

## 5 FIELDWORK AND FINDINGS

A controlled surface survey was conducted on foot and by a vehicle by an archaeologist from PGS. The fieldwork was conducted 24 September 2020. The tracklogs (in yellow) for the survey are indicated in **Figure 19**.

The study area is a proposed powerline situated about 5 km north of Aliwal-North running from the N6 highway in a south-westerly direction through a valley towards the Orange River. The eastern part of the proposed line runs west from the edge of the N6 over a large open field that is predominantly used as grazing for cattle. A disused railway line runs across this landscape from south to north.

This landscape is mostly flat with a decent amount of grass cover. Multiple small dams were constructed to keep water for the livestock present. No trees or tall grass is located on this landscape, making visibility fairly high.

**Waypoint 505** marks the location of an historical feature. The feature is a rectangular packed stone wall with a crush-like structure built onto the north-western section, leading into what seems to be a small holding pen/camp for livestock. Metal car remains are also present next to the feature. The proposed line then turns south-west and from this point follows an existing powerline into a valley (central section of the alignment) that runs all the way to the Orange River. This valley has a small stream running at the bottom. This natural drainage line has caused erosion all along the sides of the valley, exposing high amounts of stone-age artefacts. These artefacts are mostly situated within or close to erosion gullies and/or natural erosion of the stream banks. A moderate scatter of Stone-age materials is present along the entire extent of the valley.



*Figure 14 – View of stone foundation at 505*



*Figure 15 – Structure entrance of structure at 505*

**Waypoints 514, 515 and 517** marks a Historical homestead that is situated on the end where the valley opens up again into a large open field that is being used to grow crops and graze livestock. The homestead consists of multiple packed stone features/buildings (**515**) with some red brick elements present, as well as a large rectangular packed stone enclosure or kraal (**514**). The small homestead is built on the shoulder inline of the small hill which forms part of the valley through which the proposed line runs. Another small structure (**517**) is situated further up the hill. This structure is also a small packed stone feature; however, this site is extremely overgrown, making it difficult to assess the extent of the feature.



*Figure 16 – Remainder of stone wall at 515*



*Figure 17 – Artefacts found in midden at 515*

**Waypoint 516** marks another area where the general scatter of stone-age material is situated close to the stream running towards the Orange River.

The western section of the proposed line runs mostly along the natural drainage line). This area again has high amounts of erosion taking place on the banks of the small stream. **Waypoint 522** marks an area with a very high concentration of artefacts washing out of the sides of the erosion gullies.



*Figure 18 - Lithics identified at waypoint 507*

# Eskom Melkspruit to Rouxville 132 kV Overhead powerline Fieldwork tracklogs

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd  
Heritage Management  
Unit

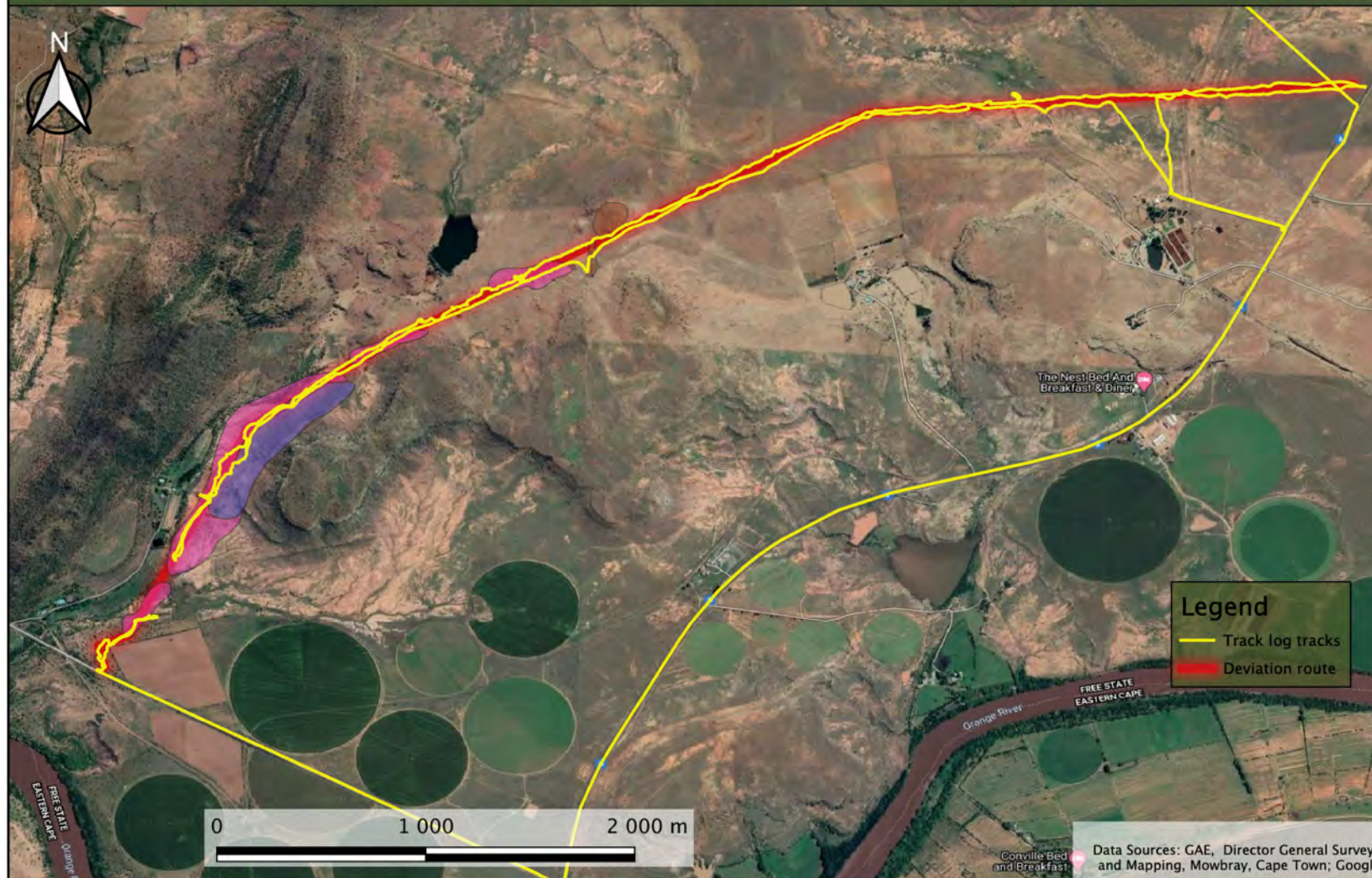


Figure 19 – Fieldwork tracklogs

# Eskom Melkspruit to Rouxville 132 kV Overhead powerline Heritage resources

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd  
Heritage Management  
Unit

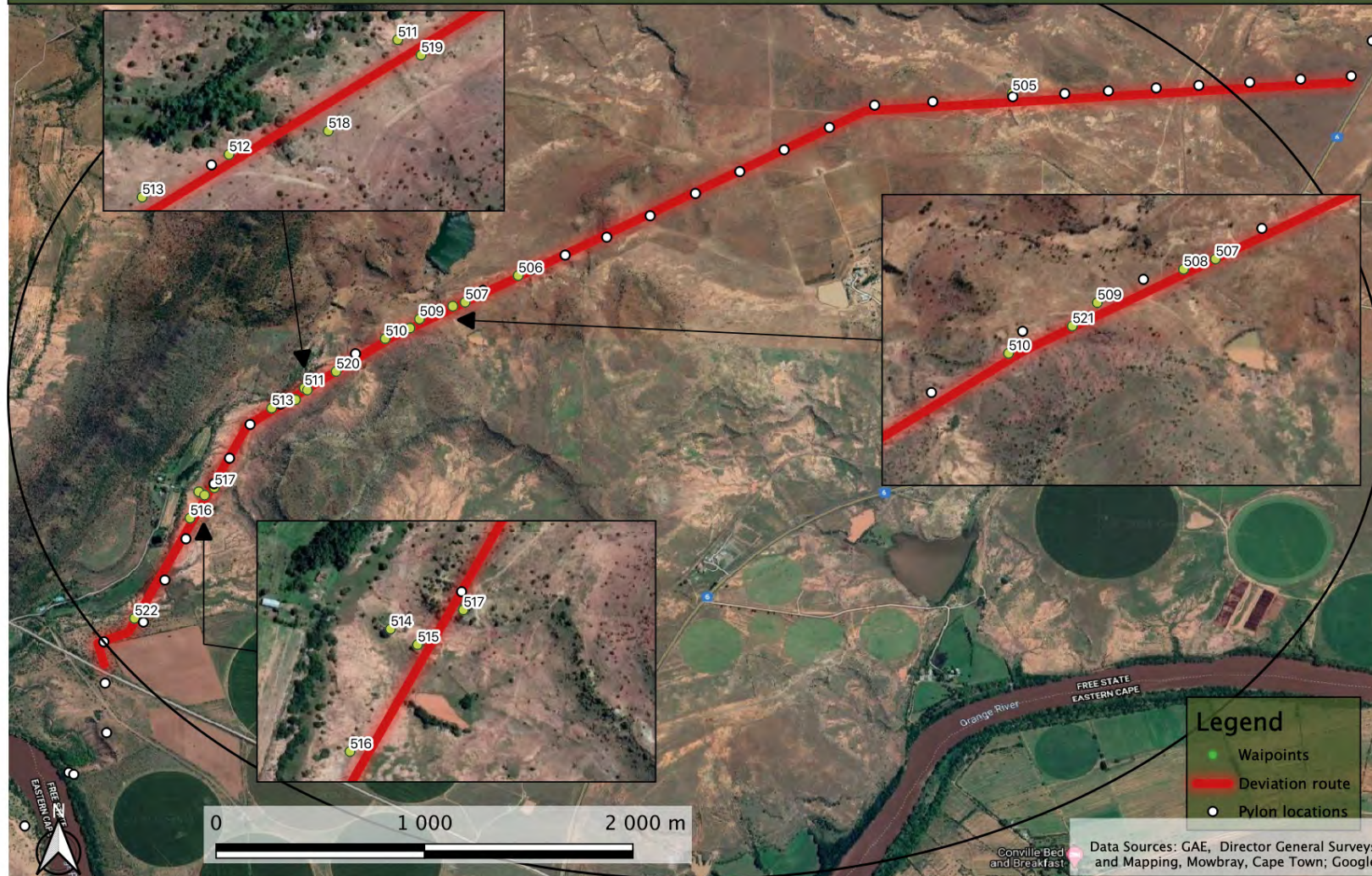


Figure 20 – Locality of the heritage resource– Identified heritage sites and a surface scatter of stone tools throughout the project area

Table 8 – Area identified during the heritage survey

Waypoint	Description	Heritage Significance	Heritage Rating
505	Rectangular packed stone feature with a crush-line extension leading into a small camp/holding pen.	Low	IIIC
506	Scatter of MSA stone-tools situated within an erosion gully. 1 x MSA Point 3 x MSA Blades 3 x Flakes	Low	NCW
507	Scatter of MSA and LSA stone tools situated on a stony outcrop. 20 x MSA Flakes 1 x LSA Core CCS 7 x LSA Flakes	Moderate	IIIB
508	Scatter of MSA and LSA stone tools situated near a small man-made dam. 4 x MSA flakes 1 x Flake CCS	Low	NCW
509	Small house foundation built with red bricks and a cement floor. A Zinc shed-like feature is located next to the small foundation. The Zinc feature could possibly have stood on top of the small foundation.	Moderate	IIIB
510-513	General scatter of stone-tools across the extent of the valley. 511 shows a large concentration of MSA and LSA stone tools. 6 x MSA Flakes 1 Large CCS Core 1 LSA core CCS 11 x LSA Flakes	Moderate	IIIB
514-515	Small historical homestead. 2 small packed stone features. Possibly the remnants of small structures. 1 Rectangular packed stone enclosure. Possibly a small kraal. 1 small midden with broken glass, porcelain and metal artefacts.	Moderate	IIIB
516	Small scatter of stone tools situated close to the banks of the small stream.	Low	NCW
517	Small packed stone feature situated on the side of the hill. Probably related to the features at 514.	Low	IIIC
518-521	Continuation of the general stone tool scatter along the extent of the valley.	Low	IIIC
522	Scatter of stone tools situated within the banks of the stream that are being eroded into gullies. Further activity of burrowing animals also brings these artefacts to the surface. 17 x MSA Flakes 2 x Cores , 11 x MSA flakes ( 1 = CCS)	Moderate	IIIB

## 5.1 Sensitivity assessment outcome

From the desktop assessment moderate to low heritage sensitive areas were identified. Many of the heritage sensitive areas identified during the desktop search consisted of old structures and buildings that fall outside the study area.

Large sections of the alignment are characterised by a background scatter of Middle and Later Stone Age material. Two major concentrations of lithics at waypoints **507 and 511** has a **moderate heritage significance** with a **heritage grading of IIIB**.

The structures at **509, 514, 515 and 517** are the remains of historic structures and can most probably be associated with farmworker homesteads. These homestead are generally known for the presence of stillborn burials as associated with indigenous burial practices. Due this fact these structures are given a **moderate heritage significance** and an **IIIB heritage rating**.

# Eskom Melkspruit to Rouxville 132 kV Overhead powerline Heritage resources with 30 m buffer

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd  
Heritage Management  
Unit

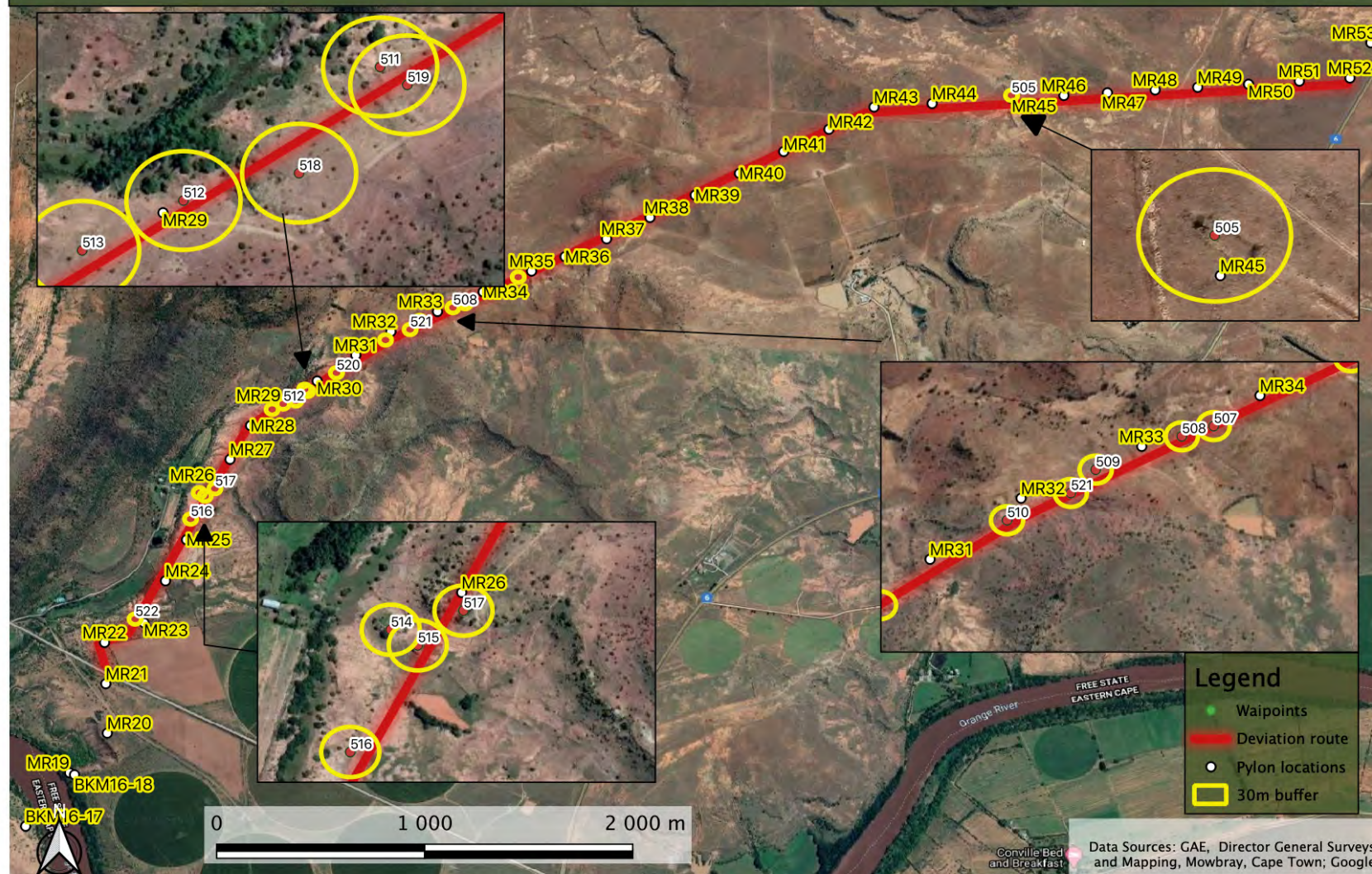


Figure 21 – Locality of the heritage resource in relation to the proposed pylons

## 6.9 Management recommendations and guidelines

### 6.9.1 Construction phase

The project will encompass a range of activities during the construction phase, including ground clearance, establishment of construction camp areas and small-scale infrastructure development associated with the project.

It is possible that cultural material will be exposed during construction and may be recoverable, keeping in mind delays can be costly during construction and as such must be minimised. Development surrounding infrastructure and construction of facilities results in significant disturbance, however foundation holes do offer a window into the past and it thus may be possible to rescue some of the data and materials. It is also possible that substantial alterations will be implemented during this phase of the project and these must be catered for. Temporary infrastructure developments, such as construction camps and laydown areas, are often changed or added to the project as required. In general, these are low impact developments as they are superficial, resulting in little alteration of the land surface, but still need to be catered for.

During the construction phase, it is important to recognize any significant material being unearthed, making the correct judgment on which actions should be taken. It is recommended that the following chance find procedure should be implemented.

### 6.9.2 Chance find procedure

- A heritage practitioner / archaeologist should be appointed to develop a heritage induction program and conduct training for the ECO as well as team leaders in the identification of heritage resources and artefacts **during the implementation of the EMP**.
- An appropriately qualified heritage practitioner / archaeologist must be identified to be called upon in the event that any possible heritage resources or artefacts are identified.
- Should an archaeological site or cultural material be discovered during construction (or operation), the area should be demarcated, and construction activities halted.
- The qualified heritage practitioner / archaeologist will then need to come out to the site and evaluate the extent and importance of the heritage resources and make the necessary recommendations for mitigating the find and the impact on the heritage resource.
- The contractor therefore should have some sort of contingency plan so that operations could move elsewhere temporarily while the materials and data are recovered.
- Construction can commence as soon as the site has been cleared and signed off by the heritage practitioner / archaeologist.

### 6.9.3 Possible finds during construction

The study area occurs within a greater historical and archaeological site as identified during the desktop and fieldwork phase. Soil clearance for infrastructure as well as the proposed reclamation activities, could uncover the following:

- High density concentrations of stone artefact
- unmarked graves

### 6.10 Timeframes

It must be kept in mind that mitigation and monitoring of heritage resources discovered during construction activity will require permitting for collection or excavation of heritage resources and lead times must be worked into the construction time frames. **Table 19** gives guidelines for lead times on permitting.

*Table 19 - Lead times for permitting and mobilisation*

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Preparation for field monitoring and finalisation of contracts	The contractor and service provider	1 month
Application for permits to do necessary mitigation work	Service provider – Archaeologist and SAHRA	3 months
Documentation, excavation and archaeological report on the relevant site	Service provider – Archaeologist	3 months
Handling of chance finds – Graves/Human Remains	Service provider – Archaeologist and SAHRA	2 weeks
Relocation of burial grounds or graves in the way of construction	Service provider – Archaeologist, SAHRA, local government and provincial government	6 months

## Appendix B

### List of site coordinates

Waypoint	X	Y	Description	Heritage Significance	Heritage Rating
505	26,726416	-30,635565	Rectangular packed stone feature with a crush-line extension leading into a small camp/holding pen.	Low	IIIC
506	26,701677	-30,644678	Scatter of MSA stone-tools situated within an erosion gully. 1 x MSA Point 3 x MSA Blades 3 x Flakes	Low	NCW
507	26,699020	-30,646010	Scatter of MSA and LSA stone tools situated on a stony outcrop. 20 x MSA Flakes 1 x LSA Core CCS 7 x LSA Flakes	Moderate	IIIB
508	26,698403	-30,646208	Scatter of MSA and LSA stone tools situated near a small man-made dam. 4 x MSA flakes 1 x Flake CCS	Low	NCW
509	26,696736	-30,646853	Small house foundation built with red bricks and a cement floor. A Zinc shed-like feature is located next to the small foundation. The Zinc feature could possibly have stood on top of the small foundation.	Moderate	IIIB
510	26,695021	-30,647832	General scatter of stone-tools across the extent of the valley. 511 shows a large concentration of MSA and LSA stone tools. 6 x MSA Flakes 1 Large CCS Core 1 LSA core CCS 11 x LSA Flakes	Moderate	IIIB
511	26,690969	-30,650305			
512	26,689891	-30,651037			
513	26,689336	-30,651310			

Waypoint	X	Y	Description	Heritage Significance	Heritage Rating
514	26,685682	-30,655493	Small historical homestead. 2 small packed stone features. Possibly the remnants of small structures.	Moderate	IIIB
515	26,685973	-30,655661	1 Rectangular packed stone enclosure. Possibly a small kraal. 1 small midden with broken glass, porcelain and metal artefacts.		
516	26,685246	-30,656810	Small scatter of stone tools situated close to the banks of the small stream.	Low	NCW
517	26,686466	-30,655287	Small packed stone feature situated on the side of the hill. Probably related to the features at 514.	Low	IIIC
518	26,690525	-30,650887	Continuation of the general stone tool scatter along the extent of the valley.	Low	IIIC
519	26,691118	-30,650403			
520	26,692561	-30,649477			
521	26,696254	-30,647305			
522	26,682466	-30,661827	Scatter of stone tools situated within the banks of the stream that are being eroded into gullies. Further activity of burrowing animals also brings these artefacts to the surface. 17 x MSA Flakes 2 x Cores , 11 x MSA flakes ( 1 = CCS)	Moderate	IIIB