

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON
FARM LOT K 101 NO. 15493, MBONAMBI
FOR: EXIGENT ENVIRONMENTAL**

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted to undertake an archaeological survey of a proposed development on Farm Lot K 101 No. 15493, Mbonambi, KwaZulu-Natal. Figure 1 is a locality map of the general area, and Figure 2 indicates the area for development.

The land is currently used for commercial agriculture (vegetables) and has been cultivated for several years. The affected area is situated on a small hill overlooking Lake Teza (to the southwest). The main type of farming in the general area is sugar can and afforestation. The White Umfolozi is situated approximately 3km to the north. The area appears to be archaeologically sensitive for Stone Age and Iron Age sites.

We undertook a desktop study prior to the survey. Twelve archaeological sites have been previously recorded within a 5km radius of the affected area, and approx. twenty-three sites in a 10km radius. All of the sites in the 5km radius are Early and Middle Stone Age sites (Davies 1970¹). Most of these sites were recorded from various types of cuttings or land disturbances. There was thus a high probability that Stone Age material would occur in the affected area.

RESULTS & CONCLUSION

I undertook a foot survey of the affected area, especially noting areas of cleared vegetation and an area where a 'furrow' is being excavated. No archaeological material was observed in the affected area.

I presume that the Stone Age material will occur at least 50 cm – 100cm beneath the current surface. If this is the case, then the material will probably be in a secondary context and of low significance.

¹ Davies, O. 1970 Pleistocene Beaches of Natal. **Annals of Natal Museum** 20 (2) table 2, p 430, p433.

The development does not affect known archaeological material however; there is a strong likelihood that material will be uncovered during the course of the development. I suggest that the area is resurveyed once the foundations of have been excavated. The 'resurvey' will focus on the foundation excavations and the sand that has been excavated. The aim is to note the types of material that will probably be unearthed. In the mean time, the developer should apply for the probable destruction of archaeological material. In this way, there will be no delay if/when archaeological material is found at a later stage.

Figure 1: Locality Map of Farm Lot K101 No. 15493

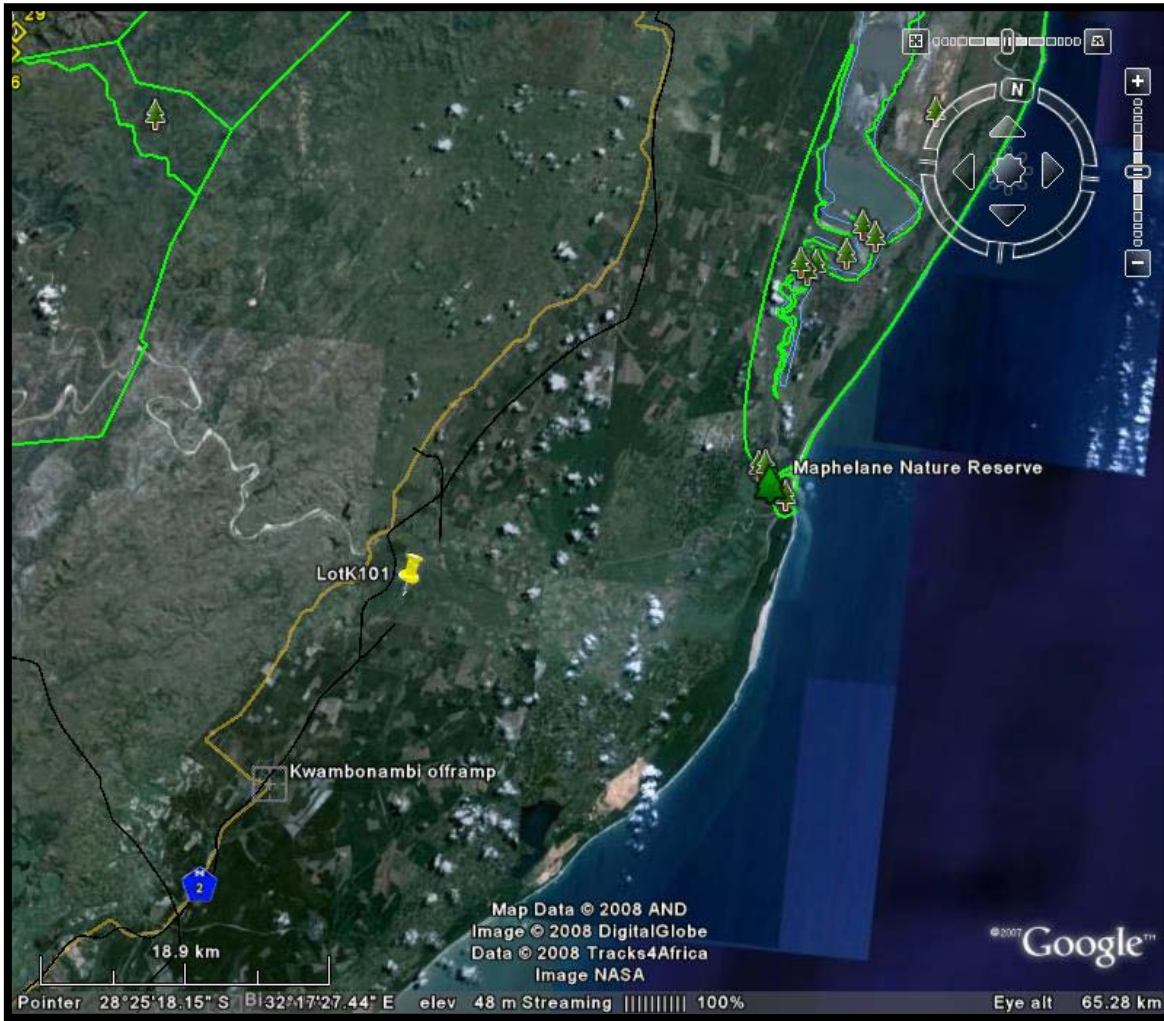


Figure 2: Area Of Farm Lot K101 No. 15493 To Be Developed

