



**Dynamic Integrated Geo-Environmental Services**

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE (GRAVEL TO TAR) OF 21KM ROAD D3634 AND D3778 AND REFURBISHMENT OF BRIDGE AND CULVERT PROJECT LOCATED IN GIYANI TO NKHURI TO MALONGA VILLAGE WITHIN GREATER GIYANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF MOPANI DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.**

**November, 2013**

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**Even though all care is taken to identify sites of heritage significance during survey, it's important to mention that the scenery of sites in southern Africa, are often contextualised such that it often is possible that certain sites could be unnoticed during the survey. Accordingly, *VHUBVO ARCHAEO-HERITAGE CONSULTANT CC*, and its employees will not be held accountable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result thereof.**

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## **DECLARATION**

### **ABILITY TO CONDUCT THE PROJECT**

Munyadziwa Magoma is a professional archaeologist, having obtained his BA degree in Archaeology and Anthropology at University of South Africa (UNISA), an Honours degree at the University of Venda (UNIVEN), and currently completing his MA at the University of Pretoria (UP). He is an accredited Cultural Resource Management (CRM) member of Association for southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) and Amafa aKwazulu Natali. Munyadziwa is further affiliated to the South African Archaeological Society (SAAS), the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA), and the International Council of Archaeozoology (ICAZ). He has more than seven years experience in Cultural Resources Management, having worked for different CRM organisations and government heritage authorities. Munyadziwa has completed over hundred Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) in several provinces of the Republic of South Africa. The AIA projects he has been involved with are diverse, and include the establishment of major substation, upgrade and establishment of roads, establishment and extension of mines. In addition, he has also conducted Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the alteration to heritage buildings, and the relocation of graves. His detailed CV is available on request.

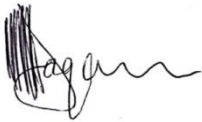
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### **INDEPENDENCE**

I, Munyadziwa Magoma declare that this report has been prepared independently of any influence as may be specified by all relevant department, institution and organisation.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Vhubvo Archaeo-Heritage Consultant Cc has been commissioned by Dynamic Integrated Geo-Environmental Services (DIGES) to conduct Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) Study for the proposed upgrade of road D3634 and D3778 and refurbishment of bridge and culvert within Greater Giyani Local Municipality of Mopani District, Limpopo Province. The main aim of the survey was to locate, identify, document sites, objects, sites associated with oral histories, burial grounds, graves and cultural landscapes within the footprint of the area in which the proposed project is to take place.

To understand the area proposed road for development, a background study was first undertaken and relevant institution were consulted. These studies entails review of archaeological and heritage impact assessment conducted around the proposed area thorough SAHRIS. In addition, E-journal platforms such as J-stor and History Resource Centre were searched. The University of Pretoria's Library was also visited. These investigations were conducted to determine if there are any known sites around the area. Finally, field study was conducted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2013 by an archaeologist from Vhubvo. As a supplement to the survey, locals were consulted and their involvement was of significance.

The findings of this report have been informed by desktop data review, field survey and impact assessment reporting. These include recommendations to guide LIHRA in making decisions with regards to the proposed upgrade and refurbishment project. The study was conducted as part of the specialist input for the Environmental Impact Assessment exercise.

### **Survey:**

- The study identified one grave site adjacent to the road upgrade. This site is approximately 25m from the proposed road for upgrade. Also noted alongside the road upgrade is the village grave yard, this yard is about 100m from the road. All graves and cemeteries are of high significance and are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graves included the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) whenever graves are 60 years and older. Other legislation with regard to graves includes those when graves are exhumed and relocated, namely the Ordinance on Exhumations (no 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended), when graves are less than 60 years.

### **Recommendations:**

- The grave must be avoided in the best way possible. In addition, the developer should ensure that the descendant of the grave are sought, and notified about this proposed development which might have an impact on their grave.



- No stone robbing or removal of any material is allowed. Any disturbance or alteration on these sites (informal-graveyards) would be illegal and punishable by law, under section 36 (3) of the National Heritage Resources Act NHRA of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).
- Maintain a reasonable buffer zone around the identified grave (approximately 10-15m). No dumping of construction material is allowed within this buffer zone and no alteration or damage on these sites may occur.
- The grave should be marked by a visible tape i.e., danger tape, for the duration of the project, and labor-intensive workers should be notified about this grave.
- The informal graveyard must also be avoided in the best way possible. In addition, the construction team should avoid conveying duty during the time when the cemetery is active.

### **Conclusions:**

- The construction team should be inducted on the significance of the possible archaeological material that may be encountered during subsurface construction work. It should be noted that it is the duty of the developer to induct field worker about archaeology, and steps that should be taken in the case of exposing materials.
- If archaeological materials are uncovered, work should cease immediately and the LIHRA be notified, in the mean time activity should not resume until appropriate management provisions are in place.
- The findings of this report, with approval of the LIHRA, may be classified as accessible to any interested and affected parties within the limits of South African laws.



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
LIA	Late Iron Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age
EIA	Early Iron Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
LIHRA	Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resource Agency



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terms used in this Archaeology are defined in the National Heritage Resources Act [NHRA], Act Nr. 25 of 1999, South African Heritage Resources Agency [SAHRA] Policies as well as the Australia ICOMOS Charter (*Burra Charter*):

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

**Chance Finds:** means Archaeological artefacts, 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.

**Compatible use:** means a use, which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

**Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

**Cultural Heritage Resources**(Same as **Heritage Resources** as defined and used in the National 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:** means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.





**Cultural Significance:** also encompasses 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.

**Environment:** The surroundings within which humans exist and that are made up of: i. the land, water and atmosphere of the earth;

ii. micro-organisms, plant and animal life;

iii. any part or combination of (i) and (ii) and the interrelationships among and between them; and,

iv. the physical, chemical, aesthetic and cultural properties and conditions of the foregoing that influence human health and well-being. This includes the economic, social, cultural, historical and political circumstances, conditions and objects that affect the existence and development of an individual, organism or group.

**Environmental impact assessment:** An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) refers to the process of identifying, predicting and assessing the potential positive and negative social, economic and biophysical impacts of any proposed project, plan, programme or policy which requires authorisation of permission by law and which may significantly affect the environment. The EIA includes an evaluation of alternatives. As well as recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures for minimising or avoiding negative impacts, measures enhancing the positive aspects of the proposal and environmental management and monitoring measures.

**Expansion:** means the modification, extension, alteration or upgrading of a facility, structure or infrastructure at which an activity takes place in such a manner that the capacity of the facility or the footprint of the activity is increased.

**Fabric:** means all the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents and objects.

**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 (contemporary) or **Burial Ground** (historic).

**Heritage impact assessment (HIA):** refers to the process of identifying, predicting and assessing the potential positive and negative cultural, social, economic and biophysical impacts of any proposed project, plan, programme or policy which requires authorisation of permission by law and which may significantly affect the cultural and natural heritage resources. The HIA includes recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures for minimising or avoiding negative impacts, measures enhancing the positive aspects of the proposal and heritage management and monitoring measures.

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

**Impact:** the positive or negative effects on human well-being and / or on the environment.

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

**Interested and affected parties Individuals:** communities or groups, other than the proponent or the authorities, whose interests may be positively or negatively affected by the proposal or activity and/ or who are concerned with a proposal or activity and its consequences.

**Interpretation:** means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

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

**Material culture:** means buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.



**Mitigate:** The implementation of practical measures to reduce adverse impacts or enhance beneficial impacts of an action.

**Place:** means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

**Protected area:** means those protected areas contemplated in section 9 of the NEMPAA and the core area of a biosphere reserve and shall include their buffers.

**Public participation process:** A process of involving the public in order to identify issues and concerns, and obtain feedback on options and impacts associated with a proposed project, programme or development. Public Participation Process in terms of NEMA refers to: a process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to specific matters.

**Setting:** means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

**Significance:** can be differentiated into impact magnitude and impact significance. Impact magnitude is the measurable change (i.e. intensity, duration and likelihood). Impact significance is the value placed on the change by different affected parties (i.e. level of significance and acceptability). It is an anthropocentric concept, which makes use of value judgments and science-based criteria (i.e. biophysical, physical cultural, social and economic).

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

**Use:** means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.



## 1. Introduction

At the request of Dynamic Integrated Geo-Environmental Services, Vhubvo Archaeo-Heritage Consultant Cc conducted the Archaeological Impact Assessment study for the proposed upgrade of 21km road D3634 and D3778 and refurbishment of associated bridge and culvert located alongside Giyani to Nkuru to Malonga Village within Greater Giyani Local Municipality of Mopani District, Limpopo Province, subject to the SAHRA APM Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports of 2012, which clearly specifies the required content of a Phase 1 HIA report.

The proposed development entails road upgrade and refurbishment of bridge. This project has potential to impact on archaeological material and cultural resources, if any. As such, this report discusses the results of the study while a number of recommendations are put forward at the end of the report. The client indicated the locality and extent of the area proposed for upgrade, and it is assumed to be true.

## 2. Purpose of the AIA study

The purpose of this heritage impact assessment study was to conduct a comprehensive archaeological survey, and have an understanding of the archaeological and cultural sensitivity of the area proposed for development. This study is used to integrate archaeological material or cultural resources with the impact of planning proposals, in-order to provide a detailed and holistic framework for decision making, and for the implementation of a coherent set of appropriate actions for the conservation and preservation of material or resources if found. Impact assessments highlight many issues facing sites in terms of site management, conservation, monitoring and maintenance and the environment in and around the site. Thus this archaeological impact assessment involves the following:

- Taking responsibility to ensure protection of identified cultural and heritage resources that may be affected by the proposals. Thus, as a result of an impact assessment, proposals may be modified to avoid or minimize harm,
- Identification and recording of heritage resources that will be affected by the proposed development,



- Decision-makers who provide a basis for decisions on whether a proposal safeguards cultural heritage,
- All participants in determining the basis for cultural heritage management and monitoring if a proposal proceeds,
- Incorporation of all stakeholders' views in assessment and decision-making processes,
- To identify and describe, (in terms of their conservation and / or preservation importance) sites of cultural and archaeological importance that may be affected by the proposed upgrade development project. This study should include the identification of gravesites.
- Make recommendations on mitigation measures with the view to reduce specific adverse impacts and enhance specific positive impacts on the heritage resources.
- Take responsibility for communicating with the SAHRA and other authorities in order to obtain the relevant permits and authorization with reference to heritage aspects where applicable.

### 3. Methodology

#### *Background Study*

To understand the area for upgrade, a background study was undertaken and relevant institutions were consulted. These studies entails review of archaeological and heritage impact assessment studies that have been conducted around the proposed area through SAHRIS. In addition, E-journal platforms such as J-stor and History Resource Centre were searched, in an attempt to locate any research which might have been done in the proposed area for upgrade. The University of Pretoria's Library collection was also pursued. These investigations were fundamental in shading light about the area proposed for development, as well as the compilation of this report. More so, this study prepared the survey team for the kinds of sites that may be expected in the study area.

#### *Physical survey*

The field survey was conducted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. This survey was completed by one Vhubvo archaeologist. The survey was conducted on foot. A systemic survey of the area as indicated by Burke and Smith (2004) resulted in the maximum coverage of the area. The field survey did not include any form of subsurface inspection beyond the inspection of burrows, ploughed agricultural land and the stream banks exposed by natural erosion forces.



Noteworthy no excavations or sampling were undertaken, since a permit from heritage authorities/agency is required to disturb an archaeological site. In addition, no material were collected, the noted material were recorded within the area where they were found.

#### *Documentation*

The area in general and findsports were documented. This documentation included taking photos through a 10.1 mega-pixel Sony Cybershort Digital Camera. Plotting of finds was done by a by a hand-held Garmin etrex Venture HC. The descriptions of the shape of these objects/sites were also sketched and described.

#### ➤ *Oral Interview*

Limited oral interview was conducted with locals. The information they provided was critical in the compilation of this report.

#### *Restrictions*

There was no adequate and satisfactory information about the proposed area from the National Archives, Pretoria.

## **4. Sites location and description**

The proposed road upgrade and refurbishment of bridge and culvert is located in the Local Municipality of Greater Giyani within Mopani District Municipality of Limpopo Province. Some sections of the project area are heavily eroded, and were searched for any archaeological remains that might have been exposed by erosion. Below is a description of the proposed area.

- The road upgrade is approximately 21km long and it commences just adjacent the town of Giyani and transverse pass several villages including Siyandani, Nkhuru, and Malonga village where it ends. The road is disturbed since it is active. The side of the road is also disturbed by water pipeline and power line activities.
- The proposed refurbishment is located along the proposed road upgrade - D3634 and D3778 which transverse from the town of Giyani and passes through the village of Nkhuru, ending at Malonga village. In addition, the proposed bridge to be refurbished has a height of about 5 metres and width of 12.4 metres. This bridge is in a state of disarray, such that the northern section depicts element of collapse. While the culvert has an approximately width of 18 metres and height of about 4 metres.



➤ **Current land use**

The road to be developed is active.

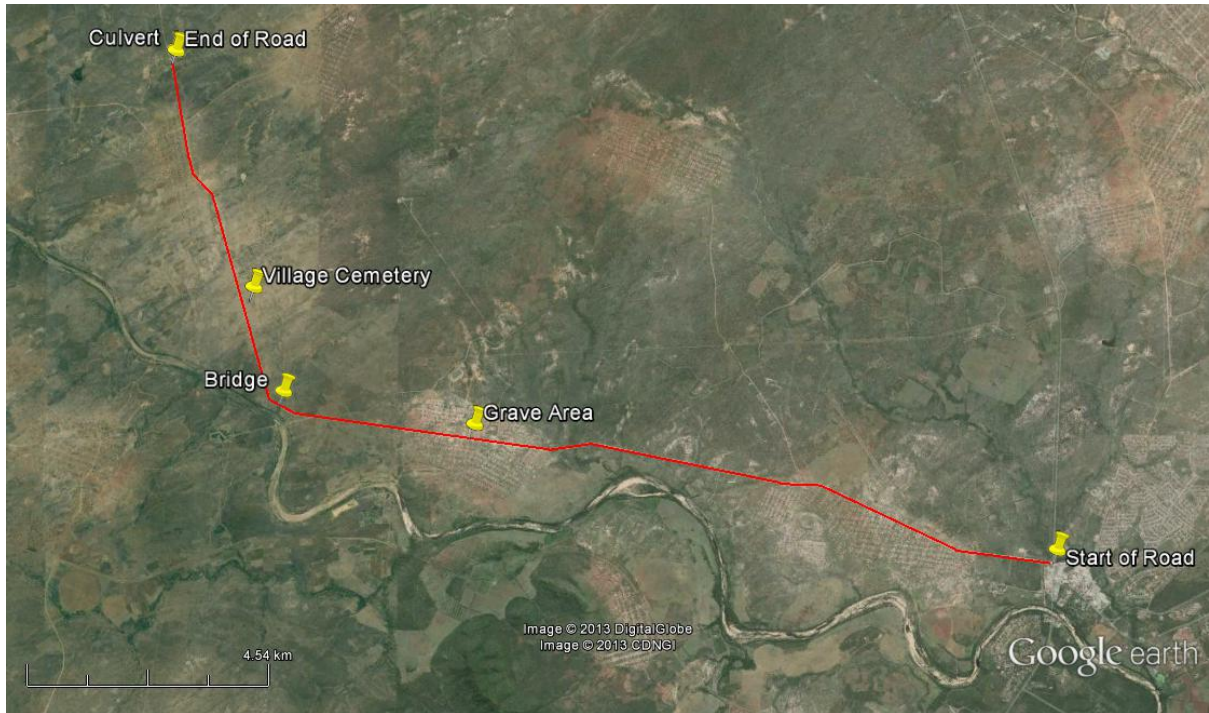
**Summary of Project Location Details**

Province:	Limpopo
Local Municipalities:	Greater Giyani
District Municipality:	Mopani
Farm name/affected properties:	State Land, Lokatie Van Khopneuzen
Land Owner:	Chief Ngobe, Chief Maluleke
Description of proposed development:	Upgrade (Gravel to Tar) of Road D3634 and D3778 and refurbishment of bridge
Map:	Google

Site	Latitude	Longitude
Road Beginning	23°18'17.2"S	30°41'09.4"E
Road end	23°13'09.9"S	30°31'19.3"E
Bridge	23°16'40.2"S	30°32'32.4"E
Culvert	23°13'09.9"S	30°31'19.3"E

**Table 1:** Coordinates of the proposed area for development.





**Figure 1:** Google map of the proposed road upgrade.



**Figure 2:** An overview of the beginning of the road upgrade in Giyani.







**Figure 3:** View of some of the section which will be affected by road upgrade.



**Figure 4:** An overview of the proposed site for development, note the disturbance on the side of the road.





**Figure 5:** View of some of the section of the road upgrade, note the bumpy patch on the side of the road. This has vehemently caused the disturbance.



**Figure 6:** View of some of the area where the proposed road upgrade will transverse.





**Figure 7:** An overview of the approximately centre of the proposed road upgrade area.



**Figure 8:** View of some of the area where the road will transverse pass the villages.





**Figure 9:** An overview of the proposed area.



**Figure 10:** An overview of the side of the road, noteworthy the disturbance caused by vegetation clearance for powerline.





**Figure 11:** An overview of the side of the road, note the disturbance caused by the water pipeline installation.



**Figure 12:** An overview of the area to be upgraded towards the end.





**Figure 13:** View of the end of the proposed road upgrade.



**Figure 14:** An overview of the southern section of the bridge to be refurbished, note the collapse as indicated by the arrow.





**Figure 15:** View of another view of the southern section from another angle.



**Figure 16:** View of the northern section of the proposed refurbishment of bridge.





**Figure 17:** An overview of the culvert which is being proposed for refurbishment.



**Figure 18:** View of the southern section of the culvert proposed to be refurbished.







**Figure 19:** View of bush encroachment which was noted on the further northern section of the culvert.

## 5. Nature of the proposed project

The proposed development entails upgrade (gravel to tar) of 21km road D3634 and D3778 from Giyani to Nkuru to Malonga Village, also refurbishment of bridge and culvert within Greater Giyani Local Municipality of Mopani District, Limpopo Province.

## 6. Applicable heritage legislation

Several Acts exist for the protection and preservation of both cultural and natural resources, these include the National Environment Management Act, No. 107 of 1998; Mineral Amendment Act, No 103 of 1993; Tourism Act, No. 72 of 1993; Cultural Institution Act, No. 119 of 1998, and the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, Section 38 (1) of this Act requires the conduction of Heritage Impact Assessment in case of:

- (a) *the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;*
- (b) *the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length; and*
- (c) *any development or other activity which will change the character of an area of land, or water -*
  - (i) *exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent;*
  - (ii) *involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or*
  - (iii) *involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or*



- (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority;*
- (d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or*
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.*

*Section 3 of the national heritage resource Act (25 of 1999) lists a wide range of national resources that qualify as part of South Africa national estate. When conducting a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) the following heritage resources had to be identified:*

- (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 natural features of cultural significance*
- (e) Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance*
- (f) Archaeological and paleontological sites*
- (g) Graves and burial grounds including-*
  - (i) ancestral graves*
  - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders*
  - (iii) graves of victims of conflict*
  - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette*
  - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and*
  - (vi) other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983)*
- (h) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa*
- (i) moveable objects, including -*
  - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens*
  - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage*
  - (iii) ethnographic art and objects*
  - (iv) military objects*
  - (v) objects of decorative or fine art*
  - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and*
  - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).*

*Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) also distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate if they have cultural significance or other special value ...'. These criteria are the following:*

- (a) Its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history*



- (b) Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage*
- (c) Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage*
- (d) Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects*
- (e) Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group*
- (f) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at particular period*
- (g) Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*
- (h) Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and*
- (i) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.*

***Other sections of the Act with relevance are the following:***

***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.*

***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*

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

- *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 formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or*
- *bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.*

## **7. Degrees of significance**

This category requires a broad, but detailed knowledge of the various disciplines that might be involved. Large sites, for example, may not be very important, but a small site, on the other hand, may have great significance as it is unique for the region.



**Significance rating of sites**

(i) High

(ii) Medium

(iii) Low

This category relates to the actual artefact or site in terms of its actual value as it is found today, and refers more specifically to the condition that the item is in. For example, an archaeological site may be the only one of its kind in the region, thus its regional significance is high, but there is heavy erosion of the greater part of the site, therefore its significance rating would be medium to low. Generally speaking, the following are guidelines for the nature of the mitigation that must take place as Phase 2 of the project.

**High**

- This is a do not touch situation, alternative must be sought for the project, examples would be natural and cultural landscapes like the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site, or the house in which John Langalibalele resided.
- Certain sites, or features may be exceptionally important, but do not warrant leaving entirely alone. In such cases, detailed mapping of the site and all its features is imperative, as is the collection of diagnostic artefactual material on the surface of the site. Extensive excavations must be done to retrieve as much information as possible before destruction. Such excavations might cover more than half the site and would be mandatory; it would also be advisable to negotiate with the client to see what mutual agreement in writing could be reached, whereby part of the site is left for future research.

**Medium**

- Sites of medium significance require detailed mapping of all the features and the collection of diagnostic artefactual material from the surface of the site. A series of test trenches and test pits should be excavated to retrieve basic information before destruction.

**Low**

- These sites require minimum or no mitigation. Minimum mitigation recommended could be a collection of all surface materials and/ or detailed site mapping and documentation. No excavations would be considered to be necessary.



In all the above scenarios permits will be required from the National Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) as per the relevant law, namely the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) destruction of any heritage site may only take place when a permit has been issued by SAHRA or its provincial equivalent should this exist. The following table is used to grade:

Level	Significance	Possible action
National (Grade I)	Site of National Value	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade II)	Site of Provincial Value	Nominated to be declared by PHRA
Local Grade (IIIA)	Site of High Value Locally	Retained as heritage
Local Grade (IIIB)	Site of High Value Locally	Mitigated and part retained as heritage
General Protected Area A	Site of High to Medium	Mitigation necessary before destruction
General Protected Area B	Medium Value	Recording before destruction
General Protected Area C	Low Value	No action required before destruction

**Table 2:** Grading and rating systems of identified heritage resources in terms of National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

## 8. Discussion of History of the area around the proposed site

Valdezia which is approximately 100km south west of the proposed area is the first Shangaan settlement in South Africa, it is located 25KM east of Louis Trichardt. Shangaans occupied and colonised the area in the early 1800s. Shangaans are Nguni people coming from Nongoma in Northern KwaZulu Natal. Their original leader was King Zwide who went to war with the Zulus. After he was defeated by the Zulus, led by Shaka Zulu, his military commander Soshangane refused to submit to the authority of the Zulu. Fearing Shaka's vicious leadership, Soshangane left Nongoma with his followers to establish a new Kingdom, he named the new Kingdom Gazankulu in honour of one of the Zwide Kings, King Gaza, his grandfather.

Life was not peacefully in the new Kingdom and Gazankulu came under attack by the Portuguese settlers in Lourenco Marques, now Maputo. The second migration of the descendents of Soshangane took place again and the Shangaans moved into the Transvaal. Valdezia became their first settlement in the Transvaal. While in Valdezia, the Shangaans were joined by a Portuguese settler named Joao Albasini. Albasini spoke fluent Tsonga/Shangaan, this made Shangaan to feel at home with Joa Albasini, and eventually Albasini was to be annexed to a tribal leader of the Shangaan. Even today there are still some



Shangaans who gather annually at Albasini Dam to commemorate the man they consider being their leader. The Shangaan Settlement at Valdezia was not all peaceful, the Boers arrived and competition for land begins. Whites established farms next to Valdezia. Nonetheless, in 1875, two Swiss theology students, Ernst Creux and Henri Bertroud purchased the farm Klipfontein in order to build a Mission station and settle Shangaans. They name the station Valdezia, in honour of their native homeland in Switzerland, Vaud. This is the first town where the first Shangaan were converted to Christianity.

Large numbers of Vatsonga people began moving into the area from the country of Mozambique. This great migration is chiefly attributed to Mfecane-Difaqane upheavals directed from Zululand. Additionally there was an ongoing power struggle amongst Vatsonga chief Soshangane's own sons. The Swiss Mission went on to convert several of the Vatsonga people to Christianity. In 1999 Valdezia Mission Station was declared a national monument. Giyani, the Tsonga word meaning 'a place where people dance' and 'a land of the friendly people', was officially established in 1969. It is the administrative and commercial centre of the Mopani district and also the former capital of Gazankulu Banstustan. In many ways it still resembles a friendly traditional village and the people of Giyani are known for colourful folklore. Giyani is also rich in cultural history, with royal families dating as far back as 1822 who were related to the famous Rain Queen Modjadji.

## 9. Survey findings and discussion

### *Introduction*

The proposed development consists of road upgrade in Greater Giyani Local Municipality of Mopani District, Limpopo Province. The proposal will significantly and permanently alter the environment. However, this will be in keeping with the landscape. Below is the account of the findings.

Name of the resource	Co-ordinates	Description/Condition	Significance



One Grave	s23 17' 00.5" e30 34' 40.3"	This grave has a gravestone, however no names or dates of birth are inscribed on the tomb.	High
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**Table 3:** Overview of the findings.

*Stone Age Period*

No Stone tools, manufacturing camp or stratified sites were identified in the proposed areas. The area is generally disturbed for any materials to have remained *in situ*.

*Iron Age*

The survey did not identify any Iron Age sites, this is synonymous with other Archaeological/Heritage survey in the area.

*Burial grounds and cemetery*

In terms of the Section 36 (3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority: a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or 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.

In addition to the formal protection of graves, all graves which are older than 60 years and which are not already located in a cemetery (such as ancestral graves in rural areas), are protected. Communities, which have an interest in the graves, must be consulted before any disturbance can take place. The graves of victims of conflict and those associated with the liberation struggle will have to be included, cared for, protected and memorials erected in their honour where practical.



Note that four categories of graves can be identified. These are:

- Graves younger than 60 years;
- Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years;
- Graves older than 100 years; and
- Graves of victims of conflict or of individuals of royal descent

➤ One grave site was recorded in close proximity to the area of the proposed road upgrade. This burial is clearly marked and appears to be known by the community members. It has a westerly posing and has a contemporary tombstone. The construction team should avoid tempering with the recorded burial site which is about 25 metres from the proposed upgrade of the road. Also noted is the village cemetery, this cemetery is active and located approximately 100 metres from the proposed road upgrade.

No burial sites were further identified on the larger sections of the exact area proposed for upgrade activities. However, there is always the possibility of encountering previously unidentified burial sites in any landscape in South Africa. The construction team must watch out for possible chance finds in the project area. In the event that burial sites are encountered during construction, they are still protected by applicable legislations and may not be disturbed



**Figure 20:** View of the noted grave site.







**Figure 21:** An overview of the village cemetery.

#### *National/provincial heritage sites and landmarks*

There are no listed monuments and land marks in the project area.

#### *Historical period sites*

No historical sites associated with early missionary activities were found in the project area.

#### *Natural and contemporary cultural sites*

No significant natural heritage will be affected by the proposed upgrade project. In addition, no open air churches were recorded in any of the proposed the area.

## **10. Recommendations**

*In accordance with the National Heritage Legislation, no upgrade activity was conducted by Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) prior to this archaeological assessment.*

- The area where there is a grave must be avoided in the best way possible. In addition, the developer should ensure that the descendant of the grave are sought, and notified about this proposed development which might have an impact on the grave, directly or indirectly.
- No stone robbing or removal of any material is allowed. Any disturbance or alteration on this site (graveyard) would be illegal and punishable by law, under



section 36 (3) of the National Heritage Resources Act NHRA of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

- Maintain a reasonable buffer zone around the identified grave (approximately 10-15m). No dumping of construction material is allowed within this buffer zone and no alteration or damage on this site may occur.
- The grave should be marked by a visible tape i.e., danger tape, for the duration of the project, and labor-intensive workers should be notified about these grave.
- However, if the above is not deemed practicable, exhumation can be considered as a last resort. It should be noted that the process of exhumation of grave is a costly one, and is performed at the expense of the developer. Also, time delays may result while social facilitation is being petitioned, and descendants are being looked after. Furthermore, application to the authority can be time consuming.
- The cemetery must be avoided. In addition, no dumping of materials must be initiated within 20 metres from the cemetery. The construction team should avoid conveying duty during the time when there are activities at the cemetery.

In the absence of confirmable archaeological or physical cultural resources along the larger project receiving environment, and also confirmed by similar studies in the wider area, it is suggested that the project be exempted from any further heritage assessment studies.

The Environmental Control Officer or any person responsible for site management should be aware of the indicators of sub-surface sites, this may include the following:

- Bone concentrations, either animal or human,
- Ash deposits (unnaturally grey appearance of soil compared to the surrounding substrate),
- Ceramic fragments, including potsherds,
- Bone concentrations,
- Stone concentrations that appear to be formally arranged (may indicate the presence of an underlying burial),
- Fossilised remains of fauna and flora, including trees.

All construction within a radius of at least 10m of such indicator should cease and the area be demarcated by a danger tape. Accordingly, a professional archaeologist or LIHRA officer should be contacted immediately. In the mean time, it is the responsibility of the Environmental officer and the contractor to protect the site from publicity (i.e., media) until a



mutual agreement is reached. It is mandatory to report any incident of human remains encountered to the South African Police Services, LIHRA staff member and professional archaeologist.

Noteworthy that any measures to cover up the suspected archaeological material or to collect any resources is illegal and punishable by law. In the same manner, no person may exhume or collect such remains, whether of recent origin or not, without the endorsement by LIHRA or a professional archaeologist.

### **11. Concluding remarks**

A thorough background study and survey of the proposed sites were conducted and findings were recorded in line with LIHRA guidelines. Thus, it is recommended that LIHRA approve the proposed project to proceed on condition that the recommended measures as laid in this report are adhered to.



### **Acknowledgement**

The author and the team of Vhubvo would like to acknowledge the National Archive staff, voluntary oral participant and DIGES personnel for their assistance with information in related to the survey and compilation of this report.

Also, Google earth and Wikipedia.

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National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999).

[http://sagns.dac.gov.za/local\\_authorities.asp](http://sagns.dac.gov.za/local_authorities.asp)



## APPENDIX 1: SITE SIGNIFICANCE

The following guidelines for determining *site significance* were developed by SAHRA in 2003. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

### (a) Historic value

- Is it important in the community, or pattern of history?
- Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history?
- Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery?

### (b) Aesthetic value



- Is it important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group?

**(c) Scientific value**

- Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage?
- Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period?

**(d) Social value**

- Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons?

**(e) Rarity**

- Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage?

**(f) Representivity**

- Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects?
- What is the importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class?
- Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics 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 2: GRAVE**

A grave is a place of interment and includes all that is associated with such a place, and should be avoided by all means possible unless when totally impossible. If accidental found during construction, the constructor should immediately halt construction and notify SAHRA, the nearest Police Station and a Museum (preferably where there is an Archaeologist), or an independent Archaeologist, so that the discovery can be speedily investigated and facilitated. In the mean time a buffer of about ten meters from the grave should be maintained, and if the grave is to be relocated, the correct procedure which involve, notification, consultation and permit application should be followed. If the grave is less than 60 years of age, it is subject to provision 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





sought from the descendent (where known), the national department of health, provincial department of health, premier of the province and local police. Furthermore permission must also be sought from the landowners 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). This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made.

