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SPECIALIST OPINION FOR THE CHANGE OF THE ALIGNMENT FOR THE PROPOSED BULK SEWER LINE ON PORTIONS OF THE FARM ZANDSPRUIT 191iq, GAUTENG PROVINCE

In May 2022, APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC aa) undertook a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment for the construction of a bulk sewer pipeline on portions of the farm Zandfontein 191IQ, Gauteng Province (Pelser 2022).

In his report Mr Pelser indicated that he did not find any sites, features or objects of cultural significance in the proposed alignment or its immediate vicinity. He also indicate that the area has been subjected to illegal dumping of rubbish and that excessive plant growth obscured ground visibility.

However, the alignment for the proposed sewer pipeline has changed somewhat and the author of the current report was commissioned to review it, at desktop level, to determine if these changes would have an impact on heritage resources.

The approach followed was to review all available resources. This included various databases – see list of references below – as well as available topographic maps and aerial photographs – see the different image below.

From this desktop review, it can be said that the area originally served as agricultural fields, located close to the Sandspruit where the alluvial soils could be exploited. These activities would have altered or destroyed any pre-colonial sites and objects that might have been located here in the past.

No formal structures can be seen on the early photograph. Later topographic maps indicated what is commonly referred to as farm labourer homesteads in the region. However, over time these disappear from the maps, an action that is probably the result of a more formal urban development, as well as the implementation of separated development, as instituted by the previous government. These features normally have a very low footprint as they were normally, although not always, built from organic such as mud bricks and wood.

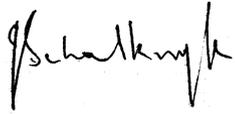
What remains is seemingly an empty landscape in which the main land use is one of the installation of various pipeline routes, some informal soccer pitches and, lately some informal settlement by homeless people.

We hereby confirm with a great deal of certainty that the proposed amendment to the pipeline route will not result in any additional impacts and will not increase the level or nature of the impact, which was initially assessed and considered when application was made for an EA. The significance ratings will remain unchanged and the proposed mitigation and management measures proposed as part of the EIA process will still suffice.

- However, it should be considered that archaeological remains, by its very nature, usually occur below ground level and cannot always be detected, even less so by means of a desktop assessment.

We trust you find the above in order. If there are any uncertainties or additional information required, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



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References:

Brodie, N. (ed.) 2008. *The Joburg Book. A guide to the city's history, people and places*. Northlands: Pan Macmillan South Africa.

Mason, R.J. 1986. *The origins of black people of Johannesburg and the southern western central Transvaal, AD 350-1880*. Occasional Paper No. 16. Johannesburg. University of the Witwatersrand Archaeological Research Unit.

Pelser, A. 2022. *A Phase 1 heritage impact assessment and report for the Zandspruit bulk sewerline WULA on Portions of the farm Zandspruit 1911Q, Gauteng Province*. Pretoria: Unpublished report.

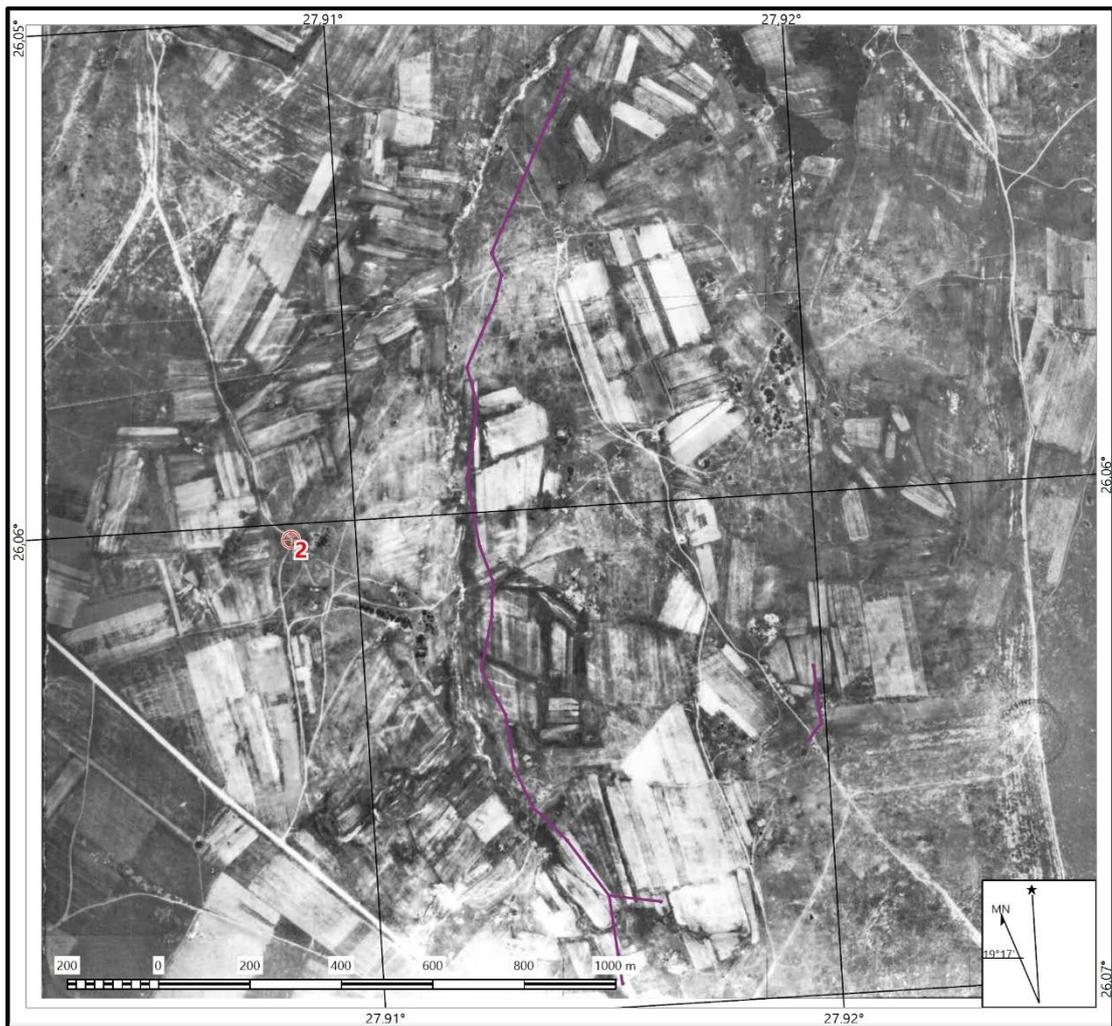
<http://www.artefacts.co.za>

<http://www.heritageregister.org.za>

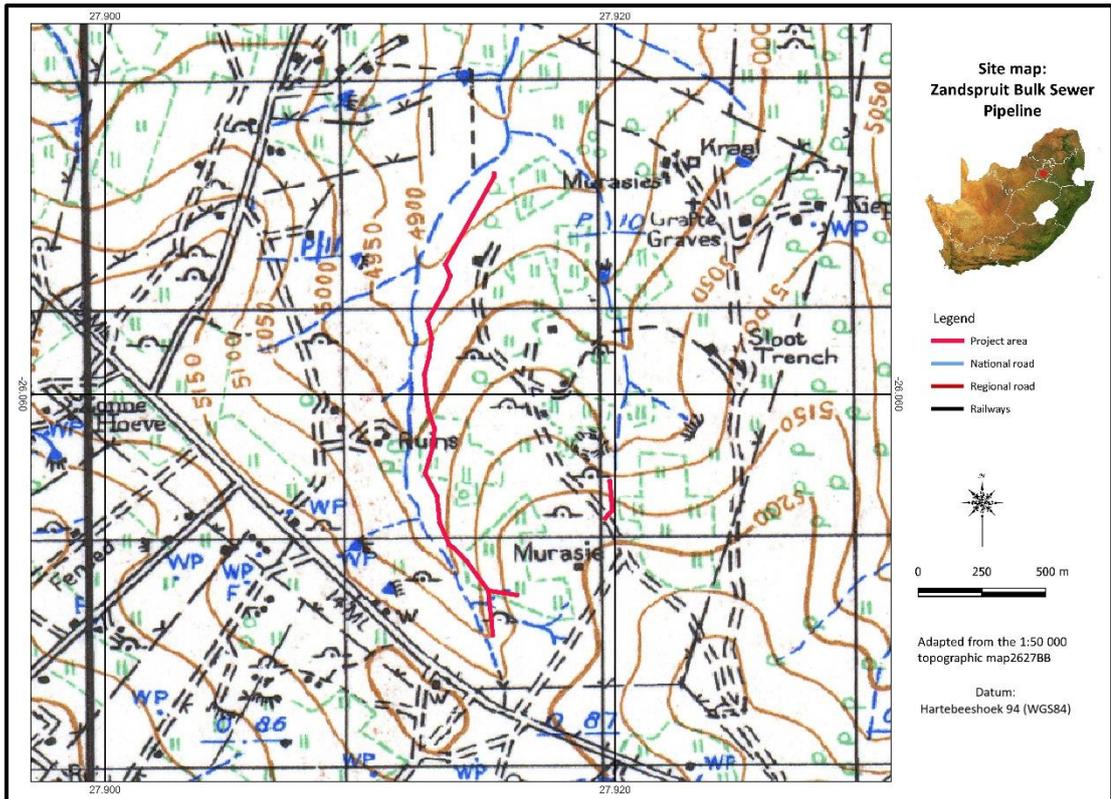
Heritage Atlas Database

SAHRIS Database

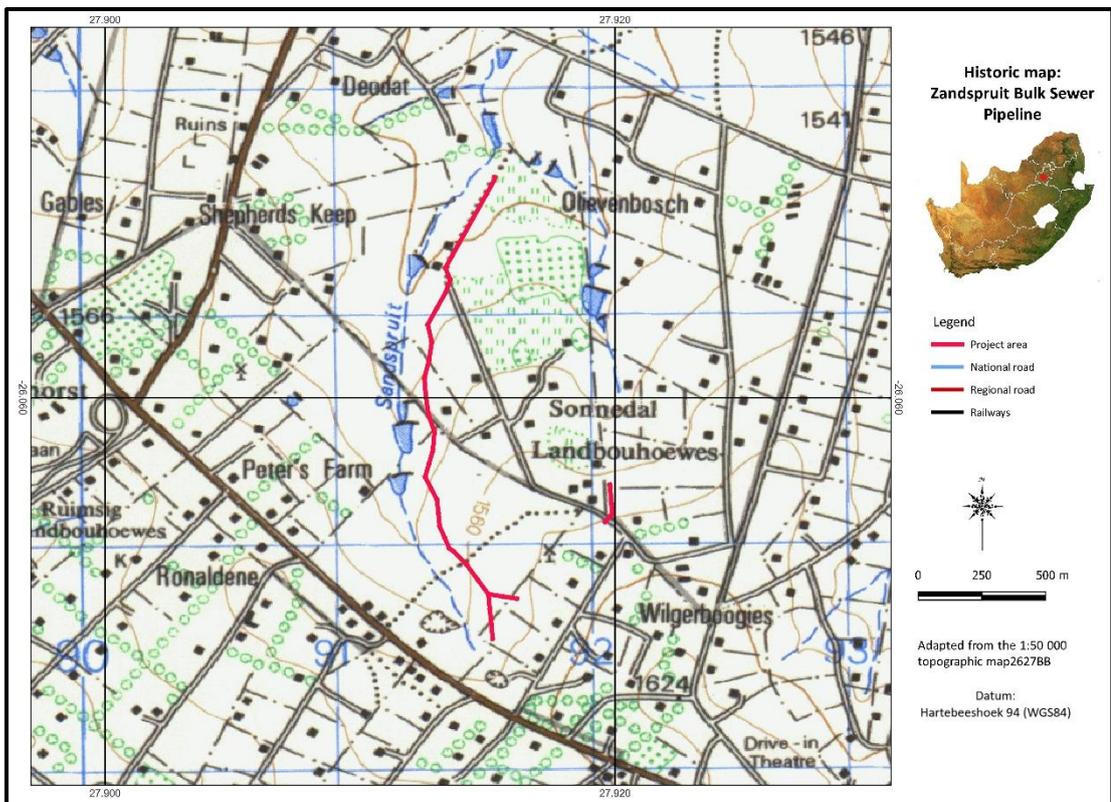
Images



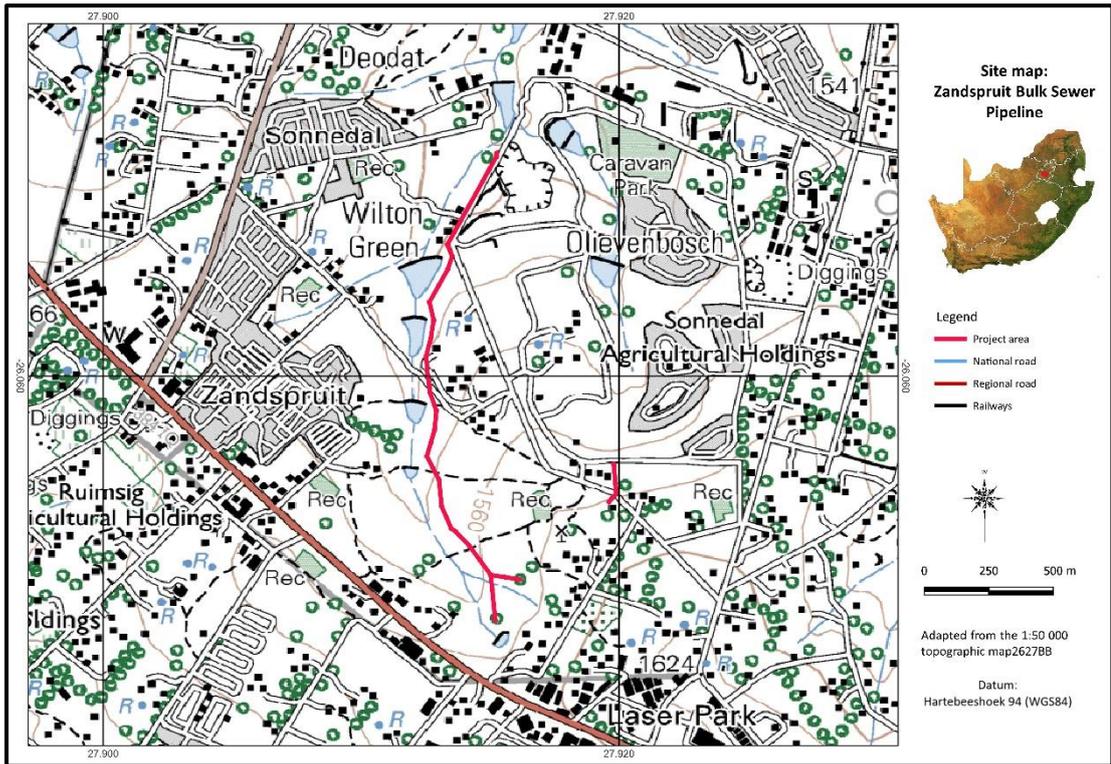
Aerial photograph dating to 1938 (CS-G Photograph 129_006_73762)
(Red wheel-crosses = calibration points)



The 1943 version of the 1:50 000 topographic map (2627BB)



The 1971 version of the 1:50 000 topographic map (2627BB)



The 2007 version of the 1:50 000 topographic map (2627BB)



Google Earth image of the project area dating to 2007



Google Earth image of the project area dating to 2007