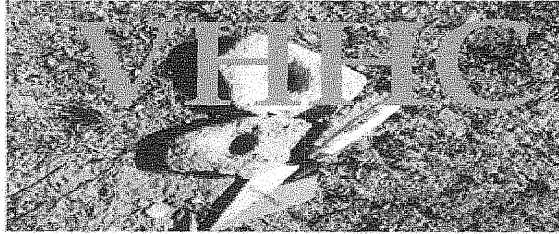


P O BOX 456  
POLOKWANE  
LADANNA  
0704



Tel: 015 293 2049  
Fax: 015 293 2592  
Cell: 083 357 3669/  
083 770 2131

**VHUFASHU HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC**  
Registration No: 2006/119040/23 Tax Reference No: 9672996148

## **PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF A PROPOSED  
BORROWPIT# 3 ASSOCIATED WITH ROAD UPGRADE FROM  
GRAVEL TO TAR FROM MAKONDE TO MASISI AREA, ROAD  
P277/1 WITHIN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO  
PROVINCE.**

**Report Prepared for:**

Mvulatswinga Social and Environmental consultants

P.O Box 3486

Sibasa,

0970

Fax: 015 9631089



**Survey Conducted and Report Prepared by:  
Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants**

**AUGUST 2008**

## **RESOURCE MANAGMENT**

### **BACKGROUND**

Mvulatswinga social and Environmental consultants were appointed to handle the environmental aspects of the proposed project. They appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants (VHHC) cc to conduct an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment study as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed borrow pit (borrow pit 3 of 3).

### **RESOURCE SUMMARY**

Member of VHHC heritage specialists conducted a heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed project covering the area to be affected by the proposed development. No archaeological or any other categories of physical cultural heritage resources were identified within the proposed project area.

### **RESOURCE RECOMMENDATION**

Due to the sensitivity of the site the proposed site is not recommended for the placement of a borrow pit. We therefore recommend the use of material from the existing borrow pit located east of the proposed site.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
HISTORICAL REMAINS.....	5
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.....	5
BURIAL GROUNDS AND GRAVES.....	5
CULTURE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.....	5
<b>2. AIM OF STUDY</b> .....	<b>6</b>
2.1 PROJECT DEVELOPERS AND CONSULTANTS.....	6
<b>3. TERMS OF REFERENCE</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>4. TERMINOLOGY</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5. METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>6. SITE LOCATION</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>7. SURVEY FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>8. RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>9. REFERENCE</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>10. STUDY TEAM</b> .....	<b>13</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Road Agency Limpopo commissioned the upgrading of road P 277/1 from gravel to tar from Makonde to Masisi area with associated 3 of 3 borrow pits located at Vhurivhuri village along side the proposed road upgrade within the Vhembe district municipality. Mvulatswina Social and Environmental Services were appointed to handle the environmental aspects of the proposed project within the study area. They appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants to conduct an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment study as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed upgrading of a road.

As part of the development process, an application for an Environmental Assessment Authorization must be completed. This report is one of a series of appendices prepared for the impact assessment that is to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) Environmental Assessment Office, in support of the application as amended by the National Environmental Management Act no 107 of 1998. The information presented in this report provides the background and the basis for the Heritage Resources component of the Project impact assessment. The heritage resources impact assessment focused on archaeological sites.

The Project proposal 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 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:

- destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

### ***Burial grounds and graves***

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

- (i) 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
- (ii) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave 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:

- (i) Construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (ii) Any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (iii) 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 ...”

## 2. AIM OF STUDY

The aim of this Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study 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 the affected site.

### 2.1 *Project Developers and Consultants*

Developers are encouraged to consider archaeological values in their project planning and design from the outset. This will minimize scheduling and budget difficulties at later stages. As Consultants in the archaeological assessment process, we are responsible for: (see *table 1*)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Determining the presence of archaeological sites that may be adversely impacted by the proposed development, and evaluate their significance.</li> <li>❖ Identification of potential adverse impacts to archaeological sites protected under the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999.</li> <li>❖ Assessing of the heritage significance of identified archaeological sites to assist in the development of appropriate mitigation strategies.</li> <li>❖ Make recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of protected or otherwise significant archaeological sites.</li> <li>❖ Reporting the results of these studies to the Heritage Authorities.</li> </ul>
---

*Table 1*

### 3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

- (I) Assess the significance of the known cultural resources within the borders of proposed development area, in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.
- (II) Develop mitigation or control measures for impact minimization and cultural resources preservation
- (III) Develop procedures to be implemented if previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during the construction.

#### 4. TERMINOLOGY

The following aspects have direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- **Archaeological sites** are places where people lived and left evidence of their presence in the form of artifacts, food remains and other traces such as rock paintings or engravings, burials, fireplaces and structures.
- **Cultural Resources** are all non-physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- **Cultural Significance** is the aesthetic, historical, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.
- **Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.
- **Historic** means significant in history.
- **Historical** means belonging to the past.
- ***In Situ* material** means archaeological remains that have not been disturbed.
- **Place** means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, together with pertinent contents, surroundings and historical and archaeological deposits.
- **Preservation** means protecting and maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration or change, and may include stabilization where necessary.

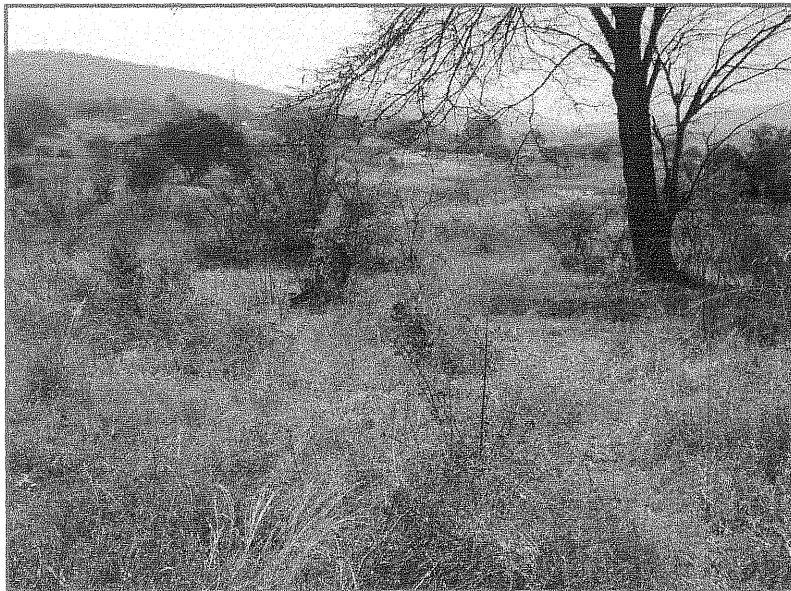


## 5. METHODOLOGY

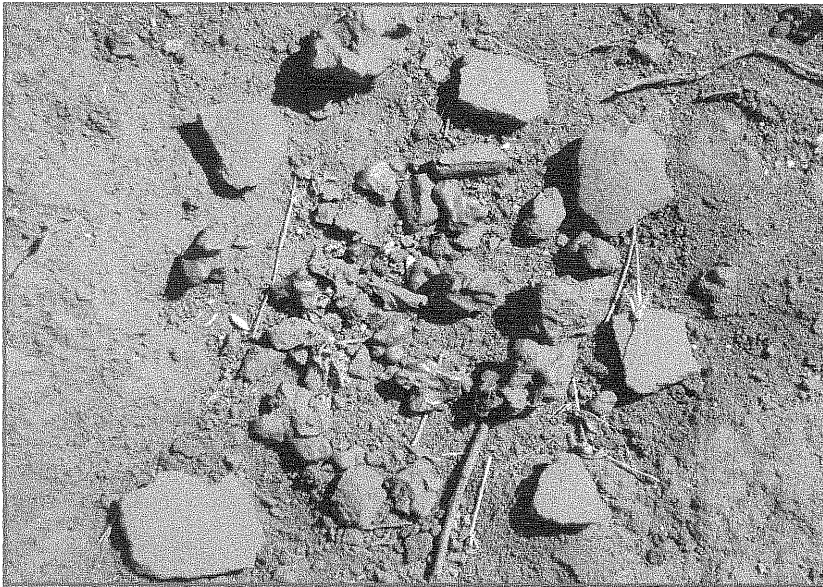
The field study involved the survey and inspection of the proposed borrow pit # 3 site at Vhurivhuri area. The survey was conducted by walking in transects within the affected site as well as covering the surrounding area. The survey sought to identify archaeological and cultural heritage sites or sacred sites within the project area that may be affected by the proposed project under Vhembe district Municipality. Using GPS recording devices, we traversed the site on foot. The survey also sampled areas, which are disturbed for possible archaeological materials that might be trapped *in situ*.

## 6. SITE LOCATION

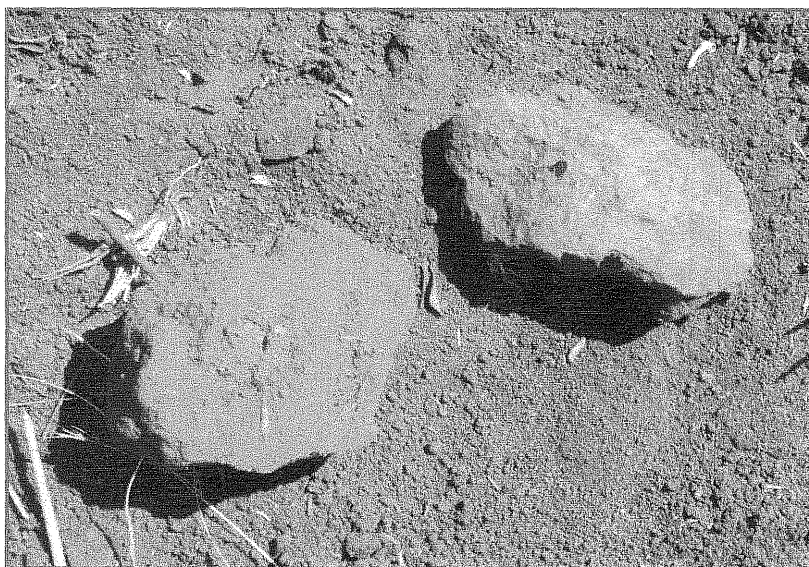
The proposed borrow pit #3 is situated along side the proposed to be upgraded further eastern section of Vhurivhuri village, The proposed area for a new borrow pit have been demarcated on between the main access road and the bank of Sambandou River. Gravel will be extracted from the proposed area and will be utilized for the construction of the proposed tar road. Proposed borrow pit #3 coordinates (GPS S22°.40. 292 E 30°48.360)



**Figure 1:** View of the proposed borrow pit #3.



**Figure 2:** Exposed pieces of iron slag and broken pieces of undiagnostic potsherds.



**Figure 3:** Burnt clay daga fragment and broken pieces of tuyere fragment

## 7. SURVEY FINDINGS

### ***Iron smelting site*** (GPS S22°.40. 292 E 30°48.360)

A small scale iron smelting activities site was noted indicated with very few iron slag, burnt clay daga and tuyere fragments and few undiagnostic potsherds scatted on the surface. The area cover approximately 20x20m it is fairly a small site in terms of its lay out. The site is located on the northern bank of the

Sambandou River. Sites of this nature have been disturbed by agricultural, construction activities

Over the past two decades archaeological research on the African iron age have revealed that African farmers have occupied southern Africa for over than 1500 years. They introduced a wide range of technological innovation, such as metalworking and developed powerful political states. These affirm the pre-colonial existence of complex, stratified African, who made a lasting impact on the landscape. The long history of African settlement in the subcontinent was not officially acknowledged. Archaeological record seems to suggest that cultural continuity resulted in most of communities inhabiting areas around the source of water such as riverbank. These communities were known to have used iron tool and had moved south of the Limpopo River. The most important crops were sorghum, Millet and maize. Iron working includes building of clay furnace, extraction of ore by means of reduction process as well as forging of smelted iron. Very few sites are known along side the Sambandou River and within the Limpopo province, recent studies shows that iron was worked on great scale and probably within the last 300 years the last traditional iron smelting was reported in the early 1920s.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Due to sensitivity of the iron smelting site it is not recommended for the placement of a borrow pit over the iron smelting site. We therefore recommend the use of material from the existing borrow pit located east of the proposed site. Should the client decide to proceed with the use of this area it would be necessary to perform a detailed phase two archaeological excavations as the site is of heritage significant.

## 9. REFERENCE

1. The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)
2. Aldenderfer, Mark S., and Carolyn A. Hale-Pierce 1984 The Small-Scale Archaeological Survey Revisited. *American Archeology* 4(1):4-5.
3. Butler, William 1984 Cultural Resource Management: The No-Collection Strategy in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 44(4):795-799.
4. Deacon, J. 1996. *Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities*. National Monuments Council. Publication no. PO21E.
5. Deacon, J. 1997. Report: Workshop on Standards for the Assessment of Significance and Research Priorities for Contract Archaeology. In: Newsletter No. 49, Sept. 1998. South African Association of Archaeology.
6. Dincause, Dena F, H. Martin Wobst, Robert J. Hasenstab and David M. Lacy 1984 A Retrospective Assessment of Archaeological Survey Contracts In Massachusetts, 1970-1979. Massachusetts Historical Commission, Survey and Planning Grant 1980. 3 volumes.
7. Dunnell, Robert C., and William S. Dancey 1983 The Siteless Survey: A Regional Scale Data Collection Strategy. In: *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory* 6:267-287. M.B. Schiffer, ed.
8. Evers, T.M. 1983. Oori or Moloko? The origins of the Sotho/Tswana on the evidence of the Iron Age of the Transvaal. *S. Afr. J. Sci.* 79(7): 261-264.

**10. STUDY TEAM**

**Mr Richard Munyai** (Archaeology Hons Cand Univen, BA Arch Univen 2000)



**Mr Frans Roodt** (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)  
*Principal Investigator.*

# LOCALITY MAP FOR THE PROPOSED BORROW PITS

