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Attention: Matthew Hemming

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Phase 1 Heritage Resource Impact Assessment
ACCESS ROAD TO ZEBETIELA ENGEN ONE-STOP COMPLEX NORTH - N1
STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Location - General co-ordinates: S24° 16' 53" E: 28° 59' 09"
Map reference: South Africa 1:50 000 2428 BD.

The development will involve the construction of a 6 m wide gravel road within a 15 m wide road reserve. The road will be constructed from the N11 and will run parallel to the N1 highway over a distance of approximately 3 km to the Zebetielia Engen One-Stop Complex North.

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 \pm 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs before present.
Middle Stone Age:	Various lithic industries in SA dating from \pm 250 000 yrs - 30 000 yrs before present.
Late Stone Age:	The period from \pm 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:	10 th to 13 th centuries AD.
Late Iron Age:	14 th century to colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i>
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.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Sasol Oil (Pty) Ltd is currently investigating the construction of a private access road to the Zebetela Engen One-Stop Complex, which is located on the N1 Highway North, approximately 60 km south of Polokwane. The land is owned by Sasol, but leased to Engen who operate the garage. The purpose of the road is to provide safe access to the Zebetela Engen One-Stop Complex North for refueling tankers and staff vehicles. The author was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 *Heritage Resources Impact Assessment* of the proposed route of the road. The aim was to determine the presence, or not, of heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance; to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features. This survey forms part of the environmental impact assessment process and data regarding the environmental and geo-morphological conditions and socio-economic issues should be read in the main report. Consequently, a letter containing a qualified statement of the *status quo* with regard to heritage resources, instead of a full report, is deemed sufficient.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

The development will involve the construction of a 6 m wide gravel road within a 15 m wide road reserve. The road will be constructed from the **N11** (Fig 1) and will run parallel to the

N1 highway over a distance of approximately 3 km to the Zebetela Engen One-Stop Complex – North (Fig 2). The entire area had been ploughed in the recent past and is ecologically severely degraded. The terrain is now mostly overgrown by pioneer plants such as *Dichrotachys* (Fig 3) and other acacia species.

METHODOLOGY

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

RESULT OF THE SURVEY

The historical monument site, Moorddrift, commemorating a conflict between trekking Boers and local Ndebele tribes in 1854 is located a few kilometers west of the project area. The development will not impact on this site.

A low concentration of non-diagnostic pottery fragments was recorded at co-ordinates: S24° 17' 07.3" E28° 58' 56.8 (marked **1** on the locality map). No other signs of archaeological material or deposits were observed. A second concentration of pottery fragments, together with pieces of metal slag (Fig 4) was recorded at co-ordinates: S24° 16' 31.5" E28° 59' 28.2 (marked **2** on the locality map). Both areas recorded above have been severely disturbed by the construction of the N1 and site 2 has been extensively ploughed.

Isolated Middle Stone Age (MSA) flakes were observed scattered in the ploughed fields, which activity probably caused their migration to the surface from the MSA bearing substrata.

DISCUSSION

Site 1 is not regarded as significant, but site 2 may still contain adequate archaeological material to at least enable the identification of the cultural group and to place it within the cultural sequence of the area. It therefore has scientific significance. The low frequency of metal slag combined with the pottery probably represents an ironsmith activity in or very close to a pre-colonial village settlement.

The Middle Stone Age material is too scattered to be of significance and it will not be feasible to attempt any further assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the above, it is recommended that an archaeologist be present to monitor the initial earthworks for the road construction at **Site 2** in order to assess the significance of any archaeological material or deposits exposed during the process. The outcome may result in further mitigation measures being implemented.

CONCLUSION

This letter serves to confirm that apart from the findings at site 2, *no other significant heritage resources* such as archaeological or historical material or places of social or religious significance were found on the demarcated terrain. *From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development on condition that the recommendation above is implemented.*

Notwithstanding the recommendation, the discovery of any previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may result in mitigation measures being implemented.

Yours faithfully



FRANS ROODT (*BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad Dipl Museology; UP*)
Principle Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource Consultants



Fig 1. General view of the entry point along the N11.



Fig 2. General view of the end point at the Engen One Stop.



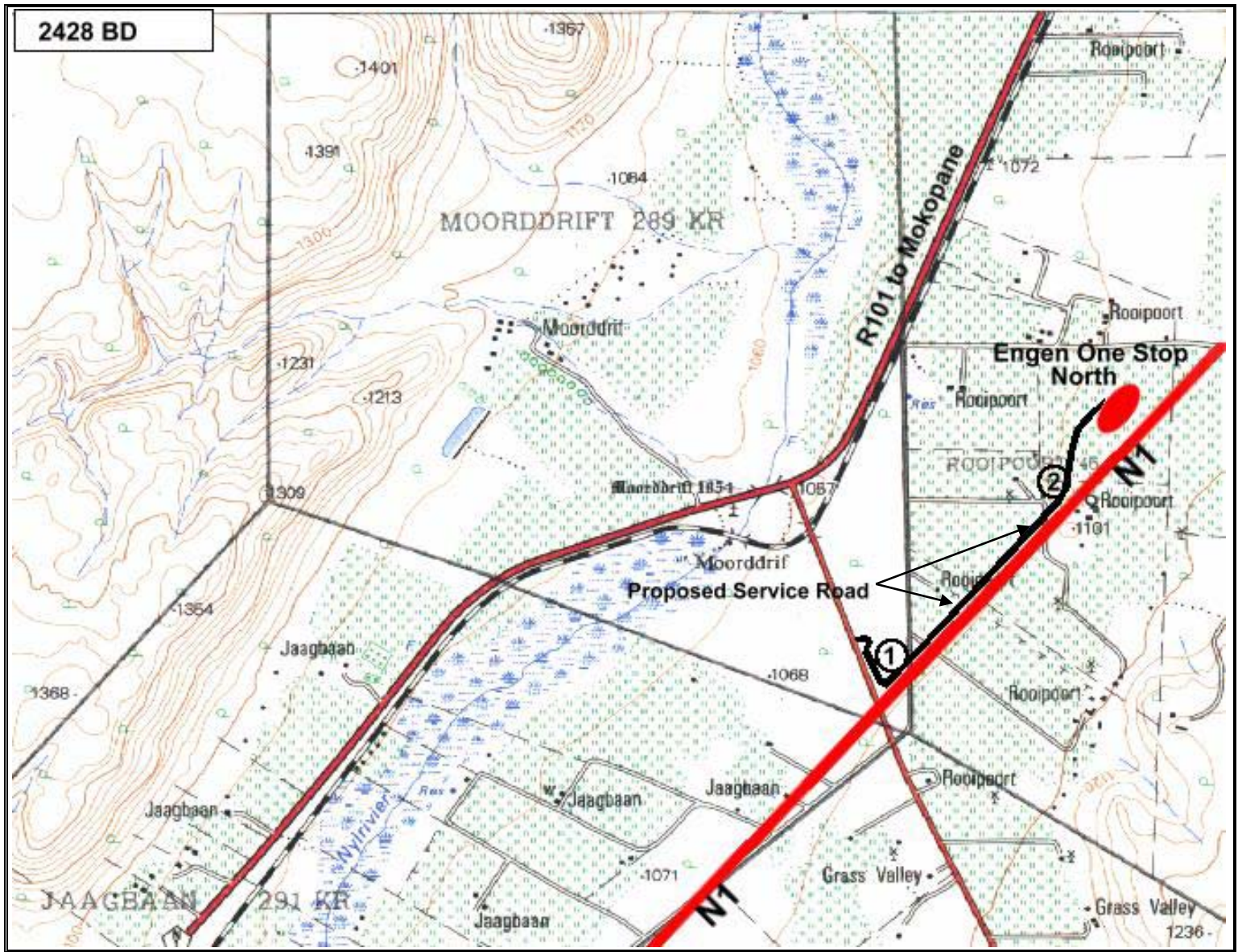
Fig 3. View of the dense vegetation in most areas.



Fig 4. Metal slag and potter fragments at Site 2. (Scale in cm.)



Fig 5. Google aerial view of the terrain.



Locality Map