

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A SECTION OF  
THE SECUNDA-MOZAMBIQUE GAS PIPELINE,  
BARBERTON DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA**

For:

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## **SUMMARY**

### **Archaeological survey of a section of the Mozambique-Secunda pipeline, Barberton District, Mpumalanga.**

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area in which it is proposed to lay a pipeline.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- All graves should be avoided or relocated, but only after consultation with the local community.
- The developer should also be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY . . . . . 1

CONTENTS . . . . . 2

1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY..... 3

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE ..... 3

3. DEFINITIONS..... 3

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS ..... 4

5. METHODOLOGY ..... 5

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA..... 6

7. DISCUSSION ..... 7

8. RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 7

9. REFERENCES ..... 8

10. PROJECT TEAM ..... 8

APPENDIX 1 ..... 9

APPENDIX 2 ..... 10

APPENDIX 3 ..... 12

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A SECTION OF THE SECUNDA-MOZAMBIQUE GAS PIPELINE, BARBERTON DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA

### 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was contracted by **GLMC Joint Venture** to survey a section of the proposed Secunda-Mozambique pipeline. The aim was therefore to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area that is to be impacted by the developed.

### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

- 2.1 Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature located in the area of the proposed development.
- 2.2 Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.
- 2.3 Determine the possible impacts on the known and potential cultural resources in the area of interest.
- 2.4 Develop mitigation or control measures for impact minimization and cultural resources preservation.
- 2.5 Develop procedures to be implemented if previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during the construction.

### 3. DEFINITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following aspects have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- X **Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- X The **significance** of the sites and artefacts are determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their 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.

- X Sites regarded as having low significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium to high significance require further mitigation.
- X The latitude and longitude of archaeological sites are to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.

#### 4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts. These are the South Africa Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989).

##### 4.1 South African Heritage Resources Act

###### **Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites**

Section 35(4) of this act states that 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 assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

###### **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 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 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
- (c) 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 is 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 (ie where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) 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)**.

#### 4.2 Environmental Conservation Act

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made. The impact of the development on the cultural resources should also be determined and proposals to mitigate this impact are to be formulated.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Preliminary investigation

#### 5.1.1 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 the list of references below. Nothing pertaining to the archaeology of this particular area was found, although a number of survey reports from adjacent areas exist. Some source on historical events that took place in the area also exists.

#### 5.1.2 Data bases

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)**, housed at the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria, was consulted. The **Environmental Potential Atlas** was also consulted.

#### 5.1.3 Other sources

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

### 5.2 Field survey

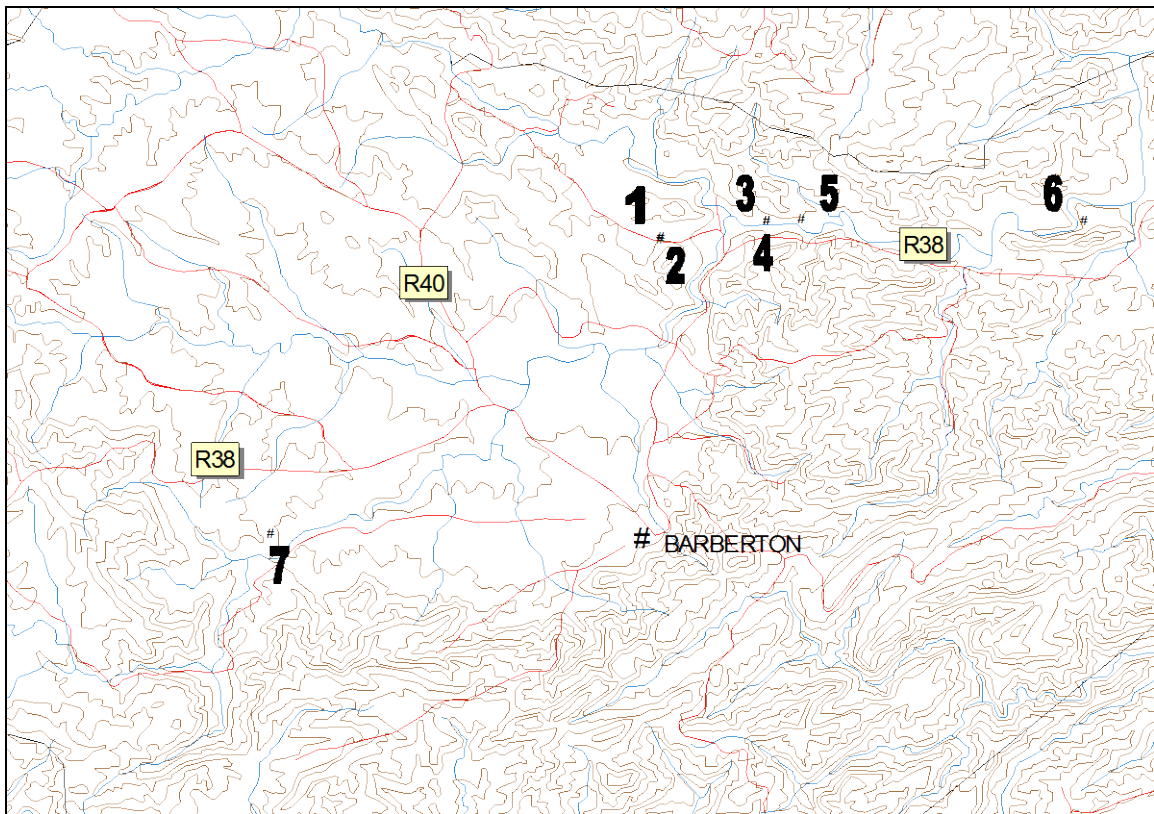
The field survey was done according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. The area that had to be investigated was identified by GLMC Joint Ventures. Staff members assisted with the survey, acting as

guides. The area was investigated by walking across it. Special attention was given to unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes, outcrops and clusters of trees were investigated.

### 5.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System (GPS)**<sup>11</sup> and plotted on a map. This information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA



**Figure 1. Location of the identified sites**

<sup>11</sup> According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however, taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

The area surveyed was determined by the proposed development (see Fig. 1). It include the following farms: Claredon Vale 308JU and Annex Riverbank 279JU. Other sites are located on what is simply known as State Land. With reference to the development, the section that was inspected covers km 228 up to km 266 of the pipeline.

One site under discussion falls outside this area. It was located when a turning circle for large vehicles was made. This site is located on the farm Hilversum 696JT.

The topography of the area varies from mountains, to plains, bisected by a number of rivers. Although large sections of the area still have its original vegetation, a lot of it is also used for sugarcane farming, which would have impacted negatively on cultural resources.

## 7. DISCUSSION

The area is rich in Stone Age archaeology. Tools dating to the Early and Middle Stone Ages are found all over. However, this material is all surface material, eroding or being ploughed out. The implication is that it is not in primary context any more and therefore do not have much significance.

One site showing attribute that date it to the Iron Age was identified. However, this site is judged not to be significant.

Sites dating to the historical period were also identified. These can be classified as the remains of farm labourer homesteads. However, none of these are judged to be of any significance.

One grave was identified, but is located off the pipeline route and would therefore not be impacted upon.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area in which it is proposed to lay a pipeline.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- All graves should be avoided or relocated, but only after consultation with the local community.
- The developer should also be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should immediately be reported to a museum,



preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

## 9. REFERENCES

### 9.1 Unpublished sources

#### 9.1.1 Data base

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.  
Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

### 9.2 Published sources

#### 9.2.1 Books and journals

Holm, S.E. 1966. *Bibliography of South African Pre- and Protohistoric archaeology*. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

Mason, R.J. 1962. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1935. *A Preliminary survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. Ethnological Publications No. 5. Pretoria: Government Printer.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1977. *Anthropology of Southern Africa in Periodicals to 1950*. Pretoria: Government Printer.

#### 9.2.2 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps – 2530DD, 2531CA

## 10. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk

## **APPENDIX 1: STANDARDIZED SET OF CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROJECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **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 2: SURVEY RESULTS<sup>2</sup>

[Previous site numbers relate to other known sites on a particular ¼ degree sheet already documented in the ADRC, and does not necessarily refer to sites occurring on or close to the specific area of development.]

1. Site number: 2531CA9

Location: Clarendon Vale 308JU: S 25°40'29.4"; E 31°03'18.1" [X 2842182.372; Y – 206283.775]

Description: Single grave

Discussion: This site falls outside the area of impact

Significance of impact: Low

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

2. Site number: 2531CA10

Location: Clarendon Vale 308JU: S 25°40'31.5"; E 31°03'17.3" [X 2842246.671; Y –206260.471]

Description: Rectangular stone structure of unknown origin.

Discussion: This site falls outside the area of impact, but is also judged not to be of any significance

Significance of impact: Low

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

3. Site number: 2531CA11

Location: State Land: S 25°40'04.6"; E 31°05'46.1" [X 2841483.761; Y –210421.369]

Description: Old prospecting shaft

Discussion: This feature is very close to the proposed development, but all caution should be taken to avoid it.

Significance of impact: Low

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

4. Site number: 2531CA12

Location: State Land: S 25°40'04.9"; E 31°05'46.5" [X 2841493.173; Y –210432.373]

Description: Old prospecting shaft

Discussion: This feature is very close to the proposed development, but all caution should be taken to avoid it.

Significance of impact: Low

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

5. Site number: 2531CA13

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<sup>22</sup> See Appendix 1 for an explanation of the conventions used in assessing the cultural remains.

Location: State Land: S 25°40'02.5"; E 31°06'34.3" [X 2841440.369; Y -211757.675]

Description: Old farm labourer homestead

Discussion: This site is judged not to be of any significance, but if development takes place here, care should be taken as there might be graves in the immediate vicinity.

Significance of impact: Low

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

6. Site number: 2531CA14

Location: Annex Riverbank 279JU: S 25°40'05.2"; E 31°13'08.3" [X 2841703.433; Y -222739.314]

Description: Old farm labourer homestead

Discussion: This site is judged not to be of any significance, but if development takes place here, care should be taken as there might be graves in the immediate vicinity.

Significance of impact: Low

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

7. Site number: 2530DD2

Location: Hilversum 696JT: S 25°47'22.5"; E 30°54'12.6" [X 2854670.586; Y -190894.081]

Description: Late Iron Age site, consisting of single circular stone wall. A few potsherds occur in the area.

Discussion: This site is viewed as having no significance.

Significance of impact: Low

Recommended management action: 1 = no further investigation/action necessary

Legal requirements: None

### APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This section is included to give the reader some necessary background. It must be kept in mind, however, that these dates are all relative and serve only to give a very broad framework for interpretation.

#### STONE AGE

Early Stone Age (ESA)	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age (MSA)	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age (LSA)	30 000 - until c. AD 200

#### IRON AGE

Early Iron Age (EIA)	AD 200 - AD 1000
Late Iron Age (LIA)	AD 1000 - AD 1830

#### HISTORICAL PERIOD

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 in this part of the country

ADRC - Archaeological Data Recording Centre

core - a piece of stone from which flakes were removed to be used or made into tools

SAHRA - South African Heritage Resources Agency

