

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

SSP PLANT BA-PHALABORWA, LIMPOPO

AGES (Pty) Ltd Limpopo
PO Box 2526
Polokwane
0700

Liesl Stegmann and Frans E. Roodt
Under the supervision of Frans
Roodt

February 2015

Shasa Heritage Consultants

Not VAT registered

Tel: 073 216 9912 (Liesl)

54 Wildebeestfontein s/h

Email: wildwindheritagefarm@gmail.com

Polokwane 0700

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
6	4 Results of the scoping survey
	4.1. Recent Historical Period
	4.2. Graves
	4.3. Iron Age remains
	4.4. Stone Age remains
7	5 Background information
7	6 Discussion
8	7 Bibliography
	<u>List of figures</u>
6	Fig 1. General view of development area
6	Fig 2. General view of development area
9	Locality Map Google close view of the area
9	Locality Map Google view of the project area in relation to Phalaborwa

1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The application for the proposed Treatment Plant on the premises of Bosveld Phosphates located on the remainder portion of the farm Wegsteek 30 LU, Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Mopani District Municipality, Limpopo Province 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 may 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(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, ..."

The author was contracted to undertake a heritage scoping survey of the proposed Treatment Plant, located on the remainder portion of the farm Wegsteek 30 LU, Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Mopani District Municipality, Limpopo Province (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2331CC). The aim 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 affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on these heritage resources.

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 demarcated area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. The area was traversed with the environmental consultant Mr Hein Jannasch, Mr Johan Botha, the ecologist and Mr Emile Corradi, from Bosveld Phosphates. Special attention was given to areas where vegetation changes may occur to indicate soil disturbances in the past- none were found. 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. Natural ground level could not be surveyed due to concrete structures and the drying area being covered by a concrete slab.

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 <i>may</i> 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

The terrain comprises a concrete structure and a train loading dock. The drying/curing area is covered by a concrete slab, all of which have been utilised for their intended purposes in the past.

General GPS: S23° 58' 39.8" E31° 06' 16.5"



Fig 1. General view of development area



Fig 2. General view of development area- curing area

4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY

In Dr JCC Pistorius's assessment and survey of the area in 1998, no heritage materials were recorded in the area where the SSP plant is to be constructed.

4.1 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No remains dating to the Historical Period were recorded.

4.2 GRAVES

No formal graves were recorded in the area.

4.3 IRON AGE REMAINS

No remains from the Iron Age were recorded in the area.

4.4 STONE AGE REMAINS

No remains from the Stone Age were noted in the area.

4.5 INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No remains or areas of social or spiritual significance were recorded. Some of the workers on the farm have been involved for many years and none recall areas of significance.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Iron Age:

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-	Silver Leaves <i>facies</i>	AD 280 - 450	(Early Iron Age)
	Mzonjani <i>facies</i>	AD 450 - 750	(Early Iron Age)
	Garonga <i>facies</i>	AD 750 - 900	(Early Iron Age)
Moloko branch-	<i>Icon facies</i>	AD 1300 - 1500	(Late Iron Age)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch - *Letaba facies* AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)
Kgopolwe *facies* AD 1030 - 1350 (Middle Iron Age)

Despite the Phalaborwa region being inhospitable, the area was occupied by metal workers during the past 1200 years. This coincided with the rise of trade activities along the East coast of Southern Africa. During the Late Iron Age, the Bamalatji people established large spheres of influence characterised by iron and copper mining and manufacturing industries, linked via middlemen to the east coast trade.

Due to the inhospitable climate in the Phalaborwa area, short distance trade with agriculturalists developed whereby trade of metal objects for food resources occurred. The rise of metal working and mining led to a ritualised ideology related to the process. This sphere of influence extended throughout the Lowveld and into Sekhukhune occupied by the BaPedi. This sphere of influence was disrupted during the 1850's when European influence affected the trade.

An important metal working site in the area related is Masaroni, currently in the confines of the Kruger National Park.

The main source where the ancient miners obtained their iron and copper ore was from Loolekop, This hill was destroyed by mining activities during the 1950's.

3 hills of cultural and archaeological significance were recorded during a survey by Dr J CC Pistorius in 1998. Namely Serotwe Hill, Mabodika Hill and Rakgorwana Hill.

Serotwe Hill: Occupied till the 20th century, one of the largest syenite protrusions in the Loole site complex. The hill had a copper reduction site, iron reduction site with furnaces and clusters of terraces.

Mabodika Hill: utilised for the initiation of girls. The hill was destroyed by bulldozer activities to exploit soil used for cement production.

Historical Period:

Phalaborwa was established as a town in the 1950's when modern mining methods made profitable the mining of the Palabora Igneous Complex.

The Phalaborwa region is characterised by the scarcity of surface water supplies, extremely hot summer temperatures and low summer rainfall, making the area inhospitable to human settlement. Until the early 20th century, the area was considered uninhabitable due to climatic reasons and the sporadic outbreak of endemic diseases such as malaria, tsetse and nagana.

6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No management or mitigation measures are required. This report serves to confirm that *no other significant heritage resources* such as archaeological or historical material or places of social or religious significance were found on the site of the proposed development. *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

Huffman, T.N. 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age. The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa.* University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

Pistorius, JCC. 1998. Archaeological survey and assessment of Fedmis's Mining areas in Phalaborwa, Northern Province of South Africa.



FRANS E ROODT (BA Honours Archaeology UNISA)



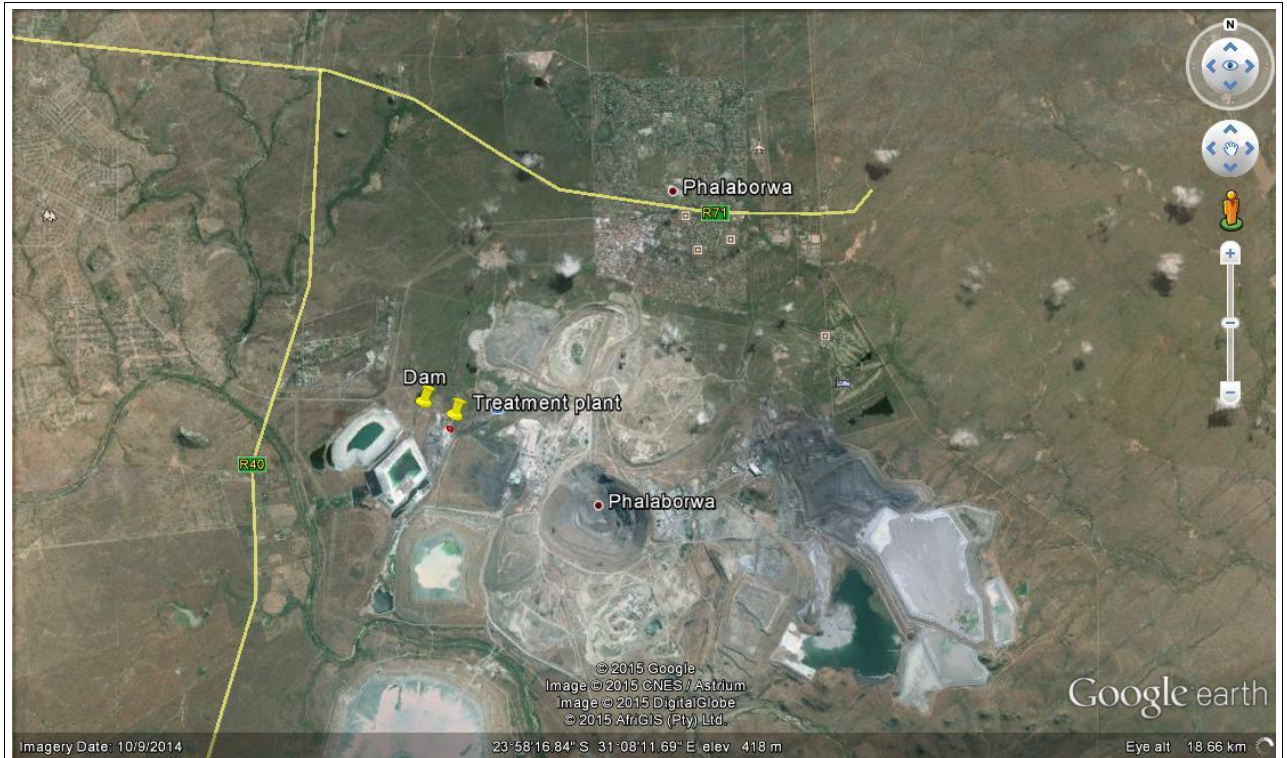
LIESL STEGMANN (BA Archaeology UNISA)

Roodt

FRANS ROODT (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)
Principal Investigator for SHASA Heritage Consultants



Locality map Google Image Due to the Outdated nature of Limpopo 1:50 000 maps



Map 2. Wide view of area, red indicating project area- in relation to Phalaborwa