

SPECIALIST REPORT

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED
DEBUSHING OF NATURAL LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM FOR
SCHOONSPRUIT FARMING PTY LTD., PORTION 3 OF THE FARM VYEBOOM 414JU,
KOMATIPOORT
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 for the proposed alteration of natural land for the construction of a dam for L.M. Schoonspruit Farming Pty Ltd, on *portion 3 of the farm Vyeboom 414 JU*, Komatipoort.

The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2531BD (1984), 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, L. M. Schoonspruit Farming Pty. Ltd. Mr. Jan Lourens) in co-operation with Rhengu Environmental Services, is requesting the alteration of natural land for the construction of a dam to provide for adequate water in the agricultural activities. Three options for possible dam sites were proposed (A, B & C), and were investigated. The respective areas are approximately 50ha, 60ha and 70ha in size. The majority of the farm was historically disturbed by commercial farming activities such as banana, dragonfruit and sugarcane, and lies adjacent to other large commercial farms in the south, east and west, near the town of Komatipoort.

The proposed development is situated north of the N4 national road, approximately 8km west of Komatipoort Town. Swaziland is situated approximately 50 km to the south, and the Kruger National Park and Crocodile River, 4km to the north. The three options for the dam sites (A, B & C), are currently situated in small drainage lines with natural riverine vegetation consisting of large trees and areas of dense scrub. A large drainage line, wetland and ponds are situated in the area for option A (the preferred option), and small perennial streams run through the sections for options B & C. The farm is zoned as agricultural. The area was mostly flat with dense grass cover. An existing road network was used to access the area.

The survey revealed no archaeological or historical features or graves. Farm workers were interviewed and confirmed that to their knowledge no graves or archaeological features have been observed on the farm.

It is recommended that the owner be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the debushing operation. Due to the dense grass cover during the survey, it is recommended that when construction of the dam commences, earthmoving activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist which will assess any finds should it be necessary. 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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- 1) The results of the project;*
- 2) The technology described in any report;*
- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*

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CHRISTINE ROWE
September 2017

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KOMATIPOORT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

The applicant, L.M. Schoonspruit Farming Pty. Ltd., Mr. Jan Lourens in co-operation with Rhengu Environmental Services, is requesting the alteration of partly natural land and existing disturbed agricultural land for the construction of a dam to provide for adequate water in their agricultural activities. Three options (A, B & C), for possible dam sites were proposed, and were investigated. Area "A" is approximately 50ha, area "B" approximately 60ha and area "C" approximately 70ha in size. The study area is situated on *portion 3 of the farm Vyeboom 414JU*, which is historically disturbed by commercial farming activities such as banana, dragonfruit and sugarcane (Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7). The farm is adjacent to other large commercial farms in the south, east and west, near Komatipoort (See Map 4: The wider area).

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 3: Topographical Map: 2531BD (1984)).

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 & 2.

- 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
- The EIA is in the initial investigation stage.
- Type of development: Construction of a Dam for irrigation purposes. The three options which were investigated, option A, is approximately 50ha, option B, approximately 60ha and option C, approximately 70ha, and are located on *portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414 JU*, Komatipoort, Mpumalanga Province.
- The study areas are partly natural and disturbed 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. Jan Lourens (L.M. Schoonspruit Farming 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 (as amended), 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 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. No archaeological material was found during the survey.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during development of the road infrastructure or agricultural activities. No graves were identified during the survey and farm workers who were interviewed, confirmed this.

- **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 in the study area 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 is located close to the town of Komatipoort. 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 established themselves in Delagoa Bay (which was known up to the 17th century as Makomati), long before the arrival of the first Portuguese in 1498.¹

“Komati” takes its name from the Komati River whose original native Swazi name is Nkomazi, translated as “river of cows”. It is where the Crocodile and Komati Rivers meet to flow through the mountain pass through the Lebombo Mountains into Mozambique.

Komatipoort was the last stop in the South African Republic (ZAR) Pretoria – Delagoa Bay Line constructed by the Netherlands – South African Railway Company (NZASM) with the first train crossing the border at Komatipoort from the ZAR to Portuguese East Africa on 1 July 1891 after the completion of the rail bridge over the Komati River.

Between 1900 and 1902 during the Anglo/Boer War, the town was used as a base by Major F. Von Steinaecker and his group known as “Steinaecker’s Horse”. They were mercenaries recruited by the British to fight Boer guerrillas.²

¹ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 9.

² *Ibid.*, p. 23.

Near Komatipoort is the site where the former Mozambique's President Samora Machel died in a plane crash in the Lebombo mountain range.³

In order to place the areas in and around Komatipoort to Nelspruit and north towards Bushbuckridge 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 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 Umbhaba 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 (2002))*, as well as a *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed traffic training academy, Calcutta, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge* (2013). The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed a few reports for the Komatipoort region, which are listed below. One report for Bushbuckridge (F. Roodt), and one for Acornhoek (JP Celliers) revealed no archaeological sites of significance. Two reports by Dr. J. Van Schalkwyk (NCHM) revealed only historical sites close to the Komatipoort – Mozambique border.⁴

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.⁵ The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site in the immediate area, besides those in the Kruger National Park, is the Plaston site towards the west, dating ca 900 AD.⁶ 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.^{7 8} A stone walled settlement with terracing was recorded by C. van Wyk (Rowe) close to Hazyview,⁹ as well as several others further west

³ Internet Access: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samora_Machel_Monument, 2017-09-26.

⁴ National Cultural History Museum, 2002., *Archaeological Survey of a section of the Secunda-Mozambique Gas Pipeline, Barberton District, Mpumalanga & J. Van Schalkwyk, 2008., HIA Report: Proposed new Lebombo Port of Entry and Upgrade of Komatipoort Railway Station, Mpumalanga (SA) & Mozambique.*

⁵ J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

⁶ M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk, in J.S. Bergh (red)., Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

⁷ Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.

⁸ Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

⁹ C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

and north-west,¹⁰ outside of the study area. 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 Komatipoort area.¹¹

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.^{12 13} 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.¹⁴ Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlanganu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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 African homes as far afield as Mozambique.¹⁷ During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.¹⁸ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.¹⁹ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century,²⁰ when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.²¹

¹⁰PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹¹PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹²N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

¹³H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 16.

¹⁴N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

¹⁵M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 21.

¹⁶Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* pp. 10-11.

¹⁷Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p 11.

¹⁸A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

¹⁹N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

²⁰H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

²¹*Ibid.*, p. 16.

Mswati II built a line of military outposts from west to east of the upper Komati River and the Mlambongwane (Kaap River). At each outpost he stationed regiments to watch and stop the BaPedi returning to their old haunts.²² 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.²³

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.²⁴ (See also: Map 1: 1935 Map of Van Warmelo).

Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinity of Hazyview²⁵, Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie, clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinding stones, are scattered at most of the sites.²⁶ Many of these occur in caves as a result of the Swazi attacks on the smaller groups.

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.²⁷ There is however, no physical evidence left of this early route.

Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the number of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to

²² Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p. 12.

²³ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.17.

²⁴ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.19.

²⁵PRMA: Information file 9/2.

²⁶D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

²⁷L. 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.

indicate how many people were actually living in one area.²⁸

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 academy, Calcutta, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge* (2013);
- Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed *Nkambeni cemetery in Numbi, Hazyview* (2013);
- Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a *Development on the farm Agricultural Holding no 56 JU, White River* (2013) was done in the wider area;
- Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed *agricultural development on the farm SIERAAD, Komatipoort area*, (2013) revealed one possible Late Stone Age borer which was identified in a soil sample, one meter below the surface.
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for proposed debushing of natural land for Agricultural use: Portion 10 of Thankerton 175JU, Hectorspruit area, Mpumalanga Province (2014), revealed one grave yard to the east and some Stone Age tools which were out of context.
- Recommendation: Archaeological Material discovered on a building site at stand no 134 (Lugedlane Development), Mjejane Game Reserve, Lodwicks Lust 163JU, Hectorspruit (2016);
- Report on Grave site found at the Lugedlane Development site, Mjejane Game Reserve, Lodwicks Lust 163JU, Hectorspruit (2016).

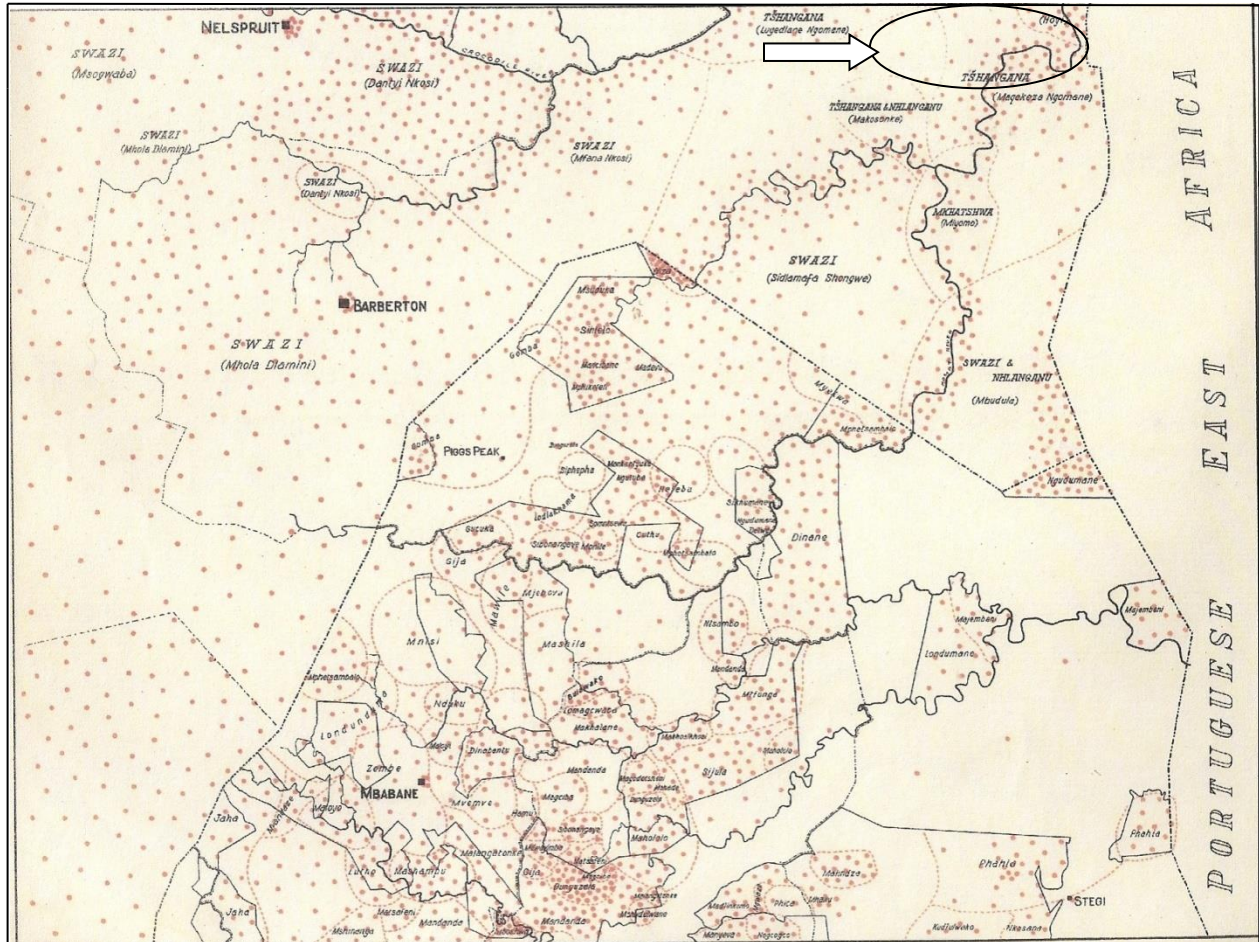
The **SAHRA database** for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed other recent Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the area of Komatipoort:

- National Cultural History Museum, J. Van Schalkwyk: *Archaeological survey of a section of the Secunda- Mozambique Gas pipeline, Barberton District, Mpumalanga* (2002), revealed one historic structure.
- J. Van Schalkwyk: *Proposed new Lebombo Port of Entry and upgrade of Komatipoort railway station between Mpumalanga (SA) and Mozambique* (2008) – Some historic buildings were identified but no archaeological remains;
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Report on a cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Kangwane Antracite Mine, Komatipoort* (2012) – An archaeological site with Middle and Late Stone Age tools were identified as well as some Iron Age artifacts and decorated pottery. Mitigation measures were recommended by exclusion from the development or a Phase 2 study;
- JP Celliers: *Report on Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment on erven at Komatipoort 182*

²⁸N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

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.



MAP 1: Van Warmelo: 1935: The study area is indicated by the arrow.

Tsonga groups: The Nhlangu and Tshangana

The Nhlangu and Tshangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)²⁹ 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).³⁰ 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

²⁹M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 24.

³⁰N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

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.³¹ They were originally of Nguni origin.³² The term "Shangaan" is commonly employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.³³

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.³⁴

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.³⁵ The downfall of *Ngungunyana* (son of *Soshangane*) saw his son seeking sanctuary in the "Transvaal", and the latter became known as *Thulamahashi*,³⁶ 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.³⁷

Swazi

The Swazi people descend from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.³⁸ 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.³⁹

³¹N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

³²N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

³³N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92

³⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

³⁵N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 57.

³⁶N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92.

³⁷M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 40.

³⁸ Internet access: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

³⁹ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

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

The proposed project will involve the following:

- Three sites have been selected for possible dam sites (Dams A, B & C), of which Dam A is the preferred site (See Map 5). Option A is approximately 50ha in size, option B is approximately 60ha and option C, approximately 70ha. The three areas are all partly disturbed by previous agricultural developments on the fringes of the drainage lines and includes a farm road network to access the various fields. An ESCOM line is situated directly south of option A (figs. 5 & 6). The three options are situated along drainage lines with a typical riverine vegetation, including perennial streams, wetlands and / or ponds (See Appendix 1, Photographic documentation).
- The various options for the proposed Dam development (A, B & C), are indicated in Map 5.

The proposed areas for dam development all have drainage lines which enter from the west (Dam A & B) and north (Dam C) of the property (Map 5). Large areas surrounding the L.M. Schoonspruit Farming operation have been historically disturbed by commercial sugar cane, citrus and banana farms (see Map 4 for a wider view). Most of *portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414 JU* has historically been disturbed with agricultural fields as it is a commercial farm for more than 20 years. Sections along the drainage lines are partly natural and partly disturbed sections which are covered with invasive vegetation (Sickle bush – *Dichrostachys cinerea*). Technically the ecozone representing this area is referred to as the Tshokwane-Hlane Basalt Lowveld a mixture of Arid Lowveld and Sweet Lowveld Bushveld.⁴⁰ The vegetation and landscape is characterized by flat plains with open tree savanna, often dominated by tall *Sclerocarya birrea* and *Acacia nigrescens* with a moderately developed shrub layer and a dense herbaceous layer especially visible in the drainage lines.⁴¹ Trees which were observed are Knob thorn (*Acacia nigrescens*) and other acacia species mixed in with trees such as Leadwood (*Combretum imberbe*), Velvet bushwillow (*Combretum molle*), Buffalo-thorn (*Ziziphus mucronata*), Marula (*Sclerocarya birrea caffra*), apple-leaf (*Longocarpus capassa*), Jackal-berry (*Diospyros mespiliformis*), Sausage tree (*Kigelia africana*), Weeping boer-bean (*Schotia brachypetala*), Natal mahogany (*Trichilia emetica*), and Common cluster fig (*Ficus sycomorus*) along the drainage lines (Appendix 1).⁴² The geology and soils in this area is called the *Letaba Formation basalts of the Karoo Supergroup* and give rise to red, brown or black clayey soils, usually not more than 1m deep.⁴³ *Portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU* (L.M. Schoonspruit Farming Pty Ltd.), is zoned as agriculture and no rezoning will take place.

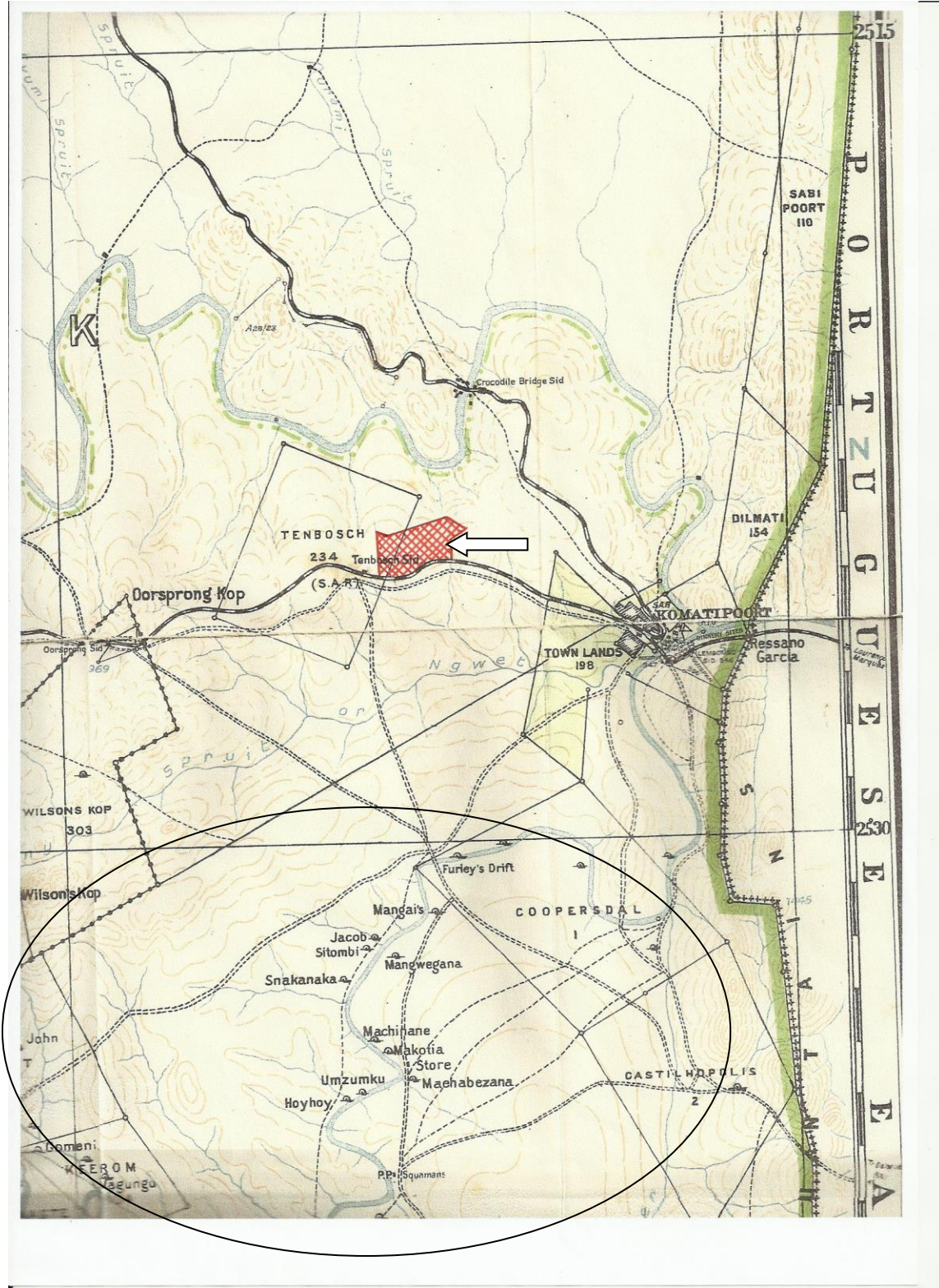
The 1926 topographical map below (Map 2), indicates black settlements approximately 10km to the south of the property along or close to the Lomati River. Only one settlement is indicated towards the north, next to the Crocodile river. None of these settlements are situated close to the study area.

⁴⁰ Deacon, A., e-mail access 2017-09-15, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2006 & Alcocks 1953).

⁴¹ Deacon, A., e-mail access 2017-09-15, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2006 & Alcocks 1953).

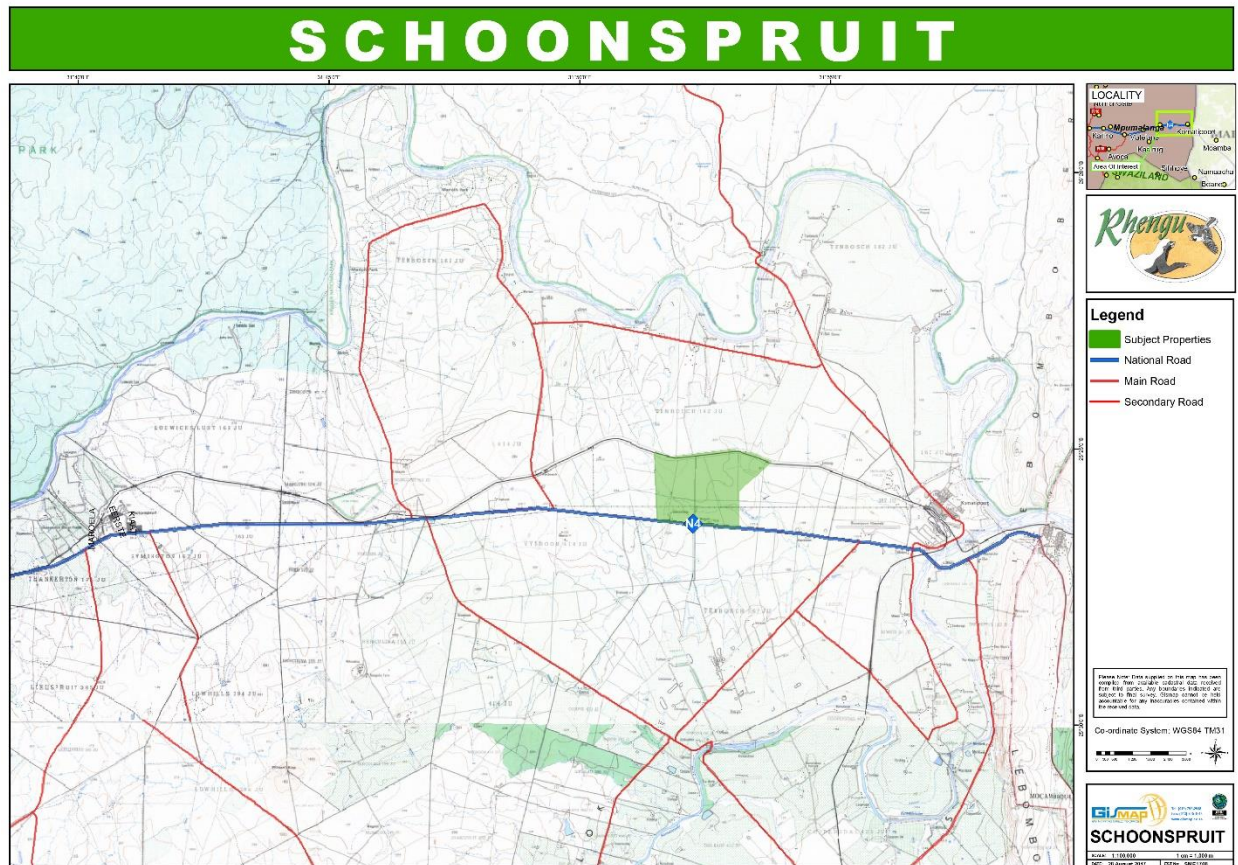
⁴² Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997.

⁴³ Deacon, A., e-mail access 2017-09-15, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).



MAP 2: 1926 Topographical map: Schoonspruit farming Pty Ltd., is indicated by the arrow, and some of the black settlements recorded in the 1920's is indicated by the oval.

Schoonspruit Farming Pty. Ltd., is indicated on the 1984 (1: 50000) topographical map 2531BD. This map shows the extent of farming operations in the area on the property in the past.



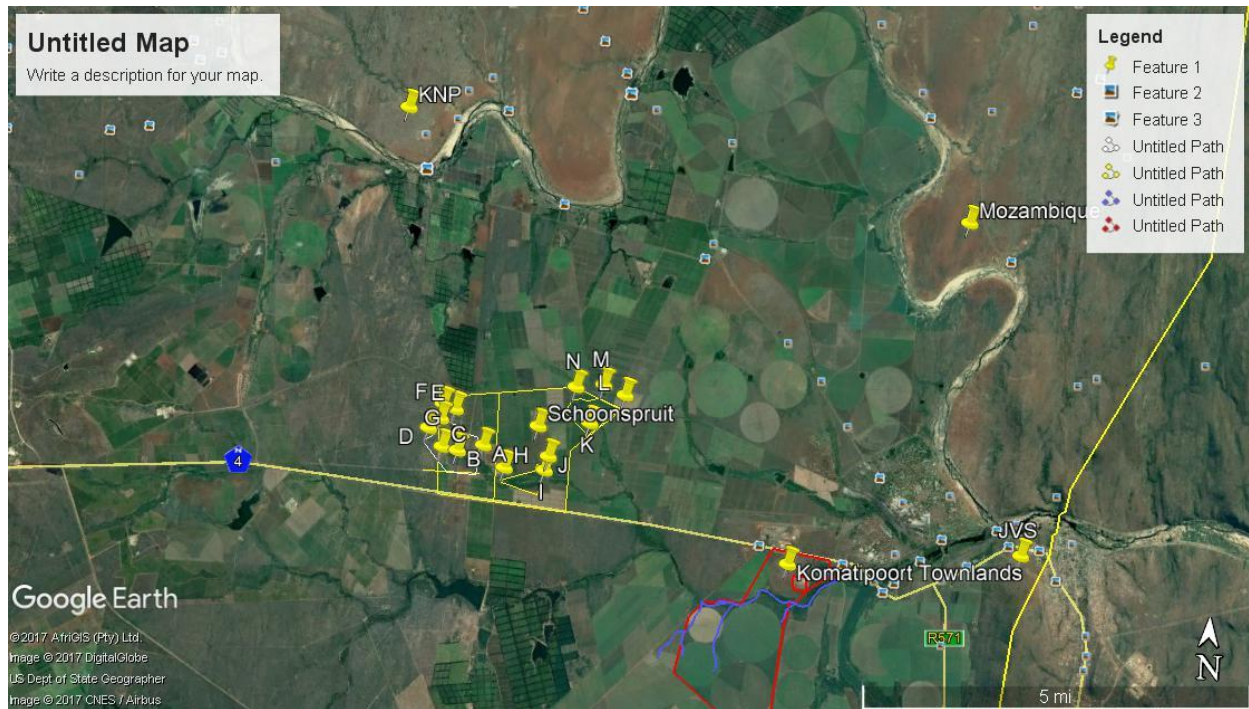
MAP 3: Topographical map 2531BD (1984). The study area *Portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU* is indicated by the arrow (Map provided by RHENGU Environmental Services).

D. LOCALITY

The proposed project site is located on *Portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU*, approximately 8 km west of Komatipoort town. It is located north along the N4, and approximately 50km north of Swaziland. The Kruger National Park is 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 - 5: Topographical Map & Google images of sites; Appendix 1 for the study area).

Large areas surrounding the Schoonspruit Farming operations have historically been disturbed by commercial sugar cane, citrus and banana cultivation (see Map. 4).



MAP 4: The wider area surrounding Schoonspruit Farming Pty. Ltd., (*portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU*), indicate mainly large commercial agricultural activities.

The proposed areas for the proposed dam development are indicated in Map 5. These options are all situated in drainage lines which enter from the west (Dam A & B) and north (Dam C) of the property. Option A is approximately 50ha in size, option B, approximately 60ha and option C, approximately 70ha. Option A is the preferred site for the construction of a dam.



MAP 5: The three options for the proposed dam development, A, B & C. (Map provided by RHENGU Environmental Services).

- **Description of methodology:**

The 1984 topographical map, (2531BD, Map 3), as well as the 1926 topographical map (Map 2), and Google images of the site (Maps 4 & 5), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. The historic Google Images show extensive agricultural disturbances on *portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU* in the past. 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.

- *Portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU*, is primarily a commercial farming concern (Schoonspruit Farming Pty. Ltd.), with small sections of natural vegetation along the drainage lines. Sections also have invasive vegetation such as Sickle bush – *Dichrostachys cinerea*, which occurs in the bushveld and is often invasive and thicket forming particularly in disturbed or overgrazed areas.⁴⁴
- A site visit with interested and affected parties and relevant government departments was held on 29 August 2017.
- The site visit consisted of 12 people. Features of interest were pointed out during the visit.
- The fieldwork and survey was conducted extensively on foot and with a vehicle. Existing roads and small paths were mainly used to access areas (See Appendix 2: Tracks & Paths).
- The terrain was flat and even but visibility was restricted due to a dense vegetation cover.
- 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 areas were held during the site visit with the various departments, as well as with farm managers⁴⁵ and workers⁴⁶ who are familiar with the property for more than 20 years.⁴⁷ Ecologist Dr. A. Deacon ⁴⁸ and environmental practitioner Mr. R. Kalwa ⁴⁹ were also consulted during the research. Mr. Jacques Le Grange and Mr. Johan Visser assisted with interviews with farm workers who resided on the

⁴⁴ Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 500.

⁴⁵ Personal information: Mr. Johan Visser & Jacques Le Grange, 2017-09-12

⁴⁶ Personal information: Mr. Abel Sibiyi & Mr. Oscar Ngwenya, 2017-09-12.

⁴⁷ Personal information: Ms. Monica van der Schyff, e-mail & letter, 2017-09-12.

⁴⁸ Personal information: Dr. A Deacon, 2017-08-29.

⁴⁹ Personal information: Mr. R. Kalwa, e-mail access: 2017-09-13.

property for at least twenty years (Oscar Ngwenya & Abel Sibiya).⁵⁰

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

GPS CO-ORDINATES			
Location	South	East	Elevation
DAM A	S 25° 26' 04.7"	E 31° 51' 53.3"	209m
DAM B	S 25° 26' 03.7"	E 31° 52' 27.3"	199m
DAM C	S 25° 25' 56.6"	E 31° 52' 58.0"	194m

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The applicant is requesting to alter a section to establish a dam on *portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU*, for L.M. Schoonspruit Farming Pty., Ltd. Three options have been assessed (A, B & C) which are all partly natural, partly disturbed with pioneer regrowth and partly historically disturbed agricultural lands (sugarcane, banana, dragon fruit and/or mango and access roads). The three areas are approximately A = 50ha, B = 60ha & C = 70ha. Section A is the preferred option for the dam area. (See Map 5 for the three options).

The study area falls within Komatipoort area which has historically been known for commercial agricultural farming. Large sections on the adjacent properties are already cultivated with citrus, mangoes or sugarcane (see Map 4). The area is flat and without any rocky outcrops. Modern topographical maps also clearly show extensive farming activities in the surrounding area (Map 3 - 1984). The 1926 topographical map (Map 2) does not indicate any historic settlements directly in the study area, although several settlements were indicated along the Lomati and Komati rivers (to the south and east), and further south towards Swaziland. The 1935 map by Van Warmelo indicated the groups living in the area as mainly Shangaan and Swazi (Map 1).

The study area is indicated in Maps 3 & 5. The terrain was even although the natural vegetation sections along the drainage lines, as well as disturbed sections with regrowth (mainly Sickle Bush - *Dichrostachys cinerea*), was dense and visibility was restricted in some areas (see figs. 4, 8, 9, 17, 20 & 22). Some sections were however accessible by existing paths and roads, and was surveyed on foot and per vehicle. No archaeological material, graves or historical features or structures were identified which could be impacted upon by the proposed dam development (See Map 5).

Farm workers who resided on the property for more than 20 years were interviewed to find out if they

⁵⁰ Personal information: Abel Sibiya & Oscar Ngwenya, 2017-09-12.

were aware of any archaeological, historical features or graves. Farm workers Mr. Oscar Ngwenya, Mr. Abel Sibiyi, the farm manager Mr. Johan Visser and Mr. Jacques Le Grange (Financial Manager) confirmed that they had no knowledge of any burial sites or other heritage related features on the property.

Disturbed areas on the farm such as quarries, excavations or open areas with sparse vegetation were all investigated for possible signs of an archaeological or historical nature. No archaeological artifacts or deposits were observed and the disturbed areas were all sterile (Figs. 10 & 18).

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. Paths and roads made some sections more accessible for the survey. The area was mostly disturbed with access roads, agricultural lands or historically disturbed sections which are covered with invasive vegetation (Sickle bush – *Dichrostachys cinerea*), which easily establish itself on overgrazed or disturbed areas (See Appendix 1).

No archaeological sites of significance, stone walls or historic structures or graves were identified, as also confirmed by the applicant, the farm managers and older farm workers.⁵¹

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	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done

⁵¹ Personal information: Ms. M. van der Schyff, e-mail access: 2017-09-12.

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
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	NA
Natural environmental context	No	NA
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		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	NA
Is the property part of a conservation area of special areas in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	Yes	Close to the Kruger National Park – approximately 4km

Context		
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	Historically disturbed agricultural land
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	Drainage lines, ponds and wetlands

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

Heritage resources on the property		
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	NA
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 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	NA
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	NA
Historical settlement/ townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Geological site of scientific/cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Grave / burial grounds	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA

- **Summarised recommended impact management interventions**

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

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance rating			
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	NA
Geological site of scientific/cultural importance	No	None	None	-	NA
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	None	None	-	NA
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	No	None	-	NA
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	NA
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	NA

ACT	COMPONENT	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 present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
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.⁵² It promotes previously neglected research areas.

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

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.⁵³

• The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features in the study area

Portion 3 of the farm VYEBOOM 414JU, for L.M. Schoonspruit Farming Pty. Ltd., is operated as a commercial farming concern with the cultivation of sugarcane, banana, dragon fruit and mangoes. The only areas which are currently not under development, are areas along and adjacent the three drainage lines. These areas were investigated for the purpose of this development application, to establish one dam (preferred option A) (See Map 5). No archaeological sites of significance, stone walls or historic structures or graves were identified during the survey (in areas for option A, B & C), and the applicant, farm managers and old farm workers who were interviewed, had no knowledge of any such features on the farm.⁵⁴

It is not believed that any archaeological or historical features will be impacted upon by the dam development.

⁵²National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

⁵³National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

⁵⁴ Personal information: Ms. M. van der Schyff, e-mail access & letter 2017-09-12.

H. RECOMMENDATIONS & 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 dam development.

It is recommended that the owner be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the debushing or construction activities. 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 dam 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.

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