

SPECIALIST REPORT

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR A
TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT
PORTION 1,4,& 5 OF THE FARM VLAKLAAGTE 221JR, VLAKLAAGTE,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**REPORT COMPILED FOR
AFRIKA Enviro & Biology**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on a 70ha section on *portion 1, 4, & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, which will be developed as a residential township.

The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2528BD, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and the Nkangala District 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 Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (the current owners of the site), is requesting a proposed township establishment, to provide more low cost housing. The proposed site is approximately 70 ha.

The area for the proposed township development (70 ha), is currently vacant, and was previously used for agricultural purposes on fertile land and grazing on areas of low potential. It is currently zoned as agricultural. The area was flat and accessible and visibility was excellent.

The proposed development is adjacent to numerous formal and informal settlements in all compass directions (Tweefontein, Phumula and Vlaklaagte). The local people currently use the area mainly for grazing their livestock (cattle) and collecting of medicinal plants. Mr Isaac Mahlangu and Marcos Mahlangu who were grazing their cattle in the study area, have lived there since 1984. They provided additional information during the survey and confirmed that there were no graves, cultural heritage features or settlements on the study area. All soil samples for geotechnical studies were investigated for archaeological remains. The survey revealed no archaeological or historical remains in the study area.

Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants states that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue.

Disclaimer: *Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study, Christine Rowe trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.*

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

April 2014

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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR A
TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT: *PORTION 1, 4, & 5 OF THE FARM VLAKLAAGTE
221JR, VLAKLAAGTE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE***

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

The Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, (the current owners of the remaining extent of *portion 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*, is requesting the township establishment for a low-medium cost residential development with roads and municipal services. Approximately 500 stands will be supplied (**Appendix 5**). This section is approximately 70 ha in extent. The entire site is currently vacant and mainly flat. Fertile areas were historically used for agricultural purposes (except for the rocky western section), and grazing on areas of low potential. (**Appendix 4**). Numerous formal and informal settlements are located in all compass directions in the larger study area such as Vlaklaagte, Tweefontein and Phumula (**Appendix 3**). A large formal cemetery is located to the south and bordering the study area (**Fig. 16**).

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by AFRIKA Enviro & Biology to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources of the study area.

A literature study, relevant to the study area was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon (**Appendix 2**: Topographical Map: 2528 BD).

The aims for 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 features 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 resource will also be made. (The study area is indicated in **Appendix 1** Photographic evidence and **Appendix 2, 3, 4 & 5**).

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: AFRIKA Enviro & Biology, P.O. Box 2980, White River, 1240, Cell: 0726231845 / Fax: 0866038875.
- Type of development: 70 ha, are earmarked for township development, *portion 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*, Vlaklaagte, Mpumalanga Province.
- Rezoning for the proposed development will take place, as it is currently zoned as

agricultural.

- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The area falls within the Mpumalanga Province under the jurisdiction of the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, and the Nkangala District Municipality. It includes *portion 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*.
- Land owners: Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.
- **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 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):

- **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, determine that any

environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert AFRIKA Enviro & Biology specialists (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 resource, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such 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. This section does not apply, since no archaeological material was found which might be impacted upon by the proposed development.

- **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 construction work. This section does not apply since no graves were identified during the survey. This was also confirmed by Isaac Mahlangu and Marcos Mahlangu who lived in the area since 1984 and grazes their cattle in this section.

- **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 or foundations were observed in the study area.

- **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), provide 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**

In order to place the study area and Vlaklaagte in an archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel, Theal and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Küsel and Bergh, were consulted, as well as historic sources by Makhura and Webb.

There are no museums in the Vlaklaagte / KwaMhlanga area which could be consulted, and no historical information was available at the municipality. A cultural village near KwaMhlanga

only deals with the Ndebele culture with an objects display, but no historical information was available. The topographical map 2528BD revealed no disturbance on the site (**Appendix 2**). The entire section of the study area is currently utilized by the local people to collect medicinal plants and for livestock grazing (**Appendix 1, 3 & 4**).

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. According to Bergh, there are no recorded sites that date from the Stone Age, (including Rock paintings or engravings), or Iron Age (Early or Late) settlements. It can be confirmed that none of the above mentioned sites were encountered during the survey.¹

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

- 2012: Phase 1 Archaeological / HIA for the proposed residential Township (Moripe Garden): Remaining extent of portion 7 of the farm Kameelrivier 160JR, Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga – **foundations of recent date were identified**;
- 2014: Letter of recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 Archaeological and heritage investigation for the proposed township establishment on portion 3, Riekerts Laager 165JR, Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga – **no archaeological material was identified**.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the areas of KwaMhlanga & further in Bronkhorstspuit:

- BHP Billiton (2013); Status Quo and pre-mitigation HIA report for burials identified during a Phase 1 Impact assessment study for BHP Billiton energy coal SA, Wolvekrans colliery expansion project, Mpumalanga – **burial sites were identified**;
- J. Pistorius (2011): A phase 1 HIA study for Eskom's proposed Nokeng Fluorspar project: The construction of a proposed new 132 Kv power line, Limpopo Province – **revealed 2 graveyards and 3 historical houses**;
- A. Pelser (2014): Phase 1 AIA – Eagles Pride Hatchery, Nooitgedacht 525JR, Mpumalanga Province, **revealed 2 grave sites, historical farmhouse and 2 possible LIA features**;
- JP Celliers (2013): Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment in respect of the proposed Funda Poultry Abbator on the farm Gemsbokfontein 231 JP, Gauteng – **no**

¹ J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, pp. 4-7

sites of archaeological or heritage value were identified during the survey.

Previous archaeological surveys by heritage practitioners in the immediate and wider area revealed mostly burial sites and historic features. Two possible LIA features were identified near Bronkhorstspuit.

The Vlaklaagte / KwaMhlanga area was very sparsely populated during the 19th century (See **Map 1**, Van Warmelo). Bergh ² does not indicate any cultural groups specific to the Vlaklaagte. KwaMhlanga area, and no disruption took place in this section during the *difaqane*. The surrounding areas from Middelburg, Pretoria, Warmbaths (Bela Bela), and Nylstroom were inhabited by the Ndebele, and small groups of KôPa (baSotho) and Kgatla. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, does not include this area. It is however accepted that the *Ndzundza* Ndebele, Manala Ndebele and Hawduba Ndebele were the dominant groups as they do occur extensively in the surrounding areas since the 18th century,³ and the current local inhabitants consist of various groups including mainly Ndebele, and to a minor extent Sotho and Pedi.⁴

The extensive graveyard to the south and bordering the study area revealed mainly Ndebele surnames of local people who were buried there.

- **AmaNDEBELE**

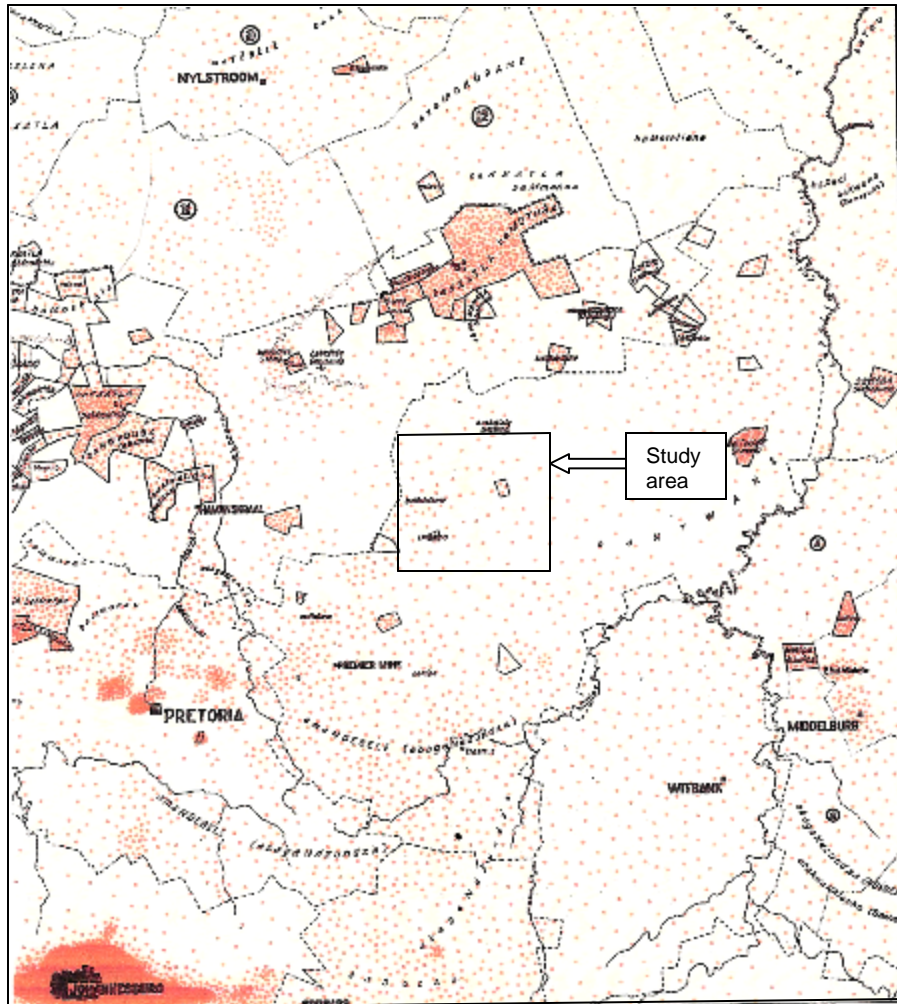
According to Van Warmelo, the *amaNdebele* are the earliest known offshoot of the *Nguni* group. The Ndebele is divided into two groups, the Southern and the Northern, and they are separated from one another. A certain legendary chief *Msi* or *Musi* heads a list of about twenty-five successive chiefs who lived just north of where Pretoria now stands. His two sons were *Manala* and *Ndzundza* and form the most important tribes of the Southern group. The *abagaNdzundza* moved eastwards and settled near Roos Senekal, and it is said that some of *Manala*'s followers, the *abagaManala*, settled in the Witbank district. The tribes slowly broke up after the days of the Republic.⁵

² *Ibid.*, p. 10.

³ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 18.

⁴ Siyabuswa Mpumalanga, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siyabuswa,_Mpumalanga

⁵ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 87.



Map 1: Van Warmelo: The study area of Vlaklaagte, was historically sparsely populated.

- **CENTRAL SOTHO**

The tribes in this group were at one time largely under the rule of the baPedi, who's last independent king was *Sekhukhune*, who's stronghold was to the east of Siyabuswa (Steelpoort area), although his domain was extremely large.⁶ Great numbers of *baSotho* who belong to the above group, who still speak *sePedi* but which became detribalized, live in the districts of Middelburg, Lydenburg, Witbank and Springs. They mingled freely with other groups such as the Zulu, Swazi and Tonga.

- **HISTORY OF KWAMHLANGA / VLAKLAAGTE**

During the apartheid era, Siyabuswa was the capital of the KwaNdebele Bantustan.⁷ It served

⁶ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.108.

⁷ Siyabuswa Mpumalanga, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siyabuswa_Mpumalanga

as a capital from 1981 to 1986 when KwaMhlanga replaced it. Most of its inhabitants are members of the Ndebele ethnic group. KwaMhlanga which is approximately 18km south of Vlaklaagte, is the spiritual home of the Ndebele that settled here in the 18th century. Some of the Ndebele Royal Kraals are situated near KwaMhlanga.⁸ Apart from Ndebele, Sotho and Zulu are also spoken in the area.

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

The proposed project will involve the following: Approximately 70 ha, are earmarked for residential township development, to also be known as Vlaklaagte, similar to the surrounding formal and informal areas. The area is currently vacant and mostly flat except for the western section which forms a slight and even rise towards a shallow rocky ridge. Further west (outside the study area) the ridge is slightly more prominent as it slopes down to the Klipspruit river. The majority of the site (the flat area) has historically been transformed by agricultural activities (See google image **Appendix 3 & 4**). Grazing of cattle and the collection of medicinal plants, are the main current negative impacts in these areas. The Klipspruit river is north and west of the study area (**Appendix 2 & 3**).

The proposed area for development is situated on *portion 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*, and is currently vacant land. This section has been transformed by historic agricultural activities, except for the section along the western border which is still naturally vegetated and rocky terrain. A water pipeline runs parallel to the western border from south to north in the rocky area (**Appendix 3 & 4**). Vegetation consists of low shrubs and grassland. The land belongs to the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, and is zoned as agricultural.⁹

D. LOCALITY

The property is located 18km to the north of KwaMhlanga, in an area named Vlaklaagte, directly to the west of the R573 road, in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. This is within the Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. Approximately 70ha will be used for a low-medium cost residential development with roads, and municipal services. The Klipspruit river is north and west of the study area (**Appendix 1-4**).

⁸ KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga, <http://www.za-places.co.za/mpumalanga/kwamhlanga.html>., Access 2014-05-03.

⁹ Danie van der Walt: Specialist Biodiversity Report, Vlaklaagte, p. 1-8.

The proposed area for development is situated on *portion 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*, and is currently vacant land.

The site is characterized by the following features:

- Numerous formal and informal settlements are located in all compass directions in the larger study area;
- The Klipspruit river is towards the north and west of the section;
- Nationally, and in broad classification, the site is situated within the Mixed Bushveld (A18) veld type according to Alcocks (1988) and Mixed Bushveld according to Low & Rebelo (1998). It is also classified as Central Sandy Bushveld in Mucina & Rutherford (2006).¹⁰
- The southern and eastern areas of the study area, are underlain by granite of the Lebowa Granite Suite. In the north, sedimentary rocks of the Waterberg Group are most important. Rock formations are dominated by sandstone, conglomerate, siltstone and shale. Soils vary from deep Hutton to Clovelly and shallow Glenrosa soil types.¹¹

- **Description of methodology:**

The topographical Map, (**Appendix 2**), and Google images of the site (**Appendix 3 & 4**), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17th century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information.
- Specialists currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology have also been consulted on the subject.

-Literary sources: A number of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were consulted, and revealed sparse information;

-The SAHRA database for archaeological sites, was consulted.

¹⁰ Danie van der Walt: Specialist Biodiversity Report, Vlaklaagte, p. 1-8

¹¹ Danie van der Walt: Specialist Biodiversity Report, Vlaklaagte, p. 9.

- Voight's *Guide to Archaeological sites in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal* was also consulted.¹²

- The fieldwork and survey was conducted extensively on foot and with a vehicle, with two people.
- The area was previously transformed by agricultural activities except for the section along the western border. There is a drainage line towards the east, just outside the study area. The Klipspruit river runs towards the north and west. The study area is used for livestock grazing, and collecting of medicinal plants.
- The terrain was even and accessible, and visibility ranged from excellent to good. A small section is in rocky terrain towards the west, and the area consists mainly of granite, sandstone, conglomerate, siltstone and shale. (**Appendix 3 & 4**).
- 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.
- The area surveyed, was extensively tracked with a GPS instrument (Garmin Etrex).
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999);
- Personal communication with relevant stakeholders on the specific study area, were held, such as the ecologist, Mr. Danie van der Walt and local inhabitants Mr. Isaac Mahlangu and Marcos Mahlangu who lived in the area for at least twenty years.
- **GPS: Co-ordinates of the perimeters of the study area:**

The co-ordinates were provided by the ecologist, Mr. Danie van der Walt.

CO-ORDINATES		
STUDY AREA	SOUTH	EAST
A1	S25°22'24.7"	E28°51'23.1"
B1	S25°22'18.4"	E28°51'08.2"
C1	S25°22'17.2"	E28°50'46.7"
D1	S25°21'29.5"	E28°50'44.7"
E1	S25°21'35.9"	E28°51'15.1"
F1	S25°22'14.5"	E28°51'10.0"

¹² E. Voigt: *Guide to Archaeological sites in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal*.

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the appendices, which indicate the areas, and which corresponds with the summary below. Photographs in **Appendix 1**, show the general view of the study area. The visibility ranged from excellent to good. Several soil samples were taken for geotechnical studies, and they were all investigated for archaeological remains.

Soil Sample	Description / Comments	Co-ordinate
A, near point C1	Soil sample near point C1, revealed no archaeological or historical remains.	S25° 22' 09.4" E28° 50' 47.9" Elev: 1380m
B	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 21' 57.4" E28° 50' 48.5" Elev: 1374m
C	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 21' 51.7" E28° 50' 49.4" Elev: 1376m
D	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 21' 45.7" E28° 50' 49.4" Elev: 1372m
E	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 21' 39.5" E28° 50' 49.4" Elev: 1367m
F	Soil sample near E1 revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 21' 33.5" E28° 50' 49.7" Elev: 1363m
G	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 21' 48.0" E28° 51' 11.9" Elev: 1367m
H	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 22' 08.8" E28° 51' 14.8" Elev: 1371m
I	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 22' 15.5" E28° 51' 11.0" Elev: 1371m
J	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 21' 50.6" E28° 50' 58.6" Elev: 1367m
K	Soil sample revealed no archaeological or historical remains	S25° 22' 25.2" E28° 51' 03.0" Elev: 1378m

The soil samples were all studied intensively and proved to be sterile. No archaeological or historical remains were present in any of the samples (**Fig. 13 & 14**). A total of eleven soil samples were studied.

The features listed below are all outside of the study area:

Site	Description / Comments	Co-ordinate
Formal Cemetery	This formal cemetery is fenced in with a concrete fence which is broken in places. It falls outside of the study area. Fig. 16.	S25° 22' 42.7" E28° 51' 00.3" Elev: 1354m
Concrete dam	The concrete dam falls outside the study area. Fig. 15.	S25° 21' 50.09" E28° 51' 19.83" Elev: 1355m

Study area: Portion 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR:

The study area was extensively surveyed on foot and per vehicle for any remains of archaeological or historical nature. Visibility ranged from excellent to fair. Most of the area was historically used for agricultural purposes as seen on the google images (**Appendix 3 & 4, Fig. 1-7**). The western border is situated in a rocky section which is the only natural section on the study area as the soil was not transformed by plowing activities (**Appendix 4; Fig. 11 & 12**). A pipeline runs from south to north on the western border (**Fig. 8**).

The study area is surrounded by formal and informal settlements known as Vlaklaagte, Tweefontein and Phumula townships. The land is currently vacant grassland with low shrubs in the rocky section (**Appendix 4, Fig. 3,4, 11, 12**).

The local inhabitants utilize the area for livestock grazing, harvesting of firewood where possible, and collecting medicinal plants. The area belongs to the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. Mr. Isaac Mahlangu who grew up in the area and Marcos Mahlangu who lived here since 1984, were interviewed and confirmed that there were no known graves in the study area.¹³

The area revealed no visible archaeological or historical features. The concrete dam (**Fig. 15**) and formal cemetery (**Fig. 16**) which were identified, fall outside of the study area.

¹³ Personal communication: Mr. I Mahlangu & M Mahlangu, 2014-04-29.

F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPONENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
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
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:**

<i>Context</i>		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	Vacant land
Natural environmental context	No	Partly natural, but mostly transformed by historical agricultural activities
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
<i>Other</i>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	NA

Context		
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
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	Most of the area were historically transformed by agricultural activities
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?	Yes	The western section of the study area is the foot of a rocky ridge
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	The Klipspruit is situated towards the north of the study area and a wetland is situated towards the east. Both fall outside the area of study.

<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
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	None were identified.
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- MENTS	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK
		Histo rical	Rare	Sci enti fic	Typi cal	Tech- nolog ical	Aes thetic	Pers on / com munit y	Land mark	Mate rial con dition	Sust aina bility	
Buildings / structure s of cultural significan ce	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	NA

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Historical settlement/ townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Summarised recommended impact management interventions

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE <i>Cultural significance rating</i>		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significanc	Impact significanc		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeologic al / palaeontolog ical sites	No	None	None	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	No	None	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	No foundations 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 IN THE STUDY AREA

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.¹⁴ It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA,

¹⁴National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

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.¹⁵

- **The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features in the study area, can be summarised as follows:**

Field rating:

No archaeological or historical features were observed in the study area. Most of the area was historically transformed by agricultural activities (**Appendix 4**). No archaeological or historical features were observed in the remaining natural rocky ridge on the western border, or in the eleven soil samples. A concrete dam and formal cemetery on the east and southern border, fall outside of the study area.

The SAHRA database was consulted for information on archaeological and heritage impact assessments in the immediate vicinity. No previous research was done in the immediate study area and the HIA to the north, at Siyabuswa revealed no archaeological features. A few impact assessments were done in the Bronkhorstspuit area approximately 60km south of Vlaklaagte, but none of these reports revealed any significant archaeological or historical material.

H. RECOMMENDATIONS

Presently most of the study area has already been transformed and degraded as a result of historic agricultural activities. The assessment on the study area revealed no archaeological or heritage features which will be impacted upon by the proposed development. Based on the findings in this report, Adansonie Heritage Consultants cc, have no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed residential township development of the remaining extent on *portion 1, 4 & 5 of the farm Vlaklaagte 221JR*, to continue.

¹⁵National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

I. 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 therefore recommended that the developers be made aware of this possibility and when human remains, clay or ceramic pottery etc. are observed, a qualified archaeologist must be notified and an assessment be done. Further research might then be necessary in this regard for which the developer will be responsible.

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

J. REFERENCES

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

- JP Cilliers, Archaeologist, Lydenburg Museum, 2014-04-23.
- Mr. Isaac Mahlangu, 2014-04-29.
- A. Pelser, Archaeologist and Principal Investigator, 2014-03-11.
- Danie van der Walt: Biologist, White River, 0726231845, 2014-02-13.

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