



**PHASE 1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
RELATING TO THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON FARM
BELLEVUE 74 LT AT KAWAYENI VILLAGE, MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**



Compiled by: Millennium Heritage Group (PTY) LTD

For: *Plantago Lanceolata (PTY) LTD*

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03/04/2020- AIA Report

i. Technical and Executive Summaries

Property details	
Province	Limpopo
Magisterial District	Vhembe District
Topo-cadastral map	2330 AD 2330 BC
Coordinates	S 23 ⁰ . 14. 46. 67 and E 30 ⁰ .13.50.09
Closest town	Elim CBD
Farm name	Bellevue 74 LT

Development criteria in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHR Act 25 of 1999	Yes	No
Construction of road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length	Yes	
Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length		No
Development exceeding 5000 sqm	Yes	
Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions		No
Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within past five years		No
Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000 sqm	Yes	
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds		No

Development	
Description of development	Township development
Project name	Kawayeni Township development
Developer	Latter man Transport and Projects (PTY) Ltd
Heritage Consultant	Mr. Ndivhuho Eric Mathoho, Millennium Heritage Pty Ltd
Purpose of the study	Heritage Impact Assessment to identify and assess significance of sites (if any) to be impacted by the proposed township development

Land use	
Previous land use	Vacant communal land
Current land use	Vacant land.

ii. Executive Summary

Latterman Transport and Projects (PTY) Ltd seeks to apply for environmental authorization relating to the proposed township development on farm Bellevue 74LT at Ka-wayeni village. The proposed area covers roughly 97 hectares of slightly undulating area dominated by indigenous vegetation and grass cover. The proposed area is located roughly 27 kilometers' southeast of Elim Central Business District (CBD). Situated roughly 300 metres west from the existing Wayeni village, further west of non-perennial stream, the area is south of the main arterial regional road (R578) which connect Elim /Louis Trichardt Central Business Districts (CBD) to the west and Giyani CBD to the east, within the Makhado Local Municipality of the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

As part of the application process and good corporate citizenship, Archaeological Impact Assessment or Heritage Impact Assessment study was conducted as part of a broader Basic Assessment (BA) study to investigate the impacts of the proposed township development on the receiving environment including heritage resources. The study area is lightly undulating communal land dominated by tall shrubs with few isolated trees to moderate dense low woodland on deep sand soil while shallow sand occurred alongside the non-perennial streams which form the eastern boundary. Dominant plant taxa include, *Combretum apiculatum*, *Combretum hereroensis*, *Combretum collinum*, *Dichrostachys cineria*, *Combretum zeyheri*, *Acacia Negrenses*, *Grewia bicolor*, *Sclerocarya birrea*. The ground layer of the proposed area is covered by *Themeda triandra*, *Eragrostis rigidior*, *Aristida congesta*, (Acocks 1975, Mucina & Rutherford, 2003).

Immense zone on the study area has been seriously disturbed by previous tilling activities carried out within well demarcated ploughing fields (areas). Boundaries of these disturbed cultivating zones are covered by recuperating pioneer bushes dominated by *Acacia Karoo* and *Dichrostachys cineria* while the underground is dominated by *Heteropogon contortus* and *Themeda triandra* grass species, very few isolated big trees exist at an interval. As part of a Basic Assessments (BA), the applicant (Latterman Transport and project PTY LTD) is required by environmental guidelines to obtain Environmental Authorization (EA) in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation published in Government Notice R 982 of 4 December 2014 under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended in 2017. An application for Basic Assessments has been lodged with Limpopo Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism.

As part of the application process, Plantago Lanceolata Environmental Consultants (PTY) LTD were appointed to facilitate the environmental application process where they requested Millennium Heritage Group (Pty) Ltd, an independent heritage Consulting company to assess the heritage

sensitivity of the farm Bellevue 74 LT, Wayeni village. A multi-stepped methodology was used to address the terms of reference. To begin with, a desktop study was carried out to identify any known heritage sites and their significance in the surrounding environment. This involved consulting contract archaeology and palaeontological reports filed on SAHRIS, research reports and academic publications (See desktop studies for more detail). Finally, the study was guided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 and SAHRA Minimum Standards for impact assessment.

There are no written documents on the previous archaeological investigations of farm Bellevue 74 LT from the South African Heritage Resources database, however several investigations were conducted in and around the area, and there exist enormous data on the antiquity and heritage of the area. A systematic sampling approach was developed to expedite the assessment; the focused area was centered within the proposed development footprint, where structures and associated infrastructures will be built. Based on this investigation, the following conclusions were reached:

- The proposed development is scheduled to take place on previously disturbed agricultural ploughing field zones dominated by demarcated zoned land.
- Ground truthing of the area proposed for township development and associated infrastructures did not identify any important cultural heritage resource, archaeological materials or graves within the proposed development footprint
- Although no archaeological remains were found, it is possible that some significant features may be buried beneath the ground. Should buried archaeological materials and burials be encountered during the process of development, the following must apply:
 - Work must stop immediately
 - A professional archaeologist or nearest heritage authority must be contacted.

Based on this assessment which found no archaeological resources in a disturbed agricultural land, we recommend that the heritage authorities approve the project as planned.

iii. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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CONSULTANT: Millennium Heritage Group (PTY) LTD

REPORT AUTHOR: Mr. Ndivhuho Eric Mathoho

Declaration of Independence and CV

I Eric Ndivhuho Mathoho declare that I am an independent consultant and have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the proposed development, application or appeal in respect of which I am appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed about the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of me performing such work.

Signed:



Ndivhuho Eric Mathoho, BA General (Univen) BA (Hons) in Archaeology (Univen) MPhil. D.Phil.
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1. INTRODUCTION

The proposed township development is situated on farm Bellevue 74LT at Kawayeni village. The area covers roughly 97 hectares of slightly undulating ridge dominated by indigenous vegetation and grass covers. The area is dominated by cleared patches of cultivated, disturbed surface. The proposed area is located roughly 27 kilometers' southeast of Elim Central Business District (CBD). Situated roughly 300metres west from the existing Wayeni residential stands, west of non-perennial stream, the area is south of the main arterial regional road (R578) which connect Elim/Louis Trichardt Central Business District (CBD) on the west and Giyani CBD to the east, within the Makhado Local Municipality of the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The proposed site is located at the following global positioning system co-ordinates (S 23^o. 14. 46. 67 and E 30^o.13.50.09").



Figure 1: Proposed study area adapted from Google Earth program

The proposed development falls within the domain of listed Activities as described in Government gazette Notice1, GNR 983 promulgated on 4 December 2014 of the Regulation compiled in terms of section 24 (5) read with section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of

1998). The proposed activities form part of the development process, where application for Environmental Assessment Authorization must be completed. As part of Basic Assessments process, a NEMA application form was submitted to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism. Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) report form part of a series of appendices prepared for a (BA) pursued in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.

To comply with relevant legislations, the applicant Latterman Transport and Project PTY LTD) requires information on the heritage resources that occur within or near the proposed site and their heritage significance. The objective of the study is to document the presence of archaeological and historical sites of significance to inform and provide guidance on the proposed development activities. Apart from contributing towards the preservation of the heritage resources, the studies provide information and awareness of the types of archaeological and heritage sites that occur within the proposed study area. The document enables the developer to align their functions and responsibilities to advance mineral prospecting activities and at the same time minimizing potential impact on archaeological and heritage sites. The study is conducted in line with the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). The Act protects heritage resources through formal and general protection. The Act provide that certain developmental activities require consents from relevant heritage resources authorities such as Limpopo Heritage Resources Authorities (LHRA) and South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In addition to heritage legislations, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has developed minimum standards used in impact assessment, while these local standards, are operational they area strengthened by the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) published guideline for assessing impacts. The Burra Charter of 1999, requires a cautious approach to the management of sites; it sets out firmly that the cultural significance of heritage places must guide all decisions.

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (Section, 34), archaeological sites and materials (Section 35) and graves and burial sites (Section, 36). To comply with the legislation, the applicant requires information on the heritage resources, that occur in the area proposed for development and their significance. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Two sets of legislation are relevant for the purposes of this study in as far as they contain provisions for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage resources including burials and burial grounds.

2.1. The National Heritage Resource Act (25 of 1999)

This Act established the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) as the prime custodian of the heritage resources and makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessment for various categories of development as determined by section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources (Section, 7) and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibly and functions from heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial and Local authorities, depending on the grade of heritage resources (Section, 8)

In terms of the National Heritage Resource Act 25, (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(3) Any person who discovers archaeological and paleontological materials and meteorites during development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resource authority or the nearest local authority or museum.

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

- destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite; or
- bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist with the detection or recovery of metal or archaeological material or object or such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Section 35(5) When the responsible heritage resource authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or paleontological site is underway, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resource management procedures in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may

- serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order
- carry out an investigation for obtaining information on whether an archaeological or paleontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
- if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph (a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection (4); and
- recover the cost of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or paleontological site is located or from the person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two weeks of the order being served.

Subsection 35(6) the responsible heritage resource authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or paleontological site or meteorite is situated; serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or meteorite.

Burial grounds and graves

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

- (i) 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
- (ii) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Subsection 36 (6) Subject to the provision of any person who during development or any other activity discover the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resource authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police service and in accordance with regulation of the responsible heritage resource authority-

- (I) carry out an investigation for obtaining information on whether such grave is protected in terms of this act or is of significance to any community; and
if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to decide for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

Cultural 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:

- (i) Construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (ii) Any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (iii) 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.

2.2. The Human Tissue Act (65 of 1983)

This act protects graves younger than 60 years, these falls under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Department. Approval for the exhumation and reburial must be obtained from the relevant provincial MEC as well as relevant Local Authorities.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of references for the study were to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment relating to the proposed township establishment and submit a specialist report, which addresses the following:

- Executive summary
- Scope of work undertaken
- Methodology used to obtain supporting information
- Overview of relevant legislation
- Results of all investigations
- Interpretation of information
- Assessment of impact

- Recommendation on effective management measures
- References

4. TERMINOLOGY

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). Heritage resources, (Cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyle of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term ‘pre-historical’ refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in a area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of ‘modern’ Western writing brought South Africa by the first colonist who settled in the Cape in the early 1652 and brought to the other different part of South Africa in the early 1800.

The term ‘relatively recent past’ refers to the 20th century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may soon, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on the observation alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floors plan (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The ‘term sensitive remains’ is sometimes used to distinguished graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values regarding their ancestors. These values should be recognized and honored whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age people lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Early Stone Age (3 Million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years ago to 40 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Early Iron Age' and Late Iron Age respectively refers to the periods between the first and second millenniums AD.

The 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17th and the 19th centuries and therefore includes the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refers to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or relatively recent past.

The term 'study area' or 'project area' refers to the area where the developers wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan)

Phase I studies refer to survey using various sources of data to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in each area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include documenting of rock art, engravings or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavation of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of grave yards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialist and require the co-operation and the approval of SAHRA.

5. METHODOLOGY

Source of information

i. Desktop studies

A desktop study was performed to gain information on the heritage resources in the proposed study area and its receiving environment. The region boost its diverse archaeology and heritage which stretch back to Stone Age. The fact that this community were present in the region is well confirmed by the occurrence of scattered stone artefacts mostly discovered on the surface. Similar stone tools have been recorded as caves, rock shelters and overhangs deposits in association with rock art paintings in the Soutpansberg and the Limpopo Valley. Accounts demonstrate that the archaeology and heritage of the region including the study area stretch from Late Iron Age to recent past historical sites. Most of these sites documented were distributed alongside the Middle Letaba river catchment, including its tributaries. Several Metal production sites have been recorded on the northern bank of

the Middle Letaba dam. With isolated hills previously occupied during the historical periods (Magoro Hill), while some were used as Cattle trading post (Shiphophi). The expectation from this desktop study is that it is highly impossible to identify archaeological/historical sites in this area because of previous surface disturbances.

ii. Field surveys

To identify sites on the ground and to assess their significance, a dedicated field survey was performed to the site for the proposed development. The fieldwork was performed, where systematic inspections of predetermined linear transects resulted in the maximum coverage of the entire site. The sampling method selected was the stratified random technique. The proposed sites for development were taken as strata with random field walking around them. Standard archaeological observation practices were followed; visual inspection was supplemented by relevant written source, and oral communications with local communities from the surrounding area. Identified sites were recorded by hand held GPS and plotted on 1:50 000 topographical maps. Archaeological/historical material and the general condition of the terrain were photographed with a Canon 1000D Camera.

Assumption and Limitations

It must be pointed out that heritage resources can be found in the unexpected places, it must also be borne in mind that survey may not detect all the heritage resources in each project area. While some remains may simply be missed during surveys (observation) under tall grass and vegetational cover, others may occur below the surface of the earth and may be exposed once development (such as the construction of the proposed facilities) commences. High vegetation cover, bush encroachment and grass cover limited the survey since it was very hard to discern what was on the surface.

6. ASSESSMENTS CRITERIA

This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The significance of archaeological and heritage sites was determined based on the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site.
- The amount/depth of the archaeological deposit and the range of features (stone walls, activity areas etc.).
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site.
- The preservation condition and integrity of the site.
- The potential to answer present research questions.

6.1 Site Significance

The site significance classification standards as prescribed in the guidelines and endorsed 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 in determining the site significance for this report.

The classification index is represented in the Table below that show grading and rating systems of heritage resources in South Africa.

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)	Grade 4A	High / Medium Significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	Grade 4B	Medium Significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	Grade 4C	Low Significance	Destruction

6.2 Impact Rating

VERY HIGH

These impacts would be considered by society as constituting a major and usually permanent change to the (natural and/or cultural) environment, and usually result in severe or very severe effects, or beneficial or very beneficial effects.

Example: The loss of a species would be viewed by informed society as being of VERY HIGH significance.

Example: The establishment of a large amount of infrastructure in a rural area, which previously had very few services, would be regarded by the affected parties as resulting in benefits with VERY HIGH significance.

HIGH

These impacts will usually result in long term effects on the social and /or natural environment. Impacts rated as HIGH will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually long-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. Society would probably view these impacts in a serious light.

Example: The loss of a diverse vegetation type, which is common elsewhere, would have a significance rating of HIGH over the long term, as the area could be rehabilitated.

Example: The change to soil conditions will impact the natural system, and the impact on affected parties (e.g. farmers) would be HIGH.

MODERATE

These impacts will usually result in medium- to long-term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as MODERATE will need to be considered by the public or the specialist as constituting an unimportant and usually short-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are real, but not substantial.

Example: The loss of a sparse, open vegetation type of low diversity may be regarded as MODERATELY significant.

Example: The provision of a clinic in a rural area would result in a benefit of MODERATE significance.

LOW

These impacts will usually result in medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as LOW will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually medium-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are not substantial and are likely to have little real effect.

Example: The temporary changes in the water table of a wetland habitat, as these systems are adapted to fluctuating water levels.

Example: The increased earning potential of people employed because of a development would only result in benefits of LOW significance to people living some distance away.

NO SIGNIFICANCE

There are no primary or secondary effects at all that are important to scientists or the public.

Example: A change to the geology of a certain formation may be regarded as severe from a geological perspective, but is of NO SIGNIFICANCE in the overall context.

6.3 Certainty

DEFINITE: More than 90% sure of a fact. Substantial supportive data exist to verify the assessment.

PROBABLE: Over 70% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

POSSIBLE: Only over 40% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

UNSURE: Less than 40% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

6.4 Duration

SHORT TERM : 0 – 5 years

MEDIUM: 6 – 20 years

LONG TERM: more than 20 years

DEMOLISHED: site will be demolished or is already demolished

6.5 Mitigation

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

- ✓ **A** – No further action necessary
- ✓ **B** – Mapping of the site and controlled sampling required
- ✓ **C** – Preserve site, or extensive data collection and mapping required; and
- ✓ **D** – Preserve site

7. Historical background a brief synthesis of the archaeology and heritage of the study area.

7.1.1. The Stone Age Period

Most of the archaeological research in and around the region took place further north and in the Limpopo Valley. Nevertheless, a general account of the nature of the Stone Age can be provided. Conventionally speaking, the Stone Age period has been divided into the Early Stone Age (ESA) (3.5 million and 250 000 BP), the Middle Stone Age (MSA) (250 000 – 25000 BP) and the Later Stone Age (25000 – 2000 BP) (Phillipson 2005). Early Stone Age stone tool assemblages are made up of

the earlier Oldowan and later Acheulian types. The Oldowan tools were very crude and were used for chopping and butchering. These were replaced by Acheulian ESA tools dominated by hand axes and cleavers which are remarkably standardized (Wadley, 2007; Sharon, 2009). Evidence presented from Makapansgat caves shows that the first tool making hominids belong to either an early species of the Homo or an immediate ancestor which is yet to be discovered here in South Africa (Phillipson 2005; Esterhuysen, 2007). Both the Oldwan and Acheulian industries are well represented in the archaeology of northern South Africa as shown by studies in the Makapansgat valley (Kuman et al. 2005; Sumner and Kuman 2014).

The Middle Stone Age dates to between 250 000 ago and 25 000 years ago. In general, Middle Stone Age tools are characterized by a size reduction in tools such as hand axes, cleavers, and flake and blade industries. The period is marked by the emergence of modern humans and was accompanied by change in technology, behavior, physical appearance, art, and symbolism (Phillipson 2005). A variety of MSA tools includes blades, flakes, scraper and pointed tools that may have been hafted onto shafts or handles and used as spear heads. Surface scatters of these flake and blade industries occur widespread across southern Africa (Klein 2000; Thompson & Marean, 2008). Residue analyses on some of the stone tools indicate that these tools were certainly used as spear heads (Wadley, 2007). From about 25 000 BP, stone tool assemblages generally attributed to the Later Stone Age emerged. This period is marked by a reduction in stone tool sizes. Typical stone tools include microliths and bladelets. Later Stone Age stone tools were recovered in the Soutpansberg and well known sites of the Mapungubwe National Park. This period is also associated with the development of rock art whose distribution is known across southern Africa (Deacon and Deacon 1999; Phillipson 2005).

7.1.2. FARMING COMMUNITIES AND RECENT HISTORIES

Archaeologically the proposed study area lies within the asserted traditional territories with density of archaeological sites most of which are located on higher elevations along the water source such as Klein and Middle Letaba River and its tributaries. Studies conducted alongside these perennial streams shed light on the understanding of pre- history. The region below the study area, had major concentrations with various scattered iron production sites on the river banks.

Generally, regional records show that Iron Age people moved into southern Africa by c. AD 200, entering the area either by moving down the coastal plains, or by using a more central route. It seems more likely that the first option was what brought people into the study area. From the coast, they followed various rivers inland. Being cultivators, they preferred the rich alluvial soils to settle on. One of the earliest dated sites is located near Tzaneen (Silver Leaves). This sequence owes much to

the work undertaken by Menno Klapwijk, in the Tzaneen area, specifically at the site referred to as the earliest component of the Iron Age period i.e. Silver Leaves site. The site was occupied in the third century, being dated by radiocarbon to circa 280 AD. Similar dates also came from Eiland sites discovered few kilometres south east of Tzaneen in the then Northern Transvaal. On both sites, direct evidence of cultivation was extremely limited, but impressions of *Pennisetum millet* seeds were discovered. This was the principal evidence of the earliest Iron Age penetration with the then dominant crop being brought in and introduced to the area (Klapwijk 1974). Another archaeological evidence of great significance was the discovery of an archaeological site near the present town of Lydenburg in the Mpumalanga Province. The Lydenburg archaeological assemblage consists of the remains of the well-known seven terracotta heads (Lydenburg heads). The site was radiocarbon dated AD 470 becoming the oldest African Iron Age artwork ever found below the equator (Inskip & Maggs 1975).

Iron Age occupation of the region seems to have taken place on a significant scale and at least three different phases of occupation have been identified. Sites dating to the Early Iron Age are found in the Luvuvhu River valley. These settlements seem to have been followed at a slightly later date by settlements linked to the Eiland Phase of the EIA (c. AD 1000). The last period of pre-colonial occupation consisted of Vhavenda who settled on stone-walled, sites at the foot on the mountains. At present, it is not clear, but, judged on the pottery found here; these sites might even date to early historic times. As this was a period of population movement, conflict and change, in large part set the scene for the current population situation within the study area. Considering the period that they were occupied, some of these sites also feature in the early historic writings. For example, the Magoro site near the Middle Letaba Dam.

There is no doubt that some of the archaeological sites found here belongs to the pre- Vhavenda nation, unfortunately the Vhavenda history is so complex and subject of unending disputes amongst different parties and dynastic group that inhabit the territory. Writings of the early 1930s has placed Vha- Venda as composite people, who don't see themselves as cultural homogenous or political united nation. Oral traditions suggest that most of the important migrations to the territory known today as Venda came from the north of the Limpopo River among these migrations two are particularly significant in the history of the area (Stayt 1968, Loubser 1991). Vhavenda of today are descendants of various groups and previous studies coupled with old traditions agrees that there was at one stage an aboriginal population in the region called Vha-Ngona, however records show that the first group include, Vhatwanamba and Vhalebethu before the Vhangona cultural group. When the Singo group cross the Limpopo, River conquered and displaced several aboriginal groups and claim the regional kingship under the Ramabulana clan.

Another phase of regional occupation is characterized by the presence of shangaans. These cultural group originated from the Zulu. This movement came in light during the fierce war of extermination- The Mfecane /Difacane that broke out at the beginning of the 19th century. Shaka defeated the Kingdom of amaNdwandwe which was led by King Zwide along the Mhlatuze River and incorporated into the mighty Amazulu Kingdom. It was during this period when Soshangana broke away immediately after the defeat of Zwide in 1819 and entered Mozambique at around 1820. The overpower the indigenous groups (The Tsonga, Ndawu (Vandau) Vahlengwe, Vanyai, Varhonga, Vachopi, Vatswa, Mashona, Vahlave, Vadzonga and other groups) and eventually incorporated them. Soshangana led a kingdom of about 500000 to 2000000 subjects stretching from close to Nkomati River in the south, to the Zambezi and Pungwe River in the south and the Indian Ocean in the East to the Drakensberg and Soutpansberg and the eastern Zimbabwe. The direct authority extends over the whole of what is known as southern Mozambique, large part of western Zimbabwe, Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces (Liesegang 1975, Myburgh, 1949, Omer- Cooper, 1988:59)

Soshangana aka Manukuze (1760-1858) was the son of Zikode and was the grandson of Gaza, after whom the kingdom was named. He established the capital at Chaimite, that later became a sacred village and the area where they lived was known as ka Shangana and they were referred to as Shangaan, after Soshangana. Between 1825 and 1827 Soshangana lived on the tributary of Nkomati River. From 1827 to 1834 his residence was in the lower Limpopo valley. In 1835 he moved with his troops to Musapa in the present day Melssetter District (between Mussurize-Manica and Chipinge) in Zimbabwe. In 1839 because of the small pox epidemic in which he lost many of his warriors, he returned to their earlier home in the Limpopo valley, Bileni, leaving his son, Mzila to place the north of Zambezi under his tribute. King Mzila, son of Soshangana was Ngungunyani's father; he was born around 1845-50 at Bileni in the Gaza Province. In 1859 to 1861 he stayed at the Soutpansberg within the Transvaal. In 1862 to 1889 he stayed at Masapa melster District with his capital called Mandlakazi in Chipinge in Zimbabwe. As a young man, he spends most of this time preparing for military training and for governance. Documents suggest that Ngunguyani had twenty children. When king Soshangana passed away in 1858 and his grandson Ngungunyani was only 13 years old. King Soshangana was succeeded by his son, Mawewe, and after a protracted civil war, Mawewe was dethrone by his half-brother Mzila, who ruled the kingdom for 23 years (1861-1884). He died in 1884 and he was succeeded by his son, Ngunguyani in 1884, King Ngunguyani was not the only son of King Mzila. There were other brothers like Mafemane and Komokomo. They were eligible successors to Mzila as a King. On Mzila's death Ngungunyani 's supporters amongst them one of the King's brother and few military officers acted quickly. Mafemane, the main competitor was killed before a major confrontation, like that after Soshangana death in 1858, could develop. The other

brother was not attacked however he was executed at the court between 1893 and 1895 (Liesegang, 1975).

The last phase of occupation is associated with the arrival of the first white settlers. Elephant hunting and the ivory trade were the most important economic activities of Soutpansberg, who depended increasingly on African marksmen as elephant herds retreated north into the tsetse belt. Thus, many African hunters were equipped with guns while on expedition to raid settlement for black ivory.

De Vaal (1986) positioned the study area within the earliest trade route network system, that connect with other existing route that linked Elim, Salt pans, Mapungubwe and Zimbabwe on the north. The route transverse on the bank of the Luvuvhu River leading to the confluence of the Limpopo River leading to Mozambique. Valdezia was one of many inland trade centers that played a vital role connecting early metal production and mining sites such as Tshimbupfe (Vuu) farm Schynshoogte, Shiphophi near the Middle Letaba River, Magoro Hill, Tshivhulana, and Mulenzhe. The regional earliest dates for trade goes back to the Early Iron Age period. Record show that the earliest Magwamba (Tsonga- from Mozambique) were well conversant with the area. They acted as trade middle men between the Europeans and African in the interior. Conflicts between African chiefdoms and the Europeans existed since African hunting grounds were taken without their concerned, boundaries were created.

One of the better-known incidents is the so-called the black ivory and indenture system and slavery in the Soutpansberg between 1848 to 1869, where young children were classed as inboekenlinge (the so called 'apprentices' another name of slavery) were acquired and traded most of which were captive from African villages distributed among Boer themselves. These captives were produced by wars waged to open certain areas of the far north for white settlement. Therefore, the clashes resulted mainly from African resistance to attempts by the Boers to enforce their newly acquired authority by demanding labor and tribute among Vhavenda chiefs. Boeyens (1994) Soutpansberg was, after all, an open frontier where the authorities of the whites were continually challenged, resulting in regular clashes and war with local communities. Children were taken as spoils of war because they had export market value (slavery), because of this process Venda children's who were regarded as spoils of war from different Venda chiefdoms were displaced as far as Pretoria. The Soutpansberg was known from the coast as the major source of white ivory and other game products. Under the indenture system many such labor was obtained through capture or trade. According to instruction report received by Lydenburg military officers in November 1851, only children's who were found helpless at least half a day after a military clash could be taken and indentured, children from opposing African village chiefs, orphaned because of combat where taken by the Boers. Indenture system was disguised from

slavery, in order not to transgress the legal aspects of the ZAR and confront the quilt question. Even president M.W. Pretorius, who took a strong public stand against slavery, participated occasionally in the illegal trade in African children. For example, Soutpansberg commandant J.H Jacobs led a patrol against Rasikhuthuma, son of the Venda chief Ramabulana, in 1855 after Joao Albasini had accused Rasikhuthuma of stock theft. In the attack on Tshitungulu, Rasikhuthuma strongholds subjects were shot and 76 cattle's, 108 sheep's and goats as well as 13 young African were captured and divided amongst the Boers commander. In the same year (November 1855) L.M. Bronkhorst raided Ramabulana where eleven people were killed and five children were taken and divided amongst the burgers. In 1860 J. du Plessies led a commando against chief Mashau, who was reportedly being disobedient, livestock's, women and children were taken as spoils of war. From this point raids were confined almost entirely to Africans from whom the Boers claimed tribute which is equated with indentured children.

In October 1863, Albasini dispatched Vatsonga force under Munene against Chief Rambuda, because he refused to pay tribute to the burgers and had closed the hunting trails through his territory. Munene force fails to defeat Rambuda but they managed to kill seventy-seven and abducted several women and children's. On 15 July 1867 Schoemansdal was evacuated following a protracted conflict with the Vhavenda. For two years, the ZAR government tried to subdue the Vhavenda by diplomatic and military means but abandoned their attempt at the end of 1869, the Boers were forced to assemble in laagers for their own protection, especially during the hunting season when many men were away in quest of ivory. One visitor reported that the number of white population within the Soutpansberg region being 1800 between 1855-1856, with 260 families, but archaeological findings show that no more than 100 families, this show that the number decreases due to African resistance and conflict. Some of the African Chief such as Madzie, a Venda chief whose capital was situated in the mountains above Schoemansdal, he was reported to have been a regular supplier of labor to the white community. After the death of the Venda chief, Ramabulana, whites were involved in the succession dispute between his sons, Makhado and Davhana, caused conflict that spread to other part of the Soutpansberg. In August 1865, the Venda chief Magoro, who occupied a strong hold south of the Klein Letaba river, was besieged and attacked by Vatsonga, and the Boers who claimed that Magoro had colluded with Makhado, there by killing Chief Magoro and his subjects (Boeyens 1994).

8. SITE LOCATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed township development is situated on farm Bellevue 74LT at Ka-wayeni village. The area covers roughly 97 hectors of slightly undulating ridge dominated by indigenous vegetation and grass covers. The area is dominated by cleared patches of cultivated, disturbed surface. The proposed area is located roughly 27 kilometers' southeast of Elim Central Business District (CBD). Situated

roughly 300metres west from the existing Wayeni village, west of non-perennial stream, the area is south of the main arterial regional road (R578) which connect Elim/Louis Trichardt Central Business Districts (CBD) on the west and Giyani CBD to the east, within the Makhado Local Municipality of the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The proposed site is located at the following global positioning system co-ordinates (S 23⁰. 14. 46. 67 and E 30⁰.13.50.09").

The study area fall within the Lowveld bushveld complex which comprised of complex mosaic of sharply contrasting kinds of vegetation within limited areas. The dominant subtropical moist thickets (*Acacia Karoo and Dichrostachys cineria* bushes) dominates the lower lying area and disturbed land. Tall shrubs with few isolated big trees to moderately dense low woodland occur on deep sandy with species such as *Combretum apiculatum* and *Terminalia Serecia* and *Acacia species*. Ground layers include *Eragrostis regidor*, *heteropogon contortus*. The study area fall within the Lowveld bushveld complex, which dominate the slightly undulating section of land underlain by potassium poor Gneiss of the Goudplaats gneiss and the Archaean granite dyke. The vegetation is dominated by deciduous, tall open bushveld with well-developed tall grass layers which became dominant during summer seasons. The vast land was previously used as communal cultivating fields, tilling activities promoted overgrown *Dichrostachys cineria* bush encroachment on abandoned cultivating fields. A gravel access road transverse the study area cutting the site into two sections. The generally the study area geological stratifications exhibit variable geology with Mispah, Glenrosa or Hutton soil forms. Local geology has influence varied plant taxa which includes, *Catha edulis*. *Pilostigma thonningi*, *Dichrostachys cineria*, *Acacia Karoo*, *A. Negrences*, *Berchemai zeyheri*, *Bridelia Molis*, *Ziziphus mucronata*, *flyeggea Virosa*. *Grewia flaverscens*, *G. flava*, *Gymnosporia buxifolia*,

The proposed development entails construction of:

- 1500 Eco estate houses
- Convenient Shopping Complex
- Combined Private School
- New access road, streets and storm water drainage system, powerline



Figure 2: Access road leading to the study area



Figure 3: *Dichrostachys cineria* bush encroachments



Figure 4: View of the study area

9. ASSESSMENT OF SITES AND FINDS

This section contains the results of the heritage sites/finds assessment. The phase 1 heritage scoping assessment program as required in terms of the Section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) done for the proposed township establishment. No sites were found during the desktop study and the subsequent field survey. There are no primary or secondary effect at all that are important to scientist or the public that will be impacted by the proposed project activities.

Heritage Significance: No significance

Impact: Negative

Impact Significance: High

Certainty: Probable

Duration: Permanent

Mitigation: A

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- The proposed development is scheduled to take place on previously disturbed zone which encompasses cultivated zoned land
- Ground truthing of the area proposed for township development and associated infrastructures did not identify any important cultural heritage resource, archaeological materials or graves within the proposed development footprint
- Although no archaeological remains were found, it is possible that some significant features may be buried beneath the ground. Should buried archaeological materials and burials be encountered during the process of development, the following must apply:
 - Work must stop immediately
 - A professional archaeologist or nearest heritage authority must be contacted.

Based on this assessment which found no archaeological resources in a disturbed agricultural land, we recommend that the heritage authorities approve the project as planned.

11. GOOGLE EARTH, PLAN DRAWINGS AND TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

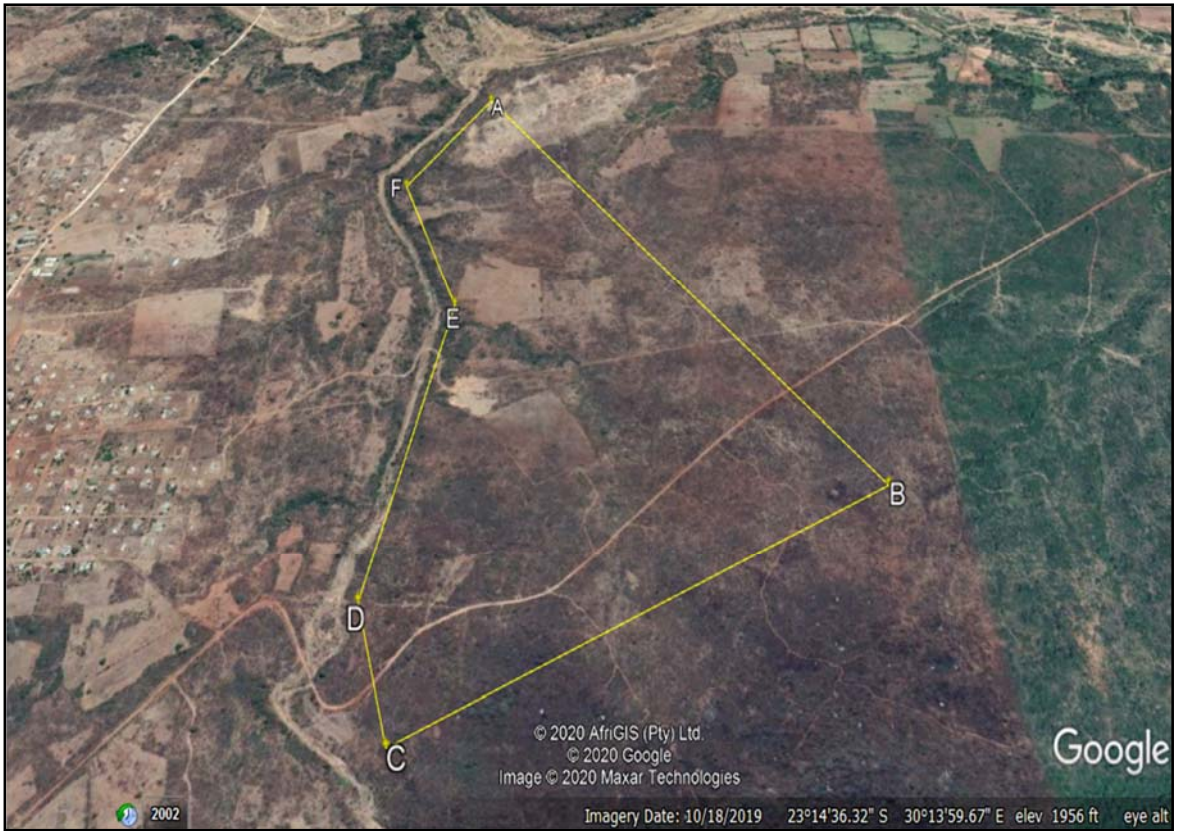


Figure 5: View of the study area.

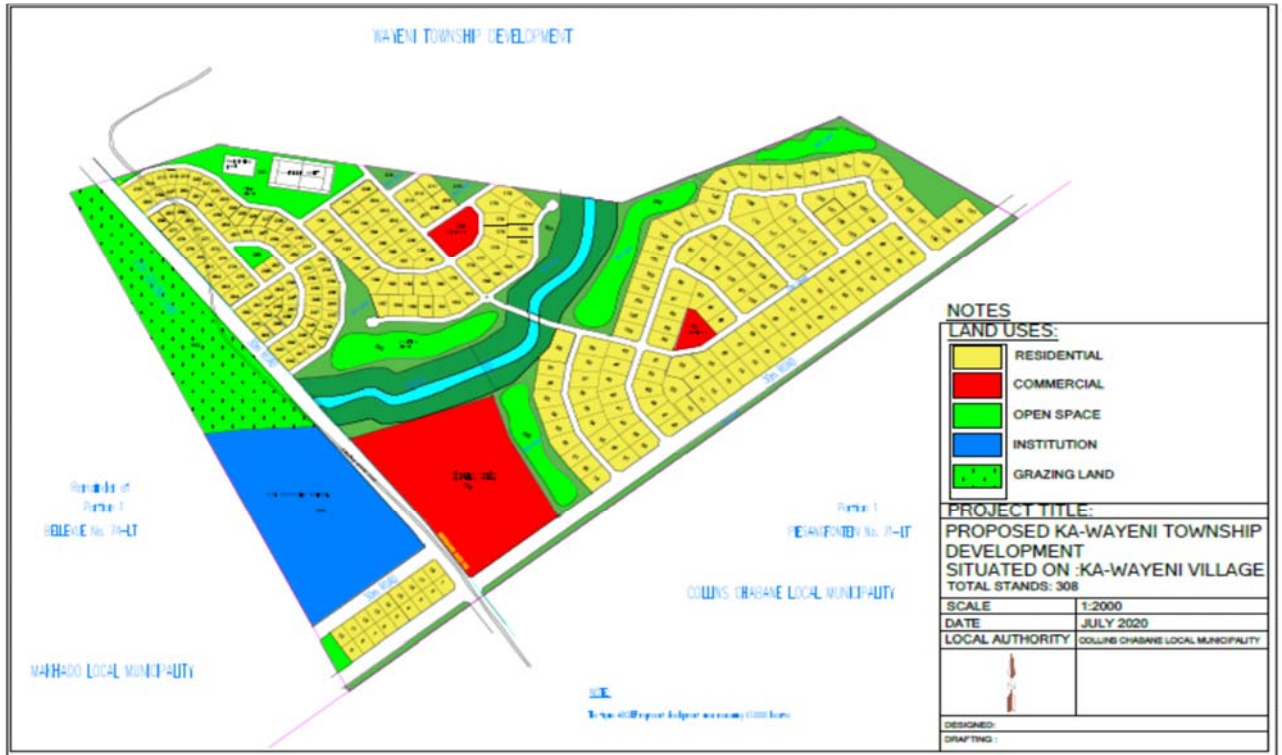
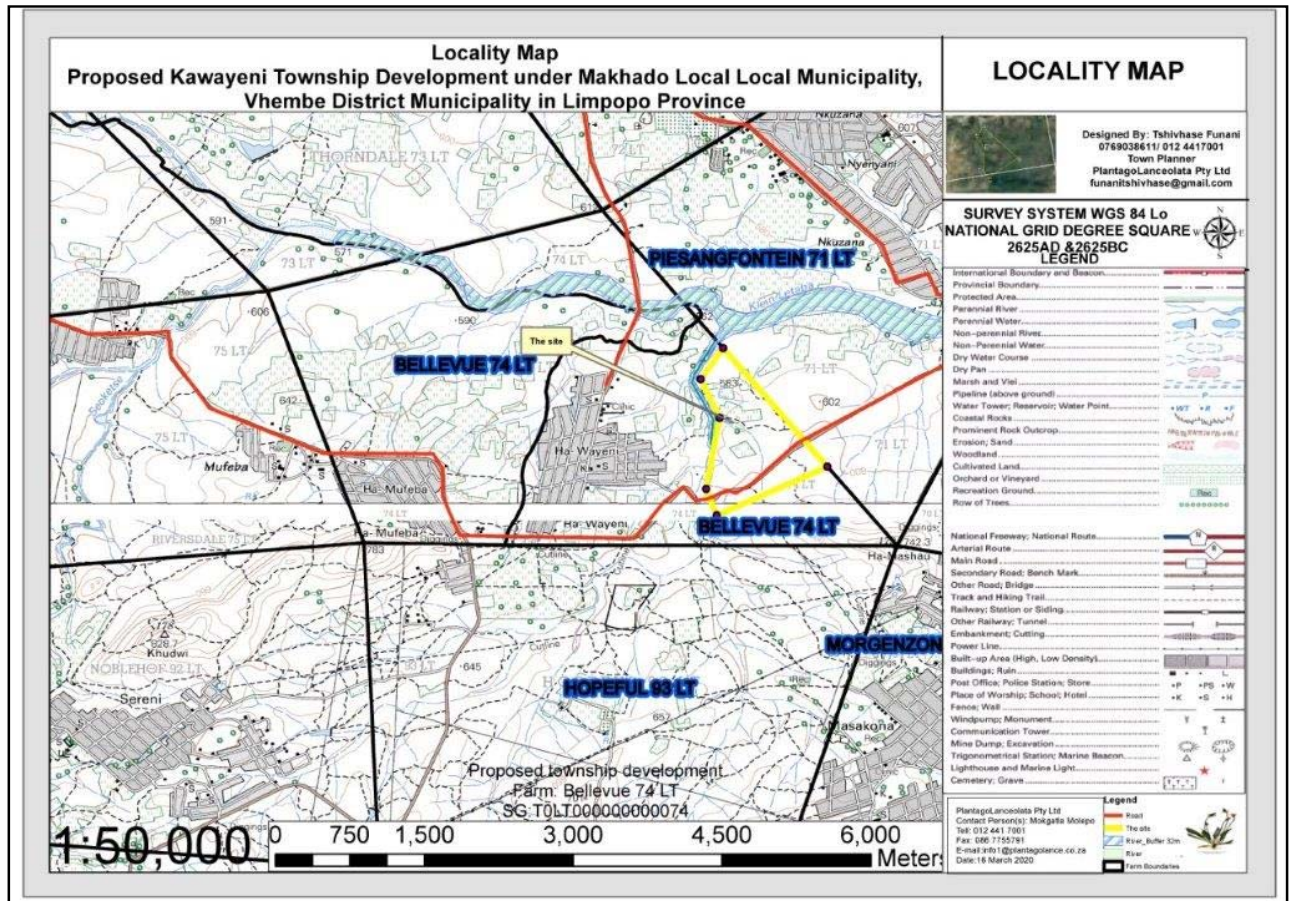


Figure 6: Layout plan



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Addendum 1: Layout Plan

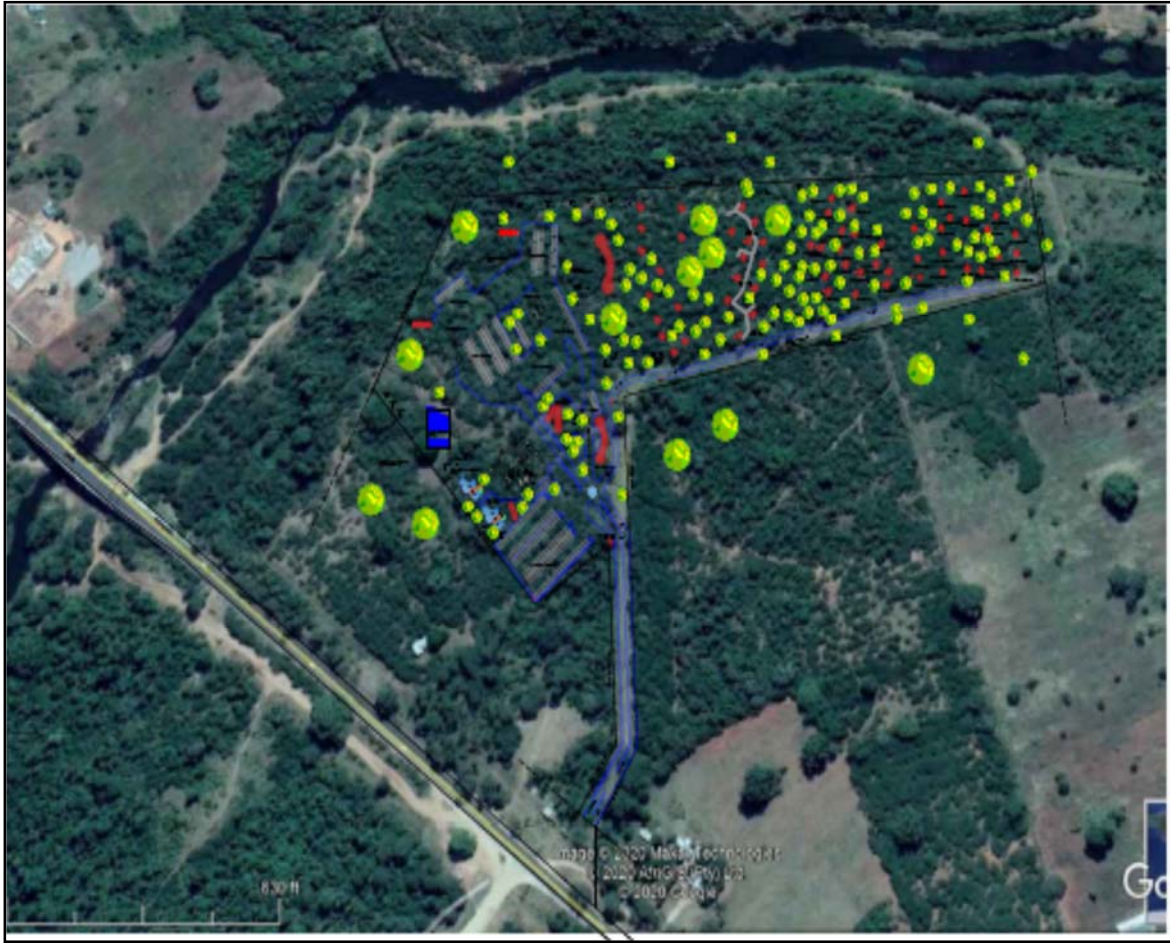


Figure 7: Draft layout plan of the proposed development

Addendum 2: Definitions and Acronyms

Archaeological Material remains resulting from human activities, 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.

Chance Finds Archaeological artefacts, features, structures or historical cultural remains such as human burials that are found accidentally in context previously not identified during cultural heritage scoping, screening and assessment studies. Such finds are usually found during earth moving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

Cultural Heritage Resources Same as Heritage Resources as defined and used in the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Refer to physical cultural properties such as archaeological and paleontological sites; historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and material remains; cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or *graves* and their associated materials; geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge.

Cultural Significance The complexities of what makes a place, materials or intangible resources of value to society or part of, customarily assessed in terms of aesthetic, historical, scientific/research and social values.

Grave A place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as being situated in a cemetery.

Historic Material remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artefacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

In Situ material *Material culture* and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

Late Iron Age this period is associated with the development of complex societies and state systems in southern Africa.

Material culture Buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

Site A distinct spatial cluster of artefacts, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

Acronyms:

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA	Early Iron Age
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
MHG	Millenium Heritage Group (PTY)LTD
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998)
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No.25 of 1999)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
ESA	Early Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
IA	Iron Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization
WHC	World Heritage Conventions of 1972

ADDENDUM 3: Types and ranges as outlined by the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) outlines the following types and ranges of the heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate, namely:

- (a) Places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) Places to which oral tradition are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) Historical settlement and townscapes
- (d) Landscape and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance

- (f) Archaeological and paleontological sites
- (g) Graves and burial ground including-
 - (I) Ancestral graves
 - (II) Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
 - (III) Graves of victim of conflict
 - (IV) Graves of individuals designated by the minister by notice in the gazette;
 - (V) Historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - (VI) Other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissue Act,1983(Act No 65 of 1983)
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) movable objects, including-
 - (I) object recovered from soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (II) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
 - (III) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (IV) military objects;
 - (V) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (VI) object of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (VII) books, records, documents, photographs, positive and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recording, excluding those that are public records as defined in section1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act,1996(Act No 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resource Act (Act No 25 of 1999,Art 3)also 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 the following:

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