

SPECIALIST REPORT
**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR AN
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 18 AND THE R/E OF PORTION 19 OF THE
FARM SCHERP ARABIE 743KS, MARBLE HALL,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

REPORT PREPARED FOR
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APRIL 2021

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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 a proposed agricultural development to establish citrus orchards, on *portion 18 and the remaining extent of portion 19 of the farm SCHERP ARABIE 743KS*, in the Marble Hall district. The project site is for 175ha of natural vegetation. The extent of the farm is 245ha of which 70ha is already under cultivation. The study area is situated on the 1:50 000 topographical map, 2429CD, which is in the Limpopo Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District.

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.

ESZRO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING (Pty) Ltd was appointed by the applicant MANINI Holdings (Pty) Ltd. The farm is situated approximately 8km north of the town of Marble Hall, on a secondary road connecting the R579 provincial road.

The study area was flat and vegetation was fairly dry and open which made visibility in most parts, good. The farm manager, Mr. Johannes Maropane was interviewed and assisted during the site visit. The survey revealed several graves on the property as well as an old stone structure of over 60 years old. Several recent structures were identified, but these have no historical or heritage value. Mitigation measures are proposed for the graves and the stone structure. The previous owner (Mr. Hennie Wiese), mentioned historical features on the farm, but these are not within the footprint of the project site. No other archaeological or historical material, structures or features of significance were observed during the site survey.

Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that, should the mitigation measures (see discussion in text) being adhered to, there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the application for the proposed agricultural development to continue. The applicant must however be aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during further development, and should any be identified, a qualified archaeologist must investigate and assess the finds.

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 Rowe
APRIL 2021

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A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for a proposed agricultural development to establish citrus orchards, on *portion 18 and the remaining extent of portion 19 of the farm SCHERP ARABIE 743KS*, in the Marble Hall district. ¹

The project site is for 175ha of natural vegetation. The extent of the farm is 245ha of which 70ha is already under cultivation. The study area is situated on the 1:50 000 topographical map, 2429CD, which is in the Limpopo Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District. ² (See maps 2 & 4).

ESZRO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING (Pty) Ltd was appointed by the applicant MANINI Holdings (Pty) Ltd., to undertake the relevant authorizations required for the proposed development. The farm is situated approximately 8km north of the town of Marble Hall, on a secondary road connecting the R579 provincial road. ³

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by ESZRO Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources on the study area. 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 (see maps 2 - 5 & Appendix 1, Tracks and Paths).

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 which may exist on the proposed project site in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Recommendations for maximum conservation

¹ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021 p. 1.

² BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021 p. 1.

³ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021 p. 1.

measures for any heritage resources will be made. The study area is indicated in maps 1 - 5, Appendix 1 & Appendix 3.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: ESZRO Environmental consulting (Pty) Ltd, P.O. Box 1424, Hoedspruit, 1380. Cell: 074 834 1977 / Fax: 086 212 6424 / e-mail: elize@eszro.com;
- Type of development: Application for a proposed agricultural development on natural vegetation to establish citrus orchards (on *portion 18 and the r/e of portion 19 of the farm 743KS*, north of the town of Marble Hall, Limpopo Province.
- The study area consisted of 245ha of which 70ha are already under cultivation. One hundred and seventy-five (175ha) hectares were surveyed for the proposed agricultural development ⁴ (see map 5). The area is currently zoned as agricultural and no rezoning will take place. ⁵
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The area falls within the Limpopo Province under the jurisdiction of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in the Sekhukhune District. Land owner: Thabo and Mathapelo Maripane: MANINI HOLDINGS (Pty) Ltd. ⁶

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.

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 (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, as amended).

• Section 38 of the NHRA

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental

⁴ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021, p. 1.

⁵ Personal communication: Ms. E. Osmers, 2021-04-26.

⁶ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021, p. 1.

impact assessment required for the proposed agricultural development. The independent environmental consultant will undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to obtain the relevant authorizations from the competent authorities before the commencement of the agricultural activity. 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, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the SAHRA and its provincial offices and counterparts.⁷

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;

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

The end purpose of this report is to alert ESZRO Environmental Consulting, the applicant 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 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 or 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

⁷ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

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 or sites were observed 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. Three burial sites were observed during the survey and mitigation measures are proposed (figs. 13 – 18).

- **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. A square stone structure dating between 1900 and 1940 was observed on the property and mitigation measures are proposed (figs. 19 – 20).

- **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, as amended), provides for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard. ESZRO Environmental Consulting, was appointed by the applicant to undertake all the relevant authorizations for the proposed agricultural development.⁸

B. BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

• Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments

Marble Hall is in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality and the Greater Sekhukune District. In order to place the area in an archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel, Theal and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Küsel and Bergh, were consulted, as well as historic sources by Makhura and Webb. 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.⁹ (See map 1: Van Warmelo 1935).

There are no museums in the area which could be consulted, and no historical information was available at the municipality. A cultural village to the west (near KwaMhlanga), only deals with the Ndebele culture with an objects-display, but no historical information was available.

• Archaeological Background

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. According to Bergh, there are no recorded sites that date from the Stone Age, (including Rock paintings or engravings), or Iron Age (Early or Late) settlements. It can be confirmed that none of the above-mentioned sites were encountered during the survey.¹⁰

• Stone Age:

The Stone Age is the period in human history when people produced stone tools. The Stone Age in South Africa can be divided in three periods:

- Early Stone Age (ESA): +- 2 million – 150 000 years ago;

⁸ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021, p. 1.

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

¹⁰ J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, pp. 4-7

- Middle Stone Age (MSA): +- 150 000 – 30 000 years ago;
- Later Stone Age (LSA): +- 40 000 – 1850AD.

The study area has originally been inhabited by the San or Bushman people as the many Stone Age tools and occasionally rock art sites, indicate. ¹¹

- **Iron Age:**

The Iron Age is the period in time when humans manufactured metal artifacts. According to Van der Ryst & Meyer, ¹² it can be divided in two separate phases, namely:

- Early Iron Age (EIA) +- 200 – 1000 AD;
- Late Iron Age (LIA) +- 1000 – 1850 AD.

Previous archaeological surveys by heritage practitioners in the wider area revealed mostly burial sites and historic features. Two possible LIA features were identified near Bronkhorstspuit (see list of HIA studies further in this section).

The wider area was sparsely populated during the 19th century (See Map 5, Van Warmelo 1935). Bergh ¹³ does not indicate any cultural groups specific to the area, and no disruptions took place in this section during the *difaqane*. The surrounding areas from Middelburg, Pretoria, Warmbaths (Bela Bela), and Nylstroom were inhabited by the Ndebele, and small groups of KôPa (baSotho) and Kgatla. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, does not include this area. It is however accepted that the *Ndzundza* Ndebele, Manala Ndebele and Hawduba Ndebele were the dominant groups as they do occur extensively in the surrounding areas since the 18th century, ¹⁴ and the current local inhabitants consist of various groups including mainly Ndebele, Sotho and Pedi. ¹⁵

Formal graveyards in the area revealed mainly Ndebele surnames of local people who were buried there. ¹⁶

¹¹ M. De Jongh, *Swatini*, p. 9.

¹² Van der Ryst, M.M., & Meyer, A, Die Ystertydperk in *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, pp. 96 – 98.

¹³ J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 10.

¹⁴ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 18.

¹⁵ Siyabuswa Mpumalanga, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siyabuswa,_Mpumalanga

¹⁶ C. Van Wyk Rowe: Phase 1 AIA & HIA for the Buhlewesizwe Ext 1 Township Development - *portion 5 of the farm Vlakraagte 221JR*, Mpumalanga, February 2016, p. 12.

- **AmaNDEBELE**

According to Van Warmelo, the *amaNdebele* are the earliest known offshoot of the *Nguni* group. The Ndebele is divided into two groups, the Southern and the Northern, and they are separated from one another. A certain legendary chief *Msi* or *Musi* heads a list of about twenty-five successive chiefs who lived just north of where Pretoria now stands. His two sons were *Manala* and *Ndzundza* and form the most important tribes of the Southern group. The *abagaNdzundza* moved eastwards and settled near Roos Senekal, and it is said that some of *Manala's* followers, the *abagaManala*, settled in the Witbank district. The tribes slowly broke up after the days of the Republic.¹⁷

- **CENTRAL SOTHO**

The tribes in this group were at one time largely under the rule of the baPedi, who's last independent king was *Sekhukhune*, who's stronghold was to the east of Siyabuswa (Steelpoort area), although his domain was extremely large. ¹⁸ Great numbers of *baSotho* who belong to the above group, who still speak *sePedi* but which became detribalized, live in the districts of Middelburg, Lydenburg, Witbank and Springs. They mingled freely with other groups such as the Zulu, Swazi and Tonga.

- **HISTORY OF KWAMHLANGA / MARBLE HALL**

During the apartheid era, Siyabuswa was the capital of the KwaNdebele Bantustan.¹⁹ It served as a capital from 1981 to 1986 when KwaMhlanga replaced it. Most of its inhabitants are members of the Ndebele ethnic group. KwaMhlanga which is west of Marble Hall, is the spiritual home of the Ndebele who settled there in the 18th century. Some of the Ndebele Royal Kraals are situated near KwaMhlanga. ²⁰ Apart from the Ndebele language, Sotho and Zulu are also spoken in the area.

Marble Hall is in the greater Sekhukune District. Marble deposits were discovered in 1920 by Christoffel Visagie while on a hunting trip from Pretoria. Soon the Marble Lime Company was developed to work this deposit in 1929. The town of Marble Hall developed in 1942 and was originally known as Marmerhol (Afrikaans), meaning marble hole. The name was soon changed during the Anglo-Boer War to Marble Hall. ²¹

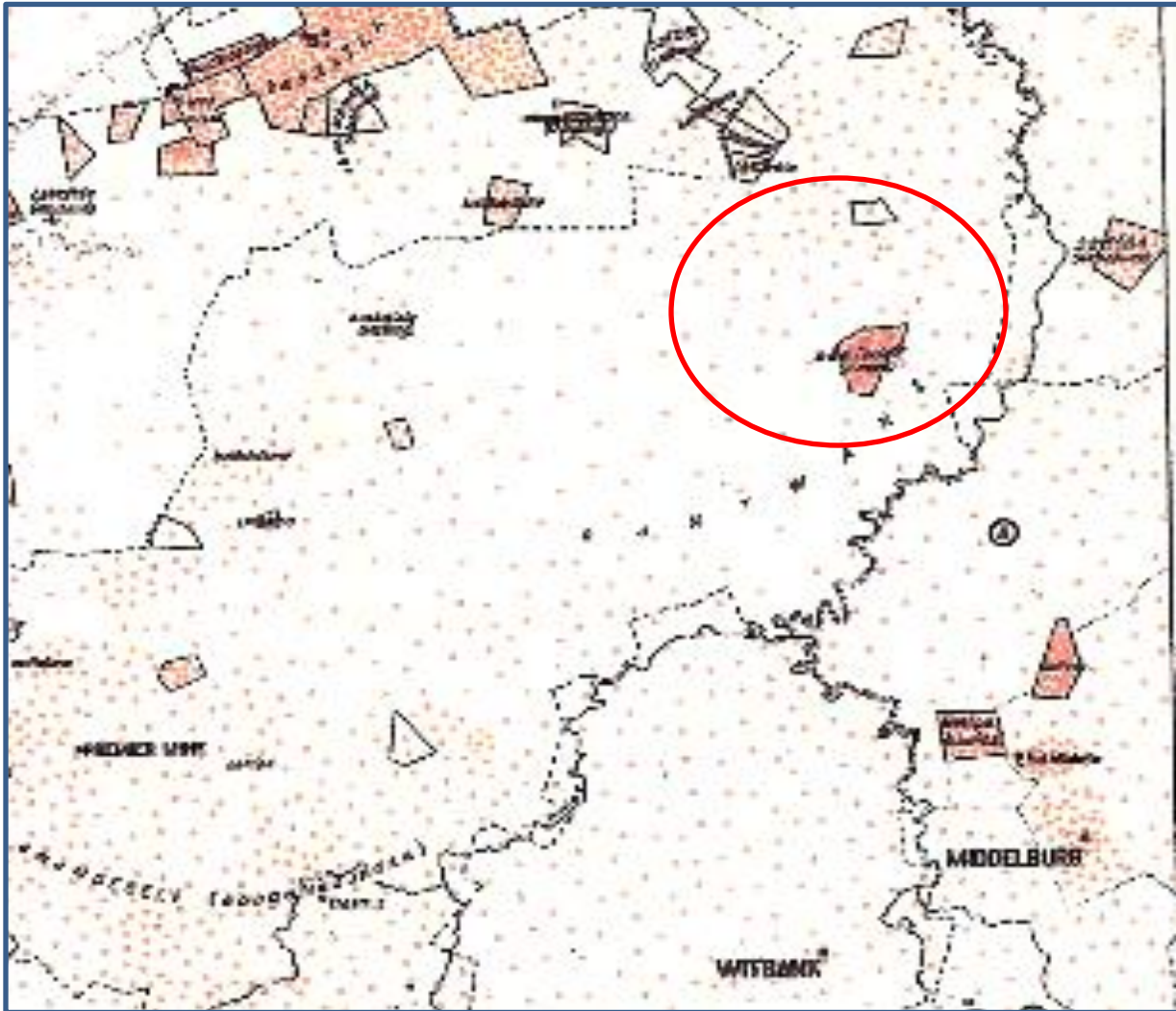
¹⁷ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 87.

¹⁸ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.108.

¹⁹ Siyabuswa Mpumalanga, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siyabuswa_Mpumalanga

²⁰ KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga, <http://www.za-places.co.za/mpumalanga/kwamhlanga.html>., Access 2014-05-03.

²¹ Marble Hall: Internet: www.ephraimmogalelm.gov.za/?q=background_history Access: 2021/04/20.



MAP 1: Van Warmelo - 1935: The study area was historically sparsely populated.

The wider area is well known for its outstanding game farms and agriculture. Mining also contributes greatly to the economy of the region.²²

Mr. Hennie Wiese (previous owners of the farm), was interviewed and confirmed that the farm belonged to his family since the 1800's. His grandparents did not live permanently on the farm but visited regularly. They had a couple who looked after the cattle. Legend has it that the couple stayed in tents during summer. The area is well-known for its snakes and the wife of the cattle farmer insisted that her husband built the stone house (dating between 1900 and 1940) as she once found a large snake, in the tent.²³

²² Marble Hall: Internet: www.en.wikipedia/wiki/Marble_Hall Access: 2021-04-05.

²³ Personal communication: Mr. H. Wiese (Previous Owner), 2021-04-30.

The name of the farm, “Scherp Arabie” means ‘sharp rock.’ Mr. Wiese bought the farm from his aunt in the year 2000. ²⁴ The farm currently belongs to Thabo and Mathapelo Maripane. ²⁵

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

- 2012: Phase 1 Archaeological / HIA for the proposed residential Township (Moripe Garden): Remaining extent of portion 7 of the farm Kameelrivier 160JR, Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga – foundations of recent date were identified;
- 2014: Letter of recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 Archaeological and heritage investigation for the proposed township establishment on portion 3, Riekerts Laager 165JR, Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga – no archaeological material was identified;
- 2014: Phase 1 Archaeological / HIA for the proposed township development: Portions 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR, Vlaklaagte - no archaeological material was identified.
- 2014: Phase 1 Archaeological / HIA for the proposed township development: Portions 36 (a subdivision & consolidation of portions 1, 4 & 5) of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR, Vlaklaagte - no archaeological material was identified.
- 2016: Phase 1 AIA & HIA for the Buhlewesizwe Ext 1 Township Development - *portion 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*, Mpumalanga - no archaeological material was identified.
- 2016: Letter of recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 AIA & HIA investigation for a proposed Early Childhood Centre (1.5ha) on *portion 30 of the farm Vlakfontein*, Kwamhlanga - no archaeological material was identified.
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for a *proposed development of tourist accommodation on portion 61 of the farm Guernsey 81KU, Limpopo Province (2020)* - no significant archaeological sites were observed (near Hoedspruit).
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for a *proposed development of staff accommodation and Lodge units on portion 262 of the farm Guernsey 81KU, Limpopo Province (2020)*; (near Hoedspruit) - decorated and undecorated potsherds and one MSA round scraper were observed but has no significant value as they were all out of an archaeological context.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the areas of KwaMhlanga / Bronkhorstspuit and wider area.

²⁴ Personal communication: Mr. H. Wiese (Previous Owner), 2021-04-30.

²⁵ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021, p. 1.

- BHP Billiton (2013); Status Quo and pre-mitigation HIA report for burials identified during a Phase 1 Impact assessment study for BHP Billiton energy coal SA, Wolvekrans colliery expansion project, Mpumalanga – burial sites were identified;
- J. Pistorius (2011): A phase 1 HIA study for Eskom's proposed Nokeng Fluorspar project: The construction of a proposed new 132 Kv power line, Limpopo Province – revealed 2 graveyards and 3 historical houses;
- A. Pelser (2014): Phase 1 AIA – Eagles Pride Hatchery, Nooitgedacht 525JR, Mpumalanga Province, revealed 2 grave sites, a historical farmhouse and 2 possible LIA features;
- JP Celliers (2013): Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment in respect of the proposed Funda Poultry Abbatior on the farm Gemsbokfontein 231 JP, Gauteng – no sites of archaeological or heritage value were identified during the survey.
- A. Pelser: A Report on Archaeological phase 2 mitigation of an early farmer site to be impacted on by the development of the Zandspruit Eco Estate on the farm Happyland 241KT, Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, (2008);
- A. Pelser: A report on background archival & historical research pertaining to the Lemana College & Elim Mission station, Limpopo province, (2013);
- A. Pelser: A report on the Phase 2 Archaeological mitigation of 2 Stone Age open-air sites to be impacted by the Nwamitwa dam development project on the farms La Motte 464LT & Riverside 514LT in the Letsitele area near Tzaneen, Limpopo Province (2016);
- A. Pelser: Report on the AIA of various quarry, stockpile, road construction camps, borrow pits, dam construction camp sites and other associated infrastructures related to the Nwamitwa Dam development project, Limpopo Province, (2016);
- A. Pelser: Final report on the assessment of cultural heritage resources (incl. grave sites & archaeological sites) to be impacted by the Nwamitwa dam and associated infrastructure development, Limpopo Province, (2016).
- A. Pelser: Report on a phase 1 HIA for the proposed development of a private hospital on a portion of the farm Greater Giyani 891LT, Giyani, Limpopo province, (2017);
- A. Pelser: Report on a phase 1 HIA for the proposed cultivation of Macadamia nuts, avocados and guava on ptn 1 of Palmietfontein 2LT, near Louis Trichardt, Limpopo (2018);

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

The farm SCHERP ARABIE (*portion 18 & the r/e of portion 19 of the farm SCHERP ARABIE 743KS*) is located approximately 8km north of the town of Marble Hall, in the Sekhukhune District of the Limpopo Province. The property is situated north of the Elands River in a fertile area which is ideal for agriculture. Citrus and grapes are but a few of the many products which are farmed in the area (maps 3 - 5). The proposed development will contribute to meet the demand to supply citrus produce to the export market.²⁶

The farm has recently been acquired by Thabo and Mathapelo Maripane. Approximately 70ha in the northern section of the farm is already under cultivation, and the owners intend to establish citrus orchards on a further 175ha of natural vegetation²⁷ (map 5 & figs. 4 - 6). A dam was established south of the cultivated area (fig. 24).

The proposed new agricultural development is mostly on the flat areas of the farm, as seen in map 5 & figs. 1 - 12. The entire area was investigated during the survey for any signs of an archaeological or historical nature. Three burial sites were identified, which belonged to farm workers, during the time when the farm belonged to the Wiese family (figs. 13 - 18).²⁸ All open trenches, roads and paths were also investigated.

A stone structure, dating between 1900 and 1940 (according to the previous owner of the farm), was identified just south of the existing cultivated lands (figs. 19 – 20). The stone structure / house was built by the couple looking after Mr. Wiese's grandparents' cattle during the summer months. Legend has it that the couple stayed in tents during summer. The area is well-known for its snakes and the wife of the cattle farmer insisted that her husband built the stone house (dating between 1900 and 1940) as she once found a large snake, in the tent²⁹ (figs. 19 & 20). Mitigation measures are proposed for this structure as it is older than 60 years, and protected by the NHRA.³⁰

The 1968 topographical map indicates no archaeological features on the study area. Only one hut settlement was indicated with an old footpath which crossed the farm (see map 2). The hut

²⁶ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmer, April 2021, p. 1.

²⁷ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmer, April 2021, p. 1.

²⁸ Personal communication: Mr. H. Wiese (Previous Owner), 2021-04-20.

²⁹ Personal communication: Mr. H. Wiese (Previous Owner), 2021-04-30.

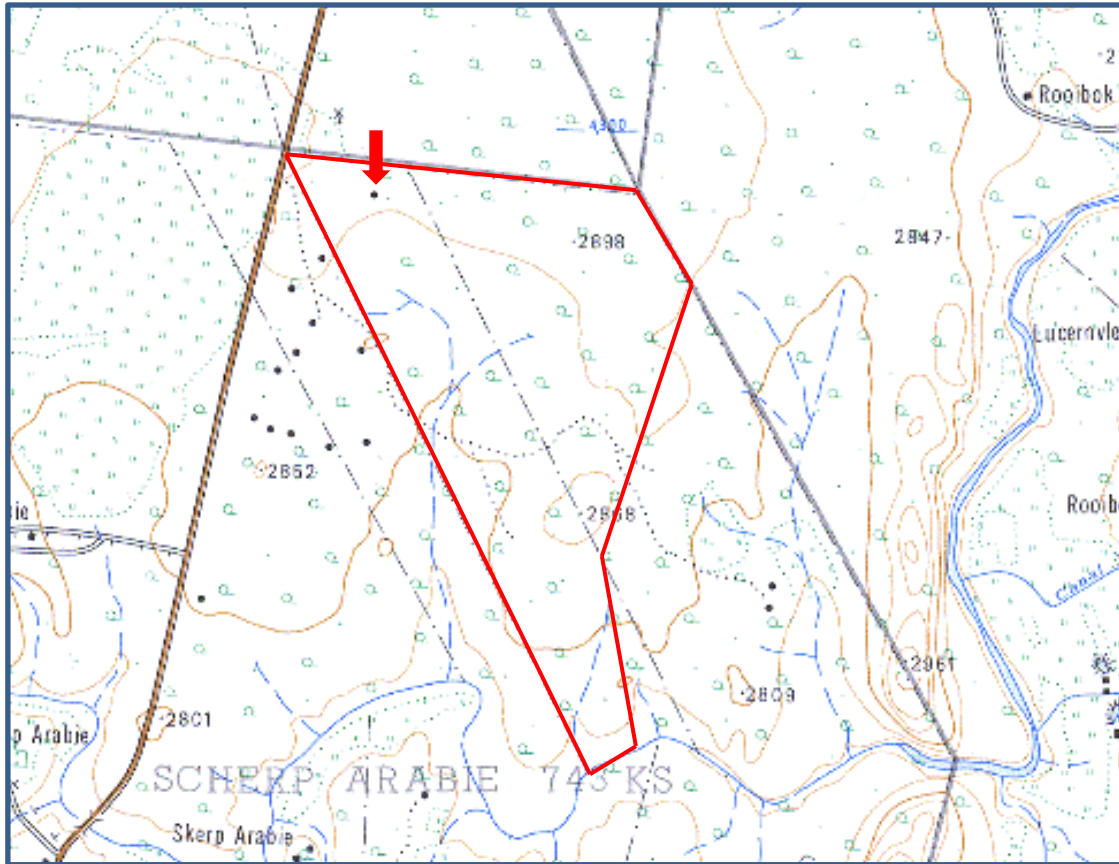
³⁰ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

settlement was in the vicinity of the existing cultivated lands (in the northern section), but there is no evidence left of this feature. It is believed that the single grave, which was observed within the cultivated area (in the northern part), may have been linked to this settlement, as it was observed in the same area as indicated on the topographical map (figs. 17 & 18). There is currently no evidence or remains of any old footpaths on the farm.

Several recent features were observed, of which a concrete trough (fig. 23), and the remains of a concrete foundation (figs. 21 – 22), are within the study area. These features are however not yet 60 years old, and of no significance (map 5).

Technically the ecozone representing this area is referred to as Central Sandy Bushveld, according to the Mucina and Rutherford classification,³¹ which is regarded as vulnerable. Large sections of this veld type have been transformed by mainly cultivated land. The study area falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area (2) in terms of the Limpopo Conservation Plan.

³¹ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmers, April 2021, p. 3.

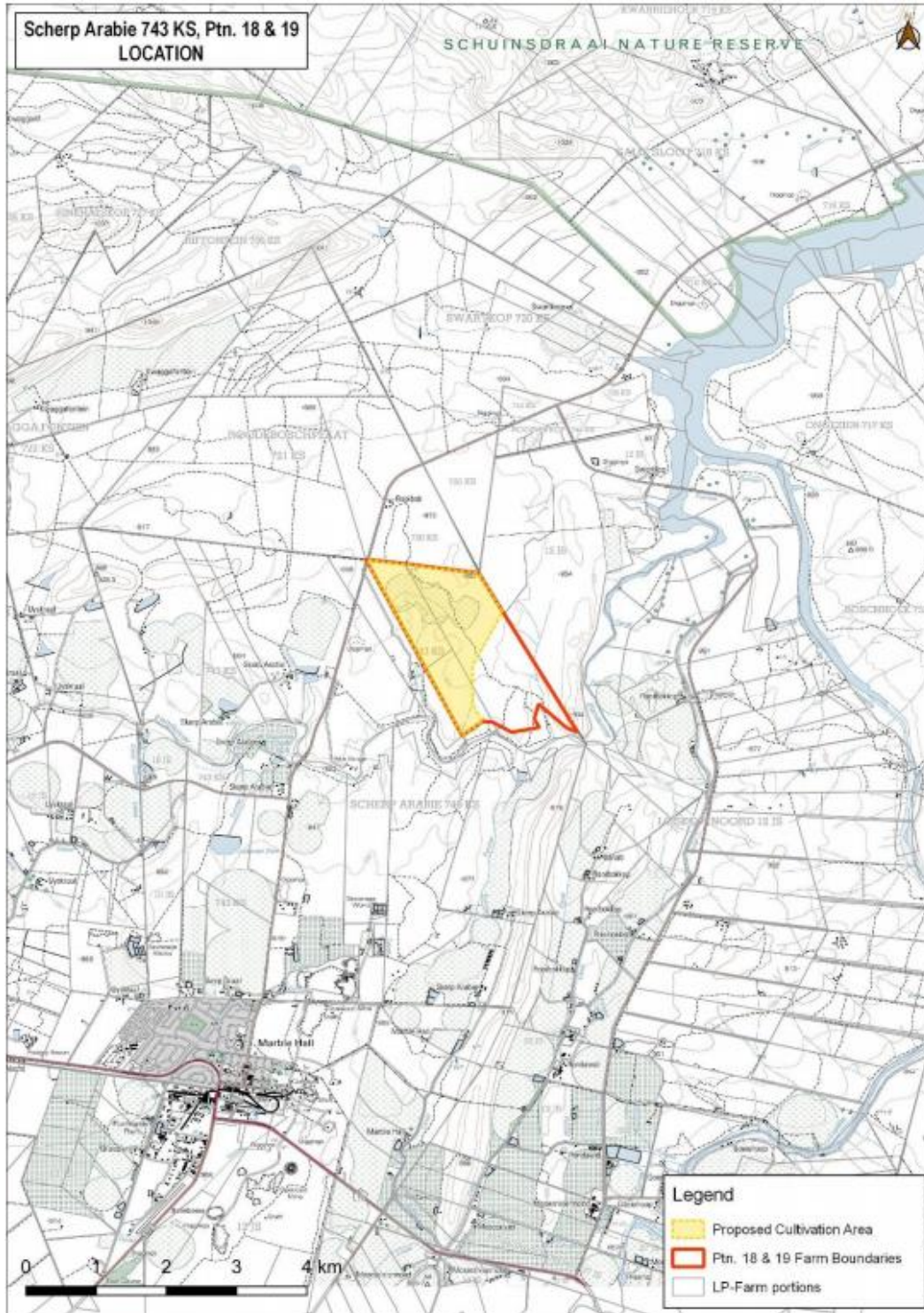


MAP 2: Topographical Map: 2429CD (1968): The study area of the farm Scherp Arabie (red). Only one hut settlement (see arrow), as well as a footpath crossing the farm (dotted line), were indicated on the 1968 map.

D. LOCALITY

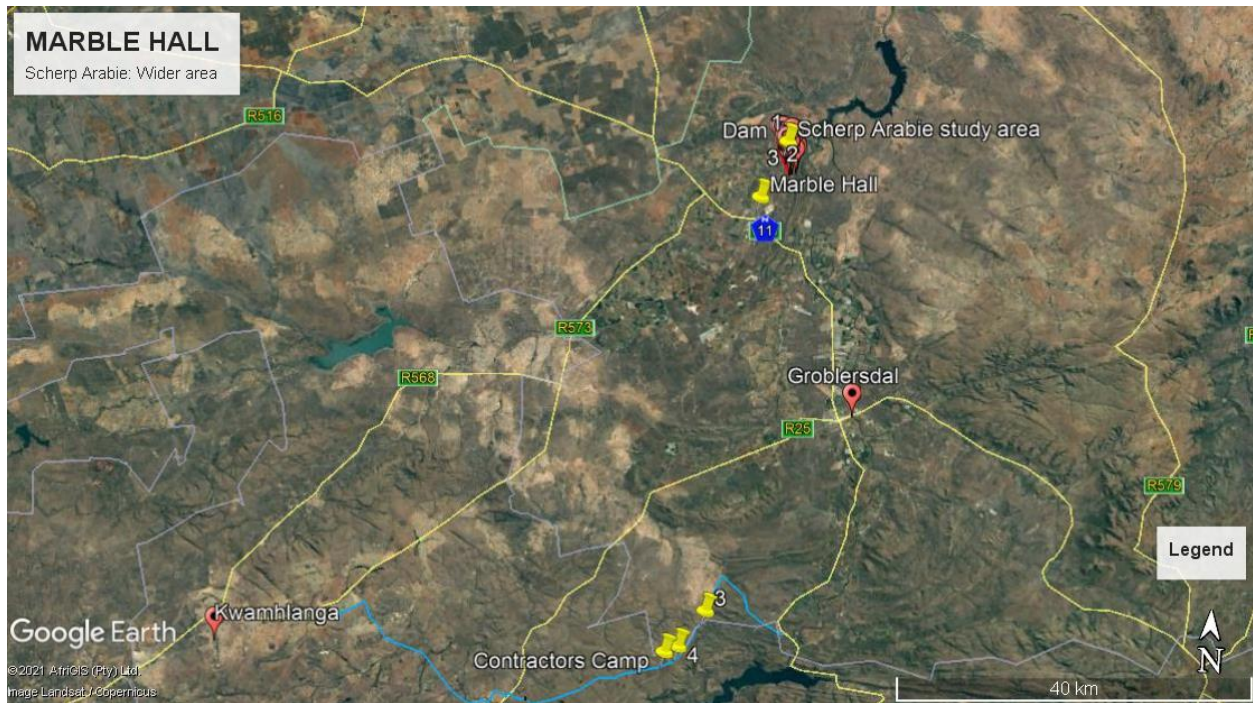
The farm SCHERP ARABIE (*portion 18 & the remaining extent of portion 19 of the farm SCHERP ARABIE 743KS*) is located approximately 8km north of the town of Marble Hall in the Sekhukhune District of the Limpopo Province. The property is accessed by a secondary road, connecting the R579 provincial road with the N11 national route (maps 2 - 5).³² The farm is situated north of the Elands River (see map 2).

³² BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmer, April 2021, p. 1.



MAP 3: Project site: The yellow section indicates the study area in relation to the rest of the farm (red line) as well as within the wider district (Map provided by EZRO Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd. ³³

³³ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmer, April 2021, p. 4.



MAP 4: The Google image (2021): The study area within the wider context.

Description of methodology:

The 1968 topographical map, (2429CD: map 2), and Google images of the site (maps 2 - 4), indicate the study 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 consisted mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17th 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, to establish relevant information.
- Specialists currently working in the fields of anthropology and archaeology 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 database 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 fieldwork and survey were conducted extensively by three people. The area was flat, vegetation dry and easy to access. Existing roads, tracks and paths were used to access the sections (see Appendix 1).
- The fieldwork and survey took place in April 2021.
- A 70ha section on the property consisted of cultivated land, and the survey concentrated on 175ha of natural bush vegetation. Visibility was fairly good throughout the survey (figs. 1 – 24).
- 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 took place with the farm manager, Mr. Johannes Maropane as well as the previous owner, Mr. Hennie Wiese.^{34 35}

GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any features within the study area, see map 5 (Co-ordinates provided by ESZRO Environmental Consulting).

GPS CO-ORDINATES			
Location	South	East	Elevation
A	S 24° 53' 50.98"	E 29° 18' 44.80"	Elev. 873m
B	S 24° 53' 58.22"	E 29° 19' 41.11"	Elev. 865m
C	S 24° 54' 17.51"	E 29° 19' 53.42"	Elev. 871m
D	S 24° 54' 45.74"	E 29° 19' 38.01"	Elev. 865m
E	S 24° 55' 05.65"	E 29° 19' 37.71"	Elev. 841m
F	S 24° 55' 17.11"	E 29° 19' 43.64"	Elev. 841m
G	S 24° 55' 22.22"	E 29° 19' 33.77"	Elev. 841m

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

ESZRO Environmental Consulting was appointed by the applicant MANINI HOLDINGS (Pty) Ltd., to undertake all Scoping and EIA requirements in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA 1998 as amended), to obtain authorization for the proposed agricultural development.³⁶

³⁴ Personal communication: Farm manager, Mr. Johannes Maropane, 2021-04-09.

³⁵ Personal communication: Previous Owner: Mr. Hennie Wiese, 2021-04-20.

³⁶ BID Document: ESZRO Environmental Consulting, Elize Osmer, April 2021, p. 1.

One hundred and seventy-five hectares (175ha), of the 245ha property consisted of natural vegetation, while approximately 70ha have already historically been disturbed by agricultural activities (see map 5). As stated earlier, all open areas / trenches were inspected and investigated for any sign of archaeological or historical remains.



MAP 5: The study area is indicated from A – G. All features which were observed during the survey are indicated on the map. The existing cultivated area is also visible (yellow line) (Google image 2021).

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps, figures and appendices, which indicate the study area, and which correspond with the summaries below. Photographs in Appendix 3 show the general view of the study area. Three burial sites, a historical stone structure and recent features were observed. No archaeological sites or Late Iron Age stone walls were identified during the survey.

The previous owner, Mr. Hennie Wiese who owned the property since the year 2000, was able to give information on some of the features which were observed during the survey.³⁷

³⁷ Personal communication: Previous owner, Mr. Hennie Wiese, 2021-04-20.

Feature / Site	Description / Comments	Site Location
ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE FEATURES / GRAVES		
BURIAL SITES	<p>Burial site 1: There are two graves adjacent each other with granite headstones. The headstones read as follows: a) Gelboi Sebothoma (Born 1908-03-02 / Died 1946-03-27). Robala ka Khotso Papa; b) Phokgedi Ramesela Sebothoma (Born 1942-05-27 / Died 1946-02-05) Robala ka khutso cheche Fig. 13.</p> <p>Burial site 2: Consist of 2 graves a few meters apart; a) Ramatsobane Mmatema, 1 March 1940; b) Mmangakane Mmatema, 1 Mei 1941. Figs. 14 - 16.</p> <p>Burial site 3: A single grave marked with a metal frame and cross, is located in the current cultivated section. There is no name on the grave. Figs. 17 & 18.</p>	<p>24°54' 43.04"S 29°19' 16.02"E Elev. 852m</p> <p>24°54' 30.18"S 29°19' 19.11"E Elev. 868m</p> <p>24°53' 57.30"S 29°18' 59.12"E Elev. 874m</p>
Stone structure (house)	<p>A square stone house was observed just south of the cultivated lands. The dimensions are 5m x 5m and it was built with a mixture of mud between the stones. The house dates to between 1900 & 1040. Figs. 19 -20.</p>	<p>24°54' 22.42"S 29°19' 08.81"E Elev. 864m</p>
Recent foundations	<p>The indistinct remains of a concrete-and-brick foundation were observed near the northern boundary fence. The structure has been destroyed in previous years and it is not currently possible to identify the type of structure – no significance. Figs. 21 - 22.</p>	<p>24°53' 54.32"S 29°19' 06.15"E Elev. 884m</p>
Recent water trough	<p>A water trough consisting of concrete and bricks, were observed near the entrance to the property. This trough is recent, but currently not in use – no significance Fig. 23.</p>	<p>24°53' 53.37"S 29°18' 53.79"E Elev. 875m</p>

F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPONENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	One stone-and-mud structure (house), dated between 1900 & 1940.	Mitigation measures are recommended
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Three burial sites were identified	Mitigation measures are recommended
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

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

<i>Context</i>		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	NA
Natural environmental context	No	De-bushing to plant citrus;
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA

Context		
(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	No	NA
Is the property part of a conservation area of special areas in terms of the Zoning scheme?	Yes	Site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area (2) of the Limpopo Conservation Plan
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?	No	NA
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	A section (70ha) on the property is under cultivation
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?	No	There are rocky outcrops on the property but not within the footprint of the study area
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	The Elands River is towards the south and small drainage lines were indicated on the topographical map.

<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)	Y	Mitigation measures recommended

Heritage resources on the property		
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	Y	Mitigation measures recommended
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	ELEMENT S	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person /community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Mitigation measures recommended
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELE- MENT S	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person /community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Historical settlement/ townscape s	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific / cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	Mitigation measures recommended
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELE- MENT S	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person/community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- **Summarised recommended impact management interventions**

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance	Impact significance		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	Yes	Yes	Possible	Mitigation measures proposed	Structure is older than 60 years and has historical value (protected ito NHRA)
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance			
		Cultural significan ce	Impact significan ce		
Archaeologic al sites	No	None	None	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mitigation measures proposed	Protected ito the NHRA
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	Stone-&-mud house older than 60 years	Mitigation measures proposed
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Three burial sites present	Mitigation measures proposed

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	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.³⁸ 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,

³⁸ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

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.³⁹

- **Graves**

SAHRA Policy on burial grounds

NHRA Sections 27 & 36: The policy is that graves and cemeteries should be left undisturbed, no matter how inaccessible and difficult they are to maintain. It is our obligation to empower civil society to nurture and conserve our heritage. It is only when essential developments threaten a place of burial, that human remains should be disinterred to another cemetery or burial ground.

From a historical point of view and for research purposes, it is vital that burial sites are not disturbed. The location and marking of an individual's grave tell a life story, possibly where he / she died defending (or attacking) a particular place or situation and makes it easier to understand the circumstances of his / her death.⁴⁰

The following features were observed in the study area:

- **The significance and evaluation of heritage features as well as graves on *portion 18 and the r/e of portion 19 of the farm SCHERP ARABIE 743KS:***

SAHRA regards all graves and burial sites as of high significance, and therefore mitigation measures are recommended for all graves / burial sites on the farm. The significance and evaluation of the features of significance can be summarized as follows:

BURIAL SITES:

Site no	Cultural Heritage features	Significance	Measures of mitigation
Burial site 1:	Burial site 1: There are two graves adjacent each other with granite headstones. The headstones read as follows: a) Gelboi Sebothoma (Born 1908-03-02 / Died 1946-03-27). Robala ka Khotso Papa;	HIGH	The three burial sites must be fenced off and a perimeter of 15m must be kept clear of the site. Access must be allowed for visitation; Alternatively , an application to

³⁹ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

⁴⁰ SAHRA, Burial sites, [Http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm](http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm), Access, 2008-10-16.

<p>Burial site 2:</p> <p>Burial site 3:</p>	<p>c) Phokgedi Ramesela Sebothoma (Born 1942-05-27 / Died 1946-02-05) Robala ka khutso cheche</p> <p>Burial site 2: Consist of 2 graves a few meters apart;</p> <p>c) Ramatsobane Mmatema, 1 March 1940;</p> <p>d) Mmangakane Mmatema, 1 Mei 1941.</p> <p>Burial site 3: A single grave marked with a metal frame and cross, is located in the current cultivated section. There is no name on the grave.</p>		<p>SAHRA can be made to relocate the graves (see processes involved in Appendix 2).</p>
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• **HERITAGE FEATURES:**

Site	Cultural Heritage Features	Significance	Measures of Mitigation
<p>Stone-&-mud structure (house)</p>	<p>A square stone house was observed just south of the cultivated lands. The dimensions are 5m x 5m and it was built with a mixture of mud between the stones. The house dates between 1900 & 1940.</p>	<p>LOW – of local importance</p>	<p>The stone-&-mud structure (house) is older than 60 years and mitigation measures are recommended.</p>

• **Field rating:**

Recommendation & discussion:

It is not believed that any of the recent features on the farm *SCHERP ARABIE*, which were identified during the survey have any significance in terms of historic or cultural value which might prevent the proposed development to continue. All the recent features are younger than 60 years and has no cultural significance or other special value in terms of its importance in the community (NHRA 3.3a); or its potential to yield social, cultural or spiritual information or to link it to a particular community which may contribute to an understanding of South Africa's cultural

heritage (NHRA 3.3c & g).⁴¹

Burial Sites / graves:

SAHRA's policy on burial grounds are strict and sections 27 & 36 rate all such sites as of **High** significance (NHRA, no. 25 of 1999, section 36).⁴² The three burial sites on the farm SCHERP ARABIE, are all situated within the proposed agricultural development, and will directly be impacted. It is recommended that the graves be left intact and undisturbed. It should be documented and fenced. A buffer zone of 15m should be kept clear around the site where no development may take place. The developer should also be made aware that family members of the deceased have the right to visit the site. **Alternatively**, the owner may apply to relocate the graves. Arbitrary exhumation and re-internment of human remains, apart from being illegal, does not constitute a socially responsible mitigation action and borders on the destruction of culturally sensitive property. The minimum requirements for a process of relocation of graves involve the following: (also see Appendix 2):

Regulations specify that the client / specialist must: - make a concerted effort to contact communities or individuals who by tradition have an interest in such remains; - reach agreements with such communities or individuals regarding the future of such remains; - the area be fenced off, until the human remains are relocated; - a possible site to be considered for the relocation for eg. a burial site on the property or close by, or a municipal cemetery.

Buildings or structures older than 60 years:

The historical stone structure (house) is older than 60 years, and is protected under section 34 of the NHRA. It is rated as *LOW*, which means that it has local significance which forms part of the historical landscape archaeology of the *SCHERP ARABIE* farm. Should the applicant wish to destroy the feature, a full documentation report is recommended, which must be submitted to SAHRA before a destruction permit can be applied for. **Alternatively**, the owner may leave the stone structure intact, undisturbed and preferably fence the feature off.

Once the mitigation measures are successfully conducted and the applicant has applied for the necessary permits for destruction or relocations (should they wish to take that option), development activities may commence. Based on the survey and the findings in this report,

⁴¹ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

⁴² SAHRA, Burial sites, [Http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm](http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm), Access, 2018-08-09.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no other reasons which may prevent the proposed agricultural development to continue.

H. CONCLUSION

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during earth moving activities. It is therefore recommended that the developer be made aware of this possibility and when human remains, clay or ceramic pottery are observed, a qualified archaeologist must be notified and an assessment be done. Further research might be necessary in this regard for which the developer is responsible.

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

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

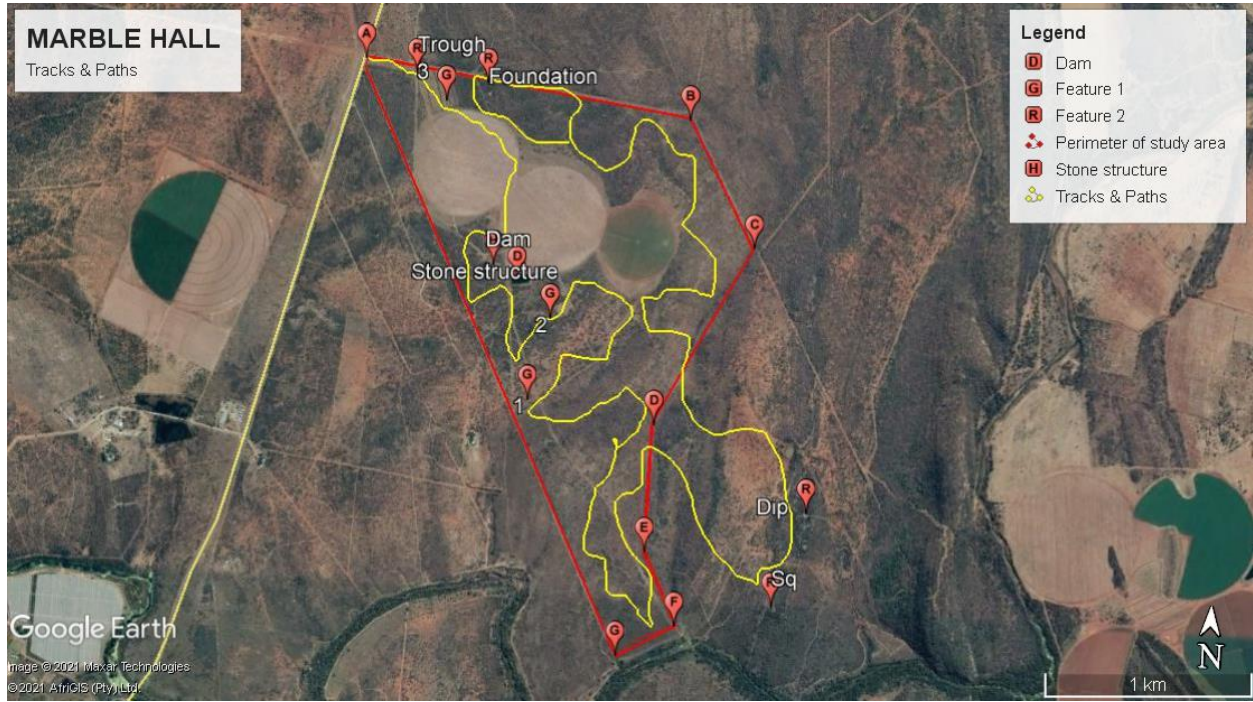
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APPENDIX 1

Tracks and Paths used to access the study area



Tracks which were used during the survey (yellow line).

APPENDIX 2

GRAVE RELOCATION PROCESS

Mitigation measures are required for the burial sites to prevent development activities to impact negatively on them. The client has two options (with implications) in the way forward (An institution dealing with heritage related grave issues must mitigate the graves, i.e. facilitated by an archaeologist and a registered undertaker):

1. To preserve the graves in situ with a fence around them; or
2. To relocate the graves;

Option 1:

The site must be demarcated and excluded from the development;

Regulations specify that the client / specialist must-

- establish management guidelines for the burial site;
- make a concerted effort to contact communities or individuals who by tradition have an interest in such remains;
- reach agreements with such communities or individuals regarding the future of such remains, for eg. visiting rights. All agreements must be set out in the management guidelines. The stipulations in the guidelines must be respected by both parties.

Option 2:

To relocate the graves:

Arbitrary exhumation and re-internment of human remains, apart from being illegal, does not constitute a socially responsible mitigation action and borders on the destruction of culturally sensitive property. The minimum requirements for a process of relocation of graves involve the following:

Regulations specify that the client / specialist must-

- make a concerted effort to contact communities or individuals who by tradition have an interest in such remains;
- reach agreements with such communities or individuals regarding the future of such remains;
- the area be fenced off, until the human remains are relocated;
- a possible site to be considered for the relocation for eg., a cemetery on the property, or close by.

An institution dealing with heritage related grave issues must mitigate the graves.

- Report intention of relocation of graves to the SAPS and SAHRA in compliance with Act no. 25 of 1999;
- Place notices required by Act no. 25 of 1999 and the Transvaal Ord. 7 of 1925 (Refer Proc. 109 of 17 June 1994);
- Ensure social consultation process, according to the requirements of Act no. 25 of 1999 and the Transvaal Ord. 7 of 1925;
- Obtain SAHRA authorization and comply to the conditions;
- Obtain National Department of Health authorization and comply to conditions;
- Obtain Office of the Provincial Premier authorization and comply to conditions;
- Obtain Local Authority authorization and comply to conditions;
- Comply to stipulations of Act 65 of 1983 during handling of human remains;
- Generate Third Schedule Notice of Internment in compliance with applicable Local Authority Bylaw;
- Generate a Burial Order in compliance of Act 51 of 1992.

Physical exhumation to follow (all costs for the applicant).