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PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON PORTION 5 OF THE FARM UITENPAS 2-MT, NEAR MUSINA, LIMPOPO PROVINCE



Report Prepared for:

Nduvheni Environmental Services

September 2008

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

Nduvheni Consultanting & Associates 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 Township Establishment on Portion 5 of the farm Uitenpas 2-MT

RESOURCE SUMMARY

Members 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

No further studies are necessary. However, should any chance archaeological or any other physical cultural resources be discovered subsurface, heritage authorities should be informed. From an archaeological and cultural heritage resources perspective, there are no objections to the proposed development.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants (VHHC) has been appointed by Nduvheni Consultanting & Associates to conduct an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment study for the proposed Township Establishment on Portion 5 of the farm Uitenpas 2-MT in the Musina local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. Musina is situated in the Northern area of the Limpopo Province and within the Musina Magisterial District. The Municipality is situated approximately 15 km to the south of Limpopo River close to the international border post of Beitbridge and situated 540m above sea level in the midst of the well known Limpopo Valley along the N1

This Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study focus on potential impacts on archaeological, cultural, and historical heritage resources associated with the proposed development.

On the 31st of August 2008, VHHC heritage specialists conducted the reconnaissance survey and impact assessment by transecting the affected landscape looking for indicators of archaeological and any other cultural materials in the affected areas. In part the field officers also inspected soil profiles for potential archaeological materials that may still be trapped *in situ* in an area disturbed by borrowing animals and the Geo-tech test pits (see figure 3).

There were no other physical cultural properties of any significance threshold that were identified. The extent of the proposed development sites was determined as well as the extent of the areas to be affected by secondary activities (access route, construction of the residential properties, etc.) during the development. The site was plotted using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and photographed digitally.

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) forms an integral part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required by the National Environmental Management Act, [NEMA] 107 of 1998. This HIA report

then becomes an integral part of the environmental impact assessment that is to be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (DEDET) - Environmental Impact Management office, in support of the application. The information presented in this report provides the background and the basis for the Heritage Resources component of the project impact assessment in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, [NHRA] 25 of 1999. The impact assessment focuses primarily on heritage 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*)

- ❖ Determining the presence of archaeological sites that may be adversely impacted by the proposed development, and evaluate their significance.
- ❖ Identification of potential adverse impacts to archaeological sites protected under the National Heritage Resources Act No: 25 of 1999.
- ❖ Assessing of the heritage significance of identified archaeological sites to assist in the development of appropriate mitigation strategies.
- ❖ Make recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of protected or otherwise significant archaeological sites.
- ❖ Reporting the results of these studies to the Heritage Authorities.

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 study consisted of standard field survey covering the proposed site for development. In practice, most archaeological and historical sites are found through systematic survey of the target landscapes. The survey therefore, sought to identify cultural heritage sites including graves, burial grounds and contemporary religious or sacred ceremonial sites associated with the Township Establishment..

Vhufa Hashu heritage specialists conducted the reconnaissance survey and impact assessment by transecting the affected landscape looking for indicators of archaeological and any other cultural materials in the affected areas. In part the field officer also inspected soil profiles for potential archaeological materials that may still be trapped *in situ* in an area disturbed by borrowing animals.

Identification of archaeological or historical sites during surveying depends on visibility and accessibility. By looking at the nature of the area, the area is presumably dormant in terms of the existence or availability of

archaeological or historical resources that can be classified as of high or medium in terms of significance.

6 SITE LOCATION

Portion 5 of the farm Uitenpas 2-MT is located at about 4 km north of Musina town and about 9 km to Beit Bridge Border Post. The proposed site is situated between the N1 and the railway line and at the northern side of Matombo Lodge (GPS S22.31615°E30.02287)



Figure 1: View of the Railway line from Musina to Beit Bridge at the eastern side of the proposed site for development.



Figure 2: View of the proposed site.



Figure 3: View of the Geotechnical pit.

7 SURVEY FINDINGS

No signs of heritage resources such as archaeological sites were found that would be significantly impacted on by the proposed development.

However, there is a possibility of encountering chance finds during earth-moving and construction activities.

Archaeological sites recorded in the Musina Municipality area are many. Most were recorded during archaeological impact assessments conducted in the area. The sites cover the full spectrum of human history ranging from Early Stone Age, rock paintings through to the colonial history. There is great potential that more sites related to the history of the struggle may be identified. This is especially so because Musina covers the area of several clashes between the apartheid government forces and freedom fighters from the then neighboring Frontline States to the north, west and east during the struggle. Such sites have been accorded unconditional National Significance threshold wherever they are identified

The discovery of previously undetected subsurface heritage remains on the site during construction must be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

No mitigation measures are recommended for this project. However, the developers should consider possible presence of unmarked burials and archaeological materials that might be discovered during the construction activities.

9 REFERENCE

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National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)

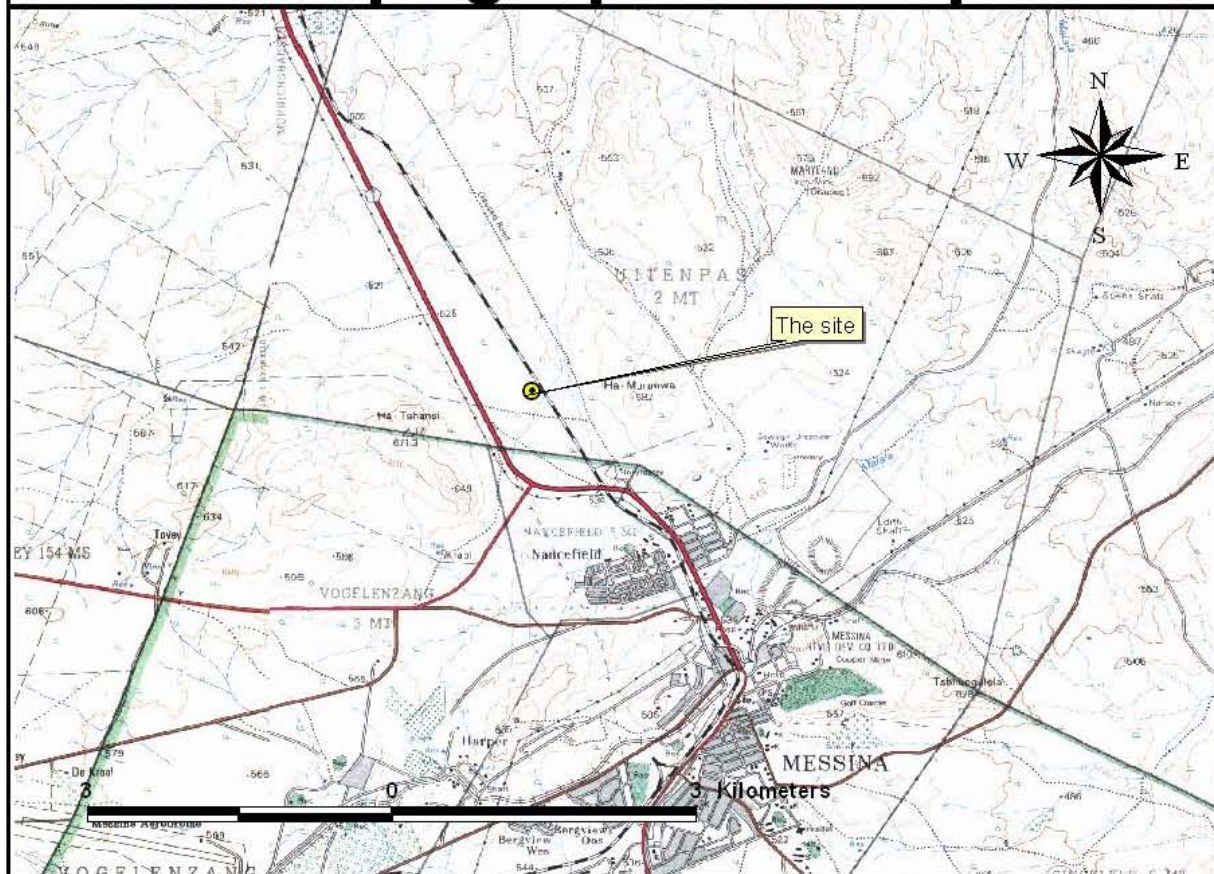
10 PROJECT TEAM

Mr Richard R Munyai (*BA Archaeology 2000 Univen*

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

Principal Investigator for Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants.

Topographical Map



Heritage Impact
Assesment
for
Establishment of
a New Township
in
Portion 5
Of
Uitenpas 2 MT

Prepared
for
Vhufa Hashu
Heritage
Consultants cc

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