

HERITAGE SCOPING REPORT OF ERF 1559, HARDUSTRIA, HARRISMITH, FREE STATE PROVINCE, FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMULSION PLANT.

Location	Erf 1559, Hardustria, Harrismith
Local and District Municipality	Thabo Mofutsanyane District (Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality)
Magisterial District	Thabo Mofutsanyane (Harrismith PP135)
Province	Free State

Relevant reference numbers:	
DESTEА	EMS/4,6/19/05
SAHRIS Case ID	
Type of Development	Industrial (Emulsion Plant)

Developer	EAP	Heritage consultant
South African Road Binders (Pty) Ltd	Louis De Villiers Ansuné Weitsz Turn180 Environmental Consultants	Loudine Philip National Museum



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January 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This report was prepared in request of Turn180 Environmental Consultants in support of a Section 38(8) application in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA). A Heritage Impact Assessment is required in terms of the National Environment Act (NEMA) as well as the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, Act 39 of 2004 (NEM:AQA) as part of an EIA in support of an Environmental Authorisation as well as an Atmospheric Emission Licence application for the establishment of an Emulsion Plant on Erf 1559, Hardustria, Harrismith, in the Free State.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The development entails the establishment of an Emulsion Plant in an already established industrial area of Harrismith. The establishment of the Bitumen Emulsion Plant is scheduled as a Macadam Preparation Process that also requires an Atmospheric Emission Licence (AEL) in terms of the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, Act 39 of 2004. The establishment of a process that requires an AEL in terms of legislation governing the release of emissions is also defined as a listed activity in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations.

The Emulsion Plant will have the capacity to store a total of approximately 1 102 000 litres of dangerous substances which include 816 000 litres Raw Bitumen, 9 000 litres Diesel, 23 000 litres Paraffin and 254 000 litres Bitumen Emulsion as well as approximately 5 tons of Caustic Soda and 5 000 litres of Hydrochloric Acid.

The majority of the lay-out of the plant consists of storage tanks for the various substances to be stored whereas, by comparison, the actual plant, ablution facilities, kitchen, office space and labs, etc., cover a relative small area of the total development area.

METHODOLOGY

The desktop research included, inter alia, popular as well as academic articles, books, archival resources, historic photographs, maps (both historic and current), title deeds and survey diagrams, municipal records, newspapers (archived as well as current), consultation with historians, and so forth. The focus is to obtain a history of the land use of the area from the earliest time to date, in order to make an informed decision on its potential historic value and to inform the physical reconnaissance of the development area, should the later be deemed necessary.

FINDINGS


The literature research did not provide any proof of activities in the area of the subject property prior to the lay-out of the industrial suburb. In addition, potential physical signs of any archaeological era, including buildings older than 60 years, on the proposed site for the emulsion plant would have been obliterated by the clearing of the natural vegetation and installation of water, sewerage and electrical infrastructure in the establishment of the industrial suburb, Hardustria. A Chance Find Procedure document will ensure that any subsurface archaeological material that is uncovered during the construction phase be reported and dealt with accordingly. In light of the aforementioned, no further archaeological studies are recommended for this site.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND CV

This Heritage Scoping Report was undertaken and reported on by Loudine Philip of the National Museum, Bloemfontein, for, and contracted by Turn180 Environmental Consultants.

I declare that I am a qualified professional archaeologist (ASAPA Reg No 187) with CRM accreditation in Iron Age and Historical Archaeology. In addition I also hold an M.Phil Degree in Conservation of the Built Environment.

The views stipulated in this report are objective, independent of any views the client might have, and no other interests are displayed during the decision-making processes.

Report Version	v1.0		
Title	Heritage Scoping Report for the proposed establishment of an emulsion plant on Erf 1559, Hardustria, Harrismith		
Author	Loudine Philip		31 January 2020

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REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of a desktop analysis for an assessment of the potential impact the erection of an emulsion plant might have on existing tangible/intangible cultural heritage on and in the immediate environs of the site of the new development, and to report all potential heritage effects and assess its value. The report was commissioned by Turn180 Environmental Consultants.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The proposed development area is for the establishment of an Emulsion Plant on Erf 1559 (7 302 m²) in the industrial area of the town Harrismith, Hardustria, which is situated on the eastern fringes of the town, south of the N3 that runs through the town. The adjacent Erf 1560 is considered as an alternative site for the development.

The establishment of the Bitumen Emulsion¹ Plant is scheduled as a Macadam² Preparation Process that also requires an Atmospheric Emission Licence (AEL) in terms of the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, Act 39 of 2004. The establishment of a process that requires an AEL in terms of legislation governing the release of emissions is also defined as a listed activity in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations.

As a requirement of both the NEMA and NHRA, one of the various specialist studies required is the identification of existing cultural heritage on the subject properties and assessment of the proposed development on any identified heritage by a suitably qualified professional and the author was contracted for this. The brief for the heritage report is to provide a full history of the subject property in order for the stakeholders, any other registered interested and affected parties, as well as statutory bodies, to make an informed decision regarding the impact the proposed development might have on identified cultural heritage during the scoping assessment as well as provide a professional assessment of its importance with recommendations for its preservation or mitigation to both SAHRA, as the commenting authority on heritage aspects, and the developers.

¹ Bitumen emulsions are an oil-in-water type of emulsion where the bitumen is dispersed in water. Bitumen itself is a by-product of a crude oil distillation process.

² Macadam is a type of road construction, pioneered by Scottish engineer John Loudon McAdam around 1820, in which single-sized crushed stone layers of small angular stones are placed in shallow lifts and compacted thoroughly. In modern macadam construction crushed stone or gravel is placed on a compacted base course. The bitumen serves as binding material for the stone and sand aggregate, the water evaporates and once set leaves a durable road surface.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Project Area:

Hardustria, Harrismith	Erf 1559 (preferred); Erf 1560 (alternative) Size: 7302 m ² Current zoning: General Industrial Owner: Staresimul Proprietary Ltd
Magisterial District	Harrismith PP135
Local Authority	Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality
1:50 000 map sheet number	2829AC Harrismith
Central co-ordinate of the development	28° 17'46.80"S; 29° 8'15.25"E

Development Detail:

Type of development	Industry
Proposed components	Physical structures include an emulsion plant, storage facilities, two labs, a number of tanks, a waste area, ablution facility, kitchen, a room and office area.
Proposed activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing and excavation: The proposed development area is cleared of all vegetation (i.e. trees, shrubs and bushes). 2. Excavation for foundations of buildings and trenches for water and sewerage pipelines.
Applicable legislation	<p>National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998)</p> <p>GN. R. 325 of the NEMA 2014 Regulations as amended:</p> <p>Activity 4 – ‘The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of more than 500 cubic metres.’</p> <p>Activity 6 – ‘The development of facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity which requires a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution or effluent.’</p>

	<p>National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, Act 39 of 2004</p> <p>GN. R. 893 of the NEM: AQA 2013 Regulations:</p> <p>Category 2: Subcategory 2.4: Storage and handling of petroleum products: 'All permanent immobile liquid storage facilities at a single site with a combined storage capacity of greater than 1000 cubic meters.'</p>
	<p>National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999)</p> <p>Sections 38(3) – Provisions for information to be included in a heritage report should Section 38(8) be triggered</p> <p>Section 38(8) – The heritage impact assessment is required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998)</p>

Layout plan of development area:

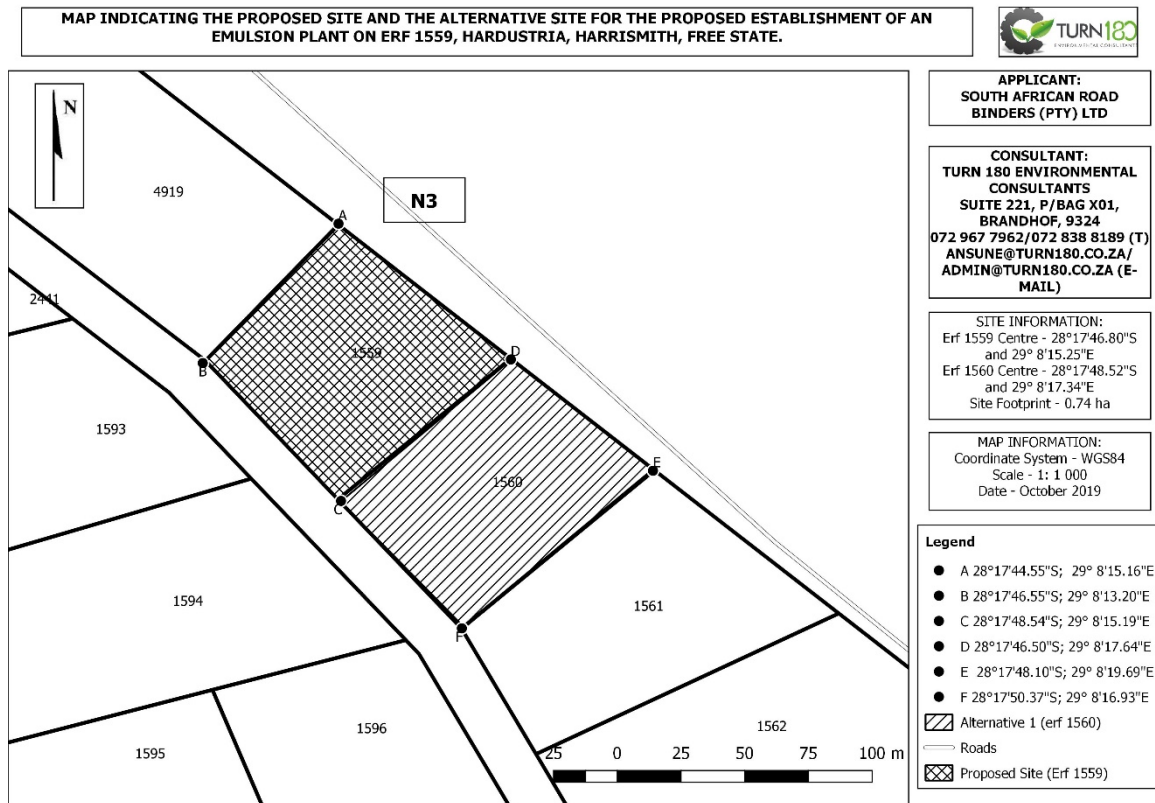


Figure 1: Proposed development area (and alternative site)

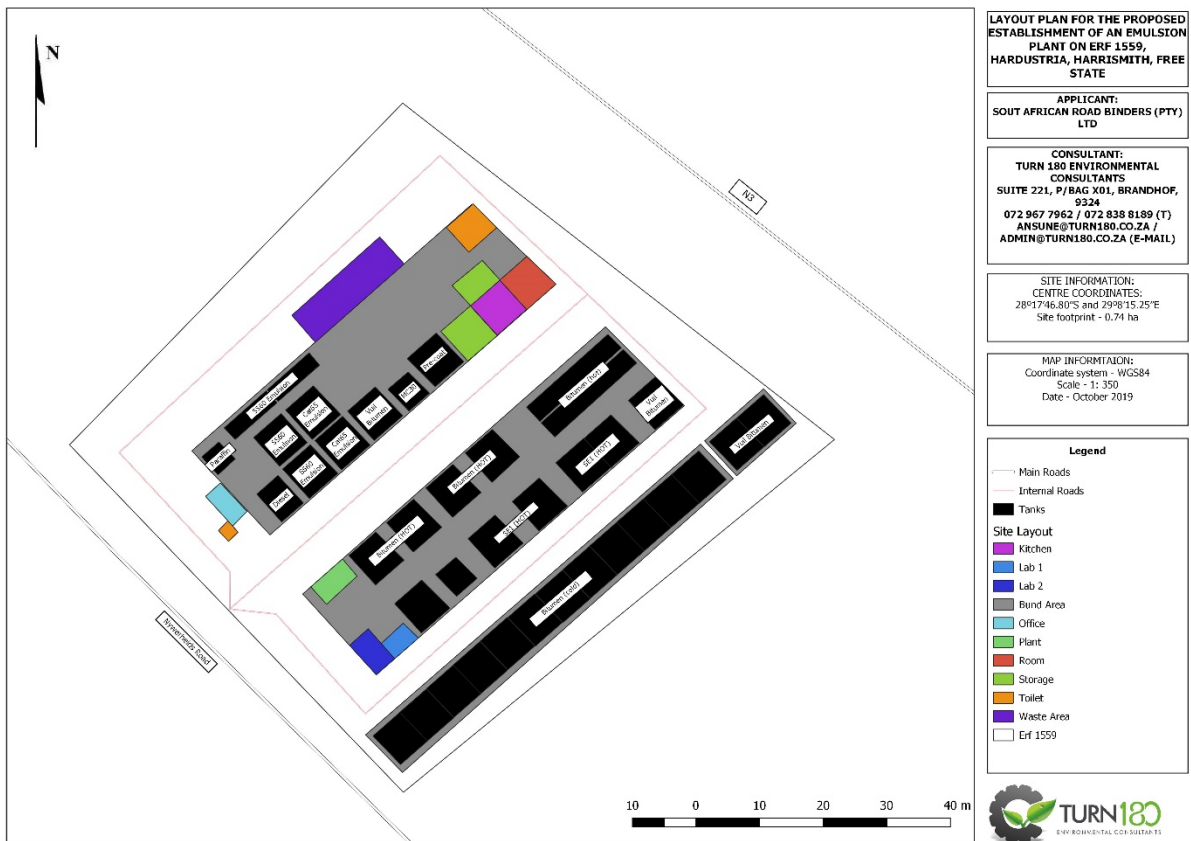
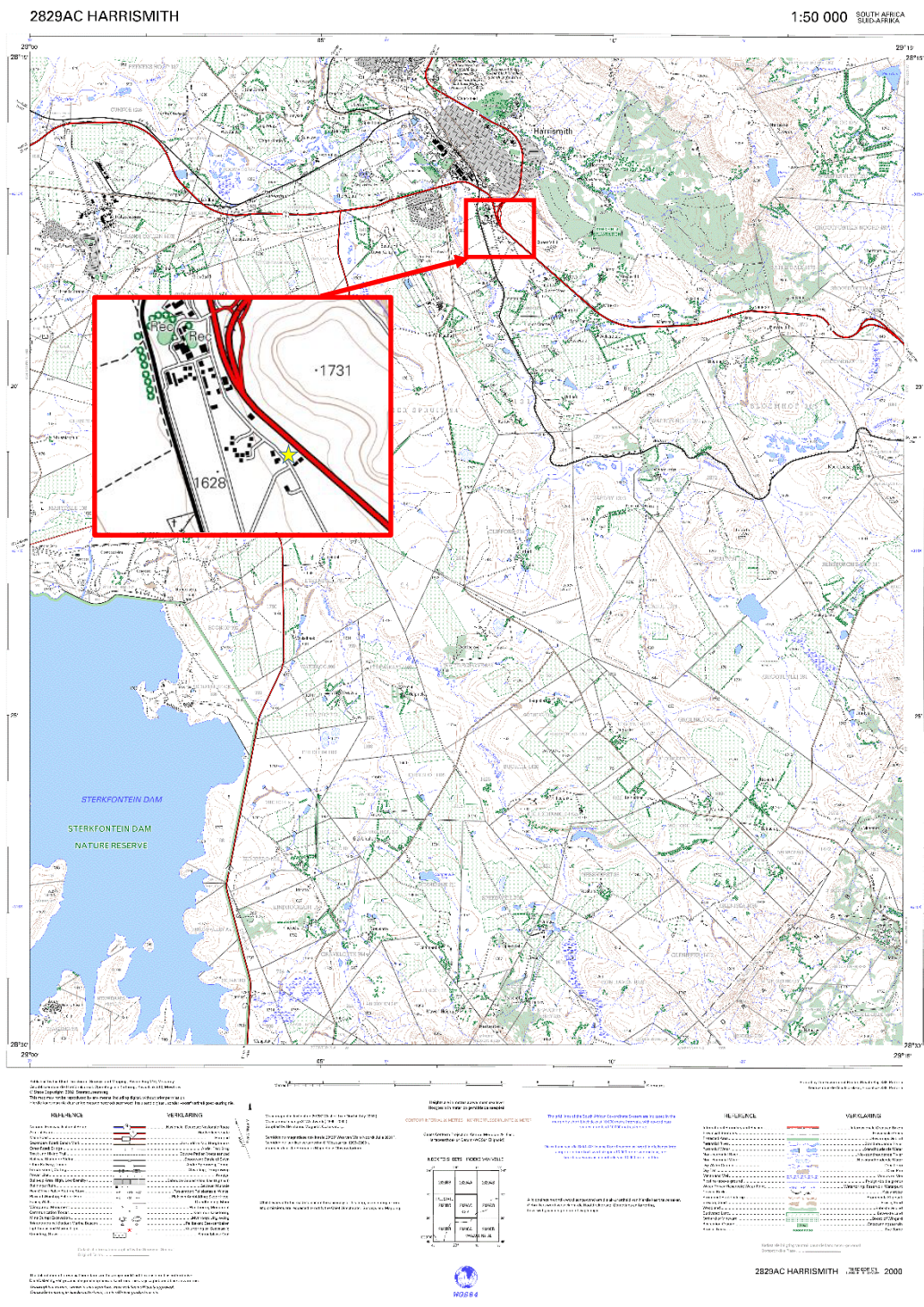


Figure 2: Layout plan for proposed Emulsion Plant on Erf 1559

Harrismith 2829AC 1:50 000 map (development area yellow star)



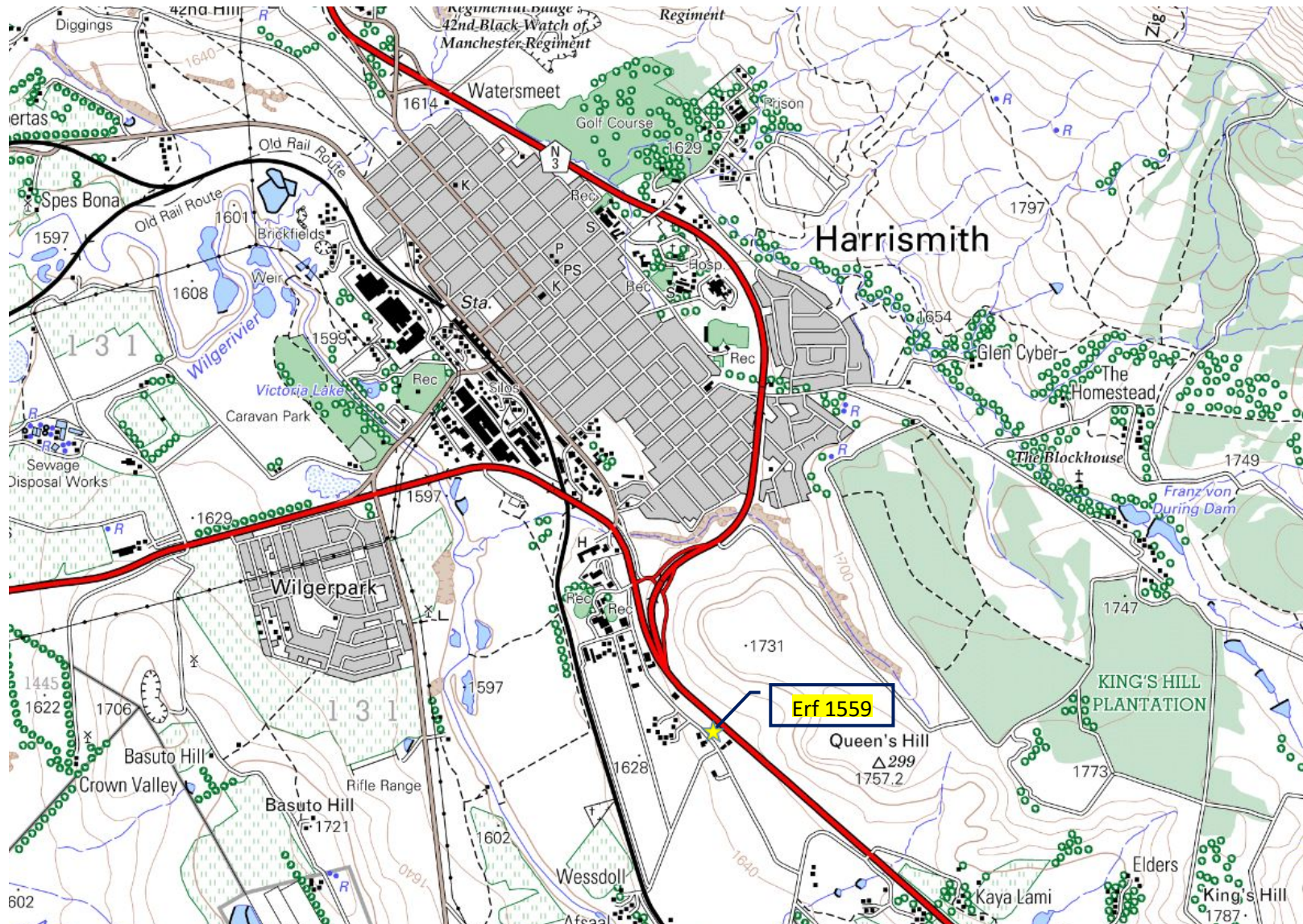


Figure 3: Extract of map Harrismith 2829AC 1:50 000

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, No. 39 of 2004 and NEM: AQA Government Notice Regulation No. 893 of 22 November 2013

GN. R. 893 of the NEM: AQA 2013 Regulations:

Category 2: Subcategory 2.4: Storage and handling of petroleum products: *'All permanent immobile liquid storage facilities at a single site with a combined storage capacity of greater than 1000 cubic meters.'*

Category 5: Mineral processing, storage and handling, Subcategory 5.10: Macadam preparation – *'Permanent facilities used for mixtures of aggregate, tar or bitumen to produce road-surfacing materials.'*

National Environment Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, as amended (Government Notice R327 of 7 April 2017)

Activity 4 – *'The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of more than 500 cubic metres.'*

Activity 6 – *'The development of facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity which requires a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution or effluent.'*

National Heritage Resource Act, No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA)

Section 35(3):

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Section 35(4)(a):

No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb an archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite.

Section 38(3):

The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection 2(a) [*also a requirement if Section 38(8) is triggered*]: Provided that the following must be included:

- a) The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;
- b) An assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6(2) or prescribed under section 7 [*Heritage assessment criteria and grading*];
- c) An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;
- d) An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;
- e) The results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;
- f) If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and
- g) Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.

Section 38(8):

The provisions of this section do not apply to a development as described in subsection (1) if an evaluation of the impact of such development on heritage resources is required in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 199 (Act No. 50 of 1991), or the integrated environmental management guidelines issued by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, or the Minerals Act, 1991 (Act No. 50 of 1991), or any other legislation: Provided that the consenting authority must ensure that the evaluation fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of subsection (3), and any comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to such development have been taken into account prior to the granting of the consent.

Physical Planning Act, No. 125 of 1991

Section 27(1)(b):

no person shall use any land in the area to which the regional structure plan or the urban structure plan, as the case may be, applies for a purpose other than the purpose for which it -

- i. was being used immediately before that date; or
- ii. is zoned in terms of a town planning scheme which is or may become binding in that area;

Provided that land to which no such scheme applies may with the consent of, in the case of the regional structure plan, the Administrator concerned or, in the case of the urban structure plan, the responsible authority be used for any purpose determined in the relevant plan or for any other purpose which in the opinion of that Administrator or responsible authority is consistent with the relevant plan;

Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000

Section 23:

the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) is defined as one of the core functions of a municipality in the context of its developmental orientation.

Section 35(2):

A Spatial Development Framework (SDF) contained in a council approved IDP prevails over a plan as defined in section 1 of the Physical Planning Act, 125 of 1991.

Section 27(1)(b):

Land use should be in accordance with the applicable regional or urban structure plan and can only be used for the purpose it was used immediately before that date or the purpose for which it is zoned in terms of a town planning scheme which is or may become binding in that area. *See below.*

METHODOLOGY

Literature review

The proposed development area is on a single erf within the industrial area of the town of Harrismith and the literature review is focused on historic events related to the establishment of the town and the effect of subsequent historic periods and/or events on the development thereof.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

Feedback on the public consultation process can only be provided once the stakeholders have had an opportunity to read and comment on the current report. The current report will be amended to reflect the outcome of the public participation process.

Site Description:

The proposed development area is situated on a single erf, 7302 m² in size, within the industrial area of Harrismith, Handustria. It is bordered at the north-eastern side by the corridor of the N3 road and on the south-western side by Industriële Road. There are already existing businesses in front of Erf 1570 across Industriële Street and another on erf away on the same side as the project property.

Cultural significance or special value because of:	Applicable or not	Rating: Negligible / Low / Low-Medium / Medium / Medium-High / High / Very High
a. Its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history	No	
b. Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage	No	
c. Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage	No	
d. Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects	No	
e. Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group	No	
f. Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period	No	
g. Its strong or social association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons	No	
h. Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa	No	
i. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa	No	

Site significance and field-rating:

Reasoned assessment of significance using appropriate indicators outlined above:

Due to land clearance in preparation for the lay-out of Hardustria, the industrial suburb of Harrismith, the surface has already been cleared of any potential evidence of cultural material of any archaeological period. In addition, the literature research has not revealed any information indicative of potential finds in this area.

Field rating: None

ASSUMPTIONS, GAPS, RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

It is assumed that any surface indications of a potential grave or graves would have been addressed and mitigated at the time the area was cleared for surveying the new suburb. The attached Chance Find Procedure for this project, however, will deal with any subsequent discovery of subsurface archaeological material.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Maluti-A-Phofung Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Harrismith, Free State, lies at the mid-point of the crucial Durban-Johannesburg logistics route. This newly established SEZ offers exporters a logistics base that facilitates access to the Port of Durban, and intermodal logistics solutions for the transfer of freight between road and rail. The zone is well-suited and licensed for general manufacturing, offering a convenient production base for light and medium manufacturing. With excellent logistics links by road or rail to South Africa's industrial heartland, the Port of Durban and the southern Bloemfontein-Cape Town route, the SEZ is a natural choice for investors seeking a cost-effective location to service domestic and export markets.

In addition, the SEZ intends building on existing strengths to attract agro-processing industries to an area that has good access to the products of the agriculturally rich Free State. It harbours intentions of acting as an agglomeration, storage and logistics point for agricultural produce. Owned by the Free State Development Corporation, this site has existing facilities that can be leased immediately, and is currently upgrading both the internal road and utility infrastructure to meet expected demand. The intended emulsion plant on the subject property will no doubt be strategically placed to meet demands in the construction phase of the upgrades.

One of the town's major agricultural contribution is wool-production. Harrismith is the centre of one (the second largest) of the five wool producing districts in Southern Africa.

Until the firm establishment of Harrismith as Special Economic Zone as envisioned above, agriculture, wool production and tourism remain the prime economic contributors in Harrismith.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Zoning of the development area:

The current zoning of Erf 1590, Hardustria, in Harrismith is *General Industrial*.

General landscape and vegetation features of Harrismith area:

The greater part of the built environment of Harrismith is situated on a relatively flat landscape at the foot of the Platberg Mountain and traversed by the Wilge River that borders the southwestern side of the industrial area. Several smaller hillocks, e.g. King's and Queen's Hills, can also be found at the foot of the mountain, but on the opposite side of the N3 to where the subject property is situated.

Harrismith is situated in a mixed grassland zone and the botanical composition of natural grassland is dominated by *Cymbopogon plurinodis* (turpentine grass), *Themeda triandra* (red grass), *Setaria sphacelata* (South African pigeon grass), *Elionurus muticus* (wire lemongrass), and *Eragrostis curvula* (weeping lovegrass).

Site-specific Ecological description of vegetation:

[Information is sourced from the ecological report for this development project by DPR Ecologists & Environmental Services]

The proposed emulsion plant will be constructed within the Hardustria industrial area of the town of Harrismith (Map 1). It will therefore form part of an already industrialised area and will have an approximate extent of 1 hectare. Although the site is situated within an industrial area it still consists of natural vegetation though surrounding activities as well as disturbances on the site does cause significant transformation of the natural vegetation.

According to Mucina & Rutherford (2006) the area consists of Eastern Free State Sandy Grassland (Gm 4). This vegetation type is currently listed as being of Least Concern (LC) under the National List of Threatened Ecosystems (Notice 1477 of 2009) (National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004) (Map 2). The site still consists of natural grassland though this has been degraded from the natural condition by surrounding activities and on-site disturbance. The Free State Province Biodiversity Management Plan (2015) has recently been published and has identified areas which are essential to meeting conservation targets for specific vegetation types, i.e. Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA). The site in question is

however listed as being an Ecological Support Area 1 (Map 3). The overall conservation value of the site is therefore relatively low.

The topography of the site consists of a relatively flat area, but with a slight slope from north east to south west. The Wilge River occurs approximately 1.3 km to the south west of the site and forms a low point in the area (Map 2). The site itself does not contain any concentrated runoff pattern, wetlands or watercourses though surface runoff will still follow the natural slope and available aerial images and mapping resources do indicate watercourses and drainage lines in the surrounding area (Map 1 & 2). Surface runoff generated on the site will also follow this drainage pattern and this should be taken into consideration on the site, i.e. storm water management should contain dirty water on the site and divert clean runoff around it and into the natural drainage pattern.

Due to the largely modified and transformed nature of the vegetation on the site no rare or threatened species were observed and it is considered unlikely that such a species would occur. However, two protected geophytic species still remain, *Asclepias gibba* and *A. multicaulis* (Appendix C). Although not considered rare or threatened they are still protected species and as such the necessary permits must be obtained and affected specimens transplanted to an adjacent area where they will remain intact.

In conclusion, the site still contains natural grassland but which has been modified and degraded to a large extent. The natural vegetation type, Eastern Free State Sandy Grassland (Gm 4), is not currently considered to be affected by significant transformation pressures and is therefore considered to be of Least Concern (LC) (Map 2). This together with the degraded condition of the site decreases its conservation value significantly. According to the Free State Province Biodiversity Management Plan (2015) it is also not listed as a Critical Biodiversity



Figure 4: 'Map 2' referred in above text as appears in the ecological report. The erf outlined in yellow on the western side of the N3 is the subject area.

Area (Map 3). However, it still functions as an Ecological Support Area. This is especially relevant where surface water runoff generated on the site will drain toward the Wilge River, a sensitive system (Map 1 & 2). Care should therefore be taken that the storm water management system of the development prevents contamination of surface water and contains any dirty storm water on the site.

Description of soil and basic geology

The geological sequence underlying the subject area is the Normandien (Pa) Formation of the late Permian Period of the Palaeozoic Era of the Adelaide subgroup of the Beaufort group¹ of the Karoo Supergroup. [Geological map of RSA].

The dominant soil form in the Harrismith area is Avalon soil. This soil has a characteristically brown to dark brown sandy loam orthic A horizon, followed by a yellowish brown to dark brown sandy clay loam apedal B horizon and then a gray mottled red sandy clay soft plinthic B horizon (Kotzé, E & Loke, 2016).

The Avalon series consists of very deep, well drained, moderately slowly and moderately permeable soils formed in alluvium derived mainly from sandstone and mudrock.

Prior activities in the proposed development area

As an erf in the industrial suburb of Harrismith, any surface signs of prior activities on the proposed site for the emulsion plant would have been obliterated by the clearing of the natural vegetation and installation of water and sewerage infrastructure. The literature research did not provide any proof of potential activities in this area prior to the lay-out of the suburb.

¹ Terrestrial vertebrates (including mammal-like reptiles) are common the Beaufort Group



Figure 5: Hardustria – subject erven outlined in yellow



Figure 6: Google Earth image dated 28/09/2013 shows disturbed nature of natural vegetation in the subject property, including the alternative site Erf 1560

LITERATURE/BACKGROUND STUDY

Introduction

Harrismith is situated almost midway on the N3 highway between Johannesburg to the northwest and Durban to the southeast, and also at the junction of the N3/N5 highways with the N5 continuing westward towards Bloemfontein, the provincial capital of the Free State. Being in this way connected to three major cities, it is not strange that this small town is home to the largest truck stop in the southern hemisphere, the Highway Junction. The railway lines follow a similar route which makes Harrismith an important hub in South Africa's transport network.

Early years:

Harrismith had its origin in the period when the Free State was still under British control and known as the Orange River Sovereignty (1846-1854). In 1847 Sir Harry Smith was appointed as the Governor of the Cape Colony and high commissioner. By 1848 the towns of Smithfield (1848), Winburg (1837) and Bloemfontein (1846) were already established in the current Free

State Province – the first two by Afrikaners of the Great Trek which started in 1836 and the last, Bloemfontein, as a result thereof. Smithfield was essentially what is still called a ‘church town’ today (i.e. it started off with a central church for farmers in the vicinity and on account of that eventually grew into a town) whereas Winburg was established as administrative centre for the Afrikaners who lived beyond the Orange River, i.e. Cape Colony border. In reviewing the situation in the Orange River Sovereignty, Sir Harry Smith decided that there should be a fourth district which he named the Vaal River District and that a town should be established there to command the passes into Natal. Sir Harry approached a certain P.M. Bester (among two other Voortrekkers) to establish a town which he suggested could be called either Vrededorp (Sir Harry’s preferred choice) or Harrismith. Bester, however, decided on calling it Harrismith and set out to find a suitable place. The town was started out in a different location than where it is today, but soon enough Bester discovered that there was not a sufficient water source to provide in the needs of a town and Harrismith was resurveyed in its current location. Burghers who already purchased erven were offered similar-sized erven at the new location at the foot of the Platberg Mountain. In a further attempt to populate the area, Sir Harry approved a second sale of land in 1850 of 50 farms with the only condition that it must be occupied. Fortunately for the growth of the town, it received a considerable influx of settlers from Natal during the early years which is said to have made an outstanding contribution to the growth of the town.

With the strategic position of the town, trading of fresh produce, grain, animal products such as skins, hides and wool, etc formed the town’s economy. The first mill was set up in 1852 already and peddlers played an important role in the buying and selling process.

The Batlokwa and Basotho:

In the aftermath of the difiqane, the Batlokwa chief Mota crossed the Drakensberg to Bingham’sberg and later to King’s Hill on the outskirts of Harrismith. Although not too happy about the situation, to the townspeople they were a source of labourers for farm work and they were more concerned about the Wetsi, who settled in QuaQua, the present-day Puthadjidaba where he gained a reputation as a cattle thief and raided cattle and horses from Blacks and Whites alike. It was only after President Hoffman of the new Republic of the Orange Free State in 1856 ordered Mr Orpen, at that time the landdrost of Winburg, to take charge of the operation that Wetsi was defeated and the townspeople returned their focus to Mota’s presence on King’s Hill. After twice ignoring the orders to move away, they finally left in 1860 although a small number of them remained.

In the interim, however, war broke out between the Republic of the Orange Free State and the Basotho in 1858 on account of land disputes. This meant that all men were called on to assist and left only the women, children and servants behind. This would be a continuing trend until the third and final Basotho War in 1867 which ended when King Moshoeshe

negotiated with the Cape Colony for the Basotho Kingdom (today Lesotho) to become a British protectorate – which was declared on 12 March 1868.

Discovery of diamonds and gold and the first railway line:

The discovery of first diamonds (1869), and later gold, proved to be very profitable for the strategically placed Harrismith and trade flourished with all the travellers to and fro these fields. By 1880 the second census in Harrismith showed a White population of 776 in the town and 3,388 in the district, almost double the number of townspeople alone of the census of 1856 which showed a combined town and district number of 373. After a lull in the town's economy the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand reef resulted in the 1886 gold rush which once again benefited Harrismith. More shops and hotels opened to deal with the passing traffic. In 1892 the railway line between Harrismith and Durban was completed which provided quicker transport for goods bartered, but with the less than cordial relationship between the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, no link could yet be made with the goldfields in Transvaal.

The first Black location:

It is not certain when the first Black location was established, but it was situated approximately a mile outside the town, west of President Brand Park (where Victoria Lake is today), near the Wilge River, but on the opposite side of the river as that to where the town is. In the early 1960s the location moved to the top of 42nd Hill north of the town and extended to the north where it is still situated today, known as Phomolong.

The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902):

On account of all the settlers in Harrismith, there were far more English residents than Afrikaners. Bloemfontein was occupied by the British in 13 March 1900 and the Free State annexed on 26 May 1900. Harrismith was occupied when first General Sir Hector MacDonald arrived on the 4th of August 1900, and General Sir Leslie Rundle two days later on the 6th. The town did not, and could not, offer any resistance and Landdrost Warden agreed to hand over the keys to all the public buildings and took the oath of neutrality. Up to the beginning of this war there were only 17 Dutch families resident in the town, although the district was overwhelming Dutch. The town inhabitants, however, were largely English-speaking and welcomed the British soldiers.

Harrismith Concentration Camp:

After four to five months after the occupation of Harrismith, a Concentration Camp was set up in an area close to the railway line, but later moved to an area close to the current site of the prison (gaol in Figure 6 below) at the lower ridges of the Platberg Mountain. Afrikaner women and children from the surrounding farms were brought to the concentration camp, but also those in town who harboured and or assisted soldiers of the Boer commandos.

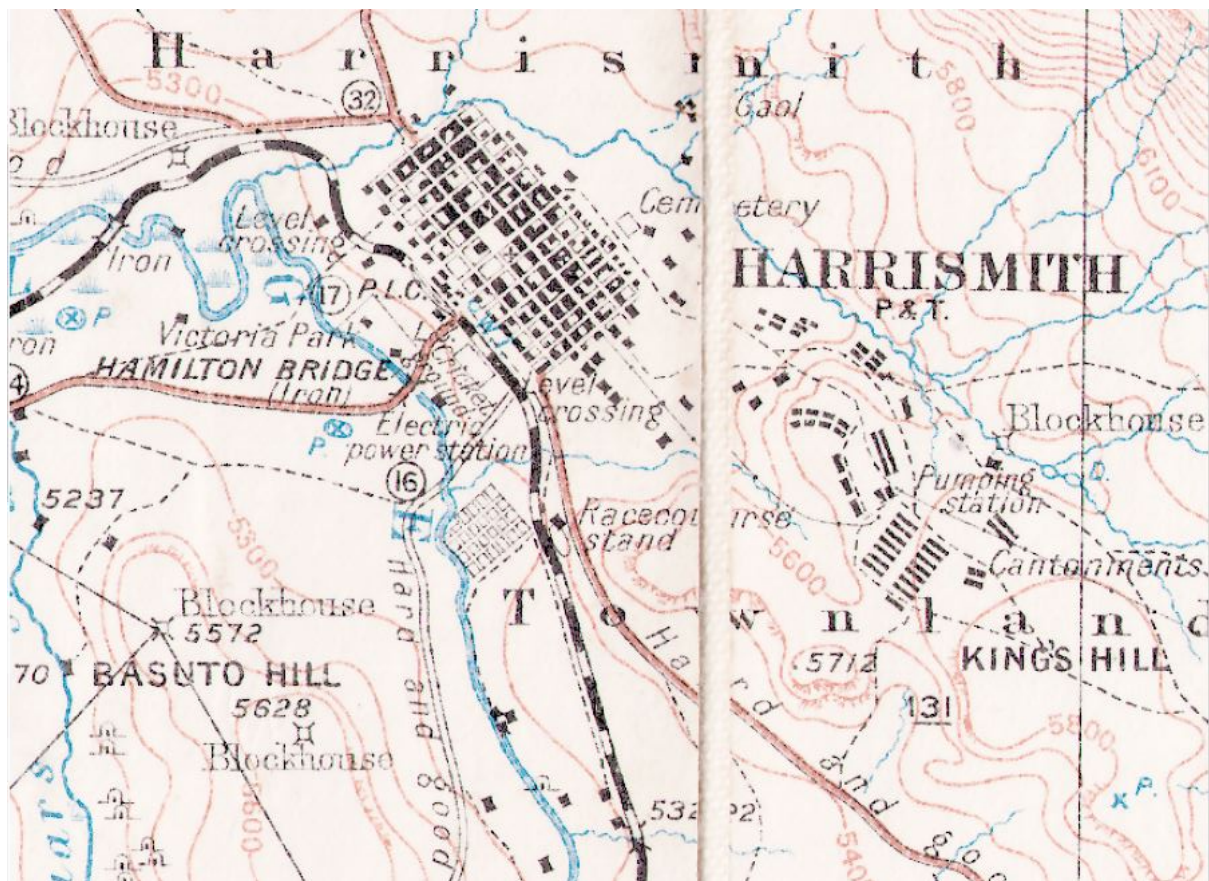


Figure 7: Extract of 1908 map of Harrismith

It was one of the smallest and least significant camps, but due to its location viewed as one of the healthiest camps – not that deaths did not occur as typhoid fever broke out among town residents, soldiers and inmates alike. Despite this, the mortality in the Harrismith camp was below average. It was, however, the outbreak of measles late in 1901 that caused most deaths. Another exception for the Harrismith camp was that inmates were allowed to augment their rations by working in the local town – however, not those that were branded as the ‘irreconcilables’. After a particular incident Lord Kitchener ordered that three or four hundred ‘irreconcilables’ be sent to Ladysmith in Natal. In the end, however, the entire camp was sent over the Drakensberg, a large number to Ladysmith and in April 1902 the rest to Wentworth camp in Durban. The camp was taken over by the British army.

A garrison town:

Early on already, the military authorities announced that cantonments would be established in Harrismith for a few years which essentially rendered it a garrison town. Although the Anglo-Boer War officially ended on 31 May 1902 with the signing by both sides of the Treaty of Peace in Pretoria, the British garrisons in Harrismith were withdrawn in 1913 only, three years after the establishment of the Union of South Africa, and one year before the onset of World War I. At the end of the ABW the regiments of the 8th Division departed and in the next century the town was occupied by the 2nd Hampshires, the 4th Royal Garrison, the 3rd Dragoons, the 1st Wiltshires and the 4th King's Royal Rifles with the latter departing in June 1904. This period left its own unique footprint on Harrismith. Five blockhouses were erected, two on Basutu Hill south-west of the town, one at the pumping station close to the British Cantonments at King's Hill, a smaller structure further down the stream, and one at the railway bridge crossing the Wilge River west of the town. The troops were gradually being moved out of the camps around the town to cantonments on King's Hill where the military had their own post office, two churches, school, shop, mineral water factory, billiard- and reading rooms, a gymnasium, tennis courts, cricket and football fields, a polo ground, their own pumping-station, wash-houses, sewerage scheme with septic tanks and an efficient system of drains, as well as a refuse removal service, in addition to accommodation, stables for the horses, etc. In short, it was a town within a town, but the relationship between town and garrison appeared to have been amicable and the withdrawal in 1913 has left its mark on the economic growth of the town.

Subsequent growth of the town:

The succeeding years have not had a great influence on the growth of the town as can be seen in Image 7 above. Development of the town was mainly in a southern direction to the foot of both King's Hill and the adjacent hill which later became known as Queen's Hill with Wilgerpark next to the N5 and Hardustria along the N3 at the southern side of Harrismith. The black township on 42nd Hill to the north of the town also expanded considerably.



Figure 8: 2019 Google image of the town of Harrismith.

List of Declared Heritage structures in Harrismith:

- Town Hall in Warden Street
- Anglo-Boer War Blockhouse, Drakensberg Botanical Garden (near King's Hill)
- Badenhorst Building, Warden Street
- 36A Boys Street
- AE Odell Building, Stuart Street

There are no declared or any other identified heritage within 500 m of the development area.

The Harrismith Cemetery contains a number of historical graves connected to the following Wars:

- The war between the Free State and Basutoland (1865-1868)
- The Anglo-Zulu War of 1879
- The Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902
- The 1914 Rebellion
- World War I

PALAEONTOLOGY:

The subject area falls within an area on the SAHRIS palaeomap indicated as a red area, i.e. very high sensitivity, and accordingly requires a field assessment and protocol for finds. A separate Palaeontological report has been commissioned for this project.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

As an erf in an already established industrial suburb of Harrismith, any surface signs of archaeological remains of any era on the proposed site for the emulsion plant would have been obliterated by the clearing of the natural vegetation and installation of electrical, water and sewerage infrastructure for this suburb. The literature research did not provide any proof of potential activities in this area prior to the lay-out of the suburb.

In light of the above, no further archaeological studies are recommended and it is, accordingly, recommended that SAHRA approves the development with the proviso that the developer agrees to and signs a Chance Find Procedure (CFP) document and in turn ensure that once a project manager has been appointed, they too (including site managers) sign the CFP and commit to the implementation thereof. The developer-signed copy should be uploaded to SAHRIS.

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