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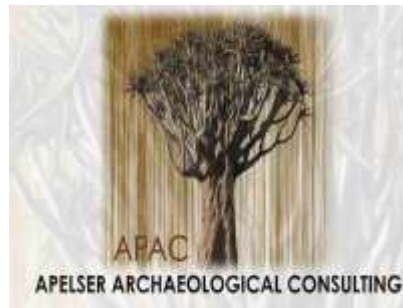
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Reference: APAC018/36

2018-06-19

To: Mr. P.Hine

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
111 Harrington Street
P.O.Box 4637
CAPE TOWN
8001

RE: REQUEST FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE EXCEMPTION: ELKIN-H CELL MAST – ERF 908 (REMAINING EXTENT BULTFONTEIN 80), KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Smit & Fisher Planning (Pty) Ltd to undertake a desktop based cultural heritage assessment for the Elkin-HA new Cell-C Mast on Erf 908 in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province. **Exemption from a full HIA was to be requested based on the information obtained through the desktop research.** The 36m tall Lattice-type mast with an 8m x 8m base station is situated on the Remaining Extent of the farm Bultfontein 80.

A physical field visit was not part of the study, and images of the site location, as well as Site & Location Maps were provided to the Heritage Specialist by the Client. It is clear from these that the study site is on an open Erf surrounded by urban settlement and development and that it has been disturbed and changed in nature from the original natural landscape to what it is today.

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Fig.1: General location of site (Google Earth 2018).



Fig.2: Closer view of Site location (Google Earth 2018).

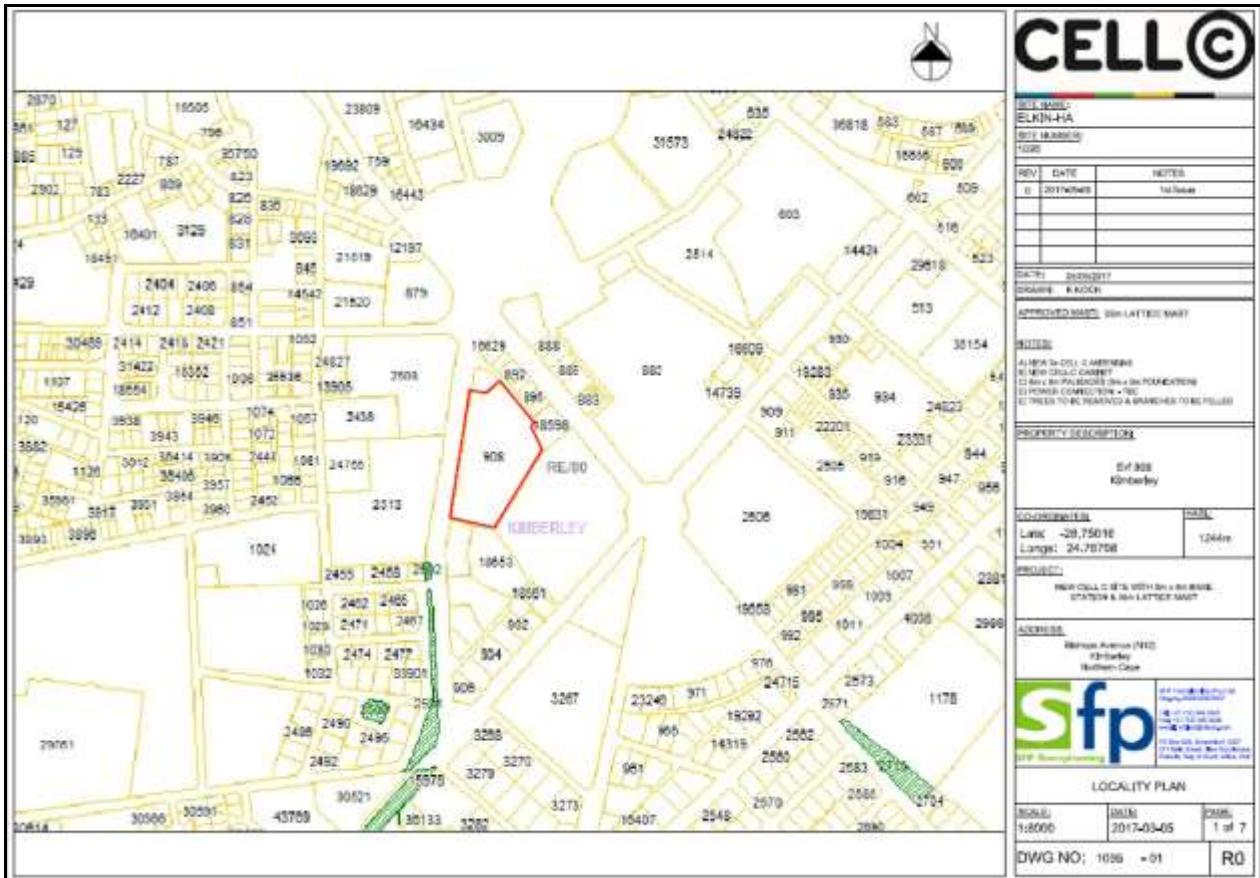


Fig.3: Locality Plan (courtesy Smit & Fisher Planning).

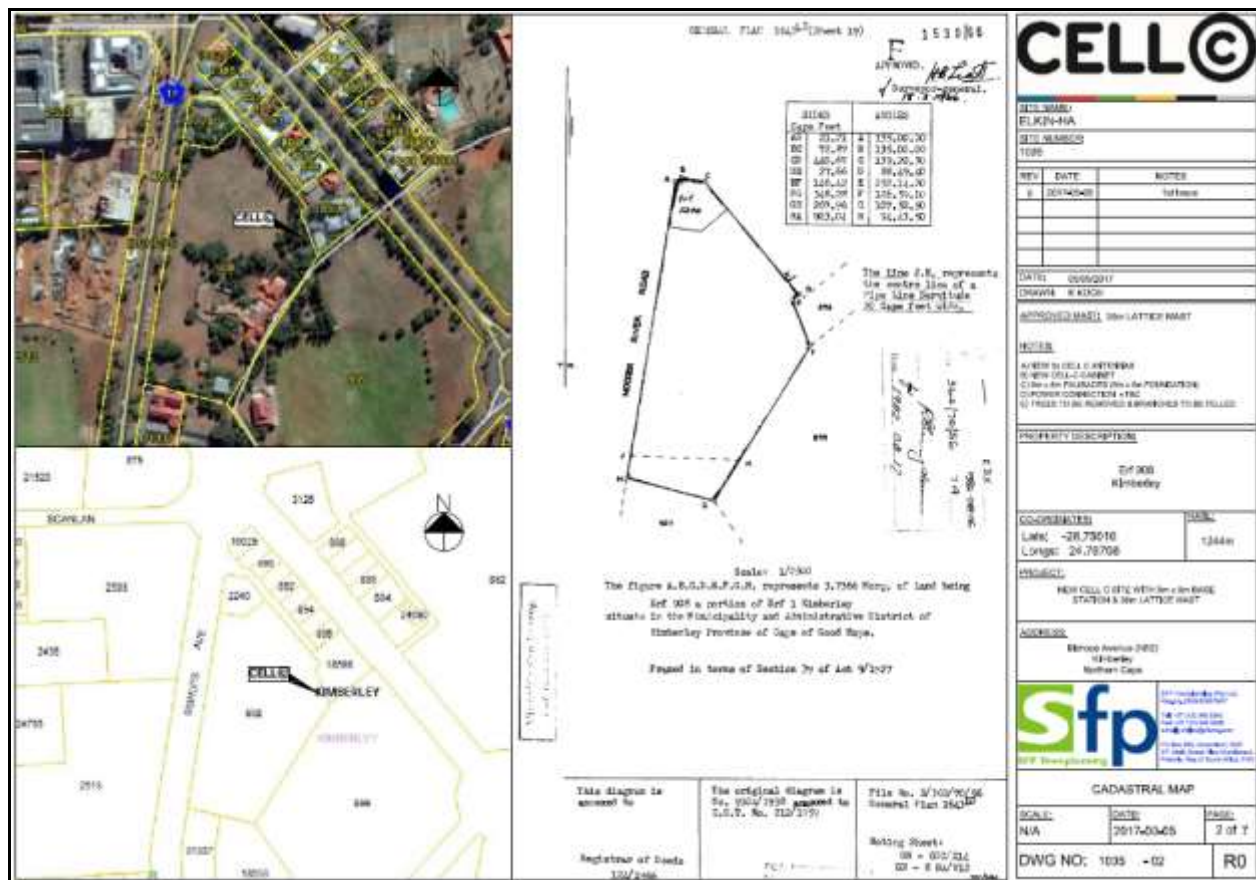


Fig.4: Cadastral Map of Site (courtesy Smit & Fisher Planning).

General Background

A short background to the archaeology and history of the larger area and Kimberley will suffice here.

The Stone Age dates back more than 2 million years representing a more explicit beginning of the cultural sequence divided into three epochs, the Early, Middle and Late Stone Ages. These early people made stone and bone implements. Material evidence is found in caves, rock-shelters and on river sides and edges of streams, and very rarely seen in open country. Such tools bore a consistent shape such as the pear-shaped handaxe, cleavers and core tools. These tool industries have been called Oldowan and Acheulian and were probably used to butcher large animals such as elephants, rhinoceros and hippopotamus. Acheulian artefacts are usually found near sites where they were manufactured and thus in close proximity to the raw material or at kill sites. The early hunters are classified as hominids meaning that they had not evolved to the present human form. Progressively a good profile of the Stone Age in the Northern Cape has been constructed from many heritage impact assessments that have been conducted in recent years. Early (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) lithics occur over most of area with a more recent find of Later Stone Age (LSA) occupations. The Wonderwerk Cave has become a benchmark for the characterisation of the Stone Age. Excavations reveal a long sequence of occupation spanning the Early (ESA), Middle (MSA) and Later Stone Ages.

The Middle Stone Age (MSA), which appeared 250 000 years ago, is marked by the introduction of a new tool kit which included prepared cores, parallel-sided blades and triangular points hafted to make spears. By then humans had become skilful hunters, especially of large grazers such as wildebeest, hartebeest and eland. It is also believed that by then, humans had evolved significantly to become anatomically modern. Caves were used for shelter suggesting permanent or semi-permanent settlement. Furthermore there is archaeological evidence from some of the caves indicating that people had mastered the art of

making fire. A number of field surveys have been carried out around Danielskuil 130km northwest of Kimberley confirming significant hunter gatherer activity in the area from the MSA onwards.

By the beginning of the LSA, humans are classified as *Homo sapiens* which refer to the modern physical form and thinking capabilities. Several behavioural traits are exhibited, such as rock art and purposeful burials with ornaments, became a regular practice. LSA technology is characterised by microlithic scrapers and segments made from very fine-grained rock. Spear hunting continued, but LSA people also hunted small game with bows and poisoned arrows. Because of poor preservation, open sites become of less value compared to rock shelters. The practitioners of rock art are definitely the ancestors of the San and sites abound in the whole of Southern Africa. A number of rock engravings have been reported in the vicinity of Lime Acres and Danielskuil including recent art ascribed to the Griquas and Khoikhoi. Wildebeest Kuil Rock Art Centre is a rock engraving site now with an interpretation centre on land owned by the !Xun and Khwe San situated about 16 km from Kimberley along the R31 road to Barkly West. The site was first known to the public in modern times by the renowned 19th century researcher, George William Stow.

The Iron Age culture supplanted the Stone Age at least 2000 years ago, associated with the introduction of farming and use of several metals and pottery. Iron Age communities associated with speakers of Bantu languages practiced agriculture and kept domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, goat and chicken amongst others. There is however increasing evidence that sheep and probably cattle as well might have moved into the area much earlier than the Iron Age. According to Huffman (2007) there were two migration streams of Early Iron Age (EIA) communities converging in South Africa, one originating in eastern Africa which has been called the Urewe-Kwale Tradition (or the eastern stream) and another from the west, spreading through Zambia and Angola, which he termed the Kalundu Tradition (or western stream). An alternative perspective is to see the IA as a gradual spread or expansion of settlement of different groups indigenous to the continent which took place over a long period of time. There are few if any sites attributed to the EIA in the western parts of the country. Most IA settlements are concentrated in the eastern part of South Africa. The woodland zone was preferred for settlement, but there is strong possibility that transhumant pastoralism was practiced and seasonal hunting camps were established in the inhospitable western regions of the country. The Later Iron Age is marked by the presence of extensive stonewalled settlements such as the Tlhaping capital at Dithakong near Kuruman.

The study area is historically home to the various groups of Tswana stock - Tlokwa, Fokeng, Hlakwa and Phuting, Tlhaping, and Tlaro, certainly descending from the Iron Age and probably some with Stone Age roots. The early 19th century was a political turning point characterised by an increasingly uncertain security situation and internal displacements. The first of these episodes was the Difaqane characterised by inter-tribal raids. During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, groups of Griqua herders (people of Coloured stock from the southwest) settled in this area establishing a town called Klaarwater and subsequently renamed Griquatown. Meanwhile the initial wave of white hunters, traders and missionaries also entered the area. A little later the Afrikaners arrived bringing their stock as part of a mass exodus from the Cape called the Great Trek. The discovery of diamonds caused the so called "rush". The area which became known as Griqualand West was subsequently incorporated into the Cape Colony in the 1880s.

Kimberley Mine, popularly known as the New Rush or Colesberg, was discovered on 16 July 1871 on the Farm Johannes Nicholas De Beer. Mining activity increased dramatically within the first 12 months with the sudden influx of labour population of almost 50 000 men. Political stakes were heightened by competing claims of the governments of the time over the diamond fields: the Cape Colony, Transvaal, Orange Free State and Griqualand under Nikolaas Waterboer. The Free State Boers in particular wanted the area as it lay inside the natural borders created by the Orange and Vaal Rivers. The British Governor of Natal Lord Keate mediated and awarded the territory to Waterboer, who was naturally obliged to place himself under British protection. Griqualand West was proclaimed on 27 October 1871 and subsequently annexed to the Cape Colony.

The small rival mine claims operating at Kimberley amalgamated in March 1888 to give birth to the De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. This move was orchestrated by Cecil John Rhodes, Alfred Beit, Barney

Barnato and Charles Rudd. These men were quite controversial entrepreneurs who ultimately controlled the diamond business and used it as political leverage. Rhodes became Prime Minister of the Cape Colony and used his new found political influence to advance the British imperial project which culminated in the colonisation of Bechuanaland (now Botswana), Northern and Southern Rhodesia (Zambia and Zimbabwe respectively) and Nyasaland (Malawi).

The Big Hole located in the centre of the city is a footprint of a kimberlite pipe excavation in the 19th century. It has been preserved as a national monument which epitomises the “rush” and the lasting impact of minerals in the history of South Africa and Southern African region as a whole. The Boers laid siege on Kimberley during the Anglo-Boer War trapping the more than 50 000 inhabitants. The Battle of Magersfontein, 25km southwest of the town was fought on 11 December 1899. The Boers won that round in what became known as Britain’s ‘Black Week’ during which Scotland’s Highland Brigade suffered the worst casualties. A field museum and monument was commissioned there in 1971.

Kimberley was home to many people who participated in the struggle for freedom, who have been honoured through legacy projects in the city including place names and the erection of memorials. To begin with the largest African township, Galeshewe is named after the Kgosi (King) Galeshewe of the Tlhaping and a South African Navy fast attack craft is named after him. He resisted occupation and was captured in 1878 following an attack on Cornforth Hill near Taung (130km north of Kimberley). Galeshewe was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment for his part in the war. In 1897 he staged another uprising called the Langeberg Rebellion. He was imprisoned on Robben Island and died near Hartswater in 1927.

The above information is from Matenga 2017: p.19-24 (See References). From this it is clear that there is potentially a range of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or cultural material that could be present in the study area.

Site Specific Information

From the various Surveyor General diagrams and general plan sheets the following information could be obtained. The farm Bultontein 80 (from an 1885 map – Document 102V2J01) was surveyed in April 1885 for the Colonial Government and was at the time located in the area called Griqualand-West. Plan sheet 1530/66 (dating to 1966) for Erf 908 shows that it is Portion of Erf 1 in Kimberley. No historical sites or features are shown on these maps however.

The site photographs provided by the client to APAC indicates that the land parcel is a flat and relatively open space, located in between urban settlement and development and that it has already been heavily disturbed in the past as a result. An existing older telecom mast on the erf will be replaced by the proposed new Cell Mast. No structures or sites will be impacted by the development and the footprint area (a 8m x 8m base and palisade fence) is relatively small as well.

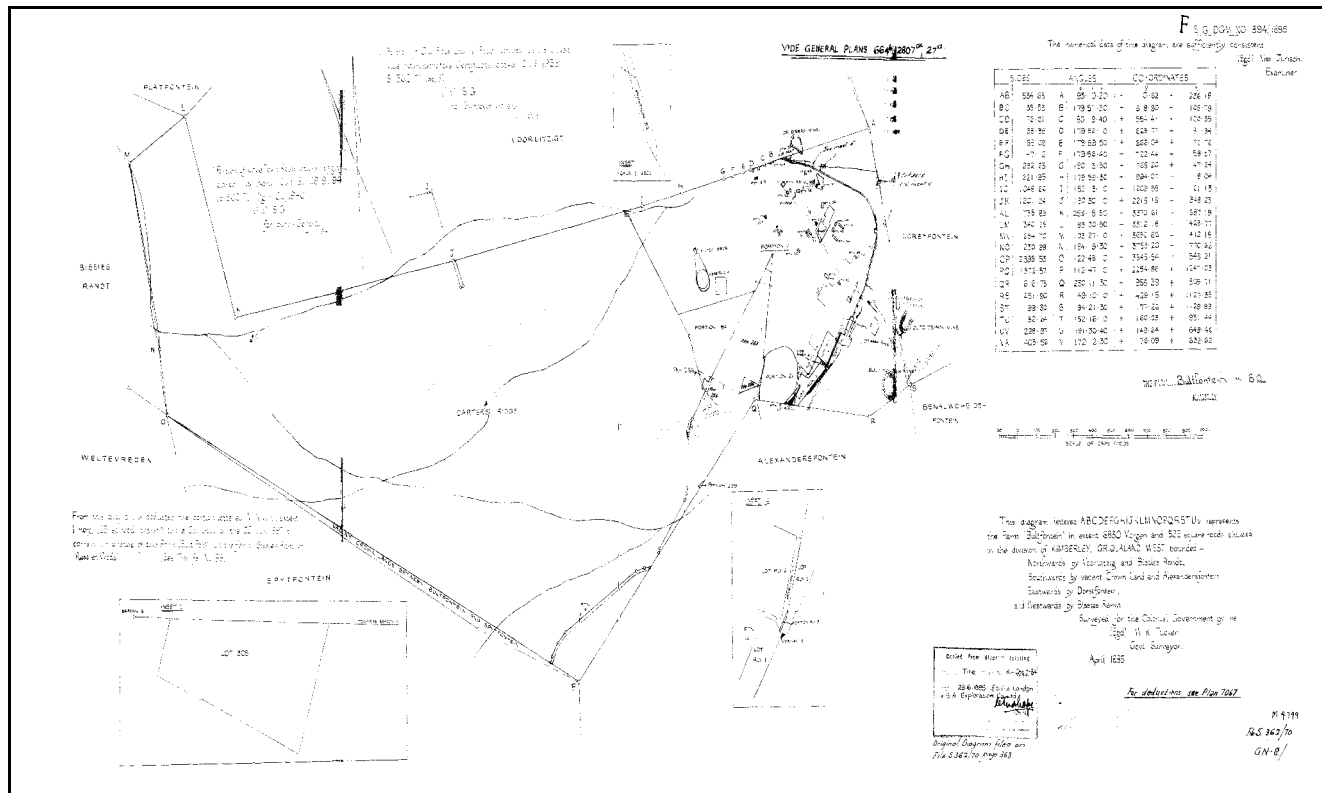


Fig.5: 1885 map of Bultfontein 80 (www.csq.dia.gov.za).



Fig.6: Images showing the site location and existing features on it (courtesy Smit & Fisher Planning).

In conclusion it can be stated that the possibility of any archaeological and/or historical sites, features or material being disturbed by the development of the proposed mast is highly unlikely. It is therefore recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue.

Finally it is requested that Exemption from a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) be granted to the applicants.

The subterranean nature of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) resources should however always be taken into consideration. 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

Anton Pelsler

References

1. General location and Closer views of study area and site location: Google Earth 2018
2. Site Location Maps and Plans: Courtesy Smit & Fisher Planning (Pty) Ltd.
3. SG Diagrams & General Plan Sheets: Documents 102V2J01 & 1530/66 (provided by Smit & Fisher Planning (Pty) Ltd.
4. Matenga, Edward. 2017. **Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (including Palaeontological Assessment) Requested in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25/1999 for Prospecting Right on a Portion of Portion 1 of the farm Vooruitzigt 81, Kimberley District, Northern Cape Province.** Unpublished Report Archaeological and Heritage Services Africa (Pty) Ltd. For: Wadala Mining and Consulting (Pty) Ltd. May 2017.