

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

EXTENSION TO EXISTING CROCODILE FARM PTN 374 & 375 OF THE FARM PUSELA 555 LT TZANEEN , LIMPOPO

POLYGON ARCHITECTS

Polygon Architects
P. O. Box 1935
Tzaneen, 0850

ATT: Louise Agenbag

Frans Roodt

Assisted by Liesl Stegmann and Frans E. Roodt

September 2008

Tel: (015) 225 7075
Cell: 083 770 213
Fax: 086 670 9130
E-mail: hr19@mweb.co.za



**PO Box 1600
POLOKWANE
0 7 0 0**

CONTENTS

2	1 Introduction and terms of Reference
3	2 Method
	2.1 Sources of information
	2.2 Limitations
	2.3 Categories of significance
4	2.4 Terminology
4	3 Description of the proposed development and terrain
5	4 Results of the scoping survey
	4.1. Recent Historical Period
	4.2. Graves
	4.3. Iron Age remains
	4.4. Stone Age remains
5	5 Background information
5	6 Discussion
5	7 Mitigation and management measures
6	8 Bibliography
	<u>List of figures</u>
7	Fig 1. General view of development area
	Fig 2. View of Tuyère pipe and ceramic fragments.
	Fig 3. View of boundary fence where soil was removed and slag etc. was noted in the profile.
8	Locality Map

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 extension to an existing crocodile farm, Portion 374 en 375 Pusela 555 LT Tzaneen, Limpopo (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 – 2330 CC). 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

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 sparse and archaeological visibility was thus good.

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 <i>may</i> 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:	10 th to 13 th centuries AD
Late Iron Age:	14 th century to colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i>
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.
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. <i>Sensitive</i> may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

The proposed development constitutes an extension to an existing crocodile farm. The area is currently used for crocodile farming and surrounding areas are covered by banana plantations. The direct area of development has been severely disturbed by construction activities. The developer began digging building foundations before realizing that an Environmental Impact Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment was necessary. Thus the area is cross-cut by a number of foundations. Soil in previous years has also been removed near the boundary fence, at least to a depth of 60 cm. The area can thus be determined to be archaeologically disturbed.

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 on the terrain.

4.3 IRON AGE REMAINS

Cultural remains were noted on the terrain. Ceramic shards were noted scattered throughout the terrain although in medium-to-low concentration. Analysis of the decorative patterns and profile suggest that the site belongs to the Silver Leaves facies and dates to between AD 280- 450 (Huffman 2007: 123).

The site also appears to have been used as a forging site. In this case it is significant to note that knowledge of Iron working came with the first agro pastoralists, among them the people who are represented by the Silver Leaves facies (Huffman 2007: 81). Small fragments of tuyère pipe were found in association with small fragments of slag. Unfortunately, when soil was removed to level the area, a large portion of this site had been removed. Ceramic shards and slag were noted approximately 30cm below ground level in the profile that was left.

Co-ordinates: *S23° 51' 31.6" E30° 07' 16.6"*

4.4 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age Sites were noted on the terrain.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the most recent 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-	Silver Leaves <i>facies</i> AD 280-450 (Early Iron Age)
	<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 -	<i>Doornkop facies</i> AD 750 - 1000 (Early Iron Age)
	<i>Letaba facies</i> AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)

6. DISCUSSION

The area to be developed has been extensively impacted upon by construction activities, in the present and in the past, very little of the Iron Age site remains and that which may still occur is located on the adjacent property. However that fact remains that the area was occupied by some of the first Iron working agro pastoralists to occupy South Africa. In terms of significance, the site has lost most of its potential to provide information about this aspect of the South African past.

Significance: Low.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

In view of the fact that the archaeological deposits had been destroyed on this specific property no further mitigation or management measure are recommended.

8. 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.



FRANS ROODT (*BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP*)
Principal Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource Consultants



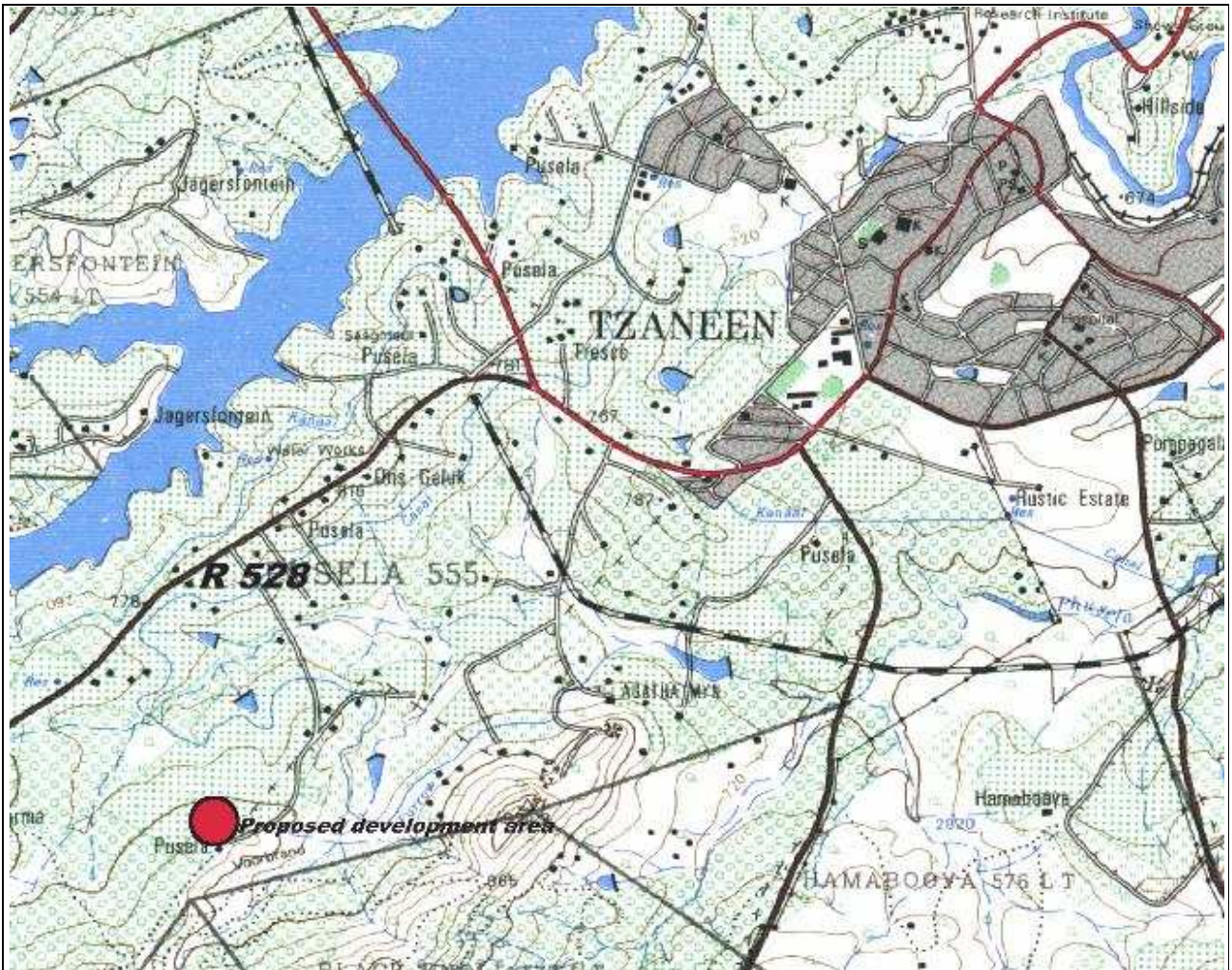
Fig 1. General view of development area



Fig 2. View of Tuyère pipe and ceramic fragments.



Fig 3. View of boundary fence where soil was removed and slag etc. was noted in the profile.



Locality Map (1:50 000 2330 CC)