



**eTHEMBENI
CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

Heritage Scoping Report

Township Establishment on a Portion of Ebezweni Farm No. 18223, Umzimkhulu Local Municipality, Harry Gwala District Municipality, KZN.

The Accra Group acts as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) of their client, Mlala Emazweni for the Umzimkhulu Local Municipality. The Accra Group appointed eThembeni CHM to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed township establishment on a portion of a remainder of Ebezweni Farm No. 18223 which is the subject of Environmental Authorization in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 as amended (NEMA) and in compliance with Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).



Figure 1. Portion of Ebezweni Farm No. 18223, Umzimkhulu Local Municipality (See kml. loaded to the SAHRIS Case File).

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eThembeni staff conducted a site inspection on 12 October 2023. Surface visibility was excellent with reduced early Spring grass cover, and portions of the property recently burnt. Contour ploughed winnrows from previous agricultural activity are visible over most of the Erf, the remainder being sour grassland grazing dotted with *Vachellia natalitia* (Sweethorn / umuNgwa). Established and feral eucalyptus woodlots occur upslope of the property to the west.

Drainage lines run west-east down-slope to the Umzimkhulu River. Two of these present as deeply incised dongas, 2-3 m below the slope surface. The soil B-horizon comprises weathered colluvial downslope wash bedded on eroded and deeply weathered Pietermaritzburg Formation shale beds.

The Nyenyezi SP School is located at the northern boundary of the proposed township development. A modular prefabricated accommodation complex lies adjacent to the school, bounded by the Nyenyezi stream. This appears to be associated with an agricultural and silviculture development scheme. The proposed township development area borders onto the Ebezweni State Forest along its western boundary.



Figure 2. Nyenyezi Senior Primary School



Figure 3. Mbizweni State Forest. Note feral eucalyptus trees in the distance and scattered *Vachellia natalitia* emerging as pioneer woody vegetation in an overgrazed *Aristidia spp* dominated grassland.



Figure 4. Contour ploughed winnrows from previous agricultural activities



Figure 5. Deeply incised dongas eroded downwards through downslope colluvial and bedded onto weathered shales

Heritage Resource Observations and Assessment of Significance (see also Appendix 3)

No construction activities associated with the proposed project had begun at the time of our site visit on 12 October 2023. We observed no heritage resources of significance within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project footprint area.

Heritage resource type	Observation
Ecofacts	None were identified within the proposed development area.
Places, buildings, structures, and equipment	None were identified within the proposed development area
Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage	None were identified within the proposed development area.
Historical settlements and townscapes	None were identified within the proposed development area.
Landscapes and natural features of significance	None were identified within the proposed development area.

Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance	None were identified within the proposed development area.
Archaeological sites	None were identified within the proposed development area
Graves and burial grounds	None were identified within the proposed development area
Public monuments and memorials	None were identified within the proposed development area.
Battlefields	None were identified within the proposed development area.

The underlying Pietermaritzburg Formation shale lithology is not considered to be of high palaeontological significance.^{1,2} Consequently, no further palaeontological assessment is recommended.

Assessment of Development Impact

Low to negligible

Recommended Mitigation Measures

None

Recommended Monitoring

None.

Conclusion

We recommend that the development proceed with no further heritage mitigation and will submit this report to the KZN Amafa and Research Institute on SAHRIS, in fulfilment of the requirements of the NHRA. Accordingly, the report shall be considered timeously by the Institute which shall, after consultation with the persons /agency proposing the development, decide –

- any limitations or conditions are to be applied to the development.
- what general protections in terms of the NHRA apply, and what formal protections may be applied to such heritage resources.
- whether compensatory action shall be required in respect of any heritage resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the development; and
- whether the appointment of specialists is required as a condition of approval of the proposal.

The client may contact the Amafa Heritage and Research Institute's Pietermaritzburg office (Tel. 033 3946543) or khanyi.zondi@amafainstitute.org.za, should any queries arise.

¹ Palaeontological Technical Report for KZN. Groenewald, G. 2012.

²

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325112675_Lithostratigraphy_of_the_Pietermaritzburg_Formation_Ecca_Group_Karoo_Supergroup_South_Africa

If permission is granted for development to proceed, the client is reminded that the NHRA requires that a developer cease all work immediately and adhere to the protocol described in Appendix 1 of this report should any heritage resources, as defined in the Act, be discovered during the course of development activities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Len van Schalkwyk'.

Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Heritage Practitioner.
25 October 2023.

Appendix 1

Protocol for the Identification, Protection and Recovery of Heritage Resources during Construction and Operation

It is possible that sub-surface heritage resources could be encountered during the construction phase of this project. The Environmental Control Officer and all other persons responsible for site management and excavation should be aware that indicators of sub-surface sites could include:

- Ash deposits (unnaturally grey appearance of soil compared to the surrounding substrate);
- Bone concentrations, either animal or human;
- Ceramic fragments, including potsherds;
- Stone concentrations that appear to be formally arranged (may indicate the presence of an underlying burial, or represent building/structural remains); and
- Fossilised remains of fauna and flora, including trees.

In the event that such indicator(s) of heritage resources are identified, the following actions should be taken immediately:

- All construction within a radius of at least 20m of the indicator should cease. This distance should be increased at the discretion of supervisory staff if heavy machinery or explosives could cause further disturbance to the suspected heritage resource.
- This area must be marked using clearly visible means, such as barrier tape, and all personnel should be informed that it is a no-go area.
- A guard should be appointed to enforce this no-go area if there is any possibility that it could be violated, whether intentionally or inadvertently, by construction staff or members of the public.
- No measures should be taken to cover up the suspected heritage resource with soil, or to collect any remains such as bone or stone.
- If a heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, s/he should be contacted and a site inspection arranged as soon as possible.
- If no heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, the head of archaeology at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office should be contacted; telephone 033 3946 543).
- The South African Police Services should be notified by an Amafa Heritage staff member or an independent heritage practitioner if human remains are identified. No SAPS official may disturb or exhume such remains, whether of recent origin or not.
- All parties concerned should respect the potentially sensitive and confidential nature of the heritage resources, particularly human remains, and refrain from making public statements until a mutually agreed time.
- Any extension of the project beyond its current footprint involving vegetation and/or earth clearance should be subject to prior assessment by a qualified heritage practitioner, considering all information gathered during this initial heritage impact assessment.

Appendix 2

Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Section 38(1) of the NHRA may require such an assessment in case of:

the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length.

- the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
- any development or other activity which will change the character of a site –
 - (i) exceeding 5 000m² in extent; or
 - (ii) involving three or more erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - (iii) involving three or more erven or subdivisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority (PHRA);
- the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent; or
- any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a PHRA.

The NHRA defines a heritage resource as any place or object of cultural significance i.e. of aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic, or technological value or significance. This includes, but is not limited to, the following wide range of places and objects:

- ecofacts (non-artefactual organic or environmental remains that may reveal aspects of past human activity).
- places, buildings, structures, and equipment.
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage.
- historical settlements and townscapes.
- landscapes and natural features.
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance.
- archaeological and palaeontological sites.
- graves and burial grounds.
- public monuments and memorials.
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa; and
- battlefields.

Appendix 3

Assessment of development impacts

A heritage resource impact may be defined broadly as the net change, either beneficial or adverse, between the integrity of a heritage site with and without the proposed development. Beneficial impacts occur wherever a proposed development actively protects, preserves, or enhances a heritage resource, by minimising natural site erosion or facilitating non-destructive public use, for example. More commonly, development impacts are of an adverse nature and can include:

- destruction or alteration of all or part of a heritage site.
- isolation of a site from its natural setting; and / or
- introduction of physical, chemical, or visual elements that are out of character with the heritage resource and its setting.

Beneficial and adverse impacts can be direct or indirect, as well as cumulative, as implied by the aforementioned examples. Although indirect impacts may be more difficult to foresee, assess and quantify, they must form part of the assessment process. The following assessment criteria have been used to assess the impacts of the proposed development on identified heritage resources:

Criteria	Rating Scales	Notes
Nature	Positive	An evaluation of the type of effect the construction, operation and management of the proposed development would have on the heritage resource.
	Negative	
	Neutral	
Extent	Low	Site-specific, affects only the development footprint.
	Medium	Local (limited to the site and its immediate surroundings, including the surrounding towns and settlements within a 10 km radius);
	High	Regional (beyond a 10 km radius) to national.
Duration	Low	0-4 years (i.e., duration of construction phase).
	Medium	5-10 years.
	High	More than 10 years to permanent.
Intensity	Low	Where the impact affects the heritage resource in such a way that its significance and value are minimally affected.
	Medium	Where the heritage resource is altered, and its significance and value are measurably reduced.
	High	Where the heritage resource is altered or destroyed to the extent that its significance and value cease to exist.
Potential for impact on irreplaceable resources	Low	No irreplaceable resources will be impacted.
	Medium	Resources that will be impacted can be replaced, with effort.
	High	There is no potential for replacing a particular vulnerable resource that will be impacted.

Criteria	Rating Scales	Notes
Consequence a combination of extent, duration, intensity, and the potential for impact on irreplaceable resources)	Low	A combination of any of the following: - Intensity, duration, extent, and impact on irreplaceable resources are all rated low. - Intensity is low and up to two of the other criteria are rated medium. - Intensity is medium and all three other criteria are rated low.
	Medium	Intensity is medium and at least two of the other criteria are rated medium.
	High	Intensity and impact on irreplaceable resources are rated high, with any combination of extent and duration. Intensity is rated high, with all of the other criteria being rated medium or higher.
Probability (the likelihood of the impact occurring)	Low	It is highly unlikely or less than 50 % likely that an impact will occur.
	Medium	It is between 50 and 70 % certain that the impact will occur.
	High	It is more than 75 % certain that the impact will occur, or it is definite that the impact will occur.
Significance (all impacts including potential cumulative impacts)	Low	Low consequence and low probability. Low consequence and medium probability. Low consequence and high probability.
	Medium	Medium consequence and low probability. Medium consequence and medium probability. Medium consequence and high probability. High consequence and low probability.
	High	High consequence and medium probability. High consequence and high probability.