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3 July 2007

Phase 1 Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation)
DOORNKRAAL, PORTION 76
POLOKWANE, LIMPOPO
STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Map reference: South Africa 1:50000 2329CD
General co-ordinates: S23° 51' 57" E29° 25' 47"

INTRODUCTION

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 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.(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.

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

- (a) 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.

Section 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.

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, ...

Terminology:

- Early Stone Age: Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs before present.
- Middle Stone Age: Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr - 30 000 yrs before present.
- Late Stone Age: The period from ± 30 000-yr to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.
- Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.
- Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD.
- Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*
- Historical: Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD 1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.
- Phase 1 assessments: Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate 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. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.

In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur on the demarcated site. This would enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects, which the development could have on any heritage resources.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The author was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 *Heritage Resources Impact Assessment* of the proposed terrain. The aim was to determine the presence, or not, of heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance; to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features. This survey forms part of the environmental impact assessment process and data regarding the environmental and geo-morphological conditions and socio-economic issues should be read in the main report. Consequently, a letter containing a qualified statement of the *status quo* with regard to heritage resources, instead of a full report, is deemed sufficient.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

The proposed development is located adjacent to and on the western side of the Dendron road (R521). The area is severely disturbed and impacted on by past residential activities, agriculture and illegal dumping. The terrain is predominately covered by grass with a few acacia trees and exotic plants such as prickly pear and sisal.

METHODOLOGY

A survey of the demarcated area (see locality map) was undertaken on foot, during which standard methods of observation were applied. Archaeological visibility was good as vegetation cover is low, and part of the site was burned. Special attention was given to disturbances, either natural or man-made, as well as changes in vegetation that may have resulted from previous human intervention.

DISCUSSION

No archaeological material or historical remains of significance was noted in the area. The terrain, however, has a large informal cemetery containing in excess of a hundred graves at co-ordinates $S23^{\circ} 52' 00.4'' E29^{\circ} 25' 59.0''$. Most of the graves are unmarked and have been unattended for many years with the result that they have lost clear definition (Fig 2). Some of the graves have modern gravestones and are well attended (Figures 3 & 4). It must be noted that many, if not most of the graves are older than 60 years and are thus protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (1999).

MANAGEMENT MEASURES WITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GRAVEYARD

Two options may be considered:

1. The graveyard area should be cut out of the development, fenced off, and be rezoned as a formal graveyard. As cemeteries are a local government function, the Polokwane municipality should take over the responsibility of managing the graveyard.
2. To relocate the graves. This option would entail the following:
 - 2.1 Social consultation and community participation to identify affected families in order to obtain the consent of those that can be traced as well as general consent of interest groups/communities through;
 - Personal enquiries and contact with affected families
 - Advertisements in local and national media
 - Liaison with interested and affected groups
 - Liaison with Traditional leadership
 - 2.2 Obtain approval from the relevant authorities
 - Permit application to SAHRA
 - Local municipality
 - Department of Health and Welfare
 - SAPD
 - 2.3 Negotiate terms and conditions for re-burial, i.e., coffins, tombstones, appeasement ceremonies, undertaker's service, and costs.
 - 2.4 Identify the location/s for re-burial through the consultation process
 - 2.5 Exhumation and re-interment

We have communicated with the two main role-players, namely, SAHRA's Limpopo Office, with whom we had a site visit at the cemetery, and the Municipality's Manager of Environment, to discuss the option of relocation of the graves. In both instances there seems to be no objection on condition that a transparent social consultation process be conducted.

From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no other objection with regards to the development on condition that one of the above-mentioned management measures is implemented.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roodt', written in a cursive style.

FRANS ROODT (*BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP*)
Principal Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource Consultants



Fig 1. General view of the area.



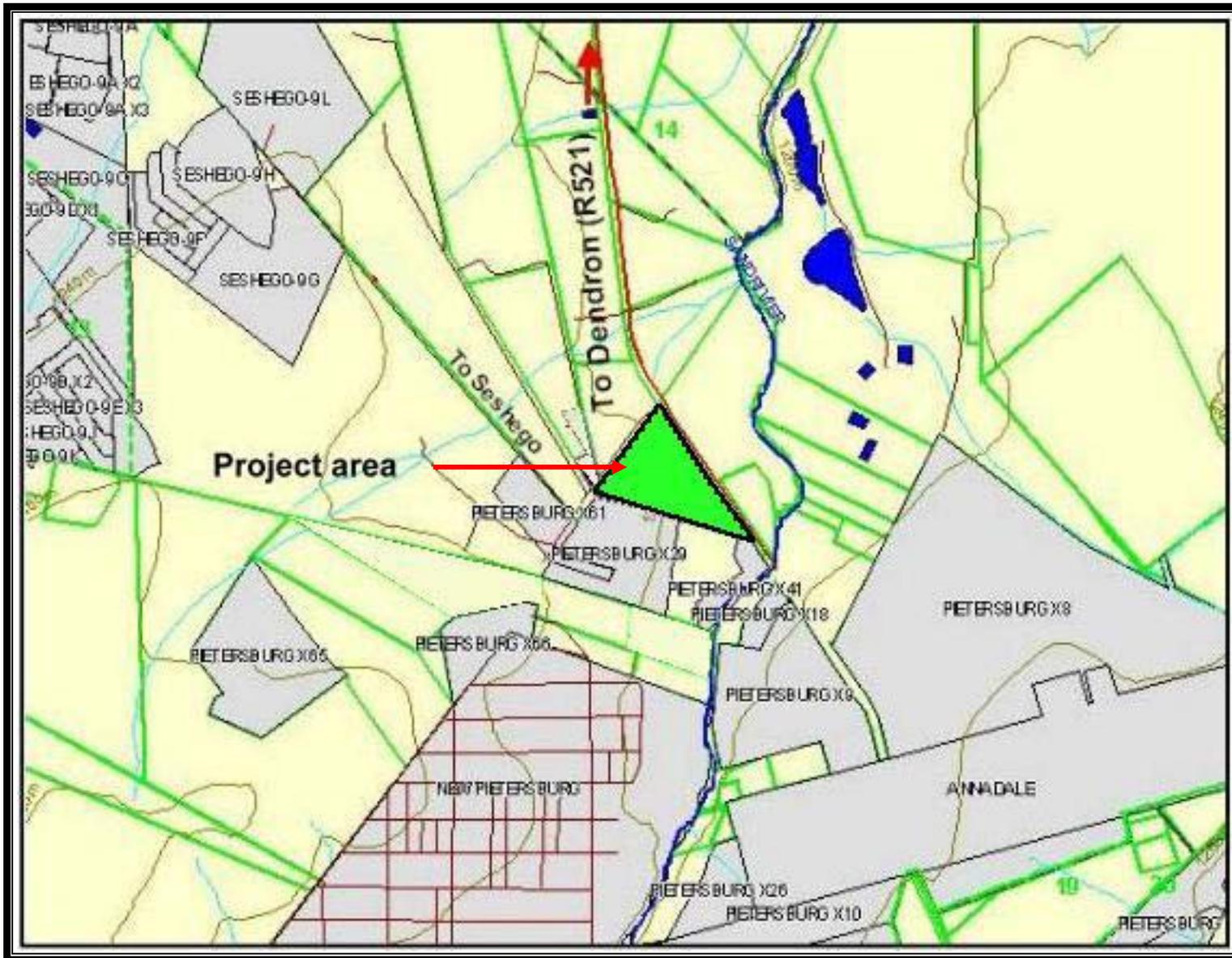
Fig 2. Part of the cemetery, note unmarked graves.



Fig 3. Marked grave.



Fig 4. Marked grave.



Locality Map