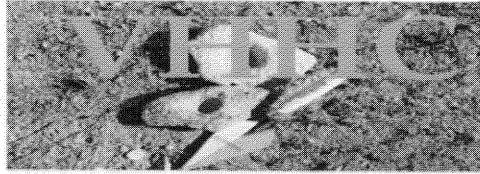


P O BOX 456  
POLOKWANE  
LADABIA  
0704



Tel: 015 293 2049  
Fax: 015 293 2592  
Cell: 083 367 3669/  
083 770 2131

**VHUFA HASHU HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC**

Registration No: 2006/119040/23

Tax Reference No: 9672996148

# **PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A PROPOSED BORROW PIT NO.02 FOR THE UPGRADING OF THE ROAD D4180/ D4170 FROM SEFATENG TO DRIKOP/MANDAGSHOEK TO SEKITI SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT**

**Compiled for:**

**WET AND DRY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS**

**BOX 3625**

**POLOKWANE**

**0700**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Wet and Dry Environmental Consultants appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants to undertake a heritage impact assessment study for a borrow pit site **N0.02** earmarked for extracting of gravel material associated with the upgrading of road D4180/D4170. 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.

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 borrow pit excavations could have on such heritage resources. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

### **1.1 *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.

### **1.2 *Archaeological remains***

**Section 35(4)** No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- ❖ destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

### **1.3 Burial grounds and graves**

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

- ❖ 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
- ❖ bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred above ,any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

### **1.4 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.

This Archaeological Impact Assessment report provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where the borrow pit site is located.

## 2 METHOD

### 2.1 Sources of information

The sources of information were the field reconnaissance and literary sources mentioned below.

Scoping surveys of the affected area for borrow pit sites 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 previous disturbances, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion.

### 2.2 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories (see table 1)

- ❖ 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.

Table 1

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 TERMINOLOGY

The following aspects have direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

**Archaeological** means material remains resulting from human activities that are in a state of disuse and are on land and are older than 60 years, including artifacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features.

**Conservation**, in relation to heritage resources, includes protection, maintenance, preservation and sustainable use of places or objects so as to safeguard their cultural significance.

**Cultural Significance** means possessing historical, archaeological, architectural, technological, aesthetic, scientific, spiritual, social, and traditional or other special cultural significance associated with human activity.

**Development** means any physical intervention, excavation or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of heritage authority in any way result in a change of the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place or influence its stability and future well-being, including construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of the place.

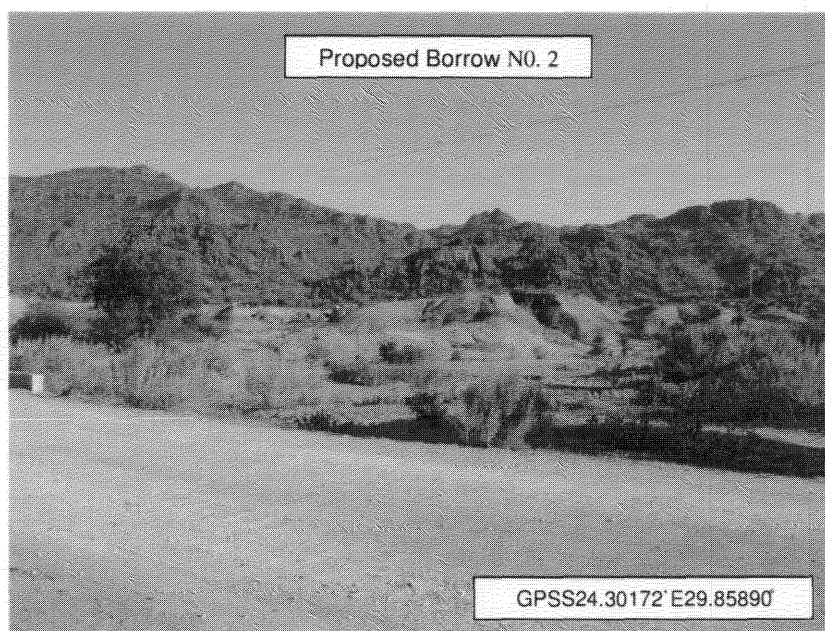
**Heritage site** means a place declared to be a National Heritage Site by the SAHRA or a place declared to be a Provincial Heritage Site by a Provincial Heritage Authority.

**Historic** means significance in history.

**Historical** means belonging to the past.

#### **4 DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE BORROW PIT SITES**

The proposed borrow pit site is situated at Maropeng Village to the western side of the road. No signs of any heritage resources were observed.



**Figure 1:** Proposed borrow pit site.

No heritage resources, or any archaeological materials, were identified within the vicinity of the borrow pit site.

#### **5 CEMETERIES AND BURIAL SITES**

No signs of burial grounds or any other heritage resources such as archaeological sites and historical remains were found that would be significantly impacted on by the proposed extraction of gravel materials from the identified borrow pit. However, there is a probability of encountering chance finds during earth-moving activities.

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

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

We recommend that the South African Heritage Resources Agency should be notified if human remains falling under the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) are accidentally uncovered during the use of the identified borrow pit.

## **7 CONCLUSION**

No historically significant sites that are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 would be affected by the continuation of excavating the borrow pit site for gravel material. In conclusion we recommend that if unmarked human burials are discovered during borrow pit excavation; they should be relocated to the formal graveyard. The removal must be conducted with due respect for the customs and beliefs of the affected relatives, and where requested, in the presence of relatives or community representatives.

## **8 REFERENCE**

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)

1. Aldenderfer, Mark S., and Carolyn A. Hale-Pierce 1984 The Small-Scale Archaeological Survey Revisited. *American Archeology* 4(1):4-5.

## **9 STUDY TEAM**

**Mr Richard Munyai** (*Archaeology Hons Cand Univen, BA Archaeology 2000 Univen*) **Mr Frans Roodt** (*BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; Principal Investigator for Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants.*)