

Exemption from a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed township establishment on parts of the Grasslands Agricultural Holdings, Bloemfontein, Free State Province*.

Site: Parts of Farm Grasslands 575

Map Ref.: 2926 AB Maselspoort

Site Coordinates: 29°10'11.21"S 26°17'38.22"E

MDA Environmental Consultants requested a archaeological impact assessment for the proposed township establishment on parts of the Grasslands Agricultural Holdings, Bloemfontein (Fig. 1 & 2). The Stone Age archaeological record of Modder River catchment east of Bloemfontein spans back to the early Middle Stone Age. Prehistoric archaeological remains previously recorded in the region include stone tools and mammal fossil remains from sealed and or exposed contexts. Along much of the course of the Modder River and its tributaries, alluvial deposits contain numerous occurrences of *in situ* Middle and Later Stone Age material eroding out of the overbank sediments where they are often found in association with late Pleistocene fossil mammal remains (eg. nearby Renosterspruit). After a brief walk-through, it was established that informal residential development has noticeably altered the natural condition of the terrain (Fig. 3). Potential archaeological impact resulting from the proposed development is considered non-existent due to the disturbed nature of the area. The affected area is capped by a substantial overburden of geologically recent (Quaternary) alluvial sediments that is extensively disturbed by human activity. It is not considered palaeontologically vulnerable.

It is recommended that the proposed development is exempted from a Phase 1 archaeological impact assessment.

* Report prepared for MDA Environmental Consultants PO Box 20298, Willows 9320 by L. Rossouw, Archaeological Impacts Unit, National Museum Bloemfontein, c/o Aliwal and Charles Street, Bloemfontein 9300.

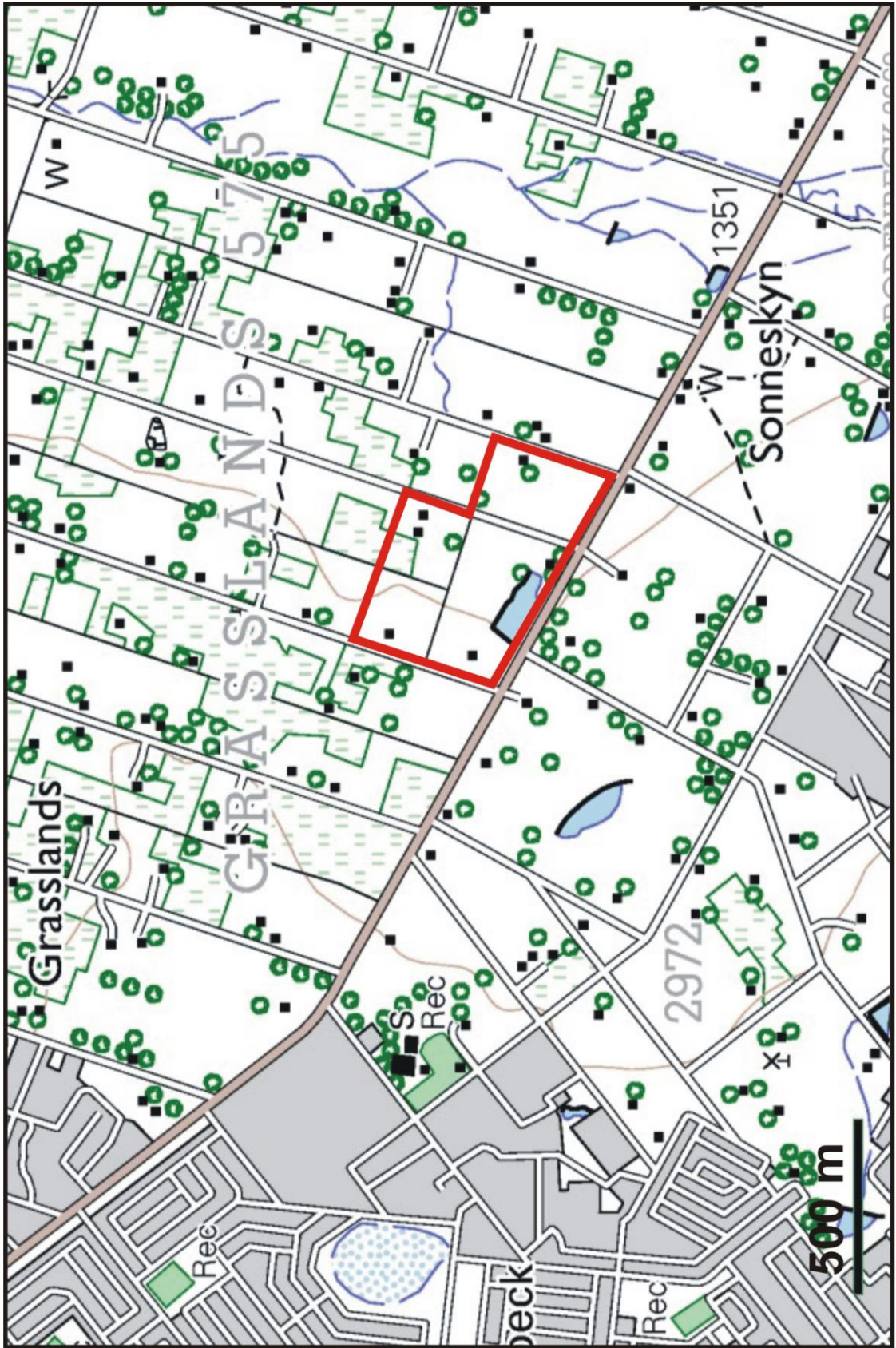


Figure 1. The proposed Bloemside Phase 7 township establishment (portion of 1:50 000 scale topographical map 2926 Maselspoort).



Figure 2. Aerial view of the affected area.

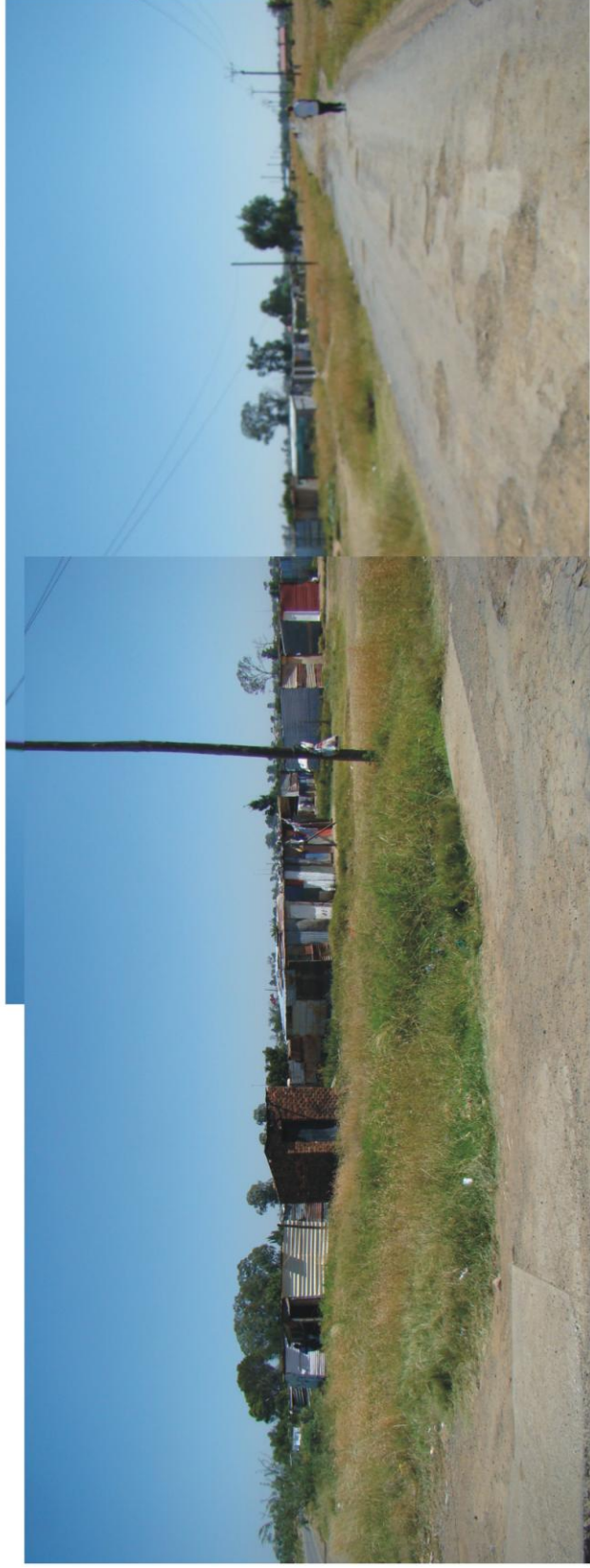


Figure 3. The affected area, looking east (above) and northeast (below).