

# PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESKTOP PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 34 AND  
64 OF THE FARM HILTON NO. 12304 IN HILTON, UMNGENI LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL



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Draft Version  
**02 December 2022**



<b>Document Title:</b>	Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed residential development on Portion 34 and 64 of the Farm Hilton No. 12304 in Hilton, Umngeni Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.
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<b>Date:</b>	02 December 2022

**GENERAL DECLARATION:**

I, **Dr Phillipa Harrison**, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application in terms of Section 12 and 13 of the regulations;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist study relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 71 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

**REPORTING CONDITIONS:**

- The findings, results, observations, conclusions, and recommendations provided in this report are based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as information available at the time of compilation.
- The author accepts no liability for any actions, claims, demands, losses, liabilities, costs, damages, and expenses arising from or in connection with services rendered, and by the use of the information contained in this document.
- No form of this report may be amended without the prior written consent of the author.

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Refer to Appendix A for the CV of the Heritage Consultant

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Land Matters Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Green Door Environmental (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) for the proposed establishment of a residential development on the properties Portion 34 and 64 of the Farm Hilton No. 12304 in Hilton, Umngeni Local Municipality. The development site is approximately 20ha in extent and is located along the Hilton College Road. The site currently comprises undeveloped grassland with two existing residential houses located on the properties. Both houses are younger than 60 years old and will be retained on site as part of the development. There is also a Transnet multi-product pipeline servitude which traverses the site in an east-west alignment and a seep wetland located in the central to northern portion of the development site. The proposed residential development will comprise a high-end residential estate.

This Phase 1 HIA is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 41(1)(c) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, 2018 (Act 5 of 2018). Portions of the project site are location within an area that is designated as “high” in terms of fossil sensitivity according to the SAHRIS palaeo-sensitivity map, while other portions of the site have an “insignificant or zero” palaeontological sensitivity rating. As such a Desktop PIA and protocol of finds is also required for the proposed residential development project. The Phase 1 HIA and Desktop PIA also forms part of the Environmental Authorisation process under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) for the proposed establishment of a residential development in Hilton. The proposed development triggers Listed Activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (amended 2017) under NEMA for which a Basic Assessment Process is required.

The Phase 1 HIA included a desktop assessment and review of relevant current and historical aerial imagery of the study site. The SAHRIS website and Provincial Heritage Register were consulted for data on the presence and significance of any heritage sites within the project area and immediate surrounds. In addition, the available heritage literature covering the larger study area was also consulted. The Desktop PIA included the consultation of the relevant geological maps, paleontological databases, records, relevant literature, and existing paleontological assessment studies for the larger study area, to determine the likelihood of fossils being present within the project site and immediate surrounds.

According to the 2930 Durban 1:250 000 Geological map series (Council for Geosciences) the study site is underlain by Early to Middle Permian-aged shale of the Volkrust Formation of the Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup, as well as areas of younger intrusive Jurassic-aged dolerite. The Volkrust Formation deposits are potentially fossiliferous, with trace fossils, plant fossil fragments, and a unique invertebrate fossil, the marine bivalve, *Megadesmus* known to occur in the upper layers of the Volkrust Formation in the eastern Karoo Basin (Groenewald, 2017). However, as the Volkrust Formation shales were deposited in deep water environments, actual fossil finds, particularly fossil plants, are very rare and scattered (Bamford, 2019). Furthermore, vertebrate fossils are generally absent from the Volkrust Formation deposits as very few vertebrates had evolved by this time. Jurassic age dolerite which is found on the central portion of the study site comprises a non-fossiliferous rock type. As such, no well-preserved fossils are expected to be present on the study

site. However, in the unlikely event that the development excavations expose fossil material, the chance find protocol in Appendix C must be implemented.

A ground survey of the study site was conducted on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 following standard archaeological survey procedures. The consultant liaised with the property owner prior to the site visit in order to determine the site history, particularly in relation to the buildings present on the site, as well as on the possible presence of graves, stone walling, or other heritage features on the development footprint.

No heritage or palaeontological resources were identified on the proposed development site during the Phase 1 HIA and Desktop PIA, and the site does not form part of any known cultural or heritage landscape. The oldest built structures present on the site are less than 60 years old having been established in 1969/1970.

The heritage consultant is of the opinion that the proposed residential development may proceed on the proposed site, subject to the implementation of the recommendations as outlined in Section 11 of this Report. The proposed development must also adhere to the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act which states that all operations that expose graves, fossils or heritage features must cease immediately, pending an investigation by the provincial heritage resource authority.

**CROSS REFERENCE TABLE TO APPENDIX 6 OF THE EIA REGULATIONS**

Minimum Report Content Requirements as per Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations	Cross Reference in this Report
1. (1) A specialist report prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain - (a) details of (i) the specialist who prepared the report; and (ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae;	Declaration of Independence by Specialist (pg. ii). Specialist CV in Appendix A.
(b) a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;	Declaration of Independence by Specialist (pg. ii).
(c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared; (cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report; (cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 2: Scope of the Assessment. Section 5: Study Methodology. Section 10: Impact Assessment.
(d) the duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;	Section 5: Study Methodology.
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used;	Section 5: Study Methodology.
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 9: Assessment Results.
(g) an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers;	N/A
(h) a map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	N/A
(i) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 3: Assumptions and Limitations.
(j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity or activities;	Section 9: Assessment Results. Section 10: Impact Assessment.
(k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr;	Section 11: Conclusion and Recommendations.
(l) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation;	Section 11: Conclusion and Recommendations.
(m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation;	Section 11: Conclusion and Recommendations.
(n) a reasoned opinion - (i) whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised; (iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and (ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan;	Section 11: Conclusion and Recommendations.
(o) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report;	Section 5: Study Methodology.
(p) a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and	N/A

Minimum Report Content Requirements as per Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations	Cross Reference in this Report
(q) any other information requested by the competent authority.	N/A
(2) Where a government notice gazetted by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	N/A

**CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
4.1	National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) .....	2
4.2	National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) .....	3
4.3	KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act 2018 (Act 5 of 2018).....	3
4.4	Minimum Standards for Heritage Specialist Studies .....	4
4.5	KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Regulations, 2021 (Draft Regulations)	4
<b>5</b>	<b>STUDY METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	Desktop Assessment.....	5
5.2	Ground Survey .....	5
<b>6</b>	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCALITY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CULTURAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>GEOLOGY AND PALAEOLOGY .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT RESULTS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
9.1	Desktop Study.....	12
9.2	Ground Survey .....	14
9.3	Site Significance and Field Rating .....	15
9.4	Palaeontology .....	16
<b>10</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>20</b>

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Short CV of Heritage Consultant

Appendix B: Site Photographs

Appendix C: Chance Find Procedures for Heritage / Palaeontological Resources

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRIS	South African Heritage Resources Information System
SAPS	South African Police Services



# **RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTIONS 34 AND 64 OF THE FARM HILTON NO. 12304: PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESKTOP PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND**

Land Matters Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Green Door Environmental (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) for the proposed establishment of a residential development on the properties Portion 34 and 64 of the Farm Hilton No. 12304 in Hilton, Umngeni Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. The proposed residential development will comprise a high-end residential estate.

The development site is approximately 20ha in extent and is located along the Hilton College Road at GPS coordinates 29°30'59.35"S and 30°17'32.07"E. The site currently comprises undeveloped grassland with two existing residential houses located on the properties. Both houses are younger than 60 years old having been constructed in 1969/1970 and 1986 respectively. The houses will be retained on site as part of the development. There is a Transnet multi-product pipeline servitude which traverses the site in an east-west alignment, as well as a seep wetland located in the central to northern portion of the development site.

This Phase 1 HIA is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 41(1)(c) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, 2018 (Act 5 of 2018). Portions of the project site are location within an area that is designated as "high" in terms of fossil sensitivity according to the SAHRIS palaeo-sensitivity map, while other portions of the site have an "insignificant or zero" palaeontological sensitivity rating. As such a Desktop PIA and protocol of finds is also required for the proposed residential development project. The Phase 1 HIA and Desktop PIA also forms part of the Environmental Authorisation process under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) for the proposed establishment of a residential development in Hilton. The proposed development triggers Listed Activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (amended 2017) under NEMA for which a Basic Assessment Process is required.

## **2 SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT**

The Phase 1 HIA aims to locate, identify and assess the significance of any heritage resources that may be found on the development footprint, including archaeological and palaeontological deposits/sites, built structures older than 60 years, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict and basic cultural landscapes and viewsapes, as defined and protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act.

As per the requirements set out in Section 41(3) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, the key terms of reference for the Phase 1 HIA were as follows:

- The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the study area.

- Undertaking an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in Section 6(2) and/or Section 7 of the NHRA.
- Undertaking an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the identified heritage resources.
- An evaluation of the impact of the proposed development on such identified heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development.
- Reporting on the results of the consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources.
- The consideration of alternatives should any heritage resources potentially be adversely affected by the proposed development.
- The compilation of plans for mitigating of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.

In addition to the above, the primary aim of the Desktop PIA was to undertake a review of all relevant palaeontological and geological literature including maps and previous palaeontological impact reports for the general study area, to predict the potential for the occurrence of buried fossil heritage within the development footprint.

### **3 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

It is difficult to apply pure scientific methods within a natural environment without limitations or assumptions. The following apply to this study:

- Dense grassland vegetation was present on most of the study site which may have compromised heritage site visibility.
- Heritage/palaeontological resources may be present below the surface. No subsurface investigations were undertaken as part of the Phase 1 HIA and Desktop PIA.
- The findings, results, observations, conclusions, and recommendations provided in this report are based on the authors' best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information regarding the perceived impacts on heritage/palaeontological resources.
- The study results are based on a single day field investigation. Once-off assessments such as this may potentially miss certain heritage information, thus limiting accuracy, detail, and confidence.
- Any additional information used to inform the assessment was limited to data and GIS data sets which were available for the area at the time of assessment.

## **4 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **4.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (NEMA) 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998)**

This Phase 1 HIA and Desktop PIA has been undertaken in compliance with the requirements for specialist studies as contained in the EIA Regulations 2014 (amended 2017) under NEMA, as outlined in Appendix 6 of GNR 326 which provides the requirements for specialist reports, and Section 13 of GNR 326 which provides the general requirements for Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) and specialists.

## **4.2 NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (NHRA) 1999 (ACT 25 OF 1999)**

The NHRA makes provisions for the management and protection of heritage resources on a national level in South Africa. Section 3(1-3) of the NHRA defines those heritage resources in South Africa which form part of the national estate due to their cultural significance or other special value for the present community and future generations. Such resources include places, buildings, structures, equipment, oral traditions, historical settlements, townscapes, landscapes, geological sites, archaeological and palaeontological sites, graves and burial grounds and movable objects. Section 4 of the NHRA establishes both the national and provincial systems for the management of heritage resources within the country.

Section 7(1) of the NHRA provides for a three-tier management system which operates at a national, provincial, and local level and distinguishes between three categories for the grading of places and objects which form part of the national estate, as follows:

- National (Grade I) heritage resources, which are resources that are regarded as being of national significance, and are managed at a national level by SAHRA;
- Provincial (Grade II) heritage resources, which have provincial or regional significance and are managed by provincial heritage resources authorities; and
- Local (Grade III) heritage resources which are the responsibility of local authorities.

Sections 34, 35 and 36 of the NHRA provides for the protection of heritage resources from damage, destruction or alteration, and Section 38 of the NHRA sets out the requirements for heritage resources management.

## **4.3 KWAZULU-NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT 2018 (ACT 5 OF 2018)**

The KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act provides for the recognition of the establishment of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute as the provincial heritage resources authority for the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, to identify, conserve, protect, manage, and administer heritage resources in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Chapter 7 of the Act provides for the establishment of the Amafa and Research Forum, whose objectives include the compilation of a consolidated register of all heritage resources in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. Chapter 8 of the Act provides for the general protection of heritage resources, specifically the general protection of structures older than 60 years, graves of victims of conflict, informal and private burial grounds, battlefield sites, archaeological sites, rock art sites, palaeontological sites, historic fortifications, meteorite, and meteorite impact sites. Section 41(1 – 10) of Chapter 8 of the Act sets out the requirements for heritage resources management specifically in terms of the undertaking of developments, and the need and requirements for impact assessment studies and report requirements.

Chapter 9 of the Act provides for the special protection of heritage resources including the designation of protected area, heritage landmark and provincial landmark status, and special protection of graves of members of the Royal Family, battlefields, public monuments and memorials, and heritage objects. Chapter 9 of the Act also makes provision for the establishment of a consolidated register of heritage sites and heritage objects in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Chapter 10 of the Act provides for the determination of criteria for best practice, standards, norms and conditions for the management of heritage resources in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. Lastly, Chapter 11 outlines the general provisions of the Act and includes allowances for the drafting of Regulations to enable the provincial heritage resources authority to regulate heritage matters in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

#### 4.4 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR HERITAGE SPECIALIST STUDIES

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Minimum Standards for Heritage Specialist Studies (2007, 2016) in terms of Section 38(1) and 38(8) of the NHRA outlines the requirements for Phase 1 HIA studies, including the requirements for Phase 1 HIA Reports and provides a standardised site significance and field rating methodology.

#### 4.5 KWAZULU-NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE REGULATIONS, 2021 (DRAFT REGULATIONS)

The draft KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Regulations, 2021 in terms of Section 58 of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, provides for the regulation of heritage matters in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. The Regulations specifically outline the requirements for permit applications and the application procedures to be followed. Section 7 of the Regulations outlines the requirements in terms of the discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite. Section 12 of the Regulations outlines the heritage resources management requirements in terms of undertaking developments, and procedures to be followed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act and NHRA.

Table 1 below outlines the legislative requirements as applicable to the Phase 1 HIA and Desktop PIA study for the proposed residential development in Hilton.

**Table 1: Applicable Legislative Requirements**

Legislation	Relevant Section	Description
KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act 2018 (Act 5 of 2018)	Section 41(1)	<p><i>“Any person who intends to undertake a development categorized as –</i></p> <p><i>(a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;</i></p> <p><i>(b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length;</i></p> <p><i>(c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site - (i) exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations;</i></p> <p><i>(d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or</i></p> <p><i>(e) any other category of development provided for in regulations, must, at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the Institute and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.”</i></p>

## 5 STUDY METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

An initial desktop assessment and review of relevant current and historical aerial imagery of the study site was undertaken at the start of the project. Historical imagery was obtained from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the National Geospatial Information website (<http://cdngiportal.co.za/cdngiportal/>) in order to identify historical land uses associated with the study site and surrounds. The SAHRIS website and Provincial Heritage Register were consulted for data on the presence and significance of any heritage sites within the Umngeni Local Municipal area and in particular Hilton. In addition, the available heritage literature covering the larger study area was also consulted.

The methods employed for the Desktop PIA included the consultation of the relevant geological maps, paleontological databases, records, relevant literature, and existing paleontological assessment studies for the larger study area, to determine the likelihood of fossils being present within the development site and immediate surrounds.

### 5.2 GROUND SURVEY

A ground survey of the study site was conducted on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 which comprised a walkover and visual survey of the development footprint, where vegetation density and terrain allowed. The assessment was done by foot and limited to a Phase 1 visual survey. Geographic coordinates were taken using a handheld Garmin Etrek GPS unit (Datum: WGS84). All readings were taken using the GPS unit, and accuracy was to a level of 5m. Photographic documentation of the site was undertaken using a Huawei P20 Smartphone camera. Ground visibility was acceptable on most areas of the site, however due to the presence of the summer season grassland vegetation ground visibility was compromised in certain places. Archaeological and cultural heritage site recording, significance assignment and associated mitigation recommendations were done according to the field rating system prescribed by SAHRA (2007, 2016).

The development site comprises a privately owned property which is inaccessible to the public. As such, no local community members were encountered on the study site during the ground survey. The consultant liaised with the property owner prior to the site visit in order to gain an understanding of the site history and determine the possibility of the presence of any graves, stone walling or other heritage features on the study site. The property owner was not aware of the presence of any graves or other heritage features on the development footprint.

The relevant site photographs are included in Appendix B.

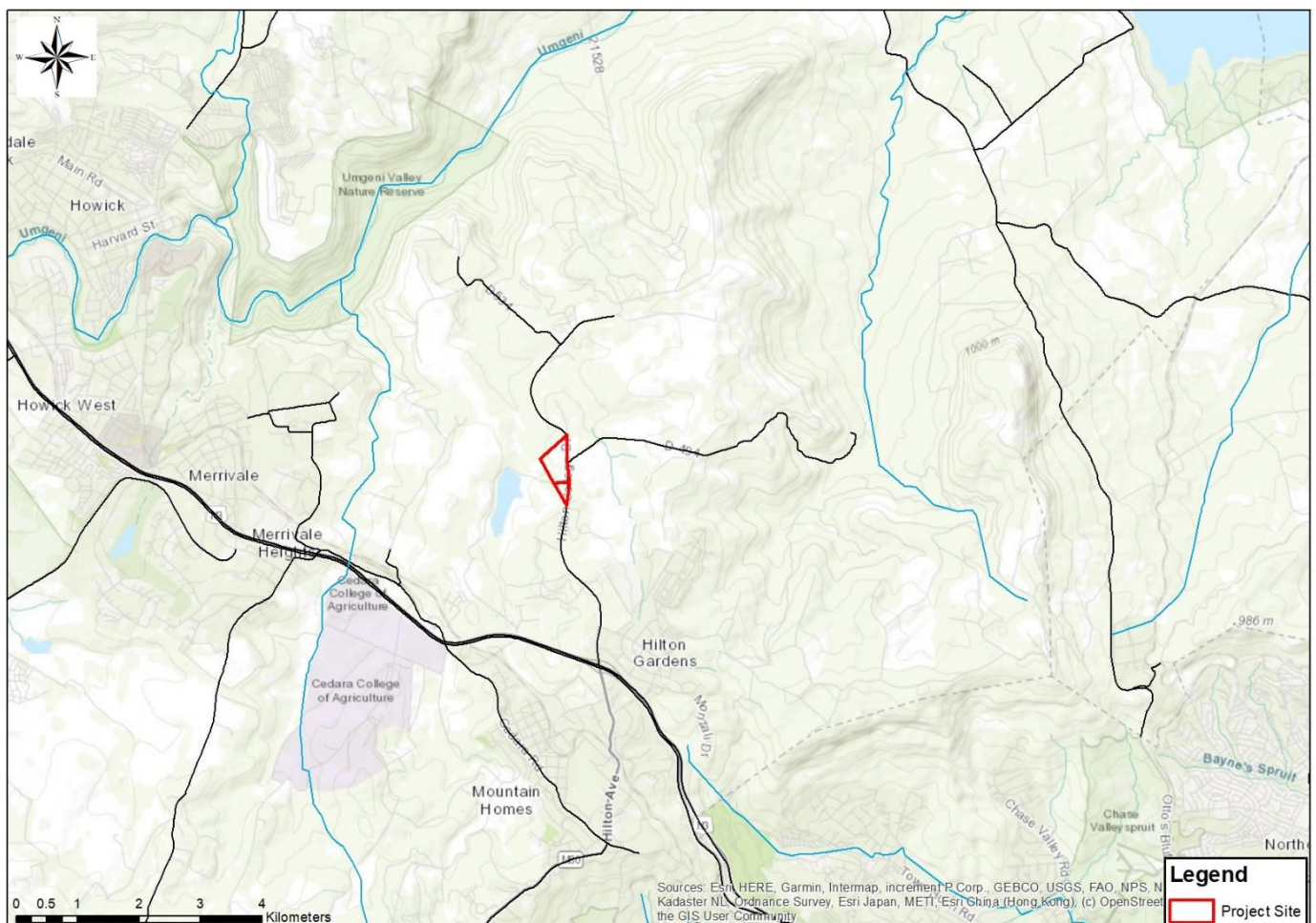
## 6 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCALITY

The project site is located to the north of Hilton on the property Portion 34 and Portion 64 of the Farm Hilton No. 12304. The Hilton College Road borders the site to the east and the D494 Road is also located to the east of the site. The site lies approximately 2km to the south-west of Hilton College and approximately 2km to the north of Hilton town. The site is surrounded by a mosaic of urban/residential, agricultural, and forestry areas.

Most of the project site is currently undeveloped and comprises grassland. Portions of the site were however previously used for forestry. There are two existing residential houses located on the site. Both houses are younger than 60 years old, having been built in 1969/1970 and 1986 respectively. Both structures will be retained as part of the development. There is also a Transnet multi-product pipeline servitude which traverses the site in an east-west alignment, and a seep wetland located in the central to northern portion of the site. Table 2 below provides the details of the general project area and the specifics of the development, while Figures 1 - 3 below provide locality and layout maps.

**Table 2: Details of the General Project Area and Development Specifics**

Property description	Portion 34 and Portion 64 of the Farm Hilton No. 12304
Magisterial District	Umngeni Local Municipality and uMgungundlovu District Municipality
1: 50 000 map sheet number	2930CB
Central co-ordinate of the development	29°30'59.35"S and 30°17'32.07"E
Type of development	Residential Housing Estate
Property zoning	Residential/Urban Agriculture



**Figure 1: Topographical map of the residential development site in Hilton.**



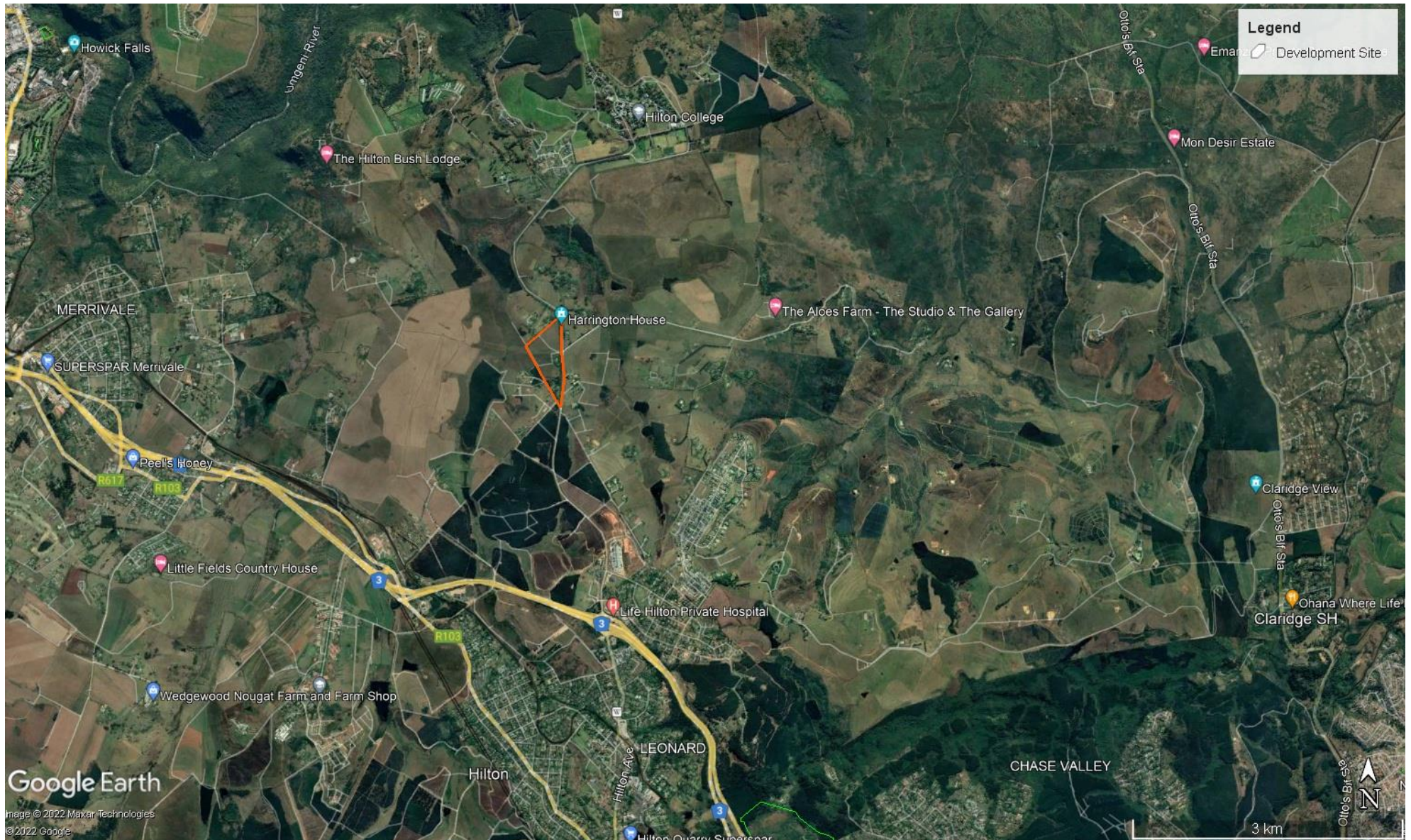


Figure 2: Locality map of the study site and surrounding area.





Figure 3: Development site map.



## 7 CULTURAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA

The 'village' of Hilton was first established in the late 1890s to early 1900s when prominent residents of Pietermaritzburg began buying property in the area and building cottages which were used as retreats from the summer heat and dust of Pietermaritzburg town. The Hilton area was however first settled in the 1840s by Voortrekker farmers who were granted land by the British Authorities. The two main farms established in the area were Groenekloof and Ongegund Farms. Hilton town derives its name from Hilton Farm which was purchased by Joseph and Jane Henderson from Staffordshire England in 1860. Hilton Farm adjoined early Voortrekker Farm, Groenekloof, which was owned by Philip Zietsman.

The project site falls within the area that comprised the early Ongegund Farm boundary. The farm belonged to the widow Grobbelaar and was sub-divided and the two portions sold in 1860, to Gould Arthur Lucas and Joseph Henderson. Henderson named his portion "Lower Hilton", while Lucas's portion became "Upper Hilton". Hilton College was subsequently founded on "Upper Hilton" in 1872, by Reverend William Newnham (Prins, 2019).

A number of stone walls dating back to these early Voortrekker and British settlers (1837 – 1870) do occur in the general project area and comprise the remains of livestock enclosures and agricultural field boundaries. None however have been identified directly on the project site. A large number of colonial-era buildings and sites associated with the Victorian and Edwardian periods are present within the Hilton College Estate. There are also number of historic buildings located within Hilton town such as the Hilton Hotel which was built in 1906 and Crossways Hotel which was built in 1936. All of these sites are over 60 years old and are protected by heritage legislation.

In addition to the historic period heritage sites, the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and SAHRIS Databases contain records of a wide range of archaeological sites for the greater Pietermaritzburg and Midlands area. Records of Early, Middle and Later Stone Age sites in the general Pietermaritzburg and Midlands area comprise the presence of stone flakes and tools, generally located in close proximity to water courses such as the Msunduzi River and Slangspruit Stream, as well as in some open-air locations. One Later Stone Age site is on record in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum Database for the Hilton area, which comprises a scatter of ten hornfels flakes, located approximately 100m from the summit plateau of the Swartkops (Holmann, 2020).

There are also a number of Iron Age sites in the greater Pietermaritzburg area and surrounds, such as those identified in the Umgeni River Valley near Howick and the Otto's Bluff area near Albert Falls, which are generally characterised by the presence of pottery remains, remains of stone structures such as stone walling, and other metal artefacts. No Iron Age sites are known to occur directly within Hilton town, and none of the above-mentioned archaeological or historical sites are known to occur on the development footprint or immediate surrounds.

## 8 GEOLOGY AND PALAEOLOGY

South Africa has a very rich fossil record, dating back over some 3.5 billion years. Fossil heritage is found in all provinces of South Africa. The palaeontological sensitivity of the study site as per the SAHRIS palaeo-sensitivity map is shown in Figure 4 below. The northern and southern portions of the project site are location within an area that is designated as “high” in terms of fossil sensitivity, while the central portion of the site has an “insignificant or zero” palaeontological sensitivity.

The 2930 Durban 1:250 000 Geological map series (Council for Geosciences) was used to identify the general geology of the study area, as shown in Figure 5 below. The northern and southern portions of the study site which have the “high” palaeo-sensitivity rating are underlain by Early to Middle Permian-aged shale of the Volksrust Formation of the Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. The central portion of the study site which has the “insignificant or zero” palaeo-sensitivity rating comprises younger intrusive Jurassic-aged dolerite.

The study site is located within the eastern part of the main Karoo Basin. The Karoo Basin covers almost two thirds of the present land surface in southern Africa and is bounded along the southern margin by the Cape Fold Belt and along the northern margin by the Transvaal Supergroup rocks. During the Carboniferous period, approximately 300 to 290 million years ago, southern Africa was part of the supercontinent Gondwana and was located in the Antarctic region with much of the land surface covered by ice sheets. As Gondwana drifted northwards, the ice sheets melted and dropped moraine trapped in the ice forming the oldest sediments in the Karoo Supergroup system, namely the Dwyka Group rocks. Dwyka Group sediments are exposed around the outer part of the Karoo Basin. Overlying the Dwyka Group deposits are the Permian-aged Ecca Group rocks, which are in turn overlain by the Late Permian-aged rocks of the Beaufort Group. Intruding through the Karoo Supergroup deposits are dolerite dykes and sills that formed during the initial breakup of Gondwana and are associated with the eruption of the Drakensberg Basalts (Groenewald, 2017; Bamford, 2021). In KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State there are three formations associated with the Ecca Group. These comprise, from the base upwards, the Pietermaritzburg Formation, the Vryheid Formation, and the Volksrust Formation (Bramford, 2021). All of these formations comprise a combination of sandstone, mudstone, shale or siltstone sediments which were laid down in shallow to deep water depositional environments (Bamford, 2021).

The Volksrust Formation deposits are potentially fossiliferous, with trace fossils, plant fossil fragments, and a unique invertebrate fossil, the marine bivalve, *Megadesmus* known to occur in the upper layers of the Volksrust Formation in the eastern Karoo Basin (Groenewald, 2017). However, as the Volksrust Formation shales were deposited in deep water environments as the Karoo Basin filled up with meltwater from the glaciers during Gondwana’s northward migration, actual fossil finds, particularly fossil plants, are very rare and scattered, with only fragments of *Glossopteris* flora and ferns present (Bamford, 2019). Vertebrate fossils are generally absent from the Volksrust Formation deposits as very few vertebrates had evolved by this time. Jurassic age dolerite which is found on the central portion of the study site comprises a non-fossiliferous rock type which, by its nature as an intrusive volcanic rock, has the potential to damage or destroy fossils preserved in adjacent fossiliferous deposits.

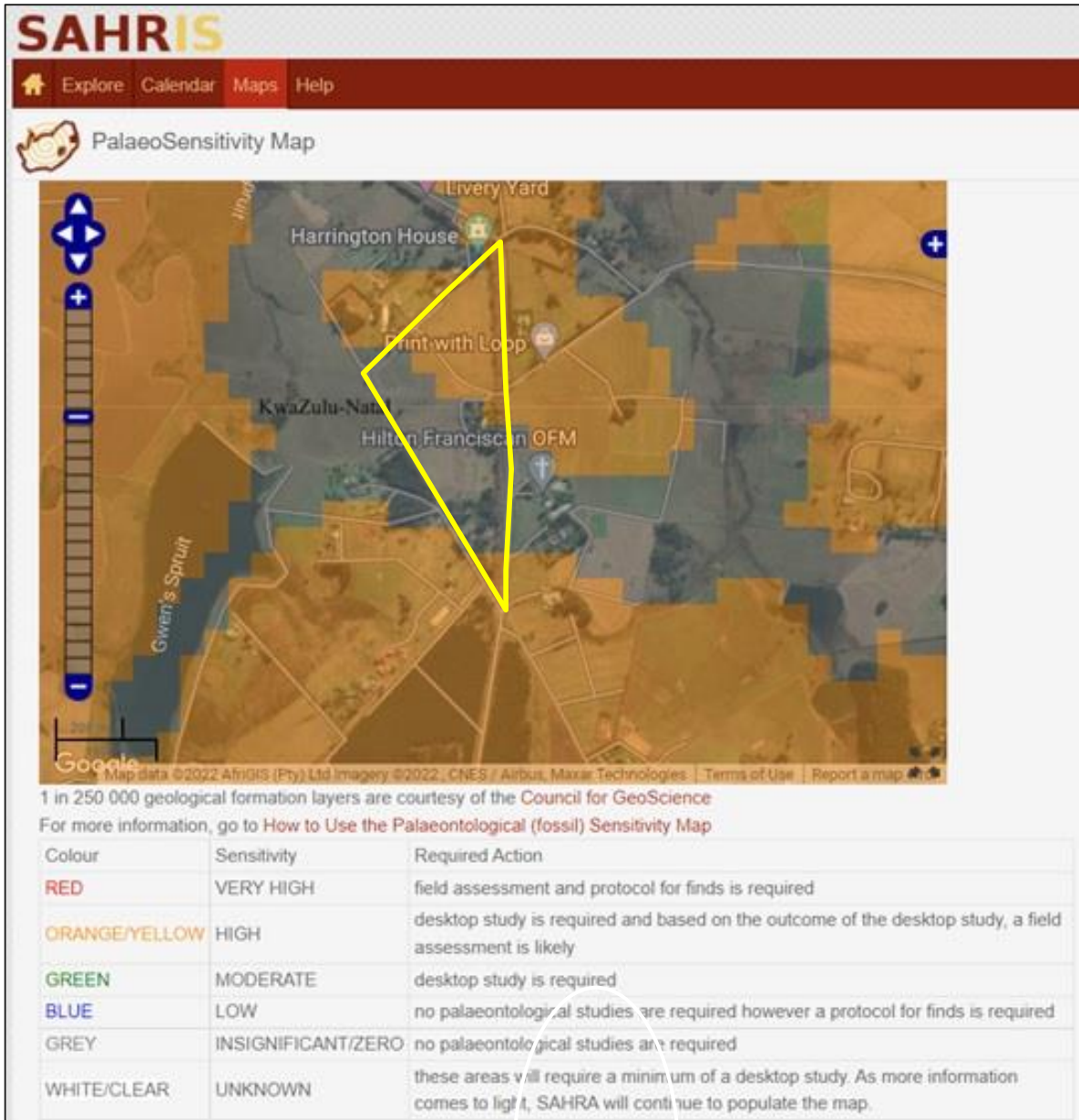


Figure 4: SAHRIS palaeo-sensitivity map for the study site (SAHRIS).

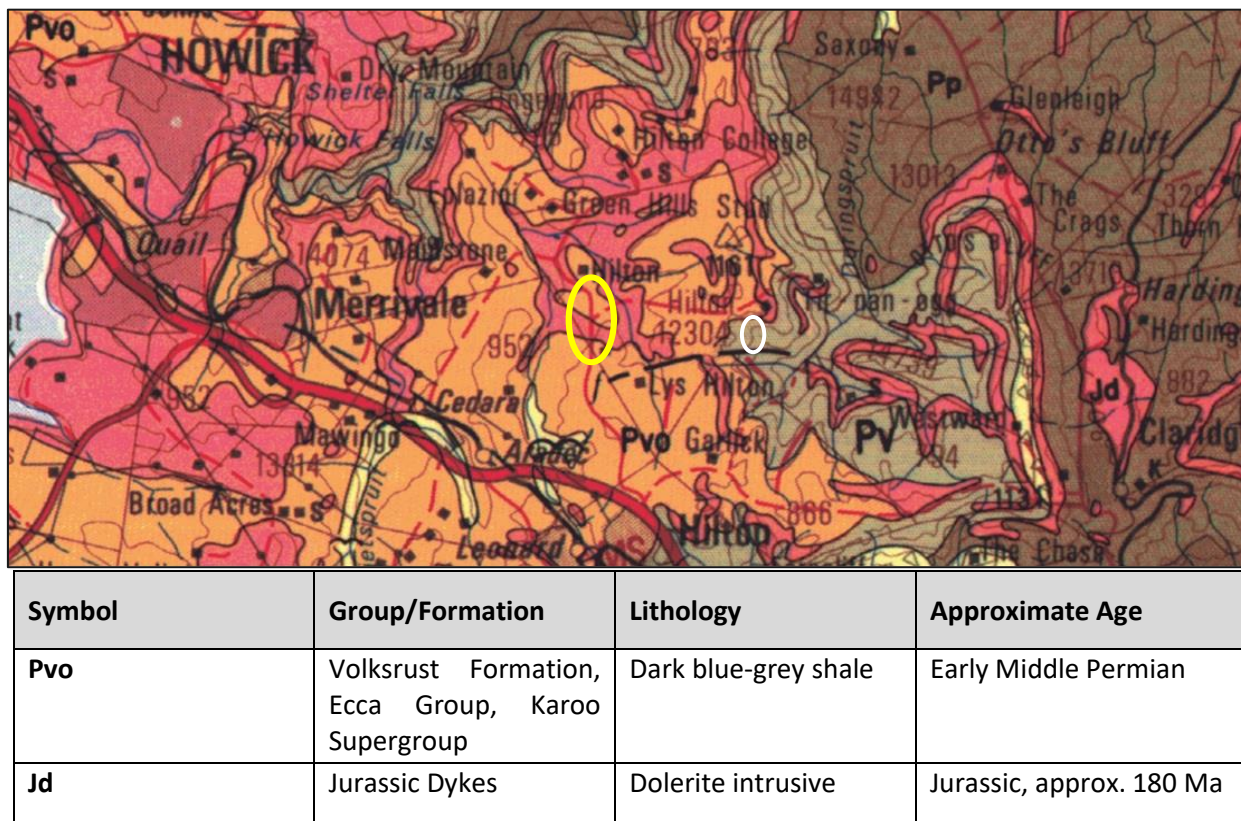


Figure 5: Regional geology of the study area (Council for Geosciences).

## 9 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

### 9.1 DESKTOP STUDY

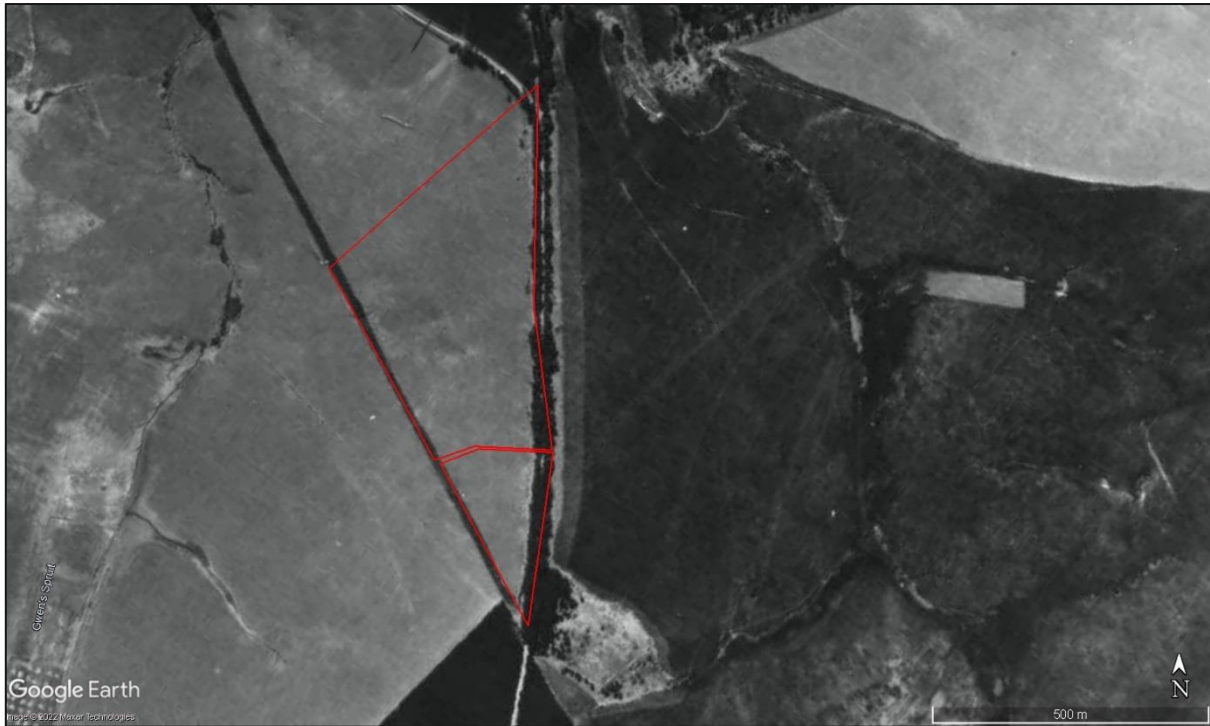
An investigation into historical aerial imagery of the development site was undertaken as part of the Phase 1 HIA. Aerial imagery from 1937, 1975 and 2006 (Figures 6 – 8) was used to identify past activity on the site. Aerial imagery from 1937 shows the site as completely undeveloped, comprising natural grassland (Figure 6). There are no built structures present on the development site in the 1937 aerial imagery.

Aerial imagery from 1975 shows the presence of the first house in the southern portion of the site which was constructed in 1969/1970 (Figure 7). The second house which is present on the study site today was constructed in 1986 and is therefore not present in the aerial imagery. The northern corner of the study site has been converted from grassland to forestry in the 1975 aerial imagery.

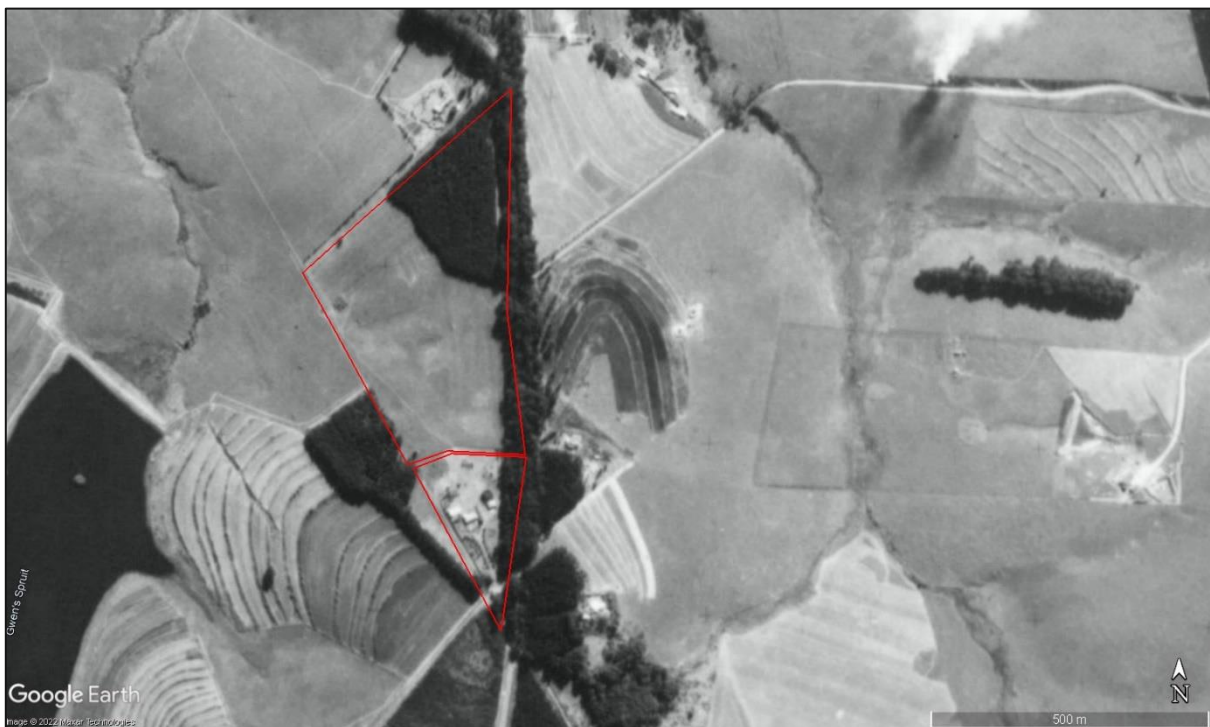
Later Google Earth imagery of the site from 2006 shows additional portions of the site under forestry (Figure 8). Forestry took place on the northern and central portions of the site from the 1970s up until 2017.

The results of the desktop assessment show that no heritage resources are evident on the site surface in the historic aerial imagery for the area. The earliest built structure on the site was established in 1969/1970, making it less than 60 years old. In addition, as much of the study site was previously used for forestry, it is likely that any subsurface heritage resources that may have been present on the site have been disturbed and/or destroyed.

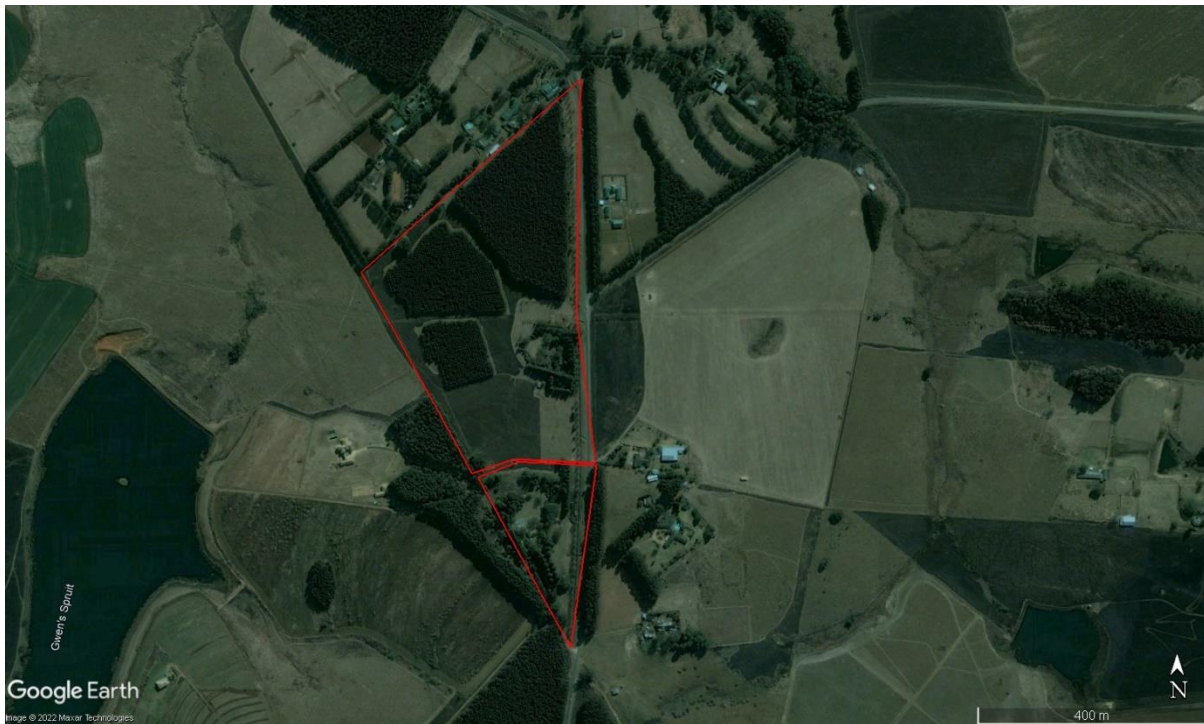




**Figure 6: Historic aerial imagery of the development site from 1937 shows the site as undeveloped, comprising grassland. There are no built structures present on the study site in 1937.**



**Figure 7: Historic aerial imagery of the development site from 1975 shows the presence of a house in the southern corner of the site, as well as forestry in the northern corner of the site. The house was built in 1969/1970 making it less than 60 years old.**



**Figure 8: Google Earth imagery of the development site from 2006 shows the central and northern portions of the site under forestry cultivation. Forestry ceased on the site in 2017.**

## 9.2 GROUND SURVEY

No development activities associated with the establishment of the residential development in Hilton had begun at the time of the ground survey. No heritage resources were identified on or directly adjacent to the development footprint as outlined in Table 3 below. The built structures (houses) present on the site are all younger than 60 years. Furthermore, these buildings will be retained on the site as part of the residential development project.

**Table 3: List of Possible Heritage Resources and Assessment Findings**

Heritage Resource Type	Finding
Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance	None
Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage	None
Historical settlements and townscapes	None
Landscapes and natural features	None
Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance	None
Archaeological and palaeontological sites	None
Graves and burial grounds	None
Public monuments and memorials	None
Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa	None
Movable objects	None

An assessment in terms of the significance criteria outlined in Section 3(3) of the NHRA was also undertaken for the study site as part of the Phase 1 HIA, as shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Evaluation of Heritage Sites or Objects in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA**

Significance criteria for heritage sites or objects in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)	Rating
Importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history.	None
In possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	None
Has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	None
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects.	None
Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;	None
Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	None
Has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	None
Has a strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa.	None
Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None

### 9.3 SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND FIELD RATING

The field rating system (Table 5) as developed by SAHRA (2007, 2016) does not apply to the proposed residential development estate in Hilton as no heritage sites occur on, or directly adjacent to the development footprint.

**Table 5: Site Significance and Field Rating (SAHRA 2007, 2016)**

Level	Description	Action
Grade I National Resource	This site is considered to be of National significance.	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA and maintained in situ.
Grade II Provincial Resource	This site is considered to be of Provincial significance.	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority and maintained in situ.
Grade IIIA Local Resource	This site is considered to be of a High significance locally.	The site must be retained as a heritage register site.
Grade IIIB Local Resource	This site is considered to be of a High/Medium significance locally.	The site must be mitigated, and part retained as a heritage register site.
Grade IIIC Local Resource	This site is considered to be of a Low significance locally.	The site needs to be recorded but may be granted destruction authorisation at the discretion of the relevant heritage authority.
Generally Protected A	High to medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction.
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	Site to be recorded before destruction.
Generally Protected C	Low significance	Site has been sufficiently recorded (in the Phase 1). It requires no further recording before destruction.

#### 9.4 PALAEOLOGY

The results of the Desktop PIA show that the northern and southern portions of the study site which have the “high” palaeo-sensitivity rating are underlain by Early to Middle Permian-aged shale of the Volksrust Formation of the Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. The central portion of the study site which has the “insignificant or zero” palaeo-sensitivity rating comprises younger intrusive Jurassic-aged dolerite. The excavations for the residential development will expose sediments of the Volksrust Formation. The Volksrust Formation deposits are potentially fossiliferous. However, as the Volksrust Formation shales were deposited in deep water environments, actual fossil finds, particularly fossil plants, are very rare and scattered. Furthermore, vertebrate fossils are generally absent from the Volksrust Formation deposits as very few vertebrates had evolved by this time. Jurassic age dolerite which is present on the central portion of the study site comprises a non-fossiliferous rock type. As such, the palaeontological related impact of the proposed development is expected to be minimal. However, in the unlikely event that the residential development project exposes fossil material, the chance find protocol in Appendix C must be implemented.

## 10 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Any development or anthropogenic activity in a natural system will have an impact on the surrounding environment, usually in a negative way. The assessment criteria as outlined in Table 6 below have been used to identify, predict, and assess the significance of any potential heritage and palaeontological related impacts associated with the proposed residential development in Hilton.



As no heritage sites or resources have been identified on the development footprint; the area is not part of any known cultural landscape; and it is highly unlikely that fossils are present within the development site footprint; the proposed activity poses a minimal risk to heritage and palaeontological resources, as shown in Table 7 below.

**Table 6: Summary of Aspects used for Assessing Heritage / Palaeontological Impacts**

Aspect	Rating	Description
<b>Nature</b>	Positive	The impact on the resource will be positive.
	Negative	The impact on the resource will be negative.
<b>Probability (with mitigation)</b>	Definitely	The impact will definitely occur even with mitigation (100%).
	Likely	It is likely that the impact will occur (60%-99%).
	Fair	There is a fair chance that the impact will occur (30% -59%).
<b>Reversibility (with mitigation)</b>	Unlikely	It is unlikely that the impact will occur (0% - 29%).
	Possible	It is possible to reverse the impact.
	Partly	It is partly possible to reverse the impact.
<b>Extent</b>	Not possible	It is not possible to reverse the impact.
	Site	The impact will be limited to the site.
	Local	The impact will affect the local area (within a radius of 40km).
	Provincial	The impact will affect areas beyond the site but within the boundaries of KwaZulu-Natal.
<b>Duration</b>	National	The impact will affect areas beyond the Province but within the boundaries of South Africa.
	Short-term	0-5 years (construction phase).
	Medium-term	5-40 years (construction and operation).
	Long-term	(>40 years).
<b>Significance of Impact without Mitigation</b>	Permanent	Permanent damage to the resource.
	Low	Small impact / disturbance.
	Medium	Moderate impact / disturbance expected.
<b>Significance of Impact Post-Mitigation</b>	High	Significant impact / disturbance expected.
	Low	Small impact / disturbance.
	Medium	Moderate impact / disturbance expected.
<b>Significance of Impact Post-Mitigation</b>	High	Significant impact / disturbance expected.

**Table 7: Impact Assessment Results for the Residential Development Project in Hilton**

Aspect	Rating	Description
<b>Nature</b>	Positive	-
	Negative	While it is highly unlikely that impacts to fossils or heritage resources will occur, any impacts resulting from the project will be negative.
<b>Probability (with mitigation)</b>	Definitely	-
	Likely	-
	Fair	-
	Unlikely	It is unlikely that the impact will occur (0% - 29%).
<b>Reversibility (with mitigation)</b>	Possible	-
	Partly	-
	Not possible	It is not possible to reverse the impact.
<b>Extent</b>	Site	The impact will be limited to the site.
	Local	-
	Provincial	-
	National	-
<b>Duration</b>	Short-term	-
	Medium-term	-
	Long-term	-
	Permanent	Permanent damage to the heritage resource.
<b>Significance of Impact without Mitigation</b>	Low	Small impact / disturbance.
	Medium	-
	High	-
<b>Significance of Impact Post-Mitigation</b>	Low	Small impact / disturbance.
	Medium	-
	High	-

## 11 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase 1 HIA and Desktop PIA for the proposed establishment of a residential development on Portions 34 and 64 of the Farm Hilton No. 12304 identified no heritage sites or features on the development footprint. The area also does not form part of any known cultural landscape. It is also highly unlikely that fossils are present within the development footprint due to the nature of the bedrock (deep water shale of the Volksrust Formation and intrusive dolerite). The proposed development may therefore proceed as no heritage or paleontological features are threatened by the residential development project.

In the unlikely event that the proposed development exposes any graves, fossils or other heritage features on the development footprint, all activities must cease, and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) appointed for the development project must be contacted. The ECO must in turn notify the provincial heritage resource authority, the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute and/or the heritage consultant, and the chance find protocol in Appendix C must be implemented.

The proposed development must adhere to the requirements of the NHRA and the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, and Draft Regulations, which requires that a person that discovers any archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite must immediately cease all operations or activity within a 25m radius of the discovery and must notify the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute. In addition, no structures older than sixty years or parts thereof are allowed to be demolished, altered, or extended without a permit from the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and

Research Institute. Under no circumstances may any heritage material be destroyed or removed from site unless under direction of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute and appointed heritage consultant.

## 12 REFERENCES

Bamford, M. 2019. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of a Bulk Water Supply for Umgeni Water – the Vulundlela project, south of Midmar Dam KwaZulu Natal Province. Internal Palaeontological Impact Assessment Reports, SAHRA.

Bamford, M. 2021. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Culvert on Road L2013, Bergville, Okhahlamba Local Municipality, KwaZulu Natal Province. Internal Palaeontological Impact Assessment Reports, SAHRA.

Groenewald, G. 2017. Desktop Palaeontological Assessment and “Chance Find Protocol” for the Proposed Upgrading and Extension of the L3299 (Gomola) Road, Ladysmith Local Municipality, Uthukela District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province. Internal Palaeontological Impact Assessment Reports, SAHRA.

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South African Heritage Resources Agency. 2007. Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Heritage Components of Impact Assessments. (Unpublished guidelines).

South African Heritage Resources Agency. 2016. Updated Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Heritage Components of Impact Assessments. (Unpublished draft guidelines).

<http://cdngiportal.co.za/cdngiportal/>

## APPENDICES

# **APPENDIX A: SHORT CV OF THE HERITAGE CONSULTANT**

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **Dr. Phillipa Harrison – Heritage Consultant / Archaeologist Land Matters Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Telephone                      082 408 6545  
E-mail                              phillipa@lmenvironmental.co.za

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2015 – 2021: Bachelor of Arts Honours (Archaeology), University of South Africa (UNISA)
- 2003 – 2006: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), University of KwaZulu-Natal
- 2001 – 2002: Master of Arts (MA), University of KwaZulu-Natal
- 2000: Bachelor of Arts Honours (Geography), University of KwaZulu-Natal
- 1997 – 1999: Bachelor of Arts (Geography, English, Geology), University of KwaZulu-Natal

#### **PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS**

Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) (No. ASAPA545)

#### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment Studies;
- EIA and Basic Assessment Processes;
- Environmental Management Programmes;
- Water Use License Applications; and
- Waste Management License Applications.

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Dr Phillipa Harrison holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Archaeology from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Geography from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is professionally affiliated to the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) and has ten years consulting experience in the Environmental Assessment field with experience in conducting Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessments, as well as Basic Assessment and Scoping and EIA processes, compiling Environmental Management Programmes, and undertaking Water Use and Waste Management License Applications.

## EXAMPLES OF RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

PROJECT	DATE
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the Unauthorised Dams on the Farm Fouries Kraal No. 1183 located near Ladysmith, Alfred Duma Local Municipality, KZN.	November 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the Unauthorised Dams and Cultivation on Tullinchinwall Farm located near Geluksburg, Okhahlamba Local Municipality, KZN.	November 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the Establishment of an Unauthorised Irrigation Dam on Nineveh Farm located near Bergville, Okhahlamba Local Municipality, KZN.	November 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed Light Industrial Estate on Rem of Lot 20 Marburg Settlement No. 5096, Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, KZN.	September 2022
<b>Heritage Comment:</b> for the proposed rectification in terms of Section 24G of NEMA for the unauthorised establishment of a Private Staging Facility on a portion of the property Rem of Portion 55 of the Farm Langewacht No. 2168 near Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal.	July 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed installation of an Outfall Sewer Pipeline for the Arbour Arch Mixed-Use Development in the Town Hill Area of Pietermaritzburg, KZN.	July 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of a Cattle Feedlot on Westlands Farm in the Kokstad Area, Greater Kokstad Local Municipality and Harry Gwala District Municipality, KZN.	July 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of a Mixed-Use Development on Rem of the Farm Usherwood West No. 303 in Kokstad, Greater Kokstad Local Municipality and Harry Gwala District Municipality, KZN.	July 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of the Ulundi Crossings Shopping Centre and Service Station on Erf 402 of Ulundi B, Ulundi Local and Zululand District Municipality, KZN.	April 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of a 67 900m <sup>3</sup> dam and the cultivation of approximately 45ha of macadamia nut trees on Hopewell Farm, KwaDukuza Local and iLembe District Municipality, KZN.	April 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of the Umlaas Junction Private Light Industrial estate located on Rem of the Farm Crookes No. 15732, Camperdown, Mkhambathini Local Municipality and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.	March 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of a 20ha cemetery located on Portion 43 of the Farm Honig Krantz No. 945 in the Cato Ridge Area of the Mkhambathini Local Municipality and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.	January 2022
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of a second residential development at Beacon Hill Country Estate on Portion 5 of Erf 1280 and a game park on Portion 9 of Erf 1280 in Bishopstowe, Pietermaritzburg, Msunduzi Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.	December 2021
<b>Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment and Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment:</b> for the proposed establishment of the Richmond Cemetery in Richmond, Richmond Local Municipality and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.	November 2021



## APPENDIX B: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



**Plate 1: Photograph showing the grassland areas on the development site.**



**Plate 2: Photograph showing the Transnet multi-product pipeline servitude on the site.**





**Plate 3: Photograph showing the seep wetland area on the site.**



**Plate 4: Photograph showing dolerite on the central portion of the site.**





**Plate 5: Photograph showing the northern portion of the site which was previously under forestry.**



**Plate 6: Photograph showing the oldest built structure on the study site which was established in 1969/1970.**

# APPENDIX C: CHANCE FIND PROCEDURES FOR HERITAGE / PALAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The following procedures must be considered in the event that previously unknown heritage resources, including fossils, burial grounds or graves, are exposed or found during the life of the project. The procedures below are based on the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 Regulations (Reg No. 6820, GNR 548) and the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Draft Regulations, 2021.

The term 'heritage resource' here includes burial grounds and graves, structures, archaeology, palaeontology, meteors and public monuments. If any sign of the above are uncovered during excavation of the site, the following protocol must be observed:

- All work in the vicinity of the find must immediately cease, with a radius of at least 25 meters of the site or discovery, and further disturbance of the heritage resource must be avoided.
- The ECO and project manager/developer must be notified of the discovery.
- The ECO must arrange for a suitably qualified specialist to consider the heritage resource, either via communicating with the ECO via telephone or email, or based on a site visit.
- The ECO and specialist must advise on the appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented.
- Should the specialist conclude that the find is a heritage resource protected in terms of the NHRA (1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act (2018), a written report must be submitted to the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute within a period of 30 days from the date of making such a discovery.
- The report must include – the names of the person reporting; the object discovered; the time and date of such discovery; the location of such discovery; and the municipal area within which the discovery was made.
- The Provincial Heritage Resource Authority (PHRA) may require that a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted and may require rescue excavations to take place.

## 2. BURIAL GROUND AND GRAVE FIND PROCEDURE

In the event that human remains are accidentally exposed, the project manager and / or ECO must immediately be notified of the discovery in order to take the required further steps:

- The local SAPS will be notified on behalf of the Applicant;
- A suitably qualified specialist must be arranged to inspect the exposed burial and determine in consultation with the SAPS:
  - a) The temporal context of the remains, i.e.:
    - forensic
    - authentic burial grave (informal or older than 60 years); or
    - archaeological (older than 100 years).
  - b) If any additional graves or burial sites may exist in the vicinity.
- Should the specialist conclude that the find is a heritage resource protected in terms of the NHRA (1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act (2018), a written report must be submitted to the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute within a period of 30 days from the date of making such a discovery.
- The SAHRA / PHRA may require that interested parties be identified and that consultation and /or grave relocation take place.
- If consultation and / or grave relocation are required, consultation and grave relocation must take place in terms of the NHRA (1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act (2018).

## 3. FOSSIL FIND PROCEDURES

### 3.1 Introduction

In the context of this application, it is unlikely that any fossil finds will require the declaration of permanent "no go" areas and it is likely that if any fossil finds are made, a temporary pause in activity within a particular area will be required. In the event that fossil material is uncovered during excavation, the strategy to be employed will be to rescue the material as quickly as possible.

The procedures outlined below are in general terms and will require adaptation depending on the specifics of type of fossil find. The procedures outlined below are detailed in terms of fossil bone finds, which usually occur sparsely. However, they do serve as a guideline for other fossil material finds, which may occur on the site.

### 3.2 Isolated and Cluster Bone Finds

There are two types of fossil bone finds – 'isolated bone finds' and 'cluster bone finds'. During the excavation process, isolated bones may be found within the walls or base of the excavation, or as they appear on the stockpile or spoil heap. When bones appear singly, in different parts of the excavation site, they are considered 'isolated bone finds', however, when six or more isolated bones / pieces are found, the finds are considered a 'cluster bone find'. A 'cluster bone find' is when several bones are uncovered in the same spot or grouped together within the excavation site. These bones may or may not resemble an intact or partially intact skeleton.

### **3.2.1 Response by Personnel in the Event of an Isolated Bone Find**

The following responses should be undertaken by personnel in the event of isolated bone finds:

1. An isolated bone exposed in an excavation or spoil heap must be retrieved before it is covered by further spoil from the excavation and set aside;
2. The site foreman and ECO must be informed;
3. The responsible field person (site foreman or ECO) must take custody of the fossil. The following information is to be recorded:
  - Position (excavation position);
  - Depth of find in hole;
  - Digital image of hole showing vertical section (side); and
  - Digital image of fossil.
4. The fossil should be placed in a bag (e.g. a Ziploc bag), along with any detached fragments. A label must be included with the date of the find, position information, and depth; and
5. The ECO is to inform the Applicant who must then contact the heritage consultant. The ECO is to describe the occurrence and provide images via email.

### **3.2.2 Response by Palaeontologist in the Event of Isolated Bone Finds**

The palaeontologist will assess the information and liaise with the Applicant and the ECO and a suitable response procedure will be established.

### **3.3 Response by Personnel in the Event of a Cluster Bone Find**

The following responses should be undertaken by personnel in the event of bone cluster finds:

1. Immediately stop excavation in the vicinity of the potential material. Mark or flag the position as well as the spoil heap that may contain fossils;
2. Inform the site foreman and the ECO; and
3. The ECO is to inform the developer who must then contact the heritage consultant. The ECO must then describe the occurrence and provide images via email.

### **3.3.2 Response by Palaeontologist in the Event of a Bone Cluster Find**

A palaeontologist must assess the information and liaise with the Applicant and the ECO and a suitable response procedure must be established. It is likely that a Field Assessment by the palaeontologist will be required. The response time / scheduling of the Field Assessment will be decided in consultation with the Applicant and the ECO. The Field Assessment could have the following outcomes:

- If a human burial, the appropriate authority is to be contacted. The find must be evaluated by a human burial specialist to decide if Rescue Excavation is feasible, or if it is a Major Find.
- If the fossils are of an archaeological context, an archaeologist must be contacted to evaluate the site and decide if Rescue Excavation is feasible, or if it is a Major Find.
- If the fossils are of a palaeontological context, the palaeontologist must evaluate the site and decide if Rescue Excavation is feasible, or if it is a Major Find.

### **3.4 Rescue Excavation**

Rescue Excavation refers to the removal of the material from the site excavation. This is applicable if the volume or significance of the exposed material appears to be relatively confined and it is feasible to remove it without compromising the contextual data. The time span for Rescue Excavation should be relatively rapid to avoid any undue delays (e.g. less than one week).

In principle, the strategy during the mitigation is to “rescue” the fossil material as quickly as possible. The strategy to be adopted depends on the nature of the occurrence, particularly the density of the fossils. The methods of collection would depend on the preservation or fragility of the fossil and whether in loose or in lithified sediment.

These could include:

- On-site selection and sieving in the case of robust material in sand; and
- Fragile material in loose sediment would be encased in blocks using Plaster-of-Paris or reinforced mortar.

If the fossil occurrence is dense and is assessed to be a “Major Find”, a carefully controlled excavation is required.

### **3.5 Major Finds**

A Major Find is when the occurrence of material that, by virtue of quantity, importance and time constraints, cannot be feasibly rescued without compromising the detailed material recovery and contextual data / observations.

#### **3.5.1 Management Options for Major Finds**

In consultation with the Applicant and the ECO, the following options should be considered when deciding on how to proceed in the event of a Major Find.

### **Option 1: Avoidance**

Avoidance of the Major Find through project redesign or relocation. This ensures minimal impact to the site and is the preferred option from a heritage resource management perspective. When feasible, it can also be the least expensive option from a construction perspective. The find site will require site protection measures, such as erecting fencing or barricades. Alternatively, if excavation of the find will be delayed substantially or indefinitely, the exposed finds can be stabilised and the site refilled or capped. Appropriate protection measures should be identified on a site-specific basis and in wider consultation with the heritage and scientific communities. This option is preferred as it will allow the later excavation of the finds with due scientific care and diligence.

### **Option 2: Emergency Excavation**

Emergency excavation refers to the “no other option” situation where avoidance is not feasible due to design, financial and time constraints. It can delay construction and emergency excavation itself will take place under tight time constraints, with the potential for irrevocable compromise of scientific quality. It could involve the removal of a large, disturbed sample by an excavator and conveying this by truck from the immediate site to a suitable place for “stockpiling”. This material could then be processed later. Emergency excavation is not the preferred option for a Major Find due to the loss of contextual data and the loss of sample integrity.

## **3.6 Exposure of Other Fossil Types (e.g. Plants, Fossil Shell Beds)**

### **3.6.1 Response for Personnel in the Event of Other Fossil Finds**

The following responses should be undertaken by personnel in the event of any type of fossil finds:

1. The site foreman and ECO must be informed;
2. The responsible field person (site foreman or ECO) must record the following information:
  - Position (excavation position);
  - Depth of find in hole;
  - Digital image of the hole showing the vertical section (side); and
  - Digital images of the fossiliferous material.
3. A generous quantity of the excavated material containing the fossils should be stockpiled near the site, for later examination and sampling;
4. The ECO is to inform the developer who must then contact the heritage consultant. The ECO is to describe the occurrence and provide images via email.

### **3.6.2 Response by the Palaeontologist in the Event of Other Fossil Finds**

The palaeontologist will assess the information and liaise with the developer and the ECO and a suitable response will be established. This will most likely be a site visit to document and sample the exposure in detail, before it is covered up.

## **4. MONITORING FOR FOSSILS**

A regular monitoring presence over the period during which excavations are made, by either an archaeologist or palaeontologist, is generally not practical.

The field supervisor or foreman and workers involved in digging excavations must be encouraged and informed of the need to watch for potential fossil and buried archaeological material. Workers seeing potential objects are to report to the field supervisor who, in turn, will report to the ECO. The ECO will inform the heritage consultant in the case of fossil finds.

To this end, responsible persons must be designated. This will include hierarchically:

- The field supervisor or foreman who is going to be most often in the field;
- The ECO for the project; and
- The Project Manager.

Should the monitoring of excavations be stipulated in the Archaeological Impact Assessment and / or the Heritage Impact Assessment, the contracted Monitoring Archaeologist (MA) can also monitor for the presence of fossils and make field assessment of any material brought to attention. The MA is usually sufficiently informed to identify fossil material and this avoids additional monitoring by a palaeontologist.

The MA then becomes the responsible field person and fulfils the role of liaison with the palaeontologist and coordinates with the Applicant and the ECO. If fossils are exposed in non-archaeological contexts, the palaeontologist should be summoned to document and sample / collect them.