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**A REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HIA
FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE WITS RURAL FACILITY: TRAINING &
RESEARCH CENTRE LOCATED ON PORTION 175
OF THE FARM GUERNSEY 81KU, NEAR BETWEEN KLASERIE &
ACORNHOEK, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

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SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting was appointed by Seaton Thomson & Associates to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed upgrade of the existing Wits Rural Facility: Research & Training Centre, located on Portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81KU, between Klaserie and Acornhoek in Limpopo. There are a number of existing structures on the property, while access roads (dirt tracks) and other infrastructure have already impacted on the area in the past. Some new buildings (infrastructure) will be developed while a number of the existing structures are being planned to be demolished.

This report provides a discussion on the results of the physical assessment that was undertaken, as well as the background research conducted. A number of sites (more specifically scattered finds of pottery and other individual artifacts) were recorded during the survey. None of these are however of any high significance but needs to be taken cognizance of.

If the recommendations put forward at the end of this document are implemented, then, from a Heritage point of view, there would be no objection to the continuation of the proposed development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting was appointed by Seaton Thomson & Associates to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed upgrade of the existing Wits Rural Facility: Research & Training Centre, located on Portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81KU, between Klaserie and Acornhoek in Limpopo. There are a number of existing structures on the property, while access roads (dirt tracks) and other infrastructure have already impacted on the area in the past. Some new buildings (infrastructure) will be developed while a number of the existing structures are being planned to be demolished.

A number of sites (more specifically scattered finds of pottery and other individual artifacts) were recorded during the survey. Dense vegetation made visibility difficult and some sites could have been overlooked as a result.

If the recommendations put forward at the end of this document are implemented, then, from a Heritage point of view, there would be no objection to the continuation of the proposed development.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment focused on this demarcated portion of land.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study, based on the methodology employed by Heritage Impact Assessors, were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located in the proposed development area;
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 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 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)**.

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, including previous heritage studies in the area, 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 HIA practices and in this case was aimed at identifying and recording any possible cultural heritage resources that might be located in the development area, assessing their archaeological & historical significance, while taking into consideration the negative impacts of the proposed development on these resources. The location/position of all sites, features and objects are determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while 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.

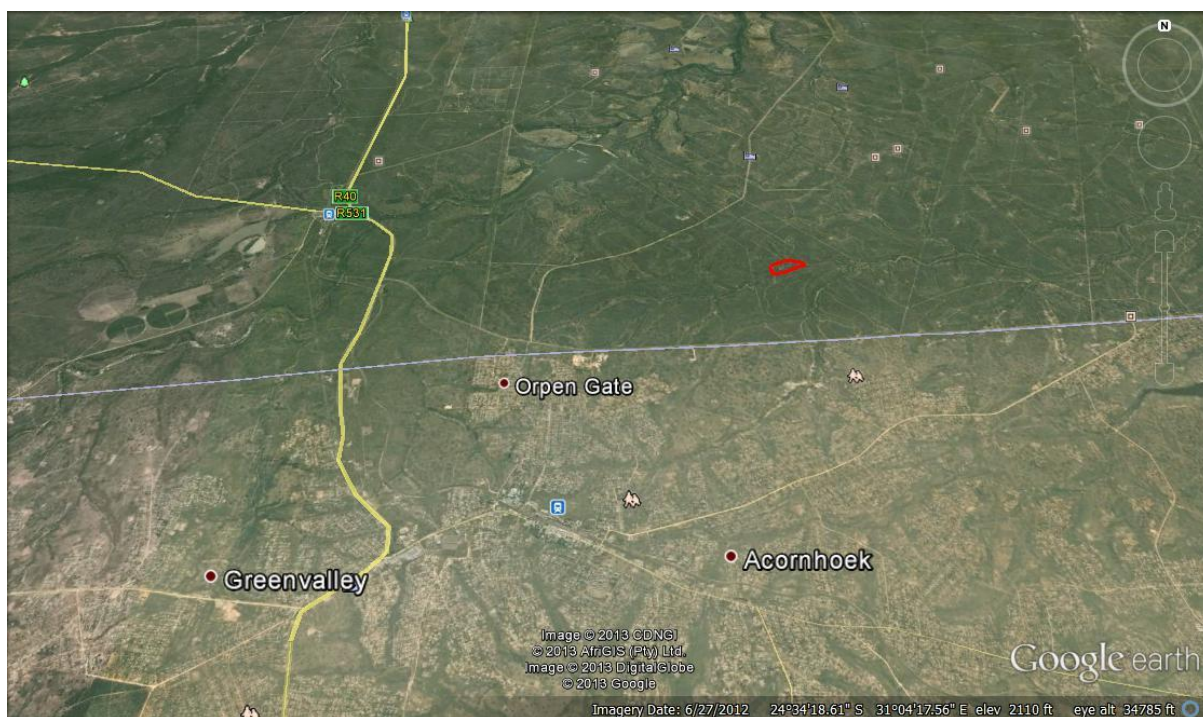
4.4 Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to 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.

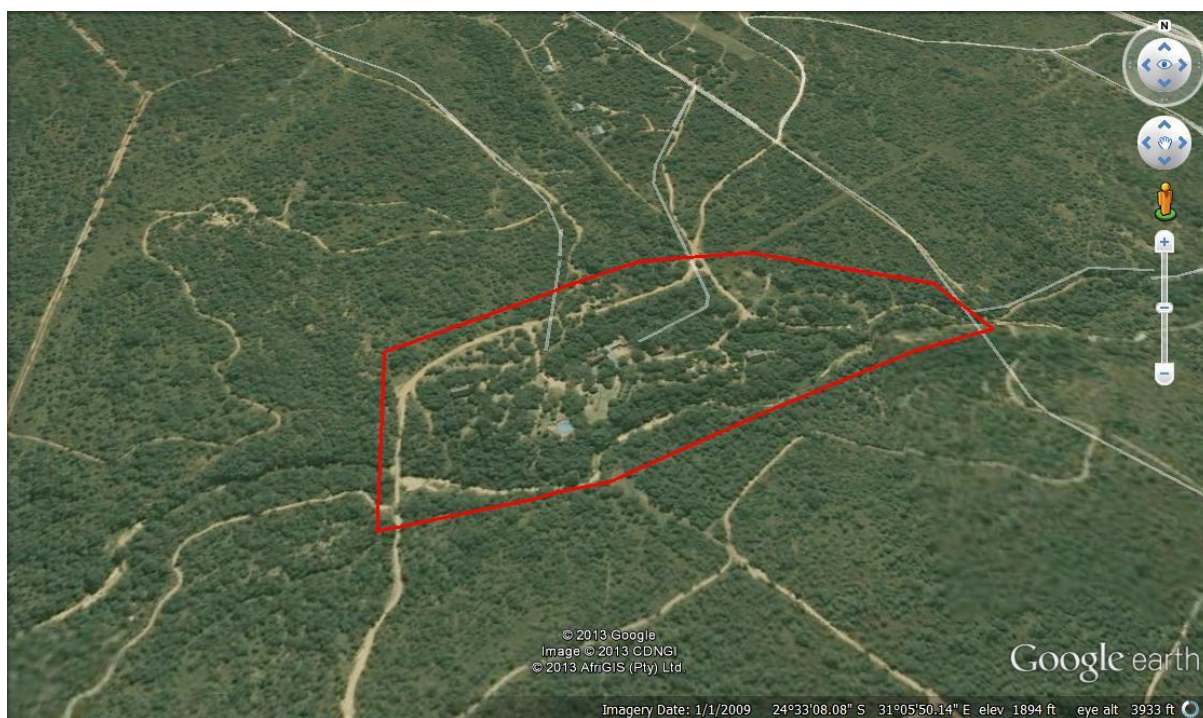
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The study area is located on Portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81KU, between the towns of Klaserie and Acornhoek in the Limpopo Province and in the Bushbuckridge District Municipality. The upgrade of the existing Wits Rural Facility: Training & Research Centre is being proposed and will include the development of new infrastructure, utilization of existing structures and the envisaged demolition of some structures. Existing infrastructure include a 40 bed dormitory, 25 staff houses, a range of batchelor flats and rondavels, 18 offices and four seminar rooms. The facility once formed part of a private game reserve (with lodge) and was bought in 1988 by WITS for the establishment of the Rural Research Facility (batefelix.blogspot.com). The study area is also located close to the Timbavati Game Reserve and the Kruger National Park (close to the Orpen Gate of the KNP).

The area has not been disturbed by agricultural activities in the past or any major developments except the initial development of the game reserve lodge, WRF facilities. Dirt roads and some powerlines are the only other major impacts. The topography of the area is relatively flat, although there are some rocky outcrops (especially close to the river edges – the Umbabat river flows through the area). The vegetation is typically Bushveld/Thornveld. During the assessment the vegetation was very dense, making archaeological visibility difficult.



**Figure 1: Aerial view of study area location (red block).
Google Earth 2013 (Image date 2012/06/27).**



**Figure 2: Closer view of study area and WRF location.
Google Earth 2013 (Image date 2009/01/01).**



Figure 3: Main entrance to Facility.



Figure 4: Typical vegetation cover in study area.



Figure 5: One the main dirt roads in the study area.



Figure 6: Powerline corridor.



Figure 7: Dry Umbabat river bed.

6. DISCUSSION

A short background to the archaeology & history of the larger geographical and specific study area is given in the section below before the results of the fieldwork will be discussed.

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 these 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 or features in the specific study area according to Bergh, although this might just be an indication of a lack of research in the area (Bergh 1999: 4). Some Stone Age material were however identified and recorded in the area during the assessment.

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) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be 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.

The closest known Iron Age sites to the area are the site of Harmony dating to the Early Iron Age, as well as LIA sites near Phalaborwa (the well-known Masorini and others) and in the Kruger National Park (Bergh 1999: 6-7). During 2008 the author of this report excavated as part of a team an Early Iron Age site near Hoedspruit on the farm Happyland 241KT. The site dated to between AD450 & AD1000 and contained hut remains, burials, cattle kraal deposits, pottery and faunal remains (Pelser et.al 2008). According to Huffman, and based on the decorated pottery recovered from this site there were two phase of settlement, namely the Mzonjani facies of the so-called Urewe tradition and dating to between AD450 & AD700, and the Doornkop facies of the Kalundu Tradition dating to between AD750 & AD1000 (Huffman 2007: 127; 275). Some fragments of pottery (undecorated) were identified in the area during the assessment.

A short historical background to the Klaserie and Acornhoek area is given in the next section. The concept of nature reserves started after the proclamation of the Kruger National Park in 1926. Until that date farms in the Lowveld were utilized for hunting purposes and conservation was the last thing that came to mind. With the proclamation of the Park, conservation awareness was born and the portion lying to the west of the Park, between the Sabie River in the south and the Oliphant's River in the north, was the first area where the concept of private nature reserves was born.

In 1926 Charles Boyed Varty and Frank A. Unger purchased the farm Sparta, in the present Sabi Sand Reserve, and thus pioneered the 'game farm' idea in this area. A year later W A (Wac) Campbell, the patriarch of Natal Sugar Estates, and a foundation member of the newly constituted National Parks Board, bought Mala Mala, Eyrefield and Marthly in this reserve, and subsequently acquired several other adjacent farms. During the early thirties almost all the farms in the 'Toulon Block' (Sabi Sand), as well as several other in the neighbourhood, were purchased by private individuals.

In 1934 some of the owners looked for a scheme of co-operative game protection. They took their problem to the Transvaal Land Owners Association (TLOA) which had many functions, including the administration of unoccupied agricultural and game farms for individuals or groups. The TLOA suggested that the Sabi Private Game Scheme be formed. This name was changed in July 1948 to Sabi Sand Wildtuin and formally proclaimed a private nature reserve on 27 January 1965.

From 1926 to 1937 A. M. Mostert had a concession to take overseas tourists into the Kruger National Park and thus started the first safari business in the Lowveld. As a result of his love and appreciation of wildlife, he began to look for game farms bordering onto the Park and in July 1936, using pack donkeys, went over the farms Nederland, Peru, Ceylon, and Rothsay, eventually deciding to buy Nederland, at five shillings per morgen. Because there was no access road to the farm, he had to build a road from the **Acornhoek-Orpen road** to Nederland. The **Klaserie River** had to be avoided as it was perennial and carried more water than it does today. He maintained this road for eighteen years until 1955 when the road to Roodekrantz was constructed. Mostert brought tourists to Nederland, offering them drives at

night and wilderness trails over the farm by day. He bought portions of the farms Peru and Ceylon. Thus his idea of a private nature reserve was created. However, for business reasons, he was unable to carry out his original idea.

The Game Ordinance, 1935, provided for the control of many aspects of wildlife, but the continued development of the province, coupled with modern methods of transport and hunting, increased the danger of overhunting and the ordinance soon became obsolete. Following a thorough investigation by a commission of inquiry into game preservation in general in 1945, the Division of Nature Conservation was established in 1947. When the Transvaal Game Ordinance (No 23 of 1949) was changed, people were allowed to form private reserves under certain conditions, and Mostert proposed that the property owners form a mutual game reserve. Col. J. D. Pretorius was extremely enthusiastic and in 1954 he went from farm to farm discussing the proposal with the property owners. It was due to his enthusiasm and work that the 'Umbabat Private Nature Reserve', named after the Umbabat River, became a reality. When the river was later given its original Xitsonga name 'Timbavati', from 'ku bava', meaning 'bitter or brackish water', the name of the reserve was changed accordingly.

In 1955 the Kruger National Park decided in principle to fence the western boundary of the Park as a measure against the future spread of foot and mouth disease. The veterinary department asked for the fence and also wanted to eliminate all game outside the Park. This was bound to affect the game position and no one really knew what the overall result in the long term would be. Oswald Pirow called a meeting about the fencing of the Kruger National Park. The meeting was held on the football field at **Acornhoek** and a huge crowd attended. He pointed out that as individuals they would get nowhere, but as a group they would be a force to be listened to. After representations were made to the Government, the fencing was temporarily shelved.

The Timbavati Private Nature Reserve was proclaimed in 1956, in terms of the 1949 Game Ordinance. The first committee consisted of Oswald Pirow KC, chairman, Col J. D. Pretorius, Dr. Pierre A. Hugo, Dr. A.A. Shoch and J. A. McCall-Peat as the secretary. Paul Sauer, Minister of Lands, was Honourary President, and Dr. R. Bigalke, then the Director of the National Zoo in Pretoria, was vice President, Dr. T. J. Steyn, Director of Nature Conservation and N. G. Gilfillan, President for the Protection of Wildlife in South Africa, were chosen as honorary members. The Crookes family joined Timbavati as full members, being persuaded by Freddie Gillatt to do so. The AGMs used to be held at Ernest Whittingstall's house at **Klaserie**. Timbavati appointed a warden, Ted Whitfield, who used to come over once a month to Klaserie to see how things were getting on. Timbavati was initially not fenced, and there was big block of land between Klaserie and Timbavati that was not included. This land was utilized for cattle and agricultural activities. This block of land later became Umbabat.

When Pirow died in 1957 the question of fencing off the Park reared its head again. A Commission of Enquiry, known as the Diesel Commission, for the protection of the country's borders against Foot and Mouth disease, was Dr. A. M. Diesel (Chairman), A. E. de Villiers, M. C. Elloff and F. G. H. van der Veen (representing the South African Agricultural Union), R. Knobel and R. J. Labuschagne (representing the National Parks Board), J. S. Murray (representing the Department of Bantu Affairs and Development), Dr. J. H. Viljoen (representing SWA), Dr. M. C. Lambrechts (Representing the Department of Agricultural Technical Services). L. R. Huystek (of the Meat Board) acted as secretary. The Commission

recommended that a game-proof fence be erected round the entire Kruger National Park and along the Swaziland border, Mozambique and the northern territories. Dr. Pierre Hugo, of Timbavati, did not agree. He approached the minister who agreed that there would be no fence. When he walked out, however, the Vets walked in and the fence went up. Timbavati then realized that they too would have to fence. Klaserie was unable to participate and forced to withdraw.

In 1961, when the Kruger National Park started to fence their western boundary, the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve was also fenced. This fence had a devastating effect on wildlife during the 1962 drought. For centuries large herds of wildebeest and zebra migrated to the west and returned after the first spring rains. With the erection of this fence the animals were prevented from following their usual migratory routes and thousands died of thirst and hunger next to the fence. In 1962 Dr. D. J. Serfontein, of Pietersburg, applied for the proclamation of the whole area west of Timbavati to the railway line and from the Olifants River to **Acornhoek**, to be known as the Rusemi Private Nature Reserve, but due to certain problems, this idea was shelved.

A few years elapsed before the concept of a private nature reserve for the Klaserie area was raised again. Paul Mouton and Daan du Preez each bought portions of the farm Fife and influenced their friend Jan de Necker to purchase a portion of the farm Charloscar. Cattle farmers were still very active on Charloscar and Moscow and they got their mutual friends, Stoffel Botha, who became Administrator of Natal and later Minister of Internal Affairs and of Post and Telegraphs, and Wynand Lindeque, to buy out these farmers.

During January 1969 Clyde Sussens contacted Jan de Necker and suggested that they consider a nature reserve on both sides of the Klaserie River, De Necker thought it a splendid idea and discussed this with Paul Mouton, Daan du Preez and the others. Their first task was to approach the individual landowners personally to obtain their approval and support. But their initial problem was to contact the Crookes family who owned four farms along the Klaserie River. The first meeting of 14 landowners was held on 28 January 1969 in Randburg to discuss the formation of a game reserve. A committee was elected and consisted of Jan de Necker, chairman, B. de West, secretary, P. L. Mouton, E. A. Roux, J. W. Beith, J. T. Muller and J. C. Sussens. It was decided that John Muller be supplied with all the relevant information to enable him to approach the Crookes family with a view to inviting them to join the group. Jon Muller was connected to the Crookes family through his brother-in-law marrying a Crookes. They were to be offered pro-rata terms, but these could be altered if they were not considered satisfactory.

The committee had to draw up a constitution that had to be presented to the owners of farms in the envisaged area and to arrange a further meeting of these owners when the constitution was to be submitted for their approval. As the Crookes family owned approximately 30 000 morgen in the heart of the proposed reserve, it was realized that without them the reserve would not be viable. The only solution was to convince them of the promoters' bona fides and that they had no ulterior motives. So Paul Mouton and Jan de Necker flew to Durban to put themselves virtually on the carpet. After discussions that lasted for two hours the Crookes family finally agreed to become members of the Reserve. The preparation work took many months and entailed a lot of travelling. They had to obtain approval from the Provincial Administrations, department of Agriculture, Nature Conservation, Veterinary Service and many more.

After establishing which landowners wanted to become members, they could set the boundary of the Reserve. They approached a fencing firm, H Jacks Gate and Wire Works (Pty) Ltd, in Johannesburg, for a quotation to fence off the approximately 48 miles in dense bush. As this firm had never had to undertake an assignment of this nature they were unable to quote. The only solution was to take the owner of the company's son, accompanied by Paul Mouton, Eddie Roux and Jan de Necker, to Klaserie. They followed the boundary line where the fence was to be erected by Landrover, which took a week. They made use of maps and where they could not use motorized transport they had to walk.

In preparation for the meeting to be held at Fort Coepieba Hotel, at Hoedspruit on 12 July 1969, a budget was prepared and copies of the constitutions of Timbavati and Sabi Sand obtained and attorneys instructed to draft a constitution, which was circulated before the meeting. The meeting, held at Fort Coepieba on 12 July 1969, was attended by a large number of landowners, including a representative of the Crookes group. This was a very important meeting and Paul Mouton and Jan de Necker prepared themselves thoroughly for this meeting. As was to be expected, some of the members were extremely sceptical, asked a lot of questions, but proceedings were generally positive. After a long discussion Leonard proposed that the meeting should proceed with the formalities of founding the reserve and that the meeting should be regarded as the foundation meeting of an association of owners with the purpose of establishing the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve. The proposal was seconded by Daan du Preez and the motion was carried unanimously.

This was followed by a meeting in Johannesburg when Col. L G F Wolf proposed that the constitution be dealt with clause by clause. Messrs I F G Gillatt and Col. Wolf proposed amendments to certain clauses which J C G Botha undertook to have redrafted and ready for mailing by the middle of September 1969. The next, and crucial meeting, was held on Wednesday 8 October 1969 at the Boulevard Hotel in Pretoria. The morning before the general meeting, the Committee met to conclude certain last minute details regarding the proposed fencing, gates and the financing of the project. The same afternoon thirty six owners attended this meeting, and after discussing the proposed constitutions, each owner had to verbally confirm that he wanted to become a member of the Reserve and the acceptance of the constitution. Thus the largest private nature reserve in South Africa was established.

From six applications, Van Reenen van Vuuren was appointed the first game ranger of the KPNR and took up his post of 1 March 1970, at a basic salary of R 200 per month. Othmar Bach provided camp accommodation for the ranger and his family on the farm Dundee. The final tender of H Jacks Gate and Wire Works (Pty) Ltd, was accepted for fencing the reserve at R750 per mile plus R800 for transportation of the material to site. The quotation of R98 per mile for clearing a road, 10 feet wide, in the inside of the boundary fence, submitted by Nanteskor (Pty) Ltd, was accepted. There were five entrance gates: (1) At the junction of the road from Hoedspruit and the Copenhagen boundary (Xipalapaleni), (2) at the south-western corner on the farm Sark (Xikankaneni) – now locked, (3) the gate on the farm Kent (Matamani) – now closed, (4) on the southern boundary of Charloscar, near the Klaserie River (Incheni), and (5) at the junction of the boundaries of Ross and Fife (Xanatseni).

The first annual general meeting was held on 11 July 1970 at Hoedspruit, attended by some 32 landowners. The fence was not completed and for this reason the Reserve could not be

proclaimed. Due to the drought of 1971 the Klaserie River was dry and water had to be obtained from boreholes. The game started moving northwards towards the Olifants River where large concentrations of impala, giraffe, zebra and wildebeest gathered. With the first spring rains the game returned to Dundee, Northumberland and Northampton. There was also an increase in the elephant population, estimated at approximately 150 animals, and three major breeding herds of buffalo, which moved up and down the Klaserie River.

The Shanatseni-Klaseriemond road had been repaired and it was a first class motorway and could be driven at speeds exceeding 50 kph. Unfortunately the untimely death of Charles Engelhard had the effect of preventing the completion of the Klaserie-Copenhagen road (main entrance road), known as the 'Engelhard Boulevard', which had been badly washed away after 125mm of rain fall during October 1971.

FIRST FARMS PURCHASED

Percy Wood ('Pump') Willis (1876-1959) was the first to settle permanently in the **Bushbuckridge and Acornhoek area**. He got his nickname while serving with the famous 'Steinaecker's Horse' during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) at Sabi Bridge. One of his tasks was to operate the pump delivering water to the Barracks and for this duty he was rewarded with the nickname 'Pump' which stuck forever after. His brother, Betram Churchill, was known as 'Clinkers' because he kept the fire going to pump water. Other member of 'Steinaecker's Horse' who became well known in the Lowveld, were John Edmund Delacoer Travers, Nevelle Edwardes and Harry Wolhuter. At the conclusion of hostilities 'Pump' and his brother went into storekeeping together at **Bushbuckridge and Acornhoek**.

John Edmund Delacoer Travers (1876-1954) also moved to the Bushbuckridge-Acornhoek area and in 1904 bought the farm Champagne, 8km south of Acornhoek and 16km north of Bushbuckridge. After the Anglo-Boer War Col. Baron Ludwig Franz (Francis) von Steinaecker (1854-1917), the commander of the famous 'Steinaecker's Horse', first tried to obtain a permanent commission in the British armed forces, but was refused. He then tried tobacco farming on the farm London, just north-west of Bushbuckridge, but when this failed he moved in with Griffiths, the Native Commissioner at Bushbuckridge. After a while Griffith's wife gave him an ultimatum to choose between her and Steinaecker's. John Travers extended hospitality to him until the First World War. As the war progressed Steinaecker's became aggressive and said that Germany would win the war. Travers eventually gave him notice to leave, but when he refused the Police were called in. When they arrived, on 30 April 1917, Steinaecker's took strychnine and died at the age of sixty three. He is buried in the cemetery at Bushbuckridge.

In 1914 'Pump' joined the 2nd Imperial Light Horse and saw action in South West Africa. In a night attack against German forces at Gibeon 'Pump' lost his right leg and won a Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery. On his return to **Acornhoek** he and his brother expanded their interests by taking over two trading stores from H.H.L. Hall & Sons in co-partnership with Ernest Whittingstall (1884-1976), under the style or firm of "P W Willis & Co". On the farming side they extended their interests to include cattle, citrus, cotton and tobacco. Gradually through the years the partnership expanded until they owned 18, 000 morgen of land and had 16 trading stations. Rand Consolidated Mining Company owned the rest of the area. In the early days 'Pump' Willis and Ernest Whittingstall had a donkey wagon, with two donkeys, and they used to go up and down the **Klaserie**. They used to hunt the

whole area to the Olifants River and on ground belonging to the mining concerns. There was no one there, as it was just bare ground, and they used to camp on the farms Dover and Northampton in the present **Klaserie Private Nature Reserve**. During all this time 'Pump' was also playing his part in a wider field. After a life time of hunting, he left his rifle in favour of a camera, eventually to become one of the best known wildlife photographers in South Africa. Some of his photographs are published in Stevenson-Hamilton's book: South African Eden. He also became a valued Honourary Game Ranger, and his opinions on wildlife were greatly respected. He also was able to use his pen in support of Stevenson-Hamilton against the many detractors of fauna and flora preservation, whose attacks never ceased until the Sanctuary was finally declared a National Park in 1926. Soon after the Kruger National Park was proclaimed Harry Otto, who was then manager of Two Streams Creamery at Ixopo in Natal, visited the Kruger Park where he met 'Pump' Willis. In 1929 Edwin Crookes and his brother Aubrey were members of a hunting party that went to the Bushveld to shoot wildebeest.

Returning home they slept on the **Acornhoek station platform** where they met 'Pump' Willis who was collecting parcels for his trading store. Willis later went to stay with Harry Otto at Ixopo and also renewed his acquaintance with Edwin, who farmed in the High flats area close by. The meeting resulted in Edwin visiting Willis at Acornhoek. From there they travelled to Northampton in the donkey wagon. 'Pump' Willis approached Edwin and asked him if he knew of anyone who was interested in buying a shooting farm in the Lowveld. Edwin said he was sure his cousins would be very interested. On his return to Natal, Edwin called on John Crookes and told him, enthusiastically, of his find. John is reported to have said that he was 'interested' while George Crookes felt it was 'quite a good thing' (George and John were brothers and Edwin's first cousins). In those days these farms were fetching 1 Pound per morgen with river frontage and 10/- without.

During 1936 George, John and Edwin Crookes visited the Bushveld to inspect the farms and stayed with Willis. As a result of this trip Northampton was purchased from Whittingstall and Willis by George and John Crookes jointly. The farms had nothing on them and in 1938 they built a simple hunting camp – three rondavels and a pit toilet with hessian around it. It was close to the river which they used for washing and bathing. George and John Crookes began taking hunting parties to **Klaserie**. The first official hunting trip took place in 1938. So impressed with the area were George and John that seven more farms were bought – George bought Dover, Northumberland, Dundee and London, while John (Having already bought out George's share of Northampton), bought Kent, Elgin and Cumberland. Thomas Andrews (1856-1928), of Barberton, bought Kent 1925 and was managed by his son Alan Andrews, growing grapefruit and raising cattle. After the death of Thomas Andrews, in 1928, the estate was distributed amongst the sons and Alan Andrews obtained Kent. He sold Kent to John Crookes in 1939. As Andrews had cattle on Kent, there was a big cattle kraal. The kraal manure was feet deep and was sold during the war for war funds. The camp site on Northampton was selected by Willis, and was built under his and Whittingstall supervision, using mainly female labour. During August 1950 John Crookes sold Northampton to Freddie Gillatt (his nephew) with the proviso that a camp identical to that on Northampton had to be built for John Crookes on Kent. The site was chosen by Collin Whittingstall and Freddie Gillatt, on high ground, with a spectacular view of the Klaserie River. Willis also chose a site for the building of Dover Camp. It was an ideal spot amongst the trees overlooking the Klaserie River, constructed by builders from the South Coast. The building program was completed in record time however – because the builders were terrified of the wild animals.

Willis was the main person looking after this area and in former years he placed spikes in the access road to deter poachers. They were so placed that all four tyres of a vehicle would be punctured. At an early stage a gate was put on Kent and the keys were kept by Willis. After Willis retired to Nelspruit, Whittingstall took over and in 1950 each camp had 2 camp guards. Whittingstall owned the farm Fleur-le-Lys where he had a store and postal agency. This was basically the start of Klaserie village. When Acornhoek, where he lived, was sold in 1970 to the SA Trust, he moved to Klaserie Village.

The above was obtained from www.klaseriereserve.

The oldest map that could be obtained from the Chief Surveyor General database (www.csg.dla.gov.za), and dating to 1941, shows that the farm Guernsey (then numbered 239) is located in the District of Pilgrims Rest and that it was surveyed between August and October of 1941 (CSG Document 10EWEX01). No historical structures or features are indicated on the map.

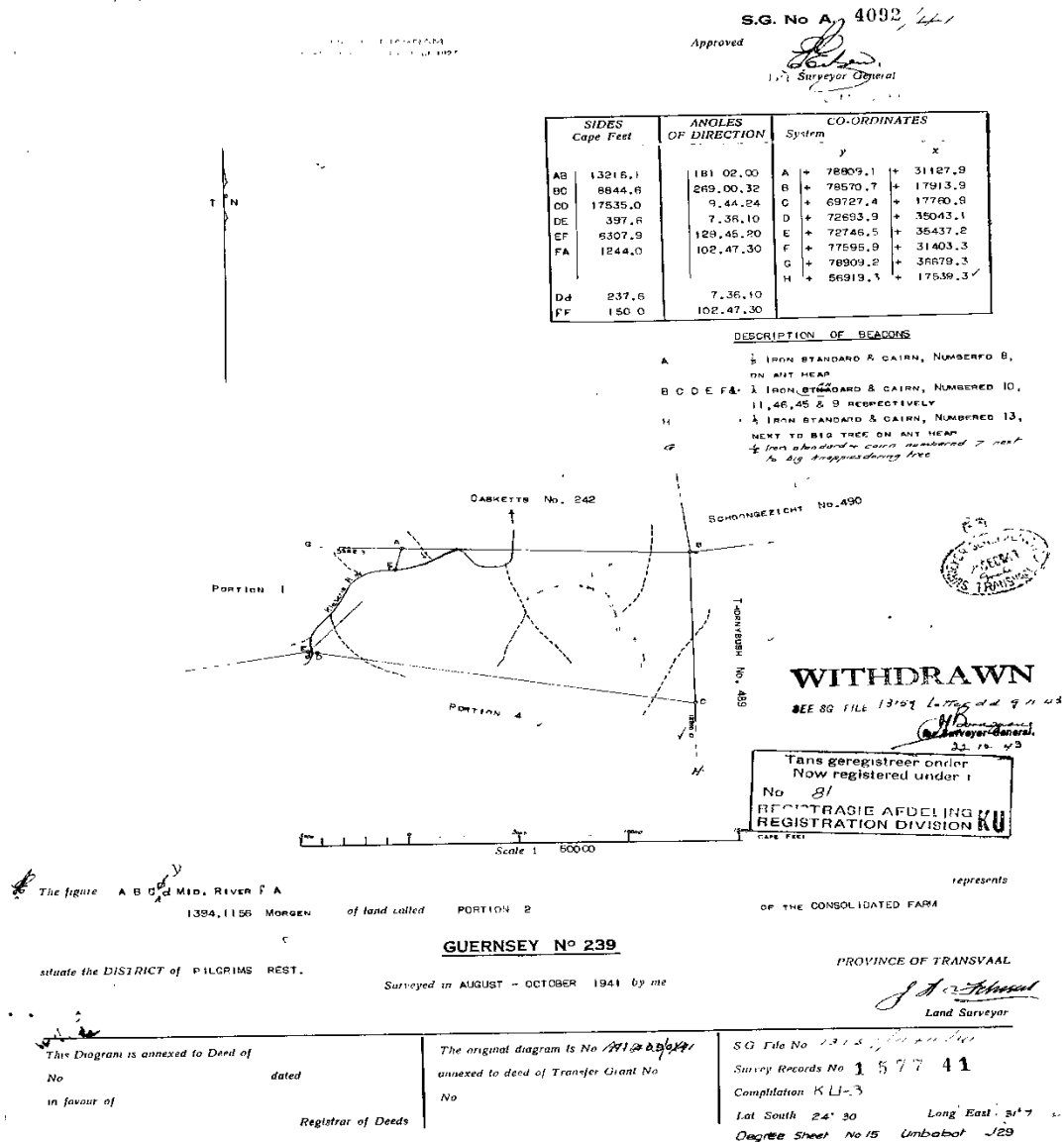


Figure 8: 1941 Map of Guernsey (CSG Document EWEX01).

Results of Assessment

During the assessment a number of Stone Age and Iron Age objects were identified in the area, although most were outside of the area that will be directly impacted by the proposed development. No historical sites or features were recorded. The dense vegetation made visibility difficult however, and there is always the possibility that sites, features or objects could have been missed during the survey. This will include unknown, low, stone packed or unmarked graves.

The demolition of a number of the existing structures at the facility are planned to make way for new ones. With none of these older than 60 years of age and with no heritage significance there should be no objection to this taking place.

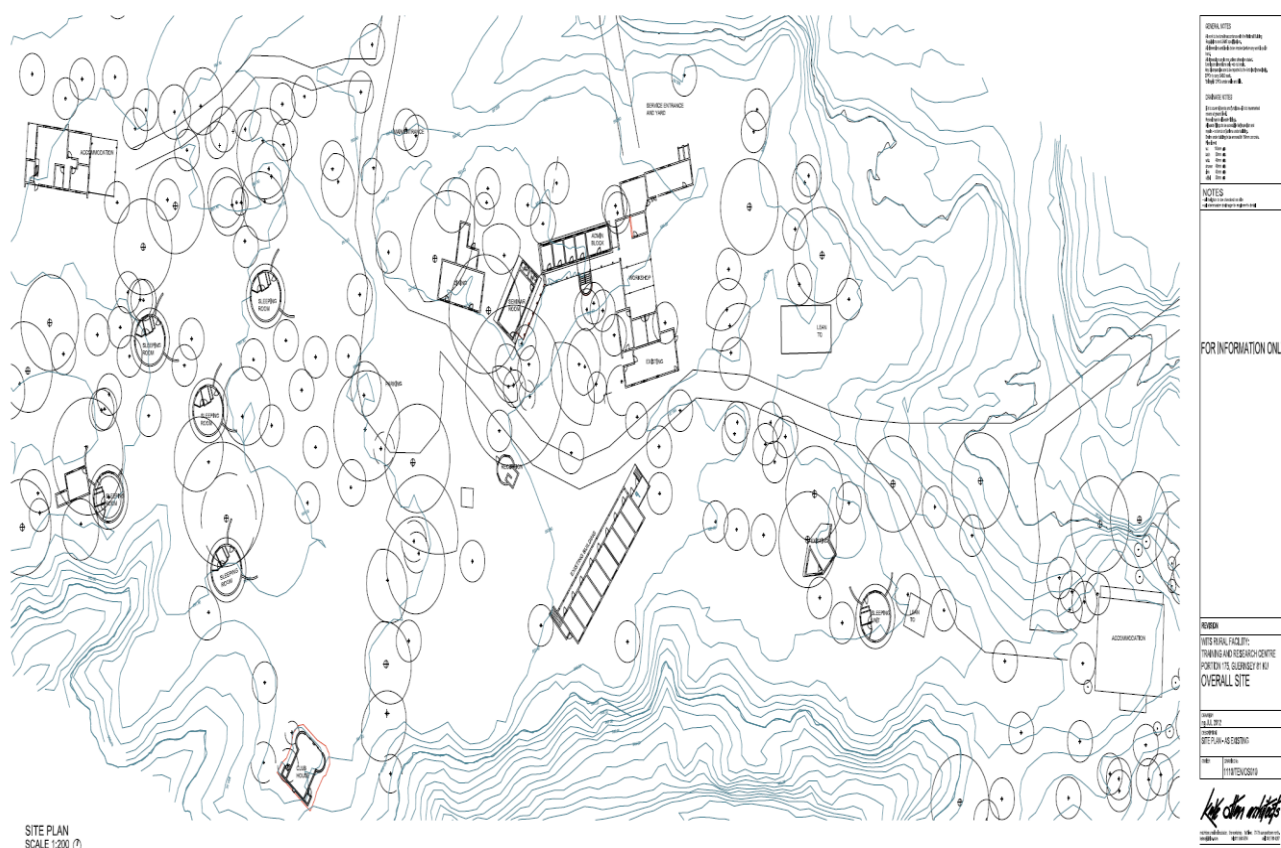


Figure 8: Existing plan of Facility (courtesy Seaton Thomson & Associates).

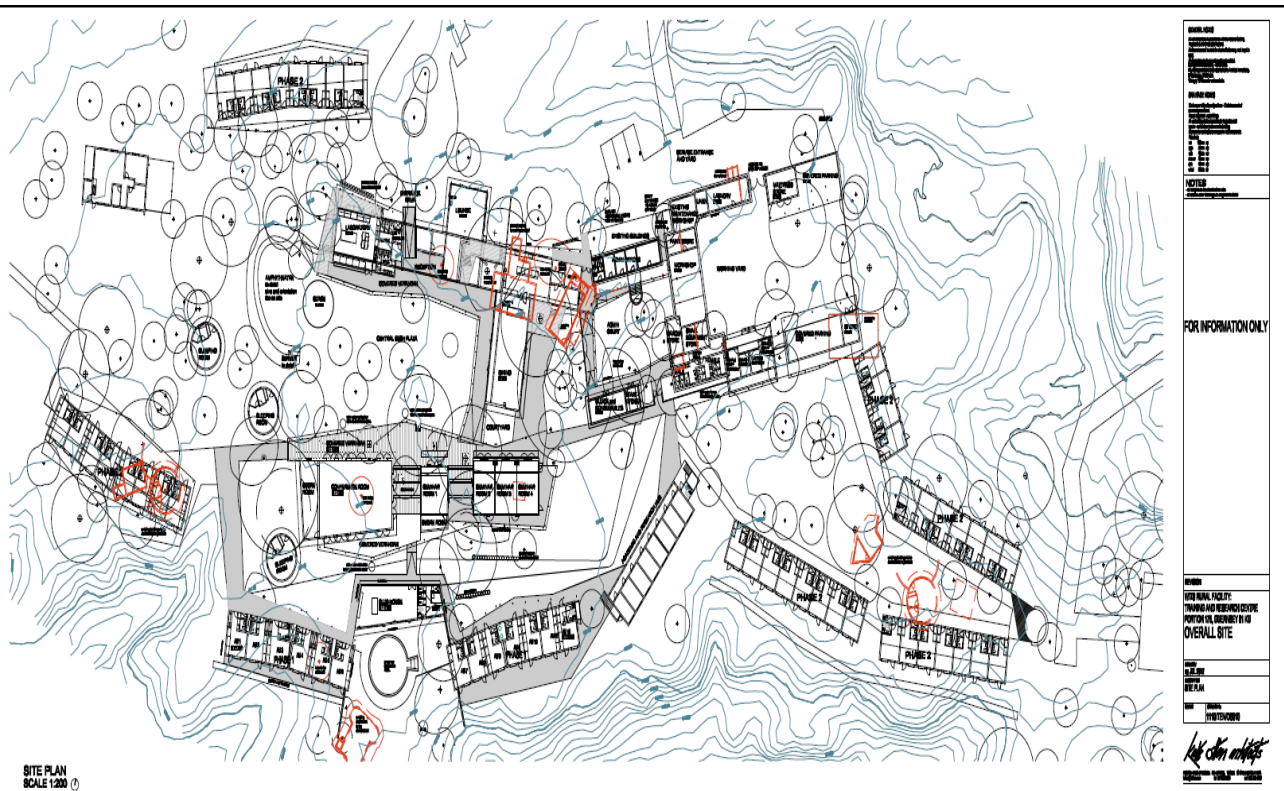




Figure 12: Swimming pool and clubhouse.



Figure 13: Current Main Office building.



Figure 13: Store rooms and other related structures.



Figure 14: Some of the rondavel accommodation.



Figure 16: Another view of some of the facility structures.



Figure 17: Typical rondavel accommodation at the main facility.



Figure 18: More recent staff housing/accommodation.

Archaeological Remains

Site 1

The first occurrence is a single, undecorated fragment of pottery found in the dry river bed flowing past the main facility. Its origin is unknown.

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.

Heritage Significance: None

Field Rating: General protection C (IV C) - Phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance).

Mitigation: None required.

Site location: S24 33 07.10 E31 05 57.70.



Figure 19: Undecorated piece of pottery in river bed.

Sites 2 & 4

These two “sites” are represented by single stone tools close to erosion areas outside of the main study area. Site 2 contained an MSA/LSA blade-flake, while Site 4 is represented by a single pebble tool that could date to ESA/MSA. It is possible that more scattered tools could be located throughout the area, especially close to the Umbabat river bed and erosion dongas.

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.

Heritage Significance: None

Field Rating: General protection C (IV C) - Phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance).

Mitigation: None required.

Site location: S24 33 06.00 E31 05 41.80 (Site 2) & S24 33 03.20 E31 05 41.3 (Site 4).



Figure 20: MSA/LSA flake-blade at Site 2.



Figure 21: ESA/MSA pebble tool at Site 4.

Sites 3, 5 & 6

These three “sites” are represented by single pieces of undecorated pottery, located close to erosion dongas. Once again no features such as huts, stone walling or ash middens were visible, although these could be present. Dating the sites and the pottery is not possible as none of the pieces have any decoration. The lack of stone walling could be indicative of the Early Iron Age, and possibly similar to the Happyland site excavated by Pelsers near Hoedspruit in 2008.

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.

Heritage Significance: None

Field Rating: General protection C (IV C) - Phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance).

Mitigation: None required.

Site location: S24 33 05.20 E31 05 41.60 (Site 3), S24 32 47.40 E31 05 42.5 (Site 5) & S24 32 48.0 E31 05 41.9 (Site 6).



Figure 22: Site 3 piece of pottery.



Figure 23: Pottery piece from Site 6.

Two other archaeologically related objects identified during the assessment of the area were lower grinding stones situated at two different locations in the garden of the Main Facility. The origin of these objects is unknown, and whether they are related to a site or sites in the area or if they were brought in from somewhere else is not known. What can be stated however is that they are typical of grinding stones used for maize (deep, birdbath, types) and could have a Later Iron Age origin.



Figure 24: The first of the two lower grinding stones at the WRF main complex.



Figure 25: The second of the lower grinding stones.

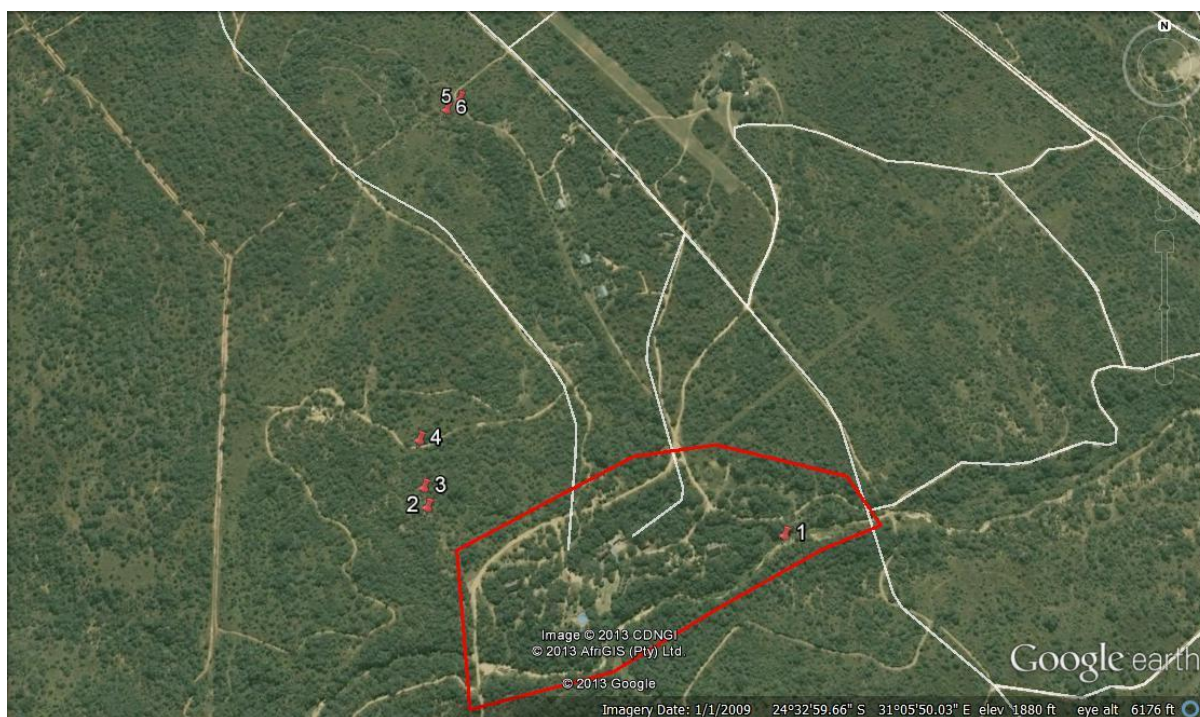


Figure 26: Aerial view of study area. Only Site 1 is located within the main study area (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2009/01/01).

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 HIA for the proposed upgrade of the existing Wits Rural Facility: Training & Research Centre, located on Portion 175 of the farm Guernsey 81KU, between Klaserie and Acornhoek in Limpopo, was conducted successfully. Besides the upgrade and construction of new buildings, some of the existing infrastructure will also be demolished. As none of these are older than 60 years of age and have no heritage significance it is recommended that the demolition can continue.

The study area is located in a typical Bushveld/Thornveld setting and in the past has not been agriculturally disturbed, and over and above the developments associated with the facility has been relatively undisturbed in the past. Dense vegetation made visibility during the assessment difficult and it is possible that heritage features (such as low stone packed or unmarked graves) could have been missed. However, a number of archaeological objects (mainly individual and scattered over the area) were recorded during the survey. This included 2 instances where stone tools were found and three with small pieces of undecorated pottery. The stone tools date to between the ESA and MSA/LSA, while dating the potsherds are more difficult as they do not have any decorations. Only one of these finds are inside of the main impact area (although in the dry river bed), with the others outside of the impact area. Two lower grinders of unknown origin are situated in the Main Facility gardens. The impact of the proposed development on any significant heritage (archaeological & historical) sites will therefore be negligible.

From a Heritage point of view it is therefore recommended that the development be allowed to continue. **The subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are however always a distinct possibility and this aspect needs to be kept in mind at all times. This could include unknown and unmarked burials. If during any**

development activities, if any sites, features and objects of a cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) nature, are exposed, an expert should be called in to investigate and suitable mitigation measures are implemented. All development in these areas should be halted until the situation had been satisfactorily resolved.

8. REFERENCES

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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.