

**PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED RAISING OF AN EXISTING
DAM WALL DAM ON THE FARMS LERRYN 8602
AND HALIFAX 8603 IN THE DUNDEE AREA,
KWAZULU-NATAL.**



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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 1820 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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A first phase heritage survey of the proposed raising of an existing dam (Potgieter Dam) on the farms Lerryn 8602 and Halifax 8603 near Dundee identified no heritage sites or features on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. There is no reason, from a heritage perspective, why the proposed development may not proceed as planned. However, attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose additional archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Table 1. Background information

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for P & N Enviro
Type of development:	The raising on an existing dam wall (Potgieter Dam) on the farms Lerryn 8602 and Halifax 8603 in the Dundee Area, KZN. . (Figs 1 & 2). The Existing dam wall is 8 m high and is proposed to be lifted to 12.5 m high, the dam will cover an area of some 49 ha when full and be used for the irrigation of crops (Figs 1 & 2).
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
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, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The project area is located approximately 5km to the east of Dundee (Figs 1 & 2). It is situated within the Amajuba District Municipality. The coordinates of the project area are: 28° 09' 35.79" S 30° 20' 2.57" E. The footprint is situated on a commercial dairy farm. The existing dam is flanked by disturbed grasslands and pastures (Fig 3). Some sandstone outcrops occur on the eastern side of the existing dam (Fig 4). It is proposed that the enlarged dam will eventually covers an area of approximately 49 hectares.

BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Dundee area has been sporadically surveyed for archaeological sites in the last thirty years. These were mostly recorded by staff of the Talana Museum, archaeologists attached to the then Natal Museum and by cultural resource specialists. Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, Later Stone age and Later Iron Age sites have been recorded in the greater Dundee area. In addition, rock art have also been recorded in the region although more systematic surveys are needed. None of the known sites occur in the immediate vicinity of the project area.

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years but the local demography started to change soon after 2000 years ago when the first Bantu-speaking farmers crossed the Limpopo River and arrived in South Africa. Around 800 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater Dundee area. Although some of the sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located elsewhere in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the amaBhele and others (Bryant 1965). However, by 1820 the original African farmers were dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups and individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial authorities after 1845 where most of them became farm labourers. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

European settlement of the area started soon after 1838 when the first Voortrekker settlers marked out large farms in the area. However, many of these farms were abandoned in the 1840's when Natal became a British colony only to be reoccupied again by British immigrants. The greater Dundee area is intimately associated with various Battle Sites of the Voortrekker era (ca. 1836), the Anglo-Zulu War (ca.1879) and the Anglo-Boer War (ca. 1899-1901). Well-known battle sites in the greater Dundee area includes Talana, Ncome/Blood River, Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift and Elandsplaagte. All these sites are protected by provincial heritage legislation (Derwent 2006) however, none occur in the immediate environs of the study area.

The presence of coal in the greater Dundee area was observed by many early travellers. The Voortrekkers, during their battles with the Zulus found coal in the beds of streams such as the Steenkoolspruit (coal stream) and in 1839 the British garrison commander in Durban, Captain Jervis, sent samples of coal to the Governor of the Cape. In their kitchens farmers burned coal obtained from surface outcrops on their lands and it was one of them, Peter Smith of Talana farm, who started sending wagonloads of coal to be marketed in Pietermaritzburg. This enterprise, in 1862, actually started the coal industry. In 1880 the first proper geological survey was made of the Natal coalfields, by which it was proved that workable deposits were found on the farms Dundee and Coalfields. By that time, Peter Smith had already marketed over 7000 tons of coal. With Dugald MacPhail and Charles Wilson as partners, he developed mining substantially, forming the Dundee Coal and estate Company. In 1882 he laid out a town on the farm Dundee to create a center for the coalfields. In 1902 this township finally became a municipality.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted for previous heritage surveys and heritage site data covering the project area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Dundee area was also consulted.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted.

2.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

2.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

2.2.2 Disturbance

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

2.3 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.

3 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

3.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Municipality: Amajuba District Municipality

Towns: Dundee

3.2 Description of the general area surveyed

No formal archaeological or other heritage sites were located on the footprint. No graves (old or modern) occur adjacent to the existing dam. The area is not part of any known cultural landscape.

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

4.1 Field Rating

Not applicable as no heritage sites occur on the footprint.

Table 2. 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

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed raising of the existing dam wall on the farms Lerryn 8602 and Halifax 8603 (i.e. Potgieter dam) may proceed from a heritage perspective as no archaeological and heritage sites occur on the footprint. There is no archaeological reason why the proposed development may not proceed as planned. However, it must be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

6 MAPS AND FIGURES

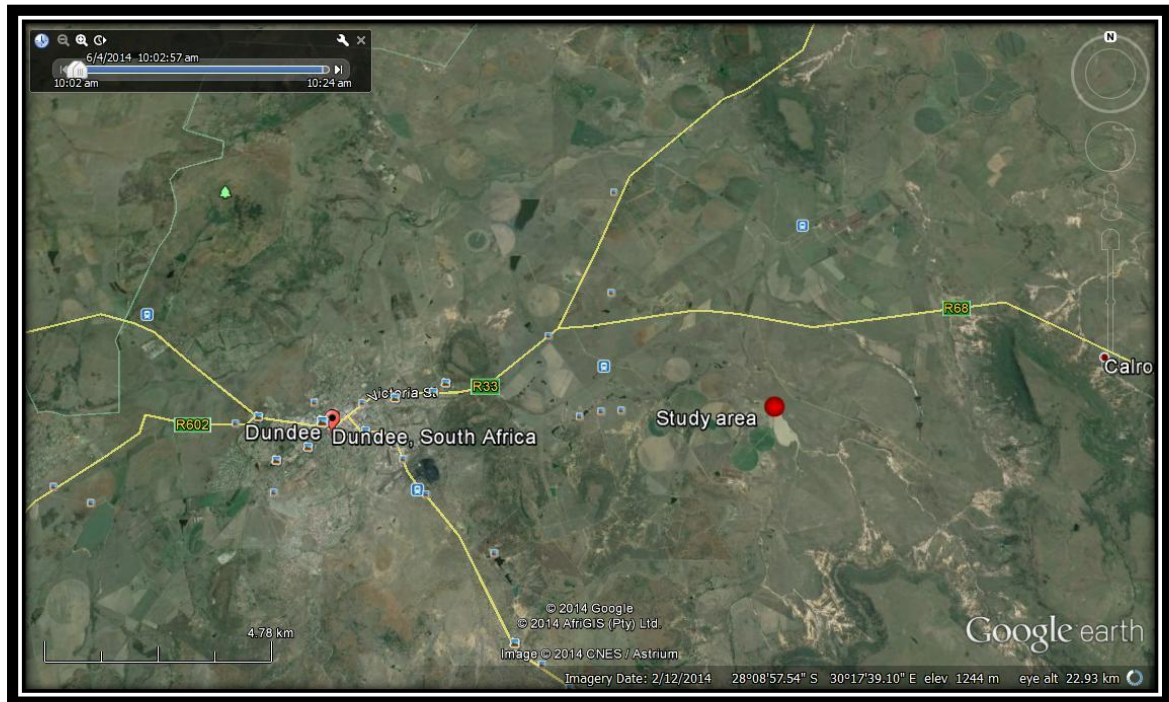


Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the study area relative to the town of Dundee.



Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the dam wall proposed to be lifted.



Figure 3. Photograph of Potgieter Dam on the farms Lerryn 8602 and Halifax 8603 near Dundee. The existing dam well is visible in the distance.



Figure 4. Sandstone outcrops adjacent to the western section of the existing dam. No heritage sites occur at this location.

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