

# **PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT**

## **S24G APPLICATION FOR CLEARING INDIGENOUS VEGETATION ON THE FARM LIMPOPO VIEW 42 MT, MUSINA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

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**Attention: Dons Claasens**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The area proposed for the development of 26ha of new croplands is located on the farm Limpopo View 42 MT east of Musina.

A buffer zone has been included along the river due to environmental factors, as seen in maps below.

No heritage remains were recorded on site, and no objection to development is lodged.

# 1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Application purpose:** To develop new croplands

**Area:** Musina Area

**Size:** 26ha

## **GPS**

Area 1. S22° 21' 27.5" E30° 18' 07.1"

Area 2. S22° 21' 30.9" E30° 17' 44.8"

Buffer Zone. S22° 21' 30.3" E30° 17' 35.4"

**Map reference number:** 2230 AD

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

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

### **Historical remains**

**Section 34(1)** No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

### **Archaeological remains**

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

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

### **Burial grounds and graves**

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

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

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

### **Culture resource management**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

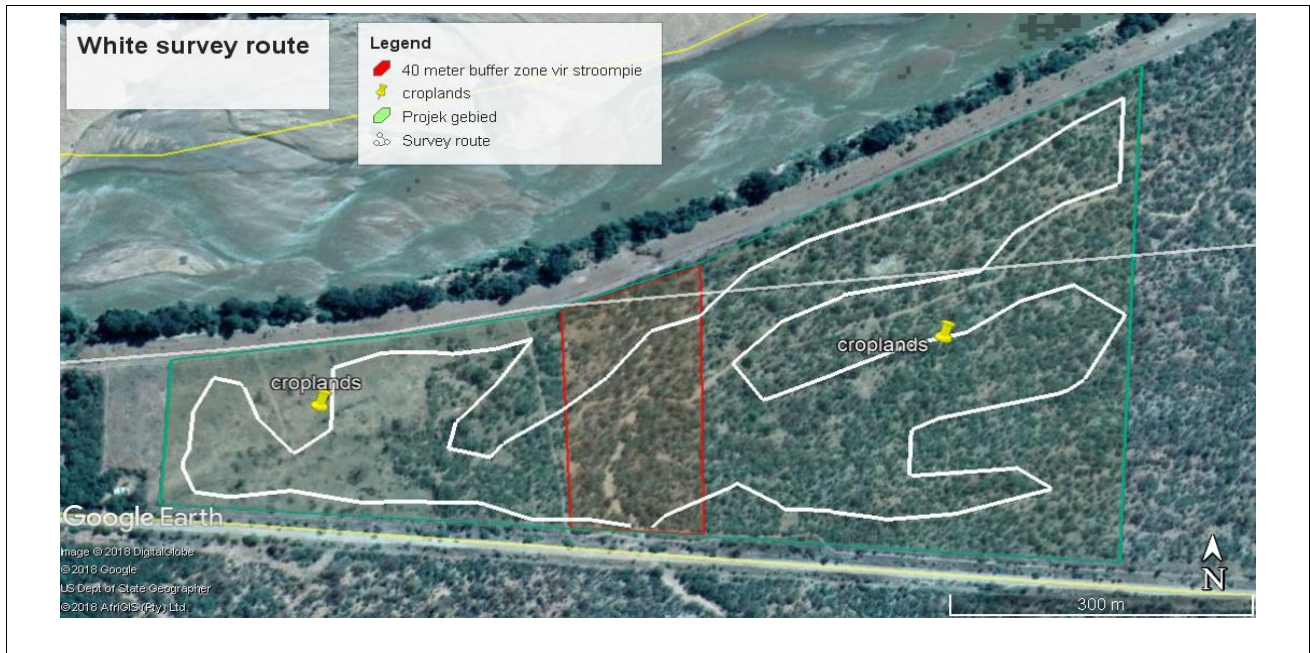
**\*\*‘structure’** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ...”

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1 Sources of information and methodology

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

A pedestrian survey of the area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied. The area was carefully covered and traversed, and special attention given to any areas displaying soil and or vegetative changes. Mr FE Roodt visited the site on 22 March 2018 from early morning. 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.

## 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 *may* 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:** 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD
- Late Iron Age:** 14<sup>th</sup> century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*
- Historical:** Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA, though more recent remains can be termed historically significant should the remains hold social significance for the local community.
- Phase 1 assessment:** Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area
- Phase 2 assessments:** In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.
- Sensitive:** Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

### **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN**

**Vegetation:** Musina Mopane Bushveld (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). Vegetation is dominated by *Colophospermum mopane* , although these seldom become large trees and are more shrublike

**Terrain:** The area is generally flatlands, with a river area running between the 2 proposed croplands. Environmentally, this river area has been excluded from development. The area has been impacted on by bush clearing and thus forms part of an S24 G rectification process.

**Proposed development: Development of new croplands**



Fig 1: View of area



Fig 2: View of area



Fig 3: View of area



Fig 4: View of area



Fig 5: View of area



Fig 6: View of area



## 4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 SOCIAL and/or RELIGIOUS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No areas designated for socio-religious activities were recorded on the site.

Significance: None

### 4.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No remains from the historical period were recorded.

Significance: None

### 4.3 GRAVES

No formal or unmarked graves were recorded on site.

Significance: None

### 4.4 IRON AGE REMAINS

In terms of Huffman's (2007) distribution sequences of the Iron Age, the project area may contain the remains of the under-mentioned culture historical groups:

- Urewe Tradition***, originating in the Great Lakes area of Central Africa, was a secondary dispersal centre for eastern Bantu speakers. It represents the eastern stream of migration into South Africa.

- Kwale Branch:

Mzonjani facies (Broederstroom) AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)

- Kalundu Tradition***, originating in the far North of Angola, was another secondary dispersal centre for eastern Bantu speakers and represents the western stream of migration into South Africa.

- Happy Rest Sub-branch:

Happy Rest facies AD 500 – 750 (Early Iron Age)

Malapati facies AD 750 – 1030 (Early Iron Age)

Gumanye facies AD 1030-1250 (Middle Iron Age)

Great Zimbabwe facies AD 1300-1700 (Late Iron Age)

Mapungubwe facies AD 1250 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)

Mutamba facies AD 1250 – 1450 (Middle Iron Age)

Khami facies AD 1430 – 1680 (Late Iron Age)

\*Letaba facies AD 1600 – 1840 (Later Iron Age)

\*Letaba pottery is associated with modern day Venda people and can be found in any Venda village. The presence of this style of pottery must be evaluated in conjunction with its associated cultural material in order to determine whether it comes from an archaeological, historical or a contemporary source.

Significance: None

#### **4.5 STONE AGE REMAINS**

No Stone Age remains were recorded.

Stone Age artifacts and materials dating to the Early, Middle and Late Stone Age are often recorded during survey near rivers and drainage lines in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces. However in the survey above no remains were recorded

Significance: None

#### **4.6 PALAEONOTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY**

The area lies within the grey zone on SAHRIS map.

## **5. BACKGROUND ON THE AREA**

No Heritage reports are available for the area on SAHRIS. However, the authors have conducted a heritage assessments on farms less than 20 km east of the proposed croplands. No heritage remains were identified during either survey. Sites appear to be more dominant to the west of the Sand River.

1. Stone age sites are known in the wider Limpopo region, ranging from the Early Stone Age through to the Late Stone Age. The area where development is proposed did not yield Stone Age remains.
2. *The Mapangubwe Cultural Landscape 50km west of the proposed development hold unique and outstanding significance in the wider region as it demonstrates the rise and fall of the first indigenous kingdom in Southern Africa*

*between 900 and 1300 AD. The core area covers nearly 30,000 ha and is supported by a suggested buffer zone of around 100,000 ha. Within the core of the World Heritage property are the remains of three capitals - Schroda; K2/Bambandyanalo and the final one located around Mapungubwe hill - and their satellite settlements and lands around the confluence of the Limpopo and the Shashe rivers whose fertility supported a large population within the kingdom.*

## 6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.*

*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.

**Mucina, L and Rutherford, M.C.** 2006. *The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland.* South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.



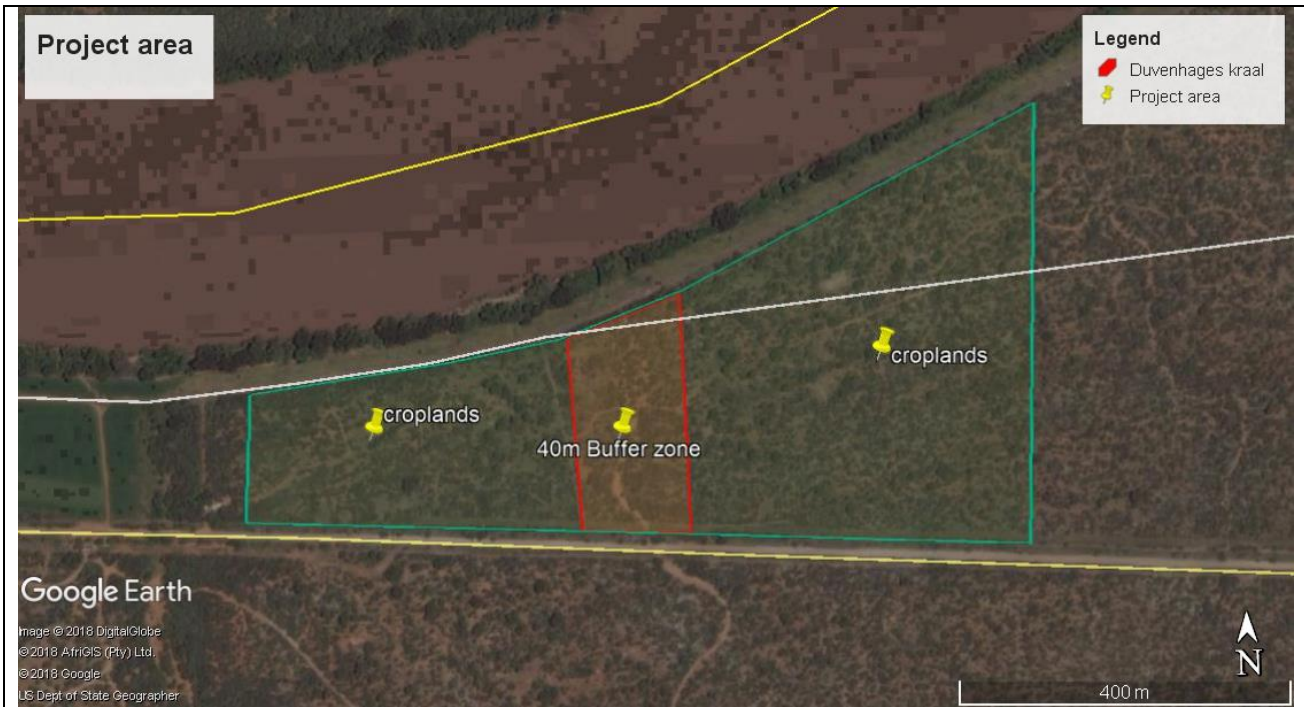
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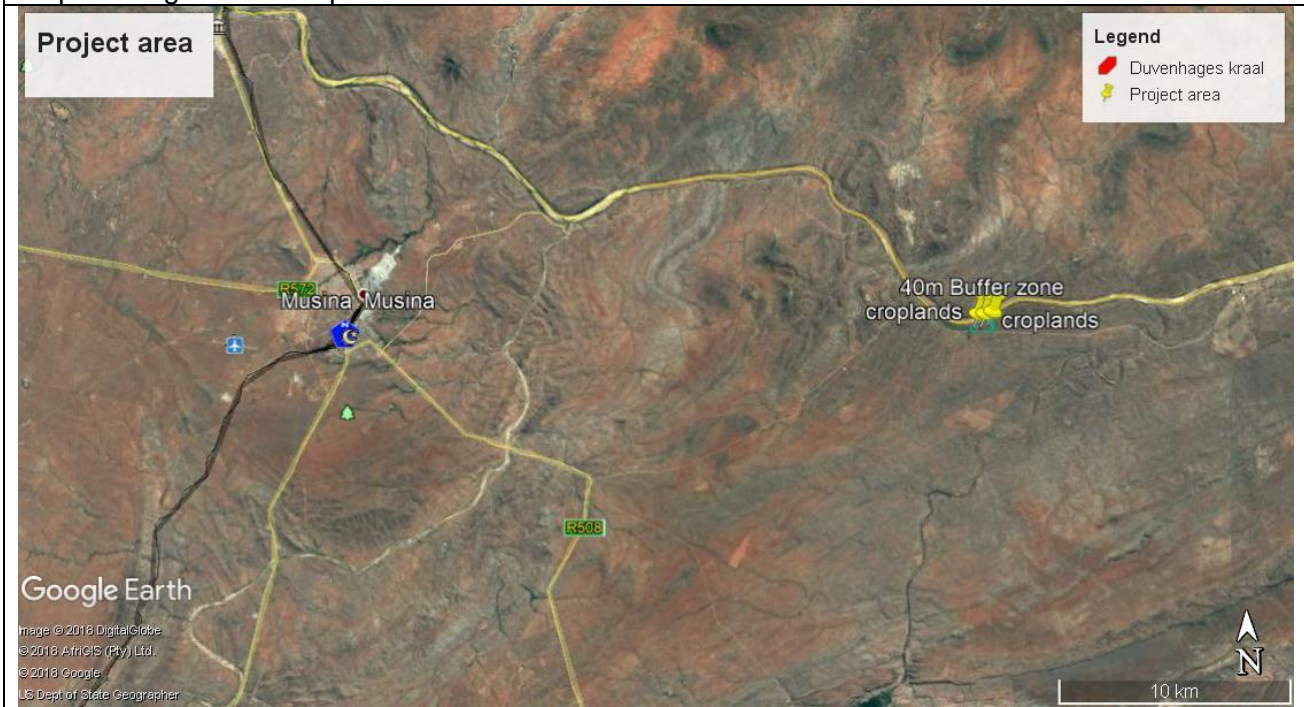


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Map 1 Google Earth map of area



Map 2 Google Earth map, site in relation to Musina