

# **APPENDIX G: HERITAGE REPORT**

Burgersfort Resid and Industr

**PREPARED FOR:  
LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS**

**A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR  
THE PROPOSED NEW BURGERSFORT EXT 30 RESIDENTIAL  
AND THE BURGERSFORT EXT 31 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECTS NEAR BURGERSFORT**

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February 2005**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study as required in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) was done for the proposed new Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential and the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Development Projects near Burgersfort in the Steelpoort Valley that covers parts of the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces of South Africa. The aims with the HIA study were to establish if any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) occur in the project areas (see Box 1).

The HIA study revealed none of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outline in Box 1 in the proposed new Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Area.

However, the HIA survey revealed the presence of three Graveyards (GY01 to GY03), a Late Iron Age or Historical Site and remains from the Recent Past in the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Area. The coordinates of these heritage resources have been tabulated and their levels of significance have been determined according to various criteria (Table 1).

The Informal Graveyards (GY01 to GY03) can be considered to be of outstanding significance. These graveyards will be impacted by the proposed new industrial development. It is recommended that the deceased be exhumed and that the graveyards be relocated. This work must be done by forensic archaeologists who will acquire all the necessary permits for the exhumation of the graves and the relocation of the graveyards. Various laws, provincial regulations and administrative procedures regulate this activity. Contact details for forensic archaeologists are: Mr. Coen Nienaber, Dept of Anatomy, University of Pretoria (tel. 0123192244).

The remains dating from the Recent Past can not be considered to be of significance and the developer needs not to acquire a permit from SAHRA for the demolishing of these remains.

The Late Iron or Historical site can only be demolished after SAHRA has issued a permit which allows for the destruction of this site. It is recommended that the developer approach an archaeologist accredited with ASAPA to apply for this permit and to supervise the demolishing of this site. If (limited) human remains are exposed when the settlement are destroyed the permit would allow for the removal of these remains. This would prevent that the development has to be stopped in order to apply for the necessary permit to excavate the human remains.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological research has been conducted in the Steelpoort Valley that covers parts of the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces of South Africa during the last ten years. This research mostly consists of surveys of mining areas and a limited number of excavations of Iron Age sites. The Steelpoort Valley has an exceptionally rich heritage, consisting of remains dating from both the pre-historical period (Stone Age and Iron Age) and the colonial periods (Late Iron Age and Historical Period) of South Africa. These pre-historical and historical remains include:

- Stone Age sites which may be associated with the San people and which date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- Early Iron Age sites occupied by Bantu-Negroid agriculturists and possibly cattle herders which date back 1 500 years;
- Late Iron Age sites dating from the last 500 years;
- remains dating from the previous century when the first Immigrant Boers settled at Lydenburg, Ohrigstad and Burgersfort from the late 1830's onwards;
- battle fields such as those where the British and Pedi's clashed during the battle of Sekhukhuneland (1879);
- block houses built by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1900) on mountain ranges;
- numerous old mining shafts and mining remains that can be related to the earliest discovery of platinum in the Steelpoort Valley by Dr Hans Merensky and other geologists in the 1927's; and

- numerous Pedi capitals (*mešate*) such as those of Sekwati, Thulare and Sekhukhune in the Steelpoort Valley, etc.

The heritage resources of the Mpumalanga Province therefore constitute a rich and diversified range of the national estate as outlined in Sec 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (see Box 1, next page).

**Box 1: Types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999).**

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) outlines the following types and ranges of 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 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, photographs, positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resources 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 organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa



## 2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential and the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial development projects involves the establishment of a residential area to the north of the Burgersfort-Polokwane national road (Road 37) and the development of an industrial area to the south of this road (Figure 1).

These development projects may affect some of the types and ranges of heritage resources (national estate) that are outline in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). Consequently, Landscape Dynamics commissioned the author of this report to undertake a Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study to determine whether the two development projects may impact on any of the types and ranges of heritage resources that are outline in Box 1. The aims with the HIA are:

- to establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) occur within the perimeters of the Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Area or in the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Area and, if so;
- to determine the level (or degree) of significance of these heritage resources; and
- to make recommendations regarding the mitigation or the conservation of these heritage resources if they are to be affected by the proposed new development projects.

### **3 THE PROJECT AREA, METHODOLOGY AND TERMINOLOGY**

#### **3.1 The project areas**

The proposed Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Area and the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Area are located to the north and to the south of the national road (Road 37) that runs from Burgersfort (in the east) to Polokwane (in the west). The study area is located on the western outskirts of the town of Burgersfort in the Steelpoort Valley that covers parts of the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces of South Africa (Burgersfort 2430CB; 1:50 000).

The Steelpoort Valley's name is derived from the Steelpoort (Tubatse) River, one of the main geographical features in this valley. The Steelpoort River is a southern tributary of the Olifants River. It flows from an altitude higher than 1 800m on the Highveld near Wonderfontein in the Belfast district northwards and then north-eastwards to join the Olifants River before the latter cuts through the Drakensberg to enter the Lowveld. Other prominent beacons in the wider study area include the Chromite Hills to the north-east of the project area and the imposing Leolo Mountain range to the west of the project area. The Leolo Mountain range is known as a beacon in the origin history of the Pedi.

Formal and informal villages are scattered throughout the Steelpoort Valley which has been occupied without interruption for longer than fifteen centuries by communities that practising a mixed farming subsistence. Archaeological evidence has demonstrated that the so-called Early Iron Age Lydenburg Industrial Complex was well established in the Steelpoort Valley from AD 500 to 800.

### **3.2 Methodology**

The Phase I HIA study of the proposed new Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Area and the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Area entailed a survey of both project areas with a vehicle (where accessible routes existed) and on foot.

Archaeological data bases such as the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the National Flagship Institute (Museum Africa) in Pretoria was also consulted in order to establish if any heritage resources of significance have been recorded during earlier archaeological surveys in the wider study area.

The author of this report also has done several HIA studies close to the project areas thereby gaining an understanding of the types and ranges of heritage resources that may be found in the project area (see Part 7, 'Selected Bibliography').

### **3.3 Assumptions and limitations**

HIA surveys may not detect all heritage resources in any given study area. Some remains may simply be missed during surveys while others may lie below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once development commences.

### **3.4 Some remarks on terminology**

Terminologies that may be used in this report are briefly outlined in Box 2.



## Box 2. 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 No 25 of 1999) (See Box 1).

Heritage resources (cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are the 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 lifestyles 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 to the Lydenburg area by the first Colonists who settled in this area during the 1830's.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 observations alone, to distinguish 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 floor 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 distinguish 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 recognised and honoured whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age peoples lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Earlier Stone Age (3 million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years to 40 000 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the 19<sup>th</sup> century and can therefore include the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refer to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or the relatively recent past.

The term 'study area', or 'project area' refers to the area where the developer wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan).

Phase I studies refer to surveys using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in any given area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include the documenting of rock art, engraving or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavations of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of graveyards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialists and requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

## 4 CONTEXTUALISING THE PROJECT AREAS

### 4.1 The pre-historical and early historical period

A predominantly Northern Sotho-speaking population has occupied the Steelpoort area for centuries. These people are part of a larger Northern Sotho-speaking community who occupy a vast area between the Limpopo River in the north, the Drakensberg in the east and the Sekhukhune Mountains in the west. Although they share a common language and certain traditions and customs, these people have never shown an awareness of a national identity. Numerous divisions and groups or clans therefore occupy this vast region. The history of the people of this area can be divided into several periods:

The earliest period of settlement is characterized by small groups of Bantu people who started to drive the San and Khoi Khoi from the area and who are difficult to identify. From approximately c. AD 1700 ancestral groupings of the present inhabitants of the land began to arrive in the area. Groups that can be distinguished include:

- A large group of Sotho who came from the north-eastern parts of the Lowveld and who settled on the plateau to the north and to the south of the Strydpoortberge.
- Smaller groups of Sotho of Kgatla and Huruthshe-Kwena origin who moved from the Tswana area (Brits and Rustenburg) into the territory. Amongst them were the present Pedi (or Rota) who moved into what is now Sekhukhuneland, where they subjected the Sotho already living there.
- During these times Sekhukhuneland was also penetrated by Sotho arriving from the south-east.
- During the period after c. AD 1600 the Northern Ndebele arrived from the south-east and settled in what is now the Mokerong district.



It is assumed that during the period from c. AD 1700 to AD 1826 the Pedi took political control over the territory previously known as Lebowa, but to the south of the Strydpoortberge. The Pedi chiefdom reached its zenith during the reign of Thulare who died in 1824.

During the disruption of the *difaqane* (c. 1822 to 1828) Mzilikazi attacked the Pedi from the south-east in 1826 and in 1827/1828. This caused large-scale depopulation of the southern part of the Northern Sotho territory. The Pedi sought refuge in the Soutpansberg in 1822 and only returned in 1828.

After the wars with Mzilikazi there were wars with the Swazi. The Voortrekkers arrived in the Steelpoort area in the late 1840's. Several armed struggles between the Voortrekkers and the Pedi ensued.

After the British annexed the Transvaal (1877 to 1881) the Pedi was subjugated by the British who were supported by the Swazi during the war of Sekhukhune in 1879 (see more detail below).

In 1842 Andries Hendrik Potgieter wished to move from the British sphere of influence and to establish trade relations with Delagoa Bay. He moved with his followers from Potchefstroom to the Eastern Transvaal and founded Andries Ohrigstad (named after himself and Gergios Gerhardus Ohrig, a merchant from Amsterdam who was well disposed towards the Voortrekkers). The name was later abbreviated to Ohrigstad. The town also served as the seat of the Volksraad.

During 1848 to 1849 Ohrigstad was abandoned when many people died of malaria. The town of Lydenburg was founded further to the south near the confluence of the Sterkspruit and the Spekboom River. This area was located on higher ground and was therefore healthier than Ohrigstad.

The railway line between Steelpoort and Lydenburg was constructed in 1924 due to an increase in the mining of chrome and magnetite. The name Steelpoort is derived from a hunting expedition that took place either in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. When a group of Voortrekkers from Natal under Frans Joubert had settled there, a man called Scholtz shot an elephant at dusk and on returning next morning found that the tusks had been removed. When the wagons were searched, the tusks were found in the possession of a man called Botha, after which the farm Bothashoek was named. Because an elephant had been killed there, the poort was named Olifantspoort. The river flowing through the poort was called Steelpoort River ('steel' meaning steal).

#### **4.2 The historical period**

The Pedi were governed by Thulware until his death in 1824. His main village was Manganeng on the banks of the Tubatse River. His son, Sekwati, fled to the Soutpansberg in the north during the raids of Mzilikazi in 1822. He returned in 1828 and occupied the mountain fortress Phiring, his capital from where he united the Pedi.

The Pedi initially maintained good relations with the Voortrekkers who arrived in Ohrigstad from 1845. However, after a clash with Andries Hendrik Potgieter in 1852 Sekwati moved his capital to Thaba ya Mosego. Border disputes with the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) were settled in 1857 with an accord that stated that the Steelpoort River served as the border between Pedi land and the Lydenburg Republic.

Sekwati gave the Berlin Missionary Society permission to establish the Maandagshoek missionary station in Pediland. After Sekwati's death in 1861, his son Sekhukhune succeeded his father and also established his village at Thaba Mosego. He ordered the Berlin Missionary Society to discontinue their work and the mission station was burn down. Alexander Merensky, one of the

missionaries, thereafter established the well-known Botšabelo missionary station at Middelburg.

The good relationship between the ZAR and the Pedi was gradually weakened. The period from 1876 to 1879 was one of conflict and war, first with the ZAR and then with the British who annexed the Transvaal in 1877. During the First Sekhukhune War in August 1876, the Voortrekkers attacked Thaba Mosego and partly destroyed the settlement.

The Second Sekhukhune War followed in November 1879 during which Sekhukhune was captured in the Mamatamageng cave and sent to prison in Pretoria. Two divisions attacked the Pedi. The main division, comprised of 3 000 whites and 2 500 black allies, attacked from the north-east. The Lydenburg division consist of 5 000 to 8 000 Swazi impis, 400 other black allies and 400 white soldiers who attacked from Burgersfort in the south. The Second Sekhukhune War is associated with the settlements of Thaba Mosego and Tšate, a new village established by Sekhukhune close to Thaba Mosego.

#### **4.3 Historical beacons near the project area**

Several important historical beacons are located in the Leolo Mountain range, in the peripheral area outside the project area, namely:

- The mountain Thaba Mosego is part of the Leolo Mountain range. It was here that the British and their allies subjugated the Pedi of Sekhukhune in 1879 during the Battle of Sekhukhune. The Sekhukhune Wars of 1876 and 1879 were both fought near/on this mountain (and in the Leolo Mountain range) where the Pedi chiefs Sekwati and Sekhukhune also established their mountain fortresses.
- One of the main Pedi villages (*mošate*) during this war, namely Tšatse, is also located along the western foot of the Leolo Mountains range.



- The missionary station known as Maandagshoek (or Ratagou) was established in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century on Maandagshoek, to the west of the project area.
- Two mountains in the Leolo Mountain chain are known as 'Modimolle'. The name 'modimolle' implies that these mountains are sacred places. It is possible that Pedi chiefs (and possibly their wives as well) were buried near one or both of these mountains. (These mountains are probably still sacred places nowadays). The spirits of deceased chiefs (*badimo*) are venerated at these places and sacrifices are made annually at such places.
- The mountain Monganeng on Winterveld 293KT may be where Thulare one of the greatest Pedi chiefs of all time lived during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The remains of his villages may be located near the Tubatse (Steelpoort) River. Names such as 'Badimo' and 'Badimong' are recorded on a mountain close to Monganeng. These names refer to forefathers ('badimo') and the place of the forefathers ('badimong') and therefore possibly to important settlements and graveyards that have important significance in the origin history of the Pedi.

**Figure 1: The proposed Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Area and the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Area are located to the north and to the south of the national road (Road 37) that runs from Burgersfort (in the east) to Polokwane (in the west). The study area is located on the western outskirts of the town of Burgersfort in the Steelpoort Valley that covers parts of the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces of South Africa.**



## **5 THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY**

The HIA study of the Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Area and the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Area is now briefly discussed and illuminated with photographs.

### **5.1 The Burgersfort Extension 30 Residential Project Area**

The Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Project Area is covered with grape vines, orchards and agricultural fields. There is barely any piece of land in this project area which has not been disturbed by agricultural activities.

#### **5.1.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources in the Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Project Area**

None of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) were observed in the Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential Project Area.

### **5.2 The Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Project Area**

The Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Project Area is composed of two pieces of land, namely:

- a piece of land located to the north of the Steelpoort-Burgerspoort road (Road 555) referred to as the Northern Industrial Project Area; and
- a second larger piece of land situated to the south of this road referred to as the Southern Industrial Project Area.

The HIA survey in these two areas revealed the following:

### **5.2.1 The Northern Industrial Project Area**

A substantial part of the Northern Industrial Project Area is currently being used by light industries such as Johnson' Crane Hire, a pre-concrete mix venture and a vehicle repair shop. Other infrastructure, structures and features on this piece of land include:

- Two residential houses with a limited number of outbuildings. (Both have no historical significance).
- A few squatter dwellings – one in a demolished state.
- Heaps of soil, tar and building rubble.
- Two large corrugated zink structures – one incomplete.
- A few cement and brick buildings with no historical significance.

The central part of the Northern Industrial Area has been ploughed while a soil dam was constructed near the low rising ridge in the south.

Only the north-western fringe (southern bank of the Steelpoort River) and the southern rim (low rising ridge) in the Northern Industrial Project Area are still in a pristine condition.

#### **5.2.1.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources in the Burgersfort Ext 31 Northern Industrial Project Area**

No heritage resources of significance were observed in the Northern Industrial Project Area.

### **5.2.2 The Southern Industrial Project Area**

The northern part of the Southern Industrial Project Area is currently occupied by a number of squatters who have erected temporary shacks on this part of the project area. Dirt roads, footpaths, randomly scattered rubbish dumps and borrow pits from

where soil (mud) was collected have disturbed the pristine nature of this part of the project area.

The southern part of the Southern Industrial Project Area is still in pristine condition - except for a strip of land that has been cleared from trees which have been used as firewood.

#### **5.2.2.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources in the Burgersfort Ext 31 Southern Industrial Project Area**

The HIA survey revealed the following the following types and ranges of heritage resources in the Southern Industrial Project Area:

##### **5.2.2.1.1 Informal graveyards**

Three informal graveyards were discovered in the northern part of the Southern Industrial Project Area, namely:

###### Graveyard 01 (GY01)

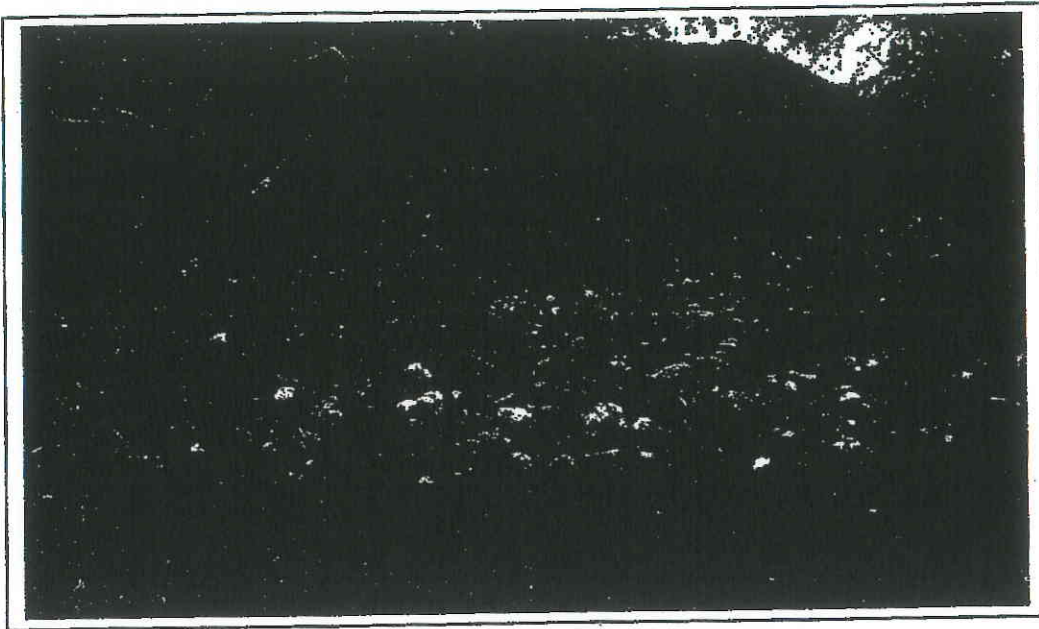
This graveyard contains approximately forty graves, the majority of which are covered with stone piles (Figure 2).

According to Mr. John Matladi who lives near the graveyard, several members of his family (Matladi) were buried in the cemetery.

Only one grave in the cemetery has a tombstone with the following inscription:

'Magdalena Lorozimba Nkosi, U Bube 1958'

Figure 2- GY01 contains at least 40 graves - the majority of which are covered with piles of stone (below).



#### Graveyard 02

This graveyard is limited to three graves: all covered with stone piles (Figure 3). According to Mr. John Moloto who lives in a shack next to the graveyard one of the deceased was known by the surname 'Mkhondo'.

It seems as if the relatives of the other deceased may have moved to Johannesburg.



Figure 3- GY02 consists of three graves. The relatives of the deceased may have moved to Johannesburg (below).



#### Graveyard 03

It seems as if this graveyard is associated with the Mnisi family as some of the tomb stones on the graves contain this inscription.

At least thirteen graves were distinguished in this graveyard. The majority are covered with stone piles. Two graves are fitted with narrow granite slabs and edged with cement. These graves are also fitted with granite tomb stones with the following inscriptions:

'Johannes Mnisi, Waz 14-02-1895, Was 24-05-1984, Ps 23, Etle Hirhula Nkosa'

'David Mnisi, Obel 01-09-1963, Ohlo 26-12-1990, Ps 23'



#### **5.2.2.1.2 Late Iron Age or Historical Site**

The remains of low stone walls exist in the northern part of the Southern Industrial Project Area. These walls were built with small stones which have collapsed. The part of the site closest to the squatters living in the project area has been extensively disturbed by the squatters living near this settlement.

The walls of the site that have not been disturbed are covered with low shrubs and thorn trees that prevent the site from being thoroughly investigated. However, no archaeological material (potsherds, clay nodules, middens) were observed in association with the stone walls. Nor can any clear ground plan be distinguished for the site.

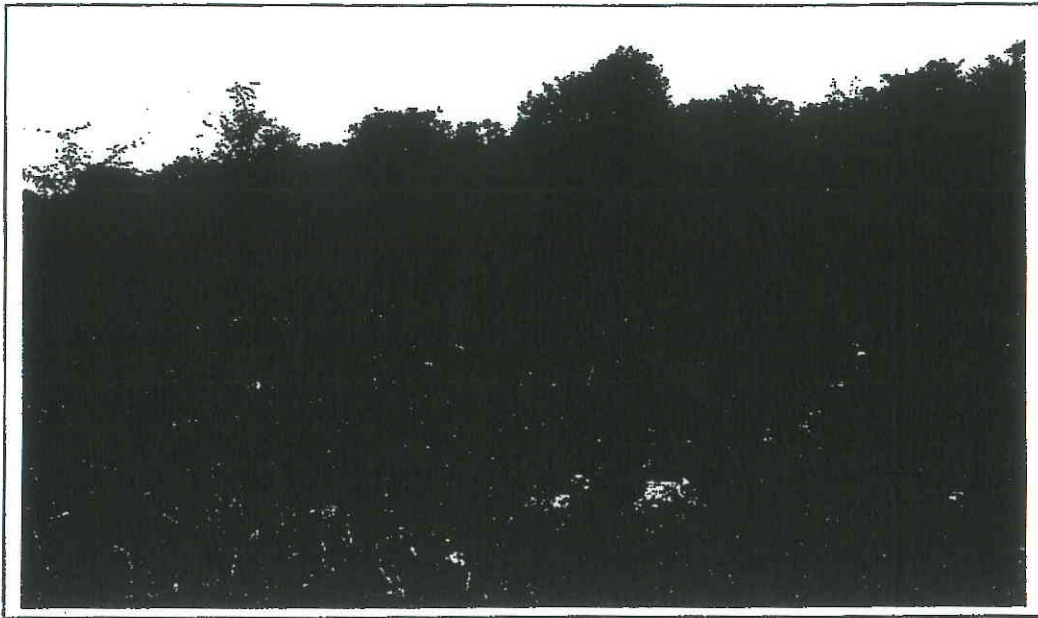
It is possible that this stone walled site may date from the Late Iron Age or from the Historical period.

#### **5.2.2.1.3 Remains from the Recent Past**

Several dilapidated ruins of dwellings constructed with limestone and mud occurs in the southern part of the Southern Industrial Project Area. This small village is associated with GY03.

These dwellings were square buildings with two or more rooms constructed around a central 'stoep' (stoop). These dwellings date from the recent past.

**Figure 5- Dwellings built with limestone and mud that date from the recent past (below).**



## **6 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES**

The following types and ranges of heritage resources were discovered in the project area:

- Three informal graveyards (GY01 to GY03).
- A possible Late Iron Age or Historical site.
- Remains from the Recent Past (informal dwellings).

### **6.1 Rating the significance of the heritage resources**

The significance of the heritage resources can be rated as follows:

#### **6.1.1 The Informal graveyards**

All graves qualify as being of outstanding significance (Table 1).

#### **6.1.2 The Late Iron Age or Historical Site**

The stone walled site does not qualify as a significant site when considering criteria such as those outlined in Table 1. The site has been disturbed by the squatters living in the informal settlement in the northern part of the Southern Industrial Project Area; the site has little if any visible archaeological material such as deposits (middens with potsherds and other material) that can be researched; many of these types of stone walled sites abound in the Steelpoort Valley so that this particular site is not unique; nor has the site any pleasing aesthetic appearance.

### **6.1.3 The remains from the Recent Past**

The ruins of dwellings that were built with limestone and mud date from the recent past. These dwellings have no historical or cultural significance as many thousands of these types of dwellings are still occupied by South Africans today (Table 1).

## **6.2 Possible impact on the heritage resources**

### **6.1.1 The informal graveyards**

The graveyards will be affected (destroyed) by the industrial development if they are not preserved (for posterity) in the proposed new industrial area. All graves and graveyards are protected by various laws and provincial regulations.

The graveyards therefore have to be exhumed and relocated before the development commences if they could not be preserved within the boundaries of the new industrial area.

### **6.1.2 The Late Iron Age or Historical Site**

The Late Iron Age or Historical Site will be destroyed by the proposed new residential development project. However, the developer must approach an archaeologist to obtain a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) before the site may be destroyed. The permit will prevent that the development may be stopped when human remains are exposed when the site is demolished.

### **6.1.3 The remains from the Recent Past**

The remains from the recent past will be destroyed by the proposed new industrial development. However, these remains have no significance and can be destroyed by the developer without acquiring a permit from SAHRA.



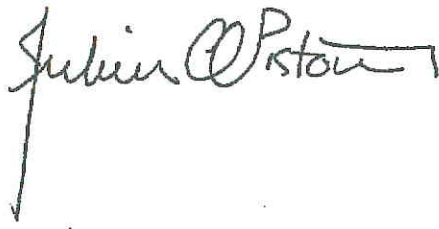
## 7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The HIA study of the Burgersfort Ext 30 Residential and the Burgersfort Ext 31 Industrial Areas revealed the presence of three Graveyards (GY01 to GY03), a possible Late Iron Age or Historical Site and remains from the Recent Past.

The Informal Graveyards (GY01 to GY06) can be considered to be of outstanding significance. These graveyards will be impacted by the proposed new industrial development. It is recommended that the deceased be exhumed and that the graveyards be relocated. This work must be done by forensic archaeologists who will acquire all the necessary permits for the exhumation of the graves and the relocation of the graveyards. Various laws, provincial regulations and administrative procedures regulate this activity. Contact details for forensic archaeologists are: Mr. Coen Nienaber, Dept of Anatomy, University of Pretoria (tel. 012 3192244).

The remains dating from the Recent Past can not be considered to be of significance and the developer needs not to acquire a permit from SAHRA for the demolishing of these remains.

The Late Iron Age or Historical site can only be demolished after SAHRA has issued a permit which allows for the destruction of this site. It is recommended that the developer approach an archaeologist to apply for this permit and to supervise the demolishing of this site. If (limited) human remains are exposed when the settlement are destroyed the permit would allow for the removal of these remains. This would prevent that the development has to be stopped in order to apply for the necessary permit to excavate the human remains.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julius CC Pistorius'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the end.

**DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS**  
**Archaeologist &**  
**Heritage Management Consultant**  
**Member ASAPA**

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	Ideological/symbolic significance	Aesthetic significance	Unique	Cultural Historical significance	State of preservation	Research Value
Graveyard 01 24° 39,999"S; 30° 18,386" E						
Graveyard 02 24° 40,026"S; 30° 18,344" E						
Graveyard 03 24° 40,027"S; 30° 18' 343" E						
Possible Late Iron Age site	1	1	1	2	1	1
Remains from Recent Past	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Table 1. Different levels of significance distinguished for the Graveyards (GY01 to GY03); possible Late Iron Age or Historical site and for the remains from the Recent Past.**

1= low significance

2= medium significance

3=high significance



