

**Cultural heritage assessment for the
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED PARAMOUNT PARK TOWNSHIP,
MEYERTON REGION, MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
GAUTENG PROVINCE**

**CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
PROPOSED PARAMOUNT PARK TOWNSHIP, MEYERTON REGION, MIDVAAL
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

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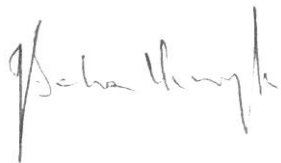
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Declaration:

I, J.A. van Schalkwyk, declare that I do not have any financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment and management services.



J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)
Heritage Consultant
August 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED PARAMOUNT PARK TOWNSHIP, MEYERTON REGION, MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

It is proposed to establish a township, to be called Paramount Park, on Portion 22 of the farm Langkuil 3631R in the Meyerton region of the Midvaal local municipality.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **J Paul van Wyk Urban Economists & Planners CC** to conduct a cultural heritage assessment to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop the township.

The following features of cultural heritage significance have been identified in the study area or adjacent to it:

- **Farmstead**
The remains of an old farmstead are located near the eastern boundary of the development site. All the structures have been stripped of all fittings and only the shells remains. It was probably abandoned after the construction of the R59 (Sybrand van Niekerk Road) during the early 1970s.

Although the main house is possibly older than 60 years, it does not exhibit any interesting or unique architectural features nor could it be linked to any important event of person. It is therefore viewed to have low significance and no further action would be required for mitigation before the development takes place.

- **Homestead**
The remains (foundations) what might be an old farm labourer homestead has been identified in the study area. It probably consisted of at least three rooms, none larger than c. 5 x 3 metres. This feature is probably related to the main house, in the sense of being servant quarters, but it is impossible to confirm this.

This feature is probably similar to many other sites in the larger region. It is doubtful if further investigation additional information. No further mitigation action is therefore required.

- **Cemetery**
One informal burial place was identified. It contains approximately 25 graves. It is located just outside the proposed development area on the adjacent farm Rietfontein 3641R. All that separate it from the development area is a dirt road, with the nearest graves approximately 70 metres from this road. In addition, it is close (< 15 metres) to the Meyer Road off-ramp of the R59.

As it is located on a different farm outside the boundaries of the proposed development, it is theoretically it is not the responsibility of the current developers to take care for the graves. However, it is recommended that the site is fenced off with danger tape during construction of the township in order to make it visible and that no accidental damage to the graves is caused. This fencing off should include a buffer of at least ten metres from the outer most graves.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue on condition of the acceptance of the above mitigation measures. We further recommend that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it

should immediately be reported to a heritage consultant so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J A van Schalkwyk'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

J A van Schalkwyk
Heritage Consultant
August 2013

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Property details						
Province	Gauteng					
Magisterial district	Vereeniging					
Municipality	Midvaal					
Topo-cadastral map	2628CA					
Closest town	Meyerton					
Farm name	Langkuil 363IR					
Coordinates	Polygon (approximate)					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	-26.53168	28.01289	2	-26.53055	28.01470
	3	-26.53285	28.01789	4	-26.53397	28.01605

Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHR Act	Yes/No
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	No
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length	No
Development exceeding 5000 sq m	Yes
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	No
Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years	No
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m	No
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds	No

Development	
Description	Establishment of a township
Project name	Paramount Park (proposed)

Land use	
Previous land use	Agriculture
Current land use	Vacant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	II
TECHNICAL SUMMARY	IV
TABLE OF CONTENTS	V
LIST OF FIGURES.....	V
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	VI
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	1
3. HERITAGE RESOURCES	2
4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY	3
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	4
6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT	14
7. CONCLUSIONS.....	16
8. REFERENCES.....	17
APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES	19
APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION	20

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Fig. 1. Track log of the foot survey.....	4
Fig. 2. Location of the study area (red square) in regional context.	5
Fig. 3. The 1953 version of the 1:50 000 topocadastral map.	5
Fig. 4. Aerial view of the development site.	6
Fig. 5. Views over the study area.....	6
Fig. 6. Layout of the proposed development.	7
Fig. 7. Stone tool typology and rock engravings at Redan.	9
Fig. 8. Typical Late Iron Age stone walled site.	10
Fig. 9. Examples of heritage resources dating to the recent past.	11
Fig. 10. The study area, showing the location of known cultural heritage sites.....	11
Fig. 11. Views of the farmstead.	12
Fig. 12. View of the homestead.	13
Fig. 13. Informal cemetery.	14

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TERMS

Study area: Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1 and 2.

Stone Age: The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age	30 000 - until c. AD 200

Iron Age: Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. As they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 900
Middle Iron Age	AD 900 - AD 1300
Late Iron Age	AD 1300 - AD 1830

Historical Period: Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 - in this part of the country

ABBREVIATIONS

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
CS-G	Chief Surveyor-General
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED PARAMOUNT PARK TOWNSHIP, MEYERTON REGION, MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

1. INTRODUCTION

It is proposed to establish a township, to be called Paramount Park, on Portion 22 of the farm Langkuil 363IR in the Meyerton region of the Midvaal local municipality.

South Africa's heritage resources, also described as the 'national estate', comprise a wide range of sites, features, objects and beliefs. According to Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act 25 of 1999, no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **J Paul van Wyk Urban Economists & Planners CC** to conduct a cultural heritage assessment to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop the township.

This report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report does not deal with development projects outside of or even adjacent to the study area as is presented in Section 5 of this report. The same holds true for heritage sites, except in a generalised sense where it is used to create an overview of the heritage potential in the larger region.

2.1 Scope of work

The aim of this assessment, broadly speaking, is to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop the residential township.

The scope of work for this study consisted of:

- Conducting of a desk-top investigation of the area, in which all available literature, reports, databases and maps were studied; and
- A visit to the proposed development area.

The objectives were to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources; and
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

2.2 Limitations

The investigation has been influenced by the following factors:

- The unpredictability of buried archaeological remains.

3. HERITAGE RESOURCES

3.1 The National Estate

The NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) defines the heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations that must be considered part of the national estate to include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including-
 - ancestral graves;
 - royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - graves of victims of conflict;
 - graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including-
 - objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - ethnographic art and objects;
 - military objects;
 - objects of decorative or fine art;
 - objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

3.2 Cultural significance

In the NHRA, Section 2 (vi), it is stated that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This is determined in relation to a site or feature’s uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

According to Section 3(3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of

- its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria were applied for the determination of the significance of each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar identified sites.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Extent of the Study

This survey and impact assessment covers the area as presented in Section 5 and as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 Preliminary investigation

4.2.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological, historical sources and heritage impact assessment reports were consulted – see list of references in Section 8 below.

- Information of a general nature was obtained from these sources.

4.2.1.2 Data bases

The *SARIS Database*, the *Heritage Atlas Database*, the *Environmental Potential Atlas*, the *Chief Surveyor General* and the *National Archives of South Africa* were consulted - see the list of references in Section 8 below.

- Database surveys produced a number of sites located in adjacent areas.

4.2.1.3 Other sources

Aerial photographs and topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references in Section 8 below.

- Information of a very general nature was obtained from these sources.

4.2.2 Field survey

The area that had to be investigated was identified by **J Paul van Wyk Urban Economists & Planners CC** by means of maps. The site was surveyed by walking transects across it (see Fig. 1 for the track log that was kept of the site survey).

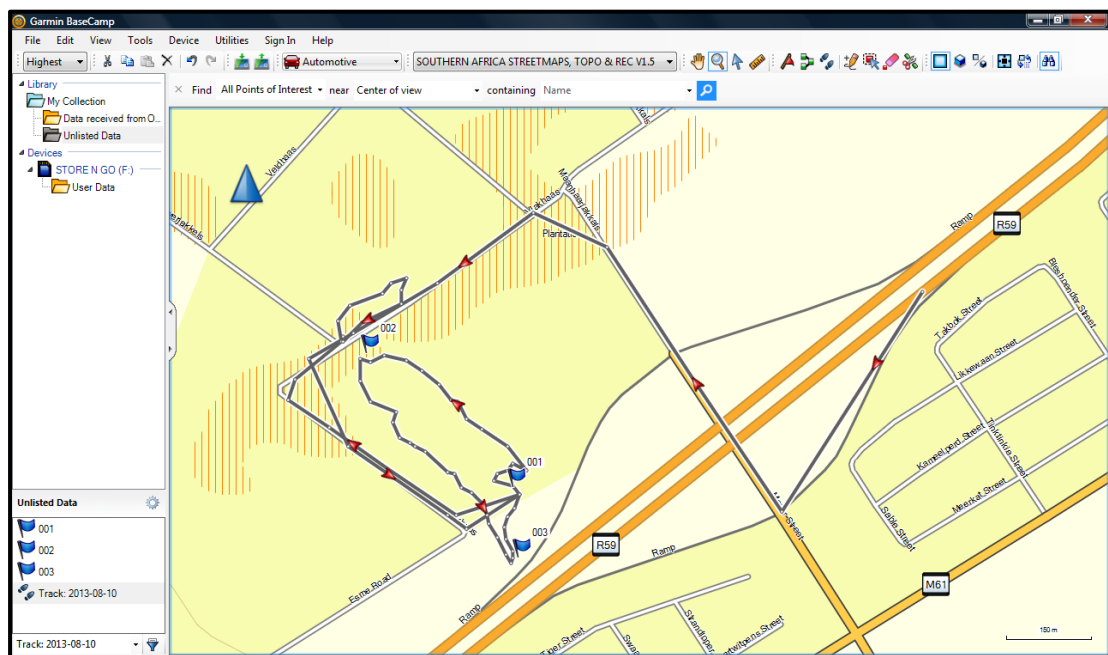


Fig. 1. Track log of the foot survey.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Site location and description

The site for the proposed development is located north of the R59 and south of the Meyer Road off-ramp of the R59 in the Meyerton region of the Midvaal local municipality of Gauteng Province (Fig. 2). For more information, please see the Technical Summary presented above (p. iii).



Fig. 2. Location of the study area (red square) in regional context.
(Map 2626, 2628: Chief Surveyor-General)

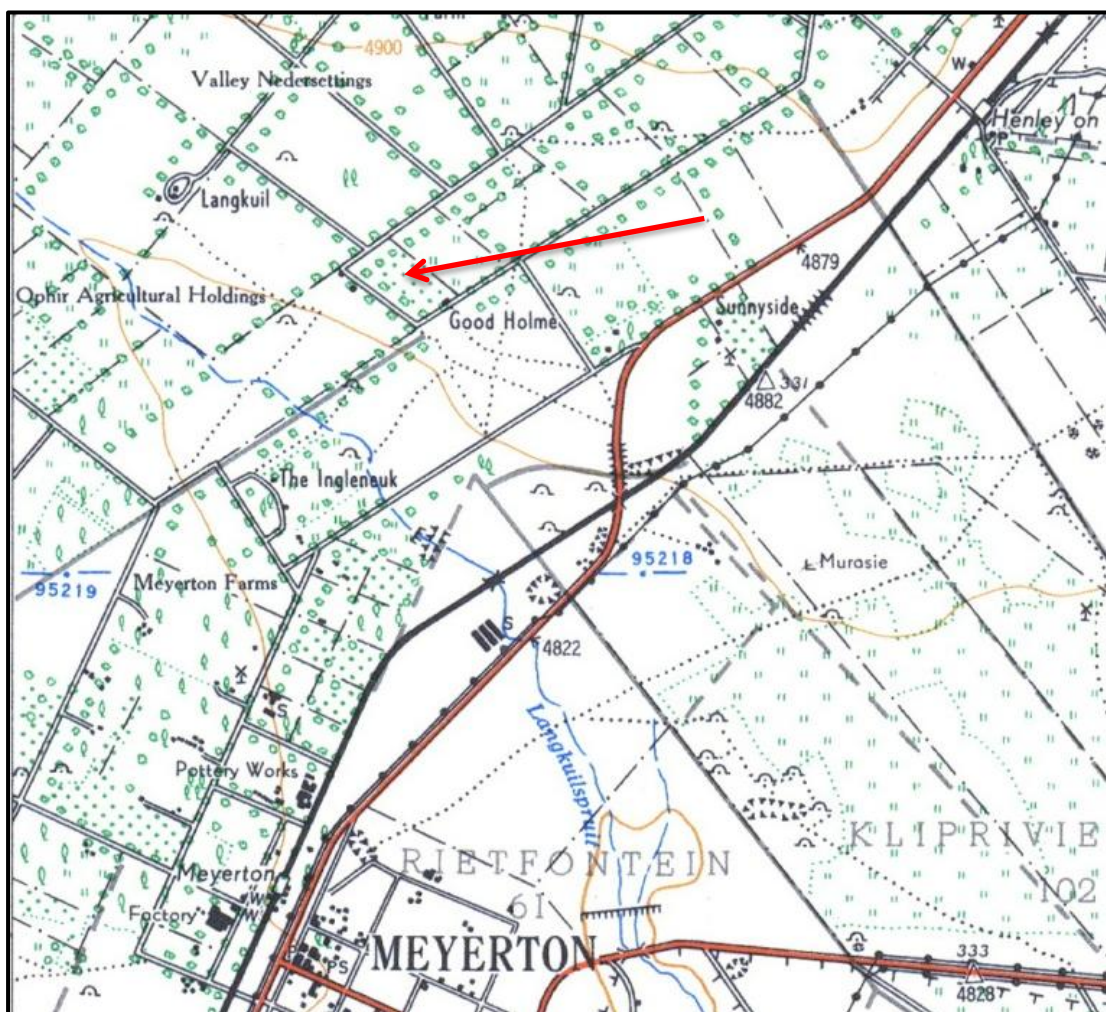


Fig. 3. The 1953 version of the 1:50 000 topocadastral map.
(Map 2628CA: Chief Surveyor-General)



Fig. 4. Aerial view of the development site.
(Photo: Google Earth)

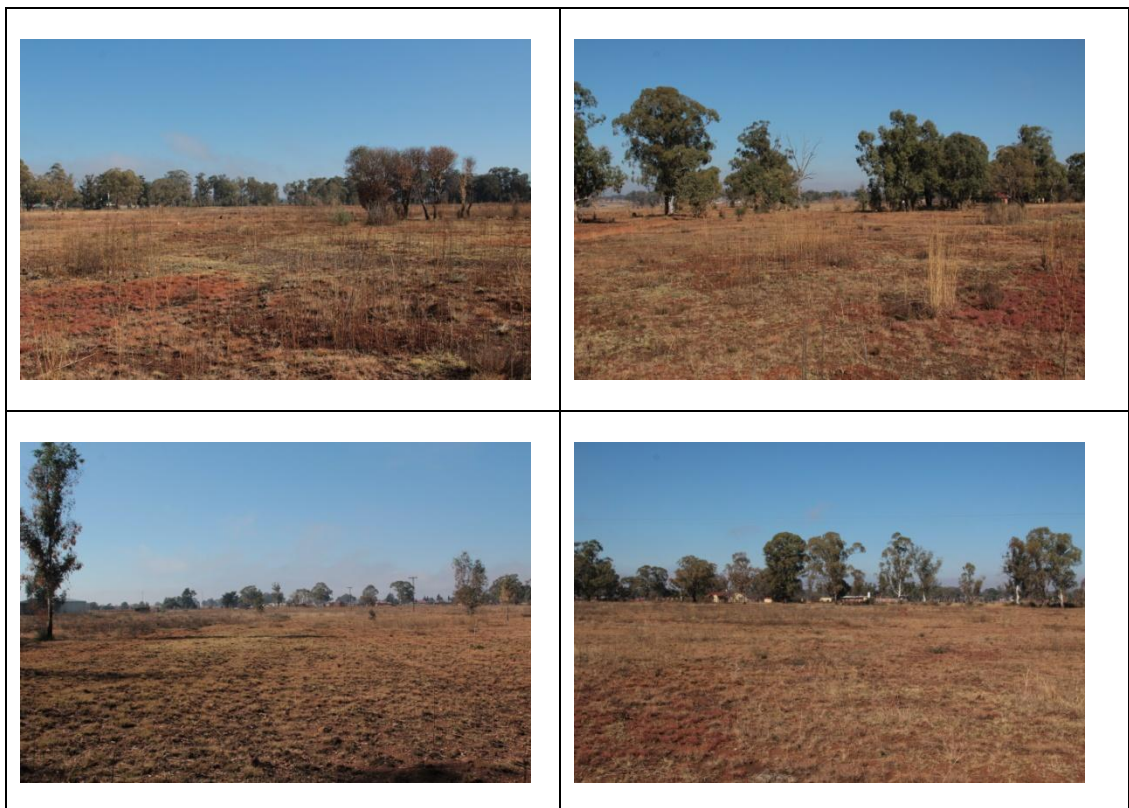


Fig. 5. Views over the study area.

The geology of the area is made up of quartzite. The original vegetation is classified as Rocky Highveld Grassland. However, this has all been changed due to previous agricultural activities that took place over the whole area.

The area is very flat and no features (e.g. hills, outcrops, rock shelters or streams and rivers) that usually drew people to settle in its vicinity, occurs in the study area.

5.2 Development proposal

It is proposed to establish a township, to be called Paramount Park, on Portion 22 of the farm Langkuil 3631R in the Meyerton region of the Midvaal local municipality.

The development will consist of 13 units developed as commercial and related services, one for engineering services and the rest for access roads. The total area is approximately 8,7023 hectares in size (Fig. 6).

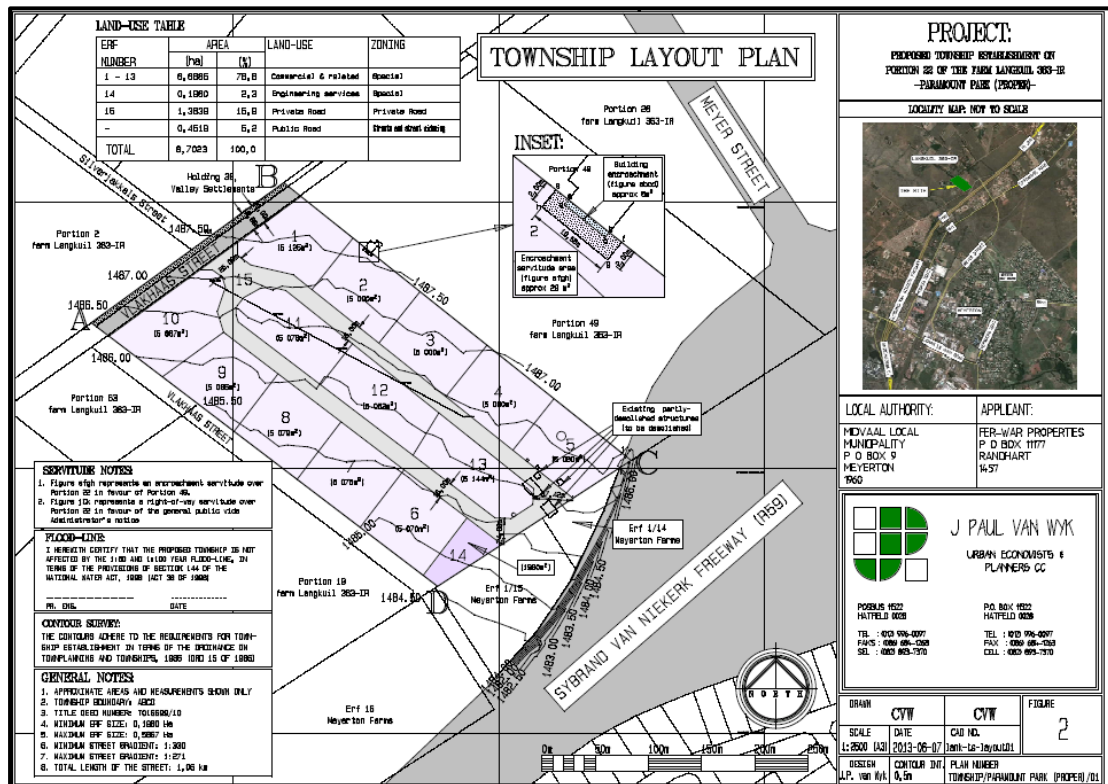


Fig. 6. Layout of the proposed development.
(Map supplied by JPvW Urban Economists & Planners)

5.3 Regional overview

The aim of this section is to present an overview of the history of the larger region in order to eventually determine the significance of heritage sites identified in the study area, within the context of their historic, aesthetic, scientific and social value, rarity and representivity – see Section 3.2 and Appendix 1 for more information.

Stone Age

The region has been inhabited by humans since Early Stone Age (ESA) times. Tools dating to this period are mostly, although not exclusively, found in the vicinity of watercourses. The original dating and evolutionary scheme for the development of tools during this early period, was based on a study of the river terrace gravels of the Vaal River, referred to as the *Older*, the *Younger* and the *Youngest gravels* (Söhnge, Visser & Van Riet-Lowe 1937; Breuil 1948). However, on subsequent investigation, the findings derived from this proved to be unacceptable as it was based on incorrect interpretations of the river gravels. It was only with the excavation of similar material from sealed, stratified sites, that it was realised that the material from the river gravels was not in its primary context, having been uncovered and washed about over many millennia. Consequently, artefacts derived from such surface collections are now seen to have little significance.

The oldest of these tools are known as choppers, crudely produced from large pebbles found in the river. Later, *Homo erectus* and early *Homo sapiens* people made tools shaped on both sides, called bifaces. Biface technology is known as the Acheulean tradition, from St Acheul in France, where bifaces were first identified in the mid-19th century. Biface technology is found over a large area of Africa, some parts of India, Arabia and the Near East, as well as parts of western Europe. This is one of the longest-lasting technologies the world has known, spanning a period of more than 1,5 million years.

During Middle Stone Age (MSA) times (c. 150 000 – 30 000 BP), people became more mobile, occupying areas formerly avoided. According to Thakeray (1992) the MSA is a period that still remains somewhat murky, as much of the MSA lies beyond the limits of conventional radiocarbon dating. However, the concept of the MSA remains useful as a means of identifying a technological stage characterized by flakes and flake-blades with faceted platforms, produced from prepared cores, as distinct from the core tool-based ESA technology.

Open sites were still preferred near watercourses. These people were adept at exploiting the huge herds of animals that passed through the area, on their seasonal migration. As a result, tools belonging to this period also mostly occur in the open or in erosion dongas. Similar to the ESA material, artefacts from these surface collections are viewed not to be in a primary context and have little or no significance.

Late Stone Age (LSA) people had even more advanced technology than the MSA people and therefore succeeded in occupying even more diverse habitats. Also, for the first time we now get evidence of people's activities derived from material other than stone tools. Ostrich eggshell beads, ground bone arrowheads, small bored stones and wood fragments with incised markings are traditionally linked with the LSA.

LSA people preferred, though not exclusively, to occupy rock shelters and caves and it is this type of sealed context that make it possible for us to learn much more about them than is the case with earlier periods.

In the case of the LSA people, they have also left us with a rich legacy of rock art, which is an expression of their complex social and spiritual beliefs. Site with engravings are found at Redan (east of Vereeniging) and in the Vaal River west of Vanderbijlpark.



Fig. 7. Stone tool typology and rock engravings at Redan.

The stone tools (on the left) are not from the region and are only used to illustrate the difference between Early (left), Middle (middle) and Later Stone Age (right) technology.

Iron Age

Iron Age people started to settle in southern Africa c. AD 300, with one of the oldest known sites at Broederstroom south of Hartebeespoort Dam dating to AD 470. Having only had cereals (sorghum, millet) that need summer rainfall, Early Iron Age (EIA) people did not move outside this rainfall zone, and neither did they occupy the central interior highveld area. Because of their specific technology and economy, Iron Age people preferred to settle on the alluvial soils near rivers for agricultural purposes, but also for firewood and water.

The occupation of the larger geographical area did not start much before the 1500s. To understand all of this, we have to take a look at the broader picture. Towards the end of the first millennium AD, Early Iron Age communities underwent a drastic change, brought on by increasing trade on the East African coast. This led to the rise of powerful ruling elites, for example at Mapungubwe. The abandonment of Mapungubwe (c. 1270) and other contemporaneous settlements show that widespread drought conditions led to the decline and eventual disintegration of this state.

By the 16th century things changed again, with the climate becoming warmer and wetter, creating condition that allowed Late Iron Age (LIA) farmers to occupy areas previously unsuitable, for example the Witwatersrand and the treeless, wind-swept plains of the Free State.

This period of consistently high rainfall started in about AD 1780. At the same time, maize was introduced from Maputo and grown extensively. Given good rains, maize crops yield far more than sorghum and millets. This increase in food production probably led to increased populations in coastal area as well as the central highveld interior by the beginning of the 19th century.

This wet period came to a sudden end sometime between 1800 and 1820 by a major drought lasting 3 to 5 years. The drought must have caused an agricultural collapse on a large, subcontinent scale.

This was also a period of great military tension. Military pressure from Zululand spilled onto the highveld by at least 1821. Various marauding groups of displaced Sotho-Tswana moved across the plateau in the 1820s. Mzilikazi raided the plateau extensively between 1825 and 1837. The Boers trekked into this area in the 1830s. And throughout this time settled communities of Tswana people also attacked each other.

As a result of this troubled period, Sotho-Tswana people concentrated into large towns for defensive purposes. Because of the lack of trees they built their settlements in stone. These stone-walled villages were almost always located near cultivatable soil and a source of water.

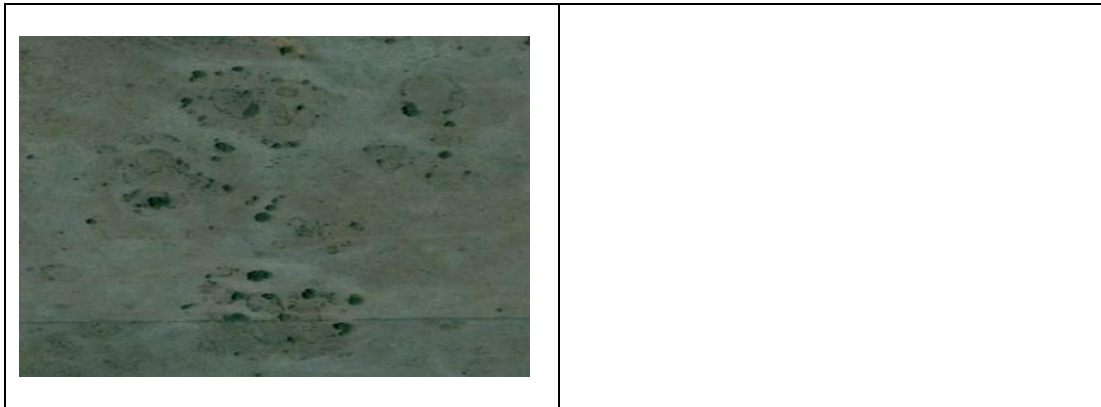


Fig. 8. Typical Late Iron Age stone walled site.

Historic period

White settlers moved into the area during the first half of the 19th century. They were largely self-sufficient, basing their survival on cattle/sheep farming and hunting. Few towns were established and it remained an undeveloped area until the discovery of gold.

During the Anglo-Boer War, the Vaal River played a significant role, as it formed a physical barrier that could be crossed only in a few places. Some skirmishes took place to the west of the study area, and most of the bridges were destroyed by the ZAR forces in an effort to keep the British at bay.

The study area falls within that zone usually located on the front edge of (city) urban-sprawl where the land previously used for agricultural use (only) have become subdivided into small holdings. What may have been a large single agricultural unit or farm now consists of a number of small properties. These units do not have their economic base in traditional agriculture but are sustained by a variety of land uses and economic activities with strong urban associations. This phenomenon happened in the past thirty years. Therefore most of the built fabric, date from this period. The result was that any historic farmsteads older than 60 years that may have existed have either disappeared or have been 'upgraded'.

The oldest physical remains in these areas usually are planted vegetation such as lanes and tall trees in mature gardens, cemeteries, the remains of portions of farm and farmstead walling (dry stacked stone walls erected to demarcate the boundaries of a farmstead, an orchard or cattle kraal) farm roads, weirs (in the river) and water furrows.





Fig. 9. Examples of heritage resources dating to the recent past.

The farm Langkuil was originally granted to C.P. du Preez by Deed of Grant No. 9142 dated 25 August 1871. It was again surveyed on behalf of Ophir Estates Ltd. in December 1921. The town of Meyerton was laid out in 1891 on the farm Rietfontein and attained municipal status in 1961. It was named after J P Meyer, member of the Transvaal Volksraad.

5.4 Identified sites

The following cultural heritage resources were identified in the study area:

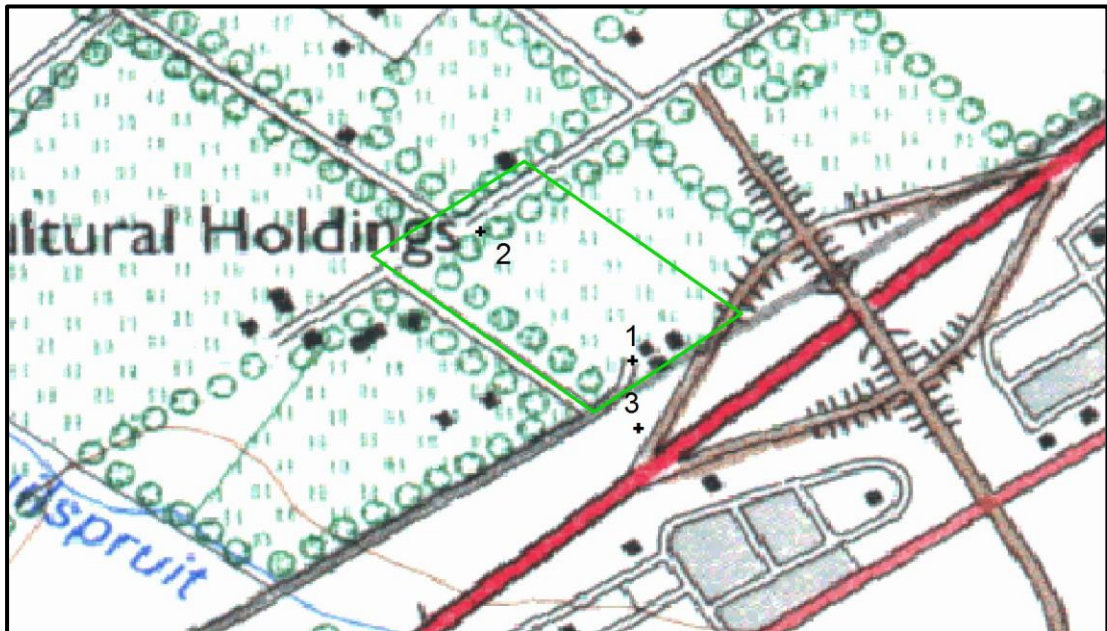


Fig. 10. The study area, showing the location of known cultural heritage sites.
(Map 2528CD: Chief Surveyor-General)

5.4.1 Stone Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

5.4.2 Iron Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

5.4.3 Historic period

- Farmsteads

Location	1	S 26.53310	E 28.01697
Description			
<p>The remains of an old farmstead are located near the eastern boundary of the development site. As it occurs on the 1953 version of the 1:50 000 topocadastral map, the core of the main house is probably older than 60 years. The core is built with local stone and plastered on the inside. The doors and windows have re-enforced lintels.</p> <p>A number of additions in bricks that were plastered over have been added to the back of the house. The outbuildings, probably a garage and servants quarters, have been constructed by using similar materials.</p> <p>All the structures have been stripped of all fittings and only the shells remains. It was probably abandoned after the construction of the R59 (Sybrand van Niekerk Road) during the early 1970s.</p>			
Significance	Low on a regional level – Grade III		
Mitigation			
<p>Although the main house is possibly older than 60 years, it does not exhibit any interesting or unique architectural features nor could it be linked to any important event of person. It is therefore viewed to have low significance and no further action would be required for mitigation before the development takes place.</p>			



Fig. 11. Views of the farmstead.

- Homestead

Location	2	S 26.53099	E 28.01448
Description			
The remains (foundations) what might be an old farm labourer homestead has been identified in the study area. It probably consisted of at least three rooms, none larger than c. 5 x 3 metres.			
This feature is probably related to the main house, in the sense of being servant quarters, but it is impossible to confirm this.			
Significance	Low on a regional level – Grade III		
Mitigation			
This feature is probably similar to many other sites in the larger region. It is doubtful if further investigation would reveal any additional information. No further action is therefore required.			



Fig. 12. View of the homestead.

- Cemeteries

Location	3	S 26.53420	E 28.01707
Description			
One informal burial place was identified. It contains approximately 25 graves, of which only two have headstones - only one has a legible inscription: Elizabeth Mbel, died in 1943 at the age of 69. The graves range in size from small (children) to adult (full size). No signs of recent visitations or grave goods were observed.			
Significance	High on a local level – Grade III		
Mitigation			
This site is located just outside the proposed development area on the adjacent farm Rietfontein 364IR. All that separate it from the development area is a dirt road, with the nearest graves approximately 70 metres from this road. In addition, it is close (< 15 metres) to the Meyer Road off-ramp of the R59. It is very unlikely that this narrow section of land would ever be developed, meaning that the graves would be safe.			
As it is located on a different farm outside the boundaries of the proposed development, it is theoretically it is not the responsibility of the current developers to take care for the graves. However, it is recommended that the site is fenced off with danger tape during construction of the township in order to make it visible and that no accidental damage to the graves is caused. This fencing off should include a buffer of at least ten metres from the outer most graves.			



Fig. 13. Informal cemetery.

6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

6.1 Heritage assessment criteria and grading

The NHRA stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, on a local authority level.

The occurrence of sites with a Grade I significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the applicable of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

6.2 Statement of significance

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria, as set out in Sections 3(3) and 7 of the NHRA, No. 25 of 1999, were applied for each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites. Three categories of significance are recognized: low, medium and high. In terms of Section 7 of the NHRA, all the sites currently known or which are expected to occur in the study area are evaluated to have a grading as identified in the table below.

Table 2. Summary of identified heritage resources in the study area.

Identified heritage resources	
Category, according to NHRA	Identification/Description
Formal protections (NHRA)	

National heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provincial heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provisional protection (Section 29)	None
Place listed in heritage register (Section 30)	None
General protections (NHRA)	
structures older than 60 years (Section 34)	Yes
archaeological site or material (Section 35)	None
palaeontological site or material (Section 35)	None
graves or burial grounds (Section 36)	Yes
public monuments or memorials (Section 37)	None
Other	
Any other heritage resources (describe)	None

6.3 Impact assessment

Impact analysis of cultural heritage resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development.

- **Farmstead**
The remains of an old farmstead are located near the eastern boundary of the development site. All the structures have been stripped of all fittings and only the shells remains. It was probably abandoned after the construction of the R59 (Sybrand van Niekerk Road) during the early 1970s.

Although the main house is possibly older than 60 years, it does not exhibit any interesting or unique architectural features nor could it be linked to any important event of person. It is therefore viewed to have low significance and no further action would be required for mitigation before the development takes place.

- **Homestead**
The remains (foundations) what might be an old farm labourer homestead has been identified in the study area. It probably consisted of at least three rooms, none larger than c. 5 x 3 metres. This feature is probably related to the main house, in the sense of being servant quarters, but it is impossible to confirm this.

This feature is probably similar to many other sites in the larger region. It is doubtful if further investigation additional information. No further mitigation action is therefore required.

- **Cemetery**
One informal burial place was identified. It contains approximately 25 graves. It is located just outside the proposed development area on the adjacent farm Rietfontein 364IR. All that separate it from the development area is a dirt road, with the nearest graves approximately 70 metres from this road. In addition, it is close (< 15 metres) to the Meyer Road off-ramp of the R59.

As it is located on a different farm outside the boundaries of the proposed development, it is theoretically it is not the responsibility of the current developers to take care for the graves. However, it is recommended that the site is fenced off with danger tape during construction of the township in order to make it visible and

that no accidental damage to the graves is caused. This fencing off should include a buffer of at least ten metres from the outer most graves.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural significance found within the area in which the development is proposed.

The following features of cultural heritage significance have been identified in the study area or adjacent to it:

- Farmstead

The remains of an old farmstead are located near the eastern boundary of the development site. All the structures have been stripped of all fittings and only the shells remains. It was probably abandoned after the construction of the R59 (Sybrand van Niekerk Road) during the early 1970s.

Although the main house is possibly older than 60 years, it does not exhibit any interesting or unique architectural features nor could it be linked to any important event of person. It is therefore viewed to have low significance and no further action would be required for mitigation before the development takes place.

- Homestead

The remains (foundations) what might be an old farm labourer homestead has been identified in the study area. It probably consisted of at least three rooms, none larger than c. 5 x 3 metres. This feature is probably related to the main house, in the sense of being servant quarters, but it is impossible to confirm this.

This feature is probably similar to many other sites in the larger region. It is doubtful if further investigation additional information. No further mitigation action is therefore required.

- Cemetery

One informal burial place was identified. It contains approximately 25 graves. It is located just outside the proposed development area on the adjacent farm Rietfontein 364IR. All that separate it from the development area is a dirt road, with the nearest graves approximately 70 metres from this road. In addition, it is close (< 15 metres) to the Meyer Road off-ramp of the R59.

As it is located on a different farm outside the boundaries of the proposed development, it is theoretically it is not the responsibility of the current developers to take care for the graves. However, it is recommended that the site is fenced off with danger tape during construction of the township in order to make it visible and that no accidental damage to the graves is caused. This fencing off should include a buffer of at least ten metres from the outer most graves.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue on condition of the acceptance of the above mitigation measures. We further recommend that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a heritage consultant so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 Data bases

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SAHRIS Database

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Van Schalkwyk, J. 2013. *Heritage impact assessment report for the proposed new Rigi-Sonland 132kV power line, Vanderbijlpark region, Gauteng Province*. Unpublished report 2013JvS001.

8.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps: 2628CA
Google Earth

APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

Significance

According to the NHRA, Section 2(vi) the **significance** of heritage sites and artefacts is determined by its aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Matrix used for assessing the significance of each identified site/feature

1. Historic value			
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history			
Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history			
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery			
2. Aesthetic value			
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group			
3. Scientific value			
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage			
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period			
4. Social value			
Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons			
5. Rarity			
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage			
6. Representivity			
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects			
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class			
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics 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.			
7. Sphere of Significance	High	Medium	Low
International			
National			
Provincial			
Regional			
Local			
Specific community			
8. Significance rating of feature			
1.	Low		
2.	Medium		
3.	High		

APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

All archaeological and palaeontological sites and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (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 which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.