

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SEKGOSHI HILL
ON THE FARM CLAPHAM 118 KT
CLAPHAM / LWALA SECTION
DRIEKOP: GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

FOR: SAMANCOR: NORTH EASTERN CHROME MINES

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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Lwala Chrome Mine has begun negotiations with the Mashishi community's Traditional leadership to mine the Sekgoshi hill. Mining of the hill will form part of the Mine's opencast operations and will therefore be demolished.

The GaMashishi royal family had informed the mine that Sekgoshi hill has cultural significance for the community and had been used in the past for ritual purposes. Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultancy was then appointed to conduct a heritage impact assessment of the hill.

Terms of reference

Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment and submit a specialist report, which addresses the following:

- Scope of work undertaken, assumptions and limitations;
- Methodology used to obtain supporting information;
- Overview of relevant legislation;
- Results of investigation;
- Interpretation of information;
- Assessment of impacts (including cumulative impacts) associated with all the stages of the project (construction, operation, closure and post closure);
- Recommendations on other management measures;
- References.

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) (NHRA)

This Act established the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and makes provision for the establishment of Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities (PHRA). The Act makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources (Section 7) and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibilities and functions for heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial authorities and Local authorities, depending on the grade of the Heritage resources (Section 8).

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following highlighted sections and sub-sections are of specific relevance:

Section 3. (1) For the purposes of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.

Section 3. (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include—

- (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 palaeontological sites;

(g) graves and burial grounds.

Section 3. (3) Without limiting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of—

(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 a 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.

In the definitions of the Act (xxi) "***living heritage***" means the intangible aspects of inherited culture, and may include—

(a) **cultural tradition;**

(b) **oral history;**

(c) performance;

(d) **ritual;**

(e) popular memory;

(f) skills and techniques;

(g) **indigenous knowledge systems;** and

(h) the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships

Section 35(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

Subsection 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

(a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;

- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological 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 palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist with the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Subsection 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

*‘**development**’ means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place*;
- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

****place** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure* ...”

****structure** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground ...”

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sources of information

A member of the Mashishi royal family accompanied the investigators to Sekgoshi hill as guide and informant. He pointed out the structures used for rituals and initiation ceremonies. The locations of the heritage remains were recorded by a handheld GPS and plotted on Google Earth. Archaeological material and the general conditions of the terrain were photographed with a Canon Digital camera.

3.2 Limitations and assumptions

No limitations were experienced. It must be noted that most archaeological remains are subterranean and there is always a chance that archaeological material may be exposed during earthworks.

3.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

- | |
|---|
| 1. No significance: sites that do not require mitigation. |
|---|

- | |
|--|
| 2. Low significance: sites that <i>may</i> require mitigation after further assessment. |
| 3. Medium significance: sites that require mitigation. |
| 4. High significance: sites that must not be disturbed at all or require special mitigation. |

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

3.4 Terminology

Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.

Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD.

Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

Historical: Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD 1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

4. BASELINE INFORMATION

In terms of Huffman's (2007) distribution sequences of the Iron Age, the project and surrounding area may contain the remains of the under-mentioned culture historical groups:

- **Urewe Tradition**, originating in the Great Lakes area of Central Africa, was a secondary dispersal centre for eastern Bantu speakers. It represents the eastern stream of migration into South Africa.
 - Moloko (Sotho-Tswana) Branch (Late Iron Age)
Icon facies AD 1300 – 1500; associated with the first Sotho Tswana people entering the country.
Marateng facies AD 1650 – 1840; associated with local Pedi people.
- **Kalundu Tradition**, originating in the far North of Angola, was another secondary dispersal centre for eastern Bantu speakers and represents the western stream of migration into South Africa.
 - Happy Rest Sub-branch:
Doornkop facies AD 800 – 1000 (Early Iron Age)
Eiland facies AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)

Doornkop and Eiland sites had been recorded around Sekgoshi hill. Phase 2 assessments are in progress for some of these archaeological sites.

5. RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The heritage remains located on the hill consists of tangible Archaeological Cultural Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage. Unfortunately, the informants could not give a date for when the activities and construction of tangible remains took place, other than “long ago”.

5.1 Archaeological Cultural Heritage:

On Sekgoshi hill the archaeological cultural heritage represent a Special Purpose site – with evidence of past human activity that does not include occupation. Some of their characteristics are:

- fixed on the landscape often with discrete boundaries;
- unique, non-renewable, and sometimes irreplaceable;
- sensitive to ground disturbing impacts;

On Sekgoshi hill the archaeological cultural heritage consist of **stone packed cairns** as places of worship and ritual use, and secondly **phiri initiation structures** with its associated fireplace in the same locality - general coordinates; S24°28'43.2" E30°05'54.7”.

According to the royal representative the stone packed cairns were used for rainmaking rituals and ancestral worship.

Apart from containing archaeological heritage resources, the locality also includes the aspect of Intangible Cultural Heritage;

5.2 Intangible Cultural Heritage

Cultural Activity is defined as an activity which represents expressions of social or cultural identity for a particular group in which multiple members of the community take part. Cultural activities can be divided into the subcategories of ritual, cultural expression and traditional lifestyles. On Sekgoshi hill these can be identified as rainmaking rituals and initiation ceremonies.

6. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

The mining of Sekgoshi hill will impact on:

- the physical nature of the archaeological site,
- access to the site,
- change the setting of the site.

In reality, the mining will destroy the hill and its heritage resources.

The result of the impact will be:

- the loss of cultural or scientific information,
- damage to local identity,
- possible negative sentiment towards and opposition to the mine,
- infringement of cultural norms,
- threats to cultural knowledge and activities.

7. EVALUATION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act.

Significance		Rating
1.	The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history (Historic and political significance)	Moderate
2.	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage (Scientific significance).	Moderate
3.	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage (Research/scientific significance)	Moderate
4.	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects (Scientific significance)	Low
5.	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group (Aesthetic significance)	Low
6.	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (Scientific significance)	None
7.	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social significance)	High
8.	Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa (Historic significance)	None
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None

7.2 **Section 38(3) (c) An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources.**

The development will have a destructive impact on heritage remains.

7.3 **Section 38(3) (d) An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable economic benefits to be derived from the development.**

The recorded heritage remains on Sekgoshi hill are not uncommon, rare or unique and can be mitigated whereby cultural values can be transferred by appropriate measures. The sustainable economic benefits outweigh the conservation benefits.

7.4 **Section 38(3) (e) The results of consultation with the communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources.**

Social consultative process is ongoing and the community is being assisted by an attorney.

7.5 Section 38(3)(f) If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development the consideration of alternatives.

No viable alternatives exist.

7.6 Section 38(3)(g) Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.

Mitigation measures are recommended below.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION MEASURES

Lwala mine is in the process of negotiating with the GaMashishi community through its traditional leadership. The community has appointed an attorney. Through this process, mitigation will probably focus on monetary compensation and development projects for the community should they consent to the demolition of the hill and its cultural resources.

From a heritage management point of view, the following mitigation measures are proposed:

- If the community consents to the mining of Sekgoshi hill, they must be made aware of the fact that tangible forms of cultural heritage such as the cairns and/or the phiri structures can themselves be moved to another location to which the cultural values can be transferred by appropriate traditional measures. If the community favours such an option, then the Mine and community ought to reach an amicable agreement regarding its implementation.
- The archaeological heritage resources must be recorded in full detail by means of a Phase 2 assessment before any mining takes place on the hill.
- The intangible cultural heritage must be fully assessed before mining takes place.

In the event of the GaMashishi community consenting to the mining of Sekhoshi hill and the abovementioned recommendations are implemented, there is no objection to the mining project.

9. REFERENCES

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

RSA, 1999. National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999). Government Printer. Pretoria.



Figure 1. A group of stone cairns on Sekgoshi hill – note fairly big tree that had grown through it giving an indication of age. (Scale 50cm)



Figure 2. A single stone cairn. (Scale 50cm)



Figure 3. One of the two phiri structures on Sekgoshi hill. (Scale 50cm)



Figure 4. The informant/guide pointing to the fireplace associated with the phiri structures.



Figure 5. Sekgoshi hill with ritual heritage area.