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**A DESKTOP HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT
FOR THE BONIZENZO HOLDINGS PROSPECTING RIGHTS APPLICATION
ON PORTIONS 10, 21 & 24 OF ROODERAND 41JP AND THE REMAINING
EXTENT
OF PORTIONS 1 & 2 OF ROODERAND 902JP
ZEERUST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

Licebo Environmental and Mining (Pty) Ltd

REPORT: APAC022/58

by:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', is centered on the page.

SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Licebo Environmental and Mining (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Desktop-based Heritage Impact Assessment for the Bonizenzo Holdings (Pty) Ltd Prospecting Rights Application (Reference Number 13296) with Bulk Sample on Portions 10, 21 & 24 of the farm Rooderand 41JP and the Remaining Extent of Portions 1 & 2 of Rooderand 902JP. The study and project area is situated in the Marico Magisterial District, Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality of the Northwest Province.

Background research indicates that there are several cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls, but no known ones in the study area and specific farm portions. This report discusses the results of the background research and provides recommendations on the way forward at the end.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed Prospecting Rights Application be allowed to continue, taking into consideration the recommendations put forward at the end.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Licebo Environmental and Mining (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Desktop-based Heritage Impact Assessment for the Bonizenzo Holdings (Pty) Ltd Prospecting Rights Application (Reference Number 13296) with Bulk Sample on Portions 10, 21 & 24 of the farm Rooderand 41JP and the Remaining Extent of Portions 1 & 2 of Rooderand 902JP. The study and project area is situated in the Marico Magisterial District, Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality of the Northwest Province.

Background research indicates that there are several cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls, but no known ones in the study area and specific farm portions.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment concentrated on this portion.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

It should be noted that No Field-Based Assessment was conducted as part of this Appointment and that the results and recommendations made in this report are based on the scrutiny of previous research and assessments in the area, as well as archival research and aerial images of the study area.

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 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 of 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 paleontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, 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 thereon. 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 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the 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.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of the Act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites and states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (National or Provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object, or any meteorite;
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites;
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

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 to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

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 for the mitigation thereof are 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 available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2. Field survey

The field assessment section of the study is normally conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

No field work was undertaken as part of this assessment.

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.

4.4. Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. 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 & PROJECT

The study and Prospecting Rights Application Area is located on Portions 10, 21 & 24 of the farm Rooderand 41JP & the Remaining Extent of Portions 1 & 2 of Rooderand 902JP. It is situated in the Marico Magisterial District and Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality of the Northwest Province.

The topography and general landscape of the study area and two specific farm portions can't be described from a personal observation perspective as no physical fieldwork was undertaken for this study. However, based on aerial images (Google Earth) of the area it is clear that sections of the areas are fairly flat and open although there are some rocky outcrops, ridges and low hills present on certain parts. Streams/rivers also cross through some portions. Dense vegetation (trees and other) covers the land parcels seemingly as well. The study and application areas have not been severely impacted by any major developments at all and the possibility of the presence of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material is therefore always possible.



Figure 1: General location of the study & Prospecting Rights Application areas (indicated in red polygons) [Google Earth 2022].



Figure 2: Closer view showing the location of the various farm portions in relation to each other (Google Earth 2022).

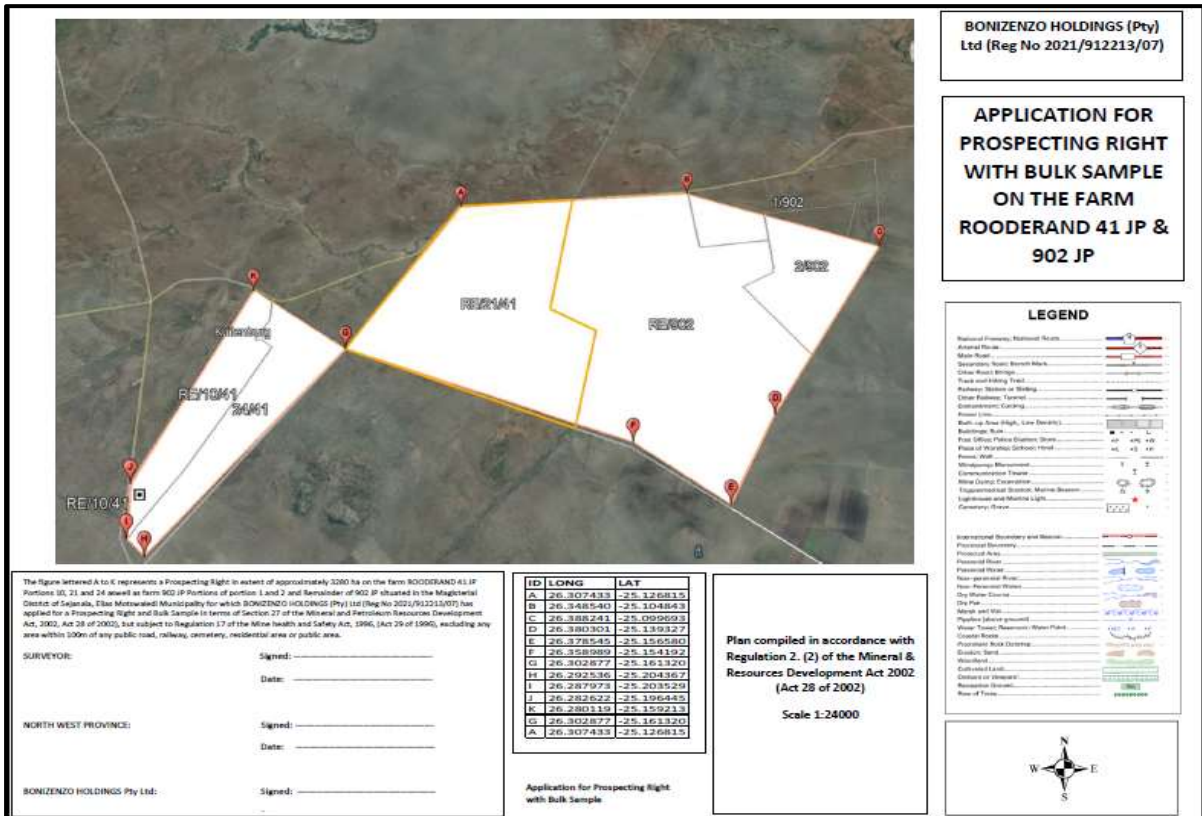


Figure 3: Regulation 2.2 Map/Plan showing the location and footprints of the application areas (courtesy Licebo Environmental and Mining (Pty) Ltd).

6. DISCUSSION

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).

There are some known Stone Age sites in the study area, including rock art (engravings) sites located in the larger geographical a few kilometers west of Zeerust and near Groot Marico to the east of Zeerust (Bergh 1999: 5). A number of individual MSA/LSA stone tools were also identified in the area of Zeerust during recent assessments by the author (Pelsler 2013 & 2016).

The possibility of finding Stone Age material in the study areas is always a possibility. These would however more specifically be individual artifacts and small scatters of artifacts in open-air contexts if they are present.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 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.

In a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west there are many known Iron Age sites (Bergh 1999: 7-8). These all belong to the Later Iron Age (Bergh 1999:8-9). No EIA sites are known to occur in the area (Bergh 1999: 6). By the end of the 18th century the Ba Hurutshe stone walled sites (capitals) were located at Kaditshwene and Tshwenyane north of Zeerust (Bergh 1999: 106). Prof. J.Boeyens of UNISA did extensive archaeological research on this and other sites in the region (Boeyens 2003). A number of Late Iron Age stone walled sites and features were also located during a recent assessment in the Zeerust area by the author (Pelsler 2013: 15-16; 18-20).

During earlier times the area was settled by the Fokeng. In the 19th century this group inhabited this area with other Tswana groups including the Kwena and the Po (Bergh 1999: 9-10). During the *difaqane* these people moved further to the west, but they returned later on (Bergh 1999: 11).

Tom Huffman's research work shows that Iron Age sites, features or material could possibly be found in the area. This could include the so-called Uitkomst facies of the Urewe Tradition dating to between AD1650 and AD1820 (Huffman 2007: 171); Rooiberg facies of the same tradition dating to between AD1650 and AD1750 (p.175); Olifantspoort facies of Urewe dating to between AD1500 and AD1700 (p.191); the Madikwe facies of the Urewe Tradition dating to between AD1500 & AD1900 (p.193) and finally the Buispoort facies of the same tradition dating to between AD1700 and AD1840 (Huffman 2007: 203).

Although there are no known Iron Age sites, features or cultural material in the specific study area, there are clearly some known sites in the larger region.

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. Early travelers have moved through this part of the Northwest Province. This included David Hume in 1825, Robert Scoon and William McLuckie in 1829 and Dr. Robert Moffat and Reverend James Archbell in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12, 117-119). Hume again moved through this area in 1830 followed by the expedition of Dr. Andrew Smith in 1835 (Bergh 1999: 13, 120-121). In 1836 William Cornwallis Harris visited the area. The well-known explorer Dr. David Livingstone passed through this area between 1841 and 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13, 119-122).

A number of battles were fought in the larger area during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), including the battle of Kleinfontein on the 5th of September 1901 and the battle of Marico River on the 24th of October 1901 (Bergh 1999: 54).

Based on aerial images of the study area it seems likely that some recent historical sites, features or material will be present. The possibility of unmarked and unknown graves located here should always be kept in mind as well.

With no physical field assessments conducted in the study and Prospecting Rights Area it is difficult to determine if any sites, features or material of cultural heritage origin or significance are located here and if there will be any impacts on such sites as a result of the planned prospecting and any resultant future mining. Based on the aerial images of the farm portions it is clear that there has not been any substantial developmental impacts on them (including agricultural and/or residential and industrial) and if any sites, features or material of archaeological and/or historical origin and significance did exist in these specific areas in the past they would not have been substantially disturbed or destroyed as a result.

It is evident from the desktop study that archaeological/historical sites and finds do occur in the larger geographical landscape within which the specific study area is located. Based on this it is possible that open-air Stone Age sites could be found in the area, most likely in the form of individual stone tools or small scatters. These could be located close to the streams/rivers that cross through sections of the application area. The possibility of Iron Age sites (especially stone-walled Late Iron Age sites) in the areas can also not be excluded, specifically close to and around rocky ridges and hills. The presence of recent historical sites and features in the area is likely, as evident from the aerial images (Google Earth) of the application area.

Google Earth images of the area were scrutinized to see if any possible sites or features are visible. Some were identified from these images (recent historical ruins and existing farmsteads), while there are also areas of with rocky outcrops, ridges and low hills where stone-walled Late Iron Age sites could be located. Furthermore, the dense vegetation cover evident in the study areas would make many sites and features indiscernible from the aerial images, while the subterranean nature of archaeological and historical remains should always be taken in mind.

Based on the desktop research it is therefore possible that the following types of cultural heritage resources could be present in the Prospecting Rights Application areas:

1. Individual Stone Age tools and small scatters of material in an open-air context
2. Late Iron Age stone-walled settlement sites
3. Recent historical remains (farmsteads and related structures)
4. Unknown and unmarked graves/burials



Figure 4: Closer view of the Portion 10 & 24 of Rooderand 41JP application area. The area has not been impacted by any developments and there are some rocky ridges and low hills present where LIA stone-walling could be located (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 5: Historical ruins on Portion 21 of the farm Rooderand 41JP (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 6: Existing farmstead and associated structures on a portion of Rooderand 902JP (Google Earth 2022).

The following is recommended on the way forward:

That the proposed Bonizenzo Holdings (Pty) Ltd Prospecting Rights Application on Portions 10, 21 & 24 of Rooderand 41JP, and the Remaining Extent of Portions 1 & 2 of Rooderand 902JP, should be allowed to continue with the condition that once the detailed locations of possible Prospecting Boreholes and Trenches has been determined that detailed field-based assessments be carried out in these areas to determine the impacts of these activities on any possible cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites and remains. Any resultant proposed future mining activities and related developments and operations will have to then be assessed as well.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Licebo Environmental and Mining (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Desktop-based Heritage Impact Assessment for the Bonizenzo Holdings (Pty) Ltd Prospecting Rights Application (Reference Number 13296) with Bulk Sample on Portions 10, 21 & 24 of the farm Rooderand 41JP and the Remaining Extent of Portions 1 & 2 of Rooderand 902JP. The study and project area is situated in the Marico Magisterial District, Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality of the Northwest Province.

With no physical field assessments conducted in the study and Prospecting Rights Area it is difficult to determine if any sites, features or material of cultural heritage origin or significance are located here and if there will be any impacts on such sites as a result of the planned prospecting and any resultant future mining. Based on the aerial images of the farm portions it is clear that there has not been any substantial developmental impacts on them and if any sites, features or material of archaeological and/or historical origin and significance did exist in these specific areas in the past they would not have been substantially disturbed or destroyed as a result.

It is evident from the desktop study that archaeological/historical sites and finds do occur in the larger geographical landscape within which the specific study area is located. Based on this it is possible that open-air Stone Age sites could be found in the area, most likely in the form of individual stone tools or small scatters. These could be located close to the streams/rivers that cross through sections of the application area. The possibility of Iron Age sites (especially stone-walled Late Iron Age sites) in the areas can also not be excluded, specifically close to and around rocky ridges and hills. The presence of recent historical sites and features in the area is likely, as evident from the aerial images of the application area.

Google Earth images of the area were scrutinized to see if any possible sites or features are visible. Some recent historical ruins and existing farmsteads were identified from these images, while there are also areas of with rocky outcrops, ridges and low hills where stone-walled Late Iron Age sites could be located. The dense vegetation cover evident in the study areas would make many sites and features indiscernible from the aerial images, while the subterranean nature of archaeological and historical remains should always be taken in mind.

Based on the desktop research it is therefore possible that the following types of cultural heritage resources could be present in the Prospecting Rights Application areas:

1. Individual Stone Age tools and small scatters of material in an open-air context
2. Late Iron Age stone-walled settlement sites
3. Recent historical remains (farmsteads and related structures)
4. Unknown and unmarked graves/burials

Finally it can be concluded that the proposed Bonizenzo Holdings (Pty) Ltd Prospecting Rights Application on Portions 10, 21 & 24 of Rooderand 41JP, and the Remaining Extent of Portions 1 & 2 of Rooderand 902JP, should be allowed to continue with the condition that once the detailed locations of possible Prospecting Boreholes and Trenches has been determined that detailed field-based assessments be carried out in these areas to determine the impacts of these activities on any possible cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites and remains. Any resultant proposed future mining activities and related developments and operations will have to then be assessed as well.

8. REFERENCES

General and Closer views of Study Area locations: Google Earth 2022.

Regulation 2.2 Plan/Map showing location of Application Area and footprints of farm portions: Provided by Licebo Environmental and Mining (Pty) Ltd.

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

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.