

**Heritage scoping assessment for the
PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEDENERGY UPINGTON PV POWER
PLANT, //KHARA HAI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**HERITAGE IMPACT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEDENERGY UPINGTON PV POWER PLANT,
//KHARA HAIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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Prepared for:

SAVANNAH Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Representative: Ms R Ajodhapersadh

Postal Address: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2151
Tel: 011 234 6621
E-mail: ravisha@savannahsa.com

Prepared by:

J van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil), Heritage Consultant
ASAPA Registration No.: 168
Principal Investigator: Iron Age, Colonial Period, Industrial Heritage

Postal Address: 62 Coetzer Avenue, Monument Park, 0181
Mobile: 076 790 6777
Fax: 012 347 7270
E-mail: jvschalkwyk@mweb.co.za

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
March 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HERITAGE IMPACT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEDENERGY UPINGTON PV POWER PLANT, //KHARA HAIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE


African Rainbow (Pty) Ltd proposes to develop a renewable energy facility consisting of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy component, as well as associated infrastructure on Portion 0 of the Farm UAP 418, approximately 7km north-east of Upington in the Northern Cape Province.

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 **Savannah Environmental** to conduct a scoping assessment to determine if there are any fatal flaw issues from a heritage perspective within the boundaries of the proposed development area which would prevent the process from proceeding to a next level of investigation

Based on current knowledge, the sites, features and objects known to exist or that are expected to exist in the study area are judged to have Grade III significance and therefore would not prevent the project from continuing.

It is therefore recommended that, in accordance of Section 38 of the NHRA a Phase I HIA in undertaken to determine the presence of any heritage resources that may occur in the development area. Such a study would determine the level of significance of the identified resources as well as proposing mitigation measures for those resources that may be affected by the proposed development. The mitigation of heritage resources is referred to as Phase II studies and, depending on the type of resource, may include in depth studies before the impact may take place, or alternatively, that a resource must be avoided and protected.



J A van Schalkwyk
Heritage Consultant
March 2011

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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 & 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. These people, according to archaeological evidence, spoke early variations of the Bantu Language. Because 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 |
| BP | Before Present |
| 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 SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEDENERGY UPINGTON PV POWER PLANT, //KHARA HAIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. INTRODUCTION

African Rainbow (Pty) Ltd proposes to develop a renewable energy facility consisting of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy component, as well as the associated infrastructure on Portion 0 of the Farm UAP 418, approximately 7km north-east of Upington in the Northern Cape Province.

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 **Savannah Environmental** to conduct a scoping assessment to determine if there are any fatal flaw issues from a heritage perspective within the boundaries of the proposed development area which would prevent the process from proceeding to a next level of investigation

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

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 transmission line.

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.

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;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

| Type of study | Aim | SAHRA involved | SAHRA response |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Screening | <p>The aim of the screening investigation is to provide an overview of possible heritage-related issues regarding the proposed development by an appropriate heritage specialist. It is based on the review and use of existing heritage data pertaining to the site.</p> <p>The result of this investigation is a brief statement indicating potential heritage impacts/issues and can assist the developer in preliminary planning.</p> <p>This report does grant the developer permission to proceed with the proposed development.</p> | Not necessary | |
| Scoping (basic assessment) | <p>The aim of the scoping investigation is to provide an informed heritage-related opinion about the proposed development by an appropriate heritage specialist. The objectives are to assess heritage sites and their significance (involving site inspections, existing heritage data); to review the general compatibility of the development proposals with heritage policy and possible heritage features on the site.</p> <p>The result of this investigation is a heritage scoping report indicating the presence/absence of heritage resources and what would be required to manage them in the context of the proposed development.</p> <p>This report does not grant the developer permission to proceed with the proposed development.</p> | Not compulsory | |
| Heritage Impact Assessment | <p>The aim of a full HIA investigation is to provide an informed heritage-related opinion about the proposed development by an appropriate heritage specialist. The objectives are to identify heritage resources (involving site inspections, existing heritage data and additional heritage specialists if necessary); assess their significances; assess alternatives in order to promote heritage conservation issues; and to assess the acceptability of the proposed development from a heritage perspective.</p> <p>The result of this investigation is a heritage impact assessment report indicating the presence/ absence of heritage resources and how to manage them in the context of the proposed development.</p> <p>Depending on SAHRA's acceptance of this report, the developer will receive permission to proceed with the proposed development, on condition of successful implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p> | Provincial Heritage Resources Authority | Comments on built environment and decision to approve or not |
| | | SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit | Comments and decision to approve or not |

Table 1: Applicable category of heritage impact assessment study and report.

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 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 1 - 2.

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. Some surveys done in nearby areas exist, but could not be accessed from SAHRA in the time available (Beaumont 2006a, 2006b, 2006c, 2006d). The following sources were consulted – Rudner 1953, Humphreys 1976, Morris 1995, Couzens 2004, Raper 2006, De Jong 2010.

- Information on events, sites and features in the larger region were obtained from these sources.

4.2.1.2 Data bases

The *Heritage Atlas Database*, the *Environmental Potential Atlas*, the *Chief Surveyor General (CS-G)* and the *National Archives of South Africa (NASA)* were consulted.

- Database surveys produced a number of sites located in the larger region of the proposed development. The original Title Deed for the farm was accessed.

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.

4.3 Limitations

- None at present

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Site location and description

The study area is an irregular shaped section of land located to the north east of the town of Upington in the Northern Cape Province (Fig. 1 & 2). It consists of Portion 0 of the Farm UAP 418.

The geology is made up of schist, with some dolerite intrusions to the west of the study area. The original vegetation is classified as Karroid Kalahari Bushveld in the north, changing to Orange River Nama Karoo in the south of the study area. The topography is classified as gently rolling plains and the Orange River forms the southern border of the study area.

The current land use is farming, with the largest area used for grazing. In the vicinity of the Orange River intensive grape production is taking place. The result is that the original land surface and all possible heritage features and objects that might have occurred here are totally destroyed.

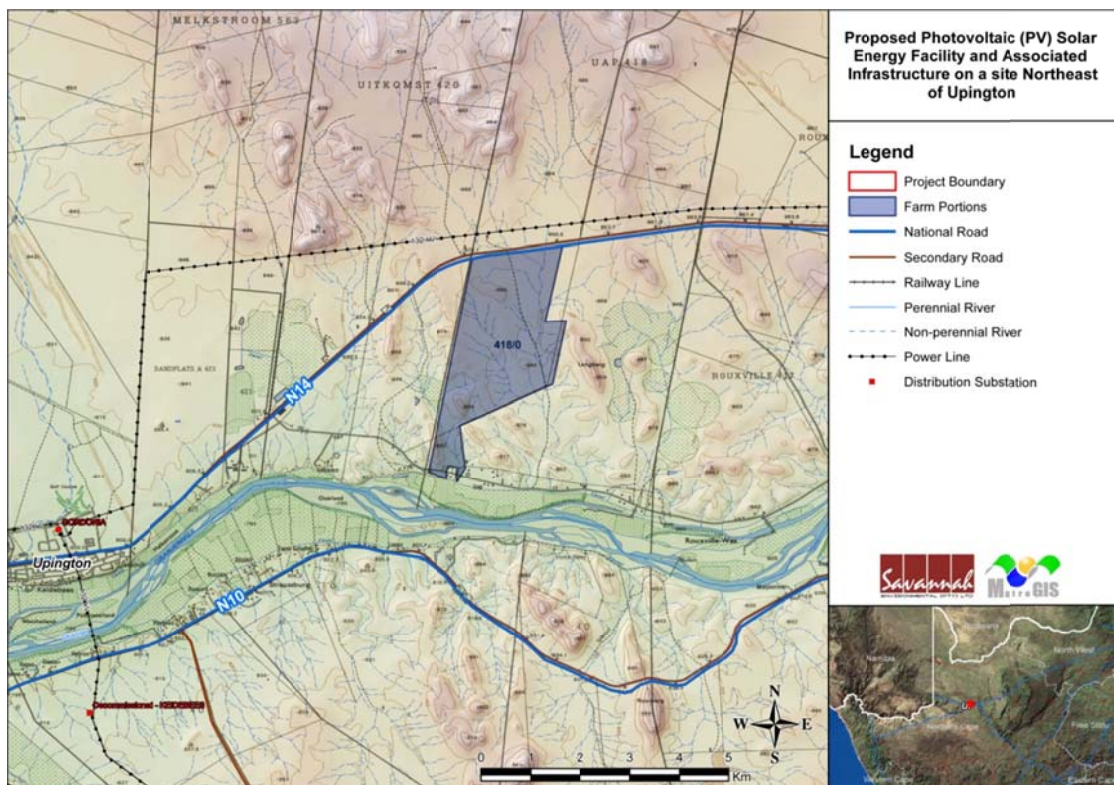


Fig. 1. Location of the study area in regional context.
(Maps 3022, 3024: Chief Surveyor-General)

5.2 Regional overview

Stone Age

Surveys done for example by Sampson (1985) to the south-east of the study area indicated a rich legacy in Stone Age sites in the Karoo. However, the region of the study area seems to

have been a bit more marginal as no major sites or traditions have been identified in the region.

Occupation by early humans would probably date to the Middle Stone Age and would consist of open sites in the vicinity of stream beds or hills and outcrops. Population density might have increased during the Later Stone Age and people would have occupied rock shelters where available as well as open sites. During this later period they also produced rock engravings, although none are known from the immediate region.

Historic period

The town of Upington, originally known as Olijvenhoutsdrift, was founded in 1871 as part of a mission station by the German missionary Rev Schröder. The town was renamed in 1884 after Sir Thomas Upington, who was the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony and who visited the town in 1884.

An irrigation canal was started by Rev Schröder in 1883. It was completed in 1885. By 1884 there were already 77 irrigation farms. Nowadays, it is disputed that Schröder was the original builder of the canal, and it is claimed that he only carried on with an idea that was started by a local inhabitant by the name of Abraham September.

The Title Deed of that farm UAP 418 dates to March 1892 and was in favour of one Abraham September.

5.3 Heritage potential

Based on the above sources and experience in the region, the following heritage sites, features and objects are expected to occur in the proposed development area:

- Stone Age sites located near the foot of hills, with an increased likelihood if there are rock shelters in the vicinity;
- Graves dating to the Stone Age located in the vicinity of the river.

Historic period

- Houses and other structures older than 60 years;
- Farming infrastructure such as irrigation channels;
- Graves and cemeteries, both formal and informal.

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.

| Identified heritage resources | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Category, according to NHRA</i> | <i>Identification/Description</i> |
| Formal protections (NHRA) | |
| 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 |
| General protections (NHRA) | |
| 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 |
| Other | |
| Any other heritage resources (describe) | None |

Table 2. Summary of identified heritage resources in the study area.

6.3 Impact assessment

Based on current information regarding sites in the surrounding area, all sites expected to occur in the study region are judged to have Grade III significance.

7. CONCLUSIONS

This scoping study has revealed that a variety of heritage resources occur in the larger region and therefore there is a likelihood that similar resources would be located in the study area. Heritage resources usually manifest in a wide variety of forms, ranging from stone tools found as surface scatters, rock shelters, to stratified sites showing long sequences of occupation,

and sites containing structures such as buildings, cemeteries and places to which cultural significance is attached.

Based on current knowledge, the sites, features and objects known to exist or that are expected to exist in the study area are judged to have Grade III significance and therefore would not prevent the project from continuing.

It is therefore recommended that, in accordance of Section 38 of the NHRA a Phase I HIA in undertaken to determine the presence of any heritage resources that may occur in the development area. Such a study would determine the level of significance of the identified resources as well as proposing mitigation measures for those resources that may be affected by the proposed development. The mitigation of heritage resources is referred to as Phase II studies and, depending on the type of resource, may include in depth studies before the impact may take place, or alternatively, that a resource must be avoided and protected.

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
SAHRA Archaeology and Palaeontology Report Mapping Project (2009)

8.2 Literature

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- Parsons, I. 2008. Five Later Stone Age artefact assemblages from the interior Northern Cape province. *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 63(187):51-60.
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- Rudner, I. 1953. Decorated ostrich egg-shell and stone implements from the Upington area. *South African Archaeological Bulletin*. 8(31): 82-84.

8.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps: 2821AD
Google Earth

APPENDIX 1: CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROJECTS ON 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

| | | | | |
|---|--------|------|--------|-----|
| 1. Historic value | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| 2. Aesthetic value | | | | |
| It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group | | | | |
| 3. Scientific value | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| 4. Social value | | | | |
| Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons | | | | |
| 5. Rarity | | | | |
| Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage | | | | |
| 6. Representivity | | | | |
| 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. | | | | |
| 7. Sphere of Significance | | High | Medium | Low |
| International | | | | |
| National | | | | |
| Provincial | | | | |
| Regional | | | | |
| Local | | | | |
| Specific community | | | | |
| 8. Significance rating of feature | | | | |
| 1. | Low | | | |
| 2. | Medium | | | |
| 3. | High | | | |

Significance of impact:

- low where the impact will not have an influence on or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design
- medium where the impact could have an influence which will require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation
- high where it would have a “no-go” implication on the project regardless of any mitigation

Certainty of prediction:

- Definite: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data to verify assessment
- Probable: More than 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only more than 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring
- Unsure: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact, or the likelihood of an impact occurring

Recommended management action:

For each impact, the recommended practically attainable mitigation actions which would result in a measurable reduction of the impact, must be identified. This is expressed according to the following:

- 1 = no further investigation/action necessary
- 2 = controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary
- 3 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation and/or mapping necessary
- 4 = preserve site at all costs
- 5 = retain graves

Legal requirements:

Identify and list the specific legislation and permit requirements which potentially could be infringed upon by the proposed project, if mitigation is necessary.

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.

APPENDIX 3: ILLUSTRATIONS



Fig. 2 Aerial view of the site.
(Photo: Google Earth)

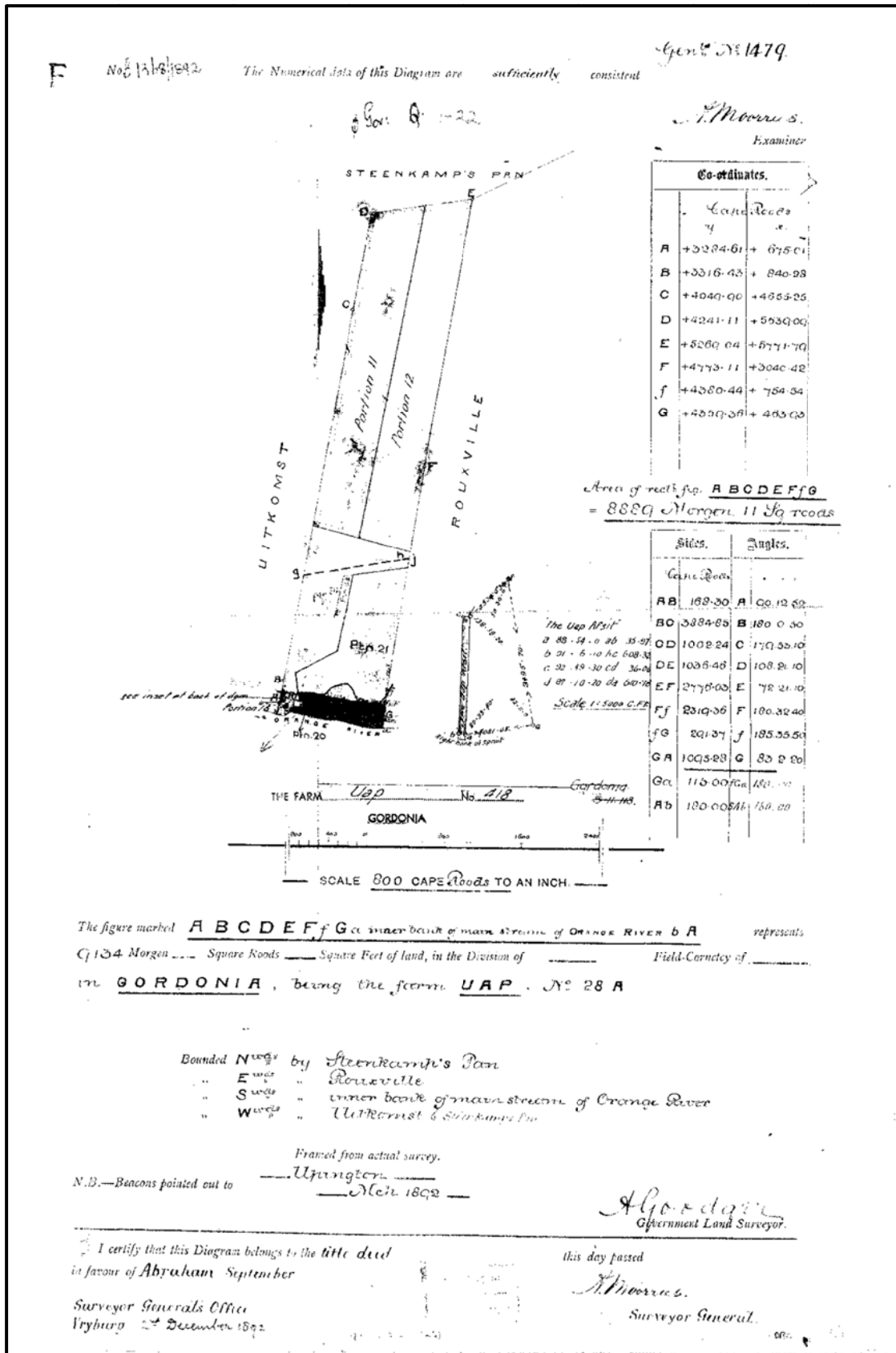


Fig. 3. Copy of the original Title Deed of the farm dating to 1892.