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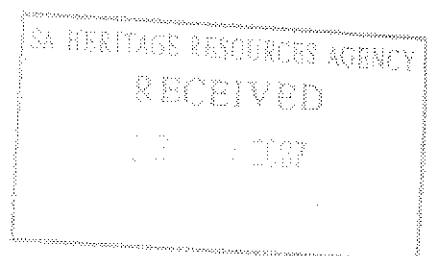


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Heritage Impact Assessment

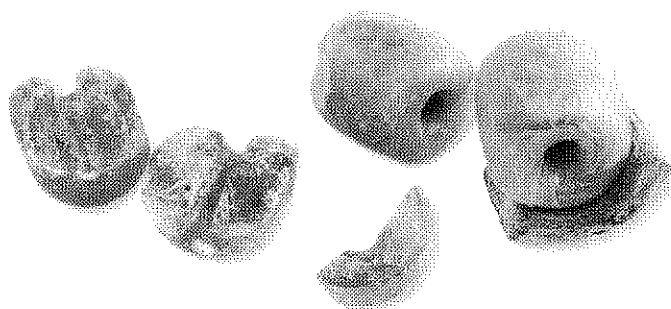
Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed
Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities near Punda
Maria Gate, Limpopo Province.



PREPARED BY:
Archaeo-Info Northern Province

PREPARED FOR:
PP Environmental Consultants

May 2006



Credit Sheet

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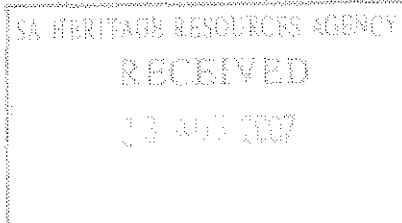
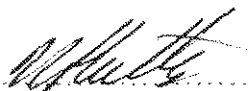
Member of ASAPA

Report Author

Marko Hutten

Disclaimer: Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. AINP and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

SIGNED OFF BY: MARKO HUTTEN



Management Summary

Site name and location: Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development near Punda Maria Gate in the Limpopo Province

Magisterial district: Vhembe District Municipality

Developer: Mr. Dan Maphophe

Consultant: AINP, PO Box 7296, Thohoyandou, 0950, South Africa

Date development was mooted: April 2006

Date of Report: 06 May 2006

Proposed date of commencement of development: May 2006

Findings: No further site-specific actions or any further heritage mitigation measures are recommended as no heritage resource sites or finds of any value or significance were identified in the indicated study area. The proposed development of the Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities in this area can continue from a heritage point of view.

Table of Contents

Credit Sheet	2
Management Summary	3
Table of Contents	4
List of Figures, Tables & Appendices	5
Introduction	6
Proposed Project	6
Project Area	7
Methodology	7
Inventory	7
Site Evaluation	8
Resource Inventory	9
Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development	9
Resource Evaluation	9
Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development	9
Impact Identification and Assessment	9
Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development	9
Resource Management Recommendations	9
Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development	9
References Cited	10

List of Figures, Tables & Appendices

Table 1.	Site significance.....	7
Appendix A	Photographs.....	11
	Photo 1 – Location of proposed Safari Lodge	
	Photo 2 – Natural occurring vegetation	
Appendix B	Location Map.....	13

Heritage Impact Assessment

Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities near Punda Maria Gate, Limpopo Province

Introduction

Archaeo-Info Northern Province (AINP) was contracted by PP Environmental Consultants cc to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the proposed development of a Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities near Punda Maria Gate in the Limpopo Province.

This HIA forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the Environmental Conservation Act (ECA) 73 of 1989, the Minerals & Petroleum Resources Development Act, 28 of 2002 and the Development Facilitation Act (DFA), 67 of 1995. The HIA is performed in accordance with section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 25 of 1999 and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Qualified personnel from AINP conducted the assessment. The team comprised a Principal Investigator with a minimum of an Honours degree in an applicable science as well as at least five years of field experience in heritage management assisted by a fieldworker with at least a BA degree in an applicable science. All of our employees are also registered members of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA).

A member of AINP performed the assessment on 26 April 2006.

The extent of the proposed development sites were determined as well as the extent of the areas to be affected by secondary activities (access route, construction camp, etc.) during the development. The sites were plotted using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and photographed digitally. The sites were surveyed on foot.

All results will be relayed in this report, firstly outlining the methodology used and then the results and recommendations for the identified resources.

Proposed Project

Mr. Dan Maphopo has proposed to develop and construct a Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities near the Punda Maria Gate of the Kruger National Park. The project will include the construction of an Conference hall, an open-air lapa area, kitchen facilities, bar facilities, ablution facilities and 12 accommodation units. The proposed area was situated approximately 1km from the Punda Maria Gate just south of Ka-Joseph village and also south of the R525 tar road between Thohoyandou and the Punda Maria Gate to the Kruger National Park. The purpose of this study was to determine if the proposed area was suitable for the development of the township from a heritage point of view.

After researching the National Archive records as well as the SAHRA records it was determined that no previous archaeological or historical studies have been performed in the demarcated study area.

The project was tabled during April 2006 and the developer intends to commence construction as soon as possible after receipt of the ROD from the Department of Environmental Affairs

Project Area

Site co-ordinates: 22° 46' 22,3" S

30° 59' 25,9" E

The site proposed for the development of the Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities was located approximately 1km to the west of the Punda Maria Gate of the Kruger National Park. The site was just south of Ka-Joseph village and also south of the R525 tar road between Thohoyandou and the Punda Maria Gate. The area was to the west and at the foot of the Nwahunwavani hill approximately 400m west of the Kruger National Park boundary fence. The proposed site was approximately 250m x 250m and comprised a conference hall, an open-air lapa area, kitchen facilities, bar facilities, ablution facilities and 12 accommodation units. The area was predominantly flat and was covered with natural occurring vegetation. (See Appendix B: Location Map)

Good weather conditions were experienced during the field investigations.

Methodology

Inventory

The area was surveyed using standard archaeological surveying methods. The area was surveyed using directional parameters supplied by the GPS and surveyed by foot. This technique has proven to result in the maximum coverage of an area.

Standard archaeological documentation formats were employed in the description of sites. Using standard site documentation forms as comparable medium, it enabled the surveyors to evaluate the relative importance of sites found. Furthermore GPS (Global Positioning System) readings of all finds and sites were taken. This information was then plotted using a **eTrex Legend** GPS (WGS 84- datum).

Indicators such as surface finds, plant growth anomalies, local information and topography were used in identifying sites of possible archaeological importance. Test probes were done at intervals to determine sub-surface occurrence of archaeological material. The importance of sites was assessed by comparisons with published information as well as comparative collections. All sites or possible sites found were classified using a hierarchical system wherein sites are assessed using a scale of zero to four according their importance. These categories are as follows:

Degree of significance	Justification	Score
Exceptional significance	Rare or outstanding, high degree of intactness. Can be interpreted easily.	4
High significance	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	3
Moderate significance	Altered or modified elements. Element with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance.	2
Little significance	Alterations detract from significance. One of many. Alterations detract from significance.	1
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	0

Table 1. Site significance

Site Evaluation

The following information was accessed in the evaluation of possible sites. Evaluative testing, surface collecting, direct consultation and documentary research. In the event of a site being identified the testing procedure will include unit sampling or selection, test frequencies, unit dimensions, mapping, recording and data recovery. Surface collection will encompass sampling design, recording and the process of collection.

The sites will be evaluated as to their significance according to their ranking in the significance table listed above. Where necessary, professional expertise will be sought.

The investigation of sites for heritage components should not only look at the material remains that are found on sites, but there should also be looked at the intangible aspects of cultural importance for the local communities. Furthermore there should also be looked at the possibility of culturally important areas being found in the study area. These could include graves, places of power or initiation schools and any other area that is seen as culturally sensitive to the local communities.

Resource Inventory

This section will contain the results of the heritage site inventory. Any identified sites will be indicated on the accompanying map plotted using the Arc View Geographic Information System (GIS).

Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development

Site Significance Score: 0

GPS: 22° 46' 22,3" S

30° 59' 25,9" E

The site proposed for the development of the Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities was located approximately 1km to the west of the Punda Maria Gate of the Kruger National Park. The site was just south of Ka-Joseph village and also south of the R525 tar road between Thohoyandou and the Punda Maria Gate. The area was predominantly flat, with a few scattered trees. After intensive investigations, no sites or finds of any heritage potential were identified.

Resource Evaluation

Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development

No heritage resources, or remains of any heritage resource, were identified within the indicated study area.

Impact Identification and Assessment

Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development

No impacts on cultural resources are anticipated as no resources were identified in the study area.

Resource Management Recommendations

Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities Development

The site proposed for the development of the Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities was located approximately 1km to the west of the Punda Maria Gate of the Kruger National Park. The site was just south of Ka-Joseph village and also south of the R525 tar road between Thohoyandou and the Punda Maria Gate and no sites or finds of any heritage potential were identified in the indicated study area. The following steps and measures are recommended:

- The area was predominantly flat and was covered with undisturbed natural occurring vegetation and no sites or finds of any heritage potential were identified
- No further site-specific actions or any further heritage mitigation measures are recommended as no heritage resource sites or finds of any value or significance were identified in the indicated study area.
- The proposed development of the Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities in this area can continue from a heritage point of view.

References Cited

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APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHS





Photo 1. Location of proposed development.

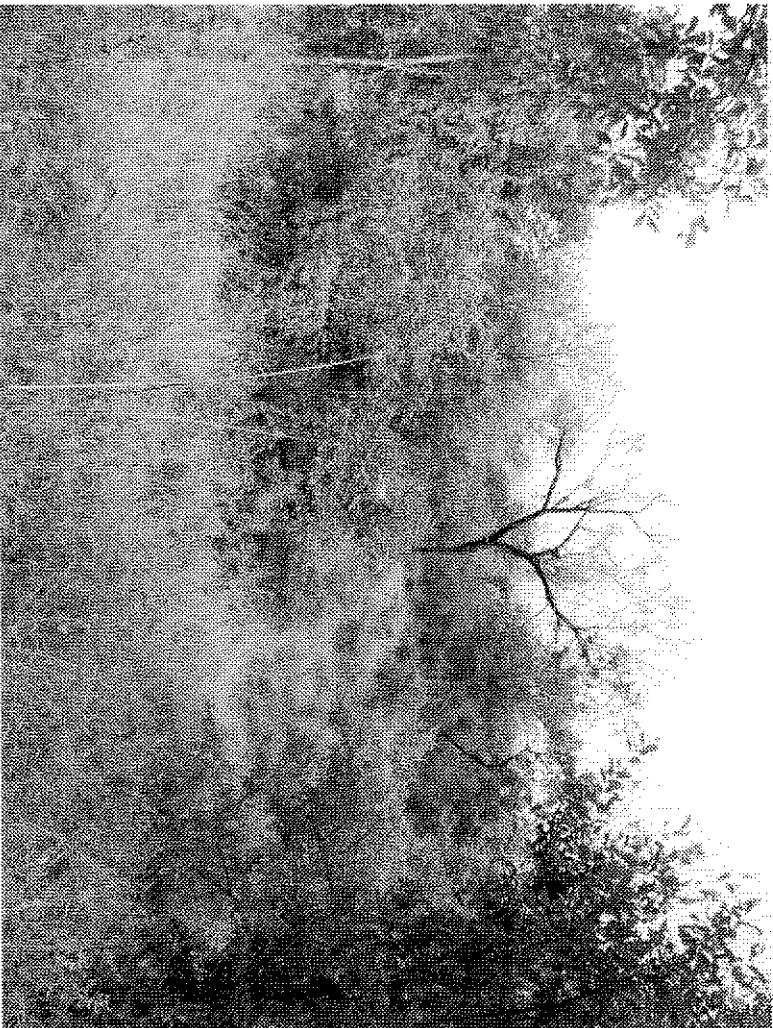


Photo 2. Natural occurring vegetation.

APPENDIX B

Location Map



Phaki Phakanani Environmental Consultants

9/2/269/0001

The Provincial Manager
South African Heritage Resources Agency
25 Jorrison Street
POLOKWANE
0700
31 July 2007

Attention: Mr. Donald Lithole

Sir,

RE: SUBMISSION OF THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED SAFARI LODGE AND TOURISM FACILITIES NEAR PUNDA MARIA GATE IN THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

We hereby submit and request for comment on the Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the proposed Safari Lodge and Tourism Facilities near Punda Maria Gate in Thulamela Local Municipality within Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

Hope you find everything in order, should there be any queries please contact the undersigned.

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