The Archaeological Survey of Mpophomeni Phase 2 CWSS

For Partners in Development (Pty) Ltd

&

Umkhanyakude District Municipality

Date: 15 July 2007

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Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource Management

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contacted by Partners in Development (Pty) Ltd to undertake an archaeological survey of an area that will be affected by piping and a water reservoir for Mpophomeni Phase 2 CWSS water project. This is in accordance with the KZN Heritage Act of 1999. Amafa KZN regarded the area as being sensitive and thus requiring some for of heritage impact assessment.

Two archaeological sites were recorded during the course of the survey and one area was deemed as being sensitive. The development will need to obtain a site destruction permit from Amafa KZN before the pipeline route is excavated.

METHOD

The archaeological survey consisted of a foot survey of the entire affected area. The foot survey involves the physical surveying of the entire affected area.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have few, or no, diagnostic artefacts, especially pottery. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts and these are sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sites of high significance are excavated or extensively sampled. The sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features. I attempt to recover as many artefacts from these sites by means of systematic sampling, as opposed to sampling diagnostic artefacts only. A permit from Amafa KZN is required for any excavations and sampling.

Significance is generally determined by several factors. However, in this survey, a wider definition of significance is adopted since the aim of the survey is

to gather as much information as possible from every site. This strategy allows for an analysis of every site in some detail, without resorting to excavation.

Defining significance

Archaeological sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. **State of preservation of:**
    - 1.1. Organic remains:
        - 1.1.1. Faunal
        - 1.1.2. Botanical
    - 1.2. Rock art
    - 1.3. Walling
    - 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
    - 1.5. Features:
        - 1.5.1. Ash Features
        - 1.5.2. Graves
        - 1.5.3. Middens
        - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
        - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes
2. **Spatial arrangements:**
    - 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
    - 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
    - 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns
3. **Features of the site:**
    - 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
    - 3.2. Is it a type site?

3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

4.1. Providing information on current research projects

4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities.

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

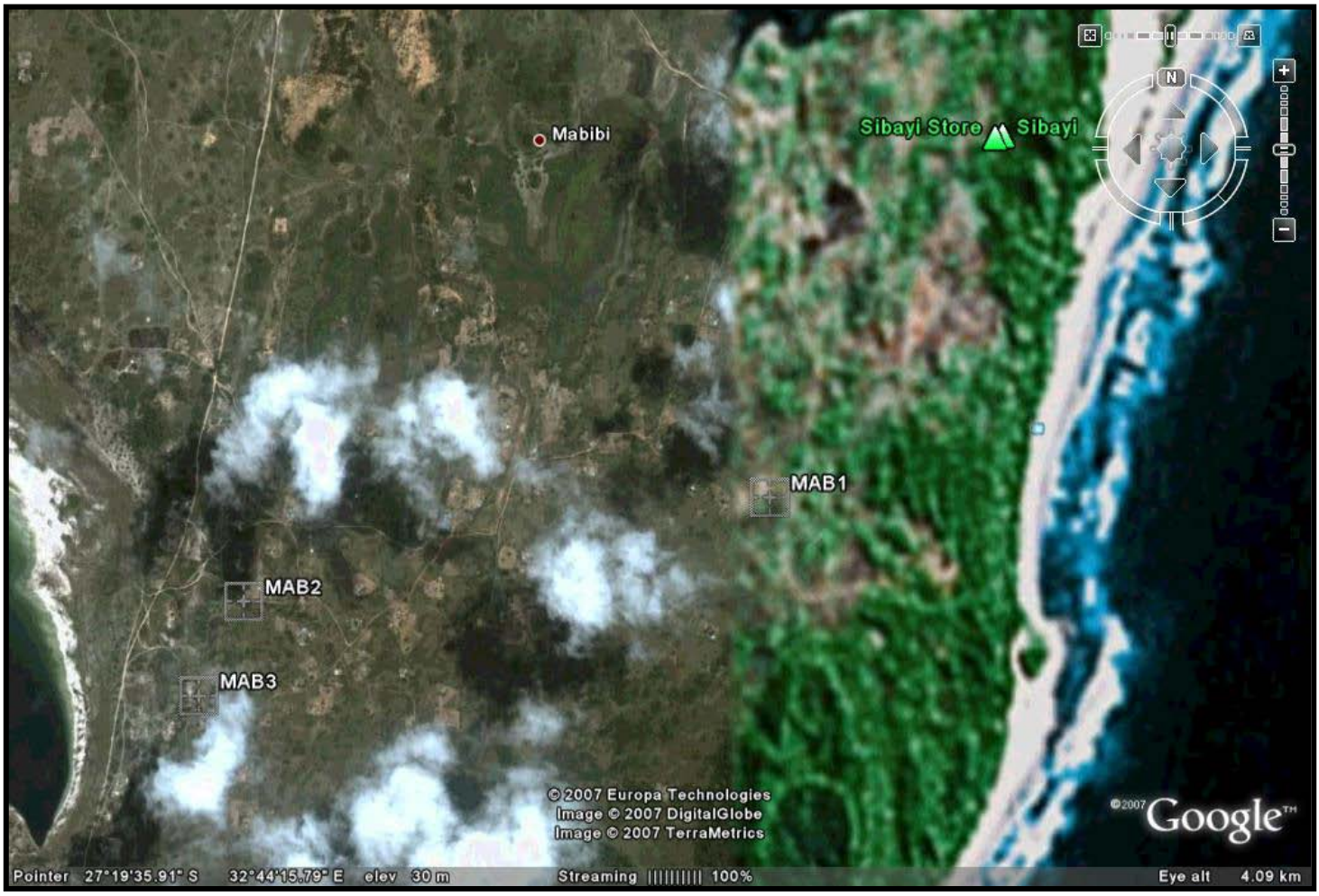
7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance. Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

RESULTS

Two archaeological sites were recorded during the course of the survey and one area was deemed as being sensitive (Fig. 1). The site record forms are attached in Appendix A – the site co-ordinates etc, can be located here.

Figure 1: Location of Sites at Mabibi



MAB1

MAB1 is located on the top of small dune near the entrance to Mabibi Camp. The site consists of a scatter of pottery sherds, shell, and bone. The pottery is mostly undecorated; however, one sherd has comb stamping with a triangular

motif. The shell consists of oyster and brown mussel seashell fragments. One bone fragment occurs on the site.

The decorated pottery suggests that the site dates from *c.* 1500 AD onwards. It probably dates to the Late Iron Age.

Significance: The site is of low significance as there is only a scatter of artefacts.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required

MAB2

This site is located on Lake Sibaya side on top of dune. The road has damaged part of the site, and the artefacts were observed in the cutting, ~5 - 10cm below the surface. The site consists of some undecorated pottery and a few shell fragments.

The site appears to date to the Historical period, i.e. post-dates 1830AD

Significance: The site is of low significance as there is only a scatter of artefacts.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required

MAB3

MAB3 is located on the top of a dune. We could not record the site as it was under dense vegetation (of grasses and trees); however, it appears to be a potential site. We suggest that caution is taken in this area.

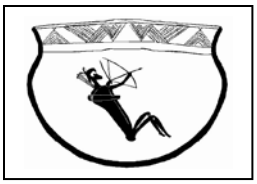
CONCLUSION

Two sites and one sensitive area were recorded during the survey of the water pipeline route. The sites do not need further mitigation; however, a permit is required for the development.

The pipeline will be excavated by hand, and we suggest that caution is taken at the three areas. If any material is located in the course of the pipeline, then it will need to be reported to Amafa KZN. If any human skeletal remains are located along the pipeline route, then it may not be removed and Amafa KZN has to be informed immediately (KZN Heritage Act 1999). There is a possibility of human skeletal remains occurring at MAB1 is it is an old household.

APPENDIX A
SITE RECORD FORMS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)
Stone Age
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age X
Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: MAB1
Official Name:
Local Name:
Map Sheet:
Map Reference: S27 19' 41.7" E32 44' 30.2"
GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

From Mbazwana take, the third circle right and follow the signs for Sibaya and Mabibi. Follow road past Sibaya, and continue to Mabibi Camp sign. From there backtrack downhill, take right fork, and second left track site is on right hand side of road.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open
Merits conservation: No
Threats: Yes
What threats: pipeline – partial damage

RECORDING:
Details of graphic record: N/A
Colour slides: Black & White photographs
Tracings Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson
Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901
Owner State
References:
Date: 24/07/2006

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a scatter of pottery sherds, shell, and bone. The pottery is mostly undecorated; however, one sherd has comb stamping with a triangular motif. The shell consists of oyster and brown mussel seashell fragments. One bone fragment occurs on the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)
Stone Age
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age
Historical Period: x

Recorder's Site No.: MAB2
Official Name:
Local Name:
Map Sheet:
Map Reference: S27 19' 53.8", E32 43' 21.3"
GPS reading? yes
Directions to site: Sketch or description.

As for MAB1, and head towards clinic. From there take main road out (it is sign posted) site is in road cutting.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open
Merits conservation: No
Threats: Yes
What threats: pipeline – partial damage

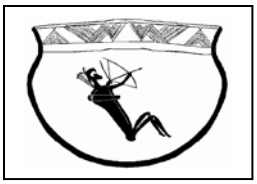
RECORDING:
Details of graphic record: N/A
Colour slides: Black & White photographs
Tracings Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson
Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901
Owner State
References:
Date: 24/07/2006

Description of site and artefactual content.

The site consists of some undecorated pottery and a few shell fragments.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)
Stone Age
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age
Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: MAB3
Official Name:
Local Name:
Map Sheet:
Map Reference: S27 20'04.8", E32 43' 15.4"
GPS reading? yes
Directions to site: Sketch or description.

In top of dune near lake side of area, on opposite side of current house.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Sensitive area
Merits conservation: No
Threats: Yes
What threats: pipeline – partial damage

RECORDING:
Details of graphic record: N/A
Colour slides: Black & White photographs
Tracings Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson
Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901
Owner State
References:
Date: 24/07/2006

Description of site and artefactual content.

N/A