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The South African Heritage Resources Agency
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23 August 2007

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Attention: Donald Lithole

Sir,

RE: SUBMISSION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE CAPRICORN DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Phaki Phakanani Environmental Consultants has been appointed by the Mokwale Job consulting to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Rietfontein Farm Number 743 LS for the Proposed Developmental Project in Polokwane Local Municipality within the Capricorn District, Limpopo Province.

To this letter we have attached Cultural and Archaeological Heritage report of the proposed site.

Hope you find everything in order, should there be any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours Truly,



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MOKWALE AND JOB CONSULTING

**RIETFontein FARM NUMBER 743 LS
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECT,
CAPRICON DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST STUDY**

AUGUST 2005

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N **umbululo** 
heritage solutions

REPORT DETAILS

PROJECT NAME: Rietfontein Farm Number 743 LS: Proposed Developmental Project

REPORT TITLE: CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST STUDY

AUTHOR: McEdward Murimbika

REFERENCE NO.: HIA 1971/01

STATUS OF REPORT: Final

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STUDY LEADER **McEdward Murimbika**

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FIELD STUDY **Principal Investigator:** McEdward Murimbika

TEAM **Assistant Archaeologists:** Rudzani R. Munyai (BA, 2001, Univen) Khambana H R (BA, 2001, Univen & Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage and Museum Studies, 2002, Univ. of Pretoria)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER (PSP) Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (South Africa) cc.

Project Manager: Moses M. Mabuda (BA Hons. 2002 Univ. of Venda)

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (South Africa) cc. (HeSSA) conducted this Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) study as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development project that involves the construction of a leisure centre at Rietfontein Farm number 746 LS. Mokwale and Job Consulting commissioned this CHA study. The study focus on identifying and assessing archaeological, cultural, and historical heritage resources associated with the proposed development.

No archaeological or any other cultural heritage materials were identified on the surface area affected by the proposed project. Nonetheless, we highlight here that archaeological materials may still be found subsurface during the construction phase. Therefore, it is essential that a heritage-monitoring program be designed to deal with potential chance archaeological or historical finds, including sites such as unmarked human burials that may accidentally be found during development.

Should the recommendations herein made be acceptable, from an archaeological and cultural heritage resources management perspective; there are no objections to the proposed project. Accordingly, we advise the heritage authorities to approve the project condition to a monitoring program.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CHA	Cultural Heritage Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
HeSSA	Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (South Africa)
PI	Principal Investigator
PSP	Professional Service Provider
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

DEFINITIONS

Archaeological Material remains resulting from human activities, which are in a state of disuse and are in, or on, land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures.

Chance Finds Archaeological artefacts, features, structures or historical cultural remains such as human burials that are found accidentally in context previously not identified during cultural heritage scoping, screening and assessment studies. Such finds are usually found during earth moving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

Cultural Heritage Resources Same as Heritage Resources as defined and used in the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Refer to physical cultural properties such as archaeological and palaeontological sites; historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and material remains; cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or *graves* and their associated materials; geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge.

Cultural Significance The complexities of what makes a place, materials or intangible resources of value to society or part of. Customarily assessed in terms of aesthetic, historical, scientific/research and social values.

Excavation Principal method of extracting data in archaeology, involving systematic recovery of archaeological remains and their context by removing soil and any other material covering them.

Grave A place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as being situated in a cemetery.

Historic Material remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artefacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

In Situ material *Material culture* and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

Material culture Buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

Heritage Site A distinct spatial cluster of artefacts, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST STUDY FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECT AT RIETFONTEIN FARM NUMBER 743 LS, CAPRICON DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

1 INTRODUCTION

Mokwale and Job Consulting appointed Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (South Africa)(HeSSA) to handle the Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) study as part of the Environment Impact Assessment program for the proposed Rietfontein Farm development. The terms of reference and aims of the study are summarised below (Table 1).

Table 1: Term of Reference for the Cultural Heritage Study for Rietfontein LS 743 Project.

PURPOSE	ACTIVITIES
<p>The CHA seek to fulfil the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 Section 38. In so doing the study would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Identify and describe (in terms of their <i>conservation and / or preservation importance</i>) sites of cultural and archaeological importance that may be affected by the proposed development and associated activities. This study should include the identification of gravesites. □ Identify and describe impacts to archaeological and cultural resources. □ Make recommendations on mitigation measures. □ Identify and describe management measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Identify, describe and map sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest affected by the development. □ Identify, where possible, the gravesites affected by the development. □ Liaise with the local communities, where applicable, with regards to the impact of the development on the heritage resources. □ Describe the importance or significance of these sites and whether these sites need to be conserved, protected or relocated. □ Describe the procedures for mitigation or relocation of sites and provide an indication of time required for these management measures to be implemented. □ Document findings and recommendations.

2 BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The proposed project involves the construction of seven guest rooms, Guest bars and Relaxation area, Sewerage and Septic tank, Conference and Training Facilities, Portable water, Planting of new vegetation and Golf course at Rietfontein Farm Number 743 LS, Polokwane in Limpopo Province. The detailed plans of the construction are not yet available. Therefore, this study covered the whole farm property upon which the development would take place. From the developments currently in the area, it was anticipated that some archaeological resources, if they existed before, might have been affected previously. However, no systematic archaeological or cultural heritage assessment studies are on record covering this specific area.

3 METHODS

A desktop study of maps of the general area where the proposed development will take place did not yield any information with regards to availability or absence of heritage sites in the area. On the 7th of April 2005, HeSSA field team accompanied by Mokwale and Job Consulting officials conducted a foot survey on the proposed Development site at the farm. The surveying started at the eastern side of the existing farmhouse going toward an old quarry to the east.

Based on the data collected from the baseline survey, prediction and assessment of the impacts of the proposed development were made. This followed predetermined criteria of significance as stipulated by the South African Heritage Resources Agency regulations. For example, briefly, the level of significance of archaeological heritage is measured against the following criteria: site integrity (i.e. primary vs. secondary deposit) amount of deposit, variation in features (e.g. middens, burnt daga, stone walling), uniqueness and potential to answer present or relevant research questions. Generally speaking sites with no significance require no mitigation while site with low to medium significance may require further work and high significance sites require mitigation and site with maximum significance (for example local, provincial or national monuments) may not be disturbed at all.

4 RESULTS

LOCATION DETAILS

Province: Limpopo

Municipality District: Capricorn

Magistrate District: Polokwane

Name Property: Rietfontein Farm Number 743 LS

Proposed development: Construction of seven guest rooms, Guest bars and Relaxation area, Sewerage and Septic tank, Conference and Training Facilities, Portable water, Planting of new vegetation and Golf course

1:50 000 map name: 2329 CA (attached map)

GPS Co-ordinates: The following points mark Reitfontein Farm area affected by proposed development:

- GPS Co-ordinates S23 58'29. 7" E29 24'15. 2" (quarry on east side of development site).
- GPS Co-ordinates S23 58'33. 5" E29 24'24. 8" (borrow pit at the south east corner of development site currently used to extract sand to build a dam wall).

- GPS Co-ordinates S23 58'08. 9" E29 24'24. 6" (weir dam for Livestock surrounded by grazing land to the north east)
- GPS Co-ordinates S23 58'11. 9" E29 24'15. 5". (Dam located northeast side of the farmhouse).

Current land use and description of the site: The farm has a long history of agricultural activities. Currently most of the development area is grassland used for livestock grazing. Large parts of the proposed development site are already disturbed by earth moving machines as a result of construction of weir dams for livestock. The entire farm has been cultivated in the past. There is the quarry borrow pit to the southeast of the development site and near to the quarry is an electricity power line running from the east to the west side of the farmland. At the northwest corner (end of the dam) there is an Eskom power transmission line, which is passing from the northeast to the southwest side. Most of the land is currently covered by grass and a scatter of trees (Plate 1).

Archaeological and Cultural Sites

No archaeological sites or other categories of physical cultural heritage properties or materials were identified within the proposed development area. Generally the area is disturbed by previous current land use activities. In such situations it is difficult for archaeological or any such materials to have survived on the ground surface to date.

Historic Sites and Monuments

No sites of historical monumental or heritage significance were identified within the village project area or within its vicinity. The project is designed to upgrade already existing facilities and therefore unlikely to interfere with any such sites or heritage resources.

Cemeteries and burial sites

No such sites are on direct path of proposed development.

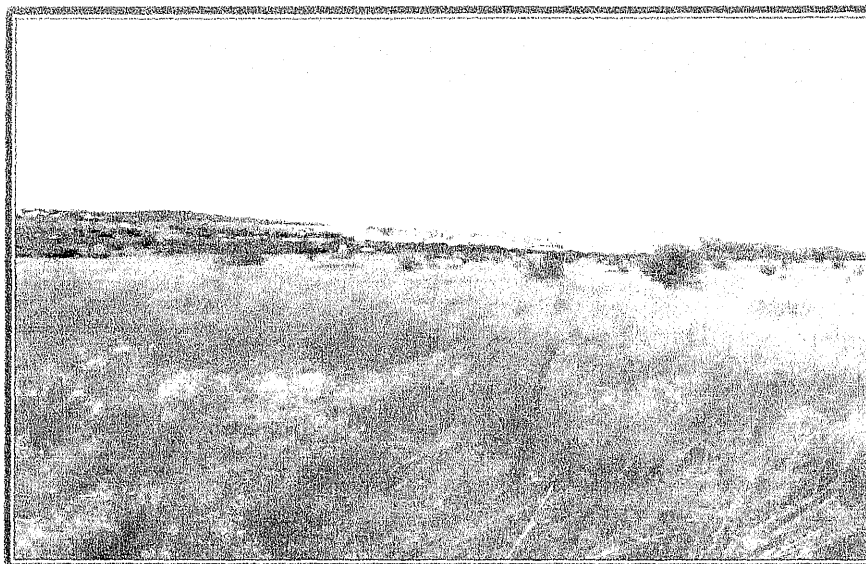


PLATE 1: Rietfontein farm is currently open grassland used for livestock grazing.

Statement of overall impacts

Most of the development site was covered with grass during the study. However, visibility was low to allow effective identification of features, structures or artefact materials on the surface. Nonetheless, we could not be completely certain that no cultural material could still be discovered when development commences in the area. There is a probability of discovering archaeological, historical and cultural material remains during subsurface earthwork during development. This follows that in principle any development that alters the ground surface status quo will potentially destroy archaeological resources in its direct path, and the impact will be permanent in nature, extent and duration. Since archaeological and cultural resources are fixed in space and the former usually survive underground, the proposed development may still uncover them even though none were identified during this study. Furthermore, generally speaking, the Rietfontein farm is situated in an ideal area preferred by Iron Age and historic African farming communities (see Hammond-Tooke, 1993).

Recommendations

No further pre-development study or mitigation is necessary for the archaeological and cultural heritage resources with regards to the proposed development project. Be that as it may, we strongly recommend that an archaeological heritage-monitoring plan be put in place to handle potential chance finds during the construction period.

5 MONITORING

Since it is not possible to predict where the previously unidentified archaeological materials, including human burials, may be uncovered, we recommended that an archaeologist should

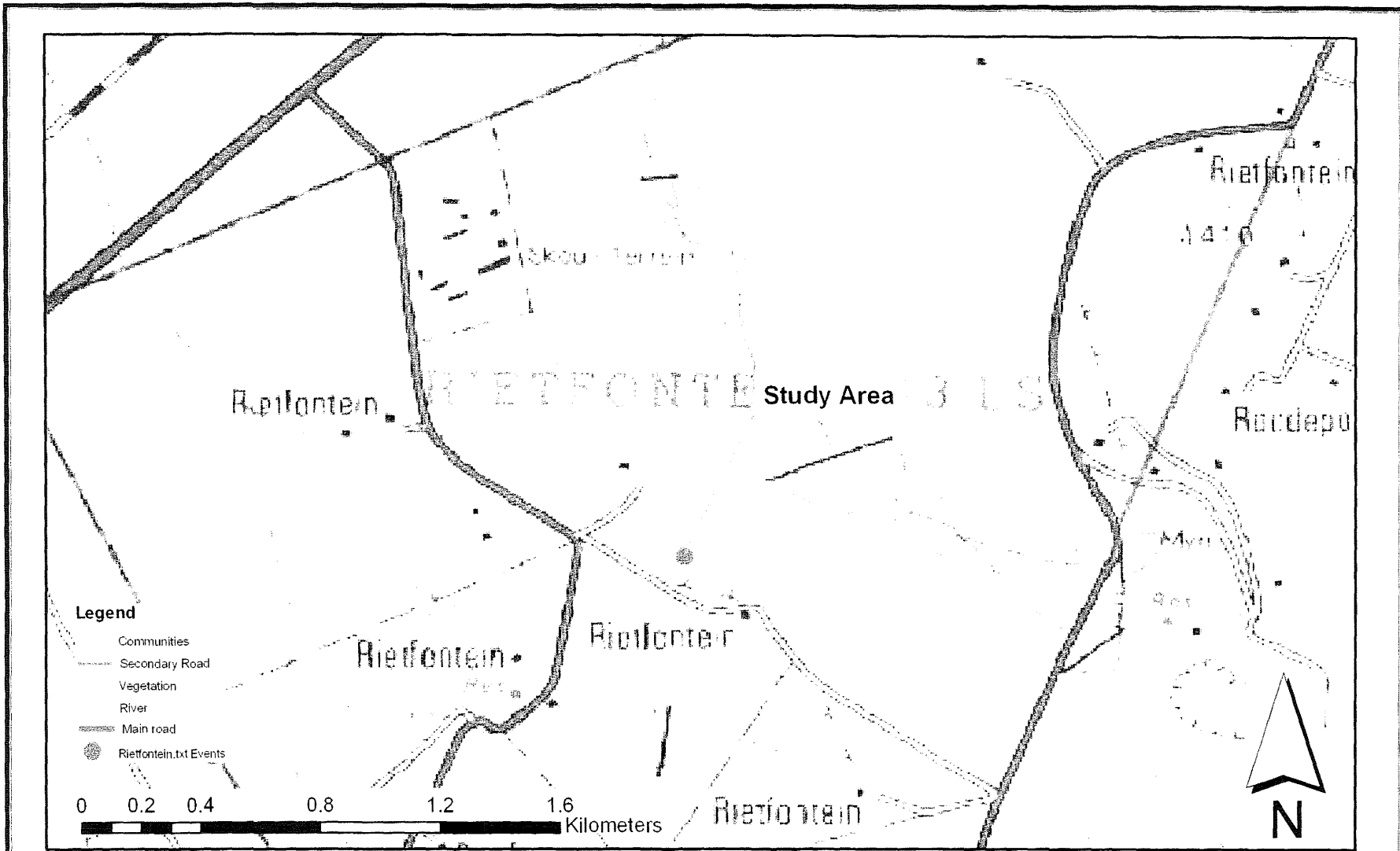
be retained to monitor the project site during development. Since archaeological resources are non-renewable, should archaeological resources and features be exposed during construction they should be documented in their context through rescue and salvage operations before they are allowed to be destroyed by the development.

6 CONCLUDING REMARKS

If the recommendations herein made are taken into consideration, given the fact that the project area is already disturbed by previous and current land use activities, from a heritage perspective, the proposed development will have minimal impact upon archaeological or cultural heritage resources. As such there are no identified archaeological or cultural heritage barriers to the proposed development. There is no objection to the construction project and we urge the heritage authorities to approve the development on condition of an archaeological heritage-monitoring plan being designed and implemented.

7 REFERENCES

- Bickford, A and Sullivan, S. 1977. "Assessing the research significance of historic sites" in S Sullivan and s. Bowdler (eds), *Site Surveys and Significance assessment in Australian Archaeology*. Canberra: ANU.
- Hammond-Tooke, D. 1993. *The roots of Black South Africa*. Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball Publishers.
- Hester, T.R., Shafer H.J. and Feder, K.L. 1997. *Field Methods in Archaeology*, 7th edn, Mountain View California: Mayfield Publishing Co,
- The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999).



Topographical map of Rietfontein

Prepared by: Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions

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