CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ROYAL ALBERT DEVELOPMENT, UMNGENI MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL

ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

FOR: TERRATEST

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23 July 2017

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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 cultural heritage survey of the proposed Royal Albert Falls Tourism and Residential Development, at Albert Falls produced no heritage sites. There is no known archaeological reason why development may not proceed on the footprint as planned. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape 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 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) for Terratest
Type of development:	Establishment of the Royal Albert Development. This is a tourism project and holiday chalets and a hotel will be established on the property Fig 3.
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 proposed development is situated on the southern side of Albert Falls Dam, at Albert Falls, Umngeni Municipality. It borders onto the Albert Falls Dam (Figs ! & 2). The GPS coordinates for the proposed development are:

S 29° 27’ 50.02” E 30° 22’ 28.17”

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The Albert Falls area has been relatively well surveyed for heritage sites by archaeologists of the then Natal Museum and by various cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades. Most intensive surveys have been conducted in the nearby Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (Maggs et al 1995), but the KwaZulu-Natal Museum data base also indicate the presence various sites outside of the Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve. These sites occur near Albert Falls Nature Reserve and at Ottos Bluff to the east and south of the project area.

The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Albert Falls area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include five Early Stone Age sites, three middle Stone Age sites, four Later Stone Age sites, one rock engraving site, fourteen Early Iron Age sites, twenty Later Iron Age sites, and four historical sites.

Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur within the greater Albert Falls area. Most of these occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools in the near vicinity of permanent water resources is typical of this tradition. These tools were most probably made by early hominins such as *Homo erectus* or *Homo ergaster*. Based on typological criteria they most probably dates back to between 300 000 and 1.7 million years ago. The presence of the first anatomically modern people (i.e. *Homo sapiens sapiens*) in the area is indicated by the presence of a few Middle Stone Age blades and flakes. These most probably dates back to between 40 000 and 200 000 years ago. The later Stone Age flakes, blades, cores and bone points identified in the area are associated with the San (Bushmen) and their direct ancestors. These most probably dates back to between 200 and 20 000 years ago. Two small rock shelters also contained some Later Stone Age remains. They are also important as they may contain the only Later Stone Age material in archaeological context in this 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. By 1500 years ago these early Bantu-speaking farmers also arrived in the Cramond area. Due to the fact that they introduced metal technology to southern Africa they are designated as the Early Iron Age in archaeological literature. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as “Msuluzi” (AD 500-700), Ndondondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). Most of the Early Iron Age sites in the greater Cramond area belong to these traditions (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462). These sites characteristically occur on alluvial or colluvial soil adjacent to large rivers below the 1000m contour. These early farmers originally came from western Africa and brought with them an elaborate initiation complex and a value system centred around the central significance of cattle.

Later Iron Age sites also occur in this area. These were Bantu-speaking agropastoralists who arrived in southern Africa after 1000 year ago via East Africa. Later Iron Age communities in KwaZulu-Natal were the direct ancestors of the Zulu people (Huffman 2007). Many African groups moved through the study area due to the period of tribal turmoil as caused by the expansionistic policies of King Shaka Zulu in the 1820's. It is known from oral history that the Albert Falls area was inhabited by the Wushe and the Zondo tribes at the beginning of the 19th century. However, they were attacked and routed by the Thembu around who were fleeing from the Zulu (Bryant 1965). After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 most of the African groups in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

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3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted in order to evaluate past heritage surveys and impact assessments in the near environs to the study area. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the greater Albert Falls area was also consulted.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on the 8th June 2017.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

3.2.2 Disturbance.

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

3.3 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.

4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

4.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal
Towns: Albert Falls, Cramond
Municipality: Umngeni Municipality.

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The proposed development plot covers an area of approximately 750m x 420m. It is situated opposite Albert Falls Dam and overlooks the dam (Figs 1-3). Some buildings, younger than 60 years old, occurs on the north western section of the footprint. However, the greatest portion of the land is covered in indigenous grassland and Acacia trees (Figs 4 & 5). It is evident that some bush clearing occurred on the southern half of the plot in the past. This section contains fewer indigenous trees.

Although archaeological sites, especially Later Iron Age stone walled structures, occurs to the west of the project area (Figs 1 & 6) none were observed on the actual footprint or within 500m from the borders of the proposed development plot. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape (Table 2).

Table 2. Evaluation and statement of significance.

Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA		
	Significance	**Rating**
1.	**Historic and political significance -** The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	None.
2.	**Scientific significance** – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.	None.
3.	**Research/scientific significance** – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	None.
4.	**Scientific significance** – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	None.
5.	**Aesthetic significance** – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	None.
6.	**Scientific significance** – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	None.
7.	**Social significance** – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultu-ral or spiritual reasons.	None.
8.	**Historic significance** – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.	None.
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

As there are no heritage sites on the footprint the area is not significant in terms of heritage values.

5.1 Field Rating

The field rating criteria as formulated by SAHRA (Table 3) does not apply to the footprint as no heritage sites or features have been identified.

Table 3. 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

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Royall Albert Tourism Development may proceed in terms of heritage values as no heritage sites are in any danger of being destroyed or altered. However, it should also 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.

7 RISK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION

Not applicable.

8 MAPS AND FIGURES

Figure 1. Google aerial imagery showing the location of the project area relative to Albert Falls Dam. The purple polygons indicate the location of known archaeological sites in the area.

Figure 2. Google aerial imagery showing the location and spatial context of the area demarcated for the Royal Albert Development.

Figure 3. Map of the proposed Royal Albert Development (Source:Terratest).

Figure 4. View of the proposed development plot. No heritage sites or features were located during the survey.

Figure 5. View towards Albert Falls Dam (covered in thick mist)

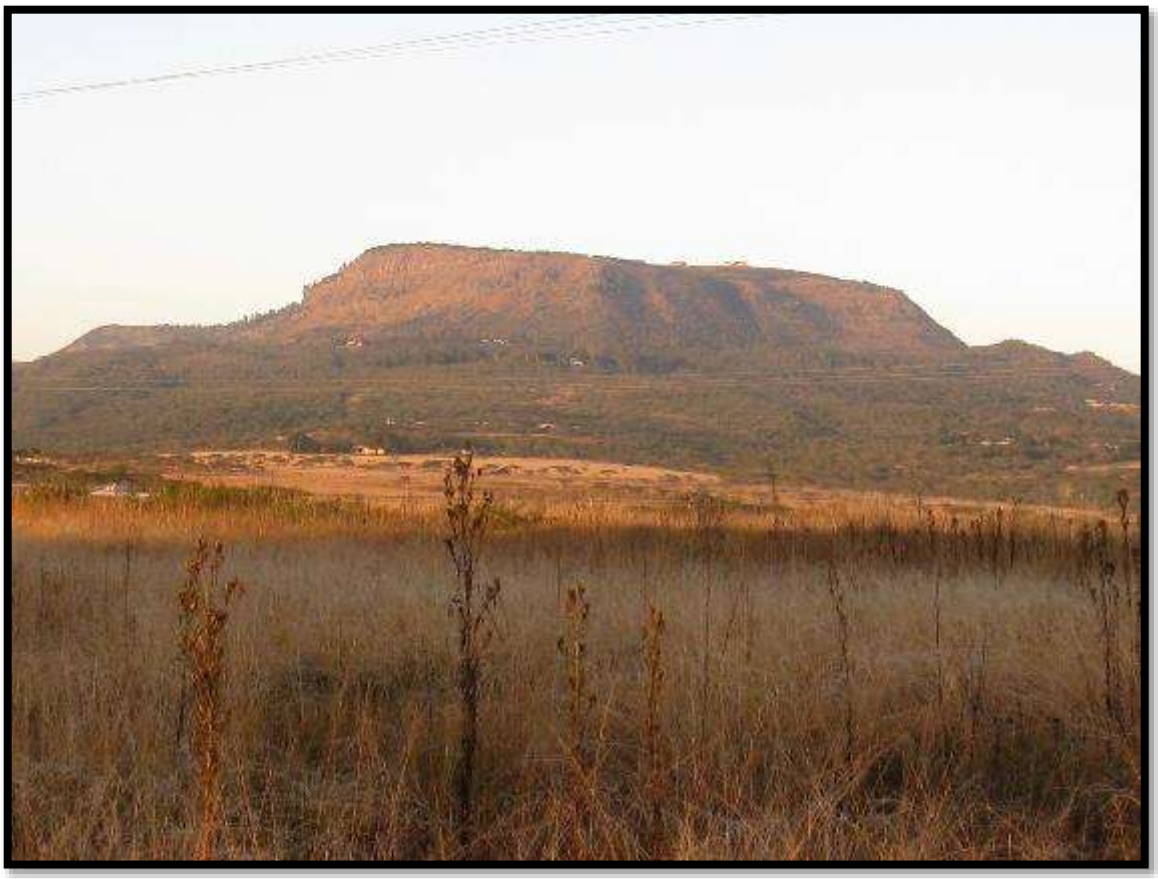

Figure 6. Although Later Iron Age Sites occur at the foot of Ottos Bluff Mountain, a major landmark to the south west of the project area, none of these are located less than 500m from the footprint.

9 REFERENCES

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