

FIELDWORK RESULTS FOR THE RELOCATION OF NORTH RIDING GRAVES

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1. INTRODUCTION

NGT Holdings (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as NGT) has been appointed to apply for heritage permits for the exhumation and relocation of 20 identifiable graves in North riding, Gauteng Province in terms of Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999. The graves in the affected cemetery are older than 60 years old, thus the need to appoint an archaeologist to apply for heritage permits with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Burial Grounds and Grave (BGG) Unit.

2. RESULTS OF THE FIELDWORK

The field work was conducted on the 7th April 2018; by Nkosinathi Tomose (Executive Director and Principal Archaeologist) and Cherene de Bruyn (Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant) of NGT Holdings (Pty) Ltd.

2.1. Description of environment

The graves are located on the side of construction activities. The area is very disturbed by the rubble from the construction activities. The graves are overgrown by vegetation, with a few trees having grown over some of the graves. Construction rubble have also been dumped in the area surrounding the graves.

2.2. Location:

GPS coordinates of the four corners of the cemetery were taken:

SW: 26° 01' 56.05" S
27° 58' 09.6" E

SE: 26° 01' 55.85" S
27° 58' 10.4" E

NE: 26° 01' 55.15" S
27° 58' 09.7" E

NW: 26° 01' 55.35" S
27° 58' 09.1" E

2.3. Grave Orientation:

All the graves in the cemetery have north south orientation.

2.4. Grave Condition.

The graves consist mostly of packed stones. At least four graves could be identified that had cement mount dressing. The other graves are covered in vegetation, including long grass and trees, which made identification of graves difficult. The area surrounding the graves have been disturbed by building activities and machinery and are covered in building rubble. Apart from this 80% of the graves appear to be in a good state of preservation, with only two graves being unearthed by building activities and machinery (as far as could be determined from the site visit). These graves have been covered again.