

**PHASE ONE CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT
ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED BREAKING OF
LESS THAN 100 HECTARES OF VIRGIN LAND,
ON PORTION 10 OF THE FARM KOPLEEGTE NO.
1154, NEAR COLENZO, IN THE OKHAHLAMBA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE UTHUKELA
DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



**ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.
FOR: NATURE STAMP**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
HISTORIC PERIOD	Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1820 in this part of the country
IRON AGE	Early Iron Age AD 200 - AD 1000 Late Iron Age AD 1000 - AD 1830
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 and associated regulations (2006).
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and associated regulations (2000)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
STONE AGE	Early Stone Age 2 000 000 - 250 000 BP Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A cultural heritage survey of Portion 10 of the Farm Kopleegte No. 1154, near Colenso, in the Okhahlamba Local Municipality identified four clusters of Later Iron Age sites on the footprint. These, however, are only visible on aerial photographs. Dense vegetation masked potential heritage features on the ground and a ground survey of the footprint identified no heritage sites. It also appears that extensive stone robbing occurred on the property in the past. It is suggested that the developers maintain a 20m buffer zone around the identified clusters. Alternatively, it is suggested that a phase two heritage study be conducted on the property and possible rescue excavation be initiated. There is no archaeological reason why the proposed development may not proceed on the remainder of the footprint as planned. However, attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Table 1. Background information

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for Nature Stamp
Type of development:	The applicant wishes to transformation virgin grassland for the purpose of grain production. The activity would allow for increased efficiency and production on an existing farming enterprise.
Rezoning or subdivision:	rezoning
Terms of reference	To carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment
Legislative requirements:	The Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The study area is situated close to the Colenso off ramp on the N3 at: 28° 51' 18.21" S and 29° 52' 32.81" E (Fig 1). It is situated approximately 15 km from Colenso and about 19 km from Escourt. The footprint covers an area of approximately 1235m x 1550m (Fig 2). The footprint is situated in a rural area dominated by grasslands and thornveld. The plot is currently used for grazing.

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Estcourt and Colenso areas have been relatively well surveyed for archaeological sites in the past. Some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades whilst archaeologists from the then Natal Museum have made various visits to the area. The low altitude and densely wooded areas in the immediate vicinity of Estcourt to the south of the study area, have been intensely occupied by Middle and later Iron Age farmers since around 1200 AD. Middle and Later Iron Age farmers also occupied the hills in the immediate environs of Colenso. Some of these sites been excavated by Professor Oliver Davies, Dr Tim Maggs and Gavin Whitelaw of the then Natal Museum at various periods between 1978 and 2005 (Huffman 2007). The well-known Moorpark Middle Iron Age site occurs approximately 25km to the west of the study area.

The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the area in the near vicinity to the study area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include 11 Early Stone Age site, 28 Middle Stone Age sites, 14 Later Stone Age sites, and 50 Later Iron Age sites (including some Middle Iron Age Sites belonging to the Moor Park Tradition), 6 Later Iron Age engraving sites, and numerous historical sites dating back to the colonial period.

Most of the Stone Age sites in the near vicinity of the footprint occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. The Early Stone Age sites occur close to permanent water sources. Some Middle Stone Age flakes, probably dating back to ca. 40 000 – 200 000 years ago, occur in disturbed context in dongas and road cuttings. The majority of Later Stone Age sites as well as rock art sites occur

further west in the foothills of the Drakensberg. These typically occur in small shelters in the sandstone formations some leading up to the Drakensberg. However, 11 Iron Age rock engraving sites also occur in the greater Estcourt/Colenso areas. These engravings are usually made on dolerite outcrops in areas with an altitude above 1000 metres above sea level.

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years (Mitchell 2002) 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 800 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater Estcourt area. Although the majority of sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. The earliest sites that dates back to approximately 1200 AD are called Moor Park after the type site situated at Moor Park Nature Reserve close to the project area. These sites were occupied by early Nguni-speaking farmers and most probably represent extended family homesteads (Huffman 2007). The Later Iron Age sites of the area were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the amaBhele and related groups (Bryant 1965). However, by 1820 the amaBhele was dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups, such as the amaHlubi, and other individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial authorities after 1845. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

European settlement of the area started soon after 1838 when the first Voortrekker settlers marked out large farms in the area. . Various sites in the area belong to the Voortrekker era especially former laagers such as Veglaager – now covered by the waters of Wagendrift Dam and Blaawkranz (Bloukrans). The Bloukrans Provincial Heritage Site is situated approximately 2km to the west of the study area (Figs 2 & 3). On the night of 16 February 1838 a Voortrekker Laager situated at Blaawkranz was attacked by Zulu warriors and 96 adults, 185 children and about 200 servants were killed by a Zulu force that also seized about 25 000 head of cattle (Ransford 1974). In the days following the attack the Voortrekkers buried their dead in a mass grave near

the Great Moordspruit River. In 1895, the bodies were exhumed and reburied under the Bloukrans monument at the site of the battle (Derwent 2006).

Despite early Voortrekker settlement the majority of older buildings on farmsteads in the area were erected by British colonists after 1850 who occupied farms previously inhabited by Voortrekker pioneers (Bizley & McKenzie 2007). Fort Durnford, for instance, was built in the 1870's to combat San raids from the Drakensberg. Anglo-Boer War activities also took place in the area, especially in the environs of Colenso, and the most southern skirmish between Boer and Brit in Natal took place at Willow Grange to the immediate south of Estcourt. The capture site of the young Winston Churchill occurs about 2km to the south of the study area (Derwent 2006).

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted for potential heritage sites in the area. In addition, the available archaeological and historical literature covering the greater Estcourt area was also consulted.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on the 10th March and the 2nd April 2015.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility during the ground survey was severely compromised by dense grassland vegetation. Although aerial photographs indicate the locality of four Later Iron Age clusters none of these were visible on the ground.

3.2.2 Disturbance

As mentioned above no later Iron Age sites were visible during the ground survey. However, this evidence is contradicted by aerial photographs taken of the area in

2008. It appears that extensive stone robbing took place on sites on the footprint in the past.

3.3 Details of equipment used in the survey

GPS: Garmin Etrek

Digital cameras: Canon Powershot A460

All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a level of 5 m.

4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

4.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Towns: Estcourt and Colenso

Municipality: Umtshezi

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The archaeological data base of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum indicate the location of various archaeological and historical sites within 2km from the project area. These include Boer War era structures, Later Iron Age sites and three Iron Age engraving sites. Aerial photographs covering the project area do indicate the occurrence of four clusters of Later Iron Age sites. These occur in in the west and northern section of the project area (Fig 3). However, a ground survey of the project area did not locate these heritage sites (Table 2). This was most probably a result of the dense grassland vegetation covering the project area at the time of the surveys (10 March and 2 April 2015) (Figs 8 - 10) together with what appear to be extensive stone robbing of Iron Age stone walled circles. Nevertheless, it is proposed that a ground survey of the area during winter months when the grass is burnt or short will be more conducive to archaeological site visibility. The description of Iron Age Sites in Table 2 is based for the most part on the analysis of aerial photographs that covers the study area.

Table 2. Heritage site description and context.

Site no	Site description	GPS Coordinates	Rating	Mitigation
LIA 1	Two stone walled circles approximately 20m x 18m and 4m x 5m in diameter. The smaller stone circle appears to have been completely robbed of any stones. The site is only visible on aerial photographs. Masked by dense vegetation on the ground (Fig 4)	S 28° 45' 52.86" E 29° 41' 6.69"	Medium	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around the site. Alternatively motivate for a second phase heritage impact assessment. This will also include a rescue excavation before destruction.(Appendix 1)
LIA 2	Twelve stone walled circles. Approximately 20m in diameter each. The complete area covered by these features spans approximately 300m x 400m. The site is masked by dense vegetation on the ground. Although not situated in the footprint the site is located within 20m to the north of the northern border (Fig 5)	S 28° 45' 47.17" E 29° 41' 19.60"	Medium	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around the site. This should be an easy option as the site is situated 20m to the north of the footprint (Fig 4). Alternatively motivate for a second phase heritage impact assessment. This will also include a rescue excavation before destruction (Appendix 1)
LIA 3	A cluster of eight stone walled circles. Covers an area of 250m x 300m. All the stone walled circles have been stone robbed. Nothing is visible on the ground. Dense vegetation may mask any features (Fig 6)	S 28° 46' 5.75" E 29° 41' 28.70"	Low to medium	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around the site. Alternatively motivate for a second phase heritage impact assessment. This will also include a rescue excavation before destruction (Appendix 1).
LIA 4	A cluster indicating the remains of four stone walled circles (all heavily robbed of stones). The site is also masked by dense vegetation None of these circles are visible on the ground. The	S 28° 46' 19.56" E 29° 41' 15.94"	Low to medium	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around the site. Alternatively motivate for a second phase heritage impact assessment. This will

	complete site covers an area of approximately 180m x 140m (Fig 7).			also include a rescue excavation before destruction (Appendix 1).

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

Table 3. Evaluation and statement of significance.

Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA	
Significance	Rating
1. Historic and political significance - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	None.
2. Scientific significance – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.	None.
3. Research/scientific significance – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	Average
4. Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	None.
5. Aesthetic significance – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	None.
6. Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	Average
7. Social significance – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	Unknown
8. Historic significance – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.	None.
9. The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

5.1 Field Rating

The four later Iron Age site clusters located on the footprint are not unique as there are many and better preserved examples within the greater Colenso and Estcourt areas (Table 3). Furthermore, all the sites have been damaged by intensive stone robbing in the past. The result is that none of the sites show any clear visibility on the ground. However, these sites are older than 60 years and are therefore protected by provincial and national heritage legislation. They are also related to other Iron Age occurrences in the greater Colenso area and merit further research. It has been rated a having medium significance (Table 4). In other words the sites need to be recorded as part of a second phase heritage impact assessment before destruction is allowed. There are no grave sites on the proposed development property. In addition, the site is not part of any known cultural landscape

Table 4. Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)

Level	Details	Action
National (Grade I)	The site is considered to be of National Significance	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade II)	This site is considered to be of Provincial significance	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority
Local Grade IIIA	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be retained as a heritage site
Local Grade IIIB	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be mitigated, and part retained as a heritage site
Generally Protected A	High to medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	The site needs to be recorded before destruction
Generally Protected C	Low significance	No further recording is required before destruction

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development of the footprint may proceed but under the following conditions:

- Strictly maintain a buffer zone of 20m around all the identified Later Iron Age Site clusters. No heritage material may be removed from this buffer zone and no alteration of the actual stone walled circle structure is allowed.
- Although Iron Age site Cluster 2 (LIA 2) falls outside of the footprint its buffer zone will border onto the property earmarked for development. No removal of artefacts is also allowed within this buffer zone.
- Alternatively, should the developers deemed it wise to expand into the direction of the Later Iron Age Site then a second phase heritage impact assessment may be requested in order to arrange for mitigation. This would entail the detailed recording of the site and the application of a permit from Amafa to allow for rescue excavation prior to destruction.
- The proposed development may proceed on the remainder of the footprint as planned.
- Should the developer decide to expand beyond the footprint in a north and easterly direction then a heritage impact assessment of these areas will be imperative as a large concentration of heritage sites have been noted here. This would also be relevant should the developer decide to construct access roads that may transverse these areas leading towards the footprint.
- It is important to note that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that any operations exposing archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

7 MAPS AND FIGURES

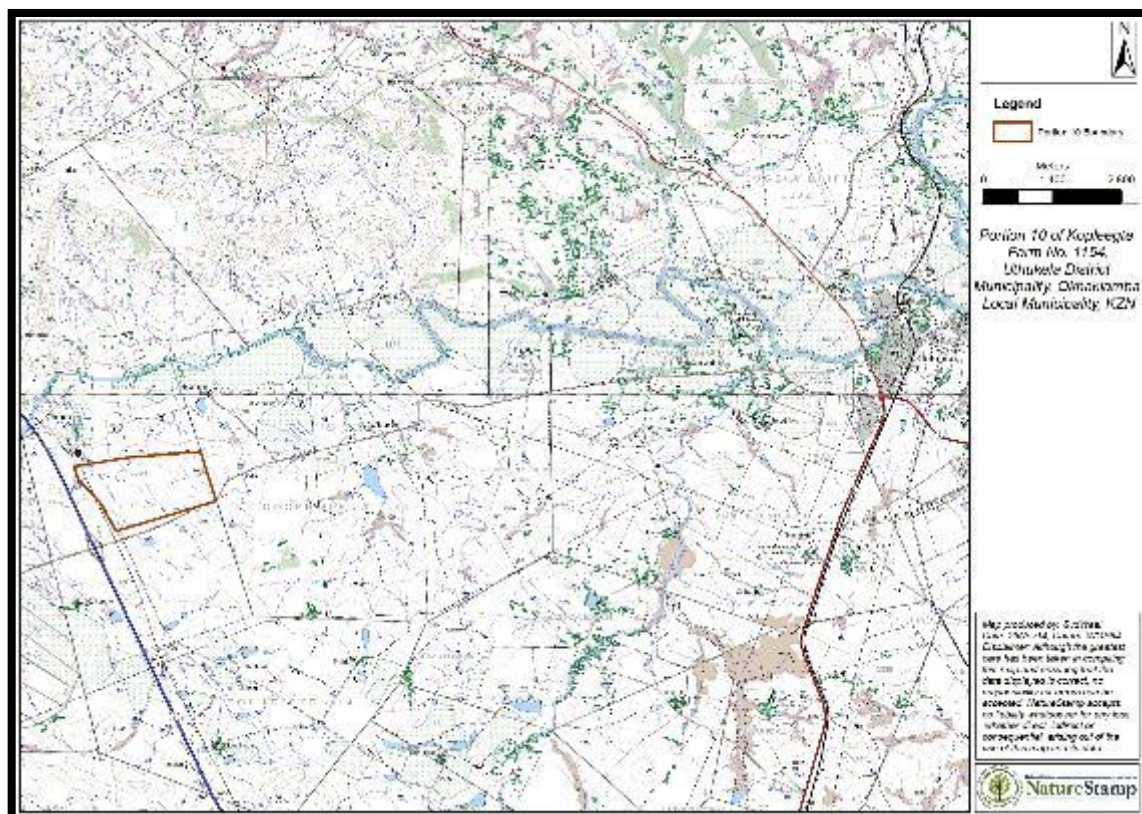


Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the study area at Kopleegte Farm near Colenso, KwaZulu-Natal.



Figure 2. Google aerial photograph of the study area showing the approximate area proposed for transformation.

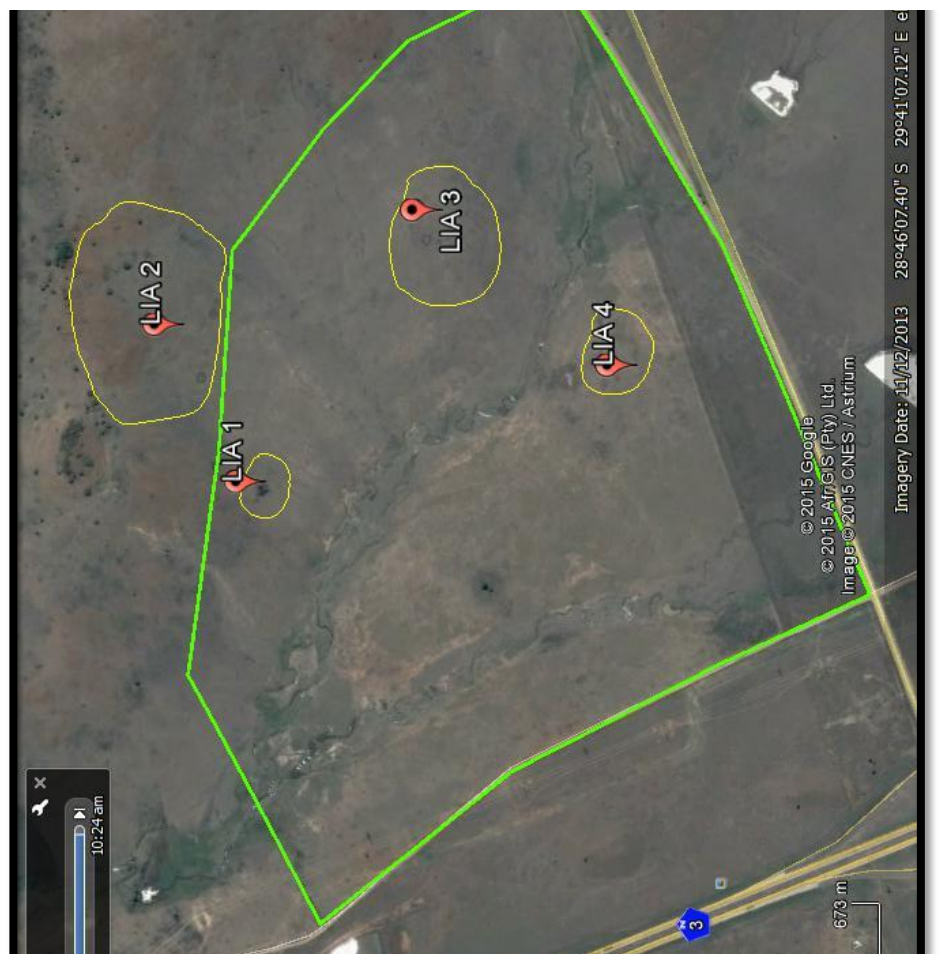


Figure 3. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the four Later Iron Age Site Clusters in the project area. Each polygon indicates the appropriate location of Later Iron Age features, including the proposed buffer zone, around these sites.



Figure 4. Later Iron Age Stone Walled Cluster 1 (LIA 1) – probably the remains of a cattle byre.



Figure 5. Later Iron Age Stone Walled Cluster 2 (LIA 2). These sites are situated to the immediate north of the footprint but they will be compromised by the proposed development.



Figure 6. Iron Age Stone Walled Cluster 3 (LIA 3). Evidence for extensive stone robbing to the south of the main stone walled circle is evident.



Figure 7. Iron Age Stone Walled Cluster 4 (LIA 4).



Figure 8. View over the northern section of the study area.



Figure 9. *Dense grass cover masked Iron Age stone walled settlements visible on aerial photographs.*



Figure 10. *The circular depression of an Iron Age settlement is barely visible on the ground. It appears that extensive stone robbing took place in this area in the past.*

9 REFERENCES

Bizley, B. & McKenzie, P. 2007. *An Historical Meander through the Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal*. Midlands Meander Association, Howick.

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Huffman, T. N. 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age: The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. Pietermaritzburg.

Maggs, T. The Iron Age farming communities. In Duminy, A. and Guest, B. 1989. *Natal and Zululand: from Earliest Times to 1910. A New History*. Pg. 28-46. University of Natal Press. Pietermaritzburg.

Mitchell, P. 2002. *The Archaeology of Southern Africa*. University Press: Cambridge

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SAHRA, 2005. *Minimum Standards For The Archaeological And The Palaeontological Components Of Impact Assessment Reports, Draft version 1.4*.

10 APPENDIX 1

Proposed costings of a Second Phase Heritage Impact Assessment on the Farm Kopleegte, Colenso.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT Kopleegte_Colenso (Nature Stamp)					2015/05/10		
ACTIVITY	TASK	RESOURCE	QUANTITY	RATE	SUBTOTAL	SUBTOTAL	SUBTOTAL
1. DESKTOP SURVEY							R 0.00
1.1	Review existing databases	F Prins	0	R 400.00	R 0.00	R 0.00	
1.2	Review existing literature	F Prins	0	R 400.00	R 0.00	R 0.00	
2. FIELD SURVEY							R 0.00
2.1	Site visit and travel time from Howick	F Prins	0	R 400.00	R 0.00	R 0.00	
3. SITE RECORDING AND EXCAVATION							R 24 000.00
3.1		F Prins	40	R 400.00	R 16 000.00	R 24 000.00	
		2 assistants	40	R 200.00	R 8 000.00		
4. REPORTING							R 6 400.00
4.1	Compile Report	F Prins	16	R 400.00	R 6 400.00	R 6 400.00	
			0	R 0.00	R 0.00		
5. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & CLIENT INTERACTION							R 1 200.00
2.1	Admin and Amafa permit application	F Prins	3	R 400.00	R 1 200.00	R 1 200.00	
4. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS							R 4 000.00
4.1	Mapping & Scans	Heritage map by GIS specialist	8	R 500.00	R 4 000.00	R 4 000.00	
PROFESSIONAL FEES SUBTOTAL Excluding 14% VAT					R 35 600.00	R 35 600.00	R 35 600.00
PROVISIONAL DISBURSEMENTS							R 3 600.00
ITEM	DESCRIPTION		QTY.	RATE	SUBTOTAL	SUBTOTAL	
9	Printing of working drafts and final documents					R 0.00	
	A4 Colour Final		0	R 15.00	R 0.00		
	A4 Colour Draft		0	R 10.00	R 0.00		
	A4 B&W Final		0	R 1.10	R 0.00		
	A4 B&W Draft		0	R 1.00	R 0.00		
	A3 Colour Final		0	R 35.00	R 0.00		
	A3 Colour Draft		0	R 25.00	R 0.00		
	A3 B&W Final		0	R 5.50	R 0.00		
	A3 B&W Draft		0	R 2.50	R 0.00		
10	Travel					R 3 600.00	
	Airfare		0	R 1 500.00	R 0.00		
	Travel from Howick and return		800	R 4.50	R 3 600.00		
	Vehicle Hire (per day)		0	R 450.00	R 0.00		
11	Accommodation & Subsistence					R 0.00	
	Accommodation		0	R 500.00	R 0.00		
	Subsistence		0	R 150.00	R 0.00		
12	Communications & Postage					R 0.00	
	Telephonic, Facsimile & email Communications (provisional)		0	R 100.00	R 0.00		
	Courier delivery (RSA)		0	R 65.00	R 0.00		
14	Project Information Material					R 0.00	
	CD-R		0	R 12.00	R 0.00		
DISBURSEMENTS SUBTOTAL Excluding 14% VAT					R 3 600.00	R 3 600.00	R 3 600.00
TOTAL Professional Fees and Disbursements Excluding 14% VAT							R 39 200.00
14% VAT							R 5 488.00
TOTAL Professional Fees including Disbursements and 14% VAT							R 44 688.00

These costings estimates reflect those as proposed by Active Heritage cc, the costings estimate may differ from those proposed by other heritage consultants