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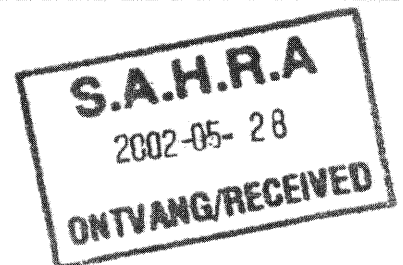
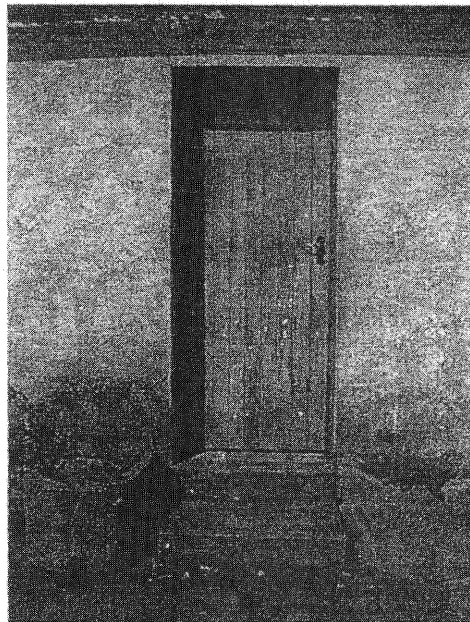
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PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED FILLING STATION & OVERNIGHT
ACCOMMODATION, LOUIS TRICHARDT

Portion 4 of Rondebosch 287 LS
LIMPOPO PROVINCE

FOR: S. Visser, Interdev



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SUMMARY

No significant archaeological finds had been made. Some pottery sherds, however, were found on the site, which is indicative of archaeological activities.

In view of the above, the developer is asked to be aware of these finds, their possible significance, and to inform the archaeologist should more diagnostic pottery or other finds or features be encountered during land clearing or construction operations.

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, 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 proposed development of a filling station and overnight accommodation, on Portion 4 of the farm Rondebosch 287 LS, 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 or features.

METHOD

The archaeologist visited the site on 20 April 2002. Mr Gerrit Pretorius (Gerdes Ontwikkelars BK) indicated the boundaries of the demarcated area, and the survey was undertaken on foot. Standard archaeological practises for observation were followed. Archaeological material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Canon Ixus digital camera.

The significance of heritage resources is graded according to criteria ranging from *no significance* to *high significance*. The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind or nature of the deposit, and the potential of the site 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.

- ☐ **No significance:** sites / features that do not require mitigation.
- ☐ **Low to medium significance:** sites / features which may require mitigation.
- ☐ **High significance:** sites / features which should not be disturbed at all, and has protection status.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The general co-ordinates for the site is S23°05'14.1" E29°54'18.8'.

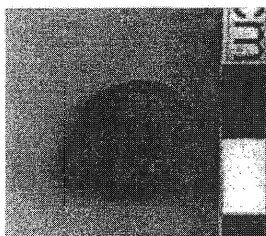
The area for the proposed development is located approximately 2.2 km south of Louis Trichardt adjacent and left of the N1. The entire area had previously been ploughed, except for the location of the homestead and out buildings.



The homestead, with the typical appearance of the ploughed fields in the foreground.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Only one decorated pottery sherd, among a few undecorated sherds, were found. The house and outbuildings are not more than 60 years old, and therefore do not require further investigation.



The single decorated pottery sherd found in the previously ploughed fields. Due to its small size, it is difficult to assign it to any tradition in particular.

EVALUATION

Plough activities usually destroy and break up cultural remains. It is, however, possible that more or larger, diagnostic pottery sherds could still be present on the site. Due to the vegetation growth it was difficult to identify any changes in soil coloration, which would identify different activity areas, such as cattle byres, homesteads, etc. As modern plough techniques penetrate the soil deeper, it would have destroyed surface or shallow deposits. Deeper located deposits could, should there be any, however, still be undamaged.

The decorated pottery sherd is too small to make any positive identification regarding culture affiliation. More samples are needed for this purpose.

The soil coloration of cattle byres is usually white to greyish, with a fine (almost ashy) texture to it. Middens (rubbish dumps) consist of ash, charcoal, bone and pottery sherds. These are important features that should be reported to the archaeologist. Iron Age burials are located reasonably shallow (approximately 20-40cm below surface) often in cattle byres, and are of great significance to archaeological research. SAHRA should also be notified immediately, should any graves be encountered during clearing or construction activities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the site be inspected again by the archaeologist once excavations for the services infrastructure and building foundations have commenced.

Not withstanding 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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