

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO DEVELOP

FOR THE PROPOSED RANDFONTEIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

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1 Introduction

The Gauteng Provincial Government intends to construct a community Library and associated facilities comprising an area of 1311 m² on Erf 135 and 1412 m² on Erf 123, Randfontein. 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 Randfontein Community Library is located on Erven 135 and 123, on the Corner of Second Street and Stubb Street, Randfontein, Randfontein Local Municipality. The study area is located at 26°11'3.15S and 27°41'59.32E.

The area is flat and the development of the surrounding residential and commercial structures and surrounding roads as well as internal roads on the site would have obliterated any indicators of heritage resources. The site is zoned "Municipal".

2 Project / Development Details

The Gauteng Provincial Government intends to construct a community Library and associated facilities comprising an area of 1311m² on Erf 135 and 1412 m² on Erf 123, Randfontein

1.1 NHRA 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

Although there are no well-known Stone Age sites located on or around the study area there is evidence of the use of the larger area by Stone Age communities for example along the Kliprivier where ESA and MSA tools were recorded. LSA material is recorded along ridges to the south of the current study area (Huffman 2008). Petroglyphs occur at Redan as well as along the Vaal River (Berg 1999).

Regarding the Iron Age, the well-known Smelting Site at Melville Koppies is of interest. The site was excavated by Professor Mason from the Department of Archaeology of WITS in the 1980's. Extensive Stone walled sites are also recorded at Klipriviers Berg Nature reserve belonging to the Late Iron Age period. A large body of research is available on this area. These sites (Taylor's Type N, Mason's Class 2 & 5) are now collectively referred to as Klipriviersberg (Huffman 2007). These settlements are complex in that aggregated settlements are common, the outer wall sometimes includes scallops to mark back courtyards, there are more small stock kraals, and straight walls separate households in the residential zone. These sites dates to the 18th and 19th centuries and was built by people in the Fokeng cluster.

In this area the Klipriviersberg walling would have ended at about AD 1823, when Mzilikazi entered the area (Rasmussen 1978). This settlement type may have lasted longer in other areas because of the positive interaction between Fokeng and Mzilikazi.

At least four previous CRM projects were conducted in the greater study area. The studies include a water pipeline project completed by Van Schalkwyk (2008) as well as a tailings facility (Van Schalkwyk 2013) No sites were recorded in the 2008 study, but the report mentions that structures older than 60 years occur in the area. The 2013 study reported structures older than 60 years. Van Schalkwyk (2009) for a township development survey also recorded no sites. Van der Walt (2011) recorded no sites in a project done for the Marula Substation. Huffman (2007) completed a study in Luipaardsvlei and recorded no sites of significance. Towards Soweto Birkholtz (2013) recorded seven sites. These included three sites that can directly or indirectly be associated with the Jameson Raid and its final battle on 2 January 1896, three buildings and a cemetery.

From a heritage perspective no heritages related sites or features are known to exist within the study area. The impact area of less than 3000 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 and also due to significant disturbance caused by developments in the area.

3. Illustrative Material

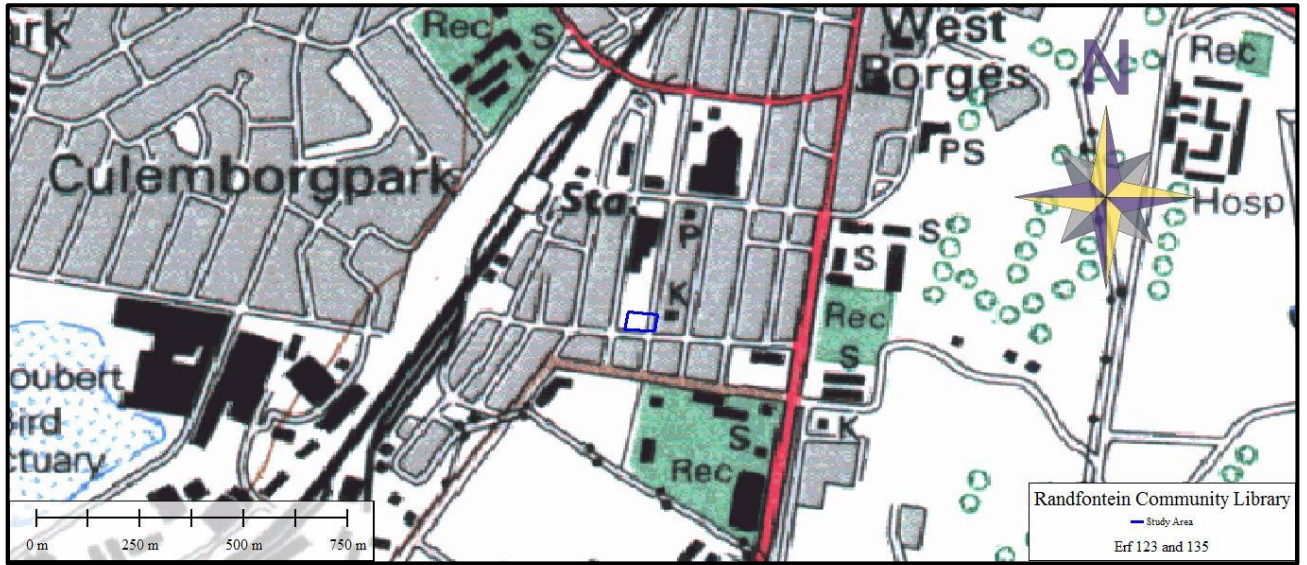


Figure 1. Locality Map indicating the study area in blue.



Figure 2 Google Image of the study area



Figure 3: General site conditions.



Figure 4: General site conditions.



Figure 5: General Site conditions



Figure 6: General site conditions – Surrounding properties .

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. 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 to 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