

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON REM OF ERF  
1, AND PORTIONS 5 AND 6 OF ERF 221,  
WINTERSKLOOF, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



**ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.**

**For: Green Door Environmental**

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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 residential development on rem of Erf 1, and Portions 5 and 6 of Erf 221, Winterskloof, KwaZulu-Natal, identified no heritage sites or features. There is no known archaeological reason why the proposed 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)
Type of development:	The Applicant, Hil-How Investments (Pty) Ltd, proposes to establish a residential development on Rem of Erf 1, and Portions 5 and 6 of Erf 221, Winterskloof, KwaZulu-Natal. The total extent of the properties is 47 ha. However the developable area is estimated to be approximately 26 ha in extent.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Subdivision
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 preferred site is situated at Winterskloof – a suburb situated in the western side of Pietermaritzburg (Fig 1). The total extent of the property is 47 hectares. However the developable area is estimated to be approximately 26 Ha in extent. The site consists of disturbed grasslands, woodlots, and exotic vegetation (Fig 2). The site can be accessed from Hilton via Dennis Shepstone Drive. The GPS coordinates for the site is given as: 29° 34' 41.23" S 30° 16' 35.47" E.

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Pietermaritzburg area is relatively well covered by archaeological surveys conducted by members of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Pietermaritzburg area contains mostly Early, Middle, and Later Stone Age material. Most of these sites are situated close to water, such as the Msunduze River, Slangspruit, Foxhill Spruit, and Mkhondeni, as well as in open air context or adjacent to exposed dongas or road cuttings. 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 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. Most of the Early and Middle Stone Age sites were identified by the late Dr Olivier Davies in the 1950's and 1960's. The majority of Later Stone Age sites were located by Dr Farden in the 1960s and 1970's although some has also been identified by Dr Aron Mazel in the 1980's.

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 settled adjacent to the Umngeni River in the greater Camperdown 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 Pietermaritzburg 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. 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.

Early as well as Later Iron Age sites have been located by Dr Tim Maggs in the 1970's and 1980's and more recent discoveries have been made Mr Gavin Whitelaw, Gavin Anderson, and Len van Schalkwyk. The Early Iron Age sites typically occur on the alluvial and colluvial soils in the large river valleys below 700m above sea level. Some have been located along the Msunduzi River as well as in the Ashburton area. Later Iron Age sites occur in similar contexts as well as on ridges or plato's in the existing grassland. Some impressive Later Iron Age sites occur in the Umngeni River Valley close to Howick as well as in the Ottos Bluff area near Albert Falls Dam.

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These sites occupied by 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). The larger Umngeni Valley area was inhabited by various Nguni-speaking groups such as the Dlanyawo, Nyavu and Njilo, in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Bryant 1965; Wright 1988). With the exception of the Nyavu who remained fiercely independent most of these communities were incorporated into the Zulu Kingdom of Shaka in the 1820's. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 almost all the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

Apart from the prehistoric archaeology Pietermaritzburg is also well known for its colonial heritage. These include buildings and places associated with the first Dutch settlers (Voortrekkers) after 1837 as well as the latter Victorian and Edwardian heritage of the area associated more closely with the British occupancy of Natal after 1845 (Derwent 2006). In fact, Pietermaritzburg has been described as the greatest Victorian city in the southern hemisphere although this statement has not been qualified.

The well-known suburb of Worldsvieiw is situated directly adjacent to Winterskloof near the study area. It was initially called Boesmansrand (i.e. Bushmans hill) by the Voortrekker settlers in the area most probably as Bushmen were encountered here by the first Dutch settlers (Maggs 1988). The original Voortrekker route, later to become the transport route into the interior, passes through Worlds View. The route was originally cut by the Voortrekker leader Piet Retief and his party in 1838. The wagon marks can still be seen etched in the soft sandstone along the path. The site at Worldsvieiw is a well known heritage feature that is protected by Provincial heritage legislation (Derwent 2006). No Later Iron Age settlements are known from Worldsvieiw. However, the area to the immediate west of Worlds View and Winterskloof, also known as Swartkop, was inhabited by the Nqondo (Wright 1988) in early colonial times. Other African refugees were settled here by the colonial authorities after 1845.

### **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 heritage literature covering the greater Pietermaritzburg was also consulted. The SAHRIS website was scrutinised for heritage sites located in the near vicinity of the study 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 compromised by dense vegetation and well established woodlot plantations in the study area.

##### **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

Town: Pietermaritzburg

Municipality: uMgungundlovu District Municipality

## 4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

Although historical sources indicate that the area was occupied by African groups in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century no Iron Age or historical period sites or features occur on the footprint. The consultant could not find any graves in the study area (Fig 3).

## 4.3 Field Rating

Not applicable as no heritage sites or features occur on the footprint.

**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



## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The proposed development may proceed in terms of heritage values. However, it should be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that all operations exposing archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

## 7 MAPS AND FIGURES



**Figure 1. Aerial view of the proposed development site and the surrounding areas (Source: Green Door)**



**Figure 3.** *The study area consists of grasslands and exotic woodlots in some areas.*



**Figure 3.** *Although the study area is bordered onto by the Sweetwater settlement in the southwest there are no graves on the footprint*

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