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**BASELINE STUDY & HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
GOLD ONE INTERNATIONAL HOLFONTEIN PROJECT,
NEAR SPRINGS, GAUTENG**

For:

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REPORT: APAC015/21

by:

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SUMMARY

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Prime Resources (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Baseline Study Phase 1 HIA for the Gold One International Holfontein Project, situated near the old Holfontein Shaft and existing Modder East operations. The study area is located on the East Rand, near Springs, in Gauteng.

Background research indicated that there are some known Cultural Heritage Sites located in the larger geographical area, although there are no known sites in the specific study area. During the assessment a number sites and features were identified, all related to earlier gold mining at Holfontein. The results of the background research and physical assessment are discussed in the document, as well as the way forward in terms of possible mitigation measures that could be required.

Finally, it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue, taking into cognizance the recommendations put forward at the end.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Prime Resources (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Baseline Study Phase 1 HIA for the Gold One International Holfontein Project, situated near the old Holfontein Shaft and existing Modder East operations. The study area is located on the East Rand, near Springs, in Gauteng.

Background research indicated that there are some known Cultural Heritage Sites located in the larger geographical area, although there are no known sites in the specific study area. During the assessment a number sites and features were identified, all related to earlier gold mining at Holfontein.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the study concentrated on this portion.

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.

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.

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.

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 study area is located near the old Holfontein Shaft and the existing Modder East Mining operation. It is situated between the N12 Highway and Pansy Road. The site is located in surrounding wetlands, and farmlands to the south. Dense vegetation, including so-called khakibos, stands of kosmos, tall grass and sections of bluegum trees made visibility and access to portions difficult. Evidence of previous mining activity, however, remains visible. The surrounding areas to the east and to the south west are currently occupied.

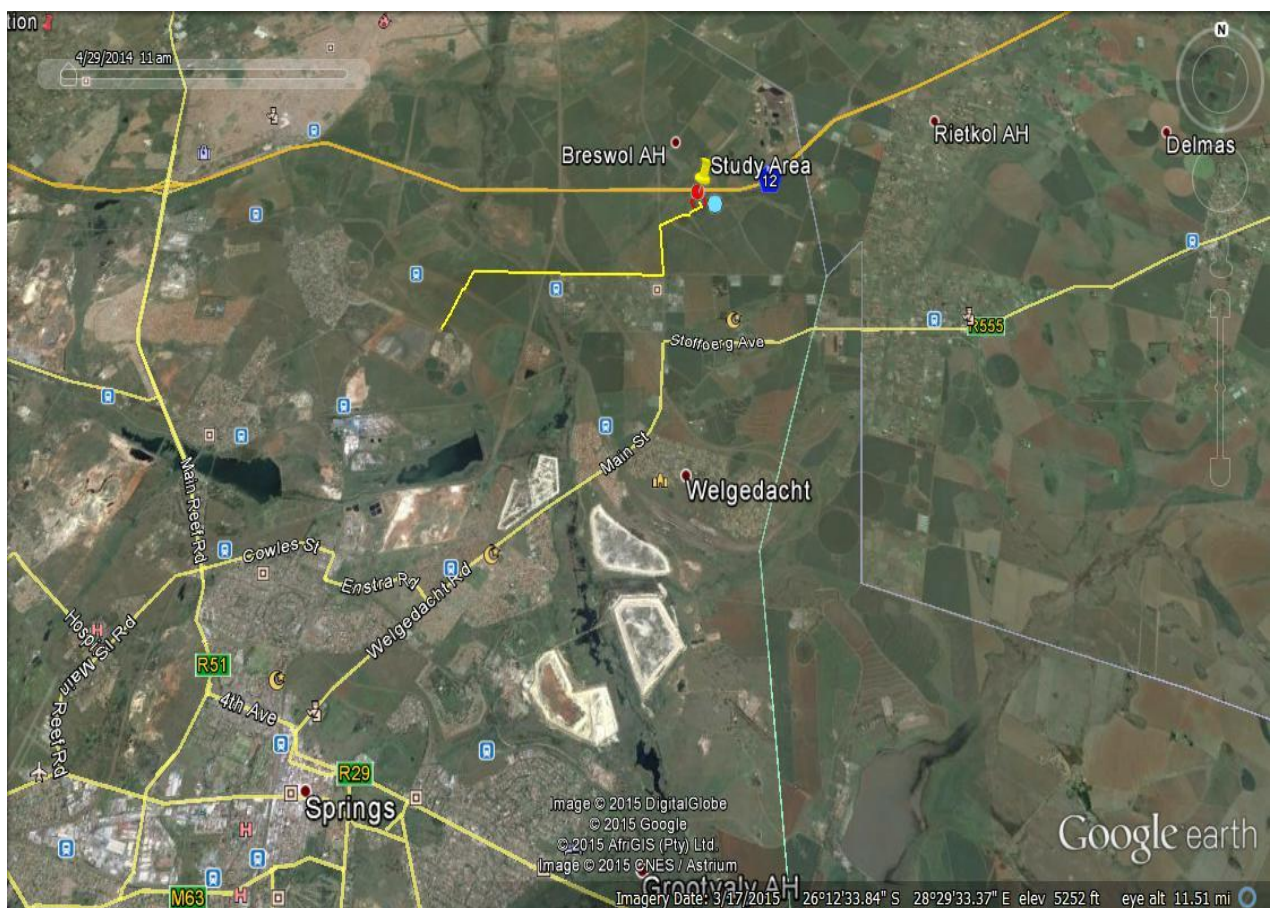


Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2015).



Figure 2: Closer view of study area. Note the old mining infrastructure and disturbed nature of the area (Google Earth 2015).



Figure 3: General view of a section of the study area.



Figure 4: Another view the area. Note some of the mining remains.

6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithics (or stone) was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided basically into three periods. It is important to note that these 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).

No known Stone Age sites or artifacts are present in the area. The closest known Stone Age sites are those at Aasvoelkop, Melvillekoppies, Linksfield and Primrose (Bergh 1999: 4). If any Stone Age artifacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single, out of context, stone tools. No Stone Age tools were identified in the study area during the assessment.

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 in the area (Bergh 1999: 6). The closest known LIA sites are at Melvillekoppies and Bruma Lake (Bergh 1999: 7).

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans to move through and into the area were the group of Cornwallis Harris in 1836 (Bergh 1999: 13). These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 14). During the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 -1902, a Concentration Camp for Black inhabitants was established at Springs (Bergh 1999: 54), south of the study area.

A 1922 map obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's database (www.csg.dla.gov.za) indicates that the farm Holfontein was originally granted to the Government of the South African Republic - the then ZAR - in 1872 (Document 10I5L201), and that the farm was surveyed in April 1922. No sites or features are shown on this map. Although very little information on the history of gold mining at Holfontein could be sourced, the Holfontein Gold Mining Company was once a subsidiary of the Transvaal Consolidated Lands & Exploration Company (www.gold1.co.za). Archival sources from the National Archives Database, and dating to between 1936 and 1941 seems to point to that period for the registration of the company, while during the Second World War (1939-1945) the Compound at the mine was leased by the Department of Defense as accommodation for "Native" Military Personnel.

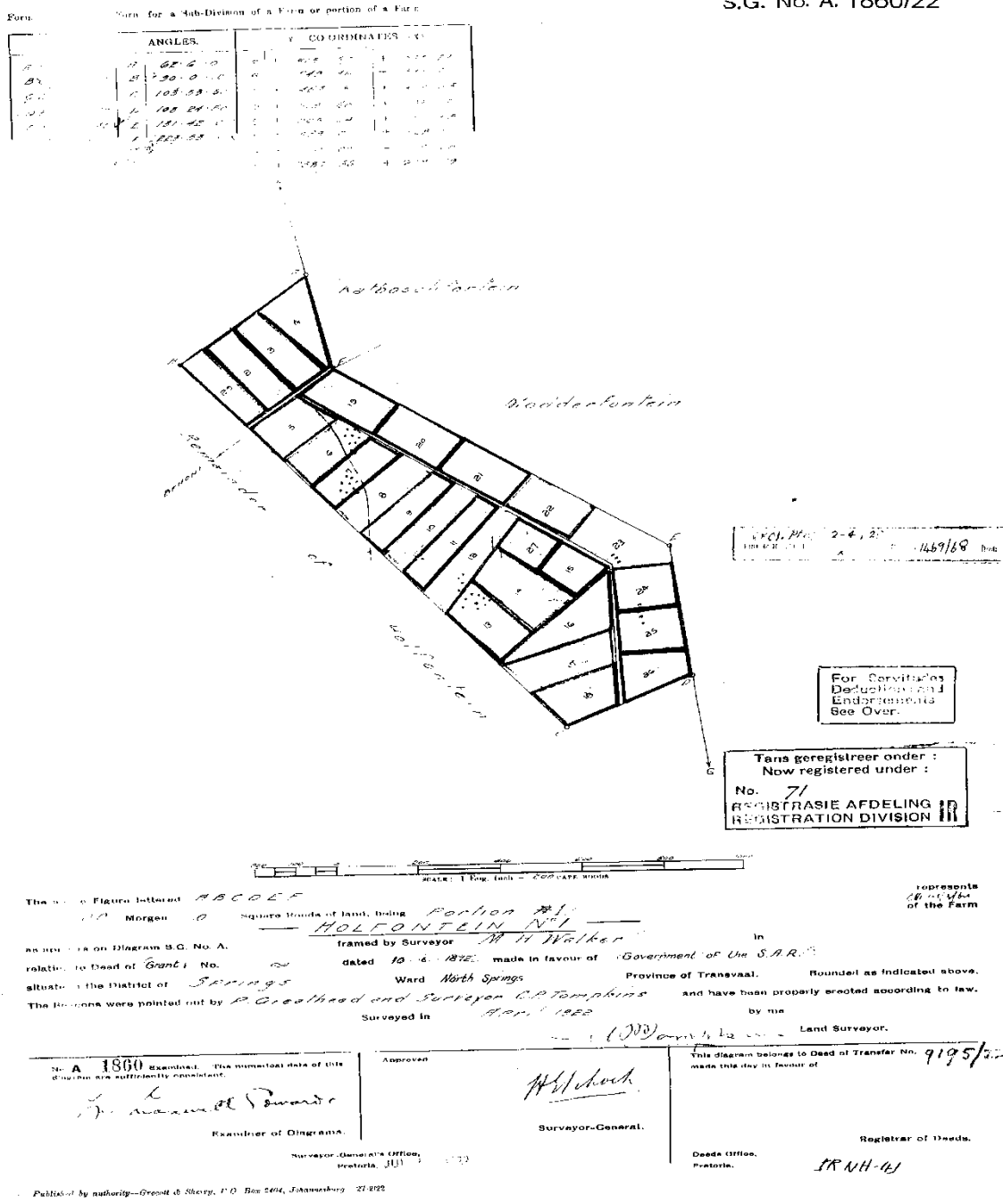


Figure 5: 1922 Map of the farm. No mining infrastructure is indicated. (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Study Area Assessment

The sites and features recorded during the assessment are mostly related to the earlier Holfontein mining, and include the remains of various structures such as Headgear foundation and bases (“feet”), the old Holfontein Shaft and some mine buildings. Old houses and a cemetery were recorded next to the haul road from Holfontein to the Modder East operations. Dense vegetation made visibility and access difficult in sections and it is possible

that features could have been missed, although efforts were made to identify and record all possible heritage resources in the study area.

The area surrounding the study area is occupied by several small groups of squatters who are currently utilizing existing buildings and have also constructed shack houses around these. The old Compound, although occupied currently, is still in a fair condition. It falls outside the study area.

Holfontein Main Study Area: Mining-related remains

The remains of mining structures found on the site include the following:

- (1) Foundation of the Engine Housing for the Headgear (S26 09 57.60 E28 30 09.96)
- (2) The pedestals for the feet of the headgear (S26 09 54.77 E28 30 16.49)
- (3) The closed-up old Holfontein shaft (S26 09 56.52 E28 30 09.36)
- (4) A small brick building (S26 09 56.22 E28 30 10.56)
- (5) The remains of a possible reservoir/dam (S26 09 56.99 E28 30 12.78)
- (6) A tank-type structure (S26 09 56.16 E28 30 09.89)
- (7) The foundations of an unknown structure (S26 09 54.78 E28 30 16.50)

The site also contains some large concrete discard from another structure, possibly relating to the headgear or engine housing. All of the structures described, with the exception of the capped shaft and brick structure, are in a highly dilapidated state. Only foundations and bases remain. **As a result the features are not significant from a cultural heritage point of view and can be demolished. The intended development in this area can therefore continue.**

It should be noted that although this is unlikely, because of the dense vegetation, features such as unmarked or low stone-packed graves could have been overlooked. Should any be found during the development, an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the way forward.

Haul Road

The haul road, running from the Holfontein site to the Modder East Operation, passes several areas that could be impacted. These include an old house close to the Holfontein site (for which the access road position has been altered to avoid), a row of modern plots, an old railway bridge, and a cemetery alongside the haul road, close to the Modder East Operation.

Old House

The age of the house is not known, but possibly dates from the 1940's. It is located at **S26 10 04.30 E28 30 06.70**. The house is currently occupied, but is still fairly well preserved, with the original wooden floors still present. The once existing verandah roof and supporting pillars are no longer present. **With the haul road alignment being altered to avoid the old house there will be no impact and further mitigation is deemed unnecessary.**

Railway Bridge

The haul road will run underneath an old concrete railway bridge (S26 10 46.3 E28 28 25.4). The age of the bridge is not known, but is not deemed of high significance.

Cemetery:

Alongside the haul road, and behind a security fence, close to the Modder East Operations, is an old cemetery (S26 11 21.9 E28 27 25.9) that appears to contain possible historical and modern graves. Dense grass and other vegetation covering the graves made visibility virtually impossible. It is situated approximately 30m away from the haul road, and any expansion and truck activity could possibly impact the cemetery. The cemetery was identified during a 2006 AIA for the Modder East Gold Mine for Prime Resources by Huffman, who indicated that the cemetery appeared on a 1978 edition of the 1:50 000 Topographic map of the area and that it was still in use (Huffman 2006: 3). At the time of 2006 assessment, Mine Management indicated their willingness to keep the cemetery intact, preserve it while still allowing access to descendants.

With graves always carrying a High Significance rating from a Cultural Heritage point of view it is recommended that the site be preserved and that the impact from the haul road be kept as minimal as possible. The 30m distance should be kept, while the site should also be cleaned, properly fenced in, while access should still be allowed for possible visiting family members. If the site cannot be protected then the exhumation and relocation of the graves can be considered. For this purpose extensive social consultation will have to be undertaken before any work on the cemetery can be undertaken.



Figure 6: Old Holfontein Shaft.



Figure 7: Old Headgear foundations.



Figure 8: Headgear "feet"/pedestals.



Figure 9: Remains of cement reservoir?



Figure 10: Old cement & brick building on Holfontein site.



**Figure 11: Remains of cement & brick structure.
Possible dam/reservoir?**



Figure 12: The foundations of an unknown structure.



Figure 13: Old bridge on haul road.



**Figure 14: View of cemetery site close to haul road
& existing Modder East Operations.
The site is totally overgrown and visibility is difficult.**



Figure 15: Old house close to Holfontein site and near haul road. The house is occupied currently, but still in a reasonable condition.

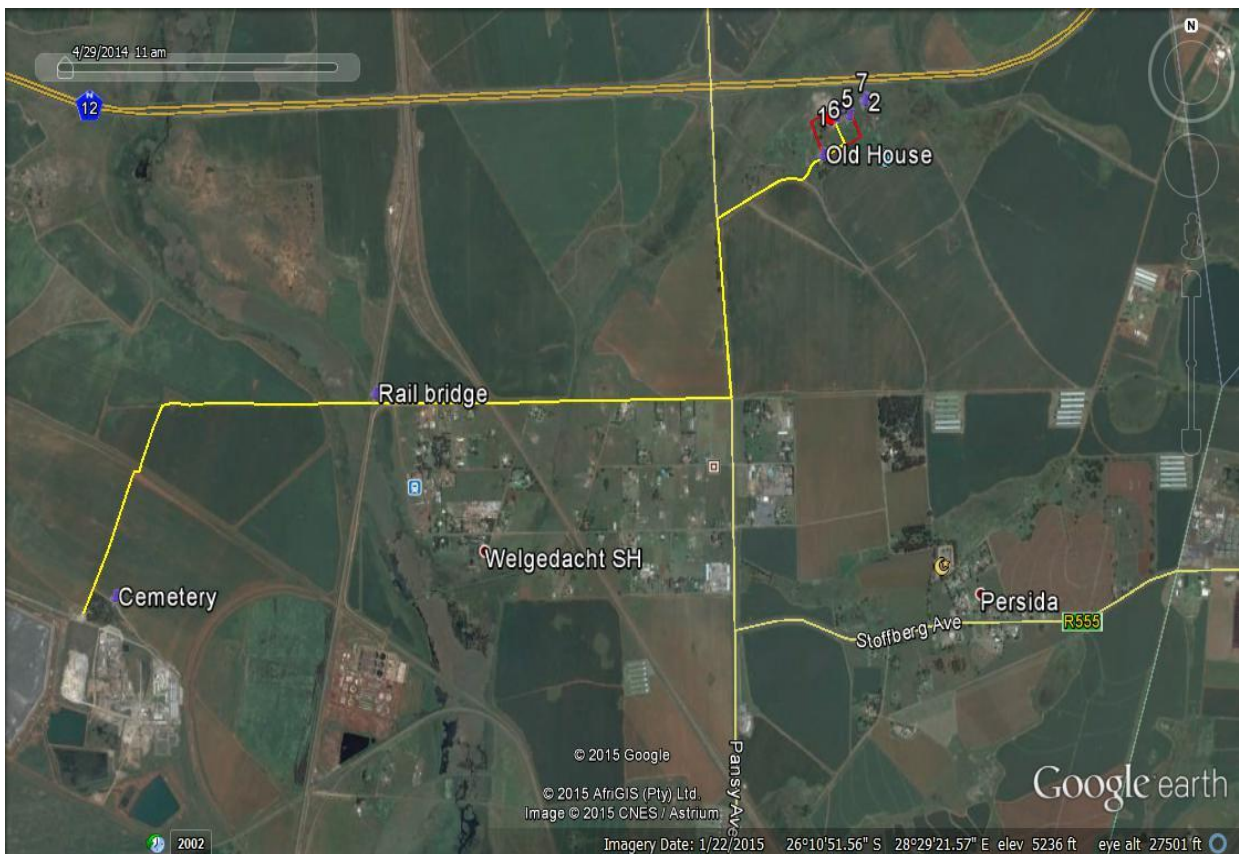


Figure 16: View of sites recorded (Google Earth 2015).



Figure 17: View of the sites recorded in the Holfontein footprint area. The old Compound is visible located close to 2 & 7. The extent of the old mining activities is also clear (Google Earth 2015).

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Baseline study & Phase 1 HIA for the Gold One International Holfontein Project was conducted successfully. Background research indicated that there are no known cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) sites or features in the study area, although there are some known Stone Age & Iron Age sites in the larger geographical area further south and north of the study area. Very little historical information on the Holfontein gold mining could be sourced, but from some archival sources it seems as if mining activities have been taking pace in the area from the late 1930's onwards. The old mining compound is located outside the study area and will not be impacted.

The mining related structures located inside the study area (Holfontein Shaft area) are all dilapidated and consists basically of foundations only. They are therefore of low significance and could be demolished. No further mitigation actions are required. The sites located next to the proposed Haul Road include an old house close to the Holfontein Shaft area, and is currently occupied. It possibly dates to the 1940's onwards, and is in a relatively good state of preservation. It is recommended that an Architectural Historian be consulted to undertake a detailed study of this structure should it be impacted negatively. The rail bridge under which the haul road will travel will possibly be impacted but is not deemed significant. Its age is not known, but is unlikely to be older than 60 years of age. The cemetery located close to the Modder East Operations and next to the haul road needs to be protected. It is currently fenced-in, but completely overgrown. It is recommended that the site be kept intact, but that it

should be properly cleaned and fenced, still providing easy access to possible visitors (family).

From a cultural heritage point of view the development should therefore be allowed to continue. However, the subterranean presence of archaeological or historical sites, features or objects is always a possibility. Should any be uncovered during the development process and archaeologist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward. This would include previously unknown, low stone packed or unmarked graves.

8. REFERENCES

Aerial views of study area and site distribution: Google Earth 2015.

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Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

Chief Surveyor General Database (www.csg.dla.gov.za): Document 10I5L201

National Archives Database:

1. KAB, Volume No.1062 Reference UC8455 Part 1
2. SAB, Volume No. 958 Reference 2397 Part 1

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.