



24 January 2019

To whom it may concern

LETTER FOR HIA EXEMPTION REQUEST: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF KGASWANE COUNTRY LODGE ON PORTIONS 21 AND 85 OF THE FARM BOSCHFONTEIN 330 JQ, RUSTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The above-mentioned project refers. Archaetnos was appointed by the Kgaswane Country Lodge to undertake a heritage exemption application. Kgaswane Country Lodge is an existing facility along the R24 between Magaliesburg and Rustenburg in the area of Olifantsnek Dam. This is on portions 21 and 85 of the farm Boschfontein 330 JQ, Rustenburg, North West Province (Figure 1-3).

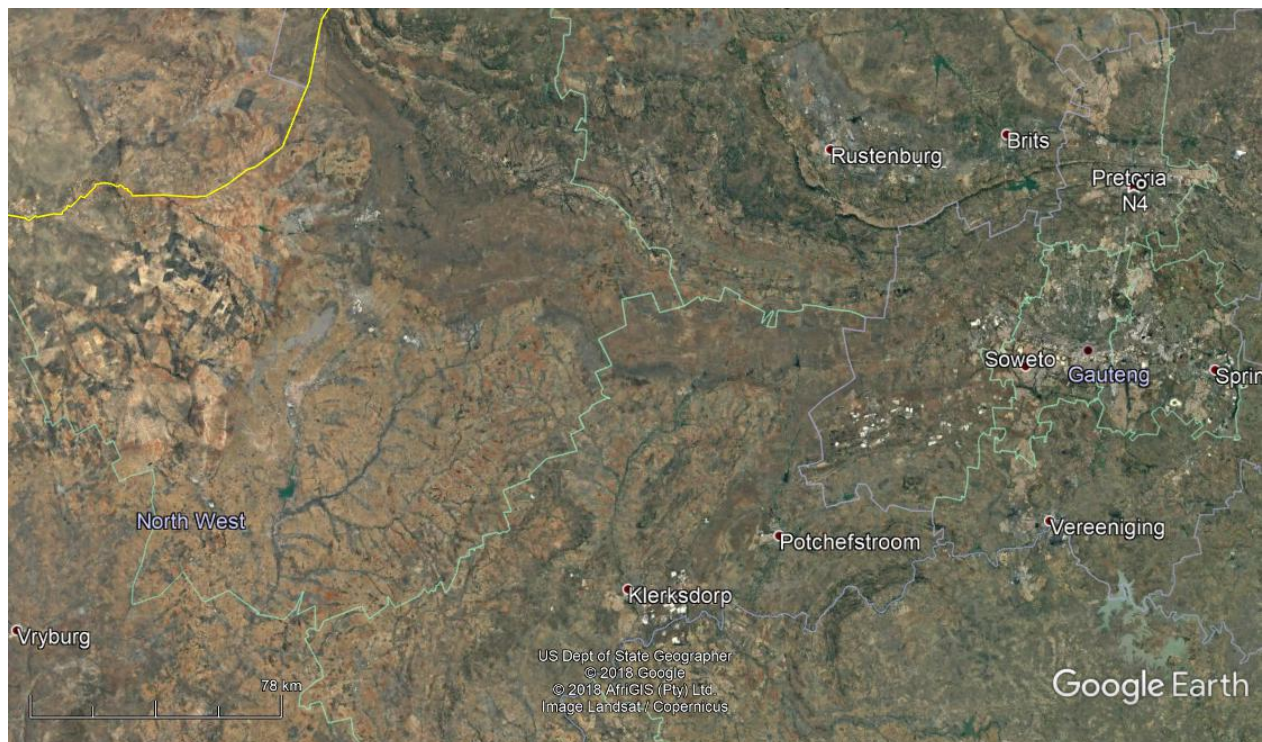


Figure 1: Location of Rustenburg in the North West Province.

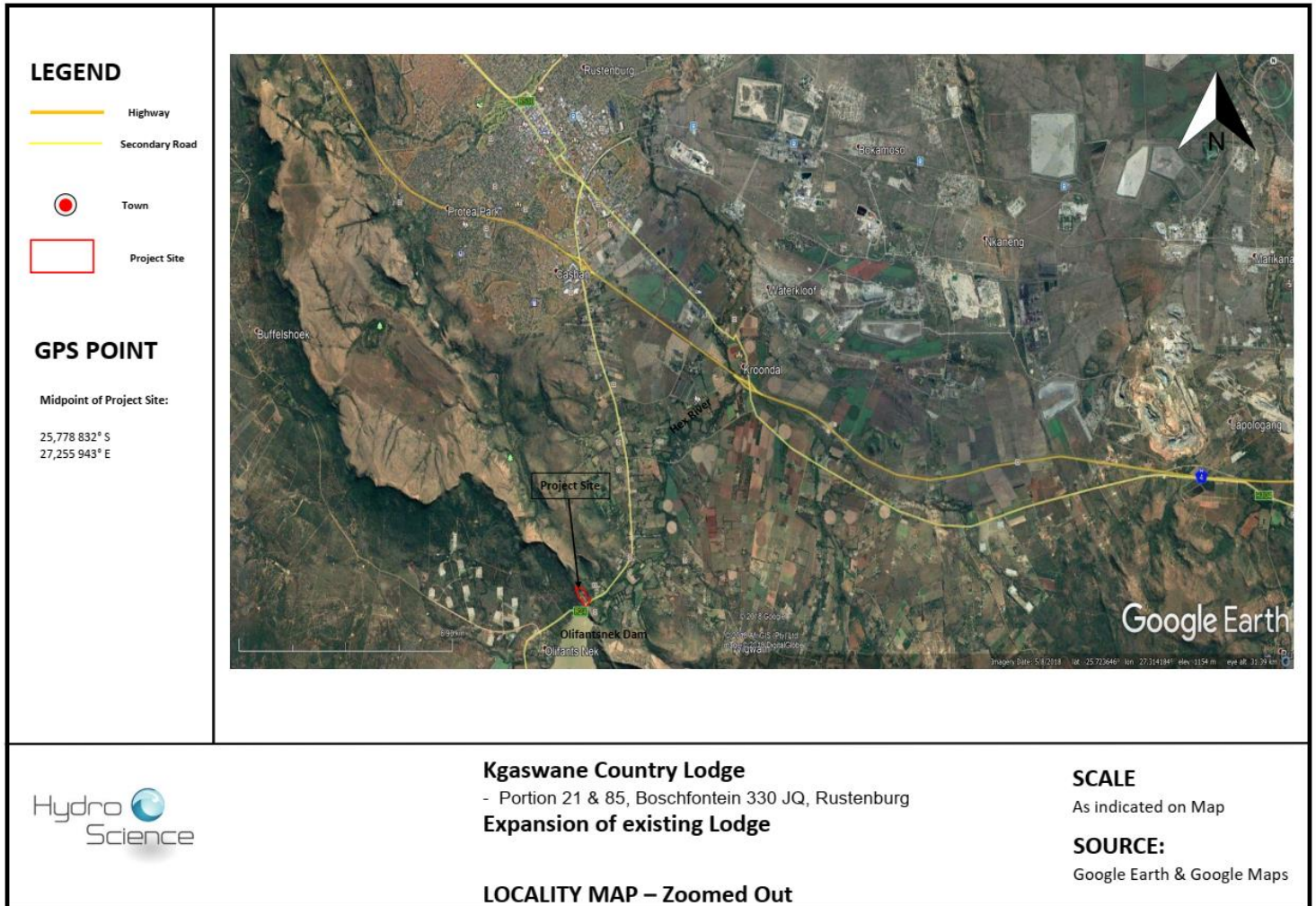


Figure 2: Location of the site in relation to Rustenburg (Hydro Science).

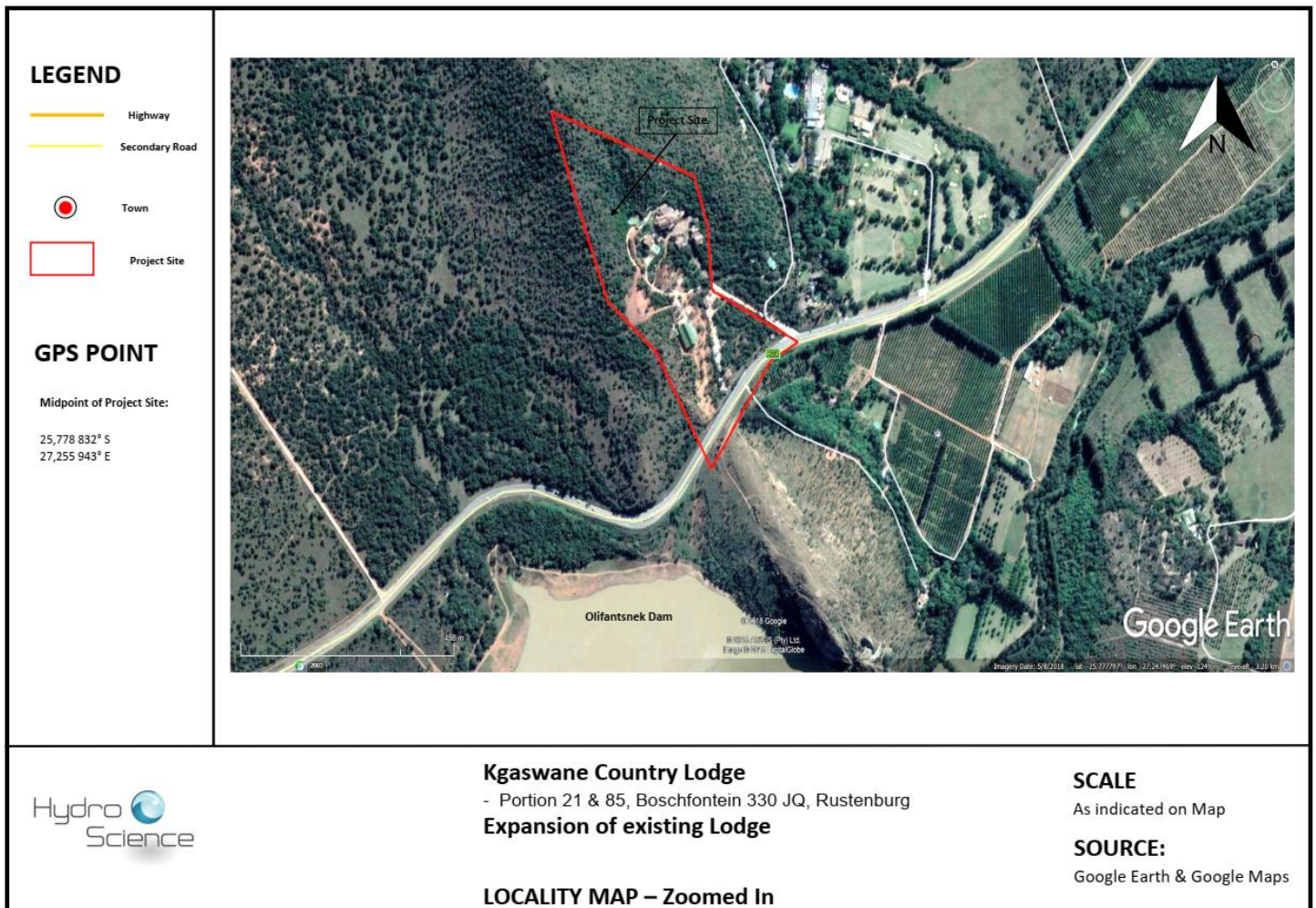


Figure 3: Closer view of the site (Hydro Science)

Existing structures at the site include the following:

- Reception block - building with reception area and offices including driveway and parking.
- Workers accommodation and store at the end of the reception area driveway.
- Conference block - building with conference hall, kitchen, toilets and offices including driveway and parking.
- Restaurant block – restaurant or dining area, spa, smaller dining areas or breakaway rooms, kitchen including driveway and parking.
- Family accommodation block – to accommodate two (2) families.
- Three (3) accommodation blocks with a total of 44 en-suite rooms (12 + 12 + 20).

The existing development and structures (Figure 4) were authorised by the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (NW READ) in 2009 (REC 009/08NW from NW READ). This project, therefore, only deals with the expansion of the lodge to accommodate more guests.

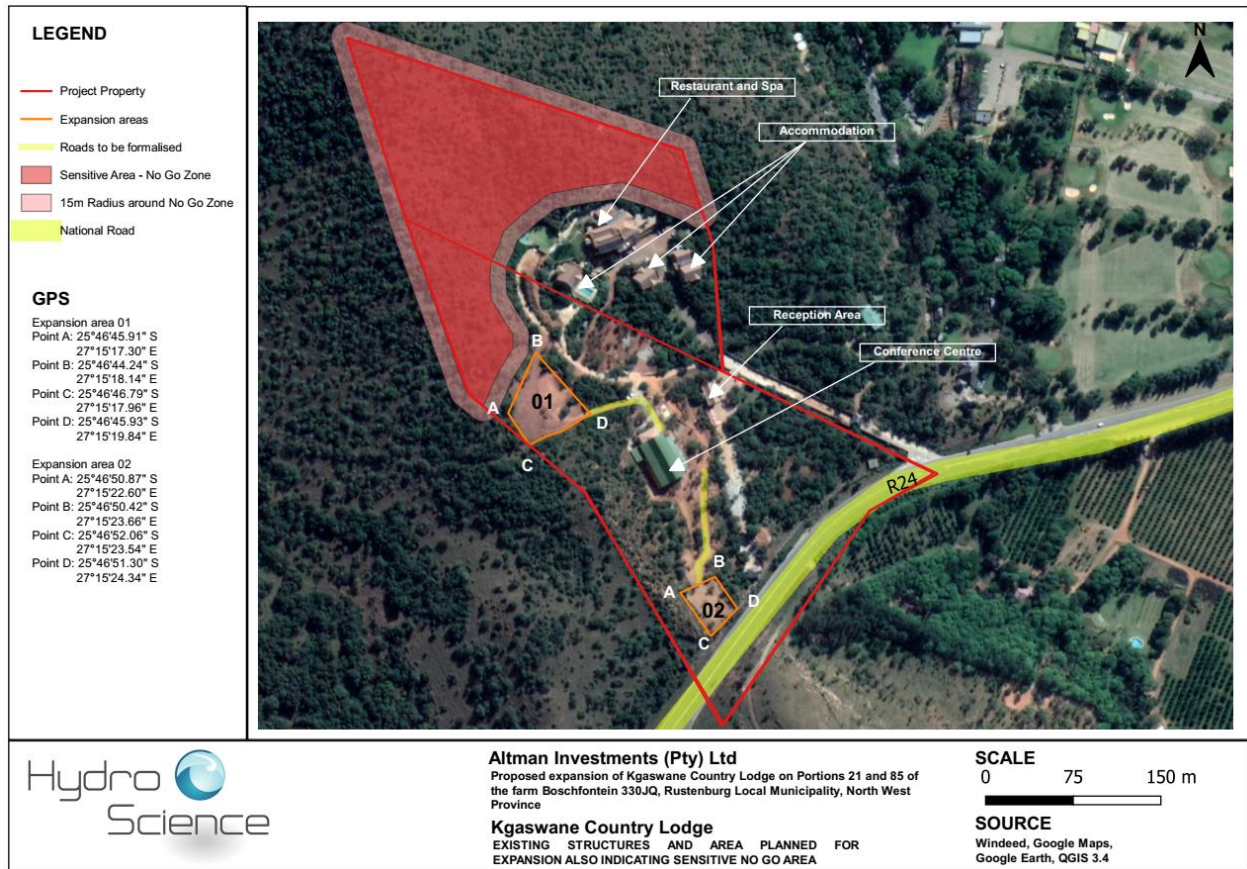


Figure 4: Existing structures (Hydro Science).

For the expansion, another 2-3 accommodation blocks will be established to accommodate a further 150 en-suite rooms (100 + 50 or 50 + 50 + 50). These blocks will be within the footprint of the existing disturbances and will therefore not go into areas currently still natural (to the north of the site). It is planned that the blocks will be located within areas where some vegetation clearance has already taken place since these currently serve as overflow parking areas. Expansion areas are located on Portion 85 (Figure 5).

The size of the total development area is ± 8 ha, with a natural area of ± 3 ha (including a rocky ridge). The expansion footprint is ± 0.3 ha.

Possible construction phase activities that may occur during the proposed expansion on-site include:

- Clearance of vegetation;
- Earthworks (levelling, stabilising slopes etc.);
- Delivery of construction equipment and material to the site;
- Movement of construction vehicles and equipment on site and around the site;
- Services installation (connections to water supply, installation of sewage conservancy tanks etc.);

- Additional internal roads to be established / formalised giving access to accommodation from existing roads;
- Storm water infrastructure; and
- Construction of accommodation blocks.



Figure 5: The two proposed expansion areas.

It is my opinion that the project may be exempted from doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The site has been visited on 23 January 2019 (Figure 6). The following is applicable:

- The site has been disturbed to a large extent (Figure 7-10).
- Both sites have been cleared and is currently used for parking.
- A few trees remain.
- Natural vegetation is only found around these sites.



Figure 6: Track route of the survey.



Figure 7: Site 1 – note the openness and concrete being constructed to prevent erosion.



Figure 8: Site 1 – note it being disturbed with natural vegetation surrounding it.



Figure 9: Site 2 – note the cleared area.



Figure 10: Site 2 – note the natural vegetation around the site.

Due to the mentioned factors, the chances therefore of finding any heritage related features are indeed extremely slim. It is therefore believed that an additional Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is not needed for this project. This letter serves as an exemption request to the relevant heritage authority.

The developer should however note that due to the nature of archaeological material, such sites, objects or features, as well as graves and burials may be uncovered during construction activities on site. In such a case work should cease immediately and an archaeologist should be contacted as a matter of urgency to assess such occurrences.

Recommendation:

That the development be exempted from doing an HIA.

I trust that you will find this in order.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Prof AC van Vollenhoven'.

Prof AC van Vollenhoven: Director

Note: The site assessment was done by Johan Smit, BA (Hons).