

**A LETTER OF EXEMPTION FOR BRA CASS SERVICE  
STATION, OSIZWENI, KZN**

**FOR MONDLI CONSULTING**

**DATE: 17 JUNE 2020**

**By Gavin Anderson**

**Umlando: Archaeological Surveys and Heritage  
Management**

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The project entails the construction of Bra Cass Service Station (Osizweni) and associated infrastructure, including the food outlet and small shops on Portion 8 of Farm Johnstown No. 8799 at Johnstown, Osizweni. This will entail fuel storage tanks [2 x 43 000 litres ULP] and 1 x 43 000 litres diesel all underground, pumps, canopy and building on site comprising the office, convenience shop, food outlet, kitchen, staffroom and toilets. It is anticipated that gas will also be stored on site.

The whole of Portion 8 of Farm Johnstown No. 8799 is 18, 7522 hectares as per the Title Deed T 24722/1990, and is located on both sides of the Main Road MR 483. The site has several portions and the remainder of Portion 8. These comprise of Portion 5 (of 8) leased by the ZCC Church = 1,6388 part of lease A; Lease A of Portion 8 leased by Bra Cass Service Station (Pty) Ltd – which is the subject property for the current application = 1, 0031 hectares, rounded of to 1 HA; Lease B of Portion 8 = 11,621 HAs and the Remainder of Portion 8 (household of the owner) and sections adjacent to MR 483 being the balance.

The area of focus for the purposes of this development is 1,0031 hectares with existing buildings (5 x shops) and the proposed service station and associated structures and buildings.

The site is already zoned “Fuel Service Station” by Newcastle Local Municipality. The Service Station building with associated structures and infrastructure will be a double storey building.

The site is flat and has no vegetation. The soil is not showing any signs of erosion. The proposed site is highly transformed in the sense that it has existing buildings on it. (2020 BID)

Umlando was requested to assist in the HIA and suggested that it be exempt from further HIA. Figures 1 – 3 show the location of the site.

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA



FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA



FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW OF THE EASTERN STUDY AREA (1996)

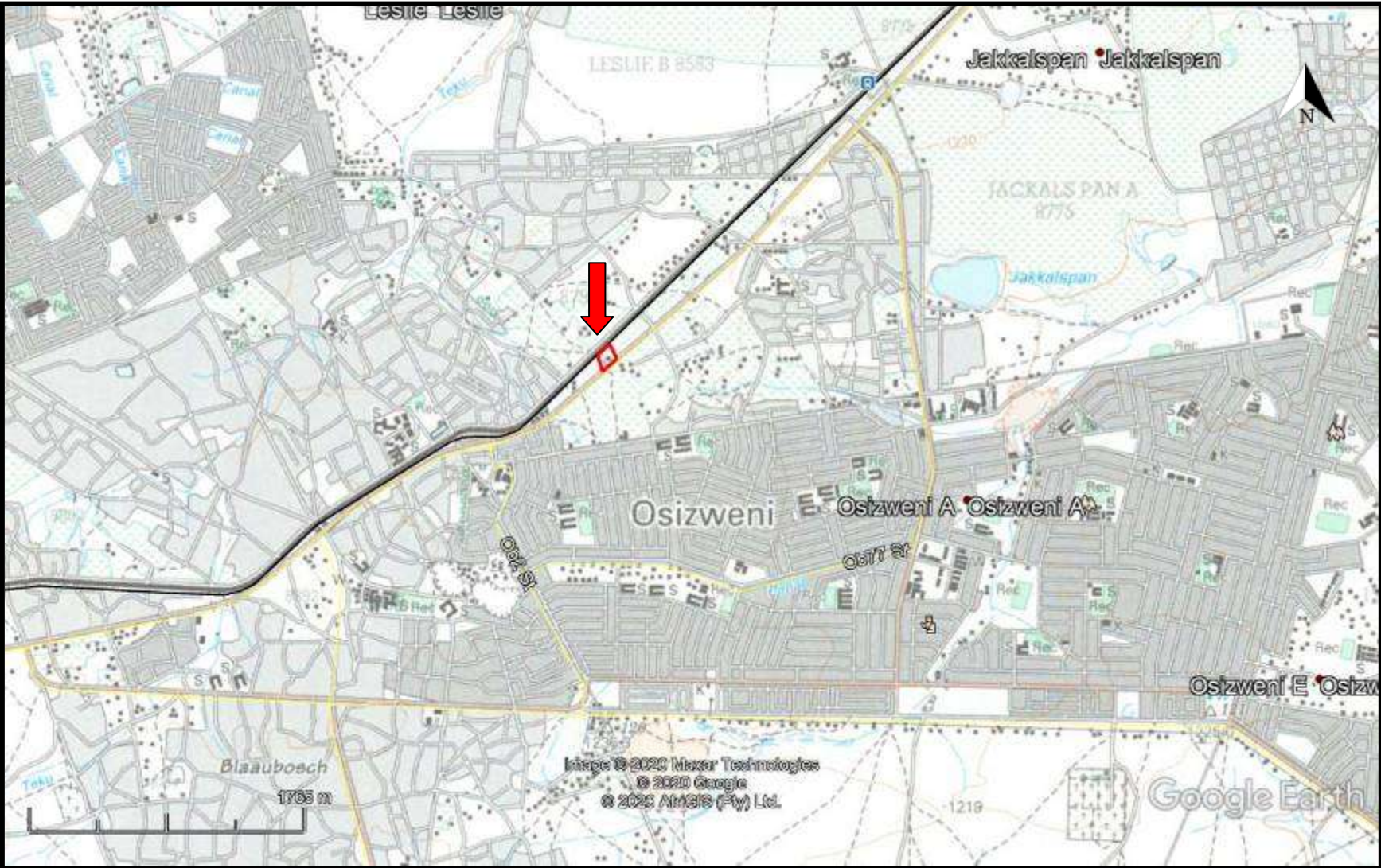


FIG. 4 SCENIC VIEW OF THE STUDY AREA



The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys. The archaeological database indicates that there are archaeological sites in the general area (fig. 5). These sites include all types of Stone Age and Iron Age sites. No sites occur in the study area.

No national monuments, battlefields, or historical cemeteries are known to occur in the study area. There is one cemetery predating 1944 and it is 400m to the south (fig. 6).

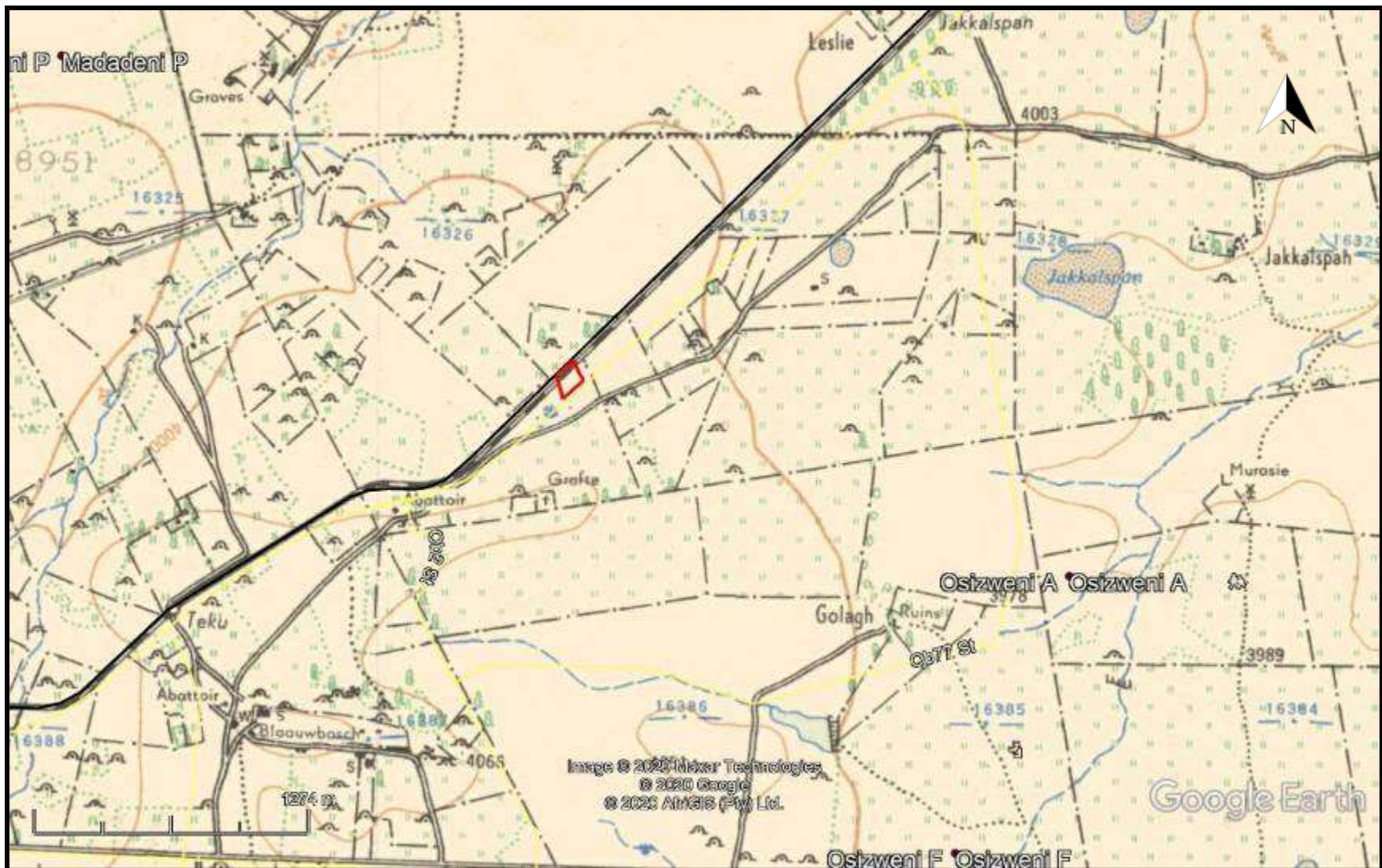
The study area is of very high palaeontological sensitivity Dr A. Smith stated: "The proposed site is underlain by Volksrust Formation shales. It is flat and deeply weathered. The Volksrust Formation can be fossiliferous, but is unlikely to contain any significant palaeontological material. The proposed site contains existing buildings and is highly disturbed and so any palaeontological material will already have been found or destroyed." The PIA letter of Exemption is given in Appendix A.

FIG. 5: LOCATION OF KNOWN HERITAGE SITES NEAR THE STUDY AREA





FIG. 6: STUDY AREA IN 1944



**FIG. 7: PALAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY**

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.

## CONCLUSION

A brief desktop study noted that there are no heritage sites in the study area. The study area is highly disturbed and it is highly unlikely to have existing heritage sites.

The proposed development should be exempt from further HIA mitigation.

### **EXPERIENCE OF THE HERITAGE CONSULTANT**

Gavin Anderson has a M. Phil (in archaeology and social psychology) degree from the University of Cape Town. Gavin has been working as a professional archaeologist and heritage impact assessor since 1995. He joined the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Southern Africa in 1998 when it was formed. Gavin is rated as a Principle Investigator with expertise status in Rock Art, Stone Age and Iron Age studies. In addition to this, he was worked on both West and East Coast shell middens, Anglo-Boer War sites, and Historical Period sites.

### **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

I, Gavin Anderson, declare that I am an independent specialist consultant and have no financial, personal or other interest in the proposed development, nor the developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from fair remuneration for work performed in the delivery of heritage assessment services. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of my performing such work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Anderson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Gavin Anderson  
Archaeologist/Heritage Impact Assessor

**APPENDIX A**  
**PIA LETTER OF EXEMPTION**

Dr Alan Smith  
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**Re: Letter of Exemption: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF BRA CASS SERVICE STATION (OSIZWENI) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 8 OF FARM JOHNSTOWN NO. 8799 AT OSIZWENI, NEWCASTLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU – NATAL.**

**Dear Sir**

The proposed project is within the municipal jurisdiction of Newcastle Local Municipality and Amajuba District Municipality.

The proposed project entails the construction of Bra Cass Service Station (Osizweni) and associated infrastructure, including a food outlet and small shops on Portion 8 of Farm Johnstown No. 8799 at Johnstown, Osizweni. This will entail fuel storage tanks (2 x 43 000 litres ULP) and 1 x 43 000 litres diesel all underground, pumps, canopy and building on site comprising the office, convenience shop, food outlet, kitchen, staffroom and toilets. It is anticipated that gas will also be stored on site.

The proposed site is underlain by Volksrust Formation shales. It is flat and deeply weathered. The Volksrust Formation can be fossiliferous, but is unlikely to contain any significant palaeontological material. The proposed site contains existing buildings and is highly disturbed and so any palaeontological material will

already have been found or destroyed. There is no reason to proceed to a Desk-Top PIA. This exemption letter should be sufficient.

**Dr Alan Smith.**

**Alan Smith Consulting**

**June, 11, 2020**

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