



5 March 2020

To whom it may concern

LETTER FOR HIA EXEMPTION REQUEST: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD SHOPPING CENTRE ON ERF 1051 (ZONED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE), ROCKDALE, MIDDELBURG, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Archaetnos CC has been appointed by AdiEnvironmental CC to provide a motivation for the exemption of doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) related to the above mentioned development. This is located in the residential area of Rockdale, adjacent to the N11 national road towards the south east of Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province (Figure 1-3).

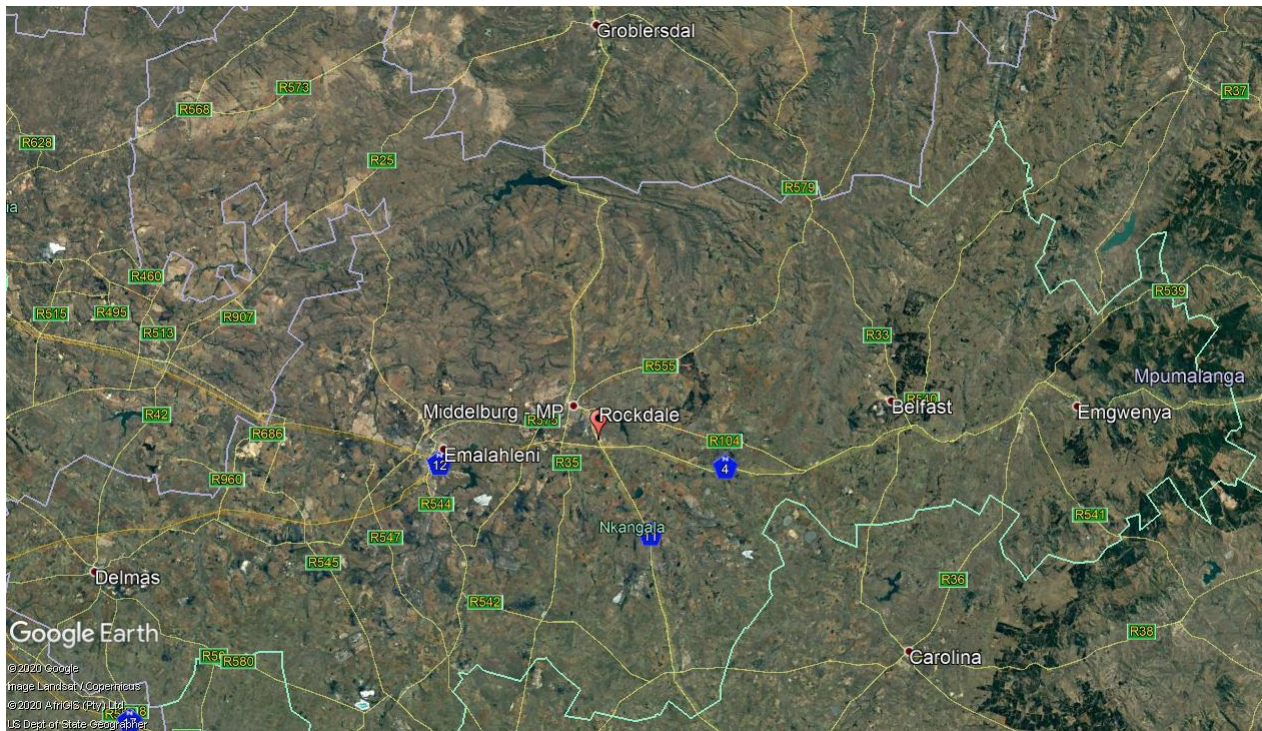


Figure 1: Location of Rockdale within the Mpumalanga Province.



Figure 2: Location of the site within Rockdale.



Figure 3: Detailed view of the site.

The said development will constitute of a shopping centre ($\pm 4039 \text{ m}^2$) which will comprise of an anchor shop, various line shops, delivery bays and parking areas. The proposal includes the construction of associated infrastructure, including access road, civil services (water, sewer and stormwater reticulation) and electricity.

The erf is $\pm 2 \text{ ha}$ in extent. An old borrow pit and a construction camp (for the upgrading of the N11 national road) are present on site.

Field work:

The site was visited on 26 February 2020 and almost the entire area was found to be disturbed (Figure 4-8). The exception is construction camp and pit in the southern corner of the site. The site is populated with tall grass and disturbance is evident in the weeds and other pioneer plant species growing on site. There is illegal dumping on the eastern side.



Figure 4: Track route of the survey.



Figure 5: General view of vegetation



Figure 6: General view of vegetation and borrow pit on site.



Figure 7: Construction camp in surveyed area



Figure 8: View of illegal dumping and pioneer vegetation in the surveyed area.

It therefore is my opinion that the project may be exempted from doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The following is applicable:

- The proposed development is within an area already almost entirely disturbed
- Little natural vegetation can be found on site
- Open areas also indicate disturbance as does pioneer plant species
- Nothing of heritage significance was identified.

Due to the mentioned factors, the chances therefore of finding any heritage related features are indeed extremely slim. It is therefore believed that an additional Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is not needed for this project. This letter serves as an exemption request to the relevant heritage authority.

The developer should however note that due to the nature of archaeological material, such sites, objects or features, as well as graves and burials may be uncovered during construction activities on site. In such a case work should cease immediately and an archaeologist should be contacted as a matter of urgency to assess such occurrences.

Recommendation:

That the development be exempted from doing an HIA.

I trust that you will find this in order.

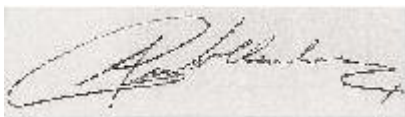
Yours faithfully



Mr J Smit: Archaeologist



Mr D Viljoen: Archaeologist



Prof AC van Vollenhoven: Director