

# Archaeological Impact Assessment

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For the proposed Midridge Park Ext. 25 Township Development, Midrand, Gauteng

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Prepared For

**Prism EMS**

By



TEL: +27 82 373 8491. E –MAIL JACO.HERITAGE@GMAIL.COM

**VERSION 1.0**  
**16 April 2015**

**CLIENT:** Prism EMS  
**CONTACT PERSON:** **Gerhard Theron**  
gerhard@prismems.co.za

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LEADING CONSULTANT:** Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC

**CONTACT PERSON:** Jaco van der Walt  
Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting  
Professional Member of the Association of Southern African Professional  
Archaeologist (#159)

I, Jaco van der Walt as duly authorised representative of Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC, hereby confirm my independence as a specialist and declare that neither I nor the Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which the client was appointed as Environmental Assessment practitioner, other than fair remuneration for work performed on this project.



**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Site name and location:** The proposed township development of Portion 883 and Portion 1713 of the farm Randjesfontein 405 JR, to be known as Midridge Park Ext. 25. GPS Coordinates: Latitude (S): 25°58'38.18"S, Longitude (E): 28° 7'33.97"E. The proposed development falls within Ward 97 of the City of Joburg Region B.

**Purpose of the study:** Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment to determine the presence of cultural heritage sites and the impact of the proposed project on these resources within the study area.

**1:50 000 Topographic Map:** 2528 CC

**Environmental Consultant:** Prism EMS

**Developer:** Vukile Property Fund Ltd

**Heritage Consultant:** Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC).

Contact person: Jaco van der Walt Tel: +27 82 373 8491

E-mail jaco.heritage@gmail.com.

**Date of Report:** 16 April 2015

### Findings of the Assessment:

The site has been disturbed by the construction of the N1 highway with rubble as well as invader plants and grass cover decreasing archaeological visibility. During the Archaeological Impact Assessment no sites of significance were identified. From an archaeological point of view there is no reason why the development cannot commence work (based on approval from SAHRA). Furthermore the area is of low paleontological sensitivity and the development is not seen to have a negative impact on the heritage resources of the Midrand area.

### General

Due to the subsurface nature of heritage artefacts, the possible occurrence of unmarked or informal graves and other finds cannot be excluded. 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.

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- Recommendations delivered to the Client.

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EIA Practitioner: Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EMP: Environmental Management Plan
ESA: Early Stone Age
GPS: Global Positioning System
HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA: Late Iron Age
LSA: Late Stone Age
MEC: Member of the Executive Council
MIA: Middle Iron Age
MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
MSA: Middle Stone Age
NEMA: National Environmental Management Act
PRHA: Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
SADC: Southern African Development Community
SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency

*\*Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.*

**GLOSSARY**

Archaeological site (remains of human activity over 100 years old)

Early Stone Age (~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago)

Middle Stone Age (~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago)

Later Stone Age (~ 40-25 000, to recently, 100 years ago)

The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to 1840)

Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

## 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<b><i>Kind of study</i></b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment
<b><i>Type of development</i></b>	Township Development
<b><i>Developer:</i></b>	Vukile Property Fund Ltd,
<b><i>Consultant:</i></b>	Prism EMS

The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report forms part of the BA for the proposed project.

The aim of the study is to identify cultural heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial and national context. It serves to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the responsible cultural resources management measures that might be required to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner. It is also conducted to protect, preserve, and develop such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized before and during the survey, which includes: Phase 1, a review of the heritage scoping report that includes collection from various sources and consultations; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey no heritage sites were identified. General site conditions and features on sites were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations, and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report.

This report must also be submitted to the appropriate SAHRA provincial office for peer review.



## 1.1 Terms of Reference

### Desktop study

Conducting a brief desktop study where information on the area is collected to provide a background history of the area.

### Field study

Conduct a field study to: a) systematically survey the proposed project area to locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources recorded in the project area.

### Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project; i.e., construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with Heritage legislation and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

## 1.2. Archaeological Legislation and Best Practice

Phase 1, an AIA or a HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of a heritage specialist input is to:

- Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- Establish heritage informants/constraints to guide the development process through establishing thresholds of impact significance;
- Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources;
- Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management of these impacts.

The AIA or HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the National Heritage Resources Act NHRA of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), Section 23(2)(b) of the NEMA and section s.39(3)(b)(iii) of the MPRDA.

The AIA should be submitted, as part of the EIA, BIA or EMP, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will be ultimately responsible for the professional evaluation of Phase 1 AIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 AIA reports and additional development information, as per the EIA, BIA/EMP, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 AIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years post-university CRM experience (field supervisor level).

Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is a legal body, based in South Africa, representing professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 AIAs are primarily concerned with the location and identification of sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance. Relevant conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement.

After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA by the client before development may proceed.

Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36. Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5]) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority, require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, in addition to SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery, but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws, set by the cemetery authority, must be adhered to.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning; or in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare.

Authorisation for exhumation and reinterment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. To handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

## **1.3 Description of Study Area**

### **1.3.1 Location Data**

The subject site is situated north of New Road, east of 3rd Road and west of the N1 (Ben Schoeman Highway) in the Midrand Area. It falls within Ward 97 of the City of Joburg Region B on Portion 883 and Portion 1713 of the Farm Randjesfontein 405 J.R. The total size of the property is 5, 0120 ha. GPS Coordinates: Latitude (S): 25°58'38.18"S, Longitude (E): 28° 7'33.97"E.

The topography of the area is flat and the study area falls within the bioregion described by Mucina *et al* (2006) as Mesic Highveld Grassland Bioregion with the vegetation described as Egoli Granite Grassland. The surrounding area is extensively developed as part of residential developments.

### 1.3.2. Location Map

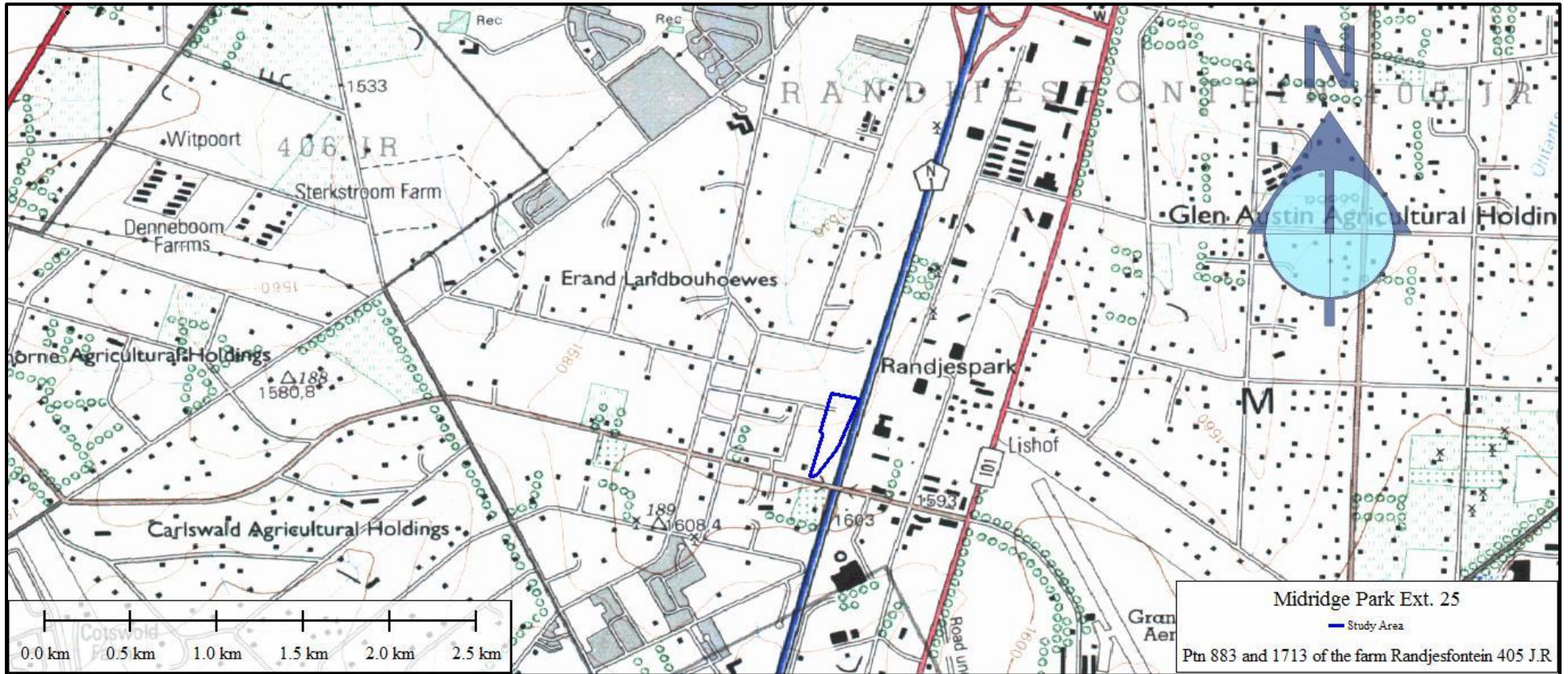


Figure 1: Locality Map.

## **2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

The aim of the study is to cover archaeological databases and historical sources to compile a background history of the study area followed by field verification; this was accomplished by means of the following phases.

### **2.1 Phase 1 - Desktop Study**

The first phase comprised a desktop study, gathering data to compile a background history of the area in question. It included scanning existing records for archaeological sites, historical sites and graves, on the inhabitants of the area.

#### **2.1.1 Literature Search**

Utilising data for information gathering stored in the archaeological database at Wits, previous CRM reports done in the area and a search in the National archives. The aim of this is to extract data and information on the area in question, looking at archaeological sites, historical sites, graves, architecture, oral history and ethnographical information on the inhabitants of the area.

#### **2.1.2 Information Collection**

The SAHRIS was consulted to collect data from previously conducted CRM projects in the region to provide a comprehensive account of the history of the study area. The South African Heritage Information System was also used to collect information.

#### **2.1.3 Consultation**

No consultation was conducted by the heritage team as this is conducted as part of the BA.

#### **2.1.4 Google Earth and Mapping Survey**

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located.

#### **2.1.5 Genealogical Society of South Africa**

The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.

### **2.2 Phase 2 - Physical Surveying**

Due to the nature of cultural remains, the majority of which occurs below surface, a field survey of the study area was conducted; focussing on drainage lines, hills and outcrops, high lying areas and disturbances in the topography. The study area was surveyed on foot by a professional archaeologist on 15 April 2015.

### **2.3. Restrictions**

Due to the fact that most cultural remains may occur below surface, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/ recorded during the survey. Low archaeological visibility is due to extensive ground disturbance, illegal dumping and vegetation, and the possible occurrence of unmarked graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. Although Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC surveyed the area as thoroughly as possible, it is incumbent upon the developer to stop operations and inform the relevant heritage agency should further cultural remains, such as unmarked graves, stone tool scatters, artefacts, bones or fossils, be exposed during the process of development.

### **3. NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT**

The proposed development will consist of two erven zoned 'Special', to facilitate offices, a clinic, and other uses as the Council will permit with special consent. It is the applicant's intention to develop the site with market viable development to uplift and compliment the surrounding area. The site is affected by a wetland system to the north of the site, crossing over into the adjacent property to the west.

### **4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA**

#### **4.1 Databases Consulted**

##### ***Archaeological Data Bases***

Five previously recorded sites are on record for the 2528 CC topographic map at the Wits database. Only one site is of relevance to this study consisting of an open air LSA site on the farm Zevenfontein 407 JR located well away from the current study area.

##### ***SAHRA Report Mapping Project and SAHRIS***

Several previous studies are on record for the general study area (Mason 1997, Huffman 1999 and Marais-Botes 2014 as well as Van Schalkwyk 1998 & 2007 and Van der Walt 2014). Mason conducted excavations for the boulders shopping centre approximately 2 km south east of the current study area and found occupation levels dating to the Stone, Iron Age and historic periods. Huffman conducted an AIA for a residential development at Blue Hills AH just to the west of the study area and recorded LSA and historic buildings. Marais-Botes conducted an HIA for a proposed new road the K56 (from Erling road to Main road) and recorded structures older than 60 years. Van Schalkwyk recorded cemeteries.

##### ***Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments***

Neither the Genealogical Society nor the monuments database at Google Earth (Google Earth also include some archaeological sites and historical battlefields) have any recorded sites in the study area.

#### **4.2 Archaeological and Historical Information Available on the Study Area**

This section will endeavour to give an account of the history of this area and also a brief overview of the history of the wider area in which the study area is located.

#### 4.2.1. Archival Map of the Area under Investigation

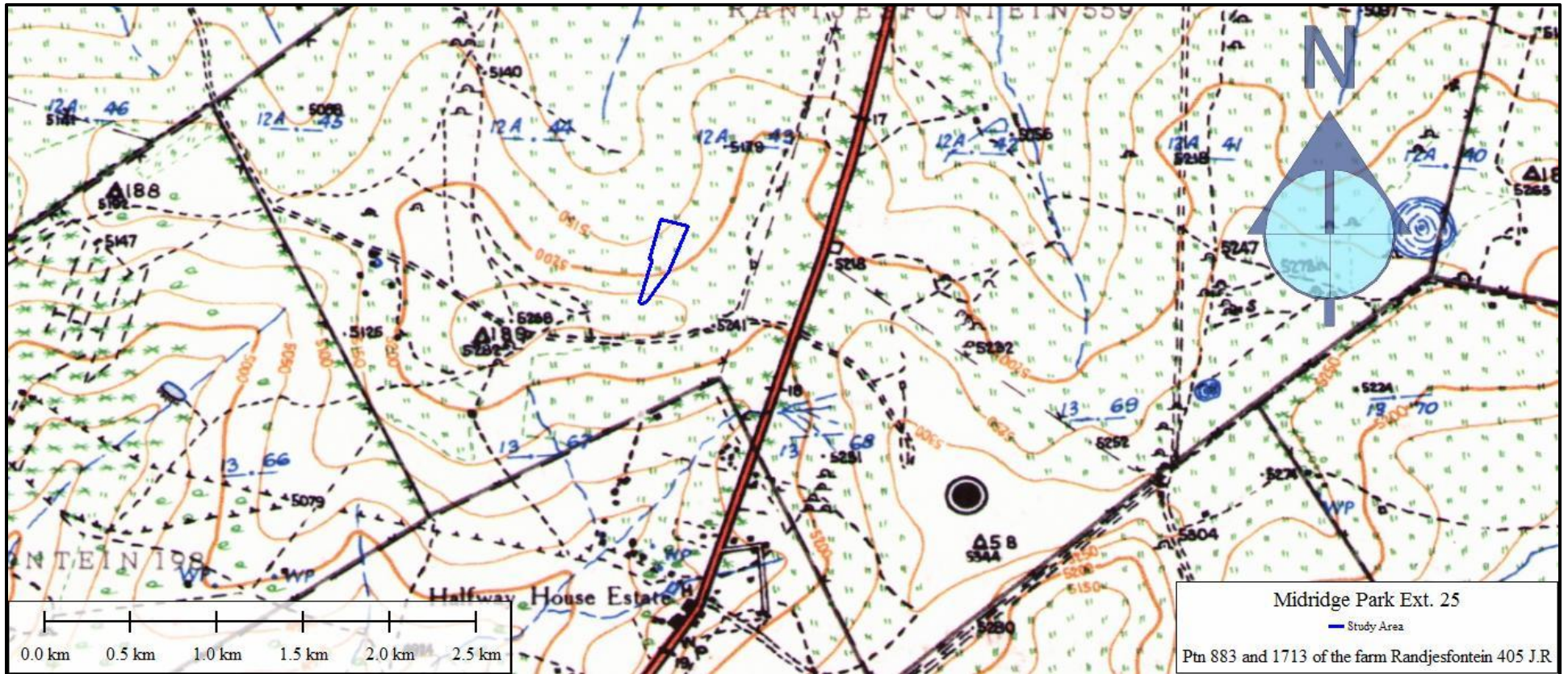


Figure 2: Enlarged section of the 2528 CC topographical map that was drawn in 1944

#### 4.2.2. Background history of the Midrand Area

Excavations by Mason (1997) at the Boulders shopping centre (approximately 2 km to the south east of the current study area) was aimed at interpreting the cultural layering of the Midrand area and provides a good platform for understanding the cultural use of the landscape in this area. He identified 7 occupational layers in his excavations that can be broadly divided into Stone Age, Iron Age and historical occupations.

The Stone Age can be divided in three main phases as follows;

- Later Stone Age; associated with Khoi and San societies and their immediate predecessors. Recently to ~30 thousand years ago
- Middle Stone Age; associated with Homo sapiens and archaic modern humans. 30-300 thousand years ago.
- Earlier Stone Age; associated with early Homo groups such as Homo habilis and Homo erectus. 400 000-> 2 million years ago.

Remains dating to all three of these phases were identified by Mason at the Boulders shopping Centre site, MSA and LSA material was also recorded at Glenn Ferness cave. The Iron Age of the region consists of Tswana speaking people who settled the area from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The Difaqane (Sotho), or Mfekane ("the crushing" in Nguni) was a time of bloody upheavals in Natal and on the Highveld, which occurred around the early 1820's until the late 1830's. (Geschiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika 1999: 10) It came about in response to heightened competition for land and trade, and caused population groups like gun-carrying Griquas and Shaka's Zulus to attack other tribes. (Geschiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika 1999: 14; 116-119) It seems that, in 1827, Mzilikazi's Ndebele started moving through the area where Johannesburg is located today. This group went on raids to various other areas in order to expand their area of influence. (Geschiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika 1999: 11).

During the time of the Difaqane, a northwards migration of white settlers from the Cape was also taking place. Some travellers, missionaries and adventurers had gone on expeditions to the northern areas in South Africa, some already as early as the 1720's. It was however only by the late 1820's that a mass-movement of Dutch speaking people in the Cape Colony started advancing into the northern areas. This was due to feelings of mounting dissatisfaction caused by economical and other circumstances in the Cape. This movement later became known as the Great Trek. This migration resulted in a massive increase in the extent of that proportion of modern South Africa dominated by people of European descent. (Ross 2002: 39) By 1939 to 1940, farm boundaries were drawn up in an area that includes the present-day Johannesburg and Krugersdorp. (Geschiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika 1999: 15).

The first settlers moved in the Midrand area in the 1820s, this included hunters, traders, missionaries and other travellers. Voortrekker farmers such as Frederik Andries Strydom and Johannes Elardus Erasmus established the farms Olifantsfontein and Randjesfontein respectively around the 1840s and this indicated permanent occupation of the area by white settlers. These early white settlers and their descendants were often buried on their farms and formal and informal graves and graveyards can be expected anywhere on the landscape (Van Schalkwyk 1998).

The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) also touched Midrand, and for a short period it was a key focus of the British war effort, when the British forces under Lord Roberts advanced through Midrand from Johannesburg en route to Pretoria. Pretoria was occupied on 5 June 1900. Some British military units were stationed close to the study area this includes the Eskom Training Centre as well as Bibury Grange. No major battles took place in Midrand. Conflict in the area was defined by the Boer attempts to sabotage the



railway line as well as attacks on troop trains. A notable incident was the successful Boer demolition of the railway culvert near the Pinedene Station. The railway had to be completely rebuilt by the Imperial Military Railways in 1901 (Van Schalkwyk 1998).

## **5. HERITAGE SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a 'heritage landscape'. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed development the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface.

This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The following criteria were used to establish site significance:

- » The unique nature of a site;
- » The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- » The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site;
- » The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features;
- » The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined/is known);
- » The preservation condition of the sites;
- » Potential to answer present research questions.

Furthermore, The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Sec 3) distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- » Its importance in/to the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- » Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- » Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- » Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- » Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- » Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- » Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- » Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- » Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

### 5.1. Field Rating of Sites

Site significance classification standards prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and approved by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 7 of this report.

<b>FIELD RATING</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED MITIGATION</b>
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; national site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; provincial site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High significance	Conservation; mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High significance	Mitigation (part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	-	High/medium significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	-	Medium significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

## **6. BASELINE STUDY-DESCRIPTION OF SITES**

The study area measures just over 5 hectares in extent and is easily accessible from 3<sup>rd</sup> road that borders the study area on the west. The site is bordered on the east by the N1.

The study area falls in a densely developed urban area and construction activities in the area specifically of the N1 would have impacted on any surface indications of archaeological material. Archival maps of the area (Figure 2) indicated no features, settlements or roads within the study area. Stone Age remains associated with caves, outcrops/hills and river courses are known to exist in the larger area, Later Iron Age material were also recorded in the larger region however none were identified in the study area. No traces of any archaeological remains were identified during the survey and a search on archaeological data bases also yielded no known sites within the study area and no heritage significant sites were identified during the desktop study.

According the paleontological sensitivity map on SAHRIS the study area is located in an area of low paleontological sensitivity.

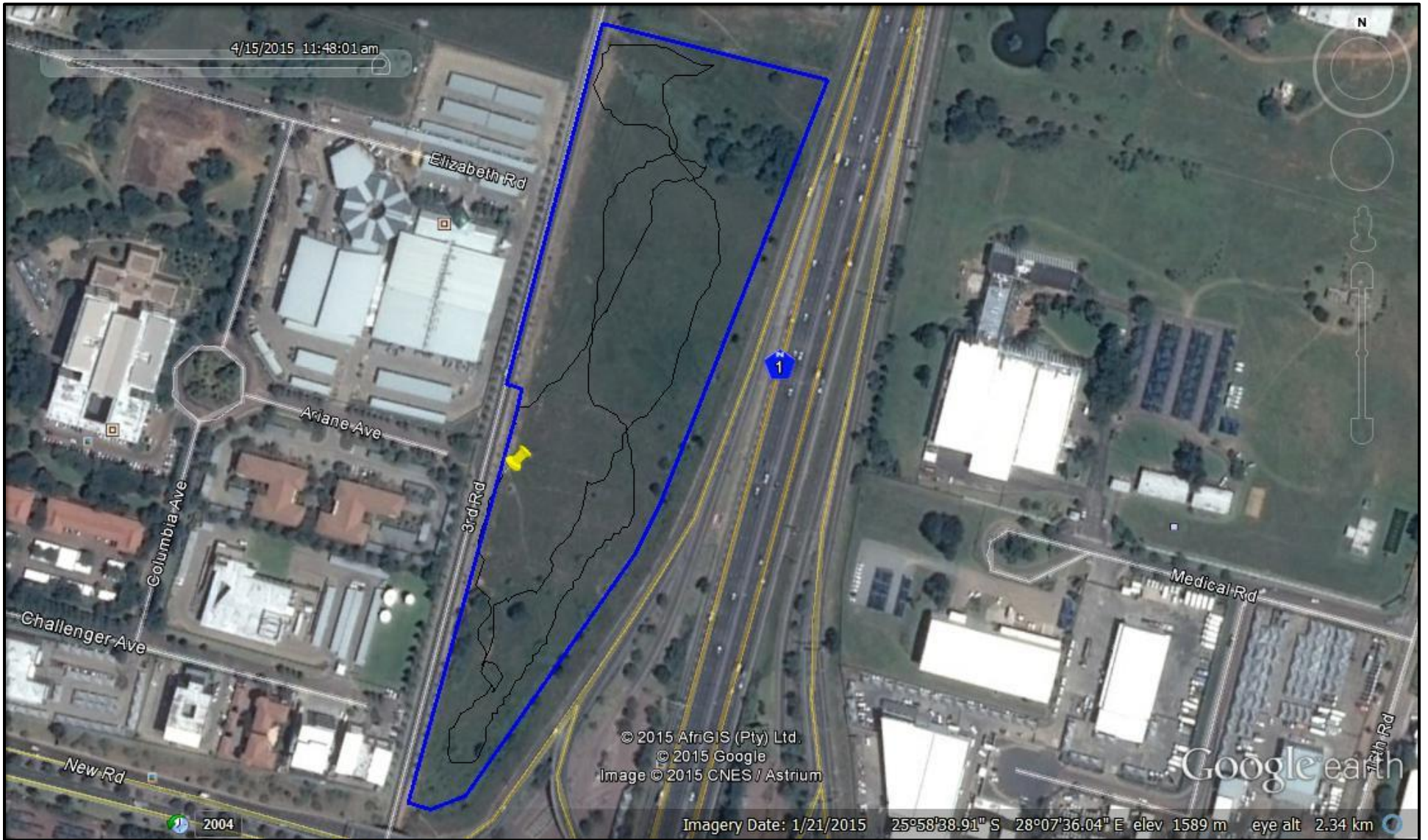


Figure 3: Study area in blue with track logs of the areas covered



Figure 4. Northern portion of the study area.



Figure 5. Eastern portion of the study area.



Figure 6. Southern of study area.



Figure 7. Western portion of study area.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

No sites of heritage significance were identified during the survey. However, if during construction, any archaeological finds are made (e.g. stone tools, fossils or skeletal material), the operations must be stopped, and the archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the finds.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

The proposed development falls within Ward 97 of the City of Joburg Region B on Portion 883 and Portion 1713 of the Farm Randjesfontein 405 J.R. The total size of the property is 5, 0120 ha. GPS Coordinates: Latitude (S): 25°58'38.18"S, Longitude (E): 28° 7'33.97"E.

The site has been disturbed by the construction of the N1 highway with rubble as well as invader plants and grass cover decreasing archaeological visibility. During the Archaeological Impact Assessment no sites of significance was identified. From an archaeological point of view there is no reason why the development cannot commence work (based on approval from SAHRA). Furthermore the area is of low paleontological sensitivity and there for the development is not seen to have a negative impact on the heritage resources of the Midrand area. If during construction any archaeological finds are made (e.g. stone tools, ceramics or skeletal material), the operations must be stopped, and an archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

## **9. PROJECT TEAM**

Jaco van der Walt, Project Manager

## **10. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCY**

I (Jaco van der Walt) am a member of ASAPA (no 159), and accredited in the following fields of the CRM Section of the association: Iron Age Archaeology, Colonial Period Archaeology, Stone Age Archaeology and Grave Relocation. This accreditation is also valid for/acknowledged by SAHRA and AMAFA.

I have been involved in research and contract work in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Tanzania as well as the DRC; having conducted more than 300 AIAs since 2000.

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