

**First phase archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the proposed Vididex development of portions 43/44/45 of the farm 272. Orania. Northern Cape Province.**



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Orania Aandeleblok (RF)(PTY)LTD intends developing a residential area, an industrial area and a green area on portions 43/44/45 of farm 272 located east of the town Orania.

The aim of the study is to determine the localities of archaeological, historical and other cultural remains in relation to the proposed developments and to assess the impact of the developments on it.

Two unidentifiable stone engravings, one graffiti and a solitary Stone Age flake found is of low significance.

A fenced off cemetery in the industrial area footprint is however of local importance (Grade III A significance). It will have an impact on the development of the industrial area. A conservancy plan must be drawn up. The "Gemeenskap Dienste" section of Orania Dorpsraad is willing to assist in this respect. It is recommended that the proposed development proceed.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Orania Aandeleblok (RF)(PTY)LTD intends the Vididex development of a residential area, an industrial area and a green area on portions 43/44/45 of farm 272. A heritage impact study is required and Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd. was contracted. This report is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and will be part of the EIA.

## **2. STUDY METHODOLOGY**

The area (70 ha), proposed for development, was investigated on foot with the assistance of members of an off-road motorcycle club that has an obstacle course on the terrain. Interested students of a local school also took part. Observations and findings were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera. A GIS specialist was responsible for the maps. Prof Divid Morris of the Sol Plaatjie University, Kimberley, was consulted on the cemetery. Mr Renus Steyn, retired executive Officer of Orania Town Council provided information on the historical background of the cemetery. Because of the exceptional high summer rainfall, the area under investigation was mostly covered by thick grass making observation difficult, especially in the cemetery. Staff of Orania Gemeenskap Dienste assisted by cutting the grass in the cemetery by hand. It was done under supervision, taking care against damaging grave headstones or cultural objects placed on the graves. Afterwards Orania Veiligheidsdienste supplied a drone photo of the cemetery.

Previous archaeological and cultural heritage assessment studies in the region were done by Opperman (2012, 2013a, 2013b, 2016, 2017, 2021)

## **3. LOCALITIES (ANNEXURES A,B)**

The area for the Vididex development lies directly east of Orania and south of the “servitude” dirt road that passes through Orania. According to Antoinette Eysel – Knox vegetation specialist (personal communication) the historical vegetation is Xhariep Karroid Grassland. The land surface is mostly shale with some dolerite on the western side. The dolerite is derived from dykes on top of the Karoo super group (Parkington etal 2008).

The cemetery is located close to the dirt road in the footprint area earmarked for industrial development.

Farm 272 belonged to DWA (1965 – 1990). The cemetery was used for burials of their workers who lived in Orania (Renus Steyn pers. Communication).

#### **4. FINDINGS AND RECORDED FINDINGS (ANNEXURES C, D)**

All recorded findings, except the position of each grave inside the cemetery, were plotted on maps (GIS format) (decimal degrees). Photos were taken. The two engravings are difficult to photograph and are described as unidentifiable. These, as well as one graffiti and a solitary Stone Age flake, will have no impact on the development.

The cemetery is described in detail. When found the site was heavily overgrown with grass and some shrubs. Some headstones were visible but the majority of graves were difficult to locate. Careful cutting of grass made it possible to establish the positions of at least 62 graves. Most of the graves (48) were concentrated on the western side of the cemetery in roughly parallel rows. The rest of the graves (17) were located in 2 rows against the eastern fence of the cemetery. The positions of most graves were shown by the greyish shale with which the graves were filled up. The cemetery was in a condition of total neglect with some vandalism visible as well as possibly aardvark making holes into some of the graves. Few graves still had cultural objects placed on it by family members. It was possible to recognize 5 types of graves:

1. Graves with formal headstones (5)
2. Graves with rock headstones (15)
3. Graves without headstones (36)
4. Graves covered by packed stones (2)
5. Graves with concrete block headstones (4)

#### **5. ASSESMENT OF IMPACT**

The impact on the proposed development is of low significance except for the cemetery which is of local importance (Grade III A significance)

#### **6. MITIGATION**

A conservation plan must be drawn up for the protection and management of the cemetery.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend that depending on the findings of other specialists, the proposed developments may proceed. It is possible that archaeological materials may appear during excavations for the building process. This phase should be monitored.

## 8. REFERENCES

Eysel – Knox, A. Personal Communication.

Morris. D.2021 Personal communication.

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Opperman, H. 2013b. First phase archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the proposed residential development on plot A100, Orania, District: Hopetown, Province: Northern Cape.

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Opperman H. 2017b. First phase archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the proposed development of Karoosig. A residential area on the remainder of portion 8 of the farm Vluytjeskraal 149, Orania, Northern Cape Province.

Opperman H. 2017c. First phase archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the proposed development of Kleingeluk – Oos. A residential area on the remainder of portion 8 of the farm Vluytjeskraal 149, Orania, Northern Cape Province.

Opperman H. 2017d. First phase archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the proposed development of the University on portion 8 of the farm Vluytjeskraal 149, Orania, Northern Cape Province.

Opperman H. 2021. First phase archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the proposed development of 10 areas on portion 3 of the farm Vluytjeskraal 149, Orania, Northern Cape Province.

Parkington, J, Morris, De Rush, N 2008. Karoo engravings. Cape Town.

Creda Communications

Steyn, R. 2021. Personal Communication.

Vermeulen, F. 2021. Personal Communication.

# **ANNEXURES**



STUDY AREA: VIDIDEX ito AERIAL PHOTOS OF 2017

Annexure A



**LEGEND:**  
 Study area outline

Aerial Photos Oranina:  
 2924CD 03, 04, 08 & 09 2017

STUDY AREA:  
 Vididex = 91,19ha

Total Development Area = 91,19ha



Scale 1:10 000

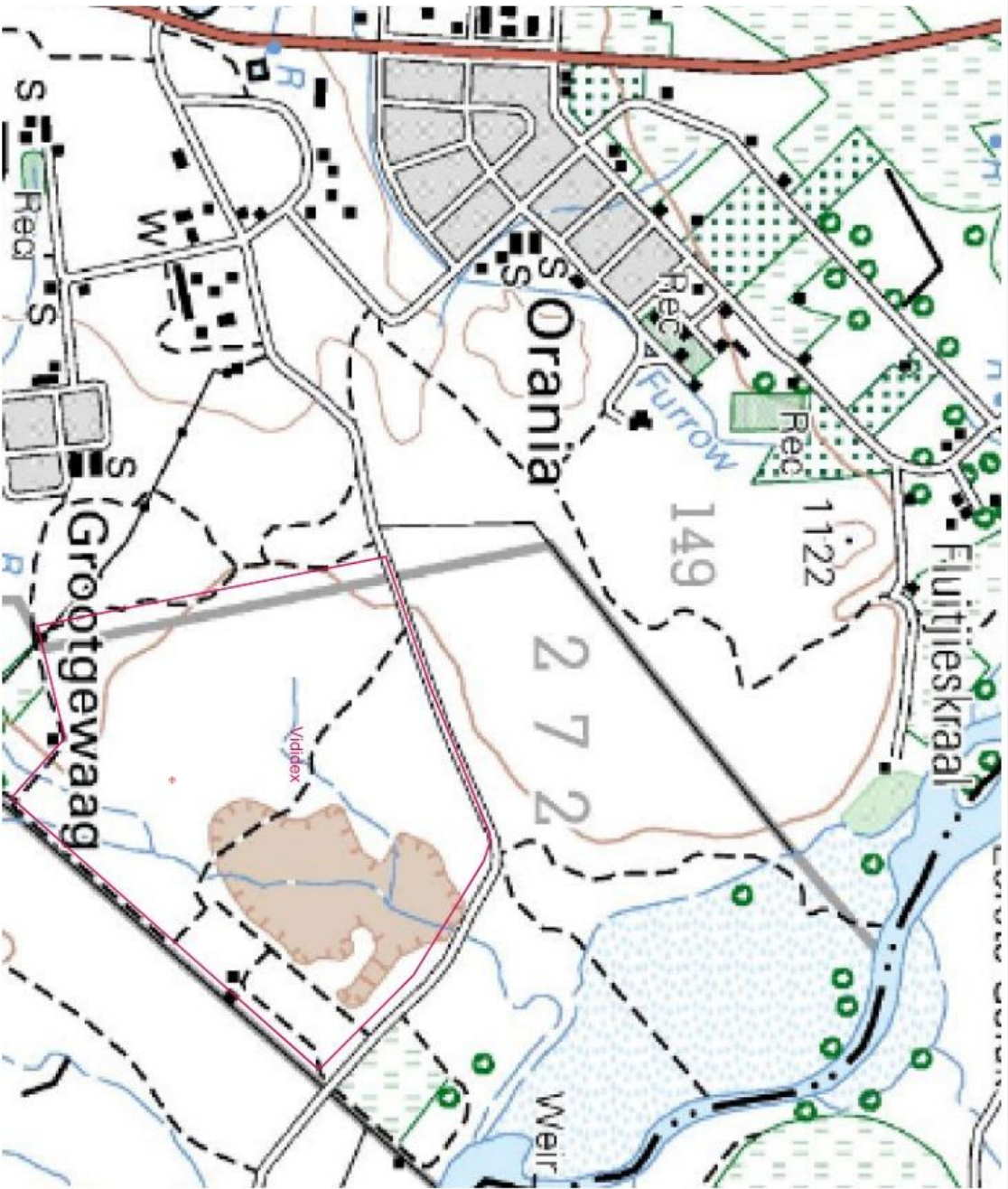
Datum: Hardshestok 94  
 Spheroid: WGS84  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator on WGS25  
 Aerial photo and 0.5m contours: Oranina Dorpsraad

17 June 2021

Annexure A: Study Area

STUDY AREA: VIDIDEX on 1:50 000 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP SERIES

Annexure B



**LEGEND:**  
 Study area outline  
 1:50 000 Topographical Map Series:  
 2024CD

**STUDY AREAS:**  
 Development Area: Vididex= 91,19ha  
 Total Development Area = 91,19ha

  
 Scale 1:10 000

Datum: Hartbeespoek 94  
 Spheroid: WGS84  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator on WGS25  
 Area Photo and 0.5m contours: Orania Dorpsraad  
 17 June 2022  
 Annexure B: Study Area 1:50k Topo

ANNEXURE C



Vividex vegetation



Vididex vegetation

# LOCATION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS to TOPOGRAPHY at VIDIDEX

## Annexure D



No	Type	Description
01	DVA feature	Cemetery fence
02a	DVA feature	Cemetery fence
02b	DVA feature	Cemetery fence
03	DVA feature	Cemetery fence
04	DVA feature	Cemetery fence
05	DVA feature	Cemetery fence
06	Other feature	Mantle
07	Engraving	Undertiled
08	Graffiti	"Fendite"
09	Engraving	Undertiled
10	Other feature	Mantle
11	Stone age	Flake

- LEGEND:**
- DVA feature / Waterwaa-verkynsel
  - Engraving / Tselening
  - Graffiti
  - Other feature / Ander-verkynsel
  - Stone Age / Steentydperk
  - LSA Artefact Spread
  - Study area outline

Contours  
M 0.5m Contours  
 Aerial Photos Oranias:  
 2924CD 03, 04, 08 & 09 2017

  
 Scale 1:10 000

Datum: Hartbeespoek S4  
 Spheroid: WGS84  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator on WGS2  
 Aerial Photo and 0.5m contours: Oranias Dorpsaal

17 June 2022

Annexure D: Archaeology and Topography

ANNEXURE E1



1. Cemetery fence



2. Cemetery fence



6. Manhole



7. Engraving. Unidentified



8. Graffiti. Freddie



9. Engraving. Unidentified scratches



10. Manhole



11. Stone Age flake



ANNEXURE E2



1. Cemetery (1965 – 1990)



2a. Grave with formal headstone with inscription concrete block sides (1,5 x 2,5m). Cultural material placed by the family



2b. Inscribed Headstone. 18/8/1976 – 18/8/1976



3. Formal headstone. 9.6.71



4. Formal headstone  
Gebore 14.8.76  
Oorlede 18.8.76



5. Formal headstone and concrete block sides



6. Vandalism of graves occurred



7. Grave covered with packed stones



8. Grave with a rock headstone



9. Two graves with concrete block headstones



10. Grave with concrete block sides and rusted tin



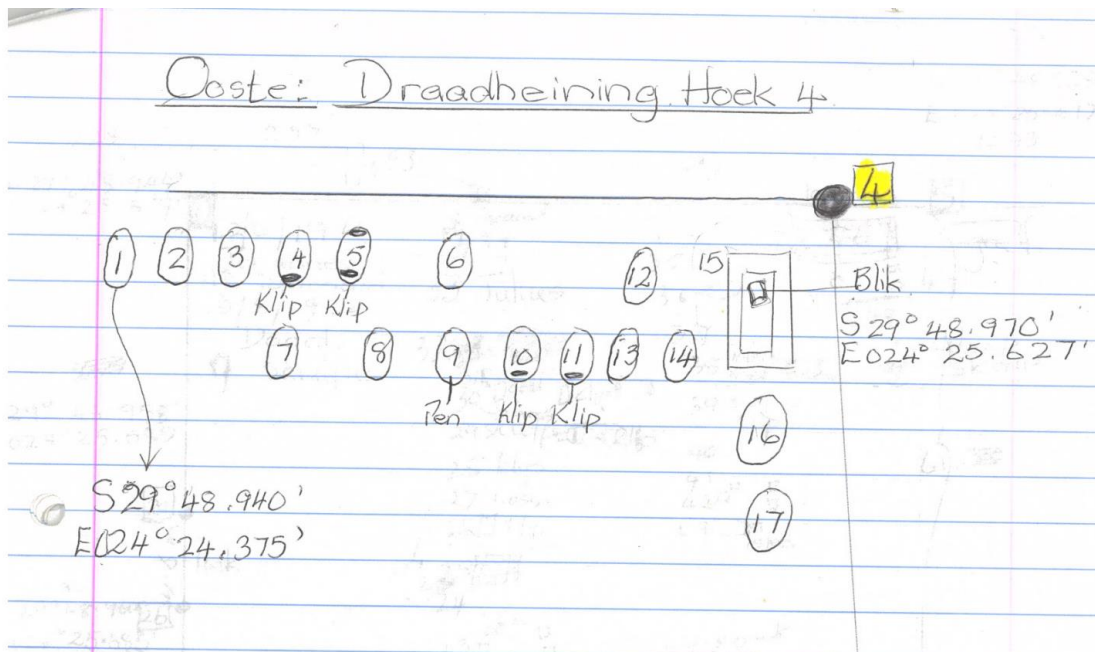
11. Grave without a headstone



12. Broken teapot



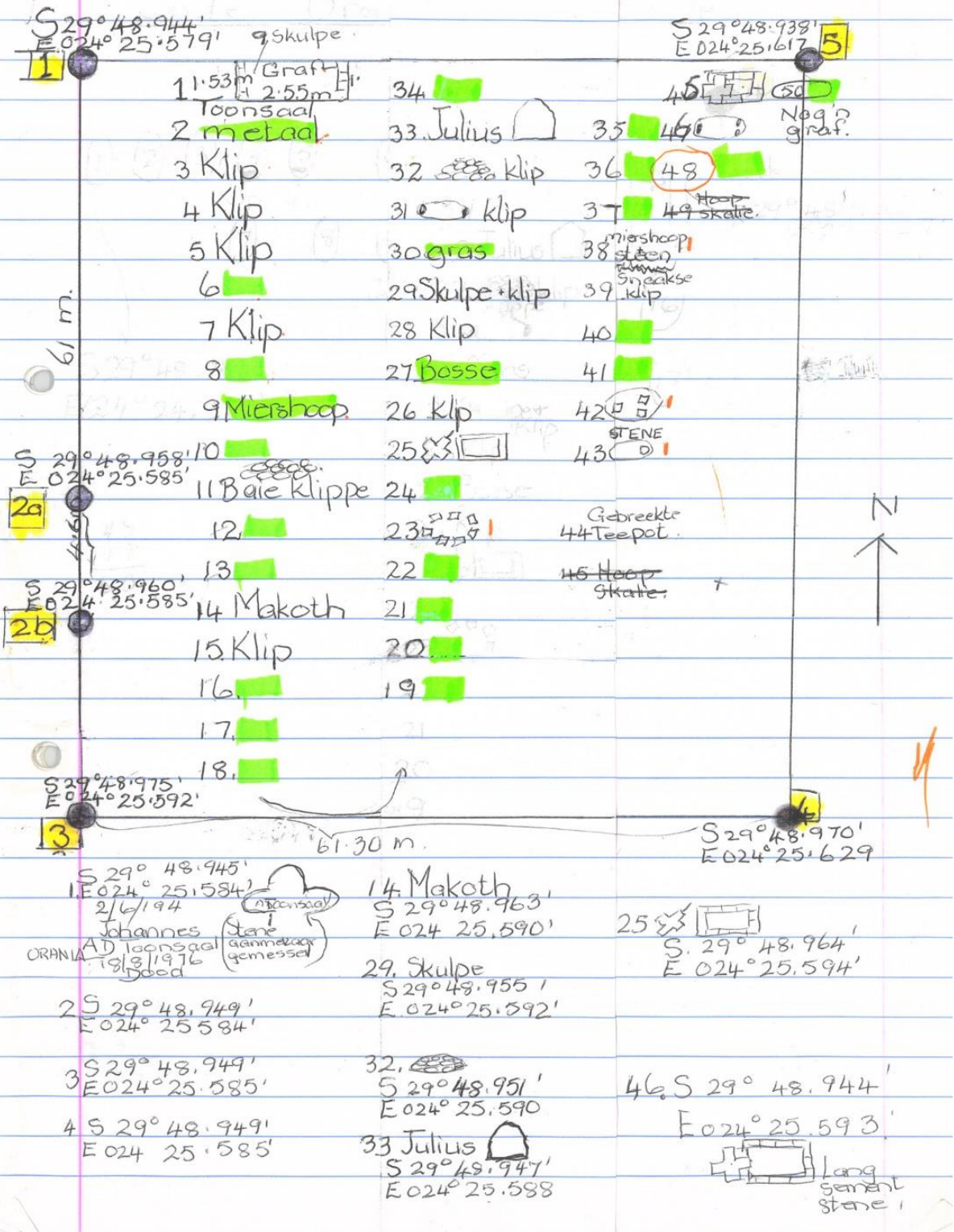
13. Seashells



14a. Field notes. Cemetery eastern section. Identified graves



# Begrafplaas



14b. Fieldnotes: Cemetery western section. Identified graves

**ANNEXURE G**

**DECLARATION**

The specialist appointed in terms of the Regulations

I, Hermanus Opperman, declare that

General declaration:

I act as the independent specialist in this application;

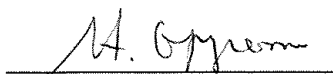
I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favorable to the applicant;

I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work. I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity; I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;

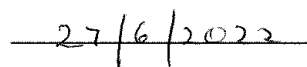
I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;

I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;

All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and I realize that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



H. Opperman



Date