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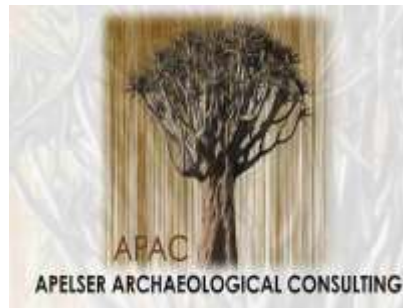
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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

APAC020/31

2020-05-05

To: Mr. Andrew Salomon
South African Heritage Resource Agency
P O Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

RE: MOTIVATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FULL PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PROPOSED THABA ECO VILLAGE LIFESTYLE ESTATE FILLING STATION DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM RIETVLEI 101IR, CITY OF JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC to provide a motivation for Exemption from a Full Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Thaba Eco Village Filling Station development on the Remainder of Portion 2 of the farm Rietvlei 101IR. The proposed development and study area is located on the Risipark AH in the south of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng.

Background to the Project

Balwin Properties Limited are proposing to develop the Thaba Eco Village Lifestyle Estate on Rietvlei 101IR. As part of this development a new Filling Station is proposed.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act no. 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that prior to development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large development takes place. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the

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specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. Please note that a nationwide fossil sensitivity map is available on SAHRIS to assist applicants with determining the fossil sensitivity of a study area.

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority motivating for exemption from having to undertake further heritage assessments.

Last mentioned option was decided on for this project which entailed desktop research as part of the assessment. A short site visit was also undertaken to strengthen the motivation for exemption. Previous heritage work in the study area was utilized for background information and is indicated in the List of References.

Relevant Legislation

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended).

The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act 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; and
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c. Historical settlements and townsapes;
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance;
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance;
- g. Graves and burial grounds;
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery; and
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.).

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. According to Section 38 (1) of the Act an HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length.
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m².
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

Results of Desktop Heritage & Site Assessment: Proposed Thaba Eco Village Filling Station

The development area is located on a part of Portion 2 of the farm Rietvlei 1011R on Risipark Agricultural Holdings in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng. The study area is surrounded by already established and on-going residential, industrial and other urban developments. The topography of the Filling Station study area is flat and open with no visible rocky ridges or outcrops, although there are some rocky outcrops, ridges and hills in the surrounding area.

The area would have been utilized in the historical past for agricultural purposes, while recent developments would have impacted on any archaeological and/or historical sites, features or material that might have been present in the area. Aerial images of the area (Google Earth) also shows the relative flat, open and disturbed nature of the area and the likelihood of any sites, features or material of cultural heritage significance being present, is slim.



Figure 1: Location and footprint of proposed Thaba Eco Village Filling Station (courtesy Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants cc).

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago

Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago

Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

The closest known Stone Age sites are located at Melvillekoppies, Linksfield & Primrose, dating to the Middle and Later Stone Age periods (Bergh 1999: 4).

There are no known Stone Age sites or features in the specific study area, and no material were identified during the April 2020 assessment for the proposed Filling Station development.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artefacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

A number of Later Iron Age stone-walled sites are known to occur in the larger study area. A Phase 1 HIA conducted on Portions of Rietvlei 101IR during 2006 and later updated in 2014 for the so-called Stone River's Arch Development (now the Thaba Eco Village Lifestyle Estate Development) identified & recorded a number of LIA sites (See Fourie 2006 & 2014 – Reference List) in the area. These sites are however mostly located close to and around the rocky ridges and hills to the west and north of the Filling Station area.

Similar sites were identified by the author of this Motivation for Exemption Letter in the adjacent area Randwater Nature Reserve Area. The Randwater Nature Reserve area Iron Age sites are possibly related to similar sites in the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve. The Klipriviersberg sites have been extensively researched archaeologically and do provide evidence on their age and origin. The Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve area sites are related to the Sotho-Tswana, who moved into the area from AD1300 onwards (Pelser 2015: 10-11). Based on Huffman's research the Klipriviersberg sites date to between AD1650 & AD1820, and belongs to the Uitkomst facies of the Urewe Tradition (Huffman 2007: 171). Based on Mason's extensive research of the Klipriviersberg sites, he indicated that they were likely occupied between AD1650 & AD1800, and were built by Sotho-Tswana people associated with the Huruthse group (Mason 1986: 567-602).

No Iron Age sites, features or material were identified in the Thaba Eco Village proposed Filling Station area during the site assessment, and if there were any present here it would have been destroyed during the recent past.

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans to move through and into the area were the group of Cornwallis Harris in 1836 (Bergh 1999: 13). These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 14).

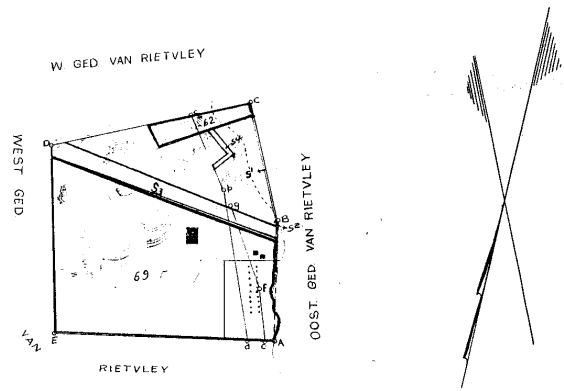
The oldest map copy for Portion 2 of Rietvlei 1011R that could be obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's database (www.csg.dla.gov.za) dates to 1879 (**CSG Document 100W8N01**). At the time the farm was known as Rietvley and was located in the District of Heidelberg. The map shows that the farm was surveyed for Mr. C.J. Marais in July 1879 and that it was transferred by deed to him and his son S.J. Marais on the 28th of October 1869.

ZIJDEN		HOEKEN	
AB	147 26	A	88 42 30
BC	147 94	B	167 23 50
CD	245 35	C	89 9 0
DE	228 75	D	101 29 50
EA	263 17	E	83 14 50

WARE KOPIE

Jan F. Smith
 LANDMETER-GENERAAL,
 PRETORIA,
 26. 2. 1960

SERVITUDE
 S.G. NO. 11498/2004

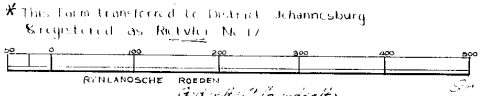


AFFECTED BY SUBDIVISION PORTIONS
 97 AND 98 SEE S.G.No.'s 1716/2002-1717/2002

Vir Servitude
 Aftrekkings en
 Endeasement
 Sien Anderkant

... die middellijn van
 ...
 (Get.) Charles L. Hull
 Vir Landmeter-Generaal

Tans geregistreer onder 1
 Now registered under 1
 No. 101
 REGISTRASIE AFDELING IR
 REGISTRATION DIVISION IR



Bovenstaande Figuur A tot E vertegenwoordigt ...
 van de plaats genaamd **RIETVLEY**

bevattende 115 Morgen 145 Vierkante Roeden (243 89 English Acres)
 Gelegen in het district Heidelberg wijk
 Transvaal en grenzende als hierboven vermeld
 De bakens zijn aangewezen door den eigeenaar en zijn behoorlijk opgericht volgens Wet.
 Afstand van het Dorp Heidelberg omtrent 30 mijlen
 Gemeten voor den Heer C.J. Marais
 door mij (Get.) W^m A.B. Anderson Gouvernment Landmeter

N^o D.O 172 Approved
 (Sgd) Sam Melvill
 Surveyor General
 Surveyor General's Office 19 JULY 1879

The Deponent refers to the Transfer N^o 3436
 made on the 28th day of October 1869
 in favour of Christoffel Johannes Marais, S.J. son.
 Field Office (Sgd) ... Smuts
 Registrar
 T.P.S. (S. JO'BURG.)

Figure 2: An 1879 map of Portion 2 of Rietvlei 101IR (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

The physical assessment of the area earmarked for the proposed development of the Filling Station related to the Thaba Eco Village Lifestyle Estate showed that the portion of land has been significantly altered and disturbed in recent time. The area is utilized as a scrapyard, storage for and selling of wood

and for the production and selling of outdoor and garden ornaments. A number of structures (wooden and other) used for storage and living is also located here. None of these however have any historical origin or significance. Furthermore, based on earlier aerial images (Google Earth) of the area, it is clear that the current features and structures here only occurred here after 2004 and is therefore less than 60 years of age.



Figure 3: A view of a section of the proposed Filling Station area.



Figure 4: A closer view of the area.



Figure 5: Another view showing the area.



Figure 6: A view of a section of the proposed Filling Station area.



Figure 7: Another view.



Figure 8: An aerial view of the area in 2020 (Google Earth 2020).



Figure 9: The same area in 2004 (Google Earth 2020).

Based on the aerial images, heritage desktop study and physical site assessment it is therefore deemed unlikely that any significant sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin might exist in the Filling Station study area. Recent historical activities (agricultural and later urban/industrial) would have impacted on any if they did exist here in the past and would have disturbed or destroyed these to a large degree. However, known archaeological and historical sites, features and material have been identified in the larger geographical area and this needs to be taken into consideration during any future actions related to the proposed development.

It is recommended that Exemption from a Full Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Thaba Eco Village Lifestyle Estate Filling Station development on a part of Portion 2 of the farm Rietvlei 101IR in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng be granted to the applicants taking into consideration the following:

The subterranean nature of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) resources must always be kept in mind. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward. This could include previously unknown and unmarked graves.

Should there be any questions or comments on the contents of this document please contact the author as soon as possible.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anton Pelsler', written in a cursive style.

Anton Pelsler

References

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