



PHASE 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED DEMARCATIONS RESIDENTIAL
SITES ON FARM UITVLUGT 887 KS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY OF DE HOOP
DAM, WITHIN GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SEKHUKHUNE
DISTRICT,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

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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 could be overlooked during the study. Vhufashu Heritage Consultants and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

July 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Note: This report follows minimum standard guidelines required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA and SAHRIS) for compiling a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA).

Site name and location: The proposed study area is situated approximately 45kilometers west of Steelpoort Central Business District, the proposed site is located north of both main tarred road, R555 from Steelpoort and, the Steelpoort River, within Greater Tubatse Local Municipality of the Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province, South Africa.

Local Authority: Greater Tubatse Local Municipality

Magisterial Authority: Sekhukhune District Municipality

PROJECT APPLICANT: Department of Water Affairs

Date of field work: 15July 2013

Date of report: 16 July 2013

SURVEY AIMS AND ASSESSMENTS FINDINGS

The Phase 1 Archaeological Scoping Study (Archaeological Impact Assessments) as required in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) was done for the proposed residential sites on farm Uitvlugt 887KS within Greater Tubatse Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province, South Africa.

The aims with the Phase1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) program were the following:

- To establish whether any of the type and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of

1999) do occur in or near the proposed site , and if so, to establish the significance of these heritage resources.

- To establish whether such heritage resources will be affected by the proposed demarcation of residential sites, and if so, to determine possible mitigation measures that can be applied to these heritage resources.

The phase 1 impact assessment survey revealed an archaeological site, indicated by scattered undiagnostic pottery shards, and vitrified dung deposits within the proposed development footprint corridors.

The significance of the identified site

The significance of the identified site has been indicated by means of stipulations derived from the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)

Archaeological sites are considered to be of high significance and are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (no 25 of 1999). The site qualifies to be protected in term of this national legislation; however sites of this nature could be mitigated. It is difficult to conclude much about the identified site, in the absence of diagnostic pottery from the surface. This limitation precludes detailed comparison of diagnostic ceramics from other known archaeological sites. Since the area will be developed into residential sites, the identified archaeological site will be negatively impacted by future communal activities such as cultivations, animal husbandry, and village extensions over time. We therefore proposed further second phase investigations (Phase two archaeological excavation investigations).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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PROFESSIONAL DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, Mr. Ndivhuho Eric Mathoho hereby declare that I am a Professional archaeologist accredited with the association for South African Professional Archaeologist (ASAPA) Membership No 312 and that Vhufahashu Heritage Consultants is an independent consultants with no association or with no any other interest what so ever with any institution, organization, or whatever and that the remuneration earned from consulting work constitute the basis of Company livelihood and income.

Mr. Mathoho Ndivhuho Eric



.....
Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant for Vhufahashu Heritage Consultants
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ABBREVIATIONS

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
VHHC	Vhufa hashu Heritage Consultants
LIA	Late Iron Age
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

DEFINITIONS

Archaeological Material remains resulting from human activities, which are in a state of disuse and are in, on, land and which are older than 100 years, including artifacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures.

Chance Finds Archaeological artifacts, features, structures or historical cultural remains such as human burials that are found accidentally in context previously not identified during cultural heritage scoping, screening and assessment studies. Such finds are usually found during earth moving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

Cultural Heritage Resources Same as Heritage Resources as defined and used in the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Refer to physical cultural properties such as archaeological and palaeontological sites; historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and material remains; cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or *graves* and their associated materials; geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge.

Cultural Significance The complexities of what makes a place, materials or intangible resources of value to society or part of, customarily assessed in terms of aesthetic, historical, scientific/research and social values.

Grave A place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as being situated in a cemetery.

Historic Material remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artefacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

In Situ material *Material culture* and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

Late Iron Age this period is associated with the development of complex societies and state systems in southern Africa.

Material culture Buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

Site A distinct spatial cluster of artefacts, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Water Affairs commissioned studies for the proposed demarcation of residential sites, for the relocation of the affected community by the construction of De hoop dam Project. They appointed Hluli Environmental Consultants to handle environmental aspects of the proposed demarcation of residential project. Hluli Environmental Consultants then appointed Vhufashu Heritage Consultants to conduct an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment study as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed project.

The proposed activities form part of the development process, where application for Environmental Assessment Authorization must be completed. Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report form part of a series of appendices prepared for Environmental Impact Assessment (Basic Assessments) Report to be submitted to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism (DEDET), in support of the application as amended by the National Environmental Management (NEMA) Act No. 107 of 1998. Information presented in this report form the basis of Archaeological resources assessment of the proposed project as the proposal constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the proposed 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.

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Two sets of legislation are relevant for the study with regards to the protection of heritage resources and graves.

2.1. The National Heritage Resource Act (25 of 1999)

This Act established the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) as the prime custodians of the heritage resources and makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessment for various categories of development as determined by

section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources (section 7) and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibility and functions from heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial and Local authorities, depending on the grade of heritage resources (section 8)

In terms of the National Heritage Resource Act 25, (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 discover archaeological or Paleontological object or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resource authority or 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-

- destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- trade in ,sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite; or
- bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist with the detection or recovery of metal or archaeological material or object or such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Section 35(5) When the responsible heritage resource authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or paleontological site is underway, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resource management procedures in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may

- serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order
- carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not an archaeological or paleontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
- if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph (a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection (4); and
- recover the cost of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or paleontological site is located or from the person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two week of the order being served.

Subsection 35(6) the responsible heritage resource authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or paleontological site or meteorite is situated; serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or 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.

Subsection 36 (6) Subject to the provision of any person who in the course of development or any other activity discover 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 resource authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police service and in accordance with regulation of the responsible heritage resource authority-

- (l) 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
- 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 contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

Cultural 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.

2.2. The Human Tissue Act (65 of 1983)

This act protects graves younger than 60 years, these falls under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Department. Approval for the exhumation and reburial must be obtained from the relevant provincial MEC as well as relevant Local Authorities.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were to undertake an archaeological impacts assessment on the proposed power line and associated substation establishment project and submit a specialist report, which addresses the following:

- Executive summary
- Scope of work undertaken
- Methodology used to obtain supporting information
- Overview of relevant legislation
- Results of all investigations
- Interpretation of information
- Assessment of impact
- Recommendation on effective management measures
- References

4. TERMINOLOGY

The Heritage impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) Heritage resources, (Cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyle of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term 'pre –historical' refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in a particular area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought South Africa by the first colonist who settled in the Cape in the early 1652 and brought to the other different part of South Africa in the early 1800.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may in the near future, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on the observation alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floors plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The 'term sensitive remains' is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between 'formal' and 'informal' graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values with regard to their ancestors. These values have to be recognized and honored whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age people lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Early Stone Age (3Million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years ago to 40 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Early Iron Age' and Late Iron Age respectively refers to the periods between the first and second millenniums AD.

The 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17th and the 19th centuries and therefore includes the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refers to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre historical, historical or relatively recent past.

The term 'study area' or 'project area' refers to the area where the developers wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan)

Phase I studies refers to survey using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in a given area.

Phase II studies includes in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include documenting of rock art, engravings or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of

archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavation of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of grave yards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialist and require the co-operation and the approval of SAHRA.

5. METHODOLOGY

Source of information

Most of the information was obtained through the initial site visit made on the 15 July 2013 by Mr. Mathoho Eric where a systematic inspection of the proposed sites, the sites were covered along linear transects which resulted in the maximum coverage of the entire routes. Standard archaeological observation practices were followed; Visual inspection was supplemented by relevant written source, and oral communications with local communities from the surrounding area. In addition, the site was recorded by hand held GPS and plotted on 1:50 000 topographical map. Archaeological/historical material and the general condition of the terrain were photographed with a Canon 1000D Camera.

6. ASSESSMENTS CRITERIA

This section 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.

6.1 Site Significance

The site significance classification standards as prescribed and endorsed 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 as guidelines in determining the site significance for the purpose of this report.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; National Site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; Provincial Site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High Significance	Conservation; Mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High Significance	Mitigation (Part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	Grade 4A	High / Medium Significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	Grade 4B	Medium Significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	Grade 4C	Low Significance	Destruction

Grading and rating systems of heritage resources

6.2 Impact Rating

VERY HIGH

These impacts would be considered by society as constituting a major and usually permanent change to the (natural and/or cultural) environment, and usually result in severe or very severe effects, or beneficial or very beneficial effects.

Example: The loss of a species would be viewed by informed society as being of VERY HIGH significance.

Example: The establishment of a large amount of infrastructure in a rural area, which previously had very few services, would be regarded by the affected parties as resulting in benefits with VERY HIGH significance.

HIGH

These impacts will usually result in long term effects on the social and /or natural environment. Impacts rated as HIGH will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually long term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. Society would probably view these impacts in a serious light.

Example: The loss of a diverse vegetation type, which is fairly common elsewhere, would have a significance rating of HIGH over the long term, as the area could be rehabilitated.

Example: The change to soil conditions will impact the natural system, and the impact on affected parties (e.g. farmers) would be HIGH.

MODERATE

These impacts will usually result in medium- to long-term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as MODERATE will need to be considered by the public or the specialist as constituting a fairly unimportant and usually short term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are real, but not substantial.

Example: The loss of a sparse, open vegetation type of low diversity may be regarded as MODERATELY significant.

Example: The provision of a clinic in a rural area would result in a benefit of MODERATE significance.

LOW

These impacts will usually result in medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as LOW will need to be considered by society as constituting a fairly important and usually medium term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are not substantial and are likely to have little real effect.

Example: The temporary changes in the water table of a wetland habitat, as these systems are adapted to fluctuating water levels.

Example: The increased earning potential of people employed as a result of a development would only result in benefits of LOW significance to people living some distance away.

NO SIGNIFICANCE

There are no primary or secondary effects at all that are important to scientists or the public.

Example: A change to the geology of a certain formation may be regarded as severe from a geological perspective, but is of NO SIGNIFICANCE in the overall context.

6.3 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.

6.4 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

6.5 Mitigation

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

- **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

7.1. REGIONAL SETTING: ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE.

The history of the Pedi before the 20th century has been well described and documented in several literatures. The exact origin of the Pedi is shrouded by mystery, the Pedi are undoubtedly, of Sotho origin. The Sotho division is so classified principally on the linguistic grounds of similar characteristic of Sotho people (Mönnig 1967). The Tswana Chiefdom form part of the larger group of Sotho people, while Sotho group itself is one of the three great sub-divisions of the bantu-speaking peoples situated north of the Nguni communities. In addition to Batswana or Western Sotho, the Sotho group includes the Basotho of Lesotho and the Orange Free State, to who the term Sotho has come to be more specifically the almost exclusively applied. This group some time also referred to as the southern Sotho. The third group comprises the Bapedi who have been generally referred to as the northern Sotho, with the exception of some Tswana; this group is the one that dominated in the study area within the Sekhukhune district. To wrap up the above all these tribes call themselves Sotho (Ncgongco 1979, Mönnig 1967).

Legassick (1969) summary of the vast and complicated literature on the Sotho- Tswana oral tradition provide a frame work for the understanding of the relevant archaeological records. It is possible to establish a meaningful relationship between archaeological and historical groups and to use this relationship to clarify the early history of the Sotho-Tswana/Pedi. The Transvaal Sotho has been subdivided into a number of groups. These are the eastern Sotho, particularly the Kutswe, Pai and Pulana; the north eastern Sotho, particularly the Phalaborwa, Mmamabolo and Lobedu the northern Sotho, particularly the Kgaga, Birwa, Tlokwa and some Koni and Tau. Historical documents and Sotho oral tradition suggest that they originated from the Great Lakes in central Africa. Their migration occurred in succession of waves over many years under the leadership of king Kgalakgadi who settled in Botswana in the early 13th centuries. The next group to have arrived in the early period seems to have been the Digoya who were the first group to cross the Vaal River, little is known of their history and they were finally absorbed by the Ba-Taung tribe. The majority of the proper Sotho followed two three migration of the Ba-Rolong, Ba- Fokeng and Ba- Hurutshe.

Documents suggest that Marota (commonly called Ba-Pedi) originated from Ba- Kgatla form central Highveld near present day Rustenburg and Pretoria, an important offshoot, the Ba- Pedi is thought to have moved northeast in the mid 17th century. Another member of the cluster may be the Ba- Tlokwa. Maggs (1976) connect Ba- Tlokwa with the Pembe ruins which are situated some few kilometers south of Ntuanatsatsi hill, he further alluded

that Ba- Tlokwa once built a capital called Itlholanoga in the Pilansberg near the present day Sun City; it was at a later stage that the Ba-Kgatla took over this area. The site is characterized by well constructed stone walled complex located on top of hill; the architectural style of the stone wall has been dominated by Molokwane patterns. According to Maggs (1976) the Ba-Kgatla tribes were responsible with the construction of the stone walling while Ba-Tlokwa was responsible with the earliest occupation. According to Boeyens (2005) Tlokwa are known to have lived in the late 18th century at Marathodi site.

Oral traditions suggest that migration and settlement in the sub- continent are of course conjectural with trace of genealogies of the Ba-Rolong tribe back to 1270 and the Ba-Fokeng even to 980 AD, the Ba-Rolong began their migration at the beginning of the 15th century and towards the 16 century they were followed by two last group, the last of which was the Ba- Hurutshe who transverse the land and settle in what is now the western Transvaal. History suggest that when Mmathobele was expecting her first child the other wives of Diale (The ruler), were jealousy and they said that they could hear the child crying in her womb. Naturally this unusual event was attributed to witchcraft, and the Kgatla wanted to kill the mother and child, Diale interceded for her and the child was born normally, the child was nick-named Lellelateng (it cries inside), as the child grow older, his father, seeing that the tribe would never accept his son to attained the kingship, he instructed him to leave with his mother and followers towards the east, the group under the leadership of Thobele founded their own tribe, the Pedi. Lellelateng is generally taken as founder of the Pedi, although tradition makes no further mention of his sons or successors, where as Thobele is accepted as the man who led the Pedi to their new home (Mönnig 1967).

According to the 19th century settlement of this region, the Sotho speaking Pedi arrived relatively late, they did however build powerful kingdom in time of Thulare 1790-1820. One of the reasons was availability of excellent pasture and good landscape. Historians suggest that Ba- Kgatla clan consolidated other smaller clan forming the Pedi stronghold state. The Pedi oral traditions suggest that Pedi chief Thulare maneuvered to the top of the ladder through his superb military tactics and became undisputed paramount chief of the region. By 1828 the new Pedi chief Sekwati had returned to the area, and over the next ten years rebuilt the Pedi stronghold. When the Voortrekker arrived in the Marota (Ba-Pedi) Empire King Sekwati (King Sekhukhune's father) resisted, and a famous battle was fought at Phiring in 1838, Sekwati defeated the Boer. The Ndzundza Ndebele, who also appear to have a long history in the area appear to have been subordinate to the Pedi up

until the death of Sekwati in 1861 at this point the Ndzundza declared their independence (Esterhysen & Smith 2007).

After the death of king Sekwati an illegitimate ruler who came to power using military force, emerged (king Sekhukhune), he maintained strong hold with neighboring tribes through intermarriages, it was at this time that his brother Mampuru (legitimate ruler) was forced to flee from the kingdom. During the reign of Sekhukhune he sent young men under the auspices of his headmen's to work in white farms and at the diamond mines, money earned from these employment were taxed and the taxes was used to buy guns form the Portuguese in Delagoa bay where he usually sent his subordinates for trade purposes, some of the money was used for purchasing cattle in an attempt to increases Marota's wealth.

By the 19th century the Marota Empire had grown to unite all disparate people in the area (Sekhukhune land). It was the same guns that were used in the war of resistance against the Boers and British. During the wars of resistance Sekhukhune was of the attitude that the land between the Vaal and Limpopo Rivers belongs to him and his area fall outside Pretoria's jurisdictions. Communities around the region were living harmoniously, trading and farming it was up to the year 1826 when Mzilikazi Khumalo fled from King Shaka's rule and reaches the region devastating the tribes that were within the region including Ba-Pedi communities, fortunately the Ba- Pedi recovered the devastation. A notable event was the decimation of the Pedi at some point between 1823 and 1825, there were some dispute over who was responsible and Mzilikazi Khumalo (Ndebele) moved up into the region to revenge the Pedi and their land, Ndwandwe under Zwibe were responsible. The Pedi survivor took refuge in the Waterberg area (Esterhysen & Smith 2007).

Many wars of resistance were fought and later Sekhukhune was forced hide himself in the cave. And the European troops cut supply of food and water and Sekhukhune was forced to come out of the cave surrender, and was captured and locked in prison. It was after his release in 1882 that his brother Mampuru murdered him. During those years Mampuru and Nyabela fled and hid from Commandant General Piet Joubert. (Mapoch was the chief of the Ndzundza- Ndebele tribe) The cave where Nyabela and Mampuru were hiding was besiege by Joubert in 1882 and Nyabela was arrested and lost his chieftaincy and the land under his jurisdiction was divided amongst the white (Burgers) who participated in the siege.

7.2 SITE LOCATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The proposed study area is located situated approximately 45kilometers west of Steelpoort Central Business District, the proposed site is located north of both main tarred road, R555 from Steelpoort to Rossenekal and, the Steelpoort River, within Greater Tubatse Local Municipality of the Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province, South Africa.

The proposed area is characterized by flat section of land which forms a lower lying area south of the Sekhukhune Mountains. The geology and soils is set on Gneiss formation, which varies in color between light and dark brown, the rocks are generally relatively exposed with rocky outcrops limited to bottom and top slope of the Sekhukhune Mountains. The study area is characterized by few trees to moderate dense low woodland on the deep sandy/loam dominated by *Acacia Negrences*, other identifiable species includes: *Grewia Flava*, *Bocia Albitrunca*, *Acacia Karoo*, *Rhus Lancea*, *Commifora sp* in the woody layer (Acocks 1975; Mucina and Rutherford 2006).

The site is located on the following global positioning system co-ordinates (GPS S24°.59', 23.3" & E 29°.53'.49.4").



Figure 1: View of the study area towards the northern section, where Sekhukhune Mountain forms photo background.

8. ASSESSMENTS OF SITES AND FINDS

This section contains the results of the heritage site/find assessment. The phase 1 heritage scoping assessment program as required in terms of the section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) done for the proposed access bridge project

8.1. Archaeological site (scattered potsherds (Ceramics) and vitrified dung deposits)

The site is situated on an open flat section south of Sekhukhune Mountains. The site was noted due to the presence of scattered undiagnostic pottery shards, burnt daga and vitrified dung deposit exposed to the surface by animal burrowing activities. These exposed features cover an area of approximately 60X70m. The site was marked and geo referenced. (**GPS S24°59'. 26. 0" and E 29°53'.47.4"**).

Throughout southern Africa, traditional settlements were made to last a lifetime. Iron Age communities lived in permanent settlement consisting of features such as houses, raised grain bins, underground storage pits, burial grounds and animal kraals. The houses structures were made of thatch or pole and mud, with a smooth daga rested on a thick compacted base. Grain may also be stored in underground pits smeared with dung and then sealed with stones. In the recent past grain pits were often dug into the cattle kraal.

Studies show that these Iron Age people kept live stocks (Cattle, sheep and goats).The presence of livestock is represented by the presence of dung deposits, over time cattle dung turns white and white mounds can mark 1000 years old kraal. Some time the dung ignites and vitrifies and turns into glass. Evidently, the dung needs to be at least a meter thick before vetrification can take place (Denbow, 1979).

Two different dung deposits (Cattle and Goats) can also be separated on the basis of plant residue, known as Phytoliths. These microscopic silica formations are characteristic of grasses, sedges and herbs and occur in much greater abundance in kraals than elsewhere in a settlement. Within the southern Africa, similar features provide a background to the study of Iron Age settlement, and have been recorded, in the early, middle and late Iron Age sites (Huffman 2007).



Figure 2: Some of the surface collected undiagnostic pottery from the identified site



Figure 3: *In situ* vitrified dung deposit indicated by an arrow



Figure 4: View of sampled surface collected vitrified dung deposit.

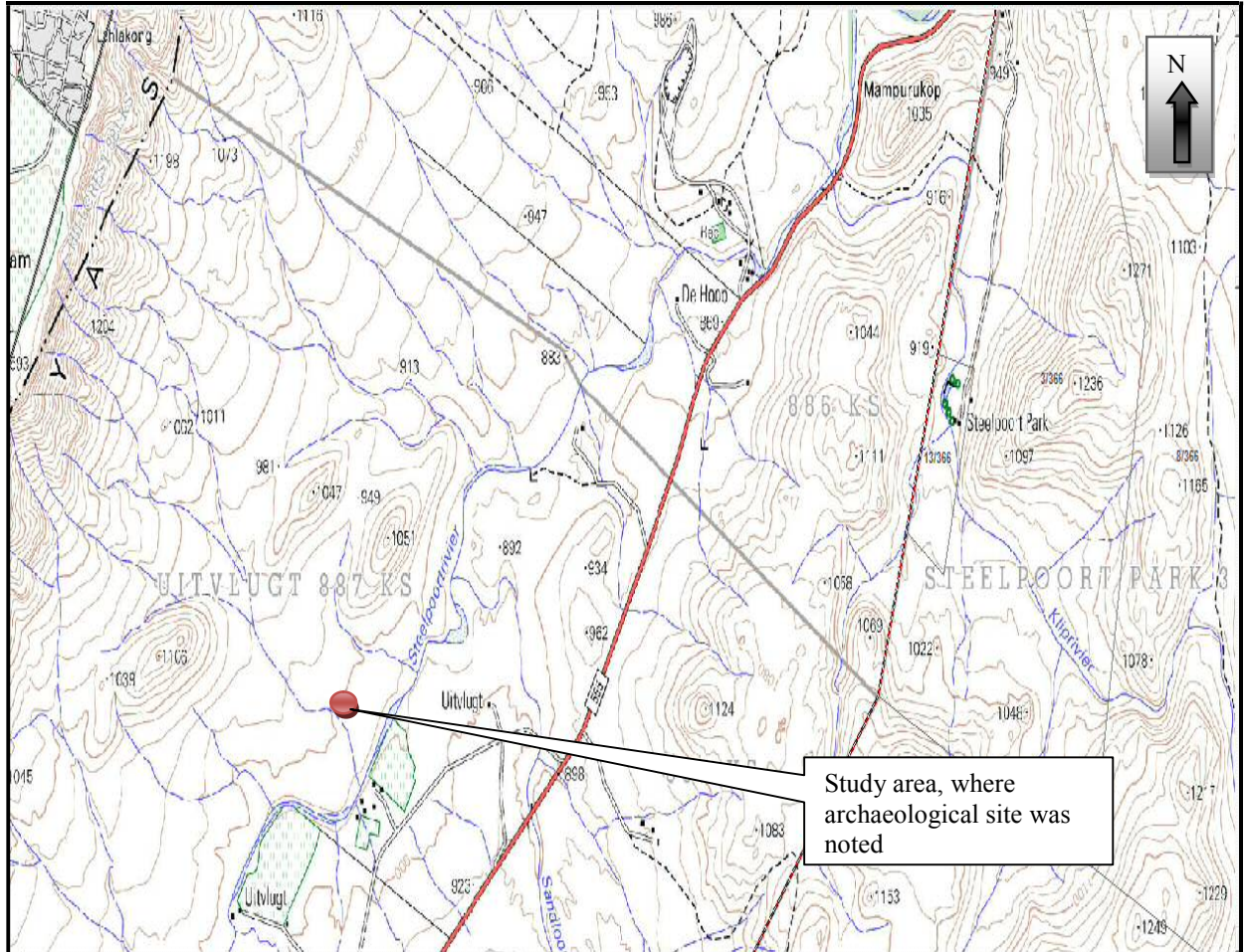
9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The phase 1 Archaeological impacts assessments for the proposed study area revealed an archaeological site. The significance of the identified site has been indicated by means of stipulations derived from the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)

Archaeological sites are considered to be of high significance and are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (no 25 of 1999). The site qualifies to be protected in term of this national legislation; however sites of this nature could be mitigated. It is difficult to conclude much about the identified site, in the absence of diagnostic pottery from the surface. This limitation precludes detailed comparison of diagnostic ceramics from other known archaeological sites. Since the area will be developed into residential sites, the identified archaeological site will be negatively impacted by future communal activities such as cultivations, animal husbandry, and village extensions over time. We therefore proposed further second phase investigations (Phase two archaeological excavation investigations).

10. TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE STUDY AREA



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