Heritage Impact Assessment

Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works at Ga-Matlala northwest of Polokwane, Limpopo Province.

Compiled for:

Africa Geo-Environmental Services (AGES)

Survey conducted & Report compiled by:

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Executive Summary

Site name and location: Proposed development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works at Ga-Matlala, approximately 50km north-west of Polokwane in the Limpopo Province.

Local Authority: Capricorn District Municipality.

Developer: Sekakopamo Manufacturing Primary Co-operative.

Date of field work: 05 December 2011.

Date of report: December 2011.

Findings: No site-specific actions or any further heritage mitigation measures are recommended as no heritage resource sites or finds of any value or significance were identified in the indicated study areas. The proposed development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works at the indicated areas can continue from a heritage point of view.

Disclaimer: Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites and/or graves could be overlooked during the study. Hutten Heritage Consultants and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

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ADDENDUM B

Location Maps

1. Introduction

Hutten Heritage Consultants was contracted by Africa Geo-Environmental Services (AGES) to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the proposed development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works at Ga-Matlala, approximately 50km north-west of Polokwane, in the Limpopo Province.

The aim of the study was to identify all heritage sites, to document and to assess their significance within Local, Provincial and National context. The report outlines the approach and methodology implemented before and during the survey, which includes in Phase 1: Information collection from various sources and social consultations; Phase 2: Physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; and Phase 3: Reporting the outcome of the study.

This HIA forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by various Acts and Laws as described under the next heading and is intended for submission to the provincial South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for peer review.

Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is a legal body representing professional archaeology in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. As a member of ASAPA, these standards are tried to be adhered to.

The extent of the proposed development sites were determined as well as the extent of the areas to be affected by secondary activities (access routes, construction camps, etc.) during the development.

2. Legislative Requirements

The identification, evaluation and assessment of any cultural heritage site, artefact or find in the South African context is required and governed by the following legislation:

National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998 National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999 Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002 Development Facilitation Act (DFA) Act 67 of 1995

The following sections in each Act refer directly to the identification, evaluation and assessment of cultural heritage resources.

National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998
Basic Environmental Assessment (BEA) – Section (23)(2)(d)
Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) – Section (29)(1)(d)
Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) – Section (32)(2)(d)
Environmental Management Plan (EMP) – Section (34)(b)
National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999
Protection of Heritage resources – Sections 34 to 36; and
Heritage Resources Management – Section 38

Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002 Section 39(3)

Development Facilitation Act (DFA) Act 67 of 1995

The GNR.1 of 7 January 2000: Regulations and rules in terms of the Development Facilitation Act, 1995. Section 31

3. Proposed Project

Dr. Martin Selepe of Sekakopamo Manufacturing Primary Co-operative has proposed the development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works at Ga-Matlala, approximately 50km north-west of Polokwane, in the Limpopo Province. This development will mainly be the establishment of a facility for the manufacturing of concrete products such as Maxi Stock bricks, pavers and roof tiles. Associated structures will include an office complex, storage facilities, access control, roads and electrical, water and sanitation infrastructure. The proposed development will cover an area of approximately 6ha.

The purpose of the study was to determine if the proposed areas were suitable for the development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works from a heritage point of view.

The project was tabled during September 2011 and the developer intends to commence as soon as possible after receipt of the ROD from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

4. Project Area Description

Two alternative sites were proposed for the development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works. The first proposed site was situated adjacent and on the southern side of the Matlala tar road approximately 50km north-west of Polokwane. It was situated on the farm Vlakfontein 588 LS and across from the access road to Ga-Ramokadi-Kadi village. The proposed area to be developed was approximately 6ha in size. The area was largely undisturbed and was mainly used as a cattle grazing facility for the surrounding communities. The area was predominantly flat with red sandy soil and was overgrown with sickle bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*) and sweet thorn (*Acacia karroo*) due to overgrazing.

The second proposed site was also situated adjacent and on the southern side of the Matlala tar road. It was situated on the farm Cloetesdam 589 LS. This proposed site was also approximately 6ha in size and was similar to the first proposed site. The site was also largely undisturbed and was also used as a cattle grazing facility. The site was flat and also overgrown with sickle bush and sweet thorn due to overgrazing.

The proposed development will be situated on the Lonsdale 2329CA 1:50 000 topographical map (See Appendix B: Location Maps).

5. Archaeological History of the Area

The examination of archival records, historical data and cartographic resources represents a critical additional tool for locating and identifying heritage resources and in determining the historical and cultural context of the study area. Therefore an internet literature search was conducted and relevant archaeological and historical texts were also consulted. Relevant topographic maps and satellite imagery were studied. Researching the National Archive records as well as the SAHRA APM Report Mapping Project records, it was determined that two previous archaeological or historical studies had been performed within grid square 2329CA:

Munyai, R. & Roodt, F. 2007. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Proposed Extraction of Gravel from an Existing Borrow Pit Site Associated with the Upgrading of Road D3377 in Matla's Location Farm, Aganang Municipality. An unpublished report by Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants on file at SAHRA as: 2007-SAHRA-0202.

Murimbika, M. 2006. Archaeological Impact Assessment Study for the Proposed Construction of Electricity Distribution Powerlines Within, Limpopo Province. An unpublished report by Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions on file at SAHRA as: 2006-SAHRA-0443.

The study area of the former report lies adjacent to the proposed development in this study and was consulted. This report commented on cultural heritage finds and sites identified during the Heritage Impact Assessment performed for the nearby, related developments that are the focus of this study. These sites, however, will not be affected by the proposed development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works. No other sites or finds of heritage value or significance were mentioned in these reports regarding the study area. The Aganang Local Municipality Environmental Management Plan states that the municipal area has no major sites of historical or cultural significance except for cemeteries and the summit of Mogoshi Mountain. Mogoshi is an isolated inselberg approximately 8 km south of the study site rising to 1780 metres above sea level and approximately 500 metres above the surrounding plain. It is locally believed that "people who reach the summit will disintegrate" (Enviroxcellence Services, 2009)

Stone Age sites

The Stone Age is divided into the Early; Middle and Late Stone Age. The *Early Stone Age* includes the period from 2.5 million years B.P. to 250 000 years B.P. and is associated with Australopithecines and early *Homo* species who practiced stone tool industries such as the Oldowan and Acheullian. The *Middle Stone Age* covers various tool industries, for example the Howiesons Poort industry, in the period from 250 000 years B.P. to 25 000 years B.P. and is associated with archaic and modern *Homo sapiens*. The *Late Stone Age* incorporates the period from 25 000 years B.P. up to the Iron Age and Historical Periods and contact between hunter-gatherers and Iron Age farmers or European colonists. This period is associated with modern humans and characterised by lithic tool industries such as Smithfield and Robberg.

Excavations at Makapansgat approximately 50 km to the south-east of the study area provided evidence of occupation by *Australopithecus africanus* from approximately 3.3 million years ago. There is evidence of long occupation from the Cave of Hearths with stone tools and associated debris from a date of 400,000 B.P while upper strata are characterised by Middle Stone Age assemblages of 110,000 to 50,000 B.P. and Late Stone Age assemblages dating from 10,000 to 5,000 years B.P. characterised by the Smithfield B industry. The site is one of the few to exhibit Acheulean assemblages in Southern Africa and also contains overlying Middle Stone Age Howiessonspoort industry tools and early evidence of fire use. (Bergh, 1999; Mitchell, 2002)

Rock Art sites:

There are no known rock art sites in the direct vicinity of the study area. However, to the south the Waterberg is known for its many rock art sites including those containing shaded paintings such as at Haakdoorndraai (Pager, 1973) while to the north-west the Makgabeng plateau has over 460 recorded rock art sites (Eastwood et. al., 2002). Evidence from Late Stone Age tool sites also attests to the long occupation of the area by hunter-gatherers.

Iron Age

The Iron Age incorporates the arrival and settlement of Bantu speaking people and overlaps the Pre-Historic and Historical Periods. It can be divided into three phases. The *Early Iron Age* includes the majority of the first millennium A.D. and is characterised by traditions such as Happy Rest and Silver Leaves. The *Middle Iron Age* spans the 10th to the 13th Centuries A.D. and includes such well known cultures as those at K2 and Mapungubwe. The *Late Iron Age* is taken to stretch from the 14th Century up to the colonial period and includes traditions such as Icon and Letaba.

A number of Early Iron Age sites are known from the wider area representative of two distinct pottery assemblages. The oldest assemblage belongs to the Mzonjani facies of the Urewe tradition and dates to between 450 and 750 A.D. The Kulundu tradition is represented in the wider area by the Doornkop and Diamant facies which date to between 750 and 1000 A.D. The Middle Iron Age is represented in the area by the Eiland facies of the Kulundu tradition, dating from between 1000 and 1300 A.D. Around the town of Mokopane to the south of the study area several Late Iron Age sites are characteristic of the continuing Kalundu tradition, belonging either to the Icon facies (1300 to 1500 A.D.) or the Madikwe facies (1500 to 1700 A.D.) (Huffman, 2007).

Successive waves of both homogenous and heterogeneous groups entered and occupied the area since 1600 A.D., the latter including Ndebele, Shangaan and Koni people (Loubser, 1994). During the 17th Century Iron Age Nguni farmers moved from the Hlubi tribe in present day Kwa-Zulu Natal and settled in the former Transvaal as the Transvaal Ndebele. They were split into two major groupings of which the Northern Ndebele settled in the Mokopane - Polokwane region. While it is not clear which groups they settled alongside or displaced, several accounts of contact with the Northern-Sotho and Ba-Pedi are reported in the ethnology of these peoples.

The people currently living in the vicinity of the study site are the Bakoni of Matlala or Bakoni ba Matlala a' Thaba, an offshoot of the Northern Sotho who first settled in the area around modern day Polokwane around 1730 A.D. (Krige, 1937) before moving north and west towards Makgabeng and founding a settlement at Ga Matlala a' Thaba. The Koni are not a homogenous group and most of the Koni people regard their ancestry as being Nguni and originating in Swaziland (Mönnig, 1967). Excavations in 1980 by the University of the Witwaterstrand at the site of the Bokoni Malapa museum south of Polokwane indicated settlement from 1600 to 1900 A.D. comprising a sequence of Northern Ndebele, Northern Sotho and Shangaan people, finally being occupied by the Koni of Matlala (Jordaan, 1992). The establishment of a museum based on the culture and history of the latter people is described in the historical period section below.

Historical Period

The beginning of the Historical Period overlaps the demise of the late Stone and Iron Ages and is characterised by the first written accounts of the region from 1600 A.D. to the present.

Early European travellers, hunters and missionaries such as Cornwallis Harris and Robert Moffat visited the region in the 1830's and they were followed by the first colonists under Louis Tichardt in 1837. Considerable tensions arose between the settlers and the local people and there were a number of skirmishes including the famous siege of the Ndebele ruler Mokopane in the Makapans caves and the forced abandonment of Potgietersrust in 1870. Under the increasingly European control of the area French and German missionaries became active (Loubser, 1994). There is mention in the literature of a Berlin Mission Society station at Matala, also referred to variously as Cha Matlale or Xa Matlale (South African History Online, accessed 7th December 2011). However, a detailed search turned up no references as to the exact locality of this mission. Christoph Sonntag's account of the Maleboch War makes considerable mention of the Boers using Matlala or 'Matlaleo' Commandos recruited from the area of Ga Matlala to fight in the battle against the Bahananoa of the Blouberg but no fighting took place in the vicinity of Matlala (Sonntag, Undated). In 1984 the then Pietersburg Town Council completed the construction of the Bakoni Malapa Northern Sotho Open Air Museum having consulted and utilised the traditional knowledge and labour of the Matlala tribe. The museum is located approximately 9 km south of Polokwane on the farm Palmietfontein (Jordaan, 1992).

6. Methodology

Physical Survey

The extent of the proposed development sites were determined as well as the extent of the areas to be affected by secondary activities (access route, construction camp, etc.) during the development.

The physical survey was conducted on foot over the entire area proposed for development. Priority was placed on the undisturbed areas. A systematic inspection of the area on foot along linear transects resulted in the maximum coverage of the proposed area. The survey was conducted on December 05, 2011 and was performed by M. Hutten and field worker T. Mulaudzi.

No sampling was done as no sites or finds of heritage significance were found.

Interviews

Passersby from the local community were casually interviewed and questioned during the survey and they indicated that they were not aware of any sites or finds of heritage value or significance on the proposed areas.

Restrictions

Vegetation proved the major restriction in accessibility to some of the areas and also contributed to poor surface visibility after the spate of recent good rains.

Documentation

All sites/findspots located during the foot surveys were briefly documented. The documentation included digital photographs and descriptions as to the nature and condition of the site and recovered materials. The sites/findspots were plotted using a Global Positioning System (GPS) (Garmin GPSmap 60CSx) and numbered accordingly.

7. Assessment Criteria

This chapter describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The significance of archaeological and heritage sites were based on the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The amount/depth of the archaeological deposit and the range of features (stone walls, activity areas etc.)
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The preservation condition and integrity of the site
- The potential to answer present research questions.

Site Significance

Site significance classification standards prescribed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (2006) and approved by the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, were used for the purpose of this report.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National	Grade 1	-	Conservation;
Significance			National Site
(NS)			nomination
Provincial	Grade 2	-	Conservation;

Significance			Provincial Site
(PS)			nomination
Local	Grade	High	Conservation;
Significance	3A	Significance	Mitigation not
(LS)			advised
Local	Grade	High	Mitigation (Part of
Significance	3B	Significance	site should be
(LS)			retained)
Generally	Grade	High / Medium	Mitigation before
Protected A	4A	Significance	destruction
(GP.A)			
Generally	Grade	Medium	Recording before
Protected B	4B	Significance	destruction
(GP.B)			
Generally	Grade	Low Significance	Destruction
Protected C	4C		
(GP.C)			

Impact Rating:

Low or No Significance:

The constraint is absent, but in instances where present, poses a negligible significance on the proposed development in terms of heritage concerns.

Moderate Significance:

The constraint is present and poses a notable but not major significance on the proposed development in terms of heritage concerns. If the constraint can not be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures must be implemented to minimize the significance.

High Significance:

The constraint is present and poses a high significance on the proposed development in terms of heritage concerns. It is recommended that the constraint be avoided or appropriate mitigation measures must be implemented to minimize the significance.

Certainty

DEFINITE: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data exist to verify the assessment.

PROBABLE: Over 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact

occurring.

POSSIBLE: Only over 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact

occurring.

UNSURE: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact

occurring.

Duration

SHORT TERM: 0-5 years MEDIUM: 6-20 years

LONG TERM: more than 20 years

DEMOLISHED: site will be demolished or is already demolished

Mitigation

Management actions and recommended mitigation, which will result in a reduction in the impact on the sites, will be classified as follows:

- \blacksquare **A** No further action necessary
- **B** Mapping of the site and controlled sampling required
- C Preserve site, or extensive data collection and mapping required; and
- **D** Preserve site

8. Assessment of Sites and Finds

This section will contain the results of the heritage site/find assessment.

Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works

Alternative site 1

The first proposed site was situated adjacent and on the southern side of the Matlala tar road. It was situated on the farm Vlakfontein 588 LS and across from the access road to Ga-Ramokadi-Kadi village. The proposed area to be developed was approximately 6ha in size. The area was largely undisturbed and was mainly used as a cattle grazing facility for the surrounding communities. The area was predominantly flat with red sandy soil and was overgrown with sickle bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*) and sweet thorn (*Acacia karroo*) due to overgrazing.

After intensive investigations, no sites or finds of any heritage value or potential were identified.

Field Rating:
Heritage Significance:
None
Impact:
None
Certainty:
None
None
None

Mitigation: A - No further action necessary

Alternative site 2

GPS 23° 41′ 30,3″ S 29° 02′ 48,4″ E

The second proposed site was also situated adjacent and on the southern side of the Matlala tar road. It was situated on the farm Cloetesdam 589 LS. This proposed site was also approximately 6ha in size and was similar to the first proposed site. The site was also largely undisturbed and was also used as a cattle grazing facility. The site was flat and also overgrown with sickle bush and sweet thorn due to overgrazing.

After intensive investigations, no sites or finds of any heritage value or potential were identified.

Field Rating:
Heritage Significance:
Impact:
None
Certainty:
None
None
None

Mitigation: A - No further action necessary

9. Recommendations

The following steps and measures are recommended regarding the investigated areas:

Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works

- The proposed areas to be developed were mostly undisturbed and were overgrown with pioneer plants such as several *Acacia* and *Dichrostachys* species (sickle bush and sweet thorn) due to overgrazing.
- No further site-specific actions or any further heritage mitigation measures are recommended as no heritage resource sites or finds of any value or significance were identified in the indicated study areas.
- The proposed development of the Sekakopamo Brick & Tile Manufacturing Works in the indicated areas can continue from a heritage point of view.

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APPENDIX A Photographs



Photo 1: View of alternative Site 1.



Photo 2: View of alternative Site 2.



Photo 3: View of the adjacent Matlala tar road.



Photo 4: View of the dense vegetation.

APPENDIX B Location Maps





