

**Cultural heritage impact assessment for
THE PLANNED BORROW PITS AND QUARRIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
THE NATIONAL ROUTE N2, KM 34 (BLOEMENDAL) TO KM 63.3 (PIET RETIEF),
GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

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Declaration:

I, J.A. van Schalkwyk, declare that I do not have any financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment and management services, for which a fair remuneration is charged.



J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)
Heritage Consultant
December 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE PLANNED BORROW PITS AND QUARRIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ROUTE N2, KM 34 (BLOEMENDAL) TO KM 63.3 (PIET RETIEF), GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

As part of on-going upgrading process, it is proposed to upgrade a section of the N2 national route in Mpumalanga Province. In order to comply with relevant legislation, the agency managing this road, SANRAL, commissioned an environmental impact assessment. This report deals with issues pertaining to heritage resources.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was therefore appointed by **Chameleon Environmental Consultants** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop borrow pits and quarries to be used for the improvement of a section of the National Route N2, referred to as Section D, between Bloemendal (km 34.0) and Piet Retief (km 63.3) in the Gert Sibande District Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region essentially consist of two components. The first is a rural area in which the human occupation is made up of a limited pre-colonial (Stone Age and Iron Age) occupation and a much later colonial (farmer) component. The second component is an urban one consisting of a number of smaller towns, most of which developed during the last 150 years or less.

Identified sites:

- Borrow pit ML12
 - (7.3.3.1) The ruins of a farm labourer homestead, consisting of a number of house structures, refuse midden and a cattle enclosure. Only the foundations of the different features remain. Although no graves were noticed, it is possible that there might be some belonging to infants that were buried in the homestead. This feature is viewed to have low significance on a local level – Grade III.

Impact assessment:

- Borrow pit ML12
 - (7.3.3.1) The ruins of a farm labourer homestead, consisting of a number of house structures, refuse midden and a cattle enclosure. Only the foundations of the different features remain. Although no graves were noticed, it is possible that there might be some belonging to infants that were buried in the homestead.
 - The significance weighting for the impact on the identified site is rated as **medium**.
 - Mitigation: It is recommended that this feature is retained and that it is fenced off with danger tape if quarrying activities take place in its vicinity. If that is not possible and must be demolished, it should be documented in full prior to construction taking place.
 - Requirements: As these structures are older than 60 years, a permit for its destruction must be obtained from SAHRA. Such a permit will only be

issued on condition of its full documentation (mapping and photographing).

Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should be authorised:

- From a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue, on condition of acceptance of the proposed mitigation measures.

Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation:

- It is recommended that the homestead feature at borrow pit ML12 is retained and that it is fenced off with danger tape if quarrying activities take place in its vicinity. If that is not possible and must be demolished, it should be documented in full prior to construction taking place.
- Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during quarrying activities, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.



J A van Schalkwyk
Heritage Consultant
December 2016

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Property details						
Province	Mpumalanga					
Magisterial district	Piet Retief					
District municipality	Mkhondo					
Topo-cadastral map	2730BB					
Farm name	Various					
Closest town	Piet Retief					
Coordinates	Centre points (Approximate)					
	No	Latitude	Longitude	No	Latitude	Longitude
	ML9	-27.05590	30.88861	ML12	-27.07451	30.86520
	6	-26.11290	30.96395	7	-26.11650	30.96717

Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHR Act	Yes/No
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	No
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length	No
Development exceeding 5000 sq m	Yes
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	No
Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years	No
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m	No
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds	No

Development	
Description	Quarries and borrow pits for obtaining of material for the improvement of a section of the N2 national route
Project name	Improvement of N2 Section D: Bloemendal to Piet Retief, Mpumalanga Province

Land use	
Previous land use	Farming
Current land use	Farming

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	II
TECHNICAL SUMMARY	IV
TABLE OF CONTENTS	V
LIST OF FIGURES.....	V
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	VI
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	1
3. HERITAGE RESOURCES.....	2
4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY	3
5. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT	5
6. PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	7
7. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	11
8. MANAGEMENT MEASURES.....	16
9. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	17
10. REFERENCES.....	19
APPENDIX 1: INDEMNITY AND TERMS OF USE OF THIS REPORT	20
APPENDIX 2. SPECIALIST COMPETENCY.....	21
APPENDIX 3 CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES	22
APPENDIX 4. RELEVANT LEGISLATION	24
APPENDIX 5. RELOCATION OF GRAVES	26
APPENDIX 6: INVENTORY OF IDENTIFIED CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES.....	27
APPENDIX 7. IMPACT TABLES	28

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Fig. 1. Map indicating the track log of the borrow pits (top) and quarries (bottom) field survey.5	
Fig. 2. The location of the study areas (red dots) in regional context.....	8
Fig. 3. Layout of Borrow Pit ML 9 (top) and Borrow Pit ML 12 (bottom).....	9
Fig. 4. Layout of Quarry 6 (top) and Quarry 7 (bottom).	10
Fig. 5. Views over the borrow pits study area.	11
Fig. 6. Views over the quarries study area.....	12
Fig. 7. Location of the identified sites.....	15

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TERMS

Study area: Refers to the entire study area as indicated by the client in the accompanying Fig. 1 - 2.

Stone Age: The first and longest part of human history is the Stone Age, which began with the appearance of early humans between 3-2 million years ago. Stone Age people were hunters, gatherers and scavengers who did not live in permanently settled communities. Their stone tools preserve well and are found in most places in South Africa and elsewhere.

Early Stone Age	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Later Stone Age	30 000 - until c. AD 200

Iron Age: Period covering the last 1800 years, when new people brought a new way of life to southern Africa. They established settled villages, cultivated domestic crops such as sorghum, millet and beans, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. As they produced their own iron tools, archaeologists call this the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age	AD 200 - AD 900
Middle Iron Age	AD 900 - AD 1300
Late Iron Age	AD 1300 - AD 1830

Historical Period: Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1830 - in this part of the country.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADRC	Archaeological Data Recording Centre
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
CS-G	Chief Surveyor-General
EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

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1. INTRODUCTION

As part of on-going process, it is proposed to improve a section of the N2 national route in Mpumalanga Province. In order to comply with relevant legislation, the agency managing this road, SANRAL, commissioned an environmental impact assessment. This report deals with issues pertaining to heritage resources in the areas where a number of borrow pits and quarries are to be developed.

South Africa's heritage resources, also described as the 'national estate', comprise a wide range of sites, features, objects and beliefs. However, according to Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), No. 25 of 1999, no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site.

In accordance with Section 38 of the NHRA, an independent heritage consultant was therefore appointed by **Chameleon Environmental Consultants** to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where it is planned to develop borrow pits and quarries to be used for the improvement of a section of the N2 road, referred to as Section D, between km 34 (Bloemendal) to km 63.3 (Piet Retief) in the Gert Sibande District Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

This report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The aim of a full HIA investigation is to provide an informed heritage-related opinion about the proposed development by an appropriate heritage specialist. The objectives are to identify heritage resources (involving site inspections, existing heritage data and additional heritage specialists if necessary); assess their significances; assess alternatives in order to promote heritage conservation issues; and to assess the acceptability of the proposed development from a heritage perspective.

The result of this investigation is a heritage impact assessment report indicating the presence/ absence of heritage resources and how to manage them in the context of the proposed development.

Depending on SAHRA's acceptance of this report, the developer will receive permission to proceed with the proposed development, on condition of successful implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

2.1 Scope of work

The aim of this study is to determine if any sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance occur within the boundaries of the area where the borrow pits and quarries are to be developed. This includes:

- Conducting a desk-top investigation of the area;
- A visit to the proposed development site,

The objectives were to:

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development areas;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

2.2 Limitations

The investigation has been influenced by the following factors:

- It is assumed that the description of the proposed project, provided by the client, is accurate.
- No subsurface investigation (i.e. excavations or sampling) were undertaken, since a permit from SAHRA is required for such activities.
- It is assumed that the public consultation process undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is sufficient and that it does not have to be repeated as part of the heritage impact assessment.
- The unpredictability of buried archaeological remains.
- This report does not consider the palaeontological potential of the site.

3. HERITAGE RESOURCES

3.1 The National Estate

The NHRA (No. 25 of 1999) defines the heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations that must be considered part of the national estate to include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, including-
 - ancestral graves;
 - royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - graves of victims of conflict;
 - graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects, including-

- objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
- objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- ethnographic art and objects;
- military objects;
- objects of decorative or fine art;
- objects of scientific or technological interest; and
- books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

3.2 Cultural significance

In the NHRA, Section 2 (vi), it is stated that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This is determined in relation to a site or feature’s uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

According to Section 3(3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of

- its importance in 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; and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

A matrix was developed whereby the above criteria were applied for the determination of the significance of each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar identified sites.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Extent of the Study

This survey and impact assessment covers the area as presented in Section 6 below and illustrated in Figure 2.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted – see list of references in Section 10.

- Information on events, sites and features in the larger region were obtained from these sources.

4.2.1.2 Data bases

The *Heritage Atlas Database*, the *Environmental Potential Atlas*, the *Chief Surveyor General* and the *National Archives of South Africa* were consulted.

- Database surveys produced a number of sites located in the larger region of the proposed development.

4.2.1.3 Other sources

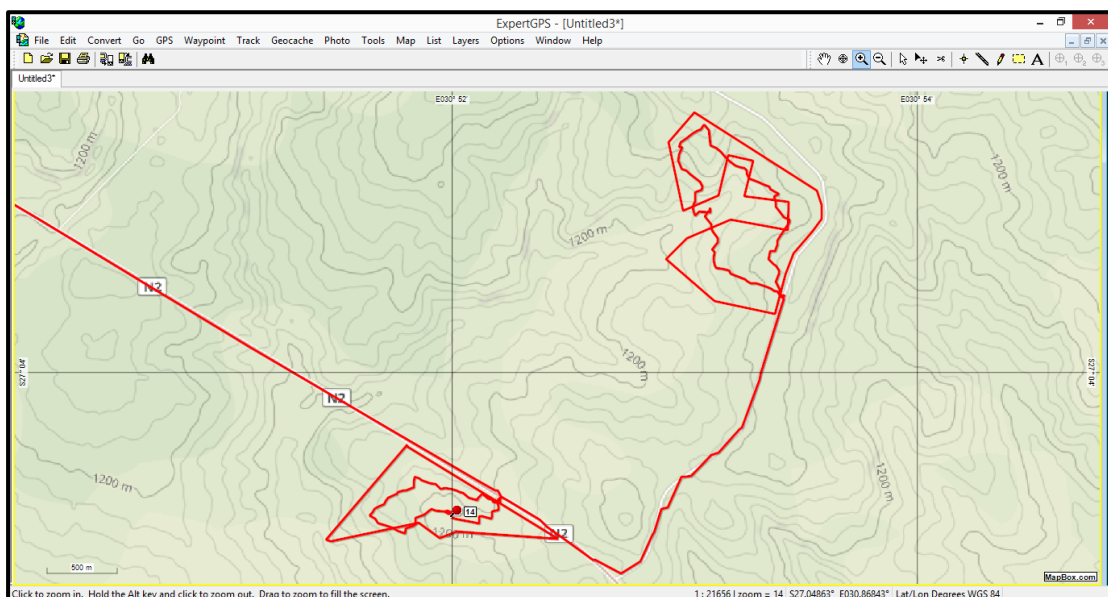
Aerial photographs and topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

- Information of a very general nature were obtained from these sources

4.2.2 Field survey

The field survey was done according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. The area that had to be investigated was identified by Chameleon Environmental Consultants by means of maps and .kml files indicating the development area. This was loaded onto a Nexus 7 tablet and used in Google Earth during the field survey to access the areas.

The area was visited on 17 September and again on 10 December 2016. The sites were investigated by walking transects across it – see Fig. 1 below.



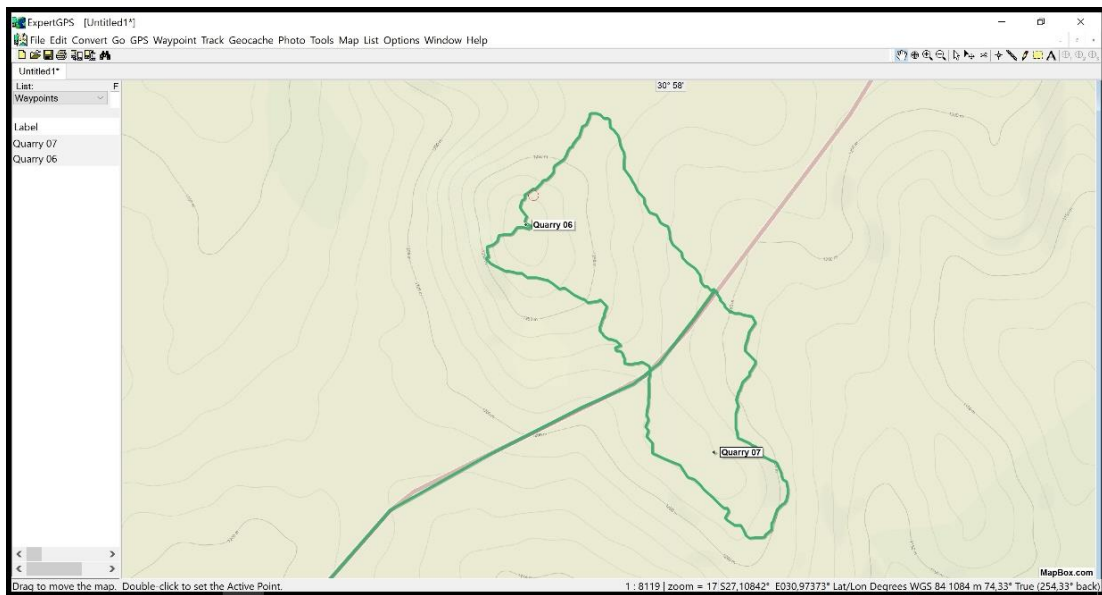


Fig. 1. Map indicating the track log of the borrow pits (top) and quarries (bottom) field survey.

The following is relevant to the field survey:

- During the site visit the archaeological visibility was somewhat limited by the vegetation encountered after the recent good rains in the region.

4.2.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures that are identified are documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the *Global Positioning System* (GPS) and plotted on a map. This information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

The track log and identified sites were recorded by means of a Garmin Oregon 550 handheld GPS device. Photographic recording was done by means of a Canon EOS 550D digital camera.

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

5. SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT

5.1 Heritage assessment criteria and grading

The National Heritage Resources Act, Act no. 25 of 1999, stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of heritage sites. The following grading categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;

- **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation on a local authority level.

A matrix was developed whereby the criteria, as set out in Sections 3(3) and 7 of the NHRA, were applied for each identified site (see Appendix 1). This allowed some form of control over the application of similar values for similar sites.

The occurrence of sites with a Grade I significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the applicable of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

5.2 Methodology for the assessment of potential impacts

All impacts identified during the EIA stage of the study will be classified in terms of their significance. Issues were assessed in terms of the following criteria:

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

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

$S = (E+D+M) \times P$; where

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are calculated as follows (Table 1 below):

Table 1: Significance ranking

Significance of impact					
Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	Significance	Weight
-	-	-	-	-	-

Points	Significant Weighting	Discussion
< 30 points	Low	where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area
31-60 points	Medium	where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated
> 60 points	High	where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area

6. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This report does not deal with development projects outside of or even adjacent to the study area as is presented in Section 6 of this report. The same holds true for heritage sites, except in a generalised sense where it is used to create an overview of the heritage potential in the larger region.

6.1 Site location

It is proposed to improve a section of the National Route N2, referred to as Section D, between km 34 (Bloemendal) to km 63.3 (Piet Retief), in the Gert Sibande District Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. For this material will be sourced from two borrow pits as well as two quarries (Fig. 2). For more information, see the Technical Summary on p. iv above.

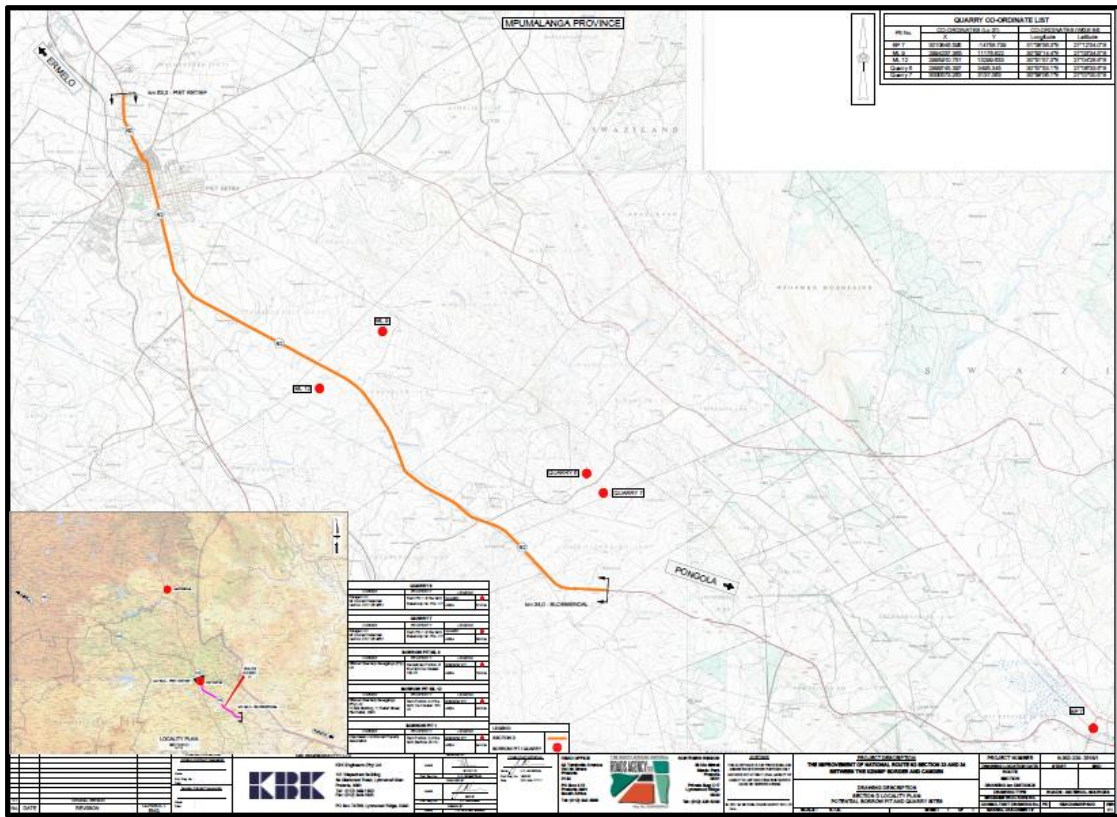


Fig. 2. The location of the study areas (red dots) in regional context. (Map supplied by Chameleon)

6.2 Development proposal

In order to execute the improvement work, a number of borrow pits and quarries have been identified (Fig. 3 & 4):

Name	Property	Coordinates
ML 9	Remainder Portion of the farm De Kraalen 160HT	S 27.05590, E 30.88861
ML 12	Remainder Portion 4 of the farm De Kraalen 160HT	S 27.07451, E 30.86520

Name	Property	Coordinates
Quarry 6	Remainder of Portion 1 of the farm Bakenkop 159HT	S 26.11290, E 30.96395
Quarry 7	Remainder of Portion 1 of the farm Bakenkop 159HT	S 27.11650, E 30.96717

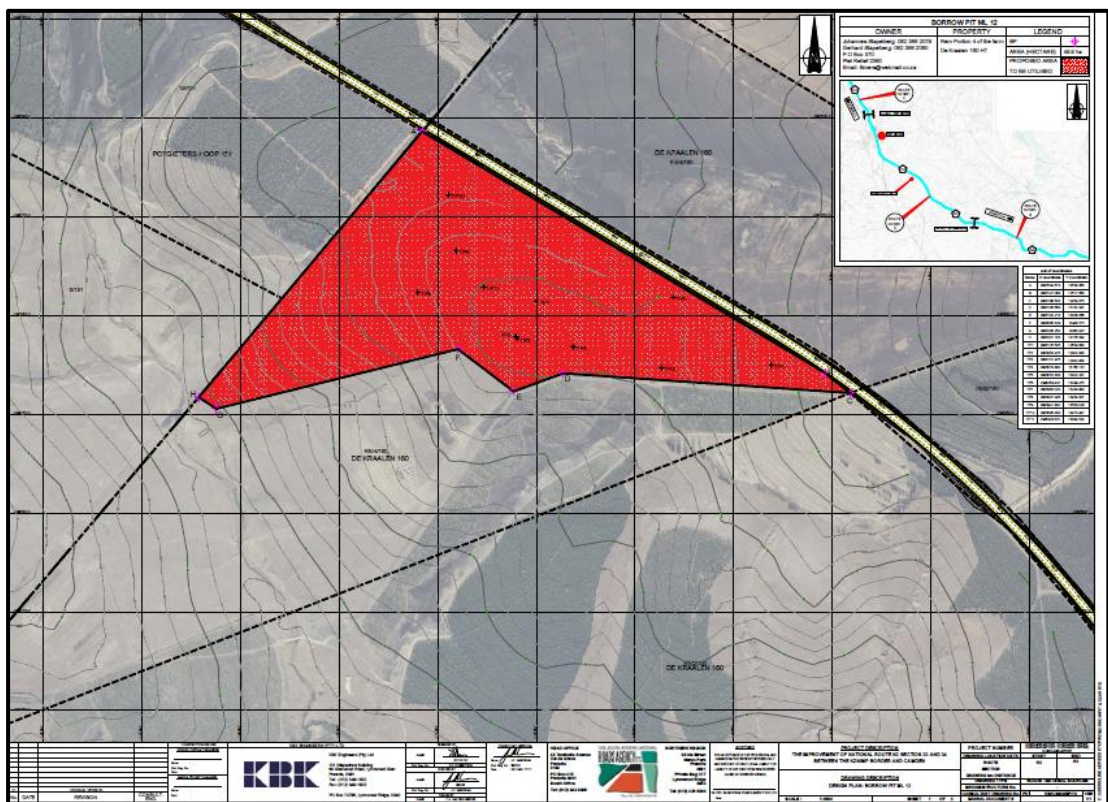
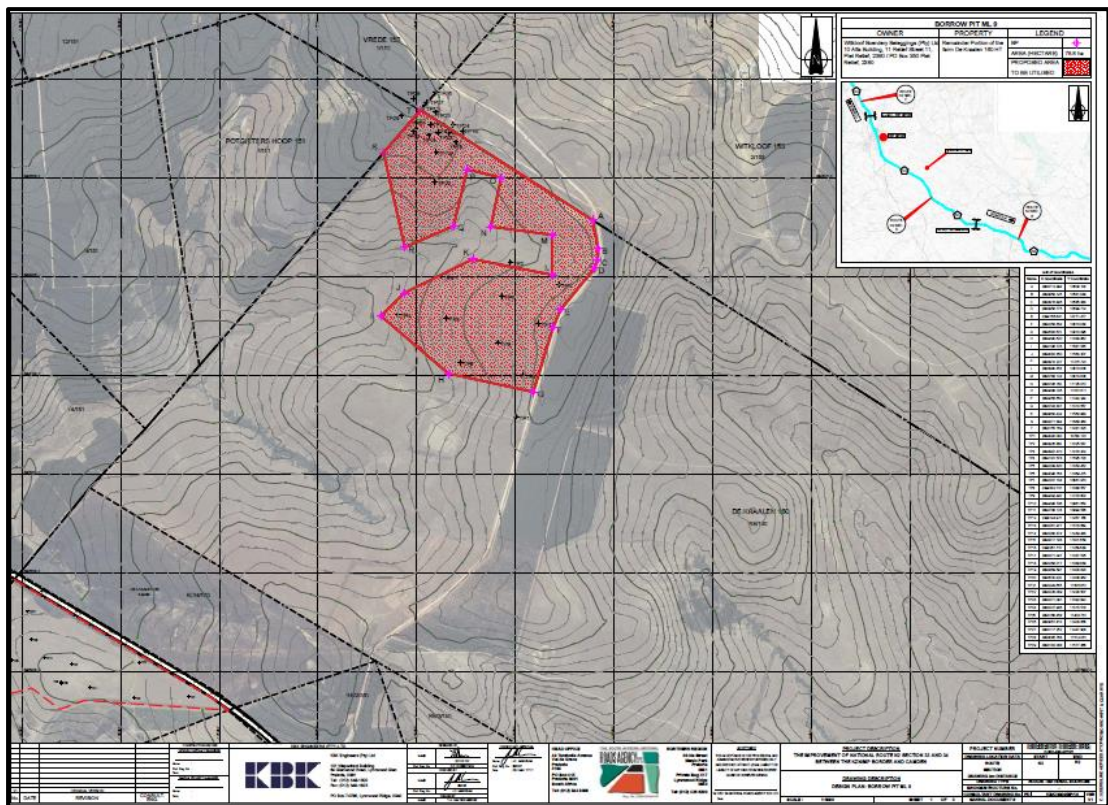


Fig. 3. Layout of Borrow Pit ML 9 (top) and Borrow Pit ML 12 (bottom).

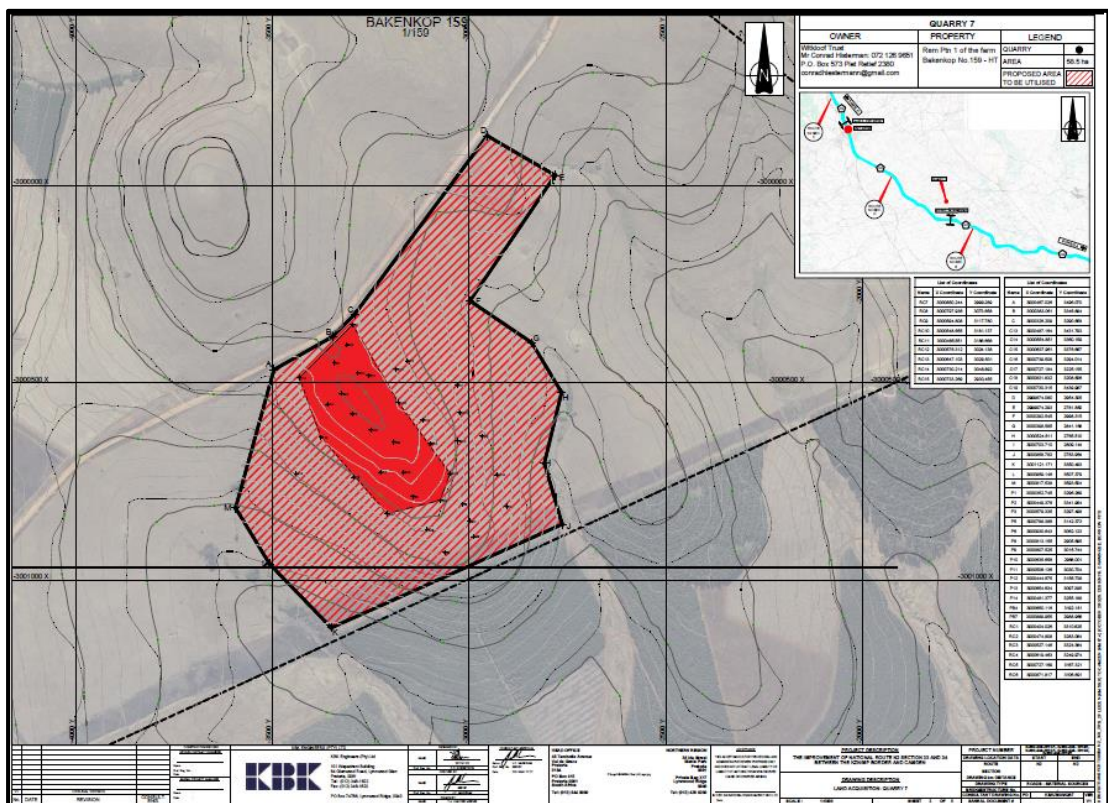
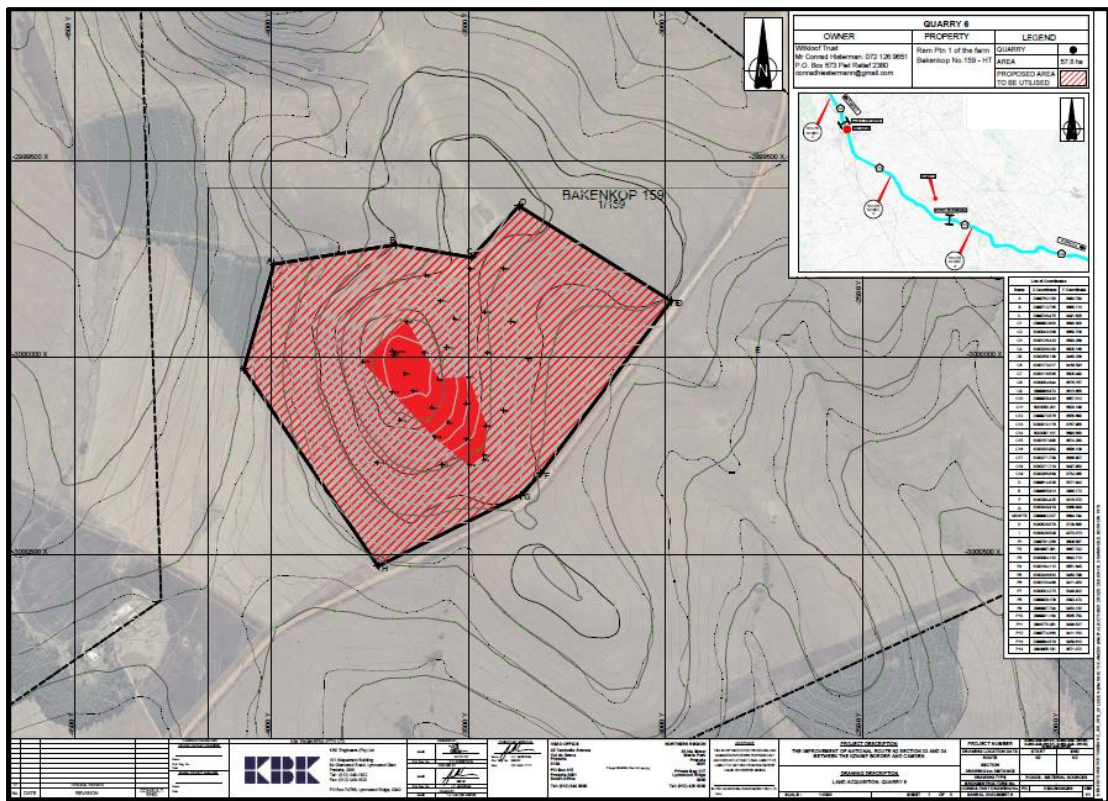


Fig. 4. Layout of Quarry 6 (top) and Quarry 7 (bottom).

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Site description

The geology of the region is made up alternating sections of granite, basalt and shale running in a southeast to northwest direction. The vegetation is made up of North-eastern Mountain Grassland. The topography is described as undulating hills and lowlands.

Most of the region can be described as rural, with agriculture and forestry as the main activities.

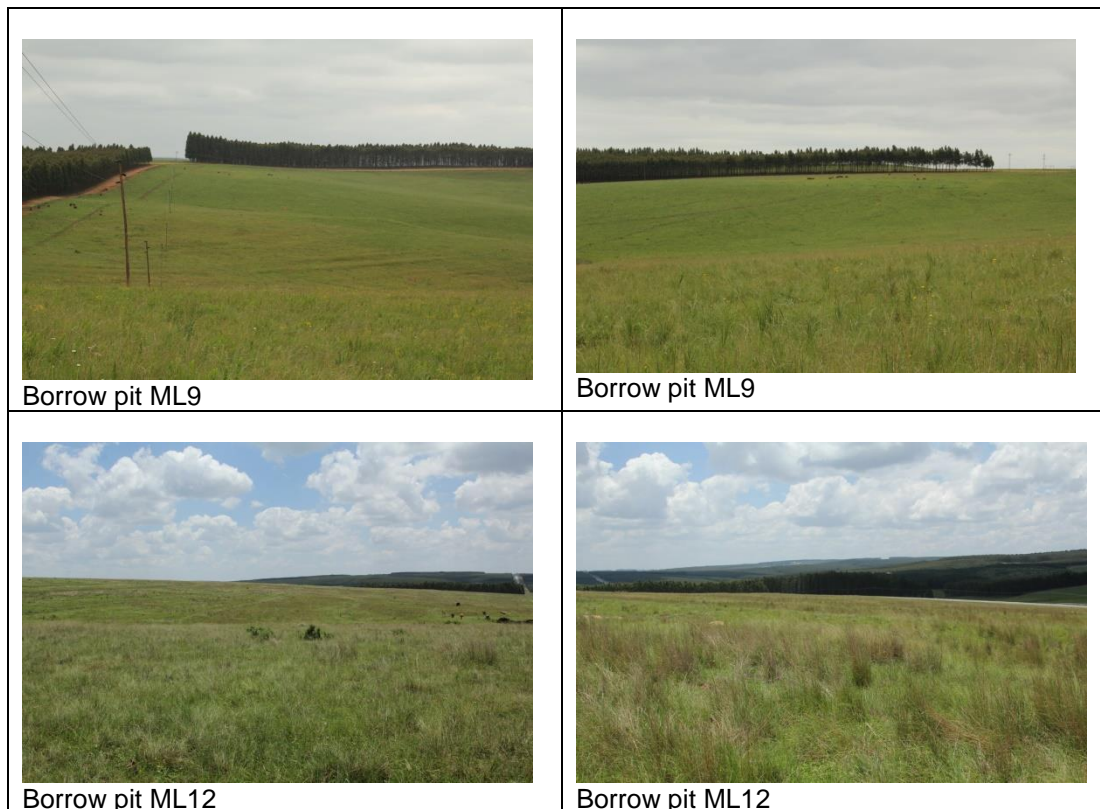


Fig. 5. Views over the borrow pits study area.





Fig. 6. Views over the quarries study area.

7.2 Overview of the region

The aim of this section is to present an overview of the history of the larger region in order to eventually determine the significance of heritage sites identified in the study area, within the context of their historic, aesthetic, scientific and social value, rarity and representivity – see Section 3.2 and Appendix 1 for more information.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region essentially consist of two components. The first is a rural area in which the human occupation is made up of a limited pre-colonial (Stone Age and Iron Age) occupation and a much later colonial (farmer) component. The second component is an urban one consisting of a number of smaller towns, most of which developed during the last 150 years or less.

Geology

Neither Viljoen & Reimold (1999) nor Norman & Whitfield (2006) report any sites or features of geological/palaeontological significance in the region of the study area.

Early history

Very little habitation of the highveld area took place during Stone Age times. Tools dating to the Early Stone Age period are mostly found in the vicinity of larger watercourses, e.g. the Vaal River, or in sheltered areas such as the Magaliesberg. During Middle Stone Age (MSA) times (c. 150 000 – 30 000 BP), people became more mobile, occupying areas formerly avoided. The MSA is a technological stage characterized by flakes and flake-blades with faceted platforms, produced from prepared cores, as distinct from the core tool-based ESA technology. Open sites were still preferred near watercourses.

Late Stone Age (LSA) people had even more advanced technology than the MSA people and therefore succeeded in occupying even more diverse habitats. Some sites are known to occur in the region. These are small rock shelters found in the sandstone cliffs near rivers and are located to the east and north of the study area. Some of these even contain rock paintings (Van Schalkwyk 2003a, 2003b). The region surrounding Chrissiesmeer, to the north of the study area, is well-known for the fact that some San people occupied it up to historic times.

The low density of occupation of the region during Stone Age times can probably be attributed to the cold winters that are common in the region, as well as the lack of suitable rock shelters that could be used for staying in.

Iron Age

Iron Age people started to settle in southern Africa c. AD 300, with one of the oldest known sites at Broederstroom south of Hartebeespoort Dam dating to AD 470. Having only had cereals (sorghum, millet) that need summer rainfall, Early Iron Age (EIA) people did not move outside this rainfall zone, and neither did they occupy the central interior highveld area. Because of their specific technology and economy, Iron Age people preferred to settle on the alluvial soils near rivers for agricultural purposes, but also for firewood and water.

The occupation of the larger geographical area (including the study area) did not start much before the 1500s. By the 16th century things changed, with the climate becoming warmer and wetter, creating condition that allowed Late Iron Age (LIA) farmers to occupy areas previously unsuitable, for example the treeless plains of the Free State and the Mpumalanga highveld.

This wet period came to a sudden end sometime between 1800 and 1820 by a major drought lasting 3 to 5 years. The drought must have caused an agricultural collapse on a large, subcontinent scale.

This was also a period of great military tension. Military pressure from Zululand spilled onto the highveld by at least 1821. Various marauding groups of displaced Sotho-Tswana moved across the plateau in the 1820s. Mzilikazi raided the plateau extensively between 1825 and 1837. The Boers trekked into this area in the 1830s. And throughout this time settled communities of Tswana people also attacked each other.

As a result of this troubled period, Sotho-Tswana people concentrated into large towns for defensive purposes. Because of the lack of trees they built their settlements in stone. These stone-walled villages were almost always located near cultivatable soil and a source of water.

Large numbers of stone-walled archaeological sites, which are dated to the Late Iron Age (c. AD 1640 - AD 1830s), are known from the larger study region. These sites are conventionally associated with Nguni-speaking people, although a second viewpoint is that it was built by Sotho-speakers. The alternative interpretation by a specific individual that these sites are of Hindu origin is discounted here.

From the air, these homesteads and towns are easily recognised and it is also possible to determine variations in smaller detail. Various researchers (Evers 1975, Marker & Evers 1976, Mason 1968 and Collet 1982) have attempted a classification of the stone walled sites on the Mpumalanga escarpment area. Of these, the work of Mason was the most extensive. However, he only focussed on homestead areas. By using site layout, he identified eight ruin classes. Collet (1982) subdivided the settlement units as:

- Simple ruins which consist of an isolated circular enclosure, and
- Complex ruins which consist of two or more contiguous circular or semi-circular enclosures.

Evers (1975) and Marker & Evers (1976) also considered other elements such as agricultural activities (terracing) and pathways (cattle track) as system of communication between settlements. According to Marker & Evers (1976:160) the combination between the three attributes forms a settlement. The current survey in the study area, have identified a fourth category of sites, namely initiation sites, which falls into a category of sites that are considered to have special meaning.

Ethno-history

Whereas it is impossible to correlate any living group of people to Early Iron Age communities, it is possible, by using ethnographic evidence, to identify some of the groups of people that entered the region in pre-colonial times (i.e. the Later Iron Age) and are currently settled in the larger region. The Tswana-speakers were located to the south and west in the study area, with the Ndzundza Ndebele (Nguni-speakers) to the north. The eastern section of the study area was occupied by Swazi-speakers, also of Nguni origin.

Historic period

White settlers moved into the area during the first half of the 19th century. They were largely self-sufficient, basing their survival on cattle/sheep farming and hunting. Few towns were established and it remained an undeveloped area until the discovered of coal and later gold. The establishment of the Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg-Maatskappij (NZASM) railway line in the 1880s, linking Pretoria with Lourenço Marques (Maputo) and the world at large, brought much infra-structural and administrative development to the area. This railway line also became the scene of many battles during the Anglo-Boer War.

The various battles and skirmishes resulting from the conflict during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) had a huge impact on heritage resources in the area, as many farms were burned down. Conversely, it also left a legacy of heritage sites scattered across the veld: fortifications and war cemeteries occur all over. Although most of the conflict centred on the railway line to Lourenço Marques (Maputo), incidents also took place in other areas (e.g. Cloete 2000).

However, the area remained up till today, a largely farming orientated community. Much of the heritage potential of the study area is therefore located within the many farmsteads in the area. Farmhouses and related structures (e.g. barns, sheds, etc.), as well as cemeteries dot the landscape. Equally important, are the homesteads, related structures and cemeteries of the farm labourers living on these farms.

7.3 Identified sites

The following sites, features and objects of cultural significance were identified in the study area – see Appendix 6 for a detailed discussion of each individual site.

In terms of Section 7 of the NHRA, all the sites currently known or which are expected to occur in the study area are evaluated to have a grading as identified in the table below.

Table 2. Summary of identified heritage resources in the study area.

IDENTIFIED HERITAGE RESOURCES			
<i>NHRA category</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Coordinates</i>	<i>Impact rating</i>
Formal protections (NHRA)			
National heritage site (Section 27)	None	-	-
Provincial heritage site (Section 27)	None	-	-
Provisional protection (Section 29)	None	-	-
Listed in heritage register (Section 30)	None	-	-
General protections (NHRA)			
Structures older than 60 years (Section 34)	7.3.3.1	-27.07559, 30.86698	Medium
Archaeological site or material (Section 35)	None	-	-
Palaeontological site or material (Section 35)	None	-	-
Graves or burial grounds (Section 36)	None	-	-
Public monuments or memorials (Section 37)	None	-	-
Other			
Any other heritage resources (describe)	None	-	-

7.3.1 Stone Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Stone Age were identified in the study area.

7.3.2 Iron Age

- No sites, features or objects dating to the Iron Age were identified in the study area.

7.3.3 Historic period

- Borrow pit ML12
 - (7.3.3.1) The ruins of a farm labourer homestead, consisting of a number of house structures, refuse midden and a cattle enclosure. Only the foundations of the different features remain. Although no graves were noticed, it is possible that there might be some belonging to infants that were buried in the homestead.
 - This feature is viewed to have low significance on a local level – Grade III.

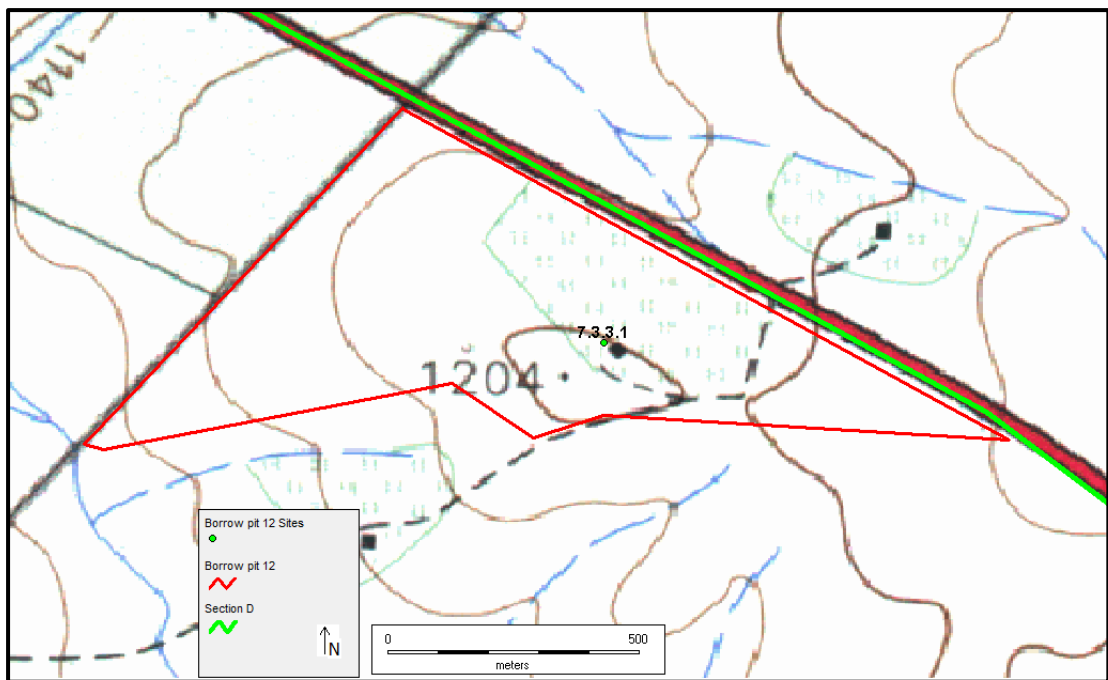


Fig. 7. Location of the identified sites.
(Map 2730BB: Chief Surveyor-General)

7.4 Impact assessment

Heritage impacts are categorised as:

- Direct or physical impacts, implying alteration or destruction of heritage features within the project boundaries;
- Indirect impacts, e.g. restriction of access or visual intrusion concerning the broader environment;

- Cumulative impacts that are combinations of the above.

Impacts can be managed through one or a combination of the following measures:

- Mitigation
- Avoidance
- Compensation
- Enhancement (positive impacts)
- Rehabilitation
- Interpretation
- Memorialisation

Impact analysis of cultural heritage resources under threat of the proposed development, are based on the present understanding of the development:

- Borrow pit ML12
 - (7.3.3.1) The ruins of a farm labourer homestead, consisting of a number of house structures, refuse midden and a cattle enclosure. Only the foundations of the different features remain. Although no graves were noticed, it is possible that there might be some belonging to infants that were buried in the homestead.
 - The significance weighting for the impact on the identified site is rated as **medium**.
 - **Mitigation:** It is recommended that this feature is retained and that it is fenced off with danger tape if quarrying activities take place in its vicinity. If that is not possible and must be demolished, it should be documented in full prior to construction taking place.
 - **Requirements:** As these structures are older than 60 years, a permit for its destruction must be obtained from SAHRA. Such a permit will only be issued on condition of its full documentation (mapping and photographing).

8. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Heritage sites are fixed features in the environment, occurring within specific spatial confines. Any impact upon them is permanent and non-reversible. Those resources that cannot be avoided and that are directly impacted by the proposed development can be excavated/recorded and a management plan can be developed for future action. Those sites that are not impacted on can be written into the management plan, whence they can be avoided or cared for in the future.

8.1 Objectives

- Protection of archaeological, historical and any other site or land considered being of cultural value within the project boundary against vandalism, destruction and theft.
- The preservation and appropriate management of new discoveries in accordance with the NHRA, should these be discovered during construction activities.

The following shall apply:

- Known sites should be clearly marked in order that they can be avoided during construction activities.

- The contractors and workers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction activities.
- Should any heritage artefacts be exposed during excavation, work on the area where the artefacts were discovered, shall cease immediately and the Environmental Control Officer shall be notified as soon as possible;
- All discoveries shall be reported immediately to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. Acting upon advice from these specialists, the Environmental Control Officer will advise the necessary actions to be taken;
- Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site; and
- Contractors and workers shall be advised of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or palaeontological artefacts, as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 51. (1).

8.2 Control

In order to achieve this, the following should be in place:

- A person or entity, e.g. the Environmental Control Officer, should be tasked to take responsibility for the heritage sites and should be held accountable for any damage.
- Known sites should be located and isolated, e.g. by fencing them off. All construction workers should be informed that these are no-go areas, unless accompanied by the individual or persons representing the Environmental Control Officer as identified above.
- In areas where the vegetation is threatening the heritage sites, e.g. growing trees pushing walls over, it should be removed, but only after permission for the methods proposed has been granted by SAHRA. A heritage official should be part of the team executing these measures.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is proposed to improve a section of the National Route N2, referred to as Section D, between km 34 (Bloemendal) to km 63.3 (Piet Retief), in the Gert Sibande District Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

The cultural landscape qualities of the region essentially consist of two components. The first is a rural area in which the human occupation is made up of a limited pre-colonial (Stone Age and Iron Age) occupation and a much later colonial (farmer) component. The second component is an urban one consisting of a number of smaller towns, most of which developed during the last 150 years or less.

Identified sites:

- Borrow pit ML12
 - (7.3.3.1) The ruins of a farm labourer homestead, consisting of a number of house structures, refuse midden and a cattle enclosure. Only the foundations of the different features remain. Although no graves were noticed, it is possible that there might be some belonging to infants that were buried in the homestead. This feature is viewed to have low significance on a local level – Grade III.

Impact assessment:

- Borrow pit ML12

- (7.3.3.1) The ruins of a farm labourer homestead, consisting of a number of house structures, refuse midden and a cattle enclosure. Only the foundations of the different features remain. Although no graves were noticed, it is possible that there might be some belonging to infants that were buried in the homestead.
- The significance weighting for the impact on the identified site is rated as **medium**.
 - Mitigation: It is recommended that this feature is retained and that it is fenced off with danger tape if quarrying activities take place in its vicinity. If that is not possible and must be demolished, it should be documented in full prior to construction taking place.
 - Requirements: As these structures are older than 60 years, a permit for its destruction must be obtained from SAHRA. Such a permit will only be issued on condition of its full documentation (mapping and photographing).

Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should be authorised:

- From a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue, on condition of acceptance of the proposed mitigation measures.

Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation:

- It is recommended that the homestead feature at Borrow pit ML12 is retained and that it is fenced off with danger tape if quarrying activities take place in its vicinity. If that is not possible and must be demolished, it should be documented in full prior to construction taking place.
- Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during quarrying activities, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

10. REFERENCES

10.1 Data bases

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10.2 Literature

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10.3 Maps and aerial photographs

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps
Google Earth

APPENDIX 1: INDEMNITY AND TERMS OF USE OF THIS REPORT

The findings, results, conclusions and recommendations given in this report are based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information. The report is based on survey and assessment techniques which are limited by time and budgetary constraints relevant to the type and level of investigation undertaken and the author reserve the right to modify aspects of the report including the recommendations if and when new information may become available from ongoing research or further work in this field, or pertaining to this investigation.

Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. The author of this report will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

Although the author exercises due care and diligence in rendering services and preparing documents, he accepts no liability and the client, by receiving this document, indemnifies the author against all actions, claims, demands, losses, liabilities, costs, damages and expenses arising from or in connection with services rendered, directly or indirectly by the author and by the use of the information contained in this document.

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APPENDIX 2. SPECIALIST COMPETENCYJohan (Johnny) van Schalkwyk

J A van Schalkwyk, D Litt et Phil, heritage consultant, has been working in the field of heritage management for more than 30 years. Based at the National Museum of Cultural History, Pretoria, he has actively done research in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, museology, tourism and impact assessment. This work was done in Limpopo Province, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland. Based on this work, he has curated various exhibitions at different museums and has published more than 60 papers, many in scientifically accredited journals. During this period he has done more than 2000 impact assessments (archaeological, anthropological, historical and social) for various government departments and developers. Projects include environmental management frameworks, road-, pipeline-, and power line developments, dams, mining, water purification works, historical landscapes, refuse dumps and urban developments.

APPENDIX 3 CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

Significance

According to the NHRA, Section 2(vi) the **significance** of a heritage sites and artefacts is determined by it aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

Matrix used for assessing the significance of each identified site/feature

1. Historic value				
Is it important in the community, or pattern of history				
Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history				
Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery				
2. Aesthetic value				
It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group				
3. Scientific value				
Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage				
Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period				
4. Social value				
Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons				
5. Rarity				
Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage				
6. Representivity				
Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class				
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province, region or locality.				
7. Sphere of Significance		High	Medium	Low
International				
National				
Provincial				
Regional				
Local				
Specific community				
8. Significance rating of feature				
1.	Low			
2.	Medium			
3.	High			

Significance of impact:

- low where the impact will not have an influence on or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design
- medium where the impact could have an influence which will require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation
- high where it would have a “no-go” implication on the project regardless of any mitigation

Certainty of prediction:

- Definite: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data to verify assessment
- Probable: More than 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only more than 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring
- Unsure: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact, or the likelihood of an impact occurring

Recommended management action:

For each impact, the recommended practically attainable mitigation actions which would result in a measurable reduction of the impact, must be identified. This is expressed according to the following:

- 1 = no further investigation/action necessary
- 2 = controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary
- 3 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation and/or mapping necessary
- 4 = preserve site at all costs

Legal requirements:

Identify and list the specific legislation and permit requirements which potentially could be infringed upon by the proposed project, if mitigation is necessary.

APPENDIX 4. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

All archaeological and palaeontological sites, and meteorites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) as stated in Section 35:

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged with a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions as it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

In terms of cemeteries and graves the following (Section 36):

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- (b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, 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; or
- (c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3)(a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999) stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act:

- **Grade I:** Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- **Grade II:** Heritage resources which, although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region; and
- **Grade III:** Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, and which prescribes heritage resources assessment criteria, consistent with the criteria set out in section 3(3), which must be used by a heritage resources authority or a local authority to assess the intrinsic, comparative and contextual significance of a heritage resource and the relative benefits and costs of its protection, so that the appropriate level of grading of the resource and the consequent responsibility for its management may be allocated in terms of section 8.

Presenting archaeological sites as part of tourism attraction requires, in terms 44 of the Act, a Conservation Management Plan as well as a permit from SAHRA.

(1) Heritage resources authorities and local authorities must, wherever appropriate, co-ordinate and promote the presentation and use of places of cultural significance and heritage resources which form part of the national estate and for which they are responsible in terms of section 5 for public enjoyment, education, research and tourism, including-

- (a) the erection of explanatory plaques and interpretive facilities, including interpretive centres and visitor facilities;
- (b) the training and provision of guides;
- (c) the mounting of exhibitions;
- (d) the erection of memorials; and
- (e) any other means necessary for the effective presentation of the national estate.

(2) Where a heritage resource which is formally protected in terms of Part I of this Chapter is to be presented, the person wishing to undertake such presentation must, at least 60 days prior to the institution of interpretive measures or manufacture of associated material, consult with the heritage resources authority which is responsible for the protection of such heritage resource regarding the contents of interpretive material or programmes.

(3) A person may only erect a plaque or other permanent display or structure associated with such presentation in the vicinity of a place protected in terms of this Act in consultation with the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of the place.

APPENDIX 5. RELOCATION OF GRAVES

If the graves are younger than 60 years, an undertaker can be contracted to deal with the exhumation and reburial. This will include public participation, organising cemeteries, coffins, etc. They need permits and have their own requirements that must be adhered to.

If the graves are older than 60 years old or of undetermined age, an archaeologist must be in attendance to assist with the exhumation and documentation of the graves. This is a requirement by law.

Once it has been decided to relocate particular graves, the following steps should be taken:

- Notices of the intention to relocate the graves need to be put up at the burial site for a period of 60 days. This should contain information where communities and family members can contact the developer/archaeologist/public-relations officer/undertaker. All information pertaining to the identification of the graves needs to be documented for the application of a SAHRA permit. The notices need to be in at least 3 languages, English, and two other languages. This is a requirement by law.
- Notices of the intention needs to be placed in at least two local newspapers and have the same information as the above point. This is a requirement by law.
- Local radio stations can also be used to try contact family members. This is not required by law, but is helpful in trying to contact family members.
- During this time (60 days) a suitable cemetery need to be identified close to the development area or otherwise one specified by the family of the deceased.
- An open day for family members should be arranged after the period of 60 days so that they can gather to discuss the way forward, and to sort out any problems. The developer needs to take the families requirements into account. This is a requirement by law.
- Once the 60 days has passed and all the information from the family members have been received, a permit can be requested from SAHRA. This is a requirement by law.
- Once the permit has been received, the graves may be exhumed and relocated.
- All headstones must be relocated with the graves as well as any items found in the grave.

Information needed for the SAHRA permit application

- The permit application needs to be done by an archaeologist.
- A map of the area where the graves have been located.
- A survey report of the area prepared by an archaeologist.
- All the information on the families that have identified graves.
- If graves have not been identified and there are no headstones to indicate the grave, these are then unknown graves and should be handled as if they are older than 60 years. This information also needs to be given to SAHRA.
- A letter from the landowner giving permission to the developer to exhume and relocate the graves.
- A letter from the new cemetery confirming that the graves will be reburied there.
- Details of the farm name and number, magisterial district and GPS coordinates of the gravesite.

APPENDIX 6: INVENTORY OF IDENTIFIED CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Location	No. 7.3.3.1 (Borrow pit ML12)	Homestead	S 27.07559, E 30.86698		
Description					
The ruins of a farm labourer homestead, consisting of a number of house structures, refuse midden and a cattle enclosure. Only the foundations of the different features remain. Although no graves were noticed, it is possible that there might be some belonging to infants that were buried in the homestead.					
Significance of site/feature		Low on a local level – Grade III			
Impact assessment					
This site is located in the middle of the proposed development area and would be impacted on by the mining activities.					
Significance of impact					
Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	Significance	Weight
1	5	4	4	40	Medium
Mitigation					
It is recommended that this feature is retained and that it is fenced off with danger tape if quarrying activities take place in its vicinity. If that is not possible and must be demolished, it should be documented in full prior to construction taking place.					
Requirements					
As these structures are older than 60 years, a permit for its destruction must be obtained from SAHRA. Such a permit will only be issued on condition of its full documentation (mapping and photographing).					
References					
1: 50 000 topocadastral map					



7.3.3.1



APPENDIX 7. IMPACT TABLES

Archaeological sites and other heritage features		
Nature: Loss and disturbance of heritage sites and features		
No-Go Option		
No applicable		
Construction Phase		
Ratings of Impacts	Without mitigation	With mitigation
Extent	1	1
Duration	5	5
Magnitude	4	4
Probability	4	4
Significance	40	40
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Low
Reversibility	Low	Low
Irreplaceable loss of heritage	Low	Low
Can impacts be mitigated	Yes	
Operational Phase		
Not applicable		
Mitigation:		
Cumulative impacts: Expected to be low		
Residual risks: Low risk anticipated provided that the mitigation measures are implemented correctly		