

CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED GATERIDGE ABATTOIR CAMPERDOWN, KWAZULU-NATAL.



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.
FOR: GREEN DOOR ENVIRONMENTAL

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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 first phase cultural heritage survey of the proposed Gateridge Abattoir near Camperdown located no heritage or archaeological sites on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. The first phase paleontological desktop assessment indicate that the project area has a moderate fossil sensitivity. A desktop assessment by a qualified palaeontologist will be required before development may proceed. Attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal and Amafa Heritage Institute Act (No 5 of 2018) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological, historical, and fossil 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) for Green Door
Type of development:	Establishment of an abattoir at Gateridge Farm
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
Terms of reference	To carry out a First Phase Heritage Impact Assessment (including a Phase One Desktop Paleontological 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 and Amafa Heritage Institute Act (No 5 of 2018).

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The project area is situated approximately 4 km to the south of Camperdown in a rural area dominated by commercial farming activities (Figs 1, 2 & 6). The proposed development plot covers an area of approximately 523m x 840m (Fig 3). The GPS coordinates for the centre of the proposed development plot are S 29 °45' 25.53" E 30° 32' 20.55" (Figs 2 & 3). The area is surrounded by commercial farms. There are some outbuildings and structures associated with farm labour on the plot (Fig 8). Orchards are situated in the northern and western sections of the plot (Fig 7).

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Camperdown area, incorporating the study area, is relatively well covered by archaeological surveys conducted by members of the then Natal Museum in the 1960's and 1970's. Large areas adjacent to the R603 has also been surveyed by Heritage Consultants in the last 4 years (Van Schalkwyk & Wahl 2011, 2011; Prins 2012a, 2012b). The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the area contains mostly Early Stone Age material, i.e. eighteen sites. Most of these sites are situated close to water, such as the Umngeni River, in open air context. Seven sites contain material indicative of the transition between Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age period. One Later Stone Age site is known from the area and one Later Iron Age Site. However, a large number of Early Iron Age sites, i.e. twenty, have been located by members of the then Natal Museum in the Mngeni Valley to the north of the project area. Early Iron Age sites have also been located adjacent to the Mlazi River close to the project area (Fig 4). Various buildings and farmsteads belonging to the Victorian and Edwardian periods occur in the area. Some of the old trading store buildings and churches in the adjacent Camperdown area are also older than 60 years. These would also be protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur within the greater Camperdown 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, such as the Umngeni River, 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 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 settled adjacent to the Umngeni River in the greater Camperdown 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), Ndongondwane (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 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). The larger Umngeni Valley area was inhabited by various Nguni-speaking groups such as the Dlanyawo, Nyavu and Njilo, in the beginning of the 19th century (Bryant 1965; Wright 1988). With the exception of the Nyavu who remained fiercely independent most of these communities were incorporated into the Zulu Kingdom of Shaka in the 1820's. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 almost all 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 heritage surveys and heritage site data covering the project area. None of the previous studies in the area (Prins 2015, 2020) covers the actual footprint. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Albert Falls area 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 24 April 2021. Particular

attention was focused on the occurrence of potential grave sites and other heritage resources on the footprint.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

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 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

4.1 Guidance from Desktop Study (Assumptions and Limitations)

- The desktop study indicates that Stone Age Sites of all periods and traditions may occur in the project area.
- Middle Stone Age tools have been found in dongas and erosion gullies at various locales in the greater Camperdown area. These sites are usually out of context and of little research value. Middle Stone Age deposits often occur in deep cave deposits throughout KwaZulu-Natal (including the greater Camperdown area). Again no erosion gullies or suitable rocky outcrops that may harbour shelters with deep cave deposits occur in the project area.
- Later Stone Age sites are more prolific in the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and also in the foothills of the Drakensberg to the west. Although Later Stone

Age sites have are known from the greater Camperdown area they are rather scarce. In addition, there are no suitable rocky outcrops in the actual project area that may harbour shelters with Later Stone Age deposits.

- 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. .
- Later Iron Age sites may occur in the project area. These sites were occupied by the ancestors of the first Nguni-speaking agriculturists as well as their descendants who settled in KwaZulu-Natal. In some areas in KwaZulu-Natal, such as at Estcourt, Ladysmith and Nqutu. These early agriculturists built with stone and as a result such sites have a high archaeological visibility. However, in other areas such as those regions around Umbumbulo, to the immediate south of the project area, these agriculturists built with wattle and daub and the archaeological site visibility is far more compromised. Often sites are only located with reference to historical or oral data.
- Historical buildings, structures and farmsteads do occur scattered throughout the greater Camperdown and Eston areas. Historical era buildings and structures could occur at or near the project area.

5 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

5.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Towns: Camperdown

5.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The greater project area is dominated by commercial farms with cultivated fields. Various Chicken farms occur on the greater area. Although existing data bases indicate the presence of known heritage sites throughout the greater Camperdown area none are situated on the proposed development plot (Fig 4). Although graves, older than 60 years old, occur in the general area none are situated on the actual footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. The area specifically

demarcated for the proposed abattoir has also been intensively surveyed by foot (Figs 3, 9 & 10). No archaeological or heritage sites were observed.

5.2.1 Stakeholder Consultation

The consultant spoke to local residents whilst conducting the field survey. None had knowledge of any graves or other heritage features within the greater project area.

5.2.2 Desktop Palaeontology Assessment

The updated fossil sensitivity map, as provided by the SAHRIS website, shows that the project area is of moderate paleontological sensitivity (Fig 5). According to Amafa policy the implication is that a comprehensive paleontological desktop study will be required before the proposed development may proceed. This study will have to be conducted by an Amafa accredited palaeontologist

Table 2. 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.	None.
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.	None.
7.	Social significance – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	None.
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.

6 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

6.1 Field Rating

Not applicable (Table 3) as no heritage sites occur on or near the footprint.

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

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Gateridge Abattoir may proceed from a general heritage perspective (excluding palaeontology) as no heritage sites or features are threatened by the proposed development.

However, according to the SAHRIS fossil sensitivity map the project area falls within a zone of moderate paleontological sensitivity. A comprehensive desktop assessment by an Amafa accredited palaeontologist must be conducted before any development may proceed.

It should also be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal and Amafa Research Institute Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues, as well as fossils, should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

8 MAPS AND FIGURES



Figure 1. 1:50 000 Topographical Map showing the location of the Project Area near Camperdown.



Figure 2. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of Gateridge Farm.

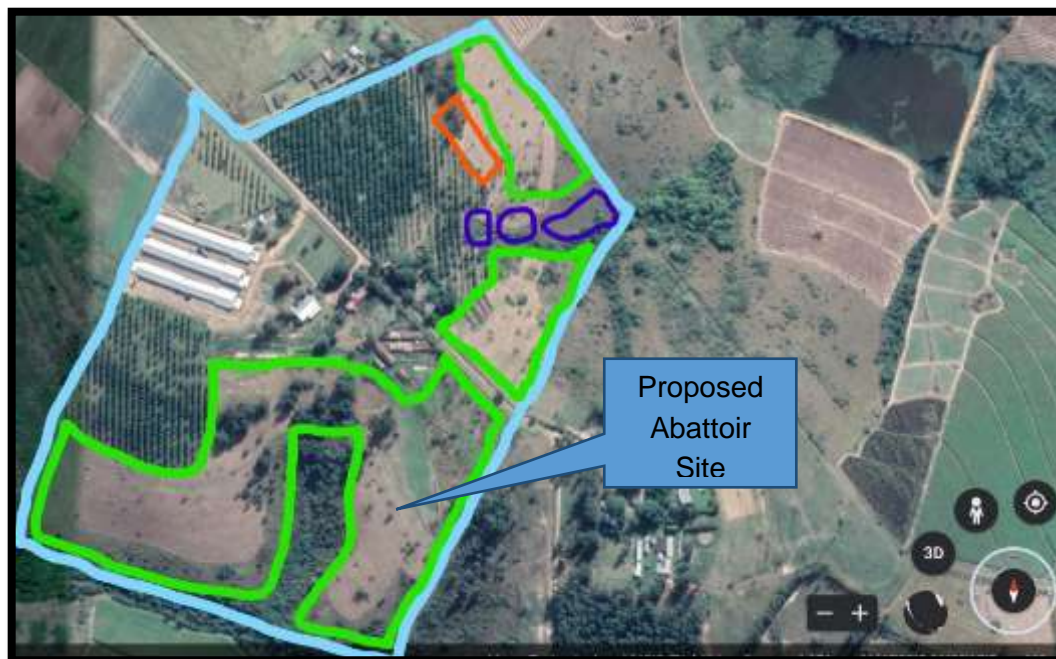


Figure 3. Proposed Abattoir Site



Figure 4. Google Earth imagery showing the location of the known archaeological sites (purple markers) in the greater Camperdown area.



1 in 250 000 geological formation layers are courtesy of the Council for GeoScience
 For more information, go to [How to Use the Palaeontological \(fossil\) Sensitivity Map](#)

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 5. SAHRIS Fossil Sensitivity Map of the project area (demarcated by the black polygon). The green background colour indicates that the area has a moderate paleontological sensitivity. A desktop study by a qualified palaeontologist will be required before development may proceed.



Figure 6. Entrance to Gateridge Farm.



Figure 7. Orchard at Gateridge Farm.



Figure 8. All the existing buildings at Gateridge farm are younger than 60 years old and has no heritage value.



Figure 9. The proposed site for the envisioned Abattoir. No archaeological or heritage sites occur on the footprint.



Figure 10. Another view on the area proposed for the envisioned Abattoir. No archaeological or heritage sites occur on the footprint.

9 REFERENCES

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