



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE: PROPOSED LETTER OF EXEMPTION FROM FURTHER SPECIALIST STUDIES & MITIGATION**

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 25M HIGH TELECOMMUNICATION MAST ON PORTION 126 OF THE FARM BRAKKEFONTEIN NO. 416, ROCKLANDS, NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE**

23 June, 2021

*1. Introduction*

ACRM was appointed by EnviroAfrica, on behalf of High Wave Consultants (Pty) Ltd to conduct a desktop archaeological screening assessment study for the proposed construction of a telecommunications mast and base station on Portion 126 of the Farm Brakkefontein No. 416, Rocklands, Nelson Mandela Municipality, in the Eastern Cape (Figures 1-3).

EnviroAfrica is the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner responsible for facilitating environmental authorisation for the project. A Basic Assessment process will be followed in the application

*2. Project description*

The proposed development on the Farm Brakkefontein 416/126 Rocklands, entails construction of a free standing, 25m high monopole mast with antennas, situated on the top of the proposed structure, and with four service provider equipment containers. The site will be enclosed with a palisade fence for safety and security reasons. The base station will have a total developmental footprint size of 57.6m<sup>2</sup>. The site will be enclosed by fencing for security reasons. An existing road will be used to gain access to the site (Figures 6 & 7).

*3. The study site*

The site for the proposed 25m high monopole mast (33° 51' 19.61"S, 25° 17' 37.67"E.) is located on the Farm Brakkefontein 416/126, off Elands River Road, close to Port Elizabeth

The primary use of the 68ha property is agriculture. Surrounding land use is agriculture, informal housing, residential and commercial and open spaces.

*4. Approach to the study*

A desk top study was undertaken to establish the archaeological context of the proposed site. This entailed a search of the SAHRIS content management website.

*5. Archaeological context*

Until very recently no archaeological work has been conducted in Louterwater. The closest known areas where commercial Archaeological Impact Assessments (or AIAs) have been done, is at the

. A few HIAs have been conducted in the Hankey and Patensie areas more than 100kms further to the south, where mostly ephemeral scatters and isolated ESA, MSA and LSA tools have been recorded (Binneman 2010, 2002).



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Only one impact study has been conducted in Louerwater, where a few isolated and weathered Middle Stone Age flakes (of low significance) were recorded on the farm Grootkloof during an AIA for the proposed Granor Passi Effluent Evaporation ponds a few kms north of Louerwater. The remains were found in old agricultural land in a degraded and transformed context (Booth 2016).

No archaeological work has been done in Joubertinia, the closest town to Louerwater.

## *6. Anticipated impact*

Given the highly degraded footprint area (Figure 5), and surrounding transformed agricultural land (Figure 4), the impact of the proposed development of a 35m high telecommunication on Farm 291/61 Louerwater, is rated as being very low to negligible.

## *7. Conclusion*

It is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological remains will be encountered in the small, 56.7m<sup>2</sup> footprint area.

## *8. Recommendations*

Given the anticipated low impact significance of the proposed development on archaeological resources, there are no objections to authorisation of the proposed project.

It is therefore recommended that exemption from further specialist archaeological studies and mitigation be granted.



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*9. References*



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Figure 1. Google earth satellite map showing the regional context of the study site



Figure 2. Google satellite map indicating the village of Rocklands north of the N2 and west of the R334 in the E. Cape



Figure 3. Close up Google satellite map showing the proposed mast site in relation to the village of Rocklands

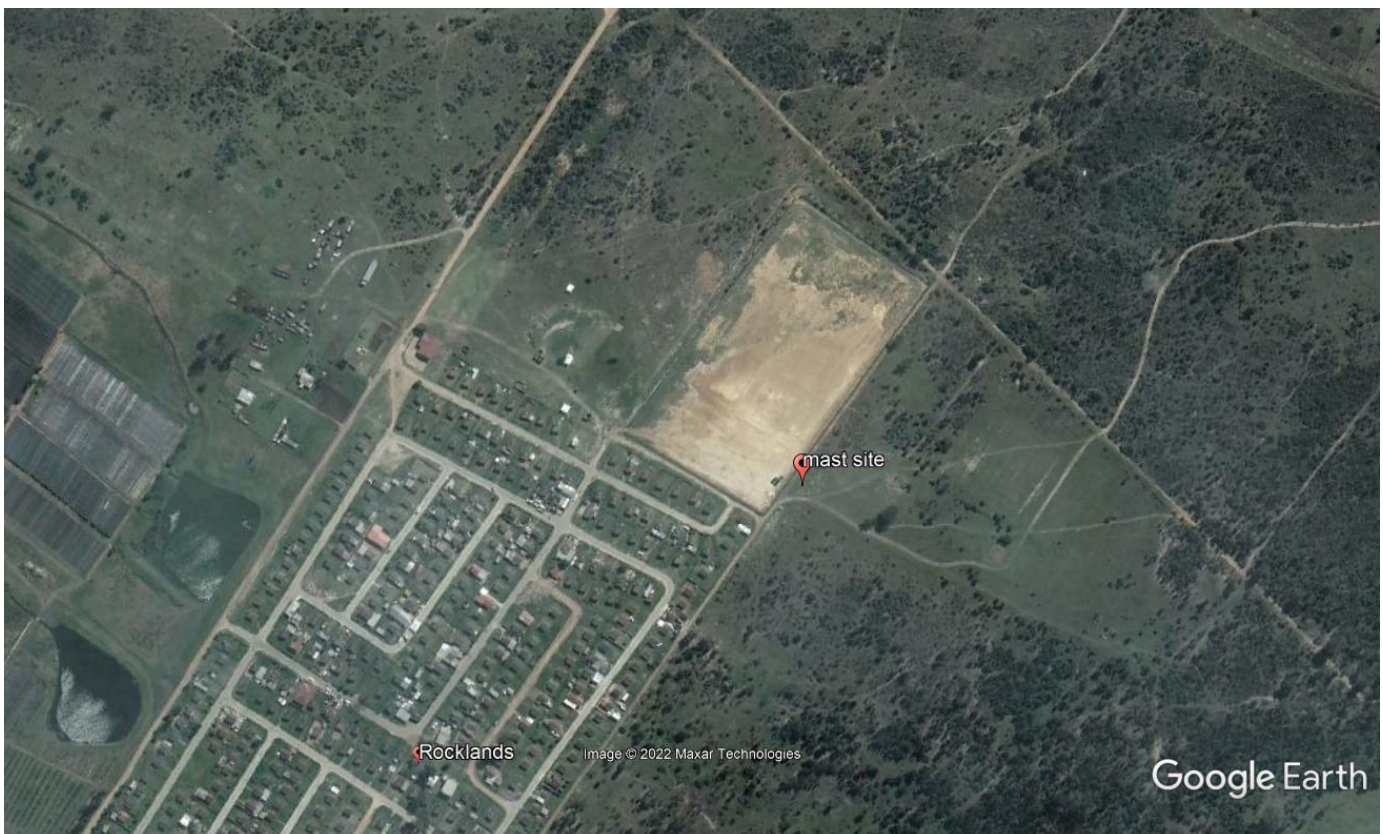


Figure 4. Close up satellite map showing the location of the proposed mast site in old agricultural lands



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Figure 5. General view of the proposed telecom site at Louterwater. The proposed site is on an already disturbed piece of land, with little to no natural vegetation cover. View facing north east

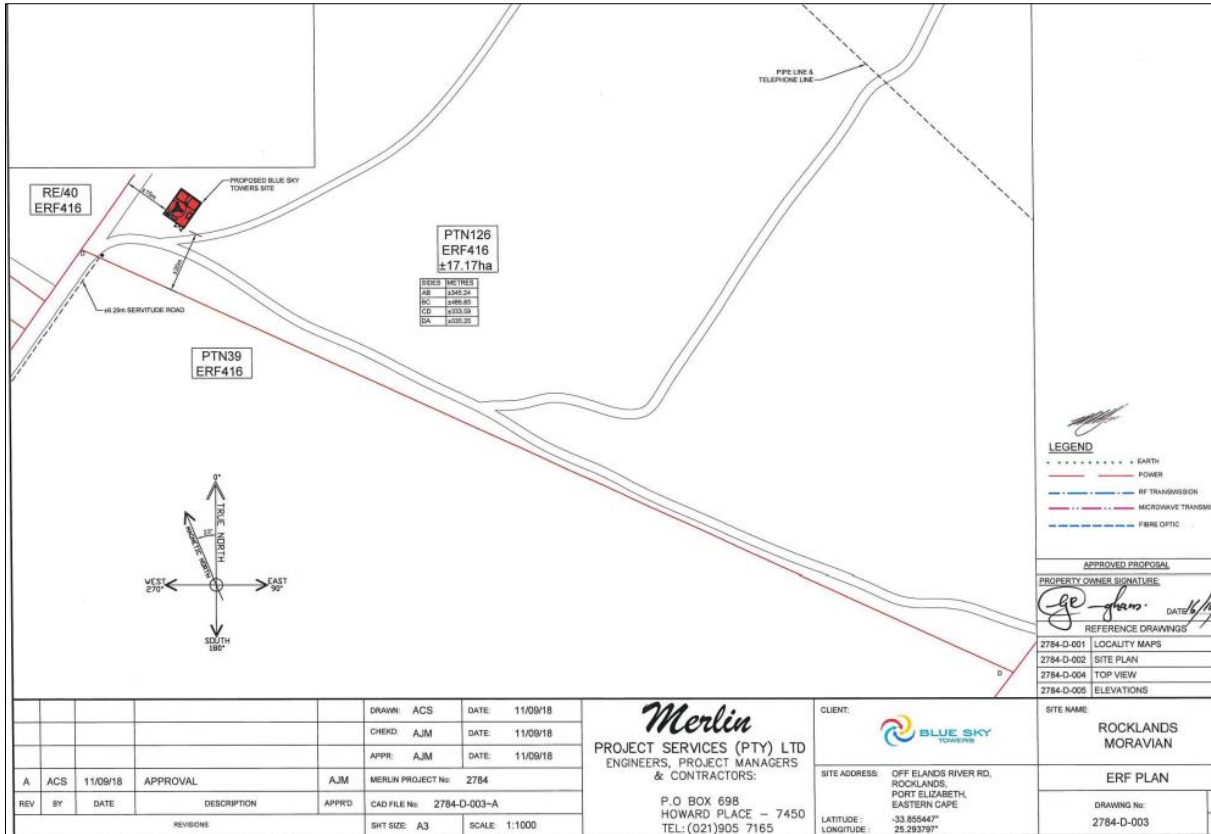


Figure 6. Floor plan of the proposed Louterwater telecommunication mast

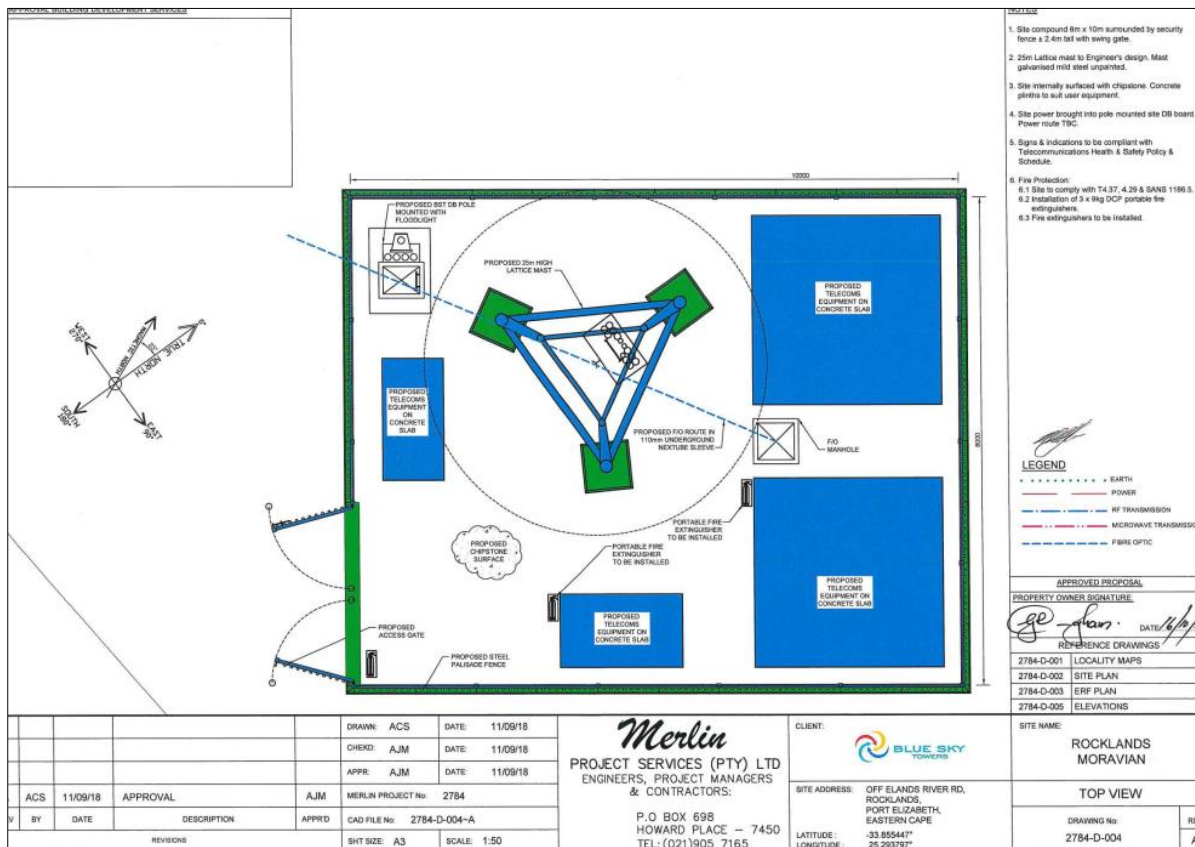


Figure Detailed floor plan of the proposed Rocklands telecommunication mast

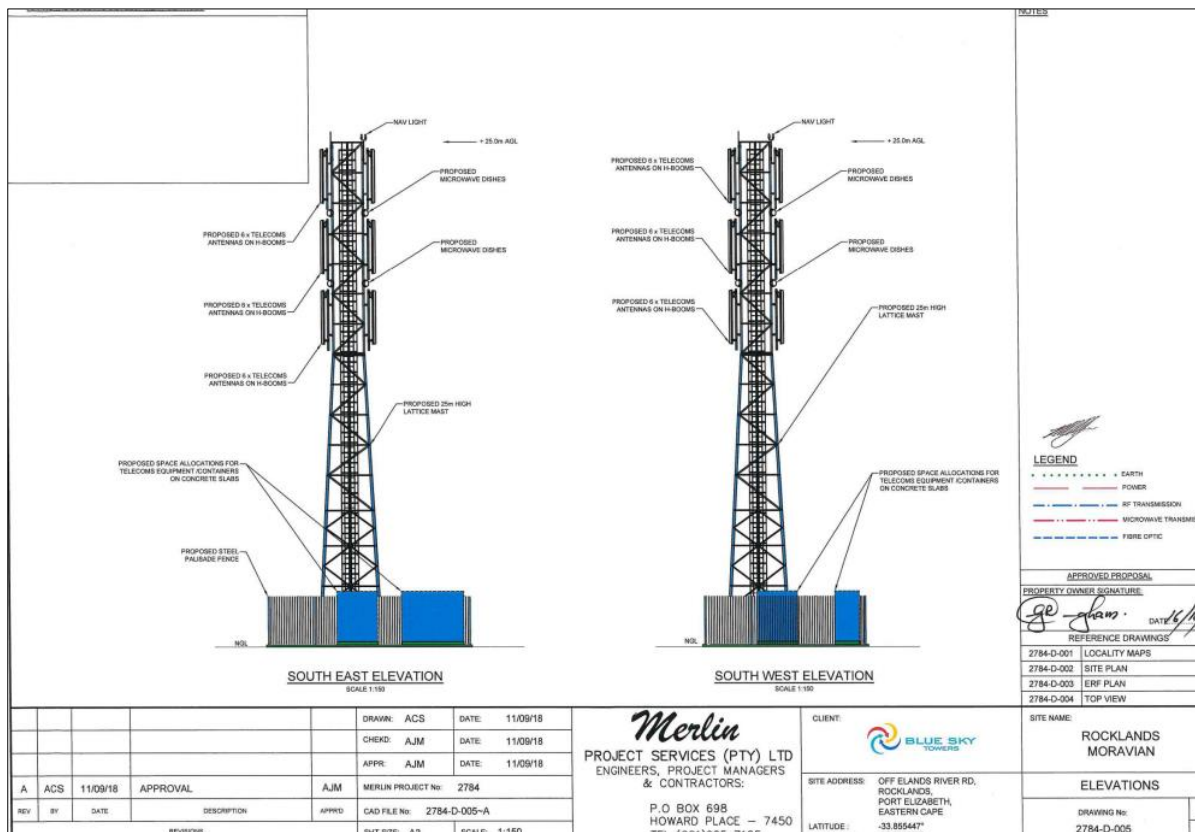


Figure 7. Elevation plan of the proposed Rocklands telecommunication mast