

# ALBERT VAN JAARVELD

B.A. (Hons)(Pret); M.A. (Rhodes)  
HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGER  
ERFENIS-HULPBRONBESTUURDER

T 035 340 2299  
F 086 543 8468  
C 082 445 5440

Email: [albertvj@iafrica.com](mailto:albertvj@iafrica.com)

P.O. Box 292  
Mthunzini  
3867



21 September 2009

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT:  
PROPOSED WESTVILLE TRIANGLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT,  
eTHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY, KZN**

---

Attention:

Natalie Way-Jones  
Environmental Scientist  
SRK Consulting  
PO Box 1969  
Westville 3630  
Tel : 031 279 1225  
Fax : 031 279 1204  
Email : NWay-Jones@srk.co.za

Cc:

Sello Makhanya  
Principal Heritage Officer - Archaeology  
AMAFA aKwaZulu/Natali  
PO Box 2685  
Pietermaritzburg 3200  
Te : 033 394 6543  
Fax : 033 342 6097  
Email : Amafa.pmb2@mweb.co.za

## **Contents**

### Executive Summary

1. Introduction/background
2. Details of consultant and ability to perform the service
3. Heritage legislation in South Africa
4. Study approach/method
5. Description of affected environment and results of survey
  - a. Location and background
  - b. Archaeological resources: The Stone and Iron Ages
  - c. The Historical Period
6. Impact description and assessment
7. Recommended management/mitigation activities
8. Conclusion
9. Sources
10. Appendixes
  - a. Photographs
  - b. Locality map
  - c. Declaration of independence

### **Executive Summary**

The eThekweni Municipality Housing Department has identified a need for additional medium to high density housing within the Durban metropolitan area. Several vacant, undeveloped and municipal owned sites were identified for the provision of such housing. In Westville, the preferred site is between the N2 Highway and the suburb of Berea West, where eThekweni Housing plans 942 middle income housing units with related infrastructure on 20 hectares of land.

In terms of the EIA Regulations (2006) as promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act no 107 of 1998), a Basic Assessment is required prior to Environmental Authorisation being issued by the competent authority (Dept of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development). SRK Consulting has been appointed to act as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner, while Albert van Jaarsveld was sub-contracted to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment to comply with Provincial and National Heritage Legislation in South Africa.

Following a desktop survey of existing literature on the general History and Archaeology of the area, a field survey was carried out on 21 September 2009. Ground visibility was relatively clear, although in some places restricted as the result of dense overgrowth - mainly alien invaders.

No remains of the Stone or Iron Ages were observed. No declared Heritage Sites (former National Monuments) are in close vicinity and no buildings occur on the site. It is recommended that the eThekweni Housing Dept be granted the necessary permission to proceed with the development, as it does not pose a threat to KZN's cultural heritage.

In conclusion, the developers are reminded that archaeological resources very often occur below ground surface. Should it happen that any archaeological material is accidentally unearthed during the course of

construction, all construction activities are to be immediately halted and Amafa alerted.



## **1. Introduction/background**

The eThekweni Housing Department has identified a need for additional medium to high density housing within the Durban metropolitan area. Several vacant, undeveloped and municipal owned sites were identified for the provision of such housing.

The Westville Triangle Site adjacent to the N2 (see map) comprises undeveloped land (20 hectares in extent). eThekweni Housing proposes the construction of approximately 942 middle income housing units with associated infrastructure such as sewage reticulation, stormwater control, roads, electricity supply and potable water.

The proposed development is subject to a Basic Assessment Process in terms of the EIA Regulations (2006) as promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) No 107 of 1998. SRK Consulting was appointed to do an independent Basic Assessment, while Albert van Jaarsveld was contracted by SRK to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of national and provincial Heritage legislation (see Section 3).

## **2. Details of consultant and ability to perform the service**

Albert van Jaarsveld is currently Acting HOD of the Dept of History, University of Zululand. He obtained the degrees BA and BA (Hons) (Archaeology and History) cum laude from the University of Pretoria. He also has a Masters in History from Rhodes University (1986). He is a member of several professional societies, including the SA Archaeological Society (SAAS), Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA – Cultural Resources Management Section) and South African Historical Society (SAHS) and is an AMAFA accredited Cultural Heritage Resources practitioner. He is the author of several scientific publications (books and articles) and has completed about 120 Heritage Impact Assessments in several provinces for several companies and institutions over the past five years, including major power transmission lines (such as Perseus-Hydra 765kv, Arcus Gibb). His

detailed CV is available on request.

Field assistant Bruce Hopwood holds two BA (Hons) degrees from the Universities of Rhodes and Stellenbosch and is an experienced field worker, having been involved in most projects referred to above.

### **3. Heritage Legislation in South Africa**

Cultural heritage resources can broadly be defined as “physical features, both natural and man-made, associated with human activity”. South African heritage legislation stretches further than the restricted definition above by also including invisible and intangible beliefs, ideas and oral traditions, which are regarded as important as physical cultural objects. Also included are fossils and meteorite sites. Heritage resources reflected in South African heritage legislation (Act No 25 of 1999) include the following:

- a) Places, buildings, structures and equipment;
- 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;
- e) Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f) Archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- g) Graves and burial grounds, including –
  - (i) Ancestral graves,
  - (ii) Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders,
  - (iii) Graves of victims of conflict,
  - (iv) Graves of important individuals,
  - (v) Historical graves and cemeteries older than 60 years, and
  - (vi) Other human remains, which are not covered under the Human Tissues Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983 as amended);
- h) Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;

- i) Movable objects, including –
  - (i) Objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - (ii) Ethnographic art and objects;
  - (iii) Military objects;
  - (iv) Objects of decorative art;
  - (v) Objects of fine art;
  - (vi) Objects of scientific or technological interest;
  - (vii) Books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings; and
  - (viii) Any other prescribed categories.

But excluding any object made by a living person.

The above act - section 38 (1) – requires a Heritage Impact Assessment in case of:

- a) The construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- b) The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- c) Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site
  - (i) Exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
  - (ii) Involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
  - (iii) Involving three or more erven or subdivisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
- d) The costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
- e) The re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
- f) Any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial resources authority.



SAHRA (South African Heritage Resources Agency) requires sufficient information about identified heritage sites to enable it to assess with confidence:

- a) Whether or not it has objections to a development
- b) What the conditions are upon which such development might proceed
- c) Which sites require permits for mitigation or destruction
- d) Which sites require mitigation and what this should comprise
- e) Whether sites must be conserved and what alternatives can be proposed that may re-locate the development in such a way as to conserve other sites, for example, by incorporating them in a wilderness area, or under a parking space; and
- f) What measures should/can be put in place to protect the sites that should be conserved.

While grading (field rating or field significance) is actually the responsibility of the heritage resources authorities, all reports should include Field Ratings for the sites, to comply with Section 38 of the legislation, for example:

- National: Grade I significance e.g. resources such as the Castle in Cape Town (non-movable and no-go areas for any developer)
- Provincial: Grade II significance such as Later Stone Age engravings and paintings (non-movable and to be avoided as no-go areas)
- Local: Grade III A significance; where mitigation is not advised and the site should be retained as a heritage site of high significance
- Local: Grade III B significance; where a section of a site should be mitigated and part should be retained as a heritage site (high significance)
- Generally Protected A: where sites should be mitigated before destruction (generally high/medium significance)
- Generally Protected B: sites of medium significance that should be mitigated before development

- Generally Protected C: sites sufficiently recorded before development/construction (low significance)

Other sections of the Act with relevance are:

34 (1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than sixty years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

(2) Within three months of the refusal of the provincial heritage authority to issue a permit, consideration must be given to the protection of the place concerned in terms of one of the formal designations provided for in Part 1 of this Chapter.

(3) The provincial heritage resources authority may at its discretion, by notice in the Provincial Gazette, make an exemption from the requirements of subsection (1) within a defined geographical area, or for certain defined categories of site within a defined geographical area, provided that it is satisfied that heritage resources falling into the defined area or category have been identified and are adequately provided for in terms of the provisions of part 1 of this Chapter.

(4) Should the provincial heritage resources authority believe it to be necessary it may, following a three-month notice period published in the Provincial Gazette, withdraw or amend a notice under subsections (3).

The above legislation aims to promote and protect South Africa's rich cultural heritage so that future generations may bequeath this unique and precious aspect of our heritage to following generations.

#### **4. Study approach/method**

A desktop study was undertaken firstly to become acquainted with the general history and archaeology of the area before a field survey was carried out on Monday 21 September 2009. The desktop study comprises scanning the Provincial Register of archaeological sites at Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, as well as published data. The field survey consisted of

scanning the area by foot to establish whether any archaeological remains (i.e. Stone Age, Iron Age) were present in the area or whether any other Heritage Sites (such a buildings over 60 years of age) were being threatened by the development. Photographs were taken by a six mega pixel Sony Cybershot digital camera and GPS co-ordinates were taken with a handheld Garmin 75 Global Positioning.

Ground visibility was average – while the surface was clearly exposed in some areas, vegetation (mainly alien invaders) has overgrown certain areas very densely, visibility was however clear enough to still make defensible judgements. Disturbed ground surfaces also provided insight into stratification.

## **5. Description of the affected environment and results of survey**

### **a) Location and area description**

The Westville Triangle site is situated between the N2 Highway and the suburb of Berea-West in Westville, KwaZulu-Natal at S 29° 50' 15,22" and E 30° 57' 23,57" within the eThekweni Municipality. Elevation is between 100 and 130 metres. The site is approximately 20 hectares in extent and is generally moderately to densely vegetated with a high abundance of alien invaders (such as pine, gum, syringa, pepper trees, lantana and chromoleana). Few indigenous tree species occur. Two watercourses drain the site in a south easterly direction towards the N2 Highway. The centre of the site has been disturbed in the past for unknown reasons, the ground surface being lowered by excavation.

It seems as if the site is currently being used as a paint ball shooting range. Pathways traverse the area and 'targets' have been erected at various points. Old car tyres are scattered everywhere.

**b) Archaeological resources: The Stone and Iron Ages**

Although Stone Age sites have formerly been recorded within the boundaries of the eThekweni Municipality, none were observed during the survey. Lithic material present is not typical of that being used in the Stone Tool Manufacturing Industry.

No Iron Age remains were observed either. Early Iron Age sites are in general situated in low-lying areas close to water resources – the Westville Triangle Site is not situated within such area.

**The Historical Period**

There are no buildings present and no declared Heritage Sites (former National Monuments) occur in close vicinity.

**6. Impact description and assessment**

The impact of the proposed housing development will be permanent. It is not anticipated that the development will have any influence on cultural heritage resources. The risk of archaeological sites being accidentally unearthed during the construction process is minimal (although it always remains a possibility).

**7. Recommended management/mitigation activities**

The construction teams should be made aware that archaeological material (eg pottery, graves, remains of dwellings, etc) often occurs underground. Should any such material be accidentally unearthed during the construction process, all construction activities are to be halted immediately and Amafa alerted.

**8. Conclusion**

It is recommended that the eThekweni Municipality be granted permission to proceed with the proposed Westville Triangle Housing project. The development poses no immediate threat to KZN's cultural heritage.

## 9. Sources

- Beaumont, P B, H de Villiers and J L Vogel: *Modern Man in sub-Saharan Africa prior to 49 000 years BP: A review and evaluation with particular reference to Border Cave*. South African Journal of Science, vol 74, pp 409-419, 1978.
- Bulpin, T V. *Discovering South Africa*. Sixth Edition, Tafelberg Publishers, Cape Town, 2000
- Deacon, H J & J. *Human Beginnings in Southern Africa: Uncovering the Secrets of the Stone Age*. David Philip, Cape Town & Johannesburg, 2002.
- Hall, Martin. *The Changing Past: Farmers, Kings and Traders in Southern Africa, 200 – 1860*. David Philip, Cape Town & Johannesburg, 1987.
- Hall, Martin. *Archaeology Africa*. David Philip, Cape Town, 1996.
- Huffman, Thomas N: *Handbook to the Iron Age, The Archaeology of Pre-Colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, 2007.
- Joukowsky, M. *A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology, Tools and Techniques of Field Work for Archaeologists*. Prentice Hall Press; New York, London, etc, 1980.
- Maggs, T M O'C & Michael, M A. *Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld*. Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, 1976
- Mitchell, P. *The Archaeology of Southern Africa*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2000.
- Phillipson, D W. *African Archaeology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1978.
- Raper, P E. *New Dictionary of South African Place Names*. Jonathan Ball, Johannesburg and Cape Town, 2005

**10. Appendixes**

**a. Photographs**



Paintball shooting range.

S 29° 50' 12,0"

and

E 30° 57' 21,6".



Paintball shooting range.

S 29° 50' 12,0"

and

E 30° 57' 21,6".





Stone outcrop.  
S 29° 50' 10,5"  
and  
E 30° 57' 23,6".



Erosion -  
waterway.  
S 29° 50' 12,0"  
and  
E 30° 57' 25,6".





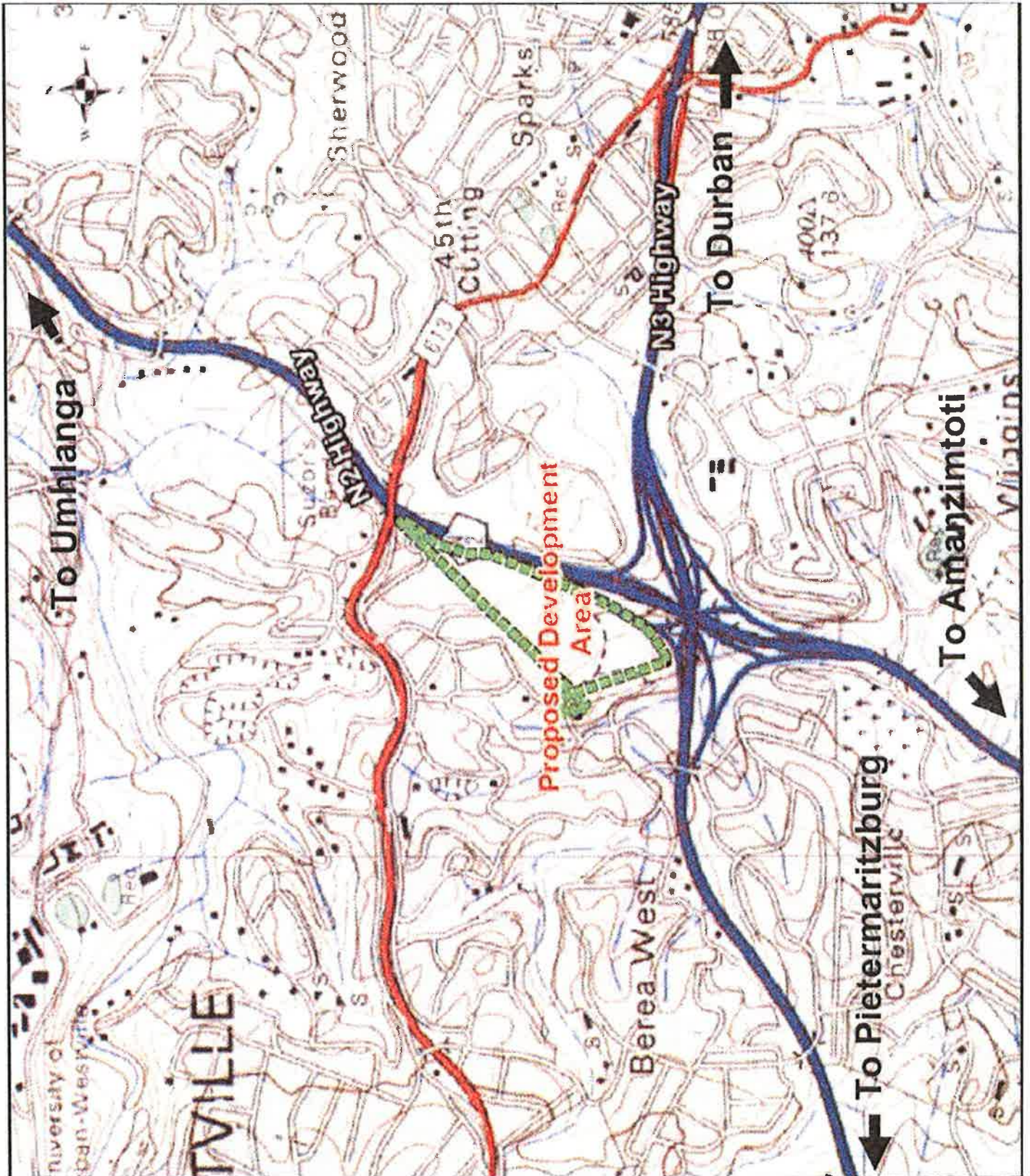
Disturbed surface.  
S 29° 50' 13,6" and  
E 30° 57' 23,8".



View over  
Westville Triangle  
Housing site –  
existing low cost  
housing  
development  
visible on opposite  
side of N2.



b. Locality map



c. Declaration of independence

**SPECIALIST REPORT DETAILS**

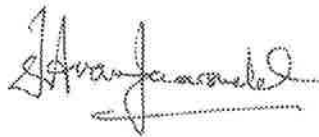
This report has been prepared as per the requirements of Section 33 of GNT 385 – Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)

Report prepared by: *Albert van Jaarsveld*

Expertise/Field of Study: *Heritage*

I, *F.A. van Jaarsveld*, declare that this report has been prepared independently of any influence or prejudice as may be specified by the Department of Agriculture and Environmental affairs.

Signed:



Date	
Document title	
Author	
Revision number	
Checked by	
Approved	
Signature	
For	