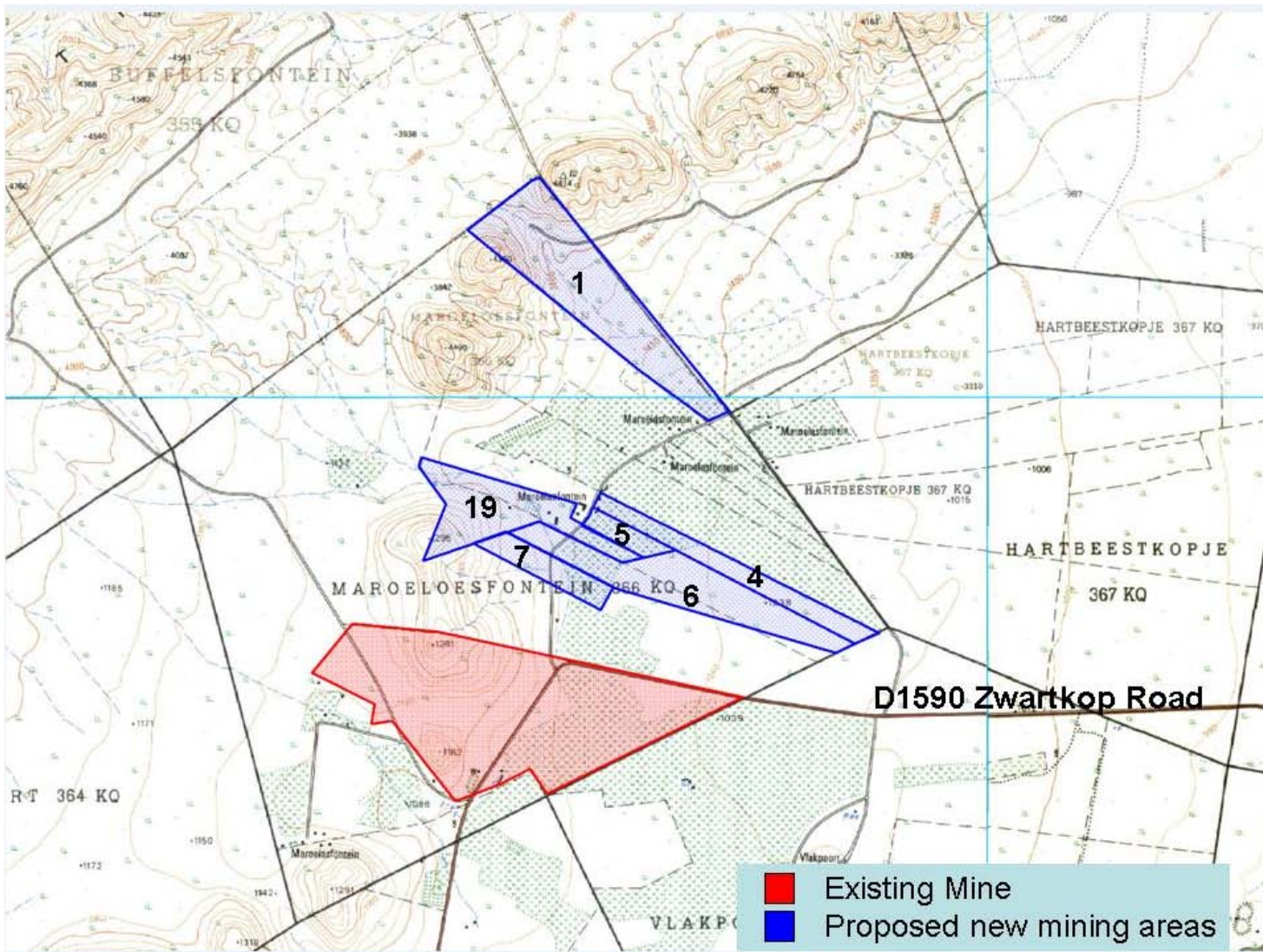
Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum Pretoria

Huffman T.N. 2006, Maize grindstones, Madikwe pottery and ochre mining in pre-colonial South Africa published in the Southern African Humanities Volume 18(2) pages: 51 - 70.

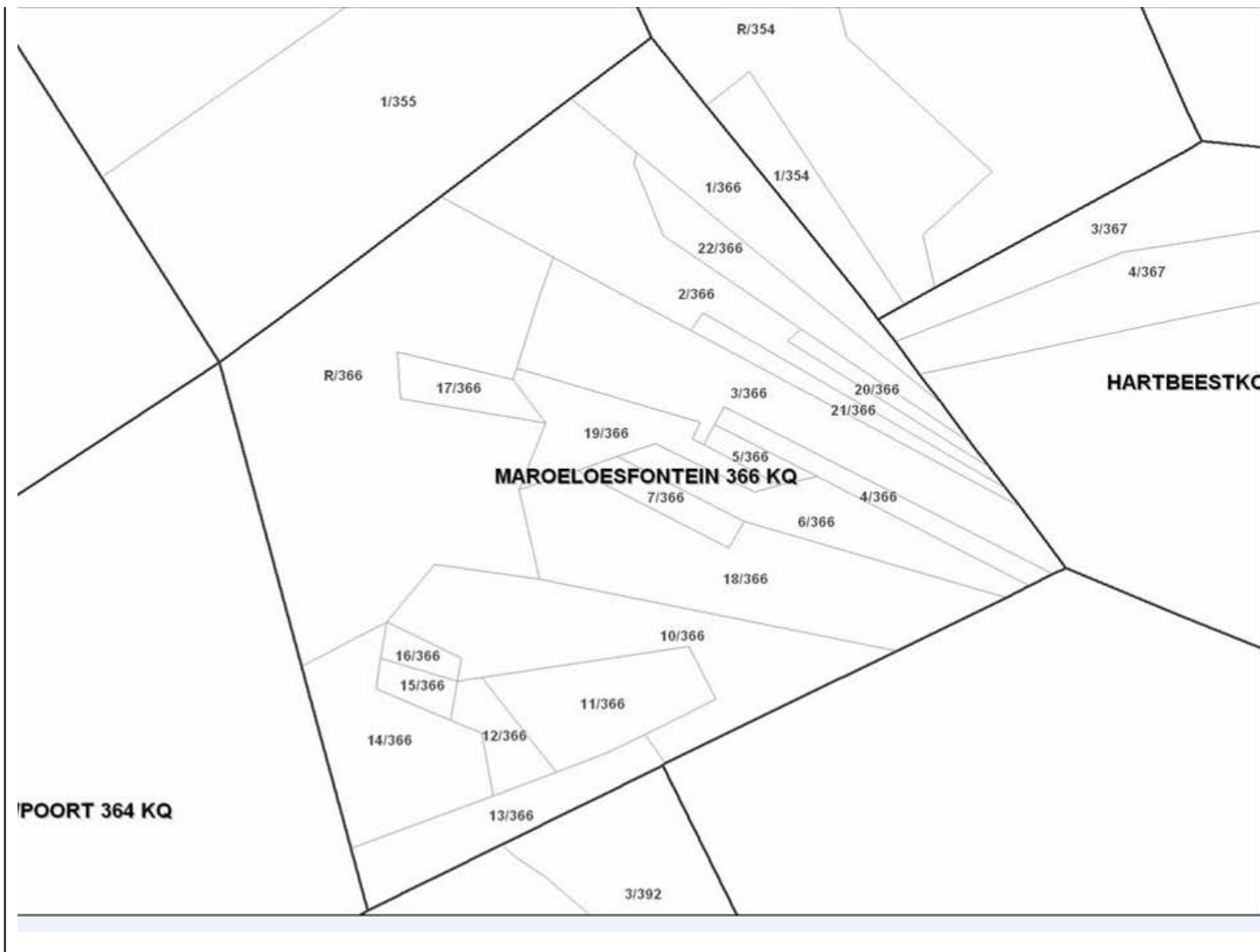
Kusel U.S. 2004, Scoping report for cultural heritage resources on farms Buffelsfontein KQ 353 and Tygerkloof 354 KQ Thabazimbi District

Map 1/50 000 2427CC









## **ANNEXURE 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:

<b>Feature/Burial No Name/No Province</b>	<b>Site Name/No Location of new cemetery</b>	<b>GPS Reading</b>	<b>Farm</b>
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**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.