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CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

**PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE
LOBOLA FARMING (FORMERLY MCSTRAUSS BOERDERY) PROJECT
ON VARIOUS FARMS NEAR BLOEMHOF
NORTHWES PROVINCE**

For:

BioBlue Environmental Sustainability

REPORT: **APAC020/112**

by:

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December 2020

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Although all efforts are made to identify all sites of cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) significance during an assessment of study areas, the nature of archaeological and historical sites are as such that it is always possible that hidden or subterranean sites, features or objects could be overlooked during the study. APELSE Archaeological Consulting can't be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result thereof.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', is centered below the disclaimer text.

SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by BioBlue Environmental Sustainability to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the Lobola Farming (formerly McStrauss Boerdery) Project. The study and development area is located close to Bloemhof in the Northwest Province and includes portions of the farms Daeraad 1476HO, Daeraad 1486HO, Glendover 886HO & Satara 1475HO.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. Besides a Graveyard, the assessment of the specific study area did not identify any other sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance. This report discusses the results of both the background research and physical assessment.

From a Cultural Heritage perspective it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue, taking into consideration the recommendations put forward at the end of the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by BioBlue Environmental Sustainability to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the Lobola Farming (formerly McStrauss Boerdery) Project. The study and development area is located close to Bloemhof in the Northwest Province and includes portions of the farms Daeraad 1476HO, Daeraad 1486HO, Glendover 886HO & Satara 1475HO.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. Besides a Graveyard, the assessment of the specific study area did not identify any other sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance.

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

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.

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 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 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 is 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 any study is conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aims 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 and development area is located close to Bloemhof in the Northwest Province and comprises portions of the farms Daeraad 1476HO, Daeraad 1486HO, Glendover 886HO and Satara 1475HO. Although the main focus for the field assessment was Satara, the other portions were to be included in the study as well.

The topography of the study area is in general flat and open, with no rocky ridges or outcrops present. Dense vegetation (grass and tree cover) made visibility difficult, while most of the area is also characterized by a fairly thick sand layer. The area has not been altered extensively by modern developments, with agricultural activities the main impact in the area. This includes livestock grazing, game farming and crop growing.



Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2020).

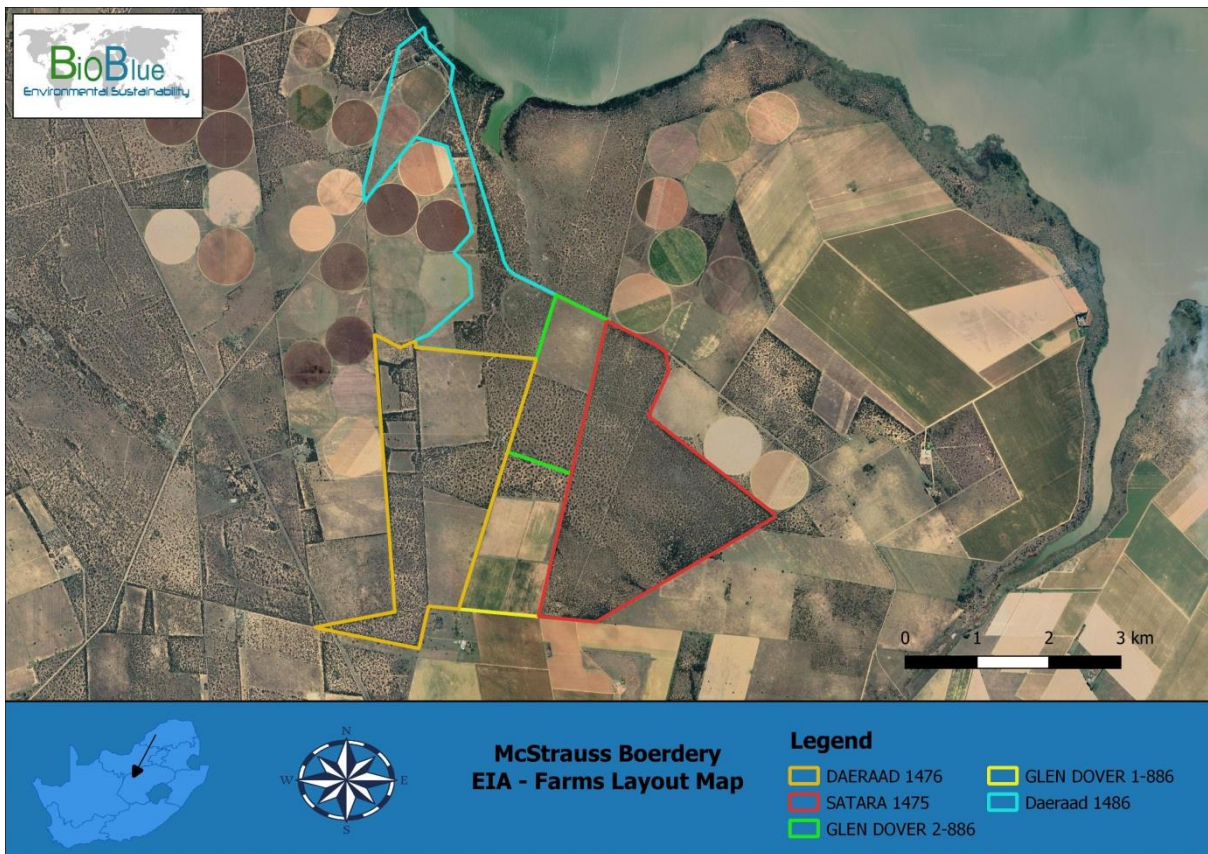


Figure 2: McStrauss Boerdery (Lobola Farming) Farms layout map (courtesy BioBlue).

6. DISCUSSION

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

There are no known Stone Age sites close to the study area (Bergh 1999: 4). During a 2017 HIA for township development in Bloemhof the author of the current report did identify a number of Stone Age sites (open-air surface scatters) dating to the MSA/LSA (Pelser 2017: p.22-27). 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 sites or material (stone tools) were identified in the study area during the November 2020 field work.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce 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) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are 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.

There are no known Iron Age sites close to the study area (Bergh 1999: 6-7), although this might just point to a lack of archaeological research in the region. **No sites were found during the assessment as well.**

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 earliest Europeans to travel through the area were the groups of Broadbent & Hodgson in 1823, Hodgson &

Archbell in 1826 and later that of Krebs in 1838 (Bergh 1999:12-13). They were closely followed by the Voortrekkers (p.14).

The area in which Bloemhof was eventually established was initially sparsely populated due to the constant droughts and cattle diseases which made settlement very difficult. Some of the earliest inhabitants of the area were the BaTlaping, BaRolong and the Korannas. These populations were displaced during the difaqane of the 1820's – 1830's. Bloemhof was officially founded (or established) on the 28th of 1866 (Van der Walt 2012: 20). According to Wikipedia the town was founded in August 1864 when diamonds were discovered in the area. The town was established on the farm owned by John Barclay, who survived the HMS Birkenhead shipwreck in 1852. The place became known as Bloemhof (flower court) because of the lovely gardens that were planted by Barclay's daughter. In June 1869, the South African Republic's Volksraad created a new district called Bloemhof named after the town itself (www.wikipedia.org).

The only recent historical site found during the assessment was a graveyard which will be discussed in the next section.

Results of the study area assessment

The field assessment was undertaken during early December 2020. Although sections of the study area has been impacted by agricultural activities (see images below), most of the area's original natural landscape has not been altered extensively. Dense vegetation (grass and tree cover) made visibility on the ground difficult. Another characteristic of the study area is the relatively thick sand cover across most of it. If any archaeological material were to be present in the area it would be in a sub-surface deposit.

Only one site was identified and recorded in the area during the assessment. This is a recent historical graveyard containing around 10 graves. Most of these are stone-packed without any headstones, although there are 2 graves with cement headstones. The inscription on one of these are illegible, while the 2nd one indicates that the deceased was Marfa Nakedi who was born in 1947 and passed away in 1973. It is assumed that the other graves would date to roughly around the same time period or later and that they belong to people who had worked on the farm/s here.

Graves always carry a High Significance rating from a Cultural Heritage point of view and should be avoided as far as possible and protected against any negative impacts by development. Based on this the following is recommended:

1. **Option 1:** Proper fencing in of the site to protect it against any accidental or direct impact by any future development. The site should also be cleaned and properly marked as a cemetery.
2. **Option 2:** If the site and graves can't be avoided by the development then the possibility of exhuming & relocating the graves does exist. This option includes detailed social consultation to try and contact any possible descendants of the

deceased buried at the site in order to obtain their consent for the exhumations and relocations. Once social consultation has been completed various permits also have to be obtained from local, provincial and National departments and organizations.

GPS Location: S27 43 33.60 E25 38 01.10

Cultural Significance: High.

Heritage Significance: Grade III.

Field Ratings: Local Grade IIIB: Should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (High/Medium significance)

Mitigation: See above.



Figure 3: A view of the location of the grave site.



Figure 4: The grave of Marfa-Nakedi.



**Figure 5: The other grave on the site with a headstone.
The inscription is not really legible.**



Figure 6: A view of a section of the study area. Although some parts are fairly open a dense sand layer covers most of it.



Figure 7: Another section. Grass and tree cover was fairly dense throughout.



Figure 8: Some parts of the larger and surrounding area is utilized for agricultural purposes.



Figure 9: The dense vegetation in the area is evident here.



Figure 10: Another general view of part of the study area.



Figure 11: Note the sand covering evident here again.



Figure 12: The impact of agricultural activities on some sections.

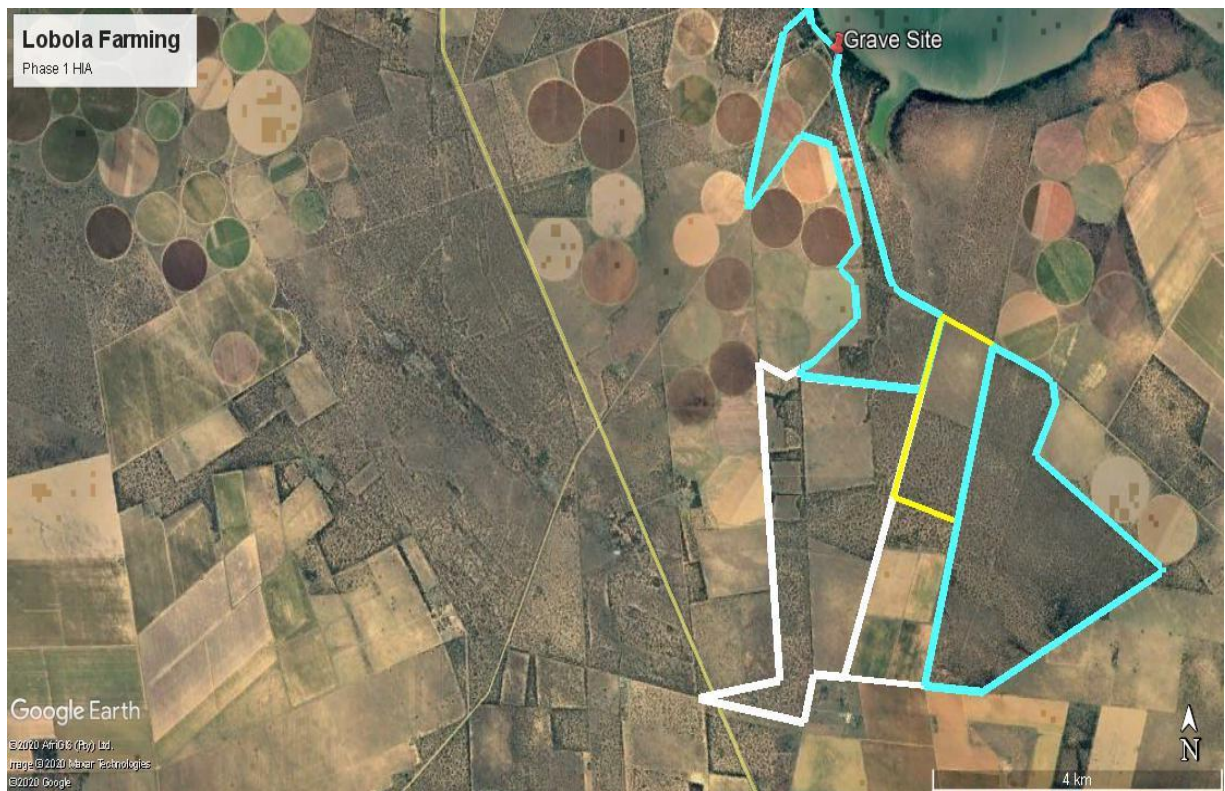


Figure 13: The location of the grave site found in the area (Google Earth 2020).

Based on the field assessment there would be no reason from a Cultural Heritage point of view why the proposed Lobola Farming project could not continue. The recommendations regarding the grave site found, as well as the further recommendation that will be provided below needs to be adhered too however.

It should also be noted that although all efforts are made to cover a total area during any assessment and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. This will include low stone-packed or unmarked graves. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 HIA for the Lobola Farming (formerly McStrauss Boerdery) Project was conducted successfully. The study and development area is located close to Bloemhof in the Northwest Province and includes portions of the farms Daeraad 1476HO, Daeraad 1486HO, Glendover 886HO & Satara 1475HO.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. Besides a Graveyard, the assessment of the specific study area did not identify any other sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance.

The topography of the study area is in general flat and open, with no rocky ridges or outcrops present. Dense vegetation (grass and tree cover) made visibility difficult, while most of the area is also characterized by a fairly thick sand layer. The area has not been altered extensively by modern developments, with agricultural activities the main impact in the area. This includes livestock grazing, game farming and crop growing.

A recent historical graveyard containing around 10 graves was identified in the study area. Most of these are stone-packed without any headstones, although there are 2 graves with cement headstones. The inscription on one of these are illegible, while the 2nd one indicates that the deceased was Marfa Nakedi who was born in 1947 and passed away in 1973.

Graves always carry a High Significance rating from a Cultural Heritage point of view and should be avoided as far as possible and protected against any negative impacts by any development. Based on this the following is recommended:

- Option 1:** Proper fencing in of the site to protect it against any accidental or direct impact by any future development. The site should also be cleaned and properly marked as a cemetery.

2. **Option 2:** If the site and graves can't be avoided by the development then the possibility of exhuming & relocating the graves does exist. This option includes detailed social consultation to try and contact any possible descendants of the deceased buried at the site in order to obtain their consent for the exhumations and relocations. Once social consultation has been completed various permits also have to be obtained from local, provincial and National departments and organizations.

Although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

Finally, from a Cultural Heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed Lobola Farming development be allowed to continue taking into consideration the recommended measures above.

8. REFERENCES

General View of Study Area Location & Sites recorded: Google Earth 2020.

McStrauss Boerdery (Lobola Farming) Farms Layout Map: BioBlue Environmental Sustainability

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Wikipedia: www.wikipedia.org.

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.