

Archaeological Site Report	SiteNo	9/2/240/0001
	Site Name	Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape
	Date	27/06/2002 - 22:55
	Project	
	CaseNID	
	Coords	-22.211111, 29.388889

Page No: 1 **SiteAutoID:** 26789

Physical Type: Open Site

L(m):
300.00

B(m):
100.00

BroadAgeCategory: Iron Age

Site Category: Archaeological, Cultural Landscape, Rock Art, Deposit, Artefacts, Settlement, Ruin > 100 years

Directions:

It is situated between the Limpopo River to the north and the R572 between Pont Drift and Messina to the south. The western boundary is the R521 from Pont Drift to the R572 turn off. The eastern boundary is formed by the farms Weipe and Reidel.

SiteComments:

The Mapungubwe Cultural landscape records the sequency of social and economic changes between AD900 and AD1300 that reflect the evolution of class distinction and sacred leadership in the settlements known as Schroda, K2 and Mapungubwe. These are the only places where exotic trade and non-utilitarian items have been found in such large quantities in South Africa. Mapungubwe Hill and the surrounding terraces below it were occupied mainly between AD 1220 and AD 1290 at a time when the Mapungubwe culture was at its zenith. It is the best known example in this cultural landscape of the effects of accumulated wealth on social stratification that led to separation of the ruling class from the commoners. The elite hilltop settlement, with royal graves, gold, copper and other ceremonial artefacts and trade goods, is physically and cognitively distinct from larger commoner agricultural settlement at the base of the hill. Wealth in the ruling class grew from trade with the east coast of Africa and the Indian Ocean network centuries before Europeans found the sea route to India. While ideal climatic conditions for agriculture prevailed in the thirteen century, Mapungubwe was the centre of the first powerful indigenous kingdom in Southern Africa.

Manufactured Artefact Types: Metal Items

Damage Types: