

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

**PROPOSED NEW BORROW PIT (1) ON THE ROAD
D3232, ON THE FARM UITSPAN 172 LT, NEAR
MOREBENG (SOEKMEKAAR), LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The area proposed for development involves the extraction of soil and gravel for use as a borrow pit for upgrading the Road D3150. This report deals with Borrow pit 1 on D3232, which forms part of a larger project survey encompassing 5 borrow pits, 3 bridges and a culvert for the upgrading of road D3150.

The borrow pit is an extension to an existing borrow pit and thus the area has been negatively impacted in the past.

No heritage remains were recorded at the site.

No further recommendations or mitigation is required.

CONTENTS

3	1 Introduction and terms of Reference
4	2 Method
	2.1 Sources of information and methodology
	2.2 Limitations
	2.3 Categories of significance
5	2.4 Terminology
5	3 Description of the proposed development and terrain
5	4 Results of the scoping survey and discussion
	4.1. Intangible Heritage and Social consultation
	4.2 Recent Historical Period
	4.3. Graves
	4.4. Iron Age remains
	4.5. Stone Age remains
6	5 Background information
9	6 Discussion and recommendations
9	7 Bibliography
	<u>List of figures</u>
6	Fig 1. View of area
6	Fig 2. View of area
6	Fig 3. View of area
6	Fig 4. View of area
10	Close up Google Map
10	Wide view to show relation to wider geographic area

1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Application purpose: To extend an existing borrow pit

Area: Soekmekaar- Morebeng area

Size: 5 ha

General GPS: *S23° 27' 56.8" E30° 00' 30.0"*

Map reference number: 2330 AC

This report will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on 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-

(a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface, or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

Burial grounds and graves

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

(c) 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.

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, ...”

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information and methodology

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

A pedestrian survey of the entire area was undertaken by Mr FE Roodt on 8 July 2017, during which standard methods of observation were applied. The area was carefully covered and traversed and special attention given to any areas displaying soil and or vegetative changes. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Locations of heritage remains were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin Etrex 10). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Nikon Coolpix L25 Digital camera.

2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. Vegetation was moderate to sparse.

2.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

- No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
- Low significance: sites, which *may* require mitigation.
- Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
- High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical

structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. Many aspects must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

2.4 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 ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.
- Late Stone Age:** The period from ± 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 AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA, though more recent remains can be termed historically significant should the remains hold social significance for the local community.
- Phase 1 assessment:** 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.
- Sensitive:** Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

Vegetation: Makhado Sweet Bushveld (SVcb20)

Terrain: The area has been severely impacted on in the past as it is an existing borrow pit is to be extended. An area around the periphery of the used section was also surveyed to ensure no heritage materials were impacted in the past.

Proposed development: To extend an existing borrow pit, for road upgrading



Fig 1. View of area



Fig 2. View of area



Fig 3: View of area



Fig 4. View of area

4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY AND DISCUSSION

4.1 SOCIAL and/or RELIGIOUS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No areas designated for socio-religious activities were recorded on the site

Significance: None

4.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No remains from the historical period were recorded.

Significance: None

4.3 GRAVES

No formal or informal graves could be identified.

Significance: None

4.4 IRON AGE REMAINS

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition: Kwale branch-
Moloko branch-

Mzonjani facies AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)
Icon facies AD 1300 - 1500 (Late Iron Age)
Marateng facies AD 1650-1840 (Late IA)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch -

Doornkop facies AD 750 - 1000 (Early Iron Age)
Eiland facies AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)
Klingbeil facies AD 1000 - 1200 (Middle Iron Age)
Letaba facies AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)
Marateng facies AD 1650-1840 (Late IA)

The Iron Age is better documented in the Soutpansberg and toward Polokwane where large settlements of people are known.

No remains from the Iron Age were recorded.

Significance: None

4.5 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age remains were recorded. The area does not have any drainage lines, overhangs or rocky areas indicative of Stone Age occupation areas.

Significance: None

4.6 PALAEONOTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The area lies within the grey zone on SAHRIS map.

5. BACKGROUND ON THE AREA

According to SAHRA website, the nearest surveys to the proposed development are Case ID 1767, a mining application that is listed as only for noting.

As stated above, the Soutpansberg, and Polokwane areas are better known for yielding heritage remains.

6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.

The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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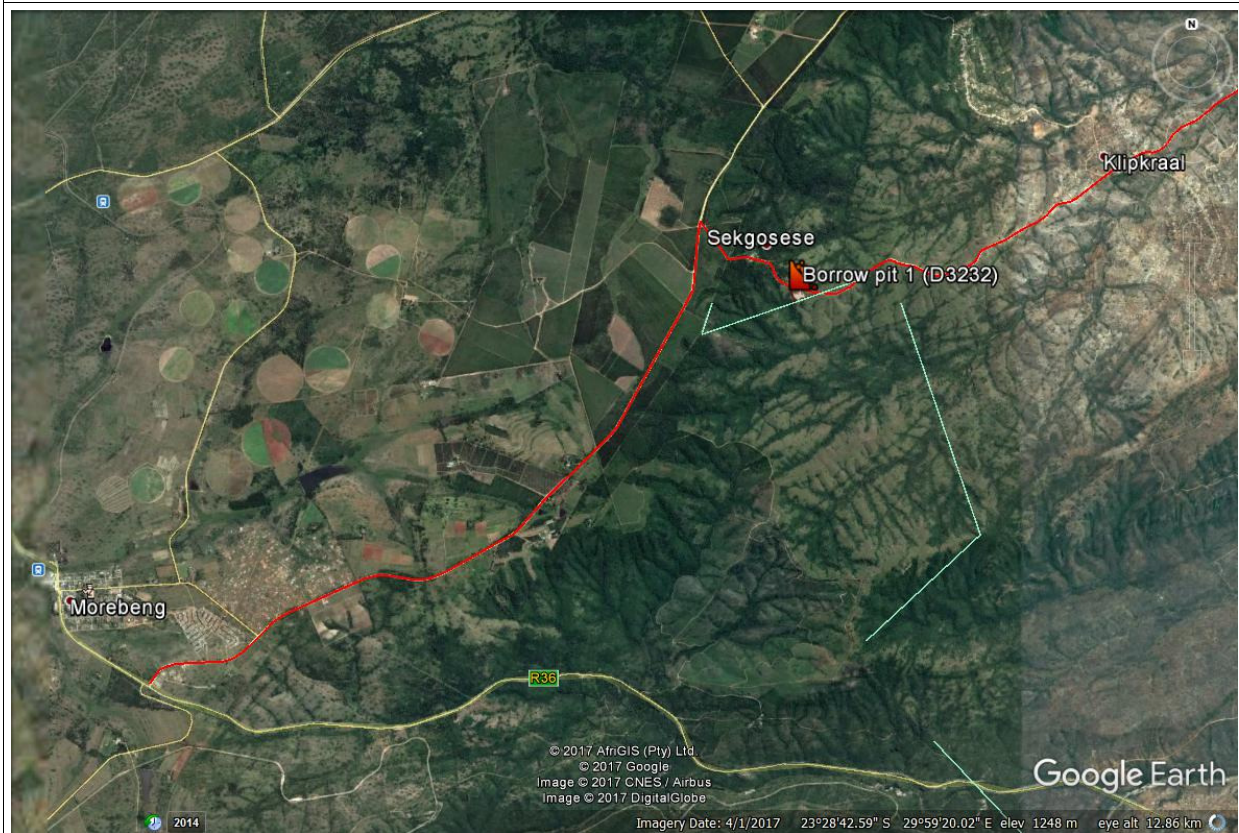
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Map 1: Google map close up view



Map 2. In relation to Morebeng