



Shasa Heritage Consultants

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

**PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED SCHOOL STUDENT
ACCOMMODATION COMPLEX CURRO- NORTHERN
ACADEMY**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AGES Limpopo (Pty) Ltd contracted the author to survey the proposed area for development and produce a scoping report for a Phase 1 heritage study to advise on potential impacts and mitigation measures. The proposed development is located approximately 7km north-east of Polokwane, along the R81, adjacent to Curro Northern Academy.

Survey was conducted on foot, on 3 June 2020, during the morning. A Late Iron Age site was recorded in the north-eastern corner. This area has clear, albeit severely degraded stone walls. No ceramics or associated heritage materials were recorded and may have been a cattle post. A number of large Ndebele Group 2 sites are known in close proximity to this site.

From a heritage resources point of view, it is recommended that the north-eastern area, as per map, is excluded. This area has also been excluded on ecological sensitivity. Furthermore, it is recommended that a management plan for the area is compiled, as the area can be utilised for Natural Science, environmental education and social services by the school.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Application purpose: Establishment of a new student accommodation and school expansion

Area: Polokwane

Size: Approximately 20 ha

GPS: 4 point

S23° 52' 20.6" E29° 31' 41.7"

S23° 52' 31.4" E29° 32' 00.3"

S23° 52' 43.5" E29° 31' 51.2"

S23° 52' 26.2" E29° 31' 37.6"

Map reference number: 2329DC

This report will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on 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* ...”

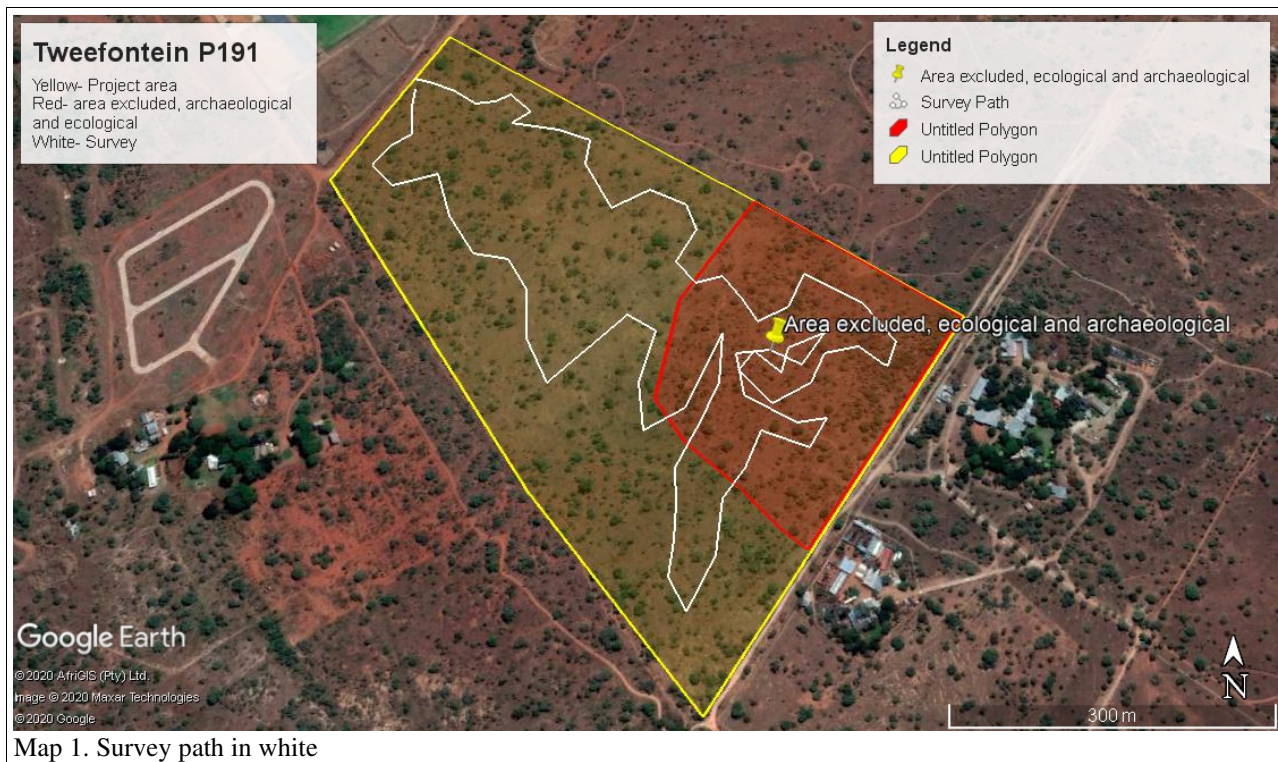
****‘structure** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground, ...”

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information and methodology

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

A pedestrian survey of the entire area was undertaken by Ms Liesl Stegmann on 3 June 2020, in the morning, during which standard methods of observation were applied. The area was carefully traversed, and special attention given to any areas displaying soil and or vegetative changes. As most archaeological material occurs 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 Etrex 10). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Nikon Coolpix L25 Digital camera.



2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. Vegetation was low density and visibility fair.

2.2 Categories of significance

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

Level	Details	Action
National (Grade 1)	Site is considered to be of National Significance	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade 2)	Site is considered to be of Provincial Significance	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority
Local Grade 3A	Site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	Site should be retained as a heritage site
Local Grade 3B	Site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be mitigated and part retained as a heritage site
Generally Protected A	High to Medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	Site needs to be recorded before destruction
Generally Protected C	Low significance	No further recording before destruction

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. Many aspects 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, though more recent remains can be termed historically significant should the remains hold social significance for the local community.

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

Vegetation: Polokwane Plateau Bushveld SVbc 23

Geology: Primarily Turfloop granite

Terrain: The terrain consists of flatlands to the west, climbing to a slight rise in the north-eastern corner.

Proposed development: To establish new student accommodation and an extension to the school



Fig 1: View of area



Fig 2: View of area



Fig 3: View of area



Fig 4: View of area

4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY AND DISCUSSION

4.1 SOCIAL and/or RELIGIOUS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

No areas designated for socio-religious activities were recorded on the site.

Significance: None

4.2 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No remains from the historical period were recorded.

Significance: None

4.3 GRAVES

No formal or informal graves could be identified.

Significance: None

4.4 IRON AGE REMAINS

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition: Kwale branch- Silver Leaves *facies* AD 280-450 (Early Iron Age)
Mzonjani *facies* AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)
Moloko branch- Icon *facies* AD 1300 - 1500 (Late Iron Age)

Kalundu Tradition: Happy Rest sub-branch - Doornkop *facies* AD 750 - 1000 (Early Iron Age)
Letaba *facies* AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)

Loubser (1981;1994) has published the only investigations into the archaeology of the area. His layers of occupation Loubser (1994: 66-73) are summarized below:

Layer 1	Initial occupation of the Polokwane Plateau. Dates to around AD 1600-1650. Ellenberger (1937), mentions that some Lete and Po (also Mapo, Bapo, Bambo) settled in the Magaliesberg area around AD 1700. She and Van Warmelo (1944e), also mention that Bambo share ancestry with Mapo communities living with Kgatla in the western Transvaal, however this was not fully demonstrated (Loubser 1981: 5). The AD 1700 date is problematic, as the Matlala stated that the Ndebele were in Polokwane before them.
Layer 2	Movement of Matlala Kone from the south east between AD 1650 and AD 1700. They had contact with the Phalaborwa and Lobedu people in the Lowveld (Krige: 1937; Van Warmelo: 1944a).
Layer 3	Settlement by the Langa or "Black Ndebele" occurred around AD 1820. They claim Hlubi origins but also have Lowveld Phalaborwa (probably Lobedu) and Venda elements in their society. They left Polokwane area in around AD 1825 (Van Warmelo: 1930).
Layer 4	This period is placed around AD 1837. Mungali broke away from Mzilikazi and establish dominancy over local Ndebele headmen such as Bambo and others. Mungali ruled from KaSibindi but was replaced after only 2 years. The Ledwaba/Maune Ndebele replaced the Sibindi Ndebele around AD 1840 (Ziervogel: 1958).
Layer 5	The Ledwaba (also known as Letaba) ruled from AD 1840 to AD 1855 when Europeans took control of the area (Ziervogel: 1958).

The Koni people began moving from the BaPhalarorwa around AD1650, however the first group who moved to the Polokwane area moved to around gaMaake and became known as Bakgaga. About 1750AD Bakgaga moved to around gaMphahlele. Later Bakgaga moved to gaMothapo.

Heritage Remains recorded on site:

Site: TW20/1

A Late Iron Age stone walled site was recorded in the north-eastern corner of the proposed project area. The site consisted of stone walls around and on the slight rise. No other associated materials such as ceramics or grinding stones could be located. This may attest to the possibility that the area was used as a cattle outpost.

Known group 2 Northern Ndebele archaeological sites are known from all over the Polokwane Plateau. Three (3) sites are known within a 2km radius of the area, Baskoppies- to the east, Mitchell House School (partly excavated in 2008 and 2010 by F Roodt) to the south west and Sterpark site, preserved to the south.

All these sites are examples of what J Loubser (1981) refers to a Group 2 Northern Ndebele sites.

The site in question, is severely degraded, with only foundations and some infill of stone walling remaining.

Significance: Local Grade C

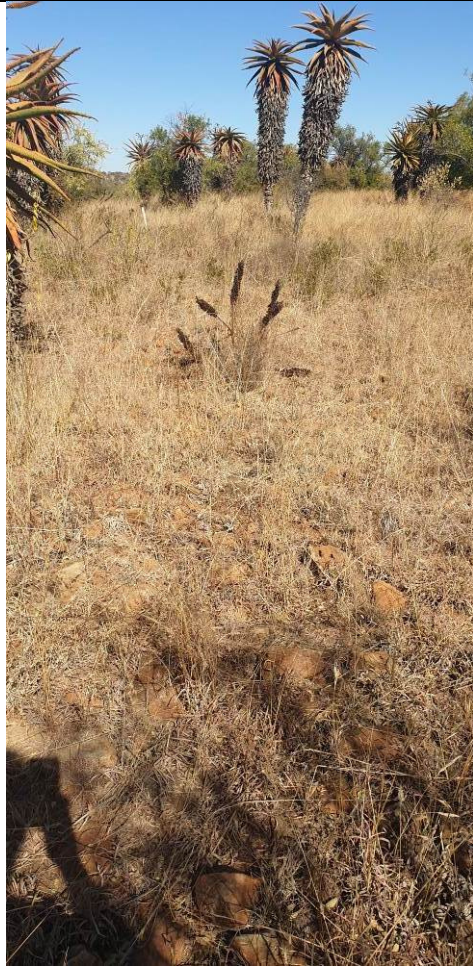


Fig 5. View of stone walling

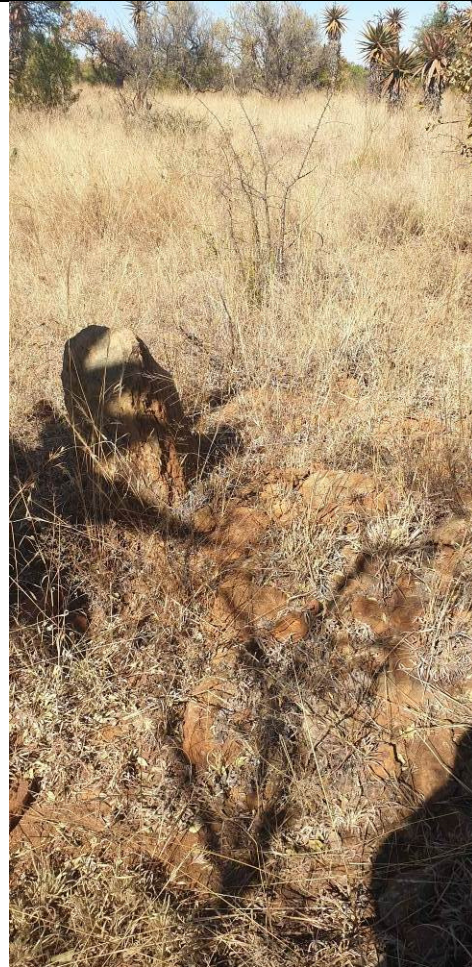


Fig 6. View of stone walling



Fig 7. View of stone walling



Fig 8. View of stone walling

4.5 STONE AGE REMAINS

No Stone Age remains were recorded.

The below mentioned is generic background to the area adapted from Deacon and Deacon: 1999:

The Stone Age covers most of southern Africa and the earliest consist of the Oldowan and Acheul artefacts assemblages. Oldowan tools are regularly referred to as “choppers”. Oldowan artefacts are associated with *Homo habilis*, the first true humans. In South Africa definite occurrences have been found at the sites of Sterkfontein and Swartkrans. Here they are dated to between 1.7 and 2

million years old. This was followed by the Acheulian technology from about 1.4 million years ago which introduced a new level of complexity. The large tools that dominate the Acheulian artefact assemblages range in length from 100 to 200 mm or more. Collectively they are called bifaces because they are normally shaped by flaking on both faces. In plain view they tend to be pear-shape and are broad relative to their thickness. Most bifaces are pointed and are classified as hand axes, but others have a wide cutting end and are termed cleavers. The Acheulian design persisted for more than a million years and only disappeared about 250 000 years ago. The project area is approximately 30km north of Chuenespoort dam, where the Pietersburg complex was recorded by Mason.

The change from Acheulian with their characteristic bifaces, hand axes and cleavers to Middle Stone Age (MSA), which are characterized by flake industries, occurred about 250 000 years ago and ended about 30 000 – 22 000 years ago. For the most part the MSA is associated with modern humans; Homo sapiens. MSA remains are found in open spaces where they are regularly exposed by erosion as well as in caves. Characteristics of the MSA are flake blanks in the 40 – 100 mm size range struck from prepared cores, the striking platforms of the flakes reveal one or more facets, indicating the preparation of the platform before flake removal (the prepared core technique), flakes show dorsal preparation – one or more ridges or arise down the length of the flake – as a result of previous removals from the core, flakes with convergent sides (laterals) and a pointed shape, and flakes with parallel laterals and a rectangular or quadrilateral shape: these can be termed pointed and flake blades respectively. Other flakes in MSA assemblages are irregular in form.

The change from Middle Stone Age to Later Stone Age (LSA) took place in most parts of southern Africa little more than about 20 000 years ago. It is marked by a series of technological innovations or new tools that, initially at least, were used to do much the same jobs as had been done before, but in a different way. Their introduction was associated with changes in the nature of hunter-gatherer material culture. The innovations associated with the Later Stone Age “package” of tools include rock art – both paintings and engravings, smaller stone tools, so small that the formal tools less than 25mm long are called microliths (sometimes found in the final MSA) and Bows and arrows. Rock art is an important feature of the LSA and is abundant in the Waterberg and the Makgabeng.

Significance: None

4.6 PALAEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The area lies within the grey zone on SAHRIS map. There is no need for a paleo study as the underlying granites and gneiss formations are not conducive to palaeontological remains.

5. BACKGROUND ON THE AREA

Polokwane, previously known as Pietersburg, was established in 1886. Originally white settlement occurred from the 1940's, but after trouble between Voortrekkers and local, African tribes near Schoemansdal, they returned to Polokwane.

Prior to this, the area of the Polokwane Plateau was heavily settled by amongst others the Northern Ndebele who arrived in successive “waves” and later by the Kone groups, listed under Iron Age. Background is dealt with in more detail under heritage subsections above.

The authors have conducted a large number of surveys over the whole plateau, over the last 25 years, and sites generally fall into one of Loubser's Northern Ndebele groups. Ms Stegmann is currently conducting research into the groups as part of a Master's dissertation.

6. EVALUATION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

6.1	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1	The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history (Historic and political significance)	Medium for excluded area, low for included area
2	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage (Scientific significance).	Medium for excluded area
3	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage (Research/scientific significance)	Medium for excluded area
4	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects (Scientific significance)	Medium for excluded area
5	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group (Aesthetic significance)	None
6	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (Scientific significance)	None
7	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social significance)	None
8	Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa (Historic significance)	None
9	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None

6.2 Section 38(3) (c) An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources.

No impact will occur, as the area where heritage resources were recorded is excluded with a buffer zone.

6.3 Section 38(3) (d) An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable economic benefits to be derived from the development.

None, as area will be excluded from development.

6.4 Section 38(3) (e) The results of consultation with the communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources.

Social consultative process is ongoing as part of EIA.

6.5 Section 38(3)(f) If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development the consideration of alternatives.

The area where heritage resources were recorded has been excluded to limit any adverse effects of the development.

6.6 Section 38(3)(g) Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.

Refer to recommendations for mitigation measures.

Impact significance and potential impacts are determined using the following:

<u>Nature</u>		
A brief description of the impact of the heritage parameter being assessed in the context of the specific border delineated project. Criteria, includes a brief written statement of the heritage aspect being impacted upon by a particular action or activity.		
<u>Topographical Extent</u>		
This is defined as the area over which the impact will be expressed. Typically, the severity and significance of an impact have different scales and as such bracketing ranges are often required. This is often useful during the detailed assessment of a project in terms of further defining the determined.		
1	Site	Impact limited to site
2	Local/District	Impact limited to district
3	Province/Region	Impact will affect region
4	International/National	Impact is on a national or international scale
<u>Probability</u>		
The probability of the impact occurring		
2	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is extremely low (Less than 25% chance of occurrence).
4	Possible	The impact may occur (Between a 25% to 50% chance of occurrence).
6	Probable	The impact will likely occur (Between 50% to 75% chance of occurrence).
8	Definite	Impact will certainly occur (Greater than 75% chance of occurrence).
<u>Reversibility</u>		
The degree to which the impact on heritage resources can be reversed after the activity has been completed		
1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with minor mitigation measures.
2	Partly reversible	The impact is partly reversible but more intense mitigation measures will be required.
3	Barely reversible	The impact is unlikely to be reversed even with intense mitigation measures.

4	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible regardless of mitigation measures.
<u>Permanent loss of heritage resources</u>		
The degree to which heritage resources will be lost as a result of proposed activity. This applies to destruction of the context of the resource, as excavation could preserve objects but not context.		
1	No loss of resource	The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.
2	Marginal loss of resource	The impact will result in marginal loss of any resources.
3	Severe loss of resource	The impact will result insignificant loss of resources.
4	Complete loss of resource	The impact is result in a complete loss of all resources.
<u>Duration</u>		
The duration of the impact on the heritage parameter. Duration indicates the lifetime of a result of the proposed activity.		
1	Short	The impact and its effects will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through natural process in span shorter than the construction phase (0-1 years), or the impact and its effects will last for the period of a relatively short construction period and a limited recovery time after construction, thereafter it will be entirely negated (0-2 years).
2	Medium	The impact and its effects will continue or last for some time after the construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (2-10 years).
3	Long	The impact and its effects will continue or last for entire operational life of the development but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (10-50 years).
4	Permanent	The only class of the impact that will non-transitory. Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or such a time span that the impact can be considered transient (Indefinite).
<u>Cumulative effect</u>		
The cumulative effect of the impacts on the heritage resource. A cumulative effect/impact is an effect, which in itself may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts emanating from similar or diverse activities as a result of the project activity in question.		
1	Negligible Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects.
2	Low Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in insignificant cumulative effects
3	Medium Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in minor cumulative effects
4	High Cumulative Impact	The impact would result in significant

		cumulative effects.
Magnitude		
The severity of the impact- it must be considered that once a heritage resource is removed from its original context much of its significance is lost.		
1	Low	Impact affects the quality, use and integrity of the Heritage resource in a way that is barely perceptible.
2	Medium	Impact alters the quality, use and integrity of the heritage resource but heritage resource still continues and maintains general integrity (some impact on integrity).
3	High	Impact affects the continued viability of the heritage resource and the quality, use, integrity and context of heritage resource is severely impaired and may temporarily cease. High costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
4	Very High	Impact affects the continued viability of the heritage resource and the quality, use, integrity and context of the heritage resource permanently ceases and is irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation and remediation often impossible. If possible rehabilitation and remediation often unfeasible due to extremely high costs of rehabilitation and remediation. This would involve a destruction permit or reconstruction- essentially losing the essence of what made the resource significant in the first place.
Significance		
It provides an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both tangible and intangible characteristics. (S) is formulated by adding the sum of numbers assigned to Topographical effect (E), Duration (D), and Magnitude (M) and multiplying the sum by the Probability. S= (E+D+M) P		
<30	Low	Mitigation of impacts is easily achieved where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area.
30-60	Medium	Mitigation of impact is both feasible and fairly easy. The impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated.
>60	High	Significant impacts where there is difficult. The impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area.

Impact and rating

<u>Impact</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Nature	School accommodation and extension
Topographical effect	1- limited to site
Reversibility	2
Permanent loss of heritage resources	1
Cumulative effect	1
Duration	3
Magnitude	1
Probability	2
Significance S= (E+D+M) P	1+3+1 x2 =10* The area is considered of low significance for the area still included. *HIGH significance for area excluded.
Mitigation	Monitoring of included area, exclusion of sensitive area

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is recommended:

1. The noted area in the north-eastern corner should be excluded from development. Ecologically, this area has also been marked for exclusion.
2. Should the excluded area need to be used, a phase 2 archaeological assessment will need to be applied for and conducted.
3. As the excluded area, is rated as a local grade C site, it has importance to research into the archaeological history of the wider area.
4. Although a wide buffer zone has been included, monitoring should still be done, if and when development ground works occur to deal with any heritage remains uncovered.
5. A management plan for the excluded area is recommended, to protect the site and to determine a way that the school can utilize the resources to complement what is learnt in the classroom.

The discovery of previously undetected subterranean heritage remains on the terrain must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

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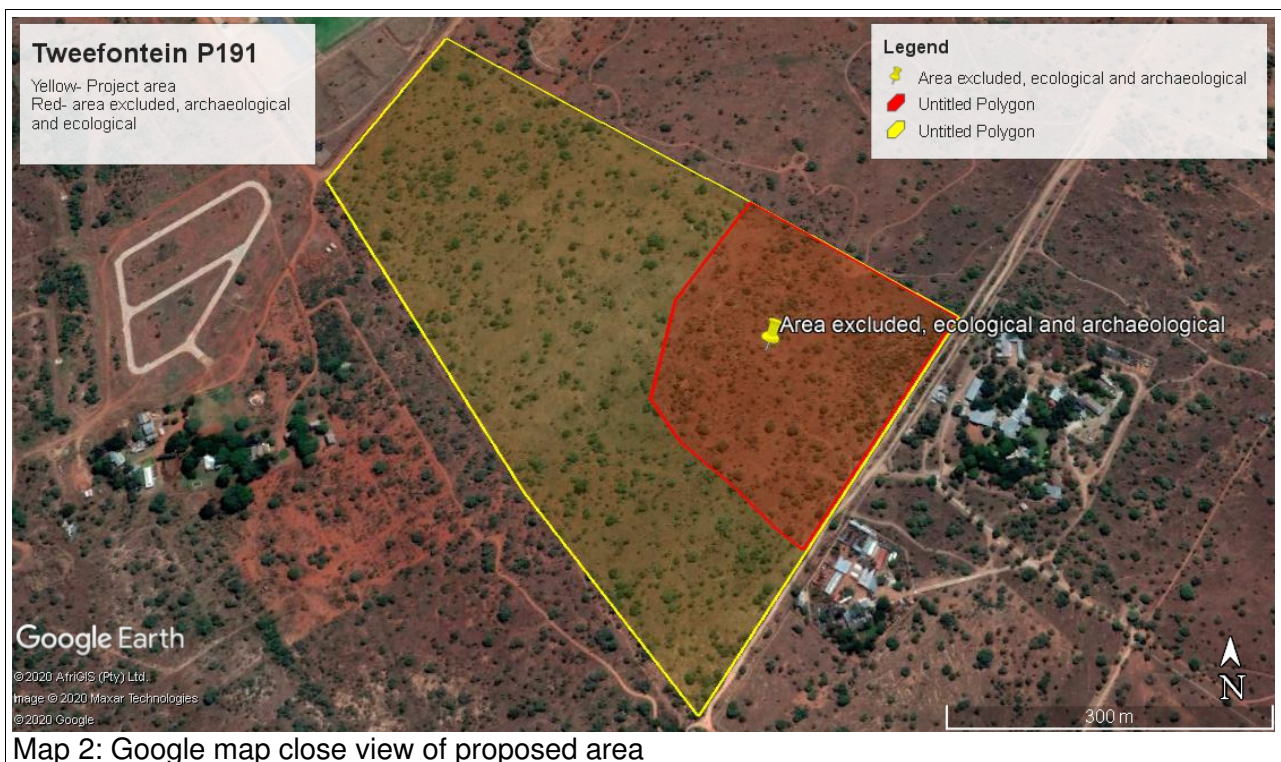
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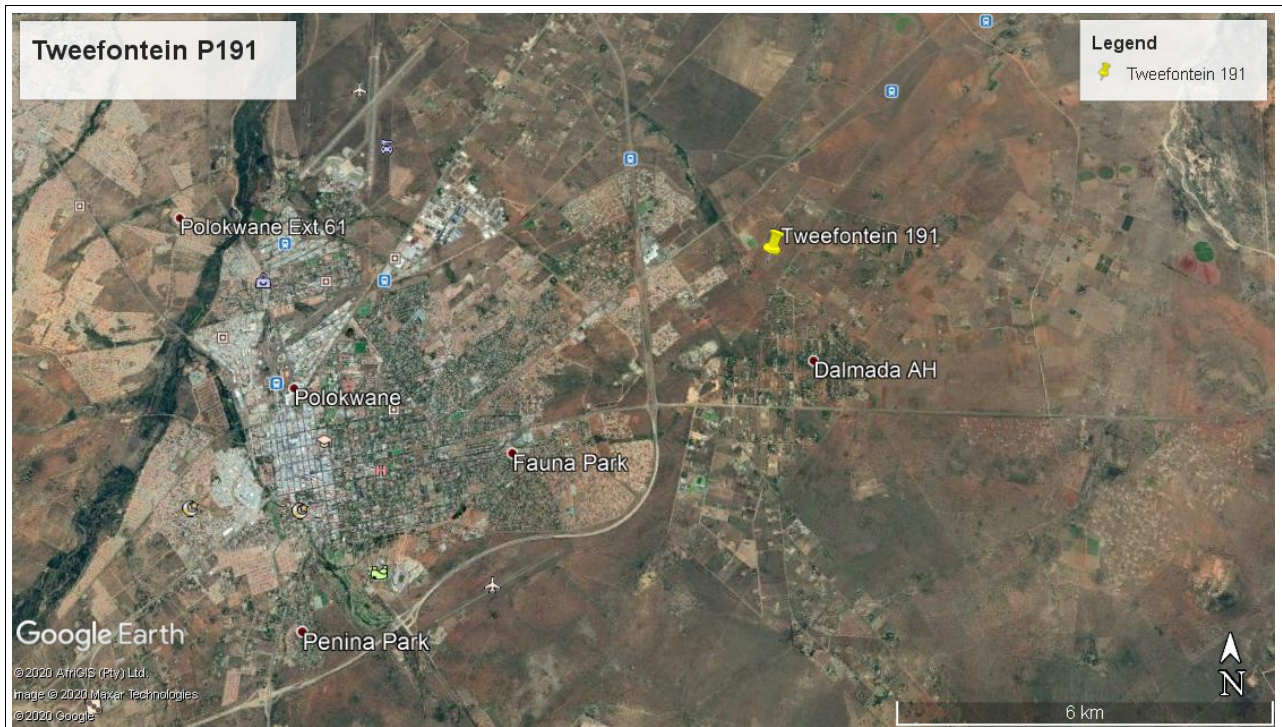
FRANS ELLINGTON ROODT

BA Hons Archaeology Unisa



FRANS ROODT (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)
Principal Investigator for SHASA Heritage Consultants





Map 3. Wide view of project area in relation to Polokwane