

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THE BIZANA AREA**

For: TERRATEST

PHONE: +27 (33) 347-2992

AUGUST 2008

Knight Piésold
CONSULTING

**Knight Piésold (Pty) Limited
Consulting Engineers
& Environmental Scientists**

**P O Box 383
Westville
3630**

Tel: +27 31 266 8072

Fax: +27 31 266 4668

e-mail: ebecker@knightpiesold.com

CONTENTS

2		
1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3
3.	METHODOLOGY	6
4.	LEGISLATION	7
5.	POTENTIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES	7
6.	PROCESSES TO BE FOLLOWED IF HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE UNCOVERED	10
7.	RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD	9
8.	GUIDELINES ON THE GENERAL CONDITIONS	10
9.	CONCLUSIONS	11
10.	RESOURCES	12

1. INTRODUCTION

Knight Piésold Consulting has been requested to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the proposed Bizana Borrow Pits project in the Mbizana Municipal area, Eastern Cape. The purpose of the Heritage Impact Assessment is to identify any heritage resources or areas of cultural relevance that may be impacted on by the development proposal. Such resources or areas are considered protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), and any proposals that may disturb or destroy these heritage resources would therefore be subject to the necessary application processes or procedures as decided by the relevant heritage authorities. The following document provides information with regards to the location of possible Heritage Resources, the coordinates of any resources already identified and the proposed recommendations on the way forward.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project area is situated along the R61 Bizana-Port Edward Road, between the Umtamvuna and Mtentu Rivers, within the closest large town being Bizana. The borrow pits under investigation have all been mined at some point in the past by permit approval of the local municipality, however under new legislation, approval has to be obtained by the relevant Environmental Authority before mining can commence. In terms of this approval, the current investigation is aimed at determining the heritage impacts to the various sites, given that the borrow pits will be reopened and extended for mining activities. The borrow pits are all located in close proximity to rural settlement areas, as well as the rural roads that the excavated material will service.

Currently the areas proposed for borrow pit development are already disturbed in terms of previous mining activities undertaken by the local municipality. The dirt roads in the area are of poor quality and inadequately maintained as a result of funding constraints. The main objective of mining the borrow pits is to utilize the excavated material for the upgrade of poorly maintained roads, and to provide improved access to surrounding villages, schools, clinics as well as to the town of Bizana.

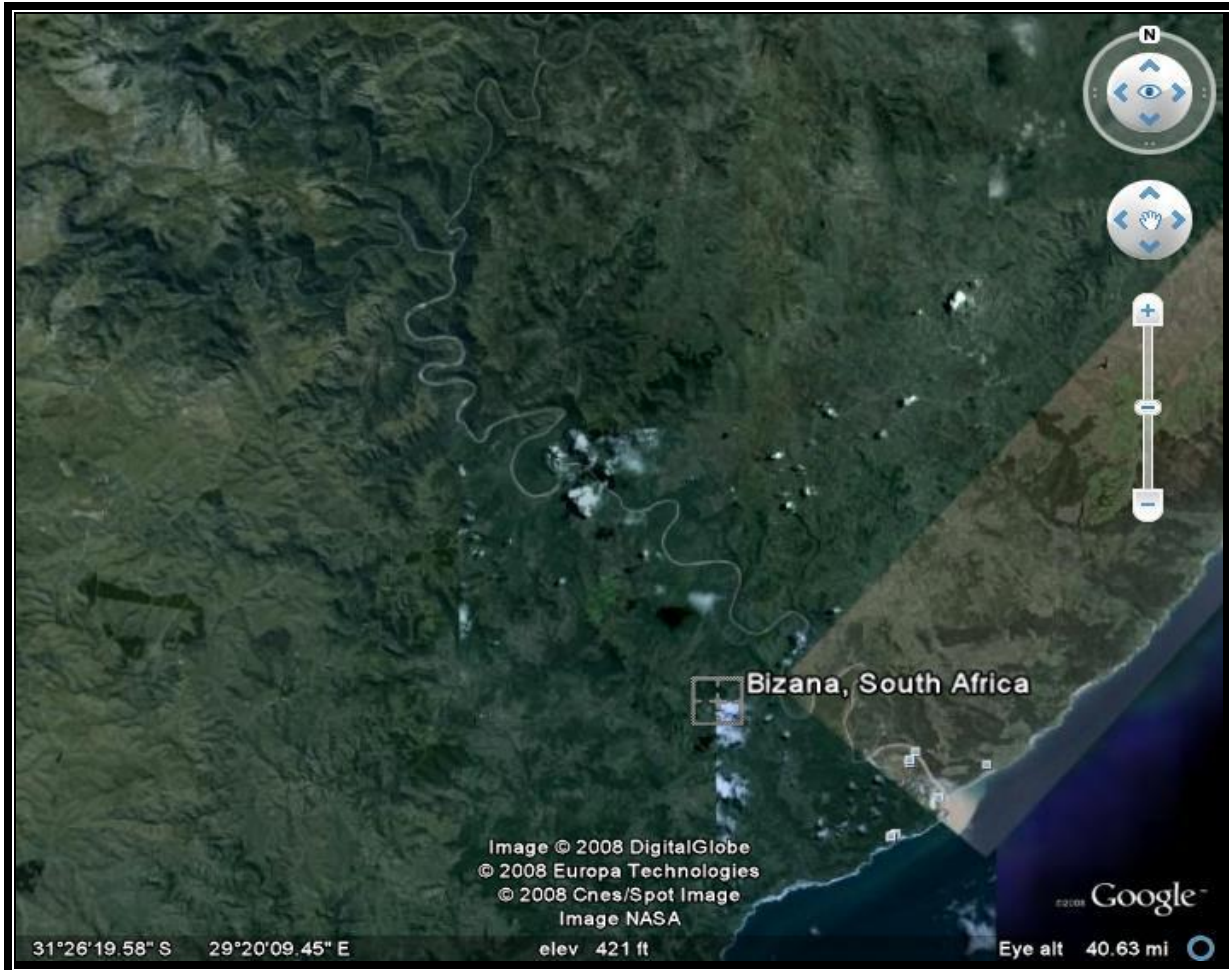


Figure 1: Borrow Pit Mining is proposed for areas North and South of the Bizana Town.

3. CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE BIZANA AREA

Heritage resources that could potentially be impacted by borrow pit mining include those that are known as “intangible” assets/resources. Intangible Cultural Heritage, can be defined as “non-physical characteristics, practices, representations, expressions as well as knowledge and skills that identify and define a group or civilization” (UNESCO, 2003).

The concept of intangible heritage extends to the following (UNESCO, 2003):

- oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
- music, dance, drama and other performing arts
- social practices, rituals and festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- traditional craftsmanship

The intangible heritage resources in the Bizana area are of significance, as grave sites and sites of worship constitute intangible cultural heritage and are common throughout the region. In rural areas such as Bizana the local community will hold ceremonies which are usually located in close proximity to homesteads, cultivated lands and hilltop areas. Identifying these resources is often difficult as the areas of worship are not necessarily visible, and often the community are not comfortable disclosing this kind of information to strangers. Worship usually entails ceremonies at specific times during the day which form part of the ancestral religion of the community. The belief system entails the worship of ancestors and it may happen that some of the graves consist of remains of important Chieftoms or Traditional leaders in the area. In order to respect the needs of the local community along with their beliefs, it is important that grave sites and places of worship are not impacted upon by the proposed borrow pits.

4. METHODOLOGY

A site survey was necessary to provide insight into the type of environment, location of the site, the surrounding activities and the possible social problems that may occur if the proposed borrow pits are re-opened:

- A project orientation process was undertaken at a desktop level to better understand the nature of the activity and the extent of the development proposal.
- Terratest Consulting provided copies of the technical reports that stipulated the proposed construction activities as well as the coordinates of the
- A site meeting with BKS Engineering and Knight Piésold Consulting was held on the 24th and 25th of July 2008. The objectives of this meeting were for the project team to meet together onsite to better understand the receiving environment.
- A site investigation was undertaken on the 24th and 25th of July 2008. The investigation required a detailed reconnaissance foot survey, where a qualified heritage practitioner assessed the potential for heritage resources to be impacted on by the route proposed and/or the construction activities necessary to upgrade the access road. The survey was completed by determining the actual GPS coordinates at the proposed locations of the borrow pits. The various sites were accessed by 4X4 four vehicle and at strategic points a foot survey was completed to determine if any heritage objects were located at the surface level. Areas that possibly could yield information with regard to grave sites were inspected closely. The position of the borrow pits in relation to the existing homesteads and cultivated land areas assisted in the determination of where possible graves could be.
- A desktop investigation into the history of the area including an internet search and consultation with any relevant authorities.
- The compilation of the report and the determination of a way forward.

5. LEGISLATION

Under current Legislation, Heritage Resources located within the Eastern Cape are protected in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). The following heritage resources are under the protection of the National Heritage Act and are listed below:

- 1) *Structures: Any structures which are older than 60 years*
- 2) *Burial Grounds and Graves;*
- 3) *Battlefields and public monuments and memorials;*
- 4) *Archaeology, rock art, palaeontology, battlefields and meteorite sites*
- 5) *Objects (pottery, stone tools, spear heads etc.)*

6. POTENTIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

Out of the eight proposed borrow pits, two sites were identified as sensitive. These are described in table 1 below:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Y Coordinate</u>	<u>X Coordinate</u>	<u>Borrow Pit Name</u>	<u>Site Description</u>	<u>Heritage Resource</u>	<u>Significance</u>
1	29 -095242	3436793	BKS3	Hilltop Sacred Area of Worship	A) Living heritage B) Prehistoric Settlement Area	High
2	29-0094469	3434652	BKS1	Hilltop Cultivated Area	C) Existing Graves	High

Table 1: Brief description of the Heritage Resources identified by the Cultural Heritage Specialist

Site Number 1:

Resource A: Living Heritage- A homestead is situated close to the hilltop area that is known to be used as a worship area. The worship area is allocated for ceremonial purposes and is specifically prepared to pay tribute to the ancestors. As a result the area is highly sensitive in terms of the living Heritage Resources that occur at the site and may not be disturbed in any way. Living Heritage Resources are defined by cultural activities of importance that are intangible and of sacred or religious importance to the local community.



Figure 2: Living Heritage Area that is located in the close proximity of an ancestral worship site

Resource B: Prehistoric Settlement Area- The hilltop displays traces of previous human settlement areas that are protected in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). Stone circles are situated on the hilltop and are also located close proximity to the worship area described above. Stone circles are an indication of possible historical human occupation areas and settlement patterns that occurred in the past.



Figure 3: Prehistoric Settlement Area that requires further investigation

Site Number 2:

Resource C: Existing Grave Sites- The site is identified by an existing hilltop and cultivated land zone that is surrounded by a homestead and a grave yard close to the hilltop area. The graveyard is an indication of a possible ancestor worship area that is highly sensitive in terms of the living Heritage Resources of the Bizana region.



Figure 4: Graves located on the hilltop

7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Of the eight proposed borrow pits, six are deemed to not be of any cultural heritage significance, whilst the two sites mentioned above contain significant resources. In light of this, it is recommended by the specialist that alternative borrow pits be sought for these two sites (BKS 3 and BKS 1) to avoid disturbing these sensitive areas. If this is not possible then South African Heritage Resources Agency would need to be contacted in order for them to decide how to proceed. This could include a permit application process for grave removal and relocation. In addition to this the local community is to be notified of the borrow pit development, and that graves may possibly be disturbed. The descendants of the graves are to be identified and permission is required from the descendants and local community to decide on the future of the graves. The graves are not allowed to be disturbed in any way without the approval of the stakeholders involved.

For the six remaining sites it is recommended that the development proceed within the conditions stipulated by the South African Heritage Resources Agency and sensitivity must be taken in areas close to homesteads or cultivated fields that may contain unmarked graves. The local community must be contacted on a regular basis to determine the existence of any sacred areas that may occur in the area and the sacred sites are not to be disturbed.

8. PROCESSES TO BE FOLLOWED IF HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE UNCOVERED

In the event of uncovering new heritage resources during development stages it is advised that development cease immediately and that the South African Heritage Resources Agency as well as Knight Piésold are contacted immediately. The specialist (Archaeologist) will investigate the area and determine the sensitivity of the new finds. The specialist will in coordination of the South African Heritage Resources Agency make recommendations in terms of the rescue of new heritage resources and on following the correct permit procedure. A monitoring process will be required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency to ensure that the permit conditions stipulated are followed correctly.

9. GUIDELINES ON THE GENERAL CONDITIONS

The following conditions should be included in the approval as well as in the Record of Decision (ROD) provided by the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs:

- a) In the event of the uncovering of graves during development activities South African Heritage Resources Agency must be contacted immediately and development must cease until further decision making is finalised;
- b) In the event of uncovering of Heritage Objects South African Heritage Resources Agency must be contacted and development must cease until further decision making is finalised.

10. CONCLUSIONS

Of the eight proposed borrow pits only two are deemed sensitive. The two sensitive sites are protected by law and therefore should not be disturbed in any way without the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency. If possible, new borrow pit sites should be located as an alternative to the two sensitive sites. For the remaining six sites it is envisaged that the mining activities will have a minimal impact on heritage resources as the sites are already significantly disturbed by previous activities. It is important to acknowledge that heritage resources may still be uncovered during earthmoving activities, and in such an event the developer is required to follow the conditions provided as per the South African Heritage Resources Agency and the ROD.

11. RESOURCES

Amafa KZN Heritage

Beinart William, Joyini Inkomo: Cattle Advances and the Origins of Migrancy from Pondoland, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Apr., 1979), pp. 199-219

Beinart William, Transkeian Migrant Workers and Youth Labour on the Natal Sugar Estates 1918-1948, *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (1991), pp. 41-63

Bizana History: Available online at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bizana> and <http://www.sahistory.org.za/pages/governanceprojects/pondoland%20rebellion/pondoland->

Hammond-Tooke W.D, The Transkeian Council System 1895-1955: An Appraisal *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 9, No. 3 (1968), pp. 455-477

Redding S, Government Witchcraft: Taxation, the Supernatural, and the Mpondo Revolt in the Transkei, South Africa, 1955-1963, *African Affairs*, Vol. 95, No. 381 (October, 1996), pp. 555-579

UNESCO. Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. (October 2003), Report MISC/2003/CLT/CH/14. Available online @ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001325/132540e.pdf>