

**Cell:** 073 222 4867  
**Fax:** 086 670 9130  
**E-Mail:** roodt.hester@gmail.com



P.O. Box 1600  
**POLOKWANE**  
0 7 0 0

**ATTENTION:** Leander Potgieter  
Idada Environmental Consultants  
P O Box 3395  
Polokwane 0700

September 02, 2013

---

## **PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOPING & EVALUATION)**

**Proposed Hotel & Conference Centre  
Portion 24 & 42 (a Portion of Portion 38) of the Farm Laaste 24 LU,  
Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Limpopo Province**

---

Map reference: South Africa 1:50 000 2331 DA.

**Co-ordinates for the area to be developed:**

- 01.** S 23°56'44.02" E 31°09'22.07"
- 02.** S 23°56'44.24" E 31°09'11.87"
- 03.** S 23°56'25.99" E 31°09'11.38"
- 04.** S 23°56'25.81" E 31°09'20.14"

## **INTRODUCTION**

The archaeologist was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Resources Impact Assessment of the proposed hotel and conference centre at Phalaborwa on Portions 24 and 42 (a portion of Portion 38) of the farm Laaste 24 LU. The extent of the proposed development is 15.2737 hectares. In order to comply with the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA – Act No 25 of 1999 – *see the attachment*), the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance.

The aim of the Phase 1 assessment was to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to management measures that may be required at affected sites/features. This survey forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

## METHODOLOGY

A pedestrian survey of the demarcated area was undertaken during which standard methods of observation were applied. A Garmin Nüvi was used for recording the coordinates. Surface visibility was fair to poor due to the vegetation cover.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRAIN

The proposed development area is located adjacent and to the south of the Phalaborwa, next to the air field and is approximately 15.27 hectare. In one area (marked "Excavation" in the Google Earth image below) there is evidence that soil were mined, up to a depth of between 2-3 metres deep.



**Figure 1.** Google Earth image. The proposed development area (15.27 hectares) is delineated in red.



**Figures 2 & 3.** The general appearance of the area. Fig. 3 shows the view towards the seasonal stream.



**Figure 4.** An area where sand / gravel was recently mined. No rehabilitation is evident.



**Figures 5 & 6.** The memorial stone erected for Johan Horn, vice president of the Foskor Mining Company (PMC) in Phalaborwa. His plane crashed on 1 January 2013.



**Figure 7.** One of several areas where extensive littering occurs. Also seen in the area are places where fires were made.

## DISCUSSION

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

- **UREWE TRADITION**
  - **Kwale Branch**
    - *Silver Leaves facies* AD 280 to 450
    - *Mzonjani facies* AD 450 to 750
    - *Garonga facies* AD 750 to 900
  - **Moloko Branch**
    - *Icon facies* AD 1300 to 1500
- **KALUNDA TRADITION**
  - **Happy Rest sub-branch**
    - *Kgopolwe facies* AD 1030 to 1350
    - *Letaba facies* AD 1600 to 1840

None of the above-mentioned archaeological remains or any other heritage remains of importance were noted on the terrain. No signs of archaeological or historical sites and features, graves or places of religious significance were located on the surface. No signs of Iron Age or historical occupation or utilisation of the area were detected.

The only significant feature on the site was the memorial stone erected for Johan Horn, vice-president of PMC, who died in the vicinity shortly after his plane crashed on January 1, 2013. This memorial stone can have cultural significance for his family and/or the residents of Phalaborwa, since he was well known and figured prominently in the community.

## RECOMMENDATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development. However, the discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

With regard to the Johan Horn memorial stone, it is recommended that it should both be properly protected and incorporated in the landscape of the complex, or alternatively, the family (or the persons responsible for its erection) should be consulted regarding its possible relocation.

## REFERENCES

- Huffman TN. 2007.** *Handbook to the Iron Age. The archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa.* University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
- Roodt F.** March 4, 2008. *Phase 1 Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (Scoping & Evaluation) - Fertilizer Plant, Phalaborwa, Limpopo: Statement with Regard to Heritage Resources Management.*



**Hester Roodt**

*BA Hons Archaeology - UP; BSc Hons Anatomy – UP*  
**For: R & R Cultural Resource Consultants**



**Frans Roodt**

*BA Hons; MA Archaeology; Post Grad. Dip. Museology - UP*  
**Principal Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource  
Consultants**

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 terms of the act, 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 or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

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

- (a) 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.

**Section 36 (6)** Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers 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 resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

### **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, ...

### **Terminology**

<b>Early Stone Age</b>	Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to $\pm 1$ Myr – 250 000 yrs before present.
<b>Middle Stone Age</b>	Various lithic industries in South Africa dating from $\pm 250$ 000 yrs - 30 000 yrs before present.
<b>Late Stone Age</b>	The period from $\pm 30$ 000 yrs before present up to the contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.
<b>Early Iron Age</b>	Most of the first millennium AD.
<b>Middle Iron Age</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD.
<b>Late Iron Age</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> century up to the colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i>
<b>Historical</b>	Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD 1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.
<b>Phase 1 assessment</b>	A scoping survey to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area.
<b>Phase 2 assessment</b>	An in depth culture resources management study 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.