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To whom it may concern

MOTIVATION: PERMIT APPLICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK ON THE FARM LEEUSPRUIT 469, ROUXVILLE DISTRICT, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The farm Leeuspruit 469 is situated in the Rouxville district (3026BD). See Figures 1 to 4. The proposed archaeological fieldwork at Leeuspruit will form part of a larger project focused on the study and analysis of material culture concerning early Trek-farmer sites located in the north-eastern Cape and southern Free State. Leeuspruit has been identified as one such site and additional complementary sites will be identified through on-going survey work in the area. Collectively these sites contain a material culture sequence from the early 19th century to the mid-20th century and will serve as comparative data with other farming sites such as Welkomskraal, which I studied for my Masters dissertation, and Bulhoek, a trek-farmer site in the district of Steynsburg which was excavated during 2012 and 2013. The Trek-farmer research is currently registered as a research project at the National Museum, Bloemfontein and could later evolve into a Ph.D. thesis.

The remains of several structures are still visible at the site, especially the walls and foundations of the main house that was built with clay. Several other structures are also visible, including large rectangular cattle kraals (Figures 5 to 9).

The proposed fieldwork will focus on the middens, specifically the surface collection of midden material, as well as excavations in the identified middens. During preliminary investigations, two middens were identified (Figures 10 to 13). The GPS location of the research area is approximately at S30°19'21.7" E26°50'42.6".

My colleague and co-applicant, Loudine Philip, will focus on the recording, excavation and analysis of the structures on this site. As we suspect that the structures are more numerous than are visible to the naked eye, areas containing indications of subsurface foundation walls might be excavated to determine

the layout and size of the particular building and its relation to other visible structures. The placement of the structures and its size and relation to each other, will aid in understanding the function of the farm, to include its potential as a trading post as mentioned below.

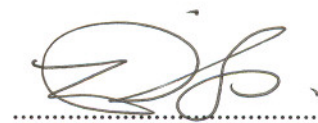
The site is located 12 km from Rouxville next to a gravel road. Although the ruins and middens are behind a fence, it is easy to access and, therefore, vulnerable to people with metal detectors, bottle collectors, etc. It came to our attention that a few artefacts were on display at the library in Rouxville (Figures 14 to 18). Although the exhibition looks quite old, it is a clear indication of how vulnerable the site has been over the years. Collection of the material from the middens will not only help to protect this heritage in a professional manner, but the analysis of the recovered material will also provide a better understanding of the political-economy of this site, as well as other related Trek-farmer sites.

Leeuspruit, also known as Waaipoort, was one of the first farms established by a Trek-farmer family in this part of the Free State. The farm was occupied in the early 1830s by one of many Swanepoel families who settled in the Rouxville area. According to Pretorius (1997:136) the first owner, P.F.R. Swanepoel, "built his house near a poort at the foot of a hill so that it overlooked the old transport road which linked Aliwal North to Lesotho and the Eastern Free State. The settlement's strategic position allowed the Swanepoels to witness a steady stream of Voortrekkers, traders and travellers." Leeuspruit can therefore also be described as a trading post that allowed people to obtain fresh oxen or horses for their trips ahead, as well as fresh food supplies (Nienaber, 1986:27).

Besides the proposed excavations and surface collections at the middens, the site will also be mapped to determine the layout of the farm to gain a complete picture of the cultural landscape. In the process the function of the latter, be it for farming purposes, as an early trading station, or any other as yet undefined function, should also become clear.

We trust that this application will meet with your approval.


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G.C. Coetzee


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L Philip

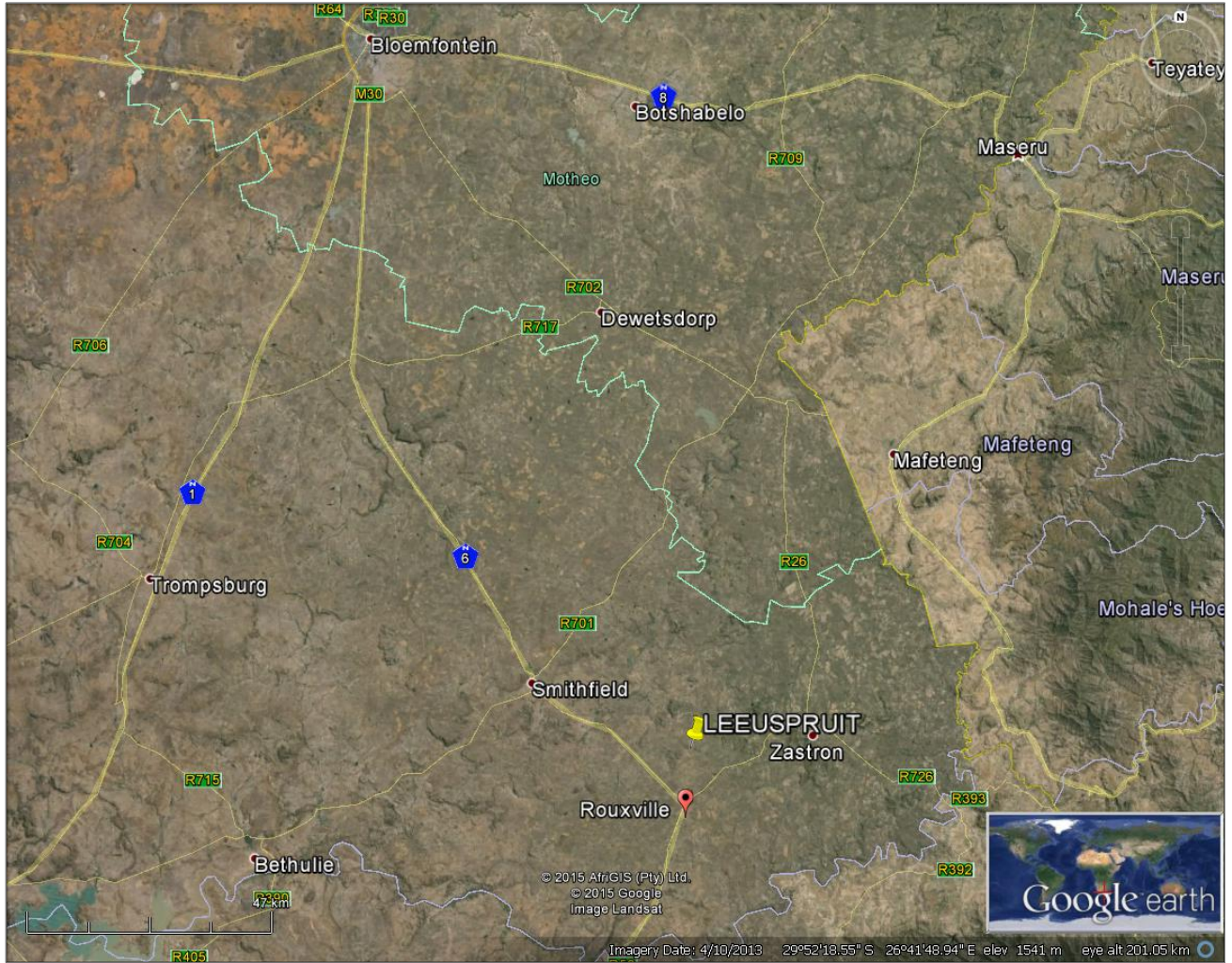


Figure 1: Google earth image showing the location of Leeuspruit in the southern Free State.

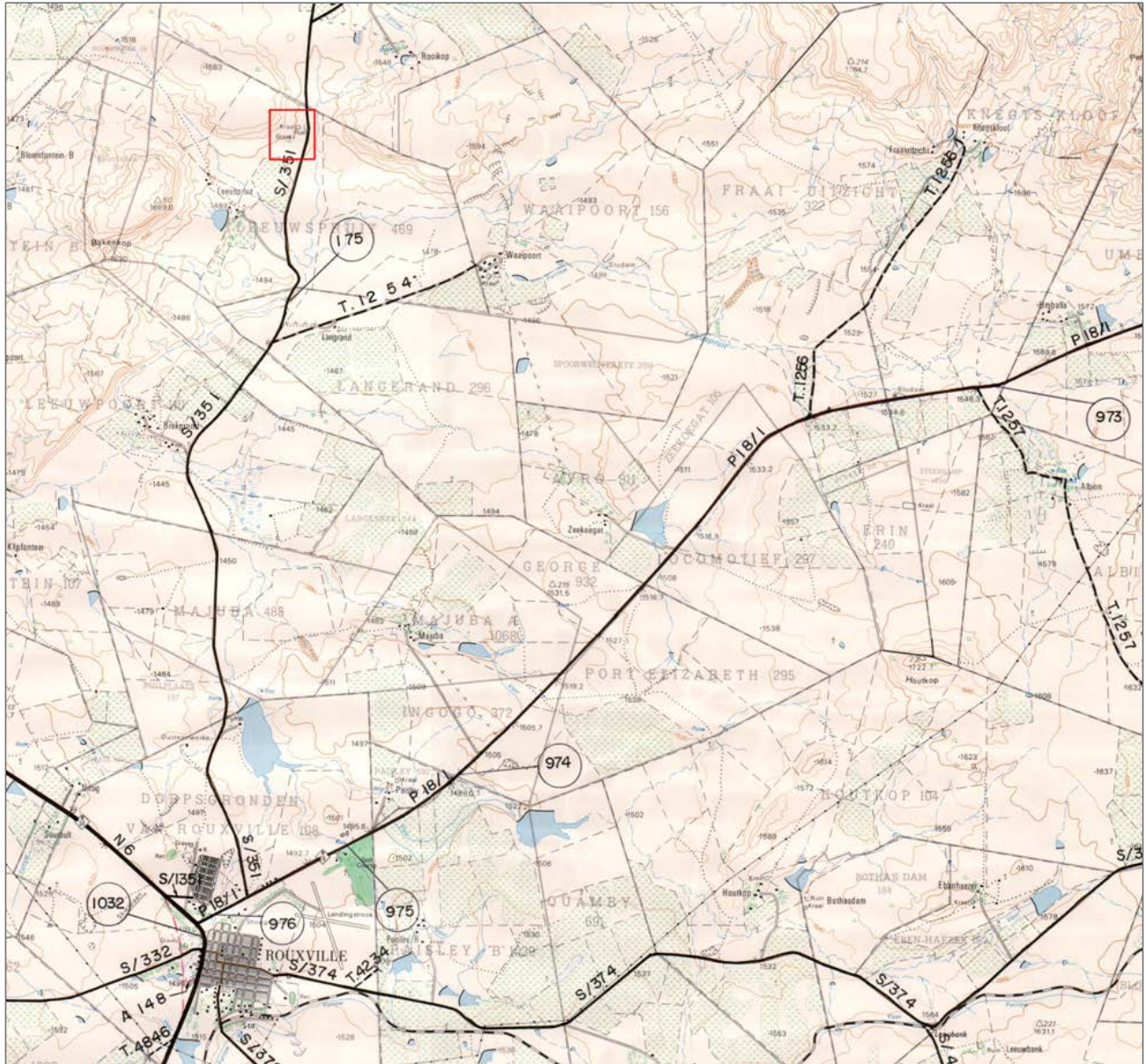


Figure 2: The location of Leesuspruit in relation to Rouxville on the 1:50 000 map (3026BD).

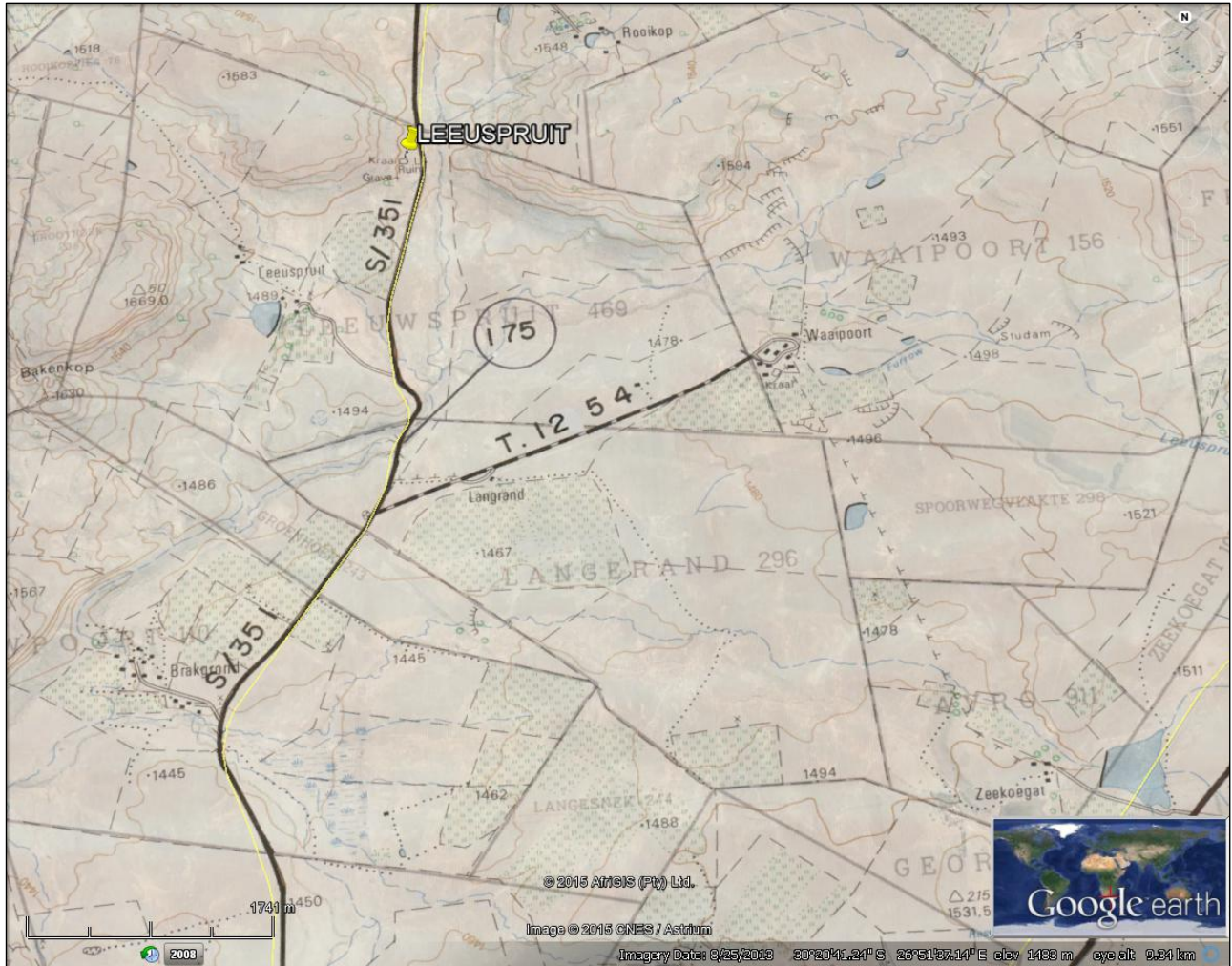


Figure 3: Leeuspruit on the 1:50 000 map (3026BD).



Figure 4: Google earth image of Leeuspruit showing some of the features.



Figure 5: Ruins visible at the site.



Figure 6: The remains of the main structure (house) at the site.



Figure 7: The remains of the main structure (house) at the site.



Figure 8: Kraal walls.



Figure 9: Kraal walls.



Figure 10: The main structure with a very large midden in the forefront.



Figure 11: Close-up of the midden in figure 10.



Figure 12: A second smaller midden between some of the ruins.



Figure 13: A close-up of the midden in figure 12.



Figure 14: Fauna material from Leeuspruit on display at the library in Rouxville.



Figure 15: Potsherds from Leeuspruit on display.



Figure 16: Glass and ceramic pieces from Leeuspruit on display.



Figure 17: Glass, ceramics and potsherds from Leeuspruit on display.



Figure 18: Glass, ceramic and potsherds from Leeuspruit on display.

Sources

Pretorius, A. 1997. *Our threatened heritage*. Kaapstad: André Pretorius.

Nienaber, P.J. 1986. *Pioniershuise van die Vrystaat*. Bloemfontein: Stigting NALN.