

Archaeological Survey of the Mawelewele Housing Development

For Guy Nicolson Consultancy

By

By Gavin Anderson

Institute for Cultural Resource Management, Natal Museum, Private Bag 9070,
Pietermaritzburg, 3200

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Guy Nicolson Consultancy contracted the institute for Cultural Resource Management to undertake an archaeological survey of an area that will be developed for low cost housing. The area is regarded as being archaeologically sensitive.

Two archaeological sites were recorded during the survey. Both sites are of low archaeological significance and no further mitigation is required. The developer will be required to obtain a destruction permit from KwaZulu-Natal Heritage prior to the development. This is in accordance with the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997.

The Sites

MWL1

MWL1 is located along the southern hill of the development area and the saddle between the two hills. The site consists of several thin-walled pottery sherds and some small pieces of slag. The pottery mostly has an orange-red burnish. No pottery was decorated. The slag fragments were located along the northern part of the site.

A few Late Stone Age stone tools, on quartz, were observed in the saddle area of the hills. These included flakes and cores.

The site dates to the Late Stone Age, and the Late Iron Age or Historical Period.

Significance: The site is of low archaeological significance. The area has been ploughed and thus damaging any potential sub-surface features.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

MWL2

MWL2 is located north of MWL1. The site consists of an extensive scatter of pottery over the whole hill. The pottery is similar to that of MWL1, however it occurs here at a higher frequency. One clay smoking pipe was recorded as well.

The site dates to the Late Iron Age or Historical Period.

A Shembe (?) area is currently located on top of the site.

Significance: The site is of low archaeological significance. The area has been ploughed and thus damaging any potential sub-surface features.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

Conclusion

Two archaeological sites were recorded in the Mawelewele low cost housing development area. Both sites are of low archaeological significance and no further mitigation is required. The sites probably dates to the Late Iron Age or the Historical Period, and probably not older than 500 years old. The developer will require a destruction permit from KwaZulu-Natal Heritage before any development occurs on the site.

One note of concern is the occurrence of a Shembe (?) devotional area on the site, specifically the northern hill. While this does not fall under the domain of archaeology, it may be a matter for KwaZulu-Natal Heritage to investigate.