

PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT
FOR THE LAND REM. OF 5333 RICHARDS BAY

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Gouws, Uys and White contracted the Institute for Cultural Resource Management (ICRM) to conduct a deeds office and an archaeological data base search for the land Rem. of 5333 Richards Bay. This contract is to assess the archaeological potential of the affected area and recommend mitigatory measures for any known archaeological sites.

All archaeological sites in the province are protected by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997 which makes it an offence to damage archaeological sites without a permit from the heritage compliance agency, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa). Amafa may hold developers responsible for any damage accrued to a site where they have deviated from the permit requirements. It is up to the developers to apply for a permit if they intend to damage, alter or remove any aspects of a site.

Deeds Office Search

A Deeds Office historical search was undertaken to identify when the land became privately owned. Alternatively, the historical search was to identify the current property owners or those at *circa* AD 1913. The historical search would alert the developers to any potential land claims.

The historical deeds' search indicates that Rem. of 5333 Richards Bay currently belongs to the Richards Bay TLC (see Appendix A for the Deeds Office search results). The issue of potential land claims would need to be finalised with the Richards Bay TLC.

Archaeological data base search

The Natal Museum is the Regional Recording Centre for archaeological site data in KwaZulu-Natal. Known archaeological sites are mapped on a 1:50 000 map and given a National Site Number. Each archaeological site has a site record form that lists the details of the site. From this database, and personal experience, an archaeologist can undertake a preliminary desktop assessment of an area. Few areas in KwaZulu-Natal have been systematically surveyed, and those sites that are recorded tend to be for specific reasons. Thus, if an area has a site it does not imply that further sites do not exist in that area.

Two known archaeological sites occur in the vicinity of the proposed land. These two sites date to the Early Stone Age, and the artefacts include hand-axes and cleavers. These sites initially appear to be of low archaeological significance. However, they were first recorded in the 1940s, and criteria for significance have changed. The occurrence of two archaeological sites in the vicinity does not imply that all of the affected area has been surveyed.

The area surrounding Richards Bay, especially the harbor area, is known to contain palaeontological remains. These fossil remains may be affected by development if subsurface structures are made. I am not qualified to deal with palaeontological

remains, and I suggest that Prof. Mike Cooper from University of Durban-Westville be contacted regarding this matter prior to development.

It is unlikely that these two sites will inhibit any development. I suggest the following mitigation:

1. The sites should be reassessed if they are affected by the proposed development.
2. An archaeological survey of the affected area is undertaken prior to any development.

Conclusion

The land Rem. of 5333 Richards Bay was briefly assessed in terms of its land ownership and archaeological value. According to the Deeds Office search, Rem. of 5333 Richards Bay presently belongs to the Richards Bay TLC.

Two archaeological have been recorded on Rem. of 5333 Richards Bay These date to the Early Stone Age. Since the affected area has not been archaeologically surveyed in its entirety, I suggest that a full survey is undertaken prior to any development. The survey would identify, assess and propose mitigation for previously unknown archaeological sites.