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***Phase 1 Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation)***

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF TURFLOOP ACCOMMODATION  
MANKWENG, POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
CAPRICORN DISTRICT**

**STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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**Map reference:** South Africa 1:50000 2329 DC  
**General coordinates:** S23°53'37.0" E29°44'36.0"  
**Farm:** Turfloop 987 LS

**INTRODUCTION**

This statement with regard to heritage resources management addresses the proposed development of accommodation on 7.5ha in extent of the University of Limpopo Turfloop campus in Mankweng, Polokwane Local Municipality, Capricorn District.

The Project proposal constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources. (For pertinent legislation see Annexure A)

In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur on the demarcated site. This would enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects, which the development could have on any heritage resources. (For relevant terminology see Annexure B).

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The author was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 *Heritage Resources Impact Assessment* for the proposed development. The aim of the assessment was to determine the probability of the presence of heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance; to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features. This survey forms part of the EIA-scoping process and data regarding the environmental and socio-demographic conditions and issues should be read in the main report.

Consequently, a letter containing a qualified statement of the *status quo* with regard to heritage resources, instead of a full report, is deemed sufficient.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN**

The proposed terrain is located approximately 500 meters north of the R71 road and borders the Turfloop campus residential area within the university boundary (figures 5 – 6). The terrain has been impacted by residential activities and sand extraction. Existing sewerage infrastructure is also located on the southern part of the terrain. The vegetation is characterised by young back growth of various species (see figures 1- 4).

## **METHODOLOGY**

A pedestrian survey of the demarcated area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. Although vegetation was dense in places, visibility was good and no limitations were experienced. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances made by burrowing animals as well as changes in vegetation that may have resulted from previous human intervention. The SAHRIS database was consulted, but no case studies that would have an influence on this project were found. Google earth and the 1:50 000 map 2329 DC was studied to identify possible indicators of archaeological and heritage sites.

## **DISCUSSION**

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition: Kwale branch-  
Moloko branch-

Mzonjani facies AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)  
Icon facies AD 1300 - 1500 (Late Iron Age)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch - Doornkop facies AD 750 - 1000 (Early Iron Age)  
Eiland facies AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)  
Klingbeil facies AD 1000 - 1200 (Middle Iron Age)  
Letaba facies AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)

None of the above-mentioned archaeological remains or any other heritage remains of importance were noted on the terrain. No archaeologically induced ecologically disturbed area was observed either. However, the archaeological cultures referred to above may be present as obscured subterranean deposits.

No historical remains were noted on the property and no remains relating to socio-religious activities or graves were observed.

### **MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

No management or mitigation measures are required. This letter serves to confirm that *no significant heritage resources* such as archaeological or historical material or places of social or religious significance were found on the site of the proposed development. From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.

*The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the relevant Heritage Resources Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.*

### **REFERENCE**

**Huffman, T.N. 2007.** *Handbook to the Iron Age. The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa.* University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

Yours faithfully



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Figure 1. General view of terrain.



Figure 2. View of sand extraction on the terrain.



Figure 3. Old disused sewerage pump house.



Figure 4. University facility; Department of Agriculture greenhouse bordering the terrain.



Figure 5. Google image of project area in relation to the University.

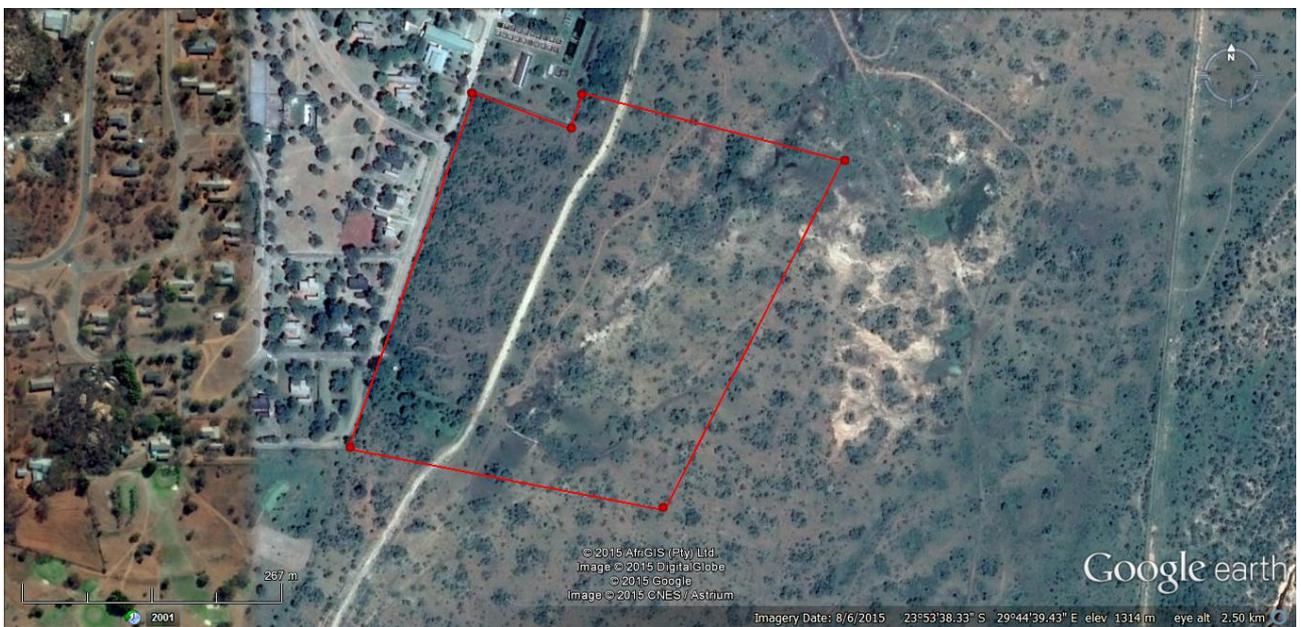


Figure 6. Google image of project.

## **ANNEXURE A: RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

Two sets of legislation are relevant for the protection of heritage resources and graves.

### **The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) (NHRA)**

This Act established the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and makes provision for the establishment of Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities (PHRA). The Act makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources (Section 7) and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibilities and functions for heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial authorities and Local authorities, depending on the grade of the Heritage resources (Section 8).

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

#### **Historical remains**

**Section 34(1)** No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

#### **Archaeological remains**

**Section 35(3)** Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

**Subsection 35(4)** No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist with the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

**Subsection 35(5)** When the responsible heritage resources authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or palaeontological site is under way, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resources management procedures in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may-

- (a) serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order;
- (b) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not an

- archaeological or palaeontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
- (c) if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph (a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection (4); and
  - (d) recover the costs of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or palaeontological site is located or from the person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two weeks of the order being served.

**Subsection 35(6)** The responsible heritage resources authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or palaeontological site or meteorite is situated; serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or meteorite.

### **Burial grounds and graves**

**Subsection 36(3)**

- (a) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-
- (c) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (d) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

**Subsection 36(6)** Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

### **Culture Resource Management**

**Subsection 38(1)** Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development\* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

\***‘development’** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change

to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place\*;
- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

\*"place means a site, area or region, a building or other structure\* ..."

\*"structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground ..."

### **The Human Tissues Act (65 of 1983)**

This Act protects graves younger than 60 years. These fall under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Departments. Approval for the exhumation and re-burial must be obtained from the relevant Provincial MEC as well as the relevant Local Authorities.

## ANNEXURE B: TERMINOLOGY

Early Stone Age:	The Oldowan “chopper” tools dating to between 1.7 and 2 million in southern Africa and the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to $\pm$ 1.4 Myr – 250 000 yrs. before present.
Middle Stone Age:	Various lithic industries in SA dating from $\pm$ 250 000 yrs. - 22 000 yrs. before present.
Late Stone Age:	The period from $\pm$ 22 000 yrs. to the contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.
Early Iron Age:	Most of the first millennium AD.
Middle Iron Age:	10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD.
Late Iron Age:	14 <sup>th</sup> century to colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i>
Historical:	Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD 1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.
Phase 1 assessment:	Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area.
Phase 2 assessment:	In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling.
Sensitive:	Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. <i>Sensitive</i> may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.