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**REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HIA FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 5
ADDITIONAL TOURISM UNITS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK, EASTERN CAPE
PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: APAC013/74

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SUMMARY

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Delron Environmental Assessment Practitioners, on behalf of SANPARKS, to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the Proposed Construction of 5 Additional Tourism Units and Associated Infrastructure within the Mountain Zebra National Park, Eastern Cape Province. The development area is located close to existing chalets in the Main Rest Camp of the Park and is situated below hills and rocky ridges surrounding the camp.

This report is the result of the 2013 HIA. One site of archaeological nature was identified in the study area. However this site will not be directly impacted by the development. A number of other significant archaeological (rock art and others) were shown to the specialist by rangers and staff members of the Park, but these are situated in the larger geographical area. Earlier archaeological studies in the Park provide a background to the archaeology of the area.

Based on the assessment, from a Heritage perspective, the development should be allowed to continue, taking cognizance of the conclusions and recommendations put forward at the end of this report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Delron Environmental Assessment Practitioners, on behalf of SANPARKS, to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the Proposed Construction of 5 Additional Tourism Units and Associated Infrastructure within the Mountain Zebra National Park, Eastern Cape Province. The development area is located close to existing chalets in the Main Rest Camp of the Park and is situated below hills and rocky ridges surrounding the camp.

One site of archaeological nature was identified in the study area. However this site will not be directly impacted by the development. A number of other significant archaeological (rock art and others) were shown to the specialist by rangers and staff members of the Park, but these are situated in the larger geographical area. Earlier archaeological studies in the Park provide a background to the archaeology of the area.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the development area and the fieldwork focused on these. The specialist was accompanied by staff members of the Park who indicated the location for each intended chalet.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study is to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land in the Mountain Zebra National Park 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 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 was 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 the study was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of archaeological 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 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.

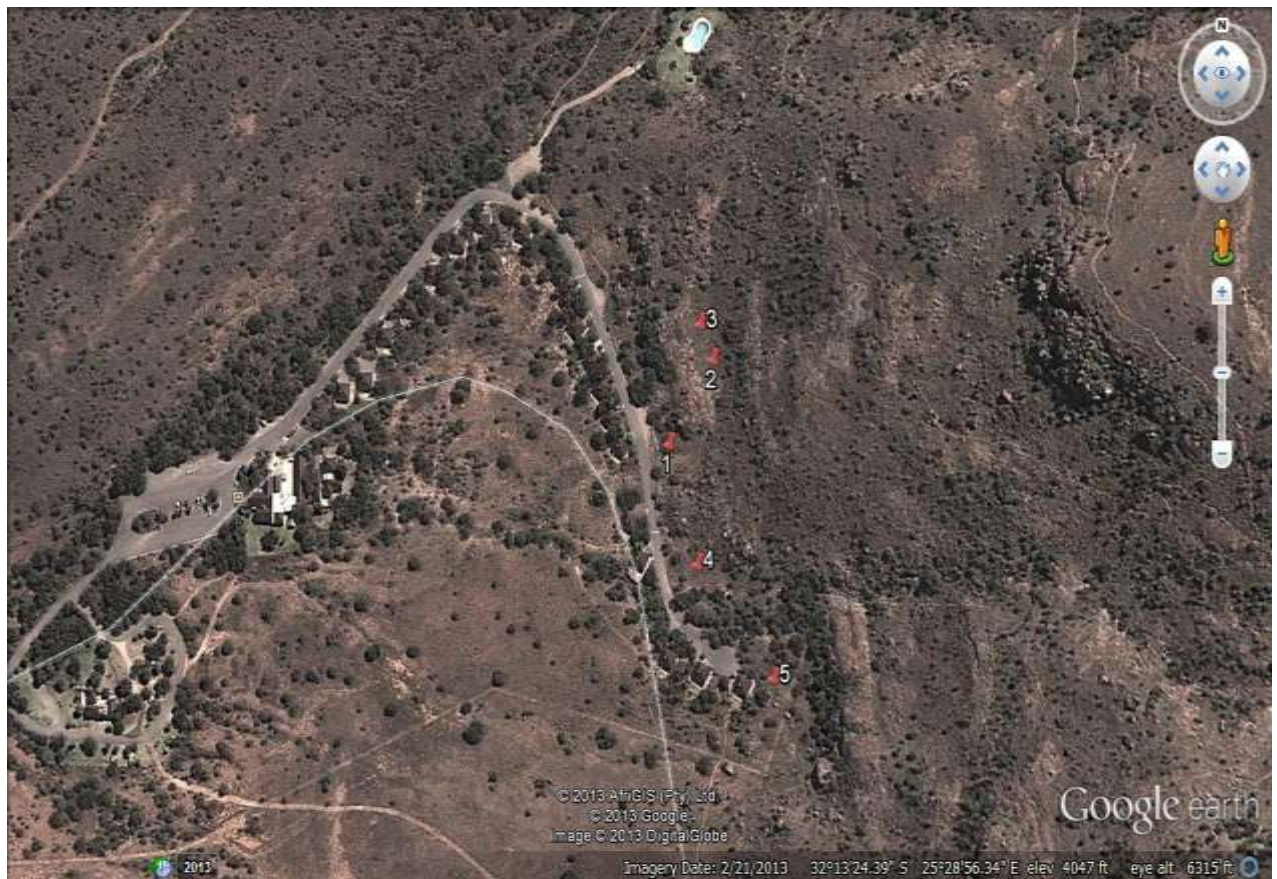
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The development and study area is located within the Mountain Zebra National Park in the Eastern Cape, and is situated close to the Main Rest Camp and existing Chalets in the camp. Five (5) new chalets with associated infrastructure are proposed. The chalets will be developed in open, flat areas behind the existing ones and below the mountains and rocky ridges surrounding the Camp. The impact of the development will be fairly minimal in an area that has been disturbed to some degree in the recent past already.

Although the general topography of the area is mountainous, the chalets are located on flat, open sections of land suitable for development purposes, on the slopes of these hills and ridges.



Figure 1: Geographical location of study area (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2013/03/04).



**Figure 2: Closer view of area showing existing Camp facilities and chalets.
The areas numbered 1 – 5 indicates the position of each new chalet
(Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2013/02/21).**



**Figure 3: View of location of Chalet 1. Note the sandy flat area
& the mountain in the background.**



**Figure 4: The location of Chalets 2 & 3.
The other chalets are located in similar settings.**



**Figure 5: A view of the general area showing the existing chalets.
The new development will be just below the area where the picture
was taken and just across the existing tar road seen here.**

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).

A number of Stone Age sites (including rock art sites) are known to occur in the area, with most of these open-air sites (scatter of stone tools) and the possibility of some of the shelters containing San rock paintings also containing archaeological deposits. These sites were recorded during a survey in the Park in 1973 (Brooker 1977), while a number were also archaeologically mapped and investigated at the time. The rock art sites visited during the 2013 survey in the Park include some of these sites, while the single site located in the development area during the 2013 survey should be interpreted with this background information in mind. The site and finds will be discussed in more detail later in the report.

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 in the area and none were identified and recorded during the field work of 2013.

The official website of SANPARKS (www.sanparks.org/parks/mountain_zebra) provides the following information on the prehistory and history of the area. ***From 14 000 to 10 000 years ago, Later Stone Age inhabitants lived in the area now proclaimed as national park. Evidence of their settlements is found along the banks of the Wilger River. There are some 30 sites with pottery and stone artifacts that have been identified through research done by the University of Stellenbosch.***

The San people left evidence of their lives about 300 years ago in at least three rock shelters containing rock art in the Park. The paintings show an antelope, baboons, a large cat - possibly a leopard or cheetah - and human figures.

During the 1800s, British soldiers created a chessboard on the top of Saltpeterskop, a 1514m high koppie in the Park. While hiding out during the Anglo-Boer War, they played chess with their fellow soldiers in the old fort in Cradock, transmitting moves by means of a mirror, which had the official purpose of communicating warning signals.

The chessboard and the names of the soldiers are etched onto a flat slab of rock at the top of Saltpeterskop. Names recorded include the 5th Lancashire Fusiliers, the Coldstream Guards and some privates, corporals and a captain.

Although individual European travelers would have moved into the general area during the late 1700s and early 1800s, an influx of white pioneer farmers took place during the Great Trek of 1836. During this year the farms De Doornkloof and Babylonsche Toren were provided to Willem van Heerden, while the farm Pretoriuskraal was given to Willem Meintjies van den Berg on the 31st of December 1836. After the death of Willem van Heerden in a road accident at Ratelshoek, his brother Hendrik Jacobus van Heerden took over possession of De Doornkloof and Babylonsche Toren. In approximately 1838 one of the first permanent farmhouses in the area was constructed, and the house presently known as Doornhoek was restored and is still used as a guesthouse in the park. The house was declared a national monument in 1986.

In 1937, 1712 hectares of land was proclaimed as the Mountain Zebra National Park. Thanks to the conservation efforts of farmers in the area, a small herd of the endangered Cape mountain zebra still survived in the area and these provided a founder population for the Park. Paul Michau donated 6 zebra and later Mr H L Lombard donated 11 zebra to the Park. The Park's Cape mountain zebra herd now numbers over 350 animals.

The Park at first expanded slowly over the years, but then received a boost with a joint public-private conservation initiative. An artist by the name of David Shepherd kick-started the initiative by donating prints of his works "Mountain Zebra: A Vision in Black and White" in 1996 and "Cheetahs" in 1998 so that money could be raised to buy surrounding farms and expand the size of the Park. SABC's 50/50 programme shared the story with viewers and encouraged them to support the project by buying prints so that the necessary funds could be raised. The response was fantastic and also caused private individuals and businesses to make donations including The Barbara Delano Foundation, WildAid, Sasol and Vesta Medicines. South African National Parks Trust matched all of the funds that were raised.

Nine surrounding farms were purchased through this process, enabling the Park to expand from 6 536 hectares to 28 412 hectares in size. Following this, black rhino, buffalo and finally cheetah could be introduced to the Park.

An archaeological survey of the Mountain Zebra National Parks was undertaken 1973 at the request of the then National Parks Board of Trustees. The aim of the survey was "to establish the potential of sites for excavation or collection of material for the possible creation of site museums" (Brooker, 1977). Thirty archaeological sites were located during the survey. These include three small rock shelters which include San rock art and 27 open sites. Most of the sites occur primarily along the river valleys where the banks are wide and flat. Scrapers indicating a Holocene age dominated the formal artefacts discovered from 22 of these sites.

An extract from Mary Brooker's paper ("The Archeology of the Mountain Zebra National Park" Koedoe 20: 77-93, 1977):

“The three small shelters are named ZP16, ZP28 and ZP29. ZP16 has no deposit but the presence of a circular scraper and artefactual waste that indicate it may have been occupied. ZP28 is a small shelter overlooking the Springbok Flats which has a small deposit with pottery and stone artefacts on the surface. ZP29 is a very small shelter and has neither deposit nor artefactual waste, although these might have been washed away by stream action. In a small niche on the overhang are two groups of ochre figures; one large antelope with three smaller antelope above (one possibly an eland) and the remains of four animals below. At the lower left-hand is a frieze in black including two human figures, an antelope, a large cat (leopard?) and three baboons one of which is carrying its young on its back. To the east of these are other paintings fairly high up on a rock face but except for two “sitting buck” these were too faded to record.”

Results of the Fieldwork

Only one site was identified and recorded during the survey of the development area, and consisted of an open-air scatter of stone tools and flakes (of low density) close to a rocky outcrop and boulders a few meters higher up from the position of Chalet No.4. A small stream/erosion donga is situated close by. The material found includes waste flakes and possible scrapers and blades. These artifacts are similar to the ones recorded by Brooker in 1973 in the Park (Brooker 1977: 82-92).

The site will not be impacted directly by the proposed development, and therefore no mitigation is recommended. However, should any artifacts be exposed during the development of the Chalet then a specialist should be called in to investigate. This would also be applicable to the work done on the other 4 chalets.

GPS Location: S32. 13.441 E25 28.980

Cultural Significance: Low

Heritage Significance: None

Field Ratings: General protection C (IV C): Phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording.

Mitigation: None required. Should any cultural material or deposit be exposed on the sites where the chalets will be developed then an expert should be called in to investigate.

During the site visit the heritage specialist was taken to view a number of rock art sites in the Park by officials and field guides. Although these sites will not be impacted by any development actions, the material found at these sites (stone tools) are similar to those found on the site near the development footprint. These sites will not be discussed in detail and was only documented photographically. A number of photographs of these sites and the paintings located here are included in this report as part of the background information on the archaeology of the area. One of these sites was included in the 1973 survey of the area (Brooker 1977: 79-81).



Figure 6: Location of the stone tools.



Figure 7: Some of the stone tools and flakes found on the site.



Figure 8: Location of the stone age scatter (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2013/02/21).



Figure 9: One of the rock paintings found at the first rock art site.



Figure 10: A human figurine at the second site.



Figure 11: Animal figurines at the third site.

This site was also recorded during the 1973 survey in the park

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To conclude it is possible to say that the Phase HIA for the Proposed Construction of 5 Additional Tourism Units and Associated Infrastructure within the Mountain Zebra National Park, Eastern Cape Province was conducted successfully. The development is located within the area of the Main Camp of the Park and situated close to existing chalets in the camp. All the chalet sites are on open, flat areas on the footslopes of the mountains surrounding the camp. The impact of these developments will be minimal and only 1 site (with a low density scatter of stone tools and flakes) were recorded close to Chalet No.4. The chalet development will however not impact directly on the site. The stone tools found at the site is similar to

those recorded in the Park during a 1973 survey and archaeological survey. No other sites or features were identified. A number of rock art sites were visited during the visit, but these are located in areas far from the proposed development.

Taking the above into consideration the following is recommended:

1. should any cultural material, such as stone tools, be uncovered during the development of Chalet No.4 or any of the other sites then an expert should be called in to investigate.

Finally, from a cultural heritage point of view the development should be allowed to continue taking heed of the above. The subterranean presence of archaeological or historical sites, features or objects is always a possibility. This could include unknown and unmarked burial pits. Should any be uncovered during the development process and archaeologist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

8. REFERENCES

Aerial views of study area location, position of individual chalets and site distribution:
Google Earth 2013 – Imagery dates 2013/02/21 7 2013/03/04

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Brooker, M. 1977. **The Archaeology of the Mountain Zebra Park**. Koedoe, Vol.20. p.77-93. 1977.

Republic of South Africa. 1999. **National Heritage Resources Act** (No 25 of 1999). Pretoria: the Government Printer.

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

SANPARK Official Website: www.sanparks.org/parks/mountain_zebra

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.