



the dme

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Attention: Mr. Donald Lithole/ Victor Netshiavha

CONSULTATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002, (ACT 28 OF 2002) FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BORROW PIT FOR UPGRADING (RAVEL TO BITUMINOUS SEAL) ROAD D3700 FROM SHAKADZA TO TSHIRUNZINI IN MUTALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON THE STATE LAND SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF VHEMBE, LIMPOPO REGION.

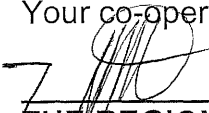
APPLICANT: ROAD AGENCY LIMPOPO

Attached herewith, please find a copy of an EMP received from the above-mentioned applicant, for your comments.

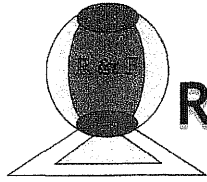
It would be appreciated if you could forward any comments or requirements your Department may have in the case in hand to this office and to the applicant within 60 days as from **16 August 2007 to 31 October 2007**, failure of which will lead to the assumption that your Department has no objection(s) or comments with regard to this application and this Department will in that instance proceed with the finalisation thereof.

Consultation in this regard has also been initiated with other relevant State Departments. In an attempt to expedite the consultation process please contact Martin Rambau of this office to make arrangements for a site inspection or for any other enquiries with regard to this application.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.



**THE REGIONAL MANAGER
LIMPOPO REGION – POLOKWANE
16 August 2007**



CONSTRUCTION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

R & F ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

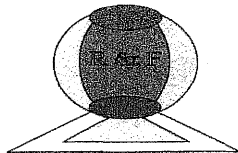
REG NO: 2002/045314/23

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BORROW PITS

UPGRADING (GRAVEL TO BITUMINOUS SEAL) OF ROAD D3700 FROM SHAKADZA TO IN MUTALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

MAY 2007

Prepared by:



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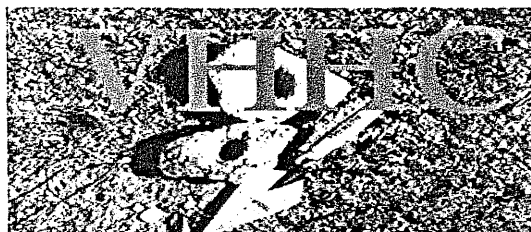
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION FOR
PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADE PROJECT AND
THREE BORROW PIT SITES FROM SHAKADZA
TO MAVHUVHUNI VILLAGE.**

Report prepared for:
Roads Agency Limpopo

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April 2007

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1 INTRODUCTION

R&F Environmental Consultants appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants to undertake a heritage impact assessment study for the proposed upgrading of the road and extracting of gravel material from three Borrow pit sites between Shakadza and Mavhuvhuni Village of 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 borrow pits excavation 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 Categories of significance

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

- ❖ 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 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.

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.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADE AND THE BORROW PITS SITES

The proposed upgrade of road D3700 from Shakadza would start at the junction of road D3689 from Matavhela at (GPS S22° 36'35.3"E30° 32'48.6") and end at Mavhuvhuni (GPS S22° 37'07.2"E30° 34'57.8"), as seen in figure 1&2.

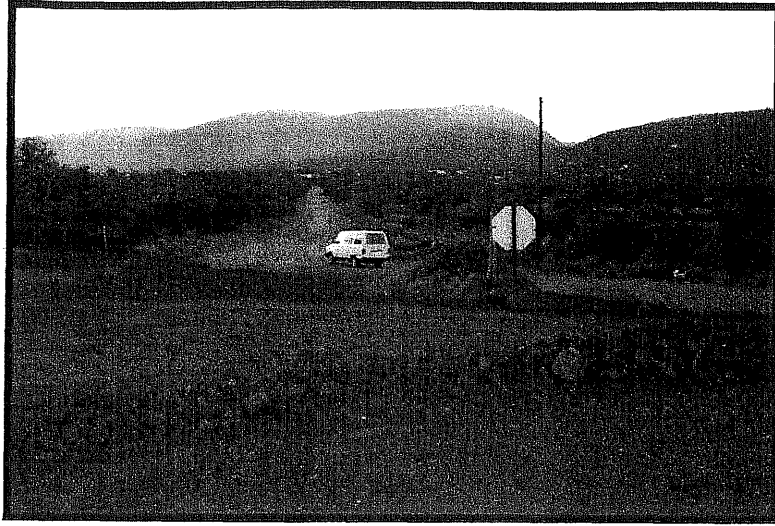


Figure 1: Road upgrade starting point.

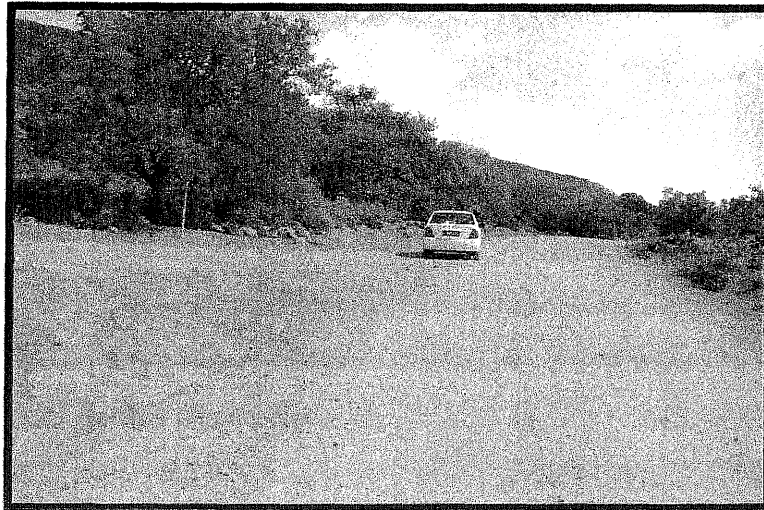


Figure 2: End of road upgrade.

The project involves upgrading of the existing gravel road from gravel to dust free surface. The upgrading project will cover a total length of 4.4km following the existing road. The project area is already disturbed by other infrastructures like Eskom power line and a bulk water pipe line along the project area.

Location of Borrow Pit site

The first borrow pit site is located along tarred road D3689 to the northern side, the second and the third borrow pits are situated along road D3700 earmarked for upgrade. **Borrow pit site No: 1** is situated at the road start to



Figure 5: Location of Borrow pit site 3.

5 CEMETERIES AND BURIAL SITES

At about 4km from the proposed road start to the south one grave was identified (GPS Readings S22° 37'04.5" E30° 34'43.4") at about 40 meters away from the road, engraved ***Nyatshikalanga Mugunameli***. The grave is well marked by a concrete blocks.

No signs of heritage resources such as archaeological sites and historical remains were found that would be significantly impacted on by the development. However, there is a probability of encountering chance finds during earth-moving and construction activities.

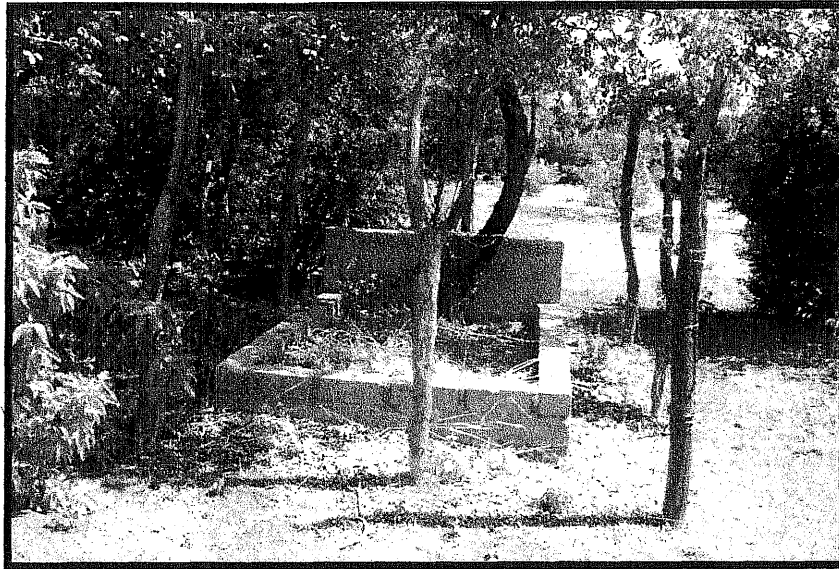


Figure: 6 Isolated grave along the proposed road.

However, the discovery of previously undetected subsurface heritage remains on the site during construction must be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

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.

7 CONCLUSION

No historically significant sites that are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 would be affected by the construction of road and the use of the borrow pits. In conclusion we recommend that if unmarked human burials are discovered during borrow pits excavations; 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.

8 REFERENCE

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

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



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