HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 38(8) OF THE NHRA (No. 25 OF 1999)

FOR THE TRACK N4 MONTROSE INTERCHANGE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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APPROVAL PAGE

Project Name	N4 Interchange
Report Title	Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Montrose N4 Interchange Mpumalanga
	Province
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Date	Report Reference Number	Description of Amendment



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November 2020

REPORT OUTLINE

Appendix 6 of the GNR 326 EIA Regulations published on 7 April 2017 provides the requirements for specialist reports undertaken as part of the environmental authorisation process. In line with this, Table 1 provides an overview of Appendix 6 together with information on how these requirements have been met.

Requirement from Appendix 6 of GN 326 EIA Regulation 2017	Chapter
(a) Details of -	Section a
(i) the specialist who prepared the report; and	Section 12
(ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a	
curriculum vitae	
(b) Declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the	Declaration of
competent authority	Independence
(c) Indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1
(cA)an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Section 3.4 and 7.1.
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed	9
development and levels of acceptable change;	
(d) Duration, Date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season	Section 3.4
to the outcome of the assessment	
(e) Description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the	Section 3
specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to	Section 8 and 9
the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure,	
inclusive of site plan identifying site alternatives;	
(g) Identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 8 and 9
(h) Map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and	Section 8
infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be	
avoided, including buffers	
(I) Description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge	Section 3.7
(j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact	Section 9
of the proposed activity including identified alternatives on the environment or	
activities;	
(k) Mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 10
(I) Conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 10
(m) Monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 10
(n) Reasoned opinion -	Section 10.2
(i) as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be	
authorised;	
(iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and	
(ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof	
should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures	
that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	
(0) Description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of	Section 6
preparing the specialist report	.
(p) A summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process	Refer to
and where applicable all responses thereto; and	Environmental
	Assessment report
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority	Section 11



Executive Summary

Prism EMS was appointed to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed road interchange at the existing T-junction of the National N4 Toll Route between eMgwenya (Waterval Boven) and Mbombela (Nelspruit) with the alternative Schoemanskloof Route R539, Mpumalanga.

HCAC was appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for the project and the study area was assessed on desktop level and by a non-intrusive pedestrian survey. Design alternatives regarding the Crocodile River Bridge upgrade were provided and included Alternative 1: Additional piers and Alternative 2: Pier head addition. From a heritage perspective, there is no preference between either. Key findings of the assessment include:

- Large sections of the study area are impacted on by an existing asphalt plant, previous earthworks, existing provincial roads and old disused roads. These activities would have destroyed surface evidence of heritage resources in the area;
- According to the SAHRIS paleontological sensitivity map the area is of low paleontological sensitivity and no further studies are required;
- Two stone walled enclosures were recorded during the survey possibly remnants of a larger Iron Age Settlement destroyed by existing activities in the area.

The impact of the project on heritage resources can be mitigated to an acceptable level and it is recommended that the proposed project is approved on the condition that the following recommendations are implemented as part of the EMPr and based on approval from SAHRA:

- Documentation of the enclosures that includes scaled drawings upon which a destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA;
- These features will have to be monitored during construction;
- Implementation of a chance find procedure for the project (archaeology and palaeontology).



Declaration of Independence

a) Expertise of the specialist

Jaco van der Walt has been practising as a CRM archaeologist for 20 years. He obtained an MA degree in Archaeology from the University of the Witwatersrand focussing on the Iron Age in 2012 and is a PhD candidate at the University of Johannesburg focussing on Stone Age Archaeology with specific interest in the Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA). Jaco is an accredited member of ASAPA (#159) and have conducted more than 500 impact assessments in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State, Gauteng, KZN as well as he Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces in South Africa.

Jaco has worked on various international projects in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, DRC Zambia, Guinea and Tanzania. Through this, he has a sound understanding of the IFC Performance Standard requirements, with specific reference to Performance Standard 8 – Cultural Heritage.



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ABBREVIATIONS

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BGG Burial Ground and Graves
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CFPs: Chance Find Procedures
CMP: Conservation Management Plan
CRR: Comments and Response Report
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
DEA: Department of Environmental Affairs
EA: Environmental Authorisation
EAP: Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EIA Practitioner: Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EMP: Environmental Management Programme
ESA: Early Stone Age
ESIA: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GIS Geographical Information System
GPS: Global Positioning System
GRP Grave Relocation Plan
HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA: Late Iron Age
LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age
LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age MEC: Member of the Executive Council
LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age MEC: Member of the Executive Council MIA: Middle Iron Age
LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age MEC: Member of the Executive Council MIA: Middle Iron Age MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age MEC: Member of the Executive Council MIA: Middle Iron Age MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act MSA: Middle Stone Age
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LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age MEC: Member of the Executive Council MIA: Middle Iron Age MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act MSA: Middle Stone Age NEMA National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) NHRA National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) NID Notification of Intent to Develop
LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age MEC: Member of the Executive Council MIA: Middle Iron Age MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act MSA: Middle Stone Age NEMA National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) NHRA National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) NID Notification of Intent to Develop NoK Next-of-Kin
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LIA: Late Iron Age LSA: Late Stone Age MEC: Member of the Executive Council MIA: Middle Iron Age MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act MSA: Middle Stone Age NEMA National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) NHRA National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) NID Notification of Intent to Develop NoK Next-of-Kin PRHA: Provincial Heritage Resource Agency SADC: Southern African Development Community

*Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.

GLOSSARY

Archaeological site (remains of human activity over 100 years old) Early Stone Age (~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago) Middle Stone Age (~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago) Later Stone Age (~ 40-25 000, to recently, 100 years ago) The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to 1840) Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950) Historic building (over 60 years old)



1 Introduction and Terms of Reference:

HCAC is contracted by Prism EMS to conduct a heritage impact assessment of the proposed N4 Interchange at the existing T-junction of the National N4 Toll Route between eMgwenya (Waterval Boven) and Mbombela (Nelspruit) with the alternative Schoemanskloof Route R539, Mpumalanga (Figure 1-1 to 1-3).

The aim of the study is to survey the proposed development footprint to identify cultural heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial and national context. It serves to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the responsible cultural resources management measures that might be required to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner. It is also conducted to protect, preserve and develop such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized before and during the survey, which includes: Phase 1, review of relevant literature; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey two, small ephemeral stone-walled enclosures were recorded. General site conditions and features on sites were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report. SAHRA as a commenting authority under section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) require all environmental documents, compiled in support of an Environmental Authorisation application as defined by NEMA EIA Regulations section 40 (1) and (2), to be submitted to SAHRA. As such the Basic Assessment report and its appendices must be submitted to the case as well as the EMPr, once it's completed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).

1.1 Terms of Reference

Field study

Conduct a field study to: (a) locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources affected by the proposed development.

Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project; i.e., construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with the relevant legislation, SAHRA minimum standards and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999).



1.2 **Project Description**

The project comprises an interchange on the N4 as described in Table 1-1 and 1-2.

Table	1-1:	Projec	t Description

Province	Mpumalanga Province
Nearest Town	The project is located between eMgwenya (Waterval Boven) and Mbombela (Nelspruit).
GPS Co-ordinates (Relative center point of study area)	25°27'6.02"S 30°42'30.53"E

Table 1-2: Infrastructure and project activities

Type of development	Interchange
Project size	Road with a combined length of less than 2km

1.3 Alternatives

Design alternatives regarding the Crocodile River Bridge upgrade were provided and included Alternative 1: Additional piers and Alternative 2: Pier head addition. From a heritage perspective, there is no preference between either.





Figure 1-1. Regional setting (1: 250 000 topographical map).



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Figure 1-2: Local setting (1:50 000 topographical map).



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Legend Study Area HCAC EFERGIACE Costrolmate Bystem: GCIS Hartsbeeathoek 1994 44.5 PRISM EMB N4 Interchange PROJECT No. 2020 REV. SCALE (8,000 Â. 048 10/10/00/20 1.000 M 262.5 525 1,050 0 Real Prop. State

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HIA – N4 Interchange



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2 Legislative Requirements

The HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the following legislation:

- National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), Act No. 25 of 1999)
- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998 Section 23(2)(b)
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), Act No. 28 of 2002 Section 39(3)(b)(iii)

A Phase 1 HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of heritage specialist input is to:

- Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- Establish heritage informants/constraints to guide the development process through establishing thresholds of impact significance;
- Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources; and
- Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management of these impacts.

The HIA should be submitted, as part of the impact assessment report or EMPr, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will ultimately be responsible for the professional evaluation of Phase 1 AIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 AIA reports and additional development information, as per the impact assessment report and/or EMPr, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 AIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years postuniversity CRM experience (field supervisor level). Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is based in South Africa, representing professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 AIA's are primarily concerned with the location and identification of heritage sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance. Relevant conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision-making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement.

After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for with SAHRA by the applicant before development may proceed.



Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36. 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 the jurisdiction of 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 this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated. 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.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected 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 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. 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).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Literature Review

A brief survey of available literature was conducted to extract data and information on the area in question to provide general heritage context into which the development would be set. This literature search included published material, unpublished commercial reports and online material, including reports sourced from the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

3.2 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located; these locations were marked and visited during the fieldwork phase. The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.

3.3 Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement is a key component of any BAR process, it involves stakeholders interested in, or affected by the proposed development. Stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to raise issues of concern (for the purposes of this report only heritage related issues will be included). The aim of the public consultation process was to capture and address any issues raised by community members and other stakeholders during key stakeholder and public meetings. The process involved:

- Placement of advertisements and site notices
- Stakeholder notification (through the dissemination of information and meeting invitations);
- Stakeholder meetings undertaken with I&APs;
- Authority Consultation
- The compilation of a Report.

Please refer to section 6 for more detail.



3.4 Site Investigation

Conduct a field study to: a) systematically survey the proposed project area to locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points of sites/areas identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources recorded in the project area.

Table 3-1: Site Investigation Details

	Site Investigation
Date	28 September 2019 and 10 November 2020
Season	Summer – vegetation in the study area is high and existing activities like mining and road developments hamper archaeological visibility. The impact area was however sufficiently covered (Figure 3-1) to understand the heritage character of the study area.





Figure 3-1: Track log of the survey in green.

3.5 Site Significance and Field Rating

Section 3 of the NHRA distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- Its importance in/to the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a 'heritage landscape'. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed project the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface. This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The following criteria were used to establish site significance with cognisance of Section 3 of the NHRA:

- The unique nature of a site;
- The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site;
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features;
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined/is known);
- The preservation condition of the sites; and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

In addition to this criteria field ratings prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and acknowledged by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 10 of this report.

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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 significance	Conservation; mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High significance	Mitigation (part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP. A)	-	High/medium significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP. B)	-	Medium significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

3.6 Impact Assessment Methodology

The significance of the identified impacts will be determined using an accepted methodology from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Guideline document on EIA Regulations, April 1998. As with all impact methodologies, the impact is defined in a semi-quantitative way and will be assessed according to methodology prescribed in the following section.

Scale utilised for the evaluation of the Environmental Risk Ratings

Evaluation Component	Rating	Scale	Description / criteria	
	10	Very high	Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be severely altered.	
	8	High	Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>considerably</i> altered.	
negative impact	6	Medium	Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>notably</i> altered.	
spatial scale)	4	Low	Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>slightly</i> altered.	
	2	Very low	Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>negligibly</i> altered.	
	0	Zero	Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes will remain <i>unaltered</i> .	
	10	Very high	Positive: Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>substantially</i> enhanced.	
	8	High	Positive : Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>considerably</i> enhanced.	
IMPACT (at the	6	Medium	Positive : Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>notably</i> enhanced.	
scale)	4	Low	Positive : Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>slightly</i> enhanced.	
	2	Very low	Positive : Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes might be <i>negligibly</i> enhanced.	
	0	Zero	Positive : Bio-physical and/or social functions and/or processes will remain <i>unaltered</i> .	
DURATION	5	Permanent	Impact in perpetuity. –	

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	interentarige interestinger				
	4	Long term	Impact ceases after operational phase/life of the activity > 60 years		
	3 Medium term Impact might occur during th		Impact might occur during the operational phase/life of the activity -60 years		
	2	Short term	Impact might occur during the construction phase - < 3 years.		
	1	Immediate			
	5	International	Beyond the National boundaries.		
			Beyond provincial boundaries, but within National		
EXTENT	4	National	boundaries.		
(or spatial	3	Regional	provincial boundaries.		
imnact)	2	Local	Within a 5 km radius of the Impact Area .		
impacty	1	Site-specific	On site or within 100 meters of the site boundaries.		
	0	None	Zero extent.		
	5	Definite	Definite loss of irreplaceable resources.		
	4	High potential	High potential for loss of irreplaceable resources.		
	~	Moderate	Moderate potential for loss of irreplaceable		
IRREPLACEABLE	3	potential	resources.		
loss of resources	2	Low potential	Low potential for loss of irreplaceable resources.		
		Verv low	Very low potential for loss of irreplaceable		
	1	potential	resources.		
	0	None	Zero potential.		
	5	Irreversible	Impact cannot be reversed.		
	4	Low	Low potential that impact might be reversed.		
		irreversibility			
REVERSIBILITY		Moderate	woderate potential that impact might be		
of impact		reversibility	reversed.		
·	2	reversibility	High potential that impact might be reversed.		
	1	Reversible	Impact will be reversible.		
	0	No impact	No impact.		
	5	Definite	>95% chance of the potential impact occurring.		
	4	High probability	75% - 95% chance of the potential impact occurring.		
	2	Medium	25% - 75% chance of the potential impact		
	3	probability	occurring		
occurrence)	2	Low probability	5% - 25% chance of the potential impact occurring.		
	1	Improbable	<5% chance of the potential impact occurring.		
	0	No probability	Zero probability.		
Evaluation Component	Rating scale and description / criteria				
	High: The activity is one of several similar past, present or future activities in				
	the same geographical area, and might contribute to a very significant combined impact on the natural, cultural, and/or socio-economic resources of				
0	local, regional or national concern.				
CUMULATIVE	Medium: The activity is one of a few similar past, present or future activities in				
impacts	the same geographical area, and might have a combined impact of moderate				
	significance on the natural, cultural, and/or socio-economic resources of local,				
	Low: The activity is localised and might have a nonligible sumulative impact				
	<i>Low:</i> I ne activity is localised and might have a negligible cumulative impact. <i>None:</i> No cumulative impact on the environment.				

Once the Environmental Risk Ratings have been evaluated for each potential environmental impact, the Significance Score of each potential environmental impact is calculated by using the following formula:

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• SS (Significance Score) = (magnitude + duration + extent + irreplaceable + reversibility) x probability.

The maximum Significance Score value is 150.

The Significance Score is then used to rate the Environmental Significance of each potential environmental impact as per Table 8.2 below. The Environmental Significance rating process is completed for all identified potential environmental impacts both before and after implementation of the recommended mitigation measures.

Scale used for the evaluation of the Environmental Significance Ratings

Significance Score	Environmental Significance	Description / criteria		
125 – 150	Very high (VH)	An impact of very high significance will mean that the project cannot proceed, and that impacts are irreversible, regardless of available mitigation options.		
100 – 124	High (H)	An impact of high significance which could influence a decision about whether or not to proceed with the proposed project, regardless of available mitigation options.		
75 – 99	Medium-high (MH)	If left unmanaged, an impact of medium-high significance could influence a decision about whether or not to proceed with a proposed project. Mitigation options should be relooked at.		
40 – 74	Medium (M)	If left unmanaged, an impact of moderate significance could influence a decision about whether or not to proceed with a proposed project.		
<40	Low (L)	An impact of low is likely to contribute to positive decisions about whether or not to proceed with the project. It will have little real effect and is unlikely to have an influence on project design or alternative motivation.		
+	Positive impact (+)	A positive impact is likely to result in a positive consequence/effect, and is likely to contribute to positive decisions about whether or not to proceed with the project.		

3.7 Limitations and Constraints of the study

The authors acknowledge that the brief literature review is not exhaustive on the literature of the area. Due to the nature of heritage resources and pedestrian surveys, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/recorded during the survey and the possible occurrence of graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. Similarly, the depth of the deposit of heritage sites cannot be accurately determined due its subsurface nature. This report only deals with the footprint area of the proposed development and consisted of non-intrusive surface surveys. This study did not assess the impact on medicinal plants and intangible heritage as it is assumed that these components would have been highlighted through the public consultation process if relevant. It is possible that new information could come to light in future, which might change the results of this Impact Assessment.

4 Description of Socio Economic Environmental

Mpumalanga has a youthful population with approximately 64% of the population consisting of economically active people (15 to 34 years of age). This provides significant human resources for future economic growth and sustainability. The project will promote infrastructure and create employment opportunities.

5 Description of the Physical Environment:

The project is located between eMgwenya (Waterval Boven) and Mbombela (Nelspruit) with the alternative Schoemanskloof Route R539, Mpumalanga. The general area is characterised by gently rolling hills, with a few large rivers bisecting it (Figure 5-1). The vegetation in the study area although transformed in some areas forms part of the Savanna Biome and classed as Legogote Sour Bushveld and the landscape is characterised by gently to moderately upper pediment slopes with dense woodland including many medium to large shrubs, with short thicket occurring on less rocky sites (Mucina and Rutherford, 2009). The receiving environment is characterised by road developments, mining activities and warehouses (Figure 5-2 to 5-4). Vegetation cover in the study area varies from grassland on the slopes to thick riparian zones next to the river (Figure 5-5).

Figure 5-1. Landscape context of the study area.

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Figure 5-2. Existing road developments in the study area .

Figure 5-3. Disused road with road cutting visible.

Figure 5-4. Existing bridge over the Crocodile river.

Figure 5-5: View from the proposed road to the north.

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6 Results of Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:

6.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

Adjacent landowners and the public at large were informed of the proposed activity as part of the BA process. Site notices and advertisements notifying interested and affected parties were placed at strategic points and in local newspapers as part of the process.

7 Literature / Background Study:

7.1 Literature Review (SAHRIS)

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where archaeological and historical sites might be located.

Various sites are known for the area. The sites recorded vary from early and middle Stone Age sites to early and late Iron Age sites. The following CRM assessments were consulted for this report:

Author	Year	Project	Findings
Van Schalkwyk,	2007	Heritage Impact Scoping Report for The	Sites range from
J.A.		Planned Hendrina-Marathon Powerline,	settlements to initiation
		Mpumalanga Province	sites, industrial and farming
			related sites as well as
			cemeteries
Van Wyk Rowe, C.	2014	Phase 1 Archaeological / Heritage Impact	Historical structures
		Assessment for The Development Of A	
		Footbridge Across The Elands River,	
		Elandshoek, Mpumalanga	
Celliers, JP	2018	Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact	Stone enclosure
		Assessment on the farm Mooifontein 292 JT	
		in respect of proposed agricultural	
		development, Mpumalanga Province	

7.1.1 Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

No known grave sites are indicated in the study area.

7.2 General History of the area

7.2.1 Archaeology of the area

The archaeology of the area can be divided in three main periods namely the Stone Age, Iron Age and Historical period.

7.2.2 Stone Age

South Africa has a long and complex Stone Age sequence of more than 2 million years. The broad sequence includes the Later Stone Age, the Middle Stone Age and the Earlier Stone Age. Each of these phases contains sub-phases or industrial complexes, and within these we can expect regional variation regarding characteristics and time ranges. For Cultural Resources Management (CRM) purposes it is often only expected/ possible to identify the presence of the three main phases.

Yet sometimes the recognition of cultural groups, affinities or trends in technology and/or subsistence practices, as represented by the sub-phases or industrial complexes, is achievable (Lombard 2011). The three main phases can be divided as follows;

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- » Later Stone Age; associated with Khoi and San societies and their immediate predecessors. -Recently to ~30 thousand years ago.
- » Middle Stone Age; associated with Homo sapiens and archaic modern human . 30-300 thousand years ago.
- » Earlier Stone Age; associated with early Homo groups such as Homo habilis and Homo erectus. -400 000-> 2 million years ago.

Very few Early Stone Age (ESA) sites are on record for Mpumalanga. An example where ESA tools have been discovered located outside of the study area is at Maleoskop (Bergh 1999) on the farm Rietkloof, which is one of only a handful of such sites in Mpumalanga. Another example also outside of the study area is at Bushman Rock Shelter (Mason 1969, Wadley 1987), a well-known site in the Ohrigstad district. This cave was excavated twice in the 1960s by Louw and later by Eloff. The MSA layers show that the cave was repeatedly frequented over a long period. Lower layers have been dated to over 40 000 Before Present (BP), while the top layers date to approximately 27 000 BP (Esterhuysen and Smith in Delius, 2007). MSA material is found widely across South Africa and some MSA manifestations can be expected in the study area.

Sites dating to the LSA are found in numerous rock shelters throughout Eastern Mpumalanga, where some of their rock art is still visible. A number of these shelters have been documented throughout the Province (Schoonraad in Barnard, 1975; Bornman, 1995 and Delius, 2007). These include areas such as Witbank, Ermelo, Barberton, Nelspruit, White River, Lydenburg and Ohrigstad.

At Honingklip near Badplaas in the Carolina District, two LSA rock shelters with four panels of rock art was excavated. The site was used between 4870 BP and as recently as 200 BP. Stone walls at both sites date to the last 250 years of hunter-gatherer occupation and they may have served as protection against intruders and predators. Pieces of clay ceramic and iron beads found at the site indicates that there was early social interaction between the hunter-gatherer (San) communities and the first farmers who moved into this area at around 500 AD.

7.2.3 Iron Age and historical period

Bantu-speaking people moved into Eastern and Southern Africa about 2,000 years ago (Mitchell, 2002). These people cultivated sorghum and millets, herded cattle and small stock and manufactured iron tools and copper ornaments. Because metalworking represents a new technology, archaeologists call this period the Iron Age. Characteristic ceramic styles help archaeologists to separate the sites into different groups and time periods. The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the Pre-Historic and Historic periods. It can be divided into three distinct periods:

- » The Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.
- » The Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD.
- » The Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period.

Figure 7-1: Movement of Bantu speaking farmers (Huffman 2007).

The later phases of the Iron Age (AD 1600-1800's) are represented by various tribes including Ndebele, Swazi, BaKoni, and Pedi, marked by extensive stonewalled settlements found throughout the escarpment and particularly around Machadodorp, Lydenburg, Badfontein, Sekhukuneland, Roossenekal and Steelpoort. The BaKoni were the architects of a unique archaeological stone building complex who by the 19th century spoke seKoni which was similar to Sepedi. The core elements of this tradition are stone-walled enclosures, roads and terraces. These settlement complexes may be divided into three basic features: homesteads, terraces and cattle tracks.

Researchers such as Mike Evers (1975) and David Collett (1982) identified three basic settlement layouts in this area. These sites can be divided into simple and complex ruins. Simple ruins are normally small in relation to more complex sites and have smaller central cattle byres and fewer huts. Complex ruins consist of a central cattle byre, which has two opposing entrances and several semi-circular enclosures surrounding it. The perimeter wall of these sites is sometimes poorly visible. Huts are built between the central enclosure and the perimeter wall. These are all connected by track-ways referred to as cattle tracks. These tracks are made by building stone walls, which forms a walkway for cattle to the centrally located cattle byres. A combination of these features occurs on a few dispersed sites to the north west of the study area (Celliers 2019).

Individual sites range from simple enclosures, which consist of single or two concentric stonewalled circles found in small, isolated settlements, to complex sites with large central enclosures which have smaller enclosures attached to their outer walls. The walls are built with undressed, locally occurring, stone. Walls on average are 0.5 to approximately 1 meter high, although often only the foundation stones are left.

7.2.4 Cultural Landscape

The area has been subjected to limited development from prior to 1969 and successive historical aerial photographs and topographic maps indicate the changes in the study area and surrounds (Figure 7-2 to Figure 7-6). From the images it can be deducted that the only developments in the area up to 1959 was a

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few roads and some earthworks. By 1969 the Montrose hotel was built with several associated outbuildings most of which has been demolished over the years.

Figure 7-2. 1936 Aerial image with the approximate study area indicated in blue with several roads in the study area.

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Figure 7-3. 1959 Aerial image with the approximate study area indicated in blue with several roads in the study area.

HIA – N4 Interchange November 2020 Legend Montrose F Study Area Montrose O N4 Interchange Q 5A.8 110 M 200 262.5 525 1,050 0

Figure 7-4: 1969 Topographical map of the study area. The Montrose hotel and associated buildings are visible.

Figure 7-5: 1984 Topographical map of the study area. The Montrose hotel and associated buildings are visible.

Figure 7-6. 2020 Aerial image of the study area. The extend of disturbances and modern buildings where the hotel used to be is clearly visible.

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8 Findings of the Survey

It is important to note that only the footprint of the proposed road upgrade was surveyed as indicated in Figure 1-1 to 1-3. The study area is extensively disturbed by road developments (Figure 8-1 & 8-2), an existing Asphalt plant (Figure 8-3), old quarry (Figure 8-4) and modern buildings and although the larger area is known for Iron Age stonewalled sites the extensive developments in the area would have impacted on surface indications of archaeological sites. This was confirmed during the field survey and finds were limited to two small stone enclosures (Figure 8-1 & Table 8-1) and are briefly described below.

Figure 8-1: Old road cutting.

Figure 8-2. Disused tarmac road.

Figure 8-3: Existing asphalt plant.

Figure 8-4. Old quarry or road cutting.

Figure 8-5. Features recorded during the survey.

LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LABEL
30° 42' 07.5097" E	25° 27' 11.0341" S	Feature 1 - Stone-walled enclosure
30° 42' 39.1248" E	25° 27' 09.0181" S	Feature 2 - Stone-walled enclosure

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8.1 Archaeological Findings

The study recorded two, small ephemeral stone-walled enclosures (Feature 1 & Feature 2). It is not certain if these features could have formed part of a larger Iron Age settlement complex that has been destroyed by earthmoving activities relating to quarries and road construction in the study area or if they are of a more recent nature. No other cultural material was found associated with these features apart from a single undecorated potsherd at Feature 2. The walls collapsed with no clear discernible entrances and measures less than 2.5 meters in diameter

Heritage Significance: The site is of low heritage significance due to the existing impacts to the site, the lack of cultural material and features. Field Rating – GP B

Figure 8-6. Feature 1 viewed from the east.

Figure 8-7. Feature 1 viewed from the west.

Figure 8-8. Feature 2 viewed from the south.

Figure 8-9. Feature 2 viewed from south east

8.2 Palaeontology

According to the paleontological sensitivity of the study area based on the SAHRA Paleontological map no further studies are required (Figure 8-6).

Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	Field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	Desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	Desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	No palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	No palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	These areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map

Figure 8-10. Paleontological sensitivity of the study area as indicated on the SAHRA Palaeontological sensitivity map.

8.3 Graves and Burial sites

No graves or burial sites were recorded during the survey although the recorded sites are known to contain unmarked burials.

9 Potential Impact

Impacts to non-renewable heritage resources will be permanent and negative and expected to occur during the vegetation clearing and initial construction and would be of low/ medium significance but can be mitigated to an acceptable level as outlined in Table 9.1 and Section 10 of this report.

Cumulative impacts occur from the combination of effects of various impacts on heritage resources. The importance of identifying and assessing cumulative impacts is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In the case of the development, impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level.

LABEL	Significance	Mitigation
	Low	Documentation of the enclosures that includes scaled drawings upon which a
		destruction permit must be applied for nom SARKA. Lead time 5 -4 months.
		The sites will have to be monitored during construction.
Feature 1		° °
	Low	Documentation of the enclosures that includes scaled drawings upon which a
		destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA. Lead time 3 -4 months.
		The sites will have to be monitored during construction.
Feature 2		

Table 9-1. Significance and proposed mitigation of heritage sites

HIA _	N4	Interchange
1111/17 -	114-	Interchange

9.1 Impact Assessment – Department of Environmental Affairs.

The significance of the identified impacts is determined by using the accepted methodology from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Guideline document on EIA Regulations, April 1998.

Table 9-2. Impact Assessment

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL	ACTIVITY	Y ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION							E	Cumulative Status	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES/	ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION								
IMPACT		м	D	S	I	R	Р	TOTAL	SP			REMARKS	м	D	S	Т	R	Р	TOTAL	SP
Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment																				
Archaeological Resources - Iron Age sites	N4 Interchange	2	5	3	5	5	3	60	м	Low	Negative	Documentation of the enclosures that includes scaled drawings upon which a destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA. The sites will have to be monitored during construction	2	5	3	5	5	2	40	L

10 Conclusion and recommendations

The study area is extensively disturbed by road developments (Figure 8-1 & 8-2), an existing Asphalt plant (Figure 8-3), old quarry (Figure 8-4) and modern buildings and although the larger area is known for Iron Age stonewalled sites the extensive developments in the area would have impacted on surface indications of archaeological sites. This was confirmed during the field survey and finds were limited to two small stone enclosures recorded as Feature 1 & Feature2.

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It is not certain if these features could have formed part of a larger Iron Age settlement complex that has been destroyed by earthmoving activities relating to quarries and road construction in the study area or if they are of a more recent nature. No other cultural material was found associated with these features apart from a single undecorated potsherd at Feature 2. The walls collapsed with no clear discernible entrances and measures less than 2.5 meters in diameter. According to the SAHRIS paleontological sensitivity map the area is of low paleontological sensitivity and no further studies are required.

The impact of the project on heritage resources can be mitigated to an acceptable level and it is recommended that the proposed project is approved on the condition that the following recommendations are implemented as part of the EMPr and based on approval from SAHRA:

- Documentation of the enclosures that includes scaled drawings upon which a destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA;
- These features will have to be monitored during construction;
- Implementation of a chance find procedure for the project (archaeology and palaeontology) as outlined below.

10.1. Chance Find Procedures - Heritage Resources

The possibility of the occurrence of subsurface finds cannot be excluded. Therefore, if during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find and therefor chance find procedures should be put in place as part of the EMP. A short summary of chance find procedures is discussed below.

This procedure applies to the developer's permanent employees, its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, and service providers. The aim of this procedure is to establish monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures. Construction crews must be properly inducted to ensure they are fully aware of the procedures regarding chance finds as discussed below.

- If during the pre-construction phase, construction, operations or closure phases of this project, any
 person employed by the developer, one of its subsidiaries, contractors and subcontractors, or
 service provider, finds any artefact of cultural significance or heritage site, this person must cease
 work at the site of the find and report this find to their immediate supervisor, and through their
 supervisor to the senior on-site manager.
- It is the responsibility of the senior on-site Manager to make an initial assessment of the extent of the find and confirm the extent of the work stoppage in that area.
- The senior on-site Manager will inform the ECO of the chance find and its immediate impact on operations. The ECO will then contact a professional archaeologist for an assessment of the finds who will notify the SAHRA.

10.2. Reasoned Opinion

The impact of the proposed project on heritage resources can be mitigated to an acceptable level based on approval from SAHRA. Furthermore, the socio-economic benefits also outweigh the possible impacts of the development if the correct mitigation measures are implemented for the project.

10.3. Potential risk

Potential risks to the proposed project are the occurrence of unknown or unmarked graves of which surface indicators have been destroyed and subsurface archaeological deposits. These risks can be mitigated to an acceptable level with monitoring and the implementation of a chance find procedure as outlined in Section 10.1.

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12 Appendices:

Curriculum Vitae of Specialist

Jaco van der Walt Archaeologist

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Education:

Particulars of degrees/diplomas and/or other qualifications:								
Name of University or Institution:		University of Pretoria						
Degree obtained	:	BA Heritage Tourism & Archaeology						
Year of graduation	:	2001						
Name of University or Institution:		University of the Witwatersrand						
Degree obtained	:	BA Hons Archaeology						
Year of graduation	:	2002						
Name of University or Institution	:	University of the Witwatersrand						
Degree Obtained	:	MA (Archaeology)						
Year of Graduation	:	2012						
Name of University or Institution	:	University of Johannesburg						
Degree	:	PhD						
Year	:	Currently Enrolled						

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

2011 – Present:	Owner – HCAC (Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC).
2007 – 2010 :	CRM Archaeologist, Managed the Heritage Contracts Unit at the
	University of the Witwatersrand.
2005 - 2007:	CRM Archaeologist, Director of Matakoma Heritage Consultants
2004:	Technical Assistant, Department of Anatomy University of Pretoria
2003:	Archaeologist, Mapungubwe World Heritage Site
2001 - 2002:	CRM Archaeologists, For R & R Cultural Resource Consultants,
	Polokwane
2000:	Museum Assistant, Fort Klapperkop.

Countries of work experience include:

Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Zambia.

SELECTED PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Archaeological Impact Assessments (Phase 1)

Heritage Impact Assessment Proposed Discharge Of Treated Mine Water Via The Wonderfontein Spruit Receiving Water Body Specialist as part of team conducting an Archaeological Assessment for the Mmamabula mining project and power supply, Botswana Archaeological Impact Assessment Mmamethlake Landfill

Archaeological Impact Assessment Libangeni Landfill

Linear Developments

Archaeological Impact Assessment Link Northern Waterline Project At The Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve Archaeological Impact Assessment Medupi – Spitskop Power Line, Archaeological Impact Assessment Nelspruit Road Development

Renewable Energy developments

Archaeological Impact Assessment Karoshoek Solar Project

Grave Relocation Projects

Relocation of graves and site monitoring at Chloorkop as well as permit application and liaison with local authorities and social processes with local stakeholders, Gauteng Province.

Relocation of the grave of Rifle Man Maritz as well as permit application and liaison with local authorities and social processes with local stakeholders, Ndumo, Kwa Zulu Natal.

Relocation of the Magolwane graves for the office of the premier, Kwa Zulu Natal

Relocation of the OSuthu Royal Graves office of the premier, Kwa Zulu Natal

Phase 2 Mitigation Projects

Field Director for the Archaeological Mitigation For Booysendal Platinum Mine, Steelpoort, Limpopo Province. Principle investigator Prof. T. Huffman

Monitoring of heritage sites affected by the ARUP Transnet Multipurpose Pipeline under directorship of Gavin Anderson.

Field Director for the Phase 2 mapping of a late Iron Age site located on the farm Kameelbult, Zeerust, North West Province. Under directorship of Prof T. Huffman.

Field Director for the Phase 2 surface sampling of Stone Age sites effected by the Medupi – Spitskop Power Line, Limpopo Province

Heritage management projects

Platreef Mitigation project – mitigation of heritage sites and compilation of conservation management plan.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists. Member number 159 Accreditation:
 - Field Director
 - r Iron Age Archaeology
 - Field SupervisorColonial Period Archaeology, Stone AgeArchaeology and Grave Relocation
- Accredited CRM Archaeologist with SAHRA

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- o Accredited CRM Archaeologist with AMAFA
- Co-opted council member for the CRM Section of the Association of Southern African Association Professional Archaeologists (2011 – 2012)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A Culture Historical Interpretation, Aimed at Site Visitors, of the Exposed Eastern Profile of K8 on the Southern terrace at Mapungubwe.
 - J van der Walt, A Meyer, WC Nienaber
 - Poster presented at Faculty day, Faculty of Medicine University of Pretoria 2003
- 'n Reddingsondersoek na Anglo-Boereoorlog-ammunisie, gevind by Ifafi, Noordwes-Provinsie. South-African Journal for Cultural History 16(1) June 2002, with A. van Vollenhoven as co-writer.
- Fieldwork Report: Mapungubwe Stabilization Project.
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