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REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED THE GELUKSOORD EXTENSIONS 4 & 5 TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENTS ON A PORTION OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 1 OF THE FARM CHRISTIANA TOWN & TOWNLANDS 325HO NEAR CHRISTIANA, NORTHWEST PROVINCE

For:

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REPORT: APAC017/03

by:

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The

SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for proposed Township Establishments (Geluksoord Extensions 4 & 5) on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the farm Christiana Town & Townlands 325HO, in Christiana in the Northwest Province. The project is conducted under instruction from Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known sites on the specific land parcel, although some were identified during the physical assessment undertaken. The report will discuss the results of the desktop and field assessment and provide recommendations on the way forward at the end of the document.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view the development actions can continue, taking into consideration the mitigation measures proposed in the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for proposed Township Establishments (Geluksoord Extensions 4 & 5) on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the farm Christiana Town & Townlands 325HO, in Christiana in the Northwest Province. The project is conducted under instruction from Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known sites on the specific land parcel, although some were identified during the physical assessment undertaken.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the Project Area, and the assessment focused on this area and the Alternatives indicated.

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;*

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 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 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 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 $5\ 000\text{m}^2$ or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding $10\ 000\ \text{m}^2$
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

<u>Structures</u>

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.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act 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 palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological 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 palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological 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.

<u>Human remains</u>

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 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 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 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 detailed photographs are also taken where needed.

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**

The study area is located on a Portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the farm Christiana Town & Townlands 325HO, in Christiana, Northwest Province. The township establishment of Geluksoord Extensions 4 & 5 is being proposed here. The work is done under instruction from the Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality.

Geluksoord Extension 4 is bounded to the north by the Provincial Road to Jan Kempdorp, to the east by the existing township area of Geluksoord Extension 3 and to the west by the cadastral farm boundary. Geluksoord Extension 5 is bounded to the south by the main railway line, to the west by the cadastral farm boundary, to the north by the existing township areas of Geluksoord Extensions 1, 2 & 3 and also includes the entire area east of the township area of Geluksoord (former golf course area) bounded to the north and east by the Provincial Road and to the south by the main railway line.

During the field survey conducted in January 2017 the following was observed. The topography of the study areas is flat and open, with no rocky outcrops or ridges present. Sections of Extension 4 has already been occupied by residents in temporary homes, while some development actions such as installation of services, roads and drainage ditches has also impacted on the area. Extension 5 is still undeveloped and has relatively dense grass and shrub cover. There are no big trees present. Visibility during the assessment was good. Both areas seem to have been impacted in the past through agricultural activities (ploughing, grazing) and if any sites of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) nature and significance did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. Recent rural/urban developments would also have had an impact.

The survey was done on foot, although some access roads (dirt tracks mostly) were utilized to traverse sections of the study areas. The focus during the assessment was on unnatural looking clumps of trees and vegetation, as well as open patches and eroded areas.



Fig.1: General location of study area. Extension 4 is the purple section & Extension 5 the red-brown section (Google Earth 2016).



Fig.2: Closer view of study areas (Google Earth 2016).



Fig.3: View of section of Geluksoord Extension 4 Area. The development in the area is visible.



Fig.4: Another view of Extension 4 area.



Fig.5: More of the current developments in the Geluksoord Extension 4 area.



Fig.6: A general view of the Geluksoord Extension 5 area.



Fig.7: Another view of the Geluksoord Extension 5 area showing the dense grass cover in the area.



Fig.8: The railway line on the southern boundary of Geluksoord Extension 5.



Fig.9: ESKOM powerlines traverse sections of the area.



Fig.10: A drainage ditch in the Extension 5 area.



Fig.11: Informal refuse dumping occurs throughout the area as well.



Fig.12: Building rubble dumped in the area.



Fig.13: Modern (recent) farming activities has also impacted on Extension 5.



Fig.14: Remains of modern farming in the area.



Fig.15: Some portions of the area is more open. This probably was used for agricultural purposes in the recent past.

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 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 no known Stone Age sites close to the study area (Bergh 1999: 4). Although no Stone Age sites were recorded during the assessment, some single, out of context, Stone Age tools were identified in the study area.

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 (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D. Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are 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.

There are once again no known Iron Age sites close to the study area (Bergh 1999: 6-7), although this might just point to a lack of archaeological research in the region. No sites were found during the assessment though.

The historical age started 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 earliest Europeans to travel through the area were the groups of Broadbent & Hodgson in 1823, Hodgson & Archbell in 1826 and later that of Krebs in 1838 (Bergh 1999:12-13). They were closely followed by the Voortrekkers (p.14).

The area is which Christiana was eventually established was initially sparsely populated due to the constant droughts and cattle diseases which made settlement very difficult. Some of the earliest inhabitants of the area were the BaTlaping, BaRolong and the Korannas. These populations were displaced during the *difaqane* of the 1820's – 1830's. Christiana was established in 1869, named after Christina Petronella Pretorius, the only daughter of President M.W.Pretorius. The first plots were sold in 1870, helping in the expansion of the town. The discovery of diamonds also affected Christiana. On 3 October 1904 the townlands of Christiana was declared public diggings. The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) also left its mark on the town, with several significant battles fought in its vicinity. A number of British soldiers who died in battle is buried in town and during the Great Influenza Epidemic of 1918 more than 60 town inhabitants died as a result (Van der Walt 2012: 20-21).

The oldest map of the farm that could be obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's Database (<u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u>) dates to 1905. It shows that the farm was then numbered as 177 and was in the Christiana District and Christiana Ward. The whole of the farm was originally granted to the Government and surveyed in March 1890 (CSG Document 10512781). No historically significant sites or features could be identified on this map.

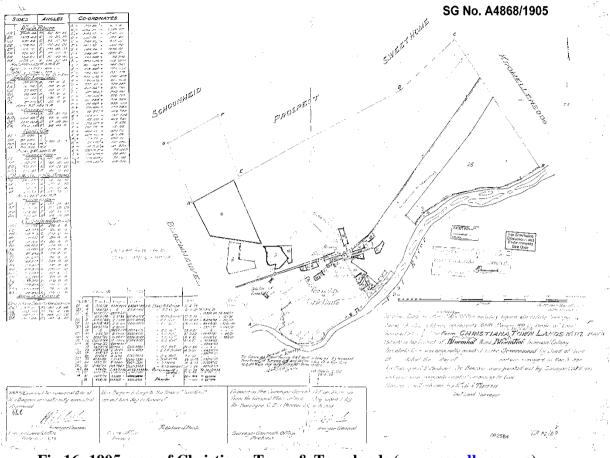


Fig.16: 1905 map of Christiana Town & Townlands (<u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u>).

Results of the January 2017 Fieldwork

No significant archaeological sites or features were identified during the assessment in the area. If they did exist here in the past they would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed to a large extent by agricultural activities and recent urban developments. The area is also very flat, with no rocky outcrops or ridges, and the soil turf, which would have made building and settling on during the Iron Age difficult. A few individual MSA/LSA stone tools were however identified in the area during the assessment, but these are out of context and of no significance.

The only significant site that was identified in the area (Geluksoord Extension 5) is a fairly large and recent cemetery. The graves here most likely belong to residents of the surrounding Geluksoord Extensions. The cemetery is currently in use with many recent burials observed. The fencing around the site is not in a good state of repair and the cemetery is also overgrown in some sections. It should be left intact, cleaned, fenced and managed as part of the planned development.

Site 1 - Cemetery

GPS Location of Cemetery: S27.90585 E25.14359 **Cultural Significance**: High **Heritage Significance**: Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation. Field Ratings: Local Grade IIIB: Should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated.

Mitigation: Fence-in, clean and manage as part of the development and avoid any impact on the cemetery and graves. The other option is to exhume and relocate after extensive consultation with the community and the obtaining of permissions to undertake the relocation of the cemetery and the graves contained in it.

It should be noted that although all efforts were made to cover the total area and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. The fairly dense grass cover also made visibility in some sections difficult. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (incl. graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

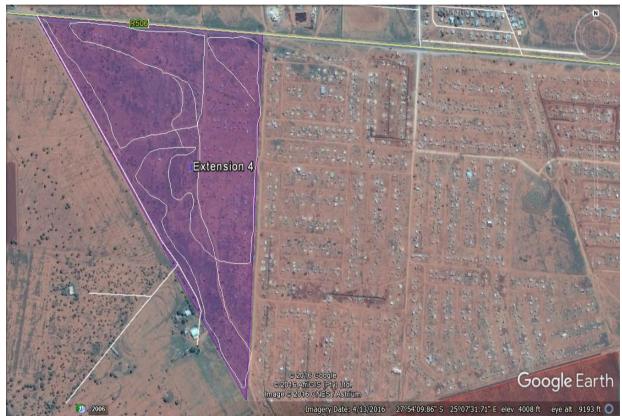


Fig.17: Tracks followed during the assessment of Extension 4. In this aerial view the current & ongoing urban development on the portion is also visible (Google Earth 2016).

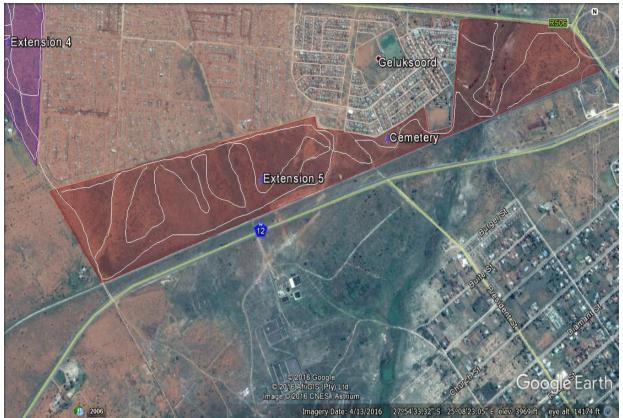


Fig.18: Aerial view of Extension 5 showing the tracks followed as well as the location of the cemetery recorded (Google Earth 2016).



Fig.19: Closer view of the cemetery in the Extension 5 area (Google Earth 2016).



Fig.20: One of the Stone Age tools (a core) found in the area.



Fig.21: Another stone tool (core) found.



Fig.22: A Stone Age flake tool.



Fig.23: A view of a section of the cemetery in the Geluksoord Extension 5 area.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for proposed Township Establishments (Geluksoord Extensions 4 & 5) on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the farm Christiana Town & Townlands 325HO, in Christiana in the Northwest Province. The project is conducted under instruction from Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality.

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No significant archaeological sites or features were identified during the assessment in the area. If they did exist here in the past they would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed to a large extent by agricultural activities and recent urban developments. The area is also very flat, with no rocky outcrops or ridges, and the soil turf, which would have made building and settling on during the Iron Age difficult. A few individual MSA/LSA stone tools were however identified in the area during the assessment, but these are out of context and of no significance.

The only significant site that was identified in the area (Geluksoord Extension 5) is a fairly large and recent cemetery. The graves here most likely belong to residents of the surrounding Geluksoord Extensions. The cemetery is currently in use with many recent burials observed. The fencing around the site is not in a good state of repair and the cemetery is also overgrown in some sections. It should be left intact, cleaned, fenced and managed as part of the planned development. The other option is to exhume and relocate after extensive consultation with the community and the obtaining of permissions to undertake the relocation of the cemetery and the graves contained in it.

Finally, it should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

From a cultural heritage point of view the development can therefore continue, taking cognizance of the above recommendations.

8. **REFERENCES**

Aerial views of general study area location, sites and tracks followed: Google Earth 2016 & Maxim Planning Solutions

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www.csg.dla.gov.za - Chief Surveyor General Database Maps: (1) Document 10512781.

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.

Aestetic 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.