

Archeo-Info Northern Province

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER  
PURIFICATION PLANT**

*Evaluation of the heritage component of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the development of A Water Purification Plant at the Nandoni dam site – Levhuwahu River Government Water Supply Scheme - Northern Province.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... 4

INTRODUCTION..... 4

LOCATION..... 5

METHODOLOGY..... 5

THE SITES..... 6

    NPP 001..... 6

    NPP 002..... 6

    NPP 003..... 7

    NPP 004..... 7

RECOMMENDATIONS..... 7

    NPP 001..... 7

    NPP 002..... 7

    NPP 003..... 7

    NPP 004..... 8

CONCLUSION..... 8

REFERENCES..... 8

    ADDENDUM A..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

    Photographs..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

**Water Purification Plant (Nandoni dam -  
Northern Province)**

*Evaluation of the Heritage Potential of the Project*

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## Executive Summary

**Site name and location:** Water purification plant for the Nandoni dam – Mutofi - Northern Province

**Magisterial district:** Thohoyandou

**Developer:** Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

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

**Date development was mooted:** July, 2001

**Date of Report:** 08 August 2001

**Proposed date of commencement of development:** Late 2001

**Findings:** Provided the recommendations concerning the relocation of the graves are followed the construction of the Purification Plant can continue form a Heritage Management Perspective.

## Introduction

Archaeo-Info Northern Province (AINP) was contracted by Mr. Chris Warner of *GFI Consulting Engineers* to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the development of a proposed water purification plant at the Nandoni dam site, Northern Province. This plant would form part of the *Levhuylu River Government Water Supply Scheme* (LRGWSS).

This HIA forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the Environmental Conservation Act (ECA) 73 of 1989, the Minerals Act, 50 of 1991 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).

## Location

The study focused on the surveying of an area demarcated for the development of a water purification plant near the village of Mutoti.

The following table gives the GPS - coordinates for the site:

Weir	Coordinates
G1	22° 58' 09.64" S 30° 35' 54.79" E
G7	22° 58' 28.44" S 30° 35' 56.94" E
G9	22° 58' 24.47" S 30° 35' 54.11" E
G14	22° 58' 12.09" S 30° 36' 02.76" E

## Methodology

The area was surveyed using standard archaeological surveying methods. The sites were surveyed on 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 *Magellan 2000 XL* GPS (*Cape 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 one to five based on their importance. These categories are as follows:

**Category 1.** Sites in this category are of such great international and/or national importance in terms of cultural heritage that they can not be disturbed or altered at any cost. No development will be allowed in such an area. It should be noted that sites in this category are very rare - e.g.. - *Great Zimbabwe, Swarthrans, Mapungubwe*

**Category 2.** Although these sites are not unique in terms of their culture they are of such archaeological value that any decision concerning their destruction can only be taken after full scale excavations have been undertaken - e.g. - *Thulamela*.

**Category 3.** These sites are of lesser importance than the first two categories, but should be fully documented before they are destroyed. This documentation would entail the excavation of certain parts of the site - e.g. - *Masorini*

**Category 4.** Sites in this category consist of scattered evidence of archaeological occupation. Sometimes dilapidated stone walling can occur. Surface scatters of cultural material are evident. A

limited number of test trenches should be excavated in order that the cultural affinity and importance of the site can be established.

**Category 5.** Areas that consist only of very loose scattering of cultural material on the surface. No structures are visible and little archaeological deposits are evident. The occurrence of cultural material could for example be due to erosion. Apart from the surface collection of cultural material, no further work needs be done on such sites.

**NB: It is important that any archaeological sites should be monitored during construction.**

#### Category 6: Graves

The only archaeological aspect that could still be encountered during construction is the exposure of unmarked graves. It should be noted that graves are subjects of great sensitivity and should be treated as such. Prompt and correct procedures will eliminate possible embarrassing situations for the developer.

### The Sites

All sites found in the study area will be described in this section. All sites will be attributed a reference code consisting of an abbreviation of the site name (*Nandoni Purification Plant* – NPP) and a numerical indicator. Any sites with historical, cultural or archaeological value will be listed.

#### NPP 001

GPS: 22° 58' 15" S

30° 35' 54" E

This site consists of three graves (photo 1, 2 & 3) in close proximity of each other. One of the graves is overgrown with a *Marrula* tree. The graves are all marked with loose irregular stone dressings. According to

a local informant the graves are part of a settlement further to the west which was moved during the middle 1960's.

#### NPP 002

GPS: 22° 58' 12" S

30° 35' 54" E

This is another grave indicated by a round stone dressing with a prickly pear growing in the middle (photo 4). Although local informants were convinced that this was indeed a grave they were unsure about the next of kin of the deceased. This site also lies on the edge of the demarcated area, proposed for development of the purification plant, and could possibly be just outside of the area.

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NPP 003

GPS: 22° 58' 17" S

30° 35' 59" E

A small scattering of potsherds (photo 5) were located in a ploughed field (photo 6) in the study area. These sherds seemed to be of recent origin (possibly Venda). No other indications of a site was identified.

NPP 002

GPS: 22° 58' 20" S

30° 35' 54" E

A single grave approximately 7m from the DWAF fence to the Nandoni construction site (photo 7). The grave is indicated by a few packed stones on the western side of an anthill.

### Recommendations

Recommendations will be given concerning the sites listed in the previous section. Sites will be classified according to the system put forward in the section on methodology.

NPP 001

Category 6

These graves will be in the affected area and it is recommended that they be relocated as part of the ongoing Nandoni dam relocation program. Even if the graves were not to be disturbed, any fencing of the area would still inhibit free access to the area by the family.

NPP 002

Category 6

Should this grave be found to be directly within the fenced area the same recommendation as outlined in NPP 001 should be followed. If, however, it is possible to leave the grave outside of the fence this would be the best option for all parties concerned.

NPP 003

Category 5 : : : : :

The few scattered potsherds does not constitute a site of historical, archaeological or cultural value. No other indications of a site was found and no further mitigation is necessary on this "site".

**NIP-007**

Category 6

This grave will be in the affected area and it is recommended that it be relocated as part of the ongoing Nandoni dam relocation program. Even if the grave were not to be disturbed, any fencing of the area would still inhibit free access to the area by the family.

**Conclusion**

Provided the recommendations outlined in this report is followed the development of this site does not constitute any major obstacles in term of Heritage Management.

AINP can advise and assist the client with the relocation of the graves, should this prove necessary.

**References**

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