

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**PREPARED FOR:
ENVIROVISION CONSULTING CC**

PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR REMAINDER 3 OF THE FARM LEEUWVALLEI 297 KT MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study, as required in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, was done for Envirovision cc.

An official request was made by Environvision to assess the possible impact of development on Remainder 3 of the farm Leeuwvallei 297 KT. The proposed development is for residential development of approximately 34 hectares.

Visibility was excellent across the entire area. Previous and current land use ranges from bare horse paddocks, citrus orchards to fallow ploughed land. Findings range from three Early Stone Age (ESA) implements, one Middle Stone Age (MSA) triangular flake, one lower and one upper grindstone of Iron Age origin, historical burial sites.

Apart from the burial sites, the proposed development may continue.

See National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999, Sec 5 [7]) (Appendix 8.1).

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Heritage Impact Assessment was done for Envirovision cc on Remainder 3 of the farm Leeuwvallei 297 KT.

Envirovision cc requested an HIA to establish the impact on archaeological / historical sites in the proposed development. The proposed development is for an area of 34 hectares for residential stands.

2 AIMS OF THIS REPORT

The aim of this report is to ascertain whether or not any cultural remains of significance occur on the sites, which are intended for residential development, or on any proposed access roads. This Phase 1 study will obtain knowledge of the presence, relevance and significance of any heritage resources to be affected, and will make recommendations intended to minimize any possible impact.

3 METHODOLOGY

The Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by means of:

- a survey on foot of each of the sites intended for development, as well as survey of the general area, which included access roads.
- integrating information obtained from the previous owner still resident on the farm, Mr. Francois Marais, of Remainder 3 of the farm Leeuwvallei 297 KT.
- Consulting 1:50 000 topographic map 2430 CB.

Fieldwork:

The fieldwork covered the entire proposed development area of approximately 34 hectares.

The visibility across the entire area was excellent. The entire area is heavily disturbed by agricultural practices ranging from bare horse paddocks, citrus orchards to fallow ploughed land. The area could be surveyed in detail (see section on Heritage Impact Assessment).

Mr. Marais was available for consultation throughout the fieldwork.

Mapping of Heritage Resources:

All occurrences of cultural finds in the area were geo-referenced, using a GPS instrument.

Personal communication:

Integrating information was obtained from the previous owner, Mr Francois Marais.

The 1:50 000 topographical map was also consulted (2430 CB).

Terminology:

Terms that may be used in this report are briefly outlined in Appendix 8.2.


4 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY (HIA)

The heritage resources as identified from the visual survey:

NO OF SITES	HERITAGE RESOURCES	GPS CO-ORDINATES
1	3 x ESA artefacts	S24°40.013 E30°17.325
2	1 x MSA triangular flake	S24°40.013 E30°17.325
3	Iron Age: Lower grindstone	S24°40.264 E30°16.965
4	Iron Age: Upper grindstone	S24°39.971 E30°17.369
5	Old tribal burial site including recently erected tombstone (Sarah Mashele 1958)	S24°39.971 E30°17.369
6	Historic grave of JJ Schoeman, great grandson of Voortrekker MJ Schoeman 1880 – 1936	S24°40.221 E30°16.977
7	Farmhouse in which Mr Marais resides – older that 60 years	

4.7 SITES 1

The three Early Stone Age implements were found on a low hill adjacent to the historic burial site, in superficially ploughed soil. The entire area is covered with river cobbles and chunks of calcrete.

2	x ESA implements	S24°40.013 E30°17.325
		

4.7 SITE 2

The one Middle Stone Age triangular flake was found in association with the ESA implements on a low hill adjacent to the historic burial site, in superficially ploughed soil. The entire area is covered with river cobbles and chunks of calcrete.

1 x MSA triangular flake



S24°40.013
E30°17.325

4.7 SITE 3

The Iron Age Lower grindstone was found in the track between the citrus orchard and the horse paddock, which is a highly disturbed area, and the grindstone is out of context.

Iron Age: Lower grindstone



S24°40.264
E30°16.965

4.7 SITE 4

The upper grindstone was found in the proximity of the historic burial site.

Iron Age: Upper grindstone



S24°39.971
E30°17.369

4.7 SITE 5

Unmaintained, old tribal burial site on top of a low hill.

Sarah Masele's (1958) recently erected tombstone is approximately five years old (Personal communication: Francois Marais 2 September 2006).

<p>Old tribal burial site including recently erected tombstone (Sarah Mashele 1958)</p> <div data-bbox="199 548 582 824" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="630 537 1013 817" data-label="Image"> </div>
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4.6 SITE 6


The historic grave of JJ Schoeman (1880-1936) is according to informant Francois Marais (Personal communication 2 September 2006), not in its original position. Mr Marais found the tombstone in 1982, and moved it from the track between the citrus trees, to under the citrus trees (approximately 3 metres). A section of the original stone surround is visible at the borehole (see photos below).

This historic grave is of the great grandson of Voortrekker MJ Schoeman.

<p>Historic grave of JJ Schoeman, great grandson of Voortrekker MJ Schoeman 1880 – 1936</p> <div data-bbox="215 1299 598 1579" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="622 1299 1005 1579" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="215 1612 598 1892" data-label="Image"> </div>
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4.7 SITE 7

According to Mr Marais, this was the original farmhouse of Voortrekker MJ Schoeman. The house has been extensively altered over a period of many years. Mr Marais plans to remain resident in the house.

<p>Farmhouse in which Mr Marais resides – older that 60 years</p> 	<p>See map 1</p>
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5 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA

The significance of the various sites are dealt with as a whole.

The heritage resources on Remainder 3 of the farm Leeuwvallei 297 KT, consist of lithic artifacts of Stone Age and Iron Age origin as well as tribal and historic graves.

The general significance of the proposed impact is *LOW*, with the exception of all the burial sites where the impact is *HIGH*. The farmhouse, older that 60 years, is excluded from the development.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The HIA has revealed the presence of ESA and a MSA implements, Iron Age grindstones, tribal and historic burial sites and a farmhouse older than 60 years.

The aim of this report is to ascertain whether or not any cultural remains of significance occur on the sites, which are intended for residential development, or on any proposed access roads

It is hereby recommended that

- The entire low hill, upon which the burial ground, including the grave of Sarah Mashele (site 5) occurs, must be excluded from any development or disturbance (see perimeter of exclusion, map 1).

- This incidentally includes site 1 (ESA implements), site 2 (MSA implement) and site 4 (Iron Age Upper grindstone);

- Any disturbance in all directions, within 15 metres of the current locality of JJ Schoeman's tombstone (site 6), must be avoided. The exact locality of the remains is unknown and it is for this reason that the above exclusion is recommended (See map 1). It is recommended that a perimeter fence be erected.

- Before any further alterations to the existing farmhouse are made, a permit from SAHRA is necessary.

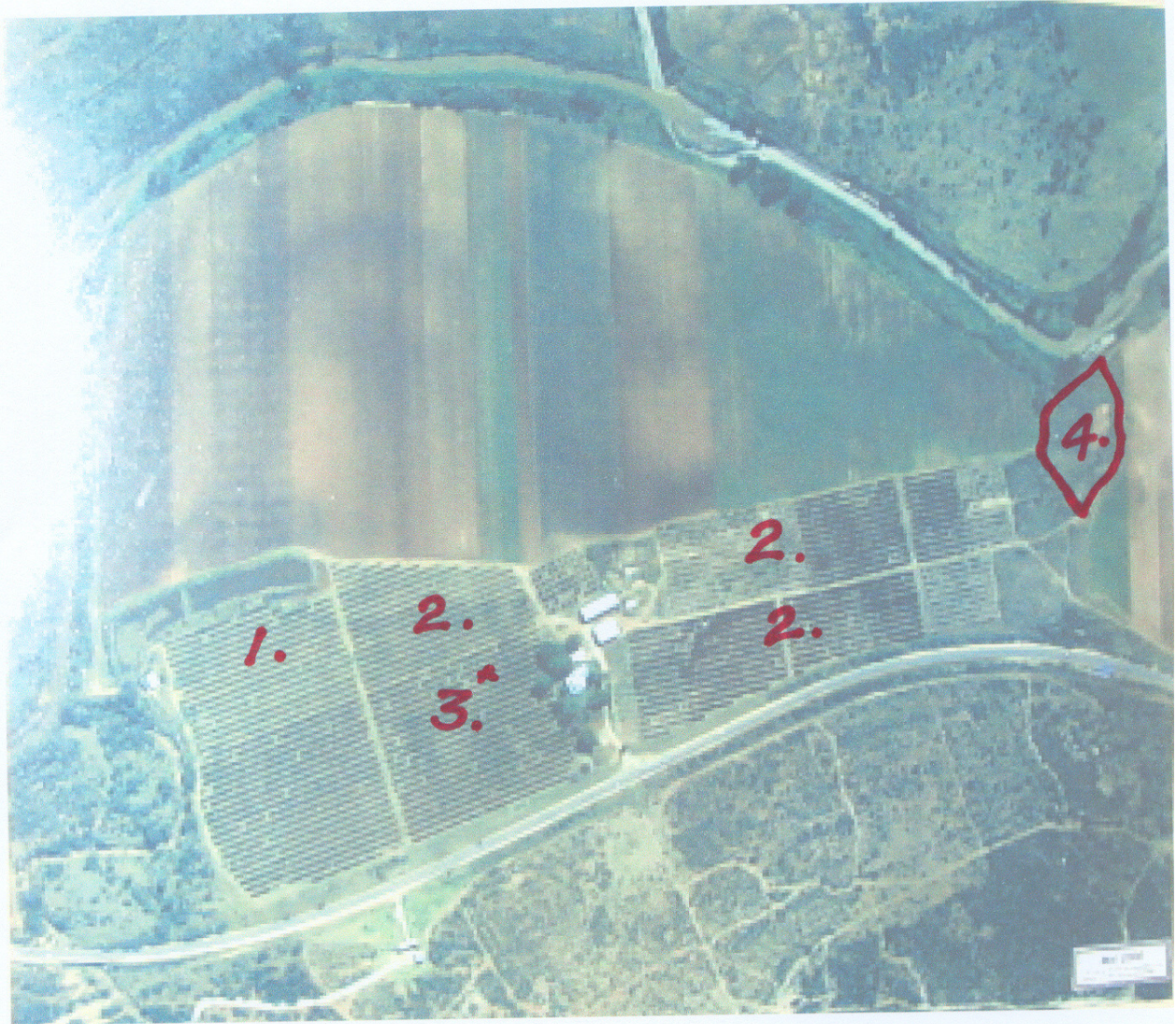
Please note that graves invisible on the surface, due to the intense agricultural disturbance, may have been missed during this HIA study. If such remains are discovered during

development, the developer must contact an archaeologist to acquire the necessary permits in order to undertake mitigation measures before these remains are affected by any development.

It is recommended that the proposed development continue with above exclusions.

MAP 1:

Copy of aerial photograph of Remainder 3 of the farm Leeuwvallei 297 KT indicating areas of exclusion



- 1 Position of current horse paddock (not excluded from development);
- 2 Citrus orchards (not excluded from development);
- 3 JJ Schoeman's gravestone (excluded from development);
- 4 Low hill with tribal burial sites (excluded from development).

**8.1 APPENDIX:
Heritage Resources Act**

Types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999

The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999, Section 3) outlines the following types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate:

- (a) places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds including-
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
 - (iii) graves of victims 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 65 of 1983)
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) moveable objects, including -
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects, 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) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographs, positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, (Act 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999, Sec 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 organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa

APPENDIX 8.2:

Terminology:

HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT:

Heritage site management is the control of the elements that make up the physical and social environment of a site, its physical condition, land use, human visitors, interpretation etc. Management may be aimed at preservation or at minimizing damage or destruction or at presentation of the site to the public.

SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT:

Low: where the impact will not have an influence on, or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design;

Medium: where the impact could have an influence, which would require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation;

High: where it would have a "no-go" implication on the project regardless of any mitigation;

REMARKS ON GRAVES & BURIAL GROUNDS:

Various categories of graves and burial grounds are acknowledged in section 2(g) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, and measures of the protection, exhumation and relocation of graves and grave yards are outlined in section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999. All graves can be considered of HIGH (outstanding) significance and various laws, provincial regulations, and administrative procedures regulate the exhumation and relocation of graves and graveyards.

