

**MADRASSA AN-NOOR FACILITY FOR THE BLIND,
CEDARA, WARD 6, UMNGENI MUNICIPALITY
KWAZULU-NATAL**

Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Madrasa An-Noor facility for the blind wishes to expand its services therefore the facility proposes to build additional structures on its existing property which is situated close to the Cedara Agricultural School. The facility is situated approximately 760 m north east of Cedara and is bordered by a railway line and the N3 highway to the south and by a railway line on its northern boundary.

The proposed developments may collectively trigger Section 38 (1) (c) (i) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). The relevant section of the NHRA states that: *“(1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as—*

(c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site —

(i) exceeding 5 000 m² in extent;

must notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

In addition, based on a notification of intention to develop, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali, indicated that an HIA would be required for the proposed development as the general area was considered to be sensitive in terms of heritage values.

A site inspection of the project area was undertaken on 28 July 2016. The area had recently been burnt and visibility was generally good.

The specialist was informed that prior to the facility, the area had been occupied by an informal settlement. Remnants of this settlement are still visible in the project area with terraced areas are still visible where structures were constructed as well as refuse left by the inhabitants including many bottles. Power lines also cross the project area. Throughout the project area there are mounds of building rubble presumably left when the informal settlement was moved.

The western half of project area contains two wetlands and a man-made dam and small square cattle pen. There are also existing pipes running through this section of the project area.

The site inspection revealed no heritage resources and this is attributed to the large scale disturbance of the project area including the area having been an informal settlement. The existing construction work and construction camp have added to the disturbance of the area.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency's Fossil Sensitivity Map indicated that the project area is situated in an area of high palaeontological / fossil sensitivity. This level of sensitivity generally requires that a desktop palaeontological assessment be undertaken. However, due to the disturbed nature of the project area, there is a low probability of finding intact and significant fossils therefore it was recommended that no further studies should be undertaken in this regard.

The project area has been disturbed by various man-made features including existing buildings, dams and power lines and the remains of previous habitation. No visible heritage sites / resources were found in the project area therefore it was recommended that the proposed expansion of the facility could proceed with the proviso that the mitigation measures provided were adhered to.

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AUTHOR DETAILS

Verification	Name	Qualification	Professional Registration
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Madrassa An-Noor facility for the blind wishes to expand the services it offers therefore the facility proposes to build additional structures including a school, dormitories, library and offices as well as other infrastructure on its existing property which is situated close to the Cedara Agricultural School.

This report serves as the Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed expansion of the facility.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The proposed developments may collectively trigger Section 38 (1) (c) (i) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). The relevant section of the NHRA states that: *“(1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as—*

- (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site —*
 - (i) exceeding 5 000 m² in extent;*

must notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

The project may also impact on graves, structures, archaeological and palaeontological resources that are protected in terms of sections 33, 34, 35, and 36 of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (No. 4 of 2008) as well as sections 34, 35, and 36 of the NHRA.

In addition, based on a notification of intention to develop, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa), indicated that an HIA would be required for the proposed development as the general area was considered to be sensitive in terms of heritage values.

In terms of Section 3 of the NHRA, heritage resources are described as follows:

- (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 paleontological 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 Phase I HIA was undertaken to assess whether any heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed expansion of the Madrassa An-Noor facility.

3. LOCATION

The Madrassa An-Noor facility is located approximately 760 m north east of the Cedara agricultural college in the Mngeni Local Municipality. It is bordered by a railway line and slightly further, the N3 highway to the south and by a railway line on the facility's northern boundary. The facility is situated approximately 12 km north-west of the Pietermaritzburg city centre.

There are several existing structures on the site that are currently used by the facility. According to Mr Mohammed Timol, project manager, these buildings were built some 30 to 40 years ago. From their appearance they look more recent as some of the sewerage pipes used are made from plastic indicating buildings of less than 40 years of age.



Figure 1: Project area outline in red



Figure 2: Google Earth image showing surrounding area including N3 highway and Cedara

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment in order to determine the possible existence of archaeological, palaeontological and cultural-historical sites or features in the project area that could be impacted by the proposed development of the facility.

Provide mitigation measures to limit or avoid the impact of the construction of the project on heritage resources (if any).

5. METHODOLOGY

A survey of literature was undertaken of the larger area in order to place the project in a historical context. Several HIAs undertaken in the wider geographical area were found on the SAHRIS database that provided additional historical data regarding the area.

A site inspection of the project area was undertaken on 28 July 2016. The area had recently been burnt and visibility was generally good.

This HIA report must be submitted to the heritage authority of KwaZulu-Natal, namely Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa) for their assessment and comment.

6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

Archaeological

According to Prins (2013:2), the greater Pietermaritzburg area is relatively well covered by archaeological surveys. The available evidence 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. These tools, based on typological criteria, probably date back to between 300 000 and 1.7 million years ago. The presence of the first anatomically modern people in the area is indicated by the presence of a few Middle Stone Age blades and flakes. These date 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 and most probably date back to between 200 and 20 000 years ago.

According to van Schalkwyk (2013:6), a number of rock shelters containing San rock art are known to exist in the region, approximately 17 km southwest of Mooi River, as well as to the east of Pietermaritzburg.

Prins (2013:3) explained that the Early Iron Age sites typically occurred on the alluvial and colluvial soils in the large river valleys. 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. Some Later Iron Age sites occur in the Umngeni River Valley close to Howick as well as in the Ottos Bluff area near Albert Falls Dam. 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. With the exception of the Nyavu, most of these communities were incorporated into the Zulu Kingdom of Shaka in the 1820's.

Historical

After the defeat of Dingane, the Voortrekkers concluded a treaty with Mpande in 1839. The treaty gave the trekkers a swathe of territory between the Thukela and Mzimvubu Rivers (Ballard 1989: 122). The Trekkers called it the Republic of Natalia with Pietermaritzburg established as their capital. This republic was short-lived and on 31 May 1844, Natal was annexed by the British as an autonomous district of the Cape Colony (Ballard: 123).

Pietermaritzburg was the civil and military control point for British operations in the colony during the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902) and a focus for reinforcements and supplies (Jones and Jones 1999:173).

According to Guest (1989: 317), the history of animal husband in the colony of Natal as well as that of agriculture is bound up in the control and conquest of diseases and eradication of pests. The effects of disease were often calamitous for many farmers and in response to this, a number of agricultural research stations were established in South Africa from the early twentieth century, including the Cedara research station that was founded in 1902. According to Guest (1989:318), Cedara was established as part of the post Anglo-Boer War strategy to develop agriculture in southern Africa through the use of modern scientific farming methods.

The land on which the Central Experiment Farm and Agricultural College for Natal was to be built was bought by the Natal Government in 1902. The land, 1542 ha, consisted of parts of the farms Driefontein and Rietspruit. The foundation stone of the "School of Agriculture and Forestry" was laid on 28 April 1905. The College, after Elsenburg, is the second oldest agricultural college in

South Africa. Renovations to the original 1905 building, which has accommodated many students, were completed in 1994 and the building was then declared a national monument. The building today serves as the corporate headquarters of the College and houses most of the academic staff (KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development website 2016:1).

7. RESULTS OF SITE INSPECTION

There is currently a dormitory being constructed on the site and a construction camp is situated at the back of this development and close the northern boundary of the project area.

Mr Timol, project manager, stated that before the area was occupied by the facility, the area had been occupied by the inhabitants of an informal settlement. Remnants of this settlement are still visible in the project area where terraced areas are still visible where structures were built as well as refuse (litter) including bottles left by the inhabitants. The terraced areas are visible throughout the project area. Power lines also cross the project area.



Figure 3: Terraced area for placing of structures

The remains of some floors of dwellings are still visible. Mr Timol mentioned that not all the structures in the informal settlement were shacks but that there were some cement structures as well. The remains of at least three such floors are still visible with some of the foundations still visible. Throughout the project area there are mounds of building rubble presumably left when the informal settlement was moved.



Figure 4: Bottles and other refuse



Figure 5: Remains of floor of structure



Figure 6: Remains of foundation / wall of structure



Figure 7: North eastern section of project area showing power lines

The western half of project area contains two wetlands that limit development in close proximity to these ecologically sensitive features. A man-made dam has been constructed below one of the wetlands for water storage. There are existing pipes running through this area but it is unclear what these are or were used for.



Figure 8: Western section of project area showing wetland in foreground

In the centre of the project area is a wooden structure that was used to keep animals therein. It appears to be currently unused.



Figure 9: Wooden structure used to keep animals

The site inspection revealed no heritage resources. No graves nor intact structures were found and the remains of such structures left on site are of no heritage significance. No visible archaeological sites or material were found. The large scale disturbance of the project area could be the reason for this as the site has been occupied that could have led to the destruction of heritage resources if any. The existing construction work and construction camp have added to the disturbance of the project area.

The existing structures exhibit no characteristics of historic significance or importance. The buildings are depicted below.



Figure 10: Existing structures

Palaeontological

The South African Heritage Resources Agency's (SAHRA) Fossil Sensitivity Map indicates that the project area is situated in an area mainly coloured in orange that indicates an area of high palaeontological / fossil sensitivity (see map below) with a slight overlap into a zone of moderate sensitivity (indicated in green). As indicated below, an area of high sensitivity requires a desktop palaeontological assessment. However, due to the disturbed nature of the project area, there is a low probability of finding intact and significant fossils therefore it is recommended that no further studies are undertaken in this regard. A protocol for fossil finds is included in the mitigation measures as provided in Section 9 of this report.

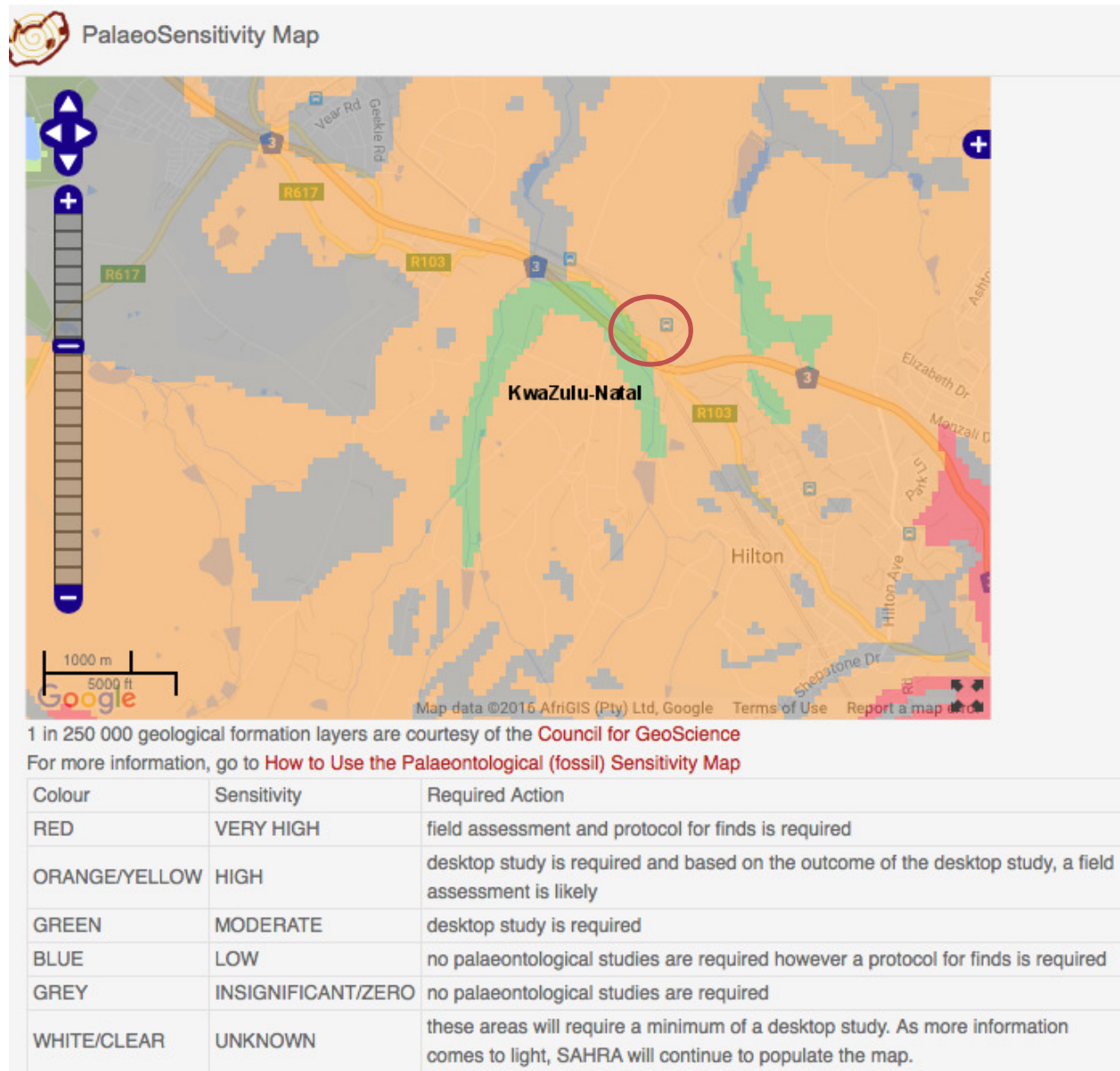


Figure 11: Fossil sensitivity map with project area indicated by red circle

8. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The project area was previously occupied leaving an area that has been disturbed by various man-made features including the remains of buildings as well as existing buildings, dams and power lines. Evidence of previous habitation can still be found on the site as described in Chapter 7 of this report.

No visible heritage sites / resources were found in the project area and the proposed expansion of the facility can proceed as long as the mitigation measures provided in the chapter below are adhered to.

9. MITIGATION MEASURES

- For any chance finds, such as grave sites, all work will cease in the area affected and the Contractor will immediately inform the Project Manager. A registered heritage specialist must be called to site for inspection. The relevant heritage resource agency (Amafa) must also be informed about the finding.
- The heritage specialist will assess the significance of the resource and provide guidance on the way forward.
- Written permission must be obtained from Amafa if heritage resources, including graves, are to be removed, destroyed or altered.
- All heritage resources found in close proximity to the construction area to be protected by a 3m buffer in which no construction can take place. The buffer material (danger tape, fencing, etc.) must be highly visible to construction crews.
- Under no circumstances may any heritage material be destroyed or removed from site unless under direction of a heritage specialist.
- If there are chance finds of fossils during construction, work in the area of the find must be stopped and a palaeontologist must be called to the site in order to assess the fossils and rescue them if necessary (with an Amafa permit). The fossils must then be housed in a suitable, recognized institute.

10. REFERENCES

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