

# HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

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## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PETER MOKABA STADIUM POLOKWANE, LIMPPOPO

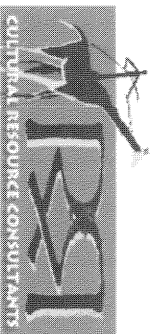
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August 2006

*Received: 03 July 2007  
File No. 9/2/253/0027*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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.

The author was contracted to undertake a heritage scoping survey of the demarcated area which lies on the farm Sterkloop 688 LS as indicated on the locality map (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. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

### **The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) (NHRA)**

This Act established the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and makes provision for the establishment of Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities (PHRA). The Act makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibilities and functions for heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial authorities and Local authorities, depending on the grade of the Heritage resources. The Act defines cultural significance, archaeological and palaeontological sites and material (Section 35), historical sites and structures (Section 34), graves and burial sites (Section 36), which falls under its jurisdiction. Archaeological sites and material are generally those resources older than a hundred years, while structures and cultural landscapes older than 60 years, including gravestones, are also protected by Section 34. Procedures for managing grave and burial grounds are clearly set out in Section 36 of the NHRA. Graves older than a 100 years are legislated as archaeological sites and must be dealt with accordingly

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\*;
- (c) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (d) 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, ...

### 3. METHOD

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#### 3.1 Sources of information

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance. Written sources consulted for further information was a report by Hester Roodt which focussed on the Skeletal remains that were uncovered in the area during the construction of Edupark (attached herewith) and Loubser.

A scoping survey of the demarcated development area was undertaken on foot. 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.

#### 3.2 Limitations

No limitations were encountered.

#### 3.3 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 may 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.*

#### 3.4 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. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

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 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.

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. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

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

The proposed development is primarily aimed at building a New Stadium for the 2010 World Soccer event. The terrain is located to the northwest of Webster Street Extension and between the existing Stadium and the Edupark campus. The area has been severely impacted on by the previous development of Webster Street, Edupark, dumping and borrow pitting.

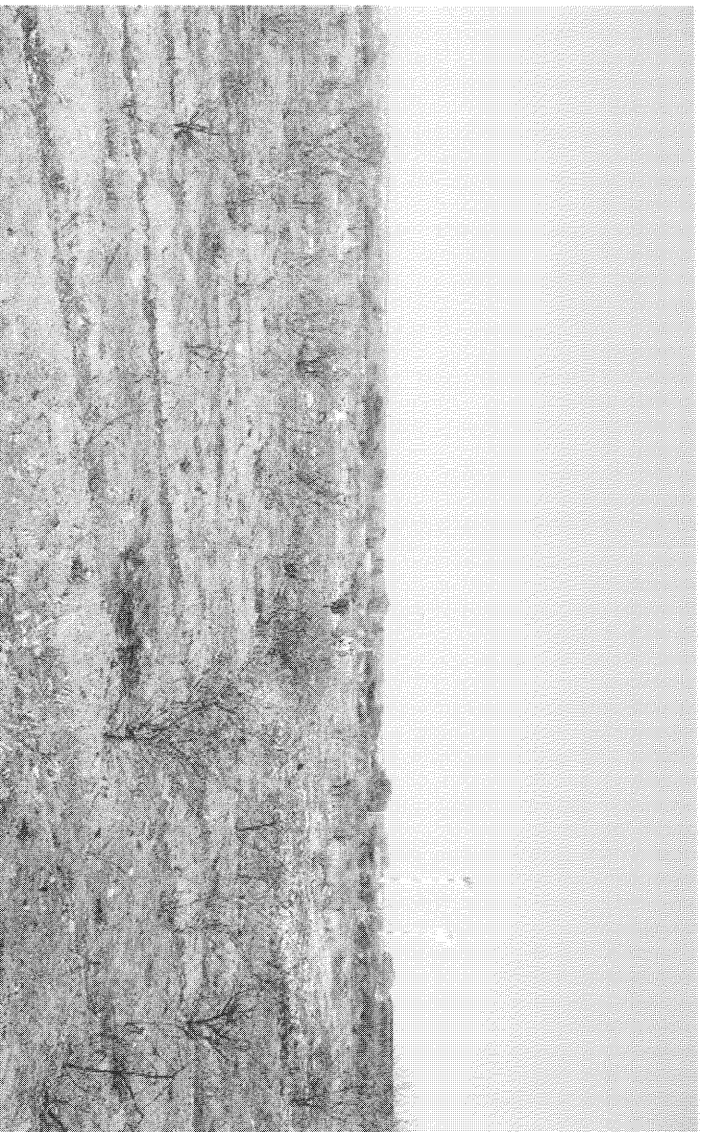


Fig 1. General view of the terrain – existing stadium to the right. Note scaring and dumping.



Fig 2. General view to the northeast. Note ground disturbance.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

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### 5.1 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age material was observed on the terrain.

### 5.2. IRON AGE REMAINS

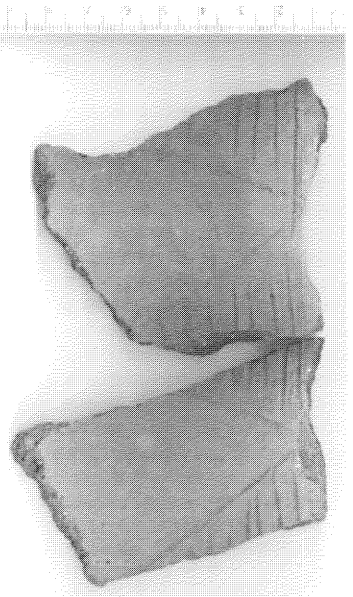
No significant heritage remains were observed on the surface of the proposed terrain, except for a few scattered non-diagnostic pottery fragments. However, during the construction of the Edupark campus in 1997 archaeological deposits and human skeletal remains were exposed in the service trenches and building foundations. The remains were studied by Hester Roodt, who obtained a Permit from the then National Monuments Council. These remains were identified as belonging to the Elland cultural facies of the Western Stream of Iron Age migration. It dates to 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century AD and predates any of the existing cultural groups present in South Africa.

Further human and cultural remains were exposed during the construction of Webster Street and the borrow pits that were located to the northwest of Webster Street, in the direction of the existing Peter Mokaba Stadium. The proposed development area is thus sensitive for the presence of similar heritage and human remains.

Secondly, a Late Iron Age site (17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century AD) is located to the east of Edupark campus. Either Sotho or Ndebele speakers could have inhabited this site in pre-colonial times. The



development will not directly impact on this site, unless the area is earmarked for road and infrastructure development not known to us.



Figures 3 – 5. Typical Eiland pottery shards.

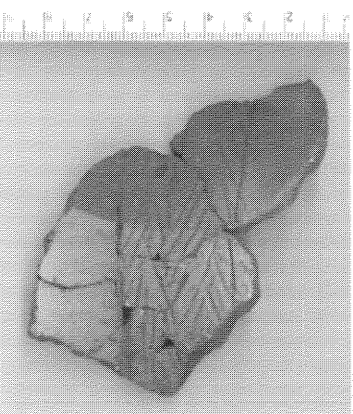


Fig 4.

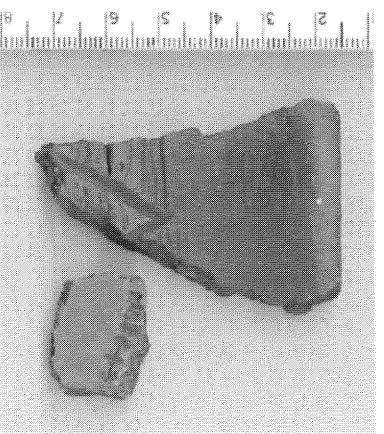


Fig 5.

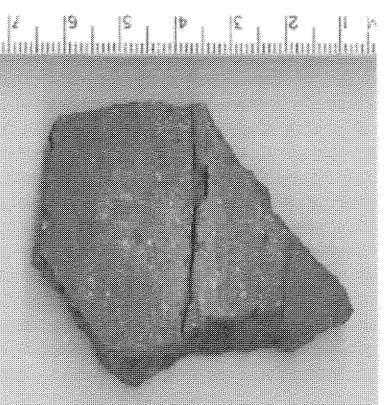


Fig 6. Late Iron Age pottery.

### 5.3 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No significant historical remains were noted on the terrain.

### 5.4 GRAVES

No formal graves were noted on the terrain. It must, however, be noted that Iron Age burials are not marked and the probability of encountering burials on the terrain mentioned above is >60%.

### 6. EVALUATION

Although no archaeological features or deposits were observed on the proposed terrain, it lies in close proximity to an Eiland archaeological site that was discovered in 1997. The development will probably impact on subterranean deposits from this site. It is thus important to note that undetected archaeological material may be present on the terrain and that sensitive material may be exposed during development. It will, however, not be practical nor feasible to attempt a phase 2 assessment of the area, but rather to implement a monitoring procedure during the development. Should any heritage or skeletal remains be exposed the necessary procedures must be followed.



## 7. RECOMMENDATION

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View of the above it is recommended that a monitoring procedure be implemented during the development. The discovery of significant heritage resources will result in the mitigation of a phase 2 assessment to manage such heritage resources.

From a heritage resources management perspective, we have no objection with regard to the development on condition that the recommendation above is implemented.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

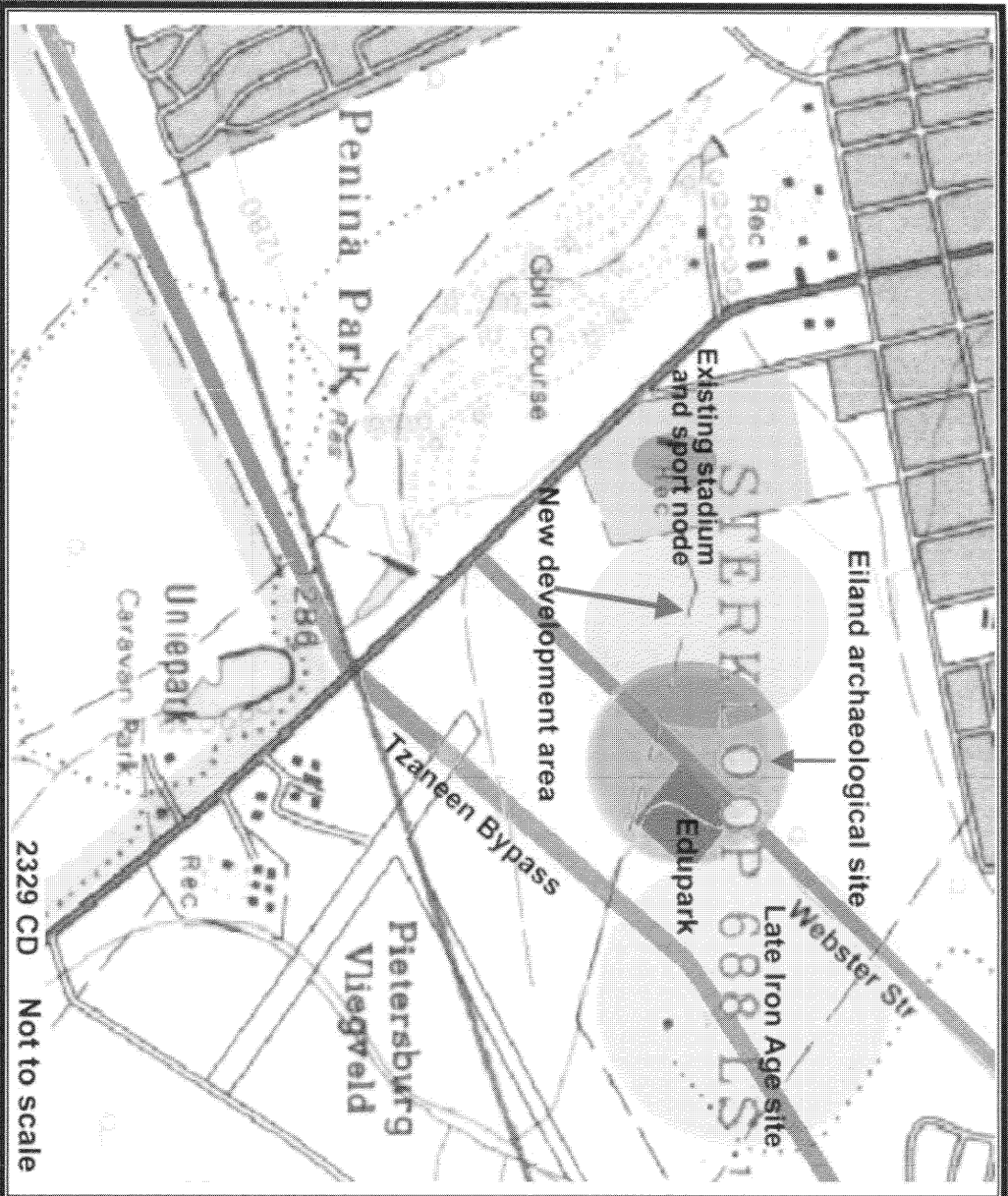
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Locality Map

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**Date:** 2007/07/03 04:49 AM  
**Subject:** Permit application  
**Attachments:** Stadium report.pdf; Permit application 2010 Peter Mokaba Stadium.pdf

**CC:** "COLETTE SCHEERMAYER" <CSCHEERMAYER@sahra.org.za>

Dear Mary / Colette

1. Feedback:

Permit No. 80/07/04/005/51 Bakone Malapa Museum. Work completed and report submitted to Municipality on Friday 29/6/2007.

Permit No. 80/07/05/004/51 Matoks. Work completed and we are now in a process of facilitating re-burial with the traditional authority, which will take place on 27/28 July. Report will be submitted after this.

2. New Application

This attached application is for the New 2010 Stadium. It is very urgent as you would expect due to the time limits for the construction. The area is very disturbed and the exposed deposits consist of a few small middens and a cattle dung deposit. These deposits are very shallow and located on the perimeter of the now destroyed site identified in 1997. Nevertheless I insisted on a Phase 2. The phase 2 excavations will probably just add some additional data to the report done by Hester in 2000/2001.

Permit fee transferred via Internet banking.

Regards, Frans