

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE NSELENI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME: PHASE 3B

For: ILIFA Africa Engineers (Pty) Ltd

DATE: 25 AUGUST 2008

By Gavin Anderson and Louise Anderson

Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource  
Management

PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Phone: 035-7531785/0836585362



## **INTRODUCTION**

Umlando was contracted to undertake an heritage survey of the area to be affected by the Nseleni Water Supply Scheme: Phase 3B. The proposed development is approximately 5km northwest of Nseleni in a rural to semi-rural area. Figure 1 is a locality map of the area.

Most of the land is currently used for agriculture or as pasturage for cattle and goats. The soil varies in quality and depth, however many areas appear to be unattractive for historical farmers.

The water supply scheme consists of several water reticulation pipelines and reservoirs. The pipelines vary in diameter according to their location on the reticulation system. These diameters are: 20mm – 160mm for secondary pipelines to the houses. The existing bulk water pipelines (250mm – 350mm) will be removed. The impact on possible heritage sites will thus be negligible along the pipeline route. The highest impact will be at the new reservoir sites.

There are seven planned reservoirs in the affected area. These tend to be located on higher ground, although not on the top of hills.

Ten heritage sites were recorded during the survey. These vary from high to low significance, and all can be mitigated.

## **METHOD**

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. We consulted the databases from the Natal Museum, as well as our own database<sup>1</sup>. These databases contain all known heritage sites in each province.

The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) consisted of a foot survey of the selected area. The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

### **Defining significance**

Archaeological sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, several criteria 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

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<sup>1</sup> Our database includes information from these institutions, as well as additional information.

- 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.

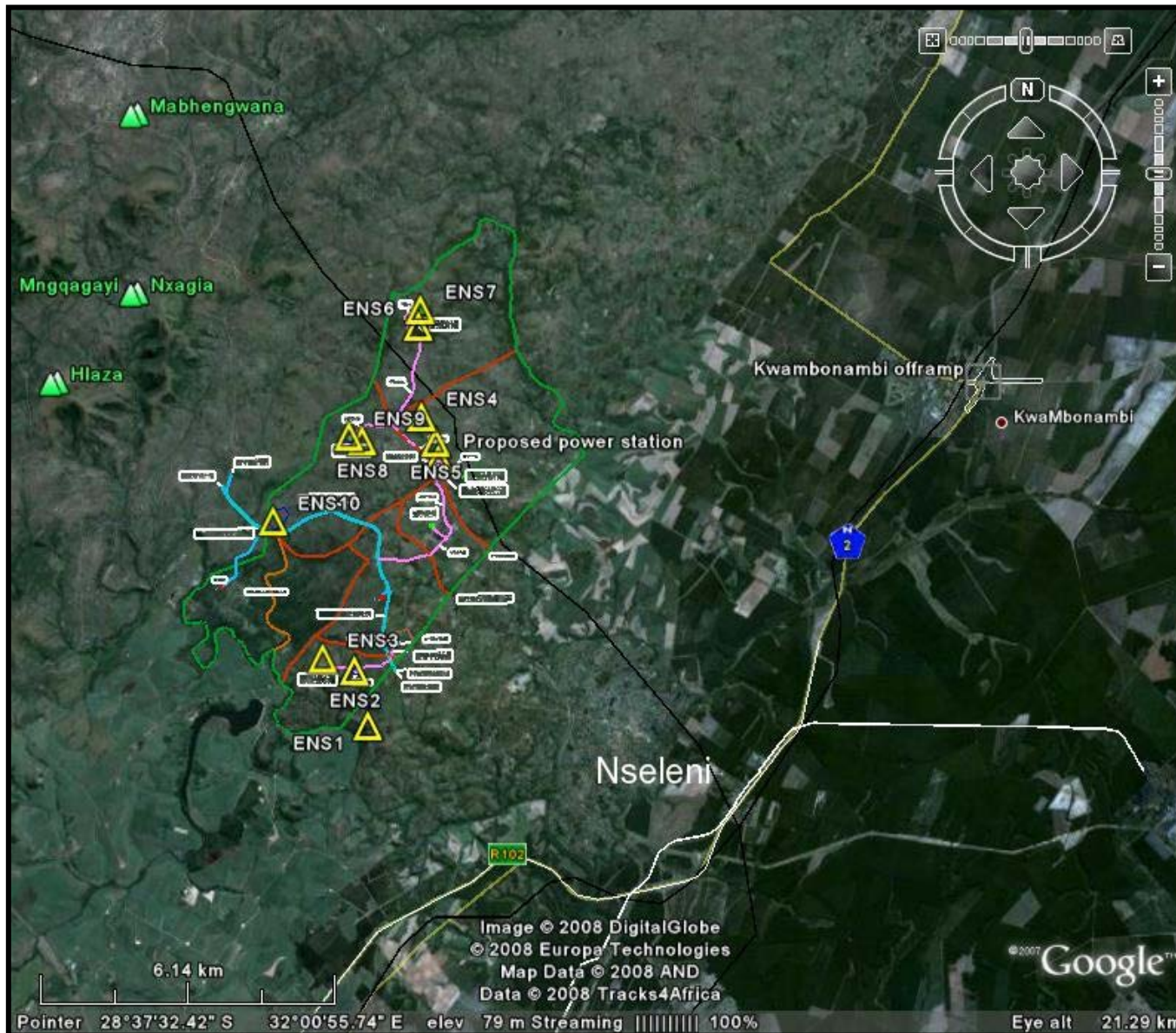
All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts. And

tend to have no further mitigation. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts and these are sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. 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. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3).

Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features. We attempt to recover as many artefacts from these sites by means of systematic sampling, as opposed to sampling diagnostic artefacts only.

The survey was restricted to the area as defined in Fig. 1 (except for ENS1). We concentrated our surveys on the locations of the reservoirs and larger pipes, in addition to those areas that were more likely to yield sites. We also surveyed the main hills where settlements currently occur.

Figure 1: Locality of the proposed development



## RESULTS

Table 1 lists the recorded sites in relation to the pipeline.

**Table 1: List of recorded sites**

| Site Name | Type of site                       | Heritage Significance | Requires mitigation (if affected) | Type of mitigation required  |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ENS01     | Modern graves                      | High                  | No                                | None   |
| ENS02     | Stone Age, Late Iron Age,          | Low                   | Yes                               | Monitor  |
| ENS03     | Shembe Circle                      | High                  | No                                | None   |
| ENS04     | MSA scatter                        | Low                   | No                                | None   |
| ENS05     | MSA scatter                        | Low                   | No                                | None   |
| ENS06     | Shembe Circle, Stone Age, Iron Age | High                  | No                                | None   |
| ENS07     | LSA scatter                        | Low                   | No                                | None   |
| ENS08     | Shembe Circle                      | High                  | No                                | None   |
| ENS09     | Shembe Circle                      | High                  | No                                | None   |
| ENS010    | Historical foundations             | Medium                | Yes                               | Map, photograph, test-pits and/or monitoring, community consultation |

### ENS01

ENS01 was recorded due to its proximity to the affected area, and while we were navigating the area (fig. 2). The site consists of two recent graves associated with the nearby homestead. The pipeline will not affect the site.

Significance: High

Required mitigation: None

### ENS02

ENS02 is located along the top of a hill, and over a large area (fig. 2). The site consists of a scatter of Stone Age stone tools that probably date to the Late



Stone Age. There is an extensive scatter of Late Iron Age (LIA), or Historical Period (HP), pottery. The artefacts become denser towards the top of the hill. The pottery was undecorated and medium in thickness. This suggests that the site probably dates to the Historical Period (post 1830AD), rather than the Late Iron Age (1100AD – 1830AD). The artefacts have been dispersed by agricultural activity. The site is probably a homestead of several houses and more of the site may occur below the surface. Since the site is not that old, organic remains, such as human skeletons, may occur.

Significance: The site is currently of low significance as the surface artefacts are out of context. Subsurface features may occur and change the significance of the site.

Required mitigation: We suggest that the area is monitored during the excavation of the pipeline. Any salvage excavations can occur during that phase of the project.

### **ENS03**

ENS03 is located in the southeastern area, halfway up a large hill (fig. 2). The site consists of a Shembe circle that is currently in use by the local community. The nearby reservoir and connecting lines do not affect the site.

Significance: High

Required mitigation: None

### **ENS04**

ENS04 consists of a scatter of Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools (fig. 3). These were visible near the road cutting. The MSA artefacts are in a secondary context.

Significance: Low

Required mitigation: None



Figure 2: Location of ENS01, ENS02, and ENS03



### **ENS05**

ENSO05 is located ~500m south of ENS04, and may be part of the same site (fig. 3). The site consists of several MSA tools observed on the surface. The MSA artefacts are in a secondary context.

Significance: Low

Required mitigation: None

### **ENS06**

ENS06 is located on a high hill near the northern part of the affected area. (fig. 4). The site consists of a Shembe circle that is currently in use by the local community. The nearby reservoir and connecting lines do not affect the site.

Significance: High

Required mitigation: None

### **ENS07**

ENS06 is located on the highest hill near the northern part of the affected area. (fig. 4). The site consists of a scatter of Late Stone Age (LSA) artefacts. These artefacts are in a secondary context.

Significance: Low

Required mitigation: None

### **ENS08**

The site consists of a Shembe-like circle that is currently in use by the local community (fig. 3). . The nearby reservoir and connecting lines do not affect the site.

Significance: High

Required mitigation: None

Figure 3: Location of ENS04, ENS05, ENS08, and ENS09

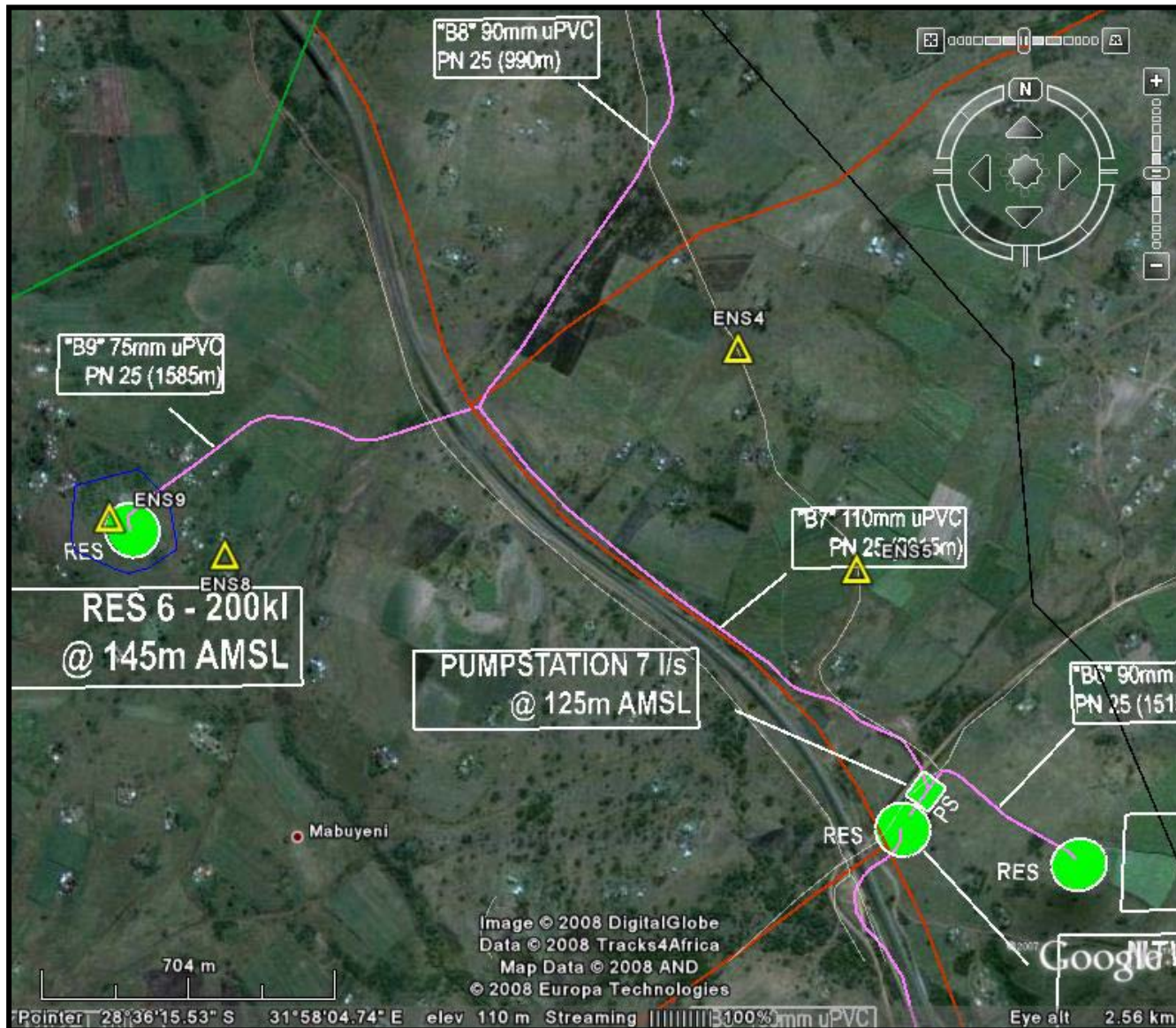
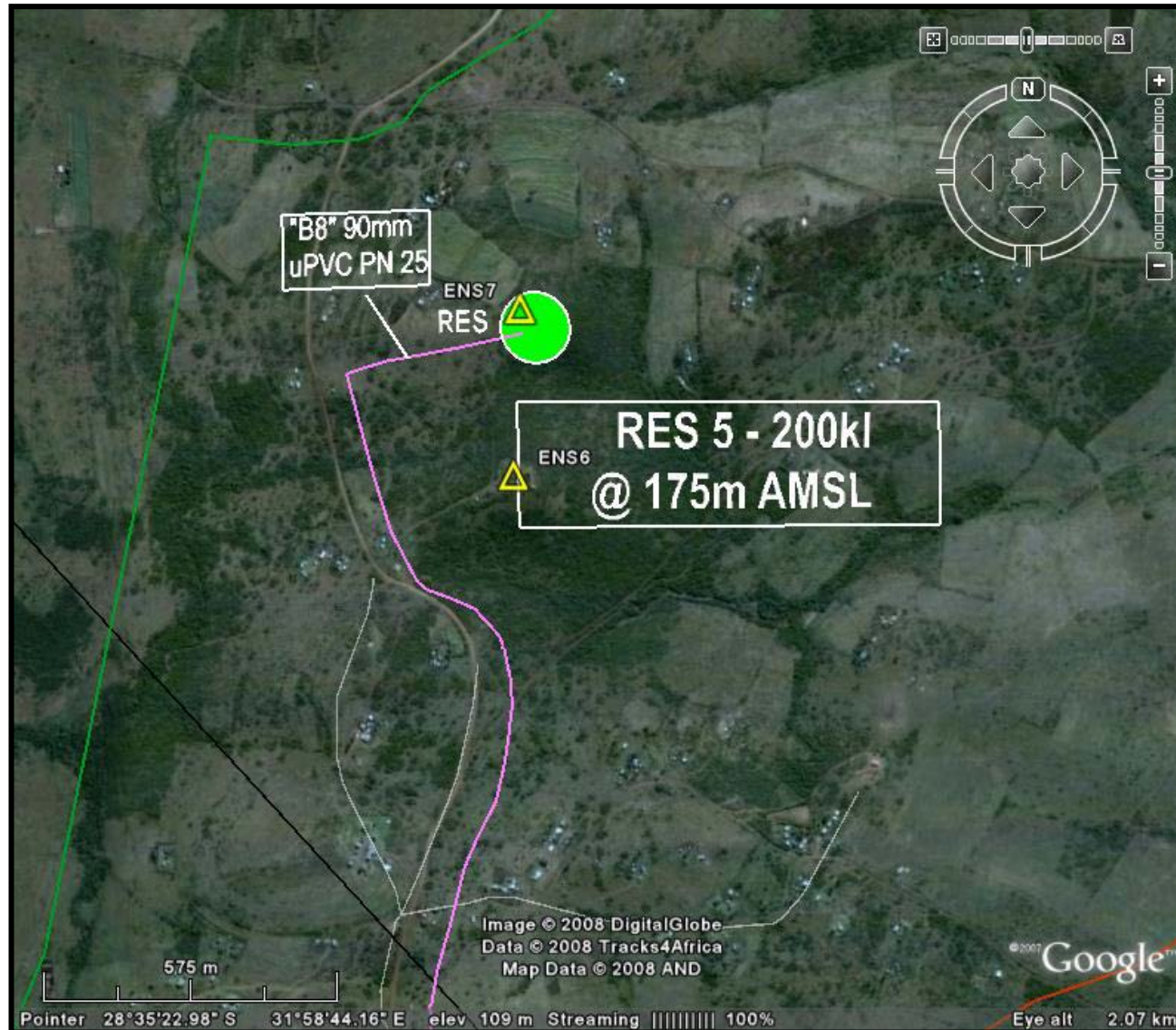




Figure 4: Location of ENS06 and ENS07



## **ENS09**

ENS09 is located on top of a high hill along the northwestern part of the development. (fig. 3). ENSO09 is multicomponent site, consisting of: LSA, LIA/HP, and recent religious activities.

The LSA/HP material is a scatter of pottery sherds that occur along the top of the hill. These are in a secondary context. Some of the sherds may be associated with the Shembe Circle.

The Shembe Circle is located on the centre top of the hill and is currently in use by the local community.

The nearby reservoir may affect parts of the site and the connecting pipeline may affect the site.

Significance: Low – High. The LSA and LIA/HP material is in a secondary context and occurs over the entire hill. It is of low significance. The Shembe Circle is of high significance.

Required mitigation: No mitigation is required for the LSA and LIA/HP components of the site. However, discussions with the local community would need to occur if the reservoir will (eventually) affect the Shembe Circle<sup>2</sup>.

## **ENS10**

ENS010 is located along the middle northern part of the development, along the southern side of the hill (fig. 5). The area has been ploughed with three main plough (or drainage) lines still remaining. The site consists of the foundations of several individual houses that appear to be historical in age (i.e. over 60 years old). Human remains may occur in association with these houses.

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<sup>2</sup> The map has the reservoir as a generic circle, and the precise location will probably change at construction phase.

Significance: Low – High. The foundations are of low significance, however if there are human remains then the sites are of high significance.

Required mitigation: The planned pipelines do not occur on this side of the hill, and thus no mitigation is currently required. If the pipeline changes direction and affect this site, then it will need to be mapped, photographed, possibly excavated, and have community participation. The community participation would include locating people who may claim ancestry for these sites.

## **GENERAL**

Some areas, such as those near Reservoir 7 have very dense vegetation, resulting in poor visibility of possible sites. This area should be revisited after bush clearance and during the excavations of the pipeline. It can thus be monitored. The area to be revisited begins from the main road and ends at Reservoir 7.

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CONCLUSION**

Of the ten sites recorded sites only two areas (ENS02 and near Reservoir 7) requires on site monitoring. The rest of the sites are either not directly affected by the pipeline or are of low significance and do not require further mitigation.

On-site monitoring will consists of being on site during the excavation of that part of the pipeline. The aim is to salvage any material that may be uncovered during this process. The heritage practioner reserves the right to halt excavations of the pipeline, or to redirect it if needed. It is useful to have two practioners on the site during this type of management, so that one can salvage any possible material, and the other can continue monitoring the next are of excavations long the pipeline. The alternative is that all excavations stop until mitigation is complete.

Those areas related to the Shembe religion need community participation if they are to be affected by the various pipelines. The members of that specific congregation will need to be approached and grant permission for the pipeline to affect an area.

A permit for the destruction of the Stone Age and Iron Age or Historical Period sites will need to be obtained from KwaZulu-Natal Heritage prior to the construction phase of the project. We suggest that a permit for the general area is requested, as opposed to a site-specific permit. We also suggest that the heritage practitioner obtains a permit for sampling and/or excavation for the monitoring phase.



Figure 5: Location of ENS08, ENS09, and ENS010



**Appendix A**  
**Site record forms**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period: **x**

Recorder's Site No.: **ENS 1**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 39' 49.2" E: 31 57' 58.0" Alt: 125m

GPS reading? yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

From N3, take Nseleni left offramp and drive for ~3km after Nseleni to the railway crossing. Drive ~3.9km after crossing and take 1<sup>st</sup> left. Follow dirt road towards the river. Site is on saddle between two hills, and near the current water pipeline.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Graves

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: No

What threats: None

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

References:

Date: 20/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of a fenced cemetery with 2x graves + headstones.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

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

Recorder's Site No.: **ENS 2**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 39' 12.1" E: 31 57' 47.8" Alt: 113m

GPS reading? yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

As for ENS01, but take next left (~100m) and follow dirt road past second house on left (540m), take next track to right and up the hill. Site is on this hill.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Surface  
Merits conservation: Yes  
Threats: Yes  
What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk Line

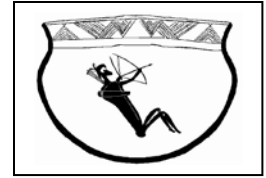
### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none  
Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson  
Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901  
Owner:  
References:  
Date: 20/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of an extensive scatter of pottery and stone tools.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period: **x**

Recorder's Site No.: **ENS 3**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 39' 03.75" E: 31 57' 23.55" Alt: 122m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

From ENS03 look northwest. Shembe circle is visible on that hill, 650m away.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Shembe circle

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk Line

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

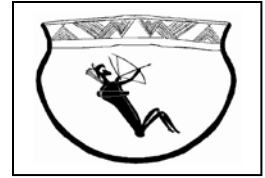
References:

Date: 20/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consist of a single Shembe circle.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age: **x**

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **NSE 4**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 36' 21.8" E: 31 58' 39.2" Alt: 132m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

From ENS01 intersection, continue straight (not left) towards next main intersection (has post boxes, bus/taxi stops). Turn right and follow road to railway. Cross railway and take first left, continue for 1.2km to clear area on north side of the top of the hill.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk Line

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

References:

Date: 21/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

Site is in sugar cane and probably continues across the road. The site consists of a MSA scatter.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age: **x**

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **NSE 5**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 29 36' 38.9" E: 31 58' 49.9" Alt: 106m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

As for ENS04, however, only travel 600m after railway crossing and first left turn.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk Line

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

References:

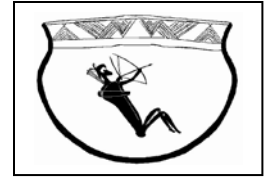
Date: 21/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of a stone age scatter.



## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period: **x**

Recorder's Site No.: **NSE 6**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 35' 20.2" E: 31 58' 37.97" Alt: 135m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

As fro ENS04, but continue north. At T-junction turn left and continue straight (past next intersection) Site is on top of big hill.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Shembe circle

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk Line

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

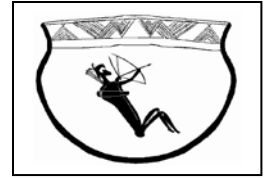
References:

Date: 21/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of a single Shembe circle.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age: **x**

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: **NSE 7**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 35' 10.1" E: 31 58' 38.5" Alt: 162m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

As for ENS06, except site in on top of high hill directly to north.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Yes

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

References:

Date: 21/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of a LSA scatter.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period: **x**

Recorder's Site No.: **NSE 8**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 36' 37.82" E: 31 57' 53.65" Alt: 106m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

As for ENS04, but turn left/west at t-junction, go under railway, and continue for 620m. Site is on RHS amongst several houses.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Shembe circle

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk Line

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

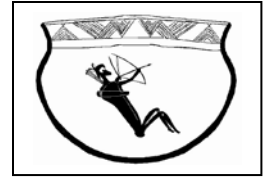
References:

Date: 21/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of a single Shembe circle.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: **x**

Historical Period: **x**

Recorder's Site No.: **NSE 9**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 36' 34.92" E: 31 57' 43.71" Alt: 125m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

As for ENS08 except site is on the hill to the northwest some 300m.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Shembe circle

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk line

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

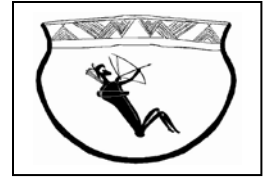
References:

Date: 21/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of a single Shembe circle.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**



**SITE CATEGORY:** (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age

Historical Period: **x**

Recorder's Site No.: **NSE 10**

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference: S: 28 37' 31.7" E: 31 56' 45.0" Alt: 72m

GPS reading? Yes

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.**

From Nseleni, travel north along the road. Cross the railway bridge and continue to the affected area. Continue with road. At next 4-way crossing, go north/northwest for 3km. Site is on right hand side of the hill.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Type of Site: Ruins

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: Upper Nseleni Bulk Line

### **RECORDING:**

Details of graphic record: none

Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

References:

Date: 21/08/2008

### **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.**

The site consists of historical period house foundations on the side of the hill. Possible graves may occur