

**APPENDIX F3 A: HERITAGE S24G OPINION
LETTER**

2019-10-31

MEMORANDUM ON SITE STATUS AND HERITAGE IMPACT SUBJECT TO A SECTION 24G APPLICATION AS PART OF THE DOOR OF HOPE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ON A PORTION OF THE FARM HARTSENBERGFONTEIN 332I, SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

1. Background and Scope

Door of Hope is proposing the establishment of a new village on the farm Hartsenbergfontein 332IQ near Walkerville within the Sedibeng District Municipality of the Gauteng Province. In particular, the project which will cover a surface portion of approximately **24ha**, will consist of the following:

- Residential House
- Office Block
- School Buildings
- Dining Hall
- Sports Fields / Courts
- Vegetable Gardens
- Baby House
- Medical Facility
- Early Childhood Development Centre
- Play Areas
- Main Roads
- Paved walkways/ bike paths

An Environmental Basic Assessment (BA) process was undertaken and an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) was completed as part of the application¹.

During the course of the BA it became apparent that vegetation had been cleared for the construction of the three housing units in the project area, which is classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA). In addition, a dirt road and a 10kl sewerage package plant had been constructed and these activities triggered Listed Activity 12 in Listing Notice 3. As such, a Section 24G process was effected. This memorandum details the results of a heritage screening of areas affected by the S24G application. An assessment is made of potential impacts on heritage resources emanating from the site clearing and construction, by investigating heritage signatures and potential site distribution and occurrence in

¹ Kruger, N. 2018. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) ON A PORTION OF THE FARM HARTSENBERGFONTEIN 332I FOR THE PROPOSED DOOR OF HOPE VILLAGE PROJECT, SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE. Exigo Sustainability

the immediate surroundings of the affected area. Ultimately, the screening predicts and assesses the level of impact that the developments might have had on the heritage landscape at the time of construction. This was done by means of a study of background information on the area's archaeology, site inspection observations and a detailed aerial survey of the impacted areas, both before and after the impacts had occurred. It should be noted that the conservation of heritage resources is provided for in the **National Environmental Management Act, (Act 107 of 1998)** and endorsed by section 38 of the **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act 25 of 1999)**. This memorandum describes the current state of the burial site and the process of immediate management at the site. It also provides a description of the extent of the heritage landscape and ultimately, a guideline for the rehabilitation and management of the burial site in terms of its long term conservation. A copy of this memorandum will be lodged with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and recommendations contained in this document will be reviewed.

2. Site Description and Status

The project area for the Door of Hope Village is located on a portion of the farm Hartsenbergfontein 332IQ north-east of Walkerville within the Sedibeng District Municipality of the Gauteng Province. The Johannesburg CBD is situated more or less 25km to the north and Vereeniging occurs 30km south of the project area. The project footprint appears on 1:50 000 map sheets 2627BD more or less at the following geographical point: S26.38182° E27.96623°. The development site lies within the Savanna biome which is the largest biome in southern Africa. It is characterized by a grassy ground layer and a distinct upper layer of woody plants (trees and shrubs). The original vegetation is classified as Moist Cool Highveld Grassland. The environmental factors delimiting the biome are complex and include altitude, rainfall, geology and soil types, with rainfall being the major delimiting factor. The general landscape is characterised by undulating, Highveld grassland that is drained by the Klein-Rietspruit. The Vaal River flows approximately 35km south of the study area. The Walkerville area is situated approximately 1 500m above sea level. It has an annual summer rainfall of 650 mm per annum. The geology is made up of volcanic rock to the west and shale in the east. The landscape on the farm Hartsenbergfontein 332IQ is generally an open flat piece of land delineated by farm boundaries. The survey area is approximately 24 hectares in extent. The current land-use of the proposed development site is accommodation and recreation for the Door of Hope centre along the southern edge of the property where a number of buildings and refuse dumps occur along a rocky outcrop. Here, a large residential house with associated features such a water fountain and concrete hedge seems to date to the 1960's. Large portions of the project area have been converted to agricultural fields in past decades and a large embankment dam occurs in a central portion. Neighbouring farms are being used for livestock grazing, farming and tourism

3. The Heritage Landscape

The archaeological history of the Gauteng Province dates back to about 2 million years and possibly older. Several archaeological sites have been recorded in the landscape around Barkly East. A number of Archaeological Impact Assessments (e.g. Coetzee 2003, Roodt 2008, Van Schalkwyk 2010 and Pistorius 2007) have been conducted in the Walkerville area. Generally, sites documenting Earlier, Middle and Later Stone Age habitation occur across the Highveld, mostly in open air locales or in sediments alongside rivers or pans. Sites dating to the Iron Age occur on the Highveld where environmental factors and population density delegated that the spread of Iron Age farming. Moving into recent times, the archaeological record reflects the development of a rich colonial frontier, characterised by, amongst others, a complex industrial archaeological landscape such as mining developments and war events, which herald the modern era in South African history.

- Early History

The earliest ancestors of modern man may therefore have roamed the Vaal valley at the same time that their contemporaries occupied some of the dolomite caves near Krugersdorp. Middle Stone Age sites dating from as early as

two hundred thousand years ago have been found all over South Africa. Middle Stone Age hunter-gatherer bands also lived and hunted in the Orange and Vaal River valleys. These people, who probably looked like modern humans, occupied campsites near water but also used caves as dwellings. They manufactured a wide range of stone tools, including blades and points that may have had long wooden sticks as hafts and were used as spears. The Late Stone Age commenced twenty thousand years ago or somewhat earlier. The various types of Stone Age industries scattered across the country are associated with the historical San and Khoi-Khoi people. The San were renowned as formidable hunter-gatherers, while the Khoi-Khoi herded cattle and small stock during the last two thousand years. Late Stone Age people manufactured tools that were small but highly effective, such as arrow heads and knives. The Late Iron Age people were also known for their rock art skills. At least one rock engraving site exists near Vereeniging, at Redan.

- **Later History**

Even though much research has been conducted on the Iron Age (IA) across southern Africa, only a small portion has focused on the Gauteng. Complex stone wall clusters are scattered across the landscapes of the Southern Highveld and the Free State. These stone structures, commonly associated with Bantu speaking farming communities, are the remnants of a complex 500 year old sequence of stone wall building in central interior of South Africa. Tim Maggs, noted archaeologist of the later Farmer Period in southern Africa, named the first phase in this sequence "Type N" walling, dating to the 15th to 17th centuries AD (Maggs 1976). This phase, which mostly developed in the Free State, was characterised by central cattle kraals linked by outer walls, while the whole settlement was surrounded by a perimeter wall which also incorporated small stock enclosures. After the 17th century, the "Type N" style of building spread across the Vaal River in consecutive phases where it later became known as "Klipriviersberg" type walling (Taylor 1979a). These settlements typically displayed outer scalloped walls that demarcated back courtyards, a large number of small stock kraals and straight walls which separated household units in the domestic zone. Beehive huts would have housed communities on these sites. The Klipriviersberg walling type dates to the 18th and 19th centuries and are associated with the Fokeng cluster of the Sotho-Tswana speaker group. These people used iron implements and there is a site of one of their kraals just to the east of the boundary between Hartzenbergfontein and Roodepoort. In addition, settlement remains occur in Grade Road, Walker's Fruit Farms; at the base of Perdeberg; and at plot 143 Homestead Apple Orchards as well as at Walkerville Manor.

- **European Occupation and Recent History**

The first white person to settle in the Walkerville area was an unknown Voortrekker in about 1838. The remains of a hut built with the front axle of his wagon is near Dairy Cottage on Woodacres Dairy Farm. This Voortrekker sold the Hartzenbergfontein property to Hendrik Balthazar Greyling in about 1859 and the whole property, in extent over 3,422morgen was transferred to Greyling on the 11th December 1861. This deed of transfer has been lost but is referred to in numerous other deeds. Hendrik Greyling died in 1879 and his wife Anna Margaretha nee Scheepers split the farm into undivided portions amongst the nine children and herself. The children and their husbands purchased the undivided tenth shares for 15 pounds a share. Each share was equivalent to over 342 morgen. Each tenth share forms the basis of the present subdivision of Hartzenbergfontein, Walkerville and its surrounds being on two tenths of the original area. A further two sections are still owned by the descendants of the family, namely the two large Kamffer farms, one in Hartzenbergfontein and one in Drumblade. The Kamffer family plays a prominent role in the history of Walkerville and the farm Hartzenbergfontein. One of the Greyling daughters, Aletta Maria Gertiena, married Christoffel Johannes Kamffer and they settled on their portion of the farm, just South East of Aloe Ridge School. They had two sons, Hendrik and Willem Kamffer. In the latter part of the 19th century the district was composed of enormous farms. In the way that such matters were executed in those times, a farm's extent was measured by the distance a horse could walk in one day. This was about 3000 morgan, or 6 300 acres. There were no boundary fences and the law forbade any subdivision, except where portions were left to family members. Probably due to the lack of entertainment as much as any other reason, families were extremely large, and this often led to problems when the head of the family passed

away. After the death of President Paul Kruger early in the last century, this statute fell away -sort of. As the population began to increase, people realised that land was a very valuable commodity, and thus began the division of these huge farms into the 5, 10 and 20 acre plots that most of us live on today. However, the law pronounced that only 50% of any one farm could be subdivided - the other half becoming a commonage on which the people who had bought the land parcels could graze their livestock.

4. Heritage survey and scoping

i. The Off-Site Desktop Findings

In terms of heritage resources, the general landscape around the project area is primarily well known for its Iron Age Farmer and Colonial / Historical Period archaeology primarily related to farming, rural expansion and warfare of the past century. A careful analysis of historical aerial imagery and archive maps reveals the following (see Figure 3 and Figure 4):

- Portions of Hartsenberfontein - and particularly areas subject to the S24G application - have been altered by recent and Historical farming.
- Limited cultivation is legible within the larger landscape around the application area.
- No man-made structures appear *within* the impacted area on historical maps (1944) but a so-called “native hut” appears in the impact area at around 1956. The hut disappears from the site in later years and a farmstead is established immediately to the south - which appears on later (1976) maps of the area.
- No man-made structures such as farmstead buildings appear *within* the impacted area on historical aerial imagery (1938) but a farmhouse was constructed on the property south of the impact area at around 1955. It seems as though much of the impact area served as a garden for the farmstead for the latter part of the 20th century.
- An access road traversed the project area at around 1955.

In summary, archive maps and aerial images indicate that portions of Hartsenberfontein - and particularly areas subject to the S24G application - have been altered by recent and Historical farming. A so-called “native hut” was present in the application area in 1956 and a farmstead appears south of the application area shortly thereafter. The hut disappears from the site in later years at which time much of the impact area served as a garden for the farmstead. No man-made features were constructed in the application area in recent years.

ii. Site Survey

An archaeological site survey for the initial AIA Study (Kruger 2018) investigated the entire Door of Hope Development footprint which includes the areas subject to the S24G application. Real time aerial orientation, by means of a mobile Google Earth application was also employed to investigate possible disturbed areas during the survey. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion.

During the survey, no sites of archaeological and historical value were documented at the impact site. It is also seems apparent that no heritage resources were impacted upon during site clearing and initial construction.

5. Heritage Impact Statement

No heritage resources were observed within or directly around the S24G application area. Cognisant of the fact that the site has already been altered prior to the commencement of clearing and construction activities, it could not be

established that heritage resources were impacted on by these activities. In addition, an analysis of archival and contemporary aerial photos and maps suggest that no man-made structures or features occurred at the site prior to site clearing and development.

Cognisant of known site distribution patterns in this section of the southern Highveld of Gauteng, and based on general on-site observations and off-site assessments as well as the fact that the S24G application area had, to a certain extent been transformed prior to later impact, the author of this report is of the opinion that the clearing of vegetation and other construction activities did not have a significant impact on heritage resources or the larger heritage landscape.

6. Conclusion

Following an inspection of the Door of Hope S24G application area, the author of this document is of the opinion that the clearing of vegetation and other construction activities did not have a significant impact on heritage resources or the larger heritage landscape and it is recommended that the developer be exempted from further Phases of heritage and / or archaeological impact assessments for the S24G application area, subject to Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment as set out by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). However, due cognisance should be taken of the larger archaeological landscape of the area in order to avoid the destruction of previously undetected heritage sites in the area.



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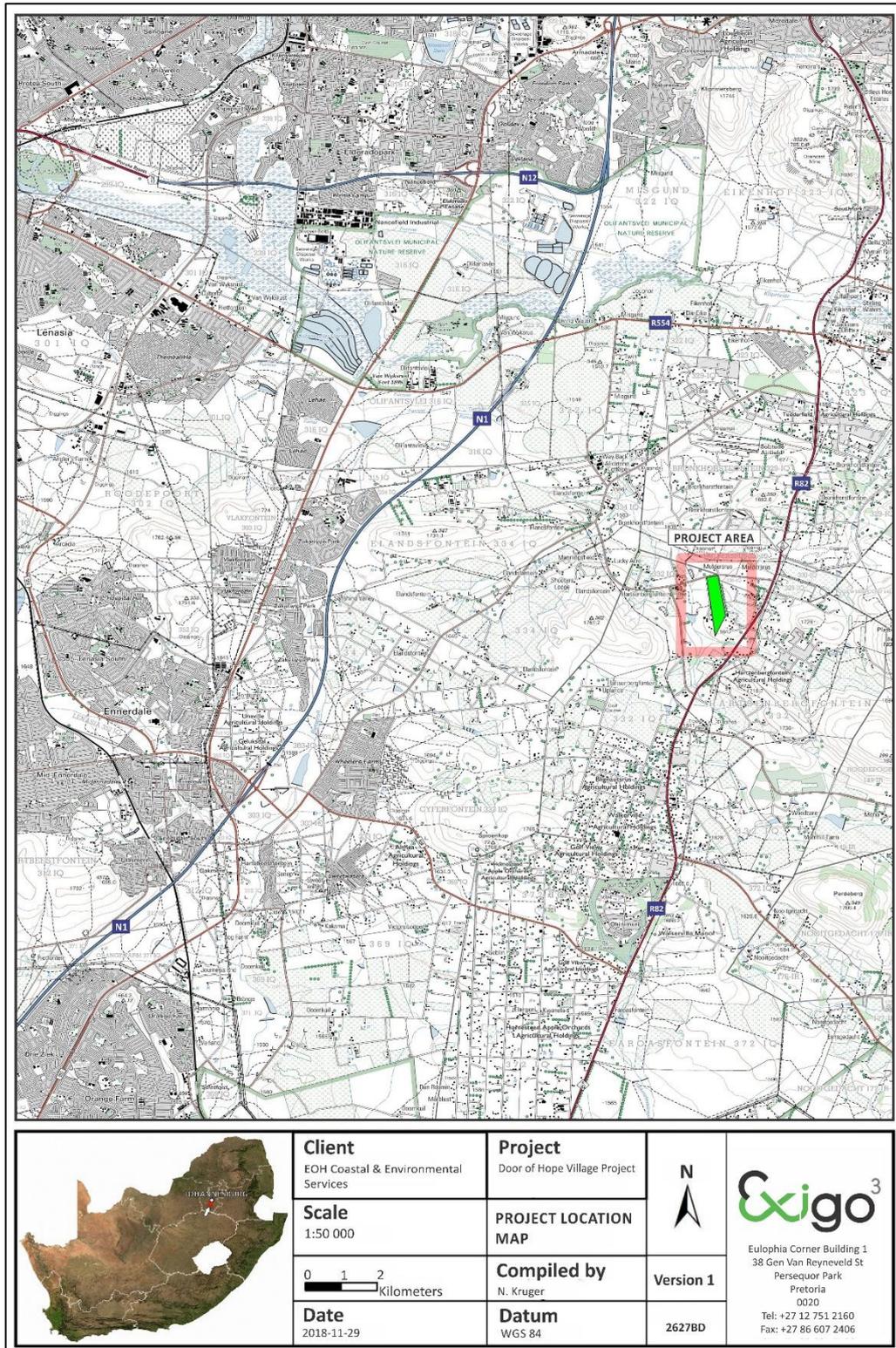


Figure 1 : 1:50 00 Map representation of the location of the proposed Door of Hope Village (sheet 2627BD).

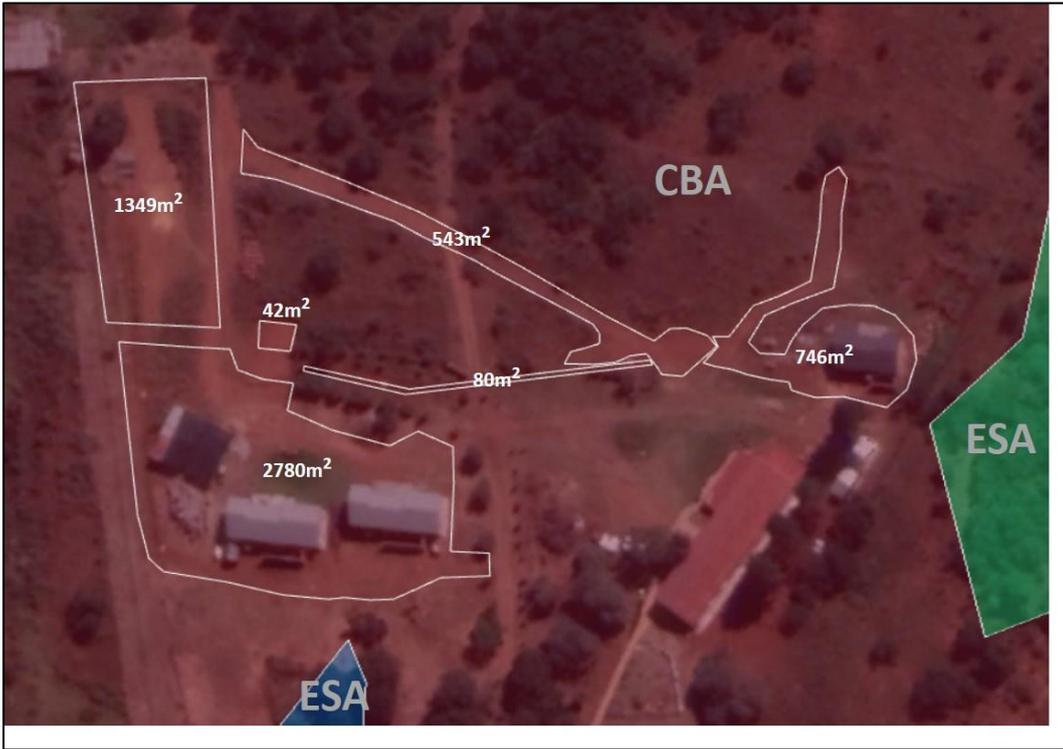


Figure 2: Aerial map indicating the impact areas subject to the S24G application.



Figure 3: View of new buildings for the Door of Hope centre in the S24G application area.

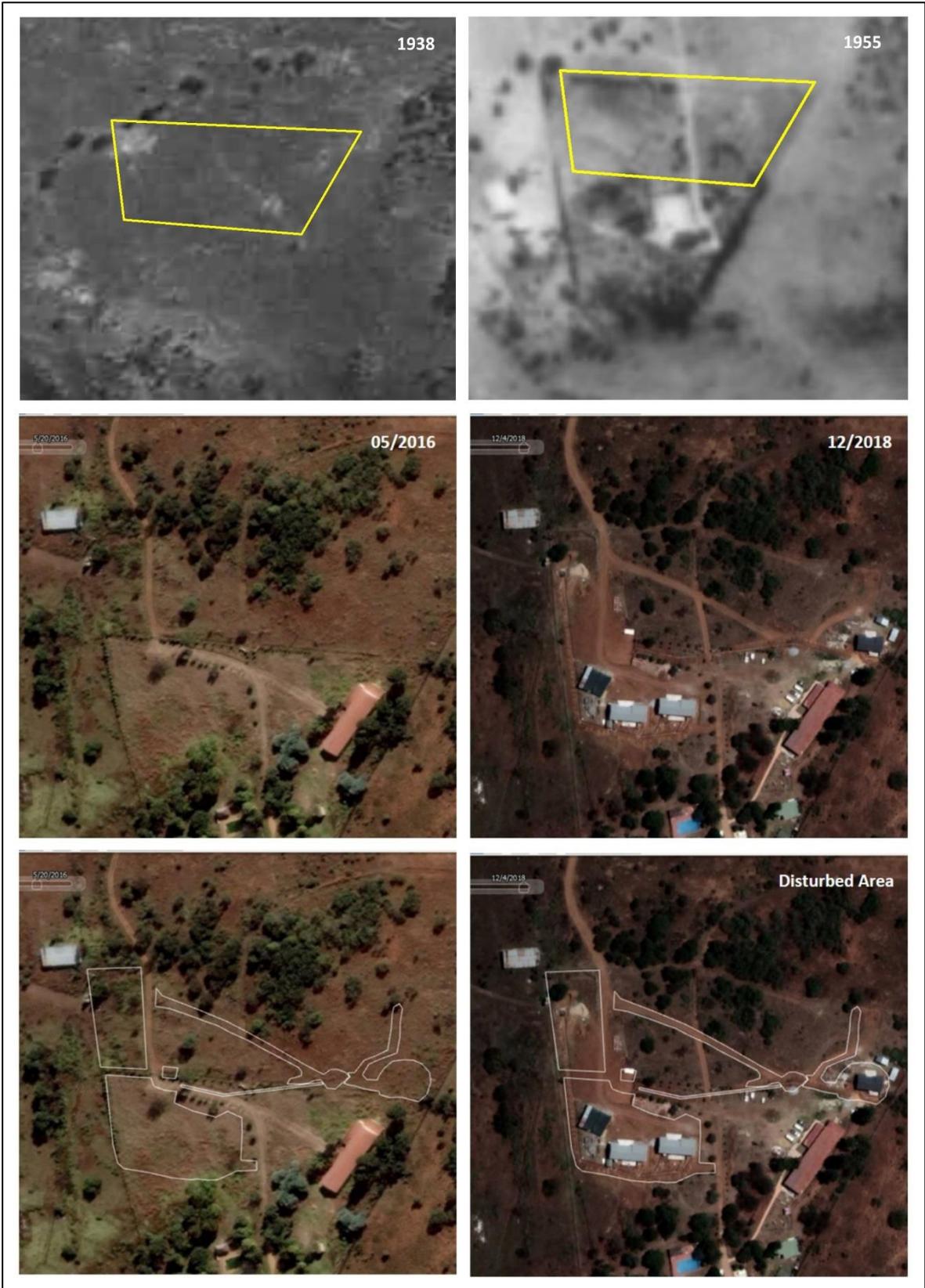


Figure 5: A series of historical aerial images indicating the S24G application areas within the historical landscape (yellow and white lines). Note the general absence of man-made features in the area in earlier years.

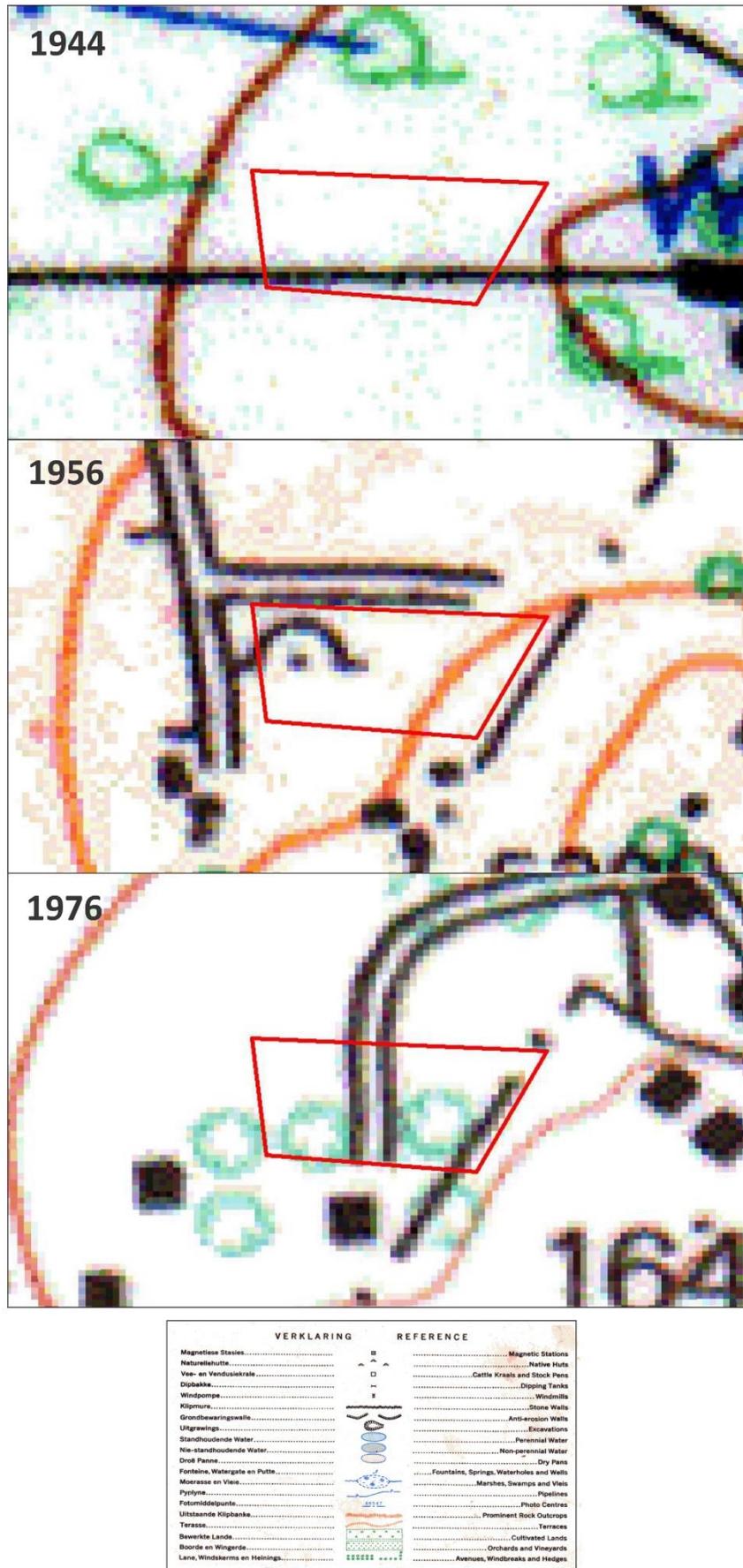


Figure 6: A series of historical topographic maps indicating the S24G application area (red polygon) within the historical landscape. Note the presence of a so-called “native hut” in 1956 as well as later farmsteads buildings south of the application area in 1976.

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