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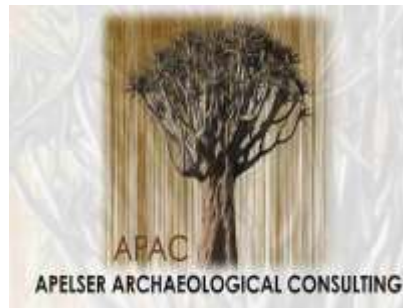
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**2020-10-01**

To: Me. Adèle Drake  
**Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC**

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**RE: REQUEST FOR FULL PHASE 1 HIA EXEMPTION – WESTERN LINK SEWER ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF RIETFONTEIN 375 JR.**

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC to undertake a site visit and assessment for the so-called Western Link Sewer line, located in the east of Tshwane, Gauteng.

### ***Background to the Project***

The project proponent is Central Plaza Investments 28 (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality (CoTMM), with Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants cc appointed to undertake the Basic Assessment process. The Heritage Assessment is undertaken as part of this process.

The project entails the installation of a sewer line to be known as the Western Link Sewer approximately 2km in length connecting Mooikloof Manor in the south to The Hills to the north-east, transecting Portions 5 and 6 and the Remainder of Portions 1 and 1077 of Rietfontein 375 JR.

The study area visit was undertaken on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.

### ***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).

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## **The National Heritage Resources Act**

According to the above-mentioned 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 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup>.
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

## ***Description of Study Area***

The proposed Western Link Sewer will be installed from Mooikloof Manor in the south along and across Garsfontein Road following a tributary of the Zwavelpoortspruit, before connecting to the Zwavelpoort Bulk Sewer (Baviaanspoort Outfall Sewer) to the north-east.

The topography of the study area is in general flat and open, with few rocky outcrops or ridges present. A small section of the line crosses and follows the main Garsfontein Road before going into already established and developed residential housing areas and then following existing roads and a section of a tributary of the Zwavelpoortspruit. As a result of these recent developments and earlier agricultural activities in the study area any sites, features or material of cultural heritage origin or significance that might have existed here in the past would have been disturbed or destroyed as result.



Figure 1: General location of Western Link Sewer line in black (Google Earth 2020).

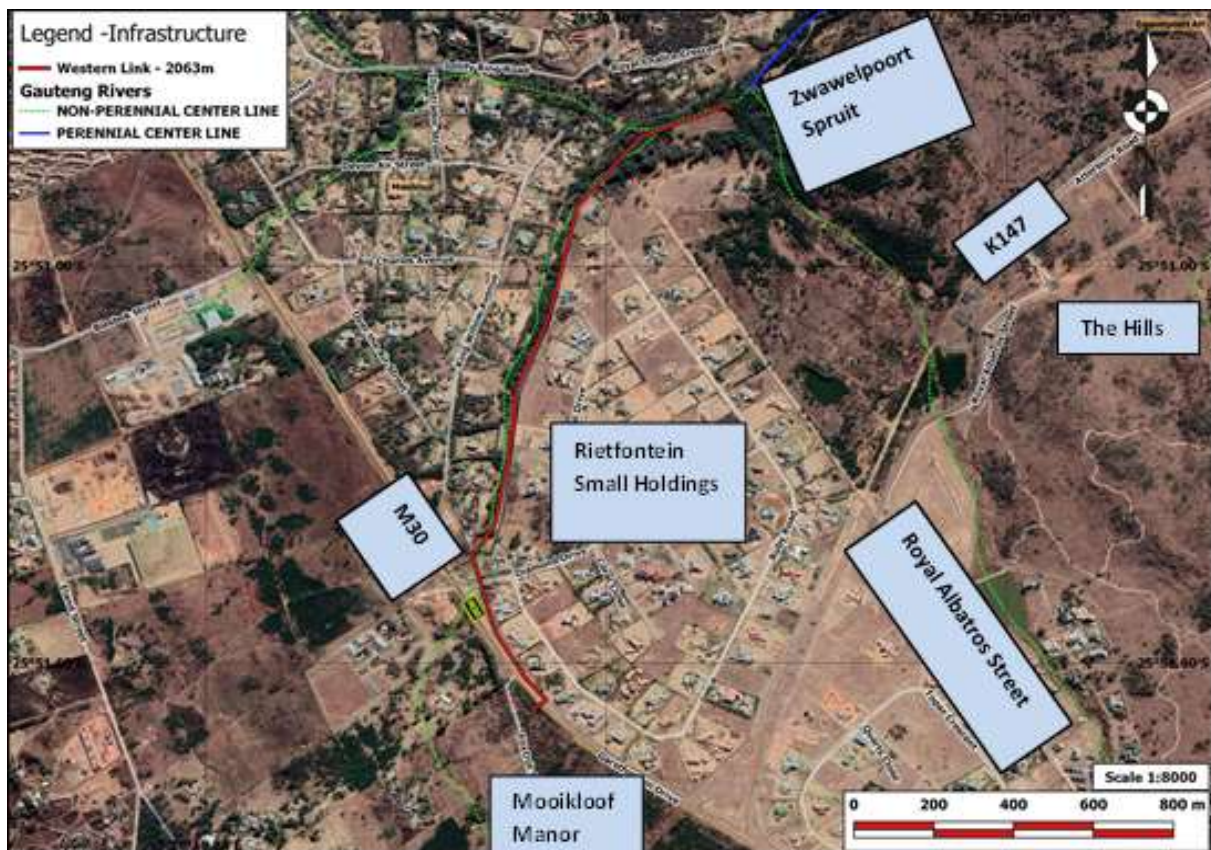


Figure 2: Location Map. Western Link Sewer Line indicated in red (courtesy Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC).

## **Cultural Heritage Background**

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).

No known Stone Age sites or artefacts are present in the study area. The closest known Stone Age sites are those of the well-known Early Stone Age site at Wonderboompoort, a Later Stone Age site known as Fort Troje near Cullinan and a number of sites in the Magaliesberg area (Bergh 1999: 4). Stone Age people occupied the larger area since earliest times. Middle Stone Age material has also been identified at Erasmusrand and the Groenkloof Nature Reserve (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 183). At the Erasmusrand cave some Late Stone Age tools were also identified as well as at Groenkloof (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 184). LSA material was also found at Zwartkops and Hennops River (Bergh 1999: 4). This last phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people.

**No Stone Age sites or objects (such as stone tools) were identified in the area. If any Stone Age artifacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single, out of context, stone tools.**

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts. 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.

No Early Iron Age sites are known in the larger geographical area of Pretoria, while Later Iron Age sites do occur in the Pretoria area (Bergh 1999: 7). The closest known LIA sites are at Silver Lakes and near Mamelodi on the farm Hatherley (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996). These sites are related to the Manala Ndebele (Bergh 1999: 10) who was present in the area at the time when the first Europeans arrived here during the mid-19th century.

Iron Age occupation of the area did not start much before the 1500s. By that time, groups of Tswana and Ndebele speaking people were moving into the area, occupying the different hills and outcrops, using the ample resources such as grazing, game and metal ores. During the early decades of the 19th century, the Tswana- and Ndebele-speakers were dislodged by the Matabele of Mzilikazi. Internal strife caused Mzilikazi, a general of King Shaka, and his followers to move away from the area between the Thukela and Mfolozi River (KwaZulu-Natal). Eventually, after a sojourn in the Sekhukhuneland area, followed by a short stay in the middle reaches of the Vaal River, they settled north of the Magaliesberg. One of three main settlements established by them, eKungwini, was on the banks of the Apies River, just north of Wonderboompoort. However, no remains of this settlement have ever been identified. It was during the Matabele's stay along the Apies River that the first white people entered the area: travelers and hunters such as Cornwallis Harris and Andrew Smith, traders Robert Schoon and Andrew McLuckie, and

missionaries James Archbell and Robert Moffat. It is known from oral history the Robert Schoon sent Mzilikazi huge quantities of glass trade beads, rather than the guns that the latter coveted so much.

It is a well-established fact that the stone walled sites on various farms in the larger area around the east of Pretoria and the Bronberge were inhabited mainly by the southern Ndebele. The former were most probably among the earliest Nguni-speaking people in the immediate area north of the Magaliesberg range north of Pretoria. During the rule of a chief named Musi, they split into five separate migrating groups, namely the Manala, Ndzundza, Kekana, Mhwaduba and Sibasa sections (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996:47-48).

The Manala settled over a wide area towards the east of present-day Pretoria. This is roughly north and north east of the Bronberg range (from Wapadrand in the west towards Tiegerpoort and Bapsfontein in the south east), south of the Magaliesberg and Pienaarspoort range (known to the Manala as Ko- or KwaQobongo) and from Mamelodi in the west towards the Cullinan intersection on the N4 in the east.

According to oral traditions this area was geo-politically divided into three regions. It is unclear whether these divisions denoted tribal sub regions, wards or headmanships, whether they were chronologically occupied and deserted, and exactly which rulers or chiefs were linked to these areas. The oral traditions also revealed that since the almost complete destruction of the Manala chiefdom by Mzilikazi in around 1825, remnants of the Manala regrouped in scattered settlements or clusters of settlements up to recent times. Many Manala became labour tenants on European owned farms in the area. As a result of the destruction caused by Mzilikazi, the Manala underwent a three-fold split, which was further aggravated by internal strife.

The pre-colonial threefold regional divisions, consisted of Ezotshaneni, Embilaneni and KoNonduna. According to oral records, KoNonduna was occupied between circa 1747 and 1825 at the time of Mzilikazi's destruction of the Manala. The dates are speculative and based on a complex dating system, which combines the notion of regimentation, generation and duration of rule. In terms of Manala Royal Genealogy, the names of all 33 rulers (amakosi), from around 1642 to the present, are known. Of these, Mdibane (11th ruler and founder of KoNonduna), Matshaba (14th ruler and linked to Hatherley or Emakopana) and Sibindi (18th ruler attacked by Mzilikazi) are the most relevant in terms of the work on Hatherley (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996:48-49).

The exact geographical boundaries of the KoNonduna sub-region are not known. It might have overlapped with the adjacent Embilaneni. Oral traditions does however provide the names of farms which formed part of this region, namely Klipkop 396 JR, a section of Zwartkoppies 364 JR, Hatherley 331 JR, a section of Mooiplaats 367 JR and Zwavelpoort 373 JR. It appears that the KoNonduna ward was established at the time of the reign of Mdibane and lasted until the time of the attack by Mzilikazi during Sibindi's reign (Van Schalkwyk et.al 1996:49-50).

**No Iron Age sites, features or cultural material was identified during the assessment of the study area.**

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 to move through and into the area were the groups of Schoon and McLuckie and the missionaries Archbell and Moffat in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12). They were followed by others such as Andrew Smith (1835), Cornwallis Harris (1836) and David Livingstone in 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13). These groups were closely followed by the Voortrekkers after 1844 and Pretoria was established in 1855 (Bergh 1999: 14-17). White settlers started to occupy huge tracts of land, claiming it as farms after the late 1840s. Of these, some of the earliest were Lucas Bronkhorst (Groenkloof), David Botha (Hartebeestpoort – Silverton) and Doors Erasmus (Wonderboom). With the establishment of Pretoria (1850) services such as roads, started to develop. The larger area within which the study area is located also played a role during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and specifically during the Battle of Donkerhoek/Diamond Hill in June 1900 (Bergh 1999: 53-54).

**No historical sites, features or material were identified in the study area during the assessment.**

### ***Results of the September 2020 Site Assessment***

No sites, features or material of any cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance were found in the study area or sewer line sections. The proposed sewer line follows existing roads and road reserves for a section, before crossing into existing housing development areas and then following a tributary of the Zwavelpoortspruit. If any sites did exist here in the past it would have been disturbed or destroyed to a large degree. Visibility during the assessment was good.

It should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. 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.



**Figure 3: A section of the Western Link Sewer Line is located along the main Garstfontein Road.**



**Figure 4: Another view of the line down Garstfontein Road.**



**Figure 5: A section of the sewer line follows a road servitude inside the Mooikloof Estate after crossing Garstfontein Road before then following the Zwavelpoortspruit tributary.**



**Figure 6: A view of a section of the line route next to the Zwavelpoortspruit tributary.**



**Figure 7: Another view of the line section next to the Spruit.**





**Figure 8: Another section of the line.**



**Figure 9: Another section of the Western Link Sewer Line next to the Zwavelpoortspruit tributary.**

## **Conclusions & Recommendations**

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC to undertake a site visit and assessment for the so-called Western Link Sewer line, located in the east of Tshwane, Gauteng.

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The study area visit was undertaken on the 30th of September 2020.

**It is concluded that the likelihood of any sites, features or material of cultural heritage significance being present in the study and development area is very low and that there will be therefore no impact on any sites through the development actions. It is therefore recommended that Exemption for a Full Phase 1 HIA is given for the project.**

Finally, it should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. 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.

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

## References

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