



# AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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## A. PHASE I CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### (a) PHASE I CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENT IN VENTERSDORP TOWN WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF VENTERDORP/TLOKWE 405 LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE.

#### (b) REPORT COMPILED BY

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**Date of report: 19 October 2017**

## **B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed development site lies in a flat landscape of Highveld grassland just south of Ventersdorp. In the north-eastern part of the site is the new JB Marks Provincial Heritage site and Memorials. On the south western section animal rubbing stones were recorded. In the centre of the site are the remains of a farm workers settlement and a possible single grave. On the south eastern side are the remains of a reservoir and an animal drinking trough.

In the north western corner of the proposed development site is a large cemetery with 38 graves dating from the 1950's too modern times.

### **Recommendations:**

The JB Marks heritage site is protected by Act 25 of 1999 and should be maintained in good condition.

The animal rubbing stones should be protected, fenced in and retained as part of an open space development.

The farm workers area can be demolished.

The large cemetery should be cleaned and fenced in and maintained in a good condition.

The possible single grave should be investigated by a heritage specialist in a separate report before any decisions are taken.

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## **D. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROJECT**

### **(a) Whether the report is part of a scoping report EIA/HIA or not**

*Report required as part of EIA.*

### **(b) Type of Development (e.g. low cost housing project, mining etc.)**

*Integrated Human Settlement*

### **(c) Whether re-zoning and/or subdivision of land is involved**

*Yes.*

### **(d) Developer and consultants and owner contact details**

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### **(e) Terms and Reference**

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of paleontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

### **(f) Legislative requirements of Act 25 of 1999.**

**Protected sites in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25 of 1999**

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years.
  - Archaeological sites and objects.
  - Paleontological sites.
  - Meteorites.
  - Ship wrecks.
  - Burial grounds.
  - Graves of victims of conflict.
  - Public monuments and memorials.
  - Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette.
  - Any other places or objects, which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance.
- 1.1 Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
- 1.2 Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.
- 1.3 Objects to which oral traditions are attached.
- 1.4 Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

## **E. BACKGROUND TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORY OF THE AREA**

The study area was densely settled by mostly the Sotho-Tswana and somewhat later, Nguni groups who later became sothoised. Mason (1968) and Seddon (1968) recorded more than a thousand stone-walled settlements in the drainage area of the Marico, Hex, Crocodile and Elands Rivers in the former western Transvaal. It is generally accepted that there are countless more stone-walled settlements on the western Bankenveld (Breutz 1953, 1989; Mason 1986; Boeyens 1990, 2000, 2003, 2012; Mitchell 2002; Huffman 2007; Boeyens & Hall 2009). Whereas Sotho-Tswana groups dominate the prehistorical and historical African farmer settlements in the Rustenburg-Pilanesberg region, other ethnic groupings were also present. Importantly, the more recent histories of the Tlokwa, Kgatla, Fokeng, Kwena, Po, and also the Tlhako, have been documented through ethnographic reports and oral histories (Boeyens & Hall 2009).

One of the major early nineteenth-century Tswana capitals, Marothodi as the precolonial capital of the Tlokwa in the present-day Pilanesberg-Rustenburg region, was situated on Vlakfontein and adjacent farms in the greater area of the study region (Ellenberger 1939; Breutz 1989, Hall et al 2008; Anderson 2011; Boeyens 2012). Marothodi and settlements from this region and period are also important for the intensive iron and copper smelting and trade in manufactured items (Anderson 2005, 2011; Hall et al 2006; Boeyens & Hall 2009). Iron workings and copper smelting

furnaces have been excavated at Marothodi and the settlement is associated with a copper mine on the borders of Vlakfontein 207 JP and Palmietfontein 208 JP (Boeyens 2012).

Molokwane, the capital of the Modimosana Mmatau Kwena on the farm Selonskraal 317 JQ to the west of Rustenburg, is another of these large mega-settlements (Pistorius 1992). Succession disputes, internal strife and wars resulted in small-scale movements, larger migrations across borders and numerous relocations so that the settlement chronology and demographics of the many groups that frequented this region are extremely complex (Boeyens & Hall 2009). Also refer to Breutz 1989; Mason 1968, 1986; Boeyens 1990, 2000, 2003, 2012; Berg 1999; Huffman 2007; Boeyens & Hall 2009; Anderson 2011; Pistorius 2011 for a synthesis on African farmer occupation during the prehistoric and historical periods. Whereas ethnographies, oral geography and oral testimonies as well as archaeological investigations established a reasonably well-documented overview of the past history, many of the settlements sites have not been investigated at all.

In the following section a selection of heritage studies are briefly summarised to demonstrate the importance of the region in general. So many studies and archaeological investigations have been conducted that it serves no purpose to discuss all of them and in any particular detail. Several of the reports and research projects (e.g. Boeyens & Hall 2009; Anderson 2011; Pistorius 2011; Boeyens 2012; Coetzee 2012) deal with the settlement, movements and relocations as well as the role of the various Sotho-Tswana groups in particular, and demonstrate the complexity of the precolonial and colonial history of the region.

However, some areas seem to be devoid of heritage resources. Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (2007) recorded no archaeological remains in a HIA for the Sedibelo substation in the Bojanala District area of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality. Roodt (2007) in his survey for a water pipeline within the same municipality recorded stone-walled enclosures (S25° 04.175' E26° 59.616') that were ascribed to either the Tlokwa or Fokeng. He also found a more recent historical stone-walled settlement at at Ga Ramosidi (S25° 00.735 E26° 09.588). Coetzee (2008) recorded no visible heritage resources in a cultural heritage survey for of the proposed upgrade of road D52 from Maubane to Brakkuil within the Bojanala Platinum District of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality.

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants (2012) in an AIA for a power line northeast of the Bakubung Platinum mine on the farm Styldrif 90-JQ in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality recorded no heritage resources. Coetzee (2012) in his survey on the farm Stylsdrif 90 JQ, where a new ventilation shaft Phase 3 was proposed for the Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine, also found no visible archaeological or heritage remains.

Pistorius (2006a, 2006b, 2006c, 2010a) in several surveys for platinum mining developments recorded a number and different categories of heritage resources. These included stone-walled sites on the farms Ruighoek 169JP, Witkleifontein 136JP and Tuschenkomst 135JP; informal and formal burial sites from the historical period as well as formal graveyards in current use at most of the rural villages surrounding the mining areas; historical structures at Ngweding, Ntsana-le-Metsing and Motlhabe; an extensive homestead on Witkleifontein 136JP; the remains of prospecting activities and mining at Witkleifontein 136JP and Rooderand 46JQ; and also isolated lithics. Pistorius (2010b) assigned medium to high significance to a Late Iron Age (LIA) site without stone walls (Site LIA01) as the relationship between this site on the plains and the very numerous stone-walled sites near mountains in the region should be investigated. He accordingly recommended Phase 2 mitigation for this locality on Magazynskraal 3JQ near the Pilanesberg.

Pistorius (2011) in his Phase 1 AIA at Marothodi recommended that the main areas should be avoided in view of the importance of this megasite and that an emergency protocol should be established for archaeological remains that may be encountered during any of the proposed infrastructural developments. In his report an overview of the prehistory and history of the region is provided. In another survey Pistorius (2012) recorded several LIA stone-wall localities and a formal cemetery.

Strategic Environmental Focus (2013) in a HIA for the Mareetsane Batho-Batho Solar photo voltaic (PV) Facility and associated power line recorded several burial sites.

It is clear from the above discussion that large and smaller stone-walled sites from the LIA and more recent historic period dominate the archaeology and heritage resources of the Rustenburg-Pilanesberg region.

A provincial monument was unveiled on 28 February 2017 for JB Marks.



Statue of J.B. Marks

**J. B. Marks** (21 March 1903 - 1 August 1972) joined the South African Communist Party (SACP) in 1928, at the age of 25. He was sent to the Soviet Union for the first

time in 1930, as a student at the University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV), as a result of funding from the Soviet Union in 1929. When he returned in 1933, he became the Communist party secretary. In 1934 rumours arose that he was a police informer and this may have been the reason he lost his position as party secretary in 1934-35. As supporter of Bach, who was recalled to the Soviet Union and killed there in 1936, Marks was also summoned to Moscow, but managed to bungle his exit and never arrived there. Moscow was in no doubt that he did this on purpose and he was then expelled from the SACP in 1937. Expulsions from the party were generally suspensions rather than actual expulsions and by 1945 he managed not only to rejoin the party but to become the head of the Mine Workers Union, in spite of the fact that he had no previous experience of union work. Thus the strike of 1946 was poorly supported and lasted for only three days and Marks was arrested.

Marks was elected as president of the Transvaal African National Congress in 1951, but later lost this position to Nelson Mandela. In 1962 he became chairman of the SACP and in 1968 treasurer of the ANC. It appears unlikely that someone with both his lack of education and his lack of experience was able to manage two such important positions at the same time, but perhaps, as Moses Kotane, said he was not real chairman or treasurer, but 'just a name'. He had a stroke in 1971 but at the time of his death he remained chairman of the South African Communist Party and treasurer-general of the African National Congress.

Marks died in 1972 in Moscow after suffering a heart attack. (JB Marks Wikipedia)

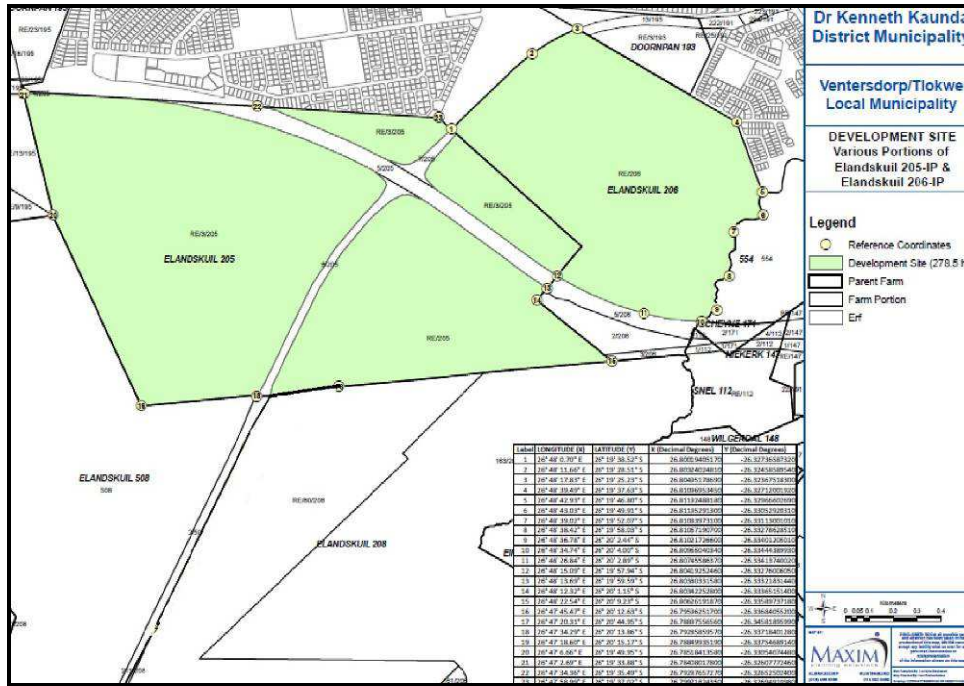
## **F. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

### **(a) Detail of area surveyed:**

- Full location Data for Province, Magisterial District/Local Authority and property (e.g. Farm erf) name and number etc.;

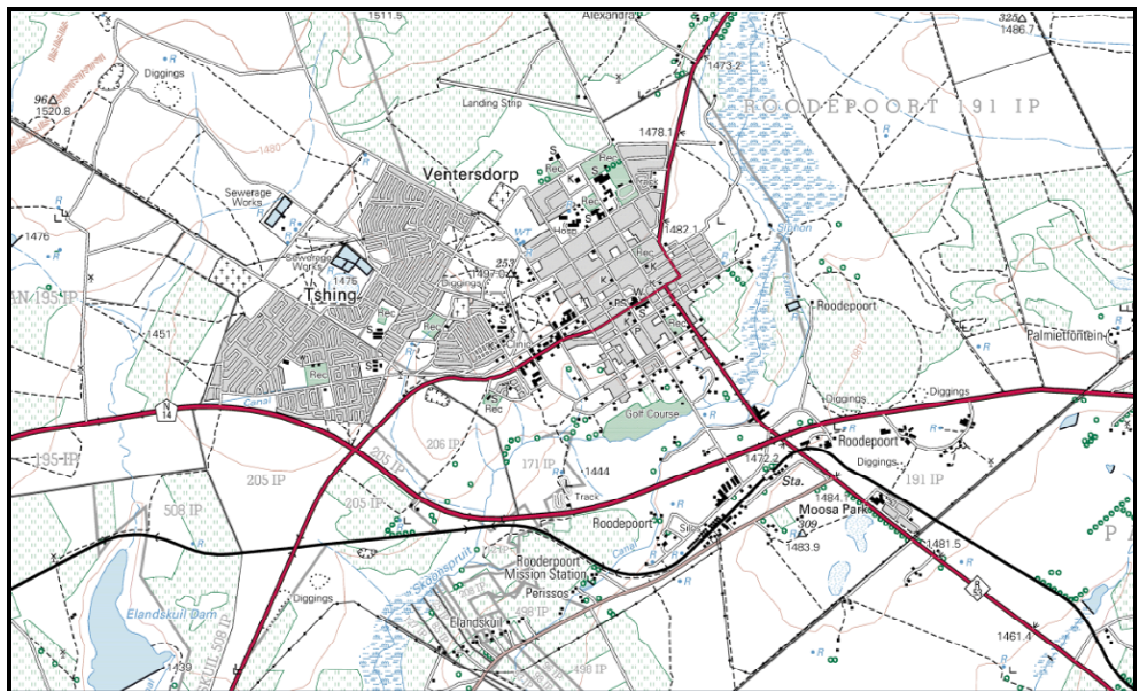
The Ventersdorp Integrated settlement will be developed on the remainder of Portion 3 of Elandskuil Farm No. 205 of Elandskuil farm located in the Ventersdorp/Tlokwe 405 Local Municipality within the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West Province. The N14 and R30 function as the main access to the Ventersdorp.



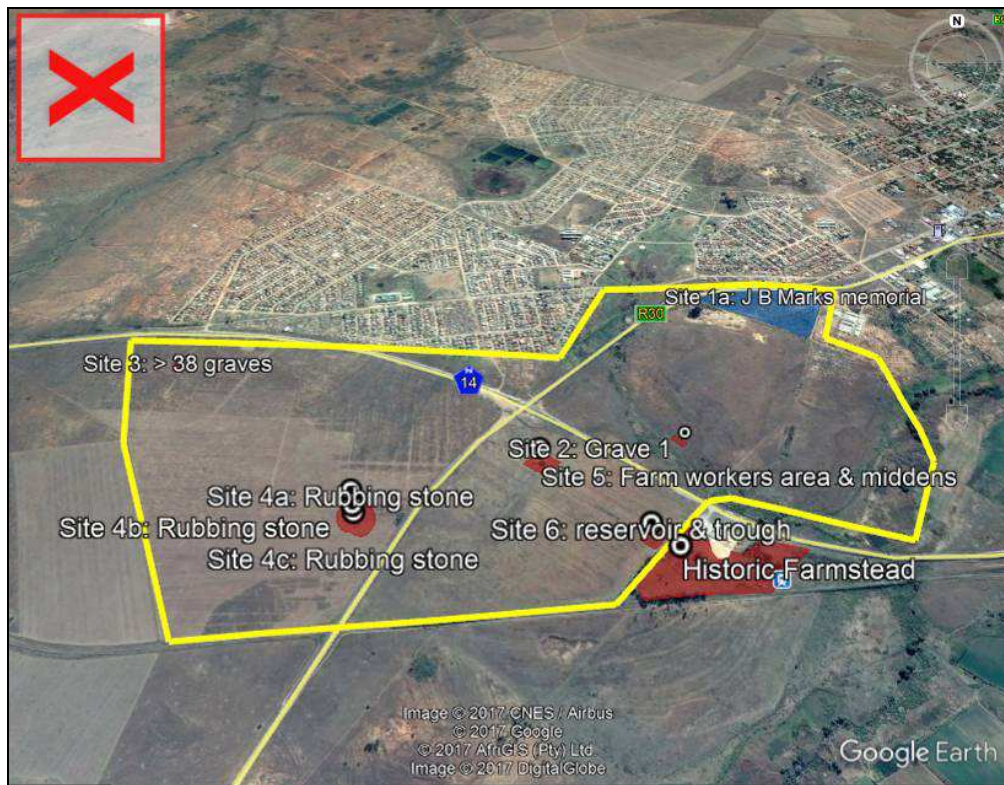


- Location map(s)/orthophotos of the general area. These must include the map name and number (e.g. 3313 DC Bellville). Maps must include at least a 1:50 000 and (if available also a 1:10 000 (i.e. most detail possible). Large scale colour satellite photos make a useful addition. Maps should be preferable at least A4 size.

**1/50 000 Map: Ventersdorp2626 BD**



- Either the Location Map or the Site Map must have the polygon of the area surveyed marked on it and full geographical co-ordinates for all relevant points and where applicable, indication of the area to be developed (footprint).



**Google Map of investigated area**

**Co-ordinates:**

S26° 19' 36.11" & E26° 47' 03.38"  
 S26° 19' 28.03" & E26° 48' 38.01"  
 S26° 20' 03.83" & E26° 48' 36.48"  
 S26° 20' 14.84" & E26° 47' 20.00"

**(a) Description of the Methodology**

The site is highveld grassland of which ± 80% had recently been burned, making visibility excellent. The site was inspected on feet and by vehicle and recorded. A small section of the site is a informal settlement.

## G. DESCRIPTION OF SITES MAPPED

The Ventersdorp area is flat Highveld grassland of which about 80% has recently been burned. This made the recording of the site easy.



The following Heritage sites were recorded.

- (i) **JB Marks Monument. (Site (1a) on Google Map) S26° 19' 28.40" & E 26° 48' 22.35"**

A Provincial Monument commemorating John Beaver Marks was unveiled on the 28 February 2017 at Ventersdorp. The site falls within the boundaries of the proposed new development site.

JB Marks died in Russia November 1972. His remains were reburied in Ventersdorp in 2015. The JB Marks monument was erected at his grave site.



JB Marks Memorial



JB Marks grave



J.B. Marks Statue

**(ii) Rubbing stones**

On a rocky outcrop at S26° 19' 56.02" & E 26° 47' 35.24 (See Google Map site 4) is an extensive animal rubbing site visible as well as on a number of other boulders. Animals like Elephant, Rhino and Buffalo take mud baths in the wet season and then rub their bodies to get rid of parasites. Over millennia of use by animals the rubbing creates a smooth polished surface.

Though the polished rubbing stones are the result of animal behaviour they have been documented here as relative scarce Natural History phenomena and should be protected and preserved. (Site 4 a, b, & c on Google map). See photographs.





To the south of the rubbing site is a rocky outcrop but no rubbing stones occur in this area. See photograph



**(iii) Farm workers area (Site 5)**

The remains of a farm workers settlement site were recorded at S26° 19' 54.65" & E 26° 47' 56.92" (Site 5 on Google Map) Visible on the surface are the foundations of mud structures and a midden.



**(iv) Remains of Farm Settlement**

Remains of a farm settlement were recorded at S26° 20' 02.56" & E 26° 48' 08.52" (See site 6 on Google Map). All that remains is a broken reservoir and trough for watering animals. The rest of the farm settlement falls outside the development area at S 26° 20' 05.15" & E 26° 48' 11.19".



#### **H. DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTEFACTS, FAUNA, BOTANICAL OR OTHER FINDS AND FEATURES**

None

#### **I. CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF BURIAL GROUNDS AND GRAVES**

##### **Single grave**

Near the farm workers area (site 5) a possible single grave was recorded at S26° 19' 50.43" & E26° 48' 14.11" (Site 2 on Google Map).





Site 2 possible grave and remains near farm workers structures.

### **Large cemetery**

A large cemetery was recorded at site 3 with 38 graves (S26° 19' 40.26" & E26° 47' 11.28"). The cemetery was used over a long period of time. Though most graves have no tombstones or dates it seems that the cemetery was at least used from the 1950's to modern times.







## J. EVALUATION AND RATING (FIELD RATING)

- JB Marks Provincial Heritage Site

The site is considered to be at least of Provincial significance Grade II.

- Rubbing Stones

The site is at least of local significance and given a field rating Grade III. The site should be retained as a heritage register site.

- Farm workers area

The site is destroyed and no structures left. Field rating low

- The large cemetery is at least of local significance field rating IIIB. It could be mitigated or retained as a heritage site.

- The possible single grave needs further investigation before any decision is taken on its future.

## **K. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (heritage value)**

- JB Marks Provincial Heritage Value - Its heritage value is high in.
  - (a) Its importance is the country or pattern of South African history.
  - (b) Its special association with the struggle and the SACP.

- Rubbing stones

Its heritage value is high as these rubbing stones are scarce and date to a time when large game was still abundant in the area.

- Farm workers area - Heritage value low
- Burial grounds and graves - Their heritage value is only of local interest.

## **L. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- The JB Marks heritage site is protected by Act 25 of 1999 and should be maintained in good condition.
- The animal rubbing stones should be protected, fenced in and retained as part of an open space development.
- The farm workers area can be demolished.
- The large cemetery should be cleaned and fenced in and maintained in a good condition.
- The possible single grave should be investigated by a heritage specialist in a separate report on before any decisions are taken.

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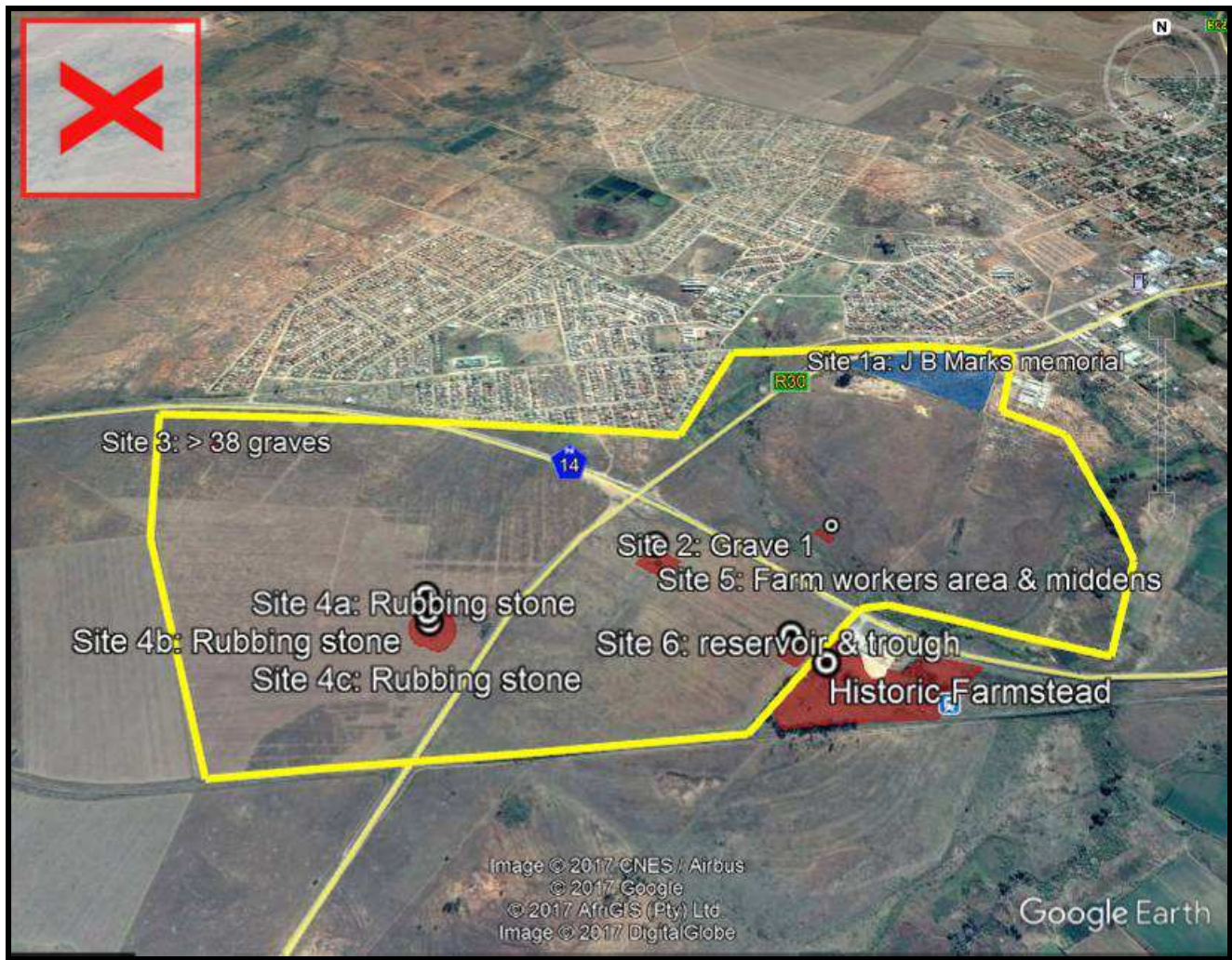
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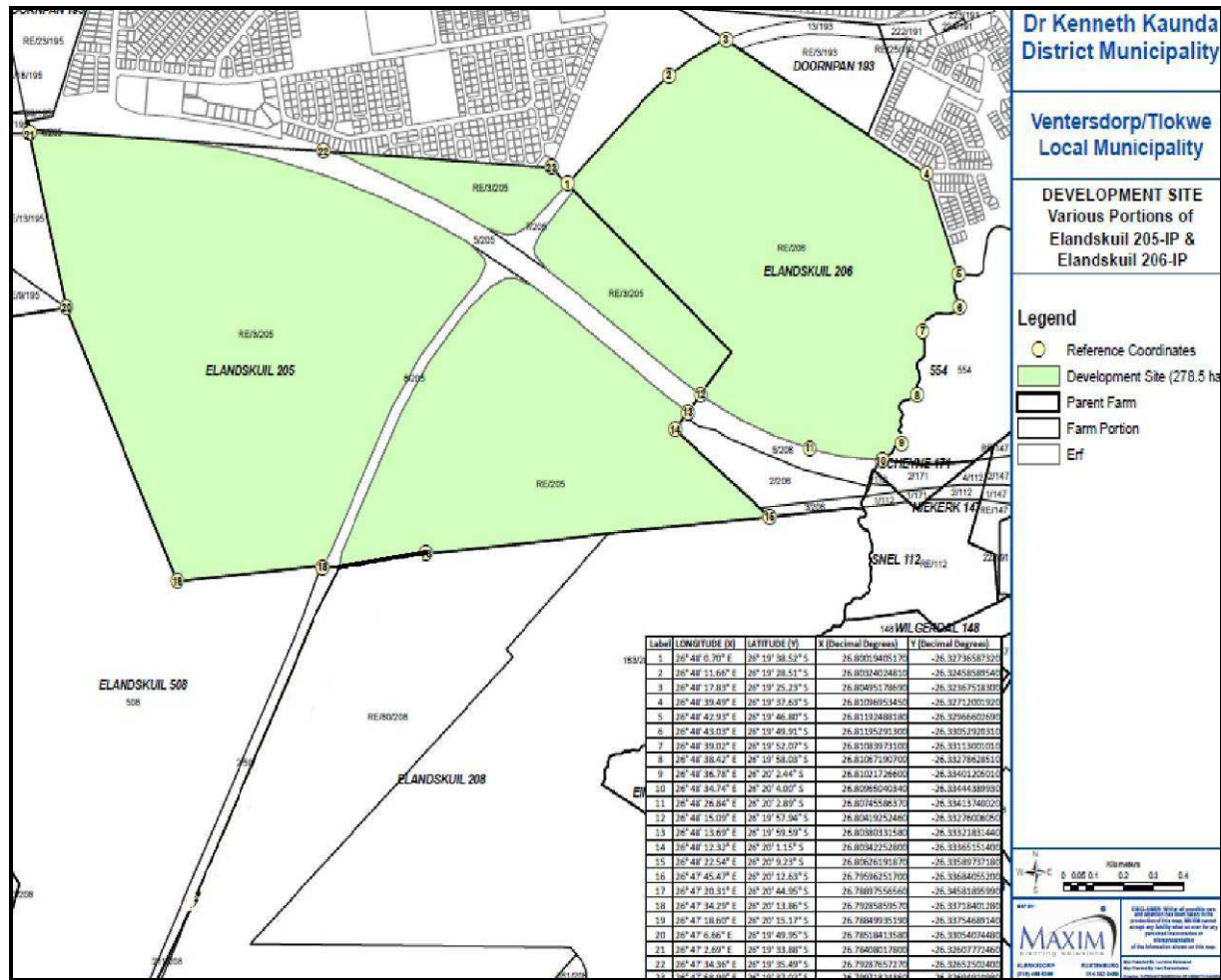
## **N. APPENDICES**

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- Detail map of proposed development site: page 25
- 1/50 000 Map: Ventersdorp 2626 BD: page 26

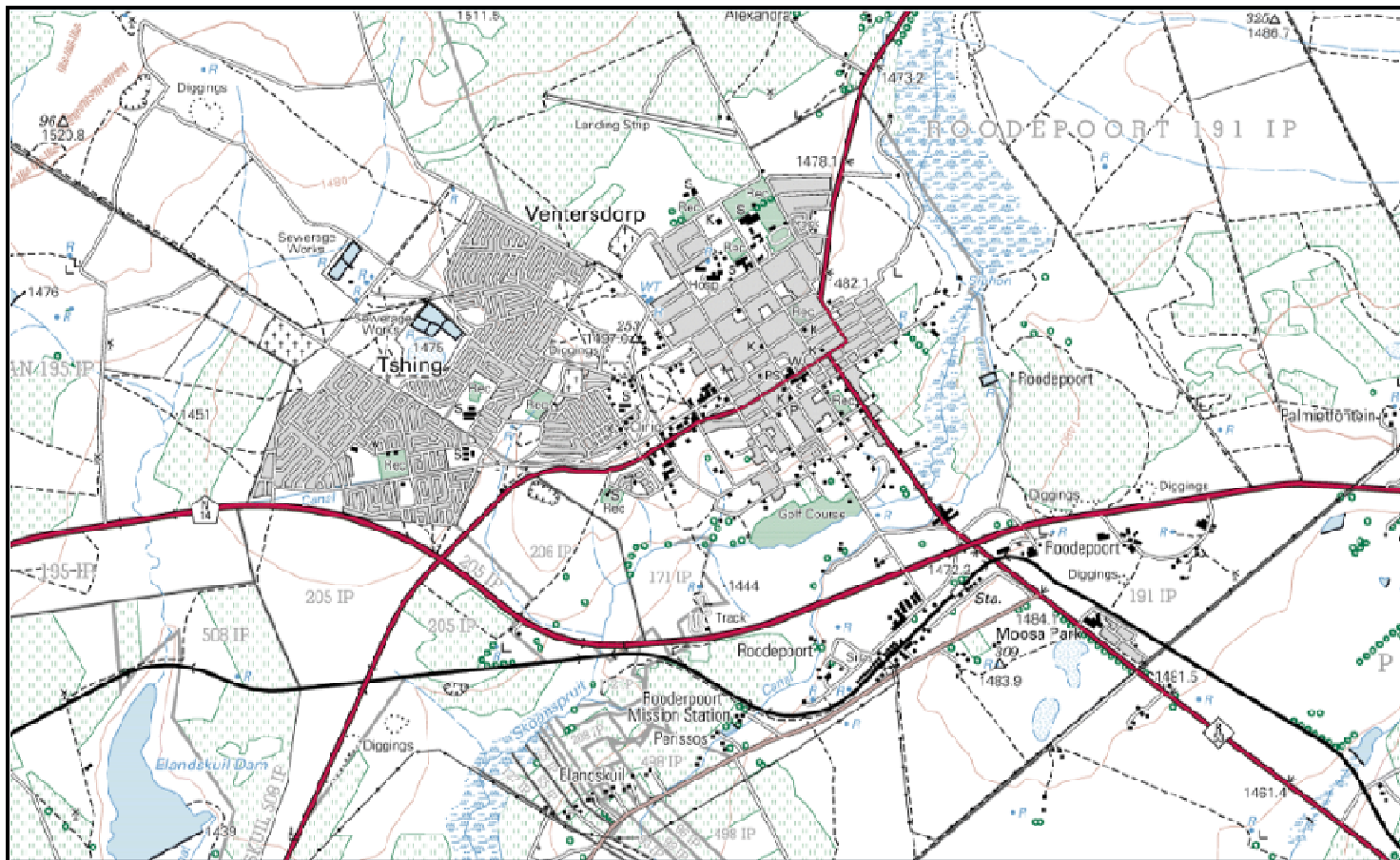


Google map of the entire site - Co-ordinates are in the text





Detail Map of proposed development site



1/50 000 Map Ventersdorp 2626 BD