



HERITAGE

Contracts and Archaeological Consulting

Ref: Provincial Archive Centre - Fourways

29 March, 2014
SAHRA - APM Unit
PO Box 437
Cape Town
8000

Attention: Mr. Andrew Salomon

Dear Andrew

RE: Provincial Archive Centre on Holding 21 of the Kildrummy AH in Fourways.

Background

Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation is proposing to construct a new provincial archive centre on Holding 21 of the Kildrummy AH in Fourways, Johannesburg. The proposed project site for the archive centre is an undeveloped piece of land measuring approximately 1.6 ha. The site is surrounded by intensively developed residential areas. The archive centre will consist of a building that will host the government's industrial records and will allow for the organisation and storage of these records as well as the utilisation of the information.

The proposed project requires a Basic Assessment (BA) in terms of the National Environmental Management (NEMA), No 107 of 1998 and the EIA regulations (Government Notice R.543 to 546, published in June 2010). As part of the BA process HCAC was asked to evaluate and identify potential impacts of the proposed construction from a Heritage point of view.

The study area

The proposed archive centre is located on Holding 21 of the Kildrummy AH (Figure 1). The study area is vacant (Figure 2) with manicured lawns. The following infrastructure and activities will be undertaken for the project that might have a negative impact on heritage resources in the study area:

- Earth works;
- Proposed construction of an archive centre with associated infrastructure.

The site is vacant and levelled possibly part of earth works for residential development in the area, no buildings or ruins occur on site and the densely urban area together with road and infrastructure construction would have impacted on any surface indicators of heritage sites (Figure 3-10).

An enlarged section of the 2628 AA sheet of the 1:50 000 topographical map that was drawn in 1943 also shows no features within the study area before, apart from a dirt track (Figure 11). Therefore no impact is expected on the built environment. From an archaeological point of view no Iron Age sites are on record or expected for the study area. One open air Later Stone Age site is on record to the north for the farm Zevenfontein (Wits archaeological database) but is not in close proximity to the proposed archive centre. Based on the extensive disturbance to the area it is also expected that no *in-situ* Stone Age sites occur in the study area. Other CRM projects in the area (van Schalkwyk 2004) also recorded no sites of significance. Again due to the disturbed character of the site no surface indicators of any possible grave sites are expected.

Potential archaeological impacts resulting from all phases of the project is considered to be low. Similarly the likelihood of any impact to the palaeontology of the area is considered to be extremely low (SAHRA palaeontological sensitivity map referenced 2013).

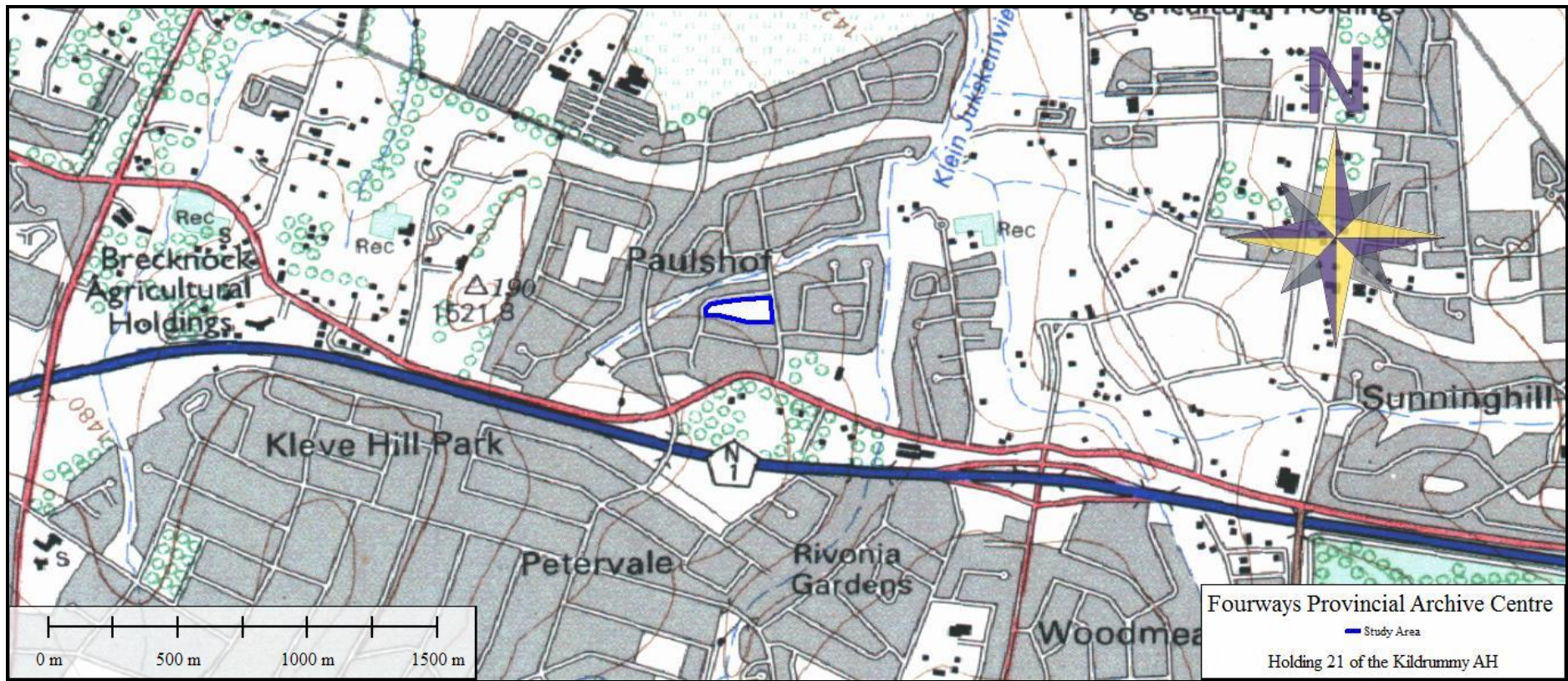


Figure 1: Location Map

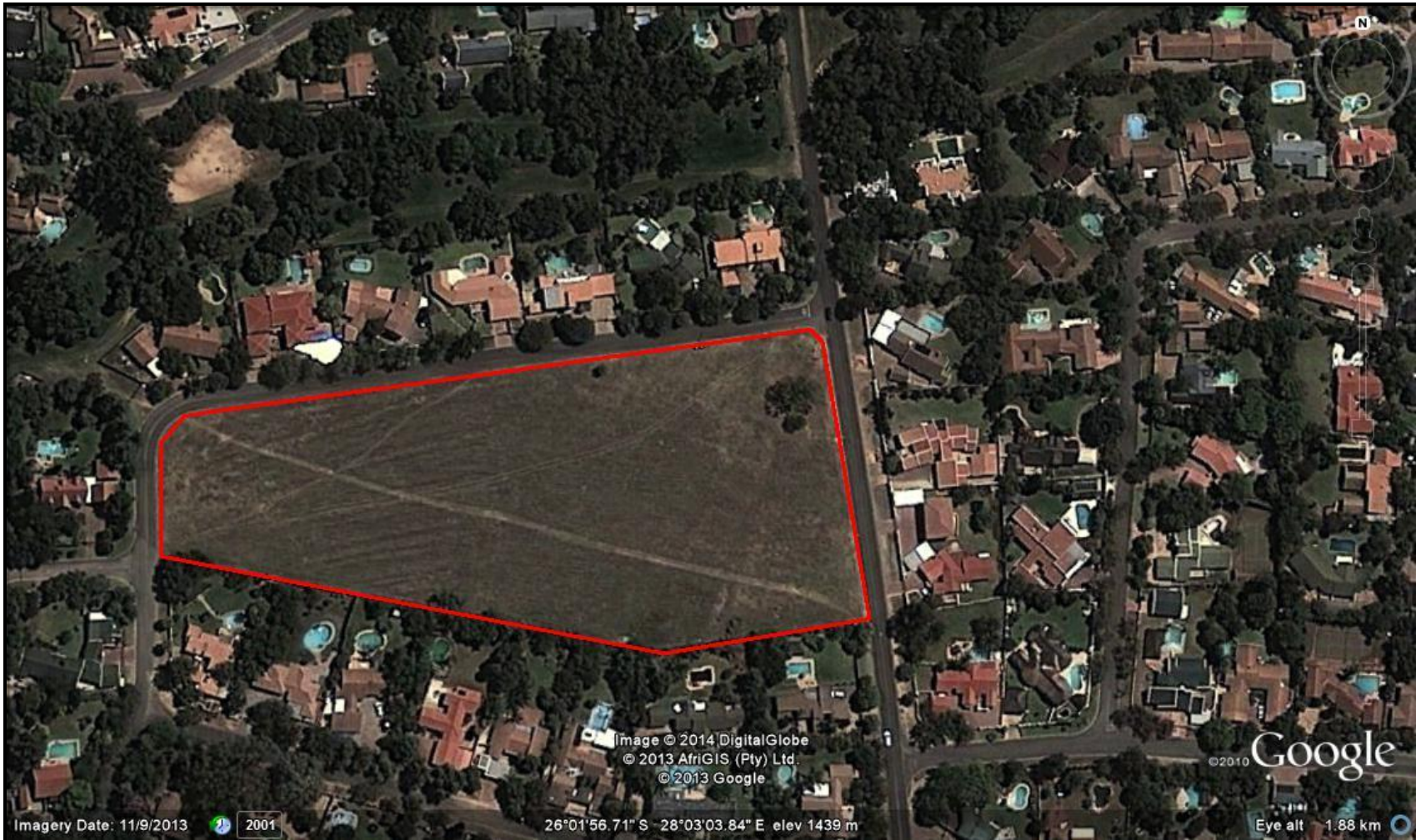


Figure 2: Google Image of the area



Figure 3: Southern portion of study area



Figure 4: Southern portion of study area



Figure 5: Northern portion of the study area viewed from the south



Figure 6: Easter portion of study area viewed from the south

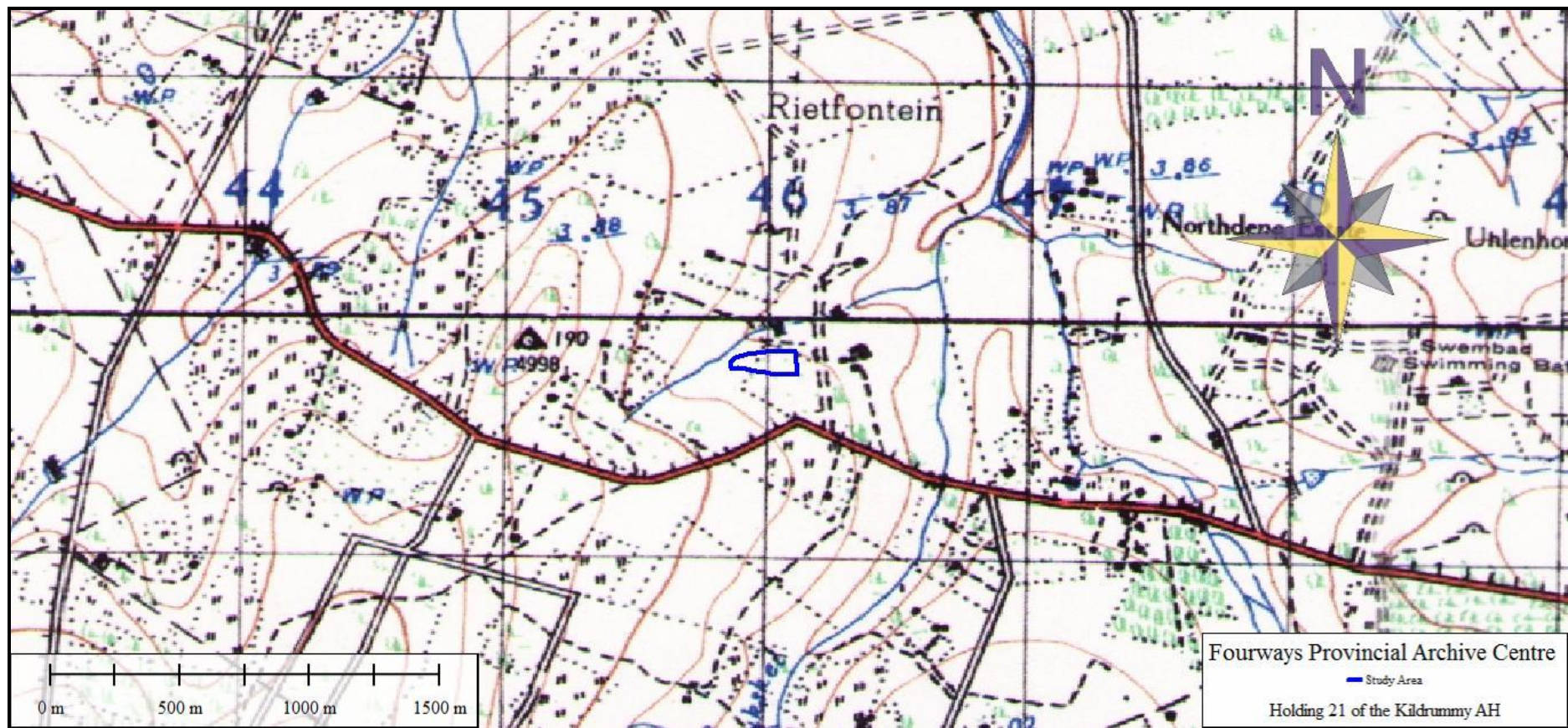


Figure 7: Enlarged section of the 2628 AA sheet of the 1:50 000 topographical map that was drawn in 1943.

Conclusion

Methale Environmental Consulting has been appointed as the independent environmental consultants, to undertake the required Basic Assessment process for the project to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, and to propose appropriate mitigation and management measures as part of an Environmental Management Programme (EMP). They subsequently requested heritage input to identify potential impacts.

From a heritage perspective the site does not warrant a full Phase 1 study as it is anticipated that there is no archaeological sites, cultural heritage sites, historic structures, burial grounds or isolated artefacts likely to be present on the affected landscape, due to the disturbed nature of the site. As such, we support the recommendation that the project be exempted from any archaeological assessment studies or palaeontological studies. In the unlikely event that any sites might occur within the proposed site the following recommendations are to be included in the EMP and are the responsibility of the ECO of the project to implement these:

- If during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

If the above mentioned recommendations are adhered to we support the application for exemption from a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment and Palaeontological study.

Any further queries can be forwarded to Jaco van der Walt on Cell: +27 82 373 8491 or to jaco.heritage@gmail.com



Jaco van der Walt
Archaeologist
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References

NEMA

SAHRIS (www.sahra.org.za)

Van Schalkwyk, J. 2004. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Rietfontein Nature Reserve, Randburg District, Gauteng.

Wits Archaeological Database 2009