

**The archaeological survey of the KwaDengezi
Bulk Water Pipeline**

For eThikweni Municipality

&

McFerren & Associates

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Umlando was contracted by eThikweni Municipality to undertake an archaeological survey of the Kwadengezi Bulk Water Pipeline.

The pipeline is 5 km long and follows the river contours. The pipeline occurs just above the floodplain and is mostly in very steep areas. The area has been severely degraded by small scale subsistence farming, informal settlements and/or low cost housing. The area is however very similar to that of the Golokodo River where a major iron smelting site was excavated in 2003.

SITES

No archaeological sites were recorded during the course of the survey. However, several modern graves were observed along the course of the pipeline. These graves are less than 60 years old and are thus not protected by the Kwa-Zulu Natal Heritage Act. In one instance, the pipeline will go directly through four – five graves. In this instance, either the pipeline or the human remains in the graves would need to be moved. eThikweni Municipality will need to undertake a cost benefit analysis regarding the moving of the graves or the pipeline. eThikweni Municipality will also be required to locate the living relatives of the deceased and enter negotiations regarding the removal of these remains, if so required. Umlando can recommend people who would be able to undertake these negotiations, alternatively other social impact assessors would need to be contracted.

I would recommend that the pipeline be moved slightly uphill, and beyond the current Eskom servitude line, instead of removing the human remains.

CONCLUSION

No archaeological sites were recorded during the course of the survey, and no further archaeological mitigation would be required. The pipeline does,

however, impact on human graves, and these need to be dealt with accordingly.

I do have one comment of concern. I noticed several smaller water pipeline schemes connecting to the bulk water pipeline. My concern is that these smaller pipelines have already been excavated and in some places already placed underground. I am not sure if an archaeological survey has been undertaken for these smaller pipelines. In one instance, the pipeline is within 1 m distance of two (recent) graves): besides manhole (MH) 1716.

The archaeological survey for these smaller pipelines were overlooked and should have been included in the larger project.

My other are of concern is that two - three electricity posts occur near one area with four – five human graves. One electricity pole occurs very close to the graves. Again, I am not sure if an impact assessment has been undertaken. The poles are, however, an intrusion into a (presumed) family cemetery.

REFERENCES

Anderson, G. 2003. Archaeological Excavations for the Golokodo Extension Trunk Sewer. Report for Durban Metro Waste, 26 February 2003.

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