

The Archaeological survey of the Ekubo Eco-Estate

For Buk'Indalo Consultancy cc

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By Gavin Anderson

Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource Management

PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965



INTRODUCTION

Buk'Indalo Consultancy contracted Umlando to undertake a preliminary archaeological survey of the proposed Ekubo Eco-Estate, north of Port Edward. The area is regarded as being archaeologically and historically sensitive as Iron Age sites have been located in the vicinity of Port Edward and the São João wreck and possible survivor's camping site occur in the effected area.

Much of the area is heavily vegetated with grasses and lantana, as well as banana plantations. This resulted in poor archaeological visibility. We concentrated on areas that were more likely to have archaeological sites.

Three archaeological sites and some archaeologically sensitive areas were recorded. The sensitive areas will require a resurvey when the vegetation has been burnt or cleared. We observed two buildings that are older than 60 years. These buildings are legally protected and will require an architectural survey.

THE SITES

EKU1

This site is located on a flat area halfway up a hill. It has been used as a sand borrow pit, thus uncovering archaeological material. The site consists of several Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age stone tools, and a few Late Iron Age pottery sherds.

Significance: The site is of low archaeological significance and no further mitigation is required.

EKU2

This site consists of two silos, feeding troughs, and two outbuildings. The silo is dated to 1931, and the one outbuilding is dated to 1929. The site appears to be a dairy.

Above the dairy is the main house, however no date could be observed. The house is, however, older than sixty years.

Significance: KwaZulu-Natal Heritage will need to evaluate these buildings in terms of their historical and architectural significance. Umlando is not qualified to undertake this assessment. Built structures older than 60 years are protected by the KwaZulu-Natal heritage Act of 1997.

EKU3

EKU3 is located in the banana plantation and covers most of the upper hill. The artefacts include pottery sherds, *Perna perna* (brown mussel) fragments, and Late Stone Age flakes.

Significance: The site is of low archaeological significance as most of the site has been damaged by agricultural activity,

The São João

The São João was wrecked nearby the development area. Current research suggests that the areas near the first dune may have been used as a survivor's camp as well as a cemetery. The research still needs to confirm these areas. This area is located near the buildings belonging to the Lutheran church.

No remains were observed due to the dense vegetation.

Significance: This area is of high significance due to its historical value. If any development does occur in this area then further mitigation will be required.

The mitigation should be divided into two phases. The first phase should be test-pit excavations in the vicinity of the survivor's camp to determine if it was indeed a camp. The results from the test-pits would indicate if further excavations would be required. The second phase should include on-site monitoring during the construction phase.

General

Seven areas have been demarcated as being sensitive and require resurvey (see attached map). The resurvey should be undertaken when the area has been cleared of the vegetation and/or burnt.

Several shell middens were observed along the beach-dune area. These middens are under the topsoil and would require test-pit excavations if they were to be disturbed.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological survey for the proposed Ekubo Eco-estate noted three archaeological / historical sites and several areas that will require resurvey. Areas of historical sensitivity were also noted. The developer will need to obtain a permit for the destruction of the recorded sites from KwaZulu-Natal Heritage. KwaZulu-Natal Heritage will also require an architectural survey of the historical buildings. The developer will need to liaise with KwaZulu-Natal Heritage regarding these features.

Those areas that have been demarcated as sensitive need to be included in the management plan. If any development occurs in these areas, then they will need:

- Resurveyed when the vegetation is less dense;
- Test-pit excavations; and/or,
- Require on-site monitoring during the bush clearance and construction phase of the development.

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Gavin Anderson
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