

*Urgent
attention*

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

17A LANDROS MARE STREET POLOKWANE, 0700

P. O. BOX 1371, POLOKWANE, 0700

TEL: 015 291 1804. FAX: 015 291 1819

DATE: 22 January 2009
ENQUIRIES: Mrs Vhonani Ramalamula
E-mail: pramalamula@lp.sahra.org.za
Web site: www.sahra.org.za

YOUR REF: 9/2/269/0014

OUR REF: xxxxx

Attention: Mr Victor Mathake
P.O. Box 4879
Polokwane
0700

By Fax: 015 295 6908

Dear Sir

RE: PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT NWANEDI NATURE RESERVE ROAD NWANEDI, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Thank you for your indication that development is to take place in this area.

We noted that there are no remains from the historical period as well as built environment structures older than sixty years. However the following types of ranges of heritage resources were found:

- Stone Age tools in very low concentrations throughout the area.
- Ceramic shard scatters were noted in addition to lower grinding stones.
- A probable cattle enclosure or midden was also noted.
- Rock overhang was noted in the corridor between the two hillocks.
- A stone wall was noted surrounding the overhang, This may well have been used as cattle enclosure or as refuse, without further investigation its full use cannot be determined. In the overhang, ceramic shard fragments, a possible cupule, fragments of stone tools and possible engravings were noted.

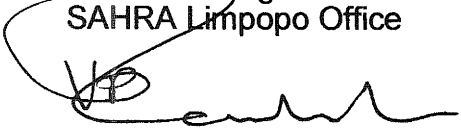
Kindly be informed that all Archaeological related matters are handled by our SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit (Mr Phillip Hine: email: pne@sahra.org.za, to whom we will send this report for his comments.

Kindly note that this office will support the recommendations that will be made by the Units mentioned above.

Should there be any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

Vhonani Ramalamula
Cultural Heritage Officer
For the Manager
SAHRA Limpopo Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vhonani Ramalamula', written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the beginning.

7/2/267/0014

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

NWANEDI NATURE RESERVE ROAD NWANEDI, LIMPOPO

EnviroXcellence
P.O.Box 4879
Polokwane
0700

Attention: Victor Mathake

Liesl Stegmann and
Frans E. Roodt
October 2008



SHASA
Heritage Consultants cc.
e-mail: gemini_twins@myself.com
Tel: 084 984 2389
Tel: 074 433 5184

PO BOX 1600
POLOKWANE
0700

22 ELMADAL
POLOKWANE
0699

Not VAT registered

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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The application constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

Historical remains

Section 34(1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

Archaeological remains

Section 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

(a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface, or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3)(a) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

(c) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, 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

(b) 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 detection or recovery of metals.

Culture resource management

Section 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature, and extent of the proposed development.

*'development' means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place*;

- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

****place** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure* ...”

****structure** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ...”

The author was contracted to undertake a heritage scoping survey of the proposed new road for Ndanedi Nature Reserve, Limpopo (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2230 CB) on the farms Armastice 120 MT and Ziska 122 MT. The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on these heritage resources.

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information and methodology

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

A pedestrian survey of selected areas of the demarcated area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Locations of heritage remains were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin 60). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Panasonic Lumix Digital camera.

2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. Vegetation was moderate to dense and visibility fair to limited in certain areas. It is thus possible that sites have been missed.

2.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

- No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
- Low significance: sites, which *may* require mitigation.
- Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
- High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. Many aspects must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

2.4 Terminology

- Early Stone Age:** Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.
- Middle Stone Age:** Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.
- Late Stone Age:** The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.
- Early Iron Age:** Most of the first millennium AD
- Middle Iron Age:** 10th to 13th centuries AD
- Late Iron Age:** 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*
- Historical:** Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA, though more recent remains can be termed historically significant should the remains hold social significance for the local community.
- Phase 1 assessment:** Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area
- Phase 2 assessments:** In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.
- Sensitive:** Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

The proposed new road at Ndwandeni Nature Reserve is to be established to link with an existing road to the administration offices and resort, which is to be upgraded. Vegetation in the area primarily consists of Mopani Bushveld, interspersed with Baobab trees. The road is to run through

flatlands ascending to pass through a natural corridor formed by two large hills, before descending to the flatlands again. Access to the road is gained directly from the R525.

4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY

4.1 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No remains from the historical period were noted on the terrain.

4.2 GRAVES

No formal graves were noted, however the possibility of subterranean graves still exists.

4.3 IRON AGE REMAINS

Various isolated areas of Iron Age occupation were noted on the terrain. Occupation appears to have been fleeting as no permanent occupation with large quantities of occupation debris could be located. Ceramic shard scatters were noted in addition to lower grinding stones. A probable cattle enclosure or midden was also noted, though no associated cultural material could be located to justify this. Primarily we denote it as such due to the soil texture and colour change which appears to be ashy, compared to the area surrounding it.

Of especial note, a rock overhang was noted in the corridor between the two hillocks. Though not directly impacted upon by the road, visitors may well stop and have a look around, which will result in an indirect impact on the overhang.

A stone wall was noted surrounding the overhang, This may well have been used as a cattle enclosure or as refuge, without further investigation its full use cannot be determined. In the overhang, ceramic shard fragments, a possible cupule (for rain making), fragments of stone tools, (Middle to Later Stone Age) and possible engravings were noted. Rock engravings are a specialist field, thus it is just mentioned in this report, as exact determination will require further investigation.

GPS Co-ordinates for noted remains:

S22° 33' 00.2" E30° 21' 52.6"	Lower grinding stone
S22° 33' 57.0" E30° 23' 33.3"	Midden/ enclosure
S22° 34' 09.2" E30° 23' 33.0"	Ceramic shard scatter
S22° 33' 39.3" E30° 23' 17.8"	Rock overhang and Stone walling

4.4 STONE AGE REMAINS

Middle Stone Age tools were noted in very low concentrations throughout the area. This was especially the case in the area surrounding GPS point: S22° 34' 56.6" E30° 23' 31.7"

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the most recent Iron Age archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition: Kwale branch-	<i>Mzonjani facies</i>	AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)
Moloko branch-	<i>Icon facies</i>	AD 1300 - 1500 (Late Iron Age)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch – Happy Rest *facies* AD 500-750 (Early Iron Age)
Malapati *facies* AD 750-1030 (Early Iron Age)
Gumanye *facies* AD 1030- 1250 (Middle Iron Age)
Khami *facies* AD 1400- 1820 (Late Iron Age)
Mutanba *facies* AD 1250-1450(Late Iron Age)
Letaba facies AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)

No ceramics were noted with decorative patterning, so facies type could not be established during the scoping phase.

In pre-colonial times, various Eastern Bantu-speaking people inhabited South Africa, including Nguni, Sotho-Tswana, and Tsonga. However, they were not the first groups to occupy southern Africa. About 1800 years ago their predecessors brought a new way of life to the region replacing the Stone Age hunter-gatherers. For the first time, people lived in settled communities, cultivating such crops as sorghum, millets, ground beans and cowpeas, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. Because these early farming people also made their own iron tools, many archaeologists call this block of time the **Iron Age**. For convenience and to mark widespread events, it is divided into three periods: the Early Iron Age (AD 200-900), the Middle Iron Age (AD 900-1300) and the Late Iron Age (AD 1300-1820).

6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As has been determined by the above-mentioned results the area in question has been occupied by humans since the Middle Stone Age. All areas are deemed to be of low significance, as the quantity and quality of the deposited remains is relatively insubstantial. With regard to heritage recommendations the following is applicable:

1. Monitoring of development should take place once the road is in the construction phase, this will enable appropriate handling of any unearthed heritage remains.
2. The developing authority, should appoint an archaeologist to create a management plan with regards to the overhang. Indirect impact may result in damage to archaeological site.
3. A phase two investigation takes place with regard to the overhang to determine the type site and to gain information regarding its use in the past. This should be on a small scale in order to preserve the remains. Primarily the phase two should bring to light information in order to set up an information board. This can be utilized for tourism purposes by the Reserve as the area then not only has natural and aesthetic heritage but cultural heritage too.

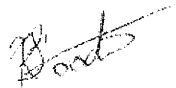
The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Huffman, T.N. 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age. The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa.* University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.



LIESL STEGMANN



FRANS E ROODT



FRANS ROODT (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)
Principal Investigator for SHASA Heritage Consultants



Fig 1. General view of the area to be developed.



Fig 2. View of a lower grinding stone noted during scoping.



Fig 3. View of the overhang.



Fig 4. View of stone walling in front of the overhang.



Fig 5. View of engravings in the overhang.

