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DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

NO. 2749

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AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

**DECLARATION OF THE BOOMPLAATS ROCK ENGRAVING SITE COMPLEX
SITUATED ON FARMS BOOMPLAATS 24 JT & BOOMPLAATS 29 JT LYDENBURG;
MPUMALANGA AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE**

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency, in terms of section 27 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), SAHRA hereby declares the Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Complex situated on Farms Boomplaats 24 JT & Boomplaats 29 JT; Lydenburg, Mpumalanga as a National Heritage Site.

Statement of Significance

The Boomplaats rock engraving complex contains the most significant collection of rock engravings made by pre-colonial Later Iron Age farming communities in South Africa and serves as an invaluable historic record of a deep-rooted cultural identity associated with the landscape. This identity survives to the present day where local descendants of the Later Iron Age farmers identify with the site. The site also has significant potential to be developed for tourism and to serve as a place where this rich cultural heritage can be dispersed to visitors. Boomplaats was the first site of its kind to be recorded more than a century ago and has been at the centre of scientific research for this type of archaeological site ever since, greatly contributing towards our understanding of Later Iron Age farmer communities' social organisation, and also served to corroborate interpretations of researchers regarding Later Iron Age settlement layout and function, serving as a window into the world of the BaKoni. These socio-cultural, historic, and scientific research values, along with the stunning aesthetic value of the engravings, coupled to their fine state of preservation, bestow on Boomplaats a site significance of national importance.

Schedule

The demarcation of the site is as follows:

SITE NAME	ERF NO / FARM NAME	TOWN	MUNICIPALITY		PROVINCE	COORDINATES								
			District Municipality	Local Municipality		Points	Latitude	Longitude						
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 1a	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.044484	30.403312						
						B	-25.043797	30.403419						
						C	-25.043941	30.404479						
						D	-25.042999	30.404579						
						E	-25.043004	30.40477						
						F	-25.043304	30.405283						
						G	-25.043677	30.405769						
						H	-25.043994	30.406028						
						I	-25.044123	30.406325						
						J	-25.045984	30.406037						
						K	-25.04556	30.403125						
						Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 1b	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.043762	30.406108
												B	-25.043778	30.406152
C	-25.043815	30.406196												
D	-25.043921	30.406299												
E	-25.044061	30.406477												
F	-25.04408	30.406477												
G	-25.044032	30.406246												
H	-25.043994	30.406143												
I	-25.043933	30.406069												
J	-25.043898	30.406049												
K	-25.043761	30.406051												
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 2	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga							A	-25.043317	30.405359
												B	-25.043009	30.404889
						C	-25.042962	30.404833						
						D	-25.042914	30.404062						
						E	-25.041487	30.404115						
						F	-25.041559	30.40608						
						G	-25.040229	30.406454						

SITE NAME	ERF NO / FARM NAME	TOWN	MUNICIPALITY		PROVINCE	COORDINATES		
			District Municipality	Local Municipality		Points	Latitude	Longitude
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 3						H	-25.040572	30.407312
						I	-25.042747	30.406999
						J	-25.043537	30.40569
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 3	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.040562	30.40408
						B	-25.041304	30.404056
						C	-25.041279	30.403289
						D	-25.040537	30.403314
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 4	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.03829	30.404404
						B	-25.038685	30.404307
						C	-25.038564	30.403816
						D	-25.03817	30.403913
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 5	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.037053	30.405299
						B	-25.036415	30.405285
						C	-25.036407	30.405632
						D	-25.037045	30.405646
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 6	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.033844	30.406104
						B	-25.034348	30.405121
						C	-25.034329	30.405027
						D	-25.03427	30.404896
						E	-25.033079	30.404915
						F	-25.033566	30.406114
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 7	Boomplaats No 24 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.024549	30.408222
						B	-25.025122	30.408207
						C	-25.02577	30.407317
						D	-25.025674	30.407228
						E	-25.025141	30.407753
						F	-25.024564	30.407978
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site	Boomplaats No 24 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District	Thaba Chweu Local	Mpumalanga	A	-25.021321	30.412844
						B	-25.021077	30.412736

SITE NAME	ERF NO / FARM NAME	TOWN	MUNICIPALITY		PROVINCE	COORDINATES		
			District Municipality	Local Municipality		Points	Latitude	Longitude
Cluster 8a			Municipality	Municipality		C	-25.021007	30.413036
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 8b	Boomplaats No 24 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.019845	30.412841
						B	-25.019982	30.412951
						C	-25.020299	30.412816
						D	-25.020209	30.412663
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 9	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.041257	30.415744
						B	-25.041678	30.416006
						C	-25.042405	30.415306
						D	-25.0421	30.414558
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 10a	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.039622	30.41824
						B	-25.039693	30.418621
						C	-25.040362	30.4185
						D	-25.04039	30.418629
						E	-25.040454	30.418619
						F	-25.040452	30.41843
						G	-25.040398	30.41824
						H	-25.040357	30.418116
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 10b	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.040346	30.418035
						B	-25.040234	30.417269
						C	-25.039394	30.417342
						D	-25.039565	30.41815
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 10c	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.040499	30.418707
						B	-25.040516	30.418949
						C	-25.040959	30.418897
						D	-25.040954	30.418835
						E	-25.040698	30.418848
						F	-25.04068	30.418517
						G	-25.040497	30.418529

SITE NAME	ERF NO / FARM NAME	TOWN	MUNICIPALITY		PROVINCE	COORDINATES		
			District Municipality	Local Municipality		Points	Latitude	Longitude
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 11(a)	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.039856	30.420393
						B	-25.039869	30.42047
						C	-25.039954	30.420467
						D	-25.039952	30.420386
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 11(b)	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.039659	30.420474
						B	-25.039685	30.420575
						C	-25.039831	30.420537
						D	-25.039805	30.420436
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 12	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.042255	30.421663
						B	-25.041464	30.421807
						C	-25.041579	30.422439
						D	-25.042193	30.422328
						E	-25.042136	30.421951
						F	-25.042302	30.421923
Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Cluster 13	Boomplaats No 29 – JT	Lydenburg	Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality	Mpumalanga	A	-25.042946	30.422001
						B	-25.042957	30.421933
						C	-25.042872	30.421919
						D	-25.042861	30.421987

END