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Heritage Impact Assessment

Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed
Elim Plaza Development at Elim, Limpopo
Province.

PREPARED BY:
Archaeo-Info Northern Province

PREPARED FOR:
TEKPLAN ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

September 2005



Credit Sheet

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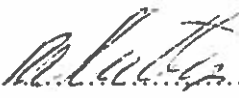
Member of ASAPA

Report Author

Marko Hutten

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. AINP and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.

SIGNED OF BY: MARKO HUTTEN

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Management Summary

Site name and location: Elim Plaza Development at Elim in the Limpopo Province

Magisterial district: Vhembe District Municipality

Developer: Mr. M. Tlakula

Consultant: AINP, PO Box 7296, Thohoyandou, 0950, South Africa

Date development was mooted: August 2005

Date of Report: 08 September 2005

Proposed date of commencement of development: September 2005

Findings: A small graveyard with 8 graves and an old Farm House and an old Post Office building were identified during the investigations of the indicated area. The graveyard and the buildings will not be affected by the proposed development and no other sites or finds of any heritage potential were identified in the indicated study area. The proposed development of the Elim Plaza can continue from a heritage point of view.

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Heritage Impact Assessment

Elim Plaza Development at Elim, Limpopo Province.

Introduction

Archaeo-Info Northern Province (AINP) was contracted by TEKPLAN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the proposed development of the Elim Plaza, across from the Elim Hospital in Elim in the Limpopo Province.

This HIA forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the Environmental Conservation Act (ECA) 73 of 1989, the Minerals & Petroleum Resources Development Act, 28 of 2002 and the Development Facilitation Act (DFA), 67 of 1995. The HIA is performed in accordance with section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 25 of 1999 and is intended for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Qualified personnel from AINP conducted the assessment. The team comprised a Principal Investigator with a minimum of an Honours degree in an applicable science as well as at least five years of field experience in heritage management assisted by a fieldworker with at least a BA degree in an applicable science. All of our employees are also registered members of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA).

A member of AINP performed the assessment on 24 August 2005.

The extent of the proposed development sites were determined as well as the extent of the areas to be affected by secondary activities (access route, construction camp, etc.) during the development. The sites were plotted using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and photographed digitally. The sites were surveyed on foot.

All results will be relayed in this report, firstly outlining the methodology used and then the results and recommendations for the identified resources.

Proposed Project

Mr. Max Tlakula has proposed to construct and develop the Elim Plaza, a shopping complex, in Elim in the Limpopo Province. The proposed development will be situated to the south and south-east of the existing filling station and shopping complex, which were situated on the south-eastern corner of the major four-way crossing in Elim. The purpose of this study was to determine if the proposed area was suitable for the development of the township from a heritage point of view.

After researching the National Archive records as well as the SAHRA records it was determined that no previous archaeological or historical studies have been performed in the demarcated study area.

The project was tabled during August 2005 and the developer intends to commence construction as soon as possible after receipt of the ROD from the Department of Environmental Affairs

Project Area

Site co-ordinates: 23° 09' 26,0" S
 30° 03' 29,1" E

The site proposed for the development of the Elim Plaza was located to the south and south-east of the existing Filling Station and Shopping Complex on the south-eastern corner of the major four-way crossing in Elim. The proposed development will be situated on the remaining extent of Portion 1 of the farm Waterval 45 LT and it measured approximately 20ha in size. A Shopping Complex with a number of shops and a parking area are to be developed and it was situated adjacent and to the south-east of existing shops in Elim. The site was mostly densely overgrown with grasses, bushes and trees and some areas were also subject to previous construction activities. These included the old house and shop on the north-eastern extent as well as the more modern Filling Station and Shops on the western part of the proposed site. The site gradually sloped down from the north and the east to the south and west. (See Appendix B: Location Map).

Good weather conditions were experienced during the field investigations.

Methodology

Inventory

The area was surveyed using standard archaeological surveying methods. The area was surveyed using directional parameters supplied by the GPS and surveyed by foot. This technique has proven to result in the maximum coverage of an area.

Standard archaeological documentation formats were employed in the description of sites. Using standard site documentation forms as comparable medium, it enabled the surveyors to evaluate the relative importance of sites found. Furthermore GPS (Global Positioning System) readings of all finds and sites were taken. This information was then plotted using a *eTrex Legend* GPS (WGS 84- datum).

Indicators such as surface finds, plant growth anomalies, local information and topography were used in identifying sites of possible archaeological importance. Test probes were done at intervals to determine sub-surface occurrence of archaeological material. The importance of sites was assessed by comparisons with published information as well as comparative collections. All sites or possible sites found were classified using a hierarchical system wherein sites are assessed using a scale of zero to four according their importance. These categories are as follows;

Degree of significance	Justification	Score
Exceptional significance	Rare or outstanding, high degree of intactness. Can be interpreted easily.	4
High significance	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	3
Moderate significance	Altered or modified elements. Element with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance.	2
Little significance	Alterations detract from significance. One of many. Alterations detract from significance.	1
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	0

Table 1. Site significance

Site Evaluation

The following information was accessed in the evaluation of possible sites. Evaluative testing, surface collecting, direct consultation and documentary research. In the event of a site being identified the testing procedure will include unit sampling or selection, test frequencies, unit dimensions, mapping, recording and data recovery. Surface collection will encompass sampling design, recording and the process of collection.

The sites will be evaluated as to their significance according to their ranking in the significance table listed above. Where necessary, professional expertise will be sought.

The investigation of sites for heritage components should not only look at the material remains that are found on sites, but there should also be looked at the intangible aspects of cultural importance for the local communities. Furthermore there should also be looked at the possibility of culturally important areas being found in the study area. These could include graves, places of power or initiation schools and any other area that is seen as culturally sensitive to the local communities.

Resource Inventory

This section will contain the results of the heritage site inventory. Any identified sites will be indicated on the accompanying map plotted using the Arc View Geographic Information System (GIS).

Elim Plaza Development

Site Significance Score: 3

GPS: 23° 09' 26,0" S

30° 03' 29,1" E

A small graveyard was identified on the western extent of the proposed area for the development (photo 1). The graveyard was fenced off and measured approximately 20m x 20m. The graveyard contained 8 graves of which 3 graves belonged to the Tlakula family and the other 5 graves belonged to the Mingard family. The five Mingard graves were placed in a row next to each other and the three Tlakula graves were also placed in another row next to each other. All of the graves were orientated from east to west and had dressings of cement and bricks or granite. All of the graves had inscriptions. The graveyard was approximately 50m to the east of an old farm house.

Site Significance Score: 2

GPS: 23° 09' 26,0" S

30° 03' 29,1" E

An old farm house with a few outbuildings was situated approximately 50m to the west of the small graveyard (photo 2). According to Mr. Eric Girardin, a grandson of Mr. Eric Mingard, the house originates from the 1920's and was first occupied by Alfred Mingard (Mr. Girardin's great grandfather) and then by Eric Mingard. These occupants formed part of the small European community of doctors and missionaries who served the Elim Hospital and the Elim Missionary during the late 1800's and the early 1900's. The house was also later occupied by the Tlakula family before it was converted into a Drinking Hall and Bar. The house was subject to several renovations and alterations over the years and seemed to be fairly well maintained.

Site Significance Score: 2

GPS: 23° 09' 26,0" S

30° 03' 29,1" E

This was the location of another old building which was situated approximately 40m to the west from the old farm house (photo3). According to Mr. Girardin, this building also originated from the 1920's and it served as the Post Office and as Khoja's Shop. The building did not receive the same amount of attention and maintenance as the old farm house over the years and seemed to be in a poor state and ill maintained. The building was currently occupied by the *Ribolla Tourism Association* and some other shops.

Resource Evaluation

Elim Plaza Development

The identified graves have significant heritage value to the relevant families and should therefore be preserved. These graves are of recent origin and are probably connected to people living in one of the villages close by. These graves have significant cultural and social value and should be treated as

sensitive to construction activities. The relevant families were identified during the investigations and they still reside in the nearby area and both families prove to have great sentiment regarding the graves.

The main structures of the old farm house, some of the outbuildings and the old Post Office have monument status due to their location, age and history. These structures were at least from the 1920's, which gives it protection under the Heritage Resources Act. Several of the accompanying outbuildings are just as old, or may be a bit younger than the house and Post Office. The area demarcated for the development of the Elim Plaza will not interfere or even encroach the areas occupied by the old buildings, but these areas were still part of the scope of work as requested by the client. The old farm house and some of its outbuildings were well maintained, which sadly was not the case with the old Post Office.

Impact Identification and Assessment

Elim Plaza Development

The development of the proposed Elim Plaza will not have a direct and negative impact on the identified graves and graveyard. The developer of the proposed project is also the owner of the graves and he does have great sentiment regarding the graves. The area proposed for the development of the Elim Plaza will not be near the graves and it will be further to the south-west near the Filling Station and the other existing shopping complex.

As was the case with the above mentioned graves and graveyard, the proposed development will not have any affect on the old buildings identified during the study. The proposed development will not be near these buildings, but will be further to the south and south-west from these old buildings (more than 100m). The area proposed for the development will be away from these buildings, although the developer has requested to include the buildings in the scope of work.

Resource Management Recommendations

Elim Plaza Development

A small graveyard with 8 graves was identified during the investigations of the indicated area. The graveyard will not be affected by the proposed development and no other sites or finds of any heritage potential were identified in the indicated study area. The following steps and measures are recommended:

- No further site-specific actions or any further heritage mitigation measures are recommended as the proposed development will not be near the identified graves and no other heritage resource sites or finds of any value or significance were identified in the indicated study area.
- The proposed development of the Elim Plaza can continue from a heritage point of view.

An old farm house with several outbuildings and an old Post Office building were identified during the investigations of the indicated study area. As was the case with the above mentioned graves and graveyard, these old buildings will not be affected by the proposed development. No other sites or finds of any heritage potential was identified and the following steps and measures are recommended regarding the old buildings:

- No further site-specific actions or any further heritage mitigation measures are recommended as the proposed development will not be near the identified old buildings and no other heritage resource sites or finds of any value or significance were identified in the indicated study area.
- The proposed development of the Elim Plaza can continue from a heritage point of view.
- If in future any further development would affect these old buildings negatively, further investigations and further documentation of the buildings would be recommended to conserve these buildings as heritage for future generations.

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APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHS

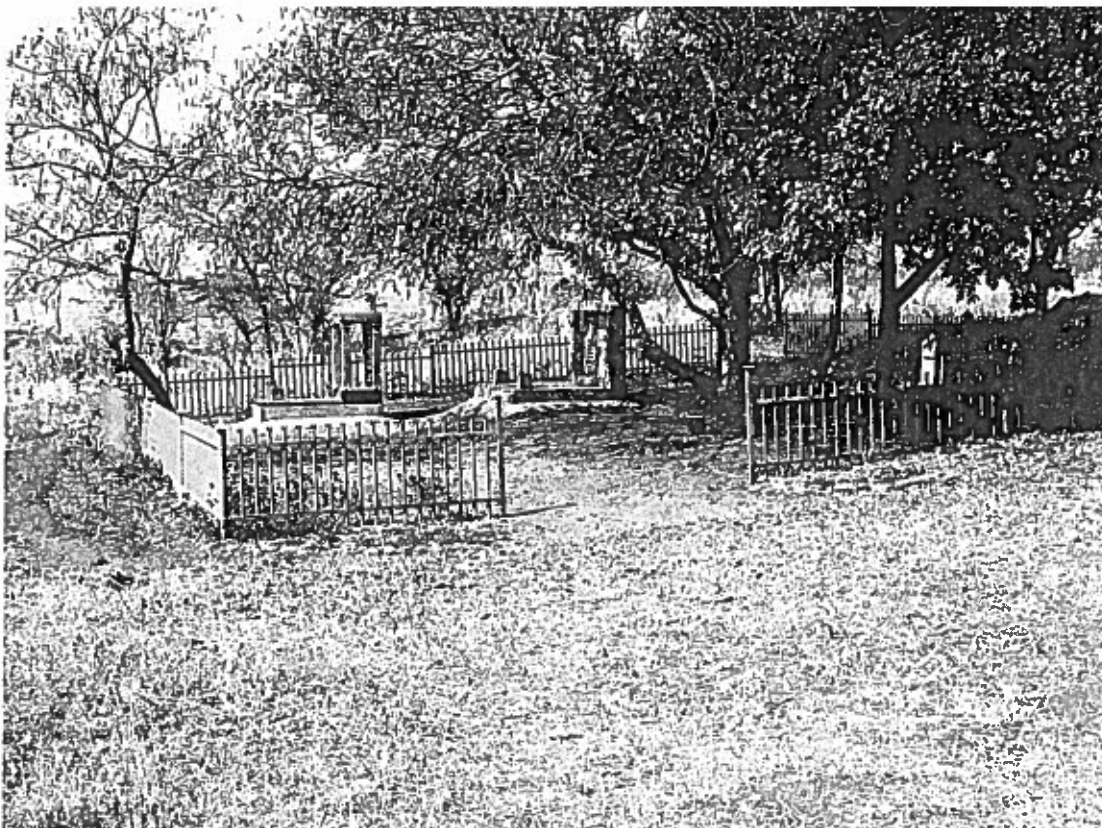


Photo 1. Location of graveyard

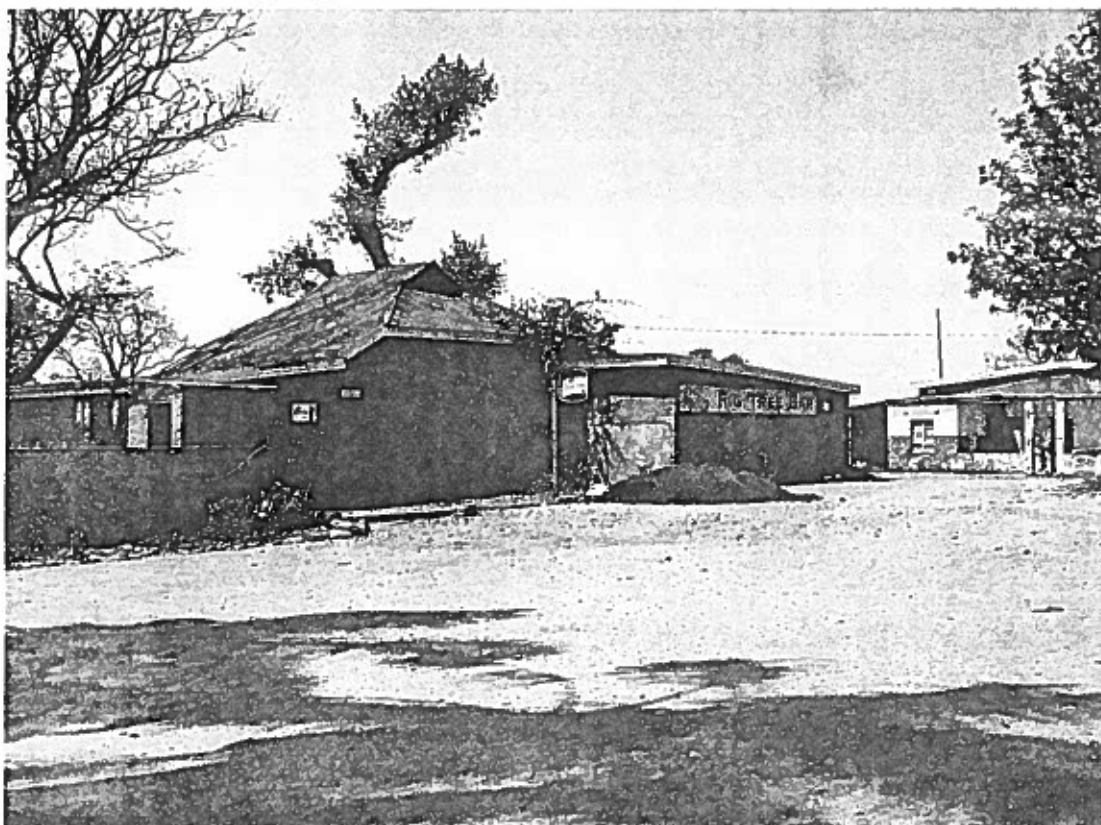


Photo 2. old farmhouse.



Photo 3. Old post office and shops.

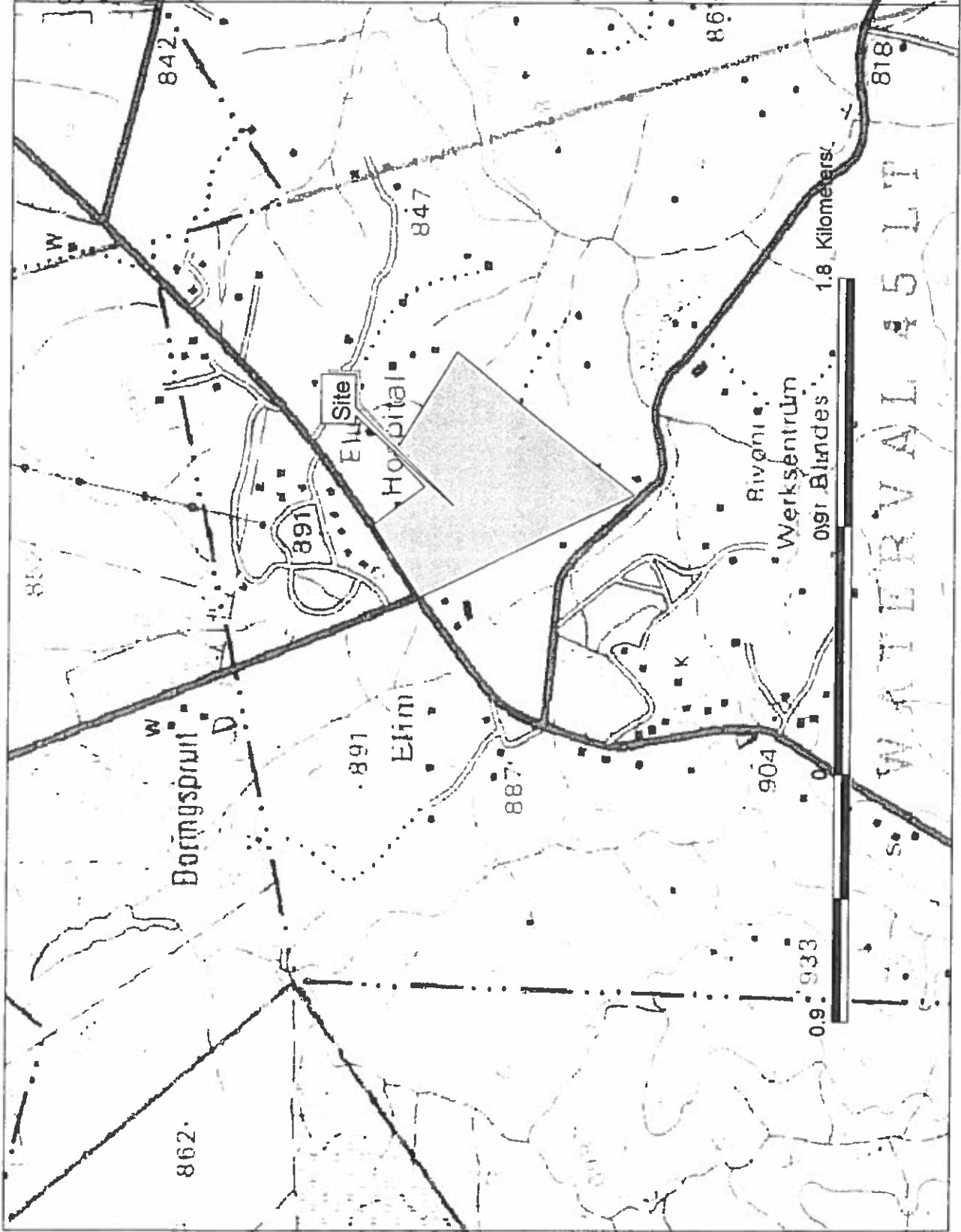


Photo 4. dense vegetation on site.

APPENDIX B

Location Map

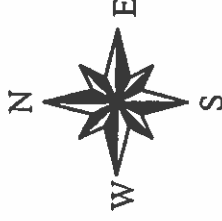
Elim Plaza



Compiled by AINP
09 September 2005

Compiled for
Tekplan
Environmental

1:50 000 Topo Map
Reference: 2330 AA



Compiled using
ArcView GIS 3.2 a



AINP

GIS by S. Gaigher