



## AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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DR. UDO S KÜSEL

Tel/fax: (012) 567 6046

Cell: 082 498 0673

E-mail: udo.heritage@absamail.co.za

P.O. Box 652

Magalieskruin

0150

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# CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF STONE CREST RIVER ESTATE ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM ROODERAND 510 IQ NEAR VENTERSKROON NORTH WEST PROVINCE

## 1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

## 2. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, ACT NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
- b. Archaeological sites and objects.
- c. Palaeontological sites.
- d. Meteorites.

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

### 3. METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited and visually inspected.

### 4. RESULTS

Stone Crest River Estate is a proposed new development and lies just south of the town Venterskroon, in the Vredefort Dome area (see map 1). It lies between the foot of the mountain and the Vaal River and is divided in two by a dirt road. The area between the road and the foot of the mountain is dense thorn veldt. The areas vegetation is dense which made the finding of heritage sites very difficult. On this portion the following sites were recorded.

- A. *Square Cement Reservoir* (S26° 53' 48.5" & E27° 15' 29.5"). This structure was built most probably in the 1960's to supply water for the farm workers settlement to the east
- B. *Farm Workers Settlement* (S26° 53' 51.2" & E27° 15' 31.1"). In this area are a number of farm workers ruins. The houses were mud and pole structures probably dating to the 1960 -80 periods (see photograph 1).
- C. *Cemetery* (S26° 53' 53.9" & E27° 15' 28.8"). The cemetery in the South western corner of the property is totally overgrown by dense vegetation so that individual graves are difficult to recognize. There are ten or more graves visible of which only two have locally made tombstones. The inscriptions have faded away and no date could be found on any of the graves. The surname Terblanche could be recognized on one grave (see photographs 2 & 3). The two tombstones were made of concrete and most probably date to the 1940's. It may be the graves of family members of one of the previous owners of the farm. The rest of the graves are only heaps of stones and may be the graves of workers of the nearby farm workers settlement.

In the portion of the farm between the dirt road and the river the following cultural heritage resources were recorded.

- D. *Ruin of Large Old House* (S26° 53' 42.8" & E27° 15' 38.0"). Only the walls of this old home remain. From the ruin it is clear that the original structure was built with mud bricks of which some were lightly burned. Later sections were added with a variety of modern bricks. The original section of the home may date to the 1940's added on in the 50's and 60's (see photograph 4).
- E. *Farm Shed* (S26° 53' 44.9" & E27° 15' 37.5"). This structure is modern and has a date of 1992 on its floor scratched into the wet cement (see photograph 5).
- F. *Original Farm Settlement* (S26° 53' 46.3" & E27° 15' 38.8"). On this site are the ruins of three clay build structures of which the most southern one is the oldest. This was most probably the original pioneer farmhouse built of thick layers of clay. This technique was commonly used by Boer pioneer settlements and is known in Afrikaans as "opklei". The technique used is done by building first a stone foundation on which thick layers of clay are laid between two parallel wooden planks. The clay is left to dry for a day or two after which the next layer is added on top. The different layers of clay are still clearly visible on photographs 6 & 7. Such a structure would then be thatched.

The other two structures are later additions (see photograph 8 & 9). Just east of the original home is a large dam which was filled with water by a furrow from the northern side (see photograph 10).

This original farm settlement is absolutely typical of pioneer Boer farm settlements. To build a new settlement the farmer would always first construct a water furrow and dam. The house would then be built on the higher ground leaving the lower slope for irrigation of orchards and fields. This settlement most probably dates to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Similar farm layouts can still be seen at pioneer homes in Silverton Pretoria and in the Suikerbosch Rand Nature Reserve near Heidelberg.

- G. *Wrought Iron Gate* (S26° 53' 40.5" & E27° 15' 36.4"). At the entrance to the farm is an old wrought iron gate. These old gates were made in England and especially used by the railway at crossings (see photograph 11 & 12). These wrought iron gates have today disappeared and are a rarity. A similar one was noticed at the old settlement at Venterskroon near the information centre.

## 5. EVALUATION

From the survey only three of the recorded heritage sites are important.

5.1 *The Cemetery*. This site like all cemeteries is protected and is of local importance.

5.2 *Pioneer Farm Settlement.* During a survey of the cultural heritage resources of the Vredefort Dome area a number of pioneer farm settlements were recorded (Küsel & Miller 2006). None of these have been recorded in detail. This specific settlement although neglected and in a bad condition still has all the elements of a pioneer settlement. This makes it important from a local and even regional point of view.

5.3 *Wrought Iron Gate.* The gate which was most probably moved to the farm in later years is a good example of British wrought iron works especially associated with early railways. These gates are rare and should be preserved. This makes this specific gate at least of local interest.

## 6. CONCLUSION

As already mentioned above, three of the recorded sites are important from a cultural heritage resources point of view. Of these the original pioneer farm settlement is typical of its era and should at least be recorded in detail.

The cemetery is protected by law. At this stage its age still has to be researched but it should be protected and cleaned.

The Wrought Iron Gate is important and should be kept as a feature in the new development.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- The Pioneer farm settlement be researched and fully documented after which a decision can be taken to preserve the site or to demolish it.
- The wrought iron gate should be preserved as a feature in the new development.
- The cemetery should be cleaned and researched. Hereafter a discussion can be taken to either fence in, preserve it in situ or to relocate the graves. For detail on grave legislation see annexure A.

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

## 8. SITE INFORMATION

<b>Owners contact details:</b>
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Future Diagnostics CC (Registration No. 2000/069052/23)
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4 Karee Road, GEORGE, 6529  
Contact person: Donald Coetzee  
Tel. No.: (044) 871 4387  
Cell No.: 083 274 8288  
E-mail: [don157@mweb.co.za](mailto:don157@mweb.co.za)

**Developers contact details:**

Future Diagnostics CC (Registration No. 2000/069052/23), see above

**Consultants contact details:**

PLANCentre Town Planners  
P. O. Box 3112, WILROPARK, 1731  
Contact person: Frandri Smith  
Tel. No.: (011) 764 4080  
Cell No.: 082 923 6171  
E-mail: [frandri@plancentre.co.za](mailto:frandri@plancentre.co.za)

**Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.)**

Low density, nature orientated, rural residential development, to be known as "Stone Crest River Estate"

**Whether rezoning and/or subdivision of land is involved:**

Yes, an application for a land development area in terms of the Development Facilitation Act, 1995, has been submitted with the North West Development Tribunal.

**Full location of Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority, property (e.g. farm, erf name and number:**

Portion 3 of the farm Rooderand 510 Registration Division IQ, North West Province  
Jurisdiction of Tlokwe City Council (formerly Potchefstroom Local Municipality)

**Location map must have the polygon of the area to be surveyed on it and full geographical coordinates for all relevant points and where applicable indication of the area to be developed (footprint):**

Attached

**If possible an aerial photograph of the specific area showing the location of all site.**

Attached

## **9. REFERENCES**

- 1/50 000 Map 2627 CD
- Archaeological database of the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria
- Küsel U.S. & Miller S 2006. Impact Assessment of Historic Heritage Resources in the Vredefort Dome Conservation Area.

## **10. PHOTOGRAPHS**

See pages 7 - 12

## **11. MAPS**

See pages 13 - 16

**Annexure A:** see page 17

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



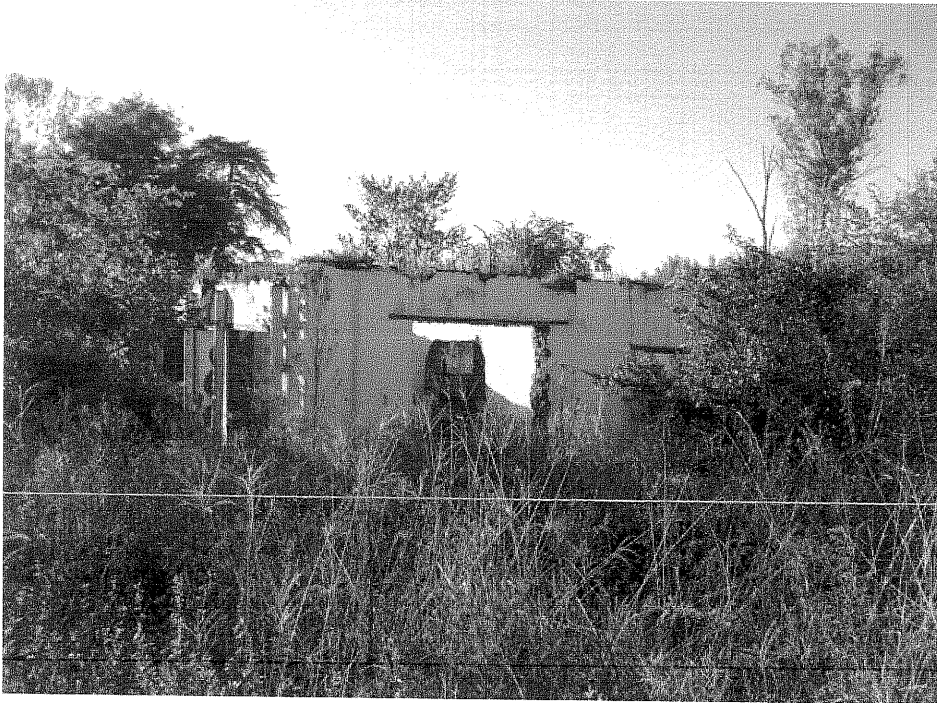
**No. 1 Ruin of farm workers settlement**



**No. 2 One of the tombstones in the cemetery**



**No. 3 Unmarked grave in the cemetery**

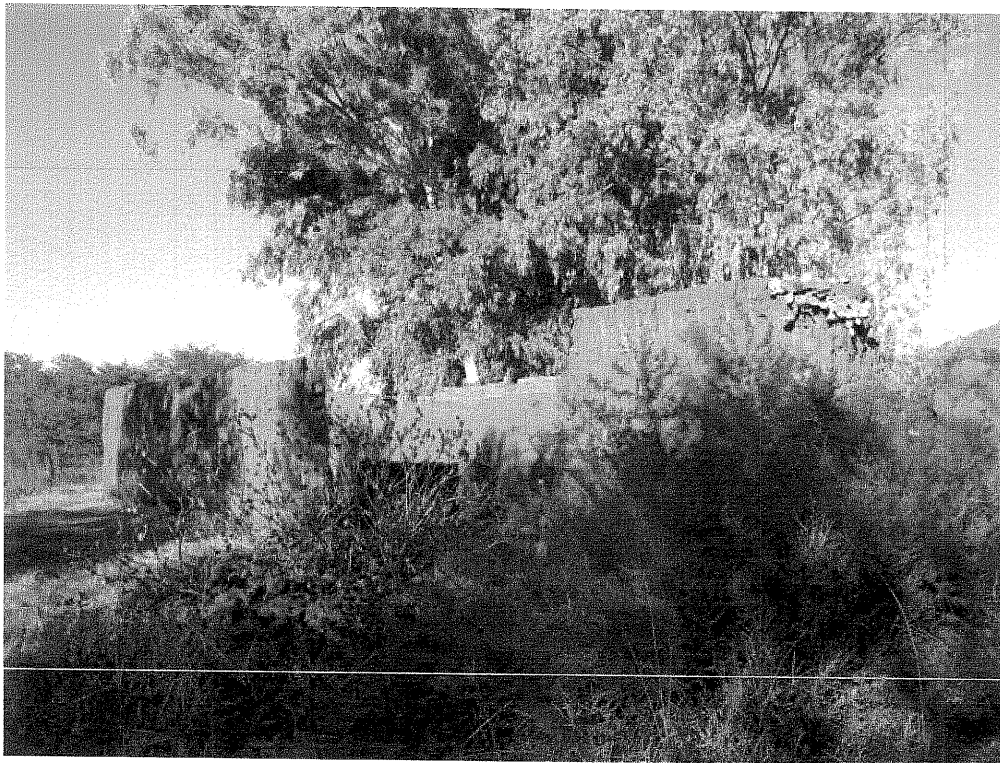


**No. 4 Ruin of large old house**





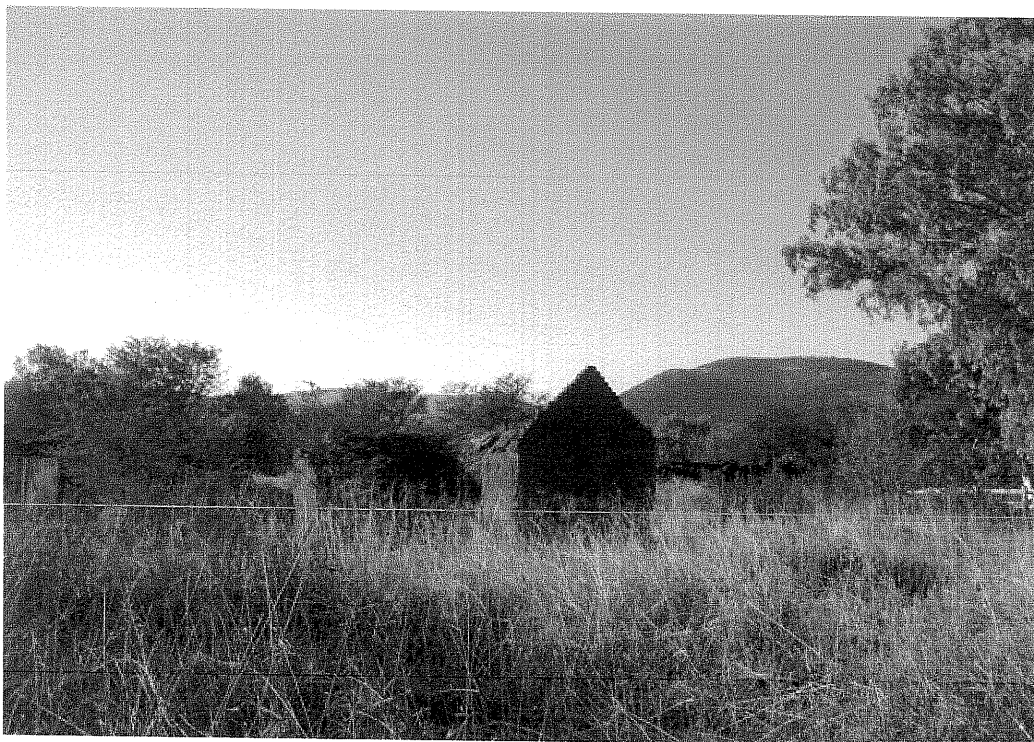
**No. 5 Structure of modern Farm shed**



**No. 6 Clay built structures of original farm settlement**



**No. 7 Close-up photograph of one of the clay walls.  
The different layers of clay are still visible.**



**No. 8 The first of two structures who are later additions**

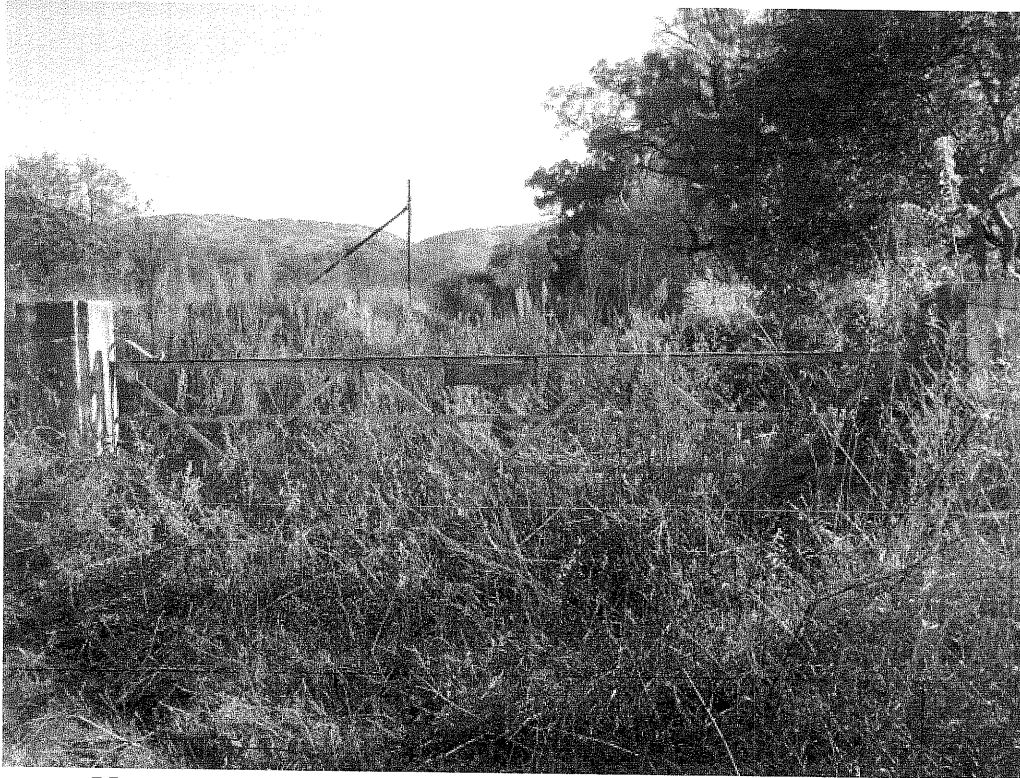




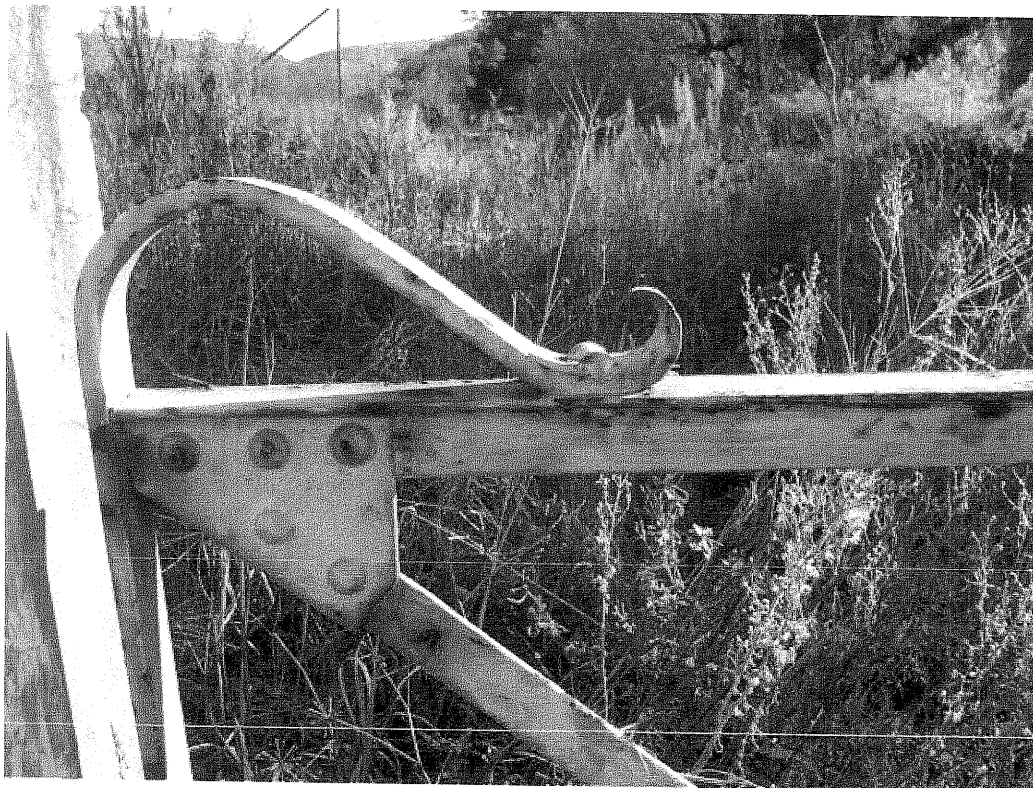
**No. 9 The second structure of the later additions**



**No. 10 The large dam on the eastern side of the original house.**



**No. 11 Wrought iron gate at the entrance to the farm**



**No. 12 A close-up of the wrought iron gate**

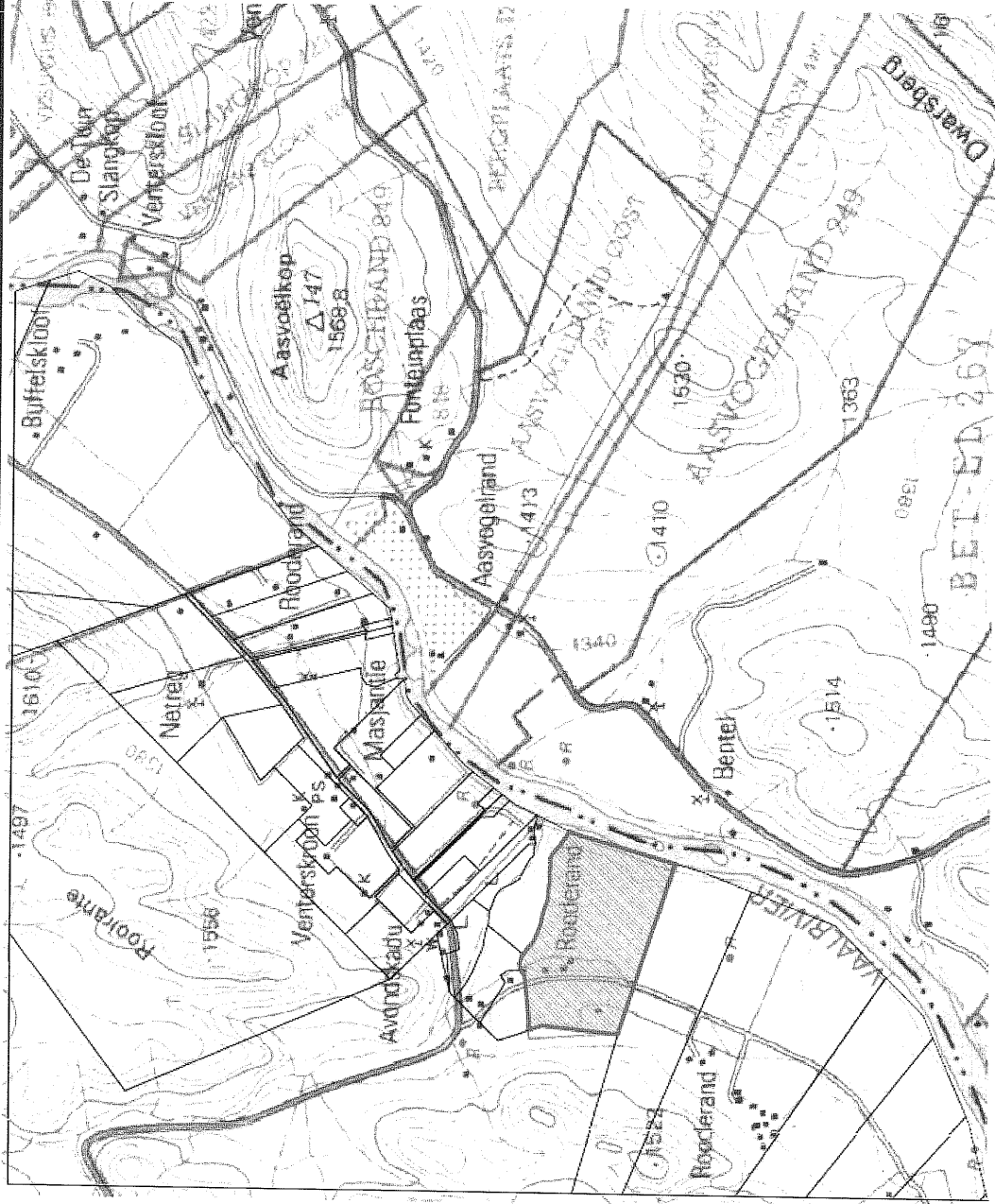


**LOCALITY MAP**

**PORTION 3  
OF THE FARM  
ROODERAND 510 IQ  
NORTH WEST**

**SIZE: 40.0657 ha**

**SITE**



**PROJECT**

**PROPOSED STONE CREST RIVER ESTATE**

SITUATED ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM ROOBERAND 516/40 NORTH WEST

**LOCALITY PLAN**

SEE LOCALITY PLAN ATTACHED

**LAND USE**

LAND USE	AREA (M <sup>2</sup> )	NO. OF STANDS	AREA (M <sup>2</sup> )	NO. OF STANDS
RESIDENTIAL	1 700	50	275	100
POLE AND/OR LIGHT	0	1	20 000	10 000
STREET	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0

**NOTES**

1. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NWRI).

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NWRI).

3. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NWRI).

4. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NWRI).

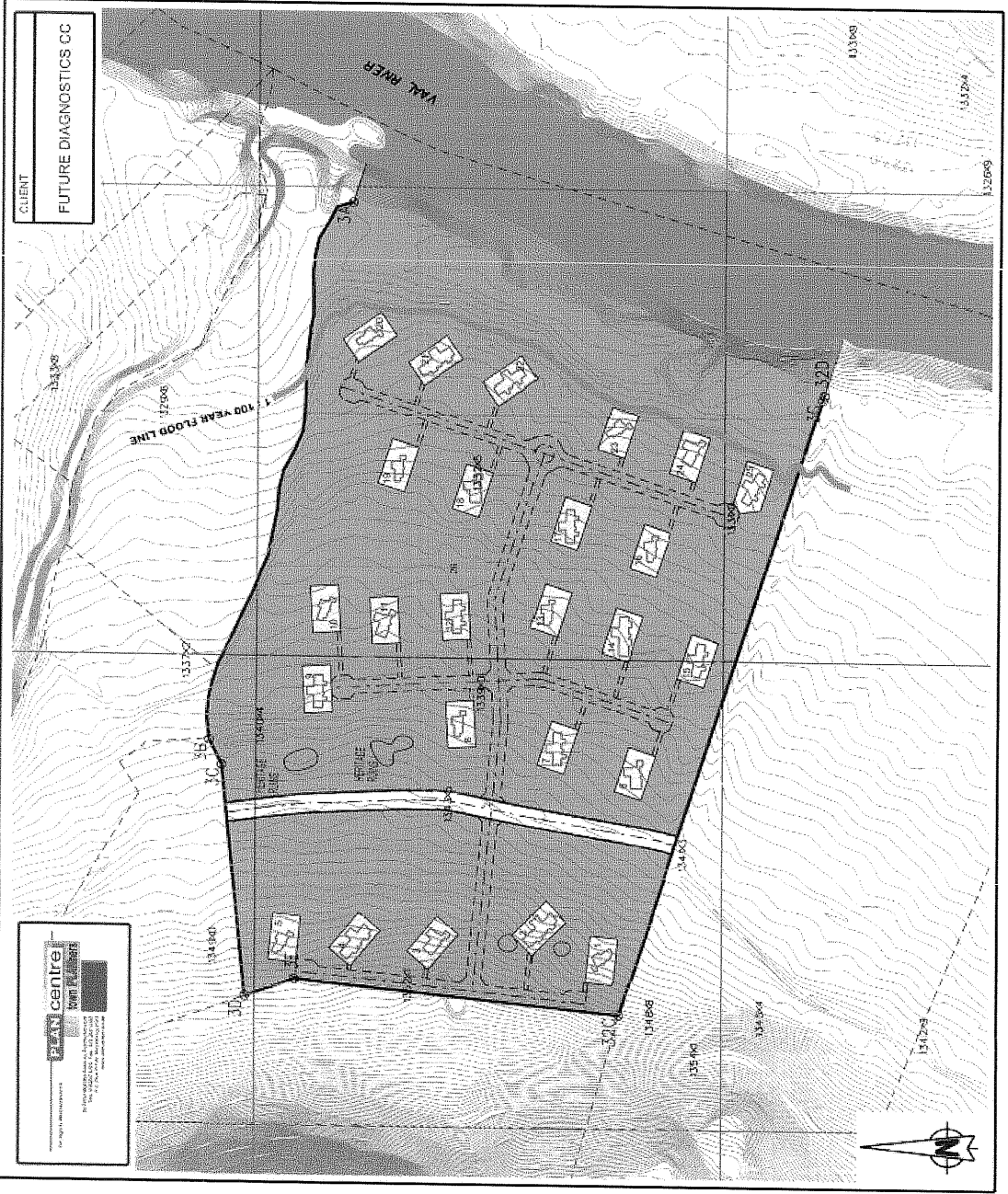
5. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NWRI).

**AGREEMENTS**

AGREEMENT	DATE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
AGREEMENT 1	15/01/2010	AGREEMENT 1	AGREEMENT 1
AGREEMENT 2	15/01/2010	AGREEMENT 2	AGREEMENT 2
AGREEMENT 3	15/01/2010	AGREEMENT 3	AGREEMENT 3

**ANALYSIS**

ANALYSIS	DATE	DESCRIPTION
ANALYSIS 1	15/01/2010	ANALYSIS 1
ANALYSIS 2	15/01/2010	ANALYSIS 2
ANALYSIS 3	15/01/2010	ANALYSIS 3





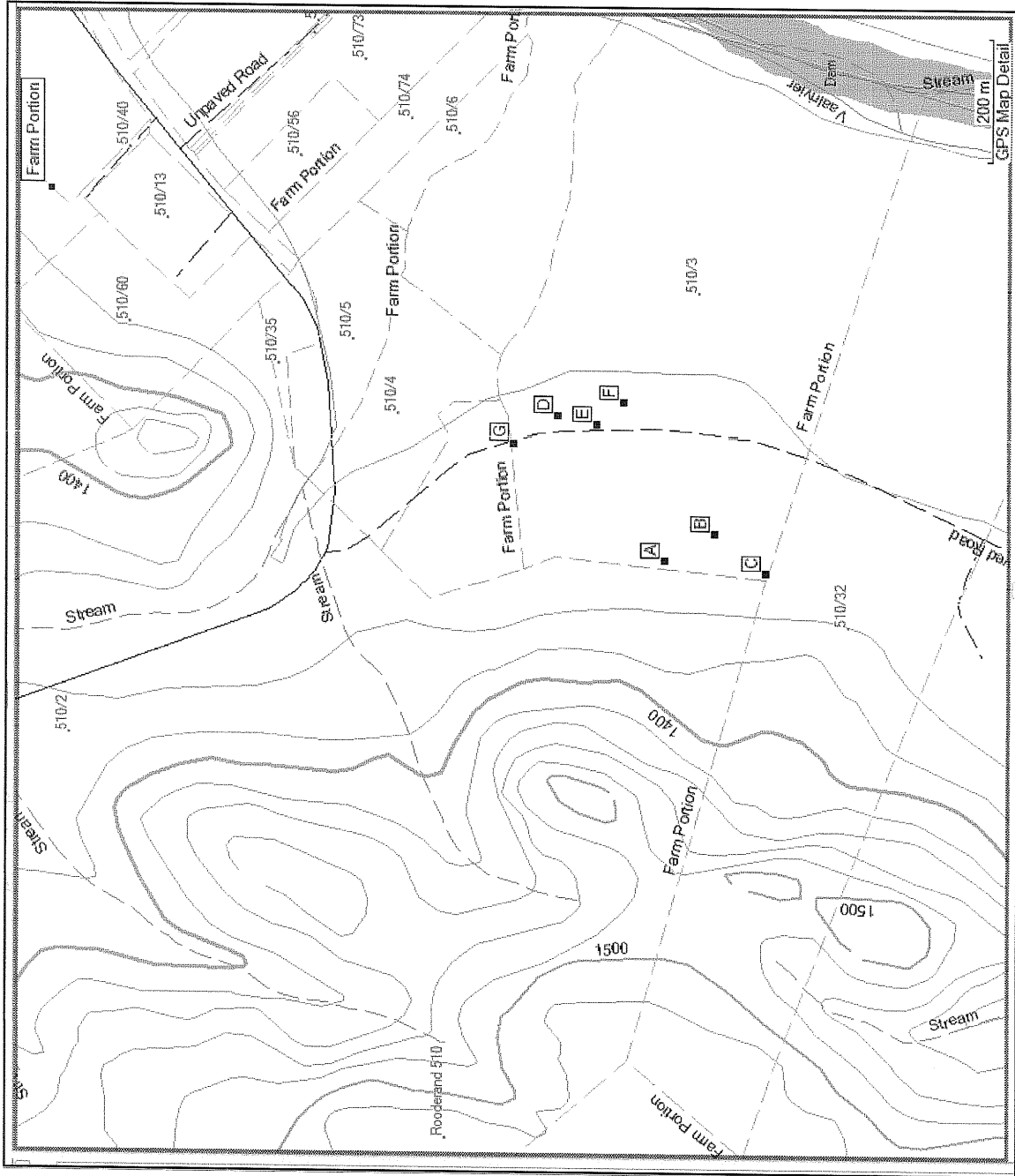
**STONECRIST**  
SUBURBAN



**GRAEME SPARROW**  
ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN • LANDSCAPE  
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**Map 1**

- (A) Square Cement Dam
- (B) Farm Workers Settlement
- (C) Cemetery
- (D) Ruin of large old house
- (E) Farm Shed
- (F) Original farm settlement
- (G) Wrought Iron Gate



## **ANNEXURE A**

### **ARCHAEOLOGY, GRAVES AND THE LAW**

- In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:
  - (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
  - (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
  - (c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.
- Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations.
- Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925). Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.
- A registered undertaker can only handle human remains or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).
- Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise

### **THE PROCESS/STEPS THAT ARE TAKEN**

#### **SITE VISIT: WHAT IS DONE DURING THIS SITE VISIT?**

Physical documentation of graves prior to exhumation: Photographic, GPS, Site Maps, Final counting etc...

Determining context of graves: If any, are they associated with other sites such as farmhouses/structures etc...

#### **SITE SIGNS AND ADVERTISEMENTS**

Notices (in compliance with the National Heritage Resources Act) must be placed on the site/s, indicating the intent of relocation. This must be in at least 3 languages and has to be up for a minimum of 60 days.

As part of the preliminary social consultation, newspaper ads as well as radio announcements has to be made as well

This is in order that family members/descendants, if any, can reply/come forward to indicate if any of the graves belong to them

### **SOCIAL CONSULTATION**

If any individuals responded during initial consultation/public participation, then full social consultation undertaken. This will include speaking to individuals regarding graves, their family wishes, getting consent for relocation/reburial etc...

It could also include an Open Day/Traditional Ceremony (or more than one if necessary)

### **PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Undertakers permits applied for and obtained during social consultation

Only after all necessary documents, family consent obtained, landowner letter, can SAHRA Permit be applied for and obtained. A few weeks should be budgeted for this.

### **EXHUMATION & RELOCATION**

When permits obtained physical exhumation, investigation and reburial commences

### **THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF BURIALS:**

#### **DOCUMENTATION FORM**

This form contains the following information for each burial:

<b>Feature/Burial No Name/No Province</b>	<b>Site Name/No Location of new cemetery</b>	<b>GPS Reading</b>	<b>Farm</b>
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**It also includes information on the**

**Burial Type**

**Burial Dimensions**

**Grave Type**

**Grave Dimensions**

**Associated sites/features**

**Specimens or grave goods found**

**The state of preservation and percentage completeness of the human skeletal material**

**Sex and Age of the individual**

**Further Remarks**

**Information on the headstone and grave dressing (if any)**

Photographs of each grave, headstone (if any), the skeletal remains, grave goods etc... are also taken and used in the final documentation