

Archaeological Impact Assessment

For the proposed quarry on the farm Dingwell 276, JT, Rockys Drift, Mpumalanga Province

Prepared For

Greenmined Environmental

By



HERITAGE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site name and location: The proposed Dingwell quarry is located on the farm Dingwell 276, JT, approximately 3.2 km north west of the town Rocky Drift, Mpumalanga Province.

Purpose of the study: Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment to determine the presence of cultural heritage sites and the impact of the proposed project on these resources within the area demarcated for the proposed quarry.

1:50 000 Topographic Map: 2530 BD

Environmental Consultant: Greenmined Environmental

Developer: Afrimat Aggregates (Trading) (Pty) Ltd

Heritage Consultant: Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC).

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Date of Report: 28 February 2014, revised 6 March 2014.

Findings of the Assessment:

No sites of heritage significance were found in the quarry footprint during the survey and from an archaeological point of view there is no reason why the development cannot commence work based on approval from SAHRA.

Dr John Almond conducted a desktop study on the palaeontology of the area and concluded that it is recommended that exemption from further specialist palaeontological studies and mitigation be granted for this aggregate quarry development. His report is included as Annexure A.

If during construction, any archaeological finds are made (e.g. stone tools, skeletal material), the operations must be stopped, and the archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the finds. Please refer to the full PIA for recommendations regarding the palaeontology of the study area.

General

Due to the subsurface nature of archaeological material and unmarked graves the possibility of the occurrence of unmarked or informal graves and subsurface finds cannot be excluded. If during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

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- The technology described in any report;
- Recommendations delivered to the Client.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
GLOSSARY.....	7
1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	8
1.1 Terms of Reference.....	9
1.2. Archaeological Legislation and Best Practice	9
1.3 Description of Study Area	11
1.3.1 <i>Location Data</i>	11
1.3.2. <i>Location Map</i>	12
2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY	13
2.1 Phase 1 - Desktop Study.....	13
2.1.1 <i>Literature Search</i>	13
2.1.2 <i>Information Collection</i>	13
2.1.3 <i>Consultation</i>	13
2.1.4 <i>Google Earth and Mapping Survey</i>	13
2.1.5 <i>Genealogical Society of South Africa</i>	13
2.2 Phase 2 - Physical Surveying.....	13
2.3. Restrictions	13
3. NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT.....	14
4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA.....	14
4.1 Databases Consulted	14
4.2 Archaeological and Historical Information Available on the Study Area	15
4.2.1. Paleontology	15
4.2.2 Stone Age sites.....	15
4.2.2. Iron Age remains	16
4.2.3. Historical Information – The Voortrekkers	17
4.2.4. The Anglo Boer War	18
4.2.6. Background to the town of White River	19
5. HERITAGE SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES	20
5.1. Field Rating of Sites	21
6. BASELINE STUDY-DESCRIPTION OF SITES.....	22
7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS	24
8. PROJECT TEAM.....	25
9. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCY	26
10. REFERENCES.....	27

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map showing the study area in blue.	12
Figure 2. Concentration camps represented by red dots and railway stations with grey squares	19
Figure 3: Google Image of the study area (in blue) with track logs of the area covered in black	22
Figure 4. . Photo taken in North-western direction.	23
Figure 5. Photo taken North.....	23
Figure 6. Photo taken in western direction.	23
Figure 7. Photo taken in Southern direction	23
Figure 8: Photo taken in southern direction.....	24
Figure 9: Photo taken in eastern direction	24
Figure 10: Photo panorama East to South-west	24

Annexure A:

ABBREVIATIONS

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
ASAPA: Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
BIA: Basic Impact Assessment
CRM: Cultural Resource Management
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment*
EIA: Early Iron Age*
EIA Practitioner: Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EMP: Environmental Management Plan
ESA: Early Stone Age
GPS: Global Positioning System
HIA: Heritage Impact Assessment
LIA: Late Iron Age
LSA: Late Stone Age
MEC: Member of the Executive Council
MIA: Middle Iron Age
MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
MSA: Middle Stone Age
NEMA: National Environmental Management Act
PRHA: Provincial Heritage Resource Agency
SADC: Southern African Development Community
SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency

**Although EIA refers to both Environmental Impact Assessment and the Early Iron Age both are internationally accepted abbreviations and must be read and interpreted in the context it is used.*

GLOSSARY

Archaeological site (remains of human activity over 100 years old)

Early Stone Age (~ 2.6 million to 250 000 years ago)

Middle Stone Age (~ 250 000 to 40-25 000 years ago)

Later Stone Age (~ 40-25 000, to recently, 100 years ago)

The Iron Age (~ AD 400 to 1840)

Historic (~ AD 1840 to 1950)

Historic building (over 60 years old)

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Kind of study</i>	Archaeological Impact Assessment
<i>Type of development</i>	Aggregate Mining
<i>Developer:</i>	Afrimat Aggregates (Trading) (Pty) Ltd
<i>Consultant:</i>	Greenmined Environmental

The Archaeological Impact Assessment report forms part of the BIA for the proposed project.

The aim of the study is to identify cultural heritage sites, document, and assess their importance within local, provincial and national context. It serves to assess the impact of the proposed project on non-renewable heritage resources, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the responsible cultural resources management measures that might be required to assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner. It is also conducted to protect, preserve, and develop such resources within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

The report outlines the approach and methodology utilized before and during the survey, which includes: Phase 1, a desktop study that includes collection from various sources and consultations; Phase 2, the physical surveying of the area on foot and by vehicle; Phase 3, reporting the outcome of the study.

During the survey no heritage sites were identified within the proposed footprint of the quarry. General site conditions and features on sites were recorded by means of photographs, GPS locations, and site descriptions. Possible impacts were identified and mitigation measures are proposed in the following report.

This report must also be submitted to the SAHRA for review.

1.1 Terms of Reference

Desktop study

Conducting a brief desktop study where information on the area is collected to provide a background setting of the archaeology that can be expected in the area.

Field study

Conduct a field study to: a) systematically survey the proposed project area to locate, identify, record, photograph and describe sites of archaeological, historical or cultural interest; b) record GPS points identified as significant areas; c) determine the levels of significance of the various types of heritage resources recorded in the project area.

Reporting

Report on the identification of anticipated and cumulative impacts the operational units of the proposed project activity may have on the identified heritage resources for all 3 phases of the project; i.e., construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Consider alternatives, should any significant sites be impacted adversely by the proposed project. Ensure that all studies and results comply with Heritage legislation and the code of ethics and guidelines of ASAPA.

To assist the developer in managing the discovered heritage resources in a responsible manner, and to protect, preserve, and develop them within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

1.2. Archaeological Legislation and Best Practice

Phase 1, an AIA or a HIA is a pre-requisite for development in South Africa as prescribed by SAHRA and stipulated by legislation. The overall purpose of a heritage specialist input is to:

- » Identify any heritage resources, which may be affected;
- » Assess the nature and degree of significance of such resources;
- » Establish heritage informants/constraints to guide the development process through establishing thresholds of impact significance;
- » Assess the negative and positive impact of the development on these resources;
- » Make recommendations for the appropriate heritage management of these impacts.

The AIA or HIA, as a specialist sub-section of the EIA, is required under the National Heritage Resources Act NHRA of 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), Section 23(2)(b) of the NEMA and section s.39(3)(b)(iii) of the MPRDA.

The AIA should be submitted, as part of the EIA, BIA or EMP, to the PHRA if established in the province or to SAHRA. SAHRA will be ultimately responsible for the professional evaluation of Phase 1 AIA reports upon which review comments will be issued. 'Best practice' requires Phase 1 AIA reports and additional development information, as per the EIA,

BIA/EMP, to be submitted in duplicate to SAHRA after completion of the study. SAHRA accepts Phase 1 AIA reports authored by professional archaeologists, accredited with ASAPA or with a proven ability to do archaeological work.

Minimum accreditation requirements include an Honours degree in archaeology or related discipline and 3 years post-university CRM experience (field supervisor level).

Minimum standards for reports, site documentation and descriptions are set by ASAPA in collaboration with SAHRA. ASAPA is a legal body, based in South Africa, representing professional archaeology in the SADC region. ASAPA is primarily involved in the overseeing of ethical practice and standards regarding the archaeological profession. Membership is based on proposal and secondment by other professional members.

Phase 1 AIAs are primarily concerned with the location and identification of sites situated within a proposed development area. Identified sites should be assessed according to their significance. Relevant conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations should be made. Recommendations are subject to evaluation by SAHRA.

Conservation or Phase 2 mitigation recommendations, as approved by SAHRA, are to be used as guidelines in the developer's decision making process.

Phase 2 archaeological projects are primarily based on salvage/mitigation excavations preceding development destruction or impact on a site. Phase 2 excavations can only be conducted with a permit, issued by SAHRA to the appointed archaeologist. Permit conditions are prescribed by SAHRA and includes (as minimum requirements) reporting back strategies to SAHRA and deposition of excavated material at an accredited repository.

In the event of a site conservation option being preferred by the developer, a site management plan, prepared by a professional archaeologist and approved by SAHRA, will suffice as minimum requirement.

After mitigation of a site, a destruction permit must be applied for from SAHRA by the client before development may proceed.

Human remains older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, with reference to Section 36. Graves older than 60 years, but younger than 100 years fall under Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of SAHRA. The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36[5]) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority. Graves in this age category, located inside a formal cemetery administrated by a local authority, require the same authorisation as set out for graves younger than 60 years, in addition to SAHRA authorisation. If the grave is not situated inside a formal cemetery, but is to be relocated to one, permission from the local authority is required and all regulations, laws and by-laws, set by the cemetery authority, must be adhered to.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected under Section 2(1) of the Removal of Graves and Dead Bodies Ordinance (Ordinance no. 7 of 1925), as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983), and are the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the relevant Provincial Department of Health and must be submitted for final approval to the office of the relevant Provincial Premier. This function is usually delegated to the Provincial MEC for Local Government and Planning; or in some cases, the MEC for Housing and Welfare.

Authorisation for exhumation and reinterment must also be obtained from the relevant local or regional council where the grave is situated, as well as the relevant local or regional council to where the grave is being relocated. All local and regional provisions, laws and by-laws must also be adhered to. To handle and transport human remains, the institution conducting the relocation should be authorised under Section 24 of Act 65 of 1983 (Human Tissues Act).

1.3 Description of Study Area

1.3.1 Location Data

The Dingwell Quarry is located on the farm Dingwell 276, JT, to the north east of the town of Rocky's Drift, Mpumalanga Province. The study area is characterised by a granite kopje that will be mined, two drainage systems drain the area in a north south direction. The area surrounding the granite kopje consists of forestry. The vegetation type of the area is classified as Legogote Sour Bushveld within a Savanna Biome (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).2006).

1.3.2. Location Map

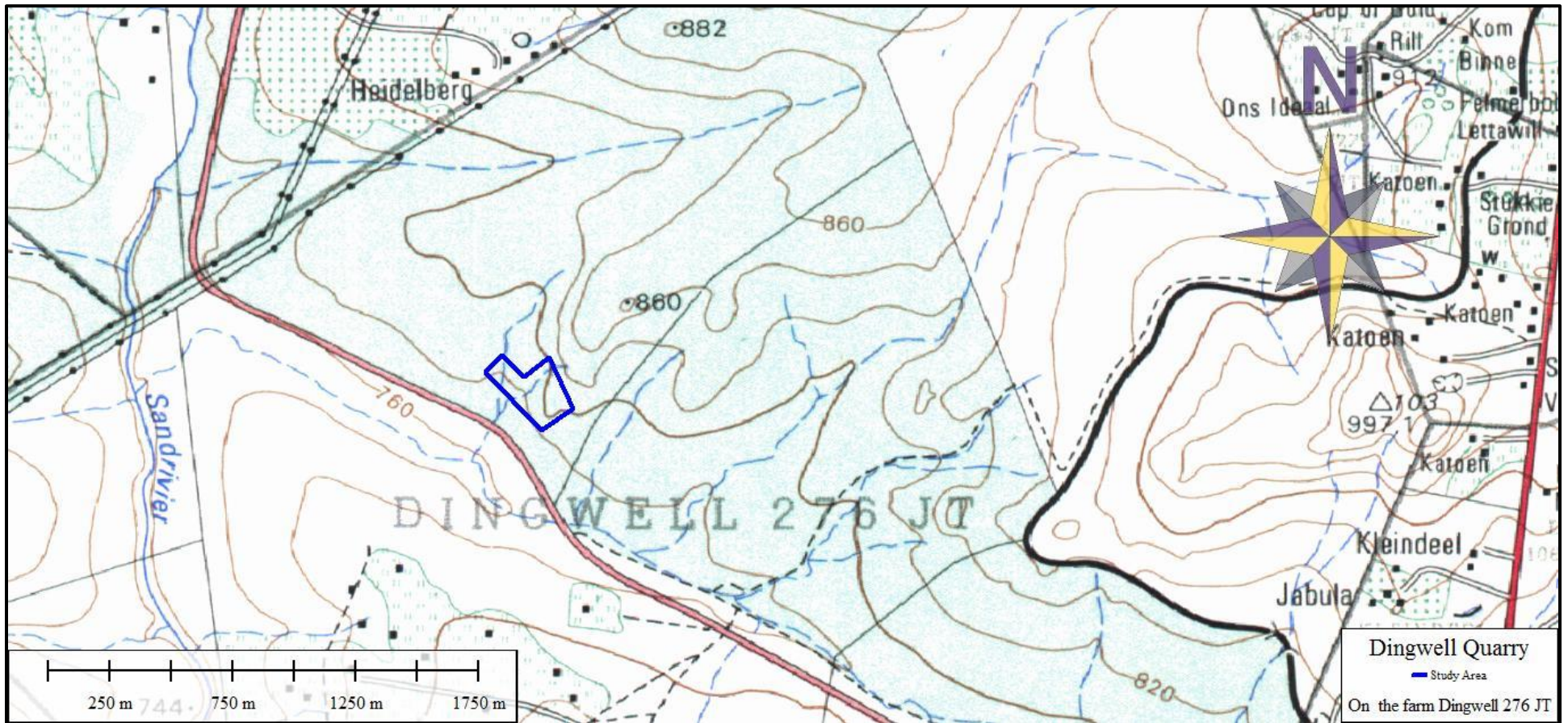


Figure 1: Location map showing the study area in blue.

2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the study is to cover archaeological databases to compile a background of the archaeology that can be expected in the study area followed by field verification; this was accomplished by means of the following phases.

2.1 Phase 1 - Desktop Study

The first phase comprised a desktop study scanning existing records for archaeological sites, historical sites, graves, architecture (structures older than 60 years) of the area.

2.1.1 Literature Search

Utilising data for information gathering stored in the archaeological database at Wits and previous CRM reports done in the area. The aim of this is to extract data and information on the area in question.

2.1.2 Information Collection

The SAHRA report mapping project (Version 1.0) was consulted to collect data from previously conducted CRM projects in the region to provide a comprehensive account of the history of the study area.

2.1.3 Consultation

No consultation was conducted since no one resides in the study area.

2.1.4 Google Earth and Mapping Survey

Google Earth and 1:50 000 maps of the area were utilised to identify possible places where sites of heritage significance might be located.

2.1.5 Genealogical Society of South Africa

The database of the Genealogical Society was consulted to collect data on any known graves in the area.

2.2 Phase 2 - Physical Surveying

Due to the nature of cultural remains, the majority of which occurs below surface, a field survey of the study area of 4.8 Ha was conducted. The study area was surveyed by means of vehicle and extensive surveys on foot by a professional archaeologist on the 15th of February 2014.

No sites were discovered inside the proposed development area.

2.3. Restrictions

Due to the fact that most cultural remains may occur below surface, the possibility exists that some features or artefacts may not have been discovered/ recorded during the survey. Low ground visibility of parts of the study area is due to high vegetation, and the possible occurrence of unmarked graves and other cultural material cannot be excluded. Only the surface infrastructure footprint area was surveyed as indicated in the location map, and not the entire farm. Although HCAC surveyed the area as thoroughly as possible, it is incumbent upon the developer to stop operations and inform the relevant heritage agency should further cultural remains, such as stone tool scatters, artefacts, bones or fossils, be exposed during the process of development.

3. NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The mining activities will consist of the following:

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil (although very little is available)
- Blasting
- Excavating
- Crushing
- Stockpiling and transporting
- Sloping and landscaping
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetating the disturbed area

The mining site will contain the following:

- Drilling Equipment
- Excavating Equipment
- Earth Moving Equipment

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Databases Consulted

On the 1:50 000 map sheet 2530 BD 33 sites are recorded at the Wits Archaeological database. None of the recorded sites are in close proximity to the study area. The sites consist of Stone Age Sites, a shrine and LIA sites. Several previous CRM surveys are on record for the larger study area e.g (Van Schalkwyk (2007), Van der Walt (2012), Celliers (2005, 2012), these studies recorded mostly Stone and Iron Age remains.

Genealogical Society and Google Earth Monuments

Neither the Genealogical Society nor the monuments database at Google Earth (Google Earth also include some archaeological sites and historical battlefields) have any recorded sites in the study area.

4.2 Archaeological and Historical Information Available on the Study Area

4.2.1. Palaeontology

A paleontological desktop study was conducted on the area by Dr John Almond. He concluded:

“The extension of the existing aggregate mine on Farm Dingwell 276 near Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, is of VERY LOW significance in terms of local palaeontological heritage since the igneous rocks (granites) underlying the site are entirely unfossiliferous.

It is therefore recommended that exemption from further specialist palaeontological studies and mitigation be granted for this mining development.

Should any substantial fossil remains (e.g. vertebrate bones and teeth, petrified wood, plant fossil assemblages) be encountered during excavation, however, these should be reported to SAHRA.”

4.2.2 Stone Age sites

The Later phases of the Stone Age began at around 20 000 years BP (Before Present). This period was marked by numerous technological innovations and social transformations within these early hunter-gatherer societies. Hunting tools now included the bow and arrow. More particularly, the link-shaft arrow which comprises a poisoned bone tip loosely linked to a shaft which fell away when an animal was shot and left the arrow tip embedded in the prey animal. Other innovations included bored stones used as digging –stick weights to help with uprooting of tubers and roots, small stone tools, normally less than 25mm long, which was used for cutting meat and scraping hides. There were also polished bone needles, twine made from plant fibers, tortoiseshell bowls, fishing equipment including bone hooks and stone sinkers, ostrich eggshell beads and other decorative artwork (Delius, 2007).

These people may be regarded as the first modern inhabitants of Mpumalanga, known as the San or Bushmen. They were a nomadic people who lived together in small family groups and relied on hunting and gathering of food for survival. Evidence of their existence is to be found in numerous rock shelters throughout the Eastern Mpumalanga where some of their rock paintings are still visible. A number of these shelters have been documented throughout the Province (Bornman, 1995; Schoonraad in Barnard, 1975; Delius, 2007). These include areas such as Witbank, Ermelo, Barberton, Nelspruit, White River, Lydenburg and Ohrigstad.

Two Late-Holocene (Later Stone Age) sites near Hazyview in the Kruger National Park date to the last 2500 years and are associated with pottery and microlith stone tools (Bergh, 1998: 95). This is contemporary to typical hunter-gatherer lifestyle and may also have been sites frequented by San.

San paintings in Mpumalanga are characterized by representations of animals and human figures and are normally fine-lined paintings which are produced by using brushes made of plant material, sticks and quills. The colours are usually red and black or sometimes white. It has been argued that the red ochre source for some of these paintings is to be found at Dumaneni, near Malelane (Bornman, 1995).

At Honingklip near Badplaas in the Carolina District, two LSA rock shelters with four panels of rock art was discovered and archaeologically investigated. The site was used between 4870 BP and as recently as 200 BP. Stone walls at both sites date to the last 250 years of hunter-gatherer occupation and they may have served as protection against intruders and predators. Pieces of clay ceramic and iron beads found at the site indicates that there was early social interaction

between the hunter-gatherer (San) communities and the first farmers who moved into this area at around 500 AD. Evidence from Welgelegen Shelter on the banks of the Vaal River near Ermelo suggests that the early farming (Bantu) and hunter-gatherer (San) communities coexisted (Delius, 2007; Bergh, 1998).

The farmers, who used metal tools, occupied the shelter while an independent hunter-gatherer group who made typical LSA (Late Stone Age) stone tools and used pottery, occupied the overhang area of the shelter. Similar “symbiotic” relationships existed between the Batwa San from the Lake Chrissie area and the Swazi well into the 20th century (Delius, 2007).

4.2.2. Iron Age remains

The period referred to as the Early Iron Age (AD 200-1000 approx.) started when presumably Karanga (north-east African) herder groups moved into the north eastern parts of South Africa. It is believed that these people may have been responsible for making of the famous Lydenburg Heads, ceramic masks dating to approximately 600AD.

Some archaeological research was done during the 1970's at sites belonging to the EIA (Early Iron Age), location Plaston, a settlement close to White River (Evers, 1977). This site is located on a spur between the White River and a small tributary. It is situated on holding 119 at Plaston.

The site was discovered during house building operations when a collection of pottery shards was excavated. The finds consisted of pottery shards both on the surface and excavated.

Some of the pottery vessels were decorated with a red ochre wash. Two major decoration motifs occurred on the pots:

- Punctuation, using a single stylus and
- Broadline incision, the more common motif

A number of Early Iron Age pottery collections from Mpumalanga and Limpopo may be compared to the Plaston sample. They include Silver Leaves, Eiland, Matola, Klingbiel and the Lydenburg Heads site. The Plaston sample is distinguished from samples of these sites in terms of rim morphology, the majority of rims from Plaston are rounded and very few beveled. Rims from the other sites show more beveled rims (Evers, 1977:176).

Early Iron Age pottery was also excavated where the Riverside Government complex is currently situated (Huffman, 1998). This site known as the Riverside site is situated a few kilometres north of Nelspruit next to the confluence of the Nelspruit and Crocodile River. It was discovered during the course of an environmental impact assessment for the new Mpumalanga Government complex/ offices. A bulldozer cutting exposed storage pits, cattle byres, a burial and midden on the crest of a gentle slope. Salvage excavations conducted during December 1997 and March 1998 recovered the burial and contents of several pits.

One of the pits contained among other items, pottery dating to the eleventh century (AD 1070 ± 40 BP) this relates the pottery to the Mzonjani and Broederstroom phases. The early assemblage belongs to the Kwale branch of the Urewe tradition.

During the early 1970's Dr Mike Evers of the University of the Witwatersrand conducted fieldwork and excavations in the Eastern Transvaal. Two areas were studied, the Letaba area south of the Groot Letaba River, west of the Lebombo Mountains, east of the great escarpment and north of the Olifants River. The second area was the Eastern Transvaal escarpment area between Lydenburg and Machadodorp.

These two areas are referred to as the Lowveld and escarpment respectively. The earliest work on Iron Age archaeology was conducted by Trevor and Hall in 1912. This revealed prehistoric copper-, gold- and iron mines. Schwelinus (1937) reported smelting furnaces, a salt factory and terraces near Phalaborwa. In the same year D.S. van der Merwe located ruins, graves, furnaces, terraces and soapstone objects in the Letaba area.

Mason (1964, 1965, 1967, 1968) started the first scientific excavation in the Lowveld which was followed by N.J. van der Merwe and Scully. M. Klapwijk (1973, 1974) also excavated an Early Iron Age (EIA) site at Silverleaves and Evers and van den Berg (1974) excavated at Harmony and Eiland, both EIA sites.

The later phases of the Iron Age (AD 1600-1800's) is represented by various tribes including Ndebele, Swazi, BaKoni, Pedi marked by extensive stonewalled settlements found throughout the escarpment and particularly around Lydenburg, Badfontein, Sekhukuneland, Roosenekal and Steelpoort. Smaller tribes such as the Pai and Pulana were attacked by and made to flee from the aggressive Swazi, especially during the *mfecane* (difaqane). They (Swazi) were particularly active in the Lowveld during the difaqane period (1820's) and it is well-known that they frequently attacked and ousted smaller herder groups like the Pai and Pulana, especially in the area today known as Low's Creek. They were however prevented from settling in the low-lying areas due to the presence of the tsetse fly and malaria. Consequently there is little evidence of large scale settlement in the Crocodile River valley until the time of colonial settlement (1890's) and later. Small, isolated dry-packed stone-walled enclosures found near Nelspruit and surrounding areas may be attributed to these smaller groups who hid away from the Swazi onslaught. The sites were probably not used for extended periods as they were frequently on the move as a result of the onslaught and therefore small, indistinct and with little associated cultural material

4.2.3. Historical Information – The Voortrekkers

The Groot Trek of the Voortrekkers started with the Tregardt- van Rensburg trek in 1835. The two men met where Tregardt and his followers crossed the Orange River at Buffelsvlei (Aliwal North). Here van Rensburg joined the trek northwards. On August 23, 1837 the Tregardt trek left for Delagoabay from the Soutpansberg. They travelled eastwards alongside the Olifants River to the eastern foothills of the Drakensberg. From here they travelled through the Lowveld and the current Kruger National Park where they eventually crossed the Lebombo mountains in March 1838. They reached the Fortification at Lourenço Marques on 13 April 1838 (Bergh, 1998:124-125).

Permanent European (Voortrekker) settlement of the eastern areas of Mpumalanga can first be traced back to a commission under the leadership of A.H. (Hendrik) Potgieter who negotiated with the Portuguese Governor at Delagoabaai in 1844 for land. It was agreed that these settlers could settle in an area that was four days journey from the east coast of Africa between the 10° and 26° south latitudes. Voortrekkers started migrating into the area in 1845. Andries-Ohrigstad was the first town established in this area in July 1845 after the Voortrekkers successfully negotiated for land with the Pedi Chief Sekwati. Farms were given out as far west as the Olifants River. The western boundary was not officially defined but at a Volksraad meeting in 1849 it was decided that the Elands River would be the boundary

between the districts of Potchefstroom and Lydenburg as this eastern portion of the Transvaal was then known (Bergh, 1998).

Due to internal strife and differences between the various Voortrekker groups that settled in the broader Transvaal region, the settlers in the Ohrigstad area now governed from the town of Lydenburg decided to secede from the Transvaal Republic in 1856. The Republic of Lydenburg laid claim to a large area that included not only the land originally obtained from the Pedi Chief Sekwati in 1849 but also other areas of land negotiated for from the Swazis. The Republic of Lydenburg was a vast area and stretched from the northern Strydpoort mountains to Wakkerstroom in the south and Bronkhorstspuit in the west to the Swazi border and the Lebombo mountains east.

As can be expected, the migration of Europeans into the north would have a significant impact on the indigenous people who populated the land. This was also the case in Mpumalanga. In 1839 Mswati succeeded Sobhuza (also known as Somhlomo) as king of the Swazi. Threatened by the ambitions of his half-brothers, including Malambule, who had support from the Zulu king Mpande, he turned to the Ohrigstad Boers for protection. He claimed that the land that the Boers had settled on was Swazi property. The Commandant General of the Ohrigstad settlement, Andries Hendrik Potgieter, responded that the land was ceded to him by the Pedi leader Sekwati, in return for protection of the Pedi from Swazi attacks (Giliomee, 2003).

However, in reaction to the increasingly authoritarian way in which Potgieter conducted affairs at Ohrigstad, the Volksraad of Ohrigstad saw Mswati's offer as a means to obtain more respectable title deeds for the property (Bonner, 1978). According to a sales contract set up between the Afrikaners and the Swazi people on 25 July 1846, the whites were the rightful owners of the land that had its southern border at the Crocodile River, which stretched out in a westerly direction up to Elandspruit; of which the eastern border was where the Crocodile and Komati rivers joined and then extended up to Delagoa bay in the north (Van Rooyen, 1951). The Europeans bought the land for a 100 heads of cattle (Huysler). Just to the north of the study area, the farm Roodewal 251 JT formed part of the land that was ceded to the Europeans (Boers) by the Swazis. Apparently, Swazi people could stay on the land only if the farmers asked permission from the South African Republic for them to be able to do so (Huysler, p 87).

4.2.4. The Anglo Boer War

Although the Lowveld region has a rich history regarding events and occurrences that transpired during the Anglo-Boer War little information could be obtained of any historical data that directly affected the study area. However, according to the map (fig. 2.) from J.S. Bergh, (red), *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika, Die vier noordelike provinsies*, p. 54, there was a Black Concentration Camp established in the vicinity of the Elandshoek Railway Station and another one at the railway station at Nelspruit. The map also indicates that no battles or noteworthy skirmishes occurred in the region under investigation. It would seem that the closest battle to the farm would have been the one at Paardeplaats (Long Tom Pass). Nevertheless, it should be noted that the Lowveld does indeed have a very interesting history regarding events that transpired during the war.



Figure 2. Concentration camps represented by red dots and railway stations with grey squares

4.2.6. Background to the town of White River

White River has had two other names in its short history. It was known as 'Mhloppemanzi' by its African name and 'Wit Rivier' by its Afrikaans name.

The first farmers moved into the area in the 1880's and the farming community that settled here after the South African (Anglo-Boer) War has remained virtually unchanged to this day. The agricultural farms tend to be relatively small but are intensive with tropical and citrus fruits in abundance, and vegetables and cut flowers readily available.

After the First World War the village of White River consisted of a cottage, the Magistrates residence, an outspan on the site where the Dutch Reformed Church is today, the White River Hotel, a police station and stables, and the Magistrates Court. One street (used for carts, wagons and horses) connected the town..

The area was a stopover on the route from Lydenburg to Delagoa Bay by the transport riders of the 1800's.

Transport riders needed leather thongs to ensure that their loaded wagons safely passed the difficult tracks and mountain crosses. The thongs often broke and a steady supply along the way was ideal as it took a great deal of time to make them. The demand for leather thongs increased as more and more wagons used the route. Sotho people living in the vicinity of Nsikazi were skilled at making thongs from the hides of oxen and other large animals given to them by wagon riders. They worked from their 'workshops' in the caves and rocky hide-outs on Legogote Mountain.

In 1875, Bill Sanderson settled at the foot of Legogote Mountain. Bill was presumably a Scotsman from the Peebles area in Scotland. The farm Legogote was divided into two parts in 1914. The top part remained Legogote while the lower part became known as Peebles.

There are several derivations of the word Legogote. Some say that it is derived from the word 'lugogo' which means a skin of an animal, and then loosely translates to Legogote 'the place of skins'. Others claim that it has been named for its resemblance to a 'klipspringer' or a 'lion's head' or even a 'rock that leans over'.

Rocky's Drift was named after the small stream to the west of the railway but the original farm name was Blinkwater. A rock painting of a deep red elephant was found on Rocky's Drift. The paintings were recorded in a shelter on top of a granite hill (Cilliers 2005).

5. HERITAGE SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The presence and distribution of heritage resources define a 'heritage landscape'. In this landscape, every site is relevant. In addition, because heritage resources are non-renewable, heritage surveys need to investigate an entire project area, or a representative sample, depending on the nature of the project. In the case of the proposed quarry extension the local extent of its impact necessitates a representative sample and only the footprint of the areas demarcated for development were surveyed. In all initial investigations, however, the specialists are responsible only for the identification of resources visible on the surface.

This section describes the evaluation criteria used for determining the significance of archaeological and heritage sites.

The following criteria were used to establish site significance:

- » The unique nature of a site;
- » The integrity of the archaeological/cultural heritage deposits;
- » 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/is known);
- » The preservation condition of the sites;
- » Potential to answer present research questions.

Furthermore, The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Sec 3) distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they have cultural significance or other special value. These criteria are:

- » Its importance in/to the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- » Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- » Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- » Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- » Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- » Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- » Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- » Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- » Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

5.1. Field Rating of Sites

Site significance classification standards prescribed by SAHRA (2006), and acknowledged by ASAPA for the SADC region, were used for the purpose of this report. The recommendations for each site should be read in conjunction with section 7 of this report.

FIELD RATING	GRADE	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
National Significance (NS)	Grade 1	-	Conservation; national site nomination
Provincial Significance (PS)	Grade 2	-	Conservation; provincial site nomination
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3A	High significance	Conservation; mitigation not advised
Local Significance (LS)	Grade 3B	High significance	Mitigation (part of site should be retained)
Generally Protected A (GP.A)	-	High/medium significance	Mitigation before destruction
Generally Protected B (GP.B)	-	Medium significance	Recording before destruction
Generally Protected C (GP.C)	-	Low significance	Destruction

6. BASELINE STUDY-DESCRIPTION OF SITES

It is important to note that the entire farm was not surveyed but only the footprint of the proposed quarry as indicated in Figure 1. The study area is extensively disturbed and the eastern portion of the site is marked by a granite kopje that will be mined with a steep slope sloping towards the west. The northern side of the study area is marked by tall grass. The area surrounding the granite kopje consists of an old eucalyptus forest. During the survey no sites of heritage significance were identified inside the quarry footprint.

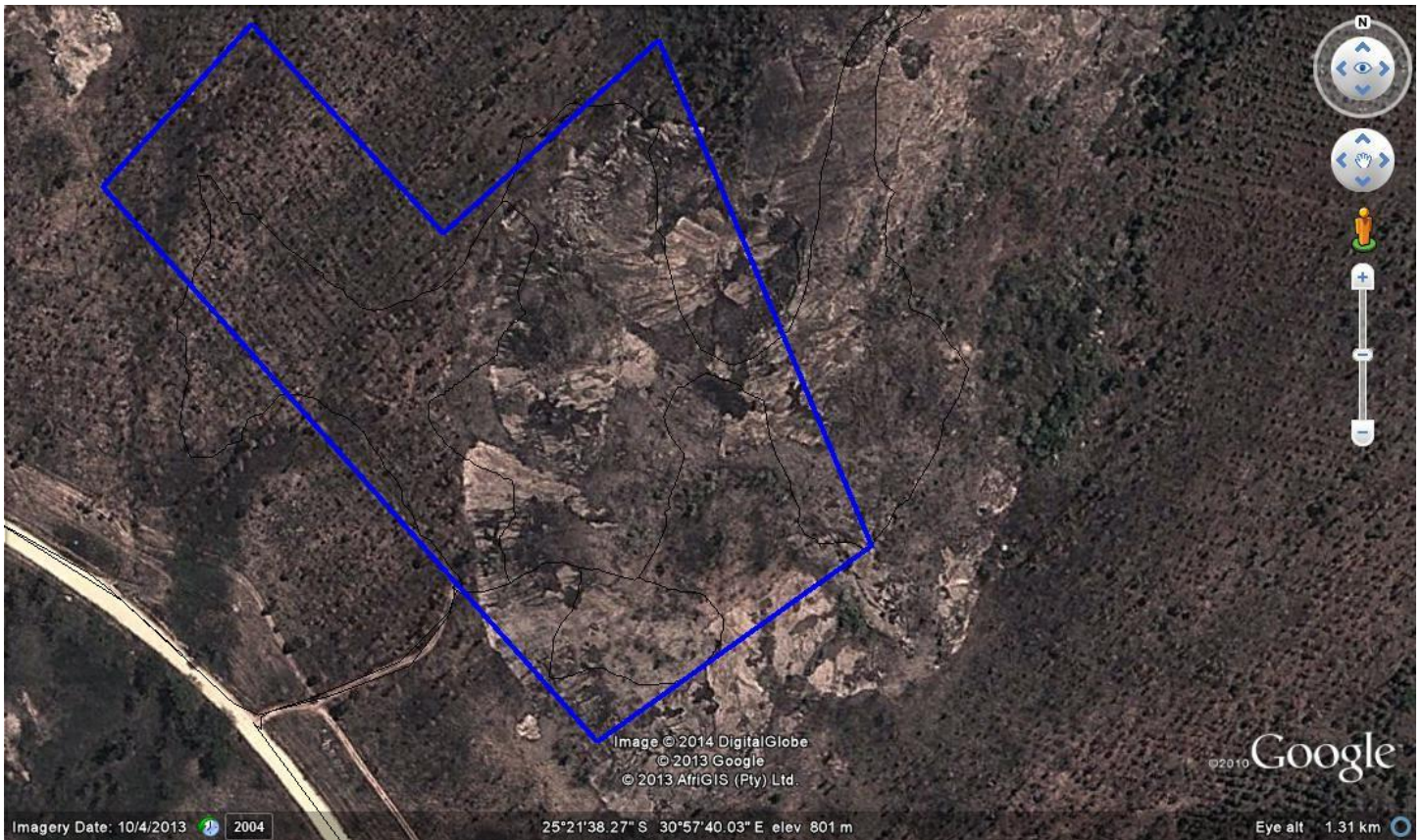


Figure 3: Google Image of the study area (in blue) with track logs of the area covered in black



Figure 4. . Photo taken in North-western direction.



Figure 5. Photo taken North



Figure 6. Photo taken in western direction.



Figure 7. Photo taken in Southern direction



Figure 8: Photo taken in southern direction



Figure 9: Photo taken in eastern direction



Figure 10: Photo panorama East to South-west

7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

No sites of heritage significance were found in the development footprint during the survey and from an archaeological point of view there is no reason why the development cannot commence work based on approval from SAHRA.

Dr John Almond conducted a desktop study on the palaeontology of the area and concluded that it is recommended that exemption from further specialist palaeontological studies and mitigation be granted for this aggregate quarry development. His report is included as Annexure A.

If during construction, any archaeological finds are made (e.g. stone tools, skeletal material), the operations must be stopped, and the archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the finds.

8. PROJECT TEAM

Jaco van der Walt, Project Manager

JP Cilliers, Archaeologist

Dr John Almond, Palaeontologist

9. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCY

I (Jaco van der Walt) am a member of ASAPA (no 159), and accredited in the following fields of the CRM Section of the association: Iron Age Archaeology, Colonial Period Archaeology, Stone Age Archaeology and Grave Relocation. This accreditation is also valid for/acknowledged by SAHRA and AMAFA.

Currently, I serve as Council Member for the CRM Section of ASAPA, and have been involved in research and contract work in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania and the DRC; having conducted more than 300 AIAs since 2000.

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