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**HERITAGE SITE DOCUMENTATION FOR
THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON THE FARM TWEEFONTEIN 915LS,
PIETERSBURG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

For:

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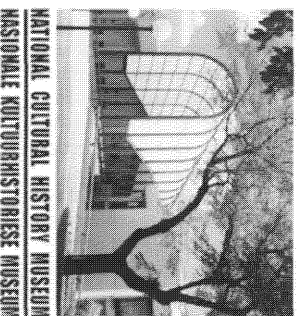
Survey conducted and report prepared by the:

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1. THE PROJECT

This report deals with actions taken to preserve a Late Iron Age site after it was identified during a Phase 1 heritage survey, as is required in Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). The site is located on portion 154 of the farm Tweefontein 915LS.

2. THE SITE

The area that was surveyed is located on a rectangular strip of land on the northern side of the R81, to the north east of the city of Polokwane, on portion 154 of the farm Tweefontein 915LS, in the Pietersburg district of Limpopo Province (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Location of the study area (purple outline), in relation to Polokwane. (Map, courtesy of the Government Printer)

Based on the layout, it is provisionally indicated that this site conforms with that investigated by Loubser (1981), which he identified as of Northern Transvaal Ndebele origin. These sites date to the period AD 1600-1900.

However, it is possible that this is a multi-component site, as was the case with the other sites that Loubser investigated. This means that there might be older occupation phases on the site, some going back AD 1000. However, as the later occupation overlay the possible earlier occupation, this can really only be determined through archaeological excavation. However, if this is found to be the case, this would definitely make further studying of this site worth while.



Fig. 2. Location of the Iron Age site within the development area. (Map, courtesy of the Government Printer)

3. METHODOLOGY

In our original report (Van Schalkwyk & Pelser 2006), done in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act, No. 29 of 1999, plans for the mitigation of adverse effects of the development on the site was put forward to the client. However, it was also indicated to the client that this is not the preferred option. After further discussions, the client indicated that he would be willing to set this site out as part of a “green area” and to adapt his development accordingly. However, the request was that a ‘no-go area’ for development should be defined by an archaeologist. As the vegetation was very dense and tall, it was decided that it should be cleared by cutting/slashing it manually, and that all features should be mapped.

This was done and based on the map (Fig. 3) that was produced, the following actions was taken:

- A buffer area stretching outward for 15 metres from the last visible features/deposit was decided on. A fence would then be erected here. This distance was determined as it was indicated by the developer that development would not take place right up to the fence on the outside, in effect increasing the protection area.

4. LIMITATIONS

The act of mapping this site should not be seen as part of mitigation action. It is solely to determine the extent of the site in order for the developer to avoid it.

5. MANAGEMENT PLAN

In terms of Section 47 of the NHR Act, No. 25 of 1999, it was decided to develop a “mini” management plan for the site “in accordance with the best heritage conservation, scientific and educational principles that can reasonably be applied.”

This would, include the following:

- Avoid all development on the site without a permit from SAHRA.
- Fencing off of the site, with appropriate access (gate).
- Controlling of the vegetation on the site annually, by mechanical means, in order not to disturb the archaeological remains.
- Allow only controlled access to the site.
- Over time, have limited research done on the site in order to enrich visitor experience to the site.

With the school located adjacent to the site, it would be ideal to develop an education project here for the benefit of the learners at this and other schools in the area.

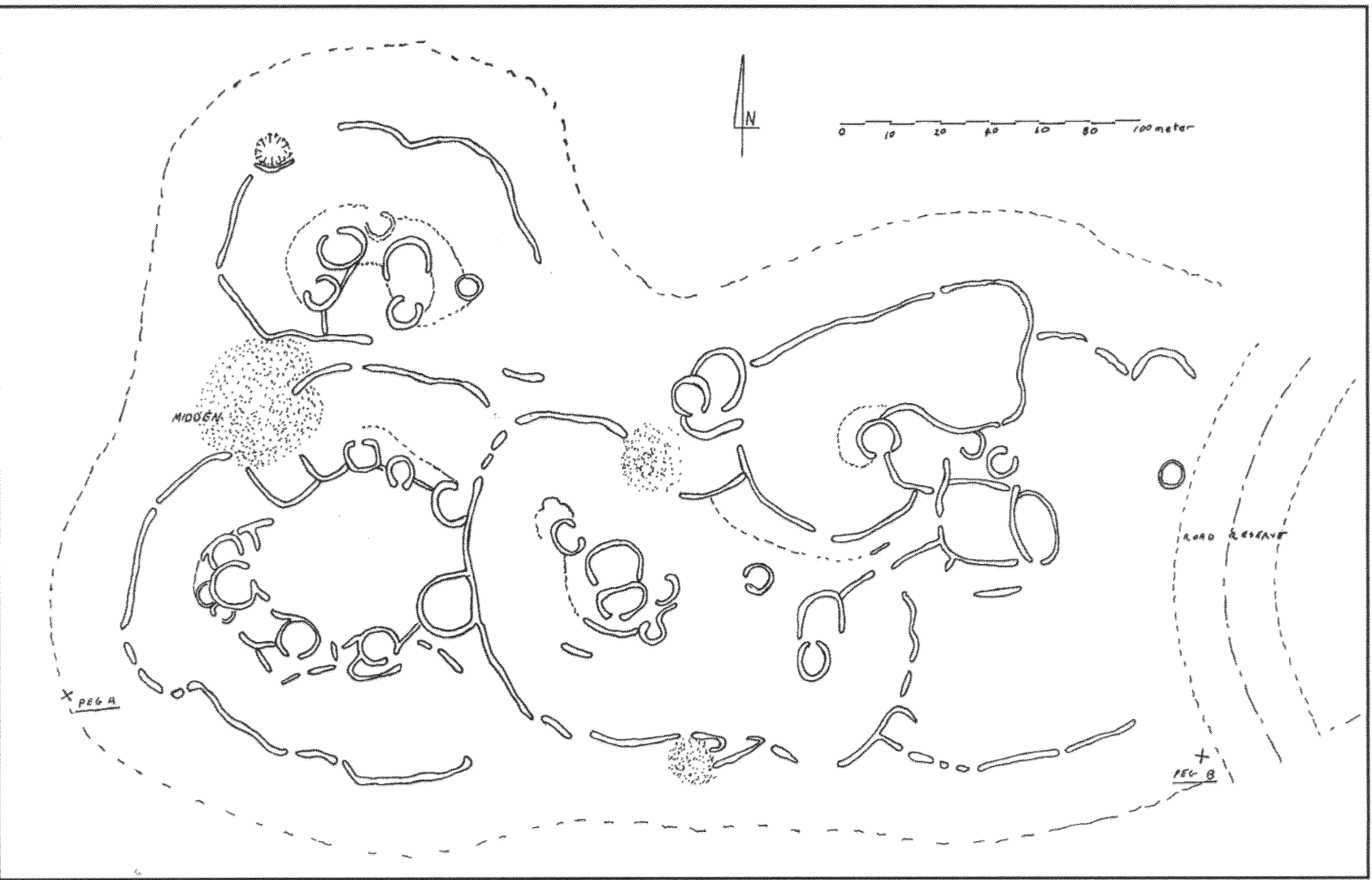


Fig. 3. The stone walled site, with some of the more important features indicated.

6. REFERENCES

- Loubser, J.H.N. 1994. Ndebele archaeology of the Pietersburg area. Navorsinge van die Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein 10(1): 61-147.
- Mason, R.J. 1962. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.
- Van Schalkwyk, J.A. & Pelser, A.J. 2006. *Heritage Impact Assessment For The Proposed Development On The Farm Tweefontein 915LS, Pietersburg District, Limpopo Province*. Unpublished report 2006KH007. Pretoria: National Cultural History Museum.

7. PROJECT TEAM

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