



Setjo Sesho Consultants

HIA EXEMPTION LETTER

For conducting Phase 1 HIA for the proposed township establishment for a “Dry port facility”, located on portions 19-22, 26 and the remainder of portion 6 of the farm Lebombo 186-JU, Mpumalanga province

Recommendation Letter for exemption from conducting Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment

FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT FOR A “DRY
PORT FACILITY” LOCATED ON PORTIONS 19-22,26 AND THE
REMAINDER OF PORTION 6 OF THE FARM LEBOMBO 186-JU,
NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF EHLANZENI DISTRICT IN THE
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

PREPARED BY:



Prepared for:

PONYE TRADINGS AND PROJECTS

DECEMBER 2022

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Disclaimer: *Due to the nature of the study, only archival search was applied. Setjo Sesho Consultants personnel cannot be held liable for the archaeological materials discovered on site and their expenses thereof.*

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EXERCUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary is intended to quickly provide accurate results and facilitate management decisions. The executive summary focuses on the conclusions of the report rather than repeating all of the information contained therein. This report focuses only on the proposed township establishment for a "Dry Port facility" located on portions 19-22,26 and the remainder of portion 6 of the farm Iebombo 186-ju, Nkomazi local municipality of Ehlanzeni district in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa.

SCOPE OF WORK

This heritage impact investigation was conducted to determine the impacts on heritage resources within the study area. The following objectives structured the assessment:

- To produce a desk-top investigation in the area.
- To complete a site inspection of the proposed area of development.
- To locate potential historical, cultural, and archaeological resources within the planned development area.
- To assess the potential effects of the planned development's construction and operation on archaeological, cultural, built, and historical sites within the proposed region.
- To provide mitigation strategies for any potential detrimental effects on important archaeological, cultural, architectural, and historical sites.

The main purpose of this study is to determine the potential significance of the heritage sites within the proposed development area. The research is based on archival and documentary research combined with field research.

FINDINGS

The area has been used for farming for a period of time, hence no archaeological materials were discovered within the proposed development

area. A provincial heritage site bridge was noted 33 metres outside the developed area.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the current use of the land, chances of locating any archaeological materials are limited. It is therefore recommended that the proposed development be exempted from conducting a phase 1 heritage impact assessment on the basis that the land has been over utilized over the past years.

Declaration of Independence

I, **Jennifer Munyai**, declare that –

- I act as the independent heritage practitioner in this application
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favorable to the applicant
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting heritage impact assessment studies which are inclusive of desktop studies, i knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity
- I will comply with the Act, regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in section 38 of the NHRA when preparing the application and any report relating to the application
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority

all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;

- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favorable to the applicant or not
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- I will perform all other obligations as expected from a heritage practitioner in terms of the Act and the constitutions of my affiliated professional bodies; and
- I acknowledge that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 71 of the Regulations and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA.

Disclosure of Vested Interest

- I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the regulations;

Signed by: Jennifer Munyai



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terms used in this Archaeology are defined in the National Heritage Resources Act [NHRA], Act Nr. 25 of 1999, South African Heritage Resources Agency [SAHRA] Policies as well as the Australia ICOMOS Charter (*Burra Charter*):

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.

Artifact: Any movable object that has been used, modified or manufactured by humans.

Conservation: All the processes of looking after a site/heritage place or landscape including maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and adaptation.

Cultural Heritage Resources: refers to physical cultural properties such as archaeological sites, palaeontological sites, historic and prehistorical places, buildings, structures, and material remains cultural sites such as places of rituals, burial sites or graves and their associated materials, geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. This includes intangible resources such as religious practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories indigenous knowledge.

Cultural landscape: “the combined works of nature and man” and demonstrate “the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both internal and external”.

Cultural Resources Management (CRM): the conservation of cultural heritage resources, management, and sustainable utilization and present for present and for the future generations

Cultural Significance: is the aesthetic, historical, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.

Chance Finds: means Archaeological artifacts, 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 earthmoving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

Compatible use: means a use, which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

Expansion: means the modification, extension, alteration or upgrading of a facility, structure or infrastructure at which an activity takes place in such a manner that the capacity of the facility or the footprint of the activity is increased.

Grave: A place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other markers of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such a place.

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA): Refers to the process of identifying, predicting and assessing the potential positive and negative cultural, social, economic and biophysical impacts of any proposed project, plan, Programme or policy which requires the authorization of permission by law and which may significantly affect the cultural and natural heritage resources. The HIA includes recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures for minimizing or avoiding negative impacts, measures enhancing the positive aspects of the proposal and heritage management and monitoring measures.

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.

Impact: the positive or negative effects on human well-being and/or on the environment.

In situ material: means material culture and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for instance, archaeological remains that have not been disturbed.

Interested and Affected Parties: Individuals, communities or groups, other than the proponent or the authorities, whose interests may be positively or negatively affected by the proposal or activity and/ or who are concerned with a proposal or activity and its consequences.

Interpretation: means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

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

Material Culture means buildings, structure, features, tools and other artifacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

Mitigate The implementation of practical measures to reduce adverse impacts or enhance beneficial impacts of an action.

Place: means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, a group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces, and views.

Protected Area: means those protected areas contemplated in section 9 of the NEMPAA and the core area of a biosphere reserve and shall include their buffers.

Public Participation Process: A process of involving the public in order to identify issues and concerns, and obtain feedback on options and impacts associated with a proposed project, programme or development. Public Participation Process in terms of NEMA refers to a process in which potential

interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on or raise issues relevant to specific matters.

Setting: means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

Significance: can be differentiated into impact magnitude and impact significance. Impact magnitude is the measurable change (i.e. intensity, duration, and likelihood). Impact significance is the value placed on the change by different affected parties (i.e. the level of significance and acceptability). It is an anthropocentric concept, which makes use of value judgments and science-based criteria (i.e. biophysical, physical cultural, social and economic).

Site: a spatial cluster of artifacts, structures, and organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

LIST OF ABBRECIATIONS

AIA:	Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA:	Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BIA:	Basic Impact Assessment
CRM:	Cultural Resource Management
ECO:	Environmental Control Officer
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA:	Early Iron Age
EMP:	Environmental Management Plan
ESA:	Earlier Stone Age
GPS:	Global Positioning System
HIA:	Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA:	Late Iron Age
LSA:	Later Stone Age
MEC:	Member of the Executive Council
MIA:	Middle Iron Age
MPHRA:	Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resource Authority
MSA:	Middle Stone Age
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA:	National Heritage Resources Act
PRHA:	Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
SAHRA:	South African Heritage Resources Agency

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ponye Trading and Projects appointed Setjo Sesho Consultants as an independent Heritage/Archaeological specialist to identify the possible occurrence of cultural heritage resources/materials and the impact of the proposed township establishment for a “Dry port facility” located on portions 19-22,26 and the remainder of portion 6 of the farm Lebombo 186-ju, Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

1.1. Project Overview

TLG Corporate Services (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a new community facility for a dry port facility located on various parts of the farm Lebombo 186-JU. The property in question covers a total area of 280 hectares and the proposed development will take place over the entire area of the property. The development will provide around 1,000 truck drivers with the following services: tank farm with 400 m³ storage tanks (5 x 80 m³ diesel 50ppm), offices 40 people; weighbridge, canteen; Boardroom and truck wash bay. The Heritage study is only undertaken over 34 hectares which the specification will be provided on the map.

1.2. Technical Information

Project Description

Project name	Proposed township establishment for a “Dry port facility” located on portions 19-22,26 and the remainder of portion 6 of the farm Lebombo 186-ju
Description	Recommendation letter for the exemption of completing a full HIA for the proposed township establishment for a “Dry port facility” located on portions 19-22,26 and the remainder of portion 6 of the farm Lebombo 186-ju Mpumalanga Province of South Africa

Developer

TLG Corporate Services (Pty) Ltd

Consultants

Environmental	Ponye Trading and Projects
Archaeological/Heritage	Setjo Sesho Consultants

Property details

Province	Mpumalanga
District municipality	Ehlanzeni
Local municipality	Nkomazi
Closest Town/City	Komatipoort
GPS Co-ordinates	25°26'59.94"S and 31°57'32.87"E

Development footprint size Approximately 34 hectares

Land use

Previous	Farm
Current	Farm
Rezoning required	Yes
Sub-division of land	Yes

Development criteria in terms of section 38 (1) NHRA Yes/No

Construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length. No

Construction of bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length. No

Construction exceeding 5000m². Yes

Development involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions. Yes

Development involving three or more erven or divisions that have been consolidated within the past five years. No

Rezoning of site exceeding 10 000m². Yes

Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks, recreation grounds. No

Locality map for proposed development of dry port facility on the farm Lebombo 186 JU, Komatiipoort, Mpumalanga

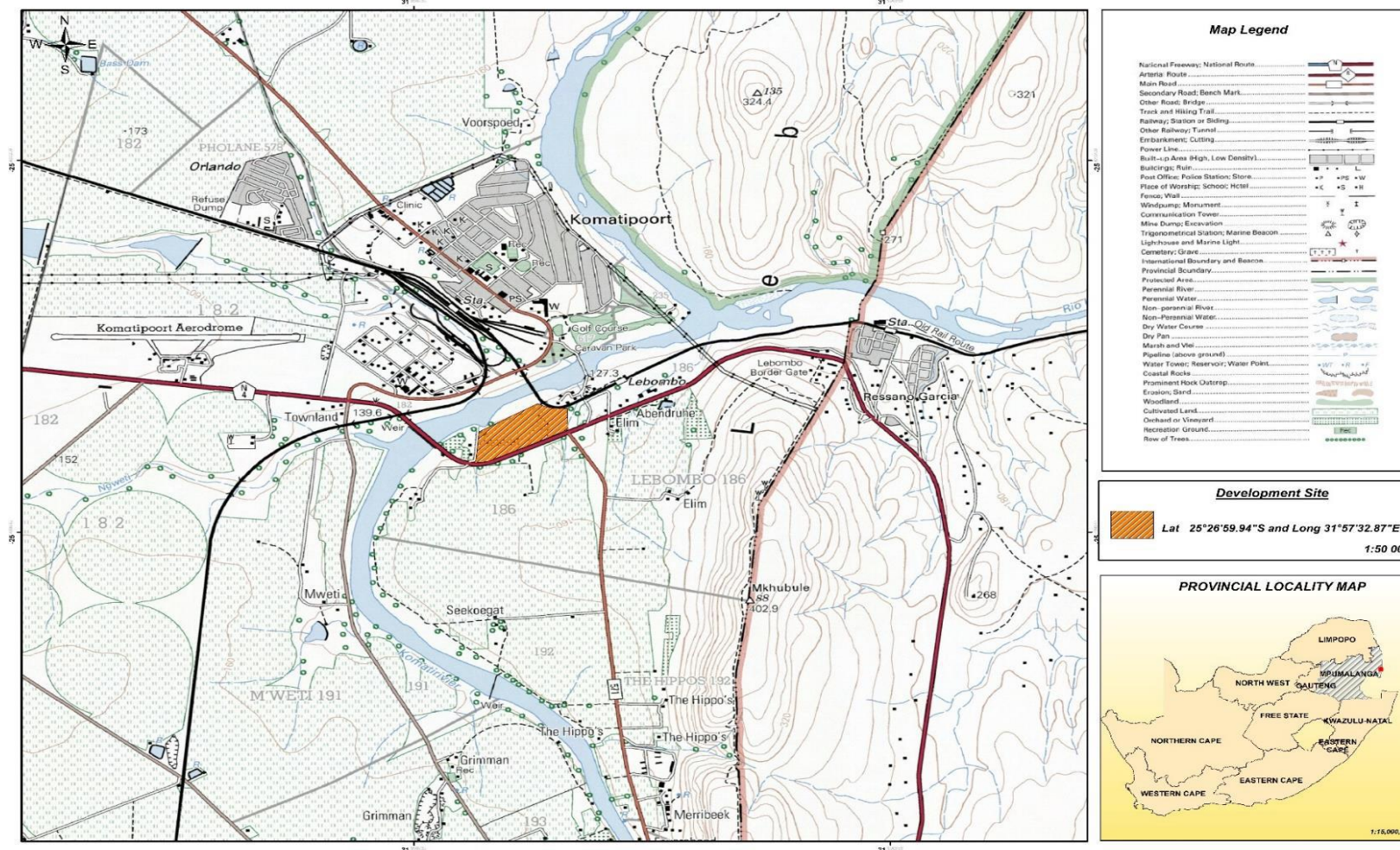


Figure 1: Locality map for the proposed development ©Ponye Trading and Projects

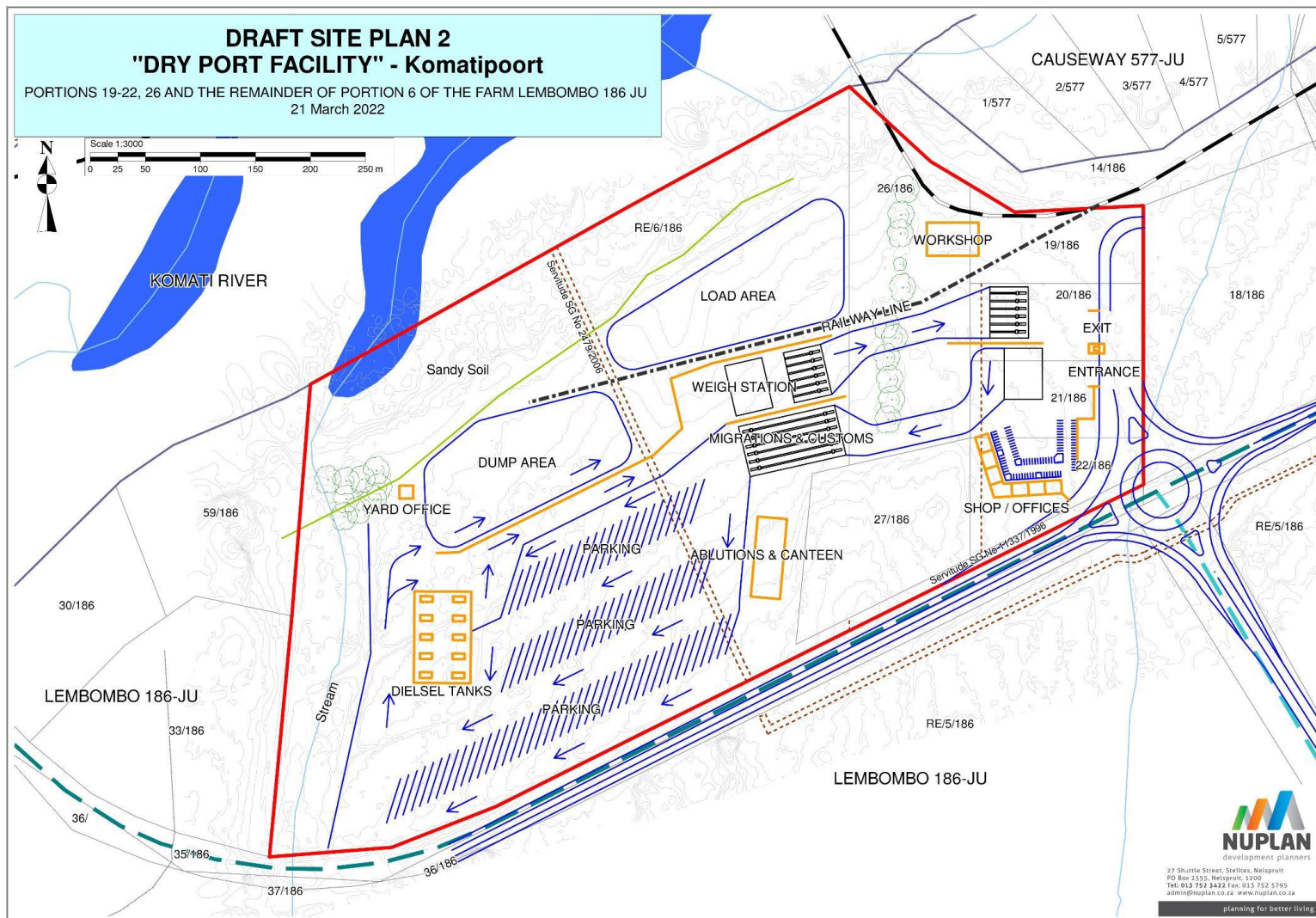


Figure 2: Proposed site plan of the development area ©Ponye Trading and Projects

2. LOCATION AND TERRAIN DESCRIPTION

Access to the proposed site is via the N4 road located on sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 26 and the rest of section 6 of the Lembombo 186 JU farm. The total area of the site is 280 hectares. The site belongs to Nkomazi local municipality of Ehlanzeni district municipality in Mpumalanga Province. The heritage report only focuses on the site with a size of about 34 hectares according to the map shown above. The planned development area is currently used for agricultural purposes. On the proposed land there are abandoned farmhouses, most of which are ruined. The following images show what the proposed development area looks like in its current state.









Figure 3: Overview of the proposed area of development © Setjo drone images







Figure 4: Overview of the abandoned farm houses © Setjo drone images



Figure 5: View of the machineries found on site





Figure 6:View of the NZASM Railway bridge © Setjo drone images

3. METHODOLOGY

The proposed development area was surveyed by foot and mostly 4X4 vehicle using standards archaeological surveys by an archaeologist and a field technician from Setjo Sesho Consultants. SAHRIS database search was undertaken for the proposed project, and nothing of archaeological value was discovered in the proposed development area. The site was documented by digital photographs using Canon EOS 1300D, DJI Mavic Air 2 drone and geo-located with GPS reading using a GPS application downloaded on an Android phone.

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1. Stone Age

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. Later Stone Age sites in Kruger National Park date back to the last 2500 years and are associated with pottery and microlithic stone tools (Bergh 1999). The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site in the immediate vicinity, aside from those in Kruger National Park, is the Plaston site to the west, which is dated to ca. 900 AD. To date, no other archaeological excavations have been carried out within the study area, which has been confirmed by academic institutions and specialists in the field. A stone-walled settlement with terraces was recorded by C. van Wyk (Rowe) near Hazyview, as well as several others further west and north-west further away from the study area. The Pilgrims Rest Museum has conducted research on San rock art as well as Bantu-speaker rock art in the Escarpment area, but none have been recorded in the Komatipoort area to date.

4.2. Iron Age

Iron Age people migrated to southern Africa around c. AD 200, entering the area either by pulling down the Coastal Plains or via a more central route. It seems more likely that the first option brought people to the study area. From the coast they followed the various rivers inland. One of the earliest dated sites is near Tzaneen (Silver Leaves). Some sites from this and a little later period have been identified by Plaston (Evers 1977) and more specifically by Vergenoeg and The Curlews (Van Schalkwyk & Teichert 2007). A site from AD 980 is located 65km away from the study area in the Mbuzini region (Van Schalkwyk 2001).

Many Iron Age communities on either side of the later border were not isolated, but were linked by various routes to Maputo and Inhambane to trade in ivory, iron, gold, copper and other commodities. There was no direct route through the Komatipoort. The next route was between Maputo and the Pretoriuskop area via Matlala Poort in the Lebombo Mountains south of Komatipoort. The Voortrekkers followed some of these paths in their search for the Indian Ocean (Pienaar 2007).

4.3. Early History

The name Komati first appears in historical records in 1589 in the form of Macomates. It was recorded by a traveler aboard the Portuguese ship Sao Thome, which set sail from Cochin in southern India and ran aground on the shores of the land of the Makomati near Lake Sibayi, later known as the KwaZulu Natal. The land of Makomati included the entire hinterland north to the Limpopo River, south to St. Lucia and west to the Drakensberg Escarpment. It was the trading ground of the Komati gold and ivory traders who settled in Delagoa Bay (known as Makomati until the 17th century) long before the arrival of the first Portuguese in 1498 (Bornman 1994).

Komati takes its name from the river Komati, whose original name in Swazi is Nkomazi, translated as river of cows. Here the Crocodile and Komati Rivers meet to flow through the mountain passage through the Lebombo Mountains into Mozambique.

Komatipoort was the last station on the Pretoria Delagoa Bay Line of the South African Republic (ZAR) built by the Netherlands South African Railway Company (NZASM), with the first train crossing the border from Komatipoort to Portuguese on 1 July 1891 after the ZAR was completed -East Africa crossed railway bridge over the Komati River.The railway bridge is still intact and is just 33meters away from the proposed development area.

Between 1900 and 1902 during the Anglo-Boer War the town was used as a base by Major F. Von Steinaecker and his group known as the Steinaeckers Horse. They were mercenaries recruited by the British to fight against Boer guerrillas.

Another significant site near Komatipoort is the site where former President of Mozambique Samora Machel died in a plane crash in the Lebombo Mountains. The site is declared as the National Heritage Site.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed area of development is currently utilized for different kinds of farming. Map search of the area also indicate that, it has been used for farming dating back to 1985. Due to the unearthing of the soil several times in preparation of the farming, chances of locating materials of archaeological significance are extremely low. The NZASM Railway bridge which is (33 metres) away from the proposed development will not be impacted by the proposed development

Following the above observation and findings, Setjo Sesho Consultants recommend that the proposed development should be exempted from conducting a full Archaeological Impact Assessment as any materials that might have been on the proposed development footprint was destroyed during the farming activities. It is also recommended that the bridge be left as is since it falls outside the proposed development. Based on these fact, Setjo Sesho recommends that the proposed development be given the permission to proceed without conducting the Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment.

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