

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO DEVELOP

FOR THE PROPOSED BOIPATONG COMMUNITY LIBRARY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

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1 Introduction

The Gauteng Provincial Government intends to construct a community Library and associated facilities on an area of less than 2000 m². Methale Environmental Consulting has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant, to undertake the required environmental exemption process for the project.

1.1 Project Location

The proposed Boipatong Community Library will be located on portion 9 of Erf 1993, Corner of Dr Nkhomo and Sekati Road, Boipatong, Gauteng Province. The site is located at 26°40'20.60"S and 27°50'50.86"E. The development footprint measures less than 2000 m² and is surrounded by residential developments. The development area consists of an open space located to the south of the existing library. The development footprint is characterised by existing lawns and the development of the surrounding structures, associated infrastructure and roads would have obliterated any surface indicators of heritage resources. Currently the site is zoned as "Municipal".

2 Project / Development Details

The Gauteng Provincial Government intends to construct a community Library and associated infrastructure with a development footprint of less than 2000 m².

2.1 NHRA Section 38 Triggers

The small size of the development does not trigger Section 38 (1) of the NHRA (Table 1).

Table 1: Section 38 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	NA
Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length.	No	NA
Development exceeding 5000 m ²	No	NA
Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions	No	NA
Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions that have been consolidated in the past 5 years	No	NA
Re-zoning of site exceeding 10 000 m ²	No	NA
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks or recreational grounds	No	NA

2.2. Activities

Construction activities would include removal of topsoil as well as trenching and excavations for the foundations and associated infrastructure for the proposed building.

2.3. Environmental Process

Upon coming into effect on 04 December 2014, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations **replaced** (not amended) the following Regulations given in descending order, namely the 2010, 2006 EIA Regulations and the erstwhile ECA Regulations. In light of the above, the 2014 EIA Regulations published in Government Notice R983-985 (Listing Notices 1-3) (and any other relevant legislation) must be perused for possible requirements to obtain environmental exemptions and authorisation (or other authorisations).

Methâle Environmental does foresee the proposed work package as requiring environmental exemption approval, and is therefore lodging an environmental exemption application for the project.

2.4. Identified / Known Heritage Resources and Potential Impacts

J. S. Bergh's historical atlas of the four northern provinces of South Africa is a very useful source for the writing of local and regional history. This source indicates that Vanderbijlpark and Boipatong are located in close vicinity of seven Early Stone Age terrains. One Late Stone Age terrain is located a small distance to the east thereof, at Vereeniging. The Amcor, Acacia Road, Kantienkoppie, Duncanville and Klipplaadrif Stone Age terrains are all located rather close to Vanderbijlpark. Evidence as to Stone Age peoples that inhabited the area does not end here. It is also indicated in Bergh's source that a number of rock engravings dating from prehistoric times can be found in the vicinity of the area. The area does not fall into an Iron Age terrain, but there are two large sites located to the west and the east thereof, respectively. (Bergh 1999: 4-5, 7).

Historical structures and graves are also expected to occur in the larger study area as demonstrated by the results of a CRM study nearby:

- Pistorius, J.C.C. 2007. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment Study for Water and Sewage Pipeline Corridors near Vanderbijlpark in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. Unpublished report. Finds included grave yards, historical houses and stone structures.

From a heritage perspective no heritages related sites or features are known to exist within the study area. The impact area of less than 2000 m² is considered to have a negligible impact on the heritage resources in the larger study area and does not warrant a full Phase 1 study as no *in-situ* archaeological material, cultural heritage sites, historic structures or burial grounds are likely to be present on the affected landscape, due to significant disturbance caused by developments in the area.

3. Illustrative Material

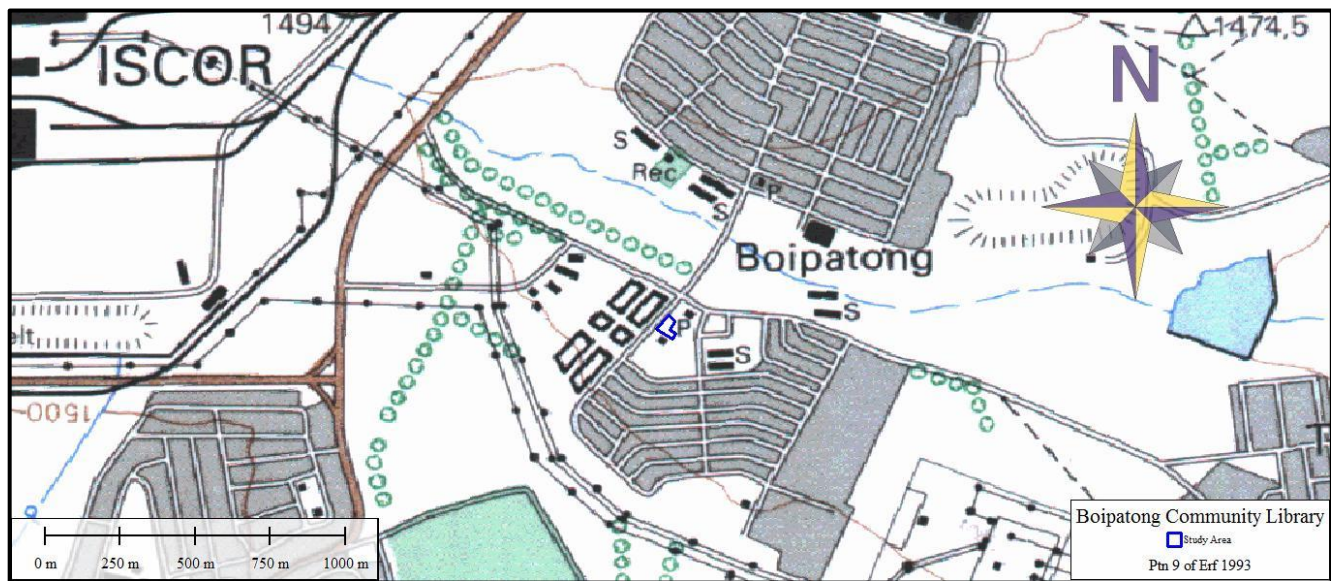


Figure 1. Locality Map

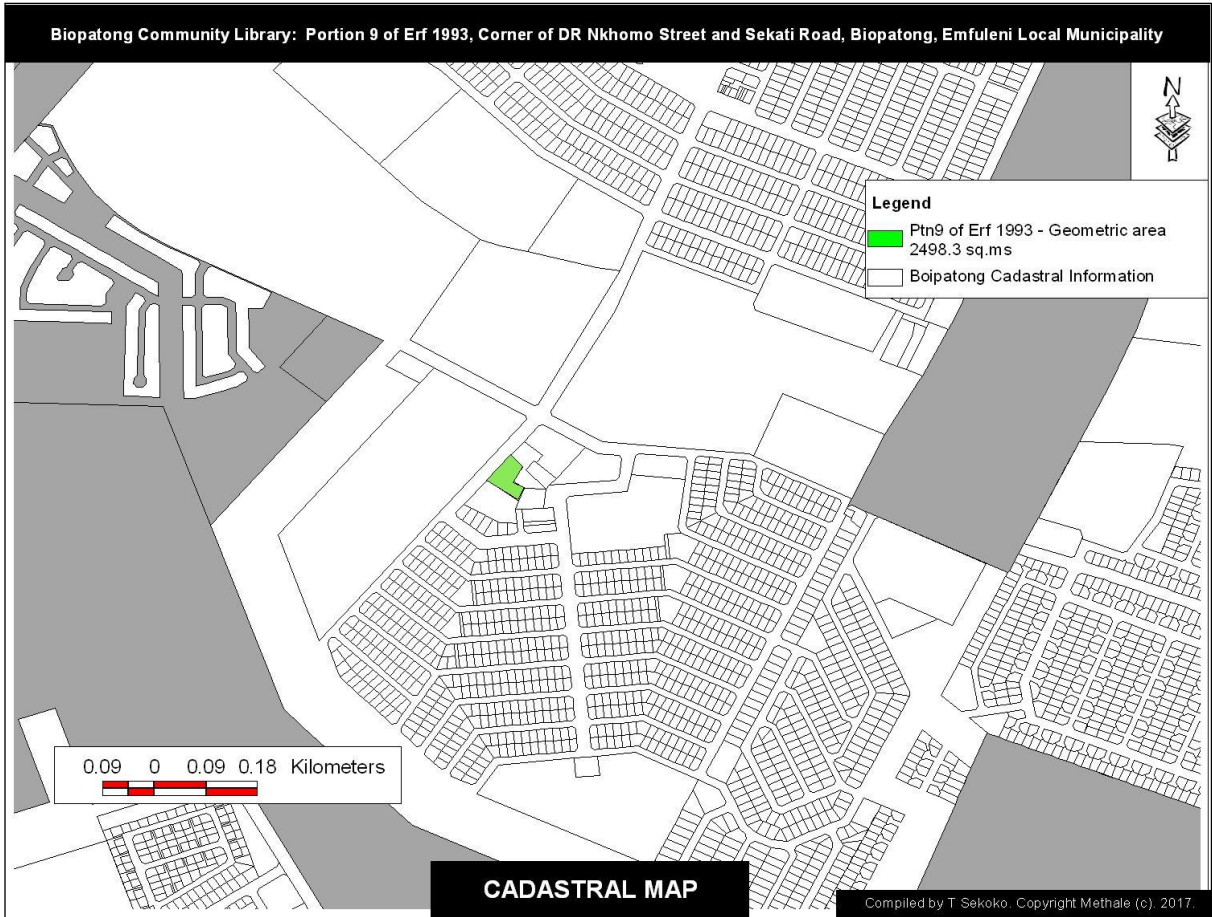


Figure 2: Cadastral Map



Figure 3 Google Image of the study area



Figure 4: General site conditions.



Figure 5: General site conditions.



Figure 6: General Site conditions



Figure 7: General site conditions .

4. Recommendations

HCAC supports the recommendation that the project be exempted from a full Heritage Impact Assessment as current developments have altered the landscape and the study area has been extensively disturbed by the surrounding developments. No significant Stone Age sites were recorded in the study area and no ceramics or stone walls attributed to the Iron Age were recorded. No further mitigation prior to construction is recommended in terms of Section 35 for the proposed development to proceed. In terms of the built environment of the area (Section 34), no standing structures older than 60 years occur within the study area. Archival research indicates that the study area has been slowly developed from 1910 and the township of Boipatong has been established since 1955. There is a structure on the site, this structure was constructed after 1985 (the previous structures were destroyed during the 1984 riots) and is therefore not older than 60 years (Kalley 1994). In terms of Section 36 of the Act no burial sites were recorded in the study area. However if any graves are located in future they should ideally be preserved *in-situ* or alternatively relocated according to existing legislation. No public monuments are located within or close to the study area.

According to a letter of exemption from Dr Lloyd Rossouw, it is also recommended that the project should be exempted from further paleontological studies (Refer to Appendix A – Rossouw (2017)).

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 by we support the application for exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment.

Recommendation made by:

Name: Jaco van der Walt

Capacity: Archaeologist – HCAC

Name: Dr Lloyd Rossouw

Capacity: Palaeontologist

5. References

Bergh, J.S., (ed.) *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies*. Pretoria: J. L. van Schaik Uitgewers. 1999.

National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999

Kalley J. 1994. The Effect of Apartheid on The Provision Of Public, Provincial And Community Library Services In South Africa With Particular Reference To The Transvaal. Thesis submitted. in fulfillment of the academic requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy III the Department of Information Studies University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

Pistorius, J.C.C. 2007. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment Study for Water and Sewage Pipeline Corridors near Vanderbijlpark in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. Unpublished report

Rossouw, L. 2017. Exemption from Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Boipatong Community Library, Portion 9 of Erf 1993, Boipatong, Emfuleni Local Municipality, Gauteng Province.

SAHRIS (Feb 2017)