

# HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 38(8) OF THE NHRA (No. 25 OF 1999))

FOR THE PROPOSED BRANDVLEI P60 TRUCK DEPOT, GAUTENG PROVINCE

**Type of development:**

Filling Station

**Client:**

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Project Reference:

HCAC Project number 2149

Report date:

July 2021

## APPROVAL PAGE

<b>Project Name</b>	Brandvlei P60 Truck Depot
<b>Report Title</b>	Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Brandvlei P60 Truck Depot, Gauteng Province
<b>Authority Reference Number</b>	TBC
<b>Report Status</b>	Draft Report
<b>Applicant Name</b>	Mr. Trevor Mongezi Donga

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Qualifications and Certifications</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**DOCUMENT PROGRESS****Distribution List**

Date	Report Reference Number	Document Distribution	Number of Copies
7 July 2021	2149	Eco Assessments	Electronic Copy

**Amendments on Document**

Date	Report Reference Number	Description of Amendment

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## REPORT OUTLINE

Appendix 6 of the GNR 326 EIA Regulations published on 7 April 2017 provides the requirements for specialist reports undertaken as part of the environmental authorisation process. In line with this, Table 1 provides an overview of Appendix 6 together with information on how these requirements have been met.

**Table 1. Specialist Report Requirements.**

Requirement from Appendix 6 of GN 326 EIA Regulation 2017	Chapter
(a) Details of - (i) the specialist who prepared the report; and (ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae	Section a Section 12
(b) Declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	<i>Declaration of Independence</i>
(c) Indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1
(cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Section 3.4 and 7.1.
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	9
(d) Duration, Date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	Section 3.4
(e) Description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	Section 3
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 8 and 9
(g) Identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 8 and 9
(h) Map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 8
(I) Description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge	Section 3.7
(j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity <b>including identified alternatives on the environment</b> or activities;	Section 9
(k) Mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 10.1
(l) Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 10. 1.
(m) Monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 10. 5.
(n) Reasoned opinion - (i) as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised; (iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and (ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	Section 10.3
(o) Description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report	Section 6
(p) A summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and	Refer to BAR report
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority	Section 13

## Executive Summary

Mr. Trevor Mongezi Donga appointed Eco Assessments as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct a Basic Assessment (BA) for the proposed Brandvlei P60 Truck Depot. The Project is located on Portion 60 (a portion of Portion 7) of the Farm Brandvlei, Randfontein, Gauteng Province. HCAC was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the project to assess possible impacts to heritage resources by the development and the study area was assessed on desktop level and by a non-intrusive field survey. Key findings of the assessment include:


- It should be noted that a cemetery was indicated on the 1976 topographic map on the southern border of the study area and although the graves are not indicated on other maps of the area and were not noted during the field visit, unmarked graves could occur in this area.
- A visual and physical inspection of the proposed site recorded no standing structures older than 60 years or archaeological finds of significance.
- Based on the South African Heritage Resources Information Services (SAHRIS) Palaeontological map, the area is of low paleontological sensitivity and no further studies are required.

No significant heritage resources will be affected by the development and the impact of the project on heritage resources are considered to be low. The project can commence based on the implementation of the recommendations in this report and the approval of SAHRA.

## Recommendations:

- Implementation of a chance find procedure for the project.
- It is recommended that the south eastern corner (approximate location 26°10'29.50"S & 27°36'25.68"E) is avoided during development due to the possible occurrence of unmarked graves.

**Declaration of Independence**

<b>Specialist Name</b>	Jaco van der Walt
<b>Declaration of Independence</b>	<p>I declare, as a specialist appointed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 108 of 1998) and the associated 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, that I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I act as the independent specialist in this application;</li> <li>• I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;</li> <li>• I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;</li> <li>• I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;</li> <li>• I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;</li> <li>• I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;</li> <li>• I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;</li> <li>• All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and</li> <li>• I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.</li> </ul>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	07/07/2021

**a) Expertise of the specialist**

Jaco van der Walt has been practising as a CRM archaeologist for 15 years. He obtained an MA degree in Archaeology from the University of the Witwatersrand focussing on the Iron Age in 2012 and is a PhD candidate at the University of Johannesburg focussing on Stone Age Archaeology with specific interest in the Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA). Jaco is an accredited member of ASAPA (#159) and have conducted more than 500 impact assessments in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State, Gauteng, KZN as well as he Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces in South Africa.

Jaco has worked on various international projects in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, DRC Zambia and Tanzania. Through this, he has a sound understanding of the IFC Performance Standard requirements, with specific reference to Performance Standard 8 – Cultural Heritage.

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BGG Burial Ground and Graves
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CFPs: Chance Find Procedures
CMP: Conservation Management Plan
CRR: Comments and Response Report
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
DEFF: Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
EA: Environmental Authorisation
EAP: Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EIA Practitioner: Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EMPr: Environmental Management Programme
ESA: Early Stone Age
ESIA: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GIS Geographical Information System
GPS: Global Positioning System
GRP Grave Relocation Plan
HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA: Late Iron Age
LSA: Late Stone Age
MEC: Member of the Executive Council
MIA: Middle Iron Age
MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)
MSA: Middle Stone Age
NEMA National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NHRA National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
NID Notification of Intent to Develop
NoK Next-of-Kin
PRHA: Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
SADC: Southern African Development Community
SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency

*\*Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.*

**GLOSSARY**

Archaeological site (remains of human activity over 100 years old)

Early Stone Age (~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago)

Middle Stone Age (~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago)

Later Stone Age (~ 40-25 000, to recently, 100 years ago)

The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to 1840)

Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

## 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference:

HCAC was appointed to conduct a HIA for the proposed truck depot development on Portion 60 (a portion of Portion 7) of the Farm Brandvlei, Gauteng Province (Figure 1.1 to 1.4). The report forms part of Basic Assessment (BA) and Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPr) for the development.

The aim of the study is to survey the proposed development footprint to identify cultural heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial and national context. It serves to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the responsible cultural resources management measures that might be required to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner. It is also conducted to protect, preserve, and develop such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized before and during the survey, which includes Phase 1, review of relevant literature; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey, no heritage resources were recorded. General site conditions and features on sites were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report. SAHRA as a commenting authority under section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) require all environmental documents, compiled in support of an Environmental Authorisation application as defined by NEMA EIA Regulations section 40 (1) and (2), to be submitted to SAHRA for commenting. Upon submission to SAHRA the project will be automatically given a case number as reference. As such the EIA report and its appendices must be submitted to the case as well as the EMPr, once it's completed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

### 1.1 Terms of Reference

#### Field study

Conduct a field study to: (a) locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical, or cultural interest; b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources affected by the proposed development.

#### Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project, i.e., construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with the relevant legislation, SAHRA minimum standards and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999).

## 1.2 Project Description

The project consists of a proposed truck depot as described in Table 2 and 3.

**Table 2: Project Description**

<b>Farm and portions</b>	Portion 60 (a portion of Portion 7) of the Farm Brandvlei
<b>Magisterial District</b>	West Rand District Municipality
<b>Central co-ordinate of the development</b>	

**Table 3: Infrastructure and project activities**

<b>Type of development</b>	Truck Depot and associated developments
<b>Size of development</b>	Less than 12 Hectares
<b>Project Components</b>	<p>a. A truck holding area with a maximum capacity of twenty 20 trucks and related and subservient uses. The truck holding area will be limited to approximately 1.35HA of the subject property and the proposed buildings (roofed areas excluding the truck parking areas) will constitute less than 2% of the total site;</p> <p>b. The remaining 9,784 HA of the subject property will be utilised for agricultural purposes: small scale goat farming and cucumber tunnels etc.</p>

## 1.3 Alternatives

No alternatives were provided to be assessed although the extent of the area assessed allows for siting of the development to minimise impacts to heritage resources.

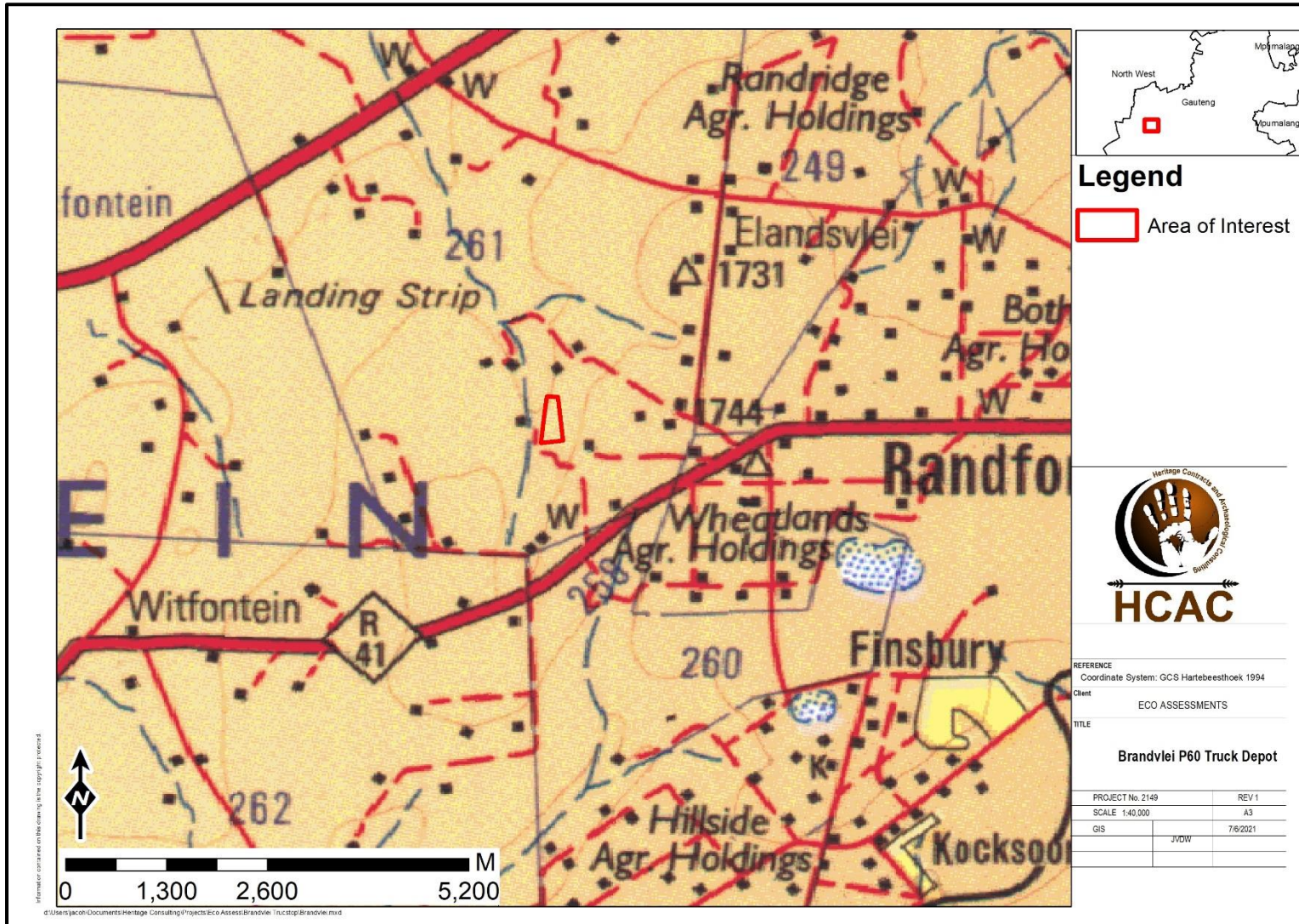


Figure 1.1. Regional setting (1:250 000 topographical map.)

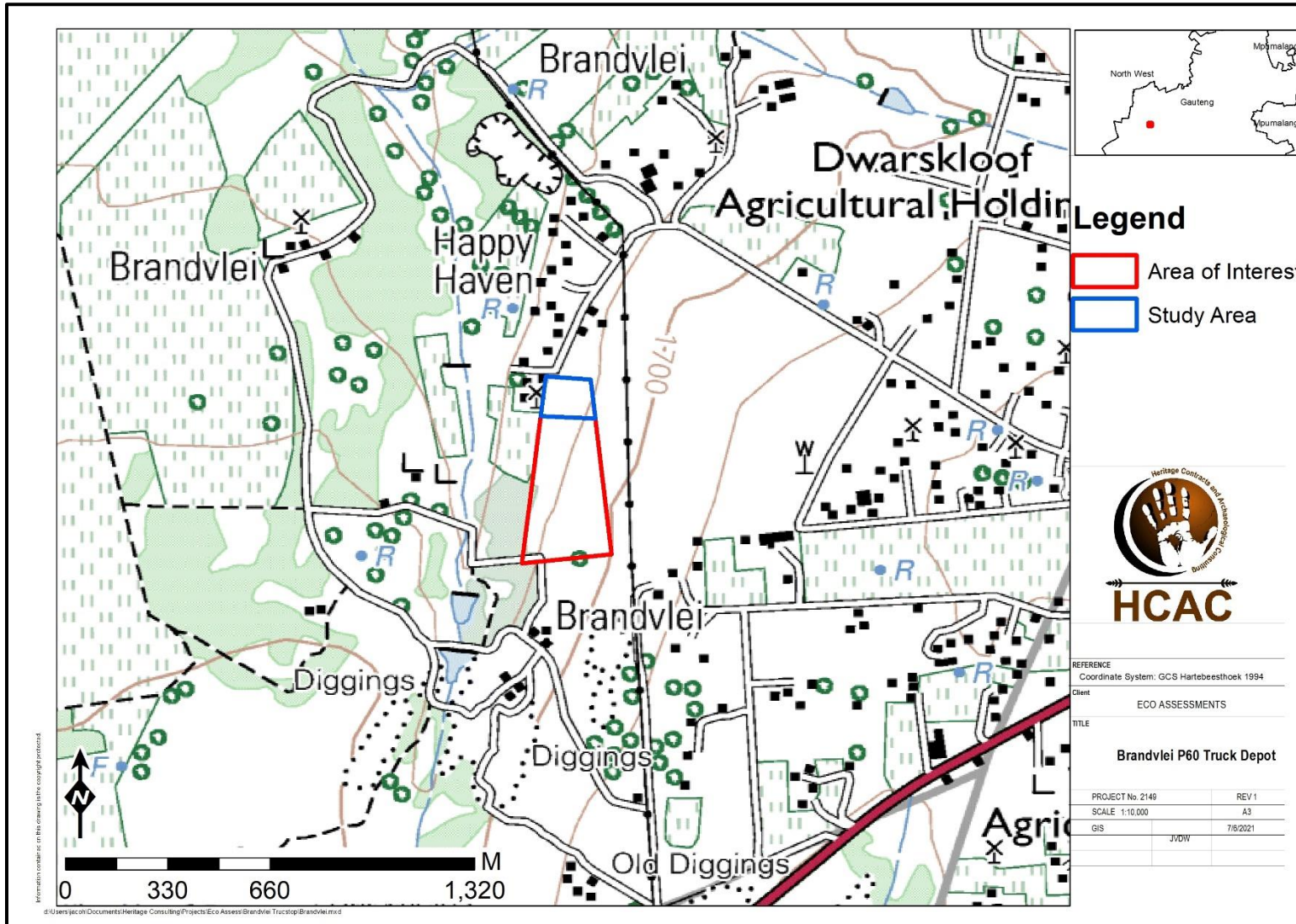


Figure 1.2: Local setting (1:50 000 topographical map) indicating the truck depot (blue polygon).

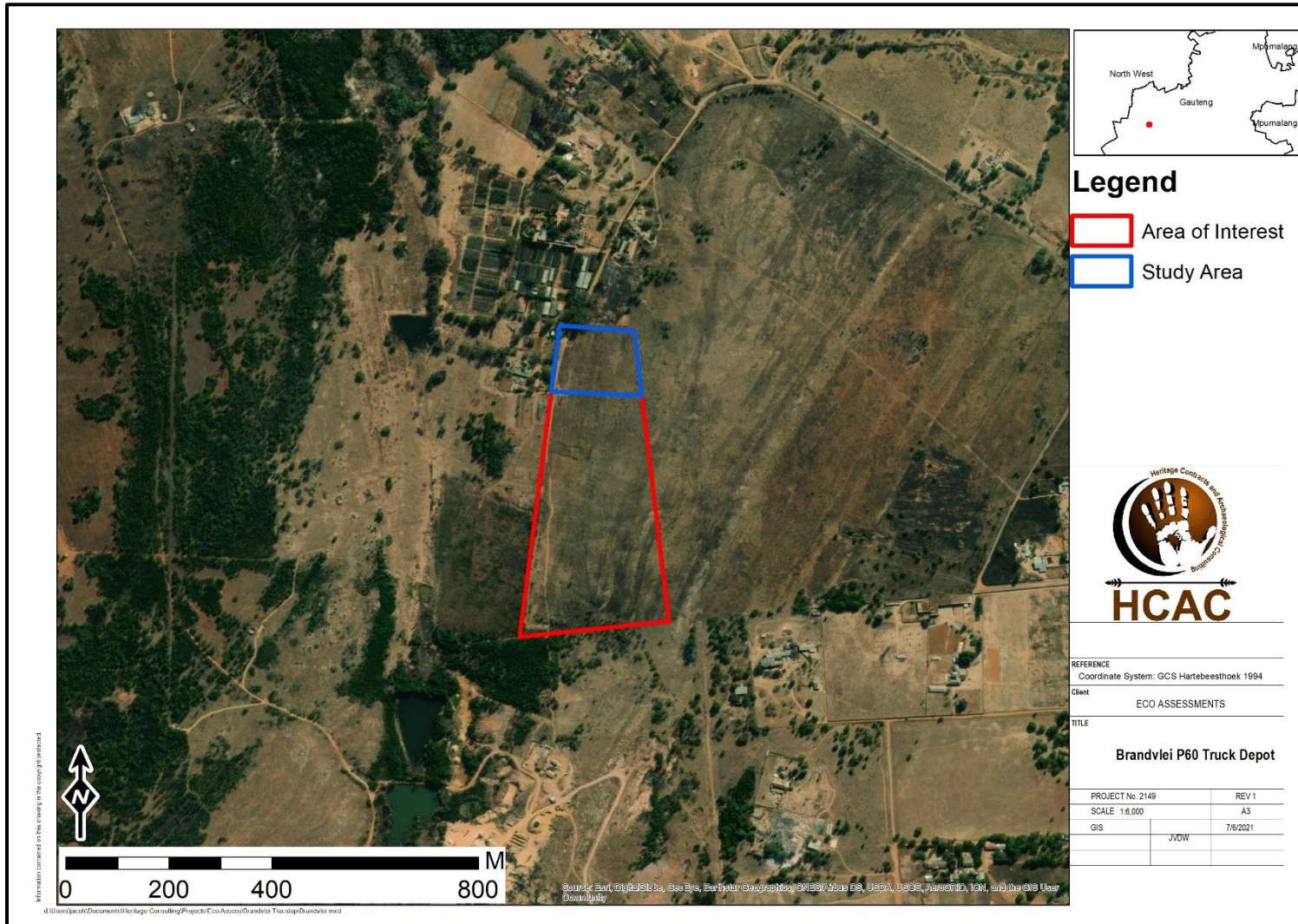


Figure 1.3. Aerial image of the development footprint indicating the truck depot (blue polygon).



## 2 Legislative Requirements

The HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the following legislation:

- National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act No. 25 of 1999
- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998 - Section 23(2)(b)
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), Act No. 28 of 2002 - Section 39(3)(b)(iii)

A Phase 1 HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of heritage specialist input is to:

- Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- Establish heritage informants/constraints to guide the development process through establishing thresholds of impact significance;
- Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources; and
- Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management of these impacts.

The HIA should be submitted, as part of the impact assessment report or EMPr, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will ultimately be responsible for the evaluation of Phase 1 HIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 HIA reports and additional development information, as per the impact assessment report and/or EMPr, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 HIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years post-university CRM experience (field supervisor level). Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is based in South Africa, representing professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 HIA's are primarily concerned with the location and identification of heritage sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance. Relevant conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision-making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement.

After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for with SAHRA by the applicant before development may proceed.

Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36. Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5]) of Act 25 of 1999 is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority, require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, in addition to SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery, but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws, set by the cemetery authority, must be adhered to.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance No. 7 of 1925), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning; or in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare. Authorisation for exhumation and reinternment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. To handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Literature Review

A brief survey of available literature was conducted to extract data and information on the area in question to provide general heritage context into which the development would be set. This literature search included published material, unpublished commercial reports and online material, including reports sourced from the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

#### 3.2 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located; these locations were marked and visited during the fieldwork phase. The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.

#### 3.3 Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement is a key component of any EIA process, it involves stakeholders interested in, or affected by the proposed development. Stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to raise issues of concern (for the purposes of this report only heritage related issues will be included). The aim of the public consultation process was to capture and address any issues raised by community members and other stakeholders during key stakeholder and public meetings. The process involved:

- Placement of advertisements and site notices
- Stakeholder notification (through the dissemination of information and meeting invitations);
- Stakeholder meetings undertaken with I&APs;
- Authority Consultation
- The compilation of Basic Assessment Report (BAR).

### 3.4 Site Investigation

The aim of the site survey was to:

- a) survey the proposed project area to locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest;
- b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas;
- c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources recorded in the project area.

**Table 4: Site Investigation Details**

	Site Investigation
Date	23 June 2021
Season	Winter- Archaeological visibility across the study area was fairly high. Grass cover is low with only a small thicket of trees situated on the southern edge of the study area. The development footprint was sufficiently covered to understand the heritage character of the study area (Figure 3.1).

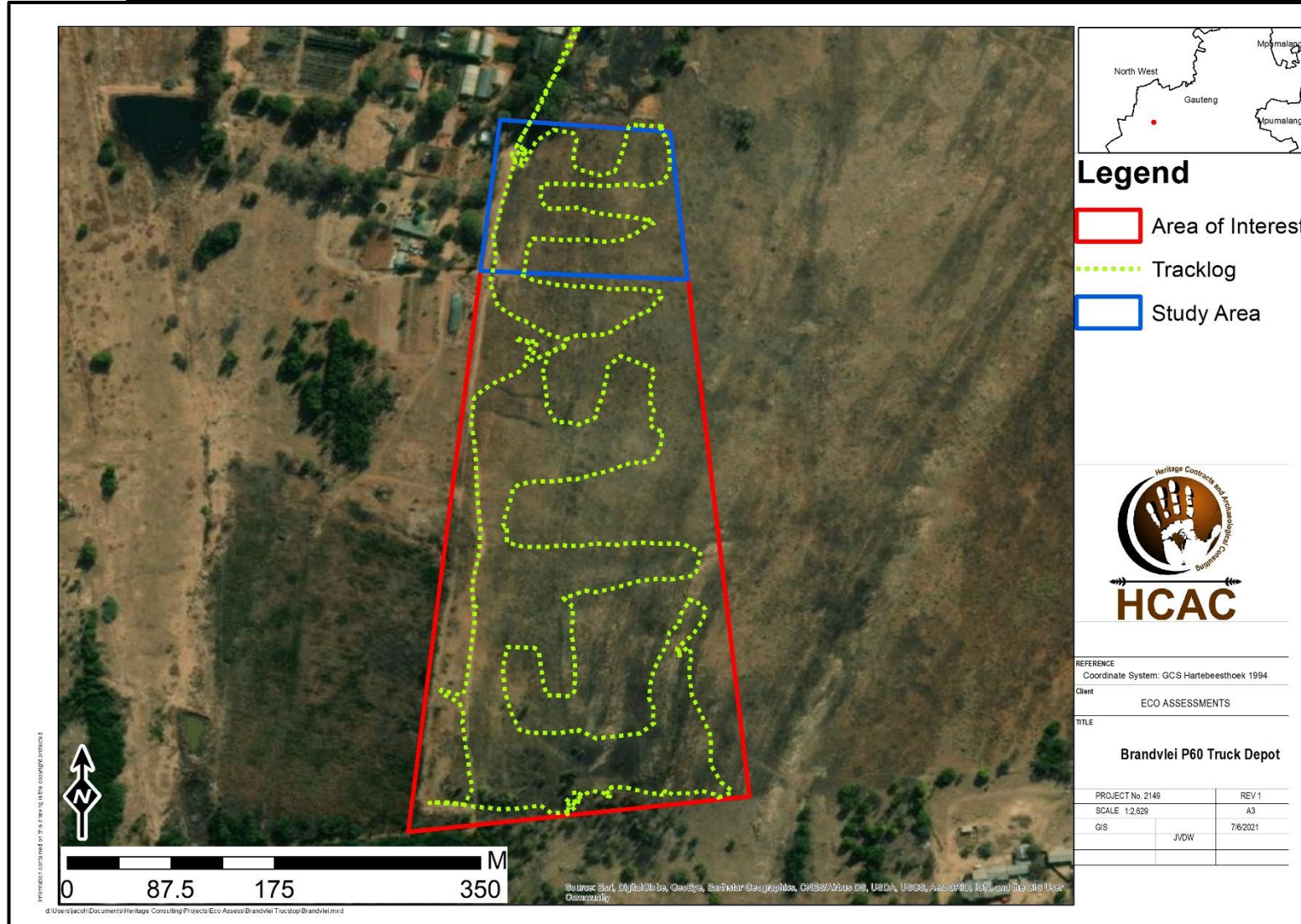


Figure 3.1: Tracklog of the survey in green.

### 3.5 Site Significance and Field Rating

Section 3 of the NHRA distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as ‘part of the national estate’ if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- Its importance in/to the community, or pattern of South Africa’s history;
- Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa’s natural or cultural heritage;
- Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa’s natural or cultural heritage;
- Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa’s natural or cultural places or objects;
- Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a ‘heritage landscape’. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed project the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface. This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The following criteria were used to establish site significance with cognisance of Section 3 of the NHRA:

- The unique nature of a site;
- The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site;
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features;
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined/is known);
- The preservation condition of the sites; and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

In addition to this criteria field ratings prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and acknowledged by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 10 of this report.

Table 5. Heritage significance and field ratings

<i>FIELD RATING</i>	<i>GRADE</i>	<i>SIGNIFICANCE</i>	<i>RECOMMENDED MITIGATION</i>
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; national site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; provincial site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High significance	Conservation; mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High significance	Mitigation (part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP. A)	-	High/medium significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP. B)	-	Medium significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

### 3.6 Impact Assessment Methodology

The criteria below are used to establish the impact rating on sites:

- The **nature**, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- The **extent**, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development) or regional, and a value between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate (with 1 being low and 5 being high):
- The **duration**, wherein it will be indicated whether:
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0-1 years), assigned a score of 1;
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years), assigned a score of 2;
  - \* medium-term (5-15 years), assigned a score of 3;
  - \* long term (> 15 years), assigned a score of 4; or
  - \* permanent, assigned a score of 5;
- The **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10 where; 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment, 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes, 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes, 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way, 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease), and 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
- The **probability of occurrence**, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale of 1-5 where; 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen), 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood), 3 is probable (distinct possibility), 4 is highly probable (most likely) and 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).

- The **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above and can be assessed as low, medium or high; and
- the **status**, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
- the degree to which the impact can be reversed.
- the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.
- the *degree* to which the impact can be mitigated.

The **significance** is calculated by combining the criteria in the following formula:

$$S=(E+D+M) P$$

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are as follows:

- < 30 points: Low (i.e., where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
- 30-60 points: Medium (i.e., where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
- 60 points: High (i.e., where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

### **3.7 Limitations and Constraints of the study**

The authors acknowledge that the brief literature review is not exhaustive on the literature of the area. Due to the nature of heritage resources and pedestrian surveys, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/recorded and the possible occurrence of graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. Similarly, the depth of cultural deposits and the extent of heritage sites cannot be accurately determined due its subsurface nature. This report only deals with the footprint area of the proposed development and consisted of non-intrusive surface surveys. This study did not assess the impact on medicinal plants and intangible heritage as it is assumed that these components would have been highlighted through the public consultation process if relevant. It is possible that new information could come to light in future, which might change the results of this Impact Assessment.

### **4 Description of Socio-Economic Environment**

The West Rand District Municipality (WRDM) consists of three local municipalities namely: Mogale City, Merafong City, Rand West City (Randfontein and Westonaria). It is located on the South Western edge of Gauteng Province and it is home to the famous Cradle of the Humankind World Heritage Site. The West Rand Region is 4,095 km<sup>2</sup> size of the land cover, and a population size of 848,597 (<http://www.wrdm.gov.za/wrdm/>).



## 5 Results of Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

### 5.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

Adjacent landowners and the public at large were informed of the proposed activity as part of the BA process. Site notices and advertisements notifying interested and affected parties were placed at strategic points and in local newspapers as part of the process.

## 6 Literature / Background Study:

### 6.1 Literature Review (SAHRIS)

8 Previously recorded sites are on record for the 2627 BA 1: 50 000 sheet. These sites consist of Stone Age (ESA & LSA), Late Iron Age, Anglo Boer War remains and Historic mining remains. None of these sites are located within or close to the project area but provide a background of to the sites that can be expected. The closest site is a historic mining site (Rand Leases) to the north east of the study area.

CRM studies conducted in the general vicinity of the study area that were consulted for this report is listed below. Sites recorded during these assessments are located well away from the current project.

Author	Year	Project	Findings
Birkholtz, P.	2003	Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment for the Impafa/Pamodzi Open Cast Gold Mine. Middelvlei 255IQ, Gauteng Province	Structures, Mine workings, Graves and cemeteries
Van Schalkwyk, J.	2007	Heritage Survey report for the development of water pipelines for the Droogeheuvel and Middelvlei Townships, Randfontein, Gauteng Province	No sites
Gaigher, S.	2014	Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Vogelstruisfontein Sand Mine.	No sites
Van der Walt, J.	2016	Archaeological Impact Assessment Mohlakeng X16 - Township development.	An informal church site was recorded.

### 6.1.1 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

No known grave sites are indicated in the study area.

## 6.2 Background to the general area

### 6.2.1 Archaeology of the area

The archaeological record for the greater study area consists of the Stone Age and Iron Age.

#### 6.2.1.1 *Stone Age*

South Africa has a long and complex Stone Age sequence of more than 2 million years. The broad sequence includes the Later Stone Age, the Middle Stone Age and the Earlier Stone Age. Each of these phases contain sub-phases or industrial complexes, and within these we can expect regional variation regarding characteristics and time ranges. The three main phases can be divided as follows;

- \* Later Stone Age; associated with Khoi and San societies and their immediate predecessors. Recently to ~30 thousand years ago
- \* Middle Stone Age; associated with Homo sapiens and archaic modern humans. 30-300 thousand years ago.
- \* Earlier Stone Age; associated with early Homo groups such as Homo habilis and Homo erectus. 400 000-> 2 million years ago.

Although there are no well-known Stone Age sites located on or around the study area there is evidence of the use of the larger area by Stone Age communities for example along the Kliprivier where ESA and MSA tools were recorded. LSA material is recorded along ridges to the south of the current study area (Huffman 2008). Petroglyphs occur at Redan as well as along the Vaal River (Berg 1999).

#### 6.2.1.2 *Iron Age (general)*

The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the pre-Historic and Historic periods. It can be divided into three distinct periods:

The Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.

The Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD

The Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period.

The Iron Age is characterised by the ability of these early people to manipulate and work Iron ore into implements that assisted them in creating a favourable environment to make a better living.

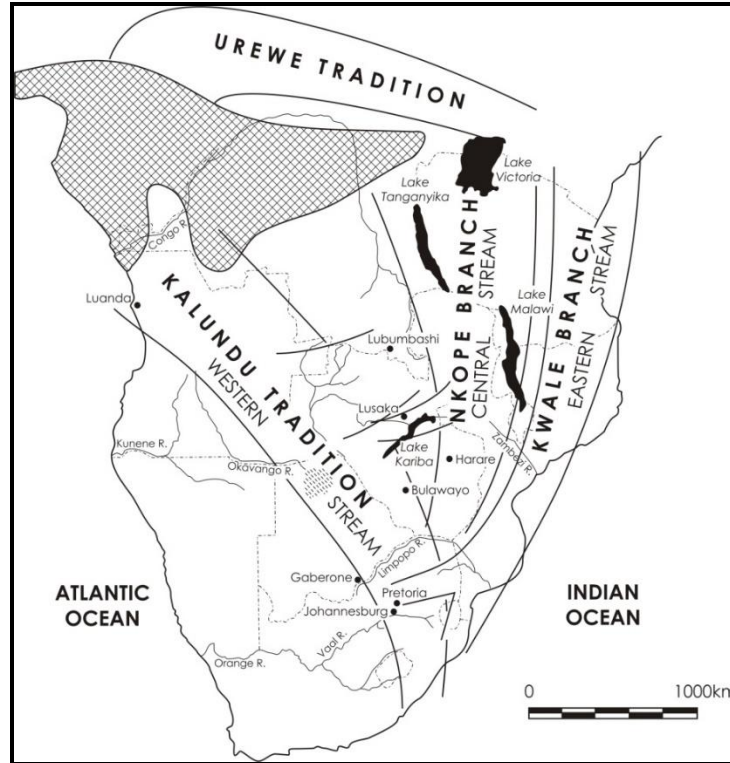


Figure 6.1: Movement of Bantu speaking farmers (Huffman 2007)

The Smelting site at Melville Koppies requires further mention. The site was excavated by Professor Mason from the Department of Archaeology of WITS in the 1980's. Extensive Stone walled sites are also recorded at Klipriviers Berg Nature reserve belonging to the Late Iron Age period. A large body of research is available on this area. These sites (Taylor's Type N, Mason's Class 2 & 5) are now collectively referred to as Klipriviersberg (Huffman 2007). These settlements are complex in that aggregated settlements are common, the outer wall sometimes includes scallops to mark back courtyards, there are more small stock kraals, and straight walls separate households in the residential zone. These sites dates to the 18th and 19th centuries and was built by people in the Fokeng cluster.

In this area the Klipriviersberg walling would have ended at about AD 1823, when Mzilikazi entered the area (Rasmussen 1978). This settlement type may have lasted longer in other areas because of the positive interaction between Fokeng and Mzilikazi.

## 6.2.2 Historical Period

### Johannesburg

The city of Johannesburg was formally established in 1886 with the discovery of gold and the Witwatersrand reef on the farm Langlaagte. This gold discovery set off an influx of people from all over the world into the settlement to find gold. The new settlement was named after two officials of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR), Christiaan Johannes Joubert and Johannes Rissik, who both worked in land surveying and mapping.

### History of Randfontein

Randfontein as a settlement area dates back to the 1550's when the AmaNdebele lived as one nation at Emhlangeni (translated today into the Sesotho language as Mohlakeng, one of the south-eastern suburbs of Randfontein) under King Mhlanga around 1550-1580 (cpfrandfontein.co.za). In 1857 the Botha and Jonker families arrive in the area. (Owners of the farm *Groot Elandsvlei* where the suburbs of Randgate, Loumarina, and Wilbotsdal are today.)

Randfontein has a rich gold mining history. Gold was discovered in Blaauwbank stream near Magaliesburg in 1874 by Henry Lewis, an Australian prospector. Discovery of gold on the Rand by Harrison and Walker started the Reef gold rush in 1886 and in the same year JB Robinson (regarded by some as one of the founders of the modern-day town) arrives on the Reef and starts prospecting in the Randfontein area.

In 1889 the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company (REGM) is registered. JB Robinson buys properties and farms in the Randfontein district in the following year. Randfontein was established formally in 1890 as well. The first shop in Randfontein, Fedlers, opens in 1894. In 1901 the first car, owned by Hector Mackay, arrives in town.

Chinese miners arrive in Randfontein in 1904. On 1 April 1905, on the North Randfontein gold-mine in the Transvaal, a dispute between the Chinese labourers and the mine management erupted into violence. The entire Chinese work force on the mine premises was involved and mounted European police were used to resolve the outbreak. As a result of this dangerous dispute over wages, fifty-three Chinese were arrested, charged with public violence and assault with intent to do harm. After the arrests the Chinese returned to work. On 4 April, however, they received a wage offer which formed not only the basis of the settlement at the North Randfontein, but was to serve as a model upon which the Transvaal Chamber of Mines based its wage policy towards all Chinese labourers for the rest of their time on the Rand (Richardson 1976). In 1929 the Randfontein Municipality was established; independent from Krugersdorp which managed the town from 1903.

## 6.2.3 Battles in the study area

Neither the Genealogical Society nor the monuments database at Google Earth (Google Earth also include some archaeological sites and historical battlefields) have any recorded sites in the study area. The Jameson Raid Monument is however indicated and is located to the east of the study area.

### The Jameson Raid

Cecil John Rhodes had an ideal to unify all South African countries under the British Empire as a federation and in order to do so he planned to overthrow the Kruger government in Johannesburg. Initially a revolt by immigrants in Johannesburg was planned. British troops would then be sent in to protect the lives of British citizens in the area. After this was completed, a British High commissioner would be required to ensure the protection of the Transvaal (Birkholtz 2013).

A reform committee was established and included historic figures such as Lionel Phillips, Charles Leonard, John Hayes Hammond, Colonel Frank Rhodes (Cecil John's brother) as well as Percy Fitzpatrick (later author of *Jock of the Bushveld*). Interestingly the reformers are believed to have had their own agendas in terms of the

revolt as gold had recently been discovered in the area and foreigners were not allowed to vote and a desire for equal opportunity would rather have been the driving force than political aspirations. The group was armed and British High Commissioner, Sir Hercules Robinson, was included in the plan. The attack was to come from a strip of land presented to road to build a railway link in what is now Botswana (Birkholtz 2013).

The reform group reconsidered the plan and Rhodes subsequently suggested that the whole plan should be dropped. However, Dr Leander Starr Jameson, responsible for leading the armed force into the Transvaal Republic and Johannesburg, now requested the Reform Committee to write a letter asking his assistance. The letter was drafted by Charles Leonard and signed by senior members of the Reform Committee. One of the sentences of this letter reads: "*It is under these circumstances that we feel constrained to call upon you to come to our aid should a disturbance arise here*" (Hocking, 1986:51). Jameson indicated that the contents of the letter would not be disclosed, but it was promptly read to the Voluntary Corps at Pitsanaphotlokwe (Pitsani) and the Bechuanaland Border Police troopers stationed at Mafeking (Birkholtz 2013).

On Sunday night, 29 December 1885 all parties who read the letter rode out under Jameson. The telegraph lines were not successfully sabotaged, and Kruger knew about the raid within a few hours. The raid was first opposed in the Krugersdorp area by General Cronje's troops, but managed to continue around Randfontein in an attempt to reach Johannesburg. On the farm Vlakfontein on 2 January 1886 Jameson's men were surprised by a Boer attack and had to seek shelter amongst cattle kraals and outbuildings on the farm.

Maxim fire and cavalry charges were unsuccessful. On the hills between Vlakfontein and the farm Roodepoort the ZAR Staats Artillerie took up position. Their attack took the Jameson troops by surprise and soon after a white apron (that belonged to a farm worker) was raised in surrender (Birkholtz 2013).

The raid is seen by many historians as one of the key contributing factors which led to the decline of relations between the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* and Great Britain, and eventually to the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902 (Birkholtz 2013).

An Anglo Boer War battle known as the Battle of Doornkop took place in the area on 29 May 1900. The British were advancing toward Johannesburg led by General John French. De La Rey and his men held the Klipriviersberg Ridge for the first two days but on the third day the Boers were outflanked by French's cavalry to the West, where General Sarel Oosthuizen's commando was forced to withdraw. This opened the road to Johannesburg and the British took the city peacefully on 30 May 1900. Huffman (2008) recorded several sangers dating to the Boer war close to the study area on a ridge.

### 6.2.4 Cultural Landscape

Historical maps were sourced and examined to determine how the landscape changed over time. Maps of the area are available from the 1930's, showing the surrounding area to be rural in character with limited infrastructure (Figure 6.1 to 6.5). A cemetery is indicated on the 1976 topographic map (Figure 6-4) in the southern border of the study area but are not indicated on other maps of the area.

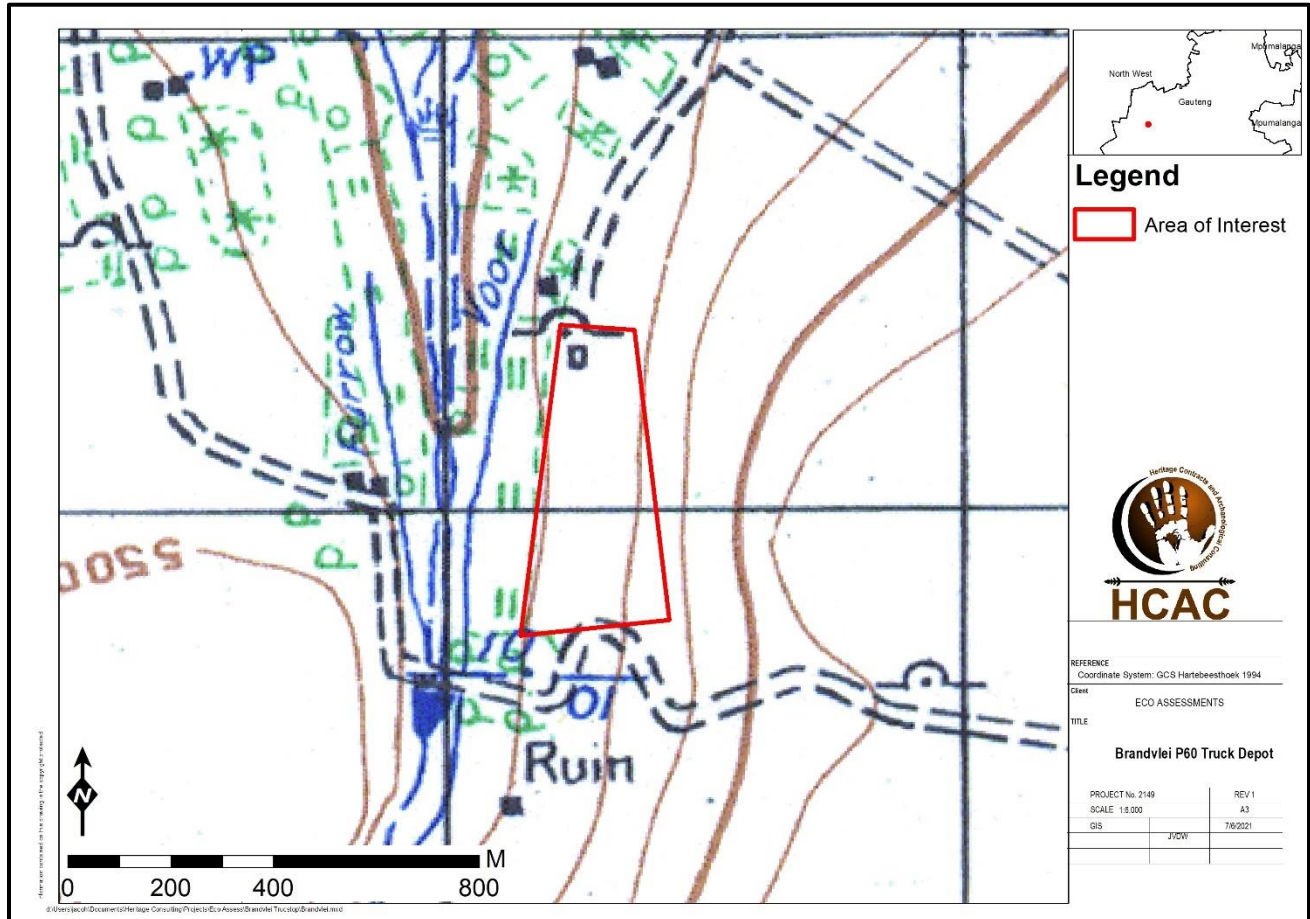


Figure 6.2. 1944 Topographic map of the study area. Indicating a structure in the North-western corner.

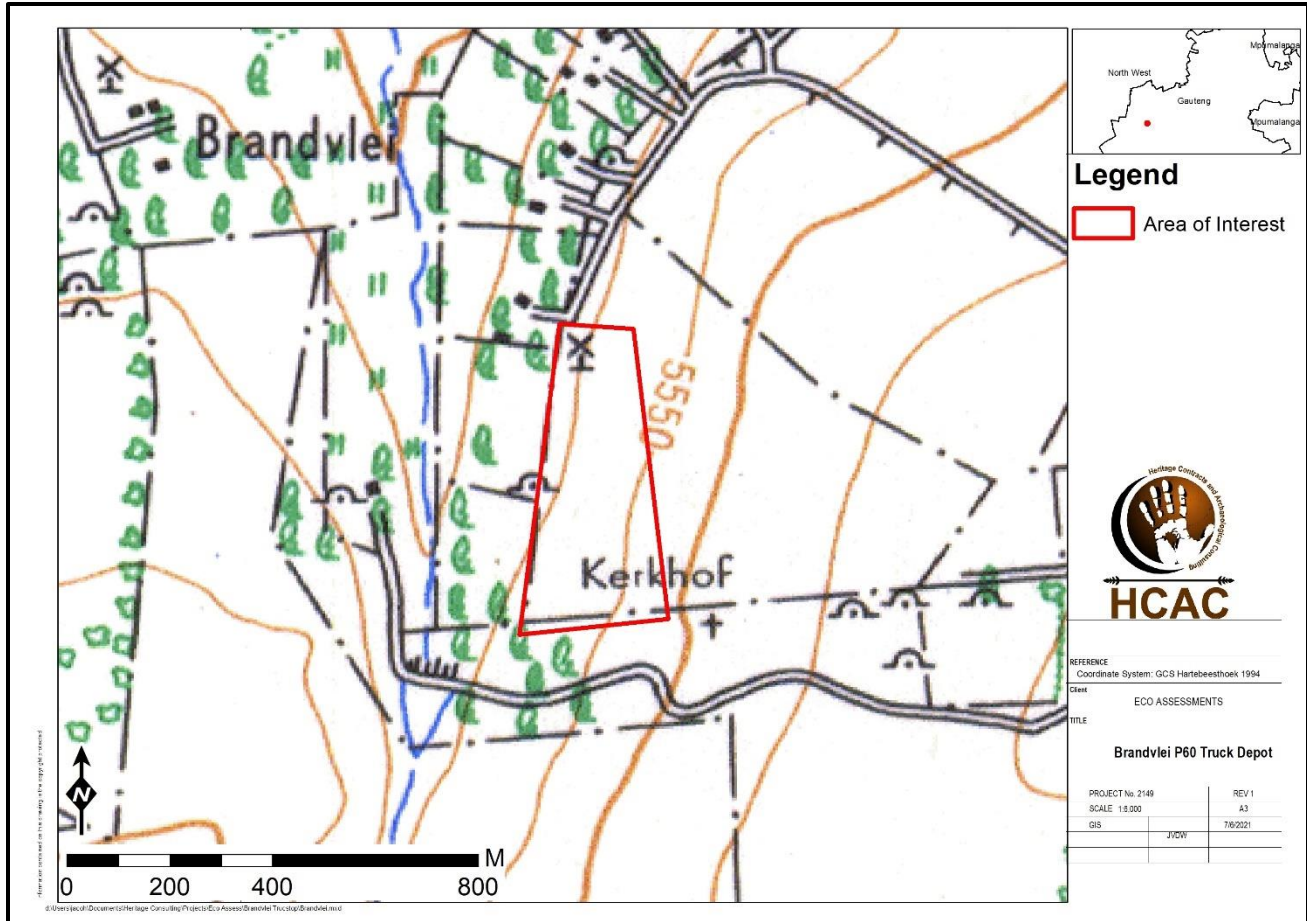


Figure 6.3. 1958 Topographic map indicating a windpump in the north and a dwelling on the western boundary. A cemetery is indicated outside and to the east of the study area.



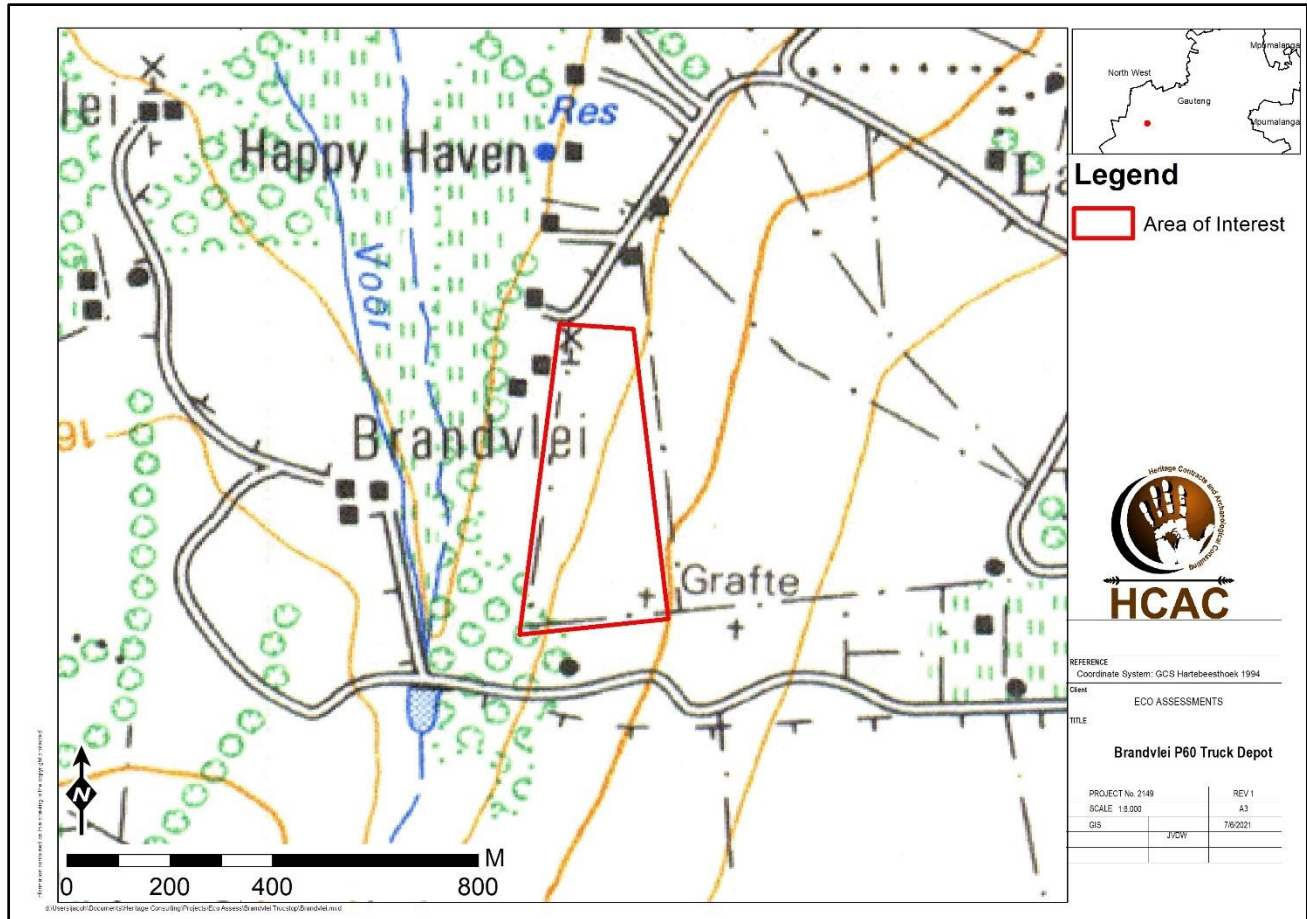


Figure 6.4. 1976 Topographic map indicating a windpump in the north-western corner and a graveyard in the south eastern corner of the study area.

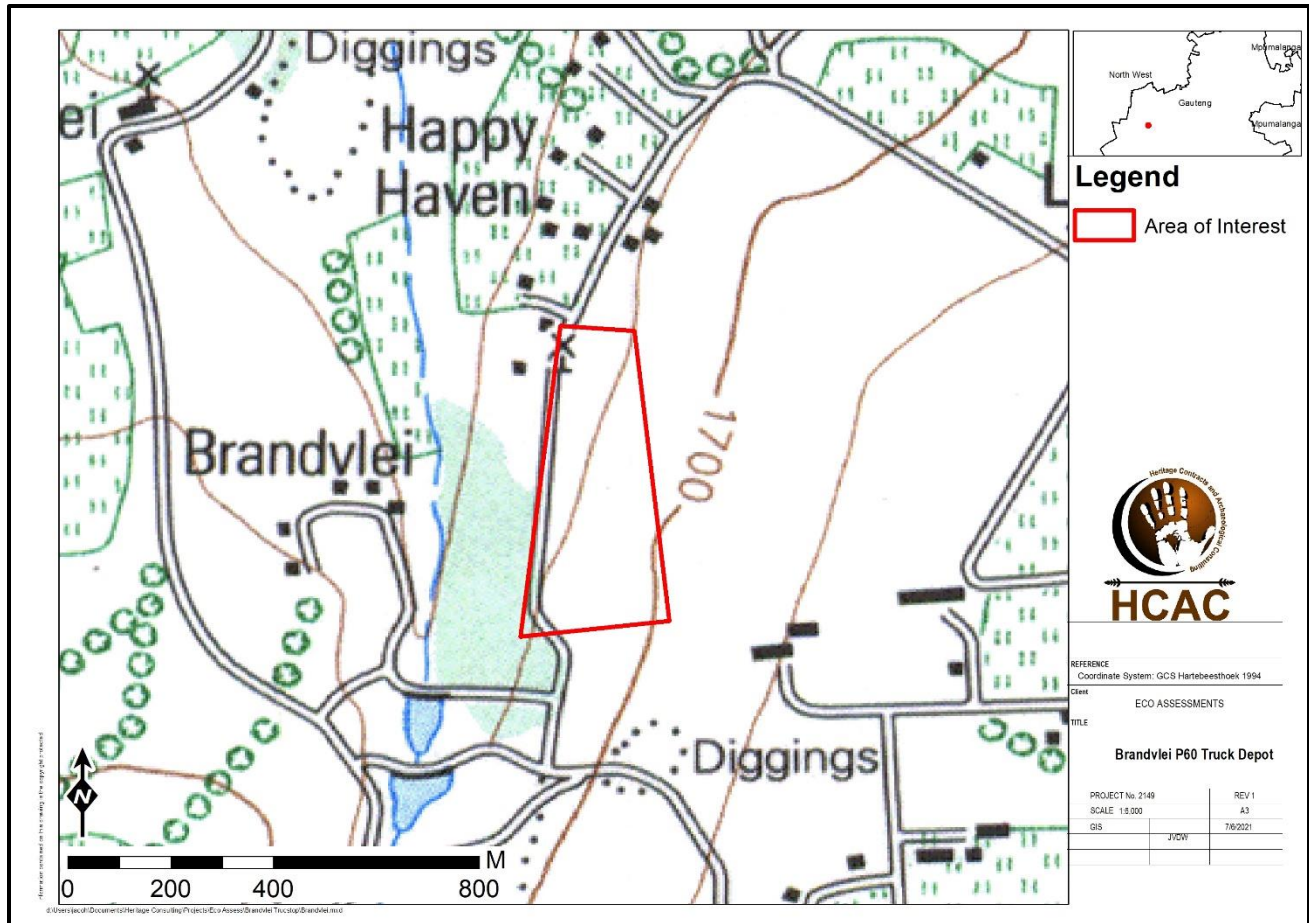


Figure 6.5. 1995 Topographic map indicating a windpump in the north western corner. The graveyards is no longer indicated.

## 7 Description of the Physical Environment

The study area is situated about 9km east of central Randfontein in the rural outskirts of town. The property consist of an open field that is situated against a rocky ridge that runs along the eastern boundary of the study area (Figure 7.1). Archaeological visibility is limited by dense grass cover that characterise the study area where soil occurs away from the ridge that is mostly rock (Figure 7.2 to 7.4).

The property has recently been divided into smaller portions with new fences demarcating camps with recently added farming infrastructure (Figure 7.5 – 7.8). These include a new borehole and pump, greenhouse, wendy house a shelter for livestock.

The proposed area for the truck stop is flat with sandy soil and a fair cover of grass (Figure 7.9). The rest of the property will be used as a grazing area for goats according to the property foreman. The rocky ridge runs along the south-eastern edge of the study area (Figure 7.10). A small drainage line (Figure 7.11 and 7.12) is located along the southern edge of the property crossing over a section of the ridge close to the small thicket of trees.



Figure 7.1. General site conditions



Figure 7.2. Sandy soil



Figure 7.3. General site conditions



Figure 7.4. Sandy area



Figure 7.5. Water pump and tank.



Figure 7.6. Wooden house



Figure 7.7. Structure in study area.



Figure 7.8. Structure in study area.



Figure 7.9. General site conditions at the proposed truck stop.



Figure 7.10. Rocky ridge line



Figure 7.11. Drainage area.

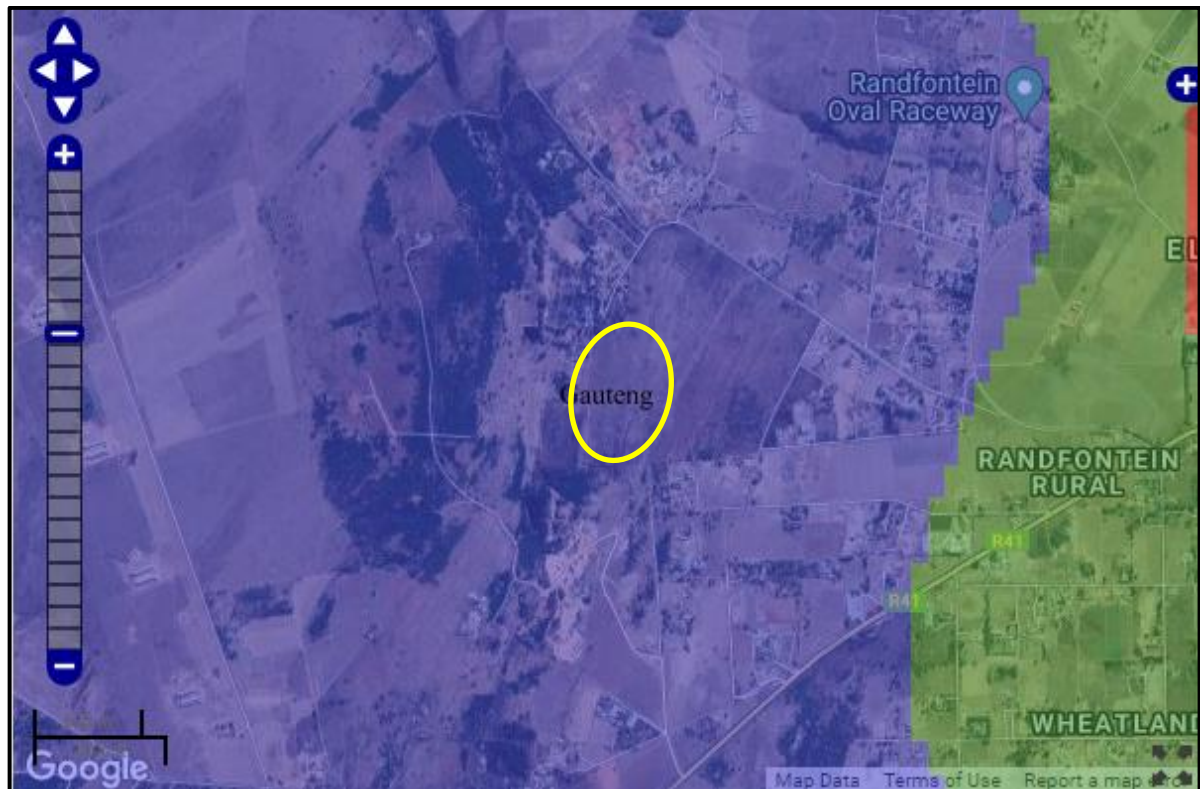


Figure 7.12. General site conditions.

### 8 Findings of the Survey

It is important to note that only the development footprint was surveyed over 1 day. The surrounding area is characterised by agricultural holdings and cultivation activities with small scale farming activities present within the study area. During the site visit no evidence of significant heritage resources were noted and no evidence of the cemetery indicated on the 1976 topographic map were noted.

Based on the SAHRA Paleontological map (Figure 8.1) the area is of low paleontological sensitivity and no further studies are required for this aspect.



Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Figure 8.1. Paleontological sensitivity of the study area (yellow polygon).

## 9 Potential Impact

Based on the lack of heritage resources within the proposed development footprint the impact on the cultural heritage resources of the area is considered to be low (Table 6).

### 9.1.1 Pre-Construction phase

It is assumed that the pre-construction phase involves the removal of topsoil and vegetation as well as the establishment of infrastructure needed for the construction phase. These activities can have a negative and irreversible impact on heritage features if any occur. Impacts include destruction or partial destruction of non-renewable heritage resources.

### 9.1.2 Construction Phase

During this phase, the impacts and effects are similar in nature but more extensive than the pre-construction phase. Potential impacts include destruction or partial destruction of non-renewable heritage resources.

### 9.1.3 Operation Phase:

**Table 6. Impact assessment of the project**

<b>Nature:</b> During the construction phase activities resulting in disturbance of surfaces and/or sub-surfaces may destroy, damage, alter, or remove from its original position archaeological and paleontological material or objects.		
	<b>Without mitigation</b>	<b>With mitigation (Preservation/ excavation of site)</b>
<b>Extent</b>	Local (2)	Local (2)
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent (5)	Permanent (5)
<b>Magnitude</b>	Minor (2)	Minor (2)
<b>Probability</b>	Improbable (2)	Improbable (2)
<b>Significance</b>	<b>18 (Low)</b>	<b>18 (Low)</b>
<b>Status (positive or negative)</b>	Negative	Negative
<b>Reversibility</b>	Not reversible	Not reversible
<b>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Can impacts be mitigated?</b>	NA	NA
<b>Mitigation:</b> Implementation of a chance find procedure for the project.		
<b>Cumulative impacts:</b> The proposed project will have a low cumulative impact as no known heritage resources will be adversely affected.		
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> Although surface sites can be avoided or mitigated, there is a chance that completely buried sites would still be impacted on, but this cannot be quantified.		

## 10 Conclusion and recommendations

The general area is rural in character, characterised by agricultural holdings and cultivation activities with small scale farming activities present within the study area. The proposed project has two components, the first being a truck holding area with a maximum capacity of twenty trucks and related and subservient uses measuring to approximately 1.35 HA of the property. The second component consist of agricultural purposes (small scale goat farming and cucumber tunnels etc.) measuring approximately 9,784 HA.

During the site visit no structures older than 60 years or archaeological finds of significance were noted. It should be noted that a cemetery was indicated on the 1976 topographic map on the southern border of the study area (approximate location 26°10'29.50"S & 27°36'25.68"E) where agricultural activities will take place and although the graves are not indicated on other maps of the area and were not noted during the field visit, unmarked graves could occur in this area. Based on the SAHRA Paleontological map the entire area is low paleontological sensitivity and no further studies are required for this aspect.

No significant heritage resources will be affected by the development and therefore the impact of the project on heritage resources are low and the project can commence based on the implementation of the recommendations in this report and the approval of SAHRA.

### 10.1. Recommendations for condition of authorisation

The following recommendations for Environmental Authorisation apply and the project may only proceed based on approval from SAHRA:

- Implementation of a chance find procedure for the project (as outlined below).
- It is recommended that the south eastern corner (approximate location 26°10'29.50"S & 27°36'25.68"E) is avoided during development due to the possible occurrence of unmarked graves.

### 10.2. Chance Find Procedures

The possibility of the occurrence of subsurface finds cannot be excluded. Therefore, if during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped, and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find and therefor chance find procedures should be put in place as part of the EMP. A short summary of chance find procedures is discussed below.

This procedure applies to the developer's permanent employees, its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, and service providers. The aim of this procedure is to establish monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures. Construction crews must be properly inducted to ensure they are fully aware of the procedures regarding chance finds as discussed below.

- If during the pre-construction phase, construction, operations or closure phases of this project, any person employed by the developer, one of its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, or service provider, finds any artefact of cultural significance or heritage site, this person must cease work at the site of the find and report this find to their immediate supervisor, and through their supervisor to the senior on-site manager.
- It is the responsibility of the senior on-site Manager to make an initial assessment of the extent of the find and confirm the extent of the work stoppage in that area.

- The senior on-site Manager will inform the ECO of the chance find and its immediate impact on operations. The ECO will then contact a professional archaeologist for an assessment of the finds who will notify the SAHRA.

**Chance find procedure for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations for foundations begin.**

1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when excavations commence.
2. When excavations begin the rocks and must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (trace fossil, MISS, stromatolites) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the project activities will not be interrupted.
3. Photographs of similar fossil plants must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants in the shales and mudstones. This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures.
4. Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment.
5. If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer then the qualified palaeontologist sub-contracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible.
6. Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits.
7. If no good fossil material is recovered, then no site inspections by the palaeontologist will not be necessary. A final report by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA once the project has been completed and only if there are fossils.
8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished, then no further monitoring is required.

**10.3. Reasoned Opinion**

The overall impact of the project on heritage resources is low, based on the adherence to the recommendations in this report and approval from SAHRA prior to development. The socio-economic benefits also outweigh the possible impacts of the development if the correct mitigation measures are implemented for the project.

**10.4 Potential risk**

Potential risks to the proposed project are the occurrence of intangible features and unrecorded cultural resources (of which graves and subsurface palaeontological finds are the highest risk). This can cause delays during construction, as well as additional costs involved in mitigation, and possible layout changes.



### 10.5 Monitoring Requirements

Day to day monitoring can be conducted by the Environmental Officers (EO). The EO or other responsible persons should be trained along the following lines:

- *Induction training:* Responsible staff identified by the developer should attend a short course on heritage management and identification of heritage resources.
- *Site monitoring and watching brief:* As most heritage resources occur below surface, all earth-moving activities need to be routinely monitored in case of accidental discoveries. The greatest potential impacts are the initial soil removal and subsequent earthworks during construction. The EO should monitor all such activities daily. If any heritage resources are found, the chance finds procedure must be followed as outlined above.

Table 7. Monitoring requirements for the project

Heritage Monitoring					
Aspect	Area	Responsible for monitoring and measuring	Frequency	Proactive or reactive measurement	Method
Clearing activities and Excavations	Entire project area	EO	Weekly – during construction phase	Proactively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If risks are manifested (accidental discovery of heritage resources) the chance find procedure should be implemented:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cease all works immediately;</li> <li>2. Report incident to the Sustainability Manager;</li> <li>3. Contact an archaeologist or palaeontologist to inspect the site;</li> <li>4. Report incident to the competent authority; and</li> <li>5. Employ reasonable mitigation measures in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Only recommence operations once impacts have been mitigated.</li> </ul>

**10.6 Management Measures for inclusion in the EMPr**

The following management measures must be included in the EMPr to ensure the protection of non-renewable heritage resources.

**Table 8. Management measure for inclusion in the EMPr.**

ACTIVITIES	PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE	MITIGATION MEASURES	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION
Construction and Excavation Activities	Pre-Construction and Construction	Entire site	Chance Find Procedure	Heritage Act NHRA Act 25 of 1999 (Section 35, 36 and 38)	Construction phase

### **10.7 Knowledge Gaps**

Due to the subsurface nature of heritage resources and limited archaeological visibility due to high vegetation cover, the possibility of discovery of heritage resources during the construction phase cannot be excluded. This limitation can be successfully mitigated with the implementation of a chance find procedure.

## 11 References

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