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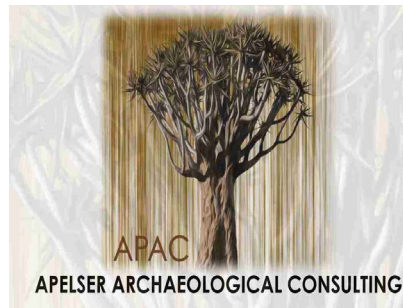
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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters
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APAC022/118

2022-11-29

To: Mr. Andrew Salomon
South African Heritage Resource Agency
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RE: Motivation for Exemption from a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment – Proposed Walkerville Self-Storage Development on Portion 214 of the farm Hartzenbergfontein 335IQ

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed Aquastrat Solutions (Pty) Ltd to provide a motivation for Exemption from a Full Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Walkerville Self-Storage Development project, on Portion 214 of the farm Hartzenbergfontein 335IQ. The study & development area is located in the province of Gauteng.

Background to the Project

The proposed development on Portion 214 of the farm Hartzenbergfontein 335IQ in Walkerville, Gauteng, will entail the construction of Self-Storage Units & related services and infrastructure on the property. The Heritage Impact Assessment forms part of the Environmental Authorization process for the planned development as required by the 2014 EIA Regulations. The Screening Report done by the client indicated a Low Sensitivity relative to the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme.

“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 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

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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. No fieldwork was undertaken and the photographic images of the site and existing structures here that are included in the document were provided to the Heritage Specialist by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner.

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 the proposed Walkerville Self-Storage Development Project

The study and proposed development area is located on Portion 214 of the original farm Hartsenberfontein 335IQ, in Walkerville, Gauteng. The area lies directly west of and is bordered by the R82 road, and is bordered by and surrounded by established residential & related developments.

The larger & specific area itself would have been heavily disturbed in the recent past through agricultural activities and various developments related to the R82 road, ESKOM Powerline & servitudes, as well as residential development in the Walkerville area. The original natural and historical landscape would have been completely altered though these activities, and 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. The topography of the study area is also flat and open, with no rocky outcrops, ridges or hills present.



Figure 1: General location of study & proposed development area (Google Earth 2022).



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

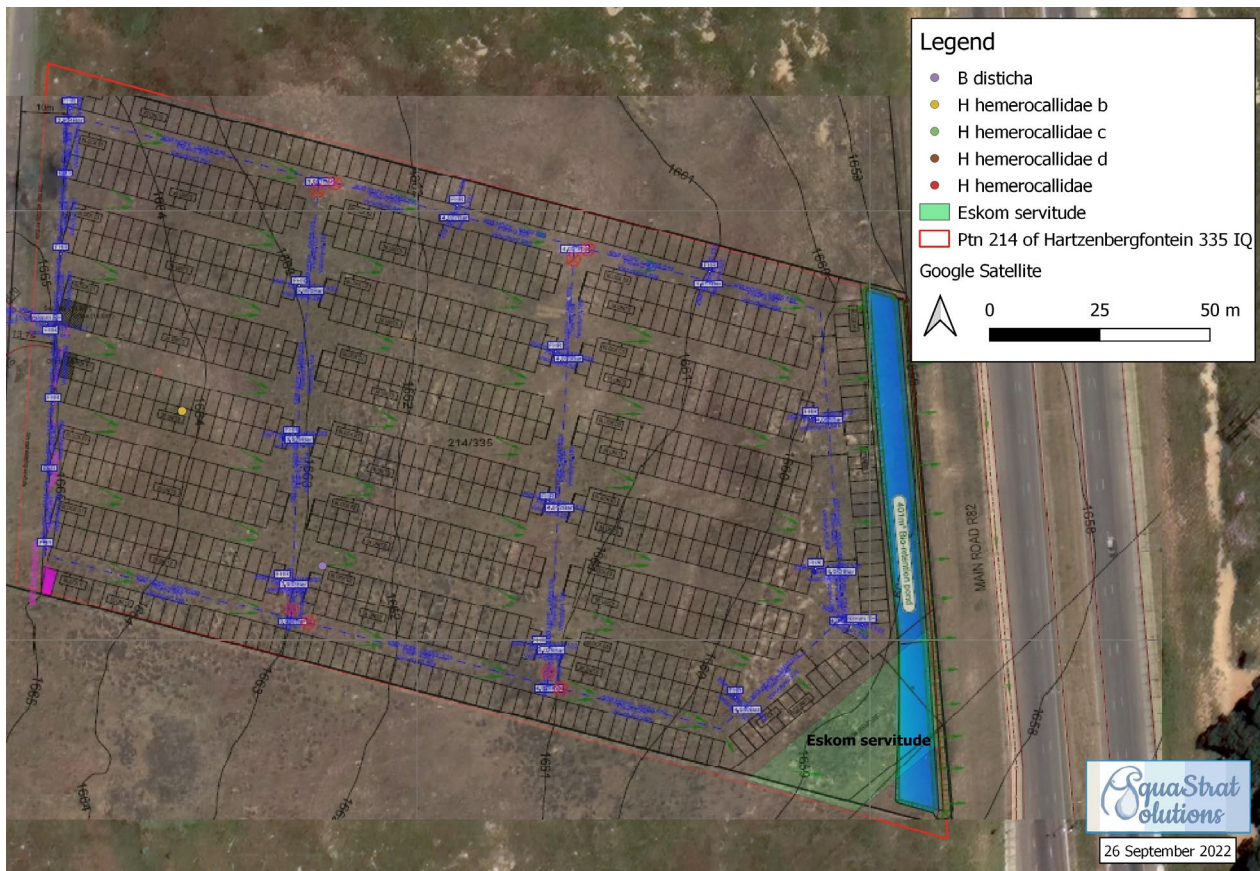


Figure 3: Aerial view of proposed Walkerville Self-Storage Development Layout (courtesy Aquastrat Solutions).



Figure 4: Proposed development layout plan (courtesy Aquastrat Solutions).

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).

According to Bergh (1999) no Stone Age sites or occurrences are known in the direct area, although rock art (engravings) and Earlier to Later Stone Age sites are known in the larger geographical area (Vereeniging, Riverview Estates).

During a previous assessment in the larger Walkerville area the author of this document did not identify any Stone Age sites or objects (such as stone tools) in the area (Pelsler 2015: 13). If any Stone Age artefacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single objects or small scatters of stone tools 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.

As with the Stone Age, Bergh (1999) does not indicate any known Early (EIA) Iron Age sites in the specific or larger geographical area, although extensive stone-walled Late Iron Age sites are known to exist in the much larger geographical area (e.g. at Klipriviersberg)[Bergh 1999: 6]. Based on Tom Huffman's research it is possible that LIA sites, features or material could be present in the larger area. This will include the Ntsuanatsatsi facies of the Urewe Tradition, dating to between AD1450 and AD1650 (Huffman 2007: 167); the Uitkomst facies of the same tradition (AD1700 to AD1820) [p.171]; Olifantspoort facies of Urewe (AD1500 – AD1700) [p.191], as well as the Buispoort facies of Urewe, dating to around AD1700 – AD1840 (p.203).

Although no Later Iron Age sites, features or material are known for the specific study and development area - and none are visible on the aerial images – some LIA remains (walling and pottery) have been identified in the larger Walkerville area by the author (Pelser 2015: 13; 23-26).

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first Europeans travelling close to this area were the early travellers Schoon (1836) and Cornwallis Harris in the same year. These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 12-13). During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) there were a number of battles/skirmishes in the larger geographical area close to Vereeniging. There were also a number of British Concentration Camps for Boer Women & Children and for Black South Africans at Vereeniging, Kliprivier, Witkop and Meyerton (Bergh 1999: 54).

Walkerville is related to the presence of the Walker family in the area. Their history is provided here as background (www.walkerville.co.za).

“Arthur Walker came out from Britain in 1901 at the age of 15 with the Rough Riders group of the Imperial Yeomanry (volunteer cavalry force), looking after their horses on the long sea journey to the Cape. On arrival he was allowed to go into action with them as a frontline scout. He was subsequently badly wounded in the left arm and leg in action. Despite the severe wounds he rode his horse back to the base camp and whilst receiving emergency medical treatment, was able to report what he had seen before the Boer forces spotted him. For his brave action he was awarded a good conduct medal and was given a disability pension of one pound eleven shillings and five pence per month for life which was later increased to three pounds nine shillings and seven pence. At the end of the war he was allowed to remain in South Africa and he became a property salesman operating from Cape Town and later upcountry.

In his new civilian job he again proved his mettle and was most successful. Some of the properties he bought are now well-known suburbs, e.g. Pretoria Gardens, Bon Accord, Claremont, Mountain View, Fairlands, Lyndhurst and Birnam. In 1918 he acquired large property to the south of Johannesburg. A portion of the area had previously been a dairy farm belonging to the Butler family, who had decided to sell as the lady of the house found the life very lonely. Arthur Walker felt that the area would be ideal for apples and eventually planted half a million fruit trees. The trees were planted in the area known today as Homestead Apple Orchards and Walker's Fruit Farms. In the area known today as Golfview, pears were planted. Ohenimuri apples predominated in the area which is now the golf course.

Some years after the establishment of the orchards, the editor of the Rand Show Annual for 1931 was to give these details: This property was purchased by the Company some twelve years ago and comprised the freehold farm of Faroasfontein no. 214, comprising 3, 367 morgen. In the years that have elapsed the Company laid out on the former barren, windswept veld the largest apple orchard in the Union, comprising over four miles of trees. In 1924 Arthur married Muriel and in 1925 the young Mr. and Mrs. Walker took up residence in their new home, on what was the largest apple farm in South Africa. The success of the Walker family continued and because there was no demand for the third grade apples, it was decided to start the local manufacture of cider. A cider factory was built and the most modern equipment of the day

and the best quality vats for the storage of the cider was imported from Europe. Unfortunately, although the quality of the cider was good, there was little demand, and eventually the factory was closed. In 1946 the disused factory was purchased by a Mr. Blades who lived in Walker's Fruit Farms. With the assistance of friends of his in the area it was converted into a social club after all the machinery and beautiful vats had been sold by public auction. This was also doomed to failure as the support from the local population was insufficient to cover costs, and the well-constructed building was eventually sold back to Mr. Walker. The building stood empty for years until the St Francis Anglican Church was established and a portion of the building was then used as a church. The remainder was utilized for social functions organized by the church committee to raise funds for the building of the present church in Golfview/Walkerville. After the present church was built, the building again stood empty until it was bought by the Baptist church. Today we know it as the Southern Christian Fellowship building.

After the failure of the cider venture more troubles were in store for the Walker Family. The once thriving trees were hit by two successive years of hail storms at Christmas time, and, as the fruit farming losses mounted, it was decided to discontinue large scale fruit growing. The land was sub-divided into 5 and 10 acre plots, now known as Homestead Apple Orchards, Walker's Fruit Farms and Golfview; and the avenues of trees were planted. In 1934 the Ohenimuri Golf and Country Club was established by Mr. Walker. Around this time, he had the opportunity to buy the land north of Golfview which was then sub-divided and called Walkerville. During the fruit growing and cider manufacturing years Mr. Walker also had property investments in northern Johannesburg, Pretoria and a farm in Naboomspruit. Around 1950 Ishmael Lehari, who has worked for the family for fifty years, asked Mr. and Mrs. Walker to assist him in establishing the Walkerville Combined School on the family farm, to provide primary school education for the black children in the area. For around twenty years, Joyce Walker (Arthur II's wife) was the official manager of the school which eventually accommodated 260 children and had five teachers who were paid by the Department of Education and Training. In 2009 the school was closed and the students were moved to Michael Rua.

Arthur Walker II who was born in 1929, learnt to play golf at Ohenimuri and after winning junior competitions he won many provincial championships, the English Amateur Championship in 1957 and the South African Amateur Championship in 1959. From 1957-1960 he represented South Africa in international matches. He retired from tournament golf when his father died in 1961 to run the family business. He then devoted most of his spare time for the next twelve years to golf administration. During this period he served for two years as president of the Southern Transvaal Golf Association and as captain and the president of the Royal Johannesburg Golf Club, of which he was a life member”.

The aerial images (Google Earth) of the study & proposed development area clearly show the flat and open nature of the area, as well as the impact of possible agricultural activities (ploughing) in the recent historical past. The impacts of expanding residential development, as well as the establishment of the R82 road on the specific and larger landscape between 2012 and recently are also evident. No archaeological and historical remains (Iron Age stone-walled site foundations or recent historical homestead ruins) are visible on any of these images as well. It is therefore deemed highly 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. The desktop study did however show that a number of 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 the proposed expansion activities.



Figure 5: Aerial view of the study & proposed development area footprint in 2012. This is prior to the establishment of the R82 road (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 6: By 2018 the R82 had been established and the impact of on the larger landscape is evident (Google Earth 2022).

Finally, based on all the evidence obtained during the desktop study and the information provided, it is therefore recommended that Exemption from undertaking a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Walkerville Self-Storage Development be granted to the applicants. The study and development area is located on Portion 214 of the farm Hartzenbergfontein 335IQ, in Walkerville, Gauteng. No evidence of any archaeological and/or recent historical sites, structures or any other features such as graves or graveyards could be found in the proposed development area. If any are to be found prior to or during construction activities, then the provisions of the National Heritage Resources Act 28 of 1999 should be adhered to

The following needs to be taken into consideration as well:

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.

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

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