

**MTHATHA MALL PROJECT**  
**Phase I Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment**

**SEF Reference No. 504929**

Prepared for

**Mthatha Mall (Pty) Ltd**

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**S T R A T E G I C   E N V I R O N M E N T A L   F O C U S**

**November 2012**

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I, **Mamoluoane Seliane**, in my capacity as a specialist consultant, hereby declare that I -

- Act as an independent consultant;
- Do not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for the work performed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998); and following the provisions of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999).
- Have and will not have vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- Have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- Undertake to disclose, to the competent authority, any material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998); and/or the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999).
- Will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not;
- Based on information provided to me by the project proponent, and in addition to information obtained during the course of this study, have presented the results and conclusion within the associated document to the best of my professional judgement; and
- Undertake to have my work peer reviewed on a regular basis by a competent specialist in the field of study for which I am registered.



28 November 2012

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**Mamoluoane Seliane**  
Heritage Specialist  
Accredited by ASAPA Reg. No. 255

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Date

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The aim of the cultural heritage survey (Phase I Heritage Survey, in accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)) was to locate, identify, document and assess sites of cultural heritage and archaeological significance that may occur within the proposed study area for the establishment of the Mthatha Mall. An assessment of the impact of the establishment of the mall on such resources will be provided. Where the impact is negative, alternatives and/ or mitigation plans will be considered.

The study revealed no heritage resources within the proposed site. It is therefore, recommended from a heritage point of view that the establishment of the Mthatha Mall, proceed.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

EIAge	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
ECPHRA	Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SEF	Strategic Environmental Focus (Pty) Ltd
S&EIR	Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Strategic Environmental Focus (Pty) Ltd (SEF) was commissioned by Mthatha Mall (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed study area. This HIA was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, (NEMA), and it is based on the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) (NHRA). This HIA is a specialist study that forms part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process for the proposed development on heritage resources within the proposed study area.

According to Section 3 (2) of the NHRA, the heritage resources of South Africa include:

- 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 natural features of cultural significance;*
- e. geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;*
- f. archaeological and palaeontological sites;*
- g. graves and burial grounds, including-*
  - i. ancestral graves;*
  - ii. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;*
  - iii. graves of victims of conflict;*
  - iv. graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;*
  - v. historical graves and cemeteries; and*
  - vi. other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);*
- h. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;*
- i. movable objects, including-*
  - i. objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;*
  - ii. objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;*
  - iii. ethnographic art and objects;*
  - iv. military objects;*
  - v. objects of decorative or fine art;*
  - vi. objects of scientific or technological interest; and*
  - vii. 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)."*

In terms of 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:

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

The aim of the investigation was to identify, verify and analyze heritage issues and to recommend how to manage them within the context of the proposed establishment of the Mthatha Mall.

The objectives of the investigation were:

- Identifying and analysing heritage places, objects, buildings, structures, graves etc.;
- Assessing broad cultural significance of identified sites, places, buildings, structures, graves and objects within the study area;
- Surveying and mapping of significance/sensitivity issues and opportunity/constraint issues;
- Reviewing of the general compatibility of the proposed Mthata Mall and associated activities with heritage policy planning frameworks;
- Undertaking a preliminary assessment of the acceptability of the proposed establishment of the shopping centre from a heritage perspective;
- Identifying the need for alternatives, if necessary; and
- Recommending appropriate initial management measures to conserve significant heritage elements and reduce the impact on heritage resources.

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

**Table 1 Background Information**

Consultant:	Mamoluoane Seliane
Type of development:	Establishment of a shopping centre
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning (i.e. change in land use)
Terms of reference	Phase 1 HIA Study
Legislative requirements:	The HIA was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, (NEMA), and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA).

### 2.1 Details of the study area

The proposed Mthatha Mall shopping centre is planned to be constructed on erven 874, 875, 876 and 877, Errol Spring Avenue in Mthatha. The site is in the Vulindlela area on the Southern side of the Mthatha Central Business District (Figure 1).



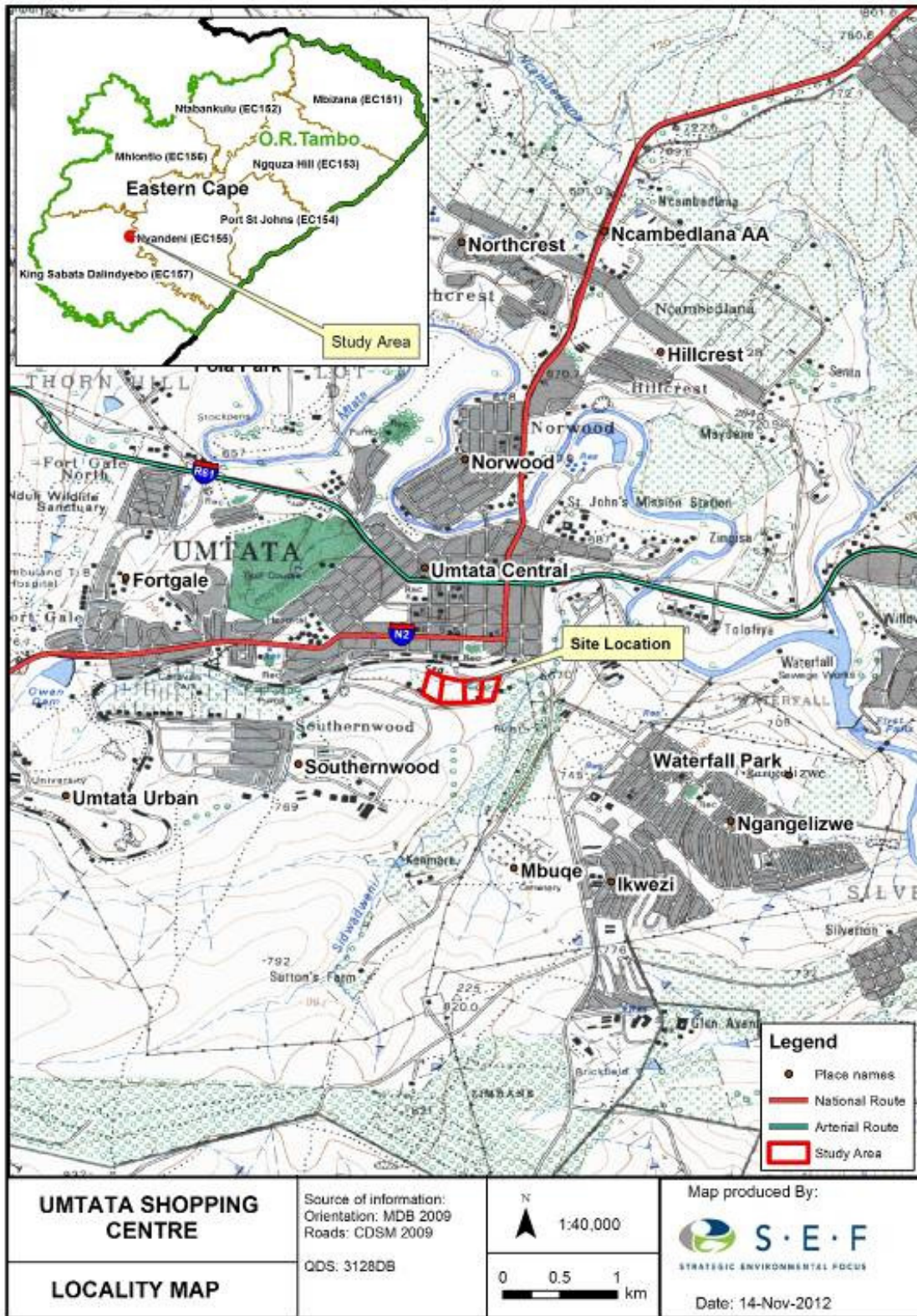


Figure 1 Location of the study area

## **Current Land-use**

The site for the proposed Mthatha Mall shopping centre is currently being used for residential and small scale crop and animal farming (Figure 2). A stream and a wetland traverse the site from east to west.



**Figure 2 Land-uses within the study area**

### **2.2 Locational Data**

- Province: Eastern Cape;
- District Municipality: O.R. Tambo;
- Local Municipality: King Sabata Dalindyebo
- General Coordinates: 31°35'44.9"S; 28°47'22.9"E

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

#### 3.1 Methodology

##### *3.1.1 Details of the site visit*

The site visit for the proposed Mthatha Mall was conducted on 6 November 2012. The survey was undertaken by means of walking throughout the site to:

- Search for, locate and identify objects and structures of heritage and/or archaeological significance in accordance with accepted archaeological practices; and
- Document all heritage/ archaeological sites, objects and structures according to minimum standards and procedures accepted by the archaeological profession.

##### *3.1.2 Literature Review*

A brief literature review pertaining to the prehistory Eastern Cape Province was undertaken.

#### 3.2 Restrictions to the survey

##### *3.2.1 Visibility*

Visibility for the most part of the study area was not good (Figure 3). The poor visibility resulted in difficulty of identification of heritage resources for the most part of the study area



Figure 3 Typical vegetation found on site

### ***3.2.2 Disturbance***

There is no disturbance of any potential archaeological stratigraphy noted.

### **3.3 Details of the equipment used in the survey**

- GPS: Garmin eTrek Camo; and
- Digital cameras: Canon Powershot A460.

All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a margin of error of 4 m.

### **3 BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Compared to other provinces in the country, the Eastern Cape is one of the relatively well studied provinces archaeologically. The archaeology of the region was researched and reported on by amateur archaeologists and travellers in the eighteenth and nineteenth century and possibly before – the Albany Museum houses some of the collections from these early studies (Binneman 2001). Laidler (1947) in particular made very large Earlier and Middle Stone Age collections from coastal sites. Further research, excavations and studies were conducted in the early twentieth century (for example, FitzSimons 1921, 1923, 1926, Hewitt 1925). Both the inland and coastal areas of the Eastern Cape Province have yielded significant sites belonging to different time periods and cultural traditions.

#### **4.1 Stone Age**

The Stone Age of southern Africa has been divided into, the Early Stone Age (ESA) dating from about 2.5 million years ago to 250 000 years ago, the Middle Stone Age (MSA) dating from 250 000 and 25 000 years ago and the Later Stone Age (LSA) which dates from about 25 000 and 2 000 years ago (Mitchell, 2000).

The ESA is a period during which human ancestors began the usage of stone tools. The stone tools from this earlier period consist of simply modified tools such as hand axes, scraping tools as well as choppers. These tools were, among other things, used to chop and butcher meat, de-skin animals and probably to smash animal bones to obtain bone marrow. Most ESA sites are open air tool scatters. However, there were no ESA sites within the proposed mall study area.

The MSA stone tools are, in general, smaller than those of the ESA. A variety of MSA tools include blades, flakes, scrapers and pointed tools that may have been hafted onto shafts or handles and used as spearheads. The Eastern Cape is renowned for its coastal Klasis River MSA sites. Although fragmentary, the Klasis River cave sites have yielded human remains whose research and interpretation provided useful information about origins and evolution of morphologically modern humans as well as indicates one of the oldest evidence of marine food exploitation in the world (Deacon, 2001, Deacon and Schuurman, 1992). The proposed site for the Mthatha Mall however did not yield any MSA sites.

The LSA tools are even smaller than those of the MSA and display rapid stylist change, particularly in the last 10 000 years. LSA sites can be found inland as well as in coastal regions. These sites constitute a wide range of features and artefacts including shell

middens, stone tools, bone tools as well as other non-lithic cultural artefacts (Binneman, 2001). The LSA sites/features can occur in caves, shelters or in open air contexts (Binneman, 2001, 1998, 1994, Opperman, 1999, Binneman and Hall, 1993,). No LSA Stone Age artefacts have been discovered at the proposed study area for the Mthatha Mall.

Along with the marked social transformation and technological innovation of the LSA people is the associated Rock Art panels that occur on cave walls or rock faces. Rock Art can be in the form of rock paintings or rock engravings, depending on the geology of a region. However, no rock art paintings or engravings were discovered within the proposed study area.

## **4.2 Iron Age**

A farming way of life was introduced to southern Africa about 2 000 years ago by Bantu-speaking people coming from the north. They brought with them crops such as sorghum, millet, ground beans and cow peas to be cultivated for the first time in this part of the world. Domestic animals such as cattle, sheep and goats were also part of the newly introduced farming way of life. Unlike the hunter-gatherers and herders who lived in temporary camps and led a nomadic way of life, farming necessitated sedentary life styles. Some features of the permanent settlements of these early mixed farming communities are houses, raised grain bins, underground storage pits and stock enclosures. An important feature of this time period was that they also made their own iron implements, hence the name Iron Age.

The Iron Age has been divided into three periods, namely the Early Iron Age (EIA Period) (AD 200 – 900), the Middle Iron Age (MIA) (AD 900 – 1300) and the Late Iron Age (LIA) (AD 1300 – 1820) (Huffman, 2007). However, the Phase I field survey as well as the aerial photograph investigation did not reveal any Iron Age sites within the proposed Mthatha Mall site.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA HERITAGE

### 5.1 Description of the materials observed

The investigation revealed several structures and foundations on site (Figures 4 and 5). However the materials and designs used to build the various structures confirmed that they are not older than 60 years and therefore they do not qualify as heritage resources in terms of the of the NHRA.



**Figure 4 A collapsed bridge (currently not being used)**



**Figure 5 Floor of a collapsed house**

**Table 2 Table detailing identified heritage resources and NHRA status**

<b>Identified heritage resources</b>	
<i>Category, according to NHRA</i>	<i>Identification/Description</i>
<b>Formal protections (NHRA)</b>	
National heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provincial heritage site (Section 27)	None
Provisional protection (Section 29)	None
Place listed in heritage register (Section 30)	None
<b>General protections (NHRA)</b>	
Structures older than 60 years (Section 34)	None
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
<b>Other</b>	
Any other heritage resources (describe)	None

## 5.2 Summary of the findings

No heritage resources were identified on site and thus no further permitting processes are required.



## **6 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This section does not apply as no heritage resources were identified on site.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the proposed Mthatha Mall proceed from a heritage point of view as no heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area, with acceptance of the following conditions:

Construction activities should be limited to the proposed development boundary. If the size of the footprint is increased at a later stage, a heritage specialist should be involved in order to assess how the increase in the size of the footprint will affect heritage resources.

## **8 RISK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION**

Archaeological material, by its very nature, occurs below ground. The developer should therefore keep in mind that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, work in that area should be stopped and the occurrence should immediately be reported to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA) at 043 642 2811 or a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available. The find should then be investigated and evaluated by the archaeologist, who will provide recommendations on when construction activities in the area where the discovery was made can resume.

## **9 CONCLUSION**

The heritage survey for the proposed Mthatha Mall Project revealed no cultural heritage resources. Therefore from a heritage point of view, the proposed Mthatha Mall Project and associated activities can proceed.

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