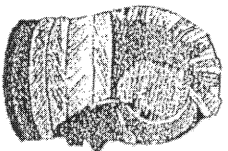


4-2-269-003 - 2000.0830 - NCHM

# PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For the Proposed Development of Vodacom Cellular Masts and  
Access Roads - Mckechnie, Makale & Hlaneke - Northern  
Province



Compiled by Archaeo-Info Northern Province (AINP)  
For GAIA Earth Science  
2000 - 08-30

**PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR THE PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENT OF VODACOM MASTS AND ACCESS ROADS -  
MCKECHNIE, MAKALE & HLANEKI -NORTHERN PROVINCE**

August 30, 2000

Compiled for;  
GALA Earth Science

Compiled by;  
Archaeo-Info Northern Province (AINP)

Consultburo Business Centre  
Thohoyandou  
0950

PO Box 7296  
Thohoyandou  
0950

Tel: (015) 962 2714  
Fax: (015) 962 3217  
Cell: 082 200 3201  
[ainp@mweb.co.za](mailto:ainp@mweb.co.za)

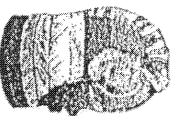


TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. INTRODUCTION .....   | 2 |
| 2. FIELDWORK.....       | 2 |
| 3. THE SITES .....      | 2 |
| 3.1. MAKALE.....        | 2 |
| 3.2. MCKECHNIE.....     | 3 |
| 3.3. HLANEKI.....       | 3 |
| 4. RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 3 |
| 4.1. MAKALE.....        | 3 |
| 4.2. MCKECHNIE.....     | 4 |
| 4.3. HLANEKI.....       | 4 |

PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR VODACOM  
MASTS AND ACCESS ROADS - MCKECHNIE, MAKALE & HLANEKI -  
NORTHERN PROVINCE

## 1. Introduction

Archaeo-Info Northern Province was requested by GAIA Earth Sciences to evaluate the archaeological sensitivity of three proposed areas for the placement of Vodacom cellular masts. These three areas are all located in the Northern Province and are McKechnie, Makale and Hlaneki.

The original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) did not include a Preliminary Archaeological Impact Assessment (PAIA) and the *South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)* requested that GAIA Earth Sciences obtain the services of a qualified archaeologist to determine the archaeological sensitivity of these sites. Due to the fact that the EIA report has already been finalised it was recommended by SAHRA, as an exception, to only include a statement from a professional archaeologist as to the sensitivity of the sites from an archaeological point of view.

## 2. Fieldwork

The three sites were investigated on August 23, 2000 by two qualified archaeologists from AINP. The following are their findings.

## 3. The sites

### 3.1. Makale

The site of Makale lies approximately 20 km due east of the Greater Thohoyandou area on a hill adjacent to the village of Makale. Preliminary archaeological investigations showed that the area surrounding the hill as well as the hill itself has been subject to continuous human activity for some time. The remains of hut foundations were found in line with the proposed access road up the hill and several agricultural, terrace walls were also evident on the southern side of the hill. An area has also recently been cleared half

way up the southern slope of the hill. This indicates that the local villagers are still using the hill for some purpose although the exact nature of this activity is unclear.

### **3.2. McKechnie**

The proposed site for the construction of the McKechnie cellular mast lies to the south of a the high voltage power line next to pylon no. 82 in the Giyani area. The site indicated to AINP showed no signs of previous habitation or prehistoric human activity. The area is also located in a marshy, turf soil environment that is not conducive to human habitation. No signs of archaeological features were found on the indicated route for the access road.

### **3.3. Hlaneki**

The proposed area for development is situated on a hill to the southeast of the village of Hlaneki approximately 45 km west of Giyani. The investigated area showed no signs of human activity or previous occupation.

## **4. Recommendations**

The following recommendations are given for the proposed sites for the construction of Vodacom cellular masts at Makale, McKechnie and Hlaneki.

### **4.1. Makale**

The human activity on the hill at Makale does not constitute an archaeological site and the structures most probably date from the early 1950's. It is however recommended that the social consultant on the project ensure that no graves are located on the proposed site or access road to the site. This information can be gathered from the local inhabitants. There are no further archaeological features that may inhibit construction of the mast or access road.

**4.2. McKechnie**

No signs of archaeological evidence were found. Construction may continue from an archaeological point of view.

**4.3. Hlaneki**

No signs of archaeological evidence were found. Construction may continue from an archaeological point of view.