

# MILLENNIUM HERITAGE GROUP (Pty) Ltd

## PHASE 1

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### HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT RELATING TO THE PROPOSED MUSINA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE FARM MESSINA 4MT WITHIN MUSINA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the results of a heritage impact assessment study for the proposed Musina housing development and associated facilities and infrastructure on the farm Messina 4 MT within Musina local Municipality of the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The study area is located roughly 3.2km to Musina Central Business District (CBD), situated near main tarred road (N1) that connect South and North Africa. The area can be accessed via regional and district roads namely R508 and D1942 to Malale drift. Very little is known of the archaeology of Farm Messina 4MT, however prior desktop study of the region has confirmed the presence of iron age copper mining activities which were obliterated by modern cooper mines evident by existing shafts and granite stockpiles nearby. Records of human existence dating back to 900AD exist further north west of Musina CBD, while the southern section is dominated by sites that represent Mutamba and recent past periods (Huffman 2007, Antionites 2012, Roodt 2015). The landscape and features of the farm Messina 4MT encompasses series of rocky outcrops and raised hills towards the north east, and two non-perennial streams. The vast area is still covered by natural vegetation dominated by *Colophospermum mopane*, *Combrutum apiculatum*, *Commiphora grandulosa* and *Dichrostachys cineria* bushes. Manmade features includes gravel access roads, powerlines that transverse the area and recent past abandoned Musina Microlights landing strip. Agricultural farming occur further towards the north outside the proposed development footprint indicated on the Google Earth map by green patchy area (See Figure 10 for more details).

Naledzi Environmental Consultants requested Millennium Heritage Group (Pty) Ltd, an independent heritage consulting company to assess the heritage sensitivity of the area proposed for housing development and associated infrastructures. A multi-stepped methodology was used to address the terms of reference. To begin with, a desktop study was carried out to identify any known heritage sites and their significance. This involved consulting contract archaeology reports filed on SAHRIS, research reports and academic publications. Finally, the study was guided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 and SAHRA Minimum Standards for Impact Assessment. Desktop study was followed by fieldwork where a detailed foot survey was conducted, targeting specific areas which we considered more likely to contain historical and archaeological sites. The proposed study area fall within a high crime rate zone route where Zimbabwean crime border jumping gangs operates and rob people off their belongings. Due to this sensitivity South African Defence force personnel's accompanied us during the process.

Based on this study, the following conclusions were reached:

1. The proposed development is scheduled to take place on the lower lying area and in between rocky outcrops and non-perennial streams.

2. The identified types of heritage resources within the proposed development footprints include:
  - i. Possible recent child grave with no formal grave dressings
  - ii. Recent past remains of Musina Microlight Landing strip.

It is strongly recommended that the planning of sites proposed for development activities including the design and siting of access routes must where possible avoid the area indicated as possible grave site. Where this is not possible, proper impact and mitigation studies must be performed as per requirements of the Human Tissue Act 65 of 1983. This act protects graves younger than 60 years, these falls under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Department.

- ❖ Because of grave high value, the site must be avoided and protected in situ. However, in cases where this is not possible, approval for the exhumation and reburial must be obtained from the relevant provincial MEC as well as relevant Local Authorities. The process should be conducted by qualified professionals.
- ❖ Should chance finds be recovered in the process of housing and related infrastructure development, work must be stopped immediately. A report must be made to the nearest heritage authority. Based on this assessment we recommend to the Provincial Heritage Resource Agency or South African Heritage Resource Agency to approve the project as planned.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ndidali Quantity Surveyors commissioned pre-development Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) studies for the proposed Musina housing development, associated facilities and infrastructures on farm Messina 4 MT within the Musina local municipality of the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province (Fig 1). The study area is located roughly 3.2 kilometers Northeast of Musina Central Business District. To ensure that the proposed development meets the environmental requirements in line with the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, NEMA EIA regulation of 2014 as amended in April 2017. The project requires an Environmental Authorization (EA). In terms of Government Notice No: 327,325 and 324 of the regulation's schedules the proposed development triggers listed activities under listing Notice 1, 2 and 3 which necessitated pre development Environmental Assessments (EA report) as prerequisite subject for approval by the Limpopo Department of Economics Development, Environment and Tourism. Ndidali Quantity Surveyors appointed Naledzi Environmental Consultants as an Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner, who then appointed Millennium Heritage Group (PTY) LTD to undertake HIA for the proposed project.



**Figure 1:** Google Earth layout of the proposed development



To comply with relevant legislations, Ndidali Quantity Surveyors requires information on the heritage resources that occur within or near the proposed site for development and their significance. The objective of the study is to document the presence of archaeological, palaeontological and historical sites of significance to inform and provide guidance on the proposed housing and associated infrastructures development. The study contributes to the preservation of heritage resources, by ensuring that where possible, the development footprint is altered. In cases, where this is not possible, the heritage resources will be documented through mitigation to preserve them by record. This will enable the developer to advance housing and associated infrastructure development activities and at the same time minimizing potential impact on archaeological and heritage sites. Heritage Impact Assessments are conducted in line with the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). The Act protects heritage resources through formal and general protections. Furthermore, the Act provides that certain developmental activities require authorization from relevant heritage authorities. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all built structures and features older than 60 years (Section, 34), archaeological sites and materials (Section 35) graves and burial sites (Section, 36). In addition to heritage legislation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has developed minimum standards for impact assessment. While these local standards are operational, they are strengthened and complemented by the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) guidelines for assessing impacts on heritage resources, both cultural and natural. In addition, the Burra Charter of 1999, requires a cautious approach to the management of sites and firmly establishes that the cultural significance of heritage places must guide all decisions when it comes to dealing with heritage. To comply with relevant legislation, the applicant requires information on the heritage resources, that occur in the area proposed for development and their significance. This will enable the applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

## **2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

Two sets of legislation are relevant for the purposes of this study in as far as they contain provisions for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage resources including burials and burial grounds.

### **2.1. The National Heritage Resource Act (25 of 1999)**

This Act established the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) as the prime custodian of the heritage resources and makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources (Section, 7) and allocates the responsibility and functions for

managing different categories of heritage to the State, Provincial and Local authorities, depending on the grade of heritage resources (Section, 8).

In terms of the National Heritage Resource Act 25, (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(3)** Any person who discovers archaeological and paleontological materials and meteorites during development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resource authority or the nearest local authority or museum.

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

- destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite; or
- bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist with the detection or recovery of metal or archaeological material or object or such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

**Section 35(5)** When the responsible heritage resource authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or paleontological site is underway, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resource management procedures in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may

- serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order
- carry out an investigation for obtaining information on whether an archaeological or paleontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;

- if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph (a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection (4); and
- recover the cost of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or paleontological site is located or from the person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two weeks of the order being served.

**Subsection 35(6)** the responsible heritage resource authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or paleontological site or meteorite is situated; serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or meteorite.

### **Burial grounds and graves**

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

- (i) 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
- (ii) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

**Subsection 36 (6)** Subject to the provision of any person who during development or any other activity discover the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resource authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police service and in accordance with regulation of the responsible heritage resource authority-

- (I) carry out an investigation for obtaining information on whether such grave is protected in terms of this act or is of significance to any community; and
- if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to decide for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

### **Cultural 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:

- (i) Construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (ii) Any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (iii) 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.

## **2.2. The Human Tissue Act (65 of 1983)**

This act protects graves younger than 60 years, these falls under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Department. Approval for the exhumation and reburial must be obtained from the relevant provincial MEC as well as relevant Local Authorities.

## **3. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the study were to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Musina Housing development and associated infrastructures and facilities and submit a specialist report, which addresses the following:

- Executive summary
- Scope of work undertaken
- Methodology used to obtain supporting information
- Overview of relevant legislation
- Results of all investigations
- Interpretation of information
- Assessment of impact
- Recommendation on effective management measures
- References

#### 4. TERMINOLOGY

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No25 of 1999) Heritage resources, (Cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyle of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term ‘pre –historical’ refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in an area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of ‘modern’ Western writing brought to South Africa by the first colonists who settled in the Cape in the early 1652 and brought to the other different part of South Africa in the early 1800s.

The term ‘relatively recent past’ refers to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may soon, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on the observation alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floor plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The ‘term sensitive remains’ is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values regarding their ancestors. These values should be recognized and honored whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age people lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Early Stone Age (3 Million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years ago to 40 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Early Iron Age' and Late Iron Age respectively refers to the periods between the first and second millenniums AD.

The period covered by the term 'Late Iron Age' also includes the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and therefore includes the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refers to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or relatively recent past.

The term 'study area' or 'project area' refers to the area where the developers wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan)

Phase I studies refer to survey using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in a given area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include documenting of rock art, engravings or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavation of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of grave yards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialist and require the co-operation and the approval of SAHRA.

## **5. METHODOLOGY**

### ***Sources of information***

#### ***i. Desktop studies***

A desktop study was performed to gain information on the heritage resources in the area. An analysis of previous impact assessment reports and academic publications shows that the area falls within the rich archaeological/historical sites. Very little is known about the farm Messina 4MT. Accounts published by Stayt (1931) and van Warmelo (1940) posit that the copper production and mining activities in Musina predates European history of the district. Two conflicting accounts on the earliest occupation of the area and associated mining and copper production exist to date. According to Stayt (1931) the ancient mines and its smelting activities is associated with the Vha-Lemba group ( Vha-Lemba group is a sub- cultural group institute Vha- Venda, Pedi-Tswana and Shona speaking communities). Mining of copper ore and melting sites recorded scattered in the vicinity was conducted under the auspice of Vha-Venda chief. It is here that vha -Venda learned

the art of smelting copper and mastered the process. Later the Copper mines of Musina where closed after the death of Vha- Venda chief Ramabulana in 1864, when he ordered his head man Mesina Baleya to close down the mine. A different version is that of Van Warmelo (1940) which accounts that the copper mines of Musina and related copper production activities in the vicinity occurred as a result of a group of people who crossed the Lebombo Mountain later settled in the Phalaborwa area. At Phalaborwa the group found Iron ore contaminated by Copper ore. The group later left Phalaborwa area and moved North West towards the Soutpansberg. They later settled in the Groot Bolaye hills located 16 kilometers west of Musina. These group according to Van Warmelo were the first people to mine and worked copper (Hanish 1974:250). The late 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the introduction of European colonialism. Over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, local communities were resettled to give way to European farms as well as for state activities. Often, these forced removals were not accompanied by exhumations of burials and other sensitive cultural remains. The expectation is that a mix of these heritage resources with tangible and intangible values exist in the area proposed for development.

## *ii. Field surveys*

To identify sites on the ground and to assess their significance, a dedicated field visit was performed to the site of the proposed development (Fig 1). The fieldwork was performed by Mr. Mathoho Eric accompanied by Ndou James, Aluwani Nembahe and three University of Venda graduates students on 27 of November 2018. The fieldwork followed systematic inspections of predetermined linear transects which resulted in the maximum coverage of the entire site. The sampling method selected was the stratified random technique. The proposed sites were taken as strata with random field walking around them. Special attention was directed to open areas and other areas where Stone Age materials were likely to be found. Standard archaeological observation practices were followed. The study area coupled by identified sites were recorded by hand held GPS (Garmin Montane 650) and plotted on 1:50 000 topographical maps. The general condition of the terrain were photographed with a Canon 1000D Camera. The survey identified recent past Musina microlights Landing strip and a possible child's grave the significance of which is presented below.

## *Assumption and Limitations*

It must be pointed out that heritage resources can be found in unexpected places, and that surveys may not detect all the heritage resources in each project area, particularly that beneath the ground. While some remains may simply be missed during surveys (observation) others may occur below the surface of the earth and may be exposed once development (such as the construction of the

proposed facilities) commences. The vicinity has become a dangerous zone, where illicit activities is rife and some of these zones are patrolled by South African army therefore it is not safe to conduct the assessment in good faith. Notwithstanding these limitations, great effort was invested in surveying areas that could be accessed.

## **6. ASSESSMENTS CRITERIA**

This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites. The significance of archaeological and heritage sites was determined based on the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site.
- The amount/depth of the archaeological deposit and the range of features (e.g. concentration of stone tools, activity areas etc.).
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site.
- The preservation condition and integrity of the site.
- The potential to answer present research questions.

### **6.1 Site Significance**

The site significance classification standards as prescribed in the guidelines and endorsed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (2006) and approved by the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, were used in determining the site significance for this report.

The classification index is represented in the Table below that show grading and rating systems of heritage resources in South Africa.

<b>FIELD RATING</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED MITIGATION</b>
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; National Site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; Provincial Site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High Significance	Conservation; Mitigation not advised



Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High Significance	Mitigation (Part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	Grade 4A	High / Medium Significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	Grade 4B	Medium Significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	Grade 4C	Low Significance	Destruction

## ***6.2 Impact Rating***

### **VERY HIGH**

These impacts would be considered by society as constituting a major and usually permanent change to the (natural and/or cultural) environment, and usually result in severe or very severe effects, or beneficial or very beneficial effects.

**Example:** The loss of a site would be viewed by informed society as being of VERY HIGH significance.

**Example:** The establishment of a large amount of infrastructure in a rural area, which previously had very few services, would be regarded by the affected parties as resulting in benefits with VERY HIGH significance.

### **HIGH**

These impacts will usually result in long term effects on the social and /or natural environment. Impacts rated as HIGH will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually long-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. Society would probably view these impacts in a serious light.

**Example:** The loss of a diverse vegetation type, which is common elsewhere, would have a significance rating of HIGH over the long term, as the area could be rehabilitated.

**Example:** The change to soil conditions will impact the natural system, and the impact on affected parties (e.g. farmers) would be HIGH.

### **MODERATE**

These impacts will usually result in medium- to long-term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as MODERATE will need to be considered by the public or the

specialist as constituting a unimportant and usually short-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are real, but not substantial.

**Example:** The loss of a sparse, open vegetation type of low diversity may be regarded as MODERATELY significant.

**Example:** The provision of a clinic in a rural area would result in a benefit of MODERATE significance.

### **LOW**

These impacts will usually result in medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment. Impacts rated as LOW will need to be considered by society as constituting an important and usually medium-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment. These impacts are not substantial and are likely to have little real effect.

**Example:** The temporary changes in the water table of a wetland habitat, as these systems are adapted to fluctuating water levels.

**Example:** The increased earning potential of people employed because of a development would only result in benefits of LOW significance to people living some distance away.

### **NO SIGNIFICANCE**

There are no primary or secondary effects at all that are important to scientists or the public.

**Example:** A change to the geology of a certain formation may be regarded as severe from a geological perspective but is of NO SIGNIFICANCE in the overall context.

### **6.3 Certainty**

**DEFINITE:** More than 90% sure of a fact. Substantial supportive data exist to verify the assessment.

**PROBABLE:** Over 70% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

**POSSIBLE:** Only over 40% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

**UNSURE:** Less than 40% sure of a fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.

### **6.4 Duration**

**SHORT TERM :** 0 – 5 years

**MEDIUM:** 6 – 20 years

**LONG TERM:** more than 20 years

**DEMOLISHED:** site will be demolished or is already demolished

### **6.5 Mitigation**

Management actions and recommended mitigation, which will result in a reduction in the impact on the sites, will be classified as follows:

- ✓ **A** – No further action necessary
- ✓ **B** – Mapping of the site and controlled sampling required
- ✓ **C** – Preserve site, or extensive data collection and mapping required; and
- ✓ **D** – Preserve site

### **7. Historical background a brief synthesis of the archaeology and heritage of the study area.**

#### ***The Stone Age Period***

Most of the research on the Stone Age in northern south Africa took place in the Mapungubwe National Park about 83km to the west of the farm Messina 3MT. Nevertheless, a general account of the nature of the Stone Age can be provided. Conventionally speaking, the Stone Age period has been divided into the Early Stone Age (ESA) (3.5 million and 250 000 BP), the Middle Stone Age (MSA) (250 000 – 25000 BP) and the Later Stone Age (25000 – 2000 BP) (Phillipson 2005). Early Stone Age stone tool assemblages are made up of the earlier Oldowan and later Acheulian types. The Oldowan tools were very crude and were used for chopping and butchering. These were replaced by Acheulian ESA tools dominated by hand axes and cleavers which are remarkably standardized (Wadley, 2007; Sharon, 2009). Evidence presented from Sterkfontein, Swartkrans and Makapansgat caves shows that the first tool making hominids belong to either an early species of the Homo or an immediate ancestor which is yet to be discovered here in South Africa (Phillipson 2005; Esterhuysen, 2007). Both the Oldwan and Acheulian industries are well represented in the archaeology of northern South Africa as shown by studies in the Mapungubwe National Park (Kuman et al. 2005; Sumner and Kuman 2014).

The Middle Stone Age dates to between 250 000 ago and 25 000 years ago. In general, Middle Stone Age tools are characterized by a size reduction in tools such as hand axes, cleavers, and flake and blade industries. The period is marked by the emergence of modern humans and was accompanied by change in technology, behavior, physical appearance, art, and symbolism (Phillipson 2005). A variety of MSA tools includes blades, flakes, scraper and pointed tools that may have been hafted onto shafts or handles and used as spear heads. Surface scatters of these flake and blade industries occur widespread across southern Africa (Klein 2000; Thompson & Marean, 2008). Residue analyses on some of the stone tools indicate that these tools were certainly used as spear heads (Wadley, 2007). From about 25 000 BP, stone tool assemblages generally attributed to the Later Stone Age emerged. This period is marked by a reduction in stone tool sizes. Typical

stone tools include microliths and bladelets. Later Stone Age stone tools were recovered in the Mapungubwe National Park area (Forsman 2011). This period is also associated with the development of rock art whose distribution is known across southern Africa (Deacon and Deacon 1999; Phillipson 2005).

### ***Farming communities and recent histories***

Beginning in the early first millennium AD, farming communities who made a distinctive type of pottery, settled permanently in villages, and cultivated crops and raised animals appeared in southern Africa (Maggs, 1980; Loubser, 1988; Huffman 2007). Typical Early Iron Age sites are known along river banks and waterways. Sites dating to the Early Iron Age are known to occur to the west of the Nzhelele valley at Klein Africa and Happy Rest these sites were first identified by De Vaal (1941) and were later excavated by Helgaard Prinsloo (1974). Around AD900, the Middle Iron Age developed and is well known from sites in the Middle Limpopo such as K2 and Mapungubwe. Middle Iron Age sites are known in and around Musina and near the Soutpansberg Range of Mountains. Some known sites include the sites of Mutamba, found along the Mutamba river. The Middle Iron Age was succeeded by the Late Iron Age after 1300. Khami type sites are known the study area and beyond. These are defined by the presence of characteristic band and panel pottery and drystone built terraces where houses were built. The Khami period is associated with the formation and development of a Venda identity (Loubser 1991). Khami type sites continued into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and are associated with various Venda communities. Some of the most well-known Khami sites include Dzata located in the Nzhelele Valley. The copper deposit in the Musina area were investigated in 1903 by Colonel J.P Grenfell (van Schalkwyk 2010). Accounts published by Stayt (1931) and van Warmelo (1940) posit that the copper production and mining activities in Musina predates European history of the district. Two conflicting accounts exist to date. According to Stayt (1931) the ancient mines and its smelting activities occurred as a results of the Vha- Lemba group ( Vha-Lemba group are a sub- cultural group found amongst the Vha-Venda, Pedi-Tswana and Shona speaking communities). Vha-Lemba metal workers melted copper in the Musina vicinity. Mining of copper ore and cooper melting was conducted under the auspice of Vha-Venda chief. It is here that vha -Venda learned the art of smelting copper and mastered the process. Later the Copper mines of Musina where closed after the death of Vha- Venda chief Ramabulana in 1864, when he ordered his head man Mesina Baleya to close down the mine. A different version is that of Van Warmelo (1940) which accounts that the copper mines of Musina and related copper production activities in the vicinity occurred as a results of a group of people who crossed the Lebombo Mountain later settled in the Phalaborwa area. At Phalaborwa the group found Iron ore contaminated by Copper ore. The group later left Phalaborwa area and moved North West towards the Soutpansberg. They later settled in the Groot Bolaye hills located 16 kilometers west of Musina. These group according to Van Warmelo were the first people to mine and worked

copper (Hanish 1974:250). The late 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the introduction of European colonialism. Over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, local communities were resettled to give way to European farms as well as for state activities. Often, these forced removals were not accompanied by exhumations of burials and other sensitive cultural remains. The expectation is that a mix of these heritage resources with tangible and intangible values exist in the area proposed for development. The exploitation of copper deposit in the area led to the formation of Messina as a town founded in 1904 on the farm Berkenrode, the town was proclaimed in 1957 (Hemmerbeck & Schoeman 1976:143)

## **8. SITE LOCATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed study area is located on farm Messina 4MT within the Musina Local Municipality of the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The farm is situated roughly 3.2 kilometers north east of Musina Central Business District (CBD). The site is located on the following global positioning system co-ordinates (GPS S22° 21 14 50" "& E 30°.34.44"). Eric Louw School form a western boundary, while the main tarred road from Musina to Malale area form the southern boundary. A non-perennial stream form an eastern border separating the area and a rocky hill. The landscape feature of the study area encompasses undulating to irregular plains with rocky outcrops. The vegetation is dominated by *colophospermum mopane* and *combretum apiculatum* on shallow soils and hills. Moderate close to open shrubs veld is common at the central part of the area. While areas with deep soils are dominated by open savanna, *grewia flava*, *colophospermum mopane* and *combretum apiculatum* while herbaceous layer is poorly developed in areas with dense cover of *colophospermum mopane* shrubs. Occurrences of high concentration of yellow fever trees distributions along the banks of the non-perennial stream was noted. The geology of the study area is underlain by the Archaean, Beitbridge complex which consist of Gneisses and metasediments that is structurally very complex. Variable soils occur in the vicinity with deep, dark heavy clay distributions alongside the non-perennial streams whilst shallow to deep free drained sandy soils occur at the central part of the study area. Some of the identifiable plant taxa includes: *Acacia Nigrenses*, *Acacia karoo*, *Acacia Tortillis*, *Adonsinoa Digitata*, *Schlerocarya Birrea*, *Caffra*, *Colophospermaum Mopane*, *Boschia albitrunca*, *Lococapus carpasa*, *Boscia ffoetida*, *commiphora glundulosa*, *Terminalia Pruniodes*, *Grewia flava* etc.

The proposed development will cover approximately 60 hectares of land, the proposed development will entail the following:

- ✓ Residential Units: the residential units (free standing houses) comprised of three categories namely: High cost, Medium cost and low cost, ranging from 245m<sup>2</sup> to 80M<sup>2</sup> in sizes, into accommodate different group of people.

- ✓ Office park and conference facilities
- ✓ Recreational facilities
- ✓ Institutional facilities (Creche, primary and secondary schools)
- ✓ Healthcare facilities (hospitals and clinic)
- ✓ Shopping malls and township shops
- ✓ Filling station
- ✓ 3 Star hotel
- ✓ Bulk services in the form of: Roads, water and storm water management



Figure 2: Proposed development sketch Plan



**Figure 3:** Section of the study area dominated by rocky outcrop



**Figure 4:** View of the study area



**Figure 5:** View of the *Adonsonia digitata*



**Figure 6:** This area form the North East boundary, dominated by *Colophospermum Mopane* trees near a non-perennial stream.





**Figure 7:** View of the study area with a rocky hill.

## **9. ASSESSMENT OF SITES AND FINDS**

This section contains the results of the heritage sites/finds assessment. The phase 1 heritage scoping assessment program as required in terms of the Section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) done for the proposed housing and related infrastructure development.

**Find Assessments Results:** *the following heritage sites were geo-referenced in the study area.*

- A recent possible child's grave in close proximity of *Adonsoina digitata* (baobab tree) (GPS S22°.21.09.02 "& E 30°.03.21.03") the area has no formal grave dressings, a soil mound and few collected bricks with a blanket protruding from this shallow grave.
  
- Musina Microlights Club landing strip, with free standing entrance walls one to the south west and another entrance to the north east. Entrance to the landing strip has been blocked by boulder (Rocks). A recent past one roomed house missing building fabrics such as roofs and window frames has been noted in close proximity to green grass patch and ornamental plants (GPS S22°.21.0536.03 "& E 30°.02.55.06"). The landing strip and associated

infrastructures falls within remnants remains of the recent past, these remains are not sixty years old and are not protected in terms of the National heritage resources Act 25 of 1999. There are no primary or secondary effect at all that are important to scientist or the general public that will be impacted by the proposed project activities.

Heritage Significance: No significance

Impact: Negative

Impact Significance: None

Certainty: Probable

Duration: Permanent

Mitigation: A

No Stone Age or Iron Age archaeological sites were detected during the assessment of the site.



**Figure 8:** View of a possible grave of a child



**Figure 9:** View of the entrance to the Musina Microlights landing strip



**Figure 10:** View of the study area showing identified sites adopted from Google Earth Program

## **10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion, and within limitations, the study established that there is Child s grave next to the baobab tree and a Microlights landing strip within the proposed study area. The study reached the following conclusions:

Flowing from these conclusions, the following recommendations were reached:

It is strongly recommended that the planning of sites proposed for development activities including the design and siting of access routes must where possible avoid the area indicated as possible grave site. Where this is not possible, proper impact and mitigation studies must be performed as per requirements of the Human Tissue Act 65 of 1983. This act protects graves younger than 60 years, these falls under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Department.

- ❖ Because of grave high value, the site must be avoided and protected in situ. However, in cases where this is not possible, approval for the exhumation and reburial must be obtained from the relevant provincial MEC as well as relevant Local Authorities. The process should be conducted by qualified professionals.
- ❖ Should chance finds be recovered in the process of housing and related infrastructure development, work must be stopped immediately. A report must be made to the nearest heritage authority. Based on this assessment we recommend to the Provincial Heritage Resource Agency or South African Heritage Resource Agency to approve the project as planned.

**11. PROFESSIONAL DECLARATION**

I, the undersigned Mr. Ndivhuho Eric Mathoho hereby declare that I am a Professional archaeologist accredited with the Association for South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) and that Millennium Heritage Group (Pty) Ltd is an independent Consultants with no association or with no any other interest what so ever with any institution, organization, or whatever and that the remuneration earned from consulting work constitute the basis of company livelihood and income.

Mr. Mathoho Ndivhuho Eric



.....  
Archaeologists and Heritage Consultants for Millennium Heritage Group (Pty) Ltd  
ASAPA Member

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### **13. Addendum 1: Definitions and Acronyms**

**Archaeological** Material remains resulting from human activities, which are in a state of disuse and are in, on, land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures.

**Chance Finds** Archaeological artefacts, 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 earth moving activities such as water pipeline trench excavations.

**Cultural Heritage Resources** Same as Heritage Resources as defined and used in the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Refer to physical cultural properties such as archaeological and paleontological sites; historic and prehistoric places, buildings, structures and material remains; cultural sites such as places of ritual or religious importance and their associated materials; burial sites or *graves* and their associated materials; geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. Cultural Heritage Resources also include intangible resources such as religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories and indigenous knowledge.

**Cultural Significance** The complexities of what makes a place, materials or intangible resources of value to society or part of, customarily assessed in terms of aesthetic, historical, scientific/research and social values.

**Grave** A place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as being situated in a cemetery.

**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.

***In Situ material*** *Material culture* and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

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

**Material culture** Buildings, structure, features, tools and other artefacts that constitute the remains from past societies.

**Site** A distinct spatial cluster of artefacts, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.

## Acronyms

<b>AIA</b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EIA</b>	Early Iron Age
<b>EMP</b>	Environmental Management Plan
<b>MHG</b>	Millenium Heritage Group(PTY) LTD
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998)
<b>NHRA</b>	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No.25 of 1999)
<b>SAHRA</b>	South African Heritage Resources Agency
<b>ESA</b>	Early Stone Age
<b>MSA</b>	Middle Stone Age
<b>LSA</b>	Late Stone Age
<b>IA</b>	Iron Age
<b>LIA</b>	Late Iron Age
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization
<b>WHC</b>	World Heritage Conventions of 1972

**ADDENDUM 2: Types and ranges as outlined by the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

The National Heritage Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) outlines the following types and ranges of the heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate, namely:

- (a) Places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) Places to which oral tradition are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) Historical settlement and townscapes
- (d) Landscape and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- (f) Archaeological and paleontological sites
- (g) Graves and burial ground including-
  - (I) Ancestral graves
  - (II) Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
  - (III) Graves of victim 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 No 65 of 1983)
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) movable objects, including-
  - (I) object recovered from soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and 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) object of scientific or technological interest; and
  - (VII) books, records, documents, photographs, positive and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recording, excluding those that are public records as defined in section1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act,1996(Act No 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resource Act (Act No 25 of 1999,Art 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 organization of importance in the history of South Africa
- (i) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.