
**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF
HLATSHANA RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT,
PIETERMARITZBURG,
KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA**
EIA REF: DC 22/0066/08



Assessment and report by



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Management summary

eThembeni Cultural Heritage was appointed by Afzelia Environmental Consultants cc to undertake a heritage impact assessment of a proposed residential development in Pietermaritzburg, in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act No 10 of 1997. One eThembeni staff member inspected the area on 26 November 2008 and completed a controlled-exclusive surface survey, as well as a database and literature search.

Numerous buildings and structures older than sixty years are present within the proposed development area. These include the main farmhouse, various outbuildings associated with the farming history of the property, and a structure said to have been used by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War for powder and munitions storage. All of the structures have low heritage significance at all levels for their architectural, historic and social values and may not be altered in any way without a permit from Amafa.

It is the intention of the developer to demolish all of the structures on the property to make way for the proposed development. Since an architect has mapped all of the buildings at a scale of 1:250, we recommend that the developer apply to Amafa for the necessary demolition permit(s).

The proposed development site comprises a farmstead associated with the history of the settlement of the greater Pietermaritzburg area, and is surrounded by residential suburbs. The character of the site itself will be changed fundamentally and permanently by the proposed development, but this could be considered in keeping with the expansion of the city.

We recommend that this project may proceed with the proposed heritage resource mitigation and have submitted this report to Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali in fulfilment of the requirements of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act. The client may contact Ms Wesive Tshabalala at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office (telephone 033 3946 543) in due course to enquire about the Council's decision.

If permission is granted for the development to proceed, the client is reminded that the Act requires that a developer cease all work immediately and notify Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali should any heritage resources, as defined in the Act, be discovered during the course of development activities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction and legislation	4
Nature and description of proposed activities	6
Location, access and environmental issues	7
Methodology	9
Observations and recommendations	10
Summary of findings in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997 Section 27(3)	19
Conclusion	20
Appendix A – Significance and value of heritage resources	21
Appendix B – Criteria for the identification and management of cultural landscapes	24

Introduction and legislation

eThembeni Cultural Heritage was appointed by Afzelia Environmental Consultants to undertake a heritage impact assessment of a proposed residential development in Pietermaritzburg, in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act No 10 of 1997. Section 27(1) of the Act requires such an assessment in case of:

- (a) construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
- (b) construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length; and
- (c) any development, or other activity which will change the character of an area of land, or water –
 - (i) exceeding 10 000 m² in extent;
 - (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - (iii) involving three or more erven, or subdivisions thereof, which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
- (d) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations; or
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations.

A heritage impact assessment is not limited to archaeological artefacts, historical buildings and graves. It is far more encompassing and includes intangible and invisible resources such as places, oral traditions and rituals. In the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997 a heritage resource is defined any place or object of cultural significance i.e. of aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This includes the following wide range of places and objects:

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment;
- (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;
- (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 important individuals,
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries older than 60 years, and
 - (vi) other human remains which are not covered under the Human Tissues Act, 1983 (Act No.65 of 1983 as amended);
- (h) movable objects, including -
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iii) military objects;
 - (iv) objects of decorative art;
 - (v) objects of fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest;
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings; and
 - (viii) any other prescribed categories, but excluding any object made by a living person;
- (i) battlefields;
- (j) traditional building techniques.

A 'place' is defined as:

- (a) a site, area or region;
- (b) a building or other structure (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such building or other structure);
- (c) a group of buildings or other structures (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such group of buildings or other structures); and
- (d) an open space, including a public square, street or park; and in relation to the management of a place, includes the immediate surroundings of a place.

'Structures' means any building, works, device, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land and any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith older than 60 years.

'Archaeological' means -

- (a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
- (b) rock art, being a form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and is older than 100 years including any area within 10 m of such representation; and
- (c) wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land or in the maritime cultural zone referred to in section 5 of the Maritime Zones Act 1994 (Act 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which are older than 60 years or which in terms of national legislation are considered to be worthy of conservation;
- (d) features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found.

'Palaeontological' means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

'Grave' means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of and any other structures on or associated with such place. Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali will only issue a permit for the alteration of a grave if it is satisfied that every reasonable effort has been made to contact and obtain permission from the families concerned. Since Amafa has not yet formulated guidelines or regulations for the removal of human remains, eThembeni adheres to the following procedures, compiled in discussion with the South African Heritage Resources Agency and used by professional colleagues:

- Notification of the impending removals (using English and Zulu language media and notices at the grave site);
- Consultation with individuals or communities related or known to the deceased;
- Satisfactory arrangements for the curation of human remains and / or headstones in a museum, where applicable;
- Procurement of a permit from Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali;
- Appropriate arrangements for the exhumation (preferably by a suitably trained archaeologist) and re-interment (sometimes by a registered undertaker, in a formally proclaimed cemetery);
- Observation of rituals or ceremonies required by the families.

Nature and description of proposed activities (information provided by the client)

Afzelia Environmental Consultants cc has been appointed by the Pietermaritzburg & District Council for the Care of the Aged to undertake an environmental assessment in the form of a Basic Assessment for the proposed "Hlatshana Development".

The proposed project involves the development of approximately 280 life right retirement units and a frail care facility with 26 beds and four for villagers' respite. There would be open space areas within the development which would allow for the conservation of some old indigenous trees.

Life right means that PADCA retains ownership of the units but sells rights to people to live in that unit for the rest of their life. Should existing buildings need to be preserved they would be incorporated into the development as far as possible. Infrastructure would comprise internal roads, sewage, water provision and power reticulation and would be installed by the developer. Sewage and water services would be provided by the Municipality based on services agreements still to be sought. The Eskom electrical supply system would be extended to serve the new development. Services would have to comply with all relevant legislation, and would not be permitted to negatively impact on surrounding areas or residents.

Internal roads would comprise tarmac with no sidewalks and would be approximately four metres wide. Paths would be created to walk on the property. The communal facilities would include a frail care centre with 40 beds including villager's respite, dining area and administration buildings. The architectural design of the units in the development, whilst distinctly unique, would be based on the successful design used in Woodgrove Retirement Village which is owned and administered by PADCA. This includes one and two bedroom units.

PADCA owns and administers several retirement villages, rented accommodation and frail care facilities in and around Pietermaritzburg. The locality for this development has been determined by the proximity to many conveniences. There are two shopping centres within five minutes driving and one within easy walking distance. The area has been identified as future residential within the Msunduzi Municipality's draft Spatial Development Framework, 2008. There is a waiting list of 447 for the Woodgrove Retirement Village. As many of these would not get into Woodgrove in their lifetime they were consulted and confirmed they would happily go into another retirement village if it were available, which more than adequately shows there is a need for this type of development within the Pietermaritzburg area. The success of this development can be attributed to various factors namely:

- The need for facilities for the retired, both active and those in need of special care;
- The development site's close proximity to medical facilities, central shopping facilities, banks, restaurants and cafes in the suburb of Hayfields;
- The nature of this development type in terms of the amenities, communal areas and recreational facilities it offers retirees;
- Creating a secure space where older people can live independently and have access to care as their needs change.

The popularity and desirability of the existing Woodgrove Retirement Village is clearly evident and the proposed site offers a unique opportunity for repeating this success and creating a secure space where the elderly can get the care they require.

The proposed development is identified as an activity that may have detrimental impacts on the environment. An Environmental Impact Assessment, in the form of a Basic Assessment has therefore been undertaken to identify the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development, assess their significance and offer mitigatory measures to render impacts acceptable and the proposed development sustainable.

Application is made in terms of the National Environmental Management Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations as published in Government Notice No. R. 385 of 2006, considering Government Notice No. R. 386 and 387 of 2006, of application for environmental authorization in terms of a Basic Assessment Report. The application has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.

The following activities listed within Government Notice No. R. 386 are likely to be applicable to this project:

R 386 1 (m) The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 metres from the bank of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including canals, channels, bridges, dams and weirs.

R 386 15 The construction of a road that is wider than 4 metres or that has a reserve wider than 6 metres, excluding roads that fall within the ambit of another listed activity or which are access roads of less than 30 metres long.

R386 16 (a) The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to establish infill development covering an area of 5 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares.

R 386 16 (b) The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use where such development does not constitute infill and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare.

Location, access and environmental issues

The site is located within the Msunduzi Local Municipality at 220 Murray Road, Pietermaritzburg. Take the New England off-ramp from the N3 freeway; continue to the top of Hesketh Drive where the road bends sharply to the left. This is now Murray Road. The property is approximately 250 metres along on the right (see following aerial photograph).



The proposed development will be located on Portion 234 of the Farm New England No.1462, situated at S29 37 31.229; E30 25 50.195. The site is bounded to the north and west by residential areas. To the east is Portion 233 of the Farm New England No. 1462 and to the south is Portion 547 of the Farm New England No. 1462 and also a small B&B. The site falls outside the existing town planning scheme, but is designated as future residential within the Msunduzi Municipality Spatial Development Framework.

The land use on the site proposed for development comprises a residential dwelling and associated outbuildings. The remainder is grassland with scattered trees and a small Eucalyptus plantation. There are some indigenous trees which have been surveyed and would be conserved.

Climatic limitations to agricultural production are moderate to severe. The climate capability is moderately restricted due to low temperatures, frost and/or moisture stress. Suitable crops may be grown at risk of some yield loss.

Considering the Bioresource Group (Tub10), 51.2% of the soil ecotopes are shallow, 5.1% of the soil ecotopes are duplex and 55.5% of the soil ecotopes are of moderate to poor drainage. Potential soil erosion hazard is high. The site slopes gently in an easterly direction.

The Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife CPlan is a conservation planning tool to determine the conservation importance of specific areas in terms of securing the full extent of biodiversity (pattern and process) in KwaZulu-Natal. The property does not comprise areas considered critical for KwaZulu-Natal meeting its conservation targets. The likelihood of the proposed development impacting on identified biodiversity features will be evaluated in the environmental assessment. No fatal flaws were identified at the screening stage on account of low agricultural potential of the property.

The property is situated in the Pietermaritzburg suburb of Lincoln Meade, which is primarily a residential area with some vacant land situated to the east of the property. On the northern boundary is a residential complex. The proposed development would add to the area of dense settlement which could have aesthetic impacts, but the character of the area is unlikely to be altered. The property zoning within the SDF will have to be considered in evaluating this impact.

The proposed development is unlikely to prejudice any people currently residing on the property. Any known ties with existing tenure areas (e.g. grave sites) require due consideration and protection, and as such will be comprehensively investigated. Social impacts such as proximity to transport routes, legal land tenure, service provision, local economic development, and employment creation need to be considered. In addition, social impacts on neighbours must be evaluated.

The proposed development has the potential to impact on neighbouring property owners, and the population that currently resides in the nearby residential complexes. Indirectly, people further away from the development may be impacted through local economic development. Specific issues identified in the initial stages of this project include the potential impact of the development on:

- the biophysical environment, in terms of faunal and floral biodiversity;
- land management, in particular the eradication of alien invasive plants and rehabilitation of natural areas;
- visual intrusion or obtrusion, the character of the area, sense of place;
- safety and security;
- services (potable water, sewage disposal, electricity, waste removal)
- traffic (internal and external roads);
- agricultural resources and fragmentation of agricultural land; and
- impacts on neighbouring properties

As part of the environmental impact assessment process, all IAPs are afforded an opportunity to be involved in the project and comment on all draft reports submitted as part of the environmental impact assessment process. Interested and Affected Parties identified thus far include:

- Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs: Environmental Management and Macro Planning Component;
- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry;
- Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali;
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife;
- Msunduzi Local Municipality;
- uMgungundlovu District Municipality;
- Neighbouring properties;
- Department of Transport;
- Eskom and
- WESSA.

Methodology

One eThembeni staff member inspected the area on 26 November 2008 and completed a controlled-exclusive surface survey, where 'sufficient information exists on an area to make solid and defensible assumptions and judgements about where [heritage resource] sites may and may not be' and 'an inspection of the surface of the ground, wherever this surface is visible, is made, with no substantial attempt to clear brush, turf, deadfall, leaves or other material that may cover the surface and with no attempt to look beneath the surface beyond the inspection of rodent burrows, cut banks and other exposures that are observed by accident' (King 1978¹).

We consulted various provincial databases, including historical, archaeological and geological sources and sourced a concise account of South Africa's pre and postcolonial history (available on request). We assessed the value and significance of heritage resources, as defined in the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997 and the criteria contained in Appendix A. Culturally significant landscapes were assessed according to the criteria in Appendix B.

The client has provided a map of the area, submitted to Amafa separately. Geographic coordinates were obtained with a handheld Garmin GPS72 global positioning unit. Photographs were taken with a Nikon Coolpix S200 digital camera. A statement of independence and a summary of our ability to undertake this heritage impact assessment are available on request.

The assumptions and limitations of this heritage impact assessment are as follows:

- We have assumed that the description of the proposed project, provided by Afzelia, is accurate.
- We have assumed that the public consultation process undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment is sufficient and adequate and does not require repetition as part of the heritage impact assessment.
- Soil surface visibility was poor to moderate.
- No subsurface investigation (including excavations or sampling) were undertaken, since a permit from Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali is required to disturb a heritage resource.

¹ King, T. F. 1989. The archaeological survey: methods and uses. Quoted in Canter, L. W. 1996. Environmental impact assessment. Second Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

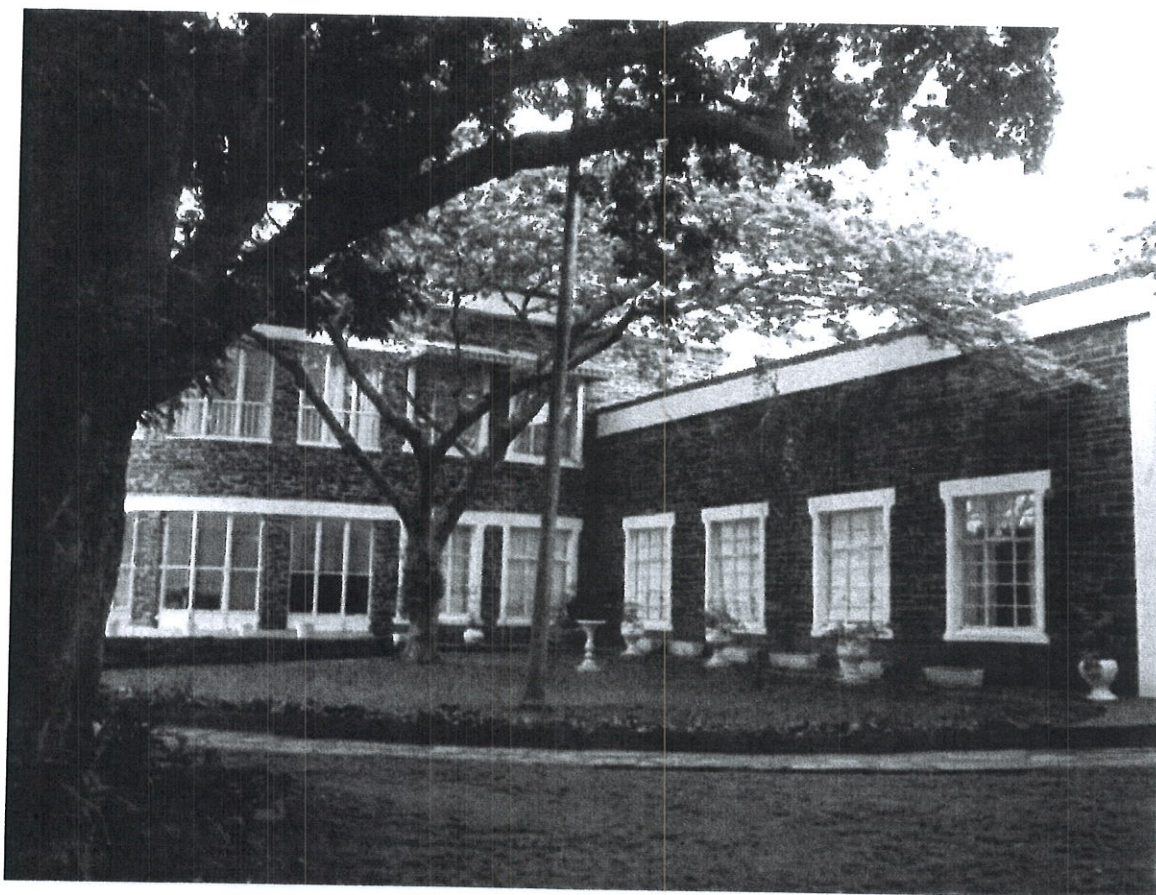
Observations and recommendations

No construction activities associated with the proposed project had begun prior to our visit, in accordance with provincial heritage legislation.

⇒ Places, buildings, structures and equipment

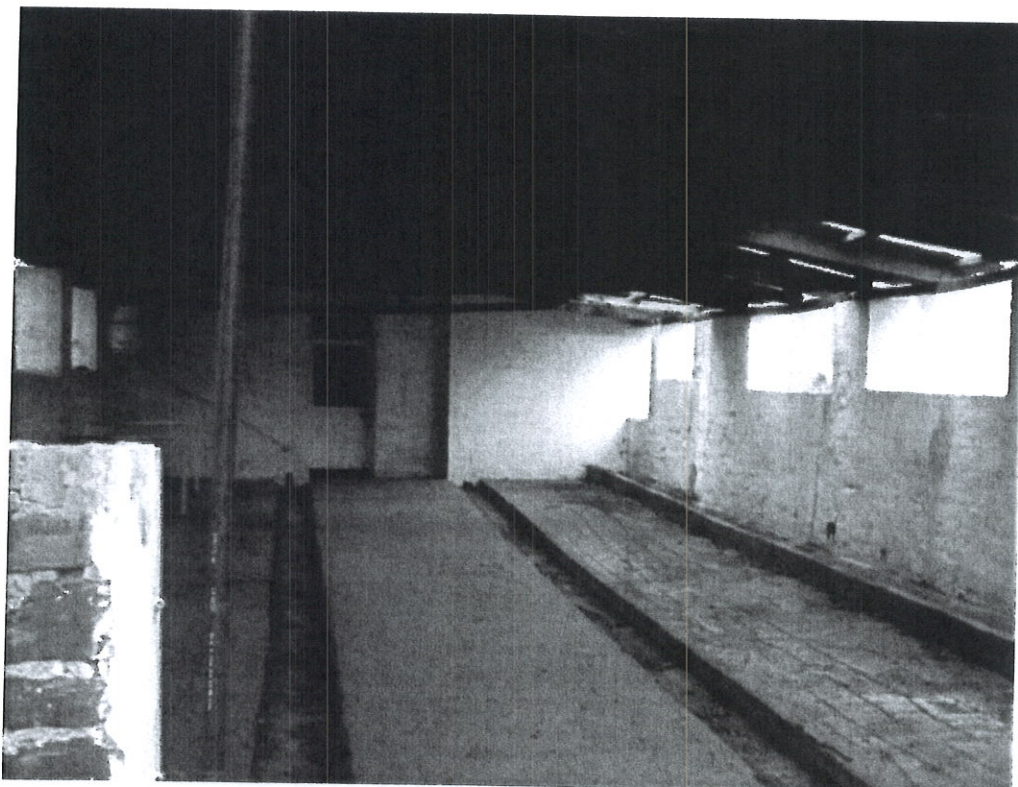
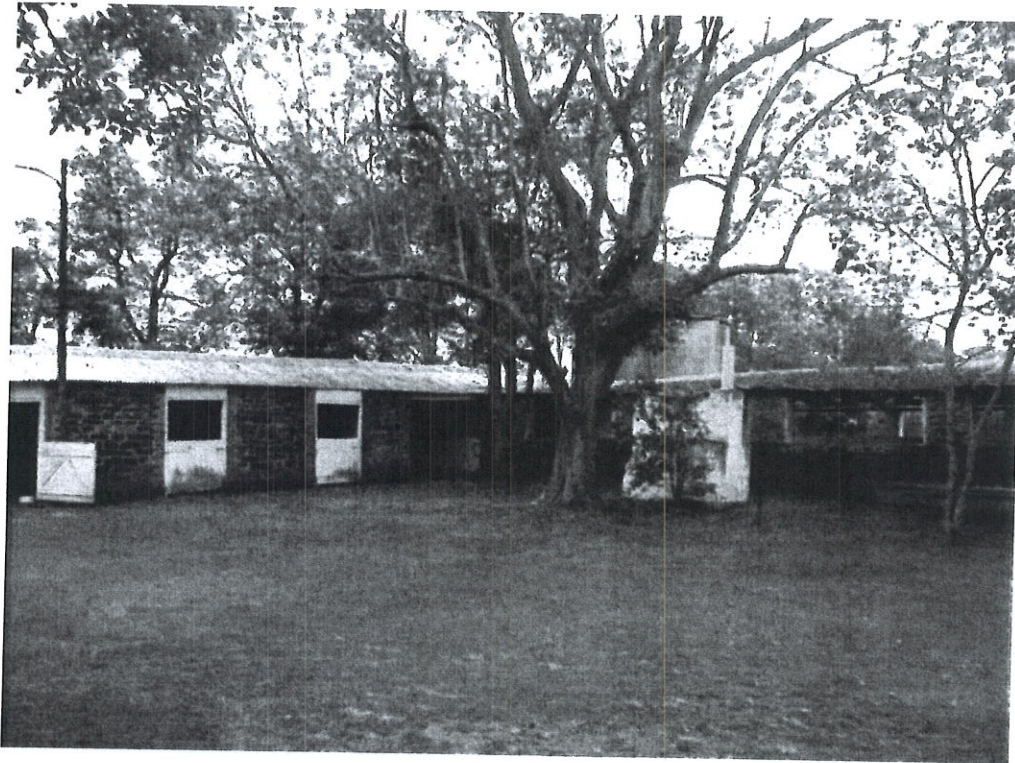
Numerous buildings are present within the proposed development area. The following photographs illustrate the main farmhouse, which is older than sixty years. It appears to be structurally sound and has been modified extensively over time. It has low heritage significance at all levels for its architectural, historic and social values and may not be altered in any way without a permit from Amafa.







The following photographs illustrate various outbuildings associated with the farming history of the property, including a milking parlour. All are older than sixty years and are in various states of disrepair. Some buildings have been undermined by tree roots and are structurally unsound. All of the structures have low heritage significance at all levels for their architectural, historic and social values and may not be altered in any way without a permit from Amafa.







The following photographs are various views of a structure said to have been used by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War for powder and munitions storage, although we have not been able to verify this. The building is clearly older than sixty years and is structurally unsound, with its foundations severely undermined by tree roots. The structure has low heritage significance at all levels for its architectural, historic and social values and may not be altered in any way without a permit from Amafa.





It is the intention of the developer to demolish all of the structures on the property to make way for the proposed development. Since an architect has mapped all of the buildings at a scale of 1:250 (documentation submitted to Amafa with this report), we recommend that the developer apply to Amafa for the necessary demolition permit(s).

⇒ Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ Historical settlements and townscapes

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ Landscapes and natural features

The proposed development site comprises a farmstead associated with the history of the settlement of the greater Pietermaritzburg area, and is surrounded by residential suburbs. The character of the site itself will be changed fundamentally and permanently by the proposed development, but this could be considered in keeping with the expansion of the city.

⇒ Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ Archaeological and palaeontological sites

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ Graves and burial grounds

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ Movable objects excluding any object made by a living person

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ Battlefields

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ Traditional building techniques

None were identified within the proposed development area.

Summary of findings in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997 Section 27(3)

(a) the identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected

Various structures and buildings older than sixty years.

(b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in regulations

All of the structures have low heritage significance at all levels for their architectural, historic and social values.

(c) an assessment of the impact of development on such heritage resources

It is the intention of the developer to demolish all of the structures on the property to make way for the proposed development.

(d) an evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development

The sustainable benefits of the project outweigh the impact on known heritage resources.

(e) the results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources

The client has undertaken such consultation in terms of statutory requirements and retains the relevant documentation.

(f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives

The developer should apply to Amafa for the necessary demolition permit(s).

(g) plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after completion of the proposed development

If permission is granted for development to proceed, the client is reminded that the Act requires that a developer cease all work immediately and notify Amafa should any heritage resources, as defined in the Act, be discovered during the course of development activities.

Conclusion

We recommend that this project may proceed with the proposed heritage resource mitigation and have submitted this report to Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali in fulfilment of the requirements of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act. According to Section 27(4) of the Act:

The report shall be considered timeously by the Council which shall, after consultation with the person proposing the development, decide -

- (a) whether or not the development may proceed;
- (b) any limitations or conditions are to be applied to the development;
- (c) what general protections in terms of this Act apply, and what formal protections may be applied to such heritage resources;
- (d) whether compensatory action shall be required in respect of any heritage resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the development; and
- (e) whether the appointment of specialists is required as a condition of approval of the proposal.

The client may contact Ms Wesuwe Tshabalala at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office (telephone 033 3946 543) in due course to enquire about the Council's decision.

APPENDIX A

SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE OF HERITAGE RESOURCE SITES

The following guidelines for determining site significance were developed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency in 2003. We use them in conjunction with tables of our own formulation (see that for the Southern African Iron Age, below) when considering intrinsic site significance and significance relative to development activities, as well as when recommending mitigatory action.

Type of Resource
Place
Structure
Archaeological Site
Palaeontological Site
Geological Feature
Grave

Type of Significance

1. Historical Value

It is important in the community, or pattern of history

- Importance in the evolution of cultural landscapes and settlement patterns
- Importance in exhibiting density, richness or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or locality.
- Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases that have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or community.
- Importance as an example for technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period

It has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history

- Importance for close associations with individuals, groups or organisations whose life, works or activities have been significant within the history of the nation, Province, region or community.

It has significance relating to the history of slavery

- Importance for a direct link to the history of slavery in South Africa.

2. Aesthetic Value

It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

- Importance to a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.
- Importance for its creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.
- Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic values of the setting demonstrated by a landmark quality or having impact on important vistas or otherwise contributing to the identified aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs or the natural landscape within which it is located.
- In the case of an historic precinct, importance for the aesthetic character created by the individual components which collectively form a significant streetscape, townscape or cultural environment.

3. Scientific Value

It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage

- Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.
- Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of the universe or of the development of the earth.
- Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of life; the development of plant or animal species, or the biological or cultural development of hominid or human species.
- Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the nation, Province, region or locality.

It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

- Importance for its technical innovation or achievement.

4. Social Value

It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

- Importance as a place highly valued by a community or cultural group for reasons of social, cultural, religious, spiritual, symbolic, aesthetic or educational associations.
- Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place.

Degrees of Significance

Rarity

It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage

- Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes or phenomena.

Representivity

It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class.

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, Province, region or locality.

Sphere of Significance

International

National

Provincial

Regional

Local

Specific Community

High

Medium Low

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What other similar sites may be compared to this site?

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Southern African Iron Age

	Significance		
	- low	- medium	- high
Unique or type site			Yes
Formal protection			Yes
Spatial patterning	?Yes	?Yes	?Yes
Degree of disturbance	75 – 100%	25 – 74%	0 – 24%
Organic remains (list types)	0 – 5 / m ²	6 – 10 / m ²	11 + / m ²
Inorganic remains (list types)	0 – 5 / m ²	6 – 10 / m ²	11 + / m ²
Ancestral graves			Present
Horizontal extent of site	< 100m ²	101 – 1000m ²	1000 + m ²
Depth of deposit	< 20cm	21 – 50cm	51 + cm
Spiritual association			Yes
Oral history association			Yes
➤ Research potential			High
➤ Educational potential			High

Please note that this table is a tool to be used by qualified cultural heritage managers who are also experienced site assessors.

APPENDIX B

THE MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

The Cultural Landscape Foundation² defines cultural landscapes as follows:

A cultural landscape is a geographic area that includes resources and natural resources associated with a historic event, activity, or person. Sometimes cultural landscapes are the result of one person or group of people acting upon the land. Other times they are the result of an idea one person or a group had and then created at that time. Cultural landscapes can range from thousands of acres of rural lands to a small homestead with a front yard of less than one acre. They include grand estates, farmland, public gardens and parks, college campuses, cemeteries, scenic highways and even industrial sites.

Four general types of Cultural Landscapes, not mutually exclusive, are:

- Historic Sites
- Historic Designed Landscapes
- Historic Vernacular Landscapes
- Ethnographic Landscapes

Cultural Landscapes can:

- Be man-made expressions of visual and spatial relationships.
- Serve as texts and narratives of cultures.
- Be valuable expressions of regional identity.
- Be works of art that are part of our national heritage.
- Exist in relationship to their ecological contexts.

What are cultural landscapes? by Alice E. Ingerson, Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies³

Virtually all landscapes have cultural associations, because virtually all landscapes have been affected in some way by human action or perception. Therefore, the Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies does not use the phrase "cultural landscape" to mean a special type of landscape. Instead, we use "cultural landscape" to mean a way of seeing landscapes that emphasizes the interaction between human beings and nature over time. ICLS also works with many other organizations, some of which have contrasting or even conflicting definitions of "cultural landscape":

individual, special, aesthetic, collective, representative, useful, cultural, related to the arts (consciously designed objects), ideas of enduring value related to the everyday beliefs and practices of a group of people, the work of landscape architects or garden designers, scenery portrayed in a painting or photograph, or that is seen as worth painting or photographing, the land that can be seen from a single vantage point (usually larger than a "site", smaller than a "region"), "nearly everything we see when we go outdoors" — Peirce Lewis 1979

² Though professional techniques for identifying, documenting, and managing cultural landscapes have evolved rapidly in the past 30 years, the results of the professionals' work often fails to reach the general public. Consequently, many of the places in which we live, work, and play often change considerably—sometimes over years and sometimes overnight! The Cultural Landscape Foundation is the only not-for-profit foundation in America dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of the importance and irreplaceable legacy of cultural landscapes. Through education, technical assistance, and outreach, the Cultural Landscape Foundation aims to broaden the support and understanding for cultural landscapes nationwide in hopes of saving our priceless heritage for future generations. The CLF achieves this mission by: (1) heightening the awareness of those who impact cultural landscapes; (2) assisting those groups and organizations who are working to increase the appreciation and recognition of cultural landscapes; and, (3) developing educational tools for young people to better connect them to their cultural landscape environs.

³ From the website of the Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies of the Arnold Arboretum (<http://www.icls.harvard.edu>), © The President and Fellows of Harvard College. The Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies was formed in 1997 to support the emerging community of professionals and volunteers who manage and interpret landscapes with a significant history of human use, particularly in the northeastern United States. These practitioners work with a wide variety of places, from historic gardens and public parks to urban streetscapes, broad agricultural or industrial regions, and conservation or ecological reserves. These landscapes are neither static nor self-contained. Managing them requires active experimentation and continuous learning, to understand how past events and decisions produced today's landscapes, and how today's decisions and events are already producing tomorrow's landscapes. The Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies worked with nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and colleges and universities to capture place-based knowledge about cultural landscapes, and to respond to emerging issues.

The National Park Service and the National Register of Historic Places, as well as organizations that look to these agencies for management models and standards, use the operational definition of "cultural landscape" from the 1996 Secretary of the Interior's . . . Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes:

a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

Historic landscapes, unlike works of art, have to function as contemporary environments — we have literally to enter and become involved with them. — Catherine Howett 1987

Much public discussion about cultural landscapes is about preserving special or historic places. Yet the definition of "special" varies over time, among different cultures, and in different places. A landscape valued by one group may be simply invisible, or even offensive, to another. Next to an official historic district may be a neighborhood that is not eligible for any special treatment but has deep meaning and associations for the people who live there. Mobile homes may be critical to a farm economy, though they jar the sensibilities of visitors expecting to see only white clapboard houses and wooded hillsides from a "scenic overlook" in a state forest. The historic district and the ordinary neighborhood, working farms and protected forests, are all cultural landscapes.

Even when landscape preservation standards are broadened to include a wide range of landscape types, strict preservation is not always an appropriate stance. Designers and communities may also choose to transform existing landscapes or create new ones. Managing cultural landscapes thus involves planning for positive change as well as preventing negative change.