

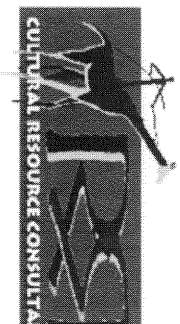
HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

STERKSPRUIT 33 JT PLOT 58
LYDENBURG- MPUMALANGA

FOR: AFRICA GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
P O Box 2526
POLOKWANE
0700

Frans Roodt
October 2006

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



PO Box 1600
POLOKWANE
0 7 0 0

CONTENTS

1	1	Introduction
2	2	Method
	2.1	Sources of information
	2.2	Limitations
	2.3	Categories of significance
3	2.4	Terminology
4	3	Description of the proposed development and terrain
4	4	Archaeological and Historical Remains
4	4.1	Stone Age remains.
4	4.2	Iron Age remains
5	4.3	Historical Period
7	4.4	Graves
7	5	Evaluation
8	6	Recommendations
8	8	Bibliography
		List of figures
4	Fig 1.	General view of the altered environment - ploughed area.
5	Fig 2.	Site 4.
	Fig 3.	Site 5.
	Fig 4.	Site 7.
	Fig 5.	Site 9.
6	Fig 6	The historical farmhouse.
	Fig 7	The historical outbuilding.
	Fig 8	Historical stone built shed.
7	Fig 9	Cattle enclosure – site 2.
	Fig 10	Site 3.
	Fig 11	Site 6.
	Fig 12	Site 8.
	Fig 13	Site 10.
10	Fig 14	Aerial photograph
9		Locality Map

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

Historical remains

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

Archaeological remains

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

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

Burial grounds and graves

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

(c) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or

(b) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Culture resource management

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

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

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

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

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

****place** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure* ”

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

Compulsory repair order

Section 45 (1) When the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of a heritage site considers that such site-

- (a) has been allowed to fall in disrepair for the purpose of-
 - (i) effecting or enabling its destruction or demolition;
 - (ii) enabling the development of the designated land; or
 - (iii) enabling the development of any land adjoining the designated land; or
 - (b) is neglected to such an extent that it will lose its potential for conservation,
- the heritage resources authority may serve on the owner an order to repair or maintain such site, to the satisfaction of the heritage resources authority, within a reasonable period of time as specified in the order: .. ”

The author was contracted to undertake a heritage scoping survey of the farm Sterkspruit 33 JT Plot 58 (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000). The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

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

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance.

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

2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but the vegetation and grass cover is dense in some areas with the result that archaeological visibility was limited in some areas.

2.3 Categories of significance

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

- No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
- Low significance: sites, which may require mitigation.
- Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
- High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

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

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

2.4 Terminology

Early Stone Age: Predominantly the Acheulean hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.

Middle Stone Age: Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.

Late Stone Age: The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD

Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD

Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

Historical: Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

Phase 1 assessment: Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area

Phase 2 assessments: In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling is required.

Sensitive: Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

The proposed development consists of an extensive residential and related infrastructure development. The project area is located to the south of Lydenburg and is currently being used for mixed agricultural purposes, with areas being ploughed and the remaining covered in grass veldt.

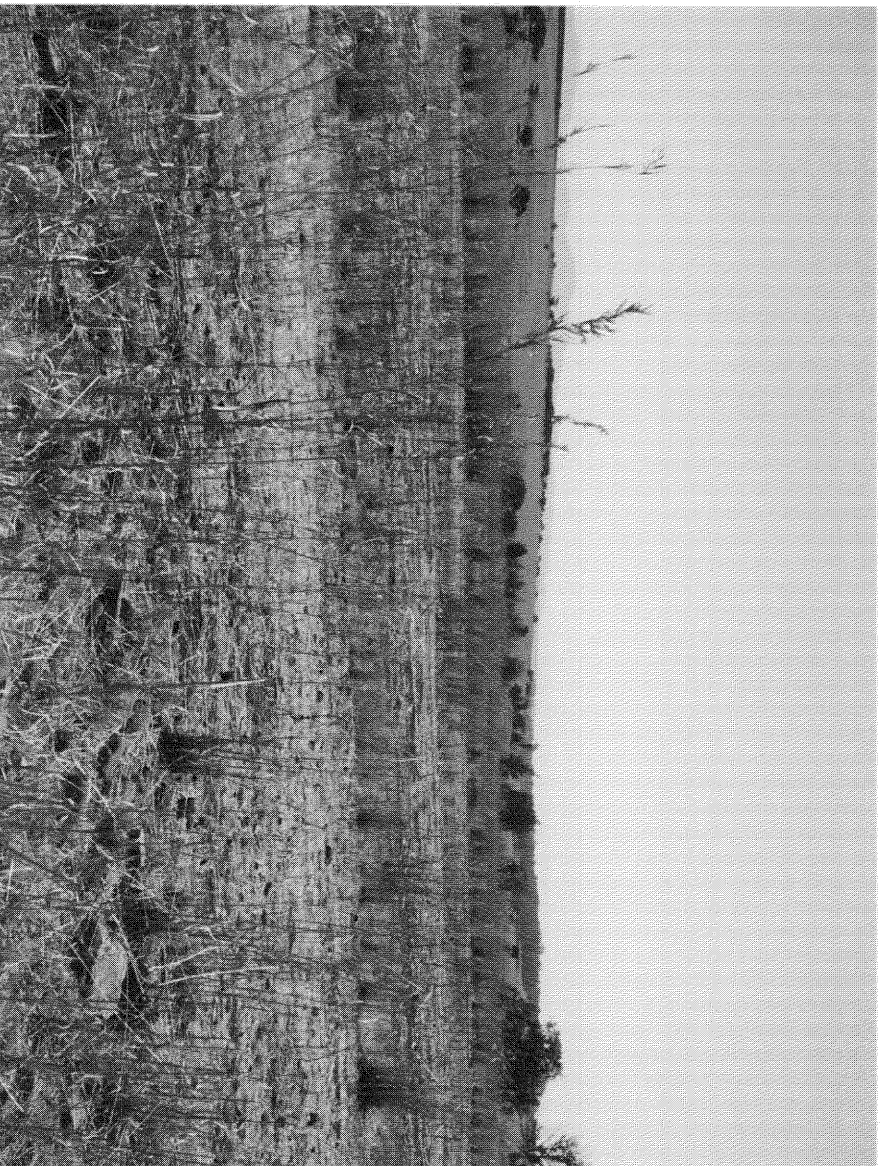


Fig 1. General view of the altered environment - ploughed area.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

4.1 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age remains were noted

4.2 IRON AGE REMAINS

The farm Sterkspruit is renowned for the discovery of the Early Iron Age Terra-cotta masks dating to the period between the 7th and 9th century AD. No Early Iron Age remains were observed on the demarcated terrain. The Lydenburg area is also well known for its Late Iron Age Sotho stone walled sites and a number of localities with remains of such stonewalls were noted on the terrain. However, the layout of the complex is not clear, as the walls have been robbed to build the historical walls recorded below. As a result of this the recorded locations of sites 4, 5, 7 & 9 probably consist of units of a single pre-colonial settlement.

Site 4: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 14.7" E30° 27' 23.3"

Archaeological stonewall site of a Later Iron Age settlement, relatively large site, but walling not clear due to stone being robbed from the site.

Site 5: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 22.1" E30° 27' 20.0"

Stone walled site.

Site 7: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 25.8" E30° 27' 27.2"

Stone walled site.

Site 9: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 20.4" E30° 27' 30.3"

Stone walled site.

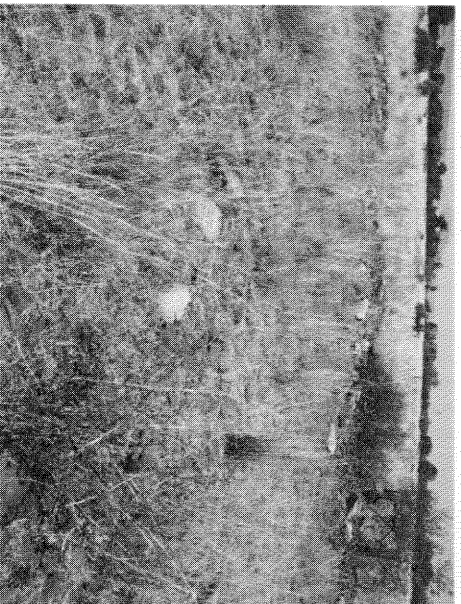


Fig 2. Site 4.



Fig 3. Site 5.

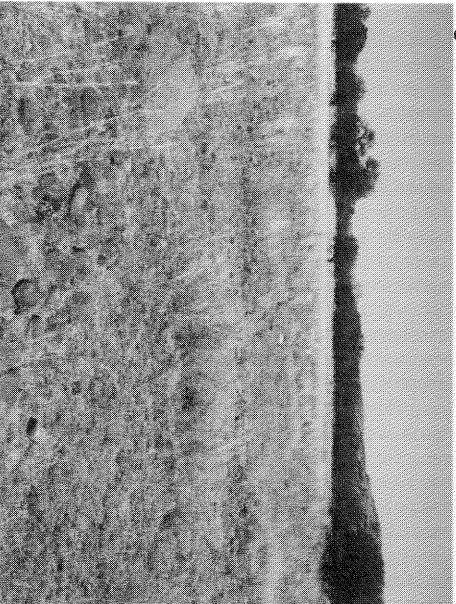


Fig 4. Site 7.

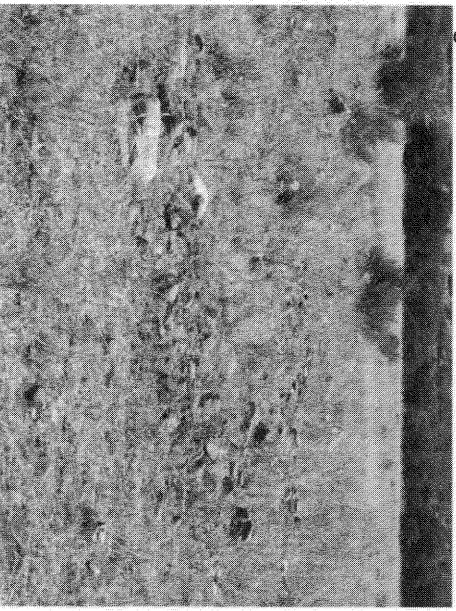


Fig 5. Site 9.

Discussion

The stone walled remains are all from the Late Iron Age period not identified due to a lack of diagnostic ceramic sample. Walls have all been robbed by later settlements. This area must have linked up with large stone walled complexes that occur on the same farm Sterkspruit to the east of the project area. An Aerial photograph (Fig 14) of the above-mentioned area as indicated on the locality map is included herewith.

4.3 HISTORICAL PERIOD

Site 1: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 09.3" E30° 27' 19.8"

The old farmhouse is older than 60 years and thus protected by the NHRA, although it has been badly neglected. The house has significant culture historical architectural features such as the original doors and windows; its foundations are stone slabs and the bricks are sun dried. The adjacent outbuildings and cattle kraal are probably also from the same period. The entire farmstead area forms a culture historical landscape that is regarded as significant.

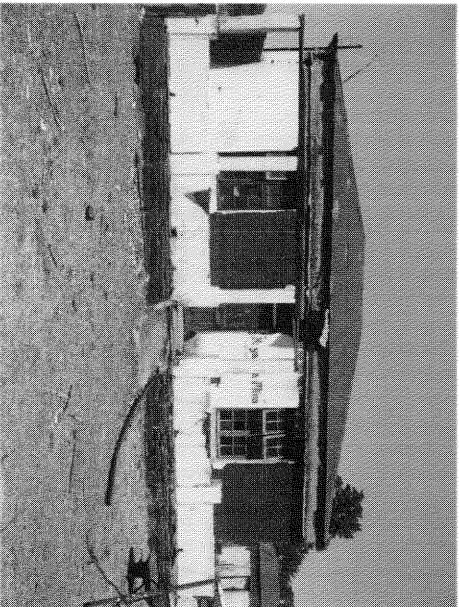


Fig 6. The historical farmhouse.

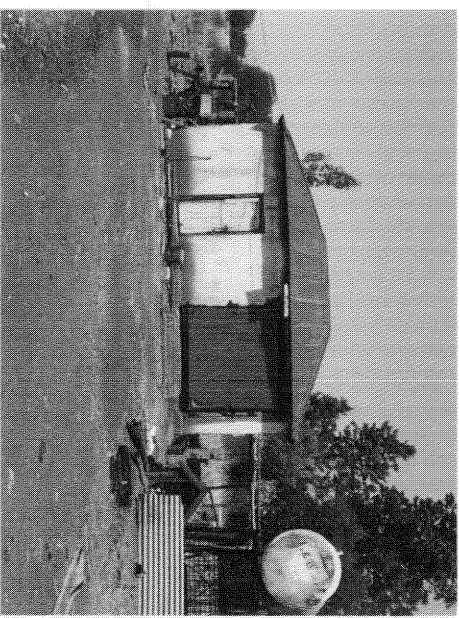


Fig 7. The historical outbuilding.

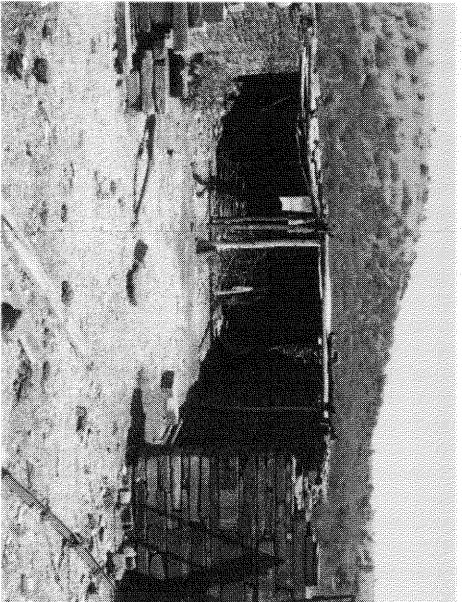


Fig 8. Historical stone built shed.

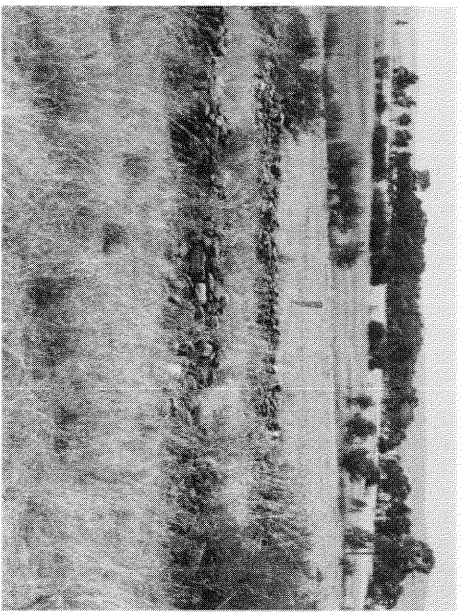


Fig 9. Cattle enclosure – site 2.

Other historical remains are:

Site 2: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 10.9" E30° 27' 25.0"
Old rectangular stone cattle enclosure probably associated with the old house.

Site 3: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 13.3" E30° 27' 23.8"
Historical rectangular wall remains.

Site 6: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 25.7" E30° 27' 22.6"
Historical rectangular wall remains.

Site 8: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 24.3" E30° 27' 32.9"
Historical rectangular wall remains.

Site 10: Co-ordinates: S25° 08' 16.6" E30° 27' 25.6"
Historical rectangular wall remains.

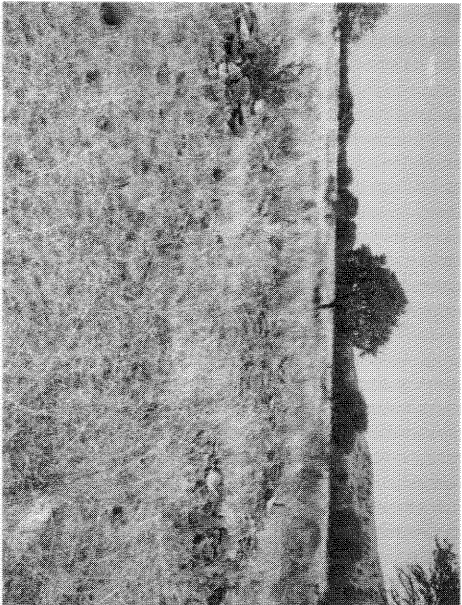


Fig 10. Site 3.

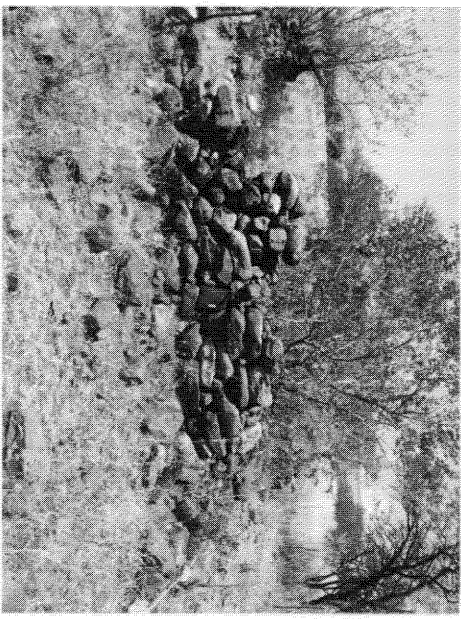


Fig 11. Site 6.

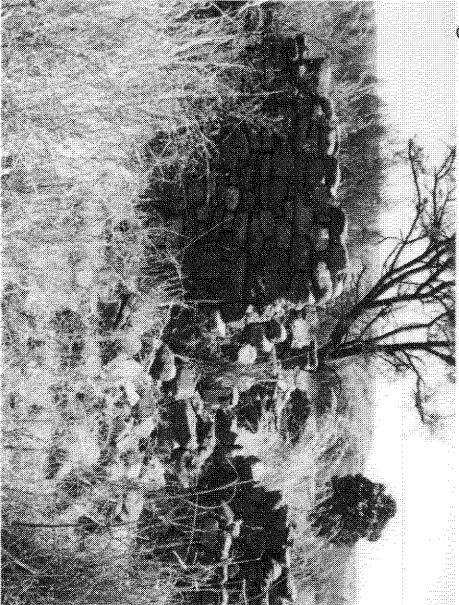


Fig 12. Site 8.



Fig 13. Site 10.

4.4 GRAVES

No formal graves were noted, but it does not exclude the presence of unmarked graves associated with the archaeological sites.

5. EVALUATION

The terrain contains both historical sites as well as a number of later Iron Age stonewalled remains.

The culture historical features of the farmstead structures are regarded as significant and must be recorded should it be the intention to demolish them. A phase 2 assessment of this particular built environment must be mitigated that should be undertaken before demolition. Such an assessment may not necessarily approve demolition, pending the structural integrity of the building/s, but may rather recommend renovation and incorporation into the development. A demolition permit must be obtained from the SAHRA. Historical sites 3, 6, 8, & 10 require no further action.

The archaeological stone walled structures are regarded as significant. However, in the context of the state of their preservation and the close proximity of better preserved examples, the conservation of these structures are not required. It must be noted that these archaeological sites would probably contain human burials. A phase 2 assessment is required that would consist of mapping the remains, test pit excavations to sample the deposit for identification and dating and finally to screen the areas involved for human burials. A destruction permit must be obtained from the SAHRA.

6. RECOMMENDATION

In view of the above it is recommended:

1. That a phase 2 assessment is mitigated for the farmstead buildings should they be affected by the development.
2. That a phase 2 assessment is mitigated for the archaeological stonewalled features.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

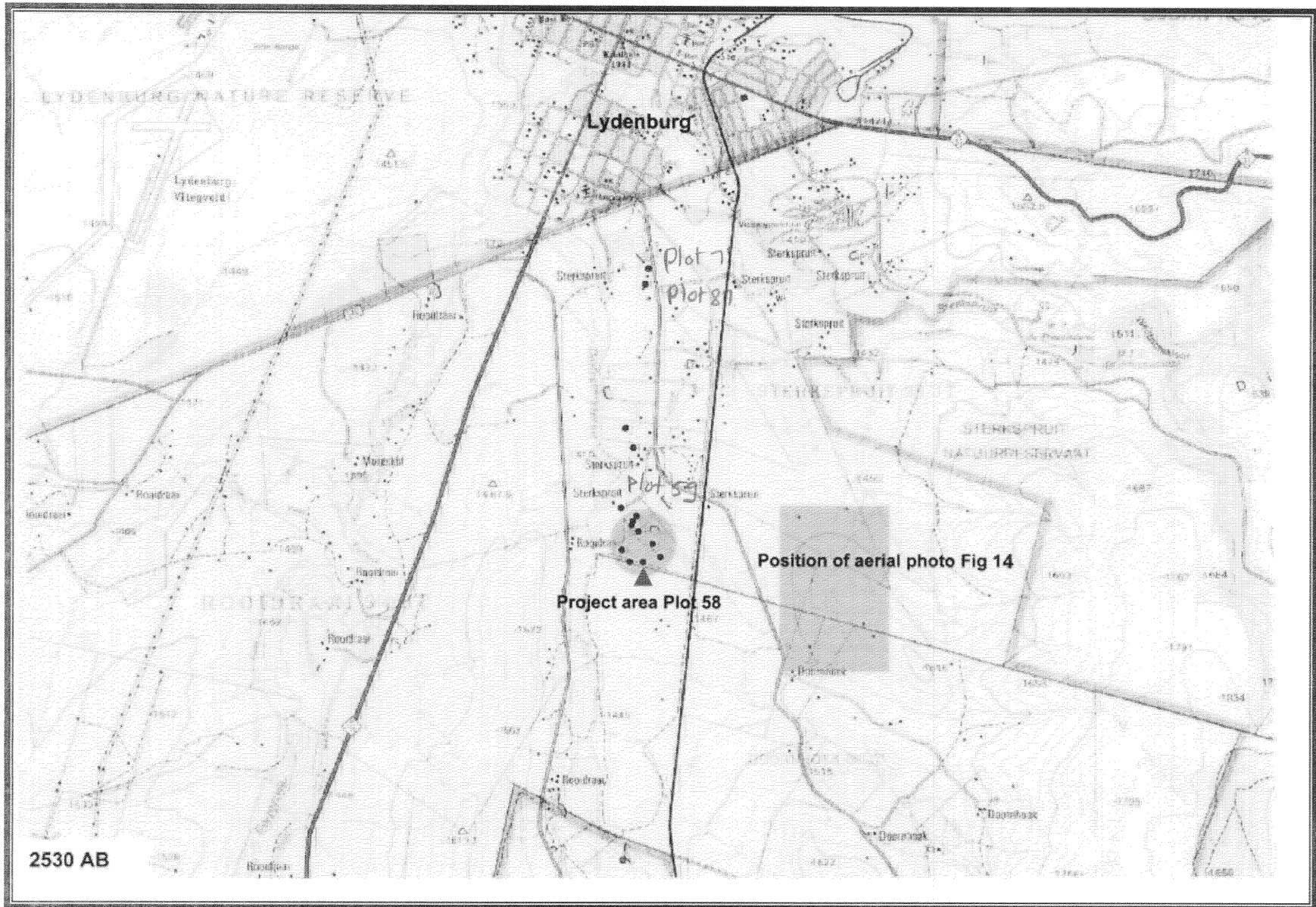
Deacon, J. 1997. *Report: Workshop on Standards for the Assessment of Significance and Research Priorities for Contract Archaeology*. In: Newsletter No 49, Sept 1998. Southern African Association of Archaeologists.

Evers, T.M. 1988. *The recognition of Groups in the Iron Age of Southern Africa*. PhD thesis. Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand.

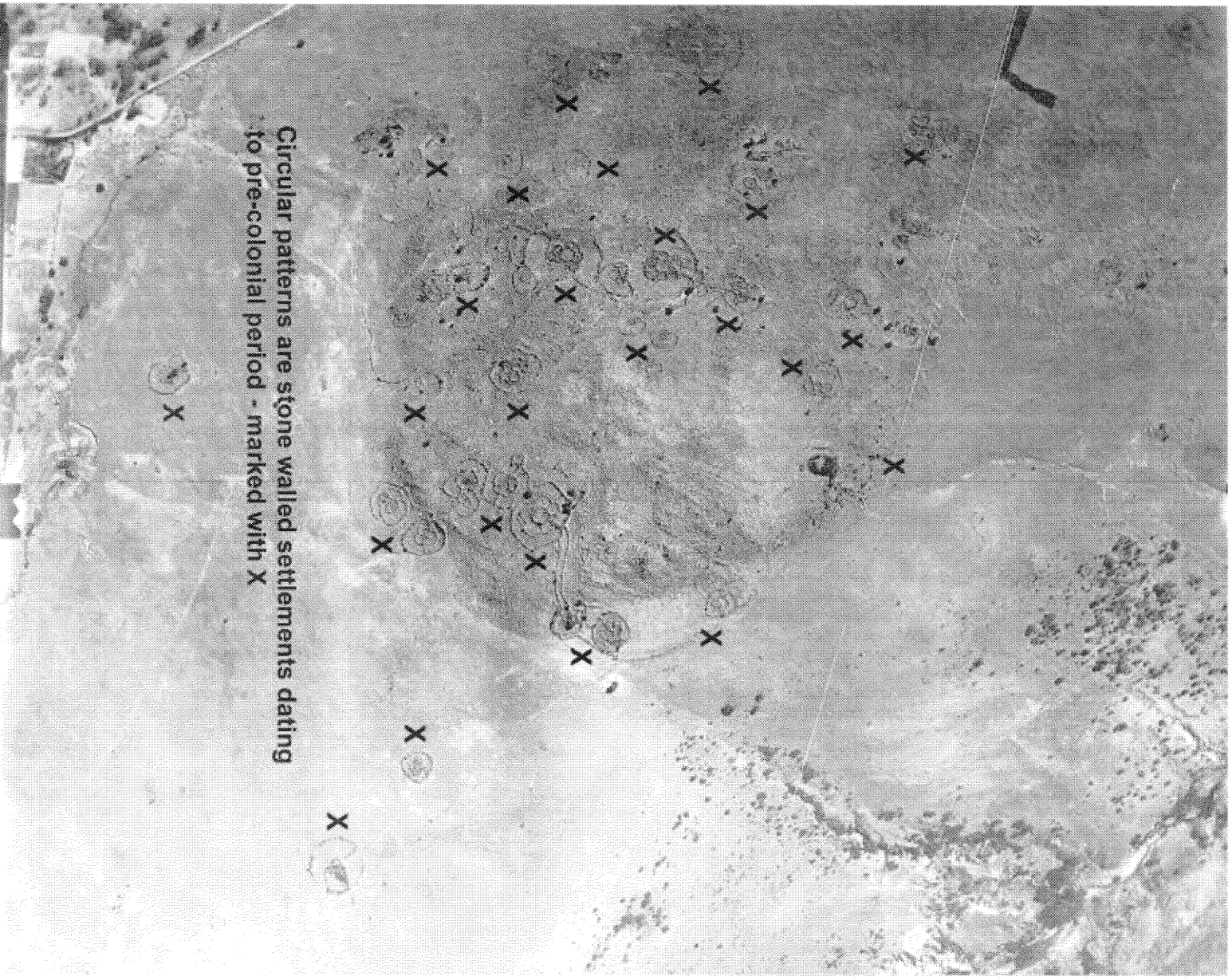
Meyer, A. 1994. *Navorsingsmetodiek: Inligtingsformate vir Argeologiese Veldwerk*. Dept Antropologie en Argeologie, U.P



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



Locality map



Circular patterns are stone walled settlements dating to pre-colonial period - marked with X

Fig 14. Aerial photo of the adjacent part of the farm Sterkspruit depicting archaeological stone walled sites.