

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN
POSSIBLE GRAVE SITE 891 AT THE BASE OF
RENOSTERKOP PEAK,
AUGRABIES, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE



CTS HERITAGE

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for the

Agency for Cultural Resource Management (ACRM)

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1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was requested by Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed vineyard development on Farm 1726 Renosterkop, Farm 1290 and Farm 1537 Augrabies, near Augrabies in the Northern Cape Province. Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services is currently running the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed development. Whilst carrying out the field survey, Jonathan Kaplan encountered a pile of stones just outside the proposed development area at the base of Renosterkop Peak. This observation has been cautiously interpreted as indicating the possible remains of an archaeological grave. If this is indeed a grave, it will hold at least high local heritage significance (Grade IIIa) in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA, Act no 25 of 1999).

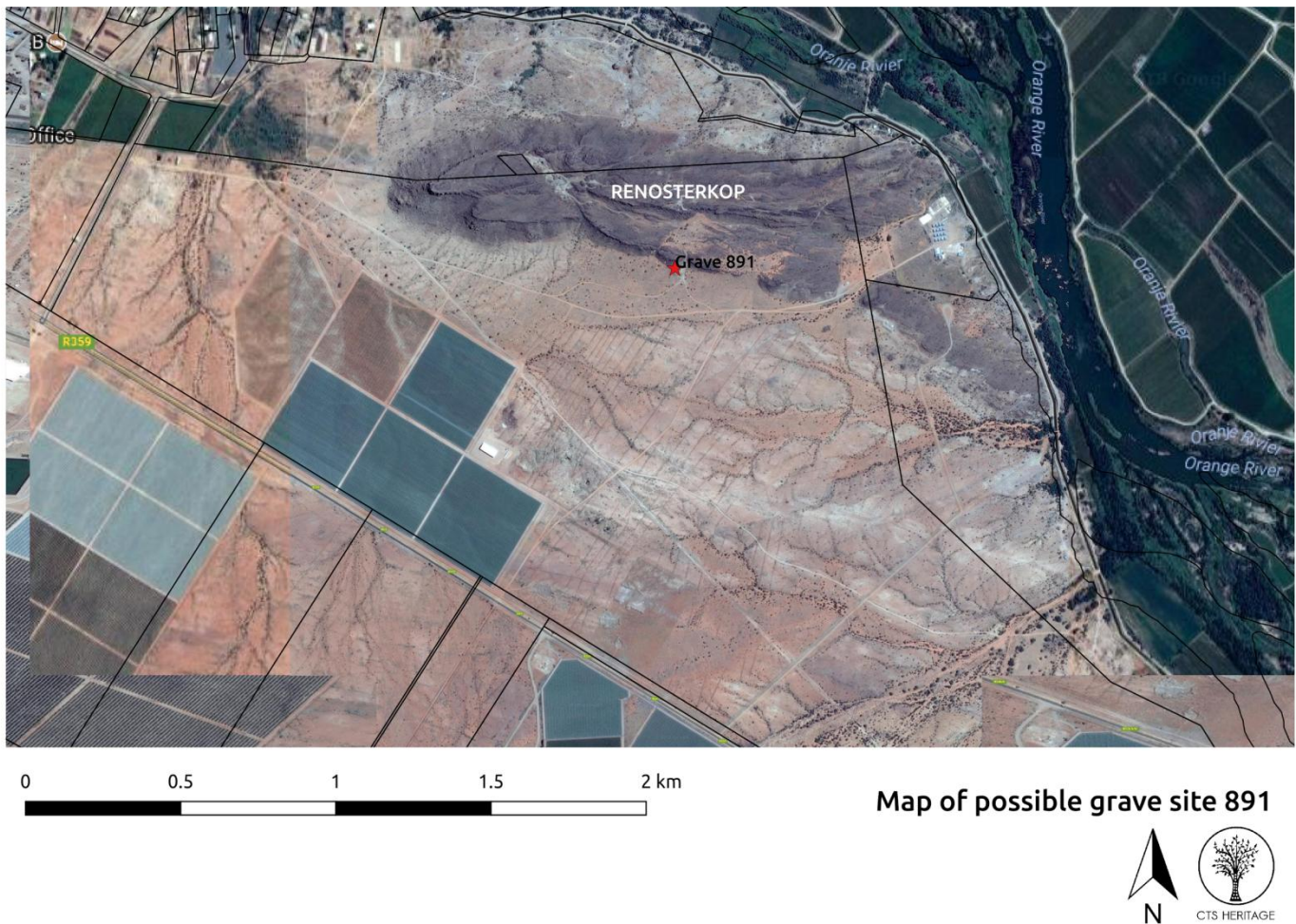


Figure 1. Map of the recorded location of possible grave site 891.

The AIA report was submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) who responded to the development application on 31 July 2017 with a “Final Comment” including conditions that had to be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). The ACRM recommendations were as follows:

- No mitigation is required prior to development activities commencing;
- A buffer of 10m must be established around the recorded grave. Alternatively, the grave must be fenced off prior to development commencing;
- If any other unmarked human remains, or ostrich eggshell caches, for example are exposed or uncovered during preparation of lands for cultivation, these must be immediately be report to the archaeologist (Jonathan Kaplan 082 321 0172) or SAHRA (Natasha Higgitt - 021 462 4509). Burials etc. must not be removed or disturbed until inspected by the archaeologist;
- The above recommendation must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.

SAHRA endorsed most of the recommendations of the specialists (archaeological and palaeontological) but differed with respect to the possible grave site 891 by making the following conditions:

- A **30m** no-go buffer must be maintained around the identified grave. It must be fenced **with an access gate** and a **Heritage Management Plan (HMP)** must be developed to be implemented as part of the EMPr. The HMP must be developed via the consulting process in terms of section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and the Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations. The HMP must include monitoring and maintenance protocols, as well as access arrangements;

SAHRA's recommendations therefore contain the following important differences from the recommendations made by the ACRM:

- SAHRA expanded the 10m buffer proposed by the ACRM to 30m
- SAHRA called for permanent fencing and an access gate instead of temporary-permanent fencing with no conditions for access or gates
- SAHRA requested that a Heritage Management Plan be drawn up satisfying S36 of the NHRA and Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations. The ACRM report recommended that the area be cordoned off and avoided only

This Heritage Management Plan has therefore been drawn up in response to SAHRA's conditions for the EMPr. In some ways this document will be a little unusual as we **do not** know for certain that we are dealing with a grave. The only way to establish this for certain is to carry out an archaeological investigation with an approved permit in terms of Section 36 of the NHRA or a Work Plan of mitigatory measures endorsed by SAHRA in terms of the Section 38(8) application for the development.

The applicant and owner of the land has no intention of destroying, damaging, altering, exhuming or removing the possible grave from its original position and has therefore not triggered Section 36(3) of the NHRA, namely:

- (3) (a) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial 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, 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 equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.*



Figures 1 & 2. Pile of stones marking possible grave site 891.

Despite the legal ambiguity introduced by the Final Comment made by SAHRA to formalise the possible grave area and to conduct the necessary public participation to involve potential stakeholders in the recognition and commemoration of the possible grave, the various impact assessment practitioners and the owner all agree that

caution should be exercised in this area by fencing off the 30m area around the possible grave and providing an access gate in case there are interested parties who have a desire to visit the possible grave.

2. MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Heritage Management Plan is to guide the activities affecting the possible grave in order to retain its significance by conserving it for future generations. A management plan is a living document in the sense that it can be updated as the situation changes and should therefore be reviewed regularly.

2.2 Summary of steps followed

This management plan identifies:

- **what needs to be managed** - by surveying and recording the site and summarising information on the location of the site and what it comprises of;
- **who will manage the site** - by listing the people who have interests in the place and might be involved in its management;
- **the significance of the site** in relation to other local, provincial and national sites because the plan is designed to retain this significance;
- **key issues that must be addressed** to retain the significance through consultation with stakeholders;
- **the goals, objectives and strategies** for management and how they will be implemented; and
- **a documentation and monitoring plan** for the possible grave site so that any changes can be detected and the steps that have been taken can be documented.

The management plan should be revised every 5 years, or as necessary when circumstances require it.

3. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 Description of the property

The possible grave site 891 is located on Farm 1726 Renosterkop about about 2kms southeast of the town of Augrabies in the Northern Cape Province (Kaplan 2016). The immediate area around the possible grave is overlooked by Renosterkop Peak, a prominent inselberg which runs roughly west-east on the southern banks of the Orange River. The inselberg is the only significant landscape feature in an otherwise flat and fairly featureless landscape.

The area is zoned for agriculture but has traditionally been used for grazing as irrigation systems have not yet been established in this portion of the farm. The proposed vineyards will rely almost entirely on irrigation water obtained from the Orange River just over 1 km to the northeast. Soils consist of shallow red sandy topsoils, with large exposed/wind eroded surface gravels and small outcrops of rocks occur in places. The predominant vegetation consists of tufts of yellow grassland, with scattered low and mid high shrubs such as thorny blackthorn. Large areas of the farm have been severely degraded and heavily ripped by bulldozers when this area was being prepared for cultivation. Deep excavations and large gravel dumps dominate the arid landscape which were historically subjected to intensive diamond prospecting. Much of this landscape character of degradation and abuse will be ameliorated through the establishment of vineyards in this area.

3.2 Archival research related to possible grave site 891 and archaeological heritage around Augrabies - expanded from Kaplan (2016)

The archaeology of the Northern Cape is rich and varied, covering long spans of human history. According to Beaumont et al (1995:240) “thousands of square kilometres of Bushmanland are covered by a low density lithic scatter”. In the wider region, Orton (2012) recorded low density scatters of LSA, MSA and ESA tools during a survey for a proposed solar energy farm near the Augrabies Falls National Park about 12kms from Renosterkop. Orton (2012) also describes a Stone Age sequence in the Augrabies Falls area where much of the information has been generated by excavations of open scatters containing stone tools, pottery and ostrich eggshell, as well as excavations of several small shelters near the falls, and the town of Augrabies (Morris & Beaumont 1991). Small numbers of MSA tools were also documented by Van Schalkwyk (2013) during a HIA for a township development near Augrabies, while Pelser (2012) recorded small numbers of LSA as well as ESA implements during an AIA for a solar energy farm near the National Park.

Some archaeological work has been done in the Augrabies area (mainly impact assessments as part of the EIA process), while Morris and Beaumont (1991) undertook a combined impact assessment and mitigation of sites on Renosterkop Peak, also known (historically) to pre-colonial local Namneiqua pastoralists as !Nawabdanas. Several, mostly low-density surface scatters of Middle (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) material were identified on and around the hill, which is also the site of the historic Renosterkop Tin Mine (circa 1940). Archaeological investigation of a Ceramic LSA surface scatter (Renosterkop 1) and a small LSA rock shelter (Renosterkop 2) were undertaken by Morris and Beaumont (1991), who showed that the two sites likely pre-date the late 18th Century. These sites were deemed as having the greatest potential to yield important archaeological information at Renosterkop. Morris and



Figure 3. Landscape context at the base of Renosterkop Peak.

Beaumont (1991) were also able to show, based on extensive historical research, a rapidly changing cultural and linguistic landscape from as early as the mid 1700s, up until the violent Northern Border (frontier) War of 1869/9.

Historical and insubstantial stone walled structures were also recorded by Morris and Beaumont during their surveys and mitigation carried out at Renosterkop. These structures were associated with the short-lived diamond diggings circa 1927 (Hopkins 1978) and tungsten prospecting pits in the 1940s (Joubert 1941). Morris and Beaumont (1991) also note that many skeletons, most dating to the 18th and 19th Centuries were exhumed from the area, along the banks of the Orange River near Augrabies in the late 1930s. Morris noted that there are substantial herder encampments along the floodplain of the Orange River, but these tend to be short duration visits by small groups of hunter-gatherers. Most of these camps have, however, been destroyed by intensive farming alongside the river.

Renosterkop is therefore a relatively well surveyed archaeological and historical node between Kakamas and Augrabies and the possible grave site 891 fits the pattern one would expect when encountering unmarked graves dating to the historical period or even further back into the past.

3.3 Description of possible grave site 891

Site 891 (S28° 40.771' E20° 27.351')

Common Name: Renosterkop 891

Directions: Approximately 2km southeast of Augrabies at the base of Renosterkop

Physical Site Type: Grave (possible, archaeological)

Height: Low

Access Difficulty: Easy

Broad Age Category: Later Stone Age or historical

Width (m): 1

Length (m): 2

Artefacts & Deposit Info: none in association with the pile of stones

Description: A single grave (Site 891) was recorded on the soft, red sands at the base of Renosterkop Peak (Figure 32). Comprising a pile of deliberately arranged stone, no head or foot stone is evident, suggesting that the grave is not a Christian burial. Historical evidence indicates that Renosterkop Peak, also known as !Nawabdanas, was settled by Namneiqua pastoralists, while groups of people, including 'Bastards', 'Kafirs', Korannas and Bushman were reported from the area in the late 1800s. The grave could conceivably belong to any one of these groups. It is also noted that some of the known Kakamas-Augrabies burials were exhumed from the banks of the Orange River at Renosterkop in 1936 (Dreyer & Meiring 1937; Morris & Beaumont 1991). No grave goods such as shell, glass or metal items/containers were found associated with the grave, therefore indicating considerable antiquity. The grave is about 30m from Site 889 which comprises a thin scatter of tools in banded ironstone, indurated shale and quartz.

4. VALUES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POSSIBLE GRAVE SITE

4.1 General points on significance

The cultural significance of a site determines the appropriateness and extent to which protection measures are required. The value or importance of the site to society in general, to specific past and present groups, and to posterity, includes:

- Spiritual/social value - the traditional and consistent use of a site for religious, spiritual or social purposes, even if the religious use no longer continues
- Historic value - the achievements and knowledge of the past as vehicles for enlightening the present and future
- Scientific/research value - the site, or feature within the site, providing a source of knowledge that is unobtainable elsewhere

Since cultural significance can be interpreted differently by different people, and evaluations can change with time and circumstances, it is important to assess the significance of a site in terms of:

- The importance of a particular site in relation to other sites so as to decide on the appropriate level of management
- Ascertaining what all these values are so as not to inadvertently damage one value that a site has, while preserving another.

Past mistakes that followed definitions of value and importance that were too narrow should inform the site manager in ensuring that ALL aspects of a site's significance have been carefully assessed, based largely on the evidence and information gathered.



Figure 4. Landscape context at the base of Renosterkop Peak.

4.2 Values and significance of possible grave site 891

Unmarked graves are generally left undisturbed when encountered during development activities or other heritage surveys. There are numerous ethical and legal issues in exhuming human remains and this case should be treated no differently. Given the extensive work done by Morris and Beaumont (1991) at Renosterkop in the 1990s, we are fortunately able to contextualise this possible grave site within a broader archaeological and heritage landscape on and immediately surrounding Renosterkop. Should future work require or necessitate an archaeological investigation of this possible burial site, it may turn out that this was not a burial site after all; or, should human remains be found, the

age and most likely community of the deceased could be determined. For management purposes, this section will assume this is a burial site.

Grave site 891 holds high local significance as a place of commemoration and memory. While the identity and age of the possible deceased individual(s) at the grave site are unknown, the archaeological and general heritage record at Renosterkop has been well studied showing that various indigenous Khoesan groups occupied the area before pastoralist groups moved into the area in the last 2000 years into the more recent colonial and historical period. In the 20th century Renosterkop has a history of various phases of mining (diamonds and tungsten) and, more recently, advanced irrigation technologies and international markets for wine and table grapes is transforming the area into vineyards. The significance of site 891, in association with previously studied and preserved sites at Renosterkop 1 & 2, is that these sites provide a window into the past that provide tangible evidence for pre-colonial and historical occupation of the area before private land ownership was formalised and the current pattern of settlement distribution between farms and urbanised areas was established.

5. LEGISLATION

The following legislation directly, but not exclusively, protects these resources.

- **The National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25 of 1999**, defines archaeology as “material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures”.
- Section 36 of the NHRA protects graves and Section 3 (2)(g) lists graves graves and burial grounds, including—
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - (vi) other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);

The possible grave sites 891 would fall within this definition of graves if human remains were found and would therefore protected under the Act. In terms of Section 36 (3)(b) of the Act no person may destroy, damage, alter, exhume, 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 without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority.

- **The National Environmental Management Act, Act no. 107 of 1998 (NEMA)**, relates to the environment associated with the heritage sites in terms of proposals for development in the area, e.g. damming of watercourses and subsequent flooding of heritage sites, activities that might generate pollution or damage to sites, change in land use, etc and which trigger one of the listed activities in the NEMA Regulations.

6. STAKEHOLDERS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LONG TERM MANAGEMENT OF POSSIBLE GRAVE SITE 891.

6.1 Results of Public Participation around possible grave site 891

The public participation will include the placement of an advertisement in the local newspaper and notifications letters sent to Authorities which include: SAHRA, DENC, Local Municipalities, Ward Councillors and the SAN Council. All comments and responses will be concluded after public participation took place.

6.2 Responsibilities & Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for long-term management of the possible grave site 891 to conserve the significance of the place as part of the irreplaceable history and shared cultural heritage of the landscape. The following management goals provide guidelines for conservation and maintenance of the possible grave site, acceptable physical protection and conservation, visitor education, monitoring and research.

The main stakeholders for the site currently are the owner of the property, Burger Du Plessis Familie Trust and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). Should the landowner change, the responsibilities for the conservation of these sites must be carried over to the new landowner.

Perhaps, problematically, SAHRA has made a condition stipulating that the area (30m) around the possible grave site 891 should be fenced with an access gate. This will formalise the area permanently instead of temporarily protecting the possible grave site during the development of the vineyard as recommended by the ACRM. It is possible that unwanted vandalism of the access gate and fencing will occur or that questions will be asked about the possible deceased in site 891 that cannot be answered at this stage. The landowner must therefore report any instances where illegal activities occur to SAHRA so that HMP may be updated and a possible alternative intervention to conserve the possible grave site could be determined. As this is a living document, the owner is invited to freely provide feedback to SAHRA as circumstances change over time.

6.1 Retain the cultural significance of the possible grave site

Action	Responsible party
No structural developments are permitted within 30m of possible grave site 891	Landowner and Project manager
If the area surrounding the No-Go zone around the possible grave site is to be developed or used for infrastructure, farming, recreation, or housing, the site must not be used during or after construction for storage of building materials or related activities.	Landowner and Project manager
An annual (or appropriately scheduled) site inspection should be made to monitor the possible grave site	Landowner
Report any site damage to SAHRA and the McGregor Museum	Landowner to contact archaeologist

6.2 Manage visitor behaviour

Action	Responsible party
Visitors may access the possible grave site on condition that the guidelines for visitor behaviour, and the cultural values and significance of the place, should be made known in a pamphlet and/or notice board that includes an explanation of the significance of the possible grave site and guidelines for its conservation.	Landowner

6.3 Conserve the possible grave site 891 for the future

Action	Responsible party
Keep prints/digital copies of photos of the possible grave site at places that are visited regularly in a file/computer medium so they can be compared used to identify changes in condition.	Landowner
Monitor the possible grave site (annually/appropriate schedule) and record any changes that might threaten the site.	Landowner
No interventions are permitted at the site without professional guidance and a permit from SAHRA.	Landowner

7. DOCUMENTATION AND MONITORING

All site record sheets, digital photos and mapping have been loaded securely to SAHRIS so that the landowner(s)/developers are able to access the information online. Access to the database is governed by SAHRA and site coordinate data is not freely available to the general public without special permission.

Any new sites located on the property need to be added to this database.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Jonathan Kaplan for the background research and information on the site and for commissioning the work.

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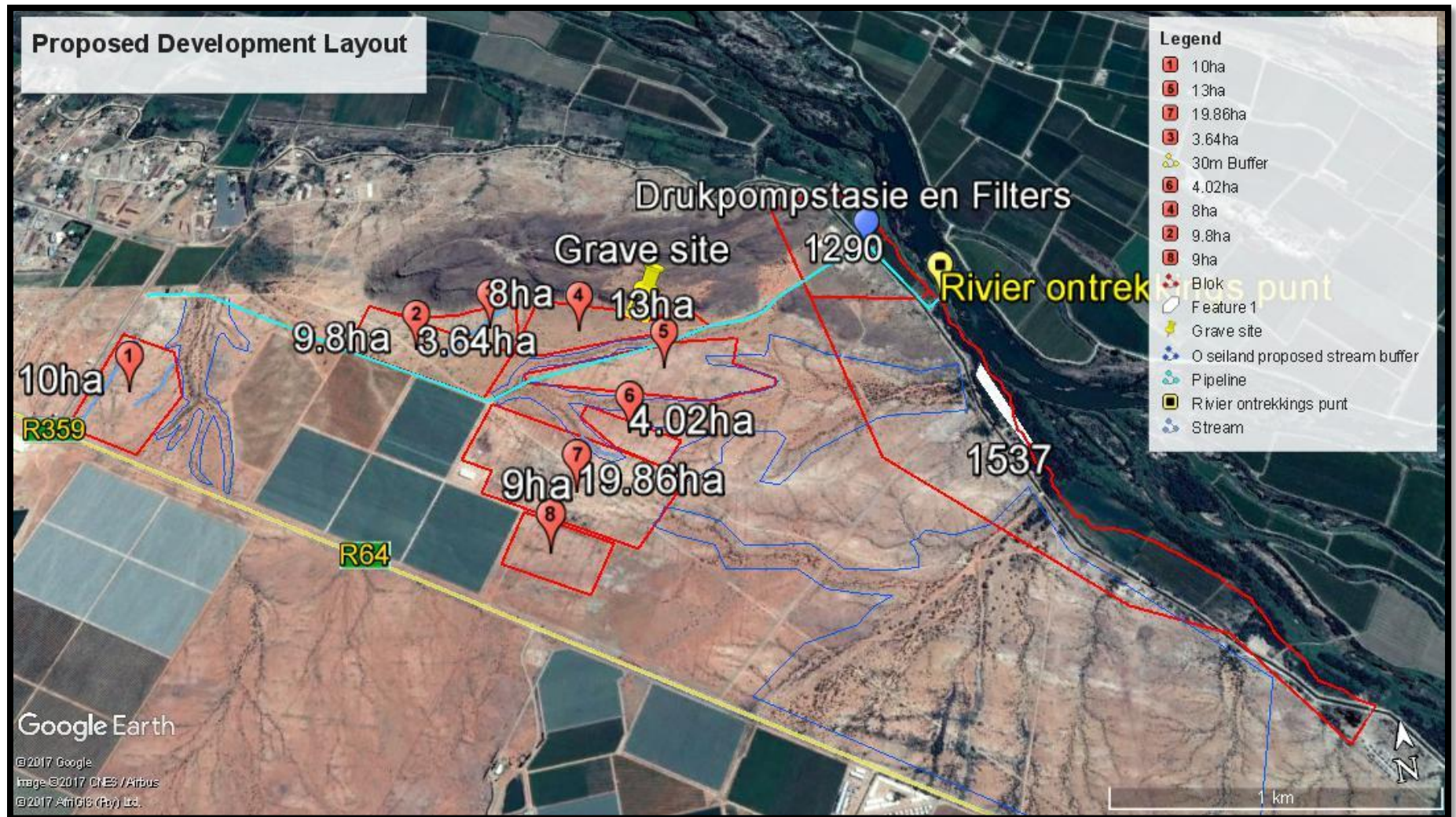
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Appendix A: Site Layout



Appendix B: Grave site boundary (note this is just a rough estimate)

