

**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE**  
**FARM FORDOUN**

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## **PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE FARM FORDOUN**

Environmental Design Partnership (EDP) contracted the Institute for Cultural Resource Management (ICRM) to conduct a deeds office and an archaeological data base search for the farm Fordoun. A preliminary site inspection was also undertaken in early April 1998. This contract is to assess the archaeological potential of the affected area and recommend mitigatory measures for any known archaeological sites.

All archaeological sites in the province are protected by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997 which makes it an offence to damage archaeological sites without a permit from the heritage compliance agency, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa). Amafa may hold developers responsible for any damage accrued to a site where they have deviated from the permit requirements. It is up to the developers to apply for a permit if they intend to damage, alter or remove any aspects of a site.

### **Deeds Office Search**

A Deeds Office historical search was undertaken to identify when the land became privately owned. Alternatively, the historical search was to identify the property owners at *circa* AD 1913. The historical search would identify any potential land claims.

The historical deeds' search indicates that Fordoun became freehold land in June 1850. The land was granted to Mr John Ledgett (government grant #1453). In AD 1857 the farm was given quit rent status to Mr William Taylor. Appendix A has the Deeds Office search results.

The results of the historical deeds search suggest that it is unlikely that there exist on Fordoun any cultural sites that have significance for communities living in the vicinity today. Furthermore, it is unlikely that any development of Fordoun will be hampered by land claims.

### **Archaeological data base search**

The Natal Museum is the Regional Recording Centre for archaeological site data in KwaZulu-Natal. Known archaeological sites are mapped on a 1:50 000 map and given a National Site Number. Each archaeological site has a site record form that lists the details of the site. From this database, and personal experience, an archaeologist can undertake a preliminary desktop assessment of an area. Few areas in KwaZulu-Natal have been systematically surveyed, and those sites that are recorded tend to be for specific reasons. Thus, if an area has a site it does not imply that further sites do not exist in that area.

No known archaeological sites occur on Fordoun. There is, however, historical stone walling and a stone-walled cattle byre shown on the 1:50 000 map. These would need to be assessed in terms of their age and significance.

A preliminary assessment of the 1:50 000 map suggests that Stone Age material may be found on Fordoun. This would, however, need to be confirmed with an archaeological survey.

### **Preliminary Site Inspection**

A preliminary site inspection was conducted in early April 1998. This inspection concluded that it is unlikely that significant archaeological sites would occur on the land.

A conversation with Mr. Bates revealed that a house possibly dating to AD 1860 exists on the farm. This site would require mitigation if it is to be affected in any manner.

### **Conclusion**

The farm Fordoun was briefly assessed in terms of its land ownership and archaeological value. The Deeds Office search indicates that Fordoun was Crown Land prior to the early 1850s, thereafter it was privately owned. The area is thus unlikely to be affected by land claim issues.

No archaeological sites have been recorded on Fordoun, however historical stone-walling has been noted. The preliminary site inspection indicates that the affected area has little archaeological potential, except for the building remains dating to the Historical Period (AD 1860). A permit would be required if this building is to be affected in any manner.