



Plantago Lanceolata Pty Ltd

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT
ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MADOMBIDZHA
SHOPPING COMPLEX AND FILLING STATION AT MADOMBIDZHA
WITHIN MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF VHEMBE DISTRICT IN
LIMPOPO PROVINCE.**

October, 2018

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DECLARATION

ABILITY TO CONDUCT THE PROJECT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vhubvo Archaeo-Heritage Consultant Cc has been commissioned by Plantago Lanceolata (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for the proposed Madombidzha Shopping Centre and Filling Station within Makhado Local Municipality of Vhembe District in Limpopo Province. The aim of the survey was to investigate the availability of archaeological sites, cultural resources, sites associated with oral histories, graves, cultural landscapes, and any structures of historical significance that may be affected by the proposed expansion of railway loops, these will in turn assist the developer in ensuring proper conservation measure in line with the National Heritage Resource Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999). The findings of this study have been informed by desktop study and field survey. The desktop study was undertaken through SAHRIS for previous Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments conducted in the region of the proposed development, and also for researches that have been carried out in the wider area over the past years.

Receiving Environment

The proposed development located at Madombidzha within the jurisdiction of Makhado Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province. The area is currently used for aspects related to farming (see Figure 1 - 4). The land on which the development is proposed is transformed and no archaeological materials are expected. The map provided indicates the proposed study area.

Impact statement

The impact of the proposed Madombidzha Shopping Centre and Filling Station on archaeological and cultural heritage remains is rated as being low. The probability of locating any important archaeological remains during development of the project is unlikely. However, there is always a possibility of encountering grave in the proposed area, though unlikely.

Restrictions and Assumptions

As with any survey, archaeological materials may be under the surface and therefore unidentifiable to the surveyor until they are exposed once construction resume. As a result, should any archaeological/ or grave site be observed during construction stage, a heritage specialist monitoring the development must immediately be notified. In the mean time, no further disturbance may be made until such time as the heritage specialist has been able to make an assessment of the find in question. It is the responsibility of the contractor to protect the site from publicity (i.e., media) until all assessments are made.



Table 1: Possibility of archaeological/ heritage materials on sites.

Landscape Type	Description	Occurrence Possible	Likely Occurrence
Archaeology	Early, Middle and Late Stone Age; Iron Age;	Yes Yes	Rather unlikely Unlikely
Burial and Graves	Pre-colonial burials; Graves of victims of conflict; Graves older than 100 years; Graves older than 60 years; Graves younger than 60 years;	Yes	Chance find
Built Environment	Formal public spaces; Historical structures; Area associated with social identity/ displacement;	Yes	Unlikely
Historic Farmland	Historical farm yards; Historical farm workers villages; Irrigation furrows; Historical routes; Distinctive types of planting;	Yes	Unlikely
Landscape usage	Sites associated with living heritage e.g., initiation school sites; Sites of political conflict; Sites associated with a historic event/ person;	Yes	Unlikely
Historic rural Town	Historic mission settlements;	Yes	Unlikely

Survey sensation

The visibility of the area proposed for Madombidzha Shopping Centre and Filling Station was high, emancipating in the survey of the proposed Madombidzha Shopping Centre and Filling Station being successful.

Background study

The closest town to the proposed development is Louis Trichardt, while the prehistory of this region span for over a thousand years, the history of the Town of Louis Trichardt extend for over 150 years, as such, the town itself is a heritage arena and bear many signature of the past. After the Voortrekkers decided to leave the Cape Colony for various contested and complicated reasons, but in general, the reasons consisted of both "push" factors (including the general dissatisfaction of life under British rule) and "pull" factors (including the desire for a better life in better country), there were two main routes that the Voortrekkers could follow into the interior. They could move North beyond the Orange River or North-East towards Natal. Louis Trichardt led a group of Voortrekkers from the Cape Colony in 1835. Trichardt was often described as a fearless but impetuous pioneer who, along with Hans van Rensburg, opened up the way to the Transvaal Low-veld and Portuguese East Africa.

The two groups of Trekkers under Trichardt and van Rensburg reached the Soutpansberg mountain range in 1836. Trichardt and his group decided to stay near the mountains, camping near what eventually became the town of Louis Trichardt. Hans van Rensburg's group moved on. In this time, Trichardt had considerable dealings with the Venda chief, Ramabulana. According to other documents, Ramabulana gave Trichardt a



piece of land at the foot of the Soutpansberg in 1837, after he had helped him dethrone his brother. However, in 1938 Trichardt's group started exploring the area north of the Soutpansberg in an attempt to locate Van Rensburg and his group. This journey will then claim the life of Louis Trichardt and many of his group members.

Like many other towns in South Africa, Louis Trichardt had its origins in Voortrekker settlement of the area, later on, other trekkers will soon settled in the area, clashing with the Venda people who dwelt there. The town of Trichardt was declared in February 1899. The Trekkers settled on the northern part of what would later become a town, while Venda people resided at the southern part, the two groups resided about 800 metres apart. When the Trekkers decided to build a town, they moved the Venda people and constructed farms in the exact area. The people moved in different directions but most were moved to the dry lands, west of the town, which would later become known as Madombidzha, which is part of the area where development is proposed, these people will later stretched further west along the mountain. The area was shared amongst two chiefs, i.e., Ha-Sinthumule and Ha-Kutama, or popularly as "Western". The following are the names of other villages:

- Ha-Sinthumule: 1. Magau; 2. Rathidili; 3. Madombidzha; 4. Tshiozwi; 5. Gogobole; 6. Ha-Ramahantsha; 7. Ha-Ravele; 8. Madabani; 9. Muraleni.
- Ha-Kutama: 1. Ha-Madodonga; 2. Ha-Manavhela; 3. Maibani; 4. Tshikwarani; 5. Samukomu; 6. Muduluni; 7. Ha-Makhitha

Survey Findings

The Phase I Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Madombidzha Shopping Centre and Filling Station has identified no significant impacts to archaeological or grave resources that will need to be mitigated prior construction. The structure which was noted on the southern section is less than 60 years and not protected by the National Heritage Resource Act. Therefore, no archaeological or cultural heritage remains were documented during the study.

Recommendations

Despite that no archaeological objects were observed during the survey, and that the area is disturbed due to entertainment activities, the client is reminded that unavailability of archaeological material does not mean absentee, archaeological material might be hidden underground. It is thus the responsibility of the developer to notify contractors and workers about archaeological material (e.g., pottery, stone tools, remnants of stone-walling, graves, etc) and fossils that may be located underground. Furthermore, the client is reminded to take precautions during construction.

Pre-construction education and awareness training

Prior to construction, contractors should be given training on how to identify and protect archaeological remains that may be discovered during the project. The pre-construction training should include some limited site recognition training for the types of archaeological sites that may



occur in the construction areas. Below are some of the indicators of archaeological site that may be found during construction:

- ✚ Flaked stone tools, bone tools and loose pieces of flaked stone;
- ✚ Ash and charcoal;
- ✚ Bones and shell fragments;
- ✚ Artefacts (e.g., beads or hearths);
- ✚ Packed stones which might be uncounted underground, and might indicate a grave or collapse stone walling.

In the event that any of the above are unearthed, all construction within a radius of at least 10m of such indicator should cease and the area be demarcated by a danger tape. Accordingly, a professional archaeologist or SAHRA officer should be contacted immediately. In the meantime, it is the responsibility of the contractor to protect the site from publicity (i.e., media) until a mutual agreement is reached. Noteworthy that any measures to cover up the suspected archaeological material or to collect any resources is illegal and punishable by law. In the same manner, no person may exhume or collect such remains, whether of recent origin or not, without the endorsement by SAHRA.

Conclusions

A thorough background study and survey of the proposed development was conducted in line with SAHRA guidelines. As per the recommendations above, there are no major heritage reasons why the proposed development could not be allowed to proceed. Thus, it is recommended that the proposed development proceed without further archaeological and cultural heritage mitigation.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	v
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	10
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	11
2. Sites location and description.....	15
3. Nature of the proposed project.....	18
4. Purpose of the Cultural Heritage Study	19
5. Methodology and Approach.....	20
6. Applicable Heritage Legislation.....	20
7. Degree of Significance	22
8. History of the Area	29
9. Survey Findings.....	34
9.1 Impact Assessment.....	34
10. Recommendations and Discussions	35
11. Conclusions	36
APPENDIX 1: SITE SIGNIFICANCE	39



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA	Late Iron Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age
EIA	Early Iron Age
HMP	Heritage Management Plan
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
NASA	National Archives of South Africa
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
LIHRA	Limpopo Heritage Resource Authority



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terms used in this Archaeology are defined in the National Heritage Resources Act [NHRA], Act Nr. 25 of 1999, South African Heritage Resources Agency [SAHRA] Policies as well as the Australia ICOMOS Charter (*Burra Charter*):

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

Artefact: Any movable object that has been used, modified or manufactured by humans.

Conservation: All the processes of looking after a site/heritage place or landscape including maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation.

Cultural Heritage Resources: refers to physical cultural properties such as archaeological sites, palaeontological sites, historic and prehistorical places, buildings, structures and material remains, cultural sites such as places of rituals, burial sites or graves and their associated materials, geological or natural features of cultural importance or scientific significance. This include intangible resources such religion practices, ritual ceremonies, oral histories, memories indigenous knowledge.

Cultural landscape: “the combined works of nature and man” and demonstrate “the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both internal and external”.

Cultural Resources Management (CRM): the conservation of cultural heritage resources, management, and sustainable utilization and present for present and for the future generations

Cultural Significance: is the aesthetic, historical, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.



Chance Finds: means 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.

Compatible use: means a use, which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

Expansion: means the modification, extension, alteration or upgrading of a facility, structure or infrastructure at which an activity takes place in such a manner that the capacity of the facility or the footprint of the activity is increased.

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.

Heritage impact assessment (HIA): Refers to the process of identifying, predicting and assessing the potential positive and negative cultural, social, economic and biophysical impacts of any proposed project, plan, programme or policy which requires authorisation of permission by law and which may significantly affect the cultural and natural heritage resources. The HIA includes recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures for minimising or avoiding negative impacts, measures enhancing the positive aspects of the proposal and heritage management and monitoring measures.

Historic Material: remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artifacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

Impact: the positive or negative effects on human well-being and / or on the environment.



***In situ* material:** means material culture and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for instance archaeological remains that have not been disturbed.

Interested and affected parties Individuals: communities or groups, other than the proponent or the authorities, whose interests may be positively or negatively affected by the proposal or activity and/ or who are concerned with a proposal or activity and its consequences.

Interpretation: means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

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

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

Mitigate: The implementation of practical measures to reduce adverse impacts or enhance beneficial impacts of an action.

Place: means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

Protected area: means those protected areas contemplated in section 9 of the NEMPAA and the core area of a biosphere reserve and shall include their buffers.

Public participation process: A process of involving the public in order to identify issues and concerns, and obtain feedback on options and impacts associated with a proposed project, programme or development. Public Participation Process in terms of NEMA refers to: a process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to specific matters.

Setting: means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.



Significance: can be differentiated into impact magnitude and impact significance. Impact magnitude is the measurable change (i.e. intensity, duration and likelihood). Impact significance is the value placed on the change by different affected parties (i.e. level of significance and acceptability). It is an anthropocentric concept, which makes use of value judgments and science-based criteria (i.e. biophysical, physical cultural, social and economic).

Site: a spatial cluster of artifact, structures, organic and environmental remains, as residues of past human activity.



1. Introduction

At the request of Plantago Lanceolata (Pty) Ltd, Vhubvo Archaeo-Heritage Consultant Cc conducted a Phase I Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Study for the proposed Madombidzha Shopping Centre and Filling Station within Makhado Local Municipality of Vhembe District in Limpopo Province. The survey was conducted in accordance with the SAHRA Minimum Standards for the Archaeology and Palaeontology. The minimum standards clearly specify the required contents of the report of this nature. The study aim to identify and document archaeological sites, cultural resources, sites associated with oral histories, graves, cultural landscapes, and any structure of historical significance that may be affected by the proposed construction, these will in turn assist the developer in ensuring proper conservation measure in line with the National Heritage Resource Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

2. Sites location and description

The proposed development is located at Madombidzha area within the jurisdiction of Makhado Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province. The area is currently used for various purposes related to amongst others farming (see Figure 2 - 5). The land on which the development is proposed is transformed and no archaeological materials are expected. The map provided indicates the proposed study area.

Summary of Project Location Details

Province:	Limpopo
Local Municipality:	Makhado
District Municipality:	Vhembe
Proposed development:	Shopping Centre and Filling Station





Figure 1: View of Google map about the proposed development (Courtesy Google Earth 2018).



Figure 2: View of Google map about the proposed development (Courtesy Google Earth 2003).





Figure 3: View of the north western section of the area proposed for development.



Figure 4: An overview of the western section.





Figure 5: View of the eastern section of the area proposed for development.

3. Nature of the proposed project

The area is proposed for the development of amongst other the following:

- Shopping Centre; and
- Filling Station





Figure 6: View of the layout plan of the proposed development.

4. Purpose of the Cultural Heritage Study

The purpose of this Archaeological and Cultural Heritage study was to entirely identify and document archaeological sites, cultural resources, sites associated with oral histories, graves, cultural landscapes, and any structure of historical significance that may be affected by the proposed Shopping Centre, these will in turn assist the developer in ensuring proper conservation measure in line with the National Heritage Resource Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999). Impact assessments highlight many issues facing sites in terms of their management, conservation, monitoring and maintenance, and the environment in and around the site. Therefore, this study involves the following:

- Identification and recording of heritage resources that maybe affected by the proposed Shopping Centre; and
- Providing recommendations on how best to appropriately safeguard identified heritage sites. Mitigation is an important aspect of any development on areas where heritage sites have been identified.



5. Methodology and Approach

Background study introduction

The methodological approach is informed by the 2012 SAHRA Policy Guidelines for impact assessment. As part of this study, the following tasks were conducted: 1) literature review, 2), consultations with the developer and appointed consultants, 3), completion of a field survey and 4), analysis of the acquired data, leading to the production of this report.

Physical survey

The field survey lasted one day of the 08th of November 2018. An archaeologist from Vhubvo conducted the survey.

Documentation

The general project area was documented. This documentation included taking photographs using cameras a 10.1 mega-pixel Sony Cybershort Digital Camera. Plotting of finds was done by a Garmin etrex Venture HC.

Oral interview

Oral interview was initiated with land owners. The oral interviews aim to understand the cultural landscapes and/ or intangible heritage of the area.

Restrictions and Assumptions

As with any survey, archaeological materials may be under the surface and therefore unidentifiable to the surveyor until they are exposed once construction resume. As a result, should any archaeological/ or grave site be observed during construction, a heritage specialist must immediately be notified.

6. Applicable Heritage Legislation

Several legislations provide the legal basis for the protection and preservation of both cultural and natural resources. These include the National Environment Management Act (No. 107 of 1998); Mineral Amendment Act (No 103 of 1993); Tourism Act (No. 72 of 1993); Cultural Institution Act (No. 119 of 1998), and the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). Section 38 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act requires that where relevant, an Impact Assessment is undertaken in case where a listed activity is triggered. Such activities include:

(a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;



- (b) *the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length; and*
- (c) *any development or other activity which will change the character of an area of land, or water -*
 - (i) *exceeding 5 000 m² in extent;*
 - (ii) *involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or*
 - (iii) *involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or*
 - (iv) *the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority;*
- (d) *the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m² in extent; or*
- (e) *any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.*

Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) lists a wide range of national resources protected under the act as they are deemed to be national estate. When conducting a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) the following heritage resources have to be identified:

- (a) *Places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance*
- (b) *Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage*
- (c) *Historical settlements and townscapes*
- (d) *Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance*
- (e) *Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance*
- (f) *Archaeological and paleontological sites*
- (g) *Graves and burial grounds including-*
 - (i) *ancestral graves*
 - (ii) *royal graves and graves of traditional leaders*
 - (iii) *graves of victims 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) *moveable objects, including -*
 - (i) *objects recovered from the 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) *objects of scientific or technological interest; and*
 - (vii) *books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).*

Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) 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 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 organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and*
- (i) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.*

Other sections of the Act with a direct relevance to the AIA are the following:

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.

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 palaeontological site or any meteorite*

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

- *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 formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or*
- *bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.*

7. Degree of Significance

This category requires a broad, but detailed knowledge of the various disciplines that might be involved. It must be borne in mind that the significance of a site from an archaeological perspective does not necessarily depend on the size of the site but more on the uniqueness of the site within a region. The following table is used to grade heritage resources.



Table 1: Grading systems for identified heritage resources in terms of National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

Level	Significance	Possible action
National (Grade I)	Site of National Value	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade II)	Site of Provincial Value	Nominated to be declared by PHRA
Local Grade (IIIA)	Site of High Value Locally	Retained as heritage
Local Grade (IIIB)	Site of High Value Locally	Mitigated and part retained as heritage
General Protected Area A	Site of High to Medium	Mitigation necessary before destruction
General Protected Area B	Medium Value	Recording before destruction
General Protected Area C	Low Value	No action required before destruction

Significance rating of sites

(i) High

(ii) Medium

(iii) Low

These categories relate to the actual artefact or site in terms of its actual value as it is found today, and refers more specifically to the condition that the item is in. For example, an archaeological site may be the only one of its kind in the region, and will thus be considered to be of high regional significance, however; should there be heavy erosion of the greater part of the site, its significance rating would be medium to low. The following are guidelines for the nature of the mitigation that must take place as Phase 2 of the project.

High

- This is a 'do not touch' situation, alternative must be sought for the project, examples would be natural and cultural landscapes like the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site, or the house in which John Langalibalele resided.
- Certain sites, or features may be exceptionally important, but do not warrant leaving entirely alone. In such cases, detailed mapping of the site and all its features is imperative, as is the collection of diagnostic artefactual material on the surface of the site. Extensive excavations must be done to retrieve as much information as possible before



destruction. Such excavations might cover more than half the site and would be mandatory; it would also be advisable to negotiate with the client to see what mutual agreement in writing could be reached, whereby part of the site is left for future research.

Medium

- Sites of medium significance require detailed mapping of all the features and the collection of diagnostic artefactual material from the surface of the site. A series of test trenches and test pits should be excavated to retrieve basic information before destruction.

Low

- These sites require minimum or no mitigation. Minimum mitigation recommended could be a collection of all surface materials and/ or detailed site mapping and documentation. No excavations would be considered to be necessary.

In all the above scenarios, permits will be required from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the appropriate PHRA as per the legislation (the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999). Destruction of any heritage site may only take place when the appropriate heritage authority has issued a permit. The following table is used to determine rating system on the receiving environment.

Table 2: Rating and evaluating criteria of impact assessment

NATURE		
Including a brief description of the impact of the heritage parameter being assessed in the context of the project. This criterion includes a brief written statement of the heritage aspect being impacted upon by a particular action or activity.		
TOPOGRAPHICAL EXTENT		
This is defined as the area over which the impact will be expressed. Typically, the severity and significance of an impact have different scales and as such bracketing ranges are often required. This is often useful during the detailed assessment of a project in terms of further defining the determined.		
1	Site	The impact will only affect site.



2	Local/district	Will affect the local area or district.
3	Province/region	Will affect the entire province or region.
4	International and National	Will affect the entire country.
PROBABILITY		
This describes the chance of occurrence of an impact		
1	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is extremely low (Less than 25% chance of occurrence).
2	Possible	The impact may occur (Between a 25% to 50% chance of occurrence).
3	Probable	The impact will likely occur (Between 50% to 75% chance of occurrence).
4	Definite	Impact will certainly occur (Greater than 75% chance of occurrence).
REVERSIBILITY		
This describes the degree to which an impact on a heritage parameter can be successfully reversed upon completion of the proposed activity.		
1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with implementation of minor mitigation measures.
2	Partly reversible	The impact is partly reversible but more intense mitigation measures are required.
3	Barely reversible	The impact is unlikely to be reversed even with intense mitigation measures.



4	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible and mitigation measures exist.
IRREPLACEABLE LOSS OF RESOURCES		
This describes the degree to which heritage resources will be irreplaceably lost as a result of proposed activity		
1	No loss of resource	The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.
2	Marginal loss of resource	The impact will result in marginal loss of resources.
3	Significant loss of resource	The impact will result insignificant loss of resources.
4	Complete loss of resource	The impact is result in a complete loss of all resources.
DURATION		
This describes the duration of the impact on the heritage parameter. Duration indicates the lifetime of a result of the proposed activity.		
1	Short term	The impact and its effects will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through natural process in span shorter than the construction phase (0-1 years), or the impact and its effects will last for the period of a relatively short construction period and a limited recovery time after construction, thereafter it will be entirely negated (0-2 years).



2	Medium term	The impact and its effects will continue or last for some time after the construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (2-10 years).
3	Long term	The impact and its effects will continue or last for entire operational life of the development, but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (10-50 years).
4	Permanent	The only class of the impact that will non-transitory. Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or such a time span that the impact can be considered transient (Indefinite).

CUMULATIVE EFFECT

This describes the cumulative effect of the impacts on the heritage parameter. A cumulative effect/impact is an effect, which in itself may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts emanating from similar or diverse activities as a result of the project activity in question.

1	Negligible Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects.
2	Low Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in insignificant cumulative effects
3	Medium Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in minor cumulative effects
4	High Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in significant



		cumulative effects.
MAGNITUDE		
Describes the severity of an impact.		
1	Low	Impact affects the quality, use and integrity of the system/component in a way that is barely perceptible.
2	Medium	Impact alters the quality, use and integrity of the system/component but system/component still continues to function in a moderately modified way and maintains general integrity (some impact on integrity).
3	High	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/component and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component is severely impaired and may temporarily cease. High costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
4	Very High	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/component and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component permanently ceases and is irreversibly impaired (system collapsed). Rehabilitation and remediation often impossible. If possible rehabilitation and remediation often unfeasible due to extremely high costs of



		rehabilitation and remediation.
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8. History of the Area

Introduction

South Africa has one of the longest sequences of human development in the world. The prehistory and history of South Africa span the entire known life span of human on earth. It is thus difficult to determine exactly where to begin, a possible choice could be the development of genus *Homo* millions of years ago. South African scientists have been actively involved in the study of human origins since 1925 when Raymond Dart identified the Taung child as an infant halfway between apes and humans. Dart called the remains *Australopithecus africanus*, southern ape-man, and his work ultimately changed the focus of human evolution from Europe and Asia to Africa, and it is now widely accepted that humankind originated in Africa (Robbins *et al.* 1998). In many ways this discovery marked the birth of palaeoanthropology as a discipline. Nonetheless, the earliest form of culture known in South Africa is the Stone Age. These prehistoric period during which humans widely used stone for tool-making, stone tools were made from a variety of different sorts of stone. For example, flint and chert were shaped for use as cutting tools and weapons, while basalt and sandstone were used for ground stone. Stone Age can be divided into Early, Middle and Late, it is argued that there are two transitional period. Noteworthy that the time frame used for Stone Age period is an approximate and differ from researcher to researcher (see Korsman & Meyer 1999, Mitchell 2002, Robbins *et al.* 1998)



Stone Age

Although a long history of research on the Early Stone Age period of southern Africa has been conducted (Mason 1962, Sampson 1974, Klein 2000, Chazan 2003), it still remains a period where little is known about. These may be due to many factors which includes, though not limited to retrieval techniques used, reliance on secondary, at times unknown sources and the fact that few fauna from this period has been analysed (Chazan 2003). According to Robbins *et al.* (1998) the Stone Age is the period in human history when stone was mainly used to produce tools. This period began approximately 2.5 million years ago and ended around 20 000 years ago. During this period human beings became the creators of culture and was basically hunters and gatherers, this era is identified by large stone artefacts.

The Middle Stone Age possibly began around 100 000 to about 200 000 years ago and extends up to around 35 000 years ago. This period is marked by smaller tools than in ESA and characterized by the production of food and the introduction of domestication of animals. Many MSA sites have evidence for control of fire, prior to this, rock shelters and caves would have been dangerous for human habitation due to predators. MSA people made a wide range of stone tools from both coarse- and fine-grained rock types. Sometimes the rocks used for tools were transported considerable distances, presumably in bags or other containers; as such tool assemblages from some MSA sites tend to lack some of the preliminary cores and contain predominantly finished products like flakes and retouched pieces.

Micro lithic Later Stone Age period began around 35 000 and extend to the later 1800 AD. According to Deacon (1984), LSA is a period when human being refined small blade tools, conversely abandoning the prepared-core technique. Thus, refined artefacts such as convex-edge scrapers, borers and segments are associated with this period. Moreover, large quantity of art and ornaments were made during this period.

Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artefacts. Recently, they have been a debate about the use of the name. Other archaeologist have argued that the word “Iron Age” is problematic and does not precisely explain the event of what happen in southern Africa, as such, the word farming communities has been proposed (Segobye 1998). Nonetheless, in South Africa this period can be divided into two



phases. Early (200 - 1000 A.D) and Late Iron Age (1000 - 1850 A.D). Huffman (2007) has indicated that a Middle Iron Age (900 - 1300 A.D) should be included. According to Huffman (2007:361), until the 1960s and 1970s most archaeologists had not yet recognised a Middle Iron age. Instead they began the Late Iron Age at AD 1000. The Middle Iron Age (AD 900–1300) is characterised by extensive trade between the Limpopo Confluence and the East Coast of Africa. This has been debated, with other researchers, arguing that the period should be restricted to Shashe-Limpopo Confluence.

Historical period

Vhembe is one of the 5 districts in the Limpopo province of South Africa. It is the northernmost district of the country and shares its northern border with Beitbridge district in Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe. The seat of Vhembe is Thohoyandou. The majority of its 1 199 856 people speak Venda (2001 Census). The district code is DC34. Although the region of Vhembe was originally settled by the Khoisan peoples. It was later settled by the Venda people (recently migrated from further north), who constitute a majority of the population of Vhembe today. The Dzata ruins in Makhado local municipality once served as the main settlement and capital of the Venda Empire which had dominated the area during the 18th century.

Oral traditions show that migrations to the Soutpansberg region came from north of Limpopo River. Two migrations stand out among the smaller infiltrations. The Vhatavhatsindi group (this group found another group, the Vhangona), followed by the Makwinda group, who became masters of the group. The first chief of Vhatavhatsindi was Netshiendeulu. One of the great cultural differences between Vhatavhatsindi and other Venda groups is that they practice a form of cremation. The bones are exhumed some months after burial and burnt ceremonially at a specified river, in which ashes are finally scattered. According to Stayt (1931:12) it is possible that Makwinda, often called “*vha ila mbudzi*” (those who taboo the goat) were led across the Limpopo River by Dimbanyika (or Vele Lambeu). It is not clear when the name Venda was first used. However, there is a tradition that Dimbanyika called the country Venda after his settlement in the Soutpansberg. After arrival it is said that he subjugated the Ngoni and Vhatavhatsindi, and placed his various sons as petty chiefs throughout Venda, and he settled at Tshiendeulu. However, recent scientific evidence has tested this theory and reduces it to speculation.



Thohoyandou as a Town was named after Thohoyandou who is considered as the great legendary hero of the Vhavenda people. It is said that he ruled over a large country, including parts of Zimbabwe and also maintain dominance over certain Sotho and Shangaan in the area we now call Limpopo Province. He was colossal rich and powerful. His great power enticed jealousy among his brothers. He set out one day with few of his follower on an expedition to solicit support against his hostile brothers. After which, he crossed the Limpopo River and was never seen again. It is believed that Thohoyandou will return one day to his people to restore the Vhavenda to their former greatness.

Thohoyandou's father's (or Dimbanyika) death is marred by disputed myth. According to one source Phophi (also known as Thohoyandou) is guilty of assassinating his father, and after killing him, he declared himself chief, boasting that although the elephant was dead, he, the head, remained and was called Thohoyandou. Another version is that Dimbanyika was entombed alive inside a cave by a rock while he was hunting rock rabbits. His son (Phophi) looked for him everywhere and after a long search he found the dog keeping watch of the cave, he called out his father, who then responded from the cave and said, take care of the dog and leave me here. I will not return, I am content, he then returned to his father village and set-off across the mountain with his followers and built a new capital at Dzata. From that day, it has been a taboo for any chief of the Singo to look on the face of the descendants of Netshiendeulu. In addition, the name Tshiendeulu has become the traditional name of royal ancestral graveyards of the Venda people.

There are several contradictory versions about the origin of the Venda, with some arguing that the Venda originated from the Congo River in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), while others maintain that their origin lies in East Africa near the Great Lakes. Those holding the latter view, argue that the Venda arrived later than other Bantu-speakers and only crossed the Limpopo River after 1750 AD. However, it appears that those arguing that the Venda comes from the DRC appear to have come from the Reverend C.L. Beuste, who had at one stage work in DRC. When he came to Venda, he felt that some words are similar to the Congolese language, which made him conclude that Venda came from DRC. This notion was also taught in his school. The concept of the origin of the Venda at the Great Lakes appears to be based particularly on the affix like "nyika". As such, it will appear that the name Dimbanyika, who



according to some was the father of 'Thohoyandou, is of prime importance. The arrival of the Singo, which has been placed at 1750 A.D., led early ethnographers to assume that this represents the entry of the Venda people. This was wrong.

Today as scientists we believe that the Zimbabwe culture which first developed in Mapungubwe also links, albeit indirectly the Venda culture with the culture of Mapungubwe. As such, the Sotho-Tswana people and the Shona people who moved to the Shashe-Limpopo confluence engaged in incorporation (this incorporation was possible because they supported the tradition that chief were politically equal). After about 100 years this incorporation of Sotho-Tswana and Shona had led to the creation of the Venda culture. It is important to note that the Venda culture and language came into existence before the Singo (who had been part of the important Rozvi dynasty in Zimbabwe) moved south of the Limpopo river. The Vhavenda have no direct links with the royals that lived on top of Mapungubwe Hill (Hanisch: Pers Comm 2007).

One exceptional custom which is not practised by other tribes except the Venda is the Domba. The Domba consists of Venda children who are preparing to marry. The central feature of the Domba is the python dance. The python is associated with rain in Venda believes, and if killed it must be thrown in the river. It is also believed that its skin renders a barren woman fertile. Accordingly, the Mbedzi claim to have practiced the Domba before the arrival of the Singo.

Although their culture appears different from that of the Venda to whom they are host, the Lemba are a small group which live scattered amongst the Venda. They have no chief of their own. They are experts in metalworking, pottery, and merchanting, and are suspected of being Semitic in origin. They exhibit several cultural traits that distinguish them sharply from their neighbours. This include, circumcision, absence of totemism, a predilection for fish, burial in an extended rather than a crouched position, a distinctive new-moon ceremony, and a taboo on eating the flesh of animals unless their throats have been cut before death. They practice endogamy and don't intermarry with those outside their group. They also do not speak Venda, but a dialect of Karanga, until much recent.

White settlement of the territory began in the late 18th century and gradually upsurged throughout the 19th century. By the turn of the century, the Soutpansberg was taken by the White from the Venda rulers, making it one of the last areas in the future republic of South

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Cultural and Archaeological Impact Study



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Africa to come under white rule. During the apartheid era, the bantustan of Venda (declared independent in 1979) was established in the eastern part of the Vhembe area, and was reintegrated into the country in 1994.

9. Survey Findings

The Phase I Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Madombidzha Shopping Centre and Filling Station has identified no significant impacts to archaeological or grave resources that will need to be mitigated prior construction. The structure (House) which was noted on the southern section are less than 60 years and are not protected by the National Heritage Resource Act. Therefore, no archaeological or cultural heritage remains were documented during the study. Thus, the Phase I Archaeological and Cultural Heritage for the proposed Shopping Complex has identified no significant impacts to archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior construction.

9.1 Impact Assessment

Below is the impact rating. This rating is for archaeological and cultural heritage sites known to exist in the proposed area, and includes Stone and Iron Age, as well as Historical era materials. Note that these impacts are assessed as per Table 2 above:

Table 3: Anticipated impact rating.

Description	Ratings
Impact	N/A
Nature	Negative
Topographical Extent	The impact will only affect site
Duration	Long term
Magnitude	Low
Probability	Possible
Reversibility	N/A



Irreplaceable Loss

The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.

10. Recommendations and Discussions

In compliance with the National Heritage Legislature, there was no observable development activities associated with the proposed project.

Although no significant archaeological materials were identified on the exact area proposed for development, the developer is reminded that unavailability of archaeological materials (e.g., pottery, stone tools, remnants of stone-walling, graves, etc) and fossils does not mean absentee, archaeological material might be hidden underground, and as such the client is reminded to take precautions during construction.

Pre-construction education and awareness training

Prior to construction, contractors should be given training on how to identify and protect archaeological remains that may be discovered during the project. The pre-construction training should include some limited site recognition training for the types of archaeological sites that may occur in the construction areas. Below are some of the indicators of archaeological site that may be found during construction:

- ✚ Flaked stone tools, bone tools and loose pieces of flaked stone;
- ✚ Ash and charcoal;
- ✚ Bones and shell fragments;
- ✚ Artefacts (e.g., beads or hearths);
- ✚ Packed stones which might be uncouncted underground, and might indicate a grave or collapse stone walling.

All construction within a radius of at least 10m of such indicator should cease and the area be demarcated by a danger tape. Accordingly, a professional archaeologist or LIHRA officer should be contacted immediately. In the meantime, it is the responsibility of the Environmental officer and the contractor to protect the site from publicity (i.e., media) until a mutual agreement is reached. It is mandatory to report any incident of human remains encountered to the South African Police Services, LIHRA staff member and professional archaeologist.

Noteworthy that any measures to cover up the suspected archaeological material or to collect any resources is illegal and punishable by law. In the same manner, no person may exhume or collect



such remains, whether of recent origin or not, without the endorsement by LIHRA or a professional archaeologist.

11. Conclusions

A thorough background study and survey of the proposed development was conducted and findings were recorded in line with LIHRA guidelines. As per the recommendations above, there are no major heritage reasons why the proposed development could not be allowed to proceed. Thus, it is recommended that the proposed development proceed on condition that the recommendation indicated above are adhered to.



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APPENDIX 1: SITE SIGNIFICANCE

The following guidelines for determining site *significance* were developed by SAHRA in 2003. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

(a) Historic value

- Is it important in the community, or pattern of history?
- Does it have strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history?
- Does it have significance relating to the history of slavery?

(b) Aesthetic value

- Is it important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group?

(c) Scientific value

- Does it have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage?
- Is it important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period?

(d) Social value

- Does it have strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons?

(e) Rarity

- Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage?

(f) Representivity

- Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects?
- What is the importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being



characteristic of its class?

- Is it important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province, region or locality?

