

**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE
FARM BELLEVUE 14681**

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Environmental Design Partnership contracted the Institute for Cultural Resource Management (ICRM) to conduct a data-base search to identify archaeological and historical resources that may exist on the farm Bellevue, south of Pietermaritzburg. A preliminary site inspection of the property was also undertaken in early March 1998. Our terms of reference required us to provide a preliminary assessment of any archaeological and historical resources and to recommend mitigatory measures for these.

All archaeological and historical sites are protected by the National Monuments Act of 1969 which makes it an offence to alter in any way such sites without a permit from the National Monuments Council (NMC). As from 1 April 1998, the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997 will replace the current heritage legislation in KwaZulu-Natal. The new heritage compliance agency, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali, may require an assessment of the impact of any development on heritage resources, where such an assessment is not required by other legislation. The NMC and its successor in KwaZulu-Natal (Amafa) may hold developers responsible for any damage accrued to a site in cases where they have deviated from the permit requirements. It is the responsibility of the developers to apply for a permit should development have a negative impact on archaeological or historical sites.

Deeds Office Search

A Deeds Office historical search was undertaken to determine the likelihood of there being graves, or any other currently significant sites which may require further mitigatory action, on Bellevue. The historical deeds search indicates that Bellevue became freehold land in August 1849. The land was granted to Mr J. Byrne (government grant #1462). Appendix A has the Deeds Office search results.

The results of the historical deeds search suggest that it is unlikely that there exist on Bellevue any cultural sites that have significance for communities living in the vicinity today. Furthermore, it is unlikely that any development of Bellevue will be hampered by land claims.

Archaeological data base search

The Natal Museum is the Regional Recording Centre for archaeological site data in KwaZulu-Natal. Recorded archaeological sites are mapped on a 1:50 000 map sheet and allocated 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, while those sites on record were frequently recorded for specific research purposes.

Three known archaeological sites occur on the farm Bellevue and five sites occur on the adjacent properties. The three sites on Bellevue date to the Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age. This covers the last 1.5 million years of hominoid history in southern Africa. These sites are scatters of stone tools and are most likely in a secondary context, i.e. they have been disturbed through natural processes and/or agricultural activity. While these sites are of low archaeological significance, two were recorded in the 1950s. It is ICRM policy to reassess sites that were recorded several decades ago since the criteria for significance change through time. Furthermore, these sites

were not assessed in terms of a cultural resource management plan. I do not, however, believe that these sites are of high significance.

The mitigation required for these sites is:

- a reassessment of the two sites recorded in the 1950s,
- removal of a sample of artefacts from each site, should they prove to have a significant assemblage.

The archaeological sites located on the adjacent properties date to the Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age, as well as the Early Iron Age. The Stone Age sites are of low archaeological significance, while the Early Iron Age site is of medium-high significance.

The NMC regional office has no records of any historically significant structures on the farm.

Preliminary Site Inspection

A preliminary site inspection was conducted in early March 1998. Dense grass cover and other vegetation meant the inspection was, from an archaeological point of view, inadequate. Nevertheless, we located a single Middle Stone Age site, which is on the site of the proposed new offramp. In general, parts of Bellevue appear to have reasonable archaeological potential. However, terracing and other landscaping, which has affected part of the farm, will have had a negative affect on the integrity of any archaeological sites that may exist in these areas.

Conclusion

The farm Bellevue was briefly assessed in terms of its land ownership and archaeological value. The Deeds Office search indicates that Bellevue was Crown Land prior to the early 1850s, thereafter it was privately owned. The area is thus unlikely to be affected by land claim issues, or have cultural sites which may be of significance to people living today.

Three archaeological sites have been recorded on Bellevue. All are of low archaeological significance. At most, some of these sites may require sampling, should they be threatened by the proposed development. The preliminary site inspection and data base search indicates that additional Stone Age, as well as Iron Age sites, may occur on Bellevue. However, we found no evidence of archaeological or historical sites that would enforce a no-development option.

We recommend that a detailed archaeological survey of the property should be undertaken if the proposed development goes ahead. This should be done during the winter months when the vegetation cover is reduced.

APPENDIX A

Themes for the Casino Site on Bellevue farm

Voortrekker Pietermaritzburg

The party of Voortrekkers led by Piet Retief chose the site of Pietermaritzburg late in 1837. By October 1838 the dorp had been named in honour of Retief and Gerrit Maritz. The dorp was laid out according to traditional Voortrekker grid pattern, which may be inappropriate for the casino complex. Other aspects of the dorp and Voortrekker life may be suitable, however. From 1840 people quarried shale and manufactured bricks to construct the thatched Voortrekker cottages. Features which might be considered diagnostic of Voortrekker architecture include: thick walls of mudbrick or shale, yellowwood floors and ceilings, haylofts, structure abutting onto the street edge.

Victorian/Edwardian Maritzburg

Pietermaritzburg is internationally known as a city with some of the finest existing Victorian and Edwardian architecture. Buildings of this time are given a special hue by the pale pinky-orange (or warm salmon) colour of the local bricks. They have in recent years provided the inspiration for many different developments in the city. In most of these, the 'feel' of the later 1800s and early 1900s is restricted to the facade. There is no reason, however, why the interior detail of a casino and hotel should not be modelled on the trends of early Maritzburg.

Early Iron Age

Early Iron Age sites are known to occur close the casino site, in areas of bushveld near rivers. The sites date from about AD 600 to AD 1000. They were occupied by black agriculturists who kept livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, chickens and dogs) and cultivated crops such as sorghum, millets and various leguminous vegetables. They mined ore and produced tools of iron and jewellery of both iron and copper. They lived in villages of a reasonable size (7 to 10 hectares), with houses surrounding cattle kraals. Houses and other structures were built of organic materials – thatch, poles and mud plaster. Their pottery was particularly attractive, comprising pots with flared rims and bowls in earthy colours. Most pots were elaborately decorated with incised motifs – hatching, crosshatching, herringbone, triangular motifs and arcades. Rare examples were coloured with graphite and red ochre. Ritual played an important role in Early Iron Age society and the articles associated with ritual are both dramatic and enigmatic.

General Iron Age theme

Several chalets each reflecting a period in the Iron Age. This should be done to reflect the development of the Iron Age. Chalets built in Iron Age village style, with different decorative motifs on the walls, cups etc. Chalets named after the periods. One could have groups of chalets each reflecting a different spatial layouts of the Early and Late Iron Age, perhaps even bringing it as far forward as today's rural rectangular houses.

Transport riders of pre-rail times

Hunter-traders responsible for linking early Maritzburg to the wider world, travelling over the Berg and to coast at Port Natal.

Nobhiyana Madonda

Nobhiyana Madonda is reputed to have once been Shaka's sangoma. Nobhiyana evidently fled south from the Zulu Kingdom and settled at the site of his grave near modern Baynesfield where he lived until he died. The fact that traditions of him still survive suggests he was someone of significance. Baynesfield is some distance from the casino site, but a little further research might reveal something of the man and his life that would provide inspiration for a theme for the casino complex.

Table Mountain themes

The view from the casino site encompasses Table Mountain which, on clear days, is magnificent. Table Mountain is associated with myths, stories and an interesting history that includes the amaLala. We are still investigating this possibility.

Themes derived from the casino site itself will have to await the completion of the archaeological assessment.