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# A PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE SYLVANIA LESEDI PIPELINE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT ON PORTIONS OF THE FARMS TURFFONTEIN 462JQ & BUFFELSFONTEIN 464JQ NEAR MOOINOOI, BOJANALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY NORTHWEST PROVINCE

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REPORT: APAC021/63

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#### SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Prescali Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply Project located on portions of the farms Turffontein 462 & Buffelsfontein 465JQ. The study and development area is located close to the town of Mooinooi in the Bojanala District Municipality of the Northwest Province.

Background research indicated that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area, while a number of archaeological sites and finds have been identified in the study area during earlier assessments by the author of this report. These sites and finds were however of low significance and no further mitigation is required. Physical fieldwork was undertaken during July 2021 and this document discusses the results of the assessment. No other cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material, over and above those identified in 2012, were identified in the area during the current fieldwork.

It is recommended, from a Cultural Heritage point of view, that the proposed development activities can be allowed to continue, taking the recommended measures provided at the end into consideration.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Prescali Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Phase 1 HIA for the Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply Project located on portions of the farms Turffontein 462 & Buffelsfontein 465JQ. The study and development area is located close to the town of Mooinooi in the Bojanala District Municipality of the Northwest Province.

Background research indicated that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area, while a number of archaeological sites and finds have been identified in the study area during earlier assessments by the author of this report. These sites and finds were however of low significance and no further mitigation is required. Physical fieldwork was undertaken during July 2021 and this document discusses the results of the assessment. No other cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material, over and above those identified in 2012, were identified in the area during the current fieldwork.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study area and the assessment focused on this portion. The Specialist was accompanied in the field by representatives of Sylvania who indicated the location of and route the new proposed pipeline will follow.

#### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

- 1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
- 2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
- 3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
- 4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
- 5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

# 3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two Acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

#### 3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the Act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

# The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and paleontological importance
- g. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- h. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

# **Structures**

Section 34 (1) of the Act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

#### Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of the Act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The Act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial)

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological 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 paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

#### **Human remains**

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of 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 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; or
- bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or
   (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations** (**Ordinance no. 12 of 1980**) (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

#### 3.2. The National Environmental Management Act

The Act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1. Survey of literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

# 4.2. Field survey

The field assessment section of any HIA/AIA is conducted according to generally accepted standards & practices and aims at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

#### 4.3. Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

# 4.4. Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

# 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The study area is located on portions of the farms Turrfontein 462JQ & Buffelsfontein 465JQ, close to the town of Mooinooi in the Bojanala District Municipality of the Northwest Province. The implementation of the Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply is proposed.

The topography of the area is mostly flat and open with no real rocky outcrops or ridges present. Vegetation cover in the study area was fairly dense in sections during the assessment, although there are some more open stretches as well. The study area has been disturbed through agricultural activities in the past (ploughing/crop growing and grazing), while earlier and more recent mining-related activities has also impacted on the original landscape. If any archaeological sites, features or material did exist here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result. The pipeline route that had to be assessed follows mostly existing roads & reserves and end at the existing Phoenix Tailings Dam. This Tailings Dam formed the focus of a 2012 Archaeological Assessment by the Heritage Specialist.

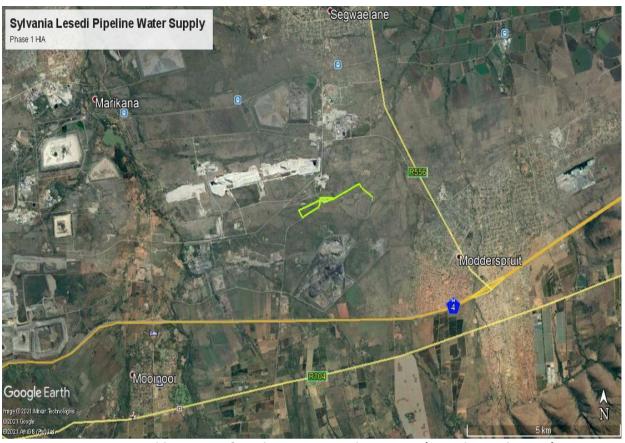


Figure 1: General location of study area & pipeline route (Google Earth 2021).

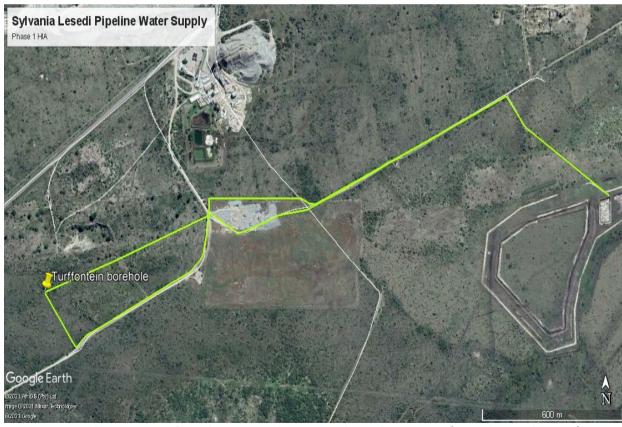


Figure 2: Closer view of study area and proposed pipeline route (Google Earth 2021).

#### 6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

There are no known significant Stone Age sites or features in the specific study area. The closest known Stone Age sites in the larger geographical area are located in the so-called Magaliesberg Research Area and include rock shelter sites dating to the Middle and Later Stone Age. There is also some rock engraving sites in this area (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

A single MSA stone tool was found close to the current study area during a 2012 assessment by the Specialist (Pelser 2012: 13; 16 & 22). No further Stone Age sites or objects (such as stone tools) were identified in the area during the July 2021 field work. It is believed that if any Stone Age artifacts are to be found in the area then it would more than likely be single, out of context, stone tools.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

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Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.
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Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

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Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.
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Late Iron Age sites have been identified in the area around the town of Mooinooi. In a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west many Iron Age sites have been discovered previously (Bergh 1999: 7-8). These all belong to the Later Iron Age (Bergh 1999: 8-9). A copper smelting site was identified along the Hex River to the northwest of the surveyed area (Bergh 1999: 8). The closest Earlier Iron Age site is located at Broederstroom near Brits (Bergh 1999: 6).

During earlier times the area was settled by the Fokeng. In the 19th century this group inhabited this area with other Tswana groups including the Kwena and the Po (Bergh 1999: 9-10). During the difaqane these people moved further to the west, but they returned later on (Bergh 1999: 11).

According to the research of Tom Huffman the following Iron Age traditions could be present in the area: (a) the Mzonjani facies of the Urewe tradition (Broederstroom) dating to AD450 – AD750 (b) Olifantspoort facies of the same tradition AD1500 – AD1700 (c) Uitkomst facies of Urewe AD1650 – AD1820 and (d) Buispoort facies of Urewe dating to around AD1700 - AD1840 (Huffman 2007: 127; 171; 191 & 203).

In 2007 Pelser (as part of Archaetnos then) was requested by International Ferrometals (SA) (Pty) Ltd to investigate a Late Iron Age stone walled settlement located on their Buffelsfontein Chrome Mine. This site was identified by Dr. Julius Pistorius in May 2002 as part of an EIA done on the farm Buffelsfontein 465JQ. Other Iron Age features and sites were also identified by Pelser in the area for the IFMSA Brits Mooinooi Road Extension project (July 2012 – Prescali Environmental). A number of Late Iron Age sites, features and artifacts were located during an assessment in October 2012 for the Phoenix Platinum Mine Tailings Dam on the same farm and in close location to the current study area (Pelser 2012: p.15-21). However, these were mostly individual finds of pottery of low significance. The only significant site was located at a low granite/norite outcrop and is similar to sites found during earlier surveys in the area (Pelser 2012: 16-18). Grinding surfaces were visible on the rocks, while a large amount of both decorated and undecorated pottery is located around the edges of and on top of the rock outcrop. The number of pottery fragments (representing various vessels) indicates that the site was used for a relatively extensive period. The specific site will however not be impacted by the Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply implementation.

# As with the Stone Age, no further Iron Age occurrences were identified in the study area during the 2021.

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. Early travelers have moved through this part of the Northwest Province. This included David Hume in 1825, Robert Scoon and William McLuckie in 1829 and Dr. Robert Moffat and Reverend James Archbell in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12, 117-119).

Hume again moved through this area in 1830 followed by the expedition of Dr. Andrew Smith in 1835 (Bergh 1999: 13, 120-121). In 1836 William Cornwallis Harris visited the area. The well-known explorer Dr. David Livingstone passed through this area between 1841 and 1847 (Bergh 1999: 13, 119-122).

The Battle of Buffelspoort (3 December 1900) was also fought in close vicinity of the development area during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).

# No historical sites, features or remains were identified in the study area during the assessment.

The area around Mooinooi, including the surveyed area was inhabited by white pioneers as early as 1839 (Bergh 1999: 15). From an old map obtained from the database of the Chief Surveyor General (<a href="www.csg.dla.gov.za">www.csg.dla.gov.za</a>), dated to 1903, it is clear that the whole of the farm Buffelsfontein was originally granted to one H.C. Jansen van Rensburg on the 7th of March 1861 and was official surveyed in October and November 1903. No structures or other cultural features are shown on this map (<a href="Document 10G2UM01">Document 10G2UM01</a>). A 1919 map for Turffontein shows that farm was framed for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of Amended Title in favor of the Government of the Union of South Africa, and officially surveyed in April 1919 (<a href="Document 10456675">Document 10456675</a>).

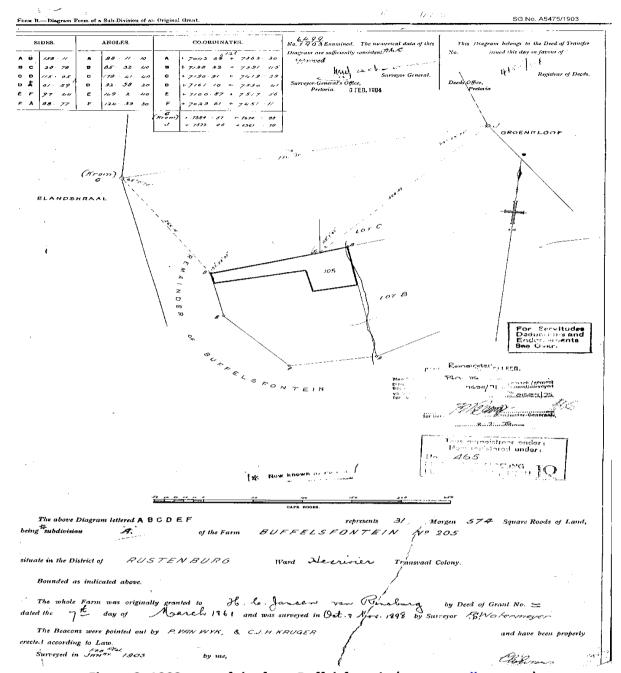


Figure 3: 1903 map of the farm Buffelsfontein (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

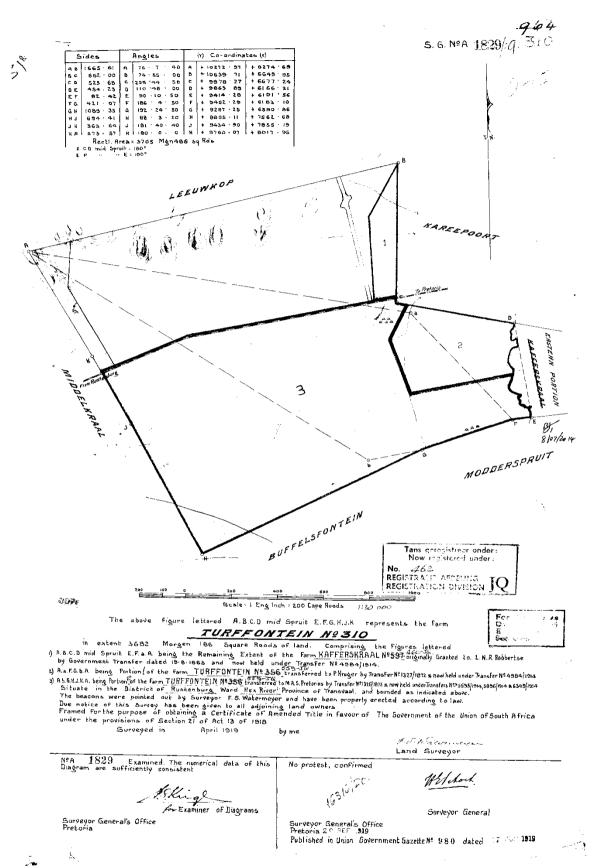


Figure 4: 1919 map of Turffontein 462JQ (www.csg.dla.gov.za).

# Results of the July 2021 assessment

No cultural heritage sites, features or material (archaeological and/or historical in origin or significance) were identified in the study area during the recent assessment. The proposed Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply route follows mostly existing roads and road reserves and traverses areas that have been extensively impacted by earlier and more recent mining-related activities. The sites and finds recorded during the earlier 2012 work by Pelser are also mainly single and out of context artifacts, with most of these not directly impacted by the new pipeline route. No further mitigation is therefore required.



Figure 5: View of a section of the pipeline route from its starting point at a Borehole.



Figure 6: Another view. A small section crosses through areas that are covered by relatively dense vegetation.



Figure 7: The route follows mostly exiting dirt roads and reserves.



Figure 8: Another section of the Pipeline route.





Figure 10: A view of the end point of the Pipeline route at the Phoenix Tailings dam.



Figure 11: A part of the Pipeline route from the Phoenix Tailings Dam.



Figure 12: Large parts of the area have been impacted by earlier mining-related activities.



Figure 13: Another view of a section of the Pipeline route following existing roads and reserves.

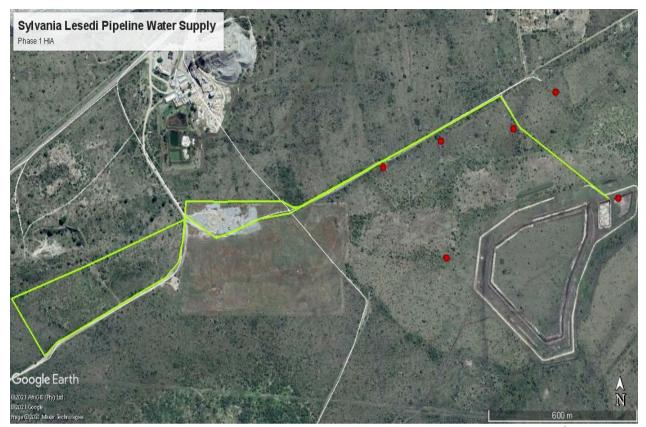


Figure 14: A view of the study area & Pipeline route showing the location of sites/finds recorded in 2012 (Google Earth 2021).

From a Cultural Heritage perspective the proposed Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply project should therefore be allowed to continue.

It should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) in a study area there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors.

# 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be said that the Phase 1 HIA for the Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply Project located on portions of the farms Turffontein 462JQ & Buffelsfontein 465JQ was conducted successfully. The development & study area is located near the town of Mooinooi in the Bojanala District Municipality of the Norwest Province.

Background research indicated that there are a number of cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area, while a number of archaeological sites and finds have been identified in the study area during earlier assessments by the author of this report.

The proposed Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply route follows mostly existing roads and road reserves and traverses areas that have been extensively impacted by earlier and more

recent mining-related activities. The sites and finds recorded during the earlier 2012 work by Pelser are also mainly single and out of context artifacts, with most of these not directly impacted by the new pipeline route. No further Cultural Heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were identified in the area during the July 2021 fieldwork. No mitigation is therefore required. The area is also characterized by turf soils and large-scale settlement during the Iron Age would not have been favored here. LIA settlements would have been located closer to and on the surrounding ridges and hills.

It should be noted that although all efforts are made to locate, identify and record all possible cultural heritage sites and features (including archaeological remains) there is always a possibility that some might have been missed as a result of grass cover and other factors. The subterranean nature of these resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

Finally, from a Cultural Heritage perspective, the proposed Sylvania Lesedi Pipeline Water Supply project should therefore be allowed to continue.

#### 7. REFERENCES

General and Closer views of Study Area Location, Pipeline Route & Known Archaeological Sites: Google Earth 2021.

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Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

Chief Surveyor General Database (<u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u>): Documents - 10G2UM01 & 10456675.

#### **APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

**Site**: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

**Structure**: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

**Feature**: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

**Object**: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

#### APPENDIX B: DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic value**: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

**Aestetic value**: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

**Scientific value**: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

**Social value**: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

**Rarity**: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

**Representivity**: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or 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.

#### APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

# **Cultural significance:**

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

# **Heritage significance:**

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

#### Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

#### **APPENDIX D: PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:**

# Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

# **General protection:**

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states Structures – Older than 60 years Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites Burial grounds and graves Public monuments and memorials

#### APPENDIX E: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

- 1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
- 2. Baseline Assessment Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
- 3. Phase I Impact Assessment Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
- 4. Letter of recommendation for exemption If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
- 5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
- 6. Phase III Management Plan For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.