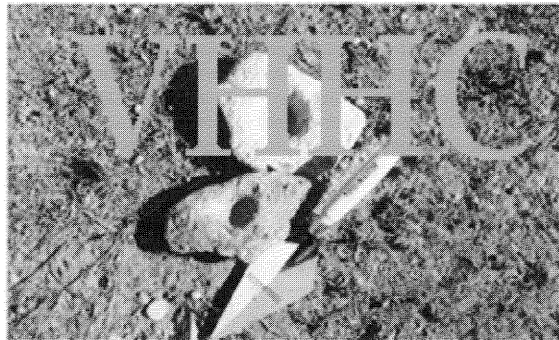


*Plot 22
Elmadal
Polokwane
0700
Tel: 015 225 7075
Fax: 086 670 9170*



*P.O Box 1371
Polokwane
0700
Cell: 083 3573669/
082 578 5709*

VHUFA HASHU HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

Registration No: 2006/119040/23

Tax Reference No: 9672996148

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF ROAD UP GRADE FROM
GRAVEL TO TAR OF ROAD D4203 AND TWO BORROW PITS FROM GA
NCHABELENG HOSPITAL TO SEKHUKHUNE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
UNDER FETAKGOMO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AREA**

REPORT FOR:

FETAKGOMO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

MAY 2008

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1 INTRODUCTION

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants was appointed by Naledzi environmental Consultants to undertake a heritage impact assessment study for the existing 3,3 kilometers portion of gravel road (Road D4203) the proposed road upgrade is from gravel to tar, from Ga-nchabeleng hospital to the Sekhukhune college of education under Fetakgomo local municipality in the Limpopo Province.

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.

***'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-

- ❖ construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;

- ❖ any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- ❖ 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,”

This Archaeological Impact Assessment report provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where borrow pits are 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 the road upgrade 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 Limitations

No limitation have been encountered during the survey period, the extent of the site was covered. However, the discovery of previously undetected heritage remains during earth moving activities must be reported to the

Heritage Resources Authority or the archaeologist and may require further mitigation measures.

2.3 Categories of significance

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 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 reasons 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.

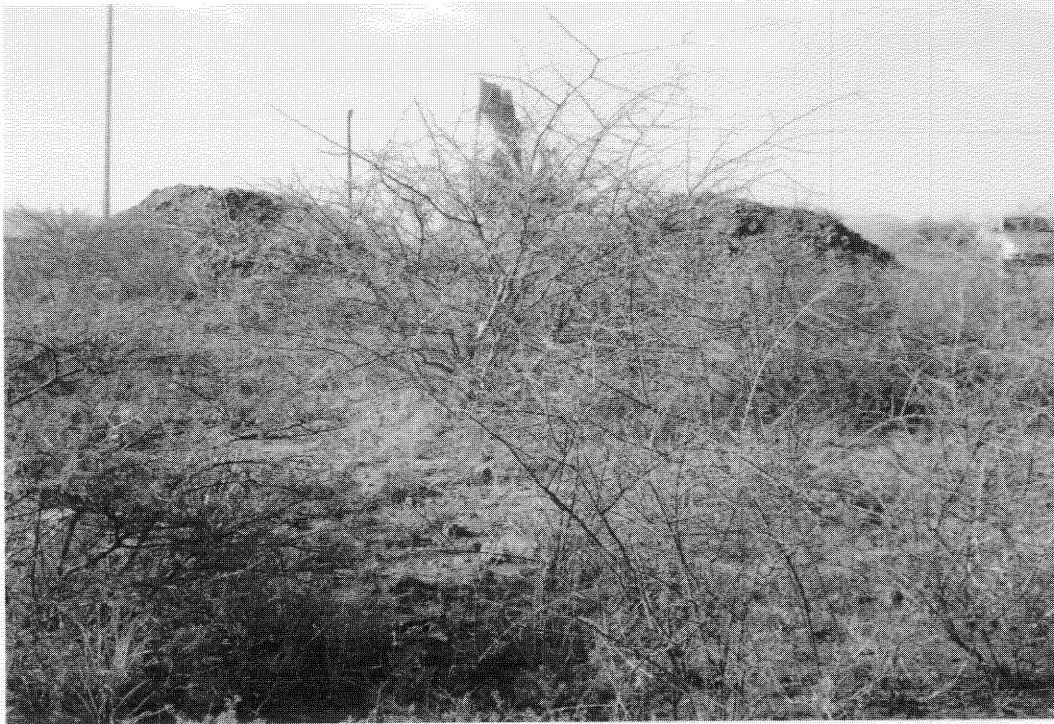


Figure 1: View of the first borrow pit located at 120m from junction to Sekhukhune College of education.

Borrow pit no 2

GPS coordinates

24°, 27, ' 19", 02 S

29°, 48, '26", 01 E

The second proposed new borrow pit site is located at 1,7km from the junction and is located on the right hand side of the proposed road ,The area is situated approximately at 1,6 km to Sekhukhune college of education. The area is characterized of the same natural vegetation encountered on the first borrow pit. Adjacent there is an exposed heap of quarried material left by the pipeline construction activities .No archaeological materials noticed on the vicinity.

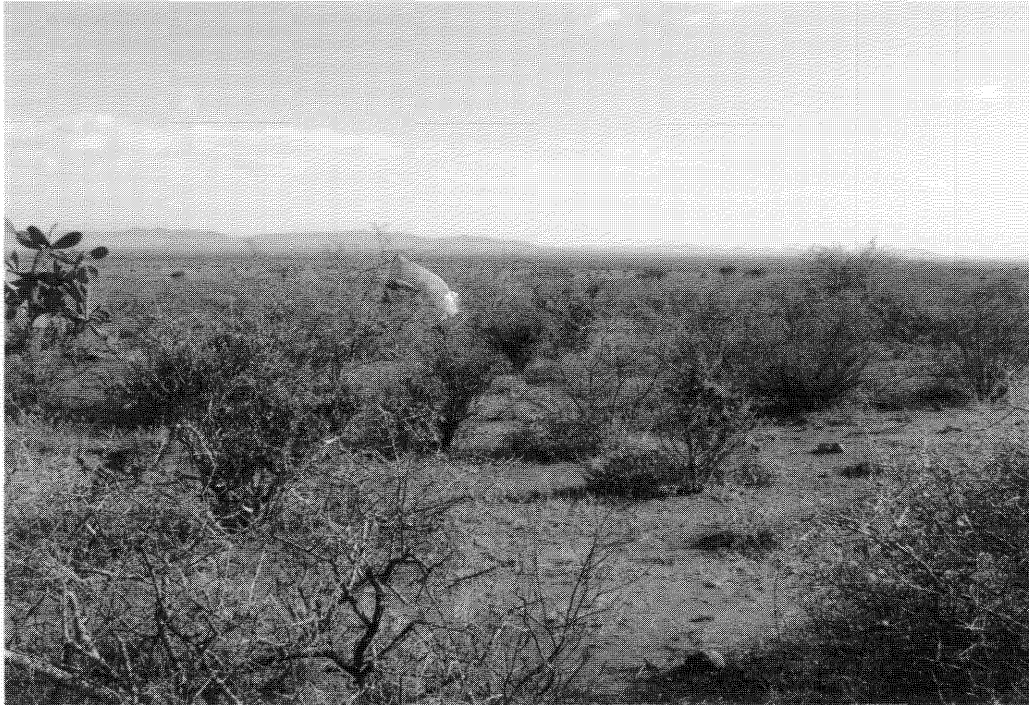


Figure 2: View of the second proposed borrow pit toward the north.



Figure 3: View of the Sekhukhune College of education main gate where the proposed road ends.

5 CEMETERIES AND BURIAL SITES

No burial grounds or any other archaeological materials were identified within the proposed areas of the road upgrade and the borrow pits locations. However, this does not rule out the possibility of discovering unmarked human burials and archaeological materials during earth moving activities.

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 developmental project. The construction of the road upgrade from gravel to tar can proceed from the heritage point of view.

7 CONCLUSION

No historically significant sites that are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 would be affected by the road upgrade. In conclusion we recommend that if unmarked human burials are discovered during road up grade, 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.

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Mr Richard Munyai

It is herewith confirmed that the above is a reliable account of the status of the project.



Mr Frans Roodt (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)

Principal Investigator