

Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Proposed Mara Trails Camp, on the Farm Jagtersrus 418 KQ, in the Marakele Park (Pty) Ltd, Section of the Marakele National Park, Limpopo Province

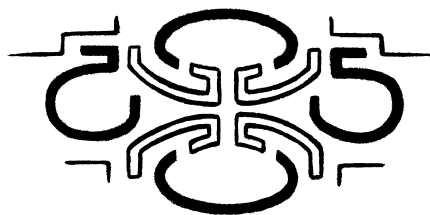


For

<p>Project Applicant</p> <p>Marakele Park (Pty) Ltd Marakele National Park Tel: 0834146369 Email: parkmanager@marakelepark.co.za</p>	<p>Environmental Consultant Nuleaf Planning and Environmental (Pty) Ltd Attn: Peter Velcich 8a Trevor Street Murrayfield Pretoria 0184 Tel: 082 4420220 Fax: 086 571 6292 Email: peter@nuleafsa.co.za</p>
--	---

By

Francois P Coetzee
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology
University of South Africa
PO Box 392
Pretoria
0003
Tel: (012) 429 6297
Fax: (012) 429 6091
coetzip@unisa.ac.za



Date:	February 2014
Version:	1 (Final Draft)

Executive Summary

This report contains a comparative heritage impact assessment investigation in accordance with the provisions of Sections 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999). This report focuses on the preliminary results from a cultural heritage survey that was conducted for the proposed tented camp in the Marakele Park (Pty) Ltd in the Waterberg, Limpopo Province. The survey forms part of a Basic Assessment and was requested by NuLeaf Planning and Environment (Pty) Ltd.

Historical structures

No historical structures, features or remains were recorded in or near the proposed site of development.

Graves

No graves, headstones or grave remains were recorded in the survey area.

Iron Age and Stone Age Remains

No Iron Age or Stone Age structures, features or artefacts that constitute an occupational layer or manufacturing site or settlement were recorded in the survey area.

Recommendations

The results of this survey confirmed that the proposed tented camp and associated infrastructure will have no impact on any heritage resources and as a result can go ahead.

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 development 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)).

Definitions and abbreviations

- Midden: Refuse that accumulates in a concentrated heap.
- Stone Age: An archaeological term used to define a period of stone tool use and manufacture
- Iron Age: An archaeological term used to define a period associated with domesticated livestock and grains, metal working and ceramic manufacture
- NHRA: National Heritage Resources Act (Act no 25 of 1999)
- SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency
- PHRA-G: Provincial Heritage Resources Authority - Gauteng
- HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
- MDEDET: Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism



Francois P Coetzee
Cultural Heritage Consultant
Accredited Archaeologist for the SADC Region
Professional Member of ASAPA (CRM Section) Reg no: 28

Contents

1. <i>Introduction</i>	5
2. <i>Objectives</i>	5
3. <i>Study Area</i>	5
4. <i>Proposed Project Activities</i>	13
5. <i>Legal Framework</i>	13
6. <i>Study Approach/Methods</i>	15
6.1 <i>Review of existing information/data</i>	16
6.2 <i>Site visit</i>	16
6.3 <i>Impact assessment</i>	16
6.4 <i>Assumptions, restrictions and gaps in knowledge</i>	17
7. <i>Recommendations and Conclusions</i>	17
<i>References</i>	18
<i>Addendum 1: Archaeological and Historical Sequence</i>	19

1. Introduction

This heritage survey forms part of a Basic Assessment (BA) in terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act no 107 of 1998). However the heritage impact assessment is triggered in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999). NuLeaf Planning and Environmental (Pty) Ltd requested the heritage survey on behalf of the client Marakele Park (Pty) Ltd. The proposed project consists of a five guest trails camp with associated infrastructure and access route.

2. Objectives

The general aim of this cultural heritage survey is to record and document cultural heritage remains consisting of both tangible and intangible archaeological and historical artefacts, structures (including graves), settlements and oral traditions of cultural significance.

As such the terms of reference of this survey are as follows:

- Provide a detailed description of known archaeological and historical artefacts, structures (including graves), features and settlements
- Estimate the level of significance/importance of the these remains within the study area
- Assess any possible impact on the archaeological and historical remains within the area emanating from the proposed development activities
- Propose possible mitigation measures which will limit or prevent any impact provided that such action is necessitated by the development

3. Study Area

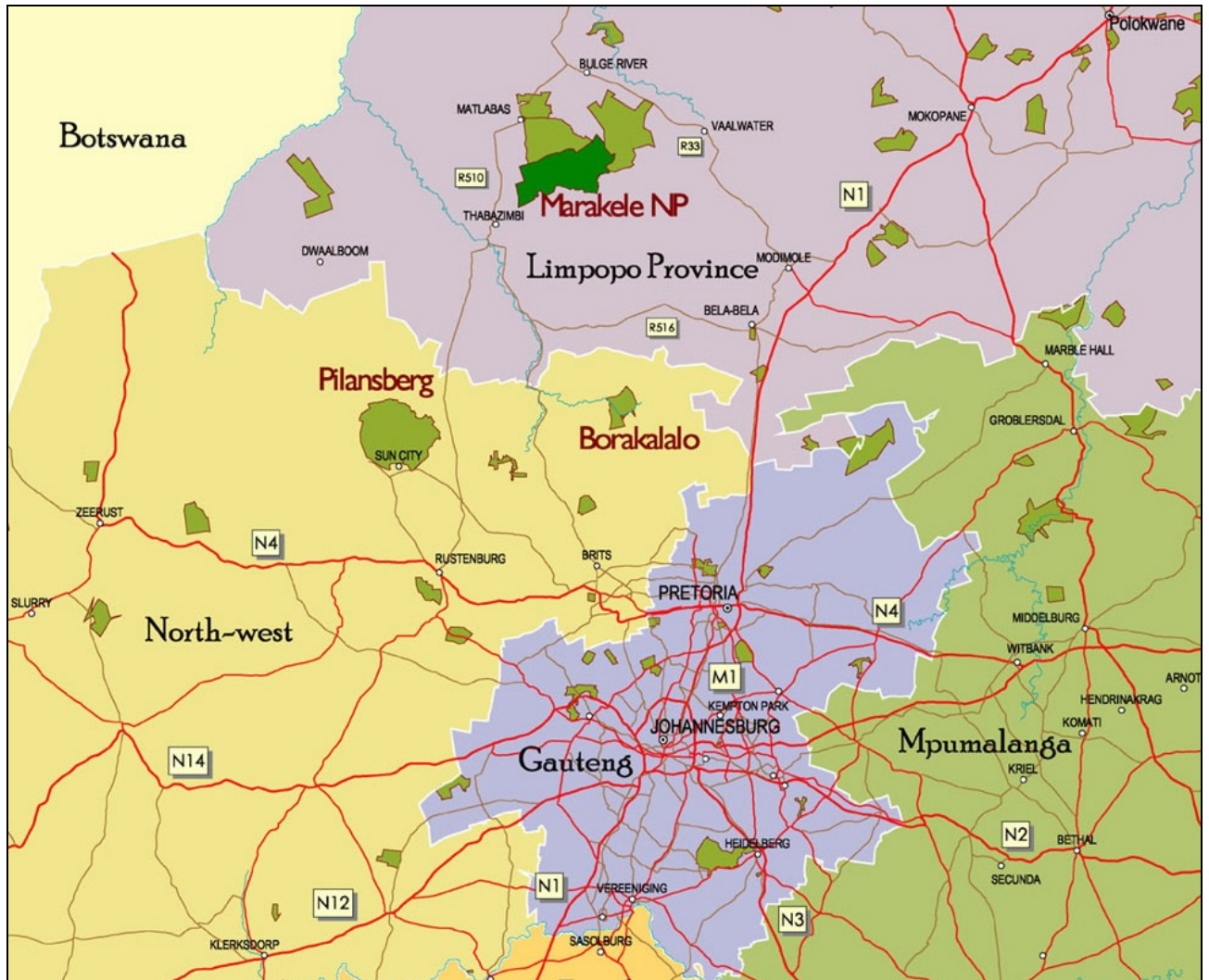
The survey area is situated on the farm Jagtersrus 418 (previously 273) KQ located in the Marakele Park (Pty) Ltd section of the Marakele National Park, in the Waterberg Mountains approximately 30 km north-east of Thabazimbi in the Limpopo Province.

The survey area is situated on the northern edge of the Waterberg Plateau within the catchment area of the Motlhabatsi River, a tributary of the Lapalala River. The site is located at the bottom of several hills which form an amphitheatre (see Map 4) with several water courses running towards the Motlhabatsi River. Several areas with surface erosion were also noted during the field survey. The area falls within the Savanna Biome which consists of several regional vegetation types of which the Western Sandy Bushveld and Waterberg Mountain Bushveld occur at the site (Mucina & Rutherford 2006:Fig 1) According to the Government Gazette 34809 (Government Notice 1002, 9 December 2011) none of these vegetation types are threatened or listed. The Waterberg area is dominated by sandstone and conglomerate rock types.

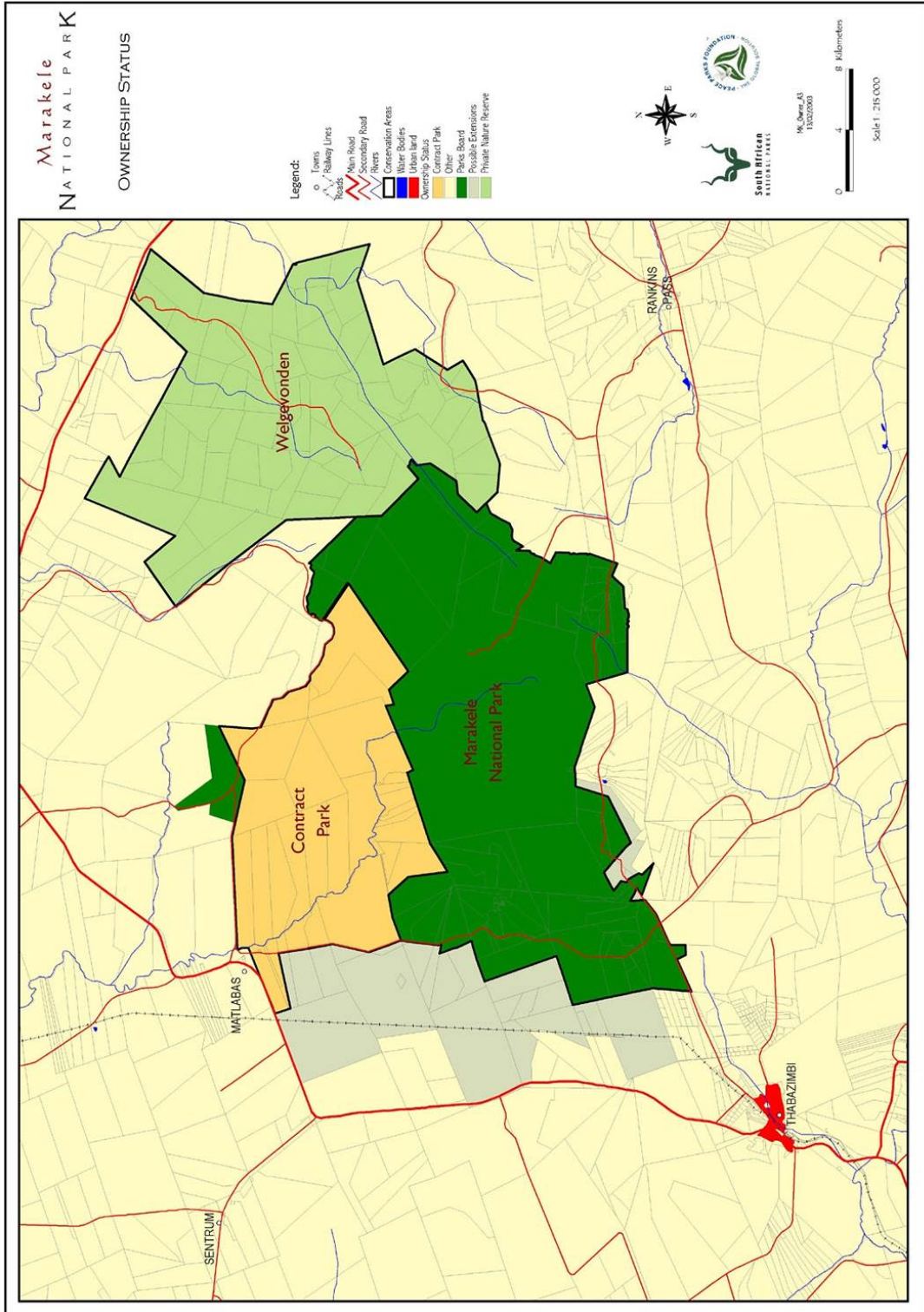
The Marakele National Park was initiated in 1986 and was first proclaimed in 1994 as the Kransberg National Park. It has expanded to the current 90 000 hectares. Contractual agreement includes the Marakele Park (Pty) Ltd which is 15 753 hectares in extent.

The area is almost completely undisturbed except for a two track road that traverses to region. The road is used for game drives and provides access to the site.

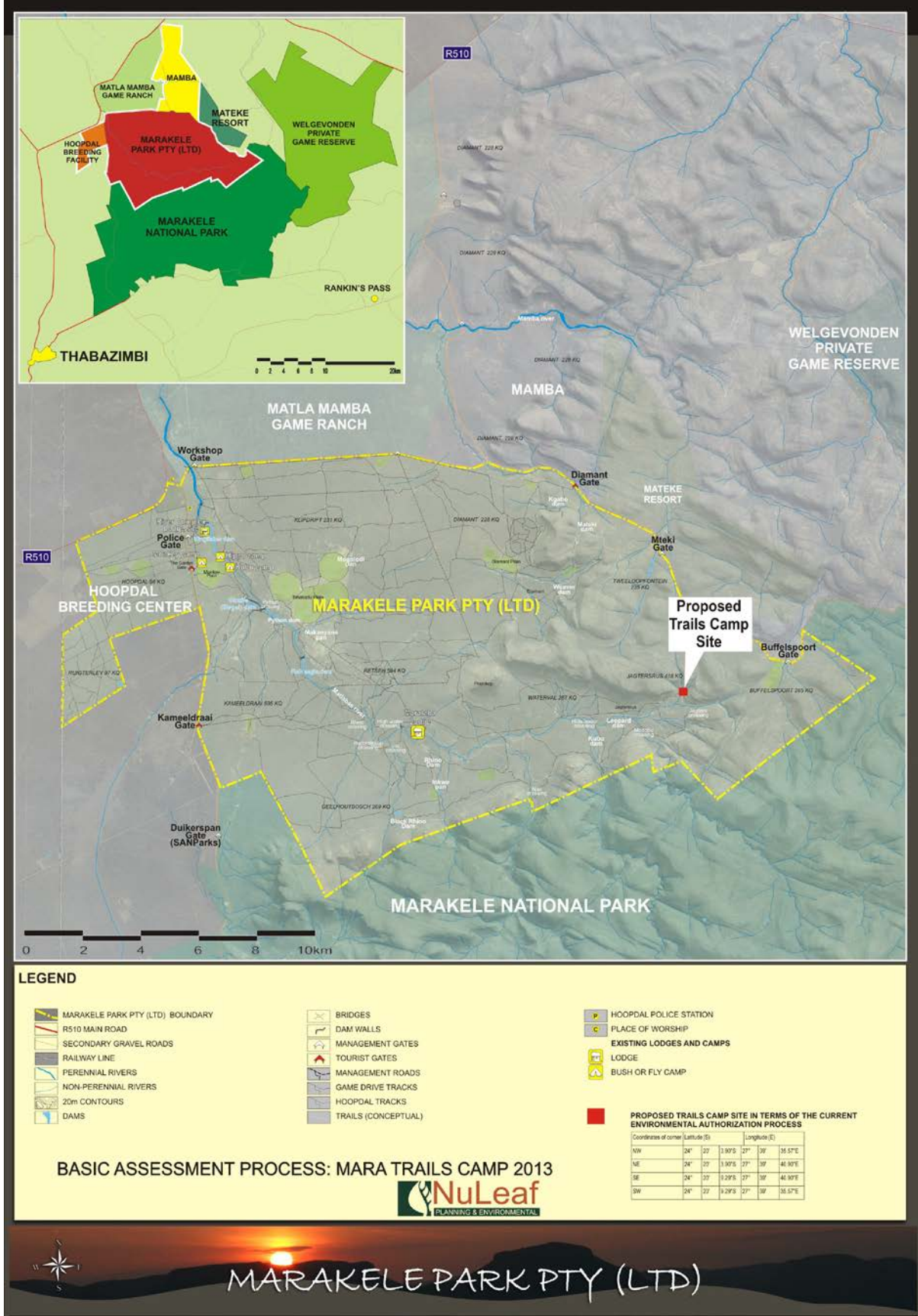
Also note that two tented camps exist in the Marakele SANPark section namely Tlopi and Bontle.



Map 1: Regional context of the survey area (Marakele NP)



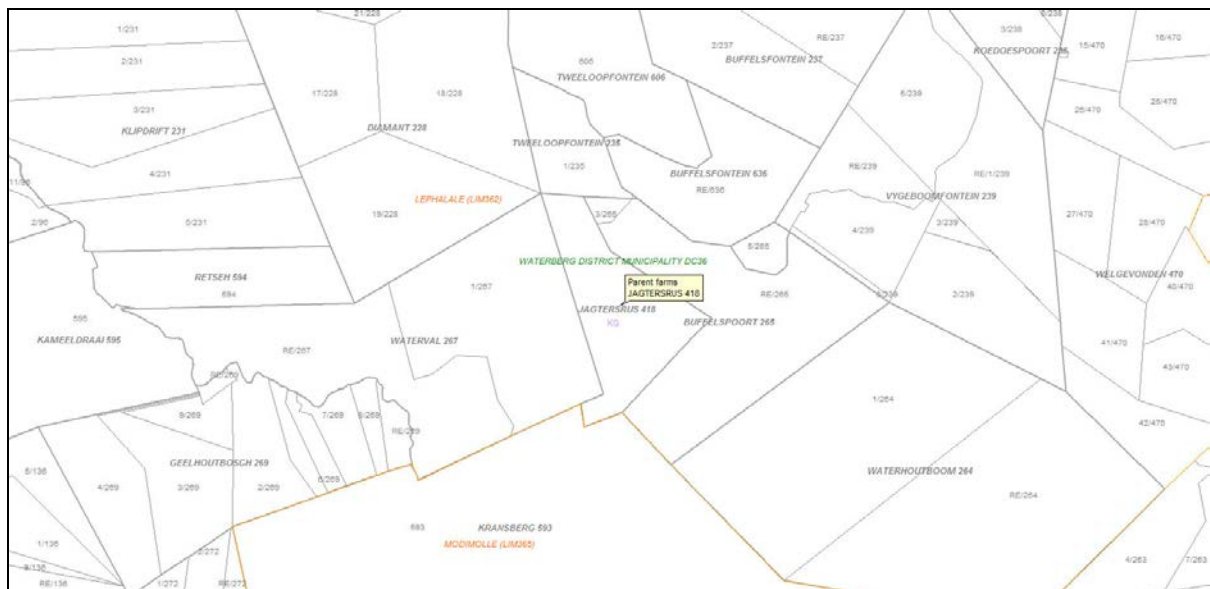
Map 2: Local context of the survey area



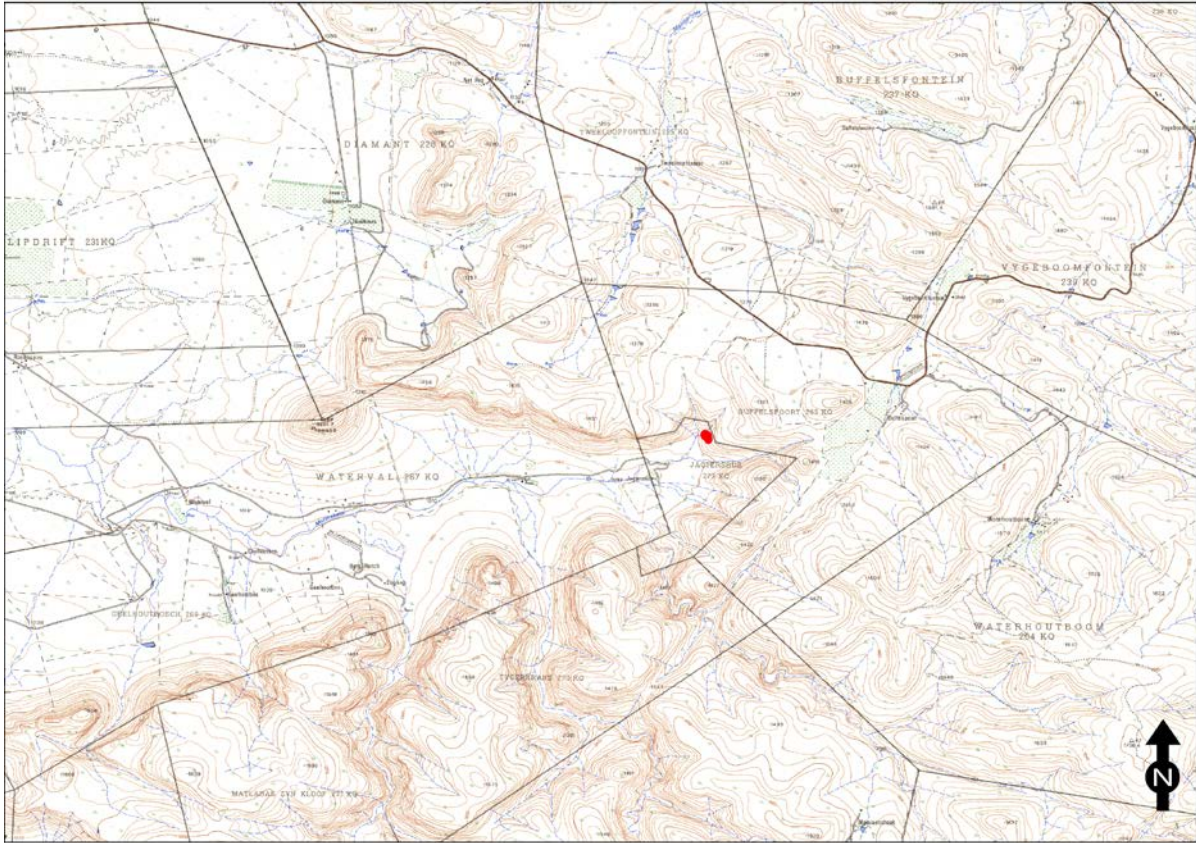
Map 3: Location of survey area



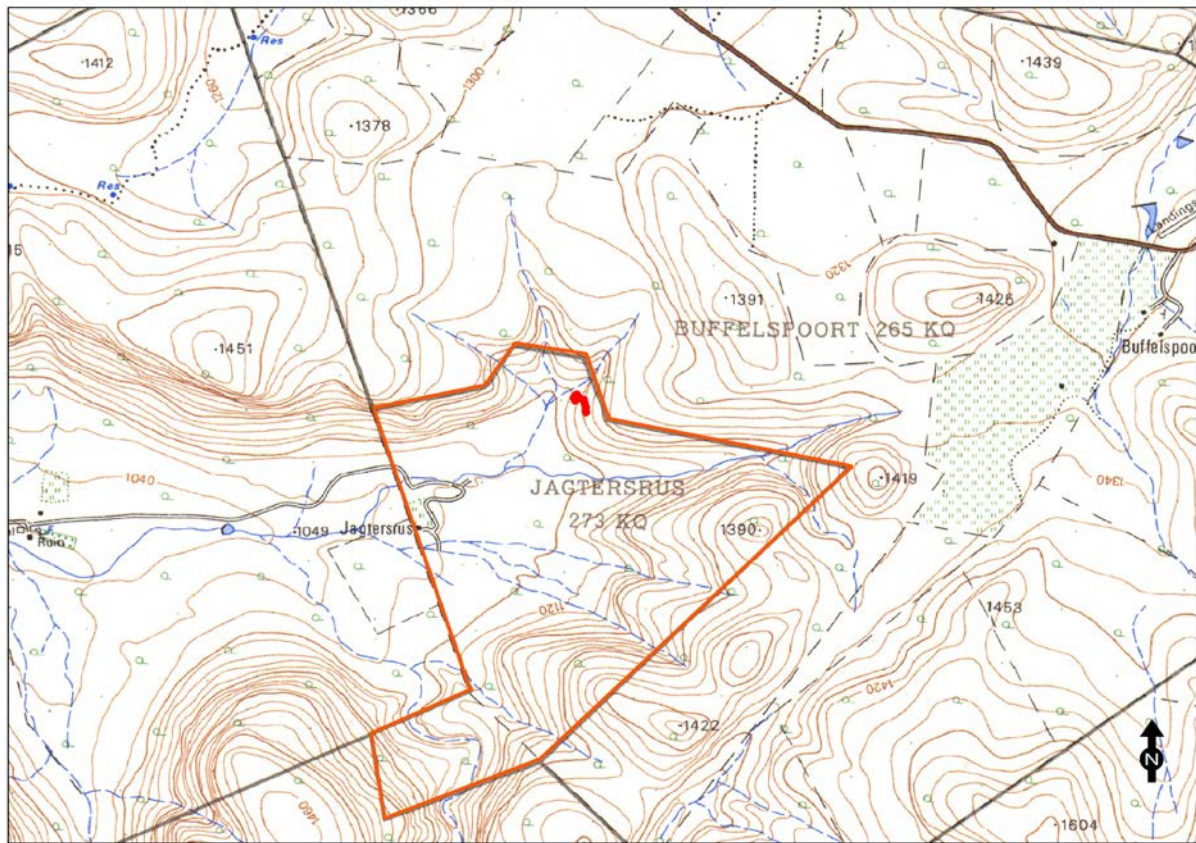
Map 4: Aerial view of the survey area



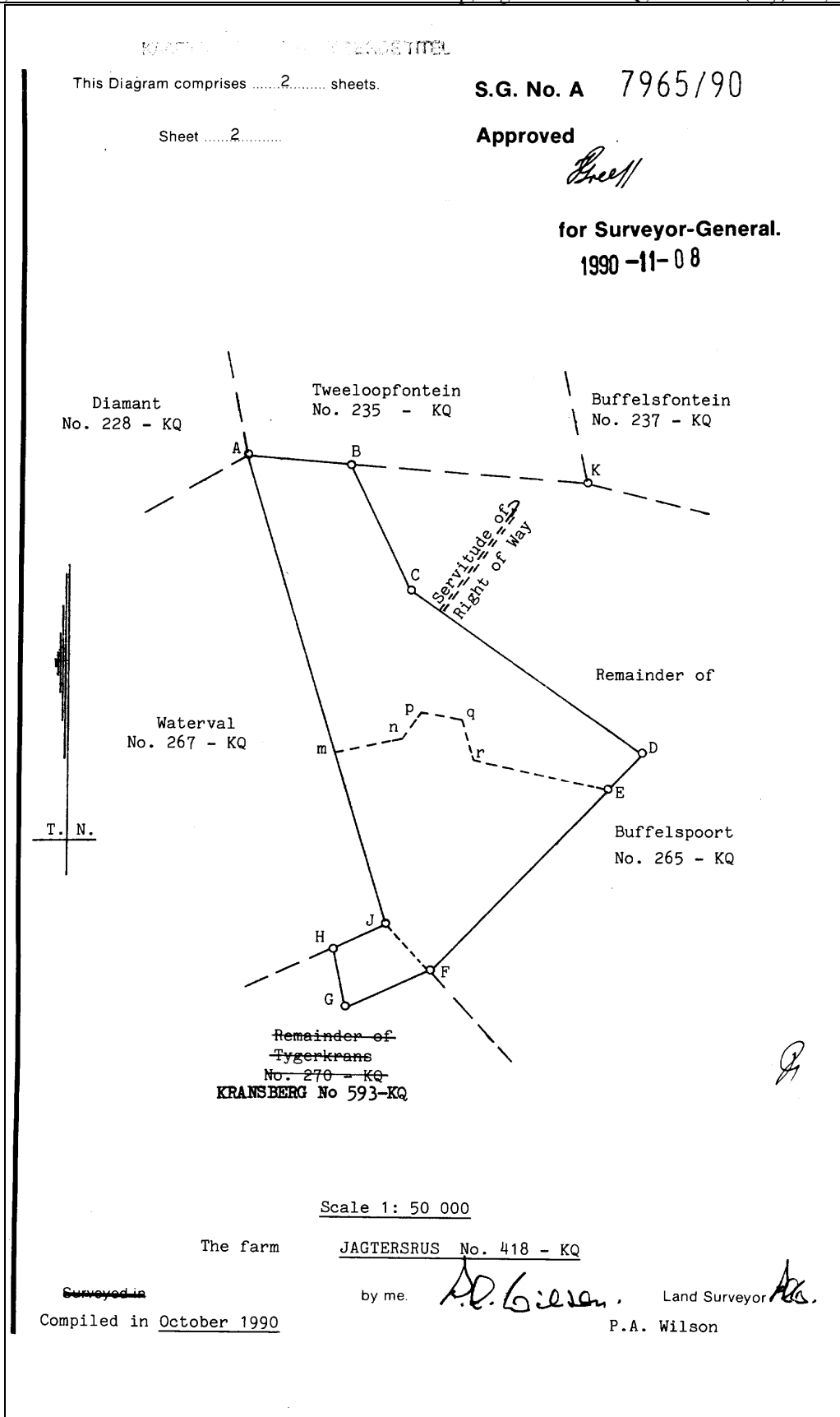
Map 5: Context of the survey area in relation to adjacent farms



Map 6: The survey area as indicated on the 1:50 000 topographic map 2427BC



Map 7: The survey area as indicated on the 1:50 000 topographic map 2427BC



Map 8: The Surveyor General's sketch and divisions of the farm Jagtersrus 418 KQ



Figure 1: General view of the slope on which the camp is planned



Figure 2: General area of the proposed camp site



Figure 3: Rocky outcrops in the general area of the survey site

4. Proposed Project Activities

The project entails the development of a trails camp comprising 5 guest tents on elevated wooden decks, two staff tents and a communal area (kitchen, store room and outdoor dining enclosure). The camp will be powered by a combination of solar power and LP gas. Water will be piped to the proposed camp from an existing borehole in close proximity to the site and stored in a flat 5000 litre tank from where it will gravity feed down to the units.

A proposed short (<100 metres) 2-spool track will provide access to the camp from an existing dirt track.

5. Legal Framework

- 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, features, structures and artefacts 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, Section 34 & 35)**. The Act makes an archaeological impact assessment as part of an EIA and EMPR mandatory (see **Section 38**). 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 **NHRA**, 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 (The significance of the site):**

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 (also see Table 1).

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, auguring), 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]

Table 1: Rating the significance of sites

- 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 (International Council on Monuments and Sites) 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 development 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)).
- **Architectural significance:**
 - Does the site contain any important examples of a building type?
 - Are any of the buildings important examples of a style or period?
 - Do any of the buildings contain fine details and or reflect fine workmanship?
 - Are any of the buildings the work of a major architect or builder?
 - Are the buildings important examples of an industrial, technological or engineering development?
 - What is the integrity of the buildings?
 - Are the buildings still utilised?
 - Has the buildings been altered and are these alterations sympathetic to the original intent of the design?
- **Spatial significance of architecture:**
 - Is the site or any of the buildings a landmark in the city or town?
 - Does the plant contribute to the character of the neighbourhood/region?
 - Do the buildings contribute to the character of the street or square?

- Is the place or building part of an important group of buildings?
- **Architecture: Levels of significance** are:
- Protect
 - Highly significant
 - Possible significance
 - Least significance
 - No significance

- **Architecture: Levels of protection** are:

Retain and protect	Considered to be of high significance. The building or structure can be used as part of the development but must be suitably protected. Should not include major structural alterations. If the building is older than 60 years a modification permit is required from SAHRA.
Retain and re-use	Considered to be of moderate significance. The building or structure can be altered to be accommodated within the development plans. Structural alterations can be included. If the building is older than 60 years a modification permit is required from SAHRA.
Alter and re-use	Considered to be of low significance. The building or structure can be structurally altered or destruction can be considered following further documentation. If the building is older than 60 years a modification/destruction permit is required from SAHRA.
Can be demolished	Considered to be of negligible significance and can be demolished. If the building is older than 60 years a destruction permit is required from SAHRA.

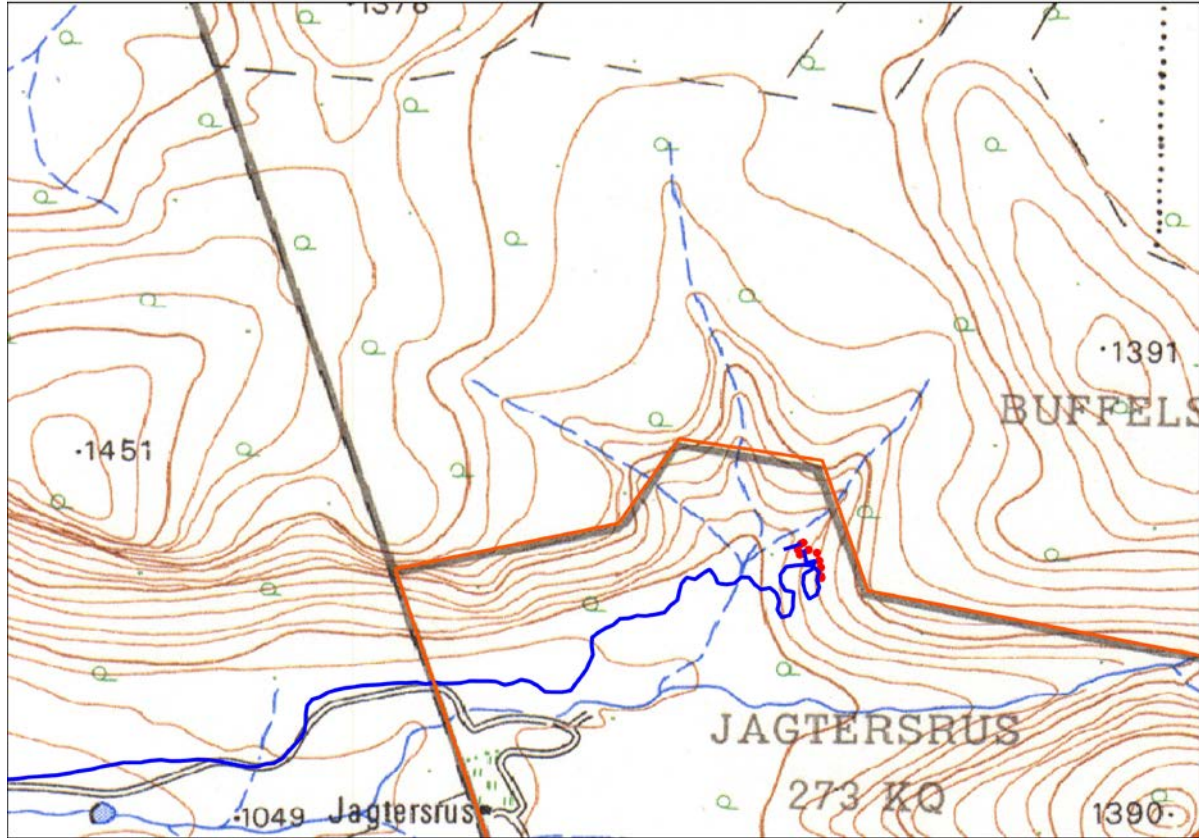
Table 2: Level of protection of buildings/structures

- A copy of this report will be lodged with the **SAHRA** as stipulated by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 38 (especially subsection 4) and the relevant Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (PHRA).
- 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 SAHRA (or relevant PHRA).

6. Study Approach/Methods

Regional maps and other geographical information (ESRI shapefiles) were supplied by NuLeaf. In addition Google images and topographic maps were used to indicate the survey area. The survey area was localised on the 1:50 000 topographic maps 2427BC. Please note that all maps are orientated with north facing upwards.

The survey area was preliminary surveyed and selected areas were investigation on foot using both systematic and intuitive pedestrian survey techniques. The local ranger familiar with the area was also questioned about possible known sites and events in the area.



Map 9: Recorded survey tracks for the project

6.1 Review of existing information/data

Additional information on the cultural heritage of the area was sourced from the following records:

- National Mapping Project by SAHRA (which lists heritage impact assessment reports submitted for South Africa)
- Online SAHRIS database
- Maps and information documents supplied by the client
- Published material on the area

6.2 Site visit

The site investigation and meeting with the developers took place on 05 February 2014.

6.3 Impact assessment

The criteria used to describe heritage resources and to provide a significance rating of recorded sites are listed in the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) specifically Section 7(7) and Section 38). SAHRA also published various regulations including: Minimum standards: Archaeological and palaeontological components of impact assessment reports in 2006 and updated requirements in 2012.

6.4 Assumptions, restrictions and gaps in knowledge

No severe physical restrictions were encountered. However, please note that 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.

7. Recommendations and Conclusions

Historical structures

No historical structures, features or remains were recorded in or near the proposed site of development.

Graves

No graves, headstones or grave remains were recorded in the survey area.

Iron Age and Stone Age Remains

No Iron Age or Stone Age structures, features or artefacts that constitute an occupational layer or manufacturing site or settlement were recorded in the survey area.

Recommendations

The results of this survey confirmed that the proposed tented camp and associated infrastructure will have no impact on any heritage resources and as a result can go ahead.

However, 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 development 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)).

References consulted

- Bergh, J.S. 1999. Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika: Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies. J.L. van Schaik. Pretoria.
- Birkholtz, P.D. & Steyn, H.S. 2002. Cultural Resource Management Plan for Marakele National Park. Produced for SANParks: Report SANP – MNP – 2002-05-17/ Final Report: Helio Alliance.
- Hall, S.L. 1981. Iron Age sequence and settlement in the Rooiberg, Thabazimbi area. Unpublished MA Thesis. University of South Africa. Johannesburg.
- Mason, R. 1962. *Prehistory of the Transvaal*. Witwatersrand University Press. Johannesburg.
- Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. 2006. The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Strelitzia 19*. South African National Biodiversity Institute. Pretoria.
- Huffman, T.N. 1990. Obituary: The Waterberg research of Jan Aukema. *South African Archaeological Bulletin*. Vol 45: 117-119.
- Huffman, T.N. 2007. Handbook of the Iron Age, the archaeology of Pre-Colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa. University of KwaZulu Natal Press.
- Naude, M. 1994. Rondavels and rondavel houses in the Transvaal. *Africana Society of Pretoria* (Vol 12): 24-31.
- Naude, M. 1998. Oral evidence of vernacular buildings and structures on farmsteads in the Waterberg (Northern Province). Research by the National Cultural History Museum. Vol 7: 47 – 91.
- Pistorius, J.C.C. 2007. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for Eskom's proposed new 400kV power line route between the Matimba B power station and the Marang substation near Rustenburg. An unpublished report on file at SAHRA (2007-SAHRA-0048).
- Pistorius, J.C.C. 2007. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment study for a proposed new 132kV power line running from the new Matlabas substation to the proposed new Bulge substation in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Unpublished report on file with SAHRA.
- SAHRIS Website: www.sahra.org.za
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). Report Mapping Project. Version 1.0. 2009.
- Van der Ryst, M.M. 1998. The Waterberg Plateau in the Northern Province, RSA, in the Later Stone Age. BAR International Series No 715. Archaeopress: Oxford.

Addendum 1: Archaeological and Historical Sequence

The table provides a general overview of the chronological sequence of the archaeological periods in South Africa.

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)

Archaeological Context

Stone Age Sequence

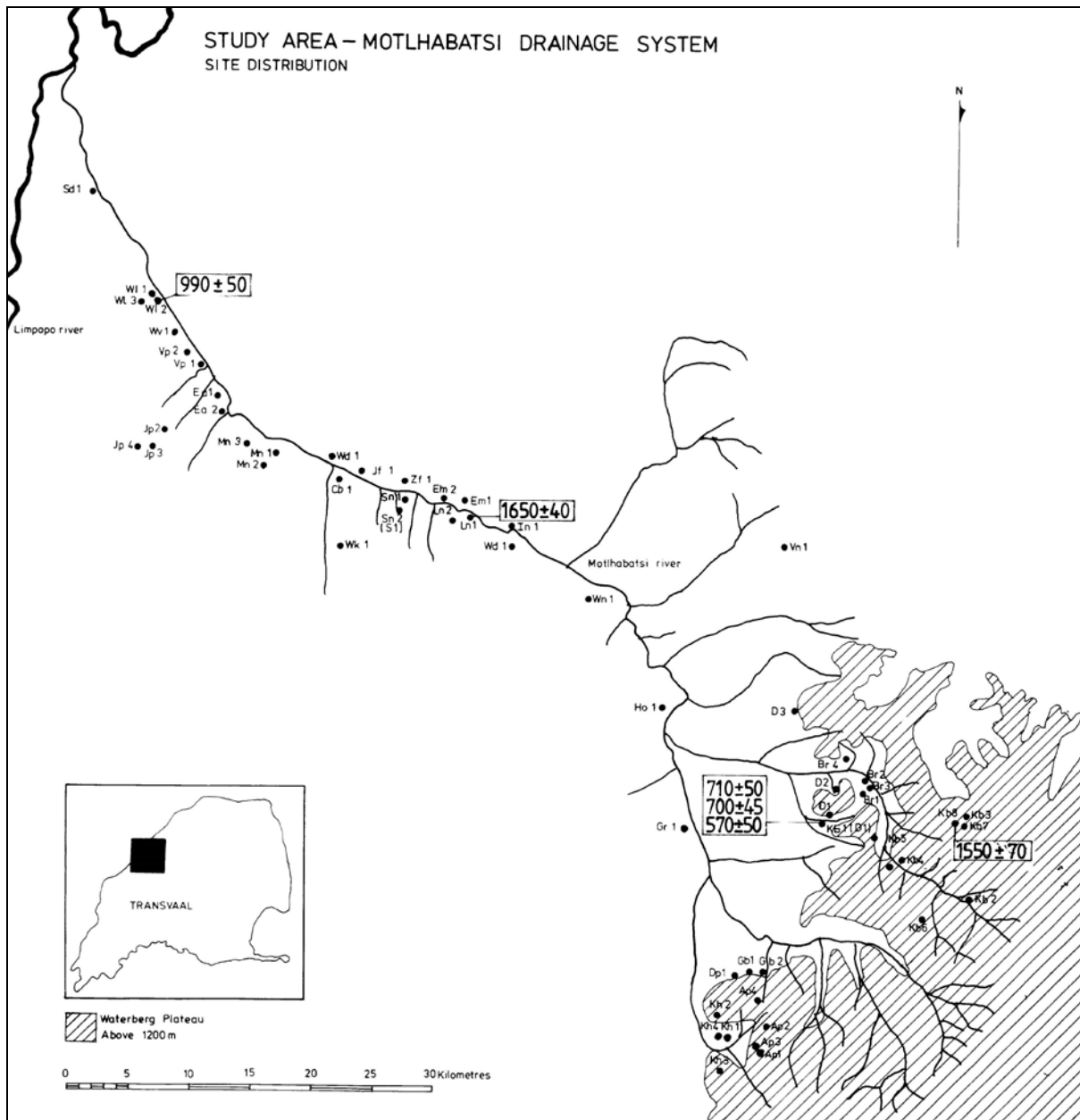
Concentrations of Early Stone Age (ESA) sites are usually present on the flood-plains of perennial rivers and may date to over 2 million years ago. These ESA open sites may contain scatters of stone tools and manufacturing debris and secondly, large concentrated deposits ranging from pebble tool choppers 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.

Although no Early Stone Age sites were recorded in the Marakele National Park (Birkholtz & Steyn 2002) these sites have been recorded and excavated at Makapansgat (Bergh 1999). Also Early, Middle and Later Stone Age remains have been recorded and excavated at Olieboompoort and Goergap shelters (see Mason 1962 & Van der Ryst 1998) situated further to the western periphery of the Waterberg Plateau.

Iron Age Sequence



Map 10: Archaeological sites recorded by Jan Aukema as part of his survey in the 1980s (after Huffman 1990)

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.

An Early Iron Age lies further west of the study area on the farm Ongelukskraal 48 KR, dated to AD 140 and is associated with the Bambata ceramic tradition (van der Ryst 1998). Research in the Matlhabatsi River catchment area further to the west and Rooiberg to the south-east, has indicated three phases of Early Iron Age settlement. The first phase is characterised by two ceramics facies of the Western Stream and are known as Happy Rest and Klein Afrika and dated to c. AD 570 (Huffman 1990). The second phase at Rooiberg is dated to c. AD 700, known as Rooiberg Unit 1 (Hall 1981) and the third phase known as Eiland which dated to between AD 700 to AD 1200, marking the end of the Early Iron Age (Huffman 2007).

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 Ndebele (Nguni-speakers) in the northern regions of South Africa with associated sites dating between the sixteenth and 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*).

Late Iron Age settlements characterised by extensive dry stonewalls and dating from the 17th century do occur in the Limpopo Province (Mason 1962; Bergh 1999). Late Iron Age communities who contributed to this stone walled architecture were the Tswana (Kgatla) and certain Ndebele groups.

A large number of Late Iron Age stone-walled settlements have been recorded in the Marakele National Park (Birkholtz & Steyn 2002). However none of these are located in close proximity of the survey area.

Historical Context

The first white settlers moved into the Waterberg region by the 1830s. One of the most important economic activities was hunting, particularly of elephants for their ivory. Cattle farming and agriculture were introduced later (Naude 1994 & 1998). Early travellers such as Cowan and Donovan (1808), David Hume (1825), Cornwallis Harris (1836), Livingstone (1847) and Carl Mauch (1869) traversed the area from an early period, opening up trek routes for settlers that came later. The town of Nylstroom was established in 1865 and the Waterberg District declared in 1866.