



**Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report**  
**MAFUBE GREENFIELD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT,**  
**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

2011-01-25

Prepared for **AGES Eastern Cape**  
Compiled by N. Kruger



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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) OF DEMARCATED SURFACE AREAS AT MAFUBE, MATATIELE MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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January 2011

### Compiled by:

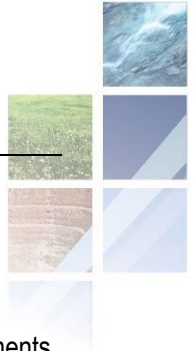
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AGES (Pty) Ltd. promotes the conservation of sensitive archaeological and heritage resources and therefore uncompromisingly adheres to relevant Heritage Legislation (National Heritage Resources Act no. 25 of 1999, Human Tissue Act 65 of 1983 as amended, Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance no. 7 of 1925, Excavations Ordinance no. 12 of 1980). In order to ensure best practices and ethics in the examination, conservation and mitigation of archaeological and heritage resources, AGES (Pty) follows the Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment as set out by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and the CRM section of the Association for South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA).



## NOTATIONS AND TERMS

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**Absolute dating:**

Absolute dating provides specific dates or range of dates expressed in years.

**Archaeology:**

The study of the human past through its material remains.

**Archaeological record:**

The archaeological record minimally includes all the material remains documented by archaeologists. More comprehensive definitions also include the record of culture history and everything written about the past by archaeologists.

**Artefact:**

Entities whose characteristics result or partially result from human activity. The shape and other characteristics of the artifact are not altered by removal of the surroundings in which they are discovered. In the southern African context examples of artefacts include potsherds, iron objects, stone tools, beads and hut remains.

**Assemblage:**

A group of artefacts recurring together at a particular time and place, and representing the sum of human activities.

**<sup>14</sup>C or radiocarbon dating:**

The <sup>14</sup>C method determines the absolute age of organic material by studying the radioactivity of carbon. It is reliable for objects not older than 70 000 years by means of isotopic enrichment. The method becomes increasingly inaccurate for samples younger than ±250 years.

**Ceramic Facies:**

In terms of the cultural representation of ceramics, a facies is denoted by a specific branch of a larger ceramic tradition. A number of ceramic facies thus constitute a ceramic tradition.

**Ceramic Tradition:**

In terms of the cultural representation of ceramics, a series of ceramic units constitutes as ceramic tradition.

**Context:**

An artefact's context usually consists of its immediate *matrix*, its *provenience* and its *association* with other artefacts. When found in *primary context*, the original artefact or structure was undisturbed by natural or human factors until excavation and if in *secondary context*, disturbance or displacement by later ecological action or human activities occurred.

**Culture:**

A contested term, "culture" could minimally be defined as is the learned and shared things that people have, do and think.

**Cultural Heritage Resource:**

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

**Cultural landscape:**

A cultural landscape refers to a distinctive geographic area with cultural significance.

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM):**

A system of measures for safeguarding the archaeological heritage of a given area, generally applied within the framework of legislation designed to safeguard the past.

**Ecofact:**

## Mafube Greenfield Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

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Non artifactual material remains that has cultural relevance which provides information about past human activities. Examples would include remains or evidence of domesticated animals or plant species.

### **Excavation:**

The principal method of data acquisition in archaeology, involving the systematic uncovering of archaeological remains through the removal of the deposits of soil and the other material covering and accompanying it.

### **Feature:**

Non-portable artifacts, in other words artifacts that cannot be removed from their surroundings without destroying or altering their original form. Hearths, roads, and storage pits are examples of archaeological features

### **GIS:**

Geographic Information Systems are computer software that allows layering of various types of data to produce complex maps; useful for predicting site location and for representing the analysis of collected data within sites and across regions.

### **Historical archaeology:**

Primarily that aspect of archaeology which is complementary to history based on the study of written sources. In the South African context it concerns the recovery and interpretation of relics left in the ground in the course of Europe's discovery of South Africa, as well as the movements of the indigenous groups during, and after the *mfecane* or *difaqane*.

### **Iron Age:**

Also known as "Farmer Period", the "Iron Age" is an archaeological term used to define a period associated with domesticated livestock and grains, metal working and ceramic manufacture.

### **Lithic:**

Stone tools or waste from stone tool manufacturing found in on archaeological sites.

### **Matrix:**

The material in which an artefact is situated (sediments such as sand, ashy soil, mud, water, etcetera). The matrix may be of natural origin or human-made.

### **Megalith:**

A large stone, often found in association with others and forming an alignment or monument, such as large stone statues.

### **Midden:**

Refuse that accumulates in a concentrated heap.

### **Microlith:**

A small stone tool, typically knapped of flint or chert, usually about three centimetres long or less.

### **Monolith:**

A geological feature such as a large rock, consisting of a single massive stone or rock, or a single piece of rock placed as, or within, a monument or site.

### **Oral Histories:**

The historical narratives, stories and traditions passed from generation to generation by word of mouth.

### **Pre-Phase 1 CRM Assessment:**

An initial pre-assessment (scoping) phase, where the specialist establishes the scope of the project and terms of reference for the developer.

### **Phase 1 CRM Assessment:**

An Impact Assessment which identifies archaeological and heritage sites, assesses their significance and comments on the impact of a given development on the sites. Recommendations for site mitigation or conservation are also made during this phase.

### **Phase 2 CRM Study:**

In-depth 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

## Mafube Greenfield Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

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auger sampling is required. Mitigation / Rescue involves planning the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (in terms of a permit) at sites that may be lost as a result of a given development.

### Phase 3 CRM Measure:

A Heritage Site Management Plan (for heritage conservation), is required in rare cases where the site is so important that development will not be allowed and sometimes developers are encouraged to enhance the value of the sites retained on their properties with appropriate interpretive material or displays.

### Prehistoric archaeology:

That aspect of archaeology which concerns itself with the development of humans and their culture before the invention of writing. In South Africa, prehistoric archaeology comprises the study of the Early Stone Age, the Middle Stone Age and the greater part of the Later Stone Age and the Iron Age.

### Probabilistic Sampling:

A sampling strategy that is not biased by any person's judgment or opinion. Also known as statistical sampling, it includes systematic, random and stratified sampling strategies.

### Provenience

Provenience is the three-dimensional (horizontal and vertical) position in which artefacts are found. Fundamental to ascertaining the provenience of an artefact is *association*, the co-occurrence of an artefact with other archaeological remains; and *superposition*, the principle whereby artefacts in lower levels of a matrix were deposited before the artefacts found in the layers above them, and are therefore older.

### Random Sampling:

A probabilistic sampling strategy whereby randomly selected sample blocks in an area are surveyed. These are fixed by drawing coordinates of the sample blocks from a table of random numbers.

### Relative dating:

The process whereby the relative antiquity of sites and objects are determined by putting them in sequential order but not assigning specific dates.

### Remote Sensing:

The small or large-scale acquisition of information of an object or phenomenon, by the use of either recording or real-time sensing device(s) that is not in physical or intimate contact with the object (such as by way of aircraft, spacecraft or satellite). Here, ground-based geophysical methods such as Ground Penetrating Radar and Magnetometry are often used for archaeological imaging.

### Rock Art Research:

Rock art can be "decoded" in order to inform about cultural attributes of prehistoric societies, such as dress-code, hunting and food gathering, social behaviour, religious practice, gender issues and political issues.

### 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. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

### Site (Archaeological):

A distinct spatial clustering of artefacts, features, structures, and organic and environmental remains, as the residue of human activity. These include surface sites, caves and rock shelters, larger open-air sites, sealed sites (deposits) and river deposits. Common functions of archaeological sites include living or habitation sites, kill sites, ceremonial sites, burial sites, trading, quarry, and art sites,

### Slag:

The material residue of smelting processes from metalworking.

### Stone Age:

An archaeological term used to define a period of stone tool use and manufacture.

### Stratigraphy:

This principle examines and describes the observable layers of sediments and the arrangement of strata in deposits



**Stratified Sampling:**

A probabilistic sampling strategy whereby a study area is divided into appropriate zones – often based on the probable location of archaeological areas, after which each zone is sampled at random.

**Systematic Sampling:**

A probabilistic sampling strategy whereby a grid of sample blocks is set up over the survey area and each of these blocks is equally spaced and searched.

**Tradition:**

Artefact types, assemblages of tools, architectural styles, economic practices or art styles that last longer than a phase and even a horizon are describe by the term *tradition*. A common example of this is the early Iron Age tradition of Southern Africa that originated ± 200 AD and came to an end at about 900 AD.

**Tuyère:**

A ceramic blow-tube used in the process of iron smelting / reduction.

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

Abbreviation	Description
ASAPA	Association for South African Professional Archaeologists
AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
BP	Before Present
BCE	Before Common Era
EIA	Early Iron Age (also Early Farmer Period)
EIA	Environnemental Impact Assessment
EFP	Early Farmer Period (also Early Iron Age)
ESA	Earlier Stone Age
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
K2/Map	K2/Mapungubwe Period
LFP	Later Farmer Period (also Later Iron Age)
LIA	Later Iron Age (also Later Farmer Period)
LSA	Later Stone Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age (also Early later Farmer Period)
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Association
YCE	Years before Common Era (Present)



## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1	SCOPE AND MOTIVATION.....	7
2.2	PROJECT DIRECTION .....	7
2.3	TERMS OF REFERENCE .....	7
2.4	CRM: LEGISLATION, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE MANAGEMENT .....	7
2.4.1	<i>Legislation regarding archaeology and heritage sites.....</i>	<i>8</i>
2.4.2	<i>Background to HIA and AIA Studies .....</i>	<i>9</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>REGIONAL CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1	AREA LOCATION.....	11
3.2	AREA DESCRIPTION.....	13
<b>4</b>	<b>METHOD OF ENQUIRY .....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1	SOURCES OF INFORMATION .....	13
4.1.1	<i>Desktop Study.....</i>	<i>13</i>
4.1.2	<i>Aerial Representations and Survey.....</i>	<i>13</i>
4.1.3	<i>Field Survey.....</i>	<i>14</i>
4.2	LIMITATIONS.....	15
4.2.1	<i>Access.....</i>	<i>15</i>
4.2.2	<i>Visibility.....</i>	<i>15</i>
4.2.3	<i>Constraints .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY .....</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1	PALAEONTOLOGY .....	17
5.2	THE STONE AGE .....	17
5.3	THE IRON AGE (FARMER PERIOD).....	17
5.4	HISTORICAL / COLONIAL PERIOD AND RECENT TIMES .....	17
5.5	GRAVES .....	18
<b>6</b>	<b>ARCHAEO-HISTORICAL CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>18</b>
6.1	THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.....	18
6.1.1	<i>The Stone Ages.....</i>	<i>19</i>
6.1.2	<i>The Iron Age (Farmer Period) .....</i>	<i>19</i>
6.1.3	<i>Historical and Colonial Times and Recent History:.....</i>	<i>20</i>
6.2	MAFUBE REGION: SPECIFIC THEMES .....	21
6.2.1	<i>Palaeontology.....</i>	<i>21</i>
6.2.2	<i>Stone Age history .....</i>	<i>21</i>
6.2.3	<i>A landscape of rock markings: Rock Art .....</i>	<i>21</i>
6.2.4	<i>Later History: Farmer / Historical archaeology and living heritage.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE .....</b>	<b>24</b>
7.1	CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE .....	24
7.2	EVALUATION OF RESULTS .....	25
<b>8</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>GENERAL COMMENTS AND CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>27</b>

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This AIA Report is the result of an archaeological impact assessment study of selected areas at Mafube in the Eastern Cape Province. The study was requested by the Department of Human Settlement for the further development of housing infrastructure. The report includes background information on the area's archaeology, its representation in southern Africa, and the history of the larger area under investigation, survey methodology and results as well as heritage legislation and conservation policies. A copy of the report will be supplied to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and recommendations contained in this document will be reviewed in order to consider the conservation priority of sites located in the area.

During the pedestrian survey of a total surface area of more or less 40ha demarcated for development, no areas of archaeological importance were located.

### ***Paleontological Remains***

No paleontological occurrences were observed in the survey area.

### ***Stone Age Remains:***

No Stone Age occurrences were observed in the survey area.

### ***Iron Age (Farmer Period) Remains***

No Iron Age (Farmer Period) occurrences were observed in the survey area.

### ***Historical /Recent Remains***

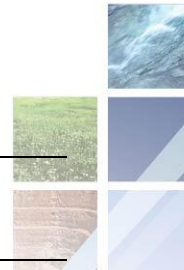
No Historical / Colonial Period remains were observed in the survey area.

### ***Graves***

A large cemetery surrounded by *Eucalyptus* trees and still in use today, occurs directly east of "Site A". Plans for the proposed development of this Site indicate that the cemetery falls outside of the exclusion zone demarcated for development.

Besides the fact that no heritage resources were documented in the areas demarcated for development, a careful watch and brief monitoring process is recommended for all stages of the Mafube Greenfields development as the larger landscape is rich in paleontological and Stone Age remains. It is also recommended that a conservation buffer zone of at least 50m be maintained around the Mafube cemetery, and that the cemetery be properly fenced and access control be implemented.

This report details the methodology, limitations and recommendations relevant to heritage areas, as well as areas of proposed development. It should be noted that recommendations and mitigation measures are valid for the duration of the development process, and mitigation measures might have to be implemented on additional features of heritage importance not detected during this Phase 1 assessment (e.g. uncovered during the construction process).



## 2 BACKGROUND

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### 2.1 Scope and Motivation

AGES (Pty) Ltd. was approached by the Department of Human Settlement for an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) Study of surface areas on the farm La Grange 69 in the Matatiele area where the Mafube Greenfield Housing Development is planned. The rationale of the proposed study was to determine the presence of heritage resources such as paleontological, archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance; to consider the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

### 2.2 Project Direction

AGES (Pty) Ltd.'s expertise ensures that all projects be conducted to the highest ethical and professional standards. As archaeological specialist for AGES, Mr. Neels Kruger acted as field director for the project, responsible for the assimilation of all information, the compilation of the final AIA report and recommendations. Mr Kruger is an accredited archaeologist and CRM practitioner with the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) and a Masters Degree candidate in archaeology at the University of Pretoria.

### 2.3 Terms of Reference

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA's) should, in all cases, include the assessment of Heritage Resources. The heritage component of the EIA is provided for in the **National Environmental Management Act, (Act 107 of 1998)** and endorsed by section 38 of the **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act 25 of 1999)**. In addition, the NHRA protects all structures and features older than 60 years (see Section 34), archaeological sites and material (see Section 35) and graves as well as burial sites (see Section 36). The objective of this legislation is to enable and to facilitate developers to employ measures to limit the potentially negative effects that the development could have on heritage resources.

Based hereon, this proposed project functioned on the following **terms of reference**:

- *Provide a detailed description of all archaeological artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements, if any.*
- *Estimate the level of significance/importance of the archaeological remains within the area.*
- *Assess any possible impact on the archaeological and historical remains within the area emanating from the proposed development activities.*
- *Propose possible mitigation measures provided that such action is necessitated by the development.*
- *Liaise and consult with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).*

### 2.4 CRM: Legislation, Conservation and Heritage Management

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic,

scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

#### 2.4.1 Legislation regarding archaeology and heritage sites

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and their provincial offices aim to conserve and control the management, research, alteration and destruction of cultural resources of South Africa. It is therefore vitally important to adhere to heritage resource legislation contained in the Government Gazette of the Republic of South Africa at all times.

- *National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999, section 35*

According to the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 a historical site is “any identifiable building or part thereof, marker, milestone, gravestone, landmark or tell older than 60 years.” This clause is commonly known as the “60-years clause”. Buildings are amongst the most enduring features of human occupation, and this definition therefore includes all buildings older than 60 years, modern architecture as well as ruins, fortifications and Iron Age settlements. “Tell” refers to the evidence of human existence which is no longer above ground level, such as building foundations and buried remains of settlements (including artefacts).

The Act identifies heritage objects as:

- objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa including archaeological and palaeontological objects, meteorites and rare geological specimens
- visual art objects
- military objects
- numismatic objects
- objects of cultural and historical significance
- objects to which oral traditions are attached and which are associated with living heritage
- objects of scientific or technological interest
- any other prescribed category

With regards to activities and work on archaeological and heritage sites this Act states that:

*“No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.” (34. [1] 1999:58)*

and

*“No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-*

- destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;*
- destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;*
- trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or*

- (d) *bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites. (35. [4] 1999:58)."*

And:

*"No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources agency-*

- (a) *destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;*
- (b) *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;*
- (c) *bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) and excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals (36. [3] 1999:60)."*

- *Human Tissue Act of 1983 and Ordinance on the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies of 1925*

Graves 60 years or older fall under the jurisdiction of the Human Tissues Act of 1983 and the National Heritage Resources Act, as these sites areas are heritage resources. The Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and the Ordinance on the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies (Ordinance 7 of 1925) as well as any local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws protect graves younger than 60 years. Such burial places also fall under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Departments. Approval for the exhumation and re-burial must be obtained from the relevant Provincial MEC as well as the relevant Local Authorities.

#### **2.4.2 Background to HIA and AIA Studies**

South Africa's unique and non-renewable archaeological and paleontological heritage sites are 'Generally' protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, section 35) and may not be disturbed at all without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. Heritage sites are frequently threatened by development projects and both the environmental and heritage legislation require impact assessments (HIA's & AIA's) that identify all heritage resources in areas to be developed. Particularly, these assessments are required to make recommendations for protection or mitigation of the impact of the sites.

HIA's and AIA's should be done by qualified professionals with adequate knowledge to (a) identify all heritage resources including archaeological and paleontological sites that might occur in areas of developed and (b) make recommendations for protection or mitigation of the impact of the sites.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 38) provides guidelines for Cultural Resources Management and prospective developments:

**"38.** (1) *Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as:*

## Mafube Greenfield Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

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- (a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- (b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length;
- (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
  - (i) exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
  - (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
  - (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
  - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
- (d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority,

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

And:

“The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection (2)(a): Provided that the following must be included:

- (a) The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;
- (b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6(2) or prescribed under section 7;
- (c) an assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;
- (d) an evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;
- (e) the results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;
- (f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and
- (g) plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development (38. [3] 1999:64).”

Consequently, section 35 of the Act requires Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's) or Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA's) to be done for such developments in order for all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance to be protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, paleontological sites and objects.

3 REGIONAL CONTEXT

3.1 Area Location

The study area consists of three surface portions of the farm La Grange 69 in the Matatiele Municipal District, Eastern Cape Province. The sites are situated directly west of the Mafube Mission Station south-east of the Kingdom of Lesotho. The town of Matatiele is located some 20km south-east of the study area with the Quacha's Neck border post 15km to the west towards Lesotho.

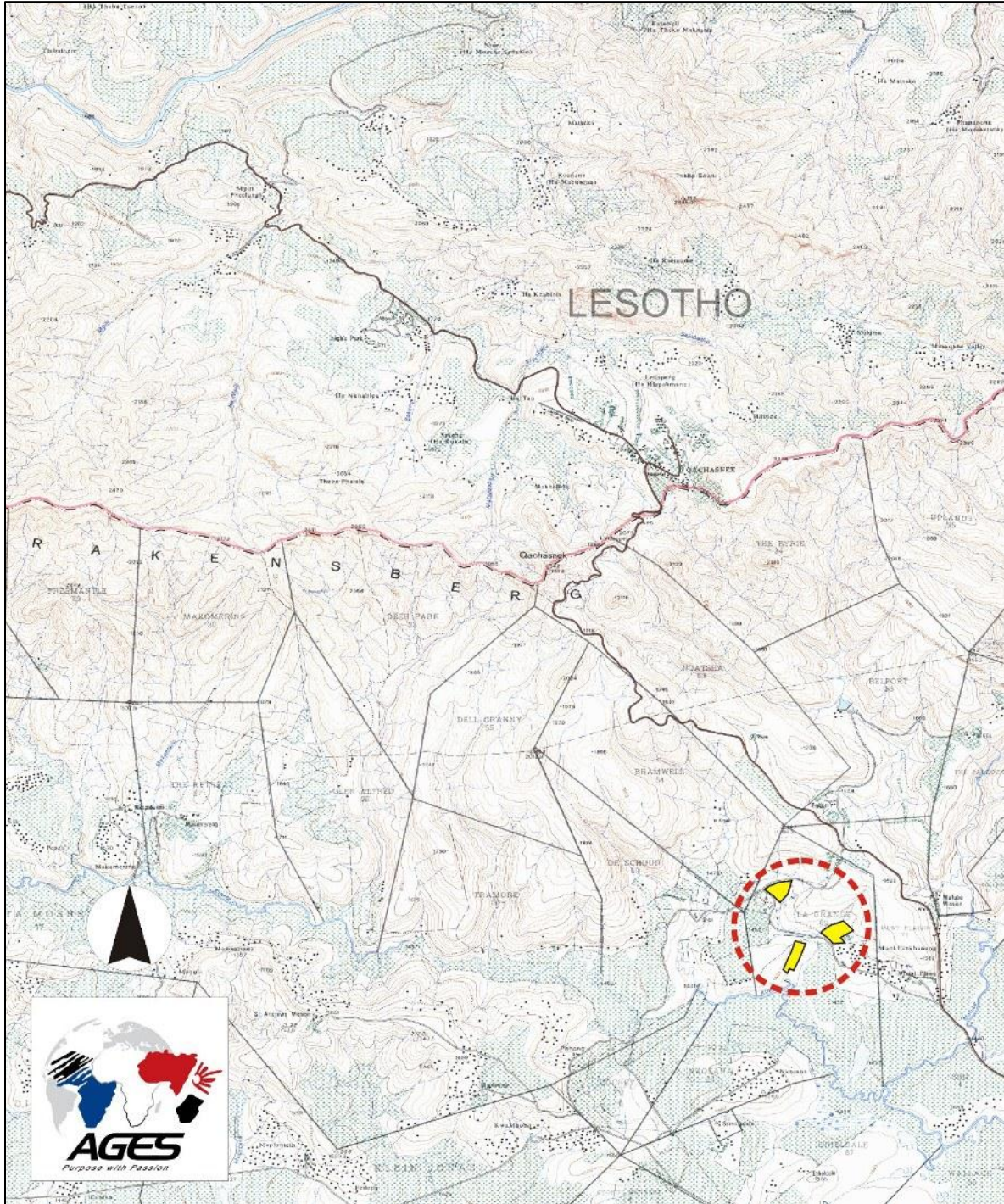


Figure 1: 1:50 00 Map representation of the survey areas at Mafube (3028BA)



The study area consists of three areas that were identified for the development of residential stands and associated suburban infrastructure (see Figure 2):

- **Site A** (13ha): S30°12'05.27" E28°43'08.72"
- **Site B** (14ha): S30°12'21.07" E28°42'41.34"
- **Site C** (9ha): S30°11'36.72" E28°42'32.19"

These sites are surrounded by numerous formal and informal settlements such as Mafube, Monkhankhaneng and Dengwane.

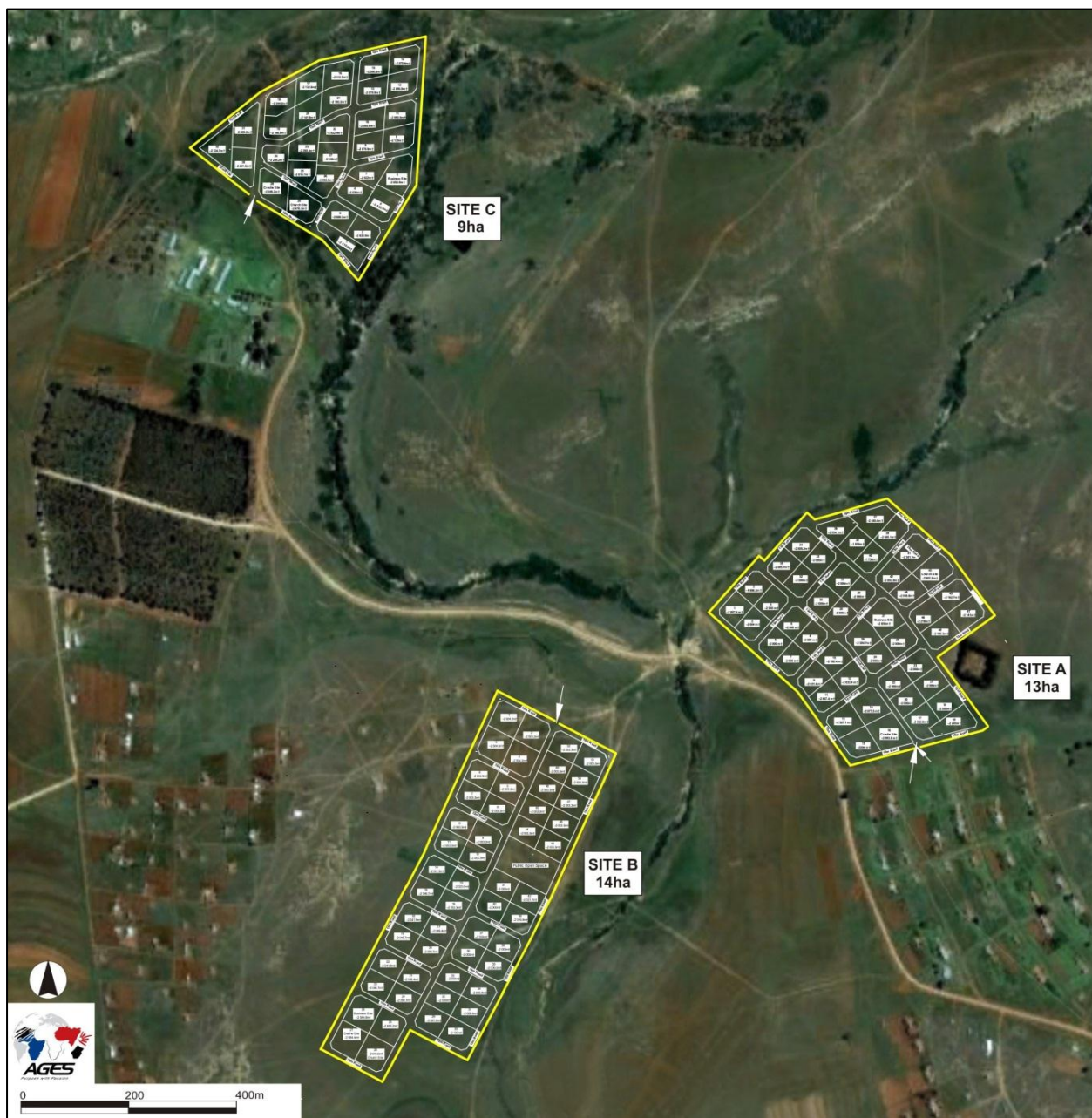


Figure 2: Regional setting of the proposed Mafube Greenfields development.



### 3.2 Area Description

The Mafube region is situated on the south-eastern foothills of the Drakensberg on the South African border with Lesotho. Acocks (1975) defines this ecological landscape and the Lesotho frontier as a combination of mixed and sour grasslands, typically dominated by dense sweet and mixed grassveld at all altitudes. The annual rainfall varies between 600 and 1900mm per annum. The geology of the area consists almost exclusively of rock of the Karoo Supergroup comprising sediments and volcanics, especially in the Drakensberg and southern Lesotho areas. Several perennial and non-perennial streams and drainage lines, most of them originating in the surrounding hills, transect the area. The proposed Mafube development is situated within expanding residential areas and surface disturbances are prevalent in the study areas. These disturbance agents include agricultural activities such as ploughing and grazing, and serious surface erosion and decomposition of low-lying geomorphological deposits.

## 4 METHOD OF ENQUIRY

### 4.1 Sources of Information

#### 4.1.1 Desktop Study

A desktop study was prepared in order to contextualize the proposed project within a larger historical milieu. The study focused on relevant previous studies in the area, archaeological and archival sources, aerial photographs, historical maps and local histories.

#### 4.1.2 Aerial Representations and Survey

Aerial photography is often employed to locate and study archaeological sites, particularly where larger scale area surveys are performed. This method was applied to aid the large scale pedestrian survey of Mafube's more than 40ha surface area, where contour lines of elevations, depressions, variation in vegetation, soil marks and landmarks were examined (see Figure 3). Specific attention was given to shadow sites (shadows of walls or earthworks which are visible early or late in the day), crop mark sites (crop mark sites are visible because disturbances beneath crops cause variations in their height, vigour and type) and soil marks (e.g. differently coloured or textured soil (soil marks) might indicate ploughed-out burial mounds). Attention was also given to moisture differences, as prolonged dampening of soil as a result precipitation frequently occur over walls or embankments. By superimposing high frequency aerial photographs with images generated with Google Earth, potential sensitive areas were subsequently identified. These areas served as referenced points from where further transect surveys were carried out.



Figure 3: Aerial representations of Mafube Sites indicating areas identified as possible archaeological sites / human disturbances prior to site survey (white dashed lines). The arrows indicate places where sub-surface inspection was possible (e.g. river beds, donghas and erosion gullies).

4.1.3 Field Survey

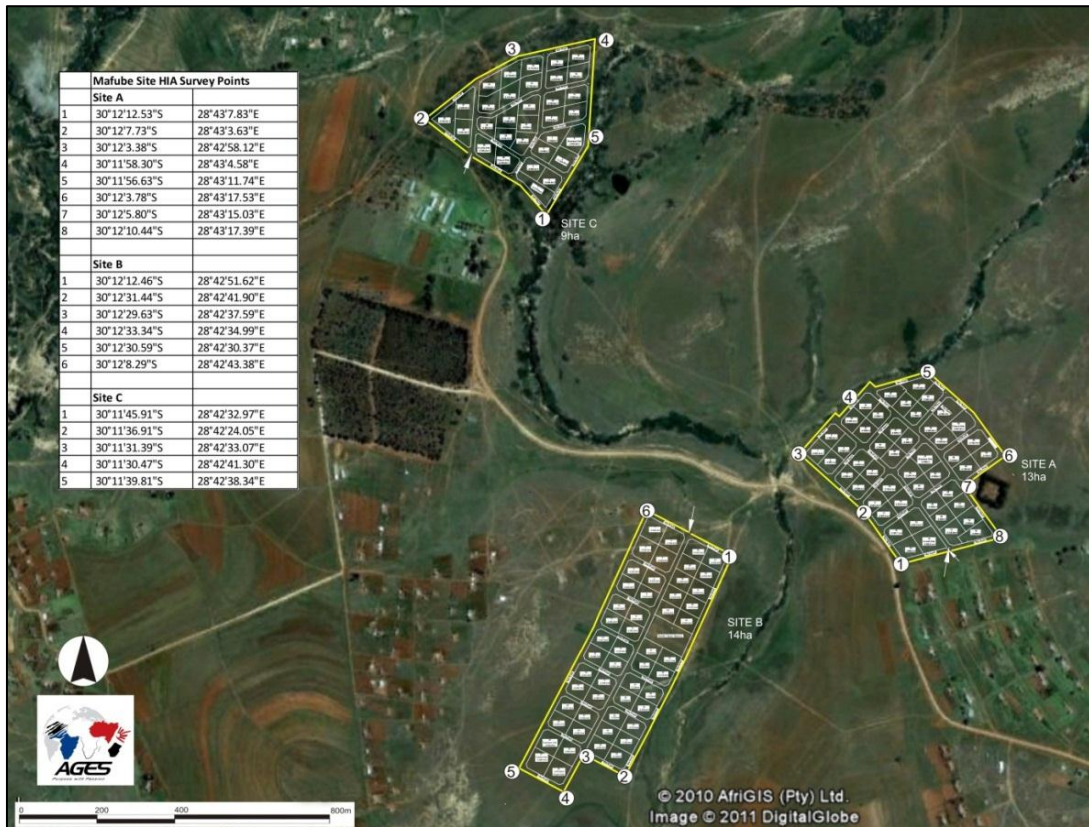


Figure 4: Aerial representation of Sites A - C with reference coordinates used in the field survey.

Archaeological survey implies the systematic procedure of the identification of archaeological sites. An archaeological survey of Sites A – C at Mafube was done by means of a systematic pedestrian survey in accordance with standard archaeological practise by which heritage resources are observed and documented.



Figure 5: Aerial map illustrating transect system used as reference for the pedestrian survey at Mafube.

In order to sample surface areas systematically and to ensure a high probability of site recording, transect grids in a frequency of 20m were digitally superimposed on maps of the area (see Figure 4 & Figure 5). These transect lines were applied as guide for the pedestrian survey which focused around potentially sensitive areas identified during the aerial survey. Walking along the transect system with a Garmin E-trex Legend GPS, objects and structures of archaeological / heritage value were recorded and photographed with a Canon 450D Digital camera. 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.

## 4.2 Limitations

### 4.2.1 Access

As all three areas demarcated for the Greenfields development occur in unfenced rural village areas, access to the sites are not restricted or controlled, and no access constraints were encountered to, and on the sites during the site surveys.

### 4.2.2 Visibility

The surrounding vegetation at Mafube is mostly comprised out of mixed grasslands and riverine bush. The general visibility at the time of the survey (January 2011) was high as a result of the recent veld burning of large surface areas in the region. Visibility along drainage lines and erosion gullies at Site C was moderate as a result of dense undergrowth. In single cases during the survey sub-surface inspection was possible but where applied, this revealed no substantial archaeological deposits (see Figure 9).



Figure 6: Site A: general surroundings with site B left in the background.

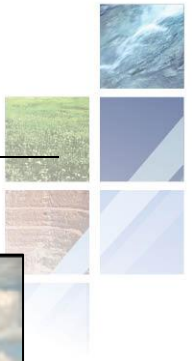


Figure 7: Site B: general surroundings with Site A across the river on the horizon.



Figure 8: Site C: general surroundings looking south.



Figure 9: Erosion gullies at Sites A & C exposing geomorphological compositions of sub-surface deposits.

#### 4.2.3 Constraints

No major constraints were encountered during the pedestrian survey at the three Mafube sites. Maintaining due cognisance of the integrity and accuracy of the archaeological survey, it should be stated that the heritage resources identified during the study do not necessarily represent *all* the heritage resources present on the property. The subterranean nature of some archaeological sites, dense vegetation cover and visibility constraints sometimes distort heritage representations. In addition, it should be noted that large portions of the foothills and mountain areas in the study area are composed of volcanic geological events and these deposits do not preserve paleontological and other archaeological sites well. Therefore, any additional heritage resources located during consequent development phases are to be reported to the Heritage Resources Authority or an archaeological specialist.

## 5 RESULTS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

### 5.1 Palaeontology

No paleontological occurrences were observed in the survey area. As noted in Section 4.2.3, this could be due to the poor preservation potential of paleontological and other archaeological remains in the volcanic geology which constitutes the foothills and mountain areas around Mafube.

### 5.2 The Stone Age

No Stone Age occurrences were observed in the survey area.

### 5.3 The Iron Age (Farmer Period)

No Iron Age (Farmer Period) occurrences were observed in the survey area.

### 5.4 Historical / Colonial Period and recent times

No Historical / Colonial Period remains were observed in the survey area.

## 5.5 Graves

A large cemetery surrounded by *Eucalyptus* trees occurs directly east of Site A at S30°12'06.81" E28°43'16.42" (see Figure 10). According to local knowledge the cemetery is around 60 years old. This reference corresponds with what seems to be the oldest marked grave noted at the cemetery, that of P.P Hene who was buried in 1948 (see Figure 11). The cemetery, still in use today, is currently the focus of a community controversy as members of the neighbouring Monkhankehang community are burying their deceased at Mafube without the consent of the traditional authorities. The cemetery falls outside of the area demarcated for development but a conservation buffer zone and access control will be necessary at the site once construction commences.

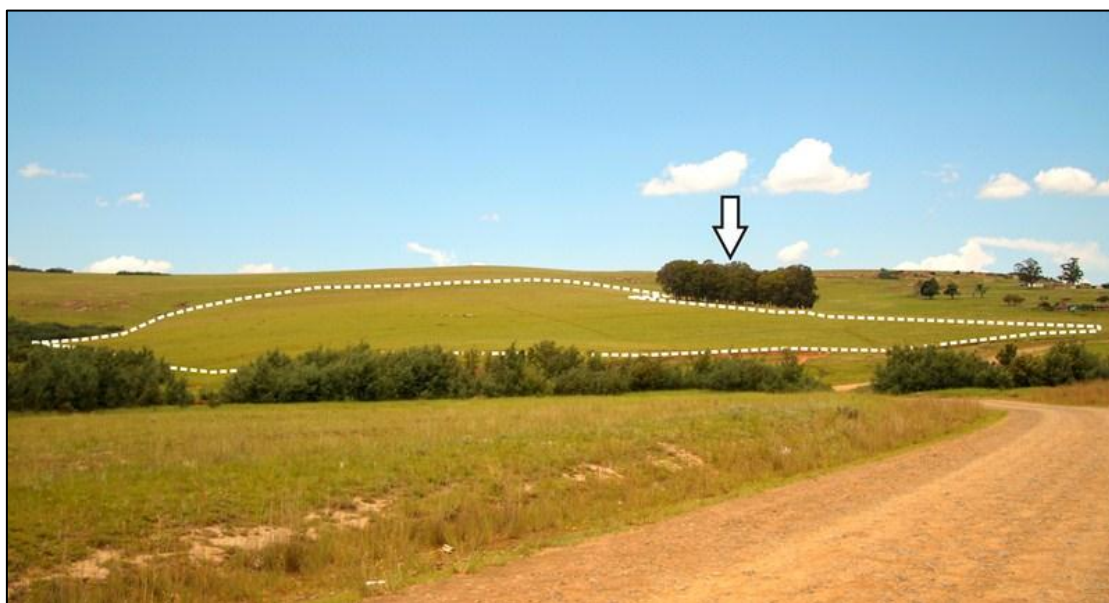


Figure 10: Location of the Mafube cemetery east of Area 1



Figure 11: Mafube cemetery and the grave of P.P Hene, buried here in 1948 (right).

## 6 ARCHAEO-HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### 6.1 The archaeology of Southern Africa

Archaeology in southern Africa is typically divided into two main fields of study, the **Stone Age** and the **Iron Age** or **Farmer Period**. The following table gives a concise outline of the chronological sequence of periods in Southern African history:

## Mafube Greenfield Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Period	Epoch	Associated cultural groups	Typical Material Expressions
Early Stone Age 2.5m – 250 000 YCE	Pleistocene	Early Hominins: <i>Australopithecines</i> <i>Homo habilis</i> <i>Homo erectus</i>	Typically large stone tools such as hand axes, choppers and cleavers.
Middle Stone Age 250 000 – 25 000 YCE	Pleistocene	First <i>Homo sapiens</i> species	Typically smaller stone tools such as scrapers, blades and points.
Late Stone Age 20 000 BC – present	Pleistocene / Holocene	<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i> including San people	Typically small to minute stone tools such as arrow heads, points and bladelets.
Early Iron Age / Early Farmer Period 300 – 900 AD	Holocene	First Bantu-speaking groups	Typically distinct ceramics, bead ware, iron objects, grinding stones.
Middle Iron Age (Mapungubwe / K2) / early Later Farmer Period 900 – 1350 AD	Holocene	Bantu-speaking groups, ancestors of present-day groups	Typically distinct ceramics, bead ware and iron / gold / copper objects, trade goods and grinding stones.
Late Iron Age / Later Farmer Period 1400 AD -1850 AD	Holocene	Various Bantu-speaking groups including Venda, Thonga, Sotho-Tswana and Zulu	Distinct ceramics, grinding stones, iron objects, trade objects, remains of iron smelting activities including iron smelting furnace, iron slag and residue as well as iron ore.
Historical / Colonial Period ±1850 AD – present	Holocene	Various Bantu-speaking groups as well as European farmers, settlers and explorers	Remains of historical structures e.g. homestead, missionary schools etc. as well as, glass, porcelain, metal and ceramics.

**Figure 12: Chronological table of major time periods in southern African archaeology.**

### 6.1.1 The Stone Ages

#### - The Earlier Stone Age (ESA)

Earlier Stone Age deposits typically occur on the flood-plains of perennial rivers and may date to between 2 million and 250 000 years ago. These ESA open sites sometimes contain stone tool scatters and manufacturing debris ranging from pebble tool choppers to core tools such as handaxes and cleavers. These stone tools were made by the earliest hominins. These groups seldom actively hunted and relied heavily on the opportunistic scavenging of meat from carnivore kill sites.

#### - The Middle Stone Age (MSA)

The majority of Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites occur on flood plains and sometimes in caves and rock shelters. 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 remain preserved in the archaeological record. Limited drive-hunting activities are also associated with the MSA.

#### - The Later Stone Age (LSA)

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.

### 6.1.2 The Iron Age (Farmer Period)

- **Early Iron Age (Early Farming Communities)**

The Early Iron Age (also Early Farmer Period) marks the movement of Bantu speaking farming communities into South Africa at around 200 A.D. These groups were agro-pastoralists that settled in the vicinity of water in order to provide subsistence for their cattle and crops. Artefact evidence from Early Farmer Period sites is mostly found in the form of ceramic assemblages and the origins and archaeological identities of this period are largely based upon ceramic typologies and sequences, where diagnostic pottery assemblages can be used to infer group identities and to trace movements across the landscape. Early Farmer Period ceramic traditions are classified by some scholars into different “streams” or trends in pot types and decoration that, over time emerged in southern Africa. These “streams” are identified as the Kwale Branch (east), the Nkope Branch (central) and the Kalundu Branch (west). More specifically, in the northern regions of South Africa at least three settlement phases have been distinguished for prehistoric Bantu-speaking agropastoralists.. 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. Early Farmer Period ceramics typically display features such as large and prominent inverted rims, large neck areas and fine elaborate decorations. The Early Iron Age continued up to the end of the first millennium AD.

- **Middle Iron Age / K2 Mapungubwe Period (early Later Farming Communities)**

The onset of the middle Iron Age dates back to ±900 AD, a period more commonly known as the Mapungubwe / K2 phase. These names refer to the well known archaeological sites that are today the pinnacle of South Africa’s Iron Age heritage. The inhabitants of K2 and Mapungubwe, situated on the banks of the Limpopo, were agriculturalists and pastoralists and were engaged in extensive trade activities with local and foreign traders. Although the identity of this Bantu-speaking group remains a point of contestation, the Mapungubwe people were the first state-organized society southern Africa has known. A considerable amount of golden objects, ivory, beads (glass and gold), trade goods and clay figurines as well as large amounts of potsherds were found at these sites and also appear in sites dating back to this phase of the Iron Age. Ceramics of this tradition take the form of beakers with upright sides and decorations around the base (K2) and shallow-shouldered bowls with decorations as well as globular pots with long necks (Mapungubwe). The site of Mapungubwe was deserted at around 1250 AD and this also marks the relative conclusion of this phase of the Iron Age.

- **Later Iron Age (Later Farming Communities)**

The late Iron Age of southern Africa marks the grouping of Bantu speaking groups into different cultural units. It also signals one of the most influential events of the second millennium AD in southern Africa, the difaqane. The difaqane (also known as “the scattering”) brought about a dramatic and sudden ending to centuries of stable society in southern Africa. Reasons for this change was essentially the first penetration of the southern African interior by Portuguese traders, military conquests by various Bantu speaking groups primarily the ambitious Zulu King Shaka and the beginning of industrial developments in South Africa. Different cultural groups were scattered over large areas of the interior. These groups conveyed with them their customs that in the archaeological record manifests in ceramics, beads and other artefacts. This means that distinct pottery typologies can be found in the different late Iron Age group of South Africa.

### 6.1.3 Historical and Colonial Times and Recent History:

The Historical period in southern Africa encompass the course of Europe's discovery of South Africa and the



spreading of European settlements along the East Coast and subsequently into the interior. In addition, the formation stages of this period are marked by the large scale movements of various Bantu-speaking groups in the interior of South Africa, which profoundly influenced the course of European settlement. Finally, the final retreat of the San and Khoekhoen groups into their present-day living areas also occurred in the Historical period in southern Africa.

## 6.2 Mafube Region: Specific Themes

The region surrounding Lesotho and the Eastern Cape frontier has been the subject of few archaeological research projects. However, the area displays a rich archaeological landscape with significant archaeological and paleontological sites.

### 6.2.1 Palaeontology

A large number of paleontological sites occur in Lesotho and surrounding areas. Material found in and around Lesotho, the Eastern Cape Highlands and in the Karoo of South Africa is significant as it documents the late Triassic to early Jurassic transition, which is the period for the evolution of true dinosaurs, crocodile ancestors, bird ancestors and early mammals. An important paleontological site occurs in the larger Mafumbe area near Qacha's Nek. The site, documented by Chester Cain in 2005, is a series of probable insect burrows in sandstone of the Clarens formation, which dates to around 200-220 million years ago (Cain 2005:36).

### 6.2.2 Stone Age history

Earlier Stone Age material is relatively rare in Eastern Lesotho and the Eastern Cape highlands with sites recently recorded at Leribe, Botha Bothe and Qacha's Nek districts, mostly in major river valleys. Artefacts are usually made of quartzite, and are characterized by medium-sized hand-axes and/or large flakes averaging 7-10 cm in maximum length. Middle Stone Age material, typically made from quartzite, dolerite, or hornfels, occur at sites throughout Lesotho and the Eastern Cape Highlands along minor and major river courses between 1600 and 2000 m in altitude and some in rock shelters. These tools, which were commonly about 3-5 cm in maximum length, usually included unifacial points, Levallois-like removals, blades/knives, and flakes retouched as scrapers. The Later Stone Age is abundantly represented with LSA material found across Lesotho and the Eastern Cape. Artefacts associated with this industry are commonly heterogeneous in raw material and in form.

### 6.2.3 A landscape of rock markings: Rock Art

The Lesotho and Eastern Cape area is renowned for its rich rock art heritage. The majority of these rock markings can be associated with Later Stone Age hunter-gatherers, more specifically a group known locally as the Maloti San. This group was probably widespread in Lesotho and adjacent areas over the last few thousand years, but they may have retreated into mountainous areas year-round when farmers moved into the region. The rock art is found in different densities in various parts of Lesotho and the Eastern Cape, mostly in areas with appropriate rock shelters. A high density of this material was documented in the Tsoelike River valley in Qacha's Nek district, an area which, according to oral traditions (Jolly 2003), has been occupied by San into the twentieth century. This rock art images are composed of very finely drawn polychromatic images with narrow lines, small dots and gradated colouring. The images usually depict eland, rhebok, or humans in various states, activities, or postures. Occasionally, lions, other carnivores, other antelope, baboons, cattle, horses, horseback riders, snakes, and extraordinary creatures with human and animal features (known as therianthropes) are depicted.

This imagery is associated with the religious, spiritual and healing activities of the Maloti San groups.



Figure 13: Hunter-Gatherer Rock Art from southern Lesotho.

Some examples of non-hunter-gatherer rock art also occur in the area. Historical “farmer rock art” for example, is characterized by large figures in a single colour made with broad blocky lines and are uniformly filled with colour. In addition, “herder rock art” also appear at isolated sites in the Qacha’s Nek area. This tradition is characterized by large geometric designs, usually in either red or white, or both. “Farmer” and “herder” rock art traditions are not as common as hunter-gatherer rock art but they are equally important as they are probably records of the historical period of the larger region during which many social and political transformations occurred.

#### 6.2.4 Later History: Farmer / Historical archaeology and living heritage

Little research has been conducted on the archaeology of farmer communities of Lesotho and adjacent areas. According to research in adjacent parts of South Africa, there was little or no settlement in the dry high-altitude grasslands of the north-western parts of the Eastern Cape and Lesotho until after AD 1600 (e.g. Walton 1956; Maggs 1976; Hall 1990; Mitchell 2002). The oral and written history of the area since then is relatively abundant resulting from an assimilation of local and missionary sources and the Historical period for this area is commonly divided into three periods of habitation, as described in these abundant oral traditions. First in the area were the pioneers, arriving between the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, depending on the region. They may have lived in caves at first (sometimes in association with San), or had compounds in places not occupied today. Second, the main population established villages on the high shoulders of the mountains and hills when areas were formally allocated to chiefs. This period lasted until the 1940s or 1950 when the chieftaincies were transformed by the paramount chief. The older villages in many areas were abandoned, were combined and/or moved to more accessible locations at lower elevations. Villages of this final phase are often still occupied today (Cain 2005).

Other types of Historical sites found in Lesotho and its Eastern Cape periphery include early schools and Missions e.g. the Mafube Mission, which are part of the cultural transformations between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries. These sites are often valuable sources of oral histories and written documents.



Figure 14: Historical sandstone house on Le Grange 69, possibly part of the original homestead of the farm.

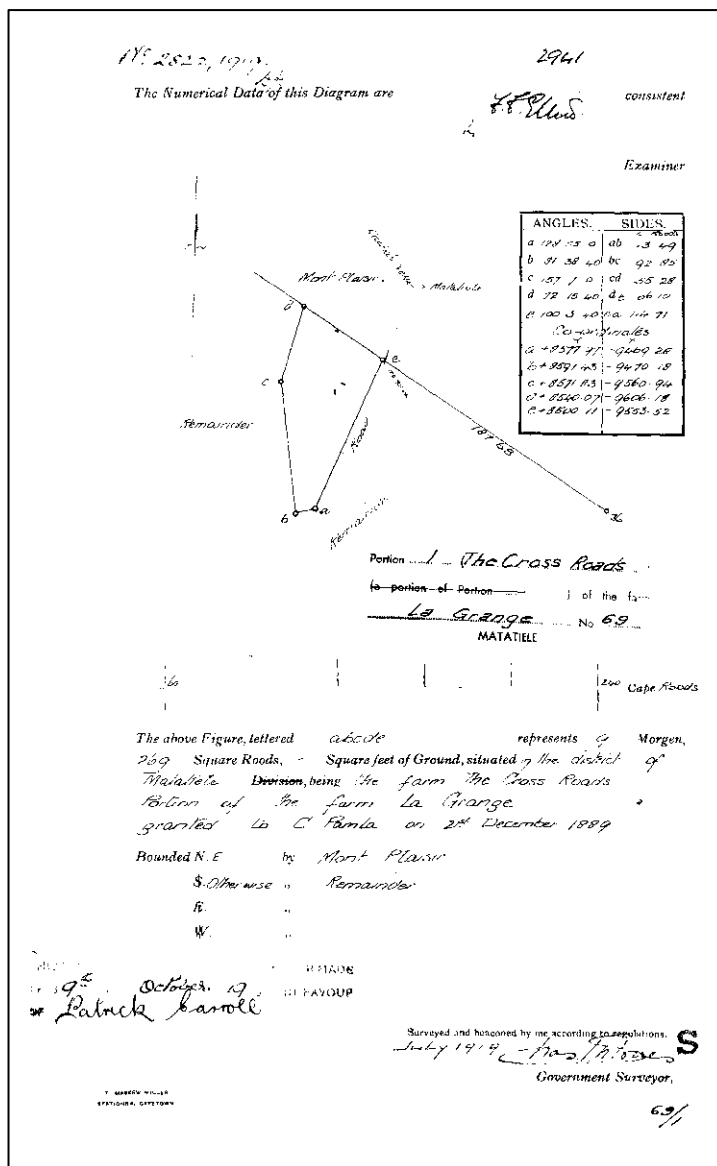


Figure 15: Official registration document of the farm La Grange 69, proclaimed in 1889.



Similarly, later European farms such as the farm La Grange (where the Greenfields Housing Development is planned), proclaimed in 1889 (see Figure 14 & Figure 15) presents a later regional social development in the area where European expansion brought about dramatic changes in social and cultural land tenure on the southern Drakensberg frontier.

## 7 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### 7.1 Categories of significance

Rating the significance of archaeological sites, and consequently grading the potential impact on the resources is linked to the significance of the site itself. 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. The guidelines as provided by the NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999) in Section 3, with special reference to subsection 3 are used when determining the cultural significance or other special value of archaeological or historical sites.

In addition, ICOMOS (the Australian Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites) highlights four cultural attributes, which are valuable to any given culture:

- *Aesthetic value:*

Aesthetic value includes aspects of sensory perception for which criteria can and should be stated. Such criteria include consideration of the form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric, the general atmosphere associated with the place and its uses and also the aesthetic values commonly assessed in the analysis of landscapes and townscape.

- *Historic value:*

Historic value encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society and therefore to a large extent underlies all of the attributes discussed here. Usually a place has historical value because of some kind of influence by an event, person, phase or activity.

- *Scientific value:*

The scientific or research value of a place will depend upon the importance of the data involved, on its rarity, quality and on the degree to which the place may contribute further substantial information.

- *Social value:*

Social value includes the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a certain group.

With reference to the evaluation of sites, the certainty of prediction is definite, unless stated otherwise and 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.

## Mafube Greenfield Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

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

Significance	Rating Action
No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.	None
Low significance: sites, which may require mitigation.	2a. Recording and documentation (Phase 1) of site; no further action required 2b. Controlled sampling (shovel test pits, augering), mapping and documentation (Phase 2 investigation); permit required for sampling and destruction
Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.	3. Excavation of representative sample, C14 dating, mapping and documentation (Phase 2 investigation); permit required for sampling and destruction [including 2a & 2b]
High significance: sites, where disturbance should be avoided.	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
High significance: Graves and burial places	4b. Locate demonstrable descendants through social consulting; obtain permits from applicable legislation, ordinances and regional by-laws; exhumation and reinterment [including 2a, 2b & 3]

**A fundamental aspect in assessing 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. 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.**

### 7.2 Evaluation of Results

As no sites/features of heritage importance were located on the surface of Sites A – C at Mafube, the author this report is of the opinion that no heritage resources will be impacted during construction phases of the Mafube Greenfields development, provided that no sub-surface deposits occur in these areas.

However, the Mafube cemetery and its function as place of “Living Heritage” necessitates further discussion in evaluating the Mafube landscape. Here, “Living Heritage” can broadly refer to a place of cultural heritage and sacred nature; with cultural attributions that are not generally physically manifested. Burial places *per se* are sometimes regarded as extensions of peoples' villages, agricultural fields and grazing lands and as such, these features are reserved social spaces. Ritual practices at these sites often display belief systems and traditions predating Christian conversions by missionaries, and therefore these practises convey an intangible cultural significance beyond the physical grave of burial place. This said, due cognisance should be taken of the value and intrinsic symbolic power of the Mafube cemetery as site of “Living Heritage”.

## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The author of this report proposes the following recommendations, based on findings contained in this Phase 1 AIA Report:

- As no Stone Age, Iron Age (Farmer Period) or Historical remains were observed at areas demarcated for development on the farm La Grange 69, no immediate further investigation of these surface areas is recommended prior to further developments in the area.
- A careful watch and brief monitoring process is recommended for all stages of development, as the larger landscape is rich in paleontological and Stone Age remains. Should any subsurface

paleontological / archaeological material be exposed during construction activities, all activities should be suspended and the archaeological specialist should be notified immediately

- The intrinsic sacred nature and social value of the Mafube cemetery requires special management attention and its close proximity to the exclusion zone necessitates a conservation buffer zone of at least 50m around the cemetery. In addition, it is recommended that the cemetery be properly fenced and access control be implemented.

## 9 GENERAL COMMENTS AND CONDITIONS

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This Phase 1 AIA report serves to confirm that no sites of paleontological, archaeological and historical importance were recorded at the three areas demarcated for the Mafube Greenfield development. Evaluations and recommendations contained in this report should be adhered to in close consultation with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). Please note that this report is a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment only and does not include or exempt possible future required heritage impact assessments or mitigation projects.

It must be emphasised that the conclusions and recommendations expressed in this archaeological heritage sensitivity investigation are based on the visibility of archaeological sites/features and may not therefore, represent the area's complete archaeological legacy. Many sites/features may be covered by soil and vegetation and might only be located during sub-surface investigations. If subsurface archaeological deposits, artefacts or skeletal material were to be recovered in the area during construction activities, all activities should be suspended and the archaeological specialist should be notified immediately (*cf.* NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 36 (6)).

It must also be clear that Heritage Impact Assessment Reports (HIA's) and Archaeological Specialist Reports (AIA's) will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority (SAHRA). The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority (SAHRA), which should give a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

With reference to the potential impacts that may occur as a result of the operational activities of the proposed development it should be noted that such impacts are considered to be of a similar nature to those related to the construction phase. However certain aspects with regard to the intensity of the impact are considered to change as a result of the sites proximity to the proposed developments infrastructure.

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**Mafube Greenfield Archaeological Impact Assessment Report**

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