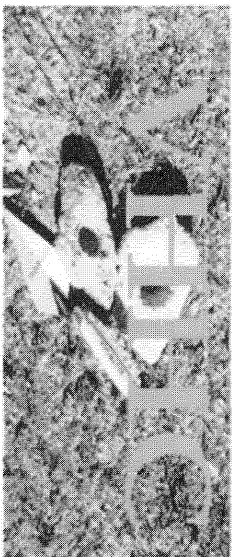


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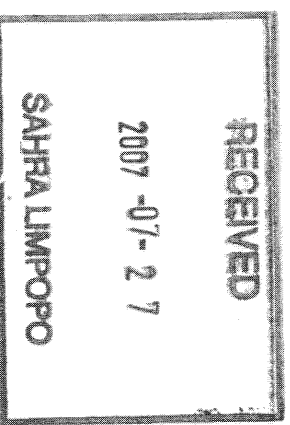
VHUFASHU HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

PHASE 1

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**ADDITIONAL OF 08 BORROW PIT SITES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE UPGRADING OF ROAD
D3689 FROM SHAKADZA TO TSHIPISE IN
MUTALE AREA**

Prepared for:
Road Agency Limpopo
P. O. Box 5743
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Survey conducted and report Prepared by:
Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants

July 2007

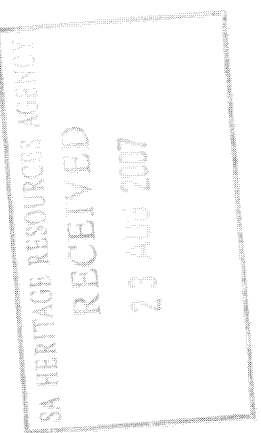


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1. INTRODUCTION

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;
- (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 eight (8) borrow pit sites, between Shakadza and Tshipise village. 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.

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information

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

A scoping survey of the demarcated development areas 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 disturbances, both man-made such as roads as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion.

2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough. However, the discovery of previously undetected heritage remains 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.

- 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. 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.

2.4 Terminology

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

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. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED BORROW PIT SITES

The identified borrow pit sites associated with the upgrading of road D3689 is located along the road earmarked for upgrade, between Shakadza and Tshipise Villages at Mutale area of Limpopo Province. No heritage

resources, or any archaeological materials, were identified within the vicinity of the road and the borrow pits sites.

4. 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 pits. 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.

5. EVALUATION

No heritage resources were found that would be significantly impacted on by the use of the borrow pits. The probability of any archaeological Iron Age sites being present on the demarcated terrain is less than 90%. Nevertheless, this does not completely rule out the possibility that subsurface Iron Age material may occur on the terrain.

There is *no significant heritage resources* such as archaeological sites and material, no historical remains or places of social or religious significance were found on the terrain. *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 further mitigation measures.

6. REFERENCE

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

Archaeology, Theories Methods and Practice, Colin Renfrew & Paul Bahn

7. PROJECT TEAM



Mr Richard R Munyai

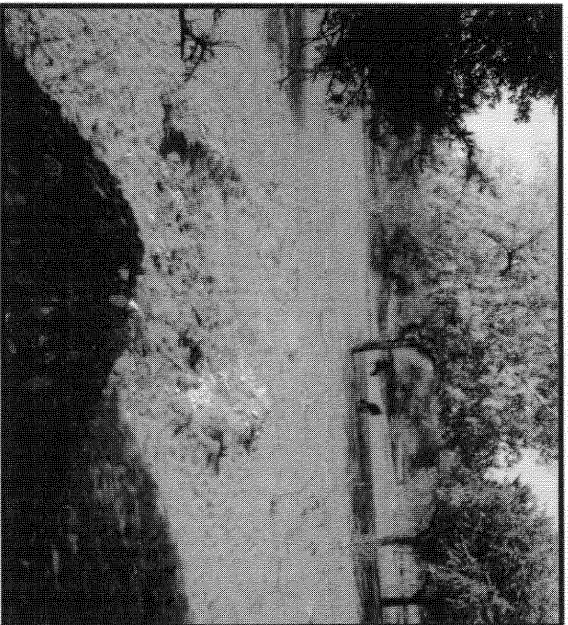
It is herewith confirmed that the above is a reliable account of the status of the project.



Mr. Frans Roodt (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP) Principal Investigator for Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants.

8. VISUAL PRESENTATION

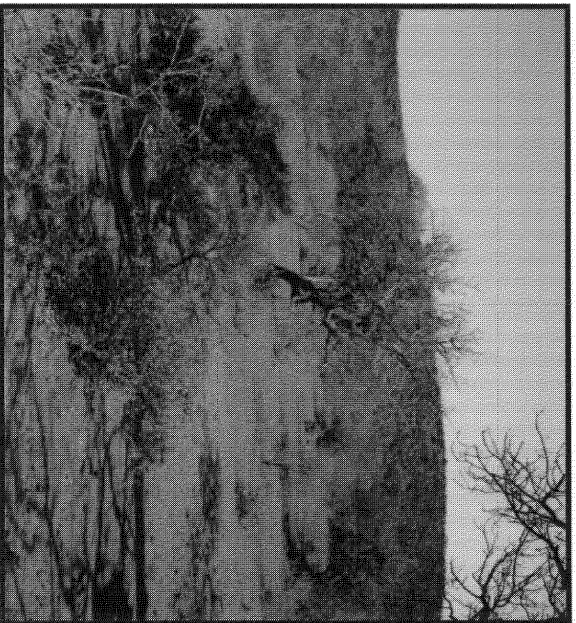
Disturbed areas were inspected for possible archaeological materials that might still be trapped *in situ*.



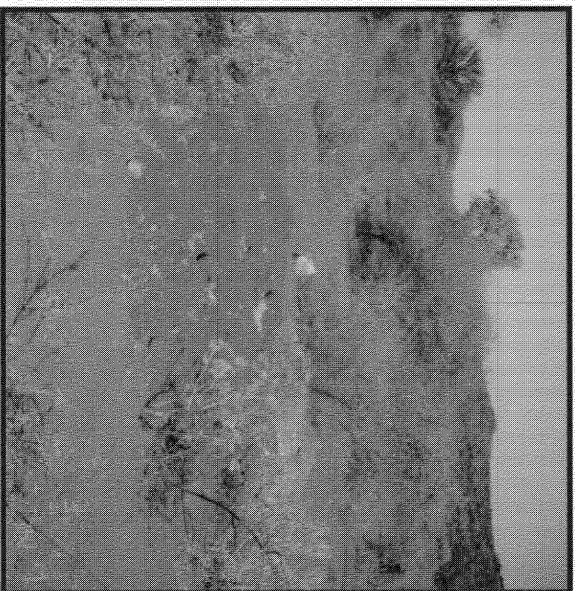
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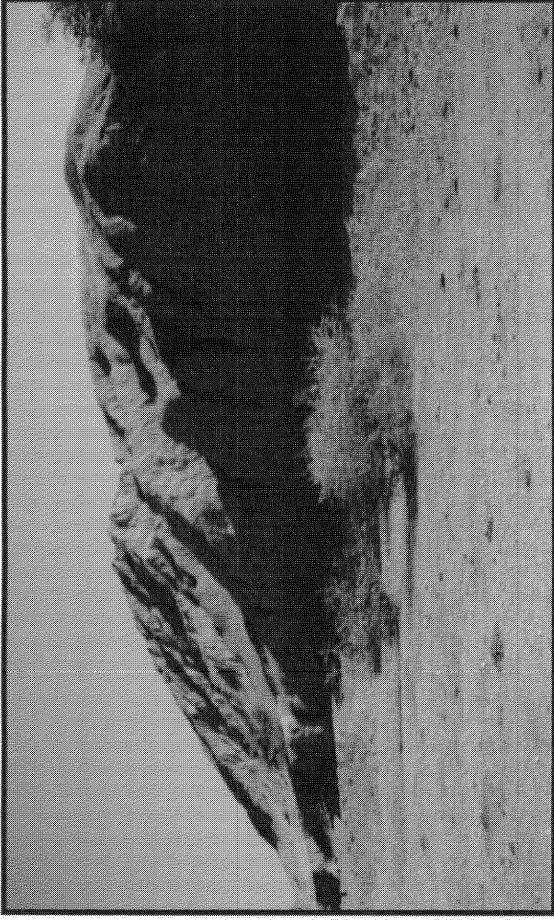


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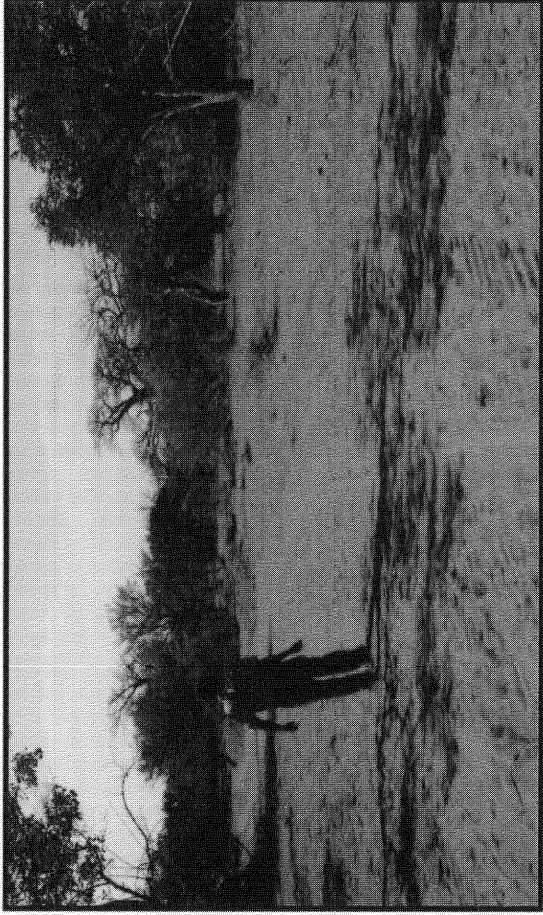


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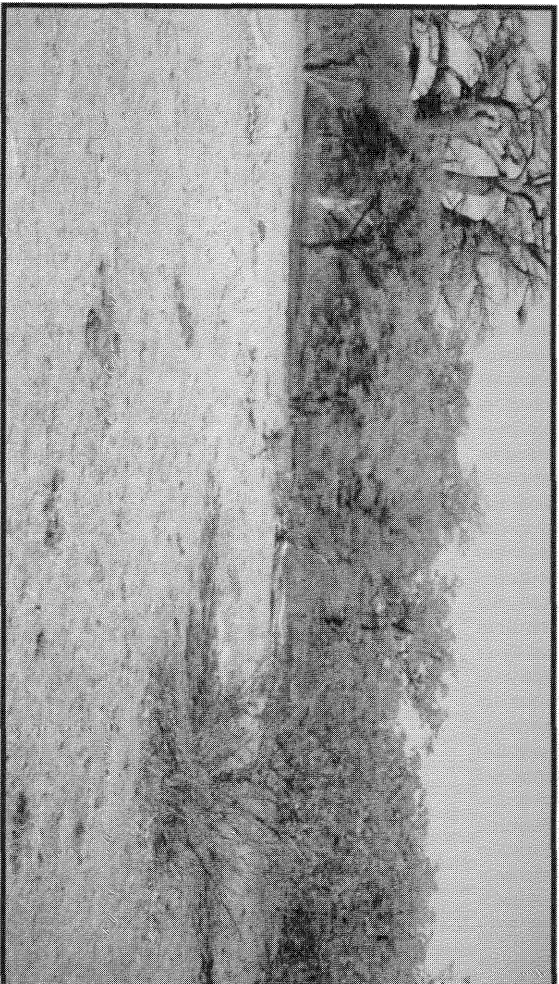




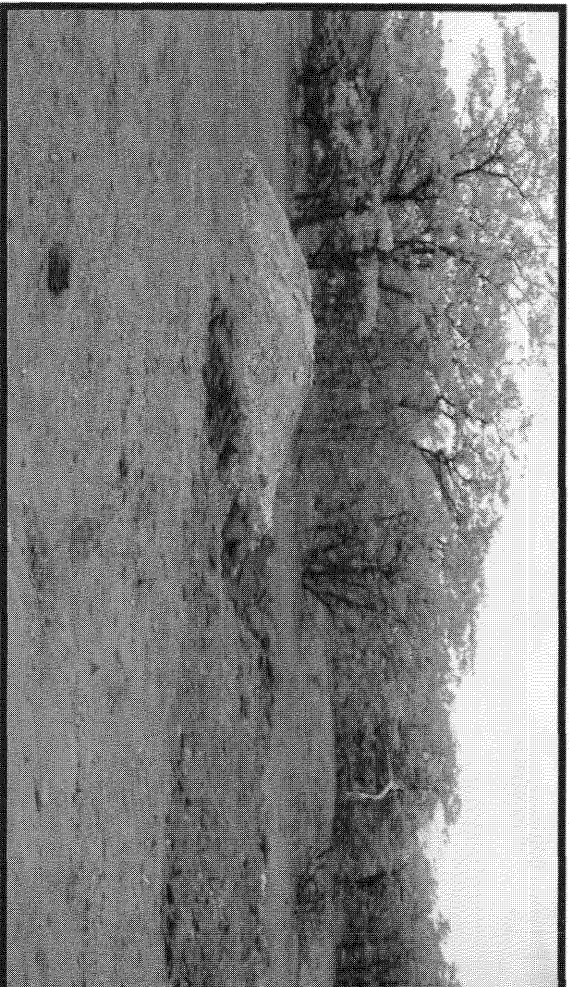
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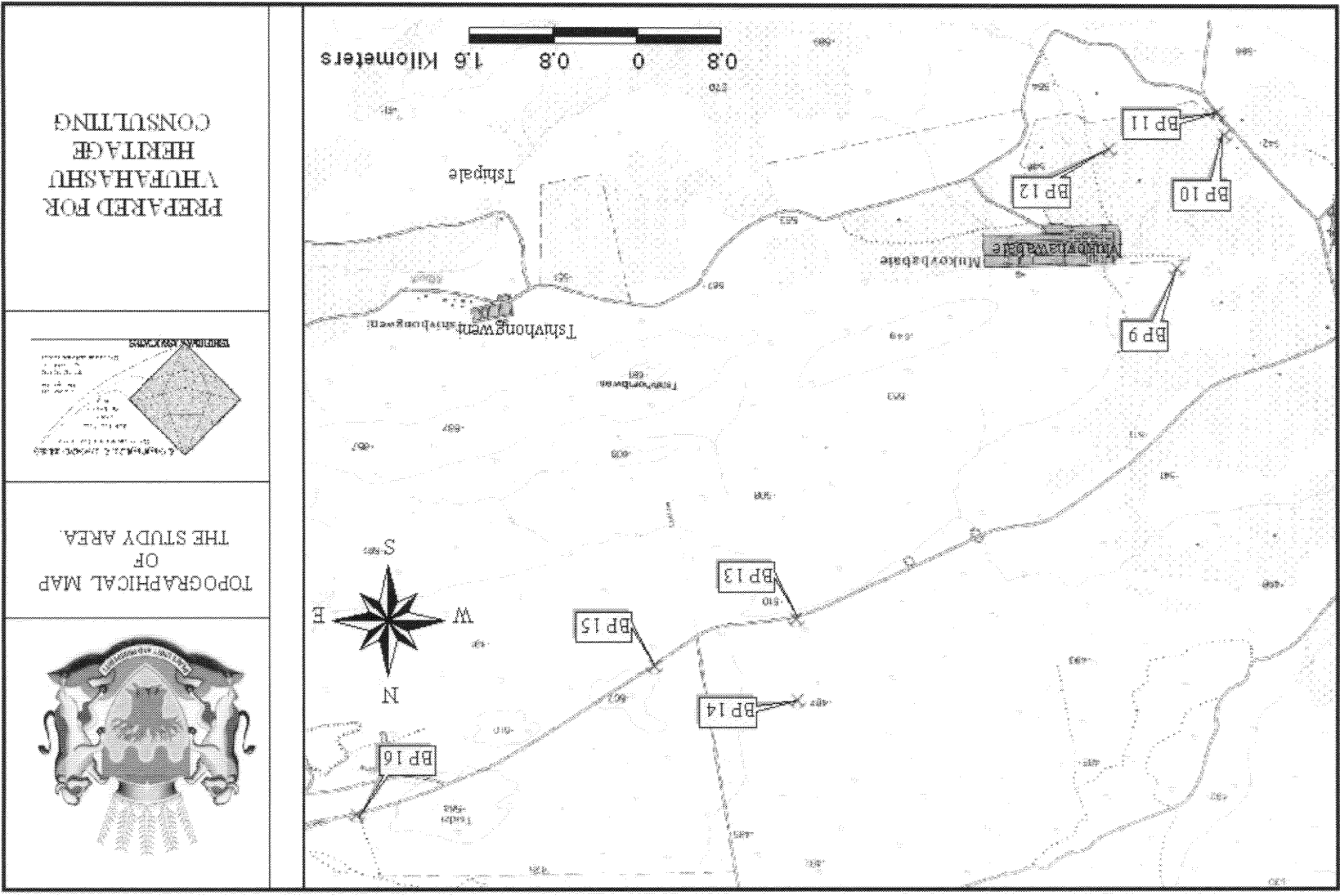


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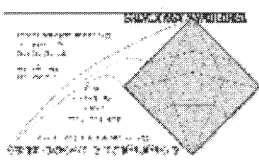


(BP16) S30.60847 E22.52814

MAP 1: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE BORROW PITS.



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YVUFAHASHU
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CONSULTING



TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP
OF
THE STUDY AREA.

