



Ref: Letamo Telecommunications Mast

13 October, 2015
SAHRA - APM Unit
PO Box 437
Cape Town
8000

Attention: Mr. Andrew Salomon
Dear Andrew

**RE: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST,
LETAMO ESTATE, GAUTENG PROVINCE.
APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM A PHASE 1 STUDY.**

Background

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 by Lokisa Environmental consultants to evaluate and identify potential impacts of the proposed project from a heritage point of view.

Location

The proposed Telecommunications mast is located at 26°1'34'.48"S and 27°46'43.57"E on Erf 7 Letamo Township, to the North of Mogale City, Gauteng Province (Figure 1). The activity footprint measures approximately 10 x 10 and falls within the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (COHWS) according to the Gauteng Conservation Plan.

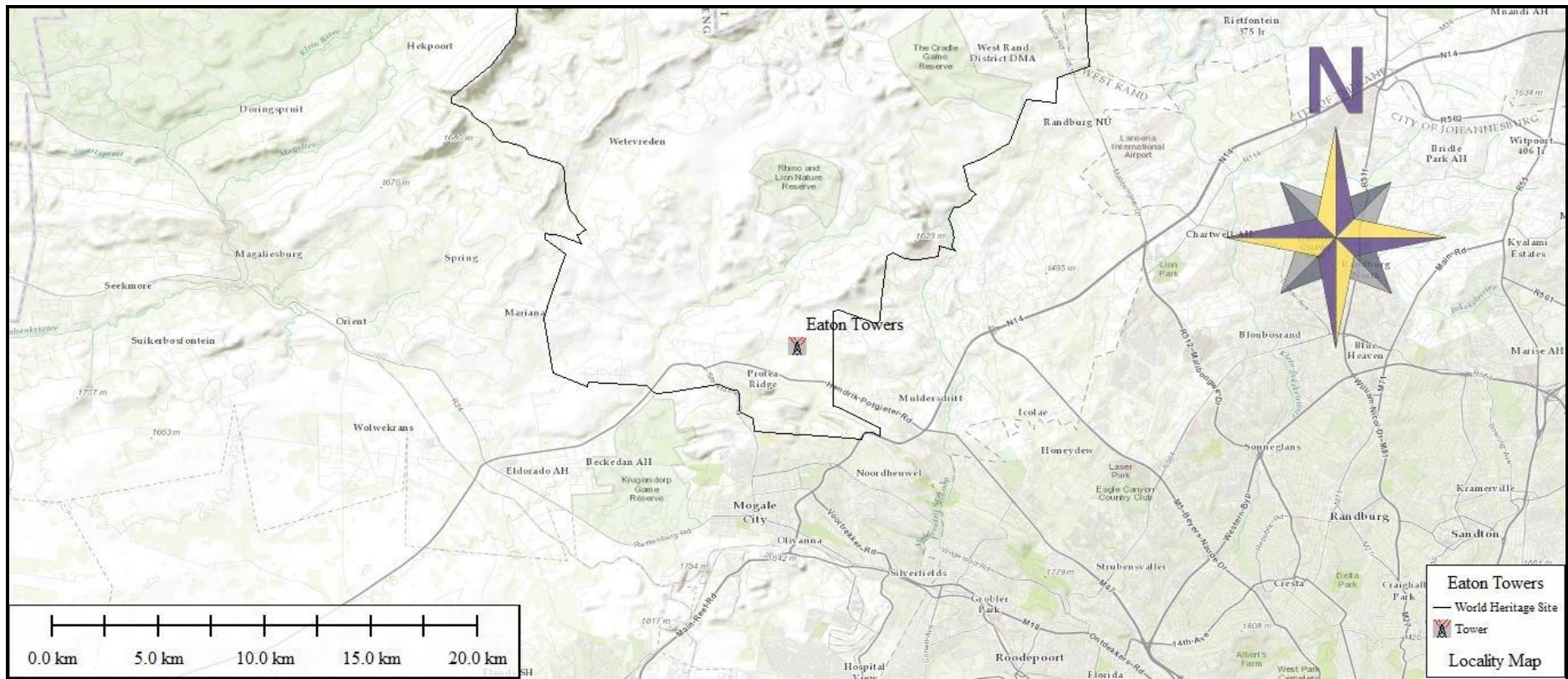


Figure 1. Location Map

The study area

The Erf upon which the proposed telecommunications mast will be erected is a developed and fenced residential stand with existing structures including elevated structures like water stands (Figure 3). The site itself has been cleared (Figure 2) and comprises a manicured lawn right next to the existing fence. These activities would have impacted on any surface indicators of heritage sites.

The proposed development is that of a 25.6 water tower mast with a Jojo Tank on a 10 m by 10 m base station and a 2.4 m Clearvu fence. Refer to Annexure A for site photographs and building plans.



Figure 2. The study area marked by orange cones



Figure 3: Existing Elevated structures in the study area.

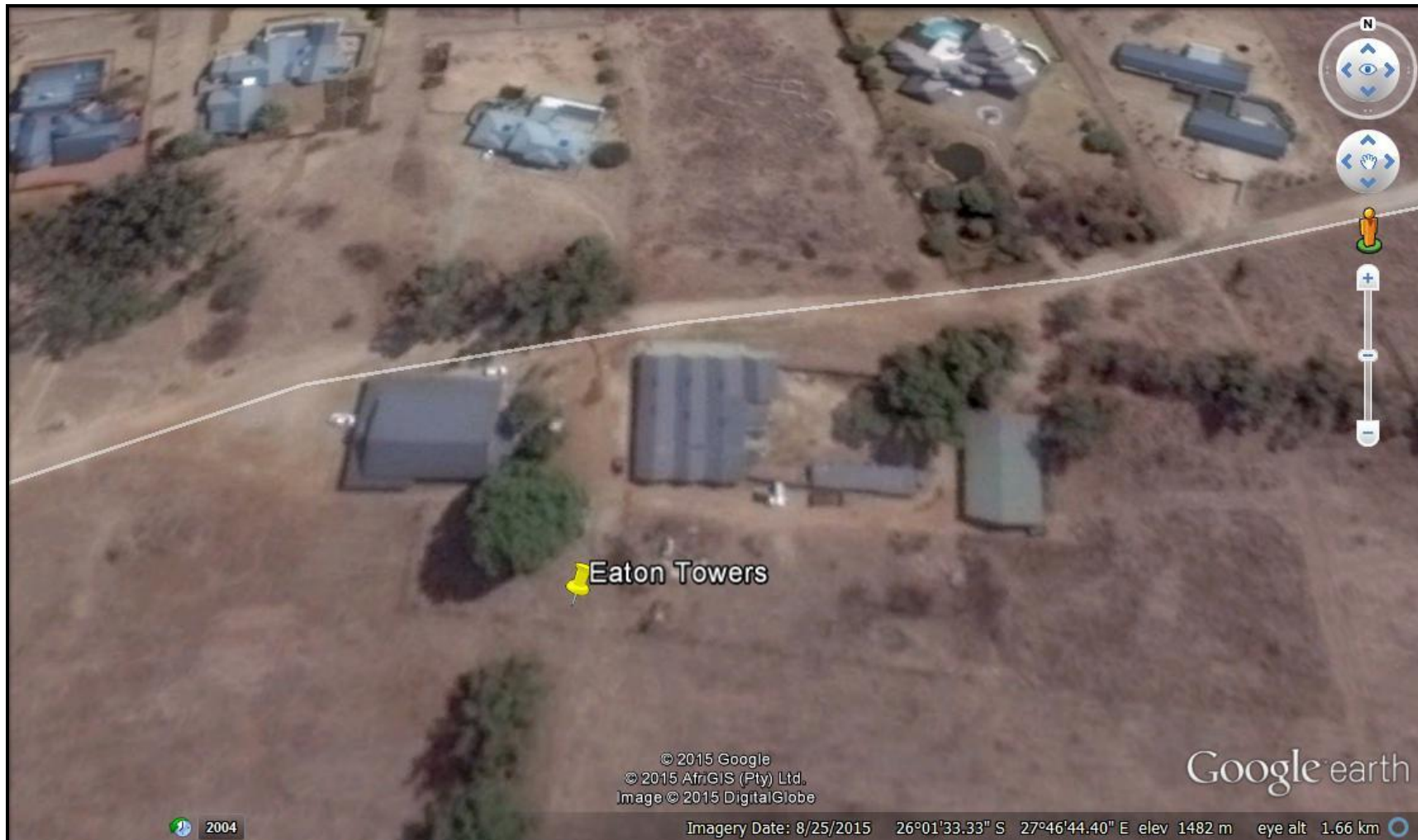


Figure 4: Google Image of the location of the proposed mast.

Background Information on the larger area

According to the South African Heritage Resource Information System (SAHRIS) database several CRM studies were conducted in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development and include studies by van der Walt (2007 and 2008) to the east and south east of the study area where no archaeological sites were recorded; the 2008 study did however record the remains of a low significance historical structure. Fourie (2008) conducted a study to the north east of the current study area and also found no archaeological sites, however a small cemetery was recorded during this study. Huffman (2007) conducted a survey to the east of the current study area and recorded a low significance Middle Stone Age scatter and some historical structures. A study by Van Schalkwyk (2007) further to the east recorded historical structures. To the north of the study area Birkholtz (2008) recorded no sites of significance.

32 Previously recorded sites are on record for the 2627 BB 1: 50 000 sheet at the Wits archaeological database. 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 the project area but provide a background to the sites known in the larger area.

Heritage Resources within the Cradle of Humankind can be divided into the following discrete categories:

- » Karstic landscapes and landforms, including subterranean caves
- » Pre-cambrian fossils
- » Palaeontological sites
- » Archaeological Stone Age and Iron Age sites
- » 19th and 20th century historical and "historical archaeological" sites
- » Living culture: traditional medicinal and other ethnobotanical knowledge systems and oral traditions.



Figure 5: Extract of the 2627 BB sheet that was drawn in 1943. Apart from a dirt road no other features are indicated in the development area at the time.

Conclusion

Lokisa Environmental 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 disturbed character of 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, burial grounds or isolated artefacts likely to be present on the surface of the affected landscape, due to the disturbed nature of the site.

Cumulatively we are of the opinion that the small scale of the project will have a negligible impact on the larger COHWS and above mentioned heritage resources that encompasses a large area of some 47 000 ha. On a local scale no impact are foreseen on any of the above mentioned Heritage Resources within the COH. The aim of this report was to assess the possible impact of the construction of the telecommunications mast on resources in the area.

Table 1. NHRA Triggers

Action Trigger	Yes/No	Description
Construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length.	No	
Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length.	No	
Development exceeding 5000 m ²	No	
Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions	No	
Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions that have been consolidated in the past 5 years	No	
Re-zoning of site exceeding 10 000 m ²	No	
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks or recreational grounds	No	

As such, we support the recommendation that the project be exempted from any further heritage 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 to we support the application for exemption from a Phase 1 study.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaco van der Walt'.

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

References

- Archaeological database, University of the Witwatersrand referenced 2009.
- Birkholtz 2008. Heritage Scoping Proposed second dwelling, Thorny Valley Estate 240 (Portion 240 a portion of portion 264) of the farm Honingklip 178-IQ, Mogale City, Gauteng Province
- Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies. Edited by J. S. Bergh. 1999. Pretoria: J. L. van Schaik Uitgewers.
- Fourie, W. 2008. Heritage Scoping Proposed development for Village x9 on Portions 205 and 206 of the farm Roodekrans 183 IQ, Krugersdorp, Gauteng Province. Unpublished report.
- Huffman, T.N. 2007. Archaeological Assessment Van Wyks restant, Krugersdorp. Unpublished report.
- SAHRA Report Mapping Project Version 1.0, 2009
- Van der Walt, J. 2007. Archaeological Impact Assessment Proposed Township: Chancliff Ridge Ext 34, Mogale City.
- Van der Walt, J. 2008. Cultural Heritage assessment of a portion of portion 20 of Van Wyks Restant 182 IQ, Muldersdrift, Gauteng Province.
- Van Schalkwyk, J. 2007. Heritage Impact Assessment For The Planned Rietvallei 180IQ Development, Krugersdorp Municipal District, Gauteng Province SAHRIS Referenced 2015.
- Wits Archaeological Database referenced 2009.