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Our Ref/Ons Verw	Your Ref/U Verw	Contact/Kontak	Date/Datum
2007KH069			30 May 2007

Mr K Krizinger
Plan-2-Survey Africa
P O Box 3203
Nelspruit
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Dear Mr Krizinger

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: MALELANE ESTATE A, PORTION 42

As requested, we have investigated portion 42 of the farm Malelane Estate A 140JU where the proposed development is to take place. The area is located directly north of the village of Malelane and extends to the southern bank of the Crocodile River (Fig. 1). It centres around the following coordinates: S 25,48758, E 31,50249.

The scope of work consisted of conducting a Phase 1 archaeological survey of the site in accordance with the requirements of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). This included:

- 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.

The study area is a long, narrow strip of land, extending from the tar road on the outskirts of the town of Malelane, down to the Crocodile River (Fig. 2). The geology is made up of lava and the original vegetation is classified as Sour Lowveld Bushveld. The area has for many years been used for agricultural activities, which would have destroyed any visible evidence of previous occupation.

One reference to a previous survey of the area was found (Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2005, *Heritage impact assessment of portion 40, Malelane Estate, Mpumalanga Province*. Unpublished report 2005KH006. Pretoria: National Cultural History Museum.) From this it was determined that some sites and features occur in the region, but not in the study area self.

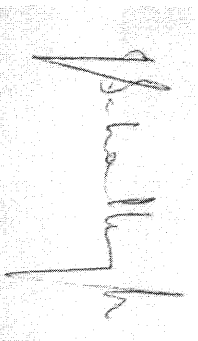
NORTHERN FLAGSHIP INSTITUTION/NOORDELIKE VLAGSKIPINSTELLING
INCORPORATING/GEINKORPOREER
National Cultural History Museum/Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese Museum
Transvaal Museum
National Museum of Military History/Nasionale Museum vir Militêre Geskiedenis
Pioneer/Pionier Museum - Kruger Museum - Tswaing Crater/Krater Museum - Sammy Marks Museum -
Willem Prinsloo Agricultural/Landbou Museum

The site was visited on the 21 May 2007 and a number of transects were walked across it. Some rubble has been dumped in sections of the site and the vegetation cover is currently quite tall and dense, making the detection of sites difficult.

In the past, especially during the Iron Age, people followed rivers, settling on the fertile alluvial soil, building their village and planting crops. In many cases, such sites would later be covered by additional layers of soil deposited by the river. Unfortunately, in this particular case the whole study area has been impacted on by agricultural activities. This would have had a negative impact on sites, not only destroying the sites, but also making it difficult to detect.

It is therefore possible that, when construction starts, archaeological remains can be uncovered. We therefore recommend, from a heritage point of view, that the proposed development can continue and requests that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, 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

Yours sincerely



J van Schalkwyk
Principal investigator
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