

**CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF
THE PROPOSED EZAKHENI C HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT, ALFRED DUMA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL.**



For: Neda Resources

**Frans E Prins, MA (Archaeology)
P.O. Box 947
Howick
3290**

15 October 2020

**Cell: 0834739657
E-mail: activeheritage@gmail.com
Fax: 0867636380**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT	1
2	BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA	5
3	BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY	7
3.1	Methodology	7
3.2	Restrictions encountered during the survey	7
3.2.1	<i>Visibility</i>	7
3.2.2	<i>Disturbance</i>	8
3.3	Details of equipment used in the survey.....	8
4	DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED	8
4.1	Locational data	8
4.2	Description of the general area surveyed.....	8
4.3	Dating the findings	9
5	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)	9
5.1	Field Rating.....	9
6	RECOMMENDATIONS	10
7	MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPS	11
9	REFERENCES	18

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Background information.....	4
Table 2.	Evaluation and statement of significance.....	9
Table 3.	Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)	10

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
HISTORIC PERIOD	Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1836 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 Ezakheni C Housing Project Alfred Duma Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal identified no heritage sites on the footprint. There is no archaeological reason why the development may not proceed as planned. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. However, the Phase One desktop paleontological assessment indicates that the area has a high fossil sensitivity. A Phase Two desktop assessment by an Amafa accredited palaeontologist will be required. Attention is drawn to the South African National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal & Amafa Research Institute Act 2018 (Act No5 of 2018) 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

The consultant was approached by Neda Resources to conduct a heritage impact assessment of the proposed Ezakheni Housing Project. According to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), 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 or 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).

The newly promulgated KwaZulu-Natal and Amafa Research Institute Act (Act No. 5 of 2018) also makes specific mention to rock art and archaeological sites.

It is furthermore stated that:

—(1) No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Council.

(2) Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.

(3) The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.

(4) No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

(5) No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic

fortification, or meteorite impact site, or use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

(6) (a) The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.

(b) The Council may establish and maintain a provincial repository or repositories for the safekeeping or display of—

- (i) archaeological objects;
- (ii) palaeontological material;
- (iii) ecofacts;
- (iv) objects related to battlefield sites;
- (v) material cultural artefacts; or
- (vi) meteorites.

(7) The Council may, subject to such conditions as the Council may determine, loan any object or material referred to in subsection (6) to a national or provincial museum or institution.

(8) No person may, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council, trade in, export or attempt to export from the Province—

- (a) any category of archaeological object;
- (b) any palaeontological material;
- (c) any ecofact;
- (d) any object which may reasonably be regarded as having been recovered from a battlefield site;
- (e) any material cultural artefact; or
- (f) any meteorite.

(9) (a) A person or institution in possession of an object or material referred to in paragraphs (a) – (f) of subsection (8), must submit full particulars of such object or material, including such information as may be prescribed, to the Council.

(b) An object or material referred to in paragraph (a) must, subject to paragraph (c) and the directives of the Council, remain under the control of the person or institution submitting the particulars thereof.

(c) The ownership of any object or material referred to in paragraph (a) vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.

This study aims to identify and assess the significance of any heritage and archaeological resources occurring on the site. Based on the significance, the impact of the development on the heritage resources would be determined. Then appropriate actions to reduce the impact on the heritage resources would be put forward. In terms 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.

Table 1. Background information

Consultants:	Active Heritage cc for Neda Resources
Type of development:	Housing Development
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 and Amafa Research Institute Act (Act No. 5 of 2018)
--	---

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

Footprint: The study area is situated in Ezakheni C approximately 20km to the south east of Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal (Figs 1 & 2). The area has been demarcated for residential development. The footprint consists of two blocks (Block A and Block B) situated adjacent to each other (Fig 3). The GPS co-ordinates of the footprint is as follows:

Block A: S 28° 37' 07.08" E 29° 54' 47.26"

Block B: S 28° 37' 15.54" E 29° 54' 40.42"

Current land use: The study area is situated in a rural area that has been demarcated for residential development. It is flanked by newly established townships and now largely abandoned farm lands that has also been earmarked for township development. Soil erosion and evidence for overgrazing is evident in the greater study area. The footprint consists of grazed grassland (Figs 5 - 9).

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

Portions of the greater Ladysmith area have been systematically surveyed for archaeological heritage sites in the past. These were mostly conducted by archaeologists attached to the KwaZulu-Natal Museum as well as by Amafa staff. Sixty one sites are recorded in the data base of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. These include five Early Stone Age sites, five Middle Stone Age sites, six Later Stone Age sites, three rock art sites (two rock paintings and one rock engraving), and eleven Later Iron Age sites and twenty historical period Nguni homesteads. The majority of the Later Iron Age and historical period Nguni homesteads are demarcated by characteristic stone walling. Stone walling and graves related to the Anglo-Boer War period of 1899-1901 are also abundant in the area. Ten sites are recorded in the Natal Museum data base but many more sites belonging to this period should occur in the greater Ladysmith area. The

project area has not been systematically surveyed in the past and no heritage sites are known from the footprint. However, various Later Iron Age sites occur approximately 2 – 5km to the west of the study area (Fig 2).

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. Around 800 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater Ladysmith area. Although some of the sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located elsewhere in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the amaBhele and others (Bryant 1965). However, by 1820 the original African farmers were dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. Many individuals of former chiefdoms in the area became bandits and oral tradition suggests that cannibalism may also have been practised by some of these groups. African refugee groups and individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial authorities after 1845 where most of them became farm labourers. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

European settlement of the area started soon after 1838 when the first Voortrekker settlers marked out large farms in the area. However, most of these farms were abandoned in the 1840's when Natal became a British colony only to be reoccupied again by British immigrants. Nevertheless, a group of Dutch farmers declared an independent republic in 1847 on the banks of the Klip River and called it the Klip River Republic with Andries Spies as commandant. This pocket republic only survived for a few months before British authority over the area was declared. The British planned a town as an administrative centre for the Klip River District, proclaiming it on 20 June 1850 and called it Ladysmith. Ladysmith became world famous during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1901 when it was besieged by Boers from 2 November 1899 until 28 February 1900. Ghandi, Smuts and Churchill are figures of international significance who were also present during the siege of Ladysmith. During the 118 day long siege the stone Town Hall sustained considerable damage. It has since been restored to the original vision of the architects. Located next to the Town Hall the building housing the Siege Museum was erected in 1884. It was used as a rations post for civilians. The

Museum displays relics from the time of the siege, including documents, uniforms and firearms. Several of the most celebrated battles of the war were fought around Ladysmith. These include the Battles of Elandslaagte, Spionkop, Wagon Hill, Caesars Camp, Lombards Kop and Umbulwana Hill. These battle field sites as well as associated graves and buildings of the era are proclaimed heritage sites and are protected by provincial heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites as reflected on the SAHRIS website. In addition, the archaeological database of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum was consulted. Previous heritage surveys in the greater Ezakheni area did not locate any heritage sites (Prins 2015, Beater 2017). Although the greater Ladysmith area is rich in archaeological and heritage sites none are listed for the project area (Fig 2).

The study area was visited on the 13 October 2020. A ground survey following standard and accepted archaeological procedures was conducted. Large sections of the proposed access road was walked by foot.

3.2 Stakeholder Consultation

The consultant spoke to local residents encountered during the ground survey. None of them had any knowledge of heritage sites or graves located on the footprint.

3.3 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.3.1 Visibility

Visibility during the site visit was good.

3.3.2 Disturbance.

The footprint has been disturbed by recent development activities and overgrazing (Figs 5 – 9). However, no disturbance of any heritage sites has been observed.

3.4 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: Ladysmith/Ezakheni C

Municipality: Alfred Duma Local Municipality

4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The desktop study as well as the ground survey did not locate any heritage sites on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. The footprint is not significant in terms of heritage values (Table 2).

Table 2. Evaluation and statement of significance (excluding paleontology).

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.

4.3 Dating the findings

Not applicable, as no heritage sites occur on the footprint.

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

5.1 Field Rating

The SAHRA system of field rating (Table 3) does not apply in this study as no heritage sites occur on the footprint.

Table 3. 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

6 PHASE ONE PALEONTOLOGICAL DESKTOP SURVEY

The SAHRIS paleontological sensitivity map was consulted (Fig 4). The desktop survey indicates that the footprint has a high fossil sensitivity. Following Amafa policy a desktop survey (Phase Two) will be required by an Amafa accredited palaeontologist before development may proceed.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The development of the proposed Ezakheni C Housing Project may proceed from a general heritage perspective as no heritage sites and graves are threatened by the proposed development. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape.

However, the Phase One Desktop Paleontological survey indicates that an Amafa accredited palaeontologist needs to conduct a Phase Two desktop assessment before any development may proceed.

It should also be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal and Amafa Research Institute Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

8 MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPS

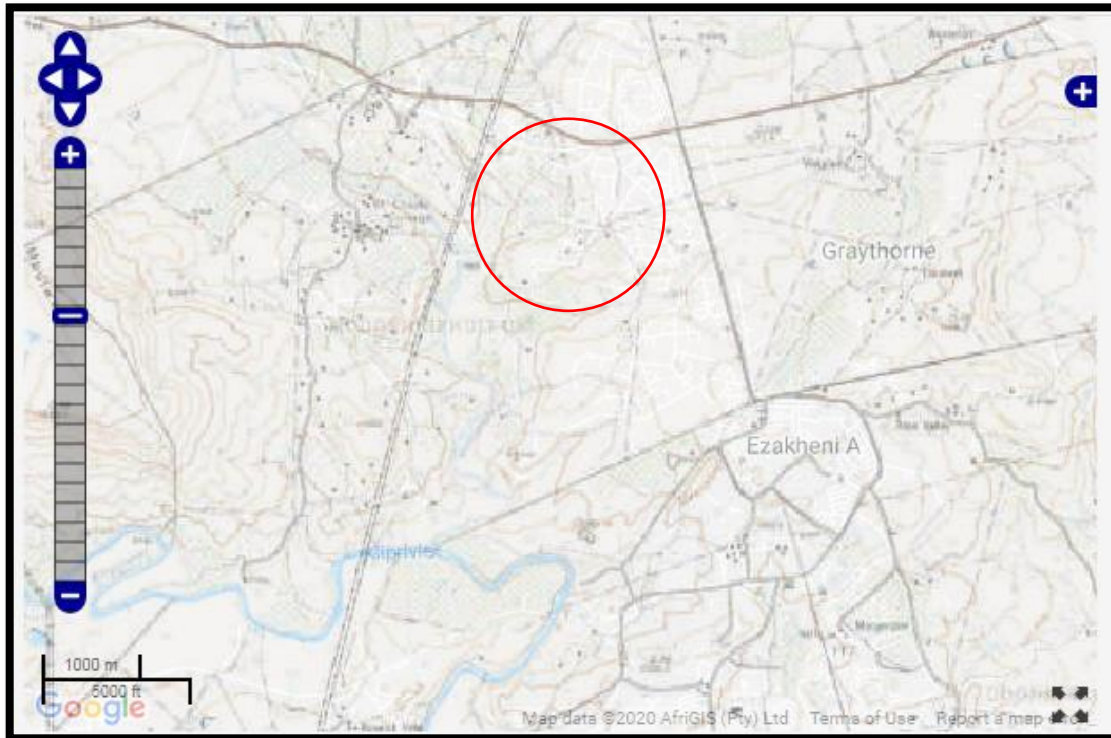


Figure 1. 1:50 000 Topographical Map of the project area (indicated by the red polygon).

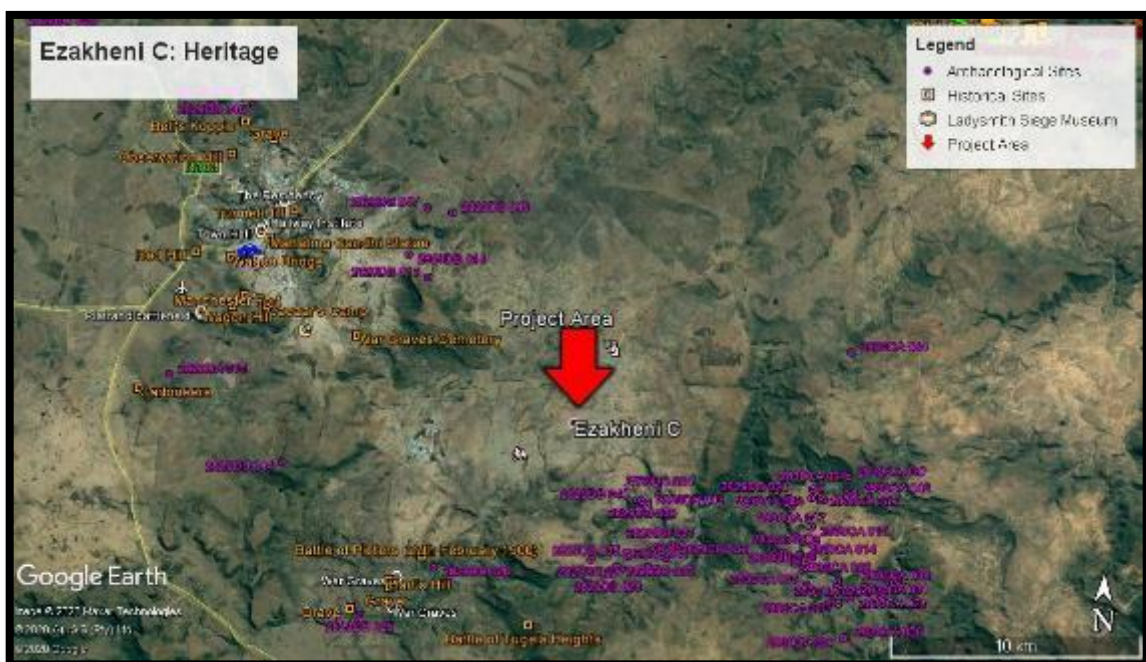


Figure 2. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of the project area. The purple markers indicate the location of known archaeological sites. The yellow markers indicate the location of known historical sites.

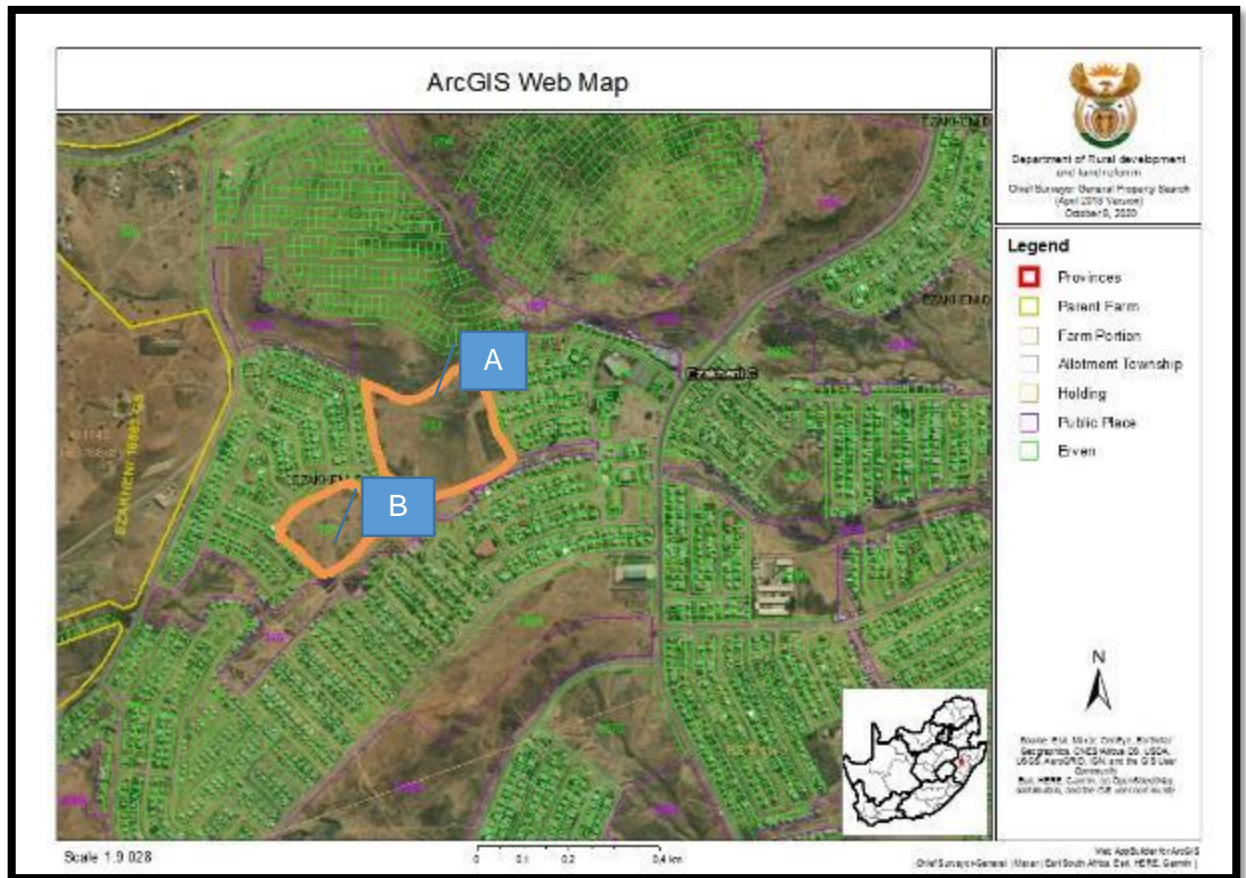
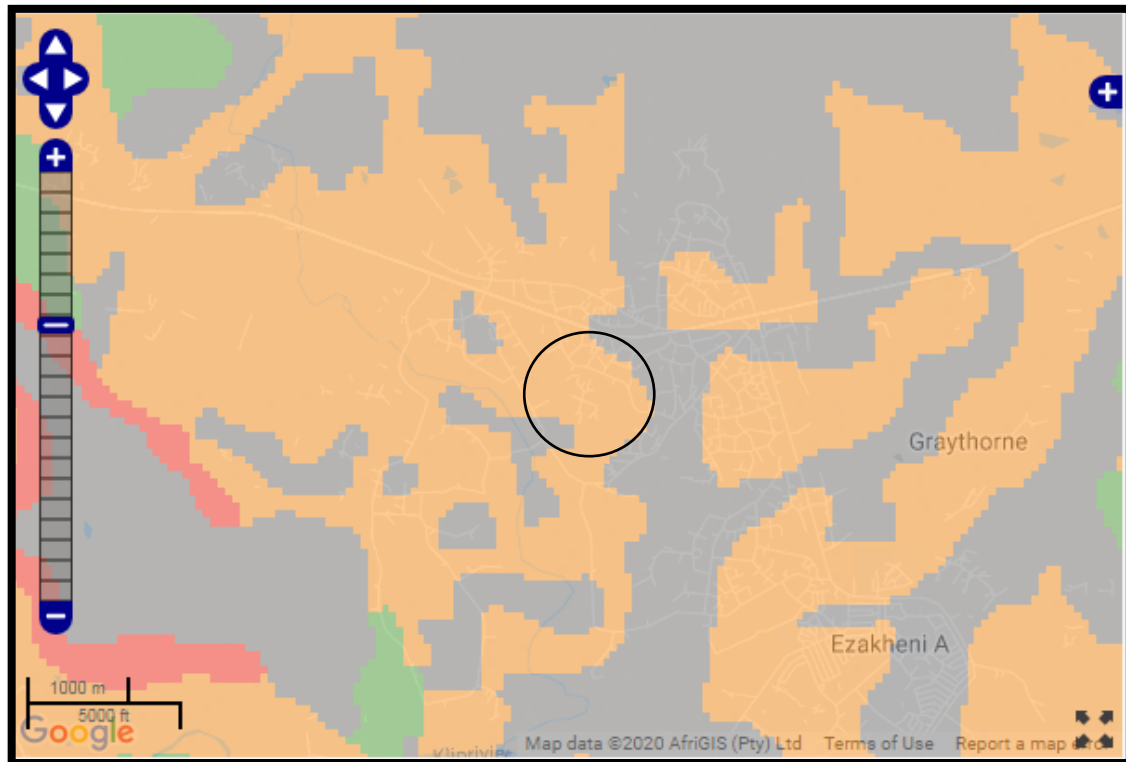


Figure 3. Map showing the two plots surveyed at Ezakheni C (Source Neda Resources).



Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Figure 4. SAHRIS paleontological sensitivity map of the project area (black polygon). The yellow background colour indicates that the area has a high fossil sensitivity.



Figure 5. View over Ezakheni C. The project area is used for grazing and is bordered onto by residential developments.



Figure 6. Residential units adjacent to Plot A are all younger than 60 years old and have no heritage value.



Figure 7. No archaeological and heritage sites are located on Plot A at Ezakheni C.



Figure 8. No archaeological or heritage sites occur on Plot B at Ezakheni C.



Figure 9. Plot B at Ezakheni C is mostly used for grazing.



Figure 10. All the anthropogenic features on Plot B Ezakheni appears to be younger than 60 years old and has no heritage value.

9 REFERENCES

- Bryant, A. T. 1965. *Olden times in Zululand and Natal*. Cape Town: C. Struik.
- Derwent, S. 2006. *KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Sites: a Guide to Some Great Places*. David Phillip: Claremont.
- Huffman, T. N. 2007. *Handbook to the Iron Age: The Archaeology of Pre-colonial Farming Societies in Southern Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. Pietermaritzburg
- Lewis-Williams, J. D. 2003. *Images of Mystery: Rock Art of the Drakensberg*. Double Storey Books: Cape Town
- Lewis-Williams, J. D. & Dowson, T. 1992. *Rock Paintings of the Natal Drakensberg. Ukhahlamba Series, Number 5*. University of Natal Press: Pietermaritzburg
- Mazel, A. 1989. People making history, the last ten thousand years of hunter-gatherer communities in the Thukela Basin. *Natal Museum Journal of Humanities*. 1: 1-168
- McCarthy, T. & Rubidge, B. 2005. *The Story of Earth and Life: A Southern African Perspective on a 4.6 billion year journey*. Struik Publishers: Cape Town
- Mitchell, P. 2002. *The Archaeology of Southern Africa*. University Press: Cambridge
- Prins, F. 2015. *Phase One Heritage Impact Assessment of Ezakheni D, Erf 1923. Active Heritage for Msizi Family Trust*. Report submitted to SAHRIS.
- Beater, J. *Heritage Impact Assessment of the Proposed Mixed Development at Ezakheni D, Alfred Duma Local Municipality, KZN*. SPHE Consulting Services. JLB Consulting.
- SAHRA, 2005. Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and the Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports, Draft version 1.4.

