

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED LODGE DEVELOPMENT ON THE
FARM MOOIKLIP 239, NGOTSHE DISTRICT,
KWAZULU-NATAL**

For:

PLAN-2-SURVEY AFRICA
PO Box 3203
NELSPRUIT
1200

Survey conducted and report prepared by the:

NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
PO Box 28088
SUNNYSIDE
0132

Telephone - (012) 324 6082
Telefax - (012) 328 5173

REPORT: 2003KH37

Date of survey: December 2003 Date of report: December 2003



SUMMARY

Heritage impact assessment for the proposed lodge development on the farm Mooiklip 239, Ngotshe district, Kwazulu-Natal

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area in which it is proposed to develop the lodge and its infrastructure.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- It is recommended that the areas where the stone tools occur are avoided. In fact it should be fenced off in order that members of the public do not have access to the areas and remove the tools.

The developer should be notified that if archaeological sites are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
CONTENTS	2
1. THE SURVEY	3
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	3
3. DEFINITIONS	3
4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	4
5. METHODOLOGY	5
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA	6
7. DISCUSSION	8
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	8
9. REFERENCES	8
10. PROJECT TEAM	9
APPENDIX 1	10
APPENDIX 2	11
APPENDIX 3	12
APPENDIX 4	13

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LODGE DEVELOPMENT ON THE FARM MOOIKLIP 239, NGOTSHE DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL

1. THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was contracted by Plan-2-Survey Africa to survey an area in which it is proposed to develop number of housing units for a game lodge. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area that is to be impacted by the developed.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The scope of work consisted of conducting a Phase 1 archaeological survey of the site in accordance with the requirements of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), as well as section 27 the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, No. 10 of 1997.

This include:

- Conducting a desk-top investigation of the area
- A site visit to the proposed development sites

The objectives would be to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development areas;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following aspects have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- X **Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- X The **significance** of the sites and artefacts are determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.

- X Sites regarded as having low significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium to high significance require further mitigation.
- X The latitude and longitude of archaeological sites are to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts. These are the South Africa Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989). In KZN, the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, No. 10 of 1997.

4.1 South African Heritage Resources Act

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

In terms of Section 35(4) of this act, no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or material or any meteorite; bring onto, or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Structures:

Section 34(1) of this act states that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

“Structure” means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith;

“Alter” means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or other decoration or any other means.

Human remains:

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

(a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;

(b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or

(c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations.

Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925). Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (ie where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

4.2 Environmental Conservation Act

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made. The impact of the development on the cultural resources should also be determined and proposals to mitigate this impact is to be formulated.

4.3 Kwazulu-Natal Heritage Act

In broad terms, this Act reflects that of the National Act and in Article 27 set out similar requirements for a HIA.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Preliminary investigation

5.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining the potential of the area. In this regard, various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted - see the list of references below. Nothing pertaining to the archaeology of this particular area was found.

5.1.2 Data bases

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre (ADRC)**, housed at the National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria, was consulted. The **Environmental Potential Atlas** was also consulted.

5.1.3 Other sources

The topocadastral and other maps were also studied - see the list of references below.

5.2 Field survey

The field survey was done according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. The area that had to be investigated was identified by Vuka Plansurvey and members of the local community assisted with the survey, acting as guides and interpreters. The area was investigated by walking across it. Special attention was given to unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes, outcrops and clusters of trees were investigated.

Where possible, local people were interviewed in an effort to obtain information on the existence of known sites.

5.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System (GPS)**¹ and plotted on a map. This information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

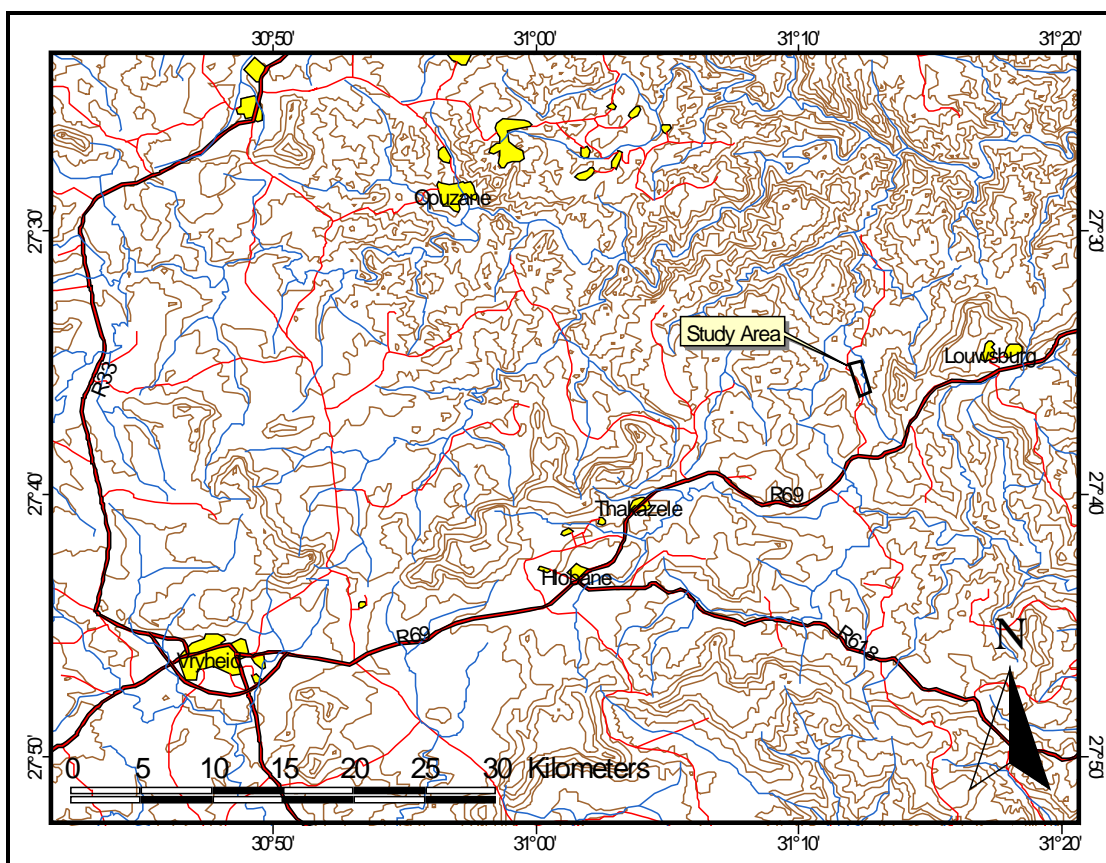


Figure 1. Location of the study area in a regional context.

¹¹ According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however, taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

The area surveyed was determined by the proposed development, and is located on a section of the farm Mooiklip 239 in the Ngotshe district of KwaZulu-Natal (see Fig. 1).

The topography of the area varies from high mountains, to plains, bisected by a number of smaller rivers. The Mbizane river forms the eastern border of the study area and a secondary dirt road the western boundary. On the north, the area borders on Itala Nature Reserve and the southern boundary is formed by an unnamed tributary of the Mbizane river.

The original vegetation of the area is classified by Acocks (1975) as Natal Lowveld Bushveld. The lithology of the area is made up of tillite, sandstone, mudstone and shale.

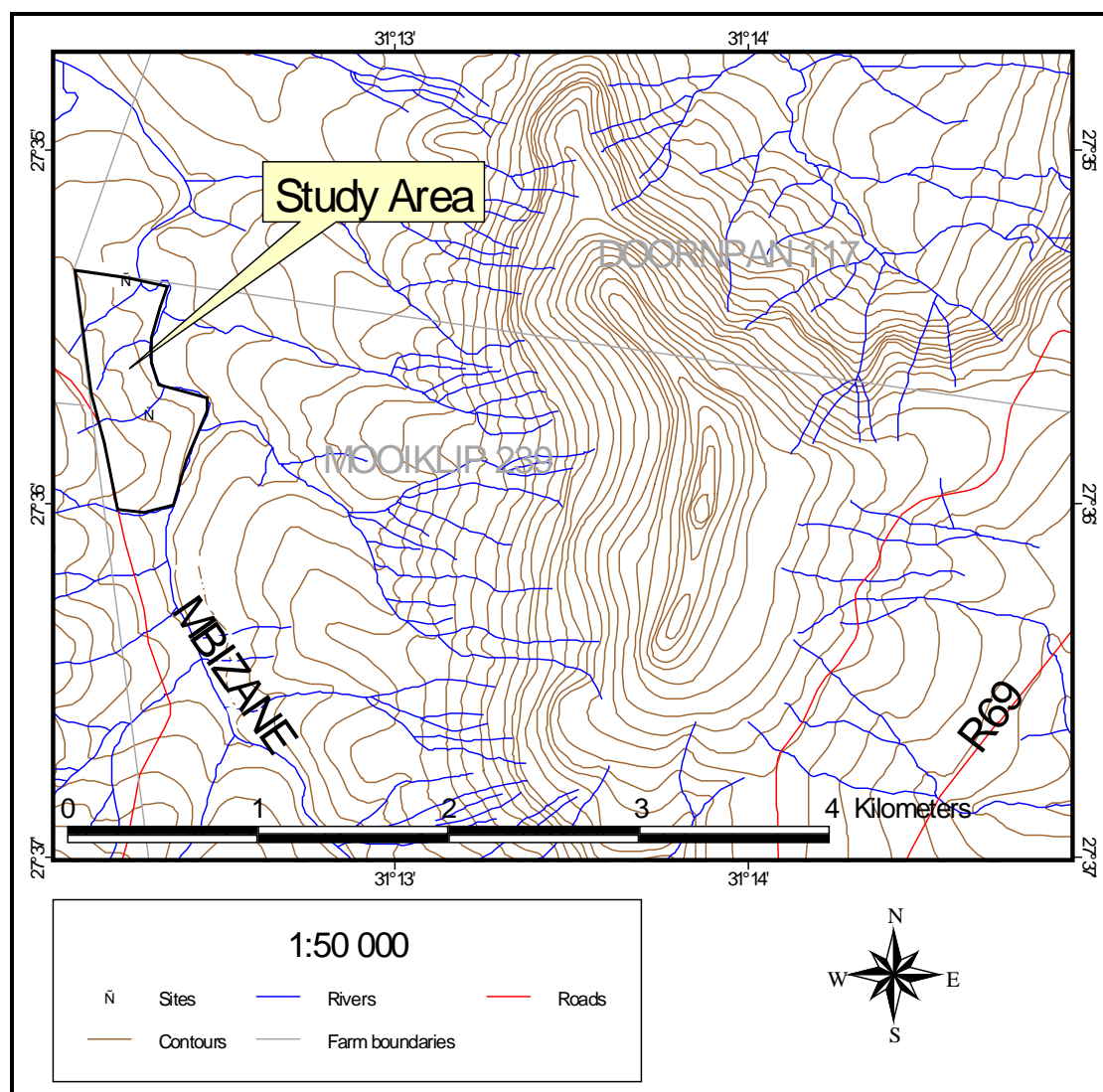


Figure 2. The study area, showing the location of the two identified sites.

7. DISCUSSION

Only two sites were identified in the study area.

7.1 Stone Age

Tools, flakes and core dating to the Middle Stone Age were identified in two areas (Fig. 2, Appendix 2, Appendix 4): the smaller site is located in the approximate centre of the survey area and the bigger one on the northern border with Itala Nature Reserve. Both areas are heavily eroded, with the tools found scattered throughout. This is a very typical occurrence. However, as the material occurs as surface material and is not in its original context any more, it has little significance for further research. However, un-eroded sections might still contain tools in a primary context.

7.2 Iron Age

No sites dating to the Iron Age were identified.

7.3 Historical period

No sites dating to the historical period were identified.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the area in which it is proposed to develop the lodge and its infrastructure.

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that the proposed development can continue, on condition of acceptance of the following recommendations:

- It is recommended that the areas where the stone tools occur are avoided. In fact it should be fenced off in order that members of the public do not have access to the areas and remove the tools.
- The developer should be notified that if archaeological sites are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

9. REFERENCES

9.1 Data bases

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

9.2 Literature

Acocks, J.P.H. 1975. *Veld Types of South Africa*. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No. 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

Holm, S.E. 1966. *Bibliography of South African Pre- and Protohistoric archaeology*. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.

Richardson, D. 2001. *Historic sites of South Africa*. Cape Town: Struik Publishers.

Van Riet Lowe, C. n.d. *The distribution of Prehistoric rock engravings and paintings in South Africa*. Archaeological Survey, Archaeological Series No. 7.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1935. *A Preliminary survey of the Bantu Tribes of South Africa*. Ethnological Publications No. 5. Pretoria: Government Printer.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1977. *Anthropology of Southern Africa in Periodicals to 1950*. Pretoria: Government Printer.

9.3 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps – 2731CA

10. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk

APPENDIX 1: STANDARDIZED SET OF CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROJECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Significance of impact:

- low where the impact will not have an influence on or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design
- medium where the impact could have an influence which will require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation
- high where it would have a “no-go” implication on the project regardless of any mitigation

Certainty of prediction:

- Definite: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data to verify assessment
- Probable: More than 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only more than 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring
- Unsure: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact, or the likelihood of an impact occurring

Recommended management action:

For each impact, the recommended practically attainable mitigation actions which would result in a measurable reduction of the impact, must be identified. This is expressed according to the following:

- 1 = no further investigation/action necessary
- 2 = controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary
- 3 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation and/or mapping necessary
- 4 = preserve site at all costs

Legal requirements:

Identify and list the specific legislation and permit requirements which potentially could be infringed upon by the proposed project, if mitigation is necessary.

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY RESULTS²

[Previous site numbers relate to other known sites on a particular ¼ degree sheet already documented in the ADRC, and does not necessarily refer to sites occurring on or close to the specific area of development.]

Map datum used: Hartebeeshoek 94 (WGS84).

1. Site number: 2731CA1

Location: Mooiklip 239: S 27E35'44.8"; E 31E12'18.3" [S -27.59577; E 31.20509]

Description: Some tools, flakes and cores dating to the Middle Stone Age eroding out in a donga.

Discussion: This site is located in the centre of the study area. One is worried that members of the public might remove the stone tools. It is therefore recommended that actions are taken to stop further erosion and that the area is fenced off.

Significance of impact: High

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Recommended management action: Fencing off of the area. 1 = no further investigation/ action necessary

Legal requirements: If fenced in, none

2. Site number: 2731CA2

Location: Mooiklip 239: S 27E35'22.1"; E 31E12'14.3" [S -27.58946; E 31.20398]

Description: Some tools, flakes and cores dating to the Middle Stone Age eroding out in a donga.

Discussion: The biggest section of this site lies on the Itala Nature Reserve side of the fence. However, if care is not taken, members of the public might remove the tools. Similar recommendations as in the above case are therefore made.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Probable

Recommended management action: Fencing off of the area. 1 = no further investigation/ action necessary

Legal requirements: If fenced in, none

²² See Appendix 1 for an explanation of the conventions used in assessing the cultural remains.

APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This section is included to give the reader some necessary background. It must be kept in mind, however, that these dates are all relative and serve only to give a very broad framework for interpretation.

STONE AGE

Early Stone Age (ESA)	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age (MSA)	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age (LSA)	30 000 - until c. AD 200

IRON AGE

Early Iron Age (EIA)	AD 200 - AD 1000
Late Iron Age (LIA)	AD 1000 - AD 1830

HISTORICAL PERIOD

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1840 in this part of the country

ADRC - Archaeological Data Recording Centre

core - a piece of stone from which flakes were removed to be used or made into tools

SAHRA - South African Heritage Resources Agency

APPENDIX 4



Figure 3. Stone tools (points, blades and scrapers) and cores (upper right hand corner) found in the area. The three on the left are from the southern site and the ones on the right are from the site on the border with Itala.