

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT: A PORTION OF PORTION 39 OF THE FARM  
TOWNLANDS, LYDENBURG 31JT,  
MASHISHING/LYDENBURG**

**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted on the proposed footprint for the township development on the a portion of Portion 39 of the farm Townlands, Lydenburg 31 JT, adjacent to the town of Lydenburg, (Mashishing), Mpumalanga Province. The study area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2530AB LYDENBURG, and falls within the Mpumalanga Province.

The aim of this report is to identify all archaeological, cultural heritage resources and / or graves which might be affected in the proposed township development adjacent to (Lydenburg (Mashishing), and to document and assess the importance within the local, provincial and the national context. Comments and recommendations are made to manage the identified features which might be impacted upon, and to recommend mitigation measures which need to be implemented.

A number of Late Iron Age (LIA) stone walled sites were identified in the study area. Most of them are situated in the south - eastern section of the proposed area of development, adjacent extensions 2 and 6. It is planned to establish a township with 4500 erven, business area, education facilities and public open spaces. The LIA stone walls will therefore be negatively impacted upon by the proposed development. Mitigation measures are therefore recommended.

During the survey, a few square stone foundations, which are possibly associated with early pioneer settlement, were also identified in the northern section. On and adjacent to the current site of the Vodacom Cell Mast is the site of Fort Howard which is historically associated with the South African War (1999-1902). Some of these remains have already been destroyed by infrastructure.

It is recommended that a phase 2 archaeological study be undertaken as a mitigation measure on the LIA stone walling, the stone walls associated with pioneer or European settlement, before the developer may apply to SAHRA for a destruction permit. Alternatively, these areas may be cut out of the development as Public Open Spaces (POS) in which case a management plan be drawn up. The site of Fort Howard is historically an important feature of the South African War, and it is recommended that a phase two study be conducted and that it be left intact as a POS. A management plan must be drawn up to secure its future protection.

**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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- 3) Recommendations delivered to the Client.*

March 2015

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# **PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: A PORTION OF PORTION 39 OF THE FARM TOWNLANDS, LYDENBURG 31JT, MASHISHING / LYDENBURG**

## **A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT**

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by Wandima Environmental Services, to conduct a phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment to identify all relevant archaeological and other cultural heritage resources on the footprint for the proposed residential development adjacent to the town of Lydenburg (Mashishing), Mpumalanga Province. Please note the official name for Lydenburg is now Mashishing, and the township adjacent the development is also referred to the Mashishing township.

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). Recommendations for maximum conservation measures for any heritage resources will also be made. The study area is indicated in Maps 1 - 6, and Appendix 1, 2 & 3).

A total of approximately 295 ha will be developed for residential (township), business, education and Public Open Spaces, west of the town of Lydenburg (Mashishing). The site is bounded by Lydenburg extensions 2 & 6 to the east, Mashishing Township to the west and Voortrekker Street to the north (see Appendix 2 – concept Layout plan).

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, P.O. Box 1072, Nelspruit, 1200, Cell: 013-7525452 / Fax: 013-7526877 / e-mail: admin@wandima.co.za. Type of development: 295ha, are earmarked for a proposed residential township development, topographical map, 1:50 000, 2530AB, LYDENBURG;
- The area is zoned as agricultural, and rezoning will take place.
- Location of Province, Magisterial district / Local Authority and Property (farms): This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, and the Ehlanzeni District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province.
- Land owner: Thaba Chweu Local Municipality.

**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.

- **Legislative requirements:**

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, (section 38 (1)(a), subsections (7)(8) and (9). It specifies that no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such sites, (section 27(18)), and that special consent of the local authority must be required for any alteration or development affecting a heritage area (section 31(7)).<sup>1</sup>

In terms of **Government Notice R546**, a basic Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the following listed activities:

- Activity 13: The clearance of an area of 300sqm or more of vegetation, where 75% or more of the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation;
- Activity 14: The clearance of an area of 1ha or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.

- **Section 38 of the NHRA**

This report constitutes a heritage impact assessment investigation linked to the environmental 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 a HIA report for authorisation purposes to the responsible heritage resources agency, (SAHRA). 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.

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<sup>1</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999.

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 WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, the client, VIPCON (PTY) LTD, PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT, and interested and affected parties about existing heritage resources that 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 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 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 requires 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. Upper and lower grinders and clay potsherds associated with the LIA stone walled settlements were identified during the survey, and mitigation measures are recommended.

### **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 road infrastructure or agricultural activities. This section is not applicable as no grave sites were identified within 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. Square foundations, older than 60 years were identified and are associated with pioneer settlement.

- **Section 37 of the NHRA**

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

- **NEMA:** The regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, (107/1998), 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 & HISTORY OF THE REGION**

- **Literature review; Museum databases; & previous relevant impact assessments**

Research was conducted by means of collecting primary or secondary literary sources with relevant information on the prehistory and history of the area. In order to place the sites located in the study area in archaeological context, secondary sources, such as ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as Ziervogel and Van Warmelo were consulted. Other useful sources were that of Theal (pre-historic), De Jongh (ethnographic and historic information in the area), Bergh (historic), and the recent publication of Delius, *Mpumalanga:*



*History and Heritage*, as well as *The Military History Journal* on the Sekukuni Wars.

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., 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*;
- 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, Mpumalanga Province*;
- Rowe C., November 2014: *Phase 1 AIA / HIA for proposed debushing of natural land for agricultural use: Portions 7 & 8 of the farm Boerboonkraal 353KT, Burgersfort, Limpopo*.
- Rowe C., February 2015: *Phase 1 AIA / HIA for proposed residential and business development on the remainder of the farm Witgatboon 316KT, Burgersfort, Limpopo*.

Most of these sites revealed LIA stone walled settlements with associated archaeological material. The farm Rooidraai, which is adjacent to the Townlands of Lydenburg, revealed some rock engraving sites.

The SAHRA database for archaeological and historical impact assessments was consulted and revealed other Archaeological Impact assessment reports in the area of Lydenburg / 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*, 2007.
- Pelser, A., 2014 *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, Lydenburg, Mpumalanga.*

Mr. J.P Celliers conducted an HIA on the adjacent development, and also conducted a phase 2 impact assessment. Mitigation measures included excavations of sections of the adjacent current development towards the east (Extension 6). Mr. Celliers was also contacted (2009) to assist with information regarding the study area, as it overlaps in historic space and time. The displays in the Lydenburg museum cover information on the general history and pre-history of the Lydenburg area, and focuses extensively on the Early Iron Age site of the Lydenburg Heads.

The following historic information was compiled from the sources above:

#### • **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>2 3</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>4</sup> Bergh, <sup>5</sup> did not record any Stone Age sites in the immediate areas of Lydenburg, Burgersfort and Steelpoort. 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>6</sup>

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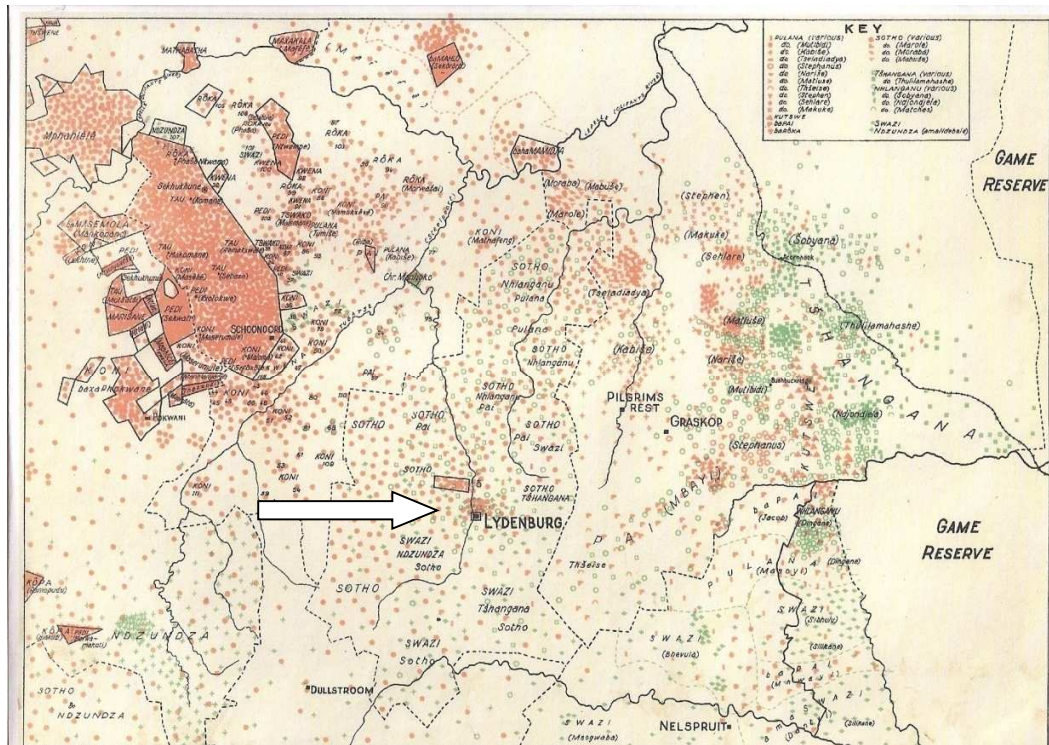
<sup>2</sup> Hampson et al., 2002, The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, SA Archaeological Bulletin 57: p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> Rowe C., 2009, Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, p. 22.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p.22.

<sup>5</sup> Bergh 2009 *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p.4.

<sup>6</sup> Voight, E., 1981, *Guide to the Archaeological sites in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal*, p. 115.



MAP 1: 1935 Map of Van Warmelo: The surrounding area of Townlands, Lydenburg, is indicated with sparse habitation of various Sotho groups (baPai or Pulana) and a small presence of Tshangana / Nhlangu, Swazi and Ndebele. (Van Warmelo 1935: map 14)

## 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>7 8</sup>

- **Early Iron Age (EIA)**

Secondary source evidence of Early Iron Age sites is lacking, with only one well known site

<sup>7</sup> Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*, p.331.

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

indicated, the Lydenburg Heads site.<sup>9</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/goats as well as crop plants. Based on pottery identification, Klingbeil is dated to about AD 1000.<sup>10</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 study area. 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>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> Huffman, <sup>13</sup> placed the stone walling in the area into the Badfontein tradition (see Map 2).

The Pedi (Sotho) is the most famous group to have inhabited the Lydenburg / Steelpoort / Burgersfort areas 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 Kwenana 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>14</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 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

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<sup>9</sup> Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p.8.

<sup>10</sup> Pelser 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>11</sup> Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*.

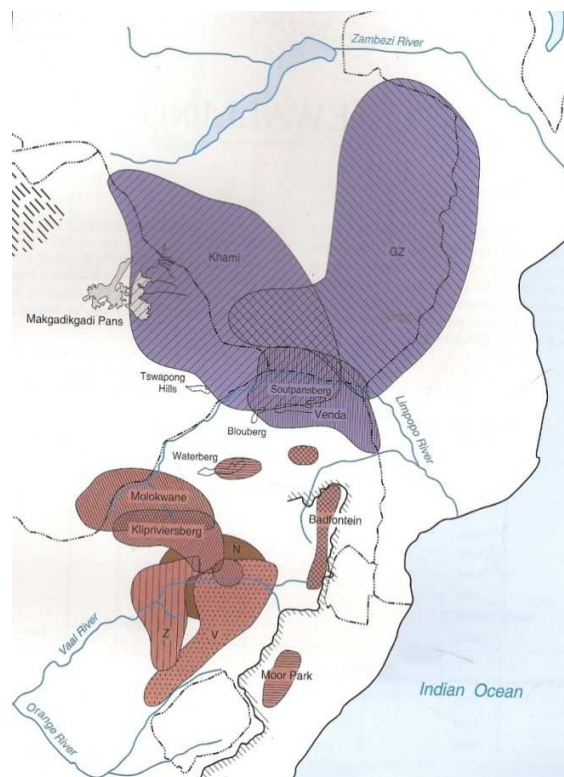
<sup>12</sup> Pelser A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 8.

<sup>13</sup> Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*, p. 32.

<sup>14</sup> E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18.

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>15</sup>

According to oral tradition the BaKoni were already in the area of the escarpment before the arrival of the Pedi (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>16</sup>



Map 2: Distribution of LIA stone walled complexes (Huffman 2007: 32).

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

<sup>15</sup> E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18

<sup>16</sup> Pelser 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.

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>17</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>18</sup>

During the Difaqane (a period of great instability and migration in the interior of South Africa) the 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>19</sup>

Stone walled ruins are a common feature found across the region and have been extensively mapped and researched, both through archaeological excavations and aerial photography. As a result of these various studies, three settlement types can be identified in the area:

- Simple enclosures – consisting of two concentric circles. The inner one was probably the cattle kraal and the huts were built in the space between the circles;
- Complex enclosures – includes several enclosures generally consisting of a large central one with two opposed entrances and a number of smaller circles around part of, or the whole of, the perimeter. Huts were built between the area of this complex and the outer ring wall;
- The third type of settlement in an agglomeration of small circles. It does not seem to conform to the basic pattern of the first two.

Settlements are characterized by terrace walls, cattle lanes and circular enclosures and are

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<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>18</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

<sup>19</sup> Pelser 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.

generally referred to as Badfontein walling. The cattle lane (track) would normally lead to a central enclosure (an area for milking and slaughter). On the opposite side an exit provided access to cattle kraals, which were attached to the central wall. Stone walling were used to define homestead areas, agricultural land (terracing) and cattle tracks. Crops were cultivated along the terraces where lines of stones were laid out parallel to the contour of the landscape. In cases of very steep ground proper walls were built. Stone-walled cattle tracks protected crops from being trampled by livestock. <sup>20</sup>

Two settlement traits from the Badfontein type point to people with Nguni origins. Firstly the circular homestead arrangement emphasized the centre/side axis associated with the Central Cattle Pattern, a characteristic of Nguni people from northern KwaZulu-Natal. Secondly, the Badfontein cattle track leading to a central enclosure with an exit on the opposite side corresponds to the Nguni left-hand / right hand division. <sup>21</sup>

Pottery types which are associated with the Lydenburg / Burgersfort area settlements, are named Mzonjani (Early Iron Age, EIA), Doornkop (EIA), Klingbeil (Middle Iron Age) and Marateng from the Late Iron Age (LIA). <sup>22</sup>

The LIA Marateng facies pottery, from the Moloko branch of the Urewe tradition, dates most likely from AD 1650-1840. This pottery has incised arcades on the upper shoulder separating black and red colour. <sup>23</sup>

Metal and iron in particular was an important commodity during the Iron Age. Several metal artifacts have been found in association with the settlements. Collett's excavations at Badfontein revealed metal wire rings, an iron razor, an adze and a spear head. Iron slag was also discovered, pointing to possible metal working in the area. Many stones among the terraces show evidence of metal tools being sharpened on them. <sup>24</sup>

Upper and lower grindstones are commonly associated with Iron Age settlement and several were found during Collett's excavations at the Badfontein site. These are regarded as indirect evidence for agriculture and the two different types may indicate which crops were cultivated. <sup>25</sup>

Beads were a trade commodity and were obtained via long distance trade routes in exchange

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<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

<sup>22</sup> Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age* pp 127-207.

<sup>23</sup> Pelser 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. 12.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p 13.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p 13.

for metal, ivory and animal skins. The most common types are royal blue hexagonal and round glass beads. Badfontein excavations revealed beads in yellow, blue, white, pink and red with white eyes, a translucent green bead, one made of soapstone as well as a large black wire-wound bead with white spots.<sup>26</sup>

Bones of cattle and sheep / goats, found in association with cattle tracks and kraals, underline the pastoral lifestyle of the inhabitants. It also indicated that Iron Age people were responsible for introducing domesticated animals into the area.<sup>27</sup>

Some 150 years before the *Voortrekkers* entered the area, 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).

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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** densely populated the immediate areas of Lydenburg, Steelpoort & Burgersfort. This was confirmed by ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Zivovogel and N.J. Van Warmelo.<sup>29</sup> The 1935 map of Van Warmelo, indicated the presence of various Sotho groups (baPai and Pulana) as well as Koni in the area surrounding the town of Burgersfort (including the study area). Van Warmelo also indicated a small presence of Nhlangu groups (see Map 1).

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

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<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p.13.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p.13.

<sup>28</sup> E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18

<sup>29</sup> Van Warmelo, N.J., 1935, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 111.



to cannibalism.<sup>30</sup> This area was heavily under attack during the *Difaqane*. The Ndebele attacked this area in ca 1822, and Zwide (Swazi) attacked the Pedi in ca 1825.<sup>31</sup>

- **European settlement**

The Voortrekkers passed the northern boundary of the Leolo mountains (Pedi area) in 1837 when Trichardt looked for a route to *Delagoa Bay*.<sup>32</sup> Trichardt met the Pedi chief Sekwati.<sup>33</sup> When more Europeans settled in the area from 1845, conflict was inevitable.

The Voortrekkers under Andries Hendrik Potgieter, settled at Ohrigstad in 1845. Soon conflicts arose between them and the Pedi leader, Sekwati. The smaller black groups also turned to Sekwati for help against the Voortrekkers. Sekwati moved his capital to the Leolo mountains at *Mosego* hill. Eventually they signed a treaty and it was decided that the Steelpoort or Tubatse River (north of Mashishing), would form the border between the Pedi and the Voortrekkers, and peace followed for a while.<sup>34</sup>

The conflict in the eastern parts of the country between white and black was of a more forceful nature than in the central areas of the country. The Kopa, Ndzundza-Ndebeles and Pedi were more able to resist European onslaught.

The stressful relationship between the Pedi and Europeans since 1850, continued throughout the 1860's and 70's which lead to war. Sekhukhune, who took the reign after Sekwati in 1861, played an important role in this. After the Swazi attack on Sekhukhune in 1869, he moved his capital from *Thaba Mosego* to *Tshate*.<sup>35</sup>

Malaria and internal differences between Joubert and Potgieter resulted that Potgieter moved north to the Zoutpansberg to establish the Voortrekker settlement of Schoemansdal. The group which stayed behind decided to move to higher ground and Lydenburg (Mashishing), was founded in January 1850. It was named after the suffering which they endured at Ohrigstad ('Lyden' is the dutch word for 'suffering').<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Van Warmelo, N.J., 1944. *A genealogy of the house of Sekhukhune*, p.47.

<sup>31</sup> Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, pp.10-28.

<sup>32</sup> J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika, Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 14.

<sup>33</sup> G.M. Theal, *History of South Africa from 1873 – 1884*, p. 257.

<sup>34</sup> M. De Jongh, *Swatini*, p. 29.

<sup>35</sup> J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika, Die Vier Noordelike Provinsies*, p. 31.

<sup>36</sup> J.P. Celliers, 'HIA, Lydenburg Townlands, reply', [jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za](mailto:jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za) 2009-06-18.

The relationship between the Pedi and the Afrikaner stayed stressful. In 1876 the Afrikaners attacked the Pedi. A huge part of the Pedi capital was burnt down. In December 1876, the Pedi submitted to the Republic, as it was time to plant their crops and they could not afford to lose this valuable time.<sup>37</sup>

The British under Shepstone took over the Transvaal on 12 April 1877. At first Sekhukhune pretended to welcome them, but soon started raiding their cattle and other domesticated animals. In November the British, with the help of the Swazi, attacked the Pedi, and Sekhukhune's son and heirs were killed. Sekhukhune fled to a cave in the Leolo mountains, but was later captured and taken prisoner. He was succeeded by Mampuru (Middelburg district) and Ramoroko (Sekhukhuneland). Sekhukhune was killed in 1882 by Mampuru, after his release.<sup>38</sup>

On 6 September 1900, Lydenburg surrendered to British forces under command of Sir Redvers Buller. The town was occupied by British forces throughout the duration of the war and numerous sources describe these times, such as in the diary of E.A. Mackey (as recorded in the Lydenburg News of 1948).<sup>39</sup>

A map dated to 1900 (Major H.M. Jackson Series) indicated the military posts around Lydenburg, which include Fort Howard, Montreal Post, Strathcona post and Paardeplaats Post. Fort Howard and Paardeplaats Post were erected by the British Forces occupying the town.<sup>40</sup> The map below indicates the location of Fort Howard (Map 3), where the current Vodacom Cell mast is situated.

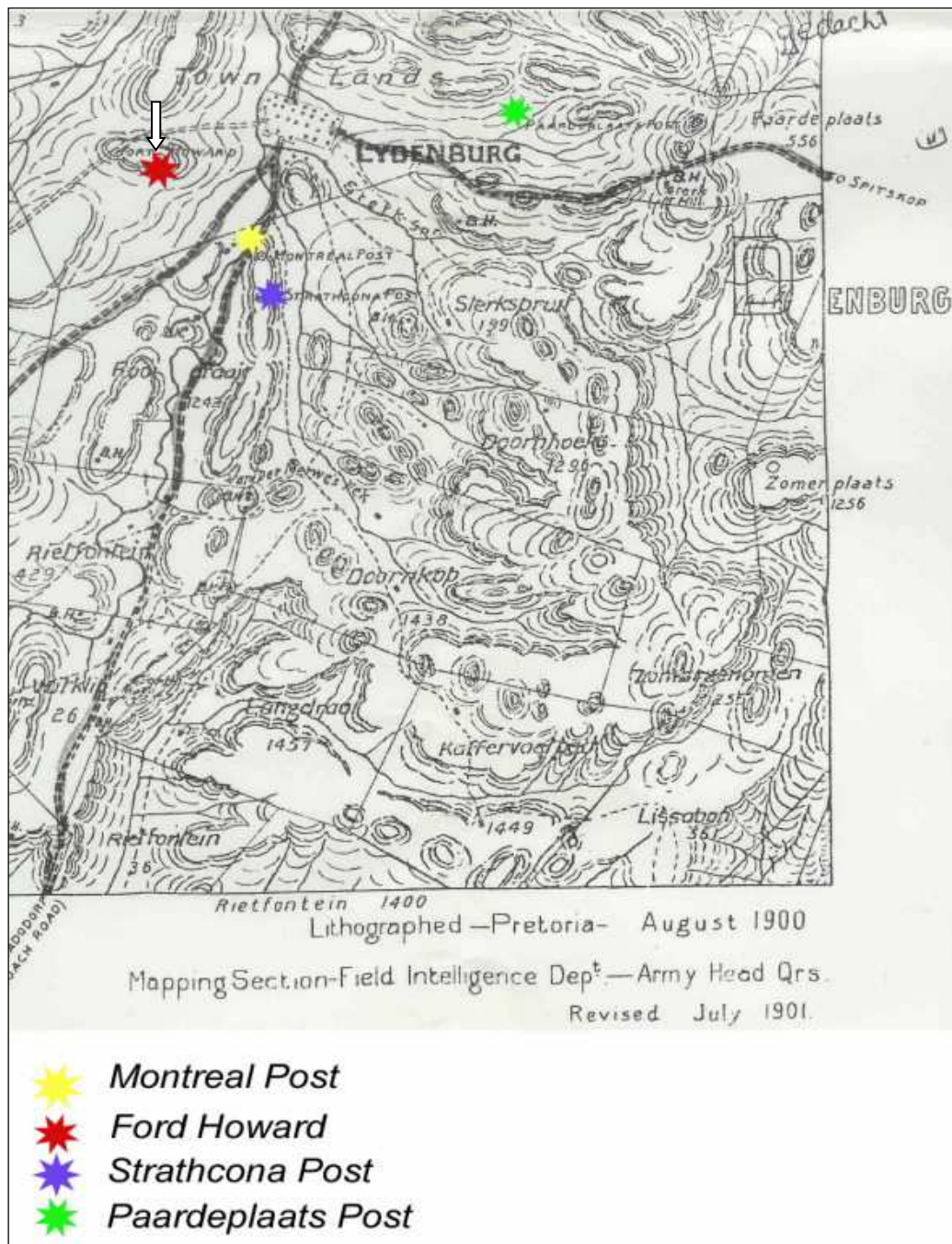
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<sup>37</sup>M. De Jongh, *Swatini*, p. 30.

<sup>38</sup>M. De Jongh, *Swatini*, p. 30.

<sup>39</sup>J.P. Celliers, 'HIA, Lydenburg Townlands, reply', [jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za](mailto:jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za) 2009-06-18.

<sup>40</sup>J.P. Celliers, 'HIA, Lydenburg Townlands, reply', [jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za](mailto:jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za) 2009-06-18.



**Map 3:** Location of Fort Howard and other military posts, 1900.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> J.P. Celliers, 'HIA, Lydenburg Townlands, reply', [jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za](mailto:jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za) 2009-06-18.

### C. DESCRIPTION OF AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT

The proposed residential development is situated on *a portion of portion 39 of the farm Townlands of Lydenburg 31 JT*, as indicated in Map 4 (*Location & Heritage features*), and Appendix 2 (*Concept Layout*). The study area is vacant with new developments of squatters invading the site especially towards the west. The vacant area is mainly used for grazing purposes by locals, but is locked in by established and current developments. Voortrekker street runs parallel to the development in the north. The north-western as well as the east and north-eastern sections are bordered by established townships (extensions 2 and Mashishing Township). A new development is currently taking place on the eastern border (extension 6). An air strip is situated on the south western section, and more future developments are planned on the borders of the study area.<sup>42</sup>

The entire area is informally used as grazing for cattle and goats, and illegal hunting of small animals also takes place. Domestic waste and building rubble, litters the outskirts of the township sections towards to north-west, north-east and east.

The proposed site is situated in the Lowveld region and occurs in the rainshadow of the Escarpment. It experiences drier climates and very cold winters. The site falls within the “Lydenburg Thornveld” with an altitude ranging between 1160 – 1660m. It occurs at lower levels at the foot of the mountains on undulating plains. The vegetation is characterized as closed grassland.<sup>43</sup>

The geology of the area consists of red clay soils mostly derived from shales of the Pretoria Group. One wetland around the drainage line, exists on the site.<sup>44</sup>

- **Locality**

The study area was investigated for all possible heritage related features which might fall within the proposed residential development (see GPS co-ordinates in *section D*, as well as Map 4: *Heritage features on the study area*), and which provides an indication of previous disturbances and current infrastructure. A visual layout of the location of the proposed development, is provided in *Appendix 2: Concept Layout: Proposed residential development*, in this report.

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<sup>42</sup>Personal communication: Pierre Buys, Professional Planners, [pierre@profplanners.co.za](mailto:pierre@profplanners.co.za), 2009-06-10.

<sup>43</sup>WANDIMA, BID document, November 2014, p. 2.

<sup>44</sup>WANDIMA, BID document, November 2014, p. 2.

The area is situated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2530AB LYDENBURG, on a *portion of portion 39 of the farm Townlands of Lydenburg 31 JT*, within the Mpumalanga Province.

- **Description of methodology**

A map of the layout for the proposed residential development was supplied by the client, Wandima Environmental Services (*Appendix 2*), and was used as a guideline for the investigation of the proposed township development. Google Earth images were also studied to assess current and historic disturbed areas or infrastructure. The area was initially visited in 2009 and extensively surveyed when visibility was excellent, which assisted greatly as visibility in February 2015 was restricted due to vegetation growth.

In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the archaeological and cultural heritage resources in the vicinity of the proposed development, the following methods were used:

- Fieldwork and survey of the entire proposed residential development was conducted on foot with a three person team over 6 days in 2009 and again in 2015 with a two person team;
- Visibility of the area was excellent as the grassland vegetation had been burnt and most of the photographic evidence of 2009 was used. Some changes have occurred to the study area (eg. Newly established soccer field which destroyed the LIA stone walled section 1, and squatters invading the western section along the Mashishing township);
- The area was mostly flat or sloping, with a rocky outcrop in the region of the Vodacom Cell Mast and the historic feature of Fort Howard. A perennial stream splits the study area in two parts.
- All relevant data was located with a GPS instrument (Garmin Etrex), datum WGS 84, and plotted on a Google Earth image. Co-ordinates are within 4-6 meters.
- 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 was held with relevant stakeholders.
- All the features in this report, were allocated with a code and number (eg: LT20), which indicates the farm name (Lydenburg Townlands), and number of sequence during the survey. The code and numbers were kept the same which were allocated to features in 2009, in order to avoid confusion.

GPS Co-ordinates of the study area:

GPS CO-ORDINATES		
Number	South	East
A	S 25° 06' 23.01"	E 30° 25' 10.04"
B	S 25° 06' 26.21"	E 30° 26' 14.59"
C	S 25° 05' 55.19"	E 30° 26' 19.64"
D	S 25° 05' 52.70"	E 30° 26' 30.09"
E	S 25° 05' 39.87"	E 30° 26' 13.14"
F	S 25° 05' 37.14"	E 30° 26' 16.01"
G	S 25° 05' 26.96"	E 30° 26' 20.99"
H	S 25° 05' 25.37"	E 30° 26' 28.05"
I	S 25° 05' 10.63"	E 30° 25' 48.58"

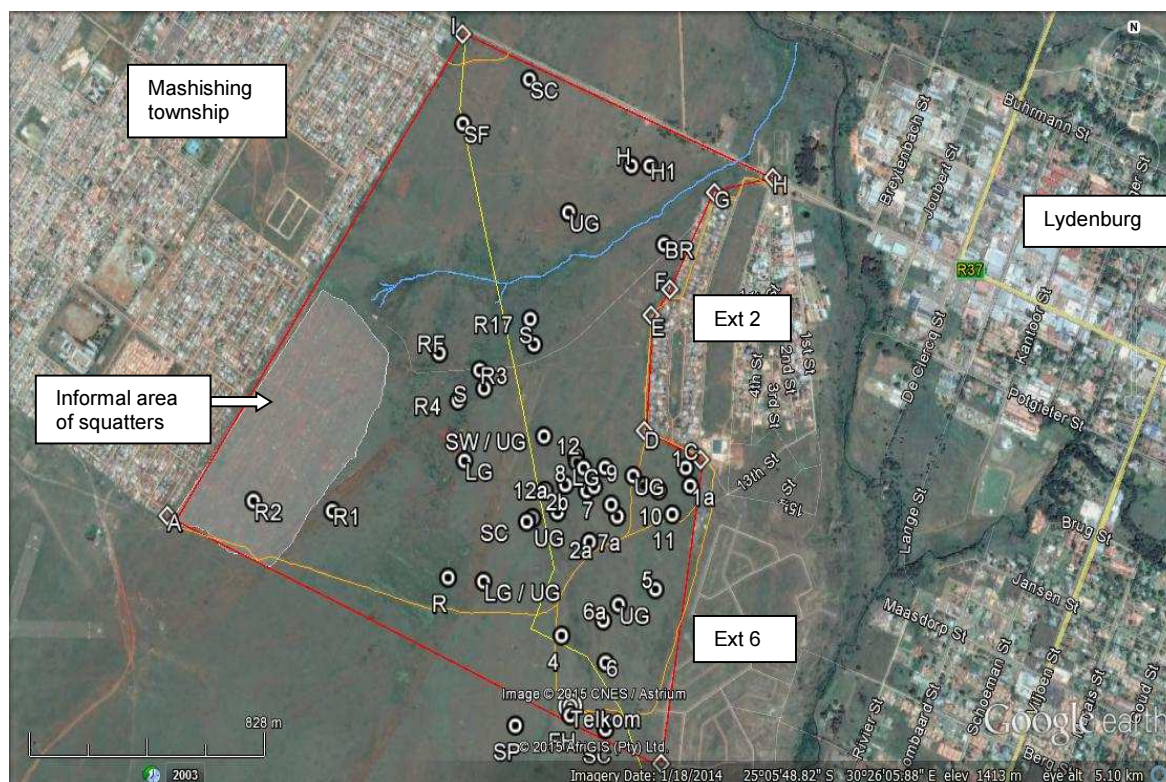
#### D. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The proposed residential development is earmarked towards the west of the town of Lydenburg (Mashishing). All comments should be studied in conjunction with Map 1: Location of proposed area of development & heritage features, Appendix 1, Google image of tracks and paths, Appendix 2: Concept Layout: Proposed residential development; Appendix 3: Photographs, which indicate the area, and which corresponds with the discussion below.

Please note that the same code is used which was allocated in 2009 for the heritage features. Some numbers may be missing, (eg LT3) which is not included in the current proposed development. The following acronyms were used in the text:

BR = Building rubble  
FH = Fort Howard  
H = Historic  
LG = Lower grinder  
R = Recent  
RR = Rifle Range  
S = Stones  
SC = Stone circle  
SF = Square foundation  
SW = Stone wall  
UG = Upper grinder.



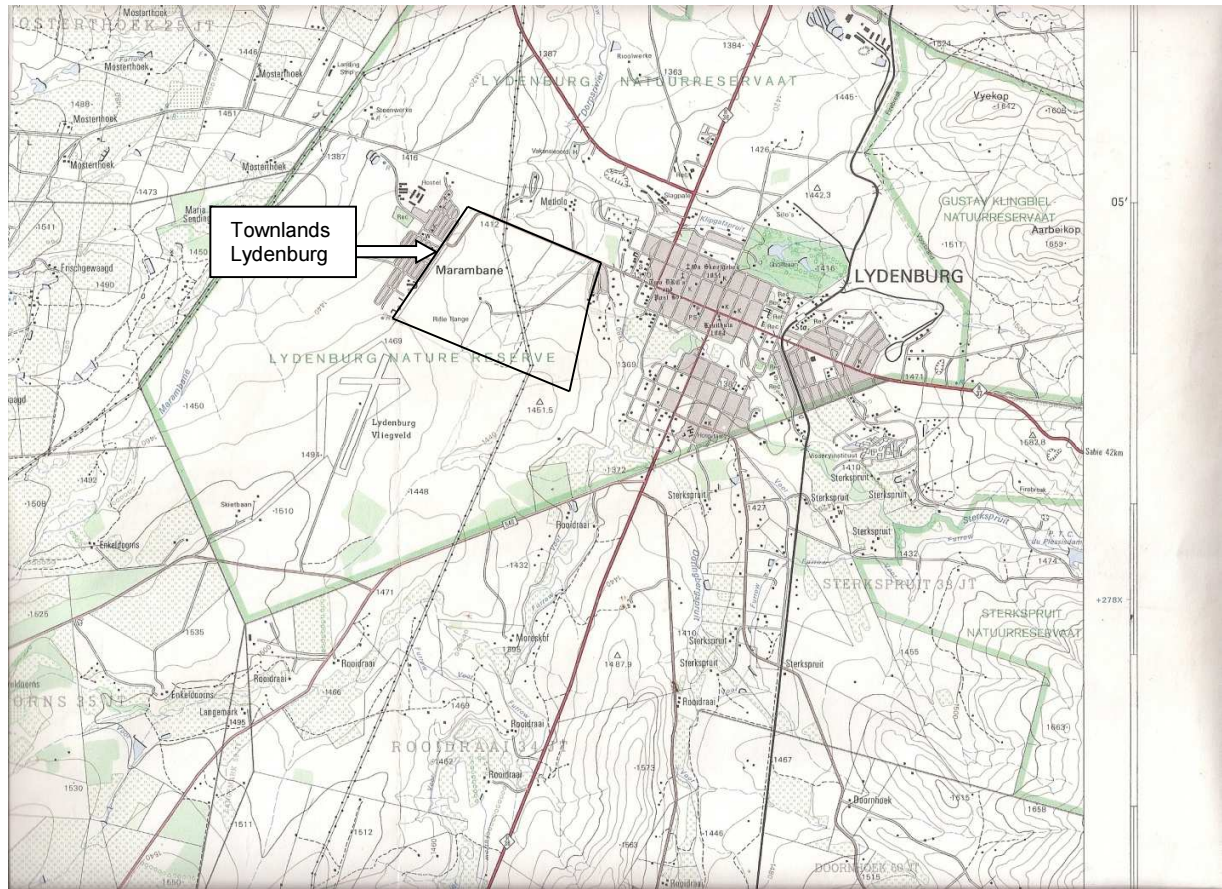


Map 4: Location of study area and heritage features.



Map 5: Detail of south-eastern section, showing the sites of LIA stone walling.





Map 6: Topographical map of study area.

**Late Iron Age Stone walled sites:** Site location corresponds with Maps 4 & 5 (Fig. 1, 2, 3, & 4).

Site location	GPS Co-ordinates	Description, type and category of archaeological / cultural heritage features
LT1	Elev: 1334m S25°05'54.4" E30°26'18.9"	Extensive Late Iron Age (LIA) stone walling. Surface collection consisted of five upper grinders. The eastern side of this complex has already been disturbed by the new development (extension 6). An established township (extension 2) is situated towards the north and has previously impacted negatively on the northern side of the stone walled site. Currently this site has been destroyed by a new soccer field.
	Elev: 1414m S25°05'57.6" E30°26'18.4"	Southern border of site no. 1: Clearly defined circular units. Fig: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.



<b>Site location</b>	<b>GPS Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Description, type and category of archaeological / cultural heritage features</b>
LT2	Elev: 1349m S25°05'54.9" E30°26'03.5"	No 2: LIA stone walling, some which are clearly defined and some of which are poorly defined by the outline of small pebbles. The surface collection consisted of two upper grinders. The entire section is covered by stone walling and agricultural terraces which fades out towards the north and north-west.
	Elev: 1432m S25°06'03.4" E30°26'05.1"	No 2a: LIA stone walling which are damaged by road infrastructure. Surface collection consists of a broken upper grinder.
		No. 2b: LIA stone walling which are clearly defined and forms part of no. 2. Some of the stones were removed by vandals and heaped up close to the settlement to be used by the community for building purposes.
	Elev: 1426m S25°05'58.1" E30°26'05.0"	No. 2c: Surface collection consists of the following: A shallow lower grinder inside the stone walled complex. Undecorated clay potsherds of various thickness and decoration. Two lower grinders, one of which was used on both sides. Fig. 14, 15, 16, 17.
LT7	Elev: 1425m S25°05'59.5" E30°26'08.2"	No. 7: Poorly defined LIA stone walling links up with site no. 2. It is visible throughout this area directly towards the east of no. 2b & 2c. Fig. 18, 28.
LT8	Elev: 1418m S25°05'55.8" E30°26'04.6"	No. 8: In this section, LIA circular stone walls are still directly part of site no. 2. Surface collection: Upper grinder. Fig. 19, 20, 21.
LT9	Elev: 1417m S25°05'55.7" E30°26'07.2"	No. 9: LIA stone walling is still an extension of site no. 2. The walls are poorly defined. It also extends towards the east. Surface collection: Upper grinder inside the filling of the walls.
	Elev: 1418m S25°05'57.4" E30°26'12.2"	Broken upper grinder amongst poorly defined agricultural terraces. Fig. 22, 23.

<b>Site location</b>	<b>GPS Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Description, type and category of archaeological / cultural heritage features</b>
LT12	Elev: 1417m S25°05'54.2" E30°26'03.6"	LIA stone walling which links up with no. 2 on the western side of dirt track. It would appear that this section forms part of the outer limit of the overall stone walled complex.
	Elev: 1422m S25°05'57.5" E30°26'02.2"	Surface collection: Upper grinder. Broken upper grinder.
	Elev: 1423m S25°05'58.1" E30°25'59.4"	The LIA stone walling has reached its outer limit in this section. The walls are poorly defined, and are situated almost directly under the existing power lines.
	Elev: 1427m S25°06'00.2" E30°26'01.2"	Clearly defined LIA stone walling. Surface material consists of two upper grinders. One, which was used on three sides. The walls are still roughly underneath the power lines.
	Elev: 1426m S25°06'01.0" E30°25'57.9"	Continuation of above circular stone walling complex, with an entrance clearly visible. (Still situated underneath the power lines). Surface collection includes a shallow lower grinder as well as a broken lower grinder.
	Elev: 1434m S25°06'07.7" E30°25'51.7"	Surface collection includes: Broken lower grinder and 2 upper grinders.
	Elev: 1415m S25°05'55.0" E30°25'49.1"	Broken lower grinder. Fig. 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34.
LT4	Elev: 1388m S25°06'13.0" E30°26'01.4"	LIA stone walling which are clearly defined, with a prominent upright stone visible. Fig. 35, 36, 37, 38.

<b>Site location</b>	<b>GPS Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Description, type and category of archaeological / cultural heritage features</b>
LT5	Elev: 1374m S25°06'08.4" E30°26'13.8"	LIA stone walling down the slope of a hill bordering the area that is currently being developed (extension 6). In some areas the foundation/base of the walls are clearly defined. Exceptionally large stones were used in the base of the walls. Surface material includes an upper grinder.  Fig. 42, 43, 44, 45, 46.
LT10	Elev: 1418m S25°05'58.1" E30°26'14.2"	LIA stone walling with large stones links up with site no. 5 & 1. The settlement continues although some areas are poorly defined.  Fig. 11, 12, 13.
LT11	Elev: 1419m S25°06'00.6" E30°26'16.0"	No 11: LIA stone walling links up with sites no. 5, 1 and 10. The stones are quite large and continue towards the east where the new development (extension 6) is currently taking place. Sections have been damaged by the road infrastructure towards the south.  Fig. 11, 12, 13.
LT6  LT6a	Elev: 1442m S25°06'16.0" E30°26'07.4"  Elev: 1438m S25°06'11.6" E30°26'07.0"  Elev: 1432m S25°06'09.7" E30°26'09.0"	LIA stone walling which are clearly defined. Mr J.P. Celliers excavated sections on this site as mitigation measures for the adjacent current development (extension 6).  Continuation of LIA stone walling as described at site no. 6, although the walls are poorly defined.  Surface collection: Small upper grinder.  Fig. 39, 40, 41.

**Other Features:**

<b>Site location</b>	<b>GPS Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Comments on field survey: Archaeological / cultural heritage features</b>
LT13	Elev: 1432m S25°06'07.1" E30°25'47.0"	Area of recent Rifle Range as indicated on the Topographical map 1:50 000, 2530 AB Lydenburg. Several trenches are still to be seen and used R1 bullet shells were observed; Fig. 49, 50.
LT14	Elev: 1436m S25°06'00.2" E30°25'32.1"	Remains of a recent stone wall in a straight line, poorly defined. Fig. 51, 52.
LT15	Elev: 1444m S25°06'03.9" E30°25'27.6"	Remains of a poorly defined rectangular stone walled structure, of which two sides are visible. Fig. 53.
LT16	Elev: 1410m S25°05'48.8" E30°25'48.3"	Foundation of a recent square building. Surface material consists of concrete and rusted modern metal fragments. Fig. 56.
LT17	Elev: 1410m S25°05'40.2" E30°25'37.6"	Modern concrete, rectangular foundations with heaps of building rubble. Surface material consists of metal objects as well as baked bricks. Fig. 57, 58.
LT18	Elev: 1369m S25°05'43.8" E30°25'45.9"	Recent stone foundations of square / rectangular shape. Fig. 60.
LT19	Elev: 1412m S25°05'19.8" E30°25'48.8"	Well defined recent rectangular stone foundations with divisions. Surface material consists of metal objects and undecorated clay potsherds. Fig. 59.
LT20	Elev: 1407m S25°05'15.2" E30°25'57.3"	Small circular stone wall (next to tarred road). Poorly defined with no surface material. Fig. 62.

<b>Site location</b>	<b>GPS Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Comments on field survey: Archaeological / cultural heritage features</b>
LT21	Elev: 1385m S25°05'24.2" E30°26'10.8"	Several stone foundations of rectangular structures (with divisions), not more than 15 meters apart, together with one circular unit, and one square unit without divisions. Surface material consisted of metal fragments.
	Elev: 1384m S25°05'24.2" E30°26'13.0"	Large rectangular stone foundations with divisions, in close vicinity of the above. Fig. 63, 64, 65.
LT22	Elev: 1344m S25°06'21.2" E30°26'02.8"	Location of Fort Howard as indicated in Fig. 1. Much of the remains have been disturbed or destroyed by the existing Vodacom Cell Tower and infrastructure. But there are many square and circular stone foundations left, as well as the clear outline of roads towards the fort. This area had been discussed in JP Celliers' report on Extension 6. It is currently fenced off with signs "No unauthorized entry"  Surface material consisted of fragments of eroded metal. Fig. 69, 70 & 71.
	Elev: 1294m S25°06'22.3" E30°25'56.0"	Outline of road associated with Fort Howard, outside the fenced off area. Fig. 68.

#### • Discussion on footprint of the proposed residential development

A total of twenty-two features were identified which comprised of one large Late Iron Age stone walled settlement (11 features: LT1, LT2, LT4, LT5, LT6, LT7, LT8, LT9, LT10, LT11, LT12). Feature LT20, consists also of a poorly defined stone walled site, but it is possibly not connected to the settlement in the east and could be more recent. The area used as a recent rifle range (feature LT13), concrete foundations associated with recent settlement (features LT16 & LT17), recent loose stone foundations without concrete, (features LT14, LT15 & LT18); two areas which might be associated with early pioneer or European settlements (features LT19 & LT21), and LT22, which is the military site of Fort Howard, erected during 1900, (South African War).

The heritage features are indicated on Maps 4 & 5, and the statement of significance and evaluation is indicated in section E.

**Sites LT1, LT2, LT4, LT5, LT6, LT7, LT8, LT9, LT10, LT11 & LT12:**

The major archaeological significance on this study area, is the LIA stone walls which covers the entire eastern section of the proposed development. The findings are recorded with GPS points and are situated closely together, and they all belong to the same cultural group. This settlement links up with the area where the current development is taking place and which had been researched, and excavated by J.P. Celliers (2009)<sup>45</sup>, and in the area by Evers (1975) and Collett (1979).<sup>46</sup> They consist of circular stone-walled complexes, typical of the Late Iron Age and are generally in a weathered condition and poorly defined, especially towards the western outskirts of the complex area. Surface collections comprise of a fragments of undecorated clay potsherds, several upper grinders and a complete and broken lower grinders.

LT1 has already been impacted upon by a recent soccer field, as well as stones which were removed by residents of Extension 2 and many of the LIA remains which were visible in 2009, are now destroyed. LT10 and LT11 are still visible.

A local inhabitant of the township of Mashishing, George Malopane was asked about general information on the study area. He was not aware of any graves in the area, and referred to the LIA stone walling, as “where the ancients” lived. He also indicated that the north-western side of the study area, was mostly inhabited by white people. He was unable to give any specific information.<sup>47</sup>

**Impact by proposed development:** This entire section will be impacted upon by the proposed township development. LT1, LT2, LT4, LT5, LT6, LT7, LT8, LT9, LT10, LT11 & LT12 will be impacted upon by the proposed development, and mitigation measures are necessary.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the LIA stone walls indicated as, LT1, LT2, LT4, LT5, LT6, LT7, LT8, LT9, LT10, LT11 & LT12 be documented and small sections excavated during a phase 2 study, and that the developer applies for a destruction permit from SAHRA, before construction activities may commence. Alternatively this area may be cut out of the

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<sup>45</sup>Personal information: J.P. Celliers, Curator, Lydenburg Museum, 2009-06-18.

<sup>46</sup>J.P. Celliers, 'HIA, Lydenburg Townlands, reply', [jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za](mailto:jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za) 2009-06-18.

<sup>47</sup>Personal information: George Malopane, Mashishing, 2009-06-15.

development and used as a POS. A management plan for the heritage features will then be applicable. Please note that LT1 has currently been destroyed by a recent soccer field.

**Site LT20:**

Small circular stone wall (next to tarred road). This section has already been impacted upon by the existing tarred road. It is poorly defined, with no surface collection.

**Impact by proposed development:** This section will be impacted upon by the proposed township development.

**Mitigation:** This section is regarded as of no significance and no mitigation is necessary.

**Site LT13:**

This area was used as a rifle range as indicated on topographical map 1:50 000, 2530AB *Lydenburg*. It is disturbed by several trenches, and used R1 bullet shells have been noted during the survey.

**Impact by proposed development:** This section will be impacted upon by the proposed township development.

**Mitigation:** This section is regarded as of no significance and no mitigation measures are needed.

**Sites LT16, LT17:**

LT16: The foundation of a recent square building is visible. Surface material consists of concrete, brick and rusted modern metal fragments.

LT17: Modern concrete, rectangular foundations with heaps of building rubble. Surface material consists of metal objects as well as baked bricks.

**Impact by proposed development:** This section will be impacted upon by the proposed township development.

**Mitigation:** This section is regarded as of no significance and no mitigation measures are needed.

**Sites LT14, LT15 & LT18:**

LT14: The remains of a recent stone wall in a straight line are poorly defined with no surface material.

LT15: The remains of a poorly defined rectangular stone walled structure, of which two sides are still visible. No surface material was identified.

LT18: Recent stone foundations of rectangular shape. No surface material was identified.

**Impact by proposed development:** This section will be impacted upon by the proposed township development.

**Mitigation:** This section is regarded as of no significance and no mitigation measures are needed.

#### **Sites LT19 & LT21:**

LT19: Recent rectangular stone foundations with divisions. Surface material consists of recent metal objects and undecorated clay potsherds.

LT21: Several well defined stone foundations of rectangular structures (with divisions), not more than 15 meters apart, together with one circular unit, and one square unit without divisions. Surface material consisted of metal fragments. Another large rectangular stone foundation with divisions is also in close vicinity of the above units.

A local inhabitant of the township of Mashishing, George Malopane was asked about general information on this area. He indicated that this area (north-western side), was previously mostly inhabited by white people. He could not give any specific information.<sup>48</sup>

**Impact by proposed development:** This section will be impacted upon by the proposed township development.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that this area be documented and a section excavated during a phase 2 study as it is believed to be older than 60 years and belonging to pioneer farmers. The developer should then apply for a destruction permit before construction activities may commence.

**Site LT22:** This is the area of Fort Howard, erected by the British Forces in 1900, who occupied the town of Lydenburg during the South African War.

**Impact by proposed development:** This area will be impacted upon by the proposed development, and mitigation measures are necessary.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the site of Fort Howard be documented and small sections excavated during a phase 2 study, and that the developer applies for a destruction permit from

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<sup>48</sup>Personal information: George Malopane, Mashishing, 2009-06-15.



SAHRA, before construction activities commences. Alternatively this area may be cut out of the development and used as a POS. A management plan for the heritage features will then be applicable. Please note that JP Celliers recommended in his report on Extention 6, that this area which borders the current development be investigated, excavated and further researched.<sup>49</sup>

## **E. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN STUDY AREA**

Section 38 of the National Heritage resources act (25 of 1999), 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 is 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>50</sup> It promotes previously neglected research areas of which the study area is in crucial need of. Any research information resulting from this study is also contributing to the eMakhazeni Tourism Association initiative currently envisioned for the area.<sup>51</sup>

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

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<sup>49</sup>J.P. Celliers, 'HIA, Lydenburg Townlands, reply', [jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za](mailto:jcelliers@thabachweu.org.za) 2009-06-18.

<sup>50</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

<sup>51</sup>Rossouw, C., A new experience in local tourism. The Lowvelder, 2009-06-09.

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>52</sup>

The significance and evaluation of the archaeological and cultural heritage features can be summarized as follows:

<b>SITE No:</b>	<b>CULTURAL HERITAGE FEATURES</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>MEASURES OF MITIGATION</b>
<b>Section 4:</b> LT4, LT5 & LT6	Late Iron Age stone walls	Low - Local	A phase 2 documentation and excavation OR to be excluded from the development with a management plan
<b>Section 1:</b> LT1, LT10, LT11	LT 1 - Late Iron Age stone walls (2009) destroyed by a recent soccer field (2015); LT10 & LT11 – Late Iron Age stone walls	Low - Local	A phase 2 documentation and excavation OR to be excluded from the development with a management plan
<b>Section 2:</b> LT2, LT7, LT8, LT9, & LT12	Late Iron Age stone walls	Low - Local	A phase 2 documentation and excavation OR to be excluded from the development with a management plan
LT20	Poorly defined, small circular stone wall	No significance	No mitigation needed
LT13	Modern rifle range	No significance	No mitigation needed
LT16, LT17	Remains of concrete and brick structures	No significance	No mitigation needed
LT14, LT15 & LT18	Remains of poorly defined rectangular stone foundations	No significance	No mitigation needed
LT19, LT21	Rectangular stone foundations with divisions associated with pioneer settlement	Low - Local	A phase 2 documentation and excavation before destruction may commence

<sup>52</sup>National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

LT22	South African War site – British Fort Howard	High – National value	Documentation report needed and kept as a POS. A management plan must be developed to ensure future protection.
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- **Field rating:**

There are several features in the study area which is recent and of no cultural value (LT 13, LT16, LT17, LT14, LT15, LT18, LT20).

The LIA cultural heritage features (sections 1, 2 & 4: LT1, LT2, LT4, LT5, LT6, LT7, LT8, LT 9, LT10, LT11, LT12), as discussed in the section above, are rated as LOW and therefore has local significance. Mitigation measures include the further research, recording and excavation of certain sections. Once the mitigation measures have been conducted, the developer may apply for a destruction permit from SAHRA, for the area as indicated. Alternatively the developer may exclude this area from the development as a POS with a management plan.

Site LT19 & LT20 are square and circular structures associated with pioneer settlement. Mitigation measures include the further research, recording and excavation of this section. Once the mitigation measures have been conducted, the developer may apply for a destruction permit from SAHRA, for the area as indicated. Alternatively the developer may exclude this area from the development as a POS with a management plan.

The site LT22 (Fort Howard) is rated as High and of national significance. It needs to be excluded from the development as a POS. A management plan is recommended which will include the further research and documentation of the site, to ensure its future protection.

Once the mitigation measures have been conducted, the developer may apply for a destruction permit from SAHRA for the areas as indicated (except Fort Howard).

## **F. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Most of the Late Iron Age sites in the study area are situated in the south eastern section of the proposed development. These are included in the proposed development (see Appendix 2), and will negatively be impacted upon. Mitigation measures are recommended (see below).

According to J.P. Celliers (Lydenburg Museum) any new information on the Late Iron Age stone walling may contribute to the scientific value and the tourism potential of the area as a whole.<sup>53</sup> Squatters are invading the western section of the proposed development, next to the Mashishing township. No features of significance were identified during the 2009 survey in this section.

It is recommended that:

- Sections 1, 2 & 4 & LT19 & LT21 be mitigated and recorded before destruction may commence. A phase 2 archaeological study should be undertaken as a measure of mitigation on the LIA stone walling, and the stone walls associated with pioneer or European settlement. The structures need to be measured and documented and small sections be excavated in order to establish further scientific information. Alternatively it may be excluded from the development and a management plan drawn up.
- LT22 is the site of Fort Howard. This area should be excluded from the development as a POS. A management plan should be developed for this site. It will however be vulnerable once the development is in place and needs to be protected.

Once the mitigation measures are successfully conducted, the developer may apply to SAHRA for a destruction permit before any construction activities may commence.

## **G. CONSLUSION**

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during construction activities. It is therefore recommended that the developer be made aware of this possibility and when human remains, clay or ceramic pottery are observed, a qualified archaeologist must be notified and an assessment be done. Further research might be necessary in this regard for which the developer is responsible.

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>53</sup> Personal information: J.P. Celliers, Curator Lydenburg Museum, 2009-06-18.

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## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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