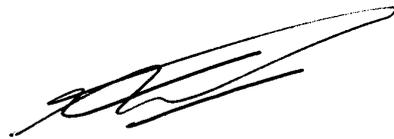


**Township development on portions 140–182 and 190–206 on  
the farm Sterkspruit 33 JT, District Lydenburg**

**SCOPING HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**



**Jaco van der Walt**  
**BA (Hon) Archaeology (WITS)**



**Wouter Fourie**  
**BA (Hon) Archaeology (UP)**

Reference: Sterkspruit - 001

Compiled by: Jaco vd Walt & Wouter Fourie

Date: 22 February 2006



Matakoma Heritage Consultants (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 431

Paardekraal, 1752

Tel: +27 11 954 6871

Fax: +27 11 954 3568

E-mail: [info@matakoma.co.za](mailto:info@matakoma.co.za)

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As we know from legislation, National Heritage Resources Act 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), the surveying, capturing and management of heritage resources is an integral part of the greater management plan laid down for any major development or historic existing operation. This legislation aims to underpin the existing legislation, which only addresses this issue at a glance, and gives guidance to developers and existing industries to the management of their Heritage Resources.

During the survey several sites of importance were found in the proposed development area, of which most will be impacted on directly.

The scientific and research importance of the Lydenburg Iron Age sequence is of National importance due to the occurrence of the well known Early Iron Age sites (Lydenburg Heads Found Site and Klingbeil), as well as Late Iron Age sites occurring in the same localities. Due to the high density of Late Iron Age stone walling in the study area, we consulted an Iron Age Specialist on the specific area, Professor T.N. Huffman, and met with him on site. All assessments and recommendations were done in accordance with him.

The following outline the findings of the report:

Several heritage significant sites have been identified during the survey and can be categorised into three distinct phases. Phase 1 is the Late Iron Age stone walled settlements associated with the Koni. Phase 2 forms part of the military history of Lydenburg expressed by the remnants of a possible fort/blockhouse and Phase 3 includes to historical dwellings associated with recent farm labourers.

In consultation with the client who fully appreciates the importance of our non-renewable heritage, it was agreed that the fort/blockhouse and at least 1 Koni Stone Walled settlement will be preserved in open areas for future generations. It is also recommended that a full archival study into the history of the military structure is done. It is important that a Heritage Management Plan be drawn up for the sites that are going to be preserved. The best-preserved examples from the numerous stone walled sites will be documented after which the client will apply for a destruction

permit. The location of the dwellings will be documented on a locality plan. Through the recommended archival study, dates for the dwellings would be obtained and if older than 60 years the best-preserved units will be assessed by a conservation architect after which the client will apply for a destruction permit. The two cemeteries must either be fenced off with an access gate for family members or be relocated according to the relevant legislation

## Index

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION .....	5
2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY .....	6
3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF STUDY AREA .....	7
4. WORKING WITH LEGISLATION .....	11
5.1 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA .....	11
6. SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE .....	12
7. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS .....	38
8. LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS .....	38
9. RECOMMENDATIONS .....	41
10. LIST OF PREPARES .....	42
11. SPECIALIST ARCHAEOLOGIST .....	43
12. REFERENCES .....	43

### Annexure

Annexure A – Legislation extracts

Annexure B – Map of sites

Annexure C - Coordinates of sites

Annexure D– Watching Brief Outline

Annexure E- Desktop/Archival Study

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Matakoma Heritage Consultants was contracted by Wandma Consulting Services to conduct a Heritage Assessment for the proposed security development of Sterkspruit portions 140-182 and 190-206, south of the Klingbeil Nature Reserve, near Lydenburg. This scoping report forms part of the Environmental Impact study for the proposed development.

The aim of the study is to identify all heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial, and national context. From this we aim to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resource in a responsible manner to protect, preserve, and develop the heritage resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

The report outlines the approach and methodology utilised before and during the survey, which includes in Phase 1: Archival research, information collection from various sources and public consultations; Phase 2: Physical surveying of the area on foot and vehicle; and Phase 3: Reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey, several sites of cultural significance were identified. These sites were recorded by means of photos, GPS location, and description. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report.

This report must also be submitted to SAHRA's provincial office for scrutiny.

## **2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

The aim of the study is to extensively cover all available data to compile a background history of the area. This was done by means of the following phases.

### **2.1 Phase 1**

The first phase comprised of a desktop study with the aim of gathering data to compile a background history of the area in a five-kilometre radius. This desktop study covered the following:

#### ***2.1.1 Archival research***

Utilising data stored in the National as well as Transvaal Archives for information gathering. The aim is to compile a data list of archaeological sites, historical sites, graves, architecture, oral history, and ethnographical information on the inhabitants of the area.

### **2.2 Physical Surveying**

Although visibility was high in the study area since it was burned down before the survey a physical walk through of the study area was conducted due to the nature of cultural remains that occur below surface.

Aerial photographs and 1:50 000 maps of the area were consulted and literature of the area were studied before undertaking the survey. The purpose of this was to identify topographical areas of possible historic and pre-historic activity. The proposed development area was surveyed over two days, by means of vehicle and extensive surveys on foot by an archaeologist. All sites discovered inside the proposed development area was plotted on 1:50 000 maps, and their GPS co-ordinates noted. 35mm photographs on digital film were taken of all the sites found. A subsequent site visit was done accompanied by an Iron Age Specialist on the area, after which recommendations were made.

### **3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF STUDY AREA**

#### **3.1 Iron Age (general)**

The Iron Age as a whole represents the spread of Bantu speaking people and includes both the Pre-Historic and Historic periods. It can be divided into three distinct periods:

- The Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD.
- The Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD
- The Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period.

The Iron Age is characterised by the ability of these early people to manipulate and work Iron ore into implements that assisted them in creating a favourable environment to make a better living. Iron is a very hard metal to work with compared to gold and copper that have lower melting temperatures and therefore are easier to forge. A drawback of gold and copper are the occurrence of ore, which is relatively limited compared to iron.

In Africa, we proceeded technologically directly from the Stone Age in to the Iron Age where as in Eurasia there was a prolonged Copper and Bronze Age preceding the Iron Age. In southern Africa, metallurgical techniques made their first appearance in a rather advanced state that permitted the smelting of Copper and Iron directly after a Stone Age economic way of live.

This scenario provides a strong argument that metallurgical technology was introduced from elsewhere and did not develop locally. To effectively smelt iron oxide, ore by reduction requires a temperature of at least 1100°C that is 400°C below the metals melting point. To obtain a temperature this high was probably unattainable in ancient furnaces. But the prolonged heating of ore in contact with abundant charcoal, needed to obtain a sufficiently high temperature for the reduction of the oxide ores, enable the iron to obtain enough carbon to make it mild steel. If this mild steel was repeatedly heated and hammered during the forge process, it will harden.

### Early Iron Age

Early in the first millennium AD, there seem to be a significant change in the archaeological record of the greater part of eastern and southern Africa lying between the equator and Natal. This change is marked by the appearance of a characteristic ceramic style that belongs to a single stylistic tradition. These Early Iron Age people practised a mixed farming economy and had the technology to work metals like iron and copper.

A meaningful interpretation of the Early Iron Age has been hampered by the uneven distribution of research conducted so far; this can be partly attributed to the poor preservation of these early sites. Figure 1 demonstrates the high frequency of Iron Age sites that could be expected in the proposed development area.

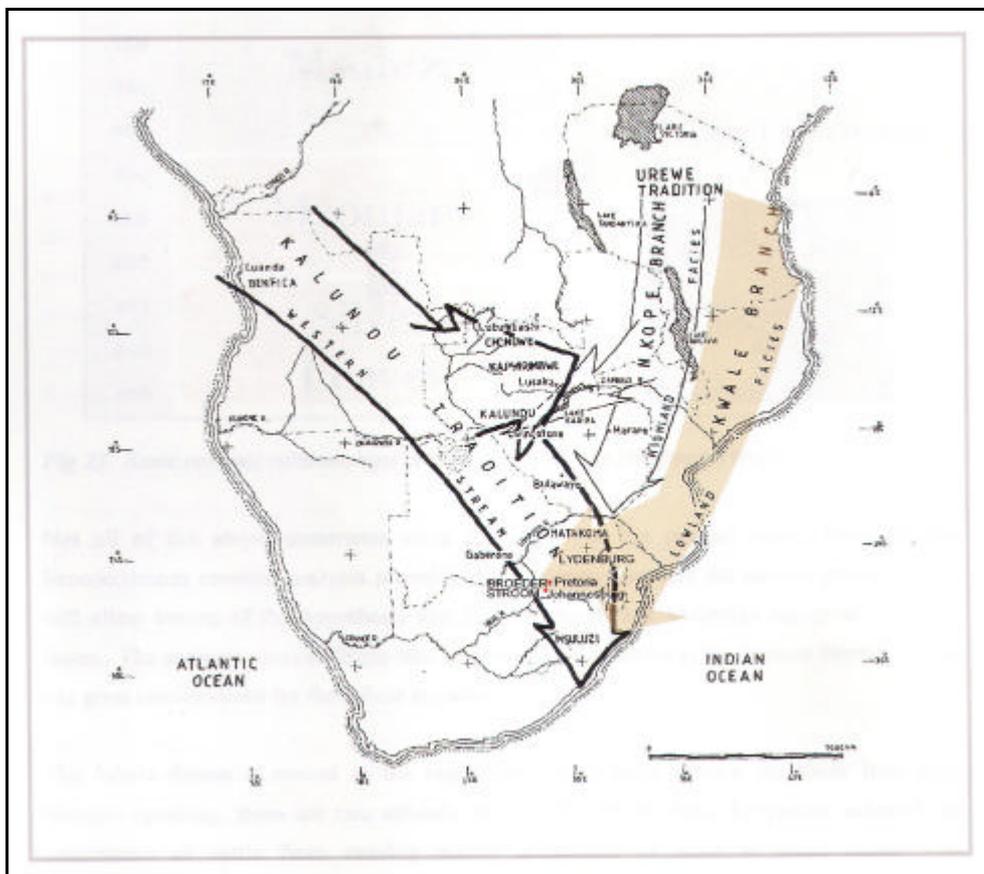


Figure 1 - Western extension of Eastern Stream into the interior\

## ***History of Lydenburg Iron Age***

The basis of cultural sequence is a combination of ceramic typology, stratigraphy, and radiocarbon dates. The incomplete sequence of the Lydenburg area recognises four phases: Marateng, Eiland, Klingbeil and Lydenburg. In the following section, a short synopsis will be given of the Lydenburg and Klingbeil phases.

### ***Lydenburg Phase***

Five sites with Lydenburg pottery have been excavated up to 1981. These are the Heads site, Doornkop, Plaston, Langdraai and Klipspruit. All these sites are located on lower valley slopes in interfluvial situations at the confluence of two streams. These sites are relatively large measuring between 7 to 15 hectares.

#### *The Lydenburg Heads Site*

During the discovery of the site in 1964 seven clay heads, pottery, achatina and metal beads, bone and ivory objects and some stone bowls were found. Charcoal found was later radiocarbon dated to between 600-700 AD (Evers, 1981).

The find of the heads were unique and only two other excavations produced fragments of the similar construction, however the Heads site is still the main find spot for these terracotta heads (Evers, 1981)

### ***Klingbeil Phase***

The sites of the Klingbeil Phase appear to have a similar distribution as the Lydenburg Phase. The Klingbeil Nature Reserve sites and other Early Iron Age sites are essentially in the same topographical location (Evers, 1981).

#### *Klingbeil 2530AB1 and 2*

The site is situated in the Gustav Klingbeil Nature Reserve. It covers an area of approximately 4 hectares. The site was severely damaged by the construction of a dam spillway in 1976. The sites were covered by a 0.5 to 1 meter layer of colluvium deposit making it impossible to identify from

surface features. Both these sites belong to the Early Iron Age Tradition (Evers, 1981). (See Map of find sites for survey for position of these sites)

### **Settlement location and layout**

Collett (1979) and Marker and Evers (1976) have indicated that settlements were located on the lower foot slopes and spur ends, while a westerly aspect was preferred.

Homesteads can be divided into two groups. The first comprises two concentric circles and is mostly small. The second is more elaborate and larger. It comprises of a central ring with two opposite openings with a number of concentric circles around it. The huts were usually built between the two walls. The outer wall is usually mistaken for a terrace wall and not seen as part of the settlement (Evers, 1981).

Terraces on gentle slopes are often just stone lines possibly serving as boundary markers between fields. On steeper slopes, close-set, well-built walls are found retaining up to a meter of soil (Evers, 1981).

Cattle tracks usually link directly from the outside of the homesteads to the central kraal. Several major cattle tracks are found between settlements linking several homesteads.

### **Ethnographic History**

The Pedi oral tradition refers to the people living near Orighstad and Lydenburg as *Koni* (Hunt, 1931 from Evers, 1981). '*...They were raided early in Pedi history under Chief Moukangoe and later came under Pedi rule in the days of Thulare who reigned in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. One of Thulare's sons was placed in charge of the Koni near Orighstad. The Pedi west of the Steelpoort River and the Koni were devastated by Mzilikazi in about 1826. Hunt (1931) recorded accounts of retreat to caves and other refuges in the mountains, severe famine, stock loss and cannibalism. Caves near Orighstad and Sabie, and krantz situations near Lydenburg all seem to have been occupied late in the Iron Age...*', (Evers, 1981).

#### 4. WORKING WITH LEGISLATION

It is very important that cultural resources be evaluated according to the National Heritage Recourse Act. In accordance with the Act, we have found the following:

- These sites are classified as important based on evaluation of the National Heritage Recourses Act 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) section 3 (3). (Refer to Section 9 of this document for assessment)
- This site should be managed through using the National Heritage Recourses Act 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) sections 4,5 and 6 and sections 39-47.
- Please refer to Section 9 for Management Guidelines.

#### 5.1 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

This chapter describes the evaluation criteria used for the sites listed below.

The significance of archaeological sites was based on five main criteria:

- **site integrity** (i.e. primary vs. secondary context),
- **amount of deposit, range of features** (e.g., stonewalling, stone tools and enclosures),
- **uniqueness** and
- **potential** to answer present research questions.

#### 5.2 Evaluation

##### 5.2.1 Significance

The significance rating scale is as follows:

*HIGH*: Must be mitigated or not impacted on at all.

*LOW – MEDIUM*: May require further work before development can commence.

*NO SIGNIFICANCE*: Do not require mitigation.

## 6. SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following section outlines the sites identified in the development area, and evaluate them according to the evaluation criteria of the National Heritage Resources Act.



**Figure 2 -General site conditions in the development area**

### 6.1 2530AB-MHC011

The site consists of highly disturbed stone walling of a possible Late Iron Age association. A road have been scraped through the site and together with a borrow pit in the vicinity rendered the site of low scientific value. Earthworks in the area clearly show no archaeological deposit or stratigraphy.



**Figure 3 -Disturbed stone walling**

This site is not significant.

**Mitigation** – No mitigation is necessary.

## **6.2 2530AB-MHC012**

This is the location of a multi-component site comprising a vast area that includes all three phases of settlement that occur in the study area.

Phase 2 is expressed in the form of the remnants of a possible *fort* located on the highest part of the study area. Associated with the possible fort are well-preserved square stone enclosures of approximately 500cm to 1 meter high. There are three of these large enclosures of approximately 30x30 meters in diameter. Inside one of these squares is Phase 3 rectangular dwelling foundations with associated iron pots and cables.



**Figure 4 –Remnants of a possible fort/blockhouse**



**Figure 5 –Well preserved walls of square structures associated with the possible fort/blockhouse**

These structures are all built on top of a Phase 1 Late Iron Age site associated with the Koni. The stone walling associated with the Late Iron Age site has been utilised for construction on the subsequent habitation periods. In some areas away from the Phase 2 settlement intact walling is still present. A brief desktop study was conducted on the origins of the military structure by a specialist, but no specific information could be obtained (Refer to annexure E).



**Figure 6 – Well preserved Koni stone walling**

The Koni stone walled site and the fort is of medium significance

**Mitigation** – the site needs to be carefully documented in the form of scaled plan sketches and site photographs. It is further recommended that the fort be preserved in an open area as part of the proposed development and that an in depth archival study is done with regards to the origin fort.

After mitigation, a destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency before development can commence on the Phase 1 Iron Age Site.

### 6.3 2530AB-MHC013

The site consists of three well-preserved Phase 1 Late Iron age stone walled sites located close to the border of the proposed development. The layout of these sites conform to typical Late Iron Age settlements associated with the Koni and consist of inner circles that are interpreted as cattle kraals with an outer scallop wall that would have housed the residential dwellings. Associated with these sites are terrace walling and cattle tracks.



**Figure 7 –Proposed unit that will be preserved**

The site has medium significance.

**Mitigation** - the sites needs to be carefully documented in the form scaled plan sketches and site photographs. As agreed at least one of these settlement units will be preserved by the developers in open areas in the proposed development.

After mitigation, a destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency for the other two units before development can commence.

#### 6.4 2530AB-MHC014

The site consists of Late Iron Age Koni stone walling. The site is largely disturbed by a dirt track that has been bulldozed through the site.



**Figure 6 – Disturbed stone walled site**

This site is of low significance.

**Mitigation** – No mitigation is necessary. However, a destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency before development can commence.

### 6.5 2530AB-MHC015

The site consists of Late Iron Age Koni stonewalling. The site is largely disturbed by a dirt track that has been bulldozed through the site.



**Figure 9 – Dirt road that cuts through site**

This site is of low significance.

**Mitigation** – No mitigation is necessary. However, a destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency before development can commence.

## 6.6 2530AB-MHC016

The site consists of an area characterised by well-preserved Phase 1 Late Iron age stone walled sites. The layout of these sites conform to typical Late Iron Age settlements associated with the Koni and consist of inner circles that are interpreted as cattle kraals with an outer scallop wall that would have housed the residential dwellings. Associated with these sites are terrace walling and cattle tracks.



**Figure 10 – Koni Stone walled site**

At location 25.11284 30.48564 on top of the Iron Age stone walled site is the foundations of a Phase 3 square structure constructed of stones collected from the Iron Age site. The structure consists of at least three rooms and is associated with farm labour housing.



**Figure 11 –Square stonewalled structure**

The Koni stonewalled site is of medium significance. The farm labour housing is of low significance.

**Mitigation** - the Iron Age site needs to be carefully documented in the form of scaled plan sketches and site photographs. The dwelling must be mapped on a locality plan.

After mitigation, a destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency before development can commence.

### 6.7 2530AB-MHC017

The site consists of the foundations of several highly disturbed Phase 3 square stonewall foundations. Associated with the sites are glass, iron and porcelain fragments. The sites are probably linked to old farm labour housing.



**Figure 12 –Several square stone foundations**

The sites are of low significance

**Mitigation** – Field mapping of sites.

### 6.8 2530AB-MHC018

The site consists of the foundations of several square stone wall foundations. Associated with the sites are glass, iron and porcelain objects. The sites are probably linked to old farm labour housing.



**Figure 13 –Iron objects**

The sites are of low significance

**Mitigation** – Field mapping of sites.

### 6.9 2530AB-MHC019

The site consists of the foundations of a square stonewall structure consisting of one room. Associated with the site is a lower grinder. The site is probably linked to old farm labour housing.



**Figure 14 – Square stone wall foundations**

The site is of low significance

**Mitigation** – Field mapping of site.

## 6.10 2530AB-MHC020

The site consists of an area characterised by poorly preserved Phase 1 Late Iron Age stone walling. On top of the Iron Age site is a well-preserved Phase 2 square structure constructed of stone from the Iron Age site. The dwelling consists of at least three rooms that have been plastered. Later residents of the dwelling added on to the main structure. A small moat has been dug upslope from the house.



**Figure 15 –Plastered stone structure**

An unidentified stone structure is found near the house that could possibly be a grave. Glass, metal and upper grinders are found scattered over the site.



**Figure 16 – Unidentified stone structure**

The Phase 3 dwelling is of medium significance. The Phase 1 Iron Age site is of low significance.

**Mitigation** – Field mapping of the Phase 3 dwelling, no further action necessary for the Phase 2 site. A destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency before development can commence.

#### **6.11 2530AB-MHC021**

The site consists of the foundations of a square stonewalled structure. At least three rooms could be identified. Associated with the site are glass, iron and porcelain objects. The site is probably linked to old farm labour housing.



**Figure 17 – Metal artefacts associated with the structure**

The site is of low significance

**Mitigation** – Field mapping of sites.

#### **6.12 2530AB-MHC022**

This is the location of an informal cemetery consisting of no less than 60 graves. Most of the graves are unmarked and have stone dressings. A few graves do have headstones and a few inscriptions that could be deciphered are Johannes Mona 1962; Potan John Ndlovu born 1882 – 1964. Caroline Umkonto 1935. The graves are largely neglected with aardvark holes dug right through some of the graves. Some of the headstones have fallen over and have not been erected again.



**Figure 18 – Informal cemetery**

The graves are of high significance

**Mitigation:** The cemetery must either be fenced off with an access gate for family members or be relocated according to the relevant legislation

### 6.13 2530AB-MHC023

The site consists of the foundations of a square stonewalled structure. At least two rooms could be identified although the structure is largely disturbed by wattle trees that have grown through the walls. Associated with the site are glass, iron and porcelain fragments. The site is probably linked to old farm labour housing.



**Figure 19 –Square stone walled structure**

The site is of low significance

**Mitigation** – Field mapping of site.

#### 6.14 2530AB-MHC024

This is the location of a highly disturbed Late Iron age stone walled site. The site is disturbed to the extent that no data can be retrieved from the site since most of the walling has been bulldozed into heaps.



**Figure 20 – Remnants of stone walling**

The site is of no significance

**Mitigation:** No mitigation is necessary.

### 6.15 2530AB-MHC025

This is the location of a highly disturbed Late Iron age stone walled site on the border of the proposed development. A dirt road had been bulldozed through the site and together with the presence of farming activities on the site renders the site scientifically useless.



**Figure 21 –Disturbed stone walling**

The site is of low significance

**Mitigation:** No mitigation is necessary.

### 6.16 2530AB-MHC026

The site consists of the foundations of a square stonewalled structure. At least two rooms could be identified. Associated with the site are glass, iron and porcelain fragments. The site is probably linked to old farm labour housing.



**Figure 22 – Rectangular stone foundations**

The site is of no significance

**Mitigation:** No mitigation is necessary

**6.17 2530AB-MHC027**

This is the location of a highly disturbed Late Iron Age terrace walling. Most of the sites in this area are totally demolished as houses, infrastructure and roads impacted upon the area.



**Figure 23 – Terrace walling**

The site is of now significance

**Mitigation:** No mitigation is necessary

### 6.18 2530AB-MHC028

This is the location of an informal cemetery consisting of between 16 and 20 graves. Most of the graves are unmarked without any grave dressing. A few graves do have headstones and the inscriptions that could be deciphered are Rina Jonker; 1968 Mameli; Magriet Lea Mkisi 1954



**Figure 24 –Informal cemetery**

The graves are of high significance

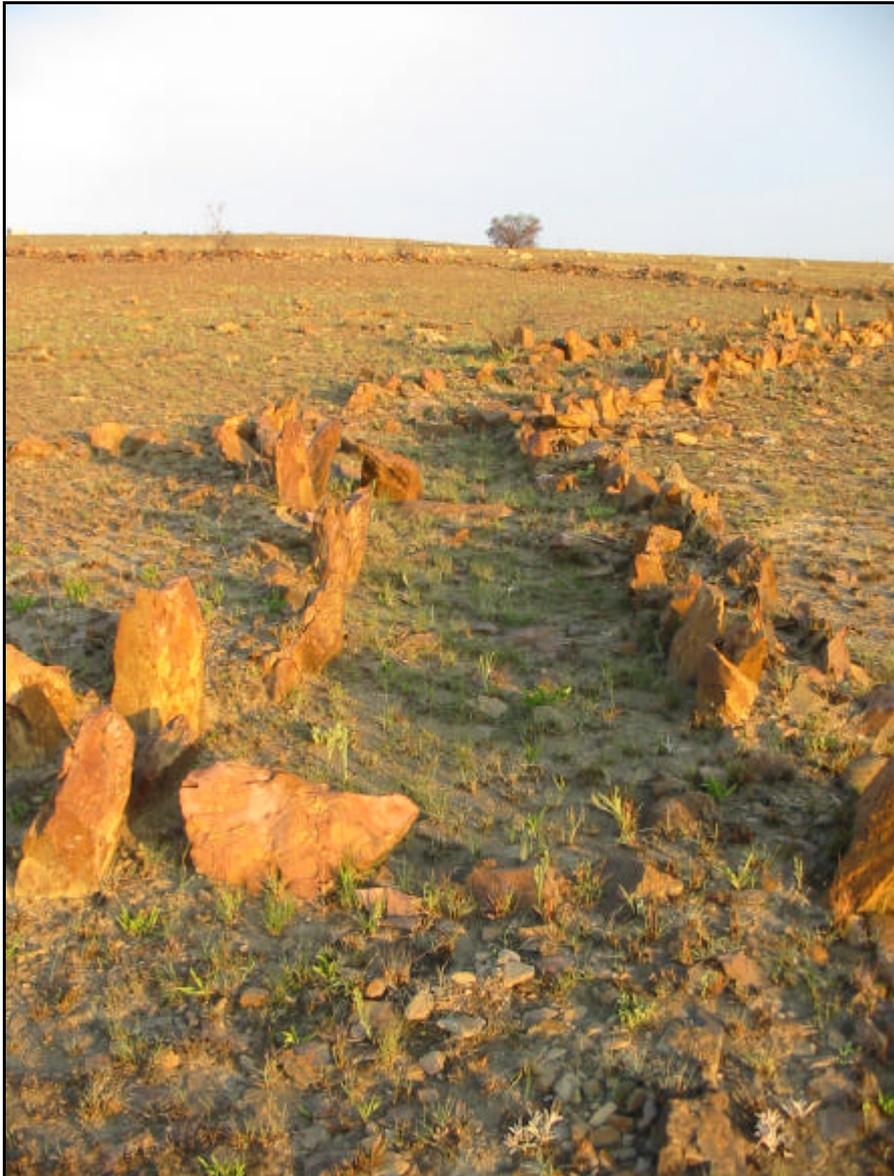
**Mitigation:** The cemetery must either be fenced off with an access gate for family members or be relocated according to the relevant legislation

### 6.19 2530AB-MHC029

The site consists of a large well-preserved Late Iron Age stone walled site. The layout of the site conform to typical Late Iron Age settlements associated with the Koni and consist of inner circles that are interpreted as cattle kraals with an outer scallop wall that would have housed the residential dwellings. Different units follow on top of each other upslope. Associated with the site is a large curving cattle track on the outer perimeter of the site.



**Figure 25 –Well preserved Koni stone walling**



**Figure 26 – Cattle track leading into settlement**

The site has medium significance.

**Mitigation** - the sites needs to be carefully documented in the form of scaled plan sketches and site photographs.

After mitigation, a destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency before development can commence.

## 6.20 2530AB-MHC030

This is the location of a possible multi-component site where a Phase 3 dwelling is constructed on a Phase 1 Koni stone walled site.

The Phase 3 site consists of the foundations of a square stonewalled structure. At least two rooms could be identified. Associated with the site are glass and iron. The site is probably linked to old farm labour housing.

The Phase 1 site is highly disturbed by agricultural activities and no further action is necessary on this site.



The sites are of low significance

**Mitigation:** Field mapping of site.

### 6.21 2530AB-MHC031

The site consists of a large well-preserved Late Iron age stone walled site. The layout of these sites conform to typical Late Iron Age settlements associated with the Koni and consist of inner circles that are interpreted as cattle kraals with an outer scallop wall that would have housed the residential dwellings. A dirt road have been bulldozed through the site but due to the extend of the site data can still be derived from the site.

The site has medium significance.
-----------------------------------

**Mitigation** - the site needs to be carefully documented in the form of scaled plan sketches and site photographs.

After mitigation, a destruction permit will be needed from the South African Heritage Resources Agency before development can commence.

## **7. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

Due to the nature of cultural remains that occur, in most cases, below surface, the possibility remains that some cultural remains may not have been discovered during the survey. Although Matakoma Heritage Consultants surveyed the area as thorough as possible, it is incumbent upon the developer to inform the relevant heritage agency should further cultural remains be unearthed or laid open during the process of development.

The GPS Co-ordinates are of central areas of the above-mentioned sites, it must be remembered that the extent of the sites are far wider than the mark on the locality map suggests.

## **8. LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

In areas where there has not yet been a systematic survey to identify conservation worthy places, a permit is required to alter or demolish any structure older than 60 years. This will apply until a survey has been done and identified heritage resources are formally protected.

Archaeological and palaeontological sites, materials, and meteorites are the source of our understanding of the evolution of the earth, life on earth and the history of people. In the new legislation, permits are required to damage, destroy, alter or disturb them. People who already possess material are required to register it.

The management of heritage resources are integrated with environmental resources and this means that before development takes place heritage resources are assessed and, if necessary, rescued.

In addition to the formal protection of culturally significant graves, all graves, which are older than 60 years and are not in a cemetery (such as ancestral graves in rural areas), are protected. The legislation protects the interests of communities that have interest in the graves: they may be consulted before any disturbance takes place.

The graves of victims of conflict and those associated with the liberation struggle will be identified, cared for, protected and memorials erected in their honour.

Anyone who intends to undertake a development must notify the heritage resource authority and if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected, an impact assessment report must be compiled at the developer's cost. Thus developers will be able to proceed without uncertainty about whether work will have to be stopped if a heritage resource is discovered.

According to the National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999 section 32) it is stated that:

An object or collection of objects, or a type of object or a list of objects, whether specific or generic, that is part of the national estate and the export of which SAHRA deems it necessary to control, may be declared a heritage object, including –

- objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
- visual art objects;
- military objects;
- numismatic objects;
- objects of cultural and historical significance;
- objects to which oral traditions are attached and which are associated with living heritage;
- objects of scientific or technological interest;
- books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic material, film or video or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 (xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 ( Act No. 43 of 1996), or in a provincial law pertaining to records or archives; and
- any other prescribed category.

If it is necessary to refer to any of the above-mentioned objects, the National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999 Sections 31-38) are included in Appendix 2.

Under the new National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), provisions are made that deal with, and offer protection, to all historic and pre-historic cultural remains, including graves and human remains.

- Graves younger than 60 years fall under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and

must be submitted for final approval to the Office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning or in some cases the MEC for Housing and Welfare. Authorisation for exhumation and reinterment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. In order to handle and transport human remains the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

- Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA). The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36(5) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in the category located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority will also require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years over and above SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws set by the cemetery authority must be adhered to.

Refer to **Annexure A** for further information on legislation.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

*All the sites identified during the survey appear on the map provided in **Annexure B**.*

*A list of coordinates of the sites is provided in **Annexure C**.*

**An Iron Age Specialist on the specific area was consulted and a site meeting conducted. Subsequent from this visit the following recommendations are made:**

- As agreed with the client, the fort/blockhouse and at least 1 Koni Stone Walled settlement will be preserved.
- A full archival study will be conducted to determine the history of the military structure.
- The best-preserved examples from the numerous stone walled sites will be documented after which the client will apply for a destruction permit.
- The location of the Phase 3 dwellings will be recorded on a locality plan. Through the archival study, dates for the dwellings would be obtained and if older than 60 years the best-preserved units will be assessed by a conservation architect, after which the client will apply for a destruction permit.
- The two cemeteries must either be fenced off with a access gate for family members or be relocated according to the relevant legislation
- An archaeological watching brief be agreed upon between the developer and a qualified archaeologist to be present during construction to mitigate accidental finds.
- It is important that a Heritage Management Plan be drawn up for the sites that are going to be preserved.

Refer to **Annexure D** for an outline of the proposed archaeological watching brief that is recommended for this project.

The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

The purpose of a watching brief is:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

Matakoma Heritage Consultants can be contacted on the way forward in this regard.

## **10. LIST OF PREPARES**

Jaco van der Walt, BA (Hon) Archaeology (WITS)

Wouter Fourie, BA (Hon) Archaeology (UP)

## **11. SPECIALIST ARCHAEOLOGIST**

Prof. T.N. Huffman, Archaeological Resources Management, WITS

## **12. REFERENCES**

### **12.1 Archaeological Papers**

COLLETT, P.D. 1979. The Archaeology of the stonewalled settlements in the Eastern Transvaal, South Africa. Dissertation for Masters of Science, University of the Witwatersrand.

COLLETT, D.P. 1982. Excavations of stonewalled ruin types in the Badfontein Valley, Eastern Transvaal, South Africa. South African Archaeological Bulletin. 37:34-43.

EVERS, T.M 1975. Recent Iron Age Research in the Eastern Transvaal, South Africa. South African Archaeological Bulletin. 30: 71-83

EVERS, T.M. AND MARKER, M.E. 1976. Iron Age Settlement and Soil Erosion in the Eastern Transvaal, South Africa. South Africa. South African Archaeological Bulletin. 31: 153-165

EVERS, T.M. Sotho Tswana and Moloko Settlement Patterns and the Bantu Cattle Pattern.

HUFFMAN, T.N. 2002. Gautrain Archaeological Assessment. Archaeological Resource Management. WITS

KLEIN, R.G. 1984. Southern African Prehistory and Paleoenvironments. A.A. Balkema.

### **12.2 Cultural Heritage Papers:**

FISHER, R.C. 1997. Architecture an Overview. South African Arts, Culture and Heritage Calendar, 1997. Department of Arts, Culture, Science, and Technology.

**ANNEXURE A**

**Legislation extracts**

[36]36 Burial grounds and graves

(1) Where it is not the responsibility of any other authority, SAHRA must conserve and generally care for burial grounds and graves protected in terms of this section, and it may make such arrangements for their conservation as it sees fit.

(2) SAHRA must identify and record the graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials associated with the grave referred to in subsection (1), and must maintain such memorials.

(3) (a) 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.

(4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction or damage of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection (3) (a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.

(5) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection (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.

(6) 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 grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and

(b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangements as it deems fit.

(7) (a) SAHRA must, over a period of five years from the commencement of this Act, submit to the Minister for his or her approval lists of graves and burial grounds of persons connected with the liberation struggle and who died in exile or as a result of the action of State security forces or agents provocateur and which, after a process of public consultation, it believes should be included among those protected under this section.

(b) The Minister must publish such lists as he or she approves in the Gazette.

(8) Subject to section 56 (2), SAHRA has the power, with respect to the graves of victims of conflict outside the Republic, to perform any function of a provincial heritage resources authority in terms of this section.

(9) SAHRA must assist other State Departments in identifying graves in a foreign country of victims of conflict connected with the liberation struggle and, following negotiations with the next of kin, or relevant authorities, it may re-inter the remains of that person in a prominent place in the capital of the Republic.

[37]37 Public monuments and memorials

Public monuments and memorials must, without the need to publish a notice to this effect, be protected in the same manner as places which are entered in a heritage register referred to in section 30.

[38]38 Heritage resources management

(1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as-

- (a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- (b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site-
  - (i) exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
  - (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
  - (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
  - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;

- (d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority,

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

(2) The responsible heritage resources authority must, within 14 days of receipt of a notification in terms of subsection (1)-

(a) if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected by such development, notify the person who intends to undertake the development to submit an impact assessment report. Such report must be compiled at the cost of the person proposing the development, by a person or persons approved by the responsible heritage resources authority with relevant qualifications and experience and professional standing in heritage resources management; or

(b) notify the person concerned that this section does not apply.

(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.

(4) The report must be considered timeously by the responsible heritage resources authority which must, after consultation with the person proposing the development, decide-

(a) whether or not the development may proceed;

(b) any limitations or conditions to be applied to the development;

(c) what general protections in terms of this Act apply, and what formal protections may be applied, to such heritage resources;

(d) whether compensatory action is required in respect of any heritage resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the development; and

(e) whether the appointment of specialists is required as a condition of approval of the proposal.

(5) A provincial heritage resources authority shall not make any decision under subsection (4) with respect to any development which impacts on a heritage resource protected at national level unless it has consulted SAHRA.

(6) The applicant may appeal against the decision of the provincial heritage resources authority to the MEC, who-

(a) must consider the views of both parties; and

- (b) may at his or her discretion-
  - (i) appoint a committee to undertake an independent review of the impact assessment report and the decision of the responsible heritage authority; and
  - (ii) consult SAHRA; and
- (c) must uphold, amend or overturn such decision.

(7) The provisions of this section do not apply to a development described in subsection (1) affecting any heritage resource formally protected by SAHRA unless the authority concerned decides otherwise.

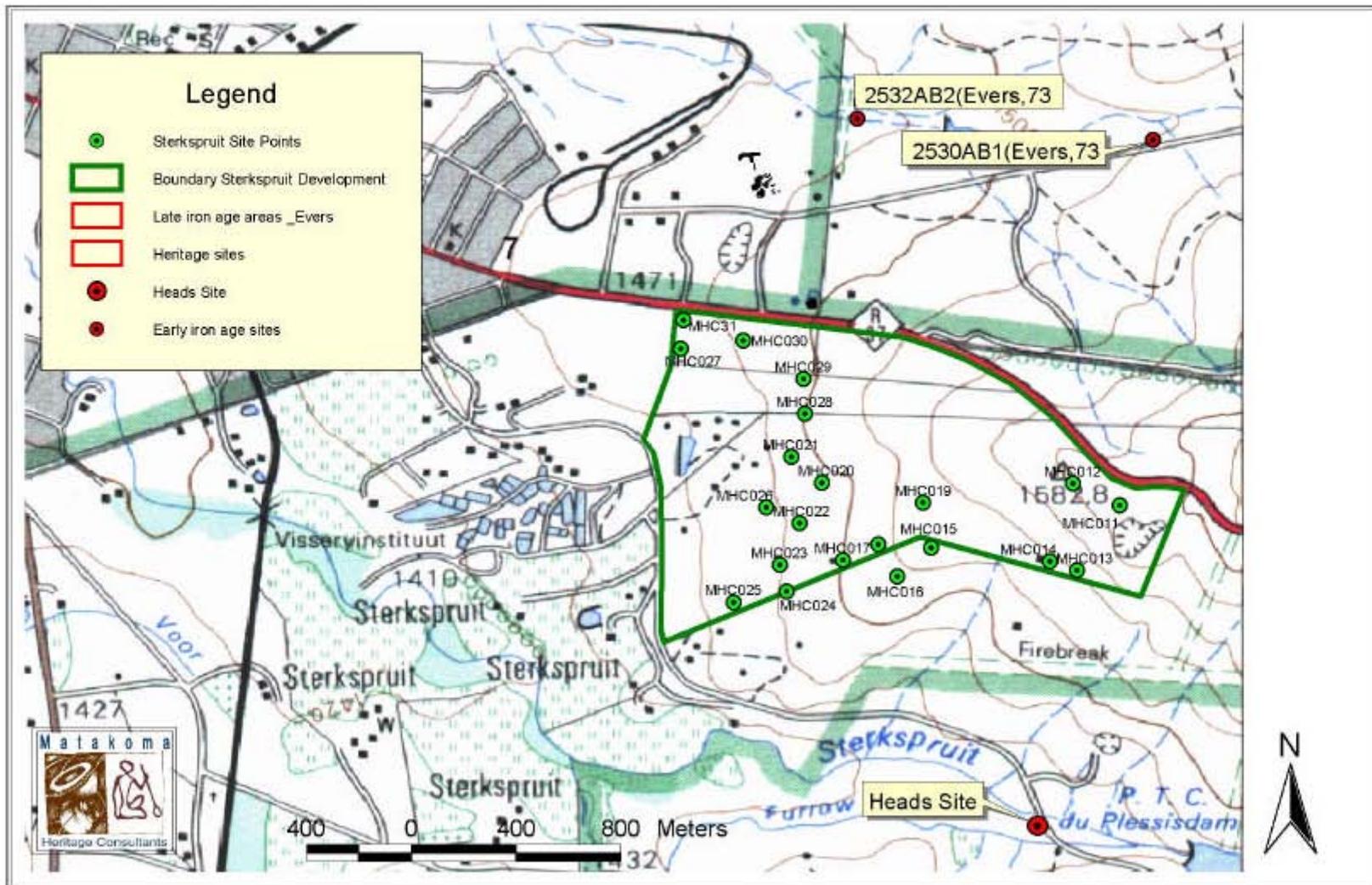
(8) The provisions of this section do not apply to a development as described in subsection (1) if an evaluation of the impact of such development on heritage resources is required in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989), or the integrated environmental management guidelines issued by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, or the Minerals Act, 1991 (Act 50 of 1991), or any other legislation: Provided that the consenting authority must ensure that the evaluation fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of subsection (3), and any comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to such development have been taken into account prior to the granting of the consent.

(9) The provincial heritage resources authority, with the approval of the MEC, may, by notice in the Provincial Gazette, exempt from the requirements of this section any place specified in the notice.

(10) Any person who has complied with the decision of a provincial heritage resources authority in subsection (4) or of the MEC in terms of subsection (6) or other requirements referred to in subsection (8), must be exempted from compliance with all other protections in terms of this Part, but any existing heritage agreements made in terms of section 42 must continue to apply

## ANNEXURE B

### Map of sites



**ANNEXURE C****TABLE WITH SITE COORDINATES**

<b>SITE_NR</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>
MHC011	-25.11071	30.49556
MHC012	-25.10997	30.49395
MHC013	-25.11292	30.49410
MHC014	-25.11263	30.49317
MHC015	-25.11216	30.48911
MHC016	-25.11314	30.48793
MHC017	-25.11257	30.48607
MHC018	-25.11204	30.48728
MHC019	-25.11062	30.48883
MHC020	-25.10995	30.48535
MHC021	-25.10906	30.48430
MHC022	-25.11132	30.48460
MHC023	-25.11274	30.48391
MHC024	-25.11365	30.48414
MHC025	-25.11401	30.48233
MHC026	-25.11078	30.48345
MHC027	-25.10538	30.48051
MHC028	-25.10686	30.48692
MHC029	-25.10641	30.48472
MHC030	-25.10511	30.48267
MHC031	-25.10442	30.48060

**ANNEXURE D**

**OUTLINE GUIDE FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

## **STANDARD AND GUIDANCE - for an Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **1. DEFINITION OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposit may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

This definition does not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains in situ.

### **2. PURPOSE OF A WATCHING BRIEF**

The purpose of a watching brief is:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.
- An archaeologist shall only undertake a watching brief, which is governed by a written and agreed specification or project design prepared in advance of work commencing.
- The specification or project design must identify the objectives, scope, geographical area, and means of dissemination of the results of the

watching brief, and incorporate a method statement and work programme. The specification or project design should conform to the brief/project outline if one has been set, and must in any case be approved in advance by the planning archaeologist or curator.

The specification or project design should contain, as a minimum, the following elements:

- Non-technical summary
- Site location (including map) and descriptions
- Context of the project
- Geological and topographical background
- Archaeological and historical background
- General and specific aims of fieldwork
- Reference to relevant legislation
- Field methodology
- Collection and disposal strategy for artefacts and ecofacts
- Arrangement for immediate conservation of artefacts
- Post-fieldwork methodology
- Report preparation (method)
- Publication and dissemination proposals
- Copyright
- Archive deposition
- Timetable
- Staffing
- Health & safety considerations
- Monitoring procedures
- Contingency arrangements (if appropriate)

### **3. FIELDWORK**

3.1 All relevant parties must agree to the specification and/or project design before work commences. All work must conform to the agreed specification or project design. All relevant parties must agree to any variations in writing.

3.2 Sufficient and appropriate resources (staff, equipment, accommodation etc) must be used to enable the project to achieve its aims, the desired quality and timetable, and comply with all statutory requirements. Any contingency

elements must be clearly identified and justified. It is the role of the archaeologist undertaking the work to define appropriate staff levels.

3.3 All techniques used must comply with relevant legislation and be demonstrably fit for the defined purpose(s).

3.4 All staff, including subcontractors, must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles, and employed in line with relevant legislation and IFA by-laws (see Appendix 6). The site director and/or manager should preferably be a Principal Inspector with the Cultural Resources Management Section of the South African Association of Archaeologists (CRM Section of SA3).

3.5 All staff, including subcontractors, must be fully briefed and aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the aims and methodologies of the project. All equipment must be suitable for the purpose and in sound condition and comply with Health and Safety regulations and recommendations.

3.6 Sufficient and appropriate resources (staff, equipment, accommodation etc) must be used to enable the project to achieve its aims, the desired quality and timetable, and to comply with all statutory requirements. Any contingency elements must be clearly identified and justified. It is the role of the archaeologist undertaking the work to define appropriate staff levels.

3.7 Full and proper records (written, graphic, electronic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record forms and sheets as applicable. Digital records created, as part of the project should comply with specified data standards. An archaeologist must ensure that digital information, paper and photographic records should be stored in a secure and appropriate environment, and be regularly copied or backed up, and copies stored in a separate location.

3.8 Artefact and environmental data collection and discard policies, strategies and techniques must be fit for the defined purpose, and understood by all staff and subcontractors

3.9 Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information; hence Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. All archaeologists undertaking fieldwork must do so under a defined Health and Safety Policy.

3.10 Archaeologists undertaking fieldwork must observe safe working practices; the Health and Safety arrangements must be agreed and understood by all relevant parties before work commences

3.11 Archaeologists must liaise closely with the principal contractor and comply with specified site rules. Archaeologists are advised to note the onerous responsibilities of the role of planning supervisor.

3.12 The archaeologist undertaking a watching brief must ensure that he or she has adequate insurance policies, public and employer's liability and some relevant form of civil liability indemnity or professional indemnity.

3.13 On arrival on site, the archaeologist should report to the site manager or other identified representative of the principal contractors or developers, and conform to their arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site.

3.14 Where the archaeologist has by instruction or agreement the power to suspend development work, he or she shall, in exercising such power, follow procedures previously agreed with the other contractors on the site. Within the constraints of the nature of the archaeological resource, the archaeologist shall not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors.

3.15 An archaeologist should keep a record of the date, time and duration of all visits, the number of staff concerned and any actions taken.

#### **4. POST-FIELDWORK ANALYSES AND REPORTS**

4.1 Suitably qualified and experienced staff, who must be apprised of the project design before commencing work, and who should understand the work required of them, must carry out all assessment and analytical work.

4.2 The level of recording and analysis of artefacts and ecofacts should be appropriate to the aims and purpose of the project.

4.3 All data generated as a result of assessment and/or analysis should be included in the project archive.

4.4 All reports must address the aims and purposes of the project design and/or specification.

4.5 All reports should be written in a clear, concise and logical style; technical terms should be explained if the report is for a non-archaeological audience. Consideration should be given during the preparation of the report to the requirements of public inquiries and courts of law if appropriate.

4.6 Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the report must be submitted to the appropriate Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) within six months of completion of report.

- 4.7 As a minimum, a site summary or data structure report should be submitted to the appropriate PHRA.

## **5. MONITORING**

- 5.1 All work must be monitored by the archaeological contractor undertaking the project, and if appropriate by the PHRA, the Cultural Resources Management Section of the South African Association of Archaeologists (CRM Section of SA3), or their nominated representatives. The guidance below is directed in general at monitors from outside the organisation undertaking the work, but many of the points apply equally to internal monitors or managers.
- 5.2 A monitor should be suitably experienced and qualified, or have access to appropriate specialist advice.
- 5.3 Monitoring must be undertaken against the written specification and/or project design.
- 5.4 Monitors, where not representing the commissioning body, should bear in mind the need for flexibility, within the stated parameters, in contractual matters such as staff numbers, budgets or timetable.
- 5.5 All monitoring visits must be documented, and agreed by each party.
- 5.6 Non-compliance with the agreed specification or project design must be pointed out by the monitor to the archaeologist undertaking the work, and their client if appropriate, at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.7 Monitors should be aware of their professional and moral duties regarding Health and Safety, in particular reporting and advising against bad and unsafe practice.
- 5.8 All monitoring arrangements must be agreed at the outset of the project; the archaeologist undertaking fieldwork must inform the planning archaeologist or other monitor of the commencement of work with reasonable notice.
- 5.9 Although monitors may choose to visit at any time, they should normally inform the archaeologist undertaking the work of any intended visits in advance. Monitors must respect reasonable requests from the client commissioning the work to attend only at prearranged times and, if necessary, in the company of the client's representative.
- 5.10 Any costs for monitoring to be charged by the planning archaeologist or other monitor must be agreed in writing at the outset of the project.

## **6. REPORT CONTENTS**

The specific requirements of any report will necessarily vary according to the scope of works, the nature of the results or other factors. However, the following sections will occur in most

### **Non-technical summary**

This should outline in plain, non-technical language the principal reason for the work, its objectives and main results. It should include reference to authorship and commissioning body.

### **Introductory statements**

These could include acknowledgements, circumstances of the project such as planning background, the archaeological background, an outline nature of work, the site description (including size, geology and topography, location), when the project was undertaken and by whom.

### **Aims and objectives**

These should reflect or reiterate the aims set out in the project design or specification.

### **Methodology**

The methods used, including the detail of any variation to the agreed project design or specification should be set out carefully, and explained as appropriate. These should be set out as a series of summary statements, organised clearly in relation to the methods used, and describing structural data, associated finds and/or environmental data recovered. Descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements. Technical terminology (including dating or period references) should be explained where necessary if the report is aimed at a largely non-archaeological audience. The results should be amplified where necessary by the use of drawings and photographs; and by supporting data contained in appendices (below).

### **Conclusions**

It is appropriate to include a section, which sums up and interprets the results and puts them into context (local, national or otherwise). Other elements should include a confidence rating on techniques used, or on limitations imposed by particular factors (eg weather or problems of access).

### **Archive location**

The final destination of the archive (records and finds) should be noted in the report.

### **Appendices**

These should contain essential technical and supporting detail, including for example lists of artefacts and contexts or details of measurements, gazetteers etc. It may also be appropriate to include the project design or specification for ease of reference.

**Illustrations**

Most reports will need the inclusion of one or more illustrations for clarity; as a minimum a location plan should be included. Any plans or sections should be clearly numbered and easily referenced to the National Grid and related to the specified area.

**References and bibliography**

A list of all sources used should be appended to the report.

**Other**

Contents list, disclaimers.

**7. REFERENCES**

The Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001. STANDARD AND GUIDANCE - for an archaeological watching brief. United Kingdom

## Annexure E



**ARCHAEOLOGY AFRICA cc**

ARCHAEOLOGY  
CONSULTANTS

---

TEL: 012 3337142 FAX: 012 3337213 E-MAIL: [po@aei.danvic.net](mailto:po@aei.danvic.net)  
P.O. BOX 14706 HATFIELD 0028

---

2005-10-26

**MATAKOMA HERITAGE CONSULTANTS (PTY) LTD**  
**Att: Jaco van der Walt**

PO Box 431  
Paardekraal  
1752

Dear Mr Van der Walt,

**RE: POSSIBLE FORT SITUATED ON THE FARM STERKSPRUIT, LYDENBURG – BRIEF  
DESKTOP/ARCHIVAL STUDY**

In the limited time available for this study, published and unpublished records and maps from the National Archives, Pretoria as well as the Library of the University of South Africa was studied. Although no specific reference to the existence of a fort, blockhouse or laager on the farm Sterkspruit could be found in the available time, many references were found alluding to the existence of these features in the vicinity of Lydenburg.

Essentially three main periods in the history of Lydenburg can be seen as conducive to the existence of such fortifications in the vicinity of the town. These will be shortly discussed below.

### **1. Voortrekker Settlement**

After the establishment of the Voortrekkers at Ohrigstad, the relationship between them and the local black groups were often fraught with friction and sometimes open warfare. The defence of these early Voortrekker towns and their residents must therefore have been of some concern. An example of this was that with the establishment of Ohrigstad in 1845 a fort was also built.

The concern for the safety of these towns and their residents were also raised in later years in a document dated 15 July 1875. In this document the government of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* was requested to build a "laager" at Krugerspost (SS, 189, R1412/75).

The earliest direct reference to a fort or "laager" in the direct vicinity of Lydenburg that could be located comes from a document dated 1863. This document contains orders for the manning and defence of a laager at Lydenburg. The exact locality of the fort is however not indicated (SS, 52, SUPL 142/63).

The next available reference to a laager was found in the official report of the commanding officer of the besieged British fort in the vicinity of Lydenburg during the First Boer War (1880-1881), Second Lieutenant W.H.C. Long. In it he describes the existence of an 'old Dutch laager' overlooking the besieged fort (TAB, A1016:4).

## **2. First Boer War**

During the First Boer War some 70 men and three officers of the 94<sup>th</sup> Regiment under the command of Second-Lieutenant W.H.C. Long fortified themselves in a position consisting of rectangular huts, walls and trenches against a Boer force under the command of General Piet Steyn (TAB, A1016:4) (Van Jaarsveld, Van Rensburg & Stals, 1980). The fort was named after Long's wife, Mary.

An article published in *Die Huisgenoot* of 21 April 1939, relates the reminiscences of one of the Boers during the siege, a Mr J.J. Kruger. He indicated that the Boer forces positioned themselves in three main localities around Fort Mary for the remainder of the hostilities. Although these localities are not described, Second-Lieutenant Long describes the fact that the Boer forces were placed in various outposts surrounding the fort. He also indicated that cannon fired on the fort from various positions. These included positions in the town itself, the old laager some 150 yards from the fort, on a hill approximately one mile south of the fort as well as from a position he describes as follows "...on the brow of the hill near the river (on the Fort side of it) about 400 yards distant." (TAB, A1016:54).

### 3. Anglo Boer War (1899-1902)

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1900, the town of Lydenburg surrendered to the British forces under Sir Redvers Buller. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1900 a battle was fought at Paardeplaats, essentially for control of the strategically mountain overlooking the town.

It is known that a number of military posts were established in the vicinity of Lydenburg during the Anglo Boer War. The position of these posts are however largely unknown. In an archival map dated November 1901, three military posts and one fort are shown in the areas surrounding Lydenburg. These are Fort Howard, Montreal Post, Strathcona Post and Paardeplaats Post. However, these features are all shown far away from the present study area.



**Figure 1** Major Jackson Series Sheet 10 Lydenburg (Second revised edition dated November 1901) (National Archives, Maps, 3/571). The posts and fort are marked in white.

Another observation to be made from the Major Jackson map, is that the old road to the east seems to have passed in the direct vicinity of the position on which the suggested fort is located. The position on a hill overlooking one of the roads into Lydenburg can therefore be seen as strategically very important.

In the reminiscences of Mackay, housed under accession number A1211 at the National Archives, reference is not only made to the various military posts and outposts surrounding

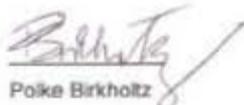
Lydenburg at the time, but also to a position held by a British force in and amongst Iron Age stone-walling.

#### 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Although this desktop study was very limited, it did reveal that in general terms the Lydenburg area is rich in military history, a history which can certainly verify the existence of a fort of some form at Sterkspruit. It is also possible that a single fortification could have been re-used over the years, as happened with the "*old Dutch laager*" used in the attack on Fort Mary.

As no specific information in terms of the possible fort at Sterkspruit could be identified during this brief desktop study, it is strongly recommended that this study be followed up by a more intensive archival and documentary study in an attempt to firstly absolutely confirm the existence of a fort in this locality, and secondly to compile as much information as possible on the history and origins of such a feature. The proposed desktop study should also be augmented by consultation with knowledgeable local residents.

Kind regards,



Poike Birkholtz

082 717 6661