

ALBERT VAN JAARSVELD

B.A. (Hons)(Pret); M.A. (Rhodes)

HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGER

ERFENIS - HULPBRONBESTUURDER

035-3402299
082 4455 440
035 340 1465

✉ 292
Mtunzini
3867

email: albertvj@iafrica.com

: fjaarsv@pan.uzulu.ac.za



6 February 2009

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
ISANDLWANA CULTURAL VILLAGE/MUSEUM, KZN**

Attention:

Poppy Dlamini (for Isandlwana Consortium)
Environmental Scientist
Kusini Environmental Services
PO Box 13214
Cascades 3202
Tel: 033 394 2354
Fax: 086 517 8086
Cell: 083 300 7053
Email: poppy@hn.co.za



cc:

Mary Leslie
South African Heritage Resources Agency
PO Box 4637
Cape Town 8000
Tel: 021 462 4502
Fax: 021 462 4509
Email: mleslie@sahra.co.za

cc:

Dept of Archaeology
Amafa aKwaZulu/Natali
PO Box 2685
Pietermaritzburg 3200
Tel: 033 394 6543
Fax: 033 342 6097
Email: amafa.pmb@mweb.co.za

Executive Summary

The KZN Arts and Culture Trust is proposing the development of a cultural village and museum at the Isandlwana battlefield site, south of Nqutu, KZN. The Isandlwana Consortium, consisting of various companies representing different disciplines, was appointed to assist the Trust in planning, implementing and commissioning the proposed cultural tourism infrastructure. In compliance with National Heritage Legislation (Act No 25 of 1999), the Consortium has at the earliest stages of initiating the development, called for a Heritage Impact Assessment for which Albert van Jaarsveld was appointed.

Following a desktop survey, a site inspection was done on 22 and 23 January 2009.

The following categories of sources as described in the legislation were identified in and around the affected area:

- Places and building structures of cultural significance
- Places to which oral traditions are attached
- Historical settlements and townscapes
- Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance
- Archaeological sites
- Graves and burial grounds, including graves of victims of conflict, historical graves and cemeteries
- Movable objects, including archaeological objects, objects to which oral traditions are attached and military objects
- Battlefields.

The Isandlwana battlefield - a declared National Monument - will be altered permanently by the proposed development, especially from a visual perspective. The site has high social, political, historical and scientific values and also high heritage significance at local, regional, provincial, national and international levels. The

impact of the development on heritage resources will be high and permanent. The consideration of an alternative site is not possible due to its uniqueness.

The proposed Isandlwana Museum Complex is a welcome initiative as it creates the opportunity for local communities to benefit economically by attracting increased tourism to an area rich in history. It is recommended that the KZN Trust be granted the necessary permission to proceed with the project as a Grade 1 Heritage Site on the following conditions:

- A contextual site plan be professionally compiled
- Architectural plans be sympathetic to the environment and history of the site
- An independent management and business plan be submitted to SAHRA
- The proposed development should in no way interfere with existing heritage structures on site
- A full environmental scoping report be compiled by the developers.

In conclusion, the developers are reminded that, should any heritage resources be accidentally unearthed during the construction process, all construction activities should be immediately halted and the heritage authorities notified at once.

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1. Background

The KZN Arts and Culture Trust has identified the need for a tourism site in the KZN Battlefields Route following a review undertaken to match the existing need or demand. The Trust is proposing a cultural village and museum at the Isandlwana battlefield site (see attached map). Additional features will include a garden of remembrance/monument, helipad for helicopter tourist tours, parking lot, warriors' walk (statues of past heroes), picnic and playground area, auditorium, theatre, Zulu and British museums, an open-air theatre and lecture space, a king's memorial statue and wall, swimming pool with deck, cattle kraal, viewing platform, panorama and restaurant and shop.

Following the KZN Arts and Culture Trust's invitation to individuals and companies to submit proposals for the development of the above project, a consortium of specialist companies in various fields formed the Isandlwana Consortium. The Isandlwana Consortium was subsequently appointed as Transaction Advisor. The Consortium is to assist the Trust in planning, implementing and commissioning the proposed cultural tourism infrastructure for the development of the Isandlwana Heritage Site. The consortium consists of a multi-disciplinary team in the disciplines of construction project management, construction management, engineering management (civil, structural, electrical, mechanical, etc) town and regional planners, communication/marketing professionals, development planners, community/social facilitators, conveyances and legal practitioners, quantity surveyors, land surveyors, architectural professionals and environmental specialists (see attached list). The lead members of the Consortium are Excellence at Work Consultants and MD Corporate Identity.

In compliance with National Heritage legislation (Act No 25 of 1999, Section 38.1.e), the Consortium has at the earliest stages of initiating the above

development, appointed Albert van Jaarsveld to do a Heritage Impact Assessment of the affected area. The battlefield was declared a national monument at an early date and in 1954 the erstwhile Historical Monuments Commission erected a memorial with a bronze plaque on the site. (Oberholster 1972:273).

2. 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 above restricted definition 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 000m² 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 000m² 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 eg. 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.

3. Location of Site

Isandlwana (battle site and mountain) is situated some 16 kms east of Rorke's Drift, 17 km south of Nqutu and 64 kms south east of Dundee. GPS position is at approximately S 28° 20' 54,5" and E 30° 39' 23,9"; elevation: 1 250 m). (See KZN 1:50 000 map 2830 DA). To reach by road: Take the turnoff to Isandlwana/Rorke's Drift on the R68 between Nqutu and Babanango and travel about 9 kms. The site is situated on the eastern side of the road.

4. Method

Following a survey of literature on the Isandlwana battlefield, the area was inspected on 22 and 23 January 2009 by Albert van Jaarsveld and a field assistant. Soil surface visibility was good in general, despite some areas being covered in typical Highveld grass. Soil surface visibility was good enough to make defensible judgements regarding heritage resources present. A site

meeting with Ms Poppy Dlamini of the Isandlwana Consortium took place on 23 January.

During the site visit, geographic co-ordinates were taken with a handheld Garmin Global Positioning System, while photographs were taken with a Sony Cybershot 6 Mega pixel digital camera (see annexures).

5. Results of survey: Heritage Resources identified

The resources identified are limited to the Isandlwana battlefield and immediate surroundings. These include several categories as described in Section 3 (2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999; namely:

- a) Places and building structures of cultural significance
- b) Places to which oral traditions are attached
- c) Historical settlements and townscapes
- d) Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance
- e) Archaeological sites
- f) Graves and burial grounds, including:
 - i. Graves of victims of conflict
 - ii. Historical graves and cemeteries
- g) Movable objects, including:
 - i. Archaeological objects
 - ii. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
 - iii. Military objects

For the purposes of this report, above categories are presented as follows:

a) Archaeological sites (including movable archaeological objects)

- The entire surface of the Isandlwana battlefield site is sparsely covered in Middle to Later Stone Age artefacts and waste material with the highest density visible in shallow dongas in the vicinity of the present cultural village. (See photograph). Mainly points, scrapers and blades were observed, while waste material

constitutes the bulk of the material. These are surface materials and no layered specimens were found.

- No remains from the Iron Age were observed.
- No excavations or sampling were undertaken since a SAHRA permit is required to do this.

b) Places and building structures of cultural significance

These include the battle site and the mountain itself as well as the memorials and cairns which were erected over the battle site by various institutions and organisations over many years. These include memorials by the different regiments who participated in the battle, various graves, the bronze plaque erected by the historical Monuments Council in 1954 and the memorial erected by the Pietermaritzburg College Old Boys as late as 1979. (See photographs with GPS co-ordinates).

c) Places to which oral traditions are attached

Many oral traditions are attached to the Battle of Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, as well as the site on which the battle occurred.

d) Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance

This is represented by the battle site itself as well as the prominent mountain on the south of the battlefield.

e) Graves and burial grounds, including graves of victims of conflict and historical graves

The bodies of the British troops killed at Isandlwana lay unburied for several months. Some four months later during May 1879 the task of burying the soldiers was carried out by Major-General F Marshall with a large cavalry force consisting of the Kings Dragon Guards, 17th Lancers and Mounted Volunteers and five infantry companies of the

2/24th. The route towards Fugitives' Drift could be traced by the position of their corpses, some lying in isolation while others were grouped in tight clusters. The soldiers were buried in shallow graves marked by cairns. These cairns are still visible and quite conspicuous. Colonel Glyn of the 24th Regiment had however asked that the corpses of the men of his regiment be left undisturbed until they could be buried by their comrades in the presence of both battalions. This request was honoured in late June 1879. Over the next few months missing bodies continued to be found, and some of those hastily buried in May and June had to be properly reburied. This task was not fully completed until March 1890 (Laband and Matthews 1992: 67-68).

British casualties totalled 1 357 men, comprising:

Royal Artillery – 69
24 th Regiment – 599
Mounted Infantry – 15
Natal Mounted Police – 26
Natal Carbineers – 22
Newcastle Mounted Rifles – 7
Buffalo Border Guard – 3
NNC officers – 86
NNC men (approx) – 500
Men from other units – 30
Total – 1 357
(Laband and Matthews 1992: 60)

Zulu fallen warriors were buried in dongas, antbear holes or the mealie pits of nearby homesteads. It is not sure how many casualties there were as there was no body count, but a reasonable estimate is about 1 000. (Laband and Matthews 1992: 61). The exact location of these graves is unknown.

Several grave stones for fallen British soldiers were erected at a later stage in and amongst the memorials and cairns at various positions. (see photographs).

f) Movable objects of a military nature

These include bullets, bullet caps, buttons on uniforms, medals and similar objects of a military nature. None of these were observed. It is known that many of these were buried with the fallen soldiers while many more objects of the same nature were later looted by collectors of antiquities with or without the help of metal detectors. It is possible that many similar objects are still present underneath ground surface.

g) Historical settlements and townscapes

The Isandlwana village consists of several buildings older than 60 years of age. These comprise of:

- A former rector's residence which currently houses the Isandlwana Museum. A plaque at the front door reads as follows: "This college was enlarged and endowed in memory of the Founder Douglas McKenzie DD, Bishop of Zululand, 1880-1890". The Museum is operated by AMAFA.
- A church building adjacent to the entrance of Isandlwana village.
- The church tower and bell.
- Several houses opposite the church buildings.
- A building with outbuildings which is currently operated as a backpackers' lodge by AMAFA.

6. Summary of findings in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Act of 1999, Section 38 (3)

(i) The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the affected area

The heritage resources on and around the proposed development site comprises several categories, namely:

- Archaeological sites (including movable archaeological objects)
- Places and building structures of cultural significance
- Places to which oral traditions are attached
- Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance
- Graves and burial grounds, including graves of victims of conflict and historical graves
- Movable objects of military nature
- Historical townscapes and settlements
- Battlefield

(ii) An assessment of the impact of development on heritage resources

Isandlwana battlefield will be altered permanently by the proposed development – especially from a visual perspective. The cultural and social value of the development should be measured against the visual impact of the development.

(iii) An assessment of the significance of resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in regulations

Isandlwana battlefield has high social, political, historical and scientific values. Accordingly, it has high heritage significance at local, regional, provincial, national and international levels. A literature review of Isandlwana confirms this – so the continued interest from the Welsh Regiment as well as descendants of those soldiers who died at Isandlwana. The esteem in which Isandlwana is held in Zulu culture, was reflected by the celebrations and speech of King Goodwill Zwelithini at the site of the battle on 22 January 2009. In this regard see B Carlton, J Laband and J Sithole (2008): “Zulu identities: Being Zulu Past and Present”: pp 5, 10, 15, 37, 93, 118, 137, 180-185, 187, 204, 240, 242, 244, 360, 383-384, 594, 601.

- (iv) An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development

The impact of the development on heritage resources will be high and permanent. Whether the project is economically viable is unsure at this stage – it will probably always remain dependent on government subsidies at provincial and/or national level. Sustainable benefits are at this stage limited to the social aspects, which will outweigh the impact on the heritage resources.

- (v) The results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources

The Isandlwana Consortium has undertaken such consultation in terms of statutory requirements and is in possession of the relevant documentation. (The proposed project site falls under Nkosi Mazibuko of the Mangwebuthanani community).

- (vi) If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives

An alternative site is not viable, as the Isandlwana battlefield site is unique.

- (vii) Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after completion of the proposed development

A management plan should be produced by the Isandlwana Consortium/KZN Heritage Trust in which all aspects concerning mitigation are addressed.

7. Observations and recommendations

In accordance with legislation, no construction activities associated with the proposed project has commenced at this stage.

The proposed Isandlwana Museum complex is a very welcome initiative by

the KZN Arts and Culture Trust. The rich local history can be utilized as a key factor in attracting tourism to communities which would otherwise not benefit economically from the tourism industry (Mangwebuthanani community).

The development will have no impact on the Isandlwana historical village referred to in Section 5 (g).

The Stone Age artefacts and waste material observed on site, are not unique and several similar sights have been identified in close vicinity in the past. A sample of these artefacts could be displayed in a future museum to provide visitors a perspective on the earliest inhabitants of the Isandlwana battlefield site. Sampling of these will require a permit from SAHRA.

It is recommended that the KZN Heritage Trust be given the necessary permission to proceed with the project as a Grade I Heritage site. Such permission should however only be granted on the following conditions:

- (i) Architectural plans be consistent with typical Zulu and colonial architecture found in that area of KZN – or, should at least be sympathetic to the history and atmosphere of the battlefield, making extensive use of stone. Existing architectural drawings have not been seen, which makes it impossible to comment at this stage. These should also be approved by SAHRA.
- (ii) A contextual site plan (map) be compiled by professionals, clearly indicating the position of existing heritage resources (such as memorials, cairns, graves etc) in relation to the proposed development.
- (iii) The developers submit a comprehensive independent management and business plan for the proposed development (including a budget) as called for by Section 38 (3) d of the National Heritage Legislation.
This should be compiled in collaboration with SAHRA.
- (iv) The proposed development should in no way interfere with any existing structure eg cairns/memorials on the battlefield with a clear distinction of what is 'new' and what is 'old'.
- (v) A full environmental Scoping report including all aspects (eg. geotechnical report) be compiled by the developers.

(vi) The developers cease all construction work immediately should any heritage resources be accidentally uncovered during the construction process.

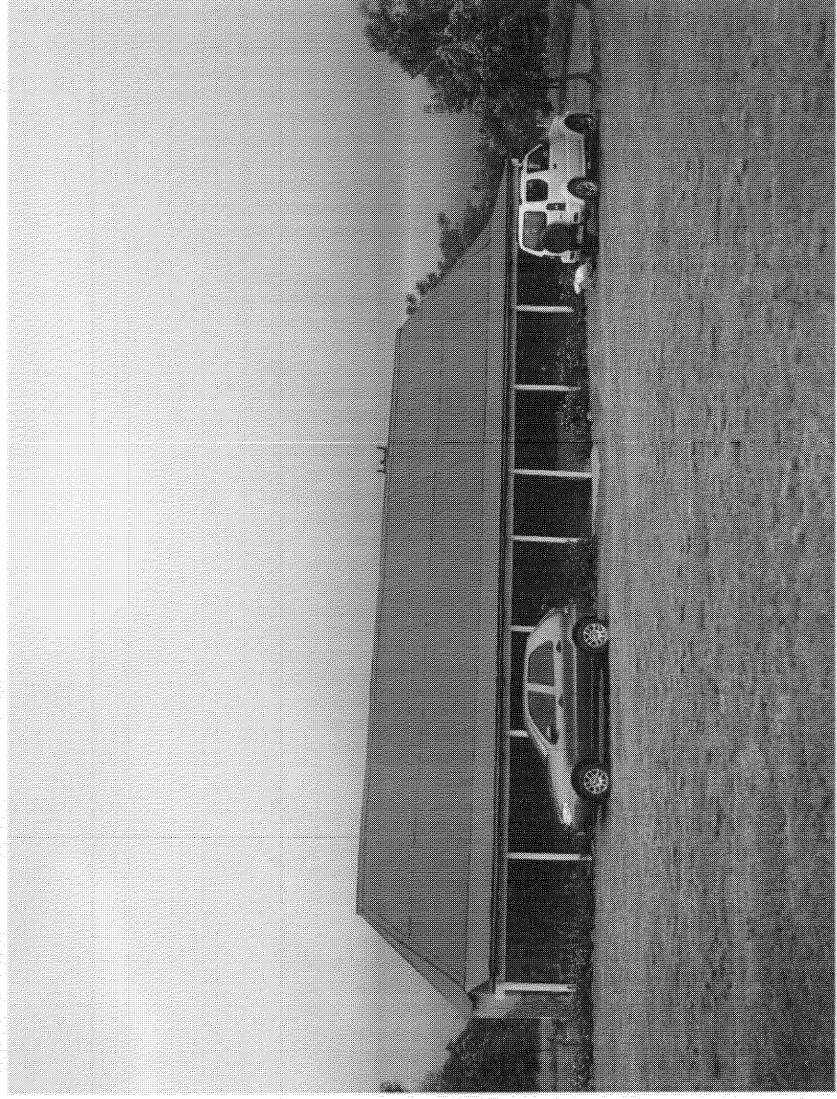
8. Literature

- Laband, John: *Rope of sand: The Rise and Fall of the Zulu Kingdom in the Nineteenth Century*. Jonathan Ball Publishers, Johannesburg, 1955.
- Government Gazette of the RSA, Vol 406, Cape Town, 28 April 1999: National Heritage Resources Act, Act No 25 of 1999.
- Carlton, B; Laband, J and Sithole, J (eds): *Zulu Identities: Being Zulu, Past and Present*. University of KwaZulu Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, 2008.
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- Duminy, A and Guest, B (eds): *Natal and Zululand: From Earliest Times to 1910, A New History*. University of Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, 1989.
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- Laband, J and Matthews, J: *Isandlwana*. KwaZulu-Natal Monuments Council, Pietermaritzburg, 1992.
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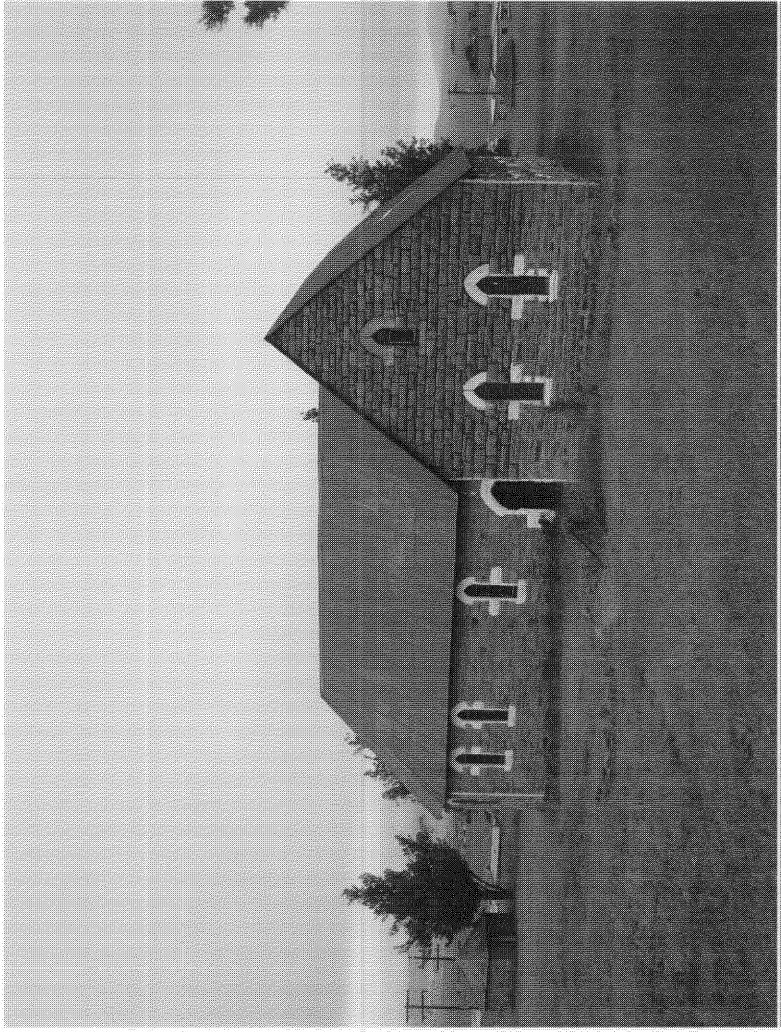
9. Photographs



Outbuilding at Backpackers Lodge, Isandlwana historic village.



Backpackers' Lodge, Isandlwana.



Church building at Isandlwana.



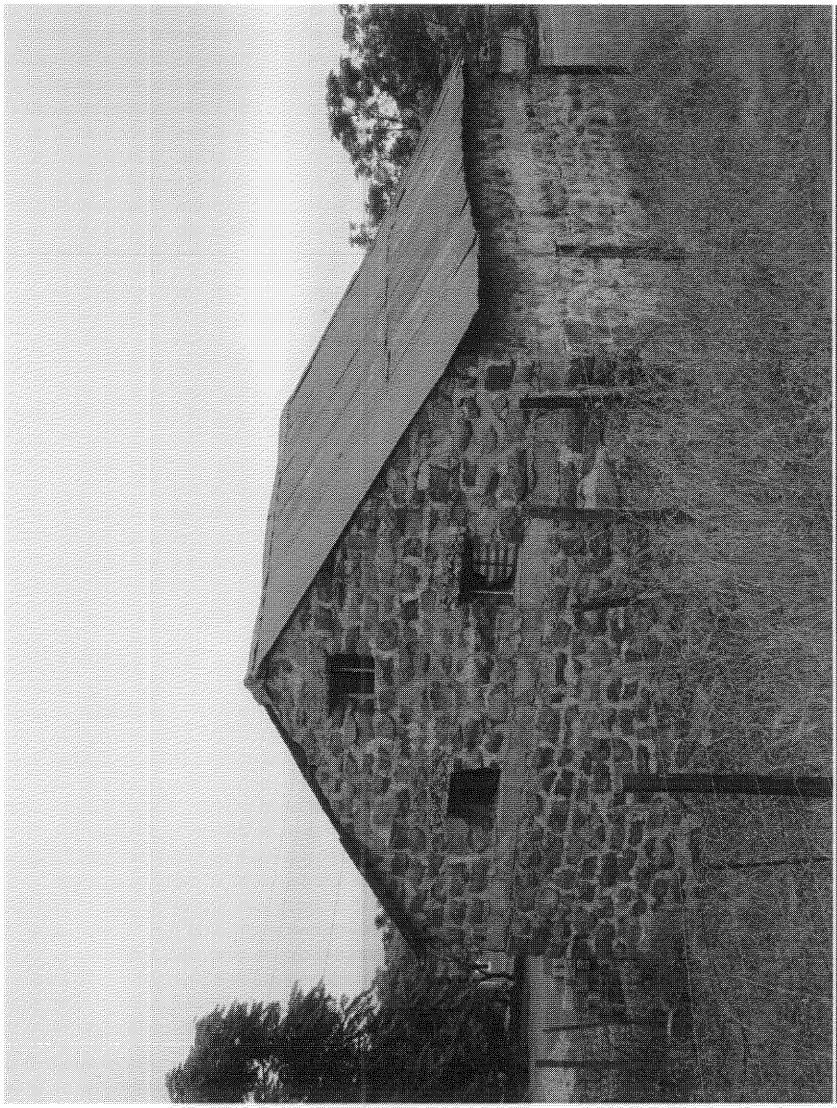
Church bell tower.



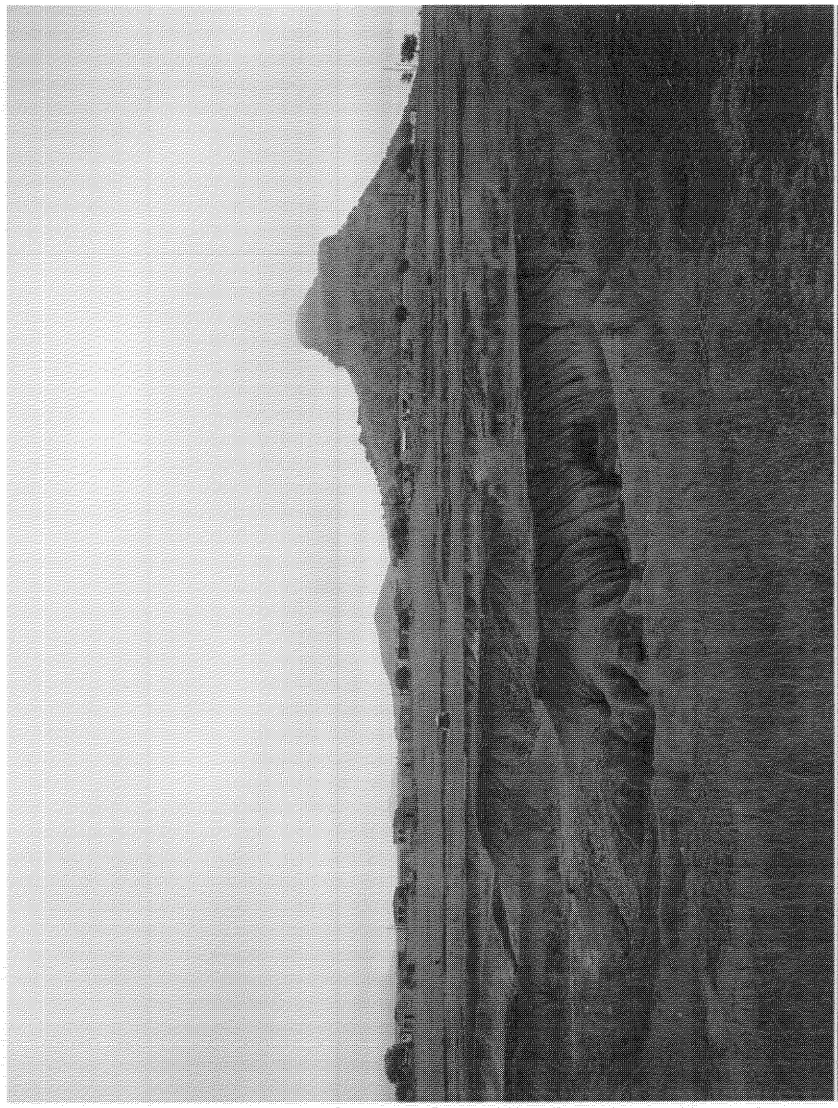
Former Rectory building currently housing Isandlwana museum.



Typical house older than 60 years in Isandlwana village.



Outbuildings of house in Isandlwana village.



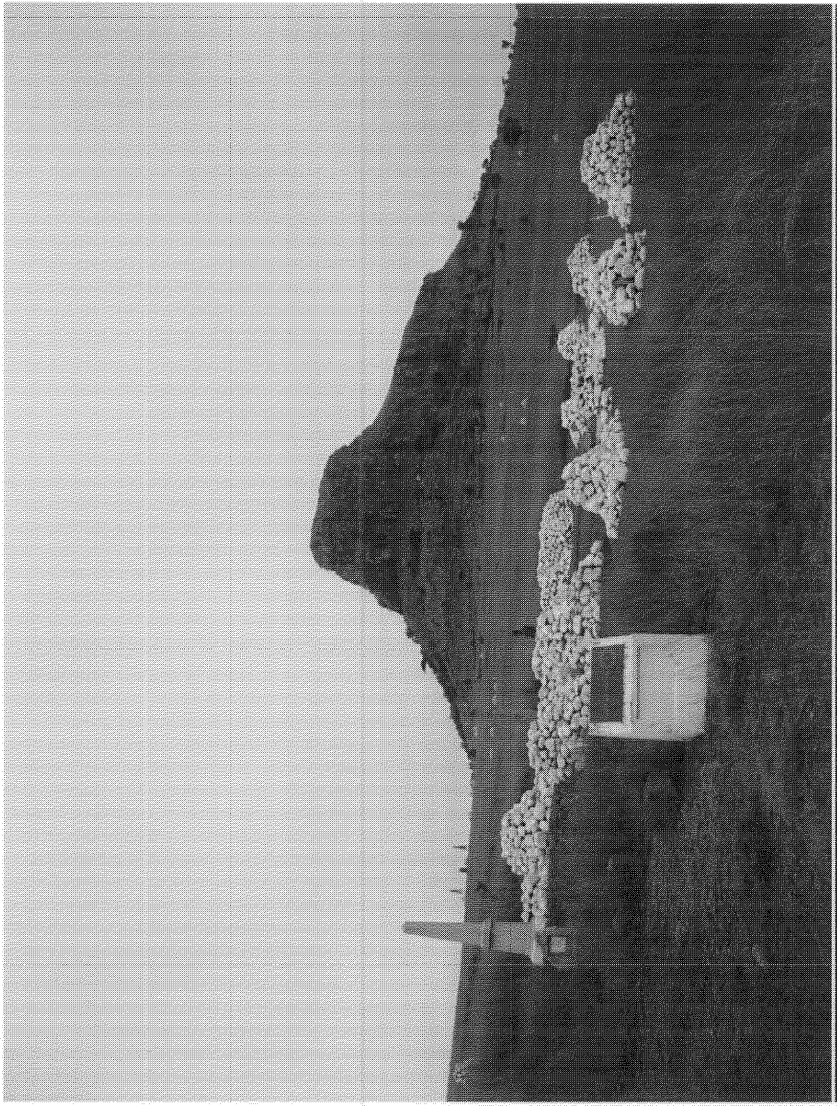
Donga close to entrance gate containing MSA to LSA artefacts.



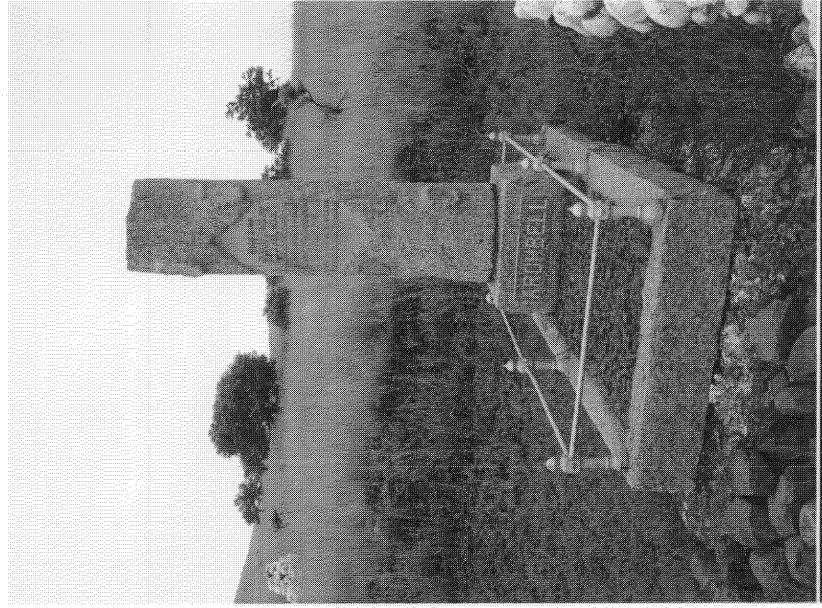
MSA to LSA artefacts.



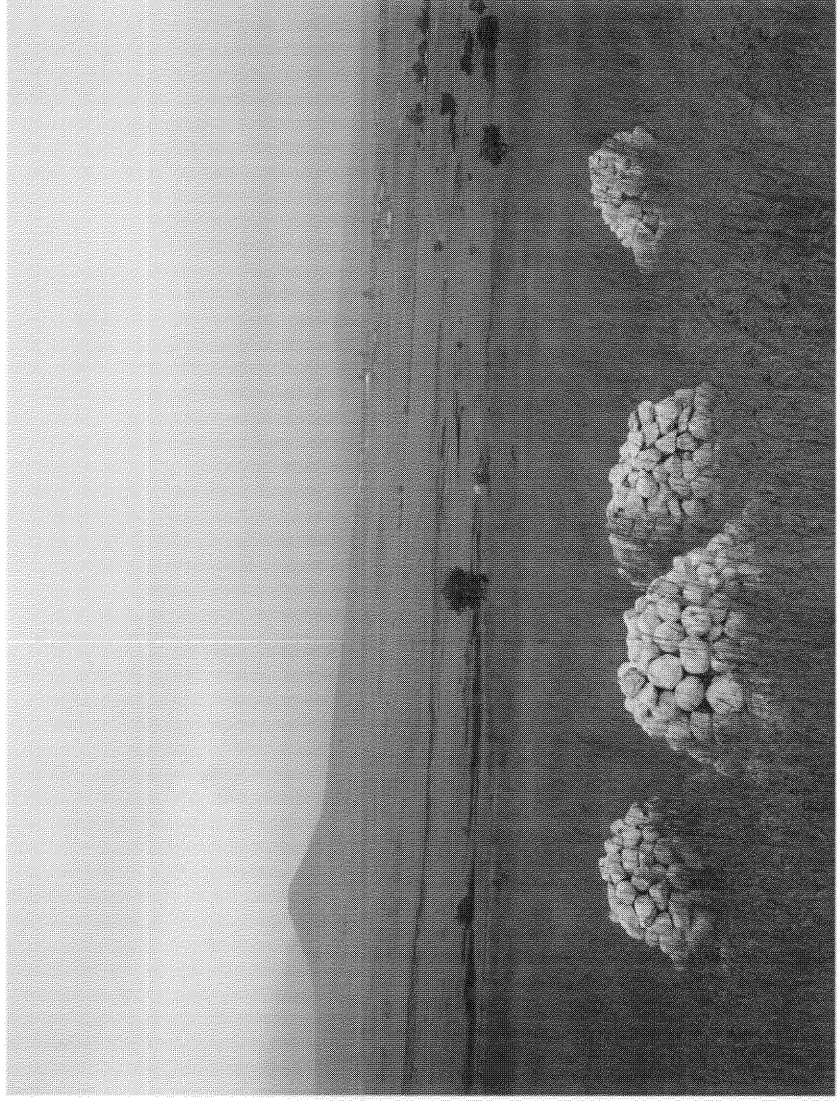
Donga close to cultural village (in background) containing Stone Age artefacts.



Typical cairns amongst memorials on Isandlwana battlefield.



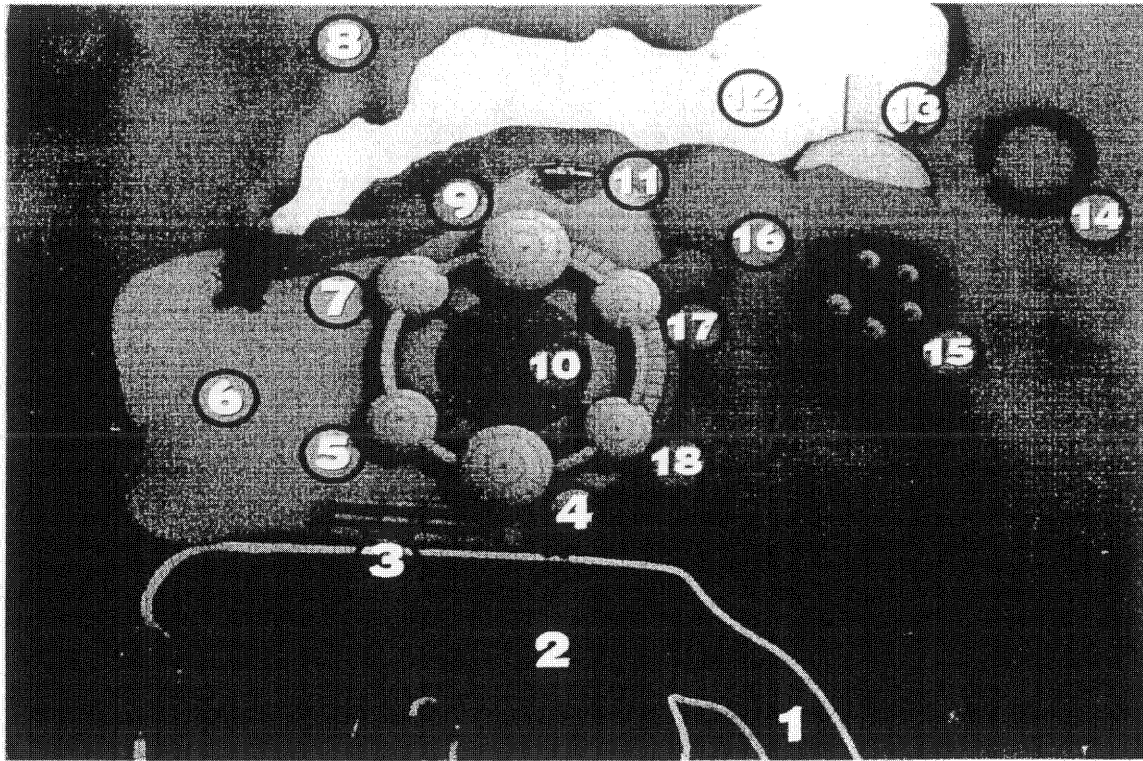
Grave of John Philip Archbell, Sergeant Conductor of Native Contingent killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879.



Typical cairns with view over Isandlwana battlefield from foot of mountain.

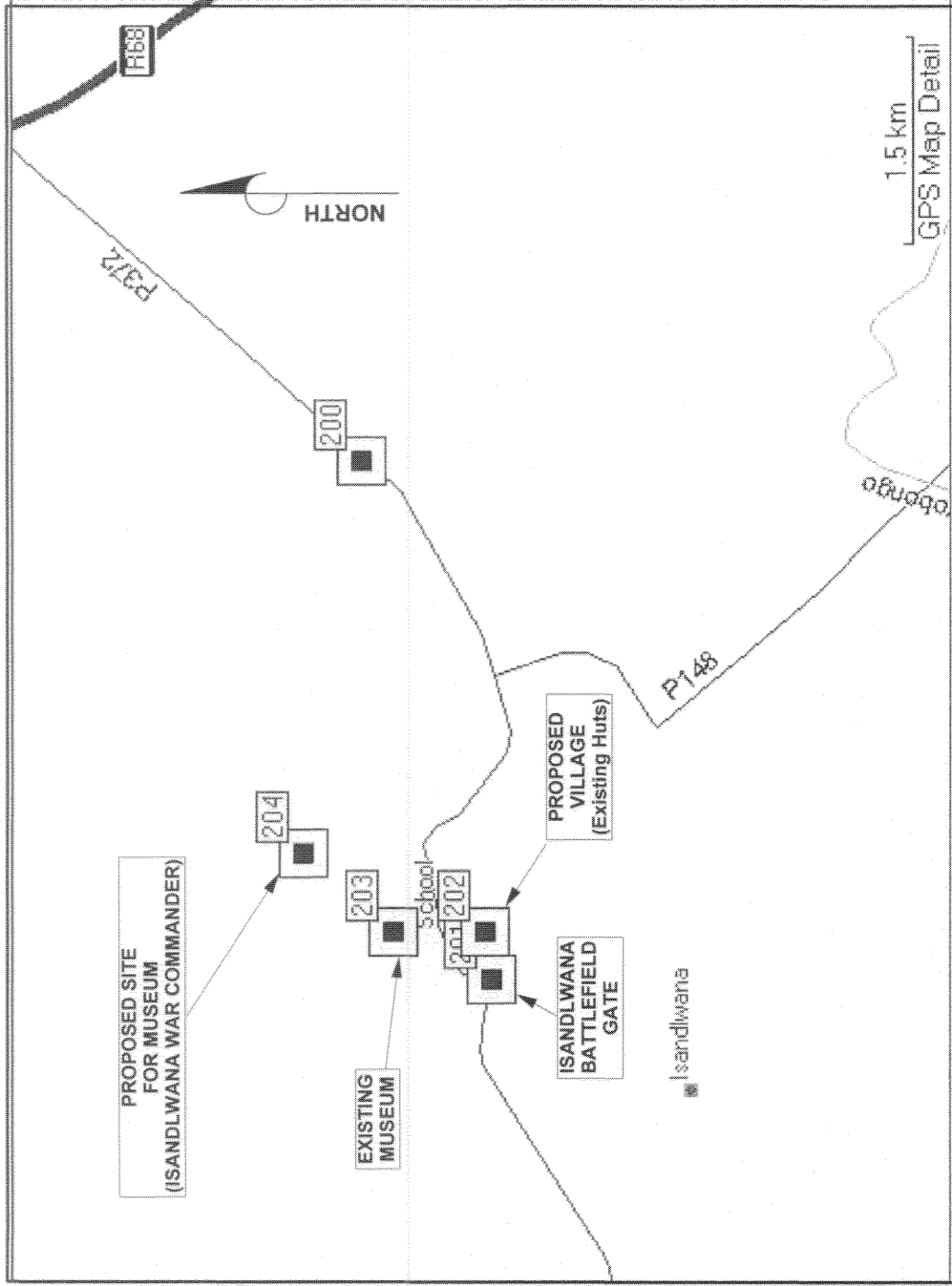


Memorial of Isandlwana battle erected in 1907.



Proposed Isandlwana Museum Layout and Concept

- | | |
|---|--|
| ① Road Access | ⑩ iSibaya
open theatre and lecture space |
| ② Parking lot | ⑪ King's memorial
Statue and wall |
| ③ Warriors Walk
statues of past heroes | ⑫ Swimming Pool
shaped like a river |
| ④ Entrance
gateway to the museum | ⑬ Waterdeck
viewing platform/ swimming access |
| ⑤ Chelmsford's Gallery
British museum | ⑭ Cattle Kraal
Experience real Nguni cattle |
| ⑥ Park/Play Ground
picnic and playground area | ⑮ Cultural Village
Experience Zulu life |
| ⑦ Auditorium/Theatre
film theatre and lecture hall | ⑯ Viewing Platform
View of the mountain |
| ⑧ Isandlwana Hill
view of the famous hill | ⑰ Multimedia/ Panorama
interactive panorama of the battle |
| ⑨ Cetshwayo's Gallery
Zulu museum | ⑱ Restaurant
Curios, local foods |



Co-ordinates		
Grid	South African	
Datum	WGS 84	
Name		
200	31 Y0029937	X3136123
201 ISANDLWANA BATTLEFIELD GATE	31 Y0033700	X3137063
202 PROPOSED VILLAGE (Existing Huts)	31 Y0033347	X3137017
203 EXISTING MUSEUM	31 Y0033358	X3136363
204 PROPOSED SITE FOR MUSEUM	31 Y0032782	X3135708



Graphic Scale
1 : 50 000

NB : Please note that the bar scale supersedes the verbal scale due to print sizes etc.

Locality Plan	DATE	01/02/2008
	DRAWN	A.S.
Geotechnical Investigation for	CHECK	M.R.
	REFERENCE No.	08 - 237
	FIGURE No.	1
<p>MOORE SPENCE JONES CONSULTING GEOTECHNICAL, CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS</p>		REV.
Scale 1 : 50 000 (On A4 Original)		