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PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LOW SULPHIDE TAILINGS FACILITY SITUATED ON PORTION 7 OF THE FARM ONVERWACHT 611-JT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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NKOMATI MINE (PTY) LTD

Report date:

April 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeology Africa cc was appointed by *Nkomati Mine (Pty) Ltd* to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portion 7 of the farm Onverwacht 611-JT. The said portion is earmarked for the construction of a Low Sulphide Tailings Facility.

The study has identified 33 heritage sites situated within the study area. Of these, 29 sites are located within the proposed development footprint. The remaining four are located in the north-western corner of the study area and outside the proposed development area.

The sites can be classified into Late Iron Age sites, Late Iron Age and/or historic sites, historic sites with graves as well as grave sites.

- Late Iron Age sites

  A total of ten Late Iron Age sites were located within the study area. These are ONV-11, ONV-12, ONV-13, ONV-14, ONV-19, ONV-21, ONV-22, ONV-23, ONV-26 and ONV-27.

  A further four Late Iron Age sites (see ONV-30, ONV-31, ONV-32 and ONV-33) are located in the north-western corner of Portion 7 of the farm Onverwacht 611-JT. These sites fall outside of the proposed development footprint and will not be impacted upon by it.

  In general terms almost all of these sites are comprised of a circular outer enclosing wall with one or more smaller circular enclosures inside.

- Late Iron Age / Historic sites

  Five sites were located which could either not be positively identified as belonging to the Late Iron Age or historic period, or alternatively contained elements from both periods. These five sites are ONV-2, ONV-4, ONV-5, ONV-15 and ONV-25

- Historic sites

  Three historic sites were identified without any presence of Late Iron Age elements or graves. These sites are ONV-9, ONV-17 and ONV-24.

As is the case with the other historic sites from the study area, these are all abandoned Swazi homesteads which with the help of erstwhile residents they have been dated to between 60 and 100 years ago.

- Historic sites with graves

  Seven of the historic sites located within the study area were found to be associated with graves. These graves were identified either through the physical grave dressings on the site surface or by way of consultation with erstwhile residents of the sites. The seven sites are ONV-1, ONV-3, ONV-10, ONV-16, ONV-18, ONV-28 and ONV-29

- Graves

  Four sites comprised of only graves were located within the study area. These are ONV-6, ONV-7, ONV-8 and ONV-20

The following mitigation measures are recommended for these sites:

- Late Iron Age sites

  The layout of all the Late Iron Age sites located during the survey must be documented through surveying and the drawing of a Site Layout Plan. Additionally, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken on two of the Late Iron Age sites (ONV19 and ONV-21). These two sites were chosen *inter alia* for a number of reasons, including the likelihood for archaeological deposit to be located there, a reasonably high level of preservation, a complexity in layout as well as extensiveness of site.

  Four Late Iron Age sites are located in the north-western corner of Portion 7 of the farm Onverwacht 611-JT and fall outside the development footprint for the Low Sulphide Tailings Facility. These sites will not be impacted upon by the proposed development and it is recommended that a Heritage Site Management Plan be compiled for these sites to ensure their future conservation.

  Furthermore, the Late Iron Age sites inside the study area are certainly not an isolated occurrence. For example, a number of Late Iron Age sites were informally observed in various localities alongside the road between Badplaas and the study

area. This observation is supported by the study of aerial photographs undertaken by Prof. Reville Mason across large sections of the old Transvaal during the 1960s (Mason, 1968). His research has revealed an estimated 1792 Late Iron Age stonewalled sites in the drainage areas of the Steelpoort, Sabie, Crocodile and Komati Rivers. Furthermore, in the areas surrounding the study area Mason's work has revealed the largest concentrations of stonewalled sites to the south of the Komati River and away from the study area.

It is therefore evident that although ten Late Iron Age sites will be destroyed to allow for the construction of the proposed development, the settlement layout for all these sites will be recorded while at the same time three of these sites will be archaeologically excavated. Added to this an additional four sites falling outside of the proposed development will be managed and protected and would be available for future research projects.

? see above previous page

- Late Iron Age / Historic sites

  The settlement layout of all these sites must be documented through surveying and the drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan. Intensive horizontal excavations must be undertaken across ONV-15.

  With the exception of ONV-15, none of these sites can be considered to be of any great significance. As such the recording of their settlement layouts will be the only requirement before destruction can take place.

- Historic sites

  The settlement layout of all these sites must be documented through surveying and the drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

  None of these historic sites can be considered to be of any real significance and they have been included in this report because they contain structures (hut foundations, cattle kraals etc) older than 60 years. The recording of their settlement layouts is seen as the only mitigation to be undertaken before they may be destroyed.

- Historic sites with graves

  The settlement components of these sites must all be documented through surveying and the drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

  As it would be impossible to conserve the graves *in situ* full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased.

  The families for all the graves located within the study area have been consulted with. Subsequently, the Vilane, Duma, Maseko, Nkambule, Zwane, Khumalo and Malinga families have provided written permission for their graves to be relocated. At the time of writing this report consultations are still taking place with the Ginindza family and they are expected to provide written permission for the relocation of their graves shortly.

- Graves

  As it would be impossible to conserve the graves *in situ* full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased.

It is the opinion of the author of this report that on the condition that all the recommendations made in this report are adhered to, the development may be allowed to continue.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeology Africa cc was appointed by *Nkomati Mine (Pty) Ltd* to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portion 7 of the farm Onverwacht 611-JT. The said portion is earmarked for the construction of a Low Sulphide Tailings Facility.

2. DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA AND DEVELOPMENT

2.1 The Study Area

The study area is located in the Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, approximately 12 kilometres north-east of the town of Badplaas. Its eastern boundary is defined by the gravel road between Badplaas and Gladdespruit.

In general terms the site can be described as sloping down from its highest point along the northern boundary to its lower sections in the south-east. Topographically, the site can be described as very undulating and has three non-perennial streams converging near its eastern boundary.

The vegetation of the study area is predominantly open grassland interposed by small clusters of trees.

2.2. The Proposed Development

After a detailed site selection process the farm Onverwacht 611-JT was earmarked for the construction of a Low Sulphide Tailings Storage Facility. This facility is an integral part of the phase 2 expansion project of *Nkomati Mine (Pty) Ltd*. The phase 2 expansion project will extent the lifespan of the mine by twenty years more than its current expected lifespan of nine years.

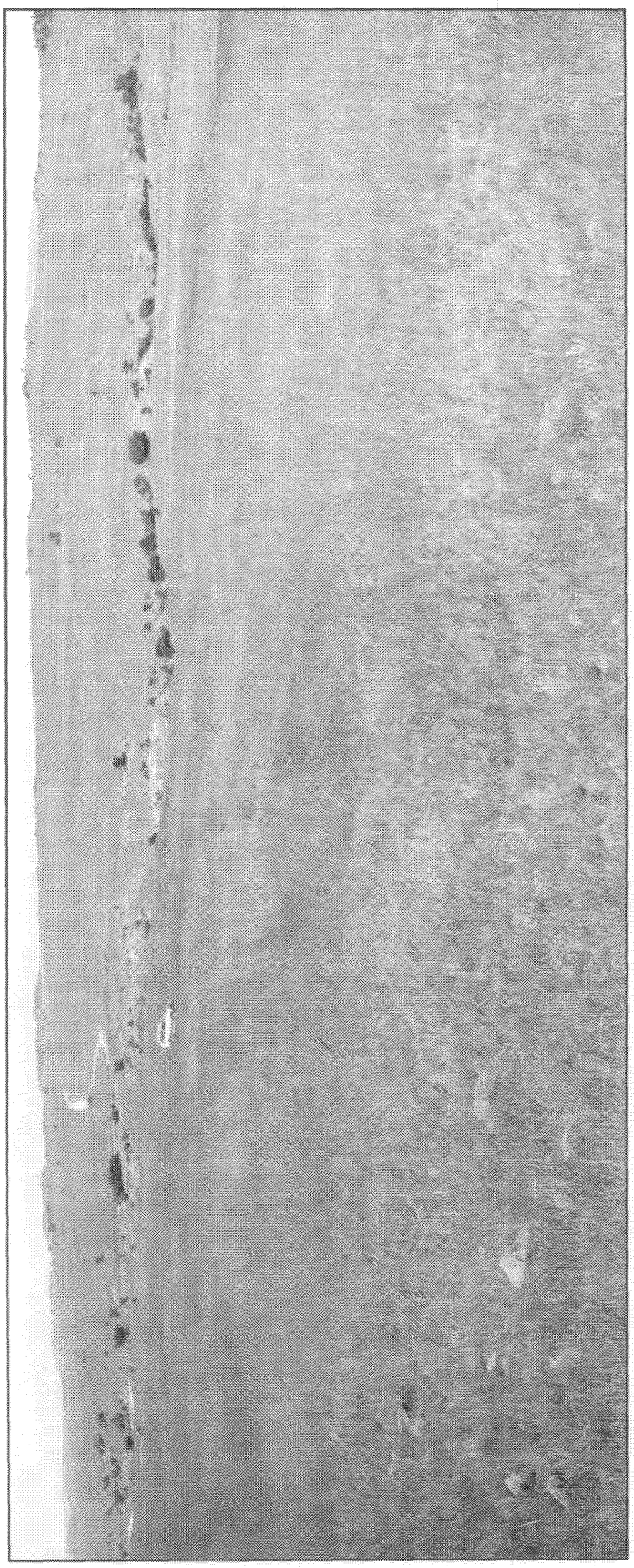

Plate 1 Panoramic view of a section of the study area.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach used for the study is aimed at compiling as complete as possible heritage inventory of the study area.

3.1 Desktop Study

The primary aim of the desktop study is to compile as much available information as possible on the heritage resources of the area. Such a study also helps in providing historical context for any sites that are located.

The desktop investigation focussed on the study of published and unpublished source material, archival records as well as historical and archival maps.

The institutions housing material that was studied during the course of the project include the South African National Archives, University of South Africa's Muckleneuk Library and the Directorate: Surveys and Mapping in Cape Town.

3.2 Field Surveys

The field surveys took place during February, March and October 2007 and consisted of foot surveys of the entire study area.

All located sites were briefly documented. This documentation includes photographs (where possible) and descriptions as to the nature and condition of the located material. A hand-held Global Positioning System (Garmin Summit) set to datum WGS84 was used to obtain site coordinates.

The located sites were also given unique individual numbers, from ONV-1 to ONV-33. The acronym used as part of the numbering system was derived from the farm name, in this case Onverwacht.

3.3 Consulting with Local Interested and/or Affected Parties

Intensive consultation with erstwhile residents of the study area took place during the fieldwork. The following individuals were consulted with:

- Samuel Zwane

- Bailoni Nkosi
- Paulus Magagula
- Jeremiah Vilane
- Lomasonto Elizabeth Vilane
- Jacob Nkambule
- Mbengu Johannes Vilane
- Ntombiecane Emah Vilane
- Sangqotho Petrus Duma
- Zintombi Maria Shongwe
- Msombuluko Elijah Maseko
- Maria Lydia Khumalo
- Julia Malinga

3.4 Aspects regarding Visibility and Constraints

Not subtracting in any way from the comprehensiveness of the fieldwork undertaken, it is necessary to realise that the heritage resources located during the fieldwork do not necessarily represent all the heritage resources located there. This may be due to various reasons, including the subterranean nature of some archaeological sites and dense vegetation cover. As such, should any heritage features and/or objects not included in the present inventory be located or observed, a heritage specialist must immediately be contacted. Such observed or located heritage features and/or objects may not be disturbed or removed in any way until such time that the heritage specialist has been able to make an assessment as to the significance of the site (or material) in question. This is true for graves and cemeteries as well.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Desktop Study Findings

4.1.1 Cartographic findings

The study of historic and archival maps represents a valuable tool in the identification of heritage sites within a defined area. The primary source for maps used in this study was the cartographic section of the National Archives in Pretoria. Maps housed at the Africana Section of the University of South Africa Library were also studied. Two maps of relevance for the study area were located. Copies of these maps are included in this report and a short overview of each is made.

4.1.1.1 Geological Map

Figure 1 depicts an enlarged section of the Geological Map of the Barberton District. It was surveyed in 1905 as well as between 1913 and 1916.

No heritage resources are indicated on the farm Onverwacht. On the eastern boundary of the farm a secondary road is shown.

4.1.1.2 Untitled Map

Figure 2 depicts sections of an untitled map that was first published on the 17th of February 1906 and revised on the 1st of February 1911.

No heritage resources are depicted on the farm Onverwacht. On the eastern boundary of the farm a secondary road is shown.

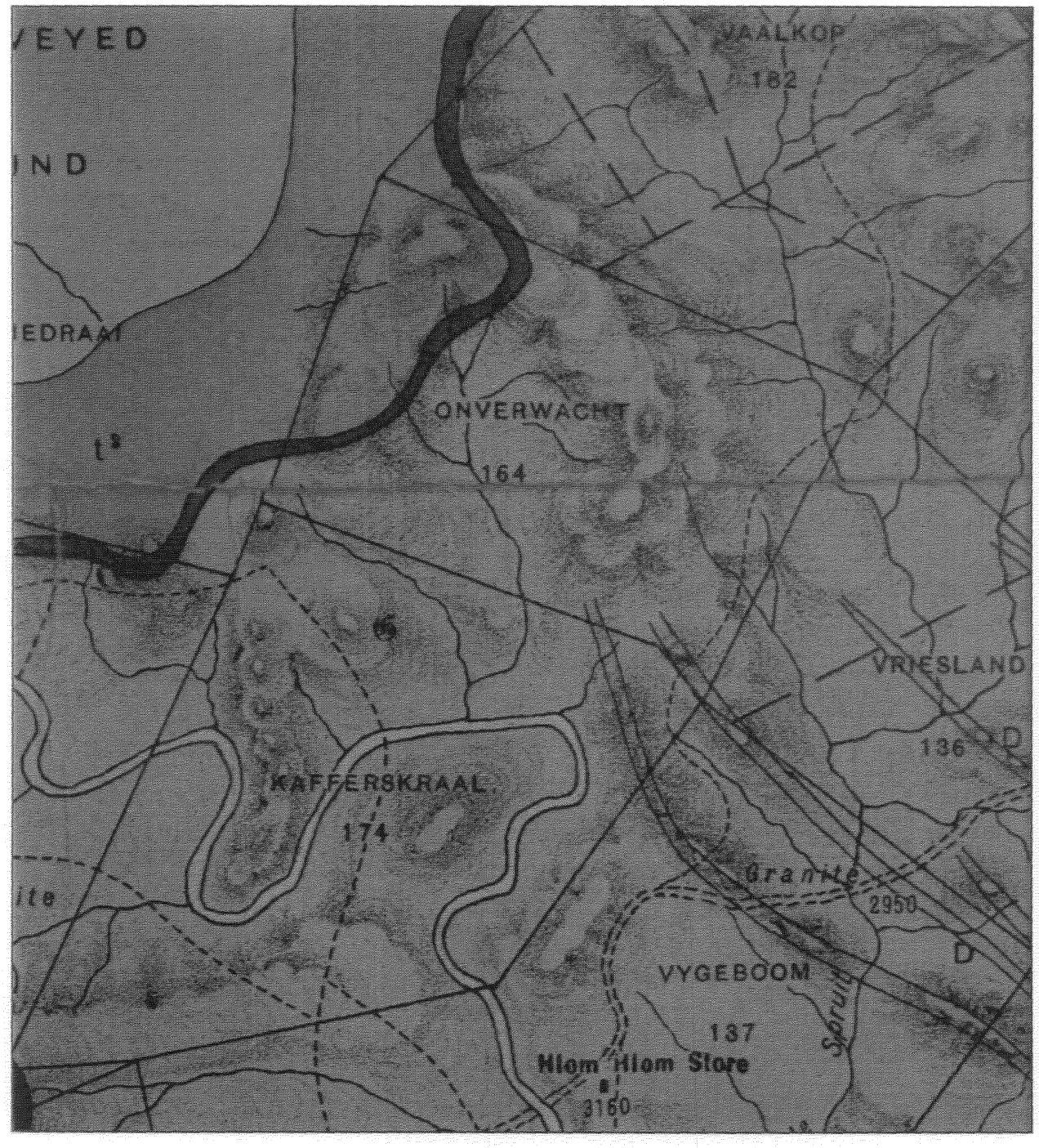

Figure 1 Geological map that was surveyed in 1905 as well as between 1913 and 1916.

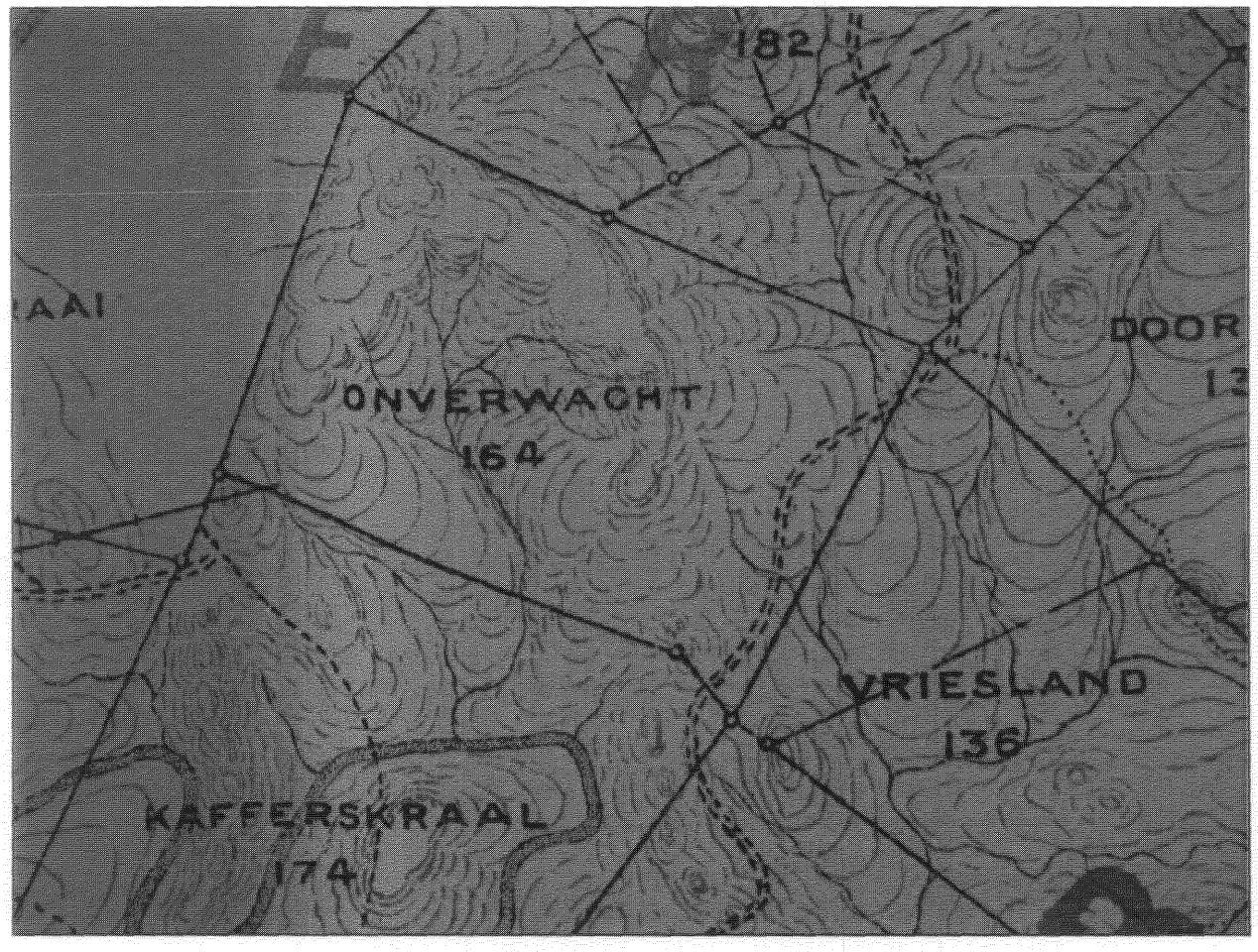

Figure 2 Untitled map that was surveyed in 1906 and revised in 1911.

4.1.2 Ethnographic evidence for prehistoric settlement

During the 1940s and 1950s reasonably intensive attempts were made by A.C. Myburgh of the then *Department of Native Affairs* to record the oral history of the black people of the Carolina district. His study included the present study area and surroundings as well and was published in 1956 as *The Tribes of the Carolina District* (Myburgh, 1956). Although the farm Onverwacht is never mentioned in this work, its adjacent farms such as Kafferskraal and Vriesland are, and will be discussed.

The work of Dr. J.S.M. Matsebula titled *A History of Swaziland* (Matsebula, 1988) also provided information on the history of Swazi expansion and settlement into the areas surrounding the study area.

Mpumalanga: History and Heritage, the newly published book of Prof. Peter Delius, was used to augment the other works, especially on the history of the Sotho speaking groups in the area.

4.1.4.1 The Sotho

According to Makhura (2007) the so-called eastern Sotho (including the Pai, Pulana and Kutswe) expanded from the 17th century onwards into large areas of western and northern Swaziland as well as the districts of Carolina, Barberton and Waterval Boven. The stone settlements of the Pulana in the present-day Carolina and Barberton districts were called Shakwaneng (near the present day towns of Waterval Boven and Badplaas) and Motšhiteng respectively.

The research undertaken by Prof. B.V. Lombaard has also shown a strong association of the area lying between Lydenburg and Machadodorp with the Koni (The Lydenburg News, 12 November 1976).

The presence of the Sotho in these areas before the expansion of Swazi is supported by the oral histories recorded by Myburgh (1956). He refers to various elderly residents of the Carolina district who were of the opinion that before the Swazi came to settle in the area during the 19th century it was resided in by people belonging to the Sotho-Tswana linguistic group. Matsebula (1988) concurs and states that Sotho groups such as the Pedi resided along the Mpumalanga escarpment before the Swazi came into the area.

The Swazi expansion into the districts of Carolina and Barberton took place during the successive reigns of Swazi kings Sobhuza I (Somhlolo) (ca 1815 - 1839) and Mswati II

(ca 1840 – 1868). For example, during the early 1830s Sobhuza had established a royal village at Ezulwini from where he extended his sphere of influence to the Komati River in the north and the Dlomodlomo Mountains (north of Badplaas) in the west.

4.1.4.2 The Swazi

4.1.4.2.1 The Mbhuleni settlement

As mentioned above, Mswati II followed on the expansion programme of his father (Sobhuza I) into areas presently falling within the Carolina and Barberton districts. He encountered and defeated various Sotho groups. He eventually also managed to defeat the Pedi of Sekwati who was forced to accept the Swazi king's authority. As a way of ensuring that they stay subjugated Mswati established three large military posts along the Little Crocodile River. These settlements were named Mekemeke, Mjindini and Mbhuleni and the king placed one of his wives (inkhosikati) as well as a ndvuna (governor) in each. Two of the settlements were located away from the study area with Mekemeke between present day Barberton and Komatipoort and Mjindini at present day Barberton. However, the third settlement known as Mbhuleni was established at the foot of the Dlomodlomo Mountains to the north of the present day town of Badplaas. The inkhosikati here was Nandzi the daughter of Magadlela Khumalo while the ndvuna was Ngcina Matsebula (Matsebula, 1988).

While Myburgh (1956) agrees that all three settlements outlined before existed, his research has shown that the Mbhuleni settlement was established shortly after the death of Sobhuza I in 1839 while the other two settlements were only established approximately 25 years later in c. 1864. He also indicates that the settlement of Mbhuleni was first built at the foot of the Mkhingoma Mountain on the farm Nederland (some distance south-east of Badplaas). Myburg (1956) concurs with Matsebula (1988) that Nandzi was settled here and that the settlement's governor was Ngcina Matsebula. He adds that in c. 1840 it was relocated to the Sibongela Mountain on the farm Welgevonden some distance to the south of Badplaas. It remained here for a long time and was only relocated in 1915 to the farm Alexandria. This farm is located a short distance south-west of the study area between Badplaas and Kafferskraal. In 1937 the settlement was moved to the farm Kafferskraal. In 1947 the entire settlement once again returned to the farm Nederland, where they remained for approximately two years before they once again moved to the farm Alexandria.

Myburgh (1956) also mentions that the Mbhuleni settlement of Nandzi was at first the Mbhuleni of another one of the wives of Mswati II, the daughter of Ngodzela Mkhonta.

This settlement was located inside Swaziland. After Mswati's wife was accused by a group of people known as Ngcamane of an extramarital relationship with the settlement's ndvuna Ndzinga Jele, she was executed. Tandzile, the mother of Mswati, was not happy with this and banned the Ngcamane to the foot of the Dlomodlomo Mountain where the Mbhuleni was rebuilt.

4.1.4.2.2 The Ludlambedlwini settlement

Between c. 1840 and c. 1855 king Mswati II established a settlement for his oldest brother Somcuba (Ndlovuyangwane) south of the Komati River on what is presently known as the farm Kafferskraal 618 JT. This farm is located adjacent and to the south of Onverwacht 611 JT. A cattle post for the king's Ludlambedlu herd was also established here and as a result the settlement became known as Ludlambedlwini.

Shortly before c. 1855 a civil war erupted between the sons of Mlambo Nhlapo, Mhlangala and Gama in the Ermelo area. Gama Nhlapo managed to get the protection of Mswati II and settled near the Mbhuleni settlement which at the time was located on the farm Welgevonden. A joint attack was undertaken on the settlement of Mhlangala by the troops of Mswati II and Gama Nhlapo. In response Mhlangala attacked the Swazi at Ludlambedlwini. The attack took place early in the morning and was a complete victory for Mhlangala. All the king's cattle were taken and recollections of eyewitnesses to the attack told of how the children of the settlement were killed and hung on the posts of the cattle kraal. The vernacular names of three streams in the area tell the tale of this attack, namely Ligatane (blood), Nontjobongo (hiding place) and Nkendezi (where blood meandered).

Fortunately for Somcuba he was visiting outlying areas of his settlement north of the Komati River at the time. Upon hearing of the attack he sent his Ngcova regiment out to recover the king's cattle. They met up with Mhlangana's troops at the Libobo stream in the vicinity of present-day Badplaas, routed them and managed to recover the king's cattle.

After the attack a dispute took place between Somcuba and Mswati II and their respective troops met in battle in the vicinity of present-day Barberton. Although Somcuba's men won the day he saw the dangers of staying at Ludlambedlwini and decided to move. He established himself near the present-day town of Lydenburg where he was later attacked by Mswati II and killed.

4.1.4.2.3 The Shangweni settlement

During the beginning of the 19th century King Sobhuza I (Somhlolo), the founder of the Swazi nation, placed two of his sons Ndlaphu and Kufa in charge of a section of his kingdom. Kufa received the so-called Lusushwana area in the vicinity of present-day Ermelo where he stayed till past the death of his father in c. 1839. A few years after the crowning of his half-brother as King Mswati II in c.1840 Kufa paid a visit to the newly crowned king and complained that the Lusushwana area which he had been given was unproductive. In response the king offered Kufa a section of land to the north of present-day Badplaas. Kufa accepted this offer and found himself in charge of an extensive portion of land to the north of the Komati River reaching from the Mgubudla (or Gladde) Stream in the west all the way to Waterval Boven in the east.

He subsequently built his settlement on the Ndlulele hill presently located in the north-western corner of the farm Vriesland (directly adjacent to Onverwacht) and named it Shangweni.

In c. 1869 the settlement of Shangweni was attacked by Msutfu, the son of Mswati II's brother Somquba. The attack by Msutfu was in response to the death of his father at the hands of the king's warriors. Kufa and most of his men were away from the settlement at the time of the attack, which meant that the women and children bore the brunt of Msutfu's revenge and many of them were either killed or captured. It is related that after the attack Msutfu stood at the entrance to the settlement's cattle enclosure to supervise the removal of all Shangweni's cattle.

After the attack the Shangweni settlement was relocated to the farm Kafferskraal 618 JT. It was here that Mabhedla, the son of Mswati II, attached Shangweni again.

4.1.4.2.4 Other settlements in the area

Various other farms directly adjacent to the farm Onverwacht had Swazi settlements during the 19th century. The farms Doornhoek (133), Engelschedraai and Welgeluk (all to the west and north-west of Onverwacht) were resided in by a group of people known as Makhatu or Ntabengashi.

During the reign of Mbandzeni (he reigned between c. 1875 and c. 1889) Dvunga Shongwe was sent by the king to establish himself on the present-day farm Goedehoop (135) directly south-east of Onverwacht. Dvunga Shongwe was born in c. 1828 and was appointed ndvuna by king Mbandzeni before c. 1880. After the death of Dvunga in 1906

he was succeeded by Ndlangamandla who shortly after 1922 moved with his family to the Piggs Peak area of Swaziland. He was succeeded by Gama Mashinini who stayed on the farm Doornhoek (134). This farm is located directly east of Onverwacht.

During the 1870s Swaziland was hit by severe food shortages. Mshiza Maseko, a ndvuna over a section of Swaziland, received permission from the king to relocate his people from Swaziland to settle on the farm Uitkomst (183). This farm is located directly north of Onverwacht. Mshiza established himself here in c. 1877 and named his settlement Luvalweni. Mshiza stayed here until his death in 1884.

4.1.3 The archaeology of the study area and surroundings

Very little archaeological fieldwork has taken place in the direct vicinity of the study area. In the wider region the closest published archaeological research that could be found was the work undertaken by D.P. Collett (1979) in the Badfontein valley as well as the research undertaken by Evers (1975) and Marker & Evers (1976) in the vicinity of Lydenburg. Their research has revealed the existence of extensive settlements comprised of terracing, cattle tracks and areas with concentrated enclosures. The last mentioned features consisting of an area in which a number of stone walled enclosures and walling are found, have been referred to as cultural units (Evers, 1976), ruins (Collett, 1982) and homesteads (Evers, 1981). In the section that follows the term "enclosure unit" will be used.

In general terms two broad types of enclosure units have been found and recorded during various research projects. Collett describes these two types as simple ruins and complex ruins, with the first being isolated circular enclosures and the latter defined as "*...two or more contiguous circular or sub-circular enclosures.*" (Collett, 1982:34). Marker and Evans (1976) have identified three enclosure unit types. The first consists of two concentric circles, in which the inner enclosure would most likely have been the cattle kraal and the area between the inner and outer walling used for the building of huts. The second type identified by Marker & Evers also has an outer wall, but instead of a single smaller enclosure within its centre the enclosure units from this type has in its central part a "*...complex of enclosures, generally consisting of a large central one with two opposed entrances and a number of circles around part of, or the whole of, the perimeter*" (Marker & Evers, 1976:161). The suggestion made is that the huts would have been built between the enclosing wall and this central complex of enclosures. The third type identified by them consists of a concentration of small enclosures which does not conform to the layout pattern of the first two types.

Excavations at a Late Iron Age site in the Gustav Klingbeil Reserve (Old number 61/73; later Klingbeil 2530 AB:3) have revealed a complete hut floor as well as the courtyard and verandah of a second hut. The hut floor consisted of a layer of gravel on top of which a layer of flat stones were placed. The stones were covered in clay. The remains of a verandah with clay flooring and a clay bench were excavated on that side of the hut which faced down slope and toward the central livestock enclosures. The walls of the hut were built of closely positioned poles, while the inner and outer walls were plastered with clay.

A charred post excavated from the courtyard of a hut at Klingbeil 2540 AB:3 has been radiocarbon dated to 130 ± 40 B.P (Evers & Vogel, 1980). The calibrated dating of the site has been suggested as between A.D. 1640 and A.D. 1820 (Evers, 1981).

The numerous stone walled enclosures and cattle tracks found at many of these sites indicate the significance of herding activities, and direct evidence in the form of the cattle as well as goat/sheep teeth have been found. Agricultural activities in turn are indicated by the location of numerous grinding stones as well as terracing used for levelling sloped areas for use as agricultural fields (Marker & Evers, 1976).

The Late Iron Age excavations have also revealed decorated and undecorated ceramic fragments and vessels. Evers (1981:98) indicates that the research undertaken essentially by him and D.P. Collett have revealed that the stone walled sites from the Lydenburg district "*...belong to a single ceramic phase which Collett has called Marateng*". He also points to the strong association in terms of settlement layout as well as ceramic decoration with the Pedi.

More recently, however, it has been suggested that all Late Iron Age sites from Lydenburg can not always be associated with the Pedi alone, and that some of these can be associated with the Koni as well.

4.1.4 Historic black settlement in the study area and surroundings

During the first half of the 20th century a number of Swazi families moved into the area to settle within the study area component of the farm Onverwacht. Each family built its own homestead which often had a cattle kraal associated with it. They worked for a white farmer whose house was situated directly north-east of the study area and helped him with his sheep farming activities.

Ten historic homesteads (excluding the five sites classified as both Late Iron Age and Historic) were located within the study area. While some variation in their layouts does exist, they are comprised of very similar components.

The families who used to reside at six of these historic sites were identified; namely the Vilane family at ONV-1, the Nkosi family at ONV-3, the Ginindza family at ONV-10, the Duma family at ONV-18, the Shongwe family at ONV-28 and the Maseko family at ONV-29. As these families are all Swazi in language and culture, a short overview of a typical Swazi homestead, its layout and components will be outlined.

The homestead of the Swazi is called the *umuti* (pl. *imiti*) and is at least resided in by the homestead leader (*umunzane*), his wife (or wives), unmarried children as well as other dependants. In some cases married sons of the *umunzane* would also settle in the *umuti*.

While the ethnographical sources indicate the use of wood, plant materials, clay and mud in the construction of the various structural elements of the *umuti*, the primary building material observed in the homesteads observed within the study area was stone with some clay and mud visible as well. This can be attributed to various factors, including the fact that very few trees and bushes are found in or near the study area whereas all the ridges found here are excellent sources of stone.

While the layout of each individual homestead can differ and change depending on the number of wives, children and other family members, they are usually comprised of the same settlement components. These include:

- *Sibaya* (cattle kraal)

  The cattle kraal is arguably the most significant element of the homestead and traditionally would have been centrally located. In more recent times the *sibaya* would be located down slope or to the east of the remainder of the homestead. The kraal mostly has a smaller enclosure attached to its outside known as *inhlambelo* in which calves were kept.

- *Indlunkhulu* (main hut)

  The main hut is located directly behind the cattle kraal and is used to house the mother of the *umunzane*.

- *Indlu Yekunene* (secondary hut)

  The second most senior residential unit of the homestead is located to the right of the *indlunkhulu* and is known as the *indlu yekunene*. This hut is always located to the right of the main hut. In cases where the mother of the *umunzane* is still alive, his first wife would stay here. If she has passed on this area would combine with the *indlunkhulu* to form one section.

- *Indlu Yelikhohlwa* (tertiary hut)

  The third most senior residential unit is called the *indlu yelikhohlwa* and is built for the second wife of the *umunzane*.

- *Lilawu* (hut for boys)

  While small children sleep in their mother's hut, this changes before puberty. All boys reaching the age of approximately 12 years are moved from the huts of their mothers to a hut that is built specifically for the boys and known as the *lilawu*. The *lilawu* is often constructed on the right-hand side of the homestead near the entrance to the cattle kraal and has such a strong association with the cattle kraal that it is often built of exactly the same material.

- *Intsanga* (hut for girls)

  Just before puberty the girls of the homestead are moved from the huts of their mothers to a hut built specifically for them. This hut is known as *intsanga* and while it is built in exactly the same way as the huts of the adults, it does not have a hearth (*litiko*) or place of offering (*umsamo*).

- *Lidladla* (kitchen hut)

  In earlier years every woman had her own *lidladla*. In more recent years however, more than one woman would share this structure. The *lidladla* was used as the space in which food was prepared by a woman (or women) as well as the place where the woman (or women) and children would eat.

- Storage hut

  In earlier years every woman in the homestead had her own storage hut. As is the case with the kitchen hut, however, more than one woman would share this hut in more contemporary times. This area was used for the storage of various articles such as pots, blankets, clothing as well as a sleeping space for guests.

- Structures or features where food is stored

  These structures or features include the grain hut (*sihlandla semabele*), the grain platform (*inyango*) and the grain pit (*ingungu*) (Herbst, 85).

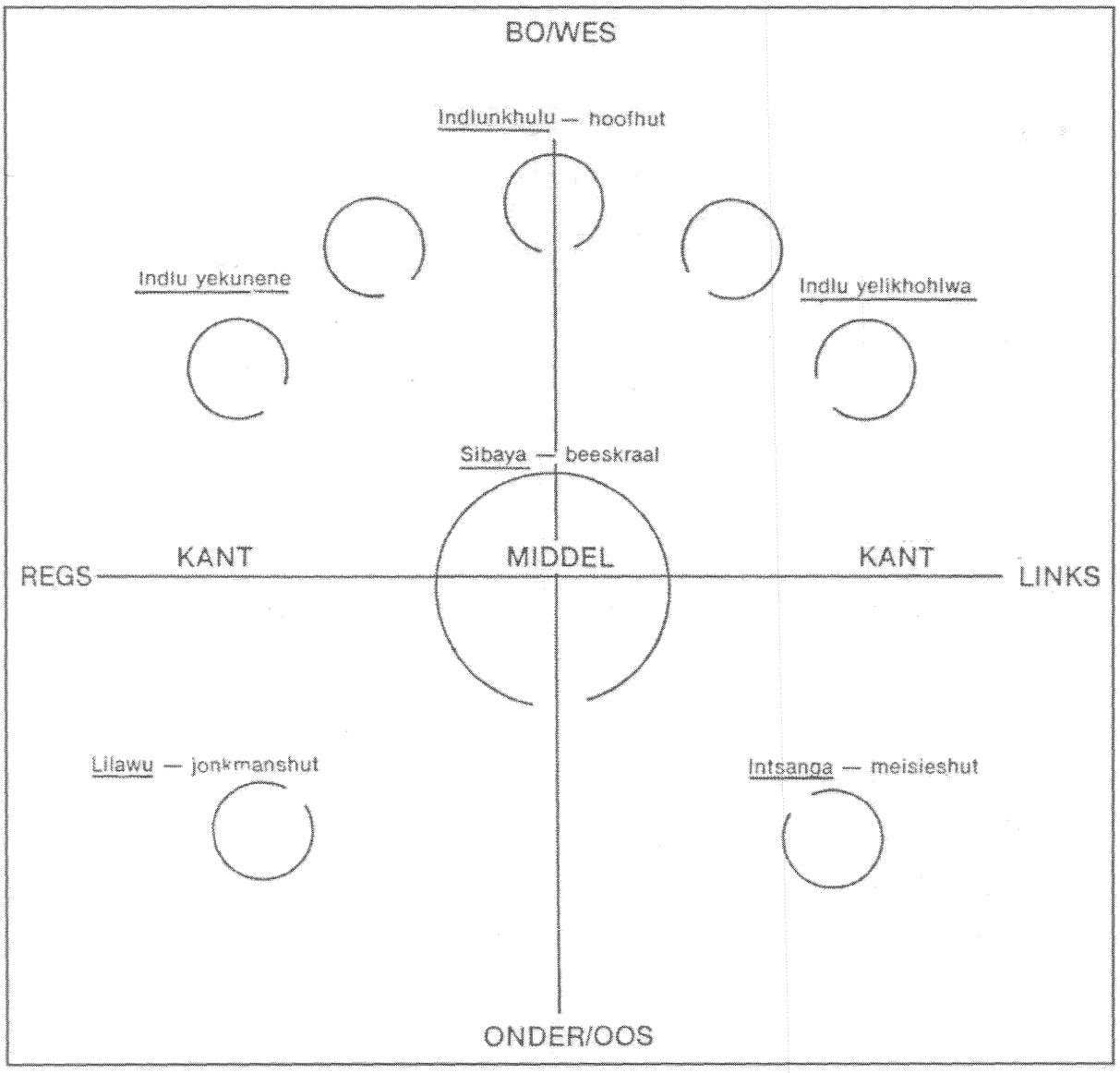

Figure 3 Diagram of a typical Swazi homestead (Herbst, 1985:27).

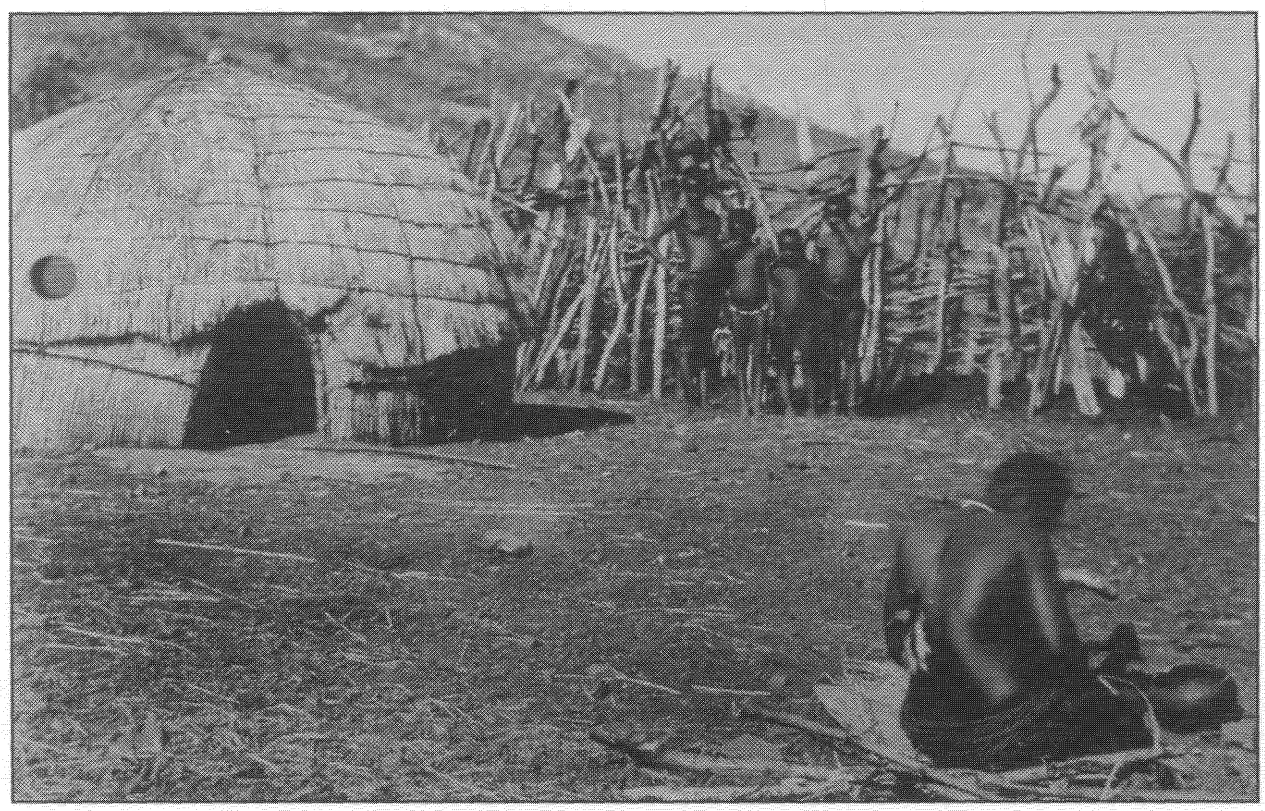

Figure 4 Undated archival photograph of a Swazi homestead showing an *indlu* (or sleeping hut) and *sibaya* (cattle kraal). The photograph was possibly taken during the late 1800s to early 1900s.

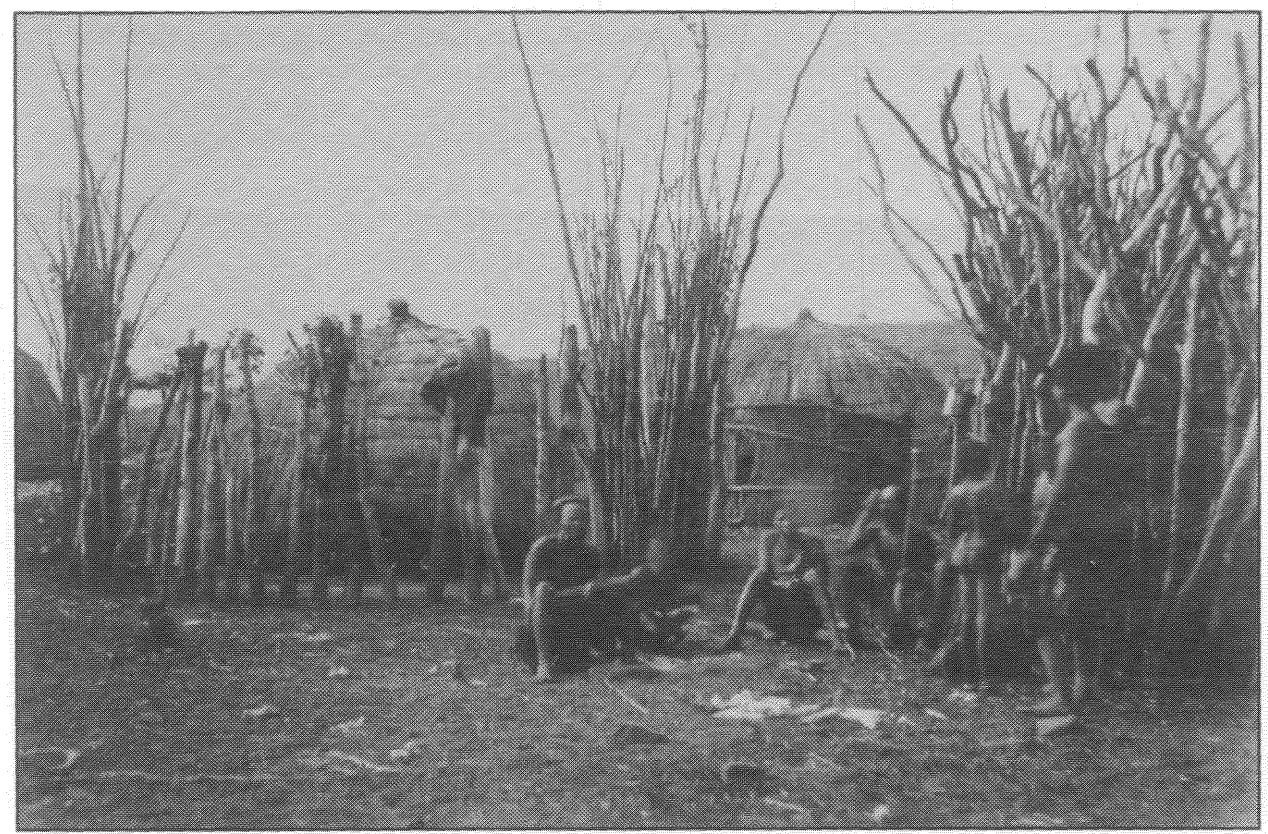

Figure 5 Undated archival photograph of a Swazi homestead showing three *indlu* (huts). The photograph was possibly taken during the late 1800s to early 1900s.

4.2 Social Consultation Findings

As indicated before a number of erstwhile residents of the study area and surrounds have been consulted with. These consultations have revealed information on the heritage resources and history of the study area.

- Samuel Zwane

  Mr. Samuel Zwane stays on the adjacent farm Kafferskraal. He identified the grave of his stillborn child that was buried in an unmarked location on the banks of a non-perennial stream. See **ONV-8** below.

- Jeremiah Vilane

  Mr. Vilane represents the Vilane family who used to reside at the homestead numbered for the aims of this report as **ONV-1**. During consultations with the Vilane family each of the seven graves located at this homestead were identified. Although the family could not clearly indicate in which exact year their ancestor Mvelaphi Jacob Vilane established the settlement here, they were of the opinion that it took place during the early 1900s. Members of the family also explained the layout and settlement components of the site to the author of this report.

- Bailoni Nkosi

  Mr. Nkosi resides in Mamelodi, Pretoria and represents the Nkosi family who used to stay at the homestead numbered for the aims of this report as **ONV-3**. He explained the layout and settlement components of the site to the author of this report and also indicated two previously unidentified graves of children located near the settlement. Although exact dates for the settlement could not be established, it was believed to have been established during the first half of the 20th century.

- Sangqotho Petrus Duma

  Mr. Duma resides at Nhlazathse south-east of Badplaas. He represents the Duma family who used to reside at the homestead numbered as **ONV-18**. The family was able to identify the grave of their ancestor Jacob N. Duma inside the

settlement's cattle kraal. Although exact dates for the settlement could not be established, it was believed to have been established during the early 1900s.

- Zintombi Maria Shongwe

  Ms Shongwe resides at Badplaas and is the oldest living descendant of the Nkambule family who used to reside at the site numbered for the aims of this report as **ONV-28**. She identified the graves of her grandfather, Mr. Nkambule, her younger sister Ms. Banzile Malaza as well as two young children of her brother in the cemetery located at the site.

- Msombuluko Elijah Maseko

  Mr. Maseko resides at Nhlazatshe south-east of Badplaas and is the oldest living descendant of the Maseko family who used to reside at the site numbered for the aims of this report as **ONV-29**. He was able to identify the graves located here.

- Lydia Malinga

  Ms. Malinga was able to identify the graves located at **ONV-7**.

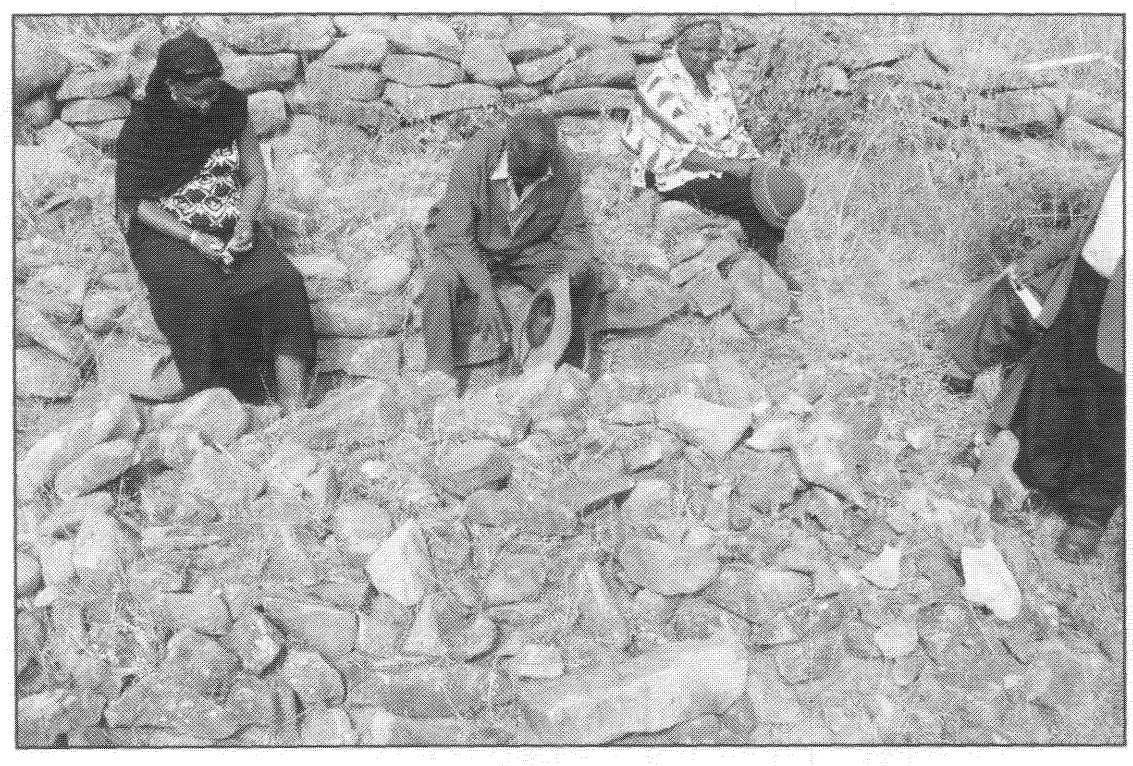

Plate 2 Members of the Vilane family at the graves of their family.

4.3 Survey Findings

Twenty-nine sites were located during the field survey within the development footprint. Four sites (ONV-30, ONV-31, ONV-32 & ONV-33) are located outside of the development footprint and will not be impacted upon. Refer Annexure B Site Distribution Map.

4.3.1 ONV-1

4.3.1.1 Coordinates

S 25.836720
E 30.643600

4.3.1.2 General Site Description

ONV-1 consists of a historic site which is comprised of a settlement area, livestock enclosure and cemetery. It is situated on the plateau of a low ridge with a very good view of the surrounding landscape.

The settlement area is the topographically highest component of the site and comprises 12 rectangular and one circular stone and mud structures. These structures can be identified as dwellings, kitchen areas and storage space. While a few of the structures are still reasonably well preserved, the largest majority consist of only low foundation walls. With the exception of a lower grinder inside one of the structures very little surface artefacts could be observed.

The cemetery is situated approximately 15 meters to the north of the settlement area and consists of seven graves containing oval-shaped stone cairns. A rectangular stone wall with an opening on its northern end partially encloses the cemetery. Evidence of visits by descendants of the graves was found in the form of a relatively recent cool drink bottle and several drinking glasses.

The livestock enclosure is located approximately 35 meters to the north-west of the settlement area. It consists of a reasonably large rectangular stone structure with a small circular structure on its south-western corner which must have been used to keep calves.

The site represents the remains of a historic black settlement which can be associated with the early to mid 20th century. According to local oral tradition the historic settlement and graves are associated with the Vilane family. Various telephonic discussions as well

as two on-site meetings have taken place with this family during which they have indicated their willingness for the graves to be relocated. The names of the deceased buried in the cemetery have been given as Nellie Vilane, Nozizwe Vilane, Mvelaphi Jacob Vilane, Samariah Vilane, Enoke Nkosi, Jabulani Vilane and Zodwa Magagula.

4.3.1.3 Current Protection Status

The site comprises historic structures older than 60 years as well as a cemetery. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority. Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

4.3.1.4 Site Significance

The two components of the site have varying degrees of significance. The historic settlement is of **Low Significance**. All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the cemetery is deemed to be of **High Significance.** In multi-component sites such as the one under discussion, the highest significance ranking given to any one of the site components is given to the entire site. **ONV-1** is therefore of **High Significance.**

4.3.1.5 Mitigation

The mitigation of the livestock enclosure and settlement area is the same, namely the documentation of the entire site layout by surveying and drawing of a Site Layout Plan.

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve the cemetery *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased. The Vilane family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their graves and they have provided permission for the graves to be relocated.

Plate 3 General view of the site. From right to left the livestock enclosure (A), cemetery (B) and settlement area (C) can be seen.

Plate 4 A section of the historic settlement with some of the stone foundations just visible.

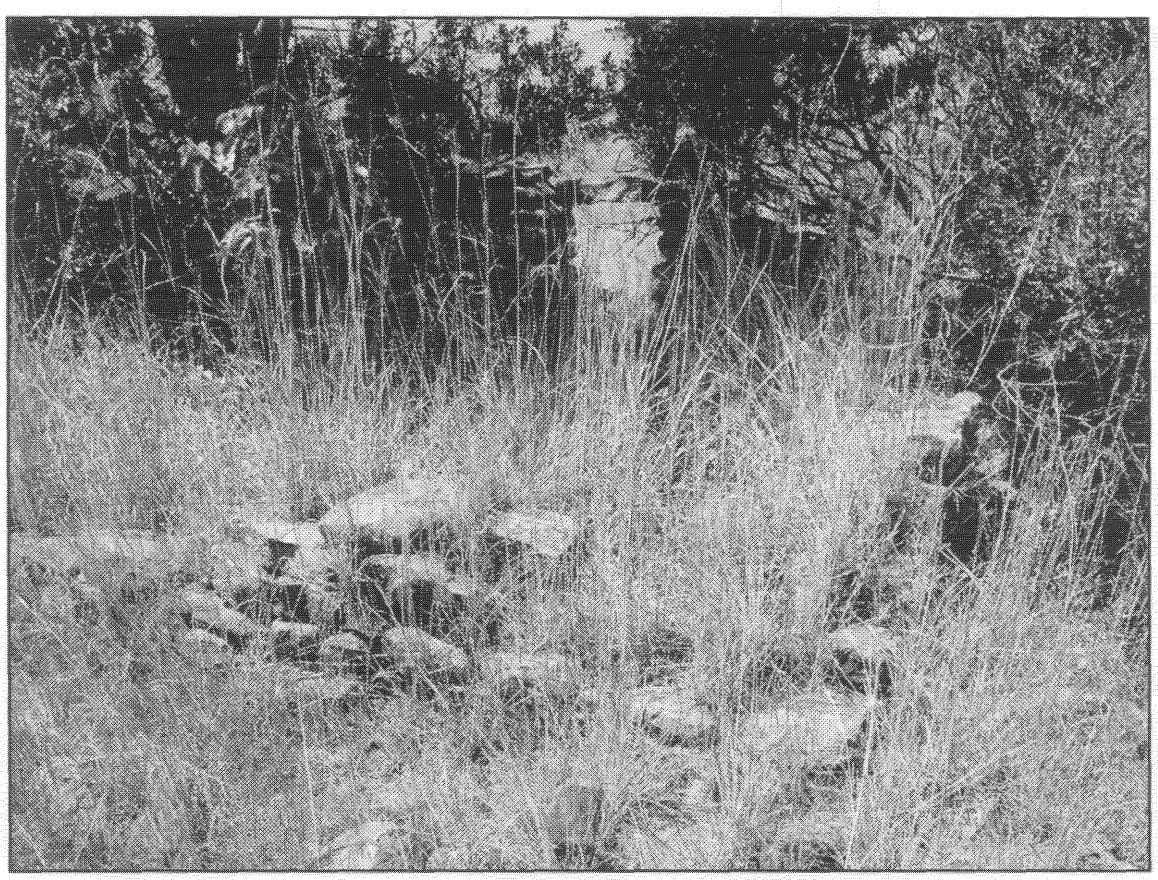

Plate 5 Closer view of one of the better preserved stone structures.

Plate 6 An example of one of the interconnecting walls observed between the structures.

Plate 7 General view across the cemetery, with three of the graves visible.

Plate 8 The cool drink bottle as it was found on top of one of the grave dressings.

4.3.2 ONV-2

4.3.2.1 Coordinates

S 25.833280
E 30.649230

4.3.2.2 General Site Description

A multi-component site comprised of both a Late Iron Age and Historic Period phase is situated here at the southern foot of a low ridge. The only visible remains of the Iron Age site is a small circular enclosure on the site's eastern end and a circular wall enclosing most of the site. The remainder can be classified as historical, and primarily consists of a large rectangular stone enclosure (± 14 x 8 m) with nine small rectangular stone structures (± 4 x 5 m) associated with it. The large rectangular structure is evidently a cattle kraal while the smaller rectangular structures are the remains of dwellings (huts).

ONV-2 represents the remains of a historic black settlement dating from the mid to later 20th century that was constructed on top of an earlier Late Iron Age site. Most of the stones from the earlier site were evidently removed and used to construct the historic structures thereby destroying the context of the earlier site.

4.3.2.3 Current Protection Status

The two components of the site are protected by different sections of the National Heritage Resources Act (refer Annexure C Legislative Framework). Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years. The historic settlement can be considered as older as 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of the Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.2.4 Site Significance

The two components of the site have varying degrees of significance. The Late Iron Age site is poorly preserved without any visible archaeological deposit or material. As such it is of **Low Significance**. The historic settlement is also of **Low Significance**.

4.3.2.5 Mitigation

The site layout must be documented by surveying and drawing of a Site Layout Plan.

Plate 9 General view of the site with some of the stone structures just visible.

Plate 10 One of the small rectangular structures from **ONV-2**.

4.3.3 ONV-3

4.3.3.1 Coordinates

S 25.831540
E 30.646930

4.3.3.2 General Site Description

An historic site is situated here at the south-western foot of a low ridge. It is comprised of a large rectangular stone enclosure (± 14m x 12m) (with a small rectangular structure attached to its eastern end), one small rectangular structure (± 3m x 4m) and five circular stone structures (± 4m in diameter). The settlement was built and resided in by by the Nkosi family.

On Wednesday, 13 February 2008 Mr. Bailoni Nkosi was picked up in Mamelodi and taken to the site. Mr. Nkosi grew up here and indicated the function for each of the structures found within the site. He related that the large rectangular structure was a cattle kraal while the attached smaller enclosure was used to keep the calves in. The small rectangular structure to the north of the kraal was used by the boys of the settlement to sleep in, whereas two of the six circular structures were the remains of the huts used by the daughters of the house as well as the father and mother of the settlement. The remaining four structures were used as kitchens, a shed and storeroom respectively.

A small circular stone enclosure located approximately 33 meters to the east of the main settlement was indicated by Mr. Bailoni Nkosi to be a cemetery containing the graves of his daughter Monica Nkosi and his sister's daughter Sussetjie Nkosi.

It is evident that **ONV-3** represents the remains of a historic black settlement dating from the mid to later 20th century. Oral history has revealed that the settlement was established by the Nkosi family.

4.3.3.2 Current Protection Status

The site can be considered as older than 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority. Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the

National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

4.3.3.3 Site Significance

The two components of the site have varying degrees of significance. The historic settlement is of **Low Significance**. However, all graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the cemetery is deemed to be of **High Significance.** In multi-component sites such as the one under discussion, the highest significance ranking given to any one of the site components is given to the entire site. **ONV-3** is therefore of **High Significance.**

4.3.3.4 Mitigation

The mitigation of the historic structures consists of the documentation of the settlement layout by surveying and drawing of a Site Layout Plan.

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve the cemetery *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased.

The Nkosi family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their graves and they have provided permission for the graves to be relocated.

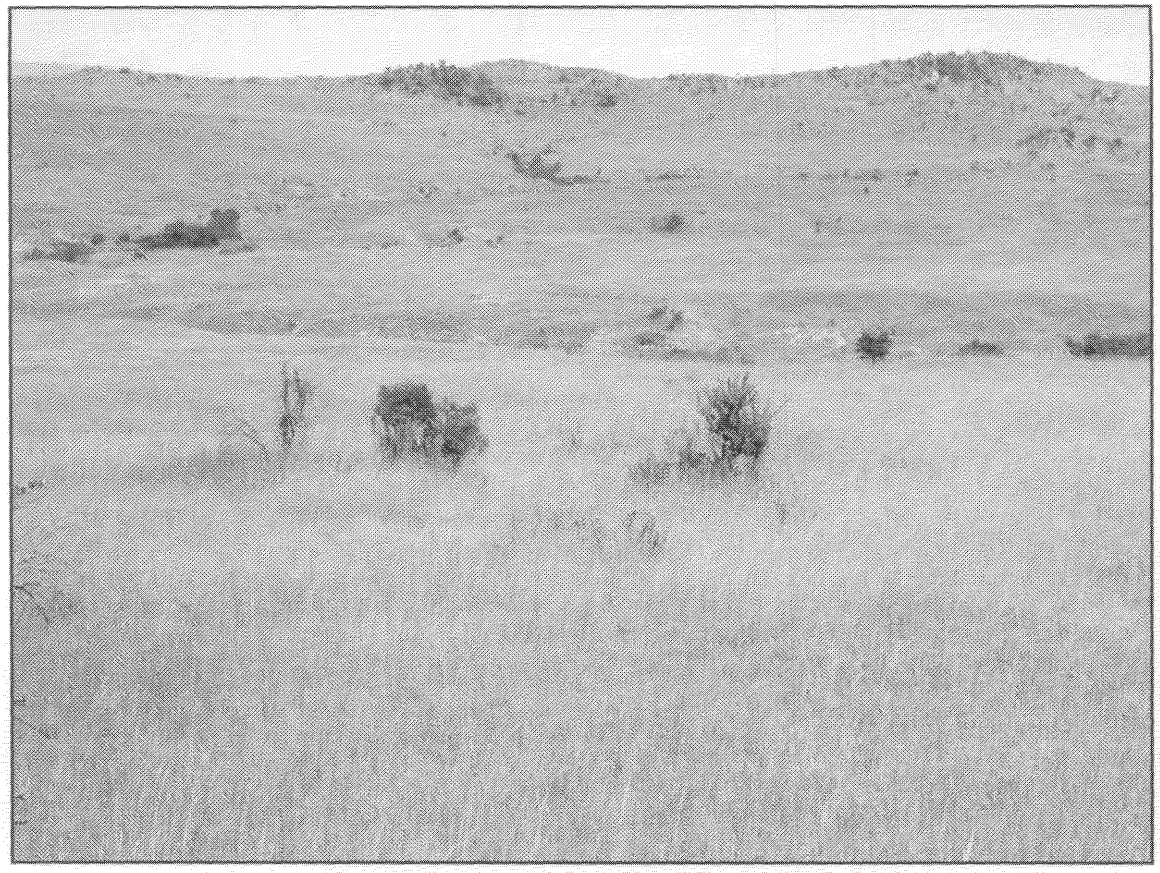

Plate 11 General view of **ONV-3**.

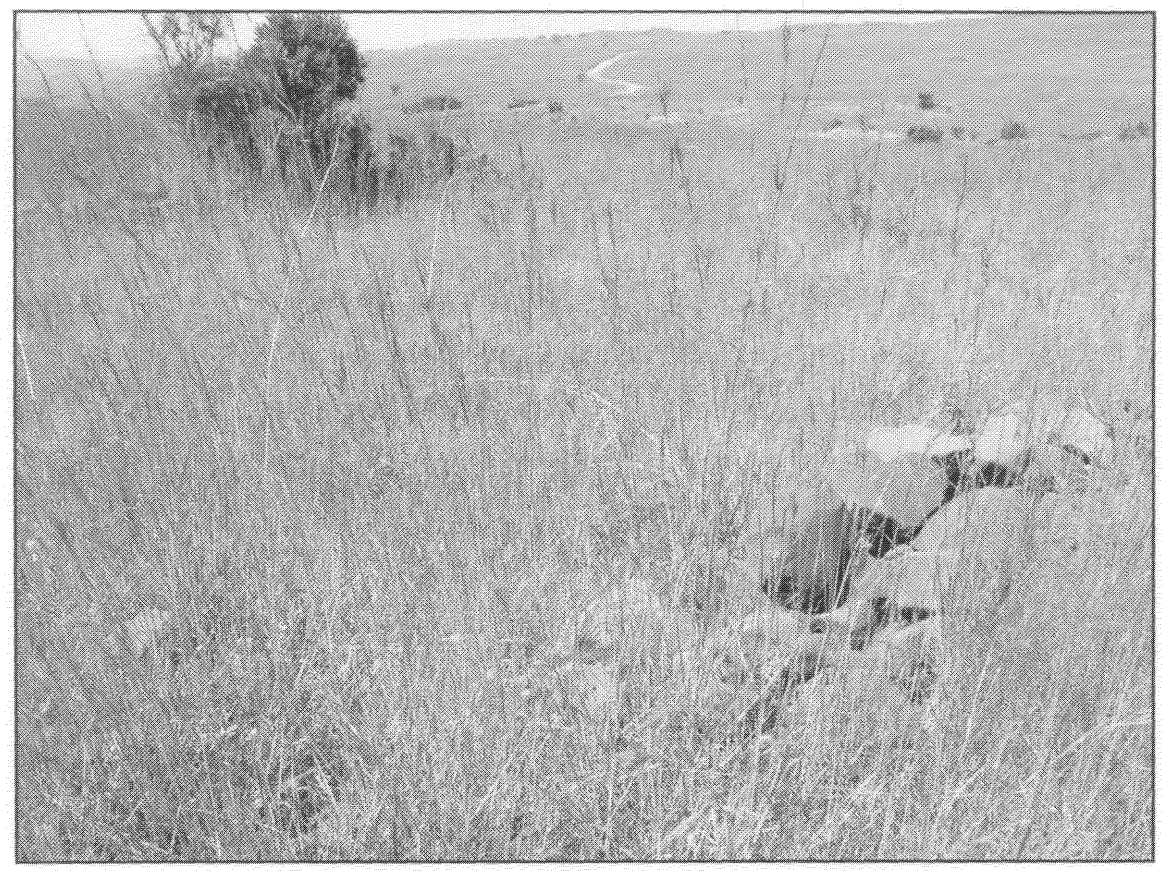

Plate 12 The rectangular livestock enclosure.

Plate 13 One of the circular stone foundations in the vicinity of the livestock enclosure.

Plate 14 The small circular stone enclosures containing the two graves.

Plate 15 The grave of Monica Nkosi situated inside the small circular enclosure.

Plate 16 The grave of Sussetjie Nkosi situated inside the small circular enclosure.

4.3.4 ONV-4

4.3.4.1 Coordinates

S 25.823280
E 30.646910

4.3.4.2 General Site Description

The site consists of an oval-shaped stone enclosure (± 25 m x 15 m) located near the north-eastern corner of the study area. No artefacts were observed on the surface of the site. It can either be associated with the Historic Period or Late Iron Age.

4.3.4.2 Current Protection Status

If the site dates from the Historic Period, it is protected under Section 34(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. This section states that all structures older than 60 years may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority. If it is older than 100 years, it can be considered an archaeological site and as such falls under the protection of Section 35(4) of the said Act. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

4.3.4.3 Site Significance

As the site consists only of a simple stone enclosure without any deposits or artefacts evident, it is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.4.4 Mitigation

The mitigation of the site consists of the documentation of the settlement layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

4.3.5 ONV-5

4.3.5.1 Coordinates

S 25.822590
E 30.646170

4.3.5.2 General Site Description

The site consists of an extensive circular stone enclosure (± 45 meters in diameter) located near the north-eastern corner of the study area. No artefacts were observed on the surface of the site. It can either be associated with the Historic Period or Late Iron Age.

4.3.5.2 Current Protection Status

If the site dates from the Historic Period, it is protected under Section 34(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. This section states that all structures older than 60 years may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority. If it is older than 100 years, it can be considered an archaeological site and as such falls under the protection of Section 35(4) of the said Act. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

4.3.5.3 Site Significance

As the site consists only of a stone enclosure without any deposits or artefacts evident, it is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.5.4 Mitigation

The mitigation of the site consists of the documentation of the settlement layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

4.3.6 ONV-6

4.3.6.1 Coordinates

S 25.822760
E 30.645770

4.3.6.2 General Site Description

The site consists of the grave of a stillborn child that was buried in an ant-heap. The grave belongs to the Khumalo famly.

4.3.6.3 Current Protection Status

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

4.3.6.4 Site Significance

All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **High Significance.**

4.3.6.5 Mitigation

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve it *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased. The Khumalo family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their grave and they have provided permission for it to be relocated.

Plate 17 General view of **ONV-6**.

4.3.7 ONV-7

4.3.7.1 Coordinates

S 25.822770
E 30.644330

4.3.7.2 General Site Description

The site consists of a historic cemetery situated at the south-western foot of a low ridge. It is located a short distance from the Malinga homestead.

The cemetery is comprised of 19 graves. The largest majority of the graves contain upright stones on its western ends functioning as headstones, while some of these headstones have inscriptions on them. The legible inscriptions read:

Elina Zwane
2 November 2004
Born 1972

Portia Zwane
Born 2 June 2003
Died 18 June 2005

Setti
Died 26 January 2001

Fanitshi Simon Maseko
15 June 2003

The graves have oval or rectangular stone packed dressings and are orientated along the east-west axis. This signifies that the deceased were buried in the Christian/Western tradition which in turn suggests that the cemetery can be associated with the historic to recent past. This is supported by the inscriptions as indicated above.

The families of the deceased buried in this cemetery were located and communicated with. According to these families the following individuals are buried here: Mtayi Solomon Malinga, Sonto Joane Maseko, Sidiya Vusi Malinga, Sibhono Christina Malinga, Gugu Hleziphi Malinga, Vusi Johan Maseko, Mandlakhe Sam Maseko, Lindiwe Octavia Maseko,

Vusi Tallman Thela, Zweli Sydwell Khumalo, Lucky Themba Nkosi, Busisiwe Ellinah Zwane, Angel Portia Zwane, Simon John Malinga, Mfanawekhaya Peter Maseko, Mpitsi Amos Maseko, Folo Finjasi Maseko, Nyembezi Setti Malinga and Fanitshi Simon Maseko.

4.3.7.3 Current Protection Status

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

4.3.7.4 Site Significance

All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **High Significance.**

4.3.7.5 Mitigation

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve it *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased. The associated family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their grave and they have provided permission for it to be relocated.

Plate 18 General view of **ONV-7**.

4.3.8 ONV-8

4.3.8.1 Coordinates

S 25.823374
E 30.642546

4.3.8.2 General Site Description

The site consists of the grave of a stillborn child that was buried on the bank of a non-perennial stream. The grave belongs to the Zwane family. Mr. Samuel Zwane, the family's representative, took the author of this report out to the site and identified the grave.

4.3.8.3 Current Protection Status

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

4.3.8.4 Site Significance

All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **High Significance.**

4.3.8.5 Mitigation

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve it *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased. The Zwane family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their grave and they have provided permission for it to be relocated.

4.3.9 ONV-9

4.3.9.1 Coordinates

S 25.825120
E 30.639910

4.3.9.2 General Site Description

A site from the Historic Period is situated here. It is located high up on the spit of land between two non-perennial streams and consists of one large rectangular stone enclosure, two small circular structures and three rectangular stone structures. The large rectangular structure must have been the livestock enclosure, and has a small enclosure attached to one side for the keeping of calves. The two small circular structures appear to have been dwellings (huts). This holds true for the three smaller rectangular structures as well. One of these is quite large, and has a veranda with at least three separate rooms.

The site represents the remains of a historic black settlement which can be associated with the early to mid 20th century.

4.3.9.3 Current Protection Status

The site can be considered as older than 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.9.4 Site Significance

The structures found at the site as a whole form part of the standard vocabulary for sites such as these and as a result can not be considered unique. It is furthermore of very little historic or scientific significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **Low Significance.**

4.3.9.5 Mitigation

The entire site layout must be documented through surveying and the drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

Plate 19 Exterior wall on one of the rectangular dwellings.

Plate 20 Interior view of the same dwelling with exterior wall (foreground), veranda (centre) and one of the dwellings (background).

Plate 21 Opening in one of the dwellings. Photograph taken from the veranda area.

Plate 22 One of the smaller rectangular structures on site.

4.3.10 ONV-10

4.3.10.1 Coordinates

S 25.824990
E 30.637560

4.3.10.2 General Site Description

A site from the Historic Period is situated here. It is situated high up in a *kloof* formed by a non-perennial stream, and is located on the northern slope of the said stream. The site consists of two clearly defined components, namely an area characterised by residential structures and secondly one comprised of essentially livestock enclosures.

The residential component can be described as a well preserved stone-built settlement which consists of interconnected rectangular and circular stone structures most of which can be interpreted as dwellings (huts). At least two different circular dwelling types were identified, with one consisting of high stone walls (at least 1.7 m in height) and another of low stone walls (± 0.7 m) upon which a section of mud bricks were constructed. All stone constructions from this component made use of mortar, which most likely was a mixture of cow dung and clay.

The second main component of the site is where the settlement's livestock were kept. A large stone enclosure was found here. The enclosure is subdivided into two compartments and has a small enclosure for the keeping of calves and/or lambs on its north-western end. None of the stonewalling here shows evidence of mortar, and the building technique can therefore be described as dry walling. Significantly, an oval-shaped stone grave was located on the large enclosure's eastern end. Furthermore, the enclosure's wall directly adjacent to the grave has a very distinctive bulge or thickened section which can be interpreted as another grave. Another thickened section signifying a grave is situated a short distance to the north.

The Ginindza family is associated with the site and graves. Elderly representatives of this family were taken to site on two different occasions. The three graves mentioned before have been identified as Majozi Ginindza, Lotiki Samaria Ginindza and Ntombi Sara Ginindza.

4.3.10.3 Current Protection Status

The two components of the site are protected by different sections of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and/or other relevant legislation. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

The historic settlement can be considered as older as 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

4.3.10.4 Site Significance

The historic settlement and livestock enclosure are the most extensive and best preserved example of any of the historic settlements observed during the fieldwork. The residential area has reasonably unique hut constructions (mud bricks on a high stone foundation wall) not seen on any of the other sites. The historic settlement and livestock enclosure is therefore deemed to be of **Moderate Significance**.

All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result this component of the site is of **High Significance.**

4.3.10.5 Mitigation

The mitigation of the livestock enclosure and settlement area is the same, namely the documentation of the entire site layout by surveying and drawing of a Site Layout Plan.

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve the cemetery *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased.

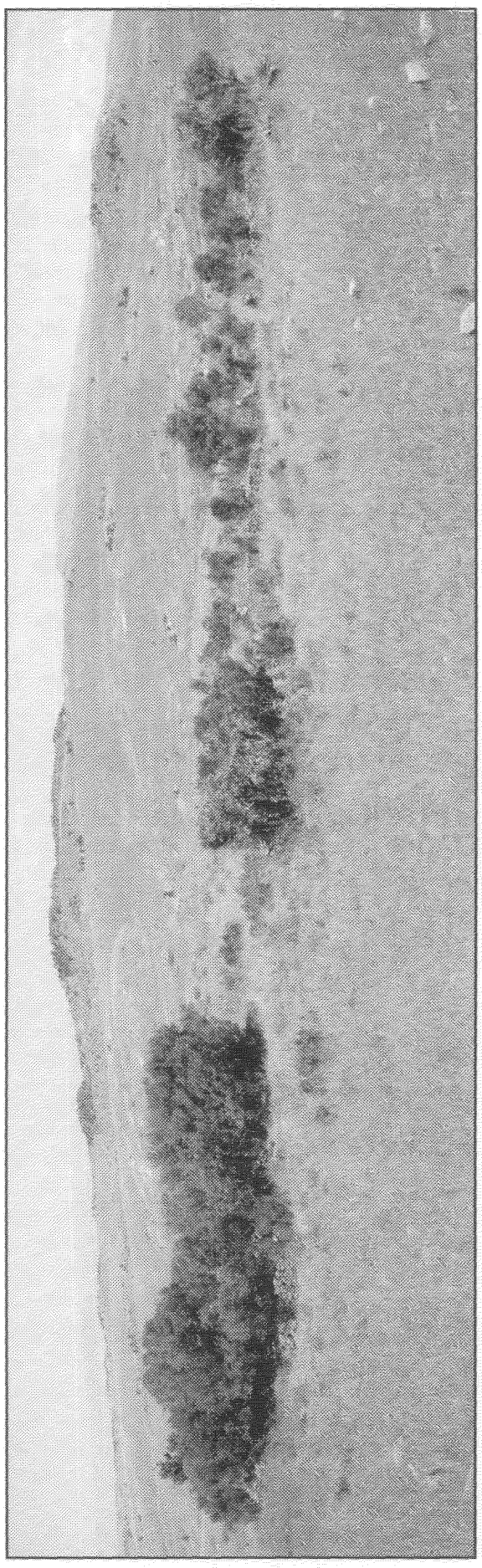

Plate 23 General view of **ONV-10**. The livestock enclosures are on the left with the settlement on the right.

Plate 24 An example of the circular dwelling type with high stone walls.

Plate 25 The dwelling type with walls comprised of both stone and mud bricks.

Plate 26 The entrance to the large livestock enclosure.

Plate 27 The oval-shaped grave (A) and bulge in enclosure wall (B).

4.3.11 ONV-11

4.3.11.1 Coordinates

S 25.826170
E 30.637190

4.3.11.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It is located almost directly north of a non-perennial stream, and directly south of **ONV-10**.

The site consists of a medium-sized circular outer wall approximately 30 meters across with various smaller enclosures and features inside the enclosure. Only the lower foundations of the walls remain preserved, which suggests that the site was robbed for building material by the builders of the nearby historical site (**ONV-10**).

4.3.11.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.11.4 Site Significance

The site can not be considered as unique as numerous other Late Iron Age sites are found within and surrounding the study area. The site is deemed to be of **Medium Significance.**

4.3.11.5 Mitigation

The entire site layout must be documented through surveying and the drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

Plate 28 General view of ONV-11 (A) within its surroundings. The residential section (B) and livestock enclosure (C) from site ONV-10 is visible in the background.

4.3.12 ONV-12

4.3.12.1 Coordinates

S 25.826910
E 30.640880

4.3.12.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It consists of a medium-sized circular outer wall approximately 32 meters in diameter with three small circular stone enclosures inside. The three small enclosures can most likely be identified as dwellings (huts). The outer walls are poorly preserved and may have been robbed for the construction of the nearby historic settlements (i.e. **ONV-11** and **ONV-12**). No archaeological material or significant deposits were identified.

4.3.12.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.12.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved with no evidence of archaeological deposits or material on the surface. **ONV-12** is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.12.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan.

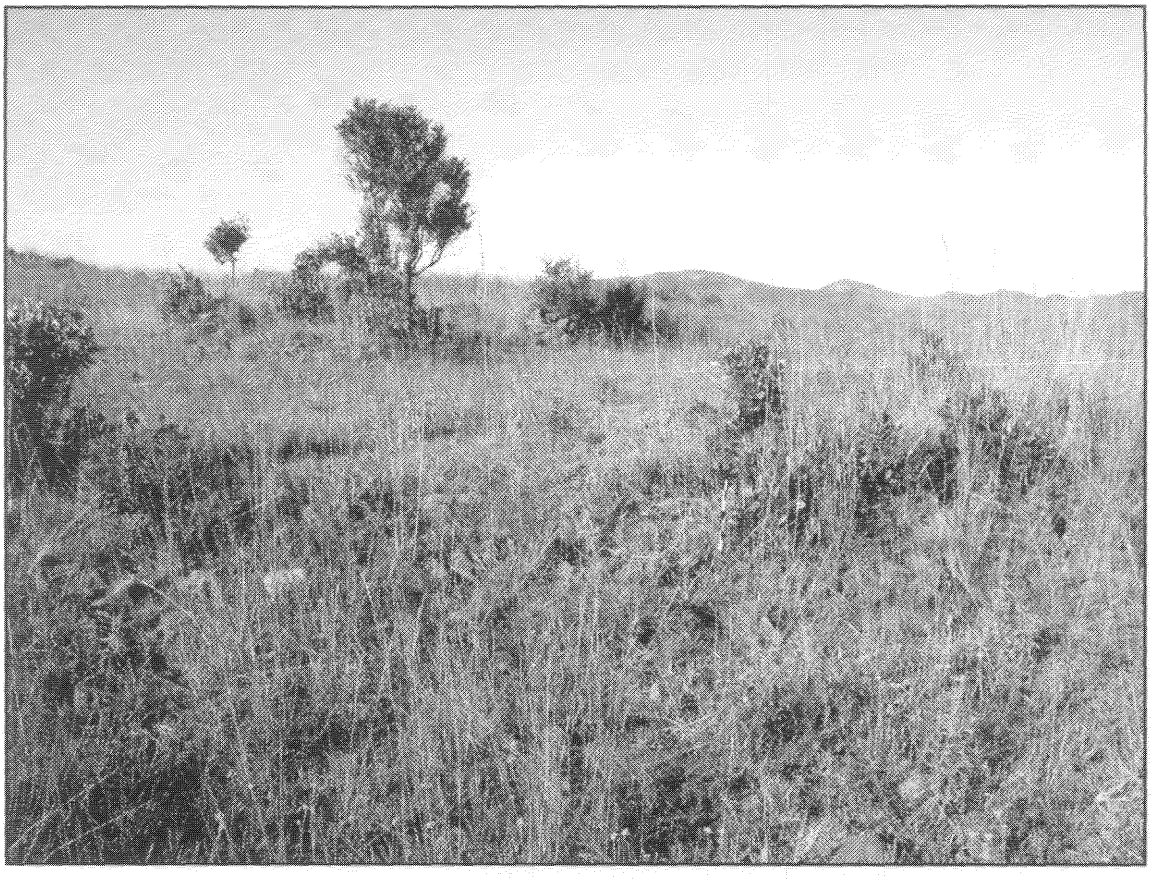

Plate 29 General view of **ONV-12** with the outer wall in the foreground.

Plate 30 One of the small circular dwelling structures at **ONV-12**.

4.3.13 ONV-13

4.3.13.1 Coordinates

S 25.826310
E 30.641630

4.3.13.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It consists of a large circular outer wall approximately 60 meters in diameter with a number of smaller enclosures inside. The site is located on top of a plateau roughly in-between two non-perennial streams. All walls from the site are poorly preserved and may have been robbed for the construction of the nearby historic settlements (i.e. **ONV-11** and **ONV-12**).

Artefacts such as a lower and upper grinder as well as undecorated ceramics were observed on the surface of the site. No archaeological deposits could be found.

4.3.13.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.13.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved with no evidence of archaeological deposits or material on the surface. **ONV-13** is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.13.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

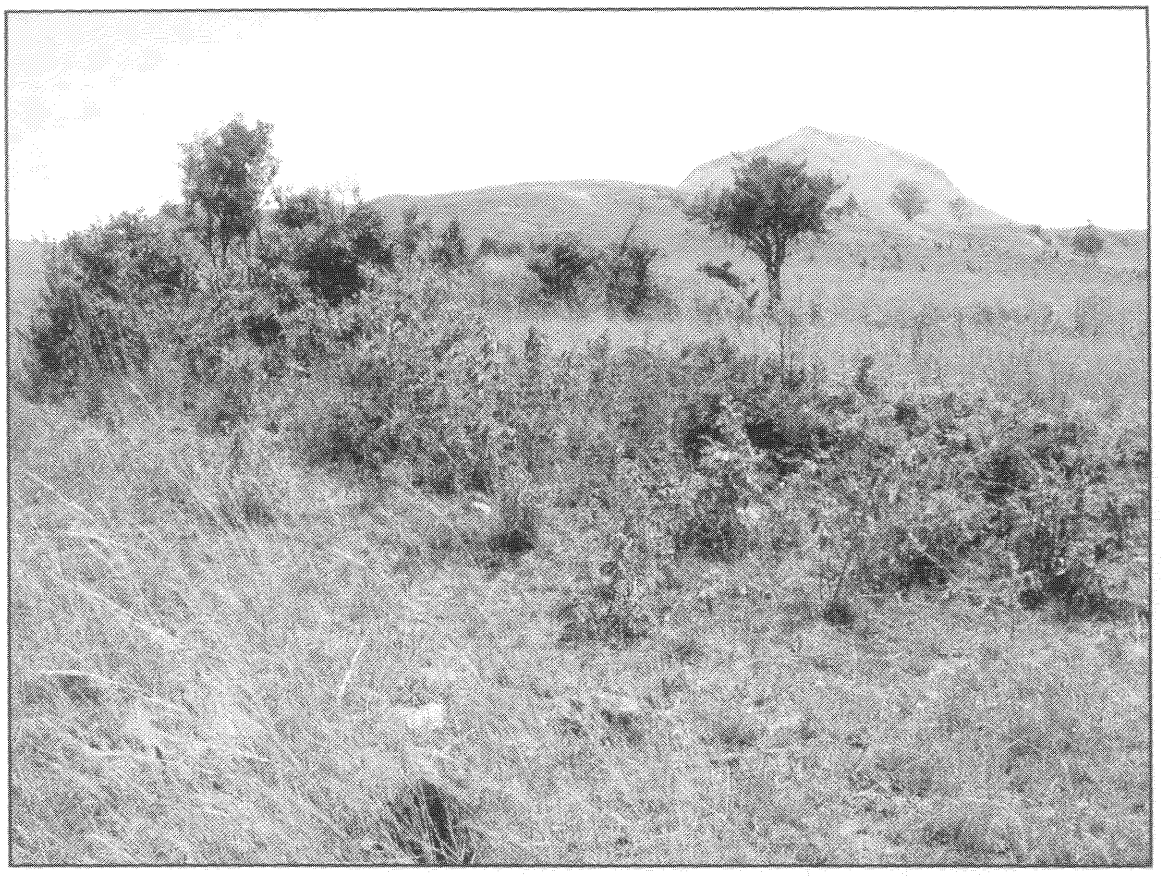

Plate 31 A section of the outer wall from site **ONV-13** can be seen.

Plate 32 Cross-section view of walling from the site.

4.3.14 ONV-14

4.3.14.1 Coordinates

S 25.825640
E 30.642000

4.3.14.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It consists of a large circular outer wall approximately 40 meters in diameter with a number of smaller enclosures inside. The site is located on top of a plateau roughly in-between two non-perennial streams. All walls from the site are reasonably well preserved and on average approximately one meter in height.

4.3.14.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.14.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved with no evidence of archaeological deposits or material on the surface. **ONV-14** is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.14.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

4.3.15 ONV-15

4.3.15.1 Coordinates

S 25.828570
E 30.642360

4.3.15.2 General Site Description

A multi-component site comprised of both a Late Iron Age and Historic Period phase is situated here. It is located on top of a low ridge, and consists of a medium-sized circular outer wall approximately 30 meters in diameter with a number of smaller enclosures in its centre. These smaller structures include three circular structures approximately 3 meters in diameter which can be identified as the foundations of dwellings (huts). All walls from the site are poorly preserved.

Five upper grinders and four lower grinders were observed on the surface of the site. The elongated form of the upper grinders and the presence of peck marks on both upper and lower grinders indicate that they were used for the grinding of maize. A small number of undecorated ceramic fragments and an archaeological deposit were also observed.

4.3.15.3 Current Protection Status

The two components of the site are protected by different sections of the National Heritage Resources Act (refer Annexure C Legislative Framework). Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years. The historic settlement can be considered as older as 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of the Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.15.4 Site Significance

Even though the walling of the site is not well preserved, its layout can still be seen. Coupled with the existence of an archaeological deposit as well as a concentration of grinders and at least some ceramics, the site can be given a **Medium Significance** status.

4.3.15.5 Mitigation

The following mitigation measures are required to allow the site to be destroyed:

- Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan. The layout plan must record the position of each individual grinder as well. This will be followed by intensive horizontal excavations across the entire settlement. These activities are aimed at documenting, recovering and recording all available data for future research before a destruction permit is issued for this site.
- Compilation of a report containing all the research and findings of the study indicated above.
- Submission of this report with the permit application for the site to be destroyed.

Plate 33 Section of circular stone foundation from one of the dwellings

Plate 34 Undecorated ceramic fragment from the surface of the site.

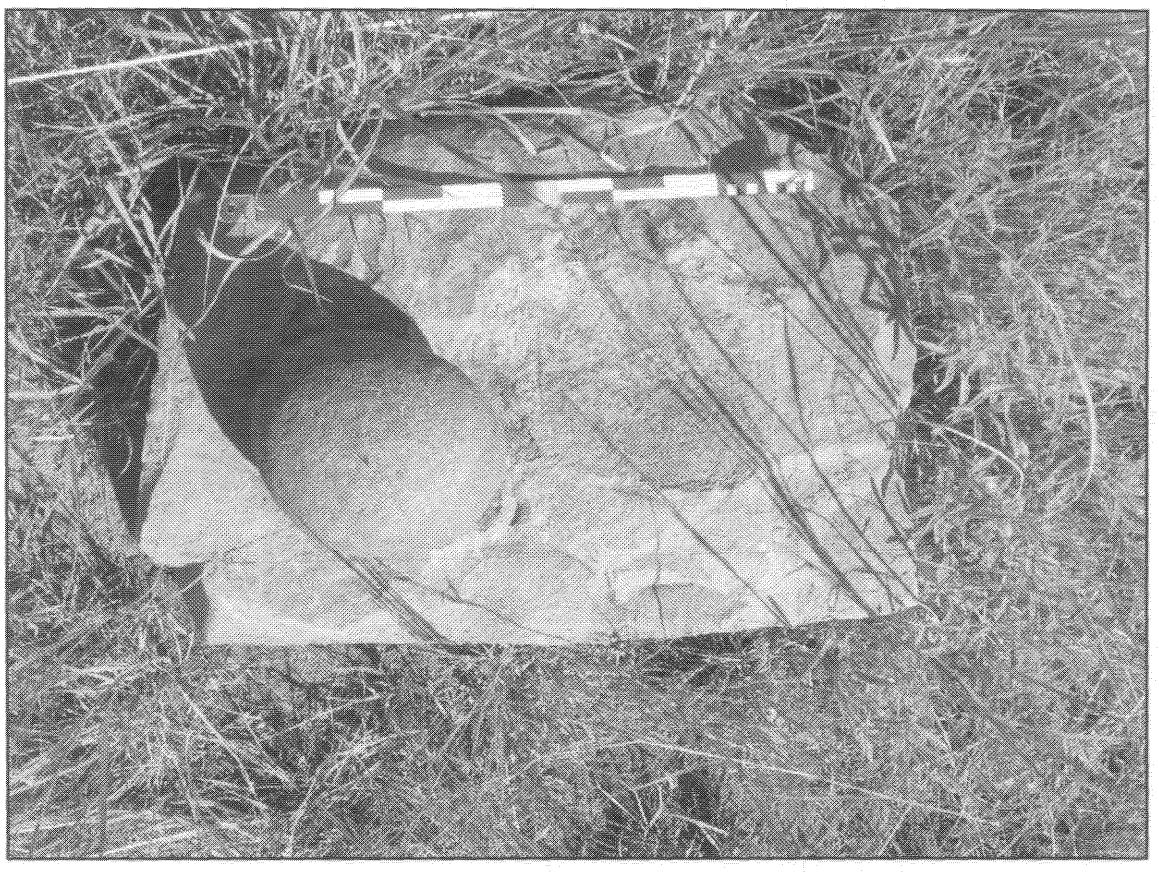

Plate 35 Upper and lower grinder found *in situ*.

4.3.16 ONV-16

4.3.16.1 Coordinates

S 25.828250
E 30.643230

4.3.16.2 General Site Description

A multi-component site comprised of a Late Iron Age and Historic Period settlement phase is situated here. The Late Iron Age component of the site consists of a reasonably large circular stone enclosure (approximately 25 meters in diameter) within a circular enclosing wall. While the stone enclosure is still well preserved with walling in excess of one meter, the enclosing wall is poorly preserved. It can be assumed that the stones from the enclosing wall were removed (robbed) to build the more recent historic structures on site. These Historic Period structures include a number of small circular and rectangular structures on the northern end of the large enclosure, as well as two oval-shaped graves. Both graves have stone-packed dressings and on their western sides unmarked headstones in the form of upright stones. Only two undecorated ceramic fragments could be observed on the surface of the site.

According to elderly local residents the site was resided in by the Zulu family. A representative of this family by the name of Esther Ginindza (born Zulu) was taken to the graves and she identified both. She also indicated that the family first stayed here before moving to **ONV-15**.

4.3.16.3 Current Protection Status

The three components of the site are all protected by different sections of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and/or other relevant legislation. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

The historic settlement can be considered as older as 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

4.3.16.4 Site Significance

The three components of the site have varying degrees of significance. The Late Iron Age site is reasonably poorly preserved with some visible archaeological material. It is of **Medium Significance**. The historic settlement is not very unique, and is of **Low Significance**. All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the cemetery is deemed to be of **High Significance.**

In multi-component sites such as the one under discussion, the highest significance ranking given to any one of the site components is given to the entire site. **ONV-16** is therefore of **High Significance.**

4.3.16.5 Mitigation

The mitigation measures for the Late Iron Age and Historic Period components are the same, namely the documentation of the entire site layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve the cemetery *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased.

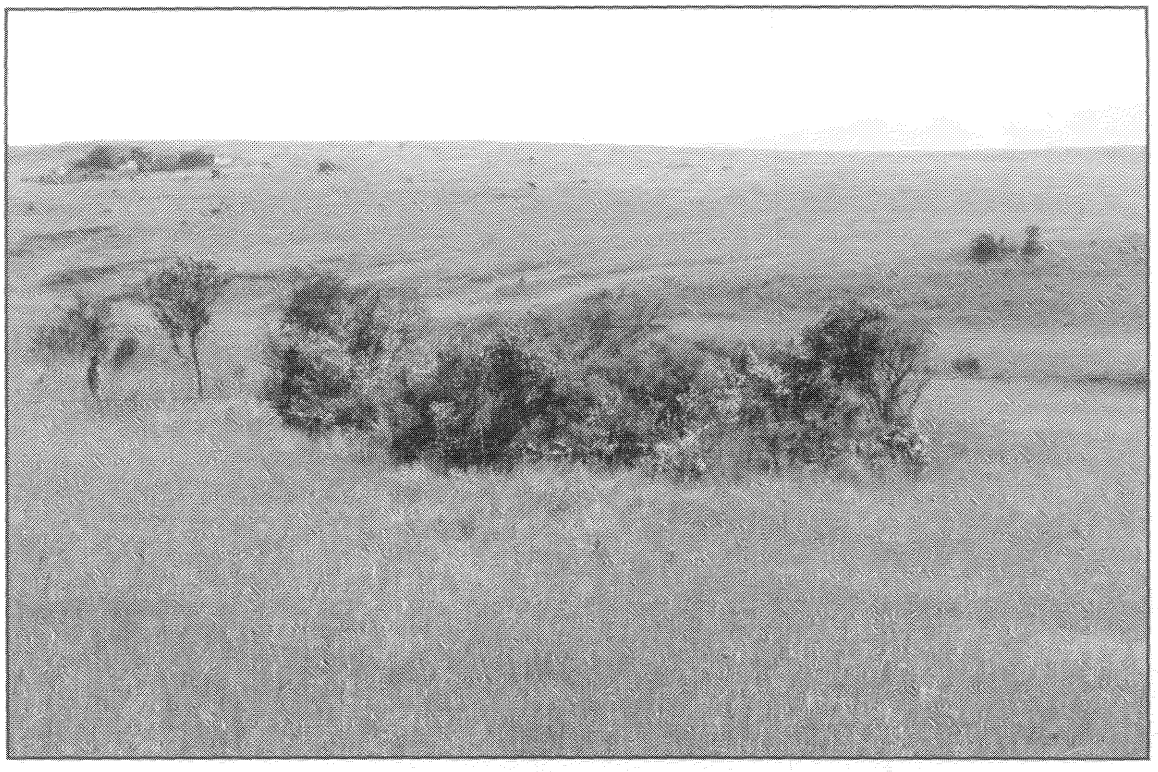

Plate 36 General view of site. The photograph was taken in a north-eastern direction.

Plate 37 Undecorated ceramic fragment observed on the surface of the site.

Plate 38 Small circular stone enclosure which appears to date from the Historic Period.

Plate 39 The two graves barely visible as a result of the overgrowth.

4.3.17 ONV-17

4.3.17.1 Coordinates

S 25.829750
E 30.642740

4.3.17.2 General Site Description

A site from the Historic Period is situated here. It is located near the southern foot of a low ridge, a short distance from a non-perennial stream. The site consists of one large rectangular stone enclosure (± 10m x 10m) and three smaller rectangular structures. The large enclosure has well-preserved walls approximately one meter in height and must have been a livestock enclosure. The three associated small rectangular structures can be interpreted as dwellings (huts). Two of these are very alike, are approximately 4 m by 4 m in extent and have an entrance on their southern ends. The third dwelling has a square structure (4m x 4m) with a rectangular addition (3m x 4m) to its southern end forming a veranda. A lower grinding stone was found on top of the low wall forming the veranda.

4.3.17.3 Current Protection Status

The site can be considered as older than 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.17.4 Site Significance

While the structures found at the site as a whole form part of the standard vocabulary for sites such as these, the dwelling structure which has an attached veranda is reasonably unique for the study area. Nonetheless, the site is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.17.5 Mitigation

The entire site layout must be documented through surveying and the drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

Plate 40 General view of **ONV-17**. Photograph taken in an eastern direction.

Plate 41 The large rectangular livestock enclosure.

Plate 42 This dwelling structure consists of a dwelling (left) and veranda (right).

Plate 43 Lower grinder found on top of the veranda wall.

4.3.18 ONV-18

4.3.18.1 Coordinates

S 25.832540
E 30.640690

4.3.18.2 General Site Description

An historic site is situated here. It is situated on slightly sloped land between the southern foot of a low ridge and a non-perennial stream. It is comprised of a large rectangular stone enclosure (± 12m x 15m) with ten small circular stone structures (± 4m x 4m) and one small rectangular structure directly associated with it. Two small circular structures were also observed a short distance to the north of the site.

The small circular and rectangular structures can be interpreted as the remains of the settlement's dwellings, kitchen and sheds. The large rectangular structure is evidently a cattle kraal, and has a small enclosure (± 4m in width) attached to its north-eastern corner which can be interpreted as an enclosure to keep calves in. The wall on the north-western corner of the livestock enclosure is widened and has a small ceramic bowl on its surface which gives the impression that a grave is situated here.

According to local oral history the site was established by the Duma family. Mr. Sangqotho Petrus Duma was located in Nhlazatshe and taken to the site. He identified the grave as that of his grandfather Mr. Jakob Duma.

4.3.18.3 Current Protection Status

The site can be considered as older than 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority. Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

4.3.18.4 Site Significance

The two components of the site have varying degrees of significance. The historic settlement is of **Low Significance**. However, all graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the possible graves are deemed to be of **High Significance.** In multi-component sites such as the one under discussion, the highest significance ranking given to any one of the site components is given to the entire site. **ONV-18** is therefore of **High Significance.**

4.3.18.5 Mitigation

The mitigation of the historic structures consists of the documentation of the settlement layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve the grave *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased. The Duma family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their grave and they have provided permission for the grave to be relocated.

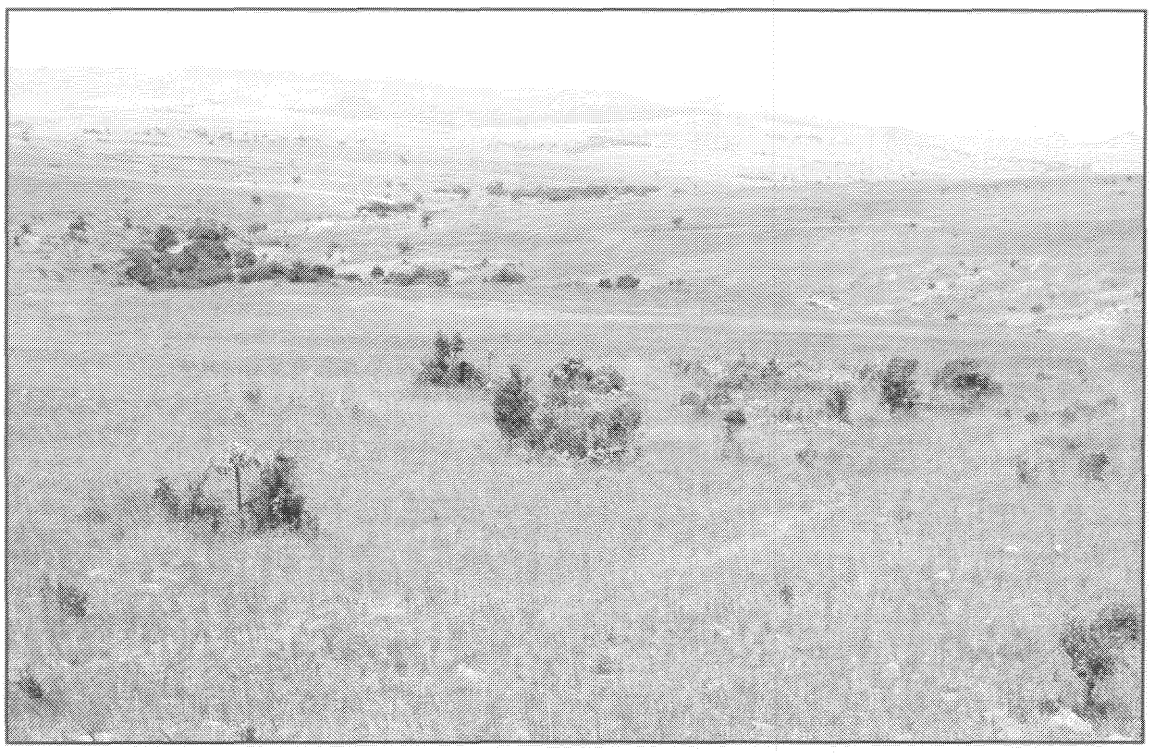

Plate 44 General view of **ONV-18**. Photograph taken in a south-eastern direction.

Plate 45 Section of walling from one of the circular structures.

Plate 46 Section of walling from one of the rectangular structures.

4.3.19 ONV-19

4.3.19.1 Coordinates

S 25.831510
E 30.639550

4.3.19.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It is situated against the northern foot of a low ridge. The site is comprised of a medium-sized circular outer wall (± 28m in diameter) with various stone features situated inside. These include a terraced section with stone platform as well as a small circular enclosure (± 6 m in width).

4.3.19.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.19.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved and contains a number of features which are not found on many of the other Late Iron Sites from the study area such as the terraced section with stone platform. The site is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.19.5 Mitigation

The following mitigation measures are required to allow the site to be destroyed:

- Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan. This will be followed by limited test excavations in certain areas of the settlement. These activities are aimed at documenting, recovering and recording enough data for future research before a destruction permit is issued for this site, with special emphasis placed on collecting a representative sample of cultural remains to identify the occupants of the site.
- Compilation of a report containing all the research and findings of the study indicated above.
- Submission of this report with the permit application for the site to be destroyed.

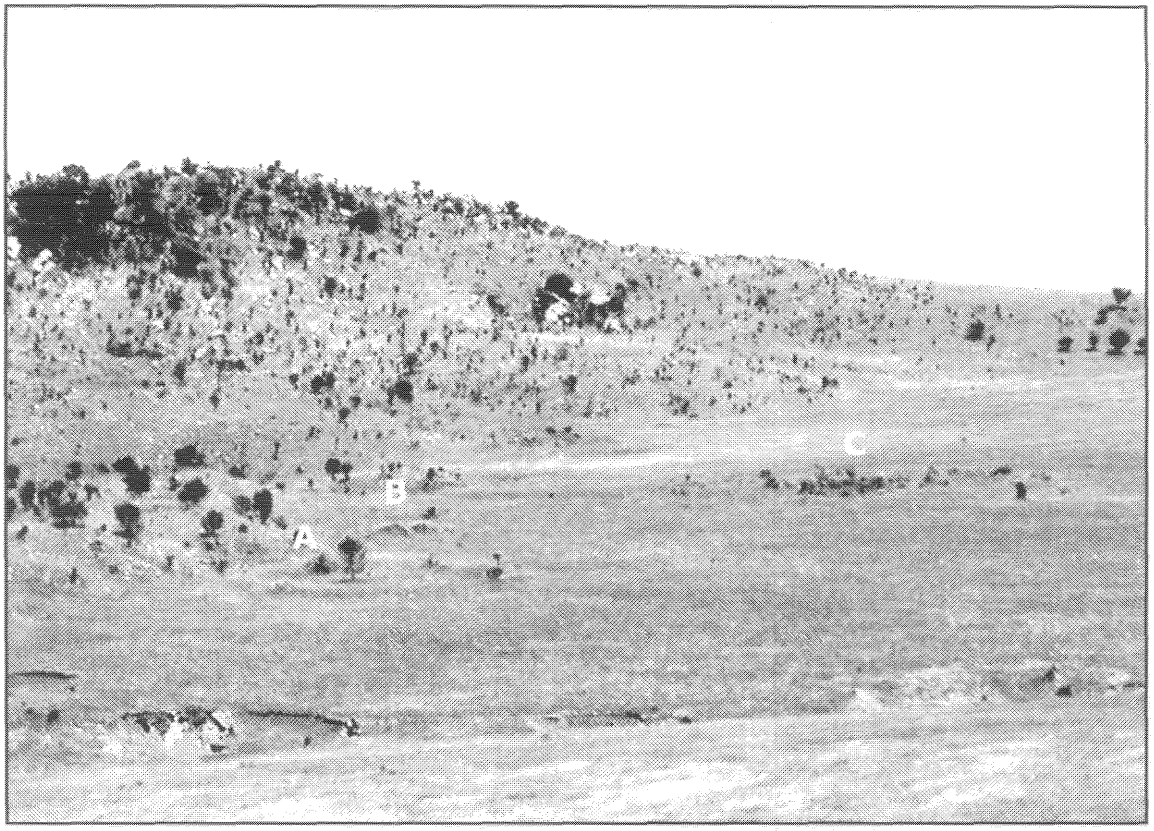

Plate 47 The localities of **ONV-19** (A), **ONV-20** (B) and **ONV-21** (C) can be seen.

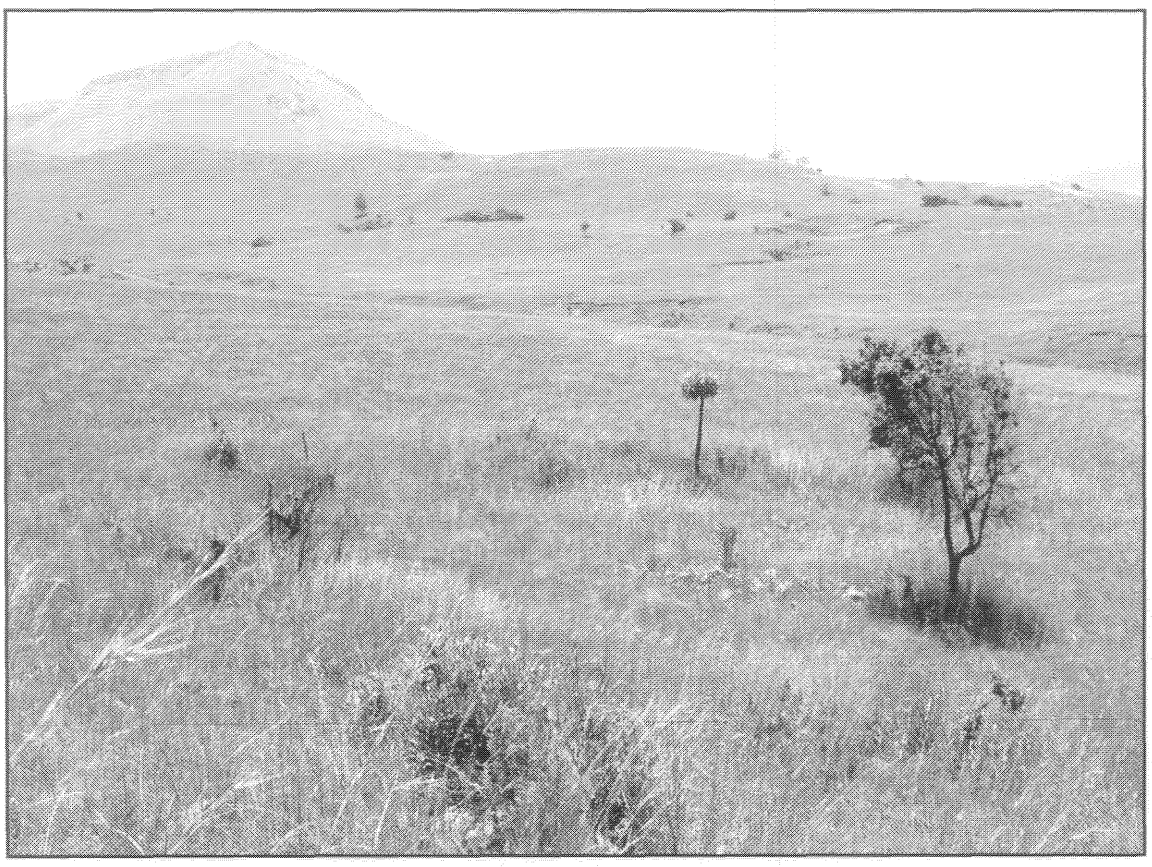

Plate 48 General view of **ONV-19**. Photograph taken in a northern direction.

4.3.20 ONV-20

4.3.20.1 Coordinates

S 25.831710
E 30.638720

4.3.20.2 General Site Description

An undetermined stone structure is situated here. It consists of two stonewalls (see points A and B on adjacent photograph) built at right angles to each other, associated with a small circular stone platform (see point C) as well as a low pear-shaped stonewall with two small stone concentrations therein (see point D). While the function and origin of the site as a whole is unknown, it seems possible that graves may be located here.

4.3.20.3 Current Protection Status

Until such time that the possible existence of graves in this locality has been proven or disputed, the site must be seen as containing graves. Graves fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance, the Human Tissues Act, the Ordinance on Excavations as well as any relevant local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws.

4.3.20.4 Site Significance

Until such time that the possibility of a grave (or graves) situated here has been either confirmed or disproved, the site must be viewed as containing graves. All graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the site is deemed to be of **High Significance.**

4.3.20.5 Mitigation

As it is assumed that graves are located here, and as the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, the only mitigation option would be full grave relocation. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased.

Plate 49 General view of the site.

Plate 50 The pear-shaped enclosure with one stone concentration visible.

4.3.21 ONV-21

4.3.21.1 Coordinates

S 25.831150
E 30.638150

4.3.21.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It is enclosed in a massive circular outer wall approximately 65 meters in diameter. The dominant features inside the outer wall are two large cattle enclosures (10 and 17 meters in width respectively), low terrace walling as well as a small circular enclosure. A clearly defined entrance to the outer wall was identified on the outer wall's southern end.

4.3.21.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.21.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved and one of the larger sites found within the study area. It also has a well defined settlement layout. The site is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.21.5 Mitigation

The following mitigation measures are required to allow the site to be destroyed:

- Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan. This will be followed by limited test excavations in certain areas of the settlement. These activities are aimed at documenting, recovering and recording enough data for future research before a destruction permit is issued for this site, with special emphasis placed on collecting a representative sample of cultural remains to identify the occupants of the site.
- Compilation of a report containing all the research and findings of the study indicated above.
- Submission of this report with the permit application for the site to be destroyed.

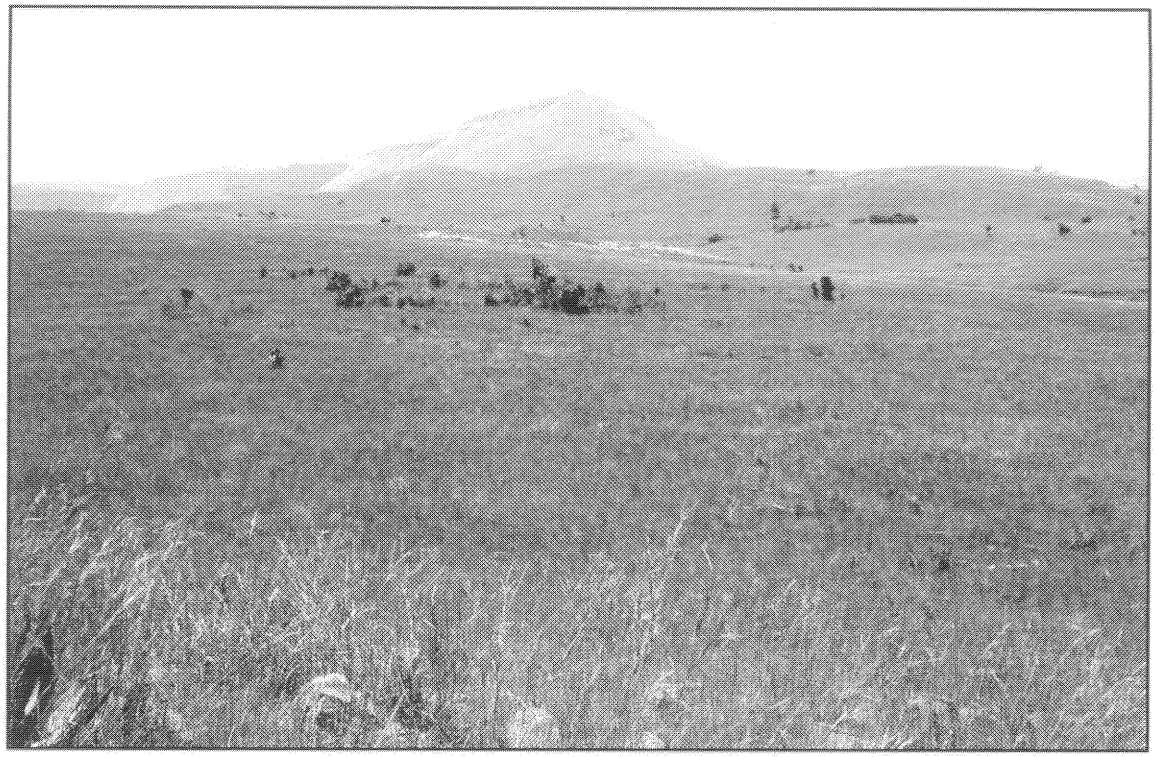

Plate 51 General view of **ONV-21**. Photograph taken in a northern direction.

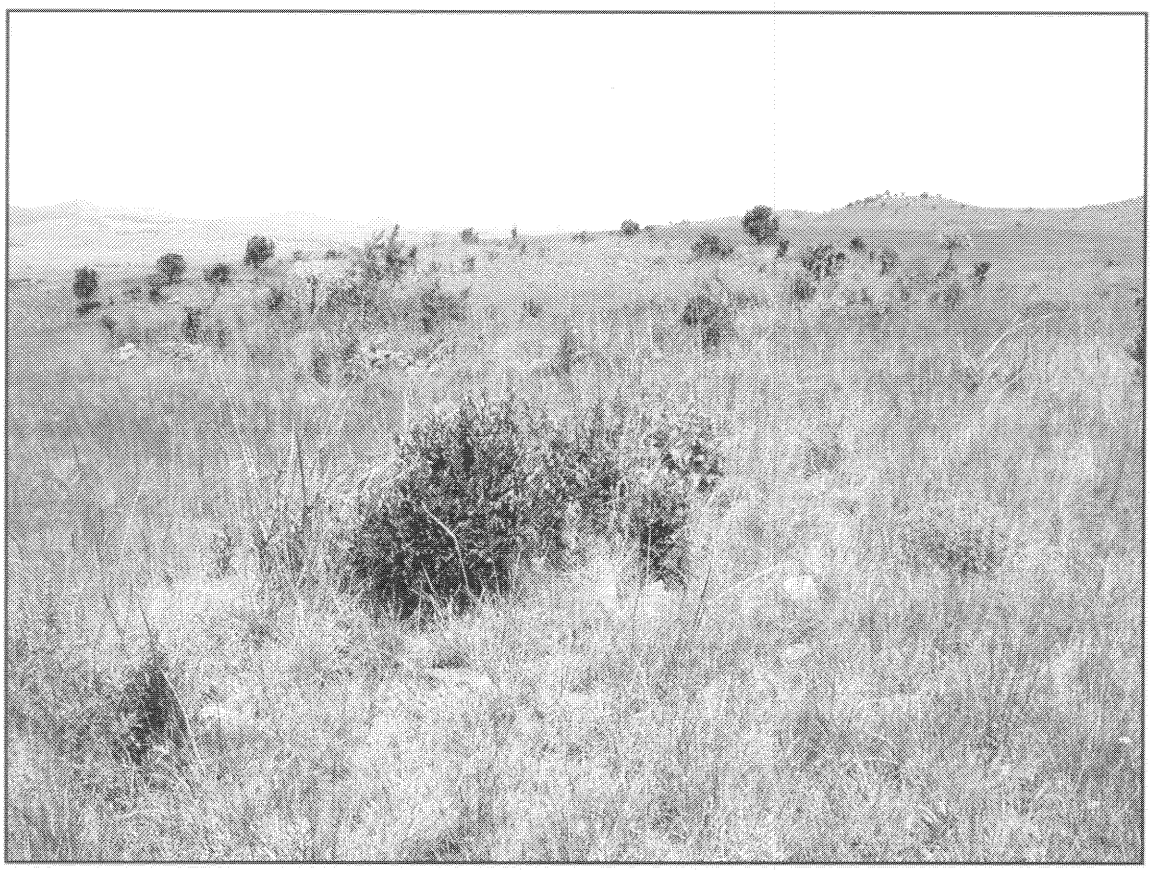

Plate 52 The outer wall (foreground) and central cattle enclosures (background) are visible.

Plate 53 Section of walling on one of the central cattle enclosures.

Plate 54 The main entrance on the site's outer wall.

4.3.22 ONV-22

4.3.22.1 Coordinates

S 25.829010
E 30.635910

4.3.22.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It is enclosed by a medium-sized circular outer wall approximately 40 meters in diameter. The dominant feature observed inside the outer wall is a small circular stone structure (± 4 m in width). A clearly defined entrance to the outer wall was identified on its western end.

4.3.22.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.22.4 Site Significance

The site is certainly not unique and also not very well preserved. The site is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.22.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan.

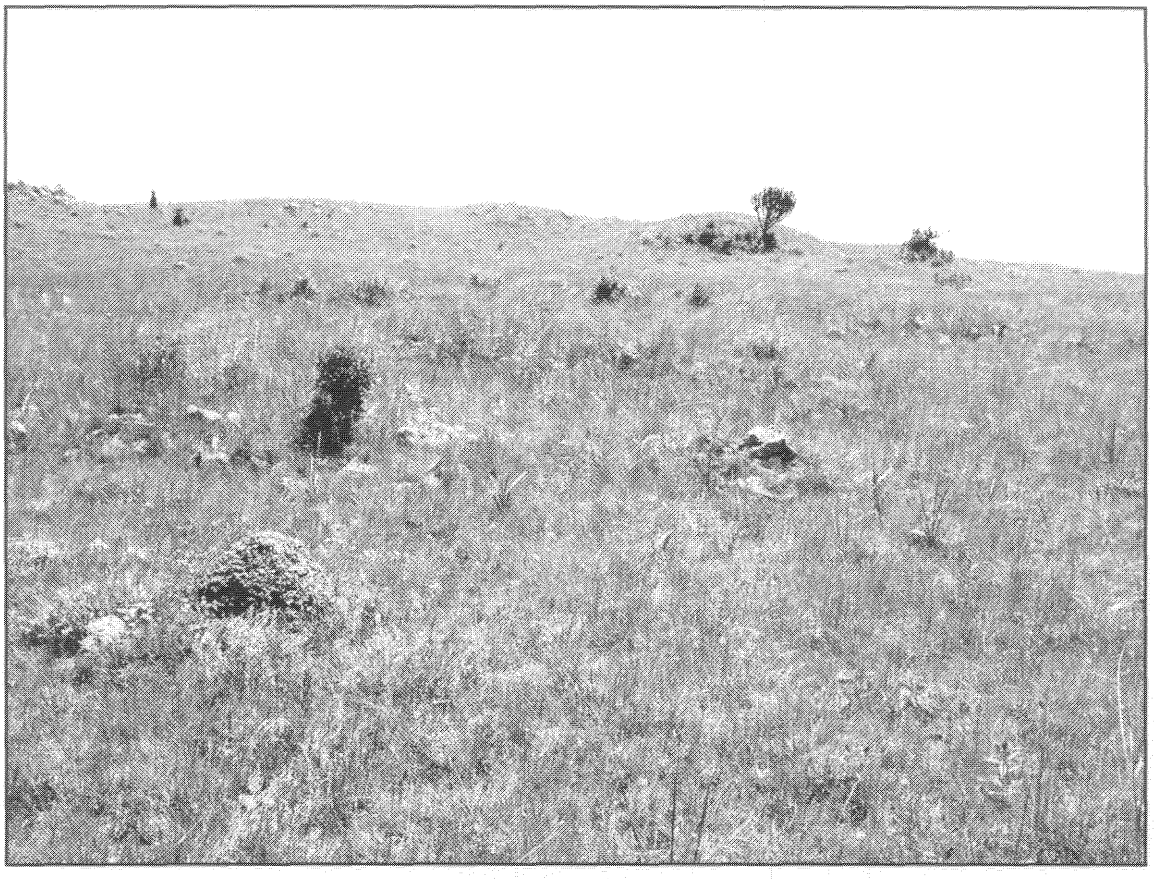

Plate 55 General view of **ONV-22**. Photograph taken in a western direction.

Plate 56 Monolith observed along **ONV-22's** outer enclosing wall.

4.3.23 ONV-23

4.3.23.1 Coordinates

S 25.834740
E 30.637080

4.3.23.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It is enclosed by a small oval-shaped outer wall approximately 30 meters by 25 meters in extent. Inside the enclosing wall a small circular enclosure and terrace wall were observed.

No archaeological material or deposits could be observed on the surface of the site. Furthermore, the preservation of the stonewalling is very poor with only the foundations visible.

4.3.23.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of National Heritage Resources Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.23.4 Site Significance

The site is certainly not unique and also not very well preserved. The site is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.23.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan.

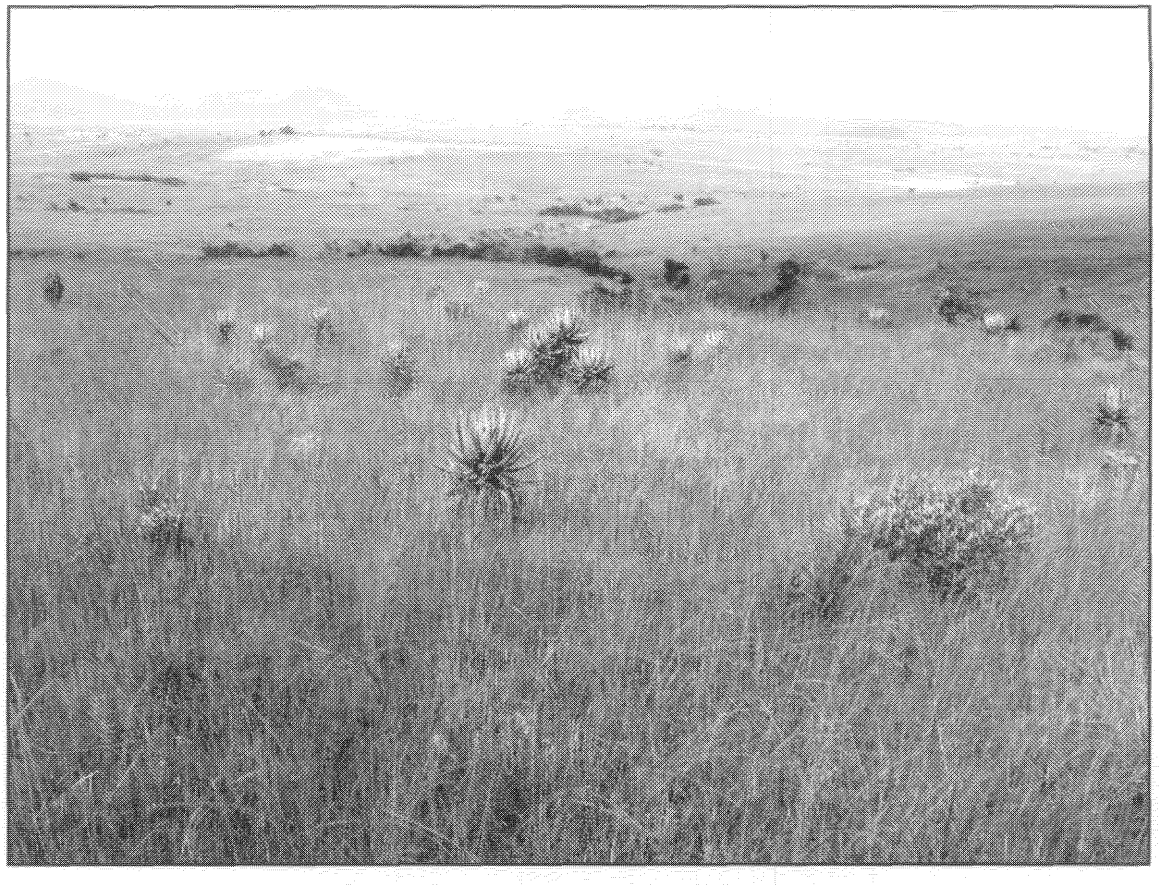

Plate 57 General view of **ONV-23**.

4.3.24 ONV-24

4.3.24.1 Coordinates

S 25.835910
E 30.637870

4.3.24.2 General Site Description

An historic site is situated here. It is situated on slightly sloped land near the northern foot of a ridge. A non-perennial stream is located a short distance north of the site. It is comprised of a large oval-shaped stone enclosure (± 15m x 12m) with a small circular enclosure (± 5m in diameter) attached to it. Ten small circular stone structures (± 4m in diameter) are situated west and south-west of the large enclosure.

It is evident that the large circular enclosure is a cattle kraal while the small enclosure attached to its north-western end can be interpreted as an enclosure to keep calves in. The small circular structures can be interpreted as the remains of the settlement's dwellings, kitchen and sheds.

4.3.24.3 Current Protection Status

The site can be considered as older than 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.24.4 Site Significance

The site is certainly not unique and also not very well preserved. The site is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.24.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan.

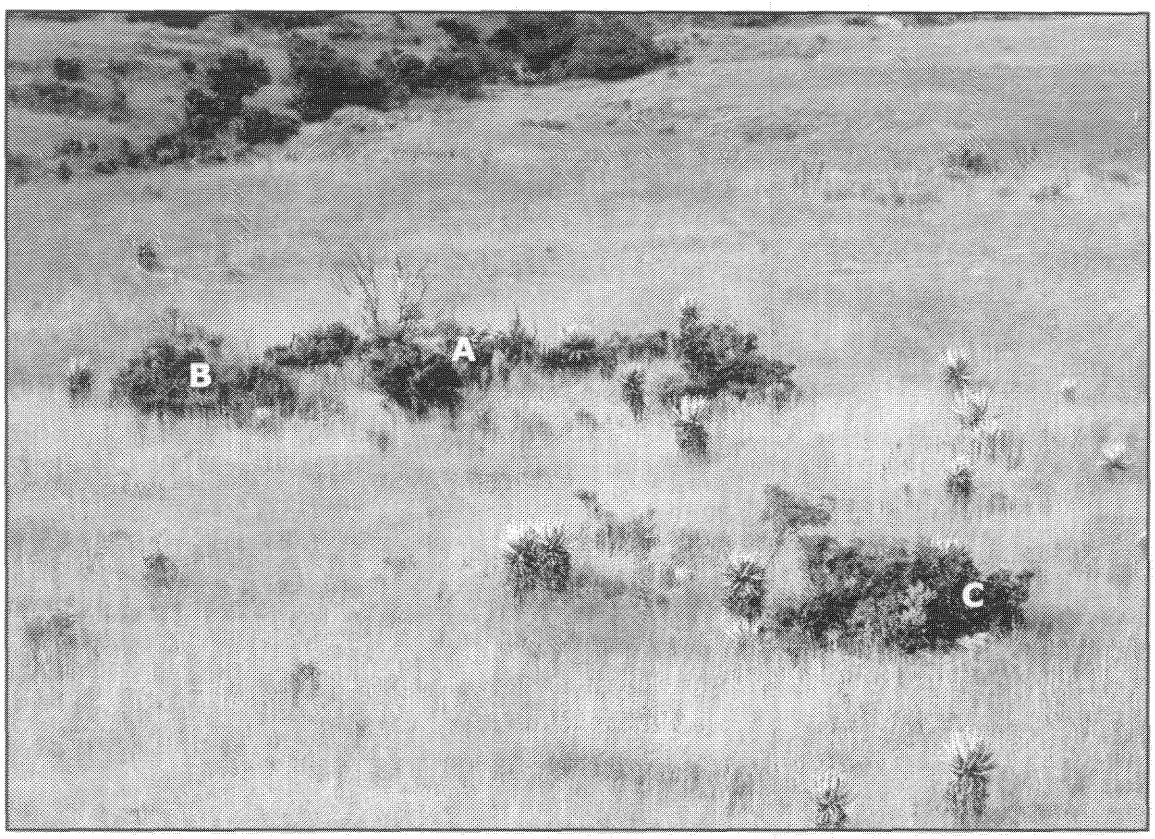

Plate 58 General view of a section of **ONV-24**. The cattle enclosure (A), calf enclosure (B) and one circular structure can be seen.

Plate 59 A section of the cattle enclosure (A) can be seen in the foreground with **ONV-23** (B) visible in the background.

4.3.25 ONV-25

4.3.25.1 Coordinates

S 25.836678
E 30.638372

4.3.25.2 General Site Description

A poorly preserved stonewalled site is situated here on slightly sloped land near the northern foot of a ridge. It is comprised of a large oval-shaped stone enclosure (± 14m x 10m) with a number of stone concentrations and small sections of stonewalling situated in the surrounding area.

Due to the low level of preservation of the site it is impossible to state whether it is associated with the Late Iron Age or Historic Period.

4.3.25.3 Current Protection Status

The two possible associations of the site would represent protected by different sections of the National Heritage Resources Act (refer Annexure C Legislative Framework). Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the Act and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years. If the site is between 60 and 100 years in age, it can be classified as a historic site. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of the Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

4.3.25.4 Site Significance

The site is certainly not unique. Furthermore it is poorly preserved without any associated artefacts or cultural deposits to provide an indication of its age. The site is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.25.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan.

4.3.26 ONV-26

4.3.26.1 Coordinates

S 25.838026
E 30.639329

4.3.26.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It is enclosed in a large circular outer wall approximately 65 meters in diameter. The dominant features inside the outer wall are two large circular enclosures (approximately 20 m and 10 m in diameter respectively).

4.3.26.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.26.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved and one of the larger sites found within the study area. It also has a well defined settlement layout. The site is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.26.5 Mitigation

Although the site is of Medium Significance, it is very similar to **ONV-21** which will be excavated. As such only the documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan will be required for this site.

4.3.27 ONV-27

4.3.27.1 Coordinates

S 25.838530
E 30.640620

4.3.27.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It is enclosed in a small oval-shaped outer wall approximately 15 meters by 12 meters in extent. The dominant features inside the outer wall are three small circular enclosures (± 5 m in diameter).

4.3.27.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.27.4 Site Significance

The site is poorly preserved, has no scientific significance and is not unique. As a result it is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.27.5 Mitigation

Documentation of settlement layout by surveying and drawing a detailed Site Layout Plan.

4.3.28 ONV-28

4.3.28.1 Coordinates

S 25.835310
E 30.643030

4.3.28.2 General Site Description

A multi-component site consisting of a historic settlement as well as a historic cemetery is located here. It is situated at the northern foot of a low ridge a short distance to the north of **ONV-1**.

The settlement is comprised of eight small circular stone enclosures. The majority of these must have been residential units (huts).

The cemetery is situated in the north-eastern corner of the site and consists of four oval-shaped stone packed graves comprised of two large and two small dressings. The grave dressings were all buried along the East-West axis. This signifies that the deceased were buried in the Christian/Western tradition which in turn suggests that the cemetery can be associated with the historic to recent past.

According to local oral tradition the site is associated with the Nkambule family. Ms. Zintombi Maria Shongwe, who is the oldest living descendant of the family, was located in Badplaas and taken to the site. She identified the graves of her grandfather, Mr. Nkambule, her younger sister Ms. Banzile Malaza as well as two young children of her brother.

4.3.28.3 Current Protection Status

The two components of the site are protected by different sections of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and/or other relevant legislation. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

The historic settlement can be considered as older as 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

4.3.28.4 Site Significance

The historic settlement is poorly preserved and is of **Low Significance**. However, all graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the cemetery is deemed to be of **High Significance.**

In multi-component sites such as the one under discussion, the highest significance ranking given to any one of the site components is given to the entire site. **ONV-28** is therefore of **High Significance.**

4.3.28.5 Mitigation

The mitigation measure recommended for the historic structures is the documentation of the entire site layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan. This layout plan must include the cemetery as well.

As the site is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve the cemetery *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased. The Nkambule family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their graves and they have provided permission for the graves to be relocated.

Plate 60 General view of the graves.

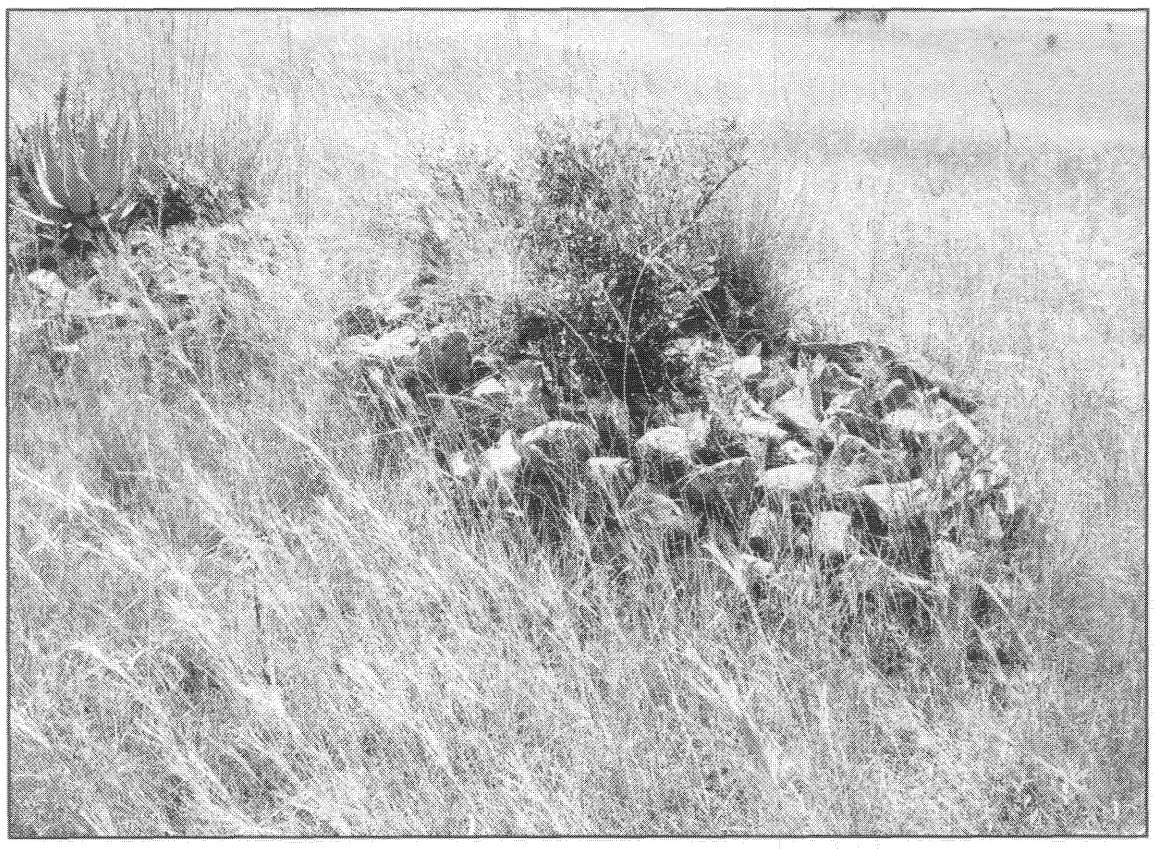

Plate 61 One of the adult graves from **ONV-28.**

4.3.29 ONV-29

4.3.29.1 Coordinates

S 25.826230
E 30.635010

4.3.29.2 General Site Description

A multi-component site consisting of a historic settlement as well as a historic cemetery is located here. It is extended over a reasonably long area along the southern and eastern foot of a hill.

The historic settlement is comprised of two sections located approximately 100 meters apart. The southernmost of these sections consist of a large rectangular stone structure (± 10m x 15m) associated with four smaller rectangular structures (± 5m x 5m). It is evident that the large rectangular structure was used as a cattle enclosure while the smaller structures could have been residential units (huts), kitchen areas or sheds.

The northernmost settlement component is comprised of three rectangular stone structures (± 5m x 5m). While two of these structures can be identified as residential units (huts), the third structure has the appearance of a small livestock (i.e. sheep or goat) enclosure).

The cemetery represents the northernmost component of the site and is comprised of five stone packed graves all orientated along the East-West axis. This signifies that the deceased were buried in the Christian/Western tradition which in turn suggests that the cemetery can be associated with the historic to recent past.

According to local oral history the site was established and resided in by the Maseko family. Mr. Msombuluko Elijah Maseko, the oldest living member of the family, was located in Nhlazatshe and taken to the site. He was able to identify the five buried individuals as Sibhono Maseko, Nomoya Maseko, Betty Maseko, John Mabuza and Ndlalatane Zwane.

4.3.29.3 Current Protection Status

The two components of the site are protected by different sections of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and/or other relevant legislation. Refer Annexure C Legislative Framework.

The historic settlement can be considered as older as 60 years. All structures older than 60 years are protected by Section 34(1) of National Heritage Resources Act and may not be demolished or altered without a permit from the relevant heritage authority.

Graves and burial grounds fall under various legislative protections, depending on factors such as where the graves are located as well as their age. Such legislation may include the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.

4.3.29.4 Site Significance

The historic settlement is of **Low Significance**. However, all graves and burial grounds have high levels of emotional, religious and in some cases historical significance. As a result the cemetery is deemed to be of **High Significance.**

In multi-component sites such as the one under discussion, the highest significance ranking given to any one of the site components is given to the entire site. **ONV-29** is therefore of **High Significance.**

4.3.29.5 Mitigation

The mitigation measure recommended for the historic structures is the documentation of the entire site layout by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan. As the cemetery is situated inside the development footprint for the proposed Nkomati Mine Tailings Dam, it would be impossible to conserve the cemetery *in situ*. As such full grave relocation is recommended. Such a process must always be undertaken in full cognisance of the relevant legislation, and must include a detailed social consultation process to try and identify the family of the deceased. The Maseko family was consulted with regards to the proposed relocation of their graves and they have provided permission for this to take place.

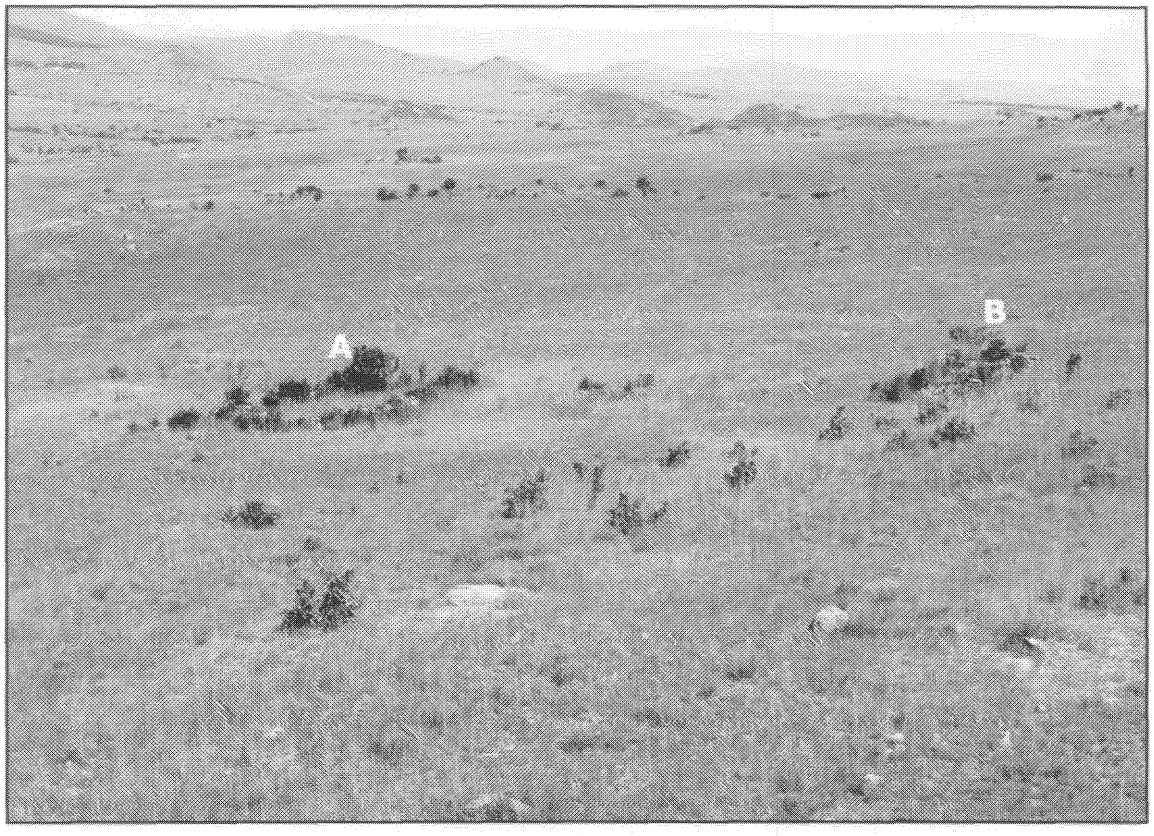

Plate 62 General view of the southernmost component of **ONV-29**. Photograph taken in a south-eastern direction. The cattle enclosure is on the left (A), with the dwelling structures on the right (B).

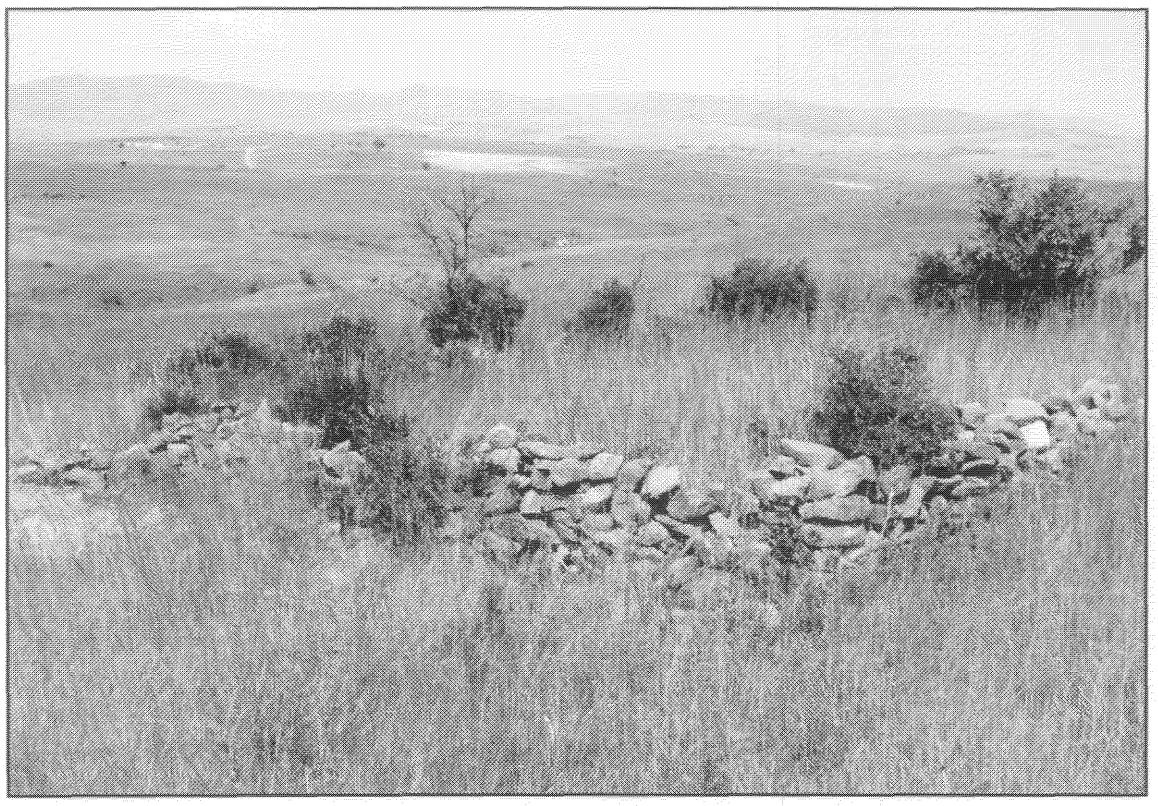

Plate 63 General view of a section of the cattle enclosure.

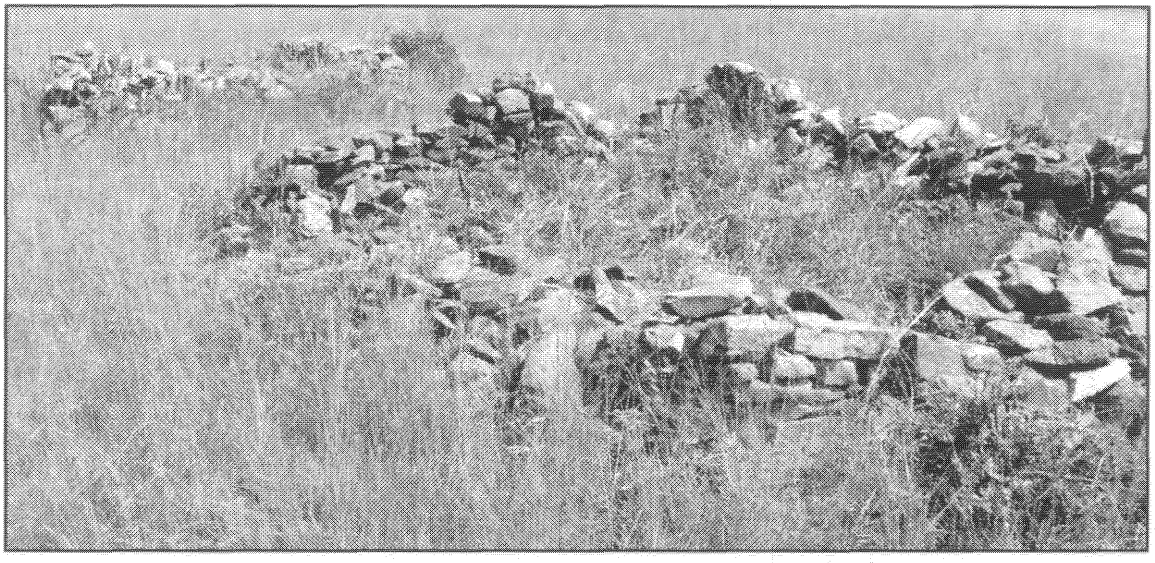

Plate 64 Two of the small rectangular structures from the southernmost section of the site.

Plate 65 One of the rectangular stone structures from the northern section of the site.

Plate 66 One of the graves from the site.

4.3.30 ONV-30

4.3.30.1 Coordinates

S 25.82869
E 30.63430

4.3.30.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It consists of a small circular outer wall approximately 23 meters in diameter. The dominant features inside the outer wall are two small circular stone enclosures (± 6 m in diameter).

4.3.30.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.30.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved and has the potential to have scientific significance. As a result it is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.30.5 Mitigation

Even though the site is located outside of the proposed development footprint, it is recommended that its settlement layout be documented by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

Although the site will not be impacted upon by the proposed development, its future management and conservation must be ensured. It is therefore also recommended that a Heritage Site Management Plan be compiled.

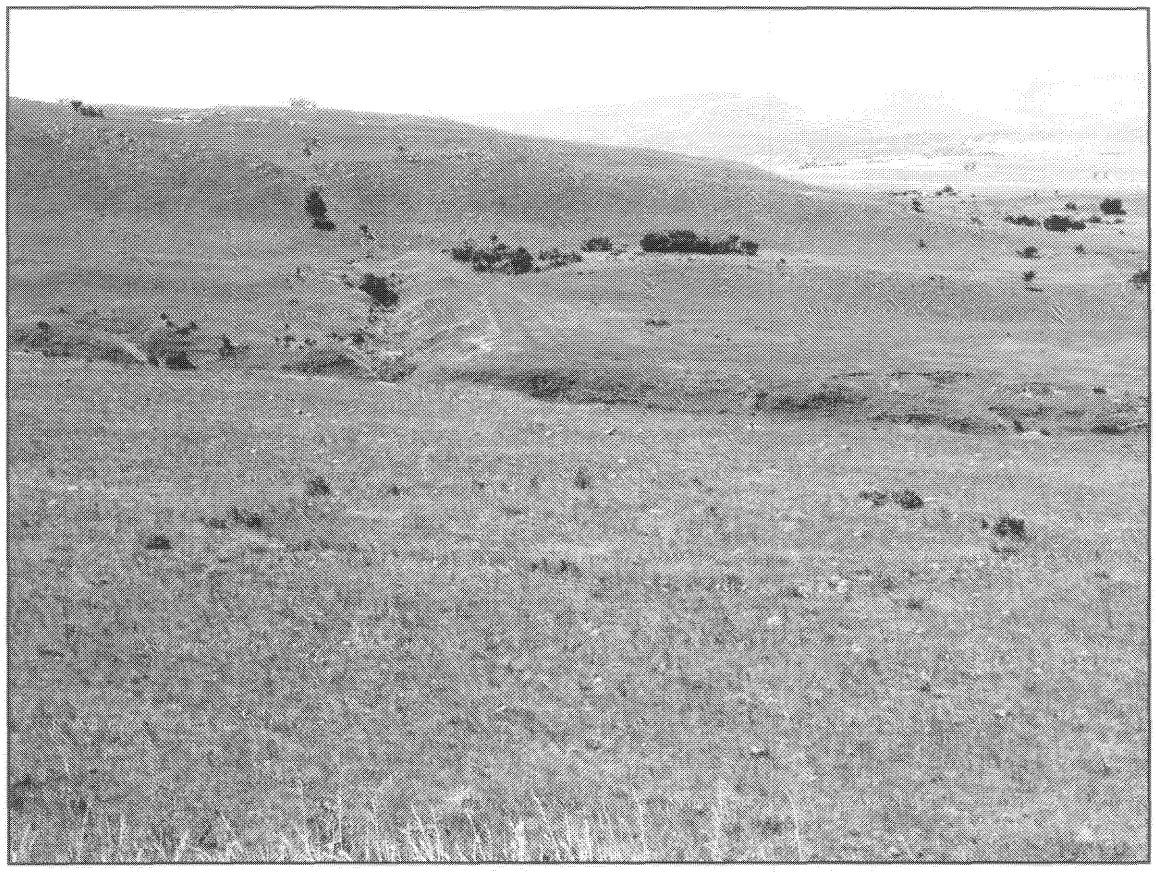

Plate 67 General view of **ONV-30**. Photograph taken in a north-eastern direction.

4.3.31 ONV-31

4.3.31.1 Coordinates

S 25.82795
E 30.63361

4.3.31.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It consists of a large circular outer wall approximately 50 meters in diameter. The dominant feature inside the outer wall is a small circular stone enclosure (± 8 m in diameter).

4.3.31.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.31.4 Site Significance

The site is reasonably well preserved and has the potential to have scientific significance. As a result it is of **Medium Significance**.

4.3.31.5 Mitigation

Even though the site is located outside of the proposed development footprint, it is recommended that its settlement layout be documented by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

Although the site will not be impacted upon by the proposed development, its future management and conservation must be ensured. It is therefore also recommended that a Heritage Site Management Plan be compiled.

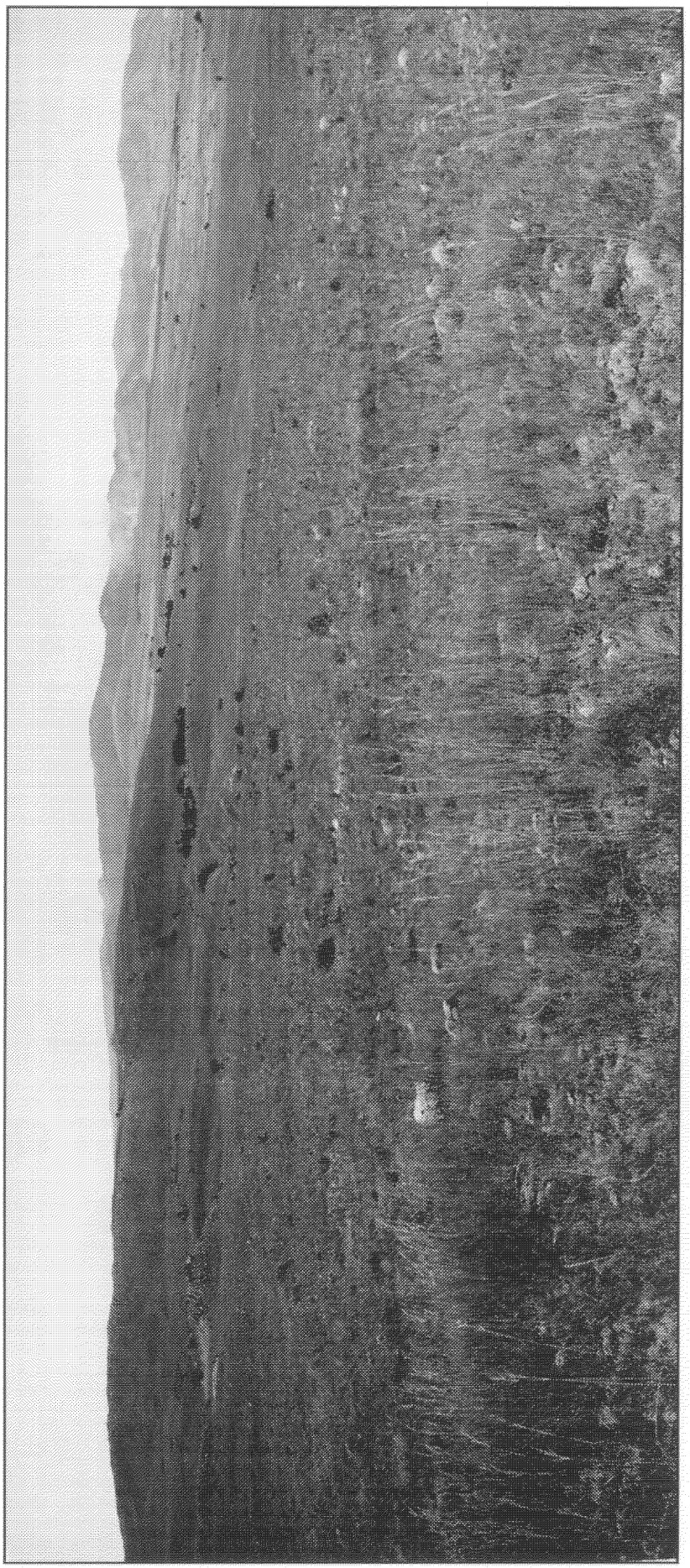

Plate 68 General view of the area in which site **ONV-31** is located.

4.3.32 ONV-32

4.3.32.1 Coordinates

S 25.82554
E 30.63260

4.3.32.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It consists of a single oval stone enclosure which is 12 meters in length and 7 meters wide. No archaeological material or deposits could be observed on the surface of the site.

4.3.32.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.32.4 Site Significance

The site is poorly preserved, has no scientific significance and is not unique. As a result it is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.32.5 Mitigation

Even though the site is located outside of the proposed development footprint, it is recommended that its settlement layout be documented by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

Although the site will not be impacted upon by the proposed development, its future management and conservation must be ensured. It is therefore also recommended that a Heritage Site Management Plan be compiled.

4.3.33 ONV-33

4.3.33.1 Coordinates

S 25.82602
E 30.63393

4.3.33.2 General Site Description

A Late Iron Age site is situated here. It consists of a circular stone enclosure which is situated in the saddle of a low ridge overlooking a non-perennial stream. The enclosure is approximately 20 meters across and consists of poorly preserved dry stonewalling. No archaeological material or deposits could be observed on the surface of the site.

4.3.33.3 Current Protection Status

Archaeological sites are protected by Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 and are defined as man-made features and artefacts older than 100 years.

4.3.33.4 Site Significance

The site is poorly preserved, has no scientific significance and is not unique. As a result it is of **Low Significance**.

4.3.33.5 Mitigation

Even though the site is located outside of the proposed development footprint, it is recommended that its settlement layout be documented by surveying and drawing of a detailed Site Layout Plan.

Although the site will not be impacted upon by the proposed development, its future management and conservation must be ensured. It is therefore also recommended that a Heritage Site Management Plan be compiled.

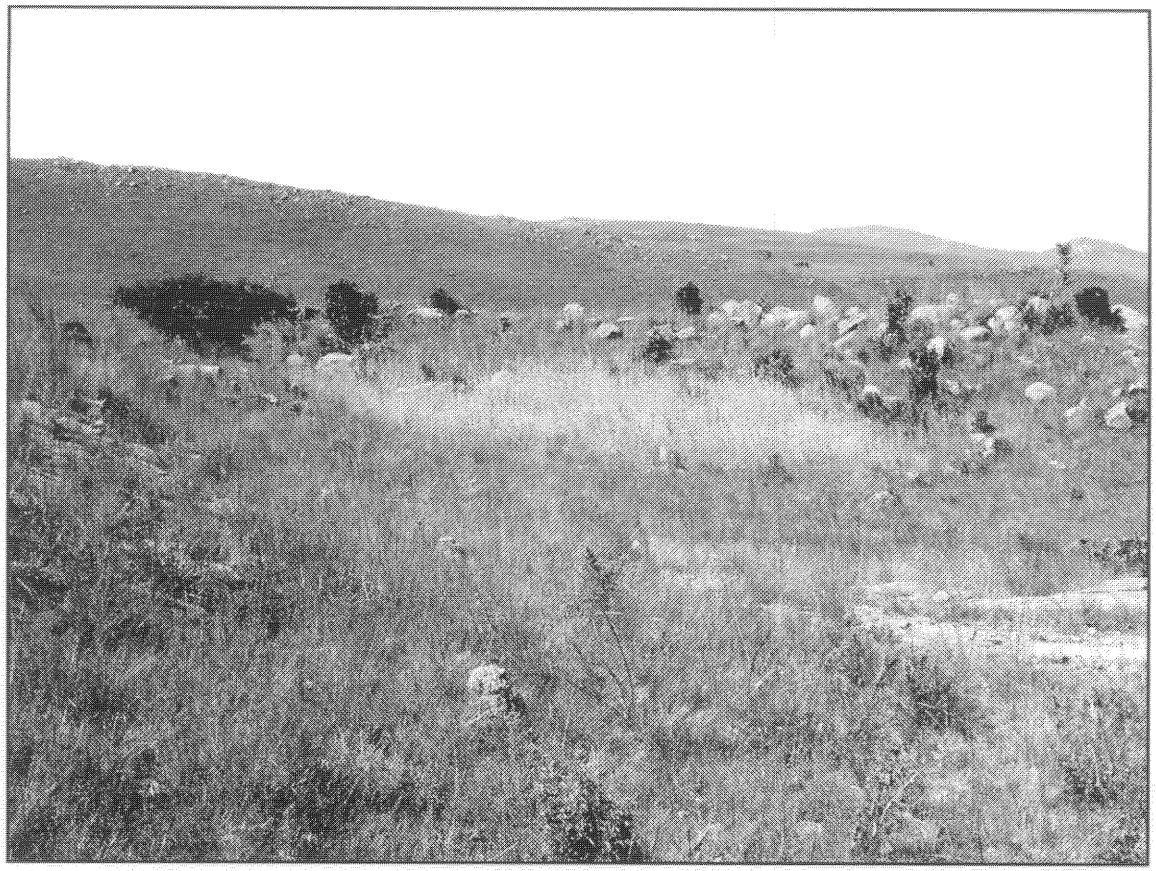

Plate 69 General view of **ONV-33**. Photograph taken in a north-eastern direction.

5. HERITAGE REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF SECTION 38 (3) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT NOT DEALT WITH IN THE PREVIOUS SECTION.

5.1 "The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected"

This requirement has been suitably addressed in Section 4.3 Survey Findings. With the GPS co-ordinates obtained from the field, the different sites were individually plotted using Arcview 8.1 GIS Software. Refer Annexure B Site Distribution Map.

5.2 "An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources"

Of the 33 heritage sites located on Portion 7 of the farm Onverwacht 611-JT, 29 will be adversely affected by the development of the proposed Low Sulphide Tailings Facility. The remaining four sites (see ONV-30, ONV-31, ONV-32 and ONV-33) are located in the north-western corner of the study area and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.

5.3 "An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development"

The phase 2 expansion project of Nkomati Mine (for which the proposed Low Sulphide Tailings Facility will form an integral part) will extend the lifespan of the mine in excess of 20 years past its current expected lifespan of nine years. As the mine is the major work supplier for the Badplaas and Waterval Boven communities, this extention of 20 years will have a very significant positive impact on both the protection of exisitng jobs as well as the creation of new ones in communities characterised by high levels of unemployment and poverty.

It is therefore evident that the proposed development will entail very significant social and economic benefits. If one compares this with the impact of the development on the mitigated heritage sites located there, it becomes evident that the social and economic benefits will far outweigh the impact of the heritage resources located within the study area.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaeology Africa cc was appointed by *Nkomati Mine (Pty) Ltd* to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on Portion 7 of the farm Onverwacht 611-JT. The said portion is earmarked for the construction of a Low Sulphide Tailings Facility.

During the study a total of 33 heritage sites were located. The significance of the sites were assessed and established, and recommendations made on the way in which the impact of the proposed development on the sites can be mitigated.

It is the opinion of the author of this report that on the condition that all the recommendations made in this report are adhered to, the development may be allowed to continue.

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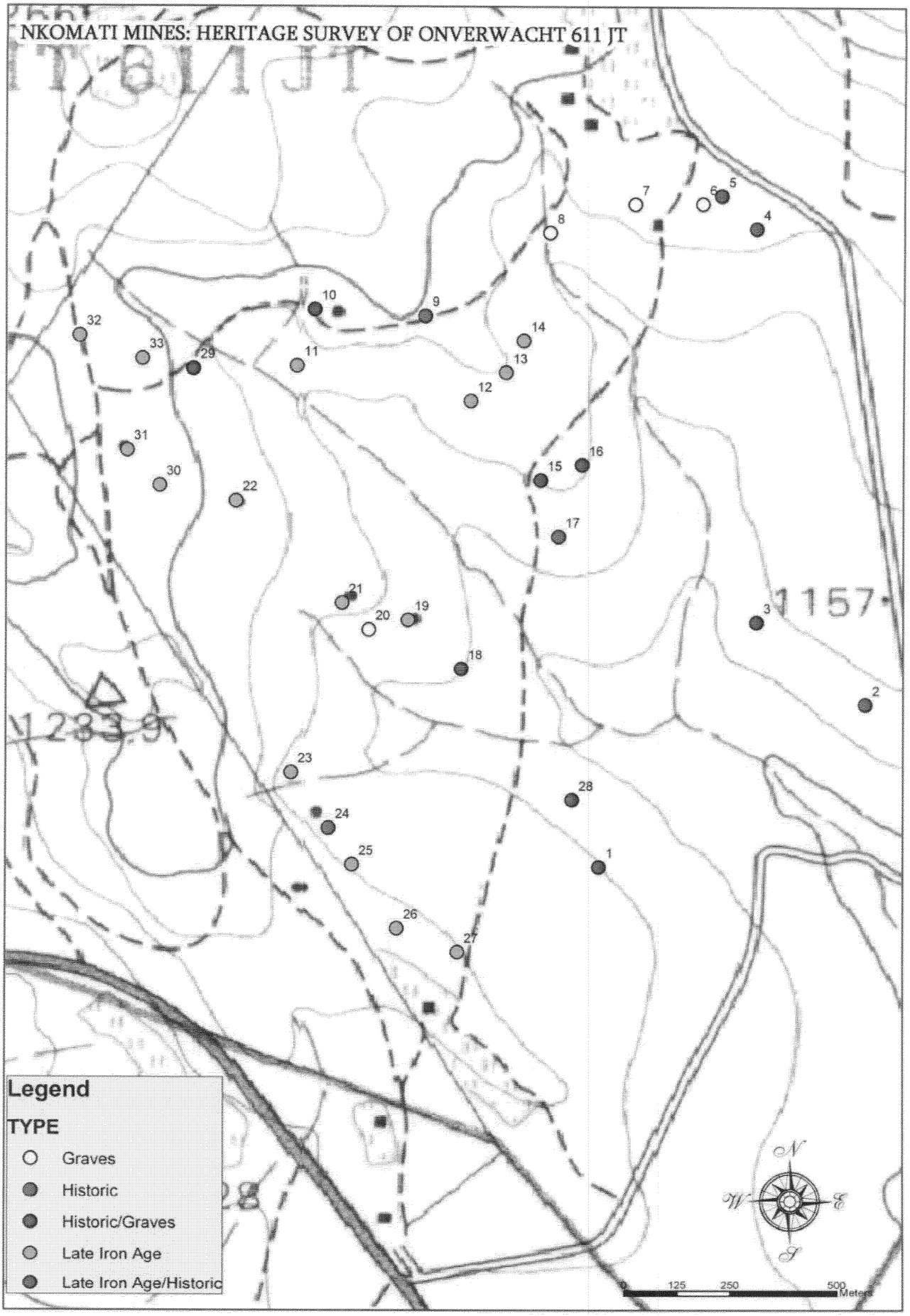
ANNEXURE A - LOCALITY MAP

KAFFERSKRAAL
KEES ZYN DOORNS
WINKELHAAK

ANNEXURE B – SITE DISTRIBUTION MAP


NKOMATI MINES: HERITAGE SURVEY OF ONVERWACHT 611 JT
Legend
TYPE
Graves
Historic
Historic/Graves
Late Iron Age
Late Iron Age/Historic
125
250
500
Meters

ANNEXURE C – LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

South Africa has a number of legislative measures in place aimed at protecting its heritage resources. Of these the most important is the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.

1. National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999

The promulgation of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 brings the conservation and management of heritage resources in South Africa on par with international trends and standards.

Section 38 (3) of the act provides an outline of ideally what should be included in a heritage report. The act states:

"(3) The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection (2) (a): Provided that the following must be included:

(a) The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;
(b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6(2) or prescribed under section 7;
(c) an assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;
(d) an evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;
(e) the results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;
(f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and
(g) *plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development."*

Replacing the old National Monuments Act 28 of 1969, the Heritage Resources Act offers general protection for a number of heritage related features and objects (see below).

Structures are defined by the Heritage Resources Act as *"...any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated with it."* In section 34 of the Act the general protection for structures is stipulated. It is important to note that only structures older than 60 years are protected. Section 34(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act reads as follows: *"No person may alter or demolish any structure or*

part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority."

The second general protection offered by the Heritage Resources Act which is of relevance for this project, is the protection of **archaeological sites and objects (as well as paleontological sites and meteorites)**. Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act states that:

"No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

(a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;

(b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;

(c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or

(d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites."

In order to understand exactly what is protected, it is important to look at the definition of the concept "**archaeological**" set out in section 2(ii) of the Heritage Act:

"(a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;

(b) rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation;

(c) wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic, as defined respectively in sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation; and

(d) features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found;..."

The third important general protection offered by the Heritage Resources Act that is of importance here, is the protection of **graves and burial grounds**. Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act states that:

"No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority –

a) *destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;*
b) *destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or*
c) *bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals."*

Of importance as well is section 36 (5), which relates to the conditions under which permits will be issued by the relevant heritage authority should any action described in section 36 (3), be taken. Section 36(5) reads that:

"SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsecion (3)(b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority –

a) *made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and*
b) *reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such grave or burial ground."*

This section of the Act refers to graves and burial grounds which are older than 60 years and situated outside of a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

Section 36 (6) of the act refers to instances where previously unknown graves are uncovered during development and other activities.

"Subject to the provision of any other law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must

immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

a) *carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such a grave is protected in terms of the Act or is of significance to any community; and*
b) *if such a grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangement for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any arrangements as it deems fit."*

2. Other Legislation

In terms of graves, other legislative measures which may be of relevance include the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), the Human Tissues Act 65 of 1983, the Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws that may be in place.