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**PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 12 OF THE FARM
WEMMERSHUIS 379JT & THE REMAINDER OF BERG-EN DAL 981JT
NEAR BELFAST, MPUMALANGA**

For:

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REPORT: APAC016/10B

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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 Labesh (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for proposed residential and commercial development on the Remainder of Portion 12 of the farm Wemmershuis 379JT & the Remainder of the farm Berg-en Dal 981JT. A PIA (Palaeontological Impact Assessment) formed part of this study.

Background research indicates that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger area, including the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) Battle of Berg-en Dal/Dalmanutha which were fought across these farms during the time, and the old wagon route that passed through the area. A number of historical sites and features associated with both the wagon route and Anglo-Boer War were also identified and recorded during the field assessment. The report discusses the results of both the background research and the physical survey, and provides recommendations on mitigating any possible negative impacts of the proposed development on the historical landscape and the associated sites and features recorded. The results of the PIA are provided in a separate report.

Based on the background study and physical assessment it is however recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue, taking into consideration the recommendations put forward at the end of the report.

CONTENTS

	page
SUMMARY	3
CONTENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	5
3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	5
4. METHODOLOGY	8
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA.....	9
6. DISCUSSION.....	14
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	29
8. REFERENCES	30
APPENDIX A – DEFINITION OF TERMS	32
APPENDIX B – DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	33
APPENDIX C – SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING.....	34
APPENDIX D – PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES.....	35
APPENDIX E – HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES.....	36

1. INTRODUCTION

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The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment concentrated on these portions.

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 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)**.

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 was 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.

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 area where the proposed development is located (the study area) is situated on the Remainder of Portion 12 of the farm Wemmershuis and the Remainder of the farm Berg-en Dal 981JT, close to the Mpumalanga town of Belfast.

The study area runs in an east/west direction alongside the N4 highway and encompasses a section of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) battlefield of the Battle of Berg-en Dal (also known as Dalmanutha). Sections of the area have been disturbed by agricultural and industrial activities, as well as ploughing and the presence of domestic animals (grazing). ESKOM Power Lines running across a section of the study area have also impacted on the area, while the dumping of residential refuse and rolls of conveyor belts also occurs. Some farming related buildings and other modern structures are also present in the wider area and have impacted on the original landscape as well.

The topography of the area is generally flat, although there are sections of rocky outcrops and a small hill in the area as well. The area is furthermore characterized by rolling grassveld and a section of wetland. Dense grass cover made visibility during the assessment difficult and identifying and recording small, individual objects (if they did exist) was virtually impossible. The work was done on foot.

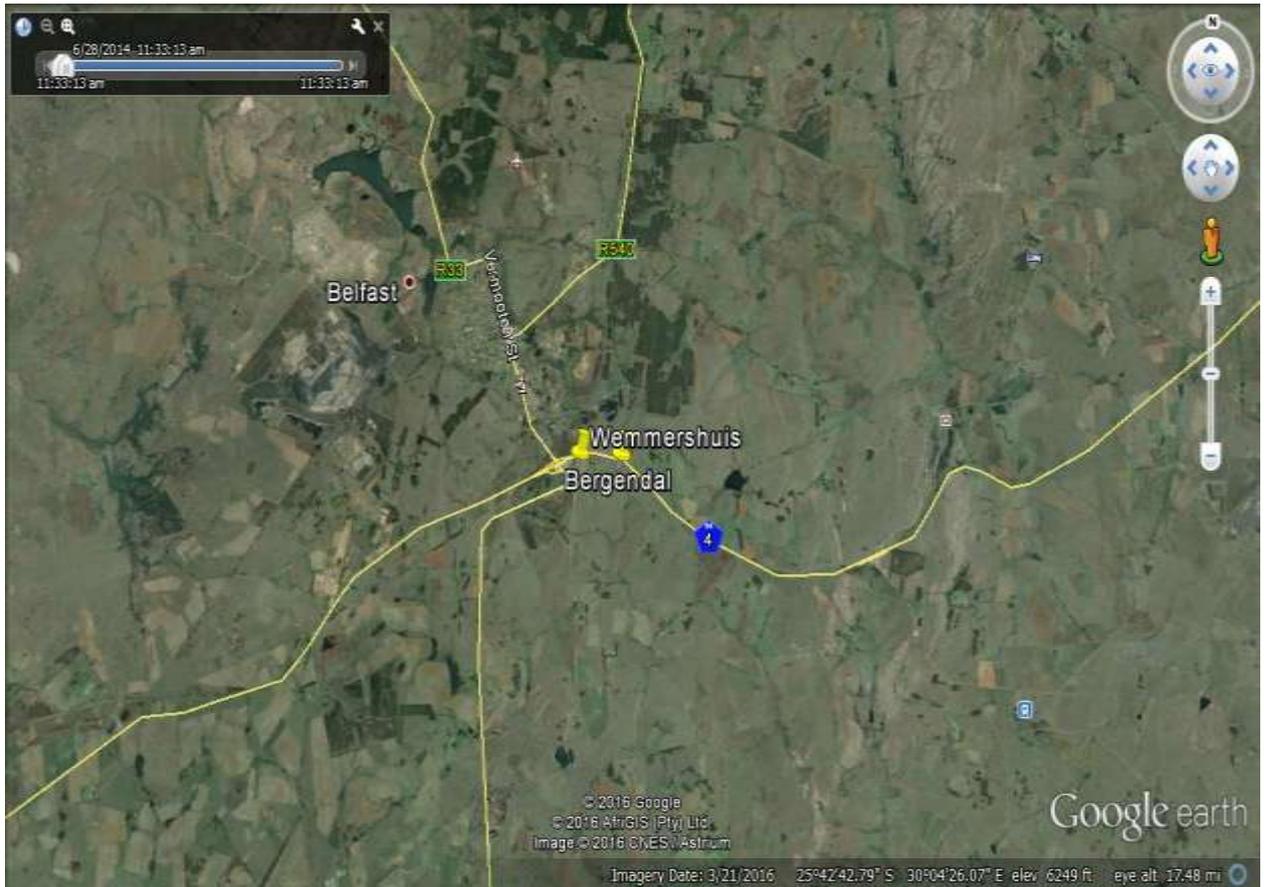


Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2016).



Figure 2: Closer view of study area in red (Google Earth 2016).

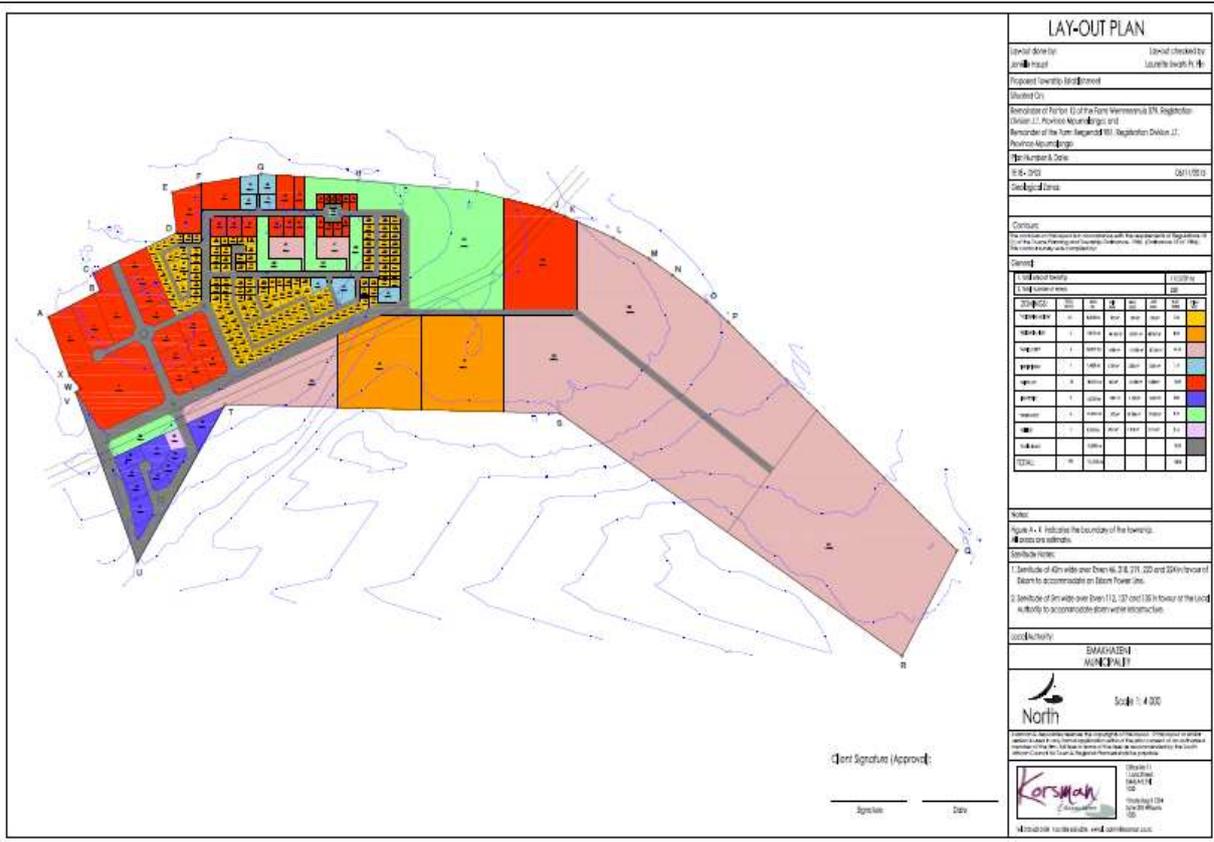


Figure 3: Layout plan for proposed development (Courtesy Korsman & Associates).



Figure 4: A view over a section of the area.



Figure 5: Another view showing the dense grass cover.



Figure 6: Rolls of conveyor belts dumped in the area.



Figure 7: ESKOM Power Lines & Pylons in the study area.



Figure 8: View from a low hill/rocky outcrop towards the N4.



Figure 9: Modern-day buildings in the area.

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).

According to Bergh (1999: 4 – 5) there are no known Stone Age sites in the area, although there are some in the larger Mpumalanga province. The fact that there are no known Stone Age sites in the area might be indicative of the lack of Stone Age research, although recent agricultural and mining activities might have destroyed any evidence of it.

No Stone Age sites or objects (such as stone tools) were identified in the area. If any Stone Age artifacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single, out of context or scatters of stone tools near rivers or streams, or at the many pans that does occur in the larger area. It is therefore recommended that watercourses and bodies of water (such as the pans) are avoided (from an archaeological perspective) by the proposed development.

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.

No Early Iron Age sites are known to exist in the area, although there are a fairly large number of Late Iron Age stone walled sites in the bigger geographical area that includes Lydenburg, Dullstroom, Machadodorp, Badplaas and Belfast (Bergh 1999: 6-7). Some of the sites might be related to the so-called Marateng facies of the Urewe pottery tradition of the LIA, dating to between AD1650 and 1840 (Huffman 2007: 207).

The expansion of early farmers, who, among other things, cultivated crops, raised livestock, mined ore and smelted metals, occurred in this area between AD 400 and AD 1100. Dates from Early Iron Age sites indicated that by the beginning of the 5th century AD Bantu-speaking farmers had migrated down the eastern lowlands and settled in the Mpumalanga lowveld. Subsequently, farmers continued to move into and between the lowveld and Highveld of Mpumalanga until the 12th century. These Early Iron Age sites tend to be found in similar locations. Sites were found within 100m of water, either on a riverbank or at the confluence of streams. The close proximity to streams meant that the sites were often located on alluvial fans. The nutrient rich alluvial soils would have been favoured for agriculture. The availability of floodplains and naturally wetter soils would have been important for the practice of dry land farming. This may have been particularly so during the Early Iron Age when climate reconstruction for the interior of South Africa suggests decreased rainfall between AD 900 and AD 1100 and again after AD 1450. Burned daga and plaster with pole impressions found at these early lowveld sites indicated that early farmers lived in fairly permanent agricultural villages.

Grindstones and an imprint of millet or domestic Pennisetum in a piece of pottery from an AD 400 site on the northern border of Mpumalanga provided the first evidence of the cultivation of millet in South Africa. Remains of iron tools indicated that metalworking was also practised. Iron was an important commodity, and ores in the form of haematite and magnetite were either picked up off the surface or mined from shafts dug into the ground. Large cattle byres with pits were also significant features of EIA Highveld sites dating from AD 600. While there is some evidence that the EIA continued into the 15th century in the lowveld, on the escarpment it had ended by AD1100. The Highveld, particularly around Lydenburg, Badfontein, Sekhukhuneland, Roosenekal, and Steelpoort, became active again from the 15th century onwards. This later phase, termed the Late Iron Age (LIA), was accompanied by extensive stonewalled settlements. Trade no doubt played an important role in the economy of these early societies. Goods were traded both locally and further afield. Control of resources such as metal provided a solid economic base that was fairly impervious to changes in the environment. Traditional sources of wealth were easily bolstered as metals were used in place of cattle to encourage key marriage alliances, and at the same time used to

purchase livestock and other trade items from outside the country. Local trade consisted of metal, salt, thatch, poles, cattle and grain. Salt was produced from alkaline springs. This valuable commodity could be obtained by paying a tithe to the chief on whose land the salt was located. However, there were examples of mass production where salt was ‘balled’ for transport and sold for huge profit in salt scarce areas.

By the 1700s, with growing trade wealth, economically driven centres of control began to emerge and, following the establishment of Portuguese trade posts, the Mpumalanga landscape became an important thoroughfare for both local and foreign traders. Mpumalanga was populated by multiple and ethnically diverse but interrelated communities. It was inhabited by the San (Hunter-Gatherer, Basarwa or Bathwa) groupings prior to the settlement of various Late Iron Age (LIA) farming communities, the ancestors of modern Sotho-Tswana and Nguni societies. The north-western and southern portions of the region came to be broadly occupied by the Kgatla (Bakgatla), Rolong (Barolong), Ntwane (Bantwane), Koni (Bakone), Kopa (Bakopa) and Southern Ndebele mixed farming communities. Despite their general association with LSA and their assumed disappearance, it is clear that San groups continued to interact with farmers in the Eastern Transvaal, as was the case elsewhere, and the evidence of a range of forms of coexistence warns us against drawing rigid distinctions between the two cultures. Material assemblages from excavated sites, San rock paintings and engravings and cultural and linguistic evidence point to some forms of peaceful contacts between these diverse communities.

According to other recorded oral traditions ancestors of Bakone groupings occupied parts of the low country (Phalaborwa and Bokgaga near Leydsdorp) at an uncertain date. The main body of the Bakone appears to have been under the Matlala ruling lineage at the time of their fragmentation into a multiplicity of groups and subsequent chiefdoms around the 15th to 16th centuries. While some groups remained in the low country others ventured further west and southwards and Koni groups came to settle in the areas later called Ohrigstad, Lydenburg and Middelburg. Either before or at the start of the 17th century an early Nguni-speaking community entered the orbit of the Sotho-Tswana communities in the Transvaal and in particular the north-eastern Highveld. The Sotho-Tswana people commonly called this early Nguni offshoot Matebele, denoting Pursuers. According to P. Lekgoathi these Nguni groups accepted the appellation Matebele but pronounced it as Amandebele. Anthropologists and historians later rendered both Sotho-Tswana and Nguni terms as Ndebele.

In due course relations between other royal contenders degenerated into open confrontation. The Manala (Mabena) and Mhwaduba sections remained independently in and around Pretoria areas while the Ndzundza and Mthombeni groups moved north-eastward into the environs of the Steelpoort (Tubatse) River valley and the slopes of Bothasberg in Middelburg. There is evidence that Mzilikazi’s Ndebele invaded the south-eastern and central Transvaal areas. Accounts of the Southern Ndebele, the Koni, the Kgatla, the Rolong and the Ntwane attest to Mzilikazi’s sporadic plunder and their own counter raids of Mzilikazi’s frequent raids. The Koni, Kopa and some Eastern Sotho fortified settlements in the Middelburg, Nelspruit (Waterval Boven, Sudwala Caves) and Lydenburg areas were attacked by intruding armies.

The above section comes from De Jong 2009: pp.24-26 (See References)

No Iron Age occurrences were identified in the study area during the assessment

In 1845 the establishment of a Boer settlement at Ohrigstad marked the beginning of a new phase in the history of the Eastern Transvaal. The first Trekkers to settle in the area were the followers of A. H. Potgieter, who moved from Mooi River in the south-western Transvaal. Trekkers from Natal led by J. J. Burger joined them. Tensions between the two groups soon surfaced and the difficulties facing the community were compounded by malaria, which decimated the population, and stock disease, which ravaged their herds. In 1848, partly to escape this disease and conflict-ridden community, Potgieter and his followers moved north and founded the town of Schoemansdal. Most of those who remained behind moved to higher-lying lands to the south. The town of Lydenburg became the new center of the community and white settlers slowly established themselves in the wider region. The Trekkers' political fractiousness did not, however, diminish. In 1856 the Lydenburg community seceded from the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) – a development that was symptomatic of the fragility of the wider state. Political instability and racial exclusivity – blacks were infamously denied any equality in church or state – however, co-existed with strong traditions of popular democracy. It was not until 1864 that political unity was achieved among the main Trekker communities in the Transvaal and even thereafter the state remained both rudimentary and cash strapped.

Once the Trekkers had established what they saw as their right to the land they set about distributing it among themselves. The land was demarcated into large farms and title deeds were issued. The initial policy was that all burghers (citizens) were entitled to two farms of 3 000 morgen each (about 6 330 acres or 2 564 hectares) from the state. White newcomers to the Transvaal were quickly granted citizenship and the land that went with it. Farms, which were not distributed, remained government property and the ZAR, which battled to raise revenue, increasingly fell back on its principal asset – land. This profligate distribution of land could not be sustained. From 1860 land grants to burghers were reduced to one 3 000 morgen farm each. After 1866 newcomers no longer received any grant of land and from 1871 this prohibition applied even to the sons of burghers. The most consistent supply of labour for those farmers able to enforce their claim to ownership of the land came from African families living on their property. The practice that developed in the area was that five families of a group were expected to render unpaid labour service to the landowner but were then spared from further demands on their labour or their produce by officials or neighbouring farmers. Elements of a patriarchal pact underpinned these arrangements as male elders within African communities used their authority over both women and youths to meet the farmers' appetite for workers. Over the subsequent decades the amount of labour that could be extracted from resident workers would be a source of recurring strife. Communities settled on land owned by absentee landlords were often able to secure their tenure through payments of rent in cash or kind, to the considerable irritation of their white neighbours, who believed they should be forced to work for them.

White settlement of the Belfast area started from the direction of Lydenburg in 1847 when farmers were looking for healthier environments. At first the farms were uninhabited and used to graze cattle. At first, roads were irregular and informal. In 1878-1894 a stage-coach route was operated between Pretoria and the Lowveld and the

present N4 broadly follows this route between Wonderfontein and Belfast. The Pretoria-Maputo railway line became operational in 1894. The British established a Boer concentration camp at Belfast and erected a series of blockhouses along the railway line.

The above section comes from De Jong 2009: pp.24-26 (See References).

Wemmershuis was established in 1887, seemingly part of another farm, Berg-en-dal (established in 1862). The farm was first numbered Wemmershuis 100, located in the Lydenburg district. Lydenburg was established in 1850 as one of the first Voortrekker towns in the area today known as Mpumalanga. Belfast, in which district the farm is now, was established in 1890.

The first owner of Berg-en-dal was (the Estate of the late) Jurie Bekker and Johannes Bekker. On 15 March 1862 it was transferred to Jan Lambertus Schurink. Between 1862 and 1888 the farm changed hands a number of times and was also subdivided. One portion became the farm of Jacobus Cornelis Smith. The different portions were consolidated and subdivided after 1888. It is indicated that no remainder existed, but this it is believed only means that the remainder became known as Wemmershuis.

This portion was given by government grant to Hugo Smith on 4 November 1887. Wemmershuis was therefore established on the remainder of the farm Berg-en-dal before the latter was divided into an eastern and western portion in 1888. Smith sold the farm to Edward Croch in 1891 who in turn sold it to Frederic Casse Fitzgerald in 1911. In 1918 the farm was sold to James Yardley Robinson who owned it until his death in 1960. Willem Marthinus de Beer then became the owner.

The following people were owners of the applicable portions of the farm Wemmershuis and Berg-en-dal during its early history.

Berg-en-dal Portion 1

1862 - Jurie and Johannes Bekker

1862 – Jan Lambertus Schurink

1862 – Alexander Marsh Robinson

1875 – John James O’Neil

1880 – Mattheus Johannes O’Neil and Patrick O’Neil

1887 – Gideon Jacobus Scheepers (jr)

1887 - Hermanus Jacobus Botha

1888 – Richard Charles O’Neil

1888 – Jacobus Cornelis Smith (also became the owner of Portions 2 and 3 in 1895 and 1896 respectively)

Wemmershuis Portion 1

1890 - Hugo Smith

1903 - Cornelis Smith

1908 - De Vos & Reitz

1910 – Jan Daniel Karnspek Reitz

1913 – John Thomas Duggan

On 24 March 1885 four farms in the district of Lydenburg, including Wemmershuis was inspected by land surveyors. The chairperson of the inspection commission, J de Clercq, indicated on 28 December 1885 that the farm Wemmershuis was inspected on 3 March 1885. It however seems as if the proclamation of the farm was not accepted by all. On 31 March 1886 the Registrar of Deeds were ordered by the Government of the former Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek not to register the farm Wemmershuis in the name of the government. Eventually on 9 September 1886 the farm was registered for the government.

Another document from 1886 indicates who the protestors were. JW van Heerden and RC O'Neil's protest was published in the Staatscourant (Government newspaper) of 6 January 1886. They indicated that the new farm Wemmershuis is encroaching upon their farms, Weltevrede and Berg-en-dal. In 1886 King & Company also wanted to purchase or rent the farm, but nothing came of this. Hugo Smith bought the farm in this year for an amount of £ 300. Other documents indicate that the farm was divided in 1957. Portion 4 of the farm obtained business rights in 1981, and this portion later became known as portion 5. Permission to establish a tea room here was already given in 1957. Portion 5 also became known under the name Halfway House and permission for the establishment of a Wimpy Restaurant here was given in 1983.

A map in Bulpin (1974) shows the Eastern Railway line going through Belfast, evidently making this an important stop for travelers. One of the reasons is that the road forks here to the north in the direction of Ohrigstad and Lydenburg and to the east in the direction of Nelspruit. It needs to be remembered that the town of Belfast was only established in 1890 and therefore the stop on the coach route may have been at Wemmershuis. Early in 1883 the Portuguese authorities sent Major Joachim José Machado to Pretoria to discuss the proposed Delagoabay Railway line scheme with the ZAR's Railway Commission (appointed by President Paul Kruger). During his trip to Pretoria he became aware of a completely new route that could run along the southern banks of the Crocodile River and next to the Elandsriver and up to the Highveld, and then over Belfast and Middelburg to Pretoria.

During the Anglo-Boer War the area around Belfast saw much action. The last of the conventional military encounters between the British and Boer forces were that of the Battle of Berg-en Dal (also called the Battle of Dalmanutha). The battle took place between the 21st and 27th of August 1900.

Between the 21st and 22nd of August there were skirmishes on the farm Van Wyksvlei, to the south of Belfast. This was followed by an attack on the 23rd of August by the British on the Boer forces on the farm Geluk. Later the same day the Boers at Dalmanutha were also under attack. The final phase of the battle was at Berg-en Dal on the 27th of August 1900. The Boers retreated from the scene and the British continued their advance towards the Lowveld.

On the 24th of August 1900 the British occupied Belfast. Here they established three concentration camps for Boer women and children. After they reached Komatipoort on the 24th of September 1900, the British erected blockhouses and other fortifications along the railway line in order to safeguard this from the Boers. The remains of two of these are located on Wemmershuis.

The above section taken from Pelsers et.al (Archaetnos Unnumbered Report May 2011: p.12-14).

Study Area Assessment

A number of sites, features and structures were identified during the assessment of the area. Some are related to the Anglo-Boer War Battle of Berg-en Dal/Dalmanutha, as well as the earlier wagon routes that passed through the area. Others are related to modern farming and other activities in the larger area. The results of the assessment, as well as the significance of these finds and the impacts of the proposed development on these will be discussed below.

On the western side of the footprint area there are fairly modern buildings relating to farming and agricultural activities, as well as some small-scale industrial activity. There are modern farm labor houses; the steel frame of a factory building; a modern house right behind the Engen Garage, a steel-made cluster of buildings that appear to be a modern transport business; a farmhouse that is a combination of old stone-built and fairly modern; a recent stone kraal behind the house, and a modern stone-built pub. The only occupied structures are the farm labor houses.

Most of these structures and features are modern (and younger than 60 years of age) and therefore has no heritage significance. **No mitigation are therefore required should they be impacted by the proposed development.**

The old stone-built farm house with the modern additions and alterations are the only of these buildings with historical heritage significance. The original farmhouse is typical of these structures on the Eastern Highveld and is most likely older than 60 years of age.

A unique stone architectural heritage was established in the Eastern Highveld during the second half of the 19th century well into the early 20th century. During this time period stone was used to build farmsteads and dwellings, both in urban and in rural areas. Although a contemporary stone architecture also existed in the Karoo and in the Eastern Free State Province of South Africa a wider variety of stone types were used on the Eastern Highveld. These included sandstone, ferricrete ('oukclip'), dolerite ('bloukclip'), granite, shale and slate.

The origins of a vernacular stone architecture in the Eastern Highveld may be ascribed to various reasons of which the ecological characteristics of the region may be the most important. The Eastern Highveld is generally devoid of any natural trees which could be used as timber in the construction of farmsteads, outbuildings, cattle enclosures and other structures while the scarcity of fire wood also prevented the manufacture (firing) of baked clay bricks. Stone therefore served as the most important building material on the Eastern Highveld (Pistorius 2007:17).

Farm homesteads with outbuildings that date from the more recent past occur throughout the Eastern Highveld. Many of these farm homesteads hold little historical significance. However, buildings and other infrastructure which are part of these farm homesteads may be older than sixty years or may approach this age. All, structures and buildings older than sixty years are protected by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) (Pistorius 2007:18).

Many of these farm homesteads are associated with formal and informal graveyards. Dwellings which have been used by farm labourers and which have disintegrated over time are in many instances associated with informal graves and sometimes with informal cemeteries. These informal graves and cemeteries may occur in the most unexpected places - such as in maize fields where they have not been ploughed under over time (Pistorius 2007:18). Although no graves were recorded during the assessment the possibility of the presence of unmarked, unknown or low stone-packed graves should be kept in mind therefore.

The modern alterations and additions that have clearly been done in recent years have diminished its significance to a fair degree. **However, it is recommended that a Phase 2 Heritage Assessment be undertaken by a Specialist (Architectural Historian) prior to and should the development impact on the site. A Demolition Permit will have to be applied from and issued by SAHRA should the assessment recommend this.**

GPS Location: Approximately S25 42 57.14 E30 03 37.19

Cultural Significance: Low - Medium

Heritage Significance: Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation.

Field Ratings: General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance).

Mitigation: Phase 2 HIA and recording. Should the site be impacted on by the development then a demolition permit should be applied for



Figure 10: Farm labour houses.



Figure 11: Modern houses.



Figure 12: More modern structures associated with possible Transport business.



Figure 13: View of steel structure/frame and small modern structure.



Figure 14: Modern kraal.



Figure 15: Modern pub.



Figure 16: The old stone-built farm house with modern additions & alterations clearly visible.

On the eastern side of the farmhouse section fence is a small hill that looks down over the plain towards the railway line in the north, and across the grassy plains to the east and the south-east. Located all around this low hill are trenches and packed stones that were used to create an elevated position here. These trenches are more than likely associated with the Anglo-Boer War Battle of Berg-en Dal, and although it could not be determined at the time of the assessment could have formed part of the Boer entrenchments before and during the Battle. Due to the thick grass and vegetation cover it was impossible to identify any cultural material.

GPS Location: Approximately S25.717740 E30.064795

Cultural Significance: Medium - High

Heritage Significance: Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the National Estate.

Field Ratings: Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/ medium significance).

Mitigation: Should the site be impacted on by the proposed development, it should be mitigated by detailed mapping & drawing and also historical-archaeological excavations before destruction.

The existence of British fortifications (blockhouses) is also known on other portions of Wemmershuis, and was recorded by the author of this report during previous work in the area. These features are however not located close to the proposed development and will not be impacted.



**Figure 17: One of the trenches located around the small hill.
The packed stones are also visible.**



Figure 18: Another view of one of the trench areas. The vegetation (grass & other plants) grow along the edges and inside and makes these features quite distinctive.

Across the footprint area, running from east to west and about 50m from the N4 motorway, are old wagon trails relating to the transport routes that traversed the area. Some of the trails are lined on each side with large rocks, and they run around the base of the low hill heading in a direction towards Wemmershuis where the old coach house is situated. No cultural material is visible in the thick, low growth, but a worked stone relating to the wagon trails was found. Anton Pelsler and other archaeologists excavated an Old Coach House on Wemmershuis during 2011. The old wagon route passed closely by this structure (next to the Carolina R33 road towards the study area), and the section recorded during the 2016 assessment most likely forms part of this old route. Although the section has been disturbed by ESKOM Pylons/Power lines and possibly agricultural activities in the past, the site is still significant from a historical heritage point of view and should be mapped and drawn before further impact by the proposed development.

GPS Location: Approximately S25.717817 E30.064868

Cultural Significance: Low - Medium

Heritage Significance: Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation.

Field Ratings: General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance).

Mitigation: Mapping & Drawing should the site be impacted by the proposed development before destruction.



Figure 19: A section of the old wagon route.



Figure 20: Another section of the wagon route with the Eskom Pylon visible in it.



Figure 21: A stone found close to the edge of a section of the wagon route. The cutting seen here could have been caused by the wagon wheels that ran over the stones.



Figure 22: View of the sites found during the assessment within the study area (Google Earth 2016).



Figure 23: View of the study area and the trenches & wagon route section found in relation to the Wemmershuis Coach House & British Fortifications (Google Earth 2016).

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 HIA for proposed residential and commercial development on the Remainder of Portion 12 of the farm Wemmershuis 379JT & the Remainder of the farm Berg-en Dal 981JT was successfully completed. A PIA (Palaeontological Impact Assessment) formed part of this study and is provided as a separated report.

Background research indicated that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger area, including the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) Battle of Berg-en Dal/Dalmanutha which were fought across these farms during the time, and the old wagon route that passed through the area. A number of historical sites and features associated with both the wagon route and Anglo-Boer War were also identified and recorded during the field assessment.

The following recommendations are made in terms of the historical-archaeological sites and features recorded during the assessment:

1. For the old farm house built in stone with modern alterations a Phase 2 HIA and recording should be undertaken and should the site be impacted on by the development then a demolition permit should be applied for.

2. For the trenches located around the small hill, and most likely related to the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) Battle of Berg-en Dal/Dalmanutha: Should the site be impacted on by the proposed development, it should be mitigated by detailed mapping & drawing and also historical-archaeological excavations before destruction.

3. For the sections of the old wagon route identified: Mapping & Drawing should the site be impacted by the proposed development before destruction.

Finally, from a cultural heritage point of view the development should be allowed to continue taking the above into consideration. Furthermore, the subterranean presence of archaeological or historical sites, features or objects is always a possibility. Should any be uncovered during the development process an archaeologist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward. The presence of unmarked graves should also be kept in mind.

8. REFERENCES

Aerial views of study area and Site distributions: Google Earth 2016.

Layout Plan/Map of Proposed development provided by Labesh (Pty) Ltd and Copyright @Korsman & Associates

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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.