

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
OF THE PROPOSED INKANYEZI YAMAHOBE  
COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECT NEAR  
RICHMOND, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



**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 Inkanyezi Yamahobe Community Forestry Project, Richmond Local Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, identified no heritage sites. There is no known archaeological reason why 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 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 Lindon Corporation
Type of development:	Portions of the Keerom farm on which the "Inkanyezi" project is established were transferred to the Inkanyezi Yamahobe Community Trust (IYCT) from the Department of Rural Development (DRD) as part of its land restitution programme. The farm, which in total is 370 ha, is currently farmed with timber on 234 ha. Once fully operational, the IYCT hopes to have at least 300ha afforested and under proper management and employ at least 30 full time employees. The number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project would be at least 160 people from within the community. The IYCT has a vision for the development of the land as a commercial forestry project and has made efforts to manage the existing plantations. As part of the water application, the project site needs to undergo a Heritage Impact Assessment
Rezoning or subdivision:	n.a
Terms of reference	To carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment
Legislative requirements:	The Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

### 1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The study area is situated approximately 20km to the north east of Richmond adjacent to the P121 (Figs 1 & 2). It is situated within the Gengeshe Magisterial District in the Richmond Local Municipality. The GPS coordinates of the study area is given as S

29° 47' 13.48" E 30° 05' 35.16". The footprint of the proposed forest development is approximately 52.5 hectares. The heritage assessment was confined to this area only.

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Richmond area has never been intensively surveyed for heritage sites. However, some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades whilst archaeologists from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum have made sporadic visits to the area. The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Richmond area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include five Early Stone Age sites, two Middle Stone Age sites, four Later Stone Age sites, two rock painting sites, four Early Iron Age sites, three Later Iron Age sites, and eight historical sites. Various buildings and farmsteads belonging to the Victorian and Edwardian periods occur in the area (Derwent 2006). Eight of these have special provincial protection status.

Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur close to the study area. Most of these occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools in the near vicinity of permanent water resources is typical of this tradition. These tools were most probably made by early hominins such as *Homo erectus* or *Homo ergaster*. Based on typological criteria they most probably date back to between 300 000 and 1.7 million years ago. The presence of the first anatomically modern people (i.e. *Homo sapiens sapiens*) in the area is indicated by the presence of a few Middle Stone Age blades and flakes. These most probably dates back to between 40 000 and 200 000 years ago. The later Stone Age flakes and one rock painting site identified in the area are associated with the San (Bushmen) and their direct ancestors. These most probably dates back to between 200 and 20 000 years ago.

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years but the local demography started to change soon after 2000 years ago when the first Bantu-speaking farmers crossed the Limpopo River and arrived in South Africa (Mitchell 2002). By 1500 years ago these early Bantu-speaking farmers also arrived in the greater Ixopo area. Due to the fact that these first farmers introduced metal technology to southern Africa they are designated as the Early Iron Age in archaeological literature. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as "Msuluzi" (AD 500-700), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). Most of the Early Iron Age sites in the greater Ixopo area belong to these traditions (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462). These sites characteristically occur on alluvial or colluvial soil adjacent to large rivers, such as the Mzimkhulu River, below the 1000m contour. They are usually indicated by potsherd scatters and by exposed

features such as “rubbish pits” where sheet and donga erosion occurs. The Early Iron Age farmers originally came from western Africa and brought with them an elaborate initiation complex and a value system centred on the central significance of cattle.

Later Iron Age sites also occur in this area. These were Bantu-speaking agropastoralists who arrived in southern Africa after 1000 year ago via East Africa. Later Iron Age communities in KwaZulu-Natal were the direct ancestors of the Zulu people (Huffman 2007). Many African groups moved through the study area due to the period of tribal turmoil as caused by the expansionistic policies of king Shaka Zulu in the 1820's. It is known from oral history that the Richmond area was occupied by the eNtlawini, Bhaca, and Zulu refugees in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Bryant 1965; Wright & Hamilton 1989). Their descendants still live in the area. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

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

#### **3.1 Methodology**

A desktop study was conducted of all the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The KwaZulu-Natal list of specially protected sites, as issued by Amafa, was also consulted. The SAHRIS website was consulted for previous heritage surveys in the close environs of the study area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Richmond area was also researched. Aerial photographs covering the study area was scrutinised for historical and Iron Age sites.

The second step of the heritage assessment consisted of a ground survey. Sensitive and potential “hot spot” areas identified from the desktop study was visited in person and surveyed by walking in transects. All potential heritage features and exposed archaeological deposits were investigated and evaluated.

Seven community members were interviewed for any potential living heritage sites or sites with intangible heritage values in the area (Fig 3). Community members also assisted with the identification and location of potential grave sites in the study area.

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

##### **3.2.1 Visibility**

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Potential heritage visibility was good as previous sugar cane plantations have been cleared in areas thereby exposing all potential heritage features and structures. Visibility is more compromised in areas where commercial tree plantations remain.

### **3.2.2 Disturbance.**

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

### **3.3 Details of equipment used in the survey**

GPS: Garmin Etrek

Digital cameras: Canon Powershot A460

All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a level of 5 m.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED**

### **4.1 Locational data**

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Town: Richmond

Municipality: Richmond Local Municipality, Gengeshe Magisterial District.

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

The footprint of the proposed forest development is approximately 52.5 hectares. There is sufficient access to the site and no new roads would need to be constructed.

The proposed site was previously utilised for sugar cane and it is presently cleared (Fig 4). Commercial tree plantations borders onto the footprint (Fig 5). No heritage sites or features were observed on the footprint. Community members were not aware of any graves of intangible heritage associated with the area. The area does not form part of any known cultural landscape.

## **5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)**

As there are no heritage sites on the footprint the area is not significant in terms of heritage values.

## 5.1 Field Rating

The field rating criteria as formulated by SAHRA (Table1) does not apply to the footprint as no heritage sites or features have been identified.

**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

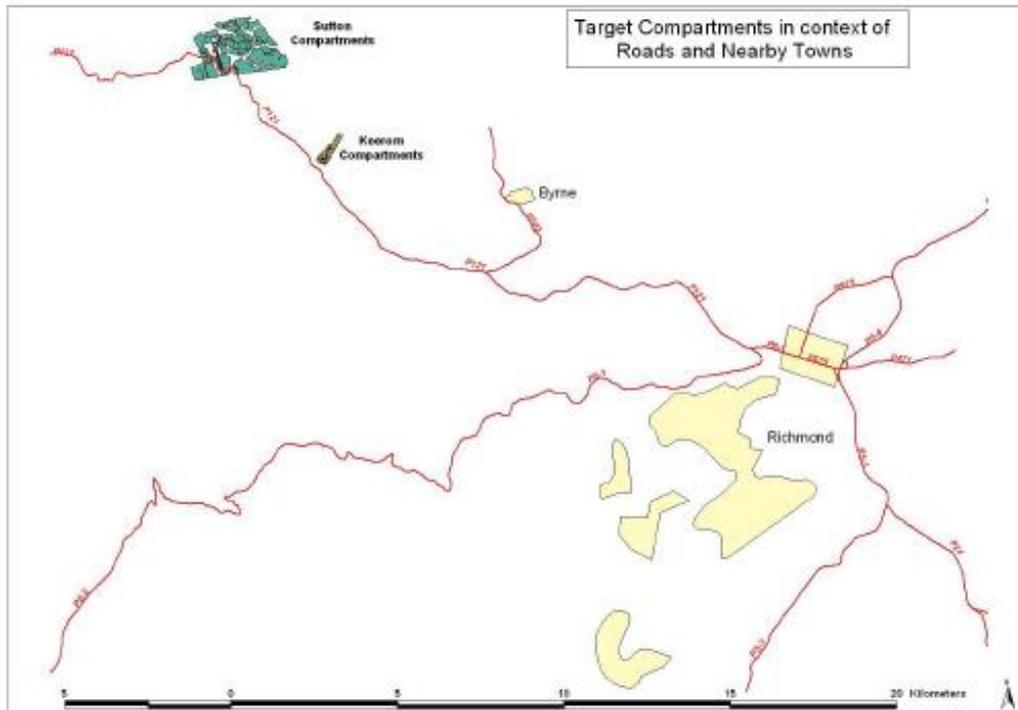
## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Inkanyezi Yamahobe Forestry Project may proceed in terms of heritage values as no heritage and archaeological sites are in any danger of being destroyed or altered. However, it should also be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities. Should the community or developers locate any heritage structures or artefacts then they should contact the heritage consultant, Active Heritage cc, at cell no: 0834739657. Alternatively the community could contact the provincial heritage agency Amafa at Tel: 0333946543. This process of site re-evaluation could take a week to complete.

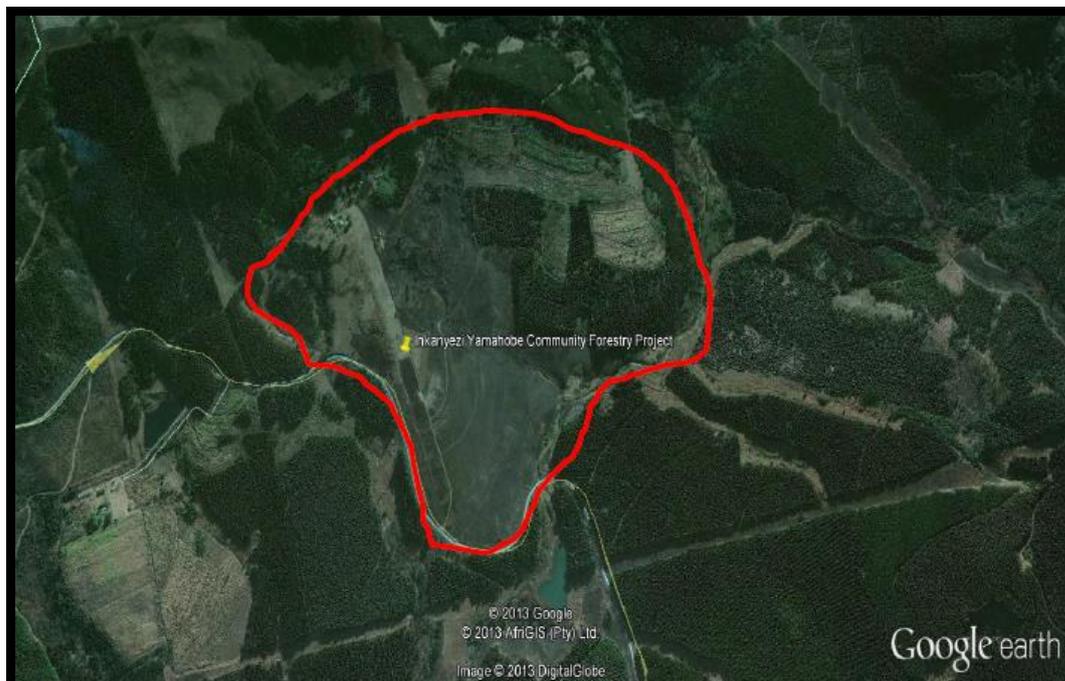
## **7 RISK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION**

Not applicable.

## 8 MAPS AND FIGURES



**Figure 1. Map of the study area relative to Richmond (source: Lindon Corporation)**



**Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the footprint of 52.5 hectares delineated by the red line.**



**Figure 3. Inkanyezi Yamahobe Forestry Project community members interviewed during the heritage survey.**



**Figure 4. Photo of the footprint showing previous cane plantations and woodlots.**



***Figure 5. Some Eucalyptus and Australian Acacia trees occur on the study area.***

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