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CaseID: 17721

Addendum to Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed township establishment development of the Arts and Culture Hub at Bakone Malapa Cultural Village in Polokwane, Limpopo Province

Good Day Ms Khumalo

In response to the letter from SAHRA dated 31 March 2022; the client, Precious Environment Consultants stipulated that the site layout has changed and does not incorporate the Bakone Malapa Museum as this has caused confusion as though the Museum part of the project or an extension of the Museum. This means, the museum falls outside the proposed area and does not form part of the project.

The site is situated south of Bakone Malapa Northern Sotho Open Air Museum under Polokwane Local Municipality. The extent of the site is 105Ha. The proposed development includes a theatre development and operation that will introduce a modern interpretation of local vernacular architectural traditions and a boutique hotel with spa and wellness centre, restaurant and bar, conferencing facilities.

During the physical survey conducted on 20 January 2021, heritage resources were found outside the proposed site; that is beyond a 100m radius. As such, the proposed site is viable for the proposed project from a heritage provided mitigation measures and recommendations proposed are adhered to.

1. LOCALITY AREA

The site is located south of the Bakone Malapa Open-Air Museum which is located north of the proposed site, under the Polokwane Local Municipality (figure 1-3).



Figure 1: Locality Map

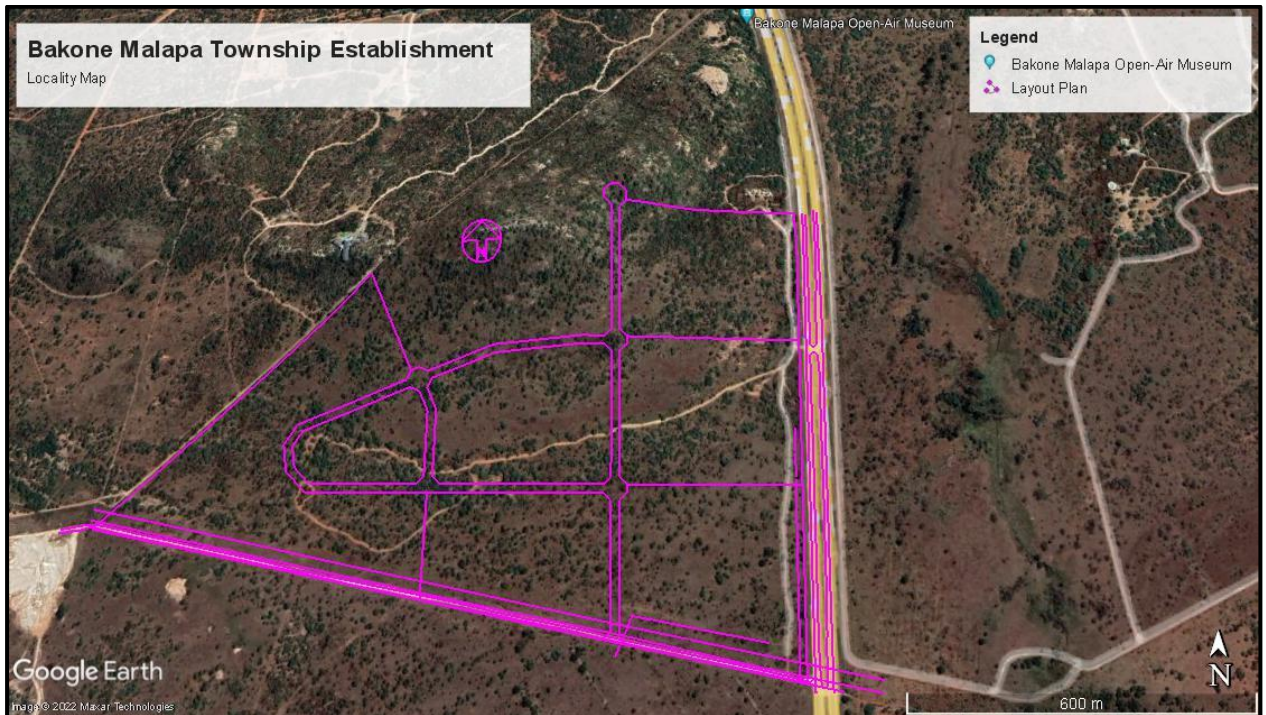


Figure 2: Close view of proposed site.

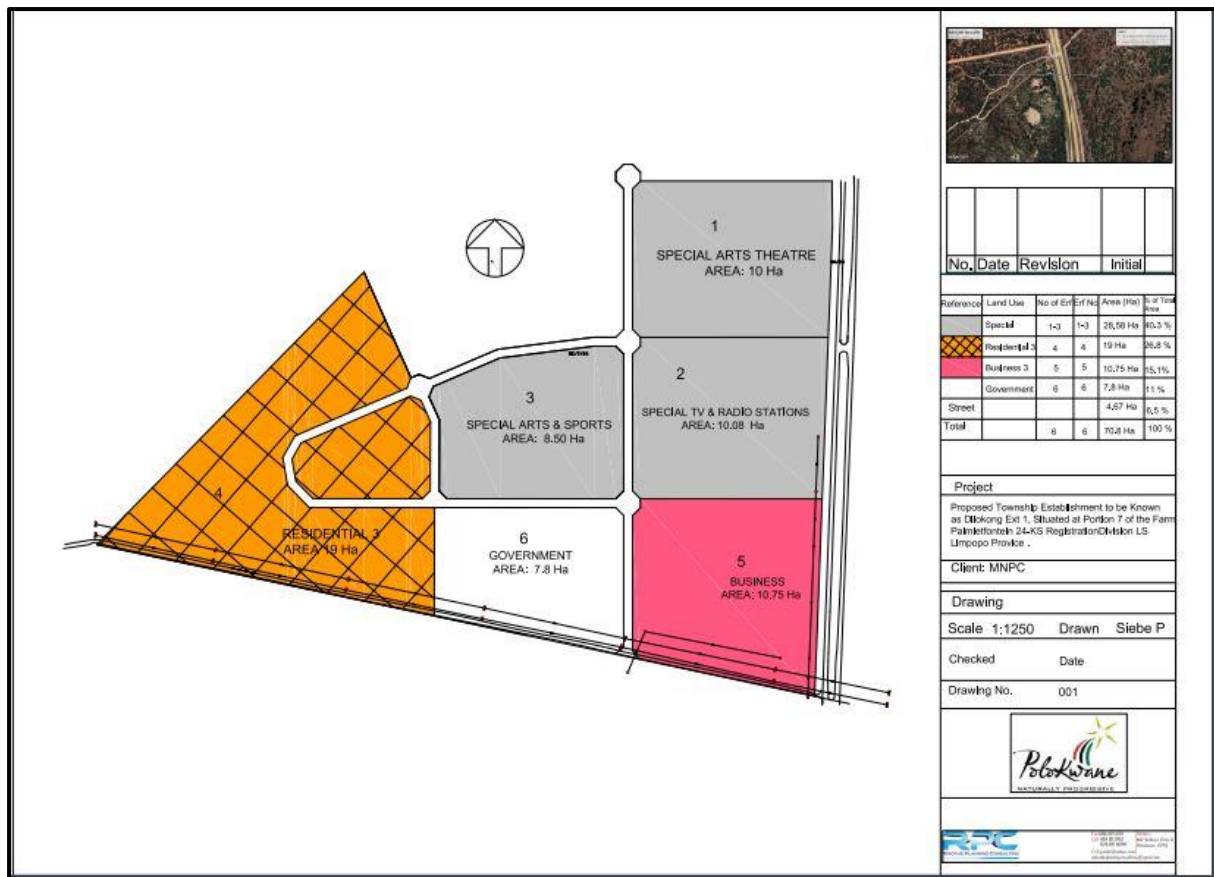


Figure 3: New Site Plan.

2. FINDINGS

During the physical survey, heritage resources were found in close proximity of the proposed site. This includes the Bakone Malapa Museum and all archaeological material associated with it such as stonewalling, rock art sites and the rainmaking hill (Bambo hill) outside the Museum. In addition, structures outside the museum were found but were not older than 60 years. Ms Stegmann provided us with the No-Go boundary map which has already been established. This map incorporates the museum, the Bambo hill and majority of the rock art sites. Some rock art sites do fall outside the No-Go boundary; however, they are as significant as those within the boundary. The south border of the No-Go Boundary is ± 127 m away from the north border of the proposed layout plan. The southernmost recorded Rock Art site (RA 1) is ± 188 m away from the north border of the proposed layout plan (figure 4-5).

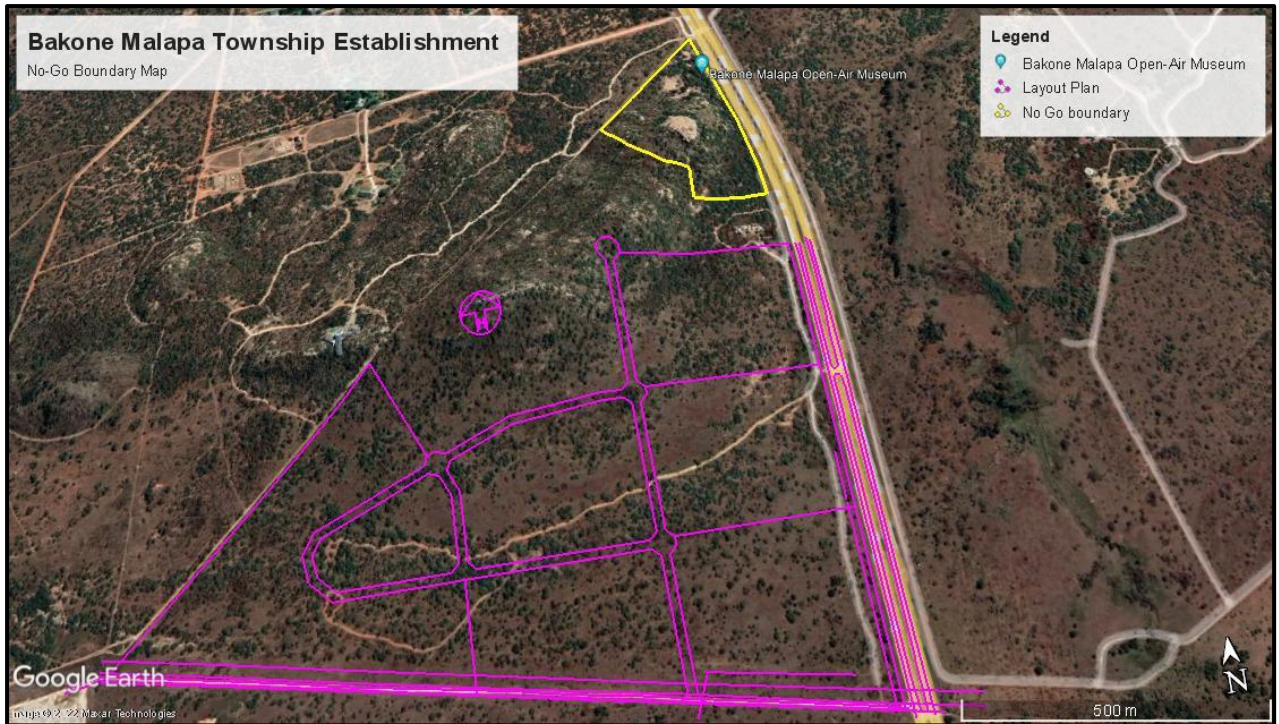


Figure 4: No-Go boundary map.

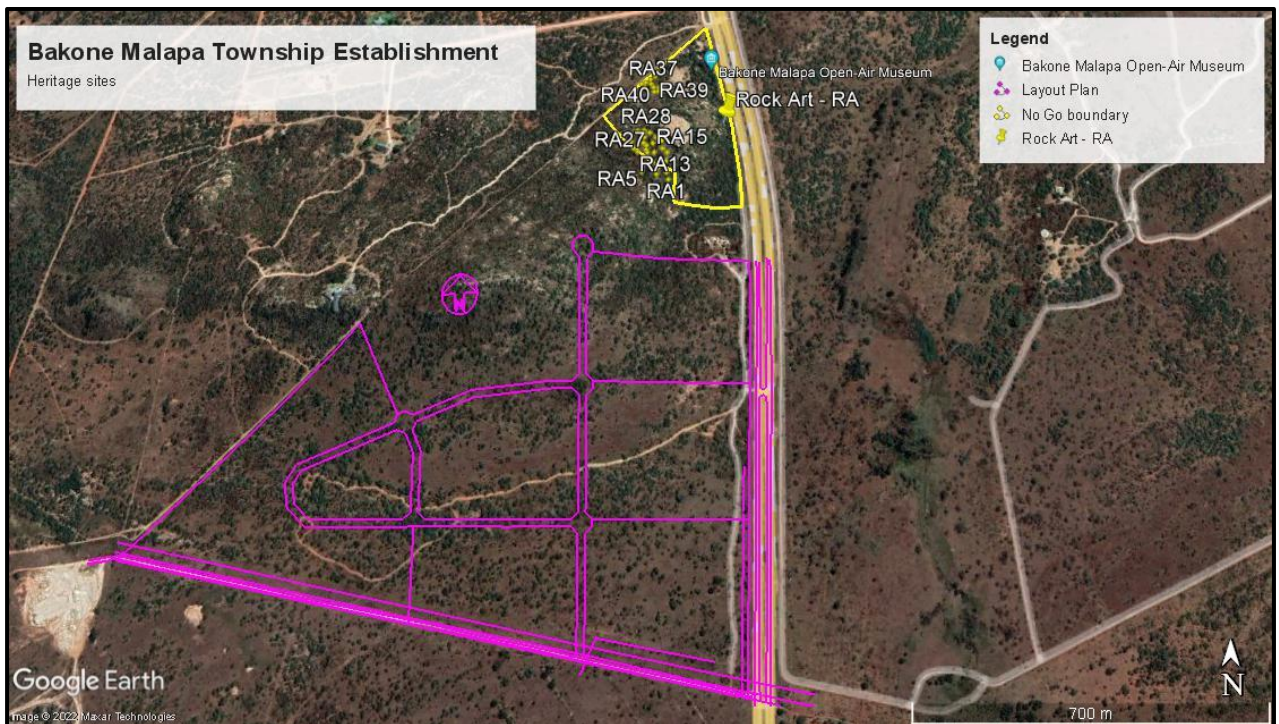


Figure 5: Heritage resources found in close proximity.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHANGE FINDINGS

- The museum and its immediate surrounding fall outside the proposed project and therefore; it should remain as such. No construction should take place 50m around the No-Go boundary to protect the known heritage resources found in close proximity of the proposed site. A temporary fence will have to be erected at the 50m zone in order to ensure no construction takes place beyond the point of the fence.
- During the construction phase, the contractor should keep within the proposed parameters of the proposed site to avoid impacting any known heritage resources found outside of the proposed site.
- The contractor should induct all employees on the importance of heritage sites and resources that they should not be impacted in any way. This is to ensure that even if any heritage resources are found during the construction phase or exposed due to construction activities, should by no means be impacted or destroyed.
- Should any other heritage resources be found on site during the construction phase apart from the ones already found; be it archaeological artefacts such as stone tools and pottery; burial grounds and graves and structures; the contractor should cease construction immediately and contact the client and the Museum. A heritage expert should be called to site to assess the significance of the archaeological artefacts and the impacts of the proposed activities on such artefacts, and then provide mitigation measures.
- The possibility of uncovering unearthed human remains or graves that are of archaeological significance is high. Should potential human remains be found on site, the contractor should cease construction immediately and the South African Police Service; the client; and the Museum should also be contacted. Should the remains be below 60 years old since time of death, it is considered a forensic case and further investigations will be conducted by the police and should the remains be above 60 years old since time of death (which might be the case here), it becomes a South African Heritage Resources Agency case. This means an archaeologist should be called on site for assessment and propose mitigation measures. It should be noted that all costs will be on the client.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, based on the survey conducted the proposed site has medium significance from a heritage perspective because although no known heritage resources have been found on

the proposed site, the surrounding area is of heritage significance. No heritage resources known or unknown should be damaged or altered during the construction phase. The contractor and the developer must take note that the proposed area is in close proximity with a heritage site and therefore extra precaution should be taken at all times during construction and operational phase. Chances of finding other burial grounds and graves on the proposed site are high given that the area was previously occupied during the period of Iron Age and archaeological graves have been previously found.

Subject to approval from SAHRA, the proposed project may proceed provided mitigation measures and recommendations provided are adhered to and implemented. Should the developer not do as such, the project will be deemed unacceptable and in contravention of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. This addendum will be submitted to SAHRA for review and decision.

Yours Sincerely

Makhosazana Mngomezulu



Vungandze Projects Archaeology and Heritage Services