



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
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**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED BODIBE HOUSING PROJECT, NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: AE824

by:

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed Bodibe Housing Project located west of Lichtenburg in the Northwest Province. This is for the building of RDP houses.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed four sites and some objects of cultural heritage significance on the property. These will be impacted upon by the development. Therefore suitable mitigation measures are proposed.

The proposed development can only continue after the necessary mitigation measures have been implemented.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed Bodibe Housing Project west of the town of Lichtenburg in the Northwest Province.

The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
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. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

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

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.

3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix B).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.

4. 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).

4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned law 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.

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 that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological 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.

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
- 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 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) 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)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

4.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This 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.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Survey of literature

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

5.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken on foot.

5.3 Documentation

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

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed development area is located at the rural village of Bodibe, west of Lichtenburg in the Northwest Province. The specific area for development is on the northeastern edge of Bodibe (Figure 1).

The area seems to have been used mostly for grazing in the past, but evidence of disturbance by ploughing was also determined. Overall the area is open and the general topography thereof is flat. The vegetation consists of grass, with mainly some small bushes and trees.

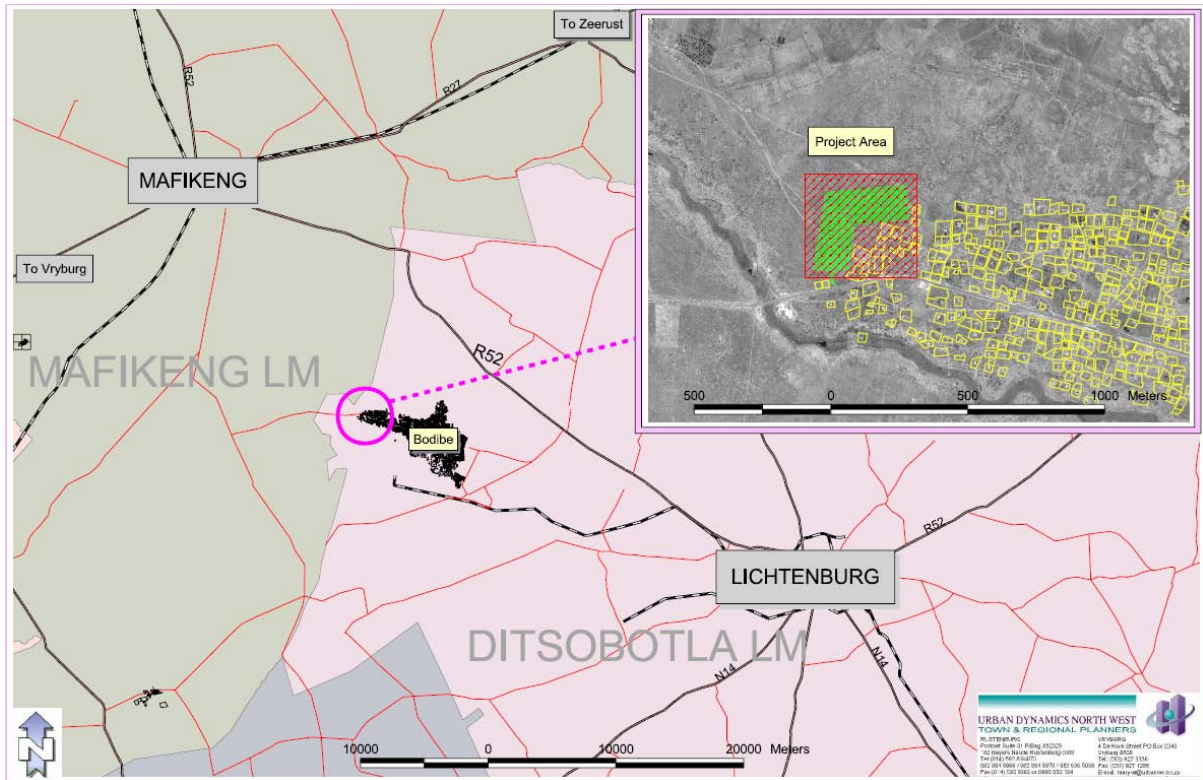


Figure 1 Locality map indicating the surveyed area.

7. DISCUSSION

During the survey four sites of cultural heritage significance were located on the property. Some objects of cultural significance were also found. Although the objects will be impacted upon by the development, this report is seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard.

In order to enable the reader to better understand these sites and objects, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history. The found cultural resources will be integrated with this discussion.

7.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

- Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
- Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
- Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

The few sites with rock paintings, dating to the Late Stone Age, have been identified to the west of Lichtenburg (Bergh 1999: 5). These are further west than Bodibe. Stone Age material from the Middle and Late Stone Age were however located at Khunotswana and Mmabatho recently (see Van Vollenhoven & Pelsler 2008).

The area does not contain natural shelters or any other indication of living areas. One can therefore assume that Stone Age people would have stayed somewhere in the hills and would have passed this area during their hunting and gathering activities.

Loose objects found during the survey date to the Stone Age. This included artifacts from the Middle and Late Stone Age. One Stone Age site was also identified.

7.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

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:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Previous research indicates no Iron Age sites in the area around Lichtenburg (Bergh 1999: 7). The aridity and lack of good grass may have prevented people from settling here, but it is always possible that such sites may be found in the years to come.

It is indicated that a Tswana group, the Rolong, inhabited the area previously as well as during the 19th century (Bergh 1999: 9-11). However no indication of Iron Age people was found during the survey.

7.3 Historical Age

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 and Botswana. This included the Reverend John Campbell in 1820, David Hume, Centilivres Chase and James Collins in 1825, Robert Scoon and William McLuckie in 1827 and 1829 and Dr Robert Moffat and Reverend James Archbell in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12, 117-119).

Later the area was visited by Piet Meyer and Hans Dons de Lange and also David Hume in 1830. Andrew Geddes Bain traveled through the area in 1831. Hume again visited the area in 1832 with Hugh Millen. This was again followed by Bain in 1834, the expedition of Dr

Andrew Smith in 1835 and William Cornwallis Harris in 1836. Between 1841 and 1847, Dr David Livingstone also visited this area (Bergh 1999: 13, 119-122).

The Voortrekkers moved into this area in 1839/40. More white farmers inhabited the area to the east of Lichtenburg between 1841 and 1850 (Bergh 1999: 15). The town of Lichtenburg was established in 1873 and it became a district in 1883 (Bergh 1999: 20).

Three sites from this era were found during the survey.

7.4 Discussion of sites identified during the survey

Site 1

This is a graveyard with at least 100 graves (Figure 2). Most of the graves are unmarked, but all the marked ones are younger than 60 years. It does seem as if all the graves may be younger than 60 years, but a process of social consultation would be needed to verify this.



Figure 2 Graveyard on the western edge of the development.

GPS: 26°02'27"S
25°48'22"E

The cultural significance of the site is **high**. Graves are a very sensitive issue which should always be dealt with in consultation with the community.

It is not known whether the development will have a direct impact on this site as the boundaries was not clearly defined. If the graves are in the area to be developed there will be

options. The first is to fence it off and ensure access for the families of the people buried there. The second and more expensive option would be to exhume and relocate the graves. This will have to be dealt within a process of social consultation with the community. It will also be necessary to obtain a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in the case of unknown graves or those older than 60 years. This will be done in association with a registered undertaker who will also need to obtain permits as prescribed by legislation. This will be done in association with a registered undertaker who will also need to obtain permits as prescribed by legislation (see point 4).

However, if the graveyard is outside of the area directly influenced by the development the above mentioned may be ignored. The developer must however still ensure that the families of the deceased do get easy access to the graves.

Site 2

This is a single grave found on the eastern side of the area to be developed (Figure 3). The grave is unmarked and seems to be older than 60 years, but a process of social consultation would be needed to verify this.



Figure 3 Single grave found during the survey.

GPS: 26°02'19"S
25°46'36"E

The cultural significance of the site is **high**. Graves are a very sensitive issue which should always be dealt with in consultation with the community.

The development will undoubtedly have a direct impact on this site. There will be two options in dealing with this grave. The first is to fence it off and ensure access for the families of the people buried there. The second option would be to exhume and relocate the grave. In this case the second is probably the better way to go as it might be difficult to plan the development around a single grave and to ensure access to the family should they be identified. One will still have to deal with this grave within a process of social consultation with the community. It will also be necessary to obtain a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for the exhumation and reinternment of the body. This will be done in association with a registered undertaker who will also need to obtain permits as prescribed by legislation (see point 4).

Site 3

The site consists of a rectangular cement slab, probably the remains of a house of other building, and an adjacent refuse midden (Figure 4).

GPS: 26°02'15"S
25°46'33"E



Figure 4 Remains of a concrete floor with a refuse midden in the background.

The cultural significance of the site is **low**. It probably is younger than 60 years as the artifacts on the site seem to be very recent.

The development will have a direct impact on this site. However this report is seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard. The site may be demolished and no permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) is needed.

Site 4

This is a Middle Stone Age factory site. MSA lithic tools are spread out over a reasonably large area, but it does not seem as if there is a deposit of cultural material apart from what can be seen on the surface.

Two GPS measurement were taken:

Northern side - 26°02'32"S
25°46'25"E

Southern Side: - 26°02'32"S
25°46'28"E

The cultural significance of the site is **medium**. Since it is one of the only known sites of the Stone Age in this area it needs to be recorded properly. However since it does not seem to be a major site, it may be demolished after suitable mitigation measures have been implemented. This includes a surface sampling of material and the analysis thereof by a specialist on Stone Age archaeology. For this a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) is needed.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be stated that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. Two of the cultural heritage sites found are highly significant. One is of a medium significance and one of a low significance. The final recommendations therefore are as follows:

- The best option for site no 1 would be to fence it off, but to ensure access for the descendants of the people buried in the graveyard. An alternative for this would be the exhumation and relocation of the graves after a process of social consultation.
- The single grave, site no 2 should be exhumed and relocated elsewhere. The best option would be to relocate the grave to site no 1, but if the latter is also to be relocated, it should be to the same new site.
- With regards to site no 3, this report is seen as ample mitigation.
- For site no 4 a surface sampling of artifacts is necessary and these should be analysed by a specialist on Stone Age archaeology.
- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development work commences that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate.

9. REFERENCES

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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

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.