



## **VONDELING RESIDENTIAL LIFESTYLE ESTATE**

**Proposed Development of a Residential Lifestyle Estate on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, east of Louis Trichardt, in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.**

### **Heritage Impact Assessment**

**Issue Date:** 21 February 2014  
**Revision No.:** 1  
**Client:** Tekplan Environmental

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*The report has been compiled by PGS Heritage, an appointed Heritage Specialist for Tekplan Environmental. The views stipulated in this report are purely objective and no other interests are displayed in the findings and recommendations of this Heritage Impact Assessment.*

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<b>Report Title</b>	Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed development of a residential lifestyle estate on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.		
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## EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>Description</i>
AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA	Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
CRM	Cultural Resource Management
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPR	Environmental Management Programme Report
ESA	Early Stone Age
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Later Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PGS	PGS Heritage
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRIS	South African Heritage Resources Information System

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PGS Heritage was appointed by Tekplan Environmental to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of a residential lifestyle estate on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

An archival and historical desktop study was undertaken which was used to compile a historical layering of the study area within its regional context. This component indicated that the landscape within which the project area is located has a rich and diverse history. However, the desktop study did not reveal any historic or heritage sites from within the study area.

The desktop study work was followed by a fieldwork component which comprised a walkthrough of the study area. **No heritage sites or finds of heritage value or significance were identified within the study area.**

The development is not expected to have any impact on heritage sites. As such no heritage reasons can be given for the development not to continue.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

PGS Heritage was appointed by Tekplan Environmental to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of a residential lifestyle estate on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

### **1.1 Scope of the Study**

The aim of the study is to identify possible heritage sites and finds that may occur in the proposed development area. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) aims to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the development of a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to assist the developer in managing the identified heritage resources in a responsible manner in order to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA).

### **1.2 Specialist Qualifications**

This Heritage Impact Assessment was compiled by PGS Heritage, the staff of which has a combined experience of nearly 40 years in the heritage consulting industry and have extensive experience in managing Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes. Mr Marko Hutten, heritage specialist and project archaeologist, has 15 years of experience in the industry and is registered with the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) as a Professional Archaeologist and is accredited as a Field Director.

### **1.3 Assumptions and Limitations**

Not detracting in any way from the comprehensiveness of the fieldwork undertaken, it is necessary to realise that the heritage sites located during the fieldwork do not necessarily represent all the heritage sites present within the area. Should any heritage features or objects not included in the inventory be located or observed, a heritage specialist must immediately be contacted. Such observed or located heritage features and/or objects may not be disturbed or removed in any way, until such time that the heritage specialist has been able to make an

assessment as to the significance of the site (or material) in question. This applies to graves and cemeteries as well.

#### **1.4 Legislative Context**

The identification, evaluation and assessment of any cultural heritage site, artefact or find in the South African context is required and governed by the following legislation:

- i. National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998
- ii. National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999
- iii. Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002
- iv. Development Facilitation Act (DFA) Act 67 of 1995

The following sections in each Act refer directly to the identification, evaluation and assessment of cultural heritage resources.

- i. National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Act 107 of 1998
  - a. Basic Environmental Assessment (BEA) – Section (23)(2)(d)
  - b. Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) – Section (29)(1)(d)
  - c. Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) – Section (32)(2)(d)
  - d. EMP (EMP) – Section (34)(b)
- ii. National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act 25 of 1999
  - a. Protection of Heritage Resources – Sections 34 to 36; and
  - b. Heritage Resources Management – Section 38
- iii. Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Act 28 of 2002
  - a. Section 39(3)

The NHRA stipulates that cultural heritage resources may not be disturbed without authorization from the relevant heritage authority. Section 34(1) of the NHRA states that “no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority...”. The NEMA (No 107 of 1998) states that an integrated EMP should (23:2 (b)) “...identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage”. In accordance with legislative requirements and EIA rating criteria, the regulations of SAHRA and ASAPA have also been incorporated to ensure that a comprehensive and legally compatible HIA report is compiled.

## 1.5 Terminology and Abbreviations

### *Archaeological resources*

- i. material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
- ii. rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including a 10m buffer area;
- iii. wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the republic as defined in the Maritimes Zones Act, and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation;
- iv. features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the site on which they are found.

### *Cultural significance*

This means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.

### *Development*

This means any physical intervention, excavation or action other than those caused by natural forces, which may according to the heritage agency result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place or influence its stability & future well-being, including:

- i. construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change in use of a place or a structure at a place;
- ii. carrying out any works on or over or under a place;
- iii. subdivision or consolidation of land comprising a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;
- iv. constructing or putting up for display signs or boards;
- v. any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and
- vi. any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil

### *Fossil*

Mineralised bones of animals, shellfish, plants and marine animals. A trace fossil is the track or footprint of a fossil animal that is preserved in stone or consolidated sediment.

### *Heritage*

That which is inherited and forms part of the National Estate (historical places, objects, fossils as defined by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999).

### *Heritage resources*

This means any place or object of cultural significance

### *Later Stone Age*

The archaeology of the last 20 000 years, associated with fully modern people.

### *Late Iron Age (Early Farming Communities)*

The archaeology of the last 1000 years up to the 1800's associated with ironworking and farming activities such as herding and agriculture.

### *Middle Stone Age*

The archaeology of the Stone Age, dating to between 20 000-300 000 years ago, associated with early modern humans.

### *Palaeontology*

Any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

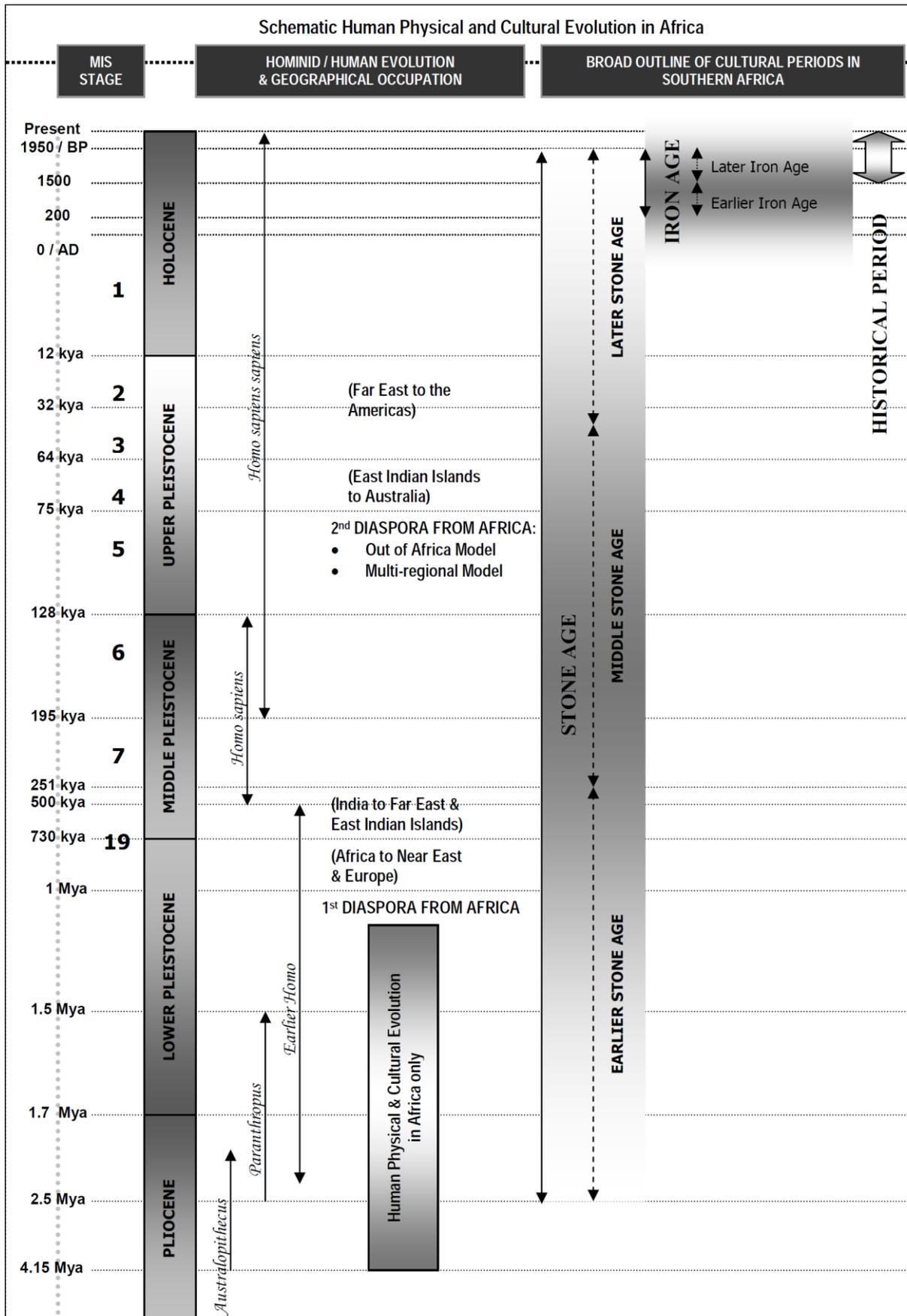


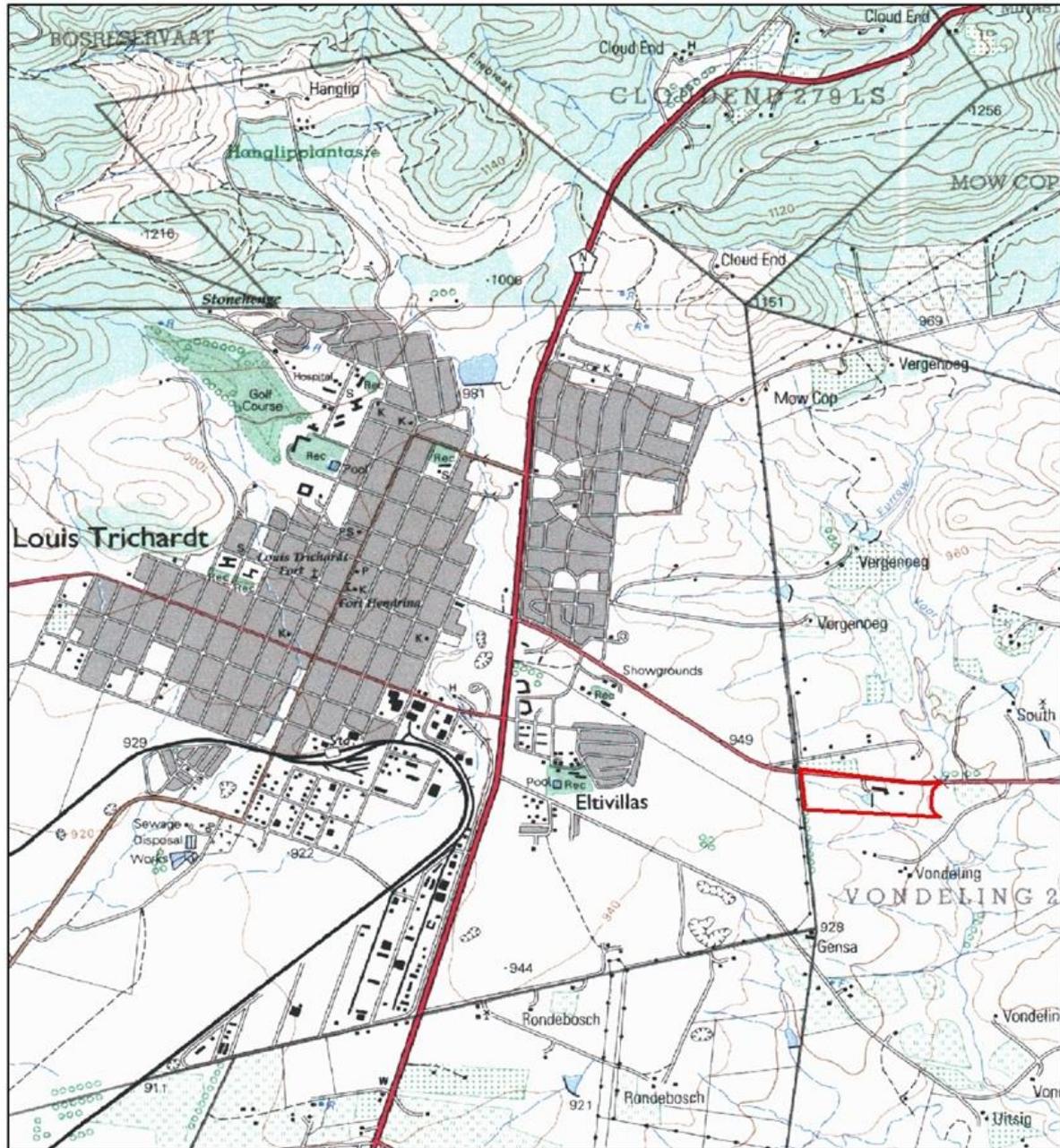
Figure 1 – Human and Cultural Time line in Africa (Morris, 2008)

## 2 TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE PROJECT

### 2.1 Site Location and Description

<b>Coordinates</b>	Vondeling Lifestyle Estate: S23° 03' 19.74" E29° 56' 18.19"	
<b>Property</b>	Farm: Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS.	
<b>Location</b>	The proposed development of a residential lifestyle estate that will be situated on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.	
<b>Extent</b>	The proposed residential lifestyle estate will occupy an area of approximately 10 hectares.	
<b>Land Description</b>	The site is situated adjacent and on the southern side of the R524 tar road (Louis Trichardt/Thohoyandou), approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt town. A power line is situated on the western boundary of the property and the Muhovhe Stream forms the eastern boundary of the property. A gravel road forms the southern boundary of the property. The site is undulated and slopes down to the Muhovhe Stream in the east. The property is overgrown with grass and other vegetation and was previously used as a cattle farm. A big workshop and yard is situated at the central northern extent of the property. A farmhouse and a cluster of 5 chalets are also present on the property. A tarred road system which connected the house and the chalets to the main road is also already in place.	

# Vondeling Lifestyle Estate Development



0 1 2 Kilometres

1:40,000



 Study area

Image: WGS2329BB.TIF  
 Source: Chief Directorate National Geo-spatial Information  
 Datum: WGS84  
 Study Area: Part of the farm Vondeling 285 LS

Figure 2 – The proposed study area.

# Vondeling Lifestyle Estate Development

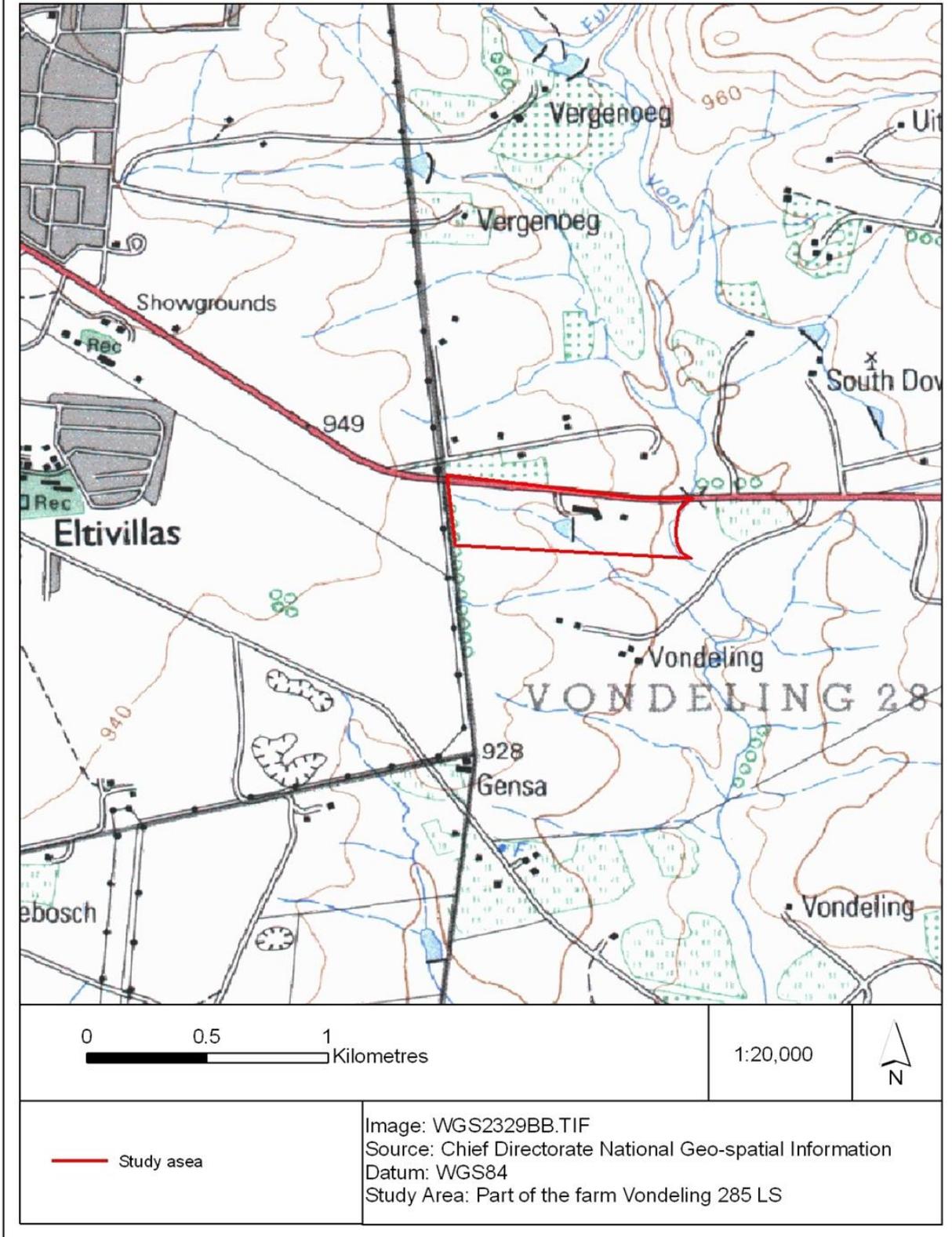


Figure 3 – Close-up view of the proposed study area.

## 2.2 Technical Project Description

The proposed development of a residential lifestyle estate will be situated on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The development will consist of 15 erven measuring between 5000m<sup>2</sup> and 8300m<sup>2</sup>. The total size of the development will be approximately 10ha in size and will occupy the western extent of the property. The property measured approximately 25ha in total. Associated engineering services such as access roads, sewage, water supply and electricity will also be installed.

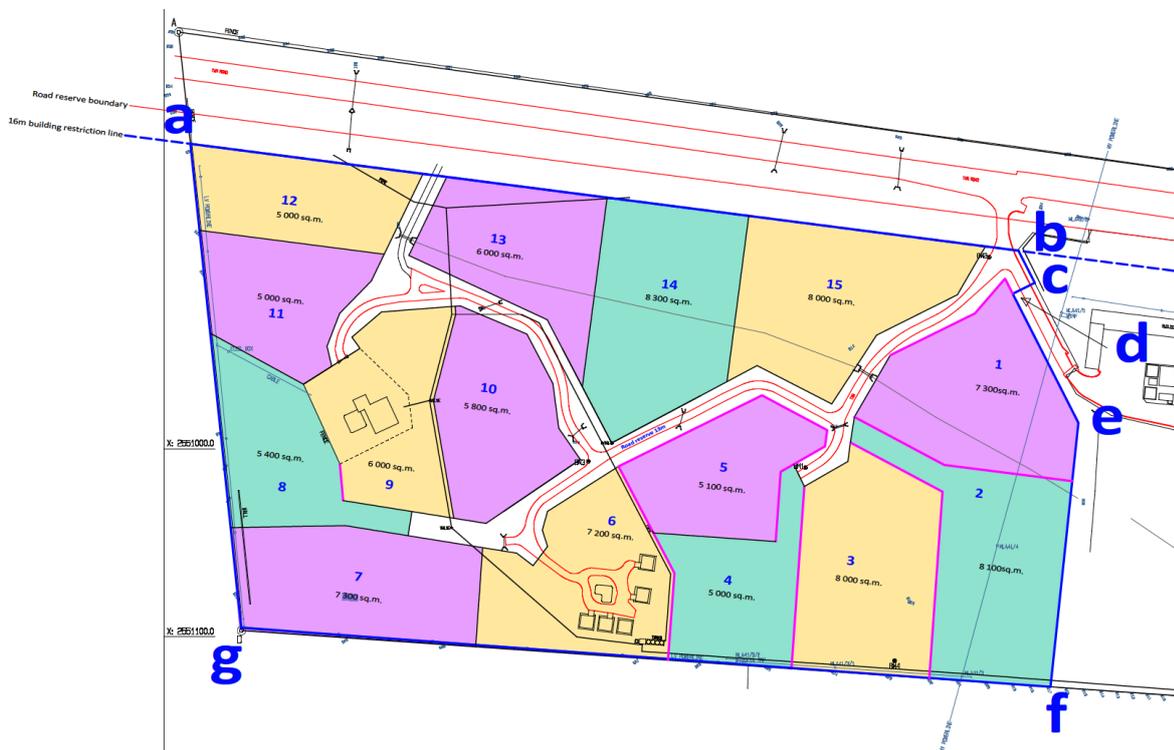


Figure 4– The proposed development layout plan (as supplied by the client).

## 3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Methodology for Assessing Heritage Site Significance

This report was compiled by PGS Heritage for the proposed development of a residential lifestyle estate on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The applicable maps, tables and figures are included as stipulated in the NHRA (no 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (no 107 of 1998). The HIA process consisted of three steps:

**Step I – Literature Review:** The background information to the field survey leans greatly on the archival and historical cartographic material assessed as part of the study as well as a study of the available literature.

**Step II – Physical Survey:** The physical survey was conducted on foot over the entire area proposed for development. Priority was placed on the undisturbed areas. A systematic inspection of the area on foot along linear transects resulted in the maximum coverage of the proposed area. The study area was surveyed in parallel transects of approximately 25m. The field work was conducted on January 13, 2014 and most of the morning was spent on the survey, which was performed by an archaeologist, M. Hutten and an experienced field worker T. Mulaudzi, who flanked the archaeologist during the survey. The survey focused on the study area as provided by the developer. No sampling was done as no sites or finds of heritage significance were found.

**Step III – Report:** The final step involved the recording and documentation of relevant heritage resources, as well as the assessment of resources regarding the heritage impact assessment criteria and report writing, as well as mapping and recommendations.

The significance of heritage sites was based on five main criteria:

- Site integrity (i.e. primary vs. secondary context),
- Amount of deposit, range of features (e.g., stonewalling, stone tools and enclosures),
- Density of scatter (dispersed scatter)
  - Low - <10/50m<sup>2</sup>
  - Medium - 10-50/50m<sup>2</sup>
  - High - >50/50m<sup>2</sup>
- Uniqueness and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

Management actions and recommended mitigation, which will result in a reduction in the impact on the sites, will be expressed as follows:

A - No further action necessary;

B - Mapping of the site and controlled sampling required;

C - No-go or relocate development position

D - Preserve site, or extensive data collection and mapping of the site; and

E - Preserve site

### **Site Significance**

Site significance classification standards prescribed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (2006) and approved by the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, were used for the purpose of this report (see Table 1).

*Table 1: Site significance classification standards as prescribed by SAHRA*

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; National Site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; Provincial Site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High	Conservation; Mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High	Mitigation (Part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	Grade 4A	High/Medium	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	Grade 4B	Medium	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	Grade 4C	Low	Destruction

### **3.2 Methodology for Impact Assessment**

In order to ensure uniformity, a standard impact assessment methodology has been utilised so that a wide range of impacts can be compared. The impact assessment methodology makes provision for the assessment of impacts against the following criteria:

- Significance;
- Spatial scale;
- Temporal scale;
- Probability; and

- Degree of certainty.

A combined quantitative and qualitative methodology was used to describe impacts for each of the aforementioned assessment criteria. A summary of each of the qualitative descriptors, along with the equivalent quantitative rating scale for each of the aforementioned criteria, is given in Table 2.

*Table 2: Quantitative rating and equivalent descriptors for the impact assessment criteria*

RATING	SIGNIFICANCE	EXTENT SCALE	TEMPORAL SCALE
1	VERY LOW	<i>Isolated corridor / proposed corridor</i>	<u>Incidental</u>
2	LOW	<i>Study area</i>	<u>Short-term</u>
3	MODERATE	<i>Local</i>	<u>Medium-term</u>
4	HIGH	<i>Regional / Provincial</i>	<u>Long-term</u>
5	VERY HIGH	<i>Global / National</i>	<u>Permanent</u>

A more detailed description of each of the assessment criteria is given in the following sections.

### ***Significance Assessment***

The significance rating (importance) of the associated impacts embraces the notion of extent and magnitude, but does not always clearly define these, since their importance in the rating scale is very relative. For example, 10 structures younger than 60 years might be affected by a proposed development, and if destroyed the impact can be considered as VERY LOW in that the structures are all of Low Heritage Significance. If two of the structures are older than 60 years and of historic significance, and as a result of High Heritage Significance, the impact will be considered to be HIGH to VERY HIGH.

A more detailed description of the impact significance rating scale is given in Table 3 below.

*Table 3: Description of the significance rating scale*

RATING	DESCRIPTION
5	VERY HIGH
4	HIGH

		activity is feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these. In the case of beneficial impacts, other means of achieving this benefit are feasible but they are more difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these.
3	MODERATE	Impact is real but not substantial in relation to other impacts, which might take effect within the bounds of those which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity are both feasible and fairly easily possible. In the case of beneficial impacts: other means of achieving this benefit are about equal in time, cost, effort, etc.
2	LOW	Impact is of a low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity is either easily achieved or little will be required, or both. In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative means for achieving this benefit are likely to be easier, cheaper, more effective, less time consuming, or some combination of these.
1	VERY LOW	Impact is negligible within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts, almost no mitigation and/or remedial activity is needed, and any minor steps which might be needed are easy, cheap, and simple. In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative means are almost all likely to be better, in one or a number of ways, than this means of achieving the benefit. Three additional categories must also be used where relevant. They are in addition to the category represented on the scale, and if used, will replace the scale.
	0	There is no impact at all - not even a very low impact on a party or system.

### ***Spatial Scale***

The spatial scale refers to the extent of the impact i.e. will the impact be felt at the local, regional, or global scale. The spatial assessment scale is described in more detail in Table 4.

*Table 4: Description of the spatial significance rating scale*

RATING		DESCRIPTION
5	Global/National	The maximum extent of any impact.
4	Regional/Provincial	The spatial scale is moderate within the bounds of possible impacts, and will be felt at a regional scale (District Municipality to Provincial Level). The impact will affect an area up to 50 km from the proposed site / corridor.
3	Local	The impact will affect an area up to 5 km from the proposed site.
2	Study Area	The impact will affect an area not exceeding the boundary of the study area.
1	Isolated Sites / proposed site	The impact will affect an area no bigger than the site.

### **Temporal/Duration Scale**

In order to accurately describe the impact, it is necessary to understand the duration and persistence of an impact in the environment.

The temporal or duration scale is rated according to criteria set out in Table 5.

*Table 5: Description of the temporal rating scale*

RATING		DESCRIPTION
1	Incidental	The impact will be limited to isolated incidences that are expected to occur very sporadically.
2	Short-term	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of the construction phase or a period of less than 5 years, whichever is the greater.
3	Medium-term	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of life of the project.
4	Long-term	The environmental impact identified will operate beyond the life of operation of the project.
5	Permanent	The environmental impact will be permanent.

### **Degree of Probability**

The probability or likelihood of an impact occurring, will be outlined in table 6 below.

*Table 6: Description of the degree of probability of an impact occurring*

RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	Practically impossible
2	Unlikely
3	Could happen
4	Very likely
5	It's going to happen / has occurred

### **Degree of Certainty**

As with all studies, it is not possible to be 100% certain of all facts, and for this reason a standard “degree of certainty” scale is used, as discussed in Table 7. The level of detail for specialist studies is determined according to the degree of certainty required for decision-making.

Table 7: Description of the degree of certainty rating scale

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Definite	More than 90% sure of a particular fact.
Probable	Between 70 and 90% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring.
Possible	Between 40 and 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.
Unsure	Less than 40% sure of a particular fact or the likelihood of an impact occurring.
Can't know	The consultant believes an assessment is not possible even with additional research.

### Quantitative Description of Impacts

To allow for impacts to be described in a quantitative manner, in addition to the qualitative description given above, a rating scale of between 1 and 5 was used for each of the assessment criteria. Thus the total value of the impact is described as the function of significance, spatial and temporal scale, as described below:

$$\text{Impact Risk} = \frac{(\text{SIGNIFICANCE} + \text{Spatial} + \text{Temporal})}{3} \times \frac{\text{Probability}}{5}$$

An example of how this rating scale is applied is shown below:

Table 8: Example of Rating Scale

IMPACT	SIGNIFICANCE	SPATIAL SCALE	TEMPORAL SCALE	PROBABILITY	RATING
	Low	Local	Medium Term	Could Happen	Low
Impact on heritage structures	2	3	3	3	1.6

**Note:** The significance, spatial and temporal scales are added to give a total of 8, which is divided by 3 to give a criterion rating of 2.67. The probability (3) is divided by 5 to give a probability rating of 0.6. The criteria rating of 2.67 is then multiplied by the probability rating (0,6) to give the final rating of 1,6.

The impact risk is classified according to five classes as described in the table below.

Table 9: Impact Risk Classes

RATING	IMPACT CLASS	DESCRIPTION
0.1 – 1.0	1	Very Low
1.1 – 2.0	2	Low
2.1 – 3.0	3	Moderate
3.1 – 4.0	4	High
4.1 – 5.0	5	Very High

Therefore, with reference to the example used for heritage structures above, an impact rating of 1.6 will fall in the Impact Class 2, which will be considered to be a low impact.

## 4 CURRENT STATUS QUO

### 4.1 DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

The developer, Vhavenda Brickworks (Pty) Ltd, proposed the development of a residential lifestyle estate on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

The proposed residential lifestyle estate will occupy an area of approximately 10 hectares on the property which measured approximately 25 hectares in extent. The proposed development will be situated on the western extent of the property. The site is situated adjacent and on the southern side of the R524 (Louis Trichardt/Thohoyandou) (figure 5, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt town. A power line is situated on the western boundary of the property and the Muhovhe Stream forms the eastern boundary of the property. A gravel road forms the southern boundary of the property. The site is undulated and slopes down to the Muhovhe Stream in the east (figure 6). The property is overgrown with grass and other vegetation and was previously used as a cattle farm. The property is currently not being used except for a big workshop and yard (figure 7) that is situated in the central northern section of the property. The proposed development will be situated to the west and south-west of this workshop and yard. A farmhouse (figure 8) and a cluster of 5 chalets (figure 9) are also present on the property. These buildings were maintained, but are not currently occupied. A tarred road system (figure 10) which connected the house and the chalets to the main road are also already in place.



*Figure 5 – View of the R524 tar road to the north of the proposed site.*



*Figure 6 – General view of the proposed site from the north.*



*Figure 7 – View of the workshop and yard at the northern extent of the property.*



*Figure 8 – View of the farm house on the property.*



*Figure 9 – View of the cluster of chalets on the property.*



*Figure 10 – View of existing tar road system on the property.*

## 5 DESKTOP STUDY FINDINGS

The examination of heritage databases, historical data and cartographic resources represents a critical additional tool for locating and identifying heritage resources and in determining the historical and cultural context of the study area. Therefore an internet literature search was conducted and relevant archaeological and historical texts were also consulted. Relevant topographic maps and satellite imagery were studied. Researching the SAHRA APM Report Mapping Project records and the SAHRIS online database (<http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris>), it was determined that no previous archaeological studies had been carried out over the current study area. However, a number of previous archaeological or historical studies had been performed within the wider vicinity of the study area.

### Previous Studies

Previous studies listed in the APM Report Mapping Project for the area included the following studies listed in chronological order below:

Roodt, F. 1997. **Nwanedi-Luphephe Environmental Impact Assessment Study: Phase 2.** An unpublished report by R & R Cultural Resource Consultants on file at SAHRA as: 1997-SAHRA-0044.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 1999. **A Survey of Cultural Resources at the Mampakuil Base Station, Louis Trichardt Area.** An unpublished report by the National Cultural History Museum on file at SAHRA as 1999-SAHRA-0061.

Roodt, H. 2002a. **Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment - Proposed Filling Station & Overnight Accommodation, Louis Trichardt Portion 4 of Rondebosch 287 LS.** An unpublished report by R & R Cultural Resource Consultants on file at SAHRA as 2002-SAHRA-0066.

Roodt, F. 2002b. **Flood Damage Repair and Partial Regravelling of Road P2771/1 Between Makonde and Masisi, Limpopo Province.** An unpublished report by R & R Cultural Resource Consultants on file at SAHRA as: 2002-SAHRA-0095.

Roodt, F. 2002c. **Subdivision on the Farm Beja 39 LT (ñ150Ha) Albasini Dam, Limpopo Province.** An unpublished report by R & R Cultural Resource Consultants on file at SAHRA as 2002-SAHRA-0132.

Roodt, F. 2003. **Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment: Portion 7 of the Farm Bergvliet 288 LS-Makhado Municipality, Limpopo Province.** An unpublished report by R & R Cultural Resource Consultants on file at SAHRA as 2003-SAHRA-0010.

Murimbika, M. 2006. **Archaeological Impact Assessment Study for the Proposed Construction of Electricity Distribution Powerlines Within, Limpopo Province.** An unpublished report by Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions on file at SAHRA as 2006-SAHRA-0354.

Pistorius, J.C.C. 2007. **A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for Rio Tinto's Exploration Activities on Various Farms in the Chapudi Project Area North of the Soutpansberg in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.** An unpublished report by Archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Management Consultants on file at SAHRA as 2007-SAHRA-0146.

Munyai, R. & Roodt, F. 2007. **Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Additional of 08 Borrow Pits Sites Associated with the Upgrading of Road D369 from Shakadza to Tshipise in Mutale.** An unpublished report by Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants on file at SAHRA as: 2007-SAHRA-0314.

Roodt, F. 2007. **Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation) Black Hawk Golf and Spa: Phase 2 Residential Development Albasini Dam, Louis Trichardt, Limpopo.** An unpublished report by R & R Cultural Resource Consultants on file at SAHRA as 2007-SAHRA-0385.

Roodt, F. & Munyai, R. 2008. **Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment: An Archaeological Investigation of a Proposed Existing Tshiozwi Borrow Pit, Makhado Local Municipality, Limpopo.** An unpublished report by Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants on file at SAHRA as 2008-SAHRA-0152.

Pistorius, J.C.C. 2008. **A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for Eskom's Proposed New 132 kV Power Line Running Between the Paradise-T and Musina Substations in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.** An unpublished report by Archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Management Consultants on file at SAHRA as 2008-SAHRA-0404.

Murimbika, M. 2008. **Cultural and Archaeological Heritage Assessment Specialist Study for the Proposed Construction of 6.7 km Power-Line at Lwathudwa Village in Mutale Local**

**Municipality of Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.** An unpublished report by Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions on file at SAHRA as: 2008-SAHRA-0567.

Stegmann, L. & Roodt, F.E. 2008. **Phase 1 Heritage Resources Scoping Report Nwanedi Nature Reserve Road, Nwanedi, Limpopo.** An unpublished report by Shasha Heritage Consultants CC on file at SAHRA as: 2008-SAHRA-0573.

Researching the SAHRIS online database (<http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris> accessed 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014) further studies were identified in the vicinity of the study area and these are listed in numerical order below:

SAHRIS case number 65. **Test excavation of Site 6 located along the proposed transmission line from the Paradise substation to the proposed Makhado colliery, Limpopo.**

SAHRIS case number 1795. **Proposed residential estate (to be known as Shiluvuri Lakeside Estate) on Portion 17 of the farm Goedehoop 8 LT, Makhado Local Municipality, Limpopo Region [sic].**

SAHRIS case number 1555. **Consultation of closure certificate application in terms of Section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002, (Act 28 of 2002) in respect of the borrow pits for upgrading (from gravel to tar) of road D3180 from Modjadji-Mokwakwaila-Bambeni-Nkomo, situated in the Magisterial District of Mopani.**

SAHRIS case number 2228. **Consultation of Environmental Management Plan in terms of Section 40 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002, (Act 28 of 2002) in respect of the farm Slidrecht 303 LS, situated in the Magisterial District of Makhado.**

SAHRIS case number 2234. **Consultation of Environmental Management Plan in terms of Section 40 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002, (Act 28 of 2002) in respect of the farm Waerkum 302 LS, situated in the Magisterial District of Makhado.**

SAHRIS case number 2235. **Consultation of Environmental Management Plan in terms of Section 40 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002, (Act 28 of 2002) in respect of the farm Grutz 308 LS, situated in the Magisterial District of Makhado.**

SAHRIS case number 4028. **The restoration of the historic Lemana College Buildings are proposed. New structures built in the 1980's will be demolished and some of these later structures will undergo outside rendering to bring them in line with the architectural language of the rest of the site. Some restoration work will be done on the historic buildings to replace modern fixtures that have been added recently. All modern finishes and features will be replaced by period correct fitments. Lemana College Campus, Elim, Limpopo Province.**

A number of the studies consulted located no heritage resources (e.g. Van Schalkwyk 1999; Roodt 2007; Roodt & Munyai 2008) while four had no associated heritage information on the SAHRIS website (SAHRIS case number 1555; SAHRIS case number 2228; SAHRIS case number 2234; SAHRIS case number 2235). One study for a filling station development in a previously disturbed area in the town of Makhado (previously Louis Trichardt) located several undecorated and one decorated pottery fragment(s) and therefore recommended that the archaeologist return to the site when the building foundations were being excavated (Roodt 2002a). One study document obtained from the SAHRIS website appeared to be incomplete (Roodt 2002c).

Other studies listed above located or referred to a large number of heritage sites in the wider area with one investigator stressing that since the region has such a long history of human occupation the entire landscape should be considered a cultural landscape (Murimbika 2008). Stone Age remains are scattered throughout the area (e.g. Pistorius 2007; SAHRIS case number 65) including Early- (e.g. Roodt 2002b), Middle- (e.g. Roodt 1997; Pistorius 2008) and numerous Late Stone Age sites or surface collections of stone tools. The Limpopo Valley is known for its rock art and rock engravings with one assessment locating a set of engravings in a shelter to the north east of the study area (Stegmann & Roodt 2008),

Some 30 km to the north and north east of the study area Pistorius (2007) documented a Late Iron Age site and referred to the nearby destruction of the Princess Hill site on top of which a landowner constructed a house. Roodt (1997) identified nine sites to the north east of the study area with significant archaeological remains spanning 11<sup>th</sup> Century Eiland to recent Venda habitation including Zwigodini with its Moloko, Khami and Shona traditions. Other sites were also characterised by significant overlapping of traditions and included features such as stone walling, evidence of metal-working in the form of slag, artefacts such as spindle whorls and ironstone outcrops with evidence of early mining (Roodt 1997).

A number of graves dating up to recent times were identified by various assessments (e.g. Pistorius 2007; Munyai & Roodt 2007; Pistorius 2008; SAHRIS case number 65; SAHRIS case number 1795) including a historical graveyard in Makhado, a short distance to the west of the study area, which included the graves of at least 40 people including one dated to 1903 (Roodt 2003). Nearby this graveyard is a monument erected in 1988 to commemorate João Albasini (Roodt 2003). A number of studies addressed the later history of the region with one describing the history of Lemana School (south of the current study area at Waterval) and the relationship with the Swiss Mission in nearby Elim (SAHRIS case number 4028).

### **Archaeological & Historical Sequence**

The historical background and timeframe of the study area and other areas in Southern Africa can be divided into the Stone Age, Iron Age and Historical period. These can be divided as follows:

#### **Stone Age sites**

The Stone Age is divided into the Early; Middle and Late Stone Age. The *Early Stone Age* (ESA) includes the period from 2.5 million years B.P. to 250 000 years B.P. and is associated with Australopithecines and early *Homo* species who practiced stone tool industries such as the Oldowan and Acheullian. The *Middle Stone Age* (MSA) covers various tool industries, for example the Howiesons Poort industry, in the period from 250 000 years B.P. to 25 000 years B.P. and is associated with archaic and modern *Homo sapiens*. The *Late Stone Age* (LSA) incorporates the period from 25 000 years B.P. up to the Iron Age and Historical Periods and contact between hunter-gatherers and Iron Age farmers or European colonists. This period is associated with modern humans and characterised by lithic tool industries such as Smithfield and Robberg.

Excavations at Makapansgat near to Mokopane provided evidence of occupation by *Australopithecus africanus* from approximately 3.3 million years ago. There is evidence of long occupation from the Cave of Hearths with stone tools and associated debris from a date of 400,000 B.P. while upper strata are characterised by Middle Stone Age assemblages of 110,000 to 50,000 B.P. and Late Stone Age assemblages dating from 10,000 to 5,000 years B.P. characterised by the Smithfield B industry. The site is one of the few to exhibit Acheulean assemblages in Southern Africa and also contains overlying Middle Stone Age Howiesonspoort industry tools and early evidence of fire use (Bergh, 1999; Mitchell, 2002).

Both ESA and MSA sites are known from the Limpopo Valley as well as lithic industries that appear to be transitional between the two ages and with dates estimated at 300,000 years ago (Kuman *et al.* 2005). The presence of numerous rock art sites with associated stone tool assemblages in the Limpopo River basin, Blouberg, Makgabeng, Waterberg and Soutpansberg attests to the presence of Late Stone Age San/Bushman communities across the region (e.g. Pager, 1973; Eastwood *et al.*, 2002). The Central Limpopo Basin, including the Soutpansberg, Limpopo Valley, the Blouberg-Makgabeng area and the Pafuri area, has over 700 documented rock art sites and is one of the few regions where paintings and engravings occur, sometimes at the same site (Eastwood and Hanisch 2003).

### **Iron Age**

The Iron Age incorporates the arrival and settlement of Bantu speaking people and overlaps the Pre-Historic and Historical Periods. It can be divided into three phases. The *Early Iron Age* includes the majority of the first millennium A.D. and is characterised by traditions such as Happy Rest and Silver Leaves. The *Middle Iron Age* spans the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries A.D. and includes such well known cultures as those at K2 and Mapungubwe. The *Late Iron Age* is taken to stretch from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century up to the colonial period and includes traditions such as Icon and Letaba.

The Vhembe District (the Limpopo and Luvuvhu river valleys in particular) contains some of the earliest and most famous Iron-Age settlements in the region including Schroda, K2 and the Mapungubwe National and World Heritage Site to the north west of the study area and Thulamela to the east. The Early Iron Age is represented by a number of sites such as Happy Rest in the Soutpansberg to the west (Hanisch E.O.M., 2003). The Middle Iron Age in the region and the sequence of settlement development and the growing importance of trade networks has been extensively described (e.g. Leslie & Maggs 2000; Bonner & Carruthers 2003) with in depth studies on, amongst others, ethnic stratification, climate change and herding strategies, glass beads and international trade, the ethno-archaeology and archaeology of rainmaking, settlements and landscapes, faunal remains and agricultural production (Huffman 2011).

The origin of the local VhaVenda people has been investigated and there is some question as to the degree to which the origins of the people was local or not. The local origins theory falls roughly into the following sequence. Between 1300 and 1450 AD Mapungubwe ceramics related to Shona speakers dominated north of the Soutpansberg while Moloko ceramics, the product of

Sotho speakers, were prevalent in the south. From 1450 AD Khami ceramics and associated settlements bore witness to a revived influence from new Shona dynasties in Zimbabwe and by 1550 AD the Letaba facies had arisen from the fusion of Shona and Sotho cultures. The origin of the VhaVenda appears therefore to be local as characterised in the archaeological sequence and it seems likely that a common Venda identity had developed by the 1600s (Loubser 1989). According to Stayt (1968), the “BaVenda” broke away from the Karanga in Zimbabwe and crossed the Limpopo entering the Soutpansberg region in two main streams of migration, the Vhatavhatsinde followed by the Singo, during the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. These groups found other tribes already in occupation including the Ngoni, Mbedzi, and Twamamba and most researchers are of the opinion that peaceful integration between them took place under the rule of Chief Thohoyandou (Eloff 1968). Another two chiefs and their followers were integrated with the VhaVenda during the rule of Tshikalanga (the son of Thohoyandou). These chiefs were Madzivhandila and Lwamondo who were most probably of Sotho origin and who were appointed as keepers of the chief’s cattle, becoming assimilated into the VhaVenda tribe and culture (Stayt 1968).

A number of Iron Age Sites in the region have Provincial Heritage Site status including: Dzata II, Verdun and the Machedema ruins (SAHRA) and a number of others have been indicated to be of particular importance including Mutulowe, Tshitaka tsha Makoleni, Mukumbane and the Tshiungani complex (Hanisch 2003).

### **Historical Period**

The beginning of the Historical Period overlaps the demise of the late Stone and Iron Ages and is characterised by the first written accounts of the region from 1600 A.D. A number of early European travellers visited the area from the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century onwards including Carl Mauch (Burke 1969) and the region saw European settlement and influence from the late 1830’s with the arrival of Louis Trichardt (possibly more properly spelled as Louis *Tregardt*) and Hendrik Potgieter and the subsequent establishment of the town of Soutpansbergdorp (later renamed Schoemansdal) in 1848 (Tempelhoff 1999). Given the high summer temperatures, low rainfall and incidence of Malaria the Limpopo Valley was not settled early by European colonists whose earliest settlements, including Soutpansbergdorp and Schoemansdal, were located in the cooler, better watered region to the south of the Soutpansberg. Way (1858 – 1859) described the settlement of ‘Zout Pans Berg’ as “an emporium of a considerable commerce and is also a kind of Alsatia for refugees from the laws of the Cape Colonies and the adjoining territories.” It is well known that these early settlements were to a large extent based on the hunting of elephant for

ivory, largely herds in the Limpopo Valley to the north. Famous early traders in the region included Coenraad de Buys and João Albasini (Bonner & Carruthers 2003).

João Albasini entered the Soutpansberg region in 1848 as a trader and settled on his farm Goedewensch at Piesanghoek from 1857. He later became the local Native Administrator who collected taxes and recorded incidents in the region (Tempelhoff 1999). In 1855 Joaquim de Santa Rita Montanha led a party from Inhambane to the Soutpansberg, following the Limpopo Valley. It was remarked upon that after crossing the River Tave (Save) that “every day they passed and slept in towns or villages of the cultivators, and readily procured the supplies they required” (MacQueen 1862). Further exploration of the course of the Limpopo River was undertaken by Frederick Elton in 1870, who remarked on the “many kraals” and “fertile country” at the junction of the Limpopo and ‘Nuanetzi’ Rivers (Elton 1871 – 1872).

The Berlin Mission Society established a mission station at Ha-Tshivhase in 1872 and another at Tshakuma in 1874. The mission stations, missionaries and gospel played an intricate and important part in the growth and development of the different groups and societies in the Soutpansberg region (Giesekke 2004; Kirkaldy 2005). Two Swiss missionaries, Dr. Henri Berthoud and Reverend Creux, opened a Mission Station at Lwalani, which they called Valdezia, in 1875 to undertake missionary work among the Tsonga-Shangana communities of the area. Elim Mission Station was established in 1879 and the Elim Hospital was established in 1899 (Giesekke 2004; Kirkaldy 2005).

During the Anglo-Boer War a brief battle was fought between Rhodesian and Boer forces in the vicinity of Rhodes Drift on the Limpopo some distance to the north west of the study area. The area between then Pietersburg and the Soutpansberg saw guerrilla activity during the war but it is the infamous actions of the Bushveld Carbineers, particularly the murder of civilians by Harry “Breaker” Morant, that the wider area is best known for (Davey 1987). According to Bonner and Carruthers (2003) one overall effect of the war on the area to the north was the total effacing of a ‘previously negligible’ white presence and the re-occupation of their land by formerly displaced black communities. After 1900 European farmers were encouraged by the ruling government to occupy farms nearby and to the west of the study area in an effort mainly to compromise for land losses in other parts of the province (Bonner & Carruthers 2003). The town of Louis Trichardt (now Makhado) was established in 1899 and the subsequent decades saw it prosper alongside various agricultural developments, particularly in the Levubu area to the east (Tempelhoff 1999) where a number of communities were forcibly removed from the 1920s onwards (Ramudzuli 2007).

## 6 FIELDWORK FINDINGS

A systematic walkthrough of the study area was undertaken by a fieldwork team comprising an archaeologist and a field assistant. The archaeologist carried a hand-held GPS and the assistant flanked him. The track logs are depicted in black on the maps provided. **No heritage sites or finds of any heritage value or significance were identified.**

# Vondeling Lifestyle Estate Development

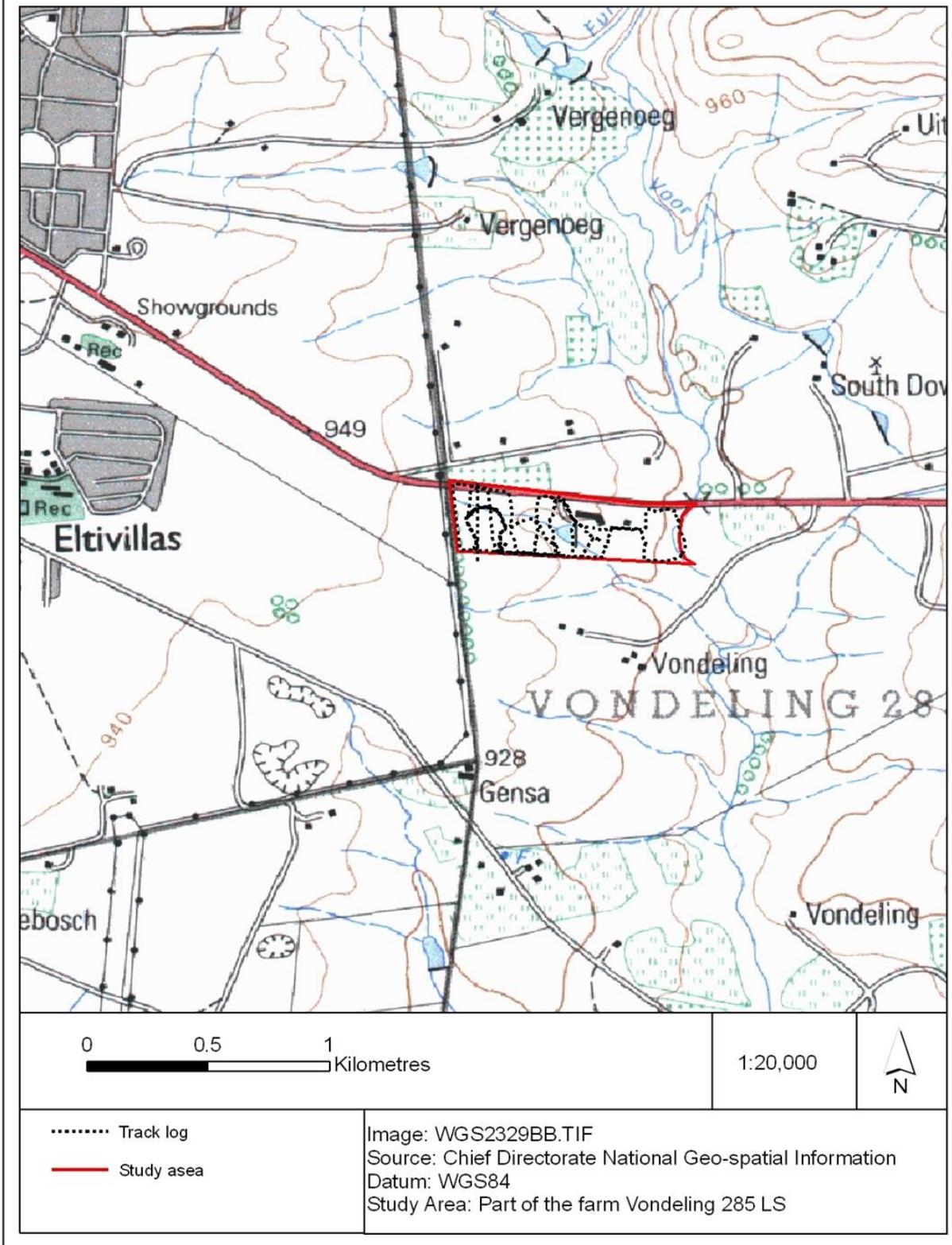
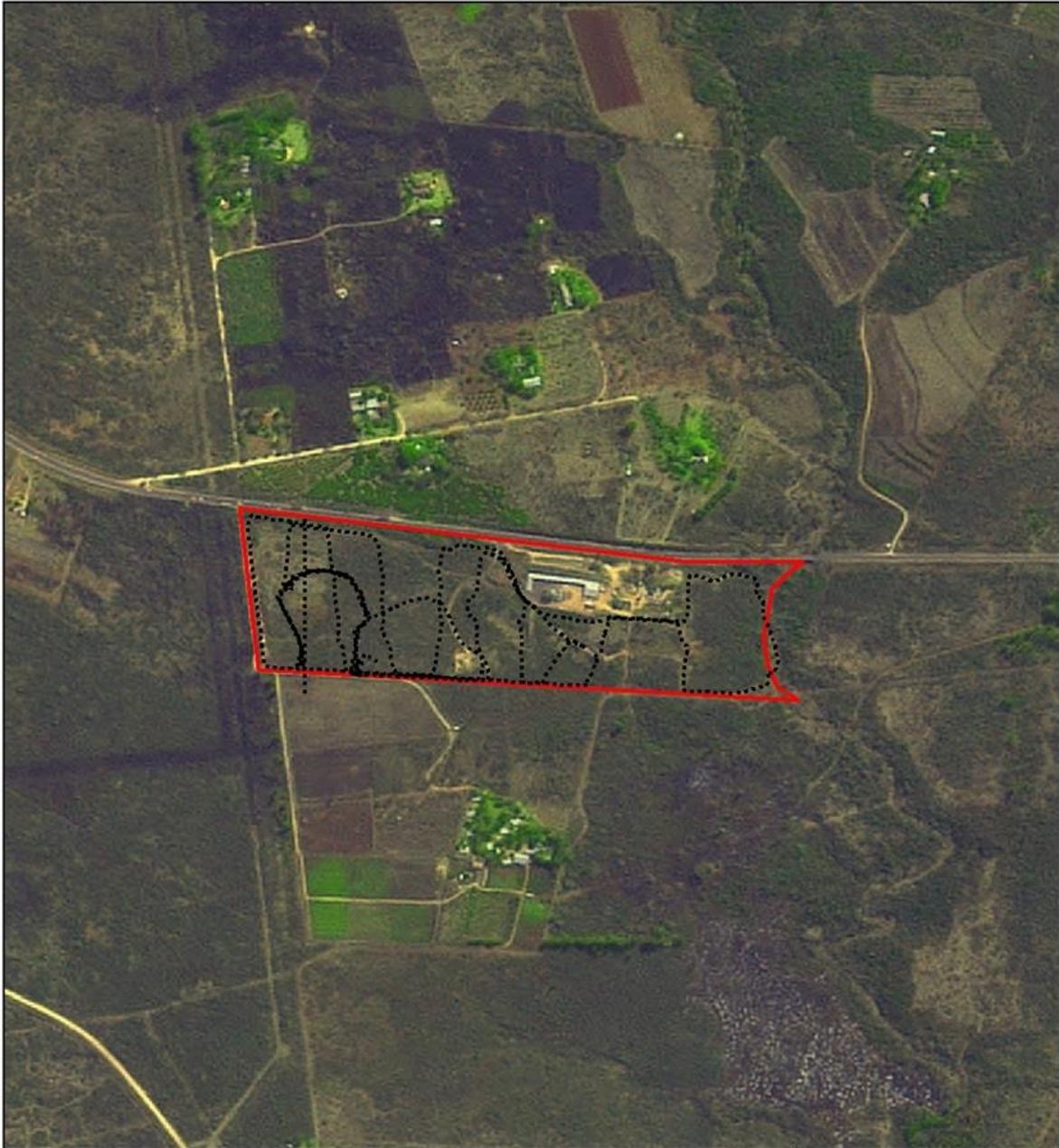


Figure 11 – The proposed study area with track log.

# Vondeling Lifestyle Estate Development



0 0.25 0.5  
Kilometres

1:10,000



..... Track log  
— Study area

Image: 2329B.jp2  
Source: Spot Image / CSIR  
Datum: WGS84  
Study Area: Part of the farm Vondeling 285 LS

Figure 12 – Satellite image of the proposed study area with track log.

## 7 IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON HERITAGE RESOURCES

The development of the proposed residential lifestyle estate will have no impact on any heritage sites. No heritage sites were identified within the study area. As a result the impact of the proposed development on known heritage resources can be considered to be nil.

## 8 MITIGATION MEASURES AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

No heritage sites were identified within the study area and no further heritage mitigation measures are required.

## 9 CONCLUSIONS

PGS Heritage was appointed by Tekplan Environmental to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of a residential lifestyle estate on Portion 46 of the Farm Vondeling 285 LS, approximately 2km east of Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

An archival and historical desktop study was undertaken which was used to compile a historical layering of the study area within its regional context. This component indicated that the landscape within which the project area is located has a rich and diverse history. However, the desktop study did not reveal any historic or heritage sites from within the study area.

The desktop study work was followed by a fieldwork component which comprised a walkthrough of the study area. **No heritage sites or finds of heritage value or significance were identified within the study area.**

The development is not expected to have any impact on heritage sites. As such no heritage reasons can be given for the development not to continue.

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**LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS – TERMINOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

## General principles

In areas where there has not yet been a systematic survey to identify conservation worthy places, a permit is required to alter or demolish any structure older than 60 years. This will apply until a survey has been done and identified heritage resources are formally protected.

Archaeological and palaeontological sites, materials, and meteorites are the source of our understanding of the evolution of the earth, life on earth and the history of people. In terms of the heritage legislation, permits are required to damage, destroy, alter, or disturb them. Furthermore, individuals who already possess heritage material are required to register it. The management of heritage resources is integrated with environmental resources and this means that, before development takes place, heritage resources are assessed and, if necessary, rescued.

In addition to the formal protection of culturally significant graves, all graves which are older than 60 years and are not located in a cemetery (such as ancestral graves in rural areas), are protected. The legislation also protects the interests of communities that have an interest in the graves: they should be consulted before any disturbance takes place. The graves of victims of conflict and those associated with the liberation struggle are to be identified, cared for, protected and memorials erected in their honour.

Anyone who intends to undertake a development must notify the heritage resources authority and, if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected, an impact assessment report must be compiled at the construction company's cost. Thus, the construction company will be able to proceed without uncertainty about whether work will have to be stopped if an archaeological or heritage resource is discovered.

According to the National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999 section 32) it is stated that:

An object or collection of objects, or a type of object or a list of objects, whether specific or generic, that is part of the national estate and the export of which SAHRA deems it necessary to control, may be declared a heritage object, including –

- objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
- visual art objects;

- military objects;
- numismatic objects;
- objects of cultural and historical significance;
- objects to which oral traditions are attached and which are associated with living heritage;
- objects of scientific or technological interest;
- books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic material, film or video 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), or in a provincial law pertaining to records or archives; and
- any other prescribed category.

Under the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), provisions are made that deal with, and offer protection to, all historic and prehistoric cultural remains, including graves and human remains.

### **Graves and cemeteries**

Graves younger than 60 years fall under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the Office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning, or in some cases the MEC for Housing and Welfare. Authorisation for exhumation and reinternment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. In order to handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years, fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are under the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). The procedure

for Consultation regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36(5) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in the category located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority will also require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, over and above SAHRA authorisation.

If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws set by the cemetery authority must be adhered to.