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Phase 1 Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation)

**UPGRADING (GRAVEL TO TAR) OF ROAD D4370 FROM PHOKWANE TO MOGALADI
TO TOMPI SELEKA + 4 BORROW PITS**

REF: RAL/352

STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Map reference: South Africa 1:50000 2429 CD & DC

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 road and the adjacent borrow pits that will be used. 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 tar road is to be constructed over an existing gravel road that runs the length of road D 4370. The current road is relatively wide compared to general gravel roads. It would appear that the impact area of the proposed road would not have a greater impact area than the existing road. Vegetation was moderate and archaeological visibility was good. All four borrow pits are existing pits which have already resulted in disturbance of the area – **Figure 2** serves as an example of such borrow pits. **Table 1** (pages 5) lists the GPS co-ordinates for the road and borrow pits.

The road D4370 runs through the following farms:

- Lolamontes 682 KS

- Buffelsfontein 829 KS
- Driekoppies
- Goedehoop 832 KS
- Klipspruit 835 KS
- Goedgedacht 836KS
- Ontevreden 838 KS
- Uitkyk 851 KS

METHODOLOGY

A pedestrian survey of selected areas and a drive through by vehicle of the demarcated road 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. Archaeological visibility was limited as vegetation cover is dense. 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

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: Kwale branch- *Mzonjani facies* AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)
Moloko branch- *Icon facies* AD 1300 - 1500 (Late Iron Age)

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

None of the above-mentioned archaeological remains or other heritage remains of importance were noted along the road. No archaeologically induced ecologically disturbed area was observed either. However, most of the archaeological cultures referred to above may be present as obscured subterranean deposits.

With regard to the proposed new road, cognisance should be taken if the road is to be substantially widened as this may result in possible unmarked graves being unearthed during the construction phase.

MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

No management or mitigation measures are required. This letter serves to confirm that *no significant heritage resources* such as archaeological or historical material or places of social or religious significance were found on the site of the proposed development. *From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.*

However, the discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require mitigation measures.

REFERENCE

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

Yours faithfully



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GPS co-ordinates	
S24° 48' 19.1" E29° 28' 15.6"	Start of road from D4100
S24° 47' 47.5" E29° 35' 53.7"	GPS point along road
S24° 51' 50.8" E29° 44' 30.2"	End of road at D4295
S24° 51' 18.7" E29° 44' 50.5"	Borrow pit 1
S24° 50' 05.9" E29° 40' 47.0"	Borrow pit 2
S24° 49' 36.5" E29° 36' 46.0"	Borrow pit 3
S24° 47' 53.8" E29° 36' 05.8"	Borrow pit 4

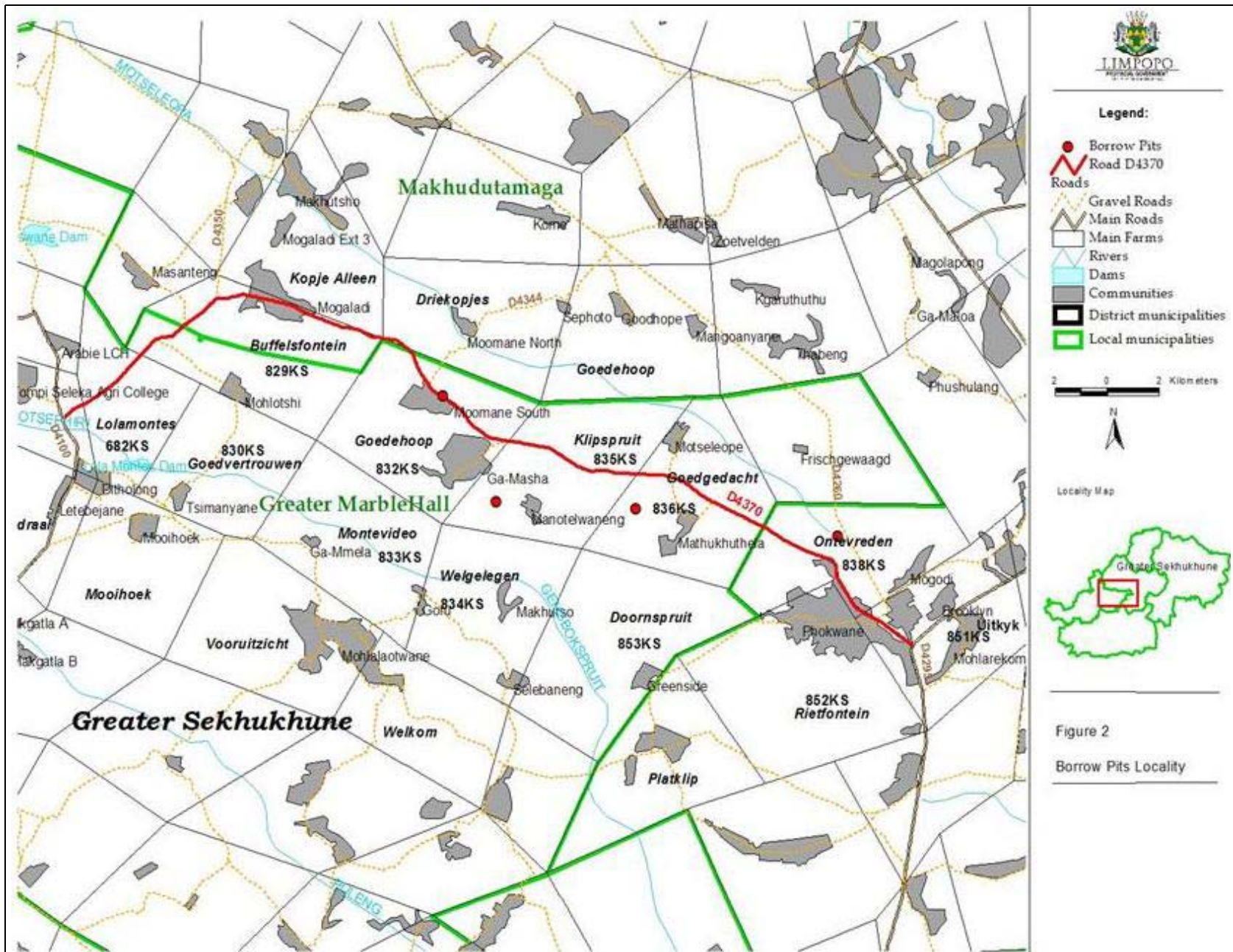
Table 1.



Fig. 1 General view of the road



Fig. 2 Borrow pit 4



Locality Map