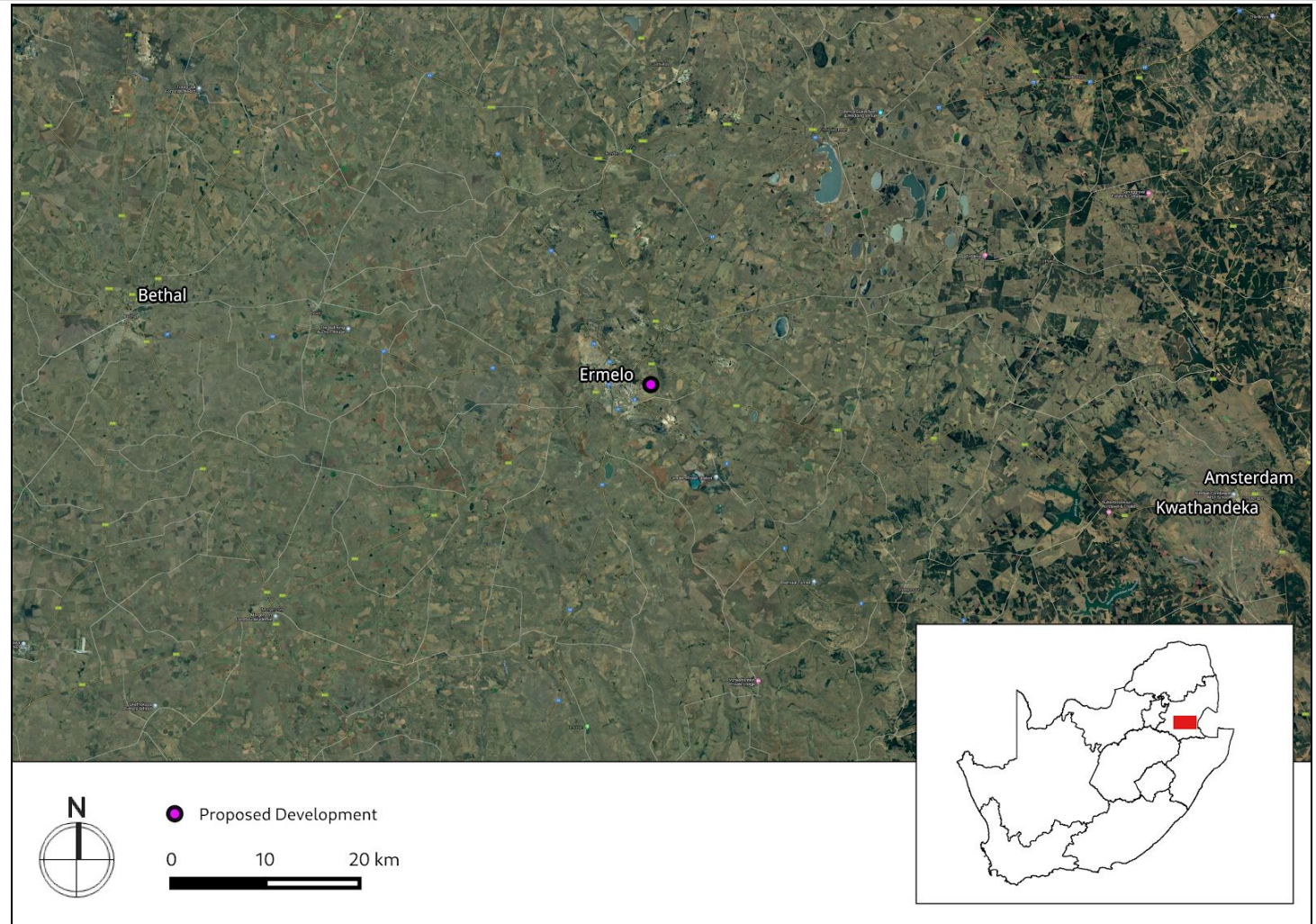


CTS HERITAGE

# HERITAGE SCREENER

CTS Reference Number:	<b>CTS19_173</b>
SAHRIS Ref:	<b>14826</b>
Client:	<b>Eco Elementum</b>
Date:	<b>23 January 2020</b>
Title:	<b>Proposed development of the Van Oudtshoornstroom Colliery, Ermelo</b>



**Figure 1a.** Satellite map indicating the location of the proposed development in the Mpumalanga Province

Recommendation by  
CTS Heritage  
Specialists

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**As it is likely that any proposed development will impact significant heritage resources, it is recommended that a Heritage Impact Assessment be conducted that assesses impacts to these significant archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources.**

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## 1. Proposed Development Summary

This application is for the establishment of the proposed Van Oudtshoornstroom Colliery just outside of Ermelo. Historical drilling has been conducted within the Project Area and were obtained from the Council of Geoscience's National Borehole Database. In 2014 the Client embarked on a verification drilling programme (overseen by Datamine) to confirm the findings of these historical boreholes. Three diamond cored boreholes were drilled and sampled and the verification drilling confirmed the thickness and distribution of the coal seams as captured in the majority of the historical boreholes. Mining will include opencast box cut mining as well as underground mining.

## 2. Application References

<b>Name of relevant heritage authority(s)</b>	SAHRA
<b>Name of decision making authority(s)</b>	DMR MP30/5/1/2/2/10244MR

## 3. Property Information

<b>Latitude / Longitude</b>	26°31'21.35"S 30° 1'20.40"E
<b>Erf number / Farm number</b>	Van Oudshoornstroom 261IT ptn 34 T0IT00000000026100034 Van Oudshoornstroom 261IT ptn 52 T0IT00000000026100052 Van Oudshoornstroom 261IT ptn 53 T0IT00000000026100053 Van Oudshoornstroom 261IT RE of 61 T0IT00000000026100061 Van Oudshoornstroom 261IT ptn 78 T0IT00000000026100078
<b>Local Municipality</b>	Msukaligwa
<b>District Municipality</b>	Gert Sibande
<b>Previous Magisterial District</b>	Ermelo
<b>Province</b>	Mpumalanga
<b>Current Use</b>	The current land use for the project area is planted pastures and grazing with Agriculture, Mining activities and urbanisation surrounding the project area. Sand was also mined previously on the property
<b>Current Zoning</b>	Agricultural

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## 4. Nature of the Proposed Development

<b>Total Surface Area</b>	Approximately 179807.1812ha
<b>Depth of excavation (m)</b>	Unknown at this stage. The coal seam is located approximately 40 m below the ground surface beneath a sandstone overburden.
<b>Height of development (m)</b>	NA

## 5. Category of Development

<b>x</b>	<b>Triggers: Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act</b>
	<b>Triggers: Section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act</b>
	1. Construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier over 300m in length.
	2. Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
	3. Any development or activity that will change the character of a site-
<b>x</b>	a) exceeding 5 000m <sup>2</sup> in extent
	b) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
	c) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years
	4. Rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m <sup>2</sup>
	5. Other (state):

## 6. Additional Infrastructure Required for this Development

Infrastructure related to the mining complex including access roads, ablution facilities, contractors yard, security house and boom and a weighbridge

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## 7. Mapping (please see Appendix 3 and 4 for a full description of our methodology and map legends)

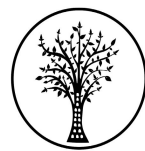


**Figure 1b. Overview Map.** Satellite image (2019) indicating the proposed development area at closer range.

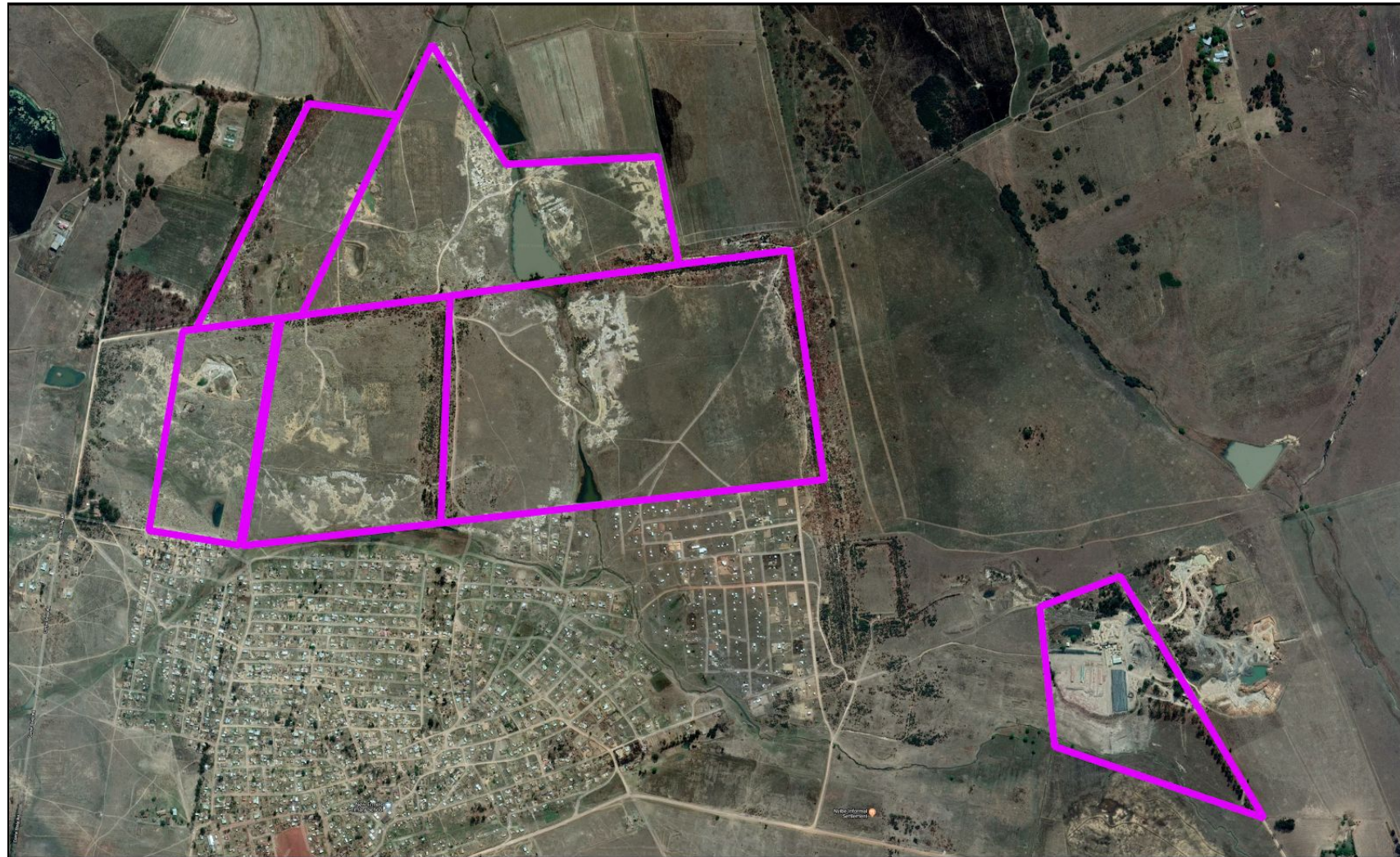
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 Proposed Development

0 0.5 1 km



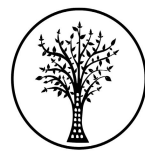
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**Figure 1c. Overview Map.** Satellite image (2019) indicating the proposed development area at closer range.

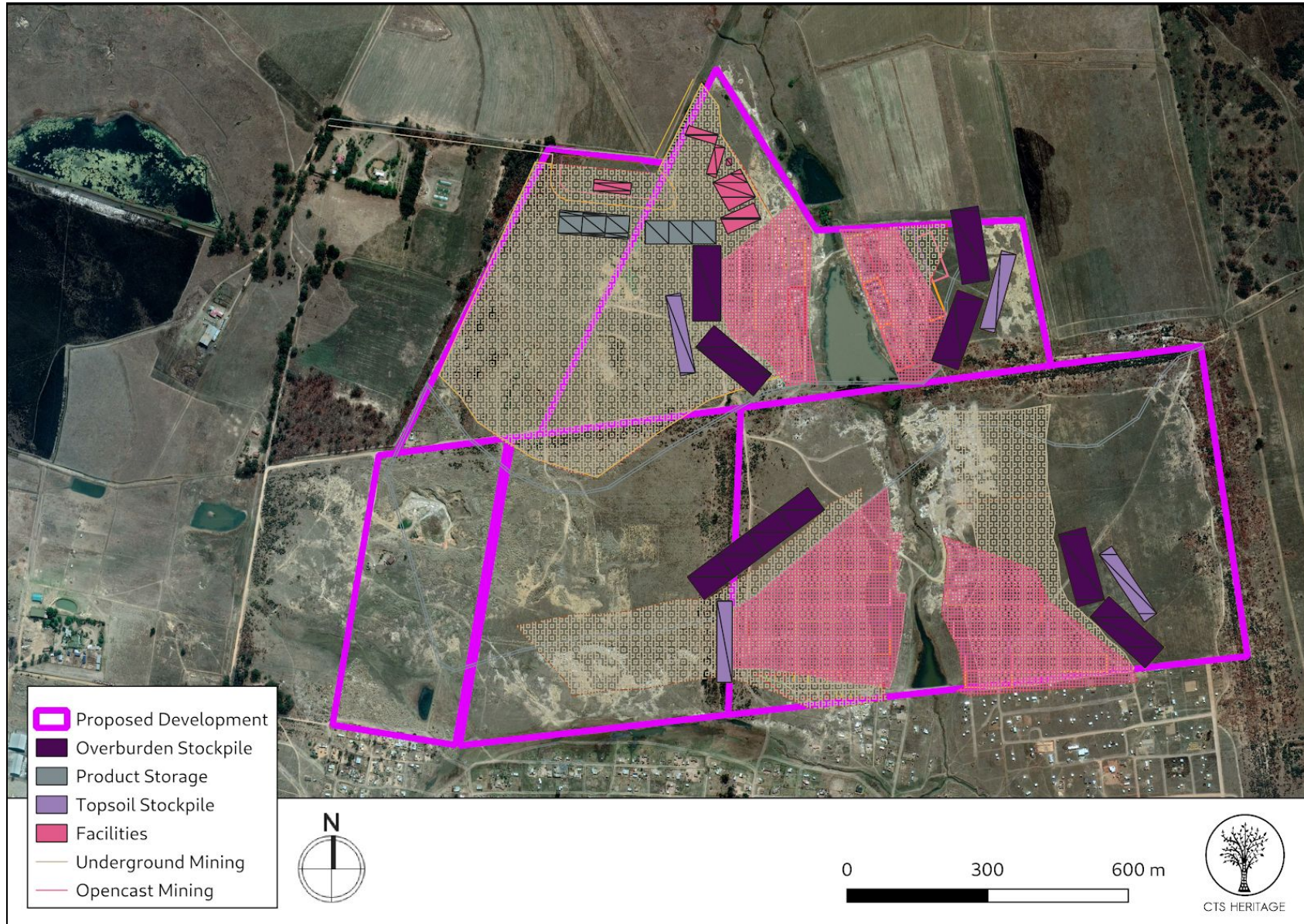
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**Figure 1d. Overview Map.** Satellite image (2019) indicating the proposed development layout at closer range.

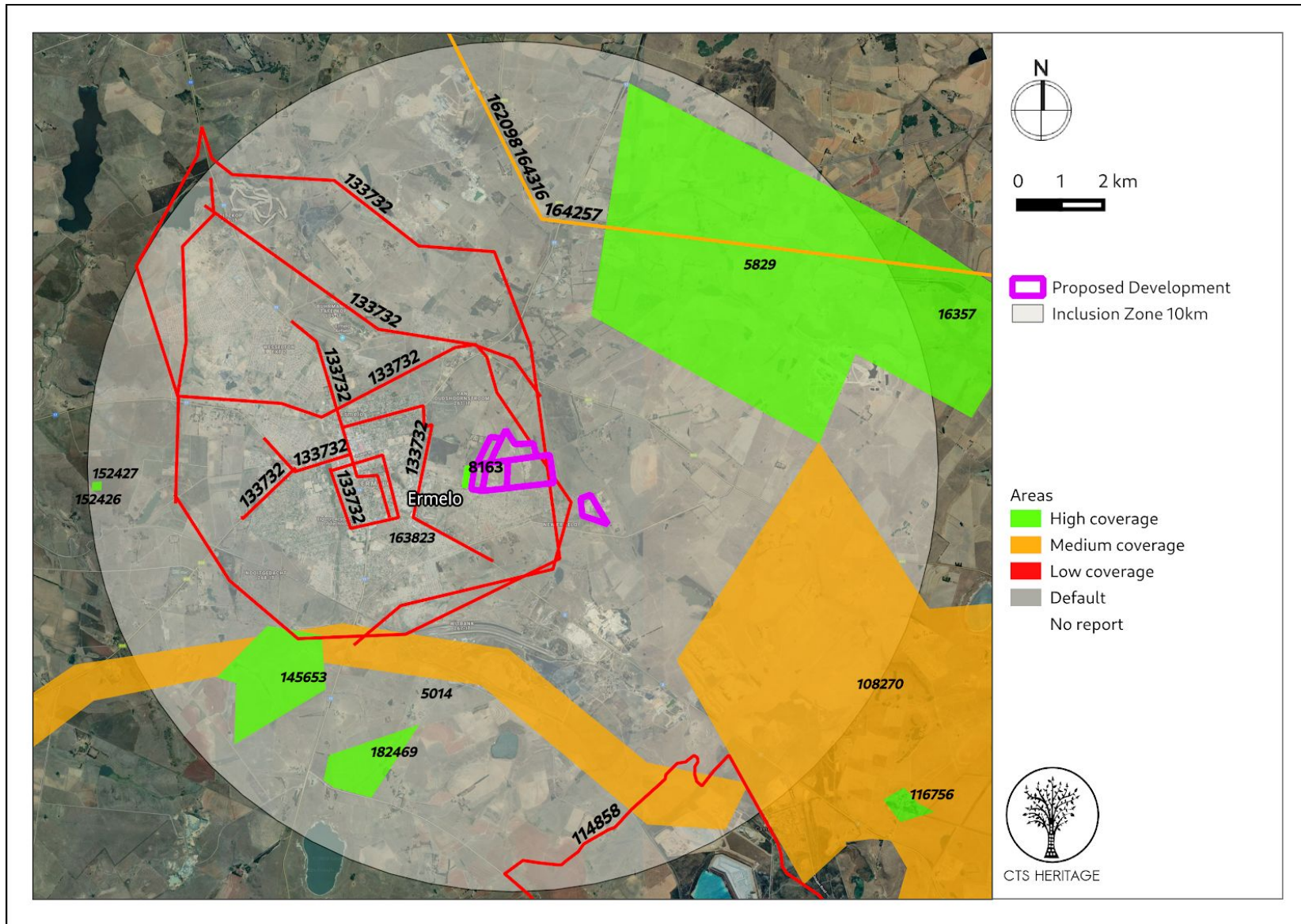
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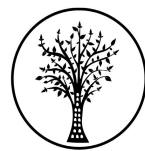


**Figure 2. Previous HIAs Map.** Previous Heritage Impact Assessments surrounding the proposed development area within 5km, with SAHRIS NIDS indicated. Please see Appendix 2 for full reference list.

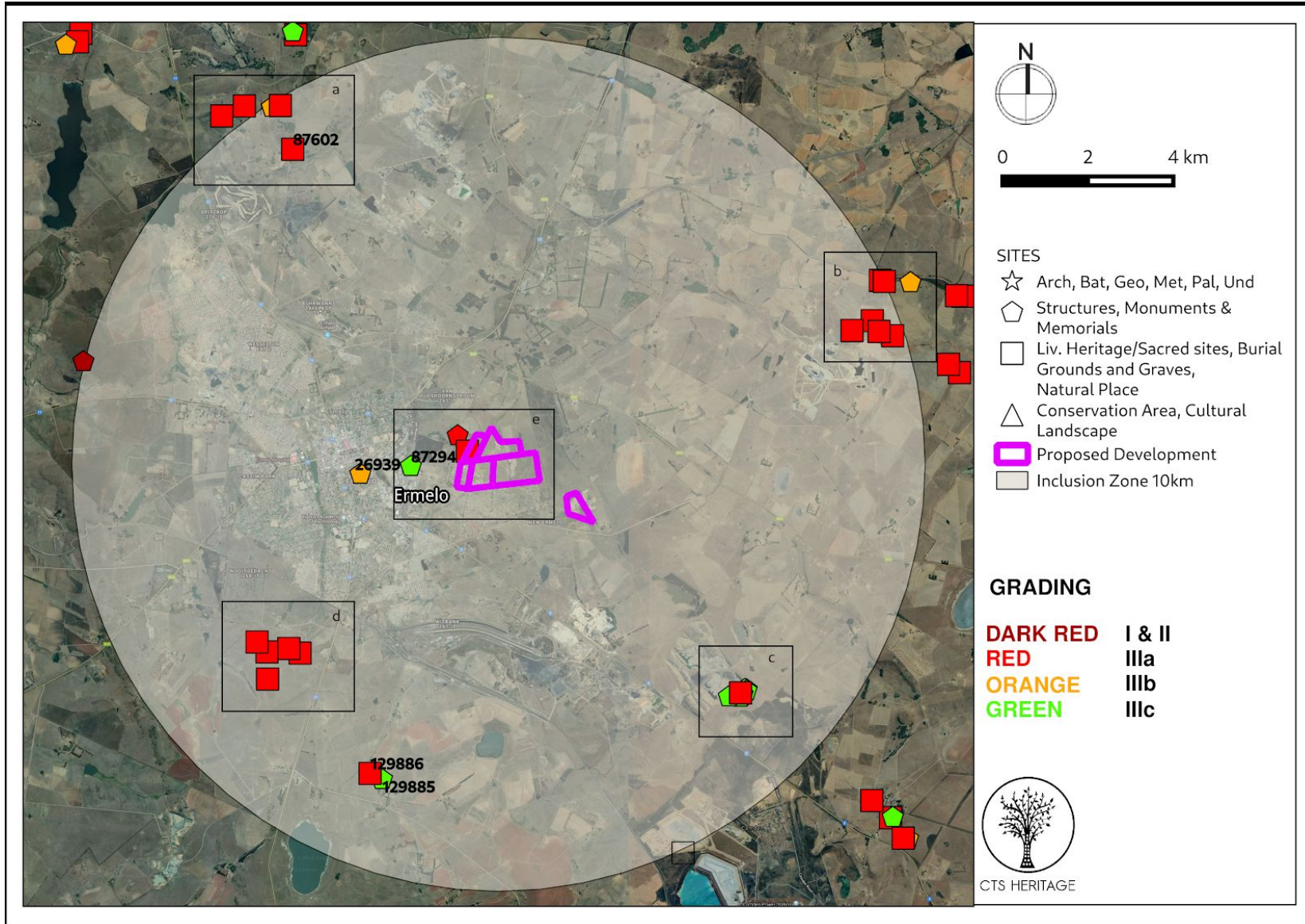
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**Figure 3. Heritage Resources Map.** Heritage Resources previously identified in and near the study area. See insets a to d below with SAHRIS Site IDs indicated. Please See Appendix 4 for full description of heritage resource types.

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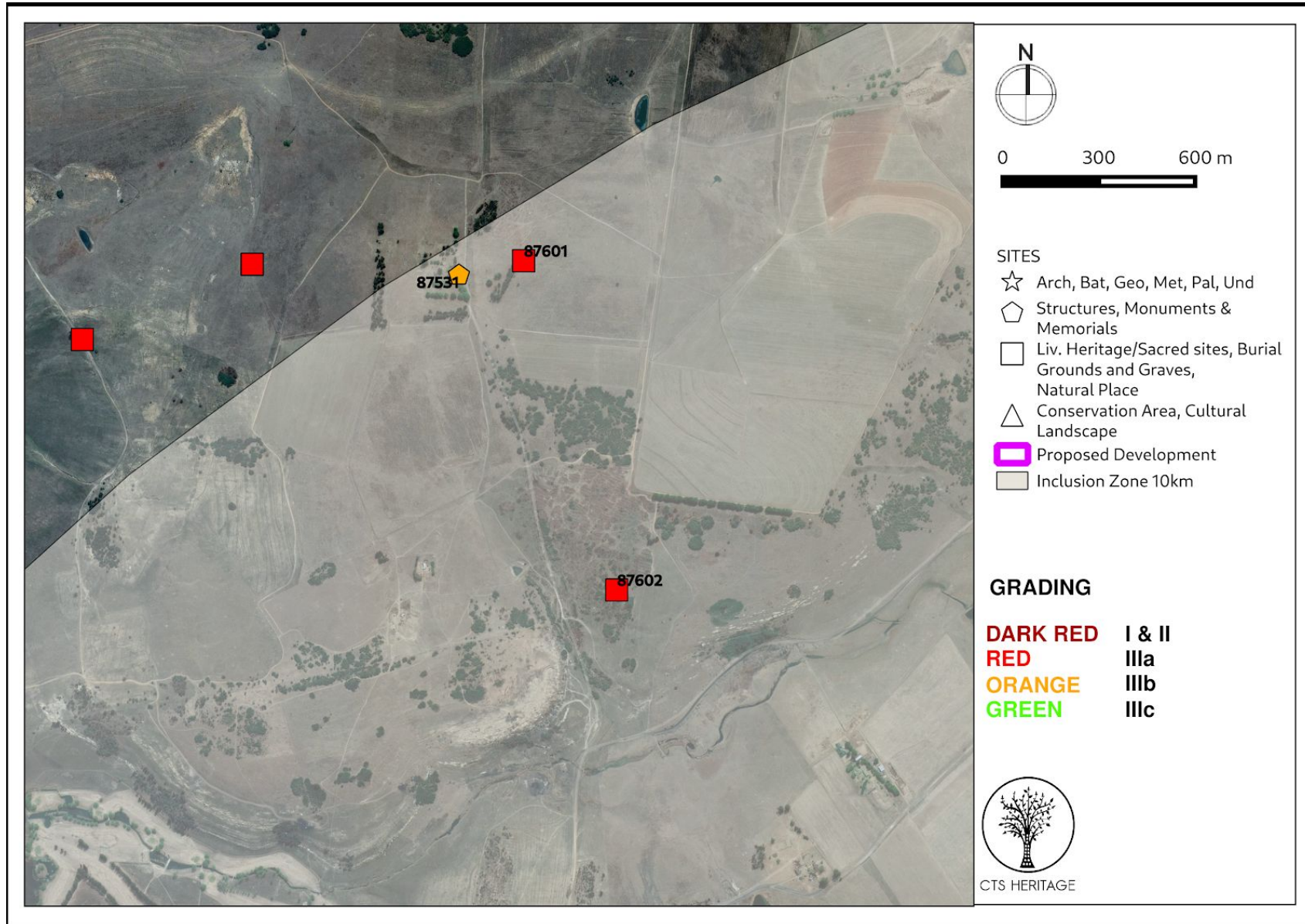


Figure 3a. Heritage Resources Map. Inset

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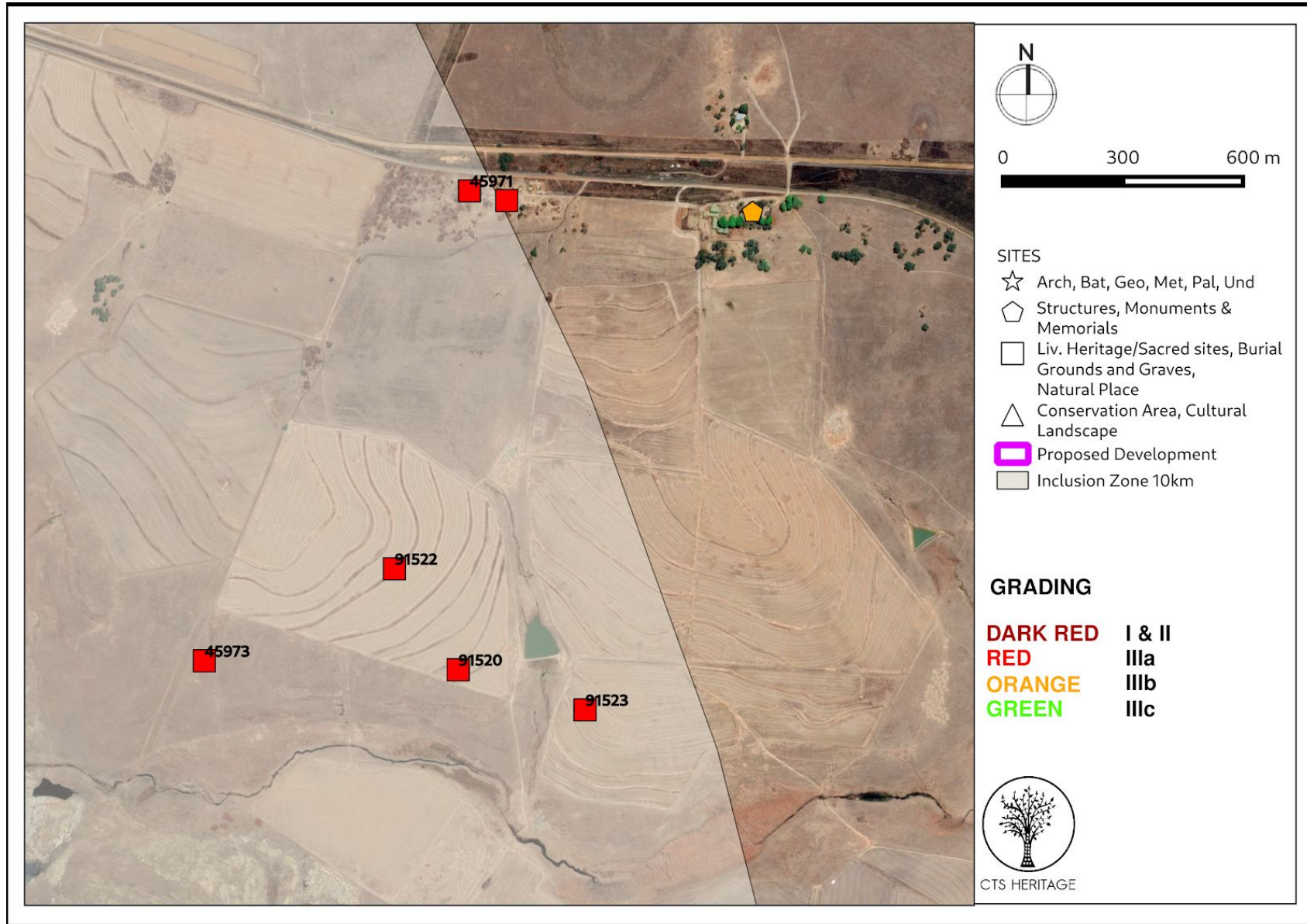


Figure 3b. Heritage Resources Map. Inset

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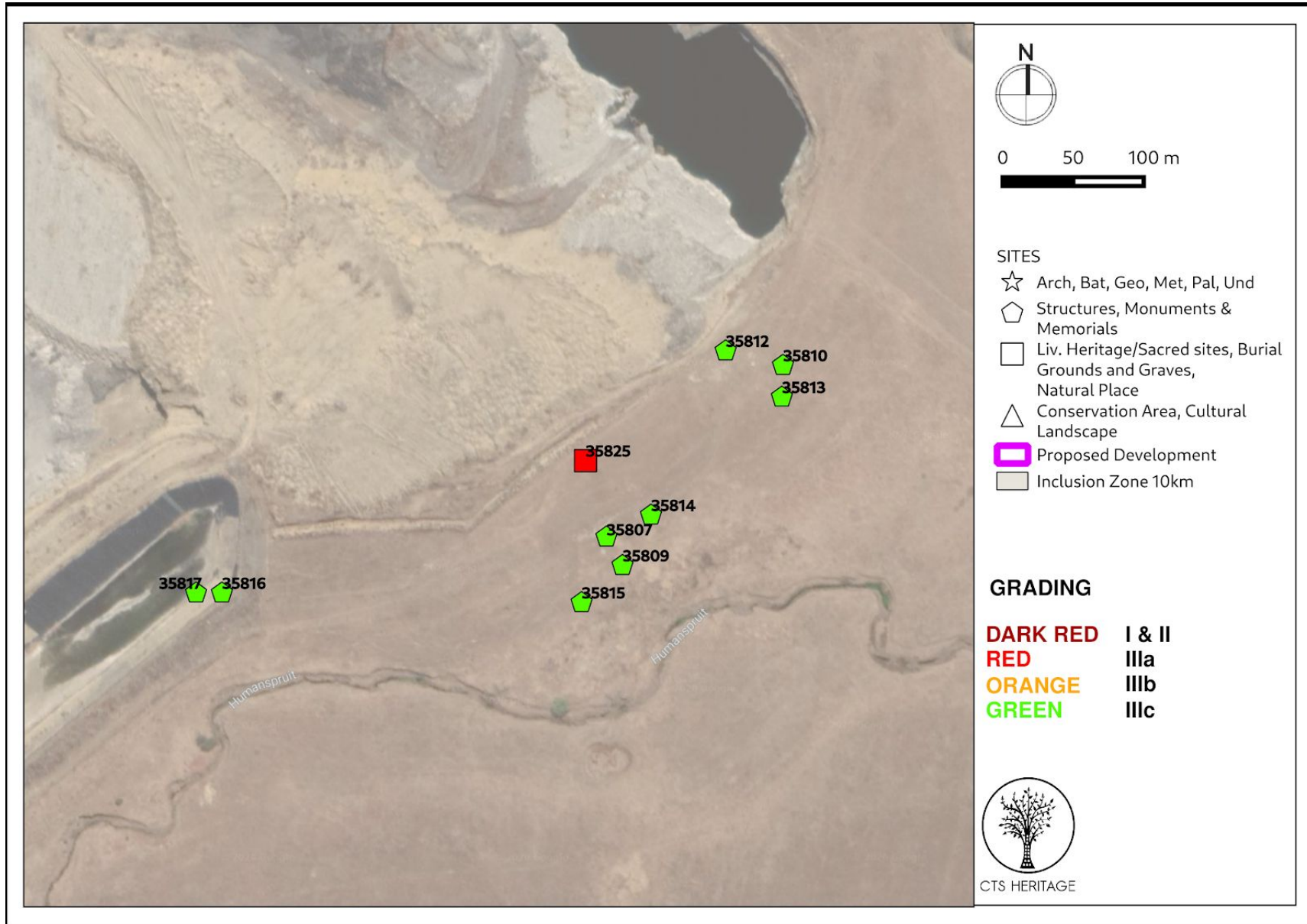


Figure 3c. Heritage Resources Map. Inset

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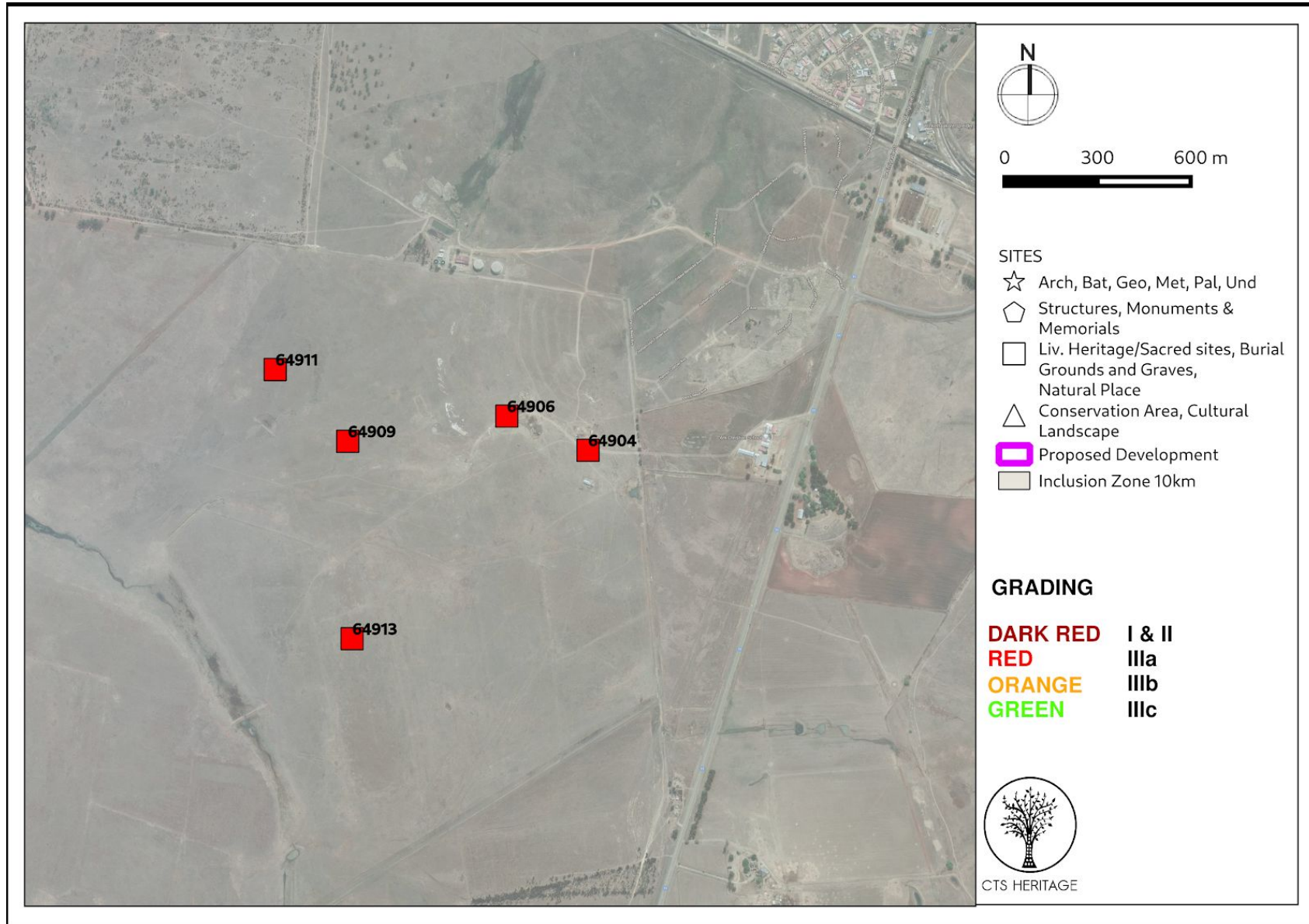
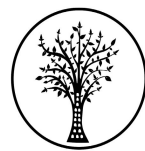


Figure 3d. Heritage Resources Map. Inset

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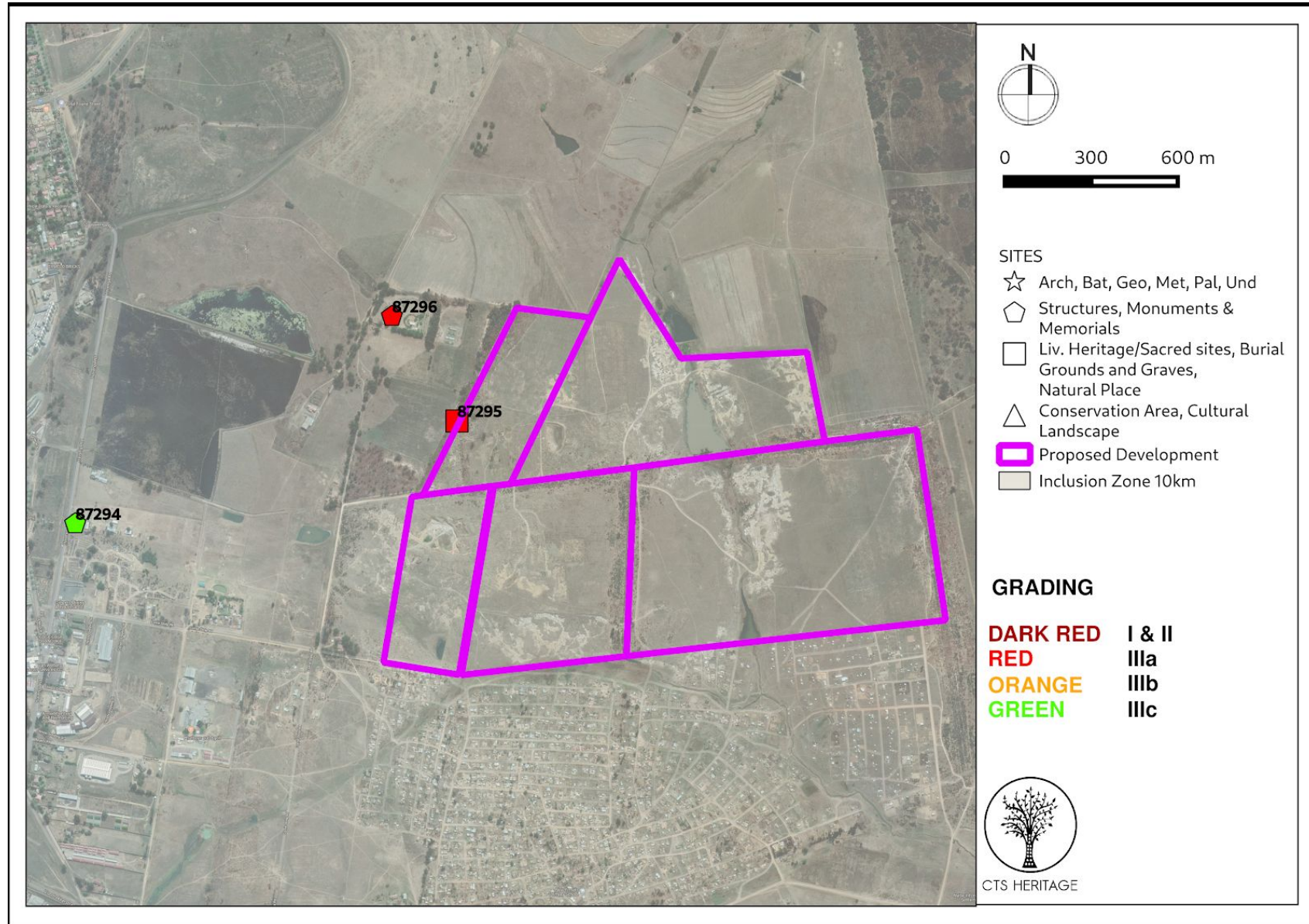
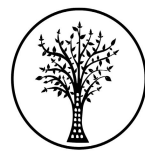


Figure 3e. Heritage Resources Map. Inset

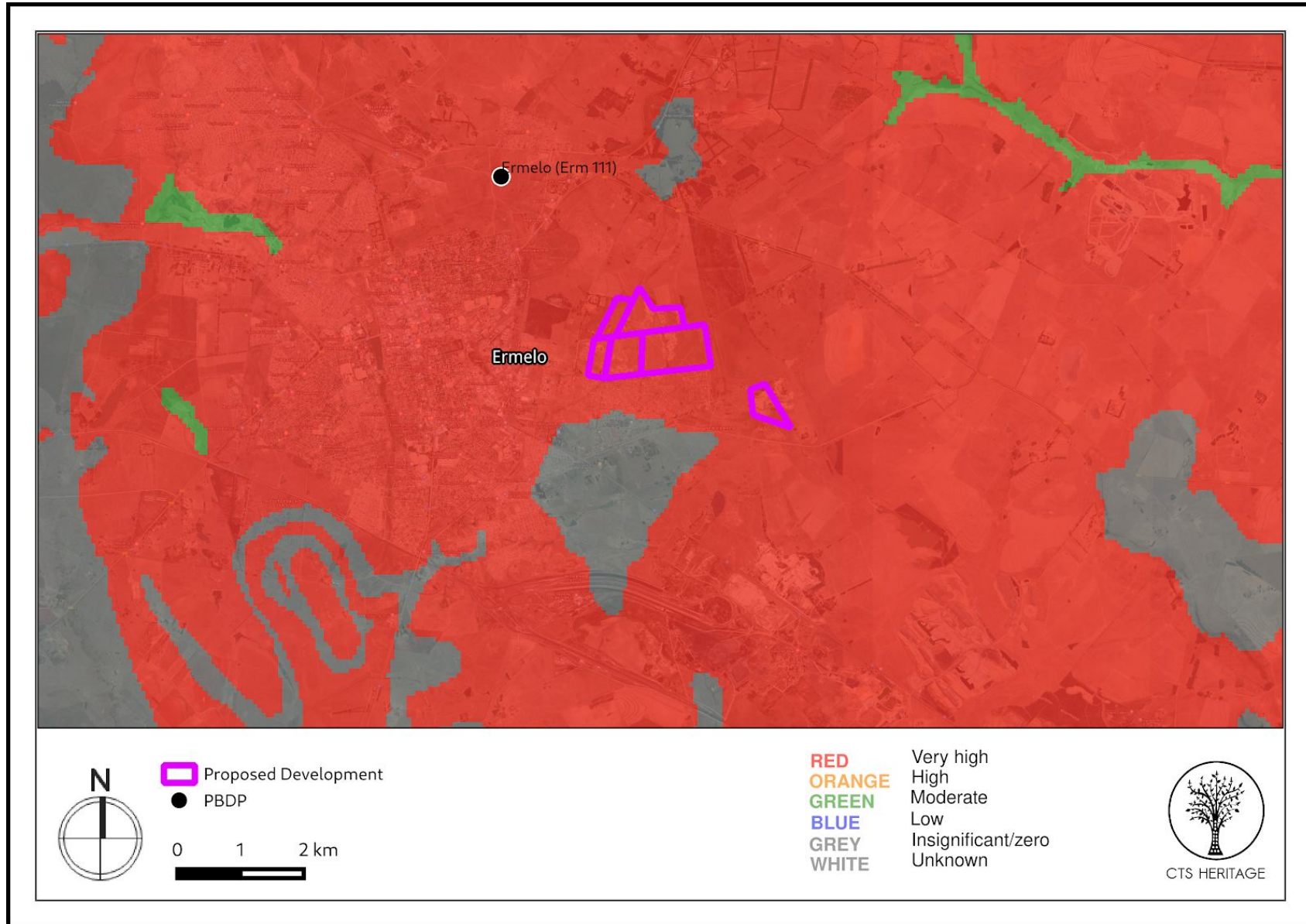
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**Figure 4.1. SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map.** Indicating very high fossil sensitivity underlying the study area. Please See Appendix 3 for full guide to the legend.

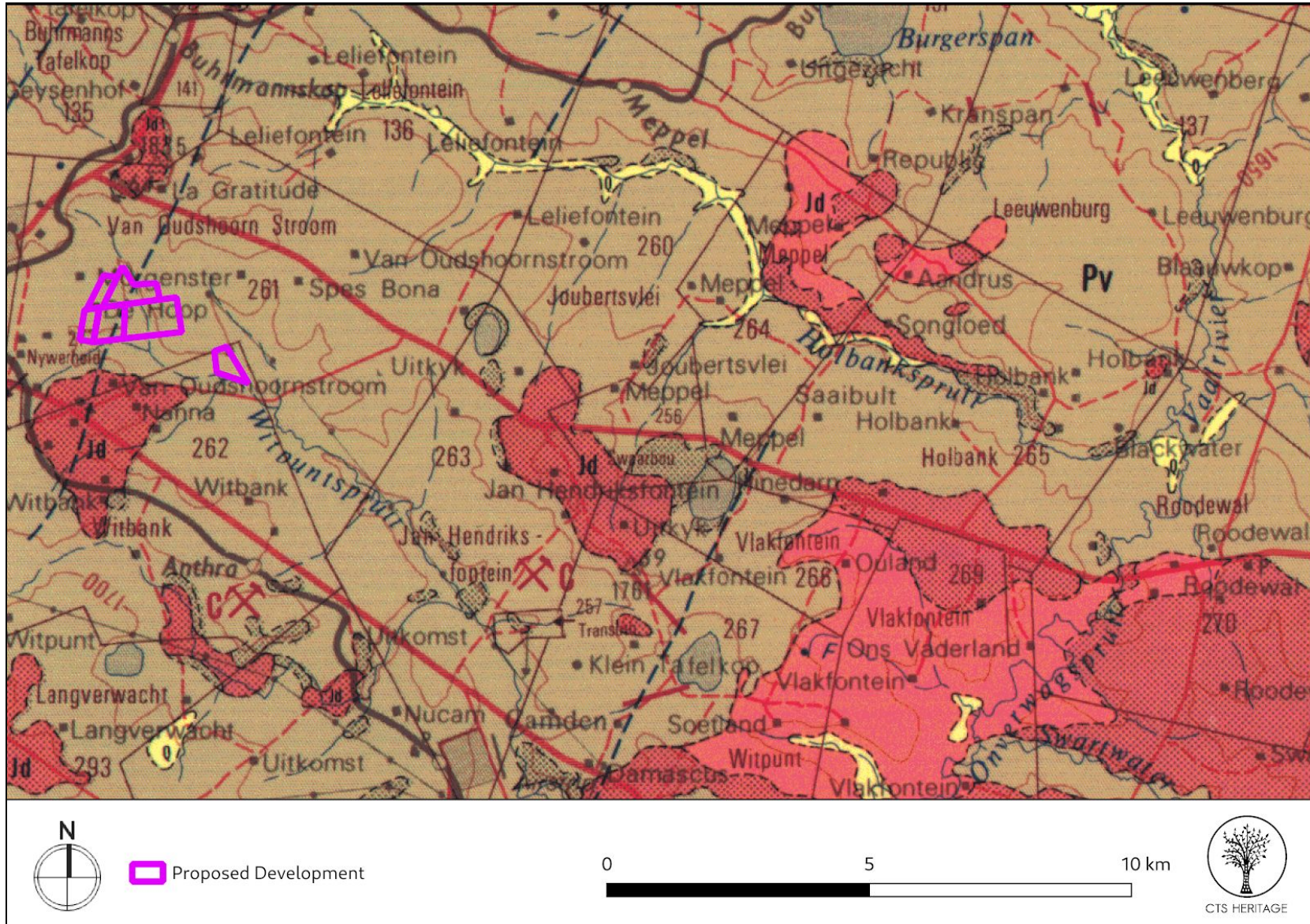
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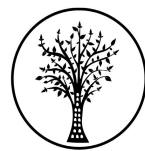


**Figure 5. Geology Map.** Indicating the underlying geology across the study area through overlaying the geology maps from the CGS series 2630 Mbabane (Pv: Vryheid Formation of the Ecca Group; Jd: Jurassic Dolerite)

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## 8. Heritage statement and character of the area

This application is for the proposed development of a coal mine on the Farm Van Oudtshoornstroom located just outside of Ermelo in Mpumalanga. The town of Ermelo was established by a Reverend of the Dutch Reformed Church in 1880. Interestingly, in 1901, the town was reduced to a single standing home by the British during the Second Boer War. The town was rebuilt in 1903. According to Birkholtz (2010), “The Bellevue coal mine was opened in this year. On 7 July 1916 the Bellevue Colliers Company Limited was registered (Lombard, 1980). The mine is approximately 1.3 km north-west of the study area.” As such, coal mining activities have a long history in this area.

Prior to settler occupation, this area of Mpumalanga was occupied by indigenous communities of South Africa, including the Khoe and San, as well as Late Iron Age peoples. According to the report completed by Birkholtz (2010), “Lombard (1980) states that corbelled stone huts (which are also associated with the Late Iron Age) are found on the farms Tafelkop 270 and Middelplaat 271. These farms are located some 14 kilometres north-west of the present study area. According to Huffmann (2007) corbelled stone huts appear to be associated with the so-called Type V Iron Age sites. These Type V settlements date from the period 1700 to 1850. Lombard (1980) also mentions a Late Iron Age group he refers to as the Nhlapo people and indicates that when the first white people came to stay in the Ermelo district they already found the Nhlapo people in the vicinity of Maviristad. Myburgh (1956) refers to the followers of George Nhlapo who resided on the farm Witbank in the Ermelo District. It is presently not exactly certain whether this farm is the farm Witbank located directly south of the farm Van Oudtshoorn Stroom.”

In 2010, Birkholtz conducted an HIA for a proposed colliery on a neighbouring property (Figure 2, NID 8163), and using historical maps, he identified a number of heritage resources on the Van Oudtshoornstroom Farm including the original farmstead of Van Oudshoornstroom. This site is located north of the study area near the south-western foot of the hill known as Tafelkop. The second farmstead identified by Birkholtz (2010) is located some distance south-east of the study area. It was owned at the time by M.E. Pretorius and was the farmhouse for a section of the farm known as ‘Uitkyk’. A number of secondary roads are shown crossing over the farm and one wagon road is also shown north of the study area. Other significant heritage resources known from this area (Figures 3a to 3e and Appendix 1) include a number of burial grounds and graves. Based on the information available for this area, it is likely that the proposed development of the colliery will negatively impact significant archaeological resources and burial grounds and graves.

According to the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map, the area proposed for development is located within an area of very high palaeontological sensitivity (Figure 4). The geology of the area proposed for development consists of the Vryheid Formation of the Ecca Group with outcrops of Jurassic Dolerite (Figure 5). According to the SAHRIS Fossil Heritage Browser, the Vryheid Formation is known for its abundant plant fossils of Glossopteris and other plants including lycopods, rare ferns and horsetails, abundant glossopterids, cordaitaleans, conifers, ginkgoaleans, rare fossil wood and diverse palynomorphs. In addition, abundant, low diversity trace fossils, rare insects, possible conchostracans, non-marine bivalves and fish scales have been found within this formation. As such, it is likely that the proposed colliery development will impact significant palaeontological heritage resources.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**As it is likely that any proposed development will impact significant heritage resources, it is recommended that a Heritage Impact Assessment be conducted that assesses impacts to these significant archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources.**

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## APPENDIX 1

### List of heritage resources within the 10km Inclusion Zone from SAHRIS

Site ID	Site no	Full Site Name	Site Type	Grading
45972	JOUB004	Joubertsvlei 004	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
26939	9/2/222/0020	Old Residency, 34 Taute Street, Ermelo	Building	Grade IIIb
87597	SKC049	Spitzkop Colliery 049	Building	Grade IIIb
87601	SKC052	Spitzkop Colliery 052	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
87602	SKC053	Spitzkop Colliery 053	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
91523	MEPP007	Meppel/Joubertsvlei 007	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
91522	MEPP006	Meppel/Joubertsvlei 006	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
87294	VOC001	Van Ouds Colliery 001	Building	Grade IIIc
91521	MEPP005	Meppel/Joubertsvlei 005	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
87295	VOC002	Van Ouds Colliery 002	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
91520	MEPP004	Meppel/Joubertsvlei 004	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
129885	LNW001	LANGVERWACHT 001	Building	Grade IIIc
129886	LNW002	Langverwacht 002	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
35813	VUN006	Vunene Mining 006	Structures	Grade IIIc
35814	VUN007	Vunene Mining 007	Structures	Grade IIIc
35815	VUN008	Vunene Mining 008	Structures	Grade IIIc
35816	VUN009	Vunene Mining 009	Structures	Grade IIIc
35817	VUN010	Vunene Mining 010	Structures	Grade IIIc
87531	SKC001	Spitzkop Colliery 001	Building	Grade IIIb
35825	VUN017	Vunene Mining 017	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
87296	VOC003	Van Ouds Colliery 003	Building	Grade IIIa

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45973	JOUB005	Joubertsvlei 005	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
45974	JOUB006	Joubertsvlei 006	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
45975	JOUB007	Joubertsvlei 007	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
35807	VUN001	Vunene Mining 001	Structures	Grade IIIc
35809	VUN002	Vunene Mining 002	Structures	Grade IIIc
35810	VUN003	Vunene Mining 003	Structures	Grade IIIc
35811	VUN004	Vunene Mining 004	Structures	Grade IIIc
35812	VUN005	Vunene Mining 005	Structures	Grade IIIc
91519	MEPP003	Meppel/Joubertsvlei 003	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
64904	RIETS001	RIETSPRUIT 437/ 001	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
64909	RIETS003	RIETSPRUIT 437/ 003	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
64911	RIETS004	RIETSPRUIT 437/ 004	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
64913	RIETS005	RIETSPRUIT 437/ 005	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
64906	RIETS002	RIETSPRUIT 437/ 002	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa
45971	JOUB003	Joubertsvlei 003	Burial Grounds & Graves	Grade IIIa

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## APPENDIX 2 Reference List

Heritage Impact Assessments				
Nid	Report Type	Author/s	Date	Title
5829	HIA Phase 1	Polke Birkholtz	02/04/2008	Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the Lothier Siding for Golfview Mining (Pty) Ltd. on the Farm Leliefontein 136 IT Portion 6 in the Vicinity of Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa
5014	AIA Phase 1	Julius CC Pistorius	01/06/2007	A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Study for the Proposed New 88 kV Power Line Running from the Majuba Power Station near Amersfoort to the Camden Power Station near Ermelo in the Mpumalanga Province
108270	AIA Phase 1	Tobias Coetzee		ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Vunene Mining
16357	AIA Phase 1	Anton van Vollenhoven	01/06/2012	A Report on a Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed opencast Coal Mine on the farms Joubertsvei 260IT and Meppel 264It close to Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province.
152426	PIA Desktop	John E Almond	31/10/2013	RECOMMENDED EXEMPTION FROM FURTHER PALAEOLOGICAL STUDIES: PROPOSED AGGREGATE MINE ON PORTION 7 OF FARM ROODEPOORT 435 NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA
145653	AIA Phase 1	Munyadziwa Magoma	30/05/2011	PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT OF 5760 STANDS ON PORTION 6 OF FARM RIETSPRUIT 437-IS IN ERMELO REGION WITHIN MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROV
163823	HIA Phase 1	Udo Kusel	24/02/2014	CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 89 OF THE FARM NOOITGEDACHT 268 IT ERMELO MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
152427	AIA Phase 1	Jaco van der Walt	31/10/2013	Archaeological Impact Assessment For the proposed Mine on De Roodepoort 435, IS, Mpumalanga Province
182469	AIA Phase 1	Christine Van Wyk Rowe	21/11/2014	Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage impact assessment for the proposed Bahlangene residential township establishment on portion 2 of the farm Langverwacht 293, Ermelo, Mpumalanga province
133732	HIA Phase 1	Johnny Van Schalkwyk	29/01/2014	Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the development of the proposed Ermelo Ring Road, Mpumalanga Province
114858	HIA Phase 1	Stephan Gaigher	13/12/2011	First Phase Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Extension to the Camden Ash Disposal Facilities
162098	HIA Phase 1	Johnny Van Schalkwyk	01/09/2013	Cultural heritage impact assessment for THE PROPOSED SWAZILAND RAIL LINK, WESTERN SECTION, MPUMALANGA REGION
164316	Palaeontologi	Gideon Groenewald	16/02/2014	Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed upgrade of the Golela to Nsezi Line in KwaZulu - Natal

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	cal Specialist Reports			Province.
164257	Palaeontological Specialist Reports	Gideon Groenewald	15/02/2014	Paleontological desktop assessment for the proposed upgrade of the Davel to Nerston Rail Line in the Mpumalanga Province
8163	AIA Phase 1	Polke Birkholtz	28/06/2010	Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment proposed establishments of the Van Ouds Colliery on portions 20, 23, 32 and 51 of the farm Van Oudshoornstroom 261-IT, in the vicinity of Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province.

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## APPENDIX 3 - Keys/Guides

### Key/Guide to Acronyms

<b>AIA</b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment
<b>DARD</b>	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (KwaZulu-Natal)
<b>DEA</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs (National)
<b>DEADP</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (Western Cape)
<b>DEDEAT</b>	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Eastern Cape)
<b>DEDECT</b>	Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (North West)
<b>DEDT</b>	Department of Economic Development and Tourism (Mpumalanga)
<b>DEDTEA</b>	Department of economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (Free State)
<b>DENC</b>	Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (Northern Cape)
<b>DMR</b>	Department of Mineral Resources (National)
<b>GDARD</b>	Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Gauteng)
<b>HIA</b>	Heritage Impact Assessment
<b>LEDET</b>	Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (Limpopo)
<b>MPRDA</b>	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, no 28 of 2002
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998
<b>NHRA</b>	National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999
<b>PIA</b>	Palaeontological Impact Assessment
<b>SAHRA</b>	South African Heritage Resources Agency
<b>SAHRIS</b>	South African Heritage Resources Information System
<b>VIA</b>	Visual Impact Assessment

### Full guide to Palaeosensitivity Map legend

	<b>RED:</b>	VERY HIGH - field assessment and protocol for finds is required
	<b>ORANGE/YELLOW:</b>	HIGH - desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
	<b>GREEN:</b>	MODERATE - desktop study is required
	<b>BLUE/PURPLE:</b>	LOW - no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for chance finds is required
	<b>GREY:</b>	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO - no palaeontological studies are required
	<b>WHITE/CLEAR:</b>	UNKNOWN - these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study.

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## APPENDIX 4 - Methodology

The Heritage Screener summarises the heritage impact assessments and studies previously undertaken within the area of the proposed development and its surroundings. Heritage resources identified in these reports are assessed by our team during the screening process.

The heritage resources will be described both in terms of **type**:

- Group 1: Archaeological, Underwater, Palaeontological and Geological sites, Meteorites, and Battlefields
- Group 2: Structures, Monuments and Memorials
- Group 3: Burial Grounds and Graves, Living Heritage, Sacred and Natural sites
- Group 4: Cultural Landscapes, Conservation Areas and Scenic routes

and **significance** (Grade I, II, IIIa, b or c, ungraded), as determined by the author of the original heritage impact assessment report or by formal grading and/or protection by the heritage authorities.

Sites identified and mapped during research projects will also be considered.

### DETERMINATION OF THE EXTENT OF THE INCLUSION ZONE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION

The extent of the inclusion zone to be considered for the Heritage Screener will be determined by CTS based on:

- the size of the development,
- the number and outcome of previous surveys existing in the area
- the potential cumulative impact of the application.

The inclusion zone will be considered as the region within a maximum distance of 50 km from the boundary of the proposed development.

### DETERMINATION OF THE PALAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The possible impact of the proposed development on palaeontological resources is gauged by:

- reviewing the fossil sensitivity maps available on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS)
- considering the nature of the proposed development
- when available, taking information provided by the applicant related to the geological background of the area into account

### DETERMINATION OF THE COVERAGE RATING ASCRIBED TO A REPORT POLYGON

Each report assessed for the compilation of the Heritage Screener is colour-coded according to the level of coverage accomplished. The extent of the surveyed coverage is labeled in three categories, namely low, medium and high. In most instances the extent of the map corresponds to the extent of the development for which the specific report was undertaken.

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**Low coverage** will be used for:

- desktop studies where no field assessment of the area was undertaken;
- reports where the sites are listed and described but no GPS coordinates were provided.
- older reports with GPS coordinates with low accuracy ratings;
- reports where the entire property was mapped, but only a small/limited area was surveyed.
- uploads on the National Inventory which are not properly mapped.

**Medium coverage** will be used for

- reports for which a field survey was undertaken but the area was not extensively covered. This may apply to instances where some impediments did not allow for full coverage such as thick vegetation, etc.
- reports for which the entire property was mapped, but only a specific area was surveyed thoroughly. This is differentiated from low ratings listed above when these surveys cover up to around 50% of the property.

**High coverage** will be used for

- reports where the area highlighted in the map was extensively surveyed as shown by the GPS track coordinates. This category will also apply to permit reports.

## RECOMMENDATION GUIDE

The Heritage Screener includes a set of recommendations to the applicant based on whether an impact on heritage resources is anticipated. One of three possible recommendations is formulated:

**(1) The heritage resources in the area proposed for development are sufficiently recorded** - The surveys undertaken in the area adequately captured the heritage resources. There are no known sites which require mitigation or management plans. No further heritage work is recommended for the proposed development.

This recommendation is made when:

- enough work has been undertaken in the area
- it is the professional opinion of CTS that the area has already been assessed adequately from a heritage perspective for the type of development proposed

**(2) The heritage resources and the area proposed for development are only partially recorded** - The surveys undertaken in the area have not adequately captured the heritage resources and/or there are sites which require mitigation or management plans. Further specific heritage work is recommended for the proposed development.

This recommendation is made in instances in which there are already some studies undertaken in the area and/or in the adjacent area for the proposed development. Further studies in a limited HIA may include:

- improvement on some components of the heritage assessments already undertaken, for instance with a renewed field survey and/or with a specific specialist for the type of heritage resources expected in the area
- compilation of a report for a component of a heritage impact assessment not already undertaken in the area

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- undertaking mitigation measures requested in previous assessments/records of decision.

**(3) The heritage resources within the area proposed for the development have not been adequately surveyed yet - Few or no surveys have been undertaken in the area proposed for development. A full Heritage Impact Assessment with a detailed field component is recommended for the proposed development.**

**Note:**

The responsibility for generating a response detailing the requirements for the development lies with the heritage authority. However, since the methodology utilised for the compilation of the Heritage Screeners is thorough and consistent, contradictory outcomes to the recommendations made by CTS should rarely occur. Should a discrepancy arise, CTS will immediately take up the matter with the heritage authority to clarify the dispute.

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