

# **PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT**

---

## **WASTE DISPOSAL TRANSFER SITE SESHEGO POLOKWANE, LIMPOPO**

---

EnviroXellence Services  
P.O. Box 4879  
Polokwane  
0700

**Frans Roodt**  
April 2008

Tel: (015) 225 7075  
Cell: 083 770 213  
Fax: 086 670 9130  
E-mail: hr19@mweb.co.za



PO Box 1600  
POLOKWANE  
0 7 0 0

# CONTENTS

---

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 | <b>1 Introduction and terms of Reference</b>                           |
| 3 | <b>2 Method</b>  |
|   | 2.1 Sources of information   |
|   | 2.2 Limitations  |
|   | 2.3 Categories of significance   |
| 4 | 2.4 Terminology  |
| 4 | <b>3 Description of the proposed development and terrain</b>           |
| 5 | <b>4 Results of the scoping survey</b>                                 |
|   | 4.1. Recent Historical Period  |
|   | 4.2. Graves  |
|   | 4.3. Iron Age remains  |
|   | 4.4. Stone Age remains   |
| 5 | <b>5 Background information</b>  |
| 5 | <b>6 Discussion</b>  |
| 6 | <b>7 Mitigation and management measures</b>                            |
| 6 | <b>8 Bibliography</b>  |
|   | <b><u>List of figures</u></b>  |
| 6 | Fig 1. General view of the site.                                       |
| 6 | Fig 2. View of access road.  |
| 7 | Fig 3. Ashy deposit in the maize field.                                |
| 7 | Fig 4. Decorated <i>Eiland</i> period pottery fragments from the site. |
| 8 | Locality Map   |

## 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, ..."

The author was contracted to undertake a heritage scoping survey of the proposed waste disposal site in Seshego (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2329 CD). 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 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. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on these heritage resources.

## 2. METHOD

---

### 2.1 Sources of information

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

A pedestrian survey of the demarcated development area was undertaken. Standard archaeological practices 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 heritage remains were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin 60). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Panasonic Lumix Digital camera.

### 2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. It is thus possible that sites have been missed.

### 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. Many aspects 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 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:     | 10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD  |
| Late Iron Age:       | 14 <sup>th</sup> century to colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i>   |
| 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  |
| 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. |
| Sensitive:           | Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. <i>Sensitive</i> may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.   |

## **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN**

The proposed development is located on the farm Buitengewoonte 671 LS, south of the Seshego Dam. The topography rises gently to the south and the terrain falls within the drainage system of the Blood River. Almost the entire area had been ploughed in the recent past and it has been further disturbed by illegal dumping.

General coordinates: S23° 51' 36" E29° 22' 27".

Map reference: South Africa 1:50 000 2329 CD

Refer to main EIA-report concerning environmental and geo-morphological detail.

## 4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY

---

### 4.1 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No surface remains of significant historical features were recorded on the terrain.

### 4.2 GRAVES

No formal graves were noted, however the probability of subterranean graves being present on the Iron Age Site discussed below is >80%.

### 4.3 IRON AGE REMAINS

Most of the proposed terrain lies on an Iron Age Archaeological Site; however the site has been severely disturbed by field cultivation. The site was identified on the grounds of ashy soil deposits and a concentration of ceramic pottery fragments. The decorated pottery fragments has been positively identified as belonging to the *Eiland* Middle Iron Age cultural *facies* dating to approximately AD 1000 – 1300. Unfortunately, all of the site had been ploughed and is disturbed. Some midden (ash heap) deposit may, however, still be intact under plough depth for further assessment.

Co-ordinates of the archaeological site: S23° 51' 35.6" E29° 22' 26.4"

### 4.4 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age material was noted on the terrain.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

---

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Uruwe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The *facies* that may be present are:

**Urewe Tradition:** Kwale Branch - *Mzonjani facies* AD 280 – 450 (Early Iron Age)

Moloko Branch – *Icon facies* AD 1300 – 1500 (Late Iron Age)

**Kalunda Tradition:** Happy Rest Sub-branch – *Doornkop facies* AD 750 – 1000 (Early Iron Age)  
*Klingbeil facies* AD 1000 – 1200 (Middle Iron Age)  
*Eiland facies* AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)  
*Letaba facies* AD 1600 – 1840 (Late Iron Age)

Except for the *Eiland* archaeological remains recorded above, none of the other above-mentioned archaeological remains were noted on the terrain.

## 6. DISCUSSION

---

The *Eiland* archaeological site has low significance due to its disturbed nature and does not warrant protection status. However, the probable presence of human burials renders it **sensitive** for development in that area. It also has moderate scientific significance and will add valuable data to the understanding of Iron Age distribution patterns and chronology in the area. Therefore, mitigation for a controlled sampling of the archaeological remains and the monitoring of

earthworks is required before the terrain is developed. The discovery of any significant cultural material or human remains may result in further on site mitigation measures being implemented.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

---

In view of the above, it is recommended that:

1. A Phase 2 assessment is mitigated and undertaken by means of a controlled sampling and test pit excavations of the archaeological deposit and the on site monitoring of earthworks.
2. A destruction permit for the archaeological site be obtained from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

**Deacon, J.** 1996. *Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities*. National Monuments Council. Publication no. P021E.

**Huffman, T.N.** 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age. The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.



---

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 site.



Fig 2. View of access road.

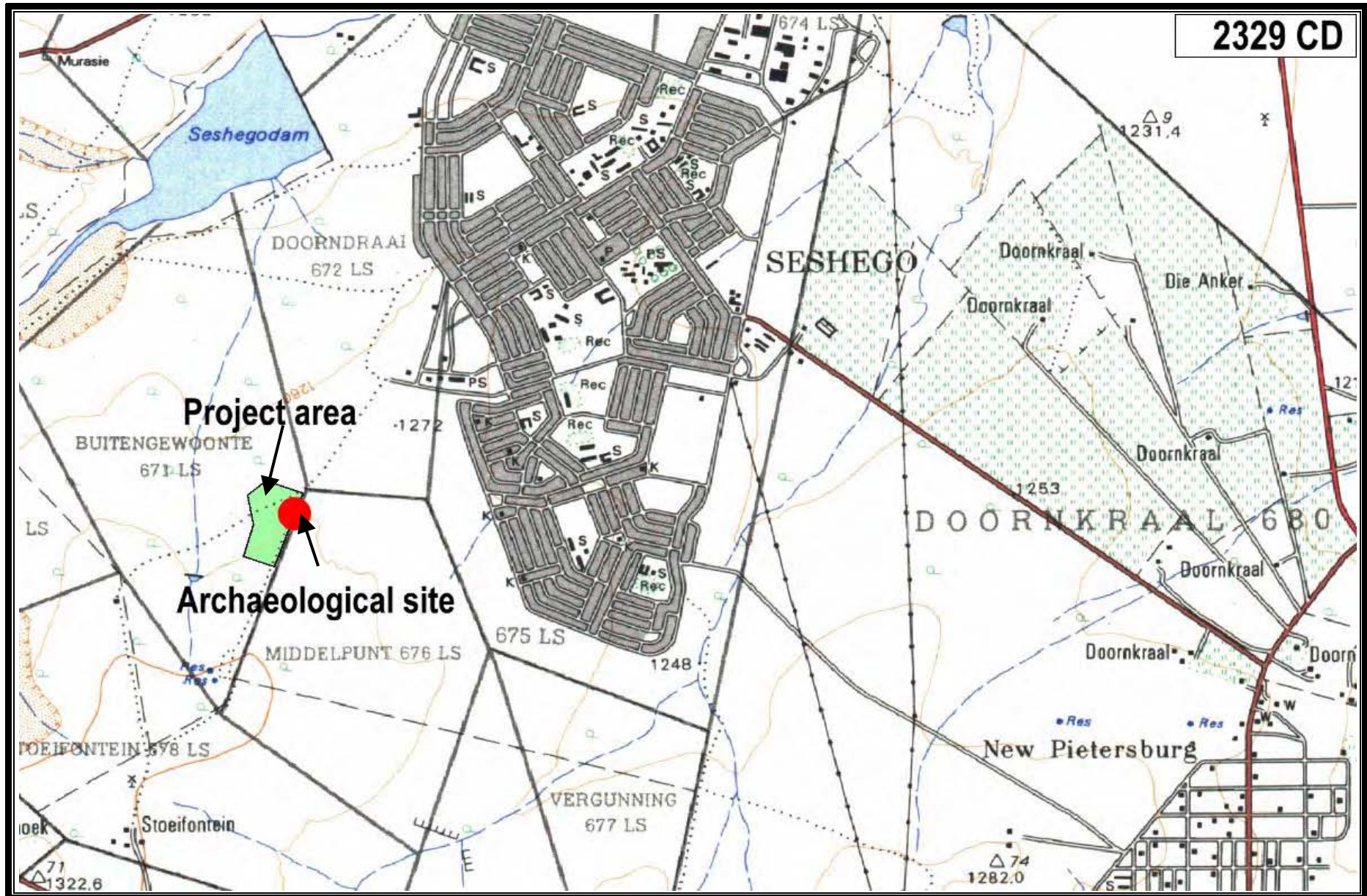


Fig 3. Ashy deposit in the maize field.



Fig 4. Decorated *Eiland* period pottery fragments from the site.





Locality Map