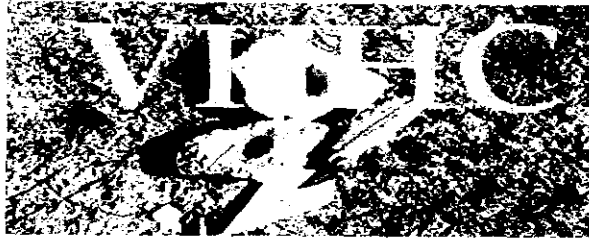


9/2/26910017

9-2-269-0017-20070816-VH#C

P O BOX 456  
POLOKWAHE  
LADANGA  
0704



Tel: 015 293 2049  
Fax: 015 293 2592  
Cell: 083 357 3669  
083 770 2131

**VHUFASHU HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC**

Registration No: 2006/119040/23

Tax Reference No. 9672996146

# PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

16. August 2007

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF PROPOSED IRRIGATION DAM AT FARM OVERVLAGTE 125 MS, MUSINA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT.

### Compiled for:

Maritza Uys  
Posbus/P O Box 234  
1340 Komatipoort  
Tel: 013 7938 147  
Fax: 013 7937 217

### Survey conducted and Report Prepared by:

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE	- 3 -
Historical remains	- 3 -
Archaeological remains	- 3 -
Burial grounds and graves	- 3 -
Culture resource management	- 4 -
2. METHOD	- 5 -
2.1 Sources of information	- 5 -
2.2 Limitations	- 5 -
2.3 Categories of significance	- 6 -
2.4 Glossary of Terms	- 6 -
3. STUDY AREA	- 8 -
4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION	- 9 -
5. Archaeological Remains	- 9 -
6. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	- 10 -
8. REFERENCES	- 10 -
9. STUDY TEAM	- 11 -

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under 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,”

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants was contracted to undertake a heritage assessment of the area demarcated for the proposed Irrigation Dam at Farm Overvlakte 125 Musina Municipal area Limpopo Province. 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 the heritage resources.

## **2. METHOD**

### **2.1 Sources of information**

The source of information was predominantly the field reconnaissance.

A site inspection of the demarcated area was undertaken. Literary sources were consulted especially from the Mapungubwe and the Goodwin series vol 8 2000. Archaeological research carried out over past years shed light on various aspects of the extensive past, from the Late Iron Age. The report has shed more light on the area, which has diversity in the traditional architecture and Early Iron Age settlement.

### **2.2 Limitations**

Site surface inspection for possible archaeological materials was clear enough.

### 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 Glossary of Terms

**Archaeological monitoring:** an on-site examination of non-archaeological activities to identify archaeological resources during the

disturbance of subsurface deposits, or the periodic revisiting of archaeological sites to determine condition.

**Archaeological reconnaissance:** an examination of a defined area to locate archaeological resources using methods that do not include disturbance of subsurface deposits, but may involve limited surface collection.

**Archaeological survey:** an examination of a defined area, including subsurface deposits, for the purpose of obtaining information on the archaeological resources located on, in or under the land.

**Archaeological resource impact assessment:** an inventory and evaluation of archaeological resources and the assessment of impacts in connection with development proposals which will potentially disturb or alter the landscape, thereby endangering sites.

**Archaeological resource:** means a work of past human activity, or zoological, botanical, geological or other natural materials found in association with such activity that:

- Is primarily of value for its prehistoric, historic, cultural or scientific significance, and
- Lay on, or was buried or partially buried in land in the province, including land covered by water.

**Artifact:** means an object, or any part of an object, that was made or used by human beings and that has been deposited, discarded, lost or abandoned in or on the land, including land covered with water.

**Burial:** means human remains and objects placed with human remains either at the time of burial or later.

**Early Iron Age:** Most of the first millennium AD

**Middle Iron Age:** 10th to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD

**Late Iron Age:** 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

**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

**Site:** means land, including land covered by water, that contains an artifact, a structure, a burial or a combination thereof associated with past cultural activities.

**Overview:** means an identification and assessment of archaeological resource potential or sensitivity within a specific area.

### 3. STUDY AREA

The proposed site situated at the western side of Musina town, 60km north of R572 to Pont Drift and to the south eastern side of the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe rivers on the border between South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana about 300m away south of Limpopo. (GPS S22° 10'05.9" E29° 37'07.03"). The vegetation characterised by Mopani Veld, a Savannah Bushveld dominated by the shrub *Colophospermum mopane*.



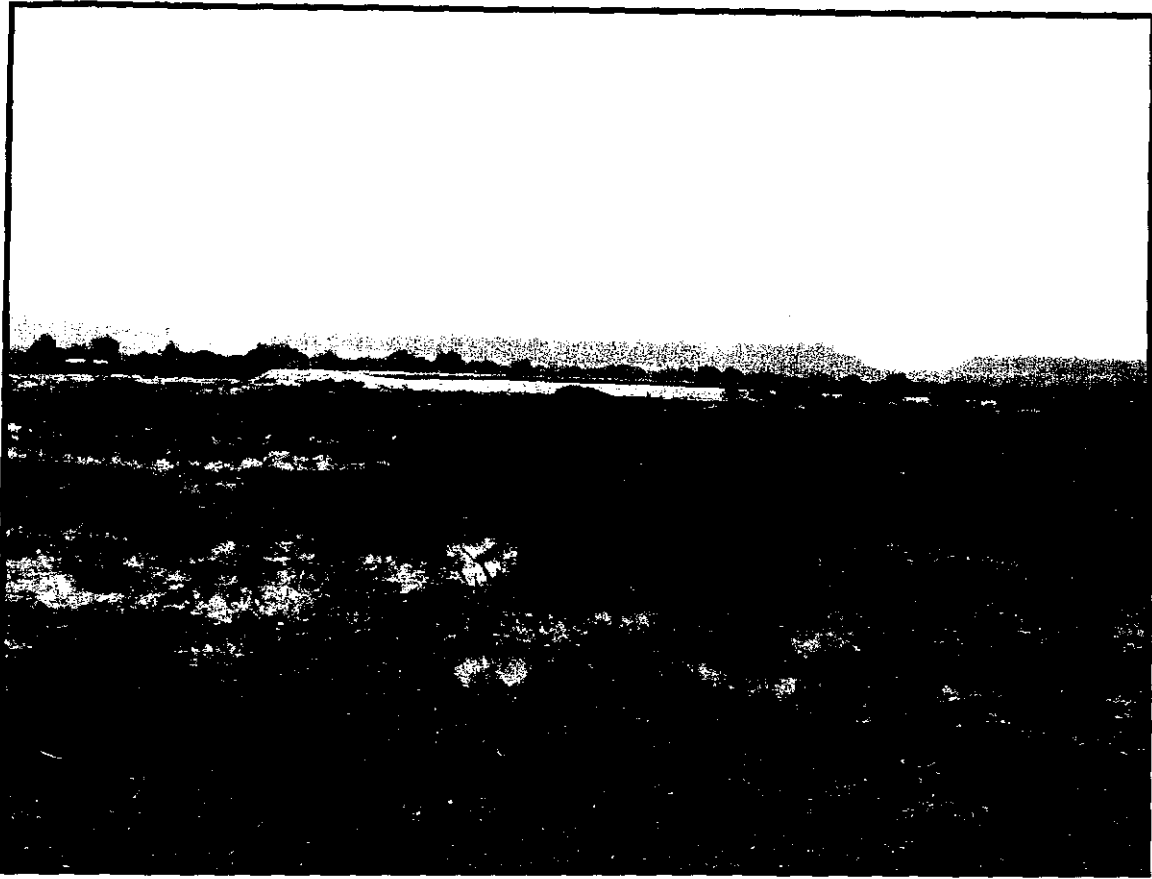


Fig 1. View of the proposed site.

#### **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

✓ The farm Overflagte 125 MS situated at the Limpopo Valley area eastern side of Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape that retains both tangible and intangible traces of the most powerful indigenous kingdom in South Africa that evolved and flourished between AD900 and 1300.

#### **5. Archaeological Remains**

✓ No archaeological materials were identified on site, but this does not rule out the possibility of identifying artefacts during vegetation clearing and earth moving activities.

## **6. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

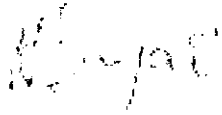
✓ No mitigation measures are recommended for this project. However, the miners should be aware about the possible presence of unmarked burials and archaeological materials that might be discovered during mining activities.

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

## **8. REFERENCES**

**Huffman, T.N.** 2000, Mapungubwe and the origins of the Zimbabwe culture. South African Archaeological Society Goodwin Series 8:14-29

## 9. STUDY TEAM



---

**Mr Richard Munyai** (BA. Archaeology, University of Venda)

Heritage Specialist

*I herewith confirm that this report was reviewed by me and I find the assessment to be a true reflection of the status of the heritage resources in the project area.*



---

**Mr Frans Roodt** (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad Dip. In Museology; UP)

Principal Investigator listed by SAHRA. Member of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA)

MAP 1: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE INVESTIGATED SITE

