

APPENDIX 3

CHAPTER EXTRACTED FROM:

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED
DEBUSHING OF NATURAL AS WELL AS DISTURBED LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL USE:
PORTION 2 OF THE FARM HERCULINA 155 JU, HECTORSPRUIT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE
COMPILED FOR RHENGU ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: JULY 2015**

B BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

The study area, *portion 2 of the farm Herculina 155 JU*, is located 6 km east of Hectorspruit and 21 km east of Malelane and approximately 20km west of Komatipoort. Swaziland is situated approximately 40 km to the south and the Kruger National Park (KNP), 9 km towards the north. An irrigation scheme was planned in 1957 for the farms south of the Crocodile River. Huge citrus farms were already established during that time and 32 000 citrus trees were planted on the Thankerton farm, near the study area. The irrigation scheme was delayed, and the farmers Danie and Dirk van Graan of Thankerton, started their own scheme, and built the 'Van Graan Dam' (see Map 3, topographical map), in the Crocodile River with a canal and three turbines on their farm. They subsequently erected a citrus pack house on the farm to serve the Hectorspruit area.¹ The Van Graans were also key role-players in establishing the sugar industry in the Low Veld.²

The area is rich in archaeological history and the first evidence of ancient mining occurred between 46000 and 28 500 years ago during the Middle Stone Age. Hematite or red ochre was mined at Dumaneni (near Malelane), and is regarded as one of the oldest mines in the world. Iron ore was also mined in the area and a furnace, as well as iron slag was documented.³

Bushman (or San) presence is evident in the area as research by rock art enthusiasts revealed 109 sites in the Kruger National Park,⁴ and over 100 rock art sites at Bongani Mountain Lodge and its immediate surrounds⁵ (west of Malelane), as well as many sites in the Nelspruit, Rocky's Drift and White River areas. Thirty one rock art sites were recorded on the Mpumalanga Drakensberg Escarpment. Rock art sites were also recorded in Swaziland.^{6 7} However, Smith and Zubieta claim that the area towards the east (Komatipoort) has no known rock art sites. The Bushman painters most probably obtained the ochre which was used as a pigment in the paintings, from the Dumaneni

¹ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 69-70.

² Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 73.

³ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

⁴ English, M. Die Rotskuns van die Boesmans in die NKW, in *De Vos Pienaar, U., Neem uit die Verlede*, p. 18-24.

⁵ Hampson, et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, SA Archaeological Bulletin 57: p. 15.

⁶ Rowe, C. 2009. Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, MA dissertation. Pretoria: UP.

⁷ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

ochre mine.^{8 9}

History in the wider vicinity is closely connected to the study area and is briefly outlined below. The name Komati appears in historical records for the first time in 1589, in the form *Macomates*. It was recorded by a traveler on board the Portuguese ship *Sao Thome*, which sailed from Cochin, South India and ran aground on the shores of the *Land of the Makomati*, near *Lake Sibayi*, in what became known as KwaZulu Natal. The *Land of Makomati* comprised the entire hinterland as far north as the Limpopo River, as far south as St Lucia, and as far west as the Drakensberg escarpment. It was the trading zone of the Komati gold and ivory traders who had established themselves in Delagoa Bay (which was known up to the 17th century as *Makomati*), long before the arrival of the first Portuguese in 1498. The name of the Komati River came from *Makomati* who used it for trading purposes.¹⁰

In order to place the areas around Hectorspruit / Malelane in an archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Historic and academic sources by Küsel, Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray and Van der Ryst were consulted, as well as historic sources (Makhura and Webb).

Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the study area. Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinity of Hazyview¹¹, Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie, clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinders, are scattered at most of the sites.¹² Many of these occur in caves where small groups sheltered for protection against Swazi attacks (1900's). The 1984 topographical map did not show any historical features of interest. The 1926 topographical map of *Komatipoort* revealed one black settlement on the study area which was previously known as "Wilson's Kop." (Map 2).¹³ Other black settlements in the vicinity were recorded by names such as *Gomeni, Magungu, Losibam, John and Mahlilan*. They settled along the river and in the hills. The study area was mostly flat with one prominent rocky outcrop, named Wilson's Kop. The intermittent Ngwet Spruit (also called Stony Spruit) runs from west to east through the property. There are several drainage lines as well as dams on the farm. No structures or features of significance were identified on the study area.

The author was also involved in desktop studies and surveys in the area, such as:

- *Study for the Proposed Eskom Powerlines, Hazyview – Dwarsloop* (2008);
- *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, (2001);

⁸ Bornman, H. *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

⁹ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

¹⁰ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 9.

¹¹ PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹² D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

¹³ Map: 1926 Topographical Map: Komati Poort no. 22.

- a *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for 132Kv Powerlines from Kiepersol substation (Hazyview), to the Nwarele substation Dwarsloop (2002)*;
- a *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed traffic training academy, Calcutta, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge (2013)*;
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Nkambeni cemetery in Numbi, Hazyview (2013)*;
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a Development on the farm Agricultural Holding no 56 JU, White River (2013)* was done in the wider area;
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed agricultural development on the farm SIERAAD, Komatipoort area, (2013)* revealed one possible Late Stone Age borer which was identified in a soil sample, one meter below the surface;
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed debushing of natural land for agricultural use: portion 2 of the farm THANKERTON 175JU, Hectorspruit area, (2014)* - revealed a few Late Stone Age flakes and clay potsherds & upper grinders which were all out of context and of no significance.

No significant archaeological material was identified during the surveys above.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed other recent Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the area of Komatipoort:

- J. Van Schalkwyk: *Proposed new Lebombo Port of Entry and upgrade of Komatipoort railway station between Mpumalanga (SA) and Mozambique (2008)* – Some historic building were identified but no archaeological remains;
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Report on a cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Kangwane Antracite Mine, Komatipoort (2012)* – An archaeological site with Middle and Late Stone Age tools were identified as well as some Iron Age artifacts and decorated pottery. Mitigation measures were recommended by exclusion from the development or a Phase 2 study;
- JP Celliers: *Report on Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment on erven at Komatipoort 182 JU Extension 4, Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed two pieces of undecorated sherds of pottery which was of low significance. It was recommended that any earthmoving activities be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.
- A. Van Vollenhoven: *Archaeological Impact Assessment for Border site at Komatipoort (2012)* – Revealed historic remains linked to the Steinaeker's Horse regiment during the South African War.

Some archaeological material was identified towards the Komatipoort area, and mitigation measures were recommended.

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. Later Stone Age sites in the Kruger National Park date to the last 2500 years and are associated with

pottery and microlith stone tools.¹⁴ The only professionally excavated Early Iron Age site near the area, besides those in the Kruger National Park, is the Plaston site near White River, dating ca 900 AD.¹⁵ No other archaeological excavations have been conducted to date within the study area, which have been confirmed by academic institutions and specialists in the field.^{16 17} A stone walled settlement with terracing was recorded by C. van Wyk (Rowe) close to Hazyview,¹⁸ as well as several which were documented in the southern parts of the Kruger National Park.¹⁹ The southern Kruger Park and Nelspruit areas have an abundance of San rock art sites,²⁰ as mentioned above, but none were identified in the direct vicinity of the study area.

Several early ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the study area was mainly inhabited by the Tsonga (Nhlangu and Tšhangana), as well as Swazi from before the 18th century.^{21 22} (See Map 1: 1935: Map of Van Warmelo). When concentrating on ethnographical history, it is important to include a slightly wider geographical area in order for it to make sense. Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the amount of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to actually indicate how many people were living in one area.²³

The whole district is divided in two, with the Drakensberg Escarpment in the west, and the Low Veld (in which the study area is situated) towards the east. Today, we found that the boundaries of groups are intersected and overlapping.²⁴ Languages such as Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Nhlangu, Nkuna, sePedi, hiPau and seRôka, are commonly spoken throughout this area.²⁵

During the middle of the 18th century some Sotho and Swazi groups combined under a fighting chief Simkulu. The tribe so formed became known as the BakaNgomane. The principal settlement of Simkulu was in the vicinity of the confluence of the Crocodile and Komati Rivers. It is believed that the BakaNgomane chiefs were buried there.²⁶

The Swazi under Mswati II (1845), raided prosperous tribal lands to the north of Swaziland. Mswati II

¹⁴ J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

¹⁵ M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

¹⁶ Personal information: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.

¹⁷ Personal information: Dr. MS. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.

¹⁸ C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaha Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

¹⁹ Eloff J.F., *Verslag oor Argeologiese Navorsing in die Krugerwildtuin*, June / July, 1982.

²⁰ Hampson, J., et al., *The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge and its environs*, *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 57: pp. 17-28.

²¹ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

²² H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p.16.

²³ N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

²⁴ N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 51.

²⁵ M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 21.

²⁶ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* pp. 10-11.

regiments such as the *Nyatsi* and the *Malelane* brought terror to African homes as far afield as Mozambique.²⁷ During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.²⁸ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.²⁹ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century,³⁰ when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit, Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.³¹

Mswati II built a line of military outposts from west to east of the upper Komati River and the Mlambongwane (Kaap River). At each outpost he stationed regiments to watch and stop the BaPedi returning to their old haunts.³²

Shaka in the course of his military actions, came into conflict with Zwide Mkhathshwa (1819). Notwithstanding Zwide's numerical superiority, Shaka defeated him. The remnants of Zwide's tribe fled into the Eastern Transvaal where they settled. They ultimately found a new kingdom in Gaza land, that extended from just north of the current Maputo, up the east coast as far as the Zambezi river.³³

Soshangane was a very powerful chief of the Gaza people, even though he was under the rule of Zwide. Soshangane decided to leave and was given full passage through Swaziland. He passed on his way through the Komati gorge, today known as Komatipoort, taking with him a great booty of cattle and women. Meanwhile more Shangane arrived and by 1896 some 2000 refugees settled between Bushbuckridge and Acornhoek where they are still living today. With the establishment of the Sabie Game Reserve (later known as the Kruger National Park), the BakaNgomane, their Shangaan protégés and Swazis who lived within its borders, were evicted in 1902, and went westward into Klaserie and Bushbuckridge areas, or south of the Crocodile River and established themselves in the Tenbosch and Coal Mine (Strijdom Block) areas (close to the current study area), west and south of Komatipoort. The Swazi of Khandzalive moved to Mjejane or Emjejane, the current name for Hectorspruit.³⁴ (See also: Map 1: 1935 Map of Van Warmelo).

²⁷ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p 11.

²⁸ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

²⁹ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

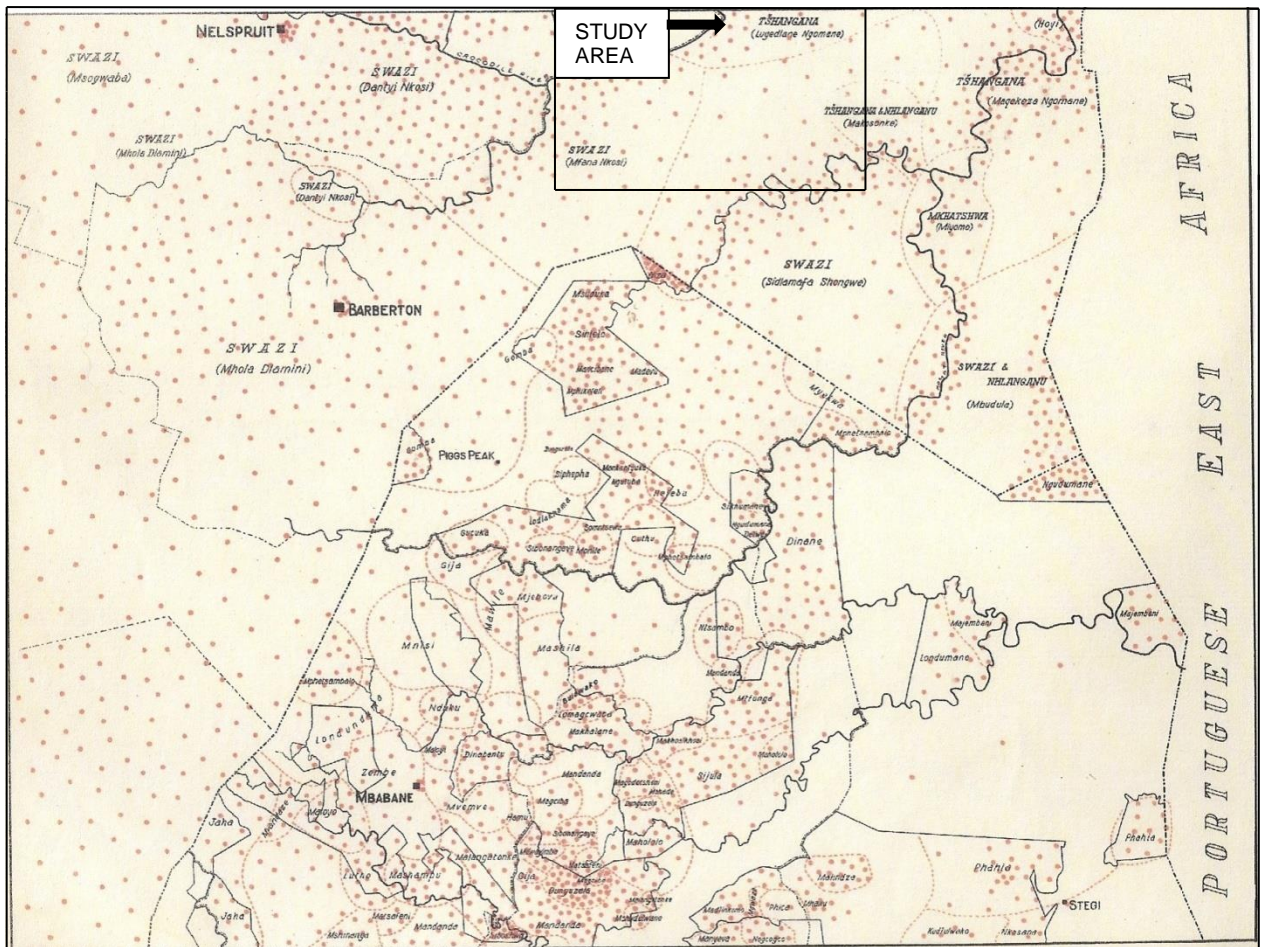
³⁰ H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

³² Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p. 12.

³³ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.17.

³⁴ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p.19.



MAP 1: Van Warmelo: 1935: The study area is indicated.

Tsonga groups: The Nhlangu and Tshangana

The Nhlangu and Tshangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)³⁵ form part of the larger Tsonga group of which the original group occupied the whole of Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa), and it has been recorded that by 1554, they were already living around the Delagoa Bay area (Maputo).³⁶ They fled from the onslaughts of the Zulu (Nguni) nation from the Natal area, and great numbers of emigrants sought safety in the “Transvaal” as recently as the 19th century, especially in the greater Pilgrim's Rest district (including the study area that we are concerned with). The Tsonga also moved west from Mozambique into the “Transvaal”. They never formed large powerful tribes but were mostly always subdivided into loosely-knit units, and absorbed under the protection of whichever chief would give them land.³⁷ They were originally of Nguni origin.³⁸ The term “Shangaan” is commonly employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.³⁹

³⁵M. De Jongh (ed.), *Swatini*, p. 24.

³⁶N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

³⁷N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

³⁸N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

³⁹N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92

The **Nhlanganu** occupied the Low Veld area in their efforts to escape the Zulu raids during 1835-1840. They lived side by side with the Tšhangana, and the differences between the two are inconsiderable. They have mixed extensively with other tribes.⁴⁰

The **Tšhangana** are also of Nguni origin who fled in the same way as the Nhlanganu, and settled in the “Transvaal” a little later than the former. Most of the Tsonga were subjects to *Soshangane*, who came from Zululand.⁴¹ The downfall of *Ngungunyana* (son of *Soshangane*) saw his son seeking sanctuary in the “Transvaal”, and the latter became known as *Thulamahashi*,⁴² the name that is still used for the area east of Busbuckridge.

The historical background of the study area confirmed that it was occupied since the 17th century by the Tsonga groups (Nhlanganu and Tšhangana). These groups have intermarried extensively or were absorbed by other groups in time.⁴³

Swazi

The Swazi people descend from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.⁴⁴ The differences between the Swazi and the Natal Nguni were probably never great, their culture as far as is known from the comparatively little research being carried out, does not show striking differences. Their language is a ‘Tekeza’ variation of Zulu, but through having escaped being drawn into the mainstream of the Zulus of the *Shaka* period, they became independent and their claim to be grouped apart as a culture is now well founded.⁴⁵

- **History of Hectorspruit**

The NZASM railway line between Delagoa Bay and the Transvaal was opened in 1895, and brought more white settlers to the area. The towns Komatipoort, Hectorspruit, Malelane and Kaapmuiden, were established as a result of the railway line and this line reached Hectorspruit on 1 October 1891.⁴⁶ The surveying of the railway line was done by Steinmetz and Bouton, who also gave names to the towns. Hectorspruit was named after one of their dogs, Hector which was buried next to this spruit.⁴⁷ Hectorspruit (or Emjejane) is still a small farming town between Kaapmuiden and Komatipoort and produced sugarcane, subtropical fruits and vegetables, for which this area is known.⁴⁸

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

⁴¹ N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in *Schapera I., The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 57.

⁴² N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92.

⁴³ M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 40.

⁴⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

⁴⁵ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

⁴⁶ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 23.

⁴⁷ Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 23.

⁴⁸ <http://www.org/wiki/hectorspruit> Access: 15-12-13.

Wilsons Kop is an outcrop in the flat savanna veld.⁴⁹ The 1926 topographical map (see map 2), indicates that the farm “Herculina” was previously called *Wilson’s Kop 303*. The rocky outcrop on the farm, named Wilsons Kop derived its name from a former Land Surveyor, Mr. Wilson according to the current owner.⁵⁰ The Department of Agriculture encouraged cotton growing in the *Union* and trial planting at a Government Experimental Farm was done in the area of Barberton around 1901. Mr. W.B. Wilson was placed in charge of the Experiment Station at Barberton in 1913, but it seems as if more attention was paid to tobacco.⁵¹ It is possible that Mr. W.B. Wilson could be linked to the name of *Wilsons Kop*, as both cotton and tobacco was cultivated on the farm Herculina.⁵²

⁴⁹ Bornman, H., *Baanbrekers van die Laeveld*, p. 91.

⁵⁰ Personal Communication: Mr. Wilson, 2015-07-06.

⁵¹ H. S. Webb, The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 117.

⁵² Personal Communication: Mr. Wilson, 2015-07-06.