

9/2/269/001

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**PHASE 1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT**

**FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIR & PARTIAL
REGRAVELLING OF ROAD P 2771/1 BETWEEN
MAKONDE & MASISI**

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

FOR: Northern Province Roads Agency
P O Box 693
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Frans Roodt
June 2002

*accept
recommendations
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SYNOPSIS

A significant Early Iron Age site was detected at Borrow pit 5 for which mitigation for a Phase 2 assessment is required.

INTRODUCTION

The **Project Proposal** constitutes an activity that is listed in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989), for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to satisfy the requirements of the List of Activities and Regulation for EIA's – Government Gazette of 5 September 1997 - provided for in terms of sections 21, 22 and 26. In terms of the above-mentioned Act, the Minerals Act, 1991, and the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, Section 38), a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (scoping) was undertaken.

AIM

The aim was to undertake a **Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment** of the areas of proposed flood damage repair and use of borrow pits 1 – 6, in order to assess the impact of the proposed project on archaeological and historical sites and features; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

METHOD

A thorough survey of the proposed activity areas was undertaken on foot and by vehicle. 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. Locations of archaeological material were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin 12). Archaeological material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a KODAK DC120 Digital camera.

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into three categories.

No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
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Low to medium significance: sites, which might require mitigation.
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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.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Refer to map, South Africa (1:50 000 2230 DA, 2230 DB & 2230 DC.)

The dominant veld type is North-Eastern Mountain Sourveld. Although much natural vegetation still exists, large parts of the area has been degraded by extensive agricultural activities and human settlement.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY AREAS

The report is presented in accordance with the numerical order allocated to the proposed borrow pits:

BORROW PITS 1 – 4 & 6 *See Map*

No significant archaeological or other heritage resources were found at any of these locations. This includes possible graves mentioned in the Terms of Reference document. There are some recent ruin remains in the vicinity of borrow pit 6, but no graves were identified. Stone heaps are mainly piles scraped from the existing borrow pit, as well as rubble from the ruins.

BORROW PIT 5 Co-ordinates: S22°40'15.5" E30°48'23.8". *See Map*

The site is located next to the river (Fig. 1). It contains Early Stone Age material (ACHEUL. >250 000 years before present). A cleaver, as well as flakes and a probable stone core (Fig. 2), was found on the eastern side of the existing borrow pit.



Figure 1. General view, borrow pit 5



Figure 2. Acheul tools and flakes

This site of medium significance:

FLOOD DAMAGED AREAS AND WIDENING OF THE ROAD

The flood-damaged area was inspected and no heritage resources were detected here. The areas where cuts were previously made into the mountainside were inspected for possible palaeontological deposits. No palaeontological remains were found in either the sandstones or mudstones of the area.

EVALUATION

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.

Borrow pit 5: This site is regarded as of medium significance even though it has been damaged by borrow pit activities in the past. It has significant research potential.

The proposed development will have a further adverse impact on the recorded archaeological remains at borrow pit 5. In our view, however, the potential sustainable socio-economic benefits of the proposed development outweighs the conservation value of the archaeological remains. However, the scientific significance of the Early Stone Age site must bear considerable weight. A phase 2 archaeological assessment is essential in order to extract sufficient and adequate data from the site.

From a Heritage Resources Management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the continuation of the project in respect of Borrow pits 1 – 4 & 6, nor of the road upgrading.

RECOMMENDATION

Due of the scientific value of the Early Stone Age site it is recommended that:

Borrow pit 5: A Phase 2 archaeological assessment be mitigated before work commences.

Notwithstanding the above note must however be taken of Sections 35 & 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, of which an extract is given below.

Extracts from:

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

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Subsection 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.

Subsection 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

Subsection 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.

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TOPOCADASTRAL MAP
2230

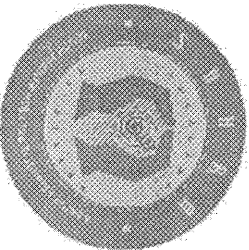


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SCALE 1:70 000

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FOR ATTENTION: Ron Viney / Matodzi Shidi

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

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REVIEW COMMENT ON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGIST OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological heritage. Archaeological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.

AIA's often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by SAHRA Regional Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and it may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

A. PROVINCE: LIMPOPO
 B. REGIONAL MANAGER: Ron Viney / Matodzi Shidi
 C. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: Roodt, Frans
 DATE OF REPORT: June 2002

TITLE OF REPORT: *Flood Damage Repair and Partial re-gravelling of Road P2771/1
 between Makonde and Masisi, Limpopo Province*

D. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of EIA / HIA / CMP / Other (Specify)

REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT): Northern Province Roads Agency

E. CONTACT DETAILS: PO Box 693 Lebokagomo

REVIEW COMMENT

The Archaeology Unit at SAHRA supports the recommendation of the Archaeologist,
 Mr Roodt, that the Acheulean site at Borrow Pit 5 be mitigated.

NAME OF ARCHAEOLOGIST: Mts Many Leslie

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NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY ARCHAEOLOGIST (AND MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE) AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY SAHRA OR THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (AND THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY)