

**Phase 2 Archaeological Assessment of Late Iron Age Structures on the
Farm Ledig 909 JQ (Quality Vacation Club and Golf Course),
North West Province**

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Executive Summary

Iron Age settlements

The two Late Iron Age stone-walled sites (Site 1 and Site 2) are recorded and fully mitigated. It is recommended that the client may apply for a destruction permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) if the findings in this report are accepted. Note, therefore, that the final decision for the destruction of these sites rests with SAHRA.

Grave

The possible grave (Site 3) has been reassessed. It is a packed heap of stones and not a grave.

Also note the following:

- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).

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1. Introduction

The aim of this Phase 2 archaeological assessment is to survey and record Late Iron Age structures that were recorded in a Phase 1 cultural heritage impact assessment that was conducted during August 2007 (see Küsel 2007). The Phase 1 survey revealed 5 sites: 3 Late Iron Age stone-walled settlements (Sites 1 – 3), 1 possible grave (Site 4) and 1 square foundation (Site 5), possibly of an historic structure.

The Phase 2 assessment therefore focussed on the Late Iron Age structures (Sites 1- 3) and the possible grave (Site 4). The square foundation (Site 5) falls outside the scope of this assessment.

2. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of this survey are as follows:

- * Provide a detailed description of the Late Iron Age settlements (Site 1- 3)
- * Re-assess the level of significance/importance of these sites
- * Propose further mitigation measures

3. Nature of the Proposed Activity or Development

The proposed development includes Vacation Club (holiday accommodation) and a golf course.

4. Definitions and Approach

- Archaeological remains can be defined as human-made objects, which reflect past ways of life, deposited on or in the ground.
- Heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of South African society and they are valuable, finite non-renewable and irreplaceable.
- All archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 100 years and historic structures older than 60 years are protected by the relevant legislation, in this case the **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999)**. The Act makes an archaeological impact assessment as part of an EIA and EMPR mandatory. No archaeological artefact, assemblage or settlement (site) may be moved or destroyed without the necessary approval from the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**. Full cognisance is taken of this Act in making recommendations in this report.
- Cognisance will also be taken of the **Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No 28 of 2002)** and the **National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998)** when making any recommendations.

- Human remains older than 60 are protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act**, with reference to Section 36. Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected by the **Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

- **Mitigation guidelines:**

Significance Rating	Action
Not protected	1. None
Low	2a. Recording and documentation (Phase 1) of site adequate; no further action required
	2b. Controlled sampling (shovel test pits, augering), mapping and documentation (Phase 2 investigation); permit required for sampling and destruction
Medium	3. Excavation of representative sample, C ¹⁴ dating,), mapping and documentation (Phase 2 investigation); permit required for sampling and destruction [including 2a & 2b]
High	4a. Nomination for listing on Heritage Register (National, Provincial or Local) (Phase 2 & 3 investigation); site management plan; permit required if utilised for education or tourism 4b. Graves: Locate demonstrable descendants through social consulting; obtain permits from applicable legislation, ordinances and regional by-laws; exhumation and reinterment [including 2a, 2b & 3]

- Rating the **significance of the impact** on a historical or archaeological site is linked to the significance of the site itself. If the significance of the site is rated high, the significance of the impact will also result in a high rating. The same rule applies if the significance rating of the site is low.
- With reference to the evaluation of sites, the certainty of prediction is definite, unless stated otherwise.
- The guidelines as provided by the **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)** in Section 3, with special reference to subsection 3, and the Australian ICOMOS Charter (also known as the Burra Charter) are used when determining the cultural significance or other special value of archaeological or historical sites.
- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).
- A copy of this report will be lodged with the **South African Heritage Resources**

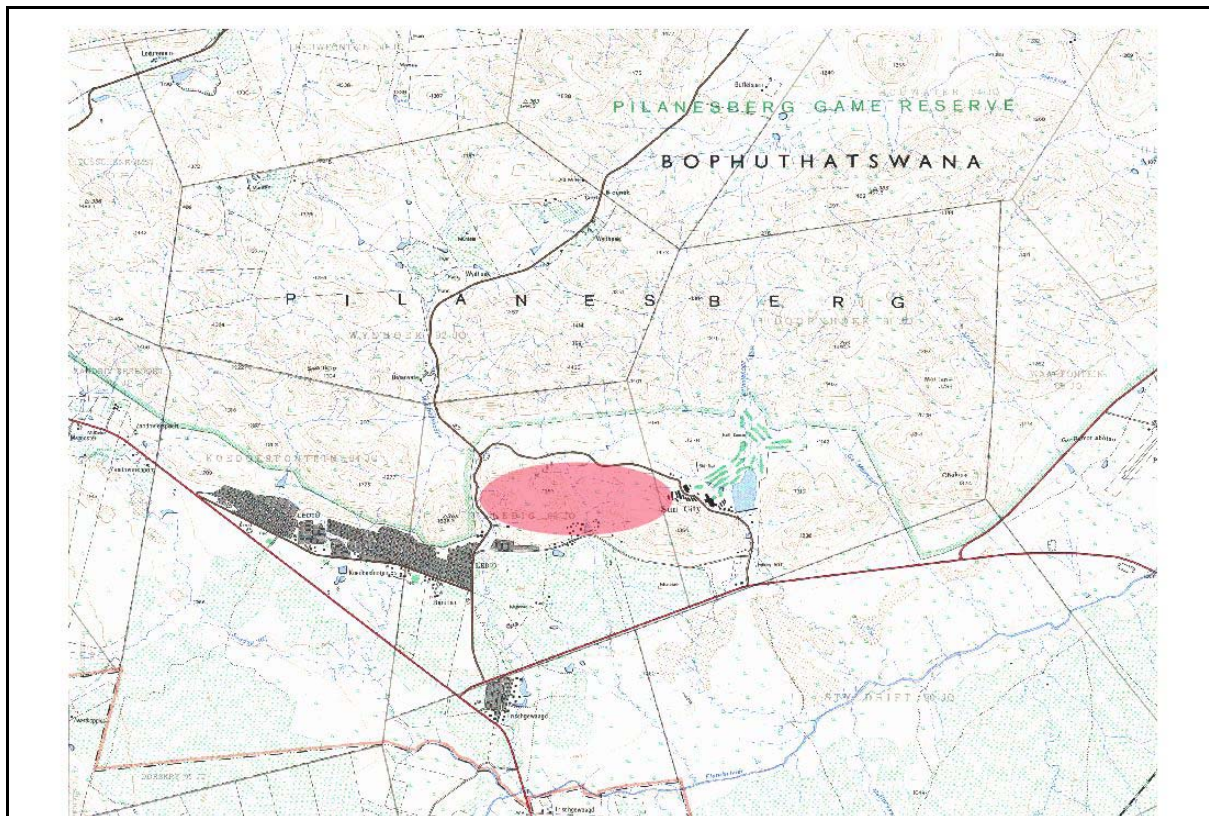
Agency (SAHRA) as stipulated by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 38 (especially subsection 4).

- Note that the final decision for the approval of permits, or the removal or destruction of sites, structures and artefacts identified in this report, rests with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (or relevant PHRA).

5. Methodology

5.1 Maps and Other Sources

The proposed area of development is situated in the southern periphery of the Pilanesberg National Park, between the Bakubung Gate and the Sun City/Lost City Complex. The area is localised on the 1:50 000 topographic map 2527AC. The location of the survey area is indicated on Map 1.



Map 1: General location of the proposed area of development.

5.2 Fieldwork

The sites were recorded and surveyed on 20 July 2008. The Phase 1 report was used for orientation. An on-site orientation meeting was also held with Dr Udo Küsel.

5.3 Visibility and Constraints

No severe restrictions were encountered. However, due to the subterranean nature of cultural remains this report should not be construed as a record of all archaeological and historic sites in the area.

6. Description of Study Area

The study area is located on the farm Ledig 909JQ. Generally, the survey area is open and flat with raising ridges to the south and north (towards Pilanesberg National Park). The survey revealed that the area was extensively disturbed in the eastern low-lying areas. It seems that the construction camp (possibly erected during the construction of the Lost City) was situated here. The area was extensively cleared afterwards. These activities also caused damage to Site 2 & 3. It is possible that a larger site was located in the cleared area and that it was subsequently destroyed as a result of these activities. The area is also divided by a tarred surface road.

7. Archaeological Sequence

PERIOD	APPROXIMATE DATE
Early Stone Age	more than c. 2 million years ago - c. 250 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age	c. 250 000 years ago – c. 25 000 years ago
Later Stone Age (Includes San Rock Art)	c. 25 000 years ago - c. AD 200 (up to historic times in certain areas)
Early Iron Age	c. AD 400 - c. AD 1025
Late Iron Age (Stonewalled sites)	c. AD 1025 - c. AD 1830 (c. AD 1640 - c. AD 1830)

8. Archaeological Context

8.1 Stone Age

Concentrations of Early Stone Age (ESA) sites are usually present on the flood-plains of perennial rivers and may date to over 2 millions years ago. These ESA open sites may contain scatters of stone tools and manufacturing debris and secondly, large concentrated deposits ranging from pebble tool choppers to core tools such as handaxes and cleavers. The earliest hominins who made these stone tools, probably not always actively hunted, instead relying on the opportunistic scavenging of meat from carnivore kill sites.

Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites also occur on flood plains, but are also associated with caves and rock shelters (overhangs). Sites usually consist of large concentrations of knapped stone flakes such as scrapers, points and blades and associated manufacturing debris. Tools may have been hafted but organic materials, such as those used in hafting, seldom preserve.

Limited drive-hunting activities are also associated with this period.

Sites dating to the Later Stone Age (LSA) are better preserved in rock shelters, although open sites with scatters of mainly stone tools can occur. Well-protected deposits in shelters allow for stable conditions that result in the preservation of organic materials such as wood, bone, hearths, ostrich eggshell beads and even bedding material. By using San (Bushman) ethnographic data a better understanding of this period is possible. South African rock art is also associated with the LSA.

8.2 Iron Age Sequence

In the northern regions of South Africa at least three settlement phases have been distinguished for early prehistoric agropastoralist settlements during the **Early Iron Age** (EIA). Diagnostic pottery assemblages can be used to infer group identities and to trace movements across the landscape. The first phase of the Early Iron Age, known as **Happy Rest** (named after the site where the ceramics were first identified), is representative of the Western Stream of migrations, and dates to AD 400 - AD 600. The second phase of **Diamant** is dated to AD 600 - AD 900 and was first recognized at the eponymous site of Diamant in the western Waterberg. The third phase, characterised by herringbone-decorated pottery of the **Eiland** tradition, is regarded as the final expression of the Early Iron Age (EIA) and occurs over large parts of the North West Province, Northern Province, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. This phase has been dated to about AD 900 - AD 1200. These sites are usually located on low-lying spurs close to water.

The **Late Iron Age** (LIA) settlements are characterised by stone-walled enclosures situated on defensive hilltops c. AD 1640 - AD 1830). This occupation phase has been linked to the arrival of ancestral Northern Sotho, Tswana and Southern Ndebele (Nguni-speakers) in the northern and Waterberg regions, and dates from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries AD. The terminal LIA is represented by late 18th/early 19th century settlements with multichrome Moloko pottery commonly attributed to the Sotho-Tswana. These settlements can in many instances be correlated with oral traditions on population movements during which African farming communities sought refuge in mountainous regions during the processes of disruption in the northern interior of South Africa, resulting from the so-called *difaqane* (or *mfecane*).

8.3 Ethno-historical background

According to oral tradition the Bakgatla бага Kgafela separated from the Mosetlha at Momusweng near the Hammanskraal district (north-east of Pretoria) around AD 1700. As one of five Bakgatla groups, this separation heralded in a period of independence and extensive sojourn for the Kgafela people. The Kgafela settled at various locales on their north-western journey towards the Crocodile (Odi) River and eventually arrived in the Pilanesberg area between AD 1700 and AD 1750.

However, on their arrival in the region the Batlhako were already settled in the area and ruled the territory between the Crocodile River and Pilanesberg.

Further to the south the Bafokeng ruled over the region north of Rustenburg with the northern

border demarcated by the Elands River (south of the Pilanesberg).

Chief Pilane, ruler of the Kgafela people (after whom the Pilanesberg mountains are called) reigned between AD 1825 and 1859.

Another group that settled in the area is the Batlokwa, who lived more towards the south west of Pilanesberg mountains.

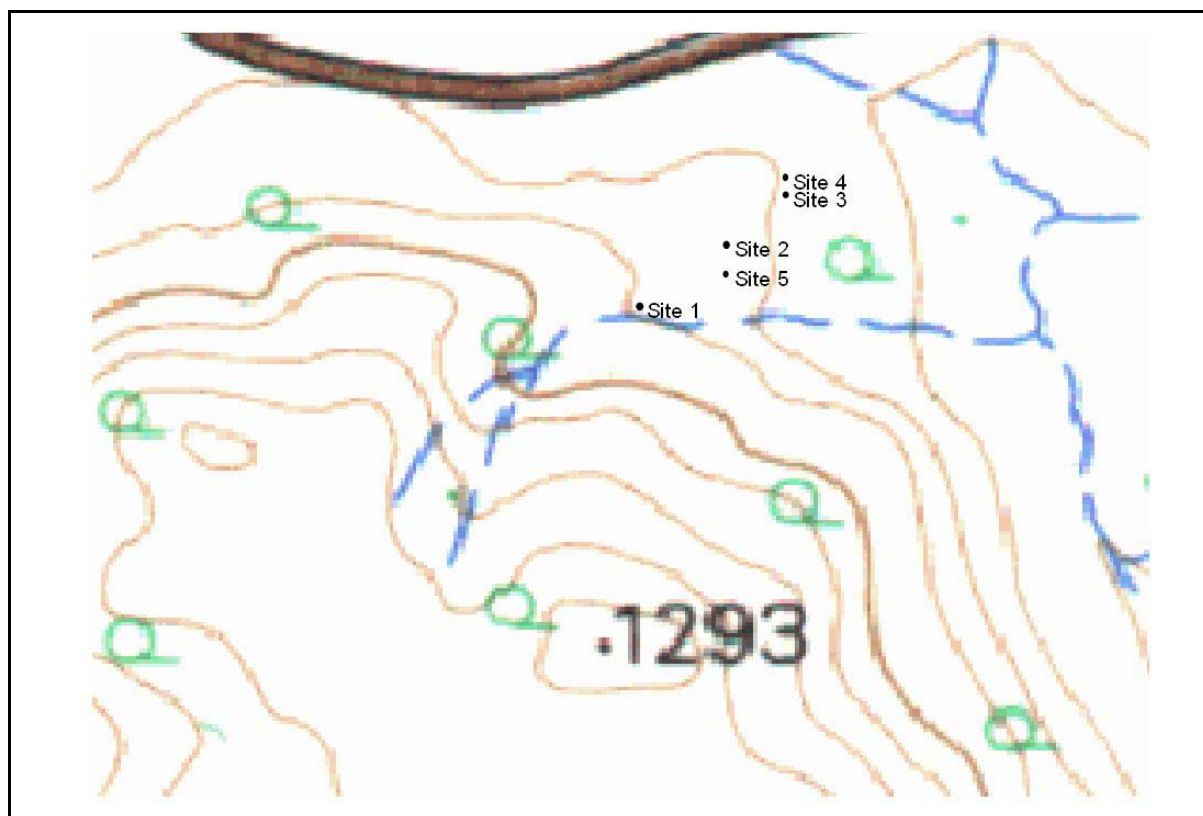
Pilanesberg is an eroded circular volcanic intrusion into the low-lying Bushveld Complex. The result is a mountainous region which stands in stark contrast to the surrounding open plains, creating a unique enclave for occupation and utilisation. Rivers flowing from the centre to the periphery of Pilanesberg exacerbated by extensive surface movement caused by dykes and faults have resulted in valleys which provide accessible pathways into the centre of the structure. Access to Pilanesberg was controlled by positioning extensive settlements at the periphery of Pilanesberg near the entrance to these pathway-like valleys.

Stone-walled settlements situated on these peripheral locals are usually positioned on intermediary spurs, which provided a defensible vantage point to monitor and control the movement of people in and out of Pilanesberg. In addition, rivers exiting Pilanesberg have sufficiently slowed down to create extensive fertile floodplains for agricultural produce. The position of settlements, moreover make the daily extraction of water from perennial water sources more energy efficient. The movement and supervision of grazing cattle both inside and outside Pilanesberg were controlled by an extensive cattle outpost system.

Also note that a large Late Iron Age stone-walled settlement was recorded inside the Pilanesberg National Park (25°20'04.1"S, 27°04'03.8"E). This site is situated very close to the Late Iron Age sites recorded in the Phase 1 report.

The sites that were located in the Phase 1 assessment are therefore interpreted as cattle outpost and were probably linked to larger sites in the area (some of which have been destroyed).

9. Description of Sites



Map 2: Location of the recorded sites.

9.1 Site 1 (Site 1 in previous report)

A. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located uphill from Site 2 and 3, and consists of a curved stone wall of approximately 20 metres, two enclosures about 3 metres in diameter each and a third enclosure, situated about 10 metres to the west, that is 6 metres in diameter (see Map 3). No deposits were recorded inside the enclosure, but it was possibly used as a cattle kraal.

Although a shallow deposit is evident on the one side of the stone wall no cultural material was recorded. No deposits were recorded inside the circular enclosures. As such, the site seems to be peripheral to the larger site further east, which has probably been destroyed by construction activities.

The structures are older than 60 years and therefore protected by the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999).

B. SITE EVALUATION

B1. HERITAGE VALUE

Yes	No
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Historic Value

It has importance to the community or pattern of South Africa's history or precolonial history.		√
It has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.		√

It has significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.		√
Aesthetic Value		
It has importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a particular community or cultural group.		√
Scientific Value		
It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural and cultural heritage.	√	
It has importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.		√
It has importance to the wider understanding of temporal changes within cultural landscapes, settlement patterns and human occupation.	√	
Social Value		
It has marked or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (sense of place).		√
Tourism Value		
It has significance through contributing towards the promotion of a local sociocultural identity and can be developed as a tourist destination.		√
Rarity Value		
It possesses unique, uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.		√
Representative Value		
It is of importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects.		√
B2. REGIONAL CONTEXT		
Other similar sites in the regional landscape.	√	
B3. CONDITION OF SITE		
Integrity of deposits/structures.	Stable	
C. SPHERE OF SIGNIFICANCE	High	Medium
International		√
National		√
Provincial		√
Local		√
Specific community		√
D. FIELD REGISTER RATING		
National/Grade 1 [should be registered, retained]		
Provincial/Grade 2 [should be registered, retained]		
Local/Grade 3A [should be registered, mitigation not advised]		
Local/Grade 3B [High significance; mitigation, partly retained]		
Generally Protected A [High/Medium significance, mitigation]	√	
Generally protected B [Medium significance, to be recorded]		
Generally Protected C [Low significance, no further action]		
E. GENERAL STATEMENT OF SITE SIGNIFICANCE		
Low		
Medium	√	
High		
F. RATING OF POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT		
None		
Peripheral		

Destruction	√
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Uncertain	
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G. MITIGATION

- The site has been surveyed and mapped
- Destruction permit from SAHRA

H. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

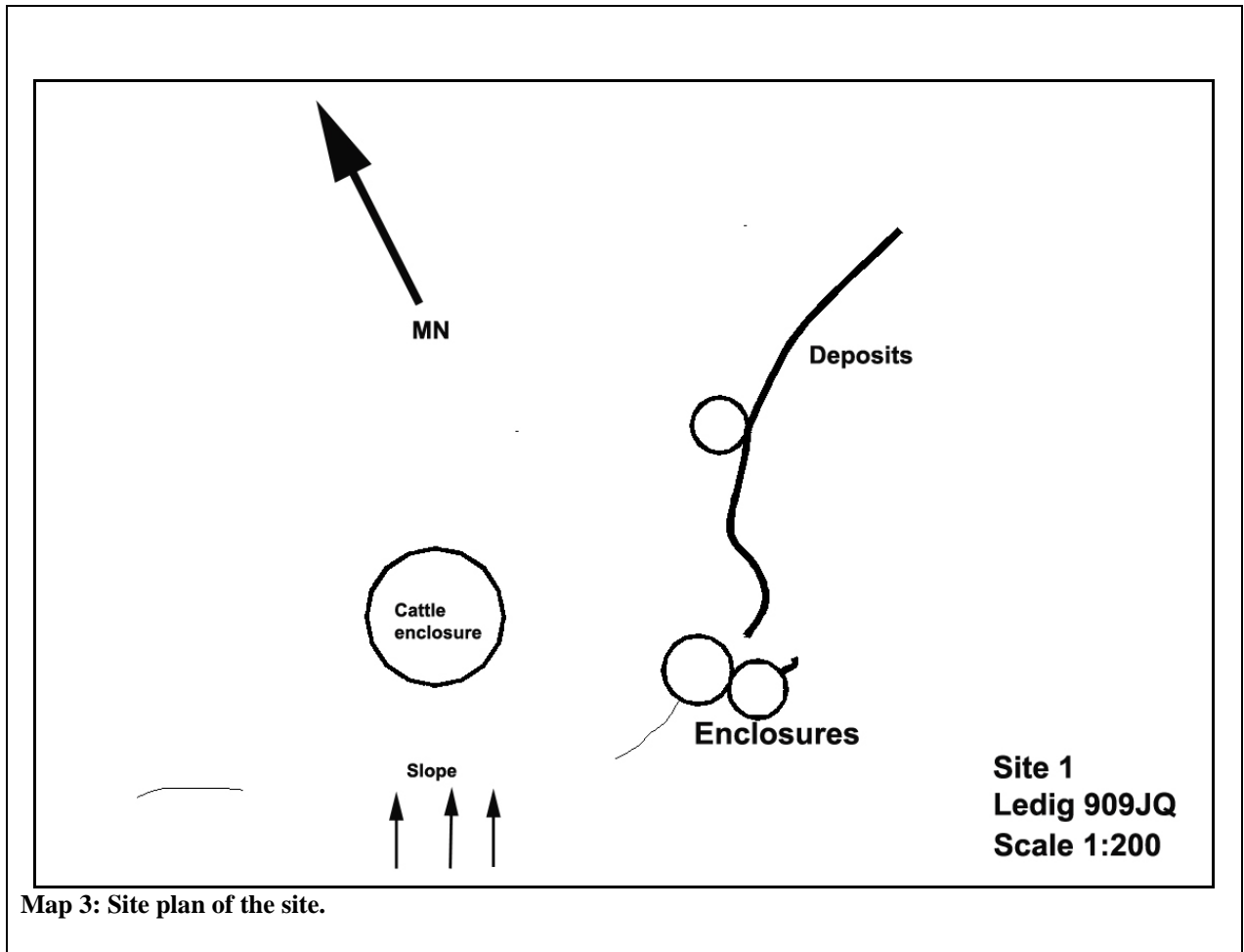
- NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) specifically Section 35

I. PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Stone walling at the site.

J. MAP



Map 3: Site plan of the site.

9.2 Site 2 (Site 2 and Site 3 in previous report)

A. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

Site 2 and 3 seems to be a single site. The site is characterised by a central cluster of stone-walled enclosures which are flanked by curved stone walls on the northern and southern side, each approximately 30 metres long. The southern stone wall ends abruptly due to large scale surface clearing of a former construction site. The cluster of enclosures is situated on an elevated rocky outcrop and consists of two features, which are 10 metres and 3 metres in diameter, respectively. Although no midden deposits were recorded, several scatters of potsherds were noted on the surface. The stone walls are mostly about 0.5 metres high although dilapidated in some places. The site was a small section which probably formed part of a larger site further east (which was destroyed during surface clearing).

The structure is older than 60 years and therefore protected under the NHRA (25 of 1999).

B. SITE EVALUATION

B1. HERITAGE VALUE	Yes	No
Historic Value		
It has importance to the community or pattern of South Africa's history or precolonial history.		√

It has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.		√
It has significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.		√
Aesthetic Value		
It has importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a particular community or cultural group.		√
Scientific Value		
It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural and cultural heritage.	√	
It has importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.		√
It has importance to the wider understanding of the temporal change of cultural landscapes, settlement patterns and human occupation.	√	
Social Value		
It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (sense of place).		√
Tourism Value		
It has significance through its contribution towards the promotion of a local sociocultural identity and can be developed as tourist destination.		√
Rarity Value		
It possesses unique, uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.		√
Representative Value		
It is importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects.		√
B2. REGIONAL CONTEXT		
Other similar sites in the regional landscape.	√	
B3. CONDITION OF SITE		
Integrity of deposits/structures.	Stable	
C. SPHERE OF SIGNIFICANCE	High	Medium
International		√
National		√
Provincial		√
Local		√
Specific community		√
D. FIELD REGISTER RATING		
National/Grade 1 [should be registered, retained]		
Provincial/Grade 2 [should be registered, retained]		
Local/Grade 3A [should be registered, mitigation not advised]		
Local/Grade 3B [High significance; mitigation, partly retained]		
Generally Protected A [High/Medium significance, mitigation]	√	
Generally protected B [Medium significance, to be recorded]		
Generally Protected C [Low significance, no further action]		
E. GENERAL STATEMENT OF SITE SIGNIFICANCE		
Low		
Medium	√	
High		
F. RATING OF POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT		

None	
Peripheral	
Destruction	√
Unknown	

G. MITIGATION

- The site has been surveyed and mapped
- Destruction permit from SAHRA

H. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

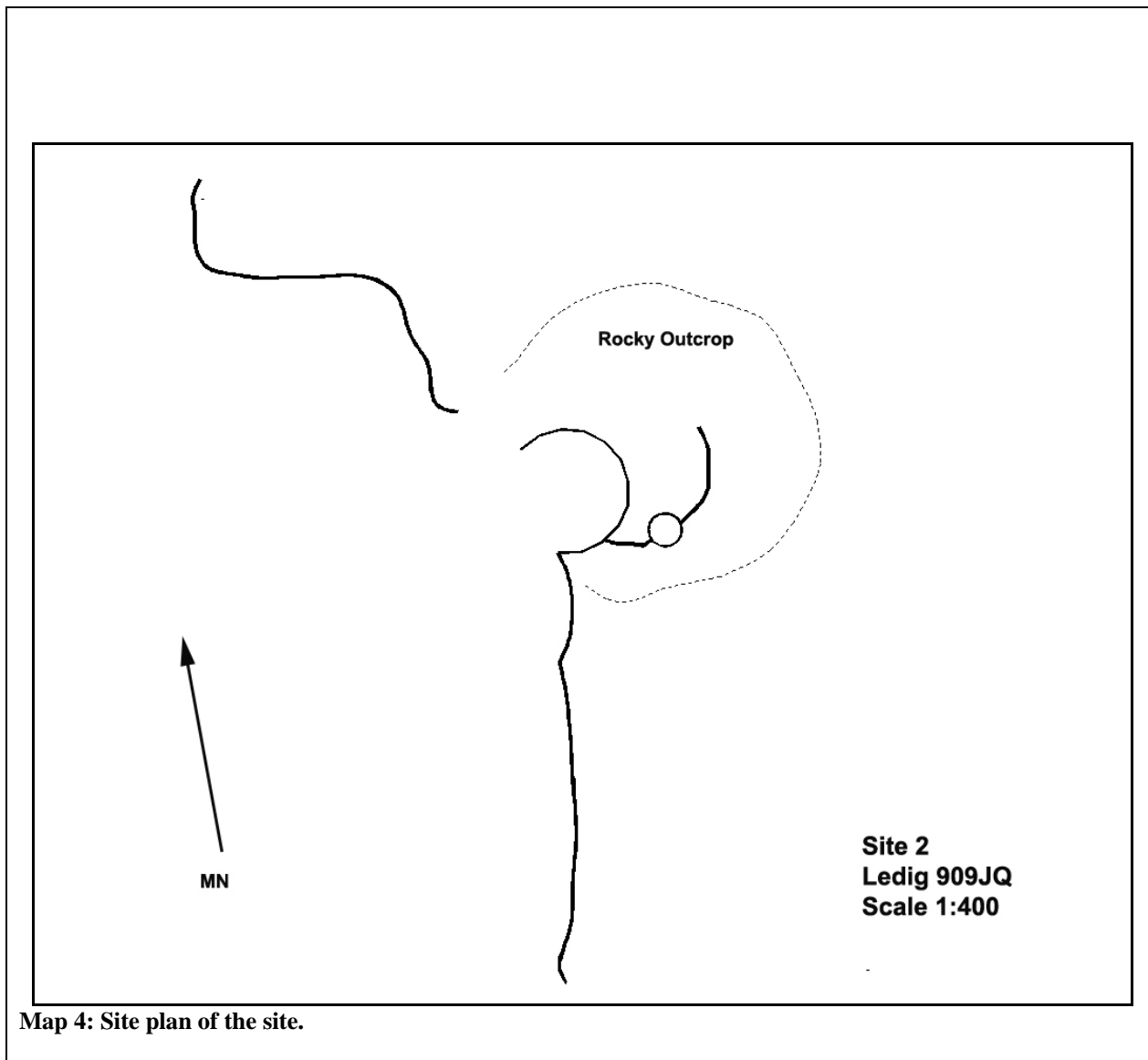
- NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) specifically Section 35

I. PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 2: Stone walling at the site

J. MAP



Map 4: Site plan of the site.

9.3 Site 3 (Site 4 in previous report)

The site consists of a pile of the rocks that have been sacked recently. Reassessment of the site revealed that is not a grave (see Figure 3).



Figure 3: Heap of stones

10. Summary of Sites

Site	Coordinates	Site Type	Statement of Significance	Impact	Mitigation
1	25.34244°S 27.07428°E	Late Iron Age Cattle outpost	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveyed and recorded • Can be destroyed
2 (2)	25.34186°S 27.07511°E	Late Iron Age Small ward	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveyed and recorded • Can be destroyed
3 (2)	25.34139°S 27.07567°E	Late Iron Age Small ward	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveyed and recorded • Can be destroyed
4 (3)	25.34122°S 27.07567°E	Possible grave	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassessed • Not a grave
5	25.34214°E 27.07511°S	Historical foundation	Not reassessed	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not reassessed

11. Conclusions and Recommendations

Iron Age settlements

The two Late Iron Age stone-walled sites (Site 1 and Site 2) are recorded and fully mitigated. It is recommended that the client may apply for a destruction permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) if the findings in this report are accepted. Note, therefore, that the final decision for the destruction of these sites rests with SAHRA.

Grave

The possible grave (Site 3) has been reassessed. It is a packed heap of stones and not a grave.

Also note the following:

- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)**, Section 36 (6)).

Bibliography

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