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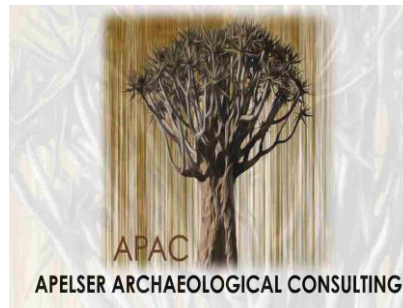
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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
CK 2006/014630/23 **VAT NO.: 4360226270**

Reference: APAC016/33

2016-06-07

To: Mr.. A. Salomon
South African Heritage Resources Agency

SAHRA
P.O.Box 4637
CAPE TOWN
8001

RE: LETTER OF EXEMPTION FOR FULL HIA & SHORT REPORT: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE KROSA SAND MINE ON PORTION 96 OF THE FARM DE WAGENDRIFT 417JR, EAST OF PRETORIA/MOLOTO AREA, GAUTENG

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc (APAC) was approached by EcoPartners (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Desktop (Basic) Heritage Assessment for the above development. A Basic Assessment for the Development has been completed by the client, which included a field visit, and based on this information, as well as scans of the aerial imaging of the development (study area) site, it is believed that a Full HIA (field visits and surveying) will not be required for this project. A number of recommendations and protocols regarding any possible unknown cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites, features and material that could be uncovered during future development activities are put forward at the end of this document, and if adhered to there should be no reason from a Cultural Heritage perspective for the development not to continue.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

The study area (Krosa Sand Mine) is located on Portion 96 of the farm De Wagendrift 417JR, east of Pretoria and the Moloto area, in Gauteng. A total area of 5ha is proposed to be mined and developed for the purpose of a Sand Mine. Over and above the mining area, a Topsoil Storage and Product Storage area is also planned.

Based on information provided by the client (EcoPartners) the topography of the area is relatively flat and open, with the area having been used in the recent for agricultural purposes (including grazing). From the photographs provided, as well as the aerial images (Google Earth) it seems as if the areas' grass was also recently cut. There are no rocky outcrops or ridges present. Visibility was therefore very good. Some informal residential refuse dumping also occurs in the area.

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Beatrix Bed & Breakfast Trading as A Pelser Archaeological Consulting

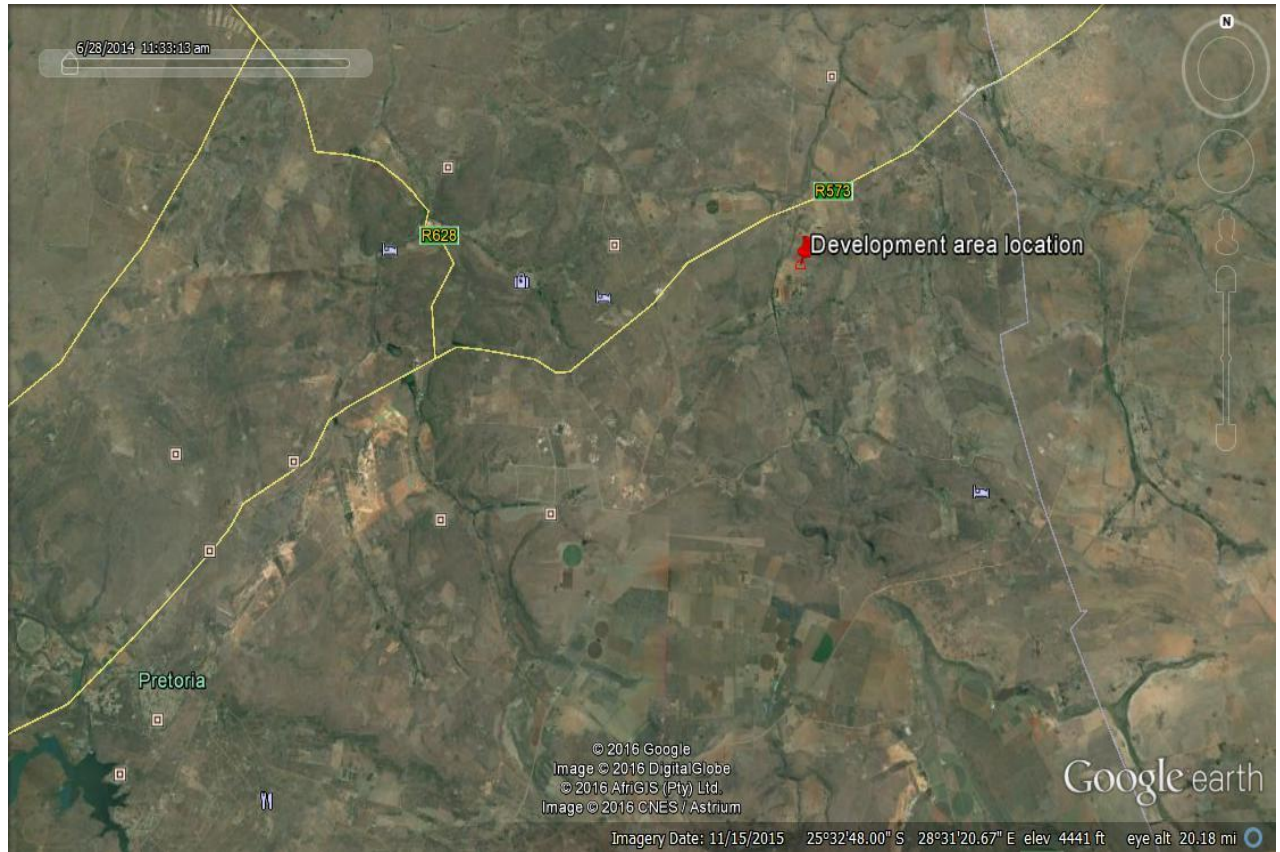


Fig. 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2016).

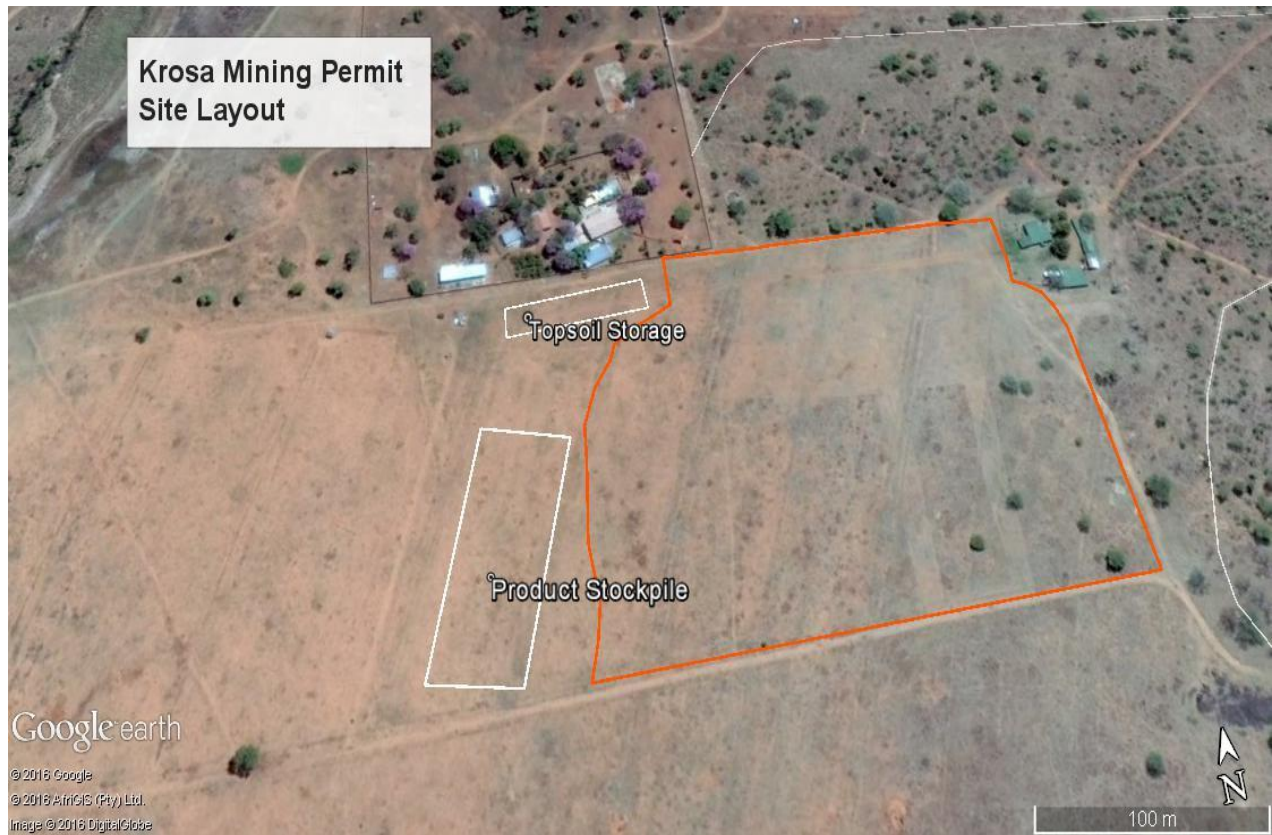


Fig. 2: Closer view of Site Layout showing mining area (orange) & location of proposed Topsoil Storage & Product Stockpile sections (Provided by EcoPartners).



Fig.3: View of a section of study area. Note the cut grass (Photo courtesy Jansie Cornelius).



Fig.4: Another view of the area showing the open flat nature of it (Photo courtesy Jansie Cornelius).



Fig.5: Another view of a section of the area (Photo courtesy Jansie Cornelius).



**Fig.6: Some residential refuse dumping occurs in a section of the area
(Photo courtesy Jansie Cornelius).**



**Fig.7: Another view showing the open and flat nature of the development area
(Photo courtesy Jansie Cornelius).**

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc (APAC) was approached by EcoPartners (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Desktop (Basic) Heritage Assessment for the above development. A Basic Assessment for the Development has been completed by the client, which included a field visit, and based on this information, as well as scans of the aerial imaging of the development (study area) site, it is believed that a Full HIA (field visits and surveying) will not be required for this project.

There are no known cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites in the study area and surrounds, although this could just be because of a lack of research. The closest known Stone Age site is that of Fort Troje located north of Cullinan (Bergh 1999: 4), while there are no known Early Iron Age sites (p.6). Bergh does however indicate that there are some Later Iron Age sites in the larger geographical area within which the development site falls (p.7). The earliest Europeans travelling through the area was the group of traveller Scoon in 1836, followed by the Voortrekkers from the 1840's onwards (Bergh 1999: 13-14). During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the larger area also saw some activity (p.51; 54).

Based on his research Huffman indicates that (if any LIA sites are to be found) that there is a possibility of the Olifantspoort facies of the Urewe pottery Tradition (AD1500-AD1700); the Uitkomst facies of the same tradition (AD1650-AD1820) and the Buispoort facies of Urewe (AD1700-AD1840) occurring in the area (Huffman 2007: 171; 191; 203).

The study area falls on a portion of the original farm De Wagendrift 417JR. An old map of this farm was located in the database of the Chief Surveyor General (www.csg.dla.gov.za). The map dates to 1895 (**CSG Document 10I3GX01**), and shows that the farm was surveyed and mapped in December 1893 for one F.Klinkenberg. The farm was then numbered as No.453, and was located in the District of Pretoria, Ward Elandsrivier of the ZAR (Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek). No historical sites or features are shown on this map however.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc (APAC) was approached by EcoPartners (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Desktop (Basic) Heritage Assessment for the above development. A Basic Assessment for the Development has been completed by the client, which included a field visit, and based on this information, as well as scans of the aerial imaging of the development (study area) site, it is believed that a Full HIA (field visits and surveying) will not be required for this project.

Based on the information provided by the client, as well as scans of the aerial imaging of the development (study area) site, it is believed that a Full HIA (field visits and surveying) will not be required for this project. There are also no known cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites or features in the study area, and if any did exist here it would have been disturbed or completely destroyed by recent agricultural activities.

From a Cultural Heritage perspective, the development should therefore be allowed to continue without the required Full Phase 1 HIA. Please except this document as a Letter of Exemption for the Full HIA and provide the client with the necessary comments and Record of Decision in this regard as soon as possible so that development actions can be finalised. However, with a heritage specialist not having done a physical assessment of the study area, care should be taken during the development actions. The subterranean nature of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artefacts makes finding and exposing previously unknown and invisible cultural heritage remains a possibility, and this aspect needs to be kept in mind at all times. Unmarked graves are included here. Care should therefore be taken during any development activities that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified heritage specialist should be called in to investigate.

Should there be any questions regarding this document please contact the author of this letter as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Anton Pelser



REFERENCES

Aerial view of the study area – Google Earth 2016

Maps and Layout Plans for the Krosa Sand Mine development: Courtesy EcoPartners (Pty) Ltd.

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.

www.csg.dla.gov.za – Database of the Chief Surveyor General: Document No.10I3GX01.