

*SPECIALIST REPORT*  
**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
ESTABLISHMENT OF MACADAMIA PLANTATIONS ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM  
PEEBLES 31-JU  
WHITE RIVER, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT PREPARED FOR  
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**OCTOBER 2019**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint of *the farm PEEBLES 31-JU*, near White River. The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2531AA KIEPERSOL. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Mbombela Local Municipality, and the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999)(NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act.

The applicant, *PEEBLE HILLS (Pty) Ltd. (NADE group)*, in co-operation with *MPG ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT (Pty) Ltd.*, is proposing to establish a macadamia plantation on the farm. Most sections of the farm consist of natural vegetation, with only small sections which were previously disturbed. The entire farm has burnt just before the survey took place, which made visibility excellent.

Heritage features within the study area were observed during the site survey and consisted of a few upper and lower grinders. All of these were out of any clear archaeological or historical context. Upper and lower grinders as well as clay pots are still widely used in rural areas. The wider area has a long and continuous settlement history from ca 1600, and it is believed that the upper and lower grinders are associated with recent settlement. These have no significant context which will negatively be impacted upon by the proposed agricultural development. Two graves were identified during the survey, but are situated outside of the study area.

It is recommended that the applicant be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the development phase. Such sub-surface finds must be assessed by a qualified archaeologist after which an assessment can be made. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed agricultural development, within the study area, to continue.

**Disclaimer:** *Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. Christine Rowe trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.*

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- 1) The results of the project;*
- 2) The technology described in any report;*
- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*

October 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Rowe', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

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C. Rowe

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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
ESTABLISHMENT OF MACADAMIA PLANTATIONS ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM  
PEEBLES 31-JU, WHITE RIVER, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT**

*PEEBLE HILLS (Pty) Ltd (NADE group)*, in co-operation with *MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd*, is requesting an agricultural development on *portion 1 of the farm PEEBLES 31-JU*, in the White River district of Mpumalanga. The development is for approximately 100ha.

The proposed site for the development is situated between White River and Numbi in the Lowveld region. The site is accessed off the R538 district road, approximately 20km north of the town of White River. The study area is mainly natural bush on vacant land, with only very small sections which were previously disturbed. A large neglected compound is situated in the south-western corner of the farm, next to a fallow orchard.

Mr. Siphon Ngomane who lived on the farm for the past thirty-five (35) years, was interviewed and he was able to point out two graves which were situated outside of the study area, to the north-east.<sup>1</sup> He knew the farm very well and confirmed that there were no other graves or heritage sites on the farm. He was also able to direct us to a lower grinder in the northern section.

The farm manager Mr. Villiers Steyn, as well as a gate guard, Mr. Solomon, were also interviewed. Mr. Solomon knew of a rock art site on the adjacent farm, and confirmed that there were no rock art sites on the study area. They both confirmed that there were no graves or other heritage features that they were aware of.<sup>2 3</sup>

Google images were studied which indicated small sections of disturbed sites with infrastructure or cultivation (see Map 6). Several drainage lines are sloping towards the Noord-Sandrivier in the east. Many granite outcrops occur on the farm which sometimes forms low hills, and can be seen from roughly the middle of the farm, and are more prominent towards the eastern section of the study area. These are natural and undisturbed with indigenous vegetation cover (maps 4

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<sup>1</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Siphon Ngomane, 2019-10-19.

<sup>2</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Solomon, 2019-10-19.

<sup>3</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Villiers Steyn, 2019-10-19.

& 6). These rocky sections cannot be developed for agriculture, and will be left undisturbed.

*Adansonia Heritage Consultants* were appointed by *MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd*, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources. A literature study, relevant to the study area as well as a foot survey was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon by the proposed development (See map 4: topographical map 1:50 000, 2531AA KIEPERSOL).

The aims of this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study area, and to advise the client on sensitive heritage areas as well as where it is viable for the development to take place in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resources will also be made. The study area is indicated in maps 1 - 6, & Appendices 1 & 2.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd*, Mr. Mpendulo Gama, P.O. Box 293, Ngodwana, 1209, Cell: 0796512670 / Fax: 0865724949 / e-mail: [mpendulogama@gmail.com](mailto:mpendulogama@gmail.com) <sup>4</sup>
- Type of development: Agricultural development on *portion 1 of the farm PEEBLES 31-JU*, White River, Mpumalanga Province.
- The study area consists of mostly natural indigenous vegetation cover, very small sections of cultivated land and farm infrastructure, a large neglected compound area, and a section where orchards were once established. The farm has several granite rocky outcrops to the north and north-east. The Noord-Sandrivier forms the southern border, and drains into the White River further north (map 3 & 4).
- The area is zoned as agricultural and no rezoning will take place.
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and the City of Mbombela Local Municipality.
- Land owner & applicant: *PEEBLE HILLS (Pty) Ltd*, (*NADE group*) Mr. V. Wilkens, P.O. Box 325, White River, 1240. <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> BID document: *MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd*, October 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Personal communication: Mr. M. Mamba, Environmental Practitioner, 2019-10-31.

**Terms of reference:** As specified by section 38 (3) of the NHRA, the following information is provided in this report.

- a) The identification and mapping of heritage resources where applicable;
- b) Assessment of the significance of the heritage resources;
- c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
- d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

**Legal requirements:**

The legal context of the report is grounded within the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA as amended).

• **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the development. The proposed development is a listed activity in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of an HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA).

Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and its provincial offices and counterparts.

Section 38 of the NHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by an independent heritage management consultant, for the following development categories:

- The construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site: exceeding 5000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;
- the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;

In addition, the new EIA regulation promulgated in terms of NEMA, determines that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert *MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd*, the

applicant, as well as interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings or structures older than 60 years prior to demolition, in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and also other sections of this act dealing with archaeological sites, buildings and graves.

The NHRA section 2 (xvi) states that a “heritage resource” means any place or object of cultural significance, and in section 2 (vi) that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. Apart from a heritage report assisting a client to make informed development decisions, it also serves to provide the relevant heritage resources authority with the necessary data to perform their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resource, whether the development may proceed as proposed or whether mitigation is acceptable, and whether the heritage resources require formal protection such as Grade I, II or III, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such a grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction. Upper and lower grinders were observed during the survey.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during development of road infrastructure or agricultural activities. Two graves were identified to the east (outside of the study area).



- **Section 34 of the NHRA**

Section 34 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may alter, damage, destroy, relocate etc., any building or structure older than 60 years without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. Only recent structures / buildings and a large compound were observed during the survey. See discussion in text.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

This section deals with public monuments and memorials but does not apply in this report.

- **NEMA**

The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998), provides for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard. In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations (under the NEMA Act, as amended), the proposed development constitutes listed activities which requires environmental authorisations prior to commencement with the development, such as:

**Activity no. 13:** The physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture or afforestation for the purpose of commercial tree, timber or wood production of 100 hectares or more;

**Activity no. 15:** The clearance of an area of 20 hectare or more of indigenous vegetation.<sup>6</sup>

## **B BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA**

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

The study area on *portion 1 of the farm PEEBLES 31-JU*, is located approximately 20km north of White River, with access from the R538 district road, towards Numbi (Kruger National Park).

The wider area is rich in archaeological history and the first evidence of ancient mining occurred between 46 000 and 28 500 years ago during the Middle Stone Age. Hematite or red ochre was mined at Dumaneni (near Malelane, approximately 45km south-east of the study area) and is regarded as one of the oldest mines in the world. Iron ore was also mined in the area, and a furnace as well as iron slag was documented.<sup>7</sup>

Bushman (or San) presence is evident in the area as research by rock art enthusiasts revealed

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<sup>6</sup> BID document: MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd, October 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

109 sites in the Kruger National Park,<sup>8</sup> and over 100 rock art sites at Bongani Mountain Lodge and its immediate surrounds<sup>9</sup> (south-east of the study area), as well as many sites in the Nelspruit, Rocky's Drift and White River areas. A rock art site on Legogote hill, directly south of the study area, was visited by the author in the 1980's. The gate security guard, at the entrance to the PEEBLES farm (study area), Mr. Solomon, mentioned a rock art site south-west of the farm where vandals have excavated for possible treasure.<sup>10</sup> Thirty- one rock art sites were recorded by the author on the Mpumalanga Drakensberg Escarpment. Rock art sites were also recorded in Swaziland.<sup>11 12</sup> The Bushman painters most probably obtained the ochre which was used as a pigment in the paintings, from the Dumaneni ochre mine.<sup>13 14</sup>

Primary and secondary sources were consulted to place the surrounding area in an archaeological context. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray and Van der Ryst were consulted, as well as historic sources by Makhura and Webb.

Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the study area. Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinities of Hazyview<sup>15</sup>, Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie. Clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinders, are scattered at most of the sites.<sup>16</sup> Many of these occur in caves as a result of the Swazi attacks during the 1900's on smaller groups. The 1920 topographical map (Degree Sheet 22) of *Komatipoort* revealed no historic black settlements in the immediate area, only a footpath which crosses the farm (see Map 2).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> English, M. Die Rotskuns van die Boesmans in die NKW, in *De Vos Pienaar, U., Neem uit die Verlede*, p. 18-24.

<sup>9</sup> Hampson, et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, *SA Archaeological Bullitin* 57: p. 15.

<sup>10</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Solomon, 2019-10-09.

<sup>11</sup> Rowe, C. 2009. Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, MA dissertation. Pretoria: UP.

<sup>12</sup> Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

<sup>13</sup> Bornman, H. The Pioneers of the Lowveld, p. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

<sup>15</sup>PRMA: Information file 9/2.

<sup>16</sup>D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> Map: 1920 Topographical Map: KOATIPOORT Degree Sheet no. 22.

The author was also involved in desktop studies and surveys in the area, such as:

- *Study for the Proposed Eskom Powerlines, Hazyview – Dwarsloop* (2008);
- *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, (2001);
- *a Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for 132Kv Powerlines from Kiepersol substation (Hazyview), to the Nwarele substation Dwarsloop* (2002);
- *a Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed traffic training academy, Calcutta, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge* (2013);
- Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed *Nkambeni cemetery in Numbi, Hazyview* (2013);
- Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a *Development on the farm Agricultural Holding no 56 JU, White River* (2013) was done in the wider area;
- Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed *agricultural development on the farm SIERAAD, Komatipoort area*, (2013) revealed one possible Late Stone Age borer which was identified in a soil sample, one meter below the surface;
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for *proposed debushing of natural land for agricultural use: Portion 10 of the farm Thankerton 175JU, Hectorspruit, Mpumalanga Province* (2013); revealed some Later Stone Age artifacts which were all out of context and a burial site;
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the *proposed residential township, Tekwane extension 2, portion 7 of the farm Tekwane 537 JU*. No archaeological material of significance was identified.
- Report on Grave site found at *portion 7 of the farm Tekwane 537 JU, in way of amended Bulk Sewer Pipeline, Kanyamazane, Mpumalanga Province* (2017) – Large graveyard identified.
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the *proposed construction of a 0.75ML/D water treatment plant and bulk line on government land at Makoko Village (near White River) Kabokweni, Mpumalanga Province* (2017) residential township, *Tekwane extension 2, portion 7 of the farm* – no significant archaeological sites were observed;
- Letter of recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the *proposed new position for the Gutshwa substation, Gutshwa (near White River)* (2016);
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the *proposed 2ha development of the Msogwaba Youth Development Centre on a portion of the farm Nyamasaan 647JU, Msogwaba, Mpumalanga province* - no significant archaeological sites were observed (2018).
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for a *proposed agricultural development on the farm Krokodilspruit*

248JT, White River, Mpumalanga Province – some archaeological features as well as graves were observed.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed other recent Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the wider area:

- J. Van Schalkwyk: *Proposed new Lebombo Port of Entry and upgrade of Komatipoort railway station between Mpumalanga (SA) and Mozambique (2008)* – Some historic buildings were identified but no archaeological remains were identified;
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Report on a cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Kangwane Antracite Mine, Komatipoort (2012)* – An archaeological site with Middle and Late Stone Age tools were identified as well as some Iron Age artifacts and decorated pottery. Mitigation measures were recommended by exclusion from the development or a Phase 2 study;
- JP Celliers: *Report on Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment on erven at Komatipoort 182 JU Extension 4, Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed two pieces of undecorated sherds of pottery which was of low significance. It was recommended that any earthmoving activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Archaeological Impact Assessment for Border site at Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed historic remains linked to the Steinaeker's Horse regiment during the South African War.
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *A Report on a basic assessment relating to cultural heritage resources for the proposed ESKOM Tekwane North line and substations, Mpumalanga Province (2013)* – revealed historic remains of low significance and a cemetery.

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. Later Stone Age sites in the Kruger National Park date to the last 2500 years and are associated with pottery and microlith stone tools.<sup>18</sup> The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site near the area, besides those in the Kruger National Park, was the Plaston site east of White River, dating ca 900 AD.<sup>19</sup> No other archaeological excavations have been conducted to date within the study area, which have been confirmed by academic institutions and specialists in the field.<sup>20 21</sup> Several stone walled settlements with terracing was recorded in the area close

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<sup>18</sup> J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

<sup>19</sup> M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 97.

<sup>20</sup> Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.

<sup>21</sup> Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

to Hazyview,<sup>22</sup> as well as several which were documented in the southern parts of the Kruger National Park.<sup>23</sup> The southern Kruger Park and Nelspruit / Bongani Nature Reserve areas have an abundance of San rock art sites,<sup>24</sup> as mentioned above, but none was identified, or known on *portion 1 of the farm PEEBLES, 31-JU*.

Several early ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the study area was mainly inhabited by the Sotho groups (Pulana & Pai) and Swazi from before the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>25 26</sup> (See map 1: 1935: Map of Van Warmelo). When concentrating on ethnographical history, it is important to include a slightly wider geographical area for it to make sense. Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the number of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to reliably indicate how many people were living in one area.<sup>27</sup>

The whole district is divided in two, with the Drakensberg Escarpment in the west, and the Low Veld (in which the study area is situated) towards the east. Today, we found that the boundaries of groups are intersected and overlapping.<sup>28</sup> Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlangu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.<sup>29</sup>

During the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century some Sotho and Swazi groups combined under a fighting chief Simkulu. The tribe so formed became known as the BakaNgomane. The principal settlement of Simkulu was in the vicinity of the confluence of the Crocodile and Komati Rivers. It is believed that the BakaNgomane chiefs were also buried there.<sup>30</sup>

The Swazi under Mswati II (1845), commenced on a career of largescale raids, on the

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<sup>22</sup>C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

<sup>23</sup>Eloff J.F., Verslag oor Argeologiese Navorsing in die Krugerwildtuin, June / July, 1982.

<sup>24</sup>Hampson, J., et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge and its environs, *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 57: pp. 17-28.

<sup>25</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

<sup>26</sup>H. S. Webb, The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p.16.

<sup>27</sup>N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

<sup>28</sup>N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

<sup>29</sup>M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 21.

<sup>30</sup>Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* pp. 10-11.

prosperous tribal lands to the north of Swaziland. His regiments such as the *Nyatsi* and the *Malelane* brought terror to African homes as far afield as Mozambique.<sup>31</sup> During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.<sup>32</sup> There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.<sup>33</sup> This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>34</sup> when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, White River, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.<sup>35</sup>

Mswati II built a line of military outposts from west to east of the upper Komati River and the Mlambongwane (Kaaop River). At each outpost, he stationed regiments to watch and stop the BaPedi returning to their old haunts.<sup>36</sup> Shaka in the course of his military actions, came into conflict with Zwide Mkhathshwa (1819). Notwithstanding Zwide's numerical superiority, Shaka defeated him. The remnants of Zwide's tribe fled into the Eastern Transvaal where they settled. They ultimately found a new kingdom in Gaza land, which extended from just north of the current Maputo, up the east coast as far as the Zambezi river.<sup>37</sup>

Soshangane was a very powerful chief of the Gaza people, even though he was under the rule of Zwide. Soshangane decided to leave and was given full passage through Swaziland. He passed on his way through the Komati gorge, today known as Komatipoort, taking with him a great booty of cattle and women. Meanwhile more Shangane arrived and by 1896 some 2000 refugees settled between Bushbuckridge and Acornhoek where they are still living today. With the establishment of the Sabie Game Reserve (later known as the Kruger National Park), the BakaNgomane, their Shangaan protégés and Swazis who lived within its borders, were evicted in 1902, and went westward into Klaserie and Bushbuckridge areas, or south of the Crocodile River and established themselves in the Tenbosch and Coal Mine (Strijdom Block) areas, west and south of Komatipoort. The Swazi of Khandzalive moved to Mjejane or Emjejane, the current name for Hectorspruit<sup>38</sup> (see also: Map 1: 1935 Van Warmelo).

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<sup>31</sup> Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p 11.

<sup>32</sup>A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

<sup>33</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

<sup>34</sup>H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 16.

<sup>36</sup> Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p. 12.

<sup>37</sup> Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.17.

<sup>38</sup> Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.19.

## Swazi

The Swazi people descended from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>39</sup> The differences between the Swazi and the Natal Nguni were probably never great, their culture as far as is known from the comparatively little research being carried out, does not show striking differences. Their language is a 'Tekeza' variation of Zulu, but through having escaped being drawn into the mainstream of the Zulus of the *Shaka* period, they became independent and their claim to be grouped apart as a culture is now well founded.<sup>40</sup>

## Eastern Sotho group: The Pai

Van Warmelo identified the groups in northern Swaziland and the Pilgrim's Rest district before 1886 (including Sabie, Hazyview and White River), as Eastern Sotho (Pulana, Pai and Kutswe). According to Von Wielligh, the **Pai** occupied the area as far south as the Komati River (umLumati). Most of the younger generation has adopted the Swazi language.<sup>41</sup>

The Swazi constantly attacked the Eastern Sotho groups during the nineteenth century. The Pai fled to the caves in the mountains near MacMac (between Sabie and Pilgrim's Rest), while some of them (which were subjugated by a Swazi leader) fled from *Mswazi* in about 1853 to Sekukuniland (Steelpoort area), but decided to turn back towards their country along the Sabie River (1882). By this time, Europeans had already settled in this area when gold was discovered in 1873.<sup>42</sup>

## Eastern Sotho group: The Pulana

The history of the **Pulana** goes back to the Barberton area from where they trekked via Krokodilpoort (Nelspruit district) to settle north-east of Pretoriuskop (near Hazyview). When the Swazi invaded them, they moved on and split up under several chieftainships,<sup>43</sup> of who chief Kobêng (after which Kowyns' Pass was named), is well-known in the area's history.

The Pulana roughly lived in the following areas: north of the Crocodile River, west of the western boundary of the Kruger National Park as far north as its crossing the Sabie River, south

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<sup>39</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

<sup>40</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

<sup>41</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, pp. 3-5.

<sup>42</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 11.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 108.

of the Sabie river until its cutting through the main road from Pretoriuskop (including Hazyview and close to White River), to Bushbuckridge, west of this road as far as Klaserie, south of a line drawn from Klaserie to the confluence of the Blyde and Orighstad rivers, and east of the Blyde River. This large area is divided in two by the main road from Pilgrim's Rest to Bushbuckridge. This road was since ancient times the only connection between the Low Veld and Escarpment, and became known as "Kowyns' Pass".<sup>44</sup> The majority of Pulana lived to the north of this line, while south of this line the Pulana are scattered in groups into which are wedged Pai groups on both sides of the Sabie River, and Swazi peoples in the south, and south-eastern portions.<sup>45 46</sup>

### **Eastern Sotho group: The Kutswe**

The **Kutswe** trekked from the northern parts of Swaziland northwards as a result of pressure from the Swazi in the south.<sup>47</sup> The Kutswe settled north-east of the present Nelspruit at a river called Kutswe (Gutshwa)<sup>48</sup> from where they got their present name. From here they moved on and settled at various places, and ruins of their kraals are scattered from Pretoriuskop, Hazyview (Phabeni) as well as on the farms Welgevonden 364, Lothian 258, Boschhoek 47, Sandford 46, Culcutta 51 and Oakley 262.<sup>49</sup> They occupied additional areas between **White River and Sabie**, and had sufficient influence amongst the Pai during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, to establish authority over more than 2000 individuals living on farms on both sides of the Sabie River from the town of Sabie as far as the main road from **White River / Hazyview to Bushbuckridge**.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>M. De Jongh, (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 21.

<sup>45</sup>D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 107.

<sup>46</sup>N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

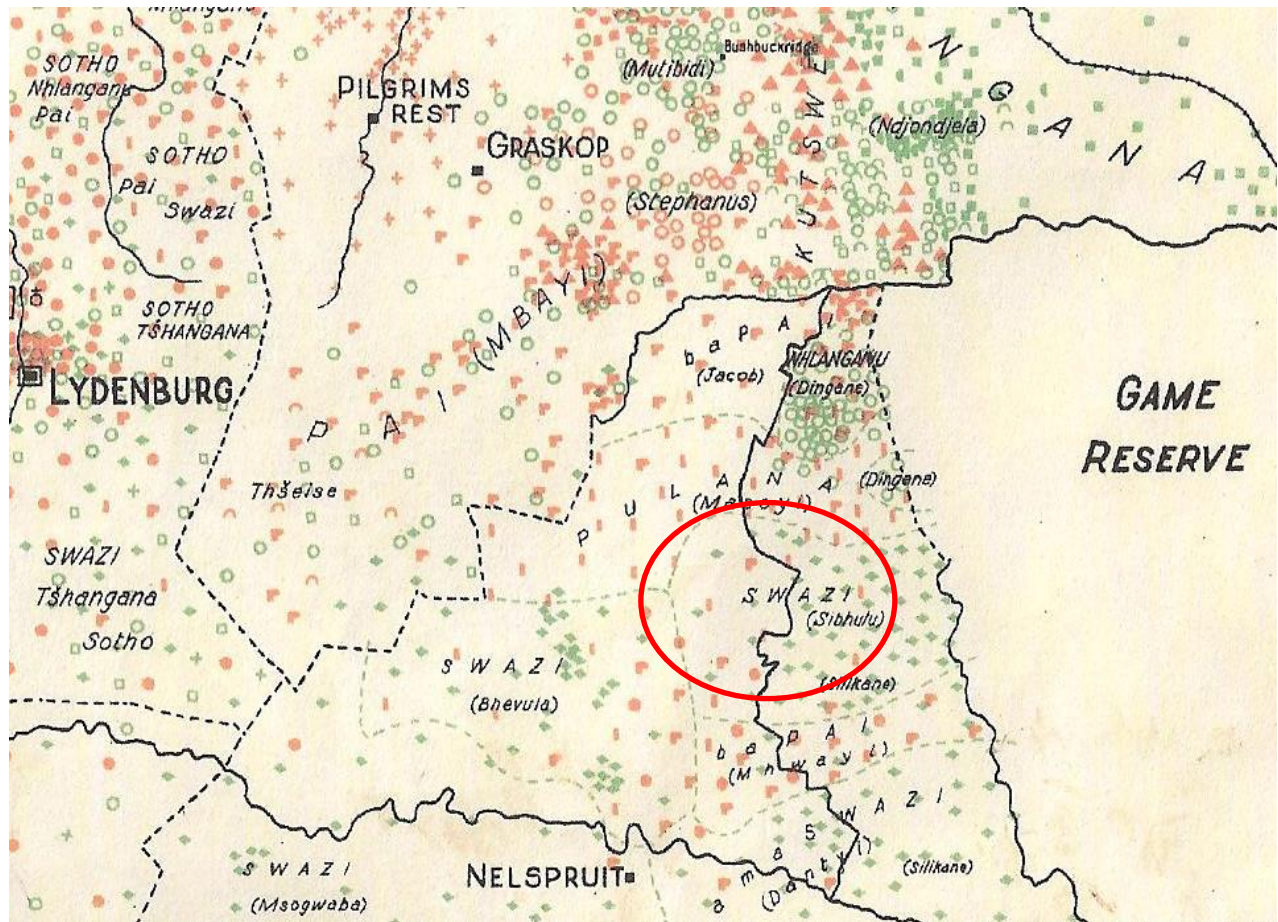
<sup>47</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>48</sup>T. Makhura, Early Inhabitants, in *Delius, P. (ed).*, *Mpumalanga: History and heritage*. p.105.

<sup>49</sup>D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 110.

<sup>50</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 4-10.





**MAP 1:** Van Warmelo: 1935:

The study area is indicated with the red oval.

The historical background of the study area confirmed that it was occupied since the 17<sup>th</sup> century by mainly Swazi and to a lesser extent, Sotho groups. These groups have intermarried extensively or were absorbed by other groups in time.<sup>51</sup>

KEY	
■ PULANA (various)	● SOTHO (various)
■ do. (Mutibidi)	■ do. (Marole)
+ do. (Kabiše)	■ do. (Mcrabá)
■ do. (Tseindiyá)	■ do. (Mahúše)
○ do. (Stephanus)	■ TSHANGANA (various)
■ do. (Nariše)	■ do. (Thullamaháše)
> do. (Matiúše)	■ NHLANGANU (various)
■ do. (Thšeise)	■ do. (Sobyana)
■ do. (Stephen)	■ do. (Ndjondjela)
■ do. (Sehlare)	■ do. (Matches)
■ do. (Makuke)	■ SWAZI
▲ KUTSWE	■ NDZUNDA (amaNdebele)
■ bapAI	
■ barOKA	

<sup>51</sup>M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 40.



**MAP 2:** 1920 Topographical map (Degree Sheet: Komatiport No 22). No features of interest were indicated on this map.

- **History of White River**

Early white settlers reported that there were relatively few black people in the district at the turn of the century, due to a combination of malaria, tsetse fly and the marauding Swazi impi's. There were however isolated kraals from the present Drum Rock Hotel near White River to Bushbuckridge (south-east of the study area).<sup>52</sup>

Just after the Anglo-Boer War, the High Commissioner of South Africa, Lord Alfred Milner, was investigating areas with favorable and healthy climates, fertile soil and lots of water, for farming. The ideal area that was identified was White River (or the White River Valley as it was then known).<sup>53</sup> Many ex-servicemen settled in the area but conditions were harsh and by 1911 only a

<sup>52</sup> Nevill C., *White River Remembered*, p. 68.

<sup>53</sup> Bornman, H., *Baanbrekers van die Laeveld*, p. 39.

Scot named Macdonald successfully farmed with citrus.<sup>54</sup>

Today, citrus from this area is one of the main forms of agriculture in the Province.<sup>55</sup> Massive timber plantations were planted around White River and one of the biggest timber mills with the latest technology was built in 1982 in the town.<sup>56</sup>



**Fig. a:** White River in 1905, consisted of a hotel, a general dealer and the managers' house.

Photo copied from: *Baanbrekers van die Laeveld*, p. 39: Photo by Shirley Swanepoel.

### **C. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The applicant, *PEEBLE HILLS (Pty) Ltd.*, in co-operation with *MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd.*, is requesting the alteration of 100ha land for agricultural use to establish macadamia plantations. The study area consists of mainly indigenous vegetation cover, with very small sections of previously disturbed areas. An area in the south-western corner of the farm was disturbed for agriculture (now fallow orchards), as well as a compound, and a very small section was cleared for building of farm infrastructure on the southern border (see Google map 6). The 1971 topographical map also show a small cultivated area in the middle of the farm (map 4), as well as the fallow orchard. The project will involve a road network, although existing roads will also be used.<sup>57</sup>

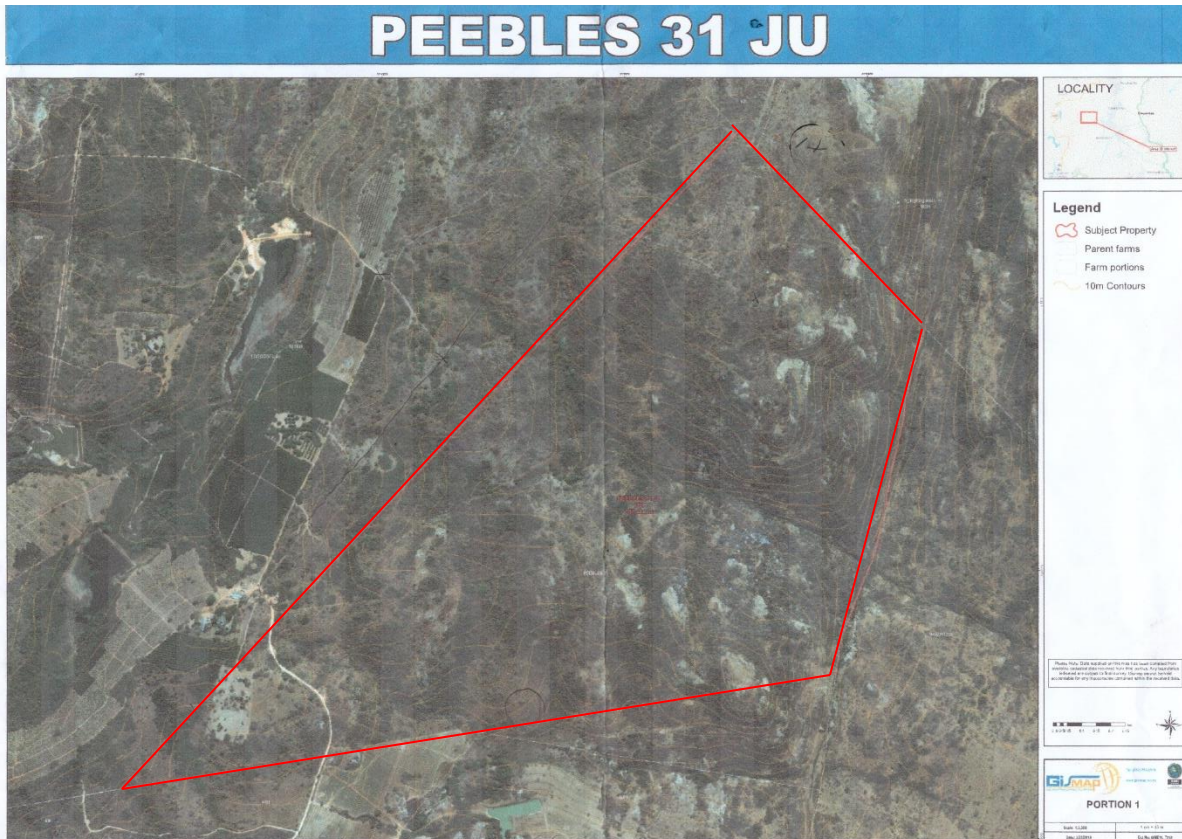
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<sup>54</sup> Nevill, C., *White River Remembered*, p. 3.

<sup>55</sup> Delius, P. & Hay, M., *Mpumalanga, an illustrated history*, p. 156.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* p. 162.

<sup>57</sup> BID document: MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd, October 2019.



**MAP 3:** The study area (red line) (Map provided by *MPG Environmental Consultant Pty Ltd*).

The farm has many natural and undisturbed granite outcrops with indigenous vegetation. Several drainage lines feed into the Noord-Sandrivier to the east, which drains into the White River further north. The typical granite and dolerite plains have sandy soils and clayey soils in the lower areas. Most of the area is underlain by gneiss and migmatite of the Nelspruit Suite. Soils are of Mispah, Glenrosa and Hutton forms, shallow to deep, sandy or gravelly and well drained.<sup>58 59 60</sup>

The site is situated between White River and Numbi (KNP) in the Lowveld region of Mpumalanga. The Lowveld is subtropical, due to its proximity to the warm Indian Ocean and latitude. The proposed development falls within the lower eastern slopes and hills of the north-eastern escarpment. Technically the ecozone representing this area is referred to *Lowveld Sour Bushveld* veld type according to Acocks (1988), or *Sour Lowveld Bushveld* according to Low & Rebelo (1998), and Schmidt et al (2002).<sup>61</sup>

<sup>58</sup> SANPARKS, Visitors Guide to the Kruger National Park, p. 2.

<sup>59</sup> Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 500.

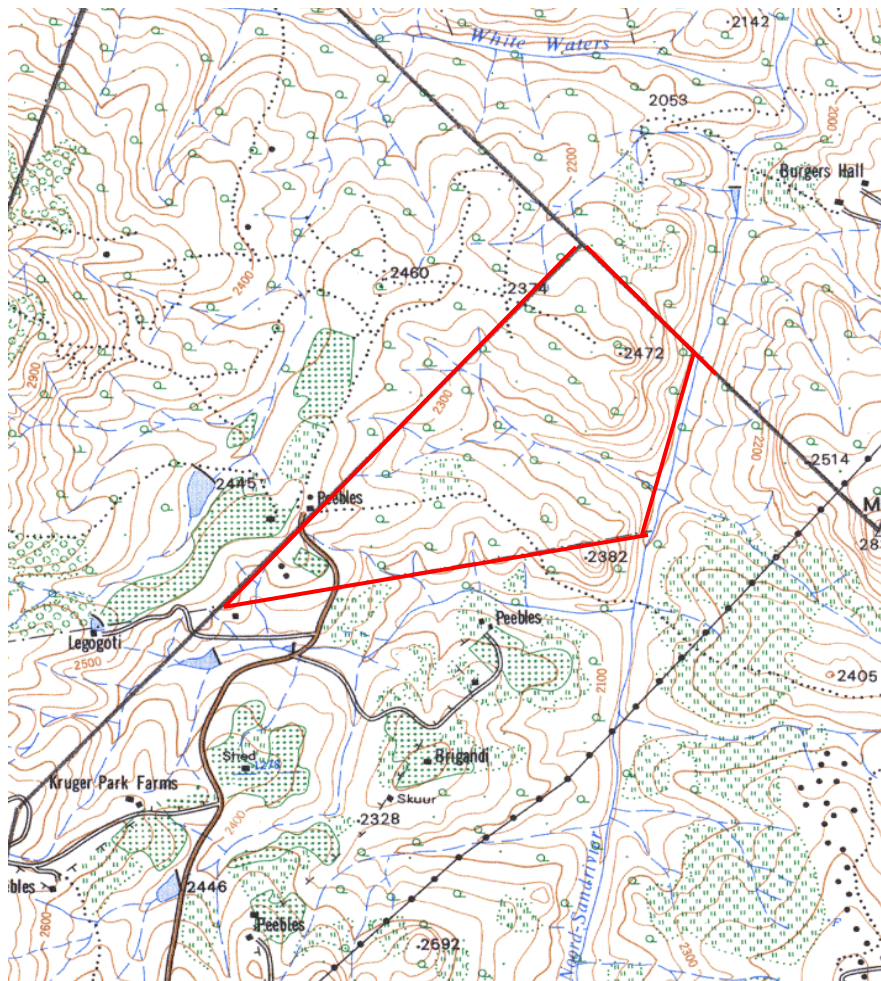
<sup>60</sup> Personal Communication: Dr. Andrew Deacon (for White River area), 2018-11-22.

<sup>61</sup> BID document: MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd, October 2019.

## D. LOCALITY

The proposed site for the agricultural development on *portion 1 of the farm PEBBLES 31-JU* is situated between White River and Numbi (KNP), with access from the R538 road. The study area is approximately 20 km north of White River. The farm overlooks Legogote Hill, a prominent landmark in the area, where a rock art site is also known.<sup>62</sup>

The study area is indicated on the 1971 topographical map (2531AA KIEPERSOL), as well as a 1920 topographical map (Komatipoort, Degree Sheet 22), which were studied for possible locations of historical features and footpaths (see maps 2 & 4). The site falls within the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and the City of Mbombela Local Municipal in the Mpumalanga Province (maps 1 - 6 & Appendix 2 figs. 1 – 32 for the study area).

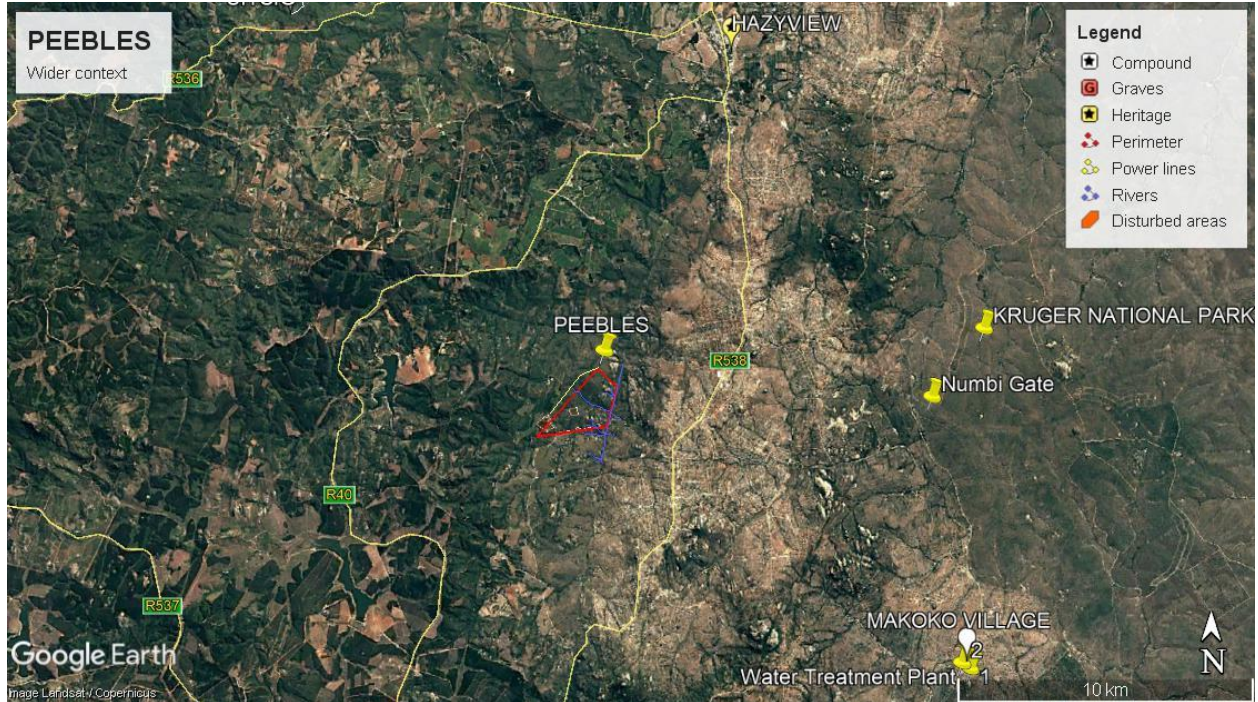


**MAP 4:** Topographical Map 1:50 000 (1971), 2531AA KIEPERSOL.

<sup>62</sup> Bornman, H., *Baanbrekers van die Laeveld*, p. 1.

### Description of methodology:

The 1971 topographical map, (2531AA KIEPERSOL, map 4), a 1920 map (Degree Sheet 22, KOMATIPOORT), as well as Google images were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure on the farm PEBBLES (maps 2 - 6).



**MAP 5:** Google image of the study area, as seen in a wider context.

In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consisted mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information.
- Specialists currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology have also been consulted on the subject.

-Literary sources: A list of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were cited, and revealed some information;

-The archaeological database of SAHRA as well as the National Cultural History Museum were consulted. Heritage Impact Assessment reports of specialists who worked in the area were studied and are quoted in section B.

- The fieldwork and survey were conducted extensively by three (and five) people on foot and per vehicle. Existing tracks and paths were also used to access sections (see Appendix 1).
- The entire farm had burnt recently, which made visibility excellent. Many footpaths and tracks were clearly visible, and which could be followed (see Appendix 1 & fig. 13).
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Oregon 750) datum WGS 84, and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 3 meters of identified sites.
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999);
- Personal communication with environmental practitioner Mpendulo Gama, Danie van der Walt,<sup>63</sup> as well as the farm manager, Mr. Steyn,<sup>64</sup> and workers on the farm,<sup>65</sup> were held.

GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area. Co-ordinates: see Project Map 3, provided by MPG Environmental Consultant Pty Ltd:

<b>GPS CO-ORDINATES</b>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
A	S 25° 09' 54.78"	E 31° 04' 00.91"	728m
B	S 25° 08' 40.94"	E 31° 05' 12.91"	700m
C	S 25° 09' 00.73"	E 31° 05' 36.77"	607m
D	S 25° 09' 42.88"	E 31° 05' 25.13"	675m

## **E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES**

The applicant, *PEEBLE HILLS (Pty) Ltd.*, in co-operation with *MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd.* is requesting the development of approximately 100ha of agricultural land on a 287ha property. The area is mainly natural vegetation with very small sections of transformed land (map 6). Visibility was excellent throughout the survey as the farm had burnt recently and the veld was dry and open (see Appendix 2). The terrain was accessible throughout the survey.

A few upper and lower grinders were observed during the survey (see discussion below).

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps, figures and appendices, which indicate the study area, and which correspond with the summary below. Photographs in

<sup>63</sup> Personal communication: Env. Practitioner, Mr. D. van der Walt, 2019-10-09.

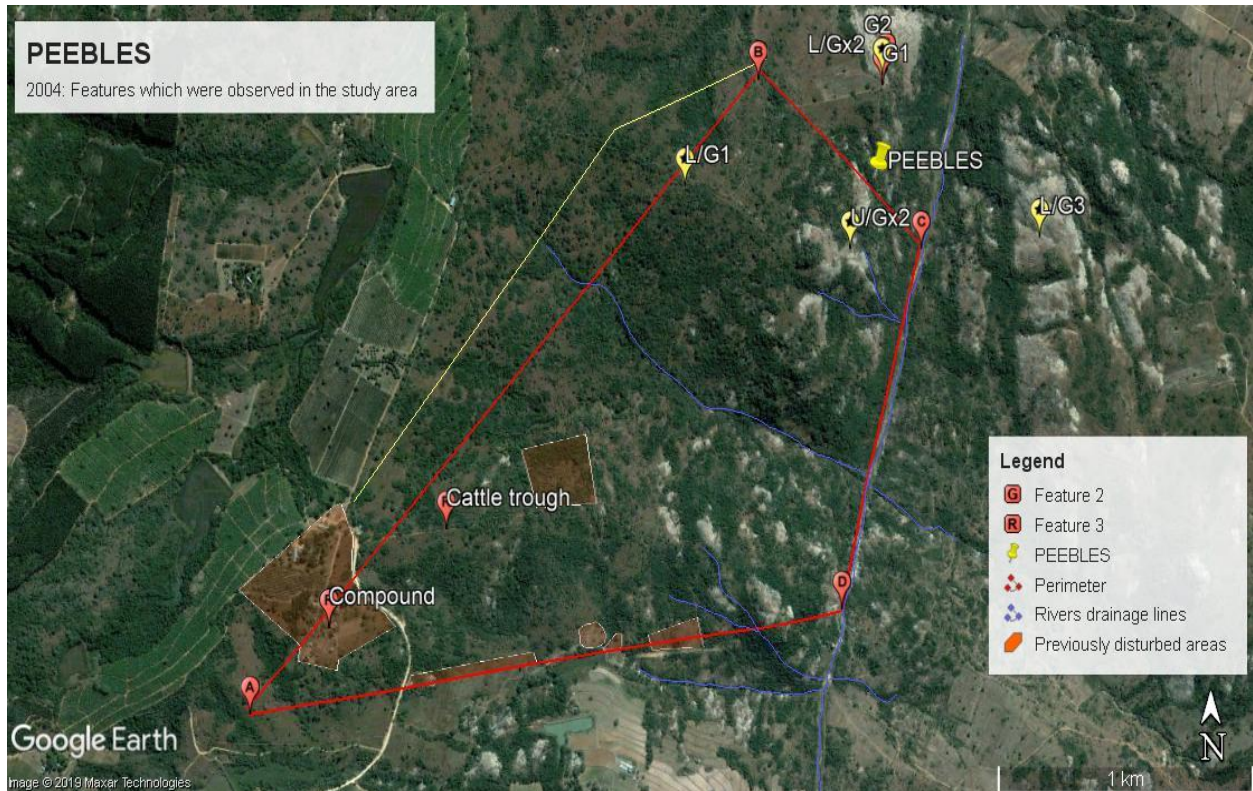
<sup>64</sup> Personal communication: Farm Manager, Mr. Villiers Steyn, 2019-10-09.

<sup>65</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Ngomane & Mr. Solomon, 2019-10-09.

Appendix 2 show the general view of the study area, as well as the features which were identified (figs. 1 - 32).

A 1920 topographical map (map 2: Komatipoort, degree sheet 22) does not indicate any historic or pre-historic settlements directly in, or close to the study area. Only one footpath is indicated, which crosses the farm. The 1971 topographical map (map 4), indicates a few footpaths, but no hut settlements. A few lower grinders, two upper grinders and recent infrastructure were observed (figs 7, 12, 16, 22 & 23). No recent settlement areas or a clear archaeological context could be associated with these features. Two graves and a few lower grinders which are situated outside of the study area, were also identified (figs. 14, 29, 30, 31 & 32).

Please note that the wider area has a long settlement history and items such as upper and lower grinding stones as well as clay pots are currently still widely used in these rural areas. It is believed that these items on the farm PEEBLES, are associated with recent settlement. No archaeological context or recent settlement areas could be identified on the farm.



**MAP 6:** Distribution of features and graves in the study area (red line). The shaded sections were previously disturbed with either agriculture or infrastructure.



**Features which were observed during the survey (see map 6):**

<b>Feature / Site</b>	<b>Description / Comments</b>	<b>Site Location</b>
<b>Lower grinder (1)</b>	A small lower grinder was observed in the northern section. It was pointed out by Mr. Siphon Ngomane. <sup>66</sup> <b>Fig. 7</b>	25°08'53.73"S 31°05'02.75"E Elev. 728m
<b>Upper grinders x 2</b>	Two upper grinders were identified close to each other. They were partly buried in the sandy soil. <b>Fig. 12</b>	25°09'01.26"S 31°05'25.77"E Elev. 704m
<b>Concrete cattle trough</b>	A round concrete water trough for cattle suggests that the area was once used for cattle farming. <b>Fig. 16</b>	25°09'32.07"S 31°04'28.67"E Elev. 731m
<b>Recent compound</b>	A large neglected compound is situated in the south western corner of the farm. It is next to previous fruit orchards. <b>Figs. 22 &amp; 23</b>	25°09'44.38"S 31°04'12.25"E Elev. 677m
<b>FEATURES OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA:</b>		
<b>Lower grinders x 2</b>	Two lower grinders were observed near the graves on a rocky outcrop (outside of the study area). <b>Figs. 31 &amp; 32</b>	25°08'41.13"S 31°05'30.46"E Elev. 686m
<b>Lower grinder (3)</b>	A lower grinder was observed east of the study area (outside of the study area). <b>Fig. 14</b>	25°08'59.70"S 31°05'52.89"E Elev. 679m

**Graves**

<b>Feature / Site</b>	<b>Description / Comments</b>	<b>Site Location</b>
<b>GRAVES</b>		
<b>Grave G1</b>	A stone packed grave at the bottom of a rocky outcrop was pointed out by Mr. Siphon Ngomane. <sup>67</sup> (Outside of the study area). <b>Fig. 29</b>	25°08'42.13"S 31°05'30.51"E Elev. 686m
<b>Grave G2</b>	Another grave (stone packed) was identified further up on the same outcrop, and pointed out by Mr. Ngomane. <sup>68</sup> (Outside of the study area). <b>Fig. 30</b>	25°08'40.51"S 31°05'31.11"E 685m

<sup>66</sup> Personal communication: Mr. S. Ngomane, 2019-10-09.

<sup>67</sup> Personal communication: Mr. S. Ngomane, 2019-10-09.

<sup>68</sup> Personal communication: Mr. S. Ngomane, 2019-10-09.

**F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	Compound & cattle trough are not 60 years old	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	Upper & Lower grinders out of archaeological context	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	No graves within the study area	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulation	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

- **Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources: General issues of site and context:**

<b>Context</b>		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	NA
Natural environmental context	No	NA
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA

<b>Context</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	Yes	The Kruger National Park is approximately 10 km east of the study area
Is the property part of a conservation area of special areas in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<b>Property features and characteristics</b>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	Very little – a small section of agriculture, a small section of an orchard, some farm infrastructure & a compound

<b><i>Property features and characteristics</i></b>		
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	NA
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	Yes	Rocky outcrops occur
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	Drainage lines. The Noord-Sandrivier forms the eastern boundary

<b><i>Heritage resources on the property</i></b>		
<b><i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i></b>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
<b><i>General protection (NHRA)</i></b>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	Yes	NA – believed to be of recent origin
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	Outside the study area

<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELEMENTS</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person / community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Structures not older than 60 years - No risk
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Historical settlement / townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELE- MENT S</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person / community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Landscap e of cultural significan ce	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geologica l site of scientific/ cultural importanc e	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeolo gical / palaeontol ogical sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Material is out of context and believed to be of recent origin – see evaluation
Grave / burial grounds	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Outside of the study area
Areas of significan ce related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Summarised recommended impact management interventions

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance rating</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural significan ce</b>	<b>Impact significan ce</b>		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	None	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	None	None	No impact	No risk as the material is out of context / recent origin and of no significance
Grave / burial grounds	No	No	None	-	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural significance rating</b>			
		<b>Cultural significan ce</b>	<b>Impact significan ce</b>		
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	NA	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	Upper & lower grinders - out of historical / archaeological context	None needed
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	NA	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Development requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulation	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA



## **G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES**

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above are made for all identified heritage features.

- **Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

- **National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed, and contributes to redressing past inequities.<sup>69</sup> It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section 3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.<sup>70</sup>

- **The significance and evaluation of the cultural heritage features on portion 1 of the farm PEEBLES 31-JU:**

Please note that the evaluation and discussion below are only applicable to cultural resources which will be impacted upon by the proposed agricultural development (inside the study area). The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features can be summarized as follows:

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<sup>69</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

<sup>70</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

**FEATURES:**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage Features</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Measures of Mitigation</b>
<b>Upper &amp; lower grinding stones</b>	Upper & lower grinding stones: It is believed that these are associated with recent settlement as these items are currently still widely used in the surrounding rural area; No archaeological sites were observed near or in the vicinity.	<b>No significance</b>	No mitigation measures are recommended (as they are not in any historical or in an archaeological context).
<b>Compound &amp; cattle trough</b>	The neglected compound as well as cattle trough, are not 60 years old;	<b>No significance</b>	No mitigation measures are recommended (as they are not in any historical context).

- **Field rating:**

The field rating is viewed in terms of the NHRA (25, 1999) sections 3 (3) a, c, g & h.

The recent neglected compound buildings as well as the concrete cattle trough are of no significance. The archaeological material (upper and lower grinders), which were identified during the survey, were all associated with recent settlement and not believed to have any significance which will be negatively impacted upon by the proposed agricultural development. There is no cultural value to these objects which could link them as of outstanding importance to a certain community (NHRA 3.3a); or its potential to yield social, cultural or spiritual information or to link it to a particular community which may contribute to an understanding of South Africa's cultural heritage (NHRA 3.3c & g).

**Recommendation & discussion:**

Items such as upper and lower grinders are found in the entire rural areas of Bushbuckridge, Hazyview, White River and Nelspruit (see map 1), and are still in use today. None of these features are within an archaeological or historical context. It is believed that these items are of a more recent nature, as the 1971 topographical map (map 4). There is no cultural value to these objects which could link them as of outstanding importance to a certain community (NHRA 3.3a); or its potential to yield social, cultural or spiritual information or to link it to a particular community which may contribute to an understanding of South Africa's cultural

heritage (NHRA 3.3c & g).<sup>71</sup> No mitigation measures are recommended.

The remains of a concrete cattle trough as well as a large neglected compound which were observed during the survey, are of a recent nature and not over 60 years old. There is no cultural value to these structures which could link them as of outstanding importance to a certain community (NHRA 3.3a); or its potential to yield social, cultural or spiritual information or to link it to a particular community which may contribute to an understanding of South Africa's cultural heritage (NHRA 3.3c & g).<sup>72</sup>

## **H. CONCLUSION**

It is not believed that the features which were identified during the survey have any significance in terms of archaeological, historical or cultural value which might prevent the proposed development to continue.

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during the agricultural development. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue in the study area. It is recommended that an assessment and recommendation be done by a qualified archaeologist, should any other archaeological material be found during development activities.

**Adansonia Heritage Consultants cannot be held responsible for any archaeological material or graves which were not located during the survey.**

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<sup>71</sup> National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

<sup>72</sup> National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

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## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

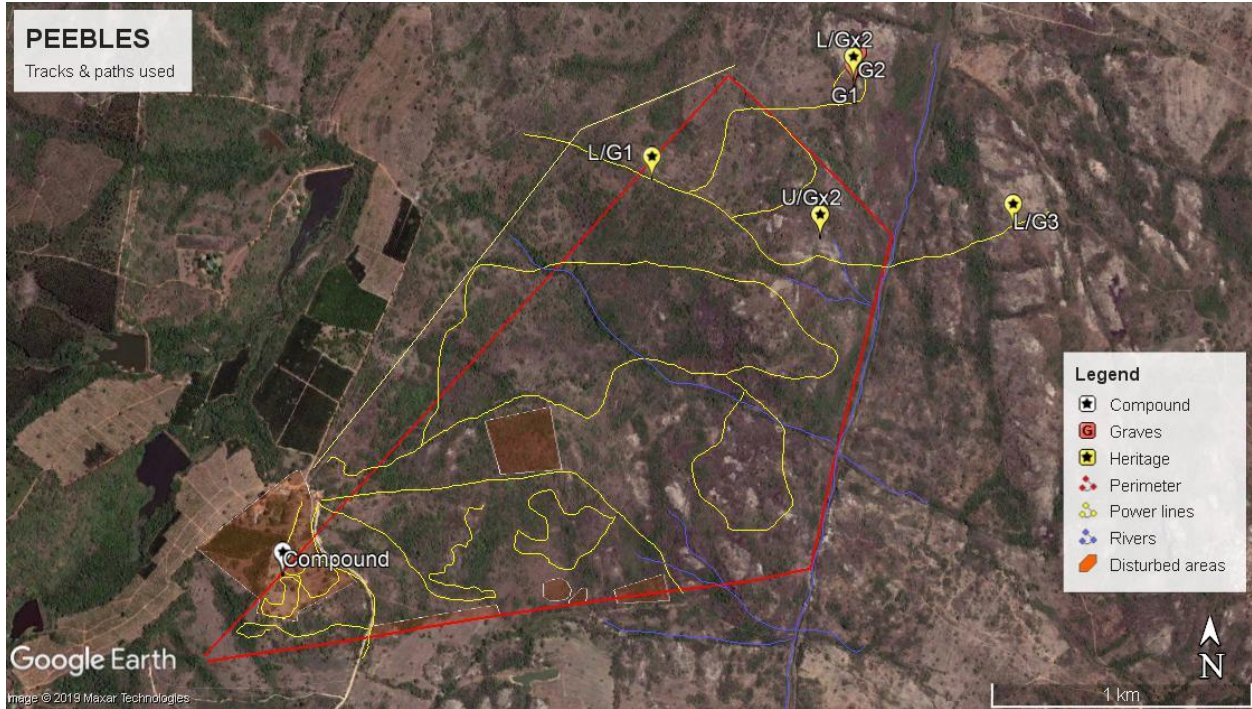
- Personal communication: Dr. A. Deacon, (areas around White River), 2018-11-22.
- Personal communication: Mr. M. Mamba, Environmental Practitioner, 2019-10-31.
- Personal communication: Mr. Sipho Ngomane, Cell: 0646205020.
- Personal communication: Security at Peebles, Mr. Solomon, Cell: 0662635674.
- Personal communication: Mr. D. van der Walt, Cell: 0726231845.
- Personal communication: Farm Manager: Mr. Villiers Steyn, Cell: 0662635674.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

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# APPENDIX 1

## Tracks and Paths used to access the study area



Tracks and paths which were used during the survey.