

**PHASE ONE CULTURAL HERITAGE  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF GREENFIELDS  
FARM AT MOOIRIVER, MPOFANA LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



**For: Green Door Environmental**

**Frans Prins  
MA (Archaeology)  
P.O. Box 947  
Howick  
3290**

**Activeheritage@gmail.com**  
Fax: 0867636380  
www.activeheritage.webs.com

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
HISTORIC PERIOD	Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1820 in this part of the country
IRON AGE	Early Iron Age AD 200 - AD 1000 Late Iron Age AD 1000 - AD 1830
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 and associated regulations (2006).
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and associated regulations (2000)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
STONE AGE	Early Stone Age 2 000 000 - 250 000 BP Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A first phase cultural heritage survey of Greenfields Farm near Mooiriver, Mpofana Local Municipality identified no heritage sites on the three blocks (Pr 1, Pr 3 and Pr 5) earmarked for maize cultivation. There is no reason from a heritage perspective why development may not proceed on these areas as planned. However, two old farmsteads with associated historical outbuildings occur on the farm. Some of the features at both farmsteads are older than 60 years and in some instances dates back to 1892. These historical sites are situated more than 1.2km from any of the blocks identified for cultivation. However, it is important to respect the integrity of these heritage sites and therefore to maintain a buffer zone of at least 50m around each farmstead complex. Should this not be possible then a Phase Two Heritage Impact Assessment by a built heritage specialist must be initiated in order to make suitable recommendations for mitigation. Attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

## 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

**Table 1. Background information**

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for Green Door Environmental
Type of development:	Cultivation of available land (maize). Blocks Pr 1, Pr 3 and Pr 5 has been identified for cultivation (Fig 1).
Rezoning or subdivision:	Not applicable
Terms of reference	To carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment
Legislative requirements:	The Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

### 1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

Greenfields Farm is situated to the immediate south of Mooiriver and spans both sides of the N3 (Fig 1). It was used as a horse and cattle stud. The farm covers an area of approximately 5700m x 5 900m. Most of it is covered by grasslands although some exotic tree plantations also occur. The GPS coordinates of Greenfields Farm are S 29° 14' 59.11" E 30° 01' 06.90". Three blocks have been identified for maize cultivation.

These blocks, Pr 1, Pr 3, and Pr 5 are indicated on Fig 2. Other potential areas have been excluded maize cultivation and is not commented on in this report.

## **2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA**

The greater Mooi River, including the Drakensberg portion of the area to the west, has been relatively well surveyed for archaeological sites in the past. Some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades whilst archaeologists from the then Natal Museum have made sporadic visits to the area. The adjacent areas of Muden and Weenen to the east have also been well surveyed for archaeological sites. These low altitude and densely wooded areas have been intensely occupied by Iron Age farmers since the Early Iron Age around 500 AD. Some of these sites have also been excavated by Dr Tim Maggs of the Natal Museum in the 1980's (Huffman 2007). The footprint is centrally located between the Drakensberg with its abundance of Later Stone Age rock art sites to the west and the low altitude river valleys that were favoured by Iron Age farmers, to the east.

The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the area in the near vicinity to the footprint contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include one Early Stone Age site, four Middle Stone Age sites, twenty Later Stone Age sites, eight Later Iron Age sites, and numerous historical sites dating back to the colonial period. Some of the farms in the area contain graves and structures relating to early Voortrekker settlement such as those at the nearby Dargle Valley on the farm Maritzdaal and at La Lampara near Balgowan, however, the majority of older buildings on farmsteads were erected by British colonists after 1850 who occupied farms previously inhabited by Voortrekker pioneers (Bizley & McKenzie 2007). Some historical buildings, such as those at Weston College approximately 1 km to the west of the project area, were actively used by British imperial forces during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. Various graves in the area belonged to British soldiers who died during the War. The old church cemetery at Bruntville, approximately 1 km to the north

of the project area, contains the graves of numerous British soldiers who died during the Anglo-Boer War (Fig 1). These are also protected by heritage legislation.

Most of the Stone Age sites in the near vicinity of the footprint occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. Some Middle Stone Age flakes, probably dating back to ca. 40 000 – 200 000 years ago, occur in disturbed context in dongas and road cuttings. The majority of Later Stone Age sites as well as rock art sites occur further west in the foothills of the Drakensberg. These typically occur in small shelters in the sandstone formations some leading up to the Drakensberg.

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years but the local demography started to change soon after 2000 years ago when the first Bantu-speaking farmers crossed the Limpopo River and arrived in South Africa. Around 400 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater Mooi River area. Although the majority of sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located in the Dargle and Karkloof Valley areas also show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the Wushe, Thembu, Mncunu and related groups (Bryant 1965). The Wushe was known to be excellent metal workers and it is not surprising that some archaeological evidence for early metal working has been found in the Karkloof, Nottingham road, and Dargle areas. However, by 1820 the Wushe was dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups and individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial authorities after 1845 where most of them became farm labourers. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

European settlement of the area started soon after 1838 when the first Voortrekker settlers marked out large farms in the area. However, most of these farms were abandoned in the 1840's when Natal became a British colony only to be reoccupied again by British immigrants. The first permanent British settlement in the area occurred in 1852 at the drift in the Mooi River, the Mooi River Drift. In 1866 the location was formally named Weston after the first Governor of Natal, Martin West. In

1879, an Irishman named Alexander Lawrence purchased the farm "Grantleigh" upstream from Weston, on the banks of the Mooi River. In 1884, the railway line from Durban to Johannesburg reached the area and was built across the Grantleigh farm of Alexander Lawrence. He subsequently laid out and establish a village on his farm, called Lawrenceville. In 1921, the village was renamed Mooi River when it was declared a town. Lawrence is known as "The Father of Mooi River".

Greenfields Farm was purchased in 1892 by James Piccione, an Irish-Italian who dreamed of establishing a magnificent horse and cattle stud on the estate. The original residential dwelling was built in 1893 but various buildings were added on in subsequent years. The farm has changed hands several times and in the early 1990's it also became a well-known tourist and wedding venue.

### **3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. In addition, the available archaeological and historical literature covering the greater Mooiriver area was also consulted. The SAHRIS website was consulted to locate additional heritage sites and features near the study area.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on the 11th July 2016.

#### **3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey**

##### **3.2.1 Visibility**

Visibility was good.

##### **3.2.2 Disturbance**

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

### **3.3 Details of equipment used in the survey**

GPS: Garmin Etrek

Digital cameras: Canon Powershot A460

All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a level of 5 m.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED**

### **4.1 Locational data**

*Province:* KwaZulu-Natal

*Town:* Mooi River

*Municipality:* Mpofana Local Municipality

### **4.2 Description of the general area surveyed**

Although various precolonial archaeological sites occur in the close environs of Mooiriver (Fig 1) none were located on the footprint. No heritage sites were observed on the three blocks, Pr 1, Pr 3, and Pr 5 identified for maize cultivation (Fig 8 & 9). However, various tracks were observed on block Pr 1 (Fig 4) but it is difficult to date these and they do not appear to have any heritage significance. Two farmsteads with historical features, however, do occur on the farm. These heritage sites are situated more than 1.2km from any of the identified blocks earmarked for maize cultivation. The first complex of historical buildings is the well-known Greenfields Manor House (Figs 5 & 7). The second complex of historical buildings has been named the Springfield Stud (Figs 5 & 6). Both complexes contain residential dwellings as well as stables and associated outbuildings. Although not all the buildings and more recent alterations are older than 60 years the foundations and core buildings and structures dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The context, rating, locality and significance of these historical complexes are described in more detail in Tables 2 - 4.



### 4.3 Description and distribution of heritage sites found on the study area

The heritage sites identified are described in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Heritage sites located during the ground survey.**

	<b>Heritage site category</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Significance (Table 3)</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>GPS Latitude and Longitude</b>
1	Historical Building Complex 1 (Figs 5 & 7).	The 'Greenfields Manor House'. A complex of residential buildings, a chapel, stables and associated outbuildings. The complex covers an area of approximately 200m by 150m and consists of 20 buildings. The older buildings and stables were already constructed in 1893, however, there has been subsequent additions and modifications to the building complex. During the 1990's the main buildings were utilised as a hotel and a wedding reception area. The suite became a well-known tourism destination on the Midlands Meander known as the Greenfields Manor House.	The site is rated as a Local Grade 111A. It is considered to be of high local significance due to its historical values.	Given the historical significance of the site it is important to maintain a buffer zone of at least 50m around the building complex. No alterations or destruction of buildings or other features are allowed within the buffer zone.  Should it not be possible to maintain the integrity of the site then a Second Phase Heritage Impact Assessment must be initiated. This Phase must be conducted by an Amafa accredited built heritage specialist.	S 29° 14' 51.19" E 30° 00' 04.08"
2	Historical Building Complex 2 (Figs 5 & 6).	The 'Springfield Stud'. A complex of residential buildings, stables and associated outbuildings. The complex covers an area of approximately 200m by 130m and	The site is rated as a Local Grade 111A. It is considered to be of high local significance due to its historical	It is important to maintain a buffer zone of at least 50m around the building complex. No alterations or destruction of	S 29° 14' 24.12" E 30° 01' 29.24"

		<p>consists of 21 buildings. However the foundations of more buildings are also visible on the ground. Some of the stables and outbuildings are older than 60 years. The residential building also appear to be older than 60 years although it contains many modern additions. Springfield Stud was a well-known horse stud in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands and has historical significance.</p>	<p>values.</p>	<p>buildings or other features are allowed within the buffer zone.</p> <p>Should it not be possible to maintain the integrity of the site then a Second Phase Heritage Impact Assessment must be initiated. This Phase must be conducted by an Amafa accredited built heritage specialist.</p>	
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## 5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

### 5.1 Field Rating

Both the historical building complexes are rates as Local Grade 111A (Table 3).

**Table 3. Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)**

Level	Details	Action
National (Grade I)	The site is considered to be of National Significance	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade II)	This site is considered to be of Provincial significance	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority
Local Grade IIIA	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be retained as a heritage site
Local Grade IIIB	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be mitigated, and part retained as a heritage site
Generally Protected A	High to medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	The site needs to be recorded before destruction
Generally Protected C	Low significance	No further recording is required before destruction

**Table 4. Evaluation and statement of significance.**

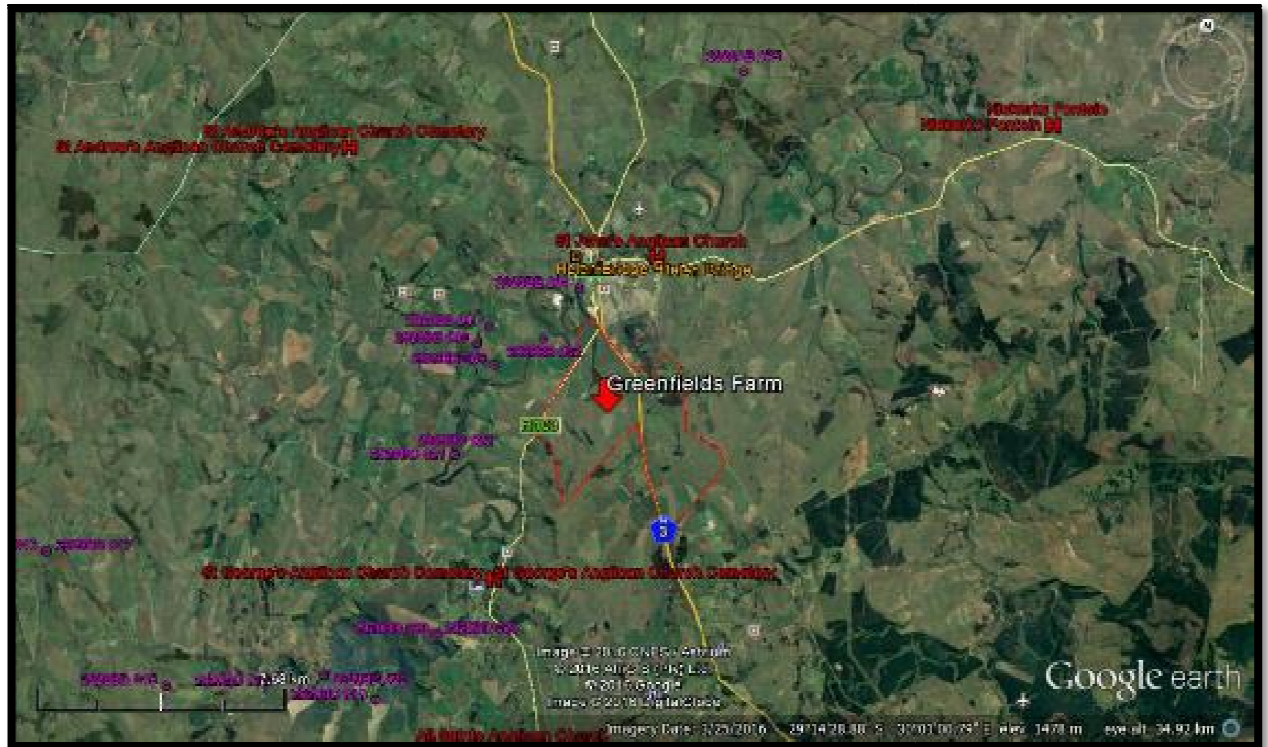
Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA		
	Significance	Rating
1.	<b>Historic and political significance</b> - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	Yes
2.	<b>Scientific significance</b> – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.	None.
3.	<b>Research/scientific significance</b> – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	Yes.
4.	<b>Scientific significance</b> – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	None.
5.	<b>Aesthetic significance</b> – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	Yes, the Greenfields Manor House has interesting architectural qualities.

6.	<b>Scientific significance</b> – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	None.
7.	<b>Social significance</b> – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	None.
8.	<b>Historic significance</b> – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.	Possibly (further research needed)
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The proposed cultivation on Blocks Pr 1, Pr 3 and Pr 5 may proceed from a heritage perspective.
- Strictly maintain a buffer of at least 50m around both Heritage Sites identified on the greater Greenfields Farm. These sites may not be altered or demolished as they are rated as locally significant and protected by heritage legislation.
- Mitigation in terms of alteration or destruction of the relevant heritage site can only be considered once a Phase Two Heritage Impact Assessment has been conducted. Such an assessment must be conducted by an Amafa accredited built heritage specialist.
- Attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

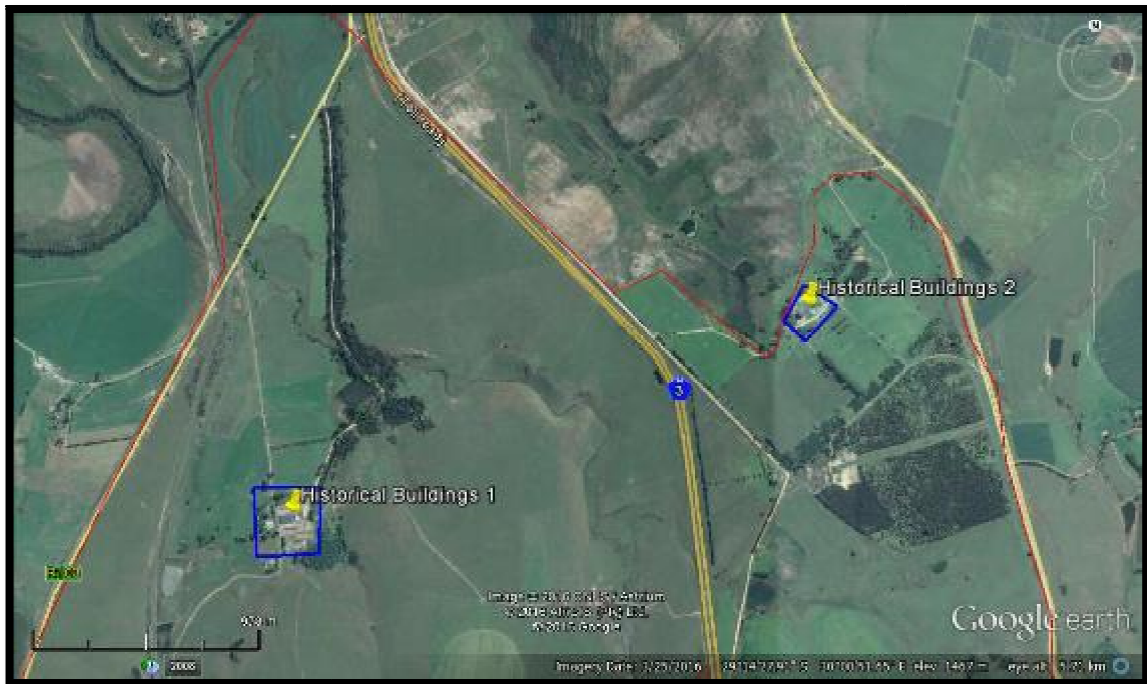
## 7 MAPS AND FIGURES



**Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the location of Greenfields Farm (red arrow) relative to Mooiriver and the N3. The purple and orange markers show the location of known heritage sites in the area.**



**Figure 2. Map of Greenfields showing plots Pr1, Pr3 and Pr5 that are earmarked for development. None of these plots are situated closer than 1.4km to known heritage sites on Greenfields Farm.**



**Figure 3. Google aerial photograph showing the location of heritage sites on Greenfields Farm. These sites are not threatened by the proposed development.**



**Figure 4. Google aerial photograph showing the location of various tracks across block Pr, Greenfields Farm.**



**Figure 5. Google aerial photograph showing the spatial layout of the Greenfields Manor House (Historical Building Complex 1). All the blocks identified for development are situated more than 1.3km from this heritage feature.**



**Figure 6. Google aerial photograph showing the spatial layout of Springfield Stud (Historical Building Complex 2). All the blocks identified for development are situated more than 2km from this heritage feature.**





**Figure 7. View over Greenfields Farm. Block Pr 3 is situated behind the historical farmstead (Greenfields Manor) in the foreground.**



**Figure 8. View over Block Pr 1. No heritage sites were observed but aerial photographs do show various tracks (Fig 3), however, it is not possible to date these.**



***Figure 9. Old Stables at Springfield Stud (Historical Building Complex 2). None of the blocks identified for development occurs less than 2km from this heritage feature.***

## 8 REFERENCES

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