THE PROPOSED MATLAKENG EXT 11 TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT AND MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT THAT IS TO BE SITUATED ON PORTION 2 AND THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM MOOIFONTEIN 480 ZASTRON ROAD SITUATED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE MOHOKARE LOCAL MUNCIPALITY WITHIN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE



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For:

Sapphire Environmental Consulting

November 2020

REPORT DETAILS

Report Title	The proposed Matlakeng Ext 11 township establishment and mixed use
	development that is to be situated on Portion 2 and the Remainder of the Farm Mooifontein 480 Zastron Rd situated within the jurisdiction of the Mohokare Local Municipality within the Free State Province
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	2014 EIA Regulations as amended and the National Heritage Resources
	Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).
Copyright Warning	Unless otherwise noted, the copyright in all text and other content
	(including the manner of presentation) is the exclusive property of Leonie
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Disclaimer	Although all possible care is taken to identify/find all sites of cultural
	importance during the initial survey of the study area, the nature of
	archaeological and historical sites is as such that it is always possible that
	hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. Leonie
	Marais Heritage Practitioner will not be held liable will not be held liable for
	such oversights or for the costs incurred as a result thereof.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Leonie Marais was appointed by Sapphire Environmental Consulting to carry out a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) the proposed proposed Matlakeng Ext 11 township establishment and mixed use development that is to be situated on Portion 2 and the Remainder of the Farm Mooifontein 480 Zastron Rd situated within the jurisdiction of the Mohokare Local Municipality within the Free State Province. The site visit took place on 2 November 2020.

A field survey was conducted after which a survey of literature was undertaken.

Structures older than 60 years are situated on the area earmarked for the proposed development. The municipal cemetery is situated to the east of the site.

It should be noted that the sub-surface archaeological and/or historical deposits and graves are always a possibility. Care should be taken during any work in the entire area and if any of the above is discovered, an archaeologist/heritage practitioner should be commissioned to investigate.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS:

"alter" means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or other decoration or any other means.

"archaeological" means

(a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;

(b) rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation;

(c) wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic, as defined respectively in sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation; and

(d) features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found.

"conservation", in relation to heritage resources, includes protection, maintenance, preservation and sustainable use of places or objects so as to safeguard their cultural significance.

"cultural significance" means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.

"development" means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of a heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including—

(a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;

(b) carrying out any works on or over or under a place;

(c) subdivision or consolidation of land comprising, a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;

(d) constructing or putting up for display signs or hoardings;

(e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and

(f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil; or object that is specifically designated by that state as being of importance.

"grave" means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. "heritage resource" means any place or object of cultural significance.

"heritage resources authority" means the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or in respect of a province, a provincial heritage resources authority.

"heritage site" means a place declared to be a national heritage site by SAHRA or a place declared to be a provincial heritage site by a provincial heritage resources authority.

"'improvement", in relation to heritage resources, includes the repair, restoration and rehabilitation of a place protected in terms of Act 25 of 1999.

"living heritage" means the intangible aspects of inherited culture, and may include—

(a) cultural tradition;

(b) oral history;

(c) performance;

(d) ritual;

(e) popular memory;

(f) skills and techniques;

(g) indigenous knowledge systems; and

(h) the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships.

"local authority" means a municipality as defined in section 10B of the Local Government Transition Act, 1993 (Act No. 209 of 1993).

"management", in relation to heritage resources, includes the conservation, presentation and improvement of a place protected in terms of Act 25 of 1999.

"meteorite" means any naturally-occurring object of extraterrestrial origin.

"object" means any movable property of cultural significance which may be protected in terms of any provisions of Act 25 of 1999, including—

(a) any archaeological artefact;

(b) palaeontological and rare geological specimens;

(c) meteorites; and

(d) other objects.

"palaeontological" means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trance.

"place" includes—

(a) a site, area or region;

(b) a building or other structure which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such building or other structure; (c) a group of buildings or other structures which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such group of buildings or other structures;

(d) an open space, including a public square, street or park; and

(e) in relation to the management of a place, includes the immediate surroundings of a place.

"presentation" includes—

(a) the exhibition or display of;

(b) the provision of access and guidance to;

(c) the provision, publication or display of information in relation to; and

(d) performances or oral presentations related to, heritage resources protected in terms of Act 25 of 1999.

"'public monuments and memorials" means all monuments and memorials— (a) erected on land belonging to any branch of central, provincial or local

government, or on land belonging to any organisation funded by or established in terms of the legislation of such a branch of government; or

(b) which were paid for by public subscription, government funds, or a publicspirited or military organisation, and are on land belonging to any private individual.

"site" means any area of land, including land covered by water, and including any structures or objects thereon.

"structure" means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

"victims of conflict" means—

(a) certain persons who died in any area now included in the Republic as a direct result of any war or conflict as specified in the regulations, but excluding victims of conflict covered by the Commonwealth War Graves Act, 1992 (Act No. 8 of 1992); (b) members of the forces of Great Britain and the former British Empire who died in active service in any area now included in the Republic prior to 4 August 1914; (c) persons who, during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) were removed as prisoners of war from any place now included in the Republic to any place outside South Africa and who died there; and

(d) certain categories of persons who died in the ''liberation struggle'' as defined in the regulations, and in areas included in the Republic as well as outside the Republic.

1. INTRODUCTION

The proposed Matlakeng Ext 11 project is for a Township Establishment and Mixed Use Development that will consist of Residential stands (comprising of high; medium and low density); Business 1 for an informal shopping centre and taxi rank; Educational for a college; high school; primary school; crèche; Institutional for a hospital; community facility; church; Municipal for tourism conference centre and transportation; memorial park; sport field; public open space and streets including the reticulation of services on the 396,647 hectare site.

The property is situated on Portion 2 and the Remainder of the Farm Mooifontein 480 Zastron RD. The R726 traverses the site and basically cuts the site in two portions on either side of the road. The R26 is situated to the north west of the site with the Vulture Conservation area directly to the west of the site. The town of Zastron and Matlakeng is situated to the south with Lesotho located to the east of the site.

1.1 WHY A PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS REQUIRED?

This project may potentially impact on any types and ranges of heritage resources that are outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). Subsequently a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was commissioned by Sapphire Environmental Consulting and conducted by Leonie Marais.

1.1.1 BASELINE STUDY

The objective of this Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was to gain an overall understanding of the heritage sensitivities of the area and indicate how they may be impacted on through development activities. The site survey took place on 2 November 2020.

A baseline study was conducted to identify and compile a comprehensive inventory of sites of cultural heritage within the proposed project area, which include:

(i) all sites of archaeological interest;

(ii) all buildings and structures older than 60 years;

(iii) landscape features include sites of historical events or providing a significant historical record or a setting for buildings or monuments of architectural or archaeological importance, historic field patterns and graves.

The baseline study also included a desk-top research and a field survey.

The desktop research was conducted to analyse, collect and collate extant information. The desktop research included:

• Search of the list of declared heritage sites protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act no. 25 of 1999);

- Search of publications on local historical, architectural, anthropological, archaeological and other cultural studies;
- Search of other unpublished papers, records, archival and historical documents through public libraries, archives, and the tertiary institutions; and
- Search of cartographic and pictorial documents and maps.

The above baseline categories are sufficient for a report of this nature.

1.1.2 SEASON AND RELEVANCE THEREOF

The survey was conducted during Spring. Unlike botanical studies heritage surveys are not restricted by season.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area is associated with the origin of South Africa's judicial capital that dates back to the mid 19th century when Major H.D. Warden established a British outpost in the then Transorangia. Among other reasons for the outpost was the danger posed by armed Khoe (Korana) and groups of mixed ancestry (Griqua). According to one interpretation, the city takes its name from Jan Bloem II, the leader of a Griqua group.

In about 1823, the missionary Rev Burchell hired armed Griqua to protect BaThlaping living at Dithakong, about 300 km northwest of Bloemfontein. These BaThlaping were some of the first Sotho-Tswana people to have been met by Europeans from the Cape (about 1801). The word 'Dithakong' means 'place of walls' and refers to a large concentration of stonewalling on a hill above the 19th century settlement.

Literally, thousands of similar stonewalled settlements lie scattered across the highveld of the Free State. The oldest type of walling stands near the hill known as Ntsuanatsatsi, the legendary place of origin of BaFokeng (see prehistory of Durban). Although Tswana-speaking now, new archaeological research indicates that the Fokeng moved up from northern KwaZulu-Natal and were originally Nguni speaking. Type N walling, as it is known, emphasises the centre/side axis expressed through concentric circles: the inner circle encompasses cattle byres and the men's court, while the female residential zone of beehive houses and grain bins constitutes the outer circle. An outer wall sometimes incorporates small stock enclosures because these animals are associated with women. This type of walling first dates to the 15th century.

According to oral traditions, Tswana people from the west moved across the Vaal River, found BaFokeng at Ntsuanatsatsi, and assimilated them. Archaeologically, this interaction created another type of walling, called Type V, named after Vegkop near Heilbron. Among other things, this type of settlement includes the famous 'corbelled huts' that captured the imagination of early travellers. Located on the edge of the central cattle area, these low stone huts served mostly as huts for herd boys. In a few places, adults may have lived in larger examples.

The Sand River Nature Reserve contains several stonewalled settlements accessible to the public. In addition to stonewalling, the Bloemfontein area is well known for the Middle Stone Age site at the Florisbad hot springs. Mineralised soil around the eye of the spring has preserved fauna and stone artefacts dating from about 280 000 to 120 000 years ago. The skull of an archaic human is about 260 000 years old and various specimens of extinct fauna such as the giant buffalo are remarkably well preserved. Examples of the fauna and stone tools are on display at the State Museum in Bloemfontein (www.nasmus.co.za).

1.3 LOCATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF STUDY AREA



Figure 1: Location of study area



Photograph 1: Site characteristics (centre of site)



Photograph 2: Site characteristics (north)



Photograph 3: Site characteristics (west)



Photograph 4: Site characteristics (east)

Photograph 5: Site characteristics

2. FINDINGS

2.1 PRE-COLONIAL HERITAGE SITES

Possibilities: Greater study area taken into account.

Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when stone material was mainly used to produce tools¹. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods²;

- Early Stone Age 2 000 000 150 000 years ago
- Middle Stone Age 150 000 30 000 years ago
- Late Stone Age 40 000 years ago +/- 1850 AD

Iron Age

The Iron Age is the period in human history when metal was mainly used to produce artefacts³. In South Africa the Iron Age can be divided in three periods;

• Early Iron Age 250-900 AD

¹ P. J. Coertze & R.D. Coertze, *Verklarende vakwoordeboek vir Antropologie en Argeologie*.

² S.A. Korsman & A. Meyer, *Die Steentydperk en rotskuns* in J.S. Bergh (red) *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies*.

³ P.J. Coertze & R.D. Coertze, <u>Verklarende vakwoordeboek vir Antropologie en Argeologie</u>.

- Middle Iron Age 900-1300 AD
- Late Iron Age 1300-1840 AD⁴

There are no pre-colonial heritage sites evident in the study area. This can be attributed to previous agricultural activities in the study area.

2.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD HERITAGE SITES

Possibilities: Greater study area taken into account.

- Pioneer sites;
- Sites associated with early mining;
- Structures older than 60 years;
- Graves (Graves younger than 60 years, graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years, graves older than 100 years, graves of victims of conflict or of individuals of royal descent).

Structures older than 60 years is situated on the site earmarked for development.



Photograph 6: Main residence

⁴ M.M. van der Ryst & A Meyer. *Die Ystertydperk* in J.S. Bergh (red) <u>Geskidenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies</u> and T.N Huffman, *A Handbook to the Iron Age: The Archaeology of Pre-Colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa*.



Photograph 7: Agricultural structures



Photograph 8: Animal enclosure structure



Photograph 9: Structures situated to the north of main residence



Photograph 10: Agricultural structures



Photograph 11: Secondary dwelling

2.3 ORIGINAL LANDSCAPE

The original landscape has been altered by agricultural activities and infrastructure development.

2.4 INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

The intangible heritage of the greater study area can be found in the stories of past and present inhabitants.

3 CATEGORIES OF HERITAGE VALUE (NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, 1999 (ACT NO. 25 OF 1999)

The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act no. 25 of 1999) identifies the following categories of value under section 3(1) and (2) of the Act under the heading "National Estate":

- "3 (1) For the purpose of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.
 - (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include-
 - (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;

- (b) places which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds, including-
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;

(iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette

- (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
- (vi) other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history in South Africa;
- (i) movable objects, including-
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interests; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section I (xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).
- (3) Without limiting the generality of the subsections (1) and (2), a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of-
 - (a) It's importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
 - (b) Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - (c) Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - (d) Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural objects;
 - (e) Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
 - (f) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
 - (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 and work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- (i) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa".

3.1 HERITAGE VALUE WEIGHED AGAINST CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE CATEGORIES

3.1.1 Spiritual value

During the site visit/field work no indication of spiritual activity was observed on the site earmarked for development.

3.1.2 Scientific value

No sites of scientific value were observed on or near the site earmarked for development.

3.1.3 Historical value

No historical value associated with the site could be found in primary and secondary sources. The location of the farm and the prominent main residence suggest that the farm may have been a landmark in die greater study area.

3.1.4 Aesthetic value

No heritage item with exceptional aesthetic (architectural) value was identified in the study area.

3.1.5 Social value

Social value is attributed to sites that are used by the community for recreation and formal and informal meetings regarding matters that are important to the community. These sites include parks, community halls, sport fields etc.

None of the above is situated on the area earmarked for development.

3.2 SPECIFIC CATEGORIES INVESTIGATED AS PER SECTION 3 (1) AND (2) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, 1999 (ACT NO 25 OF 1999)

3.2.1 Does the site/s provide the context for a wider number of places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance?

The study area does provide context for a wider number of structures of cultural significance. It is an example of a working farm probably dating back to the early 1900's.

3.2.2 Does the site/s contain places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage?

Places to which oral traditions are attached or associated with living heritage are usually found in conjunction with traditional settlements and villages which still practise age old traditions. None of these are evident near or on the proposed site.

3.2.3 Does the site/s contain historical settlements?

No historical settlements are located on or near the proposed site.

3.2.4 Does the site/s contain landscapes and natural features of cultural significance?

Due to previous agricultural and infrastructure development the original character of the landscape has been altered significantly in the study area. The site does not contain natural features of cultural significance.

3.2.5 Does the site/s contain geological sites of cultural importance?

Geological sites of cultural importance include meteorite sites (Tswaing Crater and Vredefort Dome), fossil sites (Karoo and Krugersdorp area), important mountain ranges or ridges (Magaliesburg, Drakensberg etc.). The proposed site is not located in an area known for sites of this importance.

3.2.6 Does the site/s contain a wide range of archaeological sites?

The proposed site does not contain any surface archaeological deposits, a possible reason is previous agricultural and infrastructure development.

The possibility of sub-surface findings always exists and should be taken into consideration in the Environmental Management Programme.

If sub-surface archaeological material is discovered work must stop and a heritage practitioner preferably an archaeologist contacted to assess the find and make recommendations.

3.2.7 Does the site/s contain any marked graves and burial grounds?

The site itself does not contain marked graves or burial grounds, but the municipal cemetery is situated directly east of the site earmarked for development.



Photograph 12: Municipal cemetery situated directly east of the site earmarked for development

The possibility of graves not visible to the human eye always exists and this should be taken into consideration in the Environmental Management Plan. It is important to note that all graves and cemeteries are of high significance and are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graves includes the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) whenever graves are 60 years and older. Other legislation with regard to graves includes those when graves are exhumed and relocated, namely the Ordinance on Exhumations (no 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

If sub-surface graves are discovered work should stop and a professional preferably an archaeologist contacted to assess the age of the grave/graves and to advice on the way forward.

3.2.8 Does the site/s contain aspects that relate to the history of slavery?

No evidence of the above evident on the site earmarked for development.

3.2.9 Can the place be considered as a place that is important to the community or in the pattern of South African history?

In primary and secondary sources the proposed site is not described as important to the community or in the pattern of South African history.⁵

3.2.10 Does the site/s embody the quality of a place possessing uncommon or rare endangered aspects of South Africa's natural and cultural heritage?

The proposed site does not possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural and cultural heritage. These sites are usually regarded as Grade 1 or World Heritage Sites.

3.2.11 Does the site/s demonstrate the principal characteristics of South Africa's natural or cultural places?

The proposed site does not demonstrate the principal characteristics of South Africa's natural or cultural places. These characteristics are usually associated with aesthetic significance.

3.2.12 Does the site/s exhibit particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or cultural groups?

This part of the greater study area does not exhibit particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or cultural groups. The reason being the low density of heritage buildings and structures located in the greater study area.

3.2.13 Does the site/s contain elements, which are important in demonstrating a high degree of creative technical achievement?

The site does not contain elements which are important in demonstrating a high degree of creative technical achievement. Reason being none of the above are evident on site.

3.2.14 Does the site/s have strong and special associations with particular communities and cultural groups for social, cultural and spiritual reasons?

The proposed site does not have a strong or special association with particular communities and cultural groups for social, cultural and spiritual reasons. No comment in this regard was received during the Public Participation Process (PPP).

⁵ Standard Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa and the TAB database at the National Archives of South Africa;

3.2.15 Does the site/s have a strong and special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation?

No indication of the above could be found in primary and secondary research sources.⁶

4. **RESTRICTIONS**

• Structures older than 60 years is situated on the area earmarked for development.

5. DISCUSSION

- Structures older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act no 25 of 1999), Section 34 (1);
- The main residence has been significantly altered and the secondary dwelling portray limited significance, the agricultural structures are also of limited cultural significance.

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6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Structures older than 60 years are the responsibility of the Provincial Heritage Authority of the said province;
- Structures older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act no 25 of 1999), Section 34 (1) before demolition a Section 34 (1) demolition application must be submitted to the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (FSHRA) for approval/comment;
- The discovery of subsurface archaeological and/or historical material as well as graves must be taken into account in the Environmental Management Programme. See 3.2.6 and 3.2.7;
- The municipal cemetery must be protected during construction activities; and
- Submit this report as a Section 38 application to the relevant heritage authority for approval/comment.

7. WAY FORWARD

• Submit this report as a Section 38 application in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act no. 25 of 1999) to the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (FSHRA) for approval/comment.

⁶ Dictionary of South African Biography (vol I-V) and the Free State database at the National Archives of South Africa

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