Cultural heritage assessment for the PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT AT ARNOT POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

## CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT AT ARNOT POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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#### **Declaration:**

I, J.A. van Schalkwyk, declare that I do not have any financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment and management services.

John Ulin

J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil) Heritage Consultant December 2014

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT AT ARNOT POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

In order to ensure a stable electricity supply, Eskom propose the development of photovoltaic power plants at various coal fired power stations. The electricity produced by the PV plants will be used internally, allowing Eskom to export the full capacity of the power plant.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **lliso Consulting** to conduct a cultural heritage assessment to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the area where it is planned to develop the photovoltaic power plant.

The larger study region whole region was subjected to farming and urbanization which would have destroyed any pre-colonial or early colonial heritage features that might have occurred here in the past. The only heritage sites known from the region are cemeteries, all of which are located well outside the area of the proposed development.

• As no sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance have been identified in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue. We also recommend that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during development activities, it should immediately be reported to a to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

J A van Schalkwyk Heritage Consultant December 2014

# **TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Property details	
Province	Mpumalanga
Magisterial district	Middelburg
Municipality	Steve Tshwete
Topo-cadastral map	2529DD
Closest town	Arnot
Farm name	Rietkuil 491JS

Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHR Act	Yes/No
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear	Yes
form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length	No
Development exceeding 5000 sq m	Yes
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	No
Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been	No
consolidated within past five years	
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m	Yes
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks,	No
recreation grounds	

Development	
Description	Development of a photovoltaic power plant
Project name	Arnot PV Plant

Land use	
Previous land use	Farming (grazing)/Vacant
Current land use	Vacant

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

## TERMS

**Study area:** Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1 and 2.

**Stone Age:** The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age	30 000 - until c. AD 200

**Iron Age:** Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. As they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 900
Middle Iron Age	AD 900 - AD 1300
Late Iron Age	AD 1300 - AD 1830

Historical Period: Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 - in this part of the country

#### ABBREVIATIONS

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
CS-G	Chief Surveyor-General
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

## CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT AT ARNOT POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure a stable electricity supply, Eskom propose the development of photovoltaic power plants at various coal fired power stations. The electricity produced by the PV plants will be used internally, allowing Eskom to export the full capacity of the power plant.

South Africa's heritage resources, also described as the 'national estate', comprise a wide range of sites, features, objects and beliefs. According to Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act 25 of 1999, no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **lliso Consulting** to conduct a cultural heritage assessment to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the area where it is planned to develop the photovoltaic power plant.

This report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

## 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report does not deal with development projects outside of or even adjacent to the study area as is presented in Section 5 of this report. The same holds true for heritage sites, except in a generalised sense where it is used to create an overview of the heritage potential in the larger region.

## 2.1 Scope of work

The aim of this assessment, broadly speaking, is to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop the photovoltaic power plant.

The scope of work for this study consisted of:

- Conducting of a desk-top investigation of the area, in which all available literature, reports, databases and maps were studied; and
- A visit to the proposed development area.

The objectives were to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources; and
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

## 2.2 Limitations

The investigation has been influenced by the following factors:

• The unpredictability of buried archaeological remains.

## 3. HERITAGE RESOURCES

## 3.1 The National Estate

The NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) defines the heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations that must be considered part of the national estate to include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including-
  - ancestral graves;
  - royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
  - o graves of victims of conflict;
  - o graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
  - o historical graves and cemeteries; and
  - other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including-
  - objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - ethnographic art and objects;
  - military objects;
  - objects of decorative or fine art;
  - o objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

## 3.2 Cultural significance

In the NHRA, Section 2 (vi), it is stated that "cultural significance" means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This is determined in relation to a site or feature's uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

According to Section 3(3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of

- its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria were applied for the determination of the significance of each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar identified sites.

# 4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

## 4.1 Extent of the Study

This survey and impact assessment covers the area as presented in Section 5 and as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

## 4.2 Methodology

## 4.2.1 Preliminary investigation

4.2.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological, historical sources and heritage impact assessment reports were consulted – see list of references in Section 8 below.

• Information of a general nature was obtained from these sources.

4.2.1.2 Data bases

The SAHRIS database, the Heritage Atlas Database, the Environmental Potential Atlas, the Chief Surveyor General and the National Archives of South Africa were consulted.

• Database surveys produced a number of sites located in adjacent areas.

#### 4.2.1.3 Other sources

Aerial photographs and topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references in Section 8 below.

• Information of a very general nature was obtained from these sources.

## 4.2.2 Field survey

The site visit took place on 27 October 2014. The areas that had to be investigated were identified by **Iliso Consulting** by means of maps. During the field survey the Eskom project team accompanied the consultants, pointing out the various areas that were under consideration for the development of the project. In addition, the *kml* file indicating the location of the proposed development sites was loaded onto a Nexus 7 tablet. This was used, in Google Earth, during the field survey to access the areas.

The sites were surveyed by walking transects across it (see Fig. 1 for the track log that was kept of the field survey).

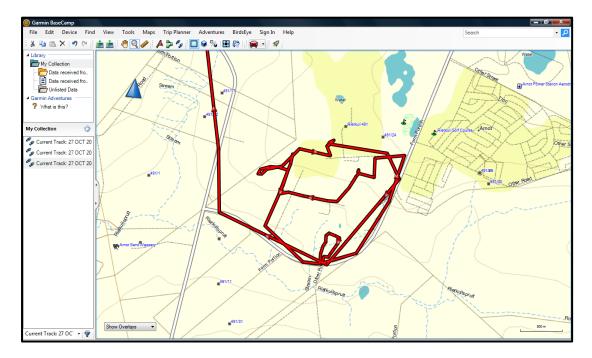


Fig. 1. Track log of the field survey.

## 4.2.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures that are identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the *Global Positioning System* (GPS) and plotted on a map. This information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

The track log and identified sites were recorded by means of a Garmin Oregon 550 handheld GPS device. Photographic recording was done by means of a Canon EOS 550D digital camera.

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

## 5.1 Site location and description

The areas that were investigated is located on the farm Rietkuil 491JS in the Steve Tshwete local municipality of Mpumalanga. It is located on the western side of the town of Arnot, approximately 40 km southeast of Middelburg. For more information, please see the Technical Summary presented above (p. iii).

The geology of the area is made up of arenite, changing to dolerite to the east. The original vegetation is classified as Moist Sandy Highveld Grassland, but has been replaced as a result of intensive agricultural activities in the region.

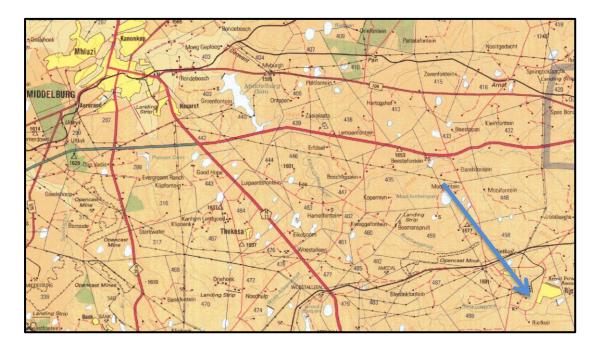


Fig. 2. Location of the study area (blue arrow) in regional context. (Map 2528: Chief Surveyor-General)

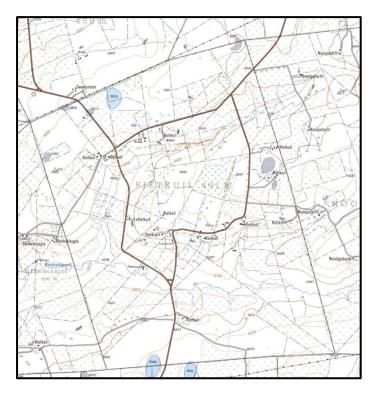


Fig. 3. The farm Rietkuil on the 1967 version of the 1:50 000 topocadastral map. (Map 2529DD: Chief Surveyor-General)



Fig. 4. Views over the study areas.

## 5.2 Development proposal

In order to ensure a stable electricity supply, Eskom propose the development of photovoltaic power plants at various coal fired power stations. The electricity produced by the PV plants will be used internally, allowing Eskom to export the full capacity of the coal fired power station

Originally nine areas surrounding Arnot Power Station were identified for possible development. During a screening exercise six of these sites were eliminated as being either too small, too close to the coal deposits or wetlands occurring on them. The remaining three sites were subjected to a full HIA assessment (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Location of the surveyed areas in relation to the power station.

## 5.3 Regional overview

The aim of this section is to present an overview of the history of the larger region in order to eventually determine the significance of heritage sites identified in the study area, within the context of their historic, aesthetic, scientific and social value, rarity and representivity – see Section 3.2 and Appendix 1 for more information.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region is made up of a pre-colonial element consisting of limited Stone Age and Iron Age occupation, as well as a much later colonial (farmer) component which eventually gave rise to an urban component.

#### 5.3 Historic overview

#### 5.3.1 Stone Age

No information about Stone Age habitation of the area is available. There might be two reasons for this. Firstly, it is unlikely that Stone Age people would have occupied the area specific, as it would have been too cold and no shelters or caves exists locally that could be used to shelter in. Secondly, no systematic survey of the area has been done and, as a result, no sites have been reported.

#### 5.3.2 Iron Age

Iron Age people started to settle in southern Africa c. AD 300, with one of the oldest known sites at Silver Leaves, south east of Tzaneen dating to AD 270. However, Iron Age occupation of the eastern highveld area (including the study area) did not start much before the 1500s. Some sites dating to the Late Iron Age are known to exist to the north west of the study area, as well as some distance to the south. These are typical stone walled sites that can be related to the Koni occupation of the region.

#### 5.3.3 Historic period

The historical period in this area starts with the arrival of early missionaries, hunters and traders, followed later by the Voortrekkers, who settled permanently and started to farm in the area and developed a number of towns. The towns of Middelburg, Belfast and Carolina were all established during the 1880s and served as regional centres for the people that farmed in the Arnot area.

Construction of the power station began 1968. The last of six units was commissioned 1975. The station has an installed capacity of 2100 mW. It is the first power station with a reheat system and electronic automatic controls. The site was chosen because of sufficient water and coal in Rietkuil area.

## 5.4 Identified sites

The following cultural heritage resources were identified in the study area:

#### 5.4.1 Stone Age

 No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in either of the three study areas.

#### 5.4.2 Iron Age

• No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in either of the three study areas.

#### 5.4.3 Historic period

• No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study area.

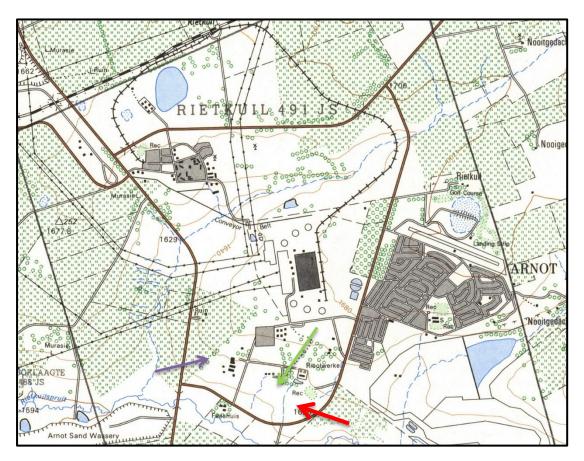


Fig. 6. The location of the surveyed areas in relation to the power station. (Map 2529DD: Chief Surveyor-General)

# 6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

# 6.1 Heritage assessment criteria and grading

The NHRA stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I**: Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II**: Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- Grade III: Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, on a local authority level.

The occurrence of sites with a Grade I significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the applicable of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

## 6.2 Statement of significance

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria, as set out in Sections 3(3) and 7 of the NHRA, No. 25 of 1999, were applied for each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites. Three categories of significance are recognized: low, medium and high. In terms of Section 7 of the NHRA, all the sites currently known or which are expected to occur in the study area are evaluated to have a grading as identified in the table below.

Identified heritage resources		
Category, according to NHRA Identification/Description		
Formal protections (NHRA)		
National heritage site (Section 27)	None	
Provincial heritage site (Section 27)	None	
Provisional protection (Section 29)	None	
Place listed in heritage register (Section 30)	None	
General protections (NHRA)		
structures older than 60 years (Section 34)	None	
archaeological site or material (Section 35)	None	
palaeontological site or material (Section 35)	None	
graves or burial grounds (Section 36)	None	
public monuments or memorials (Section 37)	None	
Other		
Any other heritage resources (describe)	None	

Table 2. Summary of identified heritage resources in the three study areas.

## 6.3 Impact assessment

Impact analysis of cultural heritage resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development.

• As no sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance have been identified in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural significance found within the area in which it is proposed to develop the photovoltaic power plant.

The whole region was subjected to farming and urbanization which would have destroyed any pre-colonial or early colonial heritage features that might have occurred here in the past. The

only heritage sites known from the region are cemeteries, all of which are located well outside the area of the proposed development.

• As no sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance have been identified in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue. We also recommend that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during development activities, it should immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the findings can be made.

## 8. REFERENCES

## 8.1 Data bases

Chief Surveyor General Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Heritage Atlas Database, Pretoria. National Archives of South Africa

## 8.2 Literature

Acocks, J.P.H. 1975. *Veld Types of South Africa*. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No. 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

Holm, S.E. 1966. *Bibliography of South African Pre- and Protohistoric archaeology*. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

Mason, R.J. 1962. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

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Pistorius, J.C.C. 2004. A heritage impact assessment (HIA) study for the proposed new Optimum Colliery on the farm Schoonoord 164IS in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. Unpublished report.

Richardson, D. 2001. *Historic sites of South Africa*. Cape Town: Struik Publishers.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A.2002. A survey of cultural resources for the Arnot mining development, Middelburg District, Mpumalanga Province. Unpublished report 2002KH021.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2006. *Heritage impact scoping report for the underground coal gasification plant, Roodekopjes 67HS, Amersfoort district, Mpumalanga*. Unpublished report 2006KH055. Pretoria: National Cultural History Museum.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2007. *Heritage scoping report for the proposed Arnot Power Station ash water return dams, Middelburg magisterial district, Mpumalanga*. Pretoria: Unpublished report 2007/JvS/082.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2010. Heritage impact assessment for the proposed development of a borrow pit in the Arnot region, Mpumalanga Province. Pretoria: Unpublished report 2010/JvS/017.

#### 8.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps: 2529DD Google Earth

# APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

## Significance

According to the NHRA, Section 2(vi) the **significance** of heritage sites and artefacts is determined by it aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Matrix used for assessing the significance of each identified site/feature

1. Historic value			
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history			
Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group			
or organisation of importance in history			
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery			
2. Aesthetic value			
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic character community or cultural group	eristics val	ued by a	
3. Scientific value			
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute	e to an und	erstanding	
of natural or cultural heritage		Ū.	
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or to	echnical ac	hievement	
at a particular period			
4. Social value			
Does it have strong or special association with a particular	community	or cultural	
group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons			
5. Rarity			
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects	of natural	or cultural	
heritage			
6. Representivity			
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of	of a particul	ar class of	
natural or cultural places or objects			
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes			
or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its			
class			
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics			
(including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-us		design or	
technique) in the environment of the nation, province, region		Ma allowed	1
7. Sphere of Significance	High	Medium	Low
International			
National			
Provincial			
Regional			
Specific community			
8. Significance rating of feature			
1. Low			
2. Medium			
3. High			

## **APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

All archaeological and palaeontological sites and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

(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 which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and reinterment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.

## **APPENDIX 3. SPECIALIST COMPETENCY**

## Johan (Johnny) van Schalkwyk

J A van Schalkwyk, D Litt et Phil, heritage consultant, has been working in the field of heritage management for more than 30 years. Based at the National Museum of Cultural History, Pretoria, he has actively done research in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, museology, tourism and impact assessment. This work was done in Limpopo Province, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland. Based on this work, he has curated various exhibitions at different museums and has published more than 60 papers, many in scientifically accredited journals. During this period he has done more than 2000 impact assessments (archaeological, anthropological, historical and social) for various government departments and developers. Projects include environmental management frameworks, road-, pipeline-, and power line developments, dams, mining, water purification works, historical landscapes, refuse dumps and urban developments.