

**SPECIALIST REPORT**  
**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
**FOR A TOURISM ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENT ON *THE REMAINING EXTENT***  
***OF PTN 4 OF THE FARM GROENVLEI 353-JT, EMAKHAZENI (BELFAST)***

**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**



**REPORT COMPILED FOR:**

**DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE cc:**

Ms. E. Osmers / [elize.osmers@gmail.com](mailto:elize.osmers@gmail.com)

**OWNER GROENVLEI:**

Mr. H. Kuschke / [idwala.retreat@gmail.com](mailto:idwala.retreat@gmail.com)

**FEBRUARY 2019**

**ADANSONIA HERITAGE CONSULTANTS**  
**ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

**C. VAN WYK ROWE**

**e-mail: [christinevwr@gmail.com](mailto:christinevwr@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 0828719553 / Fax: 0867151639**

**P.O. BOX 75, PILGRIM'S REST, 1290**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the footprint for a proposed Lodge development on *the remaining extent of Portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353-JT* as a 'Discretionary Land Use' within the exiting Agricultural Land Use Zone. The proposed site for the Lodge development is in the extent of 1ha (one hectare). Existing facilities on the farm will also be used. The section for the proposed lodge (one hectare), is partly situated in a disturbed area which consists of a bluegum plantation.

The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2530CA, BELFAST, which is in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Emakhazeni Local municipality, and Nkangala district Municipality.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999)(NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act.

The remains of an extensively disturbed stone wall were observed in the vicinity where the proposed Lodge development is to take place. This historic wall was part of a cattle enclosure and mitigation measures are recommended in this regard. No other archaeological or historical features or graves were observed within the direct study area. Some heritage features, a rock art site, a burial site and a possible single grave were observed on the rest of the property (outside of the study area), and will not be impacted upon by the Main Lodge development. These features may however be used to the advantage of the tourism potential (such as hiking trails), as envisaged by the owner and applicant, and is briefly discussed in this report. SAHRA values the San rock art site (although very indistinct), as of High significance and therefor it is recommended that the site be documented as far as possible. It is recommended that all heritage features (including the rock art site) be included in a Management Plan with guidelines, for the future preservation of the sites.

Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants recommends that the proposed Lodge be constructed at least 20 meters from the historic stone wall. Should the owner adhere to the recommendations, then there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development of the Lodge to continue. Archaeological sites and human remains are not always visible during a site survey, and may only be revealed during the construction phase. It is recommended that a qualified archaeologist be contacted should any possible archaeological sub-surface finds be discovered which will directly be affected by the development.

**Disclaimer:** *Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. Christine Rowe trading as Adansonia Heritage Consultants will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.*

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- 1) The results of the project;*
- 2) The technology described in any report;*
- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Rowe', is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

C. Rowe

MARCH 2019

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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
FOR A TOURISM ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENT ON *THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PTN  
4 OF THE FARM GROENVLEI 353-JT, EMAKHAZENI (BELFAST), MPUMALANGA***

**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT**

The applicant and landowner, Mr. Hermann Kuschke, in co-operation with DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE cc, is requesting the establishment of a Tourism Accommodation facility (Lodge with associated infrastructure), on a section of the *remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353-JT* in the Emakhaseni (Belfast) district. The applicant wishes to develop one hectare (1ha) on the farm for the infrastructure of the proposed Lodge.<sup>1</sup> Only approximately 12ha of the total farm of 92 hectares are suitable for grazing or cultivation purposes while the remainder of the property consists of wetlands and mountainous areas.

Archaeological and Heritage features which were identified on the 92ha farm, will be incorporated in the tourism development as a hiking route.<sup>2</sup> The 1ha (one hectare) section for the proposed lodge, is situated in a disturbed area which consists of a bluegum plantation.

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by the owner, Mr. H. Kuschke, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources on the study area. A literature study, relevant to the site as well as a foot survey were done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon (see Map 3: Topographical map 2530CA).

The aims of this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study area, and to advise the client on sensitive heritage areas as well as where it is viable for the development to take place in terms of the specifications as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA).<sup>3</sup> Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resource will also be made. The study area is indicated in Maps 1 - 7, and Appendix 1 & 2.

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<sup>1</sup> NUPLAN Development Planners: Motivational Memorandum into the Spatial planning and land use Management on the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT, August 2018, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Personal Communication: Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-02-02.

<sup>3</sup> Republic of South Africa, *National Heritage Resources Act*, (Act No. 25 of 1999).

This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE cc P.O. Box 1424, Hoedspruit, 1380, Cell: 0748341977 / Fax: 0862126424 / e-mail: [elize.osmers@gmail.com](mailto:elize.osmers@gmail.com)

- Type of development: A Tourism Accommodation Establishment in the form of a Lodge on one hectare (1ha) of the farm, *remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353JT* (topographical map, 1:50 000, 2530CA). The Emakhazeni Land Use Management Scheme, 2010 allows for a Lodge development as a “Discretionary Land Use” within the existing “Agricultural Land Use Zone.”<sup>4</sup>
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Nkangala District Municipality, and the Emakhazeni Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province.<sup>5</sup>
- Land owner and applicant: Mr. H. Kuschke, Idwala Retreat Centre (Pty) Ltd (Reg. no. 2018/025080/07).<sup>6</sup>

**Terms of reference:** As specified by section 38 (3) of the NHRA, the following information is provided in this report.

- a) The identification and mapping of heritage resources where applicable;
- b) Assessment of the significance of the heritage resources;
- c) Alternatives given to affected heritage resources by the development;
- d) Plans for measures of mitigation.

#### **Legal requirements:**

The legal context of the report is grounded in the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act (1998) (NEMA), as amended and listed activities under Listing Notice 1 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations (as amended on 7 April 2017).<sup>7</sup>

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental

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<sup>4</sup> NUPLAN Development Planners: Motivational Memorandum ito the Spatial planning and land use Management on the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT, August 2018, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> NUPLAN Development Planners: Motivational Memorandum ito the Spatial planning and land use Management on the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT, August 2018, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> NUPLAN Development Planners: Motivational Memorandum ito the Spatial planning and land use Management on the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT, August 2018, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE, BID document, February 2019.

impact assessment required for the development. The proposed development is a listed activity in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of an HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA).<sup>8</sup>

Heritage conservation and management in South Africa is governed by the NHRA and falls under the overall jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and its provincial offices and counterparts.

Section 38 of the NHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by an independent heritage management consultant, for the following development categories:

- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
  - exceeding 5000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;
  - the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent;

In addition, the new EIA regulation promulgated in terms of NEMA, determines that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The end purpose of this report is to alert the applicant and owner IDWALA RETREAT CENTRE (Pty) Ltd., as well as the Environmental Consultant, DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE cc, and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources which may be affected by the proposed development, and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources. Such measures could include the recording of any heritage buildings or structures older than 60 years prior to demolition, in terms of section 34 of the NHRA and also other sections of this act dealing with archaeological sites, buildings or graves.

The NHRA section 2 (xvi) states that a “heritage resource” means any place or object of cultural significance, and in section 2 (vi) that “cultural significance” means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance.

Apart from a heritage report assisting a client to make informed development decisions, it also serves to provide the relevant heritage resources authority with the necessary data to perform

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<sup>8</sup> National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resource, whether the development may proceed as proposed or whether mitigation is acceptable, and whether the heritage resource require formal protection such as a Grade I, II or III, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such a grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction.

- **Section 36 of the NHRA**

Section 36 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, 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. It is possible that chance burials might be discovered during development of the Lodge infrastructure. A burial site (Tlou family burial site) near the main residence was identified, and is still visited by family members.<sup>9</sup> A possible grave was identified during the survey. Both burial sites fall outside of the study area.

- **Section 34 of the NHRA**

Section 34 of the NHRA stipulates that no person may alter, damage, destroy, relocate etc, any building or structure older than 60 years, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. Structures of different ages were identified on the property but fall outside of the study area. These structures may be visited as part of the tourism initiative.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

This section deals with public monuments and memorials but does not apply in this report.

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<sup>9</sup> Personal Communication: Mr. H. Kuschke, 2018-02-02.



- **PALAEONTOLOGICAL STATUS**

According to the Palaeo-sensitivity Map on the SAHRA website, the proposed development is situated in the grey/blue color zone which does not require a formal palaeontological-, or a desktop study.<sup>10</sup>

- **NEMA**

The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998) (as amended), provides for an assessment of development impacts on the cultural (heritage) and social environment and for specialist studies in this regard.

## **B BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA**

- **Literature review, museum databases & previous relevant impact assessments**

In order to place the study area and Belfast in archaeological context, primary and secondary sources were consulted. Ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel and Van Warmelo shed light on the cultural groups living in the area since ca 1600. Sources from Maggs and Huffman were also consulted. Other useful sources that were used are of Theal (pre-historic), De Jongh (ethnographic and historic information in the area), Bergh (historic), Schoeman, Delius, and internet sources such as *The Military History Journal* on the Sekukuni Wars.

There are no museums in the town of Belfast which could be consulted, and no historical information was available at the municipality. The closest museum with relevant information on the wider area was the museum in Lydenburg. This museum covers information on the general history and pre-history of the surrounding area.

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the Belfast area. According to Bergh, there are no recorded sites that date from the Stone Age, (although a rock art site was recorded during the survey at Groenvlei, and Mr. Kuschke mentioned more rock paintings in the vicinity), or Early Iron Age.<sup>11</sup> The section falls within the general zone of Late Iron Age (LIA) stone walled settlements.<sup>12</sup> No LIA stone walls were identified during the survey of the study area.

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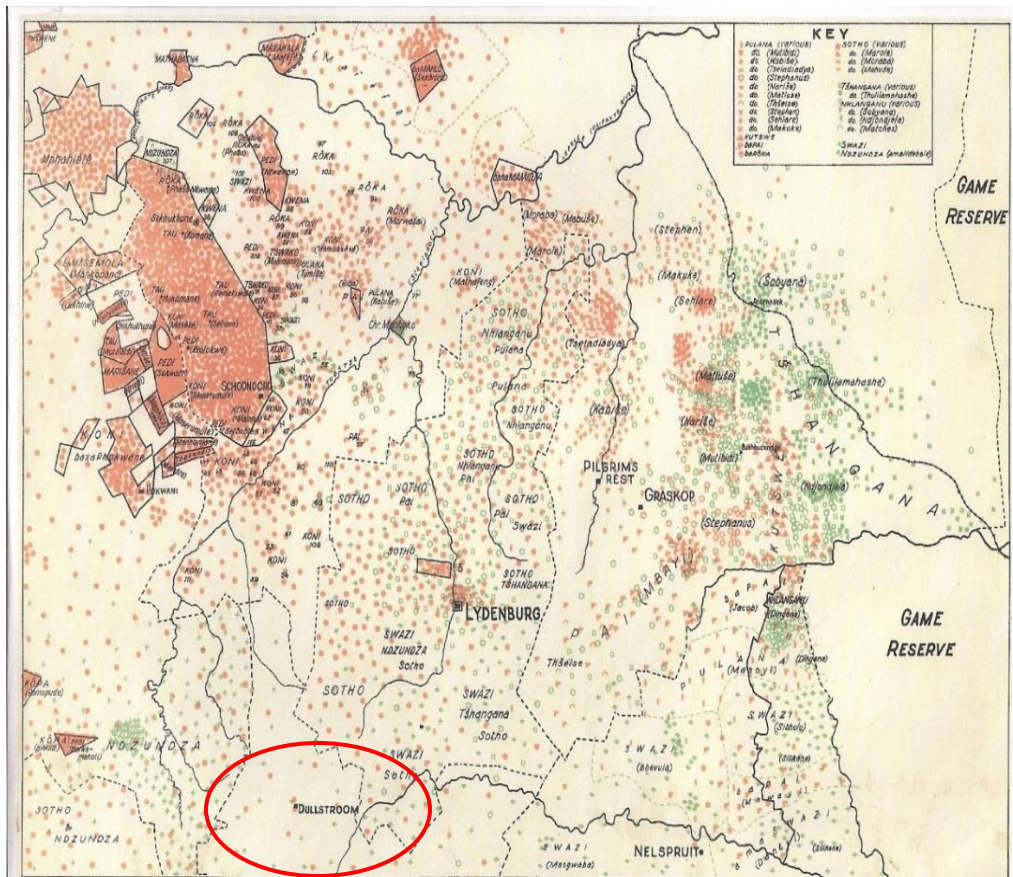
<sup>10</sup> SAHRA Palaeosensitivity Map: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/map/palaeo> Access: 2019-02-18.

<sup>11</sup> Personal Communication, Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-02-02.

<sup>12</sup> J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, pp. 4-7

The Belfast area was sparsely populated during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and only a few Late Iron Age settlements are known in the direct vicinity by the author. Bergh<sup>13</sup> does not indicate any cultural groups specific to the Belfast area, and even ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, does not include this area. It may be assumed that some of the *Ndzundza abaga* (Ndebele), and various tribes of the *baSotho* (baKôpa, baPedi),<sup>14</sup> inhabited this area as they do occur extensively towards Stofberg and Middelburg which are situated close to Belfast.

The 1920 topographical map (Map 2), indicates only three early black settlements towards the south of *GROENVLEI*. Historical sites are also indicated.



**MAP 1: 1935**  
 Map of Van Warmelo: The closest area to be indicated on the map is the town of Dullstroom, 34km to the north of Belfast. The map shows that the area was sparsely populated during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The local inhabitants of the townships

surrounding Belfast, currently consist of various groups including Ndebele, Sotho, Swazi and Zulu, according to Mr. Elmon Mabuza who was interviewed during a previous survey.<sup>15 16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 10.  
<sup>14</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 18.  
<sup>15</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Elmon Mabuza, 18 Feb 2012.  
<sup>16</sup> Belfast Mpumalanga, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,\\_Mpumalanga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,_Mpumalanga)

- **Stone Age**

Evidence from rock shelters in the Mpumalanga / Limpopo region suggest that the earliest inhabitants in the area were small groups of Stone Age hunter- gatherers. These San people led a nomadic lifestyle and rock paintings found in some of the shelters are an indication of their presence.<sup>17 18</sup> Unfortunately very little research in this regard has been conducted, although several rock painting sites have been recorded in the areas of Ohrigstad / Blyderivierspoort Canyon, and rock engravings in the surrounding area of Lydenburg.<sup>19</sup> The closest Middle- and Later Stone Age sites have been documented near Ohrigstad. The Bushman Rock Shelter and Heuningneskrans are the most well-known Middle Stone Age sites in the vicinity, dating back to approximately 35000 BP.<sup>20</sup>

Bushman (or San) presence occurs in the wider area as research by rock art enthusiasts revealed 109 sites in the Kruger National Park,<sup>21</sup> and over 100 rock art sites at Bongani Mountain Lodge and its immediate surrounds.<sup>22</sup> Thirty-one rock art sites were recorded on the Mpumalanga Drakensberg Escarpment.<sup>23</sup> Rock art sites were also recorded in the Ohrigstad Chrissiesmeer, Lothair and Lochiel areas.<sup>24</sup> Late Iron Age rock engraving sites occur at Lydenburg, Boomplaats and Kudu Ranch (Between Lydenburg and Burgersfort).

- **IRON AGE**

Later Bantu-speaking tribes from further north moved into southern Africa, bringing with them a new way of life based on agriculture, pastoralism and metal working. This period is broadly referred to as the Iron Age, starting around AD 200. Cattle played a crucial role in the world-view and social organization of these societies, which is reflected in the layout of their homesteads – referred to as the Central Cattle Pattern. This type of settlement may be recognized archaeologically from centrally located cattle pens associated with high-status burials, grain storage pits, men’s assembly areas and evidence of iron-forging.<sup>25 26</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Hampson et al., 2002, The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, SA Archaeological Bullitin 57: p. 15.

<sup>18</sup> Rowe C., 2009, Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, p. 22.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, p.22.

<sup>20</sup> Voight, E.,1981, *Guide to the Archaeological sites in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal*, p. 115.

<sup>21</sup> English, M. Die Rotskuns van die Boesmans in die NKW, in *De Vos Pienaar, U., Neem uit die Verlede*, p. 18-24.

<sup>22</sup> Hampson, et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, SA Archaeological Bullitin 57: p. 15.

<sup>23</sup> Rowe, C. Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, p. 22.

<sup>24</sup> Bergh, J., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p. 4.

<sup>25</sup> Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*, p.331.

<sup>26</sup> Pelsaert A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites*,

- **Early Iron Age (EIA)**

Secondary source evidence of Early Iron Age sites is lacking, with only one well known site in the area, the Lydenburg Heads site.<sup>27</sup> The Lydenburg Heads site at Sterkspruit, Lydenburg dated to approximately AD 600. Excavations at the Klingbeil Nature Reserve also revealed direct archaeological evidence that the Early Iron Age people in the area introduced cattle and sheep/goat as well as crop plants. Based on pottery identification, Klingbeil is dated to about AD 1000.<sup>28</sup>

- **Late Iron Age (LIA)**

The Late Iron Age spans a period between AD 1300-1840, and is associated with groups like the Ndebele, Bakoni and BaPedi in the area (see Map 1). Sites in the area are characterized by widespread stone walling such as the Badfontein type that were used to define homestead areas, agricultural land (terracing) and cattle tracks. Maize was introduced into southern Africa by the Portuguese during the Late Iron Age contributing to an increase in population. Its cultivation is linked archaeologically to special grindstones.<sup>29 30</sup> Huffman,<sup>31</sup> place the stone walling in the wider area into the Badfontein tradition.

The Pedi is the most famous group to have inhabited areas in the vicinities of Lydenburg, Steelpoort, Stofberg, Roosenekal, Burgersfort etc. in historic times. The area in which these people settled is historically known as Bopedi but other groups resided here before the Pedi came onto the scene. Among the first of these were the Kwena or Mongatane, who came from the north and were probably of Sotho origin. A second tribe to settle in Bopedi, before the arrival of the Pedi was the Roka, followed by the Koni.<sup>32</sup> Some Koni entered the area from the east and others from the north-west. According to historians, most Koni trace their origin to Swaziland and therefore claim that they are related to the Nguni. After the first Koni settled in the southern part of Bopedi, the area became known as Bokoni. Many people who were

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*located on portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C, p. 8.*

<sup>27</sup> Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p.8.

<sup>28</sup> Pelsaer A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 8.

<sup>29</sup> Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*.

<sup>30</sup> Pelsaer A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 8.

<sup>31</sup> Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*, p. 32.

<sup>32</sup> E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18

previously known as Roka also adopted the name Koni as the name “Roka” was not always held in esteem by other groups.

Historically the Pedi was a relatively small group who by various means built up a considerable empire. The Pedi are of Sotho origin. They migrated southwards from the Great Lakes in Central Africa some five centuries ago. The names of their chiefs can be traced to a maximum of fifteen generations. Historical events can be deduced reasonably well for the last two centuries, while sporadic events can be described during the preceding centuries.<sup>33</sup>

According to oral tradition the BaKoni were already in the area of the escarpment before the arrival of the Pedi (a northern Sotho group), which would indicate a date of before AD 1650 for some of the settlements. Therefore the BaKoni clans were some of the earliest people to settle in what are today the Mpumalanga / Limpopo Provinces. They most likely followed a central route of migration out of northern KwaZulu-Natal, becoming “Sotho-ized” along the way.<sup>34</sup>

Later on, the Badfontein Koni became allied to the Pedi. This is reflected in the archaeological evidence, which shows that ceramics associated with the Badfontein walling are historic Pedi pottery of the Marateng facies. By the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century the Pedi ruled an extensive area that included areas surrounding Lydenburg / Burgersfort, although Swazi and Ndebele groups also occupied some parts of the region – mainly in caves referred to as refuge sites. They were shortly followed by the first European settlers in the area.<sup>35</sup>

Recent research has linked the LIA stone walled settlements in the Mpumalanga escarpment more specifically to the Bakoni. During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries the Bakoni built a vast complex of stonewalled settlements in this area. These cities were carefully planned around terraced farms and roads that were built to lead cattle to pasture while keeping the cows out of the gardens. In the late 1700's the sites had populations of between 30 000 to 50 000 people.<sup>36</sup>

During the Difaqane (a period of great instability and migration in the interior of South Africa) the

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<sup>33</sup> E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18

<sup>34</sup> Pelsler A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 10.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>36</sup> Rowe, C., August 2013, *DOCUMENTATION REPORT: LIA stone walled settlements, RDR 1, 2 & 7 within the proposed development area (Morning Tide Complex), on the remainder of portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT, Mashishing, Mpumalanga*. P. 10

various groups living in the area were ruthlessly conquered by Mzilikazi, around 1826. At that time the BaKoni were under the chieftainship of Makopole. He was a son of the Pedi chief Thulare. After first warding off an attack led by his brother, Makopole was then faced by the full onslaught of Mzilikazi's Ndebele. The invaders were responsible for destroying the Lydenburg-Ohrigstad settlements of the BaKoni people.<sup>37</sup> According to Bergh,<sup>38</sup> the Difaqane had no direct influence in the Belfast area.

Metal and iron in particular were an important commodity during the Iron Age. Upper and lower grindstones and pottery are commonly associated with Iron Age settlement and several were found during Collett's excavations at Badfontein, south of Lydenburg.<sup>39</sup> These are regarded as indirect evidence for agriculture and the two different types may indicate which crops were cultivated.<sup>40</sup>

Some 150 years before the *Voortrekkers* entered the area, some battles took place between the Koni (Zulu under Makopole) and Swazi (under Moselekatse). At that time the BaPedi resided in the Steelpoort area. The Bakoni (Koni) were attacked and defeated by the Matabele and their chief, Makopole, was killed. The Matabele, not yet satisfied with their victory, moved further north towards the BaPedi headquarters. At Olifantspoortjie the whole BaPedi regiment was wiped out as well as the sons of Thulare, the BaPedi chief (except for Sekwati who managed to escape).<sup>41</sup>

After four years, Sekwati together with a few followers who had also managed to escape the Matabele, now slowly started to rise. In 1830 Sekwati invaded some of the smaller groups and eventually the Koni (under Marangrang) were ambushed and defeated. Now the empire of Maruteng (Bapedi) ruled the Koni.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, groups such as the **Pedi, Roka, Koni** and **Tau** populated the immediate areas of Lydenburg, Steelpoort & Burgersfort. The Pedi of chief Sekwati (ca 1860) lived at Phiring (near Polokwane). Sekwati lived in constant fear of the Zulus. The country was unsafe, and in an attempt to survive, some of the Koni turned to cannibalism.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Pelsler A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 10.

<sup>38</sup> Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p. 11.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, p 13.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, p 13.

<sup>41</sup> E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18

<sup>42</sup> Van Warmelo, N.J., 1944. *A genealogy of the house of Sekhukhune*, p.47.

This area was heavily under attack during the *Difaqane*. The Ndebele attacked this area in ca 1822, and Zwibe (Swazi) attacked the Pedi in ca 1825.<sup>43</sup>

- **AmaNDEBELE**

According to Van Warmelo, the *amaNdebele* are the earliest known offshoot of the *Nguni* group. The Ndebele is divided into two groups, the Southern and the Northern, and they are separated from one another. A certain legendary chief *Msi* or *Musi* heads a list of about twenty-five successive chiefs who lived just north of where Pretoria now stands. His two sons were *Manala* and *Ndzundza* and form the most important tribes of the Southern group. The *abagaNdzundza* moved eastwards and settled near Roos Senekal, approximately 60km north of Belfast, and it is said that some of *Manala*'s followers, the *abagaManala*, settled in the Witbank district. The tribes slowly broke up after the days of the Republic.<sup>44</sup>

- **CENTRAL SOTHO**

The tribes in this group were at one time largely under the rule of the baPedi, who's last independent king was *Sekhukhune*, who's stronghold was to the north of Belfast (Steelpoort area), although his domain was extremely large.<sup>45</sup> Great numbers of *baSotho* who belong to the above group, who still speak *sePedi* but which became detribalized, live in the districts of Middelburg, Lydenburg, Witbank and Springs. They mingled freely with other groups such as the Zulu, Swazi and Tonga.

- **HISTORY OF BELFAST**

The Town of Belfast was founded in 1890, while the name was recently changed to eMakhazeni. This part of the district is located on a watershed and forms the source of many rivers. It is a grassveld region where mixed farming is practiced.<sup>46</sup> Belfast on the Highveld has considerable value in terms of surrounding scenic beauty and tourism activities. It is today renowned for its excellent trout fishing conditions. Sheep and dairy farming take place here and maize, potatoes and timber are also produced. Coal and black granite are mined around Belfast. Belfast is 2025m above sea level and one of the coldest and highest towns in South Africa. It was named after Richard O'Niell from *Belfast*, Northern Ireland, who owned the farm on which the town was built.<sup>47</sup>

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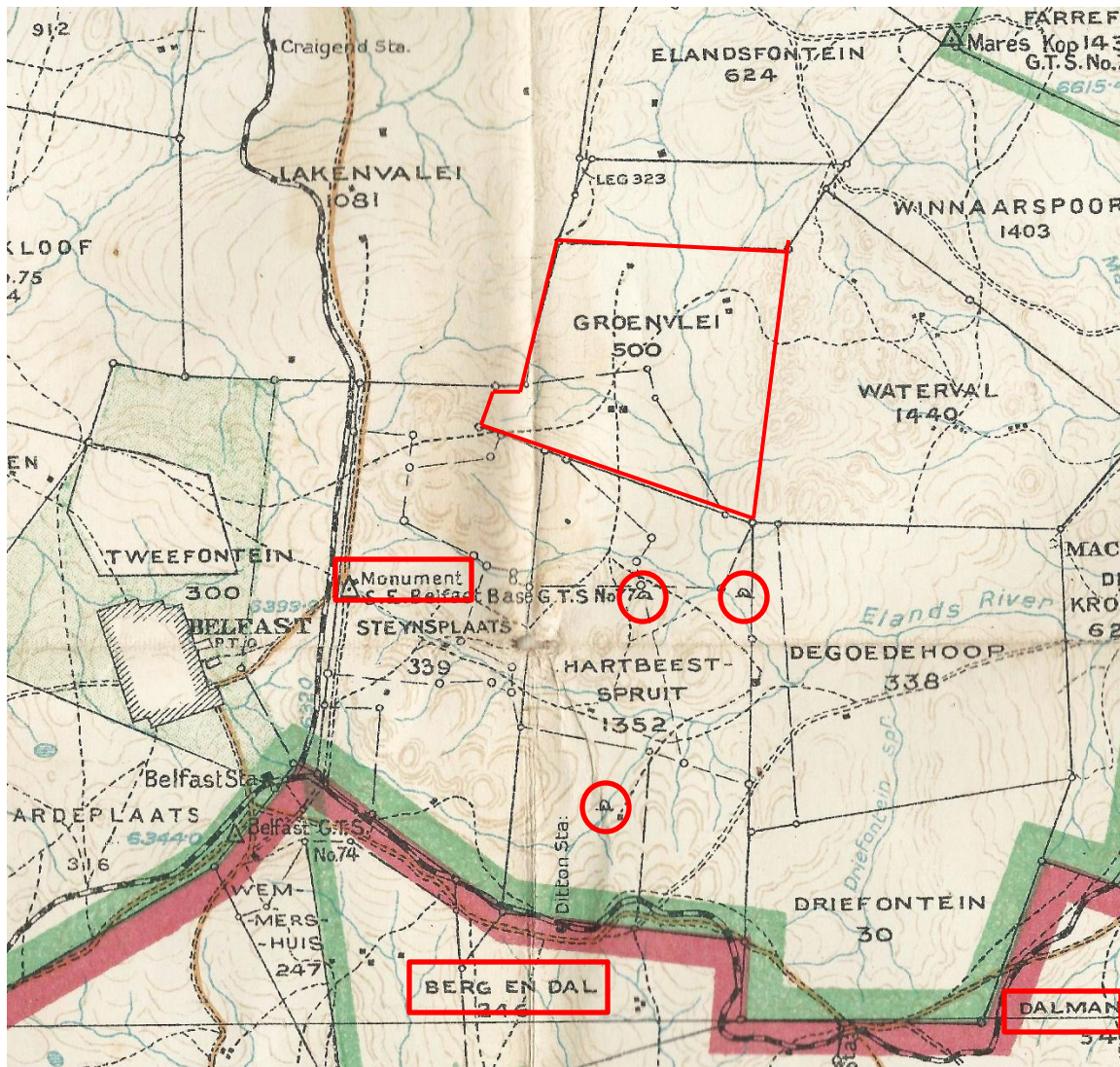
<sup>43</sup> Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, pp.10-28.

<sup>44</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 87.

<sup>45</sup> N.J. Van Warmelo, *A preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 108.

<sup>46</sup> NUPLAN Development Planners: Motivational Memorandum ito the Spatial planning and land use Management on the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT, August 2018, p. 7.

<sup>47</sup> Belfast Mpumalanga, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,\\_Mpumalanga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,_Mpumalanga)



**MAP 2:** 1920 Topographical map. Early black settlements are indicated by the red circles and historical sites by red squares. The original Groenvlei farm is also indicated in red.

During the Anglo-Boer War several battles and skirmishes took place in and around the town. The British built a concentration camp here during the Boer War to house Boer women and children. Several Victoria Crosses were awarded for action at *Monument Hill* which is on the edge of Belfast town.<sup>48</sup> Just after Pretoria and Donkerhoek (Diamond Hill) fell into British hands (June 1900), the Boers under the leadership of Genl. Botha, retreated to the east. Middelburg was conquered by the British on 27 June 1900. Botha's men numbered 5000 against the 20000

<sup>48</sup> Belfast Mpumalanga, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,\\_Mpumalanga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast,_Mpumalanga)



troops in British regiments. Between 21 and 27 August 1900 Lord Roberts defeated Botha at Berg-en-Dal (Dalmanutha), and the Boers had to flee further east.<sup>49</sup> The Berg-en-Dal Monument is visible to the west of Groenvlei farm (see Map 2 / fig. 33).

The author was involved in desktop studies and surveys in the area, such as:

- Rowe, C., August 2009, *Phase 1 Archaeological / Heritage Impact assessment: Sections 1a, 1b, 2, 3 & 4 of Leeuwvallei 297KT*, Burgersfort, Limpopo Province;
- Rowe, C. 2009. *Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve*, MA dissertation. Pretoria: UP;
- Rowe, C, 2012. Phase 1 AIA & HIA for 4 Extensions at Siyathuthuka, **Belfast** (Ext. 4; Ext. 5; Ext. 6; & Ext. 7);
- Rowe, C., September 2014, *Phase 2: Report on the Archaeological investigation of a poorly defined Late Iron Age stone wall located on the remainder of Portion 58 of the farm Leeuwvallei 297KT, to be impacted upon by residential development; Site LB/3; Burgersfort.*
- Rowe, C., August 2013, *DOCUMENTATION REPORT: LIA stone walled settlements, RDR 1, 2 & 7 within the proposed development area (Morning Tide Complex), on the remainder of portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT, Mashishing, Mpumalanga;*
- Rowe, C., September 2013, Phase 1, LIA stone walled settlement (RDR 7) within the Morning Tide Complex on the remainder of portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT, Mashishing (Lydenburg);
- Rowe C., 2013, *SPECIALIST REPORT & MANAGEMENT PLAN: LIA rock engraving site within the proposed development of the Lydenburg Mall (Morning Tide Complex), on the remainder of portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT, Mashishing, Lydenburg.*
- Rowe C., April 2014: Relocation of the Rooidraai Rock engraving RDR 8 on the remainder of portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT, Mashishing, (Lydenburg), Mpumalanga Province;
- Rowe C., November 2014: Phase 1 AIA / HIA for de-bushing of natural land for agricultural use, portions 7 & 8 of Boerboonkraal 353KT, Burgersfort;
- Rowe C., February 2015: Phase 1 AIA / HIA for a proposed residential and business development on the remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT, Burgersfort.

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<sup>49</sup> Bergh, J., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p. 249.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed other Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the area of Lydenburg or Burgersfort:

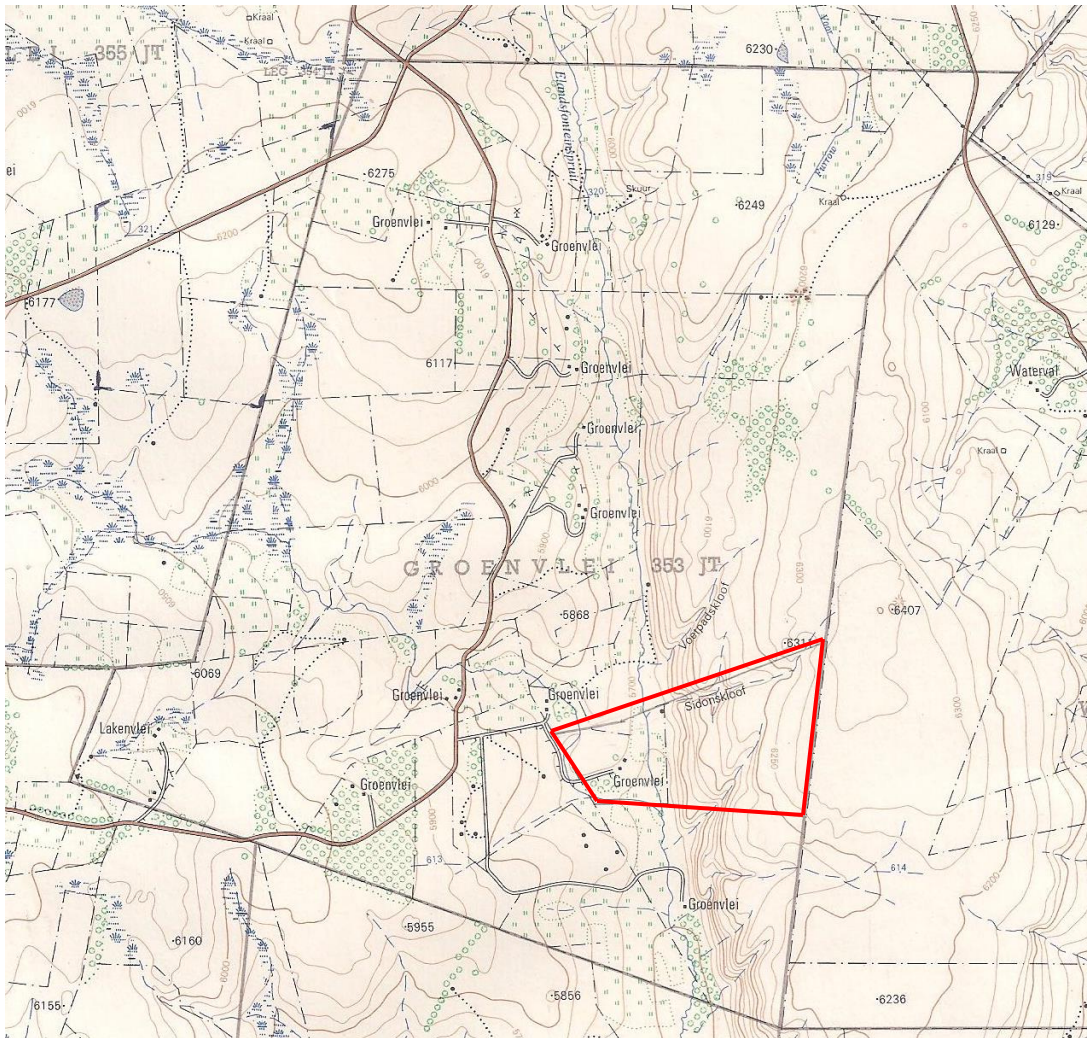
- Pistorius, J.C.C., February 2005, *A Phase 1 HIA study for the proposed New Burgersfort ext 30 residential and the Burgersfort ext 31 industrial development projects near Burgersfort.*
- Birkholtz, P. 2006, *Phase 1 HIA for the Morning Tide Development Complex, Morning Tide Power Line and Abrina Residential Development*, (Lydenburg), 2007.
- Pistorius, JCC, 2013, *Proposed Wonderfontein Colliery near **Belfast** in the Mpumalanga Province*, - Graveyards were identified.
- Pelsler, A., 2013, *A Revision of the Phase 1 HIA for the Wonderfontein Colliery near **Belfast**, Mpumalanga*; Historic buildings were identified;
- Pelsler, A., 2014, *Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Roodraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C, Lydenburg, Mpumalanga.*
- Celliers, JP, 2016: *Phase 1 AIA for the **Belfast** implementation Project resettlement site, Mpumalanga province; No archaeological sites were identified; Historical sites were identified.*

### C. LOCALITY

The study area is situated in the Belfast (eMakhazeni) area, to the east / north-east and approximately 10km north-east from Belfast town (see map 3). The proposed project will be developed on *portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT* in the Emakhazeni Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE, BID document, February 2019.



**MAP 3:** The remaining extent of Portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353-JT is indicated on the 1970 topographical map 2530CA.

- **Description of methodology:**

The 1970 topographical map, 2530CA (map 3), as well as a 1920 map (map 2), and Google images of the site (maps 4, 5, 6 & 7), indicate the study area of the proposed lodge development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies;

- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information;
- Several specialists currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology have also been consulted on the subject;

-Literary sources: A list of books and government publications about prehistory and history of the area were cited, and revealed some information;

-The archaeological database of SAHRA as well as the National Cultural History Museum was consulted. Heritage Impact Assessment reports of specialists who worked in the area were studied and are quoted in section B.

- The study area which is applied for, is partly natural, as well as disturbed (bluegum plantation) land;
- A site visit was held and the owner, Mr. Kuschke pointed out features of interest during the visit (see heritage features in the text);
- The fieldwork and survey were conducted extensively with respectively two people on foot (See Appendix 1);
- The terrain was easily accessible and visibility was good. The veld was lush but visibility was good throughout the survey;
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Oregon 750), and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 4-6 meters of identified sites;
- Evaluation of the resources which might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999);
- Personal communication with relevant stakeholders on the specific study area was held, such as the owner, Mr. H. Kuschke,<sup>51</sup> previous owner Ms. Welda du Toit,<sup>52 53</sup> farm worker Mr. Timothy Sibiya (who lived on the property for nearly 30 years),<sup>54</sup> and Mr. Amos Tlou, who's family members are buried on the farm.<sup>55</sup>

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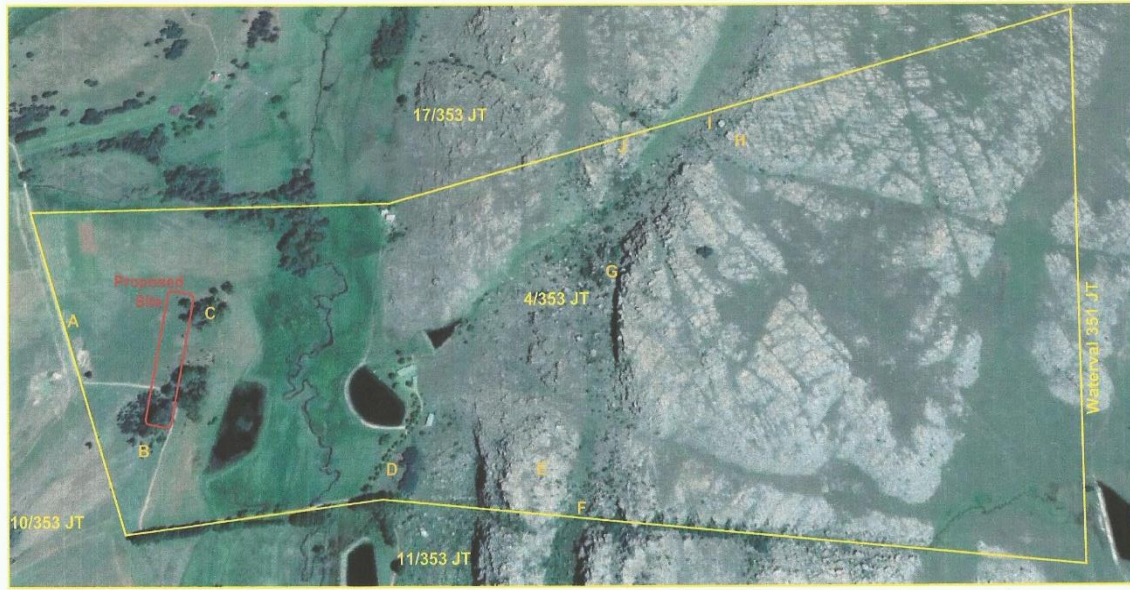
<sup>51</sup> Personal communication: Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-02-02.

<sup>52</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit (interviewed by Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-03-08 & 12.

<sup>53</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit, 2019-03-16,

<sup>54</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Timothy Sibiya (interviewed by Mr. Kuschke, 2019-02-18.

<sup>55</sup> Personal communication: Mr. Amos Tlou (interviewed by Mr. Kuschke, 2019-02-18.



**MAP 4:** The boundary of the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353JT. Note the large mountainous section and the wetland area (dark green) near the Elands River.



**MAP 5:** The site for the proposed lodge is indicated by the red line.



**MAP 6:** GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area (Co-ordinates provided in map by DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE cc).

**Farm Boundaries:**

GPS CO-ORDINATES		
Section A	South	East
N-W Elev 1731m	S 25° 38' 52.50"	E 30° 08' 00.07"
N-E Elev 1926m	S 25° 38' 38.21"	E 30° 08' 55.84"
S-E Elev 1870m	S 25° 39' 10.96"	E 30° 08' 54.41"
S-W Elev 1723m	S 25° 39' 09.58"	E 30° 08' 10.16"

**Study area (Proposed Lodge site) (see map 6):**

GPS CO-ORDINATES		
	South	East
A Elev. 1728m	S 25° 38' 57.71"	E 30° 08' 09.37"
B Elev. 1731m	S 25° 38' 57.68"	E 30° 08' 10.74"
C Elev. 1731m	S 25° 39' 04.35"	E 30° 08' 11.20"
D Elev. 1731m	S 25° 39' 04.34"	E 30° 08' 09.74"

#### **D. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The proposed development is situated near Belfast. This part of the district is located on a watershed and forms the source of many rivers. It is a grass veld region where mixed farming is practiced.

*Idwala Retreat Centre (Pty) Ltd*, wishes to develop a Lodge on *the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353-JT*. The area for the lodge development is indicated in Map 6 and does not exceed one hectare (1ha). The proposed area is situated in natural grassveld as well as partly disturbed bluegum plantations. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Emakhazeni Local Municipality, and the Nkangala District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province.

The property currently accommodates a main dwelling house, three guest rooms, a shed and storeroom as well as farm worker accommodation. About 12ha of the total farm (92ha), are suitable for grazing or cultivation while the larger part of the property consists of wetlands and mountainous areas. The surrounding properties are all used for agriculture, grazing<sup>56</sup> or game farming. The Elands River cuts through the farm from north to south.

According to Mucina & Rutherford Classification (2012), the veld type is classified as Steenkampsberg Montane Grassland.<sup>57</sup>

#### **E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES**

The proposed lodge development will not exceed 1ha (one hectare), which is situated in a partly disturbed area which consists of a bluegum plantation (maps 5 & 6). The 1970 topographical map 2530CA revealed that the bluegum plantation was already established in the area where the proposed lodge is planned (map 6). The 1920 topographical map of *MACHADODORP* revealed historic black settlements approximately 10km to the south of the farm, but none was indicated on the farm (see map 2).<sup>58</sup>

A stone wall in this section was identified as the remains of a historic cattle kraal. It dates from before the time when the Webster family owned Groenvlei farm (1949) (fig. 4-6).<sup>59</sup> The walls

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<sup>56</sup> NUPLAN Development Planners: Motivational Memorandum ito the Spatial planning and land use Management on the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT, August 2018, p. 5.

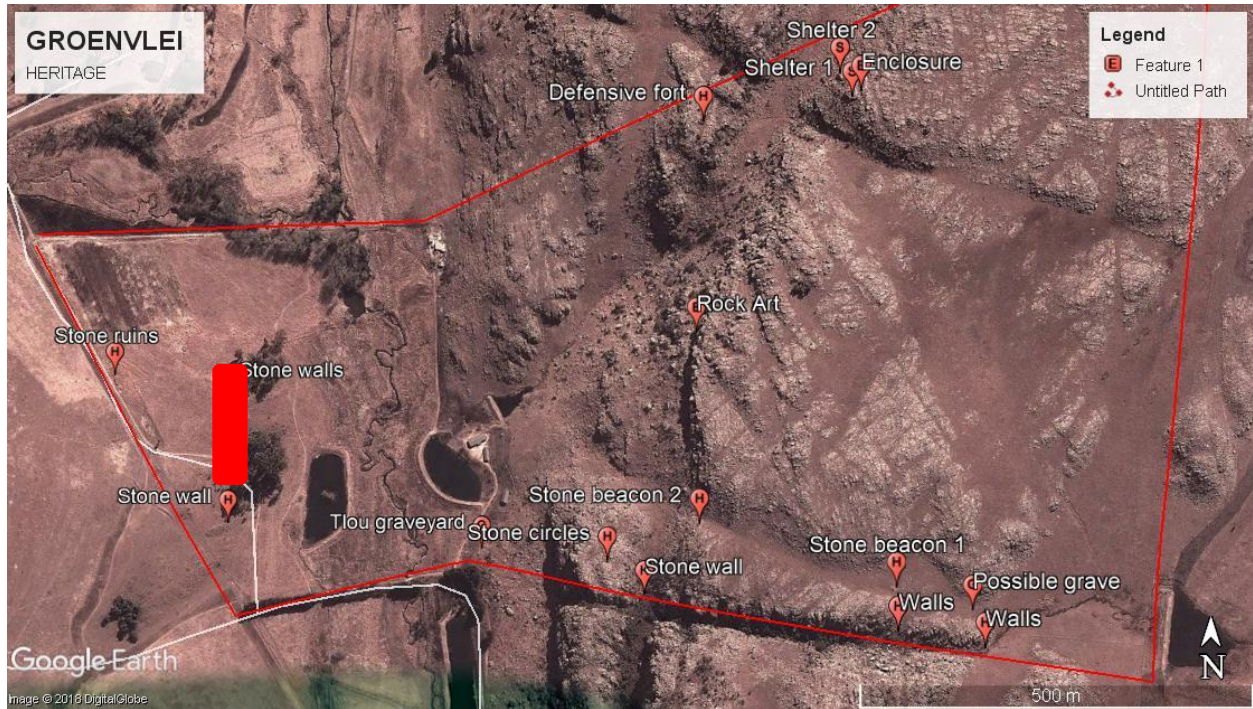
<sup>57</sup> DALERWA VENTURES FOR WILDLIFE, BID document, February 2019.

<sup>58</sup> Map: 1920 Topographical Map: MACHADODORP no. 21.

<sup>59</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit, 2019-03-16.

are indistinct and extensively disturbed by the bluegum plantation as well as by an existing farm road (figs. 4, 5 & 6).

All other archaeological and heritage features which were identified on the 92ha farm (see below), fall outside of the study area and will be incorporated in the tourism development as part of a hiking route.<sup>60</sup>



**MAP 7:** Heritage features which are on the farm are indicated in this map. The study area is indicated by the red rectangle.

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps, figures and appendices, which indicate the study area, and which corresponds with the summary below. Photographs in Appendix 2 show the general view of the study area as well as the heritage features.

Ms. Welda du Toit (born in 1955), was interviewed and gave valuable information on the structures and features which were identified during the survey.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>60</sup> Personal Communication: Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-02-02.

<sup>61</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit, 2019-03-16.



Groenvlei was owned by Ms. Du Toits' (neé Minnaar), great grandfather Mr. C.J. Minnaar since 1877. Her grandfather took the farm over in 1914, and her father in 1949. During this time the farm was subdivided into several portions, of which *the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353JT*, was one (bought by Mr. L.B. Webster in 1949). Webster lived in a stone house (now a ruin - see discussion below), and Ms. Du Toits' cousin (together with her mother), often visited Mrs. Webster in that house. The house fell into ruin shortly afterwards, as Ms. Du Toit only remembered the house as a ruin (figs. 7 & 8).

When her grandfather was a child, people came to prospect for gold in the mountains – Witrand also known to them as the “goudrandjies” or “golden hills”. This might have been in the 1880's. Viable gold resources were never found.

Ms. Du Toits' father took her to some of the features on Groenvlei, as a child. They visited the Rock Art site (although she cannot remember the images, except that they were indistinct). They often played at the site and it was known to them as “Hangklip,” which means rock overhang or shelter. This section of Groenvlei was referred to as “Hangklip farm.”

Stone walled enclosures (to keep cattle or sheep in), were common features in the landscape as the farmers did not have other material to build with (see discussion below on the stone enclosure where Webster used to keep his cattle). There were several of these stone walled enclosures on the original Groenvlei farm. Other stone walls in the mountain (Witrand) were built and used as hiding places by the Boers, during the Anglo Boer War. Ms. Du Toit cannot remember that they ever visited the Defensive Fort on Mr. Hermann Kuschke's section of Groenvlei, but she knew that the Boers were active on these farms during the War and there is a family cemetery on her farm (adjacent to Mr. Kuschke's), with Boer War graves. Her father also took her to see the site where the “Long Tom” cannon was stationed against the English. The Battles of Dalmanutha and Berg-en-Dal took place south of the farm.

Ms. Du Toit can remember that the farm workers often attended the “berg skool” or “mountain school” (initiation sites in the mountain) for several weeks at a time. One of the workers on the farm was Kleinbooi Nkosi (Swazi ?), and others had the surname of Tlou.

The features which are listed below were not researched in detail as they fall outside of the study area.

**The heritage features (outside of the study area) are listed below:**

<b>FEATURE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION / COMMENTS</b>	<b>SITE LOCATION</b>
Historic STONE WALL (directly south of study area)	Part of a stone wall, is visible in the area where the proposed development will take place. This stone wall was used by the Webster family as cattle kraals. <sup>62</sup> Figs. 5 & 6	Elev. 1729m S25° 39' 05.34" E30° 08' 09.96"
Historic STONE WALL (directly north – east of study area)	Part of a stone wall (which is an extension of the above wall) is visible to the north-east of the proposed study area. (This is an extension of the cattle kraal which was used by the Webster family). <sup>63</sup> Fig. 4	Elev. 1725m S25° 38' 59.52" E30° 08' 10.50"
STONE FOUNDATION (RUIN) <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	The foundations / ruins, and part of a wall of a square structure were of the farmhouse of the Webster family. <sup>64</sup> This structure was built with stone. The house fell into ruin in ca 1960's. Fig. 7 & 8	Elev. 1736m S25° 38' 58.54" E30° 08' 04.29"
BURIAL GROUND - Tlou family <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	Approximately 8 (eight) graves belonging to the Tlou family. A date on one of the graves is 16-09-20 -(possibly the birth date of the deceased). According to Mr. Amos Tlou, the family still visit the site, and his grandparents, brother, sister, uncle and the uncle's child are buried there. <sup>65</sup> Fig. 9	Elev. 1722m S25° 39' 06.45" E30° 08' 22.85"
Possible single GRAVE <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	A possible single grave with traces of grave dressing was observed in the mountain. Fig. 10	Elev. 1860m S25° 39' 08.14" E30° 08' 46.33"
Small hill with STONE CIRCLES (Sacred place) INITIATION SITE <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	Several stone circles are situated on a small hill. The stone circles are associated with an initiation school, as confirmed by Ms. Welda du Toit. <sup>66</sup> Fig. 11, 12 & 13	Elev. 1790m S25° 39' 06.58" E30° 08' 29.30"

<sup>62</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit (interviewed by Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-03-08 & 12.

<sup>63</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit (interviewed by Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-03-08 & 12.

<sup>64</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit (interviewed by Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-03-08 & 12.

<sup>65</sup> Personal Communication: Mr. Amos Tlou (interviewed by Mr. Kuschke), 2019-02-18.

<sup>66</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit (interviewed by Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-03-08 & 12.

DEFENSIVE STONE WALLS <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	Stone walls were built in hills between natural stones at strategic points near kloof & gorges etc. It is believed to have been built by the Boers for protection against the English. <sup>67</sup> Fig. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19	Elev. 1799m S25° 39' 08.00" E30° 08' 31.12"
ROCK SHELTER WITH INDISTINCT ART <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	A large rock shelter situated in the mountain was known as "Hangklip". There are traces of San rock paintings which are indistinct. <sup>68</sup> Fig. 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24	Elev. 1819m S25° 38' 56.53" E30° 08' 33.54"
STONE BEACON 1 <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	Two stone beacons were observed in the mountain roughly on the border of the farm. It is believed to be boundary markers. Fig. 25 & 26	Elev. 1859m S25° 39' 07.30" E30° 08' 42.81"
STONE BEACON 2 <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>		Elev. 1825m S25° 39' 04.74" E30° 08' 33.72"
SHELTER 1 with STONE WALL <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	A small overhang or shelter was used as a possible look-out point during the Anglo-Boer War, as a small packed stone wall protects the shelter from the south-west. The shelter overlooks the Defensive Fort from the opposite valley. Fig. 27	Elev. 1862m S25° 38' 46.75" E30° 08' 40.60"
SHELTER 2 <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	A second overhang or shelter is directly below shelter 1, but no traces of occupation or use could be seen. Fig. 28	Elev. 1860m S25° 38' 45.69" E30° 08' 40.06"
PROSPECTING (HOLE IN GROUND) <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	A deep hole in the ground occurs directly above Shelter 1. The area was also enclosed by rough stone walls which had been extensively disturbed. It may have been connected to prospecting holes, or part of the Boer defensive walls. Ms. Welda du Toit remembered that gold prospecting took place in the hills known as the "goutrandjies". Traces of gold were found, but it was not enough to make the prospect viable. <sup>69</sup> Fig. 29	Elev. 1869m S25° 38' 46.51" E30° 08' 40.99"
DEFENSIVE FORT (probable Boer War) <b>OUTSIDE OF STUDY AREA</b>	A defensive Fort used by the Boers during the Anglo-Boer War. The structure has two entrances as well as several "gun hole openings". Fig. 30, 31, 32	Elev. 1828m S25° 38' 47.49" E30° 08' 33.81"

<sup>67</sup> Personal Communication: Ms. W. Du Toit, 2019-03-16.

<sup>68</sup> Personal Communication: Ms. W. Du Toit, 2019-03-16.

<sup>69</sup> Personal communication: Ms. W. Du Toit (interviewed by Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-03-08 & 12.

**F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

Please note that the following discussion has relevance on the proposed footprint (1ha) of the proposed Lodge site (and not the other heritage features on the farm):

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPONENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	Historic stone wall closed to proposed study area	Mitigation recommended
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	NA	-
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	NA	-
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

- **Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources: General issues of site and context:**

<i>Context</i>		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	NA
Natural environmental context	No	NA
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA

<b>Context</b>		
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	NA
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<b>Property features and characteristics</b>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	A section on the farm had bluegum plantation (see topo map)

<b><i>Property features and characteristics</i></b>		
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	Yes	A prominent ridge (with shelters) which leads up the mountainous terrain
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	Yes	Not in study area
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	Yes	The eastern part is mountainous terrain
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	The Elands River runs through the property and several springs and streams from the mountain

<b><i>Heritage resources on the property</i></b>		
<b><i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i></b>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
<b><i>General protection (NHRA)</i></b>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	Outside of study area
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	Outside of study area
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	Outside of study area
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	Outside of study area

<b>Heritage resources on the property</b>		
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
<b>Other</b>		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELEMENTS</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person / community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Historical settlement / townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</b>	<b>ELE- MENT S</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</b>										<b>RISK</b>	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Person / community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Grave / burial grounds	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA

- Summarised recommended impact management interventions



<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE</b>		<b>Impact managemen t</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural sianificance</b>			
		<b>Cultural significan</b>	<b>Impact significan</b>		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	No	-	Not in study area
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	Not in study area
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	Not in study area
Archaeological / palaeontological material	No	No	No	-	Not in study area
Grave / burial grounds	No	No	No		Not in study area

<b>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE</b>		<b>Impact managemen t</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
		<b>Cultural sianificance</b>			
		<b>Cultural significan</b>	<b>Impact significan</b>		
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

<b>ACT</b>	<b>COMPO- NENT</b>	<b>IMPLICATION</b>	<b>RELEVANCE</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE</b>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	Foundations outside of study area	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	Rock art shelter (very indistinct) outside of study area	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	Outside of study area	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

## **G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES**

Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above is made for all identified heritage features.

### **• Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

### **• National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed, and contributes to redressing past inequities.<sup>70</sup> It promotes previously neglected research areas.

All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section 3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.<sup>71</sup>

### **• Graves**

#### **SAHRA Policy on burial grounds**

NHRA Sections 27 & 36: The policy is that graves and cemeteries should be left undisturbed, no matter how inaccessible and difficult they are to maintain. It is our obligation to empower civil society to nurture and conserve our heritage. It is only when essential developments threaten a place of burial, that human remains should be disinterred to another cemetery or burial ground.

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<sup>70</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

<sup>71</sup> National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

From a historical point of view and for research purposes, it is vital that burial sites are not disturbed. The location and marking of an individual's grave tell a life story, possibly where he / she died defending (or attacking) a particular place or situation and makes it easier to understand the circumstances of his / her death.<sup>72</sup>

Please note that the burial site / s on the farm will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.

- **Rock Art sites**

### **SAHRA Policy on Rock art**

All rock paintings done by indigenous people in South Africa are protected by the NHRA. They may not be destroyed damaged altered, excavated or removed from their original sites or exported without a permit from SAHRA. Anyone writing his/her name on or near to rock painting, or removing them is therefore committing an offence and is liable for prosecution. Rock art in South Africa is at least 27 500 years old, which reflect an artistically and intellectually sophisticated tradition. It is fragile and has already been damaged though ignorance and vandalism.<sup>73</sup>

Anyone opening a site to the public, either as a formal site museum or simply as a place of interest, must take basic precautions to ensure the safety of the site and its contents. Expert advice should be sought from a registered specialist. Interventions should be reversible and the integrity of the site should be maintained as far as possible. No site should be opened to the public without a prior professional investigation that includes a conservation management plan approved by SAHRA, and for rock art sites, complete documentation in case of later damage.

SAHRA must be notified of all sites which are planned to be opened to the public, to be included in the national database. A permit is required for any disturbance at an archaeological site, which includes erecting noticeboards, boardwalks, or fences etc.<sup>74</sup>

- **The significance and evaluation of the archaeological / cultural heritage features in the study area, can be summarised as follows:**

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<sup>72</sup> SAHRA, Burial sites, [Http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm](http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm), Access, 2008-10-16.

<sup>73</sup> SAHRA, Rock Art, [Http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm](http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm), Access, 2008-10-16.

<sup>74</sup> SAHRA, *Minimum Standards for Archaeological site Museums and Rock Art sites open to the Public*, <http://www.sahra.org.za/minimumstandards> Access, 2019-03-16.

<b>Cultural Heritage features</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Measures of mitigation</b>
Historic STONE WALL (directly south and north east of study area)	Low	Although not directly in the study area, it is in the direct vicinity and mitigation is recommended
ROCK ART SITE	High	Although not directly in the study area, mitigation is recommended as it will be open to the public
BURIAL SITES & GRAVES	High	Although not directly in the study area, mitigation is recommended as it will be open to the public
All heritage features on the farm	Low	Although not directly in the study area, mitigation measures are recommended below as these features will be included as part of the Lodge's tourism initiative

- **Field rating:**

The applicant, Mr. H. Kuschke is requesting the establishment of a Tourism Accommodation facility (Lodge with associated infrastructure), on a section of the *remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353-JT* in the Emakhazeni (Belfast) district. The applicant wishes to develop only one hectare (1ha) on the farm for the infrastructure of the proposed Lodge.<sup>75</sup>

The field rating is viewed in terms of the NHRA (25, 1999) sections 3 (3) a, c, g & h, as well as the Minimum standards for archaeological sites (including rock art sites). Although the heritage features which were identified on *the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm GROENVLEI 353JT*, do not fall directly within the study area, the owner Mr. H. Kuschke, Idwala Retreat Centre indicated that these may be incorporated in a tourism development as part of a hiking route for visiting guests.<sup>76</sup> It is recommended that the heritage features be included in a Management Plan with guidelines, for the future preservation of the sites.

The historic stone walls which are situated close to the proposed lodge site (study area), are protected by the NHRA (section 34) and therefore it is recommended that the applicant ensures

<sup>75</sup> NUPLAN Development Planners: Motivational Memorandum into the Spatial planning and land use Management on the remaining extent of portion 4 of the farm Groenvlei 353JT, August 2018, p. 3.

<sup>76</sup> Personal Communication: Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-02-02.

that a distance of at least 20m from the development area, are kept clear of the historic stone walls. The historic walls should be incorporated in the overall Management Plan for heritage sites on the farm.

SAHRA values the San rock art site (although very indistinct), as of National / High significance and therefore it is recommended that the site be documented as far as possible (see SAHRA policy on rock art sites above).<sup>77 78</sup>

Archaeological and Heritage features which were identified on the 92ha farm, will be incorporated in the tourism development as a hiking route.<sup>79</sup>

All burial sites and graves are rated as **High** and of outstanding significance as specified by the NHRA 3.3 (h), and need to be preserved. The burial site is not within the study area but it is recommended that the area be demarcated and cleared of vegetation, and be incorporated in the overall Management Plan for the Idwala Retreat Centre development.

## **H. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION**

The 1ha (one hectare) section for the proposed lodge is situated in a disturbed area which currently consists of a bluegum plantation. Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during de-bushing and other activities of the proposed development. In the event that archaeological material or graves be exposed, an archaeologist should be contacted to assess the finds.

It is recommended that a Management Plan with guidelines be developed for the heritage features on the farm to ensure its future preservation. The rock art site (although indistinct), should be documented as far as possible and be included in the Management Plan. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no reasons which may prevent the proposed development in the 1ha section for the Idwala Retreat Centre, to continue.

**Adansonia Heritage Consultants cannot be held responsible for any archaeological material or graves which were not located during the survey.**

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<sup>77</sup> SAHRA, Rock Art, [Http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm](http://www.sahra.org.za/burial.htm), Access, 2008-10-16.

<sup>78</sup> SAHRA, *Minimum Standards for Archaeological site Museums and Rock Art sites open to the Public*, <http://www.sahra.org.za/minimumstandards> Access, 2019-03-16.

<sup>79</sup> Personal Communication: Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-02-02.

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## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

- Personal Communication: Ms. Welda du Toit (interviewed by Mr. Kuschke, 2019-03-08 & 12 & by the author 2019-03-16).
- Personal Communication: Mr. H. Kuschke, 2019-02-02.
- Personal communication: Mr. Elmon Mabuza, 18 Feb 2012.
- Personal communication: Dr. J. Pistorius, Pretoria, 2008-04-17.
- Personal communication: Dr. M.S. Schoeman, University of Pretoria, 2008-03-27.
- Personal communication: Mr. Timothy Sibiya (interviewed by Mr. Kuschke, 2019-02-18).
- Personal communication: Mr. Amos Tlou (interviewed by Mr. Kuschke, 2019-02-18).

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# APPENDIX 1

## TRACKS & PATHS USED IN THE STUDY AREAS



Tracks and paths which were used to access the area are indicated in white.