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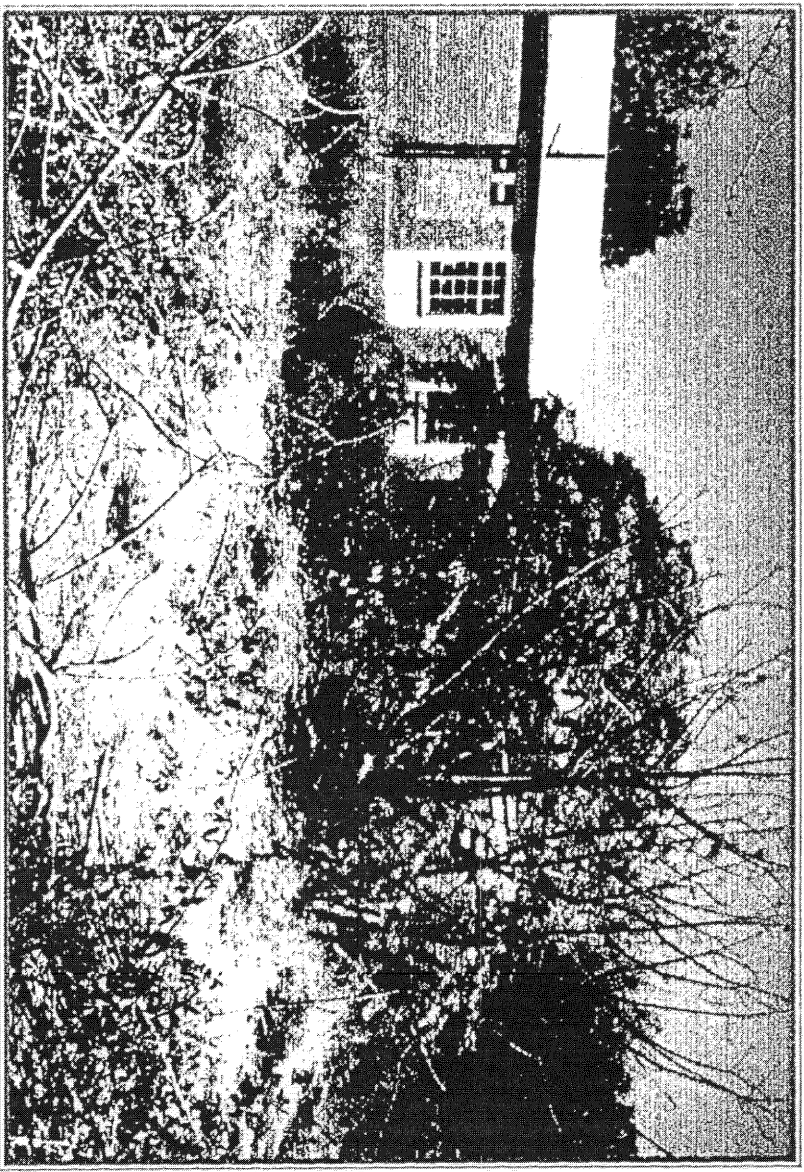
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PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposed Shopping Centre in Urban Messina



Compiled by Archaeo-Info Northern Province
GAIA Earth Science
2000-08-14

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**PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A SHOPPING COMPLEX IN URBAN
MESSINA**

14 August, 2000

**Compiled for;
GAIA Earth Science**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. AIM.....	2
3. FIELDWORK.....	2
4. GEOGRAPHICAL / ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	2
5. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS	3
6. METHODOLOGY	3
7. RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS	5
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	5
9. CONCLUSION	6
10. REFERENCES	6

ADDENDUM A Photographs

**PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF A SITE
FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A SHOPPING COMPLEX IN
URBAN MESSINA (2230 AA & AC)**

1. Introduction

A Preliminary Archaeological Impact Assessment (PALIA) was performed by Archaeo-Info Northern Province (AINP) for GALIA Earth Science on a site in urban Messina. The study was undertaken to evaluate areas or finds of archaeological significance which might occur on the proposed site for development. The PALIA formed part of the preliminary environmental impact assessment and was conducted in accordance with Act 25 of 1999 (The National Heritage Resources Act).

2. Aim

The aim of the PALIA was to determine the archaeological potential of the study area and how the proposed development will affect it. The investigators surveyed the proposed site within the given parameters to establish the viability of the development from an archaeological point of view. Furthermore to advise the client on alternative actions if it is found that the development would have a negative impact on cultural resources which are protected under Act 25 of 1999.

3. Fieldwork

The parameters of the site were relayed telephonically to AINP. An archaeologist and fieldworker from AINP performed the first phase archaeological investigation of the site on Wednesday August 9, 2000.

4. Geographical / Environmental Setting

The site for the proposed development is situated in urban Messina on the western side of the N1 and between the N1 and the railroad. Two railroad houses occupy the site

presently, but are to be demolished to clear the area for construction. The G.P.S. (Global Positioning System) co-ordinates for the site is ;

22° 20' 51" S

30° 02' 18" E

After the rezoning of land in the town of Messina, a complete preliminary environmental impact assessment was necessary to assess the impact of the proposed development of which the PALA forms part.

5. Previous Archaeological Investigations

The area alongside the Limpopo river valley has been archaeologically investigated for approximately 80 years and many important sites have been documented in this time. The Messina area is well known for the copper mining and copper working activities that took place during the Late Iron Age (+/- 1600 -1900 AD). These ancient mines and their archaeological remnants were mostly destroyed by modern mining or prospecting operations before they were archaeologically documented. However, the work of Van Warmelo (1940) in the Messina area provides some insight into these ancient mining activities.

6. Methodology

The area was surveyed using standard archaeological surveying methods. Standard archaeological documentation formats were employed in the description of sites. Using standard site documentation forms as comparable medium, it enabled the surveyors to evaluate the relative importance of sites found. Furthermore GPS (Global Positioning System) readings of all finds and sites, if any, were taken. This information was then plotted using a *Magellan 2000 XL* GPS (*WGS 84* datum).

Indicators such as surface finds, plant growth anomalies, local information and topography were used in identifying sites of possible archaeological importance. Test probes were done at intervals to determine sub-surface occurrence of archaeological material. The importance of sites was assessed by comparisons with published

information as well as comparative collections. All sites or possible sites found were classified using a hierarchical system wherein sites are assessed using a scale of one to five on the basis of their importance. These categories are as follows;

Category 1. Sites in this category are of such great international and/or national importance in terms of cultural heritage that they can not be disturbed or altered at any cost. No development will be allowed in such an area. It should be noted that sites in this category are very rare - e.g.. - *Great Zimbabwe, Swartkrans,*

Mapungubwe

Category 2. Although these sites are not unique in terms of their culture they are of such archaeological value that any decision concerning their destruction can only be taken after full scale excavations have been undertaken - e.g. -

Thulamela

Category 3. These sites are of lesser importance than the first two categories, but should be fully documented before they are destroyed. This documentation would entail the excavation of certain parts of the site - e.g. - *Masorini*

Category 4. Sites in this category consist of scattered evidence of archaeological occupation. Sometimes dilapidated stone walling can occur. Surface scatters of cultural material are evident. A limited number of test trenches should be excavated in order that the cultural affinity and importance of the site can be established.

Category 5. Areas that consist only of very loose scattering of cultural material on the surface. No structures are visible and little archaeological deposits are evident. The occurrence of cultural material could for example be due to erosion. Apart from the surface collection of cultural material, no further work needs be done on such sites.

NB: It is important that any archaeological sites should be monitored during construction.

Category 6: Graves

The only archaeological aspect that could still be encountered during construction is the exposure of unmarked graves. It should be noted that graves are subjects of great sensitivity and should be treated as such. Prompt and correct procedures will eliminate possible embarrassing situations for the developer.

7. Results of the Investigations

The fact that the proposed site is situated in the CBD of Messina between the N1 and the railroad, means that previous construction activities could have damaged archaeological remains. The construction of the two railroad houses with their established gardens (Photo 1&2) could also have damaged archaeological remains if there were any present. After the archaeological investigations it was evident that nothing of archaeological value or origin was present on the site.

8. Recommendations

The archaeological investigations proved that nothing of archaeological value or origin was present on the site, therefore, no further archaeological work is necessary. The proposed development can continue from an archaeological point of view.

9. Conclusion

AINP performed a first phase archaeological investigation on a site designated for the development of a shopping centre in urban Messina. The investigations proved that nothing of archaeological value or origin was present on the site and the proposed development of the shopping complex can continue.

10. References

1. Van Warmelo, N.J. 1940. *The Copper Miners of Musina*. Dept. of Native Affairs Ethnological Publications No. 8. Govt. Printer, Pretoria.

ADDENDUM A

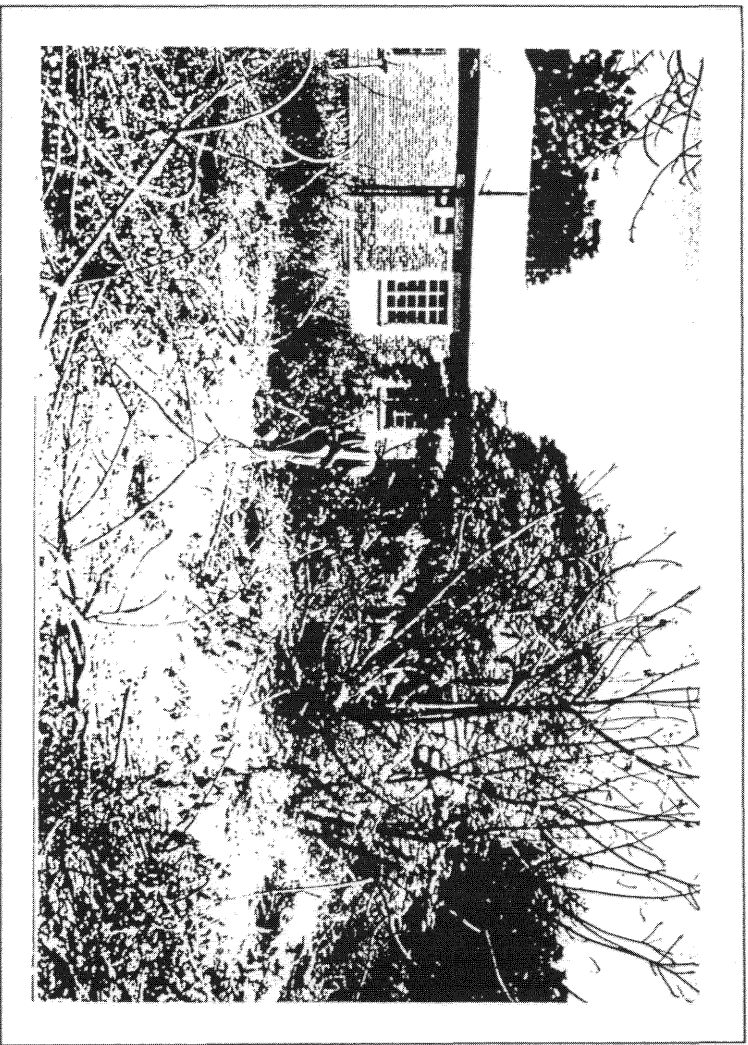


Photo 1. Railroad house on site.

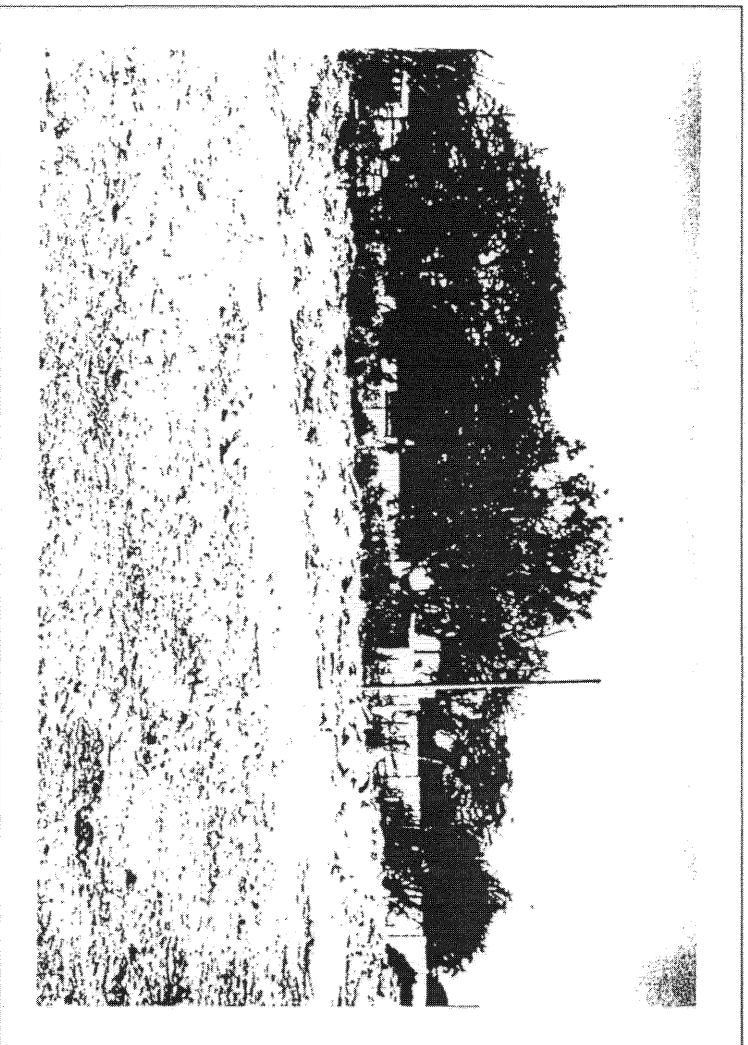


Photo 2. Cleared area with railroad house in background.