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**A PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT & REPORT FOR THE
PROPOSED PALEDI MALL PHASE 4 EXPANSION
ON PORTION 66 AND THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 21 OF THE FARM SYFERKUIL 921 LS &
ERF 3 OF TURFLOOP EXTENSION 1, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: **APAC021/18**

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', is centered below the disclaimer text.

SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Paledi Mall Phase 4 Expansion on Portion 66 and the Remainder of Portion 21 of the Farm Syferkuil 921 LS & Erf 3 Turfloop Extension 1, Limpopo Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. The assessment of the specific study area did not identify any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance. This report discusses the results of both the background research and physical assessment and provides recommendations on the way forward at the end.

From Cultural Heritage perspective it is recommended that the proposed Paledi Mall Phase 4 Expansion be allowed to continue, taking into consideration the recommendations put forward at the end of the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Paledi Mall Phase 4 Expansion on Portion 66 and the Remainder of Portion 21 of the Farm Syferkuil 921 LS & Erf 3 Turfloop Extension 1, Limpopo Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. The assessment of the specific study area did not identify any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment focused on this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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).

3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, 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
- 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
- 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. A 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

Structures

Section 34(1) states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of the Act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The Act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial)

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;

- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

3.2. The National Environmental Management Act

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Survey of literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2. Field survey

The field assessment section of the study was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage

significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

4.3. Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4. Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The study and development area is located on Portion 66 and the Remainder of Portion 21 of the Farm Syferkuil 921 LS & Erf 1 of Turfloop Extension 1, Limpopo Province.

The topography of the area is relatively flat and open and visibility during the assessment was fairly good despite at the time. The existing Paledi Mall is being expanded to an open area located to the south of it. This area has been disturbed and cleared recently and some quarrying has also taken place here. Dumping of soil and building rubble, as well as residential refuse also occurs. The study and development area is surrounded by both urban (formal & informal settlement) developments and various businesses.

As a result of past developments if any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were present here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result.



Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2021).



Figure 2: Closer view of the study area (in red polygon).

6. DISCUSSION

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 into basically 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).

According to Bergh (1999) no Stone Age sites or occurrences are known in the direct area, although some MSA sites, including rock paintings, are known in the larger geographical area around Polokwane (Bergh 1999:4-5). This includes a site called Grace Dieu and another called Mwulu's Cave.

No Stone Age sites or occurrences were recorded during the field assessment. If any Stone Age material are to be found it would be more than likely single, out of context tools scattered in the area.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided into 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.

Bergh does not indicate the presence of any known EIA sites in close proximity to Polokwane, although LIA stone walled sites are shown (Bergh 1999: 6-7). Iron smelting terrains are known as well (p.8). Northern Sotho (Tlokwa), the Koni of Matlala and Northern Ndebele (e.g. Langa of Mapela) settled in the area from the 1700's onwards (Bergh 1999: 107-108).

Based on Tom Huffman's research it is possible that EIA, MIA and LIA sites, features or material could be present in the larger area. This could include the Mzonjani facies of the

Urewe Tradition, dating to between AD450 and AD750 (Huffman 2007: 127); the Doornkop facies of the Kalundu Tradition (AD750 to AD1000) [p.275]; the Eiland facies of the same tradition dating between AD1000 and AD1300 (p.227); the Icon facies of the Urewe Tradition (AD1300-1500)[p.183], as well as the Letaba facies of Kalundu, dating to between AD1600 – AD1840 (p.267).

Frans Roodt identified and recorded some LIA stone-walled sites & remains (including pottery) in a 2001 HIA in the larger area (2001: 4). From a 2010 HIA Report by Dr. Julius Pistorius we get the following information (p.19 – 20).

“Iron Age remains are numerous in the Polokwane area and can be attributed to different Sotho and Ndebele clans who occupied the area during the second millennium. These clans include the Langa Ndebele who lives towards the south-west of Polokwane; Bakoni clans who live in the Project Area and further to the north-west and north-east; the Ramakgopa who occupy the Pietersburg plateau, the Molepo, Bakopa and numerous other small clans who are scattered over the whole region. The Eskom Project Area is in close proximity of the former sphere of influence of the Langa-Ndebele. The domain of this clan is stretched out on the plains between Bakenberg and Mokopane to the west of the Eskom Project Area.

This area is characterized by a number of large mountains and smaller kopjes and knolls scattered over a vast plain. Some of the mountains bear historical names such as Mapela, Masenya and the historically well-known Fonthane and Thutlwane. Further to the north is Bankenberg and still further north in the Masebe Nature Reserve is the mountain of Magagamatala. Some of the mountains in this area serve as important historical settlements, battlefields and as graveyards for the Langa Ndebele. However, it seems as if clans of the Langa Ndebele once lived in the Eskom Project Area in the Witkoppen Mountains (Thaba Tšweu).

The Langa Ndebele is an Nguni (Hlubi) group who settled in the Limpopo Province from as early as the sixteenth century. The name of their clan, Langa, was derived from the name of their original chief when the clans were part of the Hlubi. They originated from eNgungunglovu (Pietermaritzburg) where they occupied a place known as Langalibalele. (Other clans such as the Mbo [Mkize], Bhele, Phuti, Polane and Swazi also trace their genealogies back to a Chief Langa who lived during the latter half of the 17th century). The second half of the 17th century seems to have been a turbulent period in Hlubi history, as the Langa clan hived off from the main body in AD1650. They were led by Langalibalele/Masebe I (Masebethêla) from Hlubi country through what is today Swaziland. Their first significant stop was near Leydsdorp or Mafefera. They moved to Bosega, an area around Bonye, east of Pietersburg, and the present territory of the Molepo chiefdom. After a short stay, the Langa moved to Thaba Tšweu (Witkoppen Mountain), a few kilometres to the south-east of Pietersburg, where they remained for four generations. The chiefs who ruled and died at Thaba Tšweu were Masebe I, Mapuso, Podile and Masebe II. Seritarita, who succeeded Masebe II at Thaba Tšweu, led the clan to Maleoko (on the farm Bultongfontein [239KR]), where he remained for three years. From here, the clan moved to Moumong-wa-Matswake on the farm Zuid- Holland 773LR. Their settlement was known as Mokgokong. Seritarita was succeeded by Mapela, son of Seritarita's third ranking wife”.

Pistorius identified a number of LIA sites in his 2010 assessment in the larger area (2010: 26-27). According to him the stone walled sites can be described as of high significance as it possible that they may have been occupied by the Langa Ndebele from the seventeenth century onwards (Pistorius 2010: 28).

No Iron Age sites, features or material were identified in the study area during the field assessment.

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 first Europeans to move through this area were the Voortrekkers (under Trichardt & Van Rensburg) who moved through the area around 1836 (Bergh 1999: 14). The town of Pietersburg (Polokwane) was established officially in 1886 (Bergh 1999: 20). During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) a number of skirmishes were fought around the area, while there was also a Concentration Camp for Boer Women and Children in Pietersburg at the time (Bergh 1999: 54).

No historical sites, features or material were identified in the study area during the assessment.

The oldest map that could be obtained for the farm (for Portion 1) from the Chief Surveyor General's database (www.csg.dla.gov.za) dates originally to 1902 (**CSG Document 10EANQ01**). It shows that the farm was then known as Syferkuil No.342 and was situated in the District of Zoutpansberg, Ward of Renosterpoort, Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Z.A.R). Portion 1 was formally surveyed in September 1899 for one P.D.A.L. du Preez.

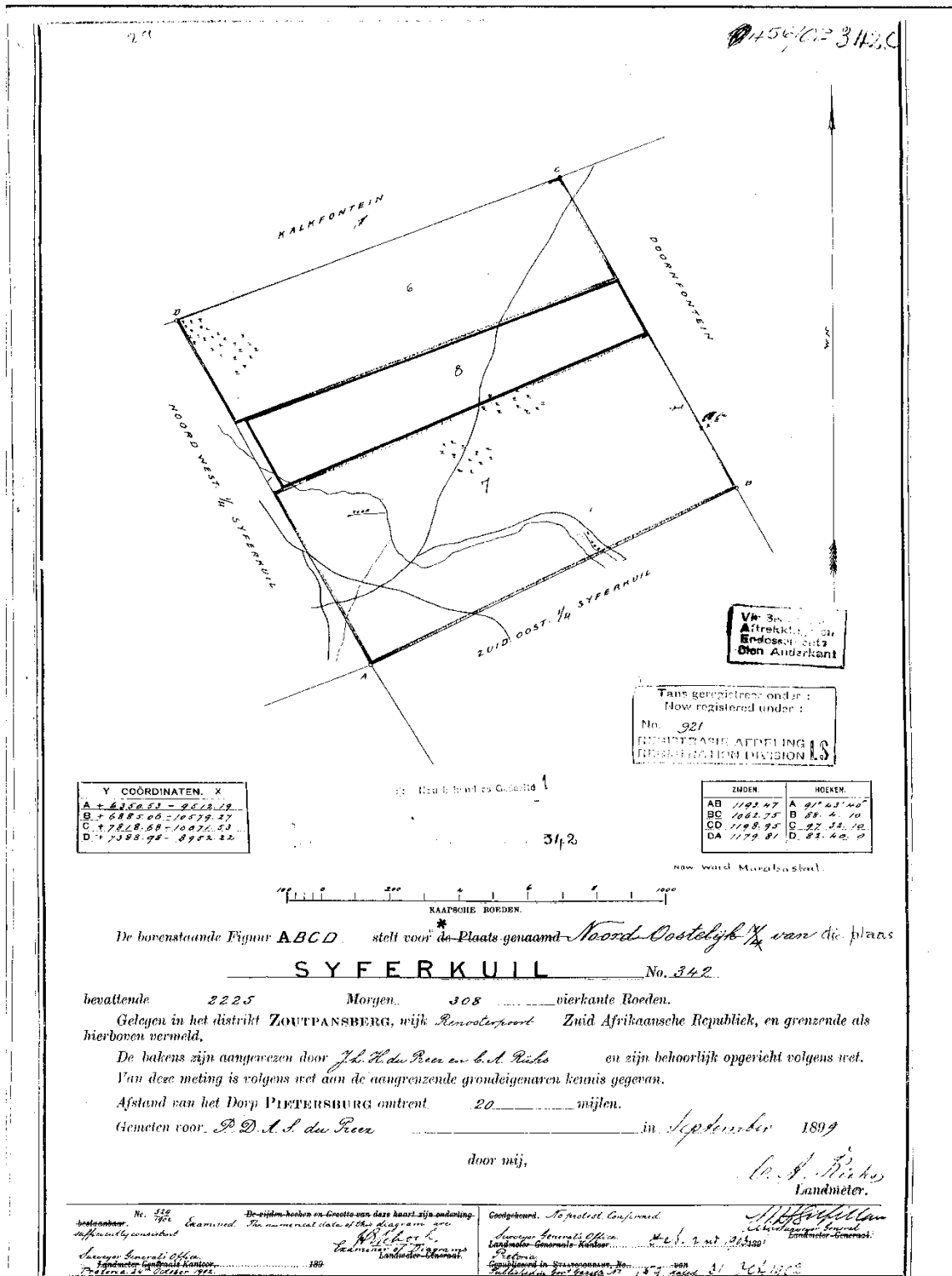


Figure 3: 1902 map of Portion 1 of Syferkuil 921LS (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

Results of the March 2021 study area assessment

As indicated earlier no sites, features or material of archaeological and/or historical nature or significance were identified in the study area during the assessment. The study and

development footprint area has been impacted on by recent developments including the existing Paledi Mall and others such as a Powerline. The area is surrounded by various urban developments, including settlement and businesses. As a result the original landscape has been completely altered. Aerial images of the area (dating from 2001 onwards) show how the area has been impacted by these activities. If any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree as a result.

It is therefore recommended that the proposed Paledi Mall Phase 4 Expansion be allowed to continue.



Figure 4: A view of a section of the study area.



Figure 5: A view of the existing Paledi Mall from the expansion area.



Figure 6: Another general view of the study area. Note the quarried area.



Figure 7: View of the study area. Note the powerline & building rubble.



Figure 8: Another view showing the disturbed nature of the area.



Figure 9: A view showing the Powerline running across the area.



Figure 10: A view of the expansion area from the existing Mall area.



Figure 11: A view of the general area showing the urban settlement nature of the area bordering the proposed development.



Figure 12: Aerial view of the study & general area dating to 2001. The existing Paledi Mall had not yet been developed (Google Earth 2021).



Figure 13: By 2009 the existing Mall had been developed & other developments had increased (Google Earth 2021).



Figure 14: By 2018 the situation had completely changed with more and more urban developments encroaching (Google Earth 2021).

It should be noted that although all efforts are made to cover a total area during any assessment and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. This will include low stone-packed or unmarked graves. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Paledi Mall Phase 4 Expansion on Portion 66 and the Remainder of Portion 21 of the Farm Syferkuil 921 LS & Erf 3 Turfloop Extension 1, Limpopo Province.

Background research indicates that there are some cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. The assessment of the specific study area did not identify any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance. The study and development footprint area has been impacted on by recent developments including the existing Paledi Mall and others such as a Powerline. The area is surrounded by various urban developments, including settlement and businesses. As a result the original landscape has been completely altered. Aerial images of the area (dating from 2001 onwards) show how the area has been impacted by these activities. If any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree as a result.

Although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. 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.

Finally, from a Cultural Heritage perspective it is therefore recommended that the proposed Paledi Mall Phase 4 Expansion be allowed to continue taking the above into consideration.

8. REFERENCES

General and Closer views of study area location and development footprint: Google Earth 2021.

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Chief Surveyor General Database (www.csg.dla.gov.za): Document: 10EANQ01.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B: DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

APPENDIX D: PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – Older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase – Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
2. Baseline Assessment – Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
3. Phase I Impact Assessment – Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
4. Letter of recommendation for exemption – If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue – Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
6. Phase III Management Plan – For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.