

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT AT NDULI GAME RESERVE,
MTHATHA**

FOR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

DATE: 29 April 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Coastal Environmental Services (CES) to undertake a heritage assessment of the proposed development at Nduli Game Reserve, Umthatha, Eastern Cape (fig. 1-2). The development consists of several buildings along the south and western parts of the Reserve (fig. 3). These buildings will consist of a hotel and related structures.

The impacts on the area will be:

- Construction
- Access roads
- Servitudes related to water, sewage, electricity

The Nduli Game Reserve was declared in the late 1970s as a reserve by the then Transkei government. It was to be used as a public recreational area. Later on, it became popular for weddings at the 'Rock Garden'. In the 1980s, an area was used as a place for Christian worship. The general area appears not to have been heavily affected by human activity.

No heritage sites *per se* were observed in the study area; however, two living heritage sites were noted.

The western part of the reserve consists of a high hill with grasslands and rock outcrops (see figure 4).

FIG. 1: GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



FIG. 2: PROPOSED LOCATION OF NDULI CONSERVANCY

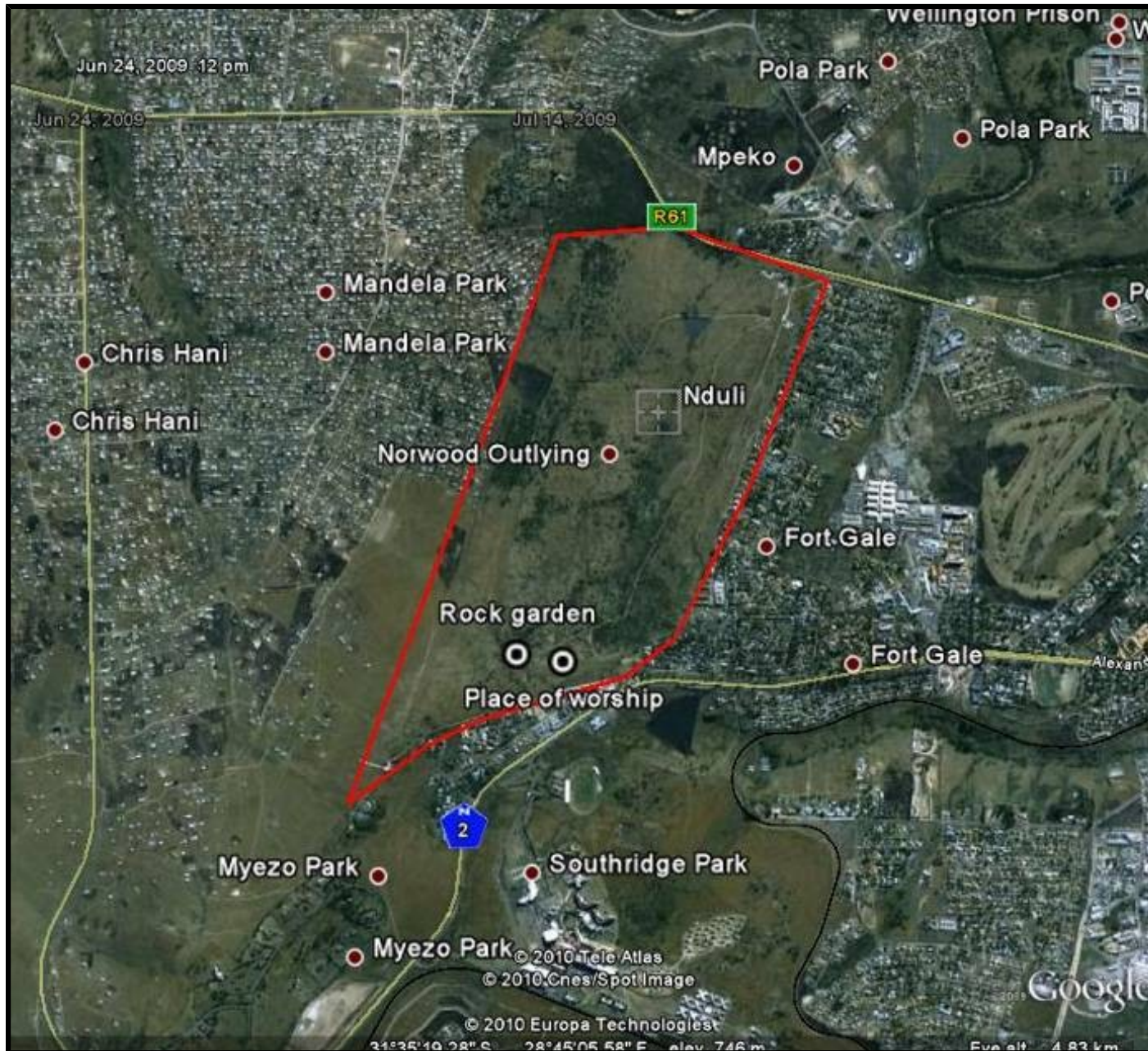


FIG. 3: LOCATION OF SITES AT NDULI CONSERVANCY

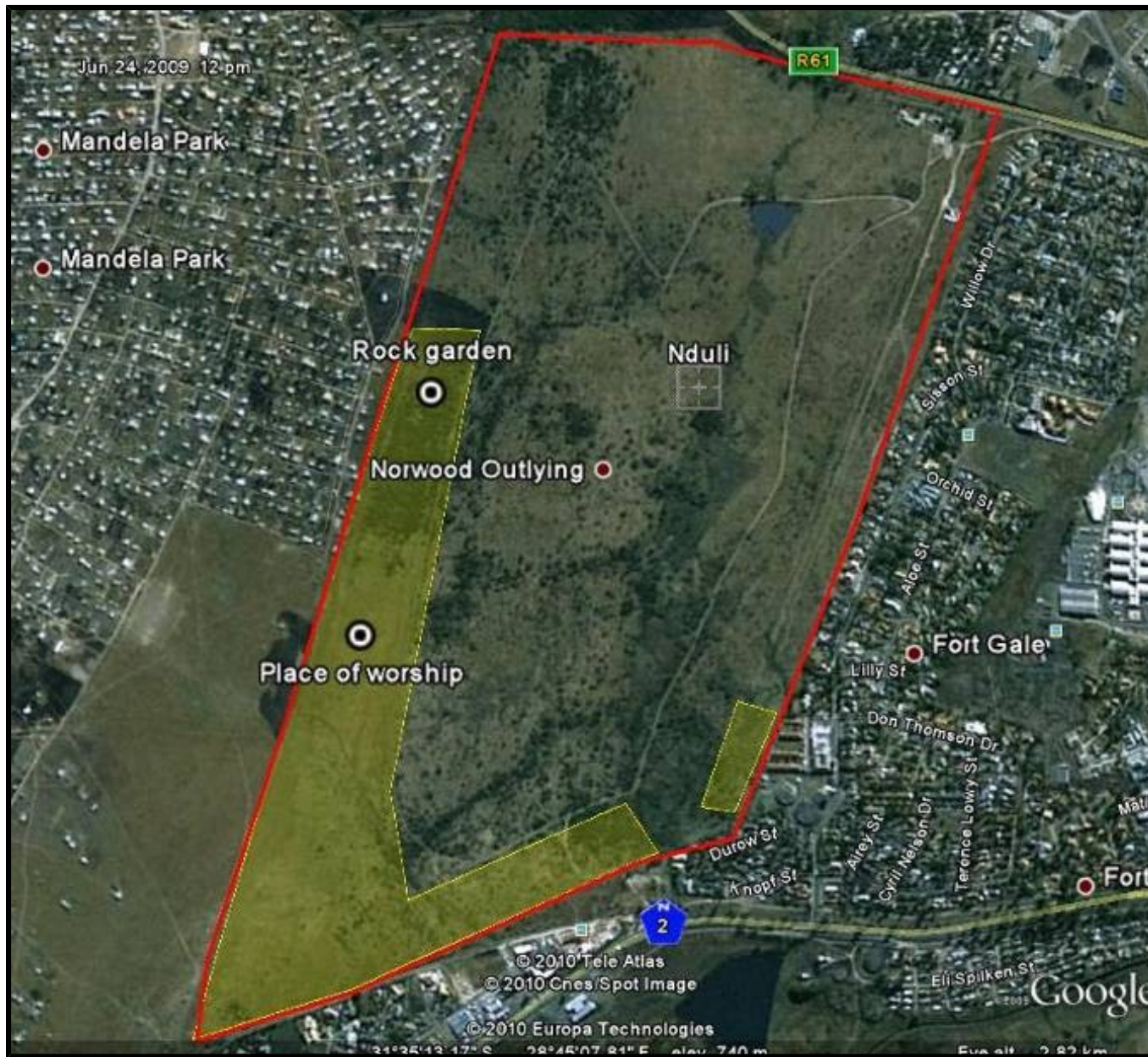


FIG. 4: HILLS OF NDULI GAME RESERVE NORTH (TOP) AND SOUTH VIEW (BOTTOM)¹



¹ Yellow arrow = place of worship; red arrow indicates approximate location of the Rock Garden

LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO HERITAGE SITES

The National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (pp 12-14) protects a variety of heritage resources. These resources are defined as follows:

“3. (1) For the purposes of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may 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).

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), 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”

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases. These databases contain most of the known memorials and other protected sites, battlefields and cemeteries in southern Africa. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The second step is the foot survey. The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?
- 5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

- 6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

- 7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?
- 7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?
- 7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

- 8.1. Palaeontological sites
- 8.2. Historical buildings
- 8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites
- 8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.5. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped

and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

RESULTS

No heritage sites were observed during the survey. I did speak to the reserve manager who had no knowledge of any graves in the area. He did mention two areas that would be classified as living heritage sites.

PLACE OF WORSHIP

Mrs Nozuko Matanzima placed the memorial in 1986 (fig. 5). It was in commemoration of the fifth 'Anniversary of Women's Day of Prayer'. Since then it has been used as a general place of worship.

The 'place of worship' is; however, in a neglected state. The corrugated iron cross has been toppled over, and the grass surrounding the memorial has not been mowed or cleared for a while.

The site would be considered as a living heritage site, and thus does not fall under the general heritage legislation.

Significance: Defining the significance of living heritage sites is difficult as it is relative. This specific site may be relevant to members of the community and the site would thus be of high significance. However, if no one uses or remembers the site any more then it would be of low significance in terms of living heritage status.

Mitigation: If the memorial plaque is in the line of development then there are several options:

1. Do not move the memorial and the cross
2. Move the memorial and cross away from the development, but keep it on the top of the hill. If it is moved, a small sign should state it has been moved.
3. Incorporate the memorial into the design of the development, e.g. make a public garden with the memorial as a centrepiece. The material originally used for the cross must remain the same.
4. If no one uses the area for worship and if there are no public objections then the memorial can be removed to a more central location, such as the picnic area near the entrance.
5. I believe the public should be consulted regarding this site and this can be undertaken by the social impact study.

FIG.5: PLACE OF WORSHIP



REG. TOOKE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

The Reg. Tooke Garden of Remembrance, or colloquially referred to as 'The Rock Garden' is situated at the base of the northern part of the hill (fig. 6). I could not locate information on R. Tooke himself. The Rock Garden is now used mainly for wedding ceremonies.

The site is probably outside of the development footprint.

Significance: The site would be considered as a living heritage site, and thus does not fall under the general heritage legislation. The site would have general significance as it is in the memory of a specific person.

Mitigation: The site should not be affected by the development.

FIG.6: REG TOOKE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE (a.k.a THE ROCK GARDEN)



MANAGEMENT PLAN

There is no general management plan for the development. Only one site may be directly affected by the proposed development: the 'place of worship'. The site has a living heritage status and I believe the Public Participation Process should incorporate this site. If the site is in the path of the development then it can be moved.

CONCLUSION

The heritage survey of the proposed development at Nduli Game Reserve did not observe any heritage sites. Two living heritage sites were noted, and one may be affected by the development. This site may be relocated or incorporated into the design of the proposed development.

SITE RECORD FORMS

