

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Of the Proposed Waste water Treatment Plant to Umshwathi
Ridge Housing Project, near Wartburg, Umshwathi Local
Municipality, KwaZulu Natal.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase One Cultural Heritage survey was conducted of the proposed construction of a Waste Water Treatment Plant (capacity 2ML), and associated Sewer Mains to serve the Umshwathi Municipality Slums Clearance (now known as Umshwathi Ridge) (Phase 1) and Trustfeeds (Phase 2). No heritage features were observed along the plotted pipeline trajectory and at the locality of the proposed Waste Water Treatment Works. However, the remains of historical period homesteads and graves, occupied by Zulu-speaking labourers, occur throughout the project area. These features are older than sixty years and were constructed with wattle and daub. However, due to conservation factors it is difficult to identify any specific settlement features on the ground that may be compromised by the proposed development. It is therefore not possible to highlight the spatial layout of individual features and to indicate their GPS position on the landscape. Interviews with community members also suggest that many old graves are situated within the project area. These are also invisible on the surface today as large areas of the project area has been ploughed in the past and subjected to various surface disturbances. The consultant therefore propose a walk-through of the proposed development once the final pipeline trajectory has been laid-out by the developer. It is also proposed that a heritage specialist be on site to monitor the excavation process in order to lay the proposed pipeline as it is possible that graves and other features that are invisible on the surface may be exposed during these operations. It is also suggested that the proposed pipeline be laid above ground, where possible, rather than situated in a trench below ground as this would minimize damage to potential heritage features. We would like to draw attention to the South African National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA), 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.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Sukuma Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd were appointed as implementing agents to design, obtain consent for, and supervise construction of a Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) by the Umgungundlovu District Municipality, for the proposed 3000 low cost slums clearance housing units in the Remainder of Portions of Farm Camel Hoek No. 1320 (as phase 1) and the existing settlement of Trustfeeds (as phase 2) (Siyazama Consulting Engineers BID Document).

Siyazama Consulting has been appointed by Sukuma to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment, in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN R544 and R5457)

UMshwathi Waste Water Treatment Works. UMshwathi Local Municipality. Siyazama Consulting.

promulgated in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (No. 107 of 1998), as amended (Siyazama Consulting Engineers BID Document).

The Active Heritage cc was approached by Siyazama Consulting Engineers to conduct a heritage impact assessment (HIA) of the proposed establishment of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and Associated Sewer Mains for Umshwathi Ridge Housing Project and for Trustfeed Existing settlement, uMshwathi Local Municipality.

3. LEGALITIES

According to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), the heritage resources of South Africa include:

- a. places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b. places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c. historical settlements and townscapes;
- d. landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- e. geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- g. graves and burial grounds, including-
 - i. ancestral graves;
 - ii. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - iii. graves of victims of conflict;
 - iv. graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - v. historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - vi. other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- h. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- i. movable objects, including-

UMshwathi Waste Water Treatment Works. UMshwathi Local Municipality. Siyazama Consulting.

- i. objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
- ii. objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- iii. ethnographic art and objects;
- iv. military objects;
- v. objects of decorative or fine art;
- vi. objects of scientific or technological interest; and
- vii. books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

The newly promulgated KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act No. 4 of 2008) also makes specific mention to rock art and archaeological sites.

It is furthermore stated that:

- (1) No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Council.
- (2) Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- (3) The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- (4) No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site

without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

(5) No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

(6) (a) The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.

(b) The Council may establish and maintain a provincial repository or repositories for the safekeeping or display of—

- (i) archaeological objects;
- (ii) palaeontological material;
- (iii) ecofacts;
- (iv) objects related to battlefield sites;
- (v) material cultural artefacts; or
- (vi) meteorites.

(7) The Council may, subject to such conditions as the Council may determine, loan any object or material referred to in subsection (6) to a national or provincial museum or institution.

(8) No person may, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council, trade in, export or attempt to export from the Province—

- (a) any category of archaeological object;
- (b) any palaeontological material;
- (c) any ecofact;
- (d) any object which may reasonably be regarded as having been recovered from a battlefield site;

(e) any material cultural artefact; or

(f) any meteorite.

(9) (a) A person or institution in possession of an object or material referred to in paragraphs (a) – (f) of subsection (8), must submit full particulars of such object or material, including such information as may be prescribed, to the Council. (b) An object or material referred to in paragraph (a) must, subject to paragraph (c) and the directives of the Council, remain under the control of the person or institution submitting the particulars thereof.

(c) The ownership of any object or material referred to in paragraph (a) vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.

This study aims to identify and assess the significance of any heritage and archaeological resources occurring on the site. Based on the significance, the impact of the development on the heritage resources would be determined. Then appropriate actions to reduce the impact on the heritage resources would be put forward. In terms of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of:

- a. its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- b. its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- c. its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- d. its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- e. its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- f. its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;

- g. its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- h. its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- i. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

Table 1. Background information

Consultants:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) and Sian Hall (Cultural Solutions) for Sukuma Consultant Engineers.
Type of development:	The Applicant, Umgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, propose to establish a Waste Water Treatment Plant and Associated Sewer Mains for Umshwathi Ridge Housing Project and for Trustfeed Existing settlement, uMshwathi Local Municipality (Fig 1). In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations under Section 24(5), 24M and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) published in Government Notice No. R. 543 of 2010, the proposed development triggers Listed Activities published in Government Notice No R. 544: `
Rezoning or subdivision:	N/A
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 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

4. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Project Area, including both Trustfeed and the proposed Umshwathi Slums Clearance Project lies within the uMshwathi Local Municipality in the north-eastern part of the Umgungundlovu District Municipality. The site is located approximately 7 km north-west of Wartburg, on the eastern periphery of the Umshwathi Local Municipality boundary (see Fig. 1). The proposed

development is in Ward 3 of the uMshwathi Municipality. The coordinates of the site are: 29 23' 10", S 30 31' 21" E (Siyazama Consulting Engineers BID Document).

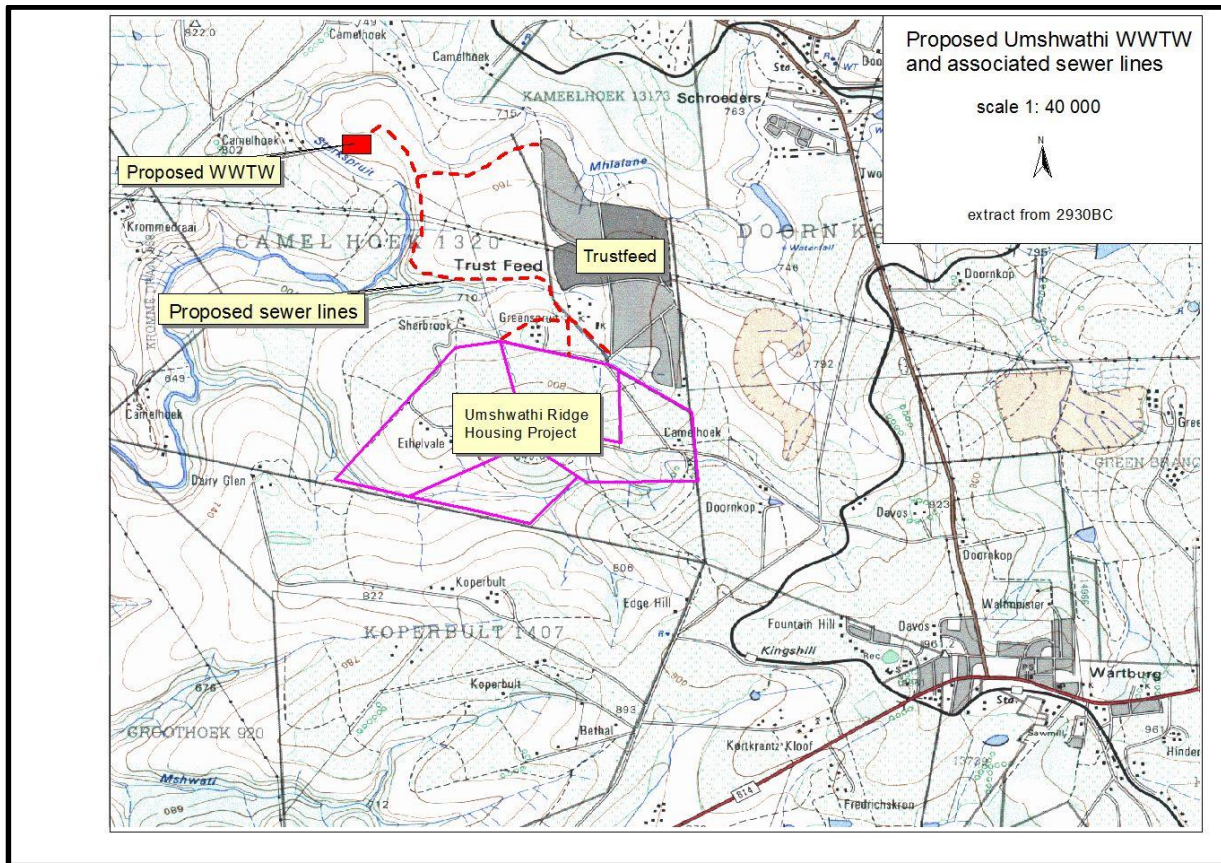


FIGURE 1: Location of the Project Area, near Wartburg.

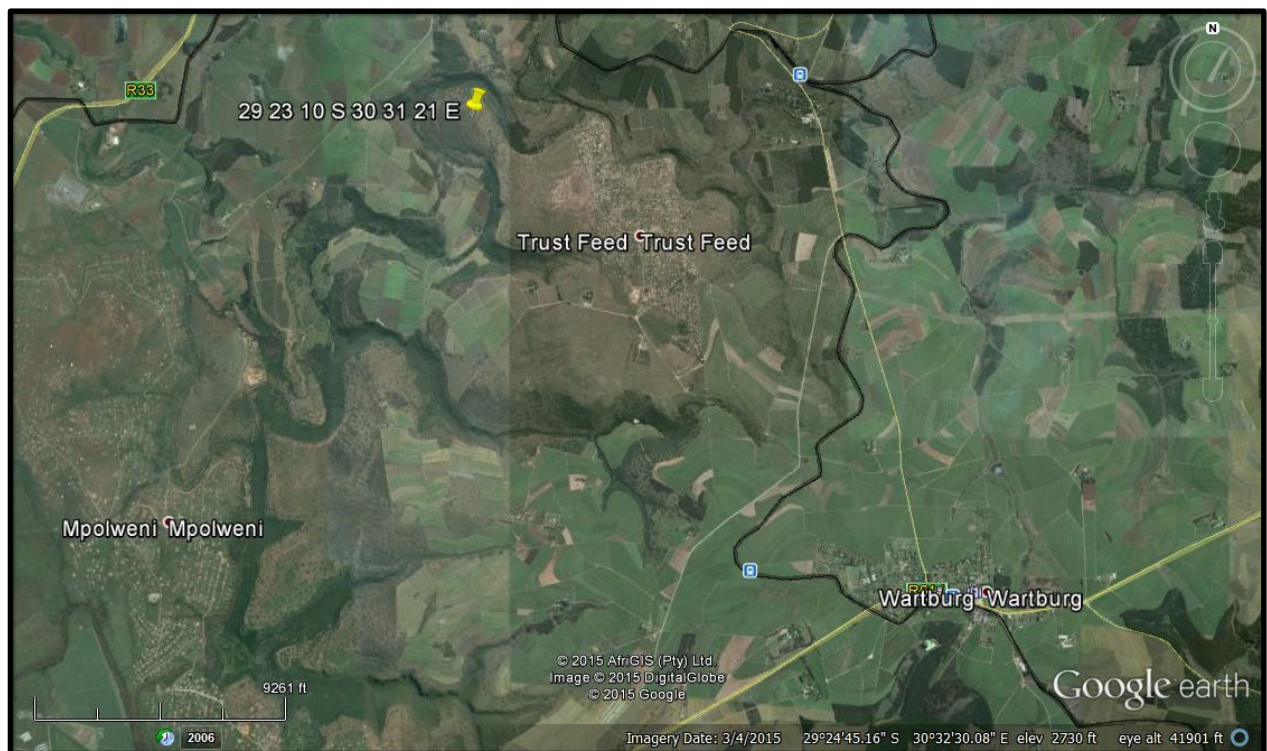


FIGURE 2: Aerial Photo showing location the Project Area, near Wartburg (Extracted from Google Earth).

The Project Area forms part of the typical undulating landscape of the Natal Midlands. The site itself is a flat to a gently north-west facing slope, close to the Sterkspruit Stream (a tributary of the Umgeni River).

The vegetation of the Project Area comprises of the two primary vegetation types of SVs3 KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld (close to the stream) and SVs 4 Ngongoni Veld (Siyazama Consulting Engineers BID Document). Here Ngongoni Veld, which is largely dominated by *Aristida junciformis*, is considered to be secondary. The description of conservation status of the Ngongoni Veld from NSBA is vulnerable. Only less than 1% of the unit is statutorily conserved in the Ophathe and Vernon Crookes Nature Reserves. Some 39% has been transformed for cultivation, plantations and urban development (ibid).

Land use in the general area includes a Primary School, a Church, Trustfeed Location, associated commercial activities, and extensive farming activity. Wartburg town is about 7 km from the Project Area.

5. GENERAL PREHISTORY OF THE AREA

Portions of the greater New Hanover and Wartburg area have been relatively well surveyed for archaeological heritage sites by the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, post-graduate students from the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand, and subsequently by private heritage consultants over the last few years. However, the project area has not been covered in these surveys. However, the area adjacent to the footprint has been surveyed by Ethembeni Cultural Heritage in the recent past (SAHRIS website).

The available evidence, as captured in the Amafa and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicate that this area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These range from Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Later Stone Age to Middle and Later Iron Age sites as well as Historical sites relating to the rise of the Zulu Kingdom and the subsequent Colonial Period. There are four Middle Stone Age sites, four Later Stone Age sites, two San rock art sites, seven Later Iron Age sites and numerous recorded Historical Period sites in the general region extending from Wartburg to the south of York Farm to Greytown in the immediate north of the study area.

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 600 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater New Hanover area. Although some of the sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling, not all of them were made from stone. Sites located elsewhere in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, including the Karkloof Mountains in the immediate environs of the study area, 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 Lalo/Wushe, Zondo and related groups (Bryant 1965). These groups were known to be excellent metal workers and it is not surprising that some archaeological evidence for early metal working has been found near Wartburg and the in the Karkloof mountains. However, by 1820 the original

African farmers were 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.

6. GENERAL HISTORY OF THE HISTORICAL PERIOD

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 greater Wartburg area, however, was settled in the 1850s by German families (Derwent 2006). Many of the people living here today are fourth generation Germans, with their language, customs, schooling and worship all presenting a legacy from the immigrant farmers and missionaries who arrived in the colony in the mid-19th century.

It was in 1850 that cotton planter families founded New Hanover, followed in 1854 by members of the Hermannsburg Mission who settled in what became known as Hermannsburg. More German immigrants, mostly from the Hanover District in Germany, followed. As new settlements arose, steeped in the Lutheran faith, churches and schools were built. The Wartburg crest depicts the arrival of the immigrants by sailing vessels; the heraldry of Wartburg castle in Eisenach where Dr Martin Luther translated the bible into German. The crest also includes the 'Luther Rose', and the watchword 'Pray and Work'. These words are also inscribed on the church bell of Kirschdorf, near Wartburg, and reflect the industry of the local community to this day.

7. BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

7.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites. Unfortunately this database is incomplete and of only limited use. The SAHRIS website was consulted in order to evaluate past heritage surveys and assessments of the greater New Hanover area. In addition, the archaeological database of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum was consulted. This data base indicated a number of heritage sites. However, none of these known heritage sites occur in the immediate vicinity of the footprint, nor will they be impacted-upon by the proposed development. A ground survey following standard and accepted archaeological procedures was conducted on the 20th June 2015 and 10th July 2015. An aerial survey using Google earth was also conducted. Some oral interviews were conducted in the Trustfeed Location.

7.2. Restrictions Encountered During the Survey

7.2.1 Visibility

Visibility of the general area was good.

7.2.2 Disturbance

Much of the land surface was visible on Google Earth aerial search, but grass cover on the ground obscured full visibility. There is abundant evidence for the disturbance of heritage sites in the greater project area with development having taken place over large areas.

Previous Zulu settlements in the study area were constructed with wattle and daub, and minimal evidence for stone having been used. This results in difficulty demarcating specific settlement features, although it is evident from surface disturbance that large areas were occupied by traditional Zulu homesteads (umuzi) and associated structures.

7.2.3 Details of Equipment used in the Survey

GPS: Garmin Etrek. Digital cameras: Fuji Finepix S. All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a level of 5 m.

8. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

There is evidence for the existence of both Later Iron Age and Early Historic occupation in the greater project area. The project area is also a distinct Multi-layered Cultural Landscape and a Living Landscape, with historical value and import.

8.1 Description of Heritage Areas

8.1.1 Prehistoric/Historic Terracing

There is evidence of extensive terracing that may be older than 60 years in parts.

8.1.2 Heritage Occupation Area

There is substantial evidence for structures that may date back to the Later Iron Age or early 20th century. These structures were not constructed in stone, but of wattle and daub, and therefore leaves traces of their presence through undulation surfaces and heaps, grindstones, and depressions. There are numerous circular depressions. Some of these also contain the remains of bell-shaped grain storage pits. It is very difficult to work out spatial layout because of the natural material decay from the ground. Google aerial maps provide better understanding the general layout when viewed from above. “Invisible” graves are likely to occur throughout the occupation sites and may even be associated with various individual homesteads. Interviews conducted with community members suggest that various graves occur in the near vicinity of the proposed development. However, these are all invisible on the surface.

No heritage features were observed in the path of the proposed pipeline trajectory. There were also no features observed at the locality of the proposed Waste Water

8.1.3 Dense Heritage Occupation Area

Heavy density of occupation sites that extend into the Trustfeeds location and beyond. Evidence of these occupation sites are evident throughout Trustfeed location.

8.1.4 Trustfeed Location Built Upon Heritage Sites

The Heritage Occupation sites extend into and throughout Trustfeed Location. Evidence for Umuzi's, Cattle Kraals, Grindstones, Graveyards and Mission Buildings are present throughout the location. Modern and Historic buildings and structures have been built on top of previous occupation layers.

8.1.5 Heritage Occupation

Previous occupation sites extend beyond Trustfeed Location.

8.1.6 Likely Heritage Occupation Area

Aerial photographs and maps point to numerous old and abandoned Zulu homesteads. Again, these were most likely to have been built out of wattle and daub and therefore their preservation is poor. Construction is presently taking place here. We recommend that an archaeologist be present while construction takes place in this area (Fig 3).

8.1.7 Heritage Occupation Sites 2

More convincing evidence on the ground and from the air that occupation sites extended further to the south than the study footprint, and into where construction is currently taking place. We recommend that an archaeologist be present while construction takes place in this area (Fig 3).

8.2 Description of Heritage Features

8.2.1 Heritage Feature 1

Large circular feature suggests likely Heritage Feature, possibly a Late Iron Age/Early Historic Period kraal. It is about 50 metres wide, and about 203 metres wide. The co-ordinates are: 29°23'18.72"S, 30°31'32.70"E. This feature is not situated on the path of the proposed pipeline trajectory.

8.2.2 Heritage Feature 2

Extended linear feature suggests previous stone walling approximately 657 metres in length. The co-ordinates are: 29°23'18.38"S, 30°31'29.77"E. This feature is not situated on the path of the proposed pipeline trajectory.

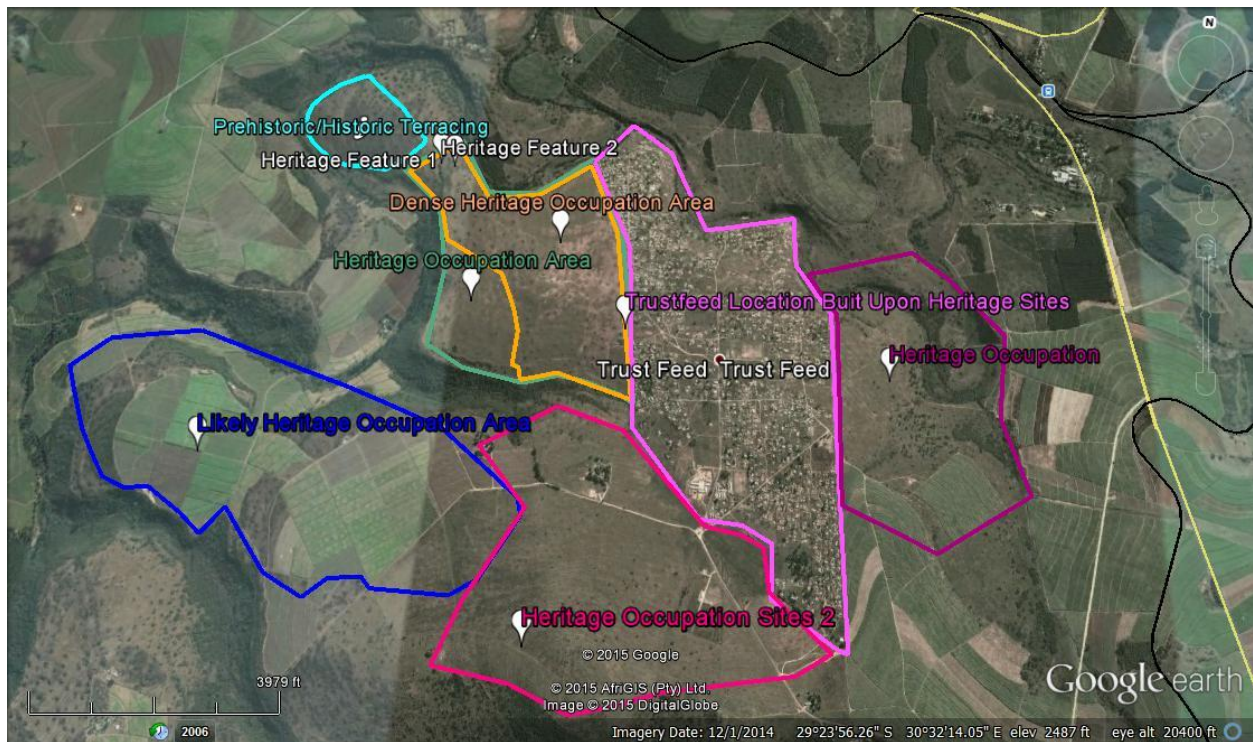


FIGURE 3: Aerial Photo showing demarcated Heritage Areas in the Study Area.

9. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

9.1 Field Rating

The SAHRA system of field rating (Table 2) applies to this Project Area as there are visible Heritage Sites within the Footprint.

Table 2. 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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

When development excavation takes place, an archaeologist, or Heritage Officer, should once again walk the trajectory of the pipeline and any form of development, in order to ensure that no destruction of heritage material takes place, since there is likely to be archaeological material under the surface of the ground.

11. CONCLUSION

The Ground Survey has suggested that the Project Area is riddled with the remains of Zulu homesteads, and perhaps other Historic Period structures and features. These may date to

different periods but the evidence thus far suggests that they belong to the Late Iron Age into the early part of the twentieth century. None of these features appear to be in the direct path of the proposed pipeline trajectory. However, it is possible that sub-surface material may occur in direct association with the proposed pipeline trajectory.

Since most of these structures were not built from stone, it is difficult to demarcate specific settlement features on the ground. No grave sites are visible on the surface, but interviews with community members suggest that the gravesites may occur throughout the area. It is important to note that all graves, irrespective of their age, are protected by Provincial heritage Legislation.

The proposed development can only proceed if the pipeline trajectory, and other associated development, is walked on foot by a Heritage Officer during any development work in this area. It is also suggested that the proposed pipeline be constructed above ground, where possible, as this may minimize any damage to sub-surface heritage features.

On the whole, and in general, there is little doubt that the project area, and associated development area is very sensitive, and great should be taken during the course of development. It is likely that heritage features, including graves, lies below the surface.

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Plates



Plate 1. Circular depression, mostly likely the remains of a cattle kraal, with the evidence of four past grain bins within.



Plate 2. The remains of a hut foundation.



Plate 3. Another circular depression, most likely the remains of an historic hut.



Plate 5. Undulating surface and disturbed soil layers, both circular and irregular, suggest that the Late Iron Age/Historic Occupation area extends from the Study Footprint up into, and throughout the area already under excavation.



Plate 4. Remains of a traditional Lower Grindstone, next to a brick house in Trustfeed Location.