FIRST PHASE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR ERF 186, COFIMVABA, EASTERN CAPE



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

For: USK Consulting

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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 (2010).
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

An archaeological survey of Erf 186, Cofimvaba in the Eastern Cape Province identified no heritage sites. There is no archaeological reason why development may not proceed as planned. However, attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) 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

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for USK Consulting	
Background to the study	USK Consulting Pty (Ltd) was appointed by Intsika Yethu Local Municipality to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a proposed mixed use human settlement development, in terms of the regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998). Active Heritage cc was sub- consulted by USK Consulting Pty (Ltd) to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment component of this project.	
Type of development:	The proposed development is a mixed use human settlement which will be comprised of:	
	1. Housing units;	
	2. Roads and associated infrastructure;	
	3. Recreational open space;	
	4. Social amenities (schools, crèches and places of worship);	
	5. Commercial and Business units; and	
	6. Municipal Services units.	
	The proposed mixed use development is located on Erf 186 at Cofimvaba, approximately 78 km east of Butterworth, within the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, Eastern Cape (Figs 1 & 2).	
Rezoning or subdivision:	subdivision	
Terms of reference	To carry out an Heritage Impact Assessment (AIA)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)	
Legislative requirements:		

Table 1. Background information

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The proposed mixed use development is located on Erf 186 at Cofimvaba, approximately 78 km east of Butterworth, within the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, Eastern Cape (Fig 1). The coordinates are 32°1'43.37"S and 27°34'49.99"E.

Land cover within the proposed development area is natural cover comprised of degraded grassland vegetation (Figs 3 & 5). The Cofimvaba River, a perennial watercourse, flows to the east of the proposed development site. Two of its tributaries run parallel with the northern and southern boundaries (Fig 4). The northern tributary of the Cofimvaba River flowed proximate to the north and north-east of Erf 186. Erosion is evident along some of the streams and donga erosion occur in some areas. Four wetlands occur on the property (Fig 5). Within some of the wetlands, excavations were present, presumably representing borrow pits for building purposes.

Current land use within the proposed development area is extensive livestock grazing. Degradation is due to extensive livestock grazing (cows, goats and sheep), access paths and access tracks, which comprise rural land use activities. Alongside the northern tributary, which is located outside of the northern development boundary, brick making activities takes place. Human settlements and rural housing occurs in the western section of Erf 186, however, none of these have any impact on the proposed development area.

1.2. Cultural Heritage legislation

According to Section 3 (2) of the NHRA, the heritage resources of South Africa include:

"a. places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;

b. places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;

- c. historical settlements and townscapes;
- d. landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- e. geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. archaeological and palaeontological sites;

g. graves and burial grounds, including.

ancestral graves;

ii. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;

iii. graves of victims of conflict;

iv. graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;

v. historical graves and cemeteries; and

vi. other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act,

1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);

h. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;

i. movable objects, including objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including

archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;

ii. objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;

iii. ethnographic art and objects;

iv. military objects;

v. objects of decorative or fine art;

vi. objects of scientific or technological interest; and

vii. books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996)."

In terms of section 3 (3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of:

"a. its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;

b. its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;

c. its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;

d. its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;

e. its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;

f. its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical

achievement at a particular period;

g. its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

h. its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and

i. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa."

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The archaeological history of the Province of the Eastern Cape Province dates back to about 2 million years and possibly older, which marks the beginning of the Stone Age. The Stone Age in the Eastern Cape Province was extensively researched by archaeologists attached to the Albany Museum in Grahamstown, the University of Stellenbosch, the then University of Transkei (UNITRA), Fort Hare University and more recently by rock art researchers attached to the Rock Art Research Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand. The Stone Age period has been divided in to three periods namely: Early Stone Age (ESA) dating between 2 million years ago to about 200 000 years ago, Middle Stone Age (MSA) dating between 200 000 years ago to about 30 000 years ago, and the Later Stone Age (LSA) which dates from 30 000 to about 2 000 year ago. The Stone Age period ends around approximately 2 000 years ago when Bantu-speaking Iron Age farmers from the north arrived in southern Africa. The Iron Age is also divided into three periods, namely: Early Iron Age (EIA) dating between AD 200 and AD 900, Middle Iron Age (MIA) dating between AD 900 and AD 1300, Late Iron Age (LIA) dating between AD 1 300 and 1 820.

2.1 Stone Age

2.1.1 Early Stone Age (ESA)

The ESA is considered as the beginning of the stone tool technology. It dates back to over 2 million years ago until 200 000 years ago. This period is characterised by the Oldowan and Acheulean industries. The Oldowan Industry, dating to approximately between over 2 million years and 1.7 million years predates the later Acheulean. The Oldowan Industry consists of very simple, crudely made core tools from which flakes are struck a couple of times. To date, there is no consensus amongst archaeologists as to which hominid species manufactured these artefacts. The Acheulean Industry lasted from about 1.7 million years until 200 thousand years ago. Acheulean tools were

more specialized tools than those of the earlier industry. They were shaped intentionally to carry out specific tasks such as hacking and bashing to remove limbs from animals and marrow from bone. These duties were performed using the large sharp pointed artefacts known as hand axes. Cleavers, with their sharp, flat cutting edges were used to carry out more heavy duty butchering activities (Esterhuysen, 2007). The ESA technology lasted for a very long time, from early to middle Pleistocene and thus seems to have been sufficient to meet the needs of early hominids and their ancestors. Although not identified on the study area, ESA tools occurrence have been reported in other sites in the Transkei (Derricourt 1977: Feely 1987). Apart from stone artefacts, the ESA sites in the Transkei have produced very little as regards other archaeological remains. This has made it difficult to make inferences pointing to economical dynamics of the ESA people in this part of the world (Mazel 1989).

2.1.2 Middle Stone Age (MSA)

The MSA dates to between 200 000 and 30 000 years ago, and is generally associated with the emergence of anatomically modern humans. The MSA technology is therefore believed to have been manufactured by fully modern humans known as Homo sapiens who emerged around 250 000 years ago. While some of the sites belonging to this time period occur in similar contexts as those of ESA, most of the MSA sites are located in rock shelters. Palaeoenvironmental data suggest that the distribution of MSA sites in the high lying Drakensberg and surrounding areas was influenced by the climate conditions, specifically the amount and duration of snow (Carter, 1976). In general, the MSA stone tools are smaller than those of the ESA. Although some MSA tools are made from prepared cores, the majority of MSA flakes are rather irregular and are probably waste material from knapping exercises. A variety of MSA tools include blades, flakes, scrapers and pointed tools that may have been hafted onto shafts or handles and used as spearheads. Between 70 000 and 60 000 years ago new tool types appear known as segments and trapezoids. These tool types are referred to as backed tools from the method of preparation. Residue analyses on the backed tools from South African MSA sites including those in KZN indicate that these tools were certainly used as spear heads and perhaps even arrow points (Wadley, 2007). Derricourt (1977) reported a few MSA sites in the Transkei and some sites investigated by Opperman (1987) in the 1970's and 1980's occur near Maclear directly to the north east of the project area.

2.1.3 Late Stone Age (LSA)

Compared to the earlier MSA and ESA, more is known about the LSA which dates from around 30 000 to 2 000 (possibly later) years ago. This is because LSA sites are more recent than ESA and MSA sites and therefore achieve better preservation of a greater variety of organic archaeological material. The Later Stone Age is usually associated with the San (Bushmen) or their direct ancestors. The tools during this period were even smaller and more diverse than those of the preceding Middle Stone Age period. LSA tool technology is observed to display rapid stylistic change compared to the slower pace in the MSA. The rapidity is more evident during the last 10 000 years. The LSA tool sequence includes informal small blade tradition from about 22 000 - 12 000 years ago, a scraper and adze-rich industry between 12 000 - 8 000 years ago, a backed tool and small scraper industry between 8 000 – 4 000 years and ending with a variable set of other industries thereafter (Wadley, 2007). Adzes are thought to be wood working tools and may have also been used to make digging sticks and handles for tools. Scrapers are tools that are thought to have been used to prepare hides for clothing and manufacture of other leather items. Backed tools may have been used for cutting as well as tips for arrows It was also during Later Stone Age times that the bow and arrow was introduced into southern Africa - perhaps around 20 000 years ago. Because of the extensive use of the bow and arrow and the use of traps and snares, Later Stone Age people were far more efficient in exploiting their natural environment than Middle Stone Age people. Up until 2 000 years ago Later Stone Age people dominated the southern African landscape. However, shortly after 2 000 years ago the first Khoi herders and Bantu-speaking agro-pastoralists immigrated into southern Africa from the north. This led to major demographic changes in the population distribution of the subcontinent. San hunter-gatherers were either assimilated or moved off to more marginal environments such as the Kalahari Desert or some mountain ranges unsuitable for small-scale subsistence farming and herding. The San in the coastal areas of the study area were the first to have been displaced by incoming African agro pastoralists. However, some independent and sometimes hybrid groups continue to practice their hunter gatherer lifestyle in the foothills of the Drakensberg until the period of white colonialisation around the 1840's (Opperman 1987; Wright & Mazel, 2007; Mallen 2008; Henry 2010).

The renowned San rock paintings of the Drakensberg region also belongs to the Later Stone Age period although the majority were made between 4000 years ago and about 120 years ago. Rock Art can be in the form of rock paintings or rock engravings. The

Eastern Province is renowned for the prolific San rock painting sites concentrated in the southern Drakensberg and adjacent areas (Blundell 2004; Mallen 2008; Henry 2010). These sites are the subject of ongoing research by post-graduate students of the Rock Art Research Institute, University of the Witwatersand. Recently researchers identified 3 new traditions/styles of rock art in the Eastern Cape Drakensberg (ibid). No rock art sites are known from Cofimvaba, however, the Queenstown area to the immediate west of Cofimvaba do have rock art sites. Derricourt (1977) reported 5 rock art sites in the greater Queenstown district. One of these, at Oakleigh Farm, contain typical Khoi-style schematic rock paintings. All the other sites include typical San fineline paintings. These include paintings of wild ungulates such as eland and other wild bovids as well contact period imagery with depictions of early African agriculturists in contact with San hunter-gatherers. Various other Later Stone Age open air sites are known from the greater Queenstown area. Unfortunately, these have not been well recorded and many are now only known from badly provenanced museum collections (Derricourt 1977). Feely (1988) did locate LSA sites with a possible association with pastoralism in the area to the immediate south of the study area. It is also known from the historical literature that Khoi pastoralist groups frequented the Cofimvaba area in the recent past (Peires 1981). However, more systematic research is needed on pastoralism in this part of the Eastern Cape Province.

2.2 Iron Age

2.2.1 Early Iron Age (EIA)

Unlike the Stone Age people whose life styles were arguably egalitarian, Iron Age people led quite complex life styles. Their way of life of greater dependence on agriculture necessitated more sedentary settlements. They cultivated crops and kept domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and dogs. Pottery production is also an important feature of Iron Age communities. Iron smelting was practised quite significantly by Iron Age society as they had to produce iron implements for agricultural use. Although Iron Age people occasionally hunted and gathered wild plants and shellfish, the bulk of their diet consisted of the crops they cultivated as well as the meat of the animals they kept. EIA villages were relatively large settlements strategically located in valleys beside rivers to take advantage of the fertile alluvial soils for growing crops (Maggs 1989; Huffman 2007). The EIA sites in the Eastern Cape Province dates back between AD 600 to AD 900. Based on extensive research on EIA sites in the eastern seaboard they can be divided along the following typological criteria and time lines according to ceramic styles (Maggs, 1989; Huffman 2007):

_ Msuluzi (AD 500-700);

_ Ndondondwane (AD 700 - 800);

_ Ntshekane (AD 800 - 900).

However, no known Early Iron Age sites occur within the study area probably as the greater portion of this area is situated above the 1000m contour. The vast majority of Early Iron Age sites occur below the 1000m contour along areas in the large river valleys with a rainfall of less than 700mm a year.

2.2.2 Late Iron Age (LIA)

The LIA is not only distinguished from the EIA by greater regional diversity of pottery styles but is also marked by extensive stone wall settlements. However, in this part of the world, stone walls were not common as the Nguni people used thatch and wood to build their houses (Derricourt 1977). This explains the failure to obtain sites from the aerial photograph investigation of the study area. LIA sites in the Eastern Cape Province occur adjacent to the major rivers in low lying river valleys but also along ridge crests above the 800m contour. The LIA in the greater project area can be ascribed to the Thembu tribal cluster or their immediate predecessors (Feely 1987). It is also possible that some stone walled sites, especially those incorporating shelters or caves, were constructed by hybrid Khoisan/Nguni groups. Trade played a major role in the economy of LIA societies. Goods were traded locally and over long distances. The main trade goods included metal, salt, grain, cattle and thatch. This led to the establishment of economically driven centres and the growth of trade wealth. Keeping of domestic animals, metal work and the cultivation of crops continued with a change in the organisation of economic activities (Maggs, 1989; Huffman 2007). The existing data base does not indicate the location of any Later Iron Age sites in the greater project area. However, this is most probably an artefact of archaeological survey preferences in the past. It is known from oral history, for instance, that some early Thembu groupings occupied the area from the 17th century onwards (Peires 1981) and it is possible that systematic archaeological ground surveys will locate sites of this period in due course

2.3 Historic Period

Oral tradition is the basis of the evidence of historical events that took place before written history could be recorded. This kind of evidence becomes even more reliable in cases where archaeology could be utilised to back up the oral records. Sources of evidence for socio political organization during the mid-eighteenth to early nineteenth

century in the study area and the Transkei suggest that the people here existed in numerous small-scale political units of different sizes, population numbers and political structures (Feely 1987; Wright & Hamilton, 1989). This period was largely characterised by rage and instability as political skirmishes broke due to the thirst for power and resources between chiefdoms. During the 2nd half of the eighteenth century, stronger chiefdoms and paramouncies emerged. However, these were not fully grown states as there was no proper formal central political body established. This changed in the 1780's when a shift towards a more centralized political state occurred in parts of northern KwaZulu-Natal. The Zulu kingdom, established by King Shaka however became the most powerful in KwaZulu-Natal in the early years of the 19th century and had a marked influence on the local Nguni chiefdoms of the project area (Feely 1987). Refugees from north of the Umtavuna River such as the Bhaca and Qwabe tribes moved into the Transkei and asked the Mpondo chief for permission to settle in adjacent parts. These refugees were collectively called amaMfengu and many of these people were settled in parts of the project area and the adjacent areas near Qumbu and Mount Fletcher. One group of refugees from the north, the amaNgwane, crossed the Umthatha River near the project area, and fought a decisive battle against British colonial troops and their Thembu and Xhosa allies in 1828 at Mbholompo Point. During this episode the amaNgwane was defeated and the tribe broken-up (Peires 1981). The project area specifically saw tremendous interaction between Thembu agriculturalists and Khoisan pastoralists in the recent past (ibid). Many place names in areas adjacent to Cofimvaba such as Ngcocora, and Qumanco had a Khoisan origin.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites in the Eastern Cape Province. The SAHRIS website was also consulted in order to locate additional sites and to evaluate the results of previous surveys near the study area. In addition, the available archaeological and historical literature covering the Eastern Cape was also consulted.

A visit was made to the study area on the 15th March 2014. A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted during this visit.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was relatively good in most of the project area. No sites or features were masked by vegetation or other factors. Overgrazing and erosion contributed to site visibility in many areas.

3.2.2 Disturbance

No disturbance of potential heritage features was noted. Although the construction of borrow pits would have an impact on any archaeological site in its immediate vicinity no sites or artefacts were observed near existing excavations.

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 Province *Towns:* Cofimvaba *Municipality:* Intsika Yethu Local Municipality

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

4.3 Heritage Survey Results

No archaeological sites or other heritage features were located by both the desktop and the ground survey. Particular care was taken to locate LSA pastoralist sites along existing streams as such sites do occur in similar setting to the immediate south of the project area (Feely 1987), however, none occur in the area surveyed (Fig 4). The consultant could not find any evidence that the project area is part of any known cultural landscape. The town of Cofimvaba and human settlement structures occurs in the western section of Erf 186. Particular care was taken to locate any modern grave sites that may be threatened by the proposed development. However, no graves occur in or near the proposed development node.

4.4 Field Rating

SAHRA developed a methodology to evaluate the significance of heritage sites (Table 2). However, as no heritage sites occur in the project area the field rating methodology did not apply.

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 2. Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development on Erf 186, Cofimvaba may proceed in terms of heritage values as no heritage or archaeological sites have been identified and none are therefore in any danger of being destroyed or altered. No potential cultural landscapes or graves have been located on the footprint. However, it should be pointed out that the South African Heritage Act requires that all activities should cease immediately should the developers unearth any heritage sites or artefacts pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

6 MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

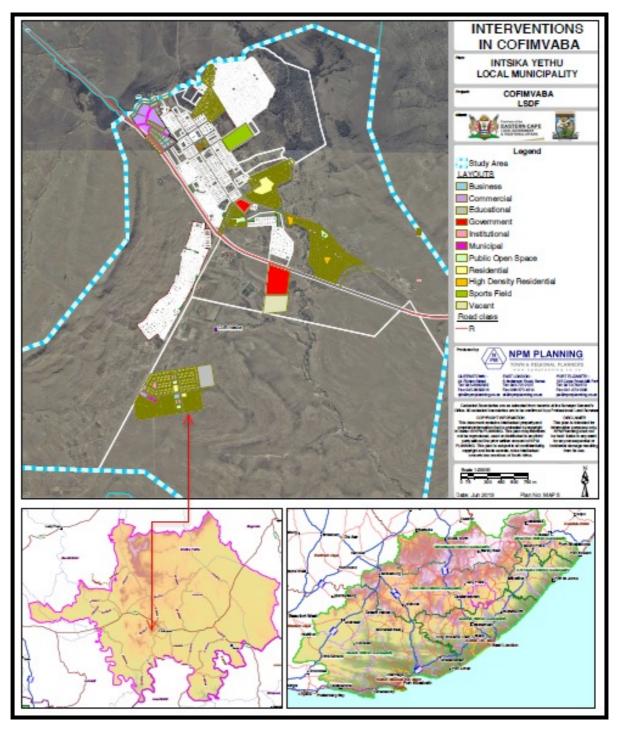


Figure 1. Map showing the location of Erf 186 and the proposed development area (Source: UKS Consulting).

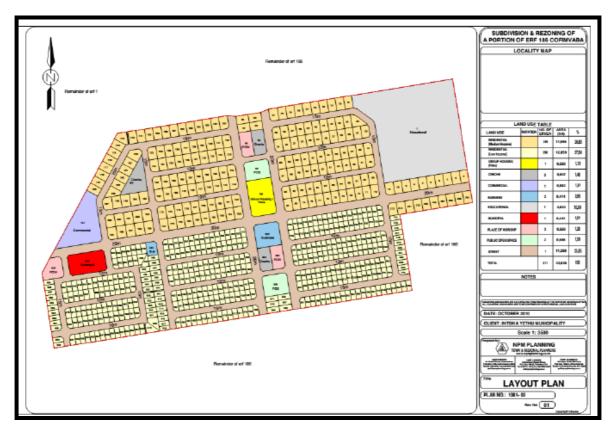


Figure 2. Map of the proposed mixed-used human settlement area (Source: USK Environmental).



Figure 3. View over Erf 186. The area is dominated by grasslands with human settlement situated towards the west.



Figure 4. Although Feely (1987) identified LSA pastoralist sites along stream banks to the south of Covimfaba none were located along the various streams in the study area.



Figure 5. Grasslands and wetlands dominate the study area. No heritage sites were located in these areas.

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