

CONTRACT MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGIST

Vanessa Maitland

082 490 4066

203/71 Elandskraal, Sedgefield Rural, Western Cape

vanessa@cocojams.co.za

vanessa.maitland@gmail.com

Skype: vanessa.maitland1

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To: SAHRA MUCH Unit

Re: Proposed Gas to Power via Powership Project at Port of Richards Bay, uMhlathuze Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

Tripl04 asked for my input re the MUCH component of the above project. As you stated in your Interim Comment on CaseID: 15688 (09-03-2021):

“Although most of the proposed project is land based, the Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage (MUCH) unit is required to comment on the proposed subsea gas pipeline. There are two proposed alternative routes for the pipeline, route 1 (the preferred route) is approximately 1400m long and the 2nd alternative is 500m long. The pipeline will be brought to site in sections and assembled ready for installation though the installation method has yet to be established.”

Gavin Anderson, in the HIA (9-2022) states, “The fuel used by the Powership will be natural gas sourced from the FSRU via gas pipeline. The subsea gas pipeline connecting the FSRU to the Powership will be routed along the toe of the existing dredged slopes and will connect to the vessels via a flexible marine hose riser.”

There is an extremely low probability of MUCH resources being found. Although there are some known shipwrecks in the vicinity of Richard’s Bay, Richard’s Bay was not a natural harbour like Saldanha, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, etc. The *SS Newark Castle* was found in the Richards Bay channel in the 1970s, during construction of the harbour and some of the wreck was removed (Levine 1989; Turner 1988; van den Bosch 2009). The vast majority of the wreck was left in-situ and is marked with a navigational buoy (Figure 2). This is not near the development.

This is an updated statement regarding the Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage component of the HIA, following the public participation process.

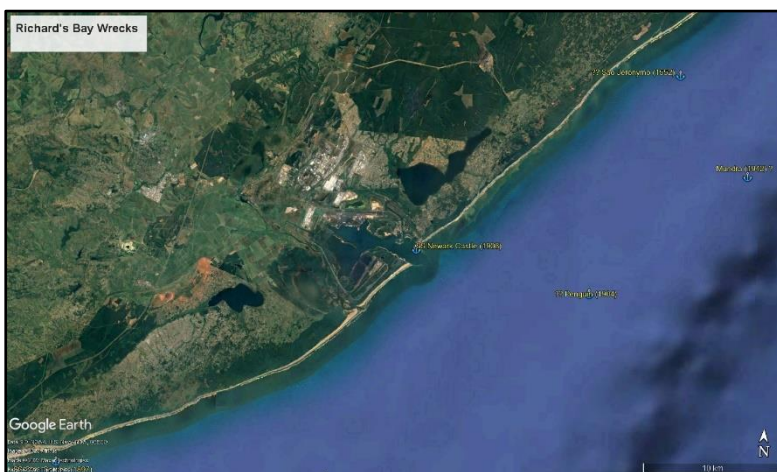


Figure 1: Port of Richard’s Bay Shipwrecks

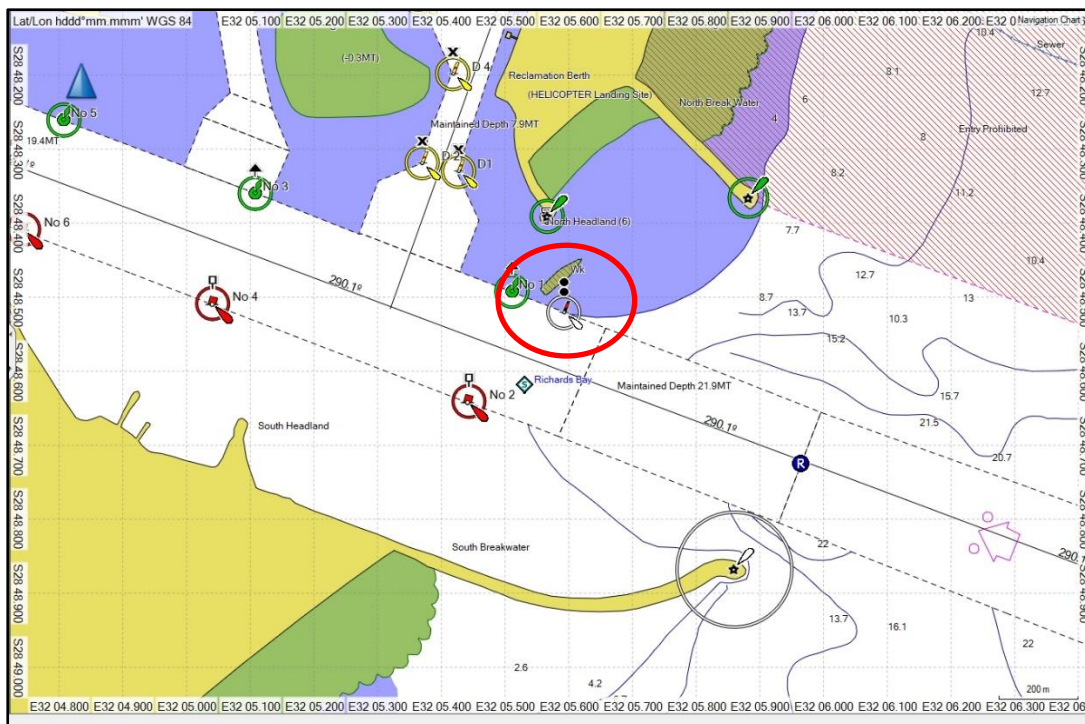


Figure 2: The location of the SS Newark Castle (Garmin Marine Charts 2022)

Therefore, Triplo4 will, as per your suggestion, insert a paragraph under section 8.3.13 (Cultural Heritage [including archaeology] and Palaeontology) to note the need for input on mitigation of impacts to maritime and underwater cultural heritage resources should they be discovered during the pipeline laydown area survey and in Section 4.2.1 will also refer to maritime heritage to show that its presence has been considered.

Vanessa Maitland

Garmin Marine Charts. 2022. *HXAF002R-g3-South Africa v2022.0*. Switzerland: Garmin Ltd.

Levine, M. 1989. *Shipwreck History of Southern Africa: A Chronology of Shipping Disasters 1488-1989*. Unpublished.

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Turner, M. 1988. *Shipwrecks and Salvage in South Africa: 1505 to the Present*. Cape Town: C. Struik.

van den Bosch, F. 2009. *South African Shipwreck Database*. CD-ROM. Cape Town: .