

**PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED GEORGEDALE AND
SURROUNDS BULK SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE,
ETHEKWENI METRO MUNICIPALITY.**



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT	1
2	BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY	3
2.1	Methodology	3
2.2	Restrictions encountered during the survey	4
2.2.1	<i>Visibility</i>	4
2.2.2	<i>Disturbance</i>	4
2.3	Details of equipment used in the survey.....	4
3	DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED	4
3.1	Locational data	4
3.2	Description of the general area surveyed.....	4
4	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)	5
4.1	Field Rating.....	5
5	RECOMMENDATIONS	6
6	MAPS AND FIGURES	7
7	REFERENCES	10

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Background information.....	1
Table 3.	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 heritage survey of the proposed Georgedale Bulk Sewer Infrastructure, eThekweni Metro-Municipality identified no heritage sites on the footprint. There is no archaeological reason why the proposed development may not proceed as planned. Attention is 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 Jeffares & Green (PTY)
Type of development:	The project entails the design and construction of bulk sewer lines as well as CAB connectors in the Georgedale, Minitown, Sankotshe, Mophela, Ekawdeni, and Emalangeneni, settlements (Figs 1, 2 & 3). As far as possible, sewer lines will be buried underground. The sewer system should preferably function using gravity, with minimal use of pump stations; as a result the sewer lines will to a large extent run adjacent to watercourses, and in some instances river crossings will be required.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
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 footprint is located in the greater Cato Ridge area approximately 30km to the west of the Durban CBD. Georgedale has been incorporated into the Mpumalanga Township. It is situated within the eThekweni Metro Municipality. District Municipality (Figs 1, 2 & 3).

BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Cato Ridge and Mpumalanga areas are relatively well covered by archaeological surveys conducted by members of the then Natal Museum in the 1960's and 1970's. 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 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 adjacent Mngeni Valley. 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 larger Cato Ridge area are also older than 60 years. Perhaps the most significant heritage feature in the near vicinity of the footprint is the Inchanga Railway Station and associated railways tracks that was built in the 1890's. This feature has been upgraded and it is presently a popular tourism venue. These would also be protected by heritage legislation.

Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur in the greater Cato Ridge. 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 Mngeni 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. Interestingly, some rock art sites associated with the San do occur in the greater Cato Ridge area. The KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage Early Stone Age material have been recorded on the footprint in the past.

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. By 1500 years ago these early Bantu-speaking farmers also settled adjacent to the Mngeni River. 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), Ndondondwane (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 Mngeni 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.

The greater Georgedale area was developed as a township in the 1970’s to serve local African labour. As such very few of the structures in the township are older than 60 years and have little heritage value. The area has seen political violence during the turbulent years of the 1980’s; however, the Liberation Struggle associated with this particular area is still under researched (Bonin 2001).

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 for previous heritage surveys and heritage site data covering the project area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Cato Ridge area was also consulted.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted. Particular attention was focused on the areas adjacent to existing water courses as outlined in the project brief.

2.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

2.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

2.2.2 Disturbance

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

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: eThekweni Metro-Municipality

Towns: Cato Ridge, Durban

3.2 Description of the general area surveyed

Georgedale is situated to the immediate south of Cato Ridge. The general area is characterized by shallow slopes with steeper slopes towards the east. The project area is dominated by secondary grassland, that includes unpalatable Ngogoni grass, as well as exotic trees such as *Morus sp* and *Eucalyptus sp*. Indigenous Valley Bushveld vegetation occurs in the steep valleys on the lower altitudes. Informal maize and vegetable gardens occurs adjacent to the numerous homesteads that are scattered in this area. Human habitation includes both traditional Zulu-style homesteads as well as more western-style houses in the peri-urban areas.

The area has been disturbed in parts and evidence for excavations as well as small scale farming activities, in the form of small maize and vegetable gardens, occurs on the footprint. However, no heritage sites or artefacts have been disturbed by these activities.

The heritage data base of the KwaZulu-Museum indicates that two Early Stone Age hand axes were discovered in Georgedale in the 1960's. The GPS coordinates for this site was given as S 29° 47' 38" E 30° 36' 44".(Fig 4) The exact spot where these artefacts were located was visited by the consultant but no archaeological remains are present today (Fig 5). The fact that no artefacts remain today and that only two stone tools were present in the past suggests that this is a low priority heritage site (Table 2) with little archaeological value.

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

4.1 Field Rating

No sites occur on the footprint today. The Early Stone Age site that was visible in the 1960's has been rated as having a low significance (Table 2)

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 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed bulk sewerage network may proceed as there is no archaeological reason why the development may not take place as planned. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. According to the developer the proposed sewer lines will to a large extent run adjacent to watercourses and no heritage sites were observed along these natural features. It should, however, 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. It is also possible that community consultation, may indicate contemporary graves that were not visible during the initial heritage survey of the project area. These must also be evaluated during a second phase heritage impact assessment should the proposed development expand into these areas.

6 MAPS AND FIGURES

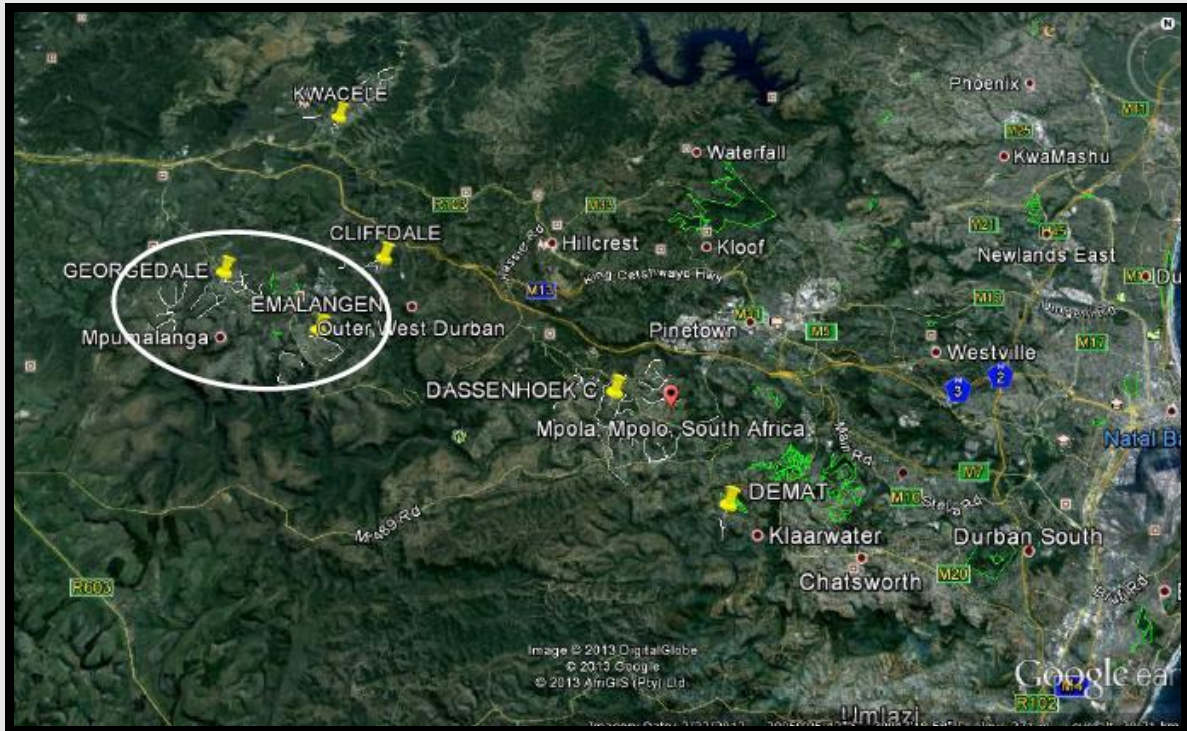


Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the locality of the project area (Source: Iliso)

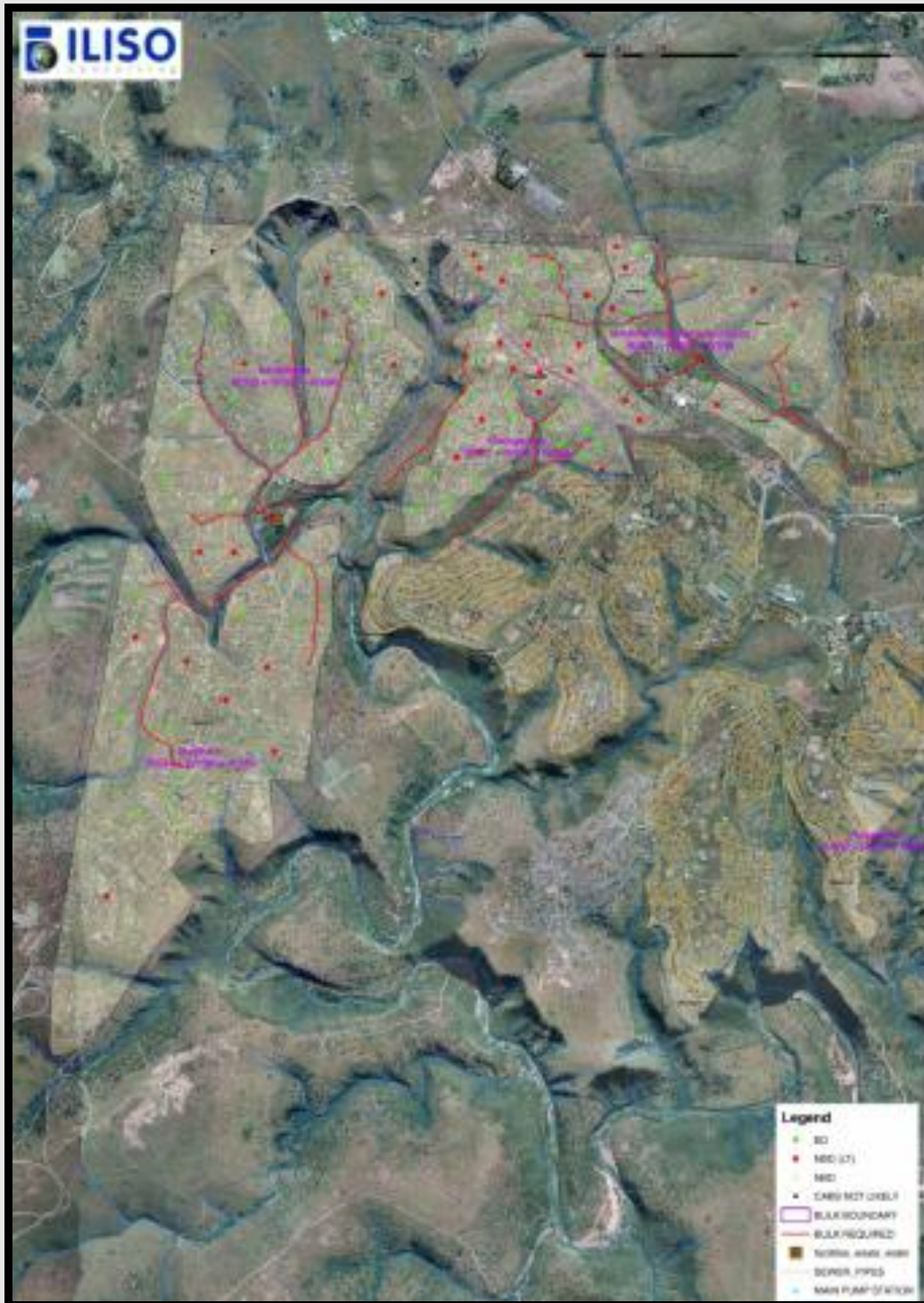


Figure 2. Map showing the project area – Georgedale and surrounding areas (Source: Iliso)



Figure 3. Google aerial photograph showing the location of a known Early Stone Age Site (red polygon) in the project area. However, no archaeological remains are evident on this site today.



Figure 4. Photograph of area where two Early Stone Age tools were discovered in the 1960's. There are no archaeological material visible today.

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