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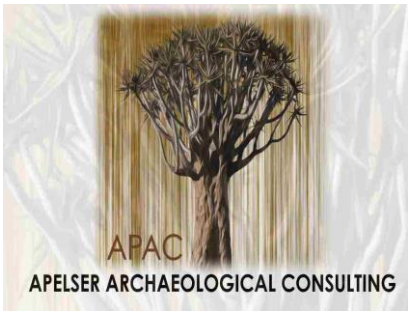

Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters

CK 2006/014630/23 VAT NO.: 4360226270

APAC020/100 **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 ERVEN 710 & 711 WELTEVREDENPARK EXTENSION 4 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE JOHANNESBURG 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 Erven 710 & 711 Weltevredenpark Extension 4 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 Weltervreden Park Extension 4 Housing Development. Phumaf subsequently appointed K2M Environmental to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the Weltervreden Park Extension 4 Housing Development.

Erf 710 and Erf 711 of the Weltervreden Park Extension 4 Township make up the project area. These two properties form 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 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 viewscapes 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 Legalisation

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.).

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources.

According to Section 38 (1) of the Act, an HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length.
b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.
d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m².
e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of the SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

Description of the Study Area

The study and development area is located on Erven 710 & 711 in Weltevredenpark, in the Johannesburg Municipal area of Gauteng. The total extent of the project area is approximately 3.5Ha in extent and is located within Ward 89 of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. The site is surrounded by existing households and a Fuel Station located to the north of the project area. Access to site can be via Lemoendoring Street, Sewetjie Street, Scooter Street and Jim Fouche Road. The project area is located within an urban area.

The proposed housing development is aimed at providing suitable housing to beneficiaries within the City of Johannesburg. The project entails the simultaneous consolidation, rezoning and subdivision of erven 710 and 711 into Residential 4 for high density housing development. The proposed development will entail the removal of vegetation for the purpose of constructing:

- Approximately 168 housing units.
- Internal water reticulation. The pipe sizes, material and class will be a minimum of 110mm mPVC class 16.
- Internal sewage reticulation network and upgrade of existing sewer network. The pipes will be 160 mm diameter uPVC (heavy duty) Class 34 and the manholes will be 1000mm to 1500mm diameter precast rings with concrete covers.
- Internal roads as well as stormwater infrastructure. The minimum sizes of stormwater pipes will be 450mm and 600mm diameter with a total length of 0.95 km.
- Internal MV and LV electricity reticulation.

The project area is currently vacant. However, there is informal trading that is taking place on a small portion of the site. The topography of the area is flat & open with no rocky outcrops or ridges present. Although some tree and grass cover occurs visibility was good on the ground during the site visit. In the historical past the area would possibly have been used for agricultural purposes. This, and recent urban developments, would have extensively impacted on the study area. If any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree.

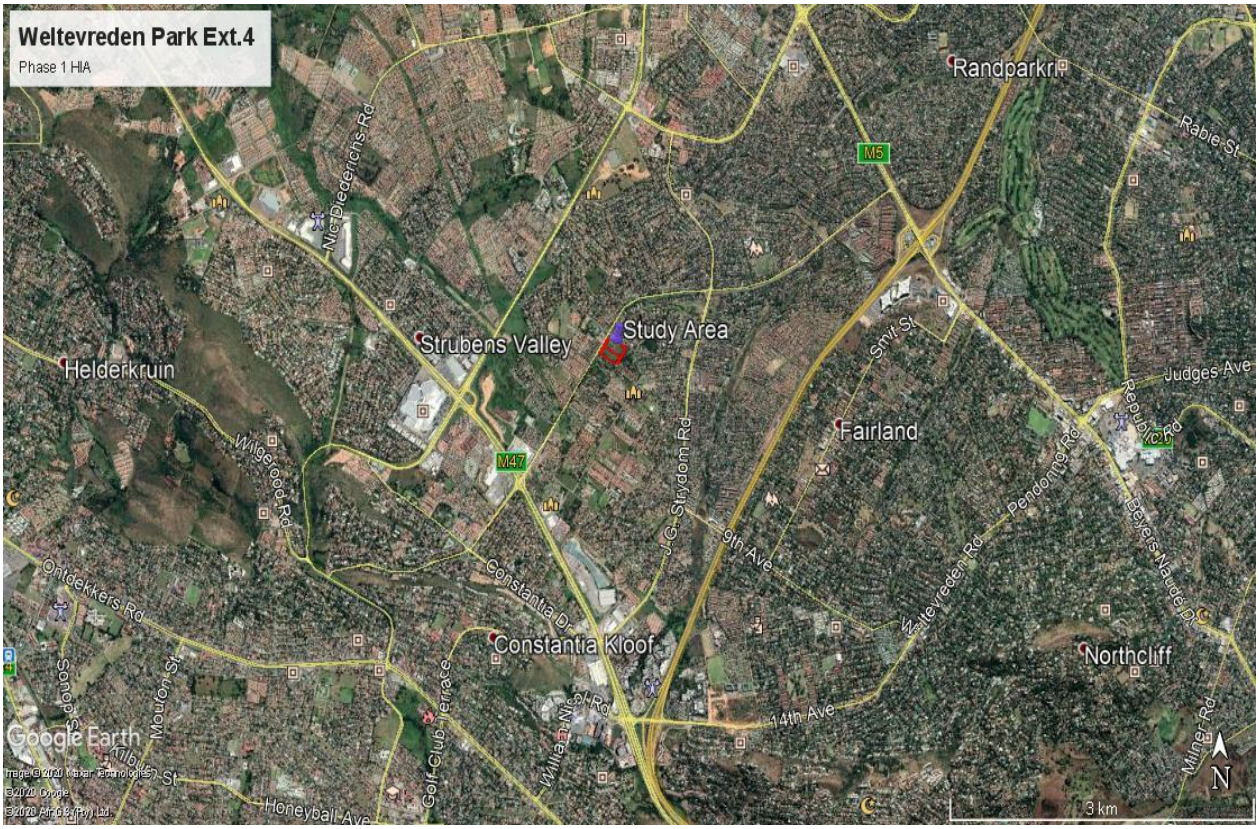

Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2020).

Figure 2: Closer view of study area and development 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).

No known Stone Age sites or artifacts are present in the area. The closest known Stone Age sites are those at Asvoelkop, Melvillekoppies, Linksfield and Primrose (Bergh 1999: 4). Records indicate that stone tools dating to the Early and Middle Stone Age occurred all over, for example in the Primrose Ridge area in adjacent Germiston, as well as at Henley-On-Klip (Van Schalkwyk 2014: 9). 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.

No Stone Age sites or material (stone tools) were identified in the study area during the site visit.

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.

No Early Iron Age sites are known in the area (Bergh 1999: 6). The closest known LIA sites are at Melvillekoppies and Bruma Lake (Bergh 1999: 7). The occupation of the larger geographical area (including the study area) did not start much before the 1500s. By the 16th century things changed, with the climate becoming warmer and wetter, creating condition that allowed Late Iron Age (LIA) farmers to occupy areas previously unsuitable, for example the Witwatersrand in the region of Klipriviersberg. Here, a large number of settlements dating to the Later Iron Age occur and, according to Huffman et al (2006/2007) these sites can be related to the Bafokeng people (Van Schalkwyk 2014: 10).

No Iron Age occurrences were identified in the study area during the site assessment.

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 group of Cornwallis Harris in 1836 (Bergh 1999: 13).

These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 14). White settlers moved into the area during the first half of the 19th century. They were largely self-sufficient, basing their survival on cattle/sheep farming and hunting. Few towns were established and it remained an undeveloped area until the discovery of gold and later of coal. From early days this region was subjected to intense gold mining activities. The result is that most sites and features of heritage significance in the larger region derive from this development (Van Schalkwyk 2014: 10).

Weltevredenpark is part of Roodepoort. In 1884, brothers Fred and Harry Struben, having discovered gold on the farm Wilgespruit at the western end of the Witwatersrand, were granted concessions to mine the

area. When George Harrison's find at Langlaagte came to light and gold fever took hold, the Strubens brothers were joined by a swarm of gold diggers. Other areas such as Maraisburg were prospected and mined by A.P. Marais and at Florida, the owners were van der Hoven, Bantjies and Lys. Though the Struben brothers' Confidence Reef bore little gold and their mine was unprofitable, the ramshackle town that grew around it became the Roodepoort Municipality in 1904. Incorporating the towns of Hamburg, Florida and Maraisburg, Roodepoort became a city in 1977 (www.wikipedia.org).

A site visit was undertaken in November 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 some dumping of building material occurring in sections. As indicated some informal trading also occurs on a small section of the study area.

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.

Earlier aerial imagery of the property (Google Earth) shows that there were no visible sites or structures present in the area between 2007 and 2020. If any did exist here it would have been destroyed prior to 2007.

Figure 3: The study area in 2007 (Google Earth 2020).

Figure 4: The same area in 2017 (Google Earth 2020).

Figure 5: General view of the study area.

Figure 6: Another view showing the surrounding urban housing.

Figure 7: A view showing some businesses next to the site (Sasol Fuel Station).

Figure 8: A further view. Note the building rubble & the people trading.

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 Erven 710 & 711 Weltevredenpark Extension 4 Housing Development.

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The study and development area is located on Erven 710 & 711 in Weltevredenpark, in the Johannesburg Municipal area of Gauteng. The total extent of the project area is approximately 3.5Ha in extent and is located within Ward 89 of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.

The project area is currently vacant. However, there is informal trading that is taking place on a small portion of the site. The topography of the area is flat & open with no rocky outcrops or ridges present. Although some tree and grass cover occurs visibility was good on the ground during the site visit. In the historical past the area would possibly have been used for agricultural purposes. This, and recent urban developments, would have extensively impacted on the study area.

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Earlier aerial imagery of the property (Google Earth) shows that there were no visible sites or structures present in the area between 2007 and 2020. If any did exist here it would have been destroyed prior to 2007.

Based on the site assessment and aerial images it is 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 Erven 710 & 711 Weltevredenpark Extension 4 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

Anton Pelser

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