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**PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF
THE FARM BEZUIDENHOUTSHOEK 274JS AND PORTION 7 OF THE FARM
BANKFONTEIN 264JS**

Introduction

Please note that historical buildings older than 60 years and archaeological structures, features, deposits and artefacts older than 100 years are protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA)(Act no. 25 of 1999)**. Human burials older than 60 years are also protected by the Act as well as the **Human Tissue Act (Act no. 65 of 1983 as amended)**. Also note that the NHRA was promulgated in April 2000 and has replaced the previous National Monuments Act (Act no. 28 of 1969). All reports, recommendations, mitigation measures and permit applications emanating from heritage surveys and research are governed by the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**.

An underlying premise highlighted by the NHRA is that cultural heritage is **non-renewable** (rehabilitation is therefore not an option) and contains both **tangible** and **intangible** (i.e. oral traditions, indigenous knowledge, etc.) elements.

In terms of Section 35 (4) of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999):

- (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.

Archaeological Remains

An intensive heritage survey has been completed for the farm Bankfontein which revealed several historical structures, initiation sites and graves. Even the natural heritage (the Cycad declared as a National Heritage Site) has deep cultural significance.

Preliminary indications are that several large stone walled Iron Age settlements (AD 1600 - 1830) occur on the farm Bezuidenhoutshoek. These archaeological remains must still be investigated and can make an important contribution in terms of the regional understanding of Ndebele and Sotho occupation during the 18th and 19th centuries. As such, from an academic perspective, these sites have great research potential. Furthermore, these sites also have great intrinsic tourism value.

Recommendations

These historical and archaeological remains are protected by the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) and may not be impacted on without proper investigation by a qualified archaeologist.

Note, that not only will prospecting and mining activities on these two farms have a negative impact on the sites, but also on the regional context and the 'sense of place' of the area.



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