

Archaeological Survey for the Waterloo Ext. Phase 6 Housing Project

For GAEA Projects

By

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16 April 2003



The Institute for Cultural Resource Management was contracted by GAEA Projects to undertake the archaeological survey for the Waterloo Housing Extension, Phase 6. The Institute had previously surveyed some of this area for Cultural Resource Management for SiVest in 2002.

One archaeological site was recorded and a (now) scatter of artefacts was noted. The developer is required to apply for a permit for the destruction of these sites according to the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997.

The Sites

The area was surveyed according to the orthophoto provided by GAEA Projects. Two sites were located along the southwestern boundaries of the development.

WEX1

WEX1 is a scatter of Late Iron Age or Historical Period pottery and a few Middle Stone Age tools. The area is under dense sugar cane and only the tracks were surveyed. The underlying assumption for this method of surveying is that if artefacts were observed in the road, then they would also occur in the sugar cane.

The pottery has a very gritty temper and is mostly in an orange-red colour. No diagnostic sherds were observed. The MSA flakes consist of the standard MSA flakes normally located on hills in KwaZulu-Natal.

Some foundations/bases for houses have already been built on this hill. These bases are located on the southwestern slopes of the hill.

Significance: The site is of low archaeological significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

WEX2

WEX2 is located in an area that has been heavily disturbed by current the housing project¹. This project is still in the Impact Assessment stage, however, the following disturbances were observed on the site:

1. Surface clearance for housing bases
2. Concrete bases of houses already placed
3. Electricity supply for these houses.

A few Middle Stone Age (MSA) flakes were found in the vicinity of this development, suggesting that more flakes would occur. I have not recorded this specific area as a site, since the large extent of the disturbance does not warrant the area to have an archaeological site number.

Significance: The area is of low archaeological significance.

Mitigation: No mitigation required since the area has been already damaged.

Conclusion

Two archaeological sites were recorded during the archaeological survey for the Waterloo Housing Project, Phase 6. This makes a total of three sites that have been recorded in this development area. While both surveys recorded sites of low archaeological significance, it is disturbing to observe that the development had partly occurred in areas that still required an archaeological assessment. While the need for housing has been set as a national/provincial priority, this should not be at the expense of heritage sites. KwaZulu-Natal Heritage will need to reply to the developer regarding this matter.

Both archaeological sites are of low significance and do not require further mitigation. The developer is required to apply to KwaZulu-Natal Heritage for a permit to damage/destroy these sites.

¹ See attached photographs

