

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

NEW DEMARCATION SESHEGO POLOKWANE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

AGES Environmental Services

120 Marshall Street
Polokwane
0699

Att: Johan Botha

**Liesl Stegmann and Frans E. Roodt
Under the supervision of Frans
Roodt**

October 2015

Shasa Heritage Consultants

Not VAT registered

Tel: 073 216 9912 (Liesl)

54 Wildebeestfontein s/h

Email: wildwindheritagefarm@gmail.com

Polokwane 0700

CONTENTS

3	1 Introduction and terms of Reference
4	2 Method
	2.1 Sources of information and methodology
	2.2 Limitations
	2.3 Categories of significance
5	2.4 Terminology
7	3 Description of the proposed development and terrain
8	4 Results of the scoping survey and discussion
	4.1. Intangible Heritage and Social consultation
	4.2 Recent Historical Period
	4.3. Graves
	4.4. Iron Age remains
	4.5. Stone Age remains
9	5 Background information
9	7 Bibliography
	<u>List of figures</u>
7	Fig 1. View of cropland area
7	Fig 2. View of cropland area
7	Fig 3. General view of project area
7	Fig 4. General view of project area
10	Map 1
10	Map 2

1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The application to establish a new township demarcation constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. 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 material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such 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, ...”

The author was contracted to undertake a heritage scoping survey of the proposed new township demarcation on the farm Klipfontein situated on the outskirts of Seshego, near Polokwane, Limpopo (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2329 CD). The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on these heritage resources.

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 entire demarcated area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. The area was traversed using available maps, GPS co-ordinates as well as assistance from the ecologist Mr Johan Botha and environmental consultant, Nico Van Der Walt from AGES Environmental Services.

General GPS: S23° 51' 45.7" E29° 21' 07.8"

As most archaeological material occur 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). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Nikon Coolpix L25 Digital camera.

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 moderate and visibility was moderate. It is thus possible that sites have been missed.

2.3 Categories of significance

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

• No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
• Low significance: sites, which <i>may</i> require mitigation.
• Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
• High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

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

Proposed Development:

The proposed development is comprised of new stands as an extension to Seshego.

Terrain:

The proposed development is situated within the Pietersburg Plateau False Grassland as described by Acocks (1988) and consists of open, clumpy Sourish Mixed Bushveld dominated by *Acacia rehmanniana* and *Acacia tortillis* on Turfloop Granite. The terrain morphology is slightly undulating plains. Bredenkamp and Van Rooyen in Low and Rebelo (1996) described the vegetation of the area further as Mixed Bushveld, the common vegetation of the Central Bushveld Region. The most recent classification according to Mucina *et al.* (2006), show the vegetation of the area to be part of the Polokwane Plateau Bushveld.

The area consists of used croplands and grazing areas. A drainage line runs along the north western border and a seep-away area is evident in the centre of the project area. A buffer zone has been allocated along the drainage line.



Fig 1. General view of cropland area



Fig 2. General view of cropland area



Fig 3. General view of project area.



Fig 4. General view of project area

4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY AND DISCUSSION

4.1 SOCIAL and/or RELIGIOUS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No areas designated for socio-religious activities were recorded on the site. However the area is clearly utilised by locals for crop raising and the locals will need to be consulted with regard to the future use of the area.

4.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No historical remains were recorded.

4.3 GRAVES

No graves were recorded.

4.4 IRON AGE REMAINS

No Iron age remains were recorded on site.

4.5 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age remains were noted.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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- *Mzonjani facies* AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)
Moloko branch- *Icon facies* AD 1300 - 1500 (Late Iron Age)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch - *Doornkop facies* AD 750 - 1000 (Early Iron Age)
Eiland facies AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)
Klingbeil facies AD 1000 - 1200 (Middle Iron Age)
Letaba facies AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)

Archaeologically, the Polokwane/Pietersburg area has a rich and well documented past. Mainly occupied by people of the Ndebele groups, sites are designated group 1, 2 or 3, according to Loubser.

Historical Background Information

Historically, Pietersburg was founded by Voortrekkers who moved up to the area in the mid 1800's. After skirmishes with the Venda in the Schoemansdal area, most returned to Pietersburg and the town was established.

6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

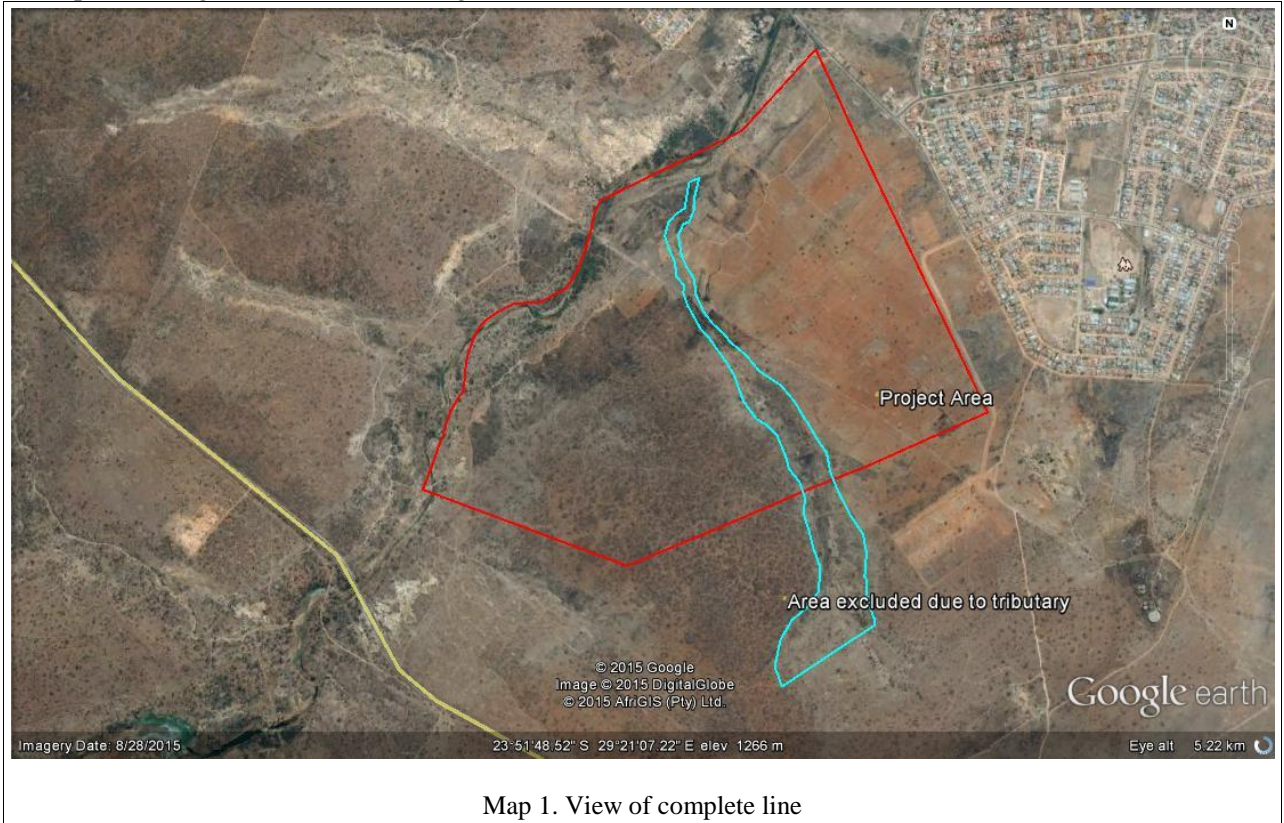
Huffman, T.N. 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age. The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa.* University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

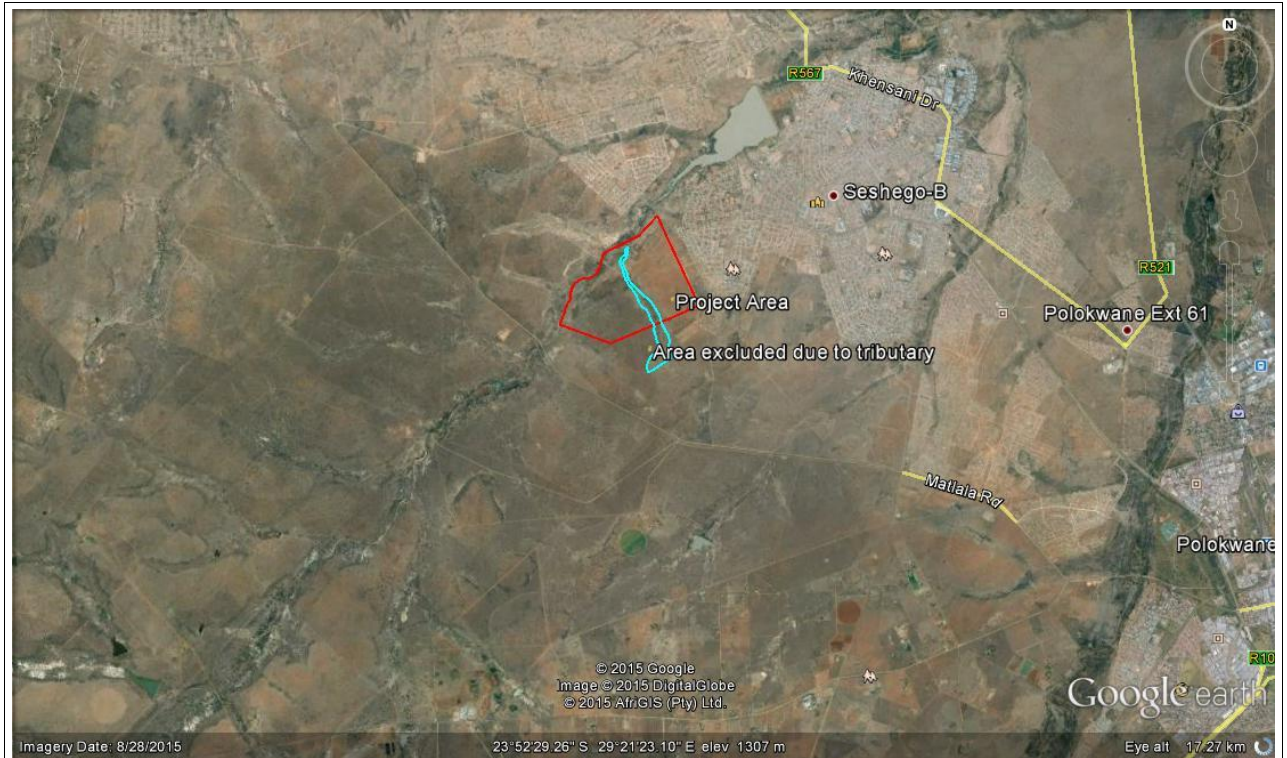
Yours faithfully

LIESL STEGMANN (BA Archaeology, UNISA) FRANS E ROODT (BA Hons Archaeology, UNISA)

Roodt

FRANS ROODT (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)
Principal Investigator for Shasa Heritage Consultants





Map 2. Close up of first section