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PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM EZAKHENI C 16863 GS IN ALFRED DUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE.

REPORT PREPARED FOR
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NKULULEKO ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENTAL AGENCY (NEDA), was appointed by Uthando Lezwe Group to undertake all the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for proposed development of 150 houses at Ezakheni C. The 9ha study area is situated within Alfred Duma Local Municipality, which is located within the UThukela District Municipality in KwaZulu Natal Province. The EIA process necessitated an undertaking of a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding archaeological and other cultural heritage resources on the proposed site.

The National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 (1999)(NHRA), protects all heritage resources, which are classified as national estate. The NHRA stipulates that any person, who intends to undertake a development, is subjected to the provisions of the Act. The HIA was conducted on the footprint of the proposed housing development of Ezakheni C. During the EIA process it was established that the property was extensively compromised by a number of community activities including residential development, and no archaeological or historical material, structures, features or graves were observed in the remaining natural sections during the survey.

Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Mthwakazi Academy state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the application for the development of the 150 houses on site. The applicant must however be aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may be revealed during further construction of the development, and should any be identified, a qualified archaeologist must investigate and assess the finds.

Dr C.M. Guduza holds a PhD in Development Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, United Kingdom. He has a wealth of experience in the areas of development economics and anthropology. He is a specialist researcher in the economics of social problems and public goods: health, education, housing, social care, the environment, cultural and heritage anthropology, roads, transport, monitoring and the distribution and redistribution of income and wealth.

Dr Guduza also worked in the past within the NGO environmental setting as well as into the public sector where he was able to interrogate a whole range of policies that affect developmental local government issues, including interrogating and understanding various pieces of legislation that govern present day South Africa.

In addition to the above, Dr C.M. Guduza has also developed three post-graduate course modules for the MBA programme for the North West University, namely; Public Economics, Local Governance and Management and Public Policy Management. He has also managed to supervise higher degrees students with their dissertations and theses.

Disclaimer:

Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural significance during the investigation, it is possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. Mthwakazi Academy will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred by the client as a result.

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INTRODUCTION

Mthwakazi Academy was commissioned by Nkululeko Environmental and Development Agency (NEDA) to conduct a Heritage survey on Portion 3 of the farm Ezakheni c 16863 GS of the Ezakheni section C within Alfred Duma Local Municipality in KwaZulu Natal Province. In this report, the site and features located on the proposed development area, are discussed. The survey was conducted for Nkululeko Environment and Development CC by Dr MC Guduza

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25, 1999, section 38) and the NEMA (National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998) requires of individuals (engineers, farmers, mines and industry) or institutions to have specialist heritage impact assessment studies undertaken whenever any development activities are planned. This is to ensure that heritage features or sites that qualify as part of the national estate are properly managed and not damaged or destroyed.

Heritage resources are considered to be part of the national estate include those that are of Cultural, Historical significance or have other special value to the present community or future generations.

The national estate may include:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage; historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and paleontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds including:
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- sites of significance relating to slavery in South Africa;
- movable objects including:
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest;
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

Cultural resources

These are unique and non-renewable physical phenomena (of natural occurrence or made by humans) that can be associated with human (cultural) activities (Van Vollenhoven 1995:3). They would include any man-made structure, tool, object of art or waste that was left behind on or beneath the soil surface by historic or pre-historic communities. These remains, when studied in their original context by archaeologists, are interpreted in an attempt to understand, identify and reconstruct the activities and lifestyles of past communities. When these items are disturbed from their original context, any meaningful information they possess is lost, therefore it is important to locate and identify such remains before construction or development activities commence.

This document deals with the first phase of investigation which is aimed at getting an overview of cultural resources in a given area, thereby assessing the possible impact a proposed development may have on these resources.

Should a situation be encountered where the planned project will lead to the destruction or alteration of an archaeological site, a second phase in the survey will be recommended? During a phase two investigation, the impact

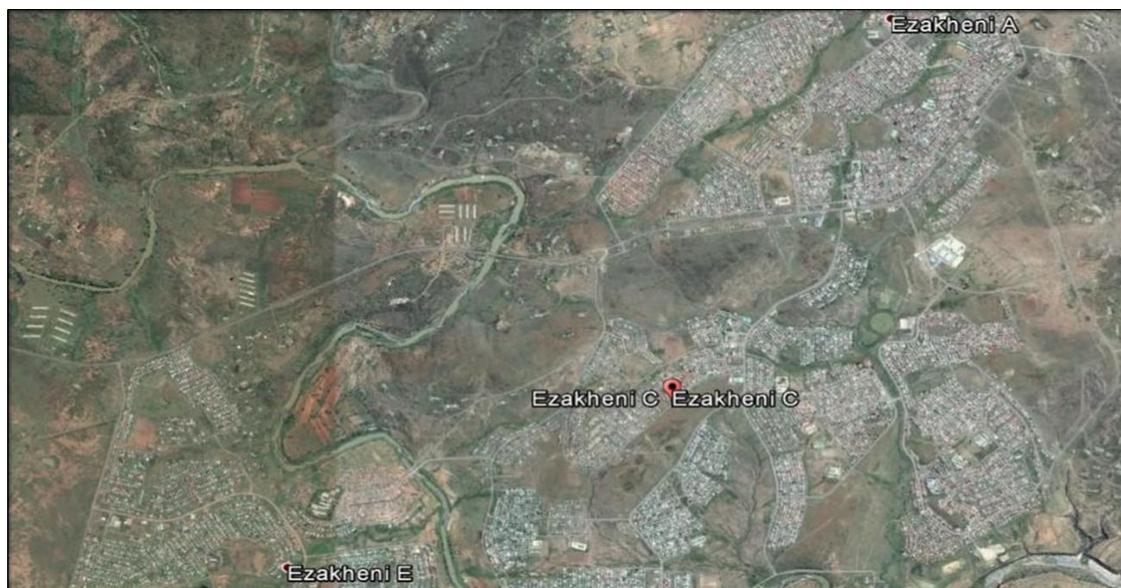
assessment of development activities on identified cultural resources will be intensified and detailed investigation into the nature and origin of the cultural material will be undertaken. Often at this stage, archaeological excavation is carried out in order to document and preserve the cultural heritage.

A third phase that consists of the compiling of a management plan for the safeguarding, conservation, interpretation and utilization of cultural resources is also carried out (Van Vollenhoven, 2002).

Continuous communication between the developer and surveyor after the initial report have been compiled may result in the modification of a planned route or development to incorporate into the development or protect existing archaeological sites.

LOCATION

The study area is situated in Ezakheni C approximately 25km to the south east of Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal. The area has been demarcated for residential development. The footprint is a square corner stand that measures 9 Hectors. The GPS co-ordinates of the footprint is as follows. $28^{\circ}36.57'60''S$ $29^{\circ}55.35,28''E$



DESCRIPTION OF SURVEYED AREA

CLIMATE

The area is characterised by a rainy summer season and experiences intermittent rain in winter. Much of the summer rain falls in thunderstorm events. The average annual precipitation is 746mm. Frost does occur in the region with an average of 15 frost days per year (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006).

TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND USE

The gradient of the site is flat with a steadily incline towards a small out crop on the eastern side from there the area gently slope in towards the Klip River floodplain,

FLORA AND FAUNA

Flora

The vegetation which now covers much of the area is a species-poor medium-to-tall grassland community. Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) and Turpentine grass (*Cymbopogon* sp.) predominate, but short species such as Kweek (*Cynodon dactylon*) and Buffalo grass (*Paspalum* sp.) are also widespread. There were no visible forbes during the site visit. Two species of Aloe were observed ie. *Aloe greenii* and *Aloe mudensis* near along the hydromorphic zone. The presence of

the plant species the Aloe plant species which is otherwise well adapted to rocky and well-drained sandy terrain suggested that they may have been dumped in the area together with the other cuts dumped on the Eastern side of the proposed development area.

Fauna

Faunal assessment did not yield any results. It was therefore necessary to use distribution maps to identify potential animals that would have existed in the area in which the site are located. Livestock overgrazing activity on site, utilization of the site for community soccer field recreation, illegal dumping as well as the ongoing subsistence cultivation undertaken by some members of the community on the other section of the site has dramatically changed the ecological integrity of the site. In turn faunal utilization of the site for habitat has been extinguished owing to anthropogenic activities that lead to intrusion of an unnatural objects in a natural environment.

GEOLOGY

The Geotechnical investigation of the site indicate that the majority of the subsurface geology is comprised of parental shale bedrock of the Volksrust Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. The shale bedrock is overlain either by alluvium, fine- grained sediments with silcrete nodules or residual shale of silty clay to clayey silt composition. The shale bedrock generally occurs in a fractured state and will be rippable with an excavator, e.g. a 30 ton excavator. Dispersive soil were noted in two trail pits

HYDROLOGY

The sub-catchment within which the proposed residential development falls is 1654 km². The study area is situated in the Thukela Water Management Area (WMA), Area 7. The major river in the area is the Klip River with its unnamed associated tributaries. The aforementioned watercourses drain into the Tugela River. The Klip River drains the western and southern portion of the municipality. It rises in the Drakensberg below Van Reenen and is joined by the Sandspruit River located northwest and upstream of Ezakheni. The confluence of the Klip River and Tugela Rivers is approximately 20km southeast of Ladysmith.

METHODOLOGY

A desktop study

A desktop study was conducted of the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites as reflected on the SAHRIS website. In addition, the archaeological database of the KwaZuluNatal Museum was consulted. Although the greater Ladysmith area is rich in archaeological and heritage sites none are listed for the project area.

Social Consultation

During the survey local residents living adjacent of the site were consulted to establish whether any graves and other sites of possible heritage significance are located in the area. During a public participation meeting participant in the meeting served as informant consulted in this regard Their knowledge proved useful in gathering information about the area

Site Survey

The study area was visited 3 times be visited to conduct ground survey following standard and accepted archaeological procedures . An archival study followed by a physical survey of the proposed development area was conducted. This was done to assess whether graves or features of historical or archaeological value exist on the property

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 is the source of all legislation. Within the Constitution the Bill of Rights is fundamental, with the principle that the environment should be protected for present and future generations by preventing pollution, promoting conservation and practising ecologically sustainable development. With regard to spatial planning and related legislation at national and provincial levels the following legislation may be relevant:

- Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998
- Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013
- Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000
- Development Facilitation Act 67 of 1995 (DFA)
- KwaZulu-Natal Planning and Development Act 6 of 2008.
- National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA)
- KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 4 of 2008 (KZNHA)
- National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA)
- Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)
- KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 4 of 2008 (KZNHA)
- National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA)

Mandate for Heritage Impact Assessments

Section 38(1) of the NHRA may require a Heritage Impact Assessment in case of:

- a) the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site— (i) exceeding 5 000m² in extent; or (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
- d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent; or
- e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority.
- f) Section 38(2) of the NHRA which states specifically that 'The responsible heritage resources authority must ... if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected by such development, notify the person who intends to undertake the development to submit an impact assessment report'

Reports in fulfilment of NHRA Section 38(3) must include the following information:

- a) the identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;
- b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in regulations;
- c) an assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;
- d) an evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;
- e) the results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;

- f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and
- g) plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after completion of the proposed development.

CURRENT LAND USE AND DISTURBANCE AND

The study area is situated in an area that has been demarcated for residential development. The proposed development footprint has been transformed by recent development activities and is flanked by dense Township settlement. Soil erosion and overgrazing is evident within the proposed development footprint. However, no disturbance of any heritage sites have been observed or recorded.



FINDINGS DISCUSSION ON THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPO-NENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and paleontological heritage resources	None present	None

NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	HIA done
NEMA	GN R327 & GN R325	Activities requiring the rectification of an unlawful activity	Rectification of unlawful development	NEDA to undertake application 24G

- Summarised identification and cultural significance assessment of affected heritage resources:
General issues of site and context:

<i>Context</i>		
Urban environmental context	Yes	NA
Rural environmental context	No	Near the rural residential area of Mkhuhlu, Cork & Belfast
Natural environmental context	No	Existing infrastructure;
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
(S. 28) Is the property part of a protected area?	No	NA

<i>Context</i>		
(S. 31) Is the property part of a heritage area?	No	NA
<i>Other</i>		
Is the property near to or visible from any protected heritage sites	No	N/A
Is the property part of a conservation area of special areas in terms of the Zoning scheme?	No	NA
Does the site form part of a historical settlement or townscape?	Yes	NA
Does the site form part of a rural cultural landscape?	No	The proposed development is an infill to the Township of Ezakheni that was established in the early 70s
Does the site form part of a natural landscape of cultural significance?	No	NA
Is the site adjacent to a scenic route?	No	NA
Is the property within or adjacent to any other area which has special environmental or heritage protection?	No	NA
Does the general context or any adjoining properties have cultural significance?	No	NA

<i>Property features and characteristics</i>		
Have there been any previous development impacts on the property?	Yes	Development since 1972
Are there any significant landscape features on the property?	No	NA
Are there any sites or features of geological significance on the property?	No	NA
Does the property have any rocky outcrops on it?	No	NA
Does the property have any fresh water sources (springs, streams, rivers) on or alongside it?	No	NA

<i>Heritage resources on the property</i>		
<i>Formal protection (NHRA)</i>		
National heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial heritage sites (S. 27)	No	NA
Provincial protection (S. 29)	No	NA
Place listed in heritage register (S. 30)	No	NA
<i>General protection (NHRA)</i>		
Structures older than 60 years (S. 34)	No	NA
Archaeological site or material (S. 35)	No	NA

<i>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</i>	<i>ELE- MENT S</i>	<i>INDICATORS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE</i>										<i>RISK</i>	
		Historical	Rare	Scientific	Typical	Technological	Aesthetic	Personal /community	Landmark	Material condition	Sustainability		
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movable objects	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Summarised recommended impact management interventions

<i>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</i>	<i>SITE</i>	<i>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance</i>		<i>Impact management</i>	<i>Motivation</i>
		<i>Cultural significance</i>	<i>Impact significance</i>		
Buildings / structures of cultural significance	No	No	None	-	-
Areas attached to oral traditions / intangible heritage	No	None	None	-	-

<i>NHRA S (3)2 Heritage resource category</i>	<i>SITE</i>	<i>IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE Cultural significance</i>		<i>Impact management</i>	<i>Motivation</i>
		<i>Cultural significance</i>	<i>Impact significance</i>		
Historical settlement/ townscape	No	None	None	-	-
Landscape of cultural significance	No	None	None	-	-
Geological site of scientific/ cultural importance	No	None	None	-	-
Archaeological / palaeontological sites	No	None	None	-	-
Grave / burial grounds	No	No	None	-	-
Areas of significance related to labour history	No	None	None	-	-
Movable objects	No	None	None	-	-

<i>ACT</i>	<i>COMPONENT</i>	<i>IMPLICATION</i>	<i>RELEVANCE</i>	<i>COMPLIANCE</i>
NHRA	S 34	Impact on buildings and structures older than 60 years	None present	None
NHRA	S35	Impacts on archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources	None present	None
NHRA	S36	Impact on graves	None present	None
NHRA	S37	Impact on public monuments	None present	None
NHRA	S38	Developments requiring an HIA	Development is a listed activity	Full HIA done
NEMA	GN R327 & GN R325	Activities requiring the rectification of an unlawful activity	Rectification of unlawful development	NEDA to undertake application 24G

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & EVALUATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES Section 38 of the NHRA, rates all heritage resources into National, Provincial or Local significance, and proposals in terms of the above is made for all identified heritage features.

- **Evaluation methods**

Site significance is important to establish the measure of mitigation and / or management of the resources. Sites are evaluated as *HIGH (National importance)*, *MEDIUM (Provincial importance)* or *LOW, (local importance)*, as specified in the NHRA. It is explained as follows:

- **National Heritage Resources Act**

The National Heritage Resources Act no. 25, 1999 (NHRA) aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Heritage is unique and it cannot be renewed, and contributes to redressing past inequities. It promotes previously neglected research areas. All archaeological and other cultural heritage resources are evaluated according to the NHRA, section

3(3). A place or object is considered to be part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value in terms of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;

- (b) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (d) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.

No archaeological, historical material or graves were found on the study area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological or historical material, structures, features or graves were observed during the survey in the study area. All trenches and open sections at the existing constructed sites and all other sites were investigated for any archaeological or historical remains, but none was found. Based on the survey and the findings in this report, Sothambo Consultants state that there are no compelling reasons which may prevent the proposed development to go ahead. It is recommended the proposed development be monitored by Environmental Control Officer

It should be noted though that the bulk of archaeological remains are normally located beneath the soil surface. It is therefore possible that some significant cultural material or remains were not located during this survey and will only be revealed when the soil is disturbed. Should excavation or large scale earth moving activities reveal any human skeletal remains, broken pieces of ceramic pottery, large quantities of sub-surface charcoal or any material that can be associated with previous occupation, a qualified archaeologist should be notified immediately. This will also temporarily halt such activities until an archaeologist have assessed the situation. It should be noted that if such a situation occurs it may have further financial implications. It is recommended that the applicant should be made aware that distinct archaeological material or human remains may only be revealed during the construction phases and informed of the procedure to be followed should that eventuality occur

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE STUDY AREA

In archaeological terms, South Africa's prehistory has been divided into a series of phases based on broad patterns of technology. The primary distinction is between a reliance on chipped and flaked stone implements (the Stone Age), the ability to work iron (the Iron Age) and the Colonial Period, characterised by the advent of writing and in southern Africa primarily associated with the first European travellers (Mitchell 2002). Spanning a large proportion of human history, the Stone Age in Southern Africa is further divided into the Early Stone Age, or Paleolithic Period (about 2 500 000–150 000 years ago), the Middle Stone Age, or Mesolithic Period (about 500 000–30 000 years ago), and the Late Stone Age, or Neolithic Period (about 30 000–2 000 years ago). The simple stone tools found with australopithecine fossil bones fall into the earliest part of the Early Stone Age.

The Stone Age

Early Stone Age

Most Early Stone Age sites in South Africa can probably be connected with the hominin species known as Homo erectus. Simply modified stones, hand axes, scraping tools, and other bifacial artifacts had a wide variety of purposes, including butchering animal carcasses, scraping hides, and digging for plant foods. Most South African archaeological sites from this period are the remains of open camps, often by the sides of rivers and lakes, although some are rock shelters, such as Montagu Cave in the Cape region.

Middle Stone Age

The long episode of cultural and physical evolution gave way to a period of more rapid change about 120 000 years ago. Hand axes and large bifacial stone tools were replaced by stone flakes and blades that were fashioned into scrapers, spear points, and parts for hafted, composite implements. This technological stage, now known as the Middle Stone Age, is represented by numerous sites in South Africa.

Open camps and rock overhangs were used for shelter. Day-to-day debris has survived to provide some evidence of early ways of life, although plant foods have rarely been preserved. Middle Stone Age bands hunted medium-

sized and large prey, including antelope and zebra, although they tended to avoid the largest and most dangerous animals, such as the elephant and the rhinoceros. They also ate seabirds and marine mammals that could be found along the shore and sometimes collected tortoises and ostrich eggs in large quantities.

The Middle Stone Age is perhaps most significant as the time period during which the first modern humans, *Homo sapiens sapiens*, emerged between 120 000 and 30 000 years ago. The Klasies River cave complex, located on the southern Cape coast contains the oldest remains of anatomically modern humans in the world, dating to around 110 000 years ago (Singer & Wymer 1982; Rightmire & Deacon 1991). Humans were anatomically modern by 110 000 years ago but only developed into culturally modern behaving humans between 80 000 and 70 000 years ago, during cultural phases known as the Still Bay and Howieson's Poort time periods or stone tool traditions.

The Late Stone Age

Basic toolmaking techniques began to undergo additional change about 40 000 years ago. Small finely worked stone implements known as microliths became more common, while the heavier scrapers and points of the Middle Stone Age appeared less frequently. Archaeologists refer to this technological stage as the Later Stone Age or LSA, which can be divided into four broad temporal units directly associated with climatic, technological and subsistence changes (Deacon 1984):

1. Late Pleistocene microlithic assemblages (40-12 000 years ago); 2. Terminal Pleistocene / early Holocene non-microlithic (macrolithic) assemblages (12-8 000 years ago); 3. Holocene microlithic assemblages (8 000 years ago to the Colonial Period); and 4. Holocene assemblages with pottery (2 000 years ago to the Historic Period) closely associated with the arrival of pastoralist communities into South Africa (Mitchell 1997; 2002).

Animals were trapped and hunted with spears and arrows on which were mounted well crafted stone blades. Bands moved with the seasons as they followed game into higher lands in the spring and early summer months, when plant foods could also be found. When available, rock overhangs became shelters; otherwise, windbreaks were built. Shellfish, crayfish, seals, and seabirds were also important sources of food, as were fish caught on lines, with spears, in traps, and possibly with nets.

Elements of material culture characteristic of the LSA that reflect cultural modernity have been summarised as follows (Deacon 1984):

- Symbolic and representational art (paintings and engravings);
- Items of personal adornment such as decorated ostrich eggshell, decorated bone tools and beads, pendants and amulets of ostrich eggshell, marine and freshwater shells;
- Specialized hunting and fishing equipment in the form of bows and arrows, fish hooks and sinkers;
- A greater variety of specialized tools including bone needles and awls and bone skin-working tools;
- Specialized food gathering tools and containers such as bored stone digging stick weights, carrying bags of leather and netting, ostrich eggshell water containers, tortoiseshell bowls and scoops and later pottery and stone bowls;
- Formal burial of the dead in graves, sometimes covered with painted stones or grindstones and accompanied by grave goods;
- The miniaturization of selected stone tools linked to the practice of hafting for composite tools production; and
- A characteristic range of specialized tools designed for making some of the items listed above.

Iron Age

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years but the local demography started to change soon after 2000 years ago when the first Bantu speaking farmers crossed the Limpopo River and arrived in South Africa. Around AD 800 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater Ladysmith area. Although some of the sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located elsewhere in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni speaking groups such as the amaBhele and others (Bryant 1965). Archaeological evidence shows that Bantu-speaking agriculturists first settled in southern Africa around AD 300. Bantu-speakers originated in the vicinity of

modern Great Lakes from where they began to move eastwards and southwards, some time after 400 BC, skirting around the equatorial forest. An extremely rapid spread throughout much of sub-equatorial Africa followed: carbon dating shows that the earliest communities in Tanzania and South Africa are separated in time by only 200 years, despite the 3 000 km distance between the two regions. It seems likely that the speed of the spread was a consequence of agriculturists deliberately seeking iron ore sources and particular combinations of soil and climate suitable for the cultivation of their crops.

The earliest agricultural sites in KwaZulu-Natal date to between AD 400 and 550. All are situated close to sources of iron ore, and within 15 km of the coast. Current evidence suggests it may have been too dry further inland at this time for successful cultivation. From 650 onwards, however, climatic conditions improved and agriculturists expanded into the valleys of KwaZulu-Natal, where they settled close to rivers in savanna or bushveld environments. There is a considerable body of information available about these early agriculturists.

Seed remains show that they cultivated finger millet, bulrush millet, sorghum and probably the African melon. It seems likely that they also planted African groundnuts and cowpeas, though direct evidence for these plants is lacking from the earlier periods. Faunal remains indicate that they kept sheep, cattle, goats, chickens and dogs, with cattle and sheep providing most of the meat. Men hunted, perhaps with dogs, but hunted animals made only a limited contribution to the diet in the region.

Metal production was a key activity since it provided the tools of cultivation and hunting. The evidence indicates that people who worked metal lived in almost every village, even those that were considerable distances from ore sources. Large-scale excavations in recent years have provided data indicating that first millennium agriculturist society was patrilineal and that men used cattle as bride wealth in exchange for wives. On a political level, society was organised into chiefdoms that, in our region, may have had up to three hierarchical levels. The villages of chiefs tended to be larger than others, with several livestock enclosures, and some were occupied continuously for lengthy periods. Social forces of the time resulted in the concentration of unusual items on these sites. These include artefacts that originated from great distances, ivory items (which as early as AD 700 appear to have been a symbol of chieftainship), and initiation paraphernalia. This particular way of life came to an end around AD 1000, for reasons that we do not yet fully understand.

There was a radical change in the decorative style of agriculturist ceramics at this time, while the preferred village locations of the last four centuries were abandoned in favour of sites along the coastal littoral. In general, sites dating to between 1050 and 1250 are smaller than most earlier agriculturist settlements. It is tempting to see in this change the origin of the Nguni settlement pattern. Indeed, some archaeologists have suggested that the changes were a result of the movement into the region of people who were directly ancestral to the Nguni-speakers of today. Others prefer to see the change as the product of social and cultural restructuring within resident agriculturist communities. Whatever the case, it seems likely that this new pattern of settlement was in some way influenced by a changing climate, for there is evidence of increasing aridity from about AD 900. A new pattern of economic inter-dependence evolved that is substantially different from that of earlier centuries, and is one that continued into the colonial period nearly 500 years later.

A comprehensive survey of relevant radiocarbon dates argues instead that the expansion of farming communities into the highveld grasslands began as recently as 1640, taking advantage of a wetter, warmer climate with more regular summer rains. Any interpretation must, however, accommodate the antiquity with which the Fokeng are regarded in the oral traditions of most other highveld groups and the origin of Fokeng pottery, which is different from that of pottery associated with other highveld Sotho communities. Oral traditions clearly identify the 15th to 16th century settlement at Ntsuanatsatsi as a capital of the Fokeng, and this identification has been accepted for some time (Maggs 1976). According to Bryant (1929), the Fokeng were originally MboNguni. Although this view may be extreme, ceramic features such as applique decoration indicate Nguni interaction.

From around the 15th century mixed-farming communities of both Nguni and Sotho-speaking origins began to settle the greater study area along the middle reaches of the larger river drainage basins. The rolling grasslands and dependable rivers made the open plains surrounding the area we now know as Ladysmith the ideal environment for its first inhabitants. Up to about 1812 Natal was inhabited by ninety-four tribes, about 1 million people, bearing in mind that the word Natal applied only to the Bay & coastlands known to the early navigators. The lands to the north & south were known by the tribe inhabiting it, the most prolific of whom were the abaMbo. The abaMbo in turn were divided into sub-tribes such as Amahlubi, Amaqwabe, Amakunze and others. Langalibalele was the recognised head of the abaMbo who called Natal Embo. Troops of Elephants roamed the

coastlands, lions and panthers the kloofs and antelope the open plains; hippopotamus and crocodiles the rivers. Life in general was a peaceful one with families living together and disputes being settled by discussion, no violent feuds are recorded.

From the coast of KwaZulu-Natal, the rising Zulu Nation spread its wings slowly towards the Drakensberg Mountains, claiming land and driving away other tribes in their path. Many individuals of former chiefdoms in the area became bandits and oral tradition suggests that cannibalism may also have been practised by some of these groups. After a visit by the great King Shaka, he promptly named the area "Emnambithi". In Zulu the word for something tasty is "namibitheka" and this is how he described the sweet water of the Klip River.

The town we know as Ladysmith today historically, had its beginning shortly before the battle of Blood River (1838), when the Boers, under Andries Pretorius, met in prayer at Danskraal, two miles from the present site of Ladysmith, and vowed that, should they succeed in defeating the Zulus under Dingaan, they would build a Church in thanksgiving to Almighty God. Thereafter the district became sparsely populated by Voortrekkers who descended the Drakensberg passes with their Ox Wagons during the year 1838 and occupied the pastoral land in the neighbourhood of the Klip River.

Later on Dingane's successor; Mpande, permitted members of the famous "Wen" (Winning) Commando to settle in the area for a brief while the area was referred to as the Klip River Republic. On 31st May 1844 the British annexed Natal as a district of the Cape Colony, resulting in the early death of the new republic. Many of the Trekkers, refusing to accept British rule, left Natal and headed for the Boer republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The Governor of the Cape Colony, Sir Harry Smith, visited Natal in 1846 and was particularly interested in the area around the Klip River. A surveyor Mr John Bird, was appointed to find a suitable location to establish a town. Bird began early in 1848 and on Mr van Tonder's farm found a tenable spot in a loop of the river between high banks.

In 1849 the town was described as "a well adapted village" consisting of only four houses and known locally as Windsor. On 20th June 1850, Lt Governor Benjamin Pine proclaimed it a township and three months later, in October, the town was officially named Ladysmith, after Juana Maria de los Delores de Leon, the beautiful Spanish wife of Sir Harry Smith. By 1851 Mr George Winder had opened a shop and several new buildings were erected. British settlers moved into the district and soon Ladysmith was thriving. Within a few years the town had developed into an important stop over for transport wagons and travellers going to and from the Republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

With the outbreak of the Anglo Zulu War in 1879, residents hastily strengthened the fort in fear of being attacked, this however never materialised. The local Board was established on 5th May 1882. The first Chairman was Mr G. King. On 9th June 1882 the town received Borough status and the first Town Clerk was Mr G.W. Lines.

In 1886 diamonds were discovered in Kimberley and gold in Barberton and the Witwatersrand. Traffic through Ladysmith increased tremendously with between two and three thousand wagons passing through Ladysmith some months. Trade from this passing traffic greatly boosted local businesses. With the establishment of the railway lines first to the Transvaal and later to the Orange Free State, Ladysmith was firmly established as the main stop over and trading centre for the surrounding district.

The impressive Town Hall was built in 1893. Ladysmith prospered and grew. The first Mayor was elected in 1899 – Mr Joseph Farquhar. On the 11th October 1899 the Anglo Boer/South African War broke out between the Boer Republics and Britain. Ladysmith was catapulted into world fame when the Boer Forces laid siege to the town on 2nd November 1899. For the next 118 days Ladysmith made headlines worldwide until its relief on 28th February 1900. Despite the devastation caused by the constant bombardment, the town endured. Many farmers had to start all over again and the perennial floods and drought made matters difficult.

By the late 1920's the town was providing mostly for the needs of the farming community. During the Great Depression of the 1930's many people flocked to the town to make a living. Once again the railways proved to be a sturdy crutch to help the town get back on its feet. The large railway staff added to the prosperity of the town by providing a constant spending power. 1940's and 1950's saw unprecedented growth and expansion. The effects of the Apartheid government through its group areas act in the 1960's hit the town hard as the Indian businessmen were forced out of the central business area. Shops remained empty for years to come.

Ezakheni township was built in the old KwaZulu homeland about 25km from the town of Ladysmith. The township was created to accommodate and control Ladysmith's labor force and their families within KwaZulu. The tract of

land was established in 1972 and its population at the time was in the region of 50 000. It was built on Trust Land acquired by the South African Development Trust (SADT) in the early 1960s, after some resistance from the local Farmers Association to the acquisition of more land in the district by the SADT. African families from Ladysmith townships and surrounding were subjected to force removal and moved into Ezakheni in successive batches, and these included landowners.

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