

**BARTON PLACE HOUSING PROJECT,
ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY**

Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The eThekweni Municipality Human Settlements Unit proposes to develop low income housing that will be located in an area adjacent to Barton Place within the Clare Hills / Palmiet area of Durban. The size of the proposed development is approximately 3.5 hectares.

The proposed development triggers Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) that states the following:

“(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; or

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

A site inspection of the project area was undertaken on 6 August 2015. Sections of the area had recently been burnt making visibility good. A resident, Mr D. Diplall, who lives in the immediate area of the proposed development accompanied the specialist and also provided some oral history of the area.

The project area is highly disturbed as structures that used to stand on the site have been demolished and only the foundations and building rubble remain of these structures. The area is currently used to dump domestic and construction waste.

During the site visit, no cultural heritage and archaeological sites were found. An abandoned structure was found that is in an advanced state of disrepair and is therefore not regarded to be of heritage significance

The fossil sensitivity map of the SA Heritage Resources Agency was consulted and it was found that the project area falls within an area of moderate fossil sensitivity. A desktop palaeontological impact assessment was therefore required. However, a palaeontologist recommended that the desktop assessment was unnecessary due to highly disturbed nature of the site.

Based on the above findings, it is recommended that from a heritage perspective the project can proceed but that the mitigation measures listed in main body of the report are applied during the construction phase of the project.

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AUTHOR DETAILS

Verification	Name	Qualification	Professional Registration
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1. INTRODUCTION

The eThekweni Municipality Human Settlements Unit proposes to develop low income housing that will be located in an area adjacent to Barton Place within the Clare Hills / Palmiet area of Durban.

The size of the proposed development is approximately 3.5 hectares.

This report serves as the Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Barton Place housing project.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The proposed development triggers Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) that states the following:

“(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; or

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

In addition, the project may 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 National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA).

In terms of Section 3 of the National Heritage Act 25 of 1999, 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 will be undertaken to assess whether any heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development.

3. LOCATION

The project area is situated within the Clare Hills / Palmiet area in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. It is bordered by the N2 highway and the M19 Umgeni Road as well as the uMngeni River. See Fig. 1 below.

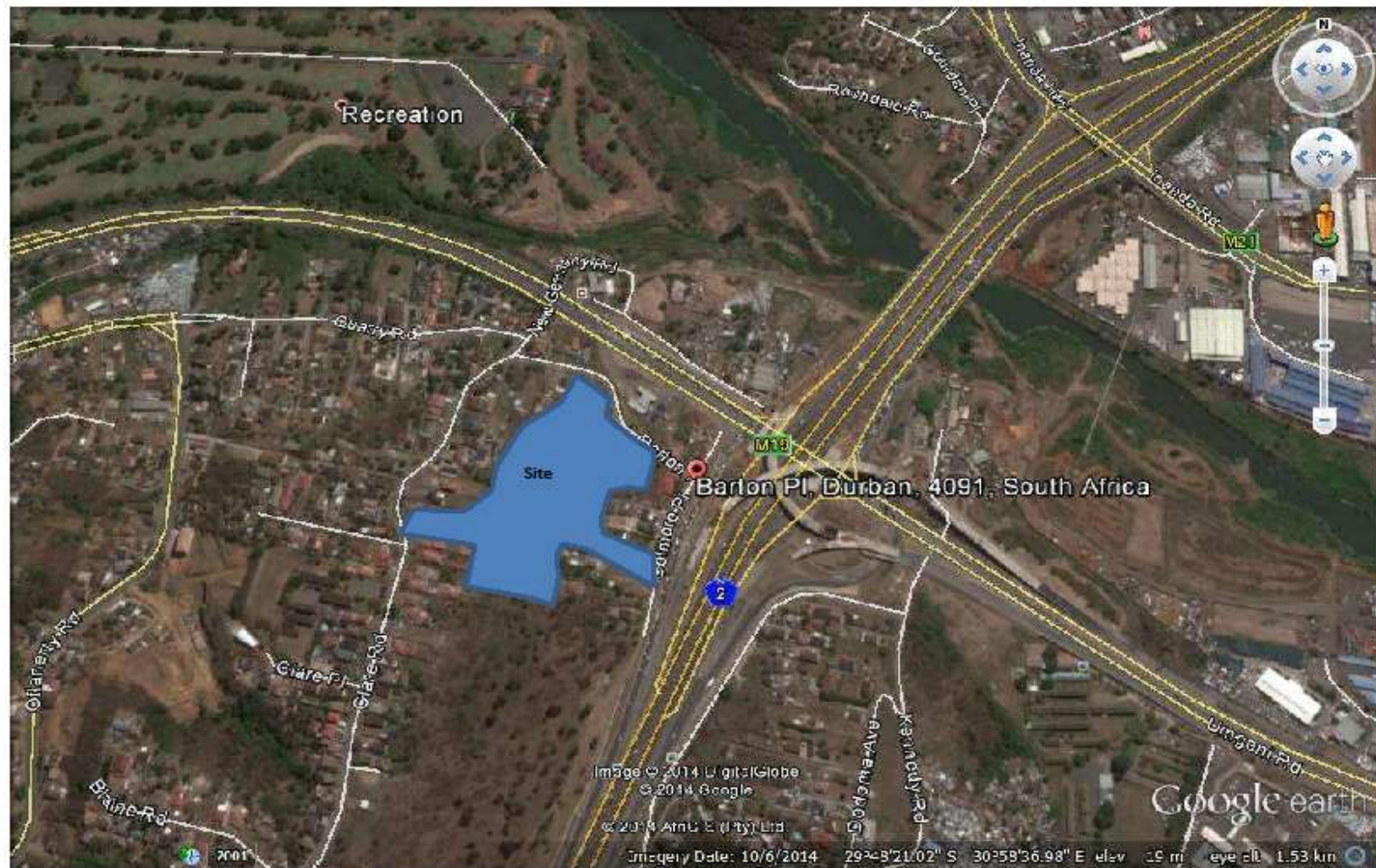


Figure 1: Map of project area and surrounds

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment in order to determine the possible existence of archaeological and historical sites or features in the project area that could be impacted by the proposed activity

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

Submission of the HIA report to Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa) for their assessment and approval.

5. METHODOLOGY

A survey of literature, including other Heritage/Archaeological Impact Assessment Reports completed in the area, was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context.

A site inspection of the project area was undertaken on 6 August 2015. Sections of the area had recently been burnt making visibility good. A resident, Mr. Desmond Diplall, who lives in the immediate area of the proposed development kindly accompanied the specialist on the site inspection and also provided some oral history of the area.

6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

Archaeological

Although there is evidence to suggest Phoenician navigators put in at present-day Durban as long ago as 700 BC, the first reliable written record of Durban dates back to 1497 when Vasco de Gama sighted land on Christmas day and named it Terra de Natalia (Derwent, 2006: 27).

The Durban area is host to a much older heritage. Sibudu Cave, about 40 km to the northeast, contains an important Middle Stone Age sequence. The oldest occupation, the pre-Stillbay, is older than 70 000 years, while the Stillbay itself dates to 70 000 years ago (South African History Online, 1 of 1).

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. By 1500 years ago, these early Bantu-speaking farmers also settled adjacent to the uMngeni River in the greater Camperdown area.

Due to the fact that these first farmers introduced metal technology to southern Africa they are designated as the Early Iron Age in archaeological literature. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as "Msuluzi" (AD 500-700), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshokane (AD 800-900). The Early Iron Age farmers originally came from western Africa and brought with them an elaborate initiation process and a value system centred on the central significance of cattle.

By 1820 the original African farmers were dispersed due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups and individuals were given permission to settle in the larger Durban area by the British colonial authorities after 1845.

Historical

According to a historical description of the uMngeni River by the CSIR¹, it appears that the position of the uMngeni estuary has changed repeatedly, moving not only north and south along the coast, but at times flowing directly into Durban Bay. It was noted in 1899 that the name uMngeni means "River of Entrance" because the ancient uMngeni flowed into Durban Bay via a low lying area known as "Eastern Vlei". However, a map of Durban drawn by Lt. King in 1823 shows the river clearly entering the sea in approximately its current position, with little sign of a pathway to the Bay.

In 1856 a great flood laid waste the Springfield Estate along the uMngeni River, which had grown the first Natal grown sugar for sale on the Durban market.²

North from the project site near the Umgeni Bridge, is an area which was once called Seekoei Vlei (Afrikaans for hippopotamus swamp) which is now dominated by the N2 highway, industrial development and a system of canals that have drained the area of water. The explorer, Alfred Delegorgue describes going on a hippo hunt in the Seekoei Vlei area in 1839: "after we had crossed the sandy bed and forded the beautiful river (the uMngeni), another challenge faced us

¹ www.csir.co.za/rhp/state_of_rivers/state_of_umngeni_02/history.html, 1 of 1

² ditto

in the guise of a steep and difficult ascent on the other side. Without benefit of roads, we reached the summit of this hill and then skidded down towards a pretty peninsula surrounded by a deep lake, where the large heads of hippopotamus could be seen here and there on the surface of the water....”³

According to a history of the Riverhorse Valley Business Estate, the present Business Estate was part of this lake. The name ‘Sea Cow Lake’ has still been retained for a portion of the area between the Estate and the uMngeni River. Riverhorse is another derivative of ‘hippopotamus’, from whence the Estate gets its name. By the 1930's only a small remnant of the former extensive lake remained, the remainder having been drained and used for sugar cane cultivation. In the late 1960's the last of the swamp was converted into a series of large oxidization ponds that formed part of the Northern Sewage Treatment Works of metropolitan Durban. In the early 1970's the N2 freeway was built through a portion of the former lake, and its outlet into the Umgeni River to the south was canalized. This was also accompanied by the scaling down of the cultivation of sugar cane close to Durban.⁴

According to Mr. Desmond Diplall, who has lived in the project area for approximately 40 years, the area housed Indian farmers who worked the lands on the banks of the uMngeni River. He said that when the N2 highway was constructed, many residents were offered compensation to move to other residential areas. His family, amongst a hand full of other families, chose not to move and still remain on the immediate eastern border of the proposed housing development (pers. comm 06/08/2015).

³ www.csir.co.za/rhp/state_of_rivers/state_of_umngeni_02/history.html , 1 of 1

⁴ <http://www.riverhorsevalley.co.za/page/history-of-riverhorse-valley-business-estate>, 1 of 1

7. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The project area is highly disturbed. Structures/houses that previously stood on the project area have been demolished with only piles of rubble and the foundations still visible. The area is also used as an area to dump both domestic and construction waste.

Mr. Dipdall pointed out a number of sites where recent excavations had taken place, where according to him, tests were undertaken to assess the geological suitability of the area.

Archaeological

No visible archaeological sites were discovered during the site assessment. Due to the highly disturbed nature of the project site with the previous occupation of the area, it is unlikely that intact archaeological sites will be found.



Figure 2: Rubble from demolished structure

Historical

One abandoned structure was found (see Fig. 5). Its significance is deemed to be low especially due to its advanced state of disrepair. No other heritage resources were noted during the site inspection.

Mr. Diplall was asked if he knew of any graves that could be found on the site. He said that there were no graves that he knew of on the project area. No graves were found during the inspection.



Figure 3: Remains of foundation of demolished structure



Figure 4: Southern section of project area



Figure 5: Remains of structure

Palaeontological

The South African Heritage Resources Agency's (SAHRA) Fossil Sensitivity Map (see Fig. 6 below) indicates that the project area is situated in an area of moderate palaeontological / fossil sensitivity (see map below). A desktop assessment is, according to the legend provided with the map, therefore required.

However, Prof Marion Bamford of the Evolutionary Studies Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand, indicated in email correspondence of 17 August 2015, that a desktop palaeontological impact assessment (PIA) was unnecessary because of the highly disturbed nature of the project area. She also stated that if there were fossils, they would be very young as the area is situated on an active floodplain and the fossils would be out of context and of no use to palaeontologists.

Based on the above specialist input, it is therefore recommended that a desktop PIA is not necessary.

PalaeoSensitivity Map

Project area

Map data ©2015 AfriGIS (Pty) Ltd, Google

1 in 250 000 geological formation layers are courtesy of the Council for GeoScience
 For more information, go to [How to Use the Palaeontological \(fossil\) Sensitivity Map](#)

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 6: Fossil sensitivity of project area

8. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

During the site visit, no cultural heritage and archaeological sites were found. A palaeontologist has recommended that a desktop PIA is unnecessary. It is therefore recommended that the project can proceed but that the mitigation measures listed below are enforced during the construction phase of the project.

This report will be submitted to Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali for comment and approval as required by the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999.

9. MITIGATION MEASURES

- For any chance finds, 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 be informed about the finding.
- The heritage specialist will assess the significance of the resource and provide guidance on the way forward.
- Permits to be obtained from Amafa if heritage resources are to be removed, destroyed or altered.
- All heritage resources found in close proximity to the construction area to be protected by a 10m buffer in which no construction can take place. The buffer material (danger tape, fencing, etc.) to 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.
- Should any remains be found on site that is potentially human remains, the South African Police Service should also be contacted.
- If there are chance finds of fossils during construction, 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

A historical description of the UMngeni River. Undated (www.csir.co.za/rhp/state_of_rivers/state_of_umngeni_02/history.html) Downloaded 16 August 2015

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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.