

Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

**PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
ZEERUST CHICKEN ABBATOIR
IN ZEERUST, NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

Project Number: 505227

For:

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REPORT: APAC014/04

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January 2014

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SUMMARY

A Pelsers Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Strategic Environmental Focus to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the development of the new Zeerust Chicken Abattoir in the town of Zeerust in the Northwest Province. The study area is located in the vicinity of an existing abattoir and in an area already disturbed and developed from an industrial and commercial point of view to a large degree. A fairly small area of an open plot within this developed zone has been earmarked for development purposes.

This report is the result of the 2014 Heritage Impact Assessment. No sites, features or objects of any cultural (archaeological or historical) origin or significance were found during the assessment of the area. Background research did however indicate the presence of cultural heritage sites in the larger area in and close to Zeerust.

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Pelsers Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Strategic Environmental Focus to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the development of the new Zeerust Chicken Abattoir in the town of Zeerust in the Northwest Province. The study area is located in close proximity to an existing abattoir and in an area already disturbed and developed from an industrial and commercial point of view to a large degree. A fairly small area of an open plot within this developed zone has been earmarked for development purposes.

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

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study were 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 Zeerust 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; and
5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

3.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites

- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the

standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

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 assessments, 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 detailed photographs were 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 in Zeerust Town on an open plot of land surrounded by light industrial and other commercial developments. It is situated between Klip street(to the north), Collins street(to the west), Vos street(to the east) and Boom street (to the south).

The area is relatively flat and open with a low rocky ridge situated on it. Some informal dumping of refuse and building rubble does occur here. From a visibility point of view the area is not covered by dense grass and tree cover.

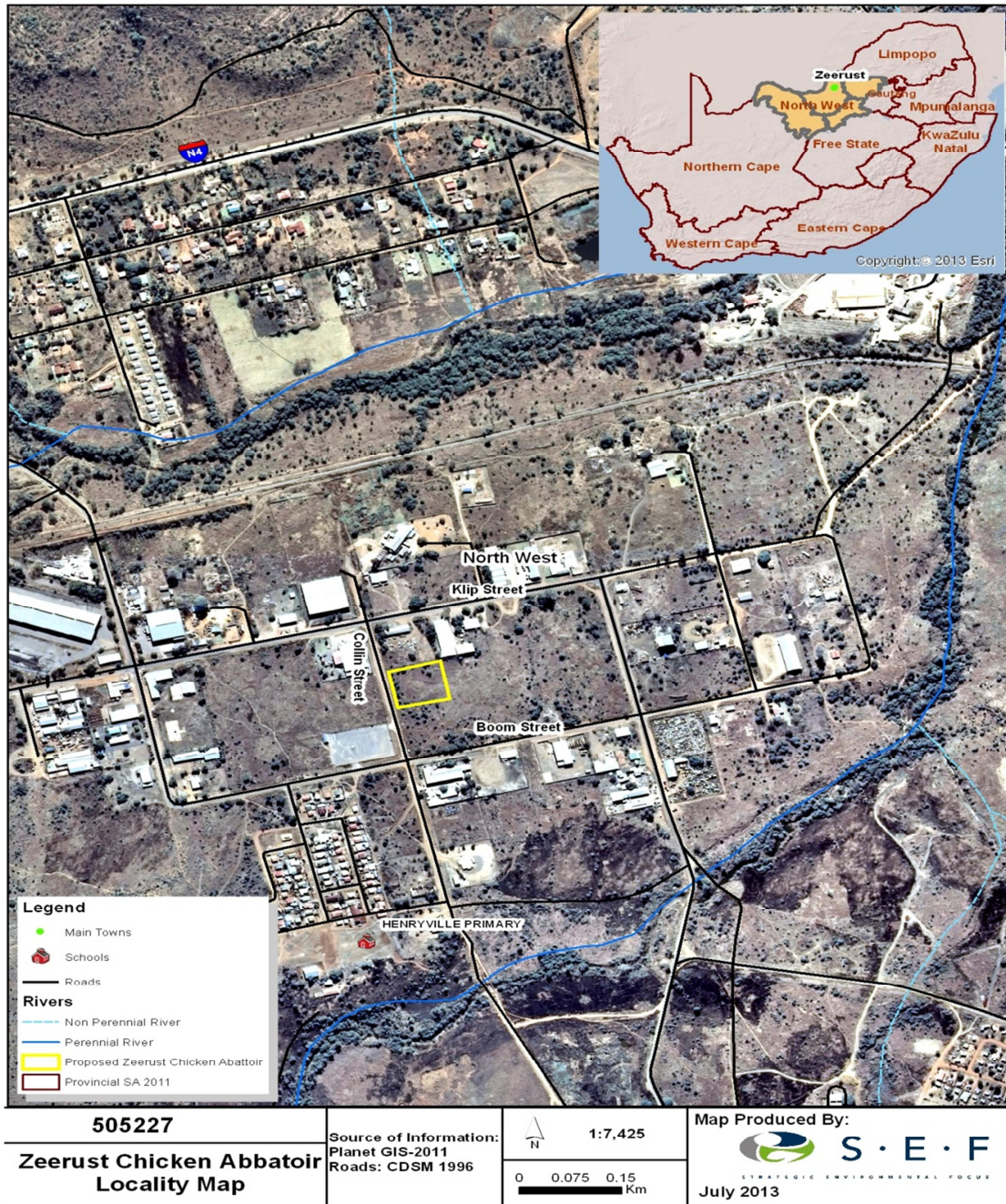


Figure 1: Location map provided by SEF.

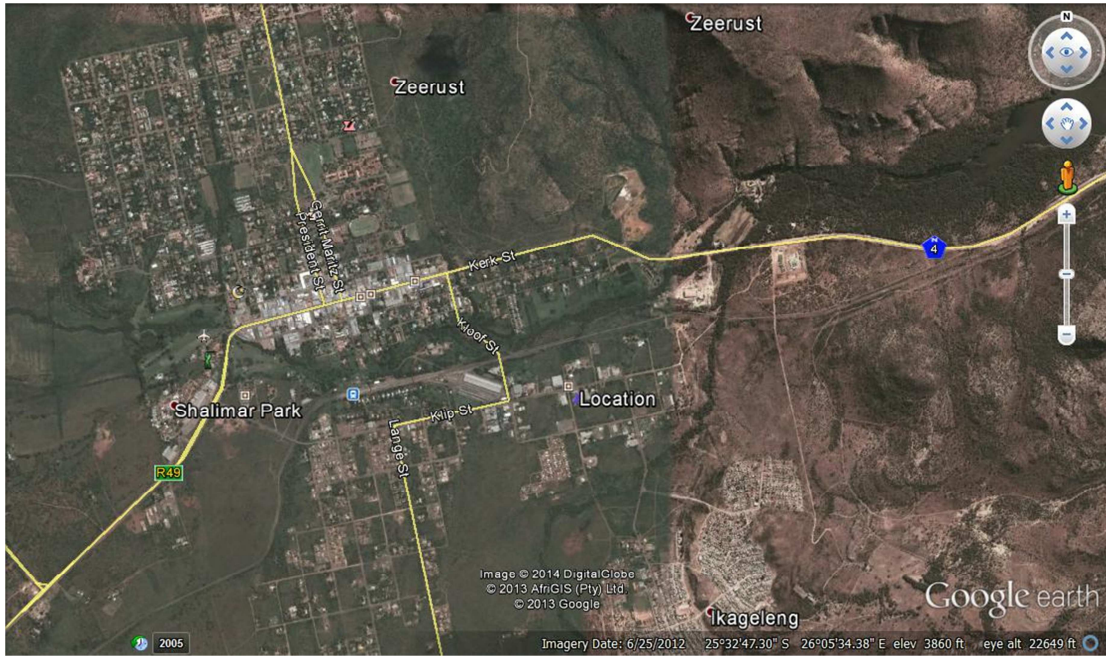


Figure 2: Aerial view of general location (Google Earth 2014 – Image date 2012/06/25).

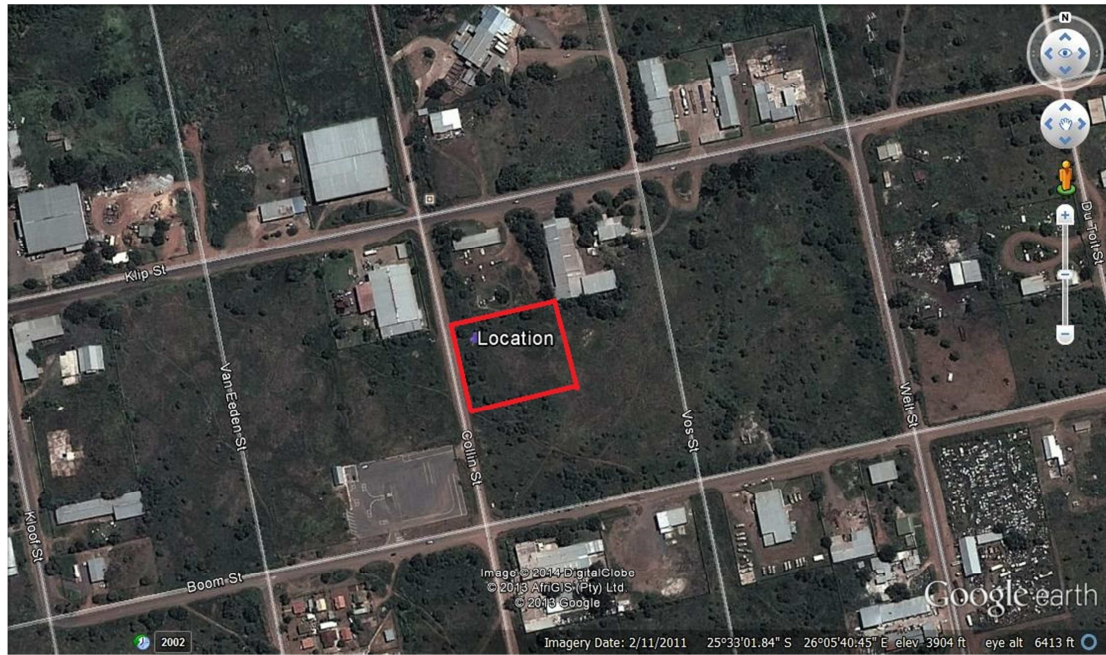


Figure 3: Closer view of location and study area (Google Earth 2014 – Image date 2011/02/11).



Figure 4: One view of the area taken from the west (Collins street) to the eastern boundary.



Figure 5: Another view showing the low rocky ridge & bordering industrial developments.



Figure 6: A view of the development area taken towards the south & showing the rocky ridge.



Figure 7: Some of the dumped building rubble located 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 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).

Although there are no known Stone Age sites in the area, there are some rock art (engravings) sites located in the larger geographical area a few kilometers west of Zeerust and near Groot Marico to the east of Zeerust (Bergh 1999: 5). A number of individual MSA/LSA stone tools were also identified in the area of Zeerust during a recent assessment by the author (Pelser 2013: 17).

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.

In a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west there are many known Iron Age sites (Bergh 1999: 7-8). These all belong to the Later Iron Age (Bergh 1999:8-9). No EIA sites are known to occur in the area (Bergh 1999: 6). By the end of the 18th century the BaHurutshe stone walled sites (capitals) were located at Kaditshwene and Tshwenyane north of Zeerust (Bergh 1999: 106). Prof. J. Boeyens of UNISA did extensive archaeological research on this and other sites in the region (2003). A number of Late Iron Age stone walled sites and features were also located during a recent assessment in the Zeerust area by the author (Pelser 2013: 15-16; 18-20).

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. Early travelers (including missionaries, hunters and adventurers) moved through this part of the Northwest Province. This included Cambell I in 1820, Robert Schoon and William McLuckie in 1829, David Hume in 1830, Dr. Andrew Smith in 1835 and Cornwallis Harris in 1836 (Bergh 1999: 12, 13). They were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after that.

Results of the Fieldwork

No sites, features or any objects of cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) were identified during the assessment of the area. The development footprint is relatively small as well, but even in the larger area no evidence was found. If any did exist here in the past it might have been destroyed or disturbed to a large degree during the recent past.

The development can therefore continue taking heed of the recommendations put forward in the next section.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is possible to say that the Phase 1 HIA for the proposed development of the Zeerust Chicken Abattoir was conducted successfully. The study area is located in Zeerust and is surrounded by various other existing light industrial and commercial developments. It is situated on an open plot and covers a relatively small footprint. No sites, features or objects of cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) origin or significance were identified during the survey.

From a Heritage point of view the development should therefore be allowed to continue.

However, 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 a heritage specialist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

8. REFERENCES

Location Map: Provided by Strategic Environmental Focus

Aerial views of study area location: Google Earth 2014 – Imagery dates: 2011/02/11 & 2012/06/25.

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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.