

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A
1000 HEAD DAIRY ON SUB 28 OF THE FARM
WELGEVONDEN NO. 969, KARKLOOF,
KWAZULU-NATAL**



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

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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 establishment of a 1000 head Dairy on Sub 28 of the Farm Welgevonden No. 969, Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal, identified no heritage sites. There is no known archaeological reason why development may not proceed on the property 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:	Active Heritage cc for Green Door Environmental
Type of development:	<p>The proposed establishment of a 1000 Head Dairy on Sub 28 of the Farm Welgevonden No. 969 is located in the Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal. The entire property is approximately 36 223 ha, and will feature an operational dairy consisting of 1000 head of cattle. The proposed development will comprise of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new dairy to milk a total of 1000 cows; • A transformer will be installed for electricity supply; • Effluent will be piped to an existing effluent lagoon via a new pipeline; and • A Concrete Effluent Storage Tank will be installed and will have capacity to store two days worth of effluent.
Rezoning or subdivision:	rezoning
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 property, also known as Sub 28 of the Farm Welgevonden No. 969, Karkloof is situated in the KZN Midlands in the Umngeni Municipality and the Lions River Magisterial District (Fig 1). The site is accessed off the D 709 some 15 km from the town of Howick in the Karkloof valley. The co-ordinates for the footprint are 29° 20'36.20" S and 30° 15'51.04" E. The development site is situated on an existing farm that is bordered by agricultural lands. The footprint has been cultivated in the past and appears to have been a maize field (Fig 2). The property size of the farm is approximately 36.223 Ha. Wetlands, agricultural lands, exotic tree plantations, a man made dam and a farm stead are central features of the farm.

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Howick area, including the Karkloof, has never been intensively surveyed for archaeological 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 Howick area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include one Early Stone Age site, four Middle Stone Age sites, twenty Later Stone Age sites, twenty nine Later Iron Age sites, and numerous historical sites dating back to the colonial period. The nearby Umngeni River Valley is particularly rich in Later Iron Age sites. Some of the farms in the area contain graves and structures relating to early Voortrekker settlement, however, the majority of older buildings on farmsteads were erected by British colonists after 1850 (Bizley & McKenzie 2007, Derwent 2006). These are also protected by heritage legislation.

Most of the Stone Age sites in the immediate vicinity of Howick occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. Some Middle Stone Age flakes, probably dating back to ca. 40 000 – 200 000 years ago, occur in disturbed context in dongas and road cuttings. The majority of Later Stone Age sites as well as rock art sites occur further west in the adjacent area of Nottingham Road. These typically occur in small shelters in the sandstone formations of leading up to the Drakensberg.

Interestingly, no rock art sites are known from the Karkloof area although it is known that San livestock raiders frequented the area in the 1840's (Wright 1976).

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 Umngeni Valley adjacent to Merrivale. Although the majority of sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located in the Dargle and Karkloof Valley areas also 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 Wushe and related groups (Bryant 1965). The Wushe was known to be excellent metal workers and it is not surprising that some archaeological evidence for early metal working has been found in the Umngeni Valley, Karkloof, Nottingham road, and Dargle areas. However, by 1820 the Wushe was 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.

Although not demarcated as such by the provincial heritage agency Amafa the Karkloof area specifically could be classified as a "cultural landscape". Early Stone Age tools have been recorded in the Karkloof forest to the immediate north of the project area. Rare elephant hunting pits, that probably predate the Voortrekker era, occurs at the Karkloof in the immediate vicinity of the Karkloof Nature Reserve. A prominent landmark in the area is the Loskop or Phumakazi Hill. This isolated yet imposing hill is a living heritage site associated with rainmaking and a historic battle between the amaThembu and abakwaWhuse tribal entities during the 1820's. A Stone Age site occurs at the foot of this hill. Phumakazi Hill occurs on the adjacent property to the immediate south of the project area (Fig 3). The "great place" of the abakwaWushe, was also situated in this area close to the present farm of Sherwood. Historic farmsteads, some of which date back to early Voortrekker settlement, are known to occur in the Karkloof. Some of the farm and place names of the area still date back to the Voortrekker era including the name Welgevonden of the project area.

However, it is the early Victorian-era farmsteads and churches that give this area a particular British colonial ambiance. The De Magtenburg farm/plantation enfolds the area where at least two successful flights took place between 1871 and 1875 (long before the better known historical flight of the Wright Brothers) – a small monument has been erected and is visible next to the road to commemorate this significant event. There are various sources of literature concerning the rich heritage of this area that can be consulted notably the publications by Bizley and McKenzie (2007) and Scott Shaw (1990).

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 Karkloof area was also consulted. The SAHRIS website was also consulted in order to assess previous heritage surveys in the area. 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 footprint is disturbed due to agricultural activities on the property. However, no disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

3.3 Details of equipment used in the survey

GPS: Garmin Etrek

Digital camera: 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: Howick

Municipality: uMngeni

Magisterial district: Lions River

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The footprint consists of old agricultural land (Fig 2). Although heritage sites, including more recent graves, occur on the adjacent properties none have been observed on the actual footprint.

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 proposed development at the footprint 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 photograph showing the location of the project area (Source: Green Door Environmental)



Figure 3. The proposed footprint - facing south.



Figure 4. The Loskop or Phumakazi Hill as viewed from the footprint. This hill is a heritage site but it is not situated on the property that was surveyed and it will not be affected by the proposed development.

9 REFERENCES

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