

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: DEVELOPMENT
OF TWO TENTED CAMPS AT SONGIMVELO NATURE RESERVE, EERSTEHOEK, ON THE
FARMS LAAGGENOEG 158IT & ONVERWACHT 733IT**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

REPORT COMPILED FOR

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (AIA & HIA) was conducted on the Songimvelo Nature Reserve for two new Tented camp developments. Songimvelo is situated on several farms (*Josefsdal, Mendon, Noisy, Schoonoord, Goedehoop, Sedan, Vooruitsicht and Duurstede*), but the Tented Camp developments are proposed on the farms *Laaggenoeg 158IT* and *Onverwacht 733IT*. Songimvelo is approximately 32 km from the town of Badplaas. The Nature Reserve borders YORK's Taurus Plantation to the north, Swaziland directly to the east and Tjakastad in the west.

The study area is situated on topographical maps 1:50 000, 2530DD (NELSHOOGTE), & 2630BB (LOCHIEL), which are in the Mpumalanga Province. This area falls within the Badplaas region under the jurisdictions of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, and Albert Luthuli Local 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 aims of this study were to do a surface investigation for possible graves, archaeological and / or historical remains on the two locations which were identified for Tented Camp developments, and to recommend mitigation measures if necessary. The survey focused on the proposed sites named **Camp Lidube** (on the farm *Laaggenoeg 158IT*) and **Camp Buffalo Plains** (on the farm *Onverwacht 733IT*). Both areas which were chosen for the Tented Camps are within previously disturbed areas, zoned for tourism and recreation.

The proposed layout for Camp Lidube is entirely situated on previously disturbed agricultural lands, next to the Nkomati River (Komati). Some indistinct Late Iron Age stonewalls were identified directly to the south, outside the current layout of the proposed development. The survey also revealed indistinct Late Stone Age flakes and Late Iron Age upper grinders and a grooved stone. No graves were identified in this area.

The proposed Camp Buffalo Plains is situated above the floodplain of a large drainage line which feeds into the Nkomati River, and was the location of a previous farm, before Songimvelo was proclaimed as a Nature Reserve. Some remains of the farming infrastructure are still

visible such as the foundations of a historic farmhouse, and a kraal. Artefacts associated with this settlement were also identified.

It is recommended that the development may continue with the following conditions as specified below:

Camp Lidube: The development may only take place in the already historically disturbed agricultural section (as proposed). Some indistinct Late Iron Age stone walls are located to the south. These should be preserved in situ. Should the Client wish to incorporate these as a tourist attraction or if any activities will take place in these sections, mitigation measures will be required, such as:

- a full documentation of the site (to determine the layout pattern and possible age), as well as a management plan with guidelines to preserve it;

Alternatively, if the Client wishes to develop on this site, the following process needs to be followed:

- a Phase 2 investigation - excavations or shovel test pits (STP) should be done at the site to determine the scientific value before a destruction permit may be applied for from SAHRA.

Camp Buffalo Plains: The development may only take place at least 20m away from the foundations of the farmhouse and kraal. Should the Client wish to incorporate these in the development plan, then mitigation measures will be required, such as:

- a full documentation of the site (to determine the layout pattern and possible age), as well as a management plan with guidelines to preserve it;

Alternatively, if the Client wishes to develop OR to reconstruct the farmhouse, the following process needs to be followed:

- a Phase 2 investigation – a full documentation of the site, as well as excavations or shovel test pits (STP) should be done at the site to determine the scientific value before a destruction / reconstruction permit may be applied for from SAHRA. Thereafter the house may be demolished or reconstructed and then be used in the tourism 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.*

FEBRUARY 2018



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A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: DEVELOPMENT OF TWO TENTED CAMPS AT SONGIMVELO NATURE RESERVE, EERSTEOEK, ON THE FARMS LAAGGENOEG 158IT & ONVERWACHT 733IT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by Umsinsi Environmental Specialists to undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed two new Tented Camp developments on the Songimvelo Nature Reserve (SNR). The Client is Panicle Turnkey Developments. A literature study, relevant to the study area as well as a foot survey was done, to determine that no archaeological or heritage resources will be impacted upon (see Map 3: Topographical Maps: 2530DD (NELSHOOGTE) & 2630BB (LOCHIEL). The two proposed Tented Camp development areas are named **Camp Lidube** (1.5ha in extent) and **Camp Buffalo Plains** (1.5ha in extent), which are situated on the farms *Laaggenoeg 158IT* & *Onverwacht 733IT*, on the Songimvelo Nature Reserve.

Songimvelo was proclaimed as a “Nature Reserve” in Government Gazette no. 448 (4 March 1983),¹ and is the largest provincial game reserve in South Africa and has been known for its plant diversity. The broken landscapes make this reserve one of the most aesthetically attractive areas in the province. The Reserve falls within the Barberton Mountain land consisting of typical ‘greenstone’ rocks. Fossil evidence suggest that these mountains are among the most ancient landforms on earth. Archaeological sites occur within the Reserve dating back to approximately 400BC,² and two rock painting sites are known.³ The Nkomazi (Nkomati or Komati) River runs from west to east through the southern part of the property (see topographical Map 3). Communities such as Tjakastad, Elukwatini and Ekulindeni borders the Reserve in the west and south,⁴ (see Map 5: Google image of the wider area). The SNR is managed by the Mpumalanga Parks Board (MTPA).⁵

The aims of this report are to source all relevant information on archaeological and heritage resources in the study areas, 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

¹ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 7.

² Internet Source: www.mtpa.co.za/index.php?parks+1813 Access: 2017-12-08.

³ Personal communication: Mr. Wessel Roodt, 2017-10-17.

⁴ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 11.

⁵ UMSINSI Environmental Specialists: BID document, 2017, p. 1.

the National Heritage Resources Act no., 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resources will also be made. The study areas are indicated in Maps 5 - 10, and Appendix 1 & 2.

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *UMSINSI ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS*, P.O. Box 8163, Nelspruit, 1206, Cell: 0823386934 / Fax: 0866304313 / e-mail: umsinsi.es@gmail.com the EIA is in the Basic Assessment Planning & Scoping phase, for the Client, Panicle Turnkey Developments.
- Type of development: Two Tented Camps in the Songimvelo Nature Reserve (SNR), on previously disturbed land in areas which are zoned for tourism and recreation. The Tented Camps are both 1.5ha respectively and are situated on the farms *Laaggenoeg 158IT & Onverwacht 733IT*, in the Badplaas region, Mpumalanga Province.
- The study area is entirely on historically disturbed agricultural areas. It is currently zoned for tourism and recreation within the Songimvelo Nature Reserve.
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): The study area is located on the farms *Laaggenoeg 158IT & Onverwacht 733IT*. This area falls within the Badplaas region under the jurisdictions of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, and Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.
- Land owner: Government RSA.

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:

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes an archaeological and heritage impact assessment investigation. The development of the two new Tented Camps are listed activities in terms of Section 38 (1) of the NHRA. Section 38 (2) of the NHRA requires the submission of a HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA). The Client has requested

this study to comply with legal requirements to expand on commercial activities (concessions) within the reserve.

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 5000m² in extent;
 - the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent;

In addition, the new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulation promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (no. 107 of 1998), EIA Regulations of December 2014 as amended in 2017, determines that any environmental report will include cultural (heritage) issues.

The purpose of this report is to alert the client about existing heritage resources that will be affected by the proposed development, to identify areas which are worth preserving and to recommend mitigation measures aimed at reducing the risks of any adverse impacts on these heritage resources and to set guidelines in place for future management. 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 and 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 their statutory duties under the NHRA. After evaluating the specialist heritage scoping report, the heritage resources authority will decide on the status of the resources on the SNR. SAHRA will also decide whether the mitigation measures as proposed are acceptable, and whether the

heritage resources 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.⁶

The World Heritage Convention Act, 49 of 1999 defines Cultural Heritage as “monuments, architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science, groups of buildings, groups of separate or connected buildings, which because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science, sites, works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.”⁷

- **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.” No archaeological material was found within the proposed development sections (Maps 9 & 10), during the survey, but mitigation measures are proposed as archaeological material was found in the near vicinity of the proposed development.

- **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 activities”. No grave sites were observed within or near the study areas.

⁶ National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

⁷ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. vi.

- **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”. Indistinct remains of LIA stone walls and the foundations of a historical house and kraal which may be older than 60 years were identified during the initial investigation, and measures of mitigation are recommended.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

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

- **NEMA**

Regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998) as amended (2017), 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**

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area. Myburgh, in the 1949 publication of *Tribes of the Barberton District*,⁸ states that practically nothing is known about the pre-historic inhabitants, and that the present Swazi and Tsonga populations are more recent immigrants. A recent publication by Delius, Maggs and Schoeman, revealed that the stone-walled settlements which stretch from Ohrigstad to Carolina, and extending eastwards down the major river valleys of the Crocodile and Komati rivers, belonged to the Koni.⁹ A discussion follows further in the text.

History in the wider vicinity is connected to the study area and is briefly outlined below. In order to place the areas around Songimvelo in an 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. Other historic and academic sources were also consulted (such as by Küsel, Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray, Van der Ryst, Makhura and Webb).

⁸ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of the Barberton District*, p. 10-11.

⁹ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment*, p. 61.

Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the wider area. Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinities of Hazyview¹⁰, Bushbuckridge, Graskop, Sabie, Komatipoort and Malelane, clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinders, were scattered at most of the sites.¹¹ Many of these occur in caves as a result of the Swazi attacks (1900's), on the smaller groups. The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted but revealed no other recent Archaeological Impact Assessment Reports in the direct vicinity of Songimvelo.

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

- *Study for the Proposed Eskom Powerlines, Hazyview – Dwarsloop* (2008);
- Phase 1 HIA *portion 64 of the farm The Rest 454JT*, Nelspruit (2009): Undecorated potsherds and recent stone walls, one Early Stone Age hand axe.
- Phase 1 HIA *portion 62 of the farm The Rest 454JT*, Nelspruit (2009): Late Iron age stone walls, undecorated potsherds;
- *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, (2001): LIA stone walls;
- *A Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for 132Kv Powerlines from Kiepersol substation (Hazyview), to the Nwarele substation Dwarsloop* (2002): Recent graveyards;
- *Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment, survey and Management guidelines for two Rock art sites: Roburnia Plantation, Mpumalanga Province, (2008) – KOMATILAND;* Rock art site.
- *Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment, survey and Management guidelines for Rock art site: Jessievale Plantation, Mpumalanga Province, (2009) - KOMATILAND;* Rock art site.
- *Heritage Inspection and evaluation report (second visit) – Lochiel 1 & 2; Syde 1 & 2; Rinkink 1a and 1b – Lochiel, Warberton and Amsterdam, Mpumalanga Province, (2012 & 2015) - KOMATILAND;*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment, survey and Management guidelines for two Rock art sites, Lochiel 1 & Lochiel 2, Redhill Plantation, Lochiel, Mpumalanga, (2011 & 2015) - KOMATILAND.*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological Impact assessment, survey and Management guidelines for*

¹⁰ PRMA: Information file 9/2.

¹¹D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

Rock art site: Jessievale Plantation, Mpumalanga Province, (2009 & 2015) - KOMATILAND;

- *A Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed traffic training academy, Calcutta, Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge (2013); Possible graves.*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Nkambeni cemetery in Numbi, Hazyview (2013);*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed agricultural development on the farm SIERAAD, Komatipoort area, (2013) revealed one possible Late Stone Age borer which was identified in a soil sample, one meter below the surface.*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed debushing of natural land for agricultural use: portion 10 of the farm Thankerton 175 JU, Hectorspruit area, (2014) revealed a few Later Stone Age tools and Iron Age potsherds and upper grinders;*
- *Phase 1 Archaeological impact assessment, survey & management guidelines for Majuba 1, Rock Art site: Berlin Plantation, Kaapsehoop (2012) - KOMATILAND. Rock art site.*
- *Letter of recommendation for the exemption from a Phase 1 AIA & HIA investigation: Proposed footbridge at AVONTUUR, crossing the Nkomazi River on the farm Avontuur 721JT, near Tjakastad, May 2015. No archaeological remains were observed.*
- *A Phase 1 AIA & HIA of the stone walled settlements on Taurus Plantation, Barberton District, Mpumalanga April 2015. Many stone walled sites were documented on the Taurus Plantation associated with Swazi settlement.*

The first evidence of ancient mining in the area occurred between 46 000 and 28 500 years ago during the Middle Stone Age. Hematite or red ochre was mined at Dumaneni (towards the east near Malelane), and is regarded as one of the oldest mines in the world. Iron ore was also mined in the area during the Later Iron Age (LIA), and a furnace as well as iron slag was documented.¹² Mr. John Roux (a contractor on the Taurus Plantation), made mention of three known locations of iron smelting sites on the farm Three Sisters 254JU, near Louws Creek.¹³ Myburgh mentioned in his ethnological publication that tuyères (clay pipes used in the smelting

¹² Bornman, H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld*, p. 1.

¹³ Personal Communication: John Roux 2014-12-15 & 2014-12-26.

of iron), belonging to ancient “explorers” of the De Kaap Valley, were unearthed by gold prospectors before the turn of the century, near D.M. Wilson’s office at Kaapse Hoop.¹⁴

Later Stone Age (LSA) sites in the Kruger National Park date to the last 2500 years and are associated with pottery and microlith stone tools.¹⁵ Fragments of LSA tools were also found on Taurus Plantation as well as on the Songimvelo Nature Reserve.

Bushman rock paintings which have been recorded in the wider area are mostly connected to the Later Stone Age, probably during the last millennium. Mention of the last surviving bushman in the Chrissiesmeer area, was made during the 1870’s by a transport rider, Jacob Filter.¹⁶

Bushman (or San) presence is evident in the area as research by rock art enthusiasts revealed 109 sites in the Kruger National Park,¹⁷ and over 100 rock art sites at Bongani Mountain Lodge and its immediate surrounds¹⁸ (north of Barberton), as well as many sites in the Nelspruit, Rocky’s Drift and White River areas. Thirty-one rock art sites were recorded on the Mpumalanga Drakensberg Escarpment,¹⁹ and two sites are known on the Songimvelo Nature Reserve.²⁰

- One rock art site is recorded by Bergh between Barberton and Nelspruit.²¹ The author documented a rock art site north of Kaapse Hoop (on Berlin plantation) as well as several sites on the Roburnia, Jessievale and Redhill Plantations between Lothair and Lochiel.²² Bushman painting sites were also recorded to the west of the reserve at Theespruit (recorded by Anna Steyn), and rock art sites in Swaziland (mentioned by Masson).^{23 24} The Bushman painters most probably obtained the ochre which was used

¹⁴ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of the Barberton District*, p. 12.

¹⁵ J.S. Bergh (red)., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 95.

¹⁶ E. von Fintel (Red.), *Die Nachkommen van Johann Heinrich Jakob Filter 1858 – 1908: Die Geschiede einer Pionierfamilie in Nordnatal*, p. 405.

¹⁷ English, M. Die Rotskuns van die Boesmans in die NKW, in *De Vos Pienaar, U., Neem uit die Verlede*, p. 18-24. 1998,

¹⁸ Hampson, et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, SA Archaeological Bullitin 57: p. 15.

¹⁹ Rowe C., 2009: *Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve*, MA dissertation. Pretoria: UP.

²⁰ Personal communication: Mr. Wessel Roodt, 2017-10-17.

²¹ J.S. Bergh (red). *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 5.

²² Rowe, C. *Phase 1 Archaeological impact assessment, survey & management guidelines for Majuba Rock Art site: Berlin Plantation*, Kaapsehoop (2012); *Heritage Inspection and evaluation report (second visit) – Lochiel 1 & 2; Syde 1 & 2; Rinkink 1a and 1b – Lochiel, Warberton and Amsterdam*, Mpumalanga Province, (2012 & 2015).

²³ Rowe, C. 2009. *Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve*, MA dissertation. Pretoria: UP.

²⁴ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

as a pigment in the paintings, from the Dumaneni ochre mine near Malelane.^{25 26}

Late Iron Age stone walling is abundant in the Lydenburg – Machadodorp – Carolina areas. A large stone walled settlement was documented by C. Rowe at Rooidraai, south of Lydenburg, which is associated with rock engravings by Bantu speaking agriculturalists.²⁷ A stone walled settlement with terracing was recorded close to Hazyview (Rowe),²⁸ as well as several which were documented in the southern parts of the Kruger National Park.²⁹ The recent work by Delius, Maggs and Schoeman,³⁰ revealed that the early stone walled settlements of the Mpumalanga Escarpment (Ohrigstad, Carolina to Komati River south of Barberton), were the work of the Koni people (some examples are on the Taurus Plantation just north of the SNR).³¹ Exotic explanations which were previously given to these stone-walled settlements, from ancient settlers from India or visitors from outer space, share an assumption that Africans were too primitive to have created these structures. These explanations are based on speculation rather than credible evidence.³² Songimvelo Nature Reserve also has an abundance of stone walled settlements.

Early researchers made intensive aerial photographic surveys of the Mpumalanga ruins and concluded that the complex enclosures found at sites were cattle enclosures at the centres of homesteads, and that the simple stone ruins, which are randomly located in settlements, were used for small stock. The stone ridges (sometimes marked by metal hoe sharpening or wear patterns on some of the rocks), indicated that they were terraces used for agricultural purposes. These researchers agreed that the settlement layout and ceramics indicated a close cultural affinity with modern Pedi patterns, who controlled the Lydenburg area in the 18th and 19th

²⁵ Bornman, H. The Pioneers of the Lowveld, p. 1.

²⁶ Masson, J. 2008. Views from a Swaziland Cave. *The Digging Stick*, Vol. 25 no 1: 1-3.

²⁷ Rowe, C., 2013: *Documentation report for 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 34 JT, Lydenburg.*

²⁸ C. Van Wyk, *Inspection of Umbhaba Stone-walled settlement, Hazyview*, pp. 1-2.

²⁹ Eloff J.F., *Verslag oor Argeologiese Navorsing in die Krugerwildtuin*, June / July, 1982.

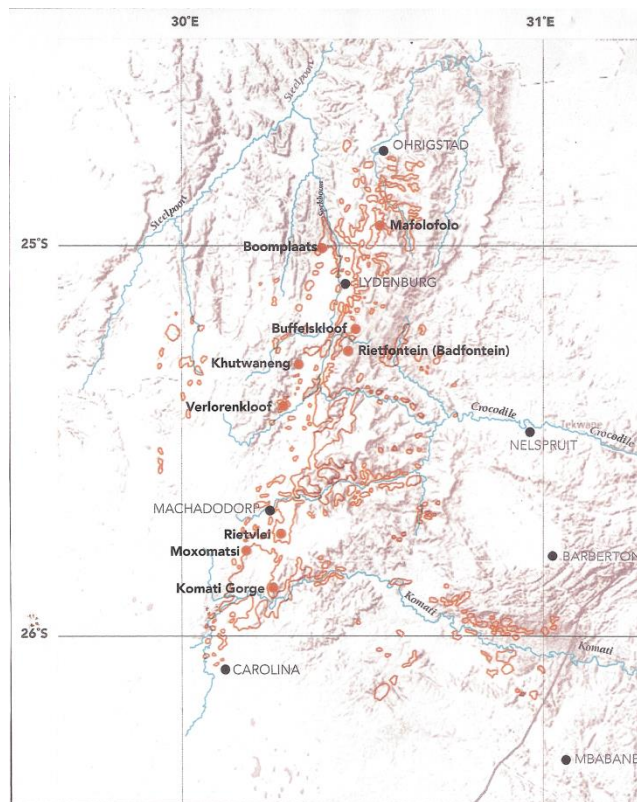
³⁰ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment.*

³¹ Rowe, C., 2015. *A Phase 1 AIA & HIA of the stone walled settlements on Taurus Plantation, Barberton District, Mpumalanga.*

³² P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment.*, p. 3.

centuries – but scientific evidence proved that it was the Koni who once dominated the escarpment.³³

There is general consensus that the Maroteng, who established the Pedi (Northern Sotho) kingdom, settled in the Transvaal in approximately 1650. The earliest collected Pedi tradition recalls that as they moved into the area from the south west, one party crossed the Crocodile River where they encountered Koni groups. This suggests that Koni communities had been living in the area since (at least) the 17th century. A range of sources suggest that Koni lived throughout the area before the arrival of the Maroteng (Pedi). By the end of the 18th century, the Pedi ruled the entire region, and benefitted from access to iron goods and trade.³⁴



MAP 1: Distribution of Bokoni settlements (orange) in Mpumalanga.

The Bokoni stone walled settlements are evidence of a long history of farming. Most of the sites are located in the valleys, close to rivers. The stone walled settlements and terraced sites developed over a number of years. The term Bokoni indicates an area rather than an identity

³³ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment.*, pp. 4-6.

³⁴ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment*, p. 45.

and the term Koni is used to refer to the early people living within the region.³⁵ Recorded Koni traditions do not recall the occupations along the Komati River in the southernmost part of Bokoni, but these sites probably date to the earliest phase of the development of Bokoni. Traditions recorded by C.W. Prinsloo suggest that the area south of Machadodorp (including the Komati River sites), was abandoned in the 1700s, when the region came under mounting pressure (from the Swazi). It is not clear whether the sites located in the south were part of a much larger area of settlement, or whether they were the earliest heartland of Bokoni.³⁶

The sites to the south (Komati River sites), comprise a range of residential locations ranging from clustered stonewalled and terraced villages to scattered homesteads on the slopes of hills. All the sites were located within walking distance of rivers and in open and easily accessible valleys that were well suited for farming. These sites were usually large villages clustered on small hills in the centre of a valley, and smaller clusters scattered on the surrounding hillsides. In the Komati valley sites, terraced homesteads are often built on the middle slopes of the surrounding quartzite mountains.³⁷

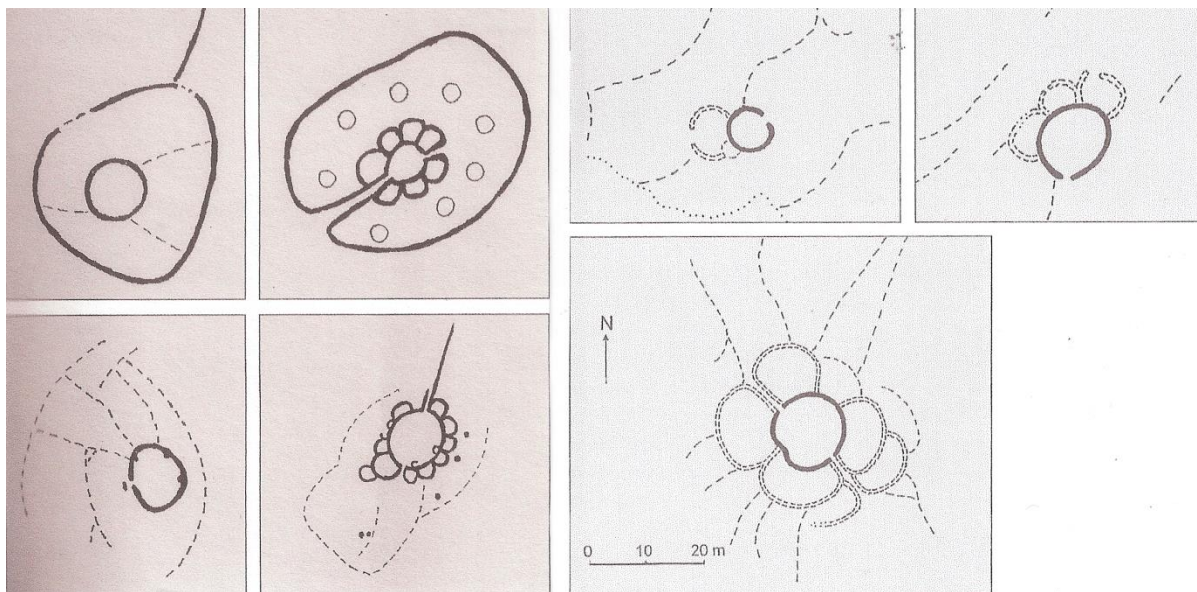


Fig. A: Various layout patterns of LIA homesteads in Bokoni areas.

³⁵ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment*, p. 52.

³⁶ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment*, p. 52.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 68.

The layout of the homesteads reflects the builders' basic needs in terms of the structures they needed, and in what pattern they arranged them to provide a typical home for the family unit. A pre-colonial farming community would have included one or more enclosures for cattle and smaller livestock and a domestic space for each adult woman in the family. Each domestic space might have been enclosed by a wall and would have included a house for indoor activities and sleeping, a courtyard area for outdoor activities and a granary for storing the harvest. The central area of the home was reserved for livestock and men's activities, and the outer surrounding area for the women's domestic sphere. Delius and others were able to draw several conclusions about the layout of the homesteads. The houses were made of soft materials such as clay, poles and thatch which have disappeared. House floors were normally excavated in the outer ring of the homestead. Some homesteads have no surrounding walls and are partly outlined with low terrace-type walls such as a single or double row of stones. Some homesteads have a simple layout pattern and others are more complicated.³⁸ An artist's reconstruction (Fig. 2), gives an idea of what a homestead during occupation looked like, although there is considerable variation among homesteads.

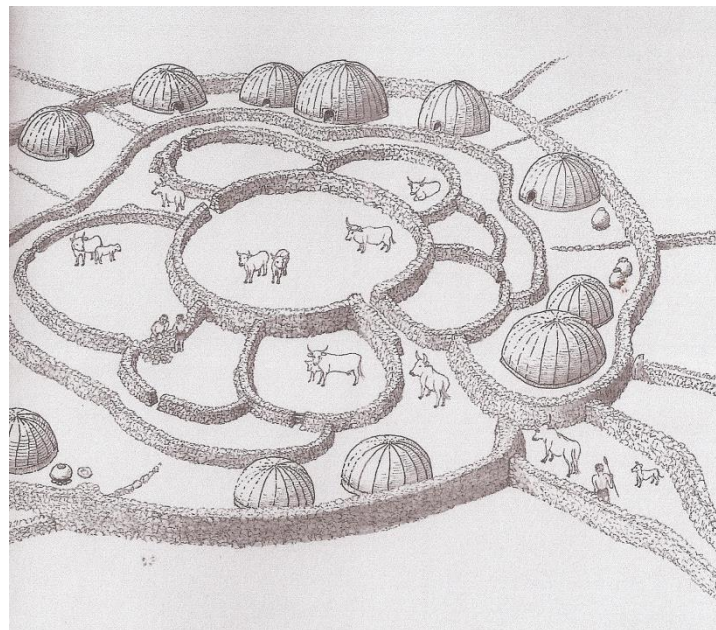


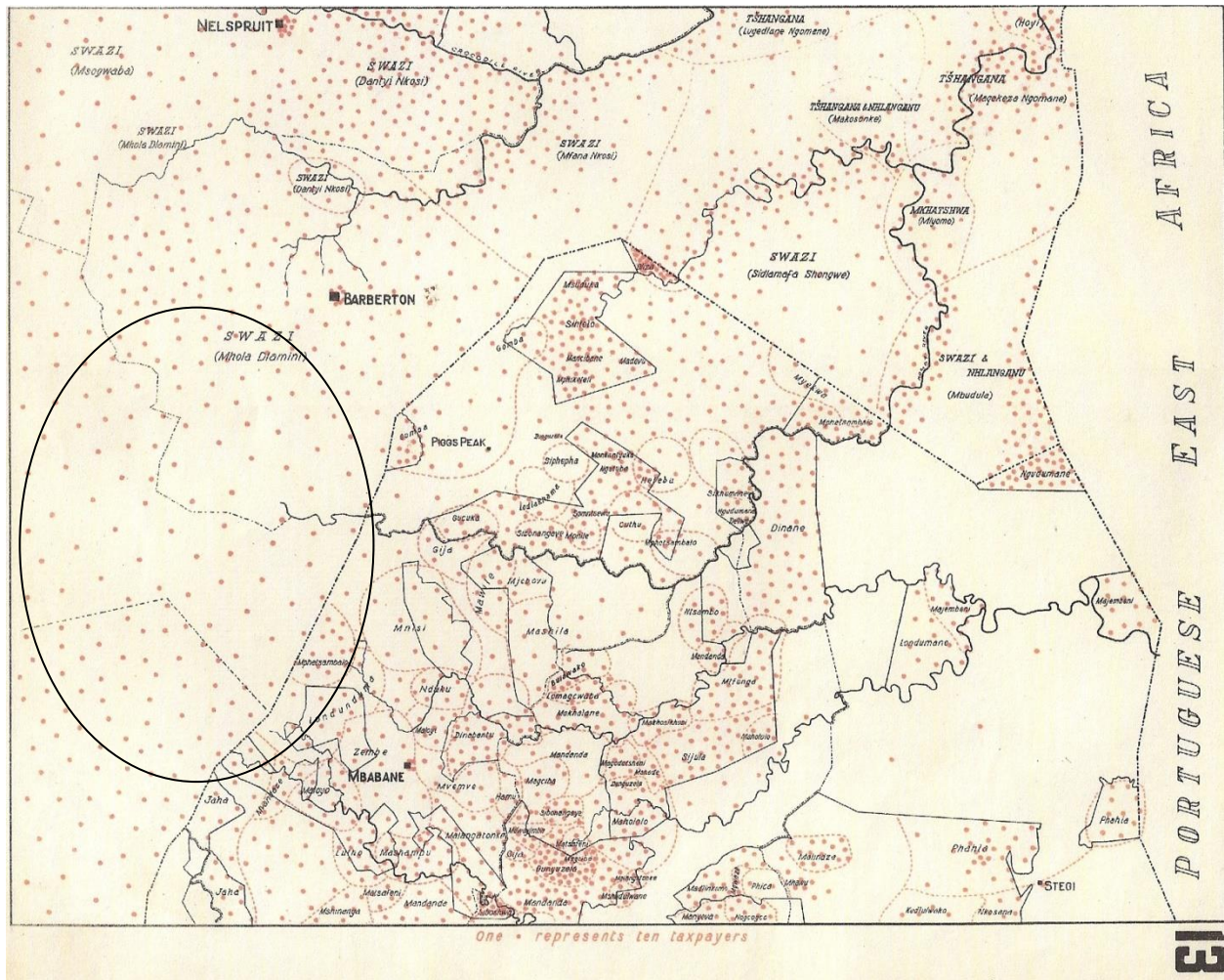
Fig. B: Artists reconstruction of a LIA homestead.

The inner ring allows for a controlled movement of cattle. A track leads the animals from the pastures and rivers to the enclosure and kept the animals away from the cultivated lands.³⁹

³⁸ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment*, pp. 70-72.

³⁹ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment*, p. 111.

Oral history suggests that through the 1700s and 1800s the land was sparsely occupied by the Swazi and other local pastoral people, together with their livestock. The steep and rocky landscape does not provide ideal areas for human livelihoods. Human occupation fluctuated both seasonally and according to the ebb and flow of local conflicts. Substantial settlement was rare, being limited mainly to the larger river valleys.⁴⁰



MAP 2: 1935 Map of Van Warmelo: The study area south of Barberton during 1935, is indicated with sparse habitation of various Swazi groups of Mpola Dlamini decent.

Early ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the immediate study area was mainly inhabited by the Swazi of the Mhola Dlamini *clan*, from around the 18th century^{41 42} (see Map 2). Van Warmelo based his

⁴⁰ The Barberton Mountain land: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5456> Access: 2014-08-09.

⁴¹N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

⁴²H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development*

1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the number of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to accurately indicate how many people were living in one area.⁴³

The low country of Barberton lay within the fly-infected area and was not suitable for the keeping of livestock, before the rinderpest came in 1897. Until the tsetse had disappeared, a large part of Barberton district was uninhabitable to pastoralists, and therefore unattractive to any but the poorest of the natives then occupying these parts.⁴⁴ As soon as the fly disappeared it changed, and the natives settled in areas which were previously avoided.

During the middle of the 18th century some Sotho and Swazi groups combined under a fighting chief Simkulu. The tribe so formed became known as the BakaNgomane. The principal settlement of Simkulu was in the vicinity of the confluence of the Crocodile and Komati Rivers. Delius stated that the settlements shifted from the southern part of Bokoni to the north during the second half of the second millennium as a result of pressures emanating from the south.⁴⁵ It is not clear what role the Swazi played in the early settlements on the Songimvelo Nature Reserve, but evidence provided by the topographical maps (Map 4: 1920), and the 1935 map of Van Warmelo, suggests that the stone walled units were inhabited by the Swazi during the 20th century.

The Swazi under Mswati II (1845), commenced on a career of large scale raids on the prosperous tribal lands to the north of Swaziland. His regiments such as the *Nyatsi* and the *Malelane* brought terror to African homes as far afield as Mozambique.⁴⁶ During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.⁴⁷ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.⁴⁸ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century,⁴⁹ when these groups fled from Swaziland to areas such as Nelspruit,

Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld. p.16.

⁴³N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

⁴⁴ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of the Barberton District*, p. 14-15.

⁴⁵ P. Delius, T. Maggs & A. Schoeman, 2014. *Forgotten World – the stone-walled settlements of the Mpumalanga escarpment*, p. 64.

⁴⁶ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p 11.

⁴⁷A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

⁴⁸N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa.* p. 111.

⁴⁹H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld.* p. 14

Bushbuckridge, Klaserie, Blyde River and Komatipoort.⁵⁰ Mswati II built a line of military outposts from west to east of the upper Komati River and the Mlambongwane (Kaap River). At each outpost he stationed regiments to watch and stop the BaPedi returning to their old haunts.⁵¹

Swazi

The Swazi people descended from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.⁵² The differences between the Swazi and the Natal Nguni were probably never great. Their culture as far as is known from the comparatively little research being carried out, does not show striking differences. Their language is a 'Tekeza' variation of Zulu, but through having escaped being drawn into the mainstream of the Zulus of the *Shaka* period, they became independent and their claim to be grouped apart as a culture is now well founded.⁵³

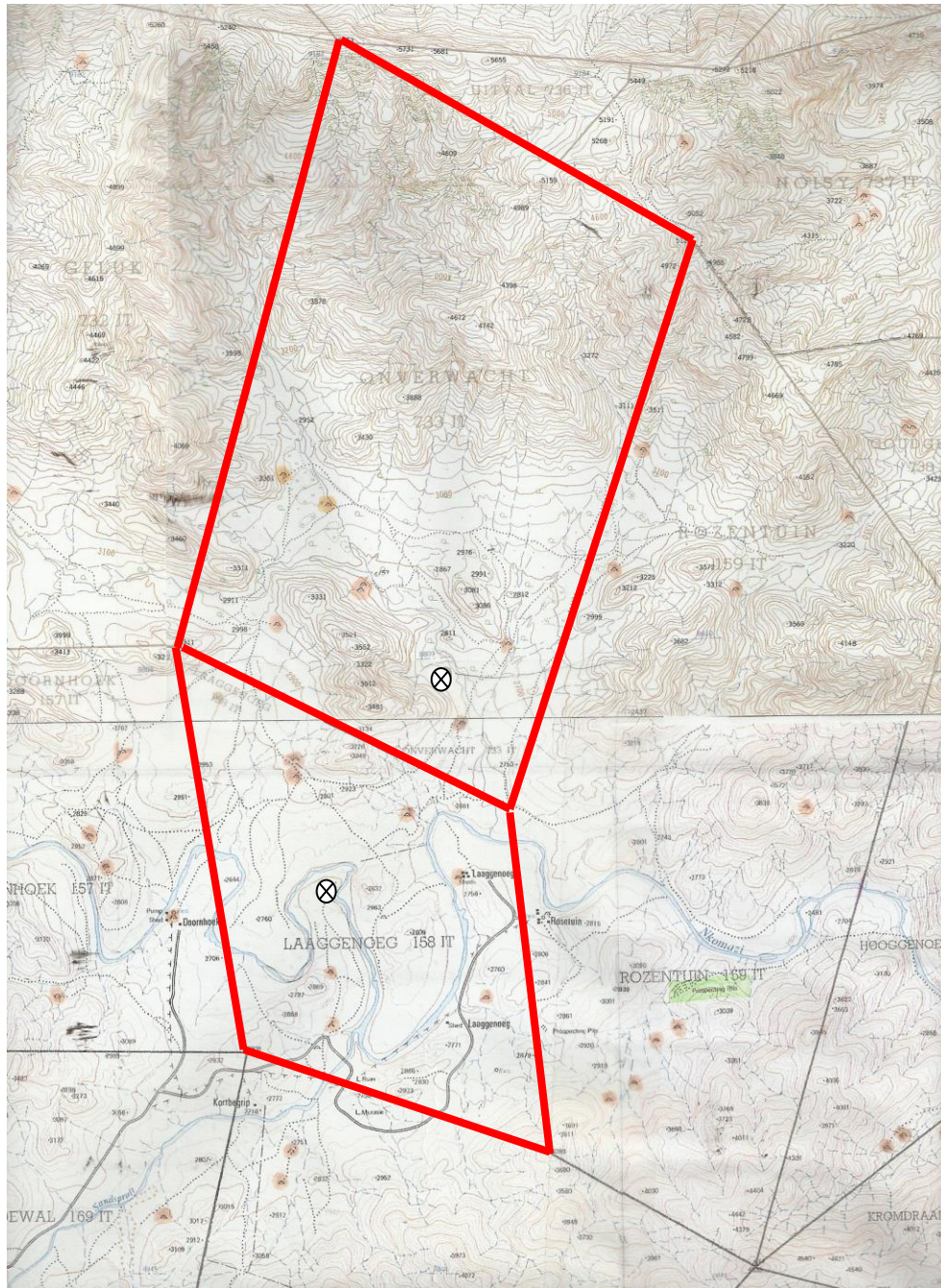
The 1980 topographical map indicates several Bantu kraals ('hut complexes') on the Songimvelo Nature Reserve and adjacent properties (see Map 3). The fact that all the kraals indicated are linked with footpaths, show that they were probably inhabited at that time (1980). Seven (7) Kraal Complexes are indicated on the Farm *Onverwacht*, where Camp Buffalo Plains are planned, and eight (8) on the farm *Laaggenoeg*, where Camp Lidube is proposed, in the southern part of the Reserve, although none of these complexes are indicated within the footprint of the proposed development sites. It is assumed that these complexes were all in use at the time as they are linked with footpaths which also lead to the gold mines further north.

⁵⁰*Ibid.*, p. 16.

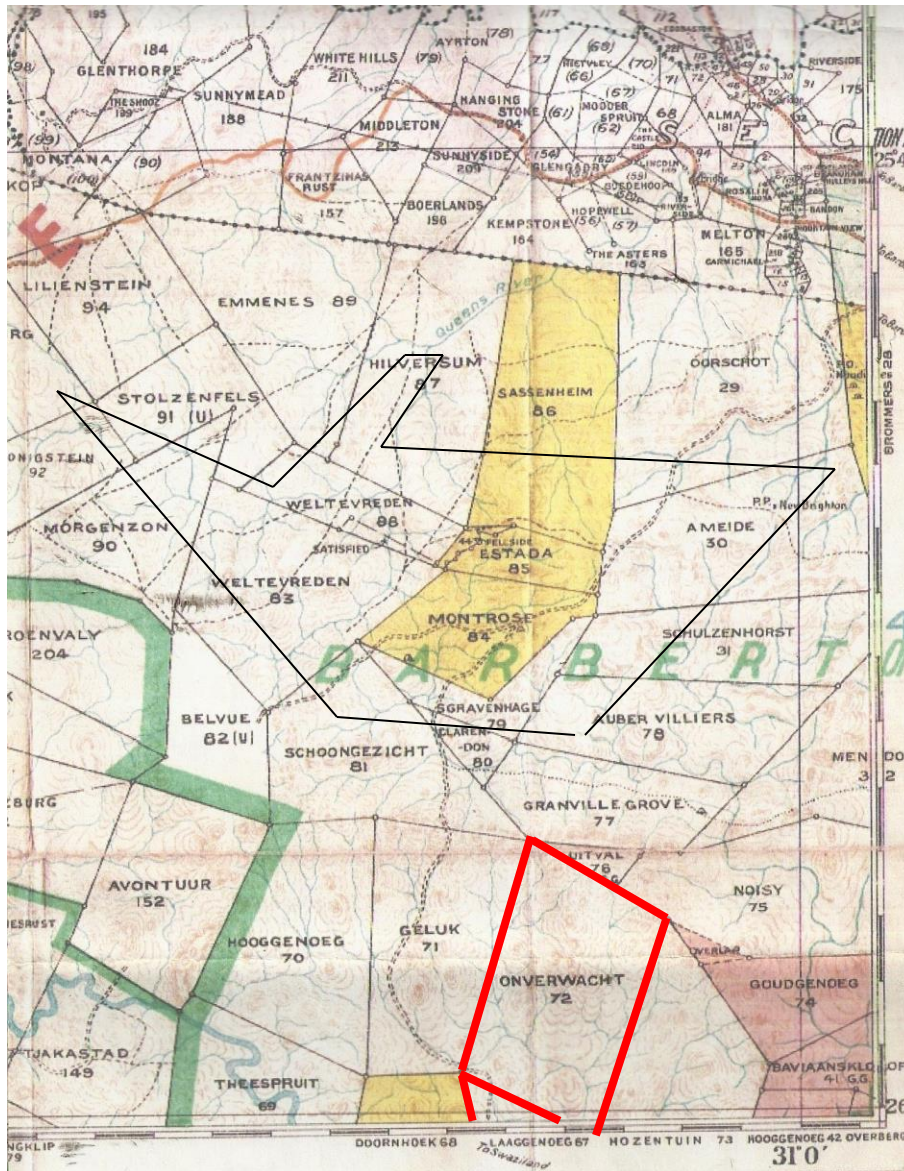
⁵¹ Bornman H., *The Pioneers of the Lowveld* p. 12.

⁵² Swaziland: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

⁵³ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.



MAP 3: 1980 Topographical map: 2530DD Nelshoogte & 2630 Lochiel. Seven kraal complexes were identified on the farm *Onverwacht*, and eight on the farm *Laaggenoeg*. The sites for the proposed developments are indicated by the circles.



MAP 4: Topographical map MACHADODORP 1920, showing the farm *Onverwacht* and a part of the farm *Laaggenoeg*.

No kraal complexes are shown for the farm *Onverwacht* on the 1920 topographical map of MACHADODORP (map 4). It does however show a footpath which cuts through the south-western corner of the farm. It may be assumed that this was the only footpath in use at the time.

History of Songimvelo Nature Reserve

The reserve is characterised by a long and diverse history of land use. Archaeological artefacts have been found on slopes adjacent to the main rivers, especially along the banks of the Komati River. The Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan mention Early Stone Age implements,

dating to 1 million years ago. Middle stone age artefacts dating back 30 000 to 50 000 years were found. Stone walled complexes of the Later Iron Age are common and is briefly discussed above. Bushman painting sites (San paintings), are found on the Songimvelo farms *Doornhoek and Grootboom*.⁵⁴

The eNcakeni area (mostly the area known today as Songimvelo) was settled by the bakaNgwane (people of Swaziland) under the eMjindini authority during the reign of King Mswati II (1840 – 1868).

The significance of the area became known to the world when alluvial gold was found at Kaapsehoop in 1875. This was followed by the Moodies and Barber's reef discoveries (Barberton), and a subsequent 'gold rush' into the hills above the Suid Kaap River.⁵⁵ The Sheba mine is today one of the oldest and richest working gold mines in the world, having been in production for more than a century. It is estimated that production will continue for several decades to come.⁵⁶

Stibnite and stibiconite (antimony) were mined on the reserve from 1906 to 1917 in the Mali mine on the farm *Schoonoord*. Gold was mined at Onverwacht and Komati Lily mines. Mining of gold at the Von Brandis mine was recently discontinued. Asbestos was actively mined at the Msauli mine on the serpentines along the south-eastern Swaziland border since the early 1950's. All mining on the reserve has since ceased and the areas are being rehabilitated.⁵⁷ The area was used for winter grazing of sheep from the turn of the century. The 'sheepbridge' over the Komati still attests to this past land use. Pine plantations cover approximately 2000ha along the Barberton-Havelock road.⁵⁸

In 1985, at least 350 households were living within the reserve's boundaries, and approximately 850ha was under dryland-cultivation. Cattle and goats' numbers exceeded 3000 animals each. Since the establishment of the reserve in 1986 the number of people residing within the reserve has steadily declined with only 25 families remaining in 2003.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 19.

⁵⁵ The Barberton Mountain land: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5456> Access: 2014-08-09.

⁵⁶ Barberton: http://search.wikipedia.org/wiki/barberton_mpumalanga Access: 2014-08-09.

⁵⁷ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 11.

⁵⁸ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 11.

⁵⁹ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 11.

C. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Songimvelo encompasses an extremely diverse and important part of the Barberton Mountainland. The reserve incorporates the 49ha of the Ida Doyer Nature Reserve which was originally established by the old Transvaal Provincial Administration, and on the south-eastern side across the Swaziland border, the SNR adjoins the 18000ha Malolotja Nature Reserve.⁶⁰ The general topography of Songimvelo is extremely rugged. The Mtsoli valley is situated more or less in the centre of the reserve, with deeply incised gorges of the Mtsoli and Lomati rivers,⁶¹ (see **Map 5**).

The Barberton Mountainland represents an early Precambrian greenstone belt. The unformed nature and state of preservation of the geological phenomena account for the international acclaim which the area enjoys amongst earth scientists. Some of the oldest rocks on Earth, dated between 3.2 to 3.5 billion years old, are exposed on Songimvelo.⁶²

The vegetation includes forests, thickets and sour grass communities. Three of Acocks' veld types occur in three biomes. The vegetation of the higher-lying regions of the SNR belongs to Veld types such as the North-Eastern Mountain Sourveld, Piet Retief Sourveld and correspond to the North-eastern Mountain Grassland of the Grassland Biome as defined by Low & Rebelo. The Lowveld Sour Bushveld corresponds to the Sour Lowveld Bushveld of the Savanna and occurs mainly in the lower-lying Komati valley. The Forest Biome is represented by numerous isolated forest patches, mostly at higher elevation and along drainage lines. The North-eastern Mountain Sourveld is drastically declining due to afforestation and the spread of alien plant and fish species.⁶³

The mountain land surrounding the Barberton area falls within the Barberton Greenstone Belt or the Barberton Supergroup geological formation.⁶⁴ Its varied geology gives rise to a steeply incised mountainous terrain that stretches from the Lochiel Plateau in the south to the Nelspruit-Komatipoort area in the north and into Swaziland. It includes part of the Komati river catchment in the south. The hills are rocky with moist grass upland and forested valleys.⁶⁵ Songimvelo

⁶⁰ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 11.

⁶¹ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 14.

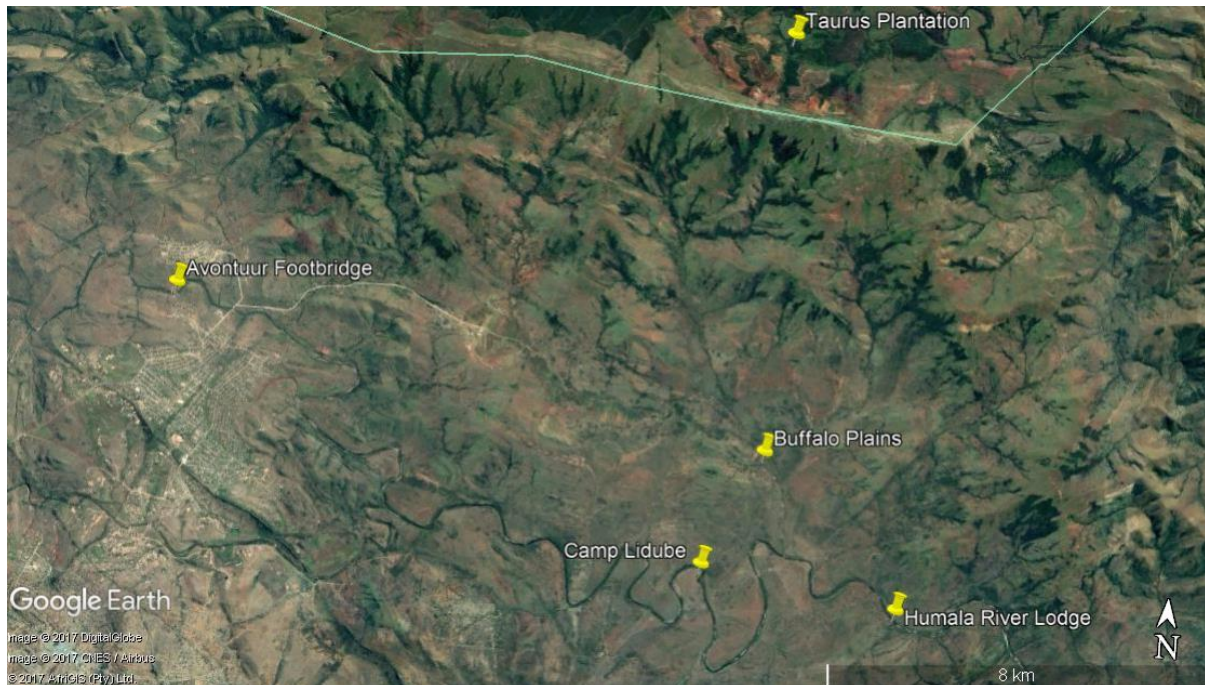
⁶² MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 14.

⁶³ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 16.

⁶⁴ Barberton: http://search.wikipedia.org/wiki/barberton_mpumalanga Access: 2014-08-09.

⁶⁵ The Barberton Mountain land: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5456> Access: 2014-08-09.

lies in the summer rainfall area. Most of the rain falls between November and March, with an average of 985.06mm per annum.⁶⁶



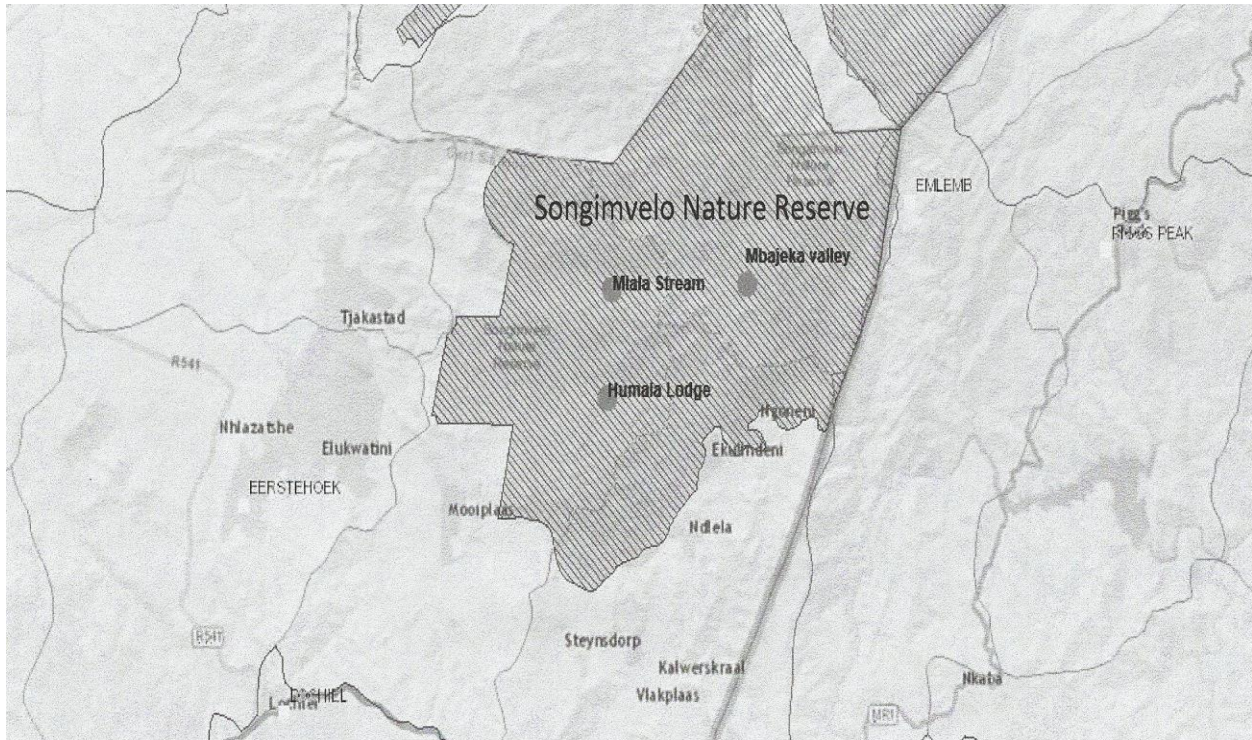
MAP 5: Songimvelo - Google image of the wider area with the current Humala River Lodge indicated in the south, as well as the proposed two new Tented Camp development sites (Camp Lidube and Camp Buffalo Plains).

D. LOCALITY

The Songimvelo Nature Reserve is located south of Barberton in the south-eastern part of the Mpumalanga Province on the South African-Swaziland border (see map 6). The reserve stretches across a diagonal of 50km from the broad open Komati River Valley in the south-west to the narrow mountainous north-eastern apex. The reserve covers some 49000ha, of which approximately 30000ha are game fenced.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ YORK Timbers: Taurus Plantation information, p. 5.

⁶⁷ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 11.



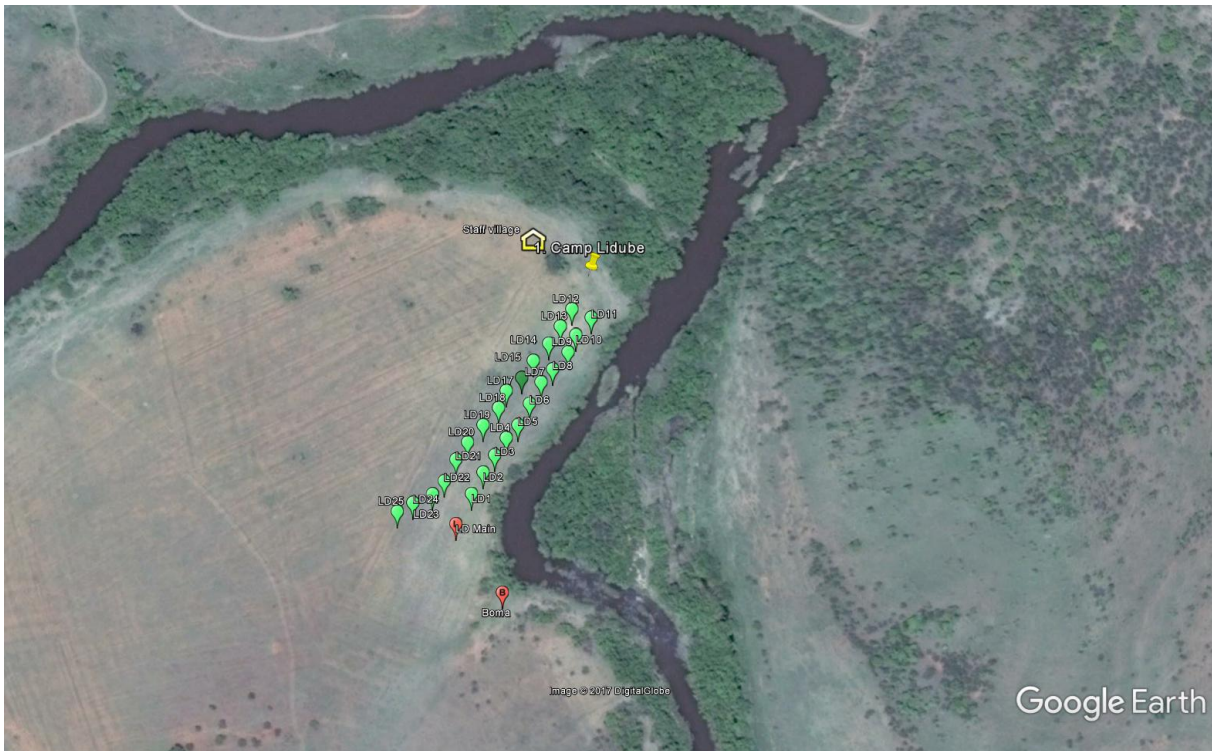
MAP 6: Songimvelo Nature Reserve (*Map from Umsinsi Environmental Specialists*)

The reserve's main gate is accessed from the R541 road from Badplaas to Lochiel, bypassing the Lochiel turn-off and continuing straight towards Elukwatini. From Barberton the reserve can be reached on the dirt road leading past the Bulembu border gate (Swaziland), and following the south-eastern border of the reserve, past the Msauli Mine and Ekulindeni.⁶⁸

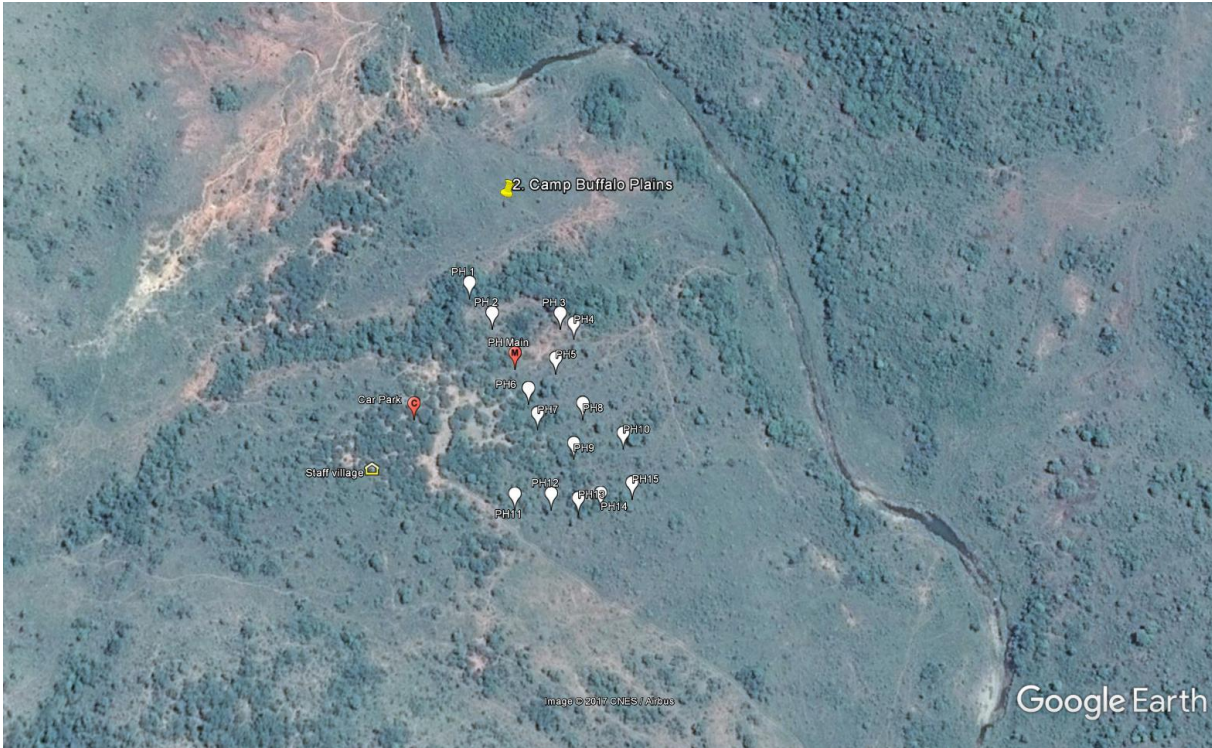
Songimvelo Nature Reserve is situated on several farms (Doornhoek 157 IT, Laaggenoeg 158IT, Rozentuin 159IT, Onverwacht 733IT, Uitval 736IT, Noisy 737IT, Mendon, Josefsdal, Schoonoord, Goedehoop, Sedan, Vooruitzicht and Duurstede). The study areas Camp Lidube and Camp Buffalo Plains are situated on the farms *Laaggenoeg 158IT* and *Onverwacht 733IT*, respectively. It is located 25km east of the town of Badplaas and 75km from Barberton. It borders Swaziland to the east, and YORK's Taurus Plantation to the north.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 11.

⁶⁹ MTPA: Songimvelo Integrated Management Plan 2014-2019, p. 14.



MAP 7: The layout plan of the Tented Camp Lidube (Map from Umsinsi Environmental Specialists).



MAP 8: The layout of the Tented Camp Buffalo Plains (Map from Umsinsi Environmental Specialists).

This area falls within the Badplaas region under the jurisdictions of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, and Albert Luthuli Local Municipality (see map 5).

- **Description of methodology:**

Google images and maps indicate the study area. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. 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 18th century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books, government publications and maps, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, to establish relevant information.

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

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

- The site for Camp Lidube was previous historical agricultural lands and already highly disturbed. The site for Camp Buffalo Plains, was the locality of an old farm (historically disturbed), with the foundations of the farmhouse and kraal as well as agricultural lands, still visible. The study areas were covered with short new grass growth after recent burning. Visibility in general was excellent.
- The two sites for the proposed Tented Camps are named Camp Lidube and Camp Buffalo Plains and are referred as such in the text.
- The two proposed Tented Camp sites were investigated to identify any visible archaeological or historical surface material.
- Topographical Maps of various dates were studied for a possible indication of historic sequence in settlement.
- The fieldwork and surface investigation were conducted extensively on foot. Tracks and paths criss-cross the farm and were mainly used to access areas (See Appendix 1).
- Disturbed sections on the study areas were scrutinized for any archaeological material.
- The relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Etrex) datum WGS 84, and plotted. Co-ordinates were within 4-6 meters of identified sites.

- Evaluation of the resources which have been 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, were held, such as with Mr. Wessel Roodt (Manager of Humala River Lodge).⁷⁰
- GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area.

The proposed Tented Camp sites are indicated by the GPS co-ordinates (See map 5):

GPS CO-ORDINATES		
Location	South	East
Camp Lidube	S 26° 01' 03.70"	E 30° 55' 23.09"
Camp Buffalo Plains	S 25° 59' 45.12"	E 30° 56' 04.59"

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The aims of this study were to do a surface investigation for possible graves, archaeological and / or historical remains on the two locations which were identified for the new Tented Camp developments and to recommend mitigation measures if necessary. The survey focused on the proposed sites named **Camp Lidube** (on the farm *Laaggenoeg 158IT*) and **Camp Buffalo Plains** (on the farm *Onverwacht 733IT*) (See layout plans in maps 7 & 8).

CAMP LIDUBE

The proposed layout for Camp Lidube is entirely situated on previously disturbed agricultural lands, next to the Nkomati River (figs. 1 - 4). The perimeters of the footprint are indicated in Map 7 (layout) and will not extend past the gully (see Map Heritage 9). Some indistinct Late Iron Age (LIA) stonewalls were identified directly to the south (fig. 5), outside the current layout of the proposed development, as well as a few upper grinders and a grooved stone (soapstone), dating from the LIA (figs. 6, 8, 9 & 10). The survey also revealed indistinct Later Stone Age flakes nearby (fig. 7). No graves were identified in this area (See Appendix 1: Tracks & Paths).

⁷⁰ Personal information: Mr. Wessel Roodt (Manager Humala River Lodge), 2017-10-17.



MAP 9: The shaded area indicates the historically disturbed agricultural area. Camp Lidube will be established directly next to the Nkomati River. The heritage features are all located outside of the study area.

CAMP BUFFALO PLAINS

The proposed Camp “Buffalo Plains” is situated above the floodplain of a large drainage line which feeds into the Nkomati River, and was the location of a previous farm, before Songimvelo was proclaimed as a Nature Reserve. Some remains of the farming infrastructure are still visible such as the foundations of the historic farmhouse and kraal (figs. 13, 14 & 22). Iron, glass and porcelain artefacts associated with this settlement were also identified (figs. 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20). (See Appendix 1: Tracks & Paths).

The footprint of the proposed development is roughly where the historical agricultural lands were (see map 8 for the layout and map 10, heritage features and disturbed shaded areas). Invasive Sickle bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*), which occurs in the bushveld particularly in disturbed or overgrazed areas,⁷¹ is a further indication of the disturbed sections (figs. 11, 12 & 23).

An indistinct Late Iron Age (LIA) stonewall, as well as an upper, and broken lower grinder (figs. 21 & 15) were identified, but no graves were observed in this area. The study areas were surveyed on foot. Both terrains were recently burnt and therefore visibility was excellent.

⁷¹ Van Wyk, B., & Van Wyk P., Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa, 1997, p. 500.



MAP 10: The shaded area indicates the historically disturbed cultivated sections.

HERITAGE FEATURES (See Maps 9 & 10):

GPS CO-ORDINATE:		CAMP LIDUBE		
Feature	Description	South	East	Elevation
Stone walls	Indistinct LIA stone walls	S 26° 01' 10.2"	E 30° 55'24.0"	808m
Upper grinder	LIA broken upper grinder	S 26° 01' 11.6"	E 30° 55'20.8"	803m
Stone flakes	LSA stone flakes			
Stone wall	Indistinct LIA stone wall	S 26° 01' 11.4"	E 30° 55'17.4"	804m
Grooved stone	Grooved soapstone			
CAMP BUFFALO PLAINS				
Farm house, historic remains	Historic farm house with stone foundations; iron nails, glass, porcelain	S 25°59' 45.0"	E 30° 56'04.5"	853m
Cattle kraal & historic remains	Horse shoe, glass	S 25°59' 44.2"	E 30° 56'06.0"	842m
Stone wall & Lower grinder Kettle	Indistinct stone wall & lower grinder; Tin kettle	S 25°59' 46.7"	E 30° 56'08.2"	848m

All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps, figures and appendices, which indicate the study areas, and which corresponds with the summary below. Photographs in the report show general views of the study areas (Appendix 2).

F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPO- NENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	Lidube: LIA structures close to proposed development; Buffalo Plains: Historic structures present	Mitigation recommended as part of the NHRA S 34
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	Lidube: None in proposed development but in area; Buffalo Plains: Historic remains associated with the farm settlement are present as well as a lower grinders and a stone wall.	Mitigation is included as part of the NHRA S 35
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	No graves were identified on the study areas	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done

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

Context		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	NA
Natural environmental context	Yes	Sections of the SNR were disturbed by historical agricultural activities
Formal protection (NHRA)		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	Yes	Nature Reserve since 1986
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	Yes	Natural Heritage area
Other		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	Yes	Within the Songimvelo Nature Reserve
Is the property part of a conservation area of special areas 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?	Yes	Makonjwa Mountain land

Context		
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	Yes	Makonjwa Mountain land – tentative World Heritage list; Adjacent Songimvelo Nature Reserve
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

Property features and characteristics		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	Large sections have been compromised by historically cultivated lands, commercial pine and bluegum plantations
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	Yes	Near the Makonjwa Mountain land
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	Yes	Mountainland
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	Nkomati river forms part of the Nkomati Catchment; Many drainage lines, springs and streams occur

Heritage resources on the property		
Formal protection (NHRA)		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA

Heritage resources on the property		
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	Yes	Provincial Nature Reserve
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
General protection (NHRA)		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	Yes	LIA and historic
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	Yes	Archaeological material associated with LIA and historic settlement were identified
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	Not in the study areas
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	No graves were identified
Public monuments or memorials (S. 37)	No	NA
Other		
Any heritage resource identified in a heritage survey (author / date / grading)	No	NA
Any other heritage resources (describe)	No	NA

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category	ELEMENTS	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE											RISK
		Hist orica l	Rar e	Scie ntifi c	Typi cal	Tech - nolo gical	Aes theti c	Pers on / com muni ty	Land mark	Mate rial con ditio n	Sus taina bilit y		

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	Yes												LIA and historic – mitigation measures are recommended
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No												-
Historical settlement/ townscape s	No												-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	Not in the study areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	Archaeological material associated with the LIA and historic features

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
Grave / burial grounds	No	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No grave sites were identified;
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

• Summarised recommended impact management interventions

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance	Impact		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	Yes	No	Low	Management plan required	Mitigation measures recommended
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-

NHRA S (3)2 Heritage	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact managemen t	Motivation
		<i>Cultural significance</i>			
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	On adjacent property but not identified within the study areas
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	Yes	None	Low	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	No	-	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	LIA and historic structures	Mitigation measures recommended as per NHRA S34

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	Archaeological material associated with LIA and historic structures	Mitigation measures recommended as per NHRA S35
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None identified	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Development requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA done

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 are 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.⁷² 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;

⁷²National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

(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.⁷³

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

SITES	SIGNIFICANCE	MITIGATION
CAMP LIDUBE		
LATE STONE AGE SITES:		
Stone flakes	Low	Outside of archaeological context; Outside of study area – no mitigation needed
LATE IRON AGE SITES:		
Indistinct LIA stone walls x 2	Low	Outside of study area – no mitigation needed (Various options - mitigation measures proposed)
Upper grinder Grooved stone	Low	Outside of study area – no mitigation needed
CAMP BUFFALO PLAINS		
LATE IRON AGE SITES:		
Indistinct stone wall; Lower grinder	No significance	Very indistinct and may be associated to recent historic settlement; Lower grinder out of archaeological context – no mitigation needed
HISTORIC SITE:		
Farm House Cattle kraal	Low	Mitigation measures are proposed
Historic remains: glass, porcelain, kettle, horseshoe, nails, etc	Low	These remains are associated with the historic farm and were recorded as part of the history of the farm. No mitigation needed

⁷³National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

The two Tented Camp developments (Camp Lidube and Camp Buffalo Plains), which are planned on the farms *Laaggenoeg 158IT* and *Onverwacht 733IT*, are situated within the Songimvelo Nature Reserve. The two sites have extensively been disturbed by historical agricultural activities, which made the sites ideal for the proposed developments, as it will not impact negatively on a pristine environment. Invasive and thicket forming Sickle bush (further points to previously disturbed areas, map 10), is also present at especially Camp Buffalo Plains.

Some Late Iron Age as well as to a minor extent, Later Stone Age features occur south of Camp Lidube (outside of the study area). The layout plan (map 7), indicates that the development will be north of a small gully, and therefore the archaeological features will not be impacted upon. Some historic features were observed at the Buffalo Plains Camp, and mitigation measures are recommended to incorporate these features as part of the proposed development. No other archaeological sites of significance or graves were identified during the survey.

H. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

The two proposed Tented Camp developments are both located on previously disturbed agricultural areas. Some Late Iron Age features were observed adjacent the proposed development at **Camp Lidube**, and therefore mitigation measures are proposed below. **Camp Buffalo Plains** are located on the site of a previous farm with cultivated lands as well as historic features, and mitigation measures are proposed:

The historical features which were identified during the survey are rated as of Low significance and have local significance as specified by the NHRA. It is recommended that the development may continue with the following conditions as specified below:

Camp Lidube: The development may only take place in the already historically disturbed agricultural section. Some indistinct Late Iron Age stone walls were located to the south. These should be left undisturbed and preserved in situ. Should the Client (Panicle Turnkey Developments) wish to incorporate these as a tourist attraction or if any activities will take place in these areas, mitigation measures will be required, such as:

- the full documentation of the site (to determine the layout pattern and possible age), as well as a management plan with guidelines for its future preservation;

Alternatively, if the Client wishes to develop on this site, the following process needs to be followed:

- a Phase 2 investigation - excavations or shovel test pits (STP) should be done at the site to determine the scientific value before a destruction permit may be applied for, from SAHRA.

Camp Buffalo Plains: The development may only take place at least 20m away from the foundations of the farmhouse as well as the kraal complex. Should the Client wish to incorporate these in the development plan, then mitigation measures will be required, such as:

- a full documentation of the site (to determine the layout pattern and possible age), as well as a management plan with guidelines for its future preservation;

Alternatively, if the Client wishes to develop on these sections, OR to reconstruct it, the following process needs to be followed:

- a Phase 2 investigation – a full documentation of the site, as well as excavations or shovel test pits (STP) should be done at the site to determine the scientific value before a destruction permit / reconstruction may be applied for from SAHRA. Thereafter the historic features may be demolished or reconstructed, and then be used in the tourism development.

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore new sites may still be identified, during construction activities. In such a case, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted, and an assessment be done should any archaeological material be found.

Should the developer stay within the development areas as proposed in the layout plans submitted by Umsinsi Environmental Specialists (i.e. on previously disturbed agricultural sections), then no mitigation measures are needed, and the development may continue.

However, should a wider area be utilised for tourism or recreational purposes at **Camp Lidube**, then mitigation measures must be implemented as stated above. The same principle applies for **Camp Buffalo Plains** – should the developer wish to utilise the old farmhouse and kraal in any way for tourism or recreational activities, then mitigation measures must be implemented as stated above.

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

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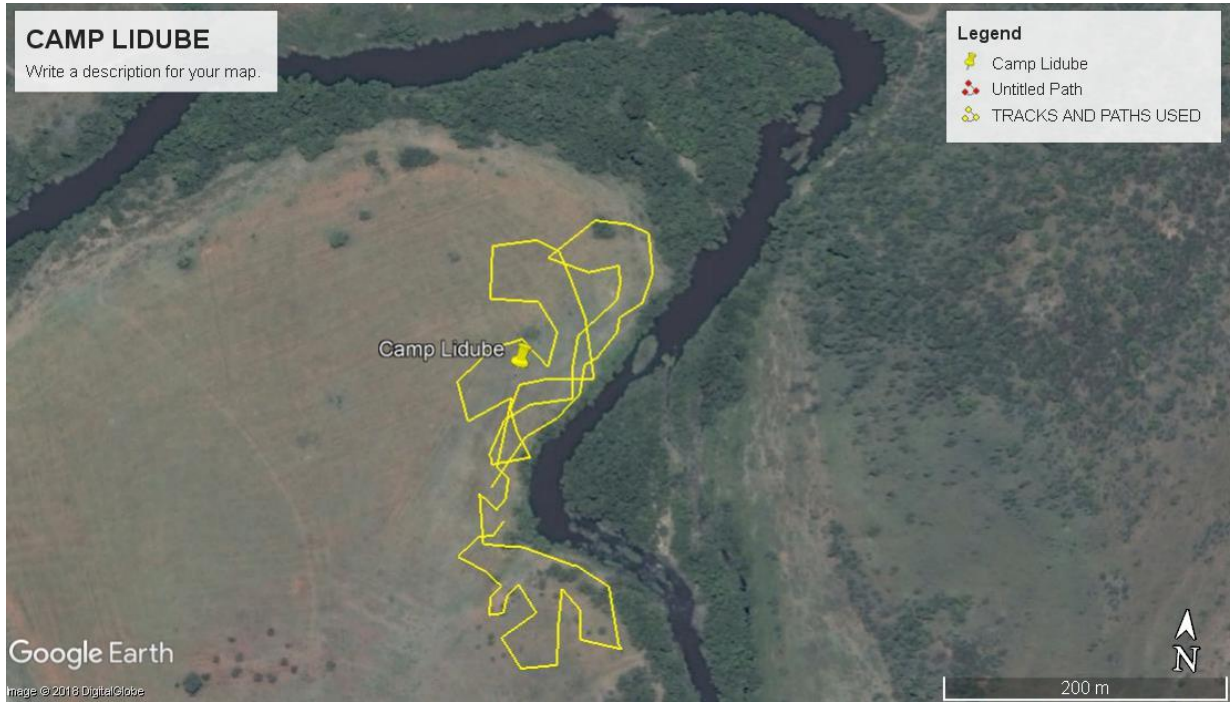
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MISCELLANEOUS

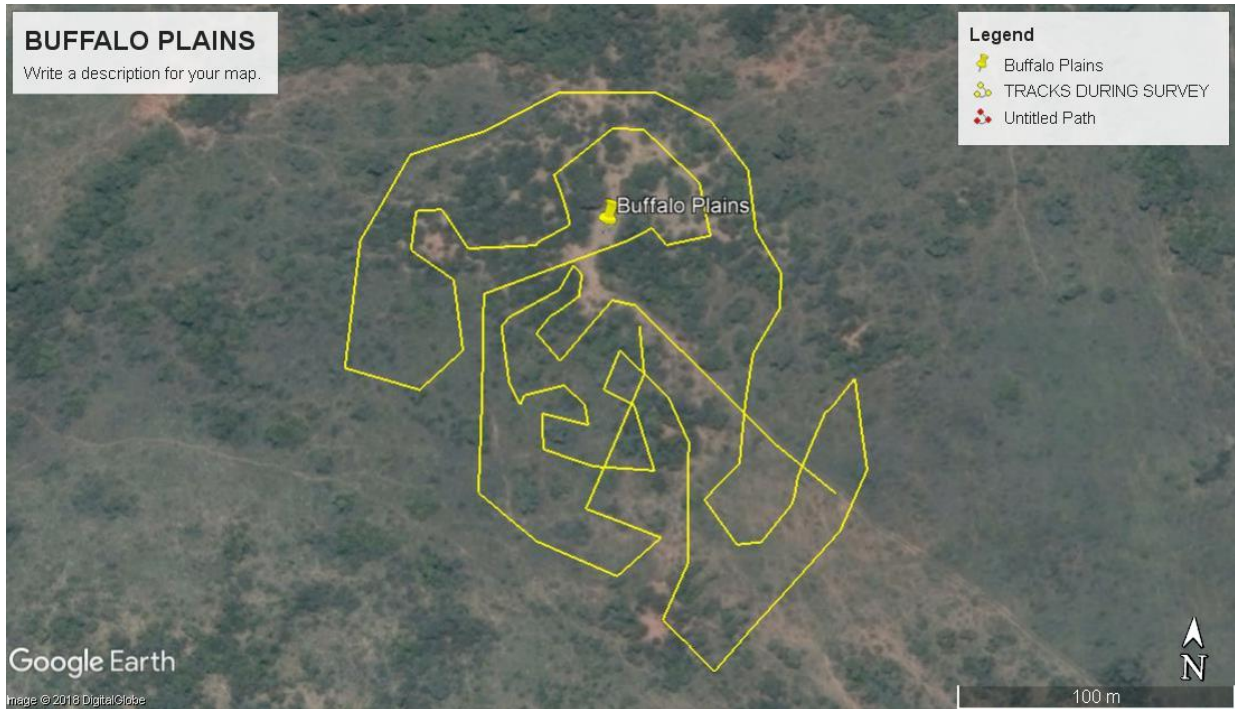
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APPENDIX 1

TRACKS AND PATHS



CAMP LIDUBE: Paths and roads which were used to access the stone walled settlements



CAMP BUFFALO PLAINS: Paths and roads which were used to access the area