



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural  
Resource Consultants  
BK 98 09854/23

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**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT DONE FOR  
THE PROPOSED BOTSHABELO WEST TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT,  
MANGAUNG METRO, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

For:

***Mashalaba & Associates Consultants  
E-mail: [katlego@ybmac.co.za](mailto:katlego@ybmac.co.za)***

**REPORT NO.: AE01647V**

By:

***Prof. A.C. van Vollenhoven (L.AKAD.SA.)  
Accredited member of ASAPA (Accreditation number: 166)  
Accredited member of SASCH (Accreditation number: CH001)***

***2 September 2016***

Archaetnos  
P.O. Box 55  
GROENKLOOF  
0027  
Tel: 083 291 6104  
Fax: 086 520 4173  
E-mail: [antonv@archaetnos.co.za](mailto:antonv@archaetnos.co.za)

Member: AC van Vollenhoven BA, BA (Hons), DTO, NDM, MA (Archaeology) [UP], MA (Culture History) [US], DPhil (Archaeology) [UP], Man Dip [TUT], D Phil (History) [US]

## **SUBMISSION OF REPORT**

**Please note that the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or one of its subsidiary bodies needs to comment on this report.**

**It is the client's responsibility to do the submission via the SAHRIS System on the SAHRA website.**

**Clients are advised not to proceed with any action before receiving the necessary comments from SAHRA.**

## **DISCLAIMER**

**Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the survey of study areas, the nature of archaeological and historical sites are as such that it always is possible that hidden or subterranean sites could be overlooked during the study. Access to certain areas is also sometimes limited. Archaetnos and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result thereof. Any additional sites identified can be visited and assessed afterwards and the report amended, but only upon receiving an additional appointment.**

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## SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by Mashalaba Associates & Consultants to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment (HIA) for a proposed Botshabelo West Township Establishment. This is in the Mangaung Metro, Free State Province.

The field survey for the project was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. One regularly looks a bit wider than the demarcated area, as the surrounding context needs to be taken into consideration.

If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed. The survey was undertaken by doing a physical survey via off-road vehicle and on foot and covered as much as possible of the area to be studied.

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the GPS. The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

The evaluation of heritage sites is done by giving a field rating of each using the following criteria:

- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions.

The surveyed area is somewhat disturbed, but especially towards the north and west it seems to be largely undisturbed. Eleven sites of cultural heritage significance were located and a few was also identified on adjacent land.

Mitigation measures are proposed. Only after implementation of these, the development may continue.

It should nevertheless be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artefacts is always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence.

## CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY .....	3
CONTENTS .....	4
CIRRICULUM VITAE OF SPECIALIST .....	5
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE .....	6
1. INTRODUCTION.....	7
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	10
3. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS .....	11
4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS .....	12
5. THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATIONS’ PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE ..	15
6. METHODOLOGY .....	16
7. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT .....	17
8. HISTORICAL CONTEXT.....	21
9. DISCUSSION OF SITES IDENTIFIED DURING THE SURVEY ..	26
10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	38
11. REFERENCES.....	42
APPENDIX A – DEFENITION OF TERMS.....	44
APPENDIX B – DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE .....	45
APPENDIX C – SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING .....	46
APPENDIX D – PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES .....	47
APPENDIX E – HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES .....	48

## CURRICULUM VITAE OF SPECIALIST: PROF ANTON CARL VAN VOLLENHOVEN

### Tertiary education

- BA 1986, University of Pretoria
- BA (HONS) Archaeology 1988 (cum laude), University of Pretoria
- MA Archaeology 1992, University of Pretoria
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Museology 1993 (cum laude), University of Pretoria
- Diploma Tertiary Education 1993, University of Pretoria
- DPhil Archaeology 2001, University of Pretoria.
- MA Cultural History 1998 (cum laude), University of Stellenbosch
- Management Diploma 2007 (cum laude), Tshwane University of Technology
- DPhil History 2010, University of Stellenbosch

### Employment history

- 1988-1991: Fort Klapperkop Military Museum - Researcher
- 1991-1999: National Cultural History Museum. Work as Archaeologist, as well as Curator/Manager of Pioneer Museum (1994-1997)
- 1999-2002: City Council of Pretoria. Work as Curator: Fort Klapperkop Heritage Site and Acting Deputy Manager Museums and Heritage.
- 2002-2007: City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. Work as Deputy Manager Museums and Heritage.
- August 2007 – present – Managing Director for Archaetnos Archaeologists.
- 1988-2003: Part-time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Pretoria and a part-time lecturer on Cultural Resources Management in the Department of History at the University of Pretoria.
- 2014: Part-time lecturer for the Honours degree in Museum Sciences in the Department of History and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria
- 2015: Appointed as extraordinary professor in History at the Mafikeng Campus of the Northwest University

### Other

- Published 75 articles in scientific and popular journals on archaeology and history.
- Author and co-author of over 580 unpublished reports on cultural resources surveys and archaeological work. A list of reports can be viewed on [www.archaetnos.co.za](http://www.archaetnos.co.za)
- Published a book on the Military Fortifications of Pretoria.
- Contributed to a book on Mapungubwe.
- Delivered more than 50 papers and lectures at national and international conferences.
- Member of SAHRA Council for 2003 – 2006.
- Member of the South African Academy for Science and Art.
- Accredited professional member of Association for South African Professional Archaeologists.
- Accredited professional member of the South African Society for Cultural History (Chairperson 2006-2008; 2012-2014).
- Has been editor for the SA Journal of Cultural History 2002-2004.
- Member of the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, Gauteng's Council.

- Member of Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, Gauteng's HIA adjudication committee (Chairperson 2012-2019).

### **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

I, Anton Carl van Vollenhoven from Archaetnos, hereby declare that I am an independent specialist within the field of heritage management.

Signed:



Date: 2 September 2016

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by Mashalaba Associates & Consultants to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment (HIA) for a proposed Botshabelo West Township Establishment. This is in the Mangaung Metro, which includes Bloemfontein, Free State Province (Figure 1-5).

The client indicated the area to be surveyed. The field survey was confined to this area and was done on foot and via off-road vehicle.

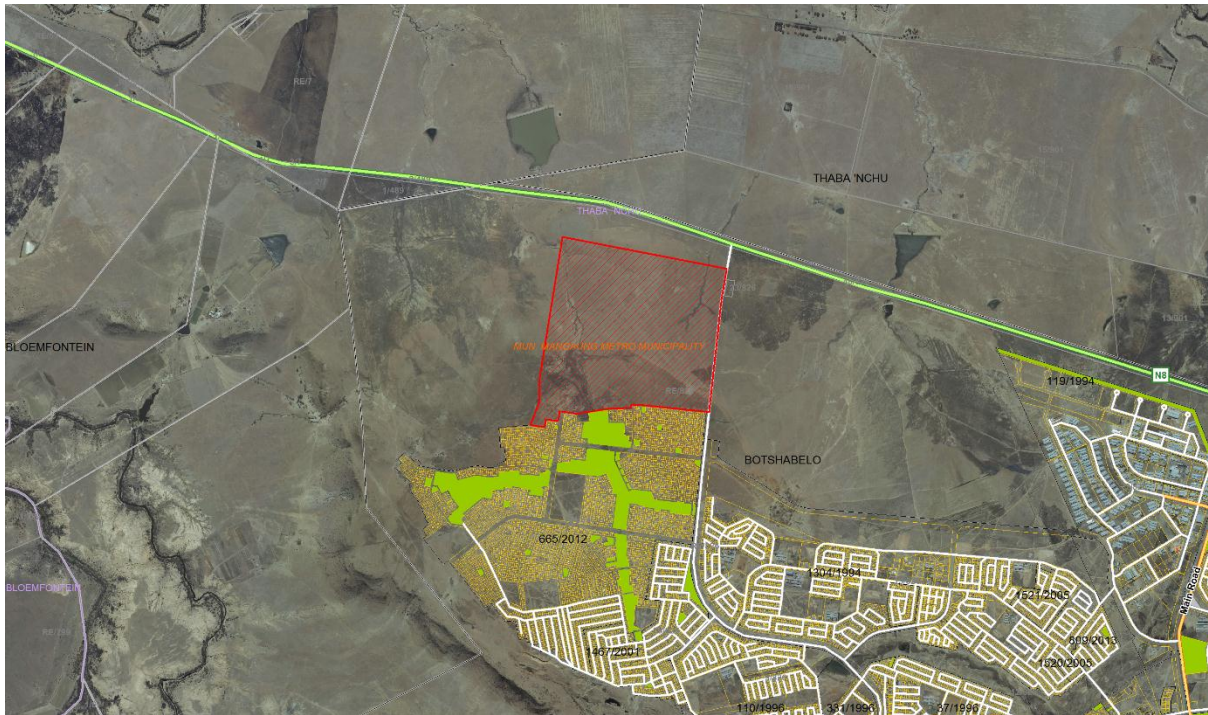


**Figure 1: Location of Bloemfontein and Botshabelo in the Free State Province. North reference is to the top.**

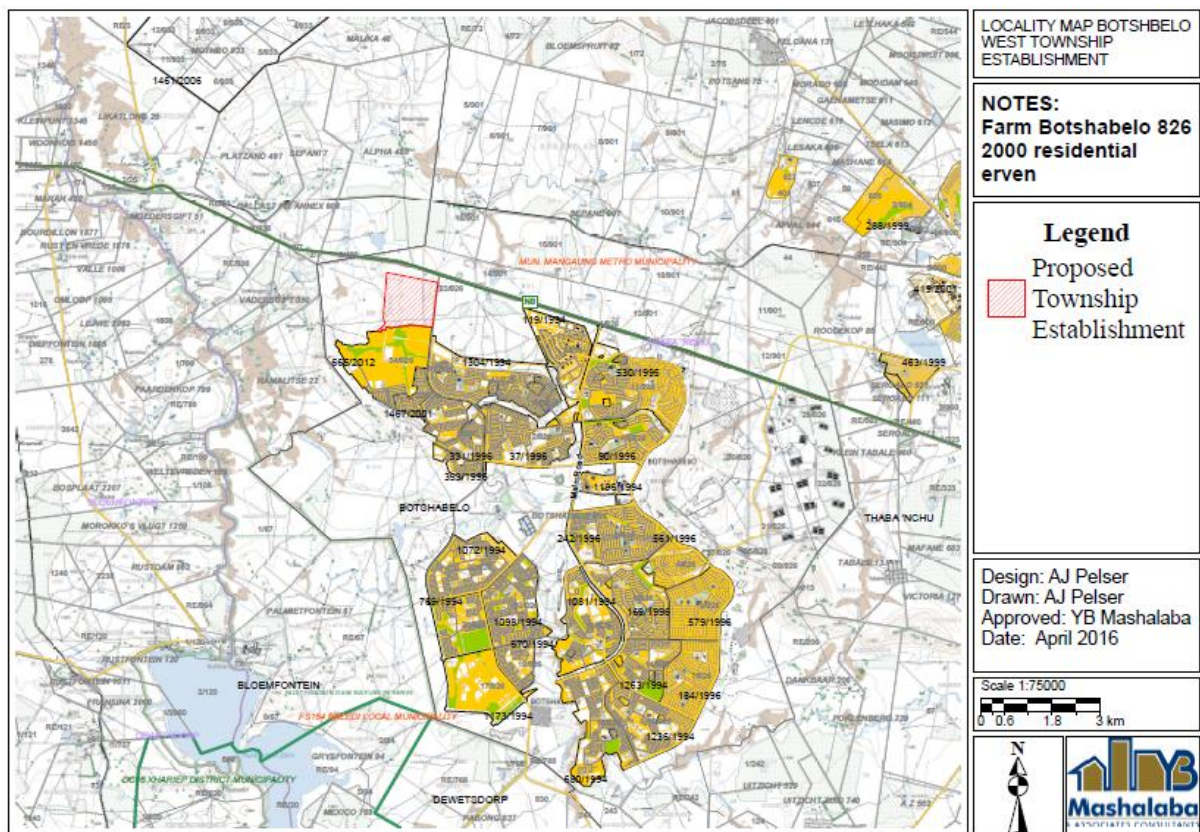


**Figure 2: Location of the site in relation to Botshabelo. North reference is to the top.**

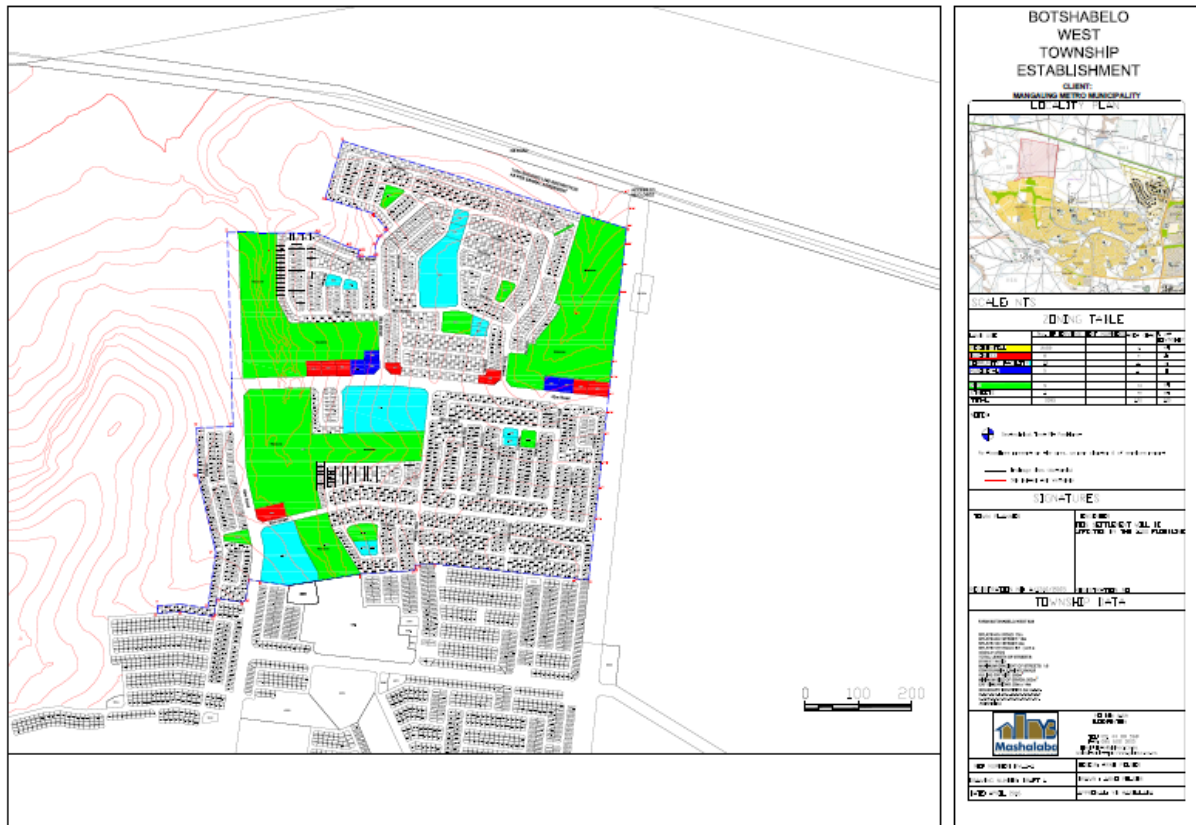




**Figure 3: Google Earth image indicating the extent of the development (red square). North reference is to the top.**



**Figure 5: Map indicating the proposed township.**



**Figure 5: Layout plan.**

## 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify as much as possible objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Study background information on the area to be developed.
3. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
4. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources by the proposed development.

6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

### **3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS**

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity (Appendix A). These include all sites, structure and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artefacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.
3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix C).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming and therefore expensive. Although the aim is to identify as much as possible, a heritage survey therefore always may not identify everything of heritage value in an area. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might be identified at a later stage.
7. It also is impossible to know everything about a specific environment related to the history of a site. Although a background study is done to determine the baseline data of the area, it will always lack completeness.
8. As far as Gaps in Knowledge are concerned the biggest problem is that there is no comprehensive database with information of the history and archaeology of South Africa. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has a system, called SAHRIS, where all heritage related reports are being stored. Although this does create some sort of a database it only contains information

since 2012. Older information are however gradually been introduced to SAHRIS.

#### **4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

##### **4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act**

According to the above-mentioned act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artefacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The national estate (see Appendix D) includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Archaeological and paleontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, paleontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment only looks at archaeological resources. The different phases during the HIA process are described in Appendix E. A Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) only looks at the palaeontological heritage and may also sometimes be required. Developers should consult with SAHRA in this regard.

An HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority

### **Structures**

Section 34 (1) of the mentioned act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

### **Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites**

Section 35(4) of this act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial):

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. Bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. Alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In

order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

### **Human remains**

Graves and burial grounds are divided into the following:

- a. ancestral graves
- b. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
- c. graves of victims of conflict
- d. graves designated by the Minister
- e. historical graves and cemeteries
- f. human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. Destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. Destroy, damage, alter, exhume or 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
- c. Bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

All graves older than 60 years are called heritage graves and should be handled by an archaeologist. This includes archaeological graves, which are older than 100 years. Unidentified/unknown graves (which refers to date of death) are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

## **4.2 The National Environmental Management Act**

This act (Act 107 of 1998) states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof be made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

## **5. THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATIONS' PERFORMANCE STANDARD FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

This standard recognizes the importance of cultural heritage for current and future generations. It aims to ensure that clients protect cultural heritage in the course of their project activities.

This is done by clients abiding to the law and having heritage surveys done in order to identify and protect cultural heritage resources via field studies and the documentation of such resources. These need to be done by competent professionals (e.g. archaeologists and cultural historians). Possible chance finds, encountered during the project development, also needs to be managed by not disturbing it and by having it assessed by professionals.

Impacts on the cultural heritage should be minimized. This includes the possible maintenance of such sites in situ, or when impossible, the restoration of the functionality of the cultural heritage in a different location.

When cultural historical and archaeological artefacts and structures need to be removed it should be done by professionals and by abiding to the applicable legislation. The removal of cultural heritage resources may however only be considered if there are no technically or financially feasible alternatives. In considering the removal of cultural resources, it should be outweighed by the benefits of the overall project to the affected communities. Again professionals should carry out the work and adhere to the best available techniques.

Consultation with affected communities should be engaged in. This entails that access to such communities should be granted to their cultural heritage if this is applicable. Compensation for the loss of cultural heritage should only be given in extra-ordinary circumstances.

Critical cultural heritage may not be impacted on. Professionals should be used to advise on the assessment and protection thereof.

Utilization of cultural heritage resources should always be done in consultation with the effected communities in order to be consistent with their customs and traditions and to come to agreements with relation to possible equitable sharing of benefits from commercialization.

## **6. METHODOLOGY**

### **6.1 Survey of literature**

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

### **6.2 Field survey**

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. One regularly looks a bit wider than the demarcated area, as the surrounding context needs to be taken into consideration.

If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS)<sup>1</sup>, while photographs were also taken where needed. The survey was undertaken by doing a physical survey via off-road vehicle and on foot and covered as much as possible of the area to be studied (Figure 6).

Certain factors, such as accessibility, density of vegetation, etc. may however influence the coverage. The survey was done during August 2016 when the vegetation cover was reasonably low due to the winter season. Archaeological visibility was therefore reasonably good. The size of the entire development area is 170 Ha and the study took 4 hours to complete.

### **6.3 Oral histories**

People from local communities are interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

### **6.4 Documentation**

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the GPS. The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

### **6.5 Evaluation of Heritage sites**

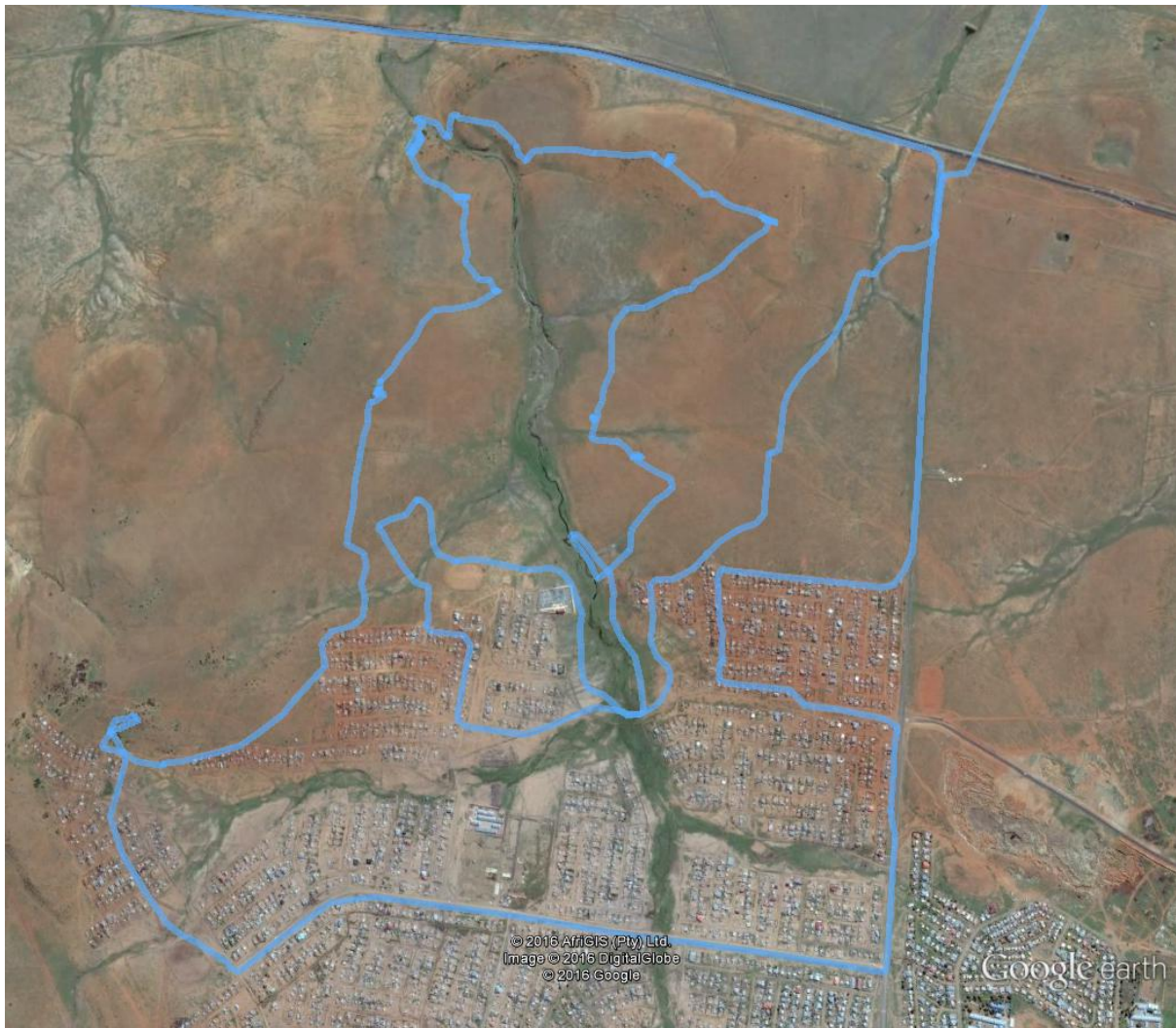
The evaluation of heritage sites is done by giving a field rating of each (see Appendix C) using the following criteria:

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<sup>1</sup> A Garmin Oregon 550 with an accuracy factor of a few meters.



- The unique nature of a site
- The integrity of the archaeological deposit
- The wider historic, archaeological and geographic context of the site
- The location of the site in relation to other similar sites or features
- The depth of the archaeological deposit (when it can be determined or is known)
- The preservation condition of the site
- Uniqueness of the site and
- Potential to answer present research questions



**Figure 6: GPS track of the surveyed area. North reference is to the top.**

## **7. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The surveyed area almost completely consist of grassland with very low grass. The horizontal archaeological visibility was therefore good, but since the vegetation cover is reasonably dense the vertical archaeological visibility was only relatively good (Figure 7-8). Signs of disturbance were noted namely an ESKOM powerline through

the area (Figure 9), housing on the southern edge (Figure 10), illegal dumping of waste material (Figure 11) and old agricultural fields.

The site is drained by a river system flowing towards the north, consisting of various tributaries (Figure 12). Accordingly the site has a slope towards the river, which is found in the west. The most northern section of the site consist of a rocky hill, similar to ones found further towards the west, but outside of the surveyed area (Figure 13).

In general the area is reasonably open with the vegetation dominated by short grass. A few clumps of trees were noted. This is a typical Highveld setting.



**Figure 7: General view of the surveyed area showing low grass cover.**



**Figure 8: Another view of the surveyed area.**



**Figure 9: ESKOM power lines in the surveyed area.**



**Figure 10: Housing development on the southern edge of the surveyed area.**



**Figure 11: Illegal dumping activities within the surveyed area.**



**Figure 12: View of a section of the river in the surveyed area.**



**Figure 13: Example of the hills in the surveyed area.**

## **8. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Eleven sites of cultural heritage significance were located in the surveyed area. A few more were noted just outside of the development area. In order to place this in

context and to assist in understanding possible finds that could be unearthed during construction activities, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history in the area.

Only a few heritage surveys have been done in the area, with a few more in the greater Mangaung area. Those close to the project area have not identified any sites of historical or archaeological significance (SAHRA's SAHRIS database).

## **8.1 Stone Age**

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago  
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago  
Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

Information as to the Stone Age in this area is very limited, probably due to a lack of research in the area. At Florisbad and Erfkroon some Early Stone Age sites were identified. At the latter Middle Stone Age material was also found (Bergh 1999: 4-5).

According to Van Schalkwyk (2014: 7) only some chance finds of tools as surface material, are known especially in the region of rivers. These are mostly informal tools and flakes dating to the Middle Stone Age. However, these are mostly located in the vicinity of rivers, such as the Doring Spruit north of Kroonstad and the Vals River south of Kroonstad and the Sand River to the south of Ventersburg.

Many Early Stone Age sites are known from the area around the Vaal River, far towards the north of the study area. In the Vredefort Dome, to the north-west of the project area, scattered finds of Middle and Late Stone Age tools have been recorded and at Florisbad and Voigtspost Late Stone Age material was uncovered (Mitchell 2002: 73, 110, 138).

Rock engravings were also found between the Vaal and Wilge Rivers, to the north-west of the project area (Bergh 1999: 4-5). Rock art are also known from the Drakensberg towards the east of the surveyed area (Willcox 1984). These are usually associated with the Late Stone Age. This phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people and many San sites are associated with rock art.

The environment definitely would be supportive to Stone Age activities. The nearby water sources would lure animals to the area and these people would therefore at least have hunted here. One should therefore be on the lookout for stone tools as Stone Age people probably would have moved through the area.

## **8.2 Iron Age**

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

No Early Iron Age sites have been recorded in the project area. Again this probably only relates to the lack of research as the environment definitely is suitable for human habitation.

The occupation of the larger geographical area (including the study area) did not start much before the 1500s. This resulted from the fact that 16th century the climate become warmer and wetter, creating condition that allowed Late Iron Age (LIA) farmers to occupy areas previously unsuitable, for example the Witwatersrand and the treeless, windswept plains of the Free State and the Mpumalanga Highveld (Van Schalkwyk 2014: 8).

A large number of Late Iron Age sites have previously been identified in the Vredefort Dome area, which lies to the north-west of the surveyed area (Pelsler 2005: 164-165; Bergh 1999: 7). Huffman (2007: 167, 179, 203) indicates that Late Iron Age people lived here between AD 1450 and 1650 and again between AD 1700 and 1840. Late Iron Ages sites are also known from Winburg and Platberg to the north-west of the surveyed area (Huffman 2007: 179, 195). During a survey done by Maggs (1976: 27) many Late Iron Age sites were also identified in the broader geographical area.

These sites are usually located close to high lying hills. The environment is very suitable for Iron Age people and one may perhaps find stone walled settlements and potsherds in the area.

## **8.3 Historical Age**

The Historical Age started with the first historical sources which can be used to learn more about people of the past. In South Africa it can be divided into two phases. The first includes oral histories as well as the recorded oral histories of past societies. The latter were usually written by people who contact with such a community for a short time. This is followed by the second phase which includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write (Van Vollenhoven 2006: 189).

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. This era is sometimes called the Colonial era or the recent past.

Due to factors such as population growth and a decrease in mortality rates, more people inhabited the country during the recent historical past. Therefore and because less time has passed, much more cultural heritage resources from this era have been left on the landscape. It is important to note that all cultural resources older than 60 years are potentially regarded as part of the heritage and that detailed studies are needed in order to determine whether these indeed have cultural significance. Factors to be considered include aesthetic, scientific, cultural and religious value of such resources.

In the northern Free State the historic period started with the arrival, in the late 18th century by Korana raiders in the area. Armed Qriqua and Korana raiders on horseback were active in the Northern Cape and Orange Free State by about 1790. The Xhosa were raiding across the Orange River about 1805 (Van Schalkwyk 2014: 8).

During the Difaquane, Moroka II, chief of the Boo-Seleka section of the Barolong tribe, migrated to the eastern Free State in 1833. They settled at Thaba Nchu. Early white travelers also moved through this area. The first was the Smith expedition in 1835, followed by WC Harris in 1836 and Krebs in 1838 (Bergh 1999: 13). During the Great Trek (approximately 1835-1838) Thaba Nchu was a well-known gathering place for the different groups (Bergh 1999: 14).

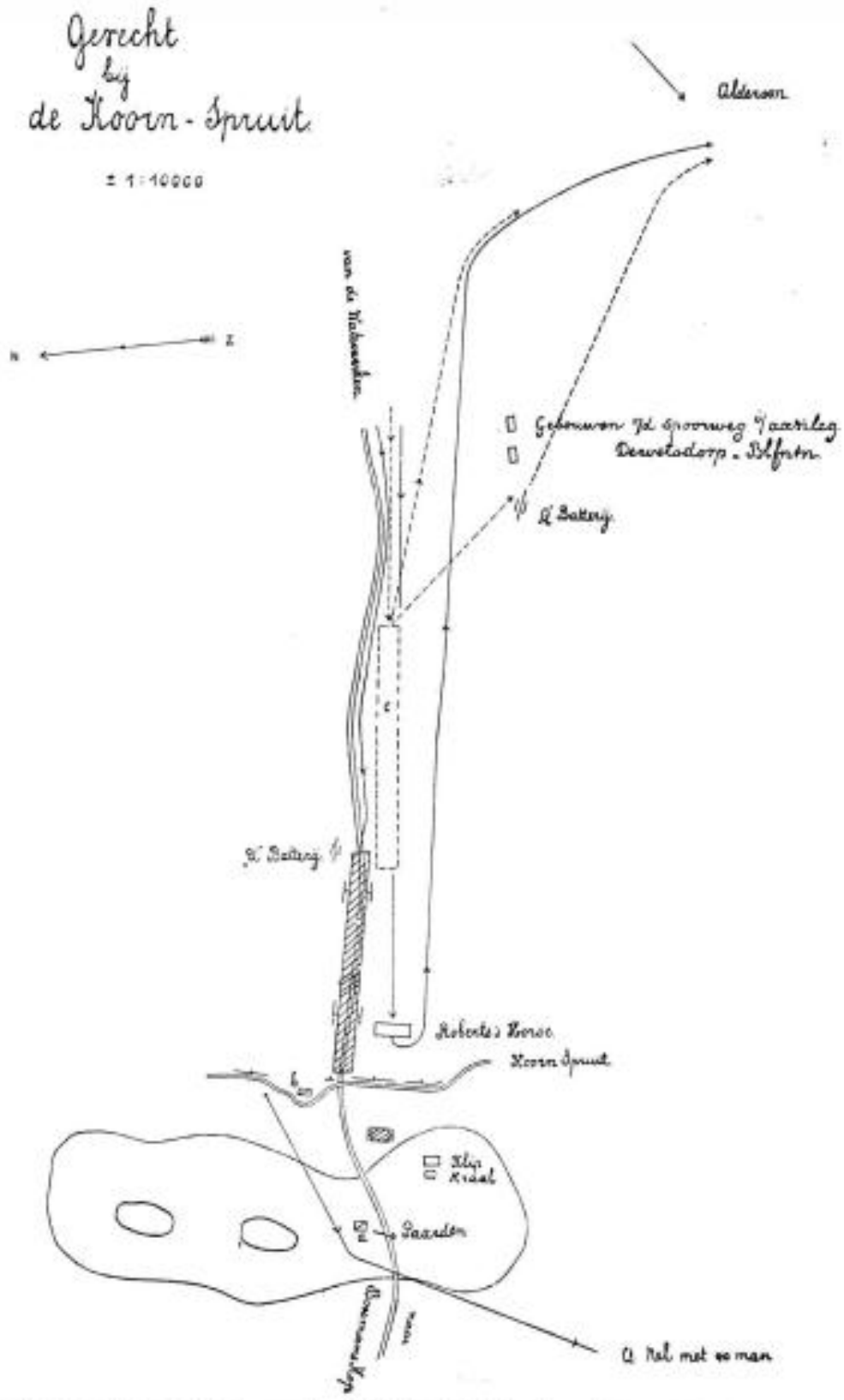
During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) both Boer and British forces moved through this area. A few skirmishes also took place here, including one on 30 April 1900 (Bergh 1999: 51) and the Battle of Sannaspos on 31 March 1900 (Pretorius 1998: 25). It was at this battle that the famous General CR de Wet made name for himself as a military strategist (Figure 14).

The British had a garrison at Thaba Nchu and a camp at Sannaspos. These were attacked by the Boers and resulted in the capture of the Bloemfontein water works. This contributed to a shortage of water in Bloemfontein where the British was stationed at the time and delayed the British forces in their aim to capture Pretoria (Pretorius 1998: 25).

In 1901 the British implemented concentration camps for black people. One of these were at Thaba Nchu (Pretorius 1998: 80).

One may therefore expect to find Historical Late Iron Age settlements linked to the indigenous people here. Other possibilities are farm buildings, graves and objects linked to farmers as well as sites associated with the Anglo-Boer War.





Sketstekening van die geveg by Sannaspost op 31 Maart 1900 by die artikel van luitenant C. J. Asselbergs. "Het gevecht bij Sanna's-Post" in die Militaire Gids van Februarie 1904

**Figure 14: Sketch plan of the Battle of Sannaspos (Scientiamilitaria.journals.ac.za/pub/article/download/890/891).**

## 9. DISCUSSION OF SITES IDENTIFIED DURING THE SURVEY

As indicated, eleven sites of cultural importance were identified in the surveyed area. It seems as if the development will impact directly on these sites. Therefore mitigation measures are proposed.

### 9.1 Historical/ Late Iron Age stone walling

#### ***Site no. 2 - Circular stone walling:***

GPS: 29°11'05,1"S; 26°39'23,0"E

The site consists of circular stone packed walling of approximately 6 m in diameter and 50 cm high (Figure 15).

It does not seem to be associated with any larger site and most likely is the remains of a livestock enclosure. It is regarded as having a low cultural significance and receives a field rating of General protection C (IV C). This means that this Phase I report is seen as ample recording and the site may therefore be demolished.



**Figure 15: Circular stone walling at site no. 2.**

#### ***Site no. 8 - Circular stone walling:***

GPS: 29°11'32,2"S; 26°39' 31,5"E

The site consists of a small (2 m diameter) stone packed circle with wall of about 30 cm high (Figure 16). It has an entrance to the western side.

It does not seem to be associated with any larger site and most likely is the remains of a small livestock enclosure. It is regarded as having a low cultural significance and receives a field rating of General protection C (IV C). This means that this Phase I report is seen as ample recording and the site may therefore be demolished.



**Figure 16: Circular stone walling at site no. 8.**

***Site no. 9 - Long stone walling with monolith:***

GPS: 29°11'36,1"S; 26°39' 36,6"E

The site consists of a long stone wall of about 50 m long and 50 cm high. It has a large monolith on its southern end (Figure 17).

It does not seem to be associated with any larger site and most likely is the remains of a rectangular cattle enclosure, of which the other walls have been robbed so that only one remains. Many rectangular kraals, still in use were found just outside of the surveyed area and close to the current houses and the stones used in building these may have been robbed from this and perhaps other similar sites.

The site is regarded as having a low cultural significance and receives a field rating of General protection C (IV C). This means that this Phase I report is seen as ample recording and the site may therefore be demolished.



**Figure 17: Long stone wall and monolith at site no. 9.**

## **9.2 Historical structures**

### ***Site no. 1 – two historical stone walls:***

GPS: 29°11'19,9"S; 26°39' 21,1"E

The site consists of two walls. The first (Figure 18) is an L-shaped wall of approximately 30 x 20 m and 20 cm high, found on the western side of the river. The second (Figure 19) is a single wall of about 40 m long on the eastern side of the river.

It is clear that the two walls had the same function which may have something to do with the river. It however also is possible that it may be linked to the military site (see below). It therefore is regarded as having a high cultural significance and receives a field rating of Local Grade IIIA. This means that the site may not be demolished and should be included in the heritage register.

A Phase II heritage study is needed in order to determine the exact heritage value of the site, after which it may be re-evaluated. No development should be allowed here until further clarity has been obtained.



**Figure 18: L-shaped stone walling at site no. 1.**



**Figure 19: Long stone wall on the eastern side of the river, part of site no. 1.**

**Site no. 3-7 and 11 – Military site:**

Although different number are given, all of these form one large site, which may even include site no 1 (above).

Site 3 – defensive wall:

GPS: 29°11'06,3"S; 26°39'38,0"E  
29°11'06,3"S; 26°39'28,2"E

This is a long stone wall which likely had a defensive function (Figure 20). It is approximately 20 cm high and 180 m long.



**Figure 20: Defensive stone walling which forms part of the military site.**

Site 4 - blockhouse:

GPS: 29°11'06,7"S; 26°39'39,8"E

This is the remains of a blockhouse (small fortification) built by the British during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). It consists of a circular heap of stones approximately

10 m in diameter and 1 m high, surrounded by a circular stone wall about 12 m from the blockhouse and also about 1 m high (Figure 21).

Blockhouses were erected by the British since July 1900 and many of these consisted of pre-fabricated corrugated iron structures (called Rice pattern<sup>2</sup> blockhouses) which were strengthened by stone walling (Van Vollenhoven 1999: 80-81).



**Figure 21: Remains of blockhouse at the military site.**

Site 5 - trench:

GPS: 29°11'07,5"S; 26°39'41,5"E  
29°11'11,7"S; 26°39'46,9"E

This is the remains of a trench dug for protection of the military site (Figure 22). It served as additional military defense and is approximately 125 m long. On Google Earth it seems as if this trench continues further towards the east for about another 800 m. Trenches like these are quite rare and only two other sites in South Africa are known to have such trenches, dug during the Anglo-Boer War.

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<sup>2</sup> The Rice pattern refers to a type of blockhouse, invented by Maj. SR Rice of the Royal Artillery. It consisted of different shapes made out of galvanized corrugated iron. These usually had a wooden frame, with a double corrugated iron wall attached thereto and with small stones in between (see A.C. van Vollenhoven, *The military fortifications of Pretoria 1880-1902. A study in historical archaeology* (Pretoria, 1999), p. 81).



**Figure 22: Remains of military trench.**

Site 6 - quarry:

GPS: 29°11'12,9"S; 26°39'49,9"E



**Figure 23: The quarry.**



This is the remains of a small quarry, most likely where the British obtained some of the stones in the building of the military site (Figure 23). This is extremely rare as one usually only have a vague idea where stone were quarried for this purpose.

Site 7 – fortification walls:

GPS: 29°11'13,2"S; 26°39'51,7"E

This is the remains of at least three structures which may have served as fortifications and therefore additional military strengthening of the site (Figure 24). This indicates that the site probably guarded something at it is too large to be only some kind of a lookout post.



**Figure 24: Fortification walls.**

Site 11 – ruins:

GPS: 29°11'10,7"S; 26°39'36,7"E  
29°11'20,1"S; 26°39'40,5"E

These are various rectangular and circular structures which likely were buildings erected and used by the British forces (Figure 25). This indicates that the site probably was a British military camp.



**Figure 25: Military building remains.**

It is clear that the sites indicated above forms part of a large military site dating to the Anglo- Boer War. It definitely is a military camp, but there must have been a reason to have such a large military presence here. It may be that it was the camp associated with the Thaba Nchu black concentration camp.

The site therefore is of immense importance and may not be touched, meaning that this is a no-go area. It therefore is regarded as having a high cultural significance and receives a field rating of Local Grade IIIA. This means that the site may not be demolished and should be included in the heritage register. A Phase II study is needed in order to determine the exact heritage value of the site, after which it may be re-evaluated. No development should be allowed here until further clarity has been obtained.

***Site no. 10 – historical ruins:***

GPS: 29°11'37,9"S; 26°39'20,7"E  
29°11'37,9"S; 26°39'20,7"E

The site consists of the remains of a large rectangular building, associated with a long stone wall (Figure 26). The wall is approximately 150 m long and the structure about 60 x 20 m.

The structure most likely is connected to the early farming history of the area, but it is possible that the British might have kept horses here during the Anglo-Boer War and that the site therefore can be linked to the military site (see above). It therefore is

regarded as having a high cultural significance and receives a field rating of Local Grade IIIA. This means that the site may not be demolished and should be included in the heritage register. A Phase II study is needed in order to determine the exact heritage value of the site, after which it may be re-evaluated. No development should be allowed here until further clarity has been obtained.



**Figure 26: Stone ruin at site no. 10.**

### **9.3 Sites identified outside of the surveyed area**

These are included as they may provide context to the rest. It will however not be discussed in detail.

Late Iron Age/ Historical stone walled complex (Figure 27) - GPS: 29°11'30,2S;  
26°39'08,4E



**Figure 27: Late Iron Age/ historical stone walled complex.**

Historical stone kraal (Figure 28) - GPS: 29°11'08,43S; 26°39'23,4E



**Figure 28: Historical stone kraal.**

Historical farm house ruins (Figure 29) - GPS: 29°11'04,8"S; 26°39'11,5"E



**Figure 29: Historical farm house ruins.**

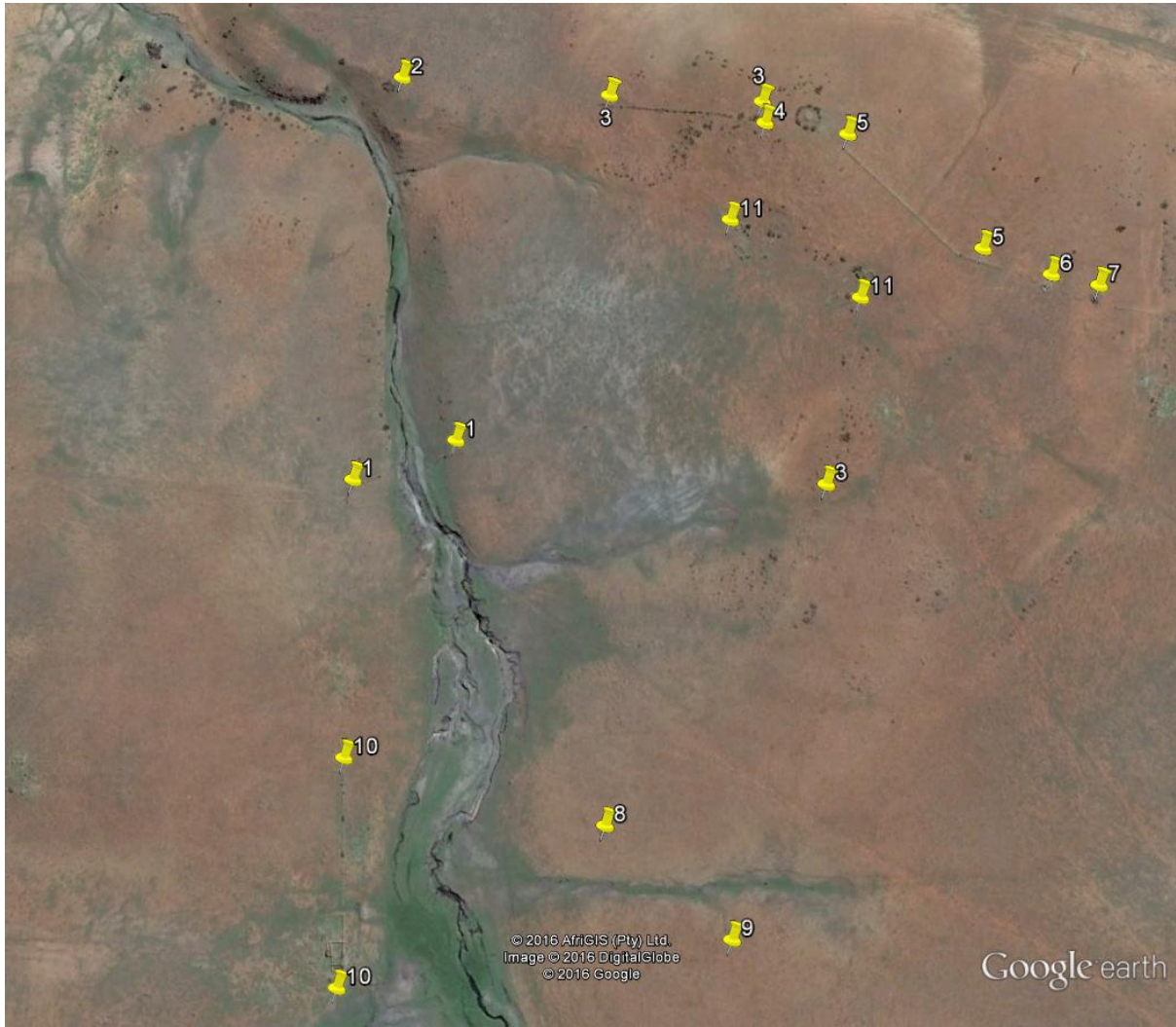
Historical kraal and stone walled complex (Figure 30) - GPS: 29°11'42,8"S;  
26°39'09,0"E and 29°11'40,1"S; 26°39'12,9"E



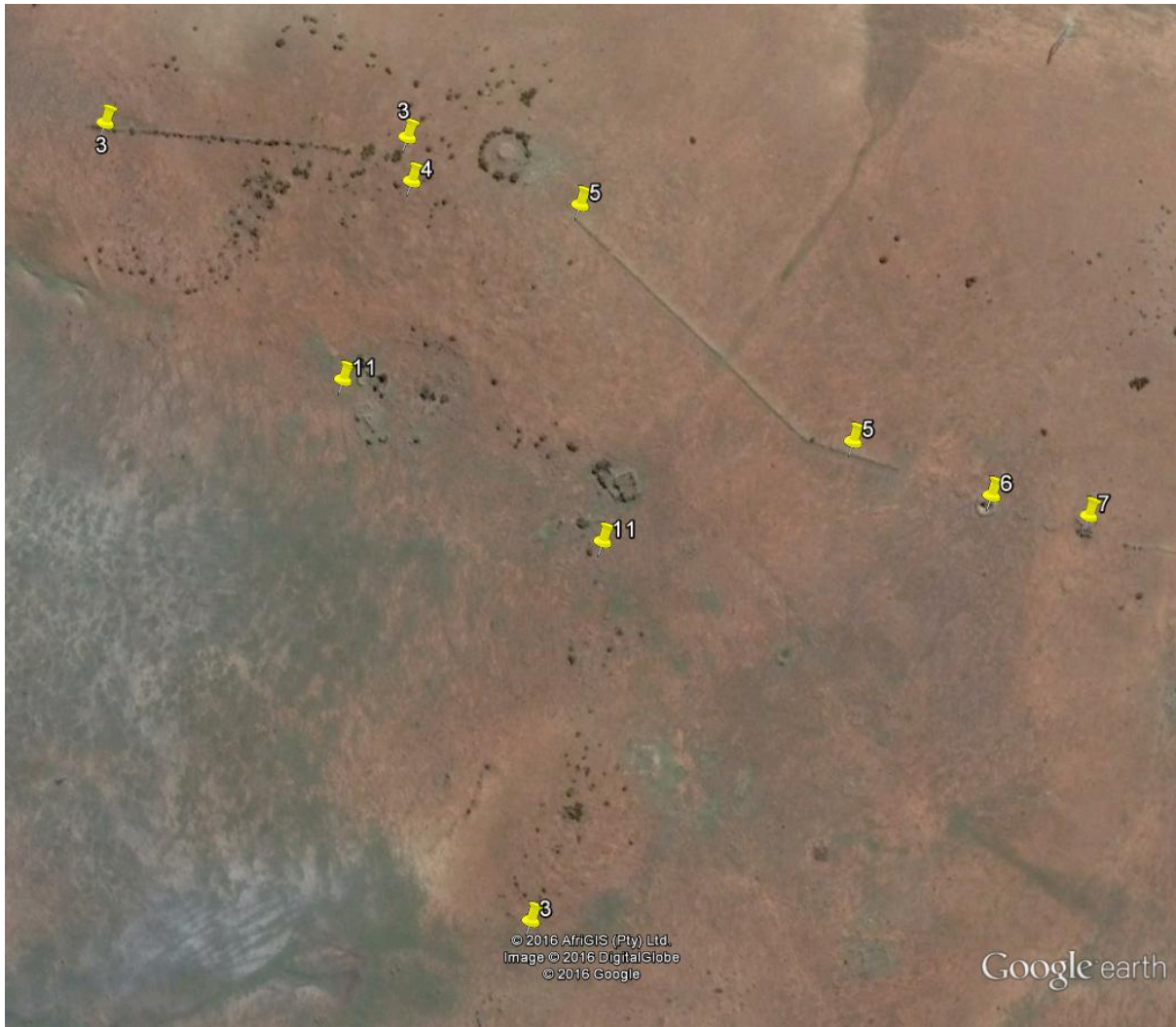
**Figure 30: Historical stone walled complex.**

## 10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey of the indicated area was completed successfully. Eleven sites of heritage significance were identified in the surveyed area (Figure 31-32).



**Figure 31: Google Earth image indicating the location of sites identified in the surveyed area.**



**Figure 32: Location of the sites which definitely forms part of the military site.**

The following is recommended:

- Sites no. 2, 8 and 9 does not seem to be associated with any larger site and is therefore regarded as having a low cultural significance. This Phase I report is seen as ample recording and the site may therefore be demolished.
- There is a possibility that sites no. 1 and 10 may be linked to the military site. Accordingly it is regarded as having a high cultural significance. This means that these sites may not be demolished and should be included in the heritage register. A Phase II study is needed in order to determine the exact heritage value of the site, after which it may be re-evaluated. No development should be allowed here until further clarity has been obtained.
- Sites no. 3-7 and 11 are actually components of one large British military camp dating to the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). It may be possible that it was the camp associated with the Thaba Nchu black concentration camp. The

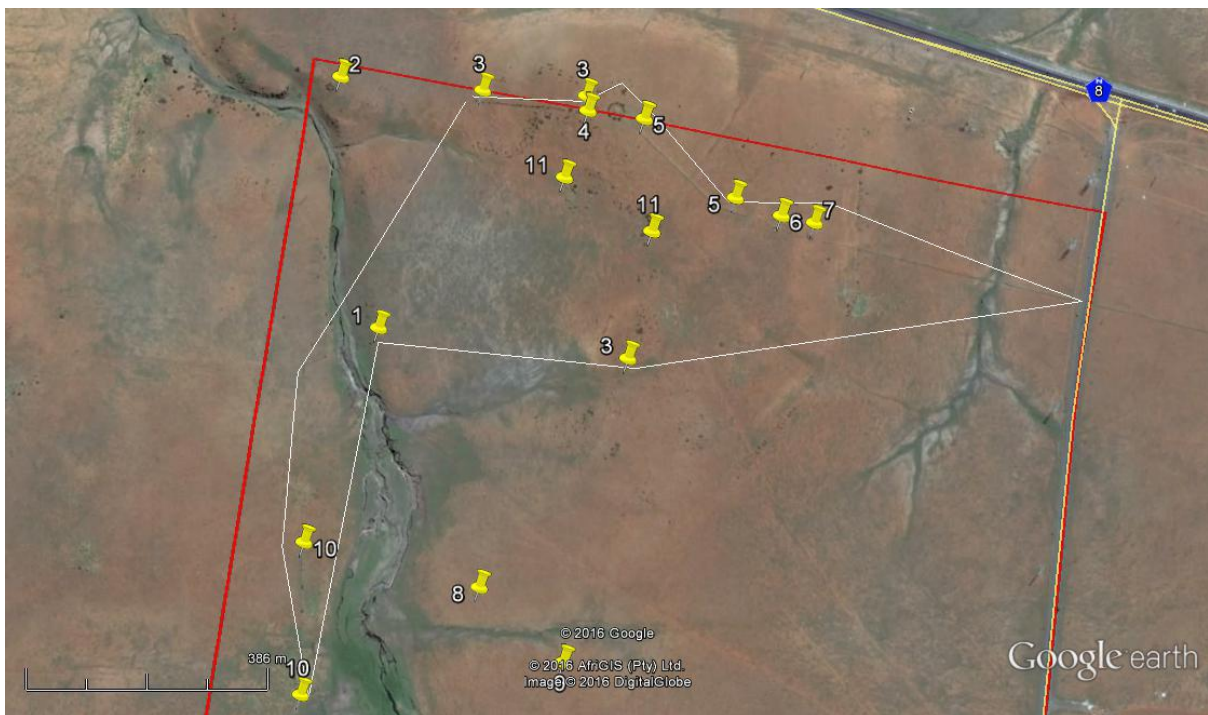
site therefore is of immense importance and may not be touched, meaning that this is a no-go area (Figure 33-34). It therefore is regarded as having a high cultural significance and receives a field rating of Local Grade IIIA. A Phase II study is needed in order to determine the exact heritage value of the site, after which it may be re-evaluated. No development should be allowed here until further clarity has been obtained.

- A cultural management plan should be drafted and implemented to preserve and protect the sites. The plan should also include measures for the sustainable utilization of the structure (e.g. walking trails and information panels). The body corporate of the new development will have to assume responsibility for the implementation of the plan in the future.
- After such a Phase II study has been done on the sites indicated, it may be re-evaluated, which will indicate further action, if any. Sites not believed to be part of the military site, will probably be downgraded, but those associated with the military site will have to be preserved and a cultural heritage management plan should be drafted for these. Such a plan should be drafted by a heritage expert and should be completed before the development may commence.
- Only after implementation of the above indicated mitigatory measures, the proposed development may continue.
- It should also be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artefacts is always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence.





**Figure 33: Google Earth image indicating the relation of the surveyed area to the the Battle of Sannaspos and Thaba Nchu. Battles are fought over large areas and it therefore is possible that the miitary site identified can be linked to this or the black concentration camp at Thaba Nchu.**



**Figure 34: Google Earth image indicating the no-go area, which needs to be investigated via a Phase II heritage study.**

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artefacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artefact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

## **APPENDIX B**

### **DEFINITION/ STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:**

- Historic value: Important in the community or pattern of history or has an association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history.
- Aesthetic value: Important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.
- Scientific value: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history or is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement of a particular period
- Social value: Have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Rarity: Does it possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage.
- Representivity: Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or object or a range of landscapes or environments characteristic of its class or of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, province region or locality.

## APPENDIX C

### SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING:

#### Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.
- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.
- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as having high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

#### Heritage significance:

- Grade I Heritage resources with exceptional qualities to the extent that they are of national significance
- Grade II Heritage resources with qualities giving it provincial or regional importance although it may form part of the national estate
- Grade III Other heritage resources of local importance and therefore worthy of conservation

#### Field ratings:

- i. National Grade I significance should be managed as part of the national estate
- ii. Provincial Grade II significance should be managed as part of the provincial estate
- iii. Local Grade IIIA should be included in the heritage register and not be mitigated (high significance)
- iv. Local Grade IIIB should be included in the heritage register and may be mitigated (high/ medium significance)
- v. General protection A (IV A) site should be mitigated before destruction (high/ medium significance)
- vi. General protection B (IV B) site should be recorded before destruction (medium significance)
- vii. General protection C (IV C) phase 1 is seen as sufficient recording and it may be demolished (low significance)

## **APPENDIX D**

### **PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES:**

#### **Formal protection:**

National heritage sites and Provincial heritage sites – grade I and II

Protected areas - an area surrounding a heritage site

Provisional protection – for a maximum period of two years

Heritage registers – listing grades II and III

Heritage areas – areas with more than one heritage site included

Heritage objects – e.g. archaeological, paleontological, meteorites, geological specimens, visual art, military, numismatic, books, etc.

#### **General protection:**

Objects protected by the laws of foreign states

Structures – older than 60 years

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Burial grounds and graves

Public monuments and memorials

## **APPENDIX E**

### **HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASES**

1. Pre-assessment or scoping phase – establishment of the scope of the project and terms of reference.
2. Baseline assessment – establishment of a broad framework of the potential heritage of an area.
3. Phase I impact assessment – identifying sites, assess their significance, make comments on the impact of the development and makes recommendations for mitigation or conservation.
4. Letter of recommendation for exemption – if there is no likelihood that any sites will be impacted.
5. Phase II mitigation or rescue – planning for the protection of significant sites or sampling through excavation or collection (after receiving a permit) of sites that may be lost.
6. Phase III management plan – for rare cases where sites are so important that development cannot be allowed.