

SPECIALIST REPORT
PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
PROPOSED TRAFFIC TRAINING ACADEMY:
REMAINDER OF THE FARM CALCUTTA 294 KU,
MKHUHLU, BUSHBUCKRIDGE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

REPORT COMPILED FOR
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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 of the proposed Mkhuhlu Traffic Training Academy on the remainder of the farm *Culcutta 294 KU*, in Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge.

The 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 Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Ehlanzeni district.

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.

The land is currently vacant and the client, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, seeks permission to establish a Traffic Training Academy for the province of Mpumalanga. The study area is 25ha, of which approximately 5 ha will be used for the construction of lecture rooms, training facilities, administrative offices, accommodation and recreational facilities (Information from BID document, Wandima Environmental Services).

The area for the proposed development is currently vacant, with a variation of vegetation and trees. It is situated in Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge and currently the local people use it for the collecting of firewood, grazing their livestock and extensive dumping of refuse. Some residents of this area, Mr. Meschak Ntimane, (who lived in this area for 40 years), Mr. Pheneas Mavimbela (born 1929), France Nkuna (from the traditional council, born 1950), Mr. Million Ubisi (who works for the Chief, born 1941) and Mr TJ Mkhonto stated that people lived on this section pre – 1967, but have left. Mr. TJ Mkhonto said that there was a grave on the property but was unable to locate the grave. The survey revealed a lower grinding stone and a few clay potsherds in the south-east corner of the study area, which is believed to have belonged to the families who lived on the property in the 1960's. Mitigation measures are recommended in the report. No other heritage features were observed.

Based on the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants cc, states that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue in the demarcated section.

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MKHUHLU, BUSHBUCKRIDGE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport is faced with a challenge to provide an educational facility in the form of a traffic academy. They requested the establishment of a Traffic Training academy on the remainder of the *farm Culcutta 294KU*. The area is 25ha of which 5ha is planned for the construction of lecture rooms, training facilities, administrative offices, accommodation and recreational facilities, and anything else that may be required by the academy.¹ The MEC for Mpumalanga's Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. Shongwe announced that there is a need for such a training facility in the Mpumalanga Province and that this training facility will provide a crucial educational function as well as providing the community with temporary and permanent employment.²

Adansonia Heritage Consultants was appointed by *WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES cc.*, to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources in the study area.

A literature study, relevant to the study area was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon. (See **Appendix 1: Topographical Map: 2431 CD**).

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 as well as where it is viable for the development to take place 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 resource will also be made. The study area is indicated in **Appendix 1, 2, 3, 4** and photographic

¹ WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, BID document for proposed establishment of Mkhuhlu Traffic Training Academy, October 2012, p 1.

² Speech from Dept of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, 24 May 2012: <http://www.info.gov.za/speech/DynamicAction?pageid> Access: 2013-01-16, p. 1.

evidence is in **Appendix 5**.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES cc.*, P.O. Box 1072, Nelspruit, 1200, Tel: 013-7525625 / Fax: 013-7528152 / e-mail: mandla@wandima.co.za
- Type of development: A total of 25ha of which 5ha are earmarked for the construction of the Traffic Training academy, on the remainder of the farm *Culcutta 294KU*, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga Province.
- The land is currently zoned as agricultural but it is in the process of being rezoned as an industrial area.
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms):
The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Bushbuckridge local municipality, and Ehlanzeni District Municipality, on the remainder of the farm *Culcutta 294KU*.
- Land owners: The Mkhuhlu Tribal Authority.

- **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 resources;
 - c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
 - d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

- **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 (1998) (NEMA):

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the development. 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.

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:

- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
 - exceeding 5000m² in extent;
 - the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent

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

The end purpose of this report is to alert *WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES cc.*, the client, and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources which 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 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 resource, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such 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. This section does not apply as the clay potsherds and a lower grinder is believed to have belonged to the families who lived in the area in the 1960's. The material was found in the south-east corner just outside of the study area.

- **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 construction work. Mr. TJ Mkhonto of the Mkhuhlu Tribal Authority mentioned one grave on the site belonging to a family who stayed on the property before 1967. The grave was not located during the survey and Mr. Mkhonto was also unable to identify any grave. **This section may apply since there is mention of a possible grave on the site.**

- **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 buildings / structures older than 60 years were 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), provide for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard.

B. BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

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

In order to place the area between Hazyview to Bushbuckridge in archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Küsel, Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray and Van der Ryst were consulted, as well as historic sources by Makhura and Webb.

Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the study area. The author was involved in a *Desktop Study for Proposed Eskom Powerlines, Hazyview – Dwarsloop* in 2008, *Inspection of Umbhamba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, in 2001, as well as a *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for 132Kv Powerlines from Kiepersol substation (Hazyview), to the Nwarele substation (Dwarsloop)*. The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed no reports for the Culcutta or Mkhuhlu regions. One report for Bushbuckridge (F. Roodt), and one for Acornhoek (JP Celliers) revealed no archaeological sites of significance. 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 study area.³

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the 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.⁴ The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site in the immediate area, besides those in the Kruger

³PRMA: Information file 9/2.

⁴ J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

National Park, is the Plaston site towards the south-west, dating ca 900 AD.⁵ 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.^{6 7} A stone walled settlement with terracing was recorded by C. van Wyk (Rowe) close to Hazyview,⁸ as well as several others further west and north-west,⁹ outside the study area.

Several early ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the study area was inhabited by Eastern Sotho groups (Pulana, Kutswe and Pai), the Tsonga (Nhlanganu and Tšhangana), from before the 18th century.^{10 11} However, when concentrating on ethnographical history, it is important to include a slightly wider geographical area in order for it to make sense.

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.¹² Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlanganu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.¹³

When the Swazi began to expand northwards they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.¹⁴ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.¹⁵ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century,¹⁶ when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River

⁵M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

⁶Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.

⁷Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

⁸C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaha Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

⁹PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹⁰N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

¹¹H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 16.

¹²N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

¹³M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 21.

¹⁴A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

¹⁵N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

¹⁶H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

and Komatipoort.¹⁷

Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinity of Hazyview¹⁸, Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie, clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinding stones, are scattered at most of the sites.¹⁹ Many of these occur in caves as a result of the Swazi attacks on the smaller groups.

Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the amount 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.²⁰

A map of the “Transvaal” (Bradford’s pre-1926: *Map of black settlement in the Transvaal*) indicated that the areas east and south of Pilgrim's Rest towards the current Kruger National Park, were extensively occupied by African people before 1926.²¹

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 named), along the Sabie river, up the Escarpment, and further north to the Soutpansberg.²² There is however, no physical evidence left of this early route.

Eastern Sotho group: The Pai

Van Warmelo identified the groups in northern Swaziland and the Pilgrim's Rest district before 1886, as Eastern Sotho (Pulana, Pai and Kutswe). According to Von Wielligh, the **Pai** occupied the area as far south as the Komati River (umLumati). Most of the younger generation has adopted the Swazi language.²³

¹⁷*Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹⁸PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹⁹D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

²⁰N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

²¹H. Bradford, *A Taste of Freedom*, p. 147.

²²L. 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.

²³D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, pp. 3-5.

The Swazi constantly attacked the Eastern Sotho groups during the nineteenth century. The Pai fled to the caves in the mountains near MacMac (between Sabie and Pilgrim's Rest), while some of them (which were subjugated by a Swazi leader) fled from *Mswazi* in about 1853 to Sekukuniland (Steelpoort area), but decided to turn back towards their country along the Sabie River (1882). By this time, Europeans had already settled in this area when gold was discovered in 1873.²⁴

Eastern Sotho group: The Pulana

The history of the **Pulana** goes back to the Barberton area from where they trekked via Krokodilpoort (Nelspruit district) to settle north-east of Pretoriuskop. When the Swazi invaded them, they moved on and split up under several chieftainships,²⁵ of who chief Kobêng (after which Kowyns' Pass was named), is well-known in the area's history.

The Pulana roughly lived in the following areas: north of the Crocodile River, west of the western boundary of the Kruger National Park as far north as its crossing the Sabie River, south of the Sabie river until its cutting through the main road from Pretoriuskop to Bushbuckridge, west of this road as far as Klaserie, south of a line drawn from Klaserie to the confluence of the Blyde and Orighstad rivers, east of the Blyde River. This large area is divided in two by the main road from Pilgrim's Rest to Bushbuckridge. This road was since ancient times the only connection between the Low Veld and Escarpment, and became known as "Kowyns' Pass".²⁶ The majority of Pulana lived to the north of this line, while south of this line the Pulana are scattered in groups into which are wedged Pai groups on both sides of the Sabie River, and Swazi peoples in the south, and south-eastern portions.^{27 28}

It was the Pulana clans who, under chief Maripi Mashile, defeated the Swazi at Mariepskop in the Blyde River Canyon, ca 1864.²⁹

Eastern Sotho group: The Kutswe

The **Kutswe** trekked from the northern parts of Swaziland northwards as a result of

²⁴D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 11.

²⁵*Ibid.*, p. 108.

²⁶M. De Jongh, (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 21.

²⁷D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 107.

²⁸N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

²⁹D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 107.

pressure from the Swazi in the south.³⁰ The Kutswe settled north-east of the present Nelspruit at a river called Kutswe (Gutshwa)³¹ 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, **Calcutta 51** and Oakley 262.³² They occupied additional areas between White River and Sabie, and had sufficient influence amongst the Pai during the early 20th 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.³³ 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.^{34 35}

The ruins of the kraals of Kutswe chiefs are still known on the following farms,³⁶ where they were most probably buried as well:

Mogogong:	near Pretoriuskop (KNP)
Senwapitsi	between Pretoriuskop & Skukuza (KNP)
Phabêng	Phabeni gate in KNP (close to Mkhuhlu)
Phandane	Farm Welgevonden
Makgate	Farm Lothian
gaMoépé	Farm Boschhoek
Lesaba la Mbanyêlé	Farm Sandford
Khubuthamaga	Farm Calcutta
Matsabane	Farm Lothian
Selôkôtsô	Farm Oakley (next to Mkhuhlu)

Tsonga groups: The Nhlangu and Tšhangana

The Nhlangu and Tšhangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)³⁷ form

³⁰*Ibid.*, p. 110.

³¹T. Makhura, Early Inhabitants, in *Delius, P. (ed).*, *Mpumalanga: History and heritage*. p.105.

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

³³*Ibid.*, pp. 4-10.

³⁴*Ibid.*, p. 110.

³⁵*Ibid.*, p. 110.

³⁶*Ibid.*, p. 110.

³⁷M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 24.

part of the larger Tsonga group of which the original group occupied the whole of Mosambique (Portuguese East Africa), and it has been recorded that by 1554, they were already living around the Delagoa Bay area (Maputo).³⁸ 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 19th 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, and absorbed under the protection of whichever chief would give them land.³⁹ They were originally of Nguni origin.⁴⁰ The term “Shangaan” is commonly employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.⁴¹

The **Nhlanganu** 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.⁴²

The **Tšhangana** are also of Nguni origin who fled in the same way as the Nhlanganu, settled in the “Transvaal” a little later than the former. Most of the Tsonga were subjects to *Soshangane*, who came from Zululand.⁴³ The downfall of *Ngungunyana* (son of *Soshangane*) saw his son seeking sanctuary in the “Transvaal”, and the latter became known as *Thulamahashi*,⁴⁴ the name that is still used for the area east of Busbuckridge.

The historical background of the study area confirms that it was occupied since the 17th 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-

³⁸N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

³⁹N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

⁴⁰N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

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

⁴²*Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

⁴³N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 57.

⁴⁴N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92.

Ndebele, Swazi, Tsonga and Northern-Sotho occupy this area.⁴⁵

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

- **HISTORY OF BUSHBUCKRIDGE**

Bushbuckridge town was established in 1884. The town grew around a trading store and is still situated in a rural area. Tobacco, cotton and vegetable farming took place in the surrounding countryside.⁴⁶ The Head Office of the Bushbuckridge Municipality is located in Mkhuhlu. Bushbuckridge covers an area of 25586.76ha, with a population of 500 000 people.⁴⁷

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

The proposed project will involve the following:

- Approximately 5 ha of the 25ha of the study area, is earmarked for the construction of the Traffic Training Academy.

D. LOCALITY

The proposed project site is located south of the main road (R536), approximately 22km from Hazyview towards the Kruger Gate (Kruger National Park). It is situated in the rural residential area known as Mkhuhlu in Bushbuckridge. The site falls under the Bushbuckridge Local Municipal jurisdiction, which in turn falls within Ehlanzeni District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province (**Appendix 1: Topographical Map & Appendix 2, 3 Google images of sites**).

The proposed area for development is situated on the remainder of the farm *Calcutta 294KU* and is currently vacant land which is zoned as agricultural, but is in the process of being rezoned as industrial. There is a vast variation of vegetation and trees. Most of

⁴⁵M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 40.

⁴⁶ Rural Bushbuckridge, <http://www.mpg.gov.za/IDP/Ehlanzeni2012-13/Bushbuckridge> Access: 2013-01-16, p. 1.

⁴⁷ Ehlanzeni District Municipality, http://www.mpumalanga.gov.za/municipality_ehlanzeni.htm#bush Access: 16-01-13, p. 1.

the bushes and trees are medium in size and are hardly visible on the 2009 Google image (See **Appendix 5 & Fig. 1 – 4**). The area is classified as the Sabie River Thicket ecozone. The granite and dolerite plains have shallow sandy soils (Fig. 10), and clay sodic soils along the footslopes.⁴⁸ Trees and shrubs that were identified in the study area are Marula (*Sclerocarya birrea*), Red Bushwillow (*Combretum apiculatum*), Sickie bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*), Weeping wattle (*Peltophorum africanum*), Rosette Cluster leaf (*Terminalia stenostachya*) and several Acacia species. The sickie bush is often invasive and thicket forming, particularly in overgrazed areas.⁴⁹

According to some informants, they knew of a few families who lived on the land. Mr. France Nkuna (from the Traditional Council) was born in 1950 and lived in this area all his life. He said 7 families stayed on the site before 1967, the Mdluli family, Dombeni family, Mokoena family, Mafastera family, Ntimane family, Maphanga family and Vuma family.⁵⁰ The families were moved from this site to a more secure venue in 1967, by the elders / traditional leaders.⁵¹ The land belongs to the Tribal Authority (Nkuna family). Mr. Million Ubisi (from the council of the Chief) was born there in 1941. Although none of the informants above knew of the presence of graves on the property, Mr. TJ Mkhonto, Headman of the Ushama Tribal Authority, mentioned a grave on the site, but was unable to identify the grave.⁵²

A trench is excavated along the access road in the northern section of the study area. The trench is for a water pipeline to a nearby cultural village (Fig. 9). GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area.

- **Description of methodology:**

The topographical Map, (**Appendix 1**), and Google images of the site (**Appendix 2 & 3**), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historic 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:

⁴⁸ SANPARKS, Visitors Guide to the Kruger National Park, p. 2.

⁴⁹ Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 500.

⁵⁰ Personal Information: Mr. France Nkuna, Cell: 0726533761, 2013-01-16.

⁵¹ Personal Information, Mr. Mechak Ntimane. Cell: 0711069539, 2013-01-12.

⁵² Personal Information, Mr. Million Ubisi, Cell: 0713894280, 2013-01-16.

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17th 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, in order to establish relevant information.
- Several specialists currently working in the field 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 consulted, and revealed some information;

-Archaeological database of SAHRA as well as the National Cultural History Museum were consulted.

- The fieldwork and survey was conducted extensively on foot and with a vehicle, with three people.
- The entire area is vacant land since 1967, and belongs to the traditional leaders. It is now used for cattle grazing, collecting of firewood and extensive dumping of refuse.
- The terrain was even and accessible although there is a vast variation of medium sized bushes and trees. The grass was mostly short because of cattle grazing.
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Etrex) datum WGS 84, and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 4-6 meters of identified 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 relevant stakeholders on the specific study area, were held, such as local inhabitants of Mkhuhlu, Mr. Mechak Ntimane, Mr. France Nkuna , Mr. Million Ubisi and Mr. TJ Mkhonto, Headman of the Ushama Tribal Authority. Some informants did not want to be mentioned by name, but they confirmed the statements of the others.
- **GPS: Co-ordinates of the perimeters of the study area** (Co-ordinates provided by WANDIMA):

CO-ORDINATES		
Perimeter	LAT - South	LONG - East
A	24° 57' 58" S	31° 16' 21" E

B	24° 57' 55" S	31° 16' 28" E
C	24° 57' 54" S	31° 16' 46" E
D	24° 58' 9" S	31° 16' 50" E

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the appendices, which indicate the areas, and which corresponds with the summary below. Photographs in **Appendix 5 (Fig. 1, 2, 3 & 4)**, show the general view of the study area. Visibility was fair, but it was crucial to get information from the local community members as well.

The study area was extensively surveyed on foot and per vehicle for any remains of archaeological or historical nature. Visibility was good and footpaths as well as dirt roads, divided the area into smaller sections which made access fairly easy (See **Appendix 3**).

The locals in the township of Mkhuhlu utilizes the area for harvesting of firewood, livestock grazing and dumping of refuse. Mr. Mechak Ntimane (Age 50) lived in the direct vicinity of the study area for 40 years. He was interviewed and stated the he was unaware of any graves or LIA remains such as stone walls in this area. The people who lived on this section was moved from here in 1967 to a safer area as this land belonged to the traditional leaders and is approximately one kilometer from the border of the Kruger National Park area.⁵³ According to Mr. Million Ubisi from the council of the Chief, he was also unaware of any graves in the study area as the people were buried elsewhere.⁵⁴ However, Mr. TJ Mkhonto, Headman of the Ushama Tribal Authority, said there was a grave on the site, but he was unable to locate the grave.⁵⁵

The survey revealed only one lower grinder and rough clay potsherds of recent historic / social nature, in the south eastern corner, but outside of the study area. No other archaeological or historical remains were observed.

F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPO- NENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
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⁵³ Personal Information: Mr. Meschak Ntimane, 2013-01-12.

⁵⁴ Personal Information: Mr. Million Ubisi, 2013-01-16.

⁵⁵ Personal Information: Mr. TJ Mkhonto, 2013-01-19.

ACT	COMPO-NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
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	None
NHRA	S36	Possible impact on grave	Grave was not identified but Mr. TJ Mkhonto of the Tribal Authority mentioned the presence of a grave	Noted with mitigation / recommendation
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

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

Context		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	Vacant land
Natural environmental context	No	Pioneer species such as sickle bush present, which indicate disturbed areas.
Formal protection (NHRA)		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
Other		

Context		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	Yes	Kruger National Park
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area 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?	Yes	As mentioned above, Kruger National Park.
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	Yes	Kruger National Park

Property features and characteristics		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	No	The land is currently vacant. Seven rural families lived on the site before 1967 when they were moved elsewhere.
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?	Yes	Sabie River is approximately 1km from the study area

Heritage resources on the property

Heritage resources on the property		
Formal protection (NHRA)		
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
General protection (NHRA)		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	A lower grinder and clay potsherds were observed in the south eastern corner of the study area but is of recent historic nature.
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	Yes	Possible grave: No graves were identified during the survey but Mr. TJ Mkhonto of the Tribal Authority mentioned the presence of a grave – but he was unable to locate it.
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
Other		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE	RISK
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S (3)2 Heritage resource category	MEN TS	Histo rical	Rare	Sci enti fic	Typi cal	Tech nolog ical	Aes thetic	Pers on / com munit y	Land mark	Mate rial con dition	Sust aina 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	-
Historical settlement/ townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Possible	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	If there is a grave the development might impact on the grave
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Summarised recommended impact management interventions

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance rating			
		Cultural significanc	Impact significanc		

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance rating		Impact management	Motivation
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	No	No	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	Possible	Yes	Yes	-	Mitigation measures will be implemented in the area which TJ Mkhonto pointed out as the possible grave site area.
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	No relevance	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Possible grave site	Mitigation measures

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above will be 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.⁵⁶ 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 any 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

⁵⁶National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

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.⁵⁷

Please note: All graves are rated as *High* and are of outstanding significance as specified by the NHRA. The survey revealed no graves on the site, and none of the initial informants were aware of any graves on the study area. One informant, Mr. TJ Mkhonto, Headman of the Ushama Tribal Authority made mention of a grave. He was however, unable to locate the grave (Fig. 7).

- **The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features in the study area, can be summarised as follows:**

Site no	Cultural Heritage features	Significance	Measures of mitigation
C/1 & C/2	A lower grinder and a few rough clay potsherds were found at the south eastern corner of the study area, and are regarded as historical / social rather than archaeological.	None	Recent historic material on border of the study area
Possible Grave	A possible grave is present according to one informant.	High	The area which Mr. TJ Mkhonto pointed out is be demarcated for mitigation.

H. RECOMMENDATIONS

Historical material was found on the south eastern corner of the study area. The few rough clay potsherds (Fig.5), and lower grinder (Fig. 6) were most possibly used by the inhabitants of the area who were moved from the site in 1967, and are of historical and social significance. The remainder of the farm *Culcutta 294KU* is situated in a rural area and some inhabitants are still making use of upper and lower grinders and clay pots together with modern vessels. The historical material which was identified is not regarded to have any special significance. The study area, which belonged to the Tribal

⁵⁷National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

Authority, was vacant since 1967 and is used by locals for grazing of cattle, collecting of firewood and extensive dumping of refuse. No other archaeological material was found on the study area.

During the survey of the study area, no graves were identified. However, the Headman of the Ushama Tribal Authority mentioned the presence of a grave on the site during an interview. He was however unable to locate the grave, but showed us an area in which the grave might possibly be situated (Fig. 7). It is therefore recommended that this area which is indicated in **Appendix 3**, be regarded as a no-go zone for the development. This section is situated along the existing access road in the northern section of the study area and parallel to the R536. Since the construction of the Traffic Training Academy will only require 5ha of the study area, the demarcated section must be avoided. Should the local inhabitants identify the grave in future, the Client must make provision to fence the grave off and allow the family access to the grave. Adansonia Heritage Consultants, have no compelling reasons that may prevent the proposed Traffic Training Academy to continue in the study area, with the exclusion of the demarcated area (Appendix 3).

I. CONCLUSION

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during construction activities of the proposed development. It is therefore recommended that the developers be made aware of this possibility and when human remains, clay or ceramic pottery etc. are observed, a qualified archaeologist must be notified and an assessment be done. Further research might then be necessary in this regard for which the developer will be responsible.

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

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