

**A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR THE EXEMPTION
OF A FULL PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED MINING OF DOLERITE ON ERF NO. 702, PORT ST JOHNS
DISTRICT, O.R. TAMBO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Registration No.:

The type of development

The proposed development will include the mining of dolerite. The total mining area will be approximately 1,0 hectare.

The Developer

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

The original proposal was to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed mining of dolerite on Erf No. 702, Port St Johns District, O.R. Tambo District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province; to describe and evaluate the importance of possible archaeological heritage sites, the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Map: 1:50 000 – 3129DA Port St Johns

Location data

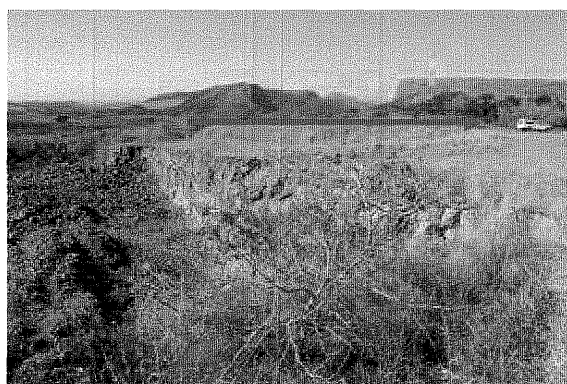
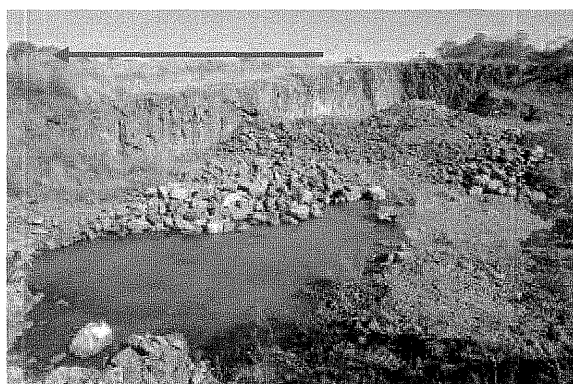
The proposed area for the mining of dolerite on Erf No. 702, Port St Johns District, O.R. Tambo District Municipality, is situated close to the R61 main road between Port St Johns and Lusikisiki. The mining area is located adjacent to an old quarry, some 7 km north-west of Port St

Johns (Maps 1-2). Three GPS readings were taken using a Garmin Plus II at 31.34.932S; 29.30.542E, 31.34.973S; 29.30.564E and 31.34.977S; 29.30.583E.

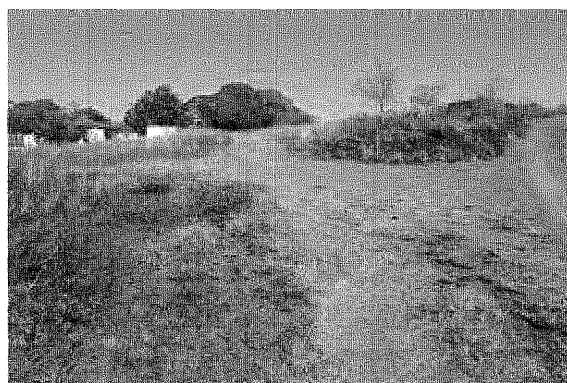
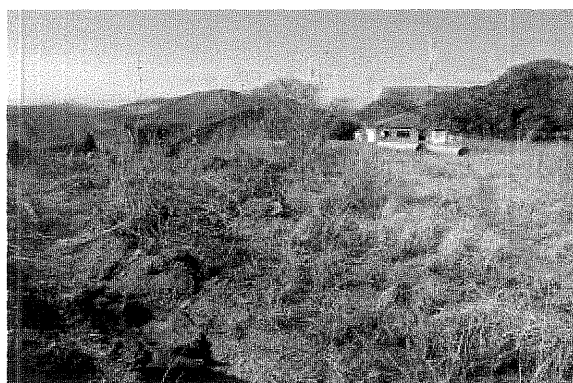
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Methodology

The investigation was conducted by two people on foot. The proposed area for mining dolerite is situated next to an old quarry on a relatively flat hilltop with steep gradients in all directions (Fig 1-2). The area has been severely disturbed by previous quarrying activities and there are also residential buildings on the property (Figs. 3-4). Low dense grass and patches of scrubs and trees covers a thin layer of topsoil which overlies the dolerite deposits. The top soil overlying the sandstone deposit is shallow, therefore, does not allow for archaeological features, such as Later Iron Age grain pits, hut floors and cattle kraals. The mining site is also too far from the coast for any concentrated coastal archaeological remains to be present. No archaeological sites/materials were found during the survey. In general it would appear that it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains of any value will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value will be exposed during the development.



Figs 1-2. Views of the old quarry and the adjacent area proposed for further dolerite mining. Red arrows indicate the area to be mined.



Figs 3-4. Views of the additional area proposed for the mining of dolerite. Note

Conditions

Although it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains of any value will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value, there is always a possibility that human remains and/or other archaeological and historical material may be uncovered during the development. Such material must be reported to the nearest museum, archaeologist or to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) if exposed, so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material (See Appendix A for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area).

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the proposed mining of dolerite on Erf No. 702, Port St Johns District, O.R. Tambo District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province, is exempted from a full Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment. The proposed area for development is of low cultural sensitivity and it is believed that it is unlikely that any archaeological heritage remains will be found on the property. The proposed development may proceed as planned.

Note: This letter of recommendation **only** exempts the proposed development from a full Phase 1 Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment, but **not** for other heritage impact assessments.

It must also be clear that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should give a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 35) requires a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in order that all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance are protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects.

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITIONS

It must be emphasised that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment is based on the visibility of archaeological sites/material and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Sites and material may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the unlikely event of such finds being uncovered, (during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed (see attached list of possible archaeological sites and material). The *onus* is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

APPENDIX A: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM INLAND AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers

1. Identification of Iron Age archaeological features and material

- Upper and lower grindstones, broken or complete. Later Iron Age lower and upper grindstones/rubbers will be pitted.
- Circular hollows - sunken soil, would indicate storage pits and often associated with grindstones.
- Ash heaps, called middens, with cultural remains and food waste such as bone.
- Khaki green soils would indicate kraal areas.
- Baked clay/soil blocks with or without pole, stick and grass impression marks indicate hut structures.
- Clay/ceramic potsherds, decorated or plain.
- Iron slag and/or blowpipes indicate iron working.
- Human remains may also be associated with khaki green soils.
- Metal objects and ornaments.

2. Human Skeletal material

Human remains, whether the complete remains of an individual buried during the past, or scattered human remains resulting from disturbance of the grave, should be reported. In general the remains are buried in a flexed position on their sides, but are also found buried in a sitting position with a flat stone capping or in ceramic pots. Developers are requested to be on the alert for these features and remains.

3. Fossil bone

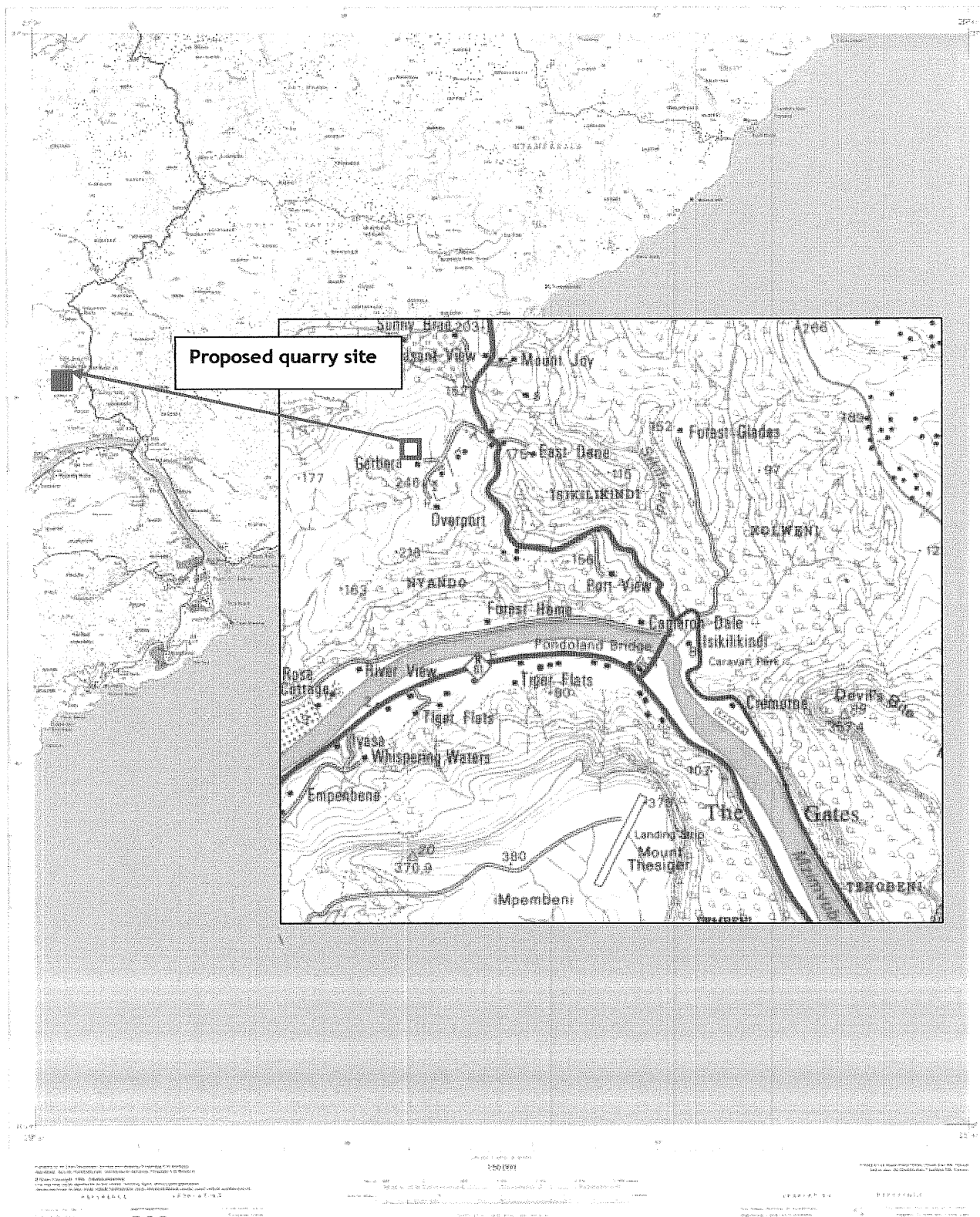
Fossil bones may be found embedded in deposit at the sites. Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

4. Stone artefacts

These are difficult for the layman to identify. However, large accumulations of flaked stones which do not appear to have been distributed naturally should be reported. If the stone tools are associated with bone remains, development should be halted immediately and archaeologists notified.

5. Historical artefacts or features

These are easy to identified and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.



Map 1. 1:50 000 maps indicating the proposed area for mining granite.



Map 2. Aerial views of the proposed area for the mining of granite.