

Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters  
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**REPORT ON A PHASE 1 HIA FOR THE PROPOSED ITEKENG EXTENSION 3  
TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT CLOSE TO BIESIESVLEI  
IN THE DITSOBOLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF THE NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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**REPORT: APAC020/107**

by:

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***November 2020***

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**APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING**

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**DISCLAIMER:**

**Although all efforts are made to identify all sites of cultural heritage (archaeological and historical) significance during an assessment of study areas, the nature of archaeological and historical sites are as such that it is always possible that hidden or subterranean sites, features or objects could be overlooked during the study. APELSER Archaeological Consulting can't be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result thereof.**

**Clients & Developers should not continue with any development actions until SAHRA or one of its subsidiary bodies has provided final comments on this report. Submitting the report to SAHRA is the responsibility of the Client unless required of the Heritage Specialist as part of their appointment and Terms of Reference**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', written in a cursive style.

## SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Itekeng Extension 3 Township Establishment in the Ditsobotla Local Municipality near Biesiesvlei in the Northwest Province. The study area is located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 98 of the farm Biesjiesvallei 149IO.

The project is conducted under instruction from King & Associates Engineering and Project Managers (Pty) Ltd.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known sites on the specific land parcel, and no sites were identified in the study area during the assessment. The report will discuss the results of the desktop and field assessment and provide recommendations on the way forward at the end of the document.

From a Cultural Heritage point of view the proposed development can continue, taking into consideration the mitigation measures proposed in the report.

## CONTENTS

	page
SUMMARY .....	3
CONTENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION .....	5
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE .....	5
3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS .....	5
4. METHODOLOGY .....	8
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA.....	9
6. DISCUSSION.....	10
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	17
8. REFERENCES .....	17
APPENDIX A – DEFINITION OF TERMS .....	19
APPENDIX B – DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	20
APPENDIX C – SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING.....	21
APPENDIX D – PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES.....	22
APPENDIX E – HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES.....	23

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Itsekeng Extension 3 Township Establishment in the Ditsobotla Local Municipality near Biesiesvlei in the Northwest Province. The study area is located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 98 of the farm Biesjiesvallei 149IO.

The project is conducted under instruction from King & Associates Engineering and Project Managers (Pty) Ltd.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known sites on the specific land parcel, and no sites were identified in the study area during the assessment.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the Project 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. 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 of 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 any study is conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aims 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 detailed 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**

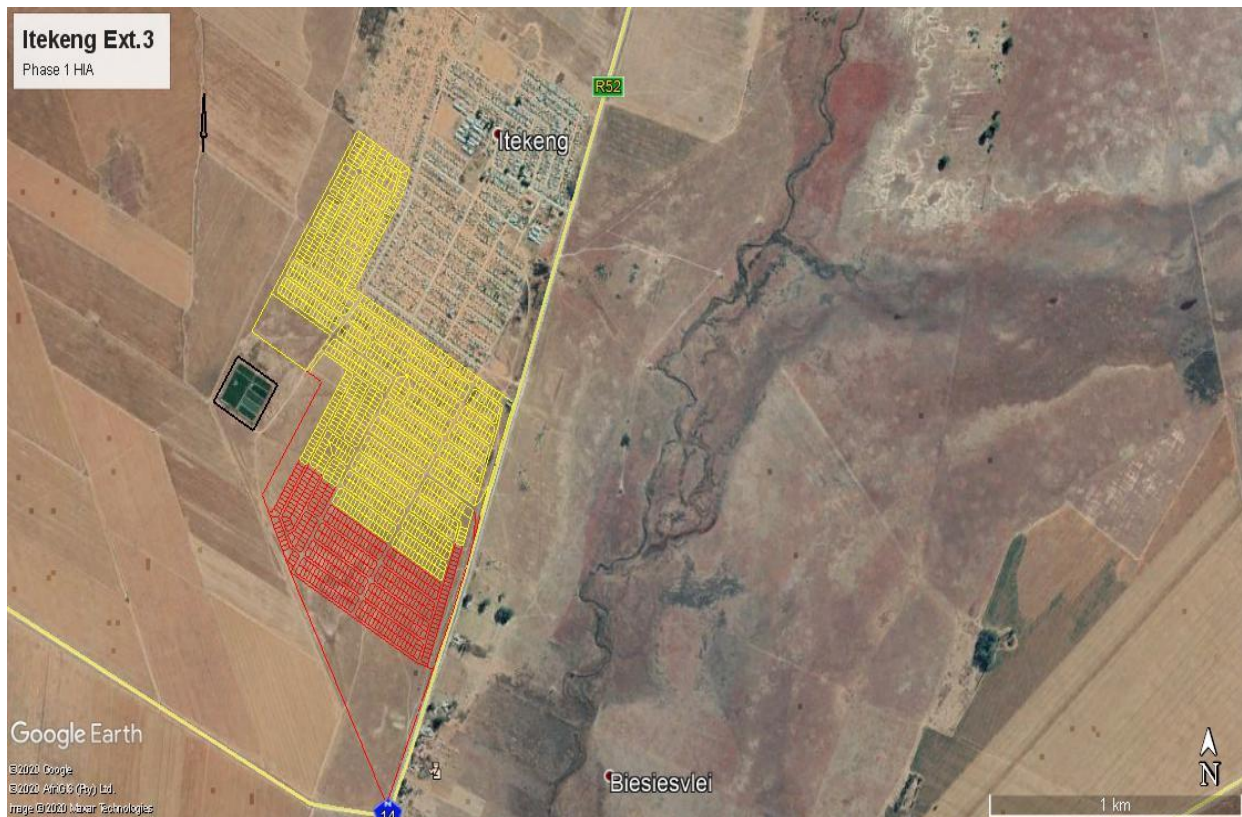
All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification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

## **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**

The proposed Itekeng Extension 3 Township Establishment is situated in the Ditsobotla Local Municipality near Biesiesvlei in the Northwest Province. The study area is located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 98 of the farm Biesjiesvallei 149IO.

The project is conducted under instruction from King & Associates Engineering and Project Managers (Pty) Ltd. in their capacity as Program Management Unit of the Department of Local Government and Human Settlements (North West) and in association with the Ditsobotla Local Municipality.

The topography of the study area is in general flat and open, with no rocky outcrops or ridges present. The largest part of the study and development area has been used in the past and currently for agricultural purposes, while informal settlement has taken place in sections already. If any sites, features or material of cultural heritage origin or significance did exist here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result of these activities.



**Figure 1: The location and footprint of the study & development area (Google Earth 2020).**

## 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).

The closest known Stone Age sites are located at Matlawase and close to Wolmaransstad, 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 (stone tools) were identified in the study area during the assessment. If any are to be found they would more than likely be single, out of context, objects scattered around the area.***

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 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. 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 or material were identified in the study areas during the 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).

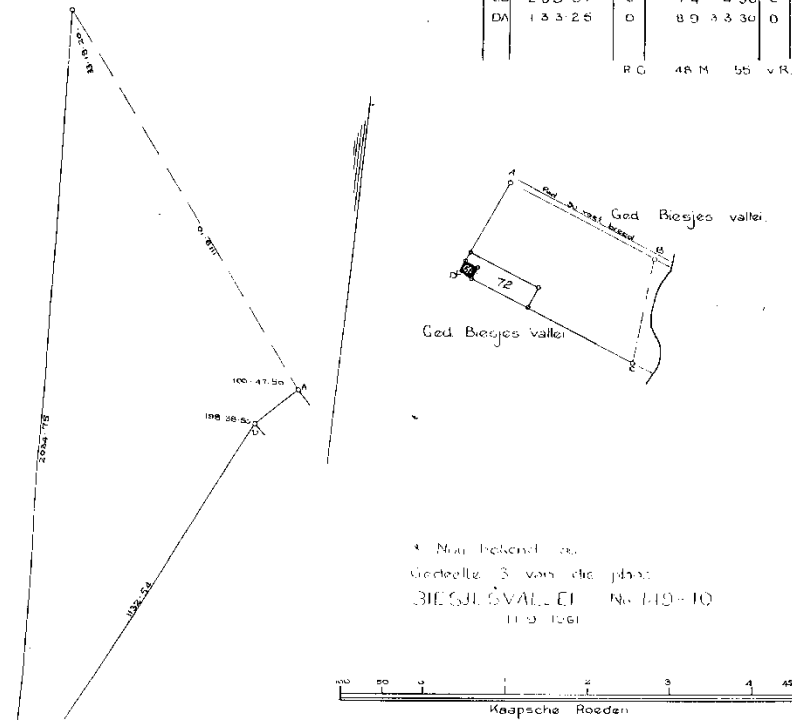
The oldest map for the farm that could be obtained from the database of the Chief Surveyor General ([www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za)) dates to 1897 and is for Portion 3. The farm was then known as Biesjes Vallei No.57 and was located in the District of Lichtenburg, Ward of Boven Harts Rivier and in the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Z.A.R). The whole of the farm was given on loan to one J.Snyder on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1872. Portion 3 was surveyed in May 1896 (CSG Document 10K5W01). For Portion 98 the farm the map dates to 1968 and shows that Portion 98 was surveyed in August 1968 (CSG Document 10JWQZ01).

WILHELM ROODE  
*Wilhelm*  
 LANDMEETER-GENERAAL  
 PRETORIA.  
 - 9. 4. 1897

1213/1897

ZIJDEN	HOEKEN	COORDINATEN
AB 202.40	A 88 59 40	A - 1809 09 + 1412 52
BC 133.26	B 107 22 00	B - 1887 88 + 1226 09
CD 239.97	C 74 45 00	C - 2020 52 + 1238 97
DA 133.26	D 89 33 30	D - 1032 72 + 1462 24

RC 48 M 55 v R.



De bovenstaande figuur AB mid Riv. CD stelt voor een gedeelte No 2 van  
 BIESJES VALLEI No 57

gelegen in het distrikt Lichtenburg wijk Boven Harts Rivier  
 Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek, en bevat 52 Morgen 55 vierkante Roeden

De geheele plaats werd oorspronkelijk in Leening uitgegeveaan J. Snyder  
 volgens Grondb. d. 15 Maart 1872

De bakens zijn aangewezen door M. A. Pretorius en zijn behoorlijk opgericht volgens wet.

Gemeten in Mei 1896, door mij

(Get.) Dirk Barry.

Landmeter.

No 3708/97 Goedgekeurd De zijden hoeken en Grootte  
 van deze kaart zijn genoegzaam bestaande.

(Get.) Johann Rissik  
 Landmeter Generaal

Landmeter - Generaats Kantoor, 30 Oct. 1897

Ik, , Registrateur van Akten, certificeer dat  
 deze kaart behoort tot Transport 8303/1897, op heden  
 uitgereikt ten faveure van Boedel wijlen Christiaan Jaes  
 Kirstein.

Registratie Kantoor,  
 Pretoria, 27/12/1897

(w.g.) J. C. Minnaar  
 Reg. van Akten.

Figure 2: The 1897 map of Portion 3 of the farm ([www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za)).

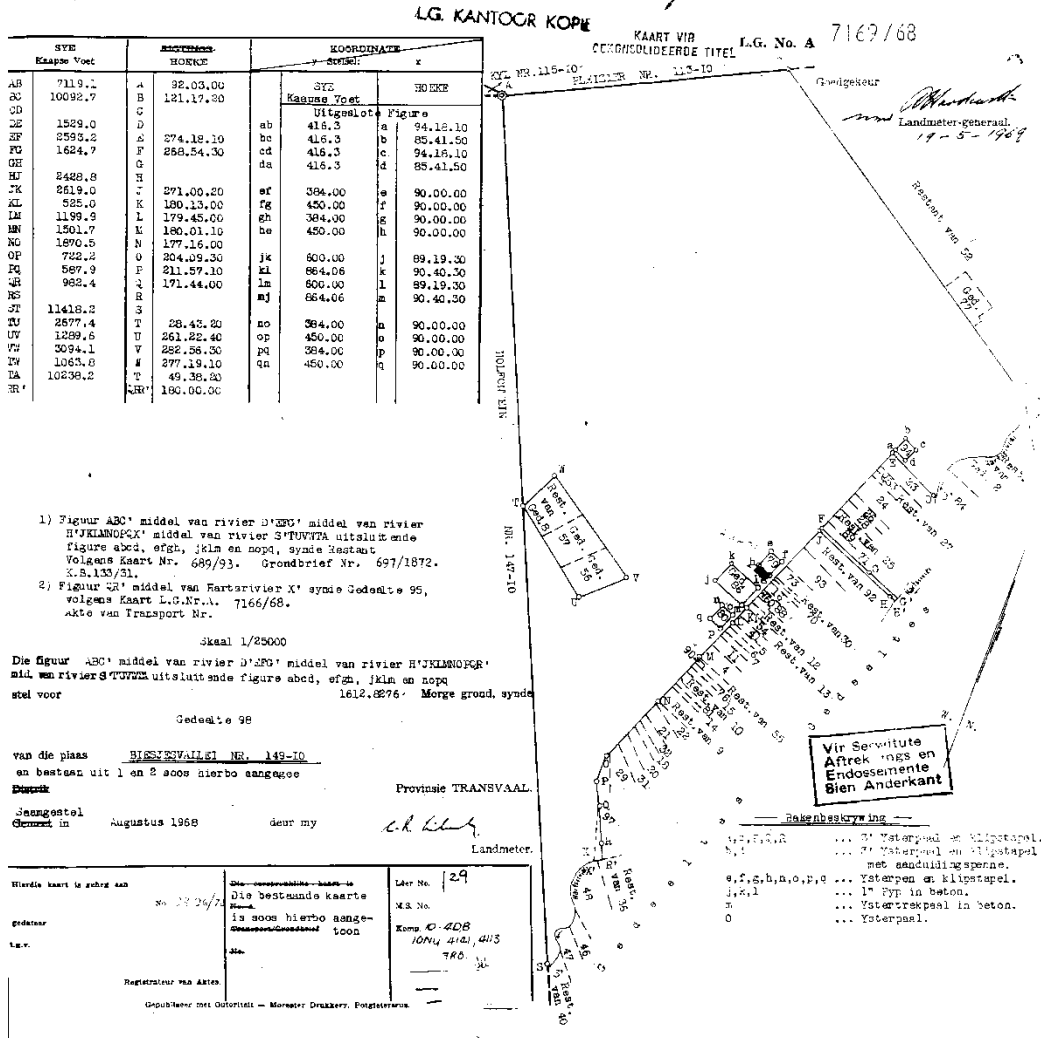


Figure 3: The 1968 map of Portion 98 of the farm ([www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za)).

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

### Results of the November 2020 Fieldwork

No sites, features or material of any real cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance were identified in the study area during the assessment. The study area was used in the past for agricultural purposes (some sections are still being used for this), while informal settlement on other portions have also taken place recently. If any sites did exist here in the past it would more than likely have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result of these activities.



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



**Figure 5: Another section. Note the agricultural fields.**



**Figure 6: A view of some of the informal houses located in a section of the study area.**



**Figure 7: Another view of the informal settlement.**



**Figure 8: General view of a portion of the area.**



**Figure 10: Old fields make up large parts of the area.**



From a Cultural Heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue.

*It should be noted that although all efforts are made to cover a 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 aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including informal or unmarked graves & cemeteries) 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 Maxim Planning Solutions to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Itekeng Extension 3 Township Establishment in the Ditsobotla Local Municipality near Biesiesvlei in the Northwest Province. The study area is located on a portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 98 of the farm Biesjiesvallei 149IO.

The project is conducted under instruction from King & Associates Engineering and Project Managers (Pty) Ltd.

A number of known cultural heritage sites (archaeological and/or historical) exist in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known sites on the specific land parcel, and no sites were identified in the study area during the assessment.

**However, it should be noted that 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.**

From a cultural heritage point of view the proposed Itekeng Extension 3 Township Development should therefore be allowed continue, taking cognizance of the above recommendations.

## 8. REFERENCES

Aerial views of study area location and footprint: Google Earth 2020.

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

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

Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

[www.csg.dla.gov.za](http://www.csg.dla.gov.za) - Chief Surveyor General Database. Documents (1) 10K5W01 (2) 10JWQZ01

**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.