

**South African Heritage Resources Agency**

4 Hans Van Rensburg Street, PIETERSBURG, Box 1371, Pietersburg, 0700

Tel.: 015 291 1804, 015 291 1885; Fax.: 015 291 1819

Cel.: 083 411 4521

e-mail: [sahra.np@mweb.co.za](mailto:sahra.np@mweb.co.za)

Our Ref:

Your Ref: 16/1/3/4-1

Enquiries: Matodzi Silidi

Date: 15 April 2002

Gaia Earth Science

P.O Box 3531

Pietersburg

0700

By Fax: 015 2989 028

Attn: C. C. Botha

**PROPOSED BULK WATER SUPPLY ,BUSHBUCK RIDGE, DWARSLOOP,  
ZOEKNOG .NORTHERN PROVINCE.**

With reference to your EIA scoping report dated 08 March 2002.

SAHRA has no objection with the proposed development provided that an Archaeologist should follow the trench during development.

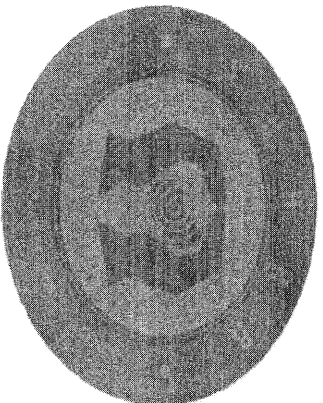
Please note that should any material of cultural or archaeological significance be found during the development, then all activities must cease immediately and SAHRA informed accordingly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matodzi Silidi'. The signature is written over a dotted line.

Matodzi Silidi

Cultural Officer.



South African Heritage Resources Agency

4 Hans Van Rensburg Street, PIETERSBURG, Box 1371, Pietersburg, 0700

Tel.: 015 291 1804, 015 291 1885; Fax.: 015 291 1819

Cel.: 083 411 4521

e-mail: [sahra.hp@mweb.co.za](mailto:sahra.hp@mweb.co.za)

Our Ref:

Your Ref: 16/1/3/4-1

Enquiries: Matodzi Sifidi

Date: 15 April 2002

Department of Finance, Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism  
ENVIRONMENT - EIA

Box 217

Pietersburg

0700

By hand

Attn: Anton von Well

**PROPOSED BULK WATER SUPPLY, BUSHBUCK RIDGE, DWARSLOOP,  
ZOEKNOG. NORTHERN PROVINCE.**

With reference to your EIA scoping report dated 08 March 2002.

SAHRA has no objection with the proposed development provided that an Archaeologist should follow the trench during development.

Please note that should any material of cultural or archaeological significance be found during the development, then all activities must cease immediately and SAHRA informed accordingly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matodzi Sifidi', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Matodzi Sifidi [Cultural Officer]

S.1  
2002-03-11  
ONTVAM/RECEIVED

2002-03-11  
ONTVAM/RECEIVED

PHASE 1  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED BULK WATER SUPPLY  
**BUSHBUCKRIDGE, DWARSLOOP, ZOEKNOG**  
Northern Province

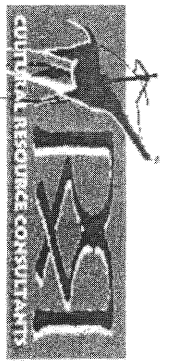
FOR: Gola Earth Science

*Donek seprokate POST*  
*SAHRH Spakwille*  
APPROVED  
GOEDGEKEUR

*Suggeston required when  
pipe line under construction*

Frans Roodt  
February 2002

Tel: (015) 225 7075  
Cell: 083 770 2131  
E-mail: hr19@pxie.co.za



PO Box 1600  
PIETERSBURG  
0700

## CONTENTS

---

2	Synopsis
3	Introduction Aim Method
4	Location and Description
5	Archaeological and Historical Remains 1. Iron Age Remains
6	2. Historical Remains Evaluation
7	Recommendations
8	Extracts from the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) Bibliography
9	MAPS
	List of Figures:
4	Figure 1. Note dense scrubby bush
5	Figure 2. Footpath indicating route of proposed pipeline Figure 3. Pottery fragments <i>in situ</i>

---

## **SYNOPSIS**

The archaeological remains located along the route of the proposed pipeline are of low significance but require examination when the trenches are excavated in order to re-assess their significance.

---

## 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 terms of the above mentioned Act, and the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, Section 38), a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (scoping) was undertaken.

---

## AIM

The aim was to undertake a **Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment** of the proposed route of the water pipeline at Bushbuckridge, Dwarssloop and Zoeknog, in order to assess the impact of the proposed project on heritage resources such as archaeological, historical or cultural significant sites and features; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

---

## METHOD

A thorough survey of the demarcated area was undertaken on foot. Standard archaeological practises for observation were followed. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, 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 12). Archaeological material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a KODAK DC120 Digital camera.

The significance of heritage resources is graded according to specific criteria and ranges from *no significance* to *high significance*.

No significance: sites / features that do not require mitigation.
---

Low to medium significance: sites / features which may require mitigation.
--

High significance: sites / features which should not be disturbed at all – has protection status.
---

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind or nature of the deposit, and the potential of the site 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.

---

## LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2430 DB & 2431CC.

The route of the proposed water supply line is primarily located in and around the village at Bushbuckridge, Dwarssloop and Marite

The dominant veld type is sour Bushveld. Large parts have been degraded by extensive agricultural activities, village development and over grazing. Certain sections however are still covered with thick scrubby vegetation.

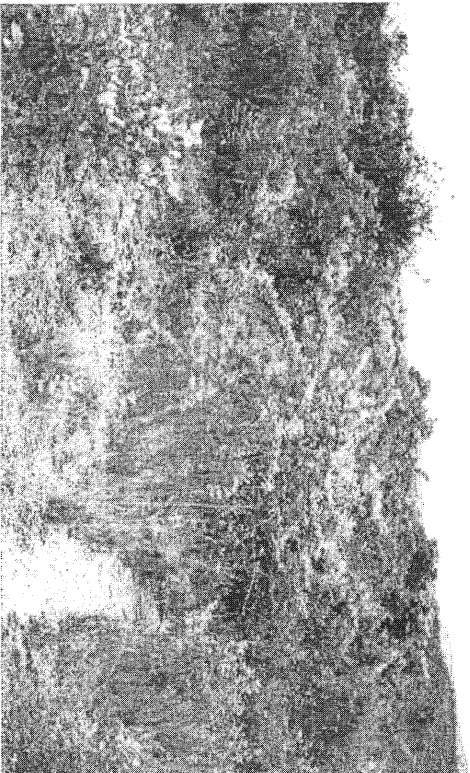


Figure 1. Note dense scrubby bush



Figure 2. Footpath indicating route of the proposed pipeline

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

### 1. IRON AGE REMAINS

Archaeological remains, predominantly non-diagnostic pottery fragments, occur scattered over almost the entire area where disturbances such as erosion and roads have exposed the material. No specific defined archaeological site was located, but judging by the depth beneath the soil surface of the *in situ* material, one can deduct that the remains pre-date the present population. A number of locations where pottery had been exposed were recorded with a GPS.

1. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 49' 11.9" E31° 04' 43.2"
2. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 49' 12.1" E31° 03' 56.1"
3. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 49' 11.2" E31° 03' 31.5"
4. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 49' 19.6" E31° 03' 26.2"
5. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 49' 22.9" E31° 03' 13.2"
6. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 48' 54.6" E31° 03' 55.2"
7. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 49' 05.4" E31° 03' 58.0"
8. *Co-ordinates*: S24° 56' 14.1" E31° 06' 35.6". Reservoir site.

Significance: low – inspection for re-evaluation is required when trenches are excavated.



Figure 3. Pottery fragments *in situ*.



## 2. HISTORICAL REMAINS

The ruins of recent historical homesteads and graves were recorded.

9. *Co-ordinates: S24° 48' 44.1" E31° 03' 23.8"*  
This historical site contains approximately 11 graves as well as homestead remains.

Significance: high for the graves.

10. *Co-ordinates: S24° 48' 43.8" E31° 03' 48.6"*  
This site contains the remains of a historical homestead

Significance: none.

11. *Co-ordinates: S24° 48' 58.5" E31° 03' 56.3"*  
This site contains 2 stone piles, which are unidentified. These could be graves or stones from a cleared ploughed field.

Significance: high – should be avoided unless the subterranean contents are determined beforehand.

12. *Co-ordinates: S24° 55' 04.2" E31° 13' 20.9"*. Reservoir site.  
This site contains the remains of a historical homestead

Significance: none

## EVALUATION

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.

The cultural tradition of the Iron Age remains, as represented by the recorded locations at sites 1 – 8, could not be positively identified and should be re-evaluated when the trenches are excavated. The excavation will expose the archaeological deposit, should any exist, for inspection and evaluation.

Although the proposed development will have a limited adverse impact on the recorded sites, *the potential sustainable socio-economic benefits of the proposed development outweighs the conservation value of the archaeological remains*. For mitigation purposes the scientific significance of the Iron Age sites must bear considerable weight. Phase 2 archaeological assessments are essential in order to extract sufficient and adequate data from sites re-evaluated as significant. It should also be noted that unmarked graves may

exist at any of these recorded sites and that human remains may be exposed during trenching (refer to Extract from the National Heritage Resources Act).

**Site 9** contains graves that must be avoided by the deviation of the route where necessary.

**Site 11** should be avoided by deviating the route because of the fact that the nature of the stone piles is not known. Should deviation not be possible, the feature must be examined archaeologically.

The other homestead remains are not regarded as significant. It should however be noted that human remains might be exposed at these homestead sites.

*From a heritage point of view there are no objections with regard to the development on condition that the under mentioned recommendations are adhered to.*

---

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the above it is recommended that:

1. The excavated trenches for the proposed pipeline in the vicinity of the recorded sites, or where determined by an archaeologist, be examined before back filling it.
2. The graves at site 9 be avoided and bypassed by at least 15 meters.
3. The stone piles at site 11 be avoided and bypassed by at least 15 meters.

Notwithstanding the above note must however be taken of Sections 35 & 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, of which an extract is given below

Extracts from: The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

### Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Subsection 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.

Subsection 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

Subsection 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.

---

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Deacon, J. 1996. *Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities*. National Monuments Council. Publication no. P021E.
- Deacon, J. 1997. *Report: Workshop on Standards for the Assessment of Significance and Research Priorities for Contract Archaeology*. In: Newsletter No 49, Sept 1998. Southern African Association of Archaeologists.
- Evers, T.M. 1988. *The recognition of Groups in the Iron Age of Southern Africa*. PhD thesis. Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand.
- Huffman, T.N. 1980. *Ceramics, classification and Iron Age entities*. African Studies 39:123-174
- Meyer, A. 1994. *Navorsingsmetodiek: Inligtingsformate vir Argeologiese Veldwerk*. Dept Antropologie en Argeologie, U.P



FRANS ROODT (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, UP)  
R & R Cultural Resource Consultants



