

**The archaeological survey of two developments on Phinda
Private Game Reserve**

For Simpson, Ryder and Associates cc

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Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource Management

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted by Simpson, Ryder & Associates cc to undertake an archaeological survey of several areas marked for development on Phinda Private Game Reserve. These areas for development are the staff villages and private lodges in Phinda Private Game Reserve. The EIA references are as follows:

1. Phinda Staff Village Site – EIA / 7307
2. Lodge sites on Sutton / Fanie Roberts Game Reserve – EIA / 7305

Phinda Private Game Reserve covers several ecozones and a variety of sites was expected to be found. These areas included the “sand forest”, wetlands, and the hilly areas to the northeast.

Three sites were recorded during the course of the survey for EIA / 7305. No sites were recorded for EIA / 7307. These sites vary in significance and a permit will be required for the partial impact on at least two of the sites.

METHOD

The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) consists of a foot survey where the selected route will be covered. The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

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, 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
- 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.

THE SITES

The site record forms are attached in Appendix A

PHIN1

PHIN1 is located near the current main gate entrance, along the side of the road. The site is a scatter of artefacts on the surface. These artefacts date to the Late Iron Age (LIA), or Historical Period (HP), and Late Stone Age¹.

The Late Iron Age, or Historical Period, consists of a few pottery sherds. They are thin-walled and have no decoration. Two of the sherds have food residue on the inside.

The Stone Age material consists of general Middle Stone Age (MSA) flakes and some Late Stone Age (LSA) tools. The LSA tools include a small end scraper, and an utilised flake made on banded agate.

¹ MSA dates from ~120 000 – 30 000 years ago
 LSA dates from 30 000 – 100 years ago
 LIA dates from 900 years ago to 180 years ago
 HP dates from 180 years ago to the recent past
 Dates do overlap and are related to various factors.

More artefacts occur in the general area.

Significance:

The site is of low archaeological significance. The artefacts are found in a secondary context and are common to the Periods.

Mitigation:

The site is unlikely to be affected by development. No further mitigation is required.

PHIN2

PHIN2 is located at the proposed 'Bush Villas' area. The site is on small "outcrop" overlooking the dam. The site consists of a scatter of MSA, LSA and LIA artefacts. The MSA and LSA consist of general stone tools. These are in a secondary context and common to both Periods.

The LIA artefacts include upper and lower grinding stones, and pottery sherds. There LIA part of the site appears to be part of a living settlement that has been disturbed. Human burials are normally associated with these types of sites, although I did not observe any graves during the survey. If human burials exist in this area, then they are either subsurface, or further uphill.

Significance:

The site is of low significance, as the artefacts tend to be in a secondary context. If human graves are recorded at a later stage then the site becomes of high significance.

Mitigation:

No further mitigation is required. However, if the development extends much beyond the current road, i.e. uphill, then a further survey will be required². The servitudes for the lodges had not been finalised by the time of the survey. If they extend beyond the current location of the lodges then they will need to be surveyed.

As a general comment, we need to state that according the KZN Heritage Act all lineal developments longer than 500m are required to have some form of assessment. A lineal development includes roads, electricity and telephone lines, sewerage lines, etc.

² The survey was not extended beyond the areas proposed for development. We did not extend beyond these boundaries as the lions could have been in the area.

A permit will be required for the damage, alteration and or destruction of PHIN2.

PHIN3

PHIN3 is located in the general eastern area of the tiger cages and about $\frac{3}{4}$ up the hill, on a less acute slope.

There are three possible graves in the area. The 'graves' consist of semi-circular stone features that are "hollowed" out in the middle. That is it appears that these are not part of the natural rock outcrops of the area (of which one occurs nearby). The area is also vegetated and I could not see the circles completely.

If these are not graves then they are the result of trees growing through natural outcrops and thus creating the "hollow" in the centre. We will re-assess the site after bush clearance has occurred – we did not have permission to undertake bush clearance.

No other artefacts were observed in the area.

The tiger cages may be moved in the future to accommodate alternative houses. If this were the case then the caged areas would need to be assessed as they are in an archaeologically sensitive area.

Significance:

If these are human graves then the site is of high significance. If these are not human graves, then it is not a site.

Mitigation:

The area needs to be reassessed once it has been cleared of some of the vegetation. The area would also need to be surveyed if they tiger cages are moved.

I suggest the following if we are still unclear about the possible graves after vegetation clearance.

- The best example of a grave is excavated.
- If there are no human remains, in the best preserved "grave" then it is unlikely that the other "graves" are graves.
- If human remains are observed in the one area, then the others will need to be excavated as well.

A permit from KZN Heritage may be required for this site.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological survey of the staff and private lodges recorded three sites (EIA / 7305). No sites were recorded in the eastern side of the development, i.e. staff lodges (EIA / 7307). The sites were restricted to the western side of the Phinda Private Game Reserve. In general, it appears that the archaeological and historical sites are more likely to occur along the (north) western part of the Reserve, although we have previously recorded sites in Makhasa and Nibela area.

Those sites that will be effected by the development will require permits from KZN Heritage. These are sites that will be effected directly (in terms of housing) and indirectly (in terms of servitudes). Some areas still need to be surveyed depending on the outcome of future planning.

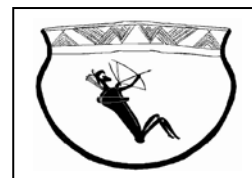
APPENDIX A
SITE RECORD FORMS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**SITE CATEGORY:**

Stone Age: Middle, Late

Iron Age: possible

Historical Period: possible



Recorder's Site No.: PHIN1

Official Name: N/A

Local Name: Bush Villas

Map Sheet: N/A

Map Reference: S 27° 52' 19.9" E 32° 13' 47.1

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Near the main gate entrance, along the side of the road.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open yes

Merits conservation: no

Threats: possible

What threats: development

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides: Black & White photographs

Tracings Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner: Phinda Game Reserve

References:

Date: 1/11/2006

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site is a scatter of artefacts on the surface.

Scatter consists of Late Iron Age, or Historical Period, pottery sherds. Two sherds have food residue on the inside.

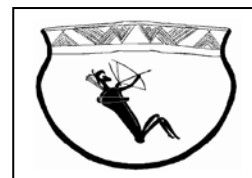
The Stone Age material consists of general MSA flakes and some LSA tools. The LSA tools include a small end scraper made on CCS.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**SITE CATEGORY:**

Stone Age: Late

Iron Age: possible

Historical Period: possible



Recorder's Site No.: PHIN2

Official Name: N/A

Local Name: Bush Villas

Map Sheet: N/A

Map Reference: S 27° 52' 51.9" E 32° 13' 44.8

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

At the Bush Villas area. Site is on small "outcrop" overlooking the dam

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open yes

Merits conservation: no

Threats: yes

What threats: development

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides: Black & White photographs

Tracings Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

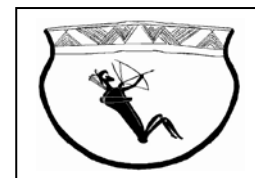
Owner Phinda Game Reserve

References:

Date: 24/07/2006

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site is a scatter of MSA, LSA and LIA artefacts MSA and LSA consist of general stone tools. LIA artefacts include upper and lower grinding stones, and pottery. LIA appears to be part of a settlement and thus graves should occur in the area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM**SITE CATEGORY:**

Stone Age:

Iron Age: possible

Historical Period: possible

Recorder's Site No.: PHIN3

Official Name: N/A

Local Name: Bush Villas

Map Sheet: N/A

Map Reference: S 27° 52' 35.8" E 32° 14' 32.9

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

In the general eastern area of the tiger cages – these are the “Fanie Robert’s” tiger cages.

Site is ¾ uphill and on a “flattened” area.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open yes

Merits conservation: no

Threats: possible

What threats: development

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Black & White photographs

Tracings

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Owner: Phinda Game Reserve

References:

Date: 1/11/2006

Description of site and artefactual content.

There are three possible graves in the area. The ‘graves’ consist of semi-circular stone features that are “hollowed” out in the middle. That is it appears that these are not part of the natural rock outcrops of the area (of which one occurs nearby). The area is also vegetated and I could not see the circles completely. Need to resurvey area after bush clearance

APPENDIX B

Contact details of the companies involved.

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