

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A
NEW UNDERGROUND CABLE, CROSSING TWO
WATERCOURSES, ON THE FARM LOT K 52 NO.
16721 AND PORTION 1 (REMAINING EXTENT) OF
THE FARM COMBINE NO. 13220, LOCATED
NEAR KWAMBONAMBI, UTHUNGULU DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



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 cultural heritage survey of the proposed establishment of a new underground cable, crossing two watercourses, on the Farm Lot K 52 No. 16721 and Portion 1 (Remaining Extent) of the Farm Combine No. 13220, located near KwaMbonambi, uThungulu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal produced no heritage sites. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. There is no known archaeological reason why the development may not proceed as planned. However, it should be noted that the general area is relatively rich in archaeological sites. Construction work may expose material and 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: | F Prins (Active Heritage cc) for Green Door Environmental |
| Type of development: | <p>The Applicant, Telkom SA, proposes to establish a new underground cable, crossing two watercourses, on the Farm Lot K 52 No. 16721 and Portion 1 (Remaining Extent) of the Farm Combine No. 13220, located near KwaMbonambi, within the Mfolozi Local and uThungulu District Municipalities, KwaZulu-Natal. The cable runs from KwaMbonambi to Richards Bay and is intended as a backup line to be used when there is a fault in the existing infrastructure or when the existing infrastructure requires routine maintenance. It is proposed that the cable line will be underground, to prevent damage and theft, and will be located within the road reserve of existing provincial and district roads. Where watercourses or drainage lines are encountered along the route, it is proposed that the cable will be attached to the existing, above ground, crossing structures. Thus, the majority of the cable line does not trigger the need for Environmental Authorisation.</p> <p>However, the proposed cable line traverses two watercourses that are located outside of urban areas and on private property, where no formal road reserve exists. These two watercourse crossings are located within established timber plantations, serviced by gravel roads. While it is proposed that the cable line will be aligned with the existing road and crossing structures, the structures comprise causeways and the establishment of the cable line requires excavation in close proximity to the two watercourses.</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Rezoning or subdivision: | Not applicable |
| Terms of reference | To carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment as subcontracted by Green Door Environmental |
| 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 project area is located near Kwabonambi, in northern KwaZulu-Natal (Fig 1). The proposed cable will run within the road reserves of existing District and Provincial Roads. The GPS coordinates of Watercourse 1 is 28°35' 16.86" S 32° 10' 27.35" E. The GPS coordinates of Watercourse 2 is 28°39' 34.89" S 32° 10' 22.04" E.

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The project area is situated in northern Zululand/southern Maputaland – an area endowed with heritage sites of various traditions and periods spanning the Stone Ages, Iron Ages and the historical period. However, the majority of these occur to the west of the Phongola River in the foothills of the Lebombo Mountains. A second large concentration occurs adjacent to and on the dune gordon along the coastline and in the near vicinity of the project area. The coastal plain, by contrast to the rest of Maputaland, is devoid of known archaeological sites. Oliver Davies, an archaeologist who conducted pioneer research and surveys in northern KwaZulu Natal in the 1960's and 1970's, commented that the coastal plain was unpromising for archaeological research due to its being covered by superficial sands and bush coverage which affect preservation and visibility (Avery 1980). The Kwabonambi/Empangeni area has been relatively well surveyed for heritage sites by the Natal Museum in the 1990's and subsequently by Umlando, an Archaeological Consultancy, in the last few years. Prior to 1990, the archaeological site distribution of the area was poorly known. Existing data bases indicate that some Later Stone Age and Later Iron Age Sites occur approximately 20km to the north and south of the project area.

The available evidence, as captured in the Amafa and Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Kwabonambi 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. A large percentage of more recently recorded sites occur along the dune cordon and slightly inland in the form of shell middens which were mostly created by Iron Age shellfish gatherers although some of the stratigraphic¹ layers may extend back to Later Stone Age periods (Anderson *pers.com*).

Based on typological criteria it can be speculated that the known Early Stone Age sites in the greater Kwabonambi area most probably dates back to between 300 000 and 1.7 million years ago. Some of the stone tools have been identified as belonging to the Acheulian tradition and it is therefore possible that these sites were occupied by an early hominin such as *Homo erectus* or *Homo ergaster*. Middle Stone Age Sites dates back to ca. 40 000 - 200 000 BP. These sites relate to the first anatomically modern people in the world namely *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Most of the Middle Stone Age sites in the greater Maputaland are open air stone tool scatters with little archaeological context. However, some notable cave deposits do occur. The world renowned Border Cave Site, situated approximately 65km to the north of the town of Ingwavuma, is a good example. Humans lived at Border Cave over a period of 200 000 years. The human skeletal remains found in the cave are believed to be some of the oldest evidence of anatomically modern human beings. Various radiometric-dating techniques suggest that Middle Stone Age people were living at Border Cave more than 110 000 years ago. More than a million stone artefacts have been excavated in the cave and an enormous amount of animal material has been recovered from the site as well (Derwent 2006).

Only a handful of Later Stone Age sites have been recorded in the greater Maputaland. These relate to San hunter-gatherers or their immediate ancestors. The stone tool technology are smaller and more diverse and specialised than those made during the Middle Stone Age.

The Early Iron Age of the coastal zone in Maputaland contains ceramic fragments identified as belonging to the Matola phase. The Matola phase sites can be identified

¹ Layers of geological deposit often containing archaeological material

with the very first Bantu-speaking agriculturists that entered KwaZulu-Natal approximately 1 600 years ago from Eastern Africa (Maggs 1989). Later Iron Age sites and evidence for iron smelting activities have been recorded at the Mkuze Game Reserve in the past.

Although oral history indicate that the area was occupied in more recent centuries times by the Thembe-Thonga or their immediate ancestors archaeological sites belonging to this period have not yet been identified. Nevertheless the present African inhabitants of the area, the Thembe-Thonga and Zulu-speaking communities, have a rich oral history and culture relating to their intimate relationship with the environment spanning many centuries. Aspects of their cultural heritage identified by community representatives as being important include the following:

- Relationship of the local community with the physical environment
- Traditional fishing practises (fonya basket fishing)
- The indawo spirit possession cult
- Wild fruit utilisation
- The significance of the mothers brother in Thembe-Thonga social organisation
- Settlement rules and history
- Thonga language
- Issues relating to cross border identities
- Trade across the border
- History of various traditional authorities in the area
- Occupation of some areas by refugees of the Zulu wars
- Influence on local customs by refugees of the Mozambican War of 1975-1990

The conventional view is that that the historical occupants of Maputaland, the Tembe-Thonga, migrated from Karanga in the present day Zimbabwe in the middle of the seventeenth century Junod (1962:23). However, the theory that the African societies of south-east Africa migrated there in fixed ethnic units, as in the case of the Tembe-Thonga, has been questioned by archaeological research and recent research on oral traditions of Zululand and Natal (Maggs 1989). Instead of migrating there in fixed ethnic groups, it is now argued that the African societies of south-east Africa emerged locally from long established communities of diverse origins and diverse cultures and languages. Nevertheless, whether the Tembe came from Karanga to establish their authority over the people of south-east Africa, or whether they emerged locally, reports from Portuguese sailors indicate that a chief Tembe was in control of the ruling

chiefdom in the Delagoa Bay hinterland in the mid-1600s (Wright & C. Hamilton 1989:46-64 and Kuper 1997:74). Tembe and his followers gradually established their authority over the people who lived in this hinterland including the area to the immediate east of the study area. Due to the abilities of their strong and charismatic leaders, the Tembe-Thonga remained a unified chiefdom and gradually extended their influence. This unity was upset in the middle of the eighteenth century when a split in the ruling lineage led to the fragmentation of the chiefdom. The division came after the death of Silamboya in 1746. The descendants of Silamboya's oldest son, Muhali, settled west of the Maputo River and north of the Usuthu River. This group, the senior branch of the Tembe-Thonga, became known as the Mututwen-Tembe. The other part of the Tembe-Thonga followed a junior son of Silamboya, Mangobe, and settled east of the Maputo River. This branch would later become known as the Mabudu or Maputo (Bryant 1965:290). The imposed international border of 1875 bisected the area where the Mabudu branch settled. Being unable to control the vast area under his control, the chief of the junior branch, Mangobe, placed his sons in strategic positions so as to ensure his control. When Mangobe died, his first son, Nkupo, was named chief. However, his younger son, Mabudu, soon established himself as the stronger leader and took the chieftainship from his older brother (Hedges 1978:137). With the army now at his disposal Mabudu was able to dominate all trade between Europeans who landed at Delagoa Bay and local people living in the hinterland. Through this domination the Mabudu became, by the middle of the eighteenth century, the strongest political and economic unit in south-east Africa (Smith 1972:178-184). The people under his authority, which gradually increased, became known as the *abakwaMabudu* or the people of Mabudu's land (Webb and Wright 1979:157). By the early 1800s the Mabudu chiefdom stretched from the Maputo River in the west to the Indian Ocean in the east, and from Delagoa (Maputo) Bay in the north to as far south as Lake St. Lucia (Felgate 1982:1). This extensive area included the present-day Ingwavuma.

During the early 1800s similar processes of political centralisation were taking place amongst the Mthetwa, Ndwandwe and later the Zulu chiefdoms to the immediate south east of Ingwavuma. The Zulu eventually defeated the other groups and established themselves as the dominant power in south-east Africa (Wright & Hamilton 1989:67 and Laband 1995). The Mabudu were never attacked by, nor directly involved in any war with the Zulu. They were, however indirectly affected by wars of conquest the Zulu waged in the northern part of Zululand in the first half of the nineteenth century (Omer-Cooper 1975:57). Various groups of refugees passed through the Mabudu chiefdom

during the reign of Shaka. Many of them settled among the Mabudu. The people who crossed the southern boundary of the Mabudu chiefdom brought with them languages and customs foreign to the Mabudu. Over time, Mabudu identity became less distinctive as people adopted many customs of those living south of them (Bryant 1964:292). As more and more people from the southern chiefdoms crossed into the Mabudu chiefdom, an increasing amount of prestige was attached to being Zulu and speaking isiZulu, since the Zulu were the dominant political force. The Zulu cultural influence in the greater Ingwavuma area was however not complete. People who fled the onslaught of the Zulu only stayed in the area for a short period before they moved on (Felgate 1982:11). Furthermore, in exchange for tribute paid, the Zulu recognised the Mabudu as leaders of a vast territory. This, to an extent, secured their sovereignty (Bradley 1974). The relationship between the Mabudu and the Zulu differed markedly from that which the Zulu instituted with other chiefdoms. Ballard (1978) states that although the Mabudu 'paid tribute to the Zulu kings and cooperated on a military and economic level, they enjoyed much greater independence than the chiefdoms south of St. Lucia. Despite the Zulu influence, Maputaland, remained politically and culturally distinct from areas to the north, south and west. The people of the area spoke a unified language – xiRonga (Thonga). With some exceptions, notably the Ngubane and Khumalo, they accepted the rule of Mabudu chiefs (Felgate 1982:11). They practised customs that were unique to the area and differed from those of their Zulu, Swazi and Tsonga neighbours (Webster 1991:250). Nevertheless, many siSwati-speaking people crossed the nearby border and settled at Ingwavuma. Today a large percentage of the inhabitants in the immediate vicinity of Ingwavuma are Swazi people with social and political ties to Swaziland in the west.

During the colonial period the area was frequented by hunters, traders, and later missionaries (Bruton et al 1980). However, sites and structures associated with these activities need to be identified and placed in an inventory. Likewise during the more recent past many refugees of Mozambique crossed the international border and settled in the area (Klopper 2004). Sites belonging to this more recent "struggle era history" are also protected by national heritage legislation and needs to be surveyed and placed in an inventory.

Apart from human history the greater Maputaland also has extensive fossil deposits and geomorphology dating back to the Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quaternary periods. The Cretaceous fauna yielded by sequences includes ammonites, bivalves,

gastropods, and nautiloids in abundance. Vertebrates are uncommon, only fish and reptiles being noted so far. Plant remains are relatively abundant in the form of logs and lignite chips. The Tertiary limestone deposits contain marine macro-fossils, calcareous nanno-fossils and planktic foraminifers (Avery 1980). Shell imprints have been found imprinted in concretions to the immediate south of Thembe Elephant Park and may therefore palaeontological significance (Anderson 2008).

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted to obtain information on past heritage surveys in the area and on heritage site particulars. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the greater Richards Bay area was also consulted. A ground survey of the footprint, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on 27 April 2015.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

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: Kwabonambi, Empangeni

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

The two watercourse crossings are situated adjacent to a dirt road flanked by exotic woodlots (Figs 2 & 3). However, the proposed cable line traverses two watercourses that are located outside of urban areas and on private property, where no formal road reserve exists. These two watercourse crossings are located within established timber plantations, serviced by gravel roads. While it is proposed that the cable line will be aligned with the existing road and crossing structures, the structures comprise causeways and the establishment of the cable line requires excavation in close proximity to the two watercourses. The rest of the proposed power line cable will be situated underground (Fig 1). No heritage features or sites were observed on the footprint. There are no grave sites associated with the proposed development. The study area is also not part of any known cultural landscape (Table 2).

Table 2. Evaluation and statement of significance.

| Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| | Significance | Rating |
| 1. | Historic and political significance - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history. | None. |
| 2. | Scientific significance – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage. | None. |
| 3. | Research/scientific significance – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage. | None. |
| 4. | Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects. | None. |
| 5. | Aesthetic significance – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group. | None. |
| 6. | Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period. | None. |
| 7. | Social significance – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. | None. |
| 8. | Historic significance – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa. | None. |
| 9. | The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa. | None. |

5.1 Field Rating

Not applicable, as no heritage sites occur on the footprint.

Table 3. 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 proposed development may proceed in terms of heritage values as no heritage sites are in any danger of being destroyed or altered. The footprint is also not part of any known cultural landscape. 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.

7 RISK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION

Construction work and excavations may yield archaeological and/or cultural material. If any heritage features are exposed by construction work then all work should stop immediately and the provincial heritage agency, Amafa, should be contacted for further evaluation. 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.

8 MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

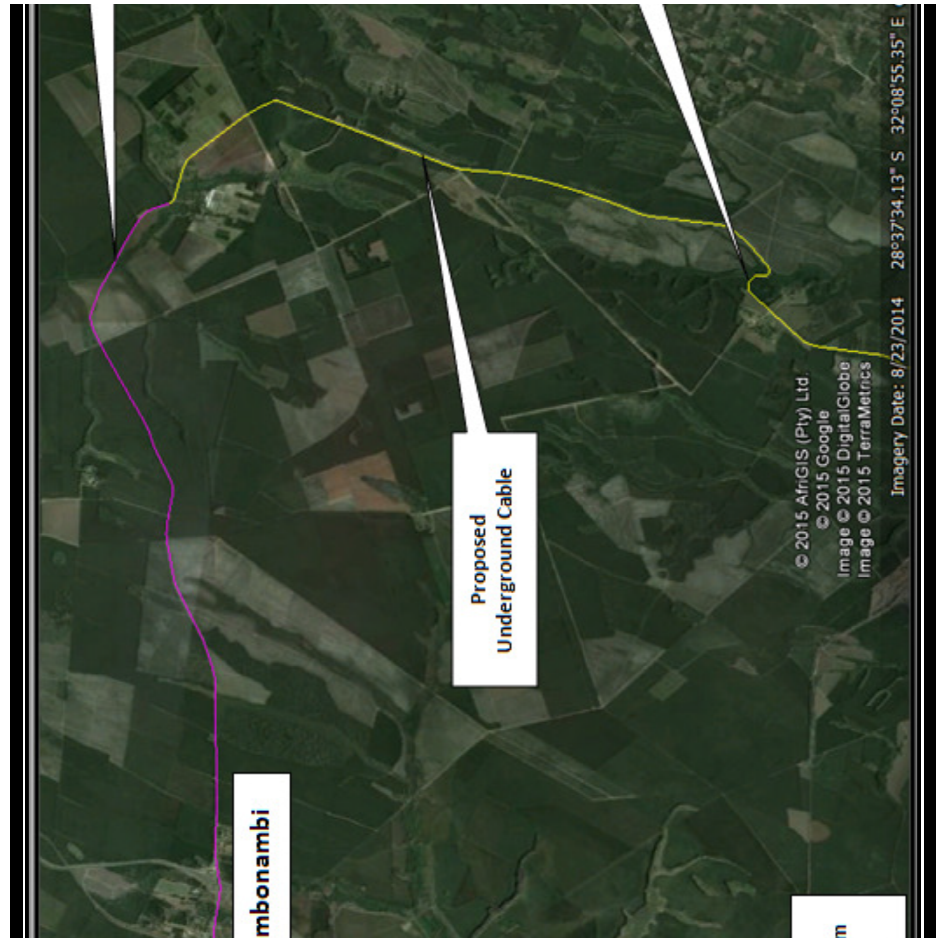


Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the proposed Telkom power cable and the two associated water courses situated on the route trajectory (Source: Green Door Environmental)



Figure 2. Watercourse 1. No heritage sites were located here.



Figure 3. Watercourse 2. No heritage sites were located here.

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