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**A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES  
IDENTIFIED AT THE OVERLOOKED COLLIERY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

For:

***Cabanga Concepts***

REPORT: **AE01365V**

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**November 2013**

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## SUMMARY

This document entails a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for two cultural heritage sites identified at the proposed Overlooked Colliery. This is close to Bethal in the Mpumalanga Province. It is important to note that this is not a restoration plan, although certain aspects regarding the restoration of the buildings and sites may receive attention.

The methodology and terminology used with regards to management plans are explained and the legal framework stated. International conventions regarding the protection of cultural resources are also cited. These include the Burra Charter, the Venice Charter and the Conservation plan of Kerr. These aspects build up to the stating of the conservation plan for the site.

Guidelines and principles for the management of the sites are given throughout the document. These principles give a clear way forward in this regard and are the basic conservation and preservation principles to be used in managing the cultural resources. The recommendations made in the document are done within the parameters of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

In conclusion some recommendations are given. The management plan is an open document meaning that it should be adapted and reassessed from time to time. A continuation period of at least five years is given. However any developments done before the expiry of the five year period should be used to re-evaluate the impact on cultural resources and to make the necessary adaptations to the document. The five year period ends in 2018.

In line with the recommendations of the Phase I report, it is still felt that the heritage value of the buildings are not high enough to keep conserving it. The mine indicated that they will use it temporarily as offices, but that they would eventually like to demolish it in order to mine the area. Apart from the post office building, this may be allowed, but only after receiving a permit from the Mpumalanga PHRA.

## **CONTINUATION STRATEGY**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN IS AN OPEN DOCUMENT. ACCORDINGLY IT CAN BE CHANGED CONSTANTLY WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.**

**THIS PARTICULAR MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOULD BE RELOOKED AT LEAST EVERY FIVE YEARS AND ALSO WHENEVER A SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT IS PLANNED (WHICHOVER COMES FIRST). IN THE LATTER CASE THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THOSE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE EFFECTED AREA SHOULD BE RELOOKED AT. HOWEVER SUCH A DEVELOPMENT MAY HAVE A SECONDARY IMPACT ON OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES AND THIS SHOULD ALSO BE ASSESSED.**

**THE PLAN SHOULD THEN BE ADAPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE PLANS AND ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TIME THAT LAPSED UP TO THAT PARTICULAR POINT IN TIME. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WERE COLLECTED (FOR INSTANCE FROM RESEARCH) SHOULD ALSO BE USED TO RE-EVALUTE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES.**

**THIS CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (CMP) SHOULD AT LEAST BE RE-EVALUATED IN THE YEAR 2018.**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

On 1 April 2000 the National Heritage Resources Act (no 25 of 1999) came into effect. In the second chapter of this act the different categories of heritage resources are listed. Emphasis is placed on the cultural significance of heritage resources and it is stated that this significance should be established as it determines the means of conservation and preservation of such a site. Cultural heritage resources should then also be provided with a Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

Basic principles that need to be adhered to are discussed in this document. The management plan is the result of these processes and the conventions for the sustainable preservation, conservation and management of such cultural resources.

Definitions of the terms used in this document are found in Appendix A. The cultural heritage process usually goes through three steps. The survey of cultural heritage resources is called a Phase 1 investigation. During this process possible impacts are identified and mitigation measures lined out (Van Vollenhoven 1998: 54). This is sometimes followed by a Phase 2 investigation.

A Phase 2 investigation is a detailed investigation of a specific cultural resource. This usually entails detailed documentation and research (Van Vollenhoven 1998: 49-52). A management plan is sometimes called Phase 3. However the three steps do not necessarily follow each other. For instance, sometimes after the phase 1 study, a management plan is drawn up without doing detailed research. This is something that can be done at a later stage and, if needed the management plan can be adapted after such a study (Van Vollenhoven 1998: 54).

The basic principles for Cultural Resources Management (CRM) as outlined by Van Vollenhoven (2002: 10-13) were also applied in this management plan. These refer inter alia to the attention given to heritage legislation, the evaluation of resources by trained professionals and community participation.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

During a survey done at the proposed Overlooked Colliery in March 2013 (see Van Vollenhoven 2013) two sites with heritage significance have been identified. The first of these is a grave yard and the second a farm yard consisting of different buildings.

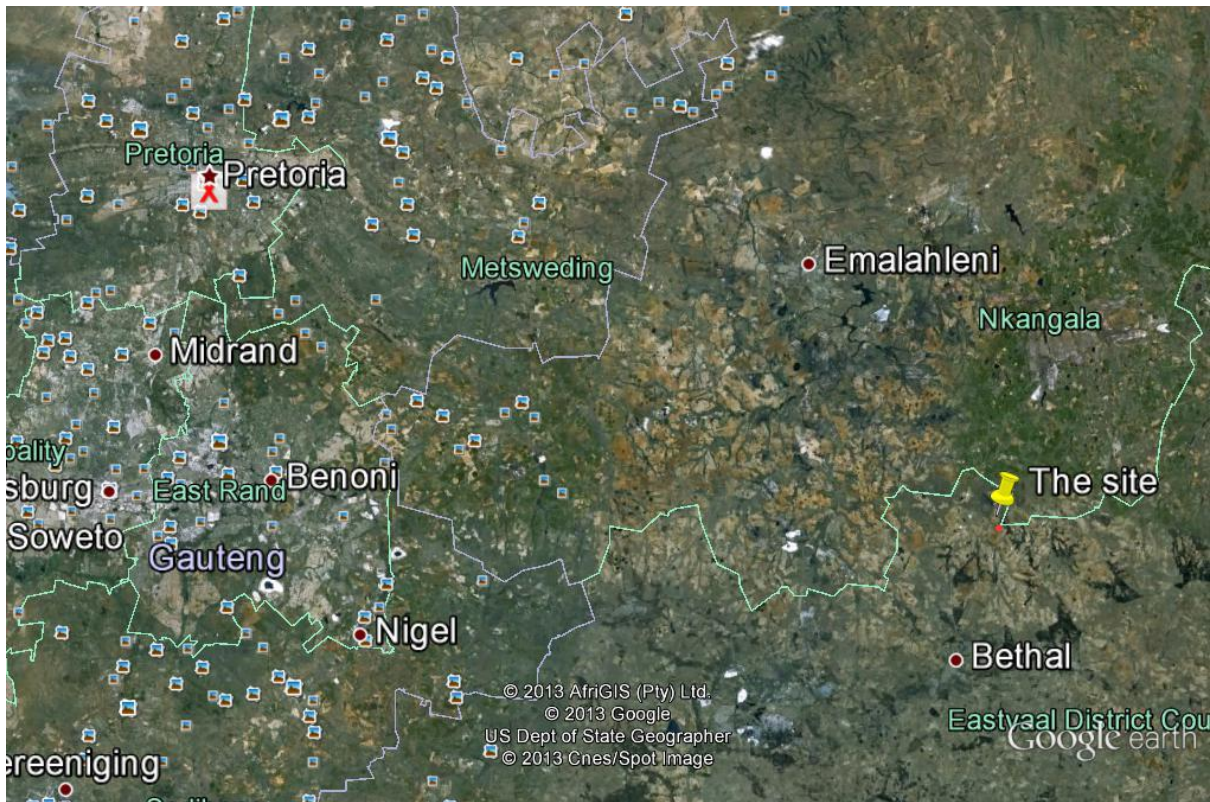
The graves are within the area that will be mined by underground mining methods. It is therefore foreseen that the impact on the site will only be indirect and therefore the site needs to be preserved and conserved.

The farm yard is in an area to be directly impacted on by opencast mining methods. At least one of the four buildings is seen as being of more than ordinary heritage importance and therefore SAHRA also requested a CMP to be compiled.

It is the responsibility of the land owner to conserve and protect cultural heritage sites and keep it in tact. Archaetos cc was therefore requested by Cabanga Concepts to write a CMP for these sites. By doing the necessary detailed documentation for the sites, more information also became available and therefore a more accurate decision on the possible protection or demolition of these sites could be made.

### 3. LOCATION

The Overlooked Colliery is located on portion 5, 17 and the remainder of the farm Halfgewonnen190 IS and a portion of portion 0 of the farm Forzando 592 IS. This is situated between Bethal and Hendrina in the Mpumalanga Province (Figure 1-4).



**Figure 1 Location of the site in the Mpumalanga Province.**



**Figure 2 Location of the site in relation to the town of Hendrina and Bethal.**



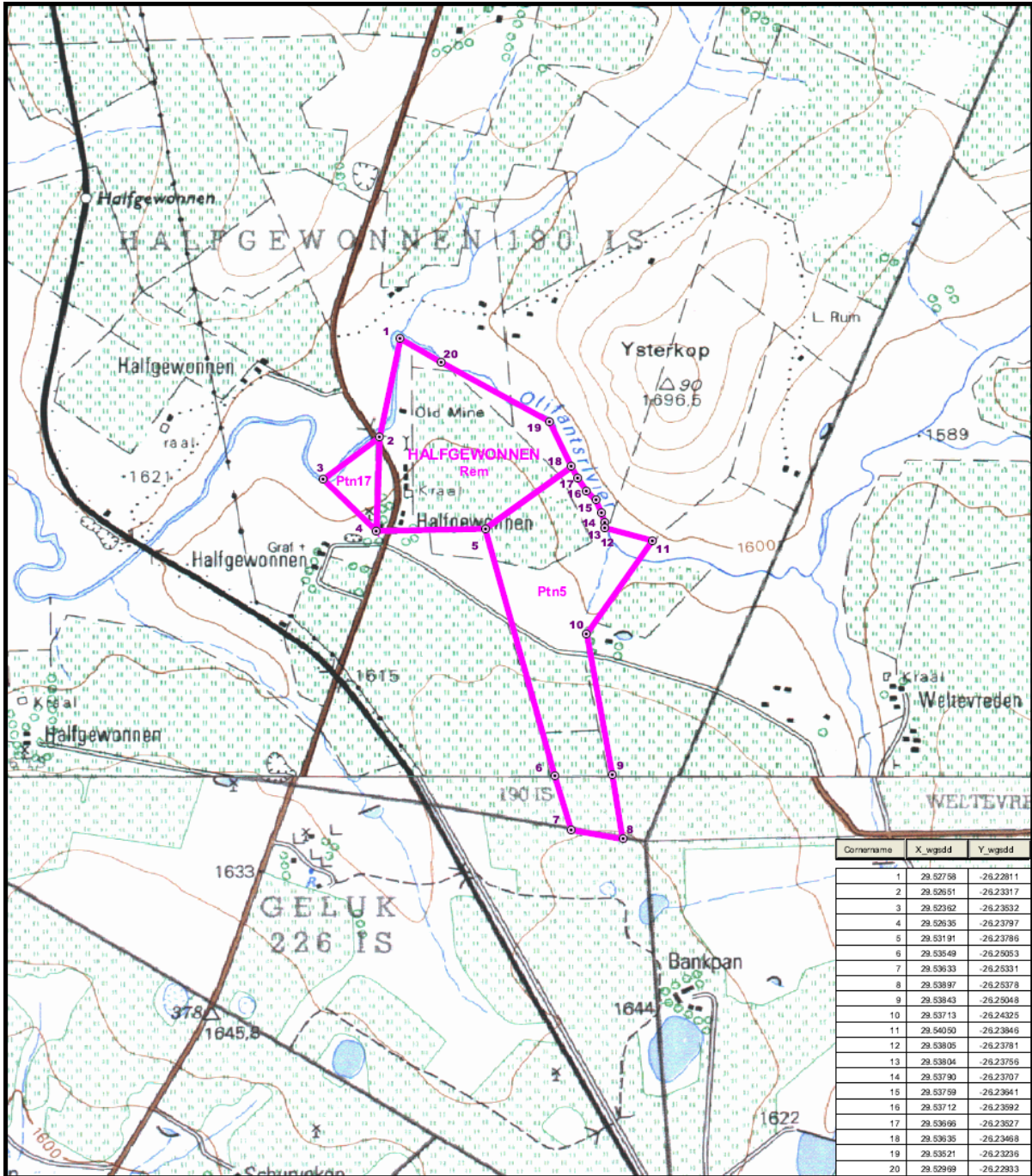


Figure 3 Location of the area that will be affected by the mining (in purple).

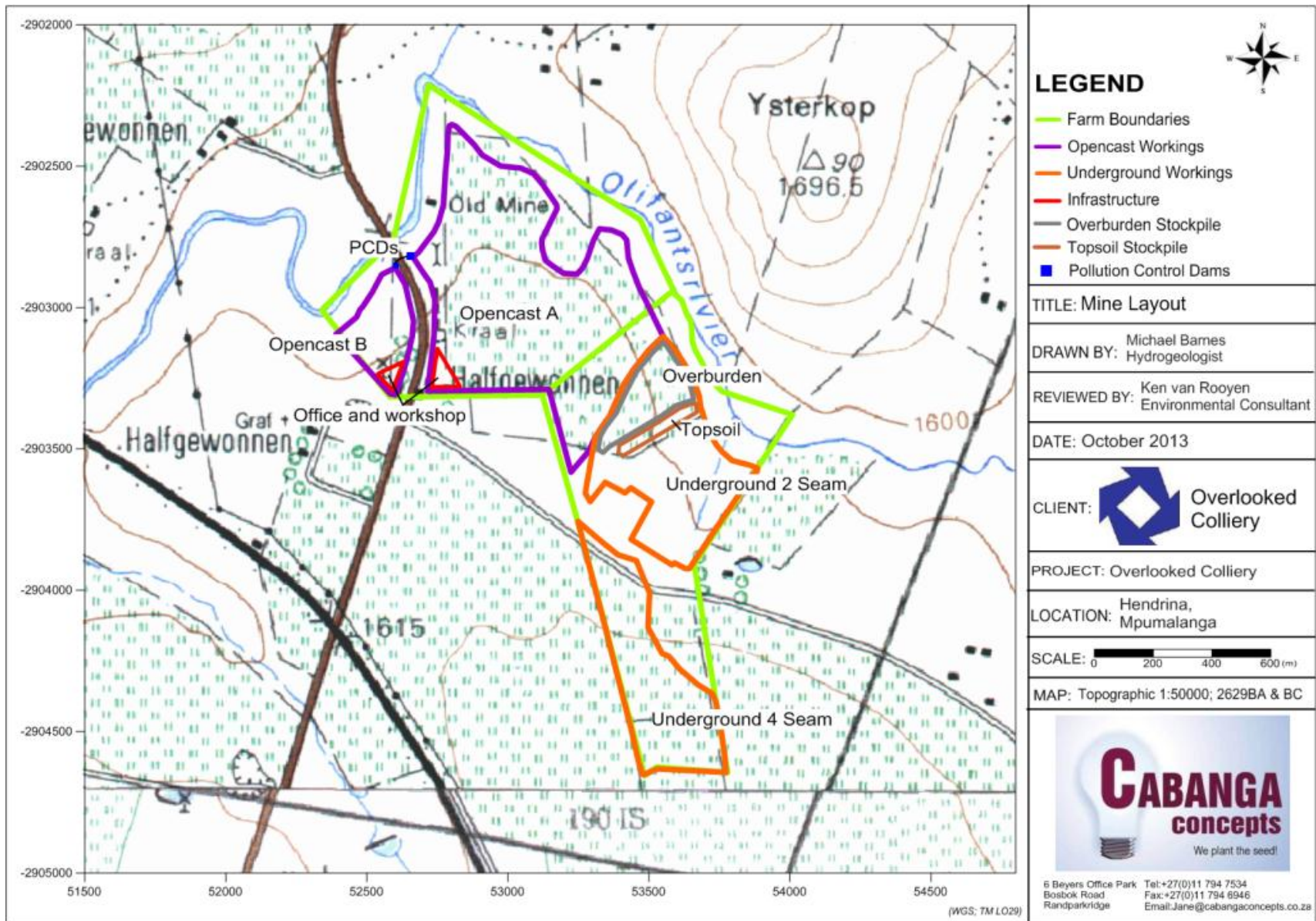


Figure 4 Mine layout.

#### **4. AIMS**

The aim of the document is to provide a basic CMP for both the grave site and the farm yard. In the process a detailed documentation of the sites will also be made and these will inform decisions on the conservation worthiness thereof.

#### **5. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the CMP and the resulting report:

1. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects (see Appendix B).
2. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site (see Appendix C).
3. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation (see Appendix D).
4. It has to be mentioned that this document is not a detailed one giving guidelines on the conservation and preservation of each specific historical feature. It however does give broad and basic guidelines based on general principles for dealing with the cultural heritage. It means that different management regulations given should be contextualized for the site as a whole and also be implemented to maintain specific structures and features. For specific details additional in depth research and restoration would be needed.
5. A management plan entails recommendations for the preservation, conservation, interpretation and utilization of cultural resources (Van Vollenhoven 1998: 54-55). Management can be done through five steps that are mutually inclusive and not necessarily chronological. These steps are in accordance with the Heritage Resources Paradigm as developed by Van Vollenhoven (2000) and which is embedded in the Contextual Paradigm in the Archaeology (see Appendix E). The steps are conservation/preservation, utilization, marketing, auditing and other action steps, although all of these may not be applicable in every instance.

- Conservation and preservation

This refers to the criteria for keeping the historical character of a cultural

resource intact. It entails the setting of criteria for the preservation of cultural resources. In this case it has been done by evaluating the historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value of the resources in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

It also refers to the actions necessary for the preservation of these resources. It mentions the actions to be taken by the Overlooked Colliery in order to preserve the cultural heritage resources on their property.

Security measures are also included herewith. This refers to steps needed to prevent the looting of or damage done by humans to the cultural heritage resources.

The last aspect here refers to the training of personnel in order for them to know how to deal with cultural heritage resources. The management guidelines and recommendations in this management plan will provide the basic training needed for this purpose.

- Utilization

This aspect refers to the sustainable utilization of cultural resources in order to also preserve it over the long term. The most important thing here is the interpretation of the resources. Utilization may include an adapted (new), commercial or scientific use or a combination thereof.

- Marketing

This issue deals with the possibility to make cultural heritage resources accessible and useful for tourism purposes. It is important to realize that utilization and marketing will always be inferior to conservation and preservation principles.

- Auditing

Auditing refers to the peer review and evaluation of heritage reports and management plans. It also entails the frequent monitoring of management plans in order to determine whether the recommendations thereof are adhered to. For this purpose a continuation strategy has been included on page 4 of this document.

- Other action steps

These are general steps that the managing authority should implement in order to preserve and conserve cultural heritage resources while also

maximizing the potential thereof. This should be done within the capacity and capabilities of the managing authority (in this case the mine), but it is important that the managing authority should take the necessary steps to improve its capacity and capabilities.

It includes measures to sensitize visitors and staff members to the importance of cultural heritage resources, training of personnel at institutions involved in cultural resources, forming partnerships with other institutions involved in cultural resources and obtaining the necessary funds to implement the management guidelines and recommendation of the management documents (in this case this management plan).

## **6. METHODOLOGY**

### **6.1 Field survey**

The information obtained during the field survey in March 2013 was utilized. A more detailed investigation was however now conducted in order to obtain more accurate information on the sites.

### **6.2 Literature survey**

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

### **6.3 Oral histories**

People from local communities are interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the heritage resources. 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.

### **6.4 Management principles**

The management principles used in this management plan is in accordance to those established by Van Vollenhoven (1998 & 2000). These principles include prescriptions for the content of management plans and are in line with the National Heritage Resources Act. The SAHRA guidelines in this regard were also utilized.

### **6.5 Evaluation of Heritage sites**

The evaluation of heritage sites is done by giving a field rating of each (see Appendix C) using the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

## 7. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). According to the act the following are 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. 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.)

### **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 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 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.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no 12 of 1980) (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place. Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

## **8. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The environment of the mine area can be divided into two different vegetation zones. Most of the land seems to consist of natural vegetation which is currently used for grazing. However even this grassland seems to have been disturbed to a certain extent, perhaps by former agricultural fields. The vegetation cover during the initial survey was quite high making archaeological visibility problematic. During the detailed investigation the grass cover was short and archaeological visibility therefore much better.

The rest of the environment is disturbed by agricultural fields. This includes the growing of maize and the cutting of grass for fodder. During the detailed investigation the fields were barren.

The topography of the area shows a gradual fall to the north and east. Here the Olifants River is situated which drains the area in an easterly direction. The area consists of rolling hills.



## **9. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

In order to place the site and the cultural resources within context, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history in the area.

### **9.1 Stone Age**

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). 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. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago  
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago  
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

The geographical area around the towns of Hendrina and Bethal is not known as an area containing prehistoric sites dating to the Stone Age. For instance no such sites are indicated on maps contained in a historical atlas of this area (Bergh 1999: 4-5). However this may only be since no research has actually been done in this area. The closest known Stone Age occurrences are a Late Stone Age site at the town of Ermelo and rock art sites in the Chrissiesmeer area (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

### **9.2 Iron Age**

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (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.

Also no sites from the Early Iron Age have been identified in the area (Bergh 1999: 6). Again it needs to be stated that this may only be a result of the lack of research done in this part of the country.

In contrast to the mentioned periods in time, it is known that Late Iron Age sites are found in a large area around the towns of Bethal and Standerton. It includes at least 585 such sites. At none of these indications of metal working has been found (Bergh 1999: 6-7), meaning that it would mostly consist of stone walled living complexes. It is also known that the early trade routes did not run through this area (Bergh 1999: 9).

### **9.3 Historical Age**

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. This era is sometimes called the Colonial era or the recent past.

Due to factors such as population growth and a decrease in mortality rates, more people inhabited the country during the recent historical past. Therefore and because less time has passed, much more cultural heritage resources from this era have been left on the landscape. It is important to note that all cultural resources older than 60 years are potentially regarded as part of the heritage and that detailed studies are needed in order to determine whether these indeed have cultural significance. Factors to be considered include aesthetic, scientific, cultural and religious value of such resources.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Phuthing, a South Sotho group, stayed in the vicinity of modern day Bethal. During the Difaquane they fled to the south (Bergh 1999: 10-11; 109). In 1829 the traveler Robert Scoon passed through an area to the north of Bethal (Bergh 1999: 13). The first white farmers only settled here during the late 1850's. By the 1890's this area was inhabited by many white farmers (Bergh 1999: 18-20). The town of Bethal was established in 1880 and it became an independent district in 1898 (Bergh 1999: 20-21).

During the Anglo Boer War the Highveld areas saw much action consisting of various skirmishes between Boer and Brit (Bergh 1999: 51, 54). It includes skirmishes on the farms Oshoek (4 December 1901), Trigaardsfontein (10 December 1901), Witbank (11 January 1902) and Nelspan (26 January 1902). It however is not possible to indicate how close these came to the project area.

From the building style of the structures on the farm yard it is clear that these belong to the period just after the initial settling of white pioneers. The buildings may date anything between 1880 and 1920, but it rather seems to be an early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Edwardian) style.

The graves must be those of farm workers. Most of these have no date of death indicated. The known dates are between 1949 and 1985. One can therefore assume that the graves belong to the period of the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 10.DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Two sites of cultural heritage importance were identified (Figure 5). Both date to the Historical Age.



**Figure 5 Location of the two sites.**

### 10.1 Site 1 – graves

GPS: 26°14.510'S  
29°32.113'E

The site contains at least 29 graves (Figure 6). The different grave dressings are as follows:

Stone packed – 17

Cement border and headstone – 6^

Cement border and granite headstone – 2\*\*

Heaps of soil with stone headstone – 2

Granite border with granite headstone – 1\*

Brick and stone packed without headstone – 1

The following names and dates could be made out:  
Ben July Mahlangu – 1963-1985\*  
1976; John Mahlangu 1949; Daniel Vilakazi^  
Maria Mahlangu 1983; Linah Mahlangu 1959-1983\*\*

The division into the categories of graves (related to date of death) is as follows:  
Heritage graves (older than 60 years): 1  
Unknown (to be handled similarly to heritage graves): 24  
Younger than 60 years: 4



**Figure 6 The graves at site no. 1.**

## **10.2 Site 2 – historical farm yard**

GPS: 26°14.265'S  
29°31.627'E

The farm yard consists of four buildings older than 60 years (Figure 7). These are a house, a wagon house, a shop/post office and a stable complex (previously thought to have been another house).



**Figure 7 The farm yard indicating the four buildings discussed in this report.**

### **Building 1 – Wagon house:**

This building consists of three sections (Figure 8). The middle part is built with stone. On each side thereof a corrugated iron structure was attached and these were painted red as was the roof of the original building.

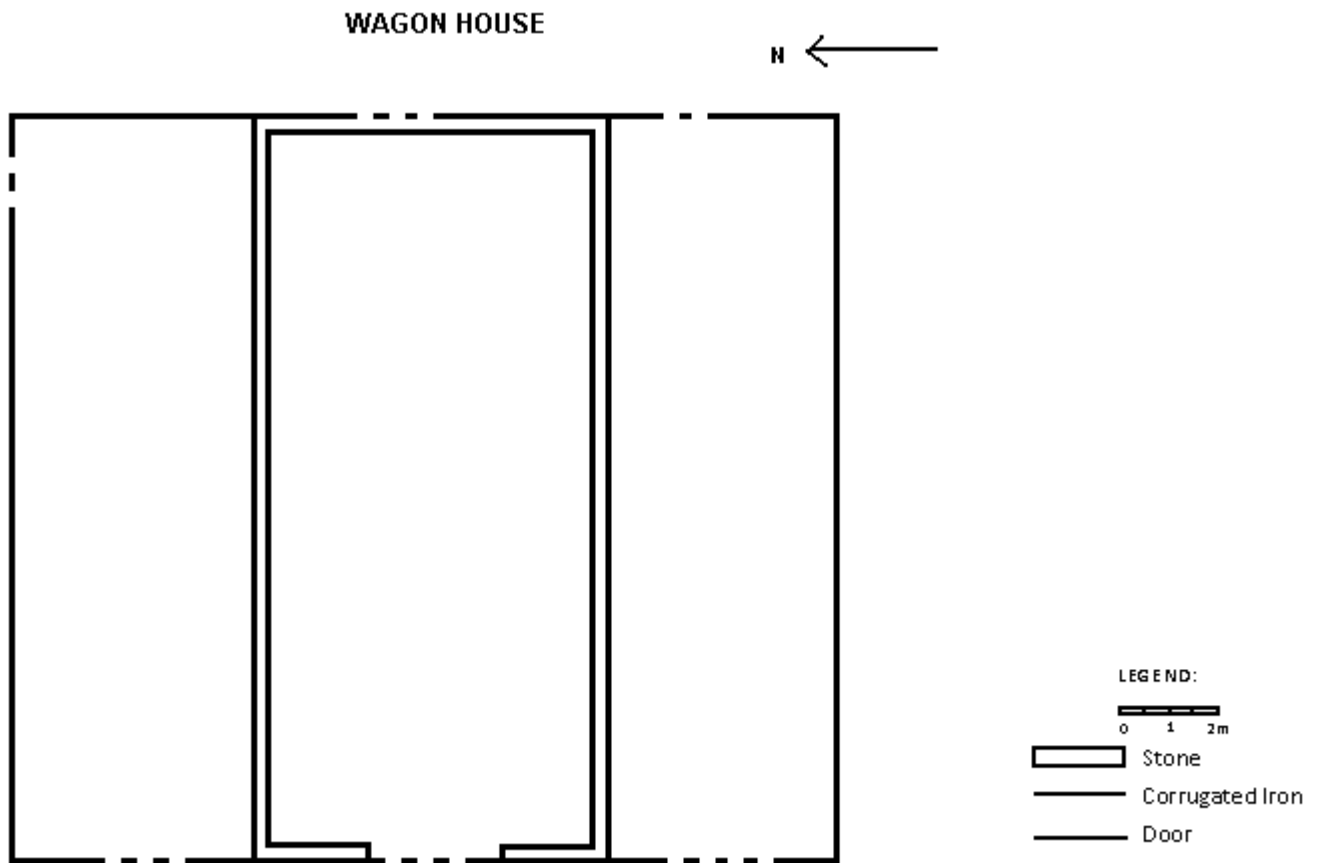
The double door in the front façade (west) of the building is made of corrugated iron and most likely is a later addition. It still has a wooden louver window above the door. Each of the corrugated iron lean-to's has a double wooden door, most likely also later additions (Figure 9-10).

The northern façade is thus made of a corrugated iron wall, embedded on a stone foundation. A single flat metal door and window here definitely are later additions (Figure 11-12).

The eastern façade shows that the entrance had been closed. It most likely originally also was a double door. It also has a wooden louver window above the door. A single wooden door is found in the corrugated iron wall to the south (Figure 13).

The southern façade is similar to the northern. It has one window opening that is closed by corrugated iron (Figure 14-15).

It is clear that the beams inside of the building are not original. The beams and roof must therefore have been replaced.



**Figure 8 Line drawing of the wagon house.**



**Figure 9 Front (western façade).**



**Figure 10 Detail of front façade.**



**Figure 11 Northern façade.**



**Figure 12 Stone foundation.**





**Figure 13 Eastern façade.**



**Figure 14 Southern façade.**



**Figure 15 Detail of southern façade.**

### **Building 2 – Main house:**

This building is mainly built with stone and has a more-or-less rectangular layout (Figure 16). However, it has been changed quite significantly later on and does therefore consist of a combination of original features and later additions.

The front façade (north) of the building perhaps shows the most changes (Figure 17). Changes were also made to the eastern façade (Figure 18). The same goes for the southern façade (Figure 19). The western façade has a large verandah, which is original, but it is clear that changes were made to the back wall thereof (Figure 20).

The only feature of note inside of the house is a fireplace in the dining room (Figure 21).

A wooden ceiling on the verandah (Figure 22) also is most likely original, but not in a good condition. The foundation was laid of stone, which is very typical of farm houses from this era (Figure 23).

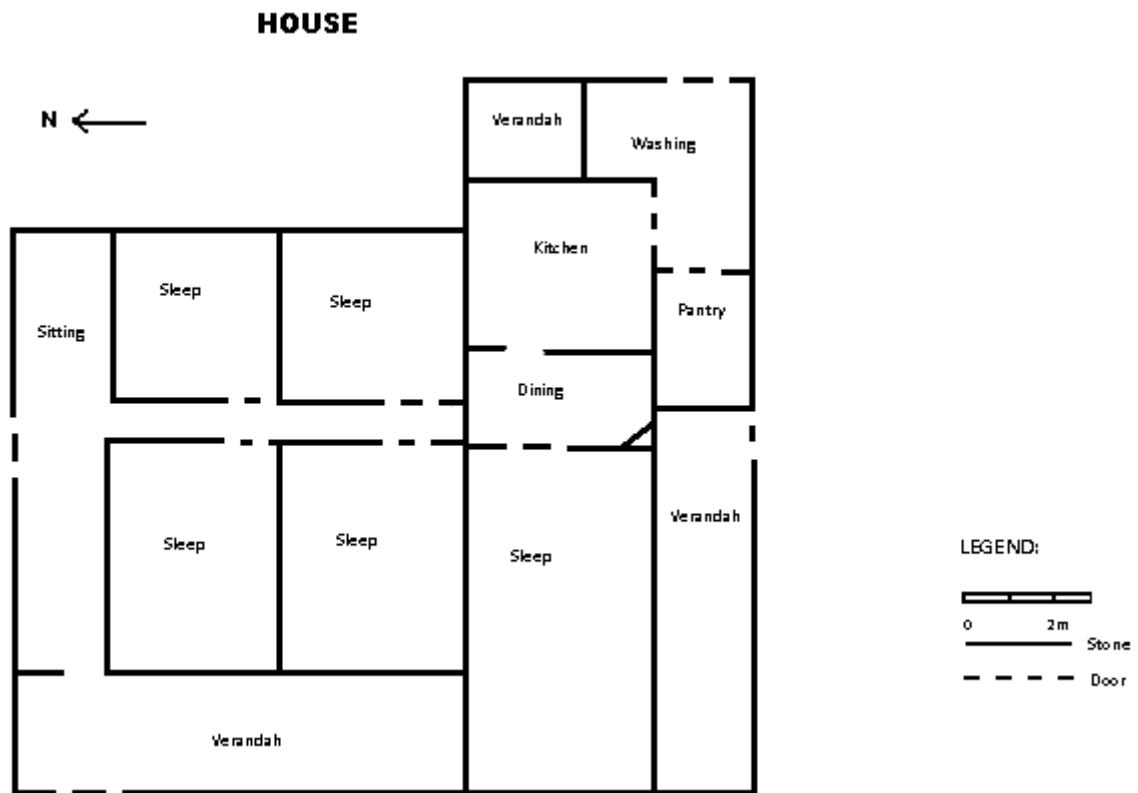


Figure 16 Line drawing of the farm house.



**Figure 17 Front façade of the house (north).**



**Figure 18 Eastern façade.**



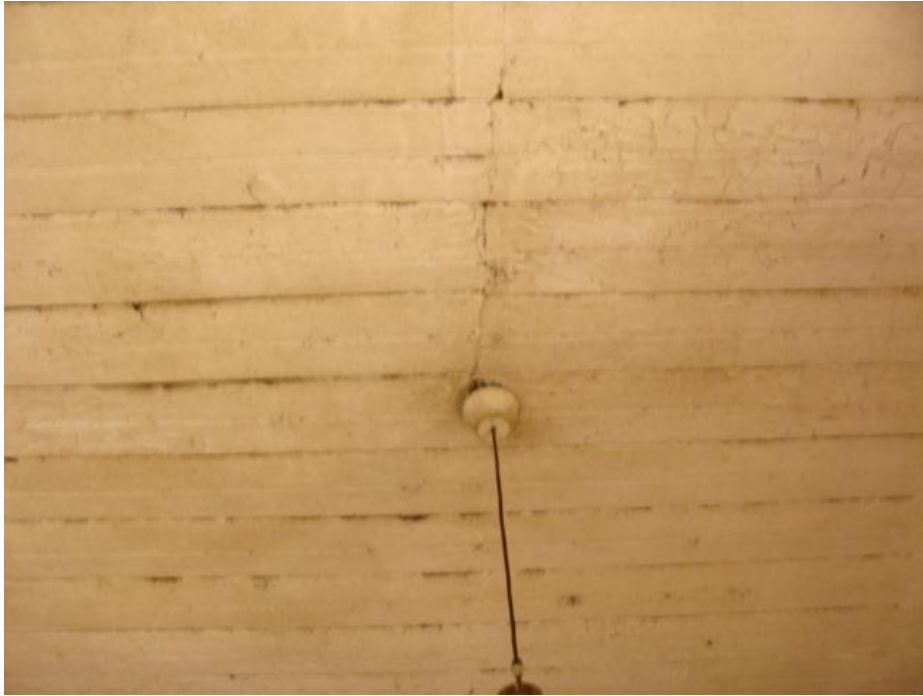
**Figure 19 Southern façade.**



**Figure 20 Western façade.**



**Figure 21 The fireplace in the dining room.**



**Figure 22 Ceiling on the verandah.**



**Figure 23 Foundation of the building.**

### **Building 3 – Shop/ post office:**

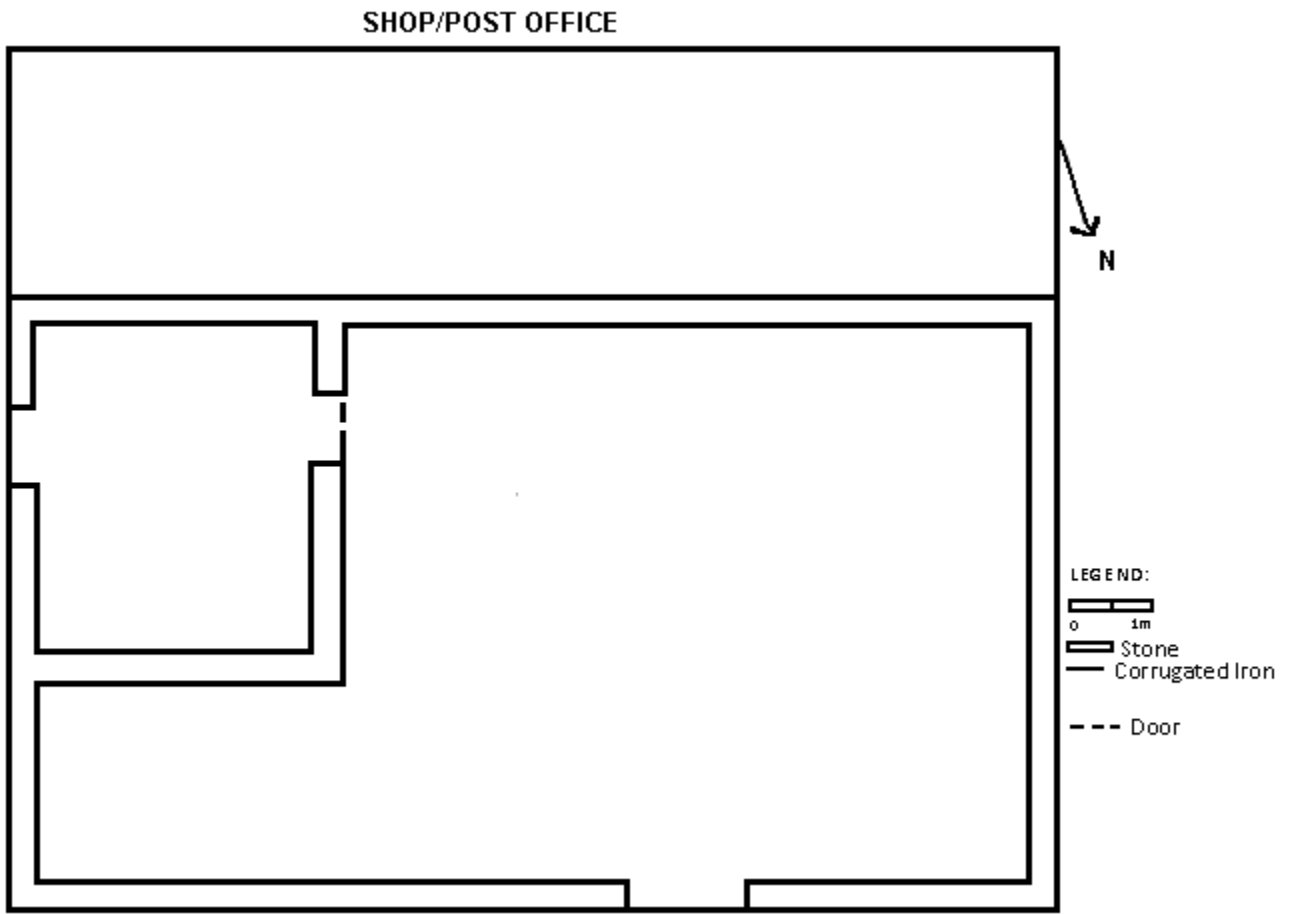
This building seems to be the most original of any of the four buildings. Coupled with its interesting function, it is perhaps the only one that is conservation worthy. It has been confirmed that it used to be a farm shop which was also used to deliver mail to the farmers during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Personal communication: Mr. Abel Vilakazi).

The building is a rectangular structure, built from stone with a verandah at the front (north) and a corrugated iron extension at the back (Figure 24). Apart from the room created by the corrugated iron structure, the main building is divided into two rooms, the larger one being the shop and the smaller probably a store room.

The front (northern) façade has a double wooden door and two wooden framed windows, which seem to be original (Figure 25-27). The windows have metal rods as a safety measure.

The eastern façade shows a single door in both the stone and the corrugated iron sections. A window in the stone section may also be a later addition (Figure 28).

The southern facade consists of nothing more than the red painted corrugated iron walling (Figure 29). The western façade only has three openings underneath the roof which are for ventilation purposes (Figure 30).



**Figure 24 Line drawing of the shop/post office building.**





**Figure 25 Front (northern) façade.**



**Figure 26 Door in the northern façade.**



**Figure 27 One of the windows in the northern façade.**



**Figure 28 Eastern façade.**



**Figure 29 Southern façade.**



**Figure 30 Western façade.**

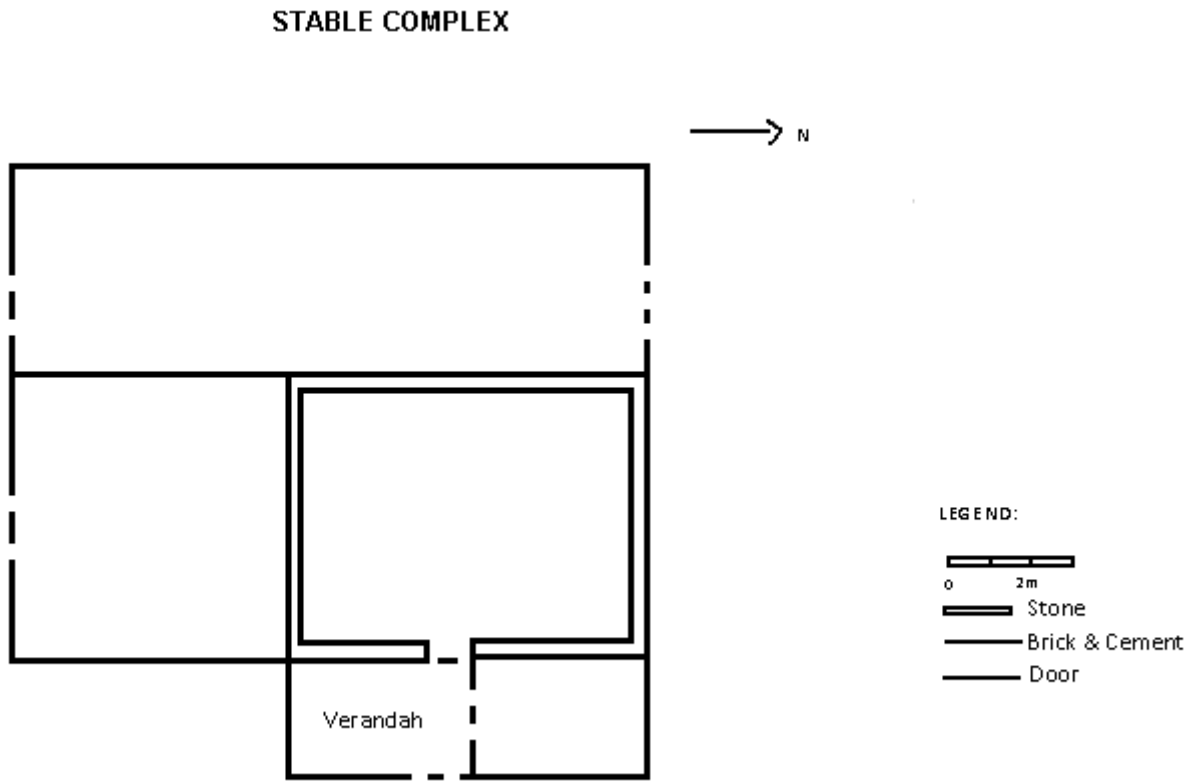
#### **Building 4 – Stable complex:**

The detailed investigation of this building indicated that it is a stable complex and not a second house, although it originally may have been one. It is located across the provincial road from the other buildings and therefore these do not form one complex although it originally may have been the case.

It originally consisted of a rectangular building made from stone and with a verandah and corrugated iron roof. Three additions have been made much later, transforming it into a stable complex (Figure 31).

The eastern façade is the front façade. It shows a verandah, a window and entrance door in the original section (Figure 32). The northern façade shows a double steel door in the added stable section and a small window in the added store room (Figure 33).

The western façade is the outer wall of the stable area and shows many small windows (Figure 34). The southern façade in total consist of later additions showing two metal doors and a window (Figure 35).



**Figure 31 Line drawing of the stable complex.**



**Figure 32 Front (eastern) façade.**



**Figure 33 Northern façade.**



**Figure 34 Western façade.**



**Figure 35 Southern façade.**

## **11. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Four internationally accepted documents relating to the protection of cultural resources should be taken into consideration. These are:

- The Australian ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance, also called the Burra charter, of November 1999.
- The Venice charter of January 1996.
- The Conservation plan: a guide to the preparation of conservation plans for places of European cultural significance by James Semple Kerr of Augustus 1985.
- The International Finance Corporations' performance standard for cultural heritage of 2012.

Following the guidelines of these conventions will give the correct guidance in dealing with the conservation and protection of cultural resources. It also is in line with SAHRA's guidelines for the development of plans for the management of heritage sites or places.



## 11.1 The Burra charter

The Burra charter is concerned with the implementation of conservation to repair the cultural significance of a place. In article 2 of the document it is stated clearly that the aim of conservation is to repair the cultural significance of a place. It includes the protection, maintenance and future of such a place (ICOMOS 1999: 1). This idea is in line with the principles of heritage management. Factors that are taken into account for this purpose are the context of the ethical, historical, scientific and social value of a place (ICOMOS 1999).

Article 3 of the charter states that work on a heritage site should be done with caution in order to take into consideration the existing material, functions, associations and meaning of a site. It basically means that as much change as necessary, but as little as possible should be implemented (ICOMOS 1999: 1).

Article 4 of the Burra charter indicates that all disciplines which can potentially play a role in studying a place, should be used in the study thereof (ICOMOS 1999: 1). It means that anything that could give information should be used. In line with this, article 5 states that all aspects of the cultural significance of a place should be taken into consideration without emphasising any one to the detriment of the others.

It is this cultural significance which, according to article 6, is determining for the conservation policy of a place. The conservation policy is determining for the use, changes, protection and preservation of a historical site (ICOMOS 1999: 2).

The charter emphasise that even the condition of a place give ample reason for the preservation thereof in terms of cultural significance. Preservation includes the protection, maintenance and stabilisation of structures.

Only if not enough information is available of a previous state of the structure which may be used to recapture and emphasise its cultural significance, one may use the processes of restoration, reconstruction and adaptation of structures. However the cultural significance of various periods should be taken into account (ICOMOS 1999: 2-3). Archaeological excavations is seen by the charter as an important method to collect information, either for restoration purposes or for the collection of scientific knowledge (ICOMOS 1999: 3-4).

In article 25 the charter indicates that the cultural significance of a place should be strengthened by supporting information such as photographs, drawings and material samples (ICOMOS 1999: 4). This clause is very important as it influences the methodology with regards to the research on places of cultural importance. It includes the documentation of sites by all means available and as completely as possible. It also includes the safekeeping and making available of this documentation and material.

The Burra charter also has an important influence on the way in which the cultural heritage is handled. Cultural significance is sometimes also referred to as heritage

significance. The National Heritage Resources Act refers to this in article 3(3). According to this a place or object is regarded as part of the national estate when it has cultural significance for one of the following reasons:

1. The importance thereof for the community or in the history of South Africa;
2. If it is an unusual, rare or endangered aspect of the natural or cultural heritage of South Africa;
3. The potential thereof to reveal information that will be a contribution to the understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
4. The importance thereof to reveal the most important characteristics of certain classes of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
5. The importance thereof in having specific esthetical characteristics on which a community or cultural group place value;
6. The importance to contain a high value of creative or technical achievements in a specific time period;
7. The strong or special association of it with a specific community or cultural group for social, cultural or religious reasons;
8. The strong or special association thereof with the life and work of a person, a group or an organization of importance in the history of South Africa;
9. Places of meaning with relation to the history of slavery in South Africa (Act 25 of 1999: 15).

## **11.2 The Venice charter**

The Venice charter sees historical sites as the most important living witness of the past. The heritage is accordingly seen as the responsibility of today's generation and that it should be conserved in an authentic state (ICOMOS 1996: 1).

The articles of the Venice charter are more or less in agreement with those of the Burra charter. It means that the application of last mentioned supports the first and will contribute to the upkeep of international standards in the conservation, preservation and the restoration of historical places.

## **11.3 The Conservation plan of Kerr**

The conservation plan of Kerr is closely associated with the Burra charter. It gives an explanation of the use of the charter and the steps to be followed in the implementation of the conservation of a historical place. The process consists of two phases.

### **11.3.1 Phase 1**

The first phase deals with establishing cultural significance. It includes the collection of information (documents and physical), the analysis of the importance thereof, the assessment of this importance and the stating of the said importance (Kerr 1985: 2).

Assessment consists of the establishing of criteria for the determination of cultural significance, whilst the stating of the cultural importance is only an explanation thereof (Kerr 1985: 8, 12).

### 11.3.2 Phase 2

The second phase consists of the conservation plan. Firstly information should be collected. This includes four sectors namely:

- the needs of the client
- external needs
- requirements for the maintenance of the cultural significance and
- the physical condition of the place.

Hereafter a conservation management plan is developed, a conservation policy is stated and a strategy for the implementation of the conservation plan is rolled out (Kerr 1885: 2).

## **11.4 The International Finance Corporations' performance standard for cultural heritage**

This standard recognizes the importance of cultural heritage for current and future generations. It aims to ensure that clients protect cultural heritage in the course of their project activities.

This is done by clients abiding to the law and having heritage surveys done in order to identify and protect cultural heritage resources via field studies and the documentation of such resources. These need to be done by competent professionals (e.g. archaeologists and cultural historians). Possible chance finds, encountered during the project development, also needs to be managed by not disturbing it and by having it assessed by professionals.

Impacts on the cultural heritage should be minimized. This includes the possible maintenance of such sites in situ, or when impossible, the restoration of the functionality of the cultural heritage in a different location. When cultural historical and archaeological artifacts and structures need to be removed this should be done by professionals and by abiding to the applicable legislation. The removal of cultural heritage resources may however only be considered if there are no technically or financially feasible alternatives. In considering the removal of cultural resources, it should be outweighed by the benefits of the overall project to the effected communities. Again professionals should carry out the work and adhere to the best available techniques.

It is necessary to engage into consultation with affected communities. This entails that access to such communities should be granted to their cultural heritage if this is applicable. Compensation for the loss of cultural heritage should only be given in extra-ordinary circumstances.

Critical cultural heritage may not be impacted on. Professionals should be used to advise on the assessment and protection thereof. Utilization of cultural heritage resources should always be done in consultation with the effected communities in order to be consistent with their customs and traditions and to come to agreements with relation to possible equitable sharing of benefits from commercialization.

## **12. DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1 Cultural Value**

The cultural significance or value of a site is the cultural value it holds for the community, or for sections of the community. The following values should be used for the assessment of cultural significance: Social, Historic, Scientific and Aesthetic Values.

### **12.2 Social Value**

Social value embraces the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national, or other cultural sentiments to a majority or minority group. Many traditional sites have such a value and these may be on a local, provincial or national level. This may be because the site is accessible and well known, particularly well preserved or scientifically important.

These values are very important and are probably the 'strongest' in terms of the conservation of a site. They apply not only to the finest and best examples of sites.

### **12.3 Historic Value**

This value recognizes the contribution a place makes to the achievements of, and to our knowledge of, the past. A place can be a typical or a well-preserved example of a cultural, group, period of time, or type of human activity, or it can be associated with a particular individual. Often, a place has a long sequence of historic overlays and this long period of human history gives such places high historic value.

### **12.4 Scientific Value**

These are features of a place that provide, or have a realistic potential to yield knowledge that is not obtainable elsewhere. The scientific or research value of a place will depend upon the importance of the data involved or its rarity, quality or representativeness and on the degree to which the place may contribute to further substantial information.

## **12.5 Aesthetics Value**

Aesthetic value may be described as the beauty of design, association or mood that the place possesses or it may be the demonstration in a place, of a particular design, style, and artistic development of high level or craftsmanship. This is recognition that a place represents a high point of the creative achievement in its design, its style, artistic development and craftsmanship. Aesthetic value may sometimes be difficult to measure or quantify. Aesthetic value is therefore subjective, especially when it arises from cultural backgrounds and individual taste.

## **13. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **13.1 The graves**

Social value:

The most important principle in the conservation management plan for the graves is that they have strong or special association with a specific community or cultural group for social, cultural or religious reasons, in this case farm workers.

Historic value:

In as far as goes the history of the specific community whose ancestors are buried here, the site has historic value.

Scientific value:

None

Aesthetic value:

None

**Cultural value:**

It therefore is clear that the site indeed has a high cultural significance and a field rating of Local Grade III B. This means that it is of high importance, but on a local level.

### **13.2 The farm yard**

Social value:

None

Historic value:

Only the shop/post office building has historical significance due its function which is an indication of a certain way of farm life during the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Scientific value:

None

Aesthetic value:

Nothing in particular. Although it does include architectural features such as the stone walling, this is very common for this area and period in time.

**Cultural value:**

The farm yard has received a medium cultural significance and a field rating of Local Grade III B. It needs to be stated however, that the most important element, being the post office building, was the reason for this high rating. Without it the rest would be rated much lower, since it is not very unique and also not very good examples of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century farm yards on the Highveld. Many better examples are to be found.

#### **14. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES FOR THE SITES**

The farm yard overlays an area earmarked for opencast mining, approximately 295,000 tons of coal is situated beneath these buildings, and run the risk of being sterilised. The benefits associated with exploiting these reserves versus the preservation of these buildings needs to be considered. It is the mine's intention to apply for a permit to demolish the various farm buildings, with the exception of the shop / post office. Until such time that the necessary permits are obtained, these buildings will be utilised as offices.

The following principles are usually followed if restoration, adaptation, rehabilitation or any other mentioned process is utilised:

- I. In trying to establish the correct fabric and materials the archaeological principal of working from the known to the unknown should be followed.
- II. Reversible changes made in the past to the historical fabric may be repaired, but should it be too expensive or time-consuming it may be regarded as part of the history of the buildings and may then be preserved as such. The same principle is applicable to irreversible changes.
- III. In the process the building itself should always be seen as providing the most accurate and authentic answer as to its history. Should an answer not come from

the fabric of the building one will need to look further for answers. In order of prioritisation these are:

- a. Original building material of the specific structure/ area being worked on
- b. Historical photographs of the said structure/ area
- c. Other historical information regarding the structure/ area
- d. Analogies with other historical buildings/ sites from the same period and purpose
- e. Historical photographs of these other historical buildings/ sites from the same period and purpose
- f. Additional historical information from the time period and other historical buildings/ sites from the same period and purpose.

The management and maintenance of historical buildings and sites are a complex issue and usually more than one of the indicated processes will have to be used. However, the sites at the Overlooked Colliery clearly are not that important. Therefore a much more simplified approach would be appropriate.

#### **14.1 The graves**

- The grave site should be left intact and the only change thereto should be the fencing in thereof in order to protect the individual graves.
- The grave yard should be kept clean and the grass short so that visitors may enter it without any concerns.
- A buffer zone should be determined in order to protect the graves. Since it is in an area where underground mining is planned, 20 meters will suffice. However, the mine should regularly inspect the site in order to ensure that blasting and other such activities do not damage the graves.
- Monthly inspections would be needed in order to determine that the condition of the site does not deteriorate.
- Any change in the mine plan, condition of the site and individual graves should immediately be reported to SAHRA for guidance.
- Access to the graves should be allowed to the descendants. However they should adhere to the mine's conditions regarding health and safety.

#### **14.2 The buildings**

- The post office building should also be left intact, but its facade should deliberately be restored and the building re-used. This would mean internal adaptations as necessary.
- Only a small part of the other three buildings still seem to be original and in a good condition. Although the same principals for the conservation of the post office can be applied to them, they are not significant enough to be preserved.
- The process of adaptation and rehabilitation will therefore be utilised for these buildings, especially regarding the interiors. The process of preservation will be used when the original fabric is in a good enough state. This is applicable to the

- original stone structures of each of these buildings.
- The process of reconstruction should for instance be used in the maintenance of the roofs and ceilings of the buildings. By using old and new material it can still look the same, but will be more durable. For the post office one should rather keep the original ceiling.
  - The process of restoration should be used for instance on the walls, doors and windows of the buildings. It may be possible to maintain these without using any new materials. However, usually very little remains to be restored in the true sense of the word and reconstruction is more than likely a better and more sustainable option.
  - A buffer zone should be determined in order to preserve the post office building, as well as the other buildings, at least until such time as approval for demolition is given. Since this is close to the opencast mining area, the buffer should at least be 50 metres. Again caution should be taken that blasting activities do not damage the foundations and walls.
  - Monthly inspections would be needed in order to determine that the condition of the buildings does not deteriorate.
  - Any change in the mine plan or the condition of the buildings should immediately be reported to SAHRA for guidance.
  - All four of the buildings have been documented by making line drawings thereof and taking photographs. These will serve as documentation and are more than enough evidence of the existence of three of these buildings (the wagon house, main house and stable complex). For the shop/post office building it serves as a first step in the preservation thereof.
  - A permit from the Mpumalanga PHRA will be needed before any structural changes to any of the buildings can be made.
  - It is emphasised that the three afore mentioned buildings do not have enough cultural significance to be maintained in the long run and that it may eventually be demolished. For this purpose destruction permits should also be obtained from the Mpumalanga PHRA.

## **15. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Apart from ordinary mine safety and security no additional measures will be needed. The sites will not be opened to the public.

## **16. EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

It could create an atmosphere of pride if mine officials and visitors are informed about the existence and value of the heritage resources. This can form part of the induction process at the mine. This may include the local community which may have an interest, such as the descendants of those buried in the grave yard.



## 17. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations were made throughout this document. The practical site specific recommendations are made in point 14. Additional recommendations are as follows:

1. The management plan (or the appropriate sections thereof) should be rewritten at least once every five years or every time changes in the mine plan, that may affect these sites, is foreseen.
2. This management plan should be consulted continuously in order to preserve these sites as indicated.
3. Employees should be inducted in this regard so that they can serve as custodians for the protection of these sites.
4. The buildings have all been documented in full. In line with the recommendations of the Phase I report, it is still felt that the heritage value of three of the buildings (the main house, wagon house and stable complex) are not high enough to keep conserving it. The mine indicated that they will use it temporarily as offices, but that they would eventually like to demolish it in order to mine the area. Apart from the post office building, this may be allowed, but only after receiving a permit from the Mpumalanga PHRA.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY USD IN THIS DOCUMENT:**

The terminology used in this document is based on two documents. The first is in line with the Burra Charter and gives guidelines and principles regarding the restoration and maintenance of physical historical structures. The second has to do with the scientific methodology as explained by Van Vollenhoven (2000). Some other sources were however also used. The following terms are used in this management plan:

#### **A**

**Adaptation:**

Changes made to a place so that it can have different but reconcilable uses.

**Artefact:**

Cultural object (made by humans).

#### **B**

**Buffer Zone:**

Means an area surrounding a cultural heritage which has restrictions placed on its use or where collaborative projects and programs are undertaken to afford additional protection to the site.

#### **C**

**Co-management:**

Managing in such a way as to take into account the needs and desires of stakeholders, neighbours and partners, and incorporating these into decision making through, amongst others, the promulgation of a local board.

**Conservation:**

In relation to heritage resources, includes protection, maintenance, preservation and sustainable use of places or objects so as to safeguard their cultural significance as defined. These processes include, but are not necessarily restricted to preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation.

**Contextual Paradigm:**

A scientific approach which places importance on the total context as catalyst for cultural change and which specifically studies the symbolic role of the individual and immediate historical context.

**Cultural Resource:**

Any place or object of cultural significance (see Heritage Resource).

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM):**

The utilization of management techniques to protect and develop cultural resources so that these become long term cultural heritage which are of value to the general public (see Heritage Management).

**Cultural Significance:**

Means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance of a place or object for past, present and future generations.

## **F**

**Feature:**

A coincidental find of movable cultural objects (also see Knudson 1978: 20).

## **G**

**Grade/Grading:**

The South African heritage resource management system is based on grading, which provides for assigning the appropriate level of management responsibility to a heritage resource.

Grading is a step in the process towards a formal declaration, such as a declaration as a National Heritage Site, Provincial Heritage Site, or in the case of Grade 3 heritage resources the placing of a resource on the Register. It is not an end in itself, but a means of establishing an appropriate level of management in the process of formal protection.

Grading may be carried out only by the responsible heritage resources authority or in the case of a Grade 3 heritage resource by the Local Authority. Any person may however make recommendations for grading. These are known as Field Ratings and usually accompany surveys and other reports.

## **H**

**Heritage resource (Cultural):**

Any place or object of cultural significance (see Cultural Resource).

**Heritage Resources Management (Cultural):**

The utilization of management techniques to protect and develop cultural resources so that these become long term cultural heritage which are of value to the general public (see Cultural Resources Management).

**Heritage Resources Management Paradigm:**

A scientific approach based on the Contextual paradigm, but placing the emphasis on the cultural importance of archaeological (and historical) sites for the community.

**Heritage Site Management:**

The control of the elements that make up the physical and social environment of a site, its physical condition, land use, human visitors, interpretation etc. Management may be aimed at preservation or, if necessary at minimizing damage or destruction or at presentation of the site to the public. A site management plan is designed to retain the significance of the place. It ensures that the preservation, enhancement, presentation and maintenance of the place/site are deliberately and thoughtfully designed to protect the heritage values of the place.

**Historic:**

Means significant in history, belonging to the past; of what is important or famous in the past.

**Historical:**

Means belonging to the past, or relating to the study of history.

## **M**

**Maintenance:**

Means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place. It does not involve physical alteration.

**Management:**

With reference to cultural heritage resources it includes preservation, conservation, presentation and improvement of a place or object.

In relation to a protected area, it includes control, protection, conservation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the protected area with due regard to the use and extraction of biological resources, community based practices and benefit sharing activities in the area in a manner consistent with the Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) as defined and required by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, (Act 57 of 2003).

## **O**

**Object:**

Artefact (cultural object) (also see Knudson 1978: 20).

## **P**

**Paradigm:**

Theories, laws, models, analogies, metaphors and the epistemological and methodological values used by researchers to solve a scientific problem.

**Partnership/s:**

Means a co-operative and/or collaborative arrangement/s between the museum management and a third party that supports the achievement of museum objectives.

**Preservation:**

Refers to protecting and maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration or change, and may include stabilization where necessary. Preservation is appropriate where the existing state of the fabric itself constitutes evidence of specific cultural significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.

**Protection:**

With reference to cultural heritage resources this includes the conservation, maintenance, preservation and sustainable utilization of places or objects in order to maintain the cultural significance thereof.

**R**

**Reconstruction:**

To bring a place or object as close as possible to a specific known state by using old and new materials.

**Rehabilitation:**

The repairing and/ or changing of a structure without necessarily taking the historical correctness thereof into account (NMC 1983: 1).

**Restoration:**

To bring a place or object back as close as possible to a known state, without using any new materials.

**S**

**Site:**

A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artefacts, found on a single location (also see Knudson 1978: 20). Also means any area of land, including land covered by water, and including any structures or objects thereon.

**Structure:**

A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures (also see Knudson 1978: 20). Also 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.

Sustainable:

In relation to cultural resources, means the use of such resource in a way and at a rate that would not lead to its long-term decline, would not decrease its historical integrity or cultural significance and would ensure its continued use to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations of people.



## **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

The Heritage Resources Paradigm (after Van Vollenhoven 2000: 555):

TABEL 10.4 'N UITBREIDING VAN DIE KONTEKSTUELE PARADIGMA OM DIE ERFENISULPBRONBESTUURS PARADIGMA TE VORM BINNE DIE TOEPASSINGSVELD VAN DIE HISTORIESE ARGEOLIE

