

ARCHAEOLOGICAL Survey Portion of Rem of ERF

1 Ladysmith

For: Swahina Investments (Pty) Limited

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**Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource
Management**

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted by Swahina Investments (Pty) Ltd to undertake a heritage survey of Portion of Rem. of Erf 1 Ladysmith. The land is to be developed for residential and low industry purposes.

The heritage survey included the archaeological and historical aspect. One archaeological site was recorded, and a general archaeological scatter was noted. Two non-natural features were observed, and one historical monument. Historical documents reveal that some fortifications did exist along the banks of the Klip River and that temporary British encampments occurred above the erosion gullies. There are currently no sites of significance that will be adversely affected by the development, provided that the suggested management plan is adhered to.

The management plan suggests that a small display is built showing where the various features occurred on the landscape, and that the memorial is rebuilt. This will need to be undertaken in conjunction with KZN Heritage, an historian specialising in this field, and a qualified display artist.

The proposed area for development is very disturbed in terms of natural erosion gullies, built structures, dumping, and a landfill site. The vegetation is very dense making site visibility poor in places. In addition to this the (presumed illegal) dumping has covered much of the surface areas with rocks, building rubble and road material. The latter occurs mostly along the north-western and eastern areas of the affected area.

METHOD

The archaeological survey consisted of a foot survey of the entire affected area(s) as well as a desktop study. The desktop survey involves consulting the

database(s) for previously recorded sites. This allows for a general view of expected finds. The foot survey involves the physical surveying of the entire affected area. In addition to this, we consulted with Mr Gilbert Torlage (an Anglo-Boer war specialist) who studied various maps of the area.

The survey results define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan. Management plans may include further excavations and/or destruction permits from the relevant authority.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts, especially pottery. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts and these are sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated or extensively sampled. The sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features. I attempt to recover as many artefacts from these sites by means of systematic sampling, as opposed to sampling diagnostic artefacts only.

Significance is generally determined by several factors. However, in this survey, a wider definition of significance is adopted since the aim of the survey is to gather as much information as possible from every site. This strategy allows for an analysis of every site in some detail, without resorting to excavation.

Defining significance

Archaeological and Historical sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?
- 5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities.

6. Archaeological Experience:

- 6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

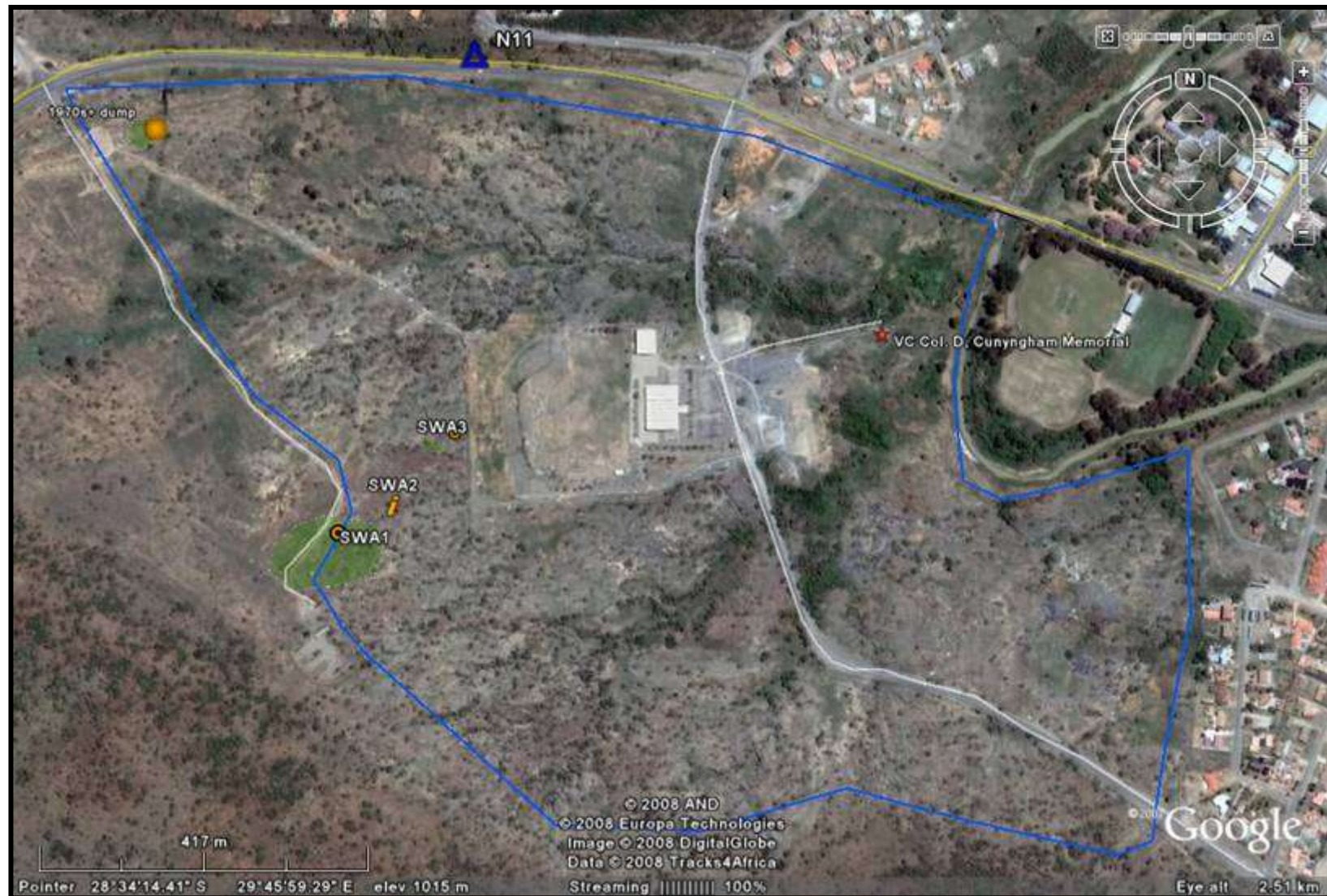
- 7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?
- 7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?
- 7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance. Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

RESULTS

Figure 1 indicates the location of various sites and sensitive areas mentioned in the text.

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF SITES AND SENSITIVE AREAS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT



SWA1

SWA1 is located near the demolished shooting range. The site is a surface scatter of undecorated pottery sherds and grinding stones. The sherds are thin-walled and red to orange in colour. The grinding stones are mostly upper grinding stones although one lower grinding stone was observed.

The site dates to the Late Iron Age or Historical Period.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

SWA2

SWA2 is located near the erosion gullies down slope of SWA1. The site appears to be either the remains of a stone walled feature, or part of a natural feature of a dolerite outcrop. The area is very small (~2m long and 0.5m wide) and eroded, and thus difficult to make an accurate assessment. Given the lack of artefacts in the general area around SWA2, I would suggest that it is an eroded natural outcrop.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

SWA3

SWA3 is located just east of SWA2. The area consists of a zigzag line of large dolerite boulders that have been purposefully placed in a line going down slope. This may have been part of an anti-soil erosion program. I do not believe

that it is part of the Anglo-Boer War fortifications, as these would have been built across the slope.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

GENERAL ARTEFACTS

Most of the area has Middle Stone Age stone tools. These are in a secondary context.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

LIEUTENANT COL. W.H DICK CUNYNGHAM V.C. MEMORIAL

This is a memorial to Col. Dick Cunyngham who was mortally wounded at this site during the siege of Ladysmith. He was hit by a stray bullet apparently shot from the Platrand area. His remains have been interred elsewhere, and the memorial locates the area of where he was killed.

The memorial is currently surrounded by various types of litter (illegal dumping) and it has been seriously vandalised (see fig. 2). The marble plaque has been broken and left to one side, and there is a hole at the base of the memorial. I believe that there was an (unsuccessful) attempt to obtain human remains.

Significance: The site is of high significance, as it forms part of the history of Ladysmith. This history has high tourism value.

Mitigation: The damaging of the memorial is illegal and unfortunate and it needs to be rebuilt. Furthermore, the illegal dumping in the area should be removed by the relevant municipality. One cannot have an international tourist attraction that is an eyesore, and that has been vandalised. I have reported the above to KZN Heritage, however I suggest that Swahina Investments takes a proactive stance, and offers to rebuild the memorial and include it in the development. The plans will need to be approved by KZN Heritage.

FIGURE 2: CURRENT CONDITION OF THE V.C. LT-COL. W.H. DICK CUNYNGHAM MEMORIAL



The memorial can then be linked with other features relating to the Siege of Ladysmith (see below).

FORTIFICATIONS ALONG THE KLIP RIVER

According to Gilbert Torlage there were several fortifications along the banks of the Klip River, on the side of the proposed development. These fortifications have been washed away by various floods and do not exist anymore.

Significance: These fortifications would have been of high significance if they had survived.

Mitigation: I believe that Swahina Investments should include these fortifications as part of their general proposal towards heritage management. The locations of the fortifications should be marked by a small cairn that briefly describes the fortifications.

TEMPORARY ENCAMPMENTS

According to Mr G. Torlage, there were several temporary encampments in the area of the development. These encampments are unlikely to have surviving physical remains. I did not observe any of these, besides the possible zigzag stone line.

Significance: The locations of the sites are of high significance in that they relate to the Siege of Ladysmith and how the British Army organised itself.

Mitigation: Mr G. Torlage will need to spend time in the archives at Ladysmith to study various photographs of these temporary encampments. Once these have been located and re-orientated on a map, he will then need to survey those specific areas to see if any physical remains do (not) occur within the affected area. Mr Torlage suggested that whilst the encampments probably do

not exist anymore, they should be noted in some form. In this way the development would be allowed to proceed.

GENERAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The proposed development occurs in an area that was temporarily used during the Siege of Ladysmith. There were temporary encampments, fortifications along the river bank, and various 'dug-outs' along some of the erosion gullies. There is also a memorial that needs to be restored. Lastly there is one archaeological site that requires a permit from KZN Heritage to allow its destruction.

I believe that Swahina should erect a small display (in the form of a 3D map and text) near the (restored) Cunyngham memorial. This would then show where the fortifications and temporary encampments occurred, and briefly describe the Siege of Ladysmith, the role of Lt-Col. Cunyngham, and other points of interest. The development needs to be undertaken in such a way that they do not interfere with the viewpoints from the display. In this way the memorial and fortifications can be managed and curated in a much more formal way. I would suggest that an historian is contracted for the information, and a display artist for the map and cairns.

This would be a positive aspect to the proposed development that may be seen to be creating a negative visual impact on the memorial and the surrounding features.

CONCLUSION

Umlando undertook an archaeological survey of the proposed development area and located one site. Furthermore, I have consulted with an expert in the

Anglo-Boer War regarding the area and suggest that he undertakes a more detailed study of the temporary encampments.

The archaeological site is of low significance and may be destroyed. It will require a permit from KZN Heritage. I suggest that Swahina Investments takes a proactive approach to the historical issues. The development will in essence be blocking various viewpoints. I suggest that a 3D map is built where the various points of interest are shown, as well as a brief text explaining the various features. I also suggest that Swahina Investments repair the memorial. The displays will need to be undertaken by a competent display artist, and the historical information will need to be written by an expert in this field. I suggest that Umlando runs this project and subcontracts the relevant experts, as we have worked together on various projects. This proposal will need to be approved by KZN Heritage.

**APPENDIX A
SITE RECORD FORMS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age: MSA

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age?X

Historical Period:?X

Recorder's Site No.: SWA1

Official Name: Portion of Rem of ERF 1 Ladysmith

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S28 34' 18.4", E29 45' 42.7" (alt. 1034m)

GPS reading? yes

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

Take N11 into Ladysmith. Take first right (just before Cunyngham memorial turnoff) along dirt road to old shooting range. Site starts near first bricked structure

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: yes

What threats: Land Development

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner State

References:

Date: 9/02/2008

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.

Site is a scatter of artefacts that have been eroded. Pottery is thin walled and red and orange in colour. Several upper and lower grinding stones occur in the general area.

MSA tools found here and over the rest of the area to the dry river bed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period:?

Recorder's Site No.: SWA2

Official Name: Portion of Rem of ERF 1 Ladysmith

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S28 34' 16.6", E29 45' 46" (alt. 1015m)

GPS reading? yes

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

Site is just below SWA1

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Walling?

Merits conservation: no

Threats: yes

What threats: Development

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner State

References:

Date: 9/2/2008

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.

Site appears to be remains of very low walling, or part of dolerite outcrop. Of several broken dolerite boulders. Vegetation is thick and cannot follow the entire area/wall.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period:? (recent?)

Recorder's Site No.: SWA3

Official Name: Portion of Rem of ERF 1 Ladysmith

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S28 34' 14.1" E29 45' 48.3" (alt. 1021m)

GPS reading? yes

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

Just below SWA2.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: walling?

Merits conservation: no

Threats: Yes

What threats: Development

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner State

References:

Date: 9/2/2008

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.

Large boulders in zigzag line following downhill slope. There are scratches on the boulders suggesting they were moved by machinery. Do not think it is defensive walling as it would then run across the slope.