9 DISCUSSION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS

9.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the various archaeological artefacts recorded as a result of the archaeological mitigation. The archaeological artefacts recovered from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1 will be discussed first, subsequent to which the archaeological artefacts from site TCHR 3 will be discussed.

As indicated above, site TCHR 2 was found to be completely destroyed and already integrated into the development when the fieldwork team arrived on site for the archaeological excavations.

9.2 Archaeological Artefacts from site TCHR 1

9.2.1 Pottery

9.2.1.1 General Discussion

The relatively small number of potsherds coupled with the completely disturbed nature of the site meant that no formal analysis of the ceramics was possible.

A total of 134 potsherds were recovered during the archaeological mitigation of site TCHR 1. Decorated pieces and decorated rims account for 23.88% (n=32) of these potsherds. Interestingly, while eight decorated rims were recovered, no undecorated rims could be identified.

Two occupations associated with two ceramic facies could be identified at site TCHR 3. In contrast, the pottery recovered from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1 suggest that only one ceramic facies is associated with the archaeological material from this site, namely the Kgopolwe ceramic facies (AD 1030 – AD 1350). Decorative motifs such as herringbone and bordered bands comprising oblique incisions on the necks and shoulders of the ceramic vessels dominate the collection. In fact, all decoration was made using incisions. Despite the fact that eight decorated rims were recovered, no undecorated rims were retrieved. This further underscores the association of the ceramics with Kgopolwe ceramic facies.

The photographs below depict examples of the decorated ceramics forming part of the archaeological collection recovered from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1.

Figure 1: This mended decorated rim fragment contains a bordered diagonal band of incisions on the neck and shoulder. These two pothserds were recovered from Soil Heap 2.

Figure 2: Two decorated rims recovered from Soil Heap 7. Note the four bands of herringbone incisions on the potsherd on the right.

9.2.1.2 Provenience

The provenience of all the pottery recovered from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1 is provided in the table below. Please note that only the soil heaps which contained pottery are included in this table.

Table 1 – Provenience of Pottery recovered from site TCHR 1

Provenience	Potsherds (n)	Decorated	Decorated Rim	Rim	Undecorated
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 1	14	6	-	-	8
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 2	41	2	4	-	35
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 5	14	2	-	-	12
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 7	22	2	-	-	20
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 9	2	-	-	-	2
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 11	12	5	2	-	5
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 13	5	1	1	-	3
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 18	15	4	1	-	10
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 19	2	-	-	-	2
TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 20	7	2	-	-	5
Totals	**Potsherds (n)**	**Decorated**	**Decorated Rim**	**Rim**	**Undecorated**
	134	**24**	**8**	**0**	**102**

9.2.2 Stone Artefacts

9.2.2.1 General Discussion

A total of three stone artefacts were identified during the archaeological mitigation of site TCHR 1. These were only comprised of upper grinders (n=3). As will be shown in the table below, two of the upper grinders were retrieved from Soil Heap 11 and the remaining upper grinder from Soil Heap 2.

All three upper grinders from site TCHR 1 are relatively small and contain multiple grinding surfaces. In fact, Stone Artefact 1 from Soil Heap 2 has a total of seven grinding surfaces. Stone Artefact 2 from

Soil Heap 11 has three grinding surfaces whereas Stone Artefact 3 from the same soil heap has three, possible four grinding surfaces. All three these stone artefacts contain peck marks on corners and ends, which seem to indicate that these stones were also used for hammering activities. It is also possible that at least some of these stones were also used for the burnishing of hut floors.

Table 2 – Provenience of Stone Artefacts recovered from site TCHR 1

Stone Artefact	**Provenience**	**Description**
Stone Artefact 1	TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 2	Small upper grinder
Stone Artefact 2	TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 11	Small upper grinder
Stone Artefact 3	TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 11	Small Upper grinder

Figure 3: One of the upper grinders recovered from Soil Heap 11.

9.2.3 Metal Artefacts

9.2.3.1 General Discussion

Only two metal artefacts were recovered from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1, both of which can be associated with the Iron Age.

An iron bangle was recovered from Soil Heap 2. The bangle was fashioned from a cylindrical iron rod that was bent into a circle. The diameter of the iron rod at its thickest point is 9 mm. The external diameter of the bangle is 94 mm.

An iron adze / axe was retrieved from Soil Heap 7. The length of the artefact is 97 mm, whereas the tang is 72 mm long. At its widest point the tang is 11 mm thick. The blade of the adze / axe has a crescent shape and measures 66 mm from the one point to the other. The edge of the blade is very blunt and measures approximately 5 mm in thickness.

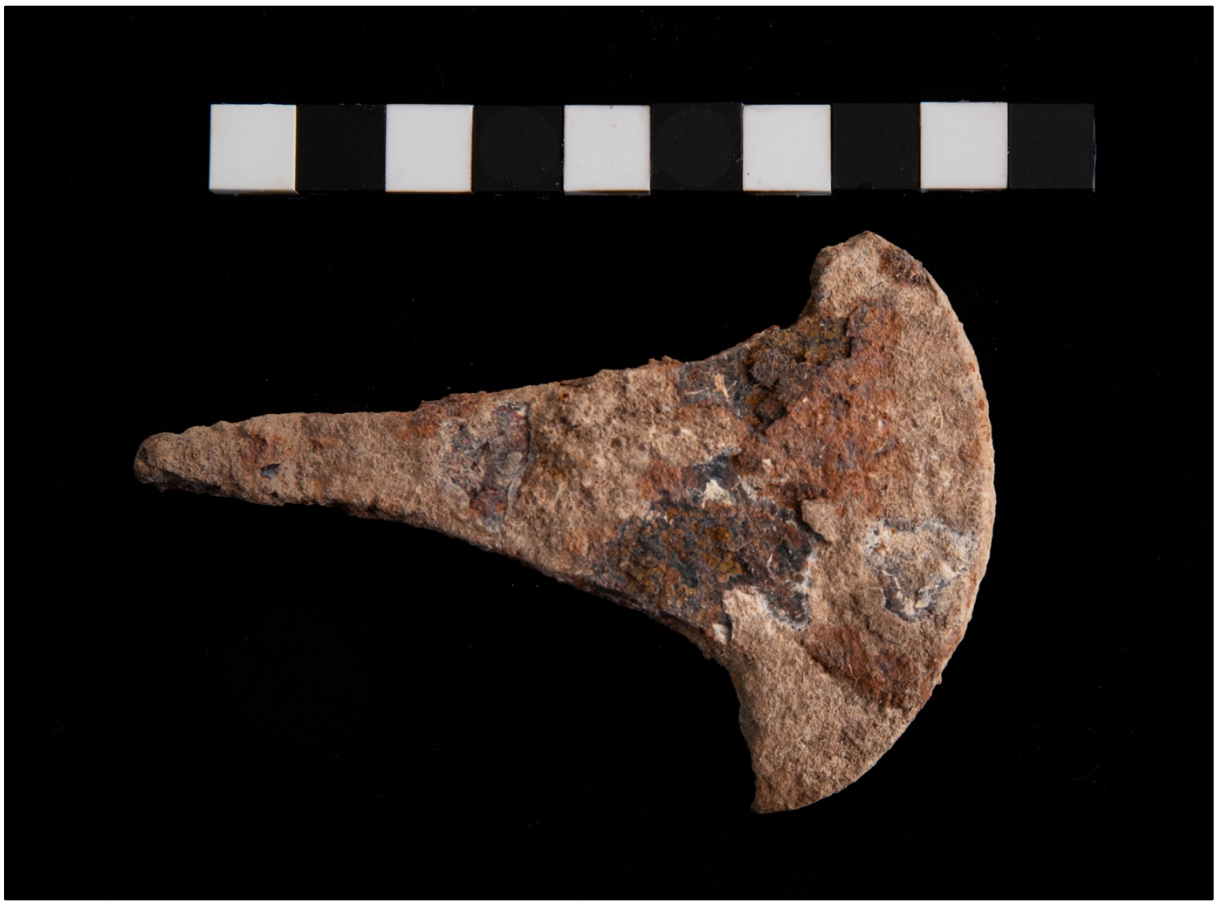

Figure 4: The iron axe / adze recovered from Soil Heap 7. The scale is in 1cm increments.

Figure 5: The iron bangle recovered from Soil Heap 2. The scale is in 1cm and 5cm increments.

9.2.3.2 Provenience

The provenience of the two metal artefacts recovered from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1 is shown in the table below.

Table 3 – Provenience of Metal Artefacts recovered from site TCHR 1

Metal Artefact	Provenience	Description	Dimensions
Metal Artefact 1	TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 2	Iron bangle	External Diameter: 94 mm Rod Diameter: 9 mm
Metal Artefact 2	TCHR 1 / Soil Heap 7	Iron adze / axe	Length: 97 mm Tang Length: 72 mm

9.3 Archaeological Artefacts from site TCHR 3

9.3.1 Pottery

9.3.1.1 General Discussion

The relatively small number of decorated or diagnostic potsherds coupled with the disturbed nature of the site meant that no formal analysis of the ceramics was possible.

A total of 324 potsherds were recovered during the archaeological mitigation of site TCHR 3. Decorated pieces and decorated rims account for only 8.64% (n=28) of these potsherds.

Despite the relative lack of potsherds recovered from undisturbed contexts, an attempt was made to mend the potsherds from units together. This attempt was achieved with limited success. For example, of the 140 potsherds from Block 1, a total of 21 (or 15%) could be mended. However, the highest number of potsherds that could be mended together into a single fragment was four. These 21 potsherds are made up of one mended fragment of four potsherds, two mended fragments of three potsherds each and six mended fragments of two potsherds each. Moreover, none of the mended fragments could be fitted together. This means that no complete, or even partially completed vessels could be reconstructed from the ceramics recovered from Block 1. This can likely be ascribed to the relatively undisturbed nature of this unit.

A comparatively higher level of success was achieved with the potsherds recovered from Feature 2. Of the 42 potsherds recovered from Feature 2, a total of 10 (or 23.81%) could be mended. The highest number of potsherds that could be mended together into a single fragment was four. In fact, the 10 potsherds that could be mended together from Feature 2 are made up of two mended fragments of four potsherds each and one mended fragment of two potsherds. None of these three mended fragments could be fitted together. This means that no complete or partially complete containers could be reconstructed from the ceramics recovered from Feature 2. This said, the one fragment reconstructed from four potsherds is from a relatively small pot that appears to have been used as a cooking pot. The second fragment constructed of four mended potsherds is from a large, thick-walled pot. The third fragment comprising two potsherds also appears to have formed part of this large pot. In fact, at least 15 potsherds from Feature 2 appear to have originated from the same large pot whereas at least seven potsherds from the same unit appear to have originated from the small cooking pot. This means that of the 42 potsherds recovered from Feature 2, a total of 22 potsherds (or 52.38%) are derived from only two pots. These 22 potsherds are all undecorated. If one assumes that at least

some of the five decorated rims and one decorated potsherds originated from these two pots, this percentage would even be higher.

During the excavation of the collapsed oval stone enclosure at Block 4, a total of three undecorated potsherds and two undecorated rims were recovered at a depth of approximately 100 mm below the surface. While all five undecorated potsherds are derived from the same container, the two rim sherds and a third undecorated potsherd could be mended together. The mended fragment indicates that these five potsherds were derived from a vessel not dissimilar to the Type 7 of Collet (1981), namely an undecorated narrow mouthed pot.

Figure 6: Mended fragment comprising four undecorated ceramics from Block 1. This mended fragment appears to have formed part of a small cooking pot.

Figure 7: Mended fragment comprising four undecorated ceramics from Feature 2. This mended fragment appears to have formed part of a large pot.

Figure 8: Mended fragment comprising three undecorated ceramics from Block 4. This mended fragment appears to have formed part of an undecorated narrow mouthed pot.

As indicated above, decorated pieces and decorated rims account for only 8.64% (n=28) of the 324 potsherds recovered from site TCHR 3. The percentage of decorated potsherds are even less in some sections of the site. For example, out of a total of 140 potsherds from Block 1, only four potsherds (2.86%) contain decoration. The percentage of decorated potsherds from other sections are comparatively much higher. Out of a total of 54 potsherds from the soil heap at Feature 1, as many as 12 potsherds (22.22%) are decorated pieces and decorated rims.

The existence of two occupations of site TCHR 3 has already been evident with the identification of a cow dung layer under the stonewall in the northern profile of Block 2. The remarkably different frequencies of decoration identified from different sections of the site as indicated above, also suggest that two different ceramic facies are present. These two ceramic facies were also distinguishable when assessing the decoration motifs and ceramic styles from the ceramic assemblage from TCHR 3. These identified facies will be individually discussed below.

Kgopolwe Facies

The first ceramic facies to be identified in the ceramic assemblage from site TCHR 3 comprises decorative motifs such as herringbone incisions, bordered and unbordered bands of diagonal incisions and parallel cross-hatched bands primarily on the neck, with some decoration on the rim and shoulder alslo seen. These potsherds can all be associated with the Kgopolwe ceramic facies (AD 1030 – AD 1350). Interestingly, the decorated pottery recovered from the screening of the soil heaps at site TCHR 1 are exclusively associated with the Kgopolwe facies. The mine indicated that these soil heaps were mechanically excavated from an area named site TCHR 2, which is located approximately 400 m north of site TCHR 3. It seems likely for the suggested Kgopolwe occupation of site TCHR 2 to have been directly associated with the Kgopolwe occupation of site TCHR 3.

Decorated potsherds containing motifs associated with the Kgopolwe facies were exclusively retrieved from the soil heap at Feature 1, where eight decorated fragments and four decorated rims can all be associated with this facies. The dominant decorative motif observed on the potsherds from this unit are herringbone incisions, which were observed on 75% of the potsherds. Similarly, two decorated fragments and one decorated rim from the surface collection of Feature 1 can all be associated with this facies. From this it seems likely that the entire Feature 1 was associated with the Kgopolwe facies. According to information provided by the mine, the soil from Feature 1 was excavated from the area where Block 1 is located. No evidence for Kgopolwe ceramics could be observed in this unit.

The same motifs associated the Kgopolwe facies were almost exclusively observed in the decorated ceramics from the soil heap at Feature 2. One decorated fragment and five decorated rims can all be associated with this facies. The association of one undecorated rim with this facies is not absolutely certain, but likely. Again, one of the decorated potsherds contains herringbone incisions, whereas decorative motifs such bordered and unbordered bands of diagonal incisions on the neck and rim and a single row of stamping on the shoulder were also observed. Examples of this ceramic facies associated with Feature 2 also include two elaborately decorated bowl fragments. In contrast, of three rim fragments and two decorated potsherds retrieved from the surface of Feature 2, where the context and association of with the soil heap is less certain, only one decorated potsherd could be associated with the Kgopolwe facies. None of the three rim fragments from the surface of Feature 2 have decoration on the rim, neck or shoulder, but appear to be better associated with the second ceramic facies discussed below, namely Marateng.

Figure 9: These highly decorative potsherds can be identified as Kgopolwe pottery. These two potsherds were recovered from the soil heap at Feature 1.

Figure 10: Decorated ceramics that can all be identified as Kgopolwe pottery. All the potsherds visible in this photograph were recovered from the soil heap at Feature 1.

The Kgopolwe ceramic facies was first identified during archaeological research undertaken between 1970 and 1973 at several sites around Phalaborwa (Evers & Van der Merwe, 1987). These excavated sites included open sites on topographically flat portions of land at the bases of koppies, settlements on lower terraced slopes of koppies and sites where mining and smelting activities took place (Evers & Van der Merwe, 1987).

Two open village sites were excavated at the bases of Kgopolwe and Nagome Hills (Evers & Van der Merwe, 1987). During Van der Merwe's excavations he identified two terraced sites near Kgopolwe Hill, namely Kgopolwe 1 (SPK 1) and Kgopolwe 2 (SPK2), which dated to the period between the 17th and 19th centuries (van der Merwe 1971). A boundary wall with a central opening was identified south of the hill. The houses excavated at sites SPK1 and SPK2 were located on separate terraces. In each case, a house with a central fire area made up the greater part of the terrace area. Slag was found in the terrace fill (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987).

A third site, Kgopolwe 3 (SPK3), dating to between AD 950 and AD 1150, was excavated at the foot of the hill on its northern side (Van der Merwe & Scully 1977). Several furnaces located in a terrace were identified to the side and behind SPK3 (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987). House floors, ash middens and a male burial were excavated at site SPK3, providing evidence of a domestic context which have also

been associated with metalworking (Moffett, 2016). This first set of house floors were dated to AD 1230 + 45 (Pta-338). During prior excavations undertaken in 1965 just to the east, two more floor levels were found. The lower floor level was dated to AD 990 + 80 (Y-1638) and AD 1040 + 60 (Y-1637), and the upper house floor was dated to AD 1130 + 80 (Y-1662) (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987). The dates for the lower floor level suggested two occupations at the site, with a slight gap between the two settlement dates (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987). Ceramics found at the site also provided details about the occupation of the site. Through analyses of the ceramics excavated at site SPK3, it was determined that they represent what was believed to be a variation of the Eiland ceramic facies (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987; Loubser 1991; Antonites 2013).

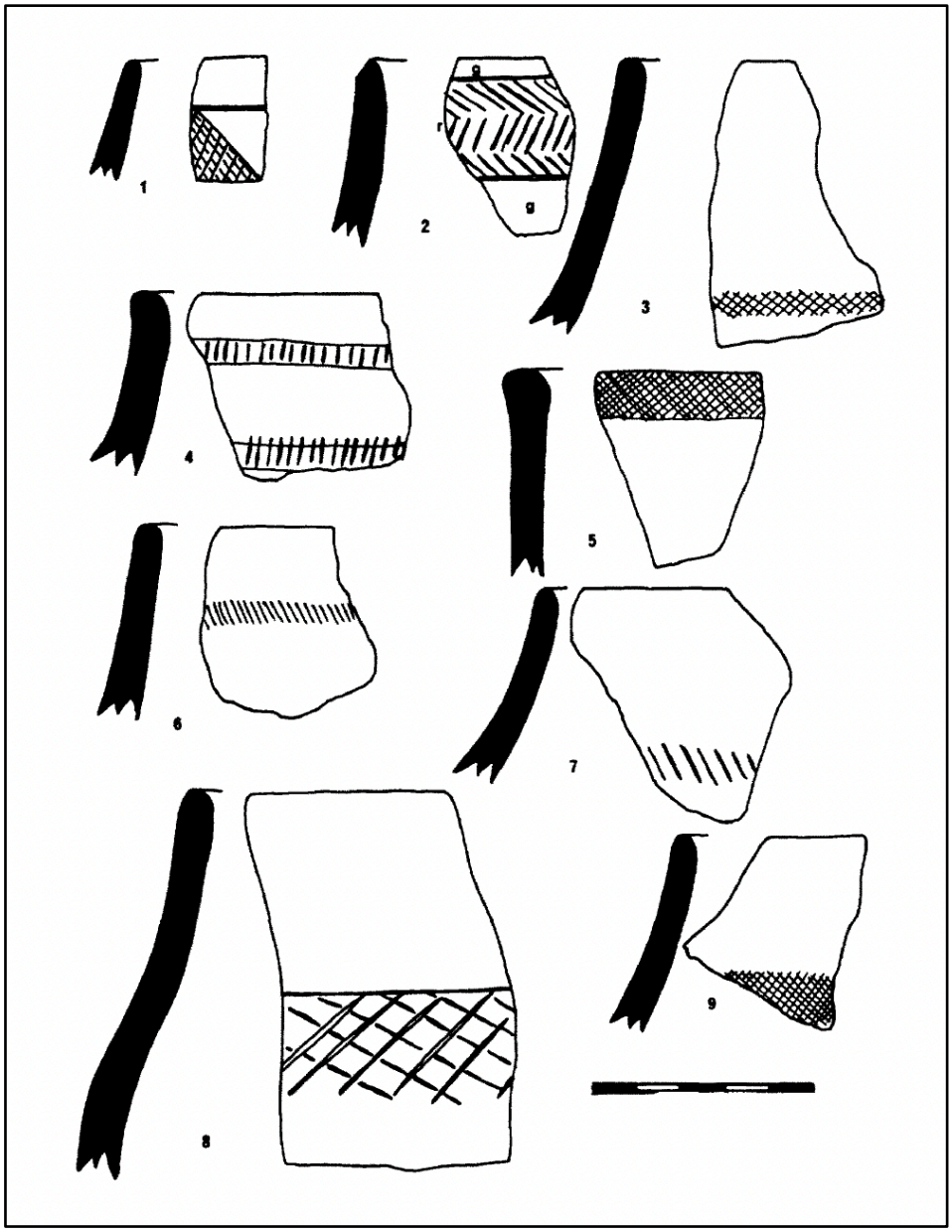

Figure 11: Sample of Kgopolwe ceramics from SPK3 (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987:97).

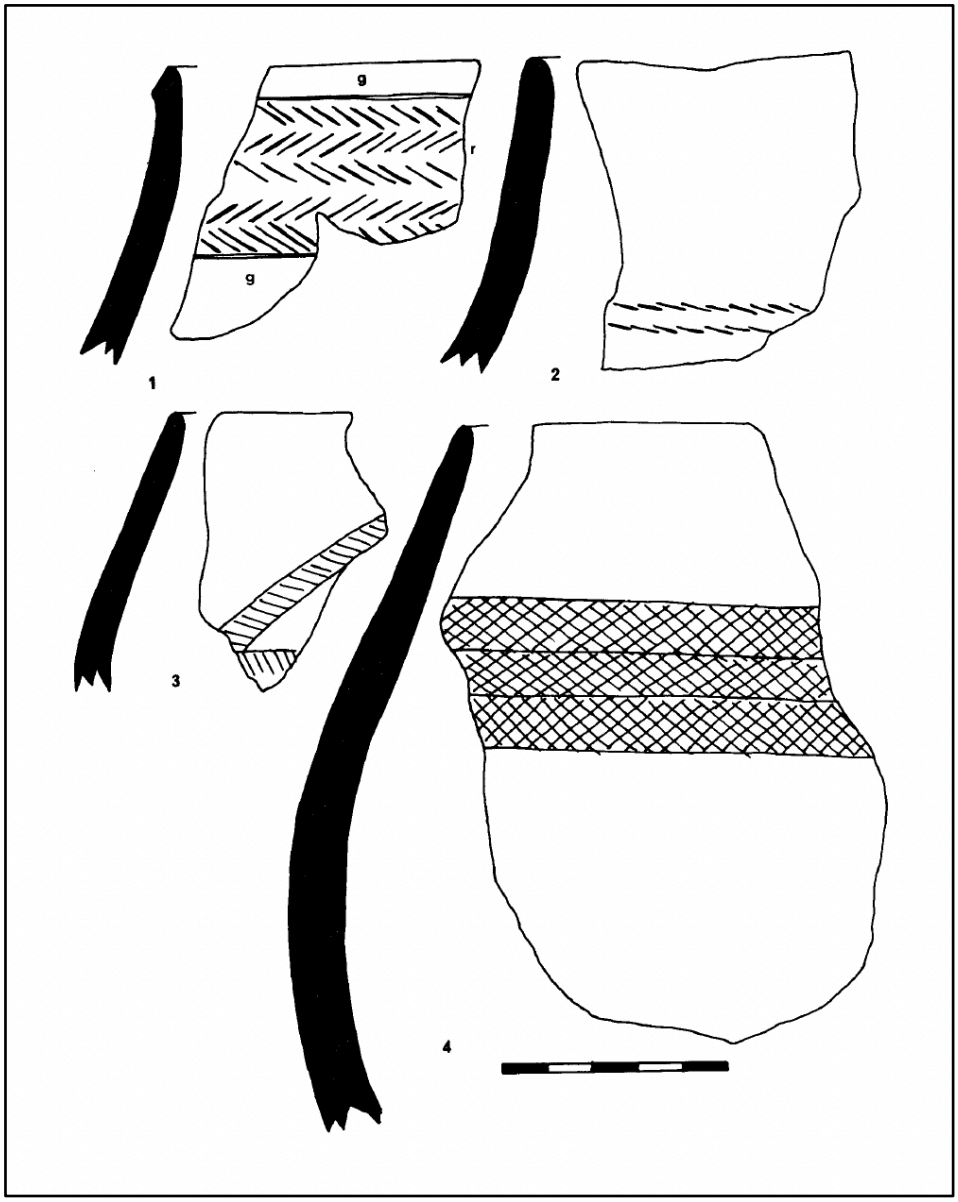

Figure 12: Sample of Kgopolwe ceramics from MN3 (Evers & Van der Merwe 1987:97).

The ceramics, now called Kgopolwe, were different to Eiland type ceramics previously found at Eiland saltworks, Bambo Hill, and Ficus (Evers 1981; Loubser 1981; Moore 1981; Klapwijk & Evers 1987; Evers & Van der Merwe 1987). Stylistically there are similarities between the Kgopolwe facies and the Eiland facies, as the share same jar and bowl shapes, as well as single and multiple bands of decoration and rows of triangles. However, Kgopolwe ceramics lack grouped bands and arcades type decoration (Antonites, 2013). According to Huffman (2007), Kgopolwe ceramic facies belong to the Happy Rest Sub-branch of the Kalundu Tradition and most likely dates to between AD 1030 and AD 1350, falling into the Middle Iron Age (MIA) of Southern Africa. Kgopolwe is an Eiland-like ceramic facies and a Lowveld variant. It is characterised by cross-hatched bands on the upper shoulder and bowl rims (Huffman, 2007. According to Huffman (2007), Kgopolwe ceramics derived from the Malapati facies

(AD 750–AD 1030) which is found near Musina in the Limpopo Province and also in southern Zimbabwe. The Malapati facies, in turn, is derived from Happy Rest (AD 500– AD 750), which have been found near Polokwane, Musina and also towards the Tswapong Hills in Botswana (Huffman, 2007). In South Africa, Kgopolwe ceramics have been found at several other Lowveld sites, including Nagome hill, Kal hill and Masorini around the Phalaborwa area (Evers & Van der Merwe, 1987).

Marateng Facies

The second ceramic style that can be distinguished at TCHR 3 comprises a group of potsherds that are clearly of much later age than the Kgopolwe ceramics, and certainly associated with the Late Iron Age. This group includes a number of rim pieces that contain no decoration on the rim, neck and shoulder (on fragments where the shoulders are also intact). Additionally, at least one fragment showing incised arcades were also identified. Furthermore, rim and neck fragments of short-necked globular bowls, some with punctates just below the rim, were also observed. All these potsherds can be associated with the so-called Marateng ceramic facies (AD 1650 – AD 1840), which is associated with the Late Iron Age (LIA) of Southern Africa.

The excavation of Block 1 revealed a total of nine rim pieces. Not a single one of the potsherds contain decoration on the rim or neck. Shoulders are also visible on three of these rim fragments, and no decoration could also be observed on the shoulder areas of this pottery. All these potsherds can be associated with the Marateng facies. Additionaly, of the two decorated fragments from this same unit, one contains incised arcades that are also typical of the Marateng facies. The other decorated fragment contains incised decorative motifs that can not for certain be associated with the Marateng facies, and may in fact reflect Kgopolwe-type decoration.

At Block 1 / Feature 3 two rims were recovered. The rims are from two different vessels, with the one containing no decoration and the other punctates just below the rim. These fragments are both from short-necked globular bowls. Both the short-necked globular bowls and the presence of punctates under the rim are characteristics of Marateng pottery.

On the surface of Feature 2, three rim fragments and two decorated potsherds were retrieved. None of the three rim fragments contain any decoration on the rim, neck or shoulder and can be associated with the Marateng facies. This said, at least one of the two decorated fragments can certainly be associated with the Kgopolwe facies.

Figure 13: With the exception of the potsherd located in the top row on the right, these potsherds from Block 1 can all be associated with the Marateng facies. The decorated potsherd depicted in the second row contains a section of incised arcades, which is typical of the Marateng facies.

Figure 14: These two potsherds were retrieved from Block 1 / Feature 3 and can both be associated with the Marateng facies. Note the punctates visible just below the rim of the potsherd on the right.

Figure 15: Four of these potsherds from the surface of Feature 2 can be associated with the Marateng ceramic facies. The decorated potsherd at the bottom right has cross-hatched bands typical of the Kgopolwe facies.

The excavation of the collapsed oval stone structure at Block 4 resulted in the recovery of five undecorated potsherds. Two of these potsherds represent undecorated rims, and could be mended with a third undecorated potsherd from the unit. The mended fragments indicate that these five potsherds were derived from what Collett (1982) referred to as an open mouthed narrow pot. These potsherds can also be associated with the Marateng facies.

Pottery belonging to the Marateng facies have largely been identified in an area between Lydenburg and Polokwane (Collett 1982; Huffman 2007). The stone walled settlements associated with this area were found to be extensive and primarily located on hills slopes. These sites were comprised of three stone-built components, namely: terraces for agricultural fields, homestead enclosures and cattle tracks (Evers 1975; Van Hoepen 1939).

The archaeological excavations undertaken by Collett (1982) in the Badfontein area near Lydenburg, revealed that these stone walled settlements can be associated with the Marateng facies. In his excavations, David P. Collett identified 2752 potsherds, comprising 132 vessels of which 22 (16%) were

decorated. This indicates that a significant component of the vessels were in fact completely undecorated.

The Marateng ceramics recovered during Collett's excavations included short necked jars, constricted jars and deep bowls decorated with oblique incised motifs below the rim and painted triangle motif panels. Through his analysis of primarily the potsherds excavated by Collett, Huffman (2007) identified the following types for the Marateng facies:

- Jar - Oblique incisions below the rim;
- Jar - Oblique incisions below the rim and incised arcades and triangles on the shoulder;
- Jar - Oblique incisions below the rim and incised arcades on the shoulder and body; and
- Bowl - Oblique incisions on the rim and incised triangles on the body.

Interestingly, at one of the sites researched by Collett (1982), his excavations also revealed an earlier Kgopolwe (Eiland) facies in the lower levels of his excavations overlaid by the Marateng facies stone walls. This multicomponent aspect comprising an earlier Kgopolwe facies followed overlaid by a more recent Marateng facies appears to be true for site TCHR3 as well.

Collett (1982) believed that the Marateng pottery he excavated from the stonewalled sites in the Badfontein Valley very identifical to Pedi pottery and that these sites and ceramics can be associated with the historic Pedi tradition. While there is still much debate about the ethnic affiliations of the people who built these stone walled settlements (Maggs 2008; Delius & Schoeman 2008; Schoeman & Delius 2011), these stonewalled settlements have more recently been associated with a group known as the Bakoni. Authors such as Hunt (1931) and Prinsloo (1936) suggest that the Bakoni were originally Nguni who moved into these parts around the beginning of the 16th century and who, over time, became Sothoised in some aspects. The oral traditions of the Pedi make it clear that when they moved into this area in c. 1650, they found the Bakoni people already living here (Hunt 1931).[1]

In other words, and referencing different authors, several ceramics excavated from Bokoni homesteads have been classified as a ceramic style known as Marateng (Delius et al., 2012). Marateng ceramics are also characteristic of traditional Pedi pottery (Loubser, 1991; Delius et al., 2012) and has also been associated with a twentieth century community near Lydenburg that included Pedi and Koni

[1] *Please note that the section on Marateng pottery provided above the footnote marker was derived from an unpublished document that was compiled by Wim Biemond in 2012 and provided by him. Barring small components, this section represents a modified version of the original text.*

groups (Delius et al., 2012). According to Delius et al. (2012), it is likely that the Pedi adopted the Marateng ceramic style from earlier residents of the area such as the Koni (Delius et al., 2012).

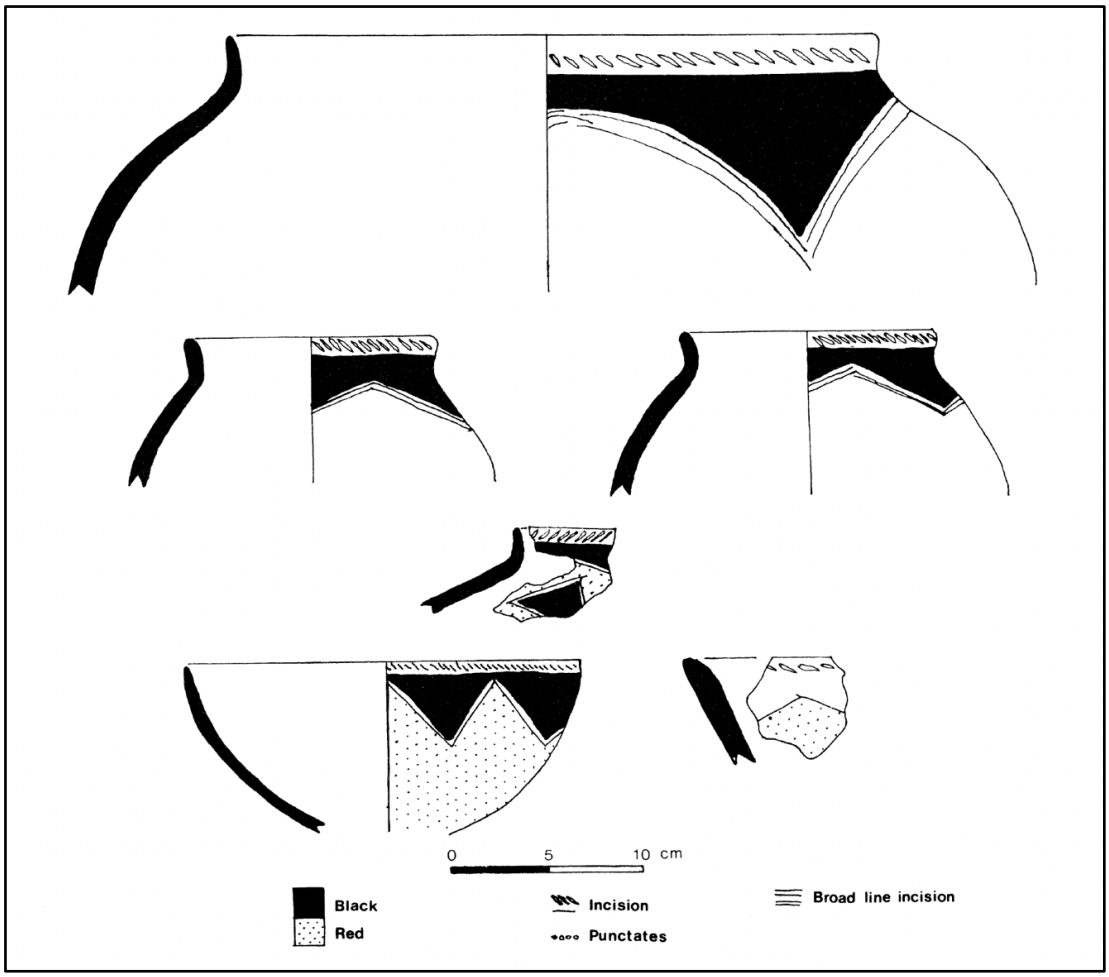

Figure 16: Cropped section of a sample of decorated Marateng ceramics from site 2530 AD 10 (Collett 1982:38). Note the emphasis in the decoration on arcades separating colour.

Although very little has remained of the stone walling from site TCHR 3, a preserved section comprising what can only be interpreted as cattle tracks may suggest an association with Koni. It is important to note that the temporal information provided by the recovered glass bead further supported an association with the Koni, rather than just the cattle tracks. From the information outlined here and elsewhere, the suggestion is that the second occupation of the site was associated with pottery belonging to the Marateng facies. The associated stone walling that may indicate a relationship with the Koni, coupled with the temporal information from the excavated glass bead, indicates that the Marateng ceramics from the site can likely be interpreted as Koni ceramics.

As indicated above, the association of the Marateng ceramics from the site with the Koni is further supported by the excavation of a glass bead that has been interpreted as a Khami Indo-Pacific bead

dating between the 15th and 17th centuries. This is said as these dates appear to be a bit early for a Pedi settlement associated with Marateng ceramics. With the Koni already present in the landscape as early as the beginning of the 16th century, and certainly already living in this area by the time that the Pedi arrived in c. 1650, the Koni association with the Late Iron Age ceramics and the site appear to be better supported.

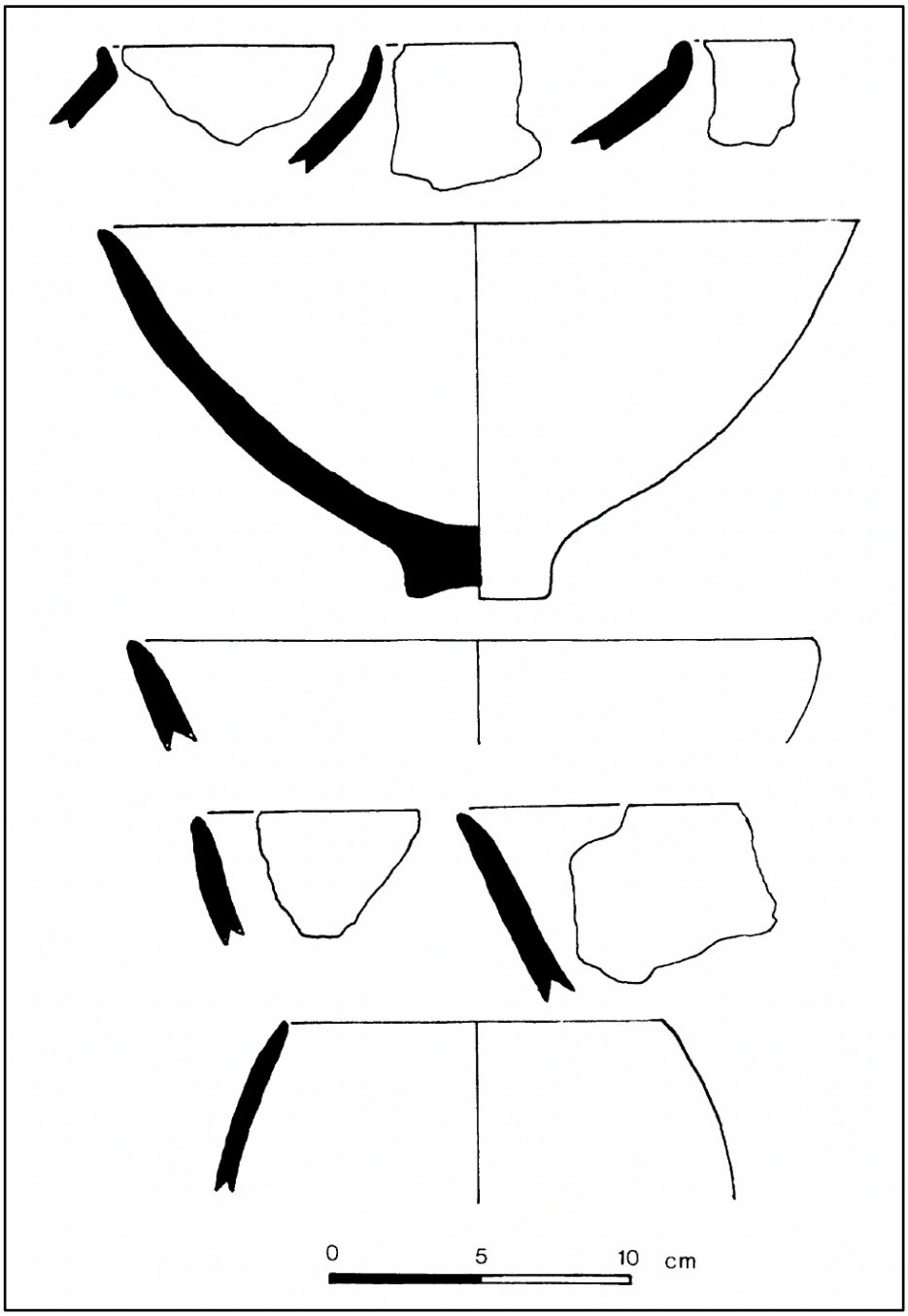

Figure 17: Sample of undecorated Marateng ceramics from site 2530 AD 10 (Collett 1982:39). The vessel indicated in the second row of this image is actually a pot lid with a handle knob. The mended fragment comprising two undecorated rims and one undecorated potsherd retrieved from Block 4 is very similar to the undecorated vessel depicted in the bottom row.

9.3.1.2 Provenience

The provenience of all the pottery from site TCHR 3 is provided in the table below.

Table 4 – Provenience of Pottery recovered from site TCHR 3

Provenience	Potsherds (n)	Decorated	Decorated Rim	Rim	Undecorated
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 1	9	1	2	-	6
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 2	18	2	-	4	12
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 3	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 4	19	1	-	1	17
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 5	16	-	-	1	15
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 6	1	-	-	-	1
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 7	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 8	1	-	-	-	1
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 9	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 10	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 1	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 2	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 3	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 4	1	-	-	-	1
TCHR 3 / STP 5	7	-	-	-	7
TCHR 3 / STP 6	2	1	-	-	1
TCHR 3 / STP 7	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 8	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 9	1	-	-	-	1
TCHR 3 / STP 10	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 11	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 12	-	-	-	-	-

Provenience	Potsherds (n)	Decorated	Decorated Rim	Rim	Undecorated
TCHR 3 / STP 13	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 14	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 15	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Feature 1	54	8	4	-	42
TCHR 3 / Feature 2	42	1	5	1	35
TCHR 3 / Feature 9	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Feature 10	3	-	-	-	3
TCHR 3 / Block 1 / Feature 3	4	-	1	1	2
TCHR 3 / Block 1 / Feature 4	5	-	-	-	5
TCHR 3 / Block 1 / Features 3 & 4	131	2	1	10	118
TCHR 3 / Block 2 / Layer 1	2	-	-	-	2
TCHR 3 / Block 2 / Layer 2	3	-	-	-	3
TCHR 3 / Block 2 / Layer 3	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 3	-	-	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 4	5	-	-	2	3
Totals	**Potsherds (n)**	**Decorated**	**Decorated Rim**	**Rim**	**Undecorated**
	324	**15**	**13**	**21**	**275**

9.3.2 Beads

9.3.2.1 General Discussion

A total of two beads were recovered during the archaeological mitigation of TCHR 3. Both beads were identified during the excavation of Block 3. The excavation of this block was undertaken to archaeologically expose a partially in situ burial discovered directly east of the construction pit. The beads were manufactured from bone (n = 1) and glass (n = 1).

One of these beads recovered from the excavation of Block 3 is a cylindrical bead of bone that was identified immediately adjacent one of the lower leg bones of the individual buried here. This bead is referred to in the table below as Bead 1. The length of the bead measures 10.5 mm, whereas its diameter is 10.8 mm. The bone bead was found to be very smooth and appears to have been polished.

The second bead (Bead 2) is a glass bead that is dark blue in colour. It was recovered during the screening of the soil associated with the burial at Block 3. The diameter of the glass bead is 4.0 mm, whereas its length measures 3.6 mm. This means that the bead has a standard length ratio, and is medium in size. The central perforated hole is oval in shape and measures 1.2 mm in diameter.

Table 5 – Provenience of Beads recovered from site TCHR 3

Context	Series	Colour	Diaphaneity	Shape	Length Ratio	Diameter
Bead 1	Bone	N/A	N/A	Cylinder	Standard - 10.5 mm	10.8 mm
Bead 2	Khami Indo-Pacific	Dark Blue	Opaque	Cylinder	Standard – 3.6 mm	4.0 mm

While the bone bead can not be dated, the glass bead can. The glass bead can be identified as a so-called Khami Indo-Pacific bead (Biemond, pers comm). Khami Indo-Pacific beads form part of the glass bead sequence that was outlined for Southern African contexts between the 6th and 16th centuries by Marilee Wood. These Khami Indo-Pacific beads are found in the interior and eastern coastline of Southern Africa between the 15th and 17th centuries and appear to have been imported to these parts of Africa from India (Wood, 2011).

The retrieval of a Khami Indo-Pacific bead from the excavation of Block 3 where the in situ burial TCHR03-01 was excavated, indicates that this burial was associated with the second occupation of the site, namely the phase associated with stonewalling and Marateng pottery. As indicated above, the dates associated with Khami Indo-Pacific beads appear to be a bit early for a Pedi settlement associated with Marateng ceramics. With the Koni already present in the landscape as early as the beginning of the 16th century, and certainly already living in this area by the time that the Pedi arrived in c. 1650, the Koni association with the Late Iron Age ceramics and the site appear to be better supported.

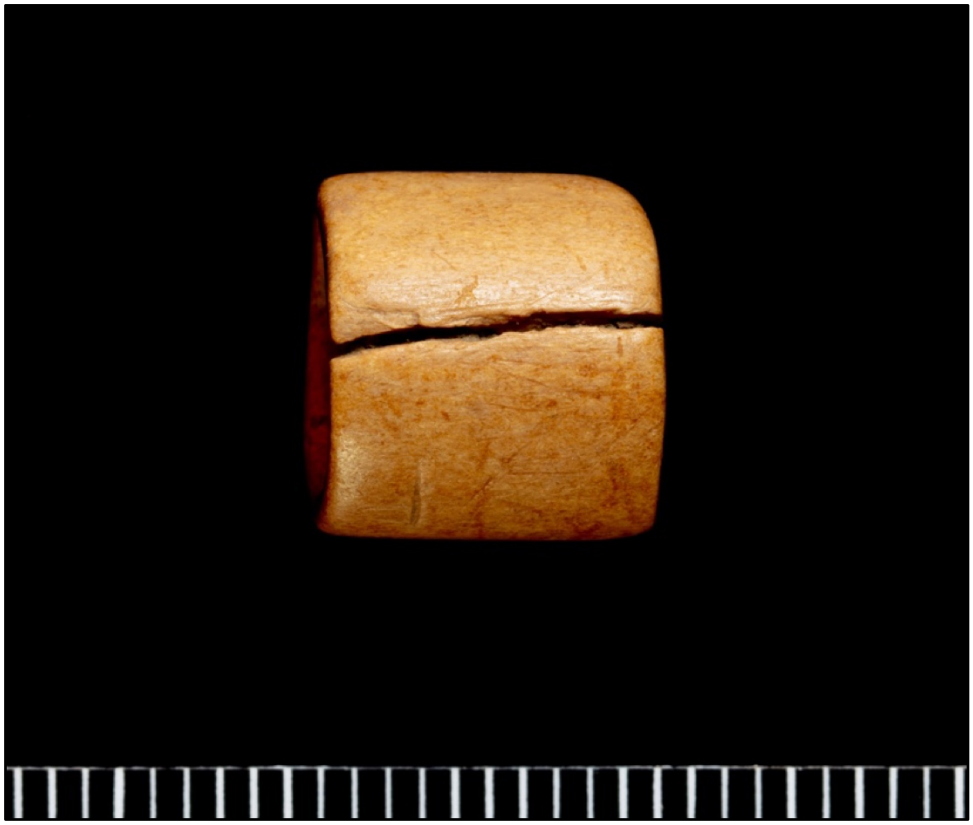

Figure 18: Bone bead retrieved from Block 3. The length of the bead is shown. As with all the photographs of beads shown below, the scale is in millimeters.

Figure 19: Bone bead retrieved from Block 3. The diameter of the bead is shown.

Figure 20: The glass bead retrieved from Block 3. The length of the bead is shown.

Figure 21: Glass bead retrieved from Block 3. The diameter of the bead is shown.

9.3.3 Stone Artefacts

9.3.3.1 General Discussion

A total of nine stone artefacts were identified during the mitigation of TCHR 3. These comprised lower grinders (n=5), upper grinders (n=3) and one natural stone excavated with the burial at TCHR03-01.

The five lower grinders were all observed on the surface of the site. Three of these were found to be broken and in disturbed contexts, whereas two were identified in situ. Due to the difficulty of storing these larger artefacts, none of the five lower grinders were collected during the mitigaton work. However, their positions were recorded on the archaeological site layout map.

Upper grinders were retrieved from the surface of the site as well as during the excavation of Block 1 / Feature 3. One of these upper grinders is broken. Some of these upper grinders contain peck marks from hammering activities. The upper grinder identified as Stone Artefacts 6 contains pecks marks on the sides, as well as across the grinding surfaces.

The stone that was identified on the broken femur of the burial at TCHR03-01 is a natural stone that is broken in half, giving it a hemispherical shape. It is not presently certain whether this stone was originally placed on the body during the burial, or if represents a more recent intrusion.

Table 6 – Provenience of Stone Artfefacts recovered from site TCHR 3

Stone Artefact	Provenience	Description
Stone Artefact 1	TCHR 3 / Surface	Lower grinder (broken)
Stone Artefact 2	TCHR 3 / Surface	Lower grinder (broken)
Stone Artefact 3	TCHR 3 / Surface	Lower grinder (broken)
Stone Artefact 4	TCHR 3 / Surface	Lower grinder (broken)
Stone Artefact 5	TCHR 3 / Feature 4 / Surface Collection	Upper grinder (broken)
Stone Artefact 6	TCHR 3 / Feature 7 / Surface Colletion	Upper grinder
Stone Artefact 7	TCHR 3 / Block 1 / Feature 3	Upper grinder
Stone Artefact 8	TCHR 3 / Block 3 / Burial 1	Hemispherically shaped natural stone (broken)
Stone Artefact 9	TCHR 3 / Block 4 / Surface	Lower grinder

Figure 22: The broken lower grinder known as Stone Artefact 2 was observed on the surface of site TCHR 3 in a disturbed context.

Figure 23: The lower grinder known as Stone Artefact 9 was identified adjacent to the stone enclosure that was excavated as Block 4.

Figure 24: Upper grinder (see Stone Artefact 5) retrieved from the surface of Feature 7.

Figure 25: Upper grinder (see Stone Artefact 6) retrieved from the surface of Feature 7.

9.3.4 Metal Artefacts

9.3.4.1 General Discussion

Only three metal items were identified at site TCHR 3, all of which can be associated with the historic to recent period. With the exception of one item, all these metal pieces were identified on the surface of the site.

Two of the three metal items observed at the site are fragments of tin cans. The first of these is a fragment of a flattened tin can identified on the surface of the site within the small enclosure where STP 13 to STP 15 were excavated. This tin has a diameter of 115 mm. Secondly, a rusted tin can comprising two fragments was retrieved from the surface of Feature 4. The tin can has a diameter of 64 mm. Interestingly, it has a wire connected to one end.

A metal fragment was excavated from collapsed wall of the small enclosure excavated as Block 4. When the stones from the structure were removed, this fragment was identified immediately below a section of collapsed stones. It seems likely for the metal fragment to have been dropped at the structure during the historic to recent time and before the walls of the structure collapsed. It is not possible to identify the metal fragment.

The presence of these more historic artefacts does not mean that the site was occupied during this more recent period. This is said as the site is located in an area containing vegetation, including trees. The shade from such trees may have been used during more recent times by for example people herding goats and cattle or more recently, construction workers. In fact, aerial photographs have revealed that nearby construction activities were already undertaken during the 1970s. Additionally, no homesteads or historic occupation could be identified on any of the old topographic maps or aerial photographs assessed for this study.

Table 7 – Provenience of Metal Artefacts recovered from site TCHR 3

Metal Artefact	Provenience	Description	Dimensions
Metal Artefact 1	TCHR 3 / Surface Colletion	Fragment of a tin can	Diameter: 115 mm
Metal Artefact 2	TCHR 3 / Feature 4 / Surface Collection	Fragment of a tin can	Diameter: 64 mm
Metal Artefact 3	TCHR 3 / Block 4	Metal fragment	63 mm x 32 mm

Figure 26: The fragment of a tin can retrieved from the surface of site TCHR 3.

Figure 27: Fragment of a tin can retrieved from the surface of Feature 4. Note the wire that was fastened to the base of the tin.

Figure 28: Closer view of the inner base of the tin can retrieved from the surface of Feature 4. The way in which the wire was looped through two holes made in the base of the tin can can be seen.

Figure 29: The metal fragment retrieved from Block 4.

10 DISCUSSION OF BURIALS

10.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the burials and human remains recovered during the archaeological mitigation. Skeletal analysis of all the remains recovered from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1 and the archaeological site at TCHR 3 was undertaken by Ms Stephany van der Walt of JustBioarchaeology Consulting (Pty) Ltd. The full specialist report is included under Appendix B (Van der Walt 2019).

10.2 Human Remains from site TCHR 1

The archaeological mitigation of the soil heaps of site TCHR 1 resulted in the recovery of the human remains of five individuals. As indicated above, skeletal analysis of all the remains recovered from TCHR 1 was undertaken (Van der Walt 2019). It is important to note that this report numbered the human remains using the site number TCHR 2 as prefix. This is due to the reason that the soil heaps containing the human remains at TCHR 1 were indicated to have originated from site TCHR 2. However, for the purposes of this report, these human remains are discussed in the context of originating from the soil heaps at site TCHR 1.

In her skeletal analysis report, Van der Walt (2019:7) describes that the "…*human remains were kept in each soil heap for reconstruction however, many fragmented remains matched with fragments from other soil heaps. Originally the minimum number of individuals (MNI) was four, identified from the left petrous bones. While packing the remains into the coffins an additional left petrous bone was identified. This raised the MNI to five. As there five individuals were represented, there were many skeletal elements missing. A young individual was identified (TCHR02-02). This provided some parameters which assisted in isolating the skeletal elements of this individual. A clear reassociation was not possible with the remaining individuals as there was not clear biological parameters with which to confirm reassociation, the remains were too fragmented and many elements were missing. DNA analysis is not a practical option in this cultural context.*

Van der Walt (2019:7) continues by stating that it was "…*observed that the fractured bone had been exposed to the surrounding soil for longer/shorter period, resulting in different in discolouration within the fractures. This indicated that the remains had post-mortem fractures which occurred over multiple incidents of disturbance. Due to multiple incidents of disturbance resulting in heavy fragmentation and that the remains of five individuals were not sufficiently represented, except for the young individual,*

the remains were buried together in one coffin. It was decided that this was the best way forward as no clear and ethical separation of the remains was possible."

The table below provides a summary of the skeletal analysis undertaken.

Table 8 – Summary of Skeletal Analysis of Human Remains recovered from site TCHR 1

	State of remains	Biological Profile	Comments
TCHR02-01, 03, 04, 05	Commingled remains with signs of multiple incidents of disturbance.	Individual profiles were not possible	Reassociation was not possible. Signs of degenerative changes, and calculus on the teeth.
TCHR02-02	Well preserved fragmentated remains with signs of multiple incidents of disturbance.	Sex: Indeterminate Age: 11-19 yrs. Height: 161-166 cm	No signs of stress were observed, and the dental health was good, with little wear.

10.3 Human Remains from site TCHR 3

The archaeological mitigation of site TCHR 3 resulted in the recovery of the human remains of four individuals. The provience and details of the recovered human remains are presented in the table below. Please note that the table presented here represents a slightly modified version of a table contained in the skeletal analysis report (Van der Walt 2019:13).

Table 9 – Provenience of Human Remains recovered from site TCHR 3

Feature	Description of feature	Details of the recovered human remains
Feature 1	A soil heap to the west of the construction pit.	Human remains of TCHR03-02 and TCHR03-04 were recovered.
Feature 2	A soil heap to the west of the construction pit and running down the edge of the area.	Human remains of TCHR03-02 and TCHR03-04 were recovered.
Feature 3	The adjacent side wall on the south-west of the construction pit area.	No human remains recovered.
Feature 4	The south-eastern corner of the construction pit area.	Human remains of TCHR03-03 with fragments of TCHR03-04 were recovered

Feature 5	A section of the eastern side wall of the construction pit area.	The human remains of TCHR03-01 that had been reburied and covered with tinfoil were recovered and further in situ remains were excavated beneath the disturbed remains.
Feature 6 - 10	**No human remains were recovered from the remaining features**	

Skeletal analysis of all the remains recovered from TCHR 3 was undertaken (Van der Walt 2019). The table below provides a summary of the skeletal analysis of the remains recovered from the site. From the provenience provided in the table above and the summary of the skeletal analysis included below, it is evident that nearly a complete skeleton (TCHR03-02) was recovered from Feature 1 and Feature 2. While the general locus where the human remains from this indidivual was recovered from is known, the human remains were recovered in a completely disturbed context. The same holds true for the human remains of TCHR03-03. All the human remains of this individual was recovered from Feature 4, but again in disturbed context.

Table 10 – Summary of Skeletal Analysis of Human Remains recovered from site TCHR 3

	State of remains	Biological Profile	Comments
TCHR03-01	Well preserved fragmented remains. Most skeletal elements were well represented.	Sex: Probable female Age: 21-53 yrs. Height: Not possible	Open sacral vertebrae and osteophytes on the vertebrae.
TCHR03-02	The remains were well preserved. The individual was well represented with an almost complete skeleton	Sex: Female Age: 21-45 yrs Height: >162 cm	Signs of degenerative changes (osteophytes) as seen in a rib and cervical vertebrae. Dental health is fair. No caries. Dental calculus was present and advanced dental wear.
TCHR03-03	The preservation of the remains was very good however many elements were missing.	Sex: Probable male Age: Probable adult Height: Not possible	Lipping on the vertebrae. Dental wear (normal occlusal pattern). No caries. Minimal dental calculus. Overall dental health is good.
TCHR03-04	The preservation of the remains was good albeit that the individual was only represented by 3 elements.	Sex: Indeterminate Age: Probable adult Height: >164 cm	Skeletal elements represented include, cranium fragments (including occipital), right ilium fragments, and an almost complete left femur.

The only partially in situ remains recovered from the site is TCHR03-01. Here, a section of in situ remains were preserved in situ and provided valuable information on both burial practice and archaeological context. The individual was buried on its left side in a loosely flexed position. The orientation of the remains was along the east/west axis, with the body placed in such a way that the head pointed towards the west. A rock was observed on top of a fractured femur. Van der Walt (2019:13) indicates that the skeleton of this individual "*…seemed to have been moved slightly as the remains were not perfectly articulated and many "old" fractures were observed, including the fractured femur. However, the ankle bones were still clearly articulated and in the presumed position for an individual in the foetal position*." This slight movement of the remains may have been as a result of the construction activities.

Both the burial position and the orientation of the body from TCHR03-01 align with the known burial practices of the Eastern Bantu-speaking people. Huffman (2010:168) indicates in this context that adult burials "*…are aligned east/west with the head pointing west because this direction is associated with death and the east with life*." Huffman (2010) also indicates that the flexed burial position is the same position that people slept in their mother's wombs and also later in life in their homes. Additionally, to align to their status and seniority, men were buried on their right side and women on their left. In this regard, the skeletal analysis of the remains identified the deceased as a probable female, which appears to be supported by the burial position.

While the burial position and orientation identified the deceased as associated with the Eastern Bantu-speakers, the discovery of two beads in context with the burial allowed for a more refined association. The two beads, one fashioned of bone the other of glass, were excavated in context with the human remains of TCHR03-01. While it is not possible to date the bone bead, the glass bead has been identified as a Khami Indo-Pacific bead that dates to the period between 15th and 17th centuries. This places the archaeological context of the human remains from TCHR03-01 in the Late Iron Age. The analysis of the recovered ceramics has shown that the Late Iron Age is represented by the Marateng ceramic facies, which can be associated with this individual. As indicated elsewhere, it is believed that the Marateng ceramic facies excavated from the site can be associated with the Bakoni people, who have been living in this landscape as early as the beginning of the 16th century.

After the skeletal analysis undertaken on site was completed, the human remains were reburied in on the mine property in proximity to site TCHR 3.

11 DISCUSSION OF FAUNAL REMAINS

11.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the faunal remains recovered during the archaeological mitigation. As will be discussed below, no formal assessment of fauna was undertaken for either site TCHR 2 or TCHR 3. The reasons for this decision are provided below.

11.2 Faunal Remains from site TCHR 1

Although animal bones were recovered during the archaeological screening of the soil heaps from site TCHR 1, these were all recovered from a completely disturbed archaeological record. Furthermore, the animal bone remains are in many cases fragmented.

11.3 Faunal Remains from site TCHR 3

A relatively low number of well-preserved faunal remains was recovered during the excavations of site TCHR 3. The faunal remains that were recovered include animal bone, animal teeth and shell. In the table below, a summary of the provenience of fauna from the site is provided. It is important to note that the bone fragment numbers provided here often include highly fragmented bones, with even tiny fragments also included in the counts. For example, the 71 bone fragments recovered from Block 2 / Layer 2 are entirely fragmented and it is not expected that more than a few bone fragments would be identifiable. The same holds true for the 79 bone fragments recovered from Block 1 / Feature 3 & Feature 4.

It is expected that of the faunal remains included in the table below, the 12 dental fragments and 2 shell fragments will likely be identifiable. However, of the 237 bone fragments, many of which are comprised of tiny fragments, only a relatively small number would be identifiable as part of a formal faunal analysis.

Table 11 – Provenience of Faunal Remains recovered from site TCHR 3

Provenience	Bone Fragments	Dental Fragments	Shell Fragments
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 1	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 2	2	2	-

Provenience	Bone Fragments	Dental Fragments	Shell Fragments
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 3	3	2	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 4	5	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 5	1	1	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 6	6	2	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 7	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 8	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 9	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Surface Coll. / Feature 10	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 1	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 2	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 3	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 4	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 5	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 6	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 7	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 8	1	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 9	1	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 10	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 11	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 12	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 13	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 14	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / STP 15	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Feature 1	18	1	1
TCHR 3 / Feature 2	46	-	-
TCHR 3 / Feature 9	-	-	-

Provenience	Bone Fragments	Dental Fragments	Shell Fragments
TCHR 3 / Feature 10	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 1 / Feature 3	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 1 / Feature 4	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 1 / Features 3 & 4	79	4	-
TCHR 3 / Block 2 / Layer 1	4	-	1
TCHR 3 / Block 2 / Layer 2	71	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 2 / Layer 3	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 3	-	-	-
TCHR 3 / Block 4	-	-	-
Totals	**Bone Fragments**	**Dental Fragments**	**Shell Fragments**
	237	**12**	**2**

12 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd (PGS) was appointed by Tubatse Chrome (Pty) Ltd (Tubatse) to undertake the mitigation of two archaeological sites (TCHR 2 & TCHR 3), which include graves, located on a portion of the farm Goudmyn 337 KT in the Limpopo Province. This property is owned by Samancor Tubatse Ferrochrome.

The archaeological mitigation was primarily focussed on the recovery of disturbed human remains from sites TCHR 2 and TCHR 3 and on attempting to provide archaeological context for the disturbed human remains.

Human remains were first exposed during construction activities by Tubatse in August 2018. During a subsequent site visit by PGS, an assessment of the exposed human remains was made. All exposed human remains observed during the site visit were covered again with soil. The site visit also revealed that Iron Age pottery and stonewalling appeared to be associated with the exposed human remains. This area where human remains were first exposed is referred to in this report as site TCHR 3.

A second archaeological site visit by PGS occurred in September 2018 after human remains were observed in soil heaps discarded in an area referred to in this report as TCHR 1. According to representatives of Tubatse, the soil heaps from TCHR 1 had been mechanically excavated from an area referred to in this report as site TCHR 2, which is located some distance from the original site where human remains were exposed (TCHR 3).

The archaeological mitigation commenced in October 2018 at TCHR 1 after the required permits were received. This work comprised the archaeological screening of the soil heaps at TCHR 1. Pottery, human remains, metal artefacts, stone artefacts and poorly preserved faunal remains were recovered. Subsequent skeletal analysis by Ms Stephany van der Walt of JustBioarchaeology Consulting (Pty) Ltd resulted in the recovery of the human remains of five individuals. Her skeletal analysis report is attached in full under Appendix B. The pottery recovered from the soil heaps at TCHR 1 suggest that only one ceramic facies is associated with the archaeological material from this site, namely the Kgopolwe ceramic facies (AD 1030 – AD 1350). Decorative motifs such as herringbone and bordered bands comprising oblique incisions on the necks and shoulders of the ceramic vessels dominate the collection. Other artefacts of note recovered during the screening of the soil heaps include an iron bangle and an iron axe / adze.

After initial non-disruptive mitigation at site TCHR 3 in December 2018, the archaeological mitigation of sites TCHR 2 and TCHR 3 commenced in June 2019 when all the required permits were received. When the fieldwork team from PGS arrived on site, it was found that site TCHR 2 had already been completely destroyed and was incorporated into the construction footprint. As a result, no archaeological mitigation could be undertaken on site TCHR 2. The archaeological mitigation and excavation of site TCHR 3 included surface collection, the excavation of 15 STPs across sections of the site, the recovery and screening of disturbed soil from several features demarcated in and around the construction pit and the excavation of four test blocks.

The mitigation work revealed that site TCHR 3 had been highly disturbed before the exposure of human remains halted the construction work. This disturbance appears to have included extensive horizontal and deep vertical destruction of any archaeological context within the construction pit, where several human remains were exposed. The disturbance also included the surface of the site located in the surroundings of the construction pit. This surface disturbance appears to have been as a result of mechanical vegetation clearing that was likely undertaken before the construction pit was excavated. A raised area of soil and vegetation located a short distance west of the construction pit supports this observation. This said, the archaeological mitigation and excavation of site TCHR 3 resulted in the recovery of human remains, pottery, historic to recent metal artefacts, stone artefacts and limited faunal remains. Much of this material was in secondary context due to the impact of the construction activities on the site.

It is important to note that the historic to recent metal artefacts recovered during the archaeological mitigation of the site comprised three individual objects, two of which were recovered from the surface of the site and the third above the soil surface but below the collapsed walling of a small stone walled enclosure excavated to ensure that no grave was buried here. The excavation of Block 4 placed over this stone feature confirmed that no graves were buried here. In terms of the metal artefatcs, it is clear that these three objects do not suggest a more recent date for the site and represent a later non-residential and informal addition to the surface of the site.

Skeletal analysis of the human remains recovered during the archaeological excavation of TCHR 3 indicated the recovery of four individuals. This specialist report by Ms Stephany vand der Walt is included in full under Appendix B of this report. The skeletal analysis indicated that nearly a complete skeleton (TCHR03-02) was recovered from Feature 1 and Feature 2. While the general locus where the human remains from this indidivual was recovered from is known, the human remains were recovered

in a completely disturbed context. The same holds true for the human remains of TCHR03-03. All the human remains of this individual was recovered from Feature 4, but again in disturbed context. The disturbed nature of the site can be seen in the human remains recovered for burial TCHR03-04, which is only comprised of three elements.

Despite the disturbance, the archaeological mitigation work resulted in the identification of one partially disturbed burial (TCHR03-01), though its lower sections were still very much in situ. The sections of the burial that were found in situ provided valuable information on both burial practice and archaeological context. The individual was buried on its left side in a loosely flexed position. Both the burial position and the orientation of the body from TCHR03-01 align with the known burial practices of the Eastern Bantu-speaking people. The shallow burial and flexed burial position confirmed that the grave can be associated with the Iron Age. Additionally, the excavation of a unit (Block 3) around the partially in situ burial included the screening of all soil from here. This revealed two beads in association with the burial, one fashioned from bone and the other of glass. While the bone bead can not be dated, the glass bead can. The glass bead can be identified as a so-called Khami Indo-Pacific bead (Biemond, pers comm). Khami Indo-Pacific beads form part of the glass bead sequence that was outlined for Southern African contexts between the 6th and 16th centuries by Marilee Wood. These Khami Indo-Pacific beads are found in the interior and eastern coastline of Southern Africa between the 15th and 17th centuries and appear to have been imported to these parts of Africa from India (Wood, 2011). The association of the Khami Indo-Pacific bead with the partially in situ burial at TCHR03-01 indicates that this burial can be associated with the Late Iron Age.

The archaeological excavation of Block 2 that was placed partially across a section of preserved stone walling suggested that the site had two occupations. This was due to the identification of a cattle dung layer underneath a section of preserved stone walling in this unit. The presence of two occupations is also indicated by the ceramics recovered during the archaeological mitigation of site TCHR 3, in that the analysis of the pottery recovered from the site revealed two distinct ceramic facies, namely an earlier Kgopolwe facies (AD 1030 – AD 1350) and a more recent Marateng facies (AD 1650 – AD 1840).

The cow dung layer exposed during the excavation of Block 2 was observed along the eastern profile of the construction pit and was also identified in the southern profile of Block 1. This cow dung layer is overlain by another thin layer in the profiles of Block 2. Cultural material in the form of undecorated potsherds (n=2) and faunal remains were recovered from this top layer, whereas undecorated potsherds (n=3) and faunal remains were recovered from the second layer comprising cow dung. It

can be argued that the cow dung layer can be associated with the Kgopolwe occupation of the site, whereas the top layer in Block 2 can be associated with the Koni occupation of the site.

Although very little has remained of the stone walling from site TCHR 3, a preserved section comprising what can only be interpreted as cattle tracks may suggest an association with Koni. It is important to note that the temporal information provided by the recovered glass bead further supports an association with the Koni, rather than just the cattle tracks alone. From the information outlined here and elsewhere, the suggestion is that the second occupation of the site was associated with pottery belonging to the Marateng facies. The associated stone walling that may indicate a relationship with the Koni, coupled with the temporal information from the excavated glass bead, indicates that the Marateng ceramics from the site can likely be interpreted as Koni ceramics. The association of the Marateng ceramics from the site with the Koni is further supported by the excavation of a glass bead that has been interpreted as a Khami Indo-Pacific bead dating between the 15th and 17th centuries. This is said as these dates appear to be a bit early for a Pedi settlement associated with Marateng ceramics. With the Koni already present in the landscape as early as the beginning of the 16th century, and certainly already living in this area by the time that the Pedi arrived in c. 1650, the Koni association with the Late Iron Age ceramics and the site appear to be better supported.

In conclusion, as site TCHR 2 had already been destroyed by the time that the team from PGS arrived in June 2019 to undertake archaeological excavations, no archaeological mitigation or excavation took place at this site. As the site has already been destroyed for some time, no destruction permit is required. Although TCHR 1 contained the area where the soil dumps mechanically excavated from site TCHR 2 had been discarded, this site in itself does not represent an archaeological site. The soil dumps from site TCHR 1 were suitable screened using archaeological methods and no destruction permit is required for this site. In terms of site TCHR 3, the primary aims of the archaeological mitigation included the recovery of human remains that were accidentally disturbed by construction activities and an attempt to provide archaeological context for these human remains. Despite the high level of disturbance to site TCHR 3, both these aims were achieved.

It is believed that the archaeological mitigation work conducted was completed successfully and the the author of this report supports the application for a destruction permit for site TCHR 3. This said, an archaeological watching brief must be implemented during the construction activities. Should any evicence for human remains or in situ and significant archaeological deposits be exposed, further mitigation work would be required.

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13.3 Historical Topographic Maps

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13.4 Internet

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13.5 Google Earth

At least some of the aerial depictions of the study área were obtained using Google Earth.

Appendix A

LANDOWNER CONSENT LETTER

Appendix B

SKELETAL ANALYSIS REPORT

Appendix C

SAHRA PERMIT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION OF SITE TCHR 1

Appendix D

SAPS PERMIT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION OF SITES TCHR 2 AND TCHR 3

Appendix E

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY (HEALTH) PERMIT FOR SITES TCHR 2 AND TCHR 3

Appendix F

SAHRA PERMIT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION OF SITES TCHR 2 AND TCHR 3

Appendix G

LETTER FROM FUNERAL UNDERTAKER