

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ETAFULENI
HOUSING PROJECT PHASE 1**

FOR EARTH CONSULTING CC

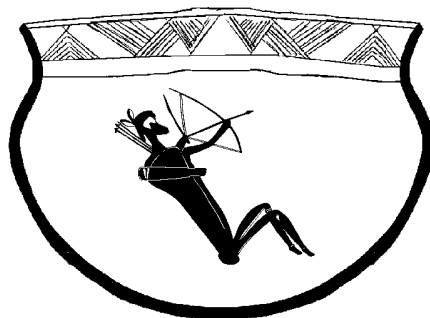
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INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted by to undertake a heritage survey of the proposed housing development at eTafuleni. The project site is located on the urban periphery of the eThekweni Municipality, west of Phoenix and immediately north of Inanda, accessed via the Main Road 93 (MR93); on portions of the Groeneberg Farm (fig.1). The development size is 210.128ha in an area that already has informal housing and is overgrazed.

No archaeological sites were observed during the survey; however, a historical building and grave have been noted.

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases from both Umlando and the Natal Museum. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal. This database does, however, tend to be restricted to archaeological and palaeontological sites. Consulting with the relevant authorities will also cover known battlefields and historical sites. We also consult with an historical architect and an historian where necessary.

The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) will consist of a foot survey where the selected route will be covered. The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts, especially pottery. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts and

these are sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features. We attempt to recover as many artefacts from these sites by means of systematic sampling, as opposed to sampling diagnostic artefacts only.

Defining significance

Archaeological sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

1.1. Organic remains:

1.1.1. Faunal

1.1.2. Botanical

1.2. Rock art

1.3. Walling

1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit

1.5. Features:

1.5.1. Ash Features

1.5.2. Graves

1.5.3. Middens

1.5.4. Cattle byres

1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

2.1. Internal housing arrangements

2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns

2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?

3.2. Is it a type site?

3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

4.1. Providing information on current research projects

4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Historical buildings

8.2. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

8.3. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.4. Living Heritage Sites

8.5. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

RESULTS

No archaeological sites were observed during the survey. This is unusual as Middle Stone Age material tends to occur on this type of landscape.

I was informed of an old Mission that is now in ruin in the area, as well as one grave. The current building¹ is run down, although it appears that the building has been transformed into living quarters. . The Mission probably dates to the 20th century (D. Whelan pers. comm.². and see Appendix A). While the Mission is within the boundary of the development, we have been informed that it will not be disturbed, and that it has been placed out of the development node. Regardless of the intent not to damage the Mission, it is protected by the KZN Heritage Act of 1997, and it would require a full assessment by a qualified person prior to any disturbance.

¹ 29°40'28.84"S 30°57'22.59"E

² I contacted Debbie Whelan (Arcaic cc), who is a qualified to assess historical buildings, for a comment regarding the importance of the building.

Fig. 1: Location of the development area.

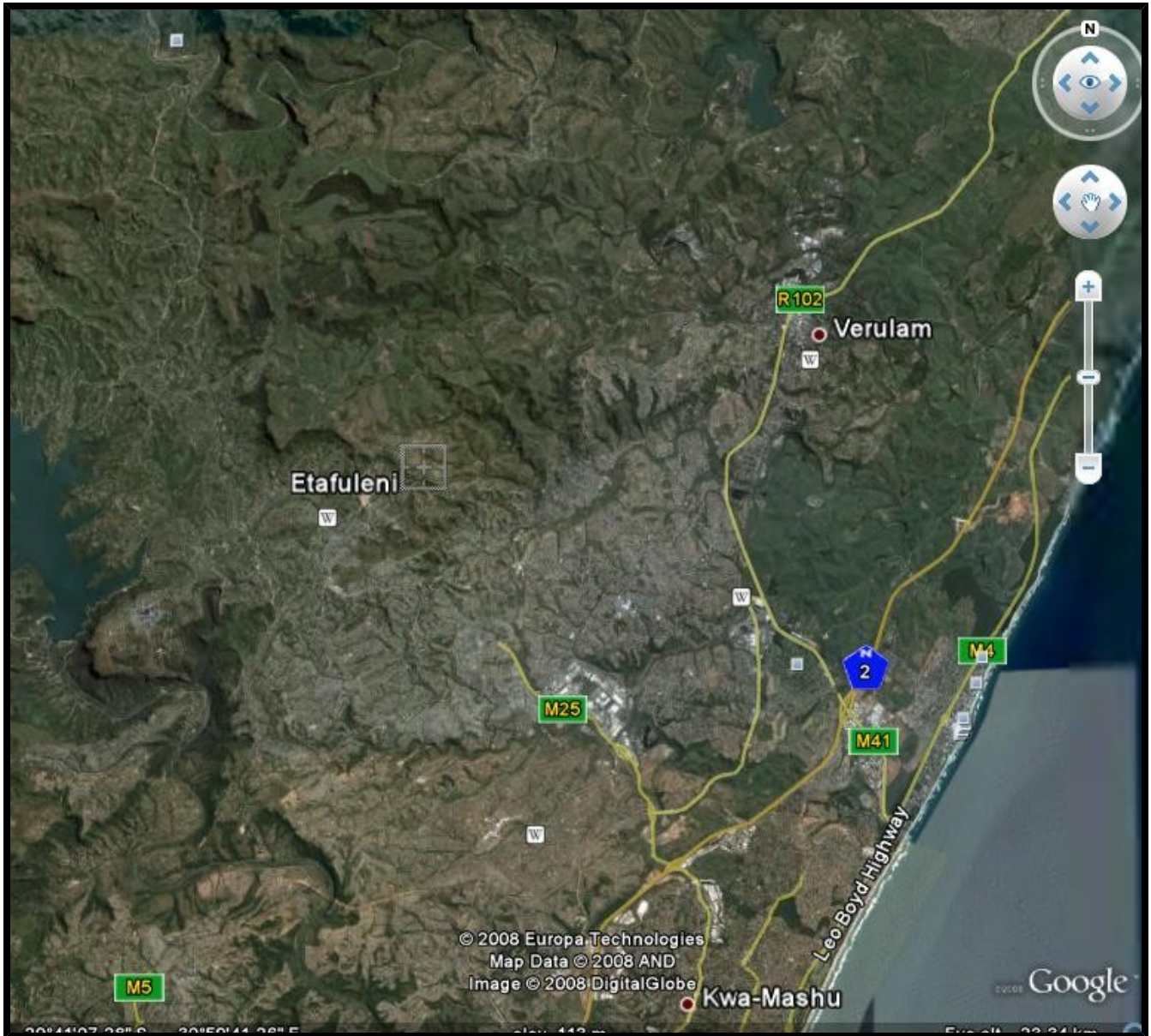
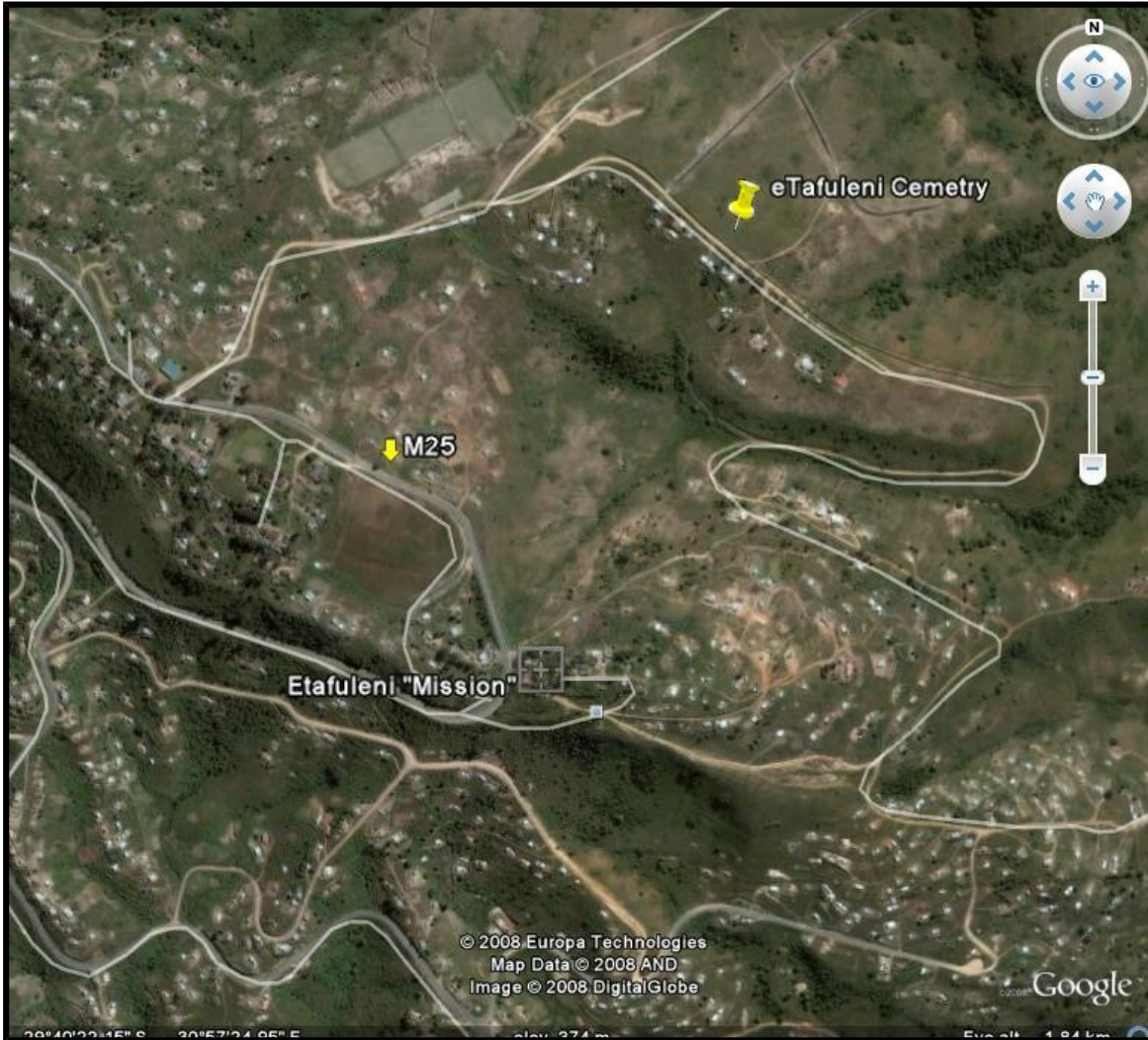


Fig. 2: Detailed Location of the Development Area



CONCLUSION

A Heritage survey of the proposed housing development at eTafuleni was undertaken. The area has been disturbed by informal housing and grazing (and thus semi-erosion). No archaeological sites were observed, and one architectural feature was noted. The building and related grave probably dates to the early 20th century. These two features may not be disturbed without further investigation.



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Notes on eTafuleni Mission- Inanda

Debbie Whelan from Archaic Consulting was requested by Gavin Anderson of Umlando to carry out a short preliminary investigation of the eTafuleni Mission, located in the Amaoti area of Inanda.

Initially, the seminal works on missions were consulted, but with no result. Brookes and Hurwitz 'Native reserves of Natal' show Inanda mission on the general map which clearly relates to the Lindley mission. Under the Mission Reserves listed, there is no eTafuleni. A search through the database of the Provincial Archives Repository in Pietermaritzburg revealed nothing under the search name of eTafuleni, Tafuleni or anything similar. From the geographic co-ordinates given by Gavin Anderson to Archaic Consulting, eTafuleni Mission is situated on the parent farm *Groeneberg 844*. The 1930's Government maps show nothing in the area as 'Mission' reserve, but do show the farm *Groeneberg* extensively divided at that time. The 1989 topocadastral series map 2930DB Inanda shows nothing either of this nature on this farm.

The database of the Provincial Archives Repository in Pietermaritzburg reveals the single reference to this property as being 'Sale of certain lots of the farm "Groeneberg" Inanda Division by the Inanda Wattle Company Limited to seven natives.' (CNC 359 1919/1613 Land Act, 1913. the file starts in 1919 and was closed in 1924.

The Land Registers at the Deeds Office in Pietermaritzburg were scrutinized. The original grant of *Groeneberg 844* was to one Francis Collison in 1848. The property was then, over successive years, extensively divided, with small lots being sold off to mainly African owners. Indians and Europeans also owned some of these plots.

According to the Land Registers for this property, besides portions being purchased/ donated to the Nazarite Church in the 1950's, the only indication of any property bought by a religious group is that in 1929 when a small portion of some 5 acres was purchased by the Roman Catholic Church. The property description of this was Subdivision 19 of 15. In 1941, a second small subdivision was sold by M. Mbambo to the Roman Catholic Church. This was Subdivision 29 of A of 19. [This could be reinforced by looking at the Provincial Archival Reference which, under the search term 'Groene Berg' alludes 'Lots 14 And 15 of Sub B of Groene Berg, Verulam'](#) (CNC 32A CNC22/525)

It is thus suspected that the mission known as eTafuleni in this district belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. It did not form part of the officially sanctioned Mission Reserves, and that this was a minor mission given its lack of mention in the seminal works on the mission stations.

Groeneberg 844 was an interesting farm for other reasons, and was flagged by the Surplus People's Project Report in the 1980's as an area which had the potential for forced removals as there were owners of different race groups owning plots on the land.

Conclusions:

Given that the landholding for the Roman Catholic Church was purchased in 1929, structures and on this site are automatically protected by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act no 10 of 1997. This is despite the dearth of information apparent to the author at this instance.

As the instruction on this investigation was limited by brevity, should the author be required to investigate further, the Archives of the Roman Catholic Diocese at Mariannhill, as well as those at the Ecumenical Centre in Durban, would be the next targets for research.

- Brookes.E & Hurwitz, N (1957) *Native Reserves of Natal*
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- Burnett, B (19?) *Anglicans in Natal*
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- Etherington, N (1978) *Preachers, peasants and politics in Southeast Africa 1835-1880.*
London: Royal Historical Society
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