

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED NKANYA
LODGE, WILD COAST, EASTERN CAPE
FOR COASTAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

DATE: 5 March 2009

**By Gavin Anderson
Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource
Management
PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901
Phone/fax: 035-7531785 Fax: 0865445631cell:
0836585362**



TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION 3
METHOD 3
 DEFINING SIGNIFICANCE..... 4
RESULTS 6
 NKA01 6
 NKA02..... 8
MANAGEMENT PLAN 8
CONCLUSION..... 12
APPENDIX A..... 13
 ARCHITECT HISTORIAN REPORT 13
APPENDIX B 16
 SITE RECORD FORMS 16

TABLE OF FIGURES

FIG. 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT..... 7
FIG. 2: LOCATION OF RECORDED SITES IN THE STUDY AREA..... 9
FIG. 3: VIEWS OF HISTORICAL BUILDING AT NKA01 10
FIG. 4: STONE FEATURE AT NKA02 11

INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Coastal and Environmental Services to undertake a heritage survey of the Nkanya Lodge, Wild Coast, Eastern Cape. The development is located near the Nkanya Estuary. The proposed development will include:

- a main resort
- additional accommodation units
- a picnic area
- caravan park
- fencing
- pipelines

The study area is shown in fig. 1.

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the Umlando's database. This database does; however, tend to be restricted to archaeological and palaeontological sites. Consulting with the relevant authorities will also cover known battlefields and historical sites. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) consists of a foot survey where the selected area was covered. The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan. The main problem with the survey was the poor archaeological visibility.

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, 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. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. 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.

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.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

- 8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites
- 8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.5. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

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. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). 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

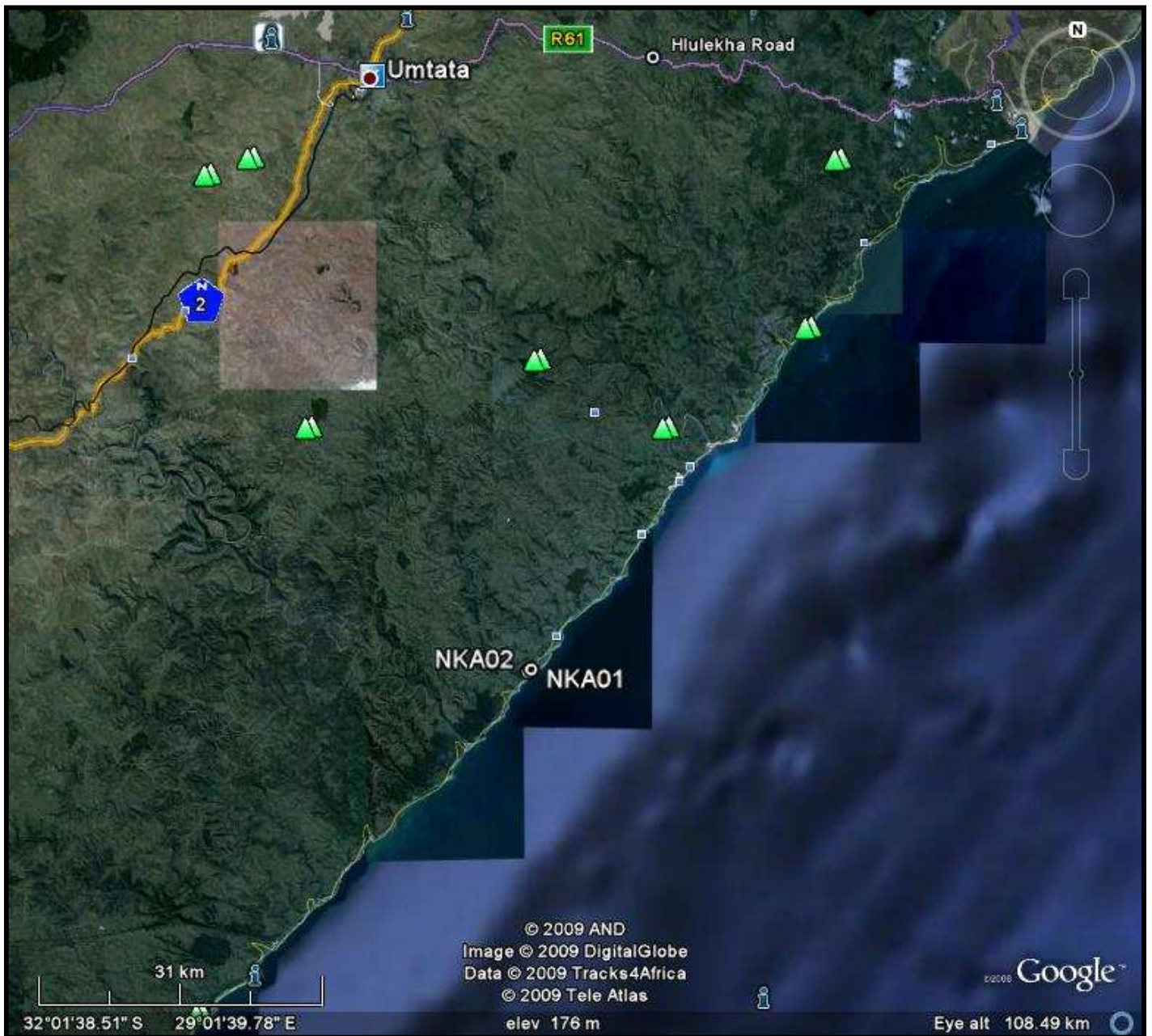
Two sites were recorded during the survey. The location of these sites is illustrated in Figure 2.

NKA01

NKA01 is an apparently old building that is supposed to be an NGK Mission¹ (fig. 3). The building is of the 'wattle and daub' style and has two sections: a main area 4/5th of the building, and a separate room with its own entrance. There is no evidence that this building was used as a mission or a church. That is, there are no crosses, steeples, and other accrements to indicate a religious structure.

¹ CES was informed about this as oral history.

FIG. 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT²



² Study area is outlined in yellow

Significance: The building is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

NKA02

NKA02 is located just outside of the study area. It consists of a semi-circle of stones, and another stone feature uphill (fig. 4). These appear to be old dwellings. I did not observe any graves in the immediate area.

The development proposal did not include the route for the access road to the Nkanya Lodge. If the current track is used it will affect NKA02. The positioning of the access road will need to account for other ruined dwellings. I did not observe others along the existing track.

Significance: The site is of low significance

Mitigation: no further mitigation is required, as the site is probably not older than 60 years.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Nkanya Lodge did not yield any significant sites. The historical building appears to be of low significance. The building should be fully photographed and mapped as part of a general plan to record vernacular architecture.

While there is an oral history that suggests the one building may have been a religious, building there is no physical evidence to support this. Even so, the building is of low architectural significance. Perhaps the local community should be requested to expand on their oral history and this should be recorded in the minutes. The community meeting should also query if the building has any living heritage value.

FIG. 2: LOCATION OF RECORDED SITES IN THE STUDY AREA



FIG. 3: VIEWS OF HISTORICAL BUILDING AT NKA01



FIG. 4: STONE FEATURE AT NKA02



The vegetation in the area was relatively dense, and I could not observe any shell middens. I did survey the affected areas focusing on disturbed areas and did not notice any evidence for shell middens. If any shell middens are discovered during the course of the development, they need to be reported to SAHRA immediately.

CONCLUSION

A heritage survey of the proposed Nkanya Lodge was undertaken. Two built structures were observed. The one appears to be an old shed and the other is a more recent dwelling. Both structures appear to be younger than 60 years in age and are thus not protected by any legislation.

APPENDIX A

ARCHITECT HISTORIAN REPORT



archaic consulting

architecture: research: conservation: anthropology: impacts consulting

debbie whelan
po box 21834
mayors walk
3208
debbie@archaic.co.za
2/12/08

tel: 033 3442522
fax: 033 3443122
cell: 083236 0410
email:

Assessment of derelict structure at Nkanya Bay

Location: 32°10'28.92"S, 28°58'22.80"E.

Methodology:

The author, Debbie Whelan from Archaic Consulting, was sent photographs of this building by Gavin Anderson of Umlando Cultural Heritage with respect to compiling an initial assessment of structure on this property. It must be stated that the interpretation of the context and surroundings are reliant on the information provided by Umlando Cultural Heritage.

Assessment:

This is a roughly built rectangular structure under asbestos sheeting on raw timber purlins on scissor trusses. It appears constructed out of mud brick which has been bag-washed internally and painted with a distemper. There are gum-pole columns which support the roof.

The structure is in a derelict state, with large plaster spalls to the one end next to the door, and it would appear as though the opposite wall has fallen out at gable level in the past and has been reconstructed. There are large holes in the asbestos sheeting. There is no stabilized floor to speak of and any doors and windows have been removed.

It has been recently used as an animal shed. It is doubtful whether the structure is over 60 years of age which would automatically protect it in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Act no 25 of 1999. It has no architectural merit, has no architectural context (does not contribute to a group or a streetscape) and at this point is not known to be associated with any famous person or historic event or contain items of scientific or technological in nature. It is however, rumoured to be connected with a mission of the Dutch Reformed Church, and this should be explored a little more fully.

Recommendation:

This structure does not markedly contribute to the environment, and is a reasonable though damaged example of a timber and earth farm vernacular building of which many exist. Attempting to repair this building, which appears to have had major structural damage in the past, is neither practical nor economic unless it has association with a major personage or event.

APPENDIX B

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.: NKA01

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference:

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From Umtata continue southwest with the N2.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Building
Merits conservation: No
What threats: Lodge development

RECORDING:

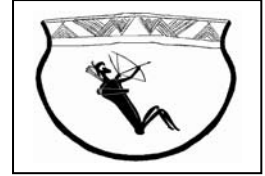
Details of graphic record:
Recorder/Informant: Name: Umlando, Gavin Anderson
Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901
Owner:
References:
Date: 28 February 2009

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.

NKA01 is an apparently old building that is supposed to be an NGK Mission (according to oral history). The building is of the 'wattle and daub' style and has two sections: a main area 4/5th of the building, and a separate room with its own entrance. There is no evidence that this building was used as a mission or a church. That is, there are no crosses, steeple, and other accretions to indicate a religious structure.

Architect Historian:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

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

Recorder's Site No.:

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet:

Map Reference:

GPS reading?

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site:

Merits conservation:

Threats:

What threats:

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record:

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

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner:

References:

Date: 28 February 2009

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.

Foundations of old dwelling that is probably recent in age.