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**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MPUMALANGA TOWN  
CENTRE PRECINCT PLANNING PROJECT,  
KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA**



Assessment and report by

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### **Management summary**

eThembeni Cultural Heritage was appointed by Terratest to undertake a heritage impact assessment of the proposed Mpumalanga town centre precinct planning project, in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act No 10 of 1997. One eThembeni staff member inspected the area on 5 August 2008. We completed a controlled-exclusive surface survey, as well as a database and literature search.

We identified no heritage resources within the proposed development area.

The proposed development area comprises largely undeveloped but disturbed land between the Sterkspruit River, Shezi Road, Mpumalanga, the residential area of Mpumalanga Unit A and Hammarsdale Industrial Area. The site will be transformed significantly and permanently by the proposed project, but this will be in keeping with surrounding urban and peri-urban expansion.

It is possible that ancestral graves are located within or close to homesteads within the proposed development area. However, they will be known to residents and therefore protected appropriately during construction.

We recommend that the development proceed with no further heritage mitigation and have submitted this report to Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali in fulfilment of the requirements of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act. The client may contact Ms Wesuwe Tshabalala at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office (telephone 033 3946 543) in due course to enquire about the Council's decision.

If permission is granted for the development to proceed, the client is reminded that the Act requires that a developer cease all work immediately and notify Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali should any heritage resources, as defined in the Act, be discovered during the course of development activities.

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## Introduction and legislation

eThembeni Cultural Heritage was appointed by Terratest to undertake a heritage impact assessment of the proposed Mpumalanga town centre precinct planning project, in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act No 10 of 1997. Section 27(1) of the Act requires such an assessment in case of:

- (a) construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
- (b) construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length; and
- (c) any development, or other activity which will change the character of an area of land, or water –
  - (i) exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent;
  - (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; or
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations.

A heritage impact assessment is not limited to archaeological artefacts, historical buildings and graves. It is far more encompassing and includes intangible and invisible resources such as places, oral traditions and rituals. In the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997 a heritage resource is defined any place or object of cultural significance i.e. of aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance. This includes the following wide range of places and objects:

- (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) 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;
- (i) battlefields;
- (j) traditional building techniques.

A 'place' is defined as:

- (a) a site, area or region;
- (b) a building or other structure (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such building or other structure);
- (c) a group of buildings or other structures (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such group of buildings or other structures); and
- (d) an open space, including a public square, street or park; and in relation to the management of a place, includes the immediate surroundings of a place.

'Structure' means any building, works, device, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land and any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith older than 60 years.

'Archaeological' means -

- (a) material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
- (b) rock art, being a form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and is older than 100 years including any area within 10 m of such representation; and
- (c) wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land or in the maritime cultural zone referred to in section 5 of the Maritime Zones Act 1994 (Act 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which are older than 60 years or which in terms of national legislation are considered to be worthy of conservation;
- (d) features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found.

'Palaeontological' means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

'Grave' means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of and any other structures on or associated with such place. Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali will only issue a permit for the alteration of a grave if it is satisfied that every reasonable effort has been made to contact and obtain permission from the families concerned. Since Amafa has not yet formulated guidelines or regulations for the removal of human remains, eThembeni adheres to the following procedures, compiled in discussion with the South African Heritage Resources Agency and used by professional colleagues:

- Notification of the impending removals (using English and Zulu language media and notices at the grave site);
- Consultation with individuals or communities related or known to the deceased;
- Satisfactory arrangements for the curation of human remains and / or headstones in a museum, where applicable;
- Procurement of a permit from Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali;
- Appropriate arrangements for the exhumation (preferably by a suitably trained archaeologist) and re-interment (sometimes by a registered undertaker, in a formally proclaimed cemetery);
- Observation of rituals or ceremonies required by the families.

**Nature of proposed activities** (information obtained from the Draft Development Concept prepared by the client)

The Mpumalanga Town Centre precinct is located within the Outer West operational area of the eThekweni Municipality and serves the Functional District known as Mpumalanga, which includes the urban residential settlements of Mpumalanga Township, Shongweni, Geogedale, Sankhontshe, Mophela, Malangeni, Mini Town and Hammarsdale.

This district contains 40% of the Outer West Population of 320 000 (i.e. ~128 000 people). It contains approximately 30% of the low income and peri-urban settlement of the metro area. The Outer West area contributes only between 5 and 7% of metro GDP; unemployment levels are around 21 % with most employment opportunities for residents being located outside the Outer West.

Mpumalanga is severely disadvantaged with respect to the location of urban amenities and employment opportunities. The functional district is located along the MR 395 which has been identified as a development corridor by the eThekweni Municipality, geared to increasing industrial and agricultural economic development. This corridor is the main link of the functional district into the Metro area via the N3 freeway.

The Mpumalanga Town Centre Precinct Planning Project emanates from the Rural Area Based Management Unit, which seeks to coordinate rural planning in terms of the Rural Development Framework. The project is funded by the Neighbourhood Development and Planning Grant initiative of the National Treasury. The plan recommends a series of rural corridors and investment nodes as part of the spatial restructuring of the rural and peri-urban fringe areas. Nodes within each rural sub-region area are identified to create linkages between areas and to facilitate coordinated delivery of services and facilities in each area, to promote sustainable economic development and service delivery. Mpumalanga Town Centre is one of the Rural Development Nodes. As such a development framework is required to coordinate stakeholder activities and prepare the area for development by both public and private stakeholders.

The Mpumalanga Town Centre Precinct Development Concept has three main purposes:

1. Establishing an understanding of the study area, including its opportunities and constraints;
2. Establishing a vision and spatial conceptual framework for future development of the town centre precinct and surrounding precincts;
3. Reviewing the location of the GMA Town Centre and associated development opportunities within the town centre precinct.
4. Establishing an implementation strategy for development of the Town Centre precinct;
5. Undertaking the above exercises through a managed participation exercise.

The precinct is large (327 hectares in extent) and largely vacant (221 hectares or 67%), and forms the “keystone” between a number of different existing and emergent residential neighbourhoods and activity clusters, and between a complex transportation network. It includes a variety of identifiable “sub precincts” each with their own landscape character and development potential. These sub precincts are defined by major natural features such as river and stream lines and associated environmentally sensitive areas, and by major infrastructure elements such as roads and rail lines.

Given its size the Town Centre precinct will be developed over a long period in accordance with population needs and economic growth. It is also not likely to be developed in a predictable manner given the range of public and private stakeholders. Accordingly, in order to ensure that future growth and development of the precinct is accommodated in a reasonably rational and coordinated manner it is imperative to identify the relevant potentials of both the developable sub precincts and the undevelopable (i.e. environmentally sensitive) portions of the precinct within the wider socio economic and environmental context.

In order to ensure that development is sustainable in the long term whilst ensuring that development is encouraged in the short term it is also imperative to identify a clear set of principles for development. This will promote a measure of robustness and flexibility in the plan and encourage the generation of creative and innovative development responses within the precinct.

**Site access, description and environmental issues** (information obtained from the Draft Development Concept prepared by the client, as well as wetland and vegetation studies)

The study area falls within the Functional District of Mpumalanga which is located within the Outer West Operational Entity of the eThekweni Municipality, approximately 50 kilometres from Durban CBD. The geographic coordinates of the approximate centre of the site are S29 48 05.0; E30 37 43.0.

Mpumalanga is one of six functional districts in the Outer West. It is home to approximately 130 000 people, some of whom are settled formally in urban villages or townships and on small agricultural holdings, but many of whom are settled informally in transitional, peri-urban and rural areas.

The study area for the Town Centre precinct is defined by the Sterkspruit River in the north, Shezi Road in the south, the edge of the residential area of Unit A in the west and the edge of Hammarsdale Industrial Area in the east. It is approximately 350 hectares in extent.

The site for the most part remains undeveloped but disturbed. The land slopes from a high ridge line on the southern portion down to the Sterkspruit floodplain to the north. A series of incised water courses drain in a northerly direction, under the MR385 and rail line before discharging into the river. New housing projects are currently under construction on the northern portion of the site, immediately south of the Sterkspruit River. Some subsistence agriculture is taking place on the north western portion of the site. Some illegal sand winning is also taking place on the property. The remainder of the site consists of open grassland, wooded drainage lines and small seepage wetlands.

The dominant vegetation type that was identified on site is classified as SVs 4 Ngongoni Veld, deemed to be Vulnerable. The general characteristics displayed by this vegetation type are dense tall grasslands, overwhelmingly dominated by unpalatable, wiry Ngongoni grass (*Aristida junciformis*), with the mono-dominance associated with low species diversity. Wooded areas (Thornveld) are found in valleys at lower altitudes, where the vegetation unit grades into SVs 3 KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld and SVs 7 Bhisho Thornveld. Termitaria support bush clumps, which are comprised of species such as, *Acacia* species, *Cussonia spicata*, *Ziziphus mucronata* *Coddia rudis*, *Ehretia rigida*, etc.

KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld is also deemed to be Vulnerable. The general characteristics displayed by this vegetation type are Open Thornveld dominated by *Acacia* spp. on undulating plains found on the upper margins of river valleys. This vegetation unit can be distinguished from SVs 2 Thukela Thornveld by higher floristic richness and a different vegetation structure (i.e. clump and scrub character).

The grassland areas have been historically exposed to severe grazing pressure, illustrated primarily by the severe erosion that has occurred in the drainage lines on site. In addition, poor management has exacerbated the situation with regular (annual) burning by the local communities, sand winning in certain areas, collection of plants and/or parts thereof for *muthi* and the dumping of waste (predominantly builders' rubble).

Heavy erosion has created two parallel gullies on the central/ eastern portion of the site. These features are heavily incised (up to 10 metres deep) and choked with alien plants. However a number of mature trees were noted growing from the walls. The presence of these woody species suggests that the gullies are old features. Alluvial fans within the gullies do however suggest that some erosion is still occurring within these systems.

The wetlands on the Mpumalanga New Town Precinct site provide a range of valuable ecosystem services to the local and broader landscape. Anthropogenic disturbance and poor management has resulted in various levels of degradation to systems. Protection of these systems is paramount to their continued integrity and functional value. Development must take cognizance of the recommended buffers and construction of units and infrastructure must avoid wetlands and buffers.

## Methodology

One eThembeni staff member inspected the area on 5 August 2008. We completed a controlled-exclusive surface survey, where 'sufficient information exists on an area to make solid and defensible assumptions and judgements about where [heritage resource] sites may and may not be' and 'an inspection of the surface of the ground, wherever this surface is visible, is made, with no substantial attempt to clear brush, turf, deadfall, leaves or other material that may cover the surface and with no attempt to look beneath the surface beyond the inspection of rodent burrows, cut banks and other exposures that are observed by accident' (King 1978).

We consulted various provincial databases, including historical, archaeological and geological sources and undertook a limited literature review, included as Appendix A. We assessed the value and significance of heritage resources, as defined in the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997 and the criteria contained in Appendix B. Culturally significant landscapes were assessed according to the criteria in Appendix C.

The client has provided a map of the area, submitted to Amafa separately. Geographic coordinates were obtained with a handheld Garmin GPS72 global positioning unit. Photographs were taken with a Nikon Coolpix S200 digital camera. Appendix D contains a statement of independence and a summary of our ability to undertake this heritage impact assessment.

The assumptions and limitations of this heritage impact assessment are as follows:

- We have assumed that the description of the proposed project, provided by Terratest, is accurate.
- We have assumed that the public consultation process undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment is sufficient and adequate and does not require repetition as part of the heritage impact assessment.
- Soil surface visibility was moderate, with dense vegetation occurring in places. Heritage resources might be present in these areas and we remind the client that the Act requires that a developer cease all work immediately and notify Amafa should any heritage resources, as defined in the Act, be discovered during the course of development activities.
- No subsurface investigation (including excavations or sampling) were undertaken, since a permit from Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali is required to disturb a heritage resource.

## Observations and recommendations

No development activities associated with the proposed project had begun at the time of our visit, in accordance with provincial heritage legislation.

⇒ [Places, buildings, structures and equipment](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ [Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ [Historical settlements and townscapes](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ [Landscapes and natural features](#)

The proposed development area comprises largely undeveloped but disturbed land between the Sterkspruit River, Shezi Road, Mpumalanga, the residential area of Mpumalanga Unit A and Hammarsdale Industrial Area. The site will be transformed significantly and permanently by the proposed project, but this will be in keeping with surrounding urban and peri-urban expansion.

⇒ [Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ [Archaeological and palaeontological sites](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ [Graves and burial grounds](#)

It is possible that ancestral graves are located within or close to homesteads within the proposed development area. However, they will be known to residents and therefore protected appropriately during construction.

⇒ [Movable objects excluding any object made by a living person](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ [Battlefields](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

⇒ [Traditional building techniques](#)

None were identified within the proposed development area.

### **Summary of findings in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997 Section 27(3)**

**(a) the identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected**

None.

**(b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in regulations**

Not applicable.

**(c) an assessment of the impact of development on such heritage resources**

Not applicable.

**(d) 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**

Not applicable.

**(e) 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 client has undertaken such consultation in terms of statutory requirements and retains the relevant documentation.

**(f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives**

Not applicable.

**(g) plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after completion of the proposed development**

If permission is granted for development to proceed, the client is reminded that the Act requires that a developer cease all work immediately and notify Amafa should any heritage resources, as defined in the Act, be discovered during the course of development activities.

### **Conclusion**

We recommend that the development proceed with no further heritage mitigation and have submitted this report to Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali in fulfilment of the requirements of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act. According to Section 27(4) of the Act:

The report shall be considered timeously by the Council which shall, after consultation with the person proposing the development, decide -

- (a) whether or not the development may proceed;
- (b) any limitations or conditions are to be applied to the development;
- (c) what general protections in terms of this Act apply, and what formal protections may be applied to such heritage resources;
- (d) whether compensatory action shall be required in respect of any heritage resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the development; and
- (e) whether the appointment of specialists is required as a condition of approval of the proposal.

The client may contact Ms Wesuwe Tshabalala at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office (telephone 033 3946 543) in due course to enquire about the Council's decision.

## References

- King, T. F. 1989. The archaeological survey: methods and uses. Quoted in Canter, L. W. 1996. Environmental impact assessment. Second Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.
- Maggs, T. 1989. The Iron Age farming communities. In Duminy, A. and Guest, B. (eds) Natal and Zululand from earliest times to 1910. A new history pp. 28-48. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press.
- Mazel, A. 1989. The Stone Age peoples of Natal. In Duminy, A. and Guest, B. (eds) Natal and Zululand from earliest times to 1910. A new history pp. 1-27. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press.

## APPENDIX A

## BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The general area is one of variable heritage resource significance and the following tables provide a brief summary of archaeological time periods:

<b>E arly</b>	1.5 million to 180 000 years ago	Only stone artefacts remain from
<b>S tone</b>		this time period, including large
<b>A ge</b>		choppers, cleavers and hand axes
<b>M idle</b>	180 000 to 35 000 years ago	Stone tools smaller than in ESA;
<b>S tone</b>		include blades and flakes; human
<b>A ge</b>		and animal remains also found
<b>L ater</b>	35 000 years ago to the time	Variety of artefacts made from
<b>S tone</b>	of European settlement	organic and inorganic materials;
<b>A ge</b>		human remains, shell middens etc

<b>E arly</b>	400 – 500 AD	Mzonjani phase
<b>I ron</b>	500 – 700 AD	Msuluzi phase
<b>A ge</b>	700 – 900 AD	Ndondondwane phase
	900 – 1200 AD	Ntshekane phase
<b>L ate</b>	1200 – 1500 AD	Settlement by Nguni speakers
<b>I ron</b>	1500 – 1700 AD	Introduction of maize
<b>A ge</b>	1700 – 1850 AD	Pre-European settlement
	1850 AD to present	Historical

Stone and Iron Age and historical sites abound within the general area. Early Stone Age stone scatters occur in raised beach gravels, eroded areas and ancient coastal dunes. No information is available on the foods eaten by the Early Stone Age people in Natal, but it can be assumed on the basis of evidence on Early Stone Age people elsewhere that their diet consisted primarily of animals and plant foods. It was also during this period that people learnt to control fire' (Mazel 1989: 3-5).

'Clear technological differences separate the Middle Stone Age from the Early Stone Age. Whereas Early Stone Age tools were generally core tools [choppers, handaxes, cleavers], Middle Stone Age tools were made of flakes and blades detached from the core [trapezoids, segments, scrapers, points, flakes, blades]. Handaxes and cleavers were absent...

'Relatively little is known about the particular types of food that the Middle Stone Age hunter-gatherers ate. Border Cave [situated in the Lebombo Mountains on the border between South Africa and Swaziland] is the only site from which information is at present available... Small quantities of a wide variety of animals were found in the Border Cave excavations. These included honey badger, dassie, Burchell's zebra, bushpig, warthog, hippopotamus, steenbok, oribi, mountain reedbuck, waterbuck, roan / sable, impala, blesbok, hartebeest / tsessebe, blue wildebeest, springbok, greater kudu, nyala, bushbuck, eland, Cape buffalo and possibly an extinct giant Cape horse (*Equus capensis*).

'A handful of seeds was also found at Border Cave, while grindstones, which may have been used in the processing of plant foods, have been recovered from the Middle Stone Age layers at Umhlatuzana Shelter [located between Durban and Pietermaritzburg]...

'Evidence of the manufacture of cultural articles from materials other than stone first appears during the Middle Stone Age. So also does evidence concerning religious practices, the final Middle Stone Age stage at Border Cave producing the earliest known burial so far attributed to the Middle Stone Age' (Mazel 1989: 6-8).

Recent excavations at Sibhudu Shelter, a near-coastal site located between the uMvoti and uMngeni rivers, promise to shed more light on the Middle Stone Age of KwaZulu-Natal.

Later Stone Age sites occur throughout the province, with high concentrations in places such as the uKhahlamba mountains where rock shelters suitable for occupation are plentiful.

'Stone artefacts are overwhelmingly the most common cultural item recovered from the excavations that have been carried out, followed by pottery (belonging to the last 2 000 years), ground, polished and shaved bone, beads and ostrich eggshell... [Stone] scrapers were probably used for removing the fat from animal skins before these were pegged out to dry. Adzes were probably used for shaving wood and, to a lesser extent, bone; while backed pieces, of which there are different types, were probably employed in hunting and cutting up carcasses.

'A great deal of information about the foods Later Stone Age hunter-gatherers ate has been obtained from animal, plant and marine and freshwater shell remains. In some cases, it has been possible to identify the remains of individual species. As small animals in particular are sensitive to environmental fluctuations, these remains can also tell us much about past environments. Botanical remains are also very useful, for seeds can indicate which fruits and berries Later Stone Age people ate. And, because fruits and berries are seasonal, they can also provide information about the months during the year when sites were occupied' (Mazel 1989: 11-12).

'One of the main themes of Later Stone Age research in South Africa, including Natal, has been that of seasonality. It has been hypothesized, on the basis of the analysis of the seasonal movements of large antelope, that the food resources of southern Natal would have been exploited on a seasonal basis by hunter-gatherers. According to this hypothesis, they would have occupied the Drakensberg in summer and the Thornveld and coastal areas during winter, traversing the Midlands along ridges rather than in the valleys.

'Recent field-work based on this hypothesis has suggested that in southern Natal during the last 3 500 years, hunter-gatherers would have occupied the Drakensberg in spring and summer (October to March), the coastal zone in winter (April / May to August), and the Midlands in autumn and late winter (March / April to September). This seasonal hypothesis... has given rise to the speculation that while they were in the Drakensberg, the hunter-gatherers would have lived in large groups and would have operated from large home-base sites.

'One of the results of the formation of these larger social units could have been an increase in ritual activity. Social organisation in the Midlands, however, would have been characterized by the small mobile groups that traversed the zone, while in the coastal zones larger groups, but not as large as those in the Drakensberg, would have been found' (Mazel 1989: 17).

'The advent of the Iron Age saw not only the introduction of metallurgy. Of even greater significance was the introduction of agriculture, necessitating a settled, village way of life instead of the nomadic patterns of the Stone Age. It also provided for an appreciable increase in population density, as well as a more complex life-style. Richly decorated pottery is a hallmark of these early settlements. Domestic animals including cattle, sheep, goats and dogs were also a feature of the Iron Age, although current information indicates that they had already reached parts of South Africa, but apparently not Natal, during the Late Stone Age, through the agency of Khoisan herders...

'... the earliest Iron Age sites in South Africa, including Natal, relate to an eastern coastal and lowland cultural tradition with links as far north as the Kwale sites of eastern Kenya. This tradition has been named 'Matola', after a site in southern Mozambique, which provided close typological links between the Natal and eastern Transvaal sites<sup>1</sup>. [In KwaZulu-Natal] almost all of them are on the belt of ancient dunes, which would have been covered by coastal forest at the time.

'In the St. Lucia area especially, sites are concentrated at the inland foot of the dunes, where they meet seasonally flooded grassland. It has been argued that these sites were the first choice of immigrant farmers because they afforded some open, but not flooded, space. The sandy soils are poor and leached but the accumulated forest humus would have ensured good crops for the first year or two after they had been cleared. Apart from being attracted by this agricultural potential, the [Mzonjani] people exploited the wild plant and animal resources of the forest and adjacent sea-shore.

'Although no direct evidence of agriculture has as yet been obtained from Natal sites, seeds of bulrush millet (a tropical African cultigen) have been recovered from [an Mzonjani] site in the Transvaal. Bulrush millet is still a favoured crop on the dunes around Kosi Bay. Evidence of domestic animals has yet to be found on any [Mzonjani] site and it seems likely that they were rare, if present at all. The forest environment would certainly have been unsuitable as pasture for domestic animals. Marine mussels may therefore have played an important part as a protein source in place of meat or milk' (Maggs 1989: 29-31).

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<sup>1</sup> This tradition is now known as Mzonjani in KwaZulu-Natal.

'Most Early Iron Age sites in Natal are later than the [Mzonjani] period and are classified according to ceramic styles [refer to the table above]...By this time villages, often about eight hectares in size and probably containing a hundred or more people, had become common in the lower-lying and savannah areas, below an altitude of 1 000 metres. They were most common along the major rivers and in the coastal belt, where there was good, deep soil, sweet year-round grazing, and timber for building and fuel...

'Diet was based on agriculture and pastoralism, with a little supplementary hunting, fishing and gathering of wild plants and shellfish. Crops identified from seeds include several grains (bulrush millet, finger millet and probably sorghum), and probably the African melon... Most villages had one or more iron smelting areas and therefore produced their own requirements' (Maggs 1989: 31-32).

The beginning of the Late Iron Age marked a period of significant change in pottery styles, attributable to both socio-political and demographic factors (Maggs 1989). Settlements were no longer located in river valleys, but were built on higher ground where homesteads would benefit from cooling breezes and good views for strategic purposes.

Steep slopes, wetlands and marshy areas were used for grazing domestic animals and gathering wild food and medicinal plants. Settlements appear to have been much smaller, implying that 'society underwent a change away from the large Early Iron Age villages and towards the individual family homesteads of the historic Nguni-speaking peoples (Maggs 1989: 35).

Artefacts on Iron Age homestead sites include ceramic sherds, upper and lower grindstones and human and animal bones. Metalworking sites are often located in areas where iron ore is available and associated debris includes furnace remains, slag, bloom and ceramic sherds.

'The evidence or written sources [from shipwrecked Portuguese and other European mariners, who traversed lowland and coastal Natal on their way northwards to Mozambique] shows that, by the 1550s, while the coastal sourveld of Pondoland was thinly inhabited, coastal Natal from the Mtamvuna northwards was already well populated. A settlement of twenty hemispherical huts built of poles and thatch is described as being typical of the coast at that time. A later report confirms that such 'small villages' were the homes of kinship groups, each under the authority of a senior man. There can have been little difference between these homesteads and those of the nineteenth century in Natal and Zululand.

'The agro-pastoral economy of the Iron Age prevailed throughout the coastal regions, with cultivation typically a combination of grains, legumes and vegetables of the pumpkin-melon family. There were three types of grains, one being sorghum and another a smaller-seeded millet, specific identification being difficult to establish from the old Portuguese documents. Vegetables included beans, African groundnuts (both legumes), gourds, watermelons and pumpkins, while sorghum was cultivated for its sweet pith as well as for its seeds...There is evidence to show that tobacco was being cultivated and smoked by 1686. Cattle, sheep and goats were seen in quantities, as were chicken from southern Natal northwards' (Maggs 1989: 39).

## APPENDIX B

## SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE OF HERITAGE RESOURCE SITES

The following guidelines for determining site significance were developed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency in 2003. We use them in conjunction with tables of our own formulation (see that for the Southern African Iron Age, below) when considering intrinsic site significance and significance relative to development activities, as well as when recommending mitigatory action.

## Type of Resource

Place

Structure

Archaeological Site

Palaeontological Site

Geological Feature

Grave

## Type of Significance

## 1. Historical Value

It is important in the community, or pattern of history

- Importance in the evolution of cultural landscapes and settlement patterns
- Importance in exhibiting density, richness or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or locality.
- Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases that have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or community.
- Importance as an example for technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period

It has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history

- Importance for close associations with individuals, groups or organisations whose life, works or activities have been significant within the history of the nation, Province, region or community.

It has significance relating to the history of slavery

- Importance for a direct link to the history of slavery in South Africa.

## 2. Aesthetic Value

It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

- Importance to a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.
- Importance for its creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.
- Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic values of the setting demonstrated by a landmark quality or having impact on important vistas or otherwise contributing to the identified aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs or the natural landscape within which it is located.
- In the case of an historic precinct, importance for the aesthetic character created by the individual components which collectively form a significant streetscape, townscape or cultural environment.

## 3. Scientific Value

It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage

- Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.
- Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of the universe or of the development of the earth.
- Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of life; the development of plant or animal species, or the biological or cultural development of hominid or human species.
- Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the nation, Province, region or locality.

It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

- Importance for its technical innovation or achievement.

4. Social Value

It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

- Importance as a place highly valued by a community or cultural group for reasons of social, cultural, religious, spiritual, symbolic, aesthetic or educational associations.
- Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place.

Degrees of Significance

Rarity

It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage

- Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes or phenomena.

Representivity

It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class.

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, Province, region or locality.

Sphere of Significance	High	Medium	Low	
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Provincial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----

What other similar sites may be compared to this site?

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**Southern African Iron Age**

	Significance		
	- low	- medium	- high
Unique or type site			Yes
Formal protection			Yes
Spatial patterning	?Yes	?Yes	?Yes
Degree of disturbance	75 – 100%	25 – 74%	0 – 24%
Organic remains (list types)	0 – 5 / m <sup>2</sup>	6 – 10 / m <sup>2</sup>	11 + / m <sup>2</sup>
Inorganic remains (list types)	0 – 5 / m <sup>2</sup>	6 – 10 / m <sup>2</sup>	11 + / m <sup>2</sup>
Ancestral graves			Present
Horizontal extent of site	< 100m <sup>2</sup>	101 – 1000m <sup>2</sup>	1000 + m <sup>2</sup>
Depth of deposit	< 20cm	21 – 50cm	51 + cm
Spiritual association			Yes
Oral history association			Yes
➤ Research potential			High
➤ Educational potential			High

Please note that this table is a tool to be used by qualified cultural heritage managers who are also experienced site assessors.

## APPENDIX C

### CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

The American National Parks Services sets out various criteria for the identification and management of cultural landscapes:

‘Cultural landscapes are complex resources that range from large rural tracts covering several thousand acres to formal gardens of less than an acre. Natural features such as landforms, soils and vegetation are not only part of the cultural landscape, they provide the framework within which it evolves. In the broadest sense, a cultural landscape is a reflection of human adaptation and use of settlement, land use, systems of circulation and the natural resources and is often expressed in the way land is organised and divided, patterns of types of structures that are built. The character of a cultural landscape is defined both by physical materials, such as roads, buildings, walls and vegetation, and by use reflecting cultural values and traditions.

‘Identifying the character-defining features in a landscape and understanding them in relation to each other and to significant historic events, trends and persons allows us to read the landscape as a cultural resource. In many cases, these features are dynamic and change over time. In many cases, too, historical significance may be ascribed to more than one period in a landscape’s physical and cultural evolution.

‘Cultural landscape management involves identifying the type and degree of change that can occur while maintaining the character-defining features. The identification and management of an appropriate level of change in a cultural landscape is closely related to its significance. In a landscape significant for its association with a specific style, individual, trend or event, change may diminish its integrity and needs to be carefully monitored and controlled. In a landscape significant for the pattern of use that has evolved, physical change may be essential to the continuation of the use. In the latter case, the focus should be on perpetuating the use while maintaining the general character and feeling of the historic period(s), rather than on preserving a specific appearance.

‘A cultural landscape is a geographic area, including both natural and cultural resources, associated with a historic event, activity or person. The National Park Services recognises four cultural landscape categories: historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, historic sites and ethnographic landscapes. These categories are helpful in distinguishing the values that make landscapes cultural resources and in determining how they should be treated, managed and interpreted...

‘The four cultural landscape categories are not mutually exclusive. A landscape may be associated with a significant event, include designed or vernacular characteristics and be significant to a specific cultural group.’

## APPENDIX D

We declare that Len van Schalkwyk, Beth Wahl and eThembeni Cultural Heritage have no financial or personal interest in the proposed development, nor its developers or any of its subsidiaries, apart from in the provision of heritage assessment and management consulting services.

Len van Schalkwyk and Beth Wahl are equal partners in eThembeni Cultural Heritage and the following synopsis of our respective qualifications and experience demonstrates our ability to complete heritage impact assessments. We are accredited by Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali to complete heritage impact assessments in KwaZulu-Natal, and by the Cultural Resources Management section of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists to do so in the rest of South Africa.

Len has a master's degree in archaeology (specialising in the history of early farmers in southern Africa) from the University of Cape Town and sixteen years' experience in cultural heritage management. He left his position as assistant director of Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali, the provincial cultural heritage authority, to start eThembeni. Len has worked on projects as diverse as the establishment of the Ondini Cultural Museum in Ulundi, the cultural management of Chobe National Park in Botswana and various archaeological excavations and oral history recording projects. He was part of the writing team that produced the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997. Len has worked with many rural communities to establish integrated heritage and land use plans and speaks good Zulu.

Beth has an honours degree in African studies (majoring in archaeology and sociology) from the University of Cape Town and is completing her masters in heritage and tourism at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Most recently she was employed by Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali as head of archaeology, which position she left to start eThembeni. Beth was a co-developer of the cultural heritage management plan for the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site and has developed and implemented training programmes for community guides and members of the public. Much of this training has focussed on the rock paintings of the uKhahlamba (Drakensberg) mountains.

#### ❖ Heritage impact assessments

Such assessments are required as part of Environmental Impact Assessments by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 1997, the South African Heritage Resources Management Act 1999 and all national and provincial environmental legislation. We have completed numerous projects and Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali and the South African Heritage Resources Agency have supported our recommendations, without exception. The following projects are a sample of our work during 2005 and 2006:

##### Eskom power lines

- Braamhoek integrated power supply for PBA International
- Obanjeni, Mtunzini substation and power lines for SiVEST Environment and Planning
- Majuba Mfolozi power lines for BKS Environmental Management Division
- Idwala Carbonates for Stemele Bosch Africa
- Braamhoek power lines for Ludloko Developments

##### Housing, office and game estate developments

- Shakaskraal residential and commercial estate for ACER (Africa)
- Bird Valley Estate, Cramond; Camdeboo, Hilton and Sundara Estate, Oliviershoek for Alletson Ecologicals
- Muluja Heights, uKhahlamba Drakensberg for Brousse-James & Associates
- Lot 938 Port Edward for Buk'Indalo Consultancy cc
- Uitvlugt equestrian and wildlife estate, Pietermaritzburg for DR A'Bear & Associates
- New Forest, Dargle for Environmental Assessments cc
- Burlington Greenfield, Queensburgh; Hillary, Durban; Umkhumbaan, Cato Manor; Rem of Lot 125 Ifafa; Lot 6417 Tongaat, Westbrook Beach
- Erf 121 Bazley Beach and Rem of Lot 1 Umzumbe for Environmental Solutions
- Intathakusa Retreat, Inanda for futureWORKS!
- Alverstone, Assagay for Gary van Wyk and Scott Gelder
- Bishopstowe; Brookdales, Howick; Himeville; Kamberg; Northington, Mooi River; Phinda Game Reserve; Rietvallei equestrian estate, Lidgetton; Rietvlei, Craigieburn; Riversdale, Himeville; Spring Grove, Nottingham Road;
- Inhluzani, Dargle / Impendle; Umdloti; Lot 535 Kloof; Meycol Farm, uThukela Mouth; New Guelderland,

- Blythedale Beach; Simbithi eco-estate, Shakas Rock
- Zinkwazi Lagoon Lodge and forest estate for Indiflora cc Environmental Services
- Umbogintwini golf course for Kerry Seppings Environmental Management Services
- Zwelisha, Bergville for McFerran & Associates
- Executive Village, Umhlanga Triangle and Umhlanga New Town Centre for Moreland Developments (Pty) Ltd
- Cherry Farm, Port Shepstone; Kingthorpe equestrian estate, Pietermaritzburg; San Marina estate, Marina Beach; Shelly Ridge, Marburg Commonage; Sunrise Bay eco-estate; The Plantation agri eco-estate, Ramsgate; Uplands, Margate for NMH Consulting
- Buffelshoek, Winterton for Peter Jewell Consulting Services
- Umdloti Lagoon Valley and KwaDabeka C, Durban for SiVEST Environment and Planning
- Garden Park residential and commercial development for Spencer Gore Construction
- Manzengwenya dive camp for Strategic Environmental Focus (Pty) Ltd
- Balcomb, Mtunzini; Braeside Farm, Umhlali; Hillside farm, Umhlali; Helmsley Farm, Umhlali; Lot 617 Sheffield Beach; Mtikini, Ulundi; Palm Lakes, Umhlali; Tara Estate, Salt Rock for Sustainable Development Projects
- Allemans Drift and Waterford, Howick for WSP Environmental
- Almond Bank, Pietermaritzburg for Afzelia Environmental Consultants cc
- Nodunga and Cele-Nhlangweni for CHS Developments
- Eendvogel Vley and Gordon Hill, Ladysmith for DEK Simpson Professional Land Surveyors
- Mhlumayo housing for Inkonjane Developments

#### Road upgrades

- Road 1B Mkhazeni, Mgai farm road, Esifubeni road and Sani Pass Phase 1 for ACER (Africa)
- Ncengeni road, Tugela Ferry for J Mitchell & Associates
- Vukani Phase 2, Inanda for Pravin Amar Development Planners
- P230 road, Empangeni / Eshowe and Zwelimbomvu road for Terratest Incorporated
- Hillcrest roads for WSP Environmental

#### Bridge construction

- Bridge 1 Batshe and Bridge 18 Diki for ACER (Africa)
- Mfule River bridge, Nkwalini for Eyethu Engineers

#### Water supply projects

- Fairbreeze mine and Simdlangentsha for ACER (Africa)
- Makhabeleni, Masihambisane and Ntanzu for Saunders & Wium Trust
- Ozwathini / Mathulini and Wosiyane, Emalangeni and Cibane for SiVEST Environment and Planning
- KwaDeyi / St Faiths, KwaFodo and Stuartsville for Stemele Bosch Africa
- KwaGqungquma for Terratest Incorporated
- Albert Falls and south coast water supply system, Amanzimtoti to Umzinto / Scottburgh for Umgeni Water Amanzi

#### Dams

- Nsami, Molepo and Acornhoek dams, Limpopo Province for Cave Klapwijk & Associates
- Sundara, Oliviershoek for Alletson Ecologicals

#### Virgin soil assessments

- Ideal View and Mid-Selbourne farms, Underberg for Alletson Ecologicals

#### Other

- Gautrain tunnel and portal variants, Johannesburg for Bohlweki Environmental
- Gautrain route variants, Tshwane for Felehetsa Environmental (Pty) Ltd
- Ermelo Majuba rail realignments for Cave Klapwijk & Associates
- Nondabuya and Welcome agricultural development programmes for ACER (Africa) and Institute for Natural Resources
- Ntingwe tea estate, N11 and N12 borrow pits for ACER (Africa)
- Ashburton quarry, Pietermaritzburg and Idwala mining, Port Shepstone for Council for Geoscience
- King Matiwane cultural village for NDG Africa
- Alton North ferrochrome smelter, Richards Bay for CSIR Environmentek
- Chieveley, KwaDlamini, Injasuthi and Elandskraal base stations for David Totman & Associates
- Msukeni and Lugelweni ecotourism developments, Eastern Cape for Environmental and Rural Solutions
- KwaBulawayo tourism development for ZAI Consultants
- Avon and Geogedale peaking power plants for Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd

- Riverside industrial park, Durban for Environmental Planning & Design
- Port Shepstone commercial development for Environmental Solutions
- Nquthu artefact collection for Ernst Cloete & Associates
- Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme impact assessment and monitoring for Eskom
- Erf 50 Cato Ridge and Westway commercial developments for Guy Nicolson Consulting cc
- Wellington wine estate, Rosetta for Harbour Rocks Properties (Pty) Ltd
- Enyokeni, KwaKhangela for SiVEST Environment and Planning
- Nanxing mining, Wartburg for Terratest Incorporated
- Sappi Saiccor Amakhulu expansion, Umkomaas and underground cable installation, Richards Bay for WSP Environmental
- 10 000BC filming location, Garden Castle for Brousse-James & Associates
- Heritage resources component of the KwaDukuza Strategic Environmental Assessment for SiVEST Selatile Moloji