

**A FIRST PHASE HERITAGE IMPACT
ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
BRAKE VILLAGE SHRI SIVA SOOBAMANAIR
ALAYAM TEMPLE, ERF 5478, TONGAAT
EXTENSION 48, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

For: Sivest

**Frans Prins
MA (Archaeology)
P.O. Box 947
Howick
3290**

activeheritage@gmail.com

Fax: 0867636380

www.activeheritage.webs.com

28 May 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT	1
2	BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY	4
2.1	Methodology	4
2.2	Restrictions encountered during the survey	4
2.2.1	Visibility	4
2.2.2	Disturbance	4
2.3	Details of equipment used in the survey	4
3	DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED	5
3.1	Locational data	5
3.2	Description of the general area surveyed	5
3.3	Archaeological sites identified	5
4	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)	5
4.1	Field Rating	5
5	CONCLUSIONS	6
6	MAPS AND FIGURES	7
7	REFERENCES	12

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Background information	1
Table 2.	Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)	5

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 survey of the proposed expansion of Brake Village Shri Siva Soobramaniam Alayam Temple, Erf 5478 of Tongaat Extension 48 identified no heritage sites or features on the area earmarked for further development and expansion. There is no archaeological reason why the proposed development may not proceed as planned. However, the existing temple complex contains features that are older than 60 years and great care must be taken not to damage or compromise the temple. Attention is also 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 Sivest
Type of development:	The Brake Village SSS Alayam is proposing the expansion of the current temple in the Brake Village area in Tongaat. The proposed site where the expansion will take place is Erf 5478 of Tongaat Extension 48. The Brake Village SSS Alayam proposes new buildings on the site in addition to the existing buildings (Fig 3)
Rezoning or subdivision:	Not applicable
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 located at approximately 29° 34' 31.67" S 31° 07' 13.42" E. It is situated adjacent the M43 (Watson Highway) at Tongaat Extension between the N2 and R102 (Figs 1 & 2). The site covers an area of approximately 90m x 70m. A portion of the site consists of four interlinking buildings, the present Shri Siva Subramaniam (SSS) Alayan Temple (Figs 4 - 6). The temple site covers an area of

approximately 45m x45m. The expansion is planned into the adjacent area that is not occupied by any buildings (Figs 2 & 3)

BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Tongaat area has been relatively well surveyed for archaeological heritage sites by the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, post-graduate students from the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand, and subsequently by private heritage consultants in the last few years.

The available evidence, as captured in the Amafa and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that this area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. Eighty heritage sites occur within this area. These range from Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Later Stone Age to Early Iron Age, Middle and Later Iron Age sites as well as historical sites relating to the rise of the Zulu Kingdom and the subsequent colonial period. One notable Middle Stone Age site, i.e. Segubudu near Stanger have been excavated in the last two decades by the University of the Witwatersrand and yielded impressive archaeological stratigraphies relating to the period associated with the origins of anatomically modern people (Mitchell 2002). The available data base also indicates two archaeological sites situated adjacent to the coast in the near vicinity of the project area. These include two midden sites, containing Later Stone Age and Later Iron Age remains (Fig 2). One of these has been excavated by archaeologists in the past (Anderson 1999).

Around 1 700 years ago an initial wave of Early Iron Age People settled along the inland foot of the sand dunes on sandy but humus rich soils which would have ensured good crops for the first year or two after they had been cleared. These early agro-pastoralists produced a characteristic pottery style known as Matola. The Matola people also exploited the wild plant and animal resources of the forest and adjacent sea-shore. The communities seems to been small groups of perhaps a few dozen slash-and burn cultivators, moving into a landscape sparsely inhabited by Later Stone Age San hunter-gatherers.

By 1500 years ago another wave of Iron Age migrants entered the area. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as “Msuluzi” (AD 500-700), Ndondondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). Three sites belonging to these periods occur along the banks of the Tugela River to the immediate north of the project area. Some of these, such as the Ndondondwane and Mamba sites have been excavated by archaeologists (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462). Some Early Iron Age potsherds have been located by archaeologists from the then Natal Museum closer to Maphumulo but these sites have not been thoroughly investigated.

The greater Tongaat area, is also intimately associated with the rise of the Zulu Kingdom of Shaka in the early 1820's. King Shaka had his capital kwaDukuza to the immediate north of Tongaat and it was here where he was murdered by his half brothers Dingane and Mhlangane. The exact spot of Shaka's death is thought to be where an old mahogany tree now grows in the grounds of the Stanger/KwaDukuza municipal offices. The grain pit where Dingane is thought to have secretly buried Shaka is marked by a large rock in the King Shaka Memorial Garden in the town. The Zulu people erected this memorial during the reign of King Solomon (1913-1932). An interpretative centre has since been added. Also in Stanger near King Shaka's memorial, is a small river known as Shaka's spring. From here, unpolluted water was collected for the king's use. Nearby on the Imbozamo River, was Shaka's Bathing Pool and Shaka's Cave where he would rest after swimming. Not much further off is the famous Execution Cliff where executions were carried out on Shaka's orders (Derwent 2006). The battle of Ndondakusuka, which saw the rise of power of king Cetshwayo in 1856, took place near the mouth of the Tugela River to the immediate north east of the study area. According to oral traditions the area in the immediate vicinity of Road P712 was used by Shaka for hunting purposes. The local Isithunda Mountain that is visible in the distance from Road P711 has living heritage status as it is associated with the traditional first planting of the seed ceremonies and rainmaking.

The colonial history of the area starts around 1820 when early English ivory traders established themselves at Port Natal (Durban). Dutch descendants (i.e. Voortrekkers) moved into the area soon after 1834 and established a short lived Boer republic called Natalia. However, by 1845 Natal became a British colony. In 1860 the British authorities imported indentured labourers from India to work on the expanding sugar cane plantations in the then colony of Natal. In 1879 Zulu-land was invaded by British forces and the area annexed soon thereafter. Colonial buildings dating from the later 19th century as well as subsequent periods abound in the greater Stanger and Tongaat areas. These, like the archaeological resources of the province, are also protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2003).

History of Brake Village Sri Siva Soobramaniam Alayam

The Brake Village Sri Siva Soobramaniam is a Hindu Temple and Monument to the indentured Indian labourers that came to South Africa in 1860. Many of these indentured labourers were followers of the Hindu religion. Their religious beliefs gave them strength and vision to survive in a new and often hostile country. Although families had their own personal home shrines they lacked public venues of worship. This was also the dilemma faced by the Indian community established at "Brake Barracks" by the Tongaat Sugar Company. Most of the workers housed here worked as "Brake Boys" on the locomotives transporting sugar cane from the various sections to the Sugar Mill, hence the name "Brake Barracks". After protracted negotiations by the elders of the community with the management of the Tongaat Sugar Company a

wood and iron structure was erected in 1909. The first Kavady Festival also took place during that year. Initially built to cater for the community at Brake Village, the temple soon became firmly established in the lives of the people of the greater Tongaat and surrounding areas.

Today the Kavady Festival hosted annually in praise of Lord Muruga is acknowledged as the largest of its kind on the African continent. Tens of thousands of devotees from all over South Africa converge on the temple precinct on their annual pilgrimage. The temple has a large following and in addition to the kavady festival, hosts a full calendar of prayer events during the course of each year (www.shaivam.org/siddhanta/toi_southafrica.htm).

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted to obtain information on previous heritage surveys in the project area. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the greater Tongaat area was also consulted.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted.

2.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

2.2.1 Visibility

Archaeological site visibility was good.

2.2.2 Disturbance

There is no disturbance of any heritage sites or features

2.3 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.

3 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

3.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Municipality: Ethekeweni Municipality

Town: Tongaat

3.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The footprint covers an area of approximately 45m x 65m which includes the temple complex and adjacent lawn (Figs 2 & 6). The temple complex consist of four interlinking buildings. These cover an area of approximately 40m x 40m (Fig 4). There is no physical evidence of the initial structure that was erected in 1909. However, the great hall contains architectural features that suggests that it was built in the 1920's or 1930's (Fig 5). It is therefore older than 60 years and is protected by heritage legislation. This building covers an area of approximately 10m X 30m. The GPS coordinates for this feature is: 29° 34' 32.48" S 31° 07' 13.28" E. It appears that the other buildings were all added at a later stage and that they are younger than 60 years.

A small stream occurs adjacent to the footprint on its western and northern borders. Exotic pine and bluegum trees were planted all along the stream bank and these areas are also used for prayer by Hindu devotees (Fig 7). Although located outside of the footprint it is also part of the larger complex and should be evaluated as such.

3.3 Archaeological sites identified

No prehistoric archaeological sites were located on the remainder of the footprint during the ground survey.

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

4.1 Field Rating

According to the available evidence the first structure on the footprint was already erected in 1909. Although this structure is not visible anymore some of the existing features of the temple complex most certainly predate the 1950 and it is therefore protected by heritage legislation. The tentative rating of the temple complex is Local Grade 111A (Table 2) but it could have higher rating pending further evaluation by a

built heritage specialist. Possible mitigation could only be considered after a systematic investigation during a Second Phase 2 Heritage Impact Assessment. However, the existing temple complex will not be compromised as the proposed development and expansion does not include pre-existing buildings

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

5 CONCLUSIONS

- No prehistoric archaeological sites or other heritage features were located on the footprint, and the area earmarked for further expansion of the existing facility, during the survey.
- However, the existing temple complex contain features that are older than 60 years. It is therefore protected by heritage legislation.
- Being a site of worship the greater temple complex also has living heritage values, these are also protected by heritage legislation.
- The proposed development may proceed from a heritage point of view. However, the existing temple complex may not be changed or altered before the building has not been evaluated by a built heritage specialist as part of a Second Phase Heritage Impact Assessment.
- 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.

6 MAPS AND FIGURES

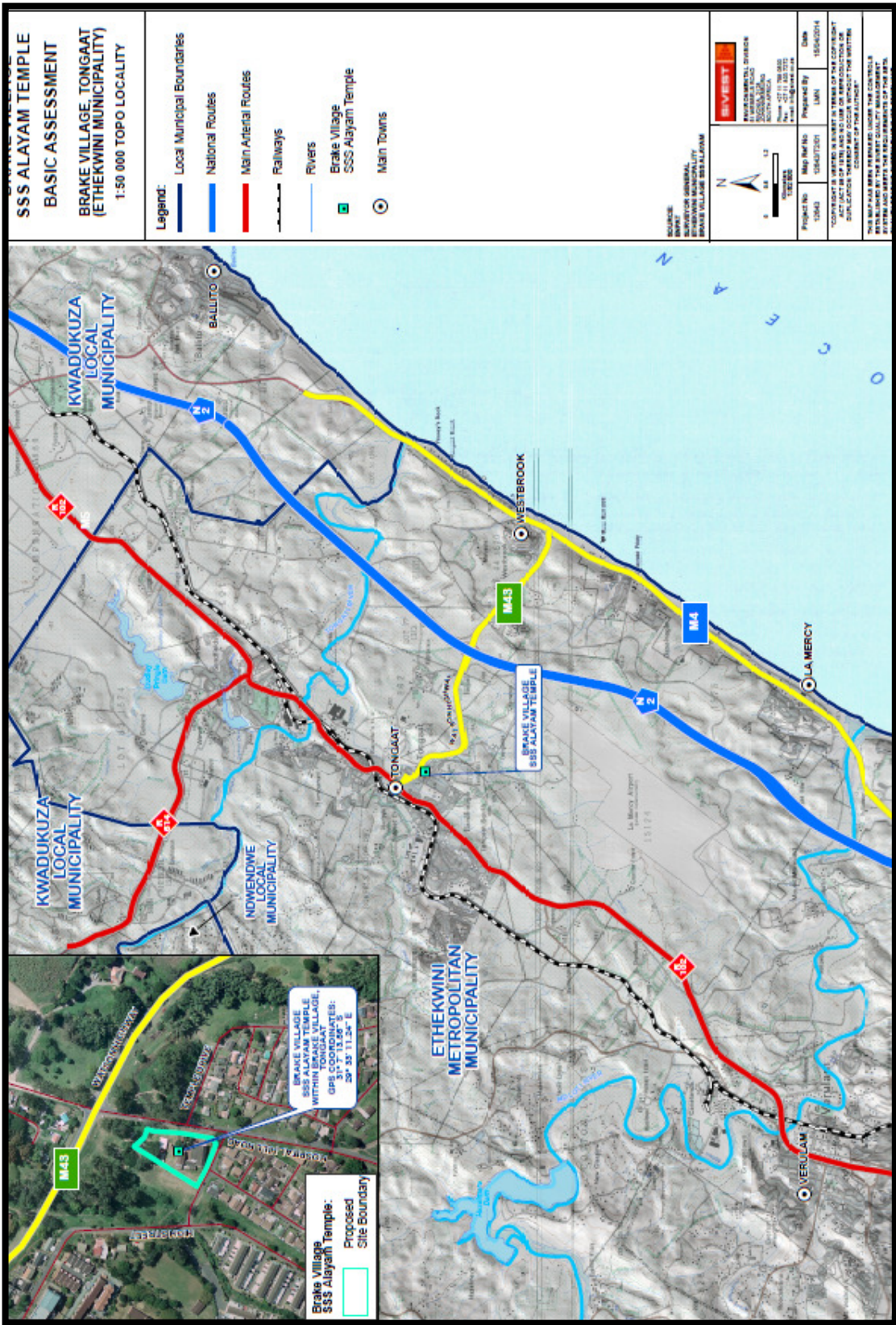


Figure 1. Map showing the locality of the project area (Source: Sivest).



Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing the location of the footprint (Source: Sivest)



Figure 3. Artist impression of the newly proposed temple complex (photograph taken on display board at the Site).



Figure 4. Front view of the Brake Village Shri Siva Subramanian Alayan Temple.



Figure 5. Hall with architectural features suggesting an age of more than 60 years old. This building forms the left flank of the temple complex.



Figure 6. The open areas surrounding the temple complex yielded no archaeological sites or features.



Figure 7. Small stream on the western and northern border of the footprint. Although not part of the development earmarked for expansion it nevertheless form part of the greater temple complex. The area is also used for worship.

7 REFERENCES

Anderson, G. 1999. *Heritage Impact Assessment and Excavation of the Westbrook, Beach Midden*. Unpublished Report.

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

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

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*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

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

