

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 38(8) OF THE NHRA (No. 25 OF 1999))

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 2 REHABILITATION DAMS & EXTENSION OF 2 EXISTING ASH DAMS FOR MAJUBA POWER STATION ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Type of development:

Power Station Infrastructure

Client:

Advisian

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APPROVAL PAGE

Project Name	The Establishment of 2 Rehabilitation Dams & Extension of 2 Existing Ash Dams for Majuba Power Station Ash Disposal Facility
Report Title	Heritage Impact Assessment for The Establishment of 2 Rehabilitation Dams & Extension of 2 Existing Ash Dams for Majuba Power Station Ash Disposal Facility, Mpumalanga Province.
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Applicant Name	Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited

	Name	Qualifications and Certifications	Date
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Date	Report Reference Number	Description of Amendment
11 June 2019	C00800	Addressed comments from client and added paleontological findings.

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REPORT OUTLINE

Appendix 6 of the GNR 326 EIA Regulations published on 7 April 2017 provides the requirements for specialist reports undertaken as part of the environmental authorisation process. In line with this, Table 1 provides an overview of Appendix 6 together with information on how these requirements have been met.

Table 1. Specialist Report Requirements.

Requirement from Appendix 6 of GN 326 EIA Regulation 2017	Chapter
(a) Details of - (i) the specialist who prepared the report; and (ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae	Section a Section 12
(b) Declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	<i>Declaration of Independence</i>
(c) Indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1
(cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Section 3.4 and 7.1.
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	9
(d) Duration, Date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	Section 3.4
(e) Description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	Section 3
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 8 and 9
(g) Identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 9
(h) Map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 8
(I) Description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge	Section 3.7
(j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity including identified alternatives on the environment or activities;	Section 9
(k) Mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 9 and 10
(l) Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 9 and 10
(m) Monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 9 and 10
(n) Reasoned opinion - (i) as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised; (iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and (ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	Section 10.2
(o) Description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report	Section 6
(p) A summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and	Refer to EIA report
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority	Section 10

Executive Summary

Advisian was appointed by Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the establishment of two rehabilitation dams & extension of two existing ash dams for Majuba Power Station Ash Disposal Facility. The Majuba Power Station is located on Portion 1, 2 and 6 of the farm Witkoppies 81 HS, Mpumalanga Province. HCAC was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment of the ash dams to determine the presence of cultural heritage sites and the impact of the proposed project on these non-renewable resources. The study areas measuring approximately 20 hectares, collectively were assessed both on desktop level and by a field survey. The field survey was conducted as a non-intrusive pedestrian survey to cover the extent of the impact footprints.


A scoping study for the project (Van der Walt 2018) revealed that very few known heritage sites occur in the vicinity of the study area and a similar hiatus of heritage resources were noted during the field assessment, and no surface sites of significance were recorded. The area is however of high paleontological sensitivity according to the SAHRIS Paleontological Map and an independent study was conducted by Prof Marion Bamford (2019). The study concluded that the site is on highly disturbed soils and shales of the Permian Volksrust Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. These rocks are deep water mud suspension facies and do not typically preserve fossils. No fossils have been reported from this formation in this area but a marine bivalve was reported from near Newcastle. Since there is an extremely small chance of finding fossils a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been added to the report. (Bamford 2019).

The study area is surrounded by existing developments and infrastructure associated with the Majuba Power Station, and the proposed development will not impact negatively on significant cultural landscapes or views. During the public participation process conducted for the project no heritage concerns were raised.

Due to the lack of significant heritage resources in the study area the impact of the proposed projects on heritage resources is considered low and it is recommended that the projects can commence on the condition that the following recommendations are implemented as part of the EMP and based on approval from SAHRA:

- Implementation of a chance find procedure.

Declaration of Independence

Specialist Name	Jaco van der Walt
Declaration of Independence	<p>I declare, as a specialist appointed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 108 of 1998) and the associated 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, that I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 favourable 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 realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.
Signature	
Date	21/02/2019

a) Expertise of the specialist

Jaco van der Walt has been practising as a CRM archaeologist for 15 years. He obtained an MA degree in Archaeology from the University of the Witwatersrand focussing on the Iron Age in 2012 and is a PhD candidate at the University of Johannesburg focussing on Stone Age Archaeology with specific interest in the Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA). Jaco is an accredited member of ASAPA (#159) and have conducted more than 500 impact assessments in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State, Gauteng, KZN as well as he Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces in South Africa.

Jaco has worked on various international projects in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, DRC Zambia and Tanzania. Through this he has a sound understanding of the IFC Performance Standard requirements, with specific reference to Performance Standard 8 – Cultural Heritage.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT OUTLINE.....	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE	1
A) EXPERTISE OF THE SPECIALIST.....	1
ABBREVIATIONS.....	6
GLOSSARY.....	6
1 INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE:.....	7
1.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	7
2 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	12
3 METHODOLOGY	14
3.1 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	14
3.2 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND GOOGLE EARTH MONUMENTS.....	14
3.3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:.....	14
3.4 SITE INVESTIGATION.....	14
3.5 SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING.....	16
3.6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY.....	17
3.7 LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS OF THE STUDY	18
4 DESCRIPTION OF SOCIO ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENTAL	18
5 DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.	19
6 RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:	19
7 LITERATURE / BACKGROUND STUDY:	20
7.1 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	20
7.2 GENERAL HISTORY OF THE AREA	20
8 FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY	26
8.1 BUILT ENVIRONMENT (SECTION 34 OF THE NHRA)	27
8.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES (SECTION 35 OF THE NHRA)	27
8.3 BURIAL GROUNDS AND GRAVES (SECTION 36 OF THE NHRA).....	28
8.4 CULTURAL LANDSCAPES, INTANGIBLE AND LIVING HERITAGE.	28
8.5 BATTLEFIELDS AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS.....	28
9 POTENTIAL IMPACT	28
10 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	29

10.1 CHANCE FIND PROCEDURES 30

9. REFERENCES 32

10. APPENDICES:..... 34

CURRICULUM VITAE OF SPECIALIST 34

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1. PROVINCIAL LOCALITY MAP (1: 250 000 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP)	9
FIGURE 2: REGIONAL LOCALITY MAP (1:50 000 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP).	10
FIGURE 3. SATELLITE IMAGE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA (GOOGLE EARTH 2018).....	11
FIGURE 4: TRACK LOGS OF THE SURVEY IN GREEN.	15
FIGURE 5. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS.	19
FIGURE 6. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS.	19
FIGURE 7. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS.	19
FIGURE 8. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS.	19
FIGURE 9. 1969 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE SITES UNDER INVESTIGATION. THE APPROXIMATE STUDY AREA IS INDICATED WITH A YELLOW BORDER. NO DEVELOPMENTS ARE VISIBLE IN THE SOUTH WESTERN SITE, AND A RIVER WENT THROUGH THE AREA. ONE CAN SEE CULTIVATED LANDS IN THE NORTHERN SITE. NO DEVELOPMENTS ARE VISIBLE IN THE EASTERN SITE, BUT CULTIVATED LANDS CAN BE SEEN TO THE WEST AND ONE WINDMILL TO THE SOUTH EAST THEREOF. (TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP 1969; TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP 1969)	22
FIGURE 10. 1987 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE SITES UNDER INVESTIGATION. THE APPROXIMATE STUDY AREA IS INDICATED WITH A YELLOW BORDER. ONE WINDMILL AND A RIVER ARE VISIBLE IN THE SOUTH WESTERN SITE. ONE CAN SEE CULTIVATED LANDS IN THE NORTHERN SITE. EITHER ONE OR TWO WINDMILLS ARE VISIBLE IN THE EASTERN SITE, AND A TRACK / FOOTPATH CAN BE SEEN TO THE SOUTH THEREOF. (TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP 1987; TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP 1987).....	23
FIGURE 11. 2004 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE SITES UNDER INVESTIGATION. THE APPROXIMATE STUDY AREA IS INDICATED WITH A YELLOW BORDER. BY 2004 THE AREA BETWEEN THE SITES HAD BEEN DEVELOPED AS THE SLIMES DAM FOR MAJUBA POWER STATION. A TRACK / HIKING TRAIL IS VISIBLE IN THE SOUTH WESTERN SITE. A DAM FORMED PART OF THE NORTHERN SITE. NO DEVELOPMENTS CAN BE SEEN IN THE EASTERN SITE, BUT A DAM IS VISIBLE JUST TO THE EAST THEREOF. (TOPOGRAPHICAL 2004; TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP 2004).....	24
FIGURE 12. 2018 GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE SHOWING THE STUDY AREA IN RELATION TO AMERSFOORT, PERDEKOP, THE N11 AND OTHER SITES. (GOOGLE EARTH 2018)	25
FIGURE 13. EARTHWORKS AND EXISTING DAMS.....	26
FIGURE 14. EARTHWORKS AND EXISTING DAMS.....	26
FIGURE 15. EARTHWORKS AND EXISTING DAMS.....	26
FIGURE 16. EARTHWORKS AND EXISTING DAMS.....	26
FIGURE 17. PALAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY MAP OF THE STUDY AREA.....	28

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. SPECIALIST REPORT REQUIREMENTS..... 4

TABLE 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION 8

TABLE 3: INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES..... 8

TABLE 4: SITE INVESTIGATION DETAILS..... 14

TABLE 5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLE. 29

ABBREVIATIONS

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BGG Burial Ground and Graves
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CFPs: Chance Find Procedures
CMP: Conservation Management Plan
CRR: Comments and Response Report
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
DEA: Department of Environmental Affairs
EA: Environmental Authorisation
EAP: Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EIA Practitioner: Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EMP: Environmental Management Programme
ESA: Early Stone Age
ESIA: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GIS Geographical Information System
GPS: Global Positioning System
GRP Grave Relocation Plan
HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA: Late Iron Age
LSA: Late Stone Age
MEC: Member of the Executive Council
MIA: Middle Iron Age
MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
MSA: Middle Stone Age
NEMA National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NHRA National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
NID Notification of Intent to Develop
NoK Next-of-Kin
PRHA: Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
SADC: Southern African Development Community
SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency

**Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.*

GLOSSARY

Archaeological site (remains of human activity over 100 years old)

Early Stone Age (~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago)

Middle Stone Age (~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago)

Later Stone Age (~ 40-25 000, to recently, 100 years ago)

The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to 1840)

Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

1 Introduction and Terms of Reference:

HCAC (Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting) was contracted by Advisian to conduct a heritage impact assessment of the proposed establishment of two rehabilitation dams & extension of two existing ash dams for Majuba Power Station Ash Disposal Facility, located on Portion 1, 2 and 6 of the farm Witkoppies 81 HS, Mpumalanga Province (Figure 1 -3). The report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR) for these additional activities at the power station.

The aim of the study is to survey the proposed development footprint to identify cultural heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial and national context. It serves to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the responsible cultural resources management measures that might be required to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner. It is also conducted to protect, preserve and develop such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized before and during the survey, which includes: Phase 1, review of relevant literature; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey, no significant heritage sites were identified. General site conditions and features on sites were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report. SAHRA as a commenting authority under section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) require all environmental documents, compiled in support of an Environmental Authorisation application as defined by NEMA EIA Regs section 40 (1) and (2), to be submitted to SAHRA. As such the Basic Assessment report and its appendices must be submitted to the case as well as the EMPr, once it's completed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

1.1 Terms of Reference

Field study

Conduct a field study to: (a) locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources affected by the proposed development.

Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project; i.e., construction and operation phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with the relevant legislation, SAHRA minimum standards and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999).

Table 2: Project Description

Magisterial District	Gert Sibande District Municipality
1: 50 000 map sheet number	2729BB
Central co-ordinate of the development area	27° 6'33.36"S 29°44'49.20"E

Table 3: Infrastructure and project activities

Type of development	Power Station infrastructure developments
Project Components and size	2 Rehabilitation Dams & Extension of 2 Existing Ash Dams. The combined footprint measures approximately 20 hectares

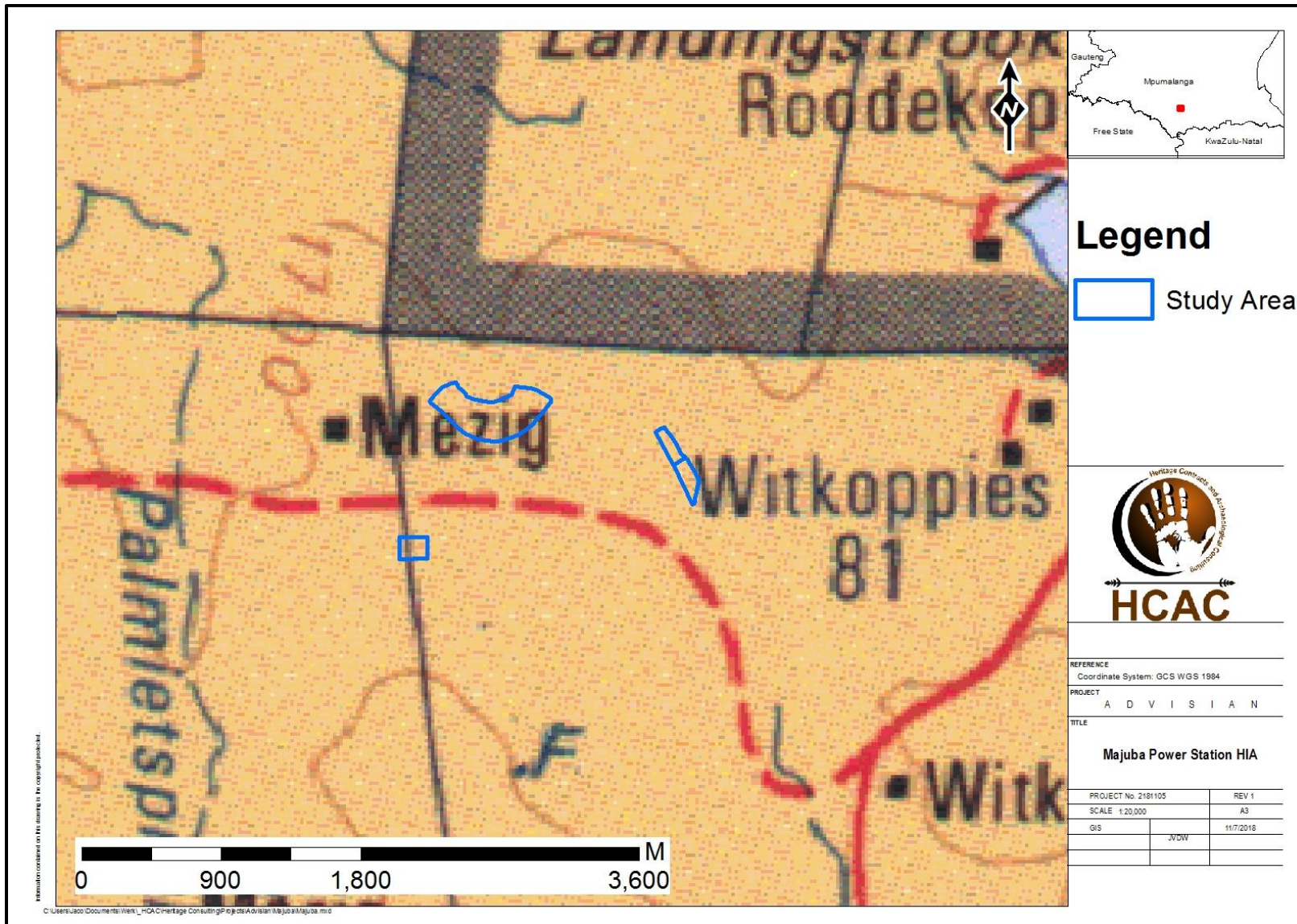


Figure 1. Provincial locality map (1: 250 000 topographical map)



Figure 3. Satellite image of the proposed project area (Google Earth 2018).

2 Legislative Requirements

The HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the following legislation:

- National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act No. 25 of 1999)
- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998 - Section 23(2)(b)
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), Act No. 28 of 2002 - Section 39(3)(b)(iii)

A Phase 1 HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of heritage specialist input is to:

- Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- Establish heritage informants/constraints to guide the development process through establishing thresholds of impact significance;
- Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources; and
- Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management of these impacts.

The HIA should be submitted, as part of the impact assessment report or EMPr, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will ultimately be responsible for the professional evaluation of Phase 1 AIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 AIA reports and additional development information, as per the impact assessment report and/or EMPr, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 AIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years post-university CRM experience (field supervisor level). Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is based in South Africa, representing professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 AIA's are primarily concerned with the location and identification of heritage sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance. Relevant conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement.

After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for with SAHRA by the applicant before development may proceed.

Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36. Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5]) of Act 25 of 1999 is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority, require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, in addition to SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery, but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws, set by the cemetery authority, must be adhered to.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance No. 7 of 1925), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning; or in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare. Authorisation for exhumation and reinternment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. To handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Literature Review

A brief survey of available literature was conducted to extract data and information on the area in question to provide general heritage context into which the development would be set. This literature search included published material, unpublished commercial reports and online material, including reports sourced from the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

3.2 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located; these locations were marked and visited during the field work phase. The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.

3.3 Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement is a key component of any BAR process, it involves stakeholders interested in, or affected by the proposed development. Stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to raise issues of concern (for the purposes of this report only heritage related issues will be included). The aim of the public consultation process was to capture and address any issues raised by community members and other stakeholders during key stakeholder and public meetings. The process involved:

- Placement of advertisements and site notices
- Stakeholder notification (through the dissemination of information and meeting invitations);
- Stakeholder meetings undertaken with I&APs;
- Authority Consultation
- The compilation of an EIA Report.

Please refer to section 6 for more detail.

3.4 Site Investigation

Conduct a field study to: a) systematically survey the proposed project area to locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources recorded in the project area.

Table 4: Site Investigation Details

	Site Investigation
Date	10 November 2018
Season	Summer– vegetation in the study area is high limiting archaeological visibility although large sections of the study areas are transformed by existing activities at the Power Station The impact area was however sufficiently covered (Figure 4) to adequately record the presence of heritage resources.

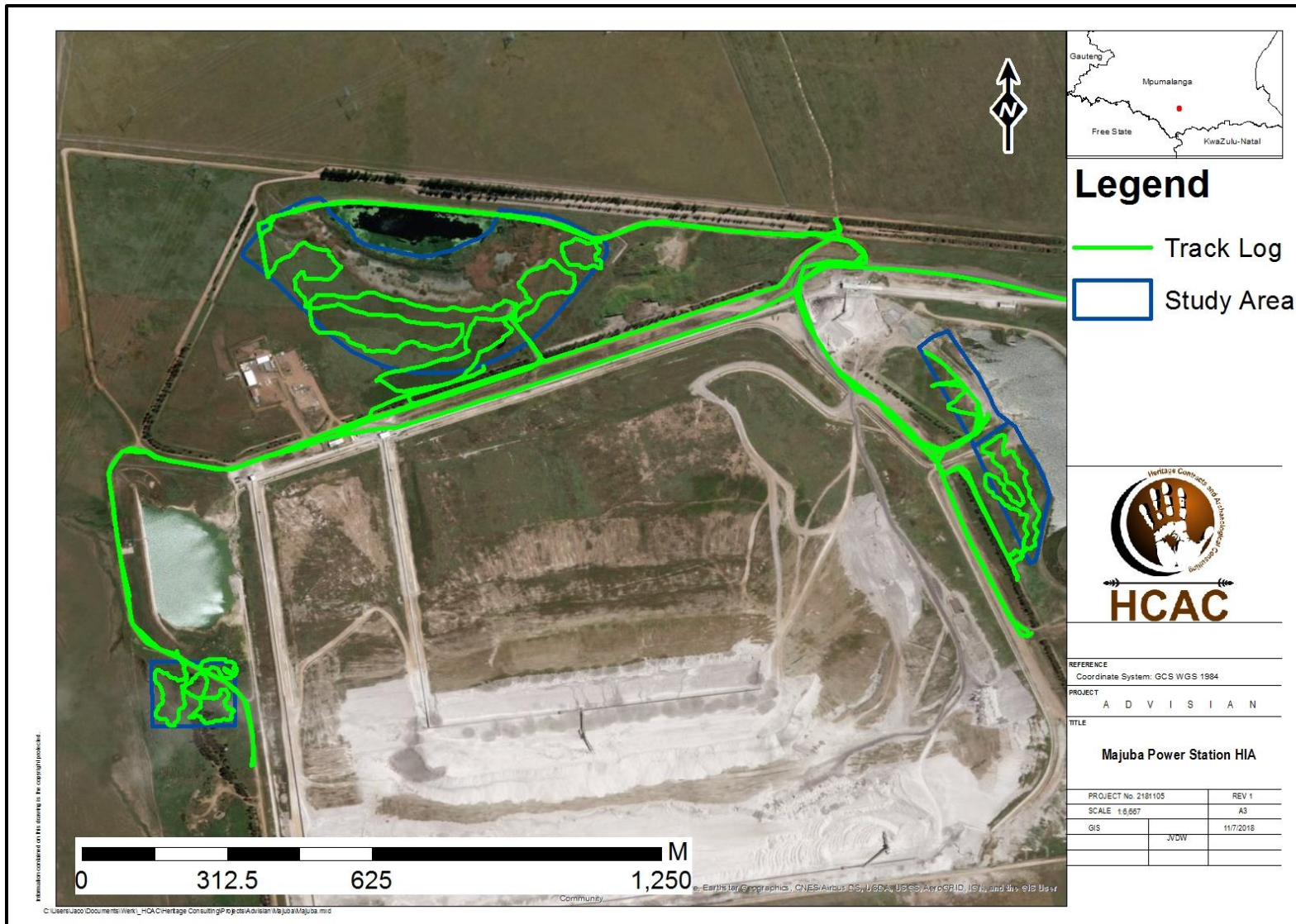


Figure 4: Track logs of the survey in green.

3.5 Site Significance and Field Rating

Section 3 of the NHRA distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- Its importance in/to the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a 'heritage landscape'. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed project the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface. This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The following criteria were used to establish site significance with cognisance of Section 3 of the NHRA:

- The unique nature of a site;
- The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site;
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features;
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined/is known);
- The preservation condition of the sites; and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

In addition to this criteria field ratings prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and acknowledged by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 10 of this report.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; national site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; provincial site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High significance	Conservation; mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High significance	Mitigation (part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	-	High/medium significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	-	Medium significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

3.6 Impact Assessment Methodology

The criteria below are used to establish the impact rating on sites:

- The **nature**, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- The **extent**, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development) or regional, and a value between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate (with 1 being low and 5 being high):
- The **duration**, wherein it will be indicated whether:
 - * the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0-1 years), assigned a score of 1;
 - * the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years), assigned a score of 2;
 - * medium-term (5-15 years), assigned a score of 3;
 - * long term (> 15 years), assigned a score of 4; or
 - * permanent, assigned a score of 5;
- The **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10 where; 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment, 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes, 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes, 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way, 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease), and 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
- The **probability of occurrence**, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale of 1-5 where; 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen), 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood), 3 is probable (distinct possibility), 4 is highly probable (most likely) and 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
- The **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above and can be assessed as low, medium or high; and
- the **status**, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
- the degree to which the impact can be reversed.
- the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.
- the *degree* to which the impact can be mitigated.

The **significance** is calculated by combining the criteria in the following formula:

$$S=(E+D+M)P$$

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are as follows:

- < 30 points: Low (i.e., where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
- 30-60 points: Medium (i.e., where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
- 60 points: High (i.e., where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

3.7 Limitations and Constraints of the study

The authors acknowledge that the brief literature review is not exhaustive on the literature of the area. Due to the subsurface nature of archaeological artefacts, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/recorded during the survey and the possible occurrence of unmarked graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. Similarly, the depth of the deposit of heritage sites cannot be accurately determined due its subsurface nature. This report only deals with the footprint area of the proposed development and consisted of non-intrusive surface surveys. This study did not assess the impact on medicinal plants and intangible heritage as it is assumed that these components would have been highlighted through the public consultation process if relevant. It is possible that new information could come to light in future, which might change the results of this Impact Assessment.

4 Description of Socio Economic Environmental

According to census 2011, Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality has a total population of 186 351, of which 90,5% are black African, 7,4% are white, 0,6% are coloured, and 1,2% are Indian/Asian. Of those 20 years and older 4,5% have completed primary school, 29,2% have some secondary education, 24,7% have completed matric, and 7,3% have some form of higher education. 19,4% of those aged 20 years and older have no form of schooling.

5 Description of the Physical Environment.

The proposed project is located on Portion 1, 2 and 6 of the farm Witkoppies 81 HS, to the south west of Amersfoort, Mpumalanga Province. The topography of the area is relatively flat and the northern section used to be cultivated (Figure 2). The project area has been extensively disturbed by developments (Figure 5 – 7) relating to the existing power station (earthworks and existing dams) that would have impacted on surface indicators of heritage resources. With only small sections that is undisturbed (Figure 8).



Figure 5. General site conditions.



Figure 6. General site conditions.



Figure 7. General site conditions.



Figure 8. General site conditions.

6 Results of Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

6.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

Adjacent landowners and the public at large were informed of the proposed activity as part of the BA process. Site notices and advertisements notifying interested and affected parties were placed at strategic points and in local newspapers as part of the process.

7 Literature / Background Study:

7.1 Literature Review

Several previous heritage studies were conducted in the immediate vicinity of the study area (SAHRA report mapping project V1.0 and SAHRIS). Studies consulted for this scoping study include Van Schalkwyk (2013), Becker (2008), Seliane (2013) as well as Van der Walt (2014). Becker recorded graves close to the Majuba Power Station but located well outside of the study areas and Seliane and van Schalkwyk also recorded graves as well as structures that could be older than 60 years. Van der Walt (2014) recorded structures younger than 60 years.

7.1.1 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

No known grave sites are indicated in the study area.

7.2 General History of the area

7.2.1 Archaeology of the area

The following section will endeavour to give an account of the history of the greater area of the proposed development and also a brief overview of the history of the district in which it is located.

The Stone Age is divided in Early; Middle and Late Stone Age and refers to the earliest people of South Africa who mainly relied on stone for their tools.

Very few Early Stone Age sites are on record for Mpumalanga and no sites dating to this period are expected for the study area. An example in Mpumalanga is Maleoskop on the farm Rietkloof where ESA tools have been found. This is one of only a handful of such sites in Mpumalanga.

The MSA has not been extensively studied in Mpumalanga but evidence of this period has been excavated at Bushman Rock Shelter, a well-known site on the farm Klipfonteinhoek in the Ohrigstad district. This cave was excavated twice in the 1960s by Louw and later by Eloff. The MSA layers show that the cave was repeatedly visited over a long period. Lower layers have been dated to over 40 000 BP (Before Present) while the top layers date to approximately 27 000 BP (Esterhuizen & Smith in Delius, 2007). MSA material is found widely across South Africa and some MSA manifestations can be expected in the study area.

The Later phases of the Stone Age began at around 20 000 years BP. This period was marked by numerous technological innovations and social transformations within these early hunter-gatherer societies. These people may be regarded as the first modern inhabitants of Mpumalanga, known as the San or Bushmen. They were a nomadic people who lived together in small family groups and relied on hunting and gathering of food for survival. Evidence of their existence is to be found in numerous rock shelters throughout the Eastern Mpumalanga where some of their rock paintings are still visible. A number of these shelters have been documented throughout the Province (Bornman, 1995; Schoonraad in Barnard, 1975; Delius, 2007). These include areas such as Witbank, Ermelo, Barberton, Nelspruit, White River, Lydenburg and Ohrigstad.

The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the pre-Historic and Historic periods. It can be divided into three distinct periods:

- The Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.
- The Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD
- The Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period.

The Iron Age is characterised by the ability of these early people to manipulate and work Iron ore into implements that assisted them in creating a favourable environment to make a better living. No Sites dating to the Early or Middle Iron Age have been recorded or is expected for the study area. The same goes for the Later Iron Age period where the study area is situated outside the southern periphery of distribution of Late Iron Age settlements in Mpumalanga. This phase of the Iron

Age (AD 1600-1800's) is represented by various tribes including Ndebele, Swazi, BaKoni, Pedi marked by extensive stonewalled settlements found throughout the Mpumalanga escarpment

Iron Age sites have been identified to the north of the area, around Bethal (Bergh 1999: 6-7). These all are dated to the Late Iron Age. It is also known that the early trade routes did not run through this area (Bergh 1999: 9). No major tribes seem to have settled very close to the area where the study area is located today by the start of the nineteenth century, but the Phuthing Tribe was prominent in the area to the north thereof (Bergh 1999: 10.)

In a few decades, the sociographic nature of the then Transvaal province would change forever. The Difaqane (Sotho), or Mfekane ("the crushing" in Nguni) was a time of bloody upheavals in Natal and on the Highveld, which occurred around the early 1820's until the late 1830's. (Bergh 1999: 109-115) It came about in response to heightened competition for land and trade, and caused population groups like gun-carrying Griquas and Shaka's Zulus to attack other tribes. (Bergh 1999: 14; 116-119) Mzilikazi and his raiders had moved from the Northern Nguni area to the area north of the Vaal River by 1821. It has been recorded that the Ndebeles first attacked the Phuthing tribe, which in turn migrated to the south of the Vaal River and joined groups of Southern Sotho speakers. The Phuthing and Southern Sotho tribes moved westward and northward and started raiding Tswana communities in the surrounding area. The Phuthing were commanded first by Chief Tshane, and later Ratsebe. As the Phuthing under Ratsebe moved eastwards along the Vaal River, they collided with Mzilikazi's Ndebele once more. The Phuthing and other raiding groups were finally taken captive in 1823 by Mzilikazi's men. (Bergh 1999: 110-111) It is unlikely that these events would have had a great influence on the area where the farms under investigation are located today, but it is still important to understand the social dynamics of the larger area.

7.3.1. Anglo-Boer War

The discovery of diamonds and gold in the northern provinces had very important consequences for South Africa. After the discovery of these resources, the British, who at the time had colonized the Cape and Natal, had intentions of expanding their territory into the northern Boer republics. This eventually led to the Anglo-Boer War, which took place between 1899 and 1902 in South Africa, and which was one of the most turbulent times in South Africa's history. Even before the outbreak of war in October 1899 British politicians, including Sir Alfred Milner and Mr. Chamberlain, had declared that should Britain's differences with the Z.A.R. result in violence, it would mean the end of republican independence. This decision was not immediately publicized, and republican leaders based their assessment of British intentions on the more moderate public utterances of British leaders. Consequently, in March 1900, they asked Lord Salisbury to agree to peace on the basis of the status quo ante bellum. Salisbury's reply was; however, a clear statement of British war aims. (Du Preez 1977)

During the British march into the Transvaal between February and September 1900, several troops passed by the area where Witbank is situated today. The battalions of Lieutenant Generals J. French, R. Pole-Carew and F. Roberts all travelled close by the Witbank area and through Middelburg. A railway line ran along this route at the time. (Bergh 1999: 51)

During the Anglo-Boer War, two railway stations were located in the vicinity of the Witbank area, and close to each a black concentration camp had been established. At Middelburg, about 20 kilometres to the east of Witbank, one white and one black concentration camp was also set up. During the Anglo Boer War, the highveld areas saw much action consisting of various skirmishes between Boer and Brit. During the second Anglo Boer War the Town of Standerton played a role when a British Garrison was besieged in the town for three months. There are no known battlefields or concentration camp sites close to the study area.

7.3.2. Cultural Landscape

The sites under investigation are located to the west of Majuba Power Station, about 16 kilometres south west of Amersfoort and 13 kilometres north east of Perdekop in Mpumalanga Province.

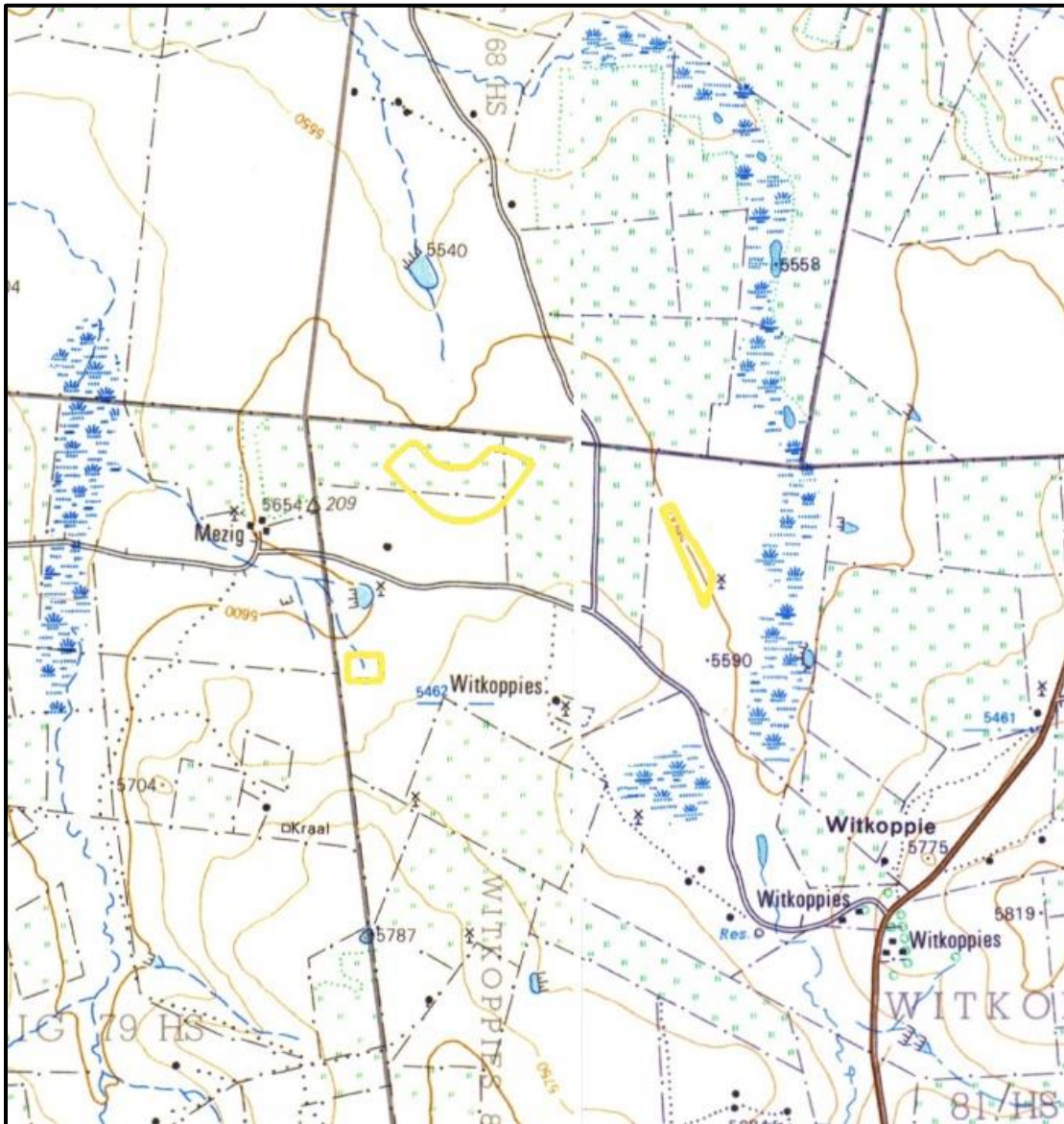


Figure 9. 1969 Topographical map of the sites under investigation. The approximate study area is indicated with a yellow border. No developments are visible in the south western site, and a river went through the area. One can see cultivated lands in the northern site. No developments are visible in the eastern site, but cultivated lands can be seen to the west and one windmill to the south east thereof. (Topographical Map 1969; Topographical Map 1969)

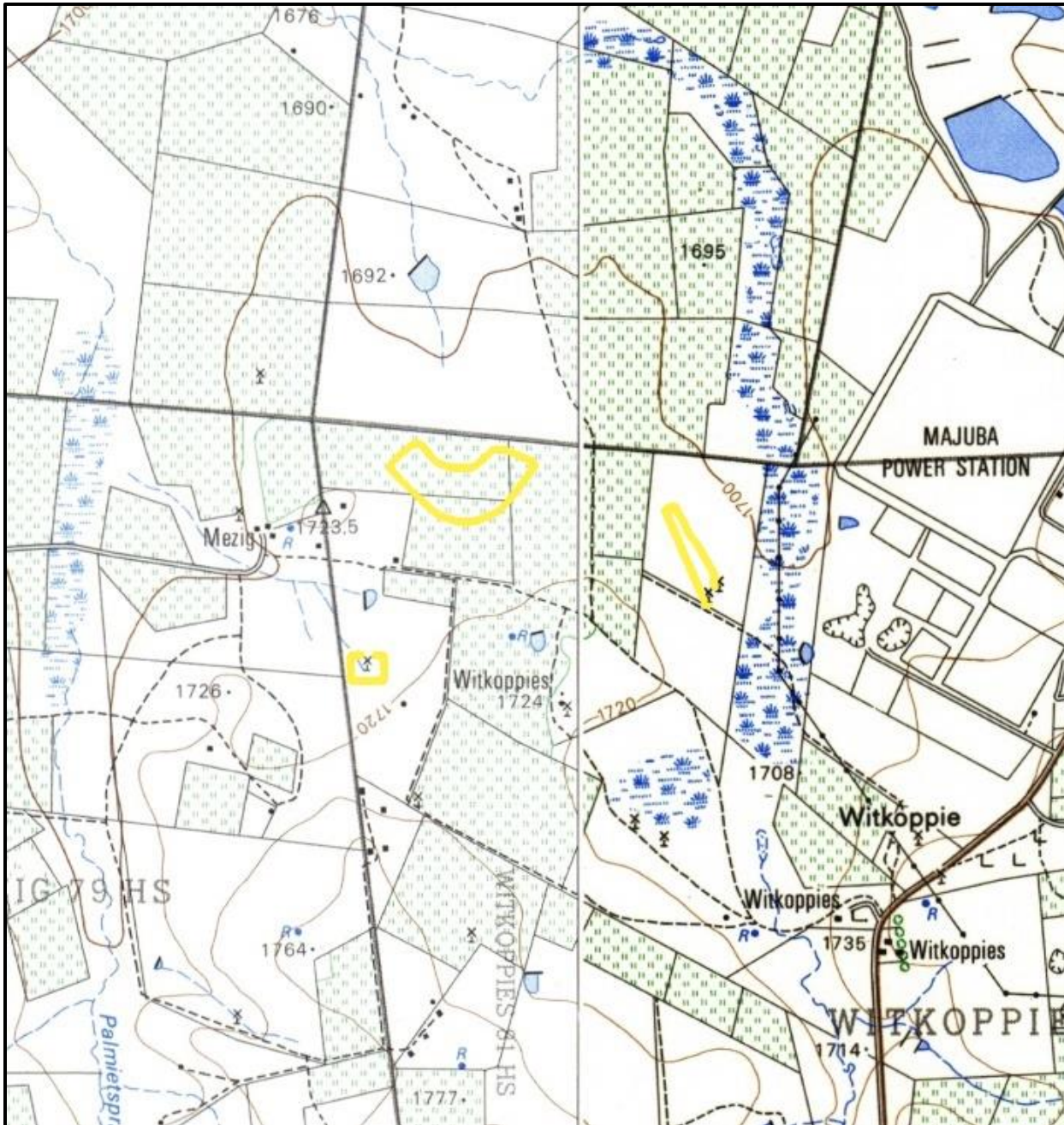


Figure 10. 1987 Topographical map of the sites under investigation. The approximate study area is indicated with a yellow border. One windmill and a river are visible in the south western site. One can see cultivated lands in the northern site. Either one or two windmills are visible in the eastern site, and a track / footpath can be seen to the south thereof. (Topographical Map 1987; Topographical Map 1987)

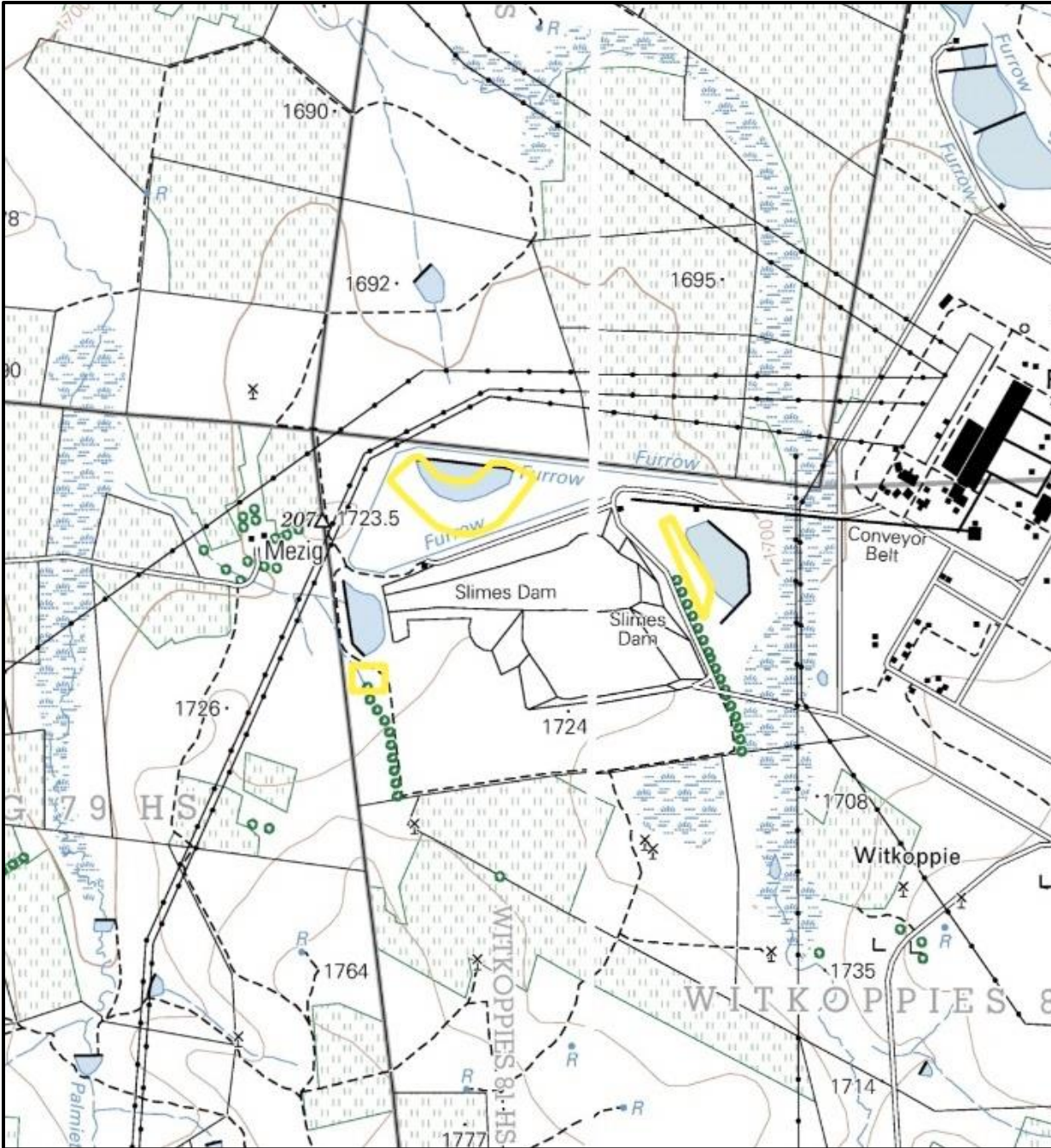


Figure 11. 2004 Topographical map of the sites under investigation. The approximate study area is indicated with a yellow border. By 2004 the area between the sites had been developed as the slimes dam for Majuba Power Station. A track / hiking trail is visible in the south western site. A dam formed part of the northern site. No developments can be seen in the eastern site, but a dam is visible just to the east thereof. (Topographical 2004; Topographical Map 2004)

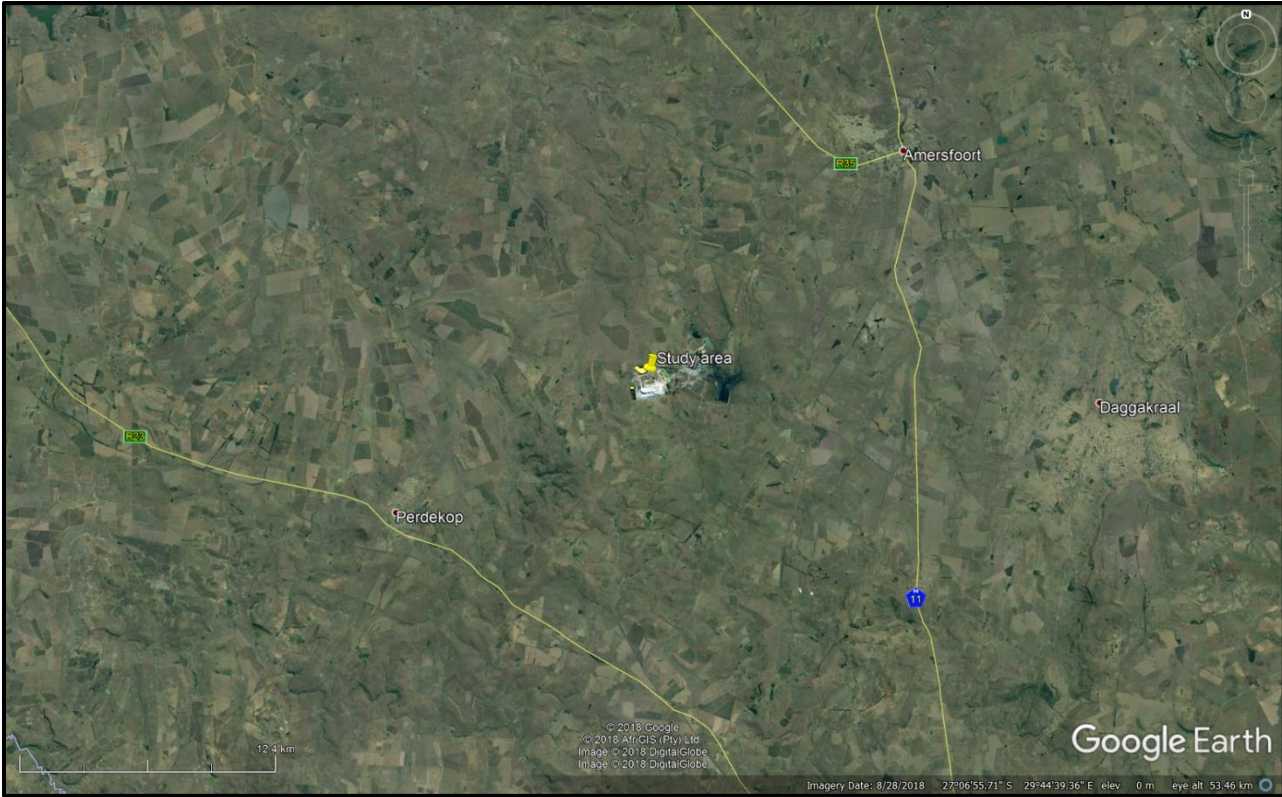


Figure 12. 2018 Google Earth image showing the study area in relation to Amersfoort, Perdekop, the N11 and other sites. (Google Earth 2018)

8 Findings of the Survey

The proposed projects are located in areas that are totally transformed by existing dams and is characterised by extensive earth works. These areas are transformed to the extent that the area is of no heritage potential (Figure 13 – 16) and the developments will not impact on any surface indicators of heritage sites or features of significance.



Figure 13. Earthworks and existing dams.



Figure 14. Earthworks and existing dams.



Figure 15. Earthworks and existing dams.



Figure 16. Earthworks and existing dams.

In terms of the national estate as defined by the NHRA no sites of significance were found during the survey as described below.

8.1 Built Environment (Section 34 of the NHRA)

No standing structures older than 60 years occur in the study area.

8.2 Archaeological and palaeontological resources (Section 35 of the NHRA)

No archaeological sites or material of significance was recorded during the survey. Therefore, no further mitigation prior to construction is recommended in terms of the archaeological component of Section 35 of the NHRA for the proposed development to proceed.

According to the SAHRIS Paleontological Map the area is of high paleontological sensitivity (Figure 17) and an independent study was conducted by Prof Marion Bamford (2019). The study concluded that the site is on highly disturbed soils and shales of the Permian Volksrust Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. These rocks are deep water mud suspension facies and do not typically preserve fossils. No fossils have been reported from this formation in this area but a marine bivalve was reported from near Newcastle. Since there is an extremely small chance of finding fossils a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been added to the report. (Bamford 2019).



Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	Field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	Desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	Desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	No palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required

GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	No palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	These areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Figure 17. Palaeontological sensitivity map of the study area.

8.3 Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36 of the NHRA)

In terms of Section 36 of the Act no burial sites were recorded.

8.4 Cultural Landscapes, Intangible and Living Heritage.

Long term impact on the cultural landscape is considered to be negligible as the surrounding area consists of an area that has been subjected to extensive development activities from prior 2004 onwards (Figure 11). Visual impacts to scenic routes and sense of place are also considered to be low due to the existing Power Station.

8.5 Battlefields and Concentration Camps

There are no battlefields or concentration camp sites close to the study area.

9 Potential Impact

The chances of impacting unknown archaeological sites in the study area is considered to be negligible. Any direct impacts that did occur would be during the construction phase only and would be of very low significance. Cumulative impacts occur from the combination of effects of various impacts on heritage resources. The importance of identifying and assessing cumulative impacts is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In the case of the development, it will, with the recommended mitigation measures and management actions, not impact any heritage resources directly. However, this and other projects in the area could have an indirect impact on the larger heritage landscape. The lack of any heritage resources in the immediate area and the extensive existing mining activities minimises additional impact on the landscape.

9.1.1 Pre-Construction phase:

It is assumed that the pre-construction phase involves the removal of topsoil and vegetation as well as the establishment of infrastructure needed for the construction phase. These activities can have a negative and irreversible impact on heritage sites. Impacts include destruction or partial destruction of non-renewable heritage resources.

9.1.2 Construction Phase

During this phase, the impacts and effects are similar in nature but more extensive than the pre-construction phase. These activities can have a negative and irreversible impact on heritage sites. Impacts include destruction or partial destruction of non-renewable heritage resources.

9.1.3 Operation Phase:

No impact is envisaged for the recorded heritage resources during this phase.

Table 5. Impact Assessment table.

Nature: During the construction phase activities resulting in disturbance of surfaces and/or sub-surfaces may destroy, damage, alter, or remove from its original position archaeological material or objects.		
	Without mitigation	With mitigation (Preservation/ excavation of site)
Extent	Local (1)	Local (1)
Duration	Permanent (5)	Permanent (5)
Magnitude	Low (2)	Low (2)
Probability	Not probable (2)	Not probable (2)
Significance	16 (Low)	16 (Low)
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Reversibility	Not reversible	Not reversible
Irreplaceable loss of resources?	No resources were recorded	No resources were recorded.
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes, a chance find procedure should be implemented.	Yes
Mitigation: Due to the lack of apparent significant archaeological resources no further mitigation is required prior to construction.		
Cumulative impacts: Due to the fact that no significant heritage sites were recorded and taking in consideration existing impacts by the Power Station the cumulative impact is regarded as low.		
Residual Impacts: Although surface sites can be avoided or mitigated, there is a chance that completely buried sites would still be impacted on but this cannot be quantified.		

10 Conclusion and recommendations

HCAC was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for the establishment of two rehabilitation dams & extension of two existing ash dams for the Majuba Power Station Ash Disposal Facility. The combined areas of impact measures approximately 20 hectares and was assessed both on desktop level and by a field survey over a period of one day.

The proposed projects are mostly located within areas entirely transformed by previous agricultural activities, existing dams with associated earthworks to the extent that from a heritage perspective, the impact areas have no heritage potential due to the extensive mechanical alteration of the topography. Similarly, very few known heritage sites occur in the vicinity of the study area (van der Walt 2018), and no surface indicators of heritage sites of significance were recorded. The area is however of high paleontological sensitivity according to the SAHRIS Paleontological Map and an independent study was conducted by Prof Marion Bamford (2019). The study concluded that the site is on highly disturbed soils and shales of the Permian Volksrust Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. These rocks are deep water mud suspension facies and do not typically preserve fossils. No fossils have been reported from this formation in this area but a marine bivalve was reported from near Newcastle. Since there is an extremely small chance of finding fossils a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been added to the report. (Bamford 2019).

No burial sites were recorded during the survey, however, if any graves are located in future they should ideally be preserved *in-situ* or alternatively relocated according to existing legislation.

Due to the lack of significant heritage resources in the study area the impact of the proposed project on heritage resources is considered low and it is recommended that the proposed project can commence on the condition that the following recommendations are implemented as part of the EMP and based on approval from SAHRA.

- Implementation of a chance find procedure as outlined below.

10.1 Chance Find Procedures

The possibility of the occurrence of subsurface finds cannot be excluded. Therefore, if during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find and therefore chance find procedures should be put in place as part of the EMP. A short summary of chance find procedures is discussed below.

This procedure applies to the developer's permanent employees, its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, and service providers. The aim of this procedure is to establish monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures. Construction crews must be properly inducted to ensure they are fully aware of the procedures regarding chance finds as discussed below.

- If during the pre-construction phase, construction, operations or closure phases of this project, any person employed by the developer, one of its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, or service provider, finds any artefact of cultural significance or heritage site, this person must cease work at the site of the find and report this find to their immediate supervisor, and through their supervisor to the senior on-site manager.
- It is the responsibility of the senior on-site Manager to make an initial assessment of the extent of the find, and confirm the extent of the work stoppage in that area.
- The senior on-site Manager will inform the ECO of the chance find and its immediate impact on operations. The ECO will then contact a professional archaeologist for an assessment of the finds who will notify the SAHRA.

Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations for foundations, water and sewage pipes, electricity supply poles or roads begin.

1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when excavations commence.
2. When excavations begin the rocks and must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (stromatolites, plants, insects, wood, bone, coal) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the building activities will not be interrupted.
3. Photographs of similar fossil plants must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants in the shales and mudstones. This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures.
4. Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment.
5. If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer/engineers then the qualified palaeontologist sub-contracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible.

6. Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits.
7. If no good fossil material is recovered then the site inspections by the palaeontologist will not be necessary. Annual reports by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA.
8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished then no further monitoring is required.

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10. Appendices:**Curriculum Vitae of Specialist**

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Education:

Particulars of degrees/diplomas and/or other qualifications:

Name of University or Institution:	University of Pretoria
Degree obtained :	BA Heritage Tourism & Archaeology
Year of graduation :	2001
Name of University or Institution:	University of the Witwatersrand
Degree obtained :	BA Hons Archaeology
Year of graduation :	2002
Name of University or Institution :	University of the Witwatersrand
Degree Obtained :	MA (Archaeology)
Year of Graduation :	2012
Name of University or Institution :	University of Johannesburg
Degree :	PhD
Year :	Currently Enrolled

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

2011 – Present:	Owner – HCAC (Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC).
2007 – 2010 :	CRM Archaeologist , Managed the Heritage Contracts Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand.
2005 - 2007:	CRM Archaeologist , Director of Matakoma Heritage Consultants
2004:	Technical Assistant , Department of Anatomy University of Pretoria
2003:	Archaeologist , Mapungubwe World Heritage Site
2001 - 2002:	CRM Archaeologists , For R & R Cultural Resource Consultants, Polokwane
2000:	Museum Assistant , Fort Klapperkop.

Countries of work experience include:

Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Zambia.

SELECTED PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Archaeological Impact Assessments (Phase 1)

Heritage Impact Assessment Proposed Discharge Of Treated Mine Water Via The Wonderfontein Spruit Receiving Water Body Specialist as part of team conducting an Archaeological Assessment for the Mmamabula mining project and power supply, Botswana

Archaeological Impact Assessment Mmamethlake Landfill

Archaeological Impact Assessment Libangeni Landfill

Linear Developments

Archaeological Impact Assessment Link Northern Waterline Project At The Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve

Archaeological Impact Assessment Medupi – Spitskop Power Line,

Archaeological Impact Assessment Nelspruit Road Development

Renewable Energy developments

Archaeological Impact Assessment Karoshoek Solar Project

Grave Relocation Projects

Relocation of graves and site monitoring at Chloorkop as well as permit application and liaison with local authorities and social processes with local stakeholders, Gauteng Province.

Relocation of the grave of Rifle Man Maritz as well as permit application and liaison with local authorities and social processes with local stakeholders, Ndumo, Kwa Zulu Natal.

Relocation of the Magolwane graves for the office of the premier, Kwa Zulu Natal

Relocation of the OSuthu Royal Graves office of the premier, Kwa Zulu Natal

Phase 2 Mitigation Projects

Field Director for the Archaeological Mitigation For Booyseval Platinum Mine, Steelpoort, Limpopo Province.

Principle investigator Prof. T. Huffman

Monitoring of heritage sites affected by the ARUP Transnet Multipurpose Pipeline under directorship of Gavin Anderson.

Field Director for the Phase 2 mapping of a late Iron Age site located on the farm Kameelbult, Zeerust, North West Province. Under directorship of Prof T. Huffman.

Field Director for the Phase 2 surface sampling of Stone Age sites effected by the Medupi – Spitskop Power Line, Limpopo Province

Heritage management projects

Platreef Mitigation project – mitigation of heritage sites and compilation of conservation management plan.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists. Member number 159
Accreditation:
 - Field Director Iron Age Archaeology
 - Field Supervisor Colonial Period Archaeology, Stone Age Archaeology and Grave Relocation
- Accredited CRM Archaeologist with SAHRA
- Accredited CRM Archaeologist with AMAFA
- Co-opted council member for the CRM Section of the Association of Southern African Association Professional Archaeologists (2011 – 2012)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A Culture Historical Interpretation, Aimed at Site Visitors, of the Exposed Eastern Profile of K8 on the Southern terrace at Mapungubwe.
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