PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED SABLE HILL DAM AND CULTIVATION OF PIVOT LANDS NEAR WINTERTON, UTHUKELA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KZN

ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

For: Green Door Environmental

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Frans received his MA (Archaeology) from the University of Stellenbosch and is presently a PhD candidate on social anthropology at Rhodes University. His PhD research topic deals with indigenous San perceptions and interactions with the rock art heritage of the Drakensberg.

Frans was employed as a junior research associate at the then University of Transkei, Botany Department in 1988-1990. Although attached to a Botany Department he conducted a palaeoecological study on the Iron Age of northern Transkei - this study formed the basis for his MA thesis in Archaeology. Frans left the University of Transkei to accept a junior lecturing position at the University of Stellenbosch in 1990. He taught mostly undergraduate courses on World Archaeology and research methodology during this period.

From 1991 – 2001 Frans was appointed as the head of the department of Historical Anthropology at the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. His tasks included academic research and publication, display conceptualization, and curating the African ethnology collections of the Museum. He developed various displays at the Natal Museum on topics ranging from Zulu material culture, traditional healing, and indigenous classificatory systems. During this period Frans also developed a close association with the Departments of Fine Art, Psychology, and Cultural and Media Studies at the then University of Natal. He assisted many post-graduate students with projects relating to the cultural heritage of South Africa. He also taught post-graduate courses on qualitative research methodology to honours students at the Psychology Department, University of Natal. During this period he served on the editorial boards of the *South African Journal of Field Archaeology* and *Natalia*.

Frans left the Natal Museum in 2001 when approached by a Swiss funding agency to assist an international NGO (Working Group for Indigenous Minorities) with the conceptualization of a San or Bushman museum near Cape Town. During this period he consulted extensively with various San groupings in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. During this period he also made major research and conceptual contributions to the Kamberg and Didima Rock Art Centres in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site.

Between 2003 and 2007 Frans was employed as the Cultural Resource Specialist for the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project – a bilateral conservation project funded through the World Bank. This project involved the facilitation with various stakeholders in order to produce a cultural heritage conservation and development strategy for the adjacent parts of Lesotho and South Africa. Frans was the facilitator for numerous heritage surveys and assessments during this project. This vast area included more than 2000 heritage sites. Many of these sites had to be assessed and heritage management plans designed for them. He had a major input in the drafting of the new Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Ukahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage site in 2007/2008. A highpoint of his career was the inclusion of Drakensberg San indigenous knowledge systems, with San collaboration, into the management plans of various rock art sites in this world heritage site. He also liaised with the tourism specialist with the drafting of a tourism business plan for the area.

During April 2008 Frans accepted employment at the environmental agency called Strategic Environmental Focus (SEF). His main task was to set-up and run the cultural heritage unit of this national company. During this period he also became an accredited heritage impact assessor and he is rated by both Amafa and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). He completed almost 50 heritage impact assessment reports nation-wide during an 18th month period.

Frans left SEF and started his own heritage consultancy called “Active Heritage cc” in July 2009. Although mostly active along the eastern seaboard his clients also include international companies such as Royal Dutch Shell through Golder Associates, and UNESCO. He has now completed almost 1000 heritage conservation and management reports for various clients since the inception of “Active Heritage cc”. Amongst these was a heritage study of the controversial fracking gas exploration of the Karoo Basin and various proposed mining developments in South Africa and proposed developments adjacent to various World Heritage sites. Apart from heritage impact assessments (HIA’s) Frans also assist the National Heritage Council (NHC) through Haley Sharpe Southern Africa’, with heritage site data capturing and analysis for the proposed National Liberation Route World Heritage Site and the national intangible heritage audit. In addition, he is has done background research and conceptualization of the proposed Dinosaur Interpretative Centre at Golden Gate National Park and the proposed Khoi and San Interpretive Centre at Camdeboo, Eastern Cape Province. During 2009 he also produced the first draft dossier for the nomination of the Sehlabathebe National Park, Lesotho as a UNESCO inscribed World Heritage Site.

Frans was appointed as temporary lecturer in the department of Heritage and Tourism, UKZN in 2011. He is also a research affiliate at the School of Cultural and Media Studies in the same institution.

Frans's research interests include African Iron Age, paleoecology, rock art research, San ethnography, traditional healers in South Africa, and heritage conservation. Frans has produced more than fourty publications on these topics in both popular and academic publications. He is frequently approached by local and international video and film productions in order to assist with research and conceptualization for programmes on African heritage and culture. He has also acted as presenter and specialist for local and international film productions on the rock art of southern Africa. Frans has a wide experience in the fields of museum and interpretive centre display and made a significant contribution to the conceptual planning of displays at the Natal Museum, Golden Horse Casino, Didima Rock Art Centre and !Khwa tu San Heritage Centre. Frans is also the co-founder and active member of "African Antiqua" a small tour company who conducts archaeological and cultural tours world-wide. He is a Thetha accredited cultural tour guide and he has conducted more than 50 tours to heritage sites since 1992.

Declaration of Consultants independence

Frans Prins is an independent consultant to Green Door Environmental and has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which he was appointed other than fair renumeration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances whatsoever that compromise the objectivity of this specialist performing such work.

Frans Prins

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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 phase one heritage survey of a proposed Sable Hill Dam on the Lindeque Spruit near Winterton, KZN identified no archaeological or heritage sites on the area demarcated for the proposed dam. However, two Later Iron Age sites are situated on the proposed cultivation area overlooking the proposed dam. A buffer zone of at least 20m must be maintained aroud these archaeological features. Some Later Iron Age Sites are also situated to the immediate east of this proposed cultivation area but none of them are threatened by the proposed cultivation. A graveyard situated on the farm but none of the graves are located on the actual footprint. They are not threated by the proposed development and no mitigation is necessary. The first phase paleontological desktop study indicates that a qualified palaeontologist will need to conduct a field survey and protocol of finds of the footprint. Attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the Amafa research Institute and Heritage Act (Act No. 5 of 2018), which requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains, graves older than 60 years, and fossil material 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 Green Door Environmental
Type of development:	Construction of a farm dam on the Lindeque spruit and associated cultivation areas overlooking the dam.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
Terms of reference	To carry out a Phase One 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 Amafa Research Institute and Heritage Act (Act No. 5 of 2018)

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1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The proposed dam site is located on Portion 1 of Meersig No. 15550, and Portion 1, Portion 4 and Rem of Smaldeel No. 1390, at GPS coordinates 28°48'31.80" S and 29°28'42.60" E (Figs 1 – 4). It falls on the Lindequespruit River, within the V13D quaternary catchment and the Pongola to Mtamvuna Water Management Area (WMA). Under natural conditions, the proposed dam site would have been characterised by Northern KwaZulu-Natal Moist Grassland (Gs 4), which falls under the Sub-Escarpment Grassland (Gs) Group 4 bioregion. The dam will fall on Lush Valley Farm which is located on the northern banks of the Lindequespruit River, and on Prairie Farm which is located on the southern banks of the Lindequespruit River. The existing Glen Gray Dam is located upstream of the proposed dam site, and is approximately 4.5 million m³ in extent. The Lindequespruit Irrigation Board was established for the six members who have shares in the Glen Gray Dam. The cultivation of 102 ha of land is proposed to take place on Lush Valley Farm which is located on the northern banks of the Lindequespruit River. The Applicant is proposing to plant these lands for foliage and grazing, which will comprise pastures comprising kikuyu and grass mixtures. There are currently approximately 1500 head of cattle, and with the additional foliage

and grazing, the cattle herd will be able to be increased to a 2000 head cattle herd. The cultivation is proposed to take place on the following properties:

- 22 ha pivot located on Portion 4 of Smaldeel No. 1390 at GPS coordinates 28°48'42.05" S and 29°28'10.20" E (Fig 4);
- 30 ha pivot located on Portion 3 of Smaldeel No. 1390, and Portion 10 of Lindeques Laager No. 1039, at GPS coordinates 28°49'12.47" S and 29°27'35.71" E (Fig 4);
- 30 ha pivot located on Portion 2, Portion 3 and Portion 10 of Lindeques Laager No. 1039, at GPS Green Door Environmental Page | iii coordinates 28°49'16.08" S and 29°27'10.49" E (Fig 4);
- 10 ha pivot located on Portion 10 of Lindeques Laager No. 1039, at GPS coordinates 28°49'25.31" S and 29°27'25.37" E; and
- 10 ha pivot located on Portion 2 and Portion 10 Lindeques Laager No. 1039, at GPS coordinates 28°49'29.78" S and 29°27'14.16" E (Fig 4).

Lush Valley Farm and Prairie Farm are commercial agricultural operations comprising maize, potatoes, wheat, soya beans, peas and butternut which is planted on a rotational basis, as well as beef. Water from the dam is proposed to be pumped via the associated pipelines to surrounding lands on both farms for irrigation purposes. On Lush Valley Farm, the 102 ha of land proposed to be cultivated for foliage and grazing, is to be irrigated from the proposed dam. There is an additional 106 ha of existing cultivated land that is also to be irrigated from the proposed dam. Water is to be released from the proposed dam and into the Lindequespruit River where it will be abstracted further downstream for irrigation purposes. On Prairie Farm, there is approximately 188 ha of existing cultivated land which is to be irrigated from the proposed dam. These lands comprise maize, wheat, soya beans and peas which are planted on a rotational basis. A portion of the existing lands also comprise pecan nuts which will be required to be irrigated from the proposed dam. The proposed dam will thus allow for increased water storage and availability for supplementary irrigation during the summer months, and a back-up during the dry, winter months. It will ensure the long-term sustainability of both farms, through increased yields, and crop and livestock production, as well as increased employment opportunities. This in turn will result in skills development, income generation and improved quality of life. Should the WULA for the proposed project not be approved, the lands currently proposed to be irrigated, will be for dry land agricultural activities. The currently preferred dam design comprises a storage capacity of 2.3 million m^3 and occupies an area of approximately

45 ha. The proposed dam has a wall height of 16 m, wall length of 378 m and water depth of 15 m

The GPS coordinated for the proposed Sable Hill Dam are: S 28° 48' 43.26" E 29° 28' 33.65" (Figs 2 & 3).

The Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Park occurs approximately 25km to the west of the project area. The proposed buffer zone of this UNESCO listed World Heritage Site does not overlap with the project area (Fig 7).

Presently the footprint is covered in secondary grasslands and cultivated fields (Fig 9-11). There are no buildings or other evidence for anthopogenic actions at the proposed dam and cultivation areas.

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Winterton area is situated in the foothills of the central Maloti Drakensberg in KwaZulu-Natal. It forms part of the uThukela District Municipality. This area is well endowed with cultural heritage, including various wilderness areas within and outside the formal protected area network that includes the World Heritage Site (Fig 7). Although most literature refers to this heritage mainly in terms of San rock art, the region also contains other categories of cultural heritage features representative of various cultures and time-periods. The cultural heritage of the Drakensberg is diverse and highly fragile. Cultural heritage, unlike natural heritage, is non-renewable and irreplaceable. Once damaged, it is gone forever. San rock paintings and associated Later Stone Age sites, as well as the palaeontology of the area, are unique and have global significance. The remaining categories, however, certainly have national, provincial, and regional significance. The area has had several different cultural groups associated with it, from the San to the southern Sotho, the Zulu-speaking and Xhosa-speaking groups, and, more recently, the Griqua and Anglo-Boer descendants. Each of these groups has its own unique cultural expressions and has related in various ways to the others. These differences are found in the building styles of homes, their way of life as they interact with their environment, traditional dress, and so on. In addition, there are a number of living heritage values associated with all of these

groups, many of which are unknown or poorly recorded. The following section is a more detailed description of the various cultural heritage features.

2.1.1 The Early Stone Age

The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools such as hand axes in areas below the 1 800 m contour suggests that the first inhabitants of the area predated modern humans by at least 800 000 years. Sites belonging to this period in the Drakensberg are mostly characterised by a few surface scatters and individual stone tools – usually in the close vicinity of water. They were most probably manufactured by *Homo erectus*, a predecessor of modern humans. Early Stone Age sites have been recorded in the foothills of the central Drakensberg but none are known from the project area.

2.1.2 The Middle Stone Age

Anatomically modern people *(Homo sapiens sapiens)* with a very different economic strategy and more sophisticated stone tool kits moved into the area about 200 000 years ago. Archaeological assemblages left behind by these people have been termed Middle Stone Age. Not only were these societies more effective hunters than their predecessors but Middle Stone Age sites elsewhere in southern Africa also provide convincing evidence for some of the earliest symbolic behaviour in the world. It was Middle Stone Age people from southern and eastern Africa who left the continent roughly between 80 000 – 60 000 years ago to populate the rest of the world. Middle Stone Age sites in the Drakensberg region occur in both Lesotho and South Africa. Sites occur as surface scatters as well as deep cave deposits. Prime archaeological deposits, however, occur in the Eastern Cape and Free State sections of the region. Archaeological excavations at Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape Province indicate that the Middle Stone Age persisted in the Eastern Cape Drakensberg until around 22 000 years ago (Mitchell 2002). Some Middle Stone Age sites, mostly surface scatters, occurs within the central Drakensberg area but none of these are situated closer than 5km to the project area.

2.1.3. The Later Stone Age

The stone tool assemblages belonging to the immediate ancestors of the San or Bushmen have been termed Later Stone Age. Later Stone Age tools are generally much smaller but also more diversified than the earlier tool kits. It was during this period that the bow and arrow was used extensively, and societies exploited their environments distinctly more intensively and effectively. Literally hundreds of Later Stone Age sites prevail in the Drakensberg region. In addition, most of the rock art in

the region was created by the San. The earliest evidence for Later Stone Age occupation of the Maloti Drakensberg comes from Sehonghong Cave in south eastern Lesotho and from Strathalan Cave in the Eastern Cape section of the region. Here a specific Later Stone Age period called the Robberg Industry has been dated to approximately 20 000 years ago. In contrast, evidence from Good Hope shelter 1 near the bottom of Sani Pass suggests that the earliest archaeological evidence for San people in the KwaZulu-Natal portion of the Drakensberg dates back to approximately 8 000 years ago. Whereas most parts of the Maloti Drakensberg were only seasonally occupied by San hunter gatherers for the larger part of the last 20 000 years, the situation started to change during the later part of the Holocene around 5 000 years ago. This was compounded by the arrival of immigrant black farmers in the region soon after 1600 AD and European colonialism around 1834 AD (Wright & Mazel 2007). During the historical period, the Maloti Drakensberg and adjacent mountainous areas became the last stronghold for various southern San groups such as the Baroa, //Xegwi !Ga!ne, //Kx'au, and //Ku//ke. Their Later Stone Age way of life finally came to an end during the late 19th century. San descendants still live in the area but for all practical purposes have assimilated with their more powerful neighbours. Many place names within the region still retained their original San pronunciations such as the Inxu, Sehonghong, Qomoqomong and Qhoasing rivers, and the Qeme, Qhuqhu, Qhalasi, and Qholaqhoe mountains. Approximately 1 300 Later Stone Age sites are known within the South African side of the Drakensberg. Various Later Stone Age sites occur in the Central Drakensberg area. These are often assocated with archaeological deposits in sandstone cave settings. Most of these, however, are situated to the west and north of the projects area often in association with rock art (see below).

2.1.4. Rock Paintings

The Maloti Drakensberg region is particularly well known for the occurrence of some of the finest and most complex prehistoric rock paintings in the world. Depictions of humans dominate, although finely executed animals such as eland and rhebuck are common. Some of the art is executed in various colours and in detailed precision that almost renders it a three dimensional aspect. Most researchers support the theory developed by Professor David Lewis-Williams and his colleagues that the figures represent trance induced visions during San religious rites (Lewis-Williams 2003). According to some researchers, the celebrated Rosetta Panel at Game Pass shelter (RSA) holds the key to our understanding of all San rock art in the sub-Sahara region of Africa. However, this interpretation is not supported by all rock art researchers. Notable deviations from this approach have been developed by Anne Solomon, and

more recently by Thomas Dowson. The Maloti Drakensberg is also one of the areas with the highest density of prehistoric rock art in the world and certainly contains the highest concentration of prehistoric art south of the Sahara in Africa. Although the scientific dating of these paintings is still under researched, recent research suggests that the oldest paintings may date to approximately 4000 years ago (Wright & Mazel 2007). This is much older than previously thought. The chronological uniqueness of the art, however, is not so much in its antiquity as in the fact that the Maloti Drakensberg was the last area in Africa south of the Zambezi River where the San rock art tradition was still actively practised. Paintings at two sites in the southern portion of the region were created as recently as 1920 (Prins 2009). Almost 300 rock art sites have been recorded in the Central Drakensberg. The vast majority of these occur to the west of the project area. None of the known rock art sites occusr closer than 2km to the footprint.

2.1.5. Iron Age Sites

Around 2 000 years ago the southern African demographic landscape was transformed with the arrival of the first Bantu-speaking agriculturists in the sub-region. These subsistence farmers lived for the most part in the lower altitude, wooded areas of the eastern seaboard. Around 1250 AD certain agriculturists started occupying the higher altitude, grassland areas. Sites belonging to this period in KwaZulu-Natal are referred to as Moor Park settlements and they typically occupy hill tops with a low stone walling effect. Although none occur within the designated Maloti-Drakensberg project area, they can be found at the fringes, at an altitude of approximately 1 200-1 400 m. By 1600 AD, groups such as the amaZizi reached the foothills of the northern Drakensberg near Winterton and the project area (Wright and Mazel 2007). Various splinter groups of the amaZizi left KwaZulu Natal and also settled in parts of Lesotho where, over time, they adopted a Sotho identity. The baPhuti of south eastern Lesotho are perhaps the best known of these early immigrants. By the early 1700s various other Sotho and Nguni-speaking groups moved into the area and established chieftaincies in those areas below the 1 800 m contour. Impressive Iron Age sites belonging to this period and built in typical Sotho-style occur near Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba in the Eastern Free State. Nguni-style sites of this period have also been found in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape parts of the Drakensberg. The expansion of the Zulu kingdom around 1818 had a major impact on Iron Age settlement in the region. Various chieftaincies were attacked, and their routed remnants typically traversed the Maloti Drakensberg region in search of better

settlement elsewhere. Bandits often hid out in the mountains, and a number allegedly practised cannibalism. Perhaps the most significant development during this period was the founding of the Southern Sotho nation under King Moshoeshoe I. Various sites in Lesotho belong to this period – some of them, like Thaba Bosiu, are typically mountain strongholds. Almost 2 000 Iron-Age sites have been identified in the Maloti Drakensberg region, and most occur in altitudes lower than 1 800 m contour. One potential Iron Age Site occurs approximately 300m to the east of the existing dam reported on in this study.

2.1.6. The Historical period

The historical period spans the era of colonialism that started around 1830 AD when the first missionaries and Dutch immigrants arrived from the Cape Colony in the Maloti Drakensberg region. Sites associated with Voortrekker settlement of the area occur in the eastern Free State and the northern portion of KwaZulu-Natal near Winterton and Bergville. For the most part, these were the places where laagers were formed (with very low archaeological visibility) and old farmsteads with associated grave yards. A particular site worth mentioning is Kerkenberg near Oliviershoek Pass, where Debora Retief painted the initials of her father on a rock before the trekkers descended into KwaZulu Natal. In Lesotho, the rebellion by Chief Moorosi and the resultant action by the Cape Colony government at the southern tip of the country left footprints of forts and associated graves at Moyeni Camp, Fort Hartley, Cutting Camp, and Mount Moorosi. The most important structure relating to the history of Bushman raids is most probably Forth Nottingham, in KwaZulu-Natal, which was built around 1852. Various historical mission stations founded in the mid to late 1800s such as those at Morija and St James in Lesotho and Emmaus, Reichenau, and Mariazell in South Africa, are still in active use. The Reichenau Mission was founded by Trappist missionaries around 1878. The Ongeluksnek Pass in the southern Drakensberg is intimately associated with the epic trek of the Griqua people in 1861, led by Adam Kok.

The small town of Winterton was founded in 1905 as Springfield when the Natal Government built a weir across the Little Tugela River. The town later changed its name to Winterton in honour the secretary for agriculture. It is close to the Second Boer War battle sites of Battle of Vaal Krantz and Spioenkop. These sites are situated more than 6km to the east of thew project area. Only one historical site, an old church building, has been listed on existing data bases as occurring at Winterton. However, various old farmsteads occur in the area. Laager sites associated with the early occupation of the

area by Voortrekker pioneers occur to the north and south of Winterton but none are situated closer than 5km to the project area . Historical sites can be categorised as belonging to the “built environment” as defined in heritage legislation. These are the physical remnants and traces of historical settlements that underpin the cultural value and meaning of the surrounding communities. None has been listed for the project area.

2.1.7. Graves

There are various grave sites belonging to different periods and cultural associations in the Drakensberg region. Perhaps the most famous sites are those belonging to the southern Sotho royalty at Botha Bothe in Lesotho; the grave of Nkosi Langalibalele at Giants Castle; KwaZulu Natal graves associated with the royalty of the amaZizi and amaNgwane near Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal; the grave of Adam Kok , Eastern Cape; and various graves in the Free State belonging to the Voortrekker and Anglo-Boer War periods. Interestingly, graves belonging to the prehistoric San inhabitants of the area are markedly absent or, as yet, have not been identified by researchers.

2.1.8. The Living Heritage

The living heritage of the Drakensberg area is varied and as yet little understood. Yet preliminary investigations by the Maloti Drakensberg Project (Anderson 2007) indicate that certain areas, including sites in communal areas, are still frequented by local communities who afford them ritual or sacred significance. Such locales may include archaeological sites with a living heritage component or natural features such as mountains, forests, boulders, caves, pools, or waterfalls with cultural significance. Living heritage is not only site-specific but also relates to oral history, indigenous knowledge systems, and indigenous languages, practices, and beliefs. Oral history specifically is a rich resource that has been passed down the generations and provides diverse narratives and interpretations concerning places of historical significance. It also provides a window on community perspectives regarding heritage resources, including indigenous names for sites and plant and animal species – all of which are imbued with cultural meaning.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) constitute an integral component of local knowledge, at grass roots level, often associated with traditional methods of land management and use. In this regard, IKS can enhance conservation and sustainable

management of cultural heritage to which communities may relate. Conservation should provide an enabling environment for communities to continue with the tradition of transmitting knowledge and skills and of safeguarding their cultural heritage. Traditional ceremonies still performed in the larger Drakensberg region include the *Bale* initiation schools among certain southern Sotho groups, the *amemulo* (coming of age) ceremonies among the amaNgwane, the *Nkubelwana* (planting of the first seed) among Zulu-speakers, rainmaking, and various ceremonies associated with the veneration of the ancestors. Six indigenous languages are still spoken in the area, including siBhaca, which was believed to be almost extinct.

Two broad categories of site-specific living heritage sites have been identified:

- Sites of national significance of which nine have been identified in the SA portion of the MDTFCA. These include rock art sites, sandstone shelters without any archaeological remains but used extensively as pilgrimage sites, two sacred forests, and three sacred mountains. All of these sites are frequented by indigenous groups as part of an annual pilgrimage.
- Sites of local significance include various pools, waterfalls, hot springs, kaolin and red ochre deposits, and boulders afforded special significance by traditional healers and sectarian Christian groupings. Seventeen such sites have been identified in the greater Drakensberg but none in the near vicinity of the project area.

<u>Living Heritage – Wilderness</u>

Areas least influenced by human activities are often said to be representative of a "pristine" landscape. Such areas are recognised by the IUCN. In the context of the Drakensberg, only the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site has any proclaimed wilderness areas, making up about 48% of the Park. In this regard, a specific wilderness management plan has been produced for the World Heritage site, with the express aim of retaining the integrity of these wilderness areas. In terms of the South African National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (no 57 of 2003), a wilderness area is defined as *"an area designated ……for* the *purpose of retaining an intrinsically wild appearance and character, or capable of being restored to such and which is undeveloped and roadless, without permanent improvements or human habitation*".

In addition, wilderness can be considered as a value of a given area and in this regard can be defined as a *"…largely undeveloped and intrinsically wild character of the area in vast wilderness areas that provide outstanding opportunities to experience solitude*

and for spiritual renewal" (EKZNW 2006). There are a number of stakeholders promoting the concept of wilderness, including the Wilderness Action Group and the Wilderness Foundation. From a cultural heritage perspective, the concept is more akin to a western inspired ideal than an academic reality. In this sense the concept of wilderness, as an area where visitors may experience and enjoy pristine nature removed from anthropogenic influence and pollution, is therefore a western expression of living heritage. The wilderness notion, however, finds expression also in the indigenous concepts of cultural landscapes which are usually natural areas with profound cultural significance.

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 for previous heritage surveys and heritage site data covering the project area. Various CRM surveys have been conducted in the greater Winterton area. However, none of them covered the project area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Winterton area was also consulted. Aerial photographs covering the area were scrutinised for potential Iron Age and historical period structures and grave sites. A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on 20 March 2019 and again on 4 April 2021. Particular attention was focused on the occurrence of potential grave sites and other heritage resources on the footprint.

3.1.1 Guidance from Desktop Study

- The desktop study indicates that Stone Age Sites of all periods and traditons may occur along the foothills of the Drakensberg including the greater project area..
- Middle Stone Age tools have been found in dongas and erosion gullies at various locales in the foothills of the Drakensberg. These sites are usually out of context and of little research value. Middle Stone Age deposts often occur in deep cave deposits throughout KwaZulu-Natal (including the southern

Drakensberg region). Again no erosion gullies or suitable rocky outcrops that may harbour shelters with deep cave deposits occur in the project area.

- Later Stone Age sites are more prolific in the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and also in the foothiils of the Drakensberg to the west including the greater Winterton area. However, there are no suitable rocky outcrops in the project area that may harbour shelters with Later Stone Age deposits. Although rock art occur in the foothills of the Central Drakensberg there are no shelters or suitable rocky surfaces on the actual footprint that may harbour such.
- Early Iron Age Sites typically occur along major river valleys below the 700 m contour in KwaZulu-Natal. It is very unusual to find sites above the 1000m contour. The project area is situated above the 700m . It is therefore most unlikely to expect Early Iron Age sites on the footprint.
- Later Iron Age sites do occur at various localities to the immediate north south and east of the project area. Some of these have been investigated by archaeologists attached to the KwaZulu-Natal Museum (Huffman 2007; Maggs 1994). These sites were occupied by the ancestors of the first Nguni-speaking agriculturists as well as their descendants who settled in these areas (Bryant 1965). They are most probably associated with the amaZizi and amaNgwane tribal units, or their immediate ancestors. The remains of their stone walled settlements are visible on aerial photographs of the area. One is situated within 1.4km to the immediate north of the project area (Fig 1).
- Historical buildings, structures and farmsteads do occur scattered throughout the Central Drakensberg area Historical era buildings and structures could occur at or near the project area.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good. However, the grassland vegetation is dense at places and these areas may obscure potential heritage sites (Figs 13 -16).

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

Closest Towns: Winterton

Municipality: uThukela District Municipality

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

4.2.1 Backgound

The desktop study could not find any heritage sites or features on the project area. A ground survey of the proposed Sable Hill Dam did not locate any heritage or archaeological sites.

However, the cultivation area to the immediate north of the existing Glen Gary Dam (to the south west of the proposed Sable Hill Dam) had two stone walled Later Iron Age sites (Fig 5). The context of these sites are presented in Table 3 and mitigation will be necessary.

An additional six stone walled Later Iron Age sites occur directly to the east of this cultivation area leading towards Glen Grey Dam (Fig 6). The GPS coordinates of these sites are presented in Table 4.These sites are not threatened by the proposed development and there is no need for any mitigation.

A graveyard is associated with the existing farm dwelling. However, these graves are not situated on any of the proposed development areas. They are not threatened and there is no need for mitigation.

The footprint is not part of any known cultural landscape. The consultant could not find evidence for any ‘living heritage site’ on the project area.

Table 3. Later Iron Age Sites on 30 ha Cultivation Pivot: Description and Context.

Site no	Site description	GPS Coordinates	Rating	Mitigation per individual site
Proposed Later Iron Age Site	The remains of a stone walled circle. Approximately 5m in diameter. This stone circle appears to have been almost completely robbed of any stones. (Figs 5 & 16)	S 28° 49' 11.97" E 29° 27' 27.21"	Medium to high	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around the site. Alternatively motivate for a second phase heritage impact assessment. This will also include a rescue excavation before destruction.
LIA Site 2	Two stone circles with a diameter of approximately 10m. Arranged in bilobal pattern. (Figs 5 & 15). The site is relatively pristine.	S 28° 49' 12.71" E 29° 27' 47.26"	High	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around the site. Alternatively motivate for a second phase heritage impact assessment. This will also include a rescue excavation before destruction.

Table 4. GPS coordinates of heritage sites on project area. These sites are not situated on any of the proposed development zones and there is no need for mitigation.

Site name and number	GPS Coordinates
Later Iron Age Site 1	S 28 49' 7.54" E 29' 27' 47.76"
Later Iron Age Site 3	S 28 49' 11.48" E 29 27' 53.81"
Later Iron Age Site 4	S 28 49' 16.48" E 29 27' 49.25"
Later Iron Age Site 5	S 28 49' 16.37" E 29 27' 50.88"
Later Iron Age Site 6	S 28 49' 17.37" E 29 27' 52.46"
Later Iron Age Site 7	S 28 49' 16.32" E 29 27' 55.32"

Graveyard	S 28 49’ 44.62” E 29 28’ 05.99”

4.2.2 Stakeholder Consultation

The consultant was assisted by farm labourers during the survey. None of them had knowledge of any heritage sites and graves on the footprint. However, they were aware of the graves near the farm dwelling.

4.2.3 Desktop Paleontology Assessment

The updated fossil sensitivity map, as provided by the SAHRIS website, shows that the footprint falls within a high sensitivity zone (Fig 8). According to Amafa policy the implication is that a paleontological field survey and a protocol of finds will be required before the proposed development may proceed. This study will have to be conducted by an Amafa accredited palaeontologist

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

5.1 Field Rating

The two Later Iron Age sites on the proposed cultivation area, as well as the associated sites to its immediate east have been rated as Local Grade 111A (Table 5 & 6). They have a high significance locally and should be retained as heritage sites. These sites were most probably inhabited by amaZizi people who inhabited this area around 1700 – 1830 (Maggs 1989: Huffman 2007). They were built in stone and have a typical bilobal pattening. However, during the period of tribal turmoil associated with the expanding Zulu kingdom these settlements were attacked by other tribal groupings sucn as the amaNgwane and amaHlubi. The independent amaZizi chiefdoms of the area broke up and many amaZizi fled southwards towards the Eastern Cape. Some amaZizi remained in the area but they became bandits and even cannibals. They retreated into the Drakensberg where they lived this precarious existence until the arrival of Dutch settlers in the area around 1838.

Table 5. 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

Table 6. Evaluation and statement of significance of stone walled Later Iron Age sites on the project area.

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.	Yes
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.	Yes
4.	**Scientific significance** – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	Yes
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.	Yes
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.	Yes
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development may proceed from a general heritage perspective. However, the following protocols must be followed:

- The proposed Later Iron Age Site and Iron Age Site 2 occurs within a proposed cultivation area of 30ha (Fig 5). These sites are threatened by the development. A buffer zone of 20m must be retained around each site. No stone robbing of any stone circle may be allowed.

- Later Iron Age Sites 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 (Fig 6) are situated outside of the proposed cultivation zone. They are not threatened by the proposed development. However, they may not be damaged or destroyed under any circumstances. No stone robbing is allowed.

- The graveyard adjacent to the farm dwelling is not threatened by the proposed development. There is no need for any mitigation.

- The phase one desktop paleontological assessment indicates that a field survey and protocol of finds is required by a qualified palaeontologist before any development may proceed.

- It is important to take note of the Provincial Heritage Act that requires that any exposing of fossils, graves older than 60 years, and archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

7 MAPS AND FIGURES

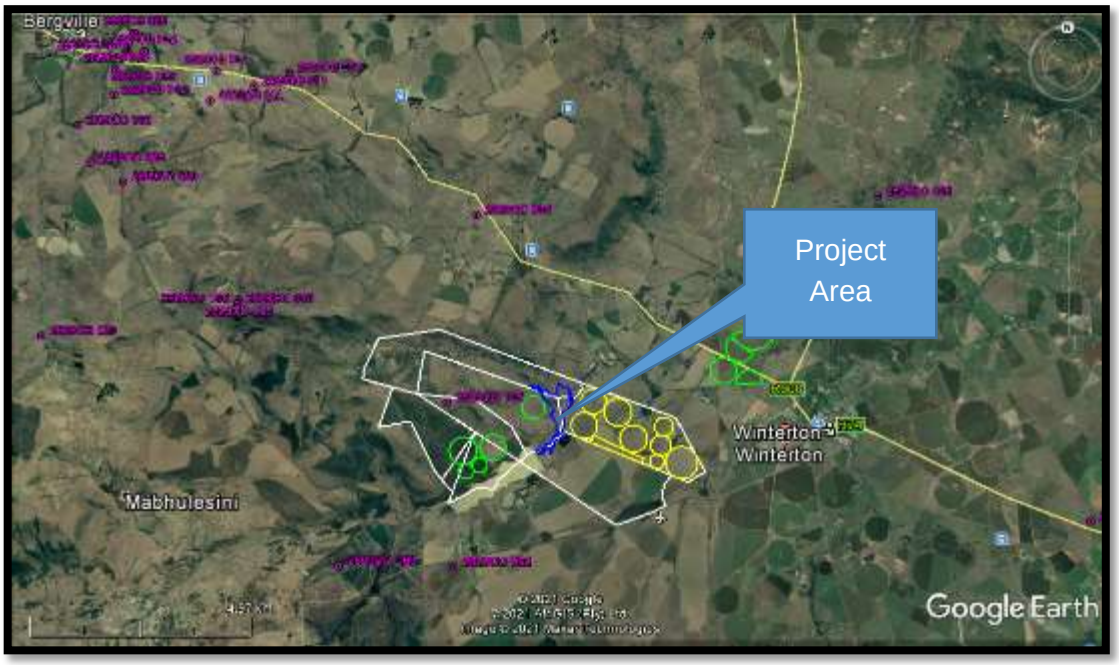


Figure 1. Googe Earth Imagery showing the location of the project area. The purple markers indicates the location of known archaeologica sites in the greater Winterton area.

Figure 2. Map showing the proposed dam and cultivation sites, and surrounding area, Winterton, KwaZulu-Natal (Source: Green Door).

Figure 3. Map showing the proposed dam site, Winterton, KwaZulu-Natal (Source: Green Door).

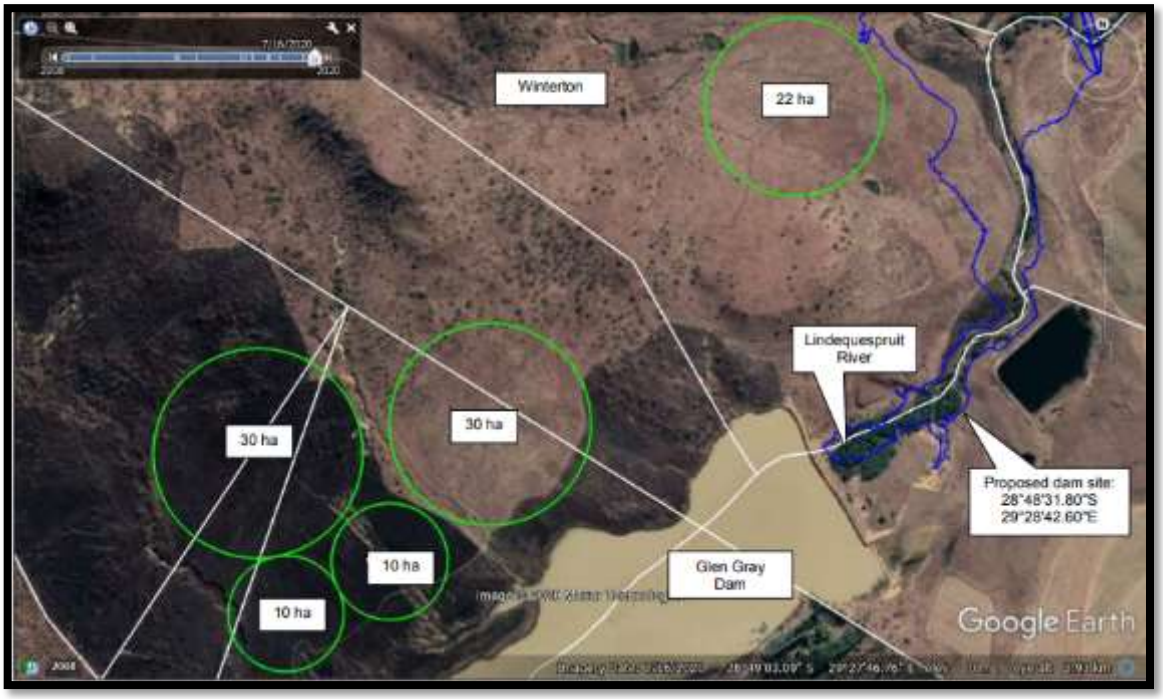


Figure 4. Map showing the proposed cultivation sites to the west of the proposed d am (Source: Green Door).

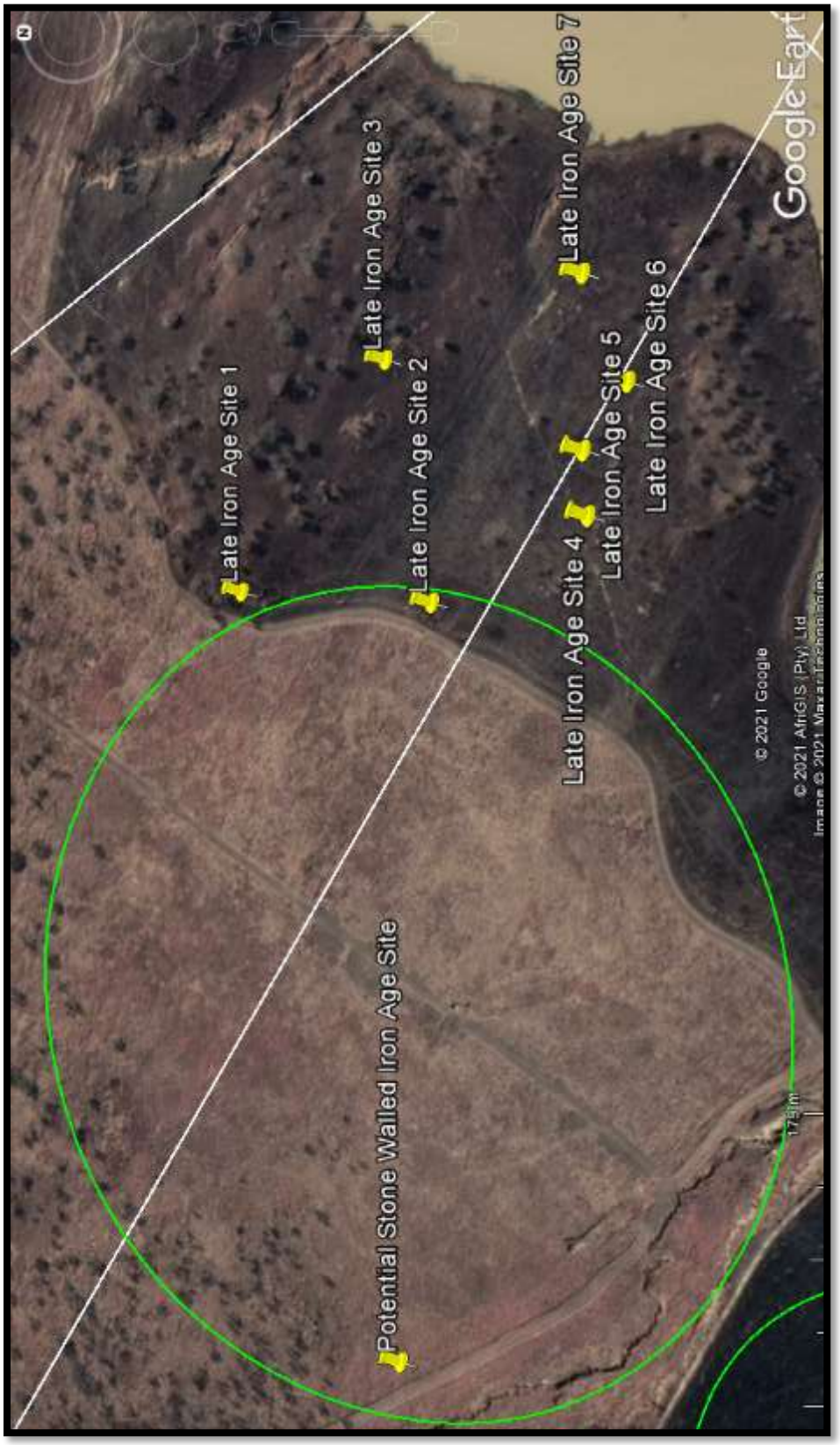


Figure 5. Map showing the location of stone walled later Iron Age sites on the proposed 30 hectare cultivation area adjacent to Glen Gray Dam.

Figure 6. Iron Age Sites adjacent to the 30ha cultivation area.

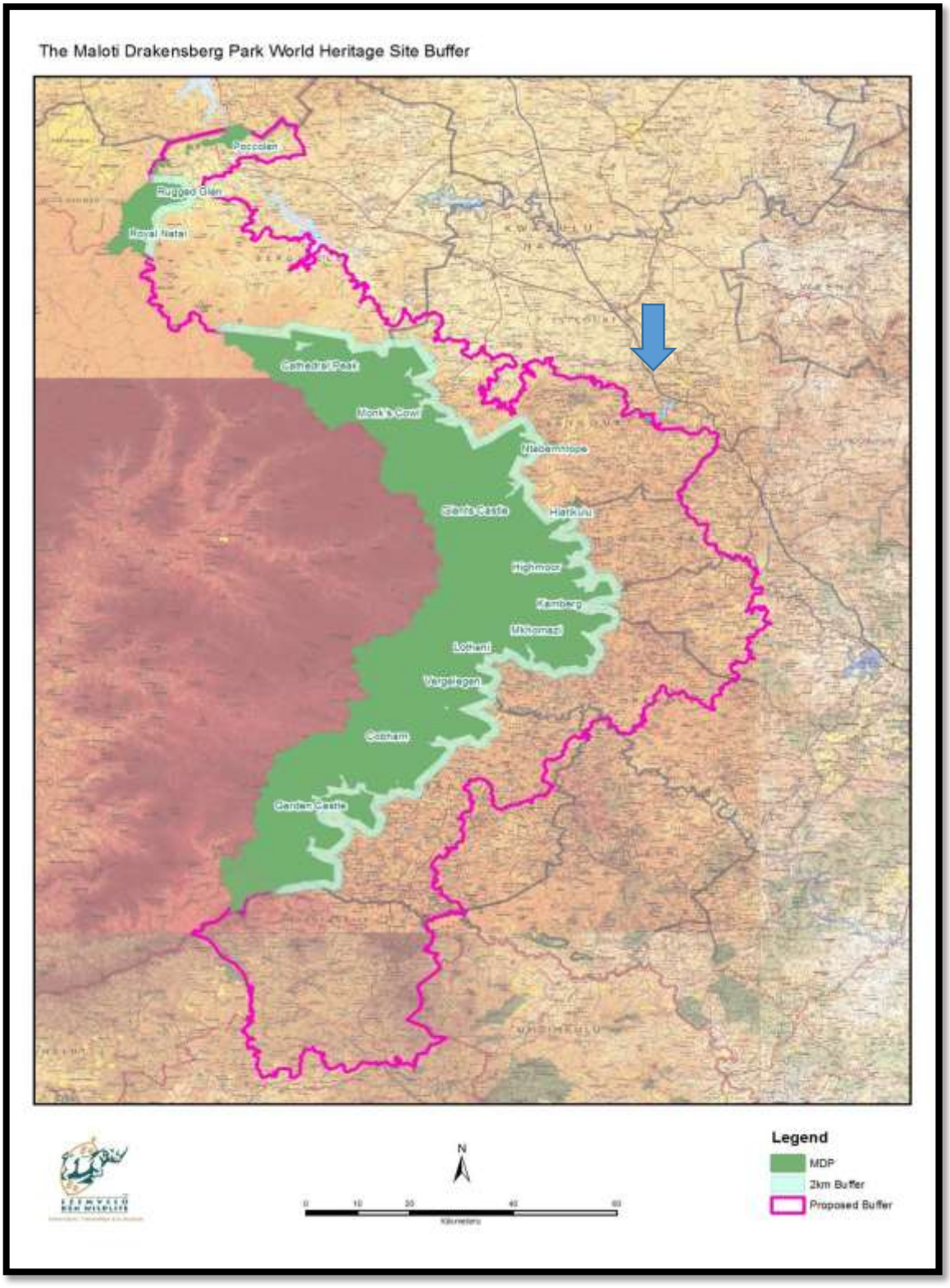
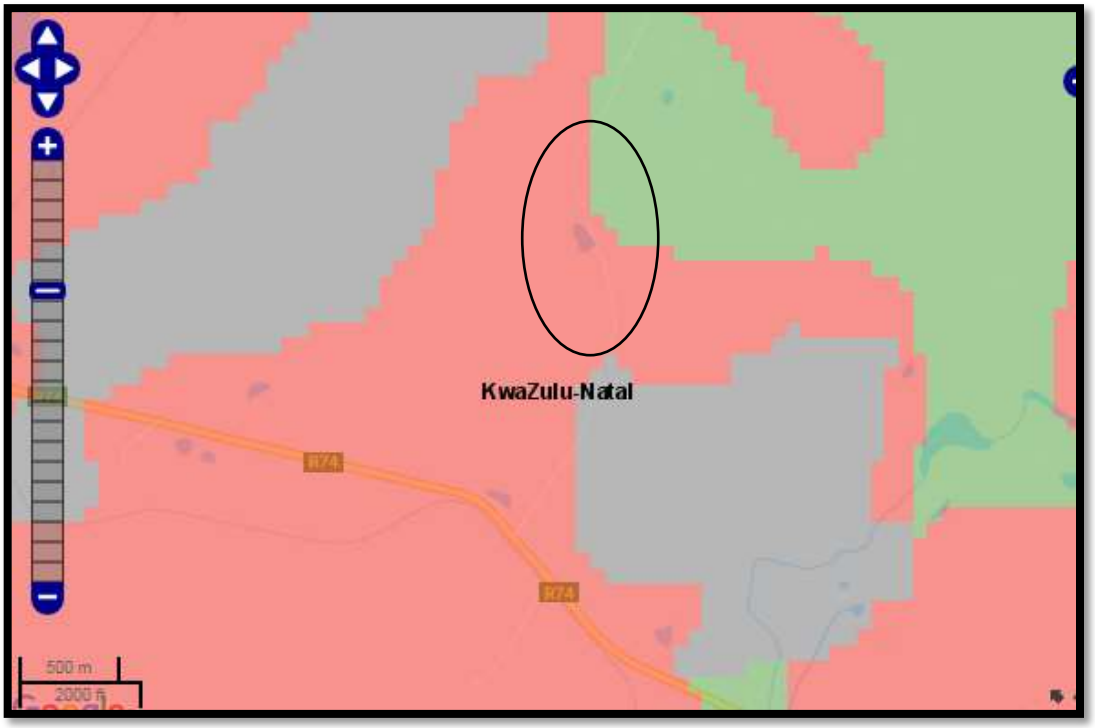


Figure 7. Map showing the proposed buffer zone of the Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Site. The blue arrow indicates the location of the project area.



1 in 250 000 geological formation layers are courtesy of the Council for GeoScience
For more information, go to How to Use the Palaeontological (fossil) Sensitivity Map

Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Figure 8. SAHRIS Fossil Sensitivity Map of the project area (indicated by the black polygon). The red background colour indicates that the project area has a very high fossil sensitivity. A field assessment by a qualified palaeontologist and a protocol of finds is required.

Figure 9. Entrance to the farm where the proposed development is situated.

Figure 10. View over the project area – Glen Gray Dam in the distance.

Figure 11. View over Glen Gray Dam.

Figure 12. Location of the proposed Sable Hill Dam to the north east of Glen Gray Dam.

Figure 13. Stone walled Iron Age site to the east of the proposed 30ha cultivation area. These sites are not threatened by the proposed development and there is no need for any mitigation.

Figure 14. Some of the stone walling are masked by dense vegetation in areas.

Figure 15. Later Iron Age site situated on the eastern boundary of the proposed 30ha cultivation area. A buffer zone of at least 20m must be maintained around this site.

Figure 16. Potential Later Iron Age site situated on the extreme west of the proposed 30ha cultivation area. Aerial photographs of the area indicates that extensive stone robbing took place on this site in the recent past. A buffer zone of at least 20m must be maintained around this site.

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