

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING  
PHASE ONE PALEONTOLOGY DESKTOP  
ASSESSMENT) OF THE PROPOSED MATATIELE  
TRUCK STOP, MATATIELE LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE.**



**ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.**

**For: Green Door Environmental**

**Frans Prins**

**MA (Archaeology)**

**P.O. Box 947**

**Howick**

**3290**

[feprins@gmail.com](mailto:feprins@gmail.com)

[activeheritage@gmail.com](mailto:activeheritage@gmail.com)

[www.activeheritage.webs.com](http://www.activeheritage.webs.com)

**Fax: 086 7636380**

**22 June 2018**

## **Details and experience of independent Heritage Impact Assessment Consultant**

Consultant: Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc)  
Contact person: Frans Prins  
Physical address: 33 Buchanan Street, Howick, 3290  
Postal address: P O Box 947, Howick, 3290  
Telephone: +27 033 3307729  
Mobile: +27 0834739657  
Fax: 0867636380  
Email: Activeheritage@gmail.com

PhD candidate (Anthropology) University of KwaZulu-Natal  
MA (Archaeology) University of Stellenbosch 1991  
Hons (Archaeology) University of Stellenbosch 1989

University of KwaZulu-Natal, Honorary Lecturer (School of Anthropology, Gender and Historical Studies).

Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists member

Frans received his MA (Archaeology) from the University of Stellenbosch and is presently a PhD candidate on social anthropology at Rhodes University. His PhD research topic deals with indigenous San perceptions and interactions with the rock art heritage of the Drakensberg.

Frans was employed as a junior research associate at the then University of Transkei, Botany Department in 1988-1990. Although attached to a Botany Department he conducted a palaeoecological study on the Iron Age of northern Transkei - this study formed the basis for his MA thesis in Archaeology. Frans left the University of Transkei to accept a junior lecturing position at the University of Stellenbosch in 1990. He taught mostly undergraduate courses on World Archaeology and research methodology during this period.

From 1991 – 2001 Frans was appointed as the head of the department of Historical Anthropology at the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. His tasks included academic research and publication, display conceptualization, and curating the African ethnology collections of the Museum. He developed various displays at the Natal Museum on topics ranging from Zulu material culture, traditional healing, and indigenous classificatory systems. During this period Frans also developed a close association with the Departments of Fine Art, Psychology, and Cultural and Media Studies at the then University of Natal. He assisted many post-graduate students with projects

relating to the cultural heritage of South Africa. He also taught post-graduate courses on qualitative research methodology to honours students at the Psychology Department, University of Natal. During this period he served on the editorial boards of the *South African Journal of Field Archaeology* and *Natalia*.

Frans left the Natal Museum in 2001 when approached by a Swiss funding agency to assist an international NGO (Working Group for Indigenous Minorities) with the conceptualization of a San or Bushman museum near Cape Town. During this period he consulted extensively with various San groupings in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. During this period he also made major research and conceptual contributions to the Kamberg and Didima Rock Art Centres in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site.

Between 2003 and 2007 Frans was employed as the Cultural Resource Specialist for the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project – a bilateral conservation project funded through the World Bank. This project involved the facilitation with various stakeholders in order to produce a cultural heritage conservation and development strategy for the adjacent parts of Lesotho and South Africa. Frans was the facilitator for numerous heritage surveys and assessments during this project. This vast area included more than 2000 heritage sites. Many of these sites had to be assessed and heritage management plans designed for them. He had a major input in the drafting of the new Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage site in 2007/2008. A highpoint of his career was the inclusion of Drakensberg San indigenous knowledge systems, with San collaboration, into the management plans of various rock art sites in this world heritage site. He also liaised with the tourism specialist with the drafting of a tourism business plan for the area.

During April 2008 Frans accepted employment at the environmental agency called Strategic Environmental Focus (SEF). His main task was to set-up and run the cultural heritage unit of this national company. During this period he also became an accredited heritage impact assessor and he is rated by both Amafa and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). He completed almost 50 heritage impact assessment reports nation-wide during an 18<sup>th</sup> month period.

Frans left SEF and started his own heritage consultancy called “Active Heritage cc” in July 2009. Although mostly active along the eastern seaboard his clients also include international companies such as Royal Dutch Shell through Golder Associates, and UNESCO. He has now completed almost 1000 heritage conservation and management reports for various clients since the inception of “Active Heritage cc”. Amongst these was a heritage study of the controversial fracking gas exploration of the Karoo Basin and various proposed mining developments in South Africa and proposed developments adjacent to various World Heritage sites. Apart from heritage impact assessments (HIA’s) Frans also assist the National Heritage Council (NHC) through Haley Sharpe Southern Africa’, with heritage site data capturing and analysis for the proposed National Liberation Route World Heritage Site and the national intangible

heritage audit. In addition, he has done background research and conceptualization of the proposed Dinosaur Interpretative Centre at Golden Gate National Park and the proposed Khoi and San Interpretive Centre at Camdeboo, Eastern Cape Province. During 2009 he also produced the first draft dossier for the nomination of the Sehlabathebe National Park, Lesotho as a UNESCO inscribed World Heritage Site.

Frans was appointed as temporary lecturer in the department of Heritage and Tourism, UKZN in 2011. He is also a research affiliate at the School of Cultural and Media Studies in the same institution.

Frans's research interests include African Iron Age, paleoecology, rock art research, San ethnography, traditional healers in South Africa, and heritage conservation. Frans has produced more than forty publications on these topics in both popular and academic publications. He is frequently approached by local and international video and film productions in order to assist with research and conceptualization for programmes on African heritage and culture. He has also acted as presenter and specialist for local and international film productions on the rock art of southern Africa. Frans has a wide experience in the fields of museum and interpretive centre display and made a significant contribution to the conceptual planning of displays at the Natal Museum, Golden Horse Casino, Didima Rock Art Centre and !Khwatya San Heritage Centre. Frans is also the co-founder and active member of "African Antiqua" a small tour company who conducts archaeological and cultural tours world-wide. He is a Thetha accredited cultural tour guide and he has conducted more than 50 tours to heritage sites since 1992.

#### **Declaration of Consultants independence**

Frans Prins is an independent consultant to Green Door Environmental and has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which he was appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances whatsoever that compromise the objectivity of this specialist performing such work.



**Frans Prins**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1.1</b>	<b>THE EARLY STONE AGE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY</b> .....	<b>12</b>
3.1	Methodology .....	12
3.1.1	<i>Guidance from Desktop Study</i> .....	12
3.2	Restrictions encountered during the survey .....	13
3.2.1	<i>Visibility</i> .....	13
3.2.2	<i>Disturbance</i> .....	13
3.3	Details of equipment used in the survey.....	13
<b>4</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED</b> .....	<b>14</b>
4.1	Locational data .....	14
4.2	Description of the general area surveyed.....	14
4.2.1	<i>Background</i> .....	14
4.2.2	<i>Desktop Paleontology Assessment</i> .....	14
<b>5</b>	<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)</b> .....	<b>14</b>
5.1	Field Rating.....	14
<b>6</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>MAPS AND FIGURES</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>21</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Background information.....	2
Table 2.	Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005) .....	9
Table 3.	Evaluation and statement of significance.....	10

**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 heritage survey of the proposed Matatiele Truck Stop, Matatiele Local Municipality, Eastern Cape identified no heritage sites on the proposed development plot. In addition, no heritage sites occur within 50m from the footprint. The greater area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. The desktop paleontology assessment indicate a high fossil sensitivity for the area. A qualified palaeontologist will have to conduct a thorough ground survey of the project area before any development may commence. Attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), which requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains as well as graves and fossil material 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 Green Door Environmental
Type of development:	The establishment of a proposed Truck Stop adjacent to the R56 near Matatiele.
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).

### 1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The project area is situated directly adjacent to the R56 approximately 1.6km to the east of Matatiele, Eastern Cape (Fig 1). The proposed development plot is approximately 4 hectares in extent (Fig 2). It consists of grassland that is presently being cut for bales (Figs 4 & 5). There are no structures or other man-made features on the footprint. The GPS coordinates for the centre of the proposed development plot are:

S 30° 21' 15.52" E 28° 51' 15.18"

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The southern Drakensberg, including the greater Matatiele area, is well endowed with cultural heritage, including various wilderness areas within and outside the formal protected area network. Matatiele is situated to the immediate south of the UNESCO inscribed Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Park. The heritage of the greater Matatiele is a continuation of that to be found in the nearby World Heritage Site. Although most literature refers to this heritage mainly in terms of San rock art, the region also contains other categories of cultural heritage features representative of various cultures and time-periods. The cultural heritage of the Drakensberg is diverse and highly fragile. Cultural heritage, unlike natural heritage, is non-renewable and



irreplaceable. Once damaged, it is gone forever. San rock paintings and associated Later Stone Age sites, as well as the palaeontology of the area, are unique and have global significance. The remaining categories, however, certainly have national, provincial, and regional significance. The area has had several different cultural groups associated with it, from the San to the southern Sotho, the Zulu-speaking and Xhosa-speaking groups, and, more recently, the Griqua and Anglo-Boer descendants. Each of these groups has its own unique cultural expressions and has related in various ways to the others. These differences are found in the building styles of homes, their way of life as they interact with their environment, traditional dress, and so on. In addition, there are a number of living heritage values associated with all of these groups, many of which are unknown or poorly recorded. The following section is a more detailed description of the various cultural heritage features.

### **2.1.1 The Early Stone Age**

The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools such as hand axes in areas below the 1 800 m contour suggests that the first inhabitants of the area predated modern humans by at least 800 000 years. Sites belonging to this period in the foothills of the southern Drakensberg are mostly characterised by a few surface scatters and individual stone tools – usually in the close vicinity of water.

Three Early Stone Age sites are recorded in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage data base in the greater Matatiele area. Stone tools in the form of hand axes and cleavers recorded on these sites were most probably manufactured by *Homo erectus*, a predecessor of modern humans. However, none of these known sites occur in the immediate environs of the project area.

### **2.1.2 The Middle Stone Age**

Anatomically modern people (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) with a very different economic strategy and more sophisticated stone tool kits moved into the area about 200 000 years ago. Archaeological assemblages left behind by these people have been termed Middle Stone Age. Not only were these societies more effective hunters than their predecessors but Middle Stone Age sites elsewhere in southern Africa also provide convincing evidence for some of the earliest symbolic behaviour in the world. It was Middle Stone Age people from southern and eastern Africa who left the continent roughly between 80 000 – 60 000 years ago to populate the rest of the world. Middle Stone Age sites in the Drakensberg region occur in both Lesotho and South Africa.

Sites occur as surface scatters as well as deep cave deposits. Prime archaeological deposits, however, occur in the Eastern Cape and Free State sections of the region. Archaeological excavations at Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape Province indicate that the Middle Stone Age persisted in the Cape Drakensberg, to the immediate south west of the study area, until around 22 000 years ago (Mitchell 2002).

Eighteen Middle Stone Age sites, all surface scatters, are known from the greater Matatiele area. Seven of these sites occur adjacent to the R56 in the near vicinity of the project area. These seven sites have recently been located during a CRM survey of the R56 (Birkholtz 2016). Most of these sites have been observed in areas with limited vegetation cover such as places where sheet or donga erosion occurred. The sites adjacent to the R56 have been exposed by the road cuttings but none of them have been given a high rating (ibid). None of these sites have been excavated.

### **2.1.3. The Later Stone Age**

The stone tool assemblages belonging to the immediate ancestors of the San or Bushmen have been termed Later Stone Age. Later Stone Age tools are generally much smaller but also more diversified than the earlier tool kits. It was during this period that the bow and arrow was used extensively, and societies exploited their environments distinctly more intensively and effectively. Literally hundreds of Later Stone Age sites prevail in the Drakensberg region. In addition, most of the rock art in the region was created by the San. The earliest evidence for Later Stone Age occupation of the Maloti Drakensberg comes from Sehonghong Cave in south eastern Lesotho and from Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape section of the region. Here a specific Later Stone Age period called the Robberg Industry has been dated to approximately 20 000 years ago. In contrast, evidence from Good Hope shelter 1 near the bottom of Sani Pass suggests that the earliest archaeological evidence for San people in the KwaZulu-Natal portion of the Drakensberg dates back to approximately 8 000 years ago. Whereas most parts of the Maloti Drakensberg were only seasonally occupied by San hunter gatherers for the larger part of the last 20 000 years, the situation started to change during the later part of the Holocene around 5 000 years ago. This was compounded by the arrival of immigrant black farmers in the region soon after 1600 AD and European colonialism around 1834 AD (Wright & Mazel 2007). During the historical period, the Maloti Drakensberg and adjacent mountainous areas became the last stronghold for various southern San groups such as the Baroa, //Xegwi, !Ga!ne, //Kx'au, and //Ku//ke. Their Later Stone Age way of life finally came to

an end during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hybrid and composite San groupings, such as the amaTola, lived in the vicinity of Matatiele during the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Challis 2008). Unlike most other San groups the amaTola used horses which they use in hunting and raiding forays. San descendants still live in the area but for all practical purposes have assimilated with their more powerful neighbours. Many place names within the region still retained their original San pronunciations such as the Inxu, Sehonghong, Qomoqomong and Qhoasing rivers, and the Qeme, Qhuqhu, Qhalasi, and Qholaqhoe mountains. Approximately 1 300 Later Stone Age sites are known within the South African side of the Drakensberg.

Approximately 106 Later Stone Age sites occur in the greater Matatiele area. Most of these are San rock art sites (see below) but four Later Stone Age surface scatters have also been recorded in the past.

#### **2.1.4. Rock Paintings**

The Drakensberg region is particularly well known for the occurrence of some of the finest and most complex prehistoric rock paintings in the world. Depictions of humans dominate, although finely executed animals such as eland and rhebuck are common. Some of the art is executed in various colours and in detailed precision that almost renders it a three dimensional aspect. Most researchers support the theory developed by Professor David Lewis-Williams and his colleagues that the figures represent trance induced visions during San religious rites (Lewis-Williams 2003). According to some researchers, the celebrated Rosetta Panel at Game Pass shelter (RSA) holds the key to our understanding of all San rock art in the sub-Saharan region of Africa. However, this interpretation is not supported by all rock art researchers. Notable deviations from this approach have been developed by Anne Solomon, and more recently by Thomas Dowson. The Maloti Drakensberg is also one of the areas with the highest density of prehistoric rock art in the world and certainly contains the highest concentration of prehistoric art south of the Sahara in Africa. Although the scientific dating of these paintings is still under researched, recent research suggests that the oldest paintings may date to approximately 4000 years ago (Wright & Mazel 2007). This is much older than previously thought. The chronological uniqueness of the art, however, is not so much in its antiquity as in the fact that the Maloti Drakensberg was the last area in Africa south of the Zambezi River where the San rock art tradition was still actively practised. Paintings at two sites in the southern portion of the region, close to the project area, were created as recently as 1920 (Prins 2009). Hundred and six San

rock art sites occur in the greater Matatiele area. Many of these contain imagery associated with the amaThola – a group of creolised San who became adept horsemen and livestock raiders. However, none of the known rock art sites occur within the project area. That is most certainly due to the fact that the area do not contain sufficient sandstone outcrops and overhangs that would have been utilised by the San rock artists.

### **2.1.5. Iron Age Sites**

Around 2 000 years ago the southern African demographic landscape was transformed with the arrival of the first Bantu-speaking agriculturists in the sub-region. These subsistence farmers lived for the most part in the lower altitude, wooded areas of the eastern seaboard. Around 1250 AD certain agriculturists started occupying the higher altitude, grassland areas. Sites belonging to this period in KwaZulu-Natal are referred to as Moor Park settlements and they typically occupy hill tops with a low stone walling effect. Although none occur within the designated Maloti-Drakensberg project area, they can be found at the fringes, at an altitude of approximately 1 200-1 400 m. By 1600 AD, groups such as the amaZizi reached the foothills of the northern Drakensberg near Winterton (Wright and Mazel 2007). Various splinter groups of the amaZizi left KwaZulu Natal and also settled in parts of Lesotho and the southern Drakensberg region where, over time, they adopted a Sotho identity. The baPhuti of south eastern Lesotho are perhaps the best known of these early immigrants. By the early 1700s various other Sotho and Nguni-speaking groups moved into the area and established chieftaincies in those areas below the 1 800 m contour. Impressive Iron Age sites belonging to this period and built in typical Sotho-style occur near Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba in the Eastern Free State. Nguni-style sites of this period have also been found in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape parts of the Drakensberg. The expansion of the Zulu kingdom around 1818 had a major impact on Iron Age settlement in the greater Drakensberg region. Various chieftaincies were attacked, and their routed remnants typically traversed the Maloti Drakensberg region in search of better settlement elsewhere. Bandits often hid out in the mountains, and a number allegedly practised cannibalism. Perhaps the most significant development during this period was the founding of the Southern Sotho nation under King Moshoeshoe I. Various sites in Lesotho belong to this period – some of them, like Thaba Bosiu, are typically mountain strongholds. Almost 2 000 Iron-Age sites have been identified in the Maloti Drakensberg region, and most occur in altitudes lower than 1 800 m contour.

Stone walled Iron Age settlements have also been recorded in the greater Matatiele area and was most probably built by southern Sotho immigrants who settled here after 1870. However, none are known from the project area. Nevertheless it is possible that systematic surveys may locate Iron Age sites in the near future.

#### **2.1.6. The Historical period**

The historical period spans the era of colonialism that started around 1830 AD when the first missionaries and Dutch immigrants arrived from the Cape Colony in the Maloti Drakensberg region. Sites associated with Voortrekker settlement of the area occur in the eastern Free State and the northern portion of KwaZulu-Natal near Winterton and Bergville. For the most part, these were the places where laagers were formed (with very low archaeological visibility) and old farmsteads with associated grave yards. A particular site worth mentioning is Kerkenberg near Oliviershoek Pass, where Debora Retief painted the initials of her father on a rock before the trekkers descended into KwaZulu Natal. In Lesotho, the rebellion by Chief Moorosi and the resultant action by the Cape Colony government at the southern tip of the country left footprints of forts and associated graves at Moyeni Camp, Fort Hartley, Cutting Camp, and Mount Moorosi. The most important structure relating to the history of Bushman raids is most probably Fort Nottingham, in KwaZulu-Natal, which was built around 1852. Various historical mission stations founded in the mid to late 1800s such as those at Morija and St James in Lesotho and Emmaus, Reichenau, and Mariazell in South Africa, are still in active use. The Mariazell Mission Station, which dates back to the 1860's, is situated to the north west of Matatiele. The Ongeluksnek Pass, which is situated approximately 60km to the north west of the project area, is intimately associated with the epic trek of the Griqua people in 1861, led by Adam Kok. The area associated with the first native uprising against the British colonial government, by the celebrated Hlubi chief Langalibalele in 1873, is at Giants Castle Nature Reserve in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. Various battle sites associated with the Basotho Wars between the Boer Republic of the Orange Free State and the Sotho Kingdom of Moshoeshe I are to be found in the eastern Free State and adjacent parts of Lesotho. Sites belonging to the period of the Anglo-Boer War (1898-1901) abound in the eastern Free State portion of the greater Maloti Drakensberg area. These are typically areas where skirmishes took place or where ammunition was destroyed. A few rock engravings belonging to the Anglo-Boer War period have been documented

from the Golden Gate Highland Park. However, thorough research is still required to ascertain the meaning and value of these engravings. Many historical sites can be categorised as belonging to the “built environment” as defined in heritage legislation. These are the physical remnants and traces of historical settlements that underpin the cultural value and meaning of the surrounding communities.

One of the earliest European explorers in the southern Drakensberg area was Captain Allen Gardener. Gardener skirted the southern KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg in 1835 seeking a route from Natal to the Cape Colony. Some Voortrekker farmers settled in the area, albeit briefly, around 1840 but it was only after 1850 when Natal became a British colony that more European, especially English-speaking, settlers arrived in the area. They were preceded and followed by French and German missionaries. The Trappist mission of Rheicenau became a prominent landmark in the Underberg District. The buildings associated with these early missionaries as well as farmsteads and associated graveyards, dating from approximately 1860, occur at various localities in the Underberg district (McKenzie 1946). Another prominent historical building is the old jail of Himeville. This building was erected in the 1870's and was meant to act as a defensive fort for the inhabitants of Himeville during the Anglo-Zulu War. Fortunately the war never reached as far south in the colony and today the old building functions as a museum.

By the 1880's there was a shortage of vacant land for farming in the then colony of Natal and the children and grandchildren of the 1820 and 1840 settlers were looking for land of their own. The land along the Southern Drakensberg, a hitherto undeveloped area, provided vast tracts of unclaimed land. The area had been surveyed in 1880 by Dr Peter Sutherland, the Surveyor-General for Natal, and farms had been identified. But when Dr Sutherland was approached by a certain Richard Cockerell for permission to take up land he was told that he could have as much as he wanted because the land was uninhabitable. The town of Matatiele originated with the arrival of Adam Kok and his Griquas in 1864. However, the general turmoil in “Griqualand East” induced the Cape Government to intervene in 1874 and a magistrate G. P Stafford was appointed to the area. However, the outbreak of the Basuto Gun War in 1880 saw the area in so uproarious a state that the few European colonists to the area were forced to abscond. The settlement was overrun and 11 Hlubi tribesmen, who were part of a force attempting to guard the place, were killed. For 12 months the area remained chaotic, but the rule of law was eventually

reasserted. Troublesome elements were driven away and the district was opened to European settlement. A new magistracy was built on the site of the present Matatiele town hall, with a detachment of the Cape Mounted rifles to garrison the place.

### **2.1.7. Graves**

There are various grave sites belonging to different periods and cultural associations in the Drakensberg region. Perhaps the most famous sites are those belonging to the southern Sotho royalty at Botha Bothe in Lesotho; the grave of Nkosi Langalibalele at Giants Castle; KwaZulu Natal graves associated with the royalty of the amaZizi and amaNgwane near Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal; the grave of Adam Kok at Matatiele, Eastern Cape; and various graves in the Free State belonging to the Voortrekker and Anglo-Boer War periods. Interestingly, graves belonging to the prehistoric San inhabitants of the area are markedly absent or, as yet, have not been identified by researchers.

### **2.1.8. The Living Heritage**

The living heritage of the Drakensberg area is varied and as yet little understood. Yet preliminary investigations by the Maloti Drakensberg Project (Anderson 2007) indicate that certain areas, including sites in communal areas close to Underberg, are still frequented by local communities who afford them ritual or sacred significance. Such locales may include archaeological sites with a living heritage component or natural features such as mountains, forests, boulders, caves, pools, or waterfalls with cultural significance. Living heritage is not only site-specific but also relates to oral history, indigenous knowledge systems, and indigenous languages, practices, and beliefs. Oral history specifically is a rich resource that has been passed down the generations and provides diverse narratives and interpretations concerning places of historical significance. It also provides a window on community perspectives regarding heritage resources, including indigenous names for sites and plant and animal species – all of which are imbued with cultural meaning.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) constitute an integral component of local knowledge, at grass roots level, often associated with traditional methods of land management and use. In this regard, IKS can enhance conservation and sustainable management of cultural heritage to which communities may relate. Conservation should provide an enabling environment for communities to continue with the tradition of transmitting knowledge and skills and of safeguarding their cultural heritage.

Traditional ceremonies still performed in the larger Drakensberg region include the *Bale* initiation schools among certain southern Sotho groups, the *amemulo* (coming of age) ceremonies among the amaNngwane, the *Nkubelwana* (planting of the first seed) among Zulu-speakers, rainmaking, and various ceremonies associated with the veneration of the ancestors. Six indigenous languages are still spoken in the area, including siBhaca, which was believed to be almost extinct.

Two broad categories of site-specific living heritage sites have been identified:

Sites of national significance of which nine have been identified in the SA portion of the MDTFCA. These include rock art sites, sandstone shelters without any archaeological remains but used extensively as pilgrimage sites, two sacred forests, and three sacred mountains. All of these sites are frequented by indigenous groups as part of an annual pilgrimage.

Sites of local significance include various pools, waterfalls, hot springs, kaolin and red ochre deposits, and boulders afforded special significance by traditional healers and sectarian Christian groupings. Seventeen such sites have been identified in the larger Drakensberg area.

### **2.1.9. Palaeontology**

Given its nature, palaeontology should be a component of geology and biodiversity. Nevertheless, the present heritage legislation in South Africa also covers palaeontology. In fact, the heritage management procedures relating to palaeontology are almost identical to those of archaeology. The palaeontological history of the Maloti Drakensberg area is fascinating as it tells the story of the super southern continent called Gondwanaland and its associated fauna and flora preserved today as fossils (McCarthy & Rubidge 2005). Fossils and footprints belonging to various periods from around 270 million years ago to around 180 million years ago have been recorded and collected in the geological layers beneath the basalts. These layers, amongst other interesting facts, provide evidence of the greatest mass extinction of species in the world around 251 million years ago towards the end of the Permian period. Some species survived this extinction as attested by abundant fossils of certain species such as *Lystrosaurus* found deep in the Triassic period layers. Whereas the majority of fossilized remains in the area are *therapsids* (mammal-like reptiles, ancestors of most mammal species today), the Maloti Drakensberg also harbours evidence of some of



the earliest dinosaurs in the world. Footprints belonging to these early dinosaurs appear in various localities in the Molteno formations of both Lesotho and South Africa. The most celebrated palaeontological site occurs in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park. Here the earliest known dinosaur eggs in the world and a near intact embryo of an average sized dinosaur, i.e. *Massospondylus*, were located by scientists some thirty years ago. These early eggs, dated to almost 200 million years ago, are almost 100 million years older than other known dinosaur nest egg sites in the world. In adjacent Lesotho the Qomoqomong Dinosaur footprint and museum site has been developed for tourism purposes. The endemic turkey size dinosaur Lesothosaurus is known from various localities within Lesotho. No sites of palaeontological significance are known from the project area, however, the area has a high paleontological sensitivity rating.

### **Summary**

The cultural heritage of the Drakensberg region, including the greater Matatiele area, is rich, diverse, and fragile. The area contains a high density of prehistoric rock art that parallels the well known Upper-Palaeolithic rock art of Western Europe in artistic execution and symbolism. In addition, it harbours a rich and diverse record of palaeontological fossils that, for the most part, pre-date the Jurassic period of popular imagination. The mountains are also the heartland of the *Difaqane* – a period of tribal turmoil that developed as a direct response to the expansion of the Zulu state of Shaka in the 1820s. Many Iron Age sites in the area belong to this period, including significant sites associated with the founding of the Basotho Kingdom under King Moshoeshoe I. It was also the area traversed by some of the most dramatic diasporas documented in southern African history, including the Great Trek of the Voortrekkers, The Griqua trek via Ongeluksnek, the wanderings of the amaHlubi, amaNgwane, amaZizi, and amaBhaca tribal entities, and the lesser-known but equally dramatic trek of the //Xegwi San in 1879 – the last rock artists of the region. Sites related to these historical events abound in the Drakensberg and are windows into a significant period of the history and culture of southern Africa. That some of these cultural expressions are still alive is witnessed by the occurrence of significant living heritage sites in the region. Most of these are used as sites of pilgrimage by visitors from South Africa, Lesotho, and even further abroad.

### **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 heritage surveys and heritage site data covering the project area. Various heritage surveys have been conducted in the greater Matatiele region. However, only one (Birkholtz 2016) covers a section of the project area namely the areas directly adjacent to the R56. However, this survey did not find any heritage sites on the actual footprint (ibid). In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Matatiele region was consulted. Aerial photographs covering the area were scrutinised for potential Iron Age and historical period structures and grave sites. A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on 16 June 2018.

##### ***3.1.1 Guidance from Desktop Study***

- The desktop study indicates that Stone Age Sites of all periods and traditions may occur in the greater project area. Early Stone Age sites, however, are relatively rare in the foothills of the Drakensberg. They typically also occur close to permanent and prominent sources of water, none of which occur in the immediate environs of the footprint.
- Middle Stone Age tools have been found in dongas and erosion gullies at various locales the greater Matatiele region. One occurs within 700m from the project area (Fig 2). These sites are usually out of context and of little research value. Middle Stone Age sites with higher research potential also occur in deep cave deposits throughout KwaZulu-Natal (including the southern Drakensberg area). However, no rocky outcrops that may harbour such shelters with deep cave deposits occur on the footprint.
- Later Stone Age sites, including associated rock art, are more prolific in the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and also in the foothills of the Drakensberg. More than 150 rock art sites occur on the greater Matatiele region alone. However, these typically occur in sandstone shelters or suitable rocky outcrops – none of which occur on the footprint.

- Early Iron Age Sites typically occur along major river valleys below the 700 m contour in KwaZulu-Natal. It is very unusual to find sites above the 1000m contour. The project area is situated above the 1000m contour far removed from a major river valley setting. It is therefore most unlikely to expect Early Iron Age sites on the footprint.
- Later Iron Age sites may occur in the project area. These sites were occupied by the ancestors of the first Nguni-speaking and Sotho-speaking agriculturists as well as their descendants who settled in KwaZulu-Natal. Sotho-style Later Iron Age sites, dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, have been recorded in the greater Matatiele region. There is a distinct possibility that such sites may also occur at or close to the project area.
- Historical buildings, structures, mission stations and farmsteads do occur scattered throughout the greater Matatiele region. The desktop study indicated that various historical buildings occur in the nearby towns of Matatiele and Cedarville. Historical era buildings and structures could occur at or near the project area.

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

### **3.2.1 Visibility**

Visibility was good but compromised by dense grassland cover over a section of the footprint.

### **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: Eastern Cape

Closest Towns: Matatiele

Municipality: Matatiele Local Municipality

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

#### ***4.2.1 Background***

The consultant did not find any heritage sites or features on the proposed development plot. In addition, the consultant also spoke to local pedestrians who were passing by on the R56 during the survey. None of them were aware of any potential heritage sites or graves on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape (Table 3).

#### ***4.2.2 Desktop Paleontology Assessment***

The updated fossil sensitivity map, as provided by the SAHRIS website, shows that the project area has a high paleontological sensitivity (Fig 3). This is also supported by a recent CRM paleontological ground survey of the areas adjacent to the R56 by Dr Gideon Groenewald (Birkholtz 2016). According to Amafa policy the implication is that a systematic paleontological ground survey of the area must be conducted no before the proposed development may proceed. There should also be a protocol of finds.

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

### **5.1 Field Rating**

Not applicable as no heritage sites are known to occur on the proposed development plot (Tables 2 & 3).

**Table 2. 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

**Table 3. Evaluation and statement of significance.**

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.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

No heritage sites, features or graves occur at or near environs of the proposed development plot. However, the paleontological desktop evaluation indicates that a systematic paleontological ground survey will be required before any development may proceed. There must also be a protocol of finds. It is important to take note of the Heritage Act that requires that any exposing of graves and archaeological and historical residues as well as fossils should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

## 7 MAPS AND FIGURES

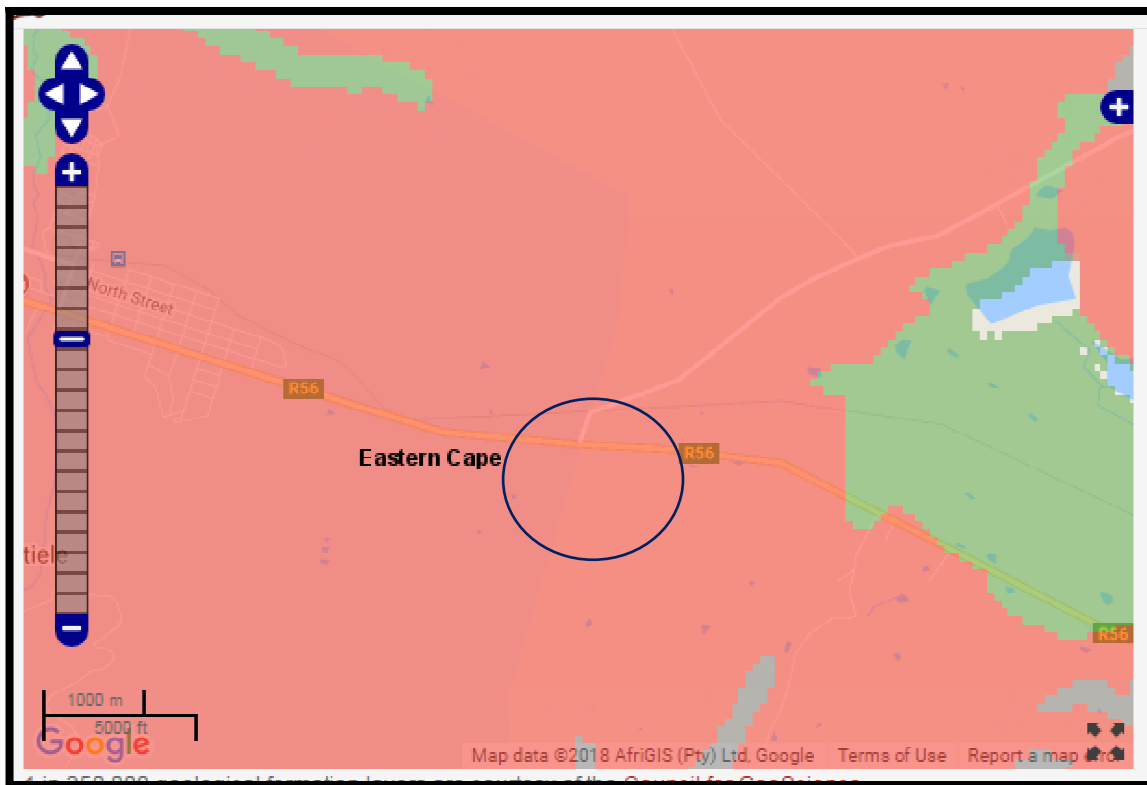


**Figure 1. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of the proposed Matatiele Truck Stop (red polygon) approximately 1.6 km to the west of Matatiele on the R56.**





**Figure 2. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of a known archaeological site approximately 700m to the west of the footprint (Source: Birkholtz 2016).**



Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

**Figure 3. Fossil Sensitivity Map of the project area: The location of the proposed development site is indicated by the black polygon. A field assessment by a qualified palaeontologist will be required as well as a protocol of finds (Source: SAHRIS website).**



**Figure 4. Proposed Matatiele Truck Stop. Photograph taken from the middle of the development plot looking north east (Photograph: Ashley Rainier).**



**Figure 5. Proposed Matatiele Truck Stop. Photograph taken from the western tip of the development plot looking north east (Photograph: Ashley Rainier).**

## 8 REFERENCES

Birkholtz, P. 2016. *Matatiele Road Rehabilitation*. Heritage Impact Assessment Report. PGS Heritage and Grave Relocation Consultants for Gibb (Pty)Ltd. 6 June 2016.

Bryant, A. T. 1965. *Olden times in Zululand and Natal*. Cape Town: C. Struik.

Bulpin, T.V. 1966. *Natal and the Zulu Country*. Cape Town: Books of Africa.

Derwent, S. 2006. *KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Sites: A Guide to Some Great Places*. David Phillips: Cape Town

Fourie, W. 2007. *Heritage Impact Assessment of the Augmentation and Extension of the Wartburg Bulk Water System, KwaZulu-Natal*. Report handed to Amafa and published on the SAHRIS website.

Guy, J. 2013. *Theophilus Shepstone and the Forging of Natal*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. Pietermaritzburg.

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.

Lugg, H.C. 1949. *Historic Natal and Zululand*. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter and Shooter.

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.

Mazel, A. The Stone Ages. In Duminy, A and Guest, B. 1989. *Natal and Zululand: from Earliest Times to 1910. A New History*. Pg. 1-27. University of Natal Press. Pietermaritzburg.

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

Prins, F E. 2012. *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Of The Proposed Establishment Of Four New Broilerbreeder Houses On Waterval East Farm, Located On Portion 31 Of The Waterval No. 987, And One New Rearing House On Waterval Farm, Located On Portion 10 Of The Waterval No. 987, Wartburg, KwaZulu-Natal*. Green Door Environmental Consultants. Report handed to Amafa and published on the SAHRIS website.

SAHRA, 2005. *Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and the Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports, Draft version 1.4*.