

Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed town  
development Lydenburg Extension 6,  
compiled by

Lydenburg Museum



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May 22, 2007

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## 1. Introduction

Lydenburg Museum was commissioned to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the proposed township development at extension 6 Lydenburg. The development will be done by the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. The study forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment as required by legislation, the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25, 1999). This act requires of individuals (engineers, farmers, mines and industry) or institutions to have impact assessment studies undertaken whenever any development activities are planned. This is to ensure that heritage features or sites that qualify as part of the National Estate are not damaged or destroyed.

Heritage resources considered to be part of the national estate include those that are of cultural significance or have other special value to the present community or future generations.

The national estate may include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds including:
  - (i) ancestral graves;
  - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
  - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
  - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*;
  - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; andother human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to slavery in South Africa;

- movable objects including:
  - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
  - (iv) military objects
  - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
  - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and

books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

Against this background, the HIA was conducted at Lydenburg extension 6, an area of approximately 38 hectares.

Van Vollenhoven (1995:3) describes cultural resources as all unique and non-renewable physical phenomena (of natural occurrence or made by humans) that can be associated with human (cultural) activities. These would be any man-made structure, tool, object of art or waste that was left behind on or beneath the soil surface by historic or pre-historic communities. These remains, when studied in their original context by archaeologists, are interpreted in an attempt to understand, identify and reconstruct the activities and lifestyles of past communities. When these items are disturbed from their original context, any meaningful information they possessed is lost, therefore it is important to locate and identify such remains before construction or development activities commence.

An HIA consists of three phases, this document deals with the first phase. This (phase 1) investigation is aimed at getting an overview of cultural resources in a given area, thereby assessing the possible impact a proposed development may have on these resources.

When the archaeologist encounters a situation where the planned project will lead to the destruction or alteration of an archaeological site, a second phase in the survey is normally recommended. During a phase two investigation, the impact assessment of

development activities on identified cultural resources is intensified and detailed investigation into the nature and origin of the cultural material is undertaken. Normally at this stage, archaeological excavation is carried out in order to document and preserve the cultural heritage.

Phase three consists of the compiling of a management plan for the safeguarding, conservation, interpretation and utilization of cultural resources (Van Vollenhoven, 2002).

Continuous communication between the developer and surveyor after the initial report has been compiled may result in the modification of a planned route or development to incorporate or protect existing archaeological sites.

## 2. Description of surveyed area

The study area falls within the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality and Ehlanzeni District Municipality within Mpumalanga Province. The survey was carried out on approximately 38 ha of land belonging to the Thaba Chweu Municipality which is located around the town of Lydenburg. The surveyed area is bordered by the Dorps River on the east. The survey was conducted on foot and with the use of a motor vehicle in an effort to locate cultural remains.

## 3. Methodology

The methodological approach for this study should meet the requirements of relevant heritage legislation. A desktop study followed by a physical survey of the impacted areas was conducted. Discussions with knowledgeable individuals specifically regarding the colonial history of the area also took place.

SAHRA recently (2005) issued the "*Minimum standards for archaeological and palaeontological components of impact assessment reports*". This is a draft document which suggests that the following components be included in a heritage impact assessment:

- Archaeology
- Shipwrecks
- Battlefields
- Graves
- Structures older than 60 years
- Living heritage
- Historical settlements
- Landscapes
- Geological sites
- Palaeontological sites and objects

All the above-mentioned heritage components are addressed in this report, except shipwrecks, geological sites and palaeontological sites and objects.

The purpose of the heritage study is to establish the whereabouts and nature of cultural heritage sites should they occur on the surveyed area. This includes settlements, structures and artifacts which have value for an individual or group of people in terms of historical, archaeological, architectural and human (cultural) development.

It is the aim of this study to locate and identify such objects or places in order to assess whether they are of significance and warrant further investigation or protection. This study consisted of foot surveys, consultation with knowledgeable individuals and a desktop study.

### **3. 1. Desktop study**

The purpose of the desktop study is to compile as much information as possible on the heritage resources of the area. This helps to provide an historical context for located sites. Sources used for this study included published and unpublished documents, archival material and maps. Material obtained from the following institutions or individuals were consulted:

- South African National Archives, Pretoria
- Lydenburg Museum, Lydenburg
- Diaries and other reading material supplied by Ms Marion Moir

### **3. 2. Significance of sites**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) formulated guidelines for the conservation of all cultural resources and therefore also divided such sites into three main categories. These categories might be seen as guidelines that suggest the extent of protection a given site might receive. They include sites or features of local (Grade 3) provincial (Grade 2) and national (Grade 1) significance.

For practical purposes the surveyor uses his own classification for sites or features and divides them into three groups, those of low or no significance, those of medium significance, those of high significance.

Within the establishment of the significance of a site or feature there are certain values or dimensions connected to significance which may be allocated to a site. These include:

- **Types of significance**

The site's scientific, aesthetic and historic significance or a combination of these is established.

- **Degrees of significance**

The archaeological or historic site's rarity and representative value is considered. The condition of the site is also an important consideration.

- **Spheres of significance**

Sites are categorized as being significant in the international, national, provincial, regional or local context. Significance of a site for a specific community is also taken into consideration.

It should be noted that to arrive at the specific allocation of significance of a site or feature, the specialist considers the following:

- Historic context
- Archaeological context or scientific value
- Social value
- Aesthetic value

More specific criteria used by the specialist in order to allocate value or significance to a site include:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Quality of the archaeological or historic material of the site
- Quantity of sites and site features

In short, archaeological and historic sites that contain data which may significantly enhance the knowledge that archaeologists currently have about our cultural heritage should be considered highly valuable. In all instances these sites should be preserved and



not damaged during construction activities. When development activities do however jeopardize the future of such a site, a second and third phase in the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) process is normally advised which entails the excavation or rescue excavation of cultural material along with a management plan to be drafted for the preservation of the site or sites.

Graves are considered very sensitive sites and should never under any circumstances be jeopardized by development activities. Graves are incorporated in the National Heritage Resources Act under section 36 and in all instances where graves are found by the surveyor, the recommendation would be to steer clear of these areas. If this is not possible or if construction activities have for some reason damaged graves, specialized consultants are normally contacted to aid in the process of exhumation and reinterment of the human remains. This implies that construction activities at the particular grave site will be brought to a halt temporarily.

## 4. History and archaeology

### 4.1. Historic Background

Lydenburg is a major agricultural and mining centre situated between the Sterkspruit and Dorps Rivers, on the Mpumalanga escarpment. It is a convenient stopover on the tourist routes to Pilgrim's Rest, Sabie and the Lowveld and also to Limpopo. The climate is typical of the Mpumalanga middleveld (altitude 1424m) with cool to cold nights and warm days. Dams, rivers and open vleis are an attractive feature of the area.

The Voortrekkers staying in Natal, Free State and Transvaal, used the Port Natal (Durban) harbour for their trading. In 1843 the British annexed Natal. The trekkers needed a harbour for free trade as well as to receive visitors, especially schoolteachers and preachers from the Netherlands. After several attempts, Potgieter and his followers eventually succeeded in finding a route to Delagoa Bay (Maputo) in Mozambique. An agreement between Potgieter and the Portuguese governor would allow the Trekkers to stay inland, four days' journey from the bay.

Smellekamp, a dutch merchant, who had been refused dockage at Port Natal by the British, was eager to trade with the trekkers and promised to bring a ship with goods as well as schoolteachers and preachers to the bay.

At that time, Potchefstroom was the capital of Transvaal. On his numerous trips to the north, Potgieter kept a lookout for a suitable place to settle, closer to a harbour and further from the British. Such a place, well-watered and abounding in vegetation was identified and in July of 1845, Andries Potgieter accompanied by W.F. Joubert and his followers from Natal, established the new capital north of the 26<sup>th</sup> Latitude and 300 km west of Delagoa Bay. The town was named Andries Ohrigstad. Three hundred families settled at Ohrigstad in 1846.

A severe problem with malaria and the inability of Joubert and Potgieter to reconcile their differences, caused Potgieter to once again move north to the Zoutpansberg to establish Schoemansdal with a group of followers. Because of the malaria the group that stayed

behind and who functioned under the Volksraad, decided to find a place with a healthier climate. Thus Lydenburg was founded in January 1850 and was named after the suffering at Ohrigstad ('Lyden' the dutch word for 'suffering')

#### **4.2. Lydenburg and the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)**

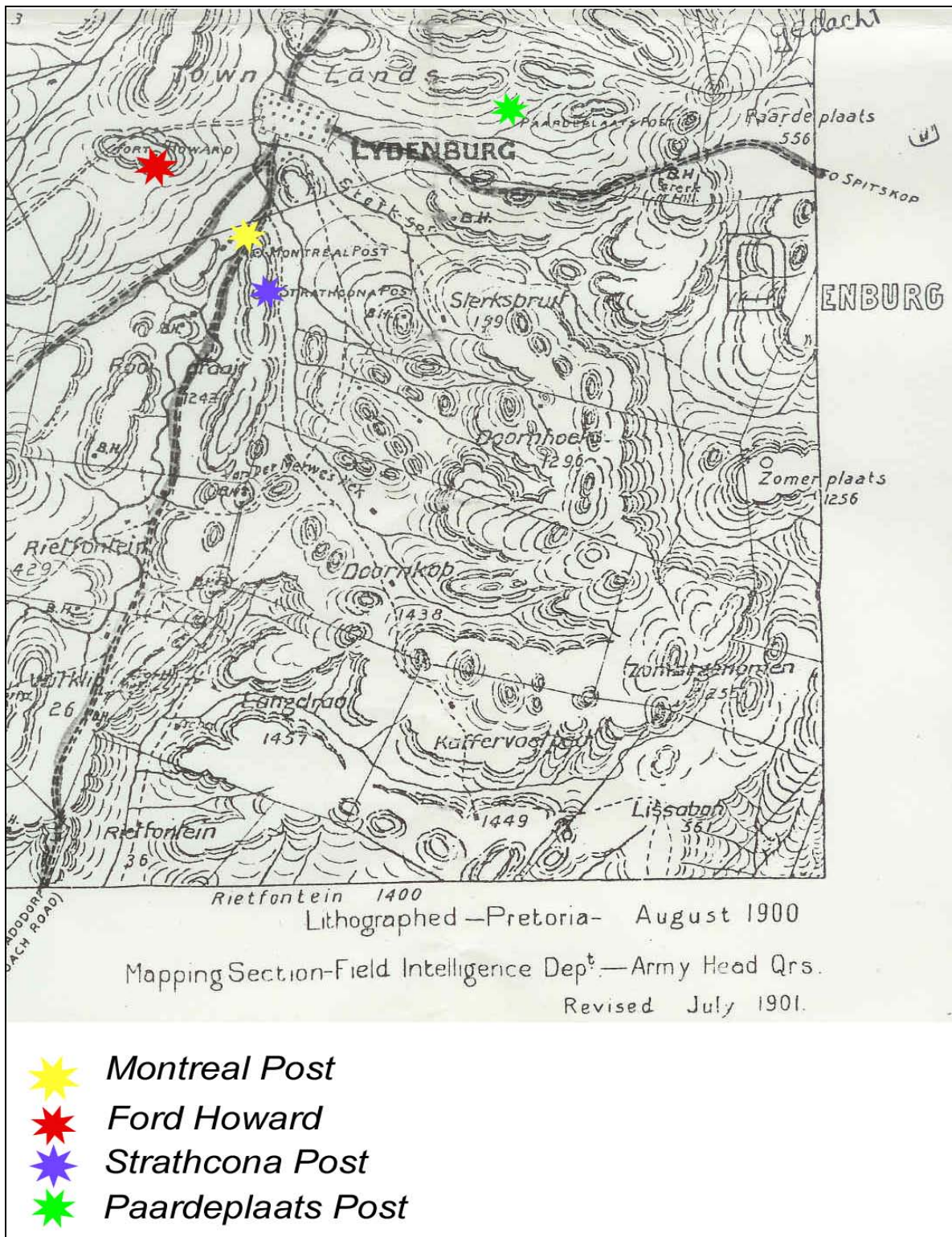
Features associated with the Anglo-Boer War history of the area is indicated in the direct vicinity of the proposed development area. Background information regarding this period of the area's history will be highlighted.

On September 6, 1900, the town of Lydenburg surrendered to British forces under command of Sir Redvers Buller. As a result, two days later the battle of Paardeplaats took place between Boer and Brit in an effort to gain control of Mauchsberg, a strategic mountain overlooking the town. The town was occupied by British forces throughout the duration of the war and numerous sources describe these times. One account, the diary of E.A. Mackey (Lydenburg News, September 3, 1948: 1&2), is particularly descriptive:

“...(Lydenburg) was now surrounded with barbed wire with forts and gun emplacements at every corner. The streets were crowded; every house and building was bursting with soldiers, equipment and stores; the market and church squares and other open spaces were covered with tents.” (Birkholtz, 2006).

##### **4.2.1. Military posts in and around Lydenburg**

According to the map of 1900 (Major H.M. Jackson Series) there are a number of locations indicated as military posts around Lydenburg. They include Fort Howard, Montreal Post, Strathcona Post and Paardeplaats Post. Montreal and Strathcona Posts were under command of the Royal Canadians or Strathcona's Horse who were allies with the British Forces. Fort Howard and Paardeplaats Post were erected by the British Forces occupying the town. The diaries of Speyer (1902) and Harmen (1900) describe day to day military activities around Fort Howard and the nature of activity at this fort. This is evidence of the significance of the fort's location as a military centre in the Lydenburg area.



**Fig. 1.** A copy of the map compiled by the Surveyor General's Office under direction of Major H.M. Jackson, August 1900. Third revised edition: Feb 1902. Obtained from the Lydenburg Museum Archives.

### 4.3. Archaeological background

#### 4.3.1. Early Iron Age (EIA)

Ludwig von Bezing was a boy of more or less 10 years of age when he first saw pieces of the now famous Lydenburg heads in 1957 while playing in the veld on his father's farm near Lydenburg. Five years later von Bezing developed an interest in archaeology and went back to where he first saw the shards. Between 1962 and 1966 he frequently visited the Sterkspruit valley to collect pieces of the seven clay heads. Von Bezing joined the archaeological club of the University of Cape Town when he studied medicine at this institution. He took his finds to the university at the insistence of the club. He had not only found the heads, but potsherds, iron beads, copper beads, ostrich eggshell beads, pieces of bones and grinding stones. Archaeologists of the University of Cape Town Prof. Ray Innskeep and Dr Mike Evers excavated the site where von Bezing found the remains. This site and in particular its unique finds (heads, clay masks) instantly gained international fame and interest and was henceforth known as the Lydenburg Heads site. Two of the clay masks are large enough to probably fit over the head of a child, the other five are approximately half that size. The masks have both human and animal features, a characteristic that may explain that they had symbolic use during initiation- and other religious ceremonies. Carbon dating proved that the heads date to approximately 490 AD and was made by early Iron Age people. These people were Bantu herders and agriculturists and probably populated Southern Africa from areas north-east of the Limpopo river. Similar ceramics were later found in the Gustav Klingbiel Nature Reserve and researchers believe that they are related to the ceramic wares (pottery) of the Lydenburg Heads site in form, function and decorative motive. This sequence of pottery is formally known as the Klingbiel type pottery. No clay masks were found in similar context to this pottery sequence.

Description of the heads find:

Two larger heads and five smaller ones make up the Lydenburg find. The heads are made of the same clay used in making household pottery. It is also made with the same technique used in the manufacture of household pottery. The smaller heads display the

modeling of a curved forehead and the back neck as it curves into the skull. Around the neck of each of the heads, two or three rings are engraved horizontally and are filled in with hatching marks to form a pattern. A ridge of clay over the forehead and above the ears indicates the hairline. On the two larger heads a few rows of small clay balls indicate hair decorations. The mouth consists of lips – the smaller heads also have teeth. The seventh head has the snout of an animal and is the only head that represents an animal. The original Lydenburg Heads are on display at the National Museum in Cape Town. The reason for this is that the artifacts are a national treasure and other excavated material found at the Lydenburg Heads site was probably curated by this institution.

After the discovery of the heads site, researchers of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the Natal Museum discovered related Early Iron Age Sites in the area. A number of sites are associated with the Lydenburg Heads site: Doornkop, sites in the Gustav Klingbiel Nature Reserve, Langdraai, Plaston and Klipspruit. Pottery representing the Klingbiel phase, sites within the Gustav Klingbiel Nature Reserve, is very similar in certain attributes to those at Langdraai and Doornkop which occur in the same district. All further discoveries of related Early Iron Age sites in the area should be regarded as highly significant finds.

#### 4.3.2. Later Iron Age (LIA)

It is believed that the areas around Lydenburg, Badfontein, Sekhukuneland, Roosenekal and Steelpoort were extensively inhabited during the later stages of the Iron Age (from 1500 until historic times). This phase, known as the Late Iron Age, is characterized by large-scale circular and semi-circular stonewalled settlements.

The area around Lydenburg is also known for its numerous Late Iron Age Sites. These settlement complexes may be divided into three basic features: homesteads, terraces and cattle tracks. Researchers such as Mike Evers (1975) and Collett (1982) identified three basic settlement layouts in this area. Basically these sites can be divided into simple and complex ruins. Simple ruins are normally small in relation to more complex sites and have smaller central cattle byres and fewer huts. Complex ruins consist of a central cattle

byre which has two opposing entrances and a number of semi-circular enclosures surrounding it. The perimeter wall of these sites is sometimes poorly visible. Huts are built between the central enclosure and the perimeter wall. These are all connected by track-ways referred to as cattle tracks. These tracks are made by building stone walls which forms a walkway for cattle to the centrally located cattle byres.

The Pedi is surely the most famous tribe to have inhabited the Lydenburg area in historic times. The area in which these people settled is historically known as Bopedi but other groups resided here before the famous Pedi came onto the scene. Among the first of these were the Kwena or Mongatane, who came from the north and were probably of Sotho origin. A second tribe to settle in Bopedi before the arrival of the Pedi were the Roka, followed by the Koni (Mönnig, 1967)

Some Koni entered the area from the east and other from the north-west. According to historians, most Koni trace their origin to Swaziland and therefore claim that they are related to the Nguni. After the first Koni settled in the southern part of Bopedi, the area became known as Bokoni. Many people who were previously known as Roka also adopted the name Koni as the name “Roka” was not always held in esteem by other groups (Mönnig, 1967).

Historically the Pedi was a relatively small tribe who by various means built up a considerable empire. The Pedi are of Sotho origin. They migrated southwards from the Great Lakes in Central Africa some five centuries ago. The names of their chiefs can be traced to a maximum of fifteen generations. Historical events can be deduced reasonably well for the last two centuries, while sporadic events can be described another two centuries preceding the former.

Some 150 years before the Voortrekkers entered the area, some battles took place between the Koni (Zulu under Makopole) and Swazi (under Moselekatse). At that time the Mapedi resided in the Steelpoort area. The Bakoni (Koni) was attacked and defeated by the Matabele and their chief, Makopole, was killed. The Matabele, not yet satisfied with their victory, moved further north towards the Bapedi headquarters. At

Olifantspoortjie the whole Bapedi regiment was wiped out as well as all the sons of Thulare, the Bapedi chief (except for Sekwati who managed to escape).

After four years, Sekwati together with a few followers who had also managed to escape the Matabele, now slowly started to rise. In 1830 Sekwati invaded some of the smaller tribes and eventually the Koni (under Marangrang) was ambushed and defeated. Now the empire of Maruteng (Bapedi) ruled the Koni (Bulpin, 1984; Mönnig, 1967).

When Potgieter and his followers entered the area in 1845 a Peace Treaty was signed between himself and Sekwati. Sekwati also asked for protection against the larger tribes in the area.

After consultation with Prof. Tom Huffman (personal communication, 2005) it became clear that the ruins to be found near the town of Lydenburg most probably belong to the Koni rather than the Pedi, who resided further to the south-west towards Steelpoort and Burgersfort. It follows that the ruins found during this survey then probably belong to the Koni or Pedi, there is not enough evidence to be certain. The ruins probably date from as far back as the seventeenth century (Mönnig, 1967:16).

#### 4.3.2. Historic Archaeology

Although the Lydenburg area does have a lot to offer in terms of historic archaeology, this time-period has not been explored at all. It is believed that the role this town played during the Anglo Boer War provides an excellent opportunity to explore the challenges that historic events and social dynamics within this town presents to archaeology.



## 5. Located sites and their description

A total of 7 (seven) sites and features were documented. These sites all comprise of stone-walled structures but have differing characteristics. Sites LM 1, LM 2, LM 6 and LM 7 are all associated with construction activities by British Forces during the Anglo Boer War (1899 -1902). Archival investigation support and in my opinion confirm that these sites were part of the British Fortification known as Fort Howard. Although these locations are separated by a couple of hundred metres, it is believed that they represent features of this fortification. The Fort was probably constructed in 1900 as mention of it is made in the dairy of the Transport Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rifle Brigade, Alec Harmen. The construction of the Fort is also captured in another account by a British Officer, Captain Speyer (Speyer, 1902: 29)

“During our march to Spitzkop, the Rifle Brigade left behind to guard Lydenburg, had built a very fine fort line on the rising ground to the West of the town blocking the road coming in from across the Steenkampsberg. This fort they christened Fort Howard”.  
And further:

“It was occupied by two companies, and our two Howitzers were dug into gun-emplacements there”.

From this the position and function of the fort is clear. The fact that two companies were stationed there supports the idea that the extensive ruins at Site LM 2 served as quarters and the topmost ruins (LM 3) may have served as lookout point whereas the ruins to the east (LM 7) located lower than LM 3, probably served as a second larger part of the fortification. Harmen’s diary also describe how companies relieved one another of duty at Fort Howard, proof that a number of men were stationed there at any one time ( Harmen diary, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 1900).

The surface assemblage at site LM 6 included a much-weathered iron horseshoe. In his diary Harmen describes how he visited Fort Howard to see to the well-being of some water cart mules there (Harmen diary, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup> 1900). This evidence suggests that the rectangular ruins found here may have served as stables for these mules or horses

for the cavalry.

Sites LM 3, LM 4 and LM 5 consist of circular stone-walled complexes typical of the Late Iron Age settlements as excavated by Evers (1975) and also Collett (1979). They are mostly in a much weathered condition and poorly defined.

### **5.1. Site LM 1.**

**Location:** See Appendix B and C.

**Description:**

This is a rectangular shaped stone-walled structure with subdivisions to the east and west. It is probably related to site LM 2.

**Impact of the proposed development:**

At this stage the proposed development will not directly impact on this site as an agreement was reached between the Lydenburg Museum and the Thaba Chweu Municipality to incorporate this section as open public park space.

**Mitigation:**

A second phase investigation is recommended, this includes excavation and further research in an effort to understand more about the extent of the fort and the various activity areas within the fort complex. After this second phase is completed a third phase is recommended. During this phase, a management plan should be drafted for this fort and an interpretation feature erected for public benefit.

### **5.2. Site LM 2.**

**Location:** See Appendix B and C.

**Description:**

This is a stone-walled structure which consists of a central rectangular area surrounded by circular stone walls which are segmented. A number of heavy bottomed glass bottles, porcelain and metal objects such as bolts, pieces of iron pots, horseshoes and other, comprise the surface find. I believe that this was a section of Fort Howard. On the local map it is marked Fort Howard 1 as it is believed that this is a large scale feature associated with the fortification.

**Impact of the proposed development:**

At this stage the proposed development will not directly impact on this site as an agreement was reached between the Lydenburg Museum and the Thaba Chweu Municipality to incorporate this section as open public park space. There may however be secondary impact on the ruins as this is to become a residential area, hence the recommendations in the mitigation section below.

**Mitigation:**

A second phase investigation is recommended, this includes excavation and further research in an effort to understand more about the extent of the fort and the various activity areas within the fort complex. After this second phase is completed a third phase is recommended. During this phase, a management plan should be drafted for this fort and an interpretation feature erected for public information and benefit.

**5.3. Site LM 3**

**Location:** See Appendix B and C.

**Description:**

This is the location of Fort Howard as indicated on the Major Jackson series map of 1900. Very little remains to be found here. Existing cell phone masts probably destroyed most of the remains.

**Impact of the proposed development:**

None.

**Mitigation:**

None.

#### **5.4. Site LM 4**

**Location:** See Appendix B and C

**Description:**

Late Iron Age stone-walling. Mostly poorly defined. No surface collection.

**Impact of the proposed development:**

The proposed development activities will negatively impact on this site, hence the recommendations in the mitigation section below.

**Mitigation:**

Documentation of the ruins is recommended. See Appendix C, documented heritage sites. The developer should apply for destruction permit for these ruins before construction activities commences. See **6. Findings and recommendations** in this regard.

#### **5.5. Site LM 5**

**Location:** See Appendix B and C

**Description:**

Late Iron Age stone-walling. Mostly poorly defined. No surface collection.

**Impact of the proposed development:**

The proposed development activities will negatively impact on this site, hence the recommendations in the mitigation section below.

**Mitigation:**

Documentation of the ruins is recommended. See Appendix C, documented heritage sites. The developer should apply for destruction permit for these ruins before construction activities commences. See **6. Findings and recommendations** in this regard.

## **5.6. Site LM 6**

**Location:** See Appendix B and C

**Description:**

Historic stone-walled ruins rectangular shape. Located close to the Dorps River on the western bank. Surface collection included horseshoes suggesting that this feature may have served as horse or mule stables.

**Impact of proposed development:**

This site is located out of the footprint area of the development and will not be directly impacted upon during construction activities. However, the site will be impacted when the area becomes public space. Therefore the recommendations as described in the Mitigation section below.

**Mitigation:**

This site is part of the fort. A second phase investigation is recommended, this includes excavation and further research in an effort to understand more about the extent of the fort and the various activity areas within the fort complex. After this second phase is completed a third phase is recommended. During this phase, a management plan should be drafted for this fort and an interpretation feature erected for public benefit.

## **5.7. Site LM 7**

**Location:** See Appendix B and C.

**Description:**

This site is located downslope and east of Site LM 3. It consists of a linear stone wall aligned roughly in a north-south orientation. There are joints at right angles to this wall which signifies segmentation. The whole effect is a protective barrier from the east and lower ground. This suggests that the walls were functional as a fortification.

**Impact of proposed development:**

This site is located out of the footprint area of the development and will not be directly impacted upon during construction activities. However, the site will be impacted when the area becomes public space. Therefore the recommendations as described in the Mitigation section below.

**Mitigation:**

This site is part of Fort Howard, on the locatily map it is marked Fort Howard 2 as it is believed that this is a second large scale feature associated with the fortification. A second phase investigation is recommended, this includes excavation and further research in an effort to understand more about the extent of the fort and the various activity areas within the fort complex. After this second phase is completed a third phase is recommended. During this phase, a management plan should be drafted for this fort and an interpretation feature erected for public benefit.

**TABLE 5.1. General Significance of located sites.**

<b>Site No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type of significance</b>	<b>Degree of significance</b>	<b>Sphere of significance</b>
LM 1	Rectangular stone wall structure with subdivisions. Possibly related to Site LM 2.	Historically significant	Rare site. Representative of Anglo-Boer War fortifications. Has significant research potential.	Site is considered to be of national value due to significance in Anglo-Boer War.
LM 2	Large, central rectangular structure of stone walls. Extensive stone walling surrounding this with numerous subdivisions. Part of fortification.	Historically significant	Rare site. Representative of Anglo-Boer War fortifications. Has significant research potential.	Site is considered to be of national value due to significance in Anglo-Boer War.
LM 3	Location of Fort Howard as indicated on Map of 1900. Appendix C.	None	None	None
LM 4	Circular stone walling. Late Iron Age	Historically significant	Sites of this type are abundant in this area. Minimal research potential.	Local
LM 5	Circular stone walling. Late Iron Age	Historically significant	Sites of this type are abundant in this area. Minimal research potential.	Local
LM 6	Rectangular stone wall ruins, historic value. Believed to have been the stables of horses or water cart mules.	Historically significant	Rare site. Representative of Anglo-Boer War fortifications. Has significant research potential.	Site is considered to be of national value due to significance in Anglo-Boer War.
LM 7	Linear stone walling joined at right angles. Orientated in north-south alignment. Part of fortification.	Historically significant	Rare site. Representative of Anglo-Boer War fortifications. Has significant research potential.	Site is considered to be of national value due to significance in Anglo-Boer War.

**TABLE 5.2. Significance allocation of located sites**

Site no.	Unique nature	Integrity of archaeological deposit	Wider context	Relative location	Depth of deposit	Quality of archaeological/historic material	Quantity of site features	Preservation condition of site
LM 1	Significant	Threatened	Little archaeological research done. Historically significant, limited knowledge.	Seen as the most important British Fortification during Anglo-Boer War in Lydenburg	Unknown	Archaeologically: high potential. Historically: high quality	Limited number of sites	Medium
LM 2	Significant		Little archaeological research done. Historically significant, limited knowledge.	Seen as the most important British Fortification during Anglo-Boer War in Lydenburg	Unknown	Archaeologically: high potential. Historically: high quality	Limited number of sites	Good
LM 3	None	N/A	None	N/A	Unknown	Poor	N/A	Poor
LM 4	Not unique		Archaeologically well-known. Historically familiar	An example of numerous similar sites in the Lydenburg and escarpment area.	Unknown	Archaeologically: location context value. Historically: location context value.		Poor
LM 5	Not unique		Archaeologically well-known. Historically familiar	An example of numerous similar sites in the Lydenburg and escarpment area.	Unknown	Archaeologically: location context value. Historically: location context value.		Medium
LM 6	Significant		Little archaeological research done. Historically significant, limited knowledge.	Seen as the most important British Fortification during Anglo-Boer War in Lydenburg	Unknown	Archaeologically: high potential. Historically high quality	Limited number of sites	Medium
LM 7	Significant		Little archaeological research done. Historically significant, limited knowledge.	Seen as the most important British Fortification during Anglo-Boer War in Lydenburg	Unknown	Archaeologically: high potential. Historically high quality	Limited number of sites	Poor



It is important to note that the bulk of archaeological remains are normally located beneath the soil surface. It is therefore possible that some significant cultural material or remains were not located during this survey and will only be revealed when the soil is disturbed.

Therefore it is recommended that the owner of the land or developers take this into consideration when such activities are planned and executed at these locations.

Should excavation or large scale earth moving activities reveal any human skeletal remains, broken pieces of ceramic pottery, large quantities of sub-surface charcoal or any material that can be associated with previous occupation, a qualified archaeologist should be notified immediately. This will also temporarily halt such activities until an archaeologist have assessed the situation. It must also be noted that if such a situation occurs it may have further financial implications for the developers the developers.

## 6. Findings and recommendations

Mitigation measures were allocated to each site as discussed in section 5: Located sites and their description. During a meeting held between the developer, Thaba Chweu Municipality, and the surveyor, the importance of the preservation of the Fort Howard remains was discussed. The developer agreed to declare the proposed housing development around sites LM 1 and LM 2 as public park in an effort to minimize impact on these sites and provide the opportunity for further archaeological investigation. The Late Iron Age sites (LM 4 and LM 5) will however be impacted by the proposed development. In order to preserve the unique nature of Fort Howard it is felt that the application for destruction of the scientifically well-researched Later Iron Age features is justified. This may only be considered when permit application to SAHRA have been made and mitigation in the form of documentation of the extent and location of the ruins have been completed. Attached as Appendix C are the already documented Late Iron Age ruins as well as the fort ruins.

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### **Maps**

1. SA 1:50 000 2530 AB Townlands of Lydenburg 31 JT
2. Major H.M. Jackson series. Revised edition Feb. 1902. Mapping Section Field Intelligence Dept. Army Headquarters. Lydenburg Museum Archives.

### **Archival documents**

1. The National Archives Repository Pretoria was visited on May 16. No additional documentation regarding the location and description of Fort Howard could be obtained.
2. A copy of a letter by General Redvers Buller obtained from the British Public Records Office.

## Appendix A

## Terminology

**“Alter”** means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or other decoration or any other means.

**“Archaeological”** means –

- 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 artifacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features or structures;
- 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;
- 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 artifacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation; and
- Features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found;

**“Conservation”**, in relation to heritage resources, includes protection, maintenance, preservation and sustainable use of places or objects so as to safeguard their cultural significance;

**“Cultural significance”** means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance;

**“Development”** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of a 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 –

- construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- carrying out any works on or over or under a place;
- subdivision or consolidation of land comprising, a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;
- constructing or putting up for display signs or hoardings;
- any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and
- any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

**“Expropriate”** means the process as determined by the terms of and according to procedures described in the Expropriation Act, 1975 (Act No. 63 of 1975);

**“Foreign cultural property”**, in relation to a reciprocating state, means any object that is specifically designated by that state as being of importance for archaeology, history, literature, art or science;

**“Grave”** means a place of internment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place;

**“Heritage resource”** means any place or object of cultural significance;

**“Heritage register”** means a list of heritage resources in a province;

**“Heritage resources authority”** means the South African Heritage Resources Agency, established in terms of section 11, or, insofar as this Act (25 of 1999) is applicable in or in respect of a province, a provincial heritage resources authority (PHRA);

**“Heritage site”** means a place declared to be a national heritage site by SAHRA or a

place declared to be a provincial heritage site by a provincial heritage resources authority;

**“Improvement”**, in relation to heritage resources, includes the repair, restoration and rehabilitation of a place protected in terms of this Act (25 of 1999);

**“Land”** includes land covered by water and the air space above the land;

**“Living heritage”** means the intangible aspects of inherited culture, and may include –

- cultural tradition;
- oral history;
- performance;
- ritual;
- popular memory;
- skills and techniques;
- indigenous knowledge systems; and
- the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships;

**“Management”** in relation to heritage resources, includes the conservation, presentation and improvement of a place protected in terms of the Act;

**“Object”** means any moveable property of cultural significance which may be protected in terms of any provisions of the Act, including –

- any archaeological artifact;
- palaeontological and rare geological specimens;
- meteorites;
- other objects referred to in section 3 of the Act;

**“Owner”** includes the owner’s authorized agent and any person with a real interest in the property and –

- in the case of a place owned by the State or State-aided institutions, the Minister or any other person or body of persons responsible for the care, management or control of that place;
- in the case of tribal trust land, the recognized traditional authority;

**“Place”** includes –

- a site, area or region;
- a building or other structure which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such building or other structure;
- a group of buildings or other structures which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such group of buildings or other structures;
- an open space, including a public square, street or park; and
- in relation to the management of a place, includes the immediate surroundings of a place;

**“Site”** means any area of land, including land covered by water, and including any structures or objects thereon;

**“Structure”** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith;



## Appendix B

## List of located sites

The located sites were numbered LM 1 to LM 7. The L indicates “Lydenburg” and M “Mashishing”, followed by the number of the site. A spatial location with the aid of a GPS (Global Positioning System) was added to each site.

### 9.1. Site name: LM 1 (Site 1)

Date of compilation: 02/04/2007

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 26, 437' E

Latitude, 25° 06, 249' S

Photo: Fig. 1, 2, 3.

### 9.2. Site name: LM 2 (Site 2)

Date of compilation: 02/04/2007

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 26, 363' E

Latitude, 25° 06, 228' S

Altitude: 1 438 m

Photo: Fig. 4, 5.

### 9.3. Site name: LM 3 (Site 3)

Date of compilation: 02/04/2007

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 26, 045' E

Latitude, 25° 06, 357' S

Altitude: 1 444 m

Photo: Fig. 6.

### 9.4. Site name: LM 4 (Site 4)

Date of compilation: 02/04/2007

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 26, 181' E

Latitude, 25° 06, 324' S

Altitude: 1 461 m

Photo: Fig. 7, 8, 9.

9.5. Site name: LM 5 (Site 5)

Date of compilation: 02/04/2007

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 26, 134' E

Latitude, 25° 06, 282' S

Altitude: 834 m

Photo: Fig. 10, 11.

9.6. Site name: LM 6 (Site 6)

Date of compilation: 04/04/2007

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 26, 608' E

Latitude, 25° 06, 121' S

Altitude: 1 408 m

Photo: Fig. 12.

9.7. Site name: LM 7 (Site 7)

Date of compilation: 24/05/2007

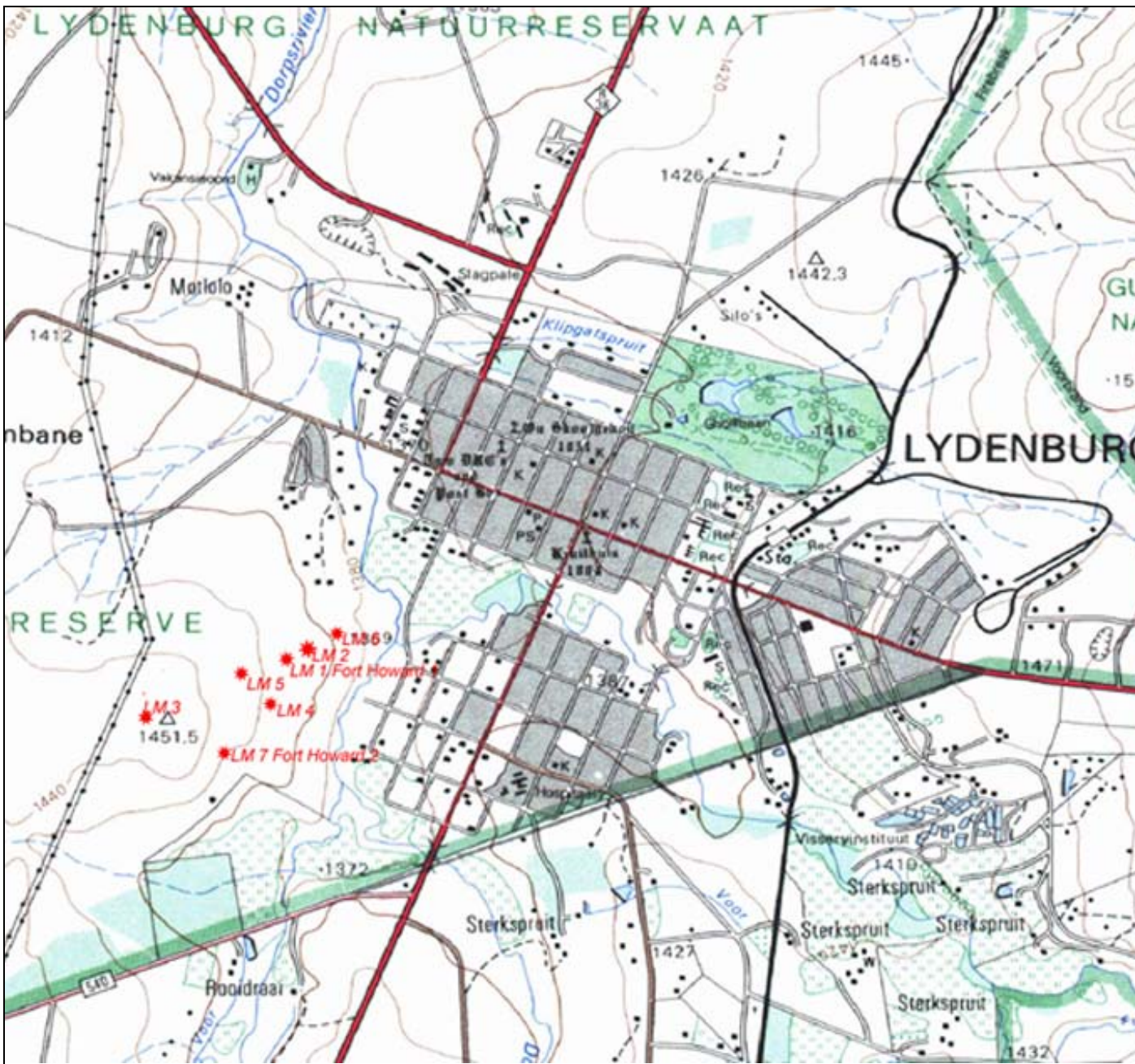
GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 26, 134' E

Latitude, 25° 06, 412' S

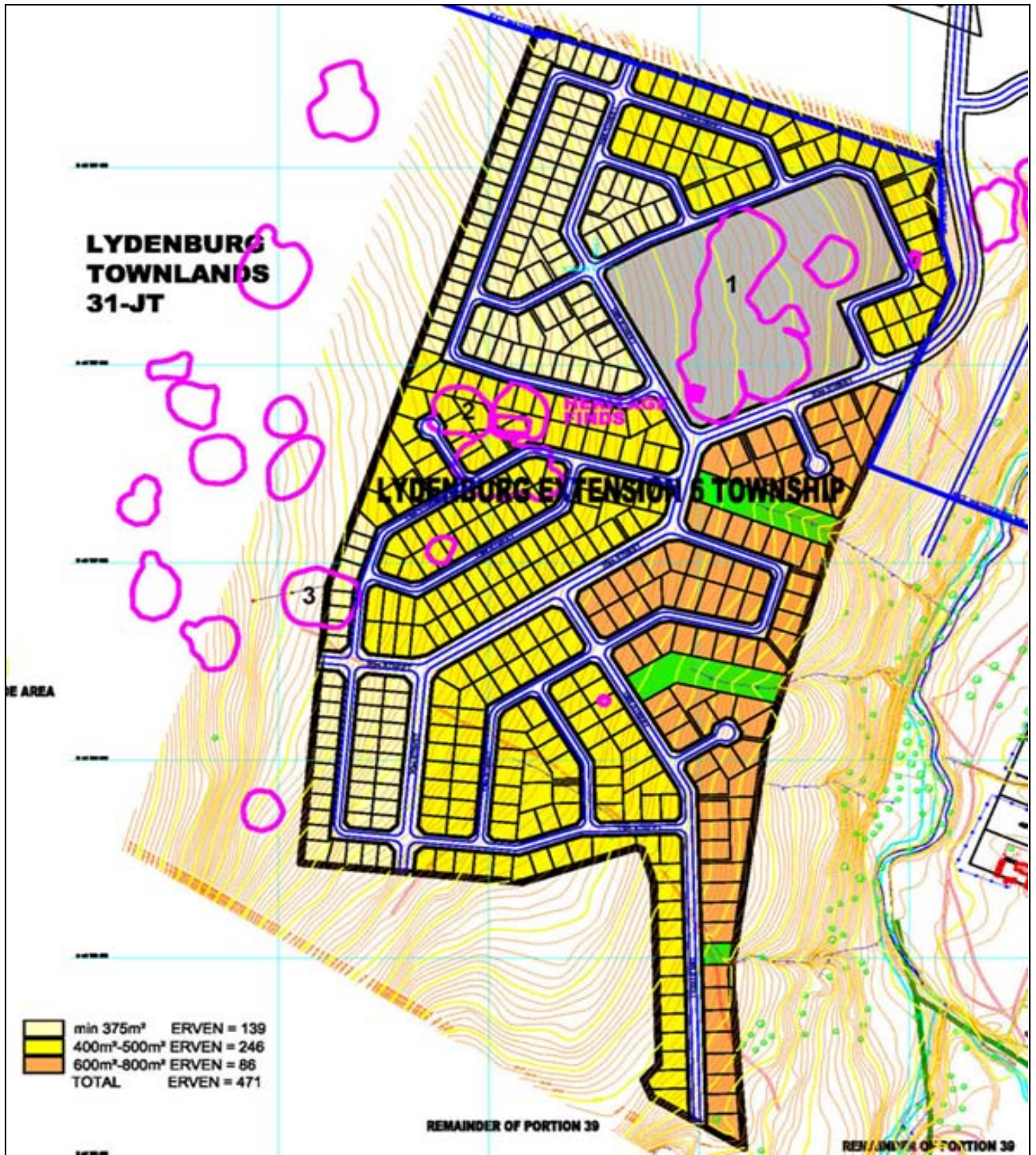
Altitude: 1 408 m

Photo: Fig. 13-15.

## Appendix C – Maps







Numbers: 1 – Sites LM 1; LM 2  
 2 – Site LM 4  
 3 – Site LM 5

Appendix – D  
Photos of located sites





Fig.1. Site LM 1. Stone walling in rectangular shape.



Fig.2. Site LM 1. Rectangular stone walling.



Fig. 3. Site LM 1. Broken grinding stone with iron and porcelain next to walls.



Fig. 4. Site LM 2. Larger rectangular stone walls form central feature.



Fig. 5. Site LM 2. A section of the stone walls.



Fig. 6. Site LM 3. The location of Fort Howard as indicated by the Major Jackson map.



Fig. 7. Site LM 4. Circular stone walling.



Fig. 8. Site LM 4. Some of the stone walling visible.



Fig. 9. Site LM 4. Continued stone walling on northern side of road.



Fig. 10. Site LM 5. Large circular stone wall complex.



Fig. 11. Site LM 5. Second circular stone wall complex located to the North East.



Fig. 12. Site LM 6. Rectangular stone walling on eastern perimeter of footprint area.  
Possibly where mules or horses were kept



Fig. 13. Site LM 7. Rectangular walling suggesting Fortification.



Fig. 14. Site LM 7. More rectangular stone walling on location close to fig. 13.



Fig. 15. Site LM 7. Fort Howard remains.