

**Heritage impact assessment for the  
PROPOSED WHISKIN HOUSING ESTATE, CROWTHORN AGRICULTURAL  
HOLDINGS, MIDRAND REGION, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED WHISKIN HOUSING ESTATE, CROWTHORN AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS, MIDRAND REGION, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

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**Prepared for:**

LEAP

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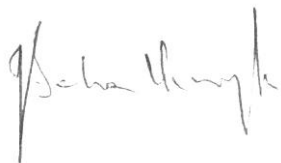
ASAPA Registration No.: 168

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**Declaration:**

I, J.A. van Schalkwyk, declare that I do not have any financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment and management services.



J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)  
Heritage Consultant  
February 2015

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED WHISKIN HOUSING ESTATE, CROWTHORN AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS, MIDRAND REGION, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

The Applicant intends to develop a housing estate on portions 101 to 106 and 108 of the farm Witpoortjie 406JR, Crowthorn Agricultural Holdings in Midrand.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **LEAP** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where the development is planned.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region is made up of a pre-colonial element consisting of limited Stone Age and Iron Age occupation, as well as a much later colonial (farmer) component, which gave rise to an urban component.

- As no site, features or objects of cultural significance are known to exist in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue. We recommend that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a heritage consultant so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.



J A van Schalkwyk  
Heritage Consultant  
February 2015

**TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

<b>Property details</b>						
Province	Gauteng					
Magisterial district	Randburg					
District municipality	City of Johannesburg					
Topo-cadastral map	2528CC					
Closest town	Midrand					
Farm name	Witpoortjie 406JR					
Coordinates	Centre pont					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	1	S 25.98381	E 28.07829			

<b>Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHR Act</b>	Yes/No
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	No
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length	No
Development exceeding 5000 sq m	Yes
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	No
Development involving three or more existing erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years	No
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m	No
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds	No

<b>Development</b>	
Description	Development of a housing estate
Project name	The Whiskin

<b>Land use</b>	
Previous land use	Agriculture
Current land use	Agriculture/urban

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### **TERMS**

**Study area:** Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1 and 2.

**Stone Age:** The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age	30 000 - until c. AD 200

**Iron Age:** Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. As they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 900
Middle Iron Age	AD 900 - AD 1300
Late Iron Age	AD 1300 - AD 1830

**Historical Period:** Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 - in this part of the country

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
CS-G	Chief Surveyor-General
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

## HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED WHISKIN HOUSING ESTATE, CROWTHORN AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS, MIDRAND REGION, GAUTENG PROVINCE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Applicant intends to develop a housing estate on portions 101 to 106 and 108 of the farm Witpoortjie 406JR, Crowthorn Agricultural Holdings in Midrand.

South Africa's heritage resources, also described as the 'national estate', comprise a wide range of sites, features, objects and beliefs. According to Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act 25 of 1999, no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was appointed by **LEAP** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where the development is planned.

This HIA report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report does not deal with development projects outside of or even adjacent to the study area as is presented in Section 5 of this report. The same holds true for heritage sites, except in a generalised sense where it is used to create an overview of the heritage potential in the larger region.

#### 2.1 Scope of work

The aim of this HIA, broadly speaking, is to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop the housing estate.

The scope of work for this study consisted of:

- Conducting of a desk-top investigation of the area, in which all available literature, reports, databases and maps were studied; and
- A visit to the proposed development area.

The objectives were to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;

- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources; and
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

## 2.2 Limitations

The investigation has been influenced by the following factors:

- The unpredictability of buried archaeological remains.
- This report does not deal with the paleontological heritage of the region.

## 3. HERITAGE RESOURCES

### 3.1 The National Estate

The NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) defines the heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations that must be considered part of the national estate to include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including-
  - ancestral graves;
  - royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
  - graves of victims of conflict;
  - graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
  - historical graves and cemeteries; and
  - other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including-
  - objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - ethnographic art and objects;
  - military objects;
  - objects of decorative or fine art;
  - objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

### 3.2 Cultural significance



In the NHRA, Section 2 (vi), it is stated that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This is determined in relation to a site or feature’s uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

According to Section 3(3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of

- its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria were applied for the determination of the significance of each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar identified sites.

## **4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Extent of the Study**

This survey and impact assessment covers the area as presented in Section 5 and as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

### **4.2 Methodology**

#### *4.2.1 Preliminary investigation*

##### **4.2.1.1 Survey of the literature**

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological, historical sources and heritage impact assessment reports were consulted.

- Information of a very general nature was obtained from these sources.

##### **4.2.1.2 Data bases**

The *Heritage Atlas Database*, the *Environmental Potential Atlas*, the *Chief Surveyor General* and the *National Archives of South Africa* were consulted.

- Database surveys produced a number of sites located in adjacent areas.

#### 4.2.1.3 Other sources

Aerial photographs and topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

- Information of a very general nature was obtained from these sources.

#### 4.2.2 Field survey

The area that had to be investigated was identified by **LEAP** by means of maps. The site was visited on 5 February 2015 and surveyed by accessing the properties where possible (see Fig. 1).

#### 4.2.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures that are identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the *Global Positioning System* (GPS) and plotted on a map. This information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

The track log and identified sites were recorded by means of a Garmin Oregon 550 handheld GPS device. Photographic recording was done by means of a Canon EOS 550D digital camera.

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

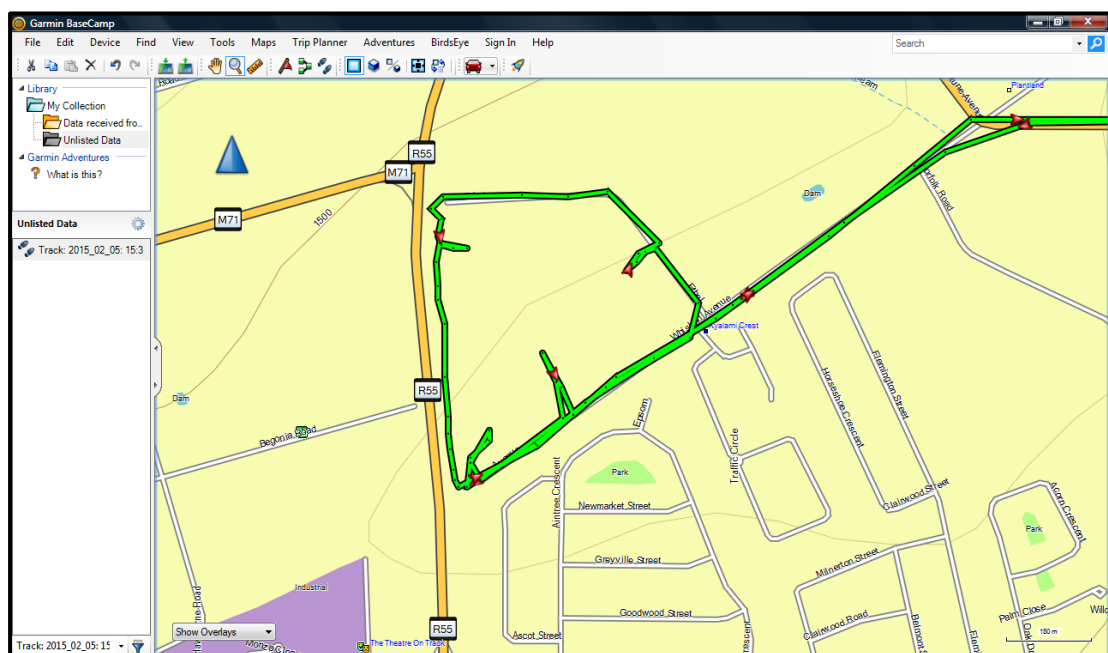


Fig. 1. Track log of the field survey.

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 Site location and description

The site is located on an irregular section of land east of the R55 (Main Road) and north of The Whiskin Road in the Crowthorn Agricultural Holdings of the Midrand region (Fig. 2). For more information, please see the Technical Summary presented above (p. iv).

The geology is made up of granite. The topography of the area is described as strongly undulating plains. The original vegetation is classified a Rocky Highveld Grassland. However, very little of this original vegetation has remained as it was replaced first by farming activities and later by the development of small holdings, schools and other large scale developments.

From the 1939 topocadastral map it can be seen that very little development existed in the region of the study area (Fig. 3). The implication is that no structures older than 60 years exist on the properties.

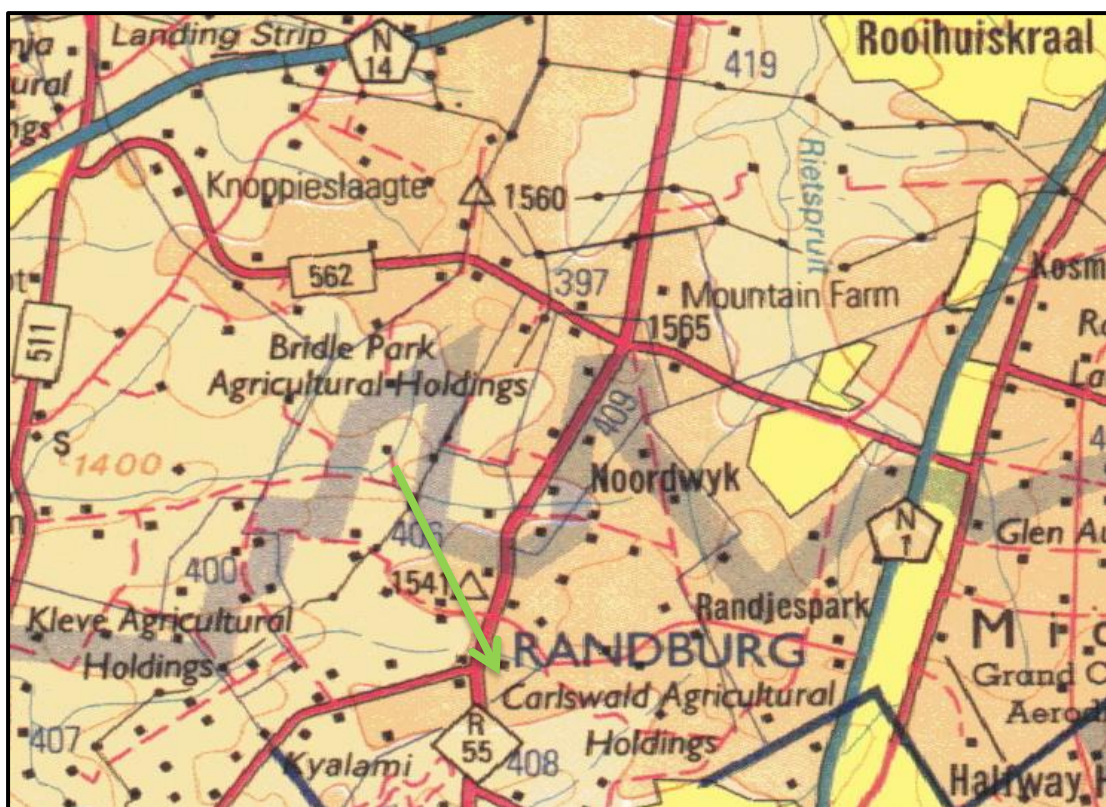


Fig. 2. Location of the study area in regional context.  
(Map 2528: Chief Surveyor-General)

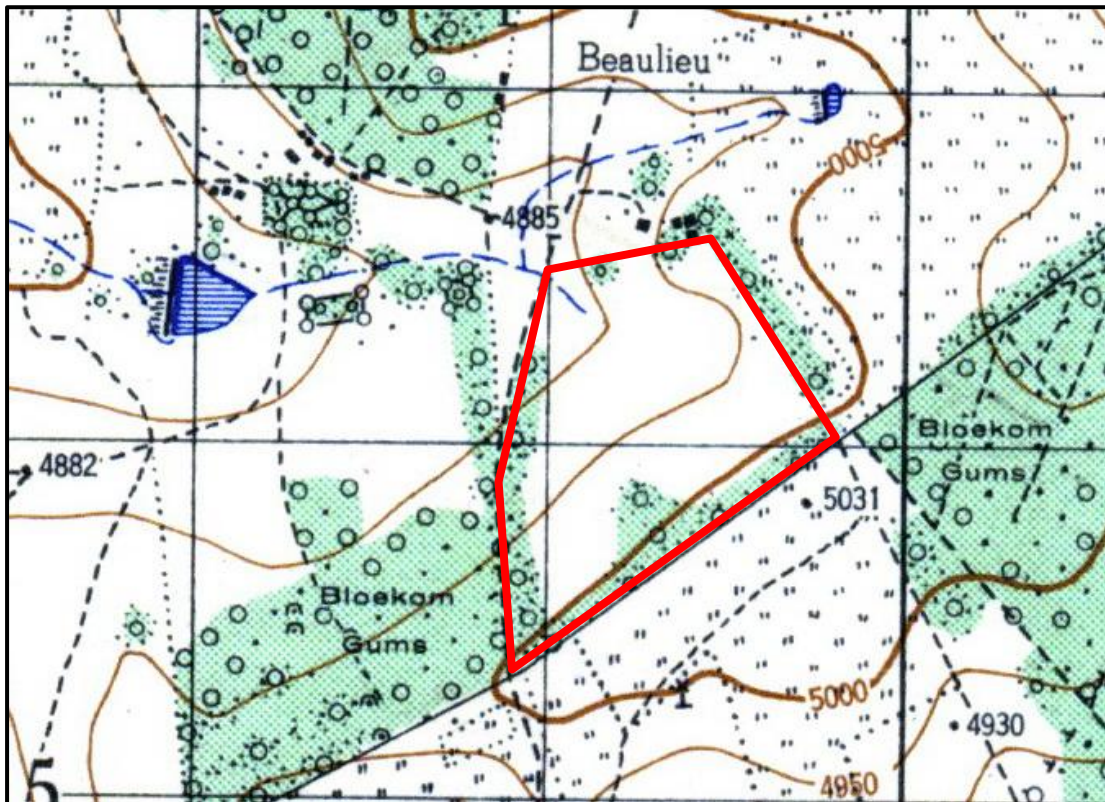


Fig. 3. The study area as indicated on the 1939 version of the 1:50 000 cadastral map. (Map 2528CC: Chief Surveyor-General)

The study area falls within that zone usually located on the front edge of (city) urban-sprawl where the land previously used for agricultural use (only) have become subdivided into small holdings. What used to be a large single agricultural unit or farm now consists of tens of small properties. These units do not have their economic base in traditional agriculture but are sustained by a variety of land uses and economic activities with strong urban associations. This phenomenon happened in the past forty years. Therefore most of the built fabric, date from this period. The result was that any historic farmsteads older than 60 years that may have existed have either disappeared or have been 'upgraded'.

However, during the last couple of years large scale urban development took place (Fig. 3) which would have had a big impact on any sites, features or object of cultural significance that might have occurred here in the past.

At present the open areas in the study area is densely overgrown and is used by unscrupulous people who dump building rubble and other rubbish on it.

Most of the properties show an eclectic mix of styles and material used in their construction. Coupled to this is in some cases haphazard extension of the associated structures, indicating a chronological development of expansion as more room was required due to expanding families or with the development of small business opportunities on some of the sites.

Although some of the properties are still occupied, others are abandoned and neglect and vandalism is taking its toll. Others are systematically being stripped of fixtures and in some cases even the bricks are being torn down for recycling (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Views over the study area.

## 5.2 Development proposal

The Applicant intends to develop a housing estate on portions 101 to 106 and 108 of the farm Witpoortjie 406JR, Crowthorn Agricultural Holdings in Midrand.



Fig. 5. Aerial view of the site in 2012.  
(Photo: Google Earth)

### 5.3 Regional overview

The aim of this section is to present an overview of the history of the larger region in order to eventually determine the significance of heritage sites identified in the study area, within the context of their historic, aesthetic, scientific and social value, rarity and representivity – see Section 3.2 and Appendix 1 for more information.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region is made up of a pre-colonial element consisting of limited Stone Age and Iron Age occupation, as well as a much later colonial (farmer) component, which gave rise to an urban component.

A number of sites are known to occur in the region. These range from MSA sites on the farm Waterval, to Later Stone Age sites, located in small rock shelters near the Jukskei River (Glenferness shelter). Late Iron Age sites also occur, e.g. at Lone Hill and the Boulders Shopping Centre.

During the late 1990s Prof. Revil Mason excavated a Later Stone Age camp site to the north of the study area. The material obtained from this site is now stored at the Cultural History Museum in Pretoria (Mason 2012). The site was excavated as part of a mitigation project for the Midrand municipal authority. It also included work on Late Iron Age site at the Boulders Shopping Centre.

The study area falls within that zone usually located on the front edge of (city) urban-sprawl where the land previously used for agricultural use (only) have become subdivided into small holdings. What used to be a large single agricultural unit or farm now consists of tens of small properties. These units do not have their economic base in traditional agriculture but are sustained by a variety of land uses and economic activities with strong urban associations. This phenomenon happened in the past forty years. Therefore most of the built fabric, date from this period. The result was that any historic farmsteads older than 60 years that may have existed have either disappeared or have been 'upgraded'.

A large number of labourer homesteads used to occur in the region. Some of these have been studied by Hall (1997) and Behrens (2008) as they were to be impacted on by developments at Modderfontein as well as due to the Gautrain development. Fortunately, none of the remaining ones occur within the boundaries of the current development proposal.

### 5.4 Identified sites

The following cultural heritage resources were identified in the study area:

#### 5.4.1 Stone Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

#### 5.4.2 Iron Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

#### 5.4.3 Historic period

- No sites, features or objects dating to the historic period were identified in the study area.

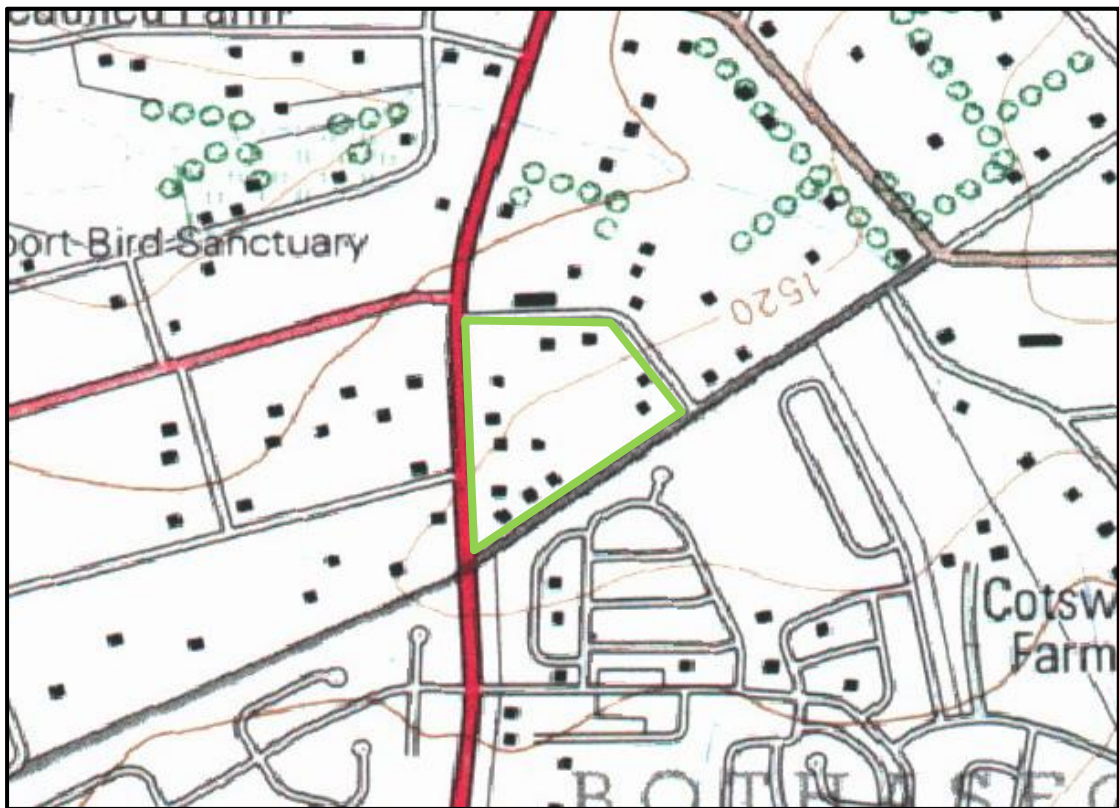


Fig. 6. The study area.  
(Map 2528CC: Chief Surveyor-General)

## 6. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Heritage assessment criteria and grading

The NHRA stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, on a local authority level.

The occurrence of sites with a Grade I significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the applicable of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

## 6.2 Statement of significance

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria, as set out in Sections 3(3) and 7 of the NHRA, No. 25 of 1999, were applied for each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites. Three categories of significance are recognized: low, medium and high. In terms of Section 7 of the NHRA, all the sites currently known or which are expected to occur in the study area are evaluated to have a grading as identified in the table below.

Table 1. Summary of identified heritage resources in the study area.

<b>Identified heritage resources</b>	
<i>Category, according to NHRA</i>	<i>Identification/Description</i>
<b>Formal protections (NHRA)</b>	
National heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provincial heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provisional protection (Section 29)	None
Place listed in heritage register (Section 30)	None
<b>General protections (NHRA)</b>	
structures older than 60 years (Section 34)	None
archaeological site or material (Section 35)	None
palaeontological site or material (Section 35)	None
graves or burial grounds (Section 36)	None
public monuments or memorials (Section 37)	None
<b>Other</b>	
Any other heritage resources (describe)	None

## 6.3 Impact assessment

Impact analysis of cultural heritage resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development.

- As no site, features or objects of cultural significance are known to exist in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural significance found within the area in which the development is proposed.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region is made up of a pre-colonial element consisting of limited Stone Age and Iron Age occupation, as well as a much later colonial (farmer) component, which gave rise to an urban component.



- As no site, features or objects of cultural significance are known to exist in the study area, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed development.

Therefore, from a heritage point of view we recommend that the proposed development can continue. We recommend that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a heritage consultant so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

## 8. REFERENCES

### 8.1 Data bases

Chief Surveyor General  
Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.  
Heritage Atlas Database, Pretoria.  
National Archives of South Africa

### 8.2 Literature

Africa, No. 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

Behrens, J. 2008. *Archaeological investigation of a number of structures on Waterval 5IR*. Unpublished report. Pretoria: Unisa.

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Mason, R.J. 1969. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

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Van Schalkwyk, J.A. & De Jong, R. 1997. *A survey of cultural resources in the Midrand municipal area, Gauteng Province*. Unpublished report 1997KH021. Pretoria: National Cultural History Museum.

### **8.3 Maps and aerial photographs**

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps: 2528CC  
Google Earth

## APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

### Significance

According to the NHRA, Section 2(vi) the **significance** of heritage sites and artefacts is determined by its aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Matrix used for assessing the significance of each identified site/feature

<b>1. Historic value</b>				
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history				
Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history				
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery				
<b>2. Aesthetic value</b>				
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group				
<b>3. Scientific value</b>				
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage				
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period				
<b>4. Social value</b>				
Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons				
<b>5. Rarity</b>				
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage				
<b>6. Representivity</b>				
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics 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.				
<b>7. Sphere of Significance</b>		High	Medium	Low
International				
National				
Provincial				
Regional				
Local				
Specific community				
<b>8. Significance rating of feature</b>				
1.	Low			
2.	Medium			
3.	High			

## APPENDIX 2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

All archaeological and palaeontological sites and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological 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 palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.