

# **PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT 92 IVYDALE SMALLHOLDINGS POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CAPRICORN DISTRICT LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

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## **Executive Summary**

This report addresses the development of a proposed residential development on Plot 92 on the farm Sterkloop 688 LS.

- A literature study and pedestrian survey of the project area was undertaken;
- The report identified the remains of a Late Iron Age archaeological site;
- The site has the potential of providing important historical and scientific data.
- The likelihood of human burials on the site is a key risk for the development

As mitigation, the report recommends the following:

- A Phase 2 archaeological assessment be undertaken – the aim should include, but not limited to the drawing of a site plan, recovering of archaeological material for analysis, an attempt to date the site and to place it in its correct period and cultural sequence and lastly to screen the terrain for human remains;
- Undertake a brief heritage assessment of the dwelling that is probably 60 years or older.

From a heritage resources management perspective there is no objection towards the proposed development on condition that the recommendations are implemented.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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### **1.1 Introduction**

The author was contracted by Linked Thoughts Consulting to undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of Plot 92, Ivydale Smallholdings for the proposed residential development of the property.

### **1.2 Project location and description**

The proposed development is located at 23° 55.498'S 29° 26.291'E on the farm Sterkloop 688 LS, about 2.7km south-west of the Polokwane CBD. The property is surrounded by other developments which include two schools, a bird and snake park, a church and some light industries. Three residential units exist on the property. The proposed new development will consist of a formal residential complex.

### **1.3 Terms of reference and scope of work**

Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment and submit a specialist report, which addresses the following:

- A desktop and field assessment to gather information on Heritage resources within the proposed development site;
- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance; and
- Identifying key uncertainties and risks.

## **2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

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### **The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA)**

This Act established the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and makes provision for the establishment of Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities (PHRA). The Act makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessments for various categories of development as determined by Section 38. It also provides for the grading of heritage resources (Section 7) and the implementation of a three-tier level of responsibilities and functions for heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial authorities and Local authorities, depending on the grade of the Heritage resources (Section 8).

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance in terms of the general protection of heritage resources:

#### **Historical remains**

**Section 34(1)** No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

### **Archaeological remains**

**Section 35(3)** Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

**Subsection 35(4)** No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist with the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

**Subsection 35(5)** When the responsible heritage resources authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or palaeontological site is under way, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resources management procedures in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may-

- (a) serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order;
- (b) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not an archaeological or palaeontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
- (c) if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph (a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection (4); and
- (d) recover the costs of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or palaeontological site is located or from the person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two weeks of the order being served.

**Subsection 35(6)** The responsible heritage resources authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or palaeontological site or meteorite is situated; serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or meteorite.

### **Burial grounds and graves**

**Subsection 36(3)**

- (a) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-
- (c) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, 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; or
- (d) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

**Subsection 36(6)** Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

### **Culture Resource Management**

**Subsection 38(1)** Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development\* ...

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

\***‘development’** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place\*;
- (e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

\***‘place’** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure\* ...”

\***‘structure’** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground ...”

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

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### **3.1 Sources of information**

The main sources of information are a literature review and a pedestrian reconnaissance of the proposed project area. In addition, Google earth and the Topographical map 2329 DC was studied.

### **3.2 Limitations**

No limitations were experienced with regard to the field survey on the property. It must be noted that most archaeological material is subterranean and may have been missed.

### **3.3 Categories of significance**

The significance of heritage sites is ranked into the following categories.

No significance: sites that do not require mitigation.
Low significance: sites, which <i>may</i> require mitigation.
Medium significance: sites, which require mitigation.
High significance: sites, which must not be disturbed at all.

The significance of specifically an archaeological site is based on the amount of deposit, the integrity of the context, the kind of deposit and the potential to help answer present research questions. Historical structures are defined by Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, while other historical and cultural significant sites, places and features, are generally determined by community preferences.

### 3.4 Terminology

Early Stone Age:	Predominantly the Oldowan artefacts and Acheulian hand axe industry complex dating to + 1Myr yrs – 250 000 yrs. before present.
Middle Stone Age:	Various lithic industries in SA dating from ± 250 000 yrs. - 22 000 yrs. before present.
Late Stone Age:	The period from ± 22 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.
Early Iron Age:	Most of the first millennium AD
Middle Iron Age:	10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD
Late Iron Age:	14 <sup>th</sup> century to colonial period. <i>The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.</i>
Phase 1 assessments:	Scoping surveys to establish the presence of and to evaluate heritage resources in a given area
Phase 2 assessments:	In depth culture resources management studies which could include major archaeological excavations, detailed site surveys and mapping / plans of sites, including historical / architectural structures and features. Alternatively, the sampling of sites by collecting material, small test pit excavations or auger sampling could be undertaken.
Sensitive:	Often refers to graves and burial sites, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. <i>Sensitive</i> may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRIS	South African Heritage Resources Information System

## 4. BASELINE INFORMATION

Except for the general historical research by Changuion (1986) and Loubser (1994) who researched the Ndebele archaeology of the area, no other significant research was conducted in the project area. The baseline information is therefore generic.

## 4.1 The Stone Age

The Stone Age covers most of southern Africa and the earliest consist of the Oldowan and Acheul artefacts assemblages. Oldowan tools are regularly referred to as “choppers”. Oldowan artefacts are associated with *Homo habilis*, the first true humans. In South Africa definite occurrences have been found at the sites of Sterkfontein and Swartkrans. Here they are dated to between 1.7 and 2 million years old. Bearing in mind the proximity of the Makapans Valley palaeontological site about 32km south-west of the project area it is possible that they may occur here. This was followed by the Acheulian technology from about 1.4 million years ago which introduced a new level of complexity. The large tools that dominate the Acheulian artefact assemblages range in length from 100 to 200 mm or more. Collectively they are called bifaces because they are normally shaped by flaking on both faces. In plan view, they tend to be pear-shape and are broad relative to their thickness. Most bifaces are pointed and are classified as handaxes, but others have a wide cutting end and are termed cleavers. The Acheulian design persisted for more than a million years and only disappeared about 250 000 years ago. Here, too the Makapans Valley Site is referenced; especially the Cave of Hearths.

The change from Acheulian with their characteristic bifaces, handaxes and cleavers to Middle Stone Age (MSA), which are characterized by flake industries, occurred about 250 000 years ago and ended about 30 000 – 22 000 years ago. For the most part the MSA is associated with modern humans; *Homo sapiens*. MSA remains are found in open spaces where they are regularly exposed by erosion as well as in caves. Characteristics of the MSA are flake blanks in the 40 – 100 mm size range struck from prepared cores, the striking platforms of the flakes reveal one or more facets, indicating the preparation of the platform before flake removal (the prepared core technique), flakes show dorsal preparation – one or more ridges or arise down the length of the flake – as a result of previous removals from the core, flakes with convergent sides (laterals) and a pointed shape, and flakes with parallel laterals and a rectangular or quadrilateral shape: these can be termed pointed and flake blades respectively. Other flakes in MSA assemblages are irregular in form. The Cave of Hearths in the Makapans Valley Site is referenced.

The change from Middle Stone Age to Later Stone Age (LSA) took place in most parts of southern Africa little more than about 20 000 years ago. It is marked by a series of technological innovations or new tools that, initially at least, were used to do much the same jobs as had been done before, but in a different way. Their introduction was associated with changes in the nature of hunter-gatherer material culture. The innovations associated with the Later Stone Age “package” of tools include rock art – both paintings and engravings, smaller stone tools, so small that the formal tools less than 25mm long are called microliths (sometimes found in the final MSA) and Bows and arrows. Rock art is an important feature of the LSA and is abundant in the Waterberg and the Makgabeng. Rock art has been recorded on the nearby Bakone Malapa Museum and at Moletji.

## 4.2 The Iron Age (Early Farming Communities)

According to the most recent archaeological cultural distribution sequences by Huffman (2007), this area falls within the distribution area of various cultural groupings originating out of both the Urewe Tradition (eastern stream of migration) and the Kalundu Tradition (western stream of migration). The facies that may be present are:

Urewe Tradition:	Kwale branch	Mzonjani facies AD 450 – 750 (Early Iron Age)
	Moloko branch	Icon facies AD 1300 - 1500 (Late Iron Age)
Kalundu Tradition:	Happy Rest sub-branch	Doornkopfacies AD 750 - 1000 (Early Iron Age)



Eilandfacies AD 1000 – 1300 (Middle Iron Age)  
Klingbeil facies AD 1000 - 1200 (Middle Iron Age)  
Letaba facies AD 1600 - 1840 (Late Iron Age)

The Letaba facies is associated with the Ndebele people of the Polokwane area (Loubser 1994).

Stone walled sites are common in the Polokwane area. Three different types of sites associated with stone walling are found in the area, which Loubser (1994:76) numbered as Group I, II and III sites. Stonewalled sites were normally situated on or close to rocky outcrops, due to the need for stone (Huffman 2007:33). No stonewalling is associated with the Early Iron Age (EIA) and all the stonewalled sites on the Polokwane plateau date to the Late Iron Age (LIA), from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

### **Group I**

These sites are situated on prominent hilltops and consist of an array of sporadic walls, forming terraces, surrounding an area of relatively large enclosures in the centre. Walls were constructed of equal-sized granite blocks, or overturned builders forming a single line. Walls were inventively incorporated into the natural topography and they often appear discontinuous from above. Some terraces were formed by middens heaped up against the rocks, while others were purposefully quarried (Loubser 1994:76). This type of site appears to have been inhabited by Melora Nguni, as similar walling on the saddle of Bambo Hill, at the Bakoni Malapa Museum, is regarded as characteristic of Melora walling (Huffman. pers. comm., 2007).

### **Group II**

This group of sites is located at the base of hills or on gradual rises between valleys, generally facing north. Each site consists of orderly concentric units, with a perimeter wall around a corridor leading to a central enclosure, with smaller ones around it. Walls are mostly of quartzite with granite and milky quartz was also used. Walls comprise two outer faces with stone and rubble infill. Large ashy deposits and dense patches of vegetation are diagnostic of this type of site (Loubser 1994:76).

Similar sites are associated with Kone along the Eastern Plateau. These sites were most likely situated there due to the fact that the area falls in the mist belt and would offer some additional moisture. These sites are named Badfontein sites by Huffman (2007:444) in reference to work conducted by Collett and there are a number of these sites depicted in rock engravings in the Lydenburg area (Maggs 1995:138).

The earliest of the Group II sites, situated along the base of hills, were built in the seventeenth century and were inhabited by Ndebele and Kone people. The first such sites that were built on rises between the valleys date to AD 1838, when chief Mungali and others started to settle in these areas. Most of the Group II sites in the area lasted till 1855 when they were abandoned after the Voortrekkers moved into the area (Loubser 1994:141). These sites, which occur on the gradual rises, are bigger and contain more units than the sites along the hills. It would seem that the population of the area increased, as reflected in the size of the larger settlements. There is also evidence that the sites along the hills were still occupied after the construction of the other sites by incoming groups. This area, as elsewhere in Iron Age Africa, settlement size is linked to the power of the chief, the larger the settlement and the more units, the more powerful the chief or headman (Loubser 1994:142).

### **Group III**

These sites are an imploded and random version of Group II sites, with the perimeter wall being scalloped and linked to a series of central enclosures by straight walls. These sites are found at the base of hills and on rises such as Group II sites. Some, however, have also been located on the top of hills. Walls are similarly constructed to Group II walls, with sparse cultural deposits such as middens (Loubser 1994:76). These Group III sites appear to have been built after 1855 when the Voortrekkers took control of the area. Areas where Group II sites were located were seldom reoccupied, most likely out of reverence for the ancestral spirits. These Group III sites were occupied by minor headman with little real power and the site layout reflects the socio-economic situation of these groups during this time (Loubser 1994:143).

### **4.3 The historical landscape**

Polokwane (Pietersburg) was ultimately established in 1886, although people of European descent occupied the area since 1848 and especially after 1867 with the collapse of Schoemansdal, which was located at the base of the Soutpansberg. By then most of the organised Ndebele chieftainships had relocated away from the Polokwane area to the Mokopane area. From 1867 the general area was subdivided into farms and as the town developed, so did the need for industrialisation and the development of the local mining infrastructure (Changuion 1986).

## **5. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY**

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### **5.1 Late Iron Age**

The remains of a Late Iron Age stonewalled Group II settlement was recorded on Plot 92, which were commonly situated on a gradual rise as is discussed above. The original site had been severely damaged by uncontrolled development over the years and only those on Plot 92 remained somewhat intact. The stone walls had probably been robbed in the early years of Pietersburg Town development and used elsewhere. The foundations of the stone walls are only visible in some places (Figures 5-6) but ashy deposits with pottery and bone fragments and dung deposits (Figure 7) cover large areas between the foundations.

Regular intervals of GPS readings were taken where stone foundations are visible and plotted on Google Earth. By connecting the dots, the typical layout pattern of a Group II settlement can be seen (Figure 2). It is very similar to the well preserved archaeological remains of Ga-Maraba (Figure 3) on the farm Zandrivier 724 LS about 8km to the south-west as well as the archaeological remains at the Bakone Malapa Open Air Museum (Figure 4) approximately 7km to the south.

The site was probably part of an Ndebele village dating to the 1830s to 1850s where its culture historical remains lie buried in the soil. In addition, human burials formed part of the life of the occupants and it is highly likely that such burials will be exposed during any development.

### **5.2 The built environment**

The property contains three dwellings which are concentrated on the northern end. At least one dwelling appears to be older than 60 years, but it seems to have been patched together over the years and not regarded as significant.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Plot 92 Ivydale contains the last remains of a Late Iron Age archaeological site. The extent of the original settlement can no longer be determined. The site has the potential of providing important historical and scientific data.

In 2004, a salvage excavation was conducted by Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions on the adjacent Plot 91, which contained parts of the same original site as Plot 92. However, the authors of the subsequent report (Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions 2004) identified the cultural group as Sotho-Tswana, which is contradictory to the published data by Loubser (1994) and Huffman (2007). The report has other shortcomings, for example, there is no ceramic analysis or an attempt to reconstruct the remaining visible stonewalls features on a plan or sketch.

The likelihood of human burials on the site is a key risk for the development.

It stands to reason that the site is of scientific and historical importance where the remains on Plot 92 represent the last vestiges of an otherwise destroyed archaeological site.

## 7. EVALUATION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 7.1 Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act.

**Table 1: Significance criteria and rating**

Significance		Rating
1.	The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history (Historic and political significance)	Medium
2.	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage (Scientific significance).	Low
3.	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage (Research/scientific significance)	High
4.	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects (Scientific significance)	Low
5.	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group (Aesthetic significance)	Low
6.	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (Scientific significance)	Low
7.	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social significance)	Medium
8.	Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa (Historic significance)	None
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None

- 7.2 Section 38(3) (c) An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources.**  
The development will have a negative impact on the archaeological remains.
- 7.3 Section 38(3) (d) An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable economic benefits to be derived from the development.**  
The sustainable economic benefits most likely outweigh the significance of the heritage resources because of its disturbed nature.
- 7.4 Section 38(3) (e) The results of consultation with the communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources.**  
The development will have no direct impact on local communities.
- 7.5 Section 38(3)(f) If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development the consideration of alternatives.**  
No alternatives can be considered other than abandoning the development.
- 7.6 Section 38(3)(g) Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.**  
A Phase 2 archaeological assessment is recommended to mitigate the adverse effects of the development.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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In view of the above it is recommended that;

- A Phase 2 archaeological assessment be undertaken – the aim should include, but not limited to the drawing of a site plan, recovering of archaeological material for analysis, an attempt to date the site and to place it in its correct period and cultural sequence and lastly to screen the terrain for human remains;
- Undertake a brief heritage assessment of the dwelling that is probably 60 years or older.

From a heritage resources management perspective, there is no reason why the development may not proceed on condition that the recommendations are implemented.

## **9. REFERENCES**

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roodt'.

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## 10. MAPS AND IMAGES (Figures 1 – 15)



Figure 1. Google image of the project location – the red dots are GPS readings.



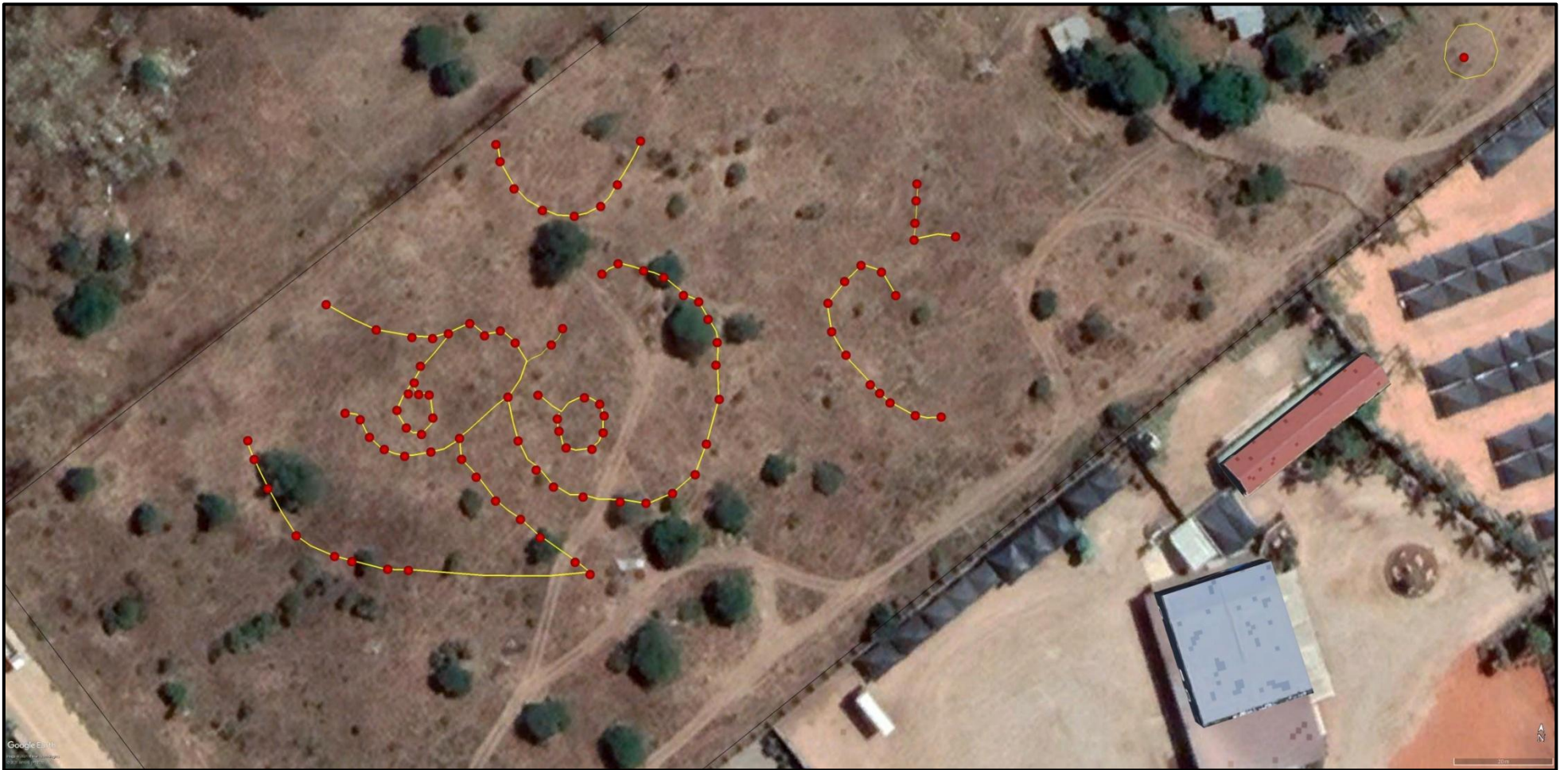


Figure 2. Google earth image of the project with stonewall foundations in yellow lines derived from plotting GPS readings.





Figure 3. Google earth image of a part of the Ga-Maraba stonewalled archaeological site arrows indicate separate family units.





Figure 4. Google earth image of a part of the stone walled unit at Bakone Malapa Museum.





Figure 5. View of a stonewall foundation on the project site (Scale 1m).





Figure 6. View of another stonewall foundation.



Figure 7. View of dung remains brought to surface by animal burrowing.





Figure 8. View of dumping on the site.



Figure 9. View from Smuts Street towards the south showing a pile where archaeological deposit exists.