

SPECIALIST REPORT

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
CLEARANCE OF VEGETATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF MACADAMIA FARMING
ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BOERLANDS 631JT, BARBERTON
CITY OF MBOMBELA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT COMPILED FOR
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MAY 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for the proposed agricultural development on *portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT*, Barberton.

The study area is located approximately 15 km west of the town of Barberton, on the R38 provincial route. Topographical images of 1968 and 1984 indicate the footprint of the proposed site (maps 1:50 000, 2530 DD). This area falls under the jurisdictions of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and City of Mbombela local municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999), (NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act.

The applicant, MS TECK FARMING (Pty) Ltd in co-operation with CORE Environmental Services, is proposing the development of agricultural fields (macadamia) on 19.5ha of vegetation.

The proposed study area is covered with invasive vegetation which restricted visibility. The specialist biodiversity report of AFRIKA ENVIRO & BIOLOGY, is of the opinion that the dominance by alien invasive vegetation on the study area is an indicator that the land was cultivated or afforested in the distant past. The farm belonged to the Techlenburg family since 1884 and was continually used to farm maize and vegetables. The survey did not reveal any archaeological or historical features. A burial site, consisting of 15 graves belonging to the Hlatshwayo family is situated on a low ridge, outside of the proposed development.

It is recommended that the owners be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the development of the proposed agricultural operations. In such instance, a qualified archaeologist must be contacted to monitor the activities and make a recommendation. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue.

Disclaimer: *Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. Christine Rowe trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.*

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- 1) The results of the project;*
- 2) The technology described in any report;*
- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*



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Christine (Van Wyk) Rowe

MAY 2020

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CITY OF MBOMBELA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

The applicant, MS TECK FARMING (Pty) Ltd in co-operation with *CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES*, is proposing to establish an agricultural area for the purpose of nut or fruit farming on approximately 19.5ha of vegetation, *on portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT*, near Barberton.¹ The property is located approximately 15km north-west of the town of Barberton along the R38 (Badplaas) provincial road, from which access is gained.² The farm has a parallelogram shape and main dwellings and sheds are located to the north of the study area.

The investigation revealed that the area which is applied for in this development, is dominated by alien invasive vegetation, which suggests (Specialist Biodiversity report), that the area was cultivated or afforested in the distant past.³ The degree of invasive vegetation is severe and access to the study area was difficult. Most of the property became colonized by pioneer vegetation which includes grasses, herbaceous species (*Lantana camara* / *Psidium guajava*), and woody species such as Paperbark thorn trees (*Vachellia sieberiana*),⁴ Sickle bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*), and many more.^{5 6}

The Techlenburg family owned the property since 1884 and cultivated maize and vegetables over many years. The farm was, and still is used for cattle grazing.⁷

The study area, *on portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT*, is indicated on the topographical maps: 2530DD (1984 / 1968), and various google images (see maps 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7). The proposed development area is surrounded by farms with existing agricultural activities.⁸

¹ CORE Env. Serv., BID document, e-mail access: 2020-03-06.

² Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

³ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

⁴ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, pp. 1-13.

⁵ Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 9.

⁶ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, pp. 1-13.

⁷ Personal communication: Owner: Mr. M. Techlenburg, 2020-05-12.

⁸ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by *CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES* to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources on the farm. A literature study, relevant to the study area as well as a foot survey was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon by the proposed development

The aims of this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study area, and to advise the client on sensitive heritage areas as well as where it is viable for the development to take place in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resources which may be encountered, will also be made. The study area is indicated in maps 3 - 7, and Appendix 1 & 2.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: Ms. Anne-Mari White, *CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES*, Nelspruit, 1206, Cell: 0608781591 / e-mail: info@coreenviro.co.za. The EIA is in the Planning & Scoping phase.
- Type of development: Development of 19.5ha of land which was historically used for maize and vegetables, *on portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT*, Barberton, Mpumalanga Province.
- The study area is historically disturbed agricultural land (as indicated by the degree of invasive vegetation.⁹ It is zoned as agricultural and will not be rezoned.
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdictions of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and City of Mbombela local municipality.
- Land owner: MS TECK FARMING (Pty) Ltd.¹⁰

Terms of reference: As specified by section 38 (3) of the NHRA, the following information is provided in this report.

- a) The identification and mapping of heritage resources where applicable;
- b) Assessment of the significance of the heritage resources;
- c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
- d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

⁹ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

¹⁰ CORE Env. Serv., BID document, e-mail access: 2020-03-06.

Legal requirements:

The legal context of the report is grounded in the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA 107), GNR 983 of 2014 (as amended in 2017):

- A basic Environmental Impact Assessment is required in terms of the following listed activities (GNR 983):

Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for –

- (i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.¹¹

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the development. The proposed development is a listed activity in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of a HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA). Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and its provincial offices and counterparts.

Section 38 of the NHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by an independent heritage management consultant, for the following development categories:

- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
 - exceeding 5000m² in extent;
 - the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent;

In addition, the new EIA regulation promulgated in terms of NEMA (as amended), determines that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert *CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES*, as well as the client and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the

¹¹ CORE Environmental Services: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT, 2020-03-06. p. 1.

risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings or structures older than 60 years prior to demolition, in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and also other sections of this act dealing with archaeological sites, buildings and graves.

The NHRA section 2 (xvi) states that a “heritage resource” means any place or object of cultural significance, and in section 2 (vi) that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.

Apart from a heritage report assisting a client to make informed development decisions, it also serves to provide the relevant heritage resources authority with the necessary data to perform their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resource, whether the development may proceed as proposed or whether mitigation is acceptable, and whether the heritage resource require formal protection such as a Grade I, II or III, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such a grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any **archaeological material** or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction. No archaeological material was found during the survey.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any **grave or burial ground** older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during development of the road infrastructure or agricultural activities. A burial site (15 graves), was identified on top of a low hill, which falls outside of the proposed development.¹²

¹² Personal communication: Owner of BOERLANDS: Mr. M. Techlenburg, 2020-05-12.

Section 34 of the NHRA

Section 34 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may alter, damage, destroy, relocate etc., any **building or structure older than 60 years**, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. The remains of recent concrete rubble were observed.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

This section deals with public monuments and memorials but does not apply in this report.

- **NEMA**

The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998), provides for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard.

B BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

The study area is located on *portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT* and is located approximately 15 km north-west of Barberton. The farm is accessed from the R38 provincial road between Barberton and Badplaas.¹³ Swaziland is situated approximately 30 km to the south.

The first evidence of ancient mining occurred between 46 000 and 28 500 years ago during the Middle Stone Age. Hematite or red ochre was mined at Dumaneni (towards the east near Malelane), and is regarded as one of the oldest mines in the world. Iron ore was also mined in the area and a furnace, as well as iron slag was documented.¹⁴ Myburgh mentioned in his ethnological publication that tuyères belonging to ancient “explorers” of the De Kaap Valley, were unearthed by gold prospectors before the turn of the century, near a certain Mr. D.M. Wilson’s office at Kaapse Hoop.¹⁵

Bushman (or San) presence is evident in the area as research by rock art enthusiasts revealed 109 sites in the Kruger National Park,¹⁶ and over 100 rock art sites at Bongani Mountain Lodge

¹³ CORE Environmental Services: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT, 2020-03-06. p. 1.

¹⁴ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

¹⁵ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of the Barberton District*, p. 12.

¹⁶ English, M. Die Rotskuns van die Boesmans in die NKW, in *De Vos Pienaar, U., Neem uit die Verlede*, p. 18-24. 1998,

and its immediate surrounds¹⁷ (north of Barberton), as well as many sites in the Nelspruit, Rocky's Drift and White River areas. Thirty-one rock art sites were recorded on the Mpumalanga Drakensberg Escarpment. Rock art sites were also recorded in Swaziland.^{18 19} One site is recorded by Bergh between Barberton and Nelspruit.²⁰ The author documented a rock art site north of Kaapse Hoop (on Berlin plantation).²¹ The Bushman painters most probably obtained the ochre which was used as a pigment in the paintings, from the Dumaneni ochre mine.^{22 23}

Later Stone Age sites in the Kruger National Park date to the last 2500 years and are associated with pottery and microlith stone tools.²⁴ The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site near the area, besides those in the Kruger National Park, is the Plaston site near White River, dating ca 900 AD.²⁵ No other archaeological excavations have been conducted to date within the study area, which have been confirmed by academic institutions and specialists in the field. Stone walling is abundant in the Lydenburg – Machadodorp – Carolina areas. A stone walled settlement with terracing was recorded by the author close to Hazyview,²⁶ several which were documented in the southern parts of the Kruger National Park,²⁷ as well as south of Barberton on the Taurus Plantation (bordering Songimvelo Nature Reserve).²⁸

The low country of Barberton lay within the fly-infected area and was not suitable for the keeping of livestock, before the rinderpest came in 1897. Until the tsetse had disappeared, a large part of Barberton district was uninhabitable to pastoralists, and therefore unattractive to any but the poorest of the natives then occupying these parts.²⁹ As soon as the fly disappeared, it changed and the local tribes settled in areas which were previously avoided.

¹⁷ Hampson, et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, SA Archaeological Bulletin 57: p. 15.

¹⁸ Rowe, C. 2009. Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, MA dissertation. Pretoria: UP.

¹⁹ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

²⁰ J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 5.

²¹ Rowe, C. Phase 1 Archaeological impact assessment, survey & management guidelines for Majuba 1 Rock Art site: Berlin Plantation, Kaapsehoop (2012).

²² Bornman, H. The Pioneers of the Lowveld, p. 1.

²³ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

²⁴ J.S. Bergh (red), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

²⁵ M.M. Van der Ryst., Die Ystertydperk, in J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

²⁶ C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaha Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

²⁷ Eloff J.F., Verslag oor Argeologiese Navorsing in die Krugerwildtuin, June / July, 1982.

²⁸ C. Rowe, Phase 1 AIA & HIA of the Stone Walled settlements on Taurus Plantation, Barberton District, Mpumalanga (2015).

²⁹ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of the Barberton District*, p. 14-15.

History in the wider vicinity is connected to the study area and is briefly outlined below. In order to place the areas around Barberton in an archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Küsel, Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray and Van der Ryst were consulted, as well as historic sources (Makhura and Webb). Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the study area. Stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinities of Hazyview³⁰, Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie, clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinders, are scattered at most of the sites.³¹ Many of these occur in caves as a result of the Swazi attacks (1900's), on the smaller groups. The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted but revealed no other recent Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the area of Barberton:

The author was involved in desktop studies and surveys in the wider area, such as:

- *Study for the Proposed Eskom Powerlines, Hazyview – Dwarsloop* (2008);
- Phase 1 HIA *portion 64 of the farm The Rest 454JT*, Nelspruit (2009): Undecorated potsherds and recent stone walls, one Early Stone Age hand axe.
- Phase 1 HIA *portion 62 of the farm The Rest 454JT*, Nelspruit (2009): Late Iron age stone walls, undecorated potsherds;
- *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, (2001);
- a *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for 132Kv Powerlines from Kiepersol substation (Hazyview), to the Nwarele substation Dwarsloop* (2002);
- a *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed traffic training academy, Calcutta, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge* (2013);
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Nkambeni cemetery in Numbi, Hazyview* (2013);
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed agricultural development on the farm SIERAAD, Komatipoort area*, (2013) revealed one possible Late Stone Age borer which was identified in a soil sample, one meter below the surface.

³⁰ PRMA: Information file 9/2.

³¹ D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed debushing of natural land for agricultural use: portion 10 of the farm Thankerton 175 JU, Hectorspruit area, (2014) revealed a few Later Stone Age tools and Iron Age potsherds and upper grinders;*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological impact assessment, survey & management guidelines for Majuba 1, Rock Art site: Berlin Plantation, Kaapsehoop (2012).*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed development on portion 3 of the farm Sunnymead 600JT, Barberton (2014).*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment of the Stone Walled settlements on Taurus Plantation, Barberton District, Mpumalanga, (2015).*
- *Letter of Recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 AIA & HIA investigation, proposed footbridge at Avontuur crossing the Nkomazi River, on the farm Avontuur 721JT, near Tjakastad (2015).*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the development of 2 tented Camps at Songimvelo Nature Reserve, Eerstehoek, on the farms Laaggenoeg 158IT & Onverwacht 733IT (2018).*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed development of agricultural fields on the farms ALMA 644JU (ptn 10) & DAISY KOPJE 645JT (Ptn 11), Barberton (Jul 2018).*
- *Letter of Recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 AIA & HIA investigation, proposed construction of a bridge on the D233 road in Louieville, Nkomazi Local Municipality (Apr. 2018).*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the clearance of vegetation for the purpose of macadamia farming on portion 10 of the farm DAISY KOPJE 643JT, Barberton (Jan 2020); only structures of a recent nature were observed.*
- *Letter of Recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 AIA & HIA investigation, for 1.7ha of agricultural development on portion 1 of the farm KOLENBRANDER 676JT, near Barberton (January 2020).*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Friedenheim Housing Project: Township establishment on portions 85 & 86 of the farm FRIEDENHEIM 282JT, City of Mbombela (Nelspruit) (March 2020); only building rubble of a recent nature were observed.*

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed other recent Archaeological Impact Assessment reports in the wider area:

- J. Van Schalkwyk: *Proposed new Lebombo Port of Entry and upgrade of Komatipoort railway station between Mpumalanga (SA) and Mozambique (2008)* – Some historic buildings were identified but no archaeological remains;
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Report on a cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Kangwane Antracite Mine, Komatipoort (2012)* – An archaeological site with Middle and Late Stone Age tools were identified as well as some Iron Age artifacts and decorated pottery. Mitigation measures were recommended by exclusion from the development or a Phase 2 study;
- JP Celliers: *Report on Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment on erven at Komatipoort 182 JU Extension 4, Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed two pieces of undecorated sherds of pottery which was of low significance. It was recommended that any earthmoving activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Archaeological Impact Assessment for Border site at Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed historic remains linked to the Steinaeker's Horse regiment during the South African War.
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *A Report on a basic assessment relating to cultural heritage resources for the proposed ESKOM Tekwane North line and substations, Mupumalanga Province (2013)* – revealed historic remains of low significance and a cemetery.
- P. Birkholz: *HIA for the proposed development of the Karino Interchange located east of Mbombela, Mpumalanga Province (2017)* – Historical buildings and structures were revealed by no archaeological sites of features were identified.
- A. Van Vollenhoven: HIA for Aurecon, 15 June 2012, *Basic Assessment for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Friedenheim Office Complex, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga*. – revealed no graves or archaeological sites. Recent buildings were observed.

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. Myburgh, in the 1949 publication: *The tribes of the Barberton District*,³² states that practically nothing is known about the pre-historic inhabitants, and that the present Swazi and Tsonga populations are more recent immigrants. Pre-Swazi, possible Sotho-speaking related tribes (according to Myburgh - Pai or Mbayi), left no terracing, but heaps of stone is evident all over the Kaap valley and further east.³³

³² A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of the Barberton District*, p. 10-11.

³³ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of the Barberton District*, p. 10-11

Early ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the immediate study area was mainly inhabited by the Swazi of the *Nkosi clans*, from around the 18th century.^{34 35} (See Map 1: 1935: Van Warmelo). When concentrating on ethnographical history, it is important to include a slightly wider geographical area in order for it to make sense. Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the number of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to actually indicate how many people were living in one area.³⁶

During the middle of the 18th century some Sotho and Swazi groups combined under a fighting chief Simkulu. The tribe so formed became known as the BakaNgomane. The principal settlement of Simkulu was in the vicinity of the confluence of the Crocodile and Komati Rivers. The Swazi under Mswati II (1845), commenced on a career of large- scale raids on the prosperous tribal lands to the north of Swaziland. His regiments such as the *Nyatsi* and the *Malelane* brought terror to African homes as far afield as Mozambique.³⁷ During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.³⁸ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.³⁹ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century,⁴⁰ when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.⁴¹ Mswati II built a line of military outposts from west to east of the upper Komati River and the Mlambongwane (Kaap River). At each outpost he stationed regiments to watch and stop the BaPedi returning to their old haunts.⁴²

³⁴ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

³⁵ H. S. Webb, The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p.16.

³⁶ N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

³⁷ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p 11.

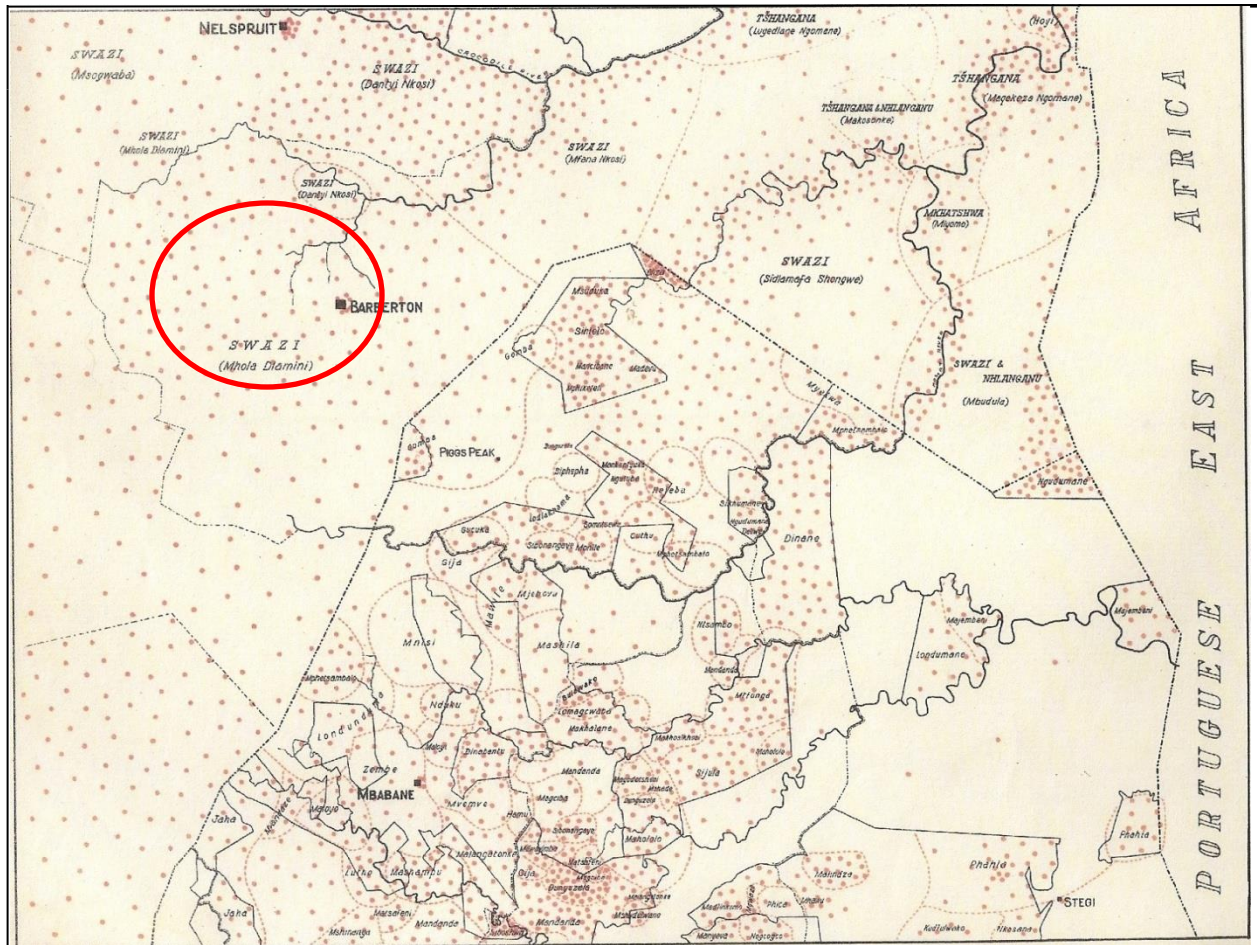
³⁸ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

³⁹N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

⁴⁰H. S. Webb, The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

⁴¹*Ibid.*, p. 16.

⁴² Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p. 12.



MAP 1: Van Warmelo: 1935: The study area (indicated by the oval), was sparsely inhabited by Swazi people.

Swazi

The Swazi people descended from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.⁴³ The differences between the Swazi and the Natal Nguni were probably never great, their culture as far as is known from the comparatively little research being carried out, does not show striking differences. Their language is a 'Tekeza' variation of Zulu, but through having escaped being drawn into the mainstream of the Zulus of the *Shaka* period, they became independent and their claim to be grouped apart as a culture is now well founded.⁴⁴

⁴³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

⁴⁴ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

History of Barberton

Oral history suggests that through the 1700s and 1800s the land was sparsely occupied by the Swazi and other local pastoral people, together with their livestock. The steep and rocky landscape does not provide areas for human livelihoods. Human occupation fluctuated both seasonally and according to the ebb and flow of local conflicts. Substantial settlement was rare, being limited mainly to the larger river valleys.⁴⁵

At the time of European settlement in the 1860's it became a contested border zone. Land deals were struck between the Swazi king and Transvaal colonists, the echoes of which remain to this day. In 1881 gold was discovered by Tom McLachlan who found alluvial gold at Jamestown. This area falls into the hot Lowveld region and malaria was rife. Few diggers were keen to go there until Auguste Roberts discovered gold in Concession Creek in 20 June 1883.⁴⁶ Payable gold was also discovered where the Umvoti Creek entered the De Kaap Valley. This resulted in the establishment of the town of Barberton on 24 July 1884. Barberton was named after a digger, Henry Barber.⁴⁷

At first, Barberton was a small mining camp, but grew when Edwin Bray discovered gold in the hills above Barberton in 1885. He and 14 partners started the Sheba Reef Gold Mining Company. Large amounts of money flowed into Barberton and the first Stock Exchange to operate in the then Transvaal, opened its doors. More buildings were erected, billiard saloons and music halls established. The Criterion and Royal Standard hotels were opened. Barberton was also home to Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, transport rider and author of the book, *Jock of the Bushveld*.⁴⁸ The significance of the area became known to the world when alluvial gold was found at Kaapsehoop in 1875. This was followed by the Moodies and Barber's reef discoveries and a subsequent 'gold rush' into the hills above the Suid-Kaap river. Barberton's gold rush was quickly spent, soon to be dwarfed by finds on the Witwatersrand in 1886.⁴⁹ The Sheba mine is today one of the oldest and richest working gold mines in the world, having been in production for more than a century. It is estimated that production will continue for several

⁴⁵ The Barberton Mountain land: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5456> Access: 2014-08-09.

⁴⁶ Barberton: http://search.wikipedia.org/wiki/barberton_mpumalanga Access: 2014-08-09.

⁴⁷ History of Barberton www.sahistory.org.za/places/barberton Access: 2014-08-09.

⁴⁸ Barberton: http://search.wikipedia.org/wiki/barberton_mpumalanga Access: 2014-08-09.

⁴⁹ The Barberton Mountain land: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5456> Access: 2014-08-09.

decades to come.⁵⁰

BOERLANDS information:

Mr. Mark Techlenburg, the current owner of the farm BOERLANDS, stated that the farm belonged to the Techlenburg family since 1884. His great grandfather was the first white man to own BOERLANDS when the Transvaal Government gave land to aspirant farmers. His great grandfather lived in a wattle and daub structure up to about 1910, after which he built a more permanent house. This house still exists and is used by the neighbor as a house for his farm manager. The great grandfather, and subsequent family (grandparents and parents of Mr. Mark Techlenburg), cultivated maize and vegetables, and used the rest for livestock grazing.⁵¹

A number of laborers resided on the farm and worked for his grandparents and parents. The people eventually moved off the farm and went to live in other areas. By the time Mr. Mark Techlenburg moved on to the farm in 1988, no laborers resided on the farm. There was also no physical evidence of where they lived previously, as Mr. Techlenburg could not recall any evidence of old house foundations or artefacts on the farm. There is a small burial site with fifteen (15) graves, on a low ridge on the north-western border of the property. The burial site belonged to members of the Hlatshwayo family. Certain of their family members worked on the farm during the 1980's. The children all moved away and the father passed on in the late 1980's / early 1990's, and is buried at this site (see figs. 9 – 12).⁵²

C. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Approximately 19.5 ha of vegetation will be cleared to establish an agricultural area for the purpose of macadamia or fruit farming. Existing farm roads will be used.⁵³ The study area is indicated in map 7, (see Appendix 2: Photographic documentation).

The study area consists of bushveld plains to the north of Barberton. The larger area can be classified as Lowveld (according to Acocks, 1988) and Sour Lowveld Bushveld according to Low & Rebelo (1998).⁵⁴ The soil types in the study area are mainly of a light sandy nature. The mountain land surrounding the Barberton area falls within the Barberton Greenstone Belt or

⁵⁰ Barberton: http://search/wikipedia.org/wiki/barberton_mpumalanga Access: 2014-08-09.

⁵¹ Personal communication: Mr. M. Techlenburg (Owner Boerlands): 2020-05-13

⁵² Personal communication: Mr. M. Techlenburg (Owner Boerlands): 2020-05-13

⁵³ Personal communication: Ms. A-M White, 2020-05-08.

⁵⁴ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

the Barberton Supergroup geological formation. These mountains are amongst the oldest in the world, dating back to 3.5 billion years.⁵⁵ Its varied geology gives rise to steeply incised mountainous terrain that stretches from the Lochiel Plateau in the south to the Nelspruit-Komatipoort area in the north and into Swaziland. It includes part of the Komati river catchment in the south west, the De Kaap catchment in the north and Mahlambanyathi and Crocodile Rivers in the northeast. The hills are rocky with moist grass upland and forested valleys.⁵⁶ Barberton became known for its well-known flower, the Barberton Daisy (*Gerbera jamesoni*) which was discovered in 1889 by Robert Jameson.⁵⁷

The topography of the proposed area for development is relatively gentle, and situated in the southern section of the farm. Mountainous areas occur to the north, south and west (outside of the study area) where afforestation is the main land use. Fruit and nut production are intensively practiced on land to the south and east. Two drainage lines originate on the western side of the farm and converge at a dam in the north. A deep erosion gully is present which is also covered with alien vegetation.⁵⁸

The Specialist Biodiversity report suggested that the land was previously cultivated or afforested in the distant past, judging by the dominance of alien invasive species.⁵⁹ The current owner Mr. Techlenburg, gave a brief history on the farm (see section B: BOERLANDS information). BOERLANDS was in possession of the Techlenburg family since 1884, and crops such as maize and vegetables were cultivated on a large scale, which confirms the suggestion in the Biodiversity Report.⁶⁰

The degree of invasive vegetation is severe (Category 1 – 3), and especially Lantana (*Lantana camara*), and Wild Guava (*Psidium guajava*) forms dense impenetrable thickets across most of the site. Other pioneer species are *Lippia javanica*, *Flemingia* and *Verninia adoensis* as well as larger examples such as *Vachellia sieberiana* (Paperbark Thorn), *Searsia rehmanniana*, *Euclea divinorum*, *Dichrostachys cinerea* (Sickle bush) etc., have established itself on the previously disturbed areas.⁶¹ (see Appendix 2 figs. 5 - 8).

⁵⁵ Barberton: http://search/wikipedia.org/wiki/barberton_mpumalanga Access: 2014-08-09.

⁵⁶ The Barberton Mountain land: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5456> Access: 2014-08-09.

⁵⁷ Barberton: http://search/wikipedia.org/wiki/barberton_mpumalanga Access: 2014-08-09.

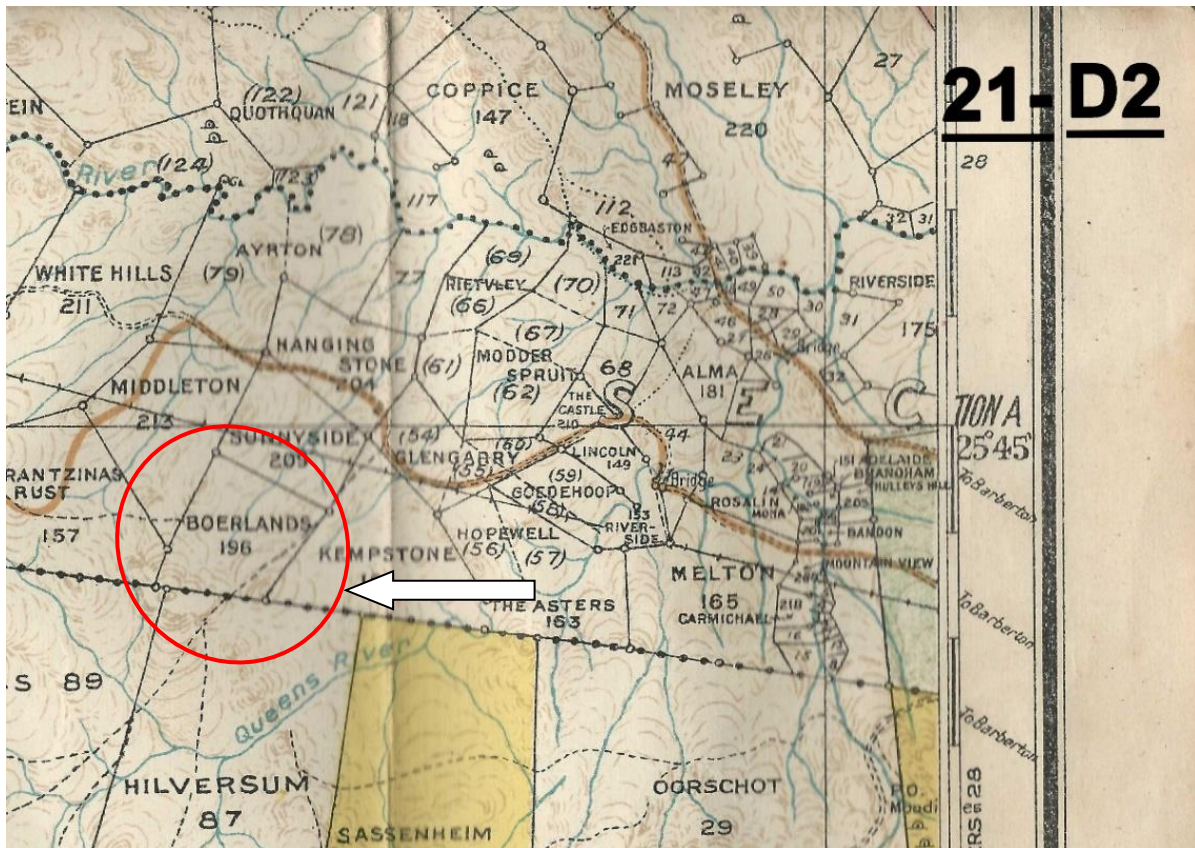
⁵⁸ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

⁵⁹ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

⁶⁰ Personal communication: Mr. M. Techlenburg (Owner Boerlands): 2020-05-13.

⁶¹ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

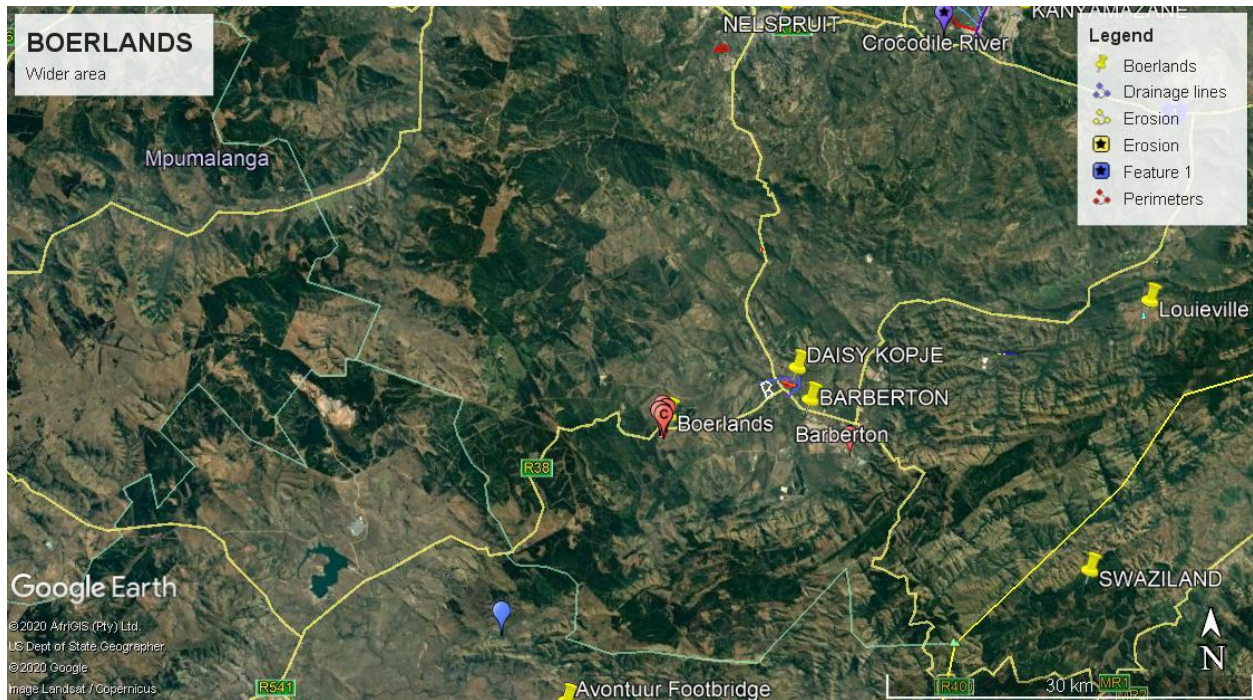
A map of the 1920's does not indicate any historic settlements in the study area (see map 2). The topographical map (2530DD) of 1968, indicate a few huts near the western border and in the direct vicinity of the burial site (figs. 9 – 12). It is believed that these belonged to the farm workers residing on the property in recent times (see maps 6 & 7), as there is currently no visible indication of foundations or artefacts.



MAP 2: A topographical map of the 1920's does not indicate any black settlements in the study area (the oval indicates the study area).

D. LOCALITY

The proposed project site is located on *portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT*, and is located approximately 15 km north-west of the town of Barberton. The farm is accessed from the R38 provincial road between Barberton and Badplaas. Swaziland is situated approximately 30 km to the south. The site falls under the City of Mbombela Local Municipal jurisdiction, which in turn falls within Ehlanzeni District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province (see maps 2 - 7 and Appendix 1 & 2 for the study area).



MAP 3: Google image of the study area within the wider area.



MAP 4: Google image of the study area. Note the agricultural developments adjacent **BOERLANDS**.

- **Description of methodology:**

Google images as well as the topographical maps (maps 3 - 7), indicate the area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 18th century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information.
- Several specialists currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology as well as Biodiversity have also been consulted on the subject.

-Literary sources: A list of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were cited, and revealed some information;

-The archaeological databases of SAHRA as well as the National Cultural History Museum were consulted. Heritage Impact Assessment reports of specialists who worked in the area were studied and are quoted in section B.

- The study area is believed to be historically disturbed lands, which were used for agriculture (maize & vegetables), and which have severely been invaded with Category 1, 2 & 3 invasive species, as well as other medium and larger pioneer vegetation.
- The site visit consisted of 2 people. The owner of BOERLANDS, Mr. Techlenburg was consulted and was able to point out the burial site.
- The fieldwork and survey were conducted on foot and with a vehicle. Tracks and paths were mainly used to access areas (See Appendix 1).
- The study area was covered with alien vegetation as well as medium to large pioneer species. Visibility on the immediate study area was restricted, but Google images and topographical maps, as well as personal communication with the owner revealed that the area was historically cultivated maize and vegetable lands. Sections were also used for cattle grazing.
- Disturbed areas and paths on the farm, were scrutinized for any archaeological material.
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (GPSMAP 64X series) datum WGS 84, and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 3 meters of identified sites.
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999).

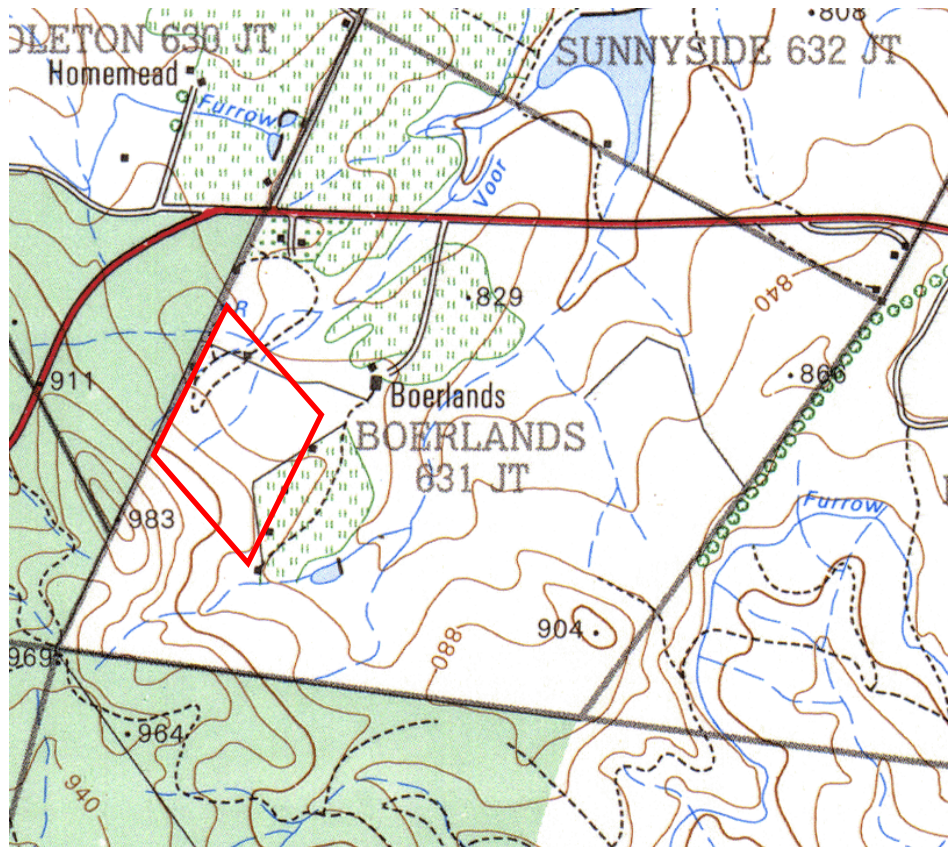
- Personal communication with relevant stakeholders on the specific study area, were held, such as the owner Mr. Techlenburg,⁶² and environmental specialist Ms. Anne-Mari White.⁶³
- GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area (Co-ordinates provided by CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES):
The perimeters of the study area are indicated by the GPS co-ordinates (See map 4):

GPS CO-ORDINATES			
Location	South	East	Elevation
A	S 25° 46' 07.66"	E 30° 53' 28.15"	873m
B	S 25° 46' 03.73"	E 30° 53' 45.92"	873m
C	S 25° 46' 19.38"	E 30° 53' 37.39"	873m
D	S 25° 46' 09.52"	E 30° 53' 26.87"	879m

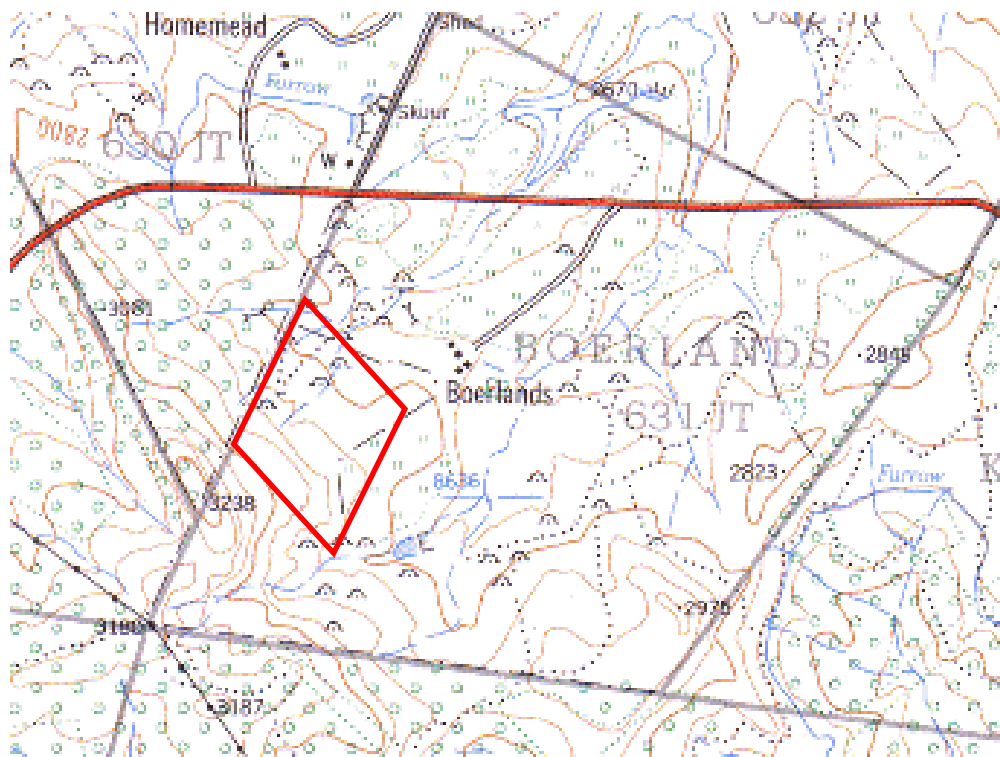
Please note that the footprint of the proposed development is smaller, as the low ridge is excluded from the study area. Only the section which might be suitable for agriculture, is indicated in map 7.

⁶² Personal communication: Mr. M. Techlenburg (Owner Boerlands): 2020-05-13.

⁶³ Personal communication: Ms. A-M White, 2020-05-08.



MAP 5: 1984 Topographical map: A small section of cultivated land is visible to the east.



MAP 6: 1968 Topographical map: Some recent settlements were indicated near the burial site.

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The applicant, MS TECK FARMING (Pty) Ltd in co-operation with *CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES*, is requesting to establish an agricultural area for the purpose of nut or fruit farming on approximately 19.5ha, on *portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT*, near Barberton.⁶⁴



MAP 7: Google image 2020: The proposed development area is indicated by the white line. No features of archaeological or historical value was observed. The burial site is on a ridge, outside of the study area (yellow oval).

Almost the entire study area has been colonized by pioneer vegetation, which includes grasses, herbaceous species and trees (Paperbark thorns, Sickle bush and Sweet thorn). Visibility during the survey was restricted as a result of severe infestation with Category 1, 2 & 3 alien invader species. Some areas were impenetrable due to Lantana and wild guava thickets. The Specialist Biodiversity report by AFRIKA ENVIRO & BIOLOGY, is of the opinion that the vegetation assemblage indicate that the study area was previously cultivated.⁶⁵

⁶⁴ CORE Env. Serv., BID document, e-mail access: 2020-03-06.

⁶⁵ Van Der Walt, D., Specialist Biodiversity Report, March 2020, p. 8.

The current owner gave a historical overview of the farm, which belonged to the Techlenburg family since 1884. Since the time of his great grandfather, the farm was cultivated with maize and vegetables as well as used for cattle grazing.⁶⁶ Mr. Techlenburg also pointed out a burial site which was used by members of the Hlatshwayo family, who worked on the farm. This burial site, consisting of 15 graves, is outside of the study area, and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development. The field investigation revealed no archaeological or historical features on the study area.

Google images and topographical maps, as well as personal communication with the farm owner and other stakeholders, revealed that the area was almost certainly historically cultivated lands. Existing tracks and paths were mainly used to access areas. No archaeological or historical features were observed during the investigation.

F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPO- NENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present in the study area	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None visible
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Graves are outside of the study area	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

⁶⁶ Personal communication: Mr. M. Techlenburg (Owner Boerlands): 2020-05-13.

- **Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources: General issues of site and context:**

Context		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	Vacant land
Natural environmental context	No	NA
Formal protection (NHRA)		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
Other		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	Yes	Near the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain Lands World Heritage site
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	Yes	Near the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain Lands World Heritage site
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<i>Property features and characteristics</i>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	It is believed that the study area was historically cultivated lands
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	NA
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	Yes	A low ridge is situated to the north-west, but falls outside of the study area
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	Two drainage lines (within the study area) which converge into a dam (outside of the study area)

<i>Heritage resources on the property</i>		
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
<i>General protection (NHRA)</i>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	Yes	Outside of the study area

Heritage resources on the property		
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
Other		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELEMENTS	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person / community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Historical settlement/ townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELE- MENTS	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK
		His tori cal	Rar e	Scie ntifi c	Typi cal	Tech - nolo gical	Aes theti c	Pers on / com muni ty	Land mark	Mate rial con ditio n	Sust aina bility	
Geological site of scientific/cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Not within the study area
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Summarised recommended impact management interventions

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance rating		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance	Impact significance		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	None	None	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	No	None	-	Not within the study area

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance rating		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance	Impact significance		
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None – outside of the study area
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulation	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above is made for all identified heritage features.

- **Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

- **National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed and contributes to redressing past inequities.⁶⁷ It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section 3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.⁶⁸

H. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

The applicant is requesting the development of agricultural fields (fruit or nut), on 19.5ha of land *on portion 3 of the farm BOERLANDS 631JT*, near Barberton.

The owner Mr. Techlenburg stated that maize and vegetables were cultivated on the farm by his great grandfather, grandfather and parents since 1884. The Specialist Biodiversity Report, by

⁶⁷National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

⁶⁸National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

Mr. Danie van der Walt, motivated that the severe infestation of alien vegetation on the farm, is as a result of disturbed land in the distant past. A burial site on the farm is situated on a low ridge to the north-west, but falls outside of the study area. The survey revealed no archaeological or historical features or structures within the study area.

It is recommended that the owners be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the development of agricultural operations. In such instance, a qualified archaeologist must be contacted to monitor the activities and make a recommendation. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants cannot be held responsible for any archaeological material or graves which were not located during the survey.

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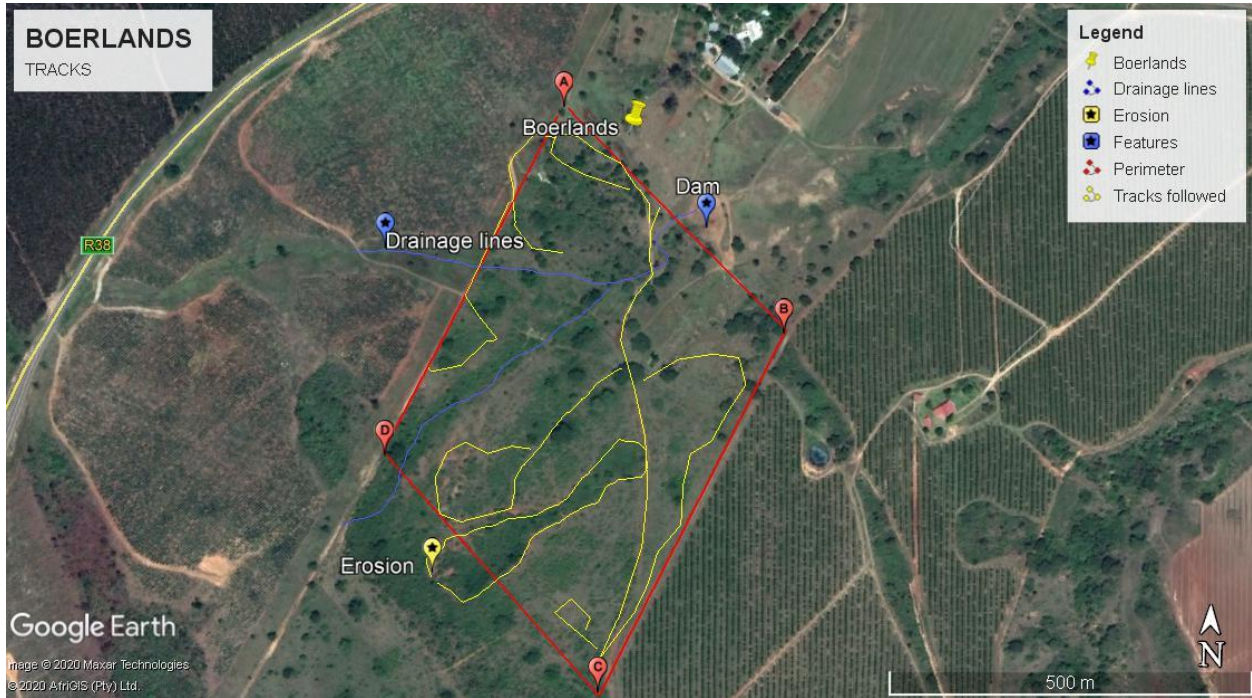
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APPENDIX 1

Tracks and Paths used to access the study area



Tracks used during the survey.