

Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed
development on the farm Sterkstroom 118 JT in the
Schoemanskloof
compiled by

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1. Introduction

Kudzala Antiquity was commissioned by Ninham Shand Consulting Services, Nelspruit to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) on the proposed township development on the farm Sterkstroom 118 JT in the Schoemanskloof Mpumalanga Province. 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, an Archaeological Impact Assessment was undertaken on Sterkstroom 118 JT in Schoemanskloof an area of approximately 3000 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 possess is lost, therefore it is important to locate and identify such remains before construction or development activities commence.

An AIA 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 Ehlanzeni District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province. The survey was carried out on approximately 3000 ha of land located in the Schoemanskloof. The survey was conducted on foot and with the use of a motor vehicle in an effort to locate cultural remains. Due to the large extent of the property, the survey was concentrated on areas earmarked for development. This was done to save time and financial resources.

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. A detailed archival study was conducted in an effort to establish the age of the property and whether structures, graves or features of historical value exist on the property.

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 archaeological 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, a desktop archival study as well as a study of the results of previous archaeological work in the area.

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
- Deeds Office, Pretoria
- Lydenburg Museum, Lydenburg
- Published and unpublished archaeological reports and articles

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. Archival study

This report deals with the results of an archival investigation of the farm Sterkstroom 118 JT in the Belfast district, Mpumalanga Province. The investigation forms part of the Heritage Impact Assessment for the area.

Due to the loss of the old farm register in the Deeds Office, it could not be established when the farm was first surveyed or who the first owner was. The lack of archival documents regarding this farm also creates the impression that the farm may not have been in existence for very long. It is therefore assumed that the farm was established from one or more portions of other farms. If the names of these could be established one may use that information as early history of this farm.

More than 1 300 documents relating to Sterkstroom was found. However these all refer to other farms with the same name.

4.2. Methodology

For this purpose research was conducted in the National Archives Depot (NAD) and the Deeds Office in Pretoria. In the Deeds office the old farm registers and old Surveyor-General's maps were consulted. The information from the old farm register books in the Deeds Office was much more successful than that from the National Archives.

The specific archives that were consulted in the NAD are the South African Archives Depot (SAB), the Transvaal Archives Depot (TAD), the National Register of Manuscripts and Photographs, National Archives cartographic material, library material and copies (MAN), Archives Depot of Audio-Visual Material (OVM) and the all inclusive archives (RSA). The TAD deals with documents before 1910 and the SAD with those after 1910. The MAN deals with photographs, maps and other material indicated and OVM with audio-visual material.

The RSA is a combined database of all the other databases. This means that the number of documents found in all the other databases should also be found here. However experience has shown that it sometimes differs and therefore the search also had to be conducted here.

Key words that were used are the following: Sterkstroom, with and without the farm number 188 JT, or the combination thereof with the words Belfast, Schoemanskloof, Nelspruit, Pilgrims Rest, Pelgrimsrus or Lydenburg (the farm had been in the Lydenburg and Pilgrims Rest districts before) and in combination with the number 25 as this was the original farm number.

As indicated no documents relating to this specific farm could be found.

4.3. Discussion

The only information that could be obtained from the Deeds Office, indicated that the original farm number was 25 and that it was in the Pilgrims Rest district. Pilgrims Rest used to be part of the Lydenburg district. Lydenburg was established in 1850 (Bergh 1999: 17). It was one of the first Voortrekker towns in the area today known as Mpumalanga. Pilgrims Rest was established in 1873 and the town of Belfast in 1890 (Bergh 1999: 21). The district of Pilgrims Rest was only established in 1924 and one can therefore assume that the farm Sterkstroom may have been only established after this date as the deeds catalogue does not indicate the farm being part of the Lydenburg district. It probably was formed by one or more portions of other farms, which may have been in existence since the 1840's.

In the early years towns were usually established because the farmers of the area wanted a place from where they could get access to markets. However, Pilgrims Rest started as a mining town after the discovery of gold in 1893 (Bergh 1999: 143).

Unfortunately no maps could be obtained from the Office of the Surveyor-General. This is because the reference numbers for these maps are found in the farm book, which could not be found.

Some of the farm books have been placed on microfiche, but in this case this was not yet done. One can only hope that the book will be found later.

The only other information obtained is information from 1984 found on microfiche. It indicates that the farm Sterkstroom 118 JT was sold by the widow, Maria Elizabeth Magdalena de Jager (born Liebenberg) to Grootplaas (Pty) Ltd.

4.4. Concluding remarks

It is a sad state of affairs when historical documents are lost as it may have the result that a certain part of history may not be reconstructed. This is the case with the farm Sterkstroom 118 JT.

However, it is assumed that the farm was only established after 1924 and that it probably consists of one or more portion of other farms. The historical information of these farms, if known, can therefore be used as a history for the farm Sterkstroom.

4.5. Historic and archaeological background

Farms in the Schoemanskloof valley were allocated to various families in 1848. The kloof is named after P.A. Schoeman who settled on the farm Mooiplaas. Citrus and grain are produced in this valley (Barnard, 1975:56; Bulpin, 1989:241; SA Encyclopedia: 518a).

Stone-walled ruins situated in the escarpment area of Mpumalanga have been classified as:

track ways, terraces and settlement units. Settlement units have been subdivided by Collet (1982:34) as:

- (i) Simple ruins which consist of an isolated circular enclosure, and
- (ii) Complex ruins which consist of two or more contiguous circular or semi-circular enclosures. Both settlement types are, spatially, closely related to terrace-walling.

Mason conducted an aerial survey of archaeological sites on the northern plateau and eastern

escarpment of South Africa (represented by the drainage basins of the Steelpoort, Sabi, Crocodile and Komati Rivers) in 1968. With the focus on site layout he identified 8 distinct

ruin classes (Mason 1968:169).

These are as follows:

Class 1: Isolated circle or a few adjacent but isolated circles (Simple ruin)

Class 2a: Circular open space defined by several attached semi-circular enclosures (Complex ruin)

Class 2b: Two or more large circles composed of interlocking small circles (Complex ruin)

Class 3: Circular enclosures enclosed by periphery-walling (may be scalloped) (Complex ruin)

Class 4a: Scattered circular enclosures forming a closely related whole; no enclosing periphery walling (Complex ruin)

Class 4b: Closely related circular enclosures covering a large area; no enclosing periphery walling (Complex ruin)

Class 4c: A dispersed set of isolated circles seeming to form a related whole

(Complex ruin)

Class 5: Scattered irregular walling with no definite plan identified (Complex ruin)

It should, however, be noted that unlike Mason, Evers did take terracing into account when he conducted his study to classify settlements in the Lydenburg and Machadodorp area (which represents the Sabi, Elands and parts of the Crocodile River drainage system). According to his classification system (Collet also followed this system) 'Stone walling was used to define homestead areas (enclosure units), agricultural land (terracing) and communication networks within and between sites (cattle tracks). The combination of these three attributes forms a settlement' (Marker & Evers 1976:160). Note that terracing is:

'generally simple, consisting of lines of stones running roughly parallel to the contour' (Marker & Evers 1976:160). The enclosure units fall into three basic types namely:

- i) the simplest units which consist of two concentric circles. The inner circle was probably the cattle kraal and the space between the circles the area where huts were built.
- ii) a complex of enclosures generally consisting of a large central structure with a number of smaller circles around part of, or the whole of, the parameter. This inner complex is surrounded by an outer ring wall.
- iii) an agglomeration of small circles which does not conform to the basic pattern of the first two.

All Late Iron Age stone walled settlements recorded during this survey are classified according to these criteria. (After Coetzee, F. 2005: 6-7. Unpublished heritage assessment).

It is believed that the documented ruins were probably constructed and occupied by either the Ndebele or Koni people. A concise discussion of Ndebele and Koni history in this area follows.

Koni

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, 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. The ruins probably date from as far back as the seventeenth century (Mönnig, 1967:16)

Ndebele

Under leadership of the well known Mzilikazi, the Ndebele kingdom arose during the Zulu wars of the early 1820's and this assisted in the spreading of these people among the predominantly Sotho-speaking inhabitants of the South African interior (Rasmussen, 1978).

The kingdom grew rapidly as a consequence of two decades of absorption of conquered peoples and Nguni refugees, this movement occurred across the Transvaal from east to west until the Ndebele finally settled in the modern Matabeleland, north of the Limpopo River.

The name Ndebele is an Anglicized form of the Nguni word *Amandebele*, which in turn comes from the Sotho word *Matebele*. This Sotho word presumably means "strangers from the east" (Rasmussen, 1978: 161). The Sotho, residing in the central regions of South Africa generally applied this name to Nguni-speaking peoples from the eastern coast.

The best-known part of Ndebele history must surely be that of the chief Nyabela

(Mapoch) who gave refuge to the murderer of the Pedi king Sekhukune. Providing Mampuru, the half brother of Sekhukune with protection put Nyabela in a difficult position with the ZAR (Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek). His kraal, situated near Roosenekal is commonly known as Mapoch's Caves and is a popular tourist attraction in modern times.

This kraal was besieged by ZAR forces and a battle raged for several months after which Nyabela surrendered and Mampuru was delivered on July 7, 1883. The war ended with the commando burning down Nyabela's capital. His people were once again scattered over the Transvaal as indentured labourers (Bulpin 1969; Jansen van Vuuren 1983).

The Southern Ndebele is classified under the Nguni nation and divided into three tribes namely the Manala, Ndzundza and Hwaduba. The Manala represents the majority of the Southern Ndebele of KwaNdebele (Jansen van Vuuren, 1983: 9-10).

The most important formal source of information used by the surveyor for the initial interpretation of the sites discussed in this document, is that of Jansen van Vuuren 1983. This source shed some light on typical Ndebele village and kraal layout. These general rules of Ndebele kraal layout was compared to the sites found on the farm in an attempt to confirm their identity and function. It was found that the layout of some villages found during the survey, conforms to that which is normally associated with Ndebele occupation during the start of the 20th century. Loubser observed that Ndebele kraal layout is characterized by the integration of rectangular and circular enclosures during the time of intensified colonial expansion in the area. This phenomenon starts at around 1900 and is ascribed to Western influence pertaining to building style.

According to researchers, the Ndebele originate from Nguni stock (Jansen van Vuuren, 1983, Loubser 1981, Rasmussen 1978) and this would suggest that the oldest Ndebele dwellings or huts would have structural similarities to those of the earliest Zulu and Xhosa huts. The use (by Ndebele) of the circular thatched roof hut was probably the result of contact with nearby Northern Sotho and Tswana groups (Jansen van Vuuren, 1983: 22).

Researchers underline that the direction in which the Ndebele settlement is oriented is significant. All kraals are laid out to face in either a northern or north-eastern direction (Jansen van Vuuren, 1983: 43).

This means that the entrances to a kraal as well as the huts inside the enclosure, will preferably be positioned towards the north or north-east. With some exceptions, this seems to be the case at the sites dealt with in this document. Documented sites that may be associated with Ndebele occupation include SS 1, SS 2, SS 4, SS 5, SS 6, SS 7 and SS 8.

One of the trademarks of the Ndebele kraal is that it is enclosed by a stacked stone wall known as the *ikura*. The function of this wall is to protect the inhabitants from intruders, this wall encloses all the dwellings of the kraal and its major entrance is normally situated at the six o'clock position. Refuse material such as ash and other household rubbish is normally deposited beyond this wall (Jansen van Vuuren 1983: 48-49).

The stone-walling at site SS 1 is very poorly defined and was probably used as a cattle outpost. The activity areas within the large enclosure suggests a front-back or lower higher organization. This conforms to typical Ndebele settlement layout. As opposed to Koni layout which is organized in a centre-side fashion. The smaller enclosure to the west probably served as a cattle kraal.

4.6. Rock engravings or rock art

The type of rock art that was documented resemble that found on other locations in the area. It is particularly the well researched Boomplaas rock art site near Lydenburg which in terms of style and technique is similar to the engravings found at Sterkstroom.

The rock engravings at Boomplaas was the first published research of rock art in Mpumalanga Province and was conducted in 1918 by Dr Cornelius Pijper (Smith & Zubieta, 2007: 30).

In later years (1939) researcher at the National Museum in Bloemfontein, Van Hoepen, argued that the engravings represented plans of Iron Age settlements. Typically, the engravings represented a cattle kraal surrounded by huts, with cattle tracks connecting various homesteads.

Prof. Tim Maggs' research published in 1995 suggests that the settlement plans which the engravings represent are typical of Nguni settlement layout. At Boomplaas there are also a number of engravings which represent lizard-like figures which is common in Sotho-Tswana rock art and this may suggest multiple usage of the site (Smith & Zubieta, 2007: 32).

There are also other known sites which are characterized by engravings similar to those of Boomplaas. They are located in the Badfontein valley (between Lydenburg and the Schoemanskloof), near Klipkraal on the road towards Ohrigstad and also adjacent to the R 37 road between Lydenburg and Burgersfort a few kilometers north of the Boomplaas site.

Some of the engravings documented at the Sterkstroom site (See Appendix D, fig. 4-8, 10-12) resemble settlement layout patterns typical to LIA settlements in the area. The nearby location of the two LIA (Late Iron Age) stone-walled enclosures (See Appendix D, fig. 1-3) is significant in this regard because it may explain the identity of the artists. In general the engravings of this type show close parallels to typical LIA buildings but they should not be seen as attempts to represent particular structures but rather manifestations of mental perception of the ideal settlement (Maggs, 1995: 141).

In this type of engraving, there is an emphasis on spatial patterning relating to cattle and their significance being central to Bantu settlement layout and spatial planning, this suggests a masculine bias in the art. Engraving was thus probably an activity done by boys and young men (Maggs, 1995: 141). In order to understand these engravings it is necessary to examine the religious and symbolic system of the communities who made them. Sotho and Nguni communities who historically lived in the engraved areas and whose settlement patterns are reflected in the engravings, had a totally different religious system from that of hunter-gatherer communities. They had complex and well-developed kinship structures which were strongly patrilineal. The family cattle herd played an important symbolic part in religious and social relationships. Communication with the spiritual world was mediated with the homestead head (male) via his deceased (male) ancestors. The family homestead or cluster of homesteads had one or many central cattle pens which served as a shrine, especially when cattle were sacrificed to the ancestors (Maggs, 1995: 134).

The Pedi, for instance, is a northern Sotho group which may be geographically and culturally linked with engraving sites in the study area. Ethnographic research conducted by Mönnig (1967) shows that the Pedi household worshipped the chief's ancestors and the chief was known as "God of the earth" and his ancestors, "Gods of the above". The world of the ancestral spirits is in structure a reflection of the living world (Mönnig, 1967: 56).

Clearly social and religious structure was inseparable within these communities.

"The settlement pattern is a visual manifestation of the traditional spiritual and social order" (Mack in Maggs, 1995: 134).

The cosmology at the basis of this type of rock art is typical of herder communities.

There is a distinct difference between this type of rock art and that characteristic to the San or Bushmen, relating to the subject matter and the way in which it is represented. The topography incorporated into many of the engravings provides another contrast to hunter-gatherer rock art (Maggs, 1995: 141).

It is believed that the engravings documented at Sterkstroom is highly significant. The large number of engravings at one location and individual similarity to engravings located at the Boomplaas site make this a valuable find with exciting research possibilities.

5. Located sites, their description and suggested mitigation

A total of 9 (nine) sites and features were documented. These sites are characterized by rectangular and round stone-walled structures, rock art in the form of engravings, marked and unmarked graves and ruins. The graves located at site SS 3 are associated with farm workers. The identity of the individuals buried at site SS 9 can only be guessed at but their close proximity to site SS 8 suggest that they may belong to the people who once made the ruins at SS8 their home.

5.1. Site SS 1.

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 1-12).

Description:

Two circular stone-walled enclosures. Probably dating from the LIA (Late Iron Age) approx. 1600 AD. The smaller of the two enclosures measures approximately 10 across (cross-section) and the larger one further to the east, some 50 metres. The walls are poorly defined suggesting that the stones were probably re-used at a later stage. A large number of stone engravings were documented on the northern side of the site.

The large enclosure has several smaller enclosures within which was probably used for small stock such as sheep or goats and calves. There are two prominent smaller enclosures on the northern side which may have been used as living areas or places where huts were built. The smaller enclosure to the west was used as a cattle kraal. This organization suggest that this site may have served as a cattle herding outpost and that it was occupied by Ndebele.

Impact of the proposed development:

The proposed development will not impact on this site as it located outside the proposed development area.

Mitigation:

It is recommended that the site not be disturbed by any future development activities.

5.2. Site SS 2.

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 13).

Description:

LIA (Late Iron Age) circular stone walling. A single structure which is in very good condition. The walls are approximately 1,2 metres high and 0,4 m wide. A cross-section of the structure measures approximately 7 m.

Impact of the proposed development:

The proposed development will probably not impact on this structures as it is located outside the proposed development area.

Mitigation:

No official mitigation recommended. This feature may serve as additional place of

interest on the property and management may want to consider maintaining it by regular bush clearing only if this activity will not negatively impact on the integrity of the structure.

5.3. Site SS 3

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 14-16).

Description:

Formal graveyard. At least 6 graves are located here, three of them are marked with the only date being 1957 it is not known whether some of them are older than 60 years.

Headstones indicate that the family Sibanyoni is represented here.

Impact of the proposed development:

The proposed development will not impact on the graves as they are located outside the proposed development area.

Mitigation:

It is recommended that a formal process of exhumation and reinterment be followed in the event that the graves are directly impacted upon. After the families have been consulted regarding this. This is in accordance to section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). If development activities are not planned here, it is recommended that the grave area be fenced off to minimize impact.

5.4. Site SS 4

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 17).

Description:

Historic stone walling. A single rectangular stone-walled structure. Walls are between 1 and 1,2 metres high and partly collapsed on the eastern side. The walls quite wide and measure around 0, 8 m. There is a single entrance on the north-western corner. The surface slopes steeply to the east. This suggests that it was probably used as a historic stock pen.

Impact of the proposed development:

The proposed development activities will not impact on this site as it is located outside

the development area.

Mitigation:

If development activities are planned here the stone walling has to be documented and a permit has to be obtained from SAHRA before they may be destroyed.

5.5. Site SS 5

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 18-21).

Description:

Three historic dwellings made of stone. Two are rectangular and one is circular in shape. The easternmost dwelling is rectangular and measures 8m x 5m. The stone walls are between 1,5m and 1,7m high. There is an entrance in the north-western corner. The second rectangular structure is located at the westernmost perimeter of the site. The structure measures approximately 5m x 5m and the walls are 1,7m high. It has a single entrance on the northern side. North of this site is a circular stone-walled structure. It has a cross-section measurement of 6m and the walls are 1,7m high. There is a single entrance on the Eastern side. Daga is still visible between the rocks of the wall (Fig. 19). The farm manager Mr Dale Miles informed that some of the farm workers who are still on the property, grew up at this homestead.

Impact of the proposed development:

The proposed development activities will not impact on this site as it is located outside the development area.

Mitigation:

If development activities are planned here the stone walling has to be documented and a permit has to be obtained from SAHRA before they may be destroyed.

5.6. Site SS 6

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 22).

Description:

Poorly defined stone-walling almost entirely collapsed.

Impact of proposed development:

Development activities will not affect this site.

Mitigation:

In the case where development activity will impact on the site, the features will have to be documented and a permit obtained from SAHRA before they may be destroyed.

5.7. Site SS 7

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 23-25).

Description:

Two rectangular stone-walled structures. The smallest of the two probably served as a dwelling for cattle herders. It measures about 5m x 5m and the walls are approximately 1,5 m high and 0,4m wide. There is a wall that separates the structure in two halves. It has a single entrance on the western side.

The second structure is very large located some 5m west of the first structure and probably served as a stock pen or cattle kraal. It is also rectangular and measures 10m x 20m. North-south 20m and east-west 10m. There is an entrance on the eastern side. The walls are in pristine condition and are between 1,2m and 1,5m high and 0,5m wide.

Impact of proposed development:

Development activities will not affect this site.

Mitigation:

In the case where development activity will impact on the site, the features will have to be documented and a permit obtained from SAHRA before they may be destroyed.

5.8. Site SS 8

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 26-33).

Description:

Three well preserved stone-walled structures. All are rectangular in shape. All three units served as a dwelling as a whole. Some features within the large rectangular structure are rounded (Fig. 33). This gives the impression that the site may date from the early 20th century and was probably used by Ndebele. The northernmost structure measures approximately 7m x 4m. The walls are 0,5m high and of similar width. An upper grinding stone was found next to the structure (Fig. 34).

The second structure is located a few paces south of here (Fig. 28). It is bigger than the

first structure and in better condition. The walls are 1,5m high, 0,5m wide and the structure measures 8m x 6m. There is an entrance on the southern side. A lower grinding stone was found next to the entrance (Fig. 29).

The third structure is the largest and consists of three parts, a southern room, a northern room opposite and a general open area (courtyard) in-between surrounded by stone-walling. The northern room measures 3m x 4m and has a single entrance to the courtyard side. The southern room is a bit bigger (6m x 3m) and also has an entrance towards the courtyard. An interesting feature is a circular room incorporated in the perimeter wall forming the south-western corner. It also has a entrance facing towards the courtyard. Plastering clay is still visible on the inside (Fig. 33).

Impact of proposed development:

Development activities will probably not impact on these features.

Mitigation:

In the event that development activity impact on this site, the stone walling has to be documented and a permit has to be obtained from SAHRA before they may be destroyed.

5.9. Site SS 9

Location: See Appendix B and C, D (Fig. 34).

Description:

It is believed that this is the location of 5 unmarked graves. There are 5 large linear stone heaps aligned in a north-south direction and oriented east-west in respect of one another.

Impact of proposed development:

Development activities will probably not impact on these features as they are located out of the development area.

Mitigation:

It is recommended that a formal process of exhumation and reinterment be followed in the event that the graves are directly impacted upon. After the families have been consulted regarding this. This is in accordance to section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). If development activities are not planned here, it is recommended that the grave area be fenced off to minimize impact.

TABLE 5.1. General Significance of located sites.

Site No.	Description	Type of significance	Degree of significance	Sphere of significance
SS 1	LIA ruins and rock engravings	Historically & socially significant	High significance. High scientific value.	Site is considered to be of national significance.
SS 2	Single circular stone wall enclosure	Historic significance	Importance in understanding the identity of and influence sphere of Ndebele and Koni.	Local
SS 3	Formal graveyard	Historically & socially significant	High significance. Socially sensitive.	Site is considered to be of value for local community
SS 4	Rectangular stone wall enclosure	Historically significant	Importance in understanding the identity of and influence sphere of historic communities in the area.	Local
SS 5	Two rectangular and one circular stone wall enclosures	Historically significant	Importance in understanding the identity of and influence sphere of historic communities in the area.	Local
SS 6	Collapsed stone-walling	Historically significant	Poor preservation condition.	Local
SS 7	Two rectangular stone-walled structures	Historically significant	Importance in understanding the identity of and influence sphere of historic communities in the area.	Local
SS 8	Three rectangular structures, one unit.	Historically significant	Importance in understanding the identity of and influence sphere of historic communities in the area.	Local
SS 9	Five graves	Historically & socially significant	High significance. Socially sensitive.	Local

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
SS 1	Relationship of stone-walling and engravings is significant	Fair	Archaeologically known but not well researched. Historically significant	Stone walling: May be other similar type in the broad area. Engravings: Closest is Boomplaas.	Not known	Stone-enclosure: Fair. Engravings: Good.	Stone-walling: single representation. Engravings: large number and variety.	Stonewall-enclosures: Fair. Engravings: Good.
SS 2	Not unique	Poor	Archaeologically known, historically well documented	Linked to other features in area	Unknown	Archaeologically: has potential. Historically: Has potential	Low. Part of wider context	Good
SS 3	Grave site	Not known	Social significance for local community. Individuals buried here are known	In general area where farm workers lived in the past	N/A	N/A	N/A	Medium.
SS 4	Not unique	Poor	Archaeologically known, historically well documented	Associated with ruins of settlement enclosures in the area	Unknown	Archaeologically: low potential. Historically: good potential	Low. Part of wider context	Medium
SS 5	Not unique	Poor	Archaeologically known, historically well documented	Associated with ruins of settlement enclosures in the area	Unknown	Archaeologically: low potential. Historically: good potential	Low. Part of wider context	Medium
SS 6	Not unique	Poor	Archaeologically known, historically well documented	Associated with ruins of settlement enclosures in the area	Unknown	Archaeologically: low potential. Historically: low quality	Low. Part of wider context	Low
SS 7	Not unique	Poor	Archaeologically known, historically well documented	Associated with ruins of settlement enclosures in the area	Not known	Archaeologically: low potential. Historically: good quality	Low. Part of wider context	Medium
SS 8	Not unique	Poor	Archaeologically known, historically well documented	Associated with ruins of settlement enclosures in the area	Not known	Archaeologically: has potential. Historically: good quality	Low. Part of wider context	Good

SS 9	Not unique	Poor	Archaeologically known, historically well documented	Associated with ruins of dwellings in the area	Unknown	Archaeologically: low potential Historically: low quality	Medium. Part of wider context	Medium
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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. None of the documented sites will be directly impacted upon by the proposed development activities as they are all located well clear of planned development sites.

The most sensitive sites found during the survey are sites SS 3, and SS 9. This is due to the presence of graves on these sites. The client has the option to exhume and relocate the graves or maintain the sites by fencing them off (and clearing it annually) in order to avoid damaging the grave sites. The latter is recommended.

If any of the stone-walled enclosures are in danger of being damaged by development, the minimum requirement would be to document the features before development activities commence. When documentation is complete it will be possible to apply for a

permit from SAHRA for destruction pending the type of significance the ruins reveal when properly documented.

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Archival documents:

1. Deeds office, Pretoria. 1975. Microfiche Register including the farm Sterkstroom 118 JT.
2. Deeds office, Pretoria. 1984. Microfiche Register including the farm Sterkstroom 118 JT.

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

9. List of located sites

The located sites were numbered SS 1 to SS 9. The first “S” indicates Sterkstroom and second “S” Schoemanskloof, followed by the number of the site. A spatial location with the aid of a GPS (Global Positioning System) was added to each site. The sites were all plotted on the 1:50 000 Topographical series and in block 2530 AD.

9.1. Site name: SS 1 (Site 1)

Date of compilation: 14/05/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 28, 144' E

Latitude, 25° 25, 751' S

Photo: Fig. 1-12.

9.2. Site name: SS 2 (Site 2)

Date of compilation: 14/05/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 28, 384' E

Latitude, 25° 23, 669' S

Photo: Fig. 13.

9.3. Site name: SS 3 (Site 3)

Date of compilation: 14/05/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 28, 498' E

Latitude, 25° 23, 169' S

Photo: Fig. 14-16.

9.4. Site name: SS 4 (Site 4)

Date of compilation: 14/05/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 28, 720' E

Latitude, 25° 22, 635' S

Photo: Fig. 17.

9.5. Site name: SS 5 (Site 5)

Date of compilation: 14/05/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 28, 642' E

Latitude, 25° 22, 592' S

Photo: Fig. 18-21.

9.6. Site name: SS 6 (Site 6)

Date of compilation: 17/05/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 27, 618' E

Latitude, 25° 22, 517' S

Photo: Fig. 22.

9.7. Site name: SS 7 (Site 7)

Date of compilation: 25/06/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 28, 330' E

Latitude, 25° 22, 125' S

Photo: Fig. 23-25.

9.8. Site name: SS 8 (Site 8)

Date of compilation: 25/06/2008

GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 27, 841' E

Latitude, 25° 22, 302' S

Photo: Fig. 26-33.

9.9. Site name: SS 9 (Site 9)

Date of compilation: 25/06/2008

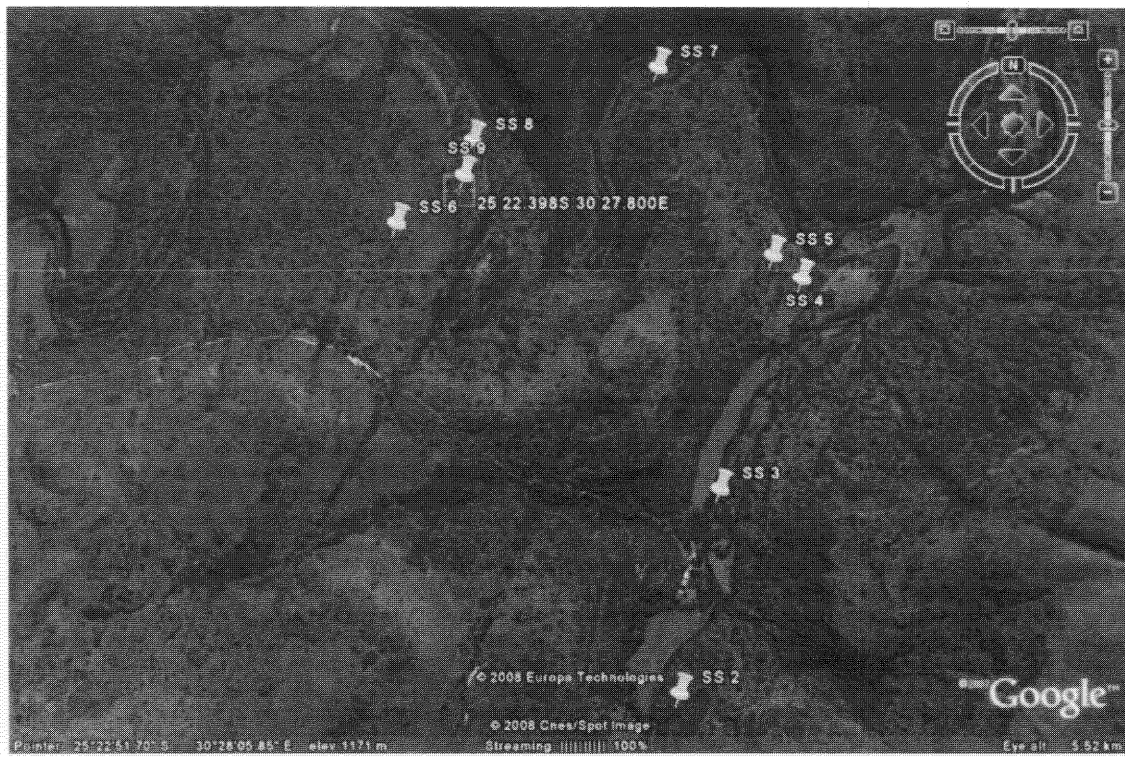
GPS reading: Longitude, 30° 27, 800' E

Latitude, 25° 22, 398' S

Photo: Fig. 34.

Appendix C - Maps





Appendix D - Photos

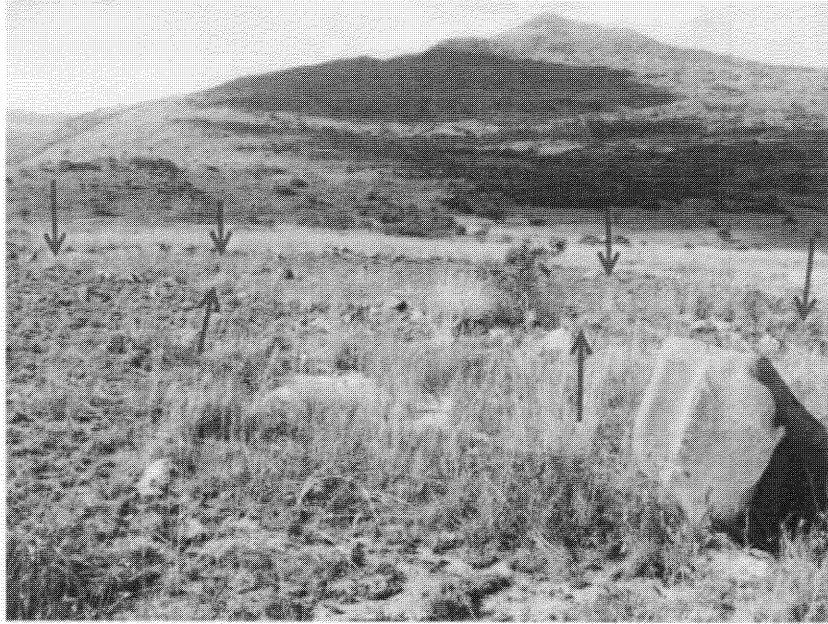


Fig. 1. Site 1. Smaller LIA stone walled enclosure. Arrows indicate perimeter of stone walling.

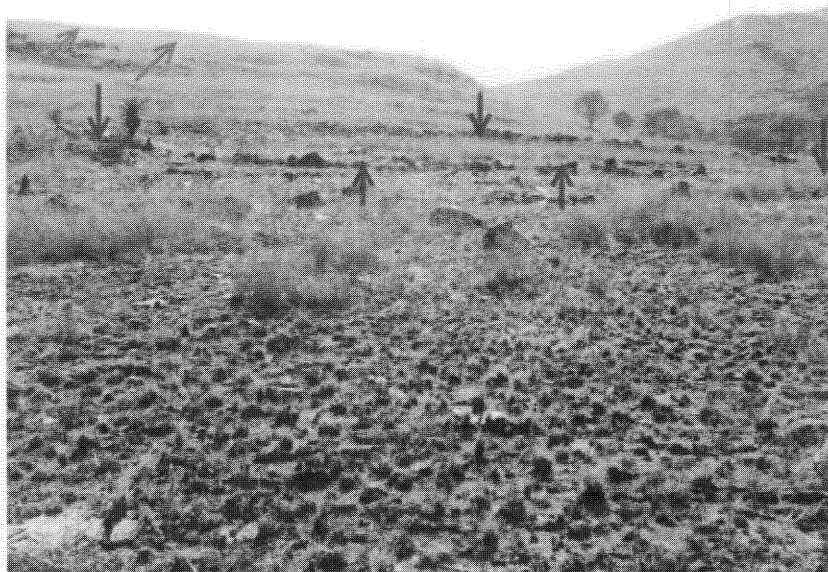


Fig. 2. Site 1. Large LIA stone walled enclosure. Red arrows: perimeter of stone walling. Yellow arrows: Location of concentration of engravings.

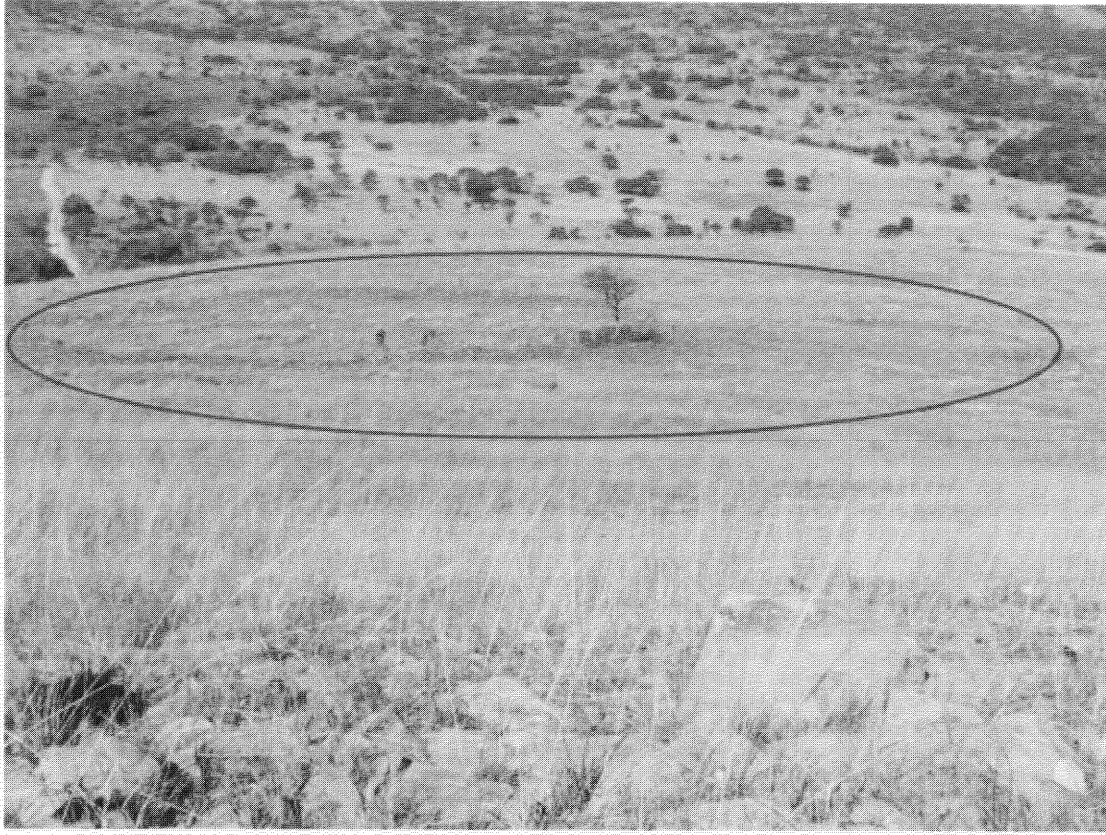


Fig. 3. Site 1. Two LIA stone-walled enclosures seen from koppie at the north. View towards south. Red ellipse shows extent of large enclosure to the left and smaller one on the right.



Fig.4. Site 1. One of the numerous engraved rocks very close to the LIA enclosures.



Fig. 5. Site 1. Some of the large panels of engravings on the top of the koppie.

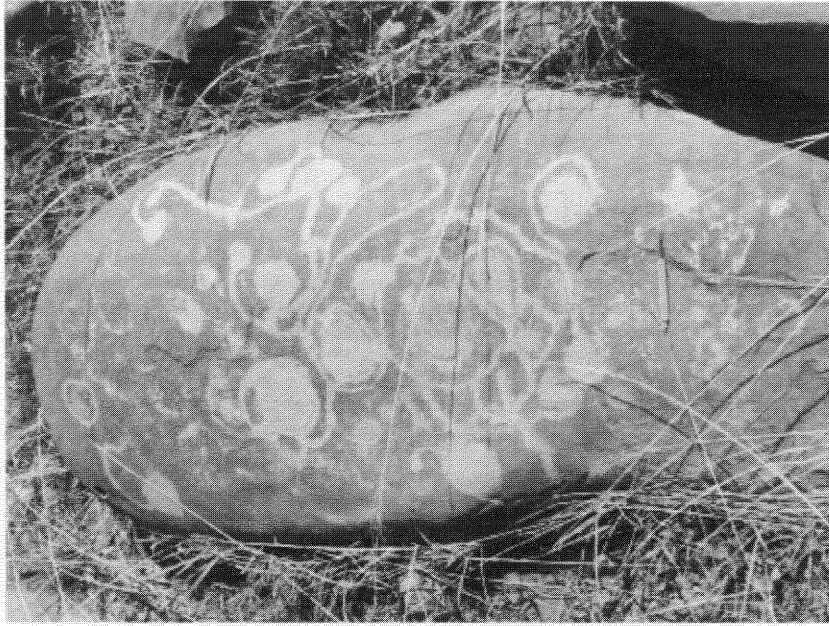


Fig. 6. Site 1. Pen points north.



Fig. 7. Spiral with central enclosure. Pen points north.

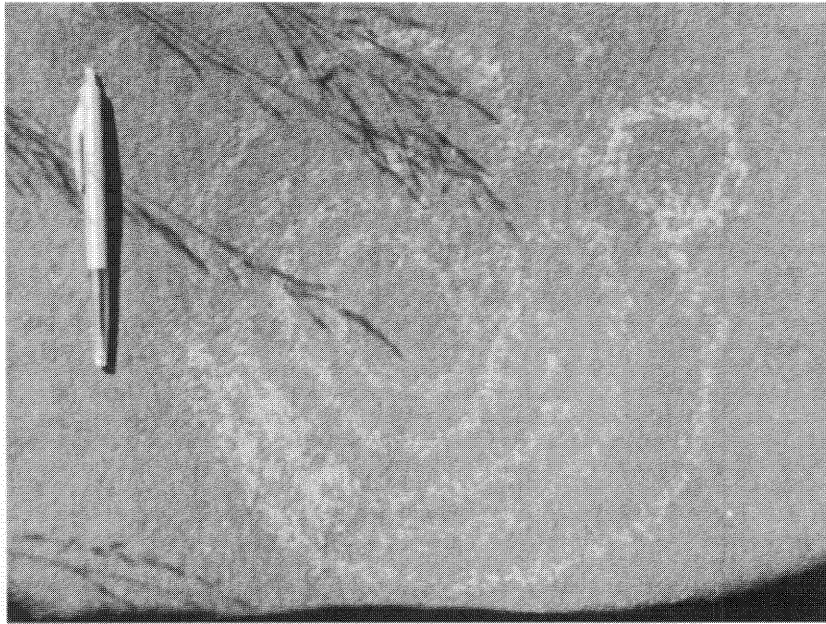


Fig. 8. Site 1. Pen points north. Concentric circles with outer enclosure in south-west perimeter.



Fig. 9. Site 1. Abstract figurine, maybe snake or river? Pen points north.

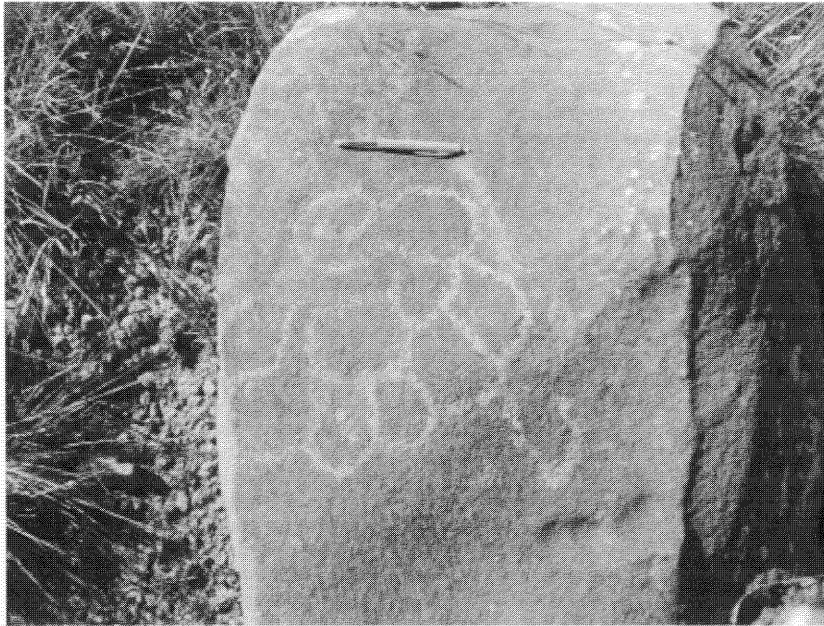


Fig. 10. Site 1. LIA stone-walled enclosures around a central cattle byre. Pen points north.

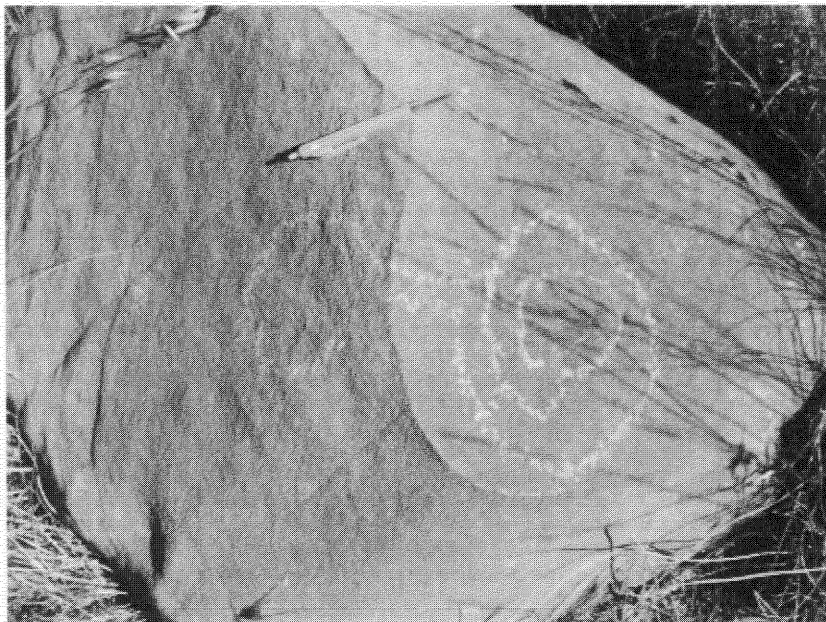


Fig. 11. Two enclosures linked with a track. Pen points north.

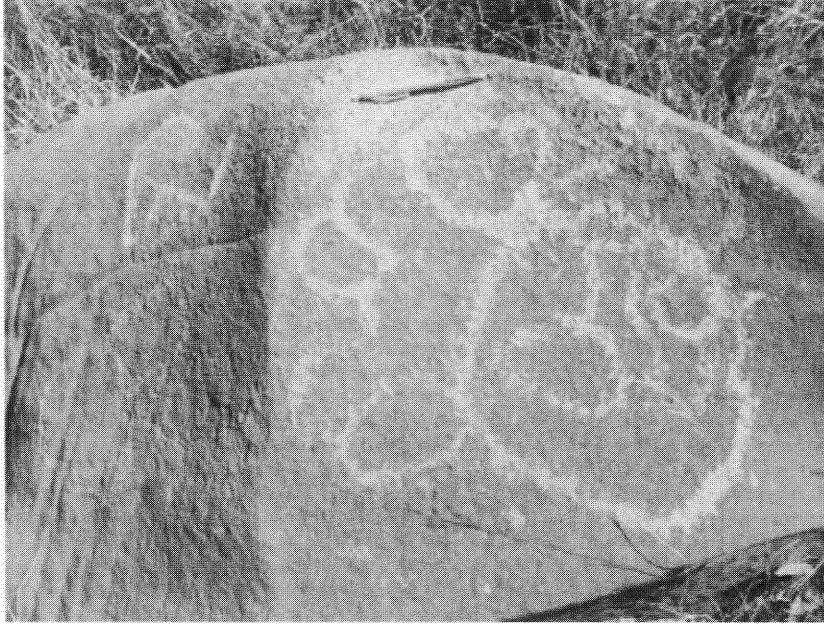


Fig. 12. Another example of LIA stone-walled enclosures with central cattle byre.



Fig. 13. Site 2. Single stone walled enclosure.



Fig. 14. Site 3. Headstone of Sibanyoni.



Fig. 15. Site 3. A second gravestone of a Sibanyoni family member.



Fig. 16. Site 3. General photo of graveyard.



Fig. 17. Site 4. Rectangular stone walling.



Fig. 18. Site 5. Historic circular hut.



Fig. 19. Site 5. Mortar (mud) between wall stones.



Fig. 20. Site 5. Rectangular stone-walled structure. Probably historic origin.



Fig. 21. Site 5. A second rectangular structure.



Fig. 22. Site 6. Poorly defined stone-walled structure.

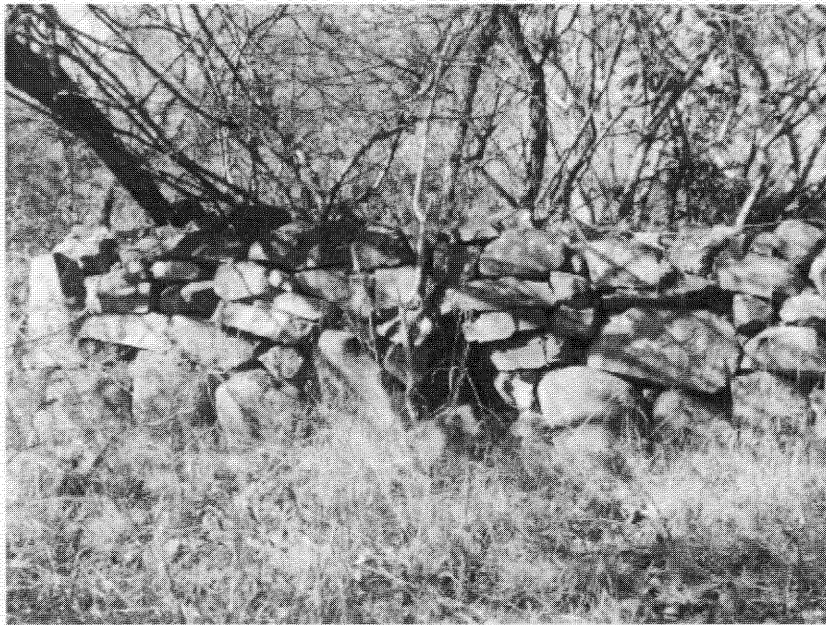


Fig. 23. Site 7. Rectangular structure. Possibly a dwelling.

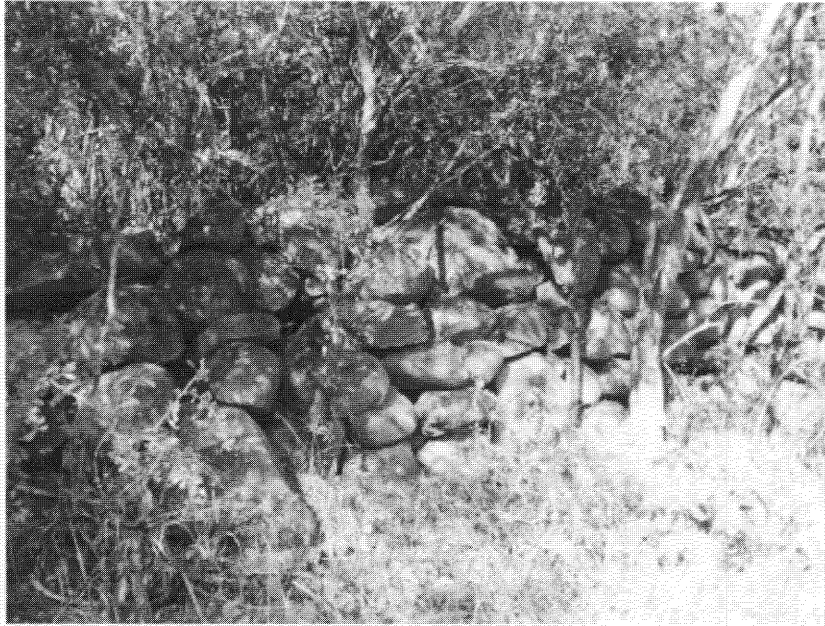


Fig. 24. Site 7. A very large rectangular structure. Possibly served as a stock pen.



Fig. 25. Site 7. The western wall of the large stock pen.



Fig. 26. Site 8. Northernmost structure.

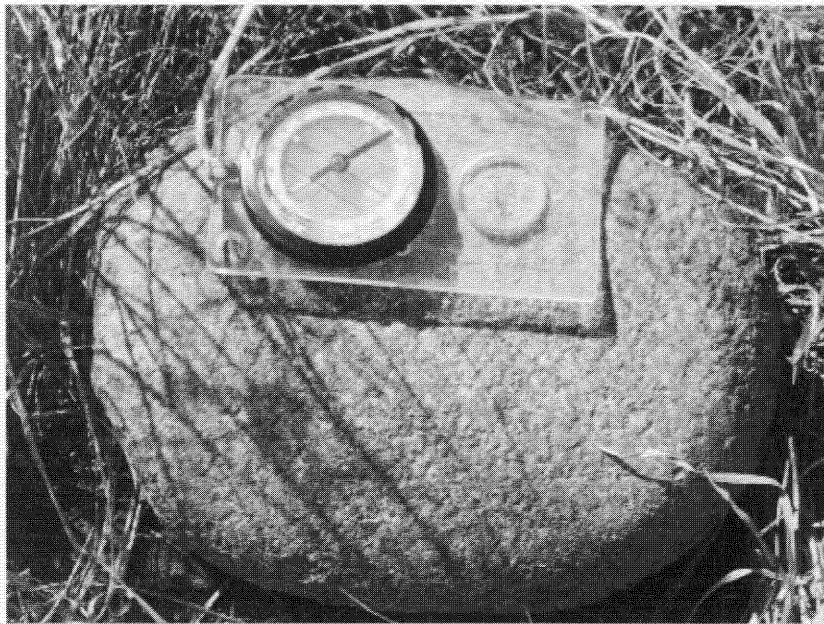


Fig. 27. Site 8. Upper grinder found at northernmost structure.

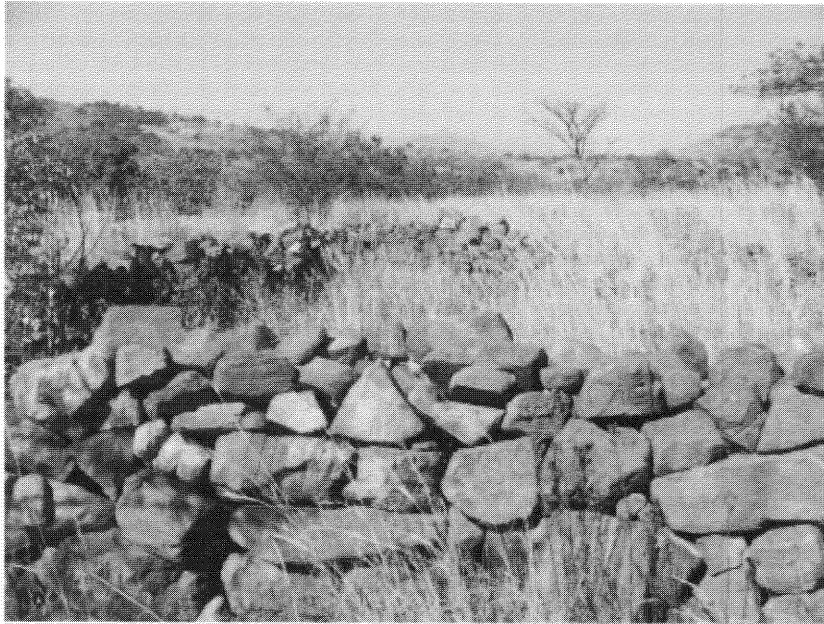


Fig. 28. Easternmost rectangular structure. Site 8.

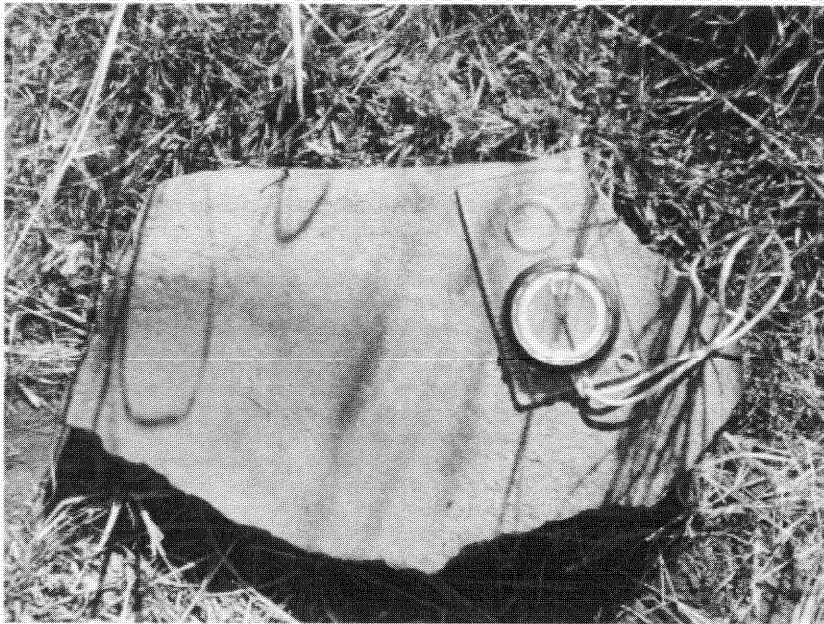


Fig. 29. Site 8. Lower grinder found near Easternmost structure.

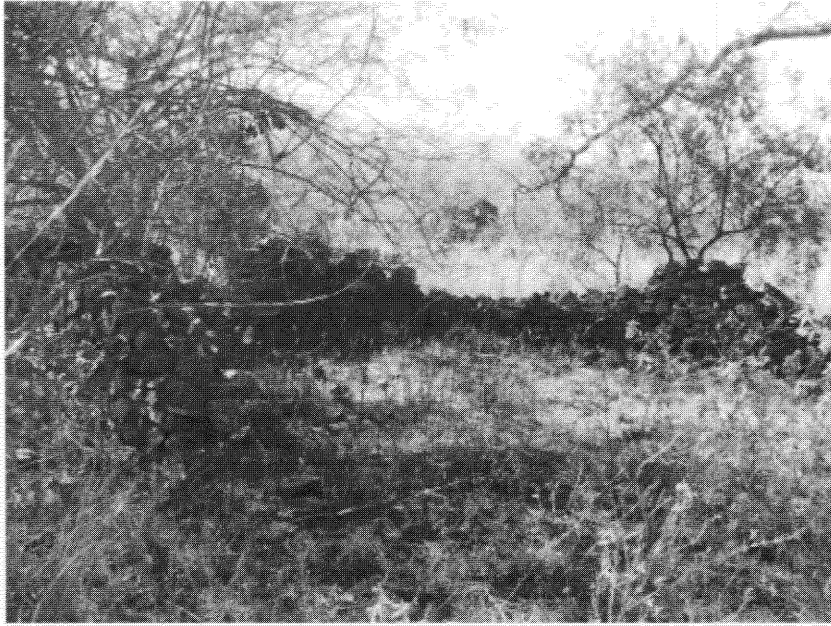


Fig. 30. Site 8. Northern section of eastern ruin.



Fig. 31. Site 8. Northern section detail. A room with entrance on the northern side.



Fig. 32. Site 8. A rectangular room on the southern side.



Fig. 33. Site 8. A circular enclosure within the south-western part of the wall.



Fig. 34. One of the graves at Site 9. All look similar and are aligned in a north-south orientation.