



# AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

2001/077745/23

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## **A. PHASE I CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **(a) BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROJECT:**

**PHASE I CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ADJOINING VILLAGES AS INDICATED IN ALLOTMENT NO 72 WALMAN VILLAGES PORTION ON REMAINDER OF PORTION 4 OF THE FARM SIJFERKUIL 15 JR NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

### **(b) REPORT COMPILED BY**

Dr Udo S. Küsel, African Heritage Consultants CC,

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### **(c) DEVELOPER AND CONSULTANT INFORMATION**

#### **Project applicant and Consultant:**

Big T Filling Station

Name of person responsible: Thomas Mandu Baloi

ID: 810630 5485 085

Cell: 082 9398 756

### **(d) DATE OF REPORT**

**3 March 2021**

## **B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The site was visited and inspected on foot and by vehicle as well as photographed. The owner has already started to develop the site. Visibility was good.

No important cultural heritage resources or graves were found on the proposed development site.

If during construction any cultural heritage resources or graves are unearthed all work has to be stopped until the site has been inspected and mitigated by a Cultural Heritage Practitioner.

## **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

*I, Udo S. Küsel (African Heritage Consultants CC) declare that:*

- *I act as the independent specialist in this application to Malepa Planning & Projects (Pty) Ltd;*
- *I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;*
- *I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;*
- *I have no vested financial, personal or any other interest in the application;*
- *I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;*
- *I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority; and*
- *All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct.*



**Udo S. Küsel**  
**3 March 2021**

African Heritage Consultants CC P.O. Box 652 MAGALIESKRUIJN 0150  
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Accredited Professional Archaeologist for the SADC Region Member No. 068  
Principal Investigator Iron Age  
Principal Investigator Colonial Period  
Principal Investigator Industrial Archaeology  
Field Director Stone Age  
BA Archaeology, Anthropology and Indigenous Law, University of Pretoria 1966  
MA Archaeology, University of Pretoria 1975  
D. Phil, University of Pretoria 1988  
Post-Graduate Diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies

## **THE AUTHOR**

Dr Udo Küsel has more than fifty years of experience in heritage planning, development and management. From a strategic planning perspective, he was involved in the planning and the declaration of the Robben Island Museum as a National Cultural Institution. He also served as President of the South African Museums Association as well as the South African Cultural History Association.

In 2001, he established African Heritage Consultants CC and has undertaken more than 1500 Heritage Impact Assessments and compiled numerous heritage management plans. As consultant he has been involved in the development of the Dzata Museum in Venda, the Tšate Site Museum in Sekhukhune and Thomo Cultural Village near Giyani to name a few.

He also served as a part-time lecturer in Museum and Heritage Studies at Pretoria University for 30 years. Recently he trained 30 unemployed people in Sekhukhune to undertake the recording of the heritage of the area. He supervised the project for three years and recorded 200 heritage sites in the area with the aim to develop the heritage resources of the region.

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## **D. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT**

### **(a) Whether the report is part of a scoping report/EIA/HIA or not**

*Report forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment*

### **(b) Type of development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc).**

*Developing a filling Station & Shops*

### **(c) Whether re-zoning and/or subdivision of land is involved.**

*Re-zoning applicable*

### **(d) Developer and consultant and owner and name and contact Details:**

#### **Developer, Applicant and Consultant:**

Project name: Big T Filling Station & Shops

Contact person: Mr. Thomas Mandu Baloi

ID. 810630 5485 085

Cell: 082 9398 756

### **(e) Terms of reference**

To conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment to assess if there is any material of cultural or heritage value under the footprint of the proposed development

### **(d) Legislative requirements of Act 25 of 1999.**

PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, ACT NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
- Archaeological sites and objects.
- Paleontological sites.
- Meteorites.
- Ship wrecks.
- Burial grounds.

- Graves of victims of conflict.
- Public monuments and memorials.
- Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette.
- Any other places or objects, which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance.
- Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
- Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
- Objects to which oral traditions are attached.
- Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

## **E. BACKGROUND TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE AREA.**

### **The Stone Age**

Archaeological traces in the form of mostly stone tools suggest a widespread presence for tool-producing Plio-Pleistocene hominins<sup>1</sup> in southern Africa. This important part of the prehistory of southern Africa, known as the Stone Age, is chronologically divided into the Earlier (ESA), Middle (MSA) and Later (LSA) Stone Age.

### **Earlier Stone Age (> 3 million years ago - 250 000/200 000)**

The NWP has three World Heritage Sites: Taung (Government Notice 2013/706, Gazette No. 36637), the Cradle of Humankind that is shared between NWP and Gauteng, and the Vredefort Dome. The first two are important palaeo-anthropological localities. The Taung Skull Fossil Site comprises palaeontological, archaeological and also historic sites associated with the mining of limestone. This locality contains at least 17 distinct fossiliferous deposits. Taung was the first site in southern Africa to yield an australopithecine specimen. In 1924 Raymond Dart named the fossilised juvenile skull from Taung *Australopithecus africanus*. Taung is therefore the type site for *Australopithecus africanus*.

The fossil remains of these hominins and animal fauna occur in breccias, a hard conglomerate of lime and bone. The Taung skull was recovered from the Buxton quarry through mining for limestone during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the extraction of limestone from the breccias the unprofitable bone-bearing rocks were piled in dumps. Many of these dumpsites have yielded important hominin specimens and associated faunal remains of extinct animals. Current research projects focus on sampling the *in situ* fossil deposits and also dumpsites to determine the geological contexts and to obtain dates (Herries et al 2009; Herries & Adams 2013; Kuhn 2013). The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and the Environment of North West is in the process of upgrading several aspects of the Taung Skull Heritage Site 'to more clearly reflect the very significant historical nature of the precinct' (Iliso 2014:1). Design proposals for the exhibition spaces and other structures have been submitted by Mashabane Rose Associates (2013). The australopithecines that date to between

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<sup>1</sup> The term "hominin" instead of the customary term "hominid", acknowledge that African apes, including human ancestors, are closer to each other phylogenetically than any of them are to orang-utans (Mitchell 2002). The term hominid includes all the higher primates (chimps, gorillas, orang-utans, ancestral human types and ourselves), while hominin refers to those genera which evolved **after** the split with the chimps.

3.5 and 2 Ma<sup>2</sup> are important because of their possible ancestral link to the *Homo* genus. The NWP borders on the Cradle of Humankind. Gondolin (Broederstroom 481 JQ) and Haasgat (Leeuwenkloof 480 JQ) fall within the band of important palaeoanthropological sites that comprise the Sterkfontein Valley landscape. Interdisciplinary research is currently being undertaken at both localities. Gondolin Cave, with approximate dates of 1.95 to 1.78 Ma, has yielded hominin remains of *Paranthropus robustus* and a suite of extinct fauna (Herries & Adams 2013). The fossiliferous deposits from Haasgat, dating to >2 Ma, contain extinct terminal Pliocene/early Pleistocene primates and other fauna but no hominins have yet been recovered (Adams 2013). These sites all have National Heritage status and the area has been declared a World Heritage Site (UNESCO) (Government Notice 2006/R449, Gazette No. 28831).

The australopithecines were gradually displaced by *Homo habilis*, a genus that evolved into the more advanced *Homo ergaster* by 1.8 million years BP. The large lithic cutting tools associated with these hominins form part of the Oldowan and Acheulean industries. Apart from the fossil hominin specimens from Taung and the Cradle sites, no major ESA assemblages have been yet recorded in the NWP. Specimens of *Homo* have also not been recovered from Stone Age localities in the NWP.

#### **Middle Stone Age 200 000/250 000 years ago – 20 000 years ago**

By 250 000 years BP, the large cleavers and hand axes of the ESA disappeared and were replaced by a larger variety of smaller tools and weapons of diverse shapes and sizes, made by different techniques. This change in technology marks the beginning of the MSA. During the MSA early humans still settled in the open near water sources but also in caves and shelter localities. The MSA marks the transition from the more archaic *Homo ergaster* to anatomically modern humans, *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Following on the ESA the MSA typologies represent greater specialization in the production of stone tools, in particular flake, blade and scraper tools and also in a more extended range of specialized, formal lithic tool types. This period is marked by regional lithic variability, evidence for symbolic signalling, polished bone tools, portable art and decorative items. Prepared cores were commonly used so that flaked products often retain the characteristic faceted striking platform that derives from this technique. The main developments during this period are cognitive, cultural and physical modernity. Whereas no major MSA sites are known, several scatters of MSA lithics have been recorded, for example within the Vredefort Dome (Pelsler 2005; Henderson & Koorzen 2007).

#### **Later Stone Age (<20 000 – historical period)**

The LSA is marked by a series of technological innovations, social transformations and also noticeable demographic changes. During the LSA small (microlithic) tools, bone tools and weapon armatures and a range of decorative items as well as rock art were produced. These hunter-gatherer societies relied to a large extent on bow-and-arrow hunting with poisoned tips, and also snaring. Ceramics were used and/or produced by hunters and Khoekhoe herders towards the terminal phases of the LSA over a period of around 2000 years.

Kruger Cave close to the Olifantsnek Dam is the most important LSA locality in the NWP. Excavations by Revil Mason (1962, 1988) found that hunter-gatherers occupied the site over many years, leaving behind a rich suite of cultural materials apart from an extensive lithic

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<sup>2</sup> Ma = million years ago

assemblage. The remains of iron smelting furnaces and ceramics in Kruger Cave are evidence of the subsequent utilisation of this locality by African farmers. Whereas not many other LSA sealed sites have been recorded, a real presence for hunter-gatherers within the region is evidenced by investigations at a small rock shelter Holkrans (Buffelskloof 511 IQ) on the NWP side of the Vredefort Dome. At this locality two occupation pulses were found where the older pre-ceramic occupation was followed by a cultural layer with ceramics that demonstrated some interactive relationships with nearby African farming communities (Bradfield & Sadr 2011; Sadr 2012).

### **Rock art**

The ubiquitous presence of hunter-gatherers and pastoralists on the landscape is further demonstrated by the number of significant rock art localities in the NWP. It is universally accepted that the landscape featured importantly in the selection of suitable surfaces to make rock markings (Deacon 1988; Ouzman 1996, 2001; Morris 2012). Thaba Sione (near Mahikeng) contains more than 500 San rock engravings, including very fine depictions of rhinoceroses. Several rock outcrops have been polished through being used as a rubbing post by rhinoceroses. Some of the engraved images, but in particular those that depict rhinoceroses, exhibit smooth areas where they have been rubbed through human interaction, probably during ceremonial activities such as rain-making rituals. Most of the early hunting and gathering groups were eventually assimilated by LIA communities. Their enduring legacy is found in the beliefs and rituals that have been absorbed and changed by the later settlers of the region. This is demonstrated by important ritual locales such as Thaba Sione where physical and spiritual resources are still recognised by local Tswana people. The Zionist Christian Church moreover makes use of Thaba Sione for rituals that include rain-making (Ouzman 1996, 2000, 2001; (<http://www.nasmus.co.za/departments/rock-art/public-rock-art-sites>)).

Driekuil Hill near Ottosdal is one of at least 12 sites that include Gestoptefontein Mountain and Gestoptefontein Hill, regarded collectively as the largest and most significant Khoe-San rock art sites in the NWP. On outcrops of pyrophyllite, known as 'wonderstone', the pecked and incised images comprise anthropomorphs, zoomorphs, aprons, skins and other objects and grooves, pits, hammered areas, clusters of pecks and cut marks) that may have been made as part of ceremonies. It is suggested that the art is associated with Khoe-San girls' puberty rituals (Hollman 2007).

Gestoptefontein/Tlogo Pitsane has oral traditions associated with different groups, namely pastoralists such as the Korana and the Tswana (Holub 1881; Schmidt 2001; Holman 2007). The local Tswana associated a watersnake with this locality. The explorer Emile Holub, on his visit in 1872-1875 to South Africa, removed various rock art panels, including around 200 slabs from Gestoptefontein and sent these to Europe where the majority were accessioned in a Vienna museum.

Bosworth near Klerksdorp, Manyane near Molopo River about 15km east of Mmabatho and several localities in the Magaliesberg contain rock engravings on boulders and rock outcrops (Mason 1962). At most of the Magaliesberg sites engravings occur near the very numerous stone-walled settlements. The engravings show authorship of both hunter-gatherers and African farmers, e.g. at the large stone-walled settlement of Olifantspoort and at Maanhaarrant in the Bojanala District (Mason 1962).



## Iron Age

The migration into southern Africa and expansion of Early Iron Age (EIA) African farming societies is apparent in this area from AD 400 onwards. Pioneer Sotho-Tswana groups settled in semi-permanent villages, cultivated a range of crops, raised livestock, made ceramic containers, mined ore and smelted metals and engaged in trade or barter. The first-millennium site of Broederstroom (a Provincial Heritage Site) near the Hartbeespoort Dam yielded data on settlement layout, cultivation, herding and iron working. Most sites from the EIA are located near water sources. The nutrient-rich alluvial earthens would have been favoured for agriculture. A lack of sites from this period is probably explained by their close proximity to floodplains that resulted in the burial of settlements so that they are usually only visible in eroded areas. An example in the Marico is an EIA site discovered from erosional contexts near the Mokgola stream, about 2 km northwest of the Kaditshwene ruins in central Marico, which yielded a fragmented pottery sample (Boeyens 2003). The onset of the Little Ice Age that resulted in drier conditions in southern Africa around AD 1300 contributed to the expansion of Sotho-Tswana speakers into territories until then occupied by the descendants of southern Africa's first farmers. Middle Iron Age (MIA) sites known from the Eiland-style ceramics become more common, e.g. in the Madikwe Game Reserve (Huffman 2000) and the Marico sites of Rietfontein and Magozastad (Boeyens 2003).

The earliest settlement of Sotho-Tswana speakers has been recorded for the 15th century AD in the NWP. The Late Iron Age (LIA) was accompanied by extensive stonewalled settlements, such as the National Heritage Site of the Kaditshwene Cultural Landscape (Government Notice 2011/696, Gazette No. 345620) in the Marico area, Molokwane (potential national heritage site east of Rustenburg), the Olifantspoort Complex near Koster and the Tlokwa settlement of Marothodi in the western Bankenveld near Pilanesberg. In the Pilanesberg National Park the mid-19th century settlement of Mabele-a-Podi was the capital of Pilane's Kgafela Kgatla. A large-scale aerial survey of stone-walled complexes in the former western Transvaal (Mason 1968; Seddon 1968; Küsel 1998) demonstrated that these aggregated settlements represent only a small part of the many stone-walled settlements on the NWP landscape (Boeyens & Hall 2009).

LIA sites occur across the entire NWP region (Breutz 1953; Boeyens 1998, 2000, 2003; Boeyens & Hall 2009). Early travellers such as Lichtenstein and Burchell, and missionaries, for instance John Campbell and Stephen Kay, provided valuable records of settlement layout and the spatial arrangement of houses. The Reverend Campbell (1822[i]) of the London Missionary Society visited Kaditshwene, the capital of the Bahurutshe booMenwe and the Bahurutshe booMokgatla, in 1820. He remarked that this was the most populous town encountered on his travels from the Cape. Campbell documented the concentrated spatial layout of the stone-walled settlement in some detail and also the interior of several houses and recorded the painted wall-decorations. The Wesleyan-Methodist missionary, Stephen Kay (1834) on his visit in 1821 estimated that Kaditshwene had 13 000 to 14 000 inhabitants.

The stone-walled settlement of Marothodi was the capital of the Rustenburg Tlokwa prior to their dispersal during the *difaqane*. This extensive settlement along the Kgetleng (Elands) River in the Rustenburg region of NWP yielded considerable insight into the technology employed in the smelting and working of copper and iron by indigenous metal workers (Hall et al 2008; Boeyens & Hall 2009; Miller 2010). The contemporary Molokwane to the west of Rustenburg was the capital of the the pre-*difaqane* 19th-century capital of the Modimosana Mmatau Kwena (Pistorius 1992, 1994; Boeyens 2003, Steyn 2011).

In the Vredefort Dome the very numerous Late Iron Age stone-walled settlements of later Sotho-Tswana communities demonstrate that the area was occupied by African farmers from at least AD 1400 to AD 1800. Early Nguni groups also settled here (Maggs 1976; Huffman 2007; Byrne 2012). In the Marico area the presence of groups with Nguni origins are well-documented. During the historical period the Ndebele of Mzilikazi moved into the Marico in the 1820s only to settle in the Magaliesberg from 1827 (Boeyens 2003).

### **The historical context of NWP**

Mahikeng is used as an example to demonstrate historical heritage resources in the NWP. Tswana groups of the Barolong first moved into this region during the late 1700s/early 1800s. Mahikeng was intensively settled by sections of the Barolong, part of the western cluster of the Sotho group, and in particular the Tshidi (Matthews 1940, 1945). Mahikeng was the name of their capital. While the name Mafeking was used to conform to the then orthography the name has now reverted to the original spelling. Disputes over land resulted in internal strife within Barolong sections that culminated in conflicts and ultimately battles (1881-1884) (Matthews 1945).

The expansion of the Voortrekkers and the establishment of the ZAR resulted in a division of the Mahikeng district into separate areas to be occupied by the Barolong and the Europeans respectively (<http://www.sahistory.org.za/places/mafikeng>). The Tshidi continued to reside in the Maheking district in large centralized settlements (Dachs 1972; Comaroff 1980). Many of these settlements are still to be seen on the landscape as stone-walled archaeological sites.

It is of note that the well-known and distinguished writer, Sol Plaatje, lived near Mahikeng. Lodge (1990:164) points out that ‘the two foremost historical writers who can be associated with the ANC’s early development, S Modiri Molema (1891-1965) and Sol T Plaatje (1876-1932), both grew up within Barolong communities’.

The North West Province of South Africa is bounded on the north by Botswana, on the south by the provinces of Free State and the Northern Cape, and on the northeast and east by the Limpopo Province and Gauteng. Covering 118,797 sq km (45,869 sq miles), the North West Province was created in 1994 by the merger of Bophuthatswana, one of the former bantustans (or black homelands), and the western part of Transvaal, one of the four former South African provinces.

Much of the province consists of flat areas of scattered trees and grassland. The Magaliesberg mountain range in the northeast extends about 130 km (about 80 miles) from Pretoria to Rustenburg. The Vaal River flows along the southern border of the province. Temperatures range from 17° to 31° C (62° to 88° F) in the summer and from 3° to 21° C (37° to 70° F) in the winter. Annual rainfall totals about 360 mm (about 14 in), with almost all of it falling during the summer months, between October and April.

Mafikeng, formerly Mafeking, serves as the provincial capital. Other significant towns include Brits, Klerksdorp, [Lichtenburg](#), [Potchefstroom](#), Rustenburg and Sun City. The province has two universities: the University of North West, which was formerly called the University of Bophuthatswana (founded in 1979), in Mmabatho; and Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (founded in 1869; became a constituent college of the University of South Africa in 1921 and an independent university in 1951).

Important historical sites in the province include Mafikeng, the traditional capital of the Barolong people, where a British garrison was placed under siege by Afrikaners during the Boer War (1899-1902); Lotlamoeng Cultural Village near Mafikeng, which re-creates a traditional African village; and Boekenhoutfontein, the farm of Paul Kruger, who was the last president of the South African Republic (a state created by Afrikaners in what is now north-eastern South Africa), from 1883 to 1902. The province has several national parks. The largest, Pilanesberg Game Reserve, is located in the crater of an extinct volcano.

A major heritage resource is the fort known as Kanonkoppie situated to the south-west outside the town of Mafeking. It was erected in 1884 by the Sir Charles Warren of the British in a mainly abortive endeavour to suppress the confrontational incorporation of the Stellaland and Goshen republics into the then ZAR. During the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 additional fortifications were erected at the fort and manned by the Bechuanaland Protectorate Regiment during the siege of Mafeking. The fort has since been restored by the municipality of Mafeking and proclaimed as a heritage site in 1962 (SAHRIS site ID 26028, Provincial Heritage Site Gazette Date: 09/02/1962 Gazette No: 171)

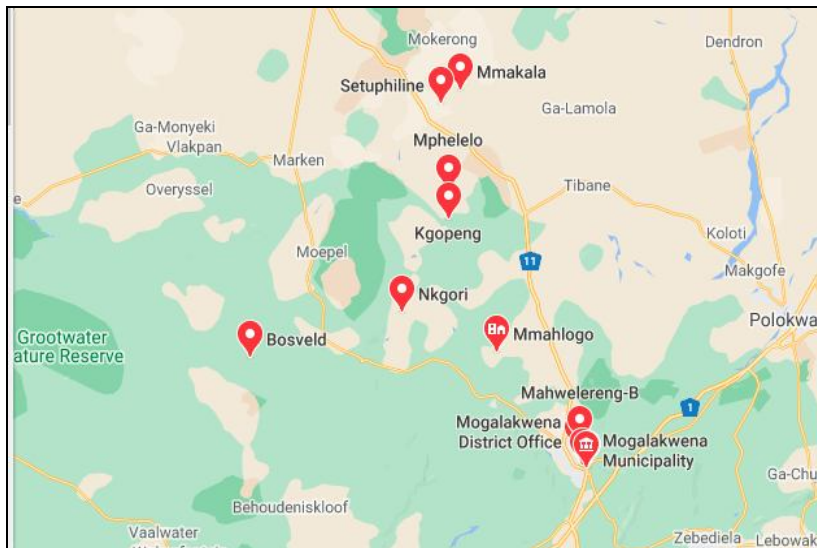
## F. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY OR AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### (a) Detail of area surveyed

- Full location Data for Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority and property (e.g. Farm erf) name and number etc.:

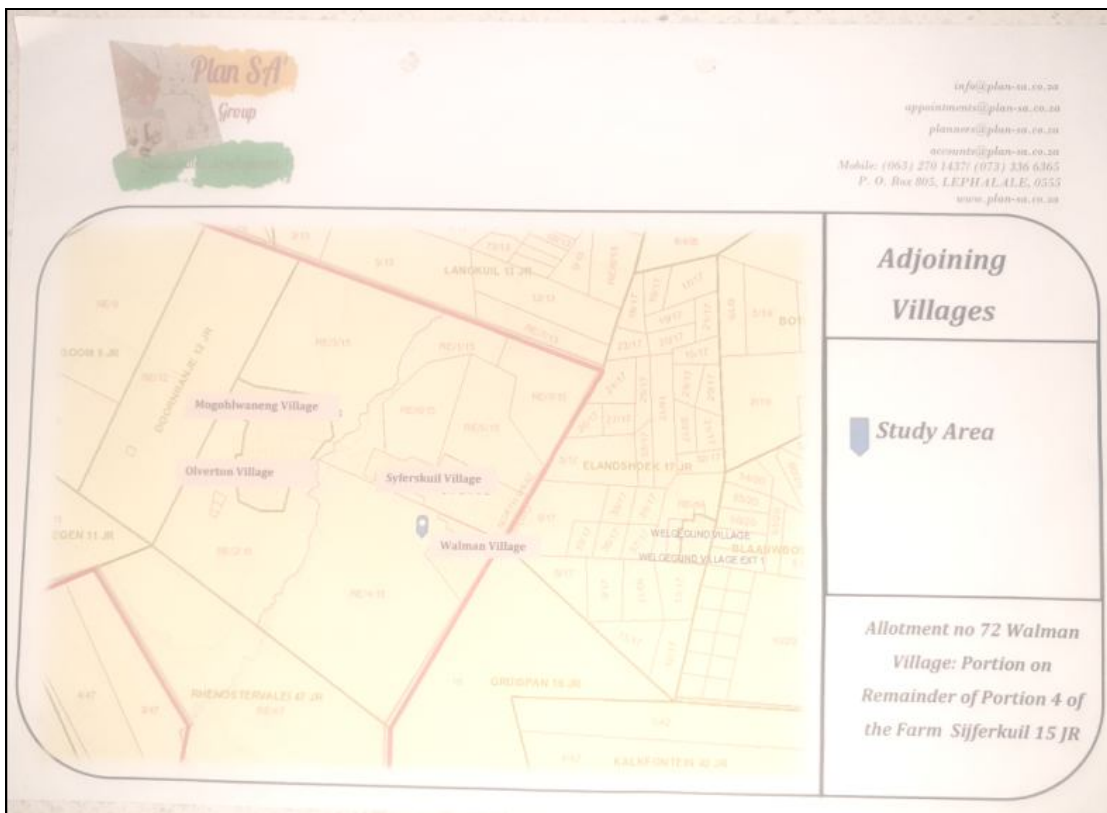
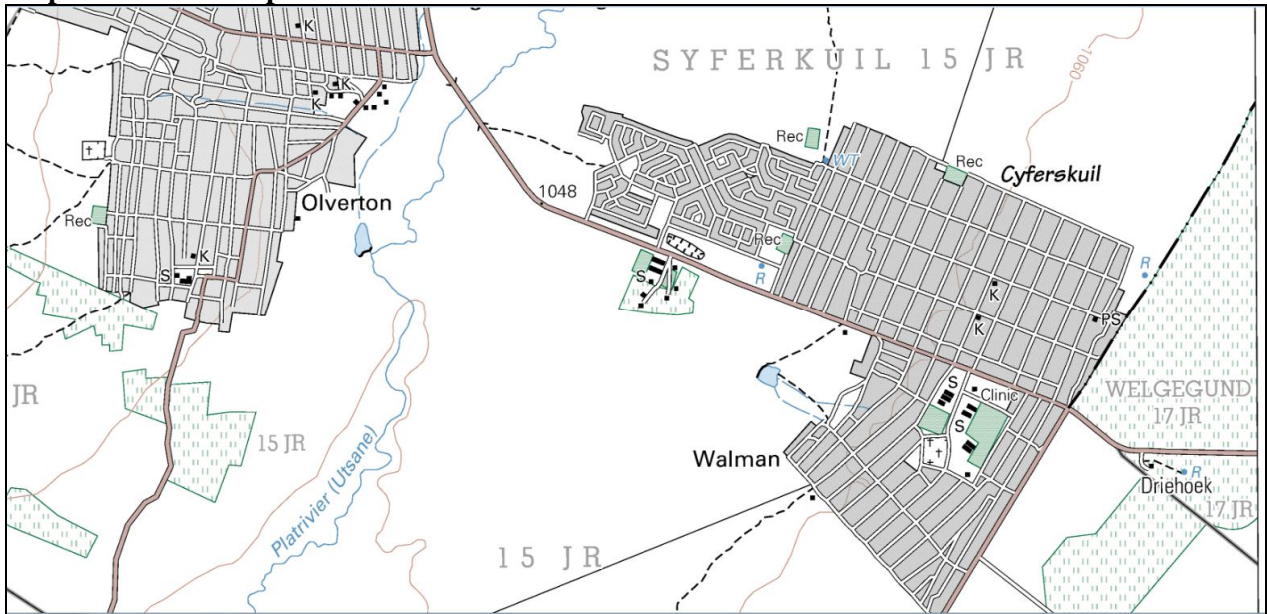
Allotment no 72, Wallman Village: Portion on Remainder of Portion 4 of the farm Sijferkuil 15 JR

Mogalakwena, Waterberg District Municipality 56 Retief St, Mokopane, 0601.  
Phone: 015 492 9825



Either the Location Map or the site Map must have the polygon of the area surveyed marked on it and full geographical co-ordinates for all relevant points and where applicable, indication of the area to be developed (footprints)

**Map: 1/50 000 Makapanstad 2528 AA**



**Google Co-ordinates: S25.0738890 & E28.2177790**





### **(b) Description of methodology**

The site was visited by Dr. Udo S. Küsel archaeologist. The site was inspected on foot, and recorded. Visibility was good.

## **G. DESCRIPTION OF SITES IDENTIFIED AND MAPPED**

The site is situated on the Syferkuil settlement which lies north of Hammanskraal and South of Bela-Bela. The area forms part of the Springbok Flats with its deep clay soils. These soils were not popular settlement areas in the past because of the clay.

The site lies next to a tar road and is 100 X 120 meters in size. The owner has all ready started to develop the site by building a 2m high wall on the boundaries of the site. He has also built a shopping centre and in future a garage is in the planning on the site. The site also has a borehole and water tank. The un-destroyed section of the site was also inspected on foot and photographed. Visibility was good as the grass was relatively short and a section recently cut.

No archaeological or heritage remains or graves could be found on the site.

## Study area with survey of existing structures

Yellow mark shows site under investigation.



## Detail of site and existing structures







Building erected on the site



Photographs of site investigated





Borehole with pump and water tank



Temporary building

**H. OTHER FINDS AND FEATURES**

None

**I. CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF BURIAL GROUNDS AND GRAVES**

None

**J. FIELD RATING**

Not applicable

**K. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Heritage value)**

Not applicable



## L. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The site has no archaeological or historic remains. There are also no graves present.

There is no obligation to the development from a Cultural Heritage Recourses point of view.

If during construction any cultural heritage resources or graves are unearthed all work has to be stopped until the site has been inspected and mitigated by a Cultural Heritage Practitioner.

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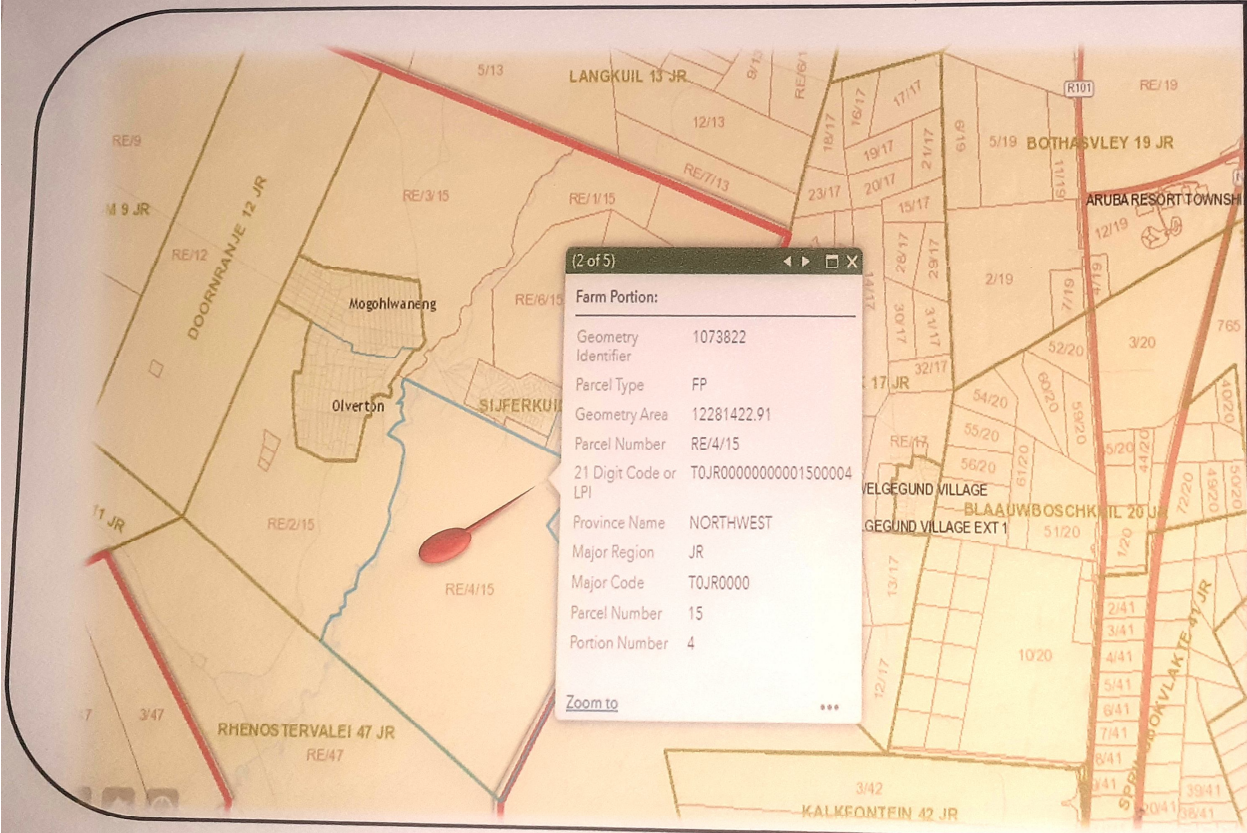
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### Locality Map

Study Area

**Allotment no 72**  
**Walman Village:**  
**Portion on Remainder**  
**of Portion 4 of the Farm**  
**Sijferkuil 15 JR**