

**FIRST PHASE CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ROHILL  
BUSINESS ESTATE ON THE REMAINDER OF  
ERF 3481 DURBAN NORTH, ETHEKWENI  
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 1820 in this part of the country
IRON AGE	Early Iron Age AD 200 - AD 1000 Late Iron Age AD 1000 - AD 1830
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 and associated regulations (2006).
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and associated regulations (2000)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
STONE AGE	Early Stone Age 2 000 000 - 250 000 BP Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A cultural heritage survey of the proposed Rohill Business Estate on the remainder of Erf 3481 Durban North, eThekweni Municipality identified no heritage sites on the footprint. There is no archaeological reason why the proposed development may not proceed as planned. However, attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose additional archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

## 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

**Table 1. Background information**

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for GCS
Type of development:	Development of the proposed Rohill Business Estate and rehabilitation of open spaces.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Subdivision
Terms of reference	To carry out a first phase Heritage Impact Assessment
Legislative requirements:	The Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

### 1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The study area is located at the corner of Chris Hani Drive and the Old North Coast Road, Durban North (Fig 1). The GSP coordinates for the project area is given as: S 29° 45' 19. 82" E 31° 01' 35.40". The land is currently zoned as 'extractive industrial' and is used by Corobrik to mine clay. Parcels of land that are not being mined are used to cultivate sugarcane. The total area of the site is 59.61 hectares (Fig 2).

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Durban, including the portion covered by the study area, has been relatively well surveyed for archaeological heritage sites by the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and subsequently by private heritage consultants in the last few years. Prior to 1950, the archaeological site distribution of the area was poorly known.

The available evidence, as captured in the Amafa and KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Durban area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These range from Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Later Stone Age to Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age, and Later Iron Age sites.

Although Early Stone Age sites occur at various locations in the greater Durban none of them are in context and occur mostly in open air situations. These sites were inhabited by *Homo erectus* and *Homo heidelbergensis* who were for the most part scavengers. The pioneer archaeologist Oliver Davies, the only person to have researched this period in KwaZulu-Natal, has recognised different traditions of Early Stone Age traditions in KwaZulu-Natal. All these traditions contained heavy tools made from cores such as hand axes, cleavers, and pics. Some of these sites are situated on ancient coastal dunes in similar settings than the area surveyed for this study. Early Stone Age sites typically occur close to water.

The Middle Stone Age dates between 40 000 years and 200 000 years ago. Whereas Early Stone Age tools were generally core tools, Middle Stone Age tools were made of flakes and blades detached from the core. Various Middle Stone Age sites occur in the greater Durban area. The vast majority of these are open air sites or sites with little stratigraphic value. However, cave sites with Middle Stone Age deposits do occur in KwaZulu-Natal as well. Two notable Middle Stone Age sites in the greater Durban area is Umlatuzana near Marianhill and Segubudu near Stanger. These sites have been excavated in the last two decades and yielded impressive archaeological stratigraphy's relating to the period associated with the origins of anatomically modern people. Segubudu has produced the earliest evidence in the world for the use of selective bedding material by modern humans. Dating back to almost 77 000 years ago it is almost 50 000 years earlier than previously reported examples (Wadley et al 2011). The creative minds at Sibudu most likely also devised snares to capture small antelopes, whose remains litter the site, and they crafted bows and arrows to bring down more dangerous prey, judging from the sizes, shapes and wear patterns of several stone points from the cave. Moreover, Sibudu's hunters also made adhesives that were used for fastening stone points to wood shafts (Wadley & Whitelaw 2006).

The Later Stone Age is generally associated with San hunter-gatherers or their immediate ancestors in KwaZulu-Natal. It dates from between 30 000 years ago to about 200 years ago. Later Stone Age sites abound in this province including the greater Durban area. A percentage of coastal shell middens, along the coastal dune cordon, contain Later Stone Age material but Later Stone Age Sites also occur in open air contexts as well as in deposits in various shelters in the area. Notable is the Shongweni Later Stone Age shelter which was excavated in the 1970's. This shelter yielded some of the earliest remains of domesticated cereals in South Africa (Mazel 1989). In addition, Later Stone Age rock art also occur at Shongweni as well as at various shelters near Camperdown.

Around 1 700 years ago an initial wave of Early Iron Age People settled along the inland foot of the sand dunes on sandy but humus rich soils which would have ensured good crops for the first year or two after they had been cleared. These early agro-pastoralists produced a characteristic pottery style known as Matola. The Matola people also exploited the wild plant and animal resources of the forest and adjacent sea-shore. The communities seems to been small groups of perhaps a few dozen slash-and burn cultivators, moving into a landscape sparsely inhabited by Later Stone Age San hunter-gatherers.

By 1500 years ago another wave of Iron Age migrants entered the area. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as “Msuluzi” (AD 500-700), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). Although a handful of archaeological sites in the greater Richards Bay area may belong to these periods the majority of these sites occur further inland along the major river valleys of KwaZulu-Natal below the 1000m contour (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462).

Some of the shell middens recorded along the coastline of KwaZulu-Natal belongs to the very first Nguni-speaking agro pastoralists who settled in the province. These sites have been dated to approximately 1200 years ago. Perhaps the most notable Later Iron Age shell midden occurs at the mouth of the Umhlanga lagoon. In addition, sites belonging to the immediate ancestors of the present Zulu-speaking communities in the area have been located in various locations in the greater Durban area.

The colonial history of the area starts around 1820 when early English ivory traders established themselves at Port Natal (Durban). Dutch descendants (i.e. Voortrekkers) moved into the area soon after 1834 and established a short lived Boer republic called Natalia. However, by 1845 Natal became a British colony. Colonial buildings dating from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as subsequent periods abound in the greater Durban area. These, like the archaeological resources of the province, are also protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

### **3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the greater Durban area was also consulted. The SAHRIS website was consulted to identify heritage sites and previous heritage impact assessments in the near vicinity of the project area.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted.

### **3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey**

#### **3.2.1 Visibility**

Visibility was good.

#### **3.2.2 Disturbance**

No disturbance of any heritage sites 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

Town: Durban

Municipality: eThekweni

### **4.2 Description of the general area surveyed**

The total area of the area surveyed is 59.61 hectares. Sections are still used for mining clay but the greater area is placed under sugar cane cultivation (Figs 3 & 4). Approximately 36 hectares of the land will become levelled platforms and subdivided to form light industrial, general business and warehousing platforms while the remainder of the site will comprise road servitudes and open space or conservation. The proposed development will require municipal and provincial road upgrades, and service infrastructural upgrades for water, sewer and electricity. JT Ross intend to maintain and enhance the main drainage line for storm water attenuation and filtration, and a 100m residential buffer is planned to be maintained that will also act as an ecological corridor linking DMOSS areas.

### **4.3 Heritage sites identified**

No heritage and archaeological sites or features occur within the construction footprint.

## 5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

### 5.1 Field Rating

Not applicable as no heritage sites occur on the footprint

**Table 2. 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

There is no known archaeological reason why development may not proceed on the property as planned. However, attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose additional archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

## 7 RISK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION

Not applicable.



8 MAPS AND FIGURES

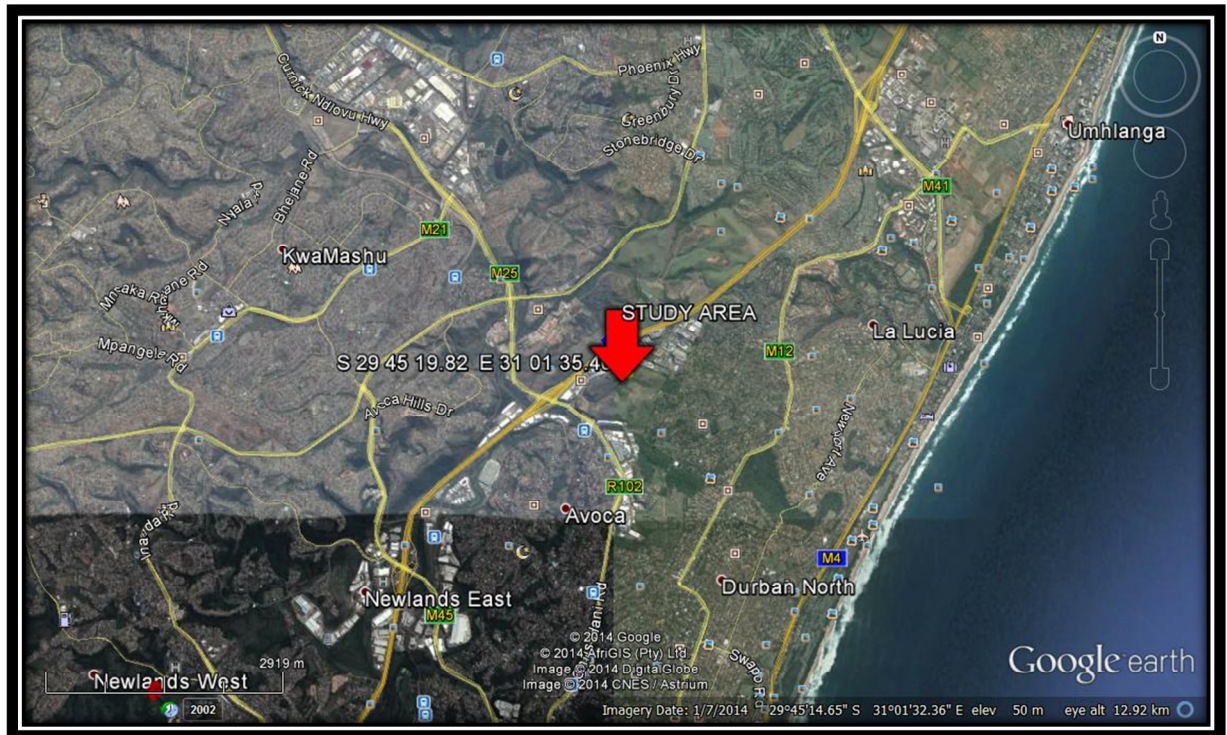


Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the Study Area near Avoca, Durban North.

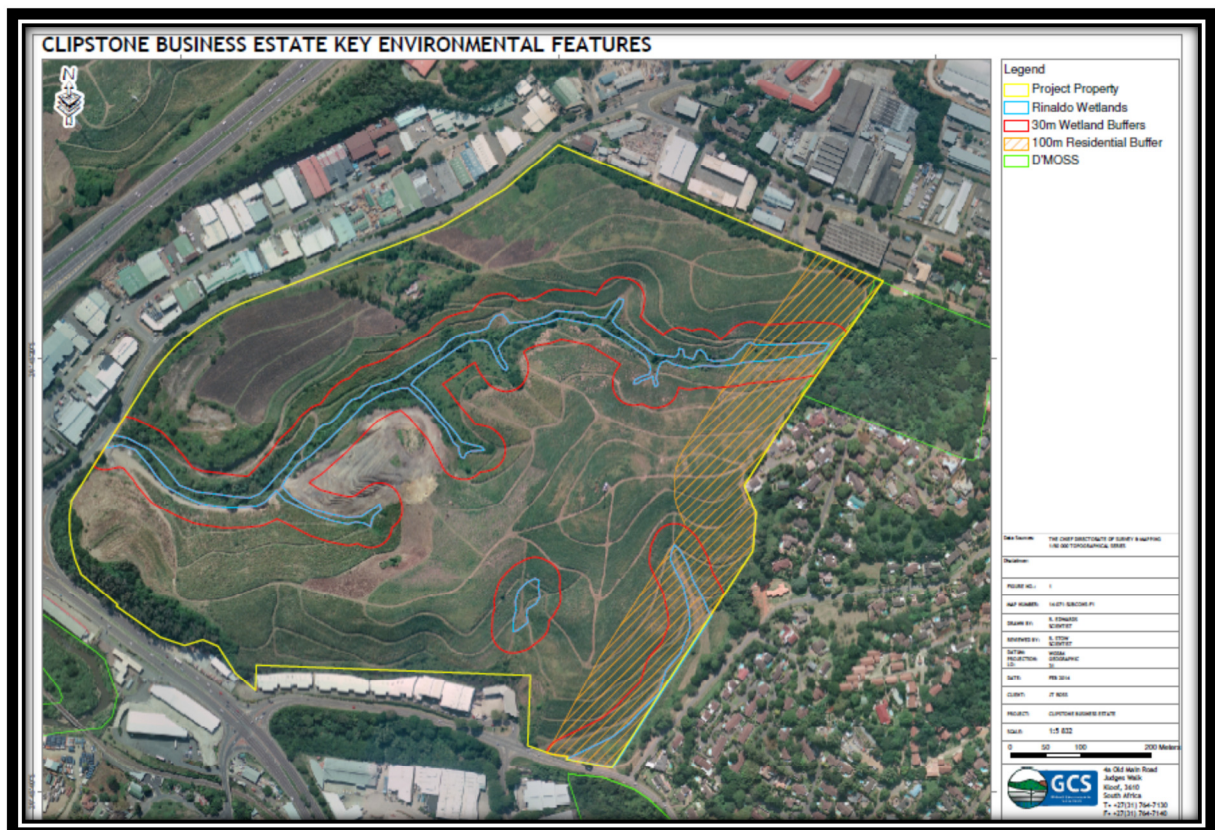


Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the area surveyed (Source: GCS).





***Figure 3. Clay mining activities on sections of the study area***



***Figure 4. The greatest portion of the study area is covered by sugar cane plantations.***

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