

**Prepared for:**

**SLR Consulting (Africa) (Pty) Ltd**

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**LETTER FOR EXEMPTION FOR A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE BASIC ASSESSMENT,  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND CLOSURE  
PLAN FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE IMBASA PROSPECTING RIGHT  
ON HARTEBEESTPOORT B 410JQ NEAR BRITS IN THE NORTH  
WEST**

**Prepared by:**

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**Member ASAPA**

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**March 2020**

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## 1 DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST

**Profession:** Archaeologist, Museologist (Museum Scientists), Lecturer, Heritage Guide Trainer and Heritage Consultant

**Qualifications:**

BA (Archaeology, Anthropology and Psychology) (UP, 1976)

BA (Hons) Archaeology (distinction) (UP, 1979)

MA Archaeology (distinction) (UP, 1985)

D Phil Archaeology (UP, 1989)

Post Graduate Diploma in Museology (Museum Sciences) (UP, 1981)

**Work experience:**

Museum curator and archaeologist for the Rustenburg and Phalaborwa Town Councils (1980-1984)

Head of the Department of Archaeology, National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria (1988-1989)

Lecturer and Senior lecturer Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria (1990-2003)

Independent Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant (2003-)

**Accreditation:** Member of the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists. (ASAPA)

**Summary:** Julius Pistorius is a qualified archaeologist and heritage specialist with extensive experience as a university lecturer, museum scientist, researcher and heritage consultant. His research focussed on the Late Iron Age Tswana and Lowveld-Sotho (particularly the Bamalatji of Phalaborwa). He has published a book on early Tswana settlement in the North-West Province and has completed an unpublished manuscript on the rise of Bamalatji metal workings spheres in Phalaborwa during the last 1 200 years. He has excavated more than twenty LIA settlements in North-West and twelve IA settlements in the Lowveld and has mapped hundreds of stone walled sites in the North-West. He has written a guide for Eskom's field personnel on heritage management. He has published twenty scientific papers in academic journals and several popular articles on archaeology and heritage matters. He collaborated with environmental companies in compiling State of the Environmental Reports for Ekurhuleni, Hartebeespoort and heritage management plans for the Magaliesberg and Waterberg. Since acting as an independent consultant he has done approximately 800 large to small heritage impact assessment reports. He has a longstanding working relationship with Eskom, Rio Tinto (PMC), Rio Tinto (EXP), Impala Platinum, Angloplats (Rustenburg), Lonmin, Sasol, PMC, Foskor, Kudu and Kelgran Granite, Bafokeng Royal Resources, Pilanesberg Platinum Mine (PPM) etc. as well as with several environmental companies.

## 2 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Dr Julius CC Pistorius declare the following:

- I act as an independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even, if this result in views and findings that are not favourable for the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialists report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the applications;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and other applicable legislation;
- I will consider, to the extent possible, the matters listed in Regulation 13;
- I understand to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct 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; and
- I realise that a false declaration is offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



1 March 2020

### **3 BACKGROUND**

Imbasa Platinum Pty (Ltd) (Imbasa) holds a prospecting right (DMRE reference number (NW30/5/1/1/2/424 PR) for all minerals on various portions of the farm Hartebeestpoort B 410 JQ. This prospecting right is referred to as the Imbasa prospecting right. The prospecting area is approximately 7 km west of Brits within the Madibeng Local Municipality and Bojanala Platinum District Municipality in the North West Province (Figure 1).

Between 2004 and 2014, Imbasa undertook prospecting activities on the farm Hartebeestpoort B 410 JQ, during which time 24 approved exploration drill holes were drilled.

After completion of the pre-feasibility work, the Imbasa Board made the decision not to apply for a mining right and commence with mining, as it was found that the project is not economically viable at the expected economic parameters (i.e. cost, funding, prices). Imbasa has decided to exit from this prospecting right and as such is undertaking a closure application process. The areas disturbed by the prospecting activities have been allowed to re-vegetate and would be used by landowners and land users as was done *prior* to the prospecting activities.

SLR Consulting (Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SLR), an independent firm of environmental assessment practitioners (EAP), has been appointed by Imbasa Platinum (Pty) Ltd to manage the environmental authorisation processes associated with the closure of the Imbasa prospecting right.

### **4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

The stakeholder engagement process commenced *prior* to the submission of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and has continued throughout the environmental assessment process. As part of this process, commenting authorities and interested and affected parties (I&APs) were given the opportunity to review the background information document (BID) and now the BAR and submit questions and comments to the project team. All comments submitted to date by the commenting authorities

and I&APs have been included and addressed in the BAR. Further comments arising during the review of the BAR will be handled in a similar manner.

## **5 AIMS OF THE REPORT**

This brief report serves as motivation that earlier heritage surveys for the Imbasa prospecting right area were undertaken and that all heritage sites encountered on Hartebeestpoort B 410 JQ were recorded and reported (Part 10, 'Bibliography relating to earlier heritage studies').

This brief report therefore serves as letter of exemption for a Phase I heritage survey for the BAR, Environmental Management Programme and Closure Report compiled by SLR for the closure of prospecting activities on this farm. .

## **6 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

It is possible that earlier heritage surveys done for the Imbasa prospecting right area and for the farm Hartbeespoort B 410 JQ may have missed heritage resources. Heritage sites may be covered with grass or vegetation whilst others may be located below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once prospecting activities commence. It is also possible that heritage resources may simply have been missed as a result of human failure to detect them.

## **7 THE IMBASA PROSPECTING AREA**

### **7.1 Description**

A description of the Imbasa prospecting right area on the farm Hartbeestpoort B 410 JQ is provided in Table 1.

Description	Details																																							
Farm Name	Hartebeestpoort B 410 JQ																																							
Closure application area (ha)	The Imbasa prospecting right area covers an area of approximately 1 673 ha																																							
Magisterial district	The prospecting right area is located within the Madibeng Local Municipality and in the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality.																																							
Distance and direction from nearest town	The proposed project site is located approximately 7 km west of Brits (Refer to <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> ).																																							
21-digit Surveyor General Code for each farm portion	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001216</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001127</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001121</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001217</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001126</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001220</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001125</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001218</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001124</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001118</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001219</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001123</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001212</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001221</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001178</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001374</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001215</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001179</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001214</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001180</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001222</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001122</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001181</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001223</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001182</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001224</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001183</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001128</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001213</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001161</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001151</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T0JK00000000041001131</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001155</td> <td>T0JK00000000041001122</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	T0JK00000000041001216	T0JK00000000041001127	T0JK00000000041001121	T0JK00000000041001217	T0JK00000000041001126	T0JK00000000041001120	T0JK00000000041001220	T0JK00000000041001125	T0JK00000000041001119	T0JK00000000041001218	T0JK00000000041001124	T0JK00000000041001118	T0JK00000000041001219	T0JK00000000041001123	T0JK00000000041001212	T0JK00000000041001221	T0JK00000000041001178	T0JK00000000041001374	T0JK00000000041001215	T0JK00000000041001179	T0JK00000000041001373	T0JK00000000041001214	T0JK00000000041001180	T0JK00000000041001222	T0JK00000000041001122	T0JK00000000041001181	T0JK00000000041001129	T0JK00000000041001223	T0JK00000000041001182	T0JK00000000041001130	T0JK00000000041001224	T0JK00000000041001183	T0JK00000000041001128	T0JK00000000041001213	T0JK00000000041001161	T0JK00000000041001151	T0JK00000000041001131	T0JK00000000041001155	T0JK00000000041001122
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**Table 1- Description of the Imbasa prospecting right area (above).**

## 7.2 Location of the prospecting area

The regional location of the Imbasa prospecting right area is indicated in Figure 1.

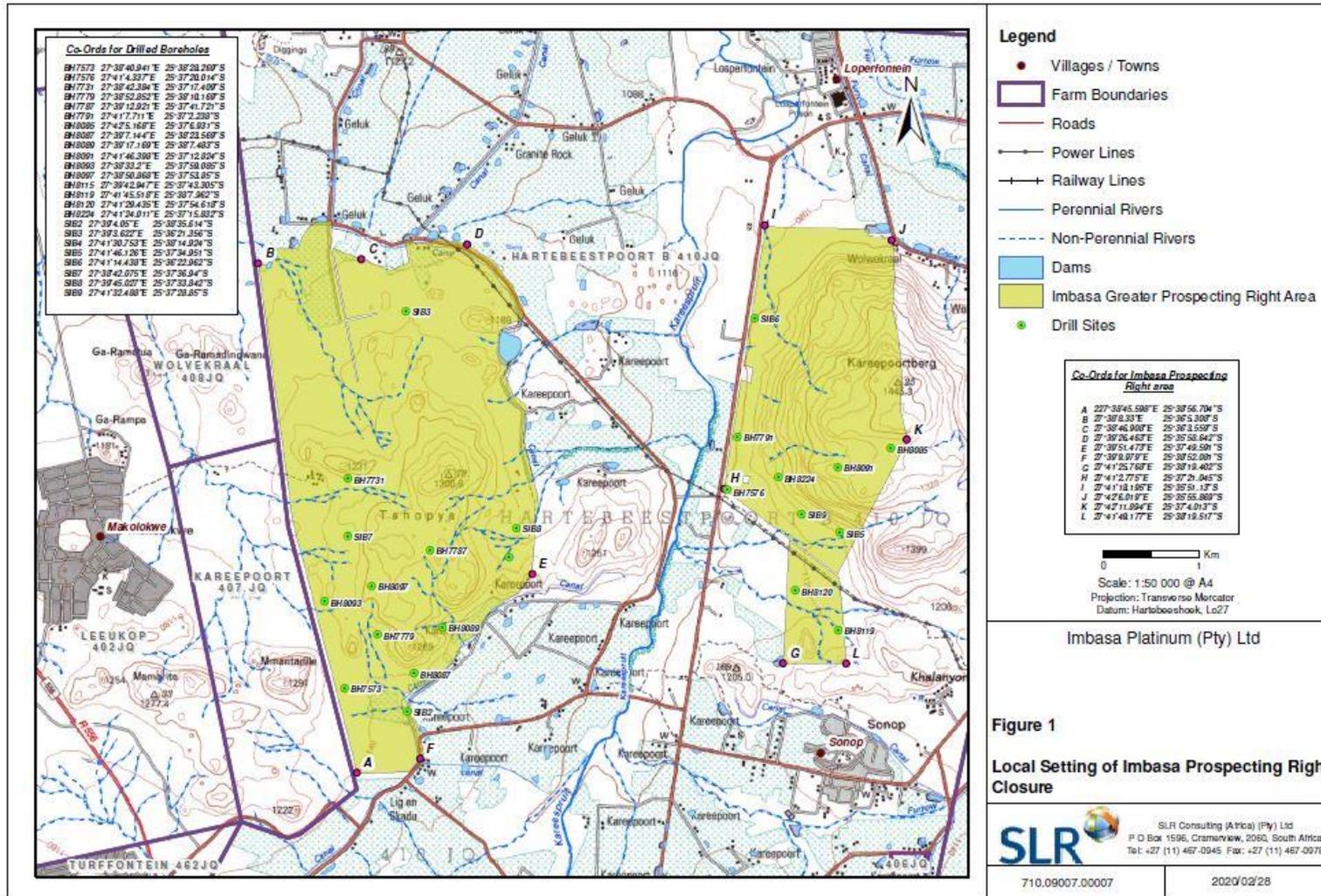


Figure 1- Location of the Imbasa prospecting right area (above).

### 7.3 Prospecting activities

Prospecting activities undertaken between 2004 and 2014 included:

- Use of existing roads/ tracks (as far as possible);
- Establishment and use of new access tracks where prospecting related vehicles had to deviate from existing roads;
- Establishment of a small temporary drill camp;
- Drilling of 24 approved drill holes (BH7573, BH7576, BH7731, BH7779, BH7787, BH7791, BH8085, BH8087, BH8089, BH8091, BH8093, BH8097, BH8115, BH8119, BH8120, BH8224, SIB2, SIB3, SIB4, SIB5, SIB6, SIB7, SIB8 and SIB9) (see Figure 2); and
- Establishment and use of site equipment and support facilities (drill rigs, trucks, plastic lined drilling water containment facility (sump), water cart, core sample trays) and portable chemical toilets etc.

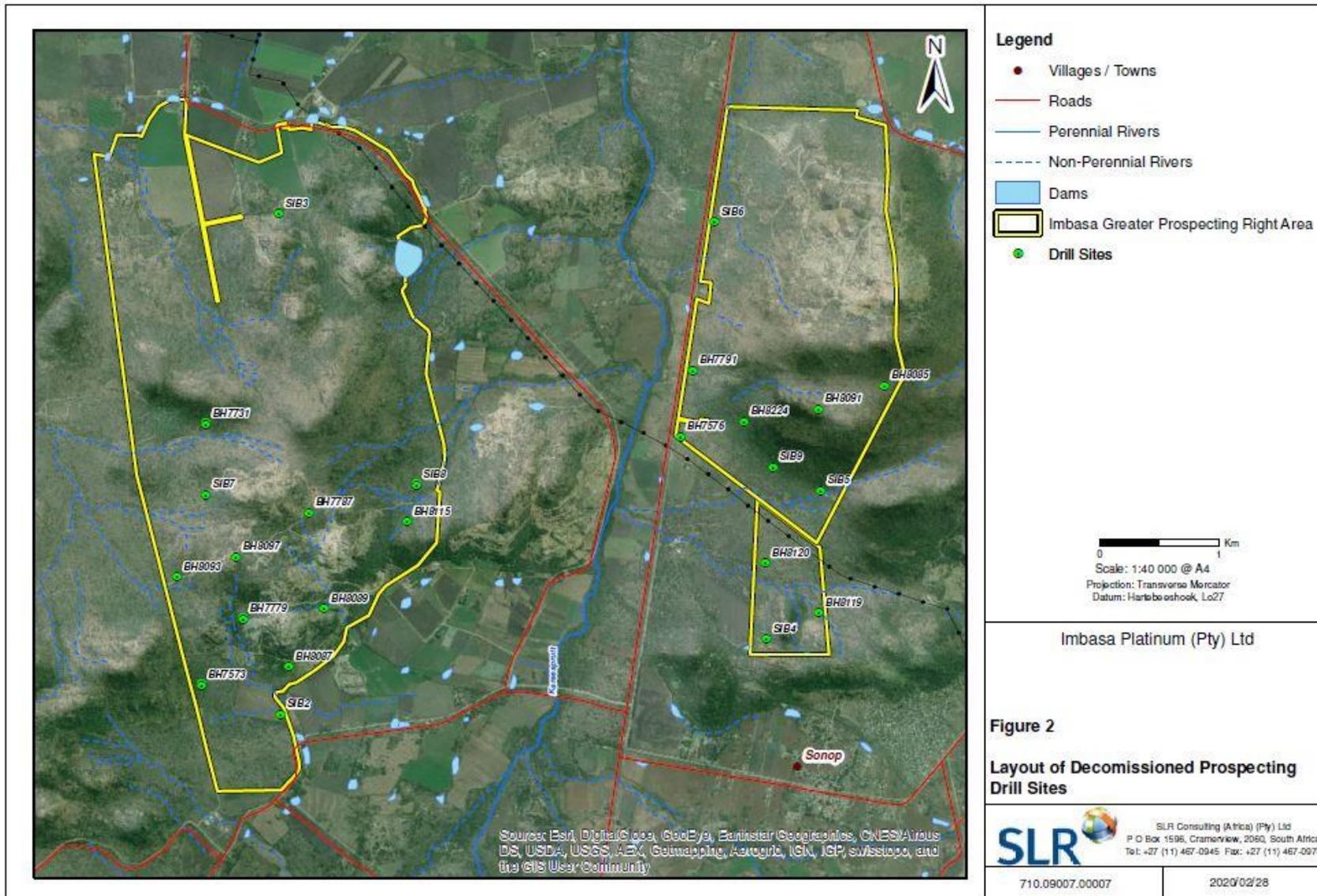


Figure 2- Prospecting drill holes in the Imbasa prospecting right area (above).

#### **7.4 Decommissioning and rehabilitation of disturbed areas**

Decommissioning and rehabilitation took place immediately after exploration work at each drill site was completed in line with the approved EMPr. This usually took between one and three days. Decommissioning and rehabilitation activities at each site included the following steps:

- Removal of all equipment, structures and materials;
- Removal of any waste and disposal at an appropriately permitted waste site;
- Sealing and capping of all drill holes and installation of a 0.8 x 0.8 x 0.8 m concrete block and standpipe for easy identification;
- Replacing and levelling topsoil (where removed);
- Scarifying/ripping areas where soils have been compacted; and
- Areas were left to naturally re-vegetate.

These steps were based on the regulatory requirements for rehabilitation of the prospecting sites as detailed in the approved EMPr. It should be noted that at the time of compiling the prospecting EMP, the DMRE's standard EMPr format was relevant.

#### **7.5 Aftercare and maintenance**

Typically, a period of aftercare and maintenance is applied to each rehabilitated drill site to ensure closure objectives are being met. Given the nature of the prospecting activities, a 2 to 3-year period of maintenance and aftercare is usually applied.

For the drill sites, the aftercare and maintenance activities included the monitoring of erosion and vegetation establishment and control and eradication of alien invasive plants.

## **7.6 A summary of progressive rehabilitation and current status of the disturbed areas**

Progressive rehabilitation took place as prospecting activities advanced and commenced as each drill site was completed and decommissioned. Rehabilitation activities were aligned with Imbasa's approved EMPr and closure objectives.

According to the 2014 and 2016 EMPr performance assessments, drill sites completed prior to 2013 were fully re-vegetated and no further maintenance or aftercare activities were deemed necessary. The re-establishment of vegetation at drill sites BH8224 and BH7791 (completed in 2013 and 2014) was still in progress and required maintenance and aftercare.

Considering the uniformity of the baseline conditions within the prospecting right area, and given that the area experienced average rainfall since 2014 (which would have assisted with re-vegetation of the drill sites), it is therefore assumed that re-vegetation at these drill sites has been successful with no further maintenance or monitoring required. It is however possible that post-drilling third party land uses (such as livestock grazing) may have influenced the status of the vegetation at these drill sites, and this was noted during the Final EMPr Performance Assessment undertaken in support of this closure application.

A site verification undertaken at 3 drill sites<sup>1</sup> within the prospecting right area in January 2020 concluded that the vegetation had re-established to a satisfactory level and the pre-prospecting land use for these drill sites was achieved. It was not possible to verify the status of vegetation within the remaining 21 drill sites<sup>2</sup> at the time of the assessment. This was mainly due to difficulties in locating standpipes within the drill sites (these had been either stolen or destroyed as they conflict with current land uses such as crop cultivation, granite mining etc.). In some instances, drill sites could not be accessed as access tracks have successfully re-vegetated and are therefore already fully rehabilitated.

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<sup>1</sup>Drill Sites BH8093, BH7791 and BH7573

<sup>2</sup> Drill site BH7576, BH7731, BH7779, BH7787, BH8085, BH8087, BH8089, BH8091, BH8093, BH8097, BH8119, BH8120, BH8224, SIB2, SIB3, SIB4, SIB5, SIB6, SIB7, SIB8 and SIB9) (drilled between 2004 and 2014)

## **8 TYPES AND RANGES OF HERITAGE RESOURCES**

Earlier heritage surveys for platinum and granite mining related projects as well as for the proposed Imbasa prospecting activities revealed the presence of the Stone walled sites from the Late Iron Age within the prospecting right area, namely, HAR (1,2,3,9 and 10) and Clusters (29 and 33) on Figure 3 below.

Stone walled sites occur in eco-zones such as mountainous and flat terrain ecological areas of the prospecting right area. This include sites located on higher ground in the Ga-Tshopje and Kareepoort Mountains as well as their foothills and here and there on flat turf veld in-between these mountains.

However, both these eco-zones have been severely affected during the past decades. Whilst the mountain ranges were largely destroyed as a result of granite mining activities the flat areas adjoining the mountains were utilized for intense irrigation purposes.

It can be therefore be stated that the majority of stone walled sites in the mountain ranges within the prospecting right area have either been obliterated or severely damaged by granite mining whilst those that occurred on flat terrain now have disappeared as a result of prolonged agricultural activities (see Part 10, 'Select Bibliography relating to earlier heritage studies', particularly bolded reports) (Figure 3).

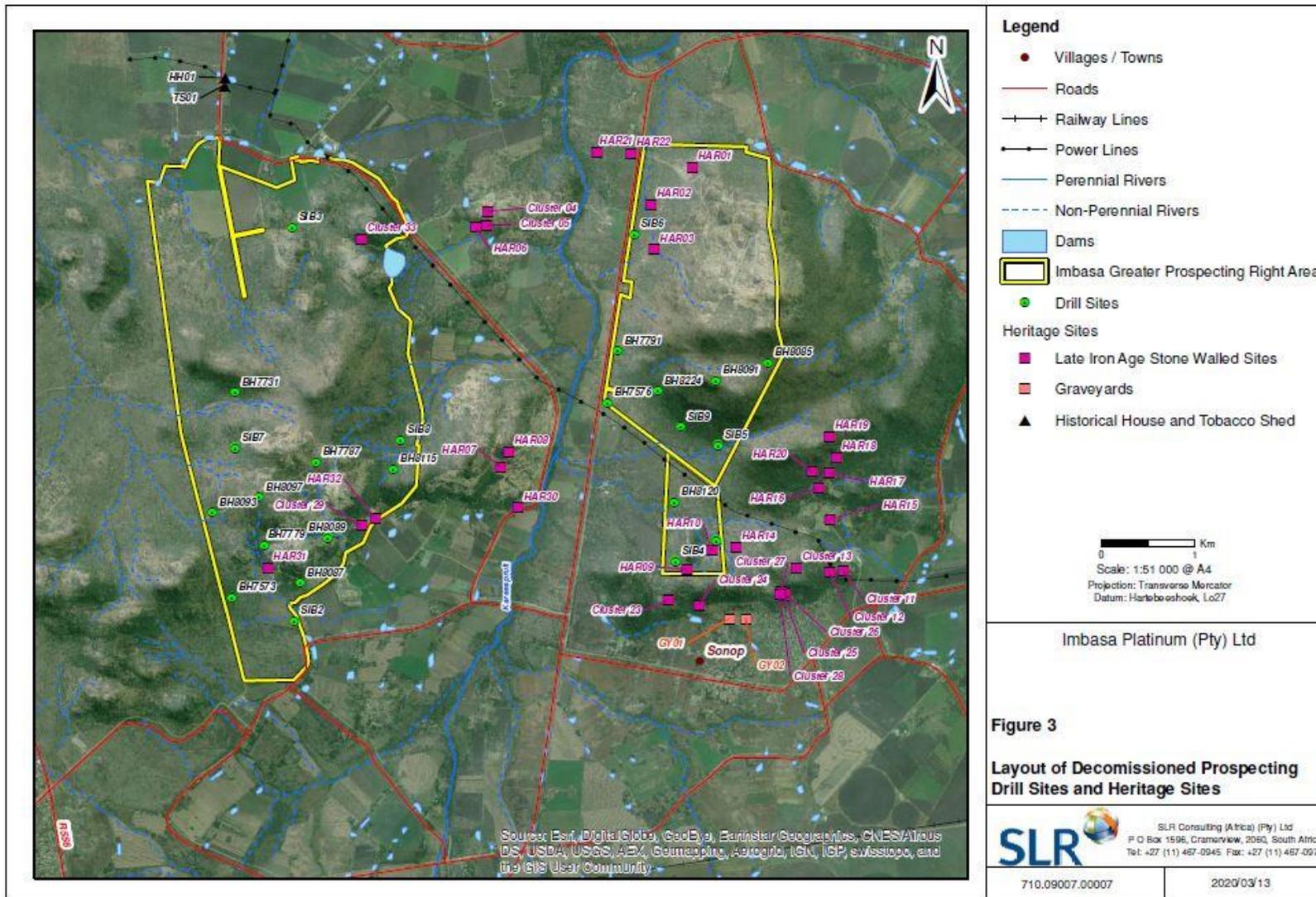


Figure 3- Prospecting drill holes and heritage sites in the Imbasa prospecting area (above).

## 9 CONCLUSION

It is clear from Figure 3 that none of the prospecting drill holes coincided with recorded heritage resources in the Imbasa prospecting area. It is therefore understood that the Imbasa prospecting activities did not impact on any of the heritage resources recorded in this area.

The closure of the prospecting right does not require any physical disturbance activities to take place on site. Consequently, no further disturbance will occur at the prospecting areas for the closure of the prospecting right to take effect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julius CC Pistorius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

**DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS**  
**Archaeologist & Heritage Consultant**  
**Member ASAPA**

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY RELATING TO EARLIER HERITAGE STUDIES**

Pistorius, J.C.C. 2004. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for Impala Platinum's proposed new No 16 Shaft Complex on the farm Reinkoyalskraal 278JQ in the Bojkone-Bothlaba District Municipality of the North-West Province. Unpublished report prepared for Ground Water Consulting Services CC.

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Pistorius, J.C.C. 2006. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for the Impala Platinum Shaft 17 Complex on the farm Vlakfontein 276JQ near Rustenburg in the North-West Province of South Africa. Unpublished report for Golder Associates and for Impala Platinum.

Pistorius, J.C.C. 2006. A Phase 2 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for the Impala Platinum Shaft 17 Complex on the farm Vlakfontein 276JQ near Rustenburg in the North-West Province of South Africa. Unpublished report for SAHRA and for Impala Platinum.

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North-West Province of South Africa. Unpublished report prepared for Naledzi Environmental Consultants and the Royal Bafokeng Administration.

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**Pistorius, J.C.C. 2011. A survey and assessment of heritage resources and proposing the implementation of a cultural heritage management program in the Impala Platinum (Implats) mine lease area in the Rustenburg (Bafokeng) District in the North-West Province. Unpublished report prepared for Impala Platinum Mine.**

Pistorius, J.C.C. 2011. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for Impala Platinum Limited Rustenburg (Implats) proposed new Shaft 18 and Shaft 19 in the Rustenburg (Bafokeng) District in the North-West Province. *Unpublished report for Implats.*

**Pistorius, J.C.C. 2012. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for Aflease's proposed prospecting areas on the farm Hartbeebesport B 120JQ in the North West. *Unpublished report prepared for SLR Consulting (Africa) (Ltd).***