

SPECIALIST REPORT

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTIONS 55 & 59 OF THE
FARM TENBOSCH 162-JU, NEAR KOMATIPOORT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT COMPILED FOR
CORE 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 a proposed integrated residential development on *portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU*, near Komatipoort, in the Mpumalanga Province. The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2531BD (1984). This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and the 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, Department of Human Settlements (DoHS), is requesting a development of 1900ha development. The proposed integrated residential development will consist of various land uses such as residential, commercial, business and industrial. A large portion of the proposed development area have already been transformed by agricultural activities (sugarcane & citrus), however the portion to the north of the Ngweti river consists of natural vegetation. The Ngweti River in the north, runs from west to east. A SASOL gas pipeline runs in the servitude of the N4 national road, from east to west. Adjacent properties are commercial farms used for mainly sugarcane, citrus and bananas since the 1950's.

The proposed development is situated south of the N4 national road, approximately 4km west of Komatipoort. Swaziland is situated approximately 50 km to the south, and the Kruger National Park and Crocodile River, 4km to the north-east. The farm is zoned as agricultural and will be rezoned to light industrial and mixed-use commercial. The area was flat, and the natural section was open and overgrazed. Indigenous vegetation was present including Sickie Bush, which covered the entire study area. Visibility was good. An existing road network and powerline servitudes were used to access the various parts.

The survey revealed no archaeological or historical features of significance. The eastern side of the Strydom Block road, consisted of mainly cultivated lands with a recent residence and dams. Earth water furrows are present, although they have been replaced by underground irrigation systems. The central section consisted of cultivated lands and orchards. Several graves were observed, a compound and several farm residences, offices and workshops which are all still in use. A quarry south of the Ngweti River revealed no archaeological material. The northern, natural section (north of the Ngweti River), revealed no archaeological or historical sites or features of significance, except for the eastern section where recent foundations were observed as well as one Later Stone Age stone implement. None of the features as mentioned above, have any archaeological, historical or cultural value. The natural section has been invaded by Sickie bush which is known to thrive on disturbed or overgrazed land.

Mitigation measures are proposed for the graves and burial site and the client should adhere to the specifications in this report. The road which cuts through the burial site, must be closed and discontinued as it impacts on the burial site. Further archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the construction phase of the proposed project, and it is recommended that when earthmoving activities commence, it 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, and the mitigation measures be implemented as proposed, 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
OCTOBER 2021

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A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTIONS 55 & 59 OF THE FARM TENBOSCH 162-JU, NEAR KOMATIPOORT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

The applicant, Department of Human Settlements (DoHS), is requesting a development of 1900ha development on *portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU*, near Komatipoort, in the Mpumalanga Province. The proposed integrated residential development will consist of various land uses such as residential, commercial, business and industrial.¹ A large portion of the proposed development area have already been transformed by agricultural activities (sugarcane & citrus), however the portion to the north of the Ngweti river consists of natural vegetation. The Ngweti River in the north, runs from west to east. A SASOL gas pipeline runs in the servitude of the N4 national road, from east to west. Adjacent properties are commercial farms used for mainly sugarcane, citrus and bananas since the 1950's (See Map 4: The wider area).

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for the proposed residential development. The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2531BD (1984). This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, and the Nkomazi Local Municipality.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by *CORE 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 project site 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

¹ CORE Environmental Services, BID, 2021-10-18.

conservation measures for any heritage resources will also be made. The study area is indicated in Maps 2 - 6, and Appendix 1 & 3.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: Ms. Anne-Mari White: *CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES*, Cell: 0608781591 / e-mail: info@coreenviro.co.za
- The EIA is in the Planning & Scoping phase;
- Type of development: Smart City Development: Integrated Residential development will consist of various land uses such as residential, commercial, business and industrial, on 1900ha. The footprint will be on *portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU*, near Komatipoort, Mpumalanga Province.
- The study area is mostly historically disturbed agricultural land with a natural section north of the Ngweti River. The farm is zoned as agricultural and will be rezoned to light industrial and mixed-use commercial (see map 6).
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property: The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and Nkomazi Local Municipality.
- Land owner: Bambanani Trust / Community; CEO, Mr. Phillip Mnisi (Cell: 0794189246).

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 107 of 1998 (NEMA 107, 1998), GNR 983, GNR984 and GNR985 of 2014 (as amended in 2017):

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental impact assessment required for the residential 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 *CORE 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. One Later Stone Age (LSA) scraper implement was found, but it was isolated and out of an archaeological 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. A large burial site was identified on the farm as well as one single grave near the compound.

- **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. Foundations of a homestead was observed in the north-eastern section, but it is of recent date. It is believed that these foundations are of no significance.

- **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 4km west of 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 1498.²

“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.³

Near Komatipoort is the site where the former Mozambique’s President Samora Machel died in a plane crash in the Lebombo mountain range.⁴

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*

² Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 9.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁴ Internet Access: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samora_Machel_Monument, 2017-09-26.

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.⁵

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.⁶ 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.⁷ 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.^{8 9} A stone walled settlement with terracing was recorded by C. van Wyk (Rowe) close to Hazyview,¹⁰ as well as several others further west and north-west,¹¹ outside of the study area. Research has been done by the author 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.¹²

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 (Nhlangu and Tšhangana), from before the 18th century.^{13 14} However, when concentrating on ethnographical history, it is important to include a slightly wider geographical area in order for it to make sense.

⁵ 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.*

⁶ J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

⁷ M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

⁸ Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.

⁹ Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

¹⁰ C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaha Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

¹¹ PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹² PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹³ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

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

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.¹⁵ Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlangu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

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.¹⁸ During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.¹⁹ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.²⁰ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century,²¹ when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.²²

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.²³ 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.²⁴

¹⁵ N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

¹⁶ M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 21.

¹⁷ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* pp. 10-11.

¹⁸ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p 11.

¹⁹ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

²⁰ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

²¹ H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

²² *Ibid.*, p. 16.

²³ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p. 12.

²⁴ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.17.

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.²⁵ (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 Hazyview²⁶, Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie, clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinding stones, are scattered at most of the sites.²⁷ 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.²⁸ 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 indicate the number of people who were actually living in one area.²⁹

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);

²⁵ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.19.

²⁶ PRMA: Information file 9/2.

²⁷ D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

²⁸ L. Changuion & J.S. Bergh, Swart gemeenskappe voor die koms van die blankes, in J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 104.

²⁹ N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

- 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).
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the proposed debushing of natural land for the construction of a dam for Schoonspruit farming Pty Ltd., portion 3 of the farm Vyeboom 414JU (2017); no significant archaeological or heritage features were observed.
- Phase 1 AIA / HIA for the proposed commercial & industrial development, Komatipoort Ext 20 on portion 58 of the farm Komatipoort Townlands 182JU (2018).

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

Tsonga groups: The Nhlanganu and Tšhangana

The Nhlanganu and Tšhangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)³⁰ 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).³¹ 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.³² They were originally of Nguni origin.³³ The term “Shangaan” is commonly employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.³⁴

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.³⁵

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.³⁶ The downfall of *Ngungunyana* (son of *Soshangane*) saw his son seeking sanctuary in the “Transvaal”, and the latter became known as *Thulamahashi*,³⁷ 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.³⁸

³⁰ M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 24.

³¹ N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

³² N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

³³ N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

³⁴ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92

³⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

³⁶ N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 57.

³⁷ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92.

³⁸ M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 40.

Swazi

The Swazi people descend from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.³⁹ 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.⁴⁰

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

The proposed 1900ha project involves an integrated residential development on *portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU* to the west of Komatipoort. Large areas surrounding the project site are commercial farms with crops such as sugar cane, citrus and bananas (see Map 4 for a wider view). The study area has also historically been disturbed by agricultural activities and the sections south of the Ngweti River is under cultivation such as sugarcane and orchards. A hostel, residential areas, irrigation dams and pump houses are also present (see Appendix 3). The section north of the Ngweti River is untransformed, except for the SASOL gas pipeline which runs parallel with the N4 from east to west.

The natural northern section was flat and severely overgrazed, which made visibility easier. An existing road network was used to access the various sections. Invasive Sickle bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*), which occurs in the bushveld particularly in disturbed or overgrazed areas,⁴¹ was present in the entire northern section (figs. 1 & 8).

Technically the ecozone representing this area is referred to as the Tshokwane-Hlane Basalt Lowveld, a mixture of Arid Lowveld and Sweet Lowveld Bushveld.⁴² 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.⁴³ Trees which were observed are Knob thorn (*Acacia nigrescens*) and Fever tree (*Acacia xanthophloea*), as well as other acacia species mixed in with trees such as Leadwood (*Combretum imberbe*), apple-leaf (*Longocarpus capassa*), Jackal-berry (*Diospyros mespiliformis*), Sausage tree (*Kigelia africana*), Natal

³⁹ Internet access: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

⁴⁰ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

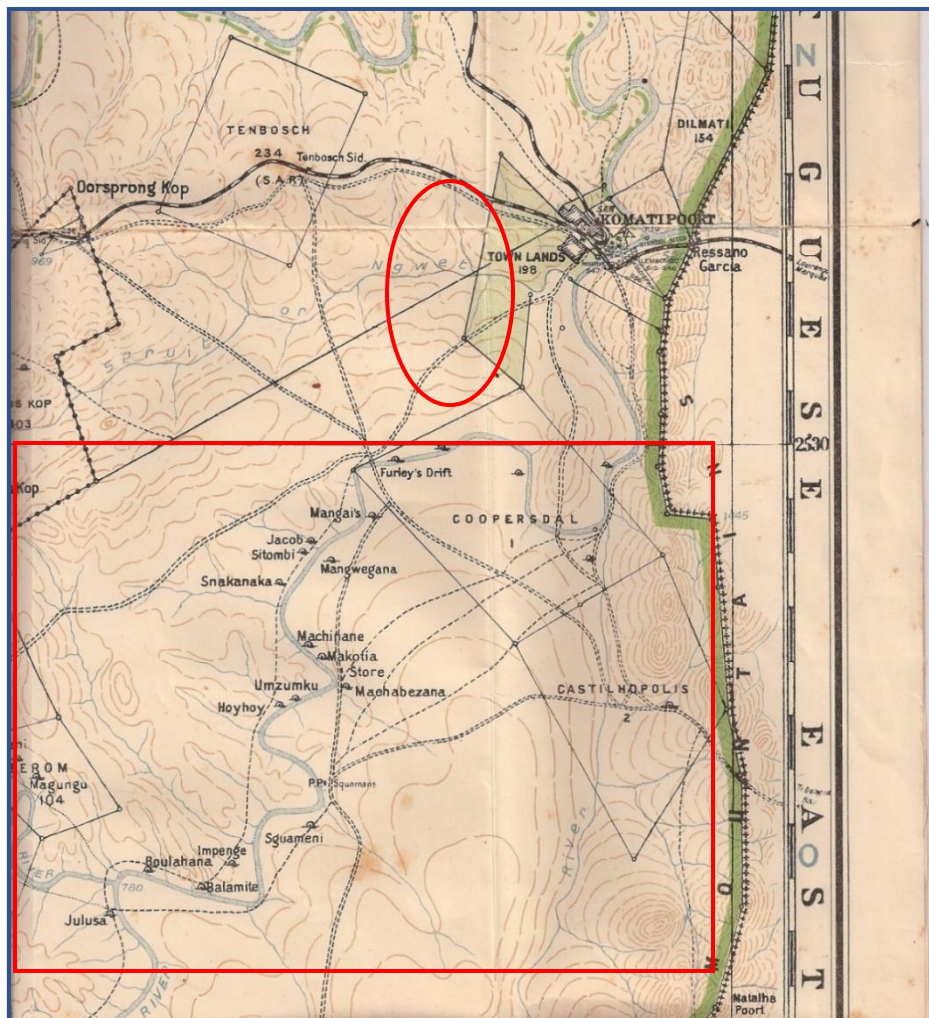
⁴¹ Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., *Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa*, 1997, p. 500.

⁴² Deacon, A., e-mail access 2017-09-15, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2006 & Alcocks 1953).

⁴³ Deacon, A., e-mail access 2017-09-15, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2006 & Alcocks 1953).

mahogany (*Trichilia emetica*), and Common cluster fig (*Ficus sycomorus*).⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵

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 (Komati). Only one settlement is indicated towards the north, next to the Crocodile River. None of these settlements are situated on or close to the study area.

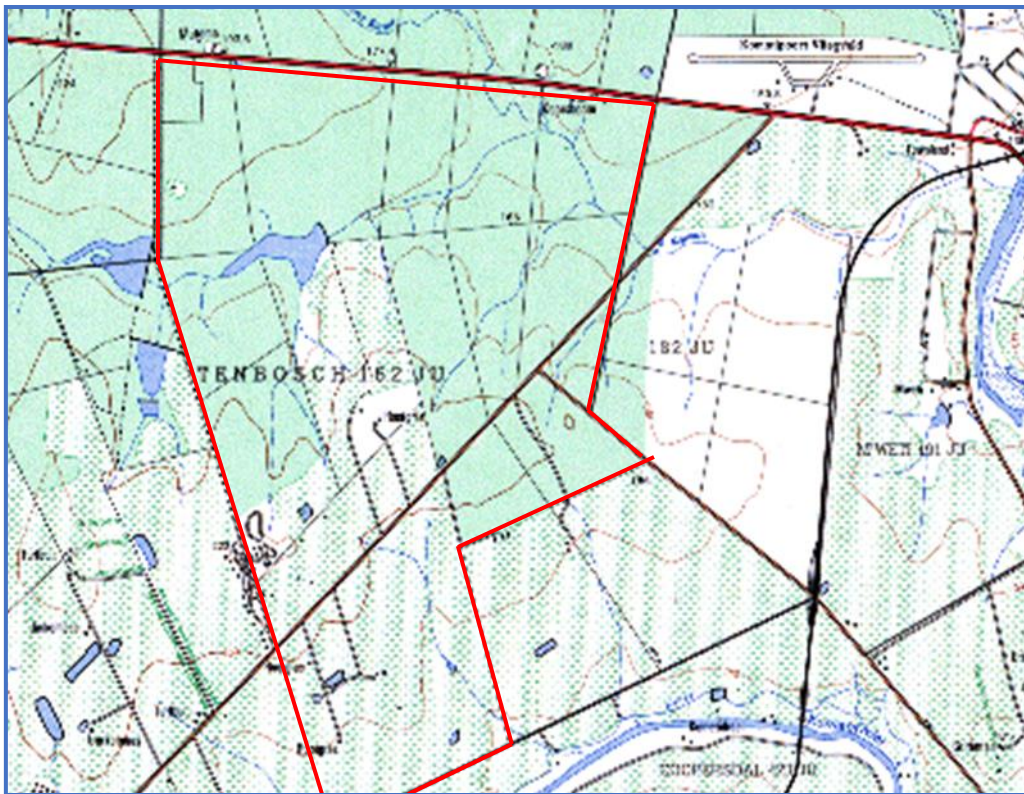


MAP 2: 1926 Topographical map: TENBOCSH is indicated by the red oval, and some of the black settlements recorded in the 1920's is indicated by the red square, along the Komati River.

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

⁴⁵ Deacon, A., e-mail access 2017-09-15, after (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).

TENBOSCH farm is indicated on the 1984 (1: 50000) topographical map 2531BD. This map also shows the extent of farming operations in the wider area.



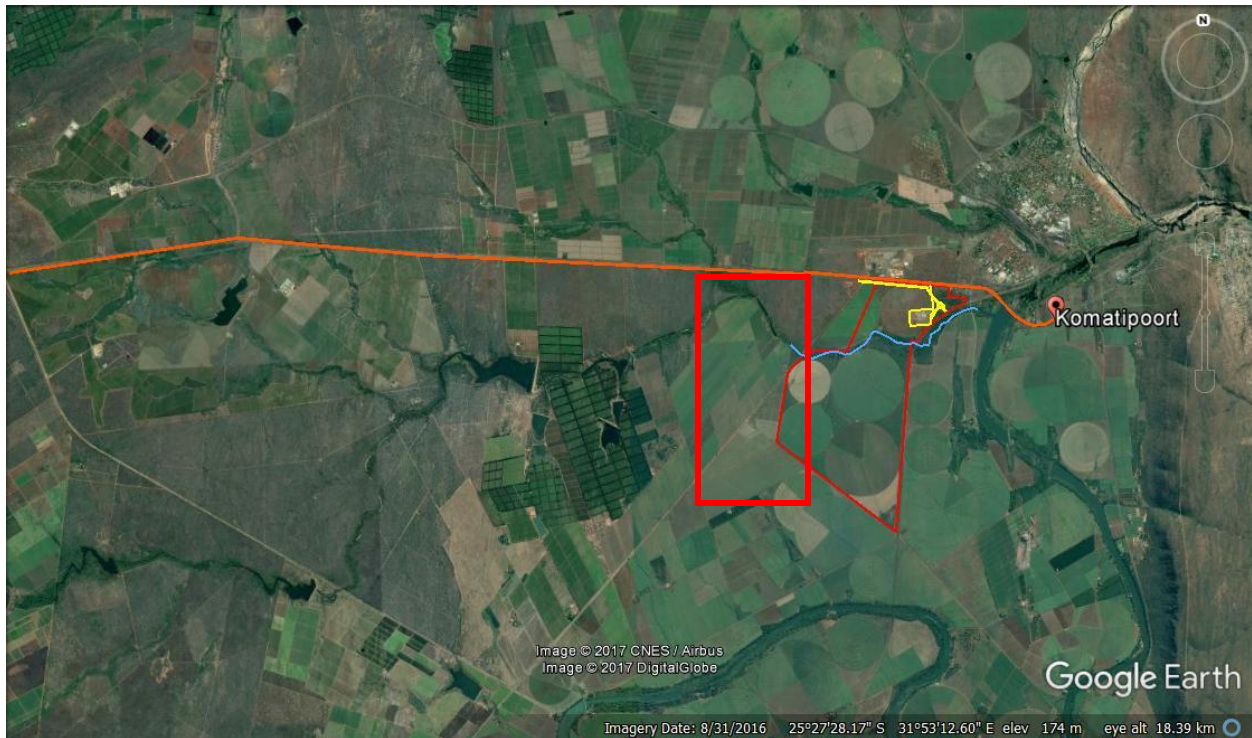
MAP 3: Topographical map 2531BD (1984). The study area *portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU*, is outlined in red.

- **D. LOCALITY**

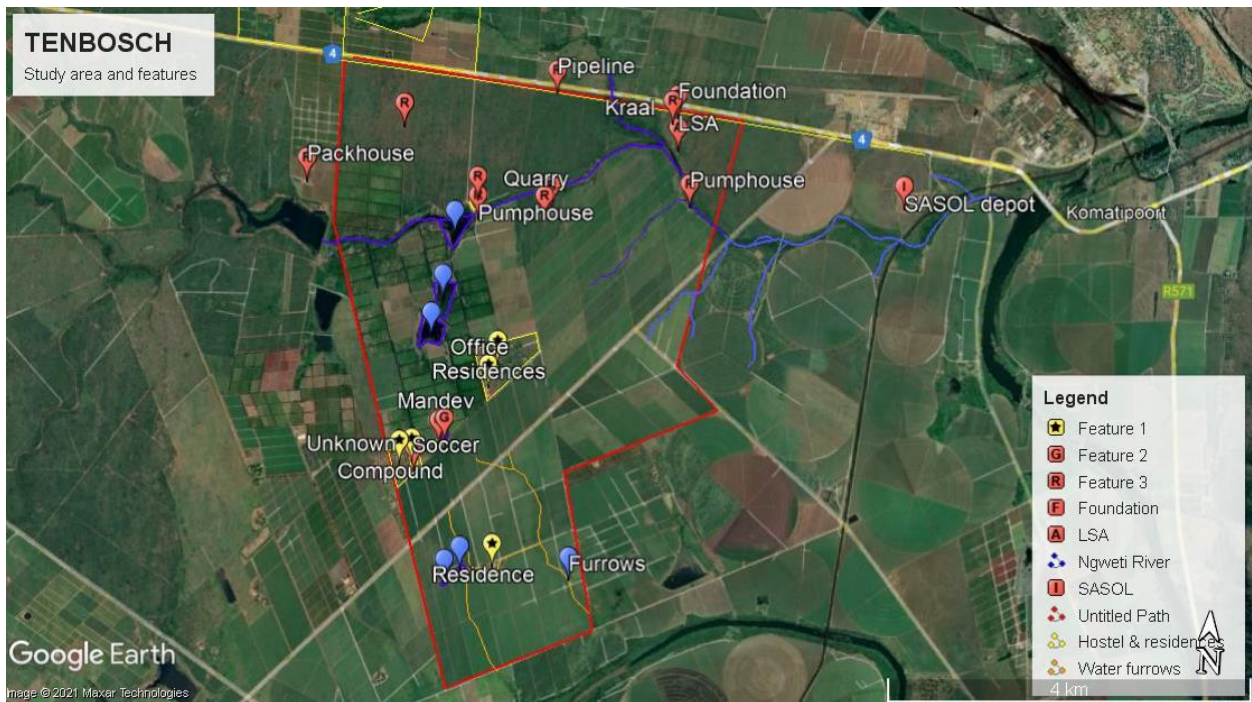
The proposed development is situated south of the N4 national road, just 4km west of the Komatipoort town. Swaziland is situated approximately 50 km to the south, and the Kruger National Park and Crocodile River, 4km to the north-east. The site is located on *portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU*, (figs. 1 – 18).

The site falls under the Nkomazi Local Municipal jurisdiction, which in turn falls within Ehlanzeni District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province (see Maps 2 - 6: Topographical Map & Google images of sites; Appendix 1 & 3 for the study area).

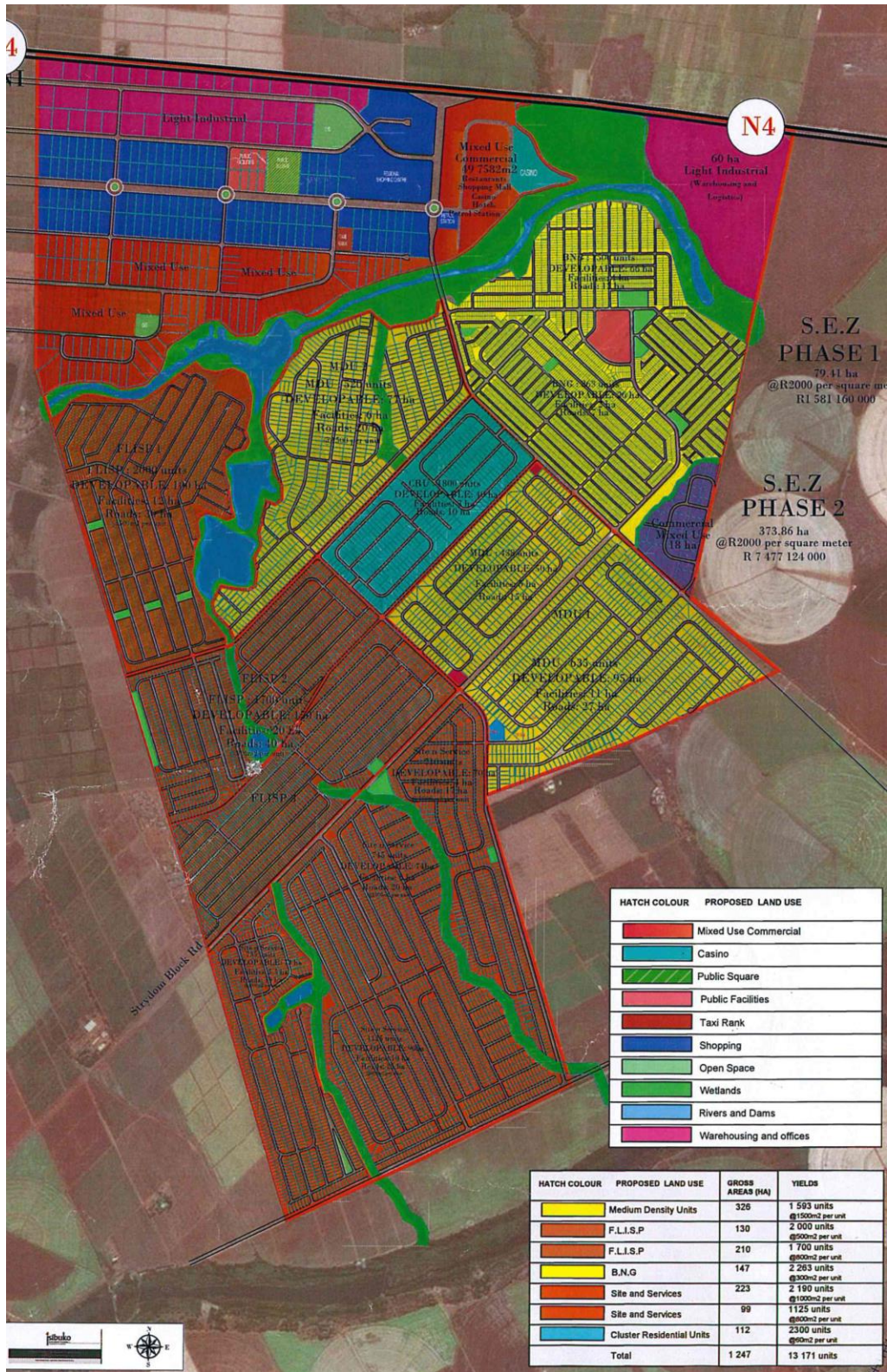
The study area for the proposed development is indicated in maps 5 & 6.



MAP 4: The wider area surrounding TENBOSCH indicate mainly large commercial agricultural activities. The study area is indicated by the red square.



MAP 5: The study area and features observed on Tenbosch.



MAP 6: Proposed layout plan of the Smart City development (Map provided by CORE 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 – 6), 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 the TENBOSCH farm, and the current Manager, Mr. Cor Lindeque indicated that the previous owner, Mr. Jimmy Techlenburg already farmed with sugarcane and citrus over 30 years ago.⁴⁶ 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 fields of anthropology, archaeology and ecology 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.

- *Portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU, are primarily a commercial farm, with the section north of the Ngweti River, still natural. The northern section has been invaded with pioneer 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.*⁴⁷
- The fieldwork and survey were conducted extensively on foot and with a vehicle by 4 people. We were also accompanied by farm supervisor, Mr. July Makojane who pointed out some of the graves and features on the farm. Existing roads and paths were mainly used to access areas (see Appendix 1: Tracks).
- The terrain was flat and even, and although the vegetation in the northern section was

⁴⁶ Personal communication: General Manager Ilima Farm, Mr. C. Lindeque, 2021-10-09.

⁴⁷ Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 500.

dense, extensive overgrazing by cattle made visibility good.

- 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 was held during the site visit and in a meeting.^{48 49} Ecologist Dr. A. Deacon⁵⁰ was consulted for the technical details to the areas directly east and north of the current TENBOSCH study area, and a worker on the property, Mr. July Makojane was also interviewed.⁵¹
- **Table 1:** GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the sites and any heritage features within the study area: (See map 4 - 6 / Appendix 1 for perimeters of the site).

GPS CO-ORDINATES			
Location	South	East	Elevation Average
Natural Section north of the Ngweti River	S 25° 26' 51.57"	E 31° 53' 20.96"	181m
Central Section	S 25° 27' 41.85"	E 31° 53' 38.54"	194m
Section east of the Strydom Block road	S 25° 29' 19.65"	E 31° 53' 35.94"	189m

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The study area was mainly flat, sloping gently towards the Ngweti River from the north and south. 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 Central and Eastern sections were mainly disturbed with agricultural lands (sugarcane and orchards, with only very small pockets of natural vegetation), dams, irrigation systems, old earth

⁴⁸ Personal communication: General Manager Ilima Farm, Mr. C. Lindeque, 2021-10-09.

⁴⁹ Personal communication: CORE Environmental Services, Ms. A-M White, 2021-09-20.

⁵⁰ Personal information: Dr. A Deacon, 2017-08-29.

⁵¹ Personal information: Supervisor, Ilima Farm, Mr. July Makojane, 2021-10-09.

water furrows (in disuse), a large hostel and residential areas, workshops, pump houses and a quarry (figs. 19 – 45).

The section North of the Ngweti River is mainly natural vegetation which has been invaded with Sickle Bush (figs. 1 & 8). The SASOL pipeline runs from east to west along the N4 national road. The three sections will be described separately, and must be studied in conjunction with the photographic documentation in Appendix 3.

SECTION NORTH OF THE NGWETI RIVER: (See map 5, Appendix 3, figs. 1 – 18). The section to the north consists of natural vegetation, which has been invaded with pioneer vegetation such as Sickle bush – *Dichrostachys cinerea*. Sickle bush occurs in the bushveld and is often invasive and thicket forming particularly in disturbed or overgrazed areas,⁵² such as is the case on this section of TENBOSCH (figs. 1 & 8). The SASOL pipeline is situated in a servitude on TENBOSCH, just south of the N4 national road (running from east to west, fig. 5 - 6). Closer to the river it has typical riverine vegetation with large trees which formed a dense canopy (fig. 7). Visibility in this section was good. No graves were observed in this section, as was also confirmed by Mr. July Makojane,⁵³ and cattle herder from the Bambanani community, Sam Mzimba.⁵⁴ A small section in the south-west consists of citrus orchards (fig. 39).

The Bambanani community utilizes this section to graze their cattle and there is a large cattle kraal next to the river (fig. 18). Pieces of rusted metal and concrete are visible in this section (fig. 9, 14, 15). Recent foundations of a house and farm infrastructure were observed on the eastern side, but these are not believed to be older than 60 years, as some sections were built with large square modern concrete bricks (fig. 10 - 13). A single Later Stone Age (LSA) stone scraper implement was observed in isolation and out of any archaeological context (fig. 17). No features of archaeological or historical value were observed in this section.

CENTRAL SECTION: (figs. 19 – 42). The Central section is south of the Ngweti River, and west of the Strydom Block road. The entire section is disturbed with agricultural operations (sugar cane and citrus orchards) (see map 5 & figs. 19 & 39). Three large dams are situated within a drainage line, which drain into the Ngweti River (fig. 29). Several pump houses (recent), are situated in this section, near the river (figs. 28 & 37). An underground irrigation

⁵² Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 500.

⁵³ Personal information: Supervisor, Ilima Farm, Mr. July Makojane, 2021-10-09.

⁵⁴ Personal information: Bambanani Community, Cattle Herder, Sam Mzimba, 2021-10-09.

system supplies the sugarcane and citrus with water (fig. 27) from the river. One large quarry and a cleared area are also visible in this section (figs. 41 & 42). These were investigated for any possible archaeological remains, but none was observed.

July Makojane, who accompanied us during the investigation, showed us a large prominent grave in a concrete casing (fig. 30). According to Mr. Makojane, this grave belongs to a Portuguese man known as Vasco Ngwane, and is still visited by family members. This grave, which is 20 – 30 years old, marks a very large but neglected burial site (fig. 30 - 36). The site was extremely overgrown at the time of the survey and it was not possible to determine the number of graves. However, there is a dirt road which demarcates the site (see google image below), although the road cuts through the burial site in the north (red lines). Mitigation measures are proposed further on in this report, to discontinue this road.



GOOGLE IMAGE 1: Burial site with road around it, as well as a road cutting through the site (red lines), which must be closed / discontinued).

A single unknown grave under a Marula tree, was also situated further south near the compound / hostel area (fig. 26). The hostel, soccer field, residential area and workshops are all of a recent nature (figs. 20 - 25). No archaeological or historical features were observed within this section.

SECTION EAST OF THE STRYDOM BLOCK ROAD: (Appendix 3, figs. 43 – 47, map 5). The section to the east of the Strydom Block road consists entirely of sugarcane lands. A few earth water furrows were observed in the southern section, but these are all in disuse, as a modern underground irrigation system supplies the agricultural lands with water (fig. 47). Two dams and a residence are situated in the southern section (fig. 46). All open sections were investigated for any signs of archaeological features but nothing was observed.

The area was extensively surveyed on foot and per vehicle. Paths and roads made sections accessible for the survey. Disturbed areas on the farm such as quarries, excavations or open areas with sparse vegetation, were investigated for any possible signs of an archaeological or historical nature. The investigation suggests that the entire farm was historically disturbed by agricultural lands as alien and invasive species indicate. The riparian zones along the river are mostly natural. No archaeological material or historical features or structures of significance were identified which could be impacted upon by the proposed development. The graves are all of high significance, and mitigation measures are proposed.

Table 2: Features which were identified during the survey and significance rating:

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE				
FEATURE	SOUTH	EAST	ELEVATION	SIGNIFICANCE
NORTHERN SECTION				
House Foundations (recent) (figs. 10 – 13)	S 25° 26' 39.4"	E 31° 54' 33.5"	178m	No significance
LSA stone implement (fig. 17)	S 25° 26' 51.13"	E 31° 54' 34.47"	157m	No significance
CENTRAL SECTION				
Grave: Vasco Ngwane (fig. 30)	S 25° 28' 41.2"	E 31° 53' 08.1"	220m	High
Large Burial site (fig. 31 - 36)	S 25° 28' 41.87"	E 31° 53' 05.86"	220m	High
Single unknown grave (fig. 26)	S 25° 28' 52.77"	E 31° 52' 56.51"	222m	High
Quarry (north) (fig. 41)	S 25° 27' 15.11"	E 31° 53' 45.19"	173m	No significance

Quarry / cleared area (south) (fig. 42)	S 25° 27' 15.11"	E 31° 53' 45.19"	173m	No significance
EAST OF THE STRYDOM BLOCK ROAD				
Earth water furrows (fig. 47)	See map 5	See map 5	-	No significance

F. (Table 3) 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	Foundations not older than 60 years	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological heritage resources	LSA implement out of context	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Graves present	Mitigation proposed
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	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

Context		
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
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?	Yes	Historically disturbed agricultural land
Are there any significant landscape features 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	Ngweti River & drainage lines

<i>Heritage resources on the property</i>		
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
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
<i>General protection (NHRA)</i>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	Yes	Graves and burial sites protected
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
<i>Other</i>		
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	ELE- MENT S	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Hist orica l	Rar e	Sci ent ific	Typi cal	Tech - nolo gical	Aes theti c	Pers on / com muni ty	Land mark	Mate rial con ditio n	Sust aina bility		
Buildings / structures of cultural significan ce	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 / townscap es	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Landscap e of cultural significan ce	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELE- MENT S	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
		Hist orica l	Rar e	Sci ent ific	Typi cal	Tech - nolo gical	Aes theti c	Pers on / com muni ty	Land mark	Mate rial con ditio n	Sust aina bility		
Geologica l site of scientific/ cultural importanc e	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Archaeolo gical sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	High – mitigation proposed
Areas of significan ce 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 managem ent	Motivation
		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
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	NA
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	NA
Archaeological sites	No	None	None	-	NA

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact managem ent	Motivation
		Cultural significance			
		Cultural significanc e	Impact significanc e		
Grave / burial grounds	Yes	High	High	-	Mitigation proposed
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	NA
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	NA

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	No building over 60 years old	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	High significance	Mitigation measures

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

G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

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.⁵⁵ 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:

⁵⁵ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

(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.⁵⁶

- **Graves**

SAHRA Policy on burial grounds

NHRA Sections 27 & 36: The policy is that graves and cemeteries should be left undisturbed, no matter how inaccessible and difficult they are to maintain. It is our obligation to empower civil society to nurture and conserve our heritage. It is only when essential developments threaten a place of burial, that human remains should be disinterred to another cemetery or burial ground.

From a historical point of view and for research purposes, it is vital that burial sites are not disturbed. The location and marking of an individual's grave tell a life story, possibly where he / she died defending (or attacking) a particular place or situation and makes it easier to understand the circumstances of his / her death.⁵⁷

- **The significance and evaluation of heritage features as well as graves on the TENBOSCH study area:**

SAHRA regards all graves and burial sites as of high significance, and therefore mitigation measures are recommended for all graves / burial sites on the farm. The significance and evaluation can be summarized as follows (Please note that mitigation measures are recommended for only the graves and burial sites, as all other features are regarded as of no significance):

⁵⁶ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

⁵⁷ SAHRA, Burial sites, [Http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm](http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm), Access, 2008-10-16.

GRAVES & BURIAL SITES:

Site no	Graves	Significance	Measures of mitigation
Burial site & Vasco Ngwane's grave:	A large burial site was identified in the Central section with an unknown number of graves. One grave belongs to a Portuguese man Vasco Ngwane.	HIGH	The burial site must be fenced off and a perimeter of 20m must be kept clear around the site. Access must be allowed for visitation; Alternatively , an application to SAHRA can be made to relocate the graves (see processes involved in Appendix 2). The road towards the north, which cuts through the burial site, must be discontinued.
Single unknown grave	A single unknown grave is situated near the hostel, under a Marula tree. There is no grave marker and the grave was pointed out by July Makojane.	HIGH	The burial site must be fenced off and a perimeter of 20m must be kept clear around the site. Access must be allowed for visitation; Alternatively , an application to SAHRA can be made to relocate the graves (see processes involved in Appendix 2).

- **Field rating:**

Recommendation & discussion:

Portions 55 & 59 of the farm TENBOSCH 162JU is currently operated as a commercial farming concern (Ilima farm) with the cultivation of sugarcane and citrus. The only area which is not under development is the section north of the Ngweti River. This section is invaded by Sickle Bush as a result of overgrazing or historically transformed land.

It is not believed that any of the recent features on the farm **TENBOSCH**, which were identified during the survey have any significance in terms of historic or cultural value which might prevent the proposed development to continue. All the recent features are younger than 60 years and has no cultural significance or other special value in terms of its importance in the 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). The LSA stone scraper implement is situated out of an archaeological context and therefore has no significance (NHRA 3.3a / 3.3c & g).⁵⁸ It is not believed that any other archaeological or historical features will be impacted upon by the proposed Smart City residential development.

The burial sites and graves are of high significance and mitigation measures are proposed:

Burial Sites / graves:

SAHRA's policy on burial grounds are strict and sections 27 & 36 rate all such sites as of **High** significance (NHRA, no. 25 of 1999, section 36).⁵⁹ The graves and burial site on the farm **TENBOSCH**, are all situated within the proposed development, and will directly be impacted. It is recommended that the graves be left intact and undisturbed. It should be documented and fenced. A buffer zone of 20m should be kept clear around the site where no development may take place. The developer should also be made aware that family members of the deceased have the right to visit the site. **Alternatively**, the owner may apply to relocate the graves (at own cost). Arbitrary exhumation and re-internment of human remains, apart from being illegal, does not constitute a socially responsible mitigation action and borders on the destruction of culturally sensitive property. The minimum requirements for a process of relocation of graves involve the following: (also see Appendix 2):

Regulations specify that the client / specialist must: - make a concerted effort to contact communities or individuals who by tradition have an interest in such remains; - reach agreements with such communities or individuals regarding the future of such remains; - the area be fenced off, until the human remains are relocated; - a possible site to be considered for the relocation for eg. a burial site on the property or close by, or a municipal cemetery.

⁵⁸ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

⁵⁹ SAHRA, Burial sites, <http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm>, Access, 2018-08-09.

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 development. It is recommended that the client be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the ground clearing excavation activities. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that apart from the mitigation measures proposed for the **burial sites** and **graves** (see above), there are no other compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed township development to continue. 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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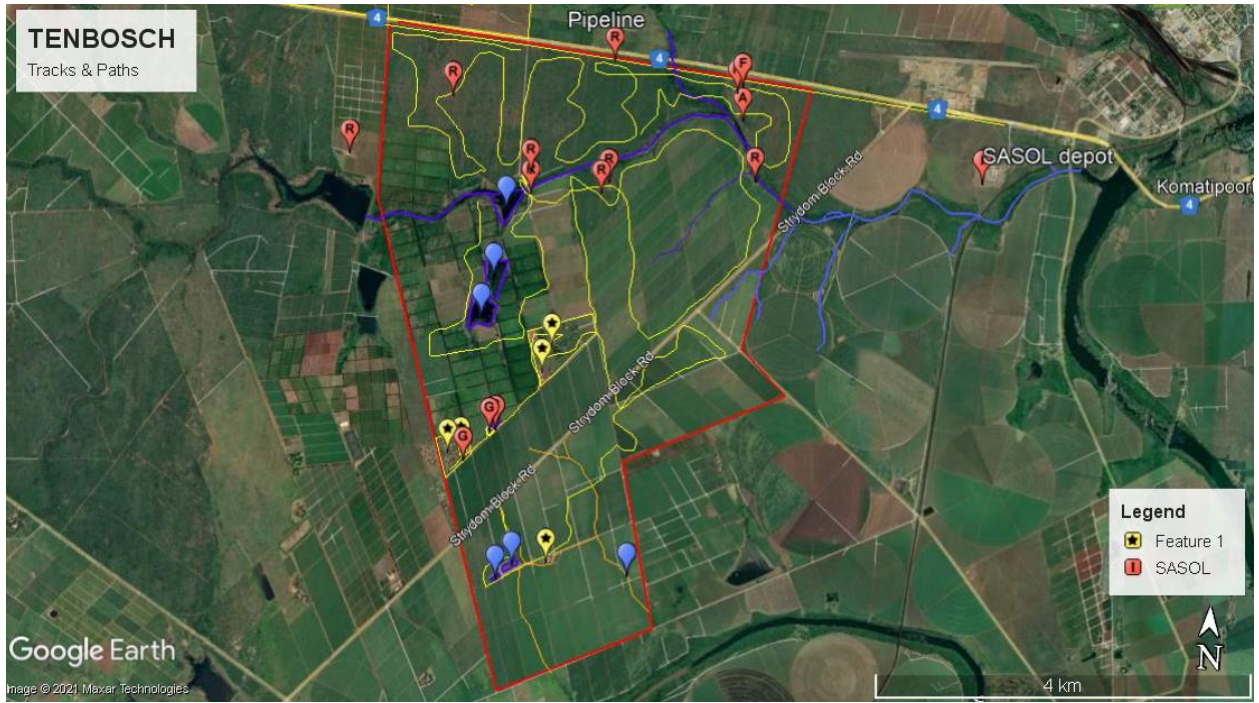
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APPENDIX 1

Tracks & paths used



APPENDIX 2

GRAVE RELOCATION PROCESS

Mitigation measures are required for the burial sites to prevent development activities to impact negatively on them. The client has two options (with implications) in the way forward (An institution dealing with heritage related grave issues must mitigate the graves, i.e. facilitated by an archaeologist and a registered undertaker):

1. To preserve the graves in situ with a fence around them; or
2. To relocate the graves;

Option 1:

The site must be demarcated and excluded from the development;

Regulations specify that the client / specialist must-

- establish management guidelines for the burial site;
- make a concerted effort to contact communities or individuals who by tradition have an interest in such remains;
- reach agreements with such communities or individuals regarding the future of such remains, for eg. visiting rights. All agreements must be set out in the management guidelines. The stipulations in the guidelines must be respected by both parties.

Option 2:

To relocate the graves:

Arbitrary exhumation and re-internment of human remains, apart from being illegal, does not constitute a socially responsible mitigation action and borders on the destruction of culturally sensitive property. The minimum requirements for a process of relocation of graves involve the following:

Regulations specify that the client / specialist must-

- make a concerted effort to contact communities or individuals who by tradition have an interest in such remains;
- reach agreements with such communities or individuals regarding the future of such remains;
- the area be fenced off, until the human remains are relocated;
- a possible site to be considered for the relocation for eg., a cemetery on the property, or close by.

An institution dealing with heritage related grave issues must mitigate the graves.

- Report intention of relocation of graves to the SAPS and SAHRA in compliance with Act no. 25 of 1999;

- Place notices required by Act no. 25 of 1999 and the Transvaal Ord. 7 of 1925 (Refer Proc. 109 of 17 June 1994);
- Ensure social consultation process, according to the requirements of Act no. 25 of 1999 and the Transvaal Ord. 7 of 1925;
- Obtain SAHRA authorization and comply to the conditions;
- Obtain National Department of Health authorization and comply to conditions;
- Obtain Office of the Provincial Premier authorization and comply to conditions;
- Obtain Local Authority authorization and comply to conditions;
- Comply to stipulations of Act 65 of 1983 during handling of human remains;
- Generate Third Schedule Notice of Internment in compliance with applicable Local Authority Bylaw;
- Generate a Burial Order in compliance of Act 51 of 1992.

Physical exhumation to follow (all costs for the applicant).