

**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT
FOR NEWCASTLE TOWNLANDS 4702**

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PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE FARM BELLEVUE

Environmental Design Partnership contracted the Institute for Cultural Resource Management (ICRM) to conduct a data-base search to identify archaeological and historical resources that may exist on the land known as Newcastle Townlands 4702. Our terms of reference required us to provide a preliminary assessment of any archaeological and historical resources and to recommend mitigatory measures for these.

All archaeological and historical sites are protected by the National Monuments Act of 1969 which makes it an offence to alter in any way such sites without a permit from the National Monuments Council (NMC). As from 1 April 1998, the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997 will replace the current heritage legislation in KwaZulu-Natal. The new heritage compliance agency, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali, may require an assessment of the impact of any development on heritage resources, where such an assessment is not required by other legislation. The NMC and its successor in KwaZulu-Natal (Amafa) may hold developers responsible for any damage accrued to a site in cases where they have deviated from the permit requirements. It is the responsibility of the developers to apply for a permit should development have a negative impact on archaeological or historical sites.

Deeds Office Search

A Deeds Office search was not conducted since the land is still government land. Newcastle Townlands belongs to Newcastle municipality (*cf* the 1974 1:50 000 map for this area).

Archaeological data base search

The Natal Museum is the Regional Recording Centre for archaeological site data in KwaZulu-Natal. Recorded archaeological sites are mapped on a 1:50 000 map sheet and allocated a National Site Number. Each archaeological site has a site record form that lists the details of the site. From this database, and personal experience, an archaeologist can undertake a preliminary desktop assessment of an area. Few areas in KwaZulu-Natal have been systematically surveyed, while those sites on record were frequently recorded for specific research purposes.

No known archaeological sites occur on the affected area. Sites dating to the Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, Late Stone Age and Historical Period do however, occur in other areas of Newcastle. This covers the last 1.5 million years of hominoid history in southern Africa.

The Stone Age sites are scatters of stone tools and are most likely in a secondary context, i.e. they have been disturbed through natural processes and/or agricultural activity. These sites are probably of low archaeological significance. Those sites

dating to the Historical Period include Zulu-speaking settlements, stone-walling, houses attributed to European settlers, and battlefields.

Aerial Photographic search

The aerial photograph for the affected area was studied using a magnifying glass. Buildings, stone-walling, and even certain subsurface features can be identified. Human graves are unlikely to be observed from an aerial photograph and need to be taken into account in any further management of the affected area.

My analyses of the aerial photograph indicates that no stone-walled archaeological sites are likely to exist in the affected area.

Preliminary Site Inspection

A preliminary site inspection was not conducted since the database search indicates that no archaeological sites are likely to exist in this area. Further site visits would be unnecessary.

Conclusion

The affected area, Newcastle Townlands 4207, was briefly assessed in terms of its land ownership and archaeological value. A database search at the Natal Museum indicates that the land is was owned by the Newcastle municipality up to at least 1974.

The archaeological database search, and aerial photography analyses, indicates that the area is of low archaeological significance, and that it is unlikely for any archaeological sites to exist in the affected area. Human graves need to be taken into account if they exist.

We recommend that no further archaeological assessment and investigation is needed.