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8 October 2008

Phase 1 Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation)
RESIDENTIAL AND OFFICE DEVELOPMENT:
TZANEEN DAM: LIMPOPO PROVINCE

STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Map reference: South Africa 1:50000 2330 CC
General co-ordinates: S23° 47' 48" E30° 10' 14"
Farm: Doornhoek 535 LT.

INTRODUCTION

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 proactive 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.(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

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

- (a) 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.

Section 36 (6) Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

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, ...

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 \pm 250 000 yr - 30 000 yrs before present.
- Late Stone Age: The period from \pm 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 AD 1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.
- Phase 1 assessments: 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.

In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur on the demarcated route. This would enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects, which the development could have on any heritage resources.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The author was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 *Heritage Resources Impact Assessment* of the proposed additions of new housing and office accommodation in the residential area of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry at Tzaneen Dam. It was also noted that some of the existing house might have to be demolished because of structural weaknesses. The aim was to determine the presence, or not, of heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance; to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features. This survey forms part of the environmental impact assessment process and data regarding the environmental and geo-morphological conditions and socio-economic issues should be read in the main report. Consequently, a letter containing a qualified statement of the *status quo* with regard to heritage resources, instead of a full report, is deemed sufficient.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

The proposed development is located immediately east of the Dam wall in an existing developed area. The topography of the terrain is undulated. Apart from the existing erven and houses, the terrain had been extensively ploughed in the past.

METHODOLOGY

A pedestrian survey of the demarcated area (see locality map) was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. Archaeological visibility was good as vegetation cover is sparse. Special attention was given to disturbances, either natural or man-made, as well as changes in vegetation that may have resulted from previous human intervention.

RESULT OF THE SURVEY

The terrain yielded a number of undecorated pottery fragment (Fig 2) as indicated on the locality map. No archaeological deposit or any other cultural remains were found mainly because of the past extensive ploughing of the area. The cultural facies present here could thus no be determined (see Background information below) and it is unlikely that any significant elements of the archaeological site remains for further investigation or preservation.

It was observed that some of the housed on the premises may be 60 years or older (Fig 3). Because of the intention to demolish structurally weak buildings, it will be necessary to undertake a heritage assessment of any house which is 60 years or older to determine its heritage status and to obtain a permit for demolition in terms of Section 36 of the NHRA from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The escarpment and Lowveld areas of the Limpopo Province are rich in archaeological sites. Notably here is the site at Silver Leaves about 12 km south of Tzaneen, the Eiland Resort in the Hans Merensky Nature Reserve and the mineral rich Murchison mountain range at Gravelotte. Silver Leaves is of particular interest as it falls in a similar environment in the foothills of the Transvaal Drakensberg. The Type-site, Silver Leaves represents the earliest cultural expression of the first black farmers that moved into South Africa. They belonged to the Uruwe Tradition from East Africa and migrated southwards as part of the Kwale Branch, i.e., the eastern stream of migration and settled in the Tzaneen area in the 3rd century AD. From the 5th century onwards, the westerns stream of migration, namely the Kalundu Tradition from the Congo/Angola regions reached the area. The Happy Rest Branch represents this stream and has been found at Mooketsi to the northwest of the demarcated area. A Later facies that developed out of the western stream named Eiland (Type site – Eiland Resort) dated to the 10th century AD also occurs in the general area – including at the Silver Leaves site.

In the 13th century AD a second eastern stream migrated into this area of South Africa, namely the Kalambo Branch of Uruwe in East Africa. They are represented by the Moloko pottery phase that is the ancestral to today's Sotho-Tswana population. Lastly, the BaVenda that are descendants of the Mapungubwe/Zimbabwe culture that merged with the Icon facies of the Moloko Sotho-Tswana phase had influenced the area, particularly the BaLovedu. This pottery facies is known Letaba style.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- With regard to the archaeological remains, no mitigation or management measures are required other than that the discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, which after assessment may require mitigation measures.
- Not must be taken of Section 36 of the NHRA. Should it be the intention to demolish a building 60 years or older, a heritage impact assessment must be undertaken of such building and a permit must be obtained from the relevant heritage resources authority.

This letter serves to confirm that from a heritage perspective we have no objection with regard to the development on condition that the above-mentioned management measures are implemented.

Yours faithfully



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Principal Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource Consultants



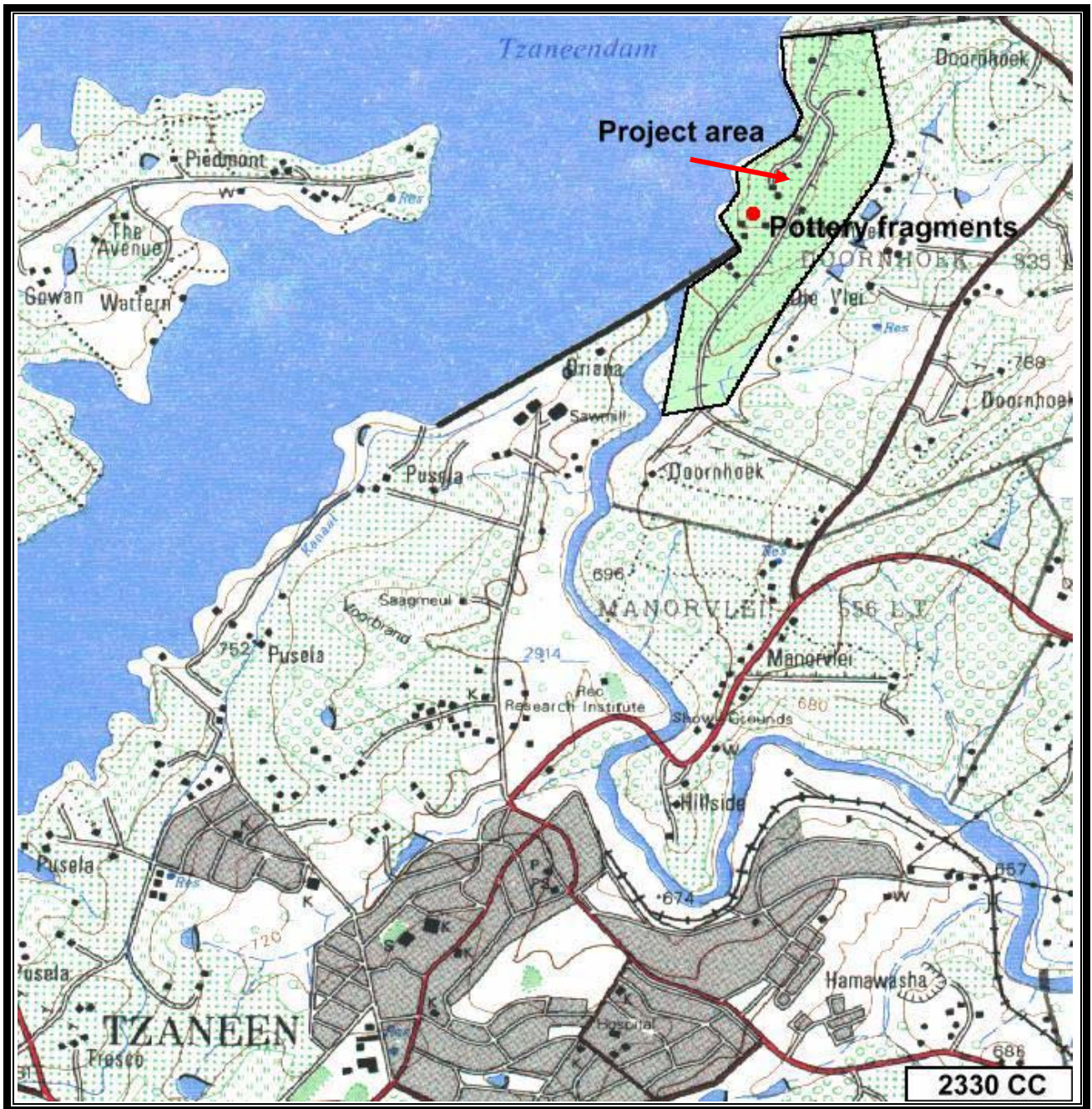
Fig 1. General view of a part of the open space.



Fig 2. Pottery fragment found on the terrain.



Fig. 3 A house that may be 60 years or older.



Locality Map.