

**The archaeological survey for the  
proposed P52-3 Quarry**

**For David Totman & Associates**

**Date: 27 October, 2005**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

David Totman & Associates contracted Umlando to undertake the archaeological survey of the proposed P52-3 quarry. This is a new proposed quarry site after the previously proposed quarry site had several human graves.

The current quarry site is situated along a spur overlooking a valley, and is approximately 4km southwest of the existing Royal Court. Humans for sometime have occupied the general area, and increased occupation probably occurs over the last few decades.

The affected area has sparse vegetation allowing for high archaeological visibility. Two types of sites exist on the affected area and would require mitigation and/or a general destruction permit. The one site will also require further input from the community. Mitigation can be undertaken to allow the proposed quarry site to be used.

## **THE SITES**

The affected area consists of two types of occupation: Middle Stone Age (MSA) and recent past.

The MSA site consists off MSA flakes and cores that are scattered throughout the affected area.

Significance: The scatter is sparse and of low significance.

Mitigation required: No further mitigation is required. A destruction permit will need to be issued by Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali prior to the quarry being used.

The second site is of the recent past. That is some of the material (and possibly housing) is from the last ten – fifteen years, while other artefacts and walls may be older than 60 years old. The site consists of several stone-walled houses, terraces, general walls and kraals. These features appear to become older as one heads west.

There are several types of architectural styles, and variants, on the site.

These are:

- rectangular houses with shale or dolerite as a raw material,
- circular houses with shale or dolerite as a raw material
- A combination of the above with both shale and dolerite (and in various sizes)
- Small goat kraals
- Larger cattle kraals
- Collapsed perimeter walling
- Collapsed and/or sunken kraals and houses

In addition to the above we noted four definite human burials<sup>1</sup>, and possibly four other human burials.

The site also appears to have clusters of the same architectural style along the length of the ridge. If this is true, and that the older sites appear to be more west, then there is a chronological sequence of house building styles.

Significance: The stone walled features are not archaeological features, per se. They are, however, interesting examples of vernacular architecture that is not seen in this area today. It is for this reason that they may have a recent architectural and/or anthropological significance.

The occurrence of human graves makes the site of higher significance.

Mitigation:

The mitigation for this part of the site involves several stages and more community involvement.

The following management plan should be followed:

1. The community needs to be consulted as to the “ownership” of the graves. If they cannot identify the deceased, then an approximate age of the burials is required. If the burials are older than 60 years, then they are protected by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act. If they are younger than 60 years then they may be exhumed according to the community’s beliefs. Both scenarios will require Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali approval.

2. The community should provide an as detailed account, or lineage, of the people who resided on this spur. This should include approximate dates. This will require an anthropological/social study.

3. The site consists of a chronological sequence of architectural styles. Some of these are probably not more than 10 years old. However, others may be older than 60 years and are thus protected by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act. I suggest that all buildings are surveyed, recorded and photographed. If the client provides a surveyor with a ‘total station’ then the surveying of the site could be completed in a maximum of two days. These will be plotted on various sizes of paper and housed at Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali.

4. Recording of the site includes detailed notes of raw materials used, location of entrances in relation to the main kraal, etc. These will be photographed as well.

5. If any of the houses are older than 60 years, then a destruction permit will also be required.

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<sup>1</sup> The co-ordinates (on WSG84) are S27<sup>0</sup> 49’ 26.1” E31<sup>0</sup> 37’ 31.6”

6. Four possible graves exist on the site. If they are graves, then they are historical and/or archaeological as they are sunken into the ground and have much vegetation over them. This is in contrast to other graves. We suggest that test-pits be used at one possible grave to determine if these are indeed graves. If they were not graves, then no further mitigation would be required. If they were human graves, then we would need to enter the third phase of the project, whereby these are archaeologically excavated.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Archaeological survey recorded one archaeological site that will require a destruction permit. The stone-walled features vary in age and some may be older than 60 years. The community should assist in obtaining a relative date for these features, especially for the human graves.

The stone-walled features may not be of high (recent) historical significance, however there is a chronological sequence of vernacular architecture of the area. This is a style that is hardly seen in the area. In terms of heritage assessments, we suggest that these be fully recorded before the quarry begins its operational phase.