



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED GROOT MARICO EXTENSION 2 TOWNSHIP
DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 127 AND
PORTION 282 OF THE FARM WONDERFONTEIN 258 JP, NEAR GROOT
MARICO, NORTHWEST**

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions, on behalf of Sun Success Construction cc, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed development of a township (Groot Marico Extension 2) on the Remaining Extent of Portion 127 and Portion 282 of the farm Wonderfontein 258 JP, near Marico in the Northwest Province. The development project forms part of the Emergency Settlement Upgrading program of the Department of Human Settlements.

The area has been extensively disturbed through informal settlement and housing (the main reason for the proposed development) and if any sites, features or objects of a cultural (archaeological and historical) nature or significance existed in the area during the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. One site (a fairly recent cemetery) was identified during the assessment of the area, located just outside the development footprint. The report discusses the results of the assessment and background research on the archaeology and history of the area, and provides recommendations regarding any mitigation measures that might have to be implemented.

If the recommendations put forward at the end of this document are implemented, then, from a Cultural Heritage point of view, there would be no objection to the continuation of the proposed development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions, on behalf of Sun Success Construction cc, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed development of a township (Groot Marico Extension 2) on the Remaining Extent of Portion 127 and Portion 282 of the farm Wonderfontein 258 JP, near Marico in the Northwest Province. The development project forms part of the Emergency Settlement Upgrading program of the Department of Human Settlements.

The area has been extensively disturbed through informal settlement and housing (the main reason for the proposed development) and if any sites, features or objects of a cultural (archaeological and historical) nature or significance existed in the area during the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. One site (a fairly recent cemetery) was identified during the assessment of the area, located just outside the development footprint.

The client indicated the extent/boundaries of the proposed development, and the assessment was to be confined to this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located in the area of 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, should this be applicable.
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 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 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.

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 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)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

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 literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The assessment was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural (archaeological and historical) significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs are also taken where needed.

The assessment was undertaken partially on foot, although certain portions were traversed by vehicle.

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 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 proposed development area is located on the Remaining Extent of Portion 127 and Portion 282 of the farm Wonderfontein 258 JP, near the town of Groot Marico in the Northwest Province. The topography of the area is flat, with a tributary of the Groot Marico river forming the southeastern boundary of the development area.

The area has been extensively disturbed in the recent past by informal settlement (housing) and very little of the original vegetation still exists as a result. Large areas has been cleared by the local inhabitants, while the informal houses are located on stands that also been cleared. Furthermore, dirt tracks have also been “constructed” in between the rows of residences, further impacting on the area. If any archaeological or historical sites, features or objects existed here it would have been largely disturbed or destroyed to a large degree.

The 1:50 000 topographic map of the area does not show much development in the area, except of few small houses. The map (2526CB Groot Marico) dates to 1996, and the informal settlement of people would only have happened on a large scale more recently.



Figure 1: Topographic Locality map. Note the cemetery just outside the area. (Map Source 2010).

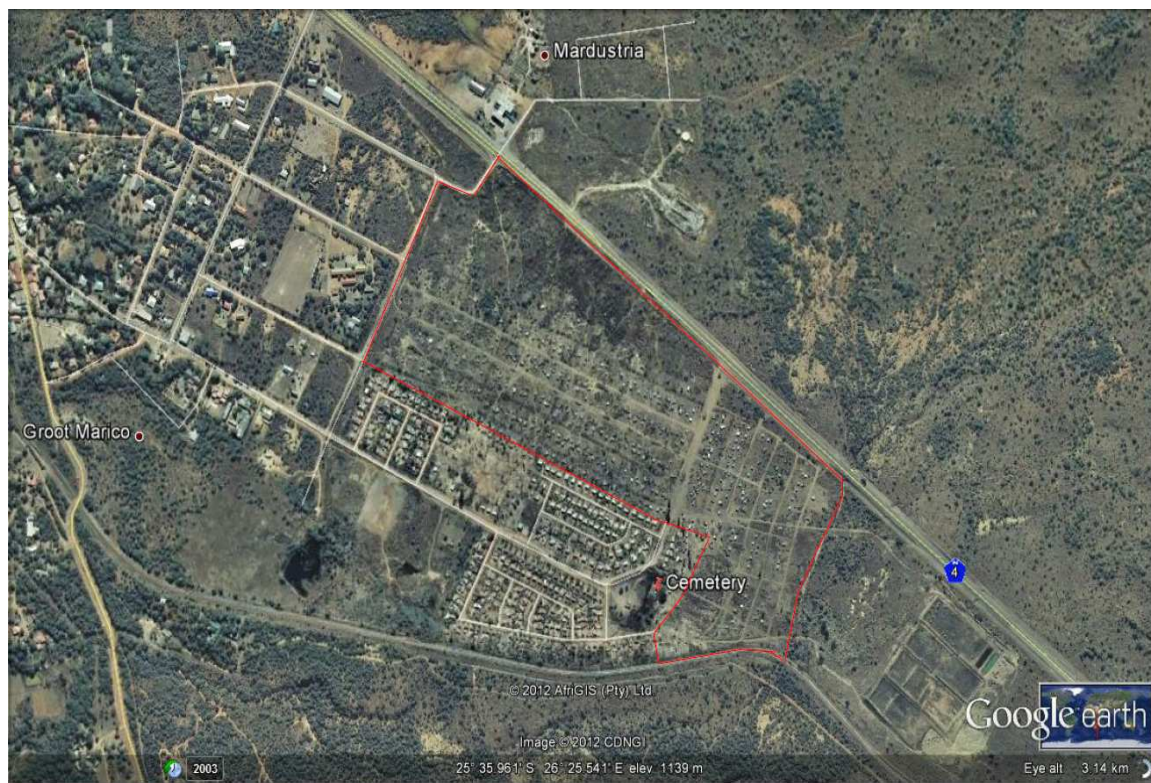


Figure 2: Aerial view. Note the informal settlement and other disturbances in the area. The cemetery is located just outside the development area.



Figure 3: A view of the area with informal houses visible.



Figure 4: Another view of the area. Note the cleared stands and the dirt tracks between the rows of stands.



Figure 5: Another view of a section of the informal settlement in the area.

6. DISCUSSION

A short, general, background to the archaeology and history of the area is given in the following section.

6.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). 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. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago

Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago

Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D

Although there are no known Stone Age sites in the area, there are some rock art sites (LSA) located in the larger geographical region and on the farm Naauwpoort (Bergh 1999: 5; www.tourismnorthwest.co.za & www.parksnorthwest.co.za).

Stone Age material is frequently found close to rivers or other watercourses, but none was found during this survey. If any will be found these will be single, scattered, stone tools.

6.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (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). The well-known baHurutshe stone walled site (capital) is located at Kaditshwene not far from Groot Marico and Zeerust. Prof. J.Boeyens of UNISA did extensive archaeological research on this and other sites in the region (Boeyens 2003).

No Iron Age sites, features or material were observed during the assessment, and if they did exist here in the past it would be have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree by recent historical developments as wel.

6.3 Historical Age

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.

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 Livingston passed through this area between 1841 and 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13, 119-122).

A number of battles were fought here 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).

An old map (dating to 1893) from the database of the Chief Surveyor General (www.csg.dla.gov.za) indicates that the whole of the farm Wonderfontein was originally given to one Johannes Hermanus Grobler in January 1860 (CSG document 10GM9801). According to one source the town was laid out on the farm Wonderfontein, owned by one Francois Joubert, and earned the status of a Health Committee in 1924. During the Second World War a number of Italian prisoners of war were stationed in the ton and built a number of fine stone walls that are still visible. It was proclaimed a town in 1948. However, its major claim to popularity rests on the reputation accorded to it by the famous South African writer, Herman Charles Bosman (database of Northwest History – www.nwhist.co.za).

No historical sites, features or objects were identified in the area, and if any did exist it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree by developments in the recent past.

Only one site of cultural significance was identified in the area, located just outside the development footprint. The site (a cemetery) contains graves of local residents and contains an unknown number of graves, mostly stone packed with some of them having headstones as well although the site falls outside the area and will not be impacted on by the development, it is recommended that the site be properly cleaned, demarcated and managed as part of the township development (Groot Marico Extension 2).

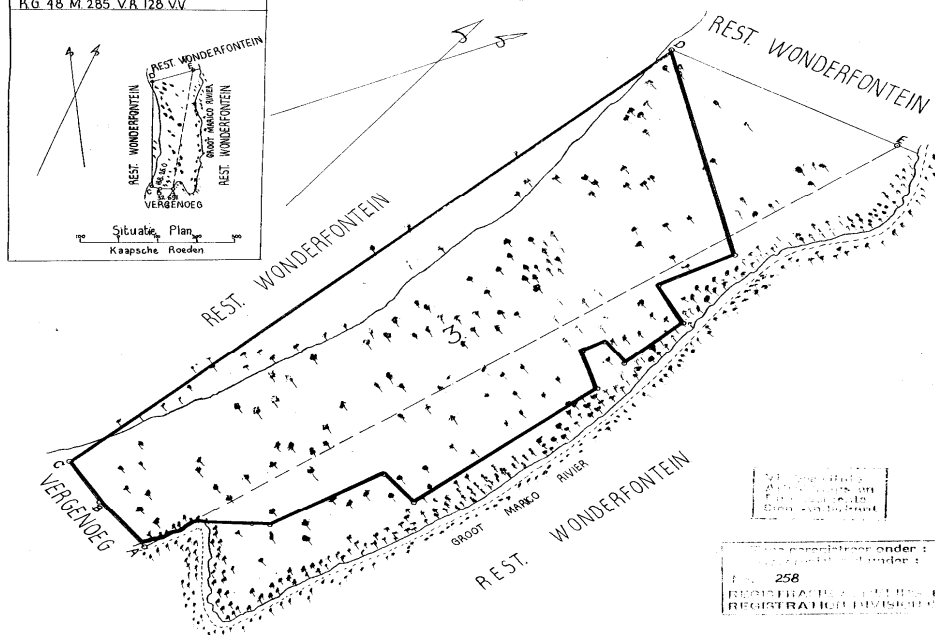
GPS Location: S25 36.150 E26 25.628

Significance: High

Mitigation: Clean, fence and Manage

Zijden	Hoeken	Co-ordinaten
AB 392. 29 2	A 96. 25. 10	A ± 0. 00 ± 392. 29 2
BC 305. 60	B 168. 26. 00	B ± 0. 00 ± 0. 00
CD 4119. 39	C 101. 54. 10	C - 61. 28 - 299. 39
DE 1320. 60	D 110. 1. 30	D - 4180. 61 - 323. 60
EA 4669. 39	E 63. 13. 10	E - 4640. 11 + 914. 49

830/93



Bovenstaande Figuur A tot E stelt voor gedeelte 1 van de plaats genaamd
WONDERFONTEIN No 41
 gelegen in het distrikt Marico wijk Groot Marico
 Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek en bevat 74 Morgen 455 vierkante Roeden 107 vierkante Voeten
 De geheele plaats werd oorspronkelijk in Eigendom uitgegeven aan Johannes Hermanus Grobler
 volgens Gouvts Transport dd 6 Jan 1860
 De bakens zijn aangewezen door Eigenaar
 en zijn behoorlijk opgericht volgens wet.
 Gemeten in Jan 1892 door mij (Get) J.H.Crewes
 Landmeter

No 674/93 Goedgekeurd. De zijden hoeken en Grootte van deze kaart zijn onderling bestaandbaar	(Get) G.R. von Wielligh Landmeter-Generaal	Ik, J.C. Minnaar Registrateur van Akten certificeer dat deze kaart behoort tot Transport No 1893 dd 12 Juli 1893 op heden uitgerukt ten faveure van Jacobus Petrus van den Berg Registratie Kantoor
Landmeter-Generaals Kantoor, 3 Mei 1893.		14 Juli 1893 Registrateur van Akten

**Figure 6: 1893 map of Wonderfontein 258 (then numbered 41).
 (www.csg.dla.gov.za).**



Figure 7: Picture of informal cemetery just outside the area.



Figure 8: Aerial view of area where the cemetery is located (Google Earth 2012).

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Groot Marico Extension 2 township development on the Remaining Extent of Portion 127 and Portion 282 of the farm Wonderfontein 258 JP, near the town of Groot Marico in the Northwest Province, was conducted relatively successfully. Besides an informal cemetery located just outside the development no other sites, features or objects of archaeological or historical origin or significance were identified. The encroachment of a large informal settlement in the area has impacted on the area in a hugely negative fashion, and if any sites,

features or objects of cultural heritage nature did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. Stone Age rock art sites, as well as Later Iron Age sites and Anglo-Boer War sites are known to exist in the larger geographical area, and similar sites might have been present here in the past. **It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. 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. This would include the discovery of previously unknown graves.**

8. REFERENCES

Aerial view of the area and location of graveyard: Google Earth 2012

Topographic location of area and graveyard: Map Source 2010

1:50 000 Topographic Map Series: 2526CB Groot Marico (1996)

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www.csg.dla.gv.za

www.nwhist.co.za

www.tourismnorthwest.co.za

www.parksnorthwest.co.za

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.