VHUFA HASHU Heritage Consultancy CC

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HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MAKWARELA STUDENT VILLAGE IN MAKWARELA WITHIN THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICTY OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

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Executive Summary

Site name and location: The proposed Makwarela Student Village Establishment Project located in Makwarela area. The site is situated along road R524 to the North.

Local Authority: Thulamela Local municipality

Magisterial Authority: Vhembe District Municipality

Developer: Makwarela Student Village (Pty) Ltd

Date of field work: 15 October 2018

Date of report: November 2018

Findings: The phase 1 Archaeological scoping study as required in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) was done for the proposed Makwarela Student Village Establishment in Makwarela area within Thulamela Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province, South Africa. The recommendations provided and outlined on this report should be followed and adhered to. From an archaeological and cultural heritage resources perspective, should the recommendations are followed there are no objections to the proposed development and we recommend to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and Limpopo Provincial authorities to approve the project as planned.

The aims with the phase1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) program were the following:

- To establish whether any of the type and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) do occur in or near the proposed area, and if so, to establish the significance of these heritage resources.

- To establish whether such heritage resources will be affected by the proposed Makwarela Student Village, and if so, to determine possible mitigation measures that can be applied to these heritage resources.

The phase 1 Archaeological impact assessment for the proposed of Student Village revealed no heritage resources within the study area. No further studies / Mitigations are recommended as within the proposed area and its surrounding there is no archaeological or place of historical significance that will be impacted by the proposed Student Village Establishment. However, should any chance archaeological or any other physical cultural resources be discovered subsurface, heritage authorities should be informed. From an archaeological and cultural heritage resources perspective, there are no objection to the proposed project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

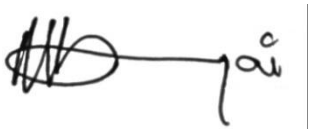
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1. INTRODUCTION

Makwarela Student Village (Pty) Ltd has commissioned the proposed Makwarela Student Village Establishment in Makwarela area, the proposed area falls under Thulamela local municipality of the Vhembe district.They appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants to conduct an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment study as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed project. The proposed activities form part of the development process, where application for Environmental Assessment Authorization must be completed. The heritage impact assessment report form part of a series of appendices prepared for Assessment Report to be submitted to the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), in support of the application as amended by the National Environmental Management (NEMA) Act no 107 of 1998. Information presented in this report form the basis of heritage resources assessment of the proposed project as the proposal constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the proposed 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, Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance, and proposed remedial mitigation measures. This enable 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:

TYPE AND RANGES OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AS OUTLINENED IN SECTION 3 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (NO 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.

Archaeological remains

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

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.

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:

(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. AIM OF STUDY

The aim of the study is to identify all heritage sites and assess their importance within Local, Provincial and National context. From this we aim to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a manner, in order to protect, preserve and develop them within the frame work provided by the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999)

2.1 Project Developers and Consultants

Developers are encouraged to consider archaeological values in their project planning and design from the outset. This will minimize scheduling and budget difficulties at later stages. As Consultants in the archaeological assessment process, we are responsible for:

- Determining the presence of archaeological sites that may be adversely impacted by the proposed development, and evaluate their significance.
- Identification of potential adverse impacts to archaeological sites protected under the National Heritage Resources Act No: 25 of 1999.
- Assessing of the heritage significance of identified archaeological sites to assist in the development of appropriate mitigation strategies.
- Make recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of protected or otherwise significant archaeological sites.
- Reporting the results of these studies to the Heritage Authorities.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

(I) Assess the significance of the known cultural resources within the borders of proposed development area, in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.

(II) Develop mitigation or control measures for impact minimization and cultural resources preservation

(III) Develop procedures to be implemented if previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during the construction.

4. TERMINOLOGIES THAT MAY BE USED IN THIS REPORT

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) (See Box 1).

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 a particular 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 South Africa by the first colonist who settled in the Cape in the early 1652 and brought to the other different part of South Africa in the early 1800.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th 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 in the near future, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on the observation alone, to distiquish 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 floors 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 distiquish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular 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 with regard to their ancestors. These values have to 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 (3Million 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 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17th and the 19th 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 refers 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 includes 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.

The following aspects have direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- **Archaeological sites** are places where people lived and left evidence of their presence in the form of artifacts, food remains and other traces such as rock paintings or engravings, burials, fireplaces and structures.
- **Cultural Significance** is the aesthetic, historical, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.
- **Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.
- ***In Situ* material** means archaeological remains that have not been disturbed.
- **Place** means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, together with pertinent contents, surroundings and historical and archaeological deposits.
- **Preservation** means protecting and maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration or change, and may include stabilization where necessary.

5. METHODOLOGY

Physical Survey

The extent of the proposed area and corridors were determined as well as the extent of the areas to be affected by secondary activities. Physical survey was done on foot covering the proposed area, peripheral areas which will not be affected by the proposed project. A systematic inspection of the area on along linear transects resulted in the maximum coverage of the proposed area. The survey was conducted by the author of the report on the 15 October 2018.

A brief literature survey relating to the Pre-historical and historical context of the project area was consulted. In addition, the proposed site was studied by means of the 1:50 000 topographical maps and the 1:250 000 map on which the proposed study area appears.

Restrictions

It must be pointed out that heritage resources can be found in the unexpected places, it must also be borne in mind that survey may not detect all the heritage resources in a given project area. While some remains may simply be missed during surveys (observation) others may occur below the surface of the earth and may be exposed once earth moving commences.

Documentation

Standard archaeological observation practices were followed; Visual inspection was supplemented by relevant written source, and oral communications with local communities from the surrounding area. In addition, the site was recorded by hand held GPS (Garmin Montana 650).The general condition of the terrain were photographed with a Garmin 650 Camera.

6. ASSESMENT CRITERIA

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

- ✓ The unique nature of a site
- ✓ The amount/depth of the archaeological deposit and the range of features (stone walls, 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 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 as guidelines in determining the site significance for the purpose of this report.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
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

Grading and rating systems of heritage resources

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 species 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 fairly 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 fairly 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 a fairly 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 as a result 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 particular fact. Substantial supportive data exist to verify the assessment.

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

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

UNSURE: Less than 40% sure of a particular 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. SITE LOCATION

The proposed area is situated at about ±5 Kilometers Eastern side of Thohoyandou Central business area, on the nothern side of road R524 from Thohoyandou to Kruger National Park (Punda Maria Gate).The site is bound by a well fenced Makwarela (Mbaleni) grave yard to the north GPS Co-ordinates E22˚ 58’ 04.03" E30˚ 29'58.18". The proposed area is currently used for agricultural purposes. The area is bound by the road and other properties in both sides.



Figure :1 Locality Map


Figure 2: General view of the terrain showing ploughed fields.



Figure 3: View of the Geotech test pit.



Figure 4: The picture shows the palisade of Makwarela grave yard.

8. ASSESSMENT OF SITES AND FINDS

This section contains the results of the heritage site/find assessment. The phase 1 heritage scoping assessment program as required in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) done for the proposed Makwarela Student Village. 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 development.

Heritage Significance:	No significance
Impact:	Negative
Impact Significance:	High
Certainty:	Probable
Duration:	Permanent
Mitigation:	A

8.1. Archaeological

No archaeological materials were found in the study area.

8.2. Historical

No historical sites were found within the proposed area.

8.3. Graves

No graves were found within the proposed site.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Although archaeological/historical and contemporary cultural sites exist in the study area, none were recorded within the project area that retained high significance that may be affected by the proposed project. Since the general area is situated in a cultural landscape, there are possibilities of encountering unknown archaeological sites during subsurface construction works which may disturb previously unidentified chance find.

No further studies/Mitigations recommended for the proposed Makwarela Student Village. However, should any chance archaeological or any other physical cultural resources be discovered subsurface, heritage authorities should be informed. From an archaeological and cultural heritage resources perspective, there are no objections to the proposed project and we recommend to the Heritage Resources Authority to approve the project as planned.

10. CONCLUSION

The objective of the HIA is to limit primary and secondary impacts on archaeological and cultural heritage sites in the path of the proposed development. In the event of any unexpected heritage feature being encountered during construction phase of the Student Village relevant heritage authorities should be informed.

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