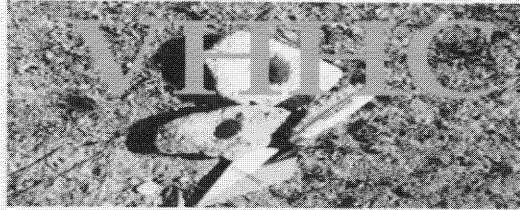


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## **PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF PROPOSED SITE FOR DEMARCATION OF 500 SITES AT BETHESDA 208 LS, MOLLEMOLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CAPRICORN DISTRICT.**

**Compiled for:**

**Kamekho Town Planners**  
PO Box 4169  
Polokwane  
0700

**Survey conducted and Report Prepared by:**

**Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE _____	- 1 -
Historical remains _____	- 1 -
Archaeological remains _____	- 1 -
Burial grounds and graves _____	- 1 -
Culture resource management _____	- 2 -
2. METHOD _____	- 3 -
2.1 Sources of information _____	- 3 -
2.2 Limitations _____	- 3 -
2.3 Categories of significance _____	- 3 -
2.4 Glossary of Terms _____	- 4 -
3. STUDY AREA _____	- 6 -
4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION _____	- 7 -
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS _____	- 7 -
6. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS _____	- 7 -
7. REFERENCES _____	- 8 -
8. STUDY TEAM _____	- 8 -

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The application 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 may occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

### **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.

### **Archaeological remains**

**Section 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**

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

- (c) 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
- (b) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

### 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.

\***development**’ means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place\*;
- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

\*\***place** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure\* ...”

\*\***structure** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground,”

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants was contracted to undertake a heritage assessment of the area earmarked for the proposed demarcation of 500 sites at Bethesda 208 LS, Mollemole Local Municipality, Limpopo Province. The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features. The area was investigated by walking across shorter sections. Special attention was given to areas of potential habitation, and unnatural topographical occurrences such as holes, outcrops and clusters of trees were investigated.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section.

## **2. METHOD**

### **2.1 Sources of information**

The source of information was predominantly the field reconnaissance.

*Des:*

A site inspection of the demarcated area was undertaken. Literary sources were consulted. Archaeological researches carried out over past years were consulted.

### **2.2 Limitations**

Site surface inspection for possible archaeological materials was clear enough.

### **2.3 Categories of significance**

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

No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
Low significance: sites, which <i>may</i> require mitigation.
Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.

High significance: sites, which 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.

*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.*

## 2.4 Glossary of Terms

**Archaeological monitoring:** an on-site examination of non-archaeological activities to identify archaeological resources during the disturbance of subsurface deposits, or the periodic revisiting of archaeological sites to determine condition.

**Archaeological reconnaissance:** an examination of a defined area to locate archaeological resources using methods that do not include disturbance of subsurface deposits, but may involve limited surface collection.

**Archaeological survey:** an examination of a defined area, including subsurface deposits, for the purpose of obtaining information on the archaeological resources located on, in or under the land.

**Archaeological resource impact assessment:** an inventory and evaluation of archaeological resources and the assessment of impacts in connection with development proposals which will potentially disturb or alter the landscape, thereby endangering sites.

**Archaeological resource:** means a work of past human activity, or zoological, botanical, geological or other natural materials found in association with such activity that:

- Is primarily of value for its prehistoric, historic, cultural or scientific significance, and
- Lay on, or was buried or partially buried in land in the province, including land covered by water.

**Artifact:** means an object, or any part of an object, that was made or used by human beings and that has been deposited, discarded, lost or abandoned in or on the land, including land covered with water.

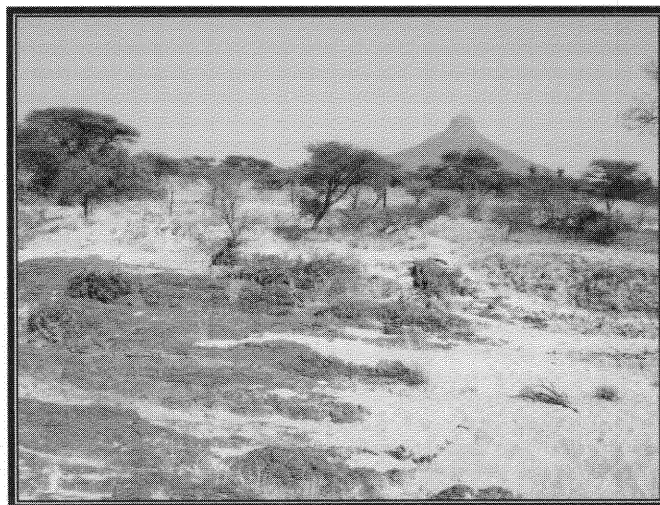
**Burial:** means human remains and objects placed with human remains either at the time of burial or later.

**Historical:** Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

**Phase 1 assessment:** Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area

### 3. STUDY AREA

Bethesda farm is located at about 47km to the north of Polokwane town. The project area is situated at the eastern side of road R521 from Polokwane to Dendron (GPS S23.48670° E29.37162°) and western side of Moadi perennial stream.

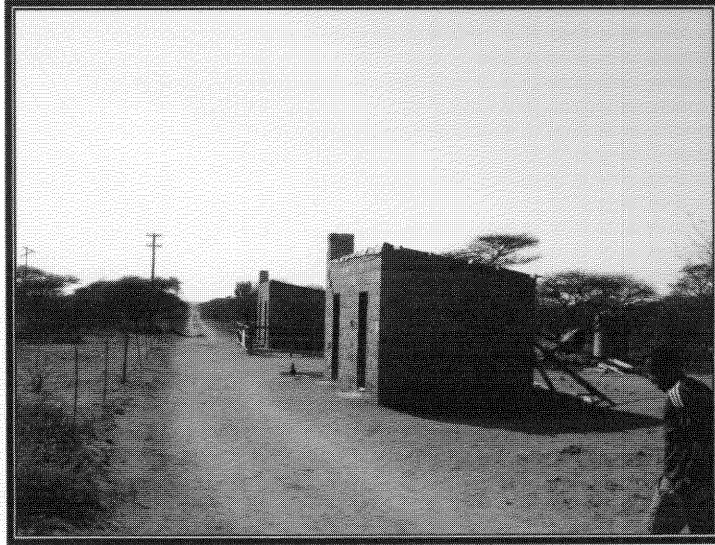


**Figure 1.** View of the proposed site from the east



**Fig 2:** View of Rita Bethesda Hill at the western side of the proposed site.





**Figure 3:** Shows View of some structures currently on site

#### **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

According to Mr.Leswika people were staying at Bethesda farm among with the Malibana people before they were forced to move to the other places at around 1970's.Their settlement were at the eastern side of Moadi perennial stream.

#### **5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**

No archaeological materials were identified on site, but this does not rule out the possibility of identifying artefacts during vegetation clearing and earth moving activities.

#### **6. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

No mitigation measures are recommended for this project. However, the developers should be aware about the possible presence of unmarked burials and archaeological materials that might be discovered during construction activities.

However, the discovery of previously undetected subsurface heritage remains on the site during construction must be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

## **7. REFERENCES**

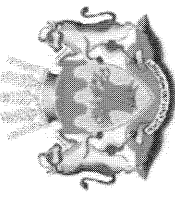
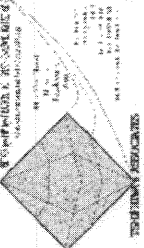
The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 OF 1999)

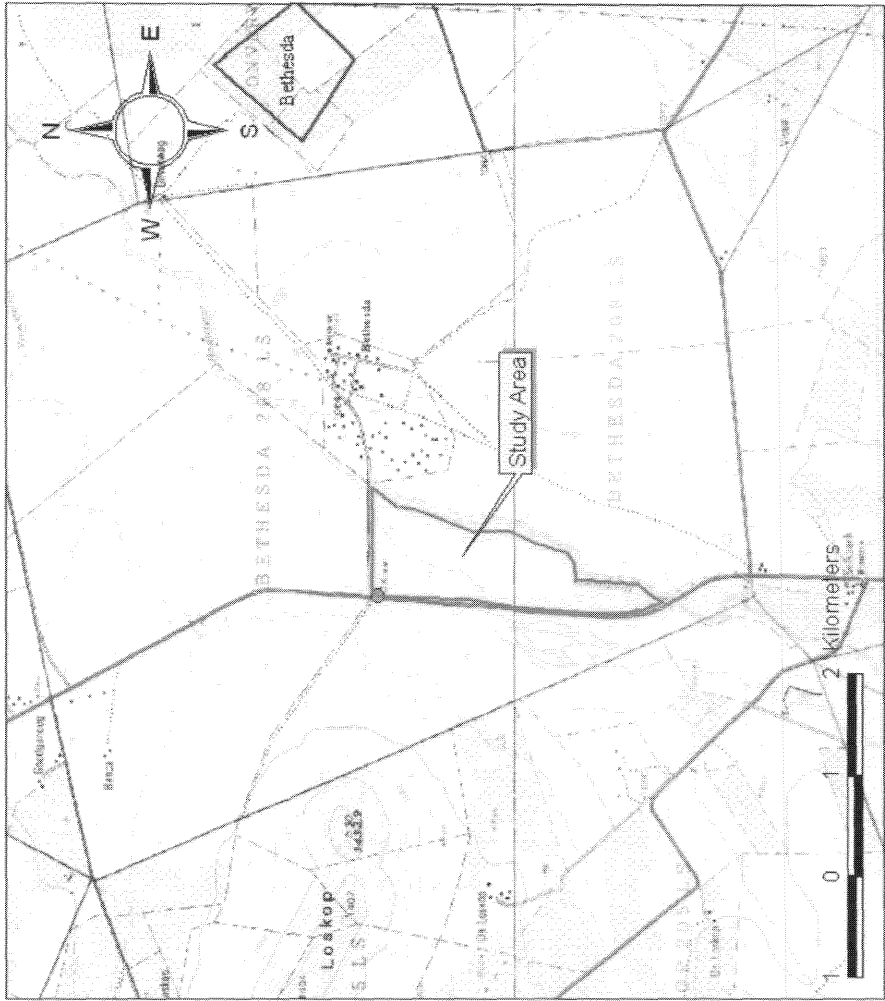
## **8. STUDY TEAM**

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**Mr Richard Munyai** (*BA. Archaeology, University of Venda*)

**Mr Frans Roodt** (*BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad Dip. In Museology; UP*)  
Principal Investigator listed by SAHRA. Member of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA)

	<p>Map Title: Topographic Map</p>
<p>Prepared for:          National Heritage Council          Doornal          Ladda          0764          Contact: Bravel P          Project: Fm 16/16/16</p>	<p>Scale 1: 50 000</p>
<p>GIS &amp; MAPS          DONE BY  <b>Tshuwa &amp; Associates</b></p>	 <p>REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA          WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE          TSHUWA &amp; ASSOCIATES</p>



Map 1. Topographic Map indicating the location of the site.