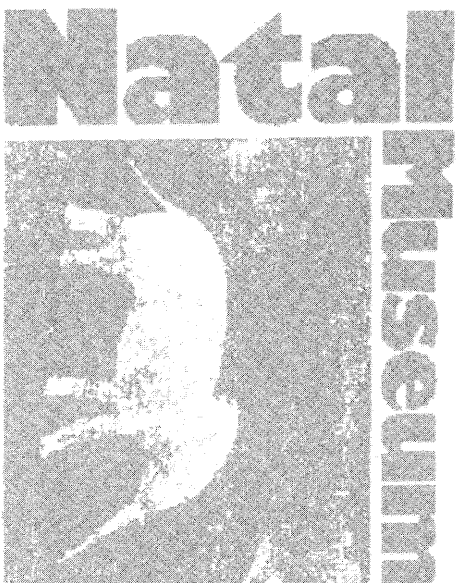


**Archaeological Survey For The Dukuduku Resettlement Program
For Environmental Interface**

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INTRODUCTION

The Institute for Cultural Resource Management (ICRM) was approached by Environmental Planning Design (EPD) to undertake an archaeological survey near Monzi, KwaZulu-Natal. The area to be developed covers approximately 450 hectares of sugarcane fields, and parts of an indigenous forest. A total of fourteen new archaeological sites were recorded and assessed. Some of these sites will require excavations and/or need to be sampled. A permit from KwaZulu-Natal Heritage will be required from the developer to damage/destroy those sites that will not have any further archaeological work.

METHODOLOGY

A foot survey was undertaken along the paths and cuttings in the sugar cane. The sugar cane was mostly too dense to enter, and thus many sites could not be properly assessed. However, by using the paths in the sugarcane fields one could estimate the size of a site and thus estimate its significance. Only on a few occasions could I not properly assess a specific site.

Each scatter of artefacts is usually regarded as a site. All sites have been grouped according to low, medium and high significance. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts. 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 medium significance may also have test-pit excavations. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. The sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features. Some sites may be of such high significance that no impact should occur.

Significance is generally determined by several factors. Each site is also assessed in terms of other sites in the specific region and to the broader context.

Defining significance

Archaeological sites vary according to significance and different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance assessment 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. Presence of a cultural deposit

1.3. Features:

1.3.1. Ash Features

1.3.2. Graves

1.3.3. Middens

1.3.4. Cattle pens

1.3.5. Houses/Structures

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 at the site?

3.2. Is it a type site?

3.3. Does the site have a 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/or 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. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

7.2. Educational value is in terms of display at an Heritage institution or local site museum.

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 high 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.

DESCRIPTION OF SITES

MZI1

MZI1 is a scatter of Late Iron Age artefacts over a $\pm 40\text{m}$ area. The artefacts include several pottery sherds (from various vessels) concentrated in three areas, granary and hut floor daga and upper grindstones. The various pottery concentrations and daga fragments suggest that sub-surface features still exist.

Significance: The site is of medium significance as there is an archaeological deposit and potential sub-surface features.

Mitigation: Test-pit excavations should be undertaken to determine the full value of the site. More excavations may be required after the test-pit excavations.

MZI2

The site is a scatter of sherds to the north of MZI1. These sherds are similar to those of MZI1.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

MZI3

MZI3 is mainly an iron working (smelting and/or smithing) area with a possible settlement. The various pottery sherds indicate that the site dates to the Late Iron Age. The iron working debris consists of slag, furnace and tuyère fragments, and iron ore. The few furnace fragments on the surface suggest that more of the furnace may occur below the surface. The pottery scatters are found in the vicinity of the furnace and suggests that more of the site may occur underneath the sugar cane.

Significance: The site is of medium-significance. Few Late Iron Age furnaces have been excavated in KwaZulu-Natal, thus making this site important. The site may also have a settlement and the relationship between iron smelting and domestic activities is not well documented. Thus the site has an important research component to it.

Mitigation: The area surrounding the furnace needs to be excavated, while test-pit excavations should be placed to attempt to locate the settlement. The area from the furnace to the large lone *Acacia* spp. tree on the hill should be cleared for reinspection.

MZI4

The site is a scatter of sherds under dense sugarcane.

Significance: The significance could not be assessed due to the dense sugarcane.

Mitigation: The site should be reassessed after the sugarcane has been burnt and/or cleared.

MZI5

MZI5 is a scatter of sherds across the whole hill. While various vessels were observed, the area was under dense sugarcane.

Significance: The significance could not be assessed due to the dense sugarcane.

Mitigation: The site should be reassessed after the sugarcane has been burnt and/or cleared.

MZI6

MZI6 is a scatter of sherds extending over the hill. One decorated sherd with semicircular impressions was observed. The site is currently under dense sugarcane.

Significance: The significance could not be assessed due to the dense sugarcane.

Mitigation: The site should be reassessed after the sugarcane has been burnt and/or cleared.

MZI7

This site is a very large scatter of artefacts located from the southern part of the hill up to the indigenous bushes over an area of $\pm 150\text{m} \times 50\text{m}$. The scatter of artefacts included pottery, slag, tuyère, and floor daga. The site has a potential deposit. It appears that the hill may have a series of settlements. The site has an archaeological deposit.

Significance: The whole site could not be assessed due to the dense sugarcane. That part of the site that was assessed indicates the site is of medium significance.

Mitigation: The site that was assessed should have test-pit excavations to determine its full significance. The rest of the site should be reassessed after the sugarcane has been burnt and/or cleared.

MZI8

The site is a dense scatter of pottery sherds in at least four artefacts concentrations. These concentrations suggest that there are sub-surface features and thus an

archaeological deposit. Three decorated pottery sherds were recorded. These sherds either had rows of circular impressions or horizontal and diagonal grooves.

Significance: The site is of medium significance as it has an archaeological deposit and decorated sherds.

Mitigation: The site should have test-pit excavations to determine its full significance.

MZI9

The site is an ephemeral scatter of pottery sherds on the top of a hill.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

MZI10

The site is an ephemeral scatter of pottery sherds on the ridge of a hill.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

MZI11

The site is a scatter of pottery sherds in dense sugar cane.

Significance: The significance of the site cannot be assessed until the sugar cane has been cleared.

Mitigation: The site needs to be reassessed.

MZI12

The site is a scatter of pottery sherds over a wide area. Some of the sherds are decorated with Early Iron Age decorations. These decorations date the site to the Msuluzi Phase (c. AD 600 – AD 750). An upper grindstone was also observed. The site may have an

archaeological deposit. No other Early Iron Age site have been recorded in this immediate vicinity.

Significance: The site is of low-medium significance.

Mitigation: The site should have a few test-pit excavations to determine the full significance of the site.

MZI13

The site is located at the top of a hill overlooking the wetlands. The site consists of many Late Iron Age pottery sherds (of which some are decorated), worked stone, and glass beads. One complete dark blue glass bead and another fragment of a similar bead were recovered.

The site has an archaeological deposit and appears to be a settlement with several houses.

Significance: The site is of medium-significance.

Mitigation: The site will probably require more than test-pit excavations. However, test-pit excavations should be undertaken initially to determine the full significance of the site.

MZI14

The site is a small scatter of artefacts over a $\pm 30\text{m}$ radius. The sherds are similar to those at MZI12.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: The site requires no further mitigation.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological survey near Monzi recorded 14 new archaeological sites that will be affected by the planned development. Some of these sites require further mitigation, while other sites need to be cleared of sugarcane and be reassessed. All archaeological the

sites are protected by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997 and any damage to these site requires a permit from KwaZulu-Natal Heritage. KwaZulu-Natal Heritage also need to be informed regarding this development.

I would recommend that the archaeological excavations be undertaken well in advance of any development, as some sites may require further excavations after the initial test-pit excavations. Development may not begin until KwaZulu-Natal Heritage has issued the relevant permits.

APPENDIX A

Geographical location of archaeological sites

Site Name	Latitude	Longitude
MZI1	S 28 24' 45"	E 32 18' 14"
MZI2	S 28 24' 35"	E 32 18' 18"
MZI3	S 28 24' 50"	E 32 18' 23"
MZI4	S 28 25' 03"	E 32 18' 19"
MZI5	S 28 25' 13"	E 32 18' 10"
MZI6	S 28 25' 14"	E 32 18' 32"
MZI7	S 28 25' 16"	E 32 18' 42"
	S 28 25' 06"	E 32 18' 45"
MZI8	S 28 25' 53"	E 32 19' 31"
MZI9	No GPS reading. Site is besides blue gum trees around corner of MZI8	
MZI10	S 28 25' 36"	E 32 19' 15"
MZI11	S 28 25' 32"	E 32 19' 14"
MZI12	S 28 25' 00"	E 32 19' 26"
MZI13	S 28 25' 14"	E 32 19' 18"
		E 32 19' 20"
MZI14	S 28 25' 27"	E 32 18' 53"

Table 1: Summary of the archaeological sites, their significance & required mitigation

Site Name	Significance	Mitigation
MZI1	Medium	Test-pit
MZI2	Low	None
MZI3	Medium & reassess	Excavations
MZI4	Unknown & reassess	Reassess
MZI5	Unknown & reassess	Reassess
MZI6	Unknown & reassess	Reassess
MZI7	Medium	Test-pits and reassess
MZI8	Unknown & reassess	Reassess
MZI9	Low	None
MZI10	Low	None
MZI11	Unknown & reassess	Reassess
MZI12	Medium	Test-pits
MZI13	Medium	Test-pits
MZI14	Low	None