Millenium Heritage Group (Pty) Ltd

PHASE1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT RELATING TO THE PROPOSED DOUBLING OF RIDGE ROAD (BETWEEN ATLAS ROAD AND RONDEBULT ROAD) 7.170 KM ROAD WIDENING AND UPGRADE NEAR BOKSBURG, CITY OF EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

***Compiled** by:* Millennium Heritage Group (PTY) LTD

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15 June 2020 Final Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT PAGE

I.TECHNICAL AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES 5

II.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 6

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: 9

1.INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION 10

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION 13

2.1. THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCE ACT (25 OF 1999) 14

2.2. THE HUMAN TISSUE ACT (65 OF 1983) 18

3.TERMS OF REFERENCE 18

4.TERMINOLOGY 19

5. METHODOLOGY 21

SOURCES OF INFORMATION 21
ASSUMPTION AND LIMITATIONS 22

6. ASSESSMENTS CRITERIA 23

6.1 SITE SIGNIFICANCE 23
6.2 IMPACT RATING 24
6.3 CERTAINTY 26
6.4 DURATION 27
6.5 MITIGATION 27

7. BACKGROUND TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY. 27

8. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OR AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT 30

9. ASSESSMENT OF SITES AND FINDS 36

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 36

11. REFERENCE 39

12. ADDENDUM 1: DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS 43

ACRONYMS 44

ADDENDUM 2: TYPES AND RANGES AS OUTLINED BY THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCE ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999) 45

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Google layout of the proposed study area 12

Figure 2: Snapshot of the Proposed road upgrade adapted from Garmin Montana 650 GPS 32

Figure 3: Atlas and Ridge road intersection 33

Figure 4: View of the road transverse built up areas, some of these ornamental trees 33

Figure 5: View of the ridge road 34

Figure 6: Existing Cable and sewerage manhole lines on the road reserve 34

Figure 7: The Leith road intersection 35

Figure 8: View of the Rondebult road intersection from a distance 35

i. Technical and Executive Summaries

Property details	
Province	Gauteng
Magisterial District	City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
Topo-cadastral map	2628
Coordinates	S 26°10' 07.01" & 28°16' 46.04"E
Closest town	Boksburg
Farm name	N/A

Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHR Act	Yes	No
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	Yes	
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length		No
Development exceeding 5000 sqm	Yes	
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	Yes	
Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years		No
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sqm		No
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds		No

Development	
Description of development	Upgrade and widening of Ridge road
Project name	Upgrade and widening of Ridge road
Developer	Roads and Stormwater Department, Ekurhuleni
Heritage consultant	Mr. Ndivhuho Eric Mathoho, Millennium Heritage Pty Ltd
Purpose of the study	Heritage Impact Assessment to identity and assess significance of sites (if any) to be impacted by the proposed road widening and upgrade

Land use	
Previous land use	Tarred Road
Current land use	Tarred Road

ii. Executive Summary

Dikgato Engineering Consultants on behalf of the Roads and Stormwater Department, City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality appointed Tholoana Environmental Consultants CC to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessments(EIA) of the proposed doubling of Ridge road Project. TEC then requested Millennium Heritage Group (Pty) Ltd, an independent heritage consulting company to assess the heritage sensitivity of Ridge road near Boksburg, City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The proposed road upgrade project has been earmarked to strengthen and curb traffic congestions caused by the intensification of road carriage activities on the Ridge road single carriage way.

A multi-stepped methodology was used to address the terms of reference. To begin with, a desktop study was carried out to identify any known heritage sites and their significance. This involved consulting contract archaeology reports filed on SAHRIS, research reports and academic publications. Finally, the study was guided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 and SAHRA Minimum Standards for Impact Assessment. The desktop study was followed by fieldwork.

The study reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Previous studies conducted in the region has recorded the existence of rock shelters and caves with occurrences of isolated stone tools scatterings. Birkholtz (2002) identified two early Stone Age sites. Fourie (2006) identified early Stone Age site near Vosloorus. Subsequently the

stone walling sites associated with the Late Iron Age occupation of the Tswana speaking group has been recorded near Alberton in the Suikerbosrand Valley.

Since the early historical time the area has been a farming landscape dominated by homesteads with remains of historical structures (Generally indicated as of low significance) apart from historical structures other studies in the area recorded no sites of heritage significance (van Schalkwyk 2016; Mathoho 2019).

- The proposed road upgrade is scheduled to take place on already heavily impacted section of a tarred road which transverse through buildup areas, previous farm sections represented by pockets of *Eucalyptus* trees, whilst road reserves are dominated by underground sewerage pipelines, stormwater drainage systems, telecommunications and powerlines cables.
- Ground truthing of the entire route and its road reserves found no important cultural heritage resource, archaeological materials or graves within the proposed development footprints.
- Although no archaeological remains were found, it is possible that some significant features may be buried beneath the ground. Should buried heritage resources that represent, archaeological and historical material remains or burials be encountered during the process of road development, the following must apply:
- Work must stop immediately and the site be cordoned off

A professional archaeologist or nearest heritage authority must be contacted.

Based on this assessment which found no archaeological resources in a heavily disturbed area, we recommend that the heritage authorities approve the project as planned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Declaration of Independence and CV

I Eric Mathoho declare that I am an independent consultant and have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the proposed development, application or appeal in respect of which I am appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed about the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of me performing such work.

Signed:

Eric N. Mathoho, BA, BA (Hons) in Archaeology (Univen) MPhil. In Archaeology (UCT) PhD Candidate (UCT), ASAPA Member, Archaeologist and Heritage Expert.

REPORT AUTHOR: Mr. Mathoho Ndivhuho Eric

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality planned to generate the value creation of road users by maintaining, upgrading and renew road infrastructures in responds to the current traffic flow situations within its jurisdiction. In the recent years City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Sub-directorate, Roads and Stormwater section started to use performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of several roads in the Metropolitan area, one of the assessed road include the Ridge road. Road infrastructures has become an essential and integral part of human daily life, it connects logistic firms, public transports, agencies and commercial Centre's from one Metropolitan to another. Ridge road doubling project is aimed at providing sustainable engineering solutions while acting as route re-direction curbing traffic roadblocks within City of Ekurhuleni. The project entails design, upgrade from a single to dual carriage ways with the upgrade of several intersections for fully free flowing systems and transportations of goods and services. Ridge road is situated on a strategic location with two of ramps connecting the major arterial road N12 at convenience strategic points forming N12 and Ridge way ring road, the road is in proximity to the OR Thambo International Airport and the Boksburg central Business District (CBD). The increase in road transport is owing to an upsurge in number of middle-class inhabitants who possesses vehicles who depend on this road daily. It is against this background that the 7 kilometers' section of the Ridge road be expanded to strengthen and curb traffic congestions in the area (see figure 1 below for the proposed road location).

Roads and Stormwater Department, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, southern Region proposed to upgrade the Ridge road from a single carriage to a standard double carriage way to address the local economic development needs. The proposed project will create Multi- channels of employment that generate economic opportunities to the affected local community in the surrounding areas. To ensure that the proposed development meets the environmental requirements in line with the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 as amended in 2010. Archaeological Impact Assessment study form part of the broader EIA to assess the impact of the proposed development on the receiving environment including heritage resources. In terms of EIA Regulations promulgated on 4 December 2014, read with Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), the proposed development falls within listed Activity. This study forms part of a series of reports prepared for Basic Assessment Report (BAR) to be submitted to the Gauteng Department: Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), in support of the application for development as provided by the National Environmental Management (NEMA) Act no 107 of 1998. In line with these statutory requirements, this report provides an assessment for archaeological resources to be impacted by the proposed Ridge road upgrade.

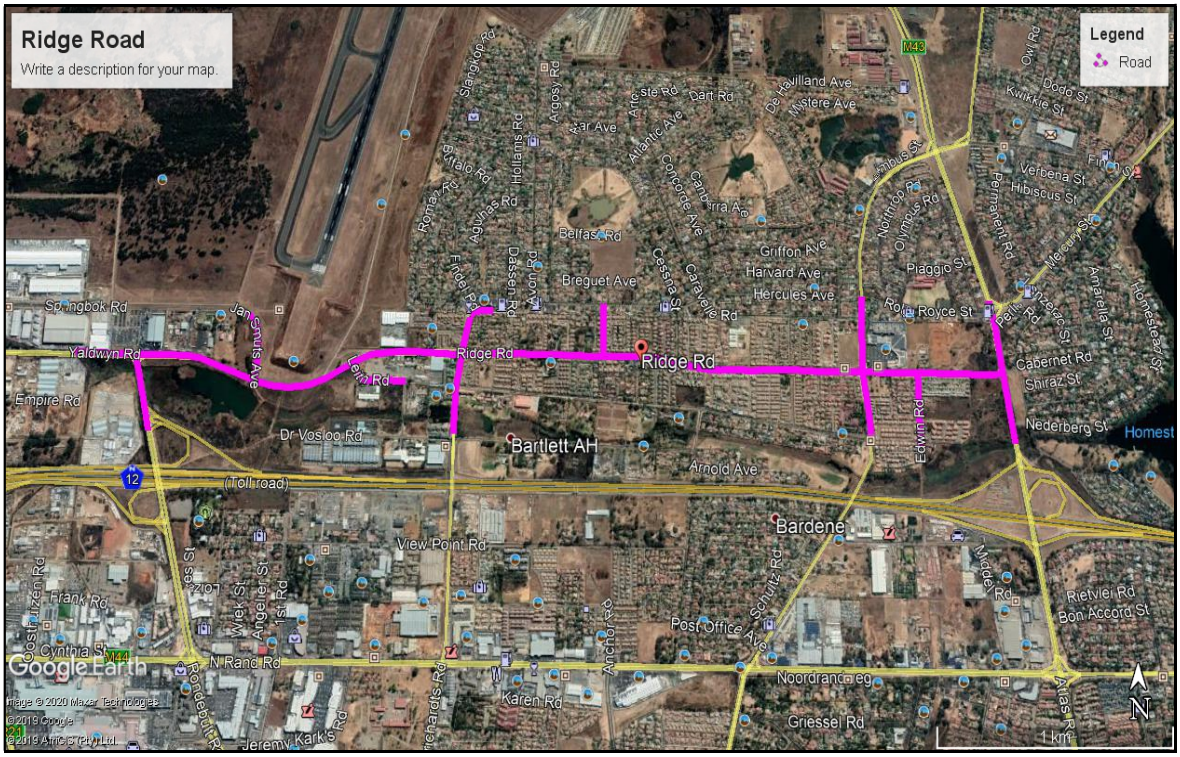

Figure 1: Google layout of the proposed study area

To comply with relevant legislations, Roads and Stormwater Department, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality requires information on heritage resources that occur within or near the proposed site for development and their significance. Consequently, the objective of the study is to document the presence of archaeological, paleontological and historical sites of significance to inform and provide guidance on the proposed road upgrade project. The study contributes to the preservation of heritage resources, by ensuring that where possible, the development footprint is altered. In cases, where this is not possible, the heritage resources will be documented through mitigation to preserve them by record. This will enable the developer to advance development activities and at the same time minimizing potential impact on archaeological and heritage sites. Heritage Impact Assessments are conducted in line with the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act

No. 25 of 1999). The Act protects heritage resources through formal and general protections. Furthermore, the Act provides that certain developmental activities require authorization from relevant heritage authorities. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all built structures and features older than 60 years (Section, 34), archaeological sites and materials (Section 35) and graves and burial sites (Section, 36). In addition to heritage legislation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has developed minimum standards for impact assessment. While these local standards are operational, they are strengthened and complemented by the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) guidelines for assessing impacts on heritage resources, both cultural and natural. In addition, the Burra Charter of 1999, requires a cautious approach to the management of sites and firmly establishes that the cultural significance of heritage places must guide all decisions when it comes to dealing with heritage. To comply with relevant legislation, the applicant requires information on the heritage resources, that occur in the area proposed for development and their significance. This will enable the applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Two sets of legislation are relevant for the purposes of this study in as far as they contain provisions for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage resources including burials and burial grounds.

2.1. The National Heritage Resource Act (25 of 1999)

This Act established the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) as the prime custodian of the heritage resources and makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources (Section, 7) and allocates the responsibility and functions for managing different categories of heritage to the State, Provincial and Local authorities, depending on the grade of heritage resources (Section, 8). In terms of the National Heritage Resource Act 25, (1999) the following is of relevance:

Historical remains

Section 34 (1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant Provincial Heritage Resources Authority.

Archaeological remains

Section 35(3) Any person who discovers archaeological and paleontological materials and meteorites during development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resource authority or the nearest local authority or museum.

Section 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;

- destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite; or
- bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist with the detection or recovery of metal or archaeological material or object or such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Section 35(5) When the responsible heritage resource authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or paleontological site is underway, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resource management procedures in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may

- serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order
- carry out an investigation for obtaining information on whether an archaeological or paleontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
- if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph (a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection (4); and
- recover the cost of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or paleontological site is located or from the

person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two weeks of the order being served.

Subsection 35(6) the responsible heritage resource authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or paleontological site or meteorite is situated; serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or meteorite.

Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority:

(i) 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

(ii) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Subsection 36 (6) Subject to the provision of any person who during development or any other activity discover the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resource authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police service and in accordance with regulation of the responsible heritage resource authority-

(l) carry out an investigation for obtaining information on whether such grave is protected in terms of this act or is of significance to any community; and

if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to decide for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

Cultural Resource Management

Section **38(1)** Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development*…

- must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

development means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including:

(i) Construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;

(ii) Any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and

(iii) Any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

place means a site, area or region, a building or other structure

structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground.

2.2. The Human Tissue Act (65 of 1983)

This act protects graves younger than 60 years, these falls under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Department. Approval for the exhumation and reburial must be obtained from the relevant provincial MEC as well as relevant Local Authorities.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Ridge road upgrade near Boksburg and submit a specialist report, which addresses the following:

- Executive summary
- Scope of work undertaken
- Methodology used to obtain supporting information
- Overview of relevant legislation
- Results of all investigations
- Interpretation of information
- Assessment of impact
- Recommendation on effective management measures
- References

4. TERMINOLOGY

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No25 of 1999) Heritage resources, (Cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyle of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term 'pre – historical' refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in an area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought to South Africa by the first colonists who settled in the Cape in the early 1652 and brought to the other different part of South Africa in the early 1800s.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may soon, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on the observation alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or when they are present, they are not

always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floor plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The 'term sensitive remains' is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between 'formal' and 'informal' graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values regarding their ancestors. These values should be recognized and honored whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age people lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Early Stone Age (3Million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years ago to 40 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).
The term 'Early Iron Age' and Late Iron Age respectively refers to the periods between the first and second millenniums AD.

The period covered by the term 'Late Iron Age' also includes the 17th and the 19th centuries and therefore includes the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refers to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or relatively recent past.

The term 'study area' or 'project area' refers to the area where the developers wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan)

Phase I studies refer to survey using various sources of data to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in each area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include documenting of rock art, engravings or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavation of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of grave yards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialist and require the co-operation and the approval of SAHRA.

5. METHODOLOGY

Sources of information

i. Desktop studies

A desktop study was performed to gain information on the heritage resources in the area. The study consulted Heritage Impact Assessment reports for the area including Van Schalkwyk (2003), Van Schalkwyk (2016), Birkholtz (2002), Birkholtz (2014), Fourie (2006). Mason (1986) and Bergh (1999) Mathoho (2019a.b) also performed detailed studies of the archaeology of the area within and around the City of Ekurhuleni in the Gauteng Province. These works identified a long history of human occupation in the study

area stretching from the Stone Age, through the Iron Age to the recent past. Then there is historical heritage built from the late 19th century onwards.

ii. Field surveys

To identify sites on the ground and to assess their significance, a dedicated field visit to the site of the proposed development was performed (Figure 1). The fieldwork was undertaken by a team of four individuals on the 15 June 2020. The fieldwork followed systematic inspections of predetermined linear transects which resulted in the maximum coverage of the entire site. The general condition of the proposed terrain was photographed with a Canon 1000D Camera, while the intersection points were plotted using the Garmin Montana 650 GPS.

Assumption and Limitations

It must be pointed out that heritage resources can be found in unexpected places, and that surveys may not detect all the heritage resources in each project area, particularly that occurring beneath the ground. While some remains may simply be missed during surveys (observation) others may occur below the surface of the earth and may be exposed once development (such as the construction of the proposed facilities) commences. This study was limited to surface indications. Consequently, should heritage resources be identified during development, work must stop whilst a report is made to heritage authorities.

6. ASSESSMENTS CRITERIA

This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The significance of archaeological and heritage sites was determined based on the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site.
- The amount/depth of the archaeological deposit and the range of features (e.g. concentration of stone tools, activity areas etc.).
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site.
- The preservation condition and integrity of the site.
- The potential to answer present research questions.

6.1 Site Significance

The site significance classification standards as prescribed in the guidelines and endorsed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (2006) and approved by the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, were used in determining the site significance for this report.

The classification index is represented in the Table below that show grading and rating systems of heritage resources in South Africa.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
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)	Grade 4A	High / Medium Significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	Grade 4B	Medium Significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	Grade 4C	Low Significance	Destruction

6.2 Impact Rating

VERY HIGH

These impacts would be considered by society as constituting a major and usually permanent change to the (natural and/or cultural) environment, and usually result in severe or very severe effects, or beneficial or very beneficial effects.

Example: The loss of a site would be viewed by informed society as being of VERY HIGH significance.

Example: The establishment of a large amount of infrastructure in a rural area, which previously had very few services, would be regarded by the affected parties as resulting in benefits with VERY HIGH significance.

HIGH

These impacts will usually result in long term effects on the social and /or natural environment. Impacts rated as HIGH will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually long-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. Society would probably view these impacts in a serious light.

Example: The loss of a diverse vegetation type, which is common elsewhere, would have a significance rating of HIGH over the long term, as the area could be rehabilitated.

Example: The change to soil conditions will impact the natural system, and the impact on affected parties (e.g. farmers) would be HIGH.

MODERATE

These impacts will usually result in medium- to long-term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as MODERATE will need to be considered by the public or the specialist as constituting a unimportant and usually short-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are real, but not substantial.

Example: The loss of a sparse, open vegetation type of low diversity may be regarded as MODERATELY significant.

Example: The provision of a clinic in a rural area would result in a benefit of MODERATE significance.

LOW

These impacts will usually result in medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as LOW will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually medium-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are not substantial and are likely to have little real effect.

Example: The temporary changes in the water table of a wetland habitat, as these systems are adapted to fluctuating water levels.

Example: The increased earning potential of people employed because of a development would only result in benefits of LOW significance to people living some distance away.

NO SIGNIFICANCE

There are no primary or secondary effects at all that are important to scientists or the public.

Example: A change to the geology of a certain formation may be regarded as severe from a geological perspective but is of NO SIGNIFICANCE in the overall context.

6.3 Certainty

DEFINITE: More than 90% sure of a fact. Substantial supportive data exist to verify the assessment.

PROBABLE: Over 70% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

POSSIBLE: Only over 40% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

UNSURE: Less than 40% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

6.4 Duration

SHORT TERM : 0 – 5 years

MEDIUM: 6 – 20 years

LONG TERM: more than 20 years

DEMOLISHED: site will be demolished or is already demolished

6.5 Mitigation

Management actions and recommended mitigation, which will result in a reduction in the impact on the sites, will be classified as follows:

- ✓ **A** – No further action necessary
- ✓ **B** – Mapping of the site and controlled sampling required
- ✓ **C** – Preserve site, or extensive data collection and mapping required; and
- ✓ **D** – Preserve site

7. Background to the Archaeological History.

The Stone Age Periods

Conventionally speaking, the Stone Age period has been divided into the Early Stone Age (ESA) (3.5 million and 250 000 BP), the Middle Stone Age (MSA) (250 000 – 25000 BP) and the Later Stone Age (25000 – 2000 BP) (Phillipson 2005). Early Stone Age stone tool assemblages are made up of the earlier Oldowan and later Acheulian types. The Oldowan tools were very crude and were used for chopping and butchering. These were replaced by Acheulian ESA tools dominated by hand axes and cleavers which are remarkably standardized (Wadley, 2007; Sharon, 2009). Evidence presented from Sterkfontein,

Swartkrans and Makapansgat caves shows that the first tool making hominids belong to either an early species of the Homo or an immediate ancestor which is yet to be discovered here in South Africa (Phillipson 2005; Esterhuysen, 2007). Both the Oldwan and Acheulian industries are well represented in the archaeology of Northern Cape South Africa (Kuman et al. 2005; Sumner and Kuman 2014).

The Middle Stone Age dates to between 250 000 ago and 25 000 years ago. In general, Middle Stone Age tools are characterized by a size reduction in tools such as hand axes, cleavers, and flake and blade industries. The period is marked by the emergence of modern humans and was accompanied by change in technology, behavior, physical appearance, art, and symbolism (Phillipson 2005). A variety of MSA tools includes blades, flakes, scraper and pointed tools that may have been hafted onto shafts or handles and used as pear heads. Surface scatters of these flake and blade industries occur widespread across southern Africa (Klein 2000; Thompson & Marean, 2008).

The assemblages contain bifaces as well as blades, prepared core and Levalloisian unifacial points (Beaumont &Vogel 2006). Residue analyses on some of the stone tools indicate that these tools were certainly used as spear heads (Wadley, 2007). From about 25 000 BP, stone tool assemblages generally attributed to the Later Stone Age emerged. This period is marked by a reduction in stone tool sizes. Typical stone tools include microliths and bladelets. Later Stone Age stone tools were recovered at Glenferness cave which is located on the right bank of the Jukskei River (Mason, 1951). The stone industry consists of retouched flake tools, circular scarper and two large cores. This period is also

associated with the development of rock art whose distribution is known across southern Africa (Deacon and Deacon 1999; Phillipson 2005).

The Iron Age communities

According to Mason (1986) corroborated by Maggs (1986) most areas of the region were occupied on an increasingly extensive scale from the fifteen centuries onwards. It is now known that the Late Iron Age communities brought significant changes in relation to patterns of land occupation, architectural style and building techniques marked by extensive use of stones for building fortified stone walls. Several sites that fit well within this period were identified near Alberton and Suikerbos rand. During the late Iron Age period the Tswana Speaking group occupied the region on a large scale as this was a period of stress and uncertainties. Most of these sites are large clustered villages scattered in the region built with stones. Most of these settlements are believed to have been in existence until the 19th century, when they were raided by Mzilikazi army at the start of Difeqane. Synonymous evidence was documented at Suikerbos rand by Sadr and at Kliperiverberg which was abandoned at about AD 1823 when Mzilikazi entered the area (Huffman, 2007). The Late Iron Age Period is associated with socio political complexity, higher population, environmental degradation, intensive hunting, overgrazing and extensive use of stones as construction materials (Maggs, 1976; Badenhorst, 2009). Before the arrival of the Late Iron Age farmers, there is little evidence suggesting the dominance of stone built settlements.

The historical Period

Record show that in 1836 the first Voortrekker parties crossed the Vaal River, their arrival perpetuated to the demarcation of farms in the general study area. Since their arrival the area has been a farming landscape while urbanization and mining and industrial development took place to the north and east of the region. With the town of Boksburg emerging in the early 1887 established, 13.7km north east of the present study area. Mineral discoveries stimulated the arrival of people from all corners of the world (Nattrass, 2017). On 8 September 1886 nine farm extending from Driefontein on the eastern side to Roodepoort to the west was declared public diggings with the earliest mining activities concentrated in and around the outcrop of the main reef. Africans were recruited to perform unskilled work. Other minerals such as coal was discovered in the east Rand at springs and Boksburg. The discovery of minerals in Johannesburg led to the construction of rand steam tram connecting the colliery to the gold fields.

8. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OR AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The proposed Ridge road is situated roughly 9.9 kilometres North of Boksburg Central Business District and 7.6 kilometres south of the OR Tambo International Airport, within the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The proposed Ridge road transverse from the east to the west and it connect with the main national road (N12) at more than one point. Roughly 7 kilometers of the Ridge road transverse through built-up residential, commercial areas and alongside waterbodies in the East rand. The proposed road upgrade starting point is at GPS co-ordinates (S 26°10' 18.07" and 28°16' 46.53"E) and end (S 26°10' 04.46" and 28°14.' 24.01"E) (See below table for roads intersections to be affected by the proposed development). The total route has been previously disturbed by

underground development activities such as existing sewerage pipeline, electrical, telecommunication cables and existing storm water drainage systems, all these infrastructures transverse on the road reserves. Sections of the road shoulders from the N12 off ramp support moderate ground cover, with pockets of *Eucalyptus* trees. Some of these areas represent the existence of farmlands before the development of the current residential sites. Previous agricultural activities, including the planting of *Eucalyptus* trees in the vicinity would have impacted negatively on any heritage features that might occurred here in the past. The geology is made up of Gneiss and migmatite and the topography is described as flat plain which was previously covered by common grasses that belong to Genera, *Themeda, and Eragrostis and Heteropogon species.* The original vegetation is classified as mixed bushveld; however isolated pockets of planted *Eucalyptus trees* exist. The table below represent intersections to be affected by the proposed road upgrade development.

Table 1: Road intersections to be impacted by the proposed Ridge road doubling project

Road Names	Length of the road	GPS Co-ordinates
Ridge Road-N12 Off ramp	4250	S 26°10' 18.07" & 28°16' 46.53"E
Atlas Road	600	S 26°10' 06.83" & 28°16' 44.99"E
Edwin Road	300	S 26°10' 06.79" & 28°16' 31.12"E
Elizabeth Road	600	S 26°10' 06.58 " & 28°16' 22.36"E
Bonanza Road	220	S 26°10' 04.16 " & 28°15' 40.25"E

Trichardt Road	600	S 26°10' 04.17 " & 28°15' 17.24"E
Leith Road	300	S 26°10' 08.53 " & 28°15' 16.23"E
Jan Smuts Road	300	S 26°10' 07.71 " & 28°14' 43.75"E
Project end (Rondebult) intersection	N/A	S 26°10' 04.46" & 28°14.' 24.01"E

Figure 2: Snapshot of the Proposed road upgrade adapted from Garmin Montana 650 GPS

Figure 3: Atlas and Ridge road intersection

Figure 4: View of the road transverse built up areas, some of these ornamental trees

Figure 5: View of the ridge road

Figure 6: Existing Cable and sewerage manhole lines on the road reserve

Figure 7: The Leith road intersection

Figure 8: View of the Rondebult road intersection from a distance

9. ASSESSMENT OF SITES AND FINDS

This section contains the results of the heritage sites/finds assessment. The phase 1 heritage scoping assessment program as required in terms of the Section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) done for the proposed road Upgrade. project.

No sites were found during the desktop study and the subsequent site survey however pockets of clustered *Eucalyptus* trees alongside the Ridge road were noted, few of these trees are juvenile and will be impacted by the proposed road upgrade development since they occurred within the proposed development footprint. These trees seem to represent one of an old settlement associated with old farm homestead. Dilapidated building represented by foundation and walls has been noted outside the proposed development corridors and will not be affected by this development. The project has the beneficial effect in that it will enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area, while creating employment to the public.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

2. Previous studies conducted in the region has recorded the existence of rock shelters and caves with occurrences of isolated stone tools scatterings. Birkholtz (2002) identified two early Stone Age sites. Fourie

(2006) identified early Stone Age site near Vosloorus. Subsequently the stone walling sites associated with the Late Iron Age occupation of the Tswana speaking group has been recorded near Alberton in the Suikerbosrand Valley.

Since the early historical time the area has been a farming landscape dominated by homesteads with remains of historical structures (Generally indicated as of low significance) apart from historical structures other studies in the area recorded no sites of heritage significance (van Schalkwyk 2016; Mathoho 2019).

- The proposed road upgrade is scheduled to take place on already heavily impacted section of a tarred road which transverse through buildup areas, previous farm sections represented by pockets of *Eucalyptus* trees, whilst road reserves are dominated by underground sewerage pipelines, stormwater drainage systems, telecommunications and powerlines cables.
- Ground truthing of the entire route and its road reserves found no important cultural heritage resource, archaeological materials or graves within the proposed development footprints.
- Although no archaeological remains were found, it is possible that some significant features may be buried beneath the ground. Should buried heritage resources that represent, archaeological and historical material remains or burials be encountered during the process of road development, the following must apply:

- Work must stop immediately and the site be cordoned off

A professional archaeologist or nearest heritage authority must be contacted.

Based on this assessment which found no archaeological resources in a heavily disturbed area, we recommend that the heritage authorities approve the project as planned.

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12. Addendum 1: Definitions and Acronyms

Archaeological Material remains resulting from human activities, 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.

Chance Finds Archaeological artefacts, features, structures or historical cultural remains such as human burials that are found accidentally in context previously not identified during cultural heritage scoping, screening and assessment studies. Such finds are usually found during earth moving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

Cultural Heritage Resources Same as Heritage Resources as defined and used in the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Refer to physical cultural properties such as archaeological and paleontological sites; historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and material remains; cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or *graves* and their associated materials; geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific

significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge.

Cultural Significance The complexities of what makes a place, materials or intangible resources of value to society or part of, customarily assessed in terms of aesthetic, historical, scientific/research and social values.

Grave A place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as being situated in a cemetery.

Historic Material remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artefacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

***In Situ* material** *Material culture* and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

Late Iron Age this period is associated with the development of complex societies and state systems in southern Africa.

Material culture Buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

Site A distinct spatial cluster of artefacts, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

Acronyms

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assesment
EIA **EIA**	Environmental Impact Assesment Early Iron Age
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
MHG	Millenium Heritage Group(PTY) LTD

NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998)
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No.25 of 1999)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
ESA	Early Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
IA	Iron Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and culturural Organization
WHC	World Heritage Conventions of 1972

ADDENDUM 2: Types and ranges as outlined by the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) outlines the following types and ranges of the heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate, namely:

(a) Places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;

(b) Places to which oral tradition are attached or which are associated with living heritage;

(c) Historical settlement and townscapes

(d) Landscape and natural features of cultural significance;

(e) Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance

(f) Archaeological and paleontological sites

(g) Graves and burial ground including-

- (I) Ancestral graves
- (II) Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- (III) Graves of victim of conflict
- (IV) Graves of individuals designated by the minister by notice in the gazette;

(V) Historical graves and cemeteries; and

(VI) Other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissue Act,1983(Act No 65 of 1983)

(h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;

(i) movable objects, including-

(I) object recovered from soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;

(II) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage

(III) ethnographic art and objects;

(IV) military objects;

(V) objects of decorative or fine art;

(VI) object of scientific or technological interest; and

(VII) books, records, documents, photographs, positive and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recording, excluding those that are public records as defined in section1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act,1996(Act No 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resource Act (Act No 25 of 1999,Art 3)also 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 the following:

(a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;

(b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;

(c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;

(d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;

(e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;

(f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;

(g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

(h) Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa

(i) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.