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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

APAC022/123

2022-12-15

To: Whom it May Concern
South African Heritage Resource Agency
P O Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

RE: Motivation for Exemption from a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment – Development of Silos on various portions of the farm Waagkraal 374IO, near Ottosdal in the Northwest Province.

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by AB Enviro Consult to provide a motivation for Exemption from a Full Phase 1 HIA, as part of an Environmental Authorization Process for the proposed development of Silos on Portions 13, 14 and the Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the farm Waagkraal 374IO, approximately 15km south-west of the town of Ottosdal in the Northwest Province.

Background to the Project

AB Enviro Consult was appointed to undertake an Environmental Authorization Process for the proposed development of Silos and the expansion of agriculturally-related activities on Portions 13 & 14 (portions of portion 4) and the Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the farm Waagkraal 374IO, south-west of Ottosdal in the North West Province.

“In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that prior to development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.”

The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist (see the web site of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists www.asapa.org.za) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large development takes place. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the

AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology) [WITS], MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary, a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. Please note that a nationwide fossil sensitivity map is available on SAHRIS to assist applicants with determining the fossil sensitivity of a study area.

If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority motivating for exemption from having to undertake further heritage assessments. Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed."

Last mentioned option was decided on for this project which entailed desktop research as part of the assessment.

Relevant Legislation

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two Acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the Act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artefacts, structures and sites older than 100 years;
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g., prehistoric rock art) and ethnography;
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts;
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years;
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years;
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites;
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years;
- h. Meteorites and fossils; and
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes;
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance;
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance;
- g. Graves and burial grounds;
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery; and
- i. Movable objects (e.g., archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.).

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological

resources. According to Section 38 (1) of the Act an HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length.
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m².
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

Results of Desktop Heritage Assessment: Motivation for Exemption from a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed Silos Development on various portions of Waagkraal 374IO

The study and proposed development area is located on various portions of the farm Waagkraal 374IO, approximately 15km south-west of the town of Ottosdal in the Northwest Province.

Although the area can't be described from a personal observation point of view, it is clear from aerial views (Google Earth) and photographs provided by the client, that the topography of the area is mostly flat and open, with no rocky outcrops, ridges or prominent hills present. Large parts of the study and development area has also been heavily impacted by recent and past agricultural activities such as ploughing & crop growing, farming-related infrastructure and the development of earlier silos. Recent ground/vegetation clearing has also impacted heavily on the area.



Figure 1: General location of the study & development area (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 2: Closer view of the study and proposed development area footprint (Google Earth 2022).

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago

Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago

Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

There are no known Stone Age sites close to the study area (Bergh 1999: 4), although one is known to exist to the south of Wolmaransstad, including some rock engravings (p.4-5). Other Stone Age sites in the larger region are located at Matlawase, and include a fairly larger number of rock engravings around the Schweizer-Reneke area and other locations in the larger geographical area (Bergh 1999: 4-5). A number of Stone Age open-air surface sites were also recently recorded and identified by the author of this report around Christiana and Bloemhof (Pelser 2017).

No Stone Age sites or material are known to exist in the specific study area. It is envisaged that if any are to be found there it would be single out of context artefacts, or small scatters of material, on the surface of the area.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artefacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

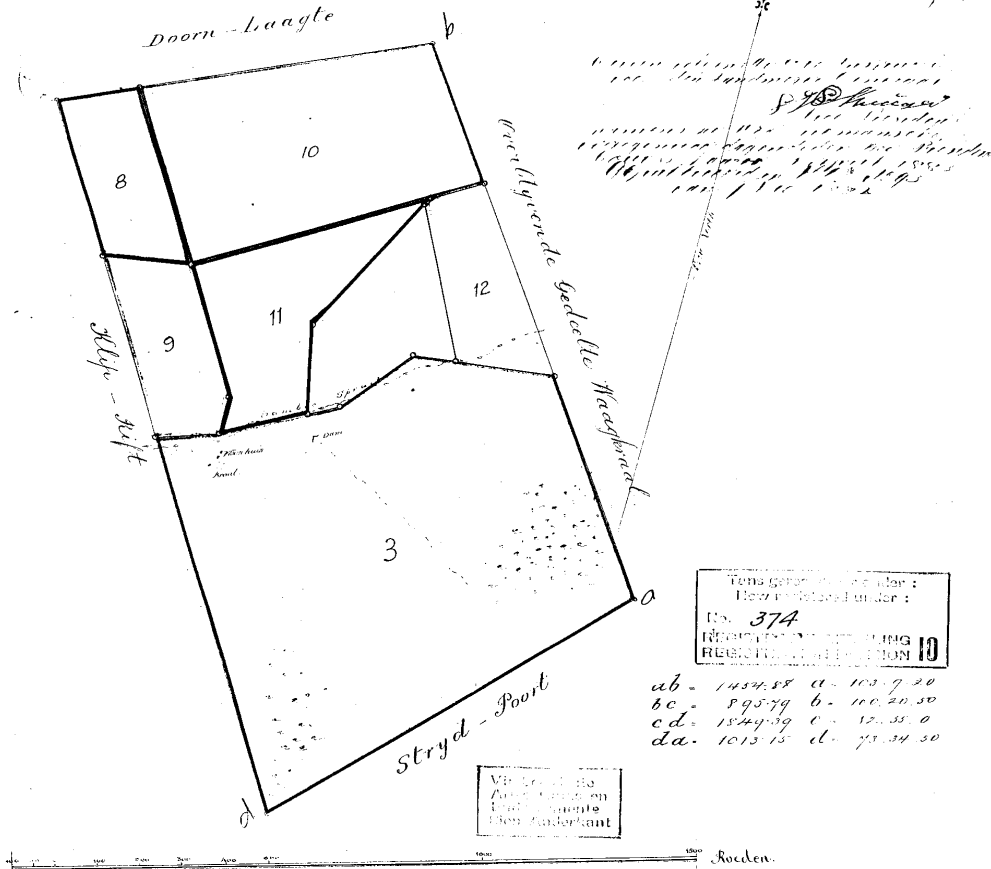
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

There are no known Iron Age sites close to the study area (Bergh 1999: 6-7), although this might just point to a lack of archaeological research in the region. No sites were found during the assessment as well. Based on Huffman's research the possibility of the presence of Iron Age sites in the larger geographical area cannot be excluded. His research, based on pottery, shows that the Olifantspoort facies of the Urewe Iron Age Tradition and dating to between AD 1500 & AD1700 and the Thabeng facies of the same tradition (AD1700-AD1840) could occur in the larger area (Huffman 2007: 191; 195).

No Iron Age sites, features or objects are known to exist in the study & development area. If any did exist the extensive disturbances of the recent past would have destroyed all evidence.

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The earliest Europeans to travel through the larger area were the groups of Campbell in 1813; Broadbent & Hodgson in 1823, Hodgson & Archbell in 1826 and later that of Krebs in 1838 (Bergh 1999:12-13). They were closely followed by the Voortrekkers (p.14).

The oldest map for Waagkraal 374IO that could be obtained from the database of the Chief Surveyor General (www.csg.dla.gov.za) is for Portion 1 and dates to 1883 (**CSG Document 10KGP901**). It shows that the farm was then numbered as No.8 and was located in the Ward of Makwasi, District of Potchefstroom and in the then Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR). The farm was surveyed for the owner G.A. van Aswegen in October 1882. For Portion 3 the map dates to 1911 (**CSG Document 10KJ0E01**). By then the farm was located in the Ward of Upper, District of Wolmaransstad, Province of Transvaal. Portion 3 was surveyed in December 1910 and relates to a Deed of Transfer dated to 1877 in favour of G.A. van Aswegen. The Portion 4 map also dates to 1911 (**CSG Document 10KGPL01**) and was also surveyed in December 1910. This map indicates that Portion 4 relates to a Deed of Transfer in favour of one H.W. Huyser, dated to the 24th of March 1911. For Portions 13 & 14 the maps date to 1944 (CSG Documents **10KGQD01 & 10KGQK01** respectively). Both portions were surveyed in September 1943.



Figuur ABCD stelt voor de zuid Westelyke Gedeelte (Helfte) van de plaats genaamd "Waagkraal" No. 197; bevallende 2566 Morgen 84 vierkante Roeden [574 31/10 Eng. acres] Gelegen in de Wyk Makwasi, district Potchefstroom, Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek, en grenzende als hiertoven vermeld. Gemeten voor den Heer G. A. van Aswegen, en de bakens zyn aangewezen door den Heeren A. J. van Rooijen en S. Versmaak

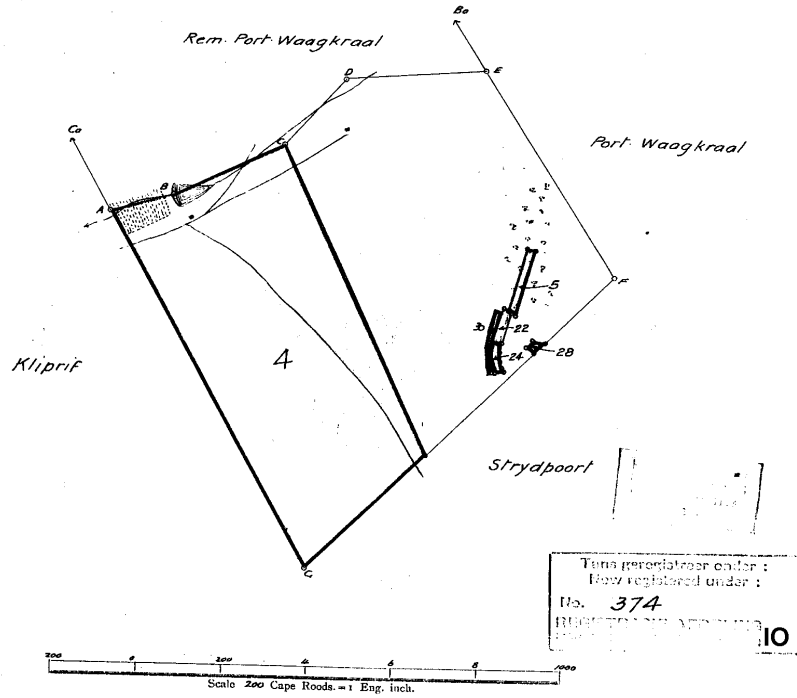
Afstand van het Dorpe Potchefstroom }
 omtrent 75 mylen }
 Oct: 1882

Gemeten door mij
 H. M. Anderson.
 Landmeter

1884 De zyd. heker...
 breuk van de...
 uit zijn collectie
 bestaande van 187. Mordie
 Landmeter Anderson's...
 Pulver 28.11.1882

Figure 3: 1883 map of Portion 1 of Waagkraal 374IO (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

SIDES.		ANGLES.		(v) CO-ORDINATES (x)	
AB	151.24	A	77.3.0	A	1404.18
BC	287.06	B	190.34.50	B	1361.65
CD	215.67	C	202.0.0	C	1232.10
DE	328.30	D	136.38.30	D	1069.96
EF	585.35	E	117.9.30	E	1038.21
FG	1013.15	F	103.9.20	F	1532.52
GA	978.85	G	73.34.50	G	2257.68
				B ₀	306.15
				C ₀	644.62
					87.85



The above Figure lettered **A B C D E F G** represents ^{3 (a portion of Portion 1)} **Waagkraal N^o 8** of the Farm **1283 Morgen 43 Square Rods of Land** being **1283 Morgen 43 Square Rods of Land** as appears on the Diagram S.G. No. A. framed by Surveyor **H. M. Anderson** in **Oct. 1892** Relating to Deed of Transfer No. **779/1877** dated **15. 8. 1877** made in favour of **G. A. van Aswegen** situate in the District of **Wolmaransstad Ward upper** Province of **Transvaal** Bounded as indicated above and have been properly enacted according to Law. The Beacons were pointed out by **A. van Raayen** Surveyed in **December 1910** by me **H. M. Anderson** Land Surveyor.

No. **1350** Examined. The numerical data of this Diagram are sufficiently consistent.
A. Maxwell Edward
Examiner of Diagrams.

Approved.
H. M. Anderson
Surveyor-General.

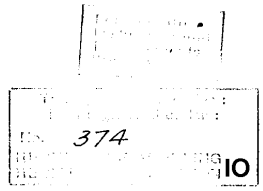
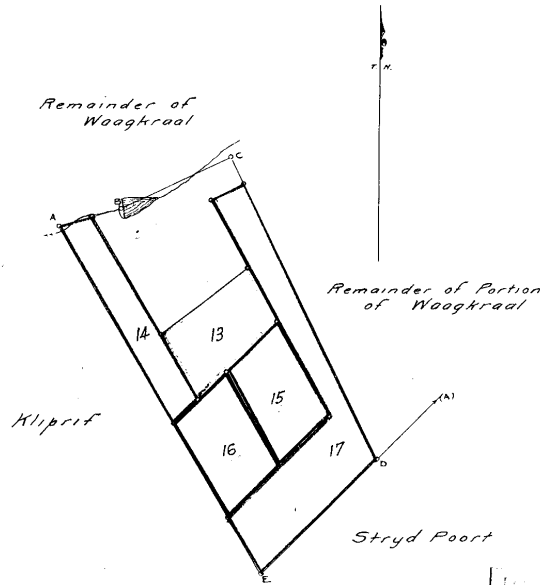
This Diagram belongs to Deed of Transfer No. **779/1877** made this day in favour of **T. 2118/11**
Registrar of Deeds.

Surveyor-General's Office, Pretoria. 1911

Deeds Office, Pretoria.

Figure 4: 1911 map of Portion 3 (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

SIDES		ANGLES		(Y) CO-ORDINATES (X)	
AB	151.24	A	77.5.0	A	- 1404.18 - 475.80
BC	287.84	B	170.24.50	B	- 1541.65 - 636.94
CD	825.22	C	88.25.50	C	- 1232.10 - 876.00
DE	372.01	D	110.31.30	D	- 1977.11 - 1246.21
EA	778.55	E	75.34.50	E	- 2257.66 - 972.44
		(A)		(A)	- 1532.54 - 1679.97



SCALE: 200 CAPE RODS = 1 Eng Inch.

The above Figure lettered *A.B.C.D.E* represents 600 Morgen *4 1/2* Portions of Portion 3, *WAAGKRAAL No 8*

as appears on the Diagram S.G. No. A 1019/11 framed by Surveyor *F Visser* in December 1910 relating to Deed of Transfer No. 2118/1911 dated 24 March 1911 made in favour of *H W Huyser* Province of Transvaal. Bounded as indicated above. Situate in the District of *Walmansstad* Ward *Upper* and have been properly erected according to law. The Beacons were pointed out by *Aron Rooyen* by me *[Signature]* Land Surveyor. Surveyed in December 1910

No 1349 Examined. The numerical data of this Diagram are sufficiently constant. <i>[Signature]</i> Examiner of Diagrams. Surveyor-General's Office Pretoria. 11 Dec 1911	Approved. <i>[Signature]</i> Surveyor-General.	This Diagram belongs to Deed of Transfer No. made this day in favour of Registrar of Deeds. Deeds Office Pretoria.
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Published by authority—Groot & Sherr, P.O. Box 262, Johannesburg—2/1910.

Figure 5: 1911 map of Portion 4 (www.csq.dla.gov.za).

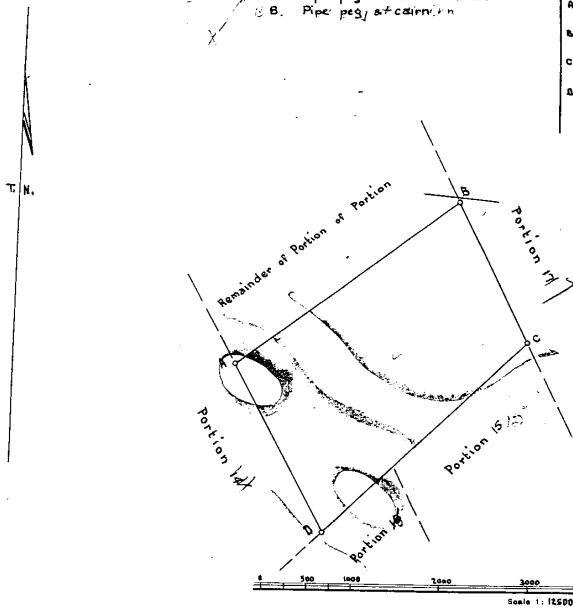
23-2-1944

[Signature]
Asst. Surveyor-General

DESCRIPTION OF BEACONS

- A. Round iron peg & cairn
- B.C.D. Pipe pegs in earth mounds
- B. Pipe peg & cairn

SIDES Cable Feet	ANGLES OF DIRECTION	CO-ORDINATES.	
		SYSTEM	"Lo 25"
		Constants	-270000.0 +3440000.0
A.B. 3152.4	232° 17' 30"	A	-26393.6 +28682.7
B.C. 1809.0	322° 55' 40"	B	-28867.6 +26754.5
C.D. 3183.2	45° 5' 50"	C	-29710.9 +28265.2
D.A. 2202.6	151° 5' 40"	D	-27456.2 +30612.3



Tans gansuiter onder:
Now registered under:
No. 374
REGISTRARIE AFDELING
REGISTRARIE DIVISION 10

13/4

The figure A. B. C. D. represents
71.4295 Morgen of land, being Portion 13 (a portion of Portion 4 & Portion 13) of the farm
WAAGKRAAL N^o 8
situate in the DISTRICT of Wolmaranstad PROVINCE of TRANSVAAL
Surveyed in September 1943 by me J. Cameron
Land Surveyor.

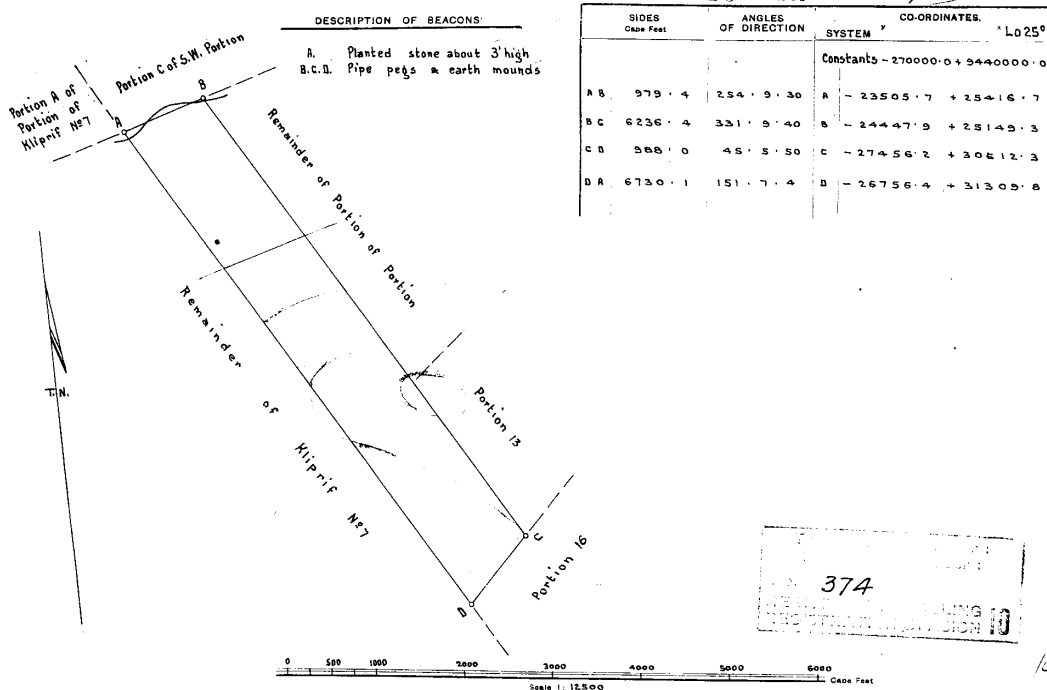
This diagram relates to Deed of No. <u>19568/44</u> dated in favour of	The original diagram is No. A. 1018/11 annexed to Deed of Transfer No. 2120/11 dated in favour of	S.G. File No. <u>6,83/4/11324/43</u> Survey Records No. Compilation No. <u>20-8-0</u> Lat. South <u>26° 55'</u> Long. East <u>25° 58'</u>
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Published by authority—Grocott & Sherry, P.O. Box 2404, Johannesburg—7/47.

Figure 6: 1944 map of Portion 13 (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Approved

23-2-1944
Asst. Surveyor-General



The figure A. B. C. D. represents
71.4255 Morgen of land, being Portion 14 (a portion of Portion 4 of Portion 10) of the farm
WAAGKRAAL N^o 8
situate in the DISTRICT of Wolmaransstad PROVINCE of TRANSVAAL
Surveyed in September 1943 by me J. Bameun Land Surveyor.

This diagram relates to Deed of Trf. No. 19500/44 dated in favour of
The original diagram is No. A. 1018/11 annexed to Deed of Transfer No. 2120/11 dated in favour of
S.G. File No. 6193/44 Survey Records No. IC-8-0 Compilation No. IC-8-0 Lat. South 20° 55' Long. East 27° 55'

Published by authority—Groot & Sherry, P.O. Box 2404, Johannesburg—7/42.

Figure 7: 1944 map of Portion 14 (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Aerial images (Google Earth) of the study and proposed development area footprint show the fairly heavily disturbed nature of the area (due to agricultural activities such as ploughing and others), while no sites, structures or any remains of cultural heritage significance are visible on these images, except the existing farming-related related infrastructure. The images dating between 2015 and 2022 show the impact of recent activities such as ground and vegetation clearance on the specific area.

If any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features and material did exist here in the past it would have been heavily disturbed or destroyed as a result of these recent activities.



Figure 8: Aerial image dating to 2015 showing the flat and open nature of the area, as well as the existing farming-related infrastructure and old ploughed fields (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 9: The 2022 image showing the existing structures, as well as the impact of recent activities on the area (Google Earth 2022).

The client (AB Enviro Consult) provided photographic evidence of the study area and the proposed development footprint. From these images the heavily impacted nature of the area, as well as the flat and open topography of the property is clearly evident. All the structures (existing Silos, office buildings and other related infrastructure here (at the NWK Waagkraal) are all recent in age and therefore of no historical origin, age or heritage significance. No other heritage resources such as the ruins of older structures, stone-walls or known or unknown graves are present in the study and development area.



Figure 10: A view of the existing Silos and structures at the NWK Waagkraal site (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 11: A view of some of the buildings at the site and the general area (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 12: Another general view of the area and some of the modern structures located here (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 13: View of some structures associated with the existing Silos (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 14: Closer view of the Silos (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 15: Image showing the existing agricultural activities with the Silos in the background (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 16: General view of part of the study & development area (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 16: Another general view showing the fairly flat and open nature of the area (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 17: This image shows the old agricultural fields located here (courtesy AB Enviro).



Figure 18: General view of a section of the study area (courtesy AB Enviro).

Based on the aerial images of the area, photographs provided by the client and the heritage desktop study, it is therefore deemed unlikely that any significant sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin and/or significance will exist in the study area & proposed development area. Recent historical activities (mainly agricultural activities) would have impacted on any if they did exist here in the past and would have disturbed or destroyed these to a large degree. Known archaeological and historical sites, features and material have been identified in the larger geographical area and this needs to be taken into consideration during actions related to the proposed Silo development.

It is therefore recommended that Motivation for Exemption from a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Silo Development (at the Waagkraal NWK site) on various portions of the farm Waagkraal 374IO, 15km south-west of Ottosdal in the Northwest Province, be granted to the applicants taking into consideration the following:

The subterranean nature of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) resources must always be kept in mind. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward. This could include previously unknown and unmarked graves and/or cemeteries. Furthermore, should there be any future plans to do any alterations or changes to the existing farmstead and any of the related farming-related infrastructure then a Detailed Heritage Assessment needs to be undertaken to determine their age/origin and significance in order to recommend on the way forward. Any demolition or alteration to structures older than 60 years of age needs to be undertaken with a permit obtained from SAHRA.

Should there be any questions or comments on the contents of this document please contact the author as soon as possible.

Kind regards



Anton Pelser

References

1. General & Closer Views of Study Area location and proposed development footprint: Google Earth 2022.
2. Study Area Photographs: Provided by AB Enviro Consult
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4. Huffman, T.N. 2007. **Handbook to the Iron Age: The Archaeology of Pre-Colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa.** Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
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7. Pelsler, A.J. 2017. **Report on a Phase 1 Heritage Assessment for the Proposed Bloemhof Extension 11 & 12 Township Establishments on a Portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 & the Remaining Extent of Portions 15 & 26 of the farm Klipfontein 344HO, near Bloemhof Northwest Province.** Unpublished Report APAC017/03. For: Maxim Planning Solutions. January 2017.
8. Republic of South Africa. 1999. National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999). Pretoria: The Government Printer.
9. Republic of South Africa. 1998. National Environmental Management Act (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.
10. Chief Surveyor General Database (www.csg.dla.gov.za): Documents (1) 10KGP901 (2) 10KJOE01 (3) 10KGPL01 (4) 10KGQD01 & (5) 10KGQK01