

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED NATIA COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, HAMMARSDALE, KWAZULU-
NATAL.**



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc

For: Enviroedge

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17 December 2017

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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 (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 cultural heritage survey of the proposed Natia Commercial Development near Hammarsdale, eThekweni Municipality, identified no heritage sites or features. There is no archaeological reason why the proposed development on this property may not proceed as planned. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. However, 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) for Enviroedge
Type of development:	The applicant Natia Group (Pty) Ltd, has identified the need to establish a formalised commercial site development, including retail stores, fuel station and mini factories, hardware store, supermarket, food outlet associated parking areas and loading bays, with space for future development and linked to an existing overhead pedestrian bridge to the south-west, which runs over the Mthoko Mkhize Drive, (MR 385), and links to the existing shopping centre located to the south-west. The proposed buildings cover an area of 7 790m ² to the west and 16 830m ² to the east, with a total of 481 parking bays with 158 to the west and 323 to the east. The proposed development site is bisected by a central wetland area with associated vegetation which divides the site into two separate areas, one to the west and one to the east. A second wetland system is found to the immediate south of the site. These wetlands form part of the drainage system linked to the Sterkspruit River which runs along the north-eastern site boundary. The Hammarsdale-Sterkspruit rail line is located along the north-eastern site boundary. The proposed development will have predominantly two storey buildings, with <i>Chromadek</i> , or similar steel roof sheeting, aluminium shop fronts, asphalt roads and parking areas and paved walkways with landscaped areas, two points of ingress/egress and signage to the site.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Subdivision
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 site is situated adjacent to the Mr 385 on Farm Portion RE/17156 of Hammarsdale, within Ward 6. It is 4.2ha in total, with the western side being 1.8ha and the eastern 2.4ha (Figs 1, 2, 3 & 4). The GPS co-ordinates for the footprint is: S 29° 47' 58.37" E 30° 37' 45.43". The land earmarked for the development consists of disturbed veld with some trees and shrubs and a wetland (Figs 5 & 6).

BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Hammarsdale area is 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, such as the Umngeni River, 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 adjacent Camperdown area are also older than 60 years. These would also be protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur within the greater Hammarsdale area. 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 Umngeni 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.

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 (Mitchell 2002). By 1500 years ago these early Bantu-speaking farmers also settled adjacent to the Umngeni River to the immediate north of Hammarsdale. 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), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshokane (AD 800-900). Most of the Early Iron Age sites in KwaZulu-Natal 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 Umngeni 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.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

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

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on the 5th December 2017.

2.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

2.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good. However, dense vegetation may have compromised site visibility in some areas.

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 Municipality

Towns: Hammarsdale

3.2 Description of the general area surveyed

Although the area is potentially rich in Iron Age and Stone Age sites no heritage sites or features were observed on the actual footprint. Particular care was taken to locate graves but none were observed on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape.

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

Not applicable as no heritage sites were identified on the footprint (Table 2).

Table 2. Evaluation of heritage sites on the footprint

Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA		
	Significance	Rating
1.	Historic and political significance - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	None.
2.	Scientific significance – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.	None.
3.	Research/scientific significance – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	None.
4.	Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	None.
5.	Aesthetic significance – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	None.
6.	Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	None.
7.	Social significance – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	None.
8.	Historic significance – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.	None.
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

4.1 Field Rating

The evaluation method as developed by SAHRA (Table 3) does not apply as no heritage sites were identified on the footprint.

Table 3. 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 development on the property may proceed from an archaeological point of view as no heritage sites or features are in danger of being destroyed or altered. The footprint is also not part of any known cultural landscape. 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.

6 MAPS AND FIGURES

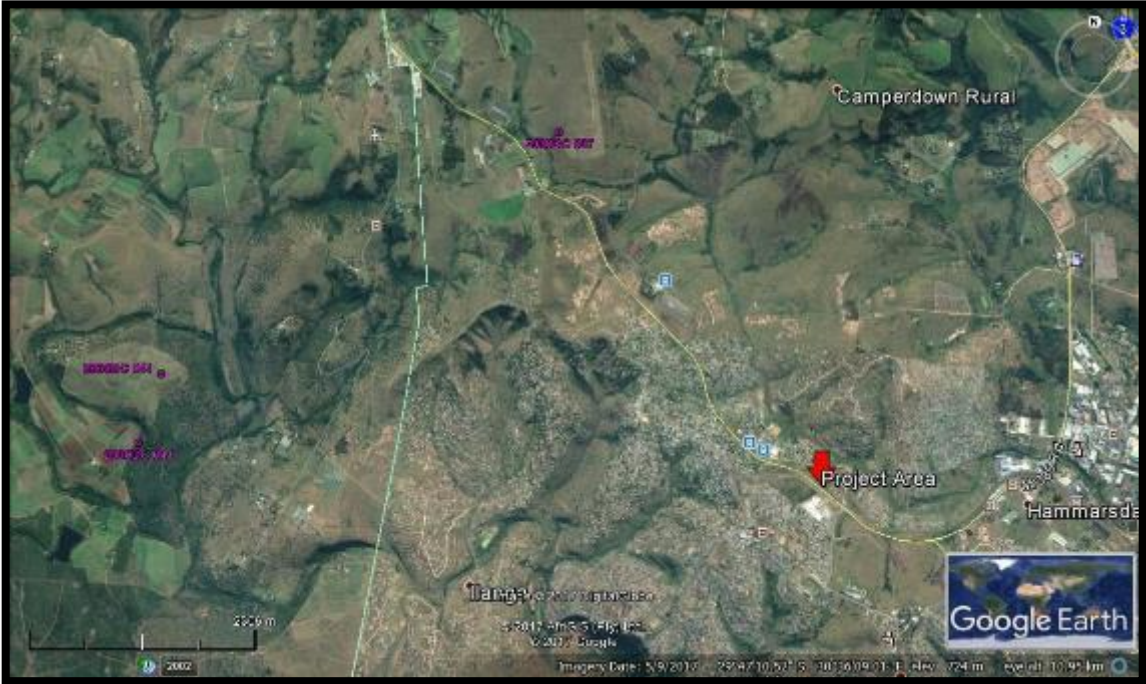


Figure 1. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of the Project Area. The purple polygons indicate the location of known heritage sites in the greater Hammarsdale area. None occur near the project area.

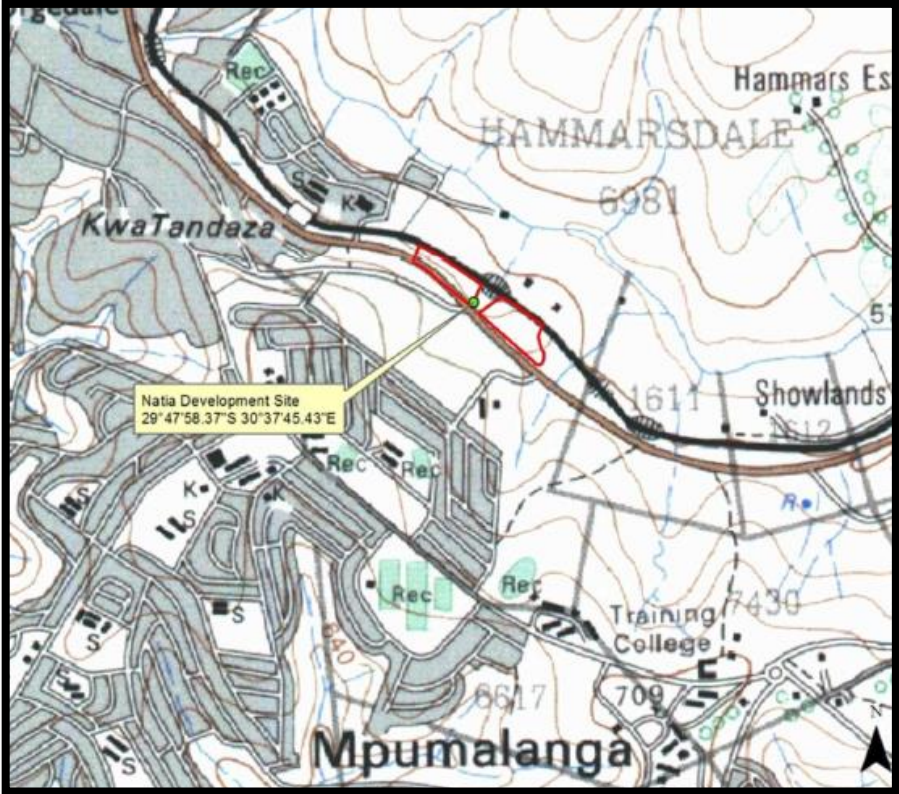


Figure 2. Topographical map showing the location of the project area (Source: Enviroedge)



Figure 3. Natia Group Commercial Site Development Plan (Source: Enviroedge).



Figure 4. The proposed development site is situated adjacent the MR 385 that leads into Hammarsdale.

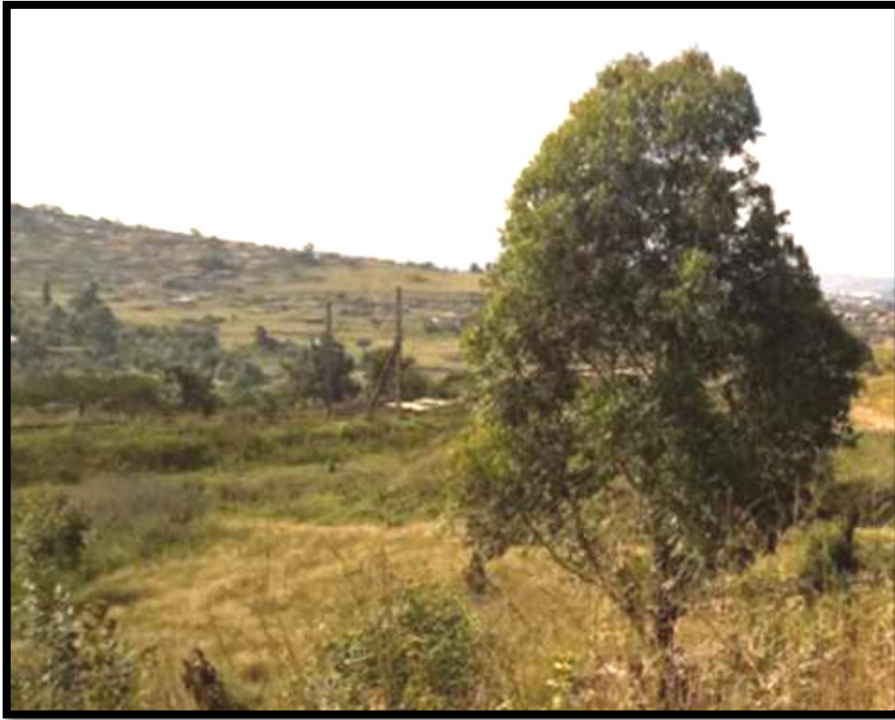


Figure 6. View over the proposed development site adjacent to the MR 385



Figure 5. Dense vegetation may have compromised heritage site visibility in some areas.

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