

# HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

---

## BURGERSFORT EXTENSION 65 & 74 BURGERSFORT, MPUMALANGA

---

**FOR:** AFRICA GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (AGES)  
P O Box 2526  
POLOKWANE  
0700

Frans Roodt  
Assisted by Frans E. Roodt and Liesl Stegmann  
September 2008

Tel: (015) 225 7075  
Cell: 083 770 213  
Fax: 086 670 9130  
E-mail: [hr19@mweb.co.za](mailto:hr19@mweb.co.za)



PO Box 1600  
POLOKWANE  
0 7 0 0

# CONTENTS

---

2	<b>1 Introduction and terms of Reference</b>
3	<b>2 Method</b>
	2.1 Sources of information
	2.2 Limitations
	2.3 Categories of significance
4	2.4 Terminology
4	<b>3 Description of the proposed development and terrain</b>
4	<b>4 Results of the scoping survey</b>
	4.1. Recent Historical Period
5	4.2. Graves
5	4.3. Iron Age remains
5	4.4. Stone Age remains
5	<b>5 Background information</b>
7	<b>6 Mitigation and management measures</b>
8	<b>7 Bibliography</b>
	<b><u>List of figures</u></b>
5	Fig 1. Cattle enclosure.
5	Fig 2. Stone walling.
9	Locality Map

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

---

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

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

### **Historical remains**

**Section 34(1)** No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

### **Archaeological remains**

**Section 35(4)** No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface, or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

### **Burial grounds and graves**

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

- (c) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (b) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

### **Culture resource management**

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

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

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

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place\*;
- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and

(f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

\*"place means a site, area or region, a building or other structure\* ..."

\*"structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ..."

The author was contracted by AGES to undertake a heritage scoping survey of a development on the farm Mooifontein 313KT (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2430 CB). The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

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

## 2. METHOD

---

### 2.1 Sources of information

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

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

### 2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to dense vegetation cover in some areas and the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. It is thus possible that sites have been missed.

### 2.3 Categories of significance

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

• No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
• Low significance: sites, which <i>may</i> require mitigation.
• Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
• High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

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

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

## **2.4 Terminology**

Early Stone Age:	Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.
Middle Stone Age:	Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.
Late Stone Age:	The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.
Early Iron Age:	Most of the first millennium AD
Middle Iron Age:	10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD
Late Iron Age:	14 <sup>th</sup> century to colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i>
Historical:	Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.
Phase 1 assessment:	Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area
Phase 2 assessments:	In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.
Sensitive:	Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. <i>Sensitive</i> may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

## **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN**

---

The proposed extension is situated on the outskirts of the town, adjacent the railway line, and the existing industrial area. The area is characterized by a number of hillocks. The area has been previously impacted upon by residential, urban and industrial development during the recent period, primarily due to the rapid expansion of the mining industry in the larger area. The area's proximity to the railway line has also resulted in disturbance.

## 4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY

---

### 4.1 RECENT HISTORICAL PERIOD

No historical remains were noted on the site.

### 4.2 GRAVES

No graves were noted on the site; however there is a large possibility of unmarked graves on the Iron Age site mentioned below.

### 4.3 IRON AGE REMAINS

One Iron Age site was noted on the terrain. It is a stone walled site, with a medium sized cattle enclosure. The walling can be considered to be in a bad state of degradation. Observation indicates that large portions of the walling have been “robbed”, in order to utilise the stone, possibly for building materials in the surrounding areas. The walling is not clearly distinguishable due to the degradation, thus it is not possible to attribute to a particular cultural group, but it is highly likely that it belongs to the Marateng facies of the Late Iron Age (early Pedi).

Co-ordinates: *S24° 40' 45.0" E30° 20' 01.7"*



Fig 1. Cattle enclosure. Red indicates the extent of the cattle enclosure.



Fig 2. Stone walling.

### 4.4 STONE AGE REMAINS

Some Middle Stone Age flakes were noted over the entire terrain, but the concentration is very low.

Significance: Medium.
-----------------------

## 5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

---

The Burgersfort Area has a rich archaeological tradition; starting from the Stone Age period, right up to the Historical period.

Archaeologists of the Iron Age use ceramic style to establish culture-history sequences. Ceramic sequences are thus the framework for all other domains of Iron Age research, be it life ways (incorporating technology, subsistence and settlement patterns), or the explanation of cultural change.

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

<b><u>Urewe Tradition:</u></b>	Kwale Branch -	<i>Mzonjani facies</i>	AD 450 to 750.
	Moloko Branch –	<i>Icon facies</i>	AD 1300 – 1500.
		<i>Marateng facies</i>	AD 1650 to 1840.
<b><u>Kalundu Tradition:</u></b>	Happy Rest sub-branch –	<i>Doornkop facies</i>	AD 750 to 1000.
		<i>Klingbiel facies</i>	AD 1000 to 1200.
		<i>Letaba facies</i>	AD 1600 – 1840.

## 6. MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

---

In view of the above, it is recommended that:

1. The site is of medium significance, as it has been disturbed by the railway and by the industrial area adjacent to it. A phase two is recommended at this site, entailing tests pits to ascertain the identity of the inhabitants as well as to determine the stratigraphy of the site, as well as the mapping of the stone walling, in order to place them within the cultural context of the region.
2. Should any currently obscured archaeological or historical material be exposed, the heritage authority or archaeologist be informed, which may result in further mitigation measures.

*From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development, provided the above-mentioned mitigation measures are implemented.*

*The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.*

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

**Deacon, J.** 1996. *Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities*. National Monuments Council. Publication no. P021E.

**Huffman, T.N.** 2002. Regionality in the Iron Age: the case of the Sotho-Tswana. *Southern African Humanities* **14**: 1-22.

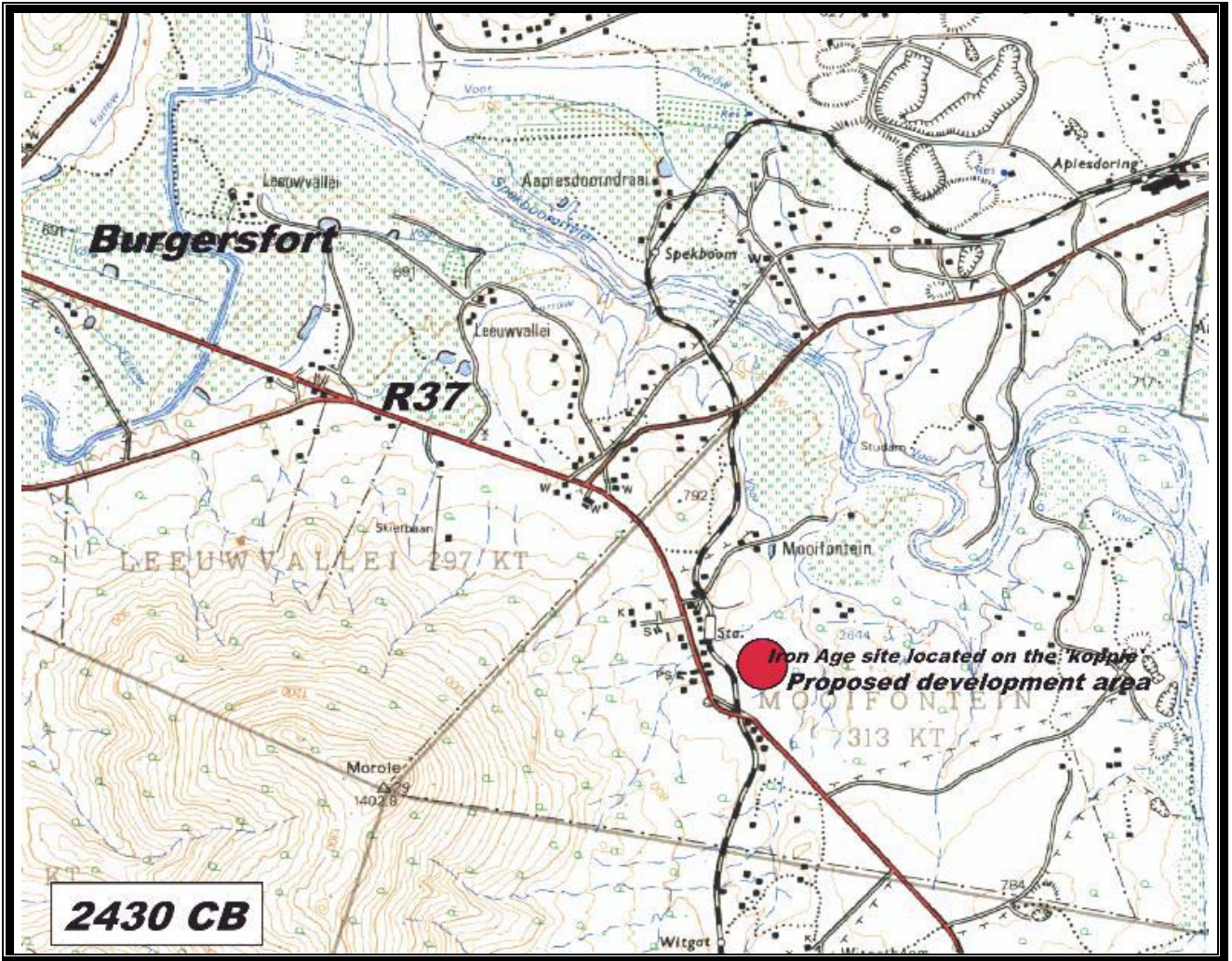
**Huffman, T.N.** 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age. The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.



---

FRANS ROODT (*BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP*)  
Principal Investigator for R & R Cultural Resource Consultants





Locality Map.