

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

NEW CITRUS ORCHARDS BURGERSFORT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The application for the proposed new citrus orchard constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA – Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such 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, ...”

The author was contracted to undertake a heritage scoping survey of a proposed new citrus orchard, on the farm Wildebeeshoek, south of Burgersfort, Limpopo (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2430CD). The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on these heritage resources.

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 entire demarcated area was undertaken, during which standard methods of observation were applied.

General Central GPS: S24° 50' 59.2" E30° 19' 50.6"

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 and visibility 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 <i>may</i> 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: 10th to 13th centuries AD

Late Iron Age: 14th 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

Proposed Development:

The proposed development comprises the establishment of 20ha of citrus on land that was utilized 12 years previously for tomato cultivation.

Terrain:

The terrain gently slopes from the east toward the R36 Lydenburg road to which the project area is adjacent.

The dominant vegetation type is Origstad Mountain Bushveld SVcb26



Fig 1. General view of project area



Fig 2. General view of project 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.

4.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No historical remains were recorded.

4.3 GRAVES

No graves were recorded. No graves of modern or archaeological period were recorded.

4.4 IRON AGE REMAINS

Remnants of an Iron Age site were recorded on the area. However, the stonewalling has been removed for cultivation purposes in the past and the area was ploughed repeatedly for tomato cultivation. No cattle dung or midden deposit could be located as the soil colour was uniform

throughout the area. Google Earth historic images have been included at the end of this report, to demonstrate how the land was impacted on in the past. Ceramic evidence shows a connection to the Letaba facies- however, only 1 sherd with decoration was recorded and thus cannot be deemed conclusive. Stone piles on the northern boundary show that stonewalling occurred, however with none of the walling being *in situ* and thus no longer in context it is near impossible to extrapolate the origins of the settlement. It appears that the site was located along the northern boundary and “spilled” over into the adjoining orchard, currently under citrus cultivation.

SIGNIFICANCE: LOW TO MEDIUM



Fig 3. Ceramic sherds, top right has Letaba facies decoration



Fig 4. View of northern boundary.



Fig 5. Rock pile



Fig 6. Uniform colour of soils- deep Hutton soils with characteristic red colour

4.5 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age remains were noted. Usually Stone Age material in this area is recorded in dry rivers, erosion gullies and near rocky overhangs, none of these features are found on the site.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition: Kwale branch-
Moloko branch-

Mzonjani facies AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)
Icon facies AD 1300 – 1500 (Late Iron Age)
Marateng facies AD 1650-1840 (Late IA)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch – *Doornkop facies* AD 750 – 1000 (Early Iron Age)
Eiland facies AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)
Klingbeil facies AD 1000 – 1200 (Middle Iron Age)
Letaba facies AD 1600 – 1840 (Late Iron Age)
Marateng facies AD 1650-1840 (Late IA)

The Sekhukhune District has a rich and varied history. Stone Age materials are generally recorded in dry rivers, erosion gullies and near rocky overhangs. Remains from the Early, Middle and Late Stone are known in the wider area, especially in the Steelpoort valley, now primarily dominated by platinum and chrome mines.

The Iron Age is also well documented in the wider area, with sites dating from the Eiland and Icon period, through to more 'modern' Marateng facies sites.

6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The remains that were recorded in the northern section of the development cannot be considered significant as they are out of context and have been severely impacted on by agricultural ripping and ploughing.

It is recommended that monitoring during the clearing phase of development takes place to ensure that any heritage remains that may be below the surface can be preserved and documented.

Should monitoring take place then we have no further objection to the development taking place.

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.

Yours faithfully

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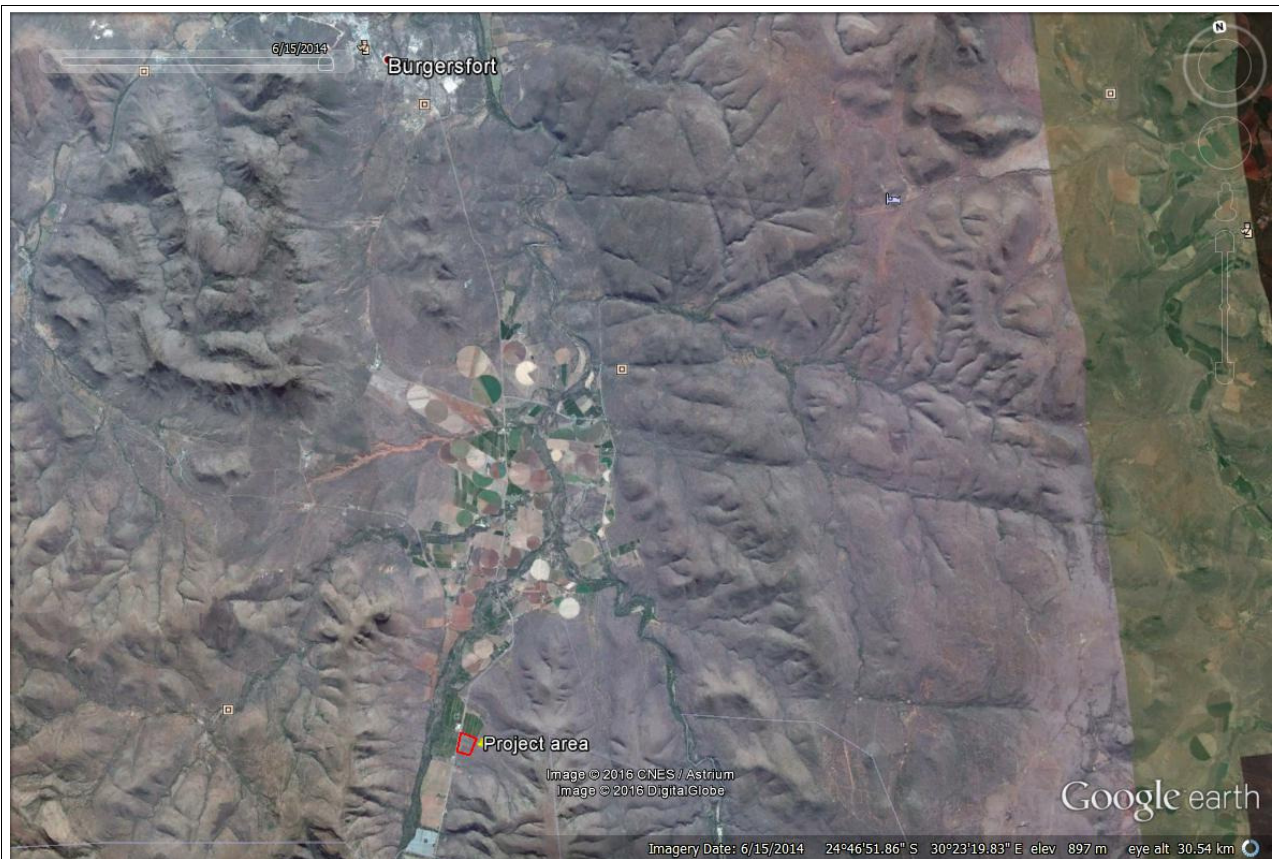
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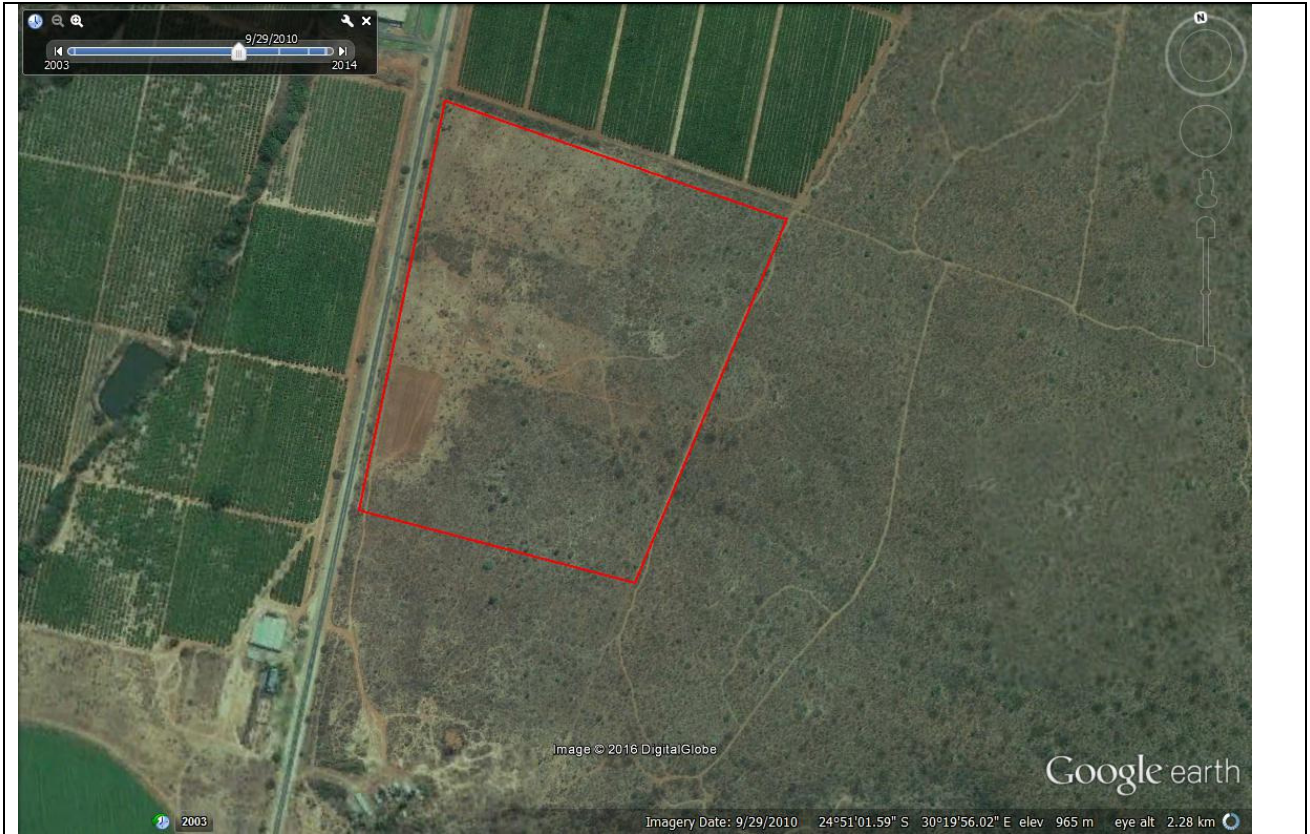
Map 1. Current Google view of the area. Red indicates the proposed area and blue the area where Iron Age remains occur in scattered low density



Map 2. The project area in relation to Burgersfort



Map 3. 2003 image of the area



Map 4. 2010 image of the area



Map 5. 2012 image of the area

