



2 March 2022

To whom it may concern

LETTER FOR HIA EXEMPTION REQUEST: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES INCLUDING FILLING STATION ON PORTION 62 (A PORTION OF PORTION 27) OF FARM RIETSPRUIT 152JR, MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

The above-mentioned project refers. The project site is located on Portion 62 (a portion of Portion 27) of the farm Rietspruit 152JR. This lies in Midvaal, Gauteng Province (Figure 1-3). The development will consist of a shopping centre, filling station, restaurants and a taxi rank (Figure 4).

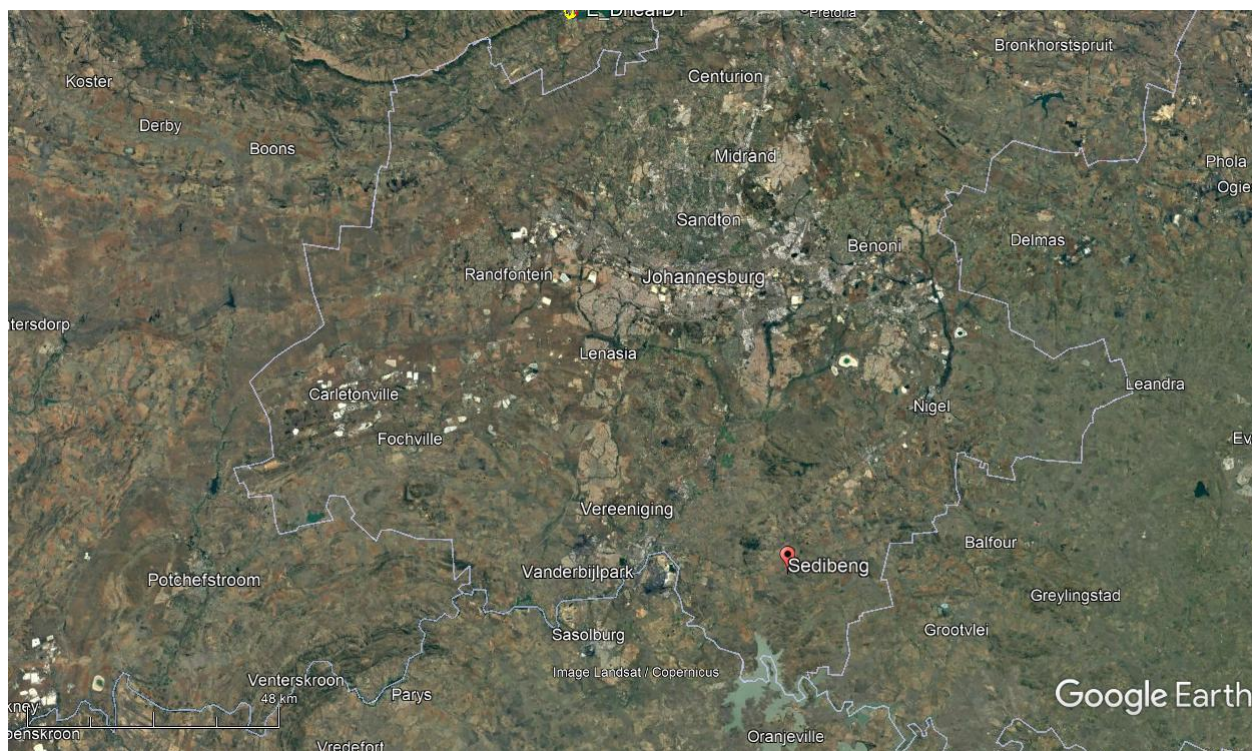


Figure 1: Location of Sedibeng in the Gauteng Province.

A 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 10 000 m².
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

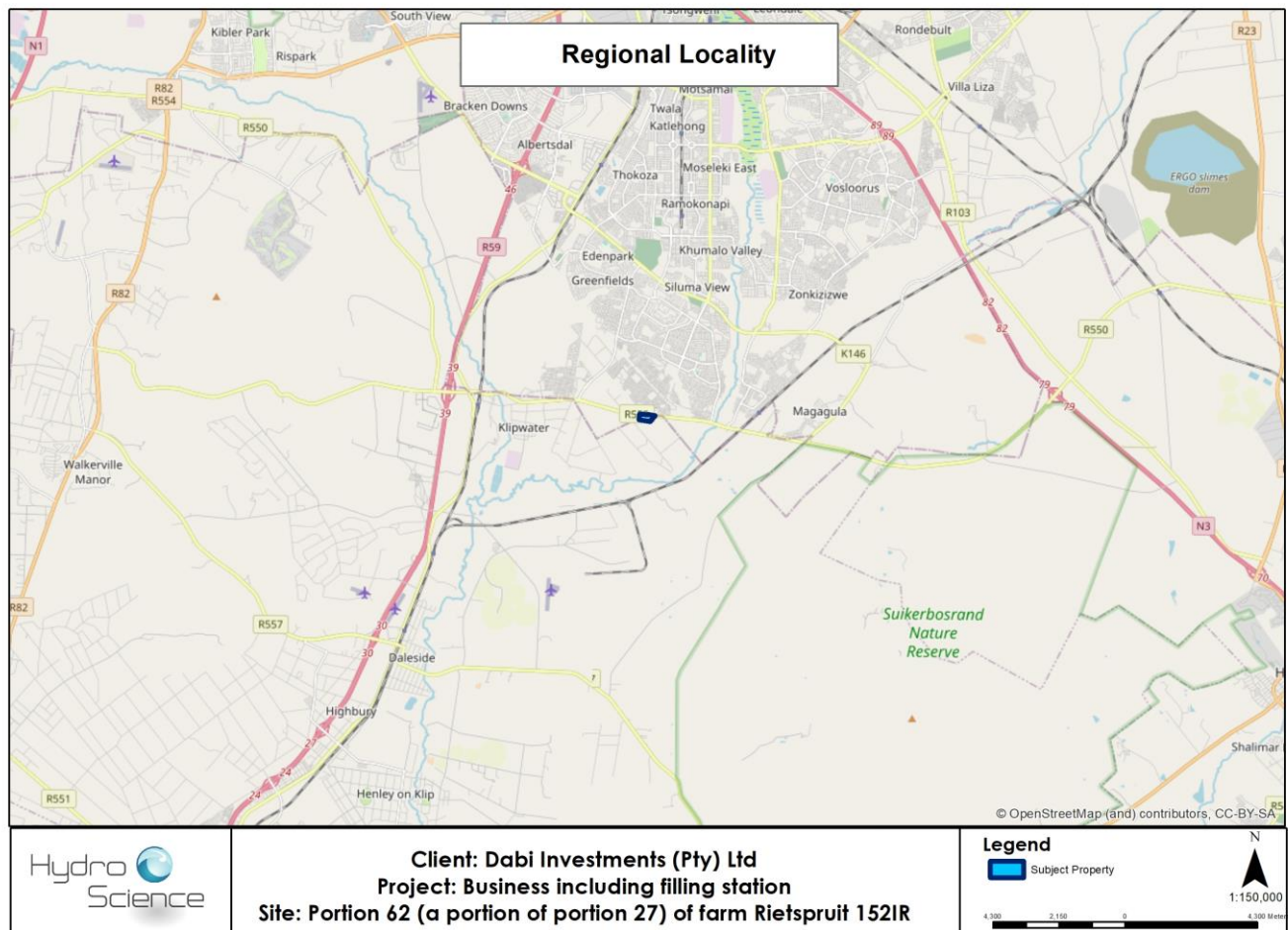


Figure 2: Regional Locality (Hydro Science).



The site was studied via Google Earth images (Figure 5) and photographs provided by the client (please see attached). It is my opinion that the project may be exempted from doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The following is applicable:

- The site has been entirely disturbed and consists of open space with a few buildings.
- There is limited vegetation, consisting of grass and pioneer species.
- Even the surrounding land is entirely disturbed with limited vegetation, consisting of grass and other pioneer species.
- None of the buildings on site are older than 60 years of age.
- The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Screening tool indicated that the area is a low risk area for archaeology and historical sites.¹



Figure 5: Google Earth image indicating the site.

In light of these factors, the chances of finding any heritage related features are indeed extremely slim, if any. 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.

¹ DEA, 2022. Screening report for an environmental authorization as required by the 2014 EIA Regulations – proposed site environmental sensitivity.

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Prof AC van Vollenhoven', is written over a light-colored, textured background.

Prof AC van Vollenhoven: Director

Appendix - Site photographs