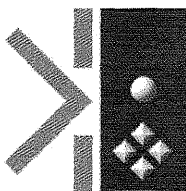


**PHASE 1 CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SPECIALIST STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT AT
MALAMULELE IN THE THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF VHEMBE DISTRICT,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

September 2008

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REPORT DETAILS

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REPORT TITLE: PHASE 1 CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT AT MALAMULELE IN THE THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (South Africa) (HeSSA) has been appointed to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed establishment of a township at Malamulele area of Thulamela Local Municipality of the Vhembe District in the Limpopo Province. Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions commissioned an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment study for the proposed development. This Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study focus on potential impacts on archaeological, cultural, and historical heritage resources associated with the proposed Township Establishment.

SUMMARY RESULTS

The field survey was conducted on the 31st of August 2008. The survey covered the area earmarked for the proposed development and its buffer zone. The proposed site is situated on land currently being used as grazing land and the other portion was used as illegal dumping site. No archaeological sites or physical cultural material remains were identified on the direct path of the development. There are no archaeological or cultural heritage resources barriers to the proposed development on the earmarked site. We recommend that a heritage-monitoring program be designed to deal with potential chance finds should archaeological or historical finds be found accidentally during the construction work. We concluded that the proposed development may proceed subject to the following recommendations:

- There being no significant archaeological material of significance on proposed township establishment, the development may proceed as planned.
- A monitoring programme is essential during earth works associated with the proposed development's construction work as we can not rule out the possibilities of encountering subsurface chance archaeological remains. Should archaeological materials be identified during construction development, we recommend that development should cease on the affected area and heritage authorities must be informed.

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------------|--|
| CHA | Cultural Heritage Assessment |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| HeSSA | Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (South Africa) |
| SAHRA | South African Heritage Resources Agency |

DEFINITIONS

Archaeological material remains resulting from human activities, which are in a state of disuse and are in, or on, land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures.

Chance Finds archaeological artefacts, features, structures or historical cultural remains such as human burials that are found accidentally in context previously not identified during cultural heritage scoping, screening and assessment studies. Such finds are usually found during earth moving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

Cultural Heritage Resources same as Heritage Resources as defined and used in the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Refer to physical cultural properties such as archaeological and palaeontological sites; historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and material remains; cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or *graves* and their associated materials; geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge.

Cultural Significance the complexities of what makes a place, materials or intangible resources of value to society or part of, customarily assessed in terms of aesthetic, historical, scientific/research and social values.

Excavation principal method of extracting data in archaeology, involving systematic recovery of archaeological remains and their context by removing soil and any other material covering them.

Grave a place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as being situated in a cemetery.

Historic material remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artefacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

In Situ material, material culture and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

Material culture buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

Site a distinct spatial cluster of artefacts, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT AT MALAMULELE AREA OF THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT

1 INTRODUCTION

Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions was appointed by Hannes and Lerm Associates to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed township establishment project at Malamulele area of Thulamela Local Municipality in the Vhembe district. In turn Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions commissioned the Cultural Heritage Assessment specialist study for the proposed development. This Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study was conducted to fulfil the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 Section 36 and 38. The HIA study focus on identifying and assessing archaeological, cultural, and historical heritage resources associated with the proposed development project’s receiving environment. Aims and terms of reference of the HIA study are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Terms of Reference for the HIA Study associated with the Malamulele township establishment in Thulamela Local Municipality, Limpopo Province.

| PURPOSE | ACTIVITIES |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fulfil the statutory requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, Section 38. <input type="checkbox"/> To identify and describe (in terms of their conservation and / or preservation importance) sites of cultural and archaeological importance that may be affected by the proposed township establishment. This study should include the identification of gravesites. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and describe impacts to archaeological and cultural resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Make recommendations on mitigation measures. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and describe management measures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify, describe and map sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest affected by the proposed development. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify, where possible, the gravesites affected by the development. <input type="checkbox"/> Liaise with the local communities (if applicable) with regards to the impact of the development on the heritage resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Describe the importance or significance of these sites and whether these sites need to be conserved, protected or relocated. <input type="checkbox"/> Describe the procedures for mitigation or relocation of sites and provide an indication of time required for these management measures to be implemented. <input type="checkbox"/> Document findings and recommendations. |

This HIA study primarily seeks to:

- Identifying heritage resources affected by the proposed township establishment, and the associated infrastructural development.
- Assess the significance of the resources.
- Evaluate the impact thereon with respect to the socio-economic opportunities and benefits that would be derived from the proposed township establishment.

- Consult with the affected and other interested parties in regard to the impact on the heritage resources in the project's receiving environment.
- Make recommendations on mitigation measures with the view to reduce specific adverse impacts and enhance specific positive impacts on the heritage resources.
- Identify and discuss with local communities (where applicable) on potential impacts of the proposed township establishment on graves and burials sites within the affected area and make the necessary recommendations on how to handle the matter.
- Take responsibility for communicating with the Limpopo Heritage, SAHRA and other related authorities in order to obtain the heritage relevant permits and authorization.

1.1 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

In terms of Section 35 (4) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)

...no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority, destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or material or any meteorite; or bring onto, or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Archaeological and palaeontological sites, materials, and meteorites are seen in the NHRA as "the source of our understanding of the evolution of the earth, life on earth and the history of people." In this context, the law emphasize that the management of heritage resources is integrated with environmental resources and this means that heritage resources should be assessed and, if necessary, rescued before development is allowed to take place.

In areas where there has not yet been systematic survey to identify conservation-worthy places, a permit is required to alter or demolish any historic structure older than 60 years or military installation of over 75 years old. This will apply until a survey is done and identified heritage resources are formally protected.

2 BRIEF BACKGROUND

The proposed township establishment will be developed in the Malamulele area in the Thulamela Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The project area is situated at the northern side of the Malamulele shopping Complex east of the R81 Road off the R524 main road to Giyani town.

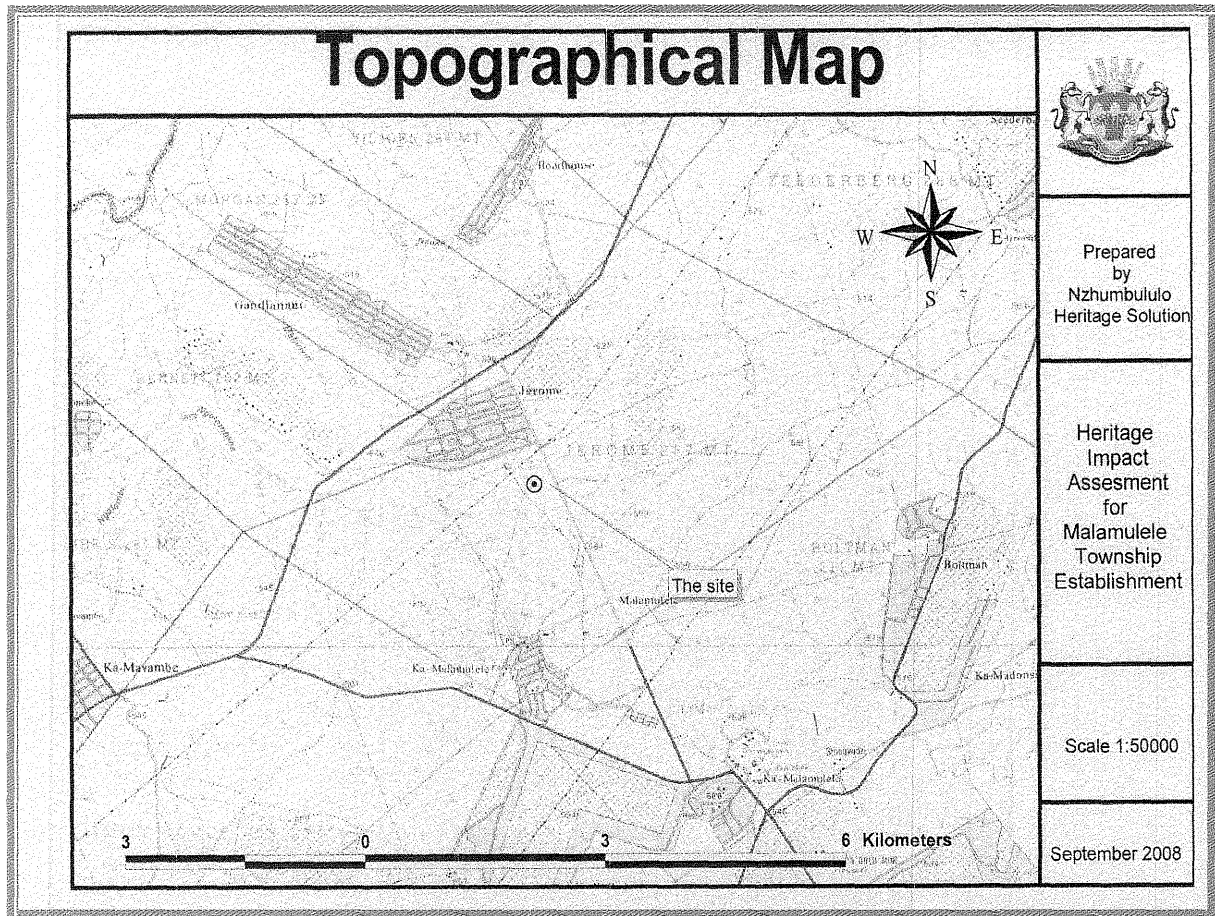


Fig. 1: Proposed Malamulele Township Establishment site Map.

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

Figure 1 shows the location proposed site earmarked for the township establishment. The site is bound by an existing shopping complex to the south, the road R81 to the east. The site to the north and west, the site is bound by open land currently used as open grazing land with sections marked with heaps of rubbish dumps. The nearby Malamulele township residents have used the site for illegal dumping over a considerable period as evidenced by the amount of the rubbish in the vicinity.

3 METHODS

The study consisted of standard systematic field survey of the target landscape covering the proposed site. The survey sought to identify archaeological and historical and any other cultural heritage sites including graves, burial grounds and contemporary religious or sacred ceremonial sites that may be associated with the proposed development site.

On the 31st of August, HeSSA heritage specialists conducted the reconnaissance survey and an impact assessment by transecting the affected landscape on foot looking for indicators of

archaeological and any other cultural materials in the affected areas. In part the field officer also inspected soil profiles for potential archaeological materials that may still be trapped *in situ* in an area already disturbed by previous earthmoving activities such as agricultural practices. In general, the project area is heavily degraded (Plate 1). The surrounding areas of the proposed township establishment are accessible.



Plate 1: View of the proposed site for township establishment. Note the rubbish dumps on site.

Based on the level of ground surface disturbance and extensive rubbish dumps on site, it was anticipated that the chances of identifying archaeological or historical resources *in situ* that can be classified as of high or medium in terms of significance were limited.

4. RESULTS

LOCATION DETAILS


Province: Limpopo

Magisterial District: Vhembe

Name of Properties affected: Malamulele Township

Proposed development: Construction work associated with the establishment of a Township and associated infrastructure.

The location details and the field survey findings are presented in Table 2 below.

| Location and Description | Cultural Heritage Site Type Found | Cultural Heritage Significance | Recommendations |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| <p>The area earmarked for township establishment is marked by the following co-ordinates.</p> <p>S22.98401° E30.69133°</p> | <p>No Cultural Heritage sites were identified in the affected area</p>  <p>Plate 2: The view proposed township establishment site next to R81 Road.</p> | <p>None</p> | <p>Place site under heritage monitoring program covering the period of Construction</p> |

Archaeological and Cultural Sites

No archaeological sites or materials were identified in association with the proposed site for the township establishment. There is an already disturbed area (Plates 1 and 2) with a long history of ploughing and is currently used as an illegal dumping site. The nature and extent of the ground surface disturbance in some sections made it unlikely for archaeological materials to have survived *in situ*.

Historic Monuments

Historical and Recent sites - these sites are associated with white settlers, colonial wars, industrialization, African population settlements, contemporary ritual sites and settler farming communities are the most common and visible. The more common functions of places of cultural historical significance include:

- Domestic
- Recreation & culture
- Commerce & trade
- Agriculture & subsistence
- Social
- Health care
- Religion
- Designed landscape
- Funeral (cemeteries, graves and burial grounds)
- Civil and Structural Engineering
- Education
- Defence /Military

There is no listed monument in the area affected by the proposed township establishment developmental project. No historical sites of significance were identified on the proposed site for township establishment. However, it should be noted that the general area has a long history of human occupation, making the entire landscape a cultural landscape.

Burial grounds and graves

No burial site was identified on the proposed development site. However, in terms of the Section 36 (3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

(a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;

(b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or 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

(c) 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 the detection or recovery of metals.

Therefore, in addition to the formal protection of culturally significance graves, all graves which are older than 60 years and which are not already located in a cemetery (such as ancestral graves in rural areas), are protected. Communities, which have an interest in the graves, must be consulted before any disturbance can take place. The graves of victims of conflict and those associated with the liberation struggle will have to be included, cared for, protected and memorials erected in their honour where practical. Regarding graves and burial grounds, the NHRA distinguishes between the following:

- Ancestral graves
- Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- Graves of victims of conflict
- Graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
- Historical graves and cemeteries
- Other human remains, which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No.65 of 1983).

Significance valuation Burial Ground, Historic Cemeteries and Graves

The significance of burial grounds and gravesites is closely tied to their age and historical, cultural and social context. Nonetheless, every burial should be considered as of high significance. Should any grave previously unknown be identified during construction, every effort should be made not to disturb them.

Grave yards

No isolated grave nor grave yard was identified at the vicinity of the proposed site.

Previously unidentified burial sites/graves –

Although the possibilities of this occurring are very limited at the proposed development, should burial sites outside the NHRA be accidentally found, they must be reported to the nearest police station to ascertain whether or not a crime has been committed. If there is no evidence for a crime having been committed, and if the person cannot be identified so that their relatives can be contacted, the remains may be kept in an institution where certain conditions are fulfilled. These conditions are laid down in the Human Tissue Act (Act No. 65 of 1983). In contexts where the local traditional authorities give their consent to the unknown remains to be re-buried in their area, such re-interment may be conducted under the same regulations as would apply for known human remains.

5. STATEMENT OF OVERALL IMPACTS

There are no impacts on any heritage resources are associated with the proposed development. However, from a cultural heritage point of view, any development that alters the ground surface status quo will potentially destroy any archaeological resources in its direct path, and the impact will be permanent in nature, extent and duration. Archaeological resources are fixed in space. Any activities that threatens to alter the status quo is, therefore an immediate and direct threat to the heritage resources (Bickford and Sullivan, 1977) However, since there were no archaeological or cultural heritage sites that was identified on the direct path of the proposed site, generally speaking, the proposed development will have minimal or no impact upon any cultural heritage resources given the fact that the survey did not encounter any such sites with any significance threshold.

6. OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Given the fact that no archaeological or any physical cultural properties or intangible values associated with the proposed development site, we recommend that the heritage authorities approve the development subject to a heritage monitoring program during construction phase.
- No further predevelopment study or mitigation is necessary for the archaeological and cultural heritage resources with regards to the proposed developmental project. However, there is always a probability of discovering archaeological sites during sub-surface earth moving construction activities such as excavation for bulk water supply, construction of access roads and building foundation excavations.

- This study recommends that a heritage monitoring plan (as part of the EMP) be put in place during construction period to ensure that no chance finds are encountered.
- Furthermore, the construction team should be informed about the value of the cultural heritage resources in general so as to ensure that they do not destroy the chance archaeological sites they may encounter during working especially during sub-surface earth works.
-

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS

From a heritage perspective, in the absence of any known heritage resources and taking into consideration the socio-economic and other values of the proposed development, there are no heritage barriers to the proposed development. The cultural landscape affected by the township establishment does not have significance threshold to call for total protection of the area. Nonetheless, detailed monitoring procedures should be scheduled into the project EMP in order to adequately respond to chance finds that may be found accidentally during the construction development. The proposed project may proceed as planned subject to a heritage monitoring programme. With the constraints herein discussed and appropriate monitoring measures adopted, there are no objections to the proposed development project and we recommend to the heritage authorities to approve the project accordingly.

8. REFERENCES

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