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**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF A CELLULAR
BASE STATION AT THE VILLAGE
OF DZWERANI**



*Evaluation of the heritage component of the Environmental
Impact Assessment for the development of a Cellular Base
Station – Dzwerrani – Northern Province.*



Cellular Base Station – Dzwerani – Northern Province

Evaluation of the Heritage Potential of the Project

Executive Summary

Site name and location: Cellular base station - Dzwerani - Northern Province

Magisterial district: Thohoyandou

Developer: Vodacom SA Ltd

Consultant: M. Hutten, PO Box 522, Louis Trichardt, 0920, South Africa

Date development was mooted: September, 2001

Date of Report: October 22, 2001

Proposed date of commencement of development: Late 2001

Findings: From a heritage impact viewpoint, the construction of the mast can continue without causing any serious negative effects on the cultural heritage of the area.

Introduction

Marko Hutten was contracted by Mr. Theo Kotze of Tekplan Environmental Services to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the development of a proposed cellular base station at the village of Dzwerani, Northern Province.

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 cellular base station at Dzwerani – Northern Province.

The village of Dzwerani is located to the south of the larger hamlet of Lwamondo, south of the Louis Trichardt / Punda Maria road. The exact location of the proposed site for development is indicated on the accompanying location map.

The exact site itself is located on a undeveloped plot of land next to an existing, unfinished Telkom mast site (photo 1 & 2).

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, Swartkrans, 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.

Fieldwork

The fieldwork was performed during Thursday, 18 October 2001. An archaeologist and a fieldworker investigated the area. The site visit was commenced with a meeting with the local headman Mr. Madala Mulaudzi. This was done in an effort to operate within the local authority of the area.

The headman was located at the musanda of the village of Dzwzerani and the proposed project was outlined to Mr. Mulaudzi. After the meeting the uncle of Mr. Mulaudzi (the second senior elder of the village) was met at his house and they both accompanied the investigators to the site (photo 3).

The site was investigated for indicators of any cultural, historical or archaeological remains. The location of the site was also compared to its orientation regarding any cultural sites in the surrounding area, such as initiation schools and graveyards.

The Sites

No sites of any archaeological, cultural or historical value was identified in the study area. A local graveyard is located to the north of the site, approximately 30 metres from the edge of the proposed area

Dzwzerani HIA

earmarked for development (photo 4 & 5). According to the village elders the graveyard is relatively old, with many of the graves still only consisting of stone cairns.

Recommendations

No sites of heritage potential were identified on the proposed development site. The graveyard will not be affected by the construction of the mast in this area. The development of an unfinished Telkom mast next to the proposed Vodacom mast has already detracted from the visual quality of the graveyard and no further effects are foreseen with the construction of the mast.

Conclusion

It is the conclusion of AINP that the construction of the mast can continue.

References

1. Goodwin, A.J.H. 1946. "Earlier, middle, and Later". *S.A. Arch. Bull.* **1** (3). 74 - 6.
2. Clark, J.D., Cole, G.H., Isaac, G.L., Kleindienst, M.R. 1966. "Precision and definition in African Archaeology". *S.A. Arch. Bull.* **XXI**, (83, III)
3. Mason, R. 1962. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Wits Univ. Press.
4. Mason, R. 1967. "Analytical Procedures in the Earlier and Middle Stone Age Cultures in Southern Africa". *In* W.W. Bishop and J.D. Clark, ed. *Background to Human Evolution*. Chicago. 737 - 764.
5. Sampson, C.G. 1968. "The Middle Stone Age Industries of the Orange River Scheme Area". National Museum, Bloemfontein. Memoir no. 4.

APPENDUM A

PHOTOGRAPHS

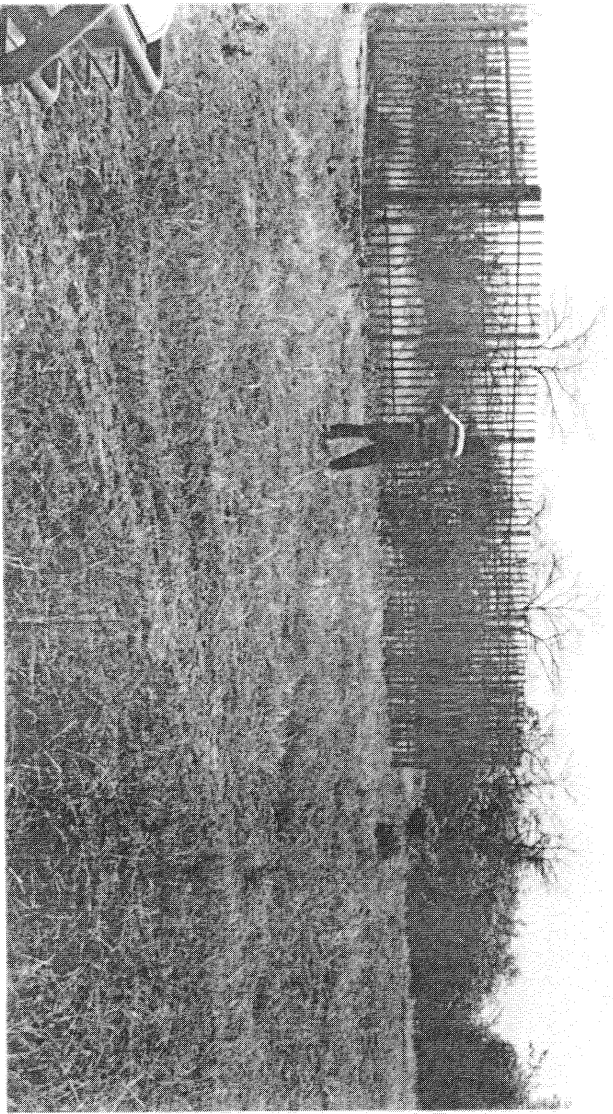


Photo 1. Finished Tukom Alsi

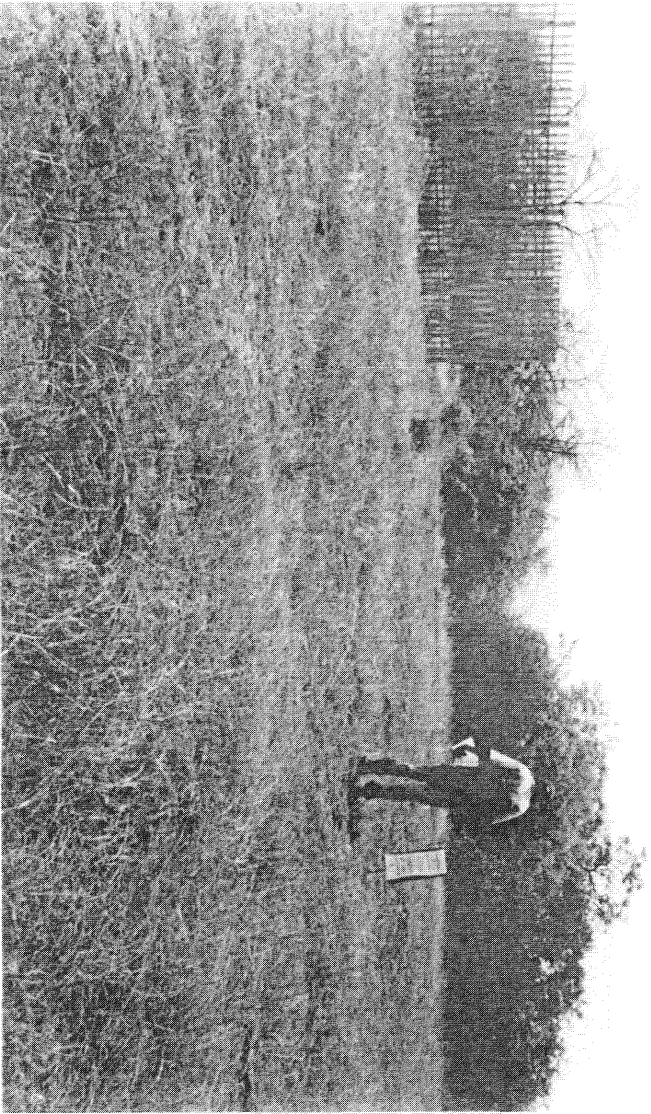


Photo 2. Undeveloped plot

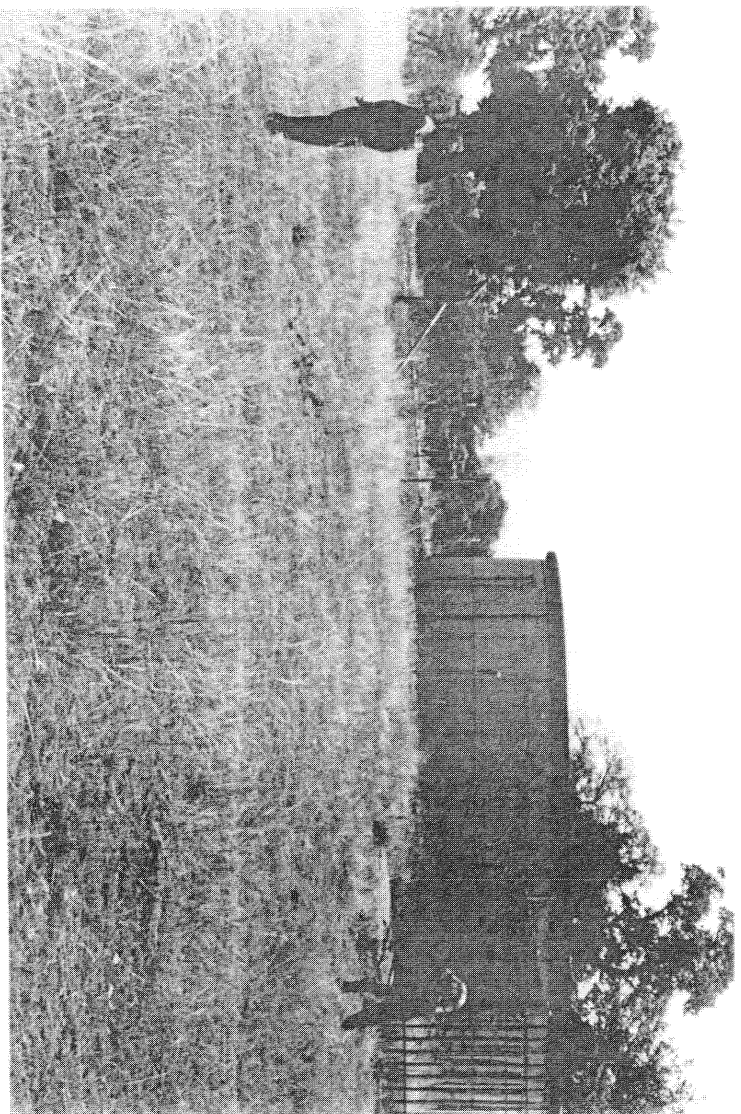


Photo 3. Local informants

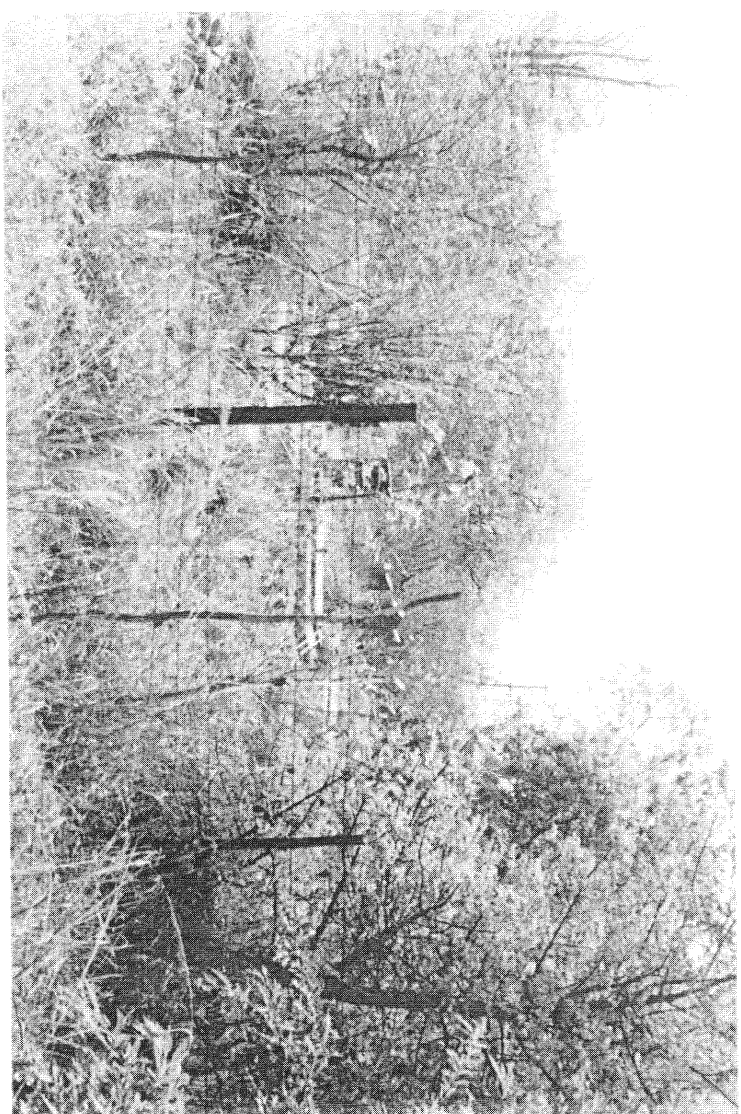


Photo 4. Local graveyard

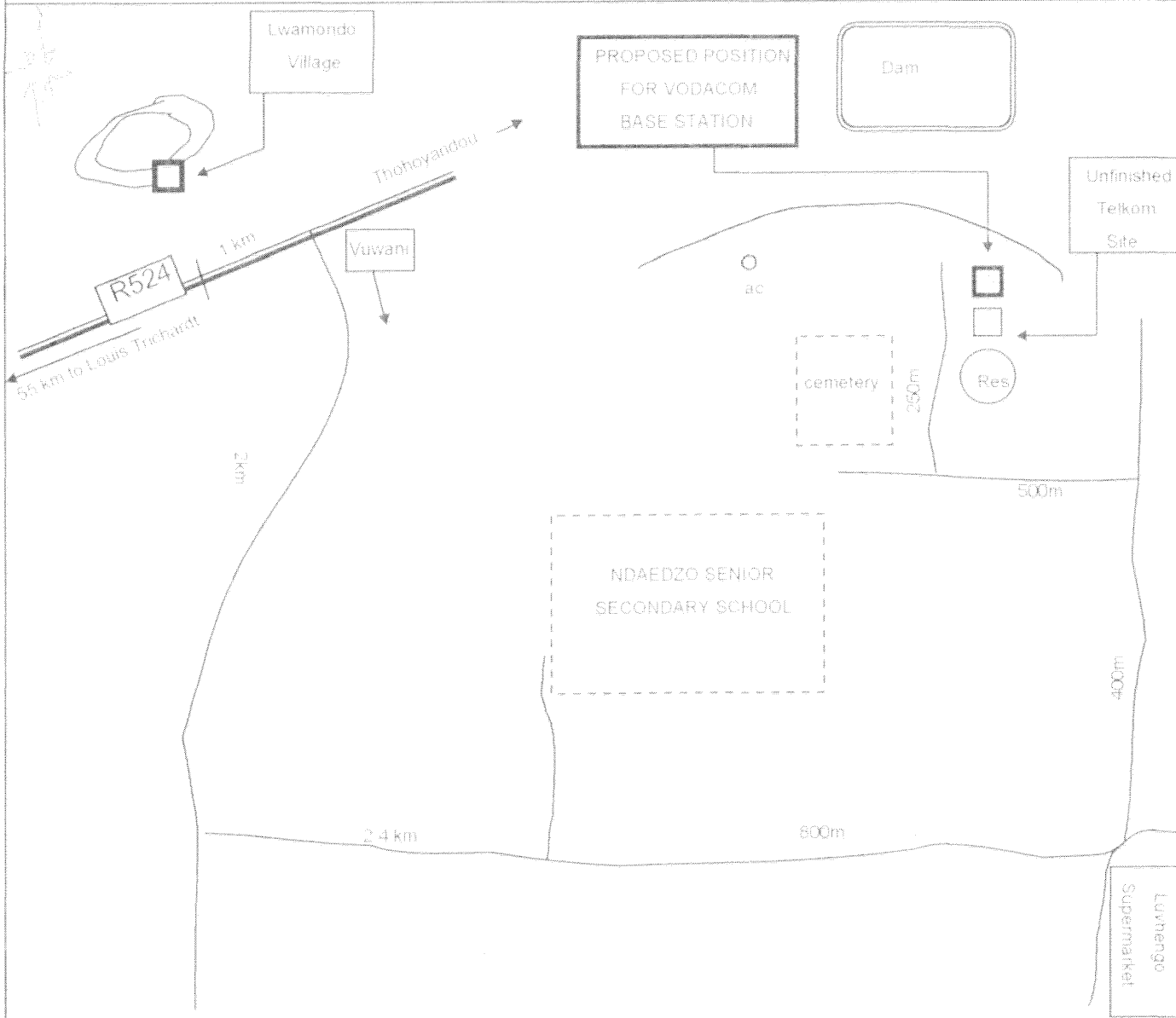


Photo 5 Local graveyard

APPENDUM B

LOCATION MAP

BASE STATION: DZWERANI



SITE SPECIFICATIONS

CIVIL INFO

MAST HEIGHT / TYPE: 55m S/P

CONTAINER TYPE: s 2.4 x 3.0 x 2.4 (gr)

FENCE TYPE: Green steel palisade

SITE TYPE & SIZE: 8 x 10 m

ESCOM POLE NO: MSS 25 / 176

COORDS : 23 03 44 (s) 30 25 48 (e)

HASL: 622 m

PROPERTY OWNER: Lwamondo Tribal Authority

ADDRESS:

REMARKS: From Louis Trichardt take the R524 for 55 km. See Lwamondo Village (MTN) on the left, after 1km turn right at Vuwani and follow map.

Vodacom base station to be next to existing Telkom (no mast) unfinished site

SCALE: Not to scale

