



HERITAGE

Contracts and Archaeological Consulting

Ref: Provincial Archive Centre – Kagiso

4 August, 2014
SAHRA - APM Unit
PO Box 437
Cape Town
8000

Attention: Mr. Andrew Salomon

Dear Andrew

RE: Provincial Archive Centre on Portion 74 and 115 of Erf 15048 in Kagiso Ext 6, Mogale City Local Municipality.

Background

Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation is proposing to construct a new provincial archive centre on Portion 74 and 115 of Erf 15048 in Kagiso Ext 6, Mogale City Local Municipality. The proposed project site for the archive centre is an undeveloped piece of land measuring approximately 1.5 ha. The site is surrounded by highly developed industrial areas. The archive centre will consist of a building that will host the government's industrial records and will allow for the organisation and storage of these records as well as the utilisation of the information.

The proposed project requires a Basic Assessment (BA) in terms of the National Environmental Management (NEMA), No 107 of 1998 and the EIA regulations (Government Notice R.543 to 546, published in June 2010). As part of the BA process HCAC was asked to evaluate and identify potential impacts of the proposed construction from a Heritage point of view.

The study area

The proposed archive centre is located on Portion 74 and 115 of Erf 15048 in Kagiso Ext 6, Mogale City Local Municipality. The following infrastructure and activities will be undertaken for the project that might have a negative impact on heritage resources in the study area:

- Earth works;
- Proposed construction of an archive centre with associated infrastructure.

The site is vacant and highly disturbed by earth works for the surrounding industrial developments and office buildings in the area, no buildings or ruins occur on site and the densely urban area together with road and infrastructure construction would have impacted on any surface indicators of heritage sites (Figure 3-10).

An enlarged section of the 2627 BB sheet of the 1:50 000 topographical map that was drawn in 1943 also shows no features within the study area (Figure 11). As the site is still vacant and undeveloped no impact is expected on the built environment. From an historical and archaeological point of view 32 sites are on record for the 2627 map sheet at the Wits archaeological database. These sites range from Stone Age, Iron Age and Boer War sites. None of the recorded sites are in close proximity to the proposed archive centre. Other CRM projects in the larger geographical area recorded 2 lithic artefacts (Birkholtz 2007), a cemetery and buildings older than 60 years (van Vollenhoven and Pelsler 2007), mining activities associated with the Durban Roodepoort Deep and Rand Leases Mines (du Pisanie 2014) and exemption from an HIA for a pipeline (Fourie (2014).

Based on the extensive surface disturbance of the area it expected that no *in-situ* Stone Age or Iron Age sites occur in the study area. Again due to the disturbed character of the site no surface indicators of any possible grave sites are expected.

Potential archaeological impacts resulting from all phases of the project is considered to be low. Similarly the likelihood of any impact to the palaeontology of the area is also considered to be low (SAHRA palaeontological sensitivity map referenced 2013).

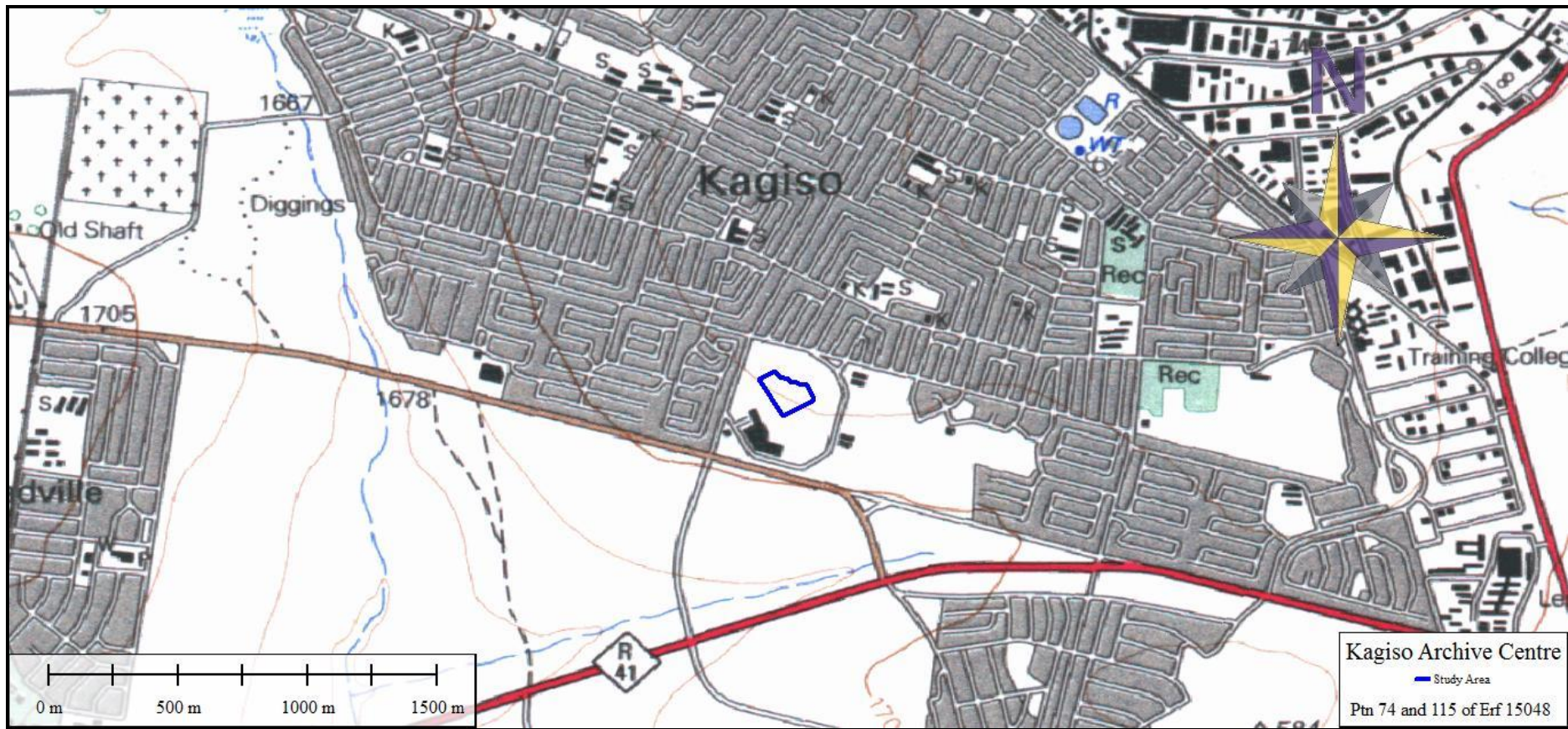


Figure 1: Location Map



Figure 2: Google Image of the area



Figure 3: Study area viewed from the west



Figure 4: South western portion of study area



Figure 5: Northern portion of the study area viewed from the south



Figure 6: Northern portion of study

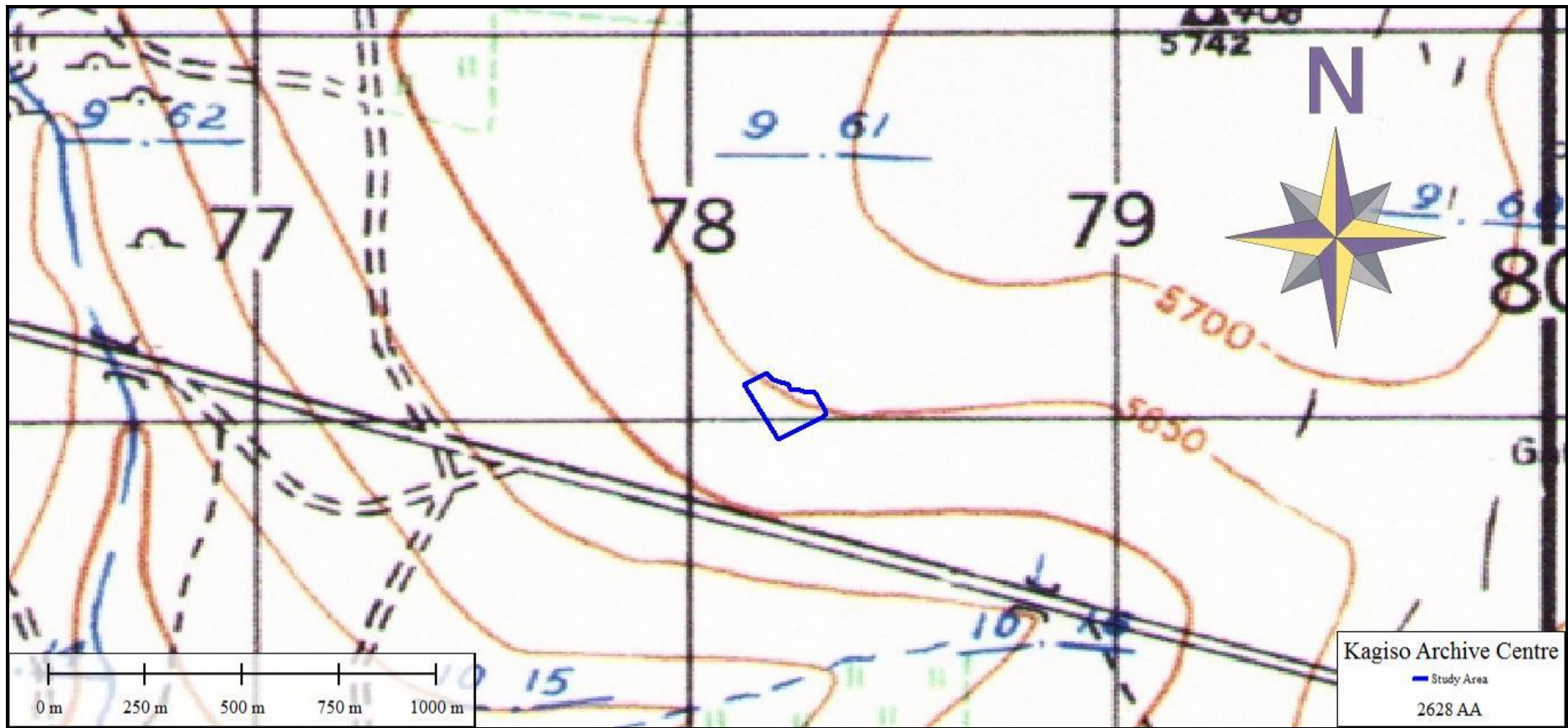


Figure 7: Enlarged section of the 2627 BB sheet of the 1:50 000 topographical map that was drawn in 1943.

Conclusion

Methale Environmental Consulting has been appointed as the independent environmental consultants, to undertake the required Basic Assessment process for the project to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, and to propose appropriate mitigation and management measures as part of an Environmental Management Programme (EMP). They subsequently requested heritage input to identify potential impacts.

From a heritage perspective the site does not warrant a full Phase 1 study as it is anticipated that there is no archaeological sites, cultural heritage sites, historic structures or burial grounds likely to be present on the affected landscape, due to the disturbed nature of the site. As such, we support the recommendation that the project be exempted from any archaeological assessment studies or palaeontological studies. In the unlikely event that any sites might occur within the proposed site the following recommendations are to be included in the EMP and are the responsibility of the ECO of the project to implement these:

- 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.

If the above mentioned recommendations are adhered by we support the application for exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment.

Any further queries can be forwarded to Jaco van der Walt on Cell: +27 82 373 8491 or to jaco.heritage@gmail.com



Jaco van der Walt
Archaeologist
Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC)

References

Birkholtz, P. 2007. Bram Fisherville Ext 7. Heritage Impact Assessment. Unpublished report.

Fourie, W. 2014. Request For Exemption From An Archaeological Impact Study: Prevention Of Water Ingress Into Mined Out Areas Of The Witwatersrand Mining Basin, Gauteng Province. Unpublished report.

Du Pissanie, J. 2014. Mining Right Application for Reclamation of the Soweto Cluster Dumps, Roodepoort, Gauteng Province. Unpublished report.

National Environmental Management Act

SAHRIS (www.sahra.org.za)

Van Vollenhoven, A & Pelsler, A .2007. A Report On A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment On Erf 85, Chamdor, Krugersdorp For The William Tell Particle Boards And Medium Density Manufacturing Plant. Unpublished report

Wits Archaeological Database 2009