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**A DESKTOP HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT
FOR THE TSHIKOTA CEMETERY EXTENSION PROJECT
LOCATED IN THE MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

For:

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REPORT: APAC022/110

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Pelser', is centered below the text.

SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Mang GeoEnviro Services to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Tshikota Cemetery Extension Project. The study & proposed development area is located in the Makhado Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. As part of the assessment a Desktop based study had to be completed first, with a resultant report to be submitted to the client.

Background research indicates that there are several known cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. None is known for the specific study area. This report discusses the results of the desktop research and provides recommendations on the way forward at the end.

It is recommended that the proposed Tshikota Cemetery Extension be allowed, taking into consideration the measures and recommendations put forward at the end of the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Mang GeoEnviro Services to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Tshikota Cemetery Extension Project. The study & proposed development area is located in the Makhado Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. As part of the assessment a Desktop based study had to be completed first, with a resultant report to be submitted to the client.

Background research indicates that there are several known cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls. None is known for the specific study area.

The client indicated the location and boundaries of the study & Tshikota Cemetery extension area and the assessment focused mainly on this portion.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the study was to:

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

It should be noted that No Field-Based Assessment has been conducted as part of this Appointment as yet and that the results and recommendations made in this report are based on the scrutiny of previous research and assessments in the larger area, as well as archival research and aerial images of the study area.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

3.1. The National Heritage Resources Act

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

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

The National Estate includes the following:

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

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

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

Structures

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

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

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

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

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

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

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

Human remains

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders

- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

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

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

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

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

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

3.2. The National Environmental Management Act

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

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

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Survey of literature

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

4.2. Field survey

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

The field work phase of the assessment has not been undertaken yet.

4.3. Oral histories

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

4.4. Documentation

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

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA & PROJECT

The study and proposed Tshikota Cemetery Extension area is located on portions of the original farm Naturelle Lokasie 272LS, in the Makhado Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province.

The topography and general landscape of the study area can't be described in detail from a personal observation perspective as no physical fieldwork has yet been undertaken for this study. However, based on aerial images (Google Earth) of the area it is clear that in general it is flat and open, with no rocky outcrops or ridges visible on these images.

It is not clear exactly when the existing Tshikota Cemetery was established, but aerial images show that by 2003 it was already in existence and has subsequently in recent years grown fairly rapidly. As a result of this there have been some impacts on the specific area.

The section into which the extension is proposed has not been impacted severely, but recent ground clearance visible on the 2022 aerial image (Google Earth) has seemingly taken place here to accommodate the expanding cemetery. If any sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin or significance did occur here it would likely have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result. There is however a possibility that cultural heritage resources could be located in the larger study area around the existing cemetery and this need to be taken into consideration.

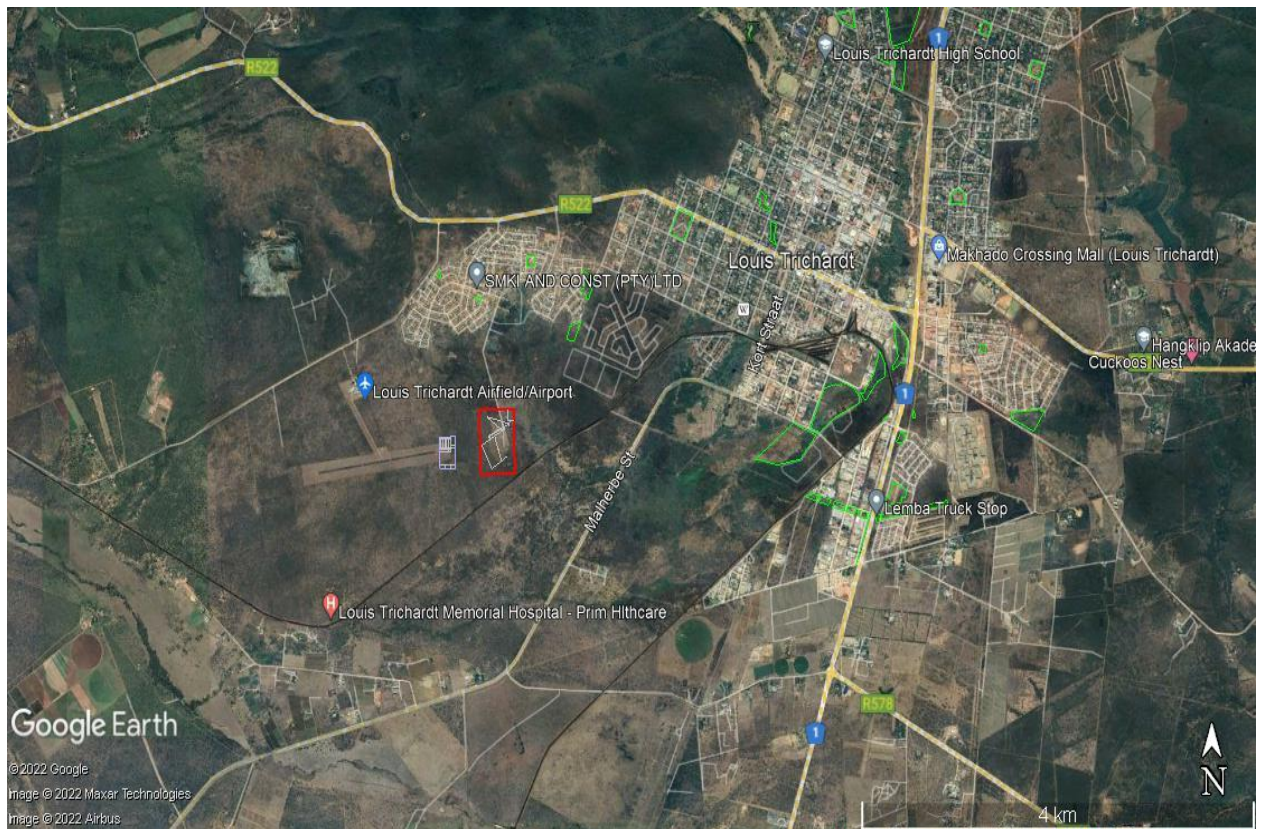


Figure 1: General location of the study & proposed Tshikota Cemetery Extension area (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 2: Closer view of the area. The existing cemetery area is clearly visible (Google Earth 2022).

6. DISCUSSION

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

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

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

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

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

No Stone Age sites (including rock art) are known to occur in the immediate study area. The closest known Stone Age sites are located at a site called Kalkbank south-west of the study area (Bergh 1999: 4), while known rock art (paintings) sites are located south and east of the study area along the Luvuvhu River (Bergh 1999: 5).

Although there are no known Stone Age sites or material in the specific study area, there is always a possibility of material being present. However, if any were to be found it would most likely be single, small scatters of tools in an open-air surface context and not in in situ stratified deposits.

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

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

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

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

There are no known Iron Age sites (EIA or LIA) in the immediate study area, although a large number of EIA to LIA sites are known to exist in the larger geographical landscape in which the study area falls. This includes the sites of Klein Afrika & Happy Rest (EIA) located north & west of Louis Trichardt respectively, and the sites of Verulam, Verdun & Machedema (LIA) north of the study area (Bergh 1999: 6-7).

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

There are no known Iron Age sites in the study & development area. Some Iron Age material were however recorded in the larger area during earlier surveys by the author of this report, represented by individual finds and denser scatters of undecorated Iron Age pottery. These likely dates to the Early Iron Age, with no stone-walling characteristic of the Later Iron Age identified (Pelser 2018: 20-25).

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The first European group to pass close by the area were that of Coenraad de Buys in 1821 and 1825, followed by groups of Voortrekkers after 1844 (Bergh 1999: 12-14). Schoemansdal (originally

Zoutpansbergdorp) was established in 1848, and finally abandoned as a result of conflict with local groups in July 1867 (Bergh 1999: 131; 187). The town of Louis Trichardt was formally established in February 1899 (Bergh 1999: 147). During the Anglo-Boer war (1899-1902) there was a skirmish between British and Boer forces at Fort Edward near Louis Trichardt between 20 and 28 March 1902 (Bergh 1999: 54).

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

There are no known historical sites, features or remains in the study & Cemetery Extension area, but there is always a possibility that such could be located in the area. This could include previously unknown or unmarked grave sites or graves, although this is unlikely. The graves currently located in the existing formal Tshikota Cemetery could be characterized as recent historical resources.

The oldest map obtained from the Chief Surveyor General's database (www.csg.dla.gov.za) for the farm Naturelle Lokasie 272LS dates to 1956 (**Document 10E81D01**). It shows that the farm was then numbered as No.1443 and was situated in the Zoutpansberg District of the then Province of Transvaal. This map was drafted in February 1956. No historical sites or features are shown on the map.

also been recently cleared and leveled. If any cultural heritage sites existed here in the past it would have been extensively disturbed or even disturbed as a result.



Figure 4: Aerial view of the area dating to 2003. The cemetery had already been established at the time (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 5: By 2009 the cemetery had expanded further (Google Earth 2022).



Figure 6: The area in 2018 (Google Earth 2022).

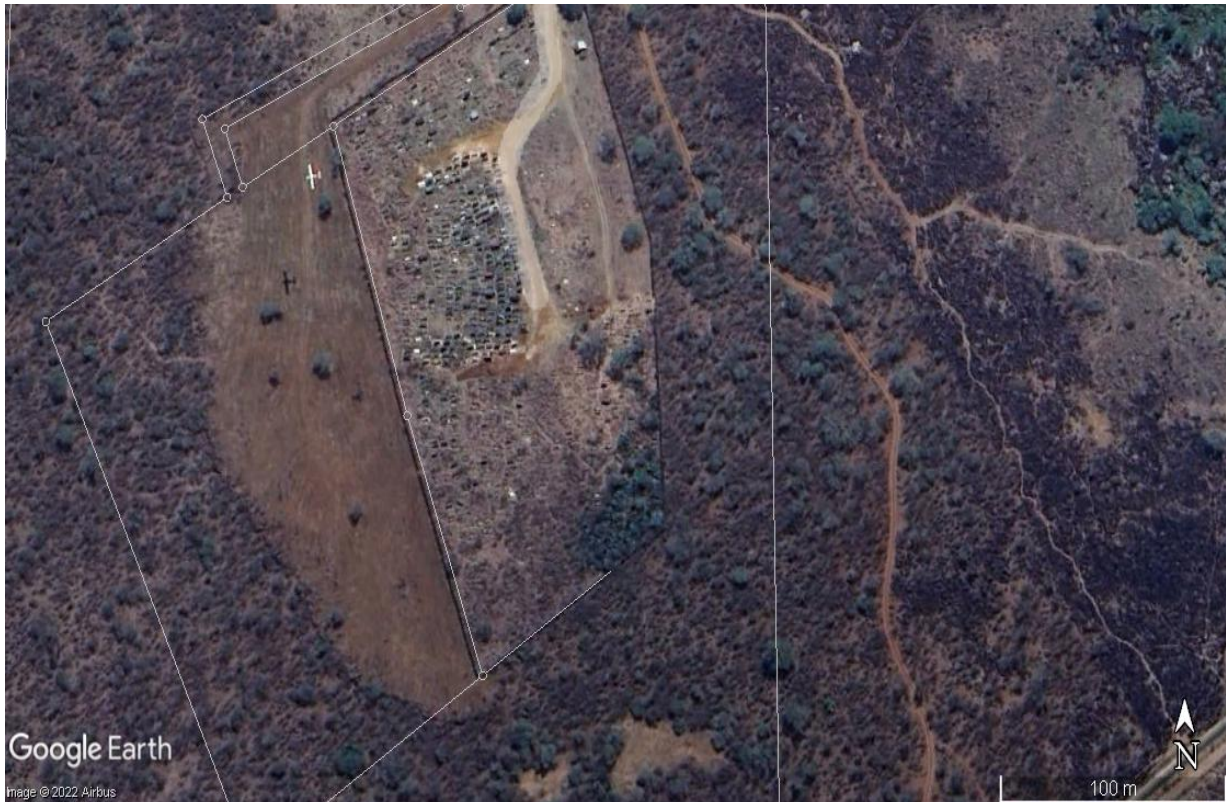


Figure 7: Closer view of the existing Tshikota Cemetery. The existing cemetery area has demarcation (fence or wall) around it. It is clear from this image that an area outside of this had recently been cleared of vegetation probably in expectation of the extension/expansion of the cemetery area (Google Earth 2022). On this image there is also no evidence of the presence of earlier archaeological & historical sites or remains.

The background research into the archaeology and history of the larger geographical area shows that there are known archaeological and historical sites present. For the specific study area & the area where the cemetery extension is planned no known sites could be traced. The existing Tshikota Cemetery area has been fairly extensively impacted by activities related to the cemetery and burials that have been taking place here in recent years and the likelihood of any sites, features or material being present here is **Very Low**. Although the area into which the extension of the cemetery is proposed has been less impacted, a section of it has also been impacted by recent vegetation and ground clearance work. The topography of study area is also relatively flat and open decreasing the potential of the presence of for e.g. Late Iron Age sites even further. No evidence of any pre-historical (archaeological) and/or recent historical sites, structures and other remains could be detected on the aerial images as well.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting (APAC) was appointed by Mang GeoEnviro Services to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Tshikota Cemetery Extension Project. The study & proposed development area is located in the Makhado Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. As part of the assessment a Desktop based study had to be completed first, with a resultant report to be submitted to the client.

Background research indicates that there are several known cultural heritage (archaeological & historical) sites and features in the larger geographical area within which the study area falls, but that none is known for the specific study area.

Google Earth images of the area were scrutinized to see if any possible cultural heritage sites or features are visible on these images. No Stone Age or Iron Age sites were visible on these, but there is always a possibility that sites might be present in the forms of scatters or individual stone tools on the surface of the area. With no hills and rocky ridges visible in the area (traditionally the areas preferred for Later Iron Age stone-walled settlements & activities) it is unlikely that LIA sites would be present. With scatters of Iron Age material (mostly pottery) that have been identified in the larger area in the past, there is a possibility of the same being present in the area under assessment. Again these would be out of context scatters and the significance of such finds would be fairly low.

The existing Tshikota Cemetery area has been fairly extensively impacted by activities related to the cemetery and burials that have been taking place here in recent years and the likelihood of any sites, features or material being present here is Very Low. Recent vegetation and ground clearance work in a section of the area into which the expansion is planned has also had an extensive impact there.

Finally, from a Cultural Heritage point of view, it is recommended that the proposed extension of the existing Tshikota Cemetery in Makhado should be allowed to continue based on the result of the Desktop Study. It is however recommended that a Protocol of Finds document be drafted in which the processes to be followed should any unmarked or previously unknown cultural heritage resources (archaeological and/or historical) be exposed or uncovered during the activities related to the proposed extension of the cemetery be clearly set out.

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

8. REFERENCES

General and Closer views of Study Area location & existing Tshikota Cemetery: Google Earth 2022.

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Republic of South Africa. 1998. **National Environmental Management Act** (no 107 of 1998). Pretoria: The Government Printer.

Chief Surveyor General Database (www.csg.dla.gov.za): Document – 10E81D01.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS:

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

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

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B: DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

Cultural significance:

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

Heritage significance:

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

Field ratings:

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

APPENDIX D: PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Formal protection:

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

Protected areas - An area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – For a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – Listing Grades II and III

Heritage areas – Areas with more than one heritage site included

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

General protection:

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – Older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials

APPENDIX E: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES

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