

**DOCUMENTATION OF A NUMBER OF IRON AGE  
SITES IN THE NANDONI DAM RELOCATION AREAS,  
THOHOYANDOU DISTRICT, NORTHERN PROVINCE**

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**SUMMARY**

**Documentation of a number of Iron Age sites in the Nandoni dam relocation areas, Thohoyandou district, Northern Province.**

A survey to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance within the boundaries of the three areas in which it is proposed to relocate existing communities affected by the development of the Nandoni Dam, revealed a number of sites. It was determined that mitigation will have to be undertaken for at least some of these. This consisted of drawing detailed maps and examining the surface material found on the sites.

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### **1. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

During a survey undertaken to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance within the boundaries of the three areas (Fig. 1) in which it is proposed to relocate existing communities affected by the development of the Nandoni Dam, a number of archaeological sites were discovered (ArchaeoInfo n.d.; Van Schalkwyk 2001). It was determined that mitigation will have to be undertaken for at least some of these, as the site eventually will be destroyed. The aim of the exercise was therefore to recover as much information in order to:

- reconstruct, if possible, the time-scale of the site;
- determine the cultural identity of the people who lived there; and
- determine the function of the sites.

### **2. METHODOLOGY**

The methodology employed was to survey the remaining structures, mainly stone walling, by theodolite and from this to produce scale drawings. Concurrently, an examination was made of surface material in order to gain better understanding of the sites. No excavations were done and no artifacts were removed.

Apart from the stone walling, very little cultural material can be associated with any of the sites and no oral tradition regarding them could be identified. One of the sites at Budeli was located in an agricultural field, while the rest was densely overgrown, making their documentation somewhat difficult.

### **3. THE SITES**

The sites discussed in this report, coded 2230DC3, 2230DC4, 2230DC5 and 2230DC10 (originally 2.1.2), are all located to the north of the Levuvhu river on the farm Mphapuli Location

278MT in the Thohoyandou district of Northern Province ( Fig. 1).