

9/2/2003/8

CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AS PART OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT

FOR THE PROPOSED

CASHAN EXTENTION 7 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

ON THE

REMAINDER OF PORTION 43

OF THE FARM

WATERVAL 306 JQ

IN

NORTH WEST PROVINCE SOUTH AFRICA



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL OFFICE SAHRA	
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	RECEIVED

Report: EPS-CASHAN7-HER-1
Compiled by: P.D. Birkholtz & A. van Rooyen
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Helio Alliance (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 12966
Hatfield 0028
Tel: +27 12 342 3062/3
Fax: +27 12 342 3066
E-mail: polke@helioalliance.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Hello Alliance (Pty) Ltd was appointed by *Burrie Smit Ontwikkeelaars* to undertake a cultural heritage assessment of the area to be impacted upon by the proposed *Cashan Extension 7* residential development on the remainder of Portion 43 of the farm Waterval 306 JQ, south of Rustenburg, North West Province, South Africa (refer **Annexure A Locality Map**).

This heritage study forms part of the project's Environmental Scoping Report.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA AND DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Proposed Development

The proposed development is primarily for residential purposes. Refer **Annexure E** for a diagram indicating the proposed layout of the said development.

2.2 Description of Development Area

The development area is situated on the remainder of Portion 43 of the farm Waterval 306 JQ, which lies in a semi-lowveld climate with hot summers and mild winters. Rain occurs mostly in summer months. The study area is situated on a plateau with great vistas, with the Magaliesberg (Kgaswane) mountains to the south and the town of Rustenburg to the north.

Very little human disturbance can be observed on-site. However, at least one vehicle track crosses over portions of the property.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology consisted of the following components:

- a **brief desktop study** of the known cultural heritage resources in the proposed development area and vicinity,
- **field surveys** (by foot) of the proposed development area.
- **consultation with local residents and community members, as well as Interested and Affected Parties** on the known cultural heritage located on site.

3.3 Consulting with Local Interested and/or Affected Parties

During the fieldwork component of the study, informal discussions were held with a number of Interested and/or Affected Parties, as well as local residents. These included:

- Mr John Pennyfather, Chairperson, Rustenburg Military History Study Group
- Mr Ron Gilbert, Member, Rustenburg Military History Study Group
- Archaeological Data Recording Centre, Pretoria
- Mr Francois Coetzee, Iron Age specialist from UNISA
- Mr Richard Newbery, Kgaswane (Rustenburg) Nature Reserve

As required by EIA Regulations 22, 23 and 26 of the Environmental Conservation Act 73 of 1989, a public participation process was undertaken with affected communities and interested and affected parties as part of the environmental scoping. As part of the public participation process of public meeting was also held on Friday, 17 May 2002.

The primary aim of these discussions was to obtain as much information as possible on any known cultural heritage resources. Whenever such known cultural heritage resources were obtained within the boundaries of the proposed development area, the idea was that they were to be documented in the same way as defined in Section 3.2. However, no information obtained from the interested and affected parties could indicate known heritage resources within the proposed development area.

4. BRIEF LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

South Africa has a number of legislative measures in place aimed at protecting its heritage resources. Of these the most important is surely the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.

4.1 National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999

The promulgation of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 brings the conservation and management of heritage resources in South Africa on par with international trends and standards.

- (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 order to understand exactly what is protected, it is important to look at the definition of the concept "**archaeological**" set out in section 2(ii) of the Heritage Act:

- "(a) *material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;*
- (b) *rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation;*
- (c) *wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic, as defined respectively in sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation; and*
- (d) *features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found;..."*

5. FINDINGS

5.1 Desktop Study Findings

5.1.1 Brief overview of known heritage resources

The first group is the so-called Olifantspoort sites. The Olifantspoort settlements belong to what Mason (1962) describes as the Middle Iron Age, and dates from the period AD 1100 - 1500. It is represented by stonewalled sites covering a large area of approximately 27 square miles from Olifantspoort westward (Mason, 1962).

More significant for the present study, is the presence of nine Iron Age sites on the farms Rietwei 271 JQ and Bellevue 211 JQ, west of Tlhabane and north of Rustenburg. Pistorius (1997) indicates that this village fell within the sphere of influence of the Fokeng before the arrival of the Matabele in these parts during 1827. The Matabele town, made up of the nine components, consisted of "...residential units (*imisi* and *imisi amathango*), military kraals (*amakhanda*), guard posts and iron working (smelting and forging) sites (Pistorius, 1997:43-44). It is also believed that this town played a very strategic role in that it was situated between a number of Matabele interest spheres in the Bankenveld, North West Province as well as the vicinity of the Vaal River.

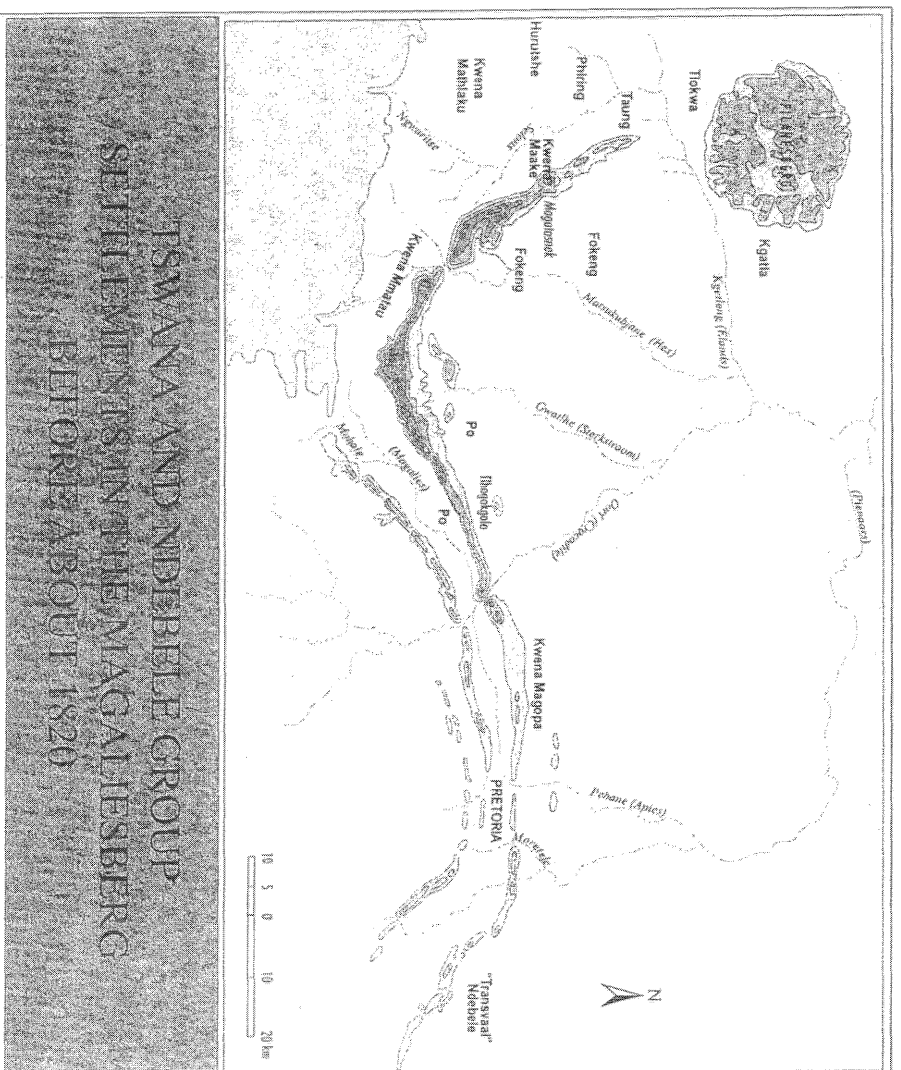


Figure 1 As the writing on the figure shows, this map indicates settlement areas of the Tswana and Ndebele groups in the Magaliesberg before ca. 1820 (Carruthers, 2000:233).

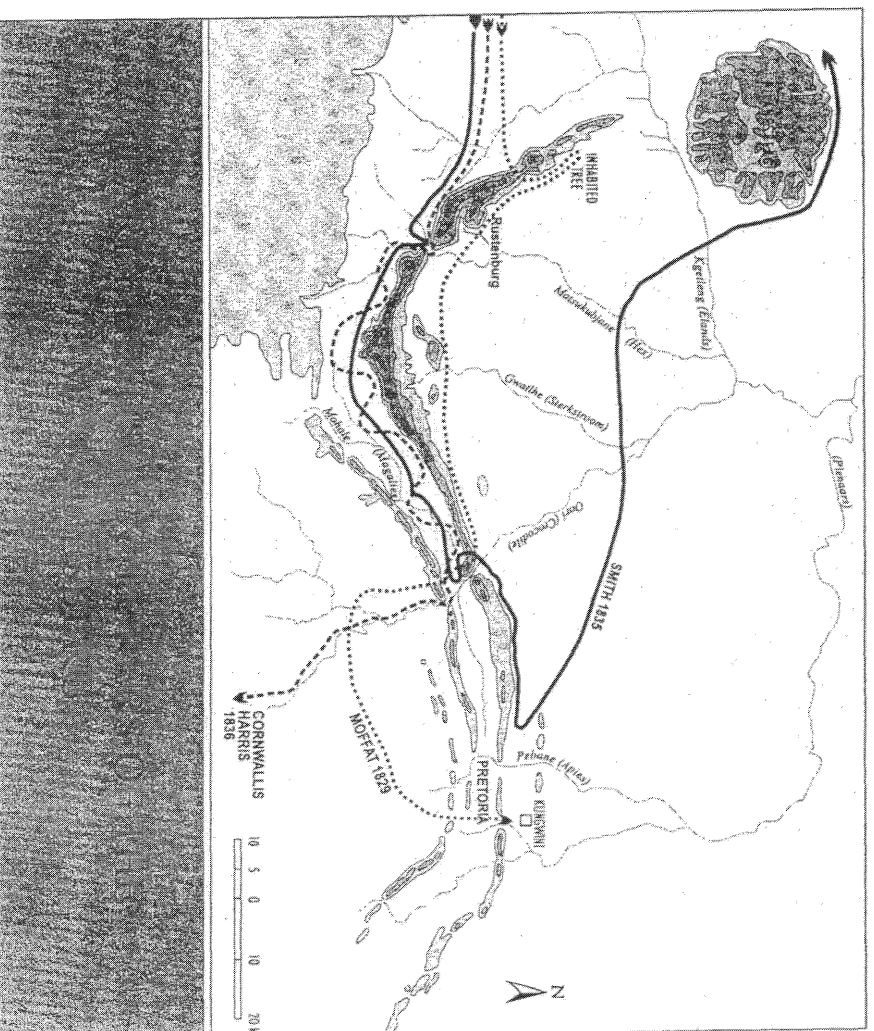


Figure 2 This map indicates the routes taken by some of the early explorers.

European settlement

In August 1837 a commando under Hendrik Potgieter, comprised of 350 armed Voortrekkers as well as Griqua and Tswana allies, moved along the southern foot of the Magaliesberg and crossed the mountain at Olifantsnek. A base camp was set up near present-day Rustenburg (Carruthers, 2000).

From this base Gabeni was attacked, and the Ndebele forced to flee northward. They eventually crossed the Limpopo (Carruthers, 2000).

The years 1839 to 1840 saw a number of Voortrekkers ("Boers") settled in the vicinity of Rustenburg. A petition dated 22 January 1850 was sent to the "Volksraad" in Potchefstroom requesting for the founding of a Reformed Church in the area (Coetzee, 1997).

On 15 January 1851 the first magistrate for the area was appointed.

According to Coetzee (1997) he resided on the farm Boekenhoutfontein with his wife. He farmed this land from 1863 to the time of his exile in 1902.

5.1.1.4 The Transvaal War (1880-1881)

At the time of the outbreak of hostilities, Rustenburg was garrisoned by 62 men of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and commanded by Captain Daniel Auchinleck. The garrison fortified themselves in a fort approximately half a kilometre south of the town (Carruthers, 2000). According to Wulfsohn (1987) the fort was located where the Sing-Spring nursery school, on the corner of Von Wielligh and Church Streets, is located today.

On 27 December 1880 the Boer forces occupied the town. A messenger was immediately sent to the fort to ask the British troops to surrender. This they did not do, and the siege of the fort began. Although the Boer forces initially used only rifles to fire on the fort, a homemade cannon produced by the Boer blacksmith, Martinus Ras, was introduced into the battle on 8 January 1881. The gun was positioned on various koppies in the vicinity of the old goal and Rustenburg High School, though it did not prove to be very effective (Wulfsohn, 1987).

On 30 March 1881 an English officer, Lieutenant Ryder, was allowed to enter the fort and advise the troops inside that the war is over and that peace has been negotiated (Wulfsohn, 1987).

5.1.1.5 Anglo-Boer (South African) War (1899-1902)

On 11 October 1899 war broke out between Britain and the two Boer republics of the Orange Free State and Transvaal (Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek). The region surrounding Rustenburg played an important part during this war, with a number of skirmishes and battles also occurring in this area (Wulfsohn, 1987).

One of these battles took place on 21 July 1900, when a Boer position consisting of 300 members of the Rustenburg Commando were attacked by a force of some 4000 men under Lord Methuen. After a few hours of fighting, the Boers were forced to retreat (Wulfsohn, 1987).

A number of buildings are significant as well, such as the Dutch Reformed Church on the corner of Plein and Burger Streets, the Anglican Church, which was moved to its present location in Van Staden Street and the old goal, which is now adjacent to the cemetery.

5.1.1.6 The Rebellion (1914-15)

With the outbreak of hostilities between Britain and Germany in 1914, initiating the First World War, many Afrikaans-speaking people found it unacceptable for the Union of South Africa to assist the erstwhile enemy, Britain, against Germany. As a result many of these people rebelled against the government of General Louis Botha.

In October 1914, one of the rebellion leaders, General C.F. Beyers, began recruiting men in the Magaliesberg. During the beginning he established himself at Damhoek. On 24 October 1914 he camped at Elandskraal. On 25 October 1914 he established himself on the farm Commissiedrift near the Olifantsnek pass (Carruthers, 2000). As mentioned before, Commissiedrift is situated some distance to the south of the development area.

On 27 October 1914 General Louis Botha led a commando to surround the rebel camp at Commissiedrift. The rebel force broke up and fled in various directions. After a three hour chase and exchange of fire some of the rebels were captured at Roodewal some 20 kilometers to the west (Carruthers, 2000).

5.1.2 Archival Maps

As heritage impact assessments primarily deal with the placing of heritage resources within a landscape, the study of old maps can be very helpful in such a study.

In the National Archives located in Pretoria, a search was made for relevant maps of the study area. Although a number of maps were located and studied, no heritage or historic features are indicated within the boundaries of the development area. Two of these maps are portrayed below.

The first of these (refer **Figure 3**) is an undated map of Rustenburg and surrounds. Although undated and untitled, it is assumed that the map probably dates from the early 1900s (1900-1902) and possibly formed part of a series of maps compiled by the British Army known as

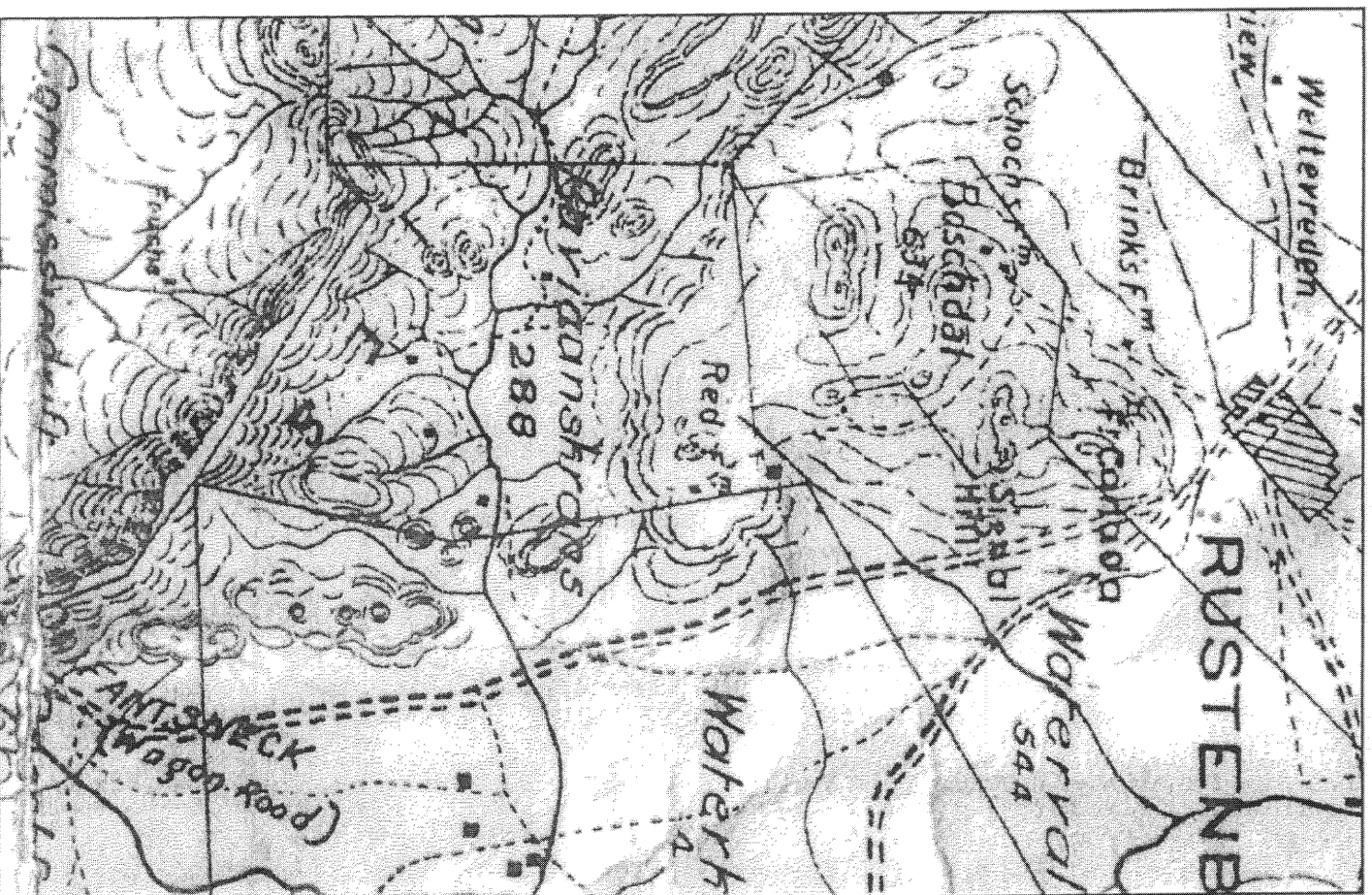


Figure 3 Undated map (National Archives, 3/27).

Rustenburg Military History Study Group

During the field survey contact was made with a neighbouring resident, Mr. Ron Gilbert. By chance, Mr. Gilbert is also a member of the Rustenburg, Military History Study Group. According to his knowledge no resources associated with the area's military history is located within the boundaries of the site. Furthermore, he also provided contact details for the Chairperson of the study group, Mr. John Pennyfather.

Mr. Pennyfather was contacted and asked whether he would be able to provide any information on known heritage resources associated with the area's military history. Using a development site locality map (which was faxed to him) as reference, Mr. Pennyfather was kind enough to telephonically indicate where sites of military historical importance are located in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Although Mr. Pennyfather could indicate a number of sites of military historical significance in the vicinity of the study area, none of these are located within the boundaries of the site.

Mr Richard Newbery

Mr Newbery was telephonically consulted regarding any heritage resources, which he may be aware of in the study area and surroundings. Although he did not know of any sites within the boundaries of the study area, he did mention the presence of a few sites in the surroundings area, including stonewalled sites toward the east of the study area as well as Stone Age sites from within the Kgaswane Nature Reserve.

Public Participation Process as part of the Environmental Scoping

As required by EIA Regulations 22, 23 and 26 of the Environmental Conservation Act 73 of 1989, a public participation process was undertaken with affected communities and interested and affected parties as part of the environmental scoping process.

The only comment that was received regarding heritage was a comment made that the impact of the proposed development on the medicinal plants located in the development area, should also be assessed. Although knowledge of medicinal uses for plants would definitely form part of the definition of heritage, plants on their own (whether they have medicinal uses or not) are managed as part of the Scoping Report's botanical assessments and management plans. It is not believed that the proposed development would have any

6.1 “The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected”

This requirement has been suitably addressed in **Section 5.3 Survey Findings**. With the GPS co-ordinates obtained from the field, the site were plotted using Arcview 8.1 GIS Software. Refer **Annexure B Site Distribution Map**.

6.2 “A(a)n assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6(2) or prescribed under section 7;”

As mentioned in the text above, Mr Francois Coetzee, an Iron Age specialist from UNISA's Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, was taken out to the site. The aim of this visit was to obtain a specialist opinion as to the significance of the site, as well as to propose any mitigation measures (if required).

The site is of **low significance**. This assessment is based on the fact that it consists of only a few rudimentary stonewall foundations, with no evidence of archaeological deposits or ash middens. Although a few potsherds were observed, these were all undecorated and largely in secondary context due to the effect of erosion. The hut floors, which were found, are also eroded.

6.3 “A(a)n assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;”

As can be seen from **Annexure D**, the largest portion of the site falls within what is defined in the layout plan as open space. This assumption is based on the accuracy of the GPS coordinates, as well as the accuracy of the transfer of these points onto the layout plan.

However, due to the closeness of the development to at least the one waypoint, as well as the fact that the site is definitely bigger than the waypoints, a certain level of impact on the site can be expected.

6.7 “P(p)lans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.”

Although the site is of low significance, it is still defined as an archaeological site and as such a permit would have to be obtained if any damage, alteration or destruction of the site is foreseen. As mentioned before a certain level of impact can be foreseen due to the closeness of some portions of the site to the development. Although large portions of the site would also be located in Open Space, secondary impact can also be foreseen. **As such the safest option would be to apply for a destruction permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). This permit application would have to be done well in advance of the development to ensure that it is in place before any construction in this area commences.**

7. CONCLUSIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The study undertaken for this report resulted in the discovery of a single site of low significance (refer **Section 6.2**). In **Section 6.7** it is proposed that although large portions of the site seem to be located in Open Space, the closeness of some portions of the site to the development a measure of impact can be expected. As such it is proposed that the safest option will be to apply for a destruction permit from SAHRA.

Not subtracting in any way from the comprehensiveness of the fieldwork undertaken, it is necessary to realise that the heritage resources located during the fieldwork do not necessarily represent all the heritage resources located there. This may be due to various reasons, including the subterranean nature of some archaeological sites and dense vegetation cover.

As such, should any heritage features and/or objects not included in the present inventory be located or observed, a heritage specialist must immediately be contacted. Such observed or located heritage features and/or objects may not be disturbed or removed in any way, which means that should such features or objects be exposed during any of the proposed activities, such activities must immediately stop. The same is true for graves. Should any graves or cemeteries be observed, located or exposed, all activities in the vicinity of the located features must immediately stop. A heritage specialist must also immediately be contacted, and who after assessing the site would in consultation with the SAHRA be able to make recommendations on the way to proceed with the site.

ANNEXURE A LOCALITY MAP