

PHASE 1 HERITAGE RESOURCES SCOPING REPORT

PROPOSED ECO AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ORIGHSTAD GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

FOR: AFRICA GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (AGES)
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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The application constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

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(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

Burial grounds and graves

Section 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
- (b) 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.

Culture resource management

Section 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, ... "

The author was contracted by AGES to undertake a heritage scoping survey of the Eco-Estate and urban development on the farm Orighstad 443 KT (Refer to map, South Africa 1:50 000 2430 DA & DC). The aim was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features.

The report thus provides an overview of the heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area where development is intended. The significance of the heritage resources was assessed in terms of criteria defined in the methodology section. The impact of the proposed development on these resources is indicated and the report recommends mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize the adverse impact of the proposed development on these heritage resources.

2. METHOD

2.1 Sources of information

The source of information was primarily the field reconnaissance and referenced literary sources.

A scoping survey of the demarcated development area was undertaken on foot and by vehicle. Standard archaeological practices for observation were followed. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to disturbances, both man-made such as roads and clearings, as well as those made by natural agents such as burrowing animals and erosion. Locations of heritage remains were recorded by means of a GPS (Garmin 60). Heritage material and the general conditions on the terrain were photographed with a Panasonic Lumix Digital camera.

2.2 Limitations

The scoping survey was thorough, but limitations were experienced due to dense vegetation cover in some areas and the fact that archaeological sites are subterranean and only visible when disturbed. It is thus possible that sites have been missed.

2.3 Categories of significance

The significance of archaeological 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 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.

A crucial aspect in determining the significance and protection status of a heritage resource is often whether or not the sustainable social and economic benefits of a proposed development outweigh the conservation issues at stake. Many aspects must be taken into consideration when determining significance, such as rarity, national significance, scientific importance, cultural and religious significance, and not least, community preferences. When, for whatever reason the protection of a heritage site is not deemed necessary or practical, its research potential must be assessed and mitigated in order to gain data / information which would otherwise be lost. Such sites must be adequately recorded and sampled before being destroyed. These are generally sites graded as of low or medium significance.

2.4 Terminology

Early Stone Age: Predominantly the Acheulean 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 yr. - 30 000 yrs. before present.

Late Stone Age: The period from ± 30 000-yr. to contact period with either Iron Age farmers or European colonists.

Early Iron Age: Most of the first millennium AD

Middle Iron Age: 10th to 13th centuries AD

Late Iron Age: 14th century to colonial period. *The entire Iron Age represents the spread of Bantu speaking peoples.*

Historical: Mainly cultural remains of western influence and settlement from AD1652 onwards – mostly structures older than 60 years in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

Phase 1 assessment: 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 is required.

Sensitive: Often refers to graves and burial sites although not necessarily a heritage place, as well as ideologically significant sites such as ritual / religious places. *Sensitive* may also refer to an entire landscape / area known for its significant heritage remains.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND TERRAIN

The proposed development is situated directly east and adjacent to the town of Orighstad. The western and southern part of the demarcated area is mountainous, while the remaining part is generally undulating with some flatter sections along the drainage lines. Overgrazing has impacted on large parts of the terrain with resulting sheet erosion and bush densification. Parts of the farm are thus densely vegetated limiting surface visibility.

The eco-estate development is located mainly on the northeastern and eastern side while the urban and the commercial development on the extreme northwestern and southwestern side of the terrain. The mountainous terrain is unaffected.

4. RESULTS OF THE SCOPING SURVEY

4.1 HISTORICAL PERIOD

No historical remains of significance were noted on the site. Nevertheless, Ohriststad was already established in 1845 as only the second Voortrekker settlement north of the Vaal River. Developments may expose such early footprints and even graves that are now obscured.

4.2 GRAVES

No formal or marked graves were noted on the terrain; however there is a possibility of unmarked graves at the Iron Age sites, which could be exposed during the development.

4.3 IRON AGE REMAINS

A number of later Iron Age sites were noted on the lower lying northern and eastern part of the terrain. Most of the sites were severely disturbed and not much of them remain. The sites all contain stonewalling, even though most were damaged to the point of being almost invisible. Some small midden deposits were also noted as well as some cattle enclosures.

Site 8, closest to the entrance to the terrain is the best preserved. It still contains some good intact walling as well as some cattle enclosures and a number of grinding stones.

Site 1: S24° 44' 52.9" E30° 35' 53.2"

This site is a stone walled site, damaged and eroded with little walling remaining; it is close to the current farm buildings.

Site 2: S24° 44' 56.4" E30° 35' 58.0"

This site was identified because of clear patches in the vegetation containing grinding stones; very low pottery concentrations were also noted. It is located on the opposite side of the small stream, across from site 1.

Site 3: S24° 44'38.5" E30° 35' 38.2"

This stone walled site that is severely damaged with very little walling remaining. The site also has some remnants of midden deposits that have mostly been washed away.

Site 4: S24° 44'17.7" E30° 35' 02.9"

This site is another stone walled site in similar condition to site 3.

Site 5: S24° 44'15.7" E30° 34' 51.5"

This site is one of the better-preserved sites; it is also a stone walled complex that is not as badly damaged as most of the other sites and contains a clear cattle enclosure.

Site 6: S24° 44'22.1" E30° 34' 25.0"

This site consists of some stone terraces and there seems to be some cattle dung deposits, however, it was very difficult to discern, as the soil color in the area is very similar.

Site 7: S24° 44'24.1" E30° 34' 13.8"

Site 7 is situated on a small hill, it has some pottery fragments and a pot lid, and it could be later than most of the other sites. The lid is typical of Pedi or Marateng pottery.

Site 8: S24° 44'25.1" E30° 34' 05.9"

This is the best-preserved site on the terrain; it is situated on a hill in close proximity to the farm entrance. It is a stone walled site with most of the walling still well preserved. There are clear cattle enclosures with dung deposits as well as some midden deposits. Some grinding stones were also noted. A grinding stone at Site 8 belongs to the Early Iron Age phase and is probably an intrusion on the site, or else the site overlies an Early Iron Age occupational site.

Site 9: S24° 45'16.2" E30° 33' 46.7"

This site is situated on the southwestern corner of the demarcated area. It consists of a large stone walled complex that continues into the adjacent property. Some of the walling is still in a good condition while others are badly disturbed.



Fig 1. Site 1.

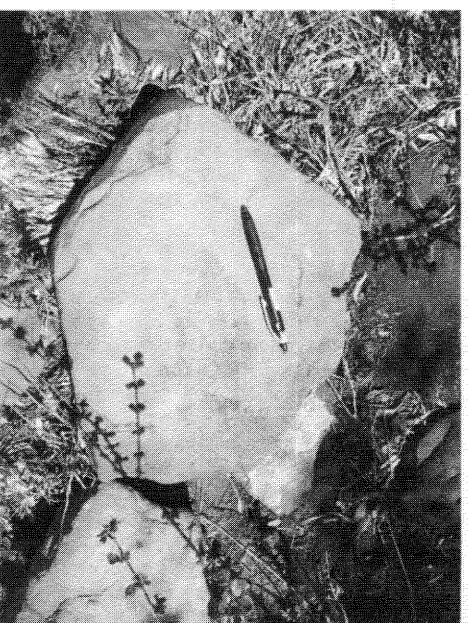


Fig 2. Grindstone site 2.



Fig 3. Site 3 - midden deposit.



Fig 4. Change in vegetation marking sites.



Fig 5. Stonewall remnant- site 4.

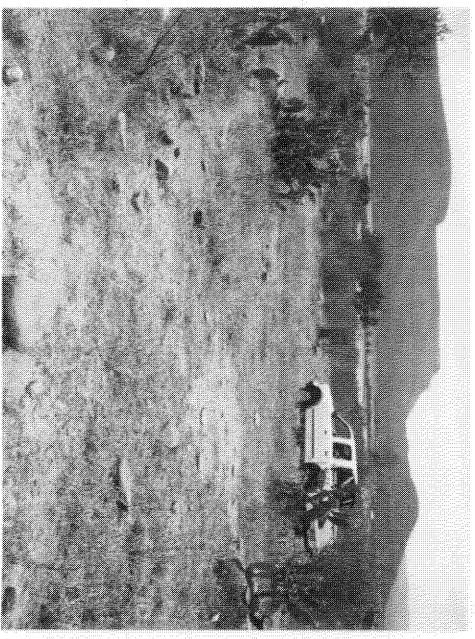


Fig 6. Cattle enclosure - site 5.

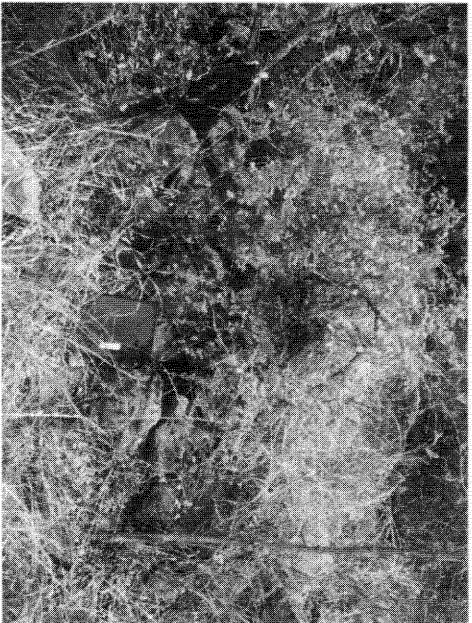


Fig 7. Walling - site 6.



Fig 8. Pot lid - site 7.



Fig 9. Walling - site 8.



Fig 10. Early Iron Age grinding stone - site 8.

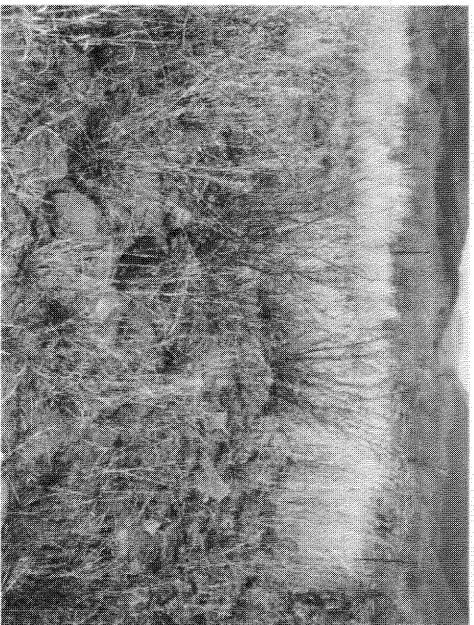


Fig 11. General view - Site 9.

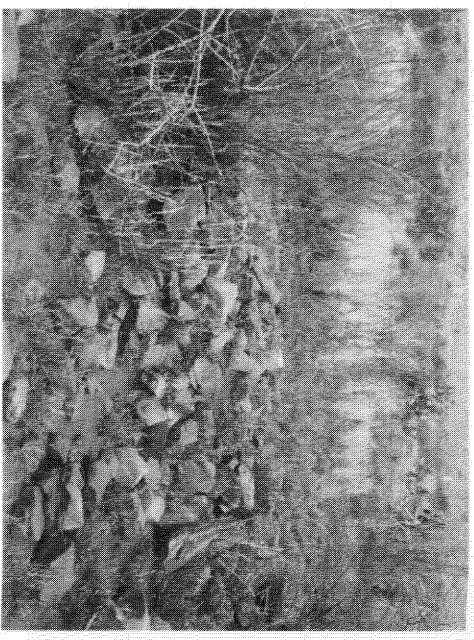


Fig 12. Walling - site 9.

4.4 STONE AGE REMAINS

Scattered Middle Stone Age flakes were noted over the entire terrain, but due to the low concentration, it is of no significance for further studies.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The known archaeology of the general area begins at the Echo Caves about 20 km north of Ohrigstad, where rich Middle Stone Age deposits exist in a rock shelter locally known as the "museum of man" or Bushman Rock Shelter when it was excavated by the University of Pretoria in the 1960's and 1970's. It stands to reason that the ecologically rich Ohrigstad River valley, a part of the Olifants River drainage system would have been an ideal habitat for Stone Age people and as well as the Iron Age people that followed.

In pre-colonial times, various Eastern Bantu-speaking people inhabited South Africa, including Nguni, Sotho-Tswana, and Tsonga. However, they were not the first groups to occupy southern Africa. About 1800 years ago their predecessors brought a new way of life to the region replacing the Stone Age hunter-gatherers. For the first time, people lived in settled communities, cultivating such crops as sorghum, millets, ground beans and cowpeas, and they herded cattle as well as sheep and goats. Because these early farming people also made their own iron tools, many archaeologists call this block of time the Iron Age. For convenience and to mark widespread events, it is divided into three periods: the Early Iron Age (AD 200-900), the Middle Iron Age (AD 900-1300) and the Late Iron Age (AD 1300-1820) to which the ancestors of the present day Nguni and Sotho-Tswana belonged.

Archaeologists of the Iron Age use ceramic style to establish culture-history sequences. Ceramic sequences are thus the framework for all other domains of Iron Age research, be it life ways (incorporating technology, subsistence and settlement patterns), or the explanation of cultural change.

The earliest cultural expression of the first black farmers that moved into South Africa belonged to the Uruwe Tradition from East Africa and migrated southwards as part of the Kwale Branch, i.e., the **eastern stream** of migration and settled in the Tzaneen area in the 3rd century AD. This stream moved onto the escarpment in the Lydenburg area and as far south as Durban in KwaZulu-Natal. From the escarpment it moved to Broederstroom near Hartbeespoort Dam. During the 5th century onwards, the **western stream** of migration, namely the Kalundu Tradition from the Congo/Angola regions reached South Africa. The Happy Rest Branch represents this stream and has been found in the Zoutpansberg area. It too moved onto the escarpment and

From our understanding of the proposed development layout plan, Sites 1 & 2 are not threatened, whereas Sites 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are threatened by road construction and site 3 falls inside an eco-estate plot. Site 9 falls inside an area earmarked for residential development. In addition, long-term human interference will impact on all of the recorded sites. Due to their disturbed nature, none of the recorded sites except Site 8 warrants protective measures other than that determined by Section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act, which requires a permit from the heritage authority (SAHRA) before they are destroyed. SAHRA will only consider issuing such a permit if Phase 2 assessments have been conducted in order to record, identify, and date the archaeological sites to place them in the cultural sequence of the region.

Stone walled Site 8 is in a good condition and consideration should be given to protecting this site pending recommendations and a proposed management plan from a Phase 2 assessment of the site.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

In view of the above, it is recommended that:

1. Phase 2 assessments are done on the archaeological sites in order to place them within the cultural context of the region.
2. Pending the recommendations of a Phase 2 assessment, that Site 8 be protected for future generations and to be utilised for educational and tourism purposes.
3. Should any currently obscured archaeological or historical material be exposed, the heritage authority or archaeologist be informed, which may result in further mitigation measures.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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further on to Kwazulu-Natal. On the escarpment it developed into the *Doomkop* and later the *Klingbeil* facies. *Eiland* (Middle Iron Age) represents the last phase of the Kalundu Ceramic Tradition in the South African interior dating to the 10th – 13th century AD. It occurs over a wide area from the Zoutpansberg to the Magaliesberg.

In the 13th century AD a second eastern stream migrated into this area of South Africa, namely the Kalambo Branch of Uruwe in East Africa. They are represented by the Moloko pottery phase that is the ancestors of today's Sotho-Tswana population.

The earliest recorded facies of **Moloko** is *Icon*. *Icon* pottery first appears in the Phalaborwa area in the 12th to 13th centuries and then slightly later in the Limpopo Province. Sites with this pottery are limited to the Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga and perhaps Botswana, dating to between about AD 1300 and 1500. According to the ceramic evidence, in some places *Icon* incorporated earlier *Eiland* elements (e.g. Loubser 1994). This phase predates the oral record.

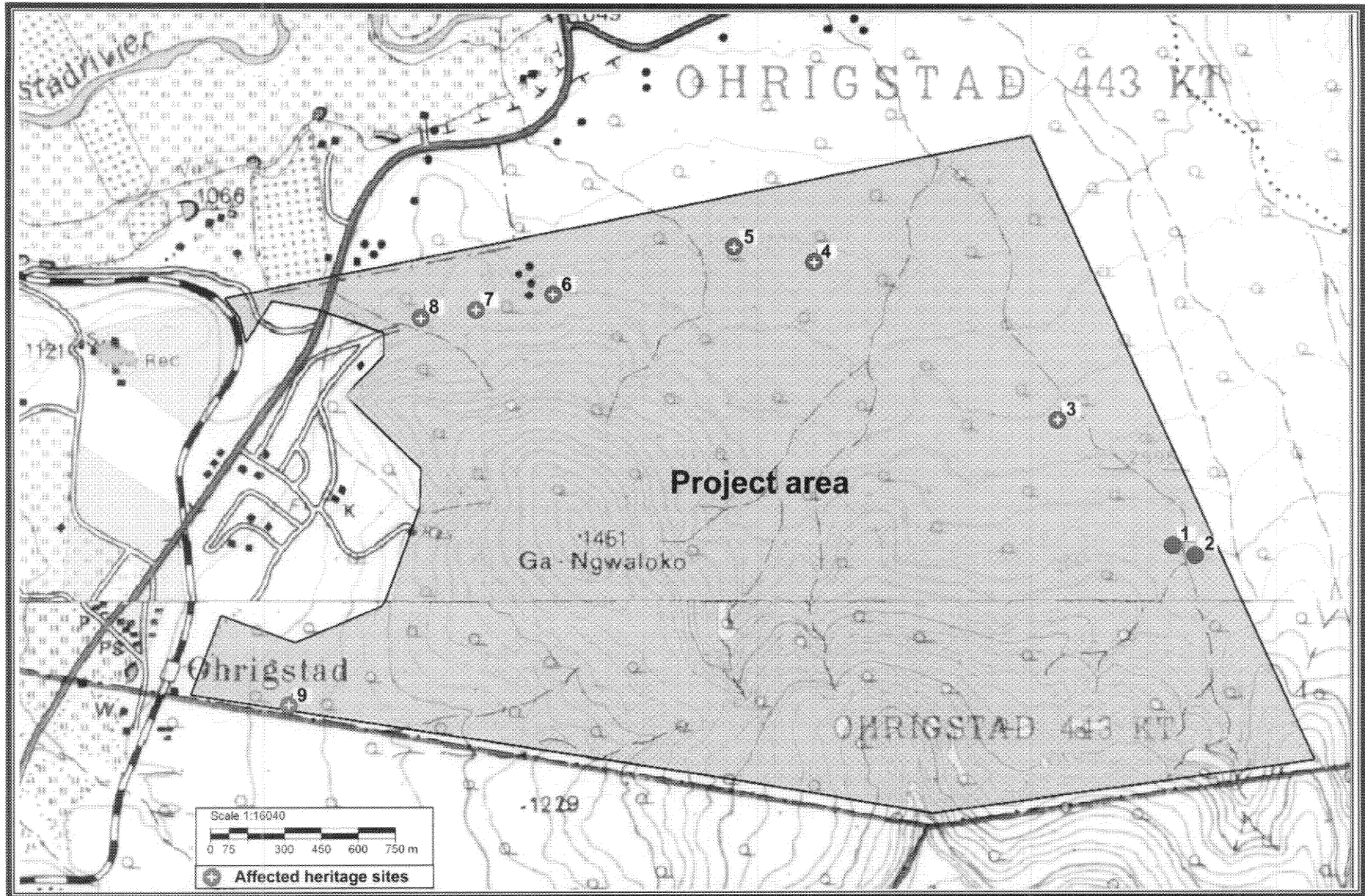
The next phase of **Moloko** includes at least three separate facies derived from *Icon*, each with a similar direction of change in motifs: *Letsibogo* in Botswana, *Madikwe* in the North West Province and Botswana, and *Olifantspoort* in the Magaliesberg. Radiocarbon dates place this second phase between about AD 1500 and 1700. In all three areas, the second phase predates stonewalling ascribed to Sotho-Tswana speakers. The historical Pedi belonged to the Marateng facies, which developed out of the Madikwe facies and moved into the area after AD 1650. Marateng is associated with stonewalling which was derived from early Fokeng people who moved north across the Vaal River as well as into the Springbok flats in the 16th century and introduced the pottery style known as *Uitkomst* and also introduced stonewalling to both Western and Southwestern Sotho-Tswana.

The Lydenburg area and Mpumalanga escarpment is also well known for its Late Iron Age 'Badfontein' type stonewalled sites. These people have an Nguni origin from Kwazulu-Natal and are known as the Koni (Sotho-Tswana for Nguni) because they had adopted the Sotho-Tswana language. *Koni* people are identified with some of the extensive Badfontein walling found along the Mpumalanga escarpment. Badfontein walling emphasizes the centre/side axis of the Central Cattle Pattern expressed through concentric circles: the inner circle encompassed cattle; the next marked the men's court, and the outer ring the zone of houses. Rock engravings in the same area depict this settlement pattern. Associated engravings, terrace walls, cattle lanes and circular settlements extend over an enormous area along the escarpment south of Lydenburg. Oral traditions place Koni in this escarpment area before the Pedi, and so some walled settlements must first date before AD 1650, perhaps as early as AD 1600. Later, as the associated ceramics show, they became allied to the Pedi. These Badfontein *Koni* probably chose the escarpment because it is part of a mist belt that would have offered some relief to dry conditions during the Little Ice Age.

Another movement also included various groups that claim Langa as a legendary leader. Most of these Langa people were supposed to have followed the escarpment north through Swaziland to the Leydsdorp area in the Limpopo Province low-veld before turning west to climb onto the plateau. The main route most Langa Ndebele took north, through the Swaziland and Mpumalanga low-veld.

6. DISCUSSION

The stonewalled sites recorded on the demarcated area could thus belong to any of the early Koni, Pedi or Ndebele groups. Because of their disturbed nature, it was not possible to determine their origins from the Phase 1 survey. In addition, the probability exists that obscured Early Iron Age sites also occur on the demarcated site as is evident from the grinding stone at Site 8.



Locality Map (1:50 000 DA & DC)