

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF
THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE OLD DAIRY
SITE, HILTON COLLEGE, UMGENI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
DPW	Department of Public Works
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
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
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 (2014)).
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 was conducted of the proposed establishment of a residential development at the old Hilton Dairy site, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. No further information has been offered by the client regarding the development, other than that there is to be a residential development of about 85 units for Hilton College. On the designated property we have not identified any heritage sites, features, or archaeological material. 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.

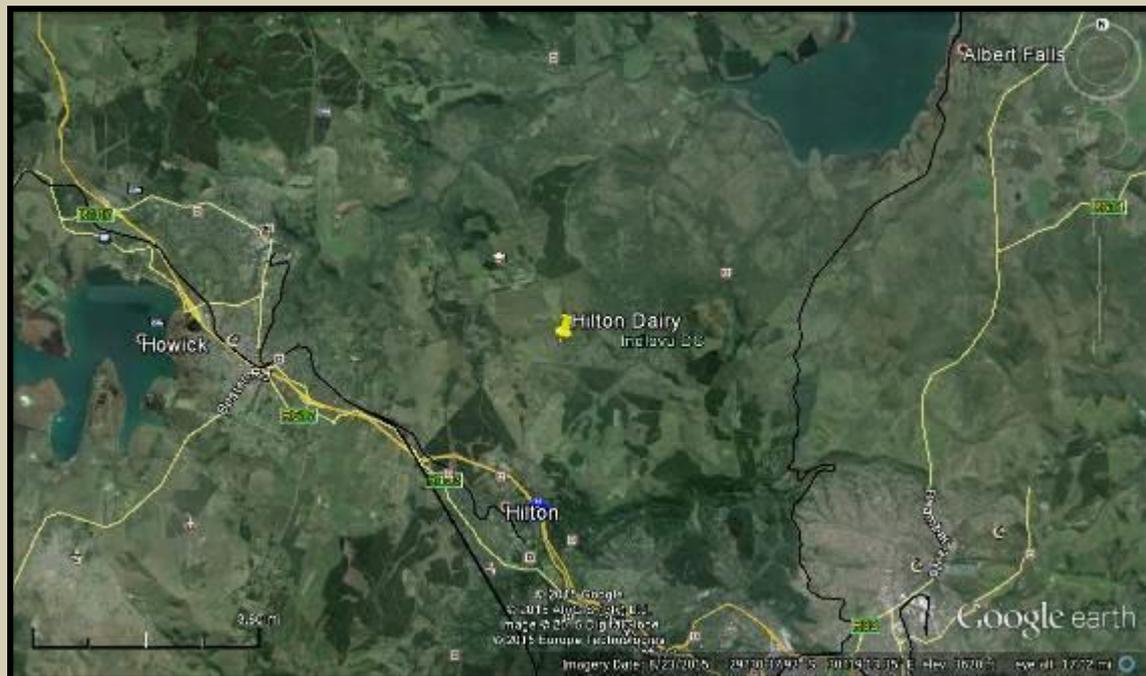
1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Table 1. Background information

Consultant:	Frans Prins and Sian Hall (Active Heritage cc) for Terratest (Pty) Ltd Environmental Consultants. The applicant has appointed Terratest (Pty) Ltd Environmental Consultants to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed development.
Type of development:	The Applicant, proposes to establish an 85 unit residential development for Hilton College on the old Hilton Dairy site, Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal. No further information is available on the proposed development.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning/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)

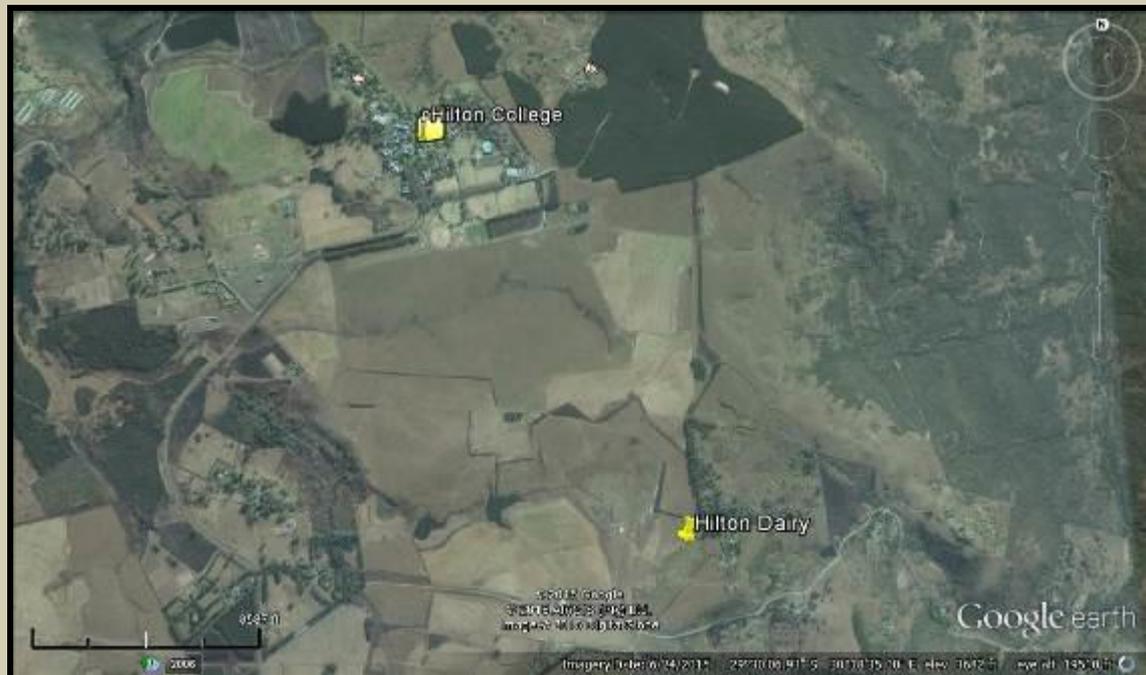
1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The proposed development site is situated in Hilton (Map 1).



Map 1. Location of the old Hilton Dairy site.

The study footprint is an open piece of broken and undulating grassland, partially bordered by an avenue of young trees to the north of the land. It is located approximately 2 ½ kilometres as the Crow Flies from Hilton College, for which the residential development is intended (Map. 2). The area about it is made up of mixed farmland, plots, smallholdings, and exotic commercial plantations.



Map 2. Location of the old Hilton Dairy site in relation to Hilton College.

The extent of the area intended for development on this piece of land can be clearly seen on Map 3.



Map 3. Intended layout of the Proposed Development on the Study Area.

Approximate co-ordinates of the site are: 29°30'39.25"S, 30°18'53.28"E.

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

2.1 Stone Ages

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.

The archaeological tools found on these sites dating the Early Stone Age, 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 have also been identified by Dr Aron Mazel in the 1980's.

2.2 The Iron Ages

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 plateaus in the existing grassland. Some impressive Later Iron Age sites occur in the Umngeni River Valley close to Howick, as well as in the Otto's Bluff area near Albert Falls Dam.

These sites were occupied by Bantu-speaking agro-pastoralists, who arrived in southern Africa after 1000 years 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 19th 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.

2.3 The Settler and Colonial Eras

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 later 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.

3 CULTURAL HERITAGE LEGISLATION

According to Section 3 (2) of the NHRA, the heritage resources of South Africa include:

- a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- g) graves and burial grounds, including
 - i. ancestral graves;
 - ii. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - iii. graves of victims of conflict;
 - iv. graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - v. historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - vi. other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- i) movable objects, including
 - i. objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - ii. objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - iii. ethnographic art and objects;
 - iv. military objects;
 - v. objects of decorative or fine art;
 - vi. objects of scientific or technological interest; and

vii. books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film for video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No.43 of 1996).”

In terms of section 3 (3) of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of:

- a) “its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.”

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE STUDY

4.1 Methodology

- A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, and the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites in the near vicinity of the study area.
- The available heritage literature covering the greater Pietermaritzburg area was consulted.
- Aerial photographs of the area were surveyed.
- A site visit was made to the project area on the 6th October 2015, and a ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted during the visit.

4.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

No restrictions were encountered during the survey. Visibility was good. No potential heritage features were noted, or disturbed.

4.3 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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

5.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Town: Hilton, Pietermaritzburg

Municipality: uMgungundlovu District Municipality

5.2 Description of Heritage Material

Although historical sources indicate that the area was occupied by African groups in the early 19th century, no Stone Age, Iron Age, or historical period sites, or features occur on the footprint. The consultant could not find any graves in the study area. It does not form part of a defined Cultural Landscape.

5.3 Description of the General Area Surveyed

The study footprint is an open piece of broken and undulating grassland, partially bordered by an avenue of young trees to the north of the land. It is located approximately 2 ½ kilometres as the Crow Flies from Hilton College, for which the residential development is intended (Map. 2), and about 6.7 km from the centre of Hilton town. The area about it is made up of mixed farmland, plots, smallholdings, and exotic commercial plantations.

5.4 Field Rating

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

5.5 Field Rating

Not applicable, as no heritage sites were discovered during the survey, as outlined by Table 2, and Table 3 below.

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

Table 2. Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)

The following table (Table 3) provides the grading of significance for heritage Sites by the National Heritage Resource Agency.

Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA		
Significance	Rating	
1. Historic and political significance - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	None.	
2. Scientific significance – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.	None.	
3. Research/scientific significance – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	None.	
4. Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	None.	
5. Aesthetic significance – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	None.	
6. Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	None.	
7. Social significance – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	None.	
8. Historic significance – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.	None.	
9. The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.	

Table 3. Significance Criteria of the National Resource Heritage Agency.

6 FINDINGS

No heritage, or archaeological sites were identified on the study area.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

From a heritage, or archaeological point of view, there is no reason why the proposed development should not go ahead as planned. 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.

8 PLATES



Plate 1. View of the study area looking to the north. The avenue of young trees may be seen in the far distance.



Plate 2. The land undulates to the west.



Plate 3. Farm road leading to the northern perimetres of the study area.



Plate 4. The farm road which borders the northern perimetres of the study area. An avenue of young trees borders the northern perimetres of the field.

8 REFERENCES

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