

1 Upgrade P125 Bushmen's Nek Road. Terratest.

CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF DISTRICT ROAD P 125, BUSHMAN'S NEK, SOUTHERN DRAKENSBERG, KWASANI MUNICIPALITY.



For Terratest (Pty) Ltd

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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 1836 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

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1. Executive Summary

A first phase heritage impact assessment was conducted of the proposed upgrade of 15 kilometres of the P125, a 41.8 kilometre long, Main Loop Road covering much of the Bushmen's Nek area (see Fig. 1). A number of heritage features were discovered along the road. However, none of these structures and features occur less than 50m from the proposed road upgrade. There is no need for mitigation as none of these features are compromised by the proposed development. Nevertheless, it is advised that the developers respect a buffer zone of 30m around all heritage features identified. It is also important to note that the South African National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act No. 4 of 2008) require that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

2. Background Information on the Project

The consultant was approached by Terratest Pietermaritzburg Office to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed upgrade of the P125 Main Road near Underberg, KwaSani Municipality.

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



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- 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)

The newly promulgated KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act No. 4 of 2008) also makes specific mention to rock art and archaeological sites.

It is furthermore stated that:

- (1) No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Council.
- (2) Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- (3) The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- (4) No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- (5) No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- (6) (a) The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.



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(b) The Council may establish and maintain a provincial repository or repositories for the safekeeping or display of:

- (i) archaeological objects
- (ii) palaeontological material
- (iii) ecofacts
- (iv) objects related to battlefield sites
- (v) material cultural artefacts, or
- (vi) meteorites

(7) The Council may, subject to such conditions as the Council may determine, loan any object or material referred to in subsection (6) to a national or provincial museum or institution.

(8) No person may, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council, trade in, export or attempt to export from the Province:

- (a) any category of archaeological object
- (b) any palaeontological material
- (c) any ecofact
- (d) any object which may reasonably be regarded as having been recovered from a battlefield site;
- (e) any material cultural artefact, or
- (f) any meteorite

(9) (a) A person or institution in possession of an object or material referred to in paragraphs (a) – (f) of subsection (8), must submit full particulars of such object or material, including such information as may be prescribed, to the Council.

(b) An object or material referred to in paragraph (a) must, subject to paragraph (c) and the directives of the Council, remain under the control of the person or institution submitting the particulars thereof.

(c) The ownership of any object or material referred to in paragraph (a) vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.

This study aims to identify and assess the significance of any heritage and archaeological resources occurring on the site. Should any features significant features be identified appropriate actions to reduce the impact on the heritage resources would be 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 to the community, or to the 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



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- 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.

Table 1. Background information

Consultants:	Active Heritage cc for Terratest, Pietermaritzburg
Type of development:	This project concerns the 41.8 km Main Loop Road P125 that serves as the main arterial road for a large area around Bushman's Nek (Fig. 1). Stakeholders propose replacing existing infrastructure along the length of this road, realigning the road in places, and upgrading the existing gravel to bituminous wearing course, and to install storm water channels and cross drainage pipes.
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 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

3. Details of the Area Surveyed

Footprint: The Main Loop Road P125 starts and ends on the P316-1 (Underberg to Swartberg Road) (Map 1). The section of the road under investigation initiates from the section of the P316 turnoff closest to Underberg, and extends for 15 km on the P125. The P125 serves as the main arterial road for a large area around Bushman's Nek. The total length of the road is 41.8 kilometres. The section of road that is under consideration for this project starts at km 0, which is the closest intersection from Underberg to km 15 just after the second turnoff to Road D1. The GPS co-ordinates are as follows:

Start: Latitude: 29°46'36.05"S; Longitude: 29°27'25.53"E

End: Latitude: 29°49'41.42"S; Longitude: 29°20'45.80"E



4. Background to Archaeological History of the Area:

The greater Underberg-Bushmen's Nek area is situated in the foothills of the southern Drakensberg in KwaZulu-Natal. The Drakensberg area is well endowed with cultural heritage, including various wilderness areas within and outside the formal protected area network that includes the World Heritage Site. Although most literature refers to this heritage mainly in terms of San rock art, the region also contains other categories of cultural heritage features representative of various cultures and time-periods. The cultural heritage of the Drakensberg is diverse and highly fragile. Cultural heritage, unlike natural heritage, is non-renewable and irreplaceable. Once damaged, it is gone forever. San rock paintings and associated Later Stone Age sites, as well as the palaeontology of the area, are unique and have global significance. The remaining categories, however, certainly have national, provincial, and regional significance. The area has had several different cultural groups associated with it, from the San to the southern Sotho, the Zulu-speaking and Xhosa-speaking groups, and, more recently, the Griqua and Anglo-Boer descendants. Each of these groups has its own unique cultural expressions and has related in various ways to the others. These differences are found in the building styles of homes, their way of life as they interact with their environment, traditional dress, and so on. In addition, there are a number of living heritage values associated with all of these groups, many of which are unknown or poorly recorded. The following section is a more detailed description of the various cultural heritage features.

4.1 The Early Stone Age

The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools such as hand axes in areas below the 1 800 m contour suggests that the first inhabitants of the area predated modern humans by at least 800 000 years. Sites belonging to this period in the Drakensberg are mostly characterised by a few surface scatters and individual stone tools – usually in the close vicinity of water. They were most probably manufactured by *Homo erectus*, a predecessor of modern humans.

4.2 Middle Stone Age

Anatomically modern people (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) with a very different economic strategy and more sophisticated stone tool kits moved into the area about 200 000 years ago. Archaeological assemblages left behind by these people have been termed Middle Stone Age. Not only were these societies more effective hunters than their predecessors but Middle Stone Age sites elsewhere in southern Africa also provide convincing evidence for some of the earliest symbolic behaviour in the world. It was Middle Stone Age people from southern and eastern Africa who left the continent roughly between 80 000 – 60 000 years ago to populate the rest of the world. Middle Stone Age sites in the Drakensberg region occur in both



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Lesotho and South Africa. Sites occur as surface scatters as well as deep cave deposits. Prime archaeological deposits, however, occur in the Eastern Cape and Free State sections of the region. Archaeological excavations at Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape Province indicate that the Middle Stone Age persisted in the Eastern Cape Drakensberg until around 22 000 years ago (Mitchell 2002).

4.3 The Later Stone Age

The stone tool assemblages belonging to the immediate ancestors of the San or Bushmen have been termed Later Stone Age. Later Stone Age tools are generally much smaller but also more diversified than the earlier tool kits. It was during this period that the bow and arrow was used extensively, and societies exploited their environments distinctly more intensively and effectively. Literally hundreds of Later Stone Age sites prevail in the Drakensberg region. In addition, most of the rock art in the region was created by the San. The earliest evidence for Later Stone Age occupation of the Maloti Drakensberg comes from Sehonghong Cave in south eastern Lesotho and from Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape section of the region. Here a specific Later Stone Age period called the Robberg Industry has been dated to approximately 20 000 years ago. In contrast, evidence from Good Hope shelter 1 near the bottom of Sani Pass suggests that the earliest archaeological evidence for San people in the KwaZulu-Natal portion of the Drakensberg dates back to approximately 8 000 years ago. Whereas most parts of the Maloti Drakensberg were only seasonally occupied by San hunter gatherers for the larger part of the last 20 000 years, the situation started to change during the latter part of the Holocene around 5 000 years ago. This was compounded by the arrival of immigrant black farmers in the region soon after 1600 AD and European colonialism around 1834 AD (Wright & Mazel 2007). During the historical period, the Maloti Drakensberg and adjacent mountainous areas became the last stronghold for various southern San groups such as the Baroa, //Xegwi !Ga!ne, //Kx'au, and //Ku//ke. Their Later Stone Age way of life finally came to an end during the late 19th century. San descendants still live in the area but for all practical purposes have assimilated with their more powerful neighbours. Many place names within the region still retained their original San pronunciations such as the Inxu, Sehonghong, Qomoqomong and Qhoasing rivers, and the Qeme, Qhuqhu, Qhalasi, and Qholaqhoe mountains. Approximately 1 300 Later Stone Age sites are known within the South African side of the Drakensberg.

4.4 Rock Paintings

The Maloti Drakensberg region is particularly well known for the occurrence of some of the finest and most complex prehistoric rock paintings in the world. Depictions of humans dominate, although finely executed animals such as eland and rhebuck are common. Some of the art is executed in various colours and in detailed precision that almost renders it a three dimensional aspect. Most researchers support the theory



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developed by Professor David Lewis-Williams and his colleagues that the figures represent trance induced visions during San religious rites (Lewis-Williams 2003). According to some researchers, the celebrated Rosetta Panel at Game Pass shelter (RSA) holds the key to our understanding of all San rock art in the sub-Saharan region of Africa. However, this interpretation is not supported by all rock art researchers. Notable deviations from this approach have been developed by Anne Solomon, and more recently by Thomas Dowson. The Maloti Drakensberg is also one of the areas with the highest density of prehistoric rock art in the world and certainly contains the highest concentration of prehistoric art south of the Sahara in Africa. Although the scientific dating of these paintings is still under researched, recent research suggests that the oldest paintings may date to approximately 4000 years ago (Wright & Mazel 2007). This is much older than previously thought. The chronological uniqueness of the art, however, is not so much in its antiquity as in the fact that the Maloti Drakensberg was the last area in Africa south of the Zambezi River where the San rock art tradition was still actively practised. Paintings at two sites in the southern portion of the region were created as recently as 1920 (Prins 2009). Three rock art sites occur within the greater Bulwer area with many more in the Underberg/Himeville districts. However, none of these sites occur closer than 3km from the footprint.

4.5 Iron Age Sites

Around 2 000 years ago the southern African demographic landscape was transformed with the arrival of the first Bantu-speaking agriculturists in the sub-region. These subsistence farmers lived for the most part in the lower altitude, wooded areas of the eastern seaboard. Around 1250 AD certain agriculturists started occupying the higher altitude, grassland areas. Sites belonging to this period in KwaZulu-Natal are referred to as Moor Park settlements and they typically occupy hill tops with a low stone walling effect. Although none occur within the designated Maloti-Drakensberg project area, they can be found at the fringes, at an altitude of approximately 1 200-1 400 m. By 1600 AD, groups such as the amaZizi reached the foothills of the northern Drakensberg near Winterton (Wright and Mazel 2007). Various splinter groups of the amaZizi left KwaZulu Natal and also settled in parts of Lesotho where, over time, they adopted a Sotho identity. The baPhuti of south eastern Lesotho are perhaps the best known of these early immigrants. By the early 1700s various other Sotho and Nguni-speaking groups moved into the area and established chieftaincies in those areas below the 1 800 m contour. Impressive Iron Age sites belonging to this period and built in typical Sotho-style occur near Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba in the Eastern Free State. Nguni-style sites of this period have also been found in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape parts of the Drakensberg. The expansion of the Zulu kingdom around 1818 had a major impact on Iron Age settlement in the region. Various chieftaincies were attacked, and their routed remnants typically traversed the Maloti Drakensberg region in search of better settlement elsewhere. Bandits often hid out in the mountains, and a number allegedly practised cannibalism. Perhaps the most significant development during this period was the founding of the Southern Sotho nation under King Moshoeshoe I. Various sites in Lesotho belong to this



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period – some of them, like Thaba Bosiu, are typically mountain strongholds. Almost 2 000 Iron-Age sites have been identified in the Maloti Drakensberg region, and most occur in altitudes lower than 1 800 m contour. Some well-preserved Later Iron Age and historical era Nguni sites occur near Lotheni and Mpendhle about 20km from the footprint.

4.6 The Historical Period

The historical period spans the era of colonialism that started around 1830 AD when the first missionaries and Dutch immigrants arrived from the Cape Colony in the Maloti Drakensberg region. Sites associated with Voortrekker settlement of the area occur in the eastern Free State and the northern portion of KwaZulu-Natal near Winterton and Bergville. For the most part, these were the places where laagers were formed (with very low archaeological visibility) and old farmsteads with associated grave yards. A particular site worth mentioning is Kerkenberg near Oliviershoek Pass, where Debora Retief painted the initials of her father on a rock before the trekkers descended into KwaZulu Natal. In Lesotho, the rebellion by Chief Moorosi and the resultant action by the Cape Colony government at the southern tip of the country left footprints of forts and associated graves at Moyeni Camp, Fort Hartley, Cutting Camp, and Mount Moorosi. The most important structure relating to the history of Bushman raids is most probably Fort Nottingham, in KwaZulu-Natal, which was built around 1852. Various historical mission stations founded in the mid to late 1800s such as those at Morija and St James in Lesotho and Emmaus, Reichenau, and Mariazell in South Africa, are still in active use. The Reichenau Mission, which is situated approximately 5km from the footprint, was founded by Trappist missionaries around 1878. The Ongeluksnek Pass in the Eastern Cape is intimately associated with the epic trek of the Griqua people in 1861, led by Adam Kok. The area associated with the first native uprising against the British colonial government, by the celebrated Hlubi chief Langelibalele in 1873, is at Giants Castle Nature Reserve in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. Various battle sites associated with the Basotho Wars between the Boer Republic of the Orange Free State and the Sotho Kingdom of Moshoeshoe I are to be found in the eastern Free State and adjacent parts of Lesotho. Sites belonging to the period of the Anglo-Boer War (1898-1901) abound in the eastern Free State portion of the project area. These are typically areas where skirmishes took place or where ammunition was destroyed. A few rock engravings belonging to the Anglo-Boer War period have been documented from the Golden Gate Highland Park. However, thorough research is still required to ascertain the meaning and value of these engravings. Many historical sites can be categorised as belonging to the “built environment” as defined in heritage legislation. These are the physical remnants and traces of historical settlements that underpin the cultural value and meaning of the surrounding communities.

One of the earliest European explorers in the Bulwer/Underberg area was Captain Allen Gardener. Gardener skirted the southern KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg in 1835 seeking a route from Natal to the Cape



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Colony. Some Voortrekker farmers settled in the area, albeit briefly, around 1840 but it was only after 1850 when Natal became a British colony that more European, especially English-speaking, settlers arrived in the area. They were preceded and followed by French and German missionaries. The Trappist mission of Rheicenau, in the near vicinity of the footprint, became a prominent landmark in the Underberg District. The buildings associated with these early missionaries as well as farmsteads and associated graveyards, dating from approximately 1860, occur at various localities in the Bulwer/Underberg area (McKenzie 1946). Another prominent historical building is the old jail of Himeville. This building was erected in the 1870's and was meant to act as a defensive fort for the inhabitants of Himeville during the Anglo-Zulu War. Fortunately the war never reached as far south in the colony and today the old building functions as a museum.

By the 1880's there was a shortage of vacant land for farming in the then colony of Natal and the children and grandchildren of the 1820 and 1840 settlers were looking for land of their own. The land along the Southern Drakensberg, a hitherto undeveloped area, provided vast tracts of unclaimed land. The area had been surveyed in 1880 by Dr Peter Sutherland, the Surveyor-General for Natal, and farms had been identified. But when Dr Sutherland was approached by a certain Richard Cockerell for permission to take up land he was told that he could have as much as he wanted because the land was uninhabitable. Undeterred, Cockerell settled on "Fondeling" along the Bushman's Nek Road. Cockerell was soon joined by Robert Christison who settled along the river below Underberg on "Scotston". These two intrepid pioneers were soon followed by others and the district of Underberg was born in 1886.

4.7 Graves

There are various grave sites belonging to different periods and cultural associations in the Drakensberg region. Perhaps the most famous sites are those belonging to the southern Sotho royalty at Botha Bothe in Lesotho; the grave of Nkosi Langelibalele at Giants Castle; KwaZulu Natal graves associated with the royalty of the amaZizi and amaNgwane near Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal; the grave of Adam Kok at Matatiele, Eastern Cape; and various graves in the Free State belonging to the Voortrekker and Anglo-Boer War periods. Interestingly, graves belonging to the prehistoric San inhabitants of the area are markedly absent or, as yet, have not been identified by researchers.

4.8 The Living Heritage

The living heritage of the Drakensberg area is varied and as yet little understood. Yet preliminary investigations by the Maloti Drakensberg Project (Anderson 2007) indicate that certain areas, including sites in communal areas close to Underberg, are still frequented by local communities who afford them



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ritual or sacred significance. Such locales may include archaeological sites with a living heritage component or natural features such as mountains, forests, boulders, caves, pools, or waterfalls with cultural significance. Living heritage is not only site-specific but also relates to oral history, indigenous knowledge systems, and indigenous languages, practices, and beliefs. Oral history specifically is a rich resource that has been passed down the generations and provides diverse narratives and interpretations concerning places of historical significance. It also provides a window on community perspectives regarding heritage resources, including indigenous names for sites and plant and animal species – all of which are imbued with cultural meaning.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) constitute an integral component of local knowledge, at grass roots level, often associated with traditional methods of land management and use. In this regard, IKS can enhance conservation and sustainable management of cultural heritage to which communities may relate. Conservation should provide an enabling environment for communities to continue with the tradition of transmitting knowledge and skills and of safeguarding their cultural heritage. Traditional ceremonies still performed in the larger Drakensberg region include the *Bale* initiation schools among certain southern Sotho groups, the *amemulo* (coming of age) ceremonies among the amaNgwane, the *Nkubelwana* (planting of the first seed) among Zulu-speakers, rainmaking, and various ceremonies associated with the veneration of the ancestors. Six indigenous languages are still spoken in the area, including siBhaca, which was believed to be almost extinct.

Two broad categories of site-specific living heritage sites have been identified:

- Sites of national significance of which nine have been identified in the SA portion of the MDTFCA. These include rock art sites, sandstone shelters without any archaeological remains but used extensively as pilgrimage sites, two sacred forests, and three sacred mountains. All of these sites are frequented by indigenous groups as part of an annual pilgrimage.
- Sites of local significance include various pools, waterfalls, hot springs, kaolin and red ochre deposits, and boulders afforded special significance by traditional healers and sectarian Christian groupings. Seventeen such sites have been identified in the larger Drakensberg area.

Areas least influenced by human activities are often said to be representative of a “pristine” landscape. Such areas are recognised by the IUCN. In the context of the Drakensberg, only the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site has any proclaimed wilderness areas, making up about 48% of the Park. In this regard, a specific wilderness management plan has been produced for the World Heritage site, with the express aim of retaining the integrity of these wilderness areas. In terms of the South African National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (no 57 of 2003), a wilderness area is defined as “an area



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designatedfor the purpose of retaining an intrinsically wild appearance and character, or capable of being restored to such and which is undeveloped and road less, without permanent improvements or human habitation”.

In addition, wilderness can be considered as a value of a given area and in this regard can be defined as a “...largely undeveloped and intrinsically wild character of the area in vast wilderness areas that provide outstanding opportunities to experience solitude and for spiritual renewal” (EKZNW 2006). There are a number of stakeholders promoting the concept of wilderness, including the Wilderness Action Group and the Wilderness Foundation. From a cultural heritage perspective, the concept is more akin to a western inspired ideal than an academic reality. In this sense the concept of wilderness, as an area where visitors may experience and enjoy pristine nature removed from anthropogenic influence and pollution, is therefore a western expression of living heritage. The wilderness notion, however, finds expression also in the indigenous concepts of cultural landscapes which are usually natural areas with profound cultural significance.

4.9 Palaeontology

Given its nature, palaeontology should be a component of geology and biodiversity. Nevertheless, the present heritage legislation in South Africa also covers palaeontology. In fact, the heritage management procedures relating to palaeontology are almost identical to those of archaeology. The palaeontological history of the Maloti Drakensberg area is fascinating as it tells the story of the super southern continent called Gondwanaland and its associated fauna and flora preserved today as fossils (McCarthy & Rubidge 2005). Fossils and footprints belonging to various periods from around 270 million years ago to around 180 million years ago have been recorded and collected in the geological layers beneath the basalts. These layers, amongst other interesting facts, provide evidence of the greatest mass extinction of species in the world around 251 million years ago towards the end of the Permian period. Some species survived this extinction as attested by abundant fossils of certain species such as *Lystrosaurus* found deep in the Triassic period layers. Whereas the majority of fossilized remains in the area are *therapsids* (mammal-like reptiles, ancestors of most mammal species today), the Maloti Drakensberg also harbours evidence of some of the earliest dinosaurs in the world. Footprints belonging to these early dinosaurs appear in various localities in the Molteno formations of both Lesotho and South Africa.

The most celebrated palaeontological site occurs in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park. Here the earliest known dinosaur eggs in the world and a near intact embryo of an average sized dinosaur, i.e. *Massospondylus*, were located by scientists some thirty years ago. These early eggs, dated to almost 200 million years ago, are almost 100 million years older than other known dinosaur nest egg sites in the world.



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In adjacent Lesotho the Qomoqomong Dinosaur footprint and museum site has been developed for tourism purposes. The endemic turkey size dinosaur *Lesothosaurus* is known from various localities within Lesotho.

Summary

The cultural heritage of the Drakensberg region is rich, diverse, and fragile. The area contains a high density of prehistoric rock art that parallels the well-known Upper-Palaeolithic rock art of Western Europe in artistic execution and symbolism. In addition, it harbours a rich and diverse record of palaeontological fossils that, for the most part, pre-date the Jurassic period of popular imagination. The mountains are also the heartland of the *Difaqane* – a period of tribal turmoil that developed as a direct response to the expansion of the Zulu state of Shaka in the 1820s. Many Iron Age sites in the area belong to this period, including significant sites associated with the founding of the Basotho Kingdom under King Moshoeshoe I. It was also the area traversed by some of the most dramatic diasporas documented in southern African history, including the Great Trek of the Voortrekkers, The Griqua trek via Ongeluksnek, the wanderings of the amaHlubi, amaNgwane, amaZizi, and amaBhaca tribal entities, and the lesser-known but equally dramatic trek of the //Xegwi San in 1879 – the last rock artists of the region. Sites related to these historical events abound in the Drakensberg and are windows into a significant period of the history and culture of southern Africa. That some of these cultural expressions are still alive is witnessed by the occurrence of significant living heritage sites in the region. Most of these are used as sites of pilgrimage by visitors from South Africa, Lesotho, and even further abroad.

5. Historical Farms

Fondeling:

The farms in the Underberg-Himeville District were first surveyed in 1880 by Dr Peter Sutherland, the Surveyor General for Natal. The district was then known as Polela (The First Hundred Years of the Underberg-Himeville District 1887-1987, 2007: 15). In 1886 Richard Woodward Cockerell applied for land in the Surveyor General's Office in Pietermaritzburg. He approached Dr Sutherland asking for land in the uninhabited district beyond the Native Commissioner's Office which had been established near Bulwer in the Polela Magistracy. His response from Dr Sutherland was there was no surveyor available for immediate survey, but he could go and settle immediately wherever he chose, but that he doubted whether Cockerell would like it there. (ibid).

Cockerell outspanned his wagon on Fondeling farm in 1886, along the Bushmen's Nek Road. It was the first farm to be occupied in the Polela District, and once he had settled Cockerell was soon joined by Robert Christison who settled on Scotston Farm located along the river below Underberg. These two pioneers were soon followed by others, and the District of Underberg was born in 1886 (ibid). Cockerell however, left



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for Rhodesia in 1910 (ibid: 17). The Bushmen's Nek Police Post was opened on Fondeling in 1910 (ibid: 45), and the first stock yards were situated on this farm with stone walls marking the site of the kraals (ibid: 17).

The anthropologist, Hugh Stayt, and his wife bought Fondeling in 1945 (ibid. p. 64). Hugh was quite a personality. He had been blinded at the age of seventeen during action in World War II, and he went on to write the major reference work on the BaVenda ethnic group on a braille typewriter. It was published in 1931 and earned him his PhD. Initially the couple lived in the old brick house while Peter built the new house, which was completed in 1950. They used prison labour and the architect was a German gentleman from Port Shepstone. Hugh Stayt died in 1964 but his wife Peter kept on farming until 1989 when she sold the farm (ibid).

Henry Nicholson (1853-1934) is also recorded as having owned Fondeling (ibid, p. 17). There is also a contradictory entry that J.A. Halett bought Fondeling to farm SA Marino Mutton (ibid, p. 115). Since Peter Stayt is recorded as having sold the farm in 1989, it could be assumed that J.A. Halett bought the farm from Peter Stayt and that the dates have been recoded somewhat incorrectly.

Other farms on which historical and cultural material have been identified are Robert's Retreat 17129, Pelile (now Tegwaan) 11333, Glenside No. 2 9090, Ellerslie No. 2 7756, Lot FP 1077765, Eston 2948.

6. Background Information of the Study

6.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites. Unfortunately this database is incomplete and of only limited use. The SAHRIS website is more informative although most reports and sites cover the areas outside of KwaZulu-Natal. In addition the archaeological database of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum was consulted. This data base indicated more than 300 heritage sites in the greater Underberg area. A local desktop study was also undertaken, and a ground survey was conducted of the proposed development and affected area following standard and accepted archaeological procedures. A width of 30 metres was surveyed to either side of the road P125. AMAFA requests that a minimum of 20 metres to either side of a road be surveyed.

6.2 Restrictions Encountered During the Survey

6.2.1 Visibility:

Visibility during the site visit was good although heavy mist may have compromised site visibility more than 30m from the road reserve.



6.2.2 Disturbance

A good number of the stone kraals and historical structures have been robbed of their stone walling and other building features to the extent that only foundations remain. However, these robbed features also occur more than 30m from the road.

6.3 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.

7. Description of Sites and Material Observed

7.1 Locational Data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Municipality: KwaSani Municipality

Town: Underberg

7.2 Description of the General Area Surveyed

The area surveyed is situated along the P125 road in a rural farm setting with spectacular views towards the high southern Berg. Cattle, sheep and dairy farming predominate in the area. Tourism has also become a major source of income in the region in recent years. The area has been well surveyed for archaeological sites in the past and more than 300 San rock art sites have been recorded in the greater Bulwer/Underberg areas. However, none of these occur closer than 1km to the footprint and they are therefore not endangered by the proposed development. The towns of Bulwer and Underberg/Himeville contain various historical buildings including residential homes and government buildings with distinct Victorian features. Many of the farmsteads in the area are older than 60 years and are therefore protected by heritage legislation. No prehistoric archaeological sites occur on the footprint. Although graves occur in the near environs of the study area none occur on the actual footprint in the proposed developmental zone.

7.3 Description of the Heritage Site and Distribution of Archaeological and Cultural Material

Beginning with the Latitude 29°46'36.05"S; Longitude: 29°27'25.53"E which is taken as km 0, and which is the closest intersection from Underberg to km 15, the Heritage and Archaeological sites are listed consecutively in Table 2.

Table 2. Listings of Heritage Sites.

Historical Site No.	Site Description	GPS Co-ordinates	Site Rating	Mitigation
Site 1	Contemporary farmstead built upon historical farmstead, of which there are evidence of various historical structures and features including an old kraal foundation, two possible old kraal imprints and the imprint of an old historical structure. The historical features cover an approximate area of 179m by 131	29°46'22.18"S 29°27'17.10"E	Medium to high locally (Table 3).	This feature is situated more than 50m to the north of the P125. It is not threatened by the proposed development. No mitigation necessary.
Site 2	Undefined imprint of old livestock kraal.	29°47'28.99"S 29°25'38.20"E	Low to medium locally (Table 3)	No mitigation is required as it lies 90m to the west of the road P125.
Site 3	Stone walled circles (robbed). These structures are only visible on aerial photographs none were located during the ground survey. Seems that extensive stone robbing has taken place here in the past. Appears to be two livestock kraals associated with the original farmstead.	29°49'11.46"S 29°20'52.72"E	Medium to high locally (Table 3).	This feature is situated more than 30m to the west of the proposed development. No mitigation necessary.
Site 4	Old Fondeling Farmstead. The original pioneer farm on the P125. However, most of the older structures have been destroyed to use as building material for modern structures on the farm.	29°49'28.92"S 29°20'48.22"E	High locally (Table 3).	The remains of the old farmstead is situated more than 40m to the west of the P125. No mitigation necessary.

8. Rating of Significance

The rating method developed by SAHRA was followed (Table 3).

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

9. Recommendations

The project may proceed, but under the following conditions:

- i. A 30m buffer zone should be maintained around all Heritage Structures, features and sites.
- ii. Existing Heritage Features may not be altered, or destroyed under any circumstance.
- iii. Stone Robbing of existing features to enhance contemporary building is not allowed.
- iv. No access road may be constructed without another heritage Impact Assessment being conducted.
- v. Should the developer not be able to adhere to a 30m buffer zone then a Phase 2 heritage Assessment may be called for. This second phase will entail the obtaining of a permit from AMAFA to alter existing structures, and for archaeologists to possibly conduct a rescue excavation.
- vi. The Provincial and National Heritage Acts prevent the destruction and alteration of any heritage feature that may be unearthed during the proposed construction: Attention is drawn to the South African National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act No. 4 of 2008) which requires that operations that expose

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archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

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MAPS

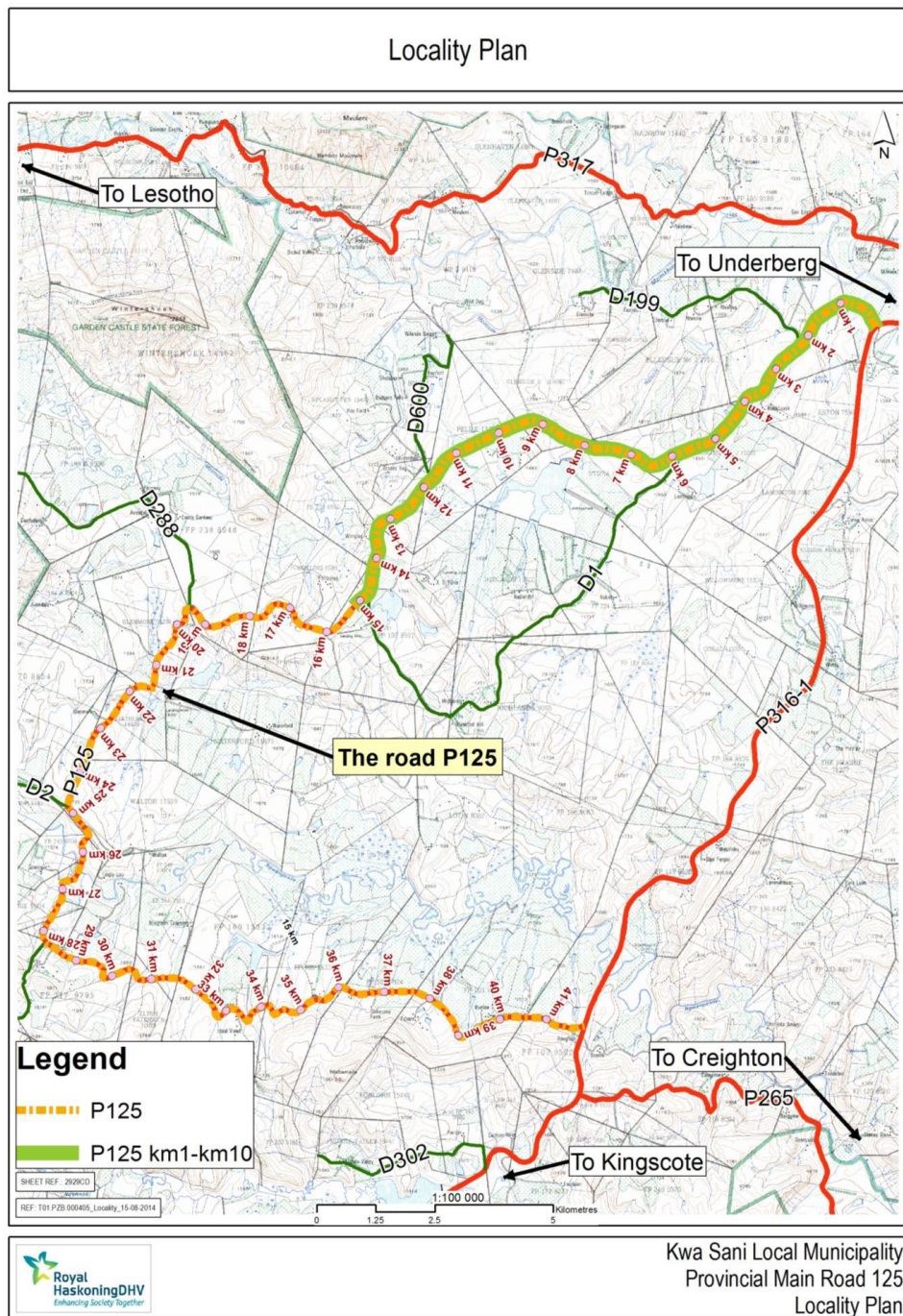


Figure 1. Map of Study Area. Adapted from Royal Haskoning DHV Call for Proposals for the Upgrade of P 125 Main Road, Underberg to Swartberg.

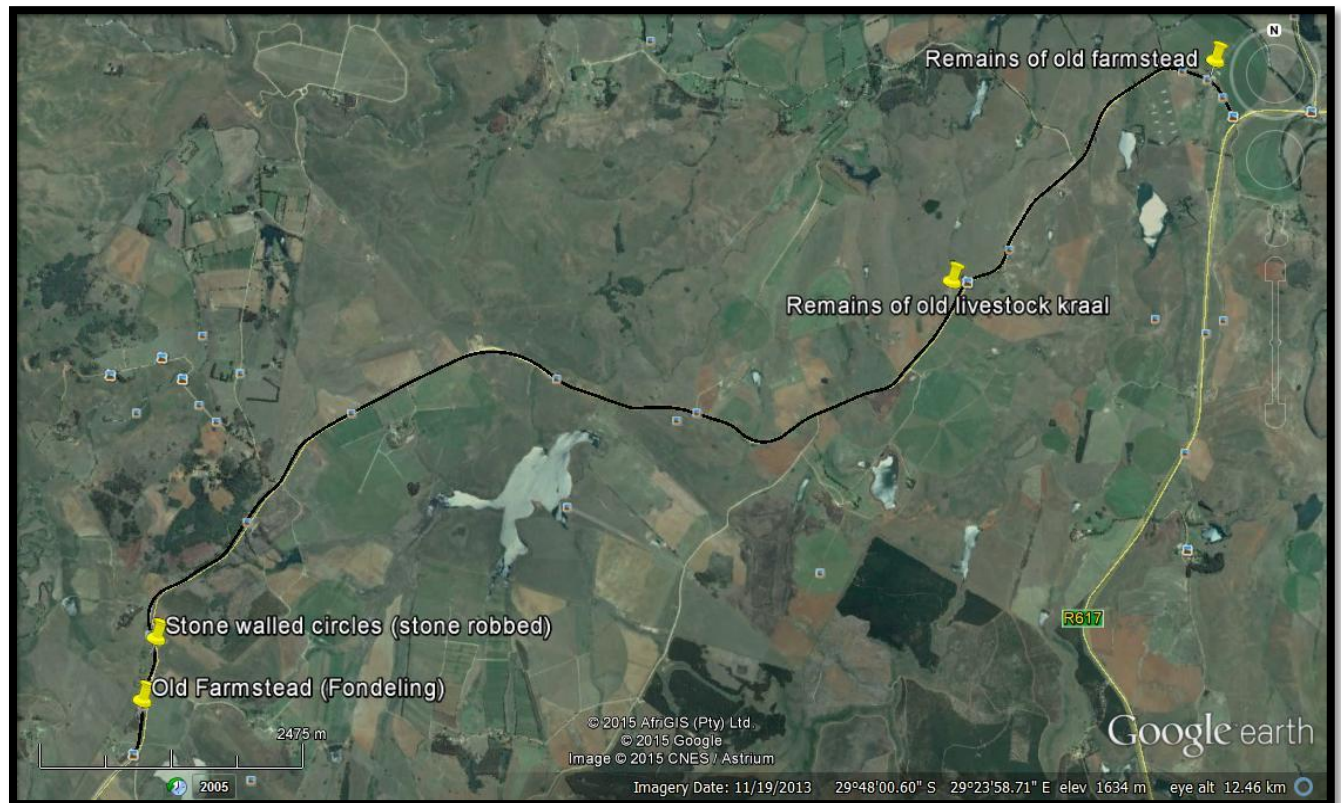


Figure 2. Google Aerial Photograph showing the distribution of heritage sites adjacent to the P125. None of these site occur closer than 30m to the proposed road upgrade and no mitigation is necessary.



Figure 3. Photograph of the P125 at the beginning of the footprint near the P316. No heritage sites or features occur within 30m from the road reserve.



Figure 4. Photograph of the p125 near a river crossing. No heritage sites or features occur within 30m form the road reserve.