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6 November 2013

South African Heritage Resources Agency

P.O. Box 4637

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Attention: Ms Jenna Lavin

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Dear Ms Lavin

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM UNDERTAKING A HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: REM OF PTN 4 AND PTN 8 OF THE FARM RIETVLEY 28KU, SHARE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT (SEF REFERENCE: 505596)

Strategic Environmental Focus (Pty) Ltd (SEF) as independent Environmental Consultants was commissioned by NuLeaf Planning and Environmental Consultants to investigate the heritage potential of Rem Ptn 4 and Ptn 8, Rietvley 28KU and impact thereof on possible heritage resources in the context of the proposed housing development within site.

To make a comprehensive and solid recommendation regarding the proposed project, the client provided a brief description indicating what the proposed development will entail, the proposed locations of the housing units within the study area as well as two alternative sites (Alternative A and Alternative B – see attached map) which will be considered during the Basic Assessment Phase of the project. SEF undertook a desktop investigation of the existing South African Heritage Resource Information System (SAHRIS), aerial photographs and existing literature. The desktop survey revealed that in 2004, an archaeological and cultural assessment of Portion 4 (Remainder) and Portion 5 of the Farm Rietvley 28 KU¹ was undertaken during the first phase of residential development within the nature reserve. The current study area coincides with part of the study covered in 2004 (refer to Appendix 1).

The bulk of the findings from the study undertaken by Maguire & van Wyk (2004) consisted of widely and sparsely scattered Early Stone Age tools including hand axes, flakes, choppers, cobbles and cores. These tools were rated of low significance as they were found out of context and were isolated.

¹ Maguire, R. & van Wyk, C. 2004. Archaeological and Cultural Assessment of Lodges and associated infrastructure development on Portion 4 (Remainder) and Portion 5 of the Farm Rietvley 28-KU Phalaborwa Magisterial District, Limpopo Province. Unpublished Report: Adansonia Heritage Consultants.

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Previous reports of impact assessments conducted in the general area where the current development is being proposed were also conducted. These reports have yielded mixed results. An archaeological investigation undertaken for a housing development in Antwerpen Game Farm, Hoedspruit District² (Coetzee, 2002), a Heritage Impact Assessment for a Lodge Development in Farm Avoca 88, Timbavati Nature Reserve³ and a Heritage Impact Assessment of a Portion of Kapama Hoedspruit⁴ yielded no heritage or archaeological resources of significance. However, an investigation of Farm Vienna 207KT, Hoedspruit yielded Early Iron Age Silver Leaves artefacts, Middle Stone Age flakes and a fossilized vertebrae of a rhino⁵. Aerial photograph investigation of the site did not yield any Iron Age Stone Wall Site or other prominent archaeological objects.

Based on the desktop investigation and the study undertaken by Maguire & van Wyk (2004), I do recommend in my capacity as an independent Heritage Specialist at SEF, that there are no significant heritage or archaeological resources, historic structures and burial grounds on which the proposed development could negatively impact on. As such, I recommend that the project be exempted from any archaeological and heritage impact assessment studies.

The developer however, should be informed that archaeological material is known to occur underground. Thus, investigations that do not uncover archaeological material does not mean artifacts are not present. Archaeological material might be hidden underground, and as such the developer is reminded to take precautions during construction. In the event that archaeological material is unearthed, construction activities within a radius of at least 20m of such features should cease and the area demarcated with a danger tape pending an investigation by an archaeologist. This specialist will provide recommendations on what actions will need to take place in the discovery area to ensure that construction can resume.

It is important for the developer to take cognizance of that fact that any measures to cover up suspected archaeological material or collect heritage resources is illegal and punishable by law. In the same manner, no person may exhume or collect such remains, whether of recent origin or not, without the endorsement by SAHRA.

Yours faithfully



Mamoluoane Seliane

Archaeologist and Heritage Specialist

Accredited by ASAPA Reg. No. 255

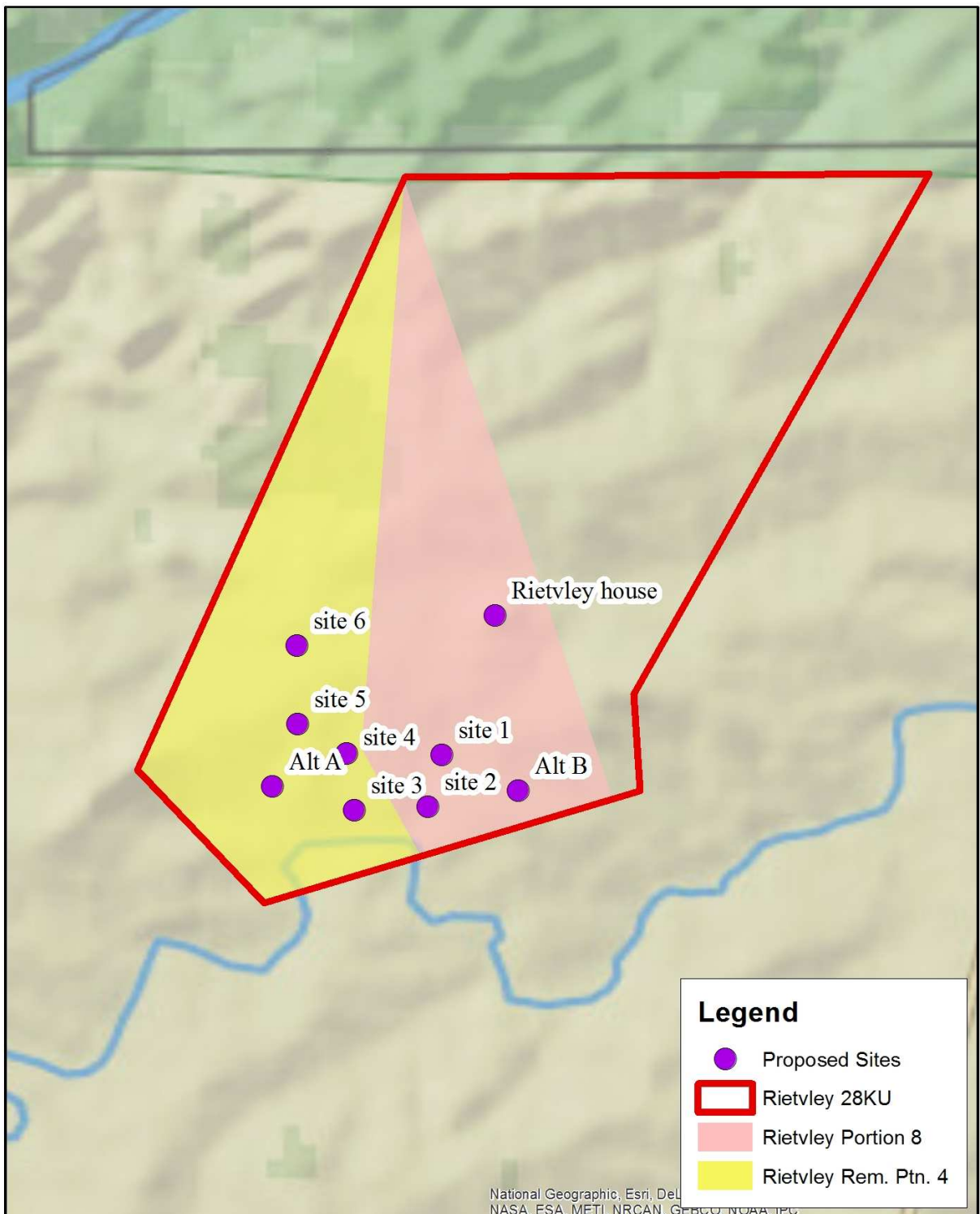
² Coetzee, F. 2002. An Archaeological Investigation of Antwerpen Game Farm, Hoedspruit District, Northern Province. Unpublished Report: University of South Africa Archaeology Contracts Unit.

³ Roodt, F. 2003. Phase I Heritage Resources Impact Assessment Lodge Development – Timbavati Nature Reserve Farm: Avoca 88 (Acornhoek). Unpublished Report: R&R Cultural Resource Consultants.

⁴ Kusel, U. 2005. Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of a Portion of Kapama Hoedstruit (Guernsey 81 KU Portions (6, 34,98,109,56,204 and 210). Unpublished Report: African Heritage Consultants cc

⁵ Huffman, T.N. & Calabrese, J.A. 1997. Archaeological Investigation of an Early Iron Age Site of Vienna Farm, Hoedspruit. Unpublished Report: University of Witwatersrand Archaeology Department

Appendix 1: Map of the study area showing the individual stands



National Geographic, Esri, DeL
NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC

**REM. OF PTN 4 & PTN 8,
RIETVLEY 28KU,
SHAREBLOCK DEVELOPMENT**

HERITAGE MAP

Source of Information
Housing Points:
Client 2013

N
1:46 000

0 500 1 000
m

Maps Produced
By:

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Date: November 2013