

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED MATUBATUBA DEVELOPMENTS

FOR: METALLON PROPERTIES (Pty) Ltd

DATE: 24 April 2008

By Gavin Anderson

Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource
Management

PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901



INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted to undertake an heritage survey of the proposed Nseleni 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 development will include business and residential properties.

The survey recorded six new archaeological sites. Figure 1 is the locality map. These areas will need to be monitored during the construction phase of the project.

The effected area is located on the western and eastern sides of the N2 – Nseleni interchange. The affected area occurs in current afforested areas. 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

Table 1 summarises the information from the sites. Isolated artefacts occur in the development nodes. For example a broken lower grinding stone was observed along one track; however, no other artefacts normally associated with these were observed.

TABLE 1: LIST OF RECORDED SITES

Site Name	Artefacts	Significance	Mitigation
NSE01	Pottery	Low	Monitor
NSE02	Pottery, slag	Low	Monitor
NSE03	Pottery, slag	Low	Monitor
NSE04	Pottery	Low	Monitor
NSE05	Pottery	Low	Monitor
NSE06	Pottery	Low	Monitor

NSE1

NSE1 occurs just outside of the affected area; however it may extend into the development node. The site consists of a scatter of Late Iron Age pottery sherds that have been exposed by a track. The scatter extends over both sides of the track.

The site may date between AD 1600 – AD 1900

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: The area should be monitored if development occurs

NSE02

The site is located along the southern boundary of the development and was observed along the track. The site consists of Late Iron Age pottery and slag, and it continues into the development zone.

The site may date between AD 1600 – AD 1850

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: The area should be monitored if development occurs

NSE03

The site is located on a small spur overlooking the Nseleni River. The site extends into the afforestation area beside the track. The site consists of Late Iron Age pottery and slag. The slag appears to be more dense at this site, than at NSE02.

The site may date between AD 1600 – AD 1850

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: The area should be monitored if development occurs

NSE04

NSE04 is located on the eastern development node along a ridge in the afforested area. The site consists of a scatter of Late Iron Age, or Historical Period, pottery.

The site may date between AD 1600 – AD 1900

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

NSE05

NSE05 is located on top of a small spur overlooking the Nseleni River, and in the north-western corner of the development. The site consists of a scatter of pottery on both sides of the road. The pottery is either Early or Late Iron Age. One Middle Stone Age stone tool was observed to the northwest of the site.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

NSE06

NSE06 is located on a small hill near the Nseleni River. The site consists of several pottery fragments and a single lower grinding stone fragment. The

pottery appears to date to the Early Iron Age, in terms of thickness and discolouration; however it may also date to the Late Iron Age.

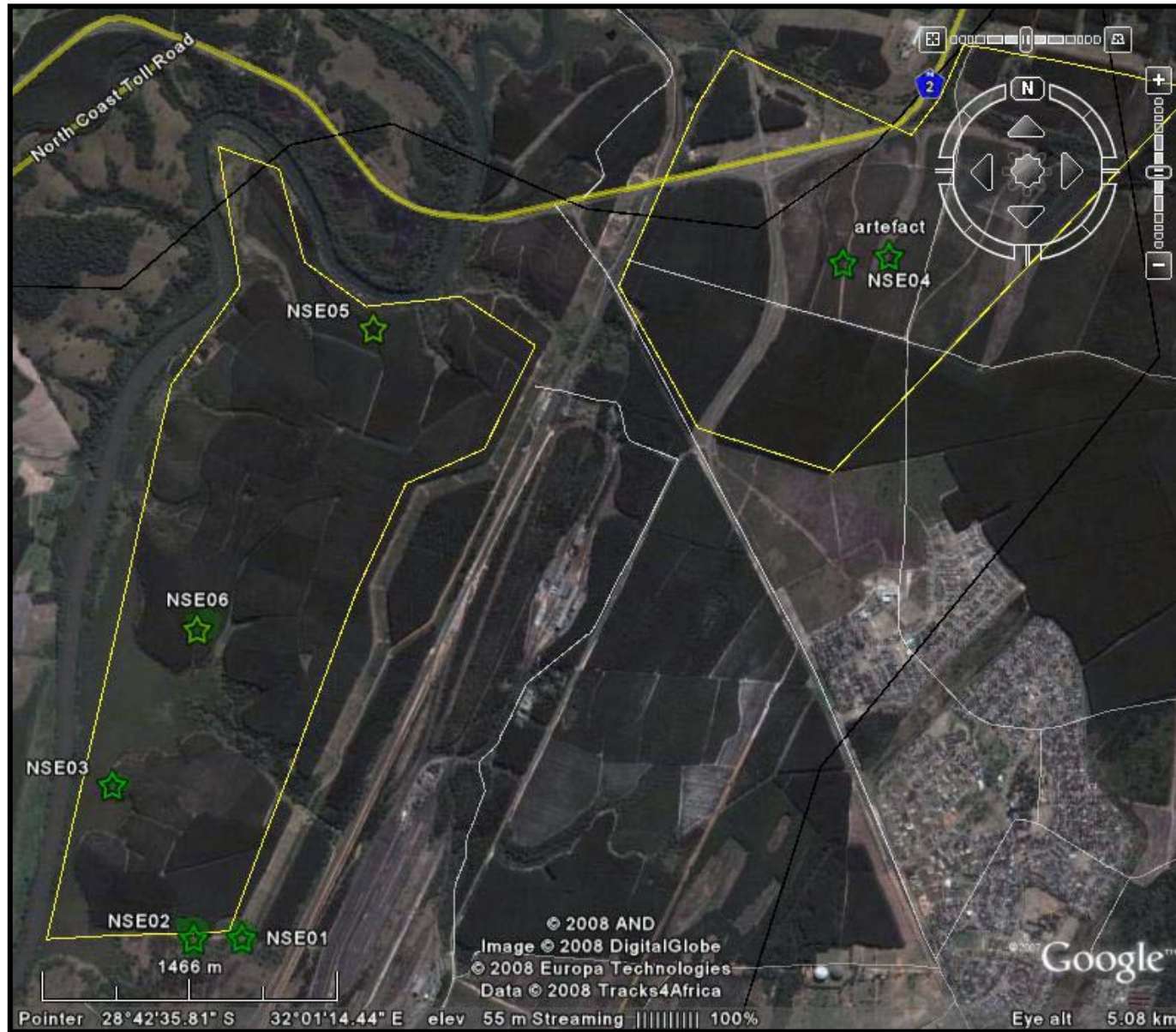
Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

CONCLUSION

Six archaeological sites were recorded during the course of the survey of the two development nodes at the Nseleni – N2 interchange. These sites are of low significance; however this could be misleading due to the dense ground cover. This leaves the mitigation with two options: excavate or monitor and sample. I suggest that excavations would not be appropriate as the older afforested areas have a tendency to destroy archaeological sites. In this case excavations are unlikely to yield important information apart from an increase in the sample size, a program of regular monitoring in the sensitive areas would yield similar results. I suggest that the development nodes are regularly monitored during the construction phase of the project.

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



¹ Opaque Green indicates the extent of the site

Appendix A
Site Record Form

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: NSE01

Map Reference: 28°43'42.82"S 32° 0'8.93"E (alt = 37m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From N2 drive south (from Mbonambi) to Nseleni/Richards bay interchange. Take R. Bay turn off and continue. Take first right and follow the railway signs. Cross over the 4-6 tracks, and head towards the transmission lines next to the afforested area. Site is on the southern part of this afforested area.

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 a scatter of LIA/HP sherds. More may occur below
Monitor

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age x
Historical Period:



Recorder's Site No.: NSE02

Map Reference: 28°43'42.87"S 32° 0'0.13"E (alt = 36m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From N2 drive south (from Mbonambi) to Nseleni/Richards bay interchange. Take R. Bay turn off and continue. Take first right and follow the railway signs. Cross over the 4-6 tracks, and head towards the transmission lines next to the afforested area. Site is on the southern part of this afforested area, at track crossing and slightly down the hill from the line.

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 a scatter of LIA sherds and slag. More may occur below

***UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age x
Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: NSE03

Map Reference: 28° 43' 18.50" S 31° 59' 44.90"E (alt = 18m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From N2 drive south (from Mbonambi) to Nseleni/Richards bay interchange. Take R. Bay turn off and continue. Take first right and follow the railway signs. Cross over the 4-6 tracks, and head towards the transmission lines next to the afforested area. Site is on the southern part of this afforested area, at track crossing and slightly down the hill from the line. Continue with this track as it follows the Nseleni River north. Site is on small hill overlook the Nseleni River.

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 a wide scatter of LIA sherds and slag. More may occur below and under afforested areas.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age x

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: NSE04

Map Reference: 28° 41' 54.80"S 32° 1' 58.50"E (alt = 59m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From N2 drive south (from Mbonambi) to Nseleni/Richards bay interchange. Take R. Bay turn off and continue. Take first left into Mondri area, then left along main track. Site is top center part of hill

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 LIA sherds and slag. More may occur below

