



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
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**REPORT ON THE PHASE II HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF A FARMSTEAD  
ON THE FARM BLIJVOORUITZICHT 383 JT NEAR BELFAST IN  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

For:

***EXXARO***

**REPORT: AE01205V**

by:

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## SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by Exxaro to conduct a phase II heritage documentation of a farmstead on the farm Blijvooruitzicht 383 JT. This is close to Belfast in the Mpumalanga Province. The area is earmarked for coal mining.

The phase II investigation was a result of the recommendations of a Phase I investigation done in December 2009. Legislation relevant to heritage was also discussed. The most important of these are the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

Two of the buildings associated with the farmstead were found to be fairly recent in age. These have no heritage value and may therefore be demolished without obtaining permission.

The farmstead and one other outbuilding are older than 60 years. It has however been changed to a large extent and is not unique. It received a rating of low cultural significance. It was indicated that it may be demolished, but only after it has been documented. This report is the result of the documentation of the house. However, in order to have it demolished a permit will be needed from the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA).

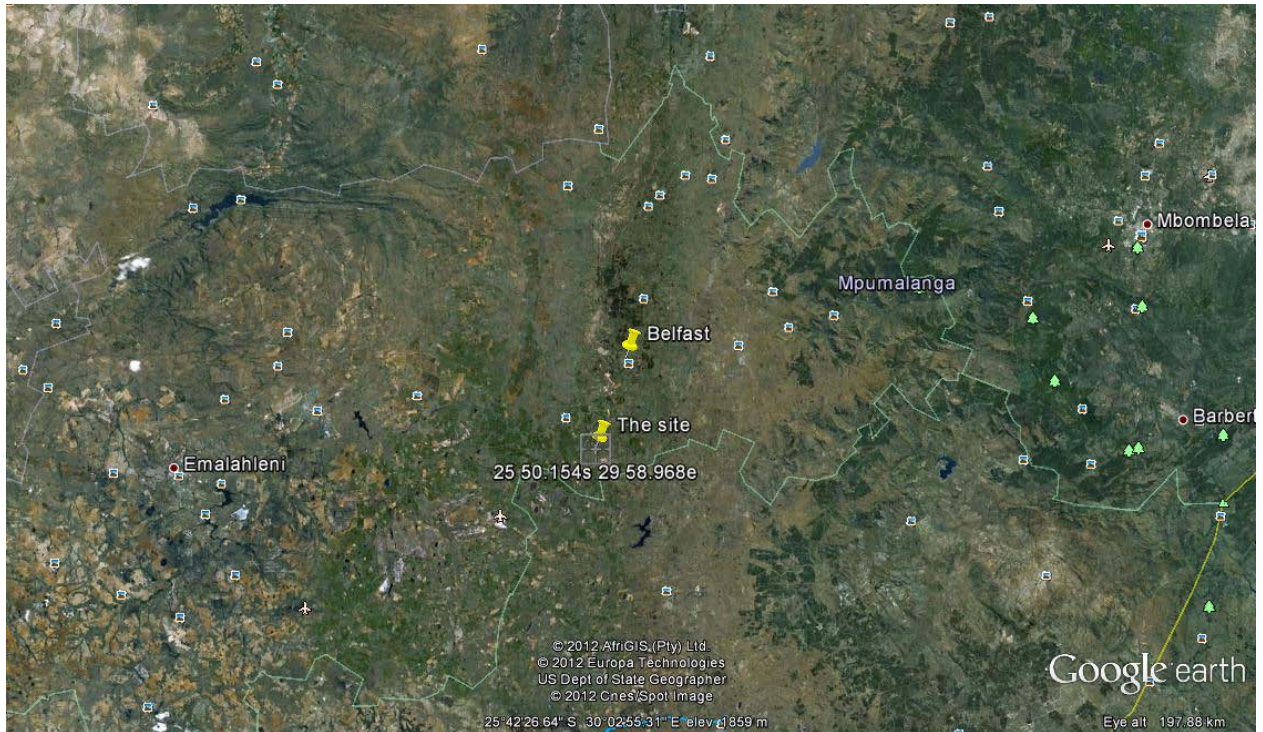
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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Archaetnos cc was requested by Exxaro to conduct a phase II heritage documentation of a farmstead on portion 9 of the farm Blijvooruitzicht 383 JT. This is close to Belfast in the Mpumalanga Province. The phase II investigation was a result of the recommendations of a Phase I investigation done in December 2009 (see De Jong 2009).

The area is earmarked for coal mining. The site is situated about 20 km to the south-west of the town of Belfast in the Mpumalanga Province (Figure 1).



**Figure 1** Map indicating the location of the site to the south-west of Belfast.

## 2. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND SIGNING OFF

I, Anton Carl van Vollenhoven from Archaetnos, hereby declare that I am an independent specialist within the field of heritage management. I hereby sign off on this final report

Signed:

Date: 20 February 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Anton Carl van Vollenhoven'.

## 3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Do a phase II documentation of the farmstead (site BV9H) identified during the phase I survey of the area.
2. Recommend further action steps with relation to the building.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

##### **4.1 Survey of literature**

A survey of the available literature was not undertaken as this was dealt with by the phase I survey (De Jong 2009).

##### **4.2 Documentation**

The buildings were documented according to the general minimum standards. This includes photographing it, drawing a basic ground plan, photographic related structures and determining the GPS co-ordinates thereof.

#### **5. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS**

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the assessment and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources (including archaeological resources) are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this (see Appendix A).
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, architectural, technological, spiritual, linguistic and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects (see Appendix B).
3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix C).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.

5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.

## **6. 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).

### **6.1 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 (see Appendix D) 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. 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 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 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof

- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

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.

### **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.

### **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) 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)**. Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

## **6.2 The National Environmental Management Act**

This act (Act 107 of 1998) 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.

## **7. DOCUMENTATION OF THE SITE**

Four buildings are found at the site at the following location:

GPS: 25°50.154'S  
29°58.968'E

Building 1:

This is some kind of outbuilding which may have had a domestic use. It is found to the south of the farmstead (Figure 2). It is younger than 60 years and has no heritage value and may therefore be demolished.



**Figure 2 Domestic building to the south of the farmstead.**

Building 2:

This building is a large farm shed to the south-east of the farmstead (Figure 3). It is younger than 60 years and has no has no heritage value and may therefore be demolished.



**Figure 3**      **Farm shed.**

Building 3:

This is an old wagon house built from stone and situated to the east of the farmstead. It is contemporary with the farmstead and may therefore date to roundabout 1890-1910. It is in a bad condition (Figure 4-7). It was documented during this phase II study and may therefore be demolished, but only after obtaining a destruction permit from the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA).



**Figure 4** Northern façade of the wagon house.



**Figure 5** Eastern façade of the wagon house.



**Figure 6** Southern façade of the wagon house.



**Figure 7** Western façade of the wagon house.

Building 4 – the farmstead:

The house also seems to date to the 1890's -1910. It was however changed much and one can only see the original on very close inspection. It therefore is older than 60 years. It shows some of the characteristics of a typical Edwardian style farm house from this era and therefore is not very unique (Figure 8-12).

The building has also been changed to a large extent by external additions. It is in a bad state of decay. As indicated during the phase I survey it may be demolished, but due to it being older than 60 years a permit has to be obtained from the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency of Mpumalanga. Documentation had to be done first, which is included in this report.



**Figure 8** Northern façade of the farmstead.



**Figure 9** Eastern façade of the farmstead.



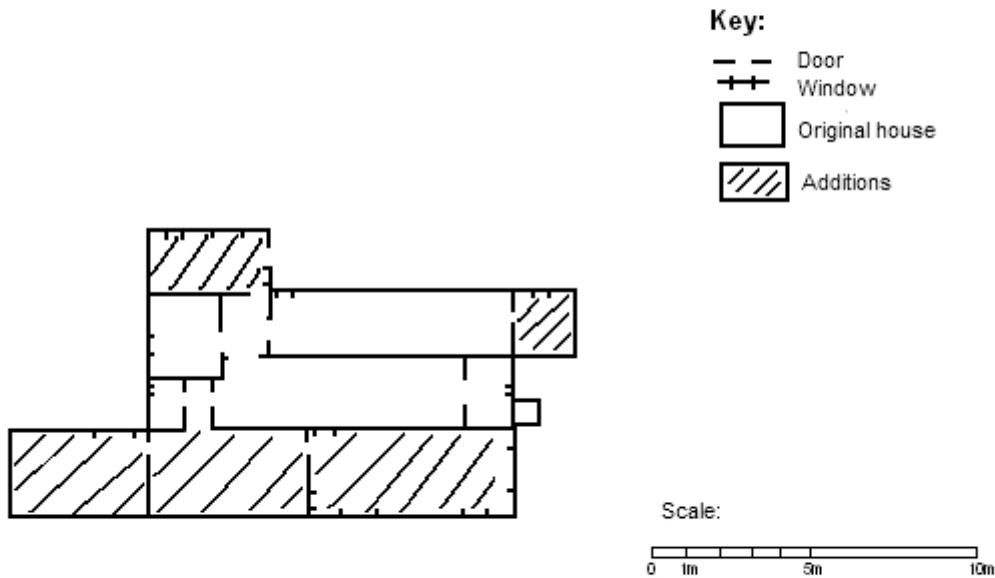
**Figure 10** Southern façade of the farmstead.



**Figure 11** Western façade of the farmstead.



## BLIJVOORUITZICHT PORTION 9 FARM HOUSE



**Figure 12 Basic map of the building.**

### 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The phase II documentation of the homestead, BV9H, on portion 9 of the farm Blijvooruitzicht 383 JT has been conducted successfully. The following is recommended:

- Buildings 1 and 2 3 have no heritage significance and may therefore be demolished without any further approval.
- Buildings 3 (wagon house) and 4 (homestead) may also be demolished. However, since it is older than 60 years a permit for this need to be obtained from the Mpumalanga PHRA. This report is seen as ample mitigation in this regard.

## 9. REFERENCES

- De Jong, R. 2009. **Heritage impact assessment report: proposed Belfast mining project located on portions of the farms Leeuwbank 427 JT, Blijvooruitzicht 383 JS, Zoekop 426 JS, south of Wonderfontein and Belfast, Mpumalanga.** (Unpublished report, Cultmatrix, Queenswood).
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- Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

## 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 of 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

### **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

## 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