

**DOCUMENTATION OF STONE WALLED SITES
IN THE MULENZHE RESETTLEMENT AREA,
THOHOYANDOU DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.**

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SUMMARY

Documentation of stone walled sites in the Mulenzhe resettlement area, Thohoyandou district, Limpopo Province

A number of archaeological sites were identified during a heritage impact assessment survey for the Nandoni dam relocation areas. In the Mulenzhe area, four stone walled sites were identified as having archaeological significance, and it was recommended that these be documented in full.

After documentation and studying of the sites, it was possible to classify them as belonging to the *mutzheto* pattern settlements (see Loubser 1991). These sites date to the 19th century and usually occupy defensive positions on hilltops. The most common pottery identified on the sites belong to the so-called Letaba pottery style.

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1. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

During a survey undertaken to locate, identify and evaluate sites of cultural significance in the Mulenzhe resettlement area, Thohoyandou district, a number of archaeological sites were identified (Van Schalkwyk 2001a). It was determined that these sites have historical and scientific significance and mitigation measures would have to be implemented, as the proposed development could impact upon them. The National Cultural History Museum was contracted by **BKS Consultburo** to do the mitigation.

The aim of the project was to record the identified sites to such an extent that sufficient information would be available for future research on settlement patterns in the area.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed was first to survey the sites by means of theodolite, and from this to produce scale drawings. This is supported by a number of photographs that were taken of various interesting elements noticeable on the sites.

At the same time, a survey was done of the surface material. No excavation was done, and no material was removed from the sites.

3. THE SITES

The sites discussed in this report, coded 2230DC16, 2230DC22, 2230DC20 and 2230DC17 are located south of the Levuvhu river on the farm Molenje 204LT in the Thohoyandou district of Limpopo Province (see Appendix 1; Fig. 1).

The dominant geographical feature is the Levuvhu river running through the area. A number of smaller streams also cross sections of the area, meeting up with the Levuvhu River. The terrain morphology of the area can be described as slightly irregular plains. The dominant lithology is gneis, overlain with clay accumulation especially close to the river banks. Some diabase dikes occur and in some places outcrop as small hills or ridges.

The vegetation in the area seems to be quite undisturbed, being largely used as grazing for cattle.