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**PHASE 1 HIA REPORT RELATED TO THE
PROPOSED TOWNSHIP FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 77, ERF
1689, ERF 169, AND THE REMAINDER OF BOTSHABELO 826
IN THE MANGAUNG METRO MUNICIPALITY OF THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.**

For:

***Mang Geo Enviro Services
6 Eros Road
Faerie Glen, Pretoria
0004***

REPORT: **APAC022/09**

by:

A.J. Pelsler

***Assisted by Me. A.M. Matabane
Reach Archaeology***

Accredited member of ASAPA

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**P.O.BOX 73703
LYNNWOOD RIDGE
0040**

Tel: 083 459 3091

Fax: 086 695 7247

Email: apac.heritage@gmail.com

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Clients & Developers should not continue with any development actions until SAHRA or one of its subsidiary bodies has provided final comments on this report. Submitting the report to SAHRA is the responsibility of the Client unless required of the Heritage Specialist as part of their appointment and Terms of Reference.

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SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Mang Geo Enviro Services to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed township development located on Erven 77, 1689 and 1690 and the remainder of farm Botshabelo 826 situated in the Mangaung Municipality of the Free State Province.

Background research indicated that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known cultural heritage resources (archaeological and/or historical) in the specific study and proposed development areas. The field based assessment similarly did not identify any sites, features or material of cultural heritage origin or significance in the study & development area.

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Mang Geo Enviro Services to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed township development located on Erven 77, 1689 and 1690 and the remainder of farm Botshabelo 826 situated in the Mangaung Municipality of the Free State Province.

Background research indicated that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known cultural heritage resources (archaeological and/or historical) in the specific study and proposed development areas. The field based assessment similarly did not identify any sites, features or material of cultural heritage origin or significance in the study & development area.

The client indicated the location and footprint of the proposed township development and the study focused on these and the larger geographical region in which they are situated. The field based assessment was conducted by Reach Archaeology on behalf of APAC cc, and the results of this assessment are contained in a report that will be submitted with this report as a separate document.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two Acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the 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 paleontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, 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 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 paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological 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 paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological 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)**.

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

4.3. Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4. Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed new Botshabelo-K Township Development is located on Erven 77, 1689 and 1690 and the remainder of farm Botshabelo 826 situated in the Mangaung Municipality of the Free State Province.

The proposed development will involve clearing and preparing an area of approximately 86.06 hectares for the following: 1292 Residential stands; 2 Educational areas; 1 Public open space (sports field) and associated streets and services. The study and proposed development area is surrounded by already established urban residential and related developments. In the past the area would also have been utilized for agricultural activities and as a result the original natural and historical landscape would have been extensively impacted and altered. If any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material existed here in the past it would more than likely have been disturbed or destroyed in recent years.

For a detailed description and discussion on the topography, landscape and on-field situation see Appendix F – Reach Archaeology Report.

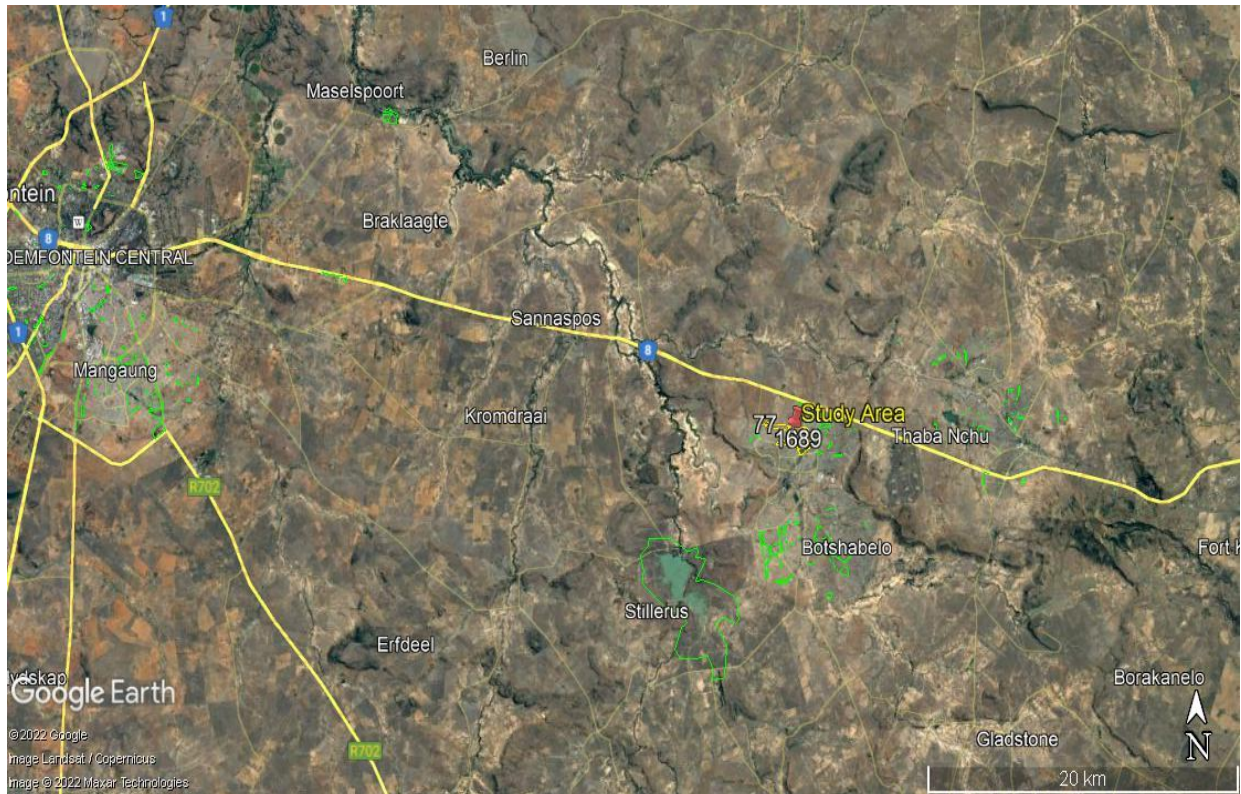


Figure 1: General Location of study area (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 2: Closer view of study & proposed development area footprint (Google Earth 2022).

6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

- Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago
- Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago
- Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

Information as to the Stone Age in this area is very limited, probably due to a lack of research in the area. At Florisbad and Erfkroon some Early Stone Age sites were identified. At the latter Middle Stone Age material was also found. Rock engravings were also found between the Vaal and Wilge Rivers, to the north-west of the project area (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

According to Van Schalkwyk (2014) only some chance finds of tools as surface material, are known especially in the region of rivers. These are mostly informal tools and flakes dating to the Middle Stone Age. However, these are mostly located in the vicinity of rivers, such as

the Doring Spruit north of Kroonstad and the Vals River south of Kroonstad and the Sand River to the south of Ventersburg. Many Early Stone Age sites are known from the area around the Vaal River, far towards the north of the study area. In the Vredefort Dome, to the north-west of the project area, scattered finds of Middle and Late Stone Age tools have been recorded and at Florisbad and Voigtspost Late Stone Age material was uncovered. Rock art are also known from the Drakensberg towards the east of the surveyed area. These are usually associated with the Late Stone Age. This phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people and many San sites are associated with rock art (Van Vollenhoven 2016: 22).

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.

The archaeological footprint in the region is primarily dominated by Late Iron Age stone wall complexes. Stone enclosures found on and around dolerite koppies along the river valley between Winburg and Bethlehem, exhibit telltale signs of basic structural units including huts, large enclosures, pieces of walling and stone circles related to Late Iron Age settlements in the area. These sites were occupied from as early as the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and represent a system that can be broadly attributed to groups ancestral to the Sotho-speaking people of today. Extensive Iron Age settlements have been recorded previously between Paul Roux and Winburg at Three Sisters, Palmietfontein, Monte Carlo, La Rochelle, Leeukop, Vaalbank, Petra, Erfstuk, Allemanskraaldam, Fraai Uitzicht and the Allemanskraal Dam at the Willem Pretorius Nature Reserve (Palaeo Field Services 2019: p.5).

The occupation of the larger geographical area (including the study area) did not start much before the 1500s. This resulted from the fact that 16th century the climate become warmer and wetter, creating condition that allowed Late Iron Age (LIA) farmers to occupy areas previously unsuitable, for example the Witwatersrand and the treeless, windswept plains of the Free State and the Mpumalanga Highveld. A large number of Late Iron Age sites have previously been identified in the Vredefort Dome area, which lies to the north-west of the surveyed area (Pelser 2005). Huffman (2007) indicates that Late Iron Age people lived here between AD 1450 and 1650 and again between AD 1700 and 1840. Late Iron Ages sites are also known from Winburg and Platberg to the north-west of the surveyed area. During a

survey done by Maggs (1976) many Late Iron Age sites were also identified in the broader geographical area (Van Vollenhoven 2016: 23).

The historical period started with the first people that were able to read and write moving into the larger area (Europeans) including the Voortrekkers during the Great Trek, farmers, hunters & travellers and missionary groups.

In the northern Free State the historic period started with the arrival, in the late 18th century by Korana raiders in the area. Armed Qriqua and Korana raiders on horseback were active in the Northern Cape and Orange Free State by about 1790. The Xhosa were raiding across the Orange River about 1805. During the Difaquane, Moroka II, chief of the Boo-Seleka section of the Barolong tribe, migrated to the eastern Free State in 1833. They settled at Thaba Nchu. Early white travelers also moved through this area. The first was the Smith expedition in 1835, followed by WC Harris in 1836 and Krebs in 1838 (Bergh 1999: 13). During the Great Trek (approximately 1835-1838) Thaba Nchu was a well-known gathering place for the different groups (Bergh 1999: 14).

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) both Boer and British forces moved through this area. A few skirmishes also took place here, including one on 30 April 1900 (Bergh 1999: 51) and the Battle of Sannaspos on 31 March 1900. It was at this battle that the famous General CR de Wet made name for himself as a military strategist. The British had a garrison at Thaba Nchu and a camp at Sannaspos. These were attacked by the Boers and resulted in the capture of the Bloemfontein water works. This contributed to a shortage of water in Bloemfontein where the British was stationed at the time and delayed the British forces in their aim to capture Pretoria. In 1901 the British implemented concentration camps for black people. One of these was at Thaba Nchu (Van Vollenhoven 2016: 24).

Information on Botshabelo from Wikipedia

“Botshabelo, meaning "a place of refuge", is a large township set up in 1979 by the then apartheid government. It is located 45 km east of Bloemfontein in the present-day Free State province of South Africa. Botshabelo is now the largest township in the Free State and the second largest township in South Africa after Soweto. As many people moved away from the farms in the Free State, they looked for places to stay in the region of Thaba Nchu, another homeland under the old Bophutatswana government. The policy governing Bophutatswana at the time clearly stated that Bophutatswana belongs to those who are of Tswana tribe. As a result, all other tribes, mainly Sotho and Xhosa, were housed at a squatter camp named “Kromdraai”. Kromdraai was initiated by a man who was only referred to as "Khoza". He was selling a stand for only 50 cents around 1976.

Later on the government of Bophutatswana started to strongly condemn the development of that area and worked hard through their police force during the day and night, striving to dispatch everybody living in the region and who is not a Tswana. As the pressure mounted for the people of Kromdraai, Khoza fled and he was no longer to be seen. In 1979, the then Prime Minister of QwaQwa, Kenneth Mopeli together with the apartheid government found a place for all the people of Kromdraai at a farm called Onverwacht. All the people who were

not Tswana started to move to Onverwacht for free, and later on when they started to settle in the area paid R80.00 for a stand. Late in 1980 to early 1981 the name Onverwacht started to disappear and people started to call their place by the name of Botshabelo, this name given by Julius Nkoko”.

During a 2016 Phase 1 HIA for the establishment of the Botshabelo West Township, Van Vollenhoven recorded a number of LIA stone-walled enclosures, as well as some historical walling and sites in the area (2016: 26-37). No sites were however found during the recent March 2022 field assessment for the Botshabelo-K township development.

Results of the March 2022 field assessment

The results of the field assessment will not be discussed here. It will be provided as a separate report to the client and SAHRA for commenting purposes.

However, based on the field assessment it can be concluded that the proposed township development located on Erven 77, 1689 and 1690 and the remainder of farm Botshabelo 826 situated in the Mangaung Municipality of the Free State Province, should be allowed to continue taking into consideration the various recommendations provided in the report.

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

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Mang Geo Enviro Services to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed township development located on Erven 77, 1689 and 1690 and the remainder of farm Botshabelo 826 situated in the Mangaung Municipality of the Free State Province.

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A 2016 Phase 1 HIA for the establishment of the Botshabelo West Township by Van Vollenhoven identified a number of LIA and historical walling and sites in the area. No sites were however found during the recent March 2022 field assessment for the Botshabelo-K township development.

Although all efforts are made to cover a total area during any assessment and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. This will include low stone-packed or unmarked graves. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward. The subterranean nature of archaeological and/or historical resources should also always be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

Finally, from a Cultural Heritage perspective it is therefore recommended that the proposed township development on Erven 77, 1689 and 1690 and the remainder of farm Botshabelo 826 situated in the Mangaung Municipality of the Free State Province should be allowed to continue taking into consideration the various recommendations provided in the Field Report.

8. REFERENCES

General and Closer Views of study area location and development footprint: Google Earth 2022.

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www.wikipedia.org

APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B: DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

APPENDIX D: PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – Older than 60 years

Archaeology, paleontology 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.