

#### Archaetnos Culture & Cultural Resource Consultants BK 98 09854/23

# A CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE RIETVLEI DAM NATURE RESERVE, CITY OF TSHWANE

For:

# THE CITY OF TSHWANE, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, CITY PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, DIVISION NATURE CONSERVATION AND RESORTS

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#### **SUMMARY**

This document entails a cultural heritage resources management plan for the Dam Nature Reserve. Most of the cultural resources on the resort are well-known, but after a survey was conducted more was identified. The results of this are included.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed that the reserve contains a number of twelve cultural resources. These all date to the historical period in time. It is evaluated and assessed in terms of the standard criteria for cultural heritage resources.

At the individual description of each of these management guidelines are given. These are the basic conservation and preservation principles to be used in managing the resources. Recommendations made in the document are done within the parameters of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

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 2015.

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#### **CONTINUATION STRATEGY**

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT A 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 (WHICHEVER 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 ACCORDNACE 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 MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOULD AT LEAST BE RE-EVALUATED IN THE YEAR 2015.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Division Nature Conservation and Resorts of the Department of Housing, City Planning and Environmental Management, of the City of Tshwane (CoT) requested the writer of this document to write a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve. In order to be able to write the plan it was necessary to know what cultural resources do exist in the reserve. Most of these were known beforehand, but after conducting an archaeological and heritage survey more were identified. The management plan is the result of these processes and the conventions for the sustainable preservation, conservation and management of such cultural resources.

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). None of the current development plans have a direct impact on any of the cultural resources on the resort. The plan was however also done in order to assist the CoT with planning for future developments on the reserve. Therefore no specific mitigation is needed. The document does nevertheless state that any future development plans should be done in accordance with this management plan and any possible impact on the cultural resources should lead to a re-evaluation.

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). For the purpose of this document it was not needed, but recommendations in this regard are made. Attention should be given to the resources of high cultural significance and those with specific questions that need to be answered before it can finally be assessed.

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 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. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study were to:

- 1. Identify any unknown objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property. Applicable terms are defined in see Appendix A.
- 2. Assess the significance of the above mentioned cultural resources as well as those already known, in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
- 3. Review applicable legislative requirements.

4. Write a management plan for the cultural heritage resources at the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve including the necessary management guidelines and recommendations to enable the CoT to manage these properly.

#### 3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

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

- 1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance may be demolished should there be a need for development in those areas. Such sites have been recorded in full. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation in future if future developments have an impact thereon. Should such developments be planned it should be discussed with full cognizance of this management plan. Sites with a high cultural significance are more important than any foreseeable future development and should therefore be preserved at all cost (see appendix B).
- 4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information and should not be disclosed to members of the public without proper plans in place to preserve and conserve these cultural heritage resources.
- 5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
- 6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. The CoT should however note that any additional sites discovered or information that may come to light in the future should be included in this management plan during the implementation of the sustainable continuation strategy.
- 7. In this particular case it needs to be mentioned that the areas which still contain natural vegetation, mainly close to the rivers, was much overgrown. This makes visibility on the ground extremely difficult and may have resulted in some cultural features not being picked up during the survey.

8. A management plan entails recommendations as to 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 (Annexure C). The steps are conservation/preservation, utilization, marketing, auditing and other action steps.

# o Conservation and preservation

This refers to the criteria for keeping the historical character of a cultural resource in tact. 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. In this management plan it is indicated at the description of each individual resource. It mentions the actions to be taken by the CoT in order to preserve the cultural heritage resources in the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve.

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. This is also included at the description of each individual resource.

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 on the long term. The most important thing here which relates to the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve is the interpretation of the resources. This is also indicated under the description of each individual resource. 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. Again this receives attention under the description of each individual resource. It is important to realize that utilization 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 3 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 CoT), 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).

# 4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

#### 4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

It is important to note that a cultural heritage resource does not have to be formally declared to be protected. By virtue of its age a resource is potentially protected based on the values given above (Van Vollenhoven 2003a: 34-36). It should also be noted that the act gives special power to communities in allowing them to have a say in the preservation, conservation, utilization and management of their own cultural heritage resources (Van Vollenhoven 2003: 42-44).

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

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

- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites or scientific or technological value.

# Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

In a reserve such as this one will mostly need to deal with archaeological resources. Therefore this needs more specific attention. It is dealt with in Section 35(4) of this act, which states that 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 that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

#### **Human remains**

These are dealt with in terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, and states that no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

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

Graves that are unidentified or are of an unknown date 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 obtained 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 obtained 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).

#### 4.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act (Act 107 of 1998 as amended with Act 46 of 2003 and Act 8 of 2004) states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. This includes Environmental Management Frameworks (EMF's) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA's). The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof made.

#### 5. METHODOLOGY

#### **5.1 Field survey**

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted AIA and HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken via off road vehicle and in extreme cases on foot. Information obtained from the land owner (the CoT) was also studied and included in this document.

#### **5.2 Documentation**

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

#### 5.3 Management principles

The management principles used in this management plan is in accordance by 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.

#### 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve is situated on different portions of the farm Rietvallei 377 JR, being the remainders of portion 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 and portions 7, 9, 11 and 12 as well as on portion 34 of the farm Witkoppies 393 JR (Figure 1-2). This is to the south-east of the CoT.



Figure 1 Aerial view of the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve.

The northern boundary of the property is formed by the Waterkloof Agricultural Holdings, although fairly recent housing developments are also situated here. The eastern boundary of the reserve is formed by the R50 or Delmas Road, although some portions managed by the reserve are found to the east of this road. The western boundary is roughly being formed by the M57 or Olifantsfontein Road. Here also some new residential areas are being developed. The southern boundary is formed by agricultural holdings.

The main part of the reserve covers 3 870 ha Bankenveld grassland. The portions cut of from the reserve as well as dam areas covers another 679 ha, making the total 4 549 ha. This includes open plains and undulating hills as well as extensive wetland areas. The reserve was developed out of the Rietvlei water scheme. Consequently the largest man made occurrence in the reserve is the Rietvlei dam.

The Sesmyl Spruit is located on the southern side of the reserve where it flows into the Marais Dam. From here the overflow joins the Grootvlei Spruit which drains the reserve in a north-western direction forming a wetland of approximately 8 km running up to the Rietvlei dam.

Many servitudes are registered on the reserve. These include a variety of power lines, such as those of the Cabora Bassa scheme, sewer lines, Rand Water pipelines and petrol and diesel pipelines.

The geology of the reserve forms part of the Transvaal System, but to the south two series from the Karoo System is found. The Pretoria and Dolomite Series and Daspoort Stage are found within the Transvaal System. The eastern part of the reserve is made up of dolomite and

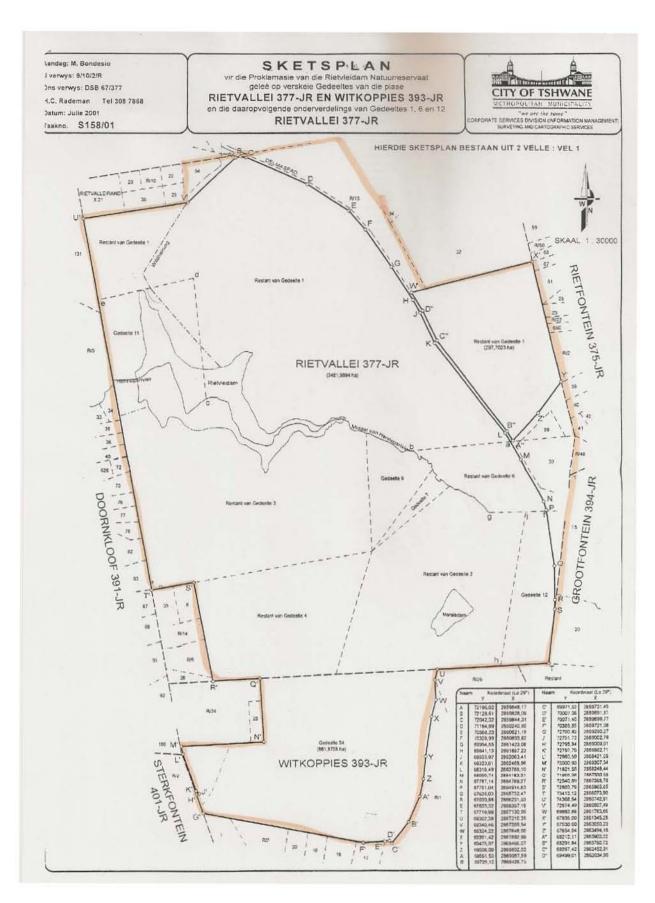


Figure 2 Surveyors map of the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve.

chert. The central portion consists of andesitic lava with agglomerate, shale and tuff layered in between. The ridges to the west are formed by shale, siltstone and quartzite and grit stone on top of layers of tillite and limestone. Many sinkholes are found in the reserve.

The vegetation consists of grassland with few large trees. The wetlands are extremely important as it hosts a variety of plant species. The reserve also contains many species of mammals, including cheetah, white rhino, buffalo, blesbuck, water buck, eland, springbok, black wildebeest, black-backed jackal etc (CoT, brochures).

The presence of water would have made the area suitable for keeping livestock. However very little natural shelter, building material or fuel exists. The indigenous rock is not good for the manufacturing of stone tools.

#### 7. DISCUSSION

Before discussing the cultural resources of the reserve in detail a background regarding the different phases of human history is needed. This will enable the reader to better understand the sites found during the survey.

#### 7.1 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 in 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.

It is important to note that some of the oldest humanoid fossils have been found close to Pretoria, namely at Kromdraai, Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Gladysvale and Drimolen (in the Krugersdorp area). These hominids include Australopithecus Africanus, Australopithecus Robustus and Homo Habilis and can be as old as 3 million years. These early people were the first to make stone tools (Van Vollenhoven 2000: 146). These sites are also associated with Early Stone Age artifacts.

Middle Stone Age material was identified at Erasmusrand and the Groenkloof Nature Reserve (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 183). At the Erasmusrand cave some Late Stone Age tools were also identified as well as at Groenkloof (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 184). LSA material was also found at Zwartkops and Hennops River (Bergh 1999: 4). This last phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people.

No Stone Age sites, features or artifacts were found during the survey. However it needs to be indicated that the grass cover was extremely high during this time and such cultural objects may therefore be found in future.

#### 7.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in three separate phases according to Huffman (2007: xiii) namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D. Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D. Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Only Late Iron Age sites have been identified close to the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve. Bergh (1999: 7) indicates that 125 sites are known in the Pretoria area, but this is underestimation. According to Delius (1983: 12) and Horn (1996: 23) LIA people moved into the Pretoria area since 1600 A.D. The closest LIA sites to the reserve are those found at Groenkloof and Erasmusrand (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 188).

Although no Iron Age sites and features were identified during the survey it is clear that this may only be a result of the growth in vegetation. The management and workers should therefore always be on the lookout for Iron Age features and artifacts, such as stone walling and pottery.

#### 7.3 Historical Age

The Historical Age started with the first historical sources which can be used to learn more about people of the past. In South Africa it can be divided into two phases. The first includes oral histories as well as the recorded oral histories of past societies. The latter were usually written by people who contact with such a community for a short time. This is followed by the second phase which includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 189).

Early travelers have moved through the area that later became known as Pretoria as early as 1829. This was when the first white people visited the area, namely Robert Schoon and William McLuckie. During the same year the well known missionary Dr. Robert Moffat also visited the area (Rasmussen 1978: 69). In October 1829 the missionary James Archbell and the trader David Hume traveled through this part of the country (Changuion 1999: 119).

The first Bantu language speakers in the area were the so-called Transvaal Ndebele, specifically the southern group. Their history goes back to Chief Msi (Musi) and the genealogy of the Manala (Mahbena) clan, the Ndzundza (Mapoch) clan, the Mathombeni (Kekana) clan and the Hwanda clan (Horn 1996: 23).

Chief Msi lived in the Pretoria area somewhere between 1600 and 1700 A.D. His sons divided the tribe in three groups, namely the Hwaduba, Manala and Ndzundza (Horn 1996: 23).

The largest group of Bantu speaking people in the Pretoria area is the Northern Sotho, but Southern Sotho's and Tswanas are also present. These groups have a typical building tradition consisting of large building complexes and round huts with conical roofs (Bergh 1999: 106).

It seems as if all these groups fled from the area during the Difaquane when Mzilikazi came here in 1827. He killed the men, burned down their villages, confiscated the livestock and took the women to marry members of his impi (Van Vollenhoven 2000: 156).

The missionary Jean-Pierre Pellissier even visited Mzilikazi in March 1932. In June/ July of that year he was attacked by the impi of Dingane, the Zulu chief. As a result he left the area during that year (Bergh 1999: 112). This left an area described as being deserted by the missionary Robert Moffat. Sotho groups however started moving back into the area after Mzilikazi left (Junod 1955: 68).

The first white people also came to the Pretoria area during this time (Coetzee 1992: 11). In 1839 JGS Bronkhorst settled on the farm Elandspoort. He was the first permanent white settler in the area (Van Vollenhoven 2005: 17-45).

According to the first inspection report for farms in the Pretoria area the first owner of the farm Rietvallei 377 JR was the widow Susanna Margaretha Jacobs. She was married to one of the Erasmus brothers who were well known in the early history of the town. The farm was inspected on 9 August 1841 (NAD, TAD, RAK 2750: 2; NAD, TAD, RAK 2711; NAD, TAD, RAK 2434, no 461).

The history of the farm Rietvallei as written in the ZAR farm deeds registers (Deeds Office, Pretoria) is as follows:

DATE	FROM	TO	REMARKS	
24 February	Government	Susanna	Although it was indicated that the farm	
1859		Margaretha	was already inspected in 1841, this	
		Jacobs	means that it was only officially	
			registered in 1859. This illustrates the	
			point made earlier regarding registration	
			much later that occupation.	
7 June 1929	SJ Meintjes &	City Council of	Portion 11 – no record was kept of what	
	R Dyason	Pretoria	happened between 1859 and 1929. It is	
			clear however that the farm was divided	
			into different portions in this time.	
28 August	PL Hayley (neé	City Council of	Portion 12 – the City Council of Pretoria	
1929	Marais)	Pretoria	became part of the City of Tshwane in	
			2000.	
30 August	Standard Bank	City Council of	Portion 2, 4, 7 and 9	
1929		Pretoria		
2 September	Estate late DM	City Council of	Portion 1	
1929	Munro	Pretoria		
7 September	FEP Ball	City Council of	Portion 3	
1929		Pretoria		
24 September	MJ van Reenen	City Council of	Portion 6 – MJ van Reenen must have	
1929	(neé Jacobsz)	Pretoria	been married to JW van Reenen who is	
			buried on this portion.	

The farm Witkoppies 393 JR is not to be found on this inspection report. The first indication of the farm is found in the Deeds Office and dates to 15 July 1859. The first owner of this farm was Johannes Elardus Erasmus (Deeds Office, Pretoria). Although the date on the farm register is given as 1859, it should be indicated that many of the first farms were only registered once it was sold. Therefore the farm may have been in their hands for more than 10 years before it was registered.

The history of the farm Witkoppies as written in the ZAR farm deeds registers (Deeds Office, Pretoria) is as follows:

DATE	FROM	TO	REMARKS
15 July 1859	Government	Johannes Elardus	The Erasmus family
		Erasmus	probably settled here
			since the early 1940's.
27 March 1931	JGC Erasmus	Michiel Christiaan	JGS Erasmus was most
	(neé	Erasmus	likely the mother of MC
	Bronkhorst) &		Erasmus. The father of
	Estate late MC		MC Erasmus was also
	Erasmus		MC Erasmus (married to
			JGS Erasmus). The older
			MC Erasmus was most
			likely the son of JE
			Erasmus.
27 March 1931	JGC Erasmus	Johannes Elardus	He most likely was a
	(neé	Erasmus	brother of the MC
	Bronkhorst) &		Erasmus who received
	Estate late MC		the above portion.
	Erasmus		
11 January 1935	PCB Erasmus	Michiel Christiaan	MC Erasmus therefore
		Erasmus	now owned two
			portions.
27 June 1944	Estate late AJ	Daniel Jacobus Elardus	He inherited it from his
	Erasmus (neé	Erasmus	mother.
	Erasmus)		
12 September 1946	Estate late RSE	Various people	The farm was divided
	Erasmus		into many portions.

It is clear that the City Council of Pretoria acquired the farm Rietvallei in 1929. Witkoppen was added much more recently as portion 34 could not even be found in the old farm registers.

The Rietvlei dam was built during the Great Depression and was completed in 1934. Since the dam is older than 60 years it constitutes the first cultural heritage resource on the reserve and therefore the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) should be consulted in the event of any changes being planned to the dam itself. It will however not be included in the list below as the dam is still utilized every day to provide water to the inhabitants of the city. It provides 15% of Tshwane's residential water. The dam wall was also extended during 1988. In 1938 the area was declared a nature reserve.

All the known sites within the boundaries of the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve date from the Historical Age. This indicates that the area was utilized during this period.

# 7.4 Discussion of cultural heritage sites, features and structures at the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve

# 7.4.1 <u>Site 1</u>

Site no 1 is the historical farm house and outbuildings on the farm Rietvallei (Figure 3-5). It is currently used as an education centre. Historically it is the most significant buildings on the reserve. It probably is not the first house built on the farm as this one only dates back to just after the turn of the century (late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century). The most probable dates are between 1910 and 1940. The site is of high cultural significance.

The building was done in an Edwardian style although minimal changes have been made over the years. However these were not as much that it decreases the cultural significance thereof.

It is possible that other features are to be found on the farm yard. It should always be kept in mind that a historical farm yard should be regarded as an entity.

GPS: 25°52'37"S 28°18'04"E



Figure 3 View of the main house.



Figure 4 Another view of the main house.



Figure 5 Historical barn on the farm yard.

1. Building such as these needs constant attention and needs to be maintained at all times.

- 2. The function of the buildings as an education centre may continue, but care should be taken that the historical integrity of the buildings is not decreased in the process.
- 3. None of the so-called restoration processes (see Appendix A) may be utilized without consultation with the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Agency. Any changes to the buildings should also be approved by the Gauteng PHRA. In such an event it would be expected to appoint a cultural historian with experience in architecture to guide the process and to lead the building and restoration team.
- 4. It would be of benefit to visitors if a short history of the farm and buildings could be available, either on a brochure or a display panel at the house.
- 5. The historical ambiance of the buildings should be preserved as far as possible. As the farm yard has been disturbed much, this is not applicable to the latter. This means that no new constructions should be allowed within 20 meters from each of the buildings. Any other historical site features discovered should be handled with the same respect.
- 6. An adaptation to this management plan should be done after implementation of the above mentioned guidelines.

# 7.4.2 Site 2

This is a stone wall just beyond the perimeters of the farm yard, forming a rectangle (Figure 6). It is associated with the historical farm and was probably used as fence around a garden or orchid, but it may also have been a cattle kraal.

GPS: 25°52'31"S 28°17'58"E



Figure 6 Part of the stone fence close to the historical farm yard.

- 1. The stone walled enclosure should be kept in tact.
- 2. The vegetation inside and alongside the stone enclosure should be controlled in order to keep it from deteriorating.
- 3. Loose stone should be placed back on top of the walls. Shies should be done under supervision of a person trained in heritage management.
- 4. None of the so-called restoration processes (see Appendix A) may be utilized without consultation with the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Agency.
- 5. The activities of the education centre can be extended to include this area.
- 6. The historical ambiance of the structure should be preserved as far as possible. This means that no new constructions should be allowed within 20 meters from it.
- 7. An adaptation to this management plan should be done after implementation of the above mentioned guidelines.

#### 7.4.3 Site 3

This is a grave yard consisting of four graves. Three of these are older than 60 years and are therefore classified as archaeological graves. The fourth has no date of death indicated, but one can assume that it is also older than 60 years.



Figure 7 Palisade fence around the grave yard. This grave (MCE Erasmus) also has its own steel fencing around it.

The grave yard is fenced off by a palisade fence (Figure 7). Graves are always regarded as having a high cultural significance.

GPS: 25°53'50"S 28°18'28"E

The first grave is that of Michiel Christiaan Elardus Erasmus. He was born on 12 September 1849 and died on 8 June 1895 (Figure 8). The Erasmus family was the first owners of the farm Rietvallei. However it is believed that the person buried here was owner of the farm Witkoppies. He is the one who was married to JGC Bronkhorst (see tables earlier). The grave has a cement border and headstone.



Figure 8 Headstone on the grave of MCE Erasmus.

The second grave is the one of Petrus Jacobus van Staden who died on 30 June 1918 at the age of 30 years, 2 months and 2 days (Figure 9). Although it is not indicated on his grave stone, he therefore must have been born on 28 April 1888.

The grave has a packed stone dressing. The head stone is made of cement.



Figure 9 Grave of Jacobus van Staden.

The third grave is an unknown one. It has a stone dressing and no headstone (Figure 10).

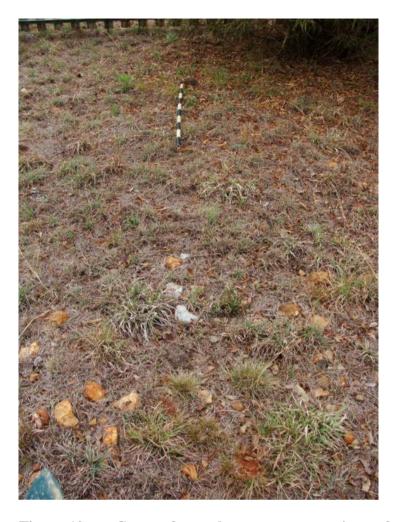


Figure 10 Grave of an unknown person at site no 3.

The fourth grave is that of Cecilia Moodie (neé Robbertse). She was born on 20 June 1842 and died on 10 November 1905 (Figure 11-12). She was the wife of Thomas Moodie, trek leader of the Moodie trek who moved from Betlehem to Rhodesia in 1892.

The grave has a cement border with a decorative metalwork fence. The headstone is made of granite.

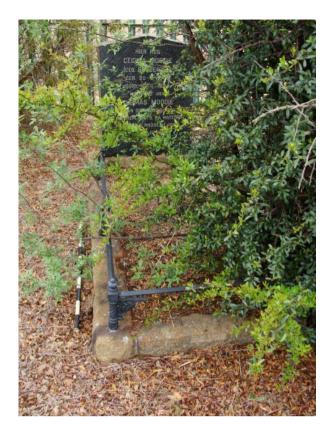


Figure 11 Grave of Cecilia Moodie.

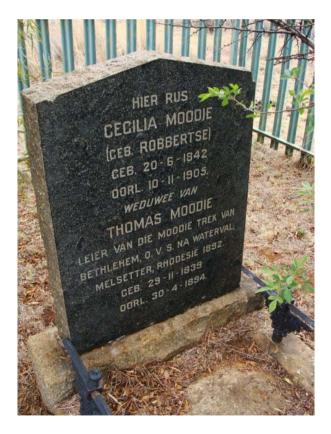


Figure 12 Inscription on the headstone of Cecilia Moodies' grave.

- 1. Graves are an extremely sensitive issue and therefore the grave yard should be preserved at all cost. The fence should be fixed and kept in a good condition.
- 2. The vegetation should be kept in control.
- 3. It would be of benefit to visitors if a short history of the graves could be available, either on a brochure or a display panel at the grave yard.
- 4. Should any developments that may have an impact on the site be planned, it should be re-evaluated within the context of this management plan.

# 7.4.4 Site 4

Site no 4 consists of one grave. It is covered by a concrete slab with a shield of granite on which the inscription was made. Around the grave a granite and shackle barrier was placed (Figure 13).

It is the grace of Jacob Willem van Reenen. He was born on 22 February 1846 and died on 4 June 1916 (Figure 14). It has been indicated earlier that he was the owner of portion 6 of the farm Rietvallei, which is also the portion where he is buried.

Graves are always regarded as having a high cultural significance. This one is older than 60 years and is therefore regarded as an archaeological grave.

GPS: 25°53'10"S 28°18'57"E



Figure 13 The grave of JW van Reenen.



Figure 14 Shield with inscription on the grave of JW van Reenen.

- 1. Graves are an extremely sensitive issue and therefore the grave should be preserved at all cost. The fence should be fixed and kept in a good condition.
- 2. Vegetation should be controlled so that it does not damage the grave.
- 3. It would be of benefit to visitors if a short history of the graves could be available, either on a brochure or a display panel at the grave yard.
- 4. Should any developments that may have an impact on the site be planned, it should be re-evaluated within the context of this management plan.

# 7.4.5 Site 5

This is another grave yard consisting of at least 30 graves. However, due to erosion it may even be more. The site is divided into two by an erosion donga and therefore more graves may have been present originally. It is also possible that the human remains are still within the erosion matter.

The graves all have stone dressings (Figure 15-17). One is marked by a cement cross (Figure 18) without any inscription. The cross may be a later addition to the site. Another one has a slate headstone of which the wording is only partially legible. It reads: Jacobus Johannes Schoeman 29 March 1841 – 1897...te Rietfontein

As the dates of death are unknown the graves needs to be regarded as archaeological graves. The one date known, 1897, is certainly older than 60 years and is therefore definitely an archaeological grave. Graves always have a high cultural significance.

GPS: 25°53'04"S 28°16'04"E



Figure 15 The graves on the northern side of the erosion donga at site no 5.



Figure 16 Another part of the grave yard.



Figure 17 Graves on the southern side of the erosion donga.



Figure 18 Grave with concrete cross as headstone.

1. Graves are an extremely sensitive issue and therefore the graves should be preserved at all cost.

- 2. Urgent stabilization of this site is needed as it seems as if the graves are being washed away due to the slope where it is positioned. This should be done by strengthening and supporting the ground wall where the grave yard is situated.
- 3. A suitable fence should be erected and kept in a good condition.
- 4. The vegetation should be controlled in order to prevent further deterioration of the site.
- 5. It would be of benefit to visitors if a short history of the graves could be available, either on a brochure or a display panel at the grave yard.
- 6. Should any developments that may have an impact on the site be planned, it should be re-evaluated within the context of this management plan.

# 7.4.6 Site 6

Site 6 also is a grave yard consisting of at least 42 graves. Most of the graves have stone dressings (Figure 19), but some have cement borders. Most of the headstones of the graves which do have headstones are made of stone or slate. Only one grave have a legible headstone. It is made of granite and is the grave of Daniel Mamakoe who died in 1934 (Figure 20). This grave is older than 60 years and therefore is classified as being an archaeological grave.

As the dates of death of all the others are unknown these also needs to be regarded as archaeological graves. Graves always have a high cultural significance.

GPS: 25°55'06"S 28°18'04"E



Figure 19 Some of the graves at site no 6.



Figure 20 The grave of Daniel Mamakoe.

- 1. Graves are an extremely sensitive issue and therefore the graves should be preserved at all cost.
- 2. A suitable fence should be erected and kept in a good condition.
- 3. The vegetation should be kept neat.
- 4. It would be of benefit to visitors if a short history of the graves could be available, either on a brochure or a display panel at the grave yard.
- 5. Should any developments that may have an impact on the site be planned, it should be re-evaluated within the context of this management plan.

#### 7.4.7 Site 7

Site 7 is another grave yard consisting of at least11 graves. However the grass cover is very long, therefore there probably are more graves. The graves all have stone dressings (Figure 21-22). Some have headstones made of slate, but nothing is legible.

As the dates of death are unknown the graves also needs to be regarded as archaeological graves. Graves always have a high cultural significance.

GPS: 25°54'04"S 28°18'33"E



Figure 21 One of the graves at site no 7.



Figure 22 Another grave at site no 7 showing a slate headstone.

- 1. Graves are an extremely sensitive issue and therefore the graves should be preserved at all cost.
- 2. A suitable fence should be erected and kept in a good condition.
- 3. The vegetation should be kept neat.
- 4. It would be of benefit to visitors if a short history of the graves could be available, either on a brochure or a display panel at the grave yard.
- 5. Should any developments that may have an impact on the site be planned, it should be re-evaluated within the context of this management plan.

# 7.4.8 Site 8

This is a pump house and fountain on the reserve. The original brick- and stone work shows that it may date back as far as the 1930's, although the pump house itself may only date back to the 1960's (Figure 23-24).

Since the water system on the reserve is very important, the man-made features connected thereto is of a similar importance. The site therefore has a medium cultural significance.

GPS: 25°52'57"S 28°18'31"E



Figure 23 Original brick and stonework at site no 7.



Figure 24 Another view of site no 7.

- 1. The original building material should be kept in tact as far as possible. However, since the feature is still active it may be difficult. It is therefore important to make any necessary changes sympathetic to the original.
- 2. The vegetation should be controlled in order to preserve the site.
- 3. An adaptation to this management plan should be done after implementation of the above mentioned guidelines and it should also be relooked if any development is planned which may have an impact on the furrow system.

# 7.4.9 <u>Feature 9</u>

This is a small building that is probably also used as a pump house. It is still in working condition. The brickwork may date back as far as the 1940's-1960's (Figure 25). The cultural significance of the feature is medium.

GPS: 25°54'12"S 28°19'05"E



Figure 25 Feature no 8.

- 1. The original building material should be kept in tact as far as possible. However, since the feature is still active it may be difficult. It is therefore important to make any necessary changes sympathetic to the original.
- 2. The vegetation should be controlled in order to preserve the building.
- 3. An adaptation to this management plan should be done after implementation of the above mentioned guidelines and it should also be relooked if any development is planned which may have an impact on the furrow system.

# 7.4.10 Feature 10

This is the remains of a building in a clover shape which had three rooms (Figure 26). Only the foundations remained. It may have been a lookout point in the past, but does not seem to be very old. The cultural significance therefore is low.

GPS: 25°53'17"S 28°15'54"E



Figure 26 Foundations of the building numbered feature 9.

# Management guidelines:

- 1. The foundations are in a good condition and may therefore be re-utilized.
- 2. No specific heritage related matter needs to be addressed.

# 7.4.11 Site 11

The site consists of roughly built stone walls with a stone platform in the middle (Figure 27). It is similar to fortifications built during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and it is therefore suggested that it may have been the foundation platform for a block house with associated military features.

The site is of a high cultural significance.

GPS: 25°53'07"S 28°15'52"E



Figure 27 Stone remains that may be of a military origin and was probably built during the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902).

# Management guidelines:

- 1. The state of the site is such that one can do nothing more than to keep the vegetation from further damaging it.
- 2. Information about block houses during the Anglo Boer War should be included in a brochure and the site may even be indicated on a map.
- 3. Should any developments be planned here it should be re-evaluated, but within the context of this management plan.

## 7.4.12 Site 12

This is the remains of a block house from the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902). e site consists of roughly built stone walls with a stone platform in the middle (Figure 28-29). It is similar to fortifications built during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and it is therefore suggested that it may have been the foundation platform for a block house with associated military features.

The site is of a high cultural significance.

GPS: 25°52'22"S 28°18'03"E

The feature consists of loosely packed stone forming a platform. A circular corrugated iron blockhouse would have been placed on top thereof (Van Vollenhoven 2003b: 15). It is surrounded by a circular shaped stone wall. Pieces of corrugated iron were also found as well

as barbed wire which was used during the War to safeguard the blockhouses. A few stone walled fortification walls are also found to the west of the blockhouse.



Figure 28 View of the platform on which the corrugated iron blockhouse stood and the stone wall surrounding it.



Figure 29 Another view of the platform on which the corrugated iron blockhouse stood and the stone wall surrounding it.

# Management guidelines:

- 1. The site is extremely important and should be preserved at all cost.
- 2. The vegetation should be kept from further damaging it.
- 3. Information about block houses during the Anglo Boer War should be included in a brochure and the site may even be indicated on a map. The site can also be included in horse and walking trails at the reserve.
- 4. Should any developments be planned here it should be re-evaluated, but within the context of this management plan.

# 7.5 Cultural Heritage Resources map

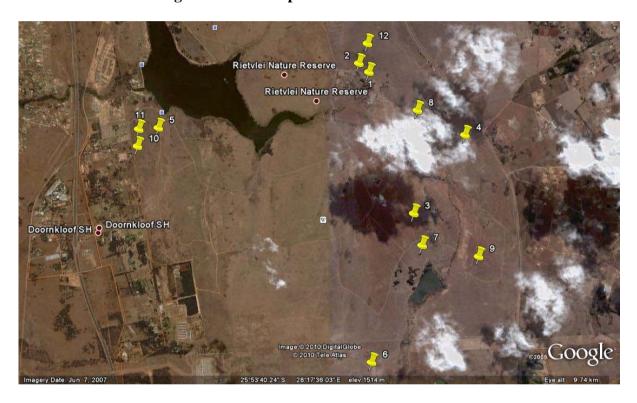


Figure 30 Map indicating the locations of the identified cultural heritage resources at the Rietylei Dam Nature Reserve.

(Note that GPS measurement may not be precisely correct due to different factors. Therefore the indications in this report should only be taken as a more-or-less location.)

#### 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it is clear that the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve includes a number of cultural heritage resources. These needs to be conserved, preserved and protected in accordance with this management plan. It is however important to note that all cultural resources may even not yet be known and once more are identified, these should be included in this document.

Combined with the natural resources the reserve is indeed a precious asset that should be managed with the necessary care. The cultural heritage of the reserve includes the last phase

of human history. Features such as graves, historical buildings and fortifications are important, but the resources linked to the supplying of water to the town make the area very unique. Therefore it should be preserved at all cost.

## The following is recommended:

- 1. This document should be rewritten at least once every five years or every time a new development is planned (whichever comes first).
- 2. The management guidelines given in this management plan must be implemented. This will have to consist of a short, medium and long term strategy for the preservation, conservation and utilization of the cultural heritage resources in the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve. This strategy is already imbedded in this management plan.
- 3. The necessary measures should be put in place to stop any possible degradation of cultural resources on the reserve (see management guidelines at each individual site).
- 4. Information educating visitors with regards to the National Heritage Resources Act and indicating that it is an offence to damage historical resources should be included in brochures at the reserve.
- 5. Information panels at least be placed at the old farm yard and should be replaced at least every five years. New panels with information of the existing cultural resources may be erected at each individual location, but information on the brochure given to visitors should also include this as minimum information.
- 6. This management plan should be consulted continuously and especially when any new developments are planned on the resort.
- 7. The tourism potential of the reserve should not be under estimated. Current plans in this regard (eg walking trail) should be implemented and supported.
- 8. Visitors to the different sites should be monitored in order to prevent any damage thereto. This should form part of the resort's tourism development plan.
- 9. The staff at the reserve as well as others involved in the management thereof (including new appointees) should be educated with regards to all aspect mentioned in this management plan. This will assist in the monitoring of visitors, but will not on its own solve this problem.
- 10. The fencing of certain resources and keeping the vegetation in control (see management guidelines) is a very important first step that should be implemented urgently.
- 11. Partnerships should be formed with concerned parties order to get these people involved in the preservation and conservation of the cultural heritage of the resort.

12. This management plan may be used together with other information to motivate to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) that the Rietvlei Dam Nature Reserve be declared a Grade II heritage site. The information in this document will serve as sufficient motivation in this regard.

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# Appendix A

PF
Definition of terms:
Artifact:
Cultural object (made by humans).
Buffer Zone:
Means an area surrounding cultural heritage (see def. cultural heritage) which has restrictions placed on its use or where collaborative projects and programs are undertaken to afford additional protection to the site.
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.
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:
All the processes used to maintain a place or object in order to keep its cultural significance. The process includes 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:

The utilization of management techniques to protect and develop cultural resources so that these become long term cultural heritage which 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 humans.

#### Feature:

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

# 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.

Heritage resource (Cultural):

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

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 management (Cultural):

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

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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.

# Iron Age:

In archaeology, the Iron Age is the stage in the development of any people where the use of iron implements as tools and weapons is prominent. The adoption of this new material coincided with other changes in some past societies often including differing agricultural practices, religious beliefs and artistic styles, although this was not always the case.

#### 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, 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 as defined and required as per the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003.

## Object:

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

# Partnership/s:

Means a co-operative and/or collaborative arrangement/s between the *Reserve* management and a third party that supports the achievement of the *Reserve* 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 protection, maintenance, preservation and sustainable utilization of places or objects in order to maintain the cultural significance thereof.

#### Site:

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

## Stone Age:

The period encompasses the first widespread use of stone for the manufacture of tools and weapons in human evolution and the spread of humanity from the savannas of East Africa to the rest of the world. It ends with the development of agriculture, the domestication of certain animals and the smelting of copper ore to produce metal. It is termed *pre*historic, since humanity had not yet started writing.

#### 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 the use of a biological resource, means the use of such resource in a way and at a rate that would not lead to its long-term decline; would not disrupt the ecological integrity of the ecosystem in which it occurs; and would ensure its continued use to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations of people (as per National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004).

# Appendix B

# **Explaining 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 categorised as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

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

# TABEL 10.4 'N UITBREIDING VAN DIE KONTEKSTUELE PARADIGMA OM DIE ERFENISHULPBRONBESTUURSPARADIGMA TE VORM BINNE DIE TOEPASSINGSVELD VAN DIE HISTORIESE ARGEOLOGIE Geesteswetenskappe Argeologie

