

# PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ORCHARDS,  
ON PORTIONS OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF  
PORTIONS 2 AND 7 OF THE FARM OLIFANTSHOEK 387  
KT, NEAR BURGERSFORT, MPUMALANGA

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Five areas on the remaining extant of portions of portions 2 and 7 of the farm Olifanshoek 387 KT have been earmarked for the establishment of new citrus orchards, approximately 20km from Burgersfort along the R37 toward Lydenburg. The areas in total are approximately 35 ha in extent.

Two (2) areas were recorded where graves were located. These are known and will not be impacted on. They will be cordoned off by fencing.

No other heritage remains of significance were recorded at the site.

No further recommendations or mitigation is required.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Application purpose:** To establish a new citrus orchards

**Area:** Burgersfort Area

**Size:** 35ha

**GPS:** Area 1: S24° 55' 33.4" E30° 19' 07.4"  
Area 2: S24° 55' 18.1" E30° 18' 25.8"  
Area 3: S24° 55' 20.0" E30° 19' 06.7"  
Area 4: S24° 55' 27.5" E30° 19' 21.8"  
Area 5: S24° 55' 34.5" E30° 19' 23.5"

**Map reference number:** 2430 CD

This report will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

## Historical remains

**Section 34(1)** No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

## Archaeological remains

**Section 35(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

## Burial grounds and graves

**Section 36 (3)(a)** No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

(c) 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

(b) 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 detection or recovery of metals.

## Culture resource management

Section **38(1)** Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development\* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature, and extent of the proposed development.

**\*‘development’** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place\*;
- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

**\*‘place’** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure\* ...”

**\*‘structure’** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ...”

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1 Sources of information and methodology

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

A pedestrian survey of the entire area was undertaken by Mr FE Roodt on 11 May 2017, during the middle of the day, during which standard methods of observation were applied. The area was carefully covered and traversed and special attention given to any areas displaying soil and or vegetative changes. The areas were shown to Mr Roodt by the farm manager Mr Leon Lötter. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Locations of heritage remains were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin Etrex 10). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Nikon Coolpix L25 Digital camera.

### 2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. Vegetation was moderate to dense. Area 2 was nearly impenetrable due to dense reeds.

### 2.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

- No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
- Low significance: sites, which *may* require mitigation.

- Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
- High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

*A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. Many aspects must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.*

## 2.4 Terminology

**Early Stone Age:** Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.

**Middle Stone Age:** Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.

**Late Stone Age:** The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

**Early Iron Age:** Most of the first millennium AD

**Middle Iron Age:** 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD

**Late Iron Age:** 14<sup>th</sup> century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

**Historical:** Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA, though more recent remains can be termed historically significant should the remains hold social significance for the local community.

**Phase 1 assessment:** Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area

**Phase 2 assessments:** In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.



**Sensitive:**

Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

**Vegetation:** Orighstad Mountain Bushveld SVcb26 (Mucina et al. 2006)

**Terrain:** The various areas are located on either side of the R37 between Lydenburg and Burgersfort. Dense vegetation is evident near the river. Areas 2, 4 and 5 have been impacted on by farming in the past as is evident on historical Google maps.

**Proposed development: Establishment of new orchards**



Fig 1. View of general area



Fig 2. View of general area



Fig 3: View of general area



Fig 4. View of graves 1





Fig 5. View graves 1



Fig 6. View of graves 2

## 4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 SOCIAL and/or RELIGIOUS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No areas designated for socio-religious activities were recorded on the site

Significance: None

### 4.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No remains from the historical period were recorded on any of the areas.

Significance: None

### 4.3 GRAVES

2 areas with graves were recorded. These include marked and unmarked graves. The marked graves include graves as recently as the 1970's.

The farm manager and owners have agreed that these areas will be excluded from development. Each will be fenced in to prevent damage.

Significance: High

#### 4.4 IRON AGE REMAINS

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition: Kwale branch- *Mzonjani facies* AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)  
Moloko branch- *Icon facies* AD 1300 – 1500 (Late Iron Age)  
*Marateng facies* AD 1650-1840 (Late IA)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch – *Doornkop facies* AD 750 – 1000 (Early Iron Age)  
*Eiland facies* AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)  
*Klingbeil facies* AD 1000 – 1200 (Middle Iron Age)  
*Letaba facies* AD 1600 – 1840 (Late Iron Age)  
*Marateng facies* AD 1650-1840 (Late IA)

The Sekhukhune District has a rich and varied history. Stone Age materials are generally recorded in dry rivers, erosion gullies and near rocky overhangs. Remains from the Early, Middle and Late Stone are known in the wider area, especially in the Steelpoort valley, now primarily dominated by platinum and chrome mines.

The Iron Age is also well documented in the wider area, with sites dating from the Eiland and Icon period, through to more 'modern' Marateng facies sites.

No remains from the Iron Age were recorded.

Significance: None

#### 4.5 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age remains were noted. Usually Stone Age material in this area is recorded in dry rivers, erosion gullies and near rocky overhangs, none of these features are found on the site.

Significance: None

#### 4.6 PALAEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The area lies within the grey zone on SAHRIS map. No further action is required.

## 5. BACKGROUND ON THE AREA

According to SAHRA website,  
7007- Proposed debushing of 5 individual sections for agricultural use (citrus) on portions 7 and 8 of the farm Boerboonkraal 353KT, Burgersfort area, Limpopo Province. Similar Farm Labourer remains were recorded, during this study on a farm on the Limpopo side of the provincial boundary..

2783- Proposed mining exploration in the wider area. No heritage report attached.

2935- Powerline- Lydenburg to Merensky- A Fatal Flaw analysis by Dr Van Schalkwyk, only highlights possible heritage remains that could be found in the wider region.

From previous experience in the area, especially on an adjoining farm in January 2016, remains from the Iron Age, possibly the Letaba facies were recorded. No remains pertaining to this were recorded on this farm.

Nearer to Steelpoort and the Richmond area platinum mines, the authors are aware of many Iron Age sites recorded, dating to the Early, Middle and Late Iron Age. Old Farm labourer areas are also known in this area. The Richmond/ Dwars River area is approximately 50 km from the area currently under investigation.

## 6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.*

*As stated above, with regards the graves, each should be fenced to limit any impact and it must be noted that family members should be granted access to the graves when required.*

*The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the relevant Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.*

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**Mucina, L and Rutherford, M.C.** 2006. *The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland.* South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

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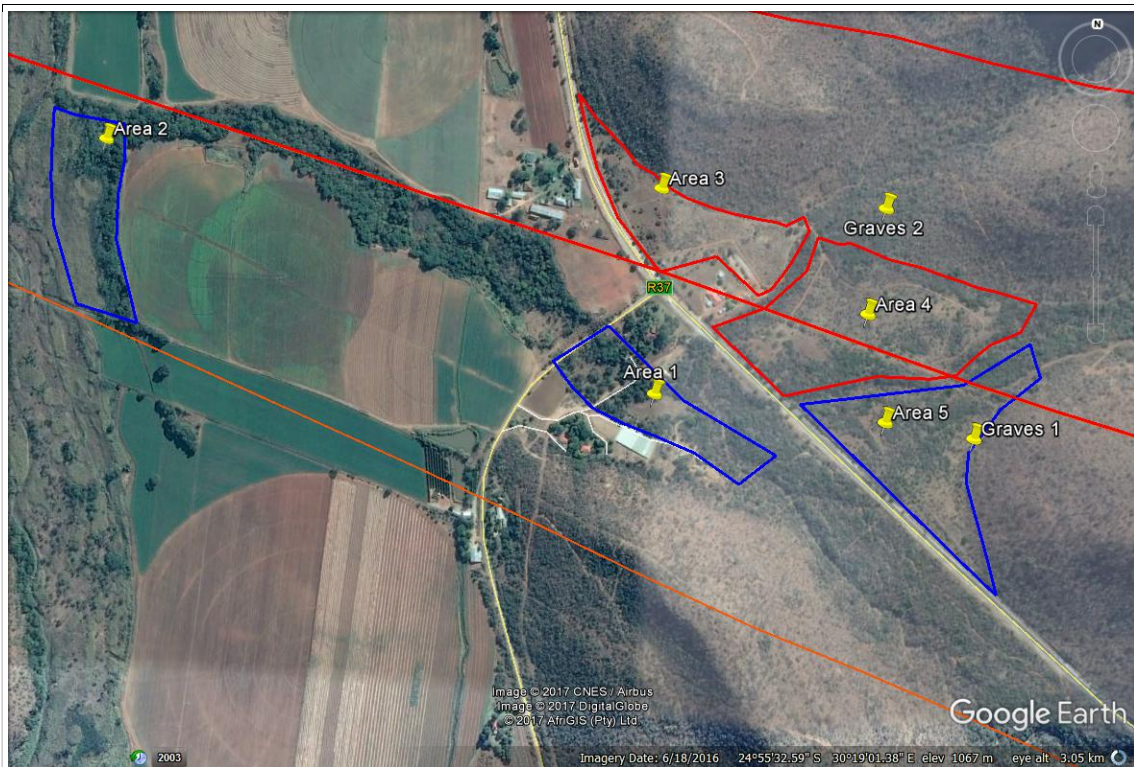
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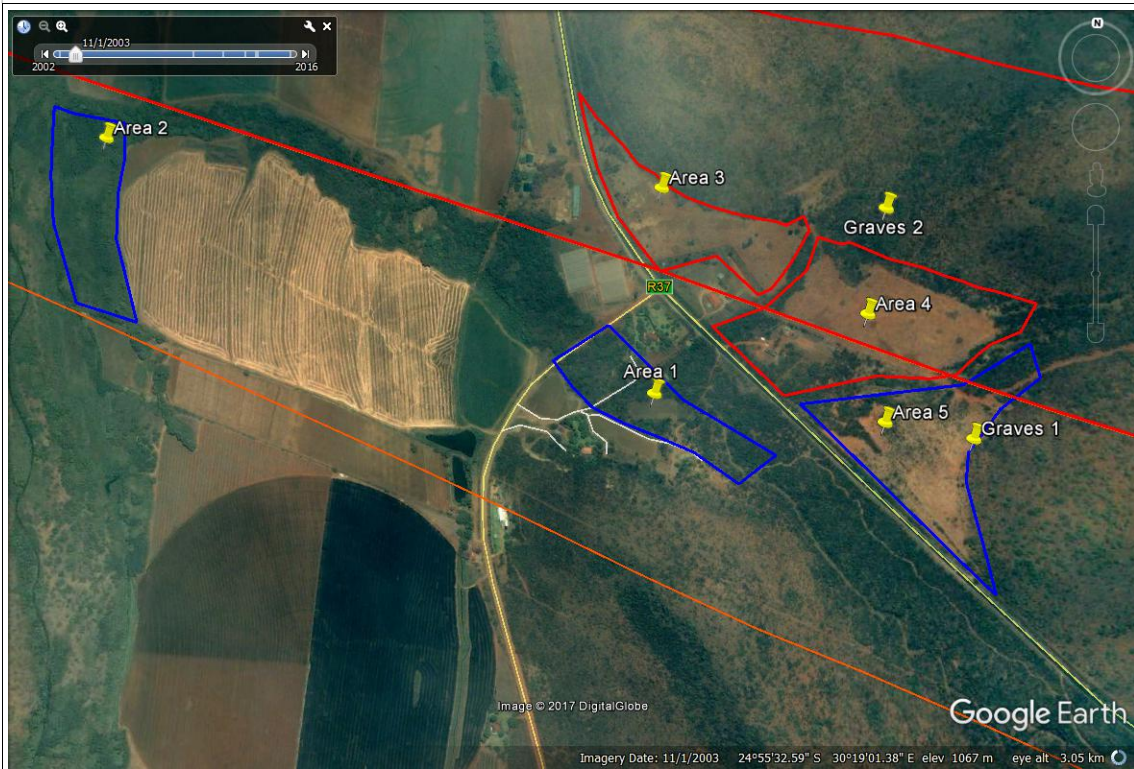
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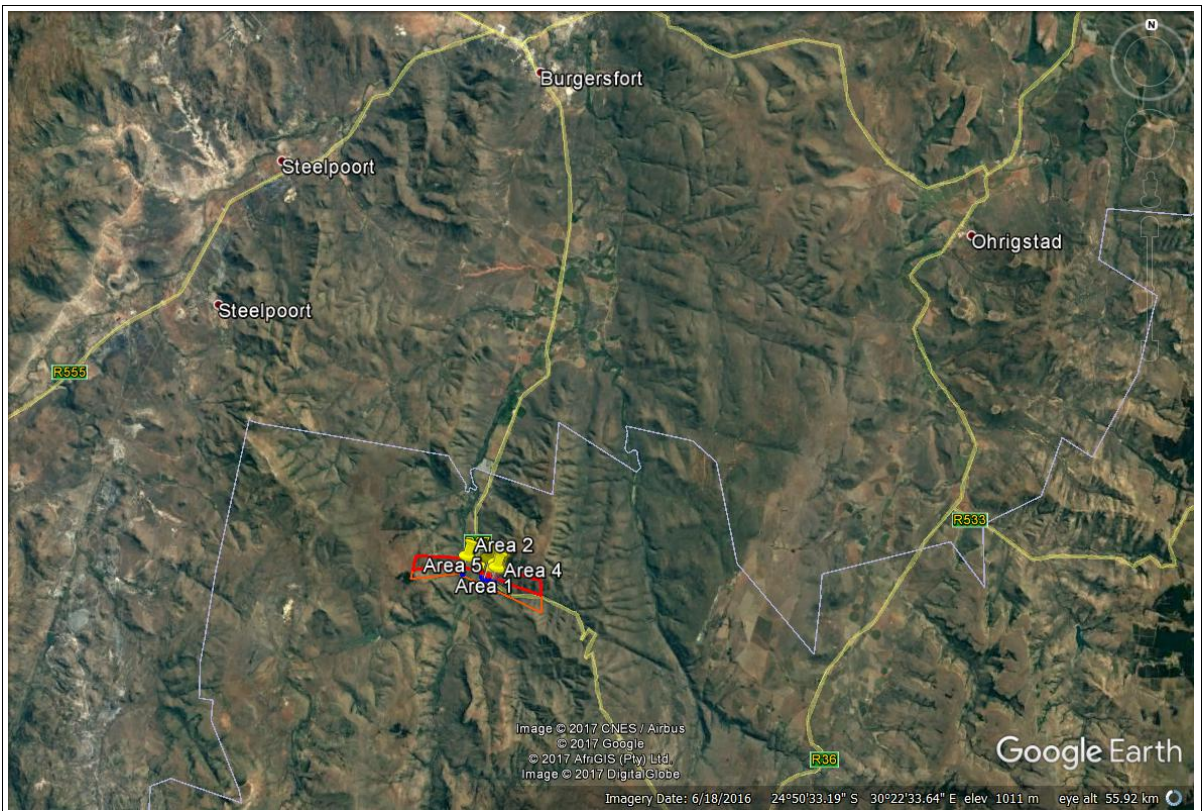


Map 1: Google map close up



Map 2. 2003 historical map, note the open areas area 3, 4 and 5.





Map 2. In relation to Burgersfort.