



Shasa Heritage Consultants

PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPING REPORT

**Project title:
PROPOSED GA-MAMPA ACCESS BRIDGE,
GA-MAMPA, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Polygon Environmental Services contracted the author to survey the proposed area for development and produce a scoping report for a Phase 1 heritage study to advise on potential impacts and mitigation measures. The proposed development is located Sealane in the Limpopo Province, approximately 7km west of the R37.

The proposed area is already a crossing, however water erosion has severely impacted the area. Thus, the area can be considered disturbed.

Mr K Mphofelo the CED Co-ordinator and Mr R Mampa were contacted before site visit, no issues with the area was raised and access granted.

No graves, marked or unmarked, no heritage remains or socio-religious areas were recorded during survey.

From a heritage resources point of view, we have no objection to the development taking place.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Application purpose: Proposed new access bridge

Area: Sekhukhune, Limpopo Province

Size: 1ha

GPS: S24° 23' 48.3" E29° 59' 31.9"

Map reference number: 2429 DC

This report will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

Historical remains

Section 34(1) 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.

Archaeological remains

Section 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

(a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface, or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3)(a) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

(c) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or

(b) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Culture resource management

Section 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature, and extent of the proposed development.

development means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

(a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;

(b) carry out any works on or over or under a place*;

(e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and

(f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

****place** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure* ...”

****structure** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ...”

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information and methodology

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

A pedestrian survey of the area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. The area was surveyed on 24 November 2019 during the morning and was thoroughly traversed. Mr FE Roodt conducted fieldwork.

Special attention given to any areas displaying soil and or vegetative changes. As most archaeological material occurs in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Locations of heritage remains were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin Etrex 10).



2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. Vegetation was sparse and visibility fair. As the area has been impacted on, natural ground level could not be ascertained.

2.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

Level	Details	Action
National (Grade 1)	Site is considered to be of National Significance	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade 2)	Site is considered to be of Provincial Significance	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority
Local Grade 3A	Site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	Site should be retained as a heritage site
Local Grade 3B	Site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be mitigated and part retained as a heritage site
Generally Protected A	High to Medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	Site needs to be recorded before destruction
Generally Protected C	Low significance	No further recording before destruction

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. Many aspects must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

2.4 Terminology

Early Stone Age: Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.

Middle Stone Age: Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.

Late Stone Age: The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD

Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD

Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

Historical: Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA, though more recent remains can be termed historically significant should the remains hold social significance for the local community.

Phase 1 assessment: Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area

Phase 2 assessments: In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.

Sensitive: Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

Vegetation: Sekhukhune Plains Bushveld SVcb27

Geology: Bushveld Igneous Complex

Terrain: The terrain is generally flatlands. The area has been impacted on by soil and water erosion

Proposed development: To establish a new access bridge



Fig 1: View of area



Fig 2: View of area



Fig 3: View of area



Fig 4: View of area



Fig 5. View of area



Fig 6. View of area

4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY AND DISCUSSION

4.1 SOCIAL and/or RELIGIOUS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No areas relating to socio-religious activities were recorded. The area is also not a cultural landscape and has come under heavy development over the last decade.

Significance: None

4.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD

The wider area is named after King Sekhukhune, son of Sekwati, who amalgamated and formed the Ba-Pedi tribe (Marota people), originally of Bakgatla origin in the western Transvaal.

To defend the Sekhukhune empire from European colonization, Sekhukhune sent young men under the authority of headmen to work on white farms and the diamonds mines. The money they earned was taxed and used to buy guns from the Portuguese in Delegea Bay and cattle to increase the wealth of the Marota people. By the middle of the 19th century the Marota empire had grown to unite all the disparate people in the area under a common Royalty.

The first famous battle against Europeans was waged by King Sekwati, in 1838 against Hendrik Potgieter in 1883 near Phiring. The Anglo-Pedi war of 1879, began the downfall of the Sekhukhune Kingdom. The British, aided by Swazi troops, defeated the BaPedi and King Sekhukhune was imprisoned in Pretoria.

In 1882, King Sekhukhune was murdered by his half-brother Mampuru, who is believed to have been the legitimate heir to the throne after their father King Sekwati passed.

Later the majority of the Sekhukhune area fell under the Lebowa Bantustan during the apartheid era.

No remains from the historical period were recorded.

Significance: None

4.3 **GRAVES**

No graves either marked or unmarked or have been mentioned by the local community.

Significance: None

4.4 **IRON AGE REMAINS**

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition: Kwale branch-	Silver Leaves <i>facies</i>	AD 280-450	(Early Iron Age)
	<i>Mzonjani facies</i>	AD 450 – 750	(Early Iron Age)
Moloko branch-	<i>Icon facies</i>	AD 1300 - 1500	(Late Iron Age)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch -	<i>Doornkop facies</i>	AD 750 - 1000	(Early Iron Age)
	<i>Letaba facies</i>	AD 1600 - 1840	(Late Iron Age)

No remains from the Iron Age were recorded.

Significance: None

4.5 **STONE AGE REMAINS**

No Stone Age remains were recorded.

The below mentioned is generic background to the area adapted from Deacon and Deacon: 1999:

The Stone Age covers most of southern Africa and the earliest consist of the Oldowan and Acheul artefacts assemblages. Oldowan tools are regularly referred to as “choppers”. Oldowan artefacts are associated with Homo *habilis*, the first true humans. In South Africa definite occurrences have been found at the sites of Sterkfontein and Swartkrans. Here they are dated to between 1.7 and 2 million years old. This was followed by the Acheulian technology from about 1.4 million years ago which introduced a new level of complexity. The large tools that dominate the Acheulian artefact assemblages range in length from 100 to 200 mm or more. Collectively they are called bifaces because they are normally shaped by flaking on both faces. In plan view they tend to be pear-shape and are broad relative to their thickness. Most bifaces are pointed and are classified as handaxes, but others have a wide cutting end and are termed cleavers. The Acheulian design persisted for more than a million years and only disappeared about 250 000 years ago.

The change from Acheulian with their characteristic bifaces, handaxes and cleavers to Middle Stone Age (MSA), which are characterized by flake industries, occurred about 250 000 years ago and ended about 30 000 – 22 000 years ago. For the most part the MSA is associated with modern humans; Homo sapiens. MSA remains are found in open spaces where they are regularly exposed by erosion as well as in caves. Characteristics of the MSA are flake blanks in the 40 – 100 mm size range struck from prepared cores, the striking platforms of the flakes reveal one or more facets, indicating the preparation of the platform before flake removal (the prepared core technique), flakes show dorsal preparation – one or more ridges or arise down the length of the flake – as a result of previous removals from the core, flakes with convergent sides (laterals) and a pointed shape, and flakes with parallel laterals and a rectangular or quadrilateral shape: these can be termed pointed and flake blades respectively. Other flakes in MSA assemblages are irregular in form.

The change from Middle Stone Age to Later Stone Age (LSA) took place in most parts of southern Africa little more than about 20 000 years ago. It is marked by a series of technological innovations or new tools that, initially at least, were used to do much the same jobs as had been done before, but in a different way. Their introduction was associated with changes in the nature of hunter-gatherer material culture. The innovations associated with the Later Stone Age “package” of tools include rock art – both paintings and engravings, smaller stone tools, so small that the formal tools less than 25mm long are called microliths (sometimes found in the final MSA) and Bows and arrows. Rock art is an important feature of the LSA and is generally located further north-west and west in the Limpopo Province. Stone Age remains are also known from the Richmond/Steelpoort area.

Significance: None

4.6 PALAEONOTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The area lies within the grey zone on SAHRIS map. There is no need for a paleo study as the underlying granites and gneiss formations are not conducive to palaeontological remains.

5. BACKGROUND ON THE AREA

Report on SAHRIS from the area:

MapId: 00355

J Van Schalkwyk, 2002.

A Survey of Cultural Resources for the Proposed New Twickenham-Paschaskraal-Hackney Mining Development, Sekhukhune District, Northern Province

Project looks at a much wider area for proposed mine development, current area falls outside of the mine.

Stated in the findings of the report:

“The larger area is historically very important, as it was the original home of the Pedi polity, as well as being the battlefield where the British and the Pedi clashed in 1879. Although the mine development would not impact on this directly, it does so in an indirect manner – eg. visually, as well as creating more interest in the area, with the possibility of more people getting access to the different sites. In order to pre-empt this, it is recommended that these

areas be strictly avoided, or, alternatively, a programme for local tourism be developed so that access to these sites can take place under controlled circumstances as well as generating additional income for the community. ACACHS, a non-profit unit in the Dept. of Anthropology at UNISA, in conjunction with the Cultural History Museum, Pretoria, have wide experience in setting up such programmes.”

6. EVALUATION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage remains that were recorded are exclusively located in areas that have been excluded from the development as suggested by the community.

6.1	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1	The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa’s history (Historic and political significance)	None
2	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa’s natural or cultural heritage (Scientific significance).	None
3	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa’s natural or cultural heritage (Research/scientific significance)	None
4	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa’s natural or cultural places or objects (Scientific significance)	None
5	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group (Aesthetic significance)	None
6	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (Scientific significance)	None
7	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social significance)	None
8	Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa (Historic significance)	Medium
9	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None

6.2 Section 38(3) (c) An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources.

The development should have no impact on the heritage resources, the area has been heavily impacted on in the past and present.

6.3 Section 38(3) (d) An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable economic benefits to be derived from the development.

No heritage remains were recorded on site.

6.4 Section 38(3) (e) The results of consultation with the communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources.

Social consultative process is ongoing as part of EIA.

6.5 Section 38(3)(f) If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development the consideration of alternatives.

No heritage resources recorded in the study area.

6.6 Section 38(3)(g) Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.

Activity	Potential Impact	Significance without mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance with mitigation	Monitoring
Proposed access bridge	Surface and ground disturbance will destroy potential heritage and environmental resources	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify heritage resources prior to development- Exclude areas from development to reduce impact on known heritage resources 	None	Monitoring

Nature

A brief description of the impact of the heritage parameter being assessed in the context of the specific border delineated project. Criteria, includes a brief written statement of the heritage aspect being impacted upon by a particular action or activity.

Topographical Extent

This is defined as the area over which the impact will be expressed. Typically, the severity and significance of an impact have different scales and as such bracketing ranges are often required. This is often useful during the detailed assessment of a project in terms of further defining the determined.

1	Site	Impact limited to site
2	Local/District	Impact limited to district
3	Province/Region	Impact will affect region
4	International/National	Impact is on a national or international scale

Probability

The probability of the impact occurring

2	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is extremely low (Less than 25% chance of occurrence).
4	Possible	The impact may occur (Between a 25% to 50% chance of occurrence).
6	Probable	The impact will likely occur (Between 50% to

		75% chance of occurrence).
8	Definite	Impact will certainly occur (Greater than 75% chance of occurrence).
<u>Reversibility</u>		
The degree to which the impact on heritage resources can be reversed after the activity has been completed		
1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with minor mitigation measures.
2	Partly reversible	The impact is partly reversible but more intense mitigation measures will be required.
3	Barely reversible	The impact is unlikely to be reversed even with intense mitigation measures.
4	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible regardless of mitigation measures.
<u>Permanent loss of heritage resources</u>		
The degree to which heritage resources will be lost as a result of proposed activity. This applies to destruction of the context of the resource, as excavation could preserve objects but not context.		
1	No loss of resource	The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.
2	Marginal loss of resource	The impact will result in marginal loss of any resources.
3	Severe loss of resource	The impact will result insignificant loss of resources.
4	Complete loss of resource	The impact is result in a complete loss of all resources.
<u>Duration</u>		
The duration of the impact on the heritage parameter. Duration indicates the lifetime of a result of the proposed activity.		
1	Short	The impact and its effects will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through natural process in span shorter than the construction phase (0-1 years), or the impact and its effects will last for the period of a relatively short construction period and a limited recovery time after construction, thereafter it will be entirely negated (0-2 years).
2	Medium	The impact and its effects will continue or last for some time after the construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (2-10 years).
3	Long	The impact and its effects will continue or last for entire operational life of the development, but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (10-50 years).
4	Permanent	The only class of the impact that will non-transitory. Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or such a time span that the impact can be considered

		transient (Indefinite).
<u>Cumulative effect</u>		
The cumulative effect of the impacts on the heritage resource. A cumulative effect/impact is an effect, which in itself may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts emanating from similar or diverse activities as a result of the project activity in question.		
1	Negligible Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects.
2	Low Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in insignificant cumulative effects
3	Medium Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in minor cumulative effects
4	High Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in significant cumulative effects.
<u>Magnitude</u>		
The severity of the impact- it must be considered that once a heritage resource is removed from its original context much of its significance is lost.		
1	Low	Impact affects the quality, use and integrity of the Heritage resource in a way that is barely perceptible.
2	Medium	Impact alters the quality, use and integrity of the heritage resource but heritage resource still continues and maintains general integrity (some impact on integrity).
3	High	Impact affects the continued viability of the heritage resource and the quality, use, integrity and context of heritage resource is severely impaired and may temporarily cease. High costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
4	Very High	Impact affects the continued viability of the heritage resource and the quality, use, integrity and context of the heritage resource permanently ceases and is irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation and remediation often impossible. If possible rehabilitation and remediation often unfeasible due to extremely high costs of rehabilitation and remediation. This would involve a destruction permit or reconstruction- essentially losing the essence of what made the resource significant in the first place.
<u>Significance</u>		
It provides an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both tangible and intangible characteristics. (S) is formulated by adding the sum of numbers assigned to Topographical effect (E), Duration (D), and Magnitude (M) and multiplying the sum by the Probability. S= (E+D+M) P		
<30	Low	Mitigation of impacts is easily achieved where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area.
30-60	Medium	Mitigation of impact is both feasible and fairly

		easy. The impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated.
>60	High	Significant impacts where there is difficult. The impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area.

Impact and rating

<u>Impact</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Nature	Access bridge
Topographical effect	1- limited to site
Reversibility	2
Permanent loss of heritage resources	1
Cumulative effect	1
Duration	3
Magnitude	1
Probability	2
Significance S= (E+D+M) P	1+3+1 x2 =10 The area is considered of low significance
Mitigation	Monitoring on site

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We do not have an objection to the development going ahead.

The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

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<https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/king-sekhukhune>

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