

**The archaeological survey for the Makhasa Rural
Housing Project**

For Stedone Developments cc

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INTRODUCTION

Stedone Developments cc contracted Umlando to undertake the archaeological survey for the Makhasa Rural Housing Project. Umlando was asked to undertake the survey at the beginning of the project, however we suggested that it would be more economical to undertake the survey after specific areas were identified for development. This approach resulted in site specific locations and not broad areas.

The Makhasa Housing Project involved building 1000 (one thousand) houses. Each house will be 7 m x 4 m in size and most (approximately 95%) occur in existing homesteads or agricultural fields.

METHOD AND RESULTS

We began the survey at an arbitrary location and realised that existing developed areas would not be archaeologically sensitive, e.g. homesteads and extensively ploughed lands. These were ignored from the survey, as these areas were unlikely to impact on archaeological sites. These can be observed on the attached orthophoto in the final report.

We then selected a few areas that were not on previously worked, or lived, lands. These constitute a very small proportion of the total number of houses to be developed. As with previous houses these houses are only 28m² and are unlikely to pose any real threat to archaeological sites.

Isolated artefacts, specifically pottery sherds, were observed in various areas of the housing project. These incidences do not, however, constitute an archaeological site. In this case, more than 10 sherds in a defined area would constitute a site.

Several roads will also be upgraded. These upgrades will not extend beyond the current road reserve. While sites have been recorded on the outskirts of nearby road reserves, we did not observe any sites along the road reserves that will be upgraded for this project. The locations of these roads can be viewed in the final report.

CONCLUSION

No archaeological sites, *per se*, were observed during the survey of this project. Isolated sherds were observed but not recorded, as they did not constitute an archaeological site. Each individual house, in this project, will be built mostly in existing homesteads and are of such a small nature that they are unlikely to affect any sites, if they do occur.

No further mitigation is required for the Makhasa Housing Project. The developer should be made aware that if any archaeological material is observed during the course of the project, then it should be reported to KwaZulu-Natal Heritage immediately.