

**SURVEY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
RESOURCES ON
ELANDSFONTEIN 440 JQ**



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1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

2. PHILOSOPHY

Conservation as a worldwide practice stems from a long history of overexploitation made possible by Western technology and science. Conservation developed in reaction against overexploitation of mainly natural and later cultural resources. Western technology became an enemy of nature, leading to discord between nature and development.

In this sense development is a Western cultural expression. In the African context nature is culture. Places, animals and plants have cultural meanings and values. In this report African values with regard to plants and animals will be taken into consideration. The Western distinction between nature and culture is not made. Intangible heritage is far more important to African people than the tangible heritage, stories about places, legends, beliefs and cultural processes are more important than objects or sites, which is preserved by Western concepts of conservation.

3. METHODOLOGY

The site was visited, inspected on foot and photographed. The map, aerial photographs and other appropriate documents on the area were studied.

4. RESULTS

The survey covered two main areas, i.e. the mountain nearest to Mothutlung and the eastern portion of the Msiletswane Mountain.

4.1 Mountain nearest to Mothutlung (1334m)

The dirt road from Brits to the Vanadium mine cuts through a large archaeological Iron Age site at S25°35'47.5" E27° 51'02.9". Only a small portion of the site is south of the road in the proposed mining area.

The mountain and plain at the foot of the mountain is one huge archaeological site, similar to the Hoekfontein 432 JQ sites. The area at the foot of the mountain on the northeastern and western sides had once been densely populated. These sites extend 200 metres and more into the plain. The southern side had been somewhat less densely populated.

The settlements are similar and consist of an inner stonewall circle with two or three smaller circles attached. An outer circle with smaller scalloped semicircles surrounds the inner circle. Each of these semicircles contained a hut, fireplace and probably a granary (see photograph 1 & 2).

For details of GPS readings for the outer boundary of the sites, see Annexure A.

On top of the mountain there are five large settlements of 100 meters in diameter and larger. There are two settlements east of the highest point of the mountain (1334m) with the largest one close to the highest point. To the west of this point there are three large, well preserved sites with stonewalls of one metre and higher. One of these probably belonged to the chief (see photograph 3 & 4). For details of GPS readings of the sites, see Annexure B.

The archaeological site extends east of the power lines and the boundary of the proposed mining area, and is under threat from the Mothutlung settlements. All stonewalls will eventually disappear as the stones are being used for construction purposes (compare map 1).

4.2 Msiletswane Mountain (1317.2m) (see map 1)

Fewer people settled on this mountain than on Mothutlung. Nonetheless, three large settlements were found on the northeastern side of the foot of the mountain. For GPS readings see Annexure C.

On top of the mountain six settlements were found. The most southern one has a low stonewall. The remainder have high walls. These sites are similar to those on the other mountain and Hoekfontein. They probably date from the same period (see photograph 5). For GPS readings, see Annexure D.

5. CONCLUSION

The mountains on Elandsfontein 440 JQ had been extensively populated similar to Hoekfontein 432 IQ. From information obtained at Hoekfontein these sites probably date approximately to 1600 – 1800 AD and are associated with early Tswana settlements. When Mzilikazi, arrived in the 1820's, there already had been many settlements.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The mountain nearest to Mothutlung

The mountain had been densely populated and needs detailed recording of all sites. It will be almost impossible to mine any portion of the mountain without destroying the archaeological sites. If mining has to precede a detailed *modus operandi* between the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and Keeley Granite will have to be agreed upon. This agreement has to include rescue archaeology.

6.2 Msiletswane

6.3

It would be easier to mine this mountain than the Mothutlung area, as there are fewer archaeological sites. Detailed mapping of the area will have to take place before mining can commence.

6.4 The area east of the power lines

SAHRA and the Madibeng Council will have to discuss the protection of this area.

7. REFERENCES

1. Küsel U.S., *Report on Hoekfontein 432 JQ.* (Unpublished)
2. Pistorius J.C.C., *Molokwane on Iron Age Bakwena Village*, 1992.

ANNEXURE A

Outer boundary of the sites

SOUTH	EAST
25°36'05.2"	27°51'50.8"
25°36'03.4"	27°51'39.3"
25°36'01.6"	27°51'35.3"
25°35'56.9"	27°51'28.3"
25°35'51.9"	27°51'25.2"
25°35'49.8"	27°51'26.8"
25°35'43.9"	27°51'29.7"
25°35'42.8"	27°51'33.1"
25°35'39.6"	27°51'44.8"
25°35'42.4"	27°51'49.9"
25°35'43.5"	27°51'54.7"
25°35'44.4"	27°51'59.6"
25°35'44.7"	27°52'02.8"
25°35'45.8"	27°52'10.4"
25°35'48.0"	27°52'13.9"
25°35'50.3"	27°52'16.7"
25°35'54.4"	27°52'22.6"
25°36'15.2"	27°52'18.1"
25°36'16.9"	27°52'17.0"
25°36'16.6"	27°52'12.0"
25°36'17.9"	27°52'08.6"
25°36'21.4"	27°52'06.1"
25°36'20.9"	27°52'04.7"
25°36'21.1"	27°52'01.5"
25°36'18.2"	27°51'59.0"
25°36'12.5"	27°51'55.7"
25°36'10.5"	27°51'53.3"
25°36'04.9"	27°51'48.0"

ANNEXURE B

Settlements on top of the mountain nearest to Muthuling

SOUTH	EAST
Settlement 1	
29°36'03.3"	27°52'16.5"
29°36'0.01"	27°52'15.1"
29°36'00.8"	27°52'10.8"
29°36'03.8"	27°52'10.0"
Settlement 2	
25°36'04.9"	27°52'08.9"
25°36'04.1"	27°52'05.4"
25°36'00.1"	27°52'04.1"
25°35'58.1"	27°52'09.8"
Settlement 3	
25°35'58.6"	27°51'48.4"
25°35'57.5"	27°51'50.6"
25°35'55.8"	27°51'49.7"
25°35'56.3"	27°51'53.1"
Settlement 4	
25°35'58.5"	27°51'55.7"
25°35'56.0"	27°51'58.7"
25°35'54.1"	27°51'57.8"
25°35'56.9"	27°51'53.0"
Settlement 5	
25°35'55.8"	27°51'39.6"
25°35'54.4"	27°51'38.8"
25°35'59.5"	27°51'39.9"
25°35'56.1"	27°51'32.8"

ANNEXURE C

Sites on foot of Msiletswane

SOUTH	EAST
Settlement 1	
25°36'26.9"	27°51'22.9"
Settlement 2	
25°36'35.6"	27°51'41.1"
Settlement 3	
25°36'27.3"	27°51'19.1"

ANNEXURE D

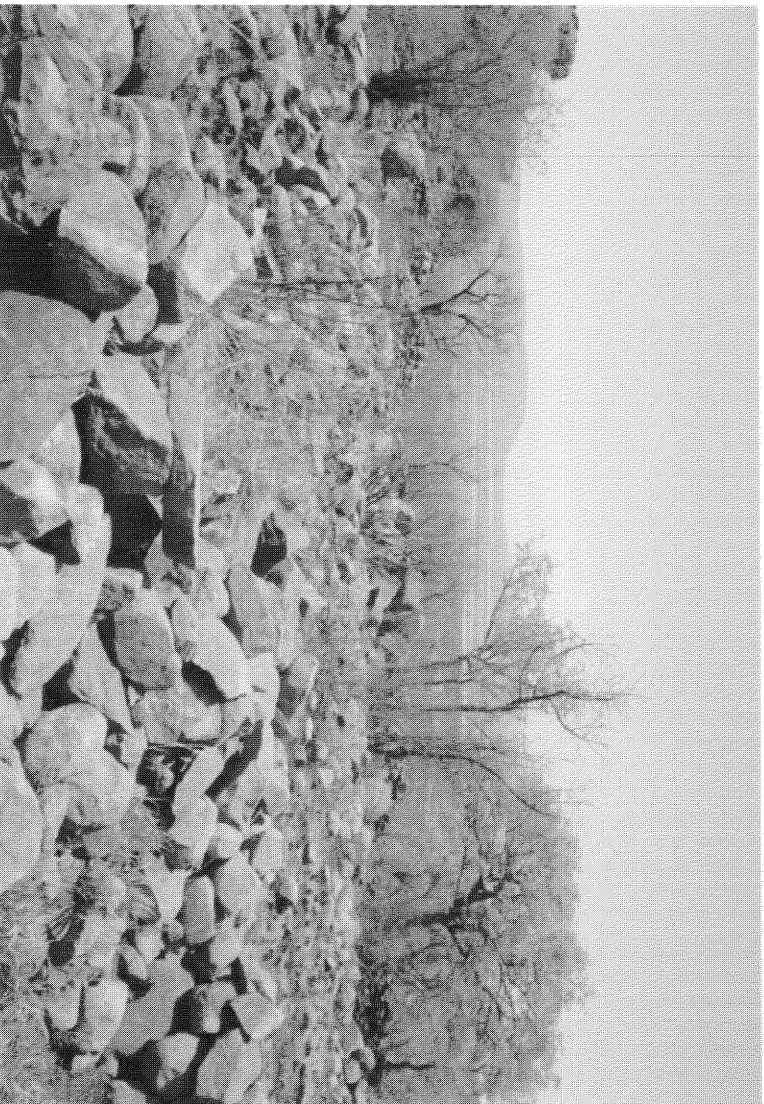
Settlements on top of Msiletswane

SOUTH	EAST
Settlement 4	
25°36'45.8"	27°51'39.6"
Settlement 5	
25°36'47.0"	27°51'37.3"
Settlement 6	
25°36'43.2"	27°51'33.0"
Settlement 7	
25°36'39.9"	27°51'29.1"
Settlement 8	
25°36'39.4"	27°51'25.0"
Settlement 9	
25°36'38.2"	27°51'21.7"

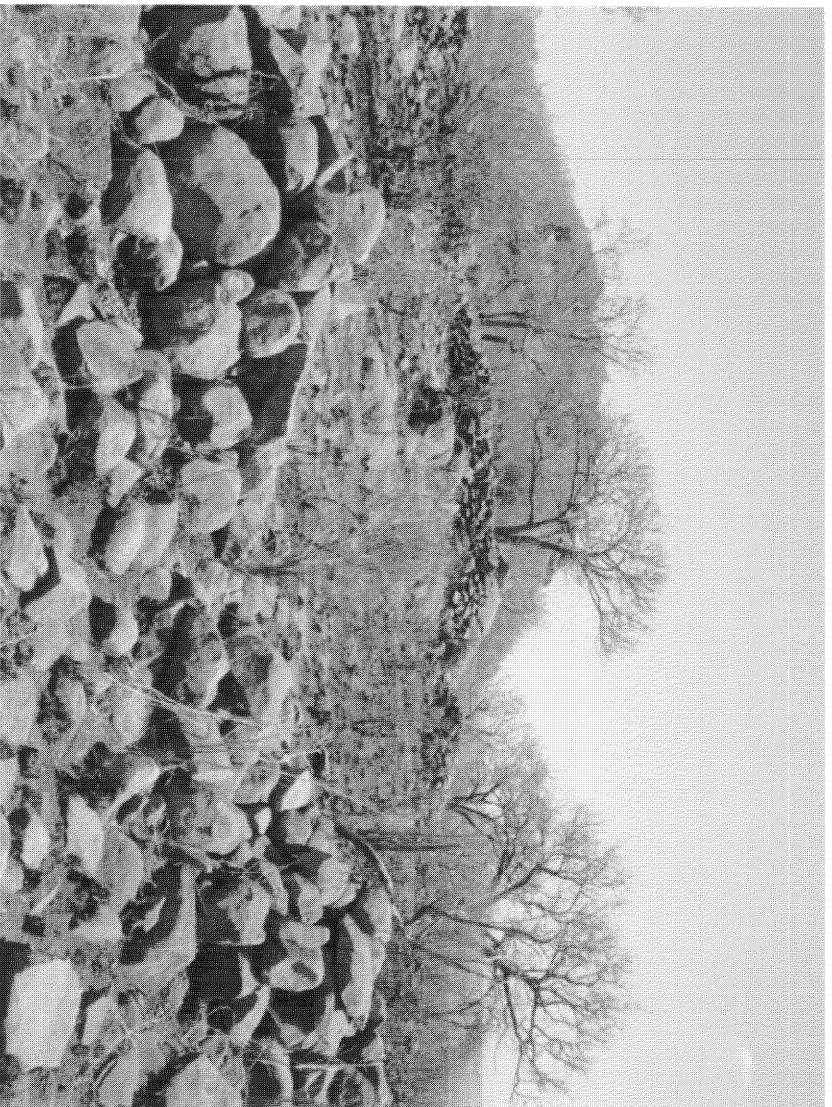
PHOTOGRAPHS



No. 1 Large stone circles at the foot of the mountain nearest to Mochutlong



No. 2 Smaller stone circles on rim of large circle



No. 3 Settlement on top of the mountain



No. 4 Detail of stonewalling on top of mountain



No. 5 Stonewalling on top of Msilerswane