

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED GESSLA ECO ESTATE DEVELOPMENT**

FOR TRIPLO4

DATE: 17 NOVEMBER 2014

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INTRODUCTION

“The proposed development of the Gessla Eco Estate is located in Umhlali, KwaDukuza District Municipality, KZN [fig.’s 1 – 3]. The proposed project is approximately 196 Hectares in total and proposes the establishment of approximately 57 residential units on 6 Hectares of the site. Thus the total development footprint will be approximately 6 Ha with the remaining 190 hectares of sugar cane contributing to conservation as the Sugar Cane will be removed and indigenous grasses and trees will be used to rehabilitate the area...

Activities proposed for the Gessla Eco Estate.

- The development of 47 residential units of Approximately 6 Ha
- The electricity requirements will be met with the use of renewable energy sources, namely solar panels and wind turbines at each residential unit...
- The potable water for the site will be sourced from boreholes.
- The conservation of the remaining 190 Ha with indigenous vegetation
- The construction of weirs and watering holes
- Construction of potable water, storm water and sewage pipelines for the provision of services to the residential units...
- Sewage disposal will be by means of conservancy tanks where each house is to have a localised tank...
- 1 Vehicle Bridge and 3 pedestrian bridges will be constructed on the site. The vehicle bridge is approximately 4m wide and 12 m long. The pedestrian bridges are all 1m wide and 6m long.
- Expansion of existing roads by approximately 1.5m
- Walk and trail paths are proposed for the site
- The construction of a club house, offices, stores and refuse areas on the site
- The construction of a 7Ml reservoir on site” (Triplod4 BID).

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

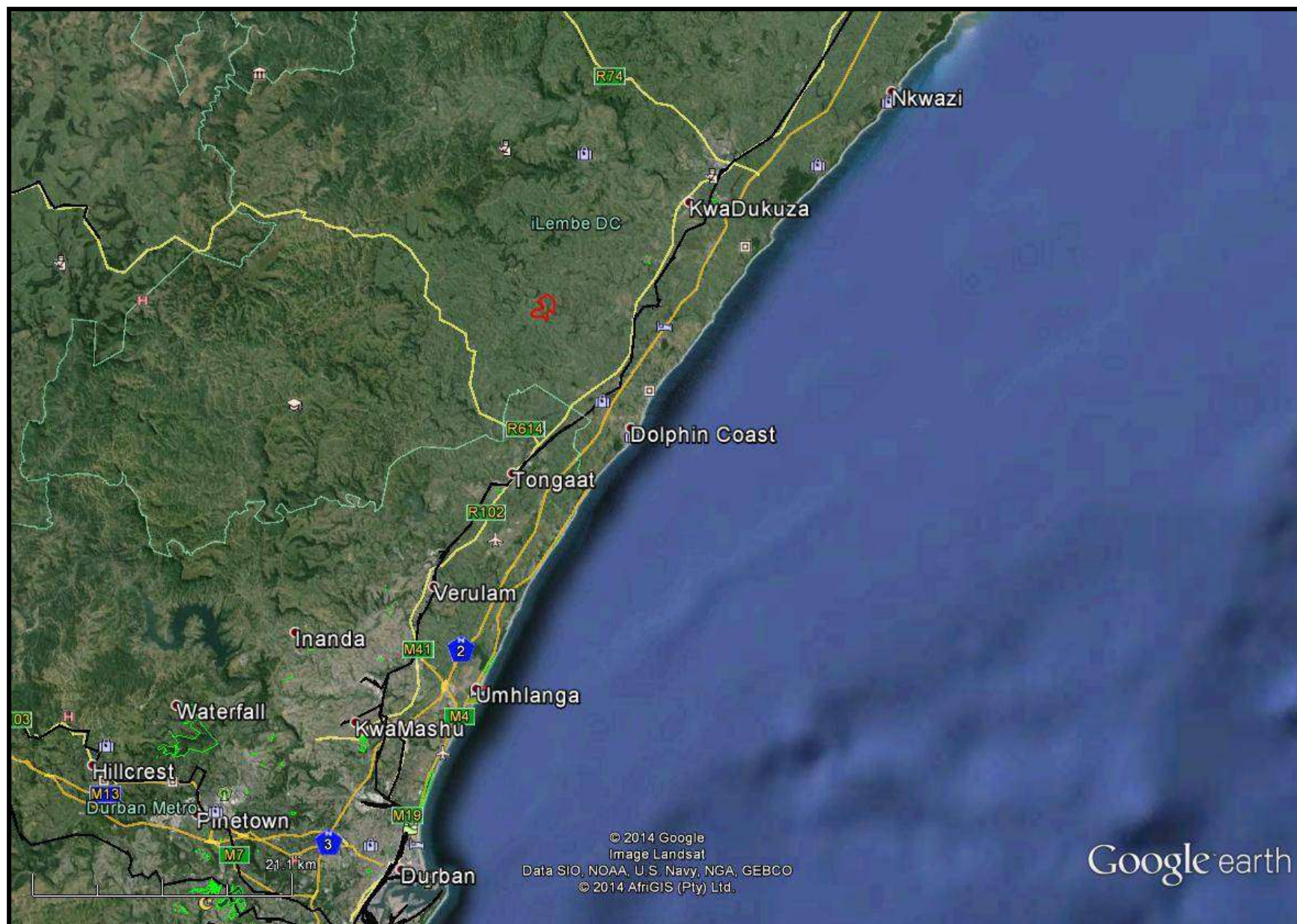
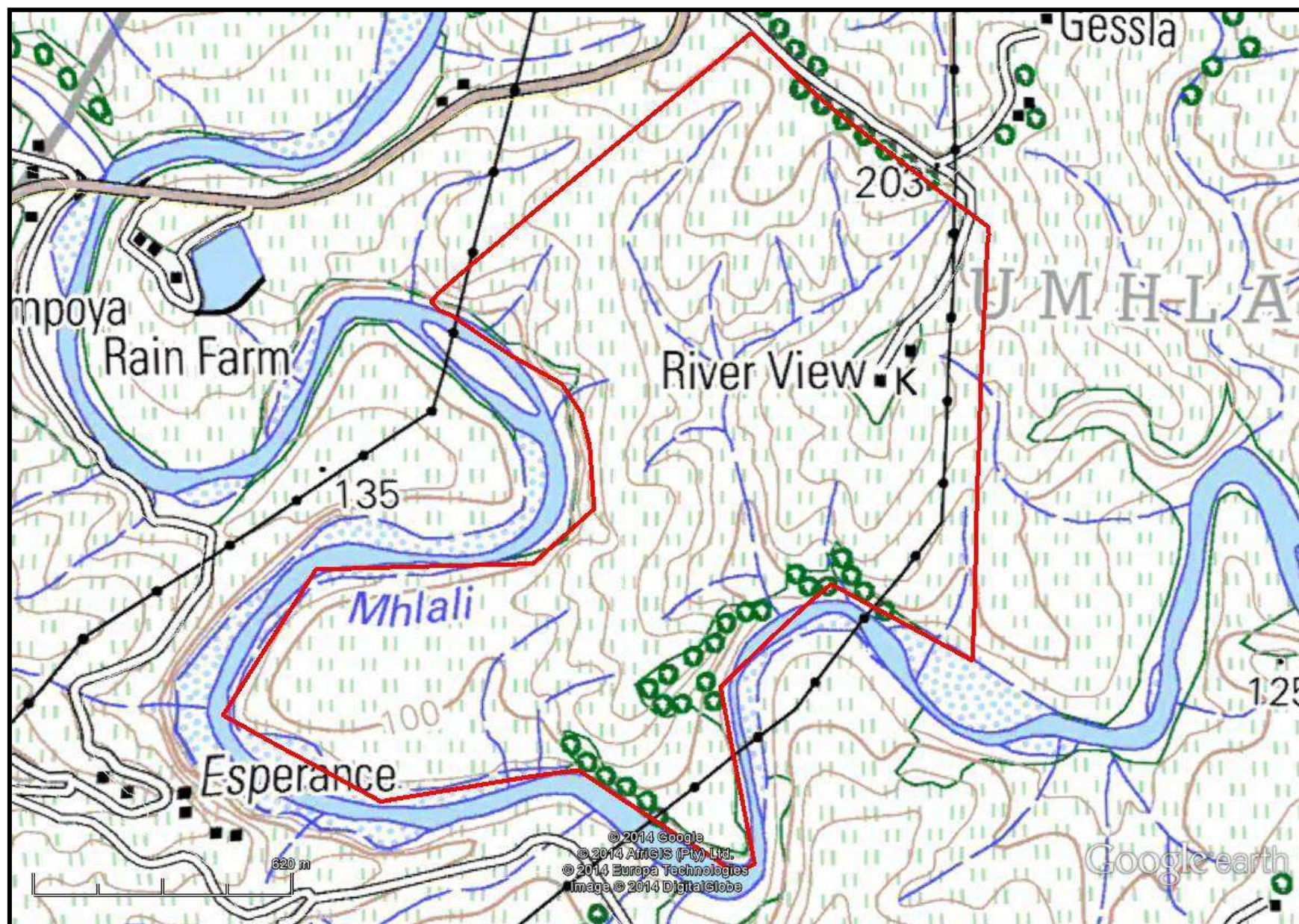


FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA¹



¹ Yellow = areas of proposed housing

FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE STUDY AREA



KWAZULU-NATAL HERITAGE ACT NO. 4 OF 2008

“General protection: Structures.—

- No structure which is, or which may reasonably be expected to be older than 60 years, may be demolished, altered or added to without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- Where the Council does not grant approval, the Council must consider special protection in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- The Council may, by notice in the *Gazette*, exempt—
 - A defined geographical area; or
 - defined categories of sites within a defined geographical area, from the provisions of subsection where the Council is satisfied that heritage resources falling in the defined geographical area or category have been identified and are adequately protected in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- A notice referred to in subsection (2) may, by notice in the *Gazette*, be amended or withdrawn by the Council.

General protection: Graves of victims of conflict.—No person may damage, alter, exhume, or remove from its original position—

- the grave of a victim of conflict;
- a cemetery made up of such graves; or
- any part of a cemetery containing such graves, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- General protection: Traditional burial places.—
 - No grave—
 - not otherwise protected by this Act; and
 - not located in a formal cemetery managed or administered by a local authority, may be damaged, altered, exhumed, removed from its original position, or otherwise disturbed without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

The Council may only issue written approval once the Council is satisfied that—

- the applicant has made a concerted effort to consult with communities and individuals who by tradition may have an interest in the grave; and
- the applicant and the relevant communities or individuals have reached agreement regarding the grave.

General protection: Battlefield sites, archaeological sites, rock art sites, palaeontological sites, historic fortifications, meteorite or meteorite impact sites.—

- No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or

- use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.” (KZN Heritage Act of 2008)

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the database that has been collated by Umlando. These databases contains archaeological site locations and basic information from several provinces (information from Umlando surveys and some colleagues), most of the national and provincial monuments and battlefields in Southern Africa (<http://www.vuvuzela.com/googleearth/monuments.html>) and cemeteries in southern Africa (information supplied by the Genealogical Society of Southern Africa). We use 1st and 2nd edition 1:50 000 topographical and 1937 aerial photographs where available, to assist in general location and dating of buildings and/or graves. The database is in Google Earth format and thus used as a quick reference when undertaking desktop studies. Where required we would consult with a local data recording centre, however these tend to be fragmented between different institutions and areas and thus difficult to access at times. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

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.

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.

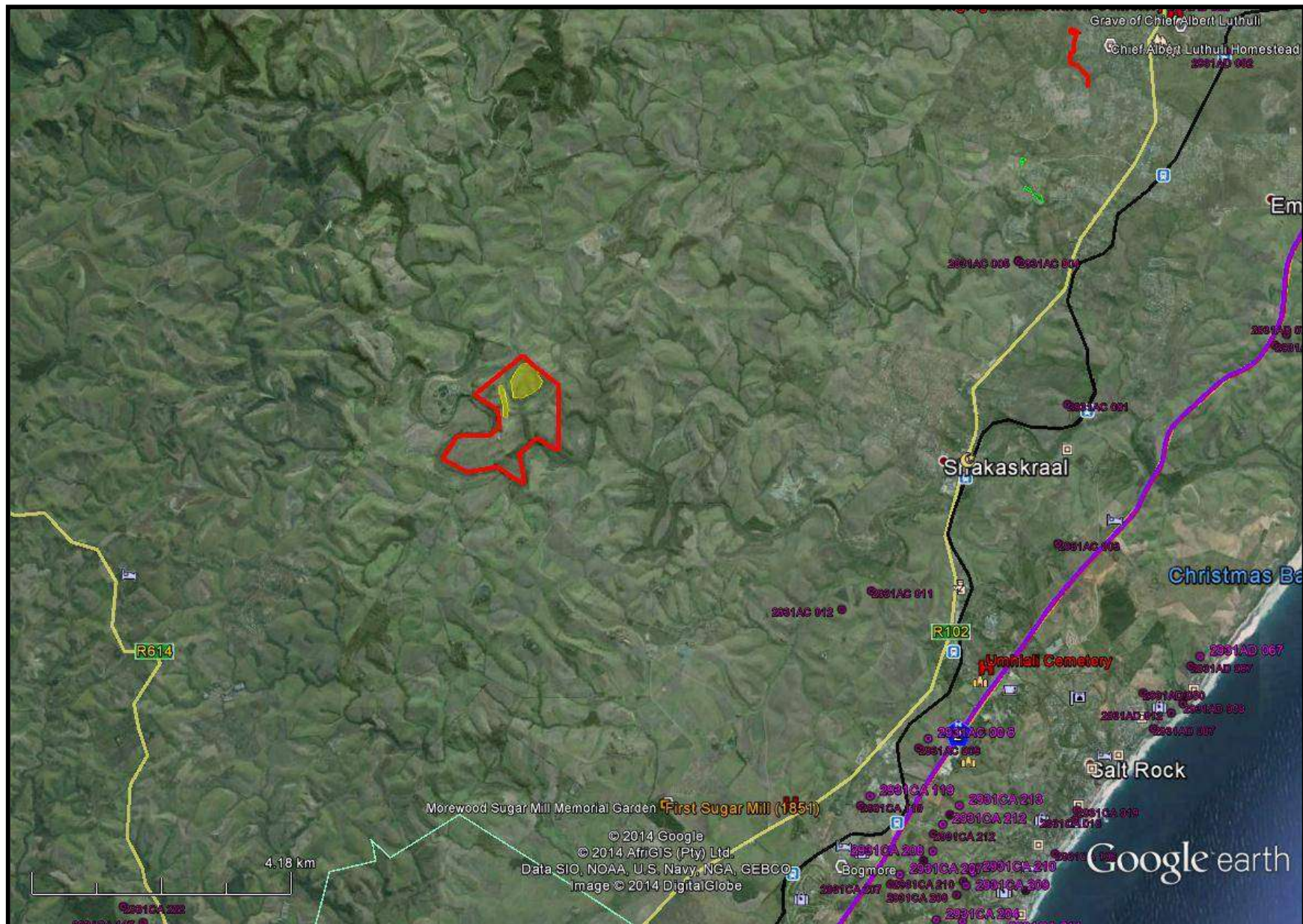
RESULTS

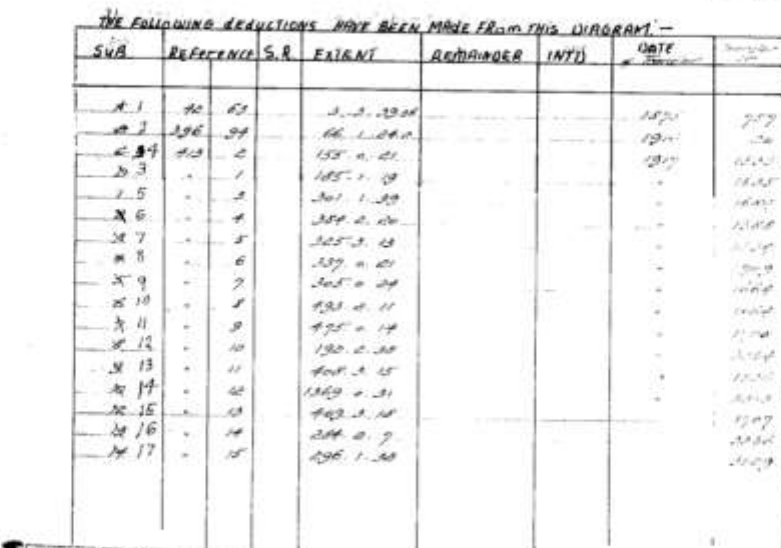
DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys. The archaeological database indicates that there are no archaeological sites in the general area (fig. 4). This is a result of few archaeological surveys in this specific area, rather than a lack of sites. No national monuments, battlefields, or historical cemeteries are known to occur in the study area.

The Surveyor General's Diagram indicates that the land was first surveyed in 1849, possibly 1853 (fig. 5). No buildings were noted on the land. The 1937 aerial photographs indicate that the main farmhouse and three other buildings exist on the property, as well as a settlement (fig. 6, Table 1).

FIG. 4: LOCATION OF KNOWN HERITAGE SITES NEAR THE STUDY AREA



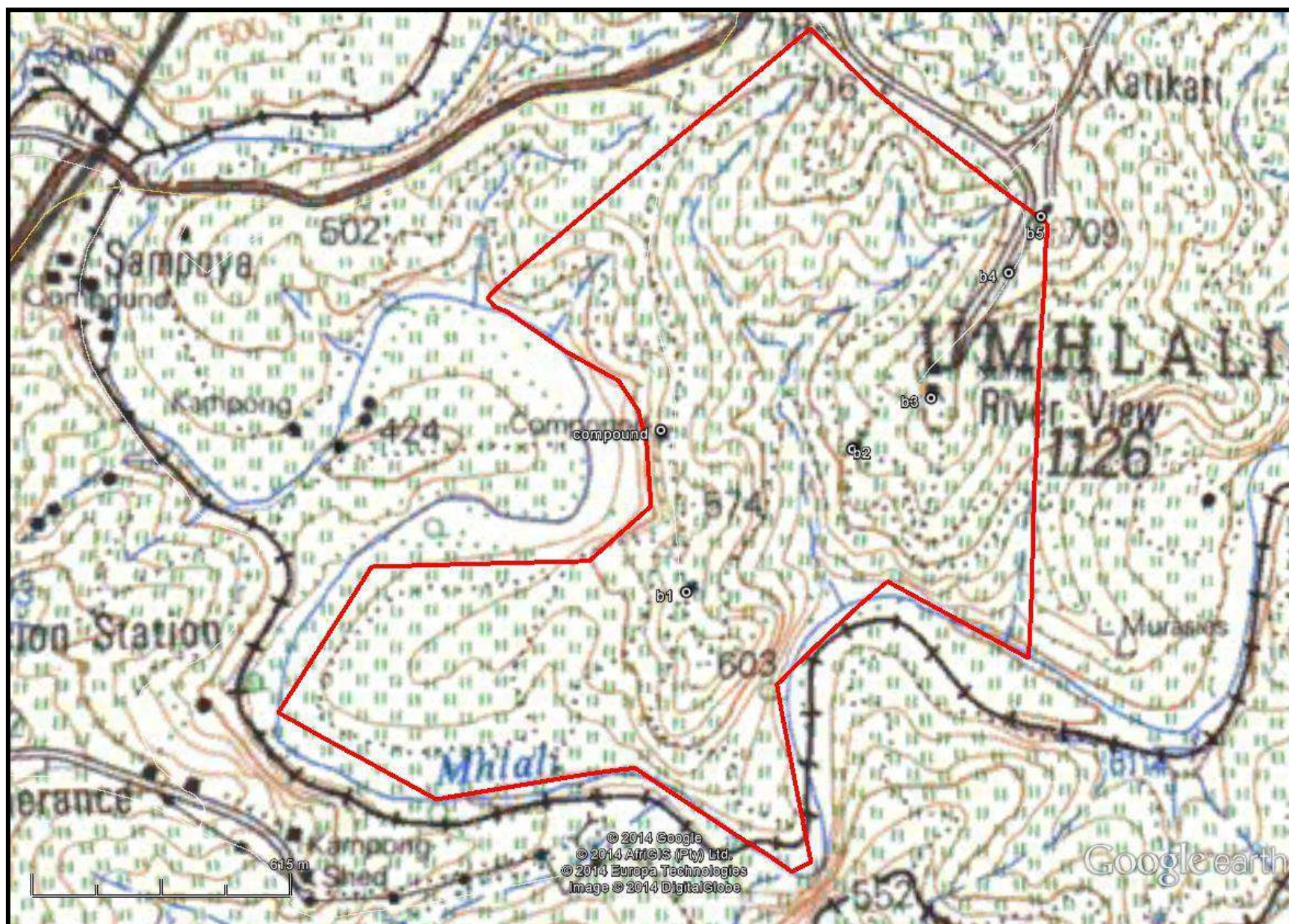


See SR 3256W
re "Overlap"

FIG. 6: STUDY AREA IN 1937



FIG. 7: STUDY AREA IN 1968



The 1968 topographical map indicates that the main farmhouse and one other building still existed: all other buildings had been removed (fig. 7). There is also an addition of a “compound” and several other buildings. The locations for these buildings are given in Table 1. Figure 8 shows the views of the study area.

The SAHRIS palaeontological sensitivity map notes the area as having low sensitivity, with no PIA required.

TABLE 1: LOCATION OF SITES IN 1937 AND 1963

	NAME	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	DESCRIPTION
1937	ab4	-29.442270241	31.149030683	Farm building
	ab3	-29.441435269	31.142198349	Building
	ab2	-29.444793162	31.143226351	Building
	ab1	-29.446773733	31.143153351	Building
	ah1	-29.446918905	31.137490198	Row of houses?
1968	compound	-29.443380936	31.142748985	Labourers' houses
	b1	-29.446913648	31.143387305	Building
	b2	-29.443793816	31.147564052	Building
	b3	-29.442693258	31.149466086	River view
	b4	-29.439996836	31.151369544	Building
	b5	-29.438804190	31.152134337	Building

TABLE 2: LOCATION OF REFORDEDED SITES AND THE SIGNIFICANCE

NAME	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE
GIS01	-29.441318257	31.142975937	Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS01B	-29.442148000	31.143194000	Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS02	-29.434784000	31.146085000	Ephemeral Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS03	-29.436951456	31.147236519	Dense Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS03A	-29.438718387	31.145516422	Ephemeral Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS03B	-29.439814000	31.146186000	Ephemeral Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS03C	-29.439118000	31.147657000	Ephemeral Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS04	-29.437845260	31.149997840	Ephemeral Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS05	-29.443777000	31.149577000	Ephemeral Scatter of pottery sherds	Low
GIS06	-29.442038820	31.149296879	Farmhouse	Not affected
POTS	-29.438367868	31.152229761	Isolated sherds	Low
POTS	-29.440489000	31.151297000	Isolated sherds	Low

FIG. 8: VIEWS OF THE STUDY AREA



FIELD SURVEY

The area consists of mostly shallow soils that have been ploughed for sugar cane farming for more than 80 years. None of the original buildings, with the exception of River View farmhouse no longer exists. These have been demolished, with only the foundations remaining at one area near the main farmhouse. Figure 9 shows the location of the recorded sites.

GIS01

GIS01 is located on the top of the hill. The hill is narrow and overlooks the Umhlali River on the north. The site extends for ~100m in length. GIS01 consists of a scatter of various pottery sherds of various colours (fig. 10). No decorated sherds occur on the site. Most of the sherds probably date to the Historical Period, however some are more sand blasted and may date to the Late Iron Age. Two sherds would be related to the “compound” that existed here.

The soil is very shallow on the top of the ridge, and it is unlikely to yield any deposit. The soil towards GIS01B is deeper; however, this has been ploughed and bulldozed.

The area will be directly affected by one of the projects.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required; however, a permit for its destruction is needed.

SAHRA Rating: 3C

FIG. 9: LOCATION OF RECORDED SITES.



FIG. 10: ARTEFACTS AT GIS01



GIS02

GIS02 occurs on the top of a hill on the northern boundary of the development. The site consists of an ephemeral scatter of pottery on the crest of the hill (fig. 11). The road to the farmhouse would have removed much of the site. The sherds are orange to brown in colour and are undecorated. They could date to the late Iron Age or Historical Period.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required; however, a permit for its destruction is needed.

SAHRA Rating: 3C

FIG. 11: ARTEFACTS AT GIS02



GIS03

GIS3 occurs on the main hill of the study area, and will have the main development. The site consists of a large hill with three spurs lower down. The main hill, GIS03, has a medium density of pottery sherds. The sherds vary in colour and size and come from many different pots (fig. 12). One sherd has lip notching on a slightly everted rim. Two small grinding stones were noted. The sherds extend over the southern/south-eastern side of the hill, and rarely on the northern side. One MSA flake and a LSA adze 'blank' was noted on the hill.

GIS03a, GIS03b and GIS03c are ephemeral scatters of pottery sherds that could be linked to the main site. They are probably the remains of smaller settlements

The soil is not deep in this area and any deposit would have been heavily disturbed by ploughing activity. Most of the site would probably occur on the hill opposite the road.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required; however, a permit for its destruction is needed.

SAHRA Rating: 3C

FIG. 12: GIS03 AND ARTEFACTS



GIS04

GIS04 is located ~175m to the southeast of GIS03. GIS03 is still on the same hill; however, there is a clear break in the occurrence of artefacts between the two sites. The site is located on shallow soils. The artefacts included an ephemeral scatter of pottery sherds, an upper grinding stone, and a broken lower grinding stone (fig. 13). The sherds are undecorated and similar to those at GIS03.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required; however, a permit for its destruction is needed.

SAHRA Rating: 3C

FIG. 13: GIS04 AND ARTEFACTS



GIS05

GIS05 is located on the hill around the buildings of River View. The site consists of an ephemeral scatter of pottery around the southern and (south-) eastern sides of the hill. The pottery is similar to that of GIS03 (fig. 14). The site is shown in Figure 8 (bottom right).

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required; however, a permit for its destruction is needed.

SAHRA Rating: 3C

FIG. 14: POTTERY SHERDS FROM GIS05



GIS06

GIS06 occurs on the top of the hill, and is the original farmhouse called River View. The farm buildings occur on the 1968 topographical map, and the 1937 aerial photographs. The main farm building is appears more recent i.e. from the ~1960s onwards. Many of the older buildings only have the foundations remaining and/or have been built over (fig. 15). These buildings will not be affected by the development.

Significance: The significance of the buildings, and ruins, would need to be assessed by an architect historian if they are to be impacted in any manner.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is currently required.

SAHRA Rating: 3C

FIG. 15: BUILDINGS AT GIS06



CONCLUSION

A heritage survey was undertaken for the proposed Gessla Eco-Estate Development, Umhlali, KwaZulu-Natal. The main development consists of two areas where buildings and related infrastructure will occur. These buildings are located on the hill tops. The rest of the development will include smaller walk paths, bridges, and rehabilitation of sugar cane fields into local indigenous vegetation. The general impact of the development on archaeological sites is mostly small and limited to two hills.

Several buildings were noted to occur in the study area from historical maps. All of these buildings have been demolished in the past, with the exception of River View farmhouse. Six heritage sites were noted during the survey. All of these sites, with the exception of GIS06 (River View farm buildings) date to the Late Iron Age, or Historical Period. The pottery was mostly adiagnostic with only one decorated lip from all of the sites. These sites are in shallow soils where the archaeological deposit has been by sugar cane farming. These sites were of low significance, and no further mitigation is required.

The development will require a permit from Amafa KZN, to further impact on these sites.

**APPENDIX A
SITE RECORD FORMS**

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age XX

Historical Period: X X

Recorder's Site No.: GIS01

Official Name: Umhlali 1126

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2931AC Shakaskraa

GPS reading: S29 26 28.7 E31 08 34.7 166 m



DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From the Shell Garage in Shakaskraal drive south for 1.3km then turn left at the traffic circle onto the R102. Follow the R102 for 14km then turn right onto the Noodsberg Rd. Drive for 13.6km then turn right onto the P103-1. Turn right onto an unpaved road after 5.6km. GIS01 is located 3.7km from here on the narrow hill overlooking the Umhlali river on the North.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: Yes

What threats: Buildings

RECORDING:

Graphic record: Yes

Digital pictures: x

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 10/11/2014

Owner:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of scatter of LSA/HP pottery

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age X

Historical Period: X

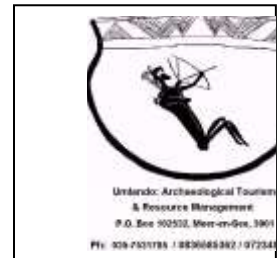
Recorder's Site No.: GIS02

Official Name: Umhlali 1126

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2931AC Shakaskraa

GPS reading: S29 26 05.2 E31 08 45.9 222 m



DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From the Shell Garage in Shakaskraal drive south for 1.3km then turn left at the traffic circle onto the R102. Follow the R102 for 14km then turn right onto the Noodsberg Rd. Drive for 13.6km then turn right onto the P103-1. Turn right onto an unpaved road after 9.0km. GIS02 is located 299m from here on the top of a hill on the northern boundary of the development.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: Yes

What threats: Buildings

RECORDING:

Graphic record: Yes

Digital pictures: x

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 10/11/2014

Owner:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of scatter of LSA/HP pottery

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age X

Historical Period: X

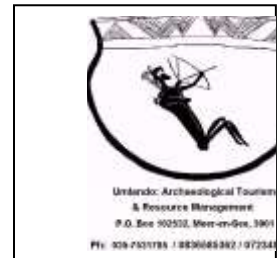
Recorder's Site No.: GIS03

Official Name: Umhlali 1126

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2931AC Shakaskraa

GPS reading: S29 26 13.0 E31 08 50.1



DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From the Shell Garage in Shakaskraal drive south for 1.3km then turn left at the traffic circle onto the R102. Follow the R102 for 14km then turn right onto the Noodsberg Rd. Drive for 13.6km then turn right onto the P103-1. Turn right onto an unpaved road after 9.0km. GIS03 is located 607m from here on the main hill of the study area, and will have the main development.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: Yes

What threats: Buildings

RECORDING:

Graphic record: Yes

Digital pictures: x

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 10/11/2014

Owner:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of scatter of LSA/HP pottery

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age X

Historical Period: X

Recorder's Site No.: GIS04

Official Name: Umhlali 1126

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2931AC Shakaskraa

GPS reading: S29 26 16.2 E31 09 00.0 214 m



DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From the Shell Garage in Shakaskraal drive south for 1.3km then turn left at the traffic circle onto the R102. Follow the R102 for 14km then turn right onto the Noodsberg Rd. Drive for 13.6km then turn right onto the P103-1. Turn right onto an unpaved road after 9.0km. GIS04 is located 821m from here to the southeast of GIS03. GIS03 is still on the same hill; however, there is a clear break in the occurrence of artefacts between the two sites.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: Yes

What threats: Buildings

RECORDING:

Graphic record: Yes

Digital pictures: x

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 10/11/2014

Owner:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of scatter of LSA/HP pottery

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age X

Historical Period: X

Recorder's Site No.: GIS05

Official Name: Umhlali 1126

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2931AC Shakaskraa

GPS reading: S29 26 37.6 E31 08 58.5 191 m



DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From the Shell Garage in Shakaskraal drive south for 1.3km then turn left at the traffic circle onto the R102. Follow the R102 for 14km then turn right onto the Noodsberg Rd. Drive for 13.6km then turn right onto the P103-1. Turn right onto an unpaved road after 9.0km. GIS05 is located 1.6km from here on the hill around the buildings of River View.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: Yes

What threats: Buildings

RECORDING:

Graphic record: Yes

Digital pictures: x

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 10/11/2014

Owner:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of scatter of LSA/HP pottery

