



**ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd**  
6A Scarborough Road  
Muizenberg  
7945

12 August 2016

Rirhandzu Marivate  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research  
By email: RMarivate@csir.co.za

Dear Rirhandzu

**LETTER OF EXEMPTION FROM FURTHER HERITAGE STUDIES:  
PROPOSED PIGGERY AND CHICKEN BROILER FACILITY NEAR DELMAS, MPUMALANGA  
SAHRA Case ID: 9674**

Based on a field inspection and basic background research it is believed that the proposed development does not require any further assessment of impacts to any heritage resources. No significant impacts are expected at the site. The following text and images provide the basis for this recommendation.

Development proposal

It is proposed to develop a pig and chicken farming operation on the site. The development would include three phases of development of the piggery and three phases for the poultry facility as well as a feed milling plant and a waste management facility (Figure 1).

Methodology

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) did not require any assessment of impacts to palaeontology but did request either a desktop or field-based assessment of the possible impacts to other heritage resources. It was elected to conduct fieldwork because this gives a far more conclusive outcome. Jaco van der Walt (an archaeologist with Iron Age experience) examined the site on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016 (Figure 2). He also compiled a brief desktop review. Historical mapping and aerial photography were obtained from the Chief Surveyor General in Cape Town and consulted to determine the age of structures on the farm.

Desktop review

A number of other reports (Table 1) were consulted, although only two of them examined land reasonably close to the present study area (5-7 km away). The only other reports from the general vicinity were from projects around 32 km to the northeast. The review showed that Iron Age stone-walled sites, cemeteries and historical structures (including railway infrastructure) could be expected in the area. Published sources show that Stone Age archaeology is known from the broader area but tends to be located in rock shelters (Bornman

**ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 | Directors: Jayson Orton & Carol Orton

6A Scarborough Road, Muizenberg, 7945 | T: 021 788 8425 | C: 083 272 3225

Jayson@asha-consulting.co.za | Carol@asha-consulting.co.za | www.asha-consulting.co.za

1995; Delius 2007; Keenan-Smith 1961; Schoonraad in Barnard 1975). Iron Age settlement in the area appears to have been limited with just one Late Iron Age site known near Bronkhorstspuit (Bergh 1999).

**Table 1:** Reports consulted in the desktop review.

Author	Project Name	Findings
Van der Walt, J. 2007	Archaeological impact assessment Wachtenbietjeskop Eco – Estate. Located on portion 79 of the farm Wachtenbietjeskop 506 JR, Bronkhorstspuit Gauteng Province.	Stone walled sites, a historical structure as well as a cemetery.
Van der Walt, J. 2008	Archaeological Impact Assessment For The Proposed Bronkhorstspuit Primary School, Riamar Park, Gauteng Province.	No heritage sites were found.
Van der Walt, J. 2016	Archaeological Impact Assessment For The Proposed Bronkhorstspuit siding. Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng Province.	Historical railway structures and features.
Coetzee, F. P. 2008	Cultural Heritage Survey of the Proposed Riverwalk Township Development on the Remainder of the Farm Roodepoort 504JR, Gauteng Province	No sites of heritage significance were recorded.
Kusel, U. 2009	Phase I Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment Of Remainder Of Portion 4 Of The Farm Roodepoort 504 Jr Bronkhorstspuit Gauteng Province (37.2 hectare).	Structures of low significance
Du Piesanie, J. 2014	NID for the Proposed Oakleaf Opencast Coal Mine, Gauteng.	Structures and a cemetery as well as a potential paleontological site.

One major military battle has been fought in the area some distance to the northwest near Bronkhorstspuit (Duxbury 1981). This was during the First Anglo-Boer War. A concentration camp and minor skirmish site from the Second Anglo-Boer War also occur in the area (Bergh 1999).

### Fieldwork findings

Figures 3 and 4 show typical views of the fields in which the proposed development would be constructed. The only archaeological material encountered was four stone artefacts that are likely to be part of the broader background scatter and, because of their very low density, are considered to be of very low significance (Figures 5 & 6). Four long stone mounds of between 5 m and 10 m long were found in one area but these are certain to represent stones removed from the ploughed agricultural lands (Figure 7).

A number of buildings are present on the farm. They are located in two clusters, one to the north and one to the south of the R50 road. Examination of a 1945 aerial photograph shows that at least some were present already at that time (Figure 8). Figures 9 to 12 show the cluster located some 250 m to the southwest of the road. Only one was present in 1945 but is now in very poor condition. It has minimal heritage value. Another small brick ruin located between this complex and the road is modern. The cluster to the north of the road is the main farm complex. The main house, at least, was present in 1945 and appears to be the only structure that retains some heritage value, albeit relatively little (Figure 13). Another modern house also exists in this area (Figure 14). None of these buildings is proposed to be altered as part of the present project.

The cultural landscape is also a heritage resource. In this area it is characterised by agricultural lands, tree lines and plantations and scattered farmsteads. The proposed activities are in keeping with the general agricultural land use and will thus not result in significant impacts. The tree lines and plantations have dominated the site in 1945, although the trees to the south of the road have been steadily removed over the years (Figures 8 & 15 to 18). Impacts to the remaining trees are not expected because the development footprint falls solely within agricultural lands. Figure 19 shows that various furrows were excavated over the years to direct water from the nearby stream into the agricultural lands.

No graves were seen on the site although many do occur on farms in the area. Figure 19 shows that none were known on the present farm in 1965.

### Recommendation

On the basis of the above review it can be stated with confidence that no significant impacts to heritage resources will occur should the proposed development be allowed to proceed. It is thus recommended that the project be authorised without the need for further heritage studies.

Yours sincerely



Jayson Orton

### References

Barnard, C. 1975. *Die Transvaalse Laeveld. Komee van 'n Kontrei*.

Bergh, J.S. (ed.). 1999. *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies*. Pretoria: J. L. van Schaik Uitgewers.

Bornman, H. (red.) 1979. *Nelspruit: 75 in '80*. Stadsraad van Nelspruit.

Delius, P. 2007. *Mpumalanga History and Heritage*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

Duxbury, G.R. 1981. *David and Goliath. The First War of Independence, 1880-1881*. Johannesburg: SA National Museum of Military History.

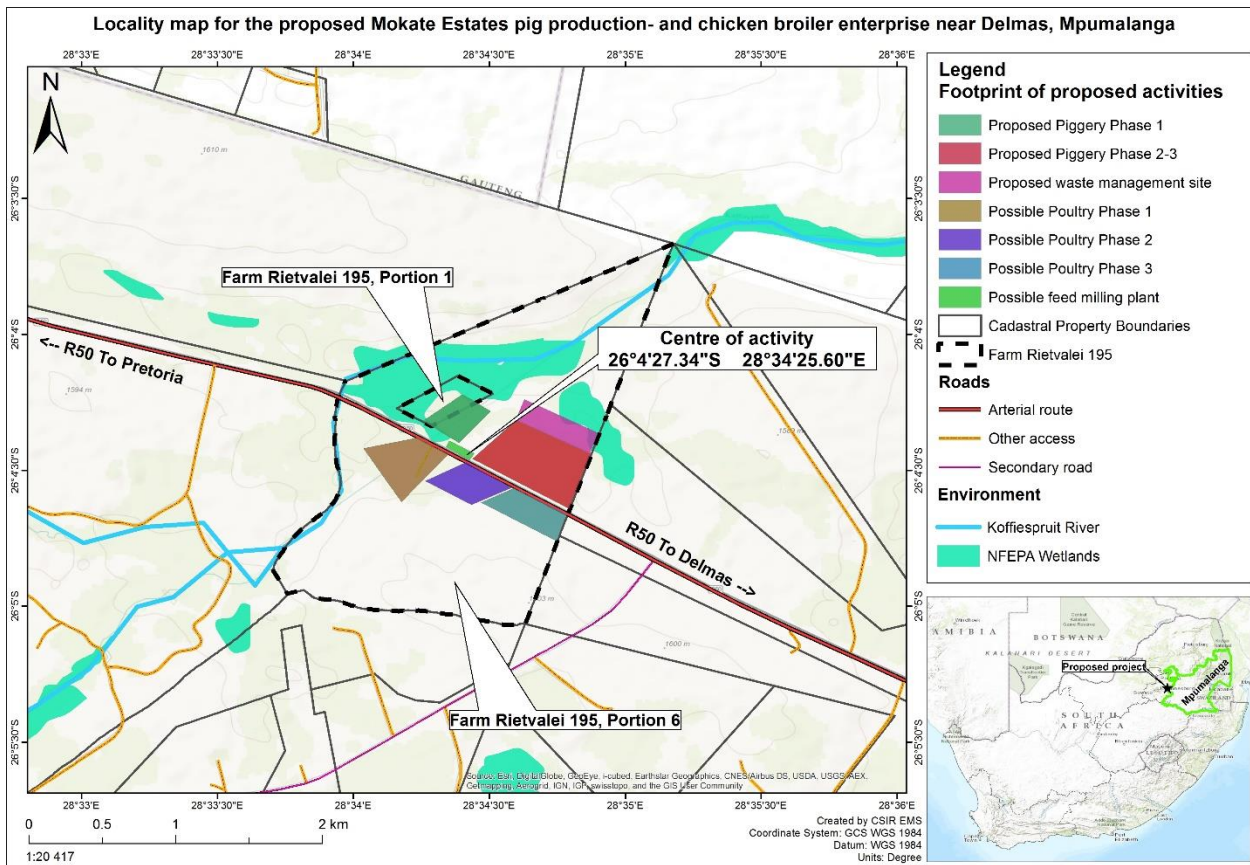
Keenan-Smith, D. 1961. An Incised and Perforated Stone Ornament from Flooikop, Transvaal. *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 16: 70.

#### **ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

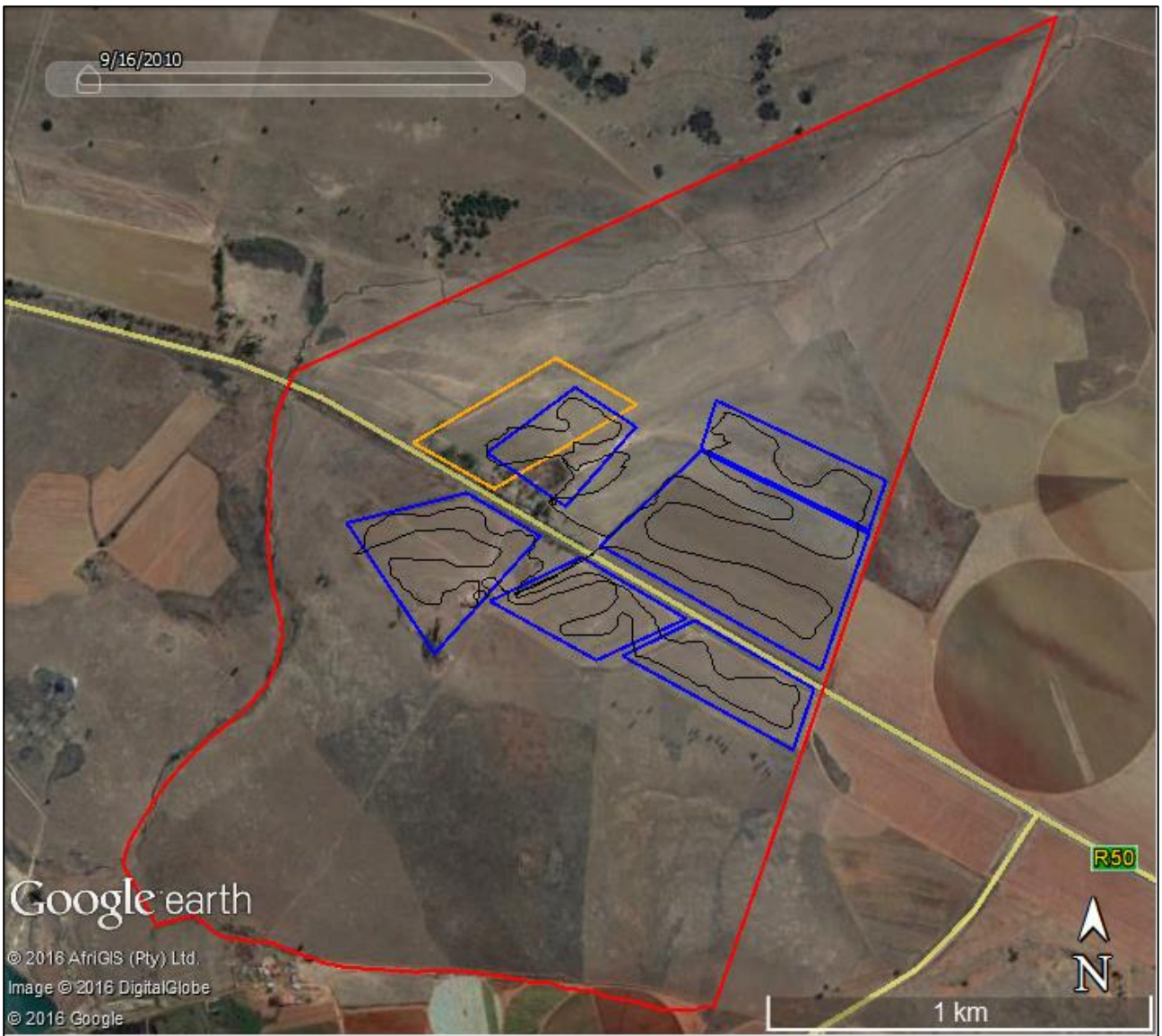
Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 | Directors: Jayson Orton & Carol Orton

6A Scarborough Road, Muizenberg, 7945 | T: 021 788 8425 | C: 083 272 3225

Jayson@asha-consulting.co.za | Carol@asha-consulting.co.za | www.asha-consulting.co.za



**Figure 1:** Map of the site showing the proposed development layout (supplied by CSIR).



**Figure 2:** Aerial view of the farm showing Portion 1 (orange polygon), Portion 6 (red polygon), the development footprints (blue polygons) and the walk paths of the survey (black lines).



**Figure 3:** View across the fields in the south-eastern Part of the study area.



**Figure 4:** View across the fields in the north-western part of the study area.

**ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 | Directors: Jayson Orton & Carol Orton

6A Scarborough Road, Muizenberg, 7945 | T: 021 788 8425 | C: 083 272 3225

Jayson@asha-consulting.co.za | Carol@asha-consulting.co.za | www.asha-consulting.co.za



**Figures 5 & 6:** Stone artefacts found on site. Scale bars in cm.



**Figure 7:** Collections of stone removed from agricultural lands during ploughing.



**Figure 8:** Aerial views of the study area from 1945 (left; Strip 5, no. 328) and 2016 (right; Google Earth). At least some of the current structures were present in 1945 (arrowed).



**Figures 9 to 12:** Buildings to the south of the R50 road. Only the large shed at upper left seems to have been present in 1945.



**Figure 13:** The main house that predates 1945.



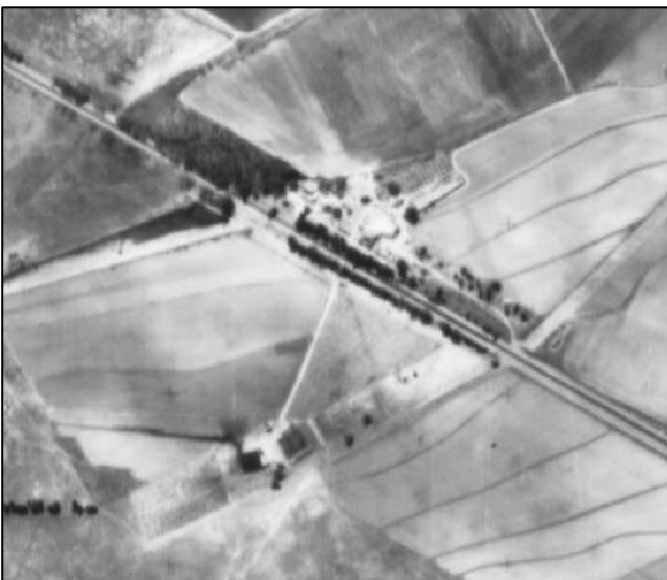
**Figure 14:** A modern house.



**Figure 15:** Aerial photograph from 1953.  
Job 303, strip 3, no. 542.



**Figure 16:** Aerial photograph from 1958.  
Job 412, strip 3, no. 2179.

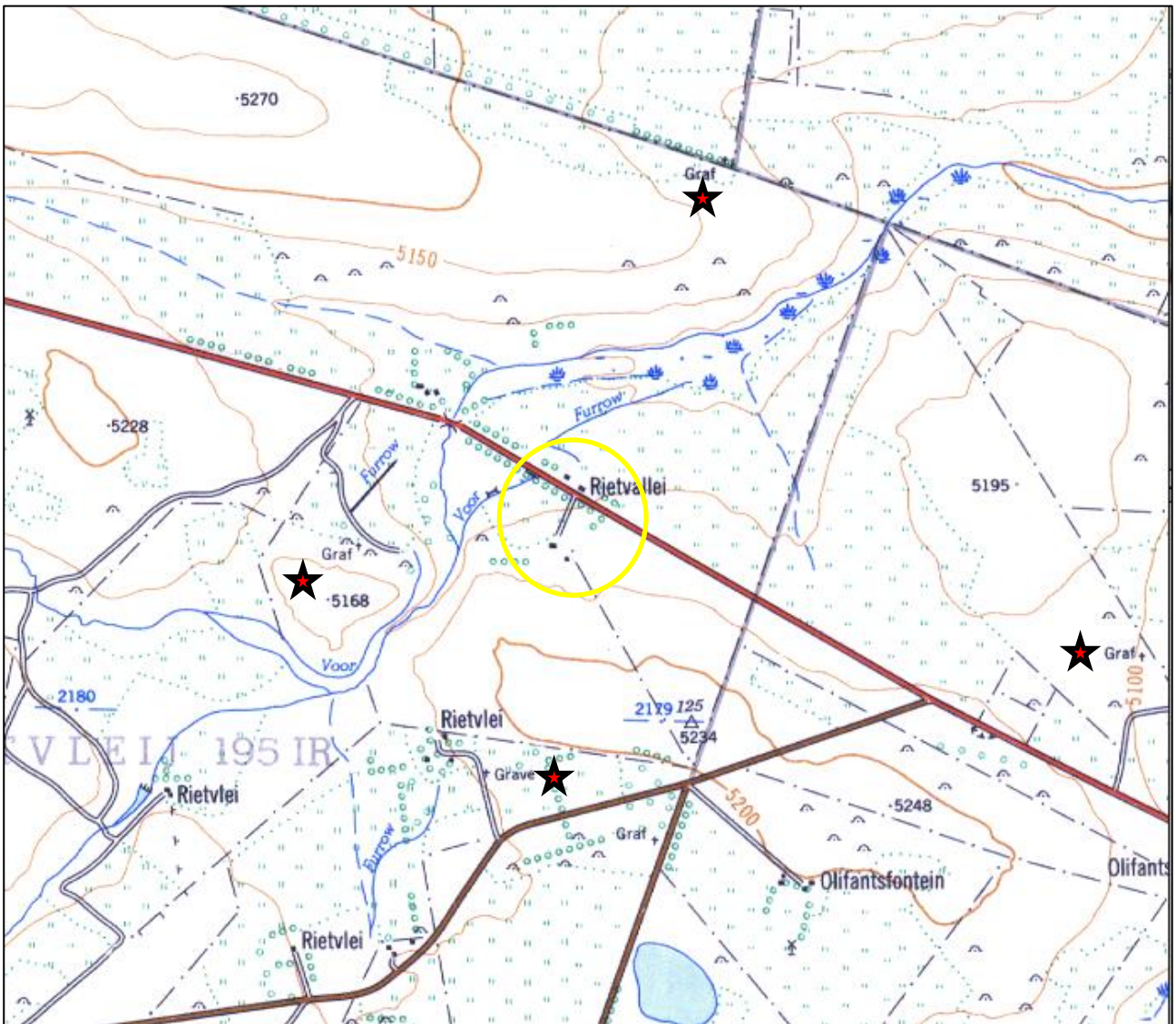


**Figure 17:** Aerial photograph from 1969.  
Job 653, strip 3, no. 9435



**Figure 18:** Aerial photograph from 1976.  
Job 775, strip 1, no. 256.





**Figure 19:** 1:50 000 topographic map from 1965 showing the study area (yellow circle) and surrounds. Graves are marked by stars.