

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
OF THE PROPOSED UMZIMKHULU COMMUNITY  
HEALTH CENTRE LOCATED ON PORTION 420  
ON THE FARM CLYDESDALE, UMZIMKHULU  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SISONKE DISTRICT  
MUNICIPALITY.**



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14 April 2013



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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 cultural heritage survey of the proposed Umzimkhulu Community Health Centre (CHC), Umzimkhulu Local Municipality identified no heritage sites. There is no known archaeological reason why 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 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 Afzelia Environmental Consultants
Type of development:	<p>The proposed CHC would comprise approximately 9 500m<sup>2</sup> of single storey buildings, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception Waiting Area / Admissions / Registry and Administration</li> <li>• Pharmacy / Radiology / Laboratory and CSSD</li> <li>• Dentist / Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Crisis Centre / Emergency – Casualty / Short Stay Wards</li> <li>• Maternity / Women and Child Care</li> <li>• Common &amp; Chronic Diseases / Counselling Services / TB &amp; Infectious Diseases</li> <li>• HAST Unit / Skills &amp; Nutrition Training Centre</li> <li>• Domestic Services incl. Kitchen / Laundry / Bulk Stores &amp; Staff Change Rooms</li> <li>• Electrical Services with Medical and Solid Waste Storage</li> <li>• Maintenance &amp; Mortuary</li> <li>• Security &amp; Transport / Garaging for Mobile Units</li> <li>• Mobile Services</li> <li>• Mothers Lodges / Single Quarters and Family Residences</li> <li>• EMRS Base with Heliport and Emergency Refuelling Station.</li> <li>• 20 Kilo-Litre 3 Day Water Supply / Standby Generator / Flammable Stores</li> <li>• Sewer screening facility</li> <li>• Parking on-site for Visitors (maximise) &amp; Staff</li> <li>• Security Gate-House / Public Toilets / Tuck Shop</li> <li>• Taxi Lay-by with Covered Waiting Area outside entrance to CHC site</li> </ul>
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 site is located on Portion 420 of the Farm Clydesdale, situated approximately 1.5 km south of the CBD of the town of Umzimkhulu, along the R56 (Fig 1). The proposed site is 5.44 hectares in extent and is bordered to the north and east by low cost housing and R56 road on the west. The site is within approximately 2km of the CBD of Umzimkhulu, and is part of the urban area of Umzimkhulu, which includes commercial development, residential development, hospitality, filling stations, sports fields, a cemetery (south-eastern portion), and tourism centre. According to the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs database, the site falls under rural area but is surrounded by urban settlement. The site consists of open disturbed grassland traversed by several dirt roads that link the R56 to the residential areas adjacent to the site. The site is used informally for livestock grazing and for recreational purposes. The entire site is proposed for development (Fig 2). The GPS coordinates for the site is given as: 30° 17' 13" S, 29° 56' 00.0" E.

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Umzimkhulu area has never been intensively surveyed for heritage sites. However, some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades whilst archaeologists from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum have made sporadic visits to the area. The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Ixopo area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include five Early Stone Age sites, two Middle Stone Age sites, four Later Stone Age sites, two rock painting sites, four Early Iron Age sites, three Later Iron Age sites, and one historical site. Various buildings and farmsteads belonging to the Victorian and Edwardian periods occur in the area. These would also be protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

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Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur within the study 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 date 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 and one rock painting site 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.

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 (Mitchell 2002). By 1500 years ago these early Bantu-speaking farmers also arrived in the greater Ixopo area. Due to the fact that these first farmers 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), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). Most of the Early Iron Age sites in the greater Ixopo 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, such as the Mzimkhulu River, below the 1000m contour. The Early Iron Age farmers originally came from western Africa and brought with them an elaborate initiation complex and a value system centred on 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 Umzimkhulu area was occupied by the eNtlawini, Bhaca, and Zulu refugees in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Bryant 1965). Their descendants still live in the area. 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.

### **3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the greater Ixopo area was also consulted.

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

#### **3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey**

##### **3.2.1 Visibility**

Visibility was good.

##### **3.2.2 Disturbance.**

The proposed development site has been disturbed in the past. However, 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

Town: Umzimkhulu

Municipality: Umzimkhulu Local Municipality, Sisonke District Municipality

## 4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The proposed development site was surveyed on foot. The site is presently being used as an informal sports field, as a dumping ground, and for grazing purposes. Various dirt tracks run over the site and there is evidence for severe disturbance and transformation of the south western section of the site. However, there is no evidence for any heritage site, feature, or artefact associated with the footprint. The town cemetery is located almost 2km to the south east of the site (Fig 3) and there are no grave sites associated with the proposed development area.

## 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 (Table1) does not apply to the footprint as no heritage sites or features have been identified.

**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



## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The development of the proposed Umzimkhulu Community Health Centre may proceed in terms of heritage values as no heritage and archaeological 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

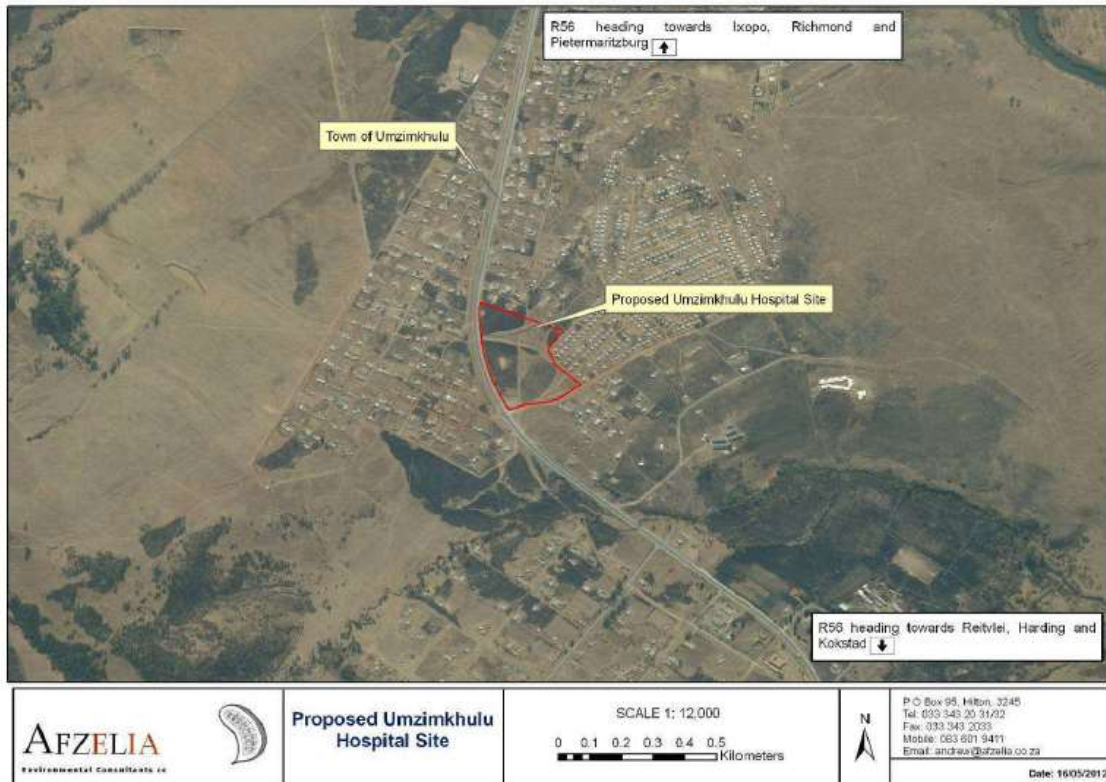


Figure 1. Aerial photograph showing the location of the proposed Umzimkhulu Community Health Centre (Hospital) at the town of Umzimkhulu.

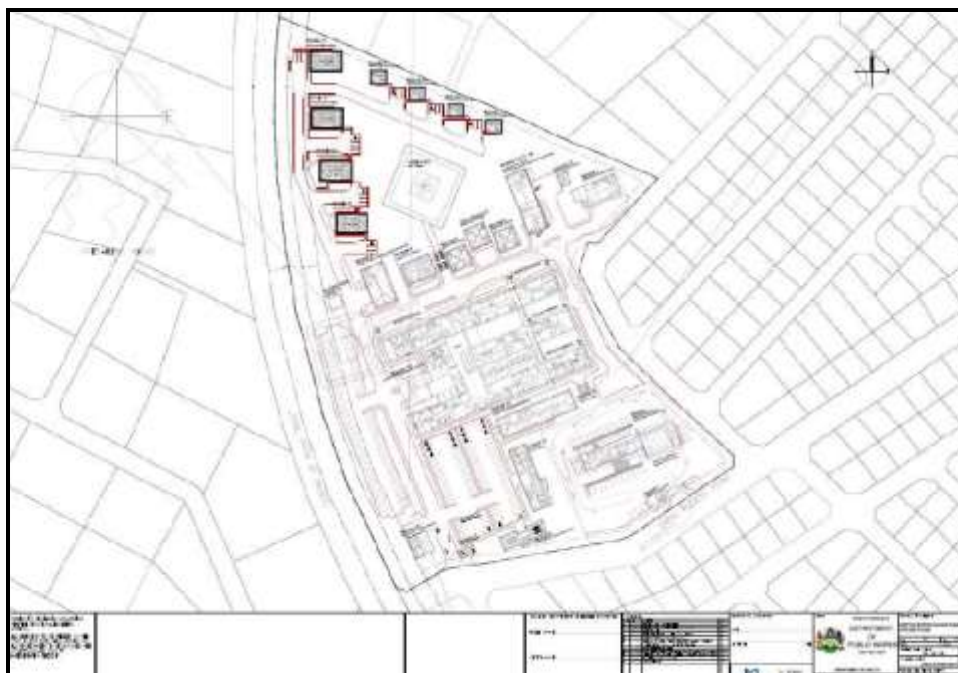
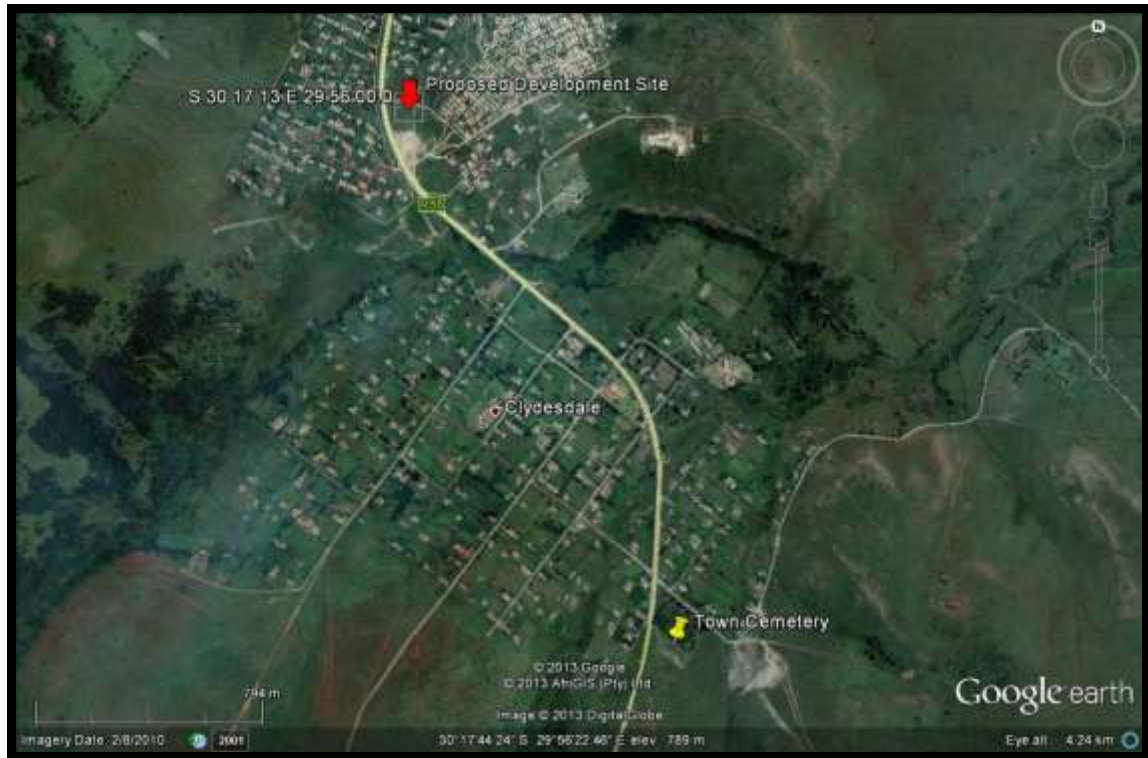


Figure 2. Proposed Umzimkhulu Hospital site-plan.



**Figure 3. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the town cemetery relative to the proposed development site.**

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