

site exploration - musina

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**01.** image of cross border traders with no money sleeping in musina taxi rank to qualify for duty free status having spent one night outside of Zimbabwe ( M. Baloyi 2007)

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02. People of Musina ( Hugo 2008)

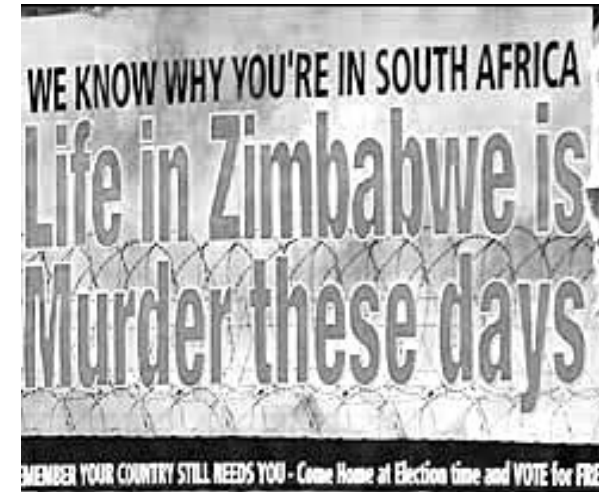
## Musina -Site Background

Musina (previously called Messina) is the northernmost city in the Limpopo province of South Africa near the Limpopo River border with Zimbabwe. It has a population of about 42,000. Its suburb of Beitbridge has 5,000 people. Iron ore, coal, magnetite, graphite, asbestos, diamonds, semi-precious stones and copper are mined in the region. The link with Zimbabwe has become one of the busiest roads in the world and the busiest in Africa, due to cross border trading from Zimbabwe and people looking for employment. This is mainly due to thousands crossing (and fleeing) the border into South Africa every day.

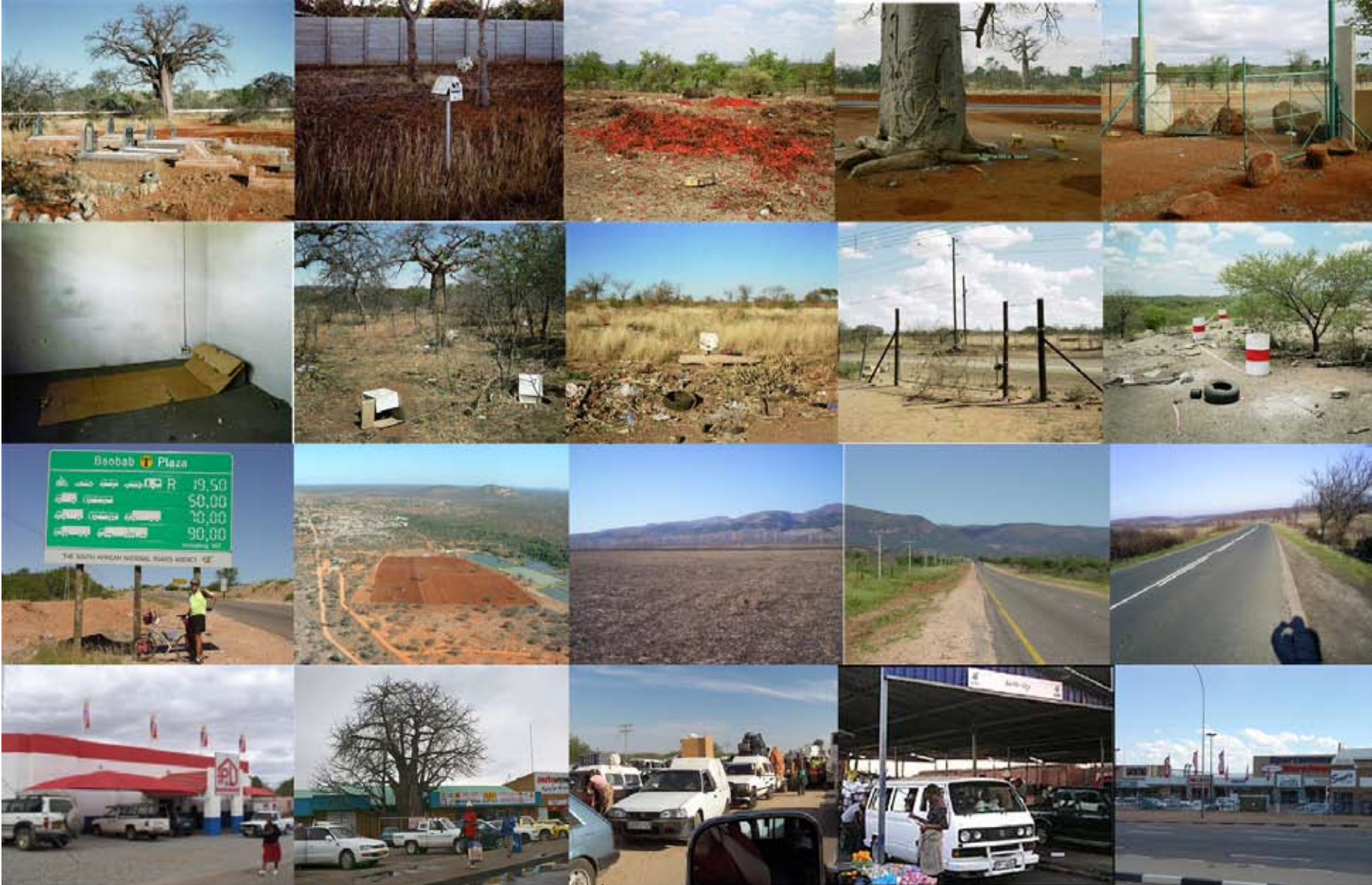
The town was named after the Musina tribe who originally discovered copper and settled in the area. In the 20th century European prospectors rediscovered the large copper deposits and established the town of Messina. The spelling of the name was changed to Musina in 2003 to correct the colonial-era misspelling of the name of the Musina people. Located in the heart of the bushveld with its hunting farms, diamond mines and location on the major trucking route north, it attracts a conglomeration of different people. Many rural people from surrounding areas are drawn to the town by the opportunities of working in the mines or on farms in the area.

Musina Municipality is therefore characterised by a relatively equal urban-rural population split with nearly half of the population in Musina Municipality residing in the urban areas centred around Musina town. Commercial activities are also almost exclusively concentrated in these areas. The area has an employment rate of 75% of its economically active population, which is much higher than that on District, Provincial and even National average. However, despite the comparatively high employment rates in the Municipality, the majority of the employed earn very low incomes, with 34% of income earners in the Municipality earning only between R1 and R4 800 per annum (less than R400 per month).

The area has recently been under much scrutiny in recent times due to unstable political situation in neighbouring Zimbabwe. Many desperate people cross the border illegally everyday and through the town. Many use the town as a stop off point before making way to Johannesburg while many others find employment on farms in the area to make a living in order to take money back to relatives across the border.



**03.** Image showing billboard of recent controversial advertising campaign in Musina urging people to go back to Zimbabwe for the recent elections. (Gorten 2008:7)



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04. Images of Musina Landscape (by author)

### mapping of musina township limpopo province

Musina Municipality is located to the north west of Vhembe District Municipality and is bordered by Zimbabwe to the north, Makhado and Mutale Local Municipalities to the south and east and Capricorn District to the west. Musina Municipality consists of 6 Wards, comprising the periurban and urban settlements of Musina Municipality. Wards 1 and 2 are the largest wards in the Municipality, with Ward 1 stretching from the western border of the Municipality up to Tshipise, with Ward 2 covering the area from Tshipise and Doreen Farm up to the eastern boundary of the Municipality. (Musina Economic Development Strategy 2007:3)



Map of Limpopo Province showing the six different municipalities. (Musina Economic Development Strategy 2007:14-16)

#### Key Plan

- Capricorn
- Waterberg
- Greater Sekhukhune
- Retail / Commercial
- Mopani
- Musina



Aerial Photo of South African/ zimbabwe border (Musina Economic Development Strategy 2007:14-16)



Map of the Musina Municipality at the Northern boundary of South Africa (Musina Economic Development Strategy 2007:14-16)

### mapping of musina township existing land use map

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Commercial Strip along the N1 which is the major route through the town linking to Johannesburg and the Zimbabwe border.



Nancefield Township situated north of Musina



- Key Plan**
- Recreational Public Space
  - Proposed Site
  - Civic
  - Retail / Commercial
  - Existing Mines
  - Industrial
  - Nancefield Township
  - Musina Town



Industrial strip as a buffer between Nancefield and the Musina Town.

### mapping of musina township major road networks



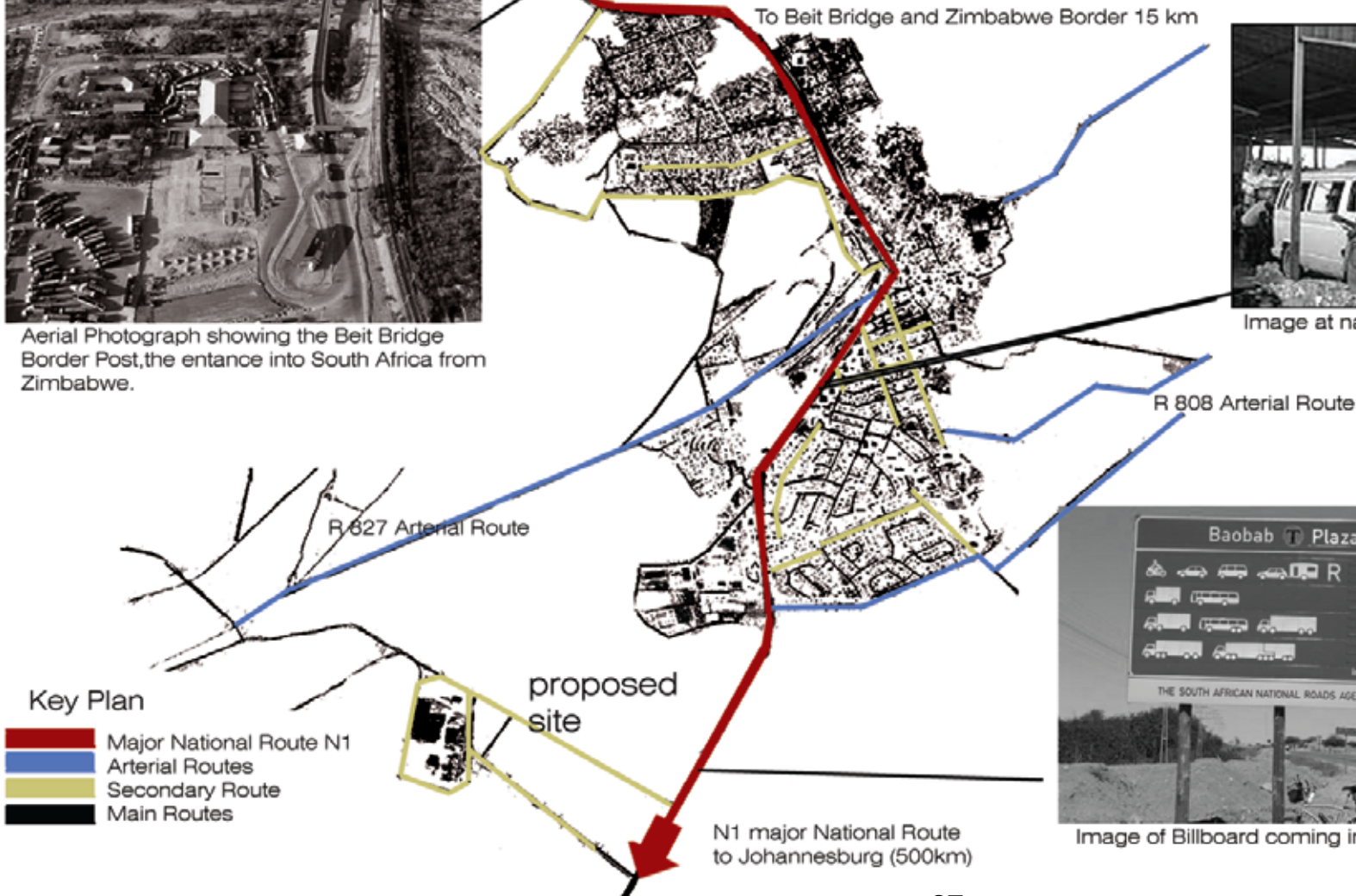
Aerial Photograph showing the Beit Bridge Border Post, the entrance into South Africa from Zimbabwe.

The Musina Municipality benefits from an advantageous strategic location in relation to the N1 and the Beitbridge and Pontdrift border posts. This creates economic opportunities for potential for people living in the area with large volumes of cross border traders moving in and out of Zimbabwe. The town is also the entry point of many immigrants (legal and illegal) escaping the political instability in Zimbabwe.

To Beit Bridge and Zimbabwe Border 15 km



Image at national taxi rank



#### Key Plan

- Major National Route N1
- Arterial Routes
- Secondary Route
- Main Routes



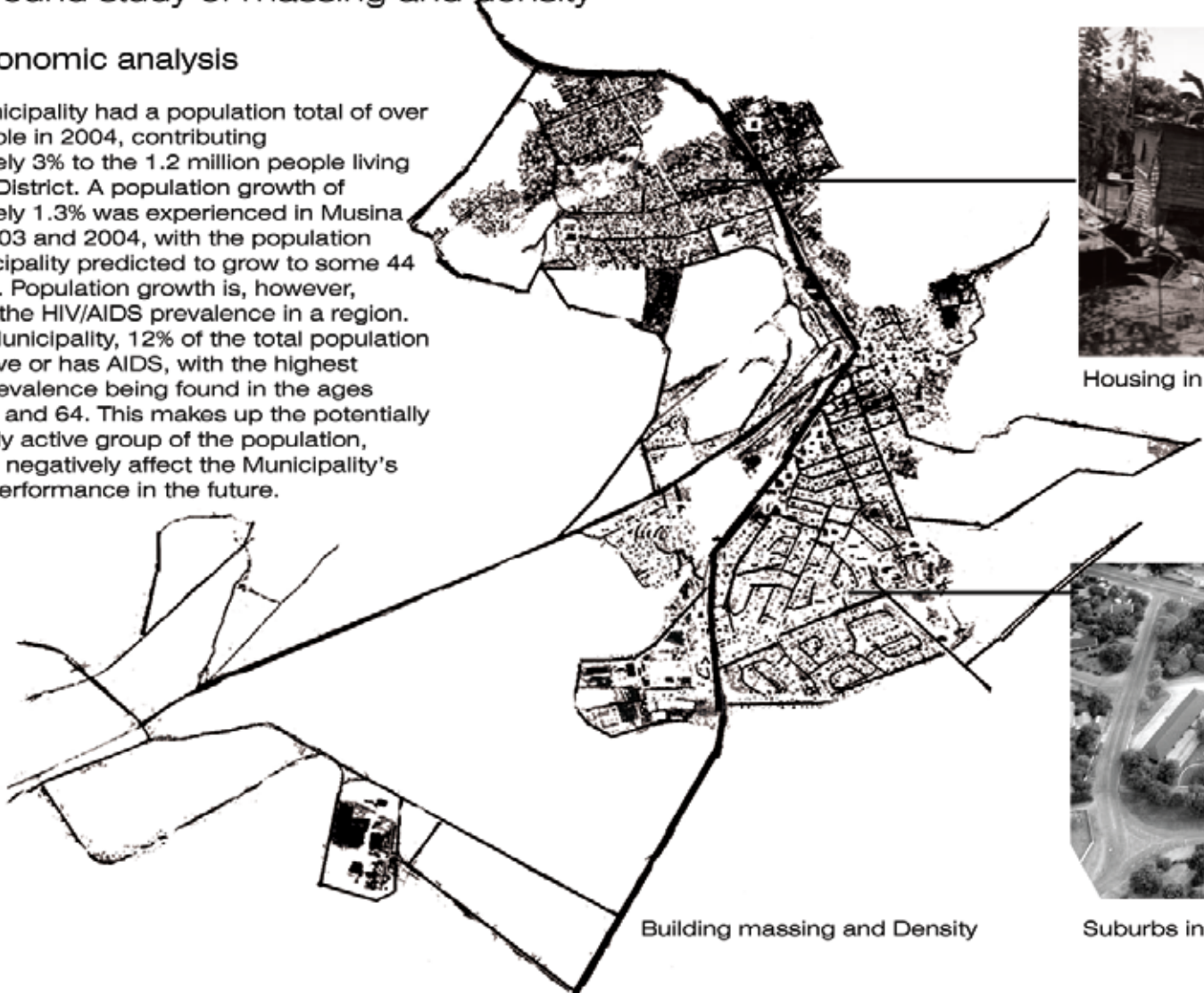
Image of Billboard coming into Musina

07. Map of road networks in Musina (by author)

mapping of musina township  
figure ground study of massing and density

socio-economic analysis

Musina Municipality had a population total of over 42 000 people in 2004, contributing approximately 3% to the 1.2 million people living in Vhembe District. A population growth of approximately 1.3% was experienced in Musina between 2003 and 2004, with the population of the Municipality predicted to grow to some 44 308 in 2008. Population growth is, however, affected by the HIV/AIDS prevalence in a region. In Musina Municipality, 12% of the total population is HIV positive or has AIDS, with the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence being found in the ages between 15 and 64. This makes up the potentially economically active group of the population, which could negatively affect the Municipality's economic performance in the future.



Housing in Nancefield Township



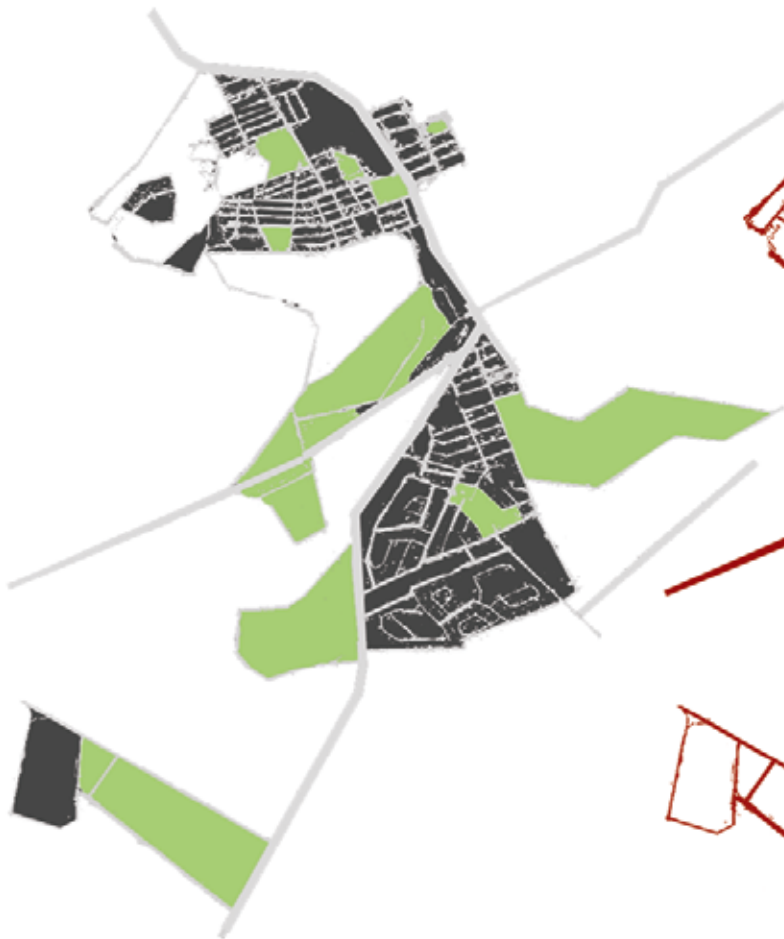
Suburbs in Musina Town

Building massing and Density



mapping of musina township  
figure ground study of urban fabric

The Musina Municipality has a relatively equal urban (49%) and non-urban (51%) split, with nearly half of the population of Musina Municipality residing in the urban areas surrounding Musina town/Nancefield. The fact that people are concentrated in fewer areas, implies that it is easier to distribute services, although equal focus and attention should also be given to providing rural areas with the necessary infrastructure.



Block Layout and unused spaces



Figure Ground of Road Networks of the town

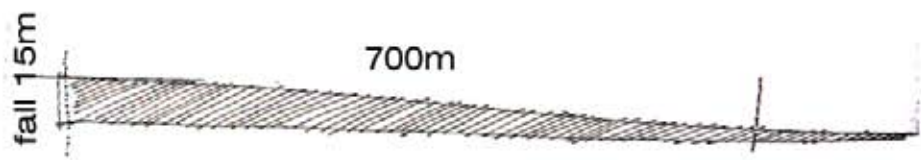
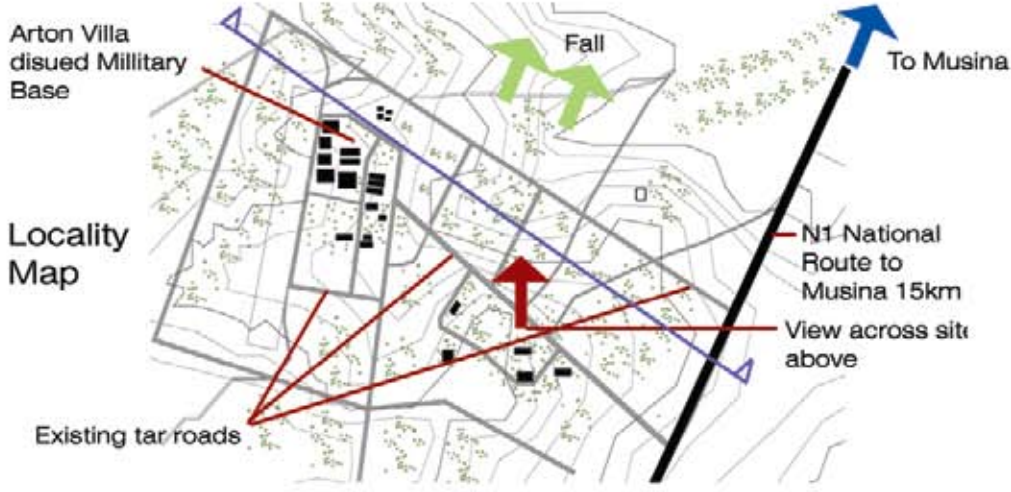


Figure Ground of Open ground space

09. Map study of Musina (by author)

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### Musina Site Investigation Arton Villa disused Military Base



Section showing site fall



Figure : Showing view across site (by author)

## Musina Site Investigation Arton Villa disused Military Base

The chosen site for the Musina Refugee intervention is the disused Military Base at Arton Villa and the adjacent area approximately 15km south of the central Musina Municipality. The site was identified as one of the potential locations for a emergency refugee camp in the 1992 contingency plan as outlined by the South African government in the case of a mass influx of refugees due to the political instability in Zimbabwe.

The site is currently the location of the Musina Detention centre where people who have been identified as illegal immigrants from various places across South Africa are housed before deportation.

The site was selected as it would provide the intervention with access to service connections which already exist at the disused base as well a access via tarred roads. (Poltzer 2002:1-3)

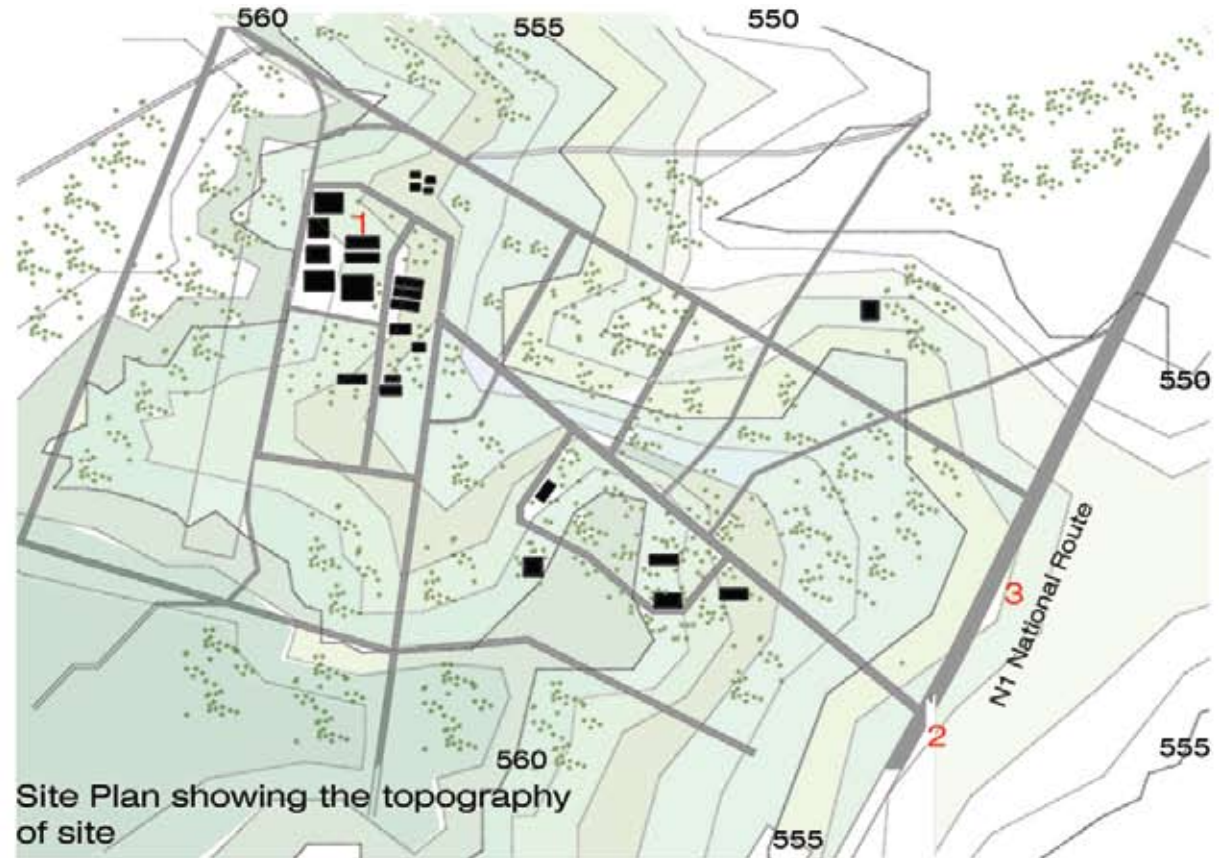


Figure : Image of old Army storeoom



Figure : View across site



Figure : View along N1 Route

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11. Map of Arton Villa Military Base  
(by author)

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