

*SPECIALIST REPORT*

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
RECTIFICATION OF UNLAWFUL COMMENCEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A  
LODGE & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A PORTION OF THE FARM CORK  
295-KU, MKHUHLU, BUSHBUCKRIDGE AREA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT PREPARED FOR  
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**JULY 2019**

**ADANSONIA HERITAGE CONSULTANTS  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

**REGISTERED WITH SAHRA**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for the unlawful construction of THE VILLAGE LODGE and associated infrastructure, on a portion of the *farm CORK 295-KU*, in the Bushbuckridge area. The 6ha study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2431CD, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999)(NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act.

NKULULEKO ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENTAL AGENCY (NEDA), was appointed by the applicant Mr. Phaskani Msiska to undertake all the relevant authorizations required for the rectification of an unlawful commencement for the construction of THE VILLAGE LODGE and associated infrastructure. THE VILLAGE LODGE is situated in the *CORK* area of Bushbuckridge, approximately 24km east of Hazyview. It is directly south of the R536 and approximately 2km north of the border with the Kruger National Park. The 6ha property was purchased in 2010 and subsequently developed. It has been in operation for the past seven years. The property was extensively compromised as a commercial concern, and no archaeological or historical material, structures, features or graves were observed in the remaining natural sections during the survey. The maintenance manager on the property, Mr. Gift Banda also confirmed that they never encountered any heritage features or graves on the property.

Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the application for the Lodge Development to be rectified. The applicant must however be aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may be revealed during further construction of the development, and should any be identified, a qualified archaeologist must investigate and assess the finds.

**Disclaimer:** *Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. Christine Rowe trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.*

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- 1) The results of the project;*
- 2) The technology described in any report;*
- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*

JULY 2019

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Rowe', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

.....  
Christine Rowe

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**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT**

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for the rectification of unlawful commencement for the construction of THE VILLAGE LODGE and associated infrastructure, on *a portion of the farm CORK 295-KU*, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge. The study area is 6ha in extent and situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2431CD, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Phaskani Msiska (unlawfully) established THE VILLAGE LODGE and intends to submit an application for the rectification in terms of Section 24(G) of the NEMA to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), for an unlawful commencement of activities listed in GN R327 of 2017 and GN R325 promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (Fig. 1).

NKULULEKO ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENTAL AGENCY (NEDA), was appointed by the applicant Mr. Phaskani Msiska to undertake all the relevant authorizations required for the rectification of an unlawful commencement for the construction of THE VILLAGE LODGE and associated infrastructure development as per section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA 1998 as amended).<sup>2</sup>

The Lodge is located directly south of the R536 road between Hazyview and the Kruger Gate entrance of the Kruger National Park (KNP). The property is also 2km north of the border with the KNP. The property was developed after 2010 and has been in operation for at least seven years. Before the development, the farm consisted of natural bush.<sup>3 4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> BID Document: NEDA, Doctor Mthethwa, 2019-07-11.

<sup>2</sup> BID Document, NEDA, Doctor Mthethwa, 2019-07-11, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Google Earth Images 2012 & 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Personal communication: Mr. N. Khantshi, 2019-07-09.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by NEDA, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources on the study area. A literature study, relevant to the study area as well as a foot survey was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon (See map 4 & 5, Topographical Maps & Appendix 1, Tracks and Paths).

The aims of this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study area, and to advise the client on sensitive heritage areas which may exist in the already developed area. The investigation concentrated on the unlawful development and if it had impacted upon any heritage features in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resources will be made. The study area is indicated in Maps 1 - 8, Appendix 1 & Appendix 2.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: NEDA, P.O. Box 210, Matsulu, 1203. Tel: 072 4017028 / Fax: 086 6034915 / e-mail: nedaresources@gmail.com;
- Type of development: Unlawful development of a Lodge, on a *portion of the farm CORK 295-KU*, MKHUHLU, Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga Province.
- The study area consisted of existing infrastructure (developed after 2010) <sup>5</sup> (see Map 6). The area is currently zoned as business / commercial.<sup>6</sup>
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. Land owner / Developer: Mr. Phaskani Msiska. <sup>7</sup>

**Terms of reference:** As specified by section 38 (3) of the NHRA, the following information is provided in this report.

- a) The identification and mapping of heritage resources where applicable;
- b) Assessment of the significance of the heritage resources;
- c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
- d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

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<sup>5</sup> Personal communication: Mr. N. Khantshi, 2019-07-09.

<sup>6</sup> Personal communication: Mr. N. Khantshi, 2019-07-09.

<sup>7</sup> BID Document, NEDA, Doctor Mthethwa, 2019-07-11, p. 2.

**Legal requirements:**

The legal context of the report is grounded in the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, as amended).

**• Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the unlawful development. The independent environmental consultant will undertake all the relevant authorizations required for the rectification of the commencement for the construction of THE VILLAGE LODGE and associated infrastructure. The proposed development is a listed activity in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of a HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA).

Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and its provincial offices and counterparts.<sup>8</sup>

Section 38 of the NHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by an independent heritage management consultant, for the following development categories:

- The construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
- exceeding 5000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;
- the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;

In addition, the new EIA regulation promulgated in terms of NEMA, determines that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert NEDA, the owner applicant and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings

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<sup>8</sup> National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

or structures older than 60 years prior to demolition, in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and also other sections of this act dealing with archaeological sites, buildings and graves.

The NHRA section 2 (xvi) states that a “heritage resource” means any place or object of cultural significance, and in section 2 (vi) that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. Apart from a heritage report assisting a client to make informed development decisions, it also serves to provide the relevant heritage resources authority with the necessary data to perform their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resource, whether the development may proceed as proposed or whether mitigation is acceptable, and whether the heritage resource require formal protection such as a Grade I, II or III, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such a grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction. No archaeological material was observed during the survey.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, 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. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during development of the road infrastructure or agricultural activities. This section does not apply since no graves were identified.

- **Section 34 of the NHRA**

Section 34 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may alter, damage, destroy, relocate etc, any building or structure older than 60 years, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial

heritage resources authority. This section does not apply since no structure older than 60 years was identified during the survey.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

This section deals with public monuments and memorials but does not apply in this report.

- **NEMA**

The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998, as amended), provides for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard. NEDA, was appointed by the applicant Mr. Phaskani Msiska to undertake all the relevant authorizations required for the rectification of unlawful commencement for the construction of THE VILLAGE LODGE and associated infrastructure development as per section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act (1998 as amended).<sup>9</sup>

## **B BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA**

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

Primary and secondary sources were consulted to place the surrounding area in an archaeological context. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Zivovogel and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray and Van der Ryst were consulted, as well as historic sources (Makhura and Webb).

Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the number of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to actually indicate how many people were living in one area.<sup>10</sup> (See Map 1: Van Warmelo 1935).

Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the study area. Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinities of Hazyview<sup>11</sup>, Bushbuckridge,

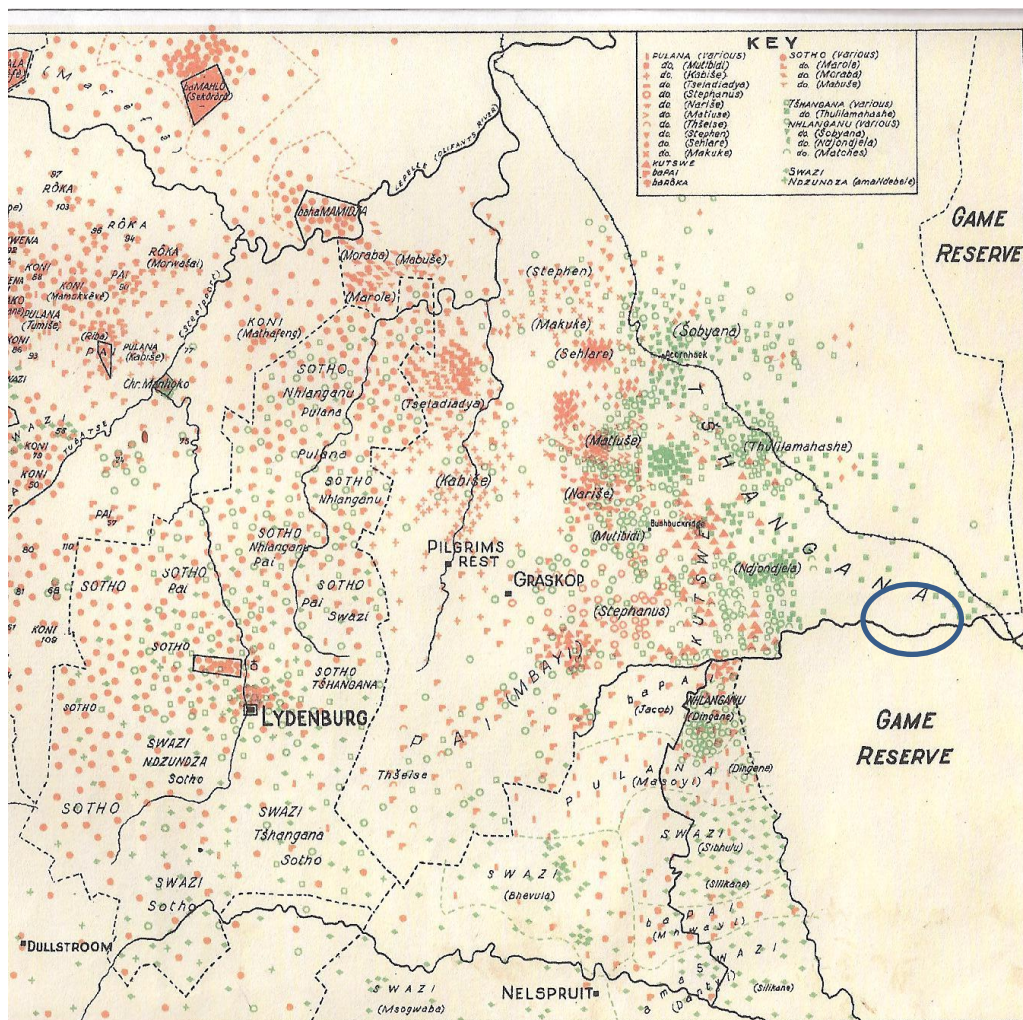
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<sup>9</sup> BID Document, NEDA, Doctor Mthethwa, 2019-07-11, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

<sup>11</sup> PRMA: Information file 9/2.

Graskop and Sabie. Clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinders, are scattered at most of the sites.<sup>12</sup> Many of these occur in caves as a result of the Swazi attacks during the 1900's on smaller groups.



**MAP 1: VAN WARMELO 1935**

According to the map by Van Warmelo, the study area (indicated by the oval) was not populated or sparsely populated during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The surrounding communities were mainly of Tsonga / Tshangana decent.

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the direct study area. Later Stone Age sites in the Kruger National Park date to the last 2500 years and are associated with pottery and microlith stone tools.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

<sup>13</sup> J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site in the immediate area, besides those in the Kruger National Park, is the Plaston site towards the south-west, dating ca 900 AD.<sup>14</sup> No other archaeological excavations have been conducted to date within the study area, which have been confirmed by academic institutions and specialists in the field.<sup>15 16</sup>

The wider area is quite rich in archaeological history and the first evidence of ancient mining occurred between 46 000 and 28 500 years ago during the Middle Stone Age. Hematite or red ochre was mined at Dumaneni (near Malelane, approximately 40km south-east of the study area) and is regarded as one of the oldest mines in the world. Iron ore was also mined in the area, and a furnace as well as iron slag was documented.<sup>17</sup> Research has been done by the Pilgrim's Rest Museum on San rock art as well as rock art made by Bantu speakers in the Escarpment area, but none have been recorded to date in the direct study area.<sup>18</sup>

The whole district is divided in two, with the Drakensberg Escarpment in the west, and the Low Veld (in which the study area is situated) towards the east. Today, we found that the boundaries of groups are intersected and overlapping.<sup>19</sup> Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlangu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.<sup>20</sup> When the Swazi began to expand northwards, they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.<sup>21</sup> There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.<sup>22</sup> This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>23</sup> when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, Hazyview, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.<sup>24</sup> The only early trade route mentioned, which crossed this section, was a footpath used by the African groups from Delagoa Bay towards Bushbuckridge (Magashulaskraal as it was previously

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<sup>14</sup> M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

<sup>15</sup> Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.

<sup>16</sup> Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

<sup>17</sup> Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> PRMA: Information file 9/2.

<sup>19</sup> N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

<sup>20</sup> M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 21.

<sup>21</sup> A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

<sup>22</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

<sup>23</sup> H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16.

named), along the Sabie river, up the Escarpment, and further north to the Soutpansberg.<sup>25</sup> There is however, no physical evidence left of this early route.

Groups which are found in this area are Eastern Sotho as well as Tsonga groups:

### **Eastern Sotho group: The Kutswe**

The **Kutswe** trekked from the northern parts of Swaziland northwards as a result of pressure from the Swazi in the south.<sup>26</sup> The Kutswe settled north-east of the present Nelspruit at a river called Kutswe (Gutshwa)<sup>27</sup> from where they got their present name. From here they moved on and settled at various places, and ruins of their kraals are scattered from Pretoriuskop, Hazyview (Phabeni) as well as on the farms Welgevonden 364, Lothian 258, Boschhoek 47, Sandford 46, Culcutta 51 and Oakley 262.<sup>28</sup> They occupied additional areas between White River and Sabie, and had sufficient influence amongst the Pai during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, to establish authority over more than 2000 individuals living on farms on both sides of the Sabie River from the town of Sabie as far as the main road from White River to Bushbuckridge.<sup>29</sup>

They had chief jurisdiction over the following farms near Bushbuckridge: Oakley 262, Calcutta 51, Madras 50, Alexandria 251, Cork 60 and Ronoldsey 273. They intermarried with Nhlangu (Shangaan), Swazi and Pai.<sup>30 31</sup>

These early settlements all developed into larger settlements by the descendants of the groups which are mentioned above, and the entire area to date, consists of villages, settlements or farms of which some are only a few kilometers apart.

The ruins of the kraals of Kutswe chiefs are still known on the following farms,<sup>32</sup> where they were most probably buried as well:

Mogogong: near Pretoriuskop (KNP); Senwapitsi between Pretoriuskop & Skukuza (KNP); **Phabêng, Phabeni gate in KNP (close to the study area)**; Phandane, Farm Welgevonden; Makgate, Farm Lothian gaMoépé; Farm Boschhoek; Lesaba la Mbanyêlé - Farm Sandford;

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<sup>25</sup> L. Changuion & J.S. Bergh, Swart gemeenskappe voor die koms van die blankes, in J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 104.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>27</sup> T. Makhura, Early Inhabitants, in Delius, P. (ed)., *Mpumalanga: History and heritage*. p.105.

<sup>28</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 110.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-10.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>32</sup> D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 110.

Khubuthamaga - Farm Calcutta Matsabane - Farm Lothian; **Selôkôšô - Farm Oakley (next to Mkhuhlu & Cork / Belfast).** <sup>33</sup>

### **Tsonga groups: The Nhlangu and Tšhangana**

The Nhlangu and Tšhangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)<sup>34</sup> form part of the larger Tsonga group of which the original group occupied the whole of Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa), and it has been recorded that by 1554, they were already living around the Delagoa Bay area (Maputo).<sup>35</sup> They fled from the onslaughts of the Zulu (Nguni) nation from the Natal area and great numbers of emigrants sought safety in the “Transvaal” as recently as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially in the greater Pilgrim's Rest district (including the study area that we are concerned with). The Tsonga also moved west from Mozambique into the “Transvaal”. They have never formed large powerful tribes but were mostly always subdivided into loosely-knit units which were absorbed under the protection of whichever chief would give them land.<sup>36</sup> They were originally of Nguni origin.<sup>37</sup> The term “Shangaan” is commonly employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.<sup>38</sup>

The **Nhlangu** occupied the Low Veld area in their efforts to escape the Zulu raids during 1835-1840. They lived side by side with the Tšhangana, and the differences between the two are inconsiderable. They have mixed extensively with other tribes.<sup>39</sup>

The **Tšhangana** are also of Nguni origin who fled in the same way as the Nhlangu, settled in the “Transvaal” a little later than the former. Most of the Tsonga were subjects to *Soshangane*, who came from Zululand.<sup>40</sup> The downfall of *Ngungunyana* (son of *Soshangane*) saw his son seeking sanctuary in the “Transvaal”, and the latter became known as *Thulamahashi*,<sup>41</sup> the name that is still used for the area east of Bushbuckridge.

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<sup>33</sup> Rowe, C., Phase 1 AIA, HIA for proposed traffic training academy, Calcutta 294KU, 2013.

<sup>34</sup> M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 24.

<sup>35</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

<sup>36</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

<sup>37</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

<sup>38</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

<sup>40</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 57.

<sup>41</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92.

The historical background of the wider area confirms that it was occupied since the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Eastern Sotho (Pai, Kutswe and Pulana) as well as Tsonga groups (Nhlanganu and Tšhangana). These groups have intermarried extensively or were absorbed by other groups in time, and today groups such as Eastern Sotho, South-Ndebele, Swazi, Tsonga and Northern-Sotho occupy this area.<sup>42</sup>

### • HISTORY OF MKHUHLU / CORK

The Head Office of the Bushbuckridge Municipality is located in Mkhuhlu, next to Cork (the study area). Bushbuckridge covers an area of 25586.76ha, with a population of 500 000 people.<sup>43</sup> Cork forms part of the greater Gazankulu, from Makhado in the north to Mkhuhlu and Skukuza in the south a total of 317km long. Gazankulu had ten formal townships which were all created by the Apartheid Government from the late 1960's until the 1980's. All the townships were land owned by local traditional leaders or tribal chiefs.<sup>44</sup>

The author was also involved in desktop studies and surveys in the area, such as:

- *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview, (2001);*
- *a Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for 132Kv Powerlines from Kiepersol substation (Hazyview), to the Nwarele substation Dwarsloop (2002);*
- *Study for the Proposed Eskom Powerlines, Hazyview – Dwarsloop (2008);*
- *a Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed traffic training academy, Calcutta, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge (2013);*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Nkambeni cemetery in Numbi, Hazyview (2013);*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a Development on the farm Agricultural Holding no 56 JU, White River (2013) was done in the wider area;*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed agricultural development on the farm SIERAAD, Komatipoort area, (2013) revealed one possible Late Stone Age borer which was identified in a soil sample, one meter below the surface;*
- *Phase 1 AIA / HIA for proposed de-bushing of natural land for agricultural use: Portion*

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<sup>42</sup> M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 40.

<sup>43</sup> Ehlanzeni District Municipality, [http://www.mpumalanga.gov.za/municipality\\_ehlanzeni.htm#bush](http://www.mpumalanga.gov.za/municipality_ehlanzeni.htm#bush)  
Access: 16-01-13, p. 1.

<sup>44</sup> Internet Access: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gazankulu> Access: 2018-05-14.

10 of the farm Thankerton 175JU, Hectorspruit, Mpumalanga Province (2013); revealed some Later Stone Age artifacts which were all out of context and a burial site;

- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the *proposed residential township, Tekwane extension 2, portion 7 of the farm Tekwane 537 JU*. No archaeological material of significance was identified.
- Report on Grave site found at *portion 7 of the farm Tekwane 537 JU, in way of amended Bulk Sewer Pipeline, Kanyamazane, Mpumalanga Province (2017)* – Large graveyard identified.
- Phase 1 AIA & HIA for a *proposed development of a Lodge on a portion of the farm CORK 295KU (10ha), Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge area, Mpumalanga Province (2018)* – no archaeological or historical material was observed – This area (on CORK 295KU) is just south of the current study area.
- Phase 1 AIA & HIA for the rectification of an unlawful commencement for the construction of the LEOPARD SANDS RIVER LODGE & associated infrastructure on a *portion of the remaining extent of the farm BELFAST 296KU, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge area, Mpumalanga Province (2019)*.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed other recent Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the area:

- J. Van Schalkwyk: *Proposed new Lebombo Port of Entry and upgrade of Komatipoort railway station between Mpumalanga (SA) and Mozambique (2008)* – Some historic buildings were identified but no archaeological remains;
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Report on a cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Kangwane Antracite Mine, Komatipoort (2012)* – An archaeological site with Middle and Late Stone Age tools were identified as well as some Iron Age artifacts and decorated pottery. Mitigation measures were recommended by exclusion from the development or a Phase 2 study;
- JP Celliers: *Report on Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment on erven at Komatipoort 182 JU Extension 4, Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed two pieces of undecorated sherds of pottery which was of low significance. It was recommended that any earthmoving activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Archaeological Impact Assessment for Border site at Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed historic remains linked to the Steinaeker's Horse regiment during the South African War.

- A. Van Vollenhoven: *A Report on a basic assessment relating to cultural heritage resources for the proposed ESKOM Tekwane North line and substations, Mpumalanga Province (2013)* – revealed historic remains of low significance and a cemetery.

### C. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

THE VILLAGE LODGE is located directly south of the R536 road between Hazyview and the Kruger National Park. The property is approximately 2km north of the border with the KNP (maps 2, 3, 5 & 6). The Lodge has been in operation for at least seven years. It has been developed after 2010 on natural vacant land.<sup>45</sup> (Map 7 & figs. 2 – 11).

Mr. Phaskani Msiska (unlawfully) established THE VILLAGE LODGE and intends to submit an application for the rectification in terms of Section 24(G) of the NEMA to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), for an unlawful commencement of activities listed in GN R327 of 2017 and GN R325 promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998).

The site is almost entirely disturbed by infrastructure development such as Reception, Restaurant and entertainment areas, tourist accommodation and staff quarters (see Areas 1 – 9 on Maps 2 & 3). Small pockets of natural bush are left and were investigated for any signs of an archaeological or historical nature, but nothing was observed (figs. 22 – 26). All open trenches, roads and paths were also investigated (figs. 6 - 26).

Technically the ecozone representing this area is referred to as the Sabie River Thicket ecozone. The natural vegetation is characterized by *mixed Lowveld Bushveld* with woodlands made up of trees such as marula (*Sclerocarya birrea caffra*), Lowveld chestnut (*Sterculia murex*), apple-leaf (*Lonchocarpus capassa*), silver cluster-leaf (*Terminalia sericea*), South African Wild Pear (*Dombeya rotundifolia*), and Jackal Berry (*Diospyros mespiliformis*), along the drainage lines.<sup>46</sup> The typical granite and dolerite plains have sandy soils and clayey soils in the lower areas.<sup>47 48</sup>

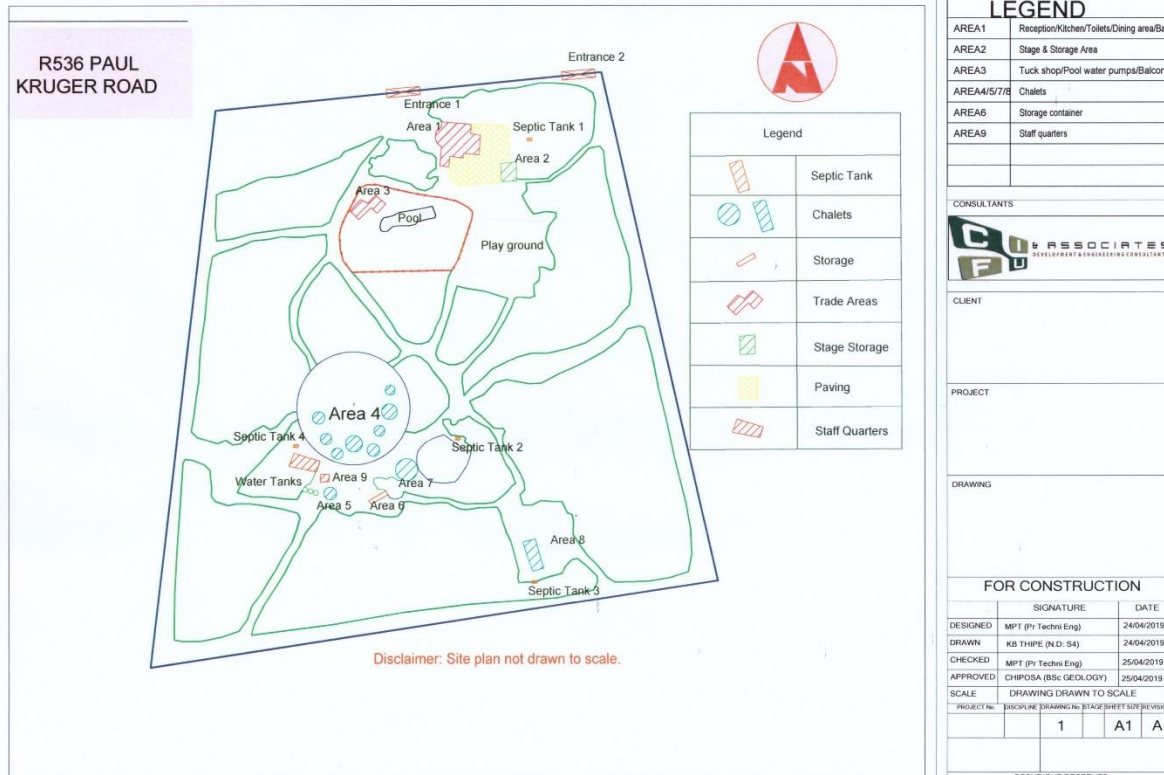
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<sup>45</sup> Personal communication: Mr. N. Khantshi, 2019-07-09.

<sup>46</sup> Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997

<sup>47</sup> SANPARKS, Visitors Guide to the Kruger National Park, p. 2.

<sup>48</sup> Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 500.



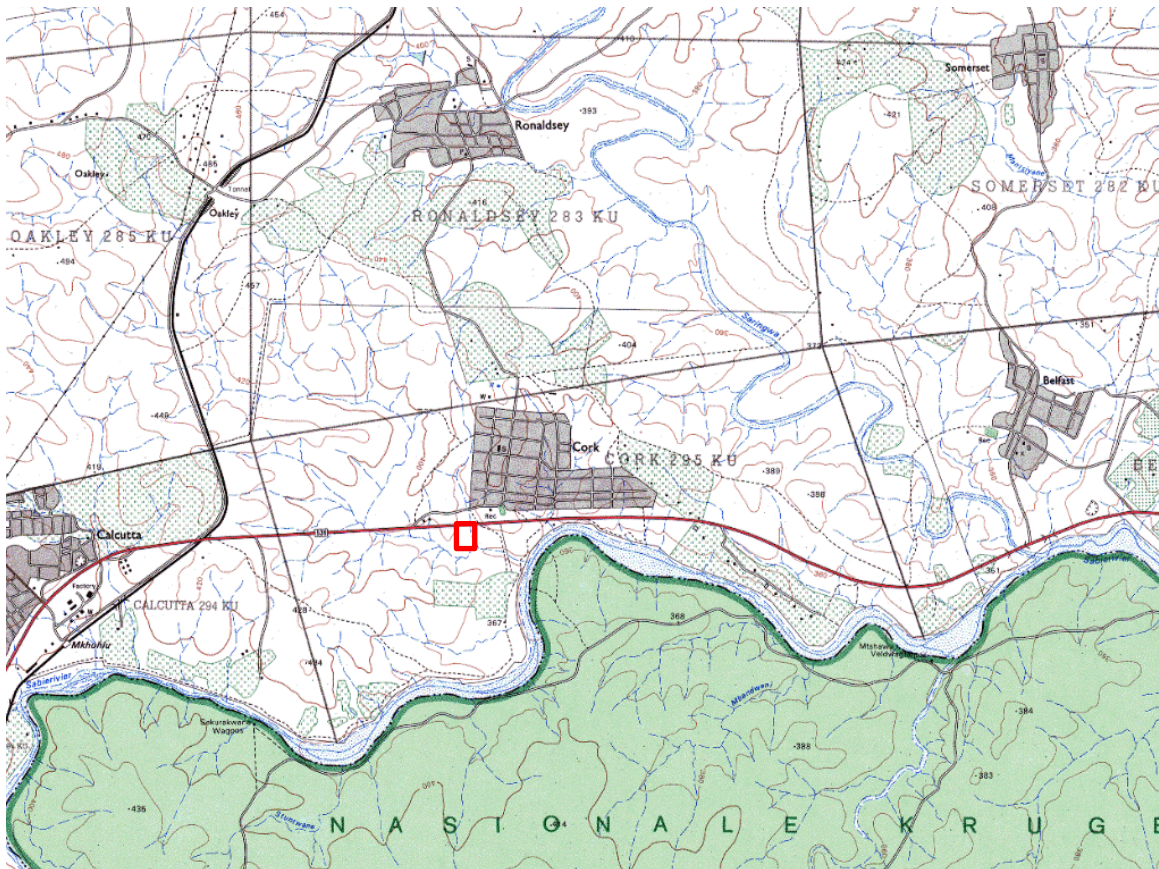
**MAP 2: Layout of the development (CIFU & Associates, 24-04-2019).**



**MAP 3: Site layout on Google Image (CIFU & Associates, 24-04-2019).**

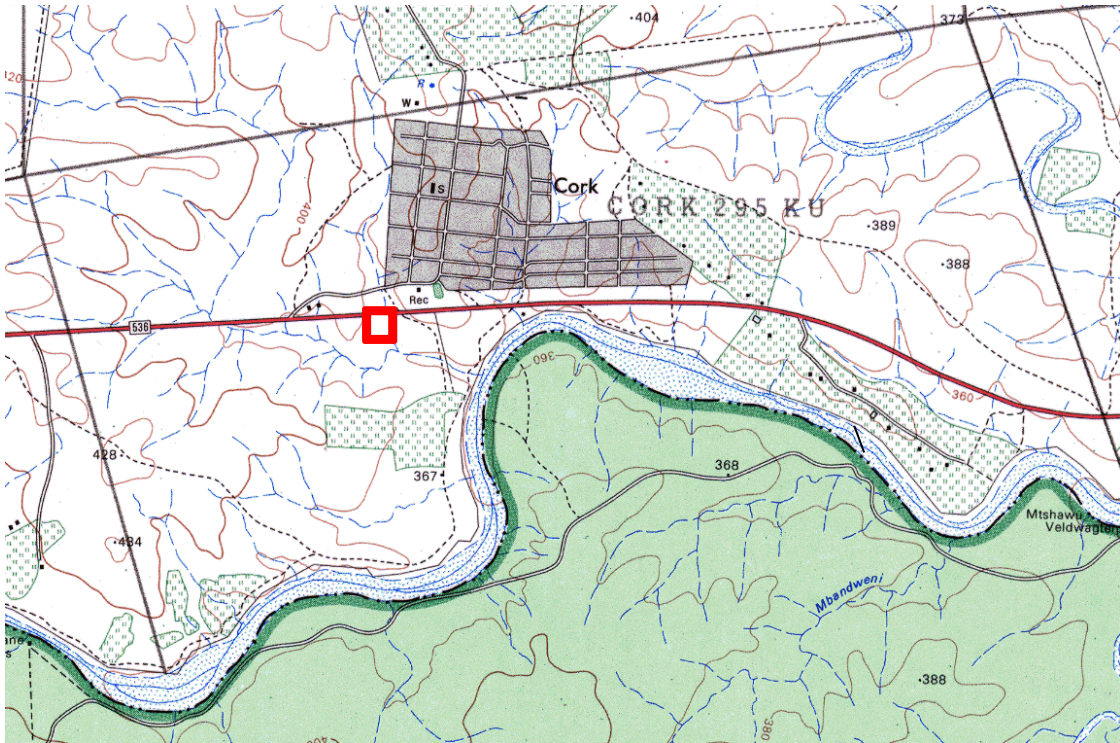
#### D. LOCALITY

THE VILLAGE LODGE development is south of the road R536 between Hazyview and the Kruger Gate (of the KNP). It is close to the rural areas of Mkhuhlu, Cork and Belfast, <sup>49</sup> on a portion of the farm CORK 295-KU, in Bushbuckridge.



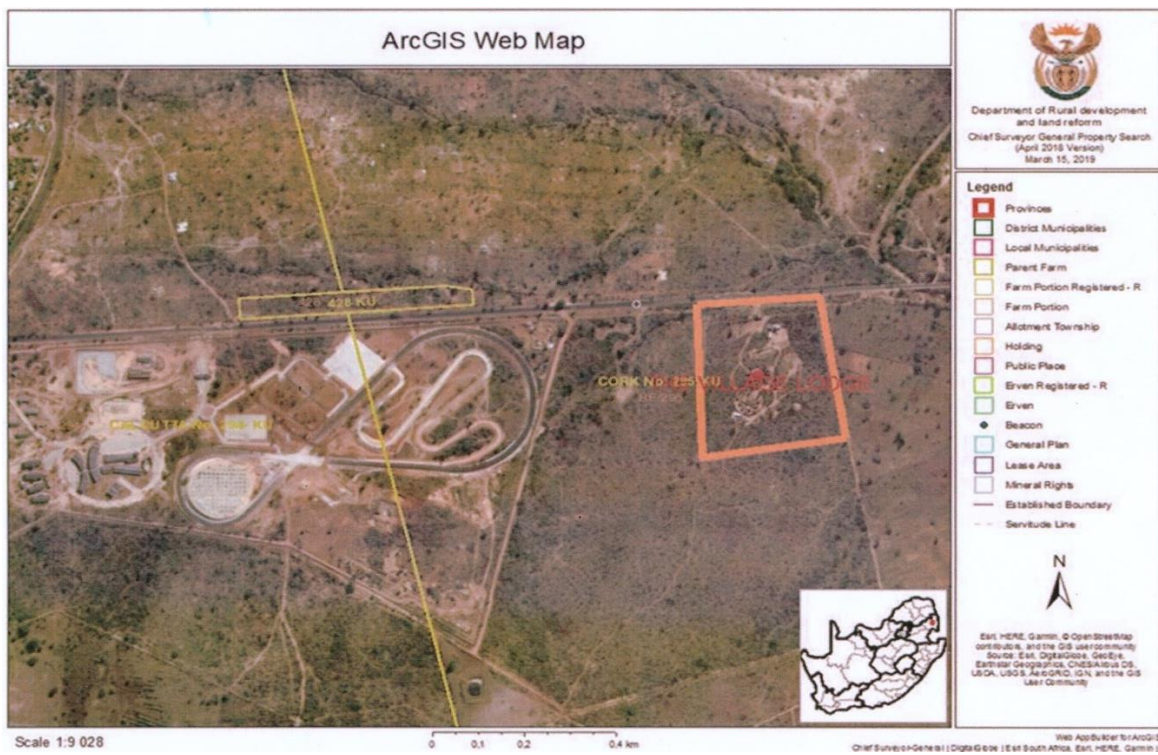
**MAP 4:** Topographical Map: 2431CD (1985): The red square indicates the study area in relation to the wider area.

<sup>49</sup> BID Document, MPG Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd., p. 1.



**MAP 5:** Detail of the immediate study area (red square) (2431CD).

The topographical map (2431CD) was studied and revealed no archaeological or historic features in the area. (See map 5 & Section C in this report).



**MAP 6:** The study area (see arrow), as seen within a wider context (Google Earth image).

The site falls under the Bushbuckridge Local Municipal jurisdiction, which in turn falls within the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, in Mpumalanga (maps 3 - 8 & Appendix 2; Figs. 1 – 26 for the study area).

**Description of methodology:**

The topographical map, (2431CD: Maps 4 & 5), and Google images of the site (Maps 6 - 7), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consisted mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, to establish relevant information.
- Specialists currently working in the fields of anthropology and archaeology have also been consulted on the subject.

-Literary sources: A list of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were cited, and revealed some information;

-The archaeological database of SAHRA as well as the National Cultural History Museum was consulted. Heritage Impact Assessment reports of specialists who worked in the area were studied and are quoted in section B.

- The fieldwork and survey were conducted extensively by three people on foot. The area was accessible. Existing roads, tracks and paths were used to access the natural sections (see Appendix 1).
- The 6ha terrain was even and accessible. The survey took place in winter when grass cover in natural areas was dry and open. Visibility varied from excellent to good (figs. 1 – 26).
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Oregon 750), and plotted on a Google Earth image. Co-ordinates are within 4-6 meters of sites.
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999).
- Personal communication with NEDA ecologist, Mr. N. Khantshi, 2019-07-09.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Personal information: Mr. N. Khantshi, 2019-07-09.

GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area, see map 6 (Co-ordinates provided by NEDA):

<b>GPS CO-ORDINATES</b>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
A	S 24° 57' 53.52"	E 31° 17' 19.93"	Elev. 394m
B	S 24° 57' 52.61"	E 31° 17' 27.98"	Elev. 392m
C	S 24° 58' 01.96"	E 31° 17' 29.90"	Elev. 393m
D	S 24° 58' 03.36"	E 31° 17' 19.77"	Elev. 408m

#### **E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES**

NKULULEKO ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENTAL AGENCY (NEDA), was appointed by the applicant Mr. Phaskani Msiska to undertake all the relevant authorizations required for the rectification of an unlawful commencement for the construction of THE VILLAGE LODGE and associated infrastructure development as per section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA 1998 as amended).<sup>51</sup>

The Lodge is located directly south of the R536 and approximately 2km north of the border with the Kruger National Park. The 6ha property had been developed after 2010. Before the development, the site was natural vegetation (see map 8, Google image 2012).<sup>52</sup>

A site visit was arranged in July 2019 when the natural vegetation cover was dry (winter) and fairly open). The study area was surveyed by three people on foot. Existing roads, tracks and paths were also used to access the study area, which was flat and accessible. Visibility was good throughout the survey.

<sup>51</sup> BID Document, NEDA, Doctor Mthethwa, 2019-07-11, p. 2.

<sup>52</sup> BID Document, NEDA, Doctor Mthethwa, 2019-07-11, p. 2.



**MAP 7:** Google Earth image 2019: Perimeters of the study area.



**MAP 8:** 2012 Google Earth image of the study area.



**MAP 9:** 2013 Google Earth image: The development of infrastructure and roads is visible in the 2013 Google image.

Most of the site has been disturbed since 2013 as the Google images (2013 – 2019) indicate. The study area was previously a natural section (pre-2010), (see map 8). As stated earlier, all development sites were also inspected and all open trenches were investigated for any sign of archaeological or historical remains (figs. 1 – 26), but none was found.

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps, figures and appendices, which indicate the study area, and which correspond with the summaries below. Photographs in Appendix 2 show the general view of the study area. No archaeological sites, stone walls, historic structures or graves were identified during the survey.

The maintenance manager at THE VILLAGE LODGE, Mr. Gift Banda, also confirmed that the staff on site have never encountered any of the above during the recent years that they were involved on the study area.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Personal information: Mr. G. Banda, 2019-07-06.

## F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO-NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	GN R327 & GN R325	Activities requiring the rectification of an unlawful activity	Rectification of unlawful development	NEDA to undertake application 24G

- **Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources: General issues of site and context:**

<b>Context</b>		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	Yes	Near the rural residential area of Mkhuhlu, Cork & Belfast
Natural environmental context	No	Existing infrastructure;
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA

<b>Context</b>		
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	Yes	2 Km north of the Kruger National Park
Is the property part of a conservation area of special areas in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<b><i>Property features and characteristics</i></b>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	Development since 2013
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	NA
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	No	NA
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	No	NA

<b><i>Heritage resources on the property</i></b>		
<b><i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i></b>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
<b><i>General protection (NHRA)</i></b>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA

<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	NA
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELE- MENT S</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>
		Hist oric al	Rar e	Sci ent ific	Typi cal	Tech - nolo gical	Aest hetic	Pers on /com muni ty	Land mark	Mate rial cond ition	Sustain a bility	
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELE- MENT S</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Personal /community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability	
Historical settlement / townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELE- MENT S</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Personal/community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability	
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- **Summarised recommended impact management interventions**

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance</b>		<b>Impact management</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural significance</b>	<b>Impact significance</b>		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significan ce	Impact significan ce		
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeologi cal / palaeontolo gical sites	No	None	None	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	No	None	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA done
NEMA	GN R327 & GN R325	Activities requiring the rectification of an unlawful activity	Rectification of unlawful development	NEDA to undertake application 24G

## **G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES**

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above is made for all identified heritage features.

### **• Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

### **• National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed,

and contributes to redressing past inequities.<sup>54</sup> It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section 3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (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.<sup>55</sup>

No archaeological, historical material or graves were found on the study area.

## **H. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION**

Mr. Phaskani Msiska (unlawfully) established THE VILLAGE LODGE and applied to submit an application for the rectification in terms of Section 24(G) of the NEMA to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), for an unlawful commencement of activities listed in GN R327 of 2017 and GN R325 promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998).<sup>56</sup> (Figs. 13 – 16).

No archaeological or historical material, structures, features or graves were observed during the survey in the study area. All trenches and open sections at the existing constructed sites and all other sites were investigated for any archaeological or historical remains, but none was found.

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during new construction activities in the

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<sup>54</sup> National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

<sup>55</sup> National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

<sup>56</sup> BID Document, NEDA, Doctor Mthethwa, 2019-07-11, p. 2.

development. It is recommended that the applicant should be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the construction phases at the Lodge site.

Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent THE VILLAGE LODGE to continue its operation. It is recommended that any new activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and that an assessment and recommendation be done should any archaeological material or graves be found.

**Adansonia Heritage Consultants cannot be held responsible for any archaeological material or graves which were not located during the survey.**

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## APPENDIX 1

### Tracks and Paths used to access the study area



Tracks which were used during the survey (yellow).