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SAHRA  
The Manager  
Limpopo Provincial Office  
P.O. Box 1371  
POLOKWANE  
0700

1/08/2008



re: **NOTIFICATION OF NEW PROJECT: TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 224 AND 225 OF FARM OHRIGSTAD,  
443 KT, GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO  
PROVINCE.**

**I refer to my correspondence of 9/06/08 (attached)**

1. A Phase 1 Archaeological Survey was conducted by R & R Cultural Resource Consultants and is attached.
2. The proposed project area is situated adjacent and due north of Ohrigstad as shown on the locality plan.
3. Could you please comment on the proposed development.

Please do not hesitate to contact this firm should any other query arise concerning the above mentioned development.

Yours truly,

.....

Kobus de Meyer.

TUA CONSERVA ENVIRONMENTAL &  
CONSERVATION SERVICES cc

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9/06/2008



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CONSERVATION SERVICES cc

Received by (name in print): Bessie Teta

(Signature) [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 09.06.2008

# PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

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## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OHRIGSTADT, MPUMALANGA

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# CONTENTS

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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
6	<b>5 Background information</b>
7	<b>6 Discussion</b>
7	<b>7 Mitigation and management measures</b>
8	<b>8 Bibliography</b>
	<b>List of figures</b>
8	Fig 1. View of hill.
	Fig 2. View of site from hill.
	Fig 3. Broken grindstone from hill.
9	Fig 4. Possible grave.
	Fig 5. View of one of the Historical structures.
10	Locality Map

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

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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 residential development, Ohrigstad, Mpumalanga (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2430 DA). 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.

for  
ARC

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1 Sources of information

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

A pedestrian survey of selected areas of the demarcated area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. 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.

ARC

### 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 *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. 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 residential development is proposed to take place on the remaining portions (224 & 225) of the farm Ohrgstadt 443 – KT. The area is situated on a small hillock that is crosscut by existing ESKOM power lines. The proposed development will consist of 220 dwelling units, which will have considerable impact on the natural and man-made environment. Vegetation at the time of survey was extremely dense and visibility poor. The proposed area also lies adjacent to an area previously surveyed that was found to be relatively rich in archaeological materials.

220  
units  
major  
Impacts  
visibility  
poor

#### 4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY

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##### 4.1 HISTORICAL PERIOD

Ohrigstad was already established in 1845 as only the second Voortrekker settlement north of the Vaal River. Developments may expose such early footprints and even graves that are now obscured.

On the slope of the hillock, an historical settlement of farm labourers was noted. These people constructed their dwellings from stone and dagha. Huts appear to conform to a rectangular pattern. Some of these structures still have standing walls, while others have been reduced to their foundations only. Due to the building process involved, ceramic style and the presence of upper and lower grinding stones, it can be confirmed that African people occupied this site. See below for a set of GPS co-ordinates, relating to this site. Structures shown on the locality map have been demolished and are no longer visible.

GPS POINTS	CO-ORDINATES	ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS
1	S24° 44' 15.5" E30° 33' 58.7"	Foundations of a hut.
2	S24° 44' 15.0" E30° 33' 59.3"	Lower grinder in association with a structure.
3	S24° 44' 14.9" E30° 33' 59.7"	Lower grinders.
4	S24° 44' 13.1" E30° 33' 57.9"	Structure
5	S24° 44' 16.4" E30° 33' 58.3"	Structures and foundations in close proximity to one another.

##### 4.2 GRAVES

A probable grave was noted at GPS point S24° 44' 15.5" E30° 33' 58.7", due to the change in vegetation and general outline of the disturbance. The possibility of subterranean graves occurring on the sites noted above as Point 1 and 5 is very high and percentage wise it could be up to a 70% chance.

##### 4.3 IRON AGE REMAINS

On the summit of the hillock an upper and a lower grinder (S24° 44' 08.8" E30° 34' 08.1") was noted archaeologically indicating settlement by Iron Age people. Also see discussion below.

##### 4.4 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age material was noted on the terrain.

#### 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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The Ohrigstad Region has a rich archaeological tradition; starting from the Stone Age period, right up to the Historical period, the following Iron Age material may occur in the region:

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 Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition:      Moloko Branch –                      *Marateng facies*      AD 1650 to 1840



Kalunda Tradition:	Happy Rest sub-branch –	<i>Doornkop facies</i>	AD 750 to 1000
		<i>Klingbiel facies</i>	AD 1000 to 1200

*None of the above-mentioned archaeological remains or other heritage remains of importance were noted on the terrain.*

## 6. DISCUSSION

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### **Historical Period:**

The settlement noted above can be dated to around the beginning of the historic period according to a neighbouring farmer who served as an informant. He claims that the settlement was well in existence during the early part of his life. The construction method used by the people who constructed the disused settlement involves a method of stone and dagha construction. Stone is packed and dagha (clay, dung and possible midden deposit) is used as 'cement'. It is our suspicion that the material for the structures was obtained from an Iron Age settlement in the near vicinity as on closer inspection the dagha exhibited remnants of bone and potsherds.

### **Iron Age Period:**

No formal settlement could be located due to the absence of stonewalling and potsherds. It is suspected that an archaeological site on the adjacent property, which was recorded during a previous survey (Roodt 2008) possibly originally extended into the currently being investigated. It is however, our contention that the lack of surface remains can be attributed to the historical settlement discussed above as the Iron Age stonewalling would have served as ideal building material and midden and kraal deposit would possibly have been used as mixture for the dagha. This could result in Iron Age material coming to light during development that could not be detected by surface inspection, as archaeological material from this period is often subterranean.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

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The area and its archaeological occupation cannot be deemed as anything but being of *low significance*. In view of the above, it is recommended that:

1. Monitoring of the site take place during earthworks and trenching for the provision of infrastructure services, i.e., roads, water and sewerage.
2. The possible grave be verified through a social consultation process or by archaeological methods before development commences.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Roodt, F. January 2008. Phase 1 Heritage Resources Scoping Report. *PROPOSED ECO AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. ORIGHSTAD: GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY*.

*Roodt*

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

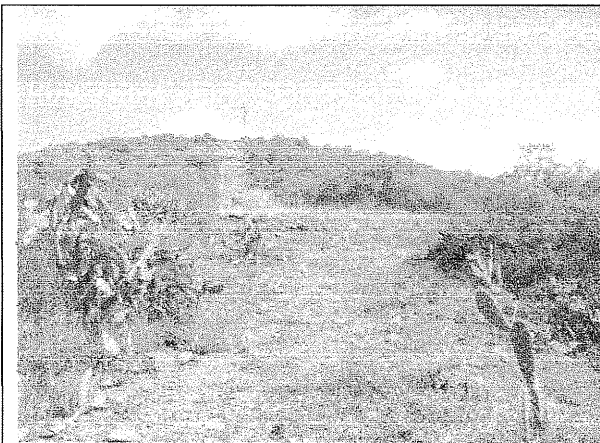


Fig 1. View of hill.



Fig 2. View of site from hill.



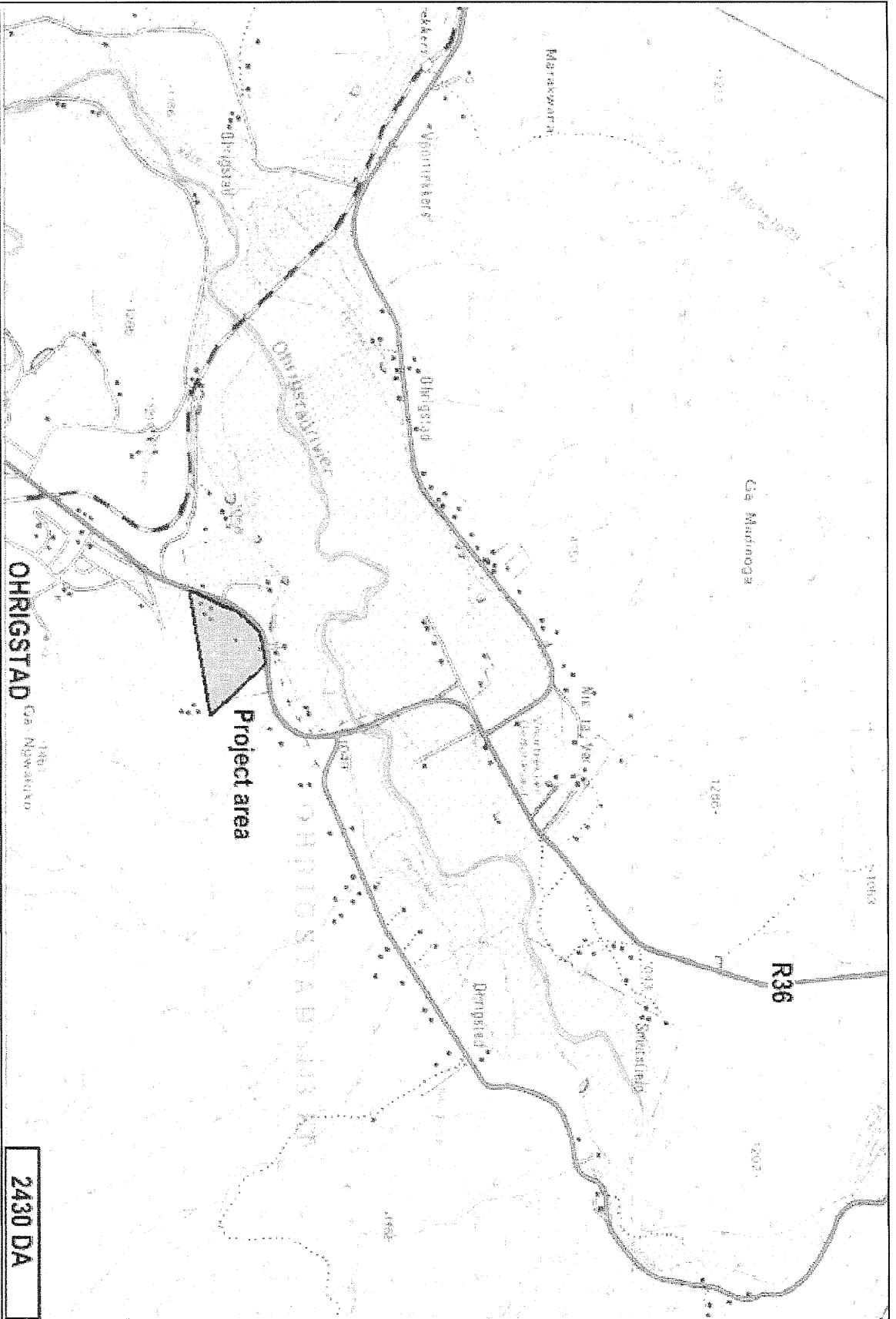
Fig 3. Broken grindstone from hill.



Fig 4. Possible grave.



Fig 5. View of one of the Historical structures.



Locality Map (1:50 000 2429 DD)

2430 DA