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**HERITAGE SCOPING REPORT (BASIC  
ASSESSMENT): PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON ERF  
1802, NORTHAM EXTENSION 6, THABAZIMBI LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY, WATERBERG DISTRICT  
MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**



**PREPARED FOR:**

**Roline van Essen  
Rock Environmental Consulting**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 23 July 2008**

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**HERITAGE SCOPING (BASIC ASSESSMENT) REPORT: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 1802, NORTHAM EXTENSION 6, THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Roline van Essen, Rock Environmental Consulting  
**DATE OF SUBMISSION:** 23 July 2008

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report fulfils the requirements for a Heritage Scoping (Basic Assessment) Report as provided for in Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act 25 of 1999). This report also fulfils the requirements of a Specialist Study in accordance with the EIA Regulations and procedures.

The investigation was carried out by an independent generalist heritage practitioner, Dr RC de Jong (Cultmatrix cc).

The site for the proposed development consists of Erf 1802, located in Northam Extension 6.

The development site is located on the south-east corner of Northam Extension 6, at the intersection of the Road 510 between Thabazimbi and Mogwase on the road between Northam and Mnoopyane. The site itself is flat and featureless with a cover of bushveld trees and tall grass. It is surrounded by roads and is also used as a short-cut by pedestrians and a site for dumping rubble.

The aim of the investigation was to identify heritage resources and to analyse and recommend heritage management mitigation measures and monitoring programmes.

The objectives were to identify, verify and assess heritage resources, to analyse heritage issues, to research the chronology of the site and its role in the broader context, to undertake a comprehensive assessment of heritage significance, to analyse the nature and scale of the proposed development, to establish the compatibility of the proposed development with heritage and other statutory frameworks and to assess alternatives in order to promote heritage conservation issues.

No tangible heritage resources of cultural significance were identified and plotted.

Based on the above findings, Cultmatrix will support the proposed development. We recommend that:

- SAHRA exempts the applicant from complying with the requirements of submitting a full Heritage Impact Assessment because no heritage resources of significance have been identified;
  - SAHRA authorises the proposed development upon the following conditions:
1. Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations for the proposed project (unlikely), these should immediately be reported to Cultmatrix. Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by an archaeologist.
  2. Site clearing and preparation activities must be monitored for the occurrence of any other archaeological material (Stone Age tools, Iron Age artefacts, historic waste disposal sites etc) and similar chance finds and an archaeologist should be asked to inspect the area when this has reached an advanced stage in order to verify the presence or absence of any such material.



**R C DE JONG**  
Principal Member: Cultmatrix cc



## PART 1: DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

The structure of this report is based on:

- SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY, Heritage Impact Assessment: Notification of intent to develop (form)
- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF THE WESTERN CAPE, 2005, Guideline for involving heritage specialists in EIA processes (document)
- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND TOURISM, Integrated Environmental Management Guidelines
- SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY, 2006, *Minimum standards: Archaeological and palaeontological components of impact assessment reports* (unpublished).
- WORLD BANK, *Environmental Assessment Sourcebook Update No 8, September 1994: Cultural Heritage in Environmental Assessment.*
- Best-practice HIA reports submitted by Cultmatrix and other heritage consultants

### 1.1 Background

#### 1.1.1 General

This HIA report is part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a development on Erf 1802, Northam Extension 6, Northam, Limpopo.

The Northam area has a long history of human use and occupation, initiated by Stone and Iron Age communities and culminating in permanent colonial settlement in the 1850s. It includes a range of heritage resources as defined in the *National Heritage Resources Act* (Act 25 of 1999):

- Places, buildings and structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- Places to which oral traditions are attached or that are associated with intangible heritage (ceremonies, memories, festivals, economic use etc);
- Historical settlements and townscapes;
- Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- Graves and burial grounds;
- Archaeological sites;
- Sites related to the history of farm labour.

Established in the 1940s, Northam has expanded with the result that very little, if anything, has remained of its pre-colonial and colonial heritage.

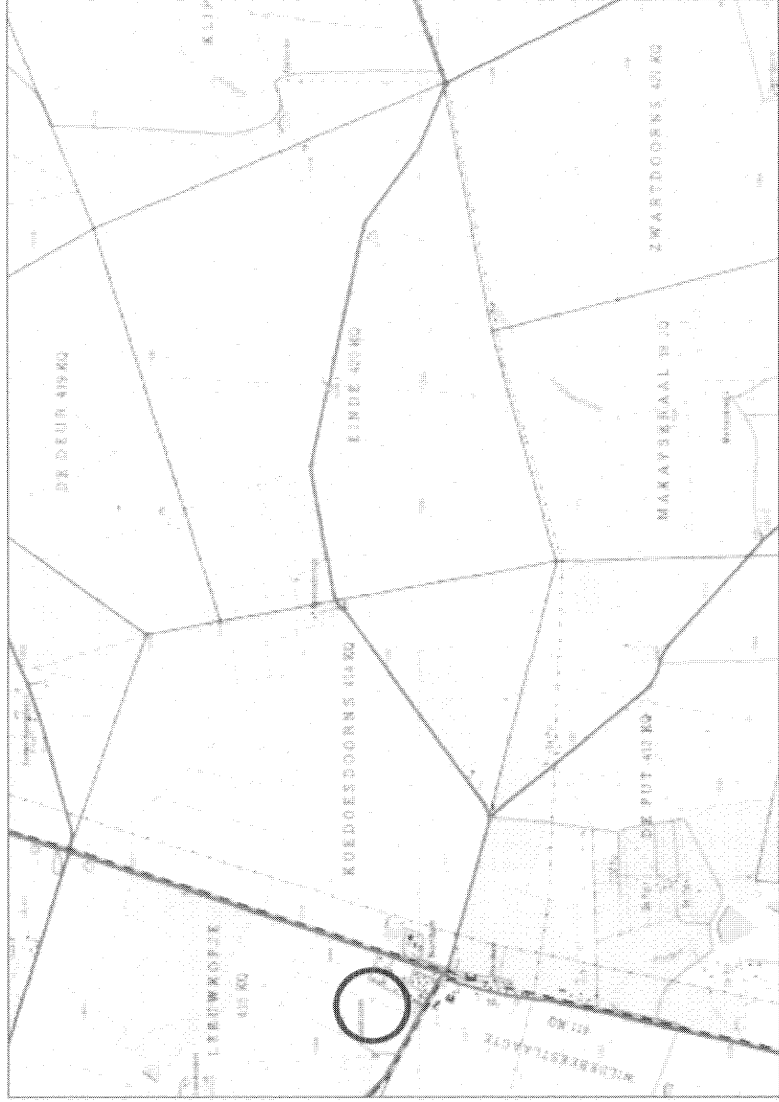
Rock Environmental Consulting (independent EIA consultants appointed by the developers) appointed Cultmatrix cc as an independent heritage consultant to conduct a heritage impact assessment of places, buildings, objects and structures of cultural significance found within the boundaries of the area that is to be impacted upon directly and indirectly by the layout of the proposed development.

#### 1.1.2 Terms of reference

This investigation is a heritage scoping (basic assessment) concerning the proposed development in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

The general aim of the study was to identify heritage resources and to recommend heritage management mitigation measures and monitoring programmes.

The general objectives were to analyse heritage issues, to research the chronology of the site and its role in the broader context, to undertake a comprehensive assessment of heritage significance, to analyse the nature and scale of the proposed development, to establish the compatibility of the proposed development with heritage and other statutory frameworks and to assess alternatives in order to promote heritage conservation issues.



**FIGURE 1: Map 2427 CD Northam (1980) indicating location of the proposed development area. North is at the top.**



**FIGURE 2: Google Earth image of the development site and environmental context**

## 1.2 Study approach

### 1.2.1 Definitions and assumptions

The following aspects have a direct bearing on the investigation and the resulting report:

- *Cultural (heritage) resources* are all non-physical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- The *significance* of the sites and artefacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.
- The *value* is related to concepts such as *worth, merit, attraction or appeal*, concepts that are associated with the (current) usefulness and condition of a place or an object. Hence, in the development area, there are instances where elements of the place have a high level of significance but a lower level of value.
- It must be kept in mind that significance and value are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any feature is based on a combination or balance between the two.
- *Isolated occurrences*: findings of artefacts or other remains located apart from archaeological sites. Although these are noted and samples are collected, it is not used in impact assessment and therefore do not feature in the report.
- *Traditional cultural use*: resources which are culturally important to people.
- All archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 100 years and historic structures older than 60 years are protected by the relevant legislation, in this case the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999). No archaeological artefact, assemblage or settlement (site) and no historical building or structure older than 60 years may be altered, moved or destroyed without the necessary authorisation from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or a provincial heritage resources authority. Full cognisance is taken of this Act in making recommendations in this report.
- The guidelines as provided by the NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999) in Section 3, with special reference to subsection 3, and the Australian ICOMOS Charter (also known as the Burra Charter) are used when determining the cultural significance or other special value of archaeological or historical sites.
- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should artefacts or skeletal material be revealed at the site during construction, such activities should be halted, and it would be required that the heritage consultants would be required to be notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 36 (6)).

### 1.2.2 Limiting/Restricting factors

The investigation has been influenced by the following factors related to the overall HIA:

- Availability and reliability of baseline information about the affected area;
- Unpredictability of buried archaeological/palaeontological remains (absence of evidence does not mean evidence of absence);
- Difficulty in establishing any intangible heritage issues.

### 1.2.3 Field work

The approach used in the study entailed a foot survey of the proposed site. The assessment took place in June 2008.

### 1.2.4 Desktop study

Published literature was sourced, an assessment of archival information was done and cadastral information was obtained from the Chief Surveyor-General's website.

## 1.3 Legal context of the HIA

### 1.3.1 Section 38 of the NHRA

This study constitutes a heritage scoping (basic assessment) linked to the environmental impact scoping and 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)(a) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) requires the submission of a heritage impact assessment report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, SAHRA.

Heritage conservation and management in South Africa (excluding KwaZulu Natal on a provincial level) is governed by the *National Heritage Resources Act* (Act 25 of 1999) (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:

- Construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length
- Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- Development or other activity that will change the character of a site -
  - Exceeding 5000 sq m
  - Involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions
  - Involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years
  - Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m
  - The costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority
- Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds

The proposed development covers an area larger than 5000 sq m and is therefore a listed activity in terms of the NHRA.

In addition, the new EIA Regulations promulgated in terms of NEMA determine that any environmental reports will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report (in its final form) is to alert the developer, the environmental consultant, the provincial environmental department and SAHRA about existing heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigatory measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings and 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 implementation of these interventions constitutes separate, follow-up projects with separate permits.

Because of the size of the development, authorisation will be given or facilitated by SAHRA. Final reports should therefore be submitted by the client (or, if agreed to, by Cultmatrix) to the Polokwane offices for authorisation.

In terms of the ECA, Section 38(1) of the NHRA is also applicable – thus any person undertaking any development in the categories of Section 38 (1) a-e, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding

the location, nature and extent of the proposed development. In the case of an EIA, comments from the responsible heritage resources agency based on a heritage scoping report are required.

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.

This HIA forms part of an EIA for the site.

Based on the Basic Assessment report, SAHRA will be able to authorise in principle the proposed development with certain conditions. These conditions have been included in this report. Because no heritage resources have been identified, SAHRA Limpopo may be able to exempt the applicant from complying with the requirements of a full HIA.

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 relevant 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 resources require formal protection, i.e. as a Grade I, II or III resource, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such Grading.

**1.3.2 Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA to destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section only would apply in the case of chance finds of archaeological deposits, which is unlikely.

**1.3.3 Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 (3) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (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. This section will only apply if burial sites are uncovered, which is unlikely.

**1.3.4 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 to the development site due the absence of features older than 60 years.

**1.4 Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1)**

1.4	Development criteria in terms of Section 38(1)	Yes/No details
1.4.1	Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	No
1.4.2	Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length	No
1.4.3	Development exceeding 5000 sq m	Yes
1.4.4	Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions	No
1.4.5	Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years	No
1.4.6	Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sq m	No
1.4.7	Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds	No



**1.5 Property ownership**

<b>1.5 Property owners</b>	
1.5.1 Farm	Northam X 6, portion of Leeuwkopje 415 KQ
1.5.2 Name and contract address	
1.5.3 Telephone number	
1.5.4 Fax number	
1.5.5 E-mail	

**1.6 Developer**

<b>1.6 Developer</b>	
1.6.1 Name and contact address	
1.6.2 Telephone number	
1.6.3 Fax	
1.6.4 E-mail	

**1.7 Environmental specialist**

<b>1.7 Environmental Specialist</b>	
1.7.1 Name and contact address	Roline van Essen, Rock Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 40541, Moreleta Park 0044
1.7.2 Telephone number	(012) 997 4742
1.7.3 Fax	(012) 997 0415
1.7.4 E-mail	

**1.8 Heritage impact assessment specialists**

<b>1.8 Specialist (1)</b>	
1.8.1 Name and contact address	Dr RC de Jong (Principal Member: Cultmatrix cc), PO Box 12013, Queenswood 0121, Pretoria
1.8.2 Qualifications and field of expertise	PhD (Cultural History) UP (1990), Post-Graduate Museology Diploma UP (1979), generalist heritage management specialist with experience in museums and heritage since 1983
1.8.3 Relevant experience in study area	HIA for Starex Mine near Koedoeskop
1.8.4 Telephone number	(082) 577-4741
1.8.5 Fax number	(086) 612-7383
1.7.6 E-mail	<a href="mailto:cultmat@iafrica.com">cultmat@iafrica.com</a>

**1.9 Property details**

<b>1.9 Property details</b>	
1.9.1 Name and location of property	Northam X 6
1.9.2 Erf or farm numbers	Erf 1802, Northam X 6
1.9.3 Magisterial district	Thabazimbi
1.9.4 Closest town	Northam
1.9.5 Local authority	Thabazimbi
1.9.5 Current use	Vacant
1.9.5 Current zoning	Unknown
1.9.5 Predominant land use of surrounding properties	Residential
1.9.9 Total extent of property	Unknown

**1.10 Development description**

<b>1.10 Development description</b>	
1.10.1 Nature of proposed development	Filling station
1.10.2 Possible impacts on heritage value of site and contents	Neutral

<b>1.10</b>	<b>Development description</b>	
1.10.3	Structures older than 60 years affected by proposed development	No
1.10.4	Rezoning or change of land use	Yes
1.10.5	Construction work	Yes: parking, buildings, roads, etc
1.10.6	Total floor area of proposed development	Not available
1.10.7	Extent of land coverage of development	Not available
1.10.8	Earth moving and excavation	Yes: for foundations, levelling, landscaping
1.10.9	Number of storeys	n/a
1.10.10	Maximum height above ground level	n/a
1.10.11	Monetary value development	Not available
1.10.12	Time frames	Not available

**1.11 Legal requirements**

<b>1.11</b>	<b>Legal requirements</b>	
1.11.1	Is planning permission required for any departures or consent use in terms of zoning schemes? Has an application been submitted to the planning authority and have any comments or approval from the planning authority been obtained?	Yes
1.11.2	Is planning authority permission required for any subdivision or consolidation? Has an application been submitted to the planning authority and has any comment or approval from the planning authority been obtained?	It will be
1.11.3	Is the proposed development subject to EIA regulations and has an application been submitted to the provincial environmental agency?	Yes
1.11.4	Has any assessment of the impact of the proposed development on any heritage resources been undertaken in terms of EIA or planning processes?	Yes: part of this report
1.11.5	At what stage in the EIA process is the application?	
1.11.6	Title deed restrictions	Servitude along eastern boundary
1.11.6	Is affected area situated within or adjacent to conservation area, special area, scenic route or any other area that has special environmental or heritage protection?	No
1.11.6	Does affected area have any special conservation status?	No
1.11.6	Are there any other restrictions on the property?	No
1.11.10	Does the proposed development conform to local planning policies?	Yes

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1.11	<b>Legal requirements</b>	
1.11.11	What interested and affected parties have been consulted?	Public participation process conducted as part of EIA process
1.11.12	Is approval from any authority required?	Yes: SAHRA and Limpopo environmental department
1.11.13	Has permission for similar development been refused by any authority in the past?	No



**PART 2: HERITAGE ASPECTS OF THE AFFECTED AREA**

**2.1 General issues of site and context**

<b>2.1.1 Context</b>		<i>Brief description/explanation</i>
<i>(check box of all relevant categories)</i>		
x	Urban environmental context	Roads, houses (north and west), streets, traffic intersection, shops (south and east)
	Rural environmental context	
	Natural environmental context	
<b>Formal protection (NHRA)</b>		
	Is the property part of a protected area (S. 28)?	No
	Is the property part of a heritage area (S. 31)?	No
<b>Other</b>		
	Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites?	No
	Is the property part of a conservation area or special area in terms of the Zoning Scheme?	No
	Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No
	Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No
	Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No
	Is the site within or adjacent to a scenic route?	No
	Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No
	Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No

<b>2.1.2 Property features and characteristics</b>		<i>Brief description</i>
<i>(check box if YES)</i>		
x	Has the site been previously cultivated or developed?	Grazing ?
	Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No
	Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No
	Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	No
	Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	No
	Does the property have any sea frontage?	No
	Does the property form part of a coastal dune system?	No
	Are there any marine shell heaps or scatters on the property?	No
	Is the property or part thereof on land reclaimed from the sea?	No

<b>2.1.3 Heritage resources on the property</b>	
<i>(check box if present on the property)</i>	<i>Name / List / Brief description</i>
<b>Formal protections (NHRA)</b>	
	National heritage site (S. 27) No
	Provincial heritage site (S. 27) No
	Provisional protection (s.29) No
	Place listed in heritage register (S. 30) No
<b>General protections (NHRA)</b>	
	structures older than 60 years (S. 34) No
	archaeological site or material (S. 35) No
	palaeontological site or material (S. 35) No
	graves or burial grounds (S. 36) No
	public monuments or memorials (S. 37) No
<b>Other</b>	
	Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (state author and date of survey and survey grading/s) None
	Any other heritage resources (describe) No

<b>2.1.4 Property history and associations</b>	
<i>(check box if YES)</i>	<i>Brief description/explanation</i>
x	Provide a brief history of the property (e.g. when granted, previous owners and uses). See 2.3 below
	Is the property associated with any important persons or groups? No
	Is the property associated with any important events, activities or public memory? No
	Does the property have any direct association with the history of slavery? No
	Is the property associated with or used for living heritage? No
	Are there any oral traditions attached to the property? No

**2.2 General description of environmental and heritage context of affected area**

The development site is located on the south-east corner of Northam Extension 6, at the intersection of the Road 510 between Thabazimbi and Mogwase on the road between Northam and Mnopyane. The site itself is flat and featureless with a cover of bushveld trees and tall grass. It is surrounded by roads and is also used as a short-cut by pedestrians and a site for dumping rubble.



**FIGURE 3: View of the development area looking towards the south-east**

### **2.3 Short history of the development area**

The Waterberg area has a long history of human occupation and has been inhabited by a succession of people over hundreds of thousands of years. Including the remains of early hominids, its history spans more than two million years.

The earliest evidence of hominid occupation of the Waterberg is found at the Cave of Hearths fossil site, a limestone cave in the Makapan Valley along the eastern edge of the Waterberg region. It contains fossil-bearing strata that are about three to two million years old.

The more recent Stone Age people (*Homo erectus*) first appeared in the Waterberg about a million years ago. Hand axes, stone cleavers and stone flakes have been found along the rivers and valleys of the Waterberg. When *Homo sapiens* replaced *Homo erectus*, this more modern human followed an improved flaking technique to make stone tools with sharper cutting edges.

The Early Stone Age communities were scavengers with little impact on the environment, although their bushfires have altered vegetation locally. Excavations at the Olieboomspoor Shelter near Lephalale have yielded evidence of occupation some 400 000 years ago. Early humans all over South Africa commonly used such shelters.

Middle Stone Age communities followed the early inhabitants of the Waterberg, with especially abundant evidence of their occupation at the Olieboomspoor Shelter (again), the Cave of Hearths and at Rooiberg and Thabazimbi, closer to Rietfontein. Subsequent occupation of early Stone Age sites was punctuated by long periods of the total absence of people. Middle Stone Age occupation first happened about 200 000 to 150 000 years ago and may have lasted until some 30 000 years ago. Middle Stone Age tools display more skill and specialisation in the manufacturing of stone artefacts.





**FIGURE 4: Google Earth image of Erf 1802, taken at a time before it was surrounded by built-up areas**

The people of the Late Stone Age included the San (Bushman), who were indigenous hunter-gatherers, as well as Khoikhoi herders who came from Eastern Africa with their sheep, cattle, goats and dogs and preferred the wetter coastal areas of Southern Africa. Some material remains of the Khoikhoi may be found on the island plateau (Palala), since they may even have passed through the Waterberg, where paintings of fat-tailed sheep occur.

Stone Age artefacts are sometimes recognisable due to hundreds of stone tools visible on the surface of the ground, often along watercourses, on disturbed sites and at rocky outcrops. Other indicators are ostrich eggshell beads and fragments of ostrich eggshell. Rock paintings mostly occur in rock shelters or on rock faces. Engravings are found in rocky outcrops, dykes and open areas in the veld.

The contact between the Later Stone Age communities and the more recent Iron Age agriculturalists ranged from a mutually beneficial trade of goods to a gradual and complex social transformation that included intermarriage, incorporation and subjugation of the hunter-gatherers into the Iron Age social fabric. This initially beneficial relationship deteriorated into conflict because of brutal suppression of the San by Iron Age groups, forcing some of the few remaining San groups to move back into the lower-lying bushveld areas around the Waterberg Plateau, at that time infested with the tsetse fly and therefore shunned by agriculturalists. Some groups took refuge in the more remote mountains while others fled northwards to settle in or north of the Limpopo River Valley. People of mixed San and Negroid parentage were known in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the derogatory names *Vaalpense*, *Kattee* or *Masarwa*. Eventually they abandoned their hunter-gatherer lifestyle completely and became labourers for Tswana and Ndebele communities.

No Stone Age artefacts were found during the site visit. However, this does not imply that none do occur. We recommend that the possible occurrence of artefacts should be carefully monitored and that any finds should be brought to the attention of Cultmatrix for further investigation.

Within the last 2000 years the San communities were displaced when the first Iron Age people moved into the area. They owned livestock, mined and worked iron, made clay pots and also practised subsistence farming on the deep red soils that surface along the river valleys. They probably came from the lowveld areas where they had lived for centuries, but became increasingly infested with tsetse flies.

Iron Age communities already lived along the edge of the Waterberg at Rooiberg at about 950 AD, while Early Iron Age evidence has also been found at Diamant in the Matlabas drainage basin where they lived some 1500 years ago, a period when the rainfall was higher than today making the area more suitable for agriculture.

The Iron Age settlers of the Waterberg region maintained trade routes that stretched deep into Africa. Ancient footpaths that link such routes cross the whole inner plateau of the Waterberg. A footpath connected Mapungubwe to the salt pans on the western edge of the Soutpansberg, running from there to the Nyl River and west of Bela-Bela to the tin mines at Rooiberg. Metals and salt (obtained from the Soutpansberg and the Tswaing Meteorite Crater north of Pretoria) were major trade commodities.

The more recent people who moved into the Waterberg, including Northern Sotho, Tswana and Boer communities, mainly settled on the north-eastern plains adjacent to the mountainous areas. Lack of adequate, long-term and permanent water resources has always limited permanent human occupation in the Waterberg. For many years most parts of the Waterberg have been a sanctuary to which people fled periodically when attacked by others. *Marakele* (the name of the National Park near Thabazimbi) is a Tswana term meaning *place of protection*. Tswana communities periodically sought refuge here when attacked by Mzilikazi and his armies in the 1820s and 1830s.

Nguni-speaking Iron Age communities who selected hilltop sites for settlement inhabited the Waterberg Plateau around 1600 AD. They were the ancestors of the Northern Ndebele, who now live further east. Northern Ndebele communities have lived in the Mokopane area since ca. 1750. Also of Northern Ndebele origin are the Langa of Mapela and Bakenberg (in the Biosphere Reserve). These communities were not traders on the ancient trade routes. Their stone-walled settlements were built for defensive purposes. The rich tin deposits found at Rooiberg were also mined by the Sotho and Tswana, as were the low-grade iron deposits that are found in the Waterberg. The Northern Sotho first settled east of the Waterberg near Mokopane.

Not much is yet known about the Iron Age of the development area. More is known about the Iron Age in areas like Rooiberg, Leeupoort (to the east) and Amandelbult (near Northam, to the west), which are in the immediate vicinity. The investigation of the development area did not reveal any remains associated with Iron Age settlement, such as foundations, stone walls, potsherds, clay nodules with pole-impression marks (part of huts), burial sites and middens.

The remote and inaccessible Waterberg with its malaria and tsetse flies was one of the last regions in the former Transvaal to be permanently occupied by white farmers. Although the first white families moved into the Waterberg during the 1850s, the region has been increasingly occupied on a regular basis only since the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The first permanent white settlers to settle north of the Vaal River arrived around 1839. They were entitled to two farms of about 3000 morgen (2650 ha) each per family. The first farms were proclaimed in the Potchefstroom district in 1839. From 1841 onwards these farms started to extend north of the Magaliesberg and on 5 May 1848 the farm Bospoort (north of Bela-Bela) was registered in the name of Petrus van Heerden. It was the first Boer farm in the Waterberg. By 1850 there were still no white settlers north of line from Thabazimbi in the west to Mokopane in the east. The first white settler north of this line was Niklaus van Heerden in 1859. At that time the Waterberg was still part of the huge Soutpansberg district. It was proclaimed as a separate district in 1866 and was later subdivided into more districts.

Burgers selected farms (such as the one comprising the development area) and then provided a description of the farm to the local landdrost, who noted the detail in a registration book and gave the claimant a copy. Claimed land then had to be inspected before a title and deed were issued. Since the registration of land entailed registration costs and annual land taxes, it was often delayed as long as

possible. As a result, the registration of land claimed on the basis of burgher rights continued well into the 1890s.

The farm Leeuwkopje 415 KQ was surveyed before 1900. The estate of the late James Smith became the first owner through a Crown Grant in 1917.

The village of Northam was established by EHJ Fuls on the farm Leeuwkopje and proclaimed in October 1946. It was named by H Herd, who owned most of the nearby farms after the Anglo-Boer War, having bought them from British settlers (such as James Smith) who had received the land as grants from the British government. The development of local chrome and platinum mines, as well as cattle-ranching and game farms, has led to the expansion of the settlement in recent years as indicated by the proclamation of Extension 6.

### PART 3: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part 3 is based on the requirements for heritage scoping reports and HIAs in accordance with Section 38(3) of the NHRA.

#### 3.1 Identification of heritage resources inside the study area

No heritage resources of significance were identified.

#### 3.2 Heritage value (Section 3(3))

##### 3.2.1 Description of the site

The development site is located on the south-east corner of Northam Extension 6, at the intersection of the Road 510 between Thabazimbi and Mogwase on the road between Northam and Mnoopyane. The site itself is flat and featureless with a cover of bushveld trees and tall grass. It is surrounded by roads and is also used as a short-cut by pedestrians and a site for dumping rubble.

##### 3.2.2 Criteria of heritage value

	<i>(check box of all relevant categories)</i>	<i>Brief description/explanation</i>
	Important in the community or <b>pattern of South Africa's history.</b>	No
	Associated with the life or work of a <b>person, group or organisation</b> of importance in history.	No
	Associated with the history of <b>slavery.</b>	No
	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for <b>social, cultural or spiritual</b> reasons	No
	Exhibits particular <b>aesthetic</b> characteristics valued by a community or cultural group	No
	Demonstrates a high degree of <b>creative or technical achievement</b> at a particular period	No
	Has <b>potential to yield information</b> that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage	No
	<b>Typical:</b> Demonstrates the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places	No
	<b>Rare:</b> Possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage	No

##### 3.2.3 Statement of significance

The development area has no special heritage significance.

##### 3.2.4 Character-defining features

None (featureless bushveld)

##### 3.3 Impact assessment

The physical impact of the development is neutral because no heritage resources will be affected.

##### 3.4 Social and economic benefits

The development will have no direct benefits from a heritage conservation perspective. The social and economic benefits are associated with increased revenue and employment for the local authority.

### **3.5 Consultation with affected communities**

This process has been part of the EIA as a whole.

### **3.6 Identification of risk sources**

The following project actions may impact negatively on any potential archaeological sites and remains.

The actions are likely to occur during the Construction Phase of the proposed project.

- Bulk earthworks and excavations may expose or uncover objects and artefacts and unmarked human burials.

### **3.7 Key mitigation and enhancement measures before and during construction**

In terms of Section 35 of the NHRA, an archaeologist should be consulted in the case of chance finds before these may be destroyed.

### **3.8 Consideration of alternatives**

No site alternatives seem to be in existence.

### **3.9 Final recommendations**

Based on the above findings, Cultmatrix will support the proposed development. We recommend that:

- SAHRA exempts the applicant from complying with the requirements of submitting a full Heritage Impact Assessment because no heritage resources of significance have been identified;
- SAHRA authorises the proposed development upon the following conditions:
  1. Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations for the proposed project (unlikely), these should immediately be reported to Cultmatrix. Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by an archaeologist.
  2. Site clearing and preparation activities must be monitored for the occurrence of any other archaeological material (Stone Age tools, Iron Age artefacts, historic waste disposal sites etc) and similar chance finds and an archaeologist should be asked to inspect the area when this has reached an advanced stage in order to verify the presence or absence of any such material.



## PART 4: INFORMATION SOURCES USED IN THIS REPORT

### 4.1 Databases

Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Heritage Sites Database, Pretoria

### 4.2 Literature

BERGH, JS (ed), 1999, *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies*. Pretoria: JL van Schaik.

DE KLERK, A, 2003, *The Waterberg Biosphere Reserve: a land use model for ecotourism development*. Unpublished MSc thesis, University of Pretoria.

HALL, SL, 1985, Excavations at Rooikrans and Rhenosterkloof, Late Iron Age sites in the Rooiberg area of the Transvaal. *Annals of the Cape Provincial Museum Service, Vol 1, Part 5, 27 September 1985*.

ICOMOS Australia. 1999. *The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance*.

*Living with the land. A manual for documenting cultural landscapes in the Northwest Territories. Yellowknife (Canada), 2007.*

MARTINS, GJ, 1958, *Die onderwys van blankes in Waterberg, 1850-1950*. Unpublished MEd thesis, PU for CHE.

MASON, R, *Prehistory of the Transvaal*.

*National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)*

*Standard Encyclopedia of Southern Africa, Vol 8.*

VAN DER RYST, MM, 1996, *The Later Stone Age prehistory of the Waterberg, with special reference to Goergap Shelter*. Unpublished MA thesis, University of the Witwatersrand.

WALKER, C, & BOTHMA, J DU P, 2005, *The soul of the Waterberg*. Houghton: African Sky Publishing.

### 4.3 Maps

2427 CD Northam (1980)

### 4.4 Aerial photos

Google Earth

## PART 5: TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS REPORT

### Cultural significance (Burra Charter)

Aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual importance, meaning or noteworthiness for past, present or future generations

Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself (intrinsic significance), its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects

### Heritage resources/features (NHRA)

Any place or object of cultural significance, including:

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds, including—
  - (i) ancestral graves;
  - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
  - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
  - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*;
  - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
  - (vi) other human remains, which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 Act No. 65 of 1983);
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) movable objects, including—
  - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
  - (iv) military objects;
  - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
  - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

### Heritage significance (NHRA)

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (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; and
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

**Historic period**

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 in this part of the country

**Impact**

A description of the effect of an aspect of the development on a specified component of the biophysical, social or economic environment within a defined time and space

**Impact assessment**

Issues that cannot be resolved during screening (Level 1) and scoping (Level 2) and thus require further investigation

**Iron Age**

Early Iron Age (EIA) AD 200 - AD 1000  
 Late Iron Age (LIA) AD 1000 - AD 1830

**Issue**

A question that asks what the impact of the proposed development will be on some element of the environment

**Maintenance**

Keeping something in good health or repair.

**Management actions**

Actions that enhance benefits associated with a proposed development or avoid, mitigate, restore, rehabilitate or compensate for the negative impacts

**Preservation**

Conservation activities that consolidate and maintain the existing form, material and integrity of a cultural resource.

**Reconstruction**

Re-erecting a structure on its original site using original components.

**Rehabilitation**

Re-using an original building or structure for its historic purpose or placing it in a new use that requires minimal change to the building or structure characteristics and its site and environment.

**Restoration**

Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing additions or by reassembling existing components.

**SAHRA** - South African Heritage Resources Agency

**Stone Age**

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present  
 Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 - 30 000 BP  
 Late Stone Age (LSA) 30 000 - until c. AD 200

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**Value**

Worth, conservation utility, desirability to conserve etc in terms of physical condition, level of significance (importance), economy (feasibility), possible new uses and associations/comparisons with similar features elsewhere