HIA FOR THE DRIE FONTEIN AND SENTI IRRIGATION SCHEMES,

FOR K2M ENVIRONMENTAL

DATE: 26 FEBRUARY 2022

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Management

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Abbreviations

HP	Historical Period
IIA	Indeterminate Iron Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
EIA	Early Iron Age
ISA	Indeterminate Stone Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) has identified irrigation projects to be implemented in the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality. The objective of the proposed project is to provide irrigation infrastructure to the identified sites which in turn will stimulate economic transformation in these communities. The sites identified for irrigation include Drie fontein and KwaSenti.

Currently, these sites do not have existing irrigation infrastructure. The total extent of the KwaSenti site is approximately 109.75 ha of which 80 ha is irrigable land and at the Driefontein site, the total extent of is 149.81 ha of which 130 ha is irrigable land. The proposed project will entail the cultivation of a variety of crops for which irrigation infrastructure will be constructed in order to irrigate the crops.

The KwaSenti layout is based on two irrigation systems: drip irrigation and micro sprinkler irrigation. The terrain in KwaSenti is relatively steep, coupled by the characteristically low water potential of the area, would be better suited by these two irrigation systems while the Driefontein layout is based on mainly three irrigation systems: the centre pivot, drip and micro irrigation systems.

Umlando was requested to undertake an HIA of the proposed irrigation developments. Figures 1 – 6 show the location of the development.

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED IRRIGATION SCHEMES



FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE DRIEFONTEIN





FIG. 3: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF SENTI



FIG. 4: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF DRIEFONTEIN (1981)

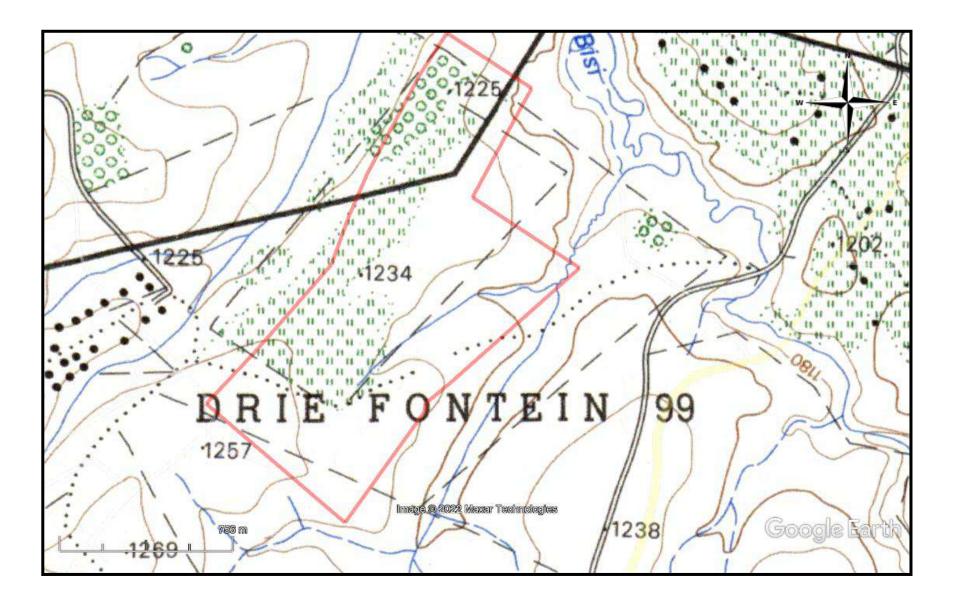


FIG.5: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF SENTI (2000)

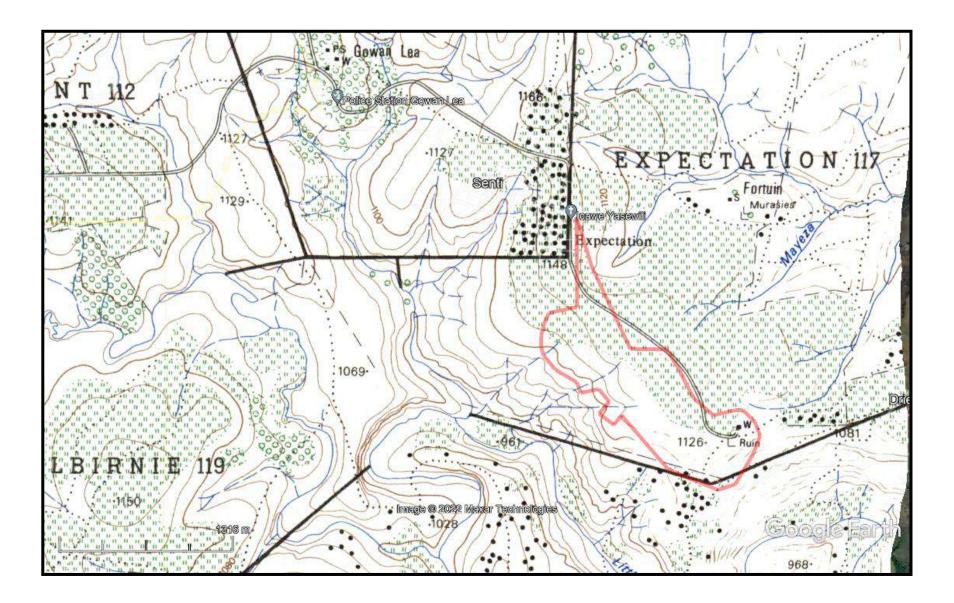


FIG. 6: SCENIC VIEWS OF DRIE FONTEIN

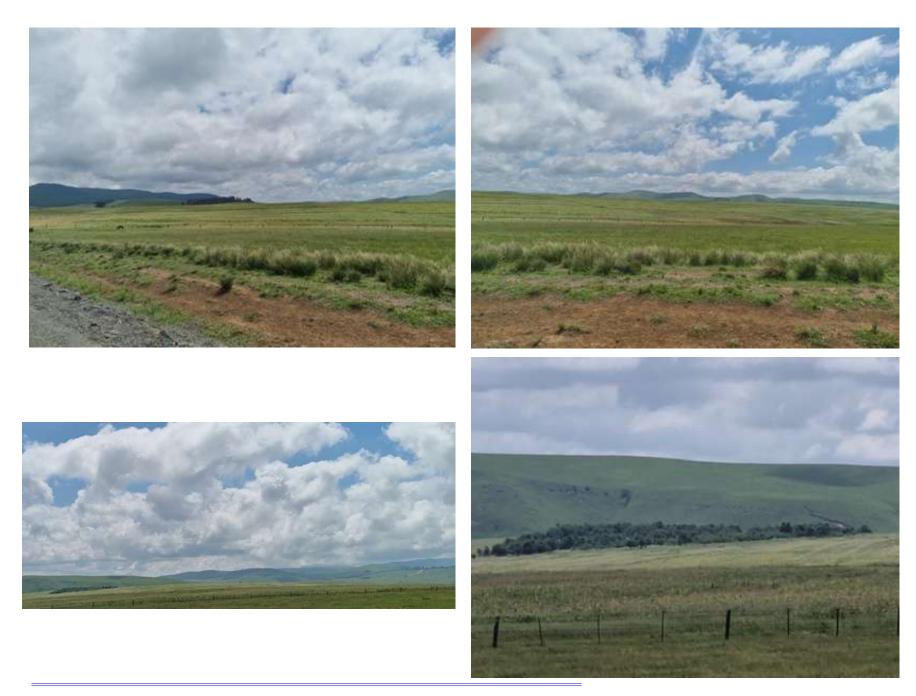


FIG. 7: SCENIC VIEWS OF SENTI



KWAZULU NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ACT 05, 2018

"General protection: Structures.—

- No structure which is, or which may reasonably be expected to be older than 60 years, may be demolished, altered or added to without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- Where the Council does not grant approval, the Council must consider special protection in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- The Council may, by notice in the Gazette, exempt—
- A defined geographical area; or
- defined categories of sites within a defined geographical area, from the provisions of subsection where the Council is satisfied that heritage resources falling in the defined geographical area or category have been identified and are adequately protected in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- A notice referred to in subsection (2) may, by notice in the Gazette, be amended or withdrawn by the Council.

General protection: Graves of victims of conflict.—No person may damage, alter, exhume, or remove from its original position—

- the grave of a victim of conflict;
- a cemetery made up of such graves; or
- any part of a cemetery containing such graves, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- General protection: Traditional burial places.—
- No grave—
- not otherwise protected by this Act; and
- not located in a formal cemetery managed or administered by a local authority, may be damaged, altered, exhumed, removed from its original

position, or otherwise disturbed without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

The Council may only issue written approval once the Council is satisfied that—

- the applicant has made a concerted effort to consult with communities and individuals who by tradition may have an interest in the grave; and
- the applicant and the relevant communities or individuals have reached agreement regarding the grave.

General protection: Battlefield sites, archaeological sites, rock art sites, palaeontological sites, historic fortifications, meteorite or meteorite impact sites.—

- No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a
 meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of
 such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made
 the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or

excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

 The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government."

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the database that has been collated by Umlando. This databases contains archaeological site locations and basic information from several provinces (information from Umlando surveys and some colleagues), most of the national monuments and battlefields Southern Africa provincial in (http://www.vuvuzela.com/googleearth/monuments.html) and cemeteries southern Africa (information supplied by the Genealogical Society of Southern Africa). We use 1st and 2nd edition 1:50 000 topographical and 1937 aerial photographs where available, to assist in general location and dating of buildings and/or graves. The database is in Google Earth format and thus used as a quick reference when undertaking desktop studies. Where required we would consult with a local data recording centre, however these tend to be fragmented between different institutions and areas and thus difficult to access at times. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
- 1.1.1. Faunal
- 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
- 1.5.1. Ash Features
- 1.5.2. Graves

- 1.5.3. Middens
- 1.5.4. Cattle byres
- 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
 - 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?
- 5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

- 7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?
 - 7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?
- 7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

- 8.1. Palaeontological sites
- 8.2. Historical buildings
- 8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites
- 8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.5. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts. Table 1 lists the grading system.

TABLE 1: SAHRA GRADINGS FOR HERITAGE SITES

SITE	FIELD	GRADE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
SIGNIFICANCE	RATING		
High	National	Grade 1	Site conservation / Site
Significance	Significance		development
High	Provincial	Grade 2	Site conservation / Site
Significance	Significance		development
High	Local	Grade 3A /	
Significance	Significance	3B	
High / Medium	Generally		Site conservation or mitigation
Significance	Protected A		prior to development / destruction
Medium	Generally		Site conservation or mitigation /
Significance	Protected B		test excavation / systematic sampling
			/ monitoring prior to or during
			development / destruction
Low Significance	Generally		On-site sampling monitoring or
	Protected C		no archaeological mitigation required
			prior to or during development /
			destruction

RESULTS

DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys. Few archaeological sites occur in the general area (fig. 8). The archaeological sites tend to be open Stone Age and Iron Age sites of varying significance. Some historical buildings do occur but have not been documented.

The 1954 aerial photograph indicates that while there are no settlements in the Drie Fontein area (fig. 9). Fig. 10 shows the location of settlements, just west of the road, in 1954. Both areas are under agricultural cultivation

The 1967 topographical map indicates that the Driefontein area is uncultivated and that the wattle woodlot does not occur (fig 11). This is probably a cartographer error as even fallow land tends to be noted as cultivated land. Similarly, the topographical map for Senti shows that there are no settlements to the west of the road (fig. 12). Moreover, it indicates that there are ruins within the field, while these are not visible on the 1954 aerial photographs. The buildings could refer to buildings just outside of the study area.

PALAEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The area is in an area of high palaeontological sensitivity (fig. 13). However, this is for the rock formation beneath the soil. Since the agricultural activity and irrigation system will not be affecting rock formations, the specific palaeontological impact is considered low. Dr A Smith has given both areas an exemption (Appendix A).

FIG. 8: LOCATION OF KNOWN HERITAGE SITES IN THE GENERAL AREA

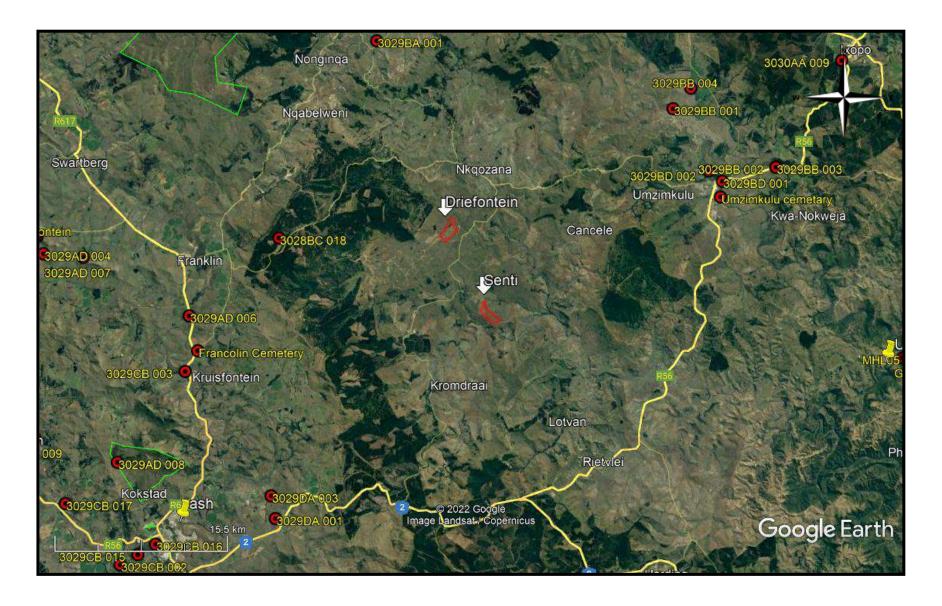


FIG. 9: LOCATION OF DRIE FONTEIN IN 1954



FIG. 10: LOCATION OF SENTI IN 1954



FIG. 11: LOCATION OF THE DRIE FONTEIN AREA IN 1967

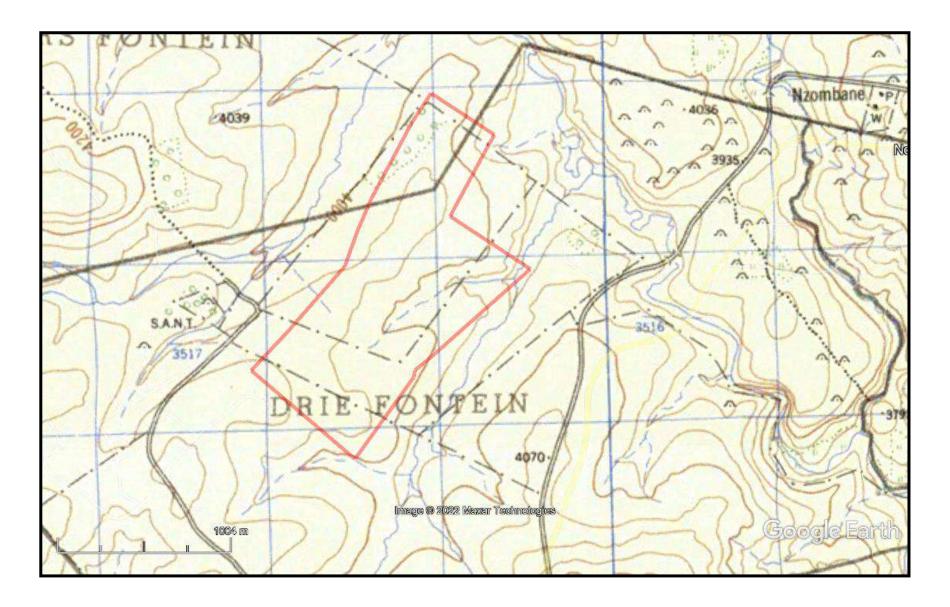
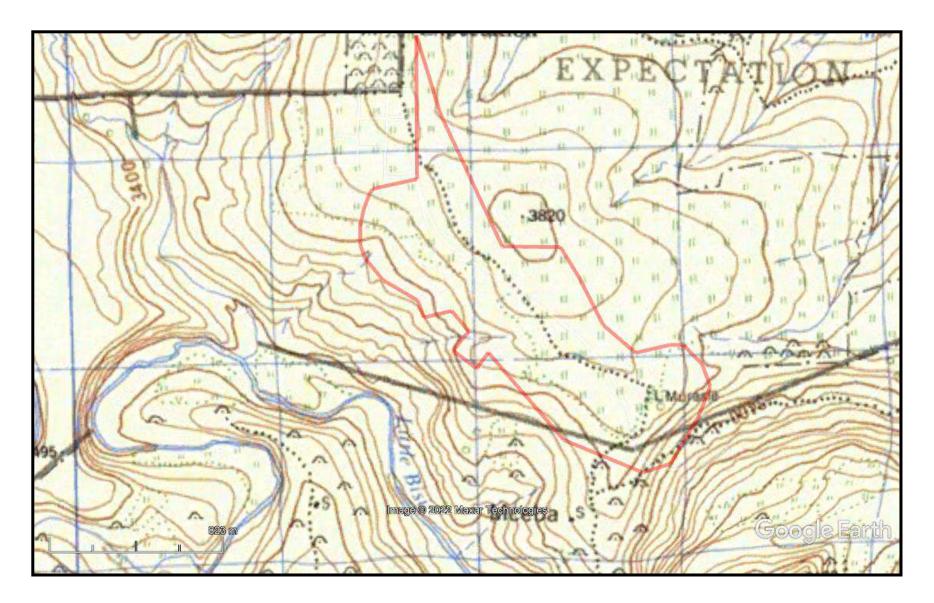


FIG. 12: LOCATION OF THE SENTI AREA IN 1967



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FIG. 13: PALAEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY MAP

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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.

FIELD SURVEY

A field survey was undertaken on 25 February 2022. Since both areas have been under cultivation for several decades, no in tact archaeological or historical sites were expected. The wattle woodlot at Drie Fontein was still visible (fig. 4) but no archaeological sites, or artefacts were noted. There is a cemetery 100m to the northwest of the existing field; however, it is on the opposite hill and will not be affected.

The fields at Senti have been equally farmed for several decades resulting in no intact archaeological sites. The ruins noted on the 19676 topographical map do not exist, or there is no evidence of these ruins. There are older buildings just outside of the existing fields but these will not be affected.

The settlements noted on the 1954 aerial photograph could not be located. That is there was no physical evidence for these buildings. These settlements were probably wattle and daub constructions and would have decayed by now. No graves were noted, however the vegetation was dense and subsurface features would not have been observable. The community of Senti would know if there are graves in this area and these would be noted by the elders. If there were graves in this area, then they would also occur below 1m form the surface and not be affected by agricultural and irrigation activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed irrigation system upgrade for Drie Fontein and Senti will not affect heritage, nor palaeontological, sites. No further heritage mitigation will be required.

CONCLUSION

A HIA and PIA was undertaken for the proposed irrigation upgrade for two areas in Senti and Drie Fontein. These areas have been under cultivation for several decades. While the desktop study suggested there could be more recent heritage resources within the Senti area, none were found.

Similarly, the PIA noted that there are fossiliferous deposits; these would not be affected by the irrigation scheme.

REFERENCES

1:50 000 Topographical Maps

3029BC Glengarry 1964, 1981

Aerial Photographs

358_003_03516 358_004_03719

Database

KZN Museum SHARIS Umlando

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.

Gavin Anderson

Archaeologist/Heritage Impact Assessor

APPENDIX A PIA LETTER OF EXEMPTION



Dr Alan Smith
Alan Smith Consulting
29 Browns Grove
Sherwood
Durban
4091

UMLANDO: Archaeological Surveys & Heritage Management

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Email:umlando@gmail.com

<u>Letter of Exemption from Palaeontological Impact Assessment for:</u>

THE DRIEFONTEIN IRRIGATION SITE, HARRY GWALA MUNICIPALITY,
NEAR MZIMKULU TOWN, KWAZULU-NATAL.

Dear Sir

Dr Alan Smith was asked by UMLANDO: Archaeological Surveys & Heritage Management to conduct a PIA for the above named project.

The project will comprise drip irrigation and micro sprinkler irrigation centre pivot, drip and micro irrigation systems on existing agricultural land. It is located on a floodplain within a low palaeosensitivity area. The upper 1.5m is highly modified due to ongoing agriculture.

There is no reason to conduct a PIA for this project consequently an exemption from Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is requested for this project. However, a "Chance Find Protocol" is attached to cover any chance find.

Should any of the proposed plans change then the project will need to be reassessed in terms of a PIA

Dr Alan Smith.

Alan Smith Consulting

February, 24, 2022

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CHANCE FIND PROTOCOL

This Chance Find Protocol must be included in the site EMPr.

If any fossils are found, a Palaeontologist must be notified immediately by the ECO and/or EAP and a site visit must be arranged at the earliest possible time with the Palaeontologist.

In the case of the ECO or the Site Manager becoming aware of suspicious looking palaeo-material:

- ➤ The construction must be halted in that specific area and the Palaeontologist must be given enough time to reach the site and remove the material before excavation continues.
- Mitigation will involve the attempt to capture all rare fossils and systematic collection of all fossils discovered. This will take place in conjunction with descriptive, diagrammatic and photographic recording of exposures, also involving sediment samples and samples of both representative and unusual sedimentary or biogenic features. The fossils and contextual samples will be processed (sorted, sub-sampled, labeled, and boxed) and documentation consolidated, to create an archive collection from the excavated sites for future researchers.

Functional responsibilities of the Developer

- 1. At full cost to the project, and guided by the appointed Palaeontological Specialist, ensure that a representative archive of palaeontological samples and other records is assembled to characterize the palaeontological occurrences affected by the excavation operation.
- 2. Provide field aid, if necessary, in the supply of materials, labour and machinery to excavate, load and transport sampled material from the excavation areas to the sorting areas, removal of overburden if necessary, and the return of discarded material to the disposal areas.
- 3. Facilitate systematic recording of the stratigraphic and palaeoenvironmental features in exposures in the fossil-bearing excavations, by described and measured geological sections, and by providing aid in the surveying of positions where significant fossils are found.

- 4. Provide safe storage for fossil material found routinely during excavation operations by construction personnel. In this context, isolated fossil finds in disturbed material qualify as "normal" fossil finds.
- 5. Provide covered, dry storage for samples and facilities for a work area for sorting, labeling and boxing/bagging samples.
- 6. Costs of basic curation and storage until collected. Documentary record of palaeontological occurrences must be done.
- 7. The contractor will, in collaboration with the Palaeontologist, make the excavation plan available to the appointed specialist, in which appropriate information regarding plans for excavations and work schedules must be indicated on the plan of the excavation sites. This must be done in conjunction with the appointed specialist.
- 8. Initially, all known specific palaeontological information will be indicated on the plan. This will be updated throughout the excavation period.
- 9. Locations of samples and measured sections are to be pegged, and routinely and accurately surveyed. Sample locations, measured sections, etc., must be recorded three-dimensionally if any "significant fossils" are recorded during the time of excavation.

DETAILS OF SPECIALIST

Dr Alan Smith

<u>Private Consultant</u>: Alan Smith Consulting, 29 Brown's Grove, Sherwood, Durban, 4091

&

<u>Honorary Research Fellow</u>: Discipline of Geology, School of Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban.

Role: Specialist Palaeontological Report production

Expertise of the specialist:

- PhD in Geology (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Pr. Sc. Nat., I.A.H.S.
- Expert in Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group) in northern KZN, this having been the subject of PhD.
- Scientific Research experience includes: Fluvial geomorphology, palaeoflood hydrology, Cretaceous deposits.
- Experience includes understanding Earth Surface Processes in both fluvial and coastal environments (modern & ancient).
- Alan has published in both national and international, peer-reviewed journals. He has published + 50 journal articles with 497 citations (detailed CV available on request).
- Attended and presented scientific papers and posters at numerous international and local conferences (UK, Canada, South Africa) and is actively involved in research.

Selected recent palaeo-related work includes:

- Desktop PIA: Proposed middle income housing units on Portion 23 of Farm Lot H Weston 13026, Bruntville, Mpofana Local Municipality. Client: UMLANDO.
- Desktop PIA: Proposed ByPass Pipeline for Ulundi bulk water pipeline upgrade. Client: UMLANDO.
- Fieldwork PIA: Bhekuzulu Epangweni KZN water reticulation project,
 Cathkin Park. Client: Mike Webster, HSG Attorneys.

- Fieldwork PIA: Mpungoze water supply scheme, Empangeni. Client: Enviropro.
- o Fieldwork PIA: Helpmekaar Dam. Client: Afzelia environmental consultants.
- Desktop PIA: Zuka valley, Ballito. Client: Mike Webster, HSG Attorneys.
- Mevamhlope proposed quarry palaeontology report. Client: Enviropro.
- Desktop PIA: Proposed Lovu Desalination site. Client: eThembeni Cultural Heritage.
- Desktop PIA: Tinley Manor phase 2 North & South banks: eThembeni Cultural Heritage
- o Desktop PIA: Tongaat. Client: eThembeni Cultural Heritage.
- Palaeontological Assessment Reports (3) to Scatec Solar SA (Pty) Ltd on an Appraisal of Inferred Palaeontological Sensitivity for a Potential Photo Voltaic Park at (1) Farm Rooilyf near Groblershoop, N Cape; (2) Farm Riet Fountain No. Portions 1 and 6, 18km SE of De Aar, N Cape; and (3) Dreunberg, near Burgersdorp, Eastern Cape. Client: Sustainable Development Projects.



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- Attended and presented scientific papers and posters at numerous international and local conferences (UK, Canada, South Africa) and is actively involved in research.

Selected recent palaeo-related work includes:

- Desktop PIA: Proposed middle income housing units on Portion 23 of Farm Lot H Weston 13026, Bruntville, Mpofana Local Municipality. Client: UMLANDO.
- Desktop PIA: Proposed ByPass Pipeline for Ulundi bulk water pipeline upgrade. Client: UMLANDO.
- Fieldwork PIA: Bhekuzulu Epangweni KZN water reticulation project,
 Cathkin Park. Client: Mike Webster, HSG Attorneys.

- Fieldwork PIA: Mpungoze water supply scheme, Empangeni. Client: Enviropro.
- o Fieldwork PIA: Helpmekaar Dam. Client: Afzelia environmental consultants.
- Desktop PIA: Zuka valley, Ballito. Client: Mike Webster, HSG Attorneys.
- Mevamhlope proposed quarry palaeontology report. Client: Enviropro.
- Desktop PIA: Proposed Lovu Desalination site. Client: eThembeni Cultural Heritage.
- Desktop PIA: Tinley Manor phase 2 North & South banks: eThembeni Cultural Heritage
- o Desktop PIA: Tongaat. Client: eThembeni Cultural Heritage.
- Palaeontological Assessment Reports (3) to Scatec Solar SA (Pty) Ltd on an Appraisal of Inferred Palaeontological Sensitivity for a Potential Photo Voltaic Park at (1) Farm Rooilyf near Groblershoop, N Cape; (2) Farm Riet Fountain No. Portions 1 and 6, 18km SE of De Aar, N Cape; and (3) Dreunberg, near Burgersdorp, Eastern Cape. Client: Sustainable Development Projects.