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**A PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROSPECTING RIGHTS APPLICATION
IN RESPECT OF A CERTAIN PORTION OF THE FARM WACHTEENBEETJESLAAGTE 4JQ
SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MANKWE
NEAR SWARTKLIP IN THE NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

***Manzezulu Investments cc
NW30/5/1/3/2/10841 MP***

REPORT: APAC021/73

by:

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SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Manzezulu Investments cc to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment as part of a Basic Assessment & EMPR for proposed Prospecting Activities in respect of a certain Portion of the farm Wachteenbeetjelagte 4JQ. The study area is located in the Magisterial District of Mankwe in the Northwest Province, south of Swartklip and south-west of Northam.

Background research indicated that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known cultural heritage sites in the specific study area, and none was found during the field assessment conducted in August 2021. This report discusses the results of the both the background research and field work and provides a number of recommendations at the end.

From a Cultural Heritage perspective the proposed activities should be allowed to continue taking the recommended measures into consideration.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Manzezulu Investments cc to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment as part of a Basic Assessment & EMPR for proposed Prospecting Activities in respect of a certain Portion of the farm Wachteenbeetjelagte 4JQ. The study area is located in the Magisterial District of Mankwe in the Northwest Province, south of Swartklip and south-west of Northam.

Background research indicated that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known cultural heritage sites in the specific study area, and none was found during the field assessment conducted in August 2021.

The client indicated the location and the boundaries of the study area and the study focused on this and the larger geographical area within which it is located. A representative of the client accompanied the Heritage Specialist to the area during the field assessment.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources; and
5. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the 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
- 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 townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and paleontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, 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. 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 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the Act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of the Act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial)

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the SAHRA. In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from the SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

3.2. The National Environmental Management Act

This Act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Survey of literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2. Field survey

The field assessment section of the study is conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

4.3. Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4. Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Wachteenbeetjelagte 4JQ Prospecting & Study area is located on a portion of the farm in the Magisterial District of Mankwe, south of Swartklip and south-west of Northam in the Northwest Province.

The general topography of the study area is flat and open with rocky outcrops or ridges and/or hills being present. The area is also characterized by turf soils. The fairly dense vegetation during the fieldwork limited visibility on the ground to some degree, although there are also some open patches in the area. The area is currently utilized for cattle grazing, while in the past it was also utilized for agricultural purposes such as crop growing.

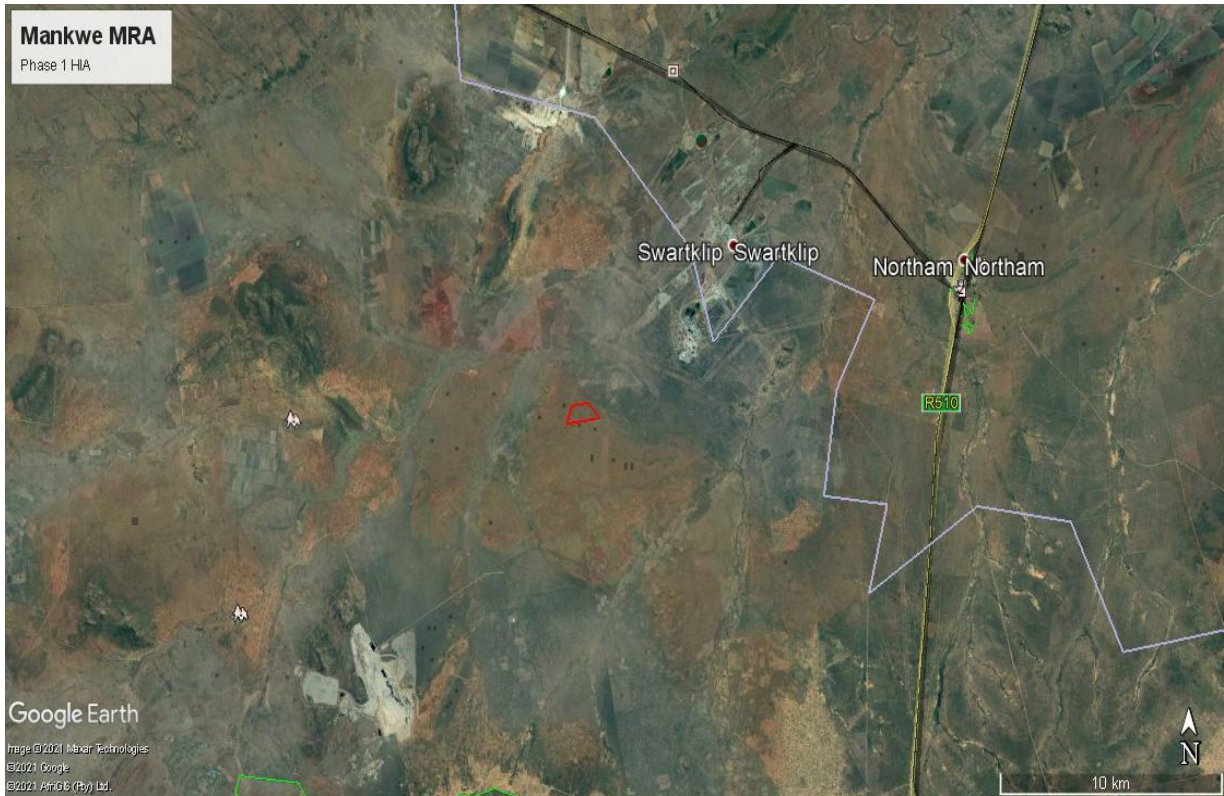


Figure 1: General location of Study & Application Area in red polygon (Google Earth 2021).



Figure 2: Closer view of approximate Study & Application Area extent (Google Earth 2021).

6. DISCUSSION

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 basically be divided 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).

No Stone Age sites (including rock art) are known to occur in the immediate study area. The closest known Stone Age sites (Early to Later Stone Age) are found close to Rooiberg and Thabazimbi at sites called Blaauwbank & Olieboomspoort (Bergh 1999: 5).

A Stone Age site with a scatter of MSA/LSA stone tools was identified during recent fieldwork by the author of this report in the Haakdoornfontein area close to Northam (Pelser 2021: 11).

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts. 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.

There are no known Iron Age sites (EIA or LIA) in the immediate study area, although a large number of EIA to LIA sites are known to exist in the larger geographical landscape in which the study area falls. The closest and best known Iron Age site is located at Rooiberg near Thabazimbi to the north of the study area (Bergh 1999: 7). The closest Early Iron Age site is located at Broederstroom near Brits (Bergh 1999: 6). In a band stretching from Pretoria to Brits as many as 125 Late Iron Age sites have been identified and many more between Brits and Rustenburg (Bergh 1999: 7). Tswana chiefdoms flourished in the area during AD 1600 to 1840 (Pistorius 2009: 18). Late Iron Age sites are also known between Brits and Thabazimbi (Bergh 1999: 7).

At the beginning of the 19th century different Tswana groups settled in the southernmost portion of the study area. It includes the Kwena, Po and Kgatla. During the so-called difaqane (period of war or stress) they fled to the north-west and the Ndebele of Mzilikazi settled in around the Brits area and further north between 1827 and 1832 (Bergh 1999: 10-11, 106-107, 111; Pistorius 2009: 18-19).

Tom Huffman's research work shows that Iron Age sites, features or material could possibly be found in the area (based on pottery analysis combined with radiocarbon dates from related sites). This could include the so-called Moor Park facies of the Urewe Tradition dating to between AD1350 and AD1750 (Huffman 2007: 159); Uitkomst facies of the same tradition dating to between AD1650 and AD1820 (p.171); Rooiberg facies of Urewe dating to between AD1650 and AD1750 (p.175); the Oilfantspoort & Madikwe facies of the Urewe tradition both dating to between AD1500 and AD1700 (p.191 & 199); the Buispoort facies of Urewe dating to between AD1700 and AD1840 (p.203); the Diamant facies of the Kalundu Tradition dating to between AD750 & AD1000 (p.223) and finally the Eiland facies of the same tradition dating to between AD1000 and AD1300 (Huffman 2007: 227).

Some Iron Age material was identified in the Haakdoornfontein area near Northam during recent field work by Pelser (2021: 12).

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 European group to pass close by the area were that of Cowan & Donovan in 1808, followed by Scoon & McLuckie in 1829, Hume & Scoon in 1835 and by the famous Dr. David Livingstone in 1847 (Bergh 1999: 12-14).

The information below was obtained from a HIA Report by Dr.Julius Pistorius done in 2013 for Samancor's proposed Mining Right Application for Portions of the farm Varkensvlei 403KQ and Nooitgedacht 406KQ near Northam (p.22—23).

"It is highly unlikely that the Project Area was occupied by Early Iron Age (EIA) Bantu-Negroid people who lived elsewhere in the Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and North-West Provinces of South Africa during the 3rd to 9th centuries AD. The earliest Iron Age settlers who moved into the larger project area were Late Iron Age Sotho-speaking groups who belonged to the Moloko tradition. These Kgatla and Kwena communities are associated with stone walled settlements which date from AD1600 although earlier settlements, devoid of any stone walls, also probably occur in the region. Moloko sites have been recorded in Rooiberg, north of the Project Area, at the Pilanesberg and in Madibeng and Rustenburg further to the south where these sites are associated with kopjes and randjes. Iron Age settlements occur in the Ben Alberts Nature Reserve and elsewhere in the Thabazimbi district.

The Rooiberg area is also renowned for early tin mining activities, possibly dating from the Late Iron Age. It seems as if large quantities of tin ore was mined from the Rooiberg and transported to an unknown destination. The abundance of iron ore in the area, particularly around Thabazimbi, also led to the smelting of these ores by local Late Iron Age people in order to manufacture products such as weapons (spears) and tools (hoes, axes, etc).

The closest towns to the Project Area are Thabazimbi and Northam. Thabazimbi's name is derived from the Tswana words for 'mountain of iron'. This was due to the discovery of the exceptionally rich iron ore deposits at Vliegpoort ('defile of flies') by the geologists J.H. Williams in 1919. The South African government bought the ore body and production for the Iscor Iron Ore mine in 1928. The mine started with its operations in 1931 A branch railway line was built from Northam to Thabazimbi on the Pretoria-Middelwit line. The town of Thabazimbi was laid out on the farm Kwaggashoek and proclaimed 23 on 4 May 1953. Millions of tons of iron ore are annually mined and hauled by train to Vanderbijlpark and New Castle.

The town of Northam was laid out by E.H. Fulls on the farm Leeukoppie and formally proclaimed in 1946. This farm together with several others was owned by H. Herd who had purchased the properties from British soldiers to whom they have been allocated after the Anglo Boer War. Herd was allowed to choose the name for the new village which he called Northam after the village Northam in Devonshire, England".

The Chief Surveyor General's Database (www.csg.dla.gov.za) was scrutinized for old maps of the farm Wachteenbeetjeslaagte 4JQ. The oldest map that could be obtained dates to 1894 (**CSG Document 10GD1D1G01**). Wachteenbeetjeslaagte was then numbered as No.816 and was situated in the District of Rustenburg and Ward of Elandsriver of the then Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Z.A.R.) It was surveyed for the owners J.C.Brink, D.McKenzie & G.S.Brock in February and April 1894. No historical sites or features could be identified in the area from this map.

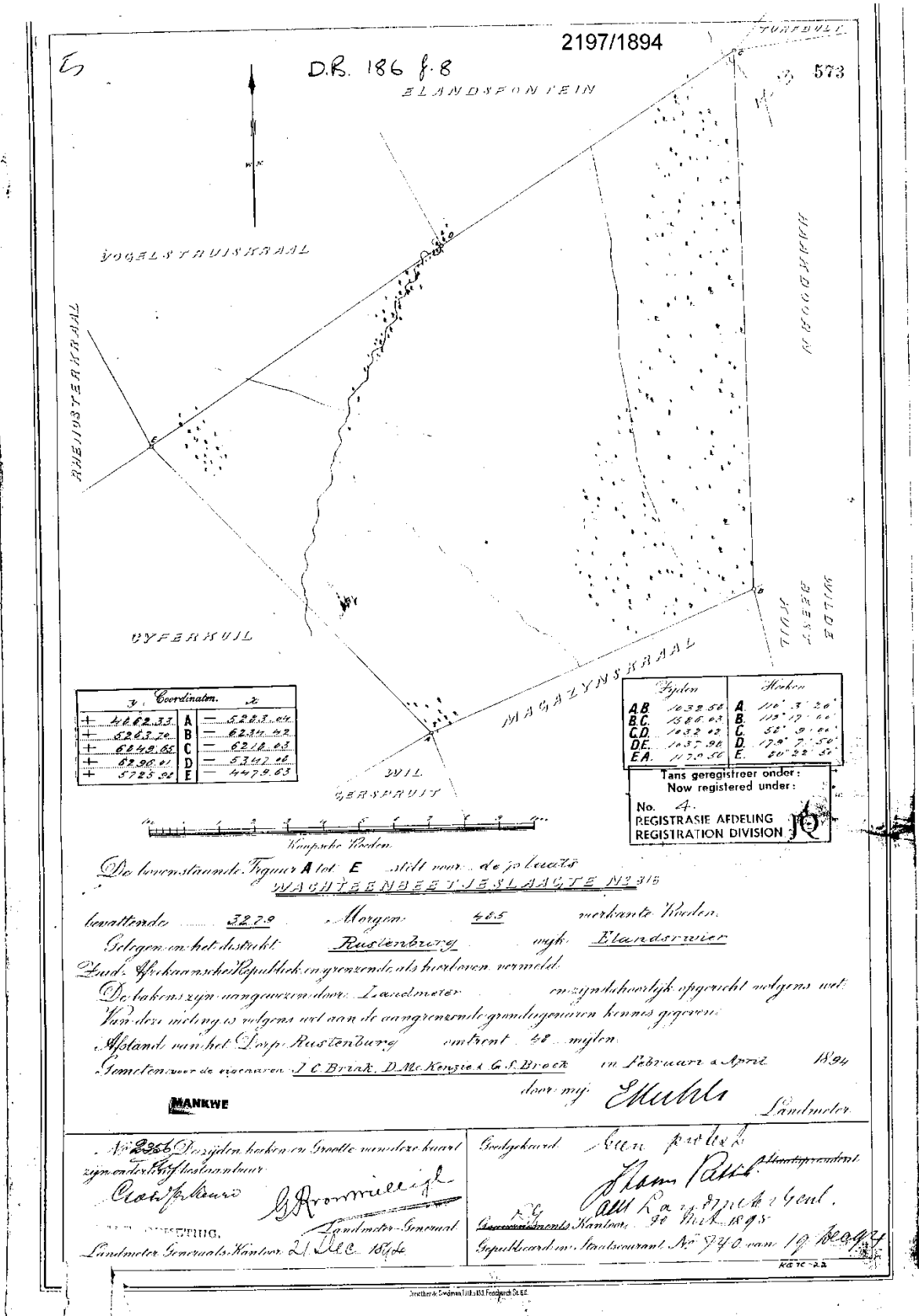


Figure 3: 1894 map of Wachteenbeetjeslaagte 4JQ (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Results of the August 2021 Field Assessment

A total of approximately 5 hectares had to be assessed during the fieldwork part of the study.

As mentioned earlier, no cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were identified in the study & application area during the field assessment. The area is characterized by turf soils and with no rocky ridges or outcrops present there would have been no building material available for instance for the typical Late Iron Age stone-walling found in areas close to Swartklip & Northam around the hills and rocky ridges situated there.

According to the chairperson of the local Traditional Authority (Mr. Joseph Moatshe) there are no grave sites or remains of either Late Iron Age or recent settlement in the specific study area according to their knowledge (**Personal Communication Mr. J. Moatshe: 20/08/2021**). He accompanied the team to the area during the field assessment.



Figure 4: View of a section of the study & application area.



Figure 5: Another general view of the area. Vegetation cover limited visibility on the ground in some sections.



Figure 6: Some sections in the area were more open (as a result of overgrazing). This increased visibility. No cultural material such as individual Stone Age tools or Iron Age material such as pottery was identified in the area.



Figure 7: Another general view of the area. The topography and vegetation is very homogenous throughout.



Figure 8: General view of a section of the study area.

It should finally be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) in an area there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of vegetation cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also 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.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view it is however recommended that the proposed prospecting activities be allowed to continue taking into consideration the recommendations provided at the end of the report.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Manzezulu Investments cc to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment as part of a Basic Assessment & EMPR for proposed Prospecting Activities in respect of a certain Portion of the farm Wachteenbeetjelagte 4JQ. The study area is located in the Magisterial District of Mankwe in the Northwest Province, south of Swartklip and south-west of Northam.

Background research indicated that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. No cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were identified in the study & application area during the field assessment. The area is characterized by turf soils and with no rocky ridges or outcrops present there would have been no building material available for instance for the typical Late Iron Age stone-walling found in areas close to Swartklip & Northam around the hills and rocky ridges situated there.

According to the chairperson of the local Traditional Authority (Mr. Joseph Moatshe) there are no grave sites or remains of either Late Iron Age or recent settlement in the specific study area according to their knowledge.

Although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) in an area there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of vegetation cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also 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.

Finally, from a Cultural Heritage point of view, it is recommended that the proposed prospecting activities in respect of a portion of the farm Wachteenbeetjelagte 4JQ be allowed to continue taking into consideration the above mentioned recommendations.

8. REFERENCES

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Personal Communication Mr. J. Moatshe: 20/08/2021.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B: DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

APPENDIX D: PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, paleontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – Older than 60 years

Archaeology, paleontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase – Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
2. Baseline Assessment – Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
3. Phase I Impact Assessment – Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
4. Letter of recommendation for exemption – If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue – Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
6. Phase III Management Plan – For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.