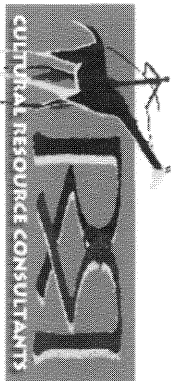


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PO BOX 4637
CAPE TOWN, 8000

24 November 2006

Phase 1 Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation)
NTWANE / ELANDSDOORN
GROBLERSDAL, MPUMALANGA

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR EXEMPTION

EIA CONSULTANCY:

AGES Environmental Division (Pty) Ltd
Postnet 74
Private Bag X07
Arcadia, 0007

INTRODUCTION

The Project proposal constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

Historical remains

Section 34(1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

Archaeological remains

Section 35.(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 or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

Section 35(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.

Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (a) 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
- (b) 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 detection or recovery of metals.

Section 36 (6) Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

Culture resource management

Section 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

***'development'** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
 - (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place*;
 - (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
 - (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;
- *'place'** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure* ...

***'structure'** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ...

Terminology:

Early Stone Age: Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs before present.

Middle Stone Age: Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr - 30 000 yrs before present.

Late Stone Age: The period from ± 30 000-yr to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.

Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD.

Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

Historical: Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD 1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

Phase 1 assessments: Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area.

Phase 2 assessments: In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.

In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur on the demarcated site. This would enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects, which the development could have on any heritage resources.

TERM OF REFERENCE

The author was contracted by AGES Environmental Division (Pty) Ltd to assess the probable presence of heritage resources on the demarcated terrain. The EIA application is for the installation of a water reticulation network within the existing residential area and its extension.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

Map reference: South Africa 1:50000 2529 AB.

General co-ordinates: S25° 17' 15" E29° 13' 15"

The proposed development is situated on agricultural land, currently still being ploughed, as well as in areas used for residential purposes. The terrain has thus been severely impacted on and obscured by the current land use.

METHODOLOGY

A survey of the demarcated area (see locality map) was undertaken on foot, and vehicle during which standard methods of observation were applied. Archaeological visibility was good as vegetation cover was relatively sparse. Special attention was given to disturbances, either natural or man-made, as well as changes in vegetation that may have resulted from previous human intervention.

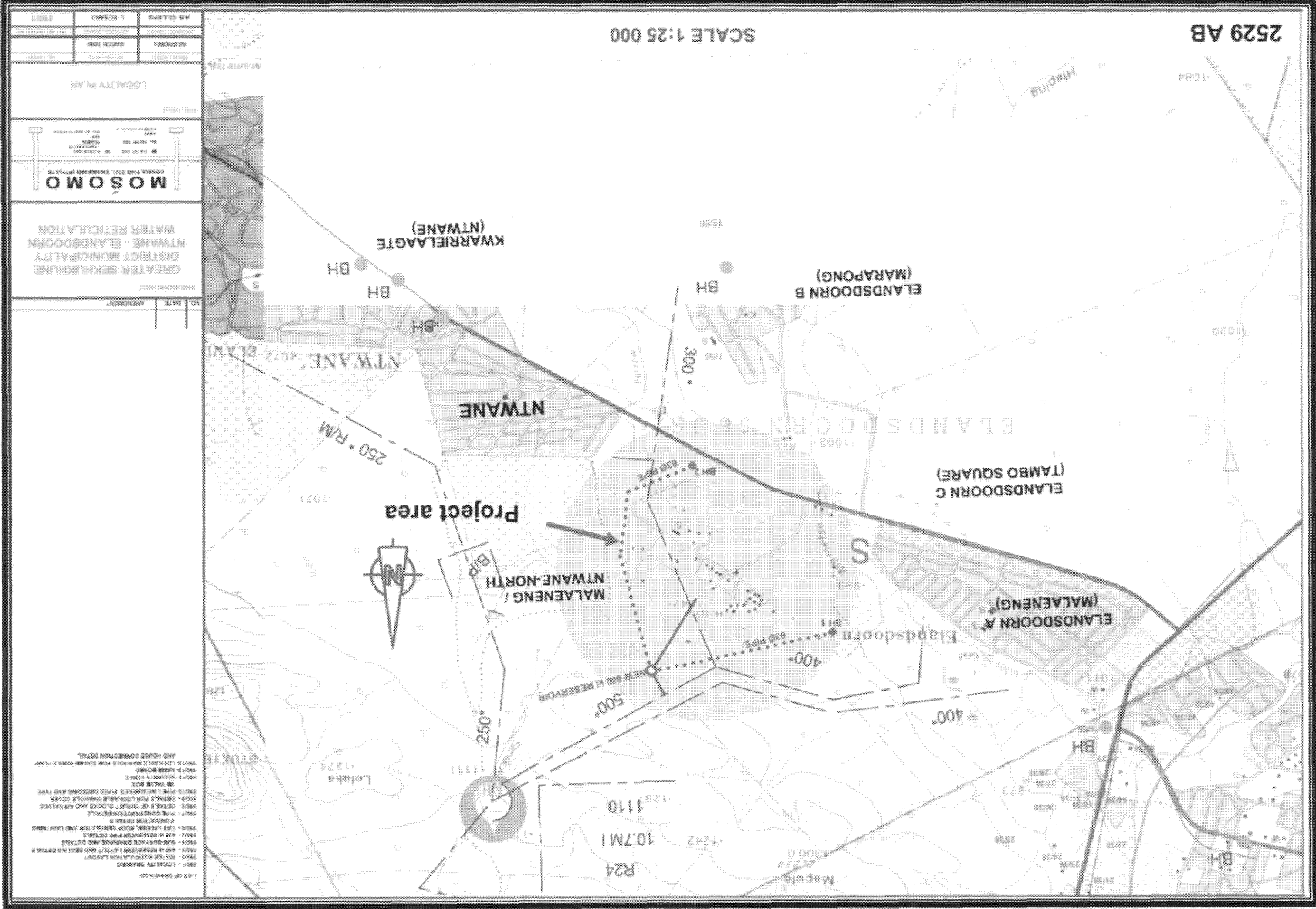
DISCUSSION



Fig 1. General view of the terrain.

2529 AB

SCALE 1:25 000



<p>1. PROJECT TITLE</p> <p>2. PROJECT NUMBER</p> <p>3. PROJECT LOCATION</p> <p>4. PROJECT DATE</p> <p>5. PROJECT STATUS</p>	
<p>6. PROJECT DESCRIPTION</p> <p>7. PROJECT OBJECTIVES</p> <p>8. PROJECT SCOPE</p> <p>9. PROJECT BOUNDARIES</p> <p>10. PROJECT LEGEND</p>	
<p>11. PROJECT DRAWING</p> <p>12. PROJECT SCALE</p> <p>13. PROJECT DATE</p> <p>14. PROJECT STATUS</p> <p>15. PROJECT LOCATION</p> <p>16. PROJECT NUMBER</p> <p>17. PROJECT TITLE</p>	
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LIST OF SYMBOLS

1. WATER RETICULATION

2. WATER SUPPLY

3. WATER DEMAND

4. WATER STORAGE

5. WATER PUMP

6. WATER RESERVOIR

7. WATER TOWER

8. WATER TREATMENT PLANT

9. WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

10. WATER MAINS

11. WATER SERVICE LINES

12. WATER METER

13. WATER VALVE

14. WATER STOP VALVE

15. WATER CHECK VALVE

16. WATER AIR VALVE

17. WATER PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE

18. WATER BACKFLOW PREVENTER

19. WATER FLOW METER

20. WATER METER BOX

21. WATER METER COVER

22. WATER METER GASKET

23. WATER METER O-RING

24. WATER METER WASHER

25. WATER METER BRACKET

26. WATER METER HANGER

27. WATER METER SUPPORT

28. WATER METER ANCHOR

29. WATER METER BOLT

30. WATER METER NUT

31. WATER METER WASHER

32. WATER METER O-RING

33. WATER METER GASKET

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96. WATER METER GASKET

97. WATER METER BRACKET

98. WATER METER HANGER

99. WATER METER SUPPORT

100. WATER METER ANCHOR

No heritage remains of any significance were noted on the terrain.

CONCLUSION

No heritage resources were noted or are expected on the development area that could be adversely impacted on by the proposed development.

However, this does not completely rule out the possibility that sub-surface archaeological material may occur on the terrain. *Therefore, the discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain during excavation works must be reported to the Relevant Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.*

This letter serves as a qualified statement that no significant heritage resources such as archaeological or historical material or places of social or religious significance are expected on the demarcated terrain. *From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.* Therefore it is recommended that the proposed application be exempted from a heritage impact assessment.

Yours faithfully



FRANS ROODT (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology, UP)
Principal Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource Consultants