

# **PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ESTCOURT PRIVATE HOSPITAL ON ERF 3299, INKOSI LANGALIBALELE MUNICIPALITY, KZN.**



## **ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.**

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Frans received his MA (Archaeology) from the University of Stellenbosch and is presently a PhD candidate on social anthropology at UKZN. His PhD research topic deals with indigenous San perceptions and interactions with the rock art heritage of the Drakensberg.

Frans was employed as a junior research associate at the then University of Transkei, Botany Department in 1988-1990. Although attached to a Botany Department he conducted a palaeoecological study on the Iron Age of northern Transkei - this study formed the basis for his MA thesis in Archaeology. Frans left the University of Transkei to accept a junior lecturing position at the University of Stellenbosch in 1990. He taught mostly undergraduate courses on World Archaeology and research methodology during this period.

From 1991 – 2001 Frans was appointed as the head of the department of Historical Anthropology at the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. His tasks included academic research and publication, display conceptualization, and curating the African ethnology collections of the Museum. He developed various displays at the Natal Museum on topics ranging from Zulu material culture, traditional healing, and indigenous classificatory systems. During this period Frans also developed a close association with the Departments of Fine Art, Psychology, and Cultural and Media Studies at the

then University of Natal. He assisted many post-graduate students with projects relating to the cultural heritage of South Africa. He also taught post-graduate courses on qualitative research methodology to honours students at the Psychology Department, University of Natal. During this period he served on the editorial boards of the *South African Journal of Field Archaeology* and *Natalia*.

Frans left the Natal Museum in 2001 when approached by a Swiss funding agency to assist an international NGO (Working Group for Indigenous Minorities) with the conceptualization of a San or Bushman museum near Cape Town. During this period he consulted extensively with various San groupings in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. During this period he also made major research and conceptual contributions to the Kamberg and Didima Rock Art Centres in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site.

Between 2003 and 2007 Frans was employed as the Cultural Resource Specialist for the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project – a bilateral conservation project funded through the World Bank. This project involved the facilitation with various stakeholders in order to produce a cultural heritage conservation and development strategy for the adjacent parts of Lesotho and South Africa. Frans was the facilitator for numerous heritage surveys and assessments during this project. This vast area included more than 2000 heritage sites. Many of these sites had to be assessed and heritage management plans designed for them. He had a major input in the drafting of the new Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage site in 2007/2008. A highpoint of his career was the inclusion of Drakensberg San indigenous knowledge systems, with San collaboration, into the management plans of various rock art sites in this world heritage site. He also liaised with the tourism specialist with the drafting of a tourism business plan for the area.

During April 2008 Frans accepted employment at the environmental agency called Strategic Environmental Focus (SEF). His main task was to set-up and run the cultural heritage unit of this national company. During this period he also became an accredited heritage impact assessor and he is rated by both Amafa and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). He completed almost 50 heritage impact assessment reports nation-wide during an 18<sup>th</sup> month period.

Frans left SEF and started his own heritage consultancy called “Active Heritage cc” in July 2009. Although mostly active along the eastern seaboard his clients also include international companies such as Royal Dutch Shell through Golder Associates, and UNESCO. He has now completed almost 1000 heritage conservation and management reports for various clients since the inception of “Active Heritage cc”. Amongst these was a heritage study of the controversial fracking gas exploration of the Karoo Basin and various proposed mining developments in South Africa and proposed developments adjacent to various World Heritage sites. Apart from heritage impact assessments (HIA's) Frans also assist the National Heritage Council (NHC) through Haley Sharpe Southern Africa', with heritage site data capturing and analysis for the proposed National

Liberation Route World Heritage Site and the national intangible heritage audit. In addition, he has done background research and conceptualization of the proposed Dinosaur Interpretative Centre at Golden Gate National Park and the proposed Khoi and San Interpretive Centre at Camdeboo, Eastern Cape Province. During 2009 he also produced the first draft dossier for the nomination of the Sehlabathebe National Park, Lesotho as a UNESCO inscribed World Heritage Site.

Frans was appointed as temporary lecturer in the department of Heritage and Tourism, UKZN in 2011. He is also a research affiliate at the School of Cultural and Media Studies in the same institution.

Frans's research interests include African Iron Age, paleoecology, rock art research, San ethnography, traditional healers in South Africa, and heritage conservation. Frans has produced more than forty publications on these topics in both popular and academic publications. He is frequently approached by local and international video and film productions in order to assist with research and conceptualization for programmes on African heritage and culture. He has also acted as presenter and specialist for local and international film productions on the rock art of southern Africa. Frans has a wide experience in the fields of museum and interpretive centre display and made a significant contribution to the conceptual planning of displays at the Natal Museum, Golden Horse Casino, Didima Rock Art Centre and !Khwa tu San Heritage Centre. Frans is also the co-founder and active member of "African Antiqua" a small tour company who conducts archaeological and cultural tours world-wide. He is a Thetha accredited cultural tour guide and he has conducted more than 50 tours to heritage sites since 1992.

#### **Declaration of Consultants independence**

Frans Prins is an independent consultant to EnviroPro and has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which he was appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances whatsoever that compromise the objectivity of this specialist performing such work.



**Frans Prins**

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
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
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 heritage survey of the proposed Estcourt Private Hospital, Inkosi Langalibalele Municipality, identified no heritage sites or features on the footprint. The greater area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. However, the project area has a high rating for palaeo-sensitivity as outcrops of fossil bearing-mudstones and sandstones of the Tarkastad Subgroup make up the topography of the surrounding landscape. Therefore, before the proposed upgrade can go ahead there is a need for a Phase 2 PIA as it is possible that palaeontological material will be encountered. 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 as well as graves and fossil material should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency

## 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

**Table 1. Background information**

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for EnviroPro
Type of development:	Proposed new private hospital on Erf 3299, Estcourt
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
Terms of reference	To carry out a Phase One 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 footprint is situated in the residential area of Drakensview approximately 1.5km south-west of Estcourt CBD, adjacent to main road 29 Ntabamhlope Road (Fig 1). The proposed development is situated on Erf 3299 being the top corner of the residential area adjacent to the main road and the existing Municipality Water Treatment Works (Fig 2).

The GPS co-ordinates for the proposed private hospital are: S 29° 01'19.74" E 29° 51' 06.00"

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Estcourt area has been relatively well surveyed for archaeological sites in the past. Some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades whilst archaeologists from the then Natal Museum have made various visits to the area. The low altitude and densely wooded areas in the immediate vicinity of Estcourt have been intensely occupied by Middle and later Iron Age farmers since around 1200 AD. Some of these sites have also been excavated by Professor Oliver Davies, Dr Tim Maggs and Gavin Whitelaw of the then Natal Museum at various periods between 1978 and 2005 (Huffman 2007). The well-



known Moorpark Middle Iron Age site occurs approximately 20km to the west of the study area.

The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the area in the near vicinity to the study area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include 11 Early Stone Age site, 28 Middle Stone Age sites, 14 Later Stone Age sites, and 48 Later Iron Age sites (including some Middle Iron Age Sites belonging to the Moor Park Tradition), and numerous historical sites dating back to the colonial period (Figs 3 & 4)

Most of the Stone Age sites in the near vicinity of the footprint occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. The Early Stone Age sites occur close to permanent water sources. Some Middle Stone Age flakes, probably dating back to ca. 40 000 – 200 000 years ago, occur in disturbed context in dongas and road cuttings. The majority of Later Stone Age sites as well as rock art sites occur further west in the foothills of the Drakensberg. These typically occur in small shelters in the sandstone formations some leading up to the Drakensberg. However, 11 Iron Age rock engraving sites also occur in the greater Estcourt area. These engravings are usually made on dolerite outcrops in areas with an altitude above 1000 metres above sea level.

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years (Mitchell 2002) 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 Estcourt area. Although the majority of sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. The earliest sites that dates back to approximately 1200 AD are called Moor Park after the type site situated at Moor Park Nature Reserve close to the project area. These sites were occupied by early Nguni-speaking farmers and most probably represent extended family homesteads (Huffman 2007). The Later Iron Age sites of the area were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the amaBhele and related groups (Bryant 1965). However, by 1820 the amaBhele was dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups, such as the amaHlubi, and other individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial

authorities after 1845. 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. Various sites in the area belong to the Voortrekker era especially former laagers such as Veglaager – now covered by the waters of Wagendrift Dam and Blaawkranz (Bloukrans). The Bloukrans Provincial Heritage Site is situated approximately 4km to the west of the study area. On the night of 16 February 1838 a Voortrekker Laager situated at Blaawkranz was attacked by Zulu warriors and 96 adults, 185 children and about 200 servants were killed by a Zulu force that also seized about 25 000 head of cattle (Ransford 1974). In the days following the attack the Voortrekkers buried their dead in a mass grave near the Great Moordspruit River. In 1895, the bodies were exhumed and reburied under the Bloukrans monument at the site of the battle (Derwent 2006).

Despite early Voortrekker settlement the majority of older buildings on farmsteads in the area were erected by British colonists after 1850 who occupied farms previously inhabited by Voortrekker pioneers (Bizley & McKenzie 2007). Fort Durnford (Fig 9), for instance, was built in the 1870's to combat San raids from the Drakensberg. Anglo-Boer War activities also took place in the area and the most southern skirmish between Boer and Brit in Natal took place at Willow Grange to the immediate south of Estcourt. The capture site of the young Winston Churchill occurs about 6km to the west of the study area (Derwent 2006).

### **3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted for previous heritage surveys and heritage site data covering the project area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the Estcourt areas was consulted. Aerial photographs covering the area were scrutinised for potential Iron Age and historical period structures and grave sites. A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological

procedures, was conducted on the 25 August 2019. Particular attention was focused on the occurrence of potential grave sites and other heritage resources on the footprint.

### **3.1.1 Guidance from Desktop Study**

- The desktop study indicates that Stone Age Sites of all periods and traditions may occur in the greater Estcourt region. However, Early Stone Age sites typically occur close to permanent and prominent sources of water, none of which occur in the immediate environs of the project area.
- Middle Stone Age tools have been found in dongas and erosion gullies at various locales in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands including the greater Estcourt area. These sites are usually out of context and of little research value. Middle Stone Age deposits often occur in deep cave deposits throughout KwaZulu-Natal (including the foothills of the central Drakensberg). Again no erosion gullies or suitable rocky outcrops that may harbour shelters with deep cave deposits occur in the project area.
- Later Stone Age sites, including rock painting sites, are prolific in the foothills of the Drakensberg to the immediate west of the project area. However, there are no suitable rocky outcrops in the project area that may harbour shelters with Later Stone Age deposits and/or rock paintings.
- Early Iron Age Sites typically occur along major river valleys below the 700 m contour in KwaZulu-Natal. It is very unusual to find sites above the 1000m contour. The project area is situated well above the 1000m contour far removed from a major river valley setting. It is therefore most unlikely to expect Early Iron Age sites at the project area.
- Later Iron Age sites may occur in the project area. These sites were occupied by the ancestors of the first Nguni-speaking agriculturists as well as their descendants who settled in KwaZulu-Natal. Sites in the environs of Estcourt are built with stone and as a result such sites have a high archaeological visibility. Various period Iron Age sites occur in this region including earlier Moor Park type settlements (dating to approximately 1400 AD) and Later period sites belonging to amaZizi and amaBhele chiefdoms who occupied the area during the late 1700's and early 1800's. It would be relatively easy to locate such sites by means of aerial photography surveys and such sites may occur at the project area.

- Historical buildings, structures and farmsteads do occur scattered throughout the foothills of the Drakensberg and the greater Estcourt area. In addition, the areas around Estcourt was settled by early Voortrekker pioneers in the 1830's. Historical era buildings and structures could occur at or near the project area. The greater Estcourt area also figured prominently during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. It is possible that heritage sites relating to this historical period may occur at or near the project area.

### **3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey**

#### **3.2.1 *Visibility***

Visibility was good.

#### **3.2.2 *Disturbance***

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

### **3.3 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.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED**

### **4.1 Locational data**

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Closest Towns: Estcourt

Municipality: Inkosi Langalabalele Municipality

## 4.2 Description of the general area surveyed

### 4.2.1 Background

Although existing data bases and previous CRM surveys in the greater Estcourt area indicate numerous archaeological and other heritage sites none of these are situated within 500m from the proposed private hospital (Figs 2 & 3). The desktop survey is echoed by the ground survey which, did not locate any archaeological sites on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape (Figs 6 - 8).

Local residents encountered on the side of the Nthabamhlope Road were asked about the potential location of any heritage sites and graves on the footprint. However, they were largely uninformed.

## 5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

### 5.1 Field Rating

The heritage site rating system as developed by SAHRA (Tables 2 & 3) is not applicable as no heritage sites occur on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape.

**Table 2. 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

**Table 3. Evaluation and statement of significance (excluding paleontology).**

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

## **6 PALEONTOLOGY DESKTOP STUDY**

The SAHRIS Fossil Sensitivity map shows that the project area is of high paleontological significance (Fig 5). The area has a high rating for palaeo-sensitivity as outcrops of fossil bearing-mudstones and sandstones of the Tarkastad Subgroup make up the topography of the surrounding landscape. According to Amafa policy an accredited palaeontologist will have to conduct a ground survey of the project area before any development may occur.

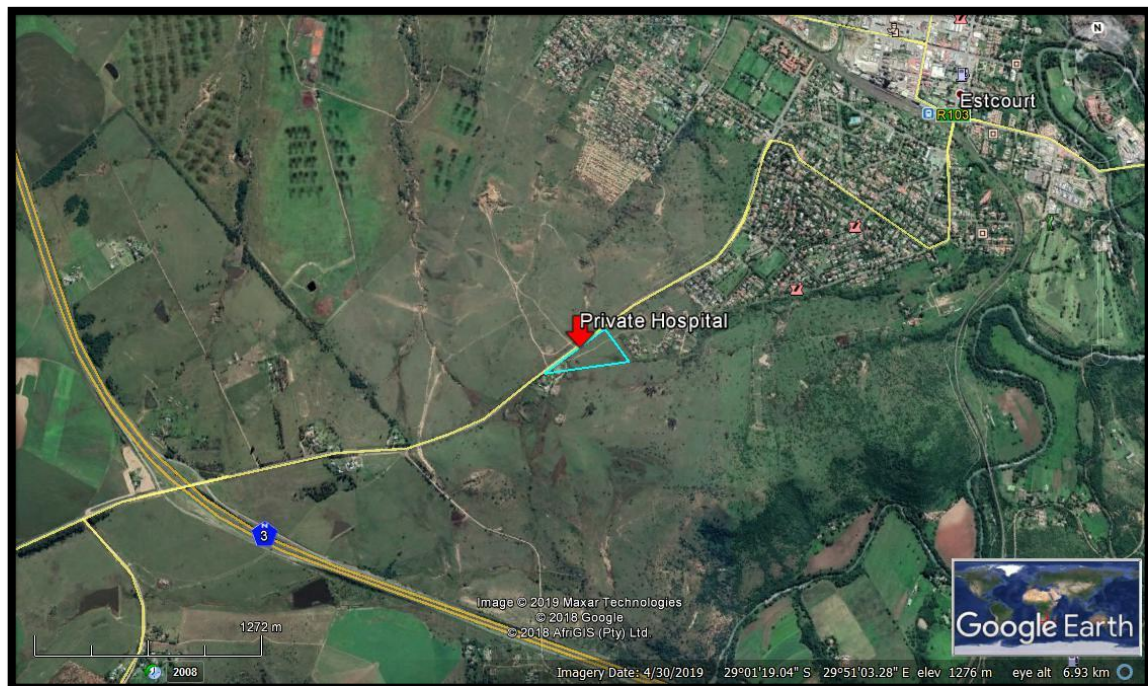
## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The construction of the proposed Estcourt Private Hospital may proceed from a general heritage perspective as no heritage sites or features are threatened by the development.

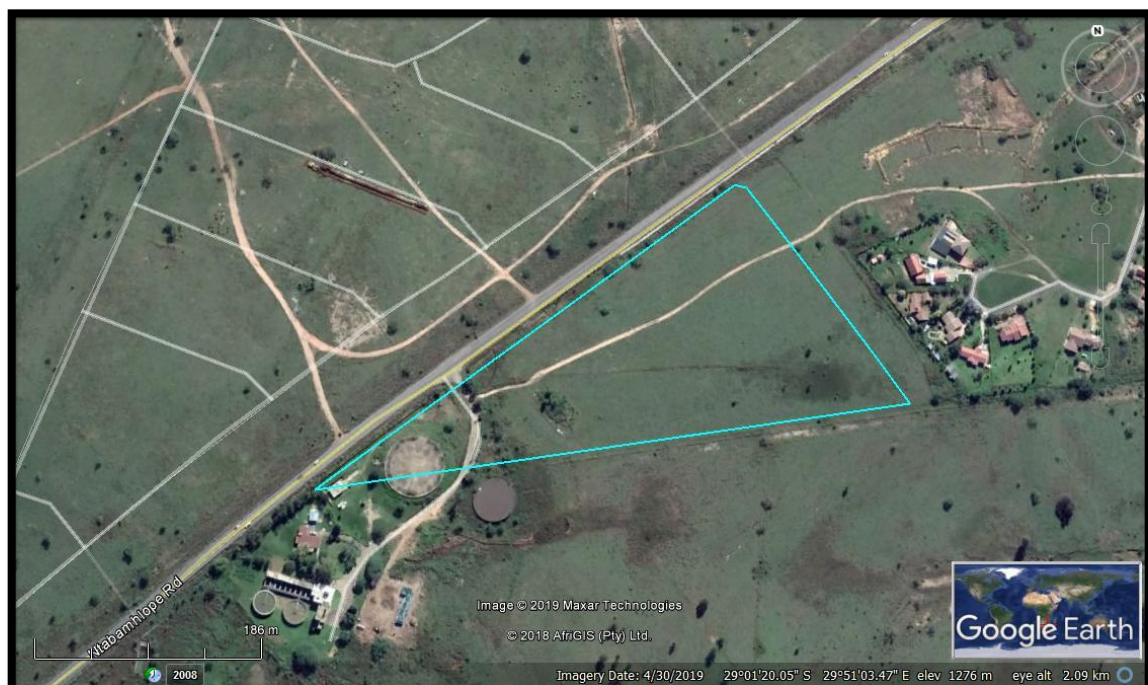
The paleontological desktop study, however, indicates that the project area has a high rating for palaeo-sensitivity. Therefore, before the proposed upgrade can go ahead there is a need for a Phase 2 PIA as it is possible that palaeontological material will be encountered.

It is important to take note of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act that requires that any exposing of fossil material, graves, archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

## 8 MAPS AND FIGURES

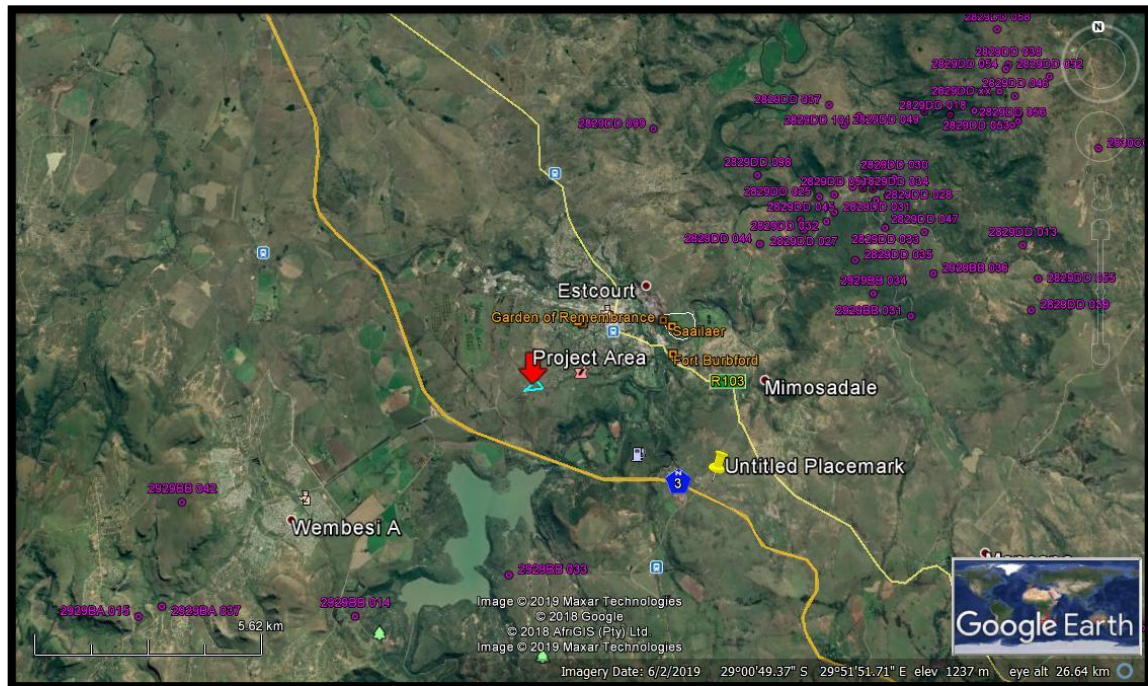


**Figure 1. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of the proposed Estcourt Private Hospital relative to Estcourt and the N3.**

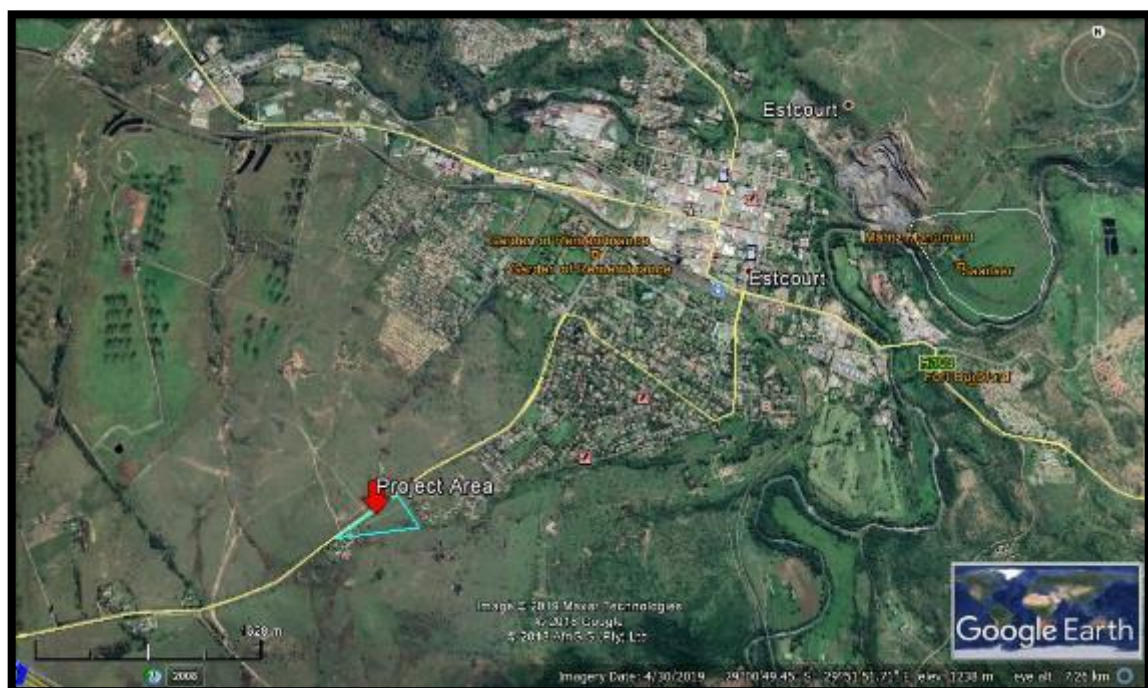


**Figure 2. Google Earth Imagery showing the location and context of the proposed Estcourt Private Hospital.**

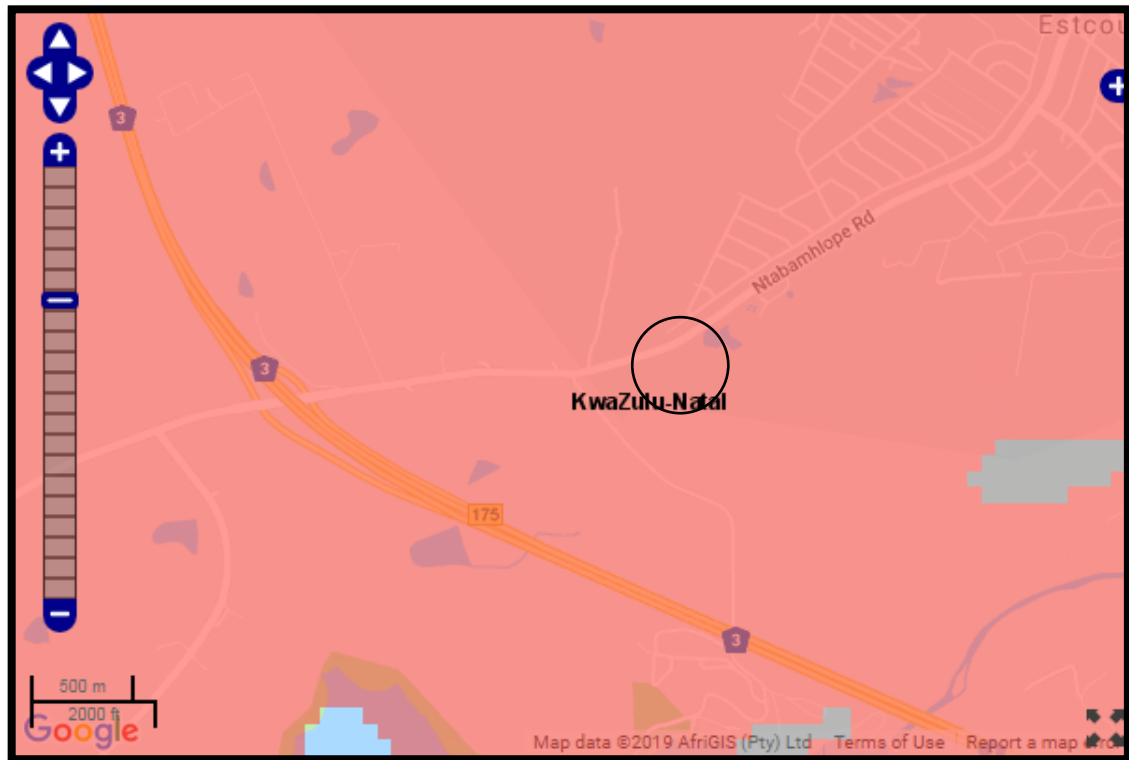




**Figure 3. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of known archaeological sites (purple markers) and historical period sites (orange markers) in the greater Estcourt area. None occurs on the footprint.**



**Figure 4. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of known historical period sites in Estcourt to the immediate east of the proposed development.**



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 5. SAHRIS Fossil Sensitivity Map of the project area as indicated by the black polygon. The red background colour indicates that the area has a very high fossil sensitivity. A field assessment, by a qualified palaeontologist, and a protocol for finds will be required before any development may occur.**





***Figure 6. The project area is covered by grassland and there is no evidence for any heritage sites or features.***



***Figure 7. The project area is not part of any known cultural landscape.***



**Figure 8. View over the greater project area facing north west.**



**Figure 9. Fort Durnford, a prominent heritage site in Estcourt, is situated approximately 1.5km to the east of the project area. This site is not threatened by the proposed development..**

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