

SPECIALIST REPORT

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED
RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM
WITGATBOOM 316KT
BURGERSFORT
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**REPORT COMPILED FOR
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FEBRUARY 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources was conducted for a proposed residential and business development on the *remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT* next to the town of Burgersfort, Limpopo Province.

The study area is situated on Topographical map, 1:50 000, 2430CB, BURGERSFORT, which is in the Limpopo Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Greater Sekhukune District Municipality, and Greater Tubatse 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 applicant, Mr. Hennie Nel (Platsak PTY Ltd), in co-operation with Afrika Enviro & Biology, is requesting the proposed development. The application is for 62Ha on the *remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316 KT*, which is located on the southern outskirts of Burgersfort on the eastern side of the R37 (Lydenburg to Burgersfort).

The survey revealed many recent stone and sometimes stone and clay foundations on the property and material such as upper and lower grinders, clay potsherds, glass, tins, rusted iron and bottles are associated with it. No other archaeological material of significance was observed in the study area. A large sand quarry in the north-western section as well as an ESKOM servitude disturbed the natural vegetation.

It is recommended that the owner be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the development. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue. All earthmoving activities must however be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and should any archaeological material be found, an assessment must be done.

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 2015

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PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM WITGATBOOM 316KT, BURGERSFORT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PROJECT

The applicant, Mr. Hennie Nel (Platsak PTY Ltd), in co-operation with Afrika Enviro & Biology, is requesting the proposed residential and business development on the *remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT*. The application is for 62ha on an existing agricultural area (see Appendix 2 & Map 5).

Adansonia Heritage Consultants were appointed by *AFRIKA ENVIRO & BIOLOGY*, to conduct a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) on archaeological and other heritage resources in the study area. 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 4: 2430CB, Burgersfort).

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 62 ha will be developed for residential and business purposes on the southern outskirts of Burgersfort and on the eastern side of the R37 between Lydenburg (Mashishing) and Burgersfort (see Appendix 2).

- This study forms part of an EIA, Consultant: *AFRIKA ENVIRO & BIOLOGY*, P.O. Box 2980, White River, 1240, Cell: 0726231845 / Fax: 0866038875 / e-mail: 27823022459. Type of development: 62ha, are earmarked for a proposed residential and business development, topographical map, 1:50 000, 2430CB, Burgersfort. The farm is currently 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 Greater Sekhukune District Municipality, and the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province.
- Land owner: Mr. Hennie Nel, (Platsak PTY, Ltd).

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

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

Legal requirements:

The legal context of the report is grounded in the National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999, as well as the National Environmental Management Act (1998) (NEMA):

- 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.

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 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 *AFRIKA ENVIRO & BIOLOGY*, as well as the client Mr. Hennie Nel (Platsak PTY Ltd), 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 require formal protection such as a Grade I, II or III, with relevant parties having to comply with all aspects pertaining to such a grading.

- **Section 35 of the NHRA**

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object. This section may apply to any significant archaeological sites that may be discovered. In the case of such chance finds, the heritage practitioner will assist in investigating the extent and significance of the finds and consult with an archaeologist about further action. This may entail removal of material after documenting the find or mapping of larger sections before destruction. Upper and lower grinders and clay potsherds were found during the survey but they were associated with square clay and stone foundations of recent settlement, and therefore not significant. These objects are still widely used in rural areas today.

- **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 of structures were identified on the entire property. These are badly preserved or almost deteriorated. It is believed that they are of no special significance as the settlement was only abandoned in the late 1960's.

- **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 AND HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

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

The study area, is located on the southern outskirts of Burgersfort on the eastern side of the R37 from Lydenburg (Mashishing) to Burgersfort, on the *remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT*.

Bushman (or San) presence occurs in the wider area as research by rock art enthusiasts revealed 109 sites in the Kruger National Park,¹ and over 100 rock art sites at Bongani Mountain Lodge and its immediate surrounds.² Thirty one rock art sites were recorded on the Mpumalanga Drakensberg Escarpment, which is closer, and more relevant to the study area.³ Rock art sites were also recorded in the Ohrigstad area.⁴ Late Iron Age rock engraving sites occur in the Lydenburg area and Boomplaats, 35km south of the study area.

In order to place the areas around Burgersfort and Lydenburg (Mashishing) 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. Historic and academic sources by Küsel, Meyer, Voight, Bergh, De Jongh, Evers, Myburgh, Thackeray and Van der Ryst were consulted, as well as other historic sources.

Primary sources were consulted from the Pilgrim's Rest Museum Archives for a background on the pre-history and history of the study area. Several circular stone-walled complexes and terraces as well as graves have been recorded in the vicinity of Hazyview⁵, Bushbuckridge, Graskop, Sabie, Lydenburg and Burgersfort as well as clay potsherds and upper as well as lower grinders, which are scattered at most of the sites.⁶ Many of these occur in caves on the Escarpment, as the local people hid there to avoid the Swazi attacks (1900's), on the smaller groups.

The 2002 topographical map (2430CB BURGERSFORT) indicated old "diggings" (sand quarry) on the study area, which is mentioned as a quarry in this report. Some recent mud and stone foundations were

¹ English, M. Die Rotskuns van die Boesmans in die NKW, in *De Vos Pienaar, U., Neem uit die Verlede*, p. 18-24.

² Hampson, et al., The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, *SA Archaeological Bulletin* 57: p. 15.

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

⁴ Bergh, J., *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p. 4.

⁵PRMA: Information file 9/2.

⁶D. Ziervogel, *The Eastern Sotho, A Tribal, Historical and Linguistic Survey*, p. 3.

identified during the survey, but are badly deteriorated. According to the owner, Mr. Nel, the area was inhabited by local people up to the late 1960's. The farm belonged to a Mr. De Souza since the 1930's. Mr. Nel's father bought the farm from a Mr. Van Rhyn in 1973. There were no local residents on the farm in 1973, and the farm was primarily used for cattle grazing.⁷

The farm Witgatboom is situated west of the Spekboom River. The 2002 topographical map of *Burgersfort* revealed no historic black settlements in this section (see Map 4).⁸ The study area was rocky and against a low hill in the northern section. There are two drainage lines of which the *Tshipapedi* stream is roughly in the centre, and an unnamed one forming the southern boundary of the study area. The section between the drainage lines was flat and even, without any rocky outcrops. The entire area was previously disturbed by recent settlements. The vegetation on the affected area is largely natural although some disturbed areas where vegetation has recently been cleared are evident (sand quarry and ESKOM servitude). The Tshipapedi Stream forms a prominent feature in the landscape as it has a deeply eroded stream channel ($\pm 5\text{m}$) with very steep to vertical banks.

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*.

⁷ Personal communication: Mr. H. Nel, 2015-02-07.

⁸ Map: 1911 Topographical Map: Ohrigstad no. 14.

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.*
- Pelsler, A., 2014 *Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Roodraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C, Lydenburg, Mpumalanga.*

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 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), Delius, *Mpumalanga: History and Heritage*, and *The Military History Journal* on the Sekukuni Wars.

There are no museums in Burgersfort or Steelpoort, and the closest museum with relevant information on the area was the museum in Lydenburg. This museum covers information on the general history and pre-history of the surrounding area, and focuses extensively on the Early Iron Age site of the Lydenburg Heads.

- **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.^{9 10} 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.¹¹ Bergh,¹² 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.¹³

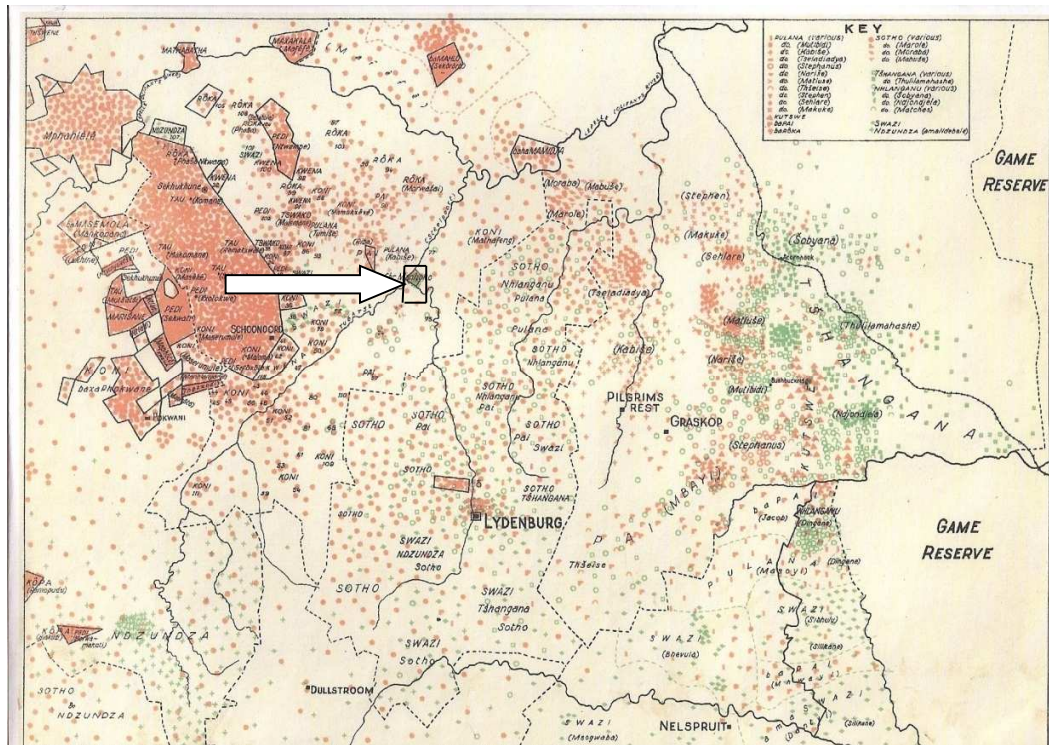
⁹ Hampson et al., 2002, The rock art of Bongani Mountain Lodge, SA Archaeological Bulletin 57: p. 15.

¹⁰ Rowe C., 2009, Heritage Management of Archaeological, Historical and Industrial resources on the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, p. 22.

¹¹ *Ibid*, p.22.

¹² Bergh 2009 *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p.4.

¹³ 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 Witgatboom, is indicated with sparse habitation of various Sotho groups (baPai or Pulana) and a small presence of Nhlanguano – Chr.Manhoko, with Koni towards the north. The area further south was mainly inhabited by Sotho and Swazi groups. (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. ^{14 15}

¹⁴ Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*, p.331.

¹⁵ Pelsaer A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooidraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 8.

- **Early Iron Age (EIA)**

Secondary source evidence of Early Iron Age sites is lacking, with only one well known site indicated, the Lydenburg Heads site.¹⁶ 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 1000.¹⁷

- **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.^{18 19} Huffman,²⁰ placed the stone walling in the Burgersfort area into the Badfontein tradition (see Map 2).

The Pedi 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 Kwena or Mongatane, who came from the north and were probably of Sotho origin. A second tribe to settle in Bopedi, before the arrival of the Pedi was the Roka, followed by the Koni.²¹

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 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

¹⁶ Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p.8.

¹⁷ Pelser A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Roodraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 8.

¹⁸ Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*.

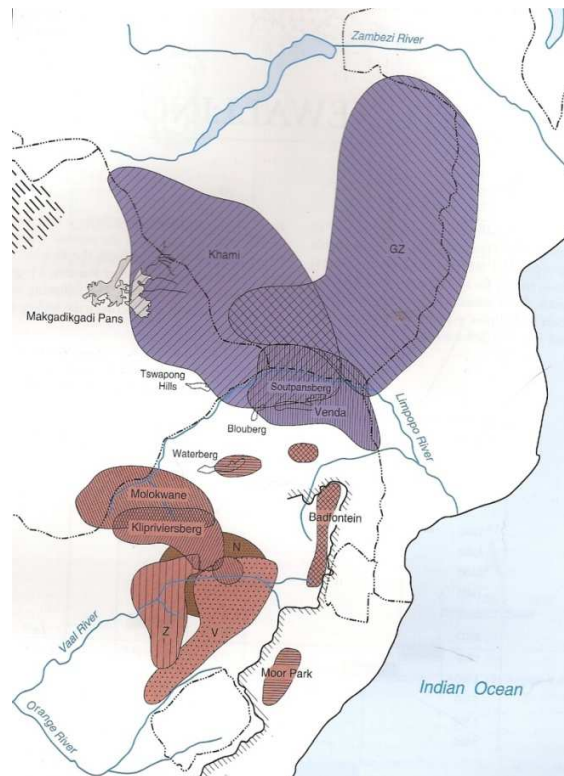
¹⁹ Pelser A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Roodraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 8.

²⁰ Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age*, p. 32.

²¹ E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18.

during the preceding centuries.²²

According to oral tradition the BaKoni were already in the area of the escarpment before the arrival of the Pedi (a northern Sotho group), which would indicate a date of before AD 1650 for some of the settlements. Therefore the BaKoni clans were some of the earliest people to settle in what are today the Mpumalanga / Limpopo Provinces. They most likely followed a central route of migration out of northern KwaZulu-Natal, becoming “Sotho-ized” along the way.²³



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 18th and 19th century the Pedi ruled an extensive area that included areas surrounding Lydenburg / Burgersfort, although Swazi and Ndebele groups also occupied some parts of the region – mainly in caves referred to as refuge sites. They were shortly followed by the first European settlers in the area.²⁴

²² E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18

²³ Pelsaer A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooddraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 10.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

Recent research has linked the LIA stone walled settlements in the Mpumalanga escarpment more specifically to the Bakoni. During the 16th and 17th 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.²⁵

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.²⁶

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 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.²⁷

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

²⁵ 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

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

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.²⁸

Pottery types which are associated with the Lydenburg / Burgersfort area settlements, are named Mzonjani (EIA), Doornkop (EIA), Klingbeil (Middle Iron Age and Marateng from the Late Iron Age).²⁹

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.

³⁰

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.³¹

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.³²

Beads were a trade commodity and were obtained via long distance trade routes in exchange 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.³³

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.³⁴

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

²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

²⁹ Huffman T.N., 2007, *Handbook to the Iron Age* pp 127-207.

³⁰ Pelsler A., 2014, *A Report on the first phase archaeological investigations on LIA stone walled sites located on portion 7 of the farm Rooddraai 34JT to be impacted by commercial and residential developments: sites RDR 7 & 1C*, p. 12.

³¹ *Ibid.*, p 13.

³² *Ibid.*, p 13.

³³ *Ibid.*, p.13.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p.13.

chief (except for Sekwati who managed to escape).³⁵

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 19th 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. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo.³⁶ 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 to cannibalism.³⁷ 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 1825.³⁸

- **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 (currently Maputo).³⁹ Trichardt met the Pedi chief Sekwati.⁴⁰ 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, would form the border between the Pedi and the *Voortrekkers*, and peace followed for a while.⁴¹

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.

³⁵ E-mail reply: JP Cilliers 2009-06-18

³⁶ Van Warmelo, N.J., 1935, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 111.

³⁷ Van Warmelo, N.J., 1944. *A genealogy of the house of Sekhukhune*, p.47.

³⁸ Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, pp.10-28.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

⁴⁰ Theal, G.M., *History of South Africa from 1873 – 1884*, Cape Town, p. 257.

⁴¹ De Jongh, M, (ed)., 1987. Swatini. p.29.

The stressful relationship between the Pedi and Europeans since 1850, continued throughout the 1860's and 70's which lead to war. Sekukune, who took the reign after Sekwati in 1861, played an important role in this. After the Swazi attack on Sekukune in 1869, he moved his capital from *Thaba Mosego* to *Tshate*.⁴²

The relationship between the Pedi and the Afrikaners 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.⁴³

A plan had to be constructed to secure the borders of Sekukuni's country, by placing volunteer mercenaries at the Steelpoort River. A fort was built within the junction of the Steelpoort and Spekboom Rivers – Fort Burgers, named after President Burgers. The fort was manned by the Lydenburg Volunteer Corps who were placed under the command of Captain von Schlickmann.⁴⁴

On 29 September 1876, Sekukuni attacked Fort Burgers with the object of recovering cattle supposedly looted from the Bapedi. They killed two of the volunteers.⁴⁵ A monument currently at the site, marks graves of the *Voortrekker* era, and the location of the historic site of Fort Burgers is directly towards the west of this monument.⁴⁶

The British under Shepstone took over the Transvaal on 12 April 1877. At first Sekukune 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 Sekukune's son and heirs were killed. Sekukune fled to a cave in the Leolo mountains, but was later captured and taken prisoner. He was succeeded by Mampuru (Middelburg district) and Ramoroko (Sekukuneland). Sekukune was killed in 1882 by Mampuru, after his release.⁴⁷

Several forts were erected to protect the Europeans during this time. Fort Burgers was only one of these. The area around Fort Burgers, eventually became known as the town of "Burgersfort".⁴⁸

⁴² Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p.31.

⁴³ De Jongh, M, (ed)., 1987. Swatini. p.30.

⁴⁴ <http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol1025hk.html> :3

⁴⁵ <http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol1025hk.html> :3

⁴⁶ Rowe, C., August 2009, *Phase 1 Archaeological / Heritage Impact assessment: Sections 1a, 1b, 2, 3 & 4 of Leeuwvallei 297KT*, Burgersfort, Limpopo Province;

⁴⁷ De Jongh, M, (ed)., 1987. Swatini. p.30.

⁴⁸ Bergh J., 2009. *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika*, p. 31.

Very little contemporary research has been done on prehistoric African settlements in the study area, although one Middle Stone Age site (Bushman Rock Shelter, Ohrigstad dating ca 35000 BP)⁴⁹ and one Early Iron Age site (the Lydenburg Heads site at Sterkspruit dating to ca 900 AD), was professionally excavated.⁵⁰ Pelsler, Cilliers and Rowe have conducted archaeological excavations close to the study area, which concentrated mainly on the Late Iron Age or historic periods.

Several early ethnographical and linguistic studies by early researchers such as D. Ziervogel and N.J. Van Warmelo, revealed that the study area was mainly inhabited by the Sotho groups, and later Tsonga and Swazi, from before the 18th century.^{51 52 53} (See Map 1: 1935: Map of Van Warmelo). When concentrating on ethnographical history, it is important to include a slightly wider geographical area in order for it to make sense. Van Warmelo based his 1935 survey of *Bantu Tribes of South Africa* on the amount of taxpayers in an area. The survey does not include the extended households of each taxpayer, so it was impossible to actually indicate how many people were living in one area.⁵⁴

The Swazi under Mswati II (1845), commenced large scale raids on the prosperous tribal lands to the north of Swaziland. During their northern expansion they forced the local inhabitants out of Swaziland, or absorbed them.⁵⁵ There is evidence of resistance, but the Eastern Sotho groups who lived in the northern parts of Swaziland, moved mainly northwards.⁵⁶ This appears to have taken place towards the end of the 18th century.⁵⁷

Northern Sotho:

The Pedi (who had their roots in the baKgatla, near the current Pretoria) moved under Thobele (who was banished from the Kgatla) to Sekukuneland in ca 1650, where they settled alongside the baKoni. There was initially peace, but soon the Koni had to submit to the Pedi. In time, the Pedi also ruled over the baRoka, baTau, Matlala, baMohlala, and others. They ruled over the whole of Lydenburg, Pilgrim's Rest, Middelburg and Polokwane (Pietersburg) districts.⁵⁸ Van Warmelo mentioned that the south-eastern

⁴⁹ Voight, E., 1981, *Guide to the Archaeological sites in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal*, p 115.

⁵⁰ M.M. Van der Ryst., *Die Ystertydperk*, in J.S. Bergh (red.), *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid Afrika: Die vier Noordelike Provinsies*. p. 97.

⁵¹ Rowe, C., 2014, Excavations report Leeuwvallei, LB/3.

⁵² N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. pp. 90-92 & 111.

⁵³ H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p.16.

⁵⁴ N.J. van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p.9.

⁵⁵ A.C. Myburgh, *The Tribes of Barberton District*, p. 10.

⁵⁶ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p. 111.

⁵⁷ H. S. Webb, *The Native Inhabitants of the Southern Lowveld*, in *Lowveld Regional Development Association, The South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld*. p. 14

⁵⁸ De Jongh, M, (ed)., 1987. Swatini. p.28

sector of the Northern Sotho groups had other tribes that belonged to them from ancient times such as the baKoni.⁵⁹

Swazi

The Swazi people descend from the southern Bantu (Nguni) who migrated from central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.⁶⁰ 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.⁶¹

Tsonga groups: The Nhlangu and Tšhangana

The Nhlangu and Tšhangana (also generally known as the Shangaan-Tsonga)⁶² form part of the larger Tsonga group of which the original group occupied the whole of Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa), and it has been recorded that by 1554, they were already living around the Delagoa Bay area (Maputo).⁶³ They fled from the onslaughts of the Zulu (Nguni) nation from the Natal area, and great numbers of emigrants sought safety in the "Transvaal" as recently as the 19th century, especially in the greater Pilgrim's Rest district (including the study area that we are concerned with). The Tsonga also moved west from Mozambique into the "Transvaal". They have never formed large powerful tribes but were mostly always subdivided into loosely-knit units, and absorbed under the protection of whichever chief would give them land.⁶⁴ They were originally of Nguni origin.⁶⁵ The term "Shangaan" is commonly employed to refer to all members of the Tsonga division.⁶⁶

- **History of Burgersfort**

Witgatboom is located on the southern outskirts of Burgersfort, which is located in the Spekboom River valley at the edge of the Bushveld Complex. The town was established around a hexagonal fort that was built in 1876 during the second war against the baPedi, Chief Sekhukune, the British and the Boers. The

⁵⁹ Van Warmelo, N.J., 1935, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. p.114.

⁶⁰ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swaziland> p.1.

⁶¹ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 83.

⁶² M. De Jongh (ed)., *Swatini*, p. 24.

⁶³ N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

⁶⁴ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, pp. 90-91.

⁶⁵ N.J. Van Warmelo, Grouping and Ethnic History, in Schapera I., *The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa. An Ethnographical survey*, p. 55.

⁶⁶ N.J. Van Warmelo, *A Preliminary Survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*, p. 92

town was named after the South African President T.F. Burgers. Today, Burgersfort is an important contributor in terms of platinum mining.⁶⁷

C. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed project will involve the following:

- Approximately 62ha are earmarked for the proposed residential and business development, including a farm road network for access.

The area is mainly natural land with a sand quarry in the north – western section. The farm Witgatboom is situated west of the Spekboom River. The 1911 map and 2002 topographical map of Burgersfort revealed no historic black settlements in this section (see maps 3 & 4).⁶⁸ The study area was rocky and against a low hill in the northern section. There are two drainage lines of which the Tshipapedi is roughly in the centre, and an unnamed drainage line forming the southern boundary of the study area. The section between the drainage lines was flat and even, without any rocky outcrops. The entire area was previously disturbed by recent human settlement. According to the owner the people left the area during the late 1960's and natural vegetation has largely established itself on the property in many sections.

The northern half of the property up to the Tshipapedi drainage line was situated on a low rocky hill with dense vegetation cover. Visibility in this section was restricted although the grass cover was still low and the stone foundations were visible. The southern section from the Tshipapedi drainage line to the unnamed drainage line, which forms the southern boundary of the study area, was flat and even and visibility was good (see google image, map 5).

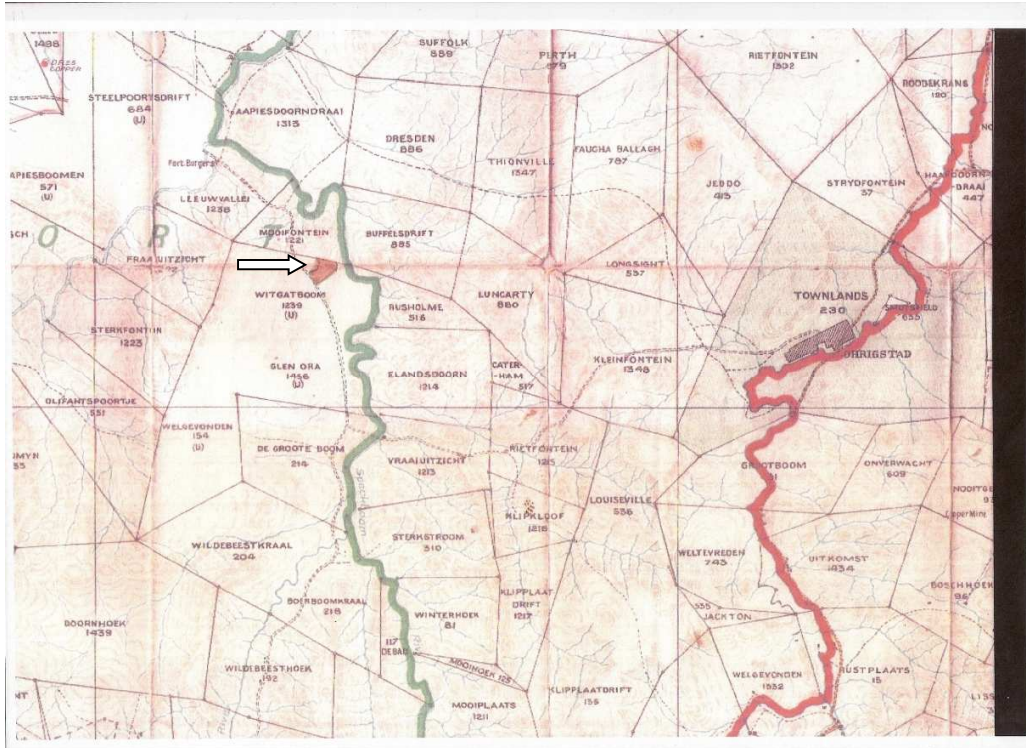
The general topography of the larger study area consists of the valley slopes to the west of the Spekboom River and the Tshipapedi Stream (drainage line) which is a tributary of the Spekboom River and flows from west to east. The Spekboom River forms the valley bottom to the east. The Morole Mountain is a prominent topographic feature (off-site) to the west.

The soil found in this veld unit is mostly shallow and rocky (Glenrosa or Mispah soil forms). The plains consist of sandy alluvial soils whilst the higher lying areas are rocky and have shallow soils. The vegetation associated with this landscape is open to dense woodland and associated shrub and grass layers. Moderate to steep wooded slopes and deeply incised ravines may be encountered. On a local scale the study area is classified as *Ohrigstad Mountain Bushveld*.⁶⁹

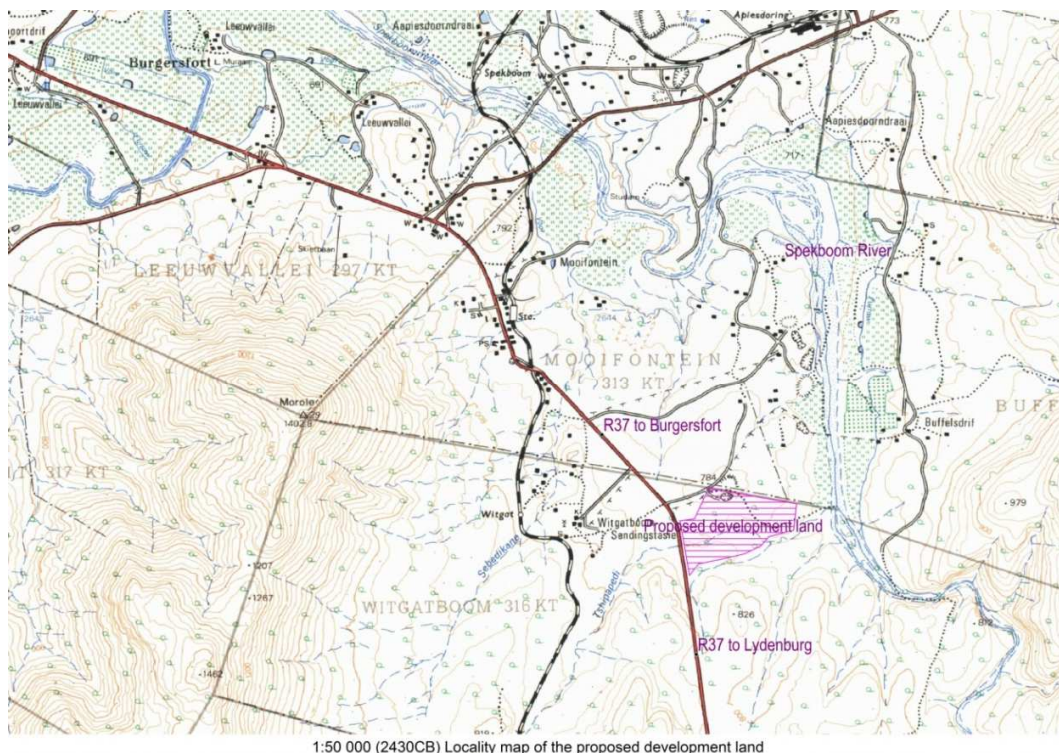
⁶⁷ <http://www.sa-venues.com/attractionsmpl/burgersfort.pnf>.

⁶⁸ Map: 1911 Topographical Map: Ohrigstad no. 14.

⁶⁹ Van der Walt, D., 2015, Terrestrial Biodiversity report for mixed township development, remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT, Burgersfort, Limpopo Province, pp. 7-9.



MAP 3: 1911 Topographical map. The study area is indicated in red (see arrow).

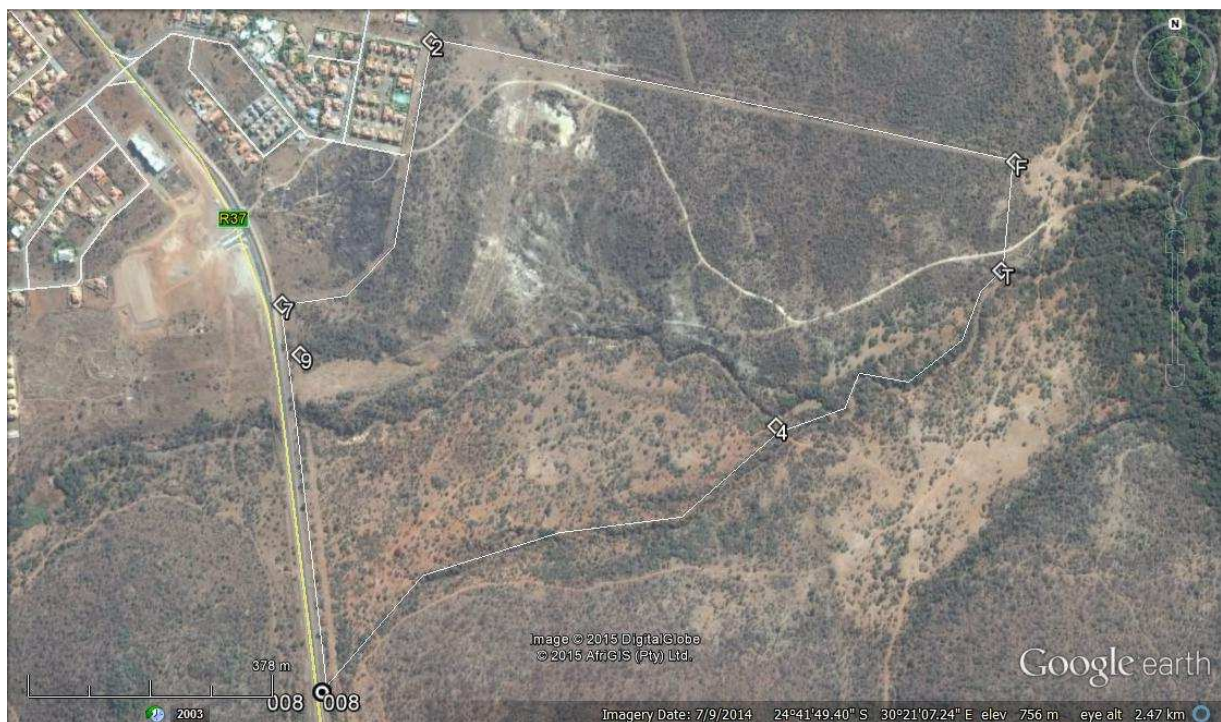


MAP 4: 2002 Topographical Map: 2430CB, BURGERSFORT, indicates the study area.

The habitat and vegetation can be described as medium tall closed woodland characterized by several species of *Acacia*. The following species were recorded frequently: *Acacia grandicornuta*, *Acacia karroo* and *Acacia nigrescens*. Other commonly found species are *Euphorbia tirucalli*, *Terminalia prunioides*, and *Dichrostachys cinerea*.⁷⁰

D. LOCALITY

The proposed project site is located on the *remainder of the farm WITGATBOOM 316KT*. It is located on the R37 between Mashishing (Lydenburg) and Burgersfort, directly on the southern outskirts of the town. The entire farm was previously disturbed by recent settlements. The farm was bought by the current owner, Mr. Nel's family in 1973 from a Mr. Van Rhyn. At this time the recent settlement were already abandoned. The disturbance by recent human settlement is however clearly visible.



Map. 5: The study area is situated on the outskirts of Burgersfort, on the eastern side of the R37, between Lydenburg and Burgersfort.

The study area is situated on Topographical map, 1:50 000, 2430CB, BURGERSFORT, which is in the Limpopo Province. This area falls under the jurisdiction of the Greater Sekhukune District Municipality, and the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality.

⁷⁰ Van der Walt, D., 2015, Terrestrial Biodiversity report for mixed township development, remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT, Burgersfort, Limpopo Province, pp. 7-9.

- **Description of methodology:**

The 2002 topographical map, 2430CB, BURGERSFORT, as well as a 1911 map (map 3), and Google images of the site (maps 3, 4 & 5), indicate the study area of the proposed development. These were intensively studied to assess the current and historically disturbed areas and infrastructure. In order to reach a comprehensive conclusion regarding the cultural heritage resources in the study area, the following methods were used:

- The desktop study consists mainly of archival sources studied on distribution patterns of early African groups who settled in the area since the 17th century, and which have been observed in past and present ethnographical research and studies.
- Literary sources, books and government publications, which were available on the subject, have been consulted, in order to establish relevant information.
- Several specialists currently working in the field of anthropology and archaeology have also been consulted on the subject.

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

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

- The study area (total of 62ha), which are applied for, is recently disturbed land, which belongs to Mr. Hennie Nel (Platsak PTY Ltd).
- A site visit with the owner has taken place and features of interest were pointed out during the visit.
- The fieldwork and survey was conducted extensively with two people on foot. Tracks and paths criss-cross the farm and were mainly used to access areas (See Appendix 1).
- The terrain between the two drainage lines was mostly flat, even, accessible and visibility was good. The northern part was situated against a rocky hill, and vegetation was denser. Visibility was more restricted in this section.
- 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 might be impacted upon by the footprint, was done within the framework provided by the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 (1999);
- Personal communication with relevant stakeholders on the specific study area, were held, such as the owner, Mr. Nel⁷¹, and environmental practitioner, Mr. Danie van der Walt.⁷²

⁷¹ Personal information: Mr. H. Nel, 2015-02-07.

⁷² Personal information: Mr. Danie van der Walt, 2015-02-06 / 2015-02-13.

- GPS co-ordinates were used to locate the perimeters and any heritage features within the study area (Co-ordinates provided by AFRIKA ENVIRO & BIOLOGY):

GPS CO-ORDINATES		
Site Number	South	East
1	S 24° 41' 32.42"	E 30° 20' 56.72"
2	S 24° 41' 38.45"	E 30° 21' 30.45"
3	S 24° 41' 44.32"	E 30° 21' 29.70"
4	S 24° 41' 49.77"	E 30° 21' 21.34"
5	S 24° 42' 06.00"	E 30° 20' 50.80"
6	S 24° 41' 46.33"	E 30° 20' 47.76"
7	S 24° 41' 45.75"	E 30° 20' 51.31"
8	S 24° 41' 43.01"	E 30° 20' 54.42"

E. DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFIED SITES

The owner, Mr. Nel is requesting a residential and business development on the *remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT*, on the southern outskirts of Burgersfort. An area of 62ha is proposed to be developed for the proposed development (see Appendix 2 for the Concept Layout Plan).

The study area is on the R37 from Lydenburg to Burgersfort, and west of the Spekboom river (see map 7 Google image of wider area). The 1911 topographical map (see map 3) does not indicate any historic settlements in the study area. The 1935 map by Van Warmelo indicated the groups living in the area as mainly Sotho (see map 1).

The study area is indicated in maps 4 & 5. The terrain was even and flat between the two drainage lines and visibility was good. The northern section was situated against a rocky hill and the vegetation was dense and visibility more restricted (see fig. 1 - 8). The sections were however accessible by many existing paths and roads, and was surveyed on foot.

No archaeological material of significance was identified. The entire property show signs of recent human habitation and is covered with deteriorated mud and stone foundations. Upper and lower grinders, clay potsherds, rusted iron, tin, glass and bottles are associated with these settlements which people inhabited up to the late 1960's (Appendix 3). No graves were identified on the study area. A grave site towards the south was identified but will not be affected by the proposed development. The recent square settlements and potsherds, upper and lower grinders and fragments of glass etc. which were associated with the settlements, do not have any historic or cultural value which will be impacted upon by the proposed development (see map 6: Recent heritage features).



Map 6: Recent cultural and other features on the study area. The highlighted areas indicate the extent of the recent settlements, as well as the quarry area.



Map 7: Google image: Witgatboom is located on the outskirts of the Burgersfort.

A sand quarry towards the north-western section (Fig. 36), as well as the ESKOM servitude, was investigated but revealed no archaeological material. All comments should be studied in conjunction with the maps, figures and appendices, which indicate the study area, and which corresponds with the summary below. Photographs in Appendix 3 show the general view of the study area. The recent square structures and associated material, were of no archaeological significance.

Heritage features (See Map 6):

Heritage Feature	Description / Comments	Site Location
Rocky hill section above access road: Fig. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.		
A	Recent Square house foundation: Fig. 9 & 10. Perimeter wall: Fig. 11. Upper grinder. Upper grinder: Fig. 12. The foundation and perimeter walls are deteriorated and damaged by age and road infrastructure. Many upper grinders and pieces of iron are visible .	S 24° 41' 46.8" E 30° 21' 17.9" Elev: 735m
B	Upper grinder. Upper grinder with broken edge.	S 24° 41' 45.0" E 30° 21' 17.8" Elev: 741m
C	Recent square foundation: Fig. 13. Upper grinder. Broken Lower grinder: Fig. 25. Upper grinder. The foundations are badly deteriorated. Pieces of rusted iron are visible throughout the area.	S 24° 41' 44.8" E 30° 21' 18.0" Elev: 743m
D	Recent square foundations: Fig. 14. Rusted Iron. Upper grinder.	S 24° 41' 43.4" E 30° 21' 18.6" Elev: 745m
E	Recent square foundation: Fig. 15. Upper grinder.	S 24° 41' 42.4" E 30° 21' 16.5" Elev: 747m
F	Recent square foundation: Fig. 16. Broken upper grinder. Upper grinder. Broken upper grinder. The foundations are badly deteriorated and scattered. Many	S 24° 41' 40.9" E 30° 21' 16.1" Elev: 763m

	upper grinders are associated with recent settlement.	
G	Recent square foundations: Fig. 17. Terrace walls: Fig. 17. The walls and foundations are very indistinct and deteriorated.	S 24° 41' 38.5" E 30° 21' 16.0" Elev: 767m
H	Deteriorated recent stone wall.	S 24° 41' 36.4" E 30° 21' 16.2" Elev: 771m
I	Deteriorated recent square foundations.	S 24° 41' 39.7" E 30° 21' 20.3" Elev: 760m
J	Recent square foundations (calcrete material): Fig. 19. Upper grinder: Fig. 20. Iron and glass: Fig. 21. Terrace walls: Fig. 22. Long straight wall: Fig. 23. Broken upper grinder. Upper grinder. Plough blade. Bicycle frame and badge. 2 x Upper grinders: Fig. 24. Extensive area with many square units and straight walls are visible in this section. Upper grinders, rusted iron, grass and cast iron are scattered in the area. The long straight wall was built in the traditional way of two outer rows of stones filled in with smaller stones.	S 24° 41' 40.6" E 30° 21' 22.0" Elev: 750m
Section between the access road and Tshipapedi drainage line: Fig. 7 & 8.		
K	Recent straight stone foundations: Fig. 26. The foundations are badly deteriorated and indistinct, close to the edge of the Tshipapedi drainage line: Fig. 8.	S 24° 41' 44.0" E 30° 21' 27.7" Elev: 742m
L	Recent large settlement with stone foundations: Fig. 27 & 29. Lower grinder (broken): Fig. 28. Rusted iron, cast iron, glass. Circular stone foundation: Fig. 31. Upper grinder. Broken upper grinder. The area next to the Tshipapedi drainage line was a large recent settlement. Some of the wooden fence posts are still visible.	S 24° 41' 46.5" E 30° 21' 23.9" Elev: 734m

M	Recent mud and stone wall of approximately 400 – 600mm high: Fig. 29. Small lower grinder with utility marks: Fig. 30. The foundation stones are scattered throughout this section.	S 24° 41' 44.0" E 30° 21' 27.7" Elev: 742m
Section between the two drainage lines: Fig. 8, 38 & 39.		
N	Upper grinder: Fig. 40. Clay potsherds: Fig. 41. Rough clay potsherds with no decoration or rims were identified.	S 24° 41' 50.6" E 30° 21' 09.2" Elev: 755m
O	Recent square foundations: Fig. 42. Baked bricks. Rusted iron, wire, cast iron, glass bottles: Fig. 44. The foundations in this section are extremely deteriorated and indistinct.	S 24° 41' 55.3" E 30° 21' 05.9" Elev: 765m
P	Recent round foundations: Fig. 43. Upper grinder. There are foundation stones scattered throughout the area, with many upper grinders, broken lower grinders and rusted pieces of iron, cast iron and glass visible.	S 24° 41' 55.3" E 30° 21' 05.9" Elev: 765m
Q	Upper grinder.	S 24° 41' 56.1" E 30° 21' 09.0" Elev: 766m
R	Upper grinder. Shallow lower grinder: Fig. 46.	S 24° 41' 56.8" E 30° 21' 01.1" Elev: 772m
S	Recent square foundations: Fig. 45 & 48. Lower grinder – shallow. 3 x Upper grinders: Fig. 47. Upper grinder. Upper grinder. Lower grinder (partly buried in soil): Many foundation stones are scattered throughout a large area. Recent cultural material is also visible in the entire section.	S 24° 41' 57.0" E 30° 20' 57.6" Elev: 773m
T	Recent square foundations (damaged by access road): Fig. 49. Upper grinder. Pieces of rusted iron. Many upper and broken lower grinders as well as recent cultural material are visible in this section.	S 24° 41' 57.1" E 30° 20' 57.1" Elev: 775m

U	Upper grinder. 3 x broken lower grinders: Fig. 50.	S 24° 41' 55.3" E 30° 21' 52.2" Elev: 777m
V	Recent straight stone wall: Fig. 51.	S 24° 41' 50.5" E 30° 20' 54.5" Elev: 772m
W	Recent square foundations: Fig. 33. Lower grinder (shallow): Fig. 34.	S 24° 41' 47.8" E 30° 21' 13.9" Elev: 767m
X	Broken upper grinder: Fig. 35.	S 24° 41' 43.9" E 30° 21' 11.2" Elev: 771m
Y	Broken upper grinder & Upper grinder: Fig. 37.	S 24° 41' 37.1" E 30° 21' 05.0" Elev: 783m

The study area was surveyed on foot for any remains of archaeological or historical nature. The terrain was mostly flat and even between the two drainage lines in the southern section, but rocky north of the Tshipapedi drainage line, where vegetation cover was mostly dense. Paths and roads made the sections accessible for the survey. A sand quarry was investigated for any visible archaeological remains (see fig. 36). The soil found in this veld unit is mostly shallow and rocky (Glenrosa or Mispah soil forms). The plains consist of sandy alluvial soils whilst the higher lying areas are rocky and have shallow soils.⁷³

Most of the study area was covered with recent square stone foundations, which is currently badly deteriorated and indistinct. These settlements were not indicated on the 1911 or 2002 topographical maps (Map 3 & 4). Artefacts such as upper and lower grinders, rough red clay potsherds, glass, bottles, rusted iron and tins were found in association with the settlements. The use of upper and lower grinders as well as clay pots together with iron and glass, is still a common practise in rural areas. No graves were identified in the study area but a burial site was identified towards the south, but will not be impacted upon by the proposed development (see map 6).

⁷³ Van der Walt, D., 2015, Terrestrial Biodiversity report for mixed township development, remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT, Burgersfort, Limpopo Province, pp. 7-9.

F. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

ACT	COMPO- NENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present – foundations are of a recent nature.	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	Clay potsherds, upper and lower grinders were associated with recent settlement and therefore of no significance.	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

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

Context		
Urban environmental context	No	NA
Rural environmental context	No	NA
Natural environmental context	No	Recent disturbed area

Context		
Formal protection (NHRA)		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
Other		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	NA
Is the property part of a conservation area of special area in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<i>Property features and characteristics</i>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	Large sections of the farm was recent human settlements up to the late 1960's, and therefore disturbed (see highlighted areas in map 6).
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	NA
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	Yes	The northern part is on a rocky slope.
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	Yes	The Tshipapedi stream / drainage line in the middle of the study area and another drainage line which forms the southern boundary.

<i>Heritage resources on the property</i>		
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA

Heritage resources on the property		
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
General protection (NHRA)		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Palaeontological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA
Graves or burial grounds (S. 36)	No	NA
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 resourcec ategory	ELE- MENT S	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK
		Histo rical	Rare	Sci enti fic	Typi cal	Tech- nolog ical	Aes thetic	Pers on / com munit y	Land mark	Mate rial con dition	Sust aina bility	

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Foundations are of recent nature
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
Historical settlement/ townscapes	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Clay potsherds – without decoration or shape; Upper grinders; Lower grinders Associated with recent settlement
Grave / burial grounds	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Graves fall outside the study area

NHRA	ELE-	INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE										RISK	
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 significance		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	No	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-

NHRA S (3)2	SITE	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE		Impact management	Motivation
		Cultural significance			
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	No	No	No	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	None	None	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

ACT	COMPONENT	IMPLICATION	RELEVANCE	COMPLIANCE
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA
NEMA	EIA regulations	Activities requiring an EIA	Development is subject to an EIA	HIA is part of EIA

G. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

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

- **Evaluation methods**

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

- **National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed, and contributes to redressing past inequities.⁷⁴ It promotes previously neglected research areas.

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

(a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;

(c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;

(g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

(h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.⁷⁵

⁷⁴National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. p. 2.

⁷⁵National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999. pp. 12-14

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

Site no	Cultural Heritage features	Significance	Measures of mitigation
Clay potsherds	Associated with recent stone and clay foundation: No archaeological sites near or in the vicinity	No significance	They are associated with recent settlement and not believed to have any significance and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.
Upper & Lower grinders	Associated with recent stone and clay foundations: No archaeological sites near or in the vicinity	No significance	They are associated with recent settlement and not believed to have any significance and will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.

- **Field rating:**

The field rating is viewed in terms of the NHRA (25, 1999) sections 3 (3) a, c, g & h.

The recent square stone foundations are of no significance. The archaeological material (potsherds, upper and lower grinders), which were identified during the survey, were all associated with recent settlement and not believed to have any significance which will be negatively impacted upon by the proposed agricultural development. There is no cultural value to these objects which could link them as of outstanding importance to a certain community (NHRA 3.3a); or its potential to yield social, cultural or spiritual information or to link it to a particular community which may contribute to an understanding of South Africa's cultural heritage (NHRA 3.3c & g).

No archaeological material was identified in the study area, and from a heritage perspective, development may continue.

H. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

The remainder of the farm Witgatboom 316KT, on the outskirts of Burgersfort was recently disturbed by human settlement up to the late 1960's.

The archaeological material found on the property (eg. fragments of clay potsherds, upper and lower grinders) were found in association with recent clay and stone foundations, and they are not believed to

have any historic or cultural value. These features are not close to or in the vicinity of any visible archaeological sites and no Late Iron Age stone walls were identified.

No graves were identified in the study area.

Archaeological material or graves are not always visible during a field survey and therefore some significant material may only be revealed during development and other activities of the proposed development.

It is recommended that the owner be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the construction phase. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Adansonia Heritage Consultants state that there are no reasons which may prevent the proposed development to continue. All earthmoving activities must be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and should any archaeological material be found, an assessment must be done.

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

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