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A PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR A PROPOSED TOWNHSIP DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM LEEUPOORT 283JS & PTN 79 OF BLESBOKLAAGTE 296JS, EMALAHLENI, MPUMALANGA

For:

Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd P.O.Box 74726 LYNNWOOD RIDGE 0040

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by:

A.J. Pelser Accredited member of ASAPA Professional Member SASCH

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P.O.BOX 73703 LYNNWOOD RIDGE 0040

Tel: 083 459 3091 Fax: 086 695 7247

Email: pelseranton@gmail.com

Member: AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

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SUMMARY

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc was appointed by Shangoni Management Services to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed Township Development on the Remainder of the farm Leeupoort 283JS & Portion 79 of the farm Blesboklaagte 296JS in Emahahleni, Mpumalanga. The first part of this study was Desktop based, with the aims being to determine if there are any possible significant archaeological sites and features in the direct and larger geographical area that need be taken into consideration when development commences and that could be potentially negatively impacted upon by the proposed development. The physical fieldwork phase was undertaken at the end of May 2014.

Various sources were consulted as part of the study. From this it is clear that there are a number of known heritage resources (including Stone Age, Rock Art and Iron Age sites) in the larger geographical area, but no known sites on the specific farm portion where the development activities are proposed. Although no sites of any real significance were found during the assessment, some recent historical remains (farming related) and a grave site were recorded during the survey. These and their significance will be discussed in the report.

A number of recommendations are put forward at the end of this report. It is however recommended, from a Heritage perspective, that the proposed development be allowed to continue, taking cognizance of the above.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc was appointed by Shangoni Management Services to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed Township Development on the Remainder of the farm Leeupoort 283JS & Portion 79 of the farm Blesboklaagte 296JS in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga. The first part of this study was Desktop based, with the aims being to determine if there are any possible significant archaeological sites and features in the direct and larger geographical area that need be taken into consideration when development commences and that could be potentially negatively impacted upon the proposed development. The physical fieldwork phase was undertaken at the end of May 2014.

Various sources were consulted as part of the study. From this it is clear that there are a number of known heritage resources (including Stone Age, Rock Art and Iron Age sites) in the larger geographical area, but no known sites on the specific farm portion where the development activities are proposed. Although no sites of any real significance were found during the assessment, some recent historical remains (farming related) and a grave site were recorded during the survey.

It is however recommended, from a Heritage perspective, that the proposed development be allowed to continue, taking cognizance of the above. The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area, and the work focused on this.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study were to:

- 1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of a historical & archaeological nature located in the area of proposed development;
- 2. Assess the significance of any possible 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 archaeological remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
- 4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the archaeological 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 or 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.)

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 on these possible heritage resources. 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 the 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.

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 was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The assessment was conducted according to generally accepted AIA/HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while photographs were also taken where needed.

The assessment was conducted largely on foot, although certain sections were traversed by vehicle as there are existing dirt roads in and around the study area.

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 the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. 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

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc was appointed by Shangoni Management Services to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed Township development on the remainder of the farm Leeupoort 283JS & Portion 79 of the farm Blesboklaagte 296JS, in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga.

The topography of the area is relatively flat, with low rocky outcrops located on the northern edge of the study area. In general the area is characterized by open rolling grassveld, with very little tree cover. The area is surrounded by residential and other developments, including large scale quarrying (sand/rock) in the north-eastern section. There are some evidence of earlier agriculture in the area (ploughing, crop growing and grazing) also.

The grass cover was fairly dense during the survey, and this made visibility difficult. It is therefore possible that features such as low, stone packed walls or graves could have been missed. This aspect needs to be considered during any development work done.

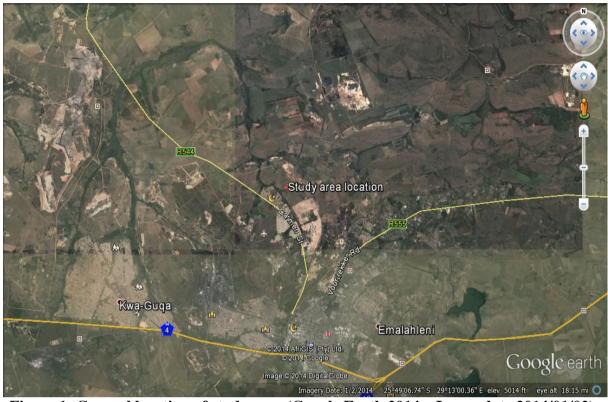


Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2014 – Image date 2014/01/02).



Figure 2: Closer view of study area (Google Earth 2014 – Image date 2014/01/02).



Figure 3: General view of section of study area.



Figure 4: Another view showing the open landscape & one of the dirt roads in the area.



Figure 5: Agriculture (ploughing) in the past has impacted on the area.



Figure 6: Further evidence of recent farming activities.



Figure 7: Quarrying activities has also impacted.



Figure 8: Another view of a section of the study area. Some of the bordering residential developments are visible.



Figure 9: Another view showing the dense grass cover in some sections.



Figure 10: A slight rocky ridge on the western section of the area. A spruit (Blesbok) forms the western boundary of the study area.

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 in 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 in close proximity to the study area, although rock paintings (associated with the Later Stone Age) are known south of Emalahleni (Witbank) near the confluence of the Olifants River and Rietspruit (Bergh 1999: 4-5). Heritage surveys have recorded few outstanding Stone Age sites, rock paintings and engravings in the Eastern Highveld - mainly as a result of limited extensive archaeological surveys. Stone tools have however been recorded around some of the pans which occur on the Eastern Highveld (Pistorius 2010: 16).

No Stone Age occurrences (stone tools) were identified during the 2014 archaeological assessment of the proposed development area.

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:

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Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.
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Huffman (2007: xiii) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

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Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.
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No Early or Middle Iron Age sites are known to occur in the study area (Bergh 1999: 6-7). According to Pistorius the Eastern Highveld had probably not been occupied by Early Iron Age communities, but was occupied by Late Iron Age farming communities such as the Sotho, Swazi and Ndebele who established stone walled settlement complexes. Seemingly these sites are more common towards the eastern perimeters of the Eastern Highveld. Small, inconspicuous stone walled sites have been observed along the Olifants River but are an exception and not the rule (Pistorius 2010: 16-17).

Once again no Iron Age sites, features or objects were identified during the 2014 assessment of the study area.

The historical period usually starts with the moving into an area of people that were able to read and write and record histories such as early European travellers and/or missionaries. The earliest European group to travel through the area was that of Schoon in 1836. The early travellers were followed closely by the Voortrekkers after 1840 (Bergh 1999: 13).

Witbank (modern-day Emalahleni) started when the railway line between Pretoria and Lourenço Marques (built in 1894) passed close to where the town is located today. The first Europeans who came to the area noticed the abundance of coal, which was evident on the surface or in stream beds. A stage post for wagons close to a large outcrop of whitish stones (a 'white ridge') gave the town its name. Witbank was established in 1903 on a farm known

as Swartbos which belonged to Jacob Taljaard (Pistorius 2010:17). During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) there was a skirmish between British (under Hamilton) and Boer (under Wolmarans) on the 11th of January 1902 at Witbank (Bergh 1999: 54).

The oldest map for Leeupoort (from the Chief Surveyor General database) found (dating to 1918) indicates that the farm was then numbered as No.27 and was located in the District of Witbank & the Ward of Steenkoolspruit. Originally the farm was granted by deed to one G.J.van Nieker & son in February 1893 (CSG Document 10209372). Portion 79 (a Portion of Portion 4) was numbered as No.29 in 1926, and was located in the District and Ward of Witbank. The portion was granted by deed to one Harnoldus Daniel Pretorius on the 11th of August 1915 (CSG Document 10235155).

Four sites of recent historical age (1 grave site and 3 others related to farming) were identified during the survey in the larger study area. These will be discussed in the section below, as well as the potential impact of the proposed development on them and the required mitigation measures.

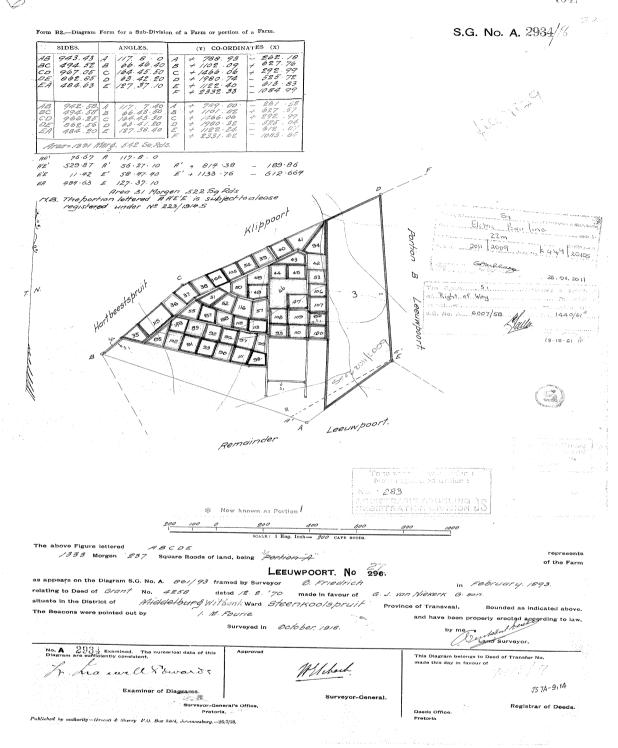


Figure 11: 1918 Map of Leeu(w)poort (csg.dla.gov.za).

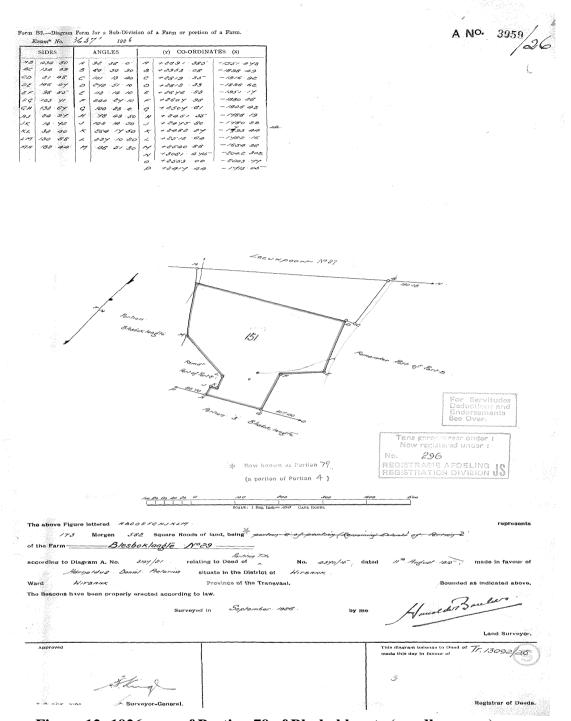


Figure 12: 1926 map of Portion 79 of Blesboklaagte (csg.dla.gov.za).

Results of fieldwork

Site 1

This a grave site containing at least 10 graves. Some are stone packed, while most have formal cement headstones and grave dressing. The age of the graves, as well as the identities of the deceased could not be determined as the inscriptions on the headstones are illegible. It

is also not known at this stage if the site falls directly in the proposed area of development, but if it does mitigation measures will have to be implemented.

Cultural significance: High (graves always carry a High Significance Rating)

Heritage Significance: Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation.

Field rating: Local Grade IIIB: Should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/ medium significance).

Mitigation measures: The best option would be to ensure the protection of the graves through proper fencing, but still allowing family members access to visit the graves. If the graves can't be protected and will be impacted then they can be exhumed and relocated after all due processes have been followed. This will include social consultation to find possible descendants and obtaining consent for relocation, as well as getting the required permits for the work to be undertaken.

GPS Location: S25 48 46.8 E29 13 11.9



Figure 13: Site 1 graves.



Figure 14: Another view of Site 1.



Figure 15: Close-up of one of the more formal graves on the site.

Sites 2 - 4

All three these sites relate to recent farming activities in the area, and include the foundations of a recent homestead (Site 2) that probably belonged to farm labourers; the stone packed remains of livestock enclosures (Sites 3 & 4) and possible labourer homestead remains (Site 3). It is also unsure if Sites 3 & 4 falls inside the direct area of development. The sites are not significant as they are only represented by foundations and by ephemeral and low stone walling. No further mitigation is required.

Cultural significance: Low to Medium. **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.

Heritage Significance: None

Field rating: General protection C (IV C): Phase 1 is seen as a sufficient recording of the existing structure and it may therefore be demolished of (low significance).

Mitigation measures: None required

GPS Locations: S25 48 31.2 E29 12 30.4 (Site 2); S25 48 12.1 E29 11 51.7 (Site 3) & S25 48 14.6 E29 11 50.1 (Site 4).



Figure 16: Site 2 cement and brick foundations.



Figure 17: Site 3 stone wall foundations (kraal etc).



Figure 18: Closer view of possible homestead Site 3.



Figure 19: Site 4. The stone wall of this possible kraal is scarcely visible.



Figure 20: Aerial view of site location in study area (Google Earth 2014 – Image date 2014/01/02).



Figure 21: Track path followed during survey. Existing dirt roads and footpaths were used, while certain sections were walked where no track existed as well (Google Earth 2014 – Image date 2014/01/02).

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Township Development, located on the Remainder of Leeupoort 283JS & Portion 79 of the farm Blesboklaagte 296JS, in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga, have been conducted successfully. The study area have been disturbed to some extent in the recent past through agricultural activities (ploughing, grazing) and other human actions (surrounding residential development, quarrying) and if any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) significance did exist here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result.

There are no known archaeological or historical sites or features in the study area, although some does exist in the larger geographical area it is located within. Four sites were identified and recorded during the assessment. This included a grave site (Site 1) containing at least 10 graves as well as three other sites related to recent farming activities in the area. Only the grave site has High Significance and if impacted mitigation measures will have to be implemented to protect the graves and negate any possible impacts by the proposed development. This will entail either the formal protection (fencing and management of the site) or exhumation and relocation of the graves to another area.

In the light of the above the following recommendations are made:

1. that the proposed development be allowed to continue, but that should any other unknown objects, sites or features of archaeological nature be uncovered during any development activities, that work in this area/s be halted immediately for inspection and recommendations regarding the way forward. This will include any possible previously unknown, low stone packed or unmarked graves in the area

8. REFERENCES

Aerial views of the study area, site distribution and Track Paths: Google Earth 2014 – Image date: 2014/01/02.

Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies.** Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

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Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

Chief Surveyor General Database (<u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u>). CSG Documents: 10209372 & 10235155

APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS:

Site: Means 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: Means a permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in

conjunction with other structures.

Feature: Means a coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Means an Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

DEFINITIONS/STATEMENTS 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:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Field ratings:

•	National Grade I significance:	Should be managed as part of the national estate.
•	Provincial Grade II significance:	Should be managed as part of the provincial
		estate.
•	Local Grade IIIA:	Should be included in the heritage register and
		not be mitigated (high significance).
•	Local Grade IIIB:	Should be included in the heritage register and
		may be mitigated (high/ medium significance).
•	General protection A (IV A):	Site should be mitigated before destruction (high/
	-	medium significance).
•	General protection B (IV B):	Site should be recorded before destruction
	. , ,	(medium significance).
•	General protection C (IV C):	Phase 1 is seen as a sufficient recording of the
	. , ,	existing structure and it may therefore be
		demolished of (low significance).

APPENDIX D

PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

1. Formal protection:

Formal protection is applicable to the following:

- National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites grades I and II
- Protected areas which is described as an area surrounding a heritage site
- Provisional protection described as protection for a maximum period of two years
- Heritage registers listings of grades II and III
- Heritage areas areas which include more than one heritage site
- Heritage objects heritage objects include inter alia archaeological, paleontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic and books.

2. General protection:

General protection is applicable to:

- Objects protected by the laws of foreign states
- Structures older than 60 years
- Archaeology, paleontology and meteorites
- Burial grounds and graves
- Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

- Phase 1: Pre-assessment or scoping phase the establishment of the scope of the project and the terms of reference.
- Phase 2: Baseline assessment the establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
- Phase 3: Assessment of potential impacts the identification of sites, assessment of their significance, commenting on the potential impact of the proposed development and recommending mitigation measures or the conservation thereof.
- Phase 4: Letter of recommendation for exemption –submitted in the event that no likelihood exists that any sites will be impacted upon.
- Phase 5: Mitigation or rescue planning the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
- Phase 6: Compilation of and implementation of a management plan in rare cases where sites are regarded as of high importance such that development cannot be permitted unconditionally.