BRAKFONTEIN PROPOSAL

General excavation

- The footprint will be gridded into 2m x 2m squares and the excavations will occur in a checkerboard and double cross approach. Standard excavation method will be used.
- The footprint is 90m x 45m resulting in almost 1000 2m X 2m squares to be excavated.
- Excavations will continue until artefacts and/or features are no longer found. This will be assessed on a weekly basis. The budget has counted for a start of 30 days fieldwork.
- Excavations may also occur along the access road and pipeline route that will need to be levelled etc.
- I will use a registered archaeological Field Assistant in addition to 4 x local labourers from the farm (if available), for some aspects of the excavations. This will be important when excavating the graves and general excavations at the same time.
- All stone walled features will be mapped within the grid and referenced to the digital scanning. The written maps can be incorporated into this.
- The excavation will be broken up into 3 sections:
    - Graves
    - Metal detector survey
    - General excavations

Graves

- ~10 graves occur in the footprint. More graves could occur once the grass has been cleared.
- The graves appear to be Late Iron Age graves
- Some graves occur as isolated features while some appear to be connected to stone walling.
- Each grave will be partially excavated to determine if any human remains still exist. IF remains do occur, then a complete excavation will be undertaken. If there are no human remains, then a soil sample will be taken.
- Archaeological graves can take 2 – 3 days to successfully remove.
- If Boer graves are found, then they will be removed as well.

Metal detector survey

- The metal detector survey will occur before the excavations occur, but after the area has been gridded.
- The aim of the metal detector survey will be to note which area have concentrations of metal artefacts, and this will assist in starting the excavations.
- Metal objects may be removed at this stage, or during the general excavation stage. If artefacts are removed at this stage, then they will only be removed if they are isolated

artefacts and not in a feature. This would minimise potential loss during excavations. All objects will get GPS readings and a grid reference and plot.

Digital scanning

- Digital scanning will digitally record all of the features on the entire site and allow them to be viewed in a 3D manner. This is a very good way to record features that will be destroyed by the reservoir.
- The digital scan will allow for a virtual walkthrough of the site.
- Examples of this can be viewed at:
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi9UXUa-w8o
    - https://sketchfab.com/models/bf376e197ff045188f972b5b6a4fdeda
    - https://sketchfab.com/models/3d7fdd7b6c1b484aac1971106d2352ae
    - https://sketchfab.com/models/2d8a9897a9d840e493d081df05c5e934
    - http://www.heritagekzn.co.za/virtual-tour/isandlwana/

Displays

It was suggested that two types of displays are made: Travelling and on-site displays

- Travelling display
    - This would entail 5ive displays relating to the specific site OR 5 10min interpretative documentaries
- On Site displays
    - I proposed that since the reservoir will occur on the site, it should be adapted and made into a viewing platform, with signage
    - Treated pine flooring with railings as required
    - Large scale map with the location of various forces and battles and battlefield markers.
    - The reservoir itself will need to be hidden from view. This can be undertaken with ferro cement rock work, and will blend the reservoir structures into the landscape and minimise the visual impact.

Meetings:

Several meetings with WMN, Amafa KZN, and the display and digital scanners will be required. These will be on site and in Pietermaritzburg