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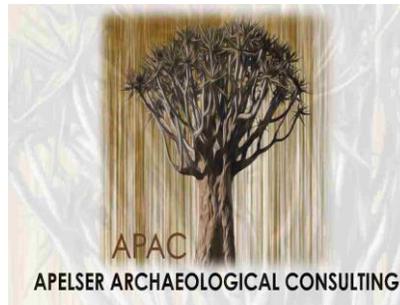
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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

APAC020/99

2020-11-03

Reference: Case ID 15227

To: Mr. Andrew Salomon
South African Heritage Resources Agency

RE: MOTIVATION FOR FULL PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) EXEMPTION FOR THE ERF 4232 EERSTERUST EXTENSION 6 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE GREATER TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd to provide a Motivation from Full Phase 1 HIA for the Erf 4232 Eersterust Extension 6 Housing Development.

Background to the Project

Phumaf Holdings was appointed by the Department of Human Settlements to assist with all preplanning, planning, design and construction of the Eersterust Extension 6 Housing Development. Phumaf subsequently appointed K2M Environmental to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the Eersterust Extension 6 Housing Development.

Erf 4232 of the Eersterust Extension 6 Township makes up the project area. This property forms part of the Gauteng Rapid Land Release Programme which is aimed at fast tracking the release of State-owned land for development.

“In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, (Act No. 25 of 1999), heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that prior to development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contact an accredited specialist (see the web site of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists: www.asapa.org.za) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large

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development takes place. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in Section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources, or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. Please note that a nationwide fossil sensitivity map is available on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) to assist applicants with determining the fossil sensitivity of a study area.

If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority motivating for exemption from having to undertake further heritage assessments. Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed”

Last mentioned option was decided on for this project which included a desktop study and site visit as part of the assessment.

Relevant Legislation

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act No.107 of 1998), as amended.

The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artefacts, structures and sites older than 100 years;
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography;
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts;
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years;
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years;
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites;
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years;
- h. Meteorites and fossils; and
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes;
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance;
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance;
- g. Graves and burial grounds;
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery; and
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.).

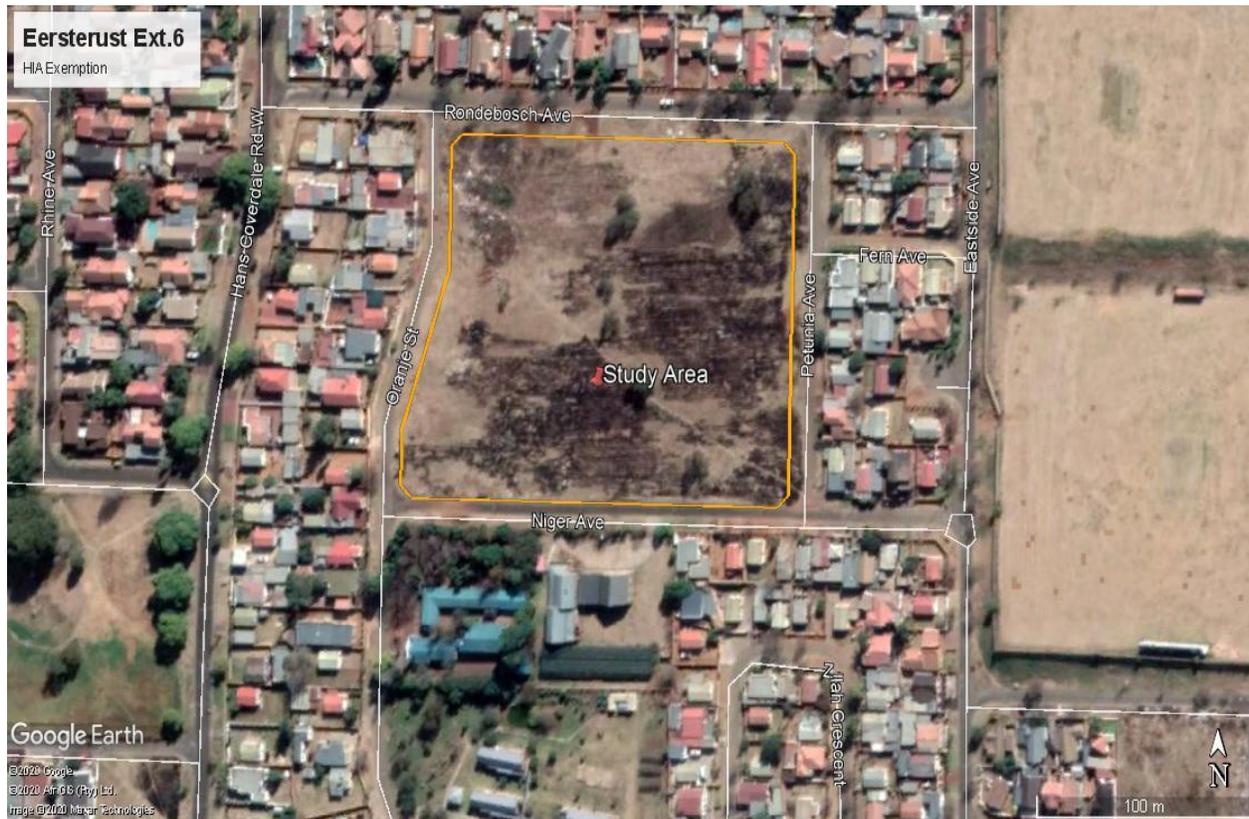


Figure 2: Closer view of study area location and footprint (Google Earth 2020).

Results of Desktop Study & Site Visit

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

- Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago
- Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago
- Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

There are no known Stone Age sites in the study area, and no artifacts from that period were identified during the site assessment. The closest known Stone Age sites are those of the well-known Early Stone Age site at Wonderboompoort and a number of sites in the Magaliesberg area (Bergh 1999: 4). Middle Stone Age material has been identified at Erasmusrand and the Groenkloof Nature Reserve (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 183). At the Erasmusrand cave some Late Stone Age tools were also identified as well as at Groenkloof (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 184). LSA material has also been found at Zwartkops and Hennops River (Bergh 1999: 4). This last phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people. If any Stone Age artefacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single, out of context, stone tools. Urbanization over the last 150 years or so would have destroyed any evidence if indeed it did exist.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artefacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999:96-98), namely:

- Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

According to Delius (1983: 12) and Horn (1996: 23) LIA people moved into the Pretoria area after 1600 A.D. No Early Iron Age sites are known in the larger geographical area of Pretoria, while Later Iron Age sites do occur in the Pretoria area (Bergh 1999: 7). The closest known LIA sites are at Silver Lakes and near Mamelodi on the farm Hatherley (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996). These sites are related to the Manala Ndebele (Bergh 1999: 10) who was present in the area at the time when the first Europeans arrived here during the mid-19th century.

Iron Age occupation of the area did not start much before the 1500s. By that time, groups of Tswana and Ndebele speaking people were moving into the area, occupying the different hills and outcrops, using the ample resources such as grazing, game and metal ores. During the early decades of the 19th century, the Tswana- and Ndebele-speakers were dislodged by the Matabele of Mzilikazi. Internal strife caused Mzilikazi, a general of King Shaka, and his followers to move away from the area between the Thukela and Mfolozi River (KwaZulu-Natal). Eventually, after a sojourn in the Sekhukhuneland area, followed by a short stay in the middle reaches of the Vaal River, they settled north of the Magaliesberg. One of three main settlements established by them, eKungwini, was on the banks of the Apies River, just north of Wonderboompoort.

It is a well-established fact that the stone walled sites on various farms in the larger area around the east of Pretoria and the Bronberge were inhabited mainly by the southern Ndebele. The former were most probably among the earliest Nguni-speaking people in the immediate area north of the Magaliesberg range north of Pretoria. During the rule of a chief named Musi, they split into five separate migrating groups, namely the Manala, Ndzundza, Kekana, Mhwaduba and Sibasa sections (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996:47-48). The Manala settled over a wide area towards the east of present-day Pretoria.

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans to move through and into the area were the groups of Schoon and McLuckie and the missionaries Archbell and Moffat in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12). They were followed by others such as Andrew Smith (1835), Cornwallis Harris (1836) and David Livingstone in 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13). These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers and Pretoria was established in 1855 (Bergh 1999: 14-17).

According to Wikipedia Eersterust was created by the government of the apartheid era, which allocated and relocated people of the Coloured race group to this area. It was laid out in 1962 on the farm Vlakfontein. The name of Eersterust is clouded in mystery. Some say it is named after the mail-coach route that went to Lydenburg during the gold rush—this being the first stop—while others speculate that it might have been the first township for coloured people established in the area (www.wikipedia.org).

A site visit was undertaken on the 31st of October 2020. The study and proposed development area is surrounded by urban developments that include housing, businesses and other related activities. Related infrastructure such as roads has also impacted on the area and as such the original natural and historical landscape has been altered extensively. The study area itself is flat and open, with informal/illegal dumping of household refuse and building material occurring in sections. No sites, structures or material of cultural heritage origin or significance were identified on the property. If any did occur here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result of recent historical activities.

A 2001 aerial image of the property (Google Earth) shows that there were no visible sites or structures present in the area at that point. It is therefore highly likely that if any did exist here prior that time that it was destroyed.



Figure 3: 2001 aerial image of the property (Google Earth 2020).



Figure 4: View of a section of the area. Note the houses surrounding the area as well as the informal dumping that occurs in parts.



Figure 5: Another general view of the property.



Figure 6: Although grass cover was relatively dense visibility was good on the ground.



Figure 7: General view of the study area.

Conclusions & Recommendations

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd to provide a Motivation from Full Phase 1 HIA for the Erf 4232 Eersterust Extension 6 Housing Development.

Phumaf Holdings was appointed by the Department of Human Settlements to assist with all preplanning, planning, design and construction of the Eersterust Extension 6 Housing Development. Phumaf subsequently appointed K2M Environmental to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed development.

The study and development area is located on Erf 4232 in Eersterust, in the Greater Tshwane area of Gauteng. The total extent of the project area is approximately 2.6Ha in extent and is situated within Ward 43 of the City of Tshwane. The site is surrounded by formal housing and is adjacent to the Eersterust Care and Training Centre to the south and the Eersterust Cricket Club to the far east.

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It is clear from the site visit conducted and from aerial images of the study area (Google Earth) that the study area has been extensively altered from its original landscape by recent activities that would have included agricultural and urban development.

It is therefore concluded that the likelihood of any sites, features or material of cultural heritage significance being present in the study and development area is very low and that there should therefore be no impact on any sites through the proposed development actions. It is therefore recommended that Exemption for a Full Phase 1 HIA be provided for the proposed Erf 4232 Eersterust Extension 6 Housing Development.

However, the subterranean nature of cultural heritage resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should always be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

Should there be any questions or comments on the contents of this document please contact the author as soon as possible.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anton Pelser', written in a cursive style.

Anton Pelser

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