

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT
as part of the
BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS
for the
PROPOSED NGAYIPHI SPORTS FIELD,
WARD 2, NDWEDWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ILEMBE DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY

1. Introduction

The Ndwedwe Municipality has proposed the construction of the Ngayiphi Sports Field project located within Ward 2 of the Ndwedwe Local Municipality, Ilembe District Municipality. The site has already been shaped as a playing field, however, the Sports Field construction aims to allow the adjacent school and local residents and communities to have access to a formalised, improved, levelled and cleared sports field with ablution facilities. The project is located in Ward 2 of the Ndwedwe Local Municipality.

Before construction of the proposed Sports Field project may commence, an environmental authorisation is required from the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA), in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2010. In order to obtain this authorisation a Basic Assessment is currently being undertaken by Enviroedge cc.

2. The Project

The project involves the construction of Ngayiphi Sports Field in Ward 2. The project involves the construction of a formalised, improved, levelled and cleared sports field together with ablution facilities including toilets and change room facilities, which would include an earthworks component to reshape and level the existing playing grounds. The proposed sports field construction, toilet and change room facilities will provide a formalised sports field facility for the adjacent school and local residents and communities to access. The proposed site exists on a valley side which slopes down towards a non-perennial tributary of the Pambela River, and as such, the site is located in close proximity to a watercourse.

The proposed sport field is 3 000m² in size and it is located at 29°19'08.6"S; 30°55'19.6"E. The sports field is located 800m north-west of Ezinkatshini. Please refer to Map 1: Ngayiphi Sport Field Site Plan.

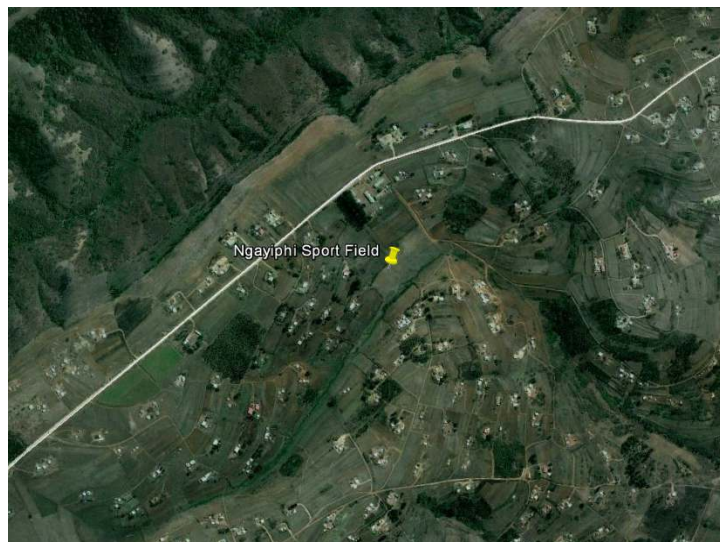
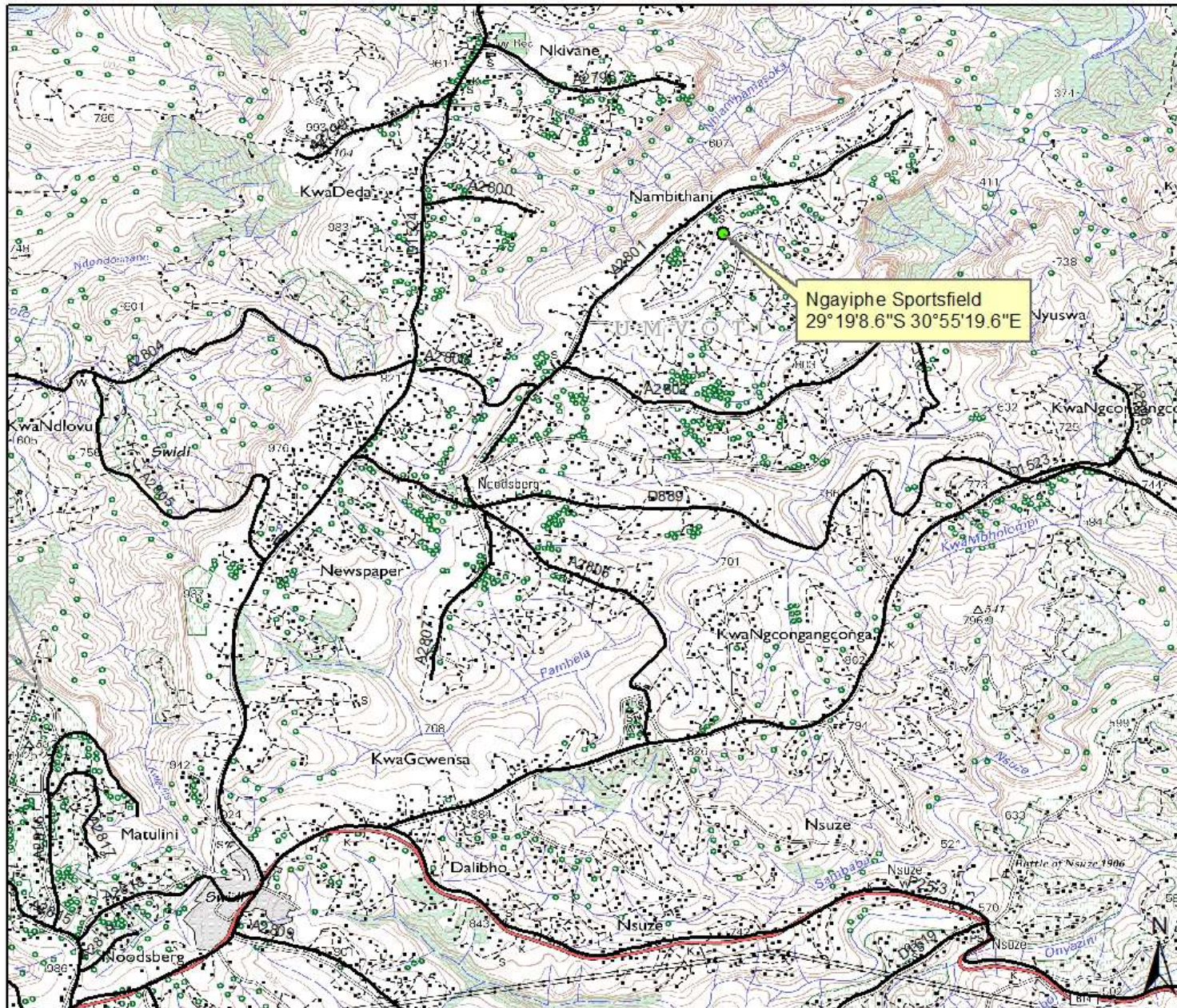


Figure 1. Image showing study area of proposed Ngayiphi Sports Field. (Source, Google Earth)



Legend	
	Roads
Project: Ngayiphe Sportsfield	
Title: Locality Plan	
Scale	1:50 000
0 500 1 000 2 000	
Meters	
 enviroedge <small>environmental solutions</small>	
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Figure 2. Locality Plan

3. Environmental and Social Description

Climate: Rainfall in the study area occurs predominantly during the summer months, with some rain in the winter. Frost is recorded infrequently in this area. The annual precipitation ranges from 650mm - 1 000mm with an average annual temperature of 17.9°C.

Topography and Drainage: The study area is located east of Nambithani and the A2801 road, north-east of Noodsberg and Newspaper, on the lower slopes of a hillside adjacent to Sithelosethu Primary School, situated to the north-west and it is accessed via an existing common access road. The study area forms part of an elongated hill with steep valleys to the north, north-east and east. The Nhlambamasoka River is situated to the north of the site, running from south-west to north-east direction and then turns to the east, to link into the main Pambela River to the north-east. To the east, the steep valley below is characterised by numerous drainage lines draining in a generally north-easterly direction also toward the Pambela River to the north-east. The project site is situated at an elevation of 834masl.

Geology and Soils: The soils in the study area are described as shallow sandy soils (Glenrosa and Mispah forms), developing over Ordovician Natal Group sandstones and compact, clayey soils on Dwyka diamictites (Karoo Supergroup) as well as on layered quartz-feldspar metasediments (Mapumulo Group, Mokolian) and granites of the Oribi Gorge Suite (also Mokolian).

Vegetation: The local vegetation is defined as KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld (SVs 3), (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006). The open thornveld is dominated by *Acacia* species on undulating plains found on the upper margins of river valleys.

The ecological sensitivity of the local vegetation is likely to be low owing to existing habitation and the fact that the area has been previously cleared to create a playing field. The EKZNW Terrestrial Systematic Conservation Plan, TSCP (2010) indicates a Biodiversity Priority Area 1 to the north-east. West and south-west of the site, however, the study area itself does not fall within an identified Biodiversity Priority Area. The study area vegetation currently consists previously disturbed dense veld grass cover, with dense tree and shrub vegetation at the site periphery including *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia mearnsii* (Black wattle). Small sections of cultivated lands were noted to the north and east of the site.

Culture and Heritage: The presence of features of cultural or historical importance is currently unknown. The Sithelosethu Primary School is, however, situated close to the site, along a common access road.

National and District Roads: The proposed sport field is located along an existing access road and adjacent to an existing school, the Sithelosethu Primary School. The existing proposed site access road links into the existing A 2801 gravel road which in turn links into the D 1524 road to the west of the study area. The proposed sports field development is not likely to impact any provincial or national road.

Utilities: All relevant government departments or parastatals will be consulted as part of the Public Participation Process.

4. Public Consultation

Members of the public have the right to be consulted during the Public Participation Process. If you would like to be part of this process please register with the environmental consultant using the contacts below.

Consultants: Enviroedge cc
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