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HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

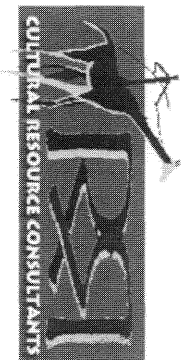
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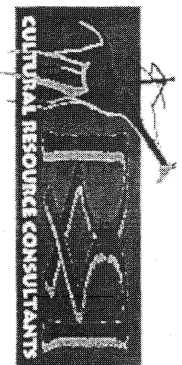
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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The application constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

Historical remains

Section 34(1) 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.

Archaeological remains

Section 35(4) 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

Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3)(a) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

(c) 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

- (b) 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 detection or recovery of metals.

Culture resource management

Section 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

***development** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
 - (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
 - (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;
- ***place** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure* ... ”
- ***structure** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ... ”

The author was contracted to undertake a full heritage impact assessment of the demarcated portion on the farms Warburton 72 IT and scoping survey of the farm Billysvlei 96 IT. Only a small portion of the farm Warburton will be utilised for residential development, while the rest of the two farms are demarcated for low impact eco-development. The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on these heritage resources.

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information

The sources of information were the field reconnaissance and literary sources mentioned below.

A scoping survey of the demarcated development areas was undertaken on foot, and by vehicle. Standard archaeological practices for observation were followed. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and the burrow pits, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Attention was also given to rock overhangs and shelters. Locations of heritage remains were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin 60). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a PANASONIC Digital camera.

2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough and not affected by any limitations. However, the discovery of previously undetected heritage remains must be reported to the Heritage Resources Authority or the archaeologist and may require further mitigation measures.

2.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological sites is ranked into the following categories.

- No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
- Low significance: sites, which may require mitigation.
- Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
- High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

The significance of an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. There are many aspects that must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarely, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

2.4 Terminology

Early Stone Age: Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.

Middle Stone Age: Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.

Late Stone Age: The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD

Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD

Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

Historical: Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

Phase 1 assessment: Scoping survey to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area

Phase 2 assessment: In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.

Sensitive: Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

The proposed development consists of an Eco Estate with about 57 buildings (houses and other buildings). The terrain is mostly flat with gentle hills and a valley with a marshy area. The estate development will be placed on what is currently a Wattle and Eucalyptus Plantation.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

No Archaeological or Historical material was noted on the residential site, but further down in the valley a number of Rock Art panels was recorded, as well as some possible historic remains. The recorded sites are shown on the locality map and the numbering sequence in the report follows the sequence on the map.

4.1 THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA:

Co-ordinates: **S26° 15' 52.9" E30° 26'15.2"**

No heritage remains were recorded on the Estate development area.



Fig 1. View of the Estate area to be developed.

4.2 THE ECO DEVELOPMENT AREA

4.2.1 Historical Remains

Three possible historical remains were noted closer to the valley, but none on the area to be developed.

Site 1:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 15' 59.8" E30° 26'18.2"

This site contains a historical sheep dip, carved into the rock with an holding enclosure build of stones (see Fig 2).

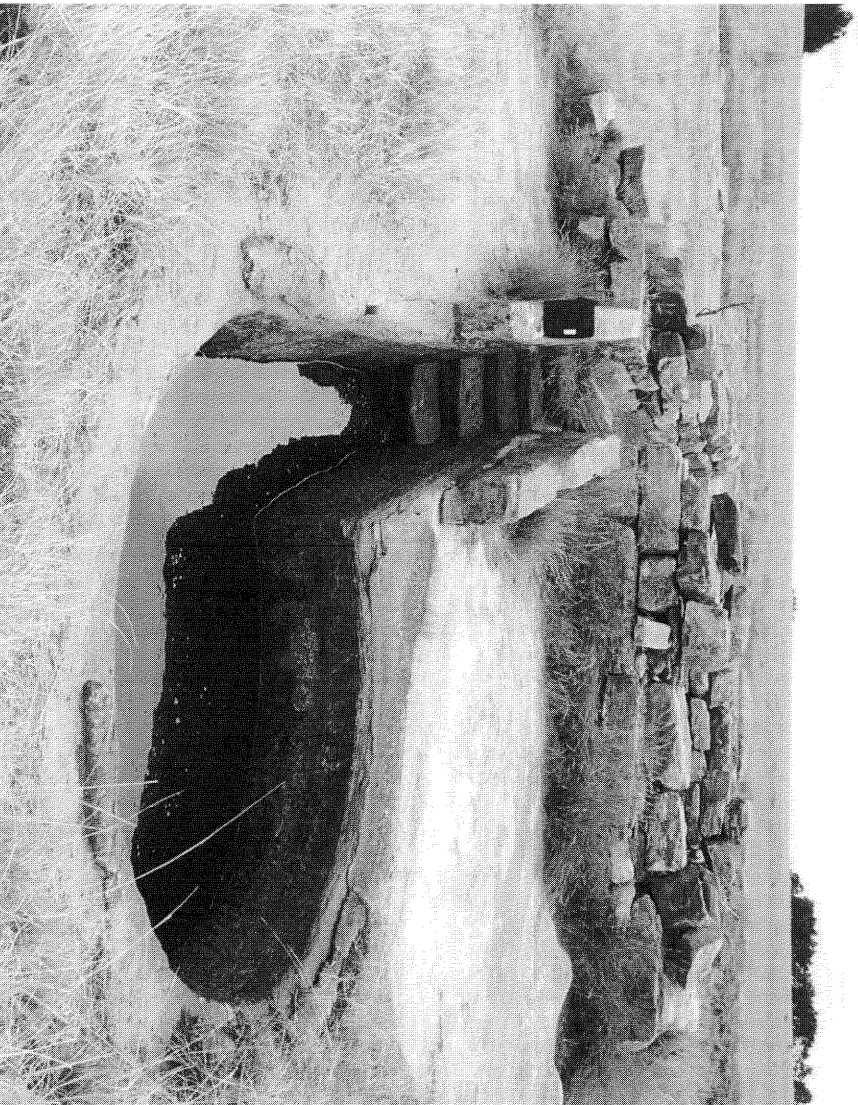


Fig 2. View of the sheep dip.

Site 2:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 16' 07.3" E30° 26'24.8"

This site is in the valley and consists of a stone wall, possibly a livestock enclosure, see picture.

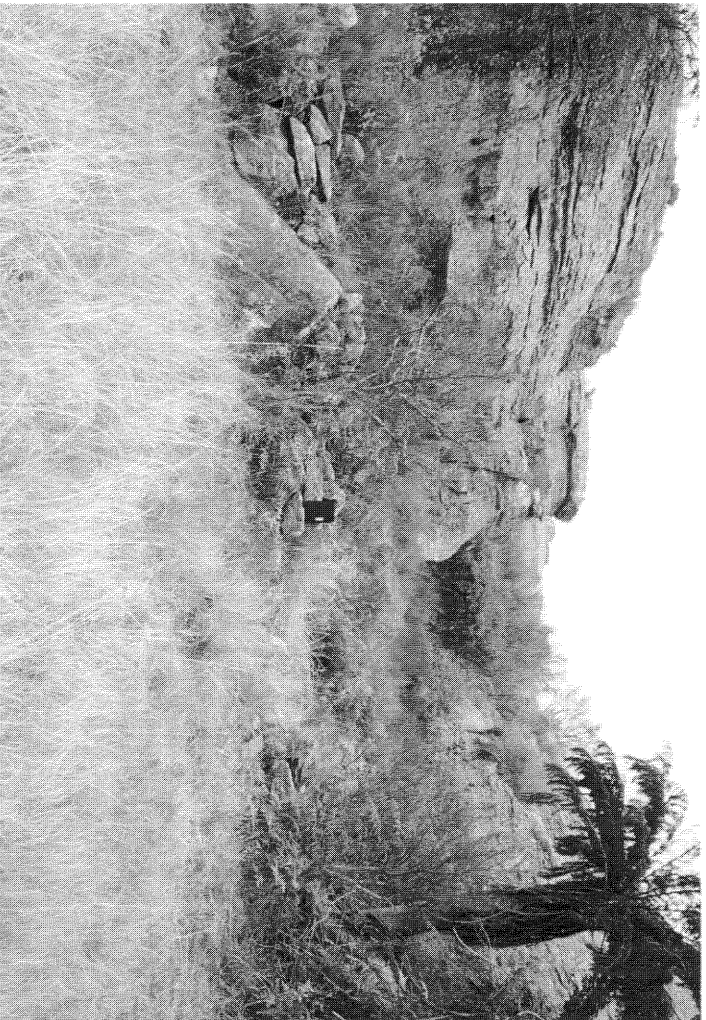


Fig 3. View of stone wall enclosure.

Site 10:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 16' 05.1" E30° 26'24.3"

These co-ordinates are the location of four wagon wheel hoops lying in the veldt. No other cultural remains are present.



Fig 4. The four wagon wheel hoops.

4.2.2 Stone Age Remains

ROCK ART SITES

A number of rock panels, with rock art were noted in the valley, some of these panels are known by the owners.

No known previous rock art research had been conducted in the area, and it thus presents a unique opportunity to expand the rock art database for the province as well as research the peoples, period and authorship of these paintings. If well preserved and managed accordingly, it would greatly enhance the area's attraction to tourists, and residents.

Various researchers interpret images like these using different theoretical applications. The tentative information that follows is for interest sake only. It is included to illustrate the importance of rock art, distinguishing it from merely pictorial representations of animals and strange lines and forms. When viewing rock art, it is important to remember that long ago, artists didn't do art for art's sake – there was a deep meaning attached to these images, which acted as symbols of a culture long forgotten. We can only infer meanings from ethnological research, onto which our own understanding of our own worldview is superimposed.

Site 3:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 16' 12.6" E30° 26'27.0"

Site 3 consists of two figures on a rock face (see pict.) one is discernible while the other has already worn away so that we cannot tell what it was.

The first figure appears to be an animal with a stretched neck, looking at the picture through the eyes of the artists and taking into account what is known of their believe system, we can assume that it has to do with the *trance dance*, the most important element of the san believe system. The stretched neck could be a metaphor for a shaman in trance as they often get the feeling of being tall, or stretched when in trance.

The animal that is represented cannot be fully identified, although there is a good possibility that it is of an eland.

Eland imagery

For the San, animals mean much more than just food. It is therefore essential that we understand Bushman beliefs about and attitudes towards the animals they painted and engraved.

Chief amongst all these animals is the eland. It is, of course, the largest of southern African antelope and is much desired as a source of meat and fat. But the San say that all other animals are like servants to the eland. As a major symbol in San thought, the eland appears in four important rituals: boys' first-kill, girls' puberty, marriage and the trance dance.

As part of marriage rituals, the young man hunts an eland and gives the fat of the eland's heart to the girl's mother. At a later stage the bride is anointed with eland fat. In the trance dance, the eland is considered the most potent of all animals, and shamans aspire to possess eland potency.

All these associations add up to constitute the eland's exceptional potency. It is these and other aspects of San beliefs about eland that explain why it is the most frequently depicted animal in many regions in southern Africa. (Hester Roodt)



Fig 5. View of the two figures at site 3.

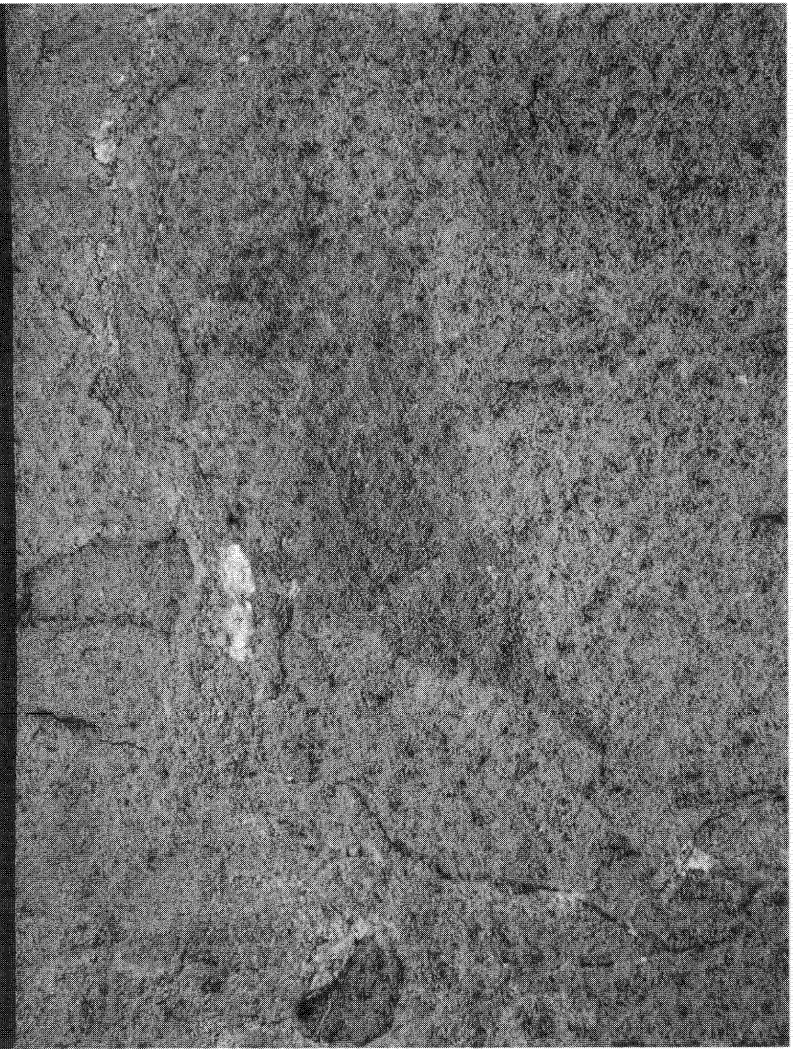


Fig 6. Figure 1 at site 3.

Site 4:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 16' 13.3" E30° 26'27.3"

This panel consists of four animal like figures, they are not very clear and it is difficult to make out exactly what they are, it is also possible that they could be trance figures.

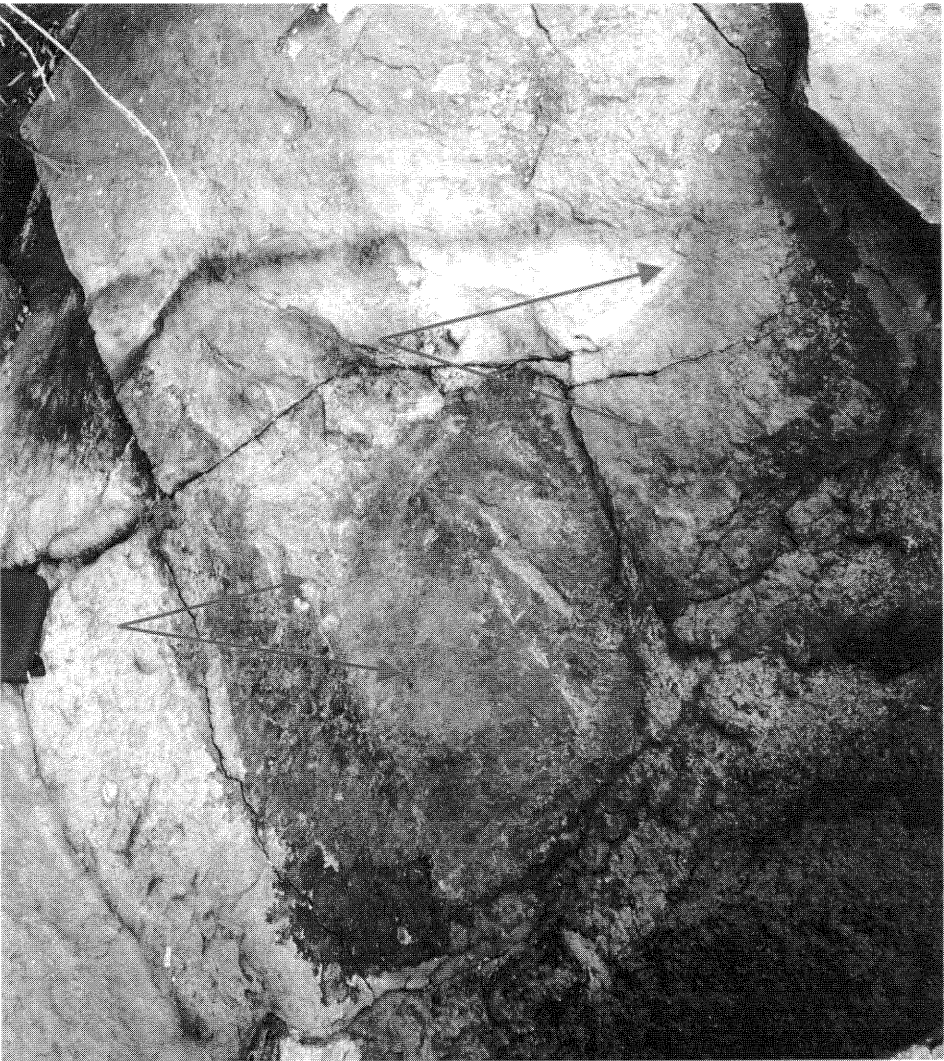


Fig 7. Images at site 4.



Fig 8. Detail of two figures of site 4.



Fig 9. Two other figures at site 4.

Site 5:

Co-ordinates:
S26° 16' 13.8" E30° 26'27.2"

This panel consists of one figure, definitely related to the *trance dance* and *shamanism*. The figure is one of the best preserved on the site.



Fig 10. Figure at site 5.

Site 6:

Co-ordinates:
S26° 16' 15.4" E30° 26'27.9"

This panel consists of some more figures; they are relatively worn and not very clear. The one figure appears *baboon* or *ape* like, probably related to the *trance dance*.



Fig 11. Animal figures at Site 6.



Fig 12. Detail of the best preserved figure at site 6.

Site 7:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 16' 05.9" E30° 26'26.4"

This panel consists of one figure which is not clear. No photo.

Site 8:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 16' 06.2" E30° 26'25.9"

This panel is made up of one human figure, which is quite well preserved.



Fig 13. Human figure at Site 8.

Site 9:

Co-ordinates:

S26° 16' 05.7" E30° 26'25.5'

This site consists of more than one panel, with a lot of figures, both human and animal, with a number the images severely worn and not fully discernible. The site must have been significant due to the number of figures seen here together with its complexity. Some stone flakes and pottery fragments were also noted here.

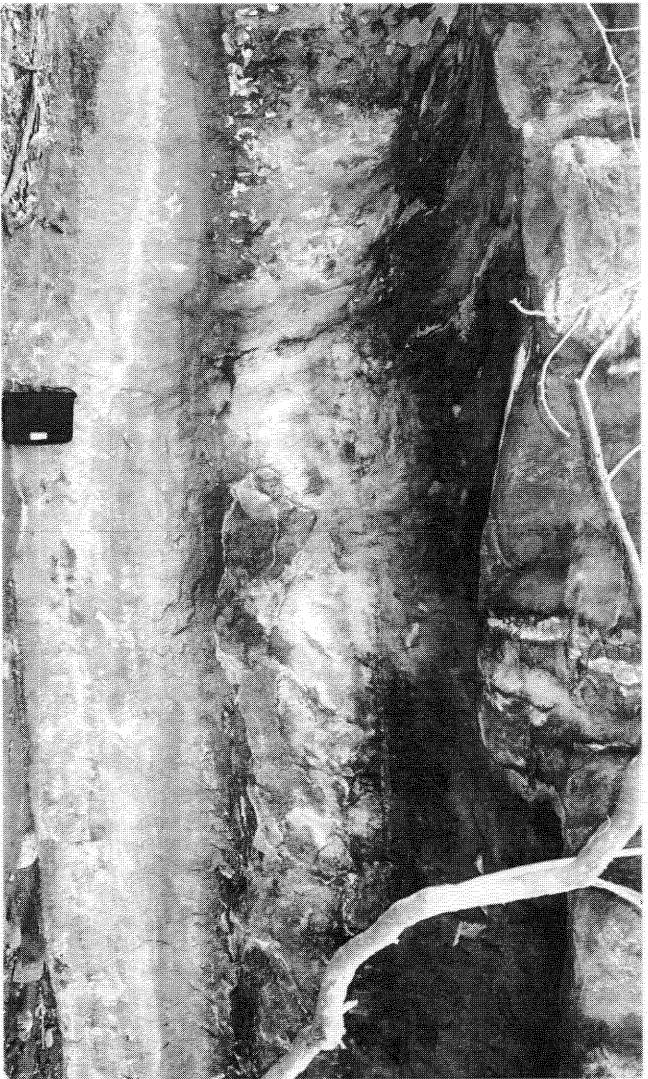


Fig 14. One of the panels at site 9.



Fig 15. Another panel at site 9.

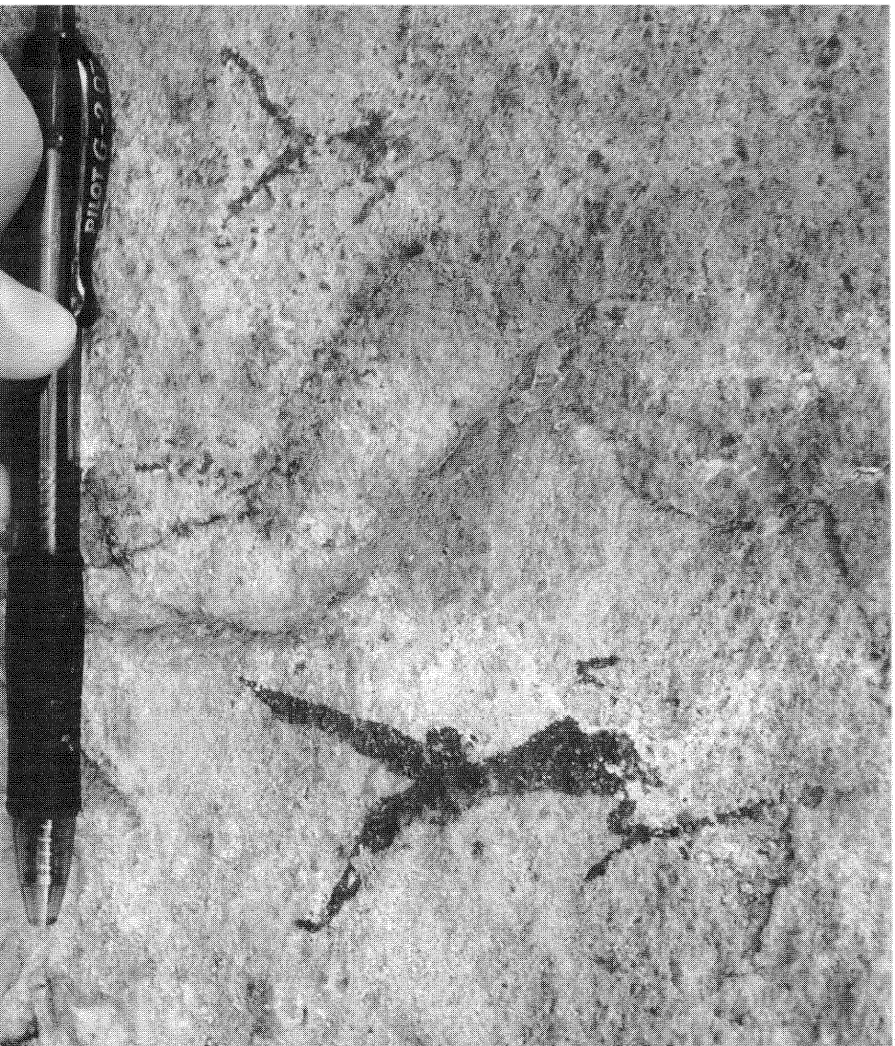


Fig 16. Human figures at site 9.



Fig 17. Human figure, possibly a shaman – site 9.



Fig 18. Animal figures at site 9.



Fig 19. Stone flakes and pottery fragments found at site 9.

Conclusion

At this stage these particular sites are undated. This preliminary study of the sites has shown that they are of particular interest to scientific research, i.e dating, sequencing and spread of the represented rock art forms.

It is recommended that further investigation and research should be conducted. The images will have to be properly photographed in detail.

The sites should be **protected** from any disturbance, in particular human disturbance, as research will comprise **archaeological excavations** in order to find associated cultural material, which would render a better description of the peoples who used the shelters. If organic material could be found, **C¹⁴-dating** would establish a date for the occupation period. When taking C¹⁴-readings, it is particularly important that the sites should not be contaminated, as it will then provide much younger dates.

All this new information would greatly enhance the scientific database of rock art sites in the Limpopo Province and enrich the heritage left by the people who came to live here long ago. As such, this area has not been researched previously.

A few guidelines to follow when visiting the shelters

- Avoid contamination with recent C¹⁴, do not discard cigarette butts, ash or paper at or nearby the site. Best not to allow any smoking, eating or drinking inside or near the shelters.
- Do not create dust. This will affect the clarity of the paintings, eventually obscuring them completely, which would render them worthless.
- Do not spray water onto the paintings in order to see them clearer. Water, or any other liquid, attracts the salts and minerals in the rocks to the surface. These salts and minerals will form a layer over the paintings and would also, in time, obliterate them completely.
- Do not attempt to trace the paintings. Rock art researchers undergo special training to do this. Attempts at tracing could irreparably damage the paintings to such an extent (due to the fragility of the rock surfaces on which it had been painted - clearly seen on the photographs), that they could flake off.
- Do not touch the paintings. Hands always contain oils, which also attract the salts and minerals to the surface. Hard or sharp objects, such as sticks, matches, etc. could scrape paint pigment off.
- Do not collect any objects, however small or seemingly unimportant, from within or without the shelter. These are all clues to the peoples who utilized the shelter. To an archaeologist, these finds are very important. If any objects had been removed previously from the site, this should be reported to the investigating archaeologist. Cultural material, preferably *in situ*, will be studied. In a display this could enhance the interested tourist's experience.
- Do not change the micro-environment of the shelters, i.e don't chop down trees or shrubs growing in front of the shelter. These protect the paintings from the elements in terms of temperature, humidity, etc.

4.2.3 Graves

Various graves are known to exist on the farms and are indicated on the map. No proposed development will threaten these graves, but they should all be properly fenced off and maintained. Should any of the graves be affected during future development, the proper legal process must be followed for their exhumation and re-interment.

6. EVALUATION

The property contains archaeological remains in the form of Middle Stone Age flakes, rock art, and some historical features that may be older than 60 years.

Although the recorded heritage resources will not be directly impacted on by the proposed development, increased human traffic can be expected, which could have a negative impact on these heritage resources. It is thus of the utmost importance that these heritage resources are not disturbed as they present an opportunity for both research and tourism development. The rock shelters are especially sensitive and must be managed to preserve both the rock art and the underlying cave deposits.

7. RECOMMENDATION

No immediate mitigation measures are recommended for the development, but it is recommended that a heritage resources management plan be developed for the property by a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

From a heritage resources management perspective, we have no objection with regard to the development.

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- Archaeological sites
- † Graves
- ▲ Huts
- Infrastucture

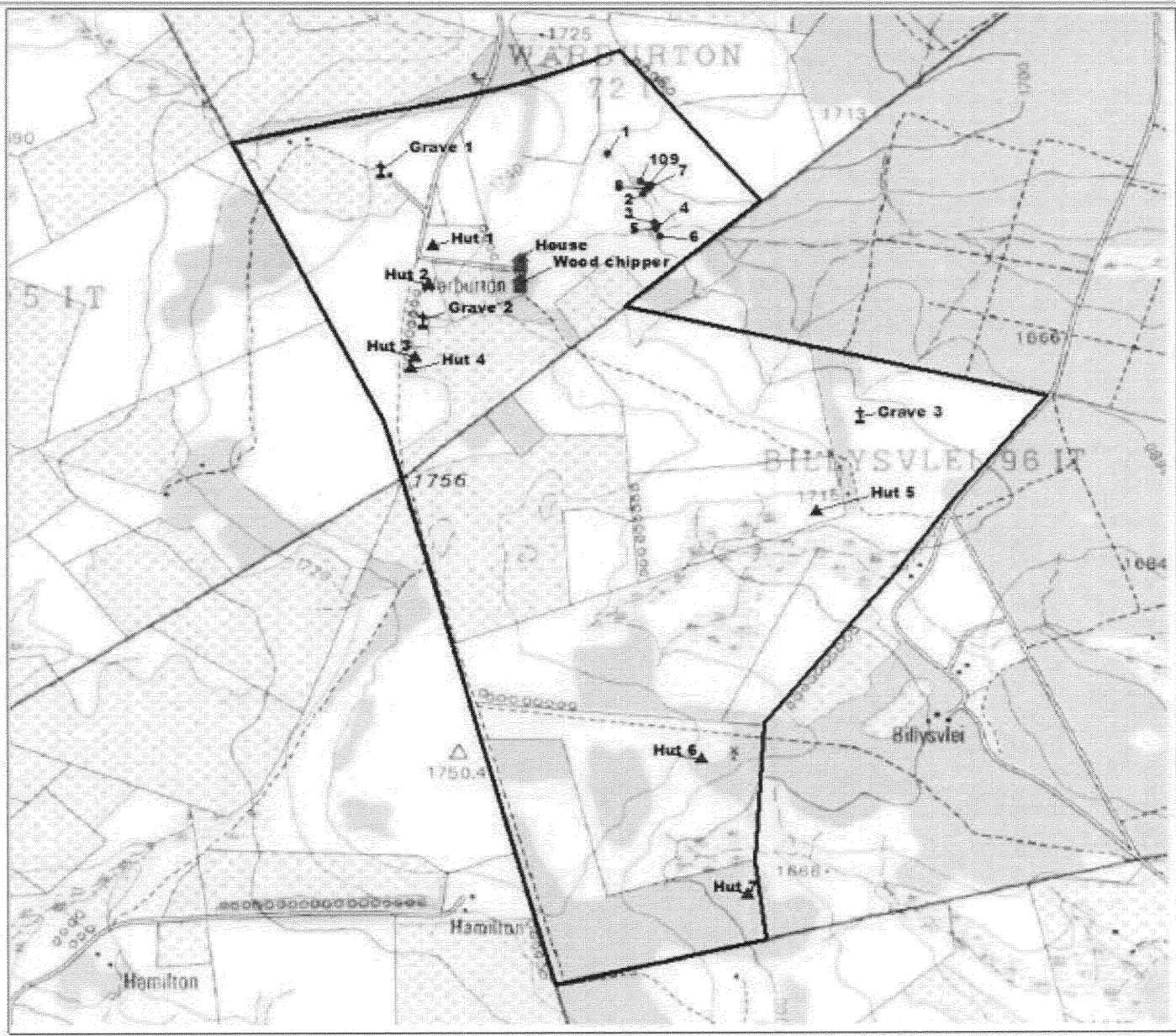
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0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Kilometers

Warburton
Eco Estate

Based on the 1:50 000
1:50 000 scale
2010 AD
2010 AD



Locality map

18

