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**PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED  
WOLMARANSSTAD EXTENSION 20 (UNIT U) TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
ON A PORTION OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 2  
OF THE FARM WOLMARANSSTAD TOWN AND TOWNLANDS 184HO,  
WOLMARANSSTAD, NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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**REPORT: APAC018/50**

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## **SUMMARY**

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Wolmaransstad Extension 20 Township area located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of Wolmaransstad Town & Townlands 184HO, located in the Northwest Province town of Wolmaransstad. The development comprises the formalization of the existing Public Works residential area and workshops in Wolmaransstad generally referred to as “Unit U”.

The project is conducted on instruction from the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality.

A number of known cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) sites, features or objects are located in the larger geographical area. None were however identified & recorded in the study area during the field assessment. The area has been extensively disturbed in the recent past by the existing housing development and if any did exist here it would have been destroyed to a large degree. The report discusses the archaeological & historical background to the area, as well as the results of the physical assessment, and provides a number of recommendations on the way forward at the end of the document.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view the development should be allowed to continue, taking cognizance of the conclusions and recommendations put forward at the end of this report.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Wolmaransstad Extension 20 Township area located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of Wolmaransstad Town & Townlands 184HO, located in the Northwest Province town of Wolmaransstad. The development comprises the formalization of the existing Public Works residential area and workshops in Wolmaransstad generally referred to as “Unit U”.

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A number of known cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) sites, features or objects are located in the larger geographical area. None were however identified & recorded in the study area during the field assessment. The area has been extensively disturbed in the recent past by the existing housing development and if any did exist here it would have been destroyed to a large degree.

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

## **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 on these possible heritage resources. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. 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 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

### **Structures**

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act 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 this 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) 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)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

### **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, including previous heritage assessments, 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 archaeological 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.

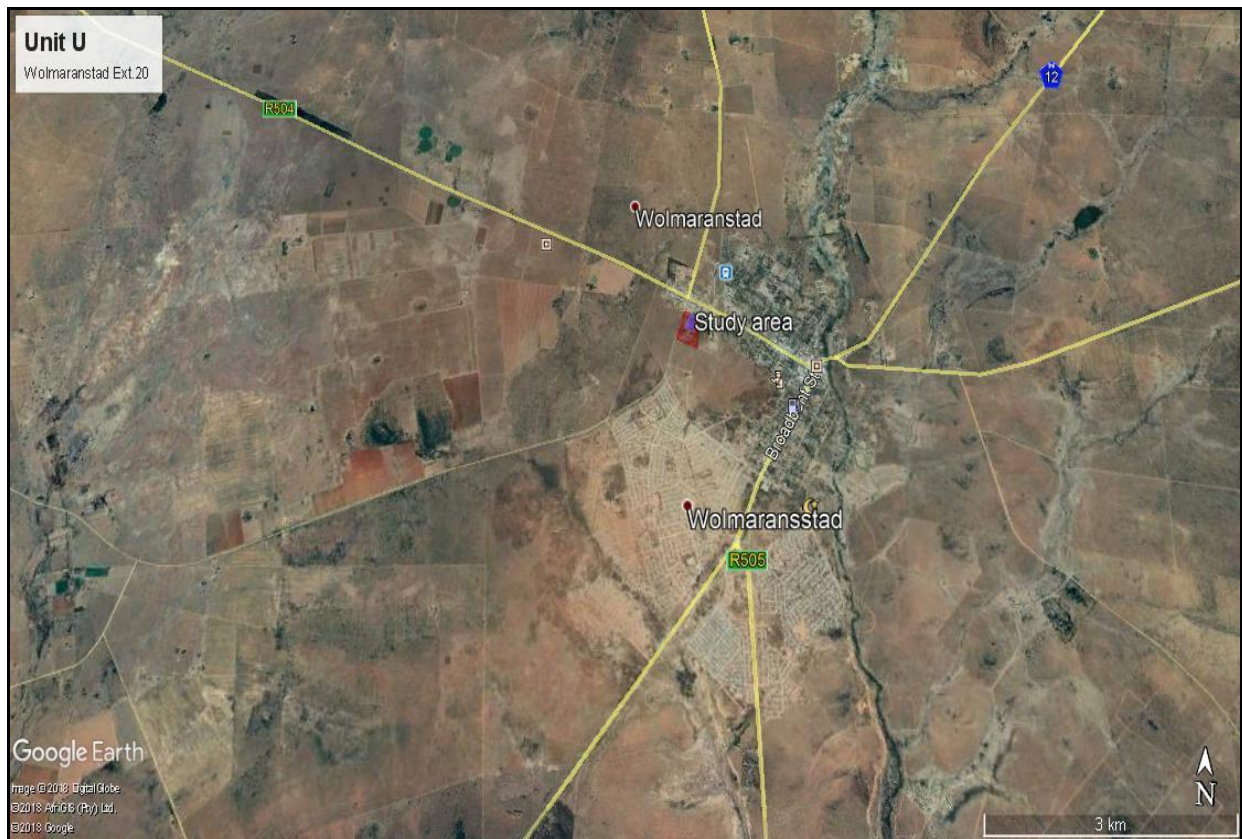
### **4.4 Documentation**

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. 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**

A Pelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Wolmaransstad Extension 20 Township area located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of Wolmaransstad Town & Townlands 184HO, located in the Northwest Province town of Wolmaransstad. The development comprises the formalization of the existing Public Works residential area and workshops in Wolmaransstad generally referred to as “Unit U”.

The topography of the study area is flat and open, while the natural vegetation and general landscape of the area (which more than likely in the past would have been agricultural) have been extensively altered by the Unit U Department of Public Works housing development. If any sites of cultural heritage origin or significance did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed as a result.



**Fig.1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2018).**



**Fig.2: Closer view of study area. Note the built up nature of the area (Google Earth 2018).**





**Fig.3: A view of a section of the study area.**



**Fig.4: A view of one of the structures/workshops.**



**Fig.5: More of the workshops/structures.**



**Fig.6: One of the streets in Unit U.**





**Fig.7: Another general view.**



**Fig.8: A view of a workshop area/storage.**



**Fig.9: Another view of the residential area.**

## **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 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 the town, including some rock engravings (p.4-5).

***No Stone Age sites were recorded in the study area during the assessment.***

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts. 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) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are 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 once again 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.

**Again no Iron Age sites, features or material were found during the study area 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 earliest Europeans to travel through the area were the groups of 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). Wolmaranstad was proclaimed as town in February 1891 (Bergh 1999: 147).

The oldest map for the farm that could be obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's database (for Portion 1) dates to 1907 (**CSG Document 101DZD01**). It shows that the farm was then numbered as No.173 and that it was held by the then Government in title. The farm was surveyed in December 1905. One map for Portion 2 dates to 1907 as well. SG Sheet 1 (A301/07) shows that the portion was also surveyed in December 1905 and was held by Government. Sheet 2 (Deduction Plan – A301/1907) dates to the 1990's and later and shows the later developments on Portion 2.

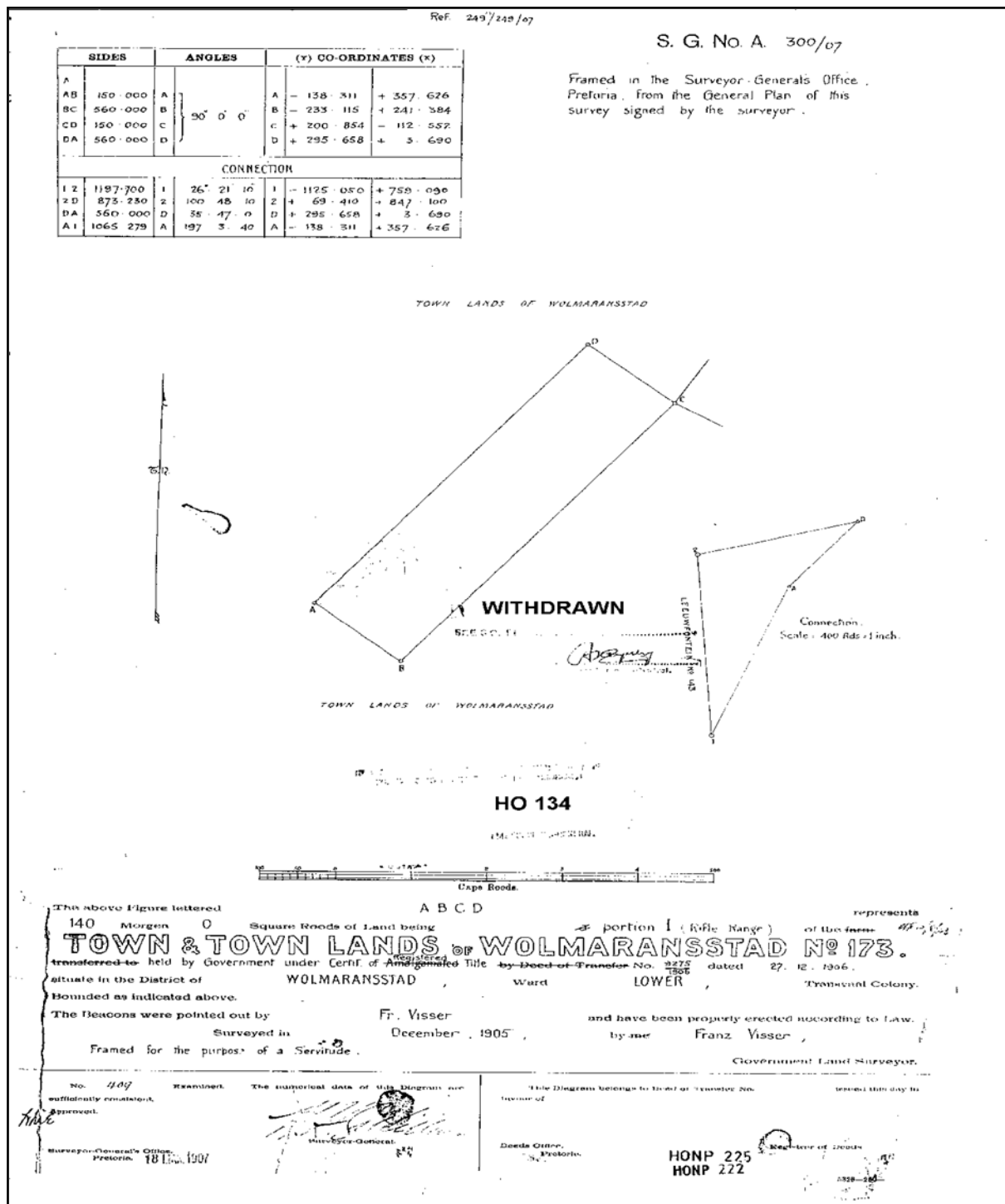
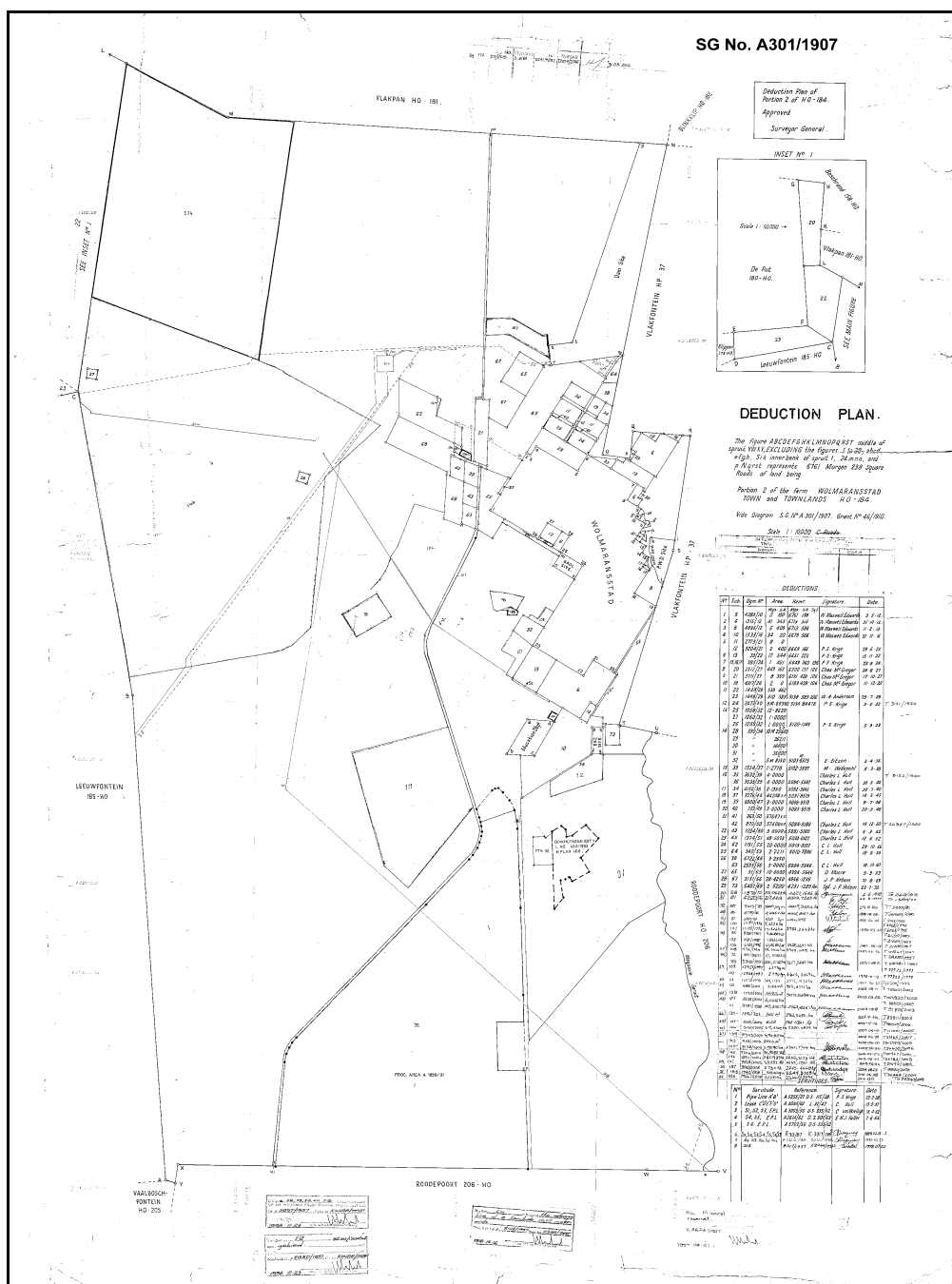


Fig. 10: 1907 Map of Portion 1 of the farm ([www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za)).







### *Results of the July 2018 Fieldwork*

No cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were identified or recorded in the study area during the field assessment. The existing recent Department of Public Works residential area and related workshops and other structures would have extensively disturbed or destroyed any if had existed here in the past.

The residential structures, workshops and other related features are also younger than 60 years of age and of no cultural heritage significance. Furthermore, the demolition of these existing structures are not being planned, with the Wolmaransstad Extension 20 Township

development comprising only the formalization of the existing Public Works residential area and workshops in Wolmaransstad generally referred to as “Unit U”.

*It should be noted that although all efforts were made to cover the total area 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**

In conclusion it can be said that the Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Wolmaransstad Extension 20 Township area located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of Wolmaransstad Town & Townlands 184HO, located in the Northwest Province town of Wolmaransstad, was completed successfully. The development comprises the formalization of the existing Public Works residential area and workshops in Wolmaransstad generally referred to as “Unit U”.

The project is conducted on instruction from the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality.

A number of known cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) sites, features or objects are located in the larger geographical area. No cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were identified or recorded in the study area during the field assessment. The existing recent Department of Public Works residential area and related workshops and other structures would have extensively disturbed or destroyed any if had existed here in the past.

The residential structures, workshops and other related features are also younger than 60 years of age and of no cultural heritage significance. Furthermore, the demolition of these existing structures are not being planned, with the Wolmaransstad Extension 20 Township development comprising only the formalization of the existing Public Works residential area and workshops in Wolmaransstad generally referred to as “Unit U”.

**From a Cultural Heritage point of view it is therefore recommended that the development can continue. However, the subterranean presence of archaeological or historical sites, features or objects is always a possibility. This could include previously unknown graves and/or unmarked burial pits. Should any be uncovered during the development process a heritage specialist should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.**

## **8. REFERENCES**

Aerial views of the study area: Google Earth 2018.

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

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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Republic of South Africa. 1999. **National Heritage Resources Act** (No 25 of 1999). Pretoria: the Government Printer.

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Chief Surveyor General Database: [www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za). Document Number 10KDZD01. SG Sheets: Sheet 1 - A301/07 & Sheet 2 (Deduction Plan) – A301/1907

## **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.