

SPECIALIST REPORT

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED
DEBUSHING OF NATURAL LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL USE:
PORTION 10 OF THANKERTON 175 JU,
HECTORSPRUIT AREA
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT COMPILED FOR
RHENGU ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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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 proposed alteration of natural land for agricultural use: *portion 10 of the farm THANKERTON 175 JU*, Hectorspruit.

The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2531BC HECTORSPRUIT, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and Nkomazi 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.

The applicant, Mr. Lynton Balcomb (Tulloh Pty. Ltd) in co-operation with Rhengu Environmental Services, is requesting the alteration of natural land for agricultural purposes (citrus). An area of 50 - 80ha of a 116.68ha portion will be developed with a farm road network to access the various fields. Large areas on adjacent properties (east, west and north) are commercial farms used for agricultural purposes, mainly suger cane and citrus (see Map. 4).

The proposed agricultural development is situated next to the N4 national road, approximately 15km east of Malelane and 3 km west of Hectorspruit. Swaziland is situated approximately 40 km to the south. It is currently natural land, with grass veld, scattered trees and areas of dense scrub, and it is zoned as agricultural. The Crocodile River (and Kruger National Park) is situated 2.4km to the north and the Lomati River (a branch of the Komati River), 16 km to the south of the proposed agricultural development. Small drainage lines are visible in this section. The area was mostly flat and accessible, with a network of paths and roads to access the area. The vegetation was dense.

The survey revealed a few isolated Late Stone Age (LSA) flakes, a number of indistinct clay potsherds and three upper grinders. No archaeological or historical structures were observed in the study area. The LSA flakes, potsherds and upper grinders are all out of context and in disturbed sections, and it is not believed to be of any significance. A burial site is situated on the eastern border of the property but falls outside the proposed agricultural development.

It is recommended that the owner be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the debushing / agricultural operation. It is recommended that earthmoving activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and that an assessment be done. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue.

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

January

2014

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A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

Mr. Lynton Balcomb (Tulloh Pty. Ltd), the applicant of *portion 10 of the farm THANKERTON 175 JU*, in co-operation with Rhengu Environmental Services, is requesting the alteration of natural land for agricultural purposes (citrus). An area of 50 - 80ha of a 116.68ha portion is proposed to be developed for agriculture and a farm road network to access the various fields.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by *RHENGU ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES*, 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. 2: Topographical Map: 2531BC HECTORSPRUIT).

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 resources will also be made. The study area is indicated in Maps 1 - 5, and Appendix 1 & 3.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *RHENGU ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.*, P.O. Box 1046, Malelane, 1320, Cell: 0824147088 / Fax: 0866858003 / e-mail: rhengu@mweb.co.za
- Type of development: 50 - 80ha of 116.68ha, are earmarked for a proposed agricultural development, on *portion 10 of the farm THANKERTON 175 JU*, Hectorspruit, Mpumalanga Province.
- The site is currently natural land and zoned as agricultural – no rezoning will take place.
- 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 Nkomazi Local Municipality.
- Land owner: Mr. Lynton Balcomb (Tulloh Pty. Ltd).

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.

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):

- In terms of **Government Notice R546**, a basic Environmental Impact Assessment is required in terms of the following listed activities:

Activity 13: The clearance of an area of 300sqm or more of vegetation, where 75% or more of the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation;

Activity 14: The clearance of an area of 1ha or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.

- **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, determines that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert *RHENGU ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES*, as well as the client Mr. Lynton Balcomb, 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 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. Archaeological material were found during the survey but are isolated and not in any significant context.

- **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. Graves were identified at the eastern border of the property but will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.

- **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 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), provides 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**

The study area, *portion 10 of the farm Thankerton 175 JU*, is located 3 km west of Hectorspruit and 12 km east of Malelane. Swaziland is situated approximately 40 km to the south and the Kruger National Park (KNP), 2.4 km towards the north. An irrigation scheme was planned in 1957 for the farms south of the Crocodile River and KNP. Huge citrus farms were already established during that time and 32 000 citrus trees were planted on the original Thankerton farm. The irrigation scheme was delayed, and the farmers Danie and Dirk van Graan of Thankerton, started their own scheme, and built the 'Van Graan Dam' (see Map 2 & 3, topographical maps), in the Crocodile River with a canal and three turbines on their farm. They subsequently erected a citrus pack house on the farm to serve the Hectorspruit area.¹ The Van Graans were also key role-players in establishing the sugar industry in the Low Veld.²

The 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 (See Appendix 2). Hematite or red ochre was mined at Dumaneni (near Malelane), 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 were documented.³

Bushman (or San) presence is evident in the area as research by rock art enthusiasts revealed 109 sites in the Kruger National Park,⁴ and over 100 rock art sites at Bongani Mountain Lodge and its immediate surrounds⁵ (west of Malelane), as well as many sites in the Nelspruit, Rocky's Drift and White River areas. Thirty one rock art sites were recorded on the Mpumalanga Drakensberg Escarpment. Rock art sites were also recorded in Swaziland.^{6 7} However, Smith and Zubieta claim that the area towards the east (Komatipoort) has no known rock art sites (see Appendix 2). The Bushman painters most probably obtained the ochre which was used as a pigment in the paintings, from the Dumaneni ochre mine.^{8 9}

¹ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 69-70.

² Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 73.

³ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

⁴ English, M. Die Rotskuns van die Boesmans in die NKW, in *De Vos Pienaar, U., Neem uit die Verlede*, p. 18-24.

⁵ Hampson, et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, *SA Archaeological Bullitin* 57: p. 15.

⁶ Rowe, C. 2009. Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, MA dissertation. Pretoria: UP.

⁷ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

⁸ Bornman, H. *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

⁹ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

History in the wider vicinity is closely connected to the study area and is briefly outlined below. The name Komati appears in historical records for the first time in 1589, in the form *Macomates*. It was recorded by a traveler on board the Portuguese ship *Sao Thome*, which sailed from Cochin, South India and ran aground on the shores of the *Land of the Makomati*, near *Lake Sibayi*, in what became known as KwaZulu Natal. The *Land of Makomati* comprised the entire hinterland as far north as the Limpopo River, as far south as St Lucia, and as far west as the Drakensberg escarpment. It was the trading zone of the Komati gold and ivory traders who had established themselves in Delagoa Bay (which was known up to the 17th century as *Makomati*), long before the arrival of the first Portuguese in 1498. The name of the Komati River came from *Makomati* who used it for trading purposes.¹⁰

In order to place the areas around Hectorspruit / Malelane in an 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 (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. Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinity of Hazyview¹¹, Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie, clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinders, are scattered at most of the sites.¹² Many of these occur in caves as a result of the Swazi attacks (1900's), on the smaller groups. The 1984 topographical map (2531BC HECTORSPRUIT) did not show any historical features of interest. The 1926 topographical map of *Komatipoort* revealed quite a few black settlements along the Lomati River (a branch of the Komati River), approximately 16km south of the study area (indicated in red on Map 3).¹³ These black settlements were recorded by names such as *Sonquela*, *Induna*, *Gomeni*, *Mahlilan*. They settled along the river and in the hills. The study area is flat with no rocky outcrops. No structures or features of significance were identified on the study area.

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

- *Study for the Proposed Eskom Powerlines, Hazyview – Dwarsloop* (2008);
- *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);
- *a Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed traffic training*

¹⁰ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 9.

¹¹ PRMA: Information file 9/2.

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

¹³ Map: 1926 Topographical Map: Komati Poort no. 22.

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.

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

- J. Van Schalkwyk: *Proposed new Lebombo Port of Entry and upgrade of Komatipoort railway station between Mpumalanga (SA) and Mozambique* (2008) – Some historic building 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.

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.¹⁴ The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site near the area, besides those in the Kruger National Park, is the Plaston site near White River, dating ca 900 AD.¹⁵ 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.^{16 17} A stone walled settlement with

¹⁴ J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

¹⁵ M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

¹⁶ Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.

¹⁷ Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

terracing was recorded by C. van Wyk (Rowe) close to Hazyview,¹⁸ as well as several which were documented in the southern parts of the Kruger National Park.¹⁹ The southern Kruger Park and Nelspruit areas have an abundance of San rock art sites,²⁰ as mentioned above, but none were identified in the direct vicinity of 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 mainly inhabited by the Tsonga (Nhlangu and Tšhangana), as well as Swazi from before the 18th century.^{21 22} (See Map 1: 1935: Map of Van Warmelo). When concentrating on ethnographical history, it is important to include a slightly wider geographical area in order for it to make sense. 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.²³

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 1926.²⁴

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.²⁵ Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlangu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.²⁶

During the middle of the 18th century some Sotho and Swazi groups combined under a fighting chief Simkulu. The tribe so formed became known as the BakaNgomane. The principal settlement of Simkulu was in the vicinity of the confluence of the Crocodile and Komati Rivers. It is believed that the BakaNgomane chiefs were buried there.²⁷

The Swazi under Mswati II (1845), commenced on a career of large scale raids on the prosperous tribal lands to the north of Swaziland. His regiments such as the *Nyatsi* and the *Malelane* brought terror to

¹⁸C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

¹⁹Eloff J.F., *Verslag oor Argeologiese Navorsing in die Krugerwildtuin*, June / July, 1982.

²⁰Hampson, J., et al., *The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge and its environs*, *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 57: pp. 17-28.

²¹N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

²²H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p.16.

²³N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

²⁴H. Bradford, *A Taste of Freedom*, p. 147.

²⁵ N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

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

²⁷ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* pp. 10-11.

African homes as far afield as Mozambique.²⁸ During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.²⁹ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.³⁰ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century,³¹ when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.³²

Mswati II built a line of military outposts from west to east of the upper Komati River and the Mlambongwane (Kaa River). At each outpost he stationed regiments to watch and stop the BaPedi returning to their old haunts.³³

Shaka in the course of his military actions, came into conflict with Zwide Mkhathshwa (1819). Notwithstanding Zwide's numerical superiority, Shaka defeated him. The remnants of Zwide's tribe fled into the Eastern Transvaal where they settled. They ultimately found a new kingdom in Gaza land, which extended from just north of the current Maputo, up the east coast as far as the Zambezi river.³⁴

Soshangane was a very powerful chief of the Gaza people, even though he was under the rule of Zwide. Soshangane decided to leave and was given full passage through Swaziland. He passed on his way through the Komati gorge, today known as Komatipoort, taking with him a great booty of cattle and women. Meanwhile more Shangane arrived and by 1896 some 2000 refugees settled between Bushbuckridge and Acornhoek where they are still living today. With the establishment of the Sabie Game Reserve (later known as the Kruger National Park), the BakaNgomane, their Shangaan protégés and Swazis who lived within its borders, were evicted in 1902, and went westward into Klaserie and Bushbuckridge areas, or south of the Crocodile River and established themselves in the Tenbosch and Coal Mine (Strijdom Block) areas (close to the current study area), west and south of Komatipoort. The Swazi of Khandzalive moved to Mjejane or Emjejane, the current name for Hectorspruit.³⁵ (See also: Map 1: 1935 Map of Van Warmelo).

²⁸ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p 11.

²⁹ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

³⁰ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

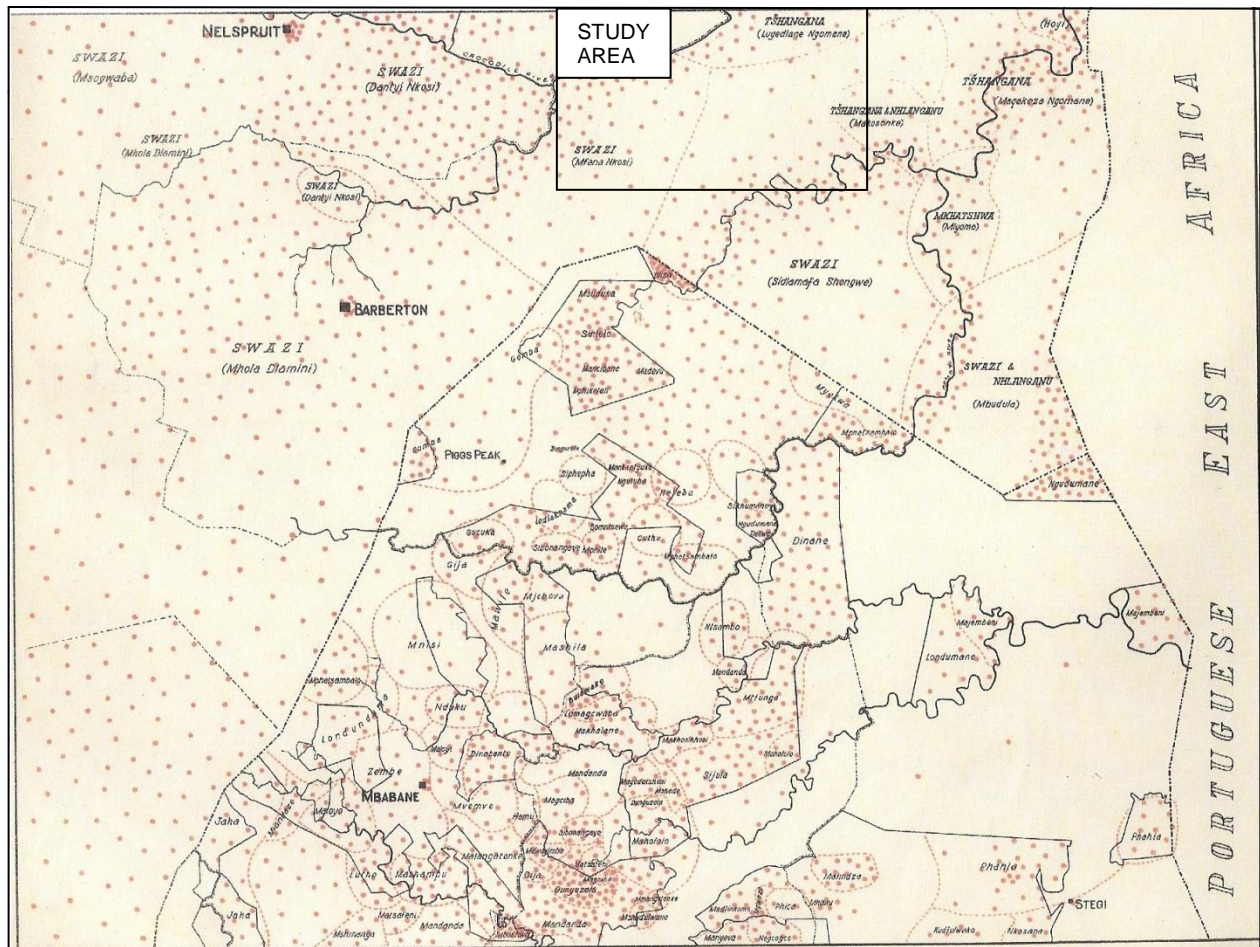
³¹ H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

³² *Ibid.*, p. 16.

³³ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p. 12.

³⁴ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.17.

³⁵ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.19.



MAP 1: Van Warmelo: 1935: Study area is indicated.

Tsonga groups: The Nhlangu and Tšhangana

The Nhlangu and Tšhangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)³⁶ 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).³⁷ 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.³⁸ They were originally of Nguni origin.³⁹ The term “Shangaan” is commonly

³⁶M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 24.

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

³⁸N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

³⁹N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South*

employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.⁴⁰

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.⁴¹

The **Tšhangana** are also of Nguni origin who fled in the same way as the Nhlanganu, and settled in the “Transvaal” a little later than the former. Most of the Tsonga were subjects to *Soshangane*, who came from Zululand.⁴² The downfall of *Ngungunyana* (son of *Soshangane*) saw his son seeking sanctuary in the “Transvaal”, and the latter became known as *Thulamahashi*,⁴³ the name that is still used for the area east of Busbuckridge.

The historical background of the study area confirmed that it was occupied since the 17th century by the Tsonga groups (Nhlanganu and Tšhangana). These groups have intermarried extensively or were absorbed by other groups in time.⁴⁴

Swazi

The Swazi people descend from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.⁴⁵ The differences between the Swazi and the Natal Nguni were probably never great, their culture as far as is known from the comparatively little research being carried out, does not show striking differences. Their language is a ‘Tekeza’ variation of Zulu, but through having escaped being drawn into the mainstream of the Zulus of the *Shaka* period, they became independent and their claim to be grouped apart as a culture is now well founded.⁴⁶

- **History of Hectorspruit**

The NZASM railway line between Delagoa Bay and the Transvaal was opened in 1895, and brought more white settlers to the area. The towns Komatipoort, Hectorspruit, Malelane and Kaapmuiden, were established as a result of the railway line and the railway line reached Hectorspruit on 1 October 1891.⁴⁷ The surveying of the railway line was done by Steinmetz and Bouton, who also gave names to the towns.

Africa. An Ethnographical survey, p. 55.

⁴⁰N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92

⁴¹*Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

⁴²N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 57.

⁴³N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92.

⁴⁴M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 40.

⁴⁵<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

⁴⁶N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

⁴⁷Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 23.

Hectorspruit was named after one of their dogs, Hector which was buried next to this spruit.⁴⁸ Hectorspruit (or Emjejane) is still a small farming town between Kaapmuiden and Komatipoort and produce sugarcane, subtropical fruits and vegetables.⁴⁹

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

The proposed project will involve the following:

- Approximately 50 - 80 ha of 116.68ha are earmarked for the proposed agricultural development, including a farm road network to access the various fields.
- The area which is from a geotechnical point, suitable for the proposed agricultural development, is indicated in Appendix 3,⁵⁰ and will be concentrated on. This includes a section on the north-west, which was previously transformed land (mango orchards). It excludes the north-eastern section where the homestead is situated (see Appendix 3).

The proposed area for development is currently natural land which is game fenced.⁵¹ It has several drainage lines which enter the dam to the west of the property (Fig. 18). Large sections to the north, east and west are commercial sugar cane and citrus farms (see Map. 4). The area is zoned as agriculture and no rezoning will take place. There is a vast variation of vegetation and trees. Technically the ecozone representing this area is referred to as *Mixed bushwillow woodland* on granite and *Sabie Crocodile thorn thickets* on granite.⁵² The vegetation is characterized by *mixed Lowveld Bushveld* with tall woodlands made up of knob-thorn and other acacia species mixed in with trees such as marulas, bushwillow, apple-leaves, silver cluster-leaves, and jackalberry along the drainage lines (Fig. 8, 10, 15, 17, 24 & 38). The typical granite and dolerite plains have sandy soils and clayey soils in the lower areas.^{53 54 55}

An ESKOM servitude and SASOL pipeline cut through the property from east to west (Map 6 & Fig. 2, 14 & 16). A power line is also running from the north-eastern corner to the existing homestead and exits the property in the south (Map 6 & Fig. 9 and 24).

The 1926 topographical map (Map 3), indicates black settlements to the south of the property along or close to the Lomati River. Only one settlement is indicated towards the north, next to the Crocodile river.

⁴⁸ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 23.

⁴⁹ <http://www.org/wiki/hectorspruit> Access: 15-12-13.

⁵⁰ Deacon, A., e-mail access 26-01-14.

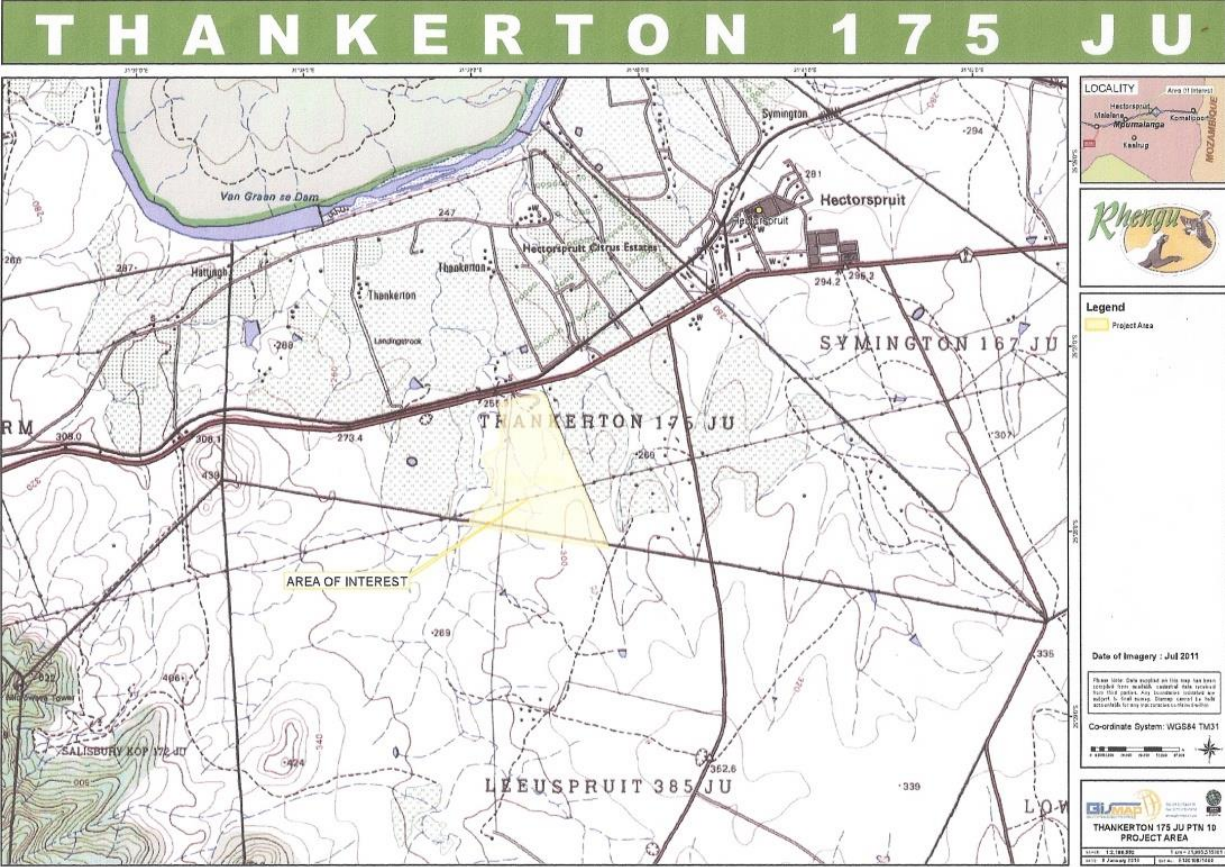
⁵¹ Rhengu Environmental Services, BID document, Dec 2013.

⁵² Deacon, A., e-mail access 26-01-14, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2007 & Alcocks 1953).

⁵³ SANPARKS, Visitors Guide to the Kruger National Park, p. 2.

⁵⁴ Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., *Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa*, 1997, p. 500.

⁵⁵ Deacon, A., e-mail access 26-01-14, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2007 & Alcocks 1953).



MAP 2: Topographical Map: 2531BC HECTORSPRUIT, indicating the study area.

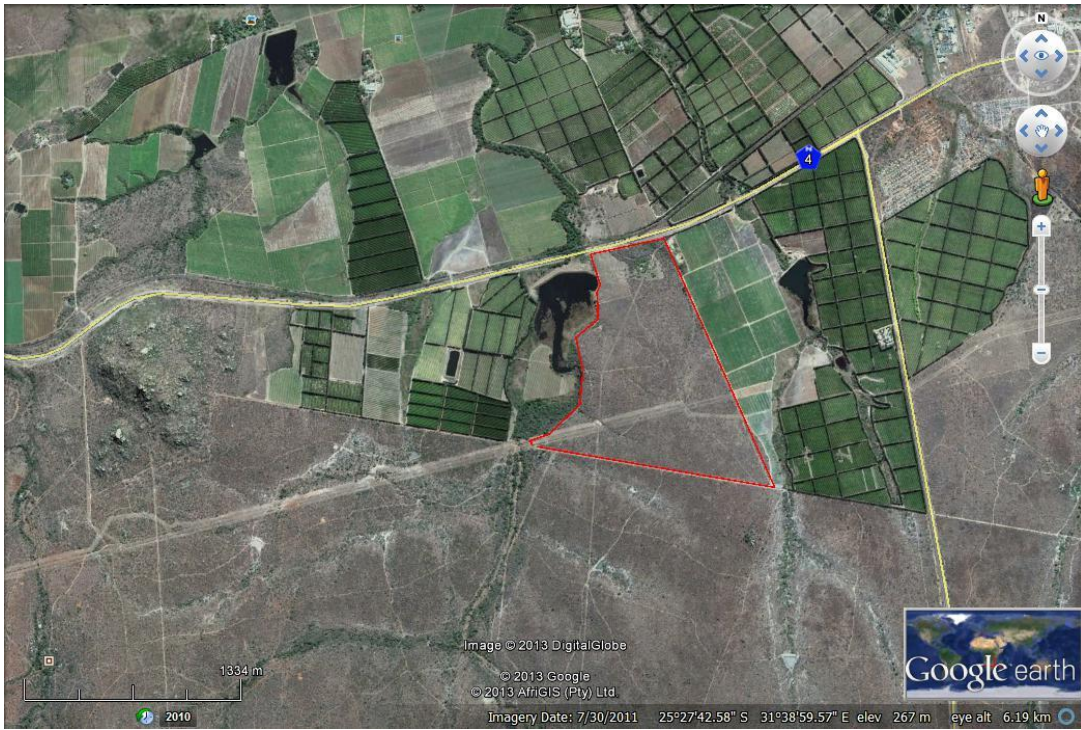


MAP 3: 1926 Topographical map: Early settlements are indicated in red.

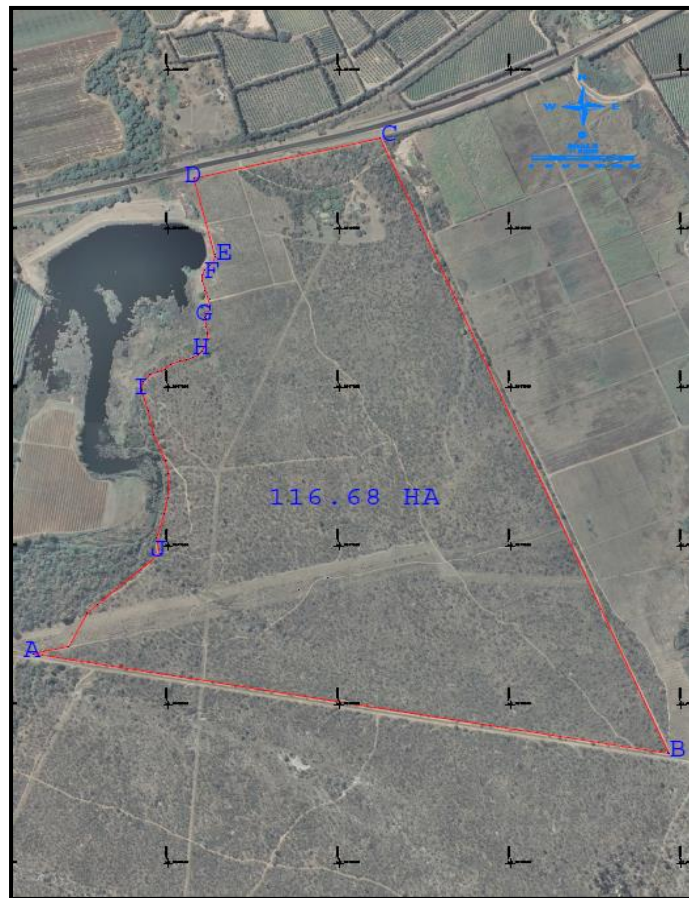
D. LOCALITY

The proposed project site is located on *Portion 10 of the farm THANKERTON 175JU*, 3 km west of Hectorspruit (Emjeane). It is located next to the N4, approximately 15km east of Malelane. It is approximately 40km north of Swaziland and the Kruger National Park is 2.4km to the north.

The site falls under the Nkomazi Local Municipal jurisdiction, which in turn falls within Ehlanzeni District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province (see Maps 2, 3, 4 & 5: Topographical Map & Google images of sites; Fig. 1 & 2 for the study area).



Map 4: The study area is situated next to the N4.



Map 5: Detail of Portion 10 of the farm Thankerton 175 JU.

- **Description of methodology:**

The 1984 topographical map, (2531 BD: Map 2), as well as a 1926 map (Map 3), and Google images of the site (Map 4 & 5), 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 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 cited, and revealed some information;

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

- The entire study area is natural land, which belongs to, Mr. Lynton Balcomb (Tulloh Pty. Ltd). It is currently game fenced.
- A site visit with interested and affected parties and relevant government departments was held.
- The site visit consisted of 9 people. Features of interest were pointed out during the visit, such as the grave site.
- The fieldwork and survey was conducted extensively on foot and with a vehicle. Tracks and paths criss-cross the farm and were mainly used to access areas (See Appendix 4).
- The terrain was flat, even and accessible although there was a variation of medium sized bushes and trees and the vegetation was dense. Visibility in some sections (such as thorn thickets), was restricted.
- A number of geotechnical soil samples were taken throughout the property. These were scrutinized for any archaeological material.
- 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 the applicant (owner) Mr. L. Balcomb, who resided on the property for 20 years⁵⁶, the farm manager, Mr. H. Engelbrecht⁵⁷, ecologist Dr. A. Deacon⁵⁸ and environmental practitioner Mr. R. Kalwa.⁵⁹ Mr. Engelbrecht interviewed farm labourers who resided on the property for at least twenty years (Assa Mimbiri and Domingos Mabunda), as well as the previous owner of the property, Mr. Heinz Hattingh.

- GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area (Co-ordinates provided by RHENGU Environmental Services): (See Map 5).

GPS CO-ORDINATES		
Location	South	East
A	S 25° 27' 58.721"	E 31° 38' 56.930"
B	S 25° 28' 6.533"	E 31° 39' 50.228"
C	S 25° 27' 16.106"	E 31° 39' 26.189"
D	S 25° 27' 19.669"	E 31° 39' 10.092"
E	S 25° 27' 26.101"	E 31° 39' 12.058"
F	S 25° 27' 27.574"	E 31° 39' 10.893"
G	S 25° 27' 31.573"	E 31° 39' 11.401"
H	S 25° 27' 34.342"	E 31° 39' 10.654"
I	S 25° 27' 38.505"	E 31° 39' 5.342"
J	S 25° 27' 50.446"	E 31° 39' 7.415"

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The alteration of natural land for agricultural purposes (citrus), is requested by the applicant, Mr. L Balcomb. An area of 50 - 80ha of a 116.68ha portion is proposed to be developed for agriculture (citrus) with a farm road network, to access the various fields (See Appendix 3 for the suitable area to be developed).

The study area falls within Malelane – Komatipoort area which has historically been known for agricultural farming. Large sections on the adjacent properties are already cultivated with citrus, mangoes or sugarcane (see Map. 4 & Fig. 34). The area is flat and without any rocky outcrops. Modern topographical maps also clearly show extensive farming activities in the surrounding area (Map 2). The 1926 topographical map (Map 3) does not indicate any historic settlements directly in the study area, although several settlements were indicated (in red), in the hills towards the current Swaziland and along the Lomati and Komati rivers (to the south and east). The 1935 map by Van Warmelo indicated the groups living in the area as mainly Shangaan and Swazi (Map 1).

⁵⁶ Personal information: Mr. Balcomb, 2014-01-20;

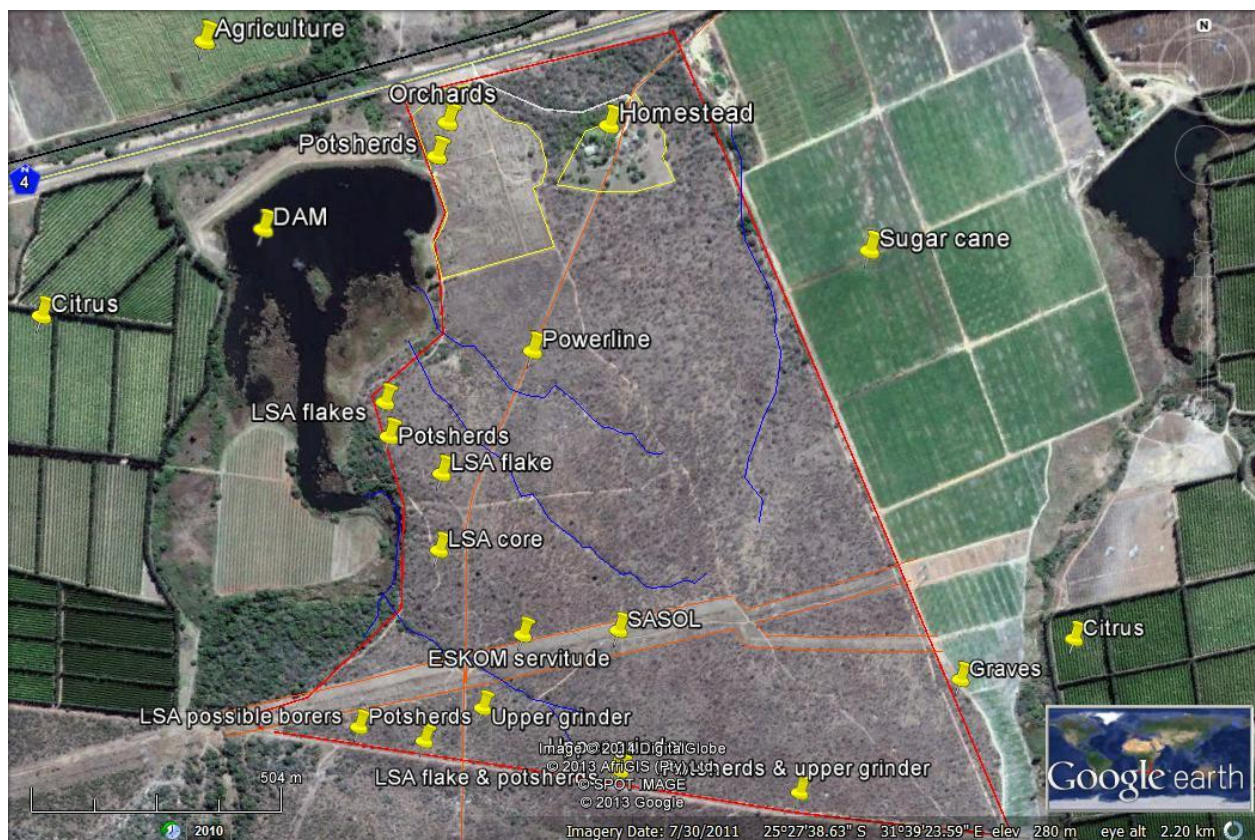
⁵⁷ Personal information: Mr. H. Engelbrecht, e-mail access: 28-01-2014.

⁵⁸ Personal information: Dr. A Deacon, e-mail access: 26-02-2014.

⁵⁹ Personal information: Mr. R. Kalwa, 2014-01-20.

The study area is indicated in Map 2 & 5. The terrain was even although vegetation was dense and visibility was restricted in some sections (see fig. 8, 10, 17, & 38). The sections were however accessible by many existing paths and roads, and was surveyed on foot and per vehicle. Isolated Later Stone Age (LSA) flakes, mostly broken were identified, as well as fragments of rough clay potsherds without any decoration or shape (Fig. 5, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29). A few upper grinders were also identified in the southern section (Fig. 30, 31, & 32). The LSA flakes were mainly found in the disturbed areas of access roads and the western drainage lines. The pottery fragments and upper grinders were mostly found in the region of the southern fence and road. None of the artifacts were found in any archaeological context and are all in disturbed sections. None of these artifacts have any historic or cultural value which will be impacted upon by the proposed development (See Map 6).

A small burial site on the eastern border, was pointed out by the applicant, Mr. Balcomb. This burial site is fenced, but extremely overgrown, neglected and unmarked. The applicant (owner) as well as the manager (Mr. Engelbrecht), farm workers Mr. A. Mimbiri and Mr. D. Mabunda, all resided on the property for more than 20 years. None of them have any knowledge of relatives visiting the burial site. The graves are not demarcated by clear grave dressings, and were only identified by some grave goods (enamel and plastic ware and an old bicycle, fig. 35 & 36). One grave is marked with a rusted metal sign board (Fig. 37).



Map 6: Heritage and other features on the study area.

Soil samples were taken throughout the study area by geotechnical specialists, at a general depth of 1m. A total of 15 soil samples were investigated during the survey (Fig. 11 & 12). The soil samples revealed no archaeological artifacts or deposits and were all sterile. A quarry to the east of the property (Fig. 13), was also investigated but revealed no archaeological material.

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps, figures and appendices, which indicate the study area, and which corresponds with the summary below. Photographs in Appendix 1 show the general view of the study area. No archaeological sites of significance, stone walls or historic structures were identified, and this was confirmed by the applicant (owner) as well as the farm manager.

Heritage features (See Map 6):

Heritage Feature	Description / Comments	Site Location
LSA flakes (4)	LSA flakes were found in the western section along the drainage line and in the road. A few more were identified in the area.	LSA flakes S25° 27' 38.1" E31° 39' 07.0" Fig. 19
Rough clay potsherd (1)	1 x fragment: dark grey clay potsherd without decoration or shape. Found in western section along drainage line and in the road section.	Clay potsherd S25° 27' 38.1" E31° 39' 07.0" Fig. 20
LSA core (1)	A LSA core at the top of a drainage line in the western section.	LSA core S25° 27' 47.5" E31° 39' 09.9" Fig. 21
LSA flake (broken) (1)	LSA flake at the top of the western drainage line.	LSA flake (broken) S25° 27' 42.3" E31° 39' 10.2" Fig. 22
LSA (possibly) borers (3)	LSA artifacts, tentatively identified as borers in the southern section along the fence.	LSA (possibly) borers S25° 27' 59.8" E31° 39' 03.4" Fig. 25
Indistinct potsherds (few)	A few fragments of indistinct rough clay potsherds of various sizes were identified in the road section along the southern fence. No decoration or shape.	Potsherds S25° 28' 00.4" E31° 39' 07.6" Fig. 27 & 28
Upper grinder (1)	1 x Upper grinder was identified in the middle section of the property.	Upper grinder S25° 27' 58.1" E31° 39' 12.2" Fig. 31
LSA flake (1) Upper grinder (1) broken	LSA flake along with potsherds in road at the southern fence. Upper grinder	LSA flake S25° 28' 02.5" E31° 39' 21.6" Fig. 26 & 32
Upper grinder (1) clay potsherds (2)	1 x Upper grinder 2 x rough clay potsherds with no decoration or shape in the southern section.	Upper grinder 2 x potsherds S25° 28' 04.6" E31° 39' 34.50" Fig. 30

Burial site	Unknown number of indistinct graves, identified by owner, Mr. Balcomb. Burial site is fenced in. Grave goods such as enamel, plastic, an old bicycle and a rusted metal sign board, mark the graves (eastern border).	Burial site S25° 27' 55.9" E31° 39' 44.9" Fig. 35, 36 & 37
Potsherd (1)	1 x fragment of dark grey clay potsherd found in erosion trench in the north section of the farm. No decoration or shape.	1 x Potsherd S25° 27' 23.9" E31° 39' 11.2" Fig. 5

The study area was surveyed on foot and per vehicle for any remains of archaeological or historical nature. The terrain was mostly even but the vegetation cover was dense in sections. There is a slope towards the western drainage line and dam. Paths and roads made the sections accessible for the survey, and 15 soil samples throughout the property were investigated for evidence of archaeological material. The area was flat grassland with scattered trees and dense scrub, with no rocky outcrops. The soil type is archaean granite and gneiss which weather into sandy soils and clay soils in lower areas.⁶⁰

The area is game fenced and the applicant, farm manager and some of the workers, resided on the property for 20 or more years. The owner (Mr. Balcomb), manager (Mr. Engelbrecht) and farm workers (Mr. Mimbiri and Mr. Mabunda), confirmed that they have never encountered any stone settlements or historic structures on the farm.^{61 62}

A few LSA flakes and a core were identified in the study area (see summary above). These were all present in disturbed areas such as roads or erosion at drainage lines. Indistinct clay potsherds (without any decoration or shape), and three upper grinders, were identified and were also situated in disturbed road and erosion sections. The latter may have been used fairly recently as is a common feature in the entire rural area stretching from Klaserie / Hoedspruit in the north to Swaziland in the south.

The archaeological features which were identified in the study area, were all out of original context and therefore it is not believed to have any significance which will be impacted upon by the proposed agricultural development. No other distinct archaeological features were identified in the study area. The burial site falls outside of the proposed development.

Geotechnical studies indicated the area which is suitable for agricultural development (Appendix 3). This does not include the slopes towards the main drainage line to the west, where most of the LSA features were found.

⁶⁰ Personal information: Dr. A. Deacon, e-mail access: 26-01-2014

⁶¹ Personal information: Mr. L. Balcomb, 2014-01-20.

⁶² Personal information: Mr. H. Engelbrecht, e-mail access: 28-01-2014.

F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

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	A few LSA flakes and a core were identified but were all without context. Some rough potsherds and upper grinders were found in the study area, but are of no significance.	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Small burial site is situated on the border of the property and falls outside the development area.	None
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	Virgin land, game fenced.
Formal protection (NHRA)		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA

Context		
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
Other		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	NA
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	Close to the Kruger National Park – approximately 2.5km
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

Property features and characteristics		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	No	The land is vacant
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

Property features and characteristics		
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	It is bordered by a drainage line and permanent dam in the western section.

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)	Yes	LSA flakes and core; Indistinct potsherds without decoration or shape; Upper grinders; All out of context and of no significance
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	Yes	Burial site at border between properties but outside of proposed development area.
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
Other		

Heritage resources on the property		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELEMENTS	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person / community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	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	No	-
Historical settlement/ townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LSA flakes and core – out of context; Few potsherds – without decoration or shape; Upper grinder – out of context; All above believed to be of no significance.
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burial site on border but outside development area
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		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance rating			
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	Yes	None	None	No impact	LSA flakes and core – out of context; Few potsherds – without decoration or shape; Upper grinder – out of context; All above believed to be of no significance.
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	No	None	Outside area of development – no impact	Burial site on border but outside development area
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

ACT	COMPONENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	Few LSA flakes and core; potsherds and upper grinders – out of context and believed to have no relevance	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Burial site on border outside area of development	None
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

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.⁶³ 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;

⁶³National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

(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.⁶⁴

- **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
LSA Flakes, core	Observed in disturbed areas: roads and erosion trenches	No significance	Out of context - It is not believed to have any significance and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.
Clay potsherds	Observed in disturbed areas: roads and fence line: No archaeological / historic sites near or in the vicinity	No significance	Out of context - It is not believed to have any significance and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.
Upper grinders	No archaeological / historical sites near or in the vicinity	No significance	Out of context - It is not believed to have any significance and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.
Burial site	On border of the property and fenced off.	High	Fall outside the area of development and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development

- **Field rating:**

The field rating is viewed in terms of the NHRA (25, 1999) sections 3 (3) a, c & g.

The isolated Later Stone age flakes, fragments of rough clay potsherds, and upper grinders which were found in the study area, are scattered, in disturbed sections and not in context. It is also not situated near or in the vicinity of any visible archaeological sites. There is no cultural value to these objects which could link them as of outstanding importance to a certain community (NHRA 3.3a); or its potential to yield social, cultural or spiritual information or to link it to a particular community which may contribute to an understanding of South Africa's cultural heritage (NHRA 3.3c & g). It is not believed that the features which were identified during the survey have any significance in terms of historic or cultural value which might prevent the proposed agricultural development to continue. (See Appendix 3 – area to be developed).

The burial site is on the border of the property and will not be affected by the proposed development.

⁶⁴National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

H. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

The proposed project site, *Portion 10 of the farm THANKERTON 175 JU* in the Hectorspruit area is situated on natural vacant land. The poorly defined artifacts (Later Stone Age flakes, fragments of clay potsherds and upper grinders) are situated out of any archaeological context and are not believed to have any historic or cultural value. These features are not close to or in the vicinity of any visible archaeological sites. Mr. Balcomb (owner) and Mr. Engelbrecht (Manager) as well as farm workers who lived on the farm for 20 years, have never encountered any distinct archaeological features in the study area.

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 recommended that the owner be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the debushing / agricultural operation. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue, but it is recommended that earthmoving activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and that an assessment be done should any archaeological material be found.

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

REFERENCES

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

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