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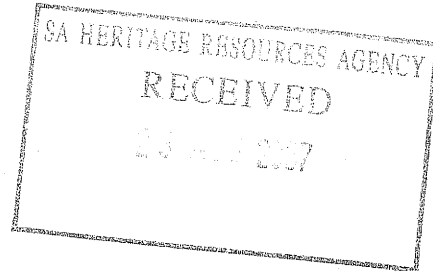
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference nr: LP30/5/1/3/3/2/308 EM

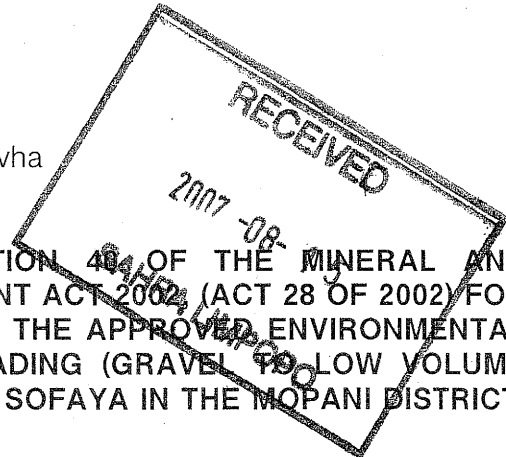


REGISTRED MAIL

**The Manager:
The Provision- Sahra Limpopo
P. O. Box 1371
Polokwane
0700**

17 July 2007

Attention: Mr. Donald Lithole/ Victor Netshiavha



CONSULTATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002 (ACT 28 OF 2002) FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE APPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE UPGRADING (GRAVEL TO LOW VOLUME SEAL) ROAD D3899 FROM TICKLINE TO SOFAYA IN THE MOPANI DISTRICT, LIMPOPO REGION.

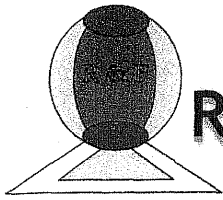
APPLICANT: ROAD AGENCY LIMPOPO.

Attached herewith, please find a copy of an EMP received from the above-mentioned applicant, for your comments.

It would be appreciated if you could forward any comments or requirements your Department may have in the case in hand to this office and to the applicant within 60 days as from 17 July 2007 to 17 September 2007, failure of which will lead to the assumption that your Department has no objection(s) or comments with regard to this application and this Department will in that instance proceed with the finalisation thereof.

Consultation in this regard has also been initiated with other relevant State Departments. In an attempt to expedite the consultation process please contact Ms. Dorris Maluleke of this office to make arrangements for a site inspection or for any other enquiries with regard to this application.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.



R & F ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

REG NO: 2002/045314/23

CONSTRUCTION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BORROW PITS

UPGRADING (GRAVEL TO LOW VOLUME SEAL) OF ROAD D3899 FROM TICKYLINE TO SOFAYA IN MOPANI DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE

MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

REF: RAL/E 516

MAY 2007

RECEIVED	
MINE RALS AND ENERGY PRIVATE BAG X 9467 POLOKWANE 0700 REGIONAL MANAGER LIMPOPO REGION	
SIGNATURE:..... <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE: 17/07/07
NAME OF OFFICIAL:..... <i>PHEELLO</i>	
(PRINT):.....	

Reference No:
3/2007/07/17/001

APPENDIX 4: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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1 INTRODUCTION

R&F Environmental Consultants appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants to undertake a heritage impact assessment study for three existing borrow pit sites earmarked for extracting of gravel material associated with the upgrading of road D3899 from Tickline-Sophia Village of Limpopo Province.

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 borrow pit excavations could have on such heritage resources. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

1.1 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.

1.2 Archaeological remains

Section 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- ❖ destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

1.3 Burial grounds and graves

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

- ❖ 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
- ❖ bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred above ,any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

1.4 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.

This Archaeological Impact Assessment report provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where the borrow pit site is located.

2 METHOD

2.1 Sources of information

The sources of information were the field reconnaissance and literary sources mentioned below.

Scoping surveys of the affected area for borrow pit site was undertaken on foot, standard archaeological practices for observation were followed. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to previous disturbances, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion.

2.2 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories (see table 1)

- ❖ No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
- ❖ Low significance: sites, which may require mitigation.
- ❖ Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
- ❖ High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

Table 1

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. There are many aspects that must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not

deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

3 TERMINOLOGY

The following aspects have direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

Archaeological means material remains resulting from human activities that are in a state of disuse and are on land and are older than 60 years, including artifacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features.

Conservation, in relation to heritage resources, includes protection, maintenance, preservation and sustainable use of places or objects so as to safeguard their cultural significance.

Cultural Significance means possessing historical, archaeological, architectural, technological, aesthetic, scientific, spiritual, social, and traditional or other special cultural significance associated with human activity.

Development means any physical intervention, excavation or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of heritage authority in any way result in a change of the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place or influence its stability and future well-being, including construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of the place.

Heritage site means a place declared to be a National Heritage Site by the SAHRA or a place declared to be a Provincial Heritage Site by a Provincial Heritage Authority.

Historic means significance in history.

Historical means belonging to the past.

4 DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE BORROW PIT SITES

The identified borrow pit sites associated with the upgrading of road D3899 situated at the different location and are far from the road earmarked for upgrade.



Figure 1: View of the existing borrow pit site (GPS S24° 12'38.3"E30° 22'47.3")



Figure 2: View of a borrow pit site at the southern side of the gravel road (GPS S24° 10'52.1" E30° 22'47.3")

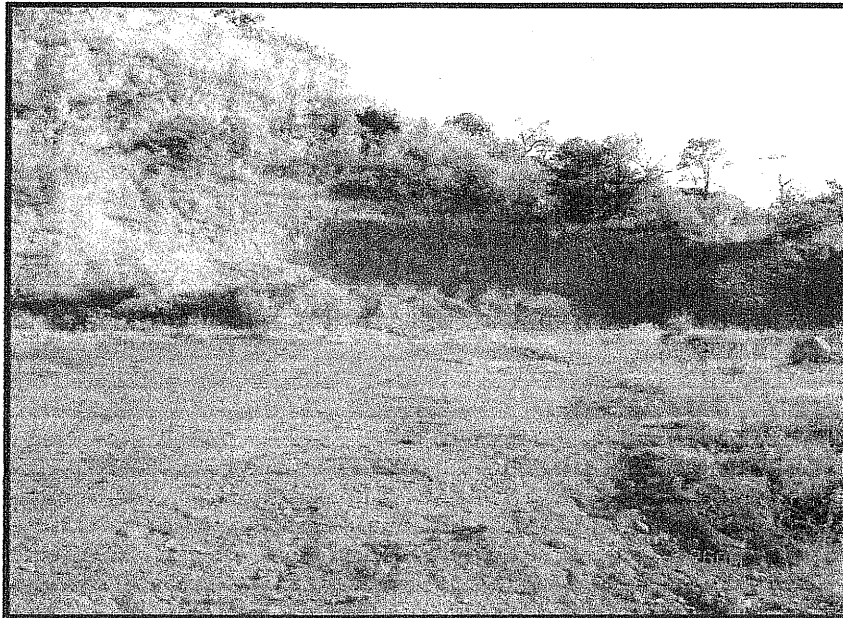


Figure 3: Borrow pit site at the south western side of the tarred road (GPS S24°11'24.2" E 30°24'31.6")

- ✓ All three borrow pit sites located in previously disturbed area and is bound by the roads. ✓ No heritage resources, or any archaeological materials, were identified within the vicinity of the borrow pit sites.

5 CEMETERIES AND BURIAL SITES

- ✓ No signs of burial grounds or any other heritage resources such as archaeological sites and historical remains were found that would be significantly impacted on by the proposed extraction of gravel materials from the identified borrow pits. However, there is a probability of encountering chance finds during earth-moving activities.
- ✓ Therefore, the discovery of previously undetected subsurface heritage remains on the site during extracting of gravel material must be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the South African Heritage Resources Agency should be notified if human remains falling under the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) are accidentally uncovered during the use of the identified borrow pit.

7 CONCLUSION

No historically significant sites that are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 would be affected by the continuation of excavating the borrow pit site for gravel material. In conclusion we recommend that if unmarked human burials are discovered during borrow pit excavation; they should be relocated to the formal graveyard. The removal must be conducted with due respect for the customs and beliefs of the affected relatives, and where requested, in the presence of relatives or community representatives.

8 REFERENCE

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)
Archaeology, Theories Methods and Practice, Colin Renfrew & Paul Bahn



Mr Richard Munyai

It is herewith confirmed that the above is a reliable account of the status of the project.



Mr Frans Roodt (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)

Principal Investigator