

***SPECIALIST REPORT***

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON PORTION 27 OF THE FARM,  
MIDDELBURG TOWN AND TOWNLANDS 287 JS, MIDDELBURG**

**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT COMPILED FOR  
AFRIKA Enviro & Biology**

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**FEBRUARY 2013**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for the proposed township establishment of *portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS, Middelburg.*

The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, **2529CB**, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Nkangala district municipality and Steve Tswete local municipality.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999)(NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act.

The objective of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (the current owners of the site), is to eradicate informal settlement within the Newtown area and to create affordable security of tenure for its inhabitants. The site is 110 ha in extent of which approximately 50ha is proposed to be developed, and is situated between two rocky outcrops. The current study area borders an informal settlement known as Newtown, which is next to the Mhluzi residential area.

The area for the proposed development is currently vacant, and zoned as agricultural. The visibility during the survey was excellent. A large rectangular stone enclosure, as well as a small square stone foundation was identified directly south of the study area, but they are not regarded as significant. No other heritage or archaeological features were identified in the study area.

Based on the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants cc, states that there are no compelling reasons that may prevent the proposed development to continue.

**DISCLAIMER:** *Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study, Christine Rowe trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.*

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- 1) The results of the project;*
- 2) The technology described in any report;*
- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*

#### **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

I, Christine Rowe, trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants, hereby confirm my independence as a specialist and declare that I have no interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal, in the proposed project. I also declare that I am confident in the results of the survey that was undertaken, and in the conclusions that were reached as a result of it.

.....  
Signed: C. Rowe

Date: 11 February 2013

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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON PORTION 27 OF THE FARM,  
MIDDELBURG TOWN AND TOWNLANDS 287 JS, MIDDELBURG**

**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE PROJECT**

The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, (the current owners of the *remainder of portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS*), is requesting the development of a residential development for its inhabitants. The objective of the project is to eradicate informal settlement within the geographical area and in particular at the Newtown informal settlement and to create security of tenure for the households at the same time. The intention is to relocate some of the residents from Newtown informal settlement to the new settlement, to serviced stands in the urban area.<sup>1</sup> Housing is at the forefront of the national agenda for delivery and the government is taking overall responsibility for providing houses to all. The site is approximately 110 ha in extent, which will be subdivided into 1100 stands, a business section, a church and crèche, educational facilities, Public open spaces, industrial area and roads (See **Appendix 4**).

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by *AFRICA Enviro & Biology*, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (AIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources on the study area.

A literature study, relevant to the study area was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon. (See **Appendix 1**: Topographical Map).

The aims for this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study area, and to advise the client on sensitive heritage areas as well as where it is viable for the development to take place in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resource will also be made. The study area is indicated in **Appendix 1, 2 & 3; & Fig. 1 – 4**.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *AFRICA Enviro & Biology*. P.O. Box 2980, White River, 1240., Cell: 0726231845 / Fax: 0866038875 / e-mail: [27823022459@vodamail.co.za](mailto:27823022459@vodamail.co.za)

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<sup>1</sup> AFRIKA Enviro & Biology, BID document for the Proposed Township establishment on Portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS, 2012, p. 3.

- Type of development: 110 ha of which 50 ha, are earmarked for residential development, on the *Remainder of portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS*, Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.
- Rezoning for the proposed development is involved as it is currently zoned as agricultural.
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Nkangala district municipality and Steve Tswete local municipality.
- Land owners: Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Middelburg.
  
- **Terms of reference:** As specified by section 38 (3) of the NHRA, the following information is provided in this report.
  - a) The identification and mapping of heritage resources where applicable;
  - b) Assessment of the significance of the resources;
  - c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
  - d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

- **Legal requirements:**

The legal context of the report is grounded in the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act (1998) (NEMA):

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the development. The proposed development is a listed activity in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of a HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA). Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and its provincial offices and counterparts.

Section 38 of the NHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by an independent heritage management consultant, for the following development categories:

- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
  - exceeding 5000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;

- the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent

In addition, the new EIA regulation promulgated in terms of NEMA, determine that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert the client, and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings or structures older than 60 years prior to demolition, in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and also other sections of this act dealing with archaeological sites, buildings and graves.

The NHRA section 2 (xvi) states that a “heritage resource” means any place or object of cultural significance, and in section 2 (vi) that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.

Apart from a heritage report assisting a client to make informed development decisions, it also serves to provide the relevant heritage resources authority with the necessary data to perform their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resource, whether the development may proceed as proposed or whether mitigation is acceptable, and whether the heritage resource require formal protection such as a Grade I, II or III resource, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction. This section does not apply, since no archaeological material was found which might be impacted upon by the development.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, 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. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during construction work. This section does not apply since no graves were identified in the study area.

- **Section 34 of the NHRA**

Section 34 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may alter, damage, destroy, relocate etc, any building or structure older than 60 years, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. This section does not apply since no buildings / structures older than 60 years were identified during the survey.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

This section deals with public monuments and memorials but does not apply in this report.

- **NEMA**

The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998), provide for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard.

## **B. BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA**

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

In order to place the study area and Middelburg in archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel, Theal and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources were consulted, as well as historic sources by Makhura and Webb.

There are currently no museums in the town of Middelburg which could be consulted, and no historical information was available at the municipality or information centre. The author had to rely on the assistance of local people documenting relevant history in the area. The 1974 topographical map **2529CB**, revealed no features of significance. Visibility during the survey



was excellent as the area is extensively used for cattle grazing purposes and the grass was short. (See **Appendix 1**: Topographical map).

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. According to Bergh, there are no recorded sites that date from the Stone Age, (including Rock paintings or engravings), Early or Later Iron Age.<sup>2</sup> The SAHRA database was consulted and a few Specialists AIA reports also revealed very little information in terms of archaeological and cultural nature. A total of three AIA reports were previously conducted by the author and revealed the same. Late Iron Age sites on the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS (Van Vollenhoven & Pelser 2009: 11 – 19), were identified approximately 6km to the south east of the study area (on the same farm as described in this report), but note that no Late Iron age features were present on the section of the study area as discussed in this report.

It is necessary to include background information with regards to an archaeological and historical nature of the wider area.

## **STONE AGE**

The Stone Age is the period in human history when people produced stone tools. The Stone Age in South Africa can be divided in three periods:

Early Stone Age (ESA): +- 2 million – 150 000 years ago;

Middle Stone Age (MSA): +- 150 000 – 30 000 years ago;

Later Stone Age (LSA): +- 40 000 – 1850AD.

No recorded sites are indicated in the historical atlas by Bergh (see above)

## **IRON AGE**

The Iron Age is the period in time when humans manufactured metal artifacts. According to Van der Ryst & Meyer,<sup>3</sup> it can be divided in two separate phases, namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) +- 200 – 1000 AD;

Late Iron Age (LIA) +- 1000 – 1850 AD.

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<sup>2</sup> J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, pp. 4-7.

<sup>3</sup> Van der Ryst, M.M, & Meyer, A, *Die Ystertydperk in Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, pp. 96 – 98.

No Iron Age sites were recorded in the historical atlas by Bergh, for the immediate vicinity of Middelburg. The closest known Iron Age occurrences in the study area, are an excavated site by the National Cultural History Museum (2003KH30), on the farm Rietfontein 101JS, Emalahleni district (Witbank), as well as Late Iron Age sites approximately 6km to the south east of the study area, on the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS (Van Vollenhoven & Pelsler 2009: 11 – 19). No Iron Age features were however identified on the study area of this report.

## PRE COLONIAL HISTORY

The Middelburg area was sparsely populated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and although Bergh<sup>4</sup> indicates that only the *Ndzundza Ndebele* group was situated to the north of Middelburg, ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the study area was inhabited by the *Ndzundza abaga* (Ndebele), *Nhlapho abakwa*, and various tribes of the *baSotho* (baKôpa, baPedi). (See **Appendix 5: Bantu Tribes of South Africa**: NJ Van Warmelo, Survey 1935).<sup>5</sup> Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the amount of taxpayers living in the area. One dot on the map represented 10 taxpayers, which were mainly male.

- AmaNDEBELE

According to Van Warmelo, the *amaNdebele* are the earliest known offshoot of the *Nguni* group. The Ndebele is divided into two groups, the Southern and the Northern, and they are separated from one another. A certain legendary chief *Msi* or *Musi* heads a list of about twenty-five successive chiefs who lived just north of where Pretoria now stands. His two sons were *Manala* and *Ndzundza* and form the most important tribes of the Southern group. The *abagaNdzundza* moved eastwards and settled near Roos Senekal, approximately 85km north-east of Middelburg, and it is said that some of *Manala's* followers, the *abagaManala*, settled in the Witbank district. The tribes slowly broke up after the days of the Republic.<sup>6</sup>

- CENTRAL SOTHO

The tribes in this group were at one time largely under the rule of the baPedi, who's last independent king was *Sekhukhune*, who's stronghold was to the north of Middelburg (Steelpoort

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<sup>4</sup> Van der Ryst, M.M, & Meyer, A, Die Ystertydperk in *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p.10.

<sup>5</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 18.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 87.

area), although his domain was extremely large.<sup>7</sup> Great numbers of *baSotho* who belong to the above group, who still speak *sePedi* but which became detribalized, live in the districts of Middelburg, Lydenburg, Witbank and Springs. They mingle freely with other groups such as the Zulu, Swazi and Tonga.

## **HISTORY OF MIDDELBURG**

Middelburg was established as Nasareth (meaning root from dry land) in 1864 by the Voortrekkers on the banks of the Klein Olifants river. The name was changed in 1872 to Middelburg to mark its situation halfway between the Transvaal capital of Pretoria and the gold mining town of Lydenburg. A Dutch Reformed Church was built in 1890. The British built a large concentration camp in Middelburg during the Second Boer War. North of Middelburg, the township of Mhluzi developed simultaneously (Botshabelo) and became part of greater Middelburg in 1994.<sup>8</sup> The study area is directly north to the township of Mhluzi and approximately 4km from Botshabelo.

Middelburg is currently a large farming and industrial town in Mpumalanga. It is known as the “Stainless Steel Capital” of Africa.

## **C. DESCRIPTION OF AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The proposed project will involve the following:

- Approximately 110ha of which approximately 50ha is earmarked for residential township development, directly north of the township known as Mhluzi, Middelburg. The ultimate objective is to relocate most of the people living in the informal settlement known as *Newtown* to the proposed new development, which will also be known as *Newtown*.

## **D. LOCALITY**

The property is located on the western side of the town Middelburg and is 110ha in size of which approximately 50ha will be used for a low-medium residential development with roads, industrial, educational and municipal erven as well as public open spaces. Services infrastructure will also be installed.<sup>9</sup> An informal settlement currently known as Newtown, is located directly north of the Mhluzi residential area, and approximately 2.8km from the N11,

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<sup>7</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.108.

<sup>8</sup> Middelburg Information, <http://www.infomiddelburg.co.za/history.html>.

<sup>9</sup> AFRIKA Enviro & Biology, BID document for the Proposed Township establishment on Portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS, 2012, p. 1 – 5.

which is towards the east of the study area. There is an old rifle range towards the north-west of the site which was used by the SA Defence force, as they also had a base to the east of the study area (Information by Swartland Mtsweni who lived in the area for approximately fifty years).<sup>10</sup> The Klein Olifants river is east of the site. The site falls under the Steve Tshwete Local Municipal jurisdiction, which in turn falls within Nkangala District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province (**Appendix 1**: Topographical Map & **Appendix 2**, Google image: Site: including 110 ha of the study area).

The proposed area for development is situated on the *Remainder of portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS*, and is currently vacant land which belongs to the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, and is zoned as agricultural. The land is used for cattle grazing and a small section in the south-east, for cultivation. There is a sand quarry in the western section (Fig. 11), and an Eskom line towards the east. A few dongas in the study area is evidence of previous disturbed sections. The study area is bordered by the current residential township (Mhluzi) and informal settlement (Newtown) to the south. A formal cemetery is situated in the informal section (Fig. 8).

GPS co-ordinates were used to locate any heritage features within the study area (See **Appendix 3**).

- **Description of methodology:**

The topographical Map, (**Appendix 1**), and Google image of the Site: including 110 ha of the study area (**Appendix 2 & 3**), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historic disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information.
- Several specialist reports, currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology have also been consulted on the subject (Van Vollenhoven & Pelsler);

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<sup>10</sup> Personal Information: Mr. Swartland Mtsweni, 02-02-2013.

-Literary sources: A number of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were consulted, but revealed sparse information;  
 -Archaeological databases of SAHRA as well as the National Cultural History Museum were consulted.

- The fieldwork and survey was conducted on foot and with a vehicle, with two people.
- The entire area is used for cattle grazing.
- The terrain was even and accessible and visibility was excellent.
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Etrex) datum WGS 84, and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 4-6 meters of identified sites.
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999);
- Personal communication with relevant stakeholders on the specific study area, were held, such as the ecologist, Mr. Danie van der Walt and and Principal Investigator, Dr. U Küsel, who worked in the area and confirmed that he is not aware, and has not encountered any archaeological sites in this study area, and Swarland Mtsweni who confirmed that there were no graves in the study area. A large cemetery is located to the south of the study area in the Newtown informal settlement (See fig. 8).
- **GPS: Co-ordinates of the perimeters of the study area, provided by AFRICA Enviro and Biology (Appendix 3):**

CO-ORDINATES		
NO	LONG	LAT
001	29° 31' 59.05" E	25° 48' 36.68" S
002	29° 32' 13.14" E	25° 48' 43.16" S
003	29° 32' 24.97" E	25° 48' 56.80" S
004	29° 32' 05.54" E	25° 49' 11.07" S

**E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES**

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the appendices, which indicate the areas, and which corresponds with the summary below. Figures 1 - 4, show the general view of the study area. Visibility was excellent. **Please note** that none of the features are within the study area, but are all towards the south of the study area located in the residential township.

<b>Site location</b>	<b>Description/Comments</b>	<b>Heritage feature</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Recent square enclosure</b>	A recent <b>square stone enclosure</b> is of no scientific significance. It measures 28.17m x 58.32m and is not complete. Some of the natural stones are incorporated in the wall. It is just outside of the study area to the south.	Elevation: 1469m S25° 44' 4.78" E29° 25' 26.87" Fig. 5.
<b>Appendix 3: Recent square foundation</b>	A recent <b>square stone foundation</b> is of no scientific significance. It measures 4 x 5 meters and the foundation is level with the surface. The structure is just outside the study area to the south.	Elevation: 1468m: S25° 44' 02.2" E29° 25' 28.6" Fig. 6.
<b>Appendix 3: Cattle enclosures and round stone enclosures</b>	There are several square as well as two round enclosures which are currently used by the local inhabitants for cattle, pigs and goats. These are all believed to be modern structures and are outside the study area.	Elevation: 1460m: Round enclosure (2): S25° 43' 55.20" E29° 25' 55.16" Fig. 7, 9 & 10.

#### **F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Large cemetery outside study area.	No mitigation measures needed
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

- **Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources: General issues of site and context:**

<b>Context</b>		
Urban environmental context	No	Vacant land
Rural environmental context	No	-
Natural environmental context	No	Natural site used for cattle grazing and a small section to the south-east, for cultivation
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	-
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	-
<b>Other</b>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	Approximately 4km from the historic Botshabelo
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	-
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	-
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	-
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	-
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	-
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	Yes	Close to the Bothsabelo heritage site which is approximately 4km to the north.
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	- Iron Age sites identified 6km to the south east of study area by previous AIA study (Van Vollenhoven) - Close to the Bothsabelo heritage site which is approximately 4km to the north.

<b>Property features and characteristics</b>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	No	It is bordering the current residential township of Mhlluzi and Newtown informal settlement.
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	-
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	-
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	No	The site is wedged between two rocky outcrops, one to the south and one to the north of the study area.
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	The little Olifants River is located to the east of the study area.

<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	-
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	-
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	-
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	-
<b>General protection (NHRA)</b>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	-
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	-
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	-
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	-
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	-



<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	-
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELE- MENT S</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person / community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	Foundations encountered	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Historical settlement/ townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>NHRA</b>	<b>ELE-</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
Grave / burial grounds	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- **Summarised recommended impact management interventions**

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural significance rating</b>			
		<b>Cultural significanc</b>	<b>Impact significanc</b>		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	None	None	-	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural significance rating</b>			
Grave / burial grounds	No	None	None	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

## **G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA**

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above is made for all identified heritage features.

- **Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

- **National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed, and contributes to redressing past inequities.<sup>11</sup> It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section 3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.<sup>12</sup>

- **Graves**

**SAHRA Policy on burial grounds**

The policy is that graves and cemeteries should be left undisturbed, no matter how inaccessible and difficult they are to maintain. It is our obligation to empower civil society to nurture and conserve our heritage. It is only when essential developments threaten a place of burial, that human remains should be disinterred to another cemetery or burial ground.

From a historical point of view and for research purposes, it is vital that burial sites are not disturbed. The location and marking of an individual's grave tells a life story, where he / she died

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<sup>11</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

<sup>12</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

defending (or attacking) a particular place or situation and makes it easier to understand the circumstances of his / her death.<sup>13</sup>

- **The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features in the study area, can be summarised as follows:**

<b>Site no</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage features</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Measures of mitigation</b>
Appendix 3:	Two square structures, one kraal and one foundation are situated to the south-west of the study area. They are however not within the study area.	No significance	No mitigation is needed as the structures are recent.
	A few <i>Kraals</i> (square enclosures), borders the study area to the south east, and are used for cattle / goats & pigs. These structures are all recent and currently used by the inhabitants of the informal settlement.	No significance	
	Two round kraals might be older than 60 years but are not in the study area.	No significance	

- **Field rating:** All the features as specified in the section above, are situated outside of the study area. The stone enclosures bordering the informal settlement, are currently used by the local inhabitants as enclosures for cattle, goats and pigs. None of the features are of any significance and do not need any measures of mitigation.

<sup>13</sup>SAHRA, Burial sites, <http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm>, Access, 2008-10-16.

## **H. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The remainder of portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 2877 JS is situated on vacant land which is bordering an informal settlement. The area is extensively used for cattle grazing, dumping and cultivation.

A square stone enclosure and square stone foundation were identified directly to the south, but outside the area of the proposed development. A few square stone cattle enclosures are currently used by the inhabitants of the informal settlement. There are also two round stone enclosures which are used for goats. None of these features are however in the study area and is therefore not of any significance. All the features except for the round enclosures are recent. The local inhabitant, Swartland Mtsweni, who lived in the area for approximately 50 years, confirmed that there are no graves in the study area. The current cemetery is located in the Newtown informal settlement (See Fig. 8). Van Vollenhoven & Pelser identified Late Iron Age features approximately 6km to the south east of the study area, but there is no indication of any archaeological features on the study area.

No mitigation measures are needed for the study area, and based on the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants, have no compelling reasons that may prevent the proposed residential township development, to continue.

## **I. CONCLUSION**

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during construction activities of the proposed development. It is therefore recommended that the developers be made aware of this possibility and when human remains, clay or ceramic pottery etc. are observed, a qualified archaeologist must be notified and an assessment be done. Further research might then be necessary in this regard for which the developer will be responsible.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants can not be held responsible for any archaeological material or graves which were not located during the survey.

## **SOURCES**

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

- Republic of South Africa, *National Heritage Resources Act*, (Act No. 25 of 1999).

### **LITERARY SOURCES**

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### **ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SOURCES**

- Middelburg Information, <http://www.infomiddelburg.co.za/history.html>.

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

- U. Küsel: Dr. Pretoria, 2010-02-23.
- Middelburg Information Centre 013-2432253.
- Danie van der Walt: Witrivier, 0726231845.
- Swartland Mtsweni, Resident at Mhluzi township, 2013-02-02.