

INTRODUCTION

AECI intends to develop 280 hectares of land adjacent to the present industrial park for light and general industry, as the Southgate Industrial Park. The Institute for Cultural Resource Management was approached to conduct an archaeological survey of the area, since any development may damage or destroy archaeological sites in the area. The aim of the survey was to record all archaeological sites, assess their significance, and propose plans for further mitigation if required. The survey found four new sites, and reassessed one previously recorded site. In addition to the archaeological sites, several buildings dating to World War II were noted. The archaeological sites and buildings are older than 50 years and are therefore protected by the National Monuments Act of 1969. A permit for their destruction will be required.

The proposed land for development is about 35km south of Durban, 1.5km from the sea, and 1km from the Umbokodweni River. The vegetation in this area, prior to any development and/or farming was most probably coastal forest (Moll 1976). Thornbush and grasses most probably became more abundant as indigenous agriculturists changed their landscape through farming and bush clearance. The Southgate area is potentially significant from an archaeological point of view because the land is located close to a major river and the coastal strip. Several archaeological sites have been found along the coastal strip and they consist of Stone Age and Iron Age shell middens and areas of domestic activity.

METHODOLOGY

It was not possible to survey the whole area marked for development since thickets of *Lantana* grew over a large portion of the land. However, there were several areas of erosion, old tracks, bulldozer paths, and the tops of the hills, which were not heavily vegetated. I concentrated on these areas believing them to provide an adequate sampling area. Previous research has also indicated that hilltops are a favoured area for settlement. I dug several test pits in the areas I surveyed to determine whether further archaeological deposits existed, especially in areas where I saw concentrations of artefacts. Sites were recorded on the standard Natal Museum archaeology department site record forms, which are housed at the Natal Museum.

Archaeological sites may range from highly significant to insignificant. Sites which are defined as significant would require further mitigation in the form of excavation or sampling if they are threatened by development. Significance is judged according to several factors:

- Is the site the only one of its kind so far recorded in the province?
- Does the site have any rare or unusual features?
- Is there good preservation of artefacts and is the site relatively undisturbed?
- Has the site the potential to answer any questions currently asked in the related research and/or literature?

ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

In general the whole area proposed for development has archaeological material. This material can be related to the following time periods:

Period	Abbreviation	Approximate Age
Early Stone Age	ESA	2 million years ago to 200 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age	MSA	200 000 years ago to 30 000 years ago
Late Stone Age	LSA	30 000 years ago to the last century
Early Iron Age	EIA	1 700 years ago to 1000 years ago
Late Iron Age	LIA	1000 years ago to AD 1829
Historical period	-	post-1829 AD

These nomenclatures are, however, used for convenience in dating and referring to specific technology and or economy. They do not reflect the subtle differences between each group, nor do they imply some form of lineal social evolution or spatial separateness on the landscape. The people living in this area were hunter-gatherers, Bantu-speaking farmers, and lastly European colonists.

The artefacts were scattered over the ground and concentrated in certain areas. Areas with concentrations of artefacts are defined as archaeological sites. These sites tend to be found on hill tops. Four such sites were found during the survey: (MBG1-4), and one site was re-analysed (3030BB88) (fig. 1).

3030BB88

This site was originally recorded in the 1940s (van Riet Lowe 1947a, 1947b; Davies 1951). The original site record form suggested that this site may be archaeologically significant, since stone tools, pottery and a shell midden were recorded. Subsequently, quarrying has taken place destroying more than half of the site. The construction of a watchtower has also destroyed parts of the site. Several artefacts have been collected by non-archaeologists and I was able to inspect them. They consisted of ESA choppers, handaxes and flakes, MSA and LSA flakes, and a LSA adze used for woodworking. Several stone cores were also recorded. The Historical/LIA artefacts consisted mostly of pottery. No decoration occurred on these sherds. Several marine shell fragments have been seen at this site by Mr D. Mack - the head of security - but I did not find any, because the grass in the area was very thick. The site at one stage most probably consisted of a series of cultural horizons. However, through the ages, and with modern farming, these horizons have become indistinguishable, and all are found on the same level. While sampling some of this site may be necessary, it is not significant enough to be excavated.

MBG1

This site is situated on the top of a hill near a watchtower. The stone artefacts and faunal material of this site date to the MSA and LIA/ Historical periods. The MSA stone tools were found at the bottom of this hill and consisted of a few flakes. The Iron Age artefacts consisted of some pot sherds, a rim fragment and an upper grindstone. The long grass and *Lantana* covered a substantial part of this area, making further investigation difficult. I dug three small test pits, but only found two sherds. At the base of the hill a limpet (*Patella spp.*) was found - unfortunately the bulldozer had gone through this area and further marine shells could not be found. This site is not archaeologically significant.

MBG2

This site is on a hill south-west of MBG1. Several artefacts from various periods were found. The ESA stone tools consisted of a chopper and two flakes, while the MSA flakes occurred on the south side at the base of the hill. The Iron Age artefacts most probably date to the Historical period. Several pottery rim fragments were found. The lips of these rims were either flat, tapered, or rounded. The sherds and rims varied in thickness, shape and colour indicating that the sherds are derived from several vessels. Several fragments of upper grindstones were found. Two test pits indicated that the cultural horizon is about 10cm below topsoil. The site extends for some distance on top of the hill, and halfway down the hill. Apart from sugarcane farming, this area has had little disturbance. The site also appears to be representative of pot sherds from 3030BB88, MBG1 and MBG3. Few historical sites have been excavated along the southcoast of KwaZulu-Natal, and this site may yield further information. This site is archaeologically significant and needs further mitigation.

MBG3

MBG3 is situated on a hill near the southwestern corner of the land proposed for development. Both MSA and Iron Age remains were found. As with other areas, dense vegetation made surveying difficult, and I restricted the survey to areas of sparse vegetation. A bulldozer had cleared a substantial part of this site, and a large area of erosion also occurs on the hill. In the area of erosion several undecorated pottery sherds and rims were found. The rim fragments were all rounded at the lip. The site does not appear to be significant.

MBG4

MBG4 is located on the first hill to the north-east of MBG3. Halfway up the hill is a relatively large and flat area, where the remains of one part of the site was found - called MBG4a. At the top of the hill is another concentration of artefacts dating to the ESA, MSA, and Historical period - called MBG4b. MBG4a consisted of several pottery fragments and sherds, as well as upper and lower grindstones. One upper grindstone was faceted and characteristic of early grindstones. Two decorated sherds occurred. One sherd had a double row of circular impressions on the neck of the pot. The other sherd was a rim fragment with a series of lip notches. The upper grindstone described above and the decorated sherds suggest this site dates to about 900 years ago. It may be chronologically related to the Blackburn site (Davies 1971) further north, or the Mpambanyoni site (Robey 1980) further south. Little is known about this time period in the Iron Age, especially south of Durban. Moreover, this time period covers the transition from the EIA to LIA. This site is significant and requires further mitigation in the form of an excavation.

The ESA at MBG4b consists of several choppers and flakes, while the MSA consisted of stone tool flakes. There was no stratigraphic distinction between the two stone assemblages. The Iron Age remains from this area consisted of pottery rims and fragments similar to MBG1, MBG2, MBG3 and 3030BB88. A portion of this site has already been destroyed by the outer perimeter road. This part of the site is not significant.

Historical Buildings

During the course of the archaeological survey, I was informed that the buildings currently used for storage, were built during World War II. Buildings older than 50 years are protected by the National Monuments. These buildings are older than 50 years and thus would require further investigation by a qualified historian and/or architect. Although some of the buildings have been renovated, others may still be in their original condition. I cannot comment on the significance of these buildings, but further investigation would be necessary.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development of the Southgate Industrial Park will significantly alter the landscape. These changes pose a threat to archaeological sites and historical buildings that exist in the area. The cultural remains are non-renewable

resources, and mitigation would be necessary on important sites. The current survey found four new archaeological sites, of which two are archaeologically significant. Both of these need to be excavated to salvage as much of the site as possible. The excavations at MBG2 and MBG4a should take approximately two weeks to complete.

The occurrence of historical sites dating to the 1940s also requires further investigation. This may include time spent in the military archives in Pretoria, and an on site visit by an historian and/or architect. Significance may be in terms of architecture, historical associations, or uniqueness of the site. These assessments should ideally occur in conjunction with the archaeological excavations.

A permit from the National Monuments Council will be obtained, however, it is likely that this permit will restrict any development until archaeological and historical mitigation is complete. I suggest that in light of the urgency for the development, both surveys begin in October.

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