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**A PHASE 1 HIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND
FORMALISATION OF MALAMULELE EXTENTION E AT MALAMULELE, WITHIN THE COLLINS
CHABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.**

For:

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REPORT: APAC022/66

Final Version

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SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Global Geo Enviro Specialists (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Township Development and formalization of Malamulele Extension E. The study area is located in the Malamulele region of the Collins Chabane Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. The development will consist of around 2038 sites (stands).

Background research indicated that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known cultural heritage resources (archaeological and/or historical) in the specific study and proposed development areas, and none was found during the physical fieldwork conducted in the study and proposed development area. This report discusses the results of the assessment and provides recommendations on the way forward.

From a Cultural Heritage perspective it is recommended that the proposed Township Development should be allowed to continue taking into consideration the recommendations put forward at the end of the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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Background research indicated that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known cultural heritage resources (archaeological and/or historical) in the specific study and proposed development areas, and none was found during the physical fieldwork conducted in the study and proposed development area.

The client indicated the locations and footprints of the three township establishments and the assessment focused on these and the larger geographical region in which they are situated.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the portion of land that will be impacted upon by the proposed development;
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value;
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions;
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources;
5. Review applicable legislative requirements;

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two Acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the Act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and paleontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m² or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m²
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the Act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of the Act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The Act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial)

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or 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
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated to) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

3.2. The National Environmental Management Act

This Act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Survey of literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2. Field survey

The field assessment section of the study is conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of heritage significance in the area of the proposed development. The location/position of all sites, features and objects is determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) where possible, while detail photographs are also taken where needed.

4.3. Oral histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4. Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed new Malamulele Extension E Township Development & Formalization is located on portions of the farms Malamulele 234LT and Zeederberg 288LT. The study and development area is located in the Malamulele region of the Collins Chabane Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. The proposed housing development involves clearing and preparing an area of approximately 550.03ha, which will include the following infrastructures residential, educational, and public open spaces, sports fields and street networks. The location of proposed development is adjacent to the R81, east of the town of Malamulele and adjacent to Boltman Township.

The development will comprise of around 2038 residential stands. The development footprint is situated in close proximity to already established formal and informal residential settlements in Malamulele. The existing infrastructure includes informal dirt roads, a tarred main road and other associated electrification infrastructure. In addition there are formal housing structures, as well as informal housing structures. The larger area has been fairly extensively impacted in the recent past. Evidence of earlier agricultural activities (ploughed fields) is also visible in sections. This would also have impacted to some extent on any archaeological and/or historical sites or material that might have been present here. Parts of

the proposed development footprint are situated in areas that have been less affected by extensive development like the surrounding landscape. Small-scale cattle herding and grazing also takes place in the area

The topography of the study area is generally flat, with smaller slopes and steep inclines related to perennial streams and/or smaller water bodies providing lower-lying areas. These are, however, densely covered with shrubs, tall trees, tall grasses with densely concentrated trees and shrubs in forested areas along with the flood plain/ run-off areas, where the natural soil disturbances are visible. Some areas west are lower-lying with thickets and vines. Most of the site is heavily disturbed, with few virgin lands dominating the northern parts of the proposed development footprint.

There are sections where the vegetation consists of tall grasses and very few shrubs, and loamy soils. This area is not likely to have sub-surface heritage sites or features due to the nature of disturbance of the area by current locals, residents and nearby dwellers. Informal footpaths and dirt tracks for vehicular traffic have also impacted on the study area. Locals notably access the area to walk through for cattle herding, with smaller areas affected by illegal dumping of construction material linked with housing construction noted just outside the proposed development area.

Visibility on the ground was made difficult by the dense vegetation in some sections, limiting access to some degree as well. Safety concerns also limited access to some portions, but it is believed that the overall result of the field assessment was not hampered by these limitations in the end.

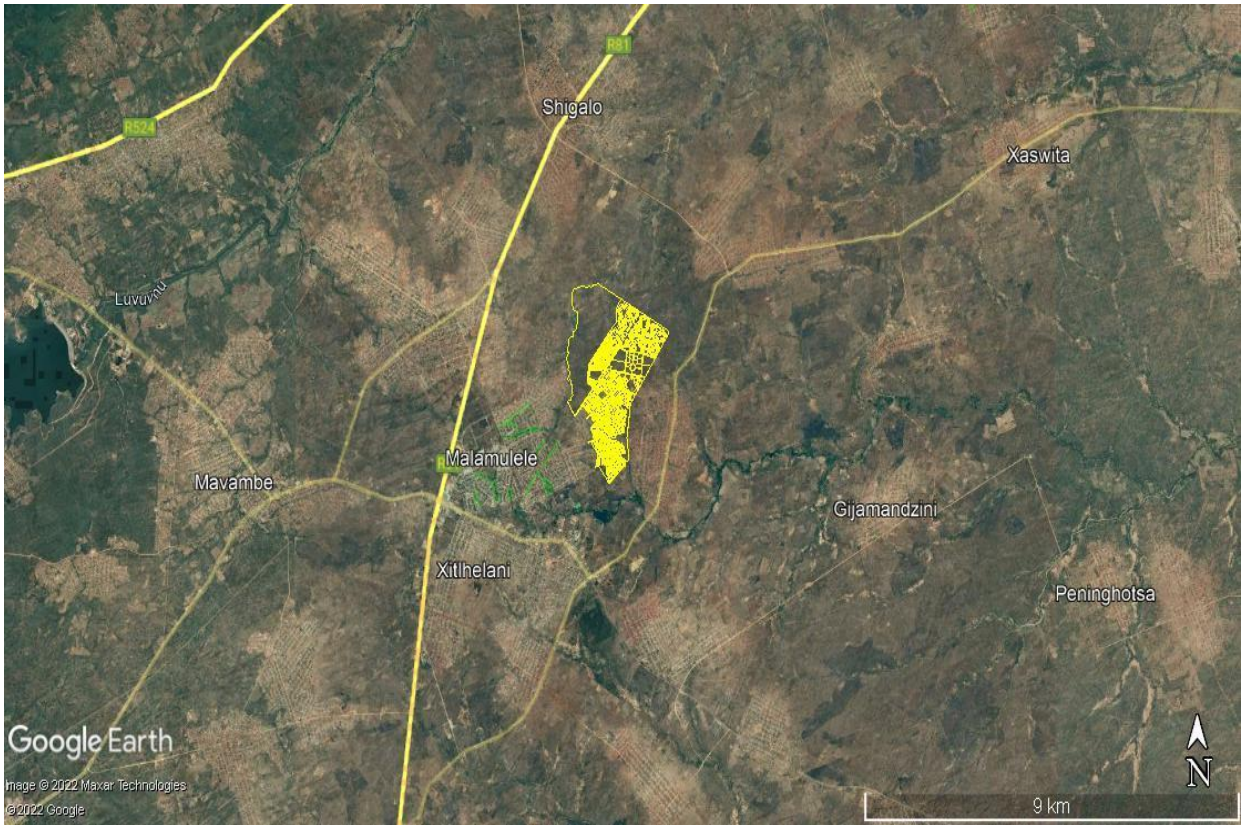


Figure 1: General location of the study & proposed development area in yellow (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 2: Closer view of the study area and proposed development area in yellow polygon (Google Earth 2022). Some informal and formal settlement is visible in sections of the area already.

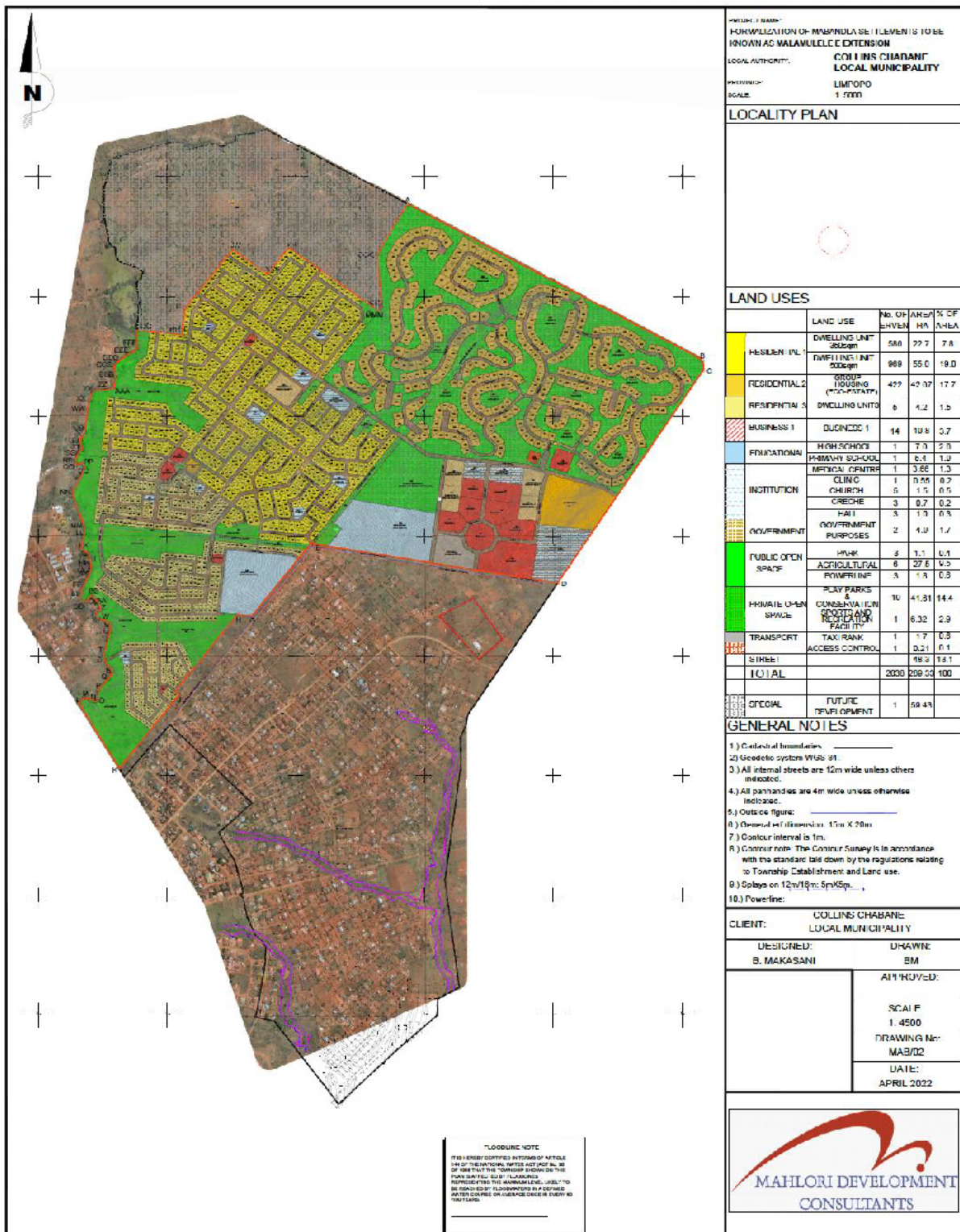


Figure 3: Locality & Layout Plan (courtesy Mahlori Development Consultants)

6. DISCUSSION

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago

Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago

Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

According to Bergh (1999) the closest known Stone Age sites (MSA) occur to the east of the study area near Polokwane. No Stone Age sites or objects (such as stone tools) were identified in the area, and if any were to be found it would most likely be single, out of context, stone tools. To the south west of the study area excavations at Makapansgat attest to ESA occupation in the region, providing evidence of long occupation, initially by *Australopithecus africanus* from approximately 3.3 million years B.P. The LSA is represented in the wider area by, for example, the presence of San rock paintings and engravings in the Mohlapiitse River valley in the Wolkberg to the south-west of the study area. Studies in the Kruger National Park to the east have documented numerous Middle and Late Stone Age sites (Fourie 2016). Stone Age sites (including rock art) are also known to occur at a site called Kalkbank in the larger geographical area (Bergh 1999: 4), while known rock art (paintings) sites are located along the Luvuvhu River (Bergh 1999: 5).

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which are widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

There are no known Iron Age sites (EIA or LIA) in the immediate study area, although a large number of EIA to LIA sites are known to exist in the larger geographical landscape in which

the study area falls. This includes the sites of Klein Afrika & Happy Rest (EIA) located north & west of Louis Trichardt respectively, and the sites of Verulam, Verdun & Machedema (LIA) north of the study area (Bergh 1999: 6-7).

Tom Huffman's research work shows that Iron Age sites, features or material could possibly be found in the area. This could include the so-called Silver Leaves facies of the Urewe Tradition dating to between AD280 and AD450 (Huffman 2007: 123); Mzonjani facies of the same tradition dating to between AD450 and AD750 (p.127); Icon facies of Urewe dating to between AD1300 and AD1500 (p.183); the Happy Rest facies of the Kalundu Tradition dating to between AD500 & AD750 (p.219); the Malapati facies of Kalundu dating to between AD750 & AD1030 (p.239); the Tavhatsheha facies of Kalundu dating to between AD1450 & AD1600 (p.263); the Letaba facies of Kalundu dating to between AD1600 & AD1800 (p.267) and finally the Mutamba facies of the same tradition dating to between AD1250 and AD1450 (Huffman 2007: 271).

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first European group to pass close by the area were that of Coenraad de Buys in 1821 and 1825, followed by groups of Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 12-14). Schoemansdal (originally Zoutpansbergdorp) was established in 1848, and finally abandoned as a result of conflict with local groups in July 1867 (Bergh 1999: 131; 187). The town of Louis Trichardt was formally established in February 1899 (Bergh 1999: 147). During the Anglo-Boer war (1899-1902) there was a skirmish between British and Boer forces at Fort Edward near Louis Trichardt between 20 and 28 March 1902 (Bergh 1999: 54).

Thohoyandou is located to the west of the study & proposed development area. ***“Thohoyandou was the capital of the former apartheid homeland of Venda, while Dzanani is the traditional capital of Venda and the home of the VhaVenda kings. Thohoyandou means "head of the elephant" in Venda, and was the name of one of the VhaVenda kings.***

Thohoyandou was built at Tshiluvhi which was under Khosi vho Netshiluvhi. Construction started in 1977 with P East and P West residential area/location as R293 town, a shopping center and Venda Government buildings. The Netshiluvhis were the first occupants of the area as far back as 1400 AD, i.e. after the collapse of Mapungubwe Kingdom. They were forcefully removed from this area between 1960 and 1970 by the apartheid government of the Venda Bantustan under khosi vho Mphephu Ramabulana. The name Tshiluvhi comes from the Venda word "luvha" which means to pay damages or respect. The former Venda president built his palace and his ministerial resident at Tshiluvhis chief's kraal as they were already moved by the apartheid government. The following leaders and their subject under Netshiluvhi were forcefully removed from their areas. Some of the Netshiluvhi are known by different names: Malima, Khorombi, Mathomu, Magidi, and Mudau. The name Tshiluvhi was totally stricken out and replaced by Thohoyandou as per the then government, and was left as a name of a primary school.

Thohoyandou was established and built at a large portion of the village of Tshiluvhi in the late 1970s. It was established by President Patrick Ramaano Mphephu, who was the Prime Minister of Venda. Thohoyandou became the capital of Venda when Venda was declared a republic in 1979, and Thovhele 'Mphephu became the President of the Republic of Venda. Thohoyandou became the center and economic hub of the Republic of Venda. Today Thohoyandou is one of the fastest growing towns in Limpopo and is also home to the University of Venda" (www.wikipedia.org).

The town of Giyani is situated to the south of the study area. During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the closest battle or skirmish in this area was at Houtboschberg on 30 April 1901 (Bergh 1999: 54). The District of Giyani was formally established on the 1st of June 1972 (Bergh 1999: 151), while Giyani was also part of the former Homeland Gazankulu (p.43).

The wider area here is famous for the residence of the Rain Queen Modjadj (of the Balobedu people), whose ethnography was described in some detail from the 1930s onwards by social anthropologists Eileen Jensen Krige and Jacob Daniell Krige and whose culture around rain-making continues to be a focus of such studies. Other history of the wider area includes the 1895 war between Chief Makgoba and the ZAR, the 1889 establishment of the famous postal coach service from Pietersburg via Haenertsburg to Leydsdorp by Doel Zeederberg and the passage of the Anglo-Boer War including a clash between the Bushveldt Carbineers (BVC) and the Letaba Commando at W.H. Viljoen's farm Duiwelskloof (to the south west of the study area) in August 1901. Further away and to the south west the destruction of the last Long Tom guns took place near Haenertsburg in April 1901 (Fourie 2016).

Results of the July 2022 field assessment

During previous Heritage Impact Assessments by the author of this report in the Malamulele area (for different township developments) a few individual pieces of undecorated Iron Age pottery were identified in places across the area (Pelser 2022: 13). However, over and above these artifacts, no other archaeological and/or recent historical sites, features or material were recorded in the study area. This included graves and cemeteries.

During the July 2022 field survey as part of the Phase 1 HIA for the Township Development and formalization of Malamulele Extension E no cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were recorded in the area. This included graves or burial grounds. It is therefore concluded that there should be no negative impacts on any visible cultural heritage resources as a result of the proposed development.



Figure 4: Note the vegetation on a cleared site fenced and earmarked for housing (courtesy Reach Archaeology).



Figure 5: Note the relatively flat topography with evidence of footpaths here (courtesy Reach Archaeology).



Figure 6: Note the Eskom Pylon/Powerline and the informal housing structure blocking access road (courtesy Reach Archaeology).



Figure 7: Note informal site access road with cattle herding and formal housing structures (courtesy Reach Archaeology).



Figure 8: Another view of a section of the area (courtesy Reach Archaeology).

It should be noted that although all efforts are made to cover a total area during any assessment and therefore to identify all possible sites or features of cultural (archaeological and/or historical) heritage origin and significance, that there is always the possibility of something being missed. This will include low stone-packed or unmarked graves. This aspect should be kept in mind when development work commences and if any sites (including graves) are identified then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the best way forward.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Global Geo Enviro Specialists (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 HIA for the proposed Township Development and formalization of Malamulele Extension E. The study area is located in the Malamulele region of the Collins Chabane Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. The development will consist of around 2038 sites (stands).

Background research indicated that there are some cultural heritage sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. There are no known cultural heritage resources (archaeological and/or historical) in the specific study and proposed development areas. During previous Heritage Impact Assessments by Anton Pelsler in the Malamulele area for other township developments, a few individual pieces of undecorated Iron Age pottery were identified in places across the area. During the July 2022 field survey as part of the Phase 1 HIA for the Township Development and formalization of Malamulele Extension E no cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) sites, features or material were recorded in the area. This included graves or burial grounds. It is therefore concluded

that there should be no negative impacts on any visible cultural heritage resources as a result of the proposed development.

Finally, from a Cultural Heritage perspective it is recommended that the proposed demarcation of sites and related township development be allowed to continue taking into consideration the recommendations put forward below:

1. That a "Chance finds Protocol" to be implemented and adhered to should any cultural heritage structures, objects, materials, features or graves of significance be uncovered during earth-moving activities in the initial clearing and construction phase of the project.
2. Construction teams are to be inducted to identify cultural heritage sites, features or material before engaging any earth-moving equipment on-site during initial project construction.

The subterranean nature of archaeological and/or historical resources (including low stone-packed or unmarked graves) should also always be taken into consideration. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward.

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APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B: DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.

Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period

Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.

Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

- Low: A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium: Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High: Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Heritage significance:

- Grade I: Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II: Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III: Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance: should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance: should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA: should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB: should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A): site should be mitigated before destruction (high/medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B): site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C): phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

APPENDIX D: PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – Grade I and II

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. Archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – Older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

1. Pre-assessment or Scoping Phase – Establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
2. Baseline Assessment – Establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
3. Phase I Impact Assessment – Identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
4. Letter of recommendation for exemption – If there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
5. Phase II Mitigation or Rescue – Planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
6. Phase III Management Plan – For rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.