

**HISTORIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE NOODHULP  
CARAVAN PARK, BELA BELA, LIMPOPO**

A Phase I report prepared for Seaton Thompson & Associates

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# **HISTORIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE NOODHULP CARAVAN PARK, BELABELA, LIMPOPO**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

No archaeological or heritage sites exist in the project area.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Central Bridge Trading (213 CC) intends to establish a resort on Portion 10 of the farm Noodhulp 492 KR near Warmbad (now Bela Bela), Limpopo Province. The development will cover about 9 hectares and include roads and pipelines as well as a caravan park, swimming pools and chalets. For its target market, the resort will provide extra accommodation for visitors to the famous mineral springs nearby.

The environmental coordinators of the project, Seaton Thompson and Associates, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the project area for sites of archaeological and historical interest. It was ARM's task to assess the significance of any sites in terms of Sections 35 and 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

## **METHOD**

One ARM staff examined the project area on Monday, 11 February 2008. The area was traversed on foot, with special attention paid to pipe trenches, rubbish pits, rock piles and roads. The entire area occurs on the 1: 50 000 map 2428CD Warmbad (Figure 1).

Site significance is based on five main criteria: site integrity (i.e. primary vs. secondary context), amount of deposit, range of features (e.g., middens, houses and stonewalls), uniqueness (rare vs. common) and potential to answer present research questions. With these criteria, sites with no significance do not require mitigation, low to medium may require further work before development, sites with high significance must be mitigated, while sites with maximum significance should not be disturbed at all. Graveyards automatically have high social significance regardless of historic value.

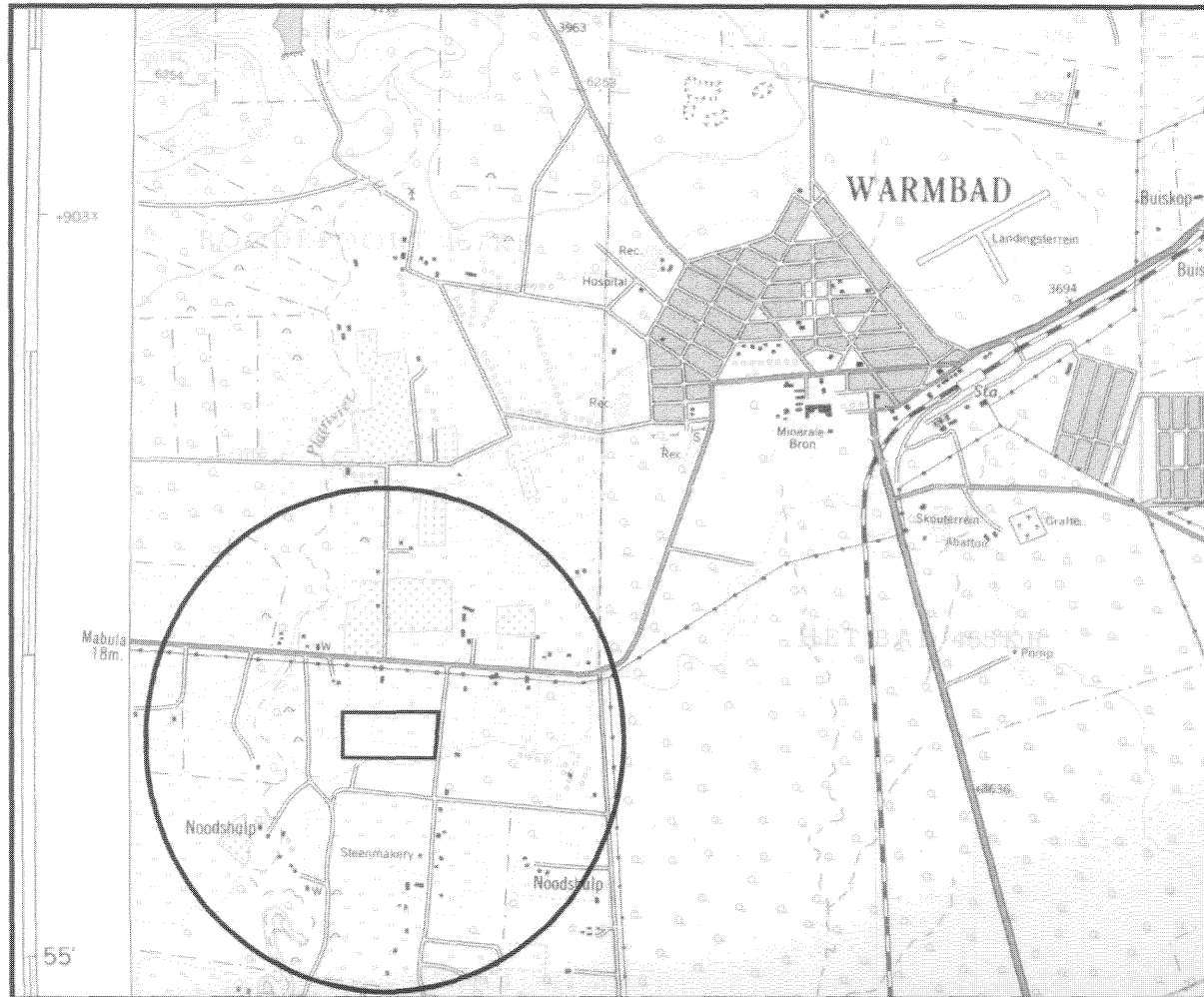


Figure 1. Project area southwest of Warmbad.

## RESULTS

According to the 1960 edition of the Warmbad map, most of the area has been previously cultivated. A few exotic cacti on the south edge of the old field suggests that African labours once lived somewhere in this area. Other than the plants, however, physical remains of such occupancy are not apparent. According to African staff, there are no known graves on the property.

A few Middle Stone Age artefacts lay on the surface among some road ballast near the swimming pools. At least a metre of soil lay underneath this thin veneer. These artefacts were therefore brought with the ballast from somewhere else and have no significance in terms of the project area.

## **RECCOMENDATION**

There are no heritage or archaeological reasons why the Noodhulp project should not continue.