

# DESKTOP HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED SEATON EQUESTRIAN ESTATE, ILEMBE MUNICIPALITY, KZN.



**ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.**  
For: ENVIROPRO

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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 is 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 desktop heritage survey of the proposed Seaton Equestrian Estate near Shakaskraal, iLembe Municipality identified no archaeological or heritage sites on the footprint or within 50 m from the proposed development. The greater area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. An Amafa registered palaeontologist, however, needs to conduct a desktop paleontological assessment of the area before development may proceed as the area had a high fossil sensitivity. 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. It is important to note that all graves in KwaZulu-Natal, including those younger than 60 years, are protected by provincial heritage legislation.

## 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

**Table 1. Background information**

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for EnviroPro.
Type of development:	Equestrian Estate and access road
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
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 Heritage Act, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

### 1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The proposed development is situated approximately 1km to the south of Shakaskraal and 500m to the immediate west of the N2 (Figs 1 & 2). It is bordered by commercial farmlands and plantations.

The GPS coordinates for the centre of the proposed equestrian estate are: S 29° 27' 43.41" E 31° 14' 02.87". The GPS coordinates of the beginning point of the access road are: S 29° 27' 34.54" E 31° 14' 27.80". The GPS coordinates of the end point of the access road are: S 29° 27' 41.10" E 31° 14' 10.07".

## 2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Shakaskraal and Stanger/Kwa Dukuza areas has been relatively well surveyed for archaeological heritage sites by the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, post-graduate students from the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand, and subsequently by private heritage consultants in the last few years.

The available evidence, as captured in the Amafa and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that this area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. Eighty heritage sites occur within this area. These range from Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Later Stone Age to Early Iron Age, Middle and Later Iron Age sites as well as historical sites relating to the rise of the Zulu Kingdom and the subsequent colonial period. One notable Middle Stone Age site, i.e. Segubudu near Stanger has been



excavated in the last two decades by the University of the Witwatersrand and yielded impressive archaeological stratigraphies relating to the period associated with the origins of anatomically modern people (Mitchell 2002). The available data base also indicates seven archaeological sites in the near vicinity of the project area. These include a midden with Middle Stone Age and later Stone Age material to the immediate south of the study area. Closer to the coast archaeologists have also identified two Early Iron Age sites, and four middens with Later Iron Age material.

Around 1 700 years ago an initial wave of Early Iron Age People settled along the inland foot of the sand dunes on sandy but humus rich soils which would have ensured good crops for the first year or two after they had been cleared. These early agro-pastoralists produced a characteristic pottery style known as Matola. The Matola people also exploited the wild plant and animal resources of the forest and adjacent sea-shore. The communities seem to be small groups of perhaps a few dozen slash-and burn cultivators, moving into a landscape sparsely inhabited by Later Stone Age San hunter-gatherers.

By 1500 years ago another wave of Iron Age migrants entered the area. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as “Msuluzi” (AD 500-700), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshokane (AD 800-900). Three sites belonging to these periods occur along the banks of the Tugela River near the town of Mandeni. Some of these, such as the Ndongondwane and Mamba sites have been excavated by archaeologists (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462). Some Early Iron Age potsherds have been located by archaeologists from the then Natal Museum closer to Maphumulo but these sites have not been thoroughly investigated.

The greater Shakaskraal area is also intimately associated with the rise of the Zulu Kingdom of Shaka in the early 1820's. King Shaka had his capital Kwa Dukuza to the immediate north of Shakaskraal at Stanger. The exact spot of Shaka's death is thought to be where an old mahogany tree now grows in the grounds of the Stanger/Kwa Dukuza municipal offices. The grain pit where Dingane is thought to have secretly buried Shaka is marked by a large rock in the King Shaka Memorial Garden in the town. The Zulu people erected this memorial during the reign of King Solomon (1913-1932). An interpretative centre has since been added. Also in Stanger near King Shaka's memorial, is a small river known as Shaka's spring. From here, unpolluted water was collected for the king's use. Nearby on the Imbozamo River, was Shaka's Bathing Pool and Shaka's Cave where he would rest after swimming. Not much further off is the famous Execution Cliff where executions were carried out on Shaka's orders (Derwent 2006). The battle of Ndongokusuka, which saw the rise of power of king Cetshwayo in 1856, took place near the mouth of the Tugela River about 16 km to the north east of the project area.

The colonial history of the area starts around 1820 when early English ivory traders established themselves at Port Natal (Durban). Dutch descendants (i.e. Voortrekkers) moved into the area soon after 1834 and established a short lived Boer republic called

Natalia. The battle site of Ndonakusuka occur on the northern bank of the Tugela river about 12km from the study area. Here Zulu warriors under Mpande attacked and decimated a force of settlers from Port Natal and several thousand black levies in April 1838. The force had been raised to assist the beleaguered Voortrekker laagers, then under systematic attack by the Zulu. Some years later Ndonakusuka again became the scene of a great battle between Prince Cetshwayo and his brother, Mbuyazi – the bloodiest battle ever fought on South African soil (Derwent 2006). By 1845 Natal became a British colony. The area to the north of the Tugela River remained independent Zulu territory. However, in 1879 Zulu-land was invaded by British forces and the area annexed soon thereafter. Two well known British forts of this period occur within 10km from the study area, these are the twin forts of Pearson and Tenedos. They were built across from each other on either side of the mouth of the Tugela in 1878 and 1879 respectively. Fort Pearson is named after Colonel Charles Pearson, who led the invasion into Zululand in 1879. It is also the site of the Ultimatum Tree where Chetshwayo was issued the ultimatum intended to spark war. Today, little remains of Fort Pearson apart from the outer trenches. The remains of Fort Tenedos are best viewed from Fort Pearson (ibid). These heritage sites, like the archaeological resources of the province, are also protected by heritage legislation.

### **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. Perhaps the most relevant heritage survey to the area was conducted by Prins (2012, 2018, 2019). None of these studies located any heritage sites in the greater project area. In addition, the available archaeological and heritage literature covering the greater Shakaskraal area was also consulted. Aerial photographs covering the area were scrutinised for potential Iron Age and historical period structures and grave sites. None of the exiting data bases points to the location of heritage or archaeological sites on the footprint. Farm buildings did occur on the footprint, however, it is evident from the photographs taken by the appointed environmental agency (i.e. Enviropro) that none of these structures are older than 60 years old (Figs 4 & 5 ). None of the buildings have any heritage value. There is also no evidence that the footprint formed part of any cultural landscape.

### **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 project area, however, none occurs on the actual footprint.
- Middle Stone Age tools have been found in dongas and erosion gullies at various locales in the KwaZulu-Natal. 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 coastal zone). However, no erosion gullies or suitable rocky outcrops that may harbour shelters with deep cave deposits occur on the footprint.
- Later Stone Age sites are more prolific in the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and also in the foothills of the Drakensberg to the west. However, there are no suitable rocky outcrops in the project area that may harbour shelters with Later Stone Age deposits. Although rock art occurs further inland in the Thukela Valley to the north, there are no shelters or suitable rocky surfaces in the project area that may harbour such.
- Early Iron Age Sites typically occur along major river valleys below the 700 m contour in KwaZulu-Natal. Various Early Iron Age sites have been recorded in the Tugela River Valley in the past. However, the setting of the footprint does not follow this geographical protocol and it is unlikely that any Early Iron Age sites may occur on site.
- 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. However there is no evidence based on existing data bases as well as aerial photographic surveys that any Later Iron Age site occurs on the footprint.
- Historical buildings, structures and mission stations occur scattered throughout the greater iLembe area. However, none occur on the footprint.

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

### **4.1 Locational data**

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Closest Towns: Shakaskraal (Ballito) and Stanger/Kwa Dukuza

Municipality: ILembe Regional Municipality

### **4.2 Description of the general area surveyed**

#### **4.2.1 Background**

Despite the rich historical background to the greater Shakaskraal and Stanger/Kwa Dukuza areas the desktop study could not locate any heritage sites or features on the footprint. Archaeological sites do occur to the east of the project area at the coast (Fig 1). These sites include mostly Later Stone Age and Iron Age Shell middens. Historical sites that relate to the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 occurs to the north of the project area. However, none of these heritage will be affected by the proposed development as they are all located more than 1km from the footprint. All these sites are also indicated on the Amafa and KZN-Museum archaeological site data-bases

These conclusions are echoed by Cultural Resource Development surveys in the greater Shakaskraal area as reflected on the SAHRIS website. Again there is no indication that any heritage sites occur on the actual footprint.

#### **4.2.2 Desktop Paleontology Assessment**

The updated fossil sensitivity map, as provided by the SAHRIS website, shows that the project area is of high paleontological sensitivity (Fig 3). According to Amafa policy the implication is that a desktop paleontological ground survey will be required before the proposed development may proceed. This study will have to be conducted by an Amafa accredited palaeontologist.

## 5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

### 5.1 Field Rating

Not applicable as no heritage sites are known to occur on the footprint or within 1km from the footprint. The rating system as developed by SAHRA (Table 2) does not apply. However, should graves occur on the property then they would be rated as locally significant (ibid).

**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

No heritage sites occur on the footprint. The impact of the proposed development on heritage resources is thus of no significance (0 point scoring) and there is no merit in rating the proposed equestrian development and associated access roads, in terms of suitability (Table 3).

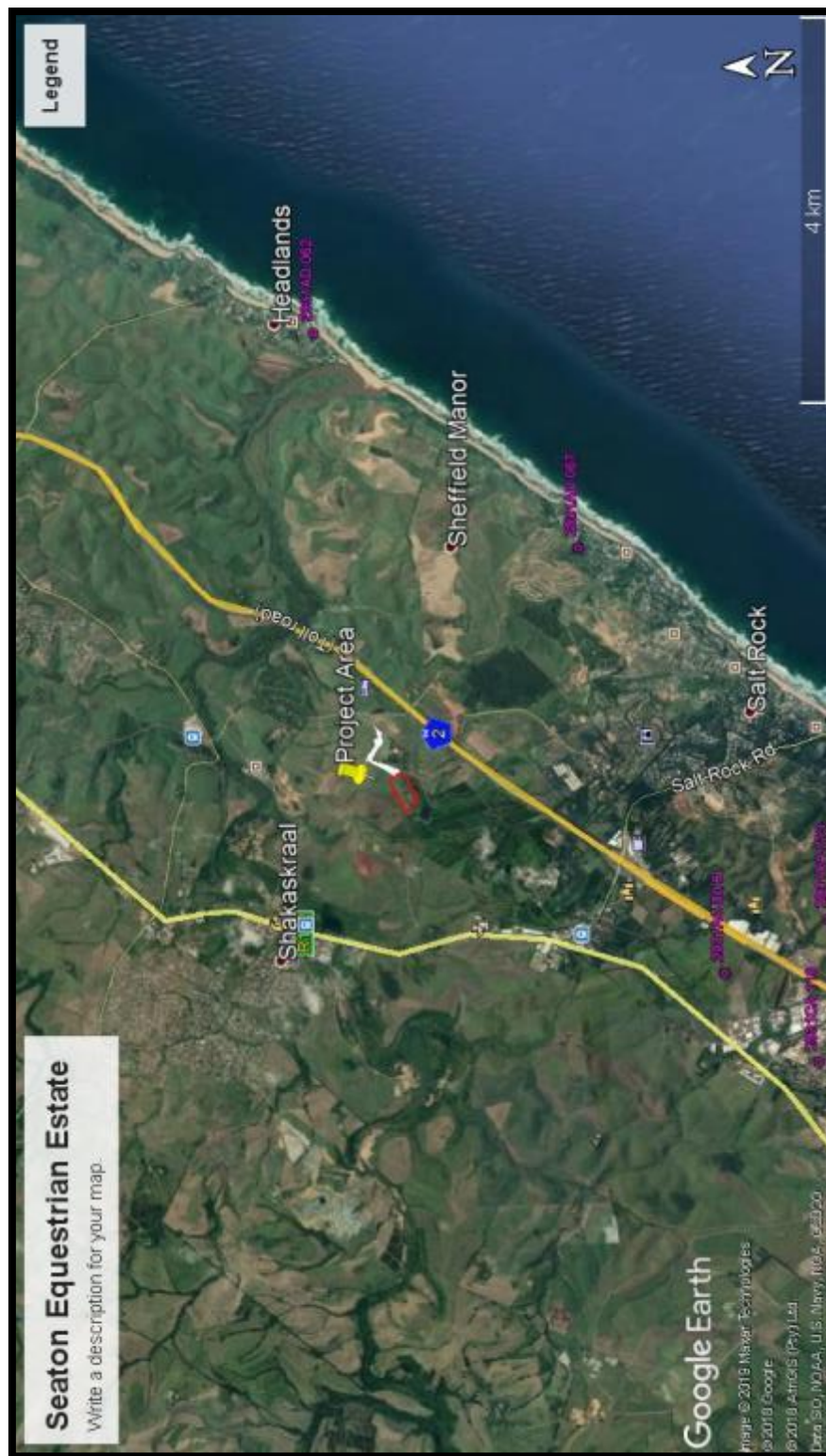
**Table 3. Evaluation and statement of significance.**

Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA		
	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Rating</b>
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 RECOMMENDATIONS**

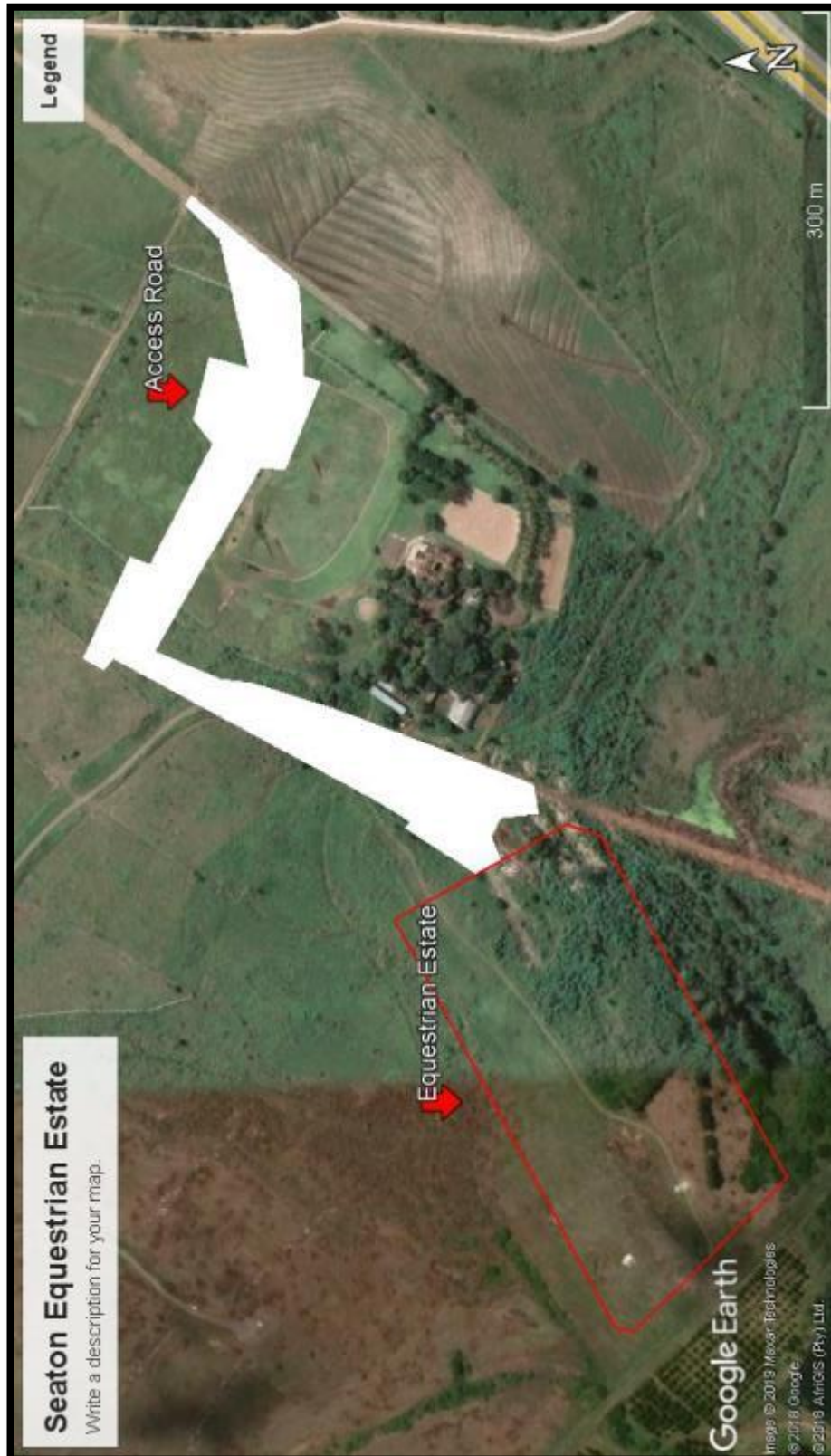
The desktop study indicates that no heritage sites, features or graves occur in the near environs of the proposed equestrian development. There is no reason why the proposed development may not proceed from a general heritage perspective (excluding paleontology). However, the first phase desktop paleontological assessment indicates that the footprint falls within a highly sensitivity area in terms of fossil occurrences. A ground survey by a qualified palaeontologist will have to be conducted of the proposed equestrian estate before any development may proceed. These assumptions and limitations are in compliance with Appendix 6 of the EIA regulations. It is also important to take note of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act that requires that any exposing of graves and archaeological and historical residues as well as fossils should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

## 7 MAPS AND FIGURES

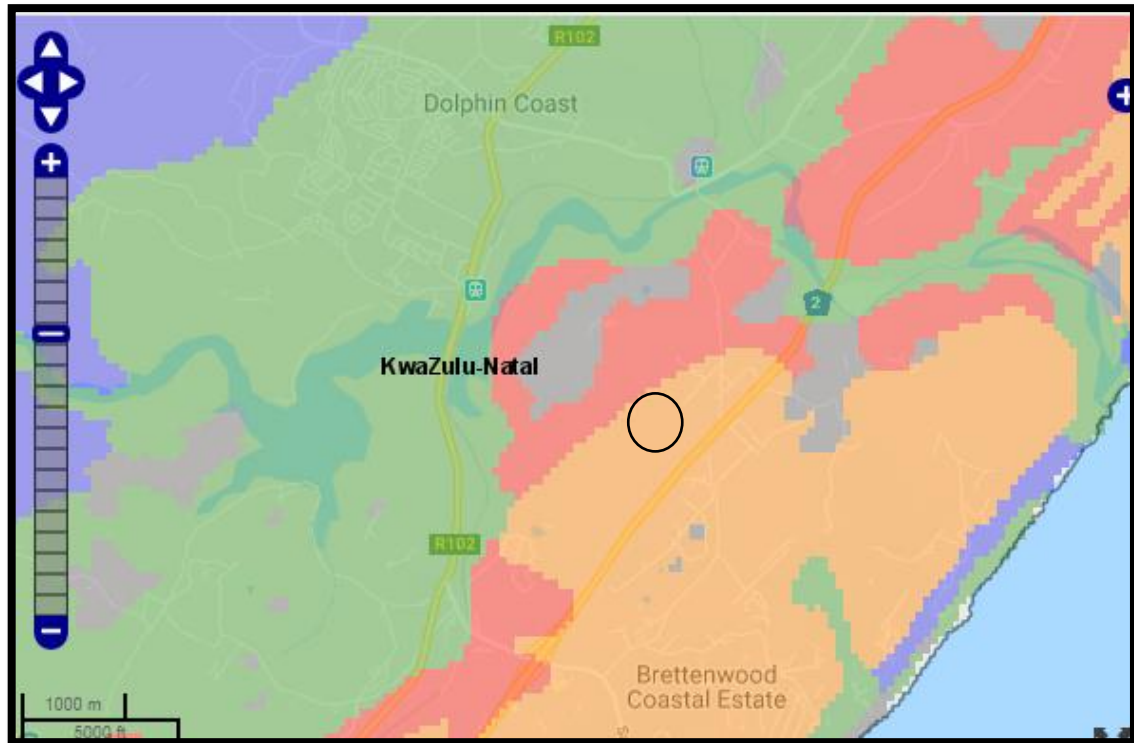


**Figure 1. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of the project area near Shakaskraal. The purple markers indicate the location of known archaeological sites.**





**Figure 2. Google Earth Imagery showing the outline of the proposed Seaton Equestrian Estate and the associated access road.**



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. Fossil Sensitivity Map of the project area: The proposed development area is indicated by the black polygon. The yellow background colour indicates that the area has a high fossil sensitivity. A paleontological desktop survey, by an Amafa accredited paleontologist will be required (Source: SAHRIS website).**



**Figure 4. Existing buildings on the footprint are younger than 60 years old and have no heritage value (photograph taken by EnviroPro).**



**Figure 5. Some buildings, all younger than 60 years old, have already been demolished. These have no heritage value (photograph by EnviroPro).**

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