

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF
THE PROPOSED UMZIMVUBU WARD 14 WATER
SUPPLY SCHEME, ALFRED NZO DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY.**



ACTIVE HERITAGE CC.

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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 1836 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 (2008)
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 Umzimvubu Ward 14 Water Supply Scheme near Matatiele identified four modern grave sites directly adjacent to proposed pipeline route. No archaeological sites were located during the survey. A buffer zone of 20m must be maintained around these identified grave sites. It would be possible to alter the delineation of the proposed pipeline route slightly in order to accommodate such buffer zones. Alternatively, a second phase heritage impact assessment must be conducted by a grave relocation expert. Attention is also drawn to the South African National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) 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

The consultants were approached by Enviropro to conduct a heritage impact assessment (HIA) of the study area.

According to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), 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-
 - i. 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-

- i. 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).

The newly promulgated KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act No. 4 of 2008) also makes specific mention to rock art and archaeological sites.

It is furthermore stated that:

—(1) 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 KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Council.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) (a) 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.

(b) The Council may establish and maintain a provincial repository or repositories for the safekeeping or display of—

(i)

archaeological objects;

(ii)

palaeontological material;

(iii)

ecofacts;

(iv)

objects related to battlefield sites;

(v)

material cultural artefacts; or

(vi)

meteorites.

(7) The Council may, subject to such conditions as the Council may determine, loan any object or material referred to in subsection (6) to a national or provincial museum or institution.

(8) No person may, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council, trade in, export or attempt to export from the Province—

(a)

any category of archaeological object;

(b)

any palaeontological material;

(c)

any ecofact;

(d)

any object which may reasonably be regarded as having been recovered from a battlefield site;

(e)

any material cultural artefact; or

(f)

any meteorite.

(9) (a) A person or institution in possession of an object or material referred to in paragraphs (a) – (f) of subsection (8), must submit full particulars of such object or material, including such information as may be prescribed, to the Council.

(b) An object or material referred to in paragraph (a) must, subject to paragraph (c) and the directives of the Council, remain under the control of the person or institution submitting the particulars thereof.

(c) The ownership of any object or material referred to in paragraph (a) vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.

This study aims to identify and assess the significance of any heritage and archaeological resources occurring on the site. Based on the significance, the impact of the development on the heritage resources would be determined. Then appropriate actions to reduce the impact on the heritage resources would be put forward. In terms 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.

Table 1. Background information

Consultants:	Frans Prins & Sian Hall (assistant) representing “Active Heritage cc”
Type of development:	The development of a water source and reticulation to RDP standards in the villages of Nqalweni, Sahlulo, Mandileni, Mt Horeb, Bethel, Ngwetsheni, KuMndini A, KuMndini B, KuMndini C, Niona A, Niona B, and Niona C. The water will be supplied from a network of strategically placed boreholes. The proposal will include the construction and implementation of a series of reservoirs, bulk and village reticulation pipelines, and associated infrastructure and equipment (pumps, tanks, valves etc. The listed activities requiring environmental approval are the water course crossings and the placement of infrastructure within 32 metres of the surrounding water courses (rivers, streams, drainage lines, wetlands etc.).
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 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

Footprint: The proposed water supply scheme is situated in a rural area to the south of Matatiele in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality (Fig 1). The GPS coordinates for the proposed development is given as: S 30° 43' 57.20" E 28° 50' 29.13". The project area can be accessed by travelling out of Matatiele towards Mount Frere.

Current land use: The project area is situated in a communal area in the foothills of the southern KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg. Most of the area is occupied by rural homesteads where small-scale subsistence farming is the main economic activity.

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The southern Drakensberg, including the greater Matatiele area, is well endowed with cultural heritage, including various wilderness areas within and outside the formal protected area network. Although most literature refers to this heritage mainly in terms of San rock art, the region also contains other categories of cultural heritage features representative of various cultures and time-periods. The cultural heritage of the Drakensberg is diverse and highly fragile. Cultural heritage, unlike natural heritage, is non-renewable and irreplaceable. Once damaged, it is gone forever. San rock paintings and associated Later Stone Age sites, as well as the palaeontology of the area, are unique and have global significance. The remaining categories, however, certainly have national, provincial, and regional significance. The area has had several different cultural groups associated with it, from the San to the southern Sotho, the Zulu-speaking and Xhosa-speaking groups, and, more recently, the Griqua and Anglo-Boer descendants. Each of these groups has its own unique cultural expressions and has related in various ways to the others. These differences are found in the building styles of homes, their way of life as they interact with their environment, traditional dress, and so on. In addition, there are a number of living heritage values associated with all of these groups, many of which are unknown or poorly recorded. The following section is a more detailed description of the various cultural heritage features.

2.1.1 The Early Stone Age

The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools such as hand axes in areas below the 1 800 m contour suggests that the first inhabitants of the area predated modern humans by at least 800 000 years. Sites belonging to this period in the foothills of the southern Drakensberg are mostly characterised by a few surface scatters and individual stone tools – usually in the close vicinity of water.

Three Early Stone Age sites are recorded in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage data base in the greater Matatiele area. Stone tools in the form of hand axes and cleavers recorded on these sites were most probably manufactured by *Homo erectus*, a predecessor of modern humans. However, none of these known sites occur in the immediate environs of the project area.

2.1.2 The Middle Stone Age

Anatomically modern people (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) with a very different economic strategy and more sophisticated stone tool kits moved into the area about 200 000 years ago. Archaeological assemblages left behind by these people have been termed Middle Stone Age. Not only were these societies more effective hunters than their predecessors but Middle Stone Age sites elsewhere in southern Africa also provide convincing evidence for some of the earliest symbolic behaviour in the world. It was Middle Stone Age people from southern and eastern Africa who left the continent roughly between 80 000 – 60 000 years ago to populate the rest of the world. Middle Stone Age sites in the Drakensberg region occur in both Lesotho and South Africa. Sites occur as surface scatters as well as deep cave deposits. Prime archaeological deposits, however, occur in the Eastern Cape and Free State sections of the region. Archaeological excavations at Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape Province indicate that the Middle Stone Age persisted in the Cape Drakensberg, to the immediate south west of the study area, until around 22 000 years ago (Mitchell 2002).

Eleven Middle Stone Age sites, all surface scatters, are known from the greater Matatiele area although none occur in the project area. Most of them have been observed in areas with limited vegetation cover such as places where sheet or donga erosion occurred. None of these have been excavated.

2.1.3. The Later Stone Age

The stone tool assemblages belonging to the immediate ancestors of the San or Bushmen have been termed Later Stone Age. Later Stone Age tools are generally much smaller but also more diversified than the earlier tool kits. It was during this period that the bow and arrow was used extensively, and societies exploited their environments distinctly more intensively and effectively. Literally hundreds of Later Stone Age sites prevail in the Drakensberg region. In addition, most of the rock art in the region was created by the San. The earliest evidence for Later Stone Age occupation of the Maloti Drakensberg comes from Sehonghong Cave in south eastern Lesotho and from Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape section of the region. Here a specific Later Stone Age period called the Robberg Industry has been dated to approximately 20 000 years ago. In contrast, evidence from Good Hope shelter 1 near the bottom of Sani Pass suggests that the earliest archaeological evidence for San people in the KwaZulu-Natal portion of the Drakensberg dates back to approximately 8 000 years ago. Whereas most parts of the Maloti Drakensberg were only seasonally

occupied by San hunter gatherers for the larger part of the last 20 000 years, the situation started to change during the later part of the Holocene around 5 000 years ago. This was compounded by the arrival of immigrant black farmers in the region soon after 1600 AD and European colonialism around 1834 AD (Wright & Mazel 2007). During the historical period, the Maloti Drakensberg and adjacent mountainous areas became the last stronghold for various southern San groups such as the Baroa, //Xegwi, !Ga!ne, //Kx'au, and //Ku//ke. Their Later Stone Age way of life finally came to an end during the late 19th century. San descendants still live in the area but for all practical purposes have assimilated with their more powerful neighbours. Many place names within the region still retained their original San pronunciations such as the Inxu, Sehonghong, Qomoqomong and Qhoasing rivers, and the Qeme, Qhuqhu, Qhalasi, and Qholaqhoe mountains. Approximately 1 300 Later Stone Age sites are known within the South African side of the Drakensberg.

Approximately 106 Later Stone Age sites occur in the greater Matatiele area. Most of these are San rock art sites (see below) but 4 Later Stone Age surface scatters have also been recorded in the past.

2.1.4. Rock Paintings

The Drakensberg region is particularly well known for the occurrence of some of the finest and most complex prehistoric rock paintings in the world. Depictions of humans dominate, although finely executed animals such as eland and rhebuck are common. Some of the art is executed in various colours and in detailed precision that almost renders it a three dimensional aspect. Most researchers support the theory developed by Professor David Lewis-Williams and his colleagues that the figures represent trance induced visions during San religious rites (Lewis-Williams 2003). According to some researchers, the celebrated Rosetta Panel at Game Pass shelter (RSA) holds the key to our understanding of all San rock art in the sub-Saharan region of Africa. However, this interpretation is not supported by all rock art researchers. Notable deviations from this approach have been developed by Anne Solomon, and more recently by Thomas Dowson. The Maloti Drakensberg is also one of the areas with the highest density of prehistoric rock art in the world and certainly contains the highest concentration of prehistoric art south of the Sahara in Africa. Although the scientific dating of these paintings is still under researched, recent research suggests that the oldest paintings may date to approximately 4000 years ago (Wright & Mazel 2007). This is much older than previously thought. The chronological uniqueness of the art, however, is not so

much in its antiquity as in the fact that the Maloti Drakensberg was the last area in Africa south of the Zambezi River where the San rock art tradition was still actively practised. Paintings at two sites in the southern portion of the region, close to the project area, were created as recently as 1920 (Prins 2009). Hundred and six San rock art sites occur in the greater Matatiele area. Many of these contain imagery associated with the amaThola – a group of creolised San who became adept horsemen and livestock raiders. However, none of the known rock art sites occur within the project area. That is most certainly due to the fact that the area do not contain sufficient sandstone outcrops and overhangs that would have been utilised by the San rock artists.

2.1.5. Iron Age Sites

Around 2 000 years ago the southern African demographic landscape was transformed with the arrival of the first Bantu-speaking agriculturists in the sub-region. These subsistence farmers lived for the most part in the lower altitude, wooded areas of the eastern seaboard. Around 1250 AD certain agriculturists started occupying the higher altitude, grassland areas. Sites belonging to this period in KwaZulu-Natal are referred to as Moor Park settlements and they typically occupy hill tops with a low stone walling effect. Although none occur within the designated Maloti-Drakensberg project area, they can be found at the fringes, at an altitude of approximately 1 200-1 400 m. By 1600 AD, groups such as the amaZizi reached the foothills of the northern Drakensberg near Winterton (Wright and Mazel 2007). Various splinter groups of the amaZizi left KwaZulu Natal and also settled in parts of Lesotho and the southern Drakensberg region where, over time, they adopted a Sotho identity. The baPhuti of south eastern Lesotho are perhaps the best known of these early immigrants. By the early 1700s various other Sotho and Nguni-speaking groups moved into the area and established chieftaincies in those areas below the 1 800 m contour. Impressive Iron Age sites belonging to this period and built in typical Sotho-style occur near Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba in the Eastern Free State. Nguni-style sites of this period have also been found in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape parts of the Drakensberg. The expansion of the Zulu kingdom around 1818 had a major impact on Iron Age settlement in the greater Drakensberg region. Various chieftaincies were attacked, and their routed remnants typically traversed the Maloti Drakensberg region in search of better settlement elsewhere. Bandits often hid out in the mountains, and a number allegedly practised cannibalism. Perhaps the most significant development during this

period was the founding of the Southern Sotho nation under King Moshoeshe I. Various sites in Lesotho belong to this period – some of them, like Thaba Bosiu, are typically mountain strongholds. Almost 2 000 Iron-Age sites have been identified in the Maloti Drakensberg region, and most occur in altitudes lower than 1 800 m contour.

Stone walled Iron Age settlements have also been recorded in the greater Matatiele area and was most probably built by southern Sotho immigrants who settled here after 1870. However, none are known from the project area. Nevertheless it is possible that systematic surveys may locate Iron Age sites in the near future.

2.1.6. The Historical period

The historical period spans the era of colonialism that started around 1830 AD when the first missionaries and Dutch immigrants arrived from the Cape Colony in the Maloti Drakensberg region. Sites associated with Voortrekker settlement of the area occur in the eastern Free State and the northern portion of KwaZulu-Natal near Winterton and Bergville. For the most part, these were the places where laagers were formed (with very low archaeological visibility) and old farmsteads with associated grave yards. A particular site worth mentioning is Kerkenberg near Oliviershoek Pass, where Debora Retief painted the initials of her father on a rock before the trekkers descended into KwaZulu Natal. In Lesotho, the rebellion by Chief Moorosi and the resultant action by the Cape Colony government at the southern tip of the country left footprints of forts and associated graves at Moyeni Camp, Fort Hartley, Cutting Camp, and Mount Moorosi. The most important structure relating to the history of Bushman raids is most probably Fort Nottingham, in KwaZulu-Natal, which was built around 1852. Various historical mission stations founded in the mid to late 1800s such as those at Morija and St James in Lesotho and Emmaus, Reichenau, and Mariazell in South Africa, are still in active use. The Mariazell Mission Station, which dates back to the 1860's, is situated to the north west of Matatiele. The Ongeluksnek Pass, which is situated approximately 60km to the north west of the project area, is intimately associated with the epic trek of the Griqua people in 1861, led by Adam Kok. The area associated with the first native uprising against the British colonial government, by the celebrated Hlubi chief Langalibalele in 1873, is at Giants Castle Nature Reserve in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. Various battle sites associated with the Basotho Wars between the Boer Republic of the Orange Free State and the Sotho Kingdom of Moshoeshe I are to be found in the eastern Free State and adjacent parts

of Lesotho. Sites belonging to the period of the Anglo-Boer War (1898-1901) abound in the eastern Free State portion of the greater Maloti Drakensberg area. These are typically areas where skirmishes took place or where ammunition was destroyed. A few rock engravings belonging to the Anglo-Boer War period have been documented from the Golden Gate Highland Park. However, thorough research is still required to ascertain the meaning and value of these engravings. Many historical sites can be categorised as belonging to the “built environment” as defined in heritage legislation. These are the physical remnants and traces of historical settlements that underpin the cultural value and meaning of the surrounding communities.

One of the earliest European explorers in the southern Drakensberg area was Captain Allen Gardener. Gardener skirted the southern KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg in 1835 seeking a route from Natal to the Cape Colony. Some Voortrekker farmers settled in the area, albeit briefly, around 1840 but it was only after 1850 when Natal became a British colony that more European, especially English-speaking, settlers arrived in the area. They were preceded and followed by French and German missionaries. The Trappist mission of Rheicenau became a prominent landmark in the Underberg District. The buildings associated with these early missionaries as well as farmsteads and associated graveyards, dating from approximately 1860, occur at various localities in the Underberg district (McKenzie 1946). Another prominent historical building is the old jail of Himeville. This building was erected in the 1870's and was meant to act as a defensive fort for the inhabitants of Himeville during the Anglo-Zulu War. Fortunately the war never reached as far south in the colony and today the old building functions as a museum.

By the 1880's there was a shortage of vacant land for farming in the then colony of Natal and the children and grandchildren of the 1820 and 1840 settlers were looking for land of their own. The land along the Southern Drakensberg, a hitherto undeveloped area, provided vast tracts of unclaimed land. The area had been surveyed in 1880 by Dr Peter Sutherland, the Surveyor-General for Natal, and farms had been identified. But when Dr Sutherland was approached by a certain Richard Cockerell for permission to take up land he was told that he could have as much as he wanted because the land was uninhabitable. The town of Matatiele originated with the arrival of Adam Kok and his Griquas in 1864. However, the general turmoil in “Griqualand East” induced the Cape Government to intervene in 1874 and a magistrate G. P Stafford was appointed to the area. However, the outbreak of the

Basuto Gun War in 1880 saw the area in so uproarious a state that the few European colonists to the area were forced to abscond. The settlement was overrun and 11 Hlubi tribesmen, who were part of a force attempting to guard the place, were killed. For 12 months the area remained chaotic, but the rule of law was eventually reasserted. Troublesome elements were driven away and the district was opened to European settlement. A new magistracy was built on the site of the present Matatiele town hall, with a detachment of the Cape Mounted rifles to garrison the place.

2.1.7. Graves

There are various grave sites belonging to different periods and cultural associations in the Drakensberg region. Perhaps the most famous sites are those belonging to the southern Sotho royalty at Botha Bothe in Lesotho; the grave of Nkosi Langalibalele at Giants Castle; KwaZulu Natal graves associated with the royalty of the amaZizi and amaNgwane near Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal; the grave of Adam Kok at Matatiele, Eastern Cape; and various graves in the Free State belonging to the Voortrekker and Anglo-Boer War periods. Interestingly, graves belonging to the prehistoric San inhabitants of the area are markedly absent or, as yet, have not been identified by researchers.

2.1.8. The Living Heritage

The living heritage of the Drakensberg area is varied and as yet little understood. Yet preliminary investigations by the Maloti Drakensberg Project (Anderson 2007) indicate that certain areas, including sites in communal areas close to Underberg, are still frequented by local communities who afford them ritual or sacred significance. Such locales may include archaeological sites with a living heritage component or natural features such as mountains, forests, boulders, caves, pools, or waterfalls with cultural significance. Living heritage is not only site-specific but also relates to oral history, indigenous knowledge systems, and indigenous languages, practices, and beliefs. Oral history specifically is a rich resource that has been passed down the generations and provides diverse narratives and interpretations concerning places of historical significance. It also provides a window on community perspectives regarding heritage resources, including indigenous names for sites and plant and animal species – all of which are imbued with cultural meaning.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) constitute an integral component of local knowledge, at grass roots level, often associated with traditional methods of land

management and use. In this regard, IKS can enhance conservation and sustainable management of cultural heritage to which communities may relate. Conservation should provide an enabling environment for communities to continue with the tradition of transmitting knowledge and skills and of safeguarding their cultural heritage. Traditional ceremonies still performed in the larger Drakensberg region include the *Bale* initiation schools among certain southern Sotho groups, the *amemulo* (coming of age) ceremonies among the amaNgwane, the *Nkubelwana* (planting of the first seed) among Zulu-speakers, rainmaking, and various ceremonies associated with the veneration of the ancestors. Six indigenous languages are still spoken in the area, including siBhaca, which was believed to be almost extinct.

Two broad categories of site-specific living heritage sites have been identified:

- Sites of national significance of which nine have been identified in the SA portion of the MDTFCA. These include rock art sites, sandstone shelters without any archaeological remains but used extensively as pilgrimage sites, two sacred forests, and three sacred mountains. All of these sites are frequented by indigenous groups as part of an annual pilgrimage.
- Sites of local significance include various pools, waterfalls, hot springs, kaolin and red ochre deposits, and boulders afforded special significance by traditional healers and sectarian Christian groupings. Seventeen such sites have been identified in the larger Drakensberg area.

2.1.9. Palaeontology

Given its nature, palaeontology should be a component of geology and biodiversity. Nevertheless, the present heritage legislation in South Africa also covers palaeontology. In fact, the heritage management procedures relating to palaeontology are almost identical to those of archaeology. The palaeontological history of the Maloti Drakensberg area is fascinating as it tells the story of the super southern continent called Gondwanaland and its associated fauna and flora preserved today as fossils (McCarthy & Rubidge 2005). Fossils and footprints belonging to various periods from around 270 million years ago to around 180 million years ago have been recorded and collected in the geological layers beneath the basalts. These layers, amongst other interesting facts, provide evidence of the greatest mass extinction of species in the world around 251 million years ago towards the end of the Permian period. Some species survived this extinction as attested by abundant fossils of certain species such

as *Lystrosaurus* found deep in the Triassic period layers. Whereas the majority of fossilized remains in the area are *therapsids* (mammal-like reptiles, ancestors of most mammal species today), the Maloti Drakensberg also harbours evidence of some of the earliest dinosaurs in the world. Footprints belonging to these early dinosaurs appear in various localities in the Molteno formations of both Lesotho and South Africa. The most celebrated palaeontological site occurs in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park. Here the earliest known dinosaur eggs in the world and a near intact embryo of an average sized dinosaur, i.e. *Massospondylus*, were located by scientists some thirty years ago. These early eggs, dated to almost 200 million years ago, are almost 100 million years older than other known dinosaur nest egg sites in the world. In adjacent Lesotho the Qomoqomong Dinosaur footprint and museum site has been developed for tourism purposes. The endemic turkey size dinosaur *Lesothosaurus* is known from various localities within Lesotho. No sites of palaeontological significance are known from the project area.

Summary

The cultural heritage of the Drakensberg region is rich, diverse, and fragile. The area contains a high density of prehistoric rock art that parallels the well known Upper-Palaeolithic rock art of Western Europe in artistic execution and symbolism. In addition, it harbours a rich and diverse record of palaeontological fossils that, for the most part, pre-date the Jurassic period of popular imagination. The mountains are also the heartland of the *Difaqane* – a period of tribal turmoil that developed as a direct response to the expansion of the Zulu state of Shaka in the 1820s. Many Iron Age sites in the area belong to this period, including significant sites associated with the founding of the Basotho Kingdom under King Moshoeshe I. It was also the area traversed by some of the most dramatic diasporas documented in southern African history, including the Great Trek of the Voortrekkers, The Griqua trek via Ongeluksnek, the wanderings of the amaHlubi, amaNgwane, amaZizi, and amaBhaca tribal entities, and the lesser-known but equally dramatic trek of the //Xegwi San in 1879 – the last rock artists of the region. Sites related to these historical events abound in the Drakensberg and are windows into a significant period of the history and culture of southern Africa. That some of these cultural expressions are still alive is witnessed by the occurrence of significant living heritage sites in the region. Most of these are used as sites of pilgrimage by visitors from South Africa, Lesotho, and even further abroad.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites. Unfortunately this database is incomplete and of only limited use. In addition, the archaeological database of the KwaZulu Natal Museum was consulted. This data base indicated more than 400 heritage sites in the southern Drakensberg, including Matatiele area. This survey was complemented by a desktop study of available aerial photographs. Potential “hotspot” and sensitive areas were identified and visited by means of a ground survey. A ground survey of the proposed pipeline development following standard and accepted archaeological procedures was conducted. An area of at least 30m on either side of the proposed pipelines was covered in these surveys.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility during the site visit was good.

3.2.2 Disturbance.

No disturbance of any potential archaeological stratigraphy or heritage features was noted.

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: KwaZulu-Natal

Municipality: Alfred Nzo District Municipality

Town: Matatiele and adjacent areas to the south

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The area surveyed is situated between Matatiele and Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape Province. It is located in a rural farm setting with spectacular views towards the Drakensberg in the north and west. The area is predominantly communal land with traditional homesteads and rural villages scattered over the land. Most inhabitants practise small-scale subsistence farming. Although situated within the foothills of the Drakensberg the study area falls outside of the buffer zone delineating the UKhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage site.

4.3 Description of sites

No archaeological sites occur in the project area. However, four modern grave sites occur in the project area. All of them are situated within 15m from the proposed pipeline development. A summary of the available grave sites and their heritage significance is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Grave sites located within the project area.

Site no	Heritage category	site	Significance	Type of Mitigation	GPS Latitude and Longitude
1 (Fig 3)	Rural cemetery consisting of approximately 9 individual graves. These are all modern graves (younger than 60 years). The cemetery is situated approximately 10m from the side of the existing road.		High to medium significance locally (Table 3)	Maintain a 20m buffer zone around cemetery. The proposed pipeline alignment will have to shift slightly to allow for the proposed buffer zone. Alternatively, conduct a second phase HIA by a grave relocation expert (Appendix 1).	S 30° 41' 54.12" E 28° 53' 19.08"
2 (Fig 4)	Rural cemetery consisting of approximately 7 individual graves. These are all modern graves (younger than 60 years). The cemetery is situated approximately 5m from the side of the existing road.		High to medium significance locally (Table 3)	Maintain a 20m buffer zone around cemetery. The proposed pipeline alignment will have to shift slightly to allow for the proposed buffer zone. Alternatively, conduct a second phase HIA by a grave relocation expert (Appendix 1).	S 30° 45' 08.80" E 28° 47' 48.80"
3 (Fig 5)	Rural cemetery consisting of approximately 20 individual graves. These are predominantly modern graves (younger than 60 years). The cemetery is situated approximately 20m from the side		High to medium significance locally (Table 3)	Maintain a 20m buffer zone around cemetery. The proposed pipeline alignment will have to shift slightly to allow for the proposed buffer zone. Alternatively, conduct a second phase HIA by a grave relocation expert (Appendix 1).	S 30° 44' 52.76" E 28° 46' 57.17"

	of the existing road.					
4 (Fig 6)	Large rural cemetery consisting of approximately 200 individual graves. These are predominantly modern graves (younger than 60 years). The cemetery is situated approximately 10m from the side of the existing road.	High medium significance locally (Table 3)	to	Maintain a 20m buffer zone around cemetery. The proposed pipeline alignment will have to shift slightly to allow for the proposed buffer zone. Alternatively, conduct a second phase HIA by a grave relocation expert (Appendix 1)	S 30° 43' 34.18"	E 28° 48' 41.46"

4.4 Dating the findings

All the rural cemeteries identified are modern with most graves younger than 60 years.

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

The rural cemeteries situated adjacent to the proposed pipeline development have been rated according to SAHRA standards (Table 3 & Table 4).

5.1 Field Rating

All the rural cemeteries identified have been rated as Generally Protected A (Table 3). They therefore have high to medium significance and mitigation is necessary before destruction.

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

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The construction of the proposed water pipelines may proceed in terms of heritage values. However, the following measures need to be adhered to:

- A buffer zone of 20m must strictly be maintained around the identified rural cemeteries. No material may be removed or graves altered during the construction process.
- Should the developers wish to alter the location existing graves then a second phase heritage impact assessment, by a registered grave relocation expert, must be called for (Appendix 1).
- Avoid all heritage sites; a golden rule is to maintain a buffer zone of at least 50m around identified sites.
- Avoid sandstone outcrops and rock faces, where possible, as these areas may harbour unknown rock art sites and shelters with Later archaeological deposits.
- Only use established roads during the construction process. All secondary access roads planned need to be surveyed for heritage sites before construction may commence.
- Should any heritage material or artefacts be located during the construction process then all activities should stop in the immediate vicinity of the site and the local heritage agency contacted for further evaluation.

7 MAPS AND FIGURES

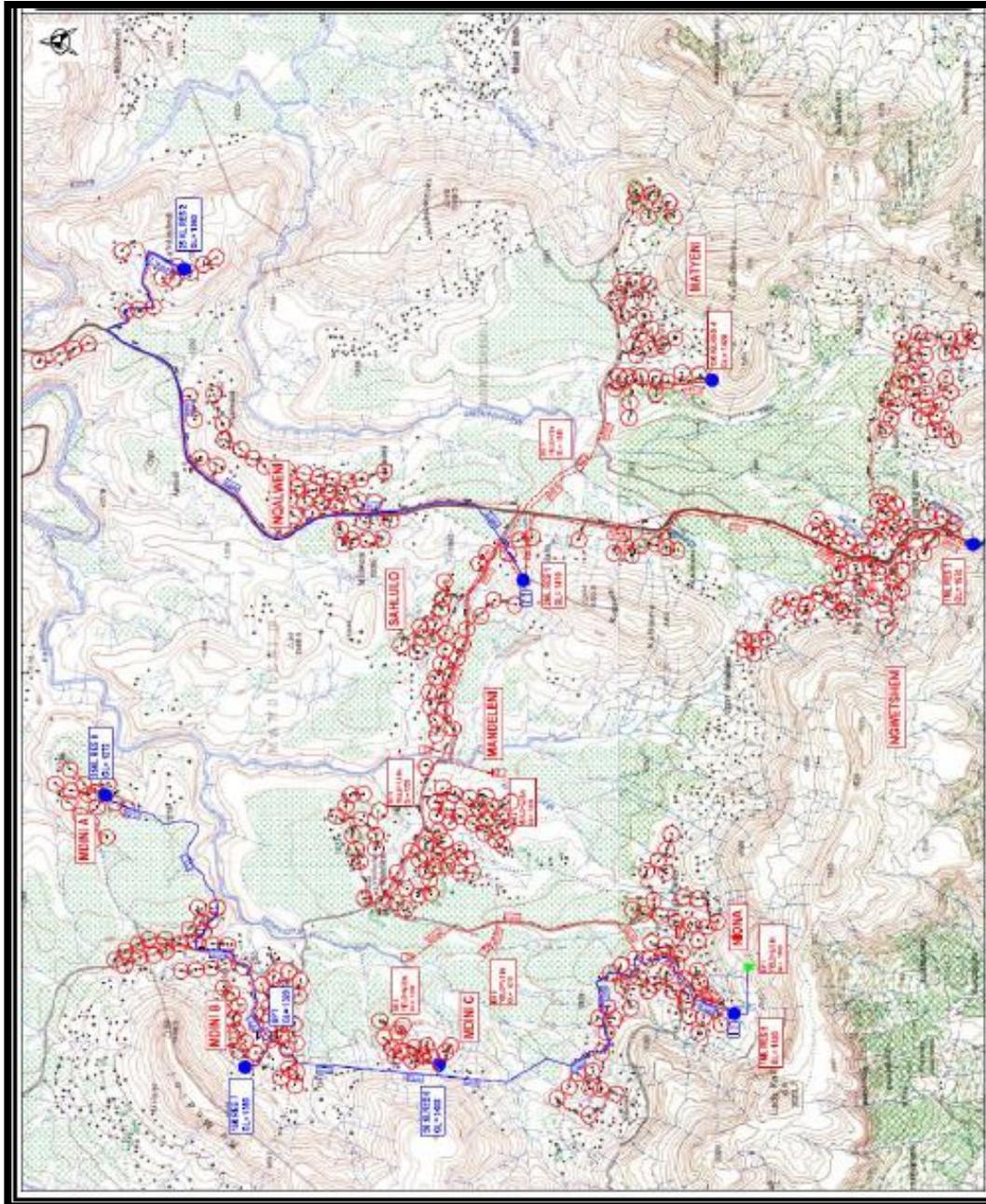


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the proposed Umzimvubu Ward 14 Water Supply Scheme near Matatiele.

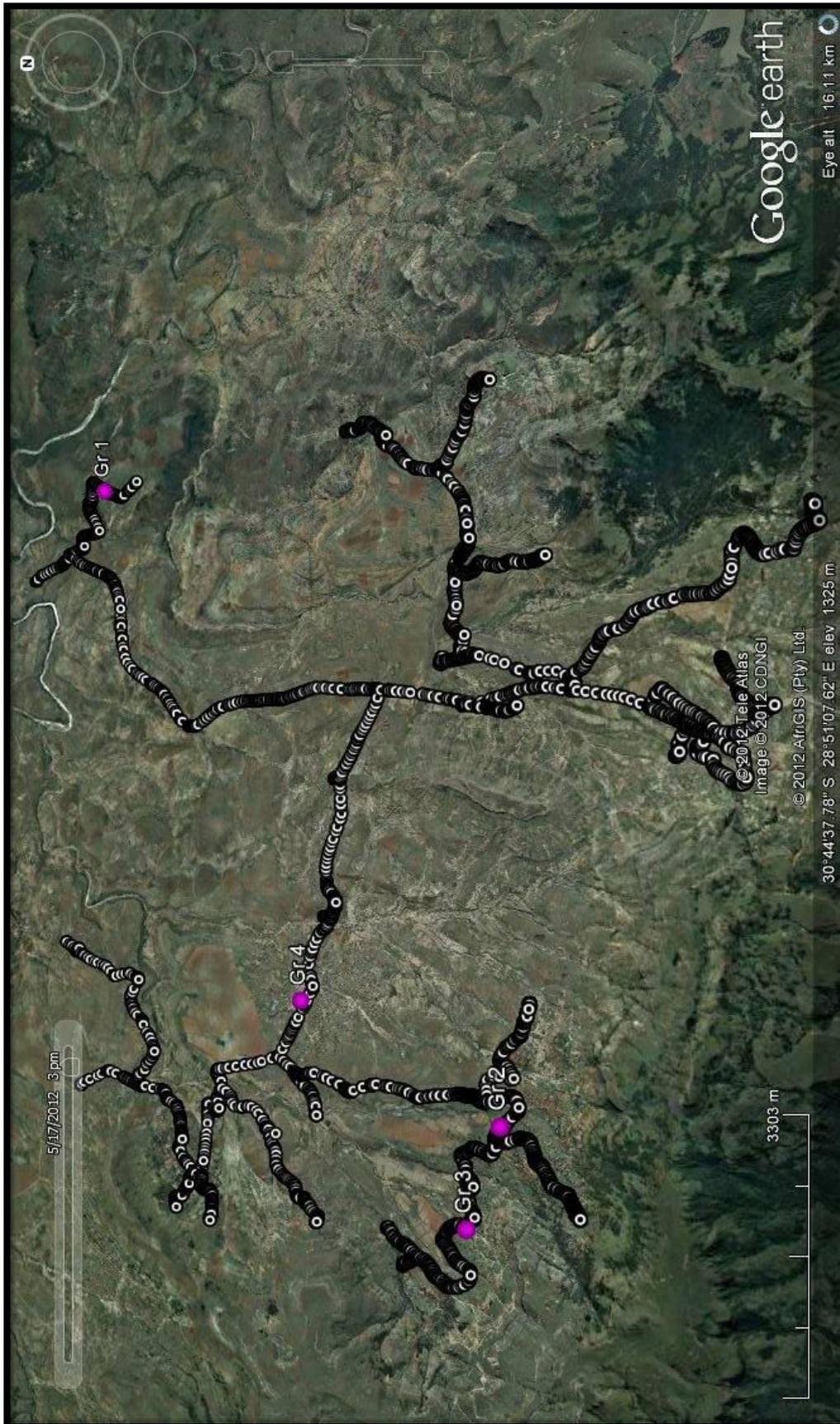


Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the identified rural cemeteries (purple polygons) adjacent to the proposed water pipeline trajectory.



Figure 3. Grave Site 1. This rural cemetery consists of approximately 9 grave sites. None of the marked graves are older than 60 years.



Figure 4. Grave Site 2. Rural cemetery consisting of seven individual graves. None of the marked graves are older than 60 years.



Figure 5. Grave Site 3. Rural cemetery consisting of almost 20 individual graves. None of the marked grave sites are older than 60 years.



Figure 6. Grave Site 4. Rural cemetery consisting of almost 200 individual graves.

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APPENDIX 1: RELOCATION OF GRAVES

Burial grounds and graves are dealt with in Article 36 of the NHR Act, no 25 of 1999. Below follows a broad summary of how to deal with grave in the event of proposed development.

- If the graves are younger than 60 years, an undertaker can be contracted to deal with the exhumation and reburial. This will include public participation, organising cemeteries, coffins, etc. They need permits and have their own requirements that must be adhered to.
- If the graves are older than 60 years old or of undetermined age, an archaeologist must be in attendance to assist with the exhumation and documentation of the graves. This is a requirement by law.

Once it has been decided to relocate particular graves, the following steps should be taken:

- Notices of the intention to relocate the graves need to be put up at the burial site for a period of 60 days. This should contain information where communities and family members can contact the developer/archaeologist/public-relations officer/undertaker. All information pertaining to the identification of the graves needs to be documented for the application of a SAHRA permit. The notices need to be in at least 3 languages, English, and two other languages. This is a requirement by law.
- Notices of the intention needs to be placed in at least two local newspapers and have the same information as the above point. This is a requirement by law.
- Local radio stations can also be used to try contact family members. This is not required by law, but is helpful in trying to contact family members.
- During this time (60 days) a suitable cemetery need to be identified close to the development area or otherwise one specified by the family of the deceased.
- An open day for family members should be arranged after the period of 60 days so that they can gather to discuss the way forward, and to sort out any problems. The developer needs to take the families requirements into account. This is a requirement by law.
- Once the 60 days has passed and all the information from the family members have been received, a permit can be requested from SAHRA. This is a requirement by law.

- Once the permit has been received, the graves may be exhumed and relocated.
- All headstones must be relocated with the graves as well as any items found in the grave