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JACO van der Walt & Associates

Cultural Resource Consultants

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A cultural heritage evaluation for the proposed lodge on the farm Joubertshoop

By: Jaco van der Walt BA Hons Archaeology Wits Jaco van der Walt & Associates 22 July 2003 For: Eco 8

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Consultant: Riaan Visagie - Eco 8

Consultant: Jaco van der Walt & Associates, PO Box 317 Mokopane 0600

Date of fieldwork: 11 July 2003

Date of report: 22 July 2003

Findings: Cultural material was identified on the proposed area, but have no cultural significance. No mitigation is required for the proposed development of the lodge on the farm Joubertshoop.

1. INTRODUCTION

The **Project Proposal** constitutes an activity that is listed in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989), for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to satisfy the requirements of the List of Activities and Regulation for EIA's – Government Gazette of 5 September 1997 - provided for in terms of sections 21, 22 and 26. In addition, the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), protects all archaeological, palaeontological and historical sites and graves, and requires heritage resources impact assessments in terms of Section 38. To satisfy the requirements of the above legislation, a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (scoping & evaluation) of the proposed lodge on the farm Joubertshoop was undertaken. In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that occur on the demarcated area. This will enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

2. THE AIM OF THIS REPORT

The author was contracted by Mr. Visagie of Eco 8 to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed lodge.

The aims of this assessment are:

- To determine whether the presence of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance will have an impact on the nature of the proposed development.
- To assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources
- To provide the developer with appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

This report aims to provide an overview of the heritage resources that were detected within the proposed development area. The impact and significance of the heritage resources were assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section.

2. LOCATION

Refer to map, South Africa (1:50 000 2431AD)

The demarcated area is situated in the Timbavati Game Reserve in close vicinity to the town of Hoedspruit. The Game Reserve is accessible from the R40 from Hoedspruit to Acomhoek. The demarcated area is bordered on the Eastern and Western side by two small rivers and is characterised by turf soil.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Information gathered in a survey on foot

The archaeologist visited the proposed site as part of a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment on July 11th, 2003. The area for the proposed lodge was thoroughly surveyed on foot and by vehicle to determine it's cultural heritage status prior to the proposed development. Standard archaeological practices for observation were used to evaluate findings.

Most archaeological material occurs in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface and therefore special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as clearings and paths, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Locations of archaeological material were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin E Trex). Archaeological material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Canon digital camera.

3.2 Assumptions and Limitations

It is important to keep in mind that although the area was subjected to a very thorough cultural heritage survey, all heritage resources may not have been detected in the given study area. The discovery of previously undetected heritage remains, below the surface that might occur only as development commences, must be reported and may require further mitigation measures.

3.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

No Significance	Do not require mitigation
Low Significance	May require mitigation
Medium Significance	Require mitigation
High Significance	Must not be disturbed at all

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.

An important aspect to consider when determining the heritage significance and protection status of a resource is mostly whether the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. There are however many aspects that must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, scientific importance, national significance, cultural and religious significance and community preferences. When the protection of a heritage site is deemed to be not necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information that would be lost otherwise. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

3.4 Explanation of terminology

Cultural Heritage Assessment	Includes an evaluation of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act						
Iron Age	<p>The Iron Age includes both Pre historic and Historic period. The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking people. It too can be divided into three categories:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="855 567 1039 1339"> <tr> <td data-bbox="967 567 1039 953">Early Iron Age</td> <td data-bbox="967 953 1039 1339">Most of the first millennium AD</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="922 567 967 953">Middle Iron Age</td> <td data-bbox="922 953 967 1339">10th to 13th centuries AD</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="855 567 922 953">Late Iron Age</td> <td data-bbox="855 953 922 1339">14th century to colonial period.</td> </tr> </table>	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.
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.						
Phase 1 assessments	Represents surveys using different sources of information to establish the presence of and to evaluate all types of 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 or, alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling.						
Sensitive remains	Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place as well as ideologically significant places such as ritual / religious / sacred places. Graves are only considered heritage resources if they date from the historic past or before and have tombstones older than sixty years. Sensitive may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains						

3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

One set of legislation is relevant for this study with regard to protection of heritage resources and graves.

3.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) (NHRA)

The National Heritage Act was established by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and makes provision for the establishment of Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities (PHRA). The Act makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibilities and functions for heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial authorities and Local authorities, depending on the grade of the Heritage resources. The Act defines cultural significance, archaeological and palaeontological sites and material (Section 35), historical sites and structures (Section 34), graves and burial sites (Section 36) that falls under its jurisdiction. Archaeological sites and material are generally those resources older than a hundred years. Section 34 also protects structures and cultural landscapes older than 60 years, including gravestones. Procedures for managing graves and burial grounds are clearly set out in Section 36 of the NHRA. Graves older than a 100 years are legislated as archaeological sites and must be dealt with accordingly

Section 38 of the NHRA makes provision for application by developers for permits before any heritage resource may be damaged or destroyed.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

SITE 1 General Co-ordinates: *S 24° 19'56.5"*
E 31° 15'12.5"

This is the location of a low concentration of scattered undecorated ceramics (figure 2), exposed by the small river bordering the demarcated area on the Western side (figure 1).

Significance: Low, this site will not require mitigation.

SITE 2 General Co-ordinates: *S 24° 20' 00.1"*
E 31° 15' 11.3"

This is the location of the proposed lodge; cultural material was identified in the area consisting of a lower grinding stone (figure 3) and a very low density of scattered undecorated ceramics. A few mud brick dwelling foundations were found (figure 4) in the vicinity but the area was void of any other surface material.

Significance: Low, this site will not require mitigation.

6. EVALUATION AND INTERPRETATION

SITE 1:

Site 1 constitutes a low density of scattered ceramics and did not yield any diagnostic potsherds and therefore cannot be associated with a cultural group it further more falls outside the development area and will not be affected at all by the proposed development, but it is an indicator of cultural activities in the area.

SITE 2:

Site 2 yielded un-diagnostic ceramics and the grinding stone but even so the surface finds were found to be of low density. No other site indicators like surface features, ash middens etc. were found to indicate to archaeological sites. Site 2 does not seem to have any cultural significance. The mud brick dwellings, ceramics and grinding stone can be connected to the old bulldozed farm house on the edge of the proposed development area.


7. RECOMMENDATIONS

This Phase 1 Archaeological impact assessment found no significant evidence of cultural heritage resources on the proposed development area. It must however be kept in mind that there can be sub surface features like unmarked graves connected to the mud brick dwellings and the farmhouse.

It is therefore suggested that development can commence, as there will be no implications regarding cultural heritage resource mitigation.


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Appendix A

Photos: Fig 1. River exposing undecorated ceramics.

Fig 2. Undecorated ceramics at site 1.

Fig 3. Grinding stone at site 2.

Fig 4. Modern mud brick dwelling foundations.

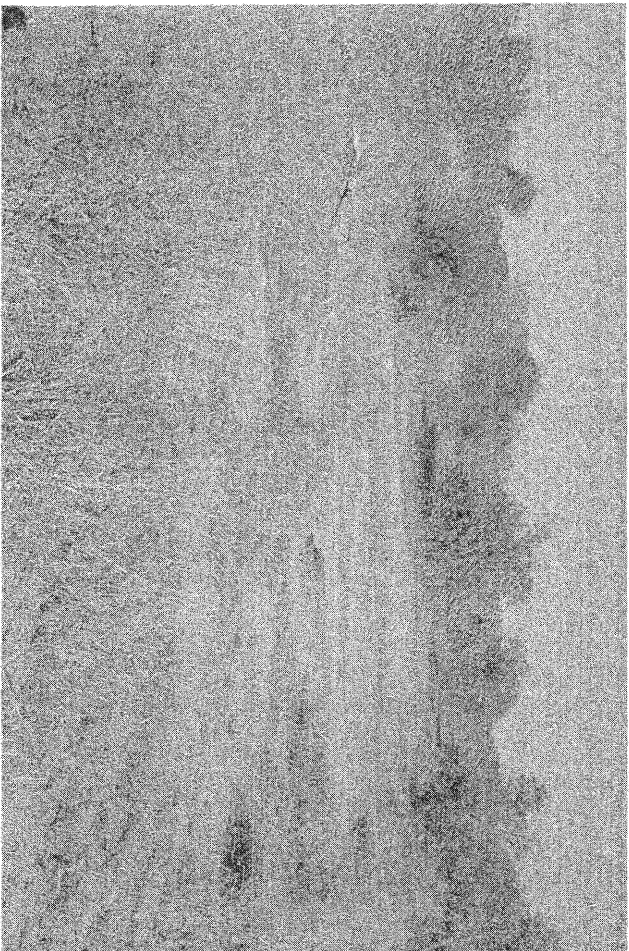


Fig 1. River exposing undecorated ceramics.

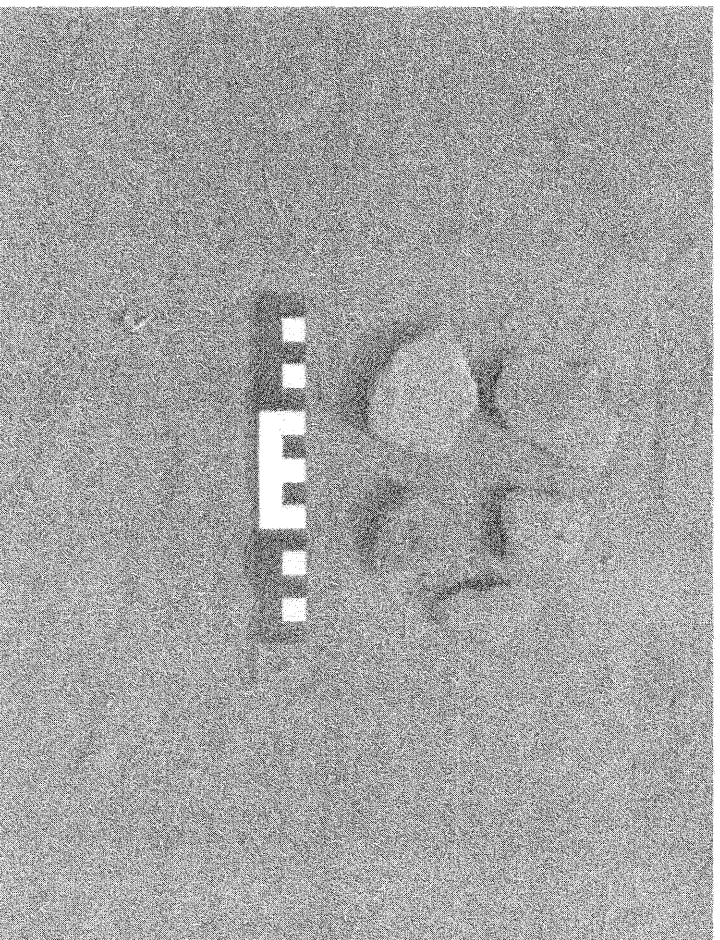


Fig 2. Undecorated ceramics at site 1.

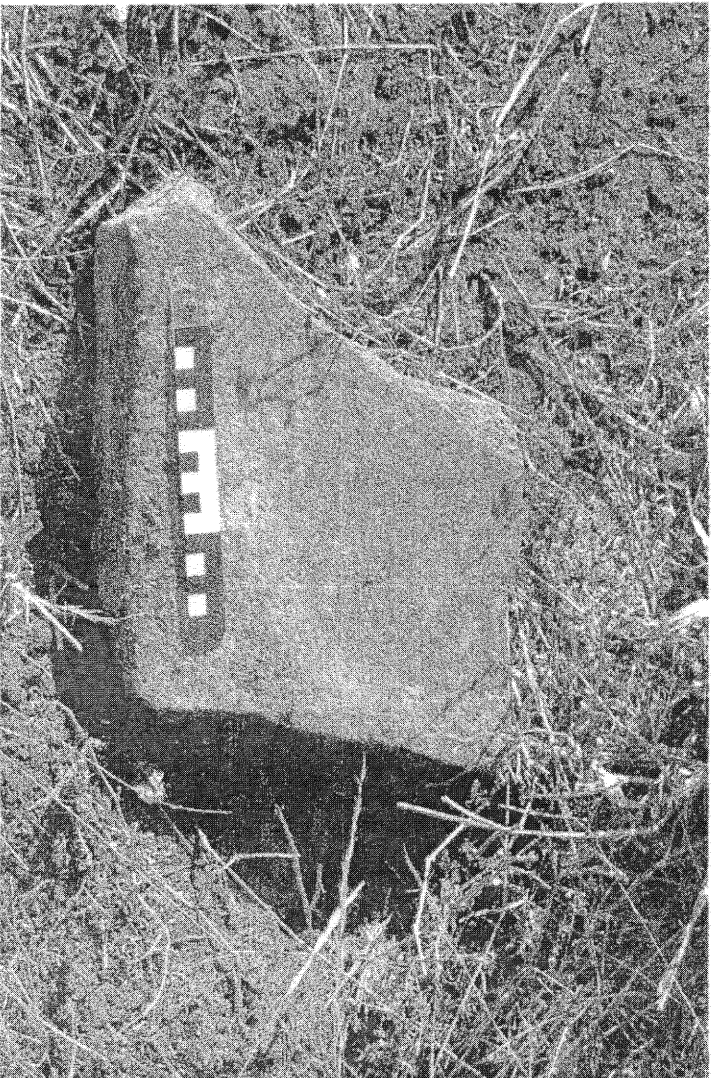


Fig. 3. Grinding stone at site 2.



Fig. 4. Modern mud brick dwelling foundations.

Appendix B

Locality map.

TIMBAVATI
GAME RESERVE

