

DESKTOP HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED KWADABEKA LOW COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, ETHEKWENI METRO MUNICIPALITY.



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

FOR: ENVIROEDGE

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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 desktop heritage survey of the proposed KwaDabeka low cost housing development, eThekweni Metro-Municipality identified one heritage site, a Zionist place of worship, on the footprint. Some heritage sites occur in the adjacent areas but all of these are located more than 1km from the footprint and will not be affected by the proposed development. Nevertheless, it is suggested that a ground survey of the study area be initiated before any development may proceed as more sites are likely to be identified. The area is not part of any known cultural landscape. However 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 Enviroedge
Type of development:	Creation of 479 erven/housing units on approximately 66Ha land with a potential yield of 1020 units/sites.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Subdivision
Terms of reference	To carry out a Desktop 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:

The study area is located at KwaDabeka in the greater Ethekeeni Metropolitan Area. It is situated to the north of the residential area of Westville and to the east of the residential areas of Kloof and New Germany (Fig1). The GPS coordinates of the study area is: 29° 46' 41.91"S and 30° 54' 30.86" E.

BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Ethekwini Metropolitan area has been relatively well surveyed for archaeological heritage sites by the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and subsequently by private heritage consultants in the last few years. Prior to 1950, the archaeological site distribution of the area was poorly known.

The available evidence, as captured in the Amafa and KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Durban 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 Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age, and Later Iron Age sites. Two notable Middle Stone Age sites, i.e. Umlatuzana near Marianhill and Segubudu near Stanger have been excavated in the last two decades and yielded impressive archaeological stratigraphies relating to the period associated with the origins of anatomically modern people. The Umhlatuzana shelter is situated approximately 18km to the north of the study area. Apart from an impressive stone tool assemblage covering both Later and Middle Stone Age periods it has also yielded faunal remains of large mammals that became extinct during the early Holocene such as the giant buffalo (*Pelarovis* sp). Also notable is the Shongweni Later Stone Age shelter which was excavated in the 1970's by Dr Oliver Davies. Shongweni is situated approximately 12km upstream from the study area in the Umlazi River Valley. This shelter yielded some of the earliest remains of domesticated cereals in South Africa. The same site also yielded some of the only San rock art in the greater Durban area (Mazel 1989; Mitchell 2002).

Around 1 700 years ago an initial wave of Early Iron Age People settled along the inland foot of the sand dunes on sandy but humus rich soils which would have ensured good crops for the first year or two after they had been cleared. These early agro-pastoralists produced a characteristic pottery style known as Matola. The Matola people also exploited the wild plant and animal resources of the forest and adjacent sea-shore. The communities seems to been small groups of perhaps a few dozen slash-and burn cultivators, moving into a landscape sparsely inhabited by Later Stone Age San hunter-gatherers.

By 1500 years ago another wave of Iron Age migrants entered the area. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as “Msuluzi” (AD 500-700), Ndondondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). The majority of these sites occur inland along the major river valleys of KwaZulu-Natal below the 1000m contour (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462). Various sites of this period have been recorded along the Umgeni River in the near vicinity of the study area, especially in the area close to Inanda Dam.

Some of the shell middens recorded along the coastline of KwaZulu-Natal belongs to the very first Nguni-speaking agropastoralists who settled in the province. These sites have been dated to approximately 1200 years ago. In addition, sites belonging to the immediate ancestors of the present Zulu-speaking communities in the area have been located in various locations in the greater Durban area. A large percentage of more recently recorded sites occur along the dune cordon and slightly inland in the form of shell middens which were mostly created by Iron Age shellfish gatherers although some of the stratigraphic layers may extend back to Later Stone Age periods (Anderson pers.com). Shell middens with both later Stone Age and Iron Age cultural material occur near the mouth of the Umlazi River.

Various colonial era and historical period sites occur in the greater Durban area. These date from about 1840 and are usually associated with the first European settlers in the area. Various historical buildings occur at Clermont, Pinetown and New Germany, in the near vicinity of the study area. These include church buildings, and structures associated with the first German settlers in Kwa-Zulu Natal. These are older than 60 years and are therefore also protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

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2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted for previous heritage surveys and heritage site data covering the project area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater eThekweni area was also consulted.

Aerial photographs covering the study area was also scrutinised.

2.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

2.2.1 *Visibility*

Visibility was reasonable although dense vegetation compromised site visibility in some areas.

2.2.2 *Disturbance*

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

3 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

3.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Municipality: eThekweni Metro-Municipality

Towns: Durban

3.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The study area is situated in various portions in the south east of KwaDabeka. It comprises an informally settled infill area within the KwaDabeka Unit A Township. The area consists of an elongated stretch of land that meanders along the existing developed area of KwaDabeka (Fig 1). Land use and land cover consists of urban residential development interspersed with dense vegetation in the steep valley inverts to the east where it is not physically possible to construct homes. Informal dwellings occur throughout the study area.

3.3 Heritage sites identified

Only one heritage site occur in the study area. This site is contemporary site of worship utilised by an independent African religious grouping – also known as the

Shembe movement. Shembe consists of a mixture of traditional African religion and Christianity. The site itself is situated on a wooded plot adjacent to Uhuru Drive (Fig 2). The GPS coordinates for the site is given as: S 29°46' 41.22"S and E 30°54' 29.90".

A cluster of Early Iron Age sites occur approximately 2km to the north of the study area (Fig 2). The GPS coordinates for this cluster is given as:

Start: S 29°45' 17.45" E 30°53' 45.80"

End: 29°45' 08.67" E 30°54' 53.23"

These sites are not threatened by the proposed development.

A second area with potential Early Iron Age site occurrence is located approximately 1km to the west of the study area (Fig 2). The GPS coordinates for this potential cluster is:

Start: S 29°46' 49.33" E 30°55' 42.75"

End: 29°46' 07.15" E 30°55' 48.44"

This area is not threatened by the proposed development.

The desktop survey could not identified any additional heritage sites in the close environs of the study area. However, it is likely that a ground survey of the area will locate more heritage sites.

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

4.1 Rating

The Shembe Site of worship is younger than 60 years. However, it is classified as a living heritage site and as such is protected by heritage legislation. It is rated as locally significant and may not be destroyed or damaged without mitigation (Table 2).

The Early Iron Age sites are not rated as they do not occur in the study area.

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

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The desktop survey only identified one heritage site in the study area. However, it is possible that more sites occur on the footprint and it is strongly advised that a ground survey of the area be conducted before any development takes place. It should be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues, including grave sites, should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

6 MAPS AND FIGURES



Figure 1. Map showing the location of Kwa Dabeka in the greater eThekweni Metropolitan area.



Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the location of heritage sites in the greater Kwa Dabeka area. The yellow polygons indicate the location of Early Iron Age Site occurrences.

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