

Archaeological Impact Assessment

**For Charde Agricultural hub on the Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS,
Marble Hall District, Limpopo Province**

Prepared For
Midturon Information Consultants

By



HERITAGE

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I, Jaco van der Walt as duly authorised representative of Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC, hereby confirm my independence as a specialist and declare that neither I nor the Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which the client was appointed as Environmental Assessment practitioner, other than fair remuneration for work performed on this project.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site name and location: Charde Agricultural hub is located at The T-junction of the N11 (Groblersdal Road also known as the “Schoeman Road”) and the R25 (Bronkhorstspuit Road) on portion 401 of the farm Loskop Noord 12 JS, Marble Hall, Limpopo Province.

Purpose of the study: Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment to determine the presence of cultural heritage sites and the impact of the proposed project on these resources within the study area.

1:50 000 Topographic Map: 2429 CD

Environmental Consultant: Midturon Information Consultants

Developer: Charde Trust

Heritage Consultant: Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC).

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Date of Report: 14 August 2013

Findings of the Assessment:

During the Archaeological Impact Assessment no sites of significance were identified. The study area has been extensively cultivated over generations that would have obliterated any signs of heritage resources. Other studies in the area (Berg 1999, Murimbika 2007, van der Walt 2007 and 2013) confirmed a lack of heritage sites in the Marblehall area and this concurred with the findings of a comprehensive field survey in the study area. From an archaeological point of view there is no reason why the development cannot commence work (based on approval from SAHRA). If during construction any archaeological finds are made (e.g. stone tools, skeletal material), the operations must be stopped, and the archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

General

Due to extensive agricultural activities, ground visibility was low on portions of the site during survey. The possible occurrence of unmarked or informal graves and subsurface finds can thus not be excluded. If during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

Disclaimer: *Although all possible care is taken to identify sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.*

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- The technology described in any report;
- Recommendations delivered to the Client.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EIA Practitioner: Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EMP: Environmental Management Plan
ESA: Early Stone Age
GPS: Global Positioning System
HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA: Late Iron Age
LSA: Late Stone Age
MEC: Member of the Executive Council
MIA: Middle Iron Age
MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
MSA: Middle Stone Age
NEMA: National Environmental Management Act
PRHA: Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
SADC: Southern African Development Community
SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency

**Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.*

GLOSSARY

Archaeological site (remains of human activity over 100 years old)

Early Stone Age (~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago)

Middle Stone Age (~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago)

Later Stone Age (~ 40-25 000, to recently, 100 years ago)

The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to 1840)

Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Kind of study</i>	Archaeological Impact Assessment
<i>Type of development</i>	Charde Agricultural hub
<i>Rezoning/subdivision of land</i>	Rezoning
<i>Developer:</i>	Charde Trust
<i>Consultant:</i>	Midturion Information Consultants

The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report forms part of the Basic Assessment for the proposed project.

The aim of the study is to identify cultural heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial and national context. It serves to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the responsible cultural resources management measures that might be required to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner. It is also conducted to protect, preserve, and develop such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized before and during the survey, which includes: Phase 1, a review of the heritage scoping report that includes collection from various sources and consultations; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey no heritage sites were identified. General site conditions and features on sites were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations, and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report.

This report must also be submitted to the appropriate SAHRA provincial office for peer review.

1.1 Terms of Reference

Desktop study

Conducting a brief desktop study where information on the area is collected to provide a background history of the area.

Field study

Conduct a field study to: a) systematically survey the proposed project area to locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources recorded in the project area.

Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project; i.e., construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with Heritage legislation and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

1.2. Archaeological Legislation and Best Practice

Phase 1, an AIA or a HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of a heritage specialist input is to:

- Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- Establish heritage informants/constraints to guide the development process through establishing thresholds of impact significance;
- Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources;
- Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management of these impacts.

The AIA or HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the National Heritage Resources Act NHRA of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), Section 23(2)(b) of the NEMA and sections 39(3)(b)(iii) of the MPRDA.

The AIA should be submitted, as part of the EIA, BIA or EMP, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will be ultimately responsible for the professional evaluation of Phase 1 AIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 AIA reports and additional development information, as per the EIA, BIA/EMP, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 AIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years post-university CRM experience (field supervisor level).

Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA represents professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 AIAs are primarily concerned with the location and identification of sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance. Relevant conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement.

After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA by the client before development may proceed.

Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36. Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5]) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administered by a local

authority, require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, in addition to SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery, but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws, set by the cemetery authority, must be adhered to.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning; or in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare.

Authorisation for exhumation and reinterment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. To handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

1.3 Description of Study Area

1.3.1 Location Data

The proposed Charde hub (measuring approximately 53 ha) is located at the T-junction of the N11 (Groblersdal Road also known as the "Schoeman Road") and the R25 (Bronkhorstspuit Road). The proposed project is located on portion 401 of the farm Loskop Noord 12 JS south east of Marble Hall, Limpopo Province.

1.3.2. Location Map

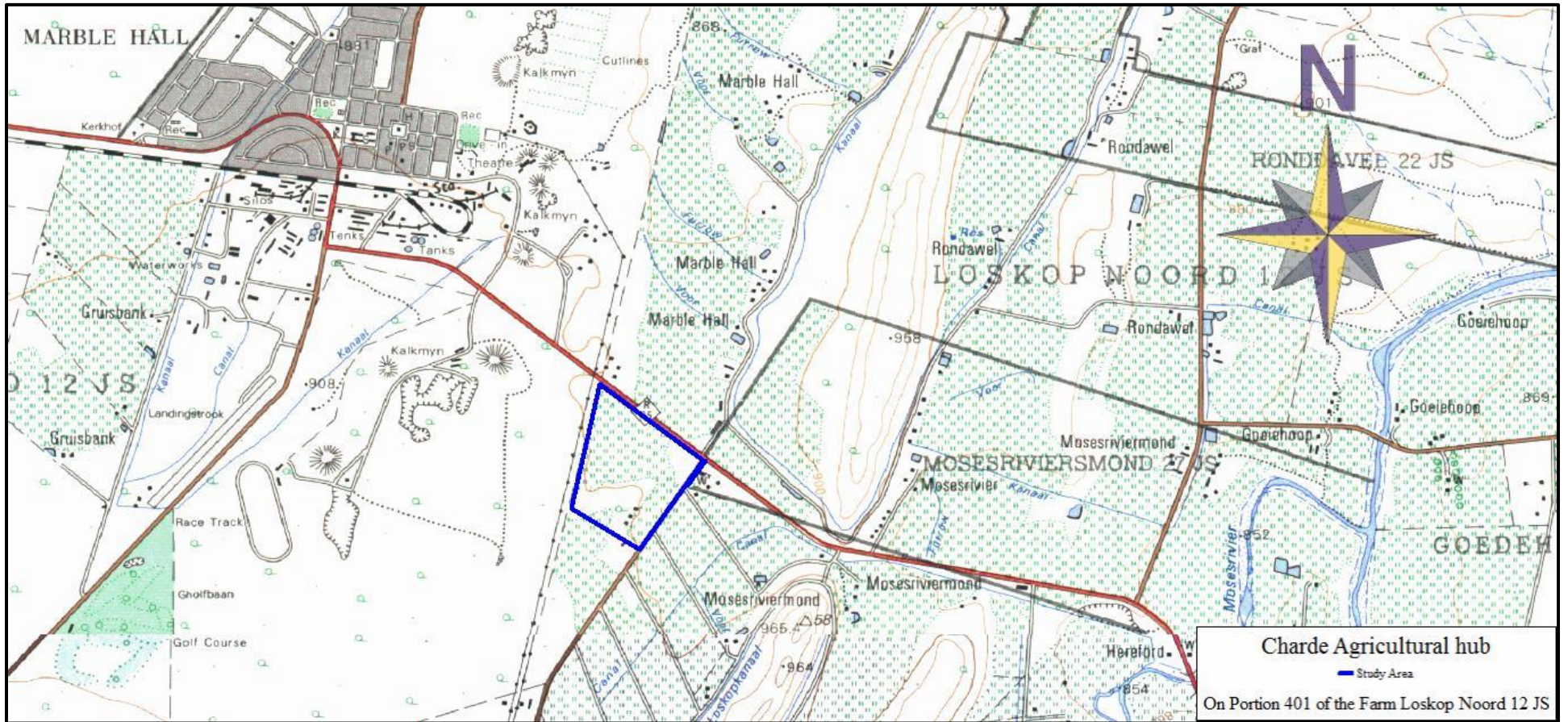


Figure 1: Study area.

2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the study is to cover archaeological databases and historical sources to compile a background history of the study area followed by field verification; this was accomplished by means of the following phases.

2.1 Phase 1 - Desktop Study

The first phase comprised a desktop study, gathering data to compile a background history of the area in question. It included scanning existing records for archaeological sites, historical sites and graves, on the inhabitants of the area.

2.1.1 Literature Search

Utilising data for information gathering stored in the archaeological database at Wits, previous CRM reports done in the area and a short literature search. The aim of this is to extract data and information on the area in question, looking at archaeological sites, historical sites, graves, architecture, oral history and ethnographical information on the inhabitants of the area.

2.1.2 Information Collection

The SAHRA report mapping project (Version 1.0) and SAHRIS was consulted to collect data from previously conducted CRM projects in the region to provide a comprehensive account of the history of the study area.

2.1.3 Consultation

No consultation was conducted by the heritage team as this is conducted as part of the BA.

2.1.4 Google Earth and Mapping Survey

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located.

2.1.5 Genealogical Society of South Africa

The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.

2.2 Phase 2 - Physical Surveying

A field survey of the study area of approximately 50 Ha was conducted; focussing on drainage lines, hills and outcrops, high lying areas and disturbances in the topography. The study area was surveyed on foot by a professional archaeologist on 11 April 2013.

2.3. Restrictions

Due to the fact that most cultural remains may occur below surface, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/ recorded during the survey. Low archaeological visibility is due to extensive ground disturbance, illegal dumping and vegetation, and the possible occurrence of unmarked graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. Although Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC surveyed the area as thoroughly as possible, it is incumbent upon the developer to stop operations and inform the relevant heritage agency should further cultural remains, such as unmarked graves, stone tool scatters, artefacts, bones or fossils, be exposed during the process of development.

3. NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed project consists of the following:

- Construction of a new fuel filling station
- Construction of a new truck stop
- Construction of a new quick shop
- Construction of a new workshop
- Construction of a new shopping centre (agricultural associated activities)

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Databases Consulted

Wits Archaeological Data Bases

No previously recorded sites are on record for the 2429 CD topographic map at the Wits database (referenced 2009).

SAHRA Report Mapping Project

The SAHRIS and the SAHRA Report Mapping project (version 1) have several studies conducted within a radius of 10 km of the study area (van der Walt 2007 and 2013, Murimbika 2007). No archaeological sites were recorded during these assessments.

Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

Neither the Genealogical Society nor the monuments database at Google Earth (Google Earth also include some archaeological sites and historical battlefields) have any recorded sites in the study area.

4.2 Archaeological and Historical Information Available on the Study Area

The following report will endeavour to give an account of the history of this property and also a brief overview of the history of the area and district in which it is located. The report has been divided into several sections that will focus on the following aspects:

General history of human settlement in the area

The history of black and white interaction in the farm area

The development of the farm

4.2.1. Historiography And Methodology

It was necessary to use a range of sources in order to give an accurate account of the history of the area in which the farm is located. Sources included secondary source material, maps, online sources and archival documents. This study is by no means all-inclusive, and there are doubtlessly still sources to be found on the history of the property and area researched in this study. Owing to the constraints in time and resources, this study should be viewed as an introduction to the history of the Marble Hall area and the specific farm under investigation.

4.2.2. Maps Of The Area Under Investigation

Since the mid 1800's up until the present, South Africa had been subdivided into various different districts. Since 1857, the site where the present-day Marble Hall is located formed part of the Lydenburg District. From 1872, the farm under investigation would have fallen under the jurisdiction of the Middelburg District. By 1902 Marble Hall was still located in the Middelburg district, in the Selonsrivier ward. It was only in 1977 when the Republic of South Africa was formally divided into Magisterial Districts. Marble Hall, which up until this time fell under the jurisdiction of the Middelburg district, now formed part of the Groblersdal magisterial district. This was still the case by 1994. (Berg 1999: 17, 20-21, 23-27)

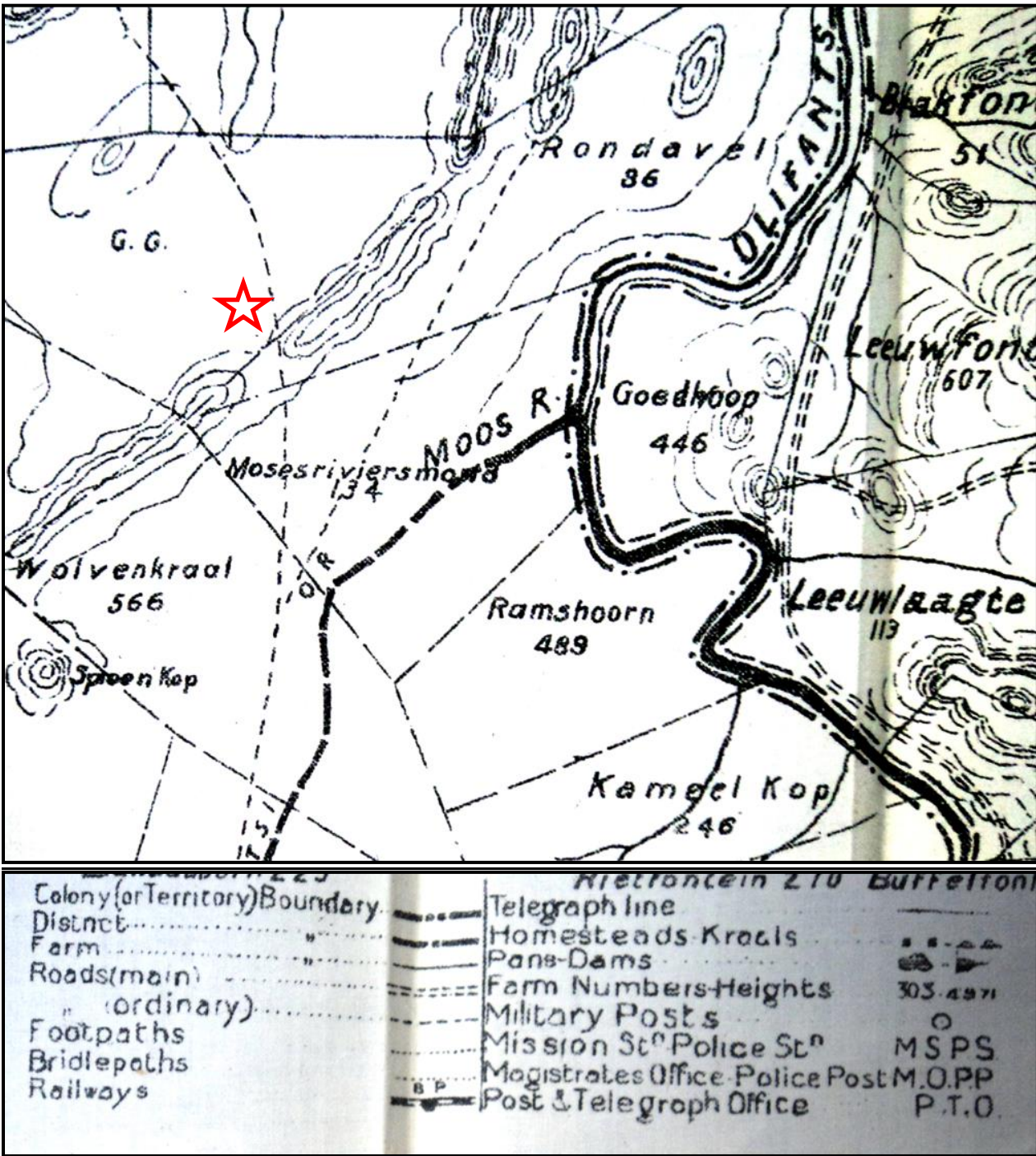


Figure 2: 1909 Major Jackson map of the Bloufontein district, the approximate location of the farm is indicated with a star. (Major Jackson 1909).

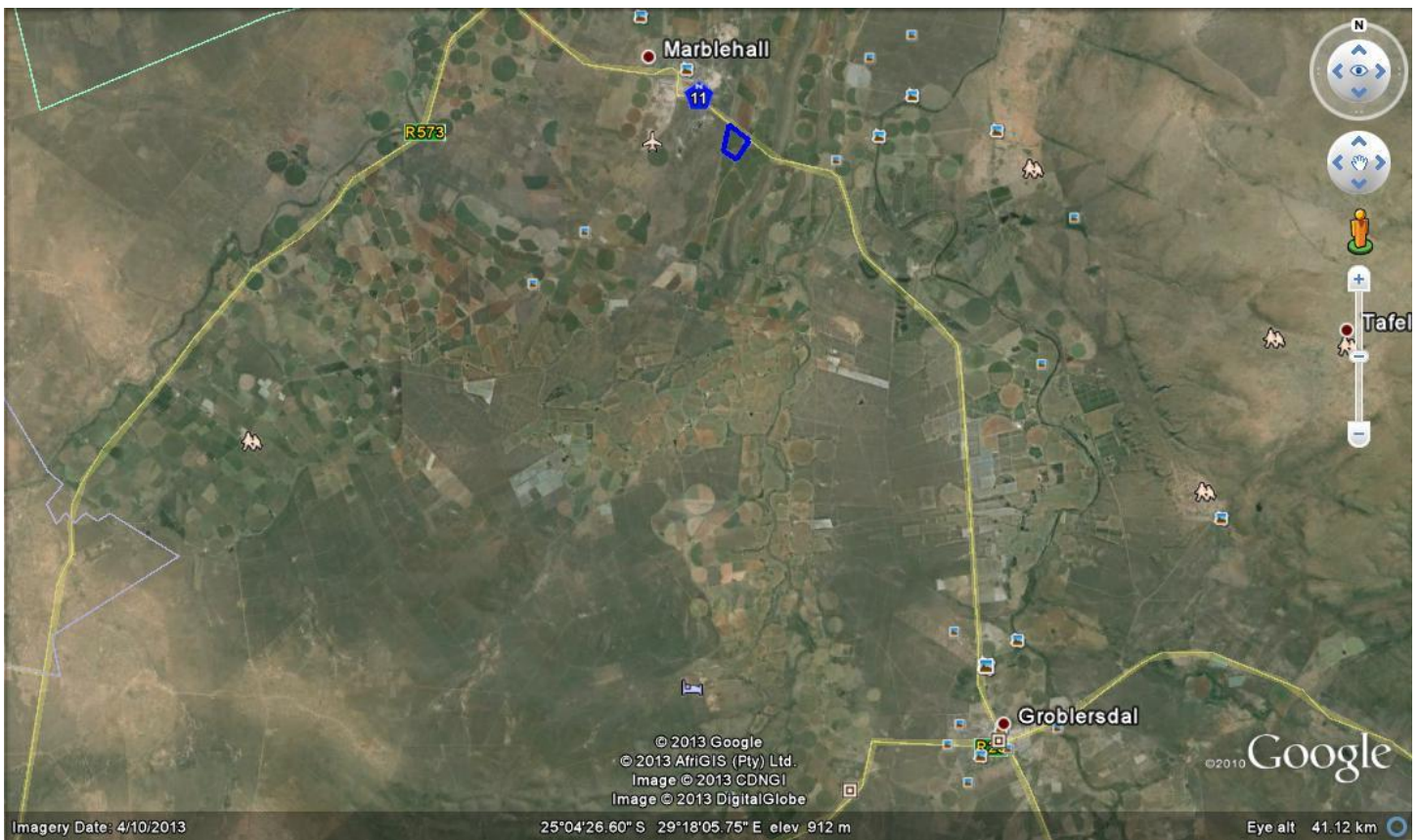


Figure 3: Google Earth Image showing the study area and Marble Hall in relation to Groblersdal, which is located some 25 kilometers from there.(Google Earth 2011).

4.2.3. A Brief History Of Human Settlement And Black And White Interaction In The Marble Hall Area

A farm does not exist in isolation, and it is important to understand the social history of the surrounding area. It is essential to consider the history of towns in the vicinity of the property under investigation, since these social centres would have affected those individuals living close by. The city of Marble Hall is of obvious significance, as it is located very close to the study area. The history of this area will be discussed.

J. S. Bergh's historical atlas of the four northern provinces of South Africa is a very useful source for the writing of local and regional histories. No signs of Stone Age or Iron Age terrains are present in the vicinity of Marble Hall. (Berg 1999: 4-5, 7)

No major black tribes seem to have settled near the area where Marble Hall is located today by the start of the nineteenth century, but the Kôpa Tribe was prominent in the area to the south thereof. (Berg 1999: 10) In a few decades, the sociographic nature of the then Transvaal province would change forever. The Difaqane (Sotho), or Mfekane ("the crushing" in Nguni) was a time of bloody upheavals in Natal and on the Highveld, which occurred around the early 1820's until the late 1830's. (Berg 1999: 109-115) It came about in response

to heightened competition for land and trade, and caused population groups like gun-carrying Griquas and Shaka's Zulus to attack other tribes. (Berg 1999: 14; 116-119) Ndebele raiders moved through the area and displaced the Kôpa and various other tribes. (Berg 1999: 110-111) It is not known if these events had a great influence on the area where the farm under investigation is located today, but it is important to understand the social dynamics of this area.

During the time of the Difaqane, a northwards migration of white settlers from the Cape was also taking place. Some travellers, missionaries and adventurers had gone on expeditions to the northern areas in South Africa – some as early as in the 1720's. One such an adventurer was Robert Scoon, who formed part of a group of Scottish travellers and traders who had travelled the northern provinces of South Africa in the late 1820s and early 1830s. Scoon had gone on two long expeditions in the late 1820s and once again ventured eastward and northward of Pretoria in 1836. During this journey, he passed close by the area where Marble Hall is located today. (Berg 1999: 13, 116-121)

By the late 1820's, a mass-movement of Dutch speaking people in the Cape Colony started advancing into the northern areas. This was due to feelings of mounting dissatisfaction caused by economical and other circumstances in the Cape. This movement later became known as the Great Trek. This migration resulted in a massive increase in the extent of that proportion of modern South Africa dominated by people of European descent. (Ross 2002: 39) As can be expected, the movement of whites into the northern provinces would have a significant impact on the black people who populated the land. By 1860, the population of whites in the central Transvaal was already very dense and the administrative machinery of their leaders was firmly in place. Many of the policies that would later be entrenched as legislation during the period of apartheid had already been developed. (Berg 1999: 170)

Much can be said about the systematic oppression of black people in South Africa. In 1904 about a half of the black population in the Transvaal was living on private land, owned by whites or companies. According to the Squatters' Law of 1895, no more than five families of "natives" could live on any farm or divided portion of a farm, without special permission of the Government in the Transvaal. (Massie 1905: 97) In Bergh's source, one can see a map indicating the areas where blacks had settled by 1904. It is interesting that there were no black settlements in the Bethal District, and very few in the surrounding districts. (Geschiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika 1999: 41) One can estimate that most black families would probably have lived and worked on private farms owned by white farmers. The 1913 and 1936 Acts delimited areas of land where a number of black "homelands" were established. The 1936 Act proclaimed land directly to the west, north and east of Marble Hall as "Native Trust" land. By 1993 a large area to the northeast of Marble Hall was known as the autonomous black state of Lebowa. Other parts of Lebowa, Bophuthatswana and KwaNdebele were located to the southwest of Marble Hall. (Berg 1999: 42-43)

Black and white relations were however at times also interdependent in nature. After the Great Trek, when white farmers had settled at various areas in the northern provinces, wealthier farmers were often willing to lodge needy white families on their property in exchange for odd jobs and commando service. This bywoner often arrived with a family and a few cows. He would till the soil and pay a minimal rent to the farmer from the crops he grew. The farmer did not consider him a laborer, but mostly kept black workers for hard labour on the farm. After the Anglo-Boer War, many families were left destitute. Post war years of severe droughts and locust plagues did not ameliorate this state of affairs. All of these factors resulted in what became known as the 'poor white problem'. On the advent of commercial farming in South Africa, white landowners soon found bywoners to be a financial burden, and many were evicted from farms. In many cases, wealthier landlords found it far more profitable to rent their land to blacks than to bywoners. This enabled them to create reservoirs of black labour (for which mine recruiting agencies were prepared to pay handsome commissions), while it was also possible to draw more rent from their black tenants. This practise was outlawed by the 1913 Natives Land Act, which forbade more than five black families from living on white farms as peasant squatters. (Readers Digest 1992: 329-332)

The discovery of diamonds and gold in the northern provinces had very important consequences for South Africa. After the discovery of these resources, the British, who at the time had colonized the Cape and Natal, had intentions of expanding their territory into the northern Boer republics. This eventually led to the Anglo-Boer War, which took place between 1899 and 1902 in South Africa, and which was one of the most turbulent times in South Africa's history. Even before the outbreak of war in October 1899 British politicians, including Sir Alfred Milner and Mr. Chamberlain, had declared that should Britain's differences with the Z.A.R. result in violence, it would mean the end of republican independence. This decision was not immediately publicized, and as a consequence republican leaders based their assessment of British intentions on the more moderate public utterances of British leaders. Consequently, in March 1900, they asked Lord Salisbury to agree to peace on the basis of the status quo ante bellum. Salisbury's reply was, however, a clear statement of British war aims. (Du Preez 1977)

The skirmish that took place closest to where Marble Hall is located today is the battle at Vrieskraal. The British Commander, W. Kitchener, attacked the Boer troops of Commandant Muller on 16 Augustus 1901. (Berg 1999: 54)

5. HERITAGE SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a 'heritage landscape'. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed development the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface.

This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The following criteria were used to establish site significance:

- » The unique nature of a site;
- » The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- » The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site;
- » The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features;
- » The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined/is known);
- » The preservation condition of the sites;
- » Potential to answer present research questions.

Furthermore, The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Sec 3) distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- » Its importance in/to 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;

- » Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

5.1. Field Rating of Sites

Site significance classification standards prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and approved by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 7 of this report.

<i>FIELD RATING</i>	<i>GRADE</i>	<i>SIGNIFICANCE</i>	<i>RECOMMENDED MITIGATION</i>
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; national site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; provincial site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High significance	Conservation; mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High significance	Mitigation (part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	-	High/medium significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	-	Medium significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

6. BASELINE STUDY-DESCRIPTION STUDY AREA

The site is relatively flat and extensively cultivated and under irrigation. The study area is bordered by the R35 to the north and the R25 to the east and construction activities for these roads and the extensive agricultural activities would have impacted on any surface indications of heritage resources. Four cement brick structures (farm labourer dwellings) are found in the central portion of the study area.

No archaeological sites are on record for the immediate study area and similarly none were identified in the area under investigation. Other studies (Berg 1999) in the larger study area indicated that the archaeological record is characterised by Iron Age stone walled settlements found to the north east and south of the study area. Several Stone Age sites are on record to the south east at Loskop Dam. No traces of any archaeological remains were identified and no buildings older than 60 years exist on site. A search on archaeological data bases also yielded no known sites within the study area and no heritage significant sites were identified during the desktop study. The lack of heritage sites was confirmed during a comprehensive field survey (Figure 2).



Figure 4: Study area in blue with track logs of the survey.



Figure 5. South eastern view of the study area.



Figure 6. Southern most section of the study area.



Figure 7. Agricultural activities in the south of the study area.



Figure 8. Modern farm labourer setup.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

No sites of heritage significance were identified during the survey. However, if during construction, any archaeological finds are made (e.g. stone tools, skeletal material), the operations must be stopped, and the archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the finds.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Almost no archaeological sites are on record for the immediate study area and none were identified in the study area. Other studies in the larger study area indicated that the archaeological record is characterised by Iron Age stone walled settlements found to the north east and south of the study area. Several Stone Age sites are on record to the south east at Loskop Dam. No archaeological sites were identified during the survey and desktop study, no red flags were identified. There is from a heritage point of view no reason why the development cannot commence work (based on approval from SAHRA).

9. PROJECT TEAM

Jaco van der Walt, Project Manager and archaeologist

Liesl Bester, Archival Specialist

10. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCY

I (Jaco van der Walt) am a member of ASAPA (no 159), and accredited in the following fields of the CRM Section of the association: Iron Age Archaeology, Colonial Period Archaeology, Stone Age Archaeology and Grave Relocation. This accreditation is also valid for/acknowledged by SAHRA and AMAFA.

Currently, I serve as Council Member for the CRM Section of ASAPA, and have been involved in research and contract work in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Tanzania as well as the DRC; having conducted more than 300 AIAs since 2000.

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