



**PHASE 2**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**SAHRA REF: 9/2/236/0002**

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**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION  
OF THE  
LATE IRON AGE STONE WALL ENCLOSURE SITE IDENTIFIED ON  
THE  
FARM SCHAAPKRAAL 42JT,  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

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## **Executive Summary**

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**Note:** This report follows minimum standard guidelines required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for compiling Phase 2, Archaeological Investigation Report (AIR).

**Site name and location:** The stone walling site is located at the following Global System Coordinates South 25°05'58.0", and East 30°09'48.9" on farm Schaapkraal 42JT, the site is situated approximately 60 kilometers south east of Roosenekal within Mpumalanga Province.

The aim of this Second Phase Cultural Resource Management program was to evaluate, document, map stone wall enclosures and conduct controlled sampling of disturbed areas as well as record object and structures of cultural significance and also to consider alternative plans for mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts since one of the power line structure foundations has been earmarked to transverse through the site. The significance of stone walling site during the investigations was based on the integrity of stone wall layout patterns, content within the regional context i.e. the kind of historical/archaeological deposit present, unfortunately no archaeological or livestock dung deposit was evident within and the surrounding sites. Some of the stones used in the construction of enclosures sections were robbed of their building materials and this demonstrate that some of the nucleation of the identified units was created as a result of repeated reuse of construction material to create these small unites zones. This program sought to examine and understand stone wall sites and their content, in respond to calls by previous researchers Maggs (1976a) Collet (1982) who saw that there is a need to document and map stonewall complex and enclosures within the Mpumalanga escarpment. Site mapping and documentations were focused on understanding the relationship between different activity areas, and site layout patterns. The site map produced, raises interesting issues about the late Iron Age

sites and affords such an investigation. Unfortunately no archaeological deposit was noticed on the surface of the site.

The presence of archaeological deposits i.e. ash midden could have been of great potential since these findings point to a more settled way of life, and could be investigated to unlock and solve some of the claims by Phakaneng Choma Community (PCC) that the site was evacuated by the community in the late 1945, and the stone wall represent royal chief's kraal which was used as their royal burial ground; however none of the indicated disturbed stones represent grave dressings. Unfortunately they could not relate the number of graves, names of individuals who were buried in the area. The year 1945 could be related to later period where European made goods flourish African communities household, this includes, iron and metal implements', glass, porcelain and glass ware. None of the above mentioned goods were noted on the surface of the site. Evidence that could link these stonewalls to the late iron age period could only be extrapolated from several scattered ceramic shards collected down the hill, (surface collection) out of thirty (30 ceramic shards) eight (8) were diagnostic fragments that belong to the late iron age period. While some of these stone wall enclosure had different stone wall plans relating to different functions, with terraces commonly associated with late Iron Age agricultural activities. Oral traditions by the Phakaneng Choma Community (PCC) suggest that stone walls Unit 3 was previously used as initiation school. This claim raises interesting issues on why the Phakaneng Choma Communities initiation school is located within the residential area and not in secluded away from the settlement area?

Stone wall site Unit 4 has recent past remains of burial grounds where, approximately 37 graves have been identified and their provenience geo-referenced, none of these graves are related to the Choma family; however, they belong to Kodi family who used to stay on the farm providing farm labor activities to the previous farmer. Recently the Kodi family still stays on the farm regardless of the land claim by Phakaneng Choma community and they have secured court interdict (restraining order) to prevent Phakhaneng Choma communities from entering the farm (Peach farm). Three disturbed points were shown to the team by the PCC (Pakaneng Choma Community) where concrete was dumped in holes. The first is located at S25 05 57.2 E30 09 45.3. The second at S25 05 58.1 E30 09 49.0 (this is the hole that was identified by the community as a possible

grave site) and the last point at S25 05 56.4 E30 09 45.8. These features were excavated and documented adhering to standard archaeological practices. Each excavation was named Trench 1 -3 and excavated to a yellowish sterile layer under supervision of Archaeologist in the presence of PCC community representatives. It suffice that Roshcon construction team had buried left over concrete mix in those area and no human remains were encountered during the excavation program, and the Phakaneng Choma Community(PCC) were satisfied on the archaeological investigations. In conclusion the stone walls reflect element recorded at Badfontein site.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Vhufashu Heritage consultants wishes to express thanks to all who contributed to this study, sincere gratitude is extended to Eskom Holding Limited and Northam Platinum Mines for providing and approving the study to be undertaken. We also wish to acknowledge the role played by different stake holders including the Phakaneng Choma Community for providing valuable information about the site, EHL, Karl Dalbock, Northam Platinum Mines, William Masha for Social facilitation and meetings.

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**PROFESSIONAL DECLARATION**

I, the undersigned, Mr. Mathoho Ndivhuho Eric hereby declare that I am a Professional archaeologist accredited with the association for South African Professional Archaeologist (ASAPA) Membership No # 312 and that Vhufahashu Heritage Consultants is an independent consultants with no association or with no any other interest what so ever with any institution, organization, or whatever and that the remuneration earned from consulting work constitute the basis of Company livelihood and income.



.....  
Mr. Mathoho Ndivhuho Eric

Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant for Vhufahashu Heritage Consultants  
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In July 2009 a phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) program was undertaken by Vhufashu Heritage Consultants for the proposed 12 Kilometers, 132kV power line from an existing Anglo Platinum (Everest Platinum Mine) substation which is located 40 kilometers south east of Roosenekal, to the newly proposed Booyesdal substation (Northam Platinum Mine).

The development is motivated by the need to provide adequate and reliable electricity supply for mining activities and industrial growth in the Sekhukhune and Mpumalanga region. During the survey program stone walling sites were recorded located within and outside the proposed development foot print corridors. In June 2012, stone wall impact assessment Report (Emergency Incident Report) was conducted after Phakaneng Choma Community (PCC) informed Eskom, Northam Platinum representatives of the disturbance of stone walling site located on farm Schaapkraal 42JT, which according to the PCC community was disturbed during the clearing of access gravel road down the rocky outcrop hill, They further alluded that the disturbed stone wall site was used by the Choma family as their royal burial grounds for centuries up until they were forcibly removed by the apartheid regime. In order to comply with relevant legislation, two reports were compiled, one by Mr. Jaco v/d Walt representing Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting appointed by Northam Platinum mine and the second one by Mr. Eric Mathoho representing Vhufashu Heritage Consultants on behalf of Eskom both reports were based on the outcome of the investigation conducted by two archaeologists to inform, the outraged community members as well as the South African Heritage Resource Agency on the impact felt by the stone wall enclosure and its surrounding. It was therefore decided to apply for a Phase 2 mitigation permit from South African Heritage Resource Authority with the intention, as stated in the permit application, of obtaining information. The Permit dated Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012 was subsequently issued by SAHRA.

Subsequently, Phase 2 Investigation was undertaken guided by the available court order obtained by Northam Platinum Mine from the Lydenburg Magistrate office (See attached court order on

addendum 2 for more detail). During the Phase 2 assessment program it was however, noticed that the archaeological site have been previously disturbed by farm access road which was later cleared and widened by Roshcon constructors through the stone walling site. Extensive searching for the original layout could only expose one complete unit similar to other stone walls recorded within the region i.e. Badfontein type. Sections of the original layout from unit 1 had been destroyed by the widening of the access farm road across the stone walling site.

Further investigation of the stonewalling on farm Schaapkraal 42JT, with the aim of mapping and documentation of the remains, revealed that this part of the archaeological site underwent a similar disturbance, such as stone robbing by the recent historical activities such as preparation of grave dressings and constructions of new stone wall sections. Previously obscured walls and terraces were visible after veldt fire cleared grass and vegetation cover

The aims of the archaeological investigation were the following:

- (a) To gather as much information as possible to assist with the interpretation and identification of the site, and in particular, to draw an accurate site plan of stonewalled complex present on farm Schaapkraal 42JT.
- (b) To submit recommendations for further monitoring of the site during development in order to minimize site disturbance as well as to undertake rescue work should any human skeletal remains be uncovered.

## **2. TERMINOLOGY**

The Heritage impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage resources Act,1999(Act No25 of 1999) Heritage resources, (Cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyle of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term ‘pre –historical’ refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in a particular area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of ‘modern’ Western writing brought South Africa by the first colonist who settled in the Cape in the early 1652 and brought to the other different part of South Africa in the early 1800.

The term ‘relatively recent past’ refers to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may in the near future, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on the observation alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floors plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The ‘term sensitive remains’ is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values with regard to their ancestors. These values have to be recognized and honored whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term ‘Stone Age’ refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age people lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Early Stone Age (3Million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years ago to 40 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term ‘Early Iron Age’ and Late Iron Age respectively refers to the periods between the first and second millenniums AD.

The ‘Late Iron Age’ refers to the period between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and therefore includes the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refers to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre historical, historical or relatively recent past.

The term 'study area' or 'project area' refers to the area where the developers wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan)

Phase I studies refers to survey using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in a given area.

Phase II studies includes in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include documenting of rock art, engravings or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavation of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of grave yards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialist and require the co-operation and the approval of SAHRA.

### **3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt with in two acts. These are the South African Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

#### **3.1. The National Heritage Resource Act (25 of 1999)**

This Act established the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) as the prime custodians of the heritage resources and makes provision for the undertaking of heritage resources impact assessment 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 responsibly and functions from heritage resources to be undertaken by the State, Provincial and Local authorities, depending on the grade of heritage resources (section 8) In terms of the National Heritage Resource Act 25, (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(3)** Any person who discover archaeological or palaeontological object or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resource authority or the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

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

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

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

- 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

- 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;
- 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
- recover the cost 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 week of the order being served.

**Subsection 35(6)** the responsible heritage resource 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.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

#### **4.1 AREA OF STUDY**

The area under study stretches to about 30° east and 25° south, the site is situated approximately 30kilometers north of Lydenburg and 60 kilometers south east of Roossenekal. Geological the area is dominated by major chains of hills which transect the area with north- south orientation, creating moderately steep slopes with predominantly eastern and western aspects. Large norite boulders and stones cover the shallow soils on the hill sides, with non perennial and perennial streams that drain water towards the Steel port River in the north east. Dense, sour grassland occur on slopes of the mountain and undulating hills with scattered clumps of trees and shrubs in sheltered habitats.

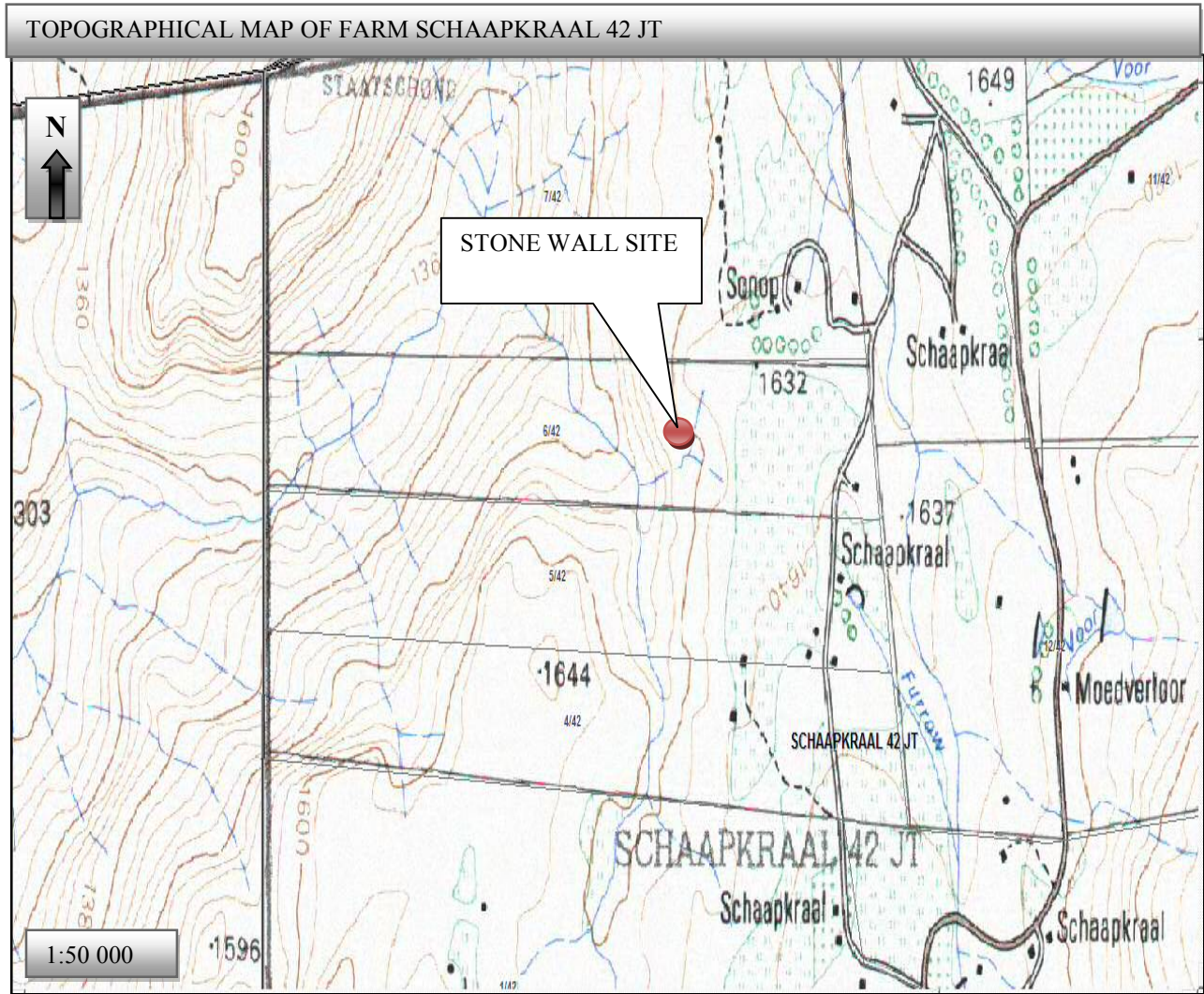
The geology and soils of the study area is mostly characterized by mafic intrusive rock of the upper and main zone of the Rustenburg layered suite, which is economically the most important part of the bushveld igneous complex (Vaalian Erathem) the west of this area is dominated by

diorite and gabbro (often magnetic rich of the Roossenekal sub suite) the east is dominated by gabbro and norite of the Dsjate suite, and in the extreme north east of the area is characterized by metamorphosed by the intrusion of the bushveld igneous complex. Topography is very much varied with most of the areas bearing diagnostic horizons that are vertic, melanic or red structured (Mucina and Rutherford 2006).

The study area experiences similar climatic condition to the adjacent Lydenburg, although frost incidence decreases towards the north. The area received summer rainfall within the regime of MAP from about 720mm in the east to 600mm in the west, much of the rain fall in a form of thunderstorms in summer from November to January. The mean daily temperature vary considerably at different localities with higher temperatures on the plains and lower temperature on the higher lying plateaus.

The vegetation of the area comprise the Roosenekal sub-center of the Sekhukhune land and comprise numerous endemic plant species, heterogeneous rocky habitat, with numerous floristic links with other grassland, important plant taxa includes: *Protea Caffra subsp. Acacia caffra*, *Euclea crispa subsp. crispa(d)* *Brachylaena ilicifolia*, *Diospyros austro-africana*, *Euclea linearis*, *paveta zeyheri etc*( Ackocks 1975; Mucina and Rutherford 2006)..





**Figure 1:** Schaapkraal 42 JT Locality map

#### **4.2. BRIEF STONE WALL SITES DESCRIPTIONS**

The site is situated on farm Schaapkraal 42 JT, on rocky outcrop hill slope situated on the following Global Positioning System co-ordinates (GPS) South 25°.05'.58.0", and East 30°.09'.48.9". The stone wall sites were divided into four individual units, with considerably different plans and diameter.

Unit 1: site is characterized by main central enclosure with small enclosures interlinked with series of terraces on the hill slope (see below figures for more detail). The diameter of the site covers approximately 40meters radius, the original height of the stone walling enclosure could

not be easily understood since sections of the wall has collapsed and sections are missing possibly from stone robbing by recent past activities. The stone wall has been constructed attached to rocky outcrop boulders towards the south eastern section currently covered by overgrown grass and natural vegetation. Several terraces were noticed down the slope area. The road construction activities have cut the site into two sections, the width of the newly constructed gravel access road covers 3metres, and this activity have removed 7centimeters topsoil, and displaced several stones from the original stone wall.

Stone wall Unit 2: is located at the bottom slope of the hill at the following global system co-ordinates (GPS) South 25°.05'.55.5", and East 30°.09'.45.3", situated at the bottom slope, further north of disturbed Unit 1. The site is characterized by an intact circular stone wall enclosure of 10metres diameter, with sections of the same stone wall measuring approximately 1meter high. This enclosure is interlinked with several small radius enclosures, in association to circular parked stone outlines and terraces. Entry point to both enclosures is clearly demarcated. Few ceramic shards were noted and collected on the surface of this area in association with one top and bottom gridding stone.

Stone wall unit 3: is located approximately 200 meters south of the disturbed stone wall enclosure unit 1 further south of a watershed (wetland). The stone wall is situated on a promontory sand stone bluff, the area is covered by dense bush, located at the following global system co-ordinates, (GPS) South 25°.06'.07.1", and East 30°.09'.51.9". The site cover approximately 40 meter radius, characterized by well parked 1m high stone walls sections interlinked with other several enclosures on the inside of the outer demarcating wall. The architectural design of this wall is more uneven not well understood in terms of stone wall pattern. One of the interesting architectural designs noted inside one of the enclosure is the arrangement of a cross like stone outline arrangements (identified by the Phakaneg Choma Community representative as Phiri area). Sections of the demarcating outer stone wall on the southern section of the site measured 1meters in width.

Unit 4: is located approximately 80meter south of the disturbed stone wall unit 1. The site is located several meters north of the water storage facilities (earth dams) the area could be

identified or distinguished by overgrown dense bushes with a single *opuntia ficus indica* plant grown on one of the enclosure. Several small enclosures were noted interlinked with the rest of the enclosures; a third half complete stone enclosure has burial grounds. Approximately 37 recent past graves were noted and their provenience geo-referenced is located at the following global Positioning system co-ordinates (GPS) South 25°.06'.00.4", and East 30°.09'.55.3". These graves have been indicated by packed stone/outlines, granite tombstones, cement and stone headrest as graves dressings. The burial ground is well look after by Kodi family members, some of these graves have been neatly cleaned and one could see grave goods offered such as bottles and glass as well as half complete pot. Some of the graves have been in scripted: Nyabele Johannes Kodi, born 1834-03-12, Died 1962-06-10 Matuma Kodi, Rev.D. Kodi, obolokiwe kadi 14 Jan, mongwadi, Mr Petrus Phetla.



**Figure 2:** View of the disturbed stone wall unit 1





**Figure 3:** View of the stone wall enclosure unit 2



**Figure 4:** section of the outer wall unit 3



**Figure 5:** Burial ground geo-referenced inside the stone walling enclosure, some of the graves are indicated by granite tombstones, cement and stone headrest as well as parked oval stones as grave dressings.

#### **4.3. BRIEF ORAL INTERVIEW**

Oral traditions suggest that Phakhaneg Choma Community lived on the farm Schaapkraal 42 JT, in the Lydenburg Magisterial District long ago. More than two hundred and fifty 250 house hold were forcefully removed from the farm in the early 1945. This forced movement (anchored in apartheid ideology) dispersed community members to various settlement destinations in Sekhukhune land, with other family staying as far as Groberlarsdal and Janefurse. The dawn of the democracy in South Africa, in 1994 brought with it new government policies, especially the restoration of land rights which permitted Africans to reclaim their land. The Phakaneng Choma Community under the leadership of Simon Choma reclaimed the farm Schaapkraal 42 JT, and other five farms in close proximity, however their claim is not yet finalized by the Mpumalanga Land Claim Commission.

According to Sam Choma, a family member representative maintained that the area (referring to the disturbed stone walling site unit 1) was previously used as livestock enclosure (cattle kraal)



and was used by Choma royal family as their burial ground. Their graves were indicated by cairn of rocks, indeed several stones were noticed inside the affected enclosure. Although no visible formal evidence of grave dressings were present, one could not dispute the claim made by Choma family and the community. However this pattern associated with set of burial belief and practices has been defined by Huffman (2007) that proper place to burry people since the Early Iron Age period to the recent past (historically) was within the settlement, with location and mode of burial depending on age, status, gender and cause of death, most important men were buried in the cattle kraal, sometimes senior women or the whole family of the chief could be buried there. The Choma representatives further alluded that most of the family members were buried in standing and sitting positions, therefore one could not dispute the claim made by the community, but rather subject the claim into further investigations.

Again one could make false assumption that some of these stones noted within the central part of the affected area originated from the collapsed sections of the stone wall enclosure. An open trench left by the contractor, as well as dried ready mixed concrete cement placed around a rock boulder was noted, and from the exposed soil profile of the excavated trench no visible sign of livestock dung deposit was present (represented by gray/white ashy colour or vitrified dung deposit). Several displaced stones were also noted in the central part of the stone wall and were indicated to represent graves; some were covered by overgrown bushes and *Themeda trianda* grass cover. In general more than 100 displaced stones were indicated by Choma family representatives as well as community members as grave dressings. Unfortunately no sign of ash middens with modern items such as broken pieces of glass, metal items, and broken pieces of ceramic shards were visible on the surface of the site since they claim that they left the area in the recent past periods (1945).

## **5. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

This document constitutes a preliminary report of the archaeological work undertaken. The aim was to draw an accurate site plan of the stonewall remains to determine the group and/or cultural identity, to determine the stratigraphy of the archaeological deposit and finally to determine its position within the cultural sequence and wider settlement pattern of the Mpumalanga region.

Most of the stone wall sites within the Mpumalanga region were previously identified and studied with the aid of aerial photos and constituted by visible walls. This proved inadequate as a number of obscured walls were not identified or mapped; a number of sites in the region have also been robbed of their stone which was then used in the construction of other structures such as houses, farmsteads, and walls (Approximately 14 collection of bottom grinding stones were noted at a nearby old farm house possibly collected from different archaeological sites within the region).

With specifics to the earlier archaeological work, particularly those of Evers (1975) and Collett (1982), Maggs (1976) have shown that most of the stone walling sites within the region fit broadly into the well known phenomenon of stone-built settlements of Black, agriculturist communities which flourished in grassland areas of South Africa within the past 500 years. Other aspects of the material culture are typically Late Iron Age, as is the basic economy, with evidence of cattle and small livestock as well as the African cultigens *Sorghum* and *Vigna* (“cow peas”) (Collett 1982).

The chronology remains imprecise, partly because of the paucity of fieldwork and partly because radiocarbon dating itself becomes of limited value for samples younger than AD 1600. Few available dates do, however, suggest that Marateng flourished within the last four hundred years (Evers & Vogel 1980). The distribution of Marateng settlements is relatively easy to establish as they show up well on air photos, provided they are not blanketed by bush or timber plantations. Both Mason (1968) and Evers (1975) used air photos to plot sites, however their map seems to be the first attempt to show a complete distribution of this settlement type. The result suggests a virtually continuous belt of settlement running from Ohringstad in the north, through Lydenburg and Machadosdorp, to Carolina in the south, a distance of 150 km. From this belt several lines of outliers lead off eastwards down the Komati valley and upper tributaries of the Crocodile, but nowhere reach the Lowveld. A cluster to the west in the Steelpoort Valley is shown, but it may not really belong within this settlement type.

## **6.1. REGIONAL SETTING: ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE.**

The region lies within the asserted traditional territories where previous research works was conducted by Mason (1960,) Collet (1982), Maggs (1995), Evers (1975) Esterhysen & Smith (2007). Their research work shed more light in the understanding of the archaeology of the Mpumalanga escarpment. A high density of archaeological settlement sites are known to cover approximately 150 kilometer stretch of land as reflected by an aerial photographic survey . Sites distribution is relatively easy to establish, because they are not covered by *black wattle* or *Eucalyptus* plantations and they can be easily be plotted using air photographs (Mason1968; Evers 1975).

Evers (1975) have identified three basic settlement layout namely: The first and simple consisted of two concentric circles, the inner circle was thought to be the cattle kraal and the space between the circles representing area in which huts were built, the second type was an elaboration of the first in that the inner circle had one or more smaller enclosures attached to it, again huts were built between this complex and the outer ring wall. The third type was an agglomeration of small circles that did not conform to the pattern of the other two. Esterhysen & Smith (2007) maintained that it is not clear whether these different kinds of settlement were occupied by different people at the same time or different periods, but however based on the general density of the stone wall settlement in the region; there must have been a substantial increase in population or movement of people in the area.

Collet (1982) classified these settlements and contended that they comprised of three basic units, namely: homesteads, terraces and livestock enclosure. Some of these stone walling are Koni identified with the extensive Badfontein type of walling found along the Mpumalanga escarpment, more or less contemporary with Melora. 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 layout pattern. The slopes were terraced with lines of stones that ran along the contours, and livestock tracks to the outside of the settlement edged in stones. Oral traditions place Koni (Ndebele) in this escarpment area before the Pedi, and some walled settlements must first date before AD 1650, perhaps as early as AD



1600 which was characterised by the second dispersal. The centre/side layout pattern indicates that they were of Langa origin from northern KwaZulu-Natal. Later, as the associated ceramics show, they became allied to the Pedi. These Badfontein (Koni-Ndebele) 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 (Huffman 2007).

Based on such datable phenomena as initiation cycles, other northern and southern groups are thought to have left KwaZulu-Natal between about AD 1630 and 1670. These dates, of course, are tentative. At about the same time, around AD 1700, cool and very dry conditions prevailed throughout the subcontinent. Analysis of climatic data shows that this was the worst time in the Little Ice Age. Dated with remarkable precision, this event is so close to the historical dating that the severe conditions were the most likely reason for the third set of movements. Although the reason may have been the same, there were so many small groups at different times that a coordinated movement was unlikely.

Ceramic descriptions of these sites clearly reflect Moloko falling within the range of Sotho-Tswana wares (Collet 1982, Huffman 2007). Classification and analysis indicated that this ceramics belongs to Marateng pottery, which is the reminiscent of the Pedi pottery. Ethnography and the Pedi oral history of the region show that these groups of people were called the Koni (Ndebele). As part of this uncoordinated movement, several small groups entered the Pretoria area. These include the well known Manala and Ndzundza Ndebele who claim Musi as a legendary leader. Significantly, Ndzundza capitals in the Steelpoort area to the northeast, such as KwaMaza have a Moor Park variant of stonewalling: kraals and middens lay down slope of the most important residential zone. Pedi pottery (*Marateng*) in Ndzundza settlements demonstrates interaction with northern neighbours.

Fortunately, the history of many Nguni-derived groups on the plateau today is accessible to oral traditions. Generally, those who live north of the Springbok Flats are known collectively as Northern (Transvaal) Ndebele and those below as Southern (Transvaal) Ndebele. Generally again, many northern groups claim Langa as a legendary leader and many of those to the south

claim Musi (Van Warmelo 1935). If they retained the Nguni language, they are called Ndebele, while those who adopted Sotho-Tswana are Koni (Sotho-Tswana for *Nguni*).

The third set of movements 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 before turning west to climb onto the plateau. Thus, there was a different Langa route out of KwaZulu-Natal.

The Ledwaba are an example of Langa Ndebele who followed the Langa route. The Ledwaba settled in the Polokwane (Pietersburg) District in about AD 1840 and found that the Sebietela (Musi) to the south and the Bakoni ba Matlala (Langa) to the north had preceded them. The Matlala had also followed the Langa route.

While living in the north-eastern low-veld, some members of the Langa cluster, including the Ledwaba, were greatly influenced by the Zimbabwe culture in general and the Lovedu in particular. Loubser (1994) interprets *Letaba* pottery found on Group II sites, characteristic of the low-veld, as evidence for this influence in Ledwaba sites.

The main route most Langa Ndebele took north, through the Swaziland and Mpumalanga low-veld, suggests that the original Langa homeland was in northern KwaZulu-Natal. It is significant that most Nguni groups today who claim Langa ancestry live in that area. The combination of oral history, routes and settlement patterns shows that the division between Langa and Musi is ancient, extending back to at least the middle of the Moor Park phase, and that this division has a geographical expression (Huffman 2007).

In 1800 communities around the region were living harmoniously, trading and farming it was up to the year 1826 when Mzilikazi Khumalo fled from King Shaka's rule and reaches the region devastating the Koni communities. The Pedi who were under king Sekwati recovered the devastation by Mzilikazi. King Sekhukhune succeeded his father Sekwati who was murdered by his half brother Mampuru in 1882. During those years Mampuru and Nyabela fled and hid from Commandant General Piet Joubert. (Mapoch was the chief of the Ndzundza- Ndebele tribe) The

cave where Nyabela and Mampuru were hiding was besieged by Joubert in 1882 and Nyabela was arrested and lost his chieftaincy and the land under his jurisdiction was divided amongst the white (Burgers) who participated in the siege.

## **6.2. The Pedi**

The history of the Pedi before the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been well described in several literatures. The exact origin of the Pedi is shrouded by mystery, the Pedi are undoubtedly, of Sotho origin. The Sotho division is so classified principally on the linguistic grounds of similar characteristics of Sotho people (Mönnig 1967). The Tswana Chiefdom forms part of the larger group of Sotho people, while the Sotho group itself is one of the three great sub-divisions of the bantu-speaking peoples situated north of the Nguni communities. In addition to Batswana or Western Sotho, the Sotho group includes the Basotho of Lesotho and the Orange Free State, to whom the term Sotho has come to be more specifically and almost exclusively applied. This group some time ago also referred to as the southern Sotho. The third group comprises the Bapedi who have been generally referred to as the northern Sotho, with the exception of some Tswana; all the tribes of these groups call themselves Sotho (Mönnig 1967).

Legassick (1969) summary of the vast and complicated literature on the Sotho-Tswana oral tradition provides a framework for the understanding of the relevant archaeological records. It is possible to establish a meaningful relationship between archaeological and historical groups and to use this relationship to clarify the early history of the Sotho-Tswana/Pedi. The Transvaal Sotho has been subdivided into a number of groups. These are the eastern Sotho, particularly the Kutswe, Pai and Pulana; the north eastern Sotho, particularly the Phalaborwa, Mmamabolo and Lobedu the northern Sotho, particularly the Kgaga, Birwa, Tlokwa and some Koni and Tau. Evidence suggests that the Sotho migrated southwards from the region of the Great Lakes in Central Africa some five centuries ago, and the migration occurred in succession of waves over many years under the leadership of Kgalekadi who settled in Botswana in the early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The next group to have arrived in the early period seems to have been the Digoya who were the first group to cross the Vaal river, little is known of their history and they were finally absorbed

by the Ba-taung. The majority of the proper Sotho followed three migration of the Rolong, Fokeng and Hurutshe.

According to Huffman (2007) The Kgatla origin is in the central Highveld near present day Rustenburg and Pretoria, an important offshoot, the Pedi is thought to have moved northeast in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Pedi has Kgatla origin and significantly again, the pottery made by present-day Pedi, fall within the Marateng facies. Another member of the cluster may be the Tlokwa. Maggs (1976) connect Tlokwa with the Pembe ruins which are located few kilometers south of Ntuanatsatsi hill, he further maintained that the Tlokwa once built a capital called Itlholanoga in the Pilansberg near the present Sun City and later Kgatla took over this area. The site has stone walled complex on hill tops, dominated by molokwane patterns, the Kgatla were responsible with stone walling while Tlokwa were responsible with the earliest occupation, according to Boeyens (2005) Tlokwa are known to have lived in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century at Marathodi.

Traditions suggest that migration and settlement in the sub- continent are of course conjectural with trace of genealogies of the Rolong tribe back to 1270 and the fokeng even to 980, the Rolong began their migration at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and towards the 16 century. They were followed by two last groups, the last of which the Hurutshe who settle in what is now the western Transvaal. History suggest that when Mmathobele was expecting her first child the other wives of Diale (The ruler), were jealousy and they said that they could hear the child crying in her womb. Naturally this unusual event was attributed to witchcraft, and the Kgatla wanted to kill the mother and child, Diale interceded for her and the child was born normally, the child was nick-named Lellelateng (it cries inside), as the child grow older, his father, seeing that the tribe would never accept his son he instructed him to leave with his mother and followers towards the east, the group under the leadership of Thobele founded their own tribe, the Pedi. Lellelateng is generally taken as founder of the Pedi, although tradition makes no further mention of his sons or successors, where as Thobele is accepted as the man who led the Pedi to their new home (Mönnig 1967).

According to the 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement of this region, the Sotho speaking Pedi arrived relatively late in the Steelpoort valley, they did however build powerful kingdom in time of Thulare 1790-1820. One of the reasons was availability of excellent pasture and good landscape. Historians suggest that Ba- Kgatla clan consolidated other smaller clan in and around the Steelpoort valley forming the Pedi stronghold state. The Pedi oral traditions suggest that Pedi chief Thulare maneuvered to the top of the ladder through his superb military tactics and became undisputed paramount chief of the region. A notable event was the decimation of the Pedi at some point between 1823 and 1825, there were some dispute over who was responsible and Mzilikazi Khumalo (Ndebele) moved up into the Steelpoort valley south east of the Potgietersrus to revenge the Pedi and their land, Ndwandwe under Zwibe were responsible. The Pedi survivor took refuge in the Waterberg area (Esterhysen & Smith 2007).

By 1828 the new Pedi chief Sekwati had returned to the Steelpoort valley and over the next ten years rebuilt the Pedi stronghold. The Ndzundza Ndebele, who also appear to have a long history in the area appear to have been subordinate to the Pedi up until the death of Sikwati in 1861 at which point the Ndzundza declared their independence (Esterhysen & Smith 2007). It was during the Mfecane where various Sotho- Tswana groups realign their political affiliation or formed new identity while others disappeared altogether.

## **7. METHODOLOGY**

### **7.1. DESKTOP STUDIES**

A number of techniques were used during the desktop phase of the research. The first involved a dedicated library research to situate known sites in the Mpumalanga region. The second was concerned with the study of aerial photographs together with a site search on electronic databases such as Google Map. Many sites and features such as stone walls outlines and terraces, river banks and vegetation anomalies were clearly visible. Vegetation anomalies were used to detect possible features.

To begin with, a literature survey was done to understand the archaeology and physical landscape of the area. Since this area has witnessed an upsurge of contract archaeological research over the years, the literature survey also included a dedicated study of the CRM reports

archived, and any written publications on stone wall investigation of the Mpumalanga region at the Lydenburg Museum, as well as the library of the University of Cape Town, were also consulted. The study was pursued through an interdisciplinary methodology that combines historical, ethnographic and oral traditions and archaeological data. Historical and ethnographic information were obtained from published accounts as well as early travellers' reports and personal interviews. Subsequently, archaeological excavations on disturbed area were carried out to understand the nature of the sites and to obtain samples for chronology understanding. The information gathered covered not just the archaeology of the area, but also its, climate, geology and pedology.

## **7.2. GROUND TRUTHING**

Based on the information from the desktop study, the objective of the phase 2 archaeological works was to identify and map settlement layout pattern, the theoretical ideal being to recover and document all traces of human activities visible on the landscape. An intensive systematic foot-survey and inspection was conducted by a team of three archaeologists. The process enabled us to identify stone wall sites in relation to the general landscape.

Note books were used to record the data gathered from the sites. This included substantial information on the features, density of surface artefacts, as well as the research potential. As alluded above, a combined systematic and random sampling procedure was adopted. Sampling has been defined by Fagan (1991) as the science of controlling and measuring the reliability of information through the theory of probability. Combined stratified random and systematic sampling procedures enabled us to identify various enclosures of different periods based on likely location in areas such as hilltops (for LIA sites)

The process of documentation involved recording information on surface features such as stone walls, and any other observable traces of human activity. The process was essential for understanding the nature of activity areas, and their possible function. Where possible, local community members were consulted and their knowledge led to the identification of a number of sites. Controlled surface collections were carried out during ground surveys and Mapping. All visible surface artefacts mostly ceramic shards were collected. These collection were used in an

attempt to assess both chronology of the site. Some of the shards were few in numbers where evaluation of vessel form were often more unsuccessful.

### **7.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS**

Excavation has been defined by Shrare and Ashmore (1979) as the principal means by which data is gathered about the past the method is used to gather and retrieved data from beneath the ground. This data is seldom in primary context. The archaeological excavations included both formally laid out excavation trenches and/or squares in predetermined disturbed areas, in this regard it was decided to concentrate on disturbed areas, such as the constructed cement slab which was left by the construction team inside the enclosure unit 1, as well as disturbed area inside the terraces, these sites were excavated to determine the presence of burial grounds as alleged by the Choma family member, since no sign of ash midden, or livestock dung deposit could be seen from the surface of the site. It was hoped that these areas would produce greatest quantity of material culture.

### **7.4. PHOTOGRAPHIC**

In addition, the site was recorded by hand held GPS and plotted on 1:50 000 topographical map. Archaeological/historical material and the general condition of the terrain were photographed with a Canon 1000D Camera. Other documentation involved the creation of site plans, as well as a digital database, mostly consisting of photos taken during the surveys. Photos of excavations and clearing of walls and features were taken, while individual objects were also photographed for record purposes. In addition emphasis was placed on feature-for-feature photographic documentation of the entire site. Units were photographed in detail; each wall was photographed and included wide angle shots of the area. Units were numbered and features, such as enclosures and grinding stones etc. sub-numbered. Visual documentation of the walls comprises over 100 photographs.

### **7.5. MAPPING & DRAWING**

Mapping is a process whereby a model which represents a particular idea about the complexity is developed aimed at presenting a hypothesis. This fieldwork placed great emphasis on accurately documenting, mapping and recording features. This is to form a major component of this investigations, since the regional setting of the stone walling distributions suggest the Badfontein

stone walling architectural design. The mapping was considered of vital importance. Walls were systematically cleared of vegetation and sketched in. As mapping progressed it became clear that there were terraced walls down the slope distributed on the outer demarcating wall most of which has been associated with unit 1. Any stone noted on the ground was systematically cleared by mechanical means and sketched in on the map. The mapping process was the most intense aspect of the investigation and underwent many revisions until a complete and detailed map of the site was achieved. The map was also drawn to scale.

#### **7.6. ANALYSIS & DOCUMENTATION/CURATION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL**

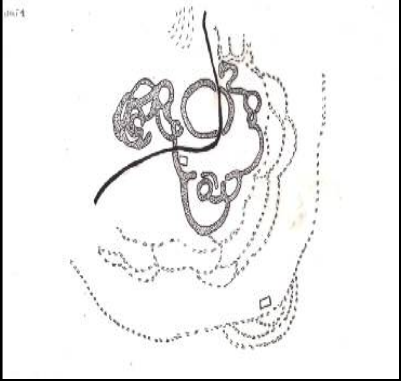
This includes the cleaning and sorting of all material recovered during the excavations, as well as the expert analysis of ceramics, faunal remains and other cultural material remains. A recognized cultural institution will handle the final curation of the material, in this case the Lydenburg Museum.

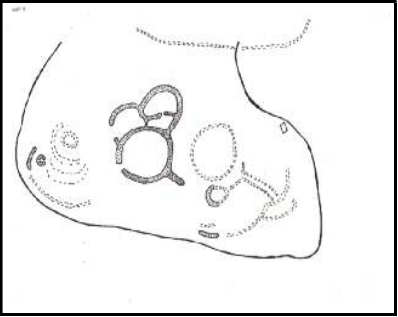
#### **7.8. LAYOUT PATTERN OF THE STONEWALL UNITS AT SCHAAPKRAAL FARM 42JT.**

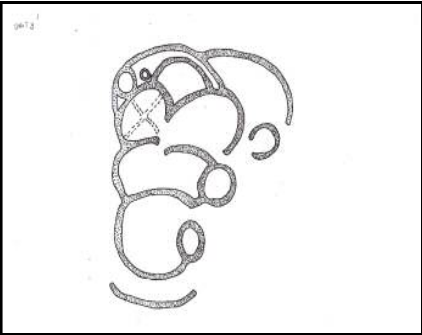
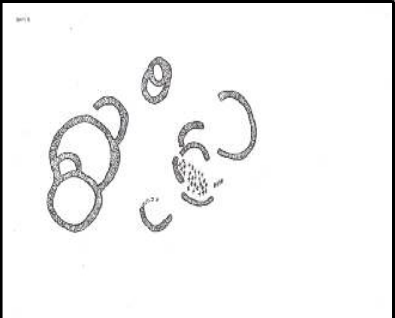
The layout and position of the stone walls were determined after recent Veld fire, there were no need for us to clearing of the vegetation and, since veldt fires made it easy, most of the grass cover as well as vegetation on site were burnt down, great emphasis was on stone walls and associated terrace. No burnt hut rubble was visible, the probable position was extrapolated from sections where walling was visible. The foundation stones were then followed from this exercise it was possible to locate or extrapolate the position and foundation of the stone wall since there were still some protruding stones underneath, this exercise help us to determine the layout distribution pattern on the property. Approximately four individual stone wall sites were documented and mapped with the use of Land surveying GPS instrument. All the identified stone walls were labeled as units.

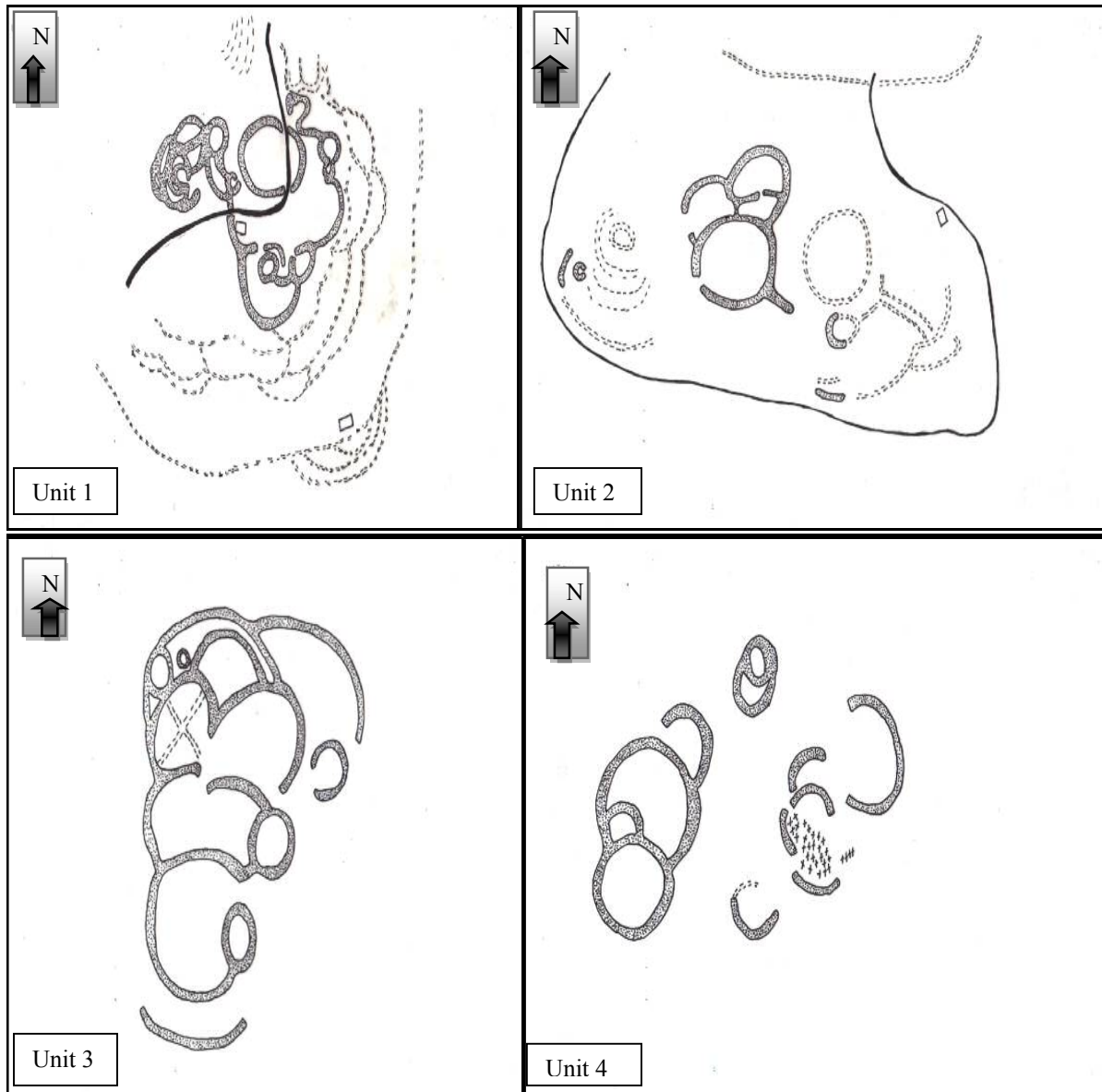


**THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CONTAINS 4 SEPARATE UNITS.**

<b><u>Unit number</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
<p><b><u>Unit 1</u></b></p> 	<p>Size: 50m x 40m</p> <p>Disturbed stone walling: albeit sections of the outer wall, having been destroyed by the previous farm road as well as the power line access road construction down the rocky outcrop slope. The unit fall within what Collet (1982) defined it as complex walling with similar architectural characteristics that resemble the Badfontein stone walling. The unit layout patterns towards the northern section represent a daisy petal like, with the central large stone wall enclosure covering 8meters radius. The outer settlement demarcating stone wall is interlinked with several small stone wall enclosures ranging between 4m and 6m in diameter. 4 subsidiary enclosures are found adjoining the most southern enclosure. Although the walls of this unit are very shallow, the stones seem to have been robbed, by recent past farm activities. The other features noted in the vicinity are the arrangement of terraces below the hill with access point towards the nearby water stream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Interestingly, the central enclosure did not appear to contain any dung deposit which suggest that it might have been emptied by the local farmers or the area was used either as court or men’s meeting area, although the settlement layout is regarded as generally consistent, the ceramic collected in the area are more Sotho-Tswana (Pedi), and the shift of cattle out of the central area is more consistent with the Sotho-</li> </ul>

	<p>Tswana political structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Choma family identified this area as a place where their ancestor lived and where they were buried.</li> <li>➤ Unfortunately no formal grave dressing was noted within the enclosures, only displaced rocks inside the enclosures were visible</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 2</b></p> 	<p>Size: 30m x 40m</p> <p>Fully intact unit 2, although parts were obscured by vegetation, separated into what can be considered to be one big enclosure size 5X5meters adjoined by divided four small enclosures with separate entrances, what appears to be similar to what Huffman purports to be milking enclosures. This consists of 1- 3m diameter enclosure with an enclosing wall linking it to a small 1m diameter enclosure. The larger one for milking, the smaller for the cows' calves. A fairly small enclosure about 1x1m diameters was noted attached rock boulder towards north eastern section of the big enclosure.</p> <p>One large stone out line with entrance towards the south western section, leading to the Perennial stream, and Oval stone out line covers approximately 5mx5m in radius, several diagnostic and undiagnostic ceramic shards were collected here in association with the bottom grinding stone, which appears at this stage of analysis to indicate a possible women's activity area.</p> <p>The site is separated with unit 1 by along demarcating terrace wall on the slope. Unfortunately no sign of ash midden, daga fragments or any modern artifacts on the surface.</p>

<p><b>Unit 3</b></p> 	<p>Size: 60m x 70m</p> <p>This unit includes what is preliminarily being termed as a discernible activity area since the Choma family indicated that at one stage the area was used as boy's initiation school, the unit is characterized by four small enclosures.</p> <p>This unit is more complex in layout than any of the other 3. The unit extends over a large surface area located on a rocky outcrop area and may well have originally been 2 separate units which, may have fused at some stage incorporated into one unit surrounded by boundary wall. This unit</p> <p>Consists of a conglomerate of enclosures in the central area. 4 enclosures adjoin one another, Lies to the north eastern side, which basically is the entrance side of the stone wall, with separate small enclosures.</p> <p>One of the enclosures has across like stone outline on the inside.</p>
<p><b>Unit 4</b></p> 	<p>Size: 30m x 40m</p> <p>Unit four is located north of the earth dams, characterized by overgrown vegetation, Three stone wall enclosures; The first enclosure diameter is 20x10m, with adjoining small circular structures, the second enclosure measured 15x10m, with adjoining low stone wall, the last has been indicated by section of free standing wall, with fencing post, inside this area 37 indicated by Parked stones and granite tombstones as grave dressing, most of this graves are of recent period.</p>



**Figure 6:** Stone wall enclosure units

### **8.1. EXCAVATION OF DISTURBED SITES 1.**

Test Trench 1 Size: 220mX220m

In order to obtain well resolved information, certain areas disturbed during the excavation of the pole structures and associated stays, were examined after the Choma family has indicated that there are possibilities that the constructors might have buried human remains, Disturbed area located at the following global system co-ordinates was excavated, S25°.06.01.3E30°.09.46.8. A trench was been standardized over a disturbed site located below the rocky outcrop hill, on what

could be presumed to be an agricultural ploughing field due to the presence of terraced wall, one of the recorded section of the terraced wall cover approximately 100m long, possibly a demarcation boundary wall. The process of excavation was done in spits of 10cm. Each arbitrary layer was photographed and described using a standardized archaeological documentation form for stratigraphy.

No archaeological features or artefacts was encountered during the excavation program, only a concrete slab was noted at the depth of 10cm and was photographed and drawn on A3 graph books. Once removed, sterile soils (light red and yellowish soil) appeared underneath the concrete slab at the depth of 68 centimetres.



**Figure 7:** Excavated test trench where concrete rubble was buried by Roshcon contractors.





**Figure 8:** View of the sterile soil encountered after the removal of concrete rubble

## **8.2. EXCAVATION OF DISTURBED SITES 2 AND THE REMOVAL OF CEMENT SLAB.**

Test Trench 2 Size: 3mX3m

The site is located within the enclosure unit 1 situated at the following global system coordinates, S25°.05.58.3& E30°.09.48.8. The area was demarcated to be used by the construction crew (Roshcon) as the base for their pylon structure foundation fused and reinforced with concrete foundations since the constructor maintained that while they were excavating a rock boulder fell inside the pit. Because of the presence of concrete slab mounted on a rock boulder, a TLB machine was used to excavate on the edges of the concrete slab, the process involved the removal of 15cm level around the concrete slab, to the base of the concrete, at the depth of 600cm it became obvious that during the construction of the base they have used some of the small stones possibly collected from the surrounding. Sterile soil was also noted at the same depth indicated by re yellowish soil. No cultural material or any occupation layer was found during the excavation program. Since the area was within the demarcated enclosure no livestock dung deposit was found from the excavated layers.



**Figure 9:** Concrete slab inside the disturbed stone wall enclosure unit 1



**Figure 10:** Removal of 1m concrete slab inside the stone wall enclosure unit 1, here Grinding and TLB machines were used to cut and remove the concrete slab in order to investigate allegation by Pakaneng Choma Community (PCC) that during the excavation of the area Roshcon came across human remains and hid them underneath the concrete. No human or animal bones were retrieved.





**Figure 11:** After the removal of concrete slab the open sections were rehabilitated

### **8.3. EXCAVATION OF DISTURBED SITE 3**

Test Trench 3 Size: 2mX2m

Disturbance was noted approximately 50m north of the boundary terraced wall which separate stone walling unit 1 and unit2. The site is located further west of unit 2 at the following global system co-ordinates was excavated, S25°.05.56,4.3E30°.09.45.8. The area is situated adjacent to the circular stone outline. A TLB machine was used since the community members alleged that Roshcon buried concrete underneath the disturbed area. At the depth of 15cm small concrete rubble was encountered at the central part of the pit, No cultural homogenous deposit was encountered at the depth of 20cm yellowish sterile soil was encountered.



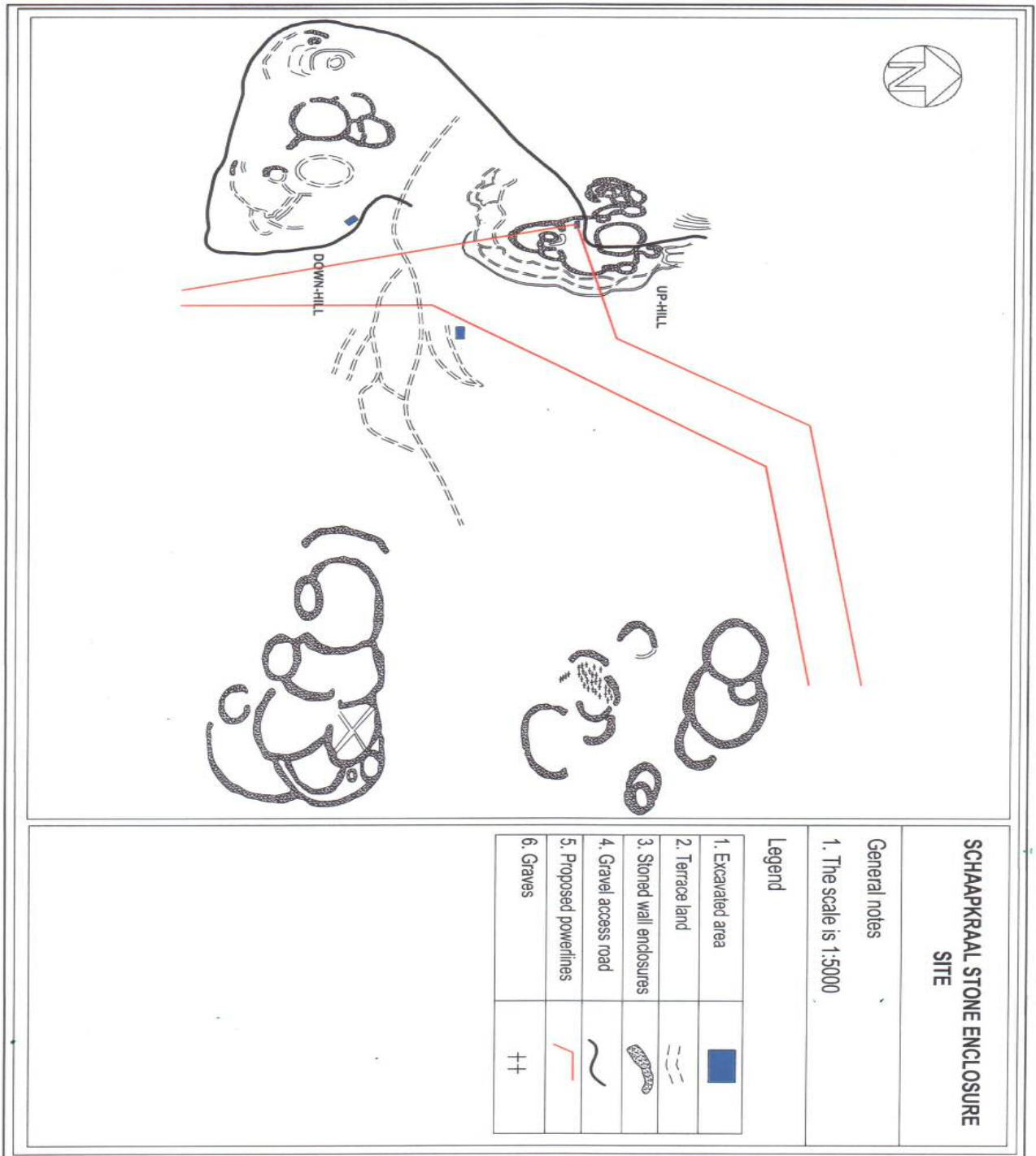


**Figure 12:** Top section of test trench number three, concrete rubble was buried underneath this disturbed area.



**Figure 13:** Some of the concrete rubble uncovered during the excavation process.

Below is the Schaapkraal stone wall site plan showing excavated disturbed sites, Power lines transverse through the site and separate stone wall units.



**Figure 14:** Schaapkraal Stone wall site plan.



## **9. DESCRIPTION OF SURFACE COLLECTED CERAMICS**

The surface collection yielded numerous fragmented ceramic. The collection yielded about 30 ceramic shards; eight of this was small diagnostic pieces. The ceramics were described and compared to the established typologies of Huffman (2007) Collet (1982), Maggs (1976) for Mpumalanga region, the descriptions revealed the existence of Late Iron Age and historical period. Given that the ceramics for later periods are different, most of the ceramics were highly fragmented making it difficult to reconstruct the shape profiles. When cleaned, it became clear that some of the pottery fragments were decorated with designs formed by red ochre and graphite burnishing, cross hatched, fine lines incisions, herringbone and punctate. Considering the multiplicity of shapes, size, paste design organizations, these designs are typical of Pedi wares, and have been dated elsewhere between Late Iron Age to recent past (Huffman 2007).



**Figure 15:** The surface collection only yielded a small representative sample of 8 ceramic shards which cannot help us to determine the pottery analysis in terms of ceramic styles and motif.

Ceramic stylistic analysis has been defined by Huffman (2007) as a systematic organization and classification of pottery into categories on the basis of shared attributes. Most of the retrieved ceramic from Schaapkraal site can be classified as unglazed ceramic, fired refined clay with temper addition (e.g. coarse sand) unfortunately due to small representative diagnostic sample,

it was not sufficient to reconstruct the multidimensional analysis which includes three variable namely, Profile, decoration motif and decoration layout position.

## **10. DISCUSSION:**

Previous synthesis on iron age communities within the Steelpoort Valley and the Mpumalanga region have been developed along essentially dichotomous lines from early works of Evers (1975), Maggs (1976), Collet (1982) Schoeman (1997) and Nelson (2009) who examine the stone wall sites within the region. Their analysis and descriptive methods are now increasingly being used and have established series of continuous trend in identifying and understanding communities and cultural entities within the region. However stone walls collapsed over a long period of time, especially because of baboons searching for insects, however apart from these activities considerable bottom half of the stone wall is still nearly always intact, and can provide considerable evidence on the architectural style.

In case of Schaapkraal site the stone wall pattern provides further conformation on the presence of late Iron Age communities, spatial land use and stone wall sites distribution. The Schaapkraal stone walling architectural patterns though partially disturbed by the access road which transverse across, depicts arrangements of structures and elements which has been identified on various archaeological sites within the region associated with Badfontein stone walls type. One of the unique features observed from Schaapkraal stone wall unit 1 is the association of primary and secondary enclosures most of which are interlinked. Here important areas of high status are clearly distinguishable from less important areas, area of high status are clearly defined by nice selected quality stones The size of the stone wall unit and the number of small enclosure structures vary with a fairly broad range, but they conform to the characteristic pattern of the Mpumalanga escarpment.

The settlement layout pattern in some of the documented ruins is more concentric with features that concerns the central enclosure being roughly circular interlinked with small enclosure arranged around the central part like the petal of a daisy, with domestic area subdivided by rows of stones in a radial pattern forming sectors some with subdivisions', unfortunately entrance to unit 1 could not be established. In certain instance these settlement units are spaced far enough

apart to be individually identifiable sometimes they might be several meters or kilometers apart. The construction style which represents circular arrangement of the homesteads, as well as associated agricultural terraces emphasized the centre/side axis of the Central Cattle Pattern, which forms a pattern whereby, people related by blood (the male cattle area) versus marriage (the female residential zone). This emphasis characterizes Nguni people from northern KwaZulu-Natal. However the Badfontein stone walling architectural style represent areas which were occupied by Ndebele communities.

Similar architectural stone walling building style has been observed at Schaapkraal, and Booysendal farm (Mine site), we need to consider each of these four built elements in more detail, sometimes diameters of the enclosures counts, it is arguably that most of these enclosures are livestock kraals but there are instances where other communities used stone walling enclosures marking men's meeting places, the "Kgotla" among the of Sotho- Tswana (Pedi) is commonly used as administrative center of the village mostly situated in or near the cattle pen and sometimes it is a symbolic cattle pen taking the same form but not being used as such.

One would speculate that unit 1 due to the absence of livestock dung deposit, ash midden and the scatted potsherd distributions on site seems to indicate that women were excluded from the central area and from most activities associated with livestock. It has been recorded elsewhere on the Sotho- Tswana ethnography that women were not allowed to enter the Kgotla or the cattle pens, their realm would be the dwelling and the field and where responsible for cultivation, storage, harvesting, preparing food as well as building their dwellings. According to Maggs (1976) the arrangements of this built environment seems to reflect the high symbolic value of cattle and much lower value attached to agricultural produce.

Another feature that distiqiush Badfontein settlement type with other settlements is site location mostly at the base or hill top and the presence of cattle track leading to central enclosure with exit on the opposite side where cattle are driven outside to the right and enters cattle byre on the up-hill side, while another cattle byre on the down-hill side is accessible from the left. This arrangement parallels the left-hand house/right-hand house division is very prominent among the

Nguni. In this case the arrangement emphasizes the front/back axis similar to that developed at Moor Park in the midlands of KwaZulu-Natal.

Similar settlement pattern was recorded within the escarpment with well defined tracks or roads identified by the presence of stone wall on each side, unfortunately the Schaapkraal farm site unit 1 has been partially disturbed by the access road across the sites, possibilities might be that the existing road might have been demarcated on the original entrance point since to the eastern section the area is characterized by rock boulders where there is no sign of old road. These tracks or roads according to Maggs (1976) were used to clearly connect different homesteads with open veld and they were also used control and define livestock movements through terraced ploughing zones. Maggs (1976) analysis of tracks/road shows that they are very narrow measuring approximately a meter wide which often allows one individual animal to pass through at a time, they often link wider communal roads which can be up to 4 km long. Possibilities are that foot path or animal tracks are often adopted by pedestrians and served as a circulation system between homesteads. This type of settlement can be associated with Southern Ndebele

Historical documents suggest that the area was occupied by the Ndzundza Ndebele which forms part of the three key groups of the southern Transvaal Ndebele, namely Ndzundza, Manala and Hwaduba (Fourie 1999). The group moved in to the Koni country in the early 1630s and lived harmoniously with the Koni, for more than 50 years, however the arrival of the Pedi in 1650s set in motion as period of conflict.

In general the size of the settlement units and the number of smaller structures they contain vary within a fairly broad range but in most cases they conform to the pattern characteristic of their type. Unit1 settlement pattern is characterized by complex stone walls with associated agricultural terracing which vary considerably as some terracing area marked by a single line of rocks or double rows of stones, but there are some cases where substantial walls a meter or more in height have been built observed separating stone wall unit 1 and stone wall unit 2 this section of terraces has sections which measure a meter high following the natural slope contours and even protrude above ground level. Variation was observed in size, shape and width. Due to the presence of dense distributions of loose stones and rock cultivation and associated agricultural

activities would have been carried by hand. It is arguably that construction stones were sourced from agricultural fields and sites surrounding.

It is still not yet known whether the terraced areas represent the total area cultivated since the area has shallow soil which modern agriculturalist avoid since they preferred to concentrate on valley bottom lands with their deeper soils. From the very same unit there is a substantial wall marking the boundary between terracing and the second unit which is located at the bottom of the hill, with stone entrances presumably built to keep animals off the fields, therefore these areas of open veld were presumably used as grazing land.

Inside one of the small enclosure (Unit 3) two parallel stone outline aligned in across have been noted and was indicated as the Pedi “Phiri” by members of the Phakhaneng Choma Community. Unfortunately this was a unique feature as the most commonly documented Sotho Tswana “Phiri” is arranged in a neatly parked cairn of stones sometimes supported by cement or ash. According to Huffman (2007:61) In the recent past, male circumcision was a wide spread rite of passage that marked transition from child hood to manhood, and the circumcision schools were located in isolated places outside the settlement and where often marked by peculiar stone cairns, the general understanding of the circumcision in Sotho-Tswana society puts the cairns and isolations into perspectives.

While unit 4 is characterized by three big enclosures with interlinked small enclosure, only the bottom half less than 15cm parked stone wall could be seen, the area cover approximately 30meter radius and could be assigned to recent settlement pattern by the farm laborers, information supplied to us shows that the Kodi family used to reside in the vicinity providing farm works. One of the sites has evidence that the site is of recent past, indicated by the presence of 37 indicated graves most of which belongs to the Kodi family.

It is arguably that though ceramic individual mode could not be decirned due to small representative sample of diagnostic pottery fragments some of the individual fragments showed similar components which are related and clearly belonging to later Iron Age and historic Pedi traditions, since the type system matches with later Pedi period within the region. Both

settlement locations and ruins patterns are the results of the Ndebele's adaptation to the area, each unit appears to have been dispersed small settlements which form homestead, possibilities are that each unit might represent a wife, or people related by blood . A great deal of information still needs to be gathered particularly from locally intensive research projects, before a detailed picture on polygamy being represented by association of stone wall units could be painted.

I would further argued that in some instances the settlement unit is surrounded by a wall, giving it a clear unity and well- defined limits, this walls take a variety of forms and with some settlement patterns they are optional, evident at unit 1 and 3, while other units such as unit 2 and 4 are absent. These walls might have been partly for security to keep cattle and wild animals out of the demarcated area.

The synthesis of the settlement pattern in this case reflects the role played by livestock namely cattle, sheep and goats. The center of the settlement, the domain of men, encompasses cattle byre (kraal), where men and other important people are buried, sometimes the area is an assembly where men resolve disputes and make political decisions. The outer residential zone, the domain of married women, the area incorporates the households and individual wives with their private sleeping houses, kitchen and associated grain bins. According to Huffman (2001:19) spatial model is closely allied to a specific social organization and world view that pursue the concept of group identity.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

This excise sought to understand and document the stone walling in relation to the regional archaeological setting in respond to calls by previous researchers Mason (1968), Evers (1975) Collet (1982) who saw the need to shift archaeological research attention into stone walling sites documentation and mapping within the region. As the Schaapkraal sites show, we need to develop models that will help to unlock and understand the past because it is simply not possible to induce answers from archaeological and ethnographic information alone since some of the



claims by cultural groups might not be genuine. The model magnifies and characterizes settlement organizations at the level of cultural norms, because of the necessary link between the pattern and specific norms. The successful application of the pattern demonstrates the importance of stone wall sites.

However, Schaapkraal excavations were mainly focused on disturbed sites (areas) in order to understanding the relationship of different activities carried out on site. Unfortunately none of the sites shows sign of archaeological deposit, since the Phakhaneng Choma Community claim that they left the area in the early 1945, there were no archaeological evidence of recent past such as ash midden, high concentration of thin walled (Late Iron Age) pottery shards, broken pieces of glass and glass bottles, recent materials items such as buttons as found in many late Iron Age sites throughout Southern Africa. Possibility is that the Phakahaneng Choma Community might have occupied the study area after Ndebele abandoned the site since there are no material signatures or finger prints that could be used to represent their presence. Literature suggests that as a result of drought, famine and attacks by Mzilikazi (c.1825AD) during the mfecane, the Ndzundza moved and settled at Esikhunjini in the early 1820 (Fourie 1999:40 Schoeman 47-50.)

Possibility remains open that Schaapkraal site might have been used to pursue land claim issue. Present evidence derived from the stone walls architectural pattern suggest that the site is much older than 1945. This date seem to represent occupational period of recent past when compared with the occurrence of Late Iron Age in the region. The links in ceramic and architectural typology within the region is well understood, and offer some clues to the immediate origins. There have been several attempts to synthesize the information and establish series of cultural entities, some of the observed architectural style and elements falls within the early scheme of Southern Ndebele style. The identified burial grounds were associated with the farm laborers and were of recent period, none of these graves were associated with the Phakaneng Choma Community.

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**ADDENDUM A**

**SOUTHAFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCE EXCAVATION PERMIT**

**Schaapkraal stone enclosure**  
**Our Ref: 9/2/236/0002**

Enquiries: Mariagrazia Galimberti  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 231

Date: Wednesday August 29, 2012  
Page No: 1

PermitID: 110



## **PERMIT: Excavation**

**In terms of section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Permit Holder:  
Mr Eric Ndivhuho Mathoho  
Vhufahashu Heritage Consultancy CC  
45 Voortrekker St  
Polokwane  
0700

**Site:** Stone wall enclosure and possible graves on Schaapkraal 42 JT (Stone wall enclosure) approximately at 25° 50' 55.5" S, 30° 9' 45.2988" E

**For:** Excavation of Iron Age stone walling on Farm Schaapkraal 42 JT and test excavation of possible graves.

Conditions:

1. If the permit holder is not to be present on the site at all times then the heritage authority must be provided with the names and qualifications of the authorised representatives.
2. Adequate recording methods as specified in the Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to the National Heritage Resources Act must be employed. Note that the position of all excavations and objects collected must be marked on a plan of site.
3. A standard site record form must be lodged with a Museum in the Mpumalanga Province.
4. The material may be temporarily stored at the Polokwane Museum.
5. All archaeological material collected and excavated, as well as field notes and records, will be curated permanently by a Museum in the Mpumalanga province with a suitably qualified archaeologist.
6. An annual progress report on the results of the excavations and analyses must be submitted to the heritage authority issuing this permit on or before the 1st of September 2013.
7. If test excavation shows the heap mounds to be graves, a permit in terms of s.36 of the NHRA must be applied for. Relocation may be considered dependant on the result of the mandatory 60 day public participation process as requested in section 36 of the NHRA (Act no. 25 of 1999).
8. Reprints of all published papers or copies of theses and/or reports resulting from this work must be lodged with the heritage authority.
9. If a published report has not appeared within three years of the lapsing of this permit, the report required in terms of the permit will be made available to researchers on request.
10. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for each visit, and conditions of access imposed by the landowner must be observed.
11. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to fill in excavations and protect sites during and after excavation to the satisfaction of the heritage authority and the landowner.
12. The heritage authority shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any activities in connection with this permit.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>

**Schaapkraal stone enclosure**  
**Our Ref: 9/2/236/0002**



Enquiries: Mariagrazia Galimberti  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 231

Date: Wednesday August 29, 2012  
Page No: 2

PermitID: 110

- 
13. The heritage authority reserves the right to cancel this permit by notice to the permit holder.
  14. This permit is subject to a general appeal and may be suspended should an appeal against the decisions be received by SAHRA within 14 days from the date of the permit. SAHRA may not be held responsible for any costs or losses incurred in the event of the suspension or retraction of this permit.

This permit is valid from **27/08/2012 to 01/09/2013**.

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Mariagrazia Galimberti  
Heritage Officer: Archaeology  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>

**ADDENDUM B**

**COURT ORDER**

ORIGINAL

*[Handwritten signature]*

IN THE NORTH GAUTENG HIGH COURT, PRETORIA  
(REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA)

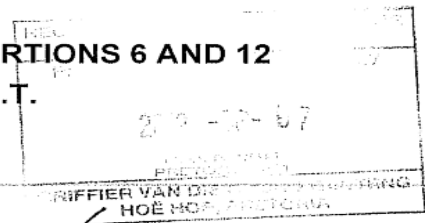
CASE NO: 39867/2012

In the application between:

<b>NORTHAM PLATINUM LIMITED</b>	First Applicant
<b>MICAWBER 278 (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED</b>	Second Applicant
<b>WINDFALL 38 PROPERTIES (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED</b>	Third Applicant
<b>ESKOM HOLDINGS LIMITED</b>	Fourth Applicant

and

**THE OCCUPIERS OF PORTIONS 6 AND 12 OF SCHAAPKRAAL 42 J.T.** Respondents



**REVISED ORDER**

**Before:** *Priller J.*

**Date:** *7 August 2012*

By consent between the parties and in consequence of paragraph 5 of the order under the above case number granted by His Lordship Mr Justice Makgoba on 24 July 2012, the following revised order is hereby issued:

✓

*Te S*



1. The respondents are interdicted from in any manner interfering with any power line construction-, or related activities of any of the applicants, its representatives, contractors or subcontractors including but not limited to Roshcon at or near Portions 6, 7 or 12 of the Farm Schaapkraal 42 JT in the district of Lydenburg (Schaapkraal), and / or on the Farm Booyensdal 43 JT in the district of Lydenburg (Booyensdal). ✓
2. The respondents are interdicted from in any manner interfering with or obstructing the access of any of the applicants' representatives, employees, contractors or subcontractors to, from and over Portions 6, 7 and 12 of Schaapkraal and Booyensdal. ✓
3. The respondents are interdicted from entering Booyensdal. ✓
4. The respondents are ordered to relocate all structures erected on or in the vicinity of the Eskom servitude over Portions 6 and 7 of Schaapkraal within 5 days from date of this revised order to a location or locations situated a safe distance from the Eskom servitude, such safe distance to be determined by and in the sole discretion of Roshcon Construction Site Manager and pegged out ✓

*if found necessary by the construction Roshcon site manager*

*RC*

*the said Site Manager*  
 by ~~the Sheriff, Lydenburg~~ (which determination and pegging out shall be effected forthwith) failing which the Sheriff, Lydenburg shall remove or cause the removal of such structures and place the material so removed or cause it to be placed at a safe distance, determined by the Roshcon Construction Site Manager as aforesaid.

TC ✓

5. The applicants are ordered to ensure that all power line construction and related activities referred to in paragraph 1 above are executed in such a manner that the site/s pointed out *in situ* by the respondents to the applicants in the presence of their respective legal representatives on 31 July 2012, GPS-referenced, and listed in annexure "A" hereto, shall not be disturbed by such construction and related activities. For purposes of this order, the concept of disturbance is expressly limited to actual physical disturbance of the site/s and the concept specifically does not include;

✓

- 5.1 the overhead traversing of the site/s by power lines, and/or

✓

TC ✓

5.2 the use of any roads existing as at 31 July 2012, and/or ✓

5.3 disturbance necessitated by law, such as but not limited to

the implementation of processes prescribed by the ✓

National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998,

and/or

5.4 the determination and pegging out referred to in paragraph ✓

4 above.

5A. The applicants and the respondents are ordered each ✓  
to appoint at least one representative to inspect the  
servitude area prior to any construction, to  
ensure that no sites as listed in annexure A will  
be disturbed by any construction or related activities

TCL

6. The parties or any one or more of them are authorised to

approach this court, on an urgent basis and on the same papers

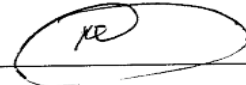
amplified if necessary and upon 12 hours notice by e-mail to the ✓

opposing party's attorney of record as indicated below, for further

relief if required.

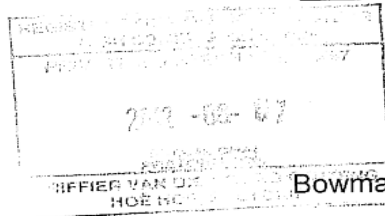
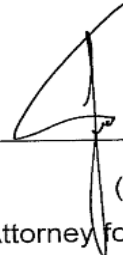
TCL

Dated at Lydenburg on this 31 day of July 2012.



(Sgd) Thabiso Mbhense  
Attorney for The Respondents  
E-mail: thabiso@lrc.org.za  
Legal Resources Centre, Johannesburg

Dated at Sandton on this 31st day of July 2012.



(Sgd) Jason Smit  
Attorney for The Applicants  
E-mail: j.smit@bowman.co.za  
Bowman Gilfillan Incorporated, Sandton

Dated at Pretoria on this 7th day of August 2012.



BY ORDER  
REGISTRAR: HIGH COURT PRETORIA



ANNEXURE "A"

**AGREED SITE LISTING FOR PURPOSES OF REVISED CONSENT ORDER UNDER GNP CASE NUMBER 39867/2012**

SITE NUMBER:

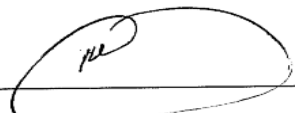
GPS REFERENCE:

- 1.
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- 10.

As per Annexure "A"  
 attached hereto.

π

Dated at Lydenburg on this 21 day of July 2012.




(Sgd) Thabiso Mbhense  
 Attorney for The Respondents  
 E-mail: thabiso@lrc.org.za

π 16

Legal Resources Centre, Johannesburg

Dated at Sandton on this 31st day of July 2012.



---

(Sgd) Jason Smit

Attorney for The Applicants

E-mail: j.smit@bowman.co.za

Bowman Gilfillan Incorporated, Sandton



"A<sub>1</sub>"

S 25° 05.977 (Kraal punt)	16) S 25° 05.976	K13
E 30° 09.740	E 30° 09.767	
S 25° 05.988 (K2)	17) S 25° 05.983	K14
E 30° 09.708	E 30° 09.771	
S 25° 05.996 (K3)	18) S 25° 05.984	K15
E 30° 09.728	E 30° 09.765	
S 25° 05.999 (K4)	19) S 25° 05.980	S1
E 30° 09.729	E 30° 09.763	
S 25° 05.977 (K5)	20) S 25° 05' 917	K16
E 30° 09.732	E 30° 09' 755	
S 25° 06.000 (K6)	21) S 25° 05' 914	K17
E 30° 09.733	E 30° 09' 761	
S 25° 06.007 (G1)	22) S 25° 05.840	N1 S2
E 30° 09.747	E 30° 09.727	
S 25° 06.010 (K7)	23) S 25° 05' 820	K18
E 30° 09.751	E 30° 09.720	
S 25° 06.010 (G2)	24) S 25° 05 819	K19
E 30° 09.751	30 09 725	
S 25° 06.006 (K8)	25) S 25° 05 814	K20
E 30° 09.758	E 30 09 716	
S 25° 06.013 (K9)	26) S 25° 05 809	K21
E 30° 09.766	30 09 714	
S 25° 06.017 (K10)	27) S 25 05 804	K22
E 30° 09.772	30 09 719	
S 25° 06.025 (G3)	28) S 25 05 968	(S2) By concrete + klip
E 30° 09.785	30 09 816	
S 25° 06.029 (G4 (K11))	29)	
E 30° 09.784		
S 25° 05.976 (K12)	30)	
E 30° 09.772		

TL 6

