

# **PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ISANDLWANA HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT, UMZINYATHI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL**



**ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.**

**For: GREEN DOOR ENVIRONMENTAL**

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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
IIA	Intermediate Iron Age
ISA	Intermediate Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 and associated regulations (2006).
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and associated regulations (2000)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
STONE AGE	Early Stone Age 2 000 000 - 250 000 BP Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A phase one heritage impact assessment and survey of the proposed Isandlwana Heritage Development identified no visible heritage sites on the footprint. However, historical records suggest that graves containing the remains of both Zulu warriors and British soldiers are situated on the footprint although evidence for them have been removed some years ago. Construction work, however, may expose these graves. A phase two heritage impact assessment is proposed in order to locate and exhume these graves through rescue excavation. The phase two heritage impact assessment will also include the application of a permit from Amafa to conduct this rescue excavation. 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:	<p>Abakali (Pty) Ltd, through the KwaZulu-Natal Arts and Culture Trust, has been appointed to undertake the establishment of the Isandlwana Heritage Development located adjacent to the Isandlwana Battlefield, near Kwa-Nyoni in the Umzinyathi District Municipality (Figs 1 &amp; 2). In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998), and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, published in Government Notices No. R. 982, 983, 984 and 985, of 2014, certain Listed Activities require either a Basic Assessment Process (GNR 983 and GNR 985) or a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process (GNR 984) to be conducted for Environmental Authorisation.</p> <p>As the proposed development triggers Listed Activities under GNR 983 &amp; 985 of 2014, a Basic Assessment Process for Environmental Authorisation is required and the Applicant must appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the process. Accordingly, the Applicant, Abakali (Pty) Ltd, has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Basic Assessment Process. Green Door Environmental sub-consulted Active Heritage cc to conduct the heritage survey of the project area.</p>
Type of development:	<p>The proposed development comprises five zones, namely a conference centre, accommodation area, cultural village, camping site, and war memorial courtyard. The total development footprint is between 1 and 5 ha.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the five zones of the proposed Isandlwana Heritage Development will incorporate the following infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zone One: Accommodation</b> The accommodation sector will comprise a single story hotel, incorporating traditional Zulubee hive architecture.</li> <li>• <b>Zone Two: Conference Facility</b> The conference facility will consist of two large conference rooms which can accommodate 200 delegates, and a smaller delegation / function room. The conference facility will also contain a fully functioning kitchen and restaurant.</li> <li>• <b>Zone 3: Camping Site</b> The camping area will consist of twelve individual electrified camp sites within a secured landscaped area. This will be serviced by a large central facility providing common barbeque and eating facilities and male and female showers and ablutions. The camping ground will also accommodate coach / mini-van and trailer</li> </ul>

	<p>parking.</p> <p>• <b>Zone 4: Cultural and Heritage Re-affirmation Village</b></p> <p>The cultural village will comprise a reception area, Zulu display huts, and a centrally located 400 seat open air amphitheater with lighting and sound system, technical room and equipment storage, for live stage shows and re-enactment festivals. The cultural village will provide both educational and entertainment programs focusing on traditional Zulu heritage, culture, knowledge and customs, as well as re-enactments of the battle of Isandlwana. Lastly, a restaurant serving traditional Zulu cuisine will be located in the cultural village.</p> <p>• <b>Zone 5: War Memorial</b></p> <p>The war memorial will consist of a reception area and administration facilities, together with a Garden of Remembrance and Pilgrimage. The Remembrance Garden will incorporate water features and landscaping made of local natural materials. It will serve as a shrine to all regiments that died throughout the Anglo Zulu War (Fig 3).</p>
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
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 proposed development is situated near Kwa-Nyoni in the Umzinyathi District Municipality (Figs 1 & 2). It comprises land of approximately 5 Hectares situated directly adjacent to the northern border of the Isandlwana Battle Field (Fig 5), a declared provincial heritage site (Derwent 2006). The proposed development land is undeveloped and has been used for grazing by the local community (Fig 4). Rural Zulu homesteads borders onto the northern, eastern and western flanks for the proposed development site. The GPS coordinates of the proposed development site is: S 28° 20' 50.69" E 30° 39' 36.40".

## **1.2. Relevant Legislation:**

According to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), the heritage resources of South Africa include:

- a. places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- 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 of cultural significance;
- 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 individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
  - v. historical graves and cemeteries; and
  - vi. other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- 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. objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - iii. ethnographic art and objects;
  - iv. military objects;
  - v. objects of decorative or fine art;
  - vi. objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - vii. books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

## **2 SCOPE OF WORK**

This study aims to identify and assess the significance of any heritage and archaeological resources occurring on or adjacent to the proposed development. Based on the significance, the impact of the development on the heritage resources will be determined and appropriate actions to reduce the impact on the heritage resources put forward. In terms of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of:

- a. its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- b. its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- c. its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- d. its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- e. its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- f. its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- g. its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- h. its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- i. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

## **3 BACKGROUND TO HISTORY OF THE AREA**

### **3.1 Archaeology**

Portions of the greater Nqutu area have been systematically surveyed for archaeological heritage sites in the past. These were mostly conducted by archaeologists attached to the then Natal Museum as well as by Amafa staff. Sixty



sites are recorded in the data base of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. These include fourteen Early Stone Age sites, eight Middle Stone Age sites, ten Later Stone Age sites, three rock painting sites, and forty Later Iron Age sites. The majority of the Early Stone Age sites occur in open air context in large dongas. Middle and Later Stone Age sites occur in context in four rock shelters. Two of these shelters also contain typical San fine line paintings. The majority of the known Later Iron Age sites are situated to the south east of Nqutu. They were located during a large scale survey of the area by archaeologists who were interested in the Later Iron Age ecology of Zululand (Hall 1980). They are demarcated by characteristic stone walling. Three stone walling typologies have been identified in the area namely Type A, C, and D (ibid).

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years but the local demography started to change soon after 2000 years ago when the first Bantu-speaking farmers crossed the Limpopo River and arrived in South Africa. Around 800 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater Nqutu area. Although some of the sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located elsewhere in the KwaZulu-Natal show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups who were the direct ancestors of the Zulu (Bryant 1965). However after 1840 some Southern Sotho-speaking Tlokwe people also settled in the area. With the expansion of the Zulu kingdom of King Shaka in the early 1820's the study area became firmly incorporated into this pre-capitalist kingdom. It is not surprising that this area played such a central part in the colonial period history of KwaZulu-Natal. The Battle of Blood River, between Boer and Zulu, took place to west of the study area in 1838, but it was the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 that was to a large part acted out in the immediate vicinity of the project area. These battle field sites as well as associated graves and buildings of the era are proclaimed heritage sites and are protected by provincial heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

### **3.2 Anglo-Zulu War**

The Anglo-Zulu War was a military conflict between the British Empire and the Kingdom of Zululand, taking place from January 8 to July 4, 1879, in South Africa. The root cause of the Anglo-Zulu War was the discovery of diamonds in the region, in the land near the Vaal River, in 1867. This led to an increased British interest in the area.

But there were two obstacles: the Boers (politically organized in the Orange Free State and the Republic of Transvaal), and the Kingdom of Zululand, which arose in the first half of the 19th century. During the 1870s, West Griqualand, which was the territory where diamonds had been discovered, was annexed to the British Empire. In December 1878, the British High Commissioner, Sir Henry Bartle Frere, sent an ultimatum to Cetshwayo, the King of Zululand. Having obtained no answer to the ultimatum, 15,000 British troops, under the command of Lord Chelmsford, began the invasion of Zululand by January 8, 1879.

The Anglo-Zulu War was savage and comprises a series of eight battles, beginning with the Battle of Isandlwana in the immediate environs of the study area. Here 22,000 Zulu warriors defeated 1,800 British soldiers on January 22, 1879. Isandlwana was an unexpected blow to the morale of the British empire as it was the scene of the defeat of Imperial & Colonial forces on 22 January 1879 mostly from the 24 Regiment, Natal Carbineers and Natal Native Regiments. This epic battle took place in the immediate environs of the project area and a memorial on the site commemorates the brave warriors who gave their lives on this day (Derwent 2006). The defence of Rorke's Drift on 22 January 1879, to the south of the project area, followed the defeat of the British forces at Isandlwana and commenced at 16.30 pm and went on through the night to about 4 am. The Mission Station at the foot of the Oskarberg was held by 1st & 2nd Company of the 24th Regiment. It had been left under the command of Major Henry Spalding. The battle eventually left about 370 Zulu dead (4000 under the command of Prince DabulamanzikaMpande), and 17 British soldiers dead out of a force of about 100 men. The Zulu's eventually withdrew. Having overcome three military defeats (Battle of Isandlwana, Battle of Intombe, and Battle of Hlobane), the British began gaining the upper hand as they obtained decisive victories in the last four battles of the war: Battle of Kambula (March 29), Battle of Gingindlovu (April 2), Battle of Eshowe (April 3), and Battle of Ulundi (July 4, 1879). After the defeat at Isandlwana, the British were determined to take revenge and defeat the Zulu's led by King CetshwayoMpande, and crossed the White Umfolozi on 4 July 1879 with a force of approximately 5124 men. Led by Lord Chelmsford, battle took place that day which led to the Zulu defeat. Fort Marshall, situated to the north of the project area, was occupied between May & July 1879 by the 24th Regiment. There are 11 soldiers buried there, most dying of wounds from the battle of Ulundi. The ramparts and graves are still visible. As a result of the British victory over the Zulus, the Kingdom of Zululand lost its independence and it became part of a British Colony (ibid).

## **4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY**

### **4.1 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 Nqutu area was also consulted. The SAHRIS website was consulted to obtain background information on previous heritage surveys and assessments in the area.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

In addition, members of local communities were approached to ask for the location of potential grave sites as well as other heritage features in the area. The historian and Anglo-Zulu War expert Dr Ken Gillings provided valuable information regarding the possible location of graves on the proposed development site (see below).

### **4.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey**

#### **4.2.1 *Visibility***

Visibility was good.

#### **4.2.2 *Disturbance***

No disturbance of any heritage sites or features was noted. However, historical research conducted by Dr Ken Gillings suggested that graves containing the remains of Zulu warriors and British soldiers are located on the development site but that all surface evidence of these graves have been removed some years ago (see below).

### **4.3 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.

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

### **5.1 Locational data**

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Towns: Nquthu

Municipality: Umzinyathi Regional Municipality

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

The proposed development plot is an open field used for grazing by the local community in the area. It is clear that some disturbance and stone robbing took place on the development plot in the past. However, no heritage sites or artefacts are visible on the surface. However, the iconic Isandlwana Battle Site borders the footprint on the south. The site was surveyed in 2006 by Van Jaarsveld. Apart from the Battlefield and associated graves there are various buildings with heritage status on the site. A Middle Stone Age open-air site occurs close to the main entrance of Isandlwana. Middle Iron Age stone walling occur on the summit of Isandlwana Hill (Van Jaarsveld 2006). All these sites occur more than 500m to the south of the proposed development site and are not threatened by the proposed development. However, historical research indicates that the footprint is conceptually linked to the Isandlwana Battle Site which is also a declared provincial heritage site (Derwent 2006).

According to Dr Ken Gillings, a historian and Anglo-Zulu War expert, it must be borne in mind that the footprint is situated in the vicinity of where the British line collapsed when the Zulu army attacked (communication with Green Door Environmental 2015). It is therefore possible that there may well be some human remains buried in the immediate environs of the footprint. In 1928, this particular area was fenced off and

cairns outside of the present perimeter fell into disrepair and in several cases have disappeared. Given that the remains that were located in June 1879 were buried 6 months after the battle, whatever could be found were pulled together in heaps and stones piled above them. According to Dr Gillings it is almost certain that there are Zulu and British remains buried together on the property. A comprehensive phase two heritage assessment that includes a rescue excavation may therefore reveal the remains of those cairns. Furthermore, during 1958, a graves curator in ignorance flattened many of the cairns to make them appear as ordinary graves. These have not been maintained and relics are likely to be uncovered when construction commences.

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

### **6.1 Field Rating**

As no heritage sites were located on the footprint during this first phase heritage assessment it is not possible to apply the SAHRA rating methodology (Table 2) to the footprint. However, it is highly likely that a rescue excavation may expose the graves and Zulu and British soldiers. In that case the graves would be linked to the greater Isandlwana Battle Site and most probably also attain a Grade 11 or provincial heritage rating.

Table2. 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

## 7 SUMMARY

- This first phase heritage impact assessment survey identified no heritage sites on the footprint.
- However, the footprint is situated directly adjacent to a provincial heritage site and is conceptually related to the Isandlwana Battle that took place in 1879.
- There is a high possibility that Zulu and British soldier graves or the remains thereof is located below the surface on the footprint.
- It is therefore important to call for a second phase heritage impact assessment in order to locate these graves below the surface through an archaeological excavation.
- Graves could be exhumed and translocated pending a decision by the heritage authority.
- All heritage sites identified are protected by heritage legislation and may not be altered or changed without mitigation.

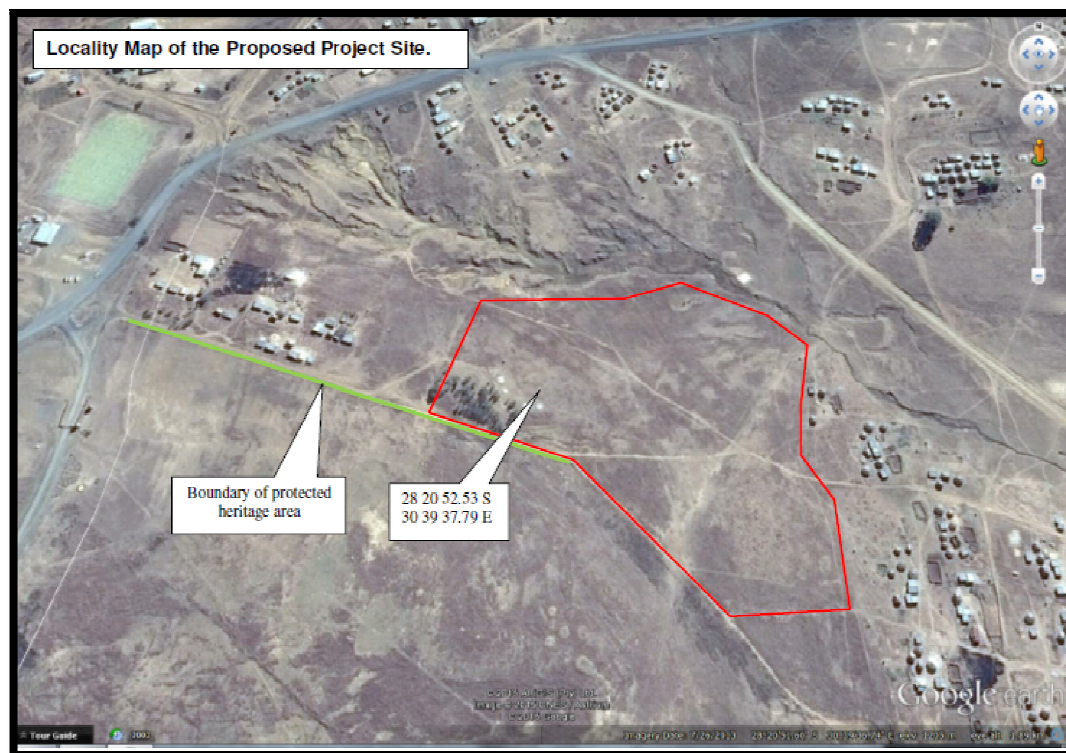
## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is the professional opinion of the consultant that a phase two heritage assessment be instituted in order to locate “invisible” graves on the footprint. The phase two heritage impact assessment will include an application for a permit from Amafa followed by an archaeological rescue excavation.
- These graves relate directly to the activities associated with the Isandlwana Battle Site in 1879 and must therefore be treated with sensitivity.
- Only existing roads may be used during the construction phase. A new heritage survey must be initiated should the developer decide to construct access roads in the study area.
- It is imperative to involve the local community and by implication the local Isandlwana Heritage Committee in dealing with the possible exhumation and relocation of graves on the footprint.
- As the footprint is situated in an area of moderate paleontological significance it is also recommended to conduct a paleontological impact assessment of the study area prior to any development.
- 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.

## 9 MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the proposed Isandlwana Tourism Development (Source: Green Door Environmental).**



**Figure 2. Locality map of proposed project site (Source: Green Door Environmental)**





**Figure 3. Conceptual design of the proposed Isandlwana Heritage Development (Source: Green Door Environmental).**



**Figure 4. The footprint is covered in grass and no structures are visible on the surface.**



**Figure 5. View towards the iconic Isandlwana Hill situated to the south of the footprint**

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