

**PHASE ONE CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT
ASSESSMENT OF PORTION 14 (of 8) OF THE
FARM RIETSPRUIT N0 899, Registration Division
FT.**



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

For: White Glass Investments (PTY) Ltd

Frans Prins
MA (Archaeology)

P.O. Box 947
Howick
3290

Activeheritage@gmail.com
Fax: 0867636380

30 June 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT	1
1.1.	Details of the area surveyed:	2
2	BACKGROUND TO HERITAGE RESOURCES OF THE AREA	2
3	BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY	3
3.1	Methodology	3
3.2	Restrictions encountered during the survey	4
3.2.1	<i>Visibility</i>	4
3.2.2	<i>Disturbance</i>	4
3.3	Details of equipment used in the survey.....	4
4	DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED	4
4.1	Locational data	4
4.2	Overview of potential heritage resources in the project area	4
4.3	Ground Survey Results	5
5	HERITAGE SITE DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)	6
5.1	Field Rating.....	6
6	PALEONTOLOGY DESKTOP EVALUATION	7
7	RECOMMENDATIONS	7
8	MAPS AND FIGURES	8
9	REFERENCES	19

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Background information.....	1
Table 2.	Heritage sites identified during the ground survey.....	5
Table 3.	Evaluation of heritage sites	11
Table 4.	Field rating and recommendation grading of sites.....	12

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 Phase One Heritage Impact Assessment of Portion 14 (of 8) of the Farm Riet Spruit No 899, Registration Division FT, and Umngeni Municipality identified no heritage sites on the property. The consultant could not find any surface evidence for archaeological and heritage sites on the footprint. The results of the ground survey is supported by the desktop study that included an analysis of old aerial photographs (going back to 1944) and contemporary Google Earth Imagery of the property. There is no reason why the subdivision and proposed development of the area may not proceed from a heritage perspective. However, attention is drawn to the Amafa Research Institute and Heritage Act (Act No.5 of 2021) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency. Should any ‘invisible graves’ be exposed during construction then all activities must come to a halt and the provincial heritage agency be contacted for their evaluation of the situation. Mitigation measures that could include the fencing-off of the graves and a potential grave exhumation process may be called for pending the recommendations of a Phase Two Heritage Impact Assessment.

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Table 1. Background information

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for White Glass Investments.
Type of development:	The present owners of Portion 14 (of 8) of the Farm Riet Spruit No.899, Registration Division FT, would like to subdivide the property into nine (9) subdivisions and rezone the subdivisions “Smallholdings” in terms of the uMngeni Local Municipality Land Use Scheme for future development. The consultant was asked to evaluate the Site and to make recommendations for future development. A Phase One Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Yes
Terms of reference	To carry out a Phase One 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 Amafa Research Institute Act (Act No. 5 of 2018)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The project area is situated within Birnam Wood on Main Road 367 near Merrivale - a residential suburb of Howick, KZN (Fig 1) The plot earmarked for subdivision covers an area of 21,2360 hectares (Fig 2). One residential dwelling, younger than 60 years old, is situated on the plot. The GPS co-ordinates for the centre of the plot are: S 29° 33' 38.87" E 30° 14' 27.90"

2 BACKGROUND TO HERITAGE RESOURCES OF THE AREA

The greater Howick area, including Merrivale, is relatively well recorded in terms of archaeological site distribution. Some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area whilst archaeologists from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum have made sporadic visits to the area over a period of three decades. The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Mpophomeni area (including Howick and Merrivale) contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include one Early Stone Age site, four Middle Stone Age sites, twenty Later Stone Age sites, two rock painting sites, eight Later Iron Age sites, and numerous historical sites dating back to the colonial period. Some of the farms in the area contain graves and structures relating to early Voortrekker settlement, however, the majority of older buildings on farmsteads were erected by British colonists after 1850 (Bizley & McKenzie 2007). These are also protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006). The name Drie Fonteinen was the original Dutch farm name given to the study area by early Voortrekker Settlers. However, after 1880 the farm was incorporated into the bigger Howick town administrative area.

Most of the Stone Age sites in the area occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. Some Middle Stone Age flakes, probably dating back to ca. 40 000 – 200 000 years ago, occur in disturbed context in dongas and road cuttings. The majority of Later Stone Age sites as well as rock art sites occur further west in the adjacent area of Nottingham Road. These typically occur in small shelters in the sandstone formations leading up to the Drakensberg.

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. Around 800 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the Umgeni River Valley adjacent to Howick area. These early Nguni-speakers settlements have been called Moor Park after

the type site near Estcourt (Huffman 2007). Later Iron Age settlement spread rapidly through the valley and eventually also spread on to the higher altitude areas around Howick and the Karkloof areas. Many of these sites date back to the 18th and early 19th centuries (ibid). Although the majority of sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located in the Dargle and Karkloof Valley areas also show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the Wushe and related groups (Bryant 1965). The Wushe was known to be excellent metal workers and it is not surprising that some archaeological evidence for early metal working has been found in the Karkloof, Nottingham road, and Dargle areas. However, by 1820 the Wushe was dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups and individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial authorities after 1845 where most of them became farm labourers.

After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

The area was also a focal point during the more recent struggle history of South Africa. Nelson Mandela was arrested on the 5th of August 1962 just outside Howick. This historical occurrence was pivotal in the liberation struggle in South Africa. More recently a monument has been erected at the capture site and it is in the process of obtaining provincial monument status. The Mpophomeni Township also saw various protest marches against the Apartheid regime as well as conflict between ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party supporters in the 1980's and early 1990's. Sites belonging to this period also have heritage value, however, more archival and oral history-type research is needed to identify the relevant areas.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and relevant aerial photographs. The SAHRIS website was consulted for data relating to the distribution and significance of heritage sites in the greater project area. In addition, the available heritage literature covering the study area was also consulted. A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on 2 July 2021. The consultant also spoke to local residents on the property.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

A portion of the footprint is covered in dense vegetation. That may have covered site visibility.

3.2.2 Disturbance

No disturbance of any potential 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

Towns: Howick, Merrivale

Municipality: Umngeni Municipality

4.2 Overview of potential heritage resources in the project area

Given the high altitude of approximately 1000m - 1260m above sea level it can be expected that no Later Iron Age sites would occur in the project area as these sites are typically associated with altitudes below 800m above sea level. Although Later Stone Age Sites do occur in the KZN Midlands they are relatively scarce and the absence of any shelter or sandstone outcrops in the area would mitigate for their probable absence in the area. Middle and Early Stone Age open air sites do occur in similar environments and there is a possibility that these archaeological sites may occur in the project area. The area was also occupied by Later Iron Age communities during the historical period - if not before. Unfortunately Later Iron Age communities in this part of KwaZulu-Natal used less durable materials to build their settlements and the remains of such is not

always visible. During the period of the Natal Colonial administration (mid 1800's) the authorities settled many Zulu-speaking communities near Vulindlela and the areas to the south of the project area. It is highly probable the remains of their settlements and associated graves may occur in the area. Zulu-speaking farm labourers often settled on European farms and their graves are often associated with these early farmsteads. The area to the immediate south of the project area also saw conflict between supporters of the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party in the period immediately preceding the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994. It is therefore possible that such 'Struggler-era Sites' or features may be found in the project area.

4.3 Survey Results

The desktop study do not indicate any archaeological or historical sites within 1km from the project area (Fig 1). The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. It is the professional opinion of the consultant that there is no visible surface evidence for graves in the project area. In fact, the 'consultant did not locate an archaeological or heritage sites on the footprint (Fig 2).

Table 2. Evaluation of heritage sites within 50m from the project area.

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.

5 HERITAGE SITE DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

5.1 Field Rating

Not applicable as no heritage sites occur on the footprint (Table 3).

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 PALEONTOLOGY DESKTOP EVALUATION

A paleontological desktop evaluation was conducted by an analysis of the SAHRIS 'fossil sensitivity map' (Fig 4). The results indicate that the proposed development plot falls predominantly within an area with a high paleontological sensitivity (indicated by the colour orange/yellow) although a portion of the site has insignificant or zero sensitivity (grey colour). A desktop assessment by a qualified palaeontologist is required to assess the palaeontological significance of the area.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological or historical sites occur on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape.

It is the professional opinion of the consultant that there is no evidence for any graves on the property. Although there is a vague possibility that the area may harbour 'invisible graves' there is no need for mitigation.

Should any graves be exposed by developmental processes in the near future then all activities must stop immediately. The provincial heritage agency Amafa, or a qualified heritage practitioner, must be contacted for further evaluation. A Second Phase Heritage Impact Assessment, that may also include a grave exhumation and translocation process, may be called-for (see Appendix 1).

It is important to point that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that all operations exposing graves as well as archaeological and historical residues as well as fossils should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

8 MAPS AND FIGURES

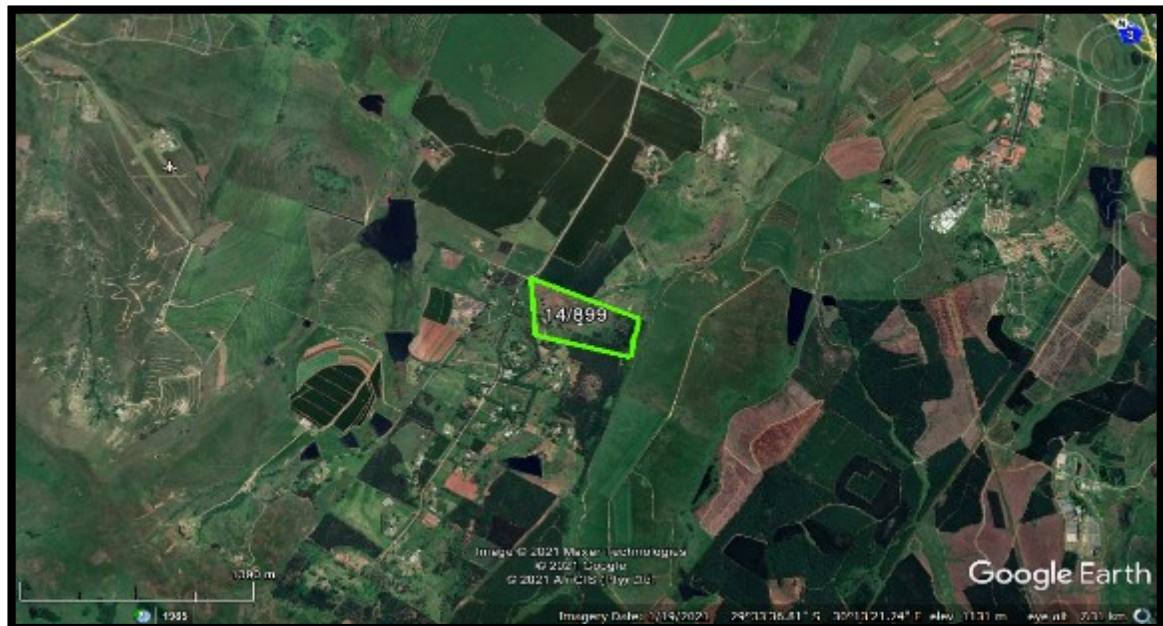


Figure 1. Google Aerial map showing the location of the project area. The purple markers indicate known archaeological sites in the area.



Figure 2. Map showing the plot earmarked for subdivision (Source: White Glass Investments)

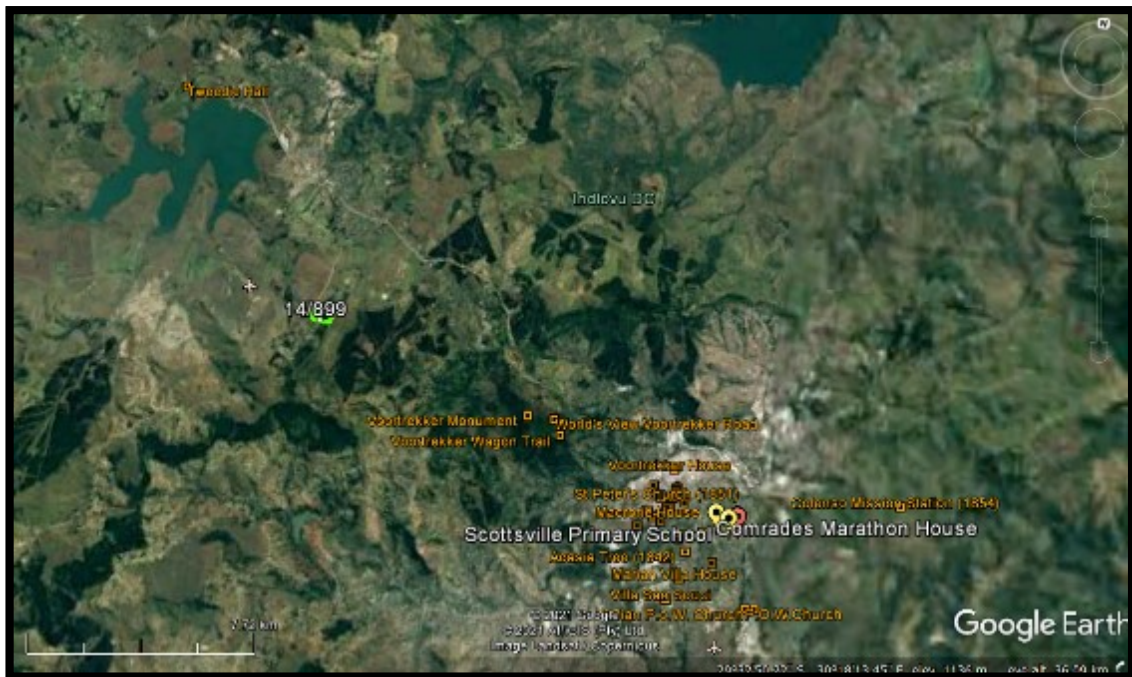


Figure 3. Google Earth imagery that there are no historical sites (yellow markers) within 100m from the footprint.

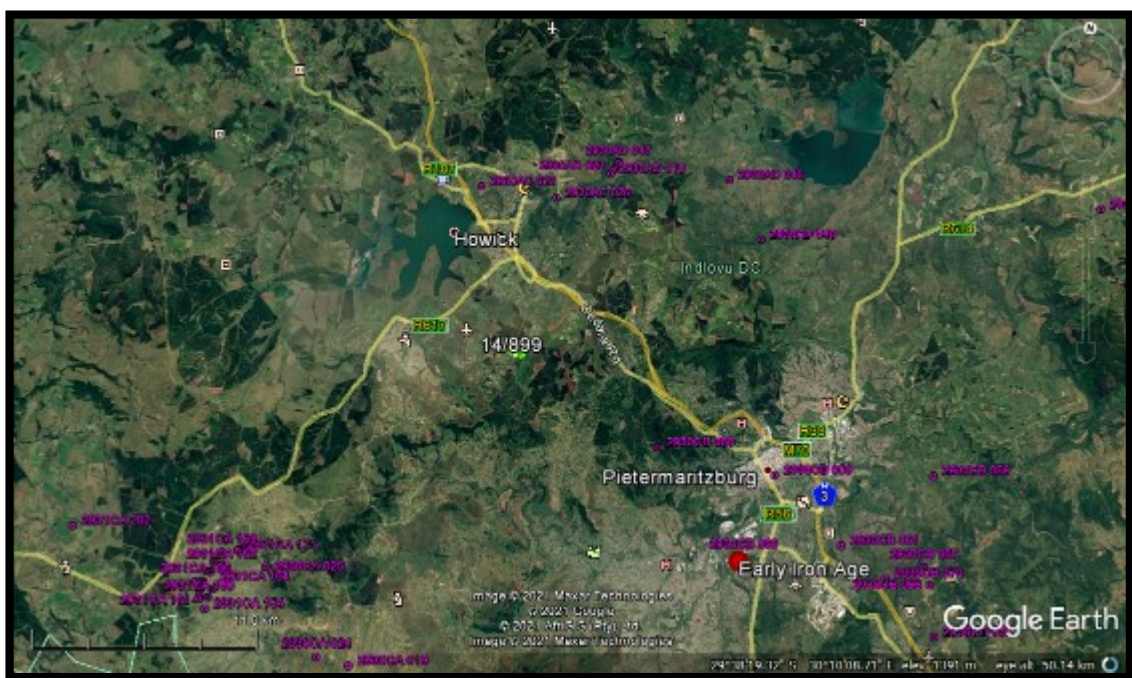


Figure 4. Google Earth imagery showing that there are no archaeological sites (purple markers) within 100m from the footprint



Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required

Figure 4. Fossil Sensitivity Map of the project area – indicated by the black polygon. The yellow colour indicates a high fossil sensitivity. A desktop paleontological assessment by a qualified palaeontologist will be required.



Figure 5. Entrance to project area. No heritage or archaeological sites was observed.



Figure 6. Farmstead in distance. The building has no heritage values associated with it.



Figure 7. Road leading to project area. No archaeological or heritage sites was observed.



Figure 8. Open fields facing towards Cedara.



Figure 9. The cleared stones in the foreground has no heritage or archaeological value.



Figure 10. The cleared stones in the foreground has no heritage or archaeological value.

8 REFERENCES

- Bryant, A. T. 1965. *Olden times in Zululand and Natal*. Cape Town: C. Struik.
- Derwent, S. 2006. *KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Sites: A Guide to Some Great Places*. David Philip: Pietermaritzburg.
- Huffman, T. N. 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age: The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. Pietermaritzburg.
- Laband, J & Haswell, R. (Eds). 1988. *Pietermaritzburg, 1838-1988: A New Portrait of an African City*. University of Natal Press: Shuter & Shooter
- Maggs, T. 1988. Pietermaritzburg: the first 2 000 000 years. In Laband, J and Hasswell, R. (eds). *Pietermaritzburg 1838 – 1988: A New Portrait of an African City*. pg 14-17. University of Natal Press: Pietermaritzburg
- Maggs, T. The Iron Age farming communities. In Duminy, A. and Guest, B. 1989. *Natal and Zululand: from Earliest Times to 1910. A New History*. Pg. 28-46. University of Natal Press. Pietermaritzburg.
- Martin, B. 1988. The coming of the railway to Pietermaritzburg. In . In Laband, J & Haswell, R. (Eds). *Pietermaritzburg, 1838-1988: A New Portrait of an African City*. University of Natal Press: Shuter & Shooter.
- Oberholster, J. J. 1972. *The Historical Monuments of South Africa*. The Rembrandt Van Rijn Foundation for Culture. Cape Town.
- Prins, F. E. 2016. *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of the Proposed Vulindlela Bulk Water Supply Scheme, Umgeni And Msunduzi Municipalities*. Unpublished Report for Kerry Seppings Environmental Consultants.
- SAHRA, 2005. *Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and the Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports, Draft version 1.4*.
- Wright, J. 1988. Before Mgungundlovu: the upper Mngeni and upper Mkhomazi region in the early nineteenth century. In Laband, J & Haswell, R. (Eds). *Pietermaritzburg, 1838-1988: A New Portrait of an African City*. University of Natal Press: Shuter & Shooter

APPENDIX 1: GRAVE RELOCATION PLAN

Burial grounds and graves older than 60 years are dealt with in Article 36 of the NHR Act, no 25 of 1999. However, all graves are protected by the provincial heritage legislation of KwaZulu-Natal. The Human Tissues Act (65 of 1983) also protects graves younger than 60 years. These fall under the jurisdiction of the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Departments. Approval for the exhumation and reburial must be obtained from the relevant Provincial MEC as well as the relevant Local Authorities.

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

