

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE NORTHERN FARM,
DIEPKLOOF DEVELOPMENT, GAUTENG**

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Australia ICOMOS. *The Burra Charter*.

Copley, I.B., *Ambush at Kalkheuwel Pass, 3 June 1900* in Military History Journal, Vol. 9 No. 4

National Heritage Legislation (Act 25 of 1999)

The National Archives, in particular the “Transvaalse Argiefbewaarpark” database.

CONTENTS PAGE

<u>CONTENTS</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
ABOUT THIS REPORT		4
1. INTRODUCTION		5
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA		5
3. BRIEF BACKGROUND HISTORY		5
4. METHODS		6
5. FINDINGS		6
Pre-Colonial Heritage Sites	6	
Colonial and Union Period Heritage Sites	6	
Original Landscape	6	
Intangible Heritage	6	
6. ARCHIVAL AND OTHER PRIMARY SOURCE INVESTIGATION		7
7. CATEGORIES OF HERITAGE VALUE		8
HERITAGE VALUE OF THE NORTHERN FARM, DIEPSLOOT DEVELOPMENT STUDY AREA WEIGHED AGAINST GENERAL HERITAGE VALUE CATEGORIES		9
Spiritual value		
Scientific value		
Historical value		
Aesthetic value		
Social value		
SPECIFIC CATEGORIES INVESTIGATED	10	
OPPORTUNITIES, RESTRICTIONS, IMPACTS		13
THE WAY FORWARD		13

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The heritage report must reflect that consideration has been given to the history and heritage significance of the study area and that proposed work is sensitive towards the heritage resources and does not alter or destroy the heritage significance of the study area.

The heritage report must refer to the heritage resources currently in the study area.

The opinion of an independent heritage consultant is required to evaluate if the proposed work generally follows a good approach that would ensure the conservation of the heritage resources.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) are the guideline documents for a report of this nature.

Leonie Marais-Botes was requested by Nema Consulting to carry out a phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Northern Farm, Diepsloot development near Johannesburg, Gauteng.

- *The study area is of low sensitivity in terms of heritage resources protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).*

1. INTRODUCTION

The study area is located near Johannesburg in the Gauteng province. The site for the Northern Farm, Diepsloot development is located between the N14 and the R 511.

The R 114 is also located in the study area.

The study area includes the following:

Informal settlement

Formal housing

Agricultural activities

Industrial activities

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The study area is located in the Western part of the Gauteng province next to the N14 (Krugersdorp Highway) and R 511 (William Nicol Extension). The landscape is typical Gauteng Highveld grassland with farms, smallholdings, some industry and formal and informal settlement.

3. BRIEF BACKGROUND HISTORY

As the area is particularly known for informal settlement the more recent history of the area is that of unrest and violence.

In the more distant past Lord Roberts (during the Anglo Boer War 1899-1902) during his March from Johannesburg to occupy Pretoria in June 1900 directed Cavalry generals Sir John French and Sir Ian Hamilton to move to Rooikrans and Diepsloot respectively and thence to Skurweberg in order to avoid resistance expected at Daspoort Fort to the west of Pretoria.

4. METHOD

The objective of the study was not to undertake a detailed heritage survey, but to gain an overall understanding of the heritage sensitivities of the area and indicate how they may be impacted on through development activities. The survey took place on 6 April 2008.

5. FINDINGS

5.1. PRE-COLONIAL HERITAGE SITES

No archaeological material was observed in any part of the study area that was searched. This is mainly because of agricultural activities and other developments in the study area. It is however advised that an archaeologist be put on stand-by during the excavations in the case of any sub-surface deposits being uncovered.

5.2. COLONIAL AND UNION PERIOD HERITAGE SITES

There are no Colonial type heritage sites in the area and very little Union type heritage sites. The said Union type heritage sites are of little importance as the said sites have been severely altered.

5.3. ORIGINAL LANDSCAPE

Some sites in the study area still reflect the original highveld landscape.

5.4. INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No intangible heritage associated with the sites was found.

6. ARCHIVAL AND OTHER PRIMARY SOURCE INVESTIGATION

Documents in the National Archives in particular those in the “Transvaalse Argiefbewaarplek” was perused but only information pertaining to administration matters of farms in the area were found.

7. CATEGORIES OF HERITAGE VALUE (ACT 25 OF 1999)

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) identifies the following categories of value under section 3(1) and (2) of the Act under the heading “National Estate”:

“3 (1) For the purpose of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include-

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds, including-
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and

- (vi) other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
 - (h) sites of significance relating to the history in South Africa;
 - (i) movable objects, including-
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interests; and
 - (vii) 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 I (xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).
- (3) Without limiting the generality of the subsections (1) and (2), a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of-
- (a) Its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
 - (b) Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - (c) Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - (d) Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural objects;
 - (e) Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
 - (f) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;

- (g) Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) Its strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- (i) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.”

7.1. HERITAGE VALUE OF THE NORTHERN FARM, DIEPSLOOT DEVELOPMENT STUDY AREA WEIGHED AGAINST HERITAGE VALUE CATEGORIES

7.1.1. Spiritual value

As the site survey was conducted on a Sunday the gathering of church groups have been observed in the study area. These gatherings are typical of a church group with followers mainly from the African community. The said church group gather under a tree, near a river or where white painted rocks are packed in a circle. These gathering places can be regarded as spiritual places and should be respected.

7.1.2. Scientific value

The study area does not contain any scientific value in terms of section 3(3)(d) of the Act. No natural feature or other infrastructure associated with scientific importance could be identified in the study area.

7.1.3. Historical value

The sites associated with the above project do not contain irreplaceable or rare historical or heritage items.

7.1.4. Aesthetic value

No heritage site of an aesthetic nature could be found in the study area.

7.1.5. Social value

Some sites that are used for recreation were observed in the study area but these areas are not of an historic nature.

7.2. SPECIFIC CATEGORIES INVESTIGATED:

7.2.1. Does the site/s provide the context for a wider number of places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance?

The said study area provides limited context for a wider number of places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance, the main reason for this is the very low density of heritage sites in the area.

7.2.2. Does the site/s contain places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage?

No places with associated oral traditions could be identified. The main reason being that no historic settlements to interview could be found in the area.

7.2.3. Do the sites contain historical settlements?

The Northern Farm, Diepsloot development study area does not contain any indication of historical settlements.

7.2.4. Do the site contain landscapes and natural features of cultural significance?

The site does not contain landscaped and natural features of cultural significance.

7.2.5. Do the sites contain geological sites of cultural importance?

The sites do not contain geological sites of cultural importance.

7.2.6. Do the sites contain a wide range of archaeological sites?

No surface archaeological deposits were observed.

7.2.7. Do the sites contain any marked graves and burial grounds?

No historical burial places were observed in the study area. The possibility of unmarked graves exists, but will only be known if such a grave is found during the development phase.

7.2.8. Do the sites contain aspects that relate to the history of slavery?

There is no indication that the sites contain aspects that relate to the history of slavery.

7.2.9. Can the place be considered as a place that is important to the community or in the pattern of South African history?

The various sites in the study area do not appear to be places that are important to the community or the pattern of South African history. No indication in this regard was found.

7.2.10. Do the sites embody the quality of a place possessing uncommon or rare endangered aspects of South Africa's natural and cultural heritage?

The sites do not contain uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural and cultural heritage.

7.2.11. Do the sites demonstrate the principal characteristics of South Africa's natural or cultural places?

The sites do not demonstrate the principal characteristics of South Africa's natural or cultural places.

7.2.12. Do the site exhibit particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or cultural groups?

The study area does not exhibit particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or cultural groups.

7.2.13. Do the sites contain elements, which are important in demonstrating a high degree of creative technical achievement?

The sites do not contain elements, which are important in demonstrating a high degree of creative technical achievement.

7.2.14. Do the sites have strong and special associations with particular communities and cultural groups for social, cultural and spiritual reasons?

The site does not have a strong or special association with particular communities and cultural groups for social, cultural and spiritual reasons.

7.2.15. Do the sites have a strong and special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation?

There is no indication in primary source material that the selected sites have a strong and special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation.

8. OPPORTUNITIES, RESTRICTIONS, IMPACTS

In terms of Act 25 of 1999 the study area of the Northern Farm Diepsloot Development has no heritage importance and may be regarded of low local importance in terms of historical significance.

In general terms the study area is not sensitive in terms of heritage sites, the development of which will not result in major impacts.

9. THE WAY FORWARD

It is advised that an intention to develop notice in terms of Section 38 of Act 25 of 1999 and subsequently a Section 38 application be submitted to the relevant Heritage Authority.

It is advised (see **5.1**) that an archaeologist be put on stand-by in the excavation phase of the project in the case of deposits being uncovered.