

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
BURLINGTON HOUSING PROJECT**

**FOR KERRY SEPPINGS ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS**

DATE: MAY 2009

By Gavin Anderson

**Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource
Management**

PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Phone/fax: 035-7531785 Fax: 0865445631

cell: 0836585362



TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION.....3
METHOD3
 Defining significance4
RESULTS8
 BUR018
 BUR029
MANAGEMENT PLAN10
CONCLUSION10
APPENDIX A.....12
 SITE RECORD FORMS12
APPENDIX B15
 HISTORICAL ARCHITECT REPORT15

TABLE OF FIGURES

FIG. 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED BURLINGTON DEVELOPMENT6
FIG. 2: DEVELOPMENT NODES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA.....7

INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Kerry Seppings Environmental Management Specialists to undertake a heritage survey of the proposed Burlington low cost housing development. A site visit was undertaken May 2009, and I surveyed the area during the site visit.

The area is located ~13km southwest of Durban, and between Chatsworth and Queensburgh (fig. 1). There are two small areas demarcated for development (fig. 2). Two heritage sites were recorded: one in each node.

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases from both Umlando and the Natal Museum. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal. This database does; however, tend to be restricted to archaeological and palaeontological sites. Consulting with the relevant authorities will also cover known battlefields and historical sites. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) consists of a foot survey where the selected area was covered. The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan. The main problem with the survey was the poor archaeological visibility.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and

these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

1.1. Organic remains:

1.1.1. Faunal

1.1.2. Botanical

1.2. Rock art

1.3. Walling

1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit

1.5. Features:

1.5.1. Ash Features

1.5.2. Graves

1.5.3. Middens

1.5.4. Cattle byres

1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

2.1. Internal housing arrangements

2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns

2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?
- 5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

- 6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

- 7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?
- 7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?
- 7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

- 8.1. Palaeontological sites
- 8.2. Historical buildings
- 8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites
- 8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.5. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

FIG. 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED BURLINGTON DEVELOPMENT

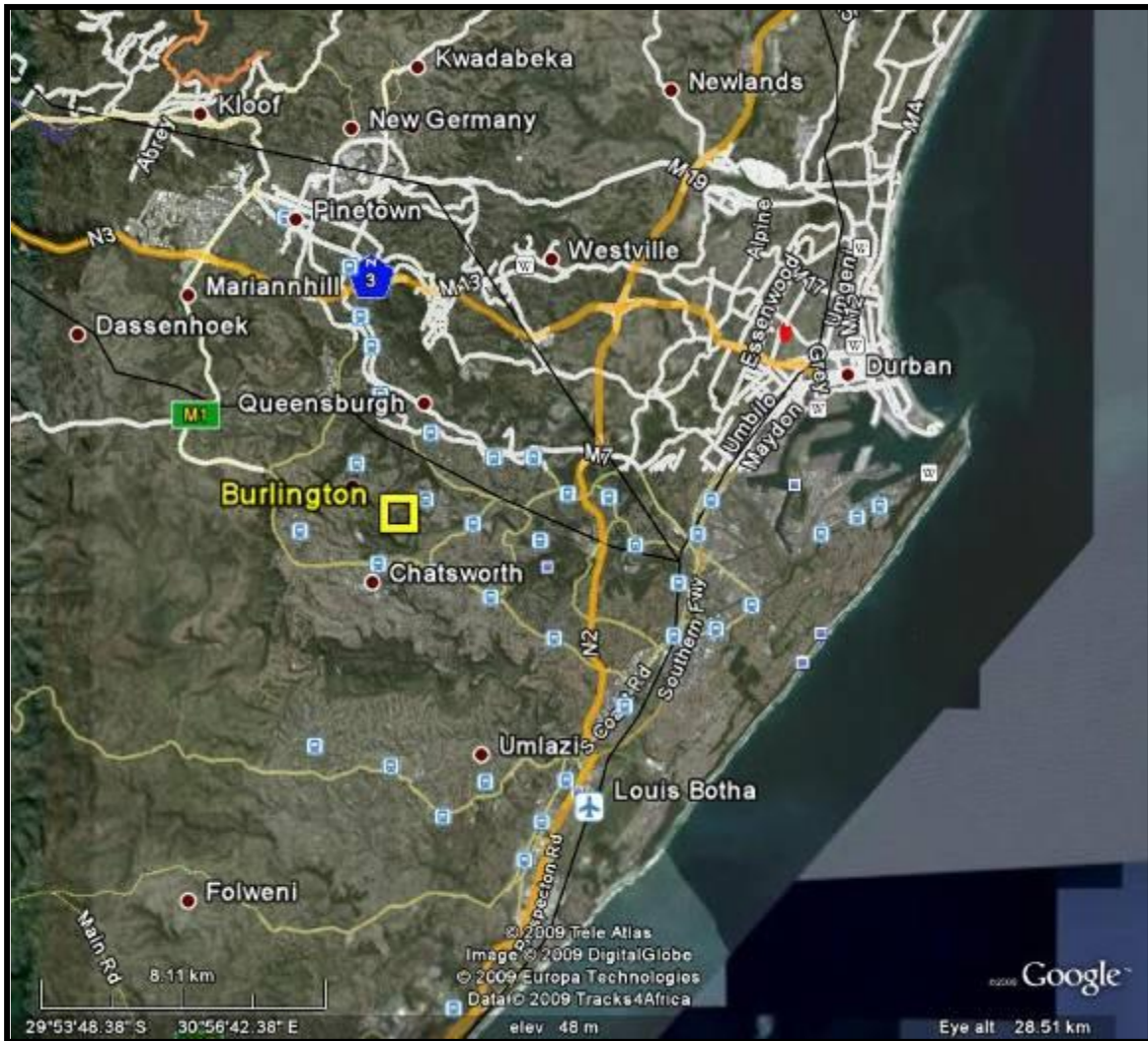
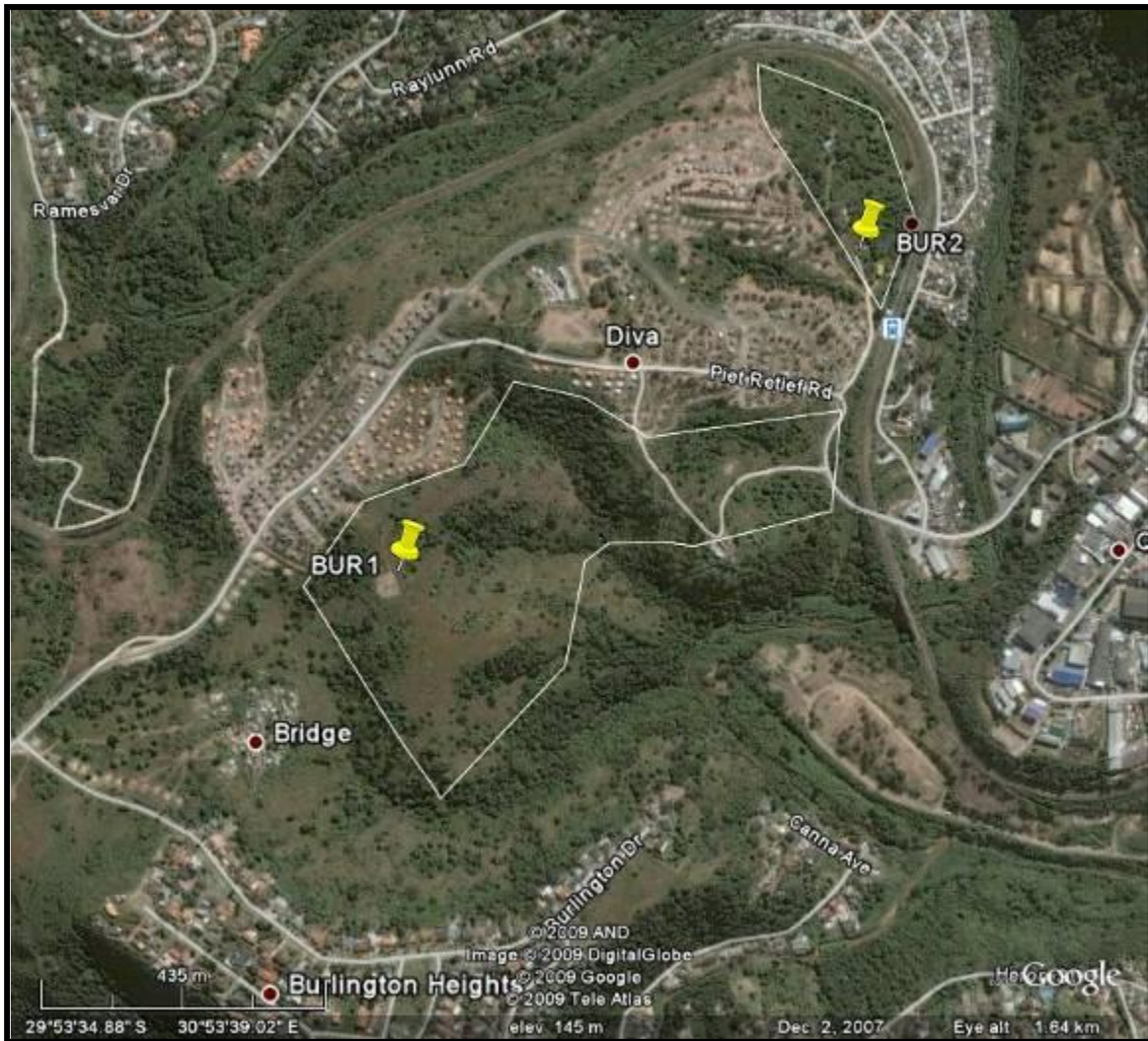


FIG. 2: DEVELOPMENT NODES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA¹



¹ Development nodes in white polygon

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

RESULTS

Two sites were recorded during the survey. None of the sites has high significance.

BUR01

BUR01 occurs on the top of a hill in a relatively undisturbed area. The site is a multicomponent site with four different types of human occupations:

1. Middle Stone Age (MSA)
2. Late Iron Age (LIA)
3. Recent past
4. Religious

The MSA is represented by a scatter of flakes across the hill. The flakes appear to be standard flakes and have little value.

The LIA material consists of a scatter of pottery sherds over the entire hill. Only one fragment was decorated with lip notching, suggesting that the material does date to the LIA. There was no definitive archaeological deposit for this occupation. The LIA component is probably that of several houses with a cattle byre. This may contain human graves below the surface – no cairns were observed, although the grass was dense.

The recent past site is a single feature that consists of the foundations of a house. The foundations included modern bricks and concrete.

The religious component of the site consists of a Shembe circle. The circle appears to predate 2007 (seen in the Google Earth image).

Significance: Most of the heritage component of this site is of low significance, with the exception of the Shembe Circle. This probably has significance to the people that use the site for religious purposes.

Mitigation: No direct mitigation is required for the archaeological material. The development should discuss the Shembe Circle with the relevant people. The LIA component appears to occur over the entire hill and may represent a settlement. If this is the case, then there may be human graves below the surface. The development should have an ECO on site during construction and they should be report any bones (animal or human) to an archaeologist who can then assess them. If definitive human remains are located, the development in that specific area will need to stop and the remains they will need to be excavated

BUR02

BUR02 is a built structure that is probably older than 60 years. D. Whelan undertook a desktop analysis of the structure from photographs (see Appendix B for the full report). The structure is a made from a wood and iron kit building that was most widely used from the late 19th to the 20th century. The wooden finial suggests a late Victorian date to the structure.

Significance: The building is of low significance.

Mitigation: The building would require a formal inspection if it is to be destroyed to assess its proper significance and status. A permit for its damage, alteration or destruction will be required from Amafa KZN.

/

MANAGEMENT PLAN

BUR01 will require on site monitoring during construction phase. This will be to ensure that no human remains may occur underneath the surface. Several old *Erythrena spp.* also occur on the hill of BUR01. These trees have been historically associated with human remains where one is planted on a grave. If these trees are removed for the development then the removal needs to be monitored for human remains. An archaeologist should be on stand-by if human remains are observed and an emergency permit will need to be obtained from Amafa KZN. If any bones (human or animal) are observed a picture can be sent to the archaeologist for immediate comment. The archaeologists should be informed of the dates of the construction activity. A permit for the damage/destruction of this site will be required.

The Built Environment department of Amafa KZN will need to be approached regarding the wood-tin house at BUR02. While the house is of low significance, it is probably older than 60 years and will need a permit for its destruction, or alteration. This will require a site visit.

CONCLUSION

A heritage survey of the proposed Burlington housing project was undertaken in May 2009. The survey located two sites that are of low significance. Permits for both sites will be required: one archaeological permit and the other a built environment permit. These permits are available from Amafa KZN and the internet.

The main impact on the two sites will be low cost housing and related infrastructures such as water, sewerage and electrification. The significance of the impact on the heritage sites is low, even though BUR02 needs to be assessed. There is no objection to the continuation of the development from a

heritage aspect. Even if BUR02 is assessed as having some significance, it can be relocated. This will need to occur with the owner of the house's permission.

All heritage sites are protected by the KZN Heritage Act of 1997. This Act intends to protect the various types of heritage sites from development. All developments tend to impact on heritage resources to some degree. With proper mitigation and management this impact can be lessened.

APPENDIX A

SITE RECORD FORMS

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age: MSA
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age X
Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: BUR01

Map Reference: 29°53'37.16"S 30°53'29.13"E (alt = 198 m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From Durban drive south along N2. Take the Higginson highway (M1) and turn right and over the freeway. Continue along M1 up to the Shallcross T-Junction. Take Shallcross Rd, and continue up the hill. Turn left into Burlington Dr. At Y-junction turn left into Piet Retief Rd. Continue for 460m and turn right up the short road to the site.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Surface,
Merits conservation: No
Threats: yes
What threats: Possible development

RECORDING:

Graphic record: Digital
Digital pictures:

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant:

Name: Gavin Anderson
Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901
Date: 05/05/2009
Owner: State
References:

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND ARTEFACTUAL CONTENT.

The MSA is represented by a scatter of flakes across the hill. The flakes appear to be standard flakes and have little value.

The LIA material consists of a scatter of pottery sherds over the entire hill. Only one fragment was decorated with lip notching, suggesting that the material does date to the LIA. There was no definitive archaeological deposit for this occupation. The LIA component is probably that of several houses with a cattle byre. This may contain human graves below the surface – no cairns were observed, although the grass was dense.

The recent past site is a single feature that consists of the foundations of a house. The foundations included modern bricks and concrete.

The religious component of the site consists of a Shembe circle. The circle appears to predate 2007 (seen in the Google Earth image).

APPENDIX B

HISTORICAL ARCHITECT REPORT

impacts



archaic consulting

architecture: research: conservation: anthropology:
consulting

debbie whelan
po box 21834
mayors walk
3208

tel: 033 3442522
fax: 033 3443122
cell: 083236 0410
email: debbie@archaic.co.za

Brief Assessment of the wood-and-iron house at Burlington, Chatsworth, KwaZulu-Natal

Deborah Whelan of Archaic Consulting was requested by Gavin Anderson of Umlando Cultural Heritage and Tourism to briefly assess the structure situated at Burlington, behind the station at Chatsworth, at co-ordinates 29°53'21.37"S 30°53'55.02"E with regards to its possible age and heritage value. Burlington, it must be noted, is a high density, low income area.

The methodology employed was assessment of the two enclosed photographs, Fig 1 and Fig 2, submitted to Archaic Consulting to establish an initial response with respect to the structure.



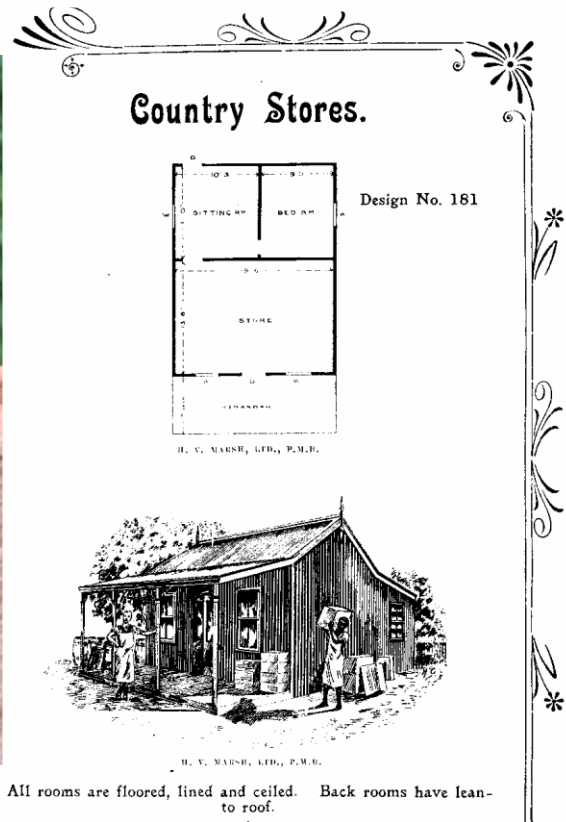
Fig 1: Wood-and-iron structure from the rear.

The likelihood of this structure being over 60 years old is great. This is firstly as the core of the structure is an example of wood-and-iron kit buildings, popular from the last decades of the nineteenth century, and well into the twentieth. Wood-and-iron buildings were a cheap and popular solution to immediate shelter, and popular amongst Indian and European settlers. HV Marsh in Pietermaritzburg was a purveyor of such structures, which were ordered out of a catalogue and then delivered in parts. Fig 3 shows an example of a wood-and-iron catalogue building from the 1915 Marsh Catalogue. Assistance in dating the building is lent by the existence of a finial. (see Fig 2) These were typical of the style, material and period, particularly of Late Victorian Architecture.

Fig 2 (left): Finial on roof of structure.



Fig 3: (right) One of five different prefabricated and catalogue 'country' store options presented by the Pietermaritzburg- based HV Marsh. (Marsh: 1915)



The following is noted. Given that the structure is over 60 years old, application for its demolition, alteration or addition should be made to the Built Environment section of *Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali*.

- The building has been much altered and lack of maintenance has taken its toll on a building solution that requires maintenance in this climate. It has also been subject to building accretions which are not complimentary, and detract from its original simplicity.
- The structure is situated in an environment which is not likely to be conducive to practical conservation and it is suspected that both the demographics of the area and the landscape/ context have changed dramatically from its situation in the past.
- Any connotations with historic figures and events is beyond the scope of this initial study.

Recommendations:

That adaptive reuse be considered as an option if there is a practical possibility, but that the siting, position, condition and current format make this difficult, and that demolition could be considered if required. It is suggested that a member of Amafa's Built Environment Section visit the site prior to any demolition requests being considered to establish the possibility of reuse of materials.

References: Kearney, B. 1973. *Architecture in Natal 1824-1893*. Cape Town: Balkema
 Marsh, H.V. c1915. *Illustrated Catalogue of Wood and Iron Buildings* (4th ed). Pietermaritzburg: P Davis and Sons

Radford, D. 1997. *The Maritzburg Cottage- A study of its architecture and context from 1850 to 1910*. Cape Town: National Monuments Council