

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
PROPOSED JOHN ROSS INTERCHANGE
DEVELOPMENT**

FOR: METALLON PROPERTIES (Pty) Ltd

DATE: 14 April 2008

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted to undertake an heritage survey of the proposed John Ross interchange development. The aim of the survey was to determine if any archaeological or historical sites would be affected by the proposed development. A management plan for each area is to be suggested.

The survey recorded one new archaeological site and revisited a previously recorded site. The one site will require on site monitoring during the construction phase of the project. Figure 1 is the locality map. Both sites appear to be of low significance.

The effected area is located on the eastern side of the N2 - John Ross (or R34) interchange. The affected area occurs in mostly afforested areas, except where Eskom (Pty) Ltd servitudes occur. Afforested areas have the disadvantage in that the ground cover tends to be dense, thus making poor archaeological visibility. To counter this I surveyed along the tracks where sites are more likely to be observed.

RESULTS

Two sites have been recorded in the survey: JRH1 and 2831DD034.

2830DD034

This site was originally recorded in 1995 (Anderson 1995). This site consisted of several scattered pot sherds. The type of sherds suggest an occupation of the area in the Late Iron Age (1500 AD to recent times) - possibly even early this century. Other artefacts included a quartzite upper grindstone. A few pieces of vitrified metal were found, but these are due to modern industrial action.

The site was recorded in the sugarcane; however it would also extend into the afforestation area. The afforestation has dense ground cover and I could not observe any artefacts in the smaller cleared areas.

The site is of low significance. On the revisit to the area no artefacts were observed, and this could be a result of earthmoving for construction or agricultural purposes.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

JRH1

JRH1 is located in the 'prickly pear orchard' underneath the Eskom transmission lines. The site consists of a sparse scatter of Ntshekane sherds. These sherds are a phase in the Early Iron Age and date between AD900 – AD 1100. One sherd had a double emboss with a V-shaped pattern.

This time period is rarely recorded along the eastern seaboard. When they are observed, they tend to be small sites with few sherds. Organic material tends to have decayed by now.

Significance: The site is of low significance due to its ephemeral nature.

Mitigation: While the site is of low significance, more artefacts may occur below the surface. On-site monitoring during the construction phase of this area will be required. Monitoring reserves the right to stop construction at any time to recover any artefacts or features. Timorous notification for any monitoring program will be required. Figure 1 demarcates the boundary for this site.

CONCLUSION

Two sites were recorded in the proposed John Ross Interchange Development area. Both sites are of low significance; however one site will need to be monitored if any earth construction (above or below the ground) occurs.

A permit from KZN Heritage will need to be obtained for the destruction or damage of either site. The development application will need to include this report.

Figure 1: Location of the affected area and sites mentioned in the text¹



¹ Opaque Green indicates the extent of the site

References

Anderson, G. 1995. The Richards Bay - Empangeni Gas Pipeline. Report for Mark Wood Consultancy.

Appendix A
Site Record Form

Note: The site co-ordinate should read: S28°46'22.54" E31°56'9.74"

NATAL MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Site category:

	E	M	L	I	RA
SA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	E	L	I	HIS	

For Recording Centre Use

National site number: 2831DD 034

Accession number:

Accession institute:

Recorder's site number: 34

Official name: 167 (Forest)

Local name: Empangeni Forest Station

Map sheet: 2831DD Felixton

Site co-ordinates: S29 46 22 E31 55 34

GPS reading

Directions to site: On John Ross Highway from Richards Bay to Empangeni for about 5km. On Left Hand side are 4 rows of electricity pylons, turn left. At end of 1st field on Right Hand side is the site in cane fields.

Site type: Surface

Merits conservation/salvage?: No

Threats What threat?: BKS Incorporated - Consulting Engineers - alternate route for pipeline.

Pictorial record:

Where stored?:

Recorder's details:

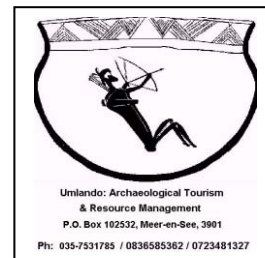
Date of recording:

Owner/Occupier:

Site description: Small scatter of pottery and slag. Could be 1-2 pots only. i rim taken, as well as a few piece of slag, and a possible grind/ hammer stone. Site seems to be disturbed by ploughing and erection of pylons.

Comments/References:

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age: X - Ntshekane

Late Iron Age

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: JRH1

Official Name: 167 (Forest)

Local Name: Empangeni Forest Station

Map Sheet: 2831DD Felixton

Map Reference: S28°46'1.50" E31°56'23.70" (alt = 34m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From Richards bay drive to N2. Take last right before interchange into sugar cane field and afforestation area (sign states "Contractors Accommodation available") Follow this road to where the transmission lines occur overhead. Site is to the left/northwest of this intersection, currently in prickly pear orchard.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Surface, may contain deposit.

Merits conservation: Unsure

Threats: yes

What threats: Possible development

RECORDING:

Graphic record: None

Digital pictures:

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 14 April 2008

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of an ephemeral scatter of Ntshekane sherds. More may occur below