

A. TITLE PAGE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) FOR PORTION 81 OF THE FARM DOORNHOEK 318-KQ, THABAZIMBI, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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31 March 2009

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study, as required in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act no. 25 of 1999, was done for Mr. Cappie Linde, Envirovision cc, 545 Reitz Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria, 0002, and for Mr. Piet du Toit, Blue Pointer.

A request was made by Mr. Linde to assess the possible effect of development of 106 erven for residential purposes on Portion 81 of the farm Doornhoek 318-KQ on any possible cultural features.

Visibility is fair due to rampant growth of old lawn and garden plants over a large part of the proposed development, and to poorly grazed bushveld thorn trees with tall grasses, but good in the vicinity of present buildings and business infrastructure, and on the tracks and borrow pit/dump, as well as on the neighbouring properties. No cultural features were found, and no objection to the development can therefore be made.

This is an independent development by Mr. Piet du Toit.

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D. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This report forms part of an Environmental Assessment during which nothing to prevent or delay the proposed development was found. The proposed development is for 106 residential erven. Rezoning and subdivision of the land is not involved. The details of the environmental assessor and developer/owner appear on the title page, all legislative requirements have been met. This development project is one of many similar ones in the Thabazimbi area due to increased housing needs brought about by mining expansion in a mineral rich area.

E. BACKGROUND TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY

The area surveyed lies approximately 40 kilometres west of the Rooiberg Iron Age smelting sites, 10 kilometres north of the smelting sites at Ben Alberts Nature Reserve near Thabazimbi, and 30 kilometres north of the Iron Age mine at Rhino Andalusite mine on Wild Springs Farm. Dr. Udo Kusel and Mr. Sidney Miller, who are and have been involved with archaeological assessments in this area, were consulted with regards to possible cultural remains. Portion 81 lies on a flat plain, with no surface water or surface mineral deposits, differing in topographical context to the above mentioned sites.

F. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The property on which the proposed development is to occur is portion 81 of the farm Doornhoek 318-KQ, in extent 9.059 hectares, magisterial district Thabazimbi, Limpopo Province. It lies approximately 3 kilometres from the center of Thabazimbi; the relevant section of topocadastral map 24 27 CB is attached in appendix K.2.

The property is clearly demarcated on three sides by stock fences, being roughly rectangular, and on the north east boundary by a game fence. A road runs along the south west boundary.

The southern half of the property is heavily degraded with good to fair visibility, and is occupied by a large gutted house of recent construction, surrounded by orchards, the remains of an extensive garden with pool/pond, and animal cages (Photo 1, view from house, showing large dam and neighbouring property behind it.). The house is on a small koppie, the associated structures on the plain to the north. A large shed with workshops, 60 metres by 20 metres, which was used to house the infrastructure of a defunct heavy transport company lies just west of the house (Photo 2, view from driveway towards workshops, remains of orchard on right). A very large sunken concrete irrigation dam, 40 metres by 20 metres, with ditches leading from it, lies beyond the garden. A small compound of recent construction lies north of the dam (Photo 3, compound in background and perimeter of dumps in foreground). The north eastern quarter of the property is covered in thornveld and long grass, the grass, although long, is rank and sparse, rendering visibility fair when viewed from a walking stance. The north western quarter consists of several extensive, deep borrow pits for road construction, which are now used for what appears to be commercial dumping, with associated tracks for access.

The co-ordinates of the four corners of the property are:

S 24 34 07.2
E 027 24 21.1

S 24 34 05.7
E 027 24 35.4

S 24 34 09.1
E 027 24 31.0

S 24 34 10.9
E 027 24 28.6

G.ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Archaeological Impact Assessment was done on foot on 23 February 2009 by Ruth Maguire, accompanied by the environmental assessor, Mr. Cappie Linde. The initial survey was superficial in an attempt to assess access to areas with fair visibility, boundaries, structures, roads and tracks, as well as random areas beyond the boundary, where good visibility exists, were scrutinized. A further visit was made on March 2009, accompanied by the herpetologist and vegetation specialist Dr. Harold Braack, during which the entire property was transected at roughly 20 metre intervals, on both axes, and the existing structures, roads, tracks,

and borrow pits were investigated, as well as sections of the immediately neighbouring properties where visibility was excellent. Nothing of a cultural nature was revealed.

H. CONCLUSION

The fieldwork revealed no cultural features, most of the land surface has been heavily altered and degraded by residential, commercial, road building and landfill activities.

Despite sections of fair visibility due to ungrazed, but rank and sparse grass, taking into account the lack of features on the immediately abutting neighbouring land and bare areas of land on 318-KQ, as well as the degraded nature of the surface of the property, it is unlikely that any cultural features have been overlooked.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the absence of any cultural material, no objection can be made to the development of this site.

J. REFERENCES

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K. APPENDIX

- K.1. Heritage Resources Act**
- K.2. Proposed Township map**
- K.3. Locality map (topocadastral map 24 27 CB)**
- K.4. Photographs Figs. 1- 3**

APPENDIX K.1. HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT

Box 1: Types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999, Section 3) outlines the following types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate:

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscape;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and paleontological sites; (g) graves and burial grounds including-(i) ancestral graves
 - (i) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders (Hi) graves of victims of conflict
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and (vi) other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissues Act of 1983 (Act 65 of 1983)
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa; (i) moveable objects, including
 - (j) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects, material, meteorites and rare geological specimens; (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (Hi) ethnographic art and objects; (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art; (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (v) books, records, documents, photographs, positives and negatives, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xrv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, (Act 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resources Act, (Act 25 of 1999 Sec 3) also distinguishes nine criteria for objects and places to qualify as "part of the national estate if they have if they have cultural significance or other special value....." These criteria are the following:

- (a) Its importance in the community or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- (e) Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period;
- (g) Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons; (h) Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa; (i) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

APPENDIX K.3. LOCALITY MAP (Topocadastral Map 2427 CB)



APPENDIX K.4. PHOTOGRAPHS OF TERRAIN

Figure K.4.1.



Figure K.4.2.



Figure K.4.3.

