

**PROPOSED EMATHENDENI SPORTS FIELD, WARD
29, LADYSMITH, KWAZULU-NATAL**

Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment

November 2018

**Client: Fuze Environmental Services
Nokuthula Nuyswa**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Sports and Culture plans to build a sports field or sports complex in the Mjinti area that will encompass a stadium, athletic track, soccer field as well as tennis courts. Work on the project commenced without environmental authorisation and a heritage assessment. Work was halted by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the project is undergoing a Section 24G application to obtain approval for the unlawful commencement or continuation of the proposed sports field. This report serves as the Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Emathendeni sports field.

The proposed sports field is 2.5 Ha (25000 m²) in size hence it triggers section 38 (1) (c)(i) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999), which refers to (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site— (i) exceeding 5 000 m² in extent.

The Emathendeni sports field is located at: 28°38'46.0"S 30°07'05.0"E. It is situated approximately 23 km north of Weenen; 900 m north of the centre of the settlement of Mjinti and 2.6 km south-east of the settlement of Potsdam. The project area is rural in nature with settlements, gravel roads, subsistence farming including the keeping of cattle and goats,

A site inspection of the project area was undertaken on 5 November 2018. Visibility was good as the area had been excavated in preparation for construction.

The project site was inspected on foot in the company of the project site agent and senior foreman respectively. Two grave sites were encountered just outside the project area. The one site, situated furthest from the proposed sports field, contains 3 graves that are located at: 28°38'43.5"S 30°07'04.8"E. The graves are made from packed rocks/stones and are situated approximately 40 m west of the proposed sports field.

The other grave site contain 5 graves and those buried there were killed during violence some years back and come from different families. The grave site is located at: 28°38'45.6"S 30°07'05.1"E and is situated 10 m west of the proposed sports field. These graves are also made from packed rock and stone.

Inside the sport field and near its eastern boundary, the remains of small sections of stone walling were found that, according to the site agent, were subdivided subsistence gardens of which the remaining gardens can still be found immediately outside the sports field. According to the site agent, the Ward Councillor and the Induna of the area agreed that some of the gardens could be

incorporated into the sports field which led to their subsequent destruction. It is unclear how old the gardens are.

No signs or remains of other heritage resources were found on the proposed sports field during the site inspection.

The South African fossil sensitivity map shows that the area of the proposed sports field falls largely into an area of insignificant fossil sensitivity and partly into an area of very high sensitivity. An area of very high fossil sensitivity requires an on-site field assessment and an area of insignificant or zero fossil sensitivity requires no further studies. As the larger balance of the sports field falls within an area of insignificant fossil sensitivity and because the area is already disturbed, it is recommended that no further palaeontological studies are undertaken.

Due to the proximity of the proposed sports field to the two grave sites, it is recommended that both grave sites are permanently fenced. The fencing must incorporate a buffer of 2 m which means that there should be 2 m between the graves and the fence in which no construction can take place.

From a heritage perspective, the proposed construction of the sports field can continue as long the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in this report are implemented and once the section 24G process has been concluded.

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AUTHOR DETAILS

Verification	Name	Qualification	Professional Registration
Author	Jean Beater	MA (Heritage Studies) MSc (Environmental Management)	Member of the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists (No. 349) Member of IAIAAsa (No. 1538)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Sports and Culture plans to build a sports field or sports complex in the Mjinti area of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) that will encompass a stadium, athletic track, soccer field as well as tennis courts. Work on the project commenced without environmental authorisation and a heritage assessment. Work was recently halted by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA) and the project is undergoing a Section 24G application to obtain approval for the unlawful commencement or continuation of the proposed sports field.

This report serves as the Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Emathendeni sports field.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The proposed sports field is 2.5 Ha (25000 m²) in size hence it triggers section 38 (1) (c)(i) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999), which refers to (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site— (i) exceeding 5 000 m² in extent. Section 38 of the NHRA refers to developments or activities which may require an HIA.

In addition, the proposed construction of the sports field could impact on graves, structures, archaeological and palaeontological resources that are protected in terms of sections 33, 34, 35, and 36 of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (No. 4 of 2008).

In terms of Section 3 of the NHRA, heritage resources are described as follows:

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific *or* cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and paleontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds, including—
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and

(vi) other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);

(h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;

(i) movable objects, including:

(i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;

(ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;

(iii) ethnographic art and objects;

(iv) military objects;

(v) objects of decorative or fine art;

(vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and

(vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

The Phase I HIA was undertaken to assess whether any heritage resources will be impacted by the continued construction of the proposed Emathendeni sportsfield.

3. LOCATION

The Emathendeni sports field is located at: 28°38'46.0"S 30°07'05.0"E. It is situated approximately 23 km north of Weenen; 900 m north of the centre of the settlement of Mjinti and approximately 2.6 km south-east of the settlement of Potsdam. The project area is rural in nature with settlements, gravel roads, subsistence farming including the keeping of cattle and goats (see **Figures 1 and 2** below).

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Undertake a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment in order to determine the possible existence of archaeological, palaeontological and cultural-historical sites or features in the project area that could be impacted by the proposed sports field.

Provide mitigation measures to limit or avoid the impact of the project on heritage resources (if any).

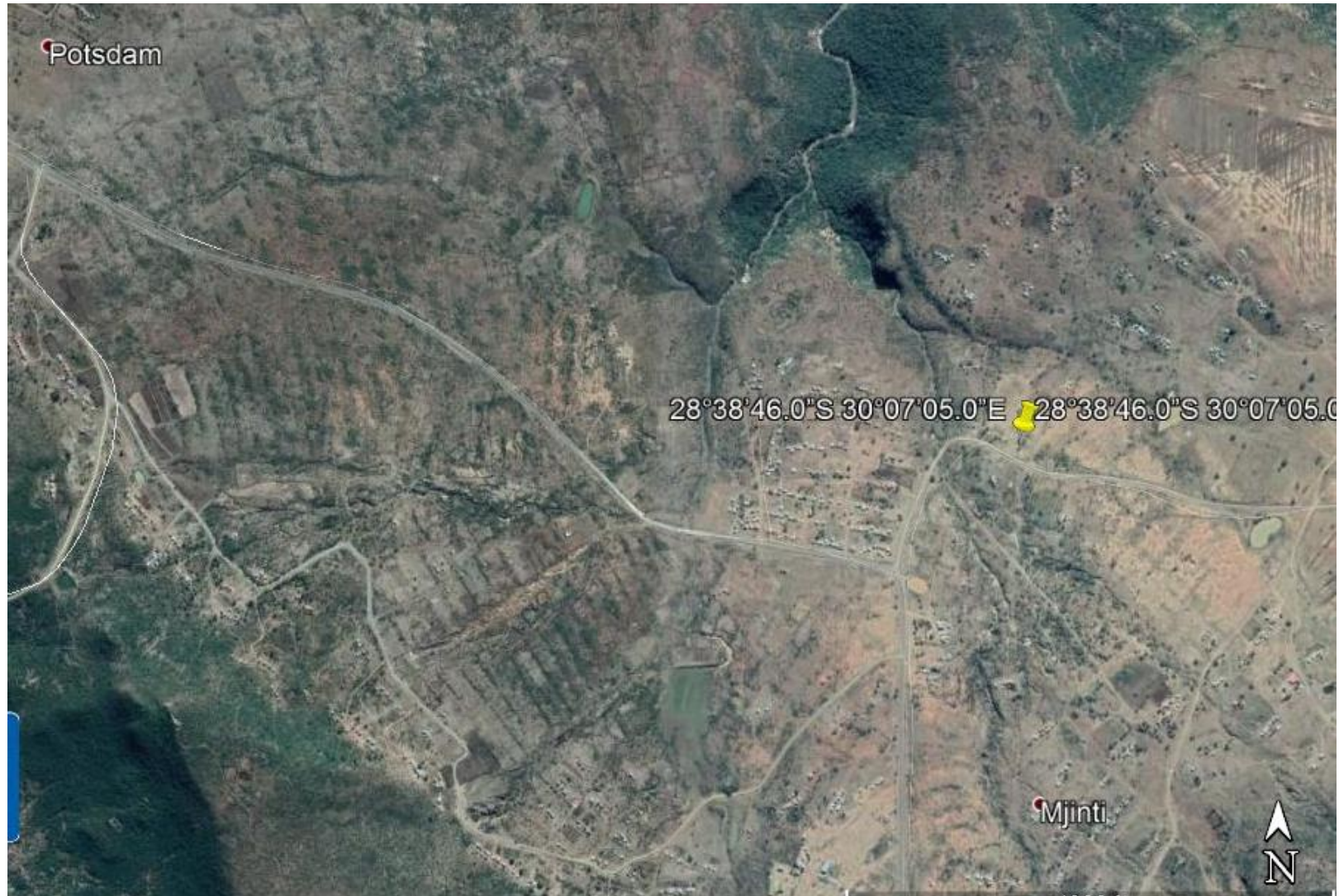


Figure 1: Wider view showing surrounding settlements



Figure 2: Closer view of proposed sports field outlined in white

5. METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

A survey of literature was undertaken of the project area in order to place the project in a historical context and to establish what heritage resources might have been identified in the immediate and wider project area during previous heritage assessments.

A site inspection of the project area was undertaken on 5 November 2018. Visibility was good as the area had been excavated in preparation for construction. Mounds of soil were found on the site and a trench had been dug on the boundary of the site for a pipeline.

This Phase 1 HIA report will be submitted to the heritage authority of KwaZulu-Natal, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa), for their assessment and comment.

6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AREA

According to Stephan Gaigher of G&A Heritage (2014:18), the larger area around Weenen is home to all three of the known phases of the Stone Age, namely: the Early- (2.5 million – 250 000 years ago), Middle- (250 000 – 20 000 years ago) and Late Stone Age (22 000 – 200 years ago). Early to Middle Stone Age sites are uncommon in this area; however rock-art sites and Late Stone Age sites are better known. According to Prins of Active Heritage (2013:3), ESA and MSA sites have been reported in open air context on seven sites in the greater Weenen area.

During the third century AD, several groups of farming peoples from eastern and south central Africa began to settle along the east coast and river valleys that drain into the Indian Ocean. In eastern South Africa, these early farmers displayed a preference for settling in a savannah environment along major water bodies where annual precipitation from 400 to over 1000mm provided adequate moisture for grain production. Over thirty Early Iron Age (EIA) settlements have been identified in the Thukela Basin within a short distance of the edge of the Thukela River or its tributaries. EIA sites are consistently located on the most productive nodes of soils confined to confluences and colluvial slip-off slopes along the major drainage courses (G&A Heritage: 19).

Gaigher has noted that a large number of Late Iron Age, stone walled sites, dating from the 18th and the 19th centuries occur along and on top of the rocky ridges in the greater Weenen area. Many of the Iron Age sites are also associated with Zulu encampments. Due to the often semi-nomadic nature of these and the use of removable huts, these sites are often difficult to identify

and short term occupational sites might only manifest in some stone circles, use to anchor these structures to the ground (G&A Heritage:19-20).

In more recent times, the aftermath of the killing of Retief at Dingane's kraal led to attacks of a number of Voortrekker camps by Zulu forces including those in the Weenen area. The name of the town, which was founded in 1838 (Bulpin 1986: 488), means place of weeping as a result of the killing of many Voortrekkers during these attacks. Weenen became a municipality in 1910 (Bulpin 1986: 488).

More recently, forced removals of black people from so-called 'white' areas occurred in the immediate Weenen area during the late 1950s. This was part of the social engineering undertaken by the Nationalist government to bring about their apartheid plan of separate development (Readers Digest 1992: 432).

7. RESULTS OF SITE INSPECTION

The project site was inspected on foot in the company of Messrs. Mthethwa and Bhengu, the project site agent and senior foreman respectively. As stated, prior to the site inspection, the project area had already been cleared in preparation for the construction of the components of the sports field. See photographs below.



Figure 3: Cleared section of sports field looking north-west



Figure 4: Cleared section of proposed sports field

Two grave sites were encountered just outside the project area. The one site, situated furthest from the proposed sports field, contains 3 graves that belong to the Mthethwa clan and is located at: 28°38'43.5"S 30°07'04.8"E. The graves are made from packed rocks/stones and are situated approximately 40 m west of the boundary of the sports field.



Figure 5: One of three Mthethwa graves



Figure 6: Mthethwa graves

The other grave site contain 5 graves and those buried there, according to the security guard at the sports field, were killed during violence some years back and come from different families. The grave site is located at: 28°38'45.6"S 30°07'05.1"E and is situated 10 m west of the proposed sports field. These graves are also made from packed rock/stone.



Figure 7: Grave site with five graves



Figure 8: Two of five graves located close to sports field

Inside the sport field and near its eastern boundary, the remains of small sections of stone walling were found that, according to Mr. Mthethwa, were subdivided subsistence gardens of which the remaining gardens can still be found immediately outside the boundary of the sports field. The gardens have been fallow for several years. Mr Mthethwa stated that in consultation with the Ward Councillor and the local Induna, it was agreed that some of the gardens could be incorporated into the sports field which led to their subsequent destruction. The age of the gardens could not be established.

Messrs Mthethwa and Bhengu both indicated that to their knowledge there were no other heritage resources (such as protected structures, graves, etc.) on the site prior to excavation of the site. No signs or remains of other heritage resources were found during the inspection.



Figure 9: Remains of stone walls between gardens



Figure 10: Small subsistence gardens on eastern edge of project area

The South African fossil sensitivity map shows that the area of the proposed sports field falls largely into an area of insignificant fossil sensitivity (grey colour) and partly into an area of very high sensitivity (red /pink colour). See **Figure 11** below with project area outlined in blue.

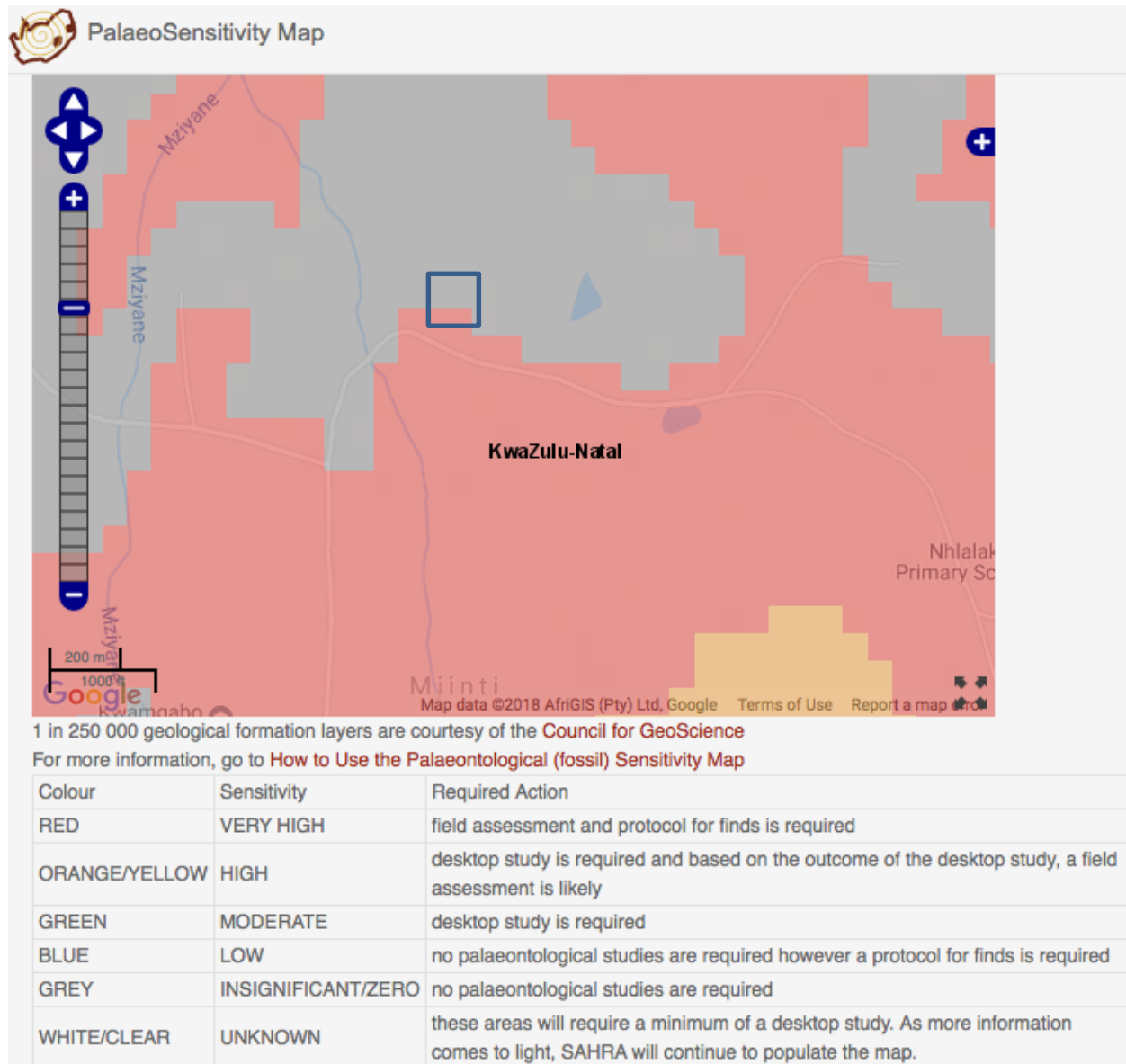


Figure 11: Fossil sensitivity of project area

As indicated in the legend in the above figure, an area of very high fossil sensitivity requires an on-site field assessment and an area of insignificant or zero fossil sensitivity requires no further studies. As the larger balance of the sports field falls within an area of insignificant fossil sensitivity and because the area is already disturbed through past and current activities, it is recommended that no further palaeontological studies are undertaken.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Due to the proximity of the proposed Emathendeni sports field to the two grave sites, it is recommended that both grave sites are permanently fenced to avoid any damage to them during the construction and operation/use of the sports field. The fencing should be of sturdy / strong and durable material and must be highly visible to the construction crew. The fencing must incorporate a buffer of 2 m which means that there should be 2 m between the graves and the fence in which no construction can take place.

From a heritage perspective, the proposed construction of the sports field can continue as long the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in this report are implemented and once the section 24G process has been concluded.

9. MITIGATION MEASURES

- For any chance finds of heritage resources all work must cease in the area affected and the Contractor must immediately inform the Project Manager. A registered heritage specialist must be called to site for inspection. The relevant heritage resource agency (Amafa) must also be informed about the finding.
- The heritage specialist will assess the significance of the resource and provide guidance on the way forward.
- Written permission (permits) must be obtained from Amafa if heritage resources are to be altered, destroyed or removed.
- Any other heritage resources found in close proximity to the construction area that were not identified during the site inspection must be protected by a 2 m buffer in which no construction can take place. The buffer material (danger tape, fencing, etc.) must be highly visible to construction crews.
- Under no circumstances may any heritage material be destroyed or removed from site unless under direction of a heritage specialist.
- Should any remains be found on site that are potentially human remains, the South African Police Service (SAPS) should also be contacted. No SAPS official may disturb or exhume such remains, whether of recent origin or not, without the necessary permission.

10. REFERENCES

Active Heritage. 2013. *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed Weenen water reservoirs and upper main water canal maintenance works.*

G&A Heritage. 2014. *Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report. Bethulo Road Upgrade Project, near Weenen, Kwa Zulu Natal Province.*

Reader's Digest. 1992. *Illustrated History of South Africa. The real story.* Cape Town: The Reader's Digest Association Limited