

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED PROUD
HERITAGE ECO-ESTATE & CONSERVANCY
FOR COASTAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Coastal and Environmental Services to undertake a heritage survey of the proposed Proud Heritage Eco-Estate & Conservancy, Chintsa, Eastern Cape. Five heritage sites were located during the survey and they require various forms of mitigation.

The area is located ~30km northeast of East London (fig. 1). The development area is currently used for pasturage for cattle, and varies between grasslands and bush with occasional Acacia trees. The area is mostly undisturbed by agriculture, with a few exceptions.

The proposed development consists of 68 housing units, a restaurant, hotel and conference facility. This will occur on about 5% of the development area, while the rest will be a conservation area.

The dense coastal bush resulted in very poor to non-existent archaeological visibility. Visibility was only possible in those areas that had been cleared in some manner. Regardless of the poor visibility, I recorded seven archaeological sites. This suggests that more sites would occur in the heavily vegetated areas and these would require monitoring during earth moving construction phase.

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the Umlando's database. This database does; however, tend to be restricted to archaeological and palaeontological sites. Consulting with the relevant authorities will also cover known battlefields and historical sites. We also consult with an historical architect, a palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) consists of a foot survey where the selected area was covered. The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan. The main problem with the survey was the poor archaeological visibility. I surveyed the entire area in transects (Fig. 2). During these surveys, I concentrated on exposed areas, molehills and aardvark (or similar) holes where artefacts, middens etc. may have been exposed. Unfortunately, the area yielded few sites, as sites occurred only in areas of cleared vegetation. I also surveyed along a section of the fencing to determine the possible location of shell middens.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts, especially pottery. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts and these are sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features. We attempt to recover as many artefacts from these sites by means of systematic sampling, as opposed to sampling diagnostic artefacts only.

Defining significance

Archaeological sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

1.1. Organic remains:

1.1.1. Faunal

1.1.2. Botanical

1.2. Rock art

1.3. Walling

1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit

1.5. Features:

1.5.1. Ash Features

1.5.2. Graves

1.5.3. Middens

1.5.4. Cattle byres

1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

2.1. Internal housing arrangements

2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns

2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?

3.2. Is it a type site?

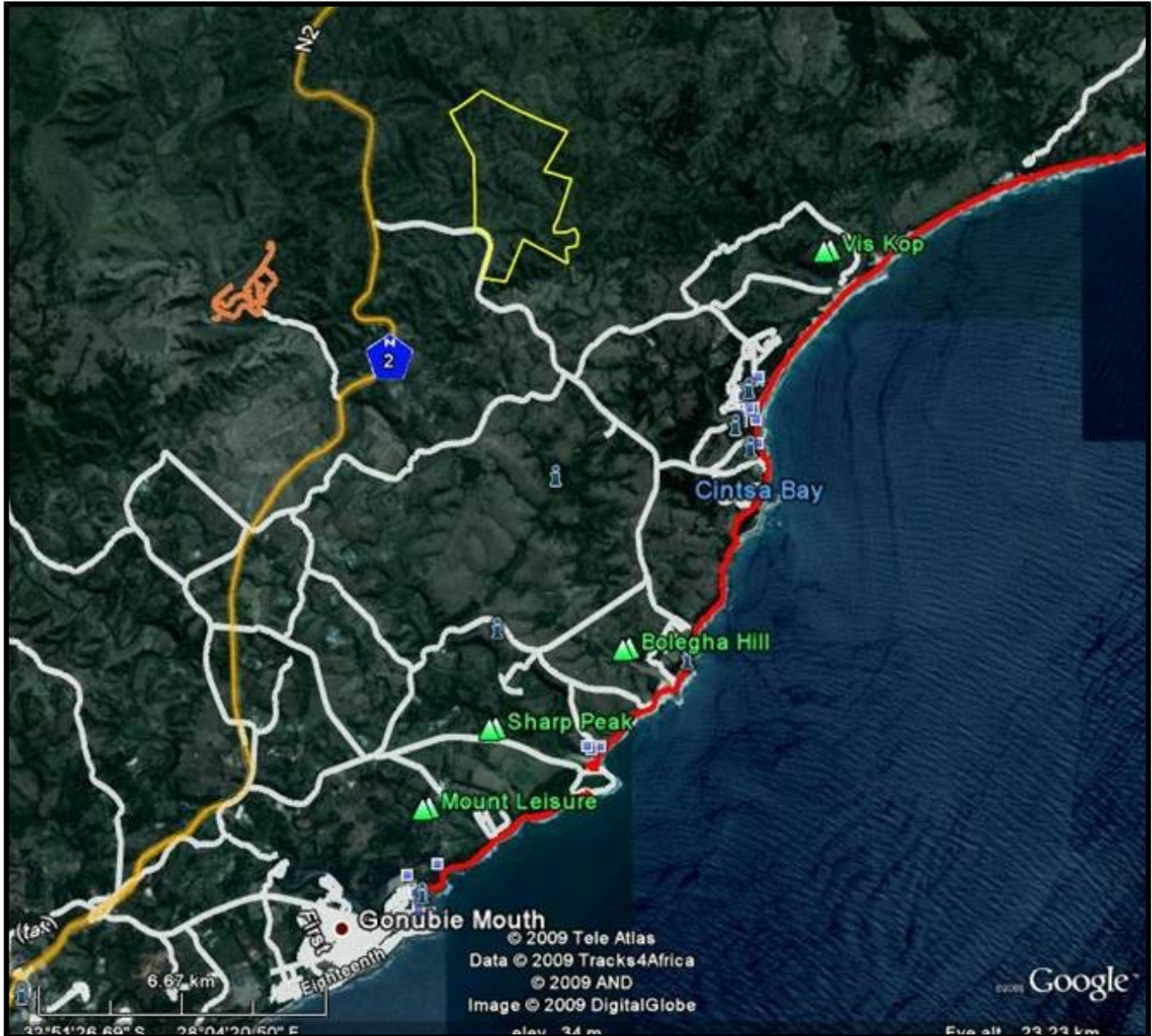
3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

4.1. Providing information on current research projects

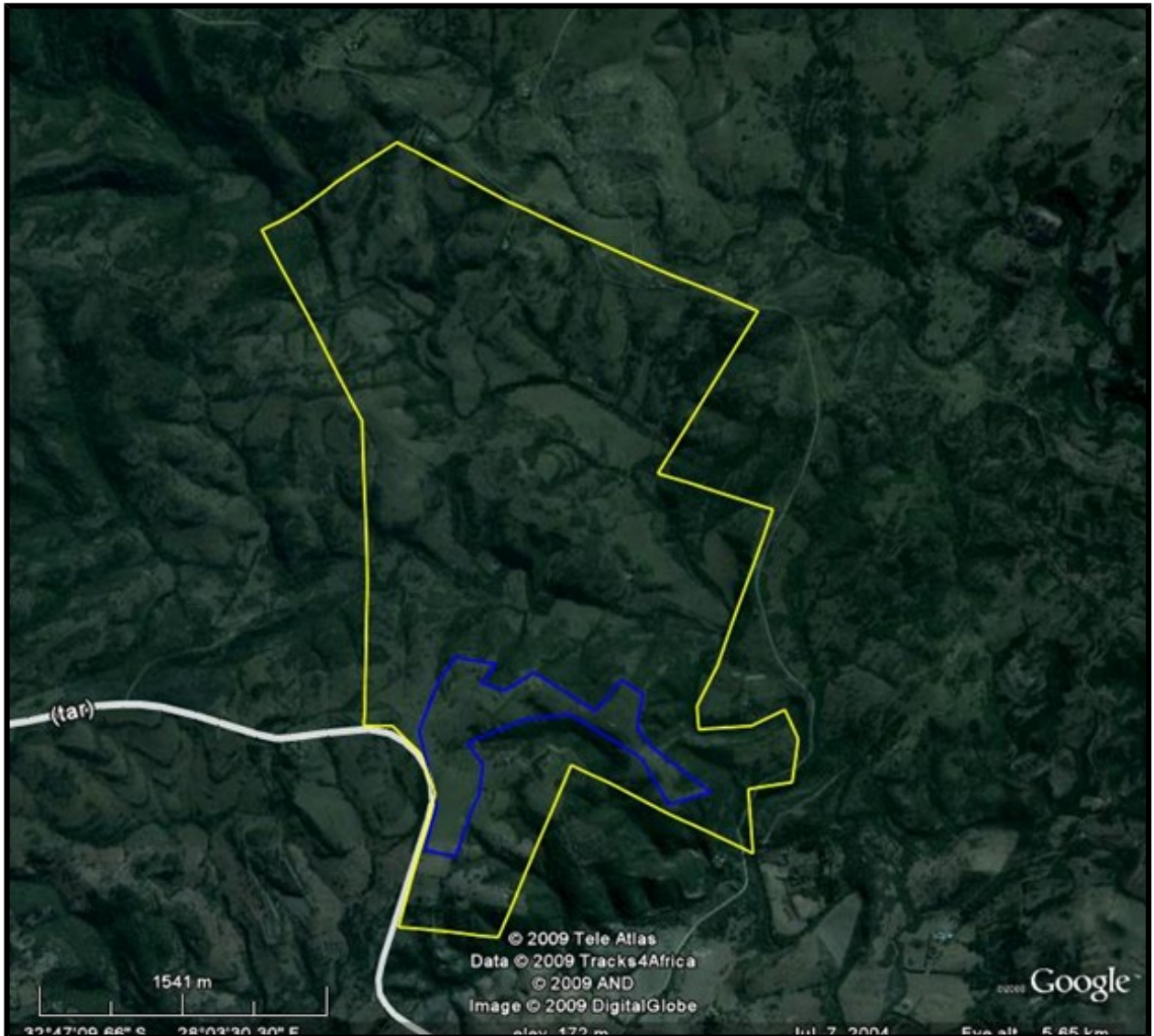
4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

FIG. 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED PROUD HERITAGE ECO-ESTATE & CONERVANCY¹



¹ Study area is outlined in yellow

FIG. 2: DEVELOPMENT AREA WITHIN THE STUDY AREA²



² Development area in blue; study area in yellow

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

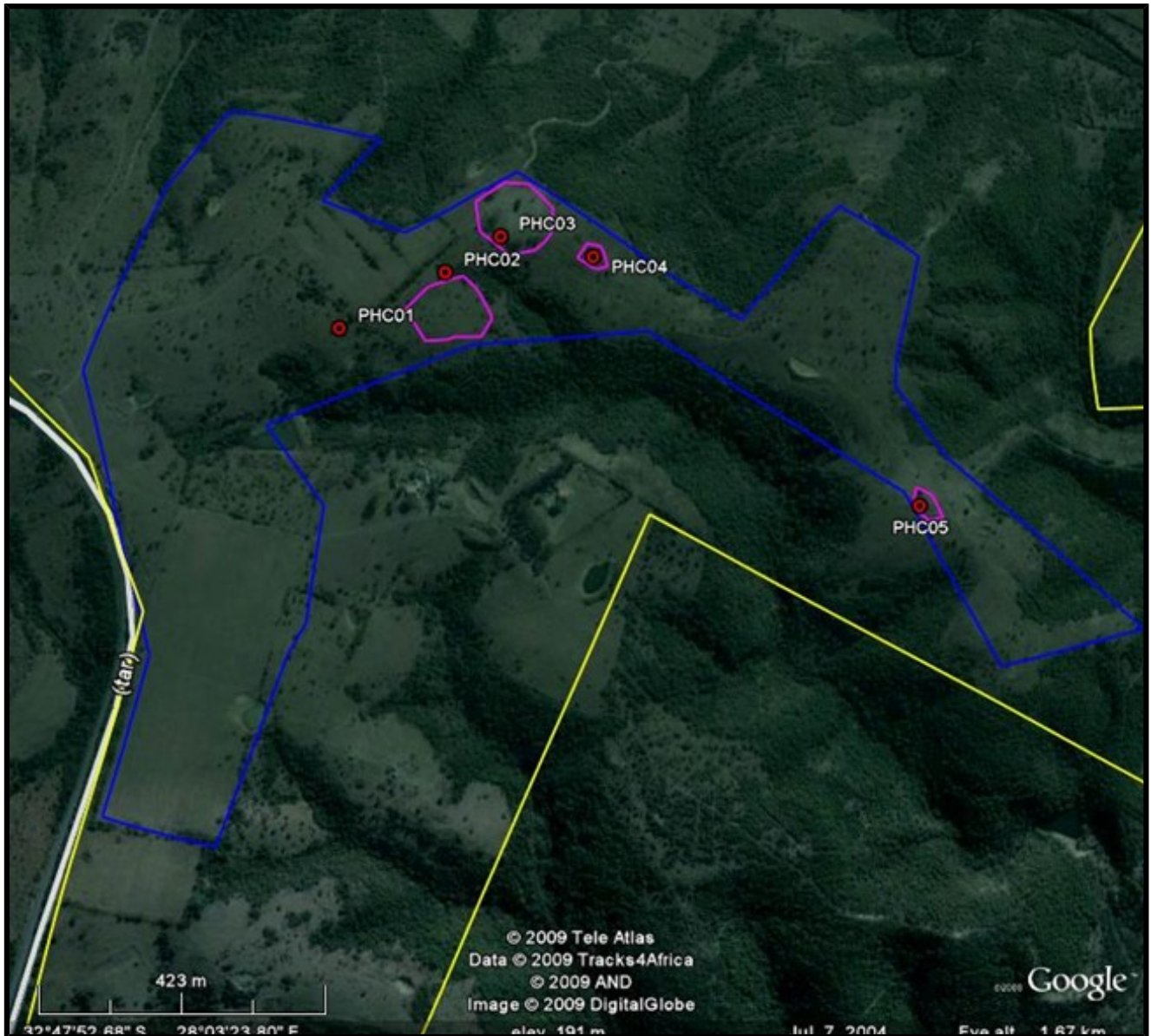
8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

FIG. 3: LOCATION OF RECORDED SITES IN THE STUDY AREA³



³ Pink polygon indicate location and extent of the site

RESULTS

Five sites were recorded during the survey. These sites vary from the Stone Age to the more recent past. Fig. 3 illustrates the location of these sites. All of the sites are located on the top of a hill and along the ridge. The vegetation was dense; however, archaeological visibility was relatively good, and there were several tracks and open areas.

PHC01

A single lower grinding stone was located at this site. I do not normally record single artefacts as a site; however, this was one area where the vegetation was relatively dense. I went on the assumption that there would be more artefacts given the location of the artefact on the hill.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

PHC02

PHC02 is located northwest of PHC01 and slightly downslope. I observed a Late Stone Age (LSA) core and flake, and one piece of undecorated pottery in the road. The artefacts are probably in a secondary context, originating from the hill directly to the south.

Significance: The site is of low significance

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

PHC03

PHC03 is located on the top of a hill with an old dead tree as its central point. The area consists of several cleared areas (with/out circular depressions), a circular stone platform, and a small pile of stones (fig. 4)

The area appears to be an old homestead of several huts, but with only one hut having a stone platform. I originally thought these were a result of recent farming activity due to the remains of a windmill, but the ~six depressions suggest otherwise.

I could not locate any human burials on the site. I cannot estimate the age of the possible features due to a lack of diagnostic material; however, if they are dwellings then they may predate 60 years in age.

Significance: The site appears to be of low significance as the features are indistinct and no artefacts were observed on the surface.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required; however, the development should be wary of possible human remains in the vicinity. These would be subsurface graves.

PHC04

PHC04 consists of a recent dwelling with a collapsed thatched roof. There are at least two stone features extending from the thatch. Several recent beer bottles are in association with this building.

The site was recorded as it forms part of the wider definition of “heritage”

Significance: The site is of low significance

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

FIG. 4: STONE FEATURES AT PHC03



PHC05

PHC05 is located along the eastern ridge of the proposed housing development. The site consists of at least four circular depressions that may indicate old dwellings. No artefacts or human graves were observed

Significance: The site is of low significance as no artefacts or distinct features could be observed.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The heritage survey located two types of sites: Stone Age and recent historical. None of these sites are significant nor do they require further mitigation. However, the development must take notice that some these sites are dwellings and (subsurface) human graves may exist. If any are observed during construction phase, then they need to be reported to SAHRA immediately.

CONCLUSION

An heritage survey of the proposed Proud Heritage Eco-Estate & Conservancy, Chintsa, Eastern Cape, was undertaken. Five heritage sites were observed during the survey and these are all of low significance. Only PCH01 and PCH02 are archaeological, while the rest of the sites appear to be more recent in age.

The survey only covers the current building footprints. Any changes for new areas would need to be re-assessed.

The developer needs to apply for a permit to destroy these sites from SAHRA.

APPENDIX A

SITE RECORD FORMS

UMLANDO HERITAGE SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age
Early Iron Age:
Late Iron Age ?
Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: PHC01
Official Name: Farm 1277
Local Name:
Map Sheet: 3228
Map Reference: 32°47'42.04"S 28° 3'9.42"E (alt = 212m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

From East London drive on N2 towards Umtata.. Turn right at the C(h)intsa / Inkwenkwezi turnoff. From turnoff drive for 3.3km until you reach a farm turnoff on LHS. Follow this dirt road up to a T-Junction. Right is to farmhouse, left is to gate. Turn left and follow track uphill. The track then veers right. Site is near the northern border fence.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Surface.
Merits conservation: No
Threats: yes
What threats: Possible development

RECORDING:
Graphic record: None

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin Anderson
Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901
Date: 28 Feb. 2009
Owner: Private
References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

A single lower grinding stone was located at his site. I do not normally record single artefacts as a site; however, this was one area where the vegetation was relatively dense. I went on the assumption that there would be more artefacts given the location of the artefact on the hill.

Significance: The site is of low significance.

UMLANDO HERITAGE SITE RECORD FORM



SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Late Stone Age: X

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: PHC02

Official Name: Farm 1277, Farm 443, Ptn 1 of 445 Komga

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 3228

Map Reference: 32°47'39.97"S 28° 3'14.65"E (alt = 204 m)

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

As for PHC01, except continue over the hill following the farm track. Artefacts occur along this track, before the hill flattens out.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Surface, may contain deposit.

Merits conservation: No

Threats: yes

What threats: Possible development

RECORDING:

Graphic record: None

Digital pictures:

Tracings :

Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 28 Feb. 2009

Owner:

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

PHC02 is located northwest of PHC01 and slightly downslope. I observed a Late Stone Age (LSA) core and flake, and one piece of undecorated pottery in the road. The artefacts are probably in a secondary context, originating from the hill directly to the south.

Significance: The site is of low significance

