



Agency for Cultural Resource Management
Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

19 March, 2014

Att: Ms Jenna Lavin
South African Heritage Resources Agency
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

Dear Ms Lavin,

REQUEST: EXEMPTION FROM HAVING TO CONDUCT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, THE PROPOSED RE-USE OF AN EXISTING BORROW PIT AT MOTHIBISTAD NEAR KURUMAN, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The proposed project entails re-opening of an existing borrow pit (BP 1) alongside the D300 in the small village of Mapoteng near Mothibistad (Ga-Segonyana Municipality), situated about 12kms north east of Kuruman in the Northern Cape Province (Figures 1 & 2).

BP1 (about 1.5 ha in extent) has already been extensively quarried and rehabilitated (Figure 3).

The intention is to reopen and slightly widen the existing borrow pit in order to exploit additional source material (mainly calcrete) for the regravelling of roads in the village of Mapoteng.

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be implemented which will manage the entire quarrying operation, including rehabilitation of impacts during both the operational and decommissioning phase.

Please note that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of BP1 was undertaken by ACRM in 2008¹.

As described in the report, 'the proposed borrow pit is situated directly alongside D300 abutting two smaller (old) borrow pits. The site is flat and covered in dry winter grass, with a few sporadic trees occurring in places. Overgrazing and trampling is apparent. There is hardly any surface stone on the site, apart from several small piles of dolerite from excavated test pits. No significant landscape features occur on the site. The surrounding land use comprises mainly grazing land'.

Photographs taken of the site taken in 2008 are presented in Figures 4-7.

A single retouched dolerite flake was recorded during the study.

Since the proposed site has already been subjected to extensive quarrying, ACRM is applying for exemption from having to conduct an archaeological inspection of the proposed activity (i. e. re-opening of an existing borrow pit).

¹ Kaplan, J. 2008. An Archaeological Assessment of three borrow pits alongside D300, Mothibistad, Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for Van Zyl Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management, Riebeeck West.



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The reasons are that, given the already severely degraded and transformed nature of the receiving environment (the proposed mining area has been extensively quarried) and the extent of proposed quarrying area (less than 1.0 ha to be mined), it is considered highly unlikely that significant archaeological heritage will be impacted by the proposed activities.

In addition the site has already been investigated by the archaeologist in 2008 and only a single artefact was recorded.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Kaplan

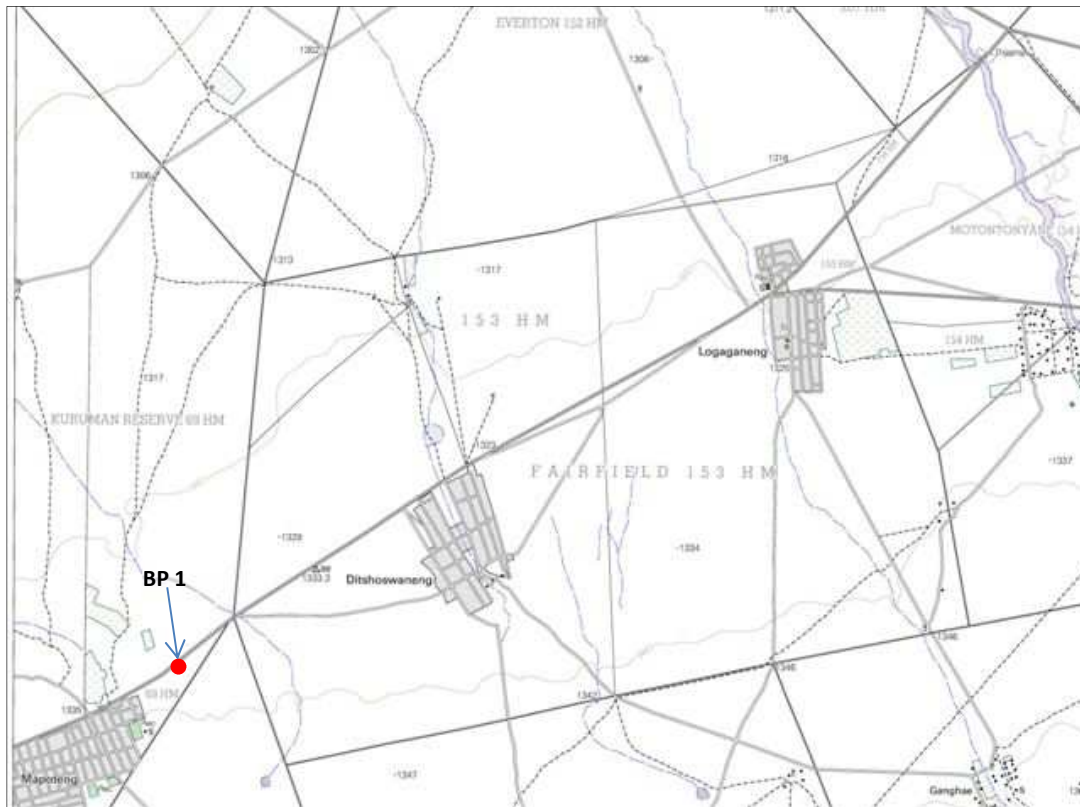


Figure 1. 1:50 000 Locality Map (2723 BC Logaganeng)

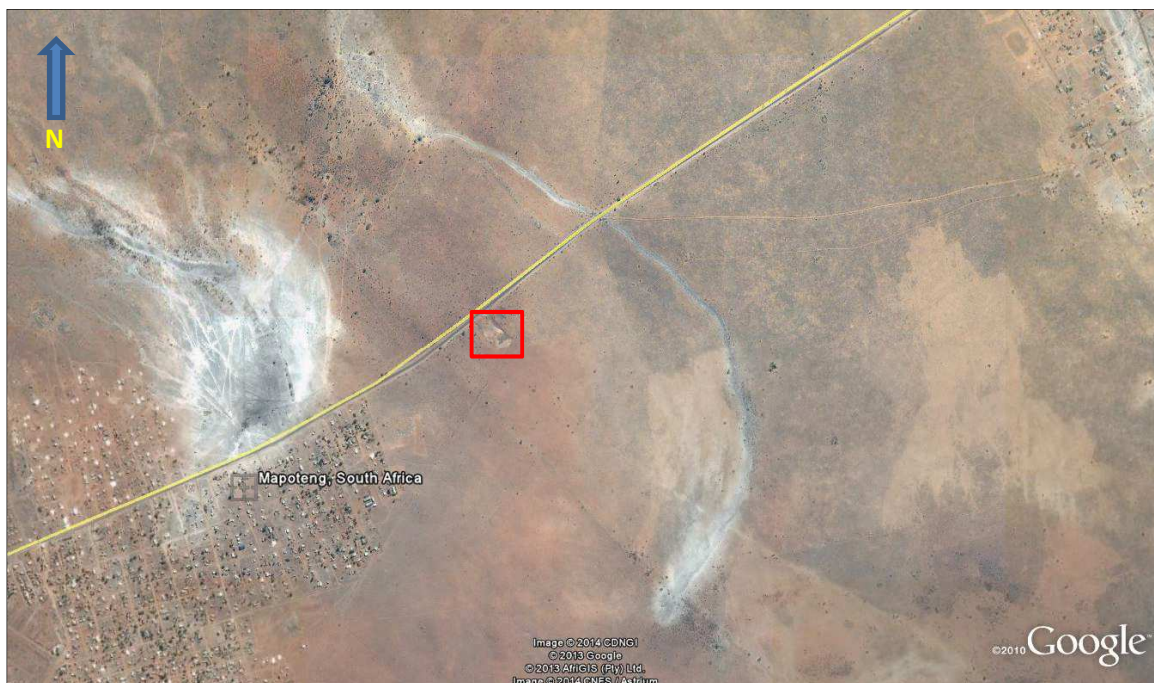


Figure 2. The village of Mapoteng and the location site of BP 1 (red polygon)



Figure 3. Close up Google aerial map of BP1 showing the extent of the proposed activity

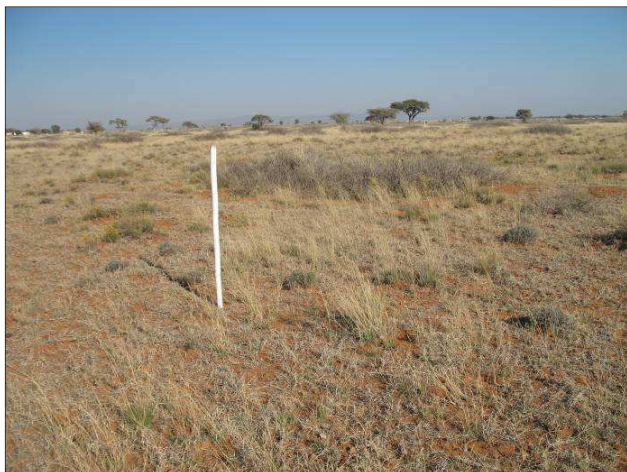


Figure 4. BP 1. View of the site facing north west



Figure 5. BP 1. View of the site facing east



Figure 6. BP 1. View of the site facing north



Figure 7. BP 1. View of the site facing south west



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