Middle & Late Iron Age: ruins of the Late Iron Age culture were found on the southern slopes of the Magaliesberg. Unlike people of the Early Iron Age, they tended to settle in hilltops rather than in valleys. This may indicate greater military activity and a need for security. (Coombe, R. V. 22) Their tombs were cylindrical. The first settlement in the Magaliesberg was built in about 1800. The largest village was Nge Fugu, which is now a farm. Late Iron Age pottery is thinner, and ornaments and decorations were important to these communities. By 1800, gold and copper were being mined in the area, which had become well established.

Acrimony and Civil war, 1856 - 1864:

January 1864, two Boer armies confronted each other at the Crocodile River, just north of the present Hartebeespoort Dam.

1857

The first church built in Church Square.

The Transvaal Sequence, formed by the Transvaal Formation, was deposited in a basin that extended from the east coast to the west coast. From the east, the sequence passes through the Dippel Sandstone, the Black Reef, and the Boland Group, to the west. The sequence has been divided into three main parts: the Transvaal Group, the Nama Group, and the Karoo Group.

The Karoo Sequence - Dwyka Glaciation: Erosion occurred during the long ages that followed the creation of the Magaliesberg and brought the landscape to a stage in the carbonate period. During the meteorological conditions, Europe was under cold and wet conditions. Ice sheets covered the land. The Magaliesberg was totally submerged beneath the ice. The effects on Magaliesberg were considerable, the high rainfall caused by the cold and wet conditions.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. INTRODUCTION
2. NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MAGALIESBERG AREA
3. CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE MAGALIESBERG AREA
4. CONCLUSION

Summary of the background of the natural and cultural history of the Magaliesberg ridge, and of Pretoria.
2.1 Introduction

In the following chapter the natural and cultural history of the Magaliesberg area will be discussed to give background to the research study. Everything started with the titanic geological episodes which created the quartzite ridges. Many thousands of years later indigenous people started moving into these mountains. Hundreds of years later the Europeans came and Pretoria came into existence. “This is a story of immense diversity, of science and aesthetics, wilderness and war.” (Carruthers, 2000: 1) It is this combination of geology, climate and nature which creates this spectacular scenery.

The background history of the study area is important, because by knowing what has happened in this area as well as in the Magaliesberg mountain, a better understanding of why the place is so significant and why it should be protected but also why everyone should be made aware of its existence is so important. This chapter will also give some background on some of the artefacts and aspects found on site. A better understanding of that will shed light on why the specific theory is investigated and why some design interventions are made the way they are.

2.2 Natural history of the Magaliesberg area

The formation of Pretoria’s landscape began some 2300 million years ago, when quartzite, shale, dolomite and chert rocks were deposited in a series of layers. The series of cataclysmic events which produced this distinctive geomorphology can be grouped for convenience into four phases: deposition of the quartzite and shale from which the mountains are constructed; tilting of the range through subterranean disturbances; burial of the range under ice and till; and re-emergence of the range and subsequent erosion to its present form. (Carruthers, 2000: 6)

The Voortrekkers who began settling in the area in the late 1830’s named the northern most ridge the Magaliesberg after a local chief, Mohale (Mogale). Before that it was known as the Cashane (Khashan) mountains after another chief, and even earlier than that, it was called Boradi Mountains. (Carruthers, 2000)
Pre-Cambrian period

Transvaal Sequence of sedimentary rock deposited in the following sequence: Black Reef Quartzite Formation, Malmani Subgroup (dolomite and chert), and the Pretoria Group, which included the Magaliesberg Quartzite Formation.

Bushveld Complex

Transvaal Sequence tilts to form monoclinal ridges of quartzite and shale.

Cambrian Period, Ordovician Period, Silurian Period and Devonian Period

These periods were the periods of exposure and erosion.

Carboniferous Period

Exposed ridges levelled by glacial abrasion and buried beneath the following Karoo Sequence sediments, called the Dwyka Formation (glacial)

Permean, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Palaeogene Periods

During these periods the following groups developed, namely; Ecca, Beaufort, Stormberg, Drakensberg Basalt Group. During the Palaeogene Period, erosion and removal of Karoo Strata started, the warping of subcontinental watershed and the development of river beds and poorts came to existence.

Neogene Period and Quaternary Period

During these periods, erosion continued and northward movement of the ridge started.
2.3 The cultural history of the Magaliesberg area

Introduction

Before Wonderboom Nature Reserve’s cultural resources (aspects) can be discussed in detail, a background regarding the different phases of human history in the Magaliesberg is needed. This will enable the reader to better understand the sites found during a survey by Anton van Vollenhoven in 2008. These sites will be discussed in further detail in chapter five.

From the time of their earliest evolutionary emergence human beings have been an integral part of life in the Magaliesberg. For hundreds of thousands of years a succession of societies, each with its own culture and technology, has inhabited the mountains (Carruthers, 2000: 210). According to Carruthers, “In consequence, the archaeological interest of this region is as important as that of the wildlife. It provides glimpses into the long unwritten history of southern Africa and the early development of mankind.” (Carruthers, 2000: 210)

The Stone Age Period

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Van Vollenhoven, 2008:23). In South Africa the Stone Age can be subdivided into three periods. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

• Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
• Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago
• Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

According to Van Vollenhoven (2008: 13) it is important to note that some of the oldest humanoid fossils have been found close to Pretoria, namely at Kromdraai, Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Gladysvale and Drimolen (in the Krugersdorp area). These hominids include Australopithecus Africanus, Australopithecus Robustus and Homo Habilis and can be as old as 3 million years. These early people were the first to make stone tools.

It is important to mention this as one of the important Early Stone Age sites are situated just east of the Wonderboom Nature Reserve. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 13)

Early Stone Age

The early Stone Age is represented by large multipurpose hunting and butchering tools. The Wonderboom Early Stone Age site covers an area of approximately 650 square meters with a deposit of up to 3 meters deep and contains immense numbers of hand axes, cleavers, scrapers and stone flakes. This period is associated with the emergence of Homo habilis (toolmaker) and Homo erectus. (Mitchell, 2002)
According to Anton van Vollenhoven (2008: 13) the Wonderboom site is a so-called Late Acheul site. This means that it is the later phase of the Acheulian culture, which is an Early Stone Age culture. These stone tools were probably manufactured by the earliest hominids as indicated above. These people would have undoubtedly utilised the area now known as the Wonderboom Nature Reserve as it would have been easy to hunt in the gateways through the mountain. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 13)

The artefacts (found by prof. Revil Mason in 1955) at Wonderboom were both useful tools and core stones showing that this part of the Magaliesberg was a place for camping and feasting on hunted game as well as a tool manufacturing centre. There are considerable similarities between these tools and those which had been made at Sterkfontein more than a million years previously by an earlier species of man. The later tools were, however, more often in the form of pear-shaped hand axes or cleavers between about 100 - 200mm in length. (Carruthers, 2000: 214-216)

**Middle Stone Age**

Although no specific Middle Stone Age site has been identified in the Wonderboom Reserve, numerous artefacts and sites have been found in the Tshwane area. The Middle Stone Age was characterised by a reduction in tool size, and a refinement of stone tool technology. This also implied a refinement of hunting techniques, such as the hafting (attachment to a bone or wooden handle) of stone tools. A much larger range of stone tools makes their appearance in this age and typical Middle Stone Age tools include blades, knives, and spear points. The Middle Stone Age also marks the arrival of anatomically modern humans - Homo sapiens.

Middle Stone Age material was identified some years ago on the western side of Voor- trekker Road across the Magaliesberg Mountain. This would have been inside the reserve (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 14). Refer to chapter 5 for illustrations of these artefacts.

**Later Stone Age**

The Later Stone Age is characterised by a further refinement of stone tools. Very small artefacts (known as microliths), requiring high skill levels to manufacture are typical of this period. This period is associated with hunter gatherers such as the San, a florescence of rock art and other symbolic behaviour, wide-spread expression of art in the form of ostrich eggshell beads, ostrich eggshell flasks, pendants. Bone points and stone inserts were used in composite poisoned arrows.

According to Van Vollenhoven (2008) a Late Stone Age site has been identified to the west of Wonderboompoort. This phase of the Stone Age is associated with the San people. Although many San sites are associated with rock art it does not seem that rock art is present at the Wonderboom Nature Reserve.

Although only two Stone Age sites were identified during the survey, by Anton van Vollenhoven (2008: 14) a number of stone tools were found throughout the reserve. The lithic tools represent all three phases of the Stone Age and it is, therefore, clear that the hunter-gatherers associated with these tools utilised the area extensively.
The Iron Age Period

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artefacts. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 16) In South Africa it can be divided into two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

- Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.
- Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii), however, indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles according to Van Vollenhoven (2008: 16), are:

- Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.
- Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.
- Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Early Iron Age

For the first time man identified with the land on which his crops were growing or from which he was mining iron ore. Informative relics of early Iron Age have been found at Broederstroom on the banks of the Hartebeespoort Dam. Inhabitants of the Moot valley were goatherders and metal workers. The huts were assembled in small villages. The metal was smelted in charcoal furnaces in the village. (Carruthers, 2000: 220-224)

Middle & Late Iron Age

Ruins of the Late Iron Age culture was found on the southern slopes of the Magaliesberg. “Unlike people of the Early Iron Age, they tended to settle on hilltops rather than in valleys. This may indicate greater military activity and a need for security.” (Carruthers, V: 224) Their huts were cylindrical, and according to Carruthers, they were mud-plastered walls capped with a coarsely thatched conical roof. Cattle enclosures and fences around settlements were made from branches of thorn trees. On the perimeter of each settlement sorghum and other crops were grown. (Carruthers, V: 224)

The first stonewalls in the Magaliesberg were built in about 1600. There was no apparent break between middle and late Iron Age, and indeed the lineage continued directly to modern Tswana people living in the area today.

Late Iron Age pottery is thinner, and Pottery found in the Magaliesberg bears a pattern of notches around the lip and broad bands of different colouring around the circumference. Ornaments and decorations were important to these communities, and according to Carruthers may have had religious or superstitious significance (Carruthers, 2000: 226). Basket weave, pottery, wooden spoons an iron knives were also things noticable from the iron Age.
Early travellers have moved through the area that later became known as Pretoria as early as 1829. This was when the first white people visited the area, namely Robert Schoon and William McLuckie. During the same year the well known missionary Dr. Robert Moffat also visited the area (Rasmussen 1978: 69).

The first Bantu language speakers in the area were the so-called Transvaal Ndebele, specifically the southern group. Their history goes back to Chief Msi (Musi) and the genealogy of the Manala (Mahbena) clan, the Ndzundza (Mapoch) clan, the Mathombeni (Kekana) clan and the Hwanda clan (Horn 1996: 23).

Chief Msi lived in the Pretoria area somewhere between 1600 and 1700 A.D. His sons divided the tribe into three groups, namely the Hwaduba, Manala and Ndzundza (Horn 1996: 23). The Manala lived to the north of Pretoria and the Ndzundza to the north and west. The Hwaduba stayed in the vicinity of the confluence between the Pienaars and Apies River. This group took over the culture and language of the Kgatla, a Tswana group (Bergh 1999: 108).

It is also said that Msi had a son called Tshwane. This has not been proved yet and neither has it been proved that he stayed at the Wonderboom. Louwrens and Van Vuuren give lengthy discussions on why they believe such a person never existed. Although their arguments are logical and scientifically sound, there is an element of doubt which could only be clarified by further (archaeological) research, according to Van Vollenhoven (2008: 17).

The largest group of Bantu speaking people in the Pretoria area is the Northern Sotho, but Southern Sotho’s and Tswanas are also present. These groups have a typical building tradition consisting of large building complexes and round huts with conical roofs. At the beginning of the nineteenth century two Tswana groups, the Kwena and Kgatla stayed to the north and west of Pretoria in the vicinity of the Crocodile-, Pienaars- and Apies Rivers (Bergh 1999: 106).

It seems as if all these groups fled from the area during the Difaquane when Mzilikazi came here in 1827. He killed the men, burned down their villages, confiscated the livestock and took the women to marry members of his impi (Van Vollenhoven 2000: 156). Mzilikazi had many villages in the area. Particular mention is made of him staying at the Wonderboom. The site was called Kungwini (Carruthers 1990: 245).

An interesting argument Van Vollenhoven (2008: 17) makes is that “one can however not help to wonder why Dr Robert Moffat on a visit to this site did not mention the Wonderboom tree. One would expect that such an exceptional natural phenomena would have been mentioned as Moffat gives a very detailed description of his visit.”
The missionary Jean-Pierre Pellissier even visited Mzilikazi in March 1832. In June/July of that year he was attacked by the impi of Dingane, the Zulu chief. As a result he left the area during that year (Bergh 1999: 112). This left an area described as being deserted by the missionary Robert Moffat. Sotho groups, however, started moving back into the area after Mzilikazi left (Junod 1955: 68).

The first white people also came to the Pretoria area during this time (Coetzee 1992: 11). In 1839 JGS Bronkhorst settled on the farm Elandspoort. He was the first permanent white settler in the area (Van Vollenhoven 2005: 17-45).

Erasmus de Oude was the first owner of the farm Wonderboom 302 JR which is the farm on which the Wonderboom Nature Reserve was established. The boundaries of the original farm were the Wonderboom airport to the north, the Montana agricultural holdings to the east, Booyzen Street to the south and the Apies River to the west. (Van Vollenhoven, 2008: 17)

**Voortrekker invasion (1836 - 1837)**

The Voortrekkers are known as people who became dissatisfied with life under the British administration, they migrated from the colony. At that time, they referred to themselves as “the emigrant farmers”, but after half a century their movement became woven into Afrikaner national culture and they acquired the more heroic name of “Voortrekkers”. (Carruthers, 2000: 259)

The Voortrekkers came from the Eastern Cape to the grassland highveld. Mzilikazi became uneasy with the Voortrekkers in his domain. Mzilikazi attacked, but the Voortrekkers built a defensive laager to hold off the Ndebeles. In the end Mzilikazi was evicted from the Magaliesberg through joint forces and various raids by the Tswana, Griqua, Zulu and the Voortrekkers. (Carruthers, 2000: 258) Mzilikazi abandoned his former territory and fled north of the Limpopo River. There he re-established his capital at Bulawayo and the descendants of his people are to be found in that region of Zimbabwe today. (Carruthers, 2000: 262)

**South African Republic**

Hendrik Potgieter and Andries Pretorius both wanted independance from the British. Both Potgieter and Pretorius played a major part in the settlement of white farmers in the Magaliesberg. Potgieter had led the successful campaign against Mzilikazi and claimed the right for Boers to occupy the Ndebele kingdom. (Carruthers, 2000: 270)

A major difference between Pretorius and Potgieter is their methods of gaining independence form Britain. Where Potgieter preferred to move beyond British jurisdiction, Pretorius chose to confront the British directly. (Carruthers, 2000: 270)

A few months after the battle at Boomplaats (1848), Pretorius called another meeting at Derdepoort (present highway to Bela-Bela passes through the mountains). A draft constitution was approved and a joint Volksraad was established to govern all Boer communities north of the Vaal (1852). (Carruthers, 2000: 271)

In 1852 Pretorius saw a chance to accomplish through negotiation what he had failed to achieve by force at Boomplaats. The British public were growing tired of the financial cost of their involvement in the political instability north of the Cape colony. Pretorius hoped to exploit this feeling of dissatisfaction to gain Boer independence. (Carruthers, 2000: 271)
Andries Pretorius negotiated and received Boer independance of the Vaal River from British on the Sand River. Two years later, the new state, the Zuid-Afrikaansch Republiek was born (1854). (Carruthers, 2000: 272)

**Founding of Pretoria**

Soon after Potgieter and Pretorius’ reconciliation, they both died. Marthinus Pretorius, followed in his father’s footprints, and among the first undertakings was the acquisition of two farms on the southern slopes of the mountains where he intended to establish a seat of government for the inherent Volksraad. He continued to live at Grootplaas and the Magaliesberg remained at the centre of political developments in the Transvaal. It was only in 1855 that the proposed town was laid out, along the banks of the Apies River and named “Pretoria” in honour of Andries Pretorius. (Carruthers, 2000: 273)

**British annexation of the Transvaal**

The British were tired of the Boers’ exploitation of the Africans. Aggressive imperialists took the opportunity to annex the Transvaal, with little resistance, sir Theophilus Shepstone hoisted the Union jack in Pretoria on 12 April 1877. Although it only lasted four years, British rule changed Pretoria into a boisterous military camp and in the mountains several English speaking families acquired farms. (Carruthers, 2000: 278)

**The Transvaal War (First Anglo Boer War), 1880-1881**

The Boers were unhappy with British rule, they reproclaimed independence of the South African Republic, after four years of annexation, on 16 December 1880. Paul Kruger, Marthinus Pretorius and Piet Joubert were the Boer leaders. Their declaration was delivered to the British High Commissioner in Pretoria, Sir Owen Lanyon, who immediately repudiated it and the situation erupted into war.

The 3600 troops of the British military under the command of Colonel William Bellairs were distributed in small garrisons throughout the Transvaal. On the other hand, the Boer - directed under Commandant-General Piet Joubert - strategy was to besiege the widely scattered British troops in their isolated outposts, thus leaving the majority of the Boer force unharassed to defend the Natal border from the expected British invasion.

The first battle broke out at Bronkhorstspruit and lasted for 15 minutes. The Boers won the battle.

Pretoria was located between the Magaliesberg mountains, and not easy to defend, but after the British heard what happened at Bronkhorstspruit, the town prepared for a siege. The main fortification was Fort Royal, close to the site of the present day railway station, which guarded the roads from Heidelberg and Potchefstroom. On the northern side of Pretoria, however, there were no fortifications and it was defended by Bellairs, who patrolled alone.

In preparation of the siege, martial law was proclaimed and the entire population was relocated to fortified camps. The Loreto Convent in Skinner Street was commandeered and linked to the old goal to form a walled enclosure in which civilians were accommodated. Others were housed within the military camps at Fort Royal. (Clayton, 2010)
The most important reason behind the Boers' fortification of Pretoria was probably the Jameson Raid of 1895/96. This event and the contemporary unrest amongst the foreigners on the Rand made the Government of the ZAR aware of an increasing foreign threat against peace that was present (Van Vollenhoven, 1998:50).

The ‘Reformers‘ prepared a supply camp near Irene and were ready to march from there against Pretoria on 27 December 1896. Two hundred and fifty horses were allegedly kept at Halfway House for this purpose. Commandant-General Piet Joubert repeatedly expressed his fears about a possible attack on Pretoria. On New Year’s day 1896 Commandant D.E. Schutte requested him to guard the roads between Pretoria and Johannesburg. (Van Vollenhoven, 1998:50)

The fact that the capital had been divided into defence wards and that a vigilance committee had been introduced there, proves that Pretoria did expect an invasion. All commandants in the Republic were instructed to have their men ready and Johannesburg was surrounded by Boer Commandos. (Van Vollenhoven, 1998:51)

The situation became even more serious when a secret map of Pretoria was discovered in the trunk of a British spy, Captain Robert White. He had already drawn this map in April 1895. Other proof of espionage activities were also found on him. It is a fact that the Jameson Raid was directly responsible for the Boers fortification of Pretoria (Van Vollenhoven, 1998: 51).

The Government of the ZAR built only four forts during the second Anglo Boer War, namely those at Schanskop, Wonderboom-poort, Klapperkop and Daspoortrand.

The capture of Pretoria was an anticlimax for the British, according to Carruthers (2000), because even though the Union Jack was
2.4 Conclusion

In conclusion from the above mentioned background on the natural and cultural history of the Magaliesberg and Wonderboom Nature Reserve in specific one can deduce that this study site is very important. It contains evidence of war, Stone Age and Iron Age sites with artefacts, ruins of the Anglo Boer Wars and remnants of other celebrated events. This site also takes you as far back as the origin of the Magaliesberg with its geology layers and the result of a series of cataclysmic events which produced this distinctive geomorphology thousands of years ago, named the Magaliesberg ridge. This site has layers of history which one can explore and through design create awareness, access and understanding of these significant features.

In the following chapter the theoretical approach will be discussed. Ways in which one can communicate these heritage and history will be explored, the communication of the site’s cultural and biophysical aspects.

South African War ruins in the Magaliesberg provide a valuable record of guerrilla military architecture.

The nature area

The Physical Planning Act of 1975 provided for the concept of a “nature area” wherein land ownership might remain in private hands but changes in land use would be prohibited except with the permission of the Department of Planning and the Environment. The Magaliesberg was not yet proclaimed as a “nature area”, but was cited as the type of land which should be proclaimed. (Carruthers, 2000: 346) On 12 August 1977 the Magaliesberg was formally proclaimed the first “nature area” in South Africa. (Carruthers, 2000: 347)