

**PHASE ONE CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED OGLE FARM  
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, WITHIN THE  
UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL AND HARRY GWALA  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES.**



**ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.**

FOR: KERRY SEPPINGS ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS (KSEMS)

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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<br>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<br>Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP<br>Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200 |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A phase one cultural heritage survey of the proposed Ogle Farm Housing Development, within the Ubuhlebezwe local and Harry Gwala district municipalities, identified no heritage sites. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. There is no known archaeological reason why development may not proceed 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)   |
| Type of development:      | The uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality propose to develop the Ogle Farm Precinct which is located North East of Ixopo Town and runs parallel to Provincial Road R56, within the uBuhlebezwe Local and Harry Gwala District Municipalities. The aim of the proposed development is to fully utilise the development potential of the area and to allow economic expansion and liberation, thus positively affecting the community. The upgrade is proposed to consist of: High Income Residences, Middle Income Residences, Institutional and Administration establishments, a Limited Commercial zone, Sport and recreation land uses, and Public Open Space Systems |
| Rezoning or subdivision:  | n.a  |
| 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 proposed development is situated within the uBuhlebezwe Local and Harry Gwala District Municipalities. The site is located to the North East of Ixopo Town, runs parallel to Provincial Road R56 and also includes portions of Corthill and Ixopo Farms (Figs 1 & 2). The approximate geographic co-ordinates for the mid-point of the proposed upgrade are: 30° 08' 4.09" S and 30° 04' 52.20" E. Further, the proposed site is approximately 107.4998 ha in size, however the development footprint will be approximately 23.9441 ha. The project area comprises of grasslands and sugar cane fields with some exotic Pine, Bluegum, and Wattle plantations (Figs 3-4).

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Ixopo area has never been intensively surveyed for heritage sites. However, some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades whilst archaeologists from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum have made sporadic visits to the area. The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Ixopo area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include five Early Stone Age sites, two Middle Stone Age sites, four Later Stone Age sites, two rock painting sites, four Early Iron Age sites, three Later Iron Age sites, and one historical site. Various buildings and farmsteads belonging to the Victorian and Edwardian periods occur in the area. These would also be protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur close to the study area. Most of these occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools in the near vicinity of permanent water resources is typical of this tradition. These tools were most probably made by early hominins such as *Homo erectus* or *Homo ergaster*. Based on typological criteria they most probably date back to between 300 000 and 1.7 million years ago. The presence of the first anatomically modern people (i.e. *Homo sapiens sapiens*) in the area is indicated by the presence of a few Middle Stone Age blades and flakes. These most probably dates back to between 40 000 and 200 000 years ago. The later Stone Age flakes and one rock painting site identified in the area are associated with the San (Bushmen) and their direct ancestors. These most probably dates back to between 200 and 20 000 years ago.

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 (Mitchell 2002). By 1500 years

ago these early Bantu-speaking farmers also arrived in the greater Ixopo area. Due to the fact that these first farmers introduced metal technology to southern Africa they are designated as the Early Iron Age in archaeological literature. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as “Msuluzi” (AD 500-700), Ndondondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). Most of the Early Iron Age sites in the greater Ixopo area belong to these traditions (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462). These sites characteristically occur on alluvial or colluvial soil adjacent to large rivers, such as the Mzimkhulu River, below the 1000m contour. The Early Iron Age farmers originally came from western Africa and brought with them an elaborate initiation complex and a value system centred on the central significance of cattle.

Later Iron Age sites also occur in this area. These were Bantu-speaking agropastoralists who arrived in southern Africa after 1000 year ago via East Africa. Later Iron Age communities in KwaZulu-Natal were the direct ancestors of the Zulu people (Huffman 2007). Many African groups moved through the study area due to the period of tribal turmoil as caused by the expansionistic policies of king Shaka Zulu in the 1820’s. It is known from oral history that the Ixopo area was occupied by the eNtlawini, Bhaca, and Zulu refugees in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Bryant 1965). Their descendants still live in the area. 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.

### **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 previous CRM work in the close environs of the study area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Ixopo area was also consulted. Aerial photographs covering the study area was scrutinised for historical and Iron Age sites. A ground survey following accepted archaeological methodology was conducted on the 12 January 2017.

#### **3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey**

##### **3.2.1 Visibility**

Potential heritage visibility is good as some vegetation has been cleared thereby exposing all features and structures.

##### **3.2.2 Disturbance.**

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

### **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

Town: Ixopo

Municipality: Ubuhlebezwe Local and Harry Gwala District Municipalities

### **4.2 Description of the general area surveyed**

The desktop survey located four archaeological sites and one historical site within the greater Ixopo area (Fig 1). However, none of these sites occur more closer than 2km to the proposed development site and they are therefore not threatened.

No heritage sites were located during the ground survey. Large portions of the proposed development plot has been disturbed by commercial farming operations in the past (Figs 3 & 4) and it is unlikely that any archaeological sites would remain intact – if present. Some ruined outbuildings occur on the property but these are younger than 60 years and they have no heritage value.

The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape.

## **5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)**

As there are no heritage sites on the footprint the area is not significant in terms of heritage values (Table 2)

**Table 2. Evaluation of heritage sites**

| Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA |  |               |
|--|--|---------------|
|  | <b>Significance</b>  | <b>Rating</b> |
| 1.   | <b>Historic and political significance</b> - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.                          | None.         |
| 2.   | <b>Scientific significance</b> – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.   | None.         |
| 3.   | <b>Research/scientific significance</b> – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.    | None.         |
| 4.   | <b>Scientific significance</b> – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.          | None.         |
| 5.   | <b>Aesthetic significance</b> – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.                               | None.         |
| 6.   | <b>Scientific significance</b> – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.                              | None.         |
| 7.   | <b>Social significance</b> – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.                  | None.         |
| 8.   | <b>Historic significance</b> – 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 field rating criteria as formulated by SAHRA (Table 3 ) does not apply to the footprint as no heritage sites or features have been identified.

**Table 3. 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                |

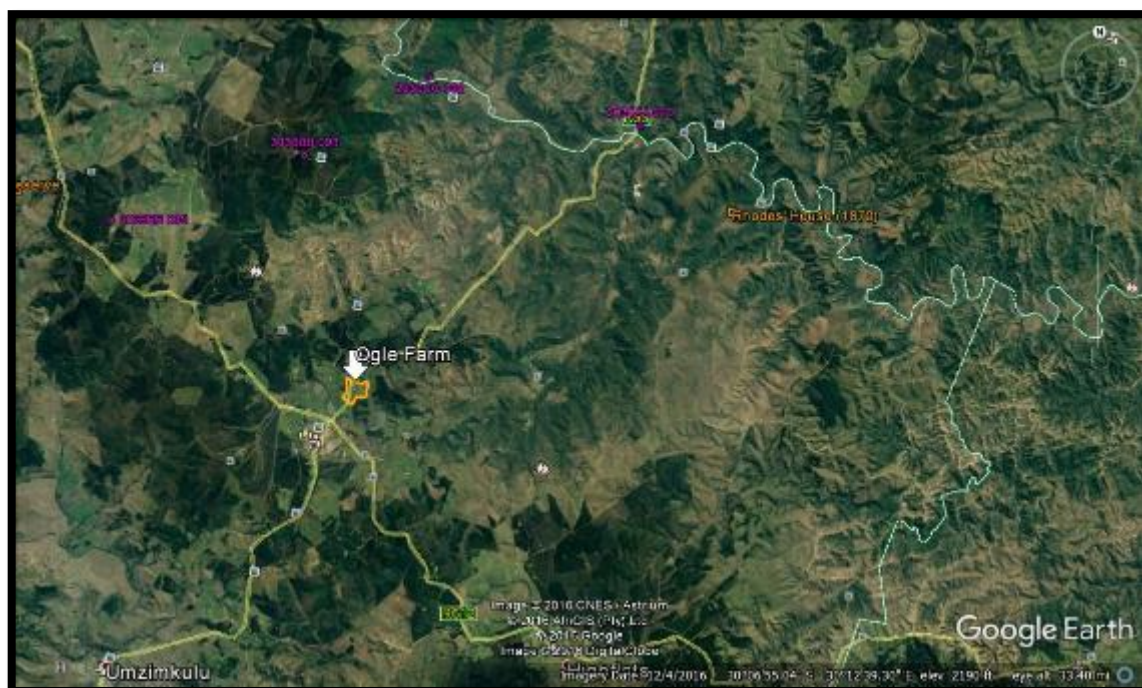
## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The study suggests that the proposed housing development on the Ogle Farm may proceed in terms of heritage values as no heritage and archaeological sites are in any danger of being destroyed or altered. However, it should also be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

## 7 RISK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION

Not applicable.

## 8 MAPS AND FIGURES



**Figure 1.** Google aerial photograph showing the location of the proposed Ogle Farm Housing Development near Ixopo. The purple polygons indicate the presence of archaeological sites.



**Figure 2.** Google aerial photograph showing the size and demarcation of the project area.



***Figure 3. View over the project area showing sugar cane fields, grasslands and exotic woodlots.***



***Figure 4. Large portions of the project area has been disturbed by commercial farming operations. Outbuildings on the property are younger than 60 years old and has no heritage value.***

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