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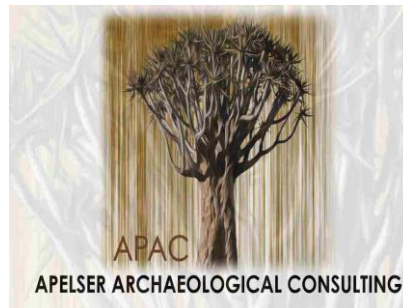
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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

APAC022/61

2022-08-23

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 - Environmental Screening for possible development on Portion 47 of the Farm Elandsheuvel 436IQ, Potchefstroom, 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 Screening Process for possible development on Portion 47 of the farm Elandsheuvel 436IQ, near Potchefstroom in the Northwest Province.

Background to the Project

AB Enviro Consult was appointed by Townscape Planning Solutions, on behalf of Mr. Frank Haupt, to conduct an Environmental Screening for possible development on Portion 47 of the Farm Elandsheuvel 436IQ, Potchefstroom, North West Province. The purpose of this Environmental Screening is to identify any possible "Fatal Flaws" that might render the site to be unsuitable for development. The area to be investigated has been provided by Townscape Planning Solutions and involves an area of approximately 88.6 hectares.

"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

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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 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 development on Portion 47 of the farm Elandsheuvel 436IQ

The study and proposed development area (related to the Environmental Screening Process) is located on Portion 47 of the farm Elandsheuvel 436IQ, near Potchefstroom in the Northwest Province.

The area to be investigated has been provided by Townscape Planning Solutions and involves an area of approximately 88.6 hectares. The site falls within an area under the jurisdiction of the JB Marks Local Municipality and is located south-east of Potchefstroom and south of the R53 road towards Parys. The site itself is located adjacent to the road towards Wilgeboom. The study area is bordered by mainly agriculturally developed land (ploughed fields), agricultural holdings and related housing (homesteads/farmsteads) & some industrial/business related developments. The topography of the area is also fairly flat and open, with no rocky outcrops or ridges present.

The development & study area itself has been disturbed in the recent past, mainly through agricultural activities such as ploughing. As a result if any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites or features existed here in the past it would have been fairly extensively disturbed or even destroyed as a result.

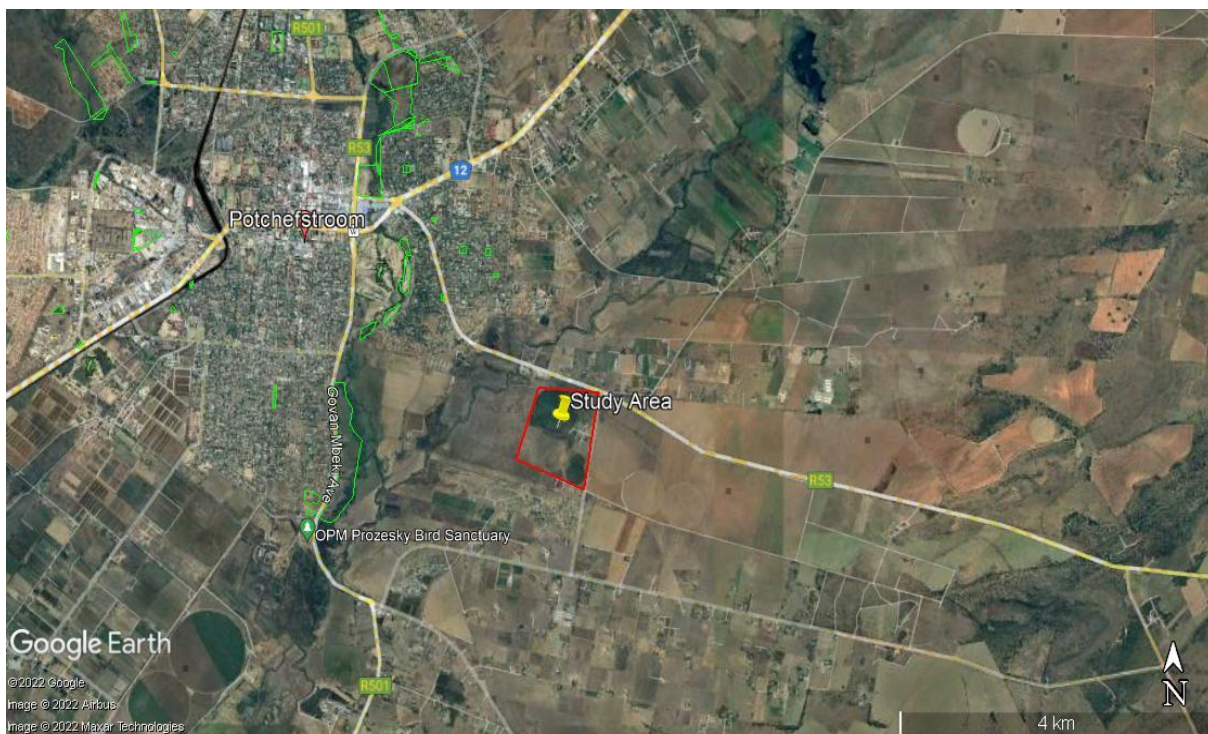


Figure 1: General location of the study area (Google Earth 2022).

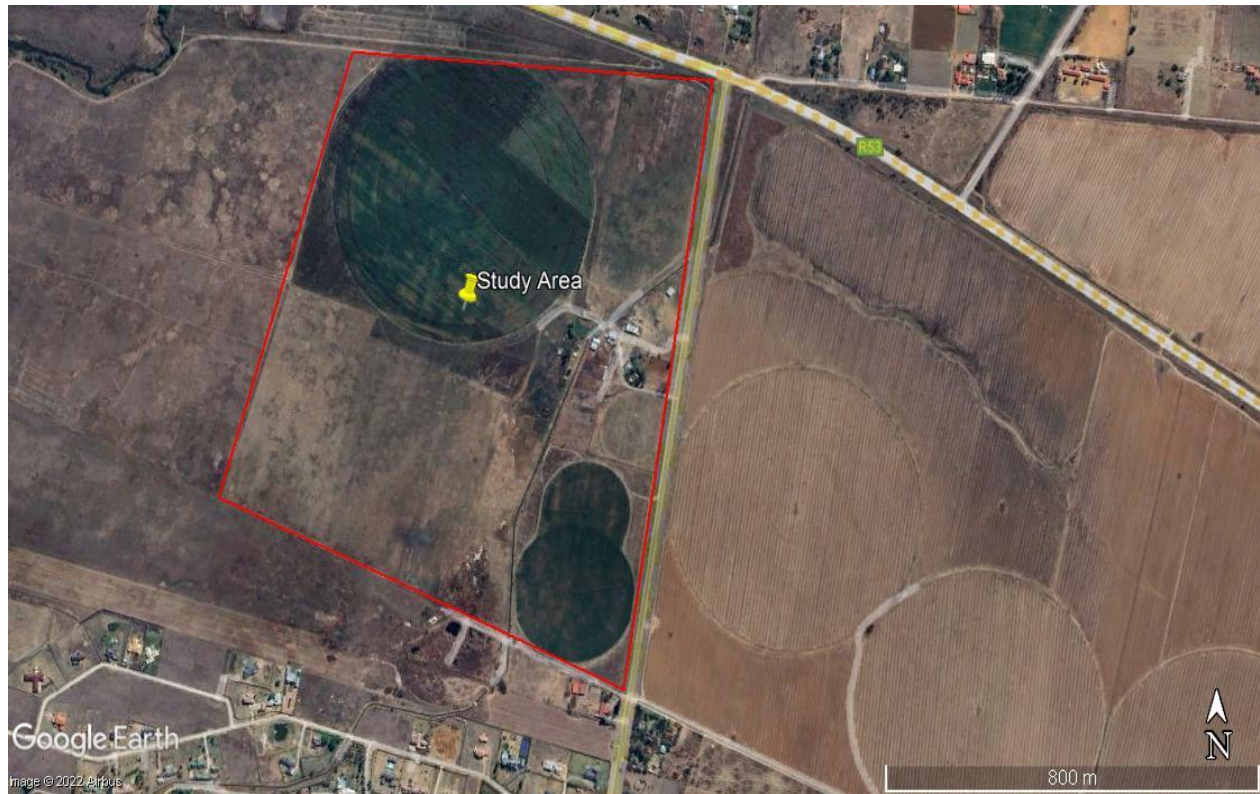


Figure 2: Closer view of the study & possible development area footprint (Google Earth 2022).

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).

Based on Bergh (1999: 4 – 5) there are no known Stone Age sites in the area, although there are some known in the Vredefort Dome area. The fact that there are no known Stone Age sites in the area might be indicative of the lack of Stone Age research. During a 2017 assessment in the larger area a number of Stone Age tool scatters were identified by the author of this report (Pelser 2017: 15-19).

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.

No Early Iron Age sites are known to exist in the area, although there is a fairly large number of Late Iron Age stone walled sites in the bigger geographical area that includes Potchefstroom, Parys, Klerksdorp and other towns (Bergh 1999: 6-7). The author of this report worked extensively on LIA sites in the Dome area. According to Huffman's research the LIA sites in the larger area could belong to various facies of the Urewe pottery tradition, including Ntsuanatsatsi, Uitkomst, Olifantspoort, Thabeng and Buispoort. These facies (or pottery traditions) date to between AD1450 and AD1840, and was found at sites like Buffelshoek in the Vredefort Dome area by Mike Taylor (Huffman 2007: 167; 171; 191, 195 and 203).

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 period started with the moving into the area by the first Europeans. The first group to move through the area was that of Cornwallis Harris in 1836 (Bergh 1999: 13), closely followed by the Voortrekkers and white farmers, with Potchefstroom one of the earliest towns established in the trans-Vaal in 1839 (Bergh 1999: 14; 89). During the Anglo-Transvaal War (1880-1881) a British garrison in Potchefstroom was besieged by the Boers (Bergh 1999: 47), while during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) there were a number of skirmishes and battles around the area, such as a Frederikstad (p.51; 54), while there was a Black concentration camp at Frederikstad and a white concentration camp west of Potchefstroom (Bergh 1999: 54).

The Portion 1 map for the farm Elandsheuvel 436IQ obtained from the database of the Chief Surveyor General (www.csg.dla.gov.za – **CSG Document: 10JDXU01**) dates to 1904 & indicates that the farm was then numbered as No.587 and was located in the District of Potchefstroom, Ward of Vaal River in the Transvaal Colony. It also shows that the whole farm was originally granted to one R.P. du Toit on the 28th of September 1854 and officially surveyed in June 1896. Portion 1 was then surveyed again between August 1902 & June 1903. The 1971 map for Portion 47 of the farm (**CSG Document 10JNEZ01**) shows that this portion was surveyed in October 1970.

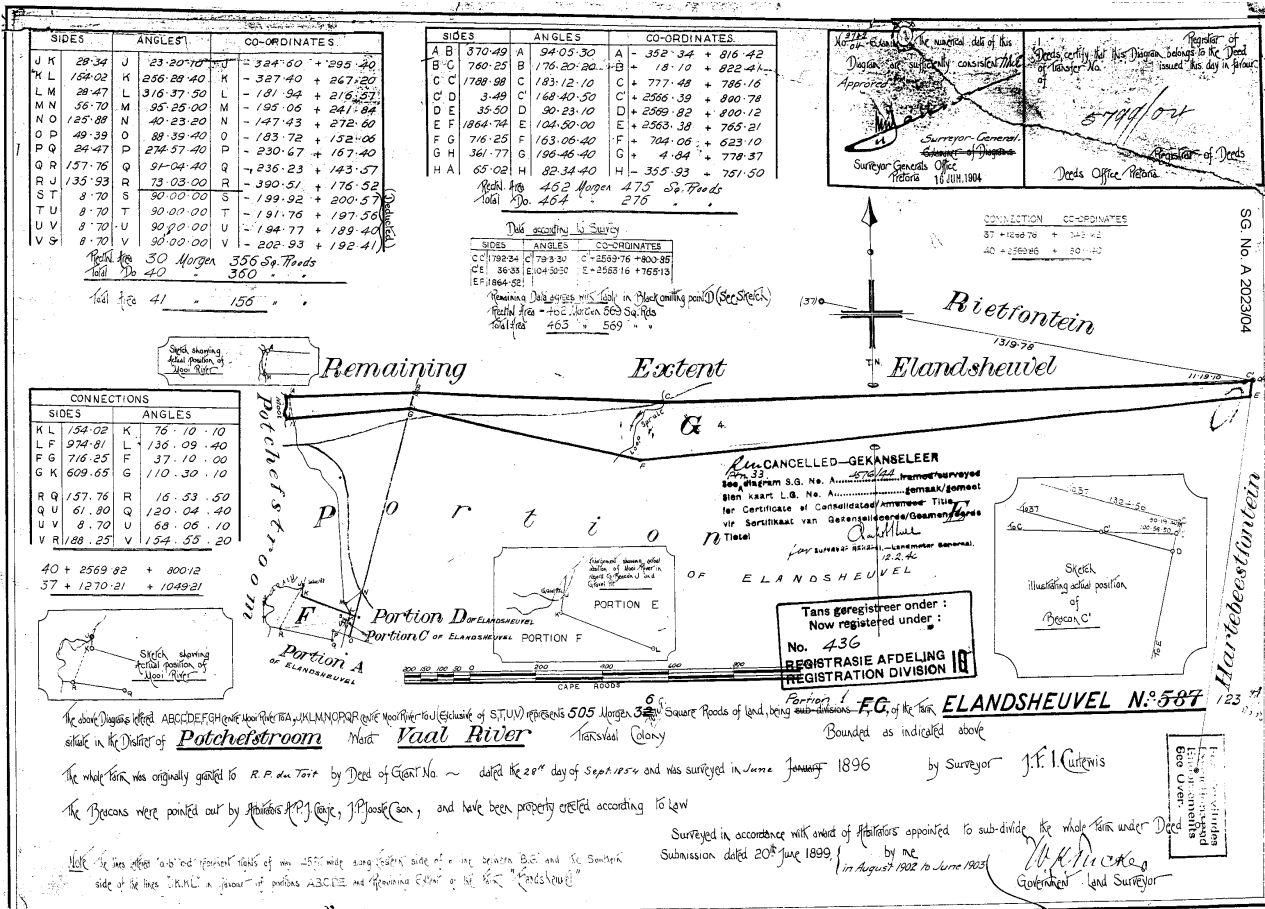


Figure 3: The 1904 map of Elandsheувел 436I Portion 1 (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

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BC	278.09.50	A	- 11378,07	+ 57430,34
CD	273.09.40	B	- 12245,68	+ 57586,43
DE	275.07.45	C	- 12930,37	+ 57588,47
EF	10.07.54	D	- 13499,29	+ 57697,86
FG	100.07.47	E	- 13347,85	+ 58545,30
GH	204.33.40	F	- 13064,41	+ 58494,66
HI	100.14	G	- 13123,38	+ 58361,84
IJ	204.45.10	H	- 13167,31	+ 58270,30
JA	106.11.30	J	- 11496,04	+ 57765,01
Da	195.35.10	Da	- 13460,45	+ 57694,37
DB	275.07.45	Db	- 13497,38	+ 57705,74
DA	10.07.54	Da	- 15882,86	+ 64296,15
DB	275.07.45	Db	- 14358,04	+ 59297,71

Bakenbeskrywing
 A, B, C, Da, Db, E, F, H, J ... 900 mm Ysterpaal en klipstapel.
 D ... Geen baken, in teepad.
 G ... Betonpaal in beton.

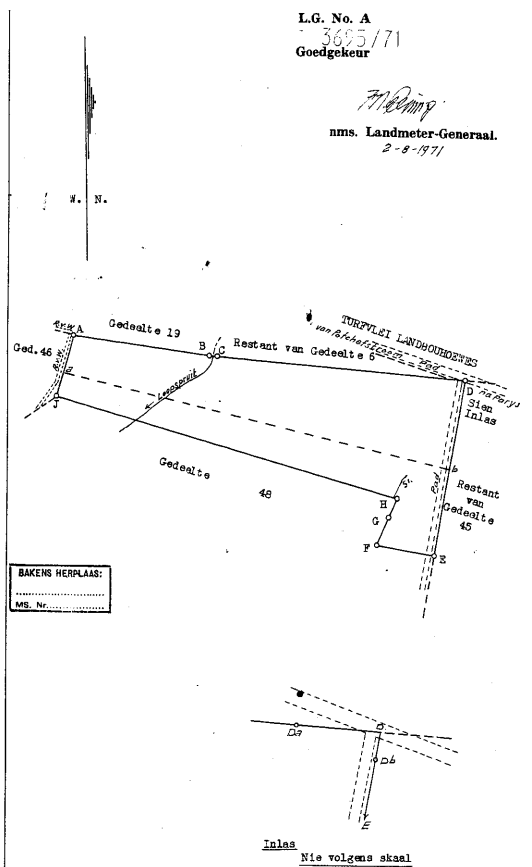
Artikel 13
 Permisie N.T.B.R. 2/1971

Skaal 1/15000

7. Die figuur A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-J-K-A
 stel voor 95,9536 hektaar grond synde
 Gedeelte 47 ('n Gedeelte van Gedeelte 45) van die plaas
 ELANDSHEUVEL NR. 436-IQ

Provisie Transvaal
 Opgeneem in Oktober 1970 deur my *J. Verbeek* Landmeter.

Hierdie kaart is gebaseer op	Die oorspronklike kaart is	Leer 116
No. 5484/73	No. A.1515/71	M.S. No. 867/71
ged.	Transport	Komp. 1/50-23/A.B&D
lg.v. Registrateur van Aktes.	Grondbrief	



L.G. No. A
 3675/71
 Goedgekeur
J. Verbeek
 nms. Landmeter-Generaal.
 2-8-1971

Figure 4: The 1971 map of Portion 47 of the farm (www.csq.dla.gov.za).

Aerial images (Google Earth) of the study and possible development area footprint show the fairly heavily disturbed nature of the area (due to agricultural activities such as ploughing), while no real sites, structures or any remains of cultural heritage significance are visible on these images, except the existing farming-related homestead and related infrastructure. The Screening Report was generated using the "National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool". According to the Screening tool, the Archaeological and Cultural sensitivity of the site is also considered to be low.



Figure 5: An aerial image of the study area and possible development footprint dating to 2005. The flat and open nature of the area is clear as well as the impact of fairly large-scale agricultural activities (Google Earth 2022). The existing farmstead is also visible.

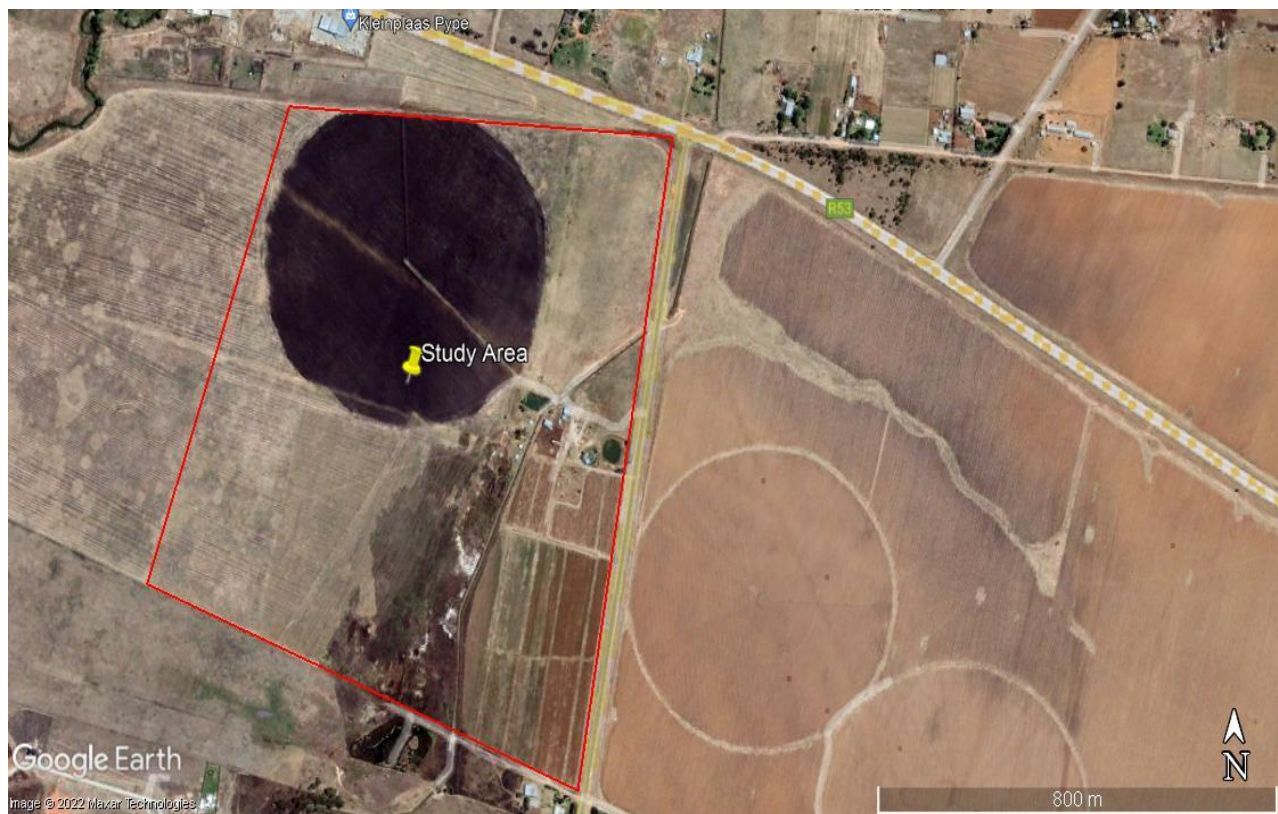


Figure 6: The same area in 2011. The impact of the agricultural activities is clearly evident (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 7: The area by 2015 (Google Earth 2022).

Based on the aerial images of the area, 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 any possible future development.

The existing farmstead, with the related infrastructure that forms part of the existing farming activities on the farm, has not been assessed in the field, and as such its age/origin and heritage significance has not been determined. However, it has been indicated that the farmstead and related infrastructure will be preserved and kept intact and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

It is therefore recommended that Motivation for Exemption from a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment as part of the Environmental Screening Process for possible development on Portion 47 of the Farm Elandsheuvel 4361Q, Potchefstroom, 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. Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies.** Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.
3. 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.
4. Lombard, M., L. Wadley, J. Deacon, S. Wurz, I. Parsons, M. Mohapi, J. Swart & P. Mitchell. 2012. South African and Lesotho Stone Age Sequence Updated (I). **South African Archaeological Bulletin 67 (195): 120–144, 2012.**
5. Pelser, A.J. 2017. **Report on a Phase 1 Heritage Assessment for the Overhead Powerline and Zeta Substation, located on Erf 1806 Van Der Hoff Park & Portion 17 of the farm Vyfhoek 424IQ Potchefstroom, Northwest Province.** Unpublished Report APelser Archaeological Consulting cc. APAC017/26. For: AB Enviro Consult. April 2017.
6. Republic of South Africa. 1999. National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999). Pretoria: the Government Printer.
7. Republic of South Africa. 1998. National Environmental Management Act (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.
8. Chief Surveyor General Database (www.csg.dla.gov.za): Documents (1) 10JDXU01 & (2) 10JNEZ01.