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**CK 2006/014630/23** **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

**PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LENASIA EXTENSION 34 AND LENASIA  
EXTENSION 35 DEVELOPMENTS LOCATED ON VARIOUS PORTIONS  
OF THE FARM RIEFONTEIN 301IQ  
IN LENASIA, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

For:

***C&K ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (PTY) LTD***

REPORT: **APAC021/44**

by:

***A.J. Pelser***  
***Accredited member of ASAPA***

***June 2021***

**P.O.BOX 73703  
LYNNWOOD RIDGE  
0040**

**Tel: 083 459 3091**

**Fax: 086 695 7247**

**Email: [apac.heritage@gmail.com](mailto:apac.heritage@gmail.com)**

Member: AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

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**APELSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING**

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**Clients & Developers should not continue with any development actions until SAHRA or one of its subsidiary bodies has provided final comments on this report. Submitting the report to SAHRA is the responsibility of the Client unless required of the Heritage Specialist as part of their appointment and Terms of Reference**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', is centered below the disclaimer text.

## SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by C&K Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Lenasia Extensions 34 & 35 developments. Extension 34 is for a proposed Cemetery establishment on Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301IQ and Extension 35 is for a proposed Shopping Complex located on Portions 9, 10 & 22 of Erf 12295 Lenasia Ext 12 and Portion 179 and a portion of Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301-IQ. The study and development area is located as indicated on various portions of the original farm Rietfontein 301IQ, in Lenasia, Gauteng Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the wider geographical area within which the study area falls. No cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features and material resources were identified in the study area during the field assessment. This report discusses the results of both the background research and physical assessment.

**From a Cultural Heritage perspective it is recommended that the proposed developments should be allowed to continue taking the measures provided at the end into consideration.**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by C&K Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Lenasia Extensions 34 & 35 developments. Extension 34 is for a proposed Cemetery establishment on Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301IQ and Extension 35 is for a proposed Shopping Complex located on Portions 9, 10 & 22 of Erf 12295 Lenasia Ext 12 and Portion 179 and a portion of Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301-IQ. The study and development area is located as indicated on various portions of the original farm Rietfontein 301IQ, in Lenasia, Gauteng Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the wider geographical area within which the study area falls. No cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features and material resources were identified in the study area during the field assessment.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment concentrated on this portion.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

## **3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

### **3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act**

According to the Act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

**The National Estate includes the following:**

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

**Structures**

Section 34 (1) of the Act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A 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.

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 the decoration or any other means.

### **Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites**

Section 35(4) of the Act deals with archaeology, paleontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial)

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

**The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.**

### **Human remains**

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

### **3.2. The National Environmental Management Act**

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1. Survey of literature**

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.



## **4.2. Field survey**

The field assessment section of the study was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

## **4.3. Oral histories**

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

## **4.4. Documentation**

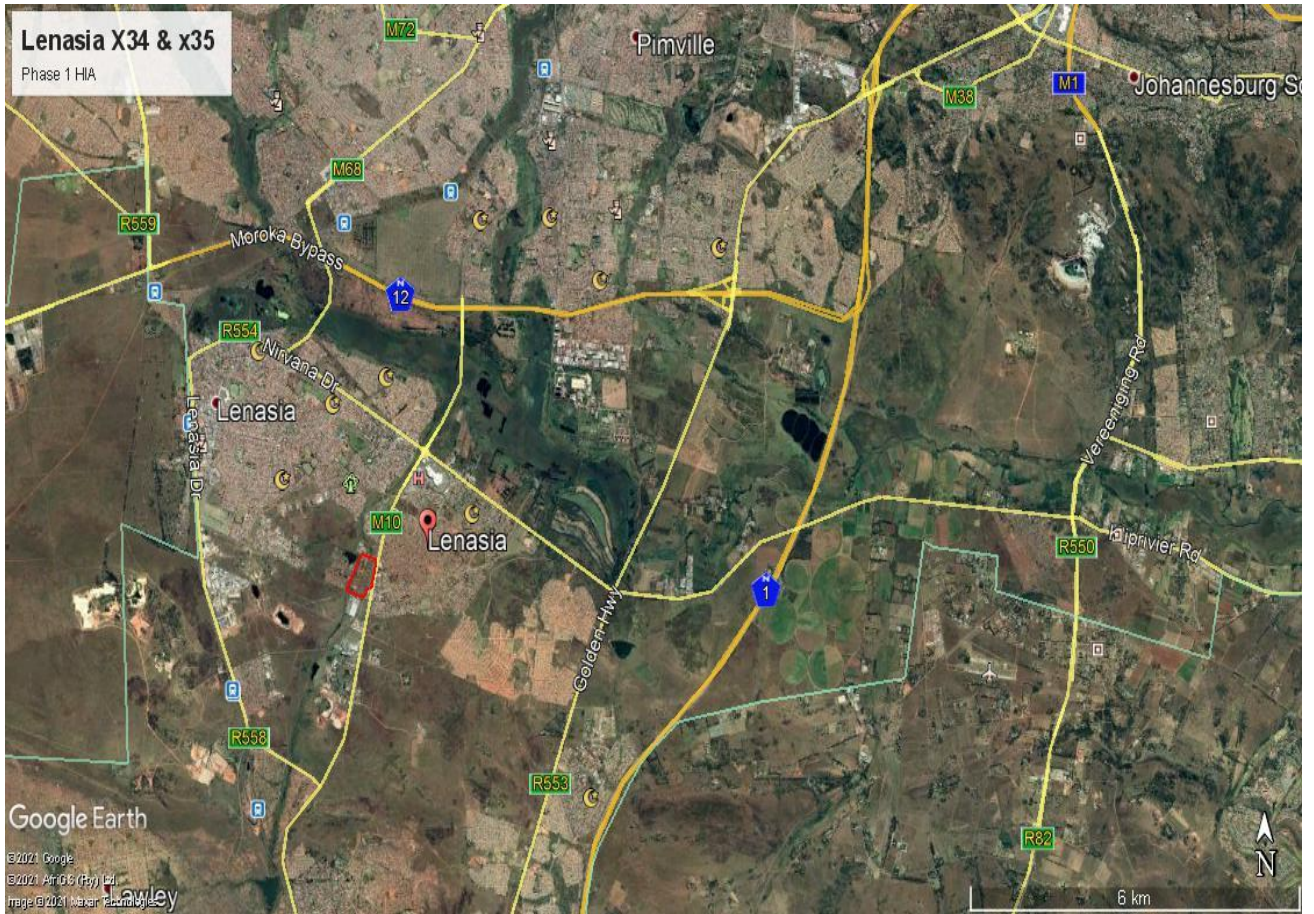
All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

## **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**

Lenasia Extension 34 (for a proposed Cemetery establishment) is situated on Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301 IQ, while Lenasia Extension 35 (for a proposed Shopping Complex development) is situated on Portions 9,10 & 22 of Erf 12295 (Lenasia Ext. 12) and Portion 179 and a portion of Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301-IQ. The study and development area is located in Lenasia, Gauteng Province.

The study & development area is bound to the north by Lenasia Ext. 12 and Peshawar Street, to the east by Klipspruit Valley Road (R558), to the south by Volta Street and Lenasia Ext. 20 and to the west by Portions 49 and 50 of the Farm Rietfontein 301-IQ.

The topography of the study and development areas is generally flat and open with no rocky outcrops or ridges present. Vegetation (grass and tree cover) was very dense in sections during the assessment, limiting visibility to some degree. Large portions of the area has already been cleared and impacted however. The development area is surrounded by already established and ongoing urban residential developments (housing and other) and as a result the larger area has been completely altered from its original character in recent years. The surrounding area and study area itself have been used in the past for agricultural purposes and it is assumed that if any significant archaeological and/or historical sites, features or material did exist here in the past it would have been largely disturbed or destroyed as a result. The informal dumping of building material and other household refuse occurs throughout the study area too.



**Figure 1: General location of study & development area in red polygon (Google Earth 2021).**



**Figure 2: Closer view of study area & development areas location & footprint (Google Earth 2021).**

## 6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago

Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago

Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

There are no known Stone Age sites or artifacts present in the study and development areas. The closest known Stone Age sites are those at Aasvoelkop, Melvillekoppies, Linksfield and Primrose (Bergh 1999: 4). If any Stone Age artifacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single, out of context, stone tools.

**No Stone Age sites or material were found in the areas during the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021 study.**

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.  
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.  
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.  
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

No Early Iron Age sites are known in the area (Bergh 1999: 6). The closest known LIA sites are at Melvillekoppies and Bruma Lake (Bergh 1999: 7).

**No Iron Age sites, features or material were identified in the study area during the May 2021 assessment.**

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans to move through and into the area were the group of Cornwallis Harris in 1836 (Bergh 1999: 13). These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 14). During the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 -1902, a Concentration Camp for Black inhabitants was established at Klipriviersberg (Bergh 1999: 54), north of the study area.

After the National Party won the 1948 election the government introduced new laws to separate race groups and to deposit them in racially exclusive locations. The first step was the passing of the Group Areas Act in 1950. Indians had been living in various suburbs in and around Johannesburg for decades. In towns such as Turffontein little pockets forming small communities had taken root, while in others there were larger communities, such as in Fordsburg, Doornfontein, Vrededorp, Sophiatown, Newclare and other areas (Beater 2014: 5).

The Nationalist Government at first proposed an alternative to re-housing the Indians by offering them a free passage back to India, but very few took up this offer. So the plan was for the Indians to be moved to a suburb populated only by Indians. The government at first offered the community the area today known as Robertsham, about 10km from the city, but community leaders refused to be housed there. Eventually some accepted relocation to an area known as Lenz from where Lenasia developed. Working class people in areas such as Sophiatown and Newlands were evicted from their lodgings by the authorities, with no alternative accommodation, their possessions dumped onto pavements. The Reverend Sigamany, a prominent figure in the Indian community, arranged for these people to take up accommodation at a military barracks in Lenz. The surrounding property was owned by a German national by the name of Lenz. He had acquired the property and settled there much

earlier but he eventually sold the property to the government for housing developments. At first, the entirety of Lenasia consisted of the people living at the military barracks. Later the government sold plots for around R60 each, in the first extension to be established. By 1955, the first school was established, the Lenasia High School. In 1958, Lenasia was proclaimed an Indian township under the Group Areas Act (Beater 2014: 5-6).

A 1906 map obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's database ([www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za)) indicates that the farm Rietfontein was granted to one A. du Preez on the 10th of March 1859 (Document 10J2J501), and that the farm was surveyed in September 1905 for various individuals. No sites or features are shown on this map.

No historical sites, features or material were identified in the study & development areas during the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021 field assessment.

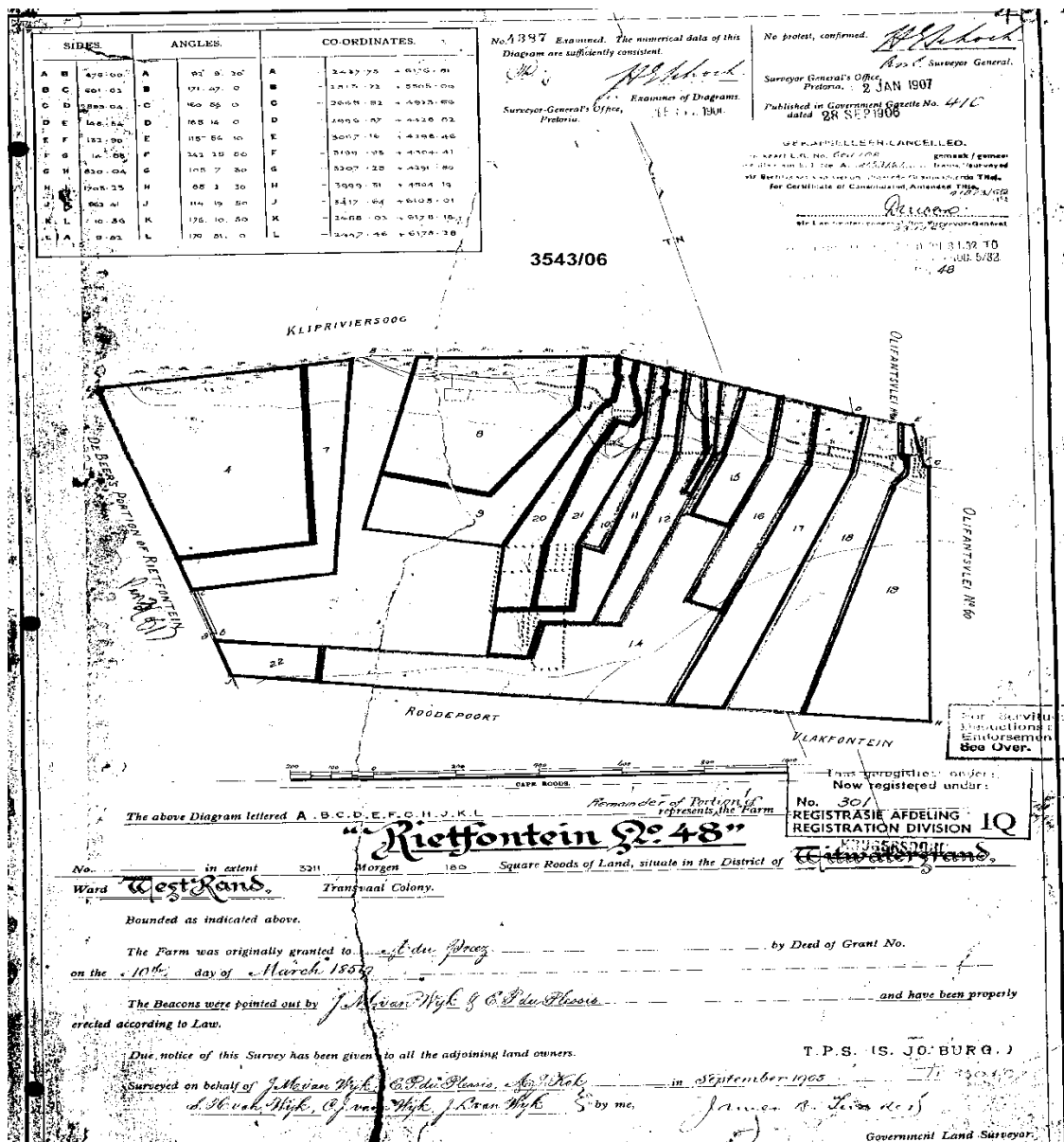


Figure 3: 1906 map of the farm ([www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za)).

## **Results of the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021 Study & Development Areas Assessment (Lenasia Ext.34 & Ext.35)**

No sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance were identified in the study & proposed development areas (Lenasia Extension 34 & Lenasia Extension 35) during the field assessment. Large portions of the area has already been cleared and impacted. The development areas are surrounded by already established and ongoing urban residential developments (housing and other) and as a result the larger area has been completely altered from its original character in recent years. The surrounding area and study areas itself have been used in the past for agricultural purposes and it is assumed that if any significant archaeological and/or historical sites, features or material did exist here in the past it would have been largely disturbed or destroyed as a result.

Earlier (2001 to 2013) aerial images (Google Earth) of the study & development areas also shows the general open and flat nature of the area, and no evidence of the presence of any structures or remains until fairly recently (from 2008 onwards). From these images it is also clear that the specific area earmarked for the Lenasia Extensions 34 & 35 developments had been extensively used for agricultural purposes in the recent past.



**Figure 4: General view of the area.**



**Figure 5: Another view of a section of the area. This section has been partially developed already in the recent past.**



**Figure 6: Another view. Note the fairly dense grass and other vegetation cover.**



**Figure 7: Some sections are more open.**



**Figure 8: The vegetation covering in other parts are very dense.**





**Figure 9: Another general view of the study and development area.**



**Figure 10: Aerial view of the study & development areas dating to 2001. Note the fairly extensive agricultural activities here (Google Earth 2021).**



**Figure 11: The same area by 2008. The impact of the agricultural activities is still visible but the changing landscape of the surrounding areas through urban development is clearly evident (Google Earth 2021).**



**Figure 12: The area in 2013. The old agricultural plots are mostly obliterated but still evident (Google Earth 2021).**

Based on the field assessment, aerial images and background study conducted, from a Cultural Heritage point of view, it can be concluded that the Proposed Lenasia Extension 34 Cemetery Establishment & the Proposed Lenasia Extension 35 Shopping Complex Development should be allowed to continue.

***Finally, it should be noted that although all efforts are made to cover a total area during any assessment and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. This will include low stone-packed or unmarked graves. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.***

## **7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by C&K Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Lenasia Extensions 34 & 35 developments. Extension 34 is for a proposed Cemetery establishment on Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301IQ and Extension 35 is for a proposed Shopping Complex located on Portions 9, 10 & 22 of Erf 12295 Lenasia Ext 12 and Portion 179 and a portion of Portion 139 of Rietfontein 301-IQ. The study and development area is located as indicated on various portions of the original farm Rietfontein 301IQ, in Lenasia, Gauteng Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the wider geographical area within which the study area falls. No sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance were identified in the study & and proposed development areas (Lenasia Extension 34 & Lenasia Extension 35) during the field assessment.

The development areas are surrounded by already established and ongoing urban residential developments (housing and other) and as a result the larger area has been completely altered from its original character in recent years. The surrounding area and study areas itself have been used in the past for agricultural purposes and it is assumed that if any significant archaeological and/or historical sites, features or material did exist here in the past it would have been largely disturbed or destroyed as a result.

***It should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.***

**From a Cultural Heritage point of view, it can be concluded that the Proposed Lenasia Extension 34 Cemetery Establishment & the Proposed Lenasia Extension 35 Shopping Complex Development should be allowed to continue.**

## **8. REFERENCES**

General and closer views of study area location and approximate development areas footprint: Google Earth 2021.

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Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act (no 107 of 1998)**. Pretoria: The Government Printer.

Chief Surveyor General Database ([www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za)): Document 10J2J501.

## **APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

**Site:** A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

**Structure:** A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

**Feature:** A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

**Object:** Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

## **APPENDIX B: DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

**Historic value:** Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

**Aesthetic value:** Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

**Scientific value:** Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

**Social value:** Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

**Rarity:** Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

**Representivity:** Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

## **APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:**

### **Cultural significance:**

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

### **Heritage significance:**

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

### **Field ratings:**

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

## **APPENDIX D: PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:**

### **Formal protection:**

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

### **General protection:**

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – Older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials



## **APPENDIX E: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES**

1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase – Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
2. Baseline Assessment – Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
3. Phase I Impact Assessment – Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
4. Letter of recommendation for exemption – If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue – Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
6. Phase III Management Plan – For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.