

**GLENWOOD SOUTH EAST SECTOR HOUSING
PROJECT, UMSUNDUZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
KWAZULU-NATAL**

Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment

March 2022

**FOR: SPHE Consulting Services
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Msunduzi Local Municipality proposes constructing low-cost houses for the community of Glenwood which is located within Ward 38 of the Municipality. The housing development scheme will comprise of 377 residential free-standing units and 2 566 residential walk-up units.

The site is approximately 49.59 hectares (495900 m²) in size hence it triggers section 41 (1) (c)(i) and (ii) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, 2018 (Act No 5 of 2018) which lists developments or activities that require an HIA. The relevant sub-section refers to: any development or other activity which will change the character of a site- (i) exceeding 5000 m² and (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.

The study area is located in Glenwood township which is located approximately six kilometres north east of the centre Pietermaritzburg. There is residential development on three sides of the site whilst its eastern boundary is located adjacent to sugar cane fields.

An inspection of the site was undertaken on 02 March 2022. Sites conditions were fairly good. Vegetation and grass cover was dense in many areas but accessible in most part.

The site was inspected on foot. The specialist spoke to a number of people about heritage sites on the project area. There is a dwelling with associated buildings in the south-eastern corner of the project site. The dwelling starts to appear on maps from the 1980s. The dwelling is currently occupied. An inspection around the buildings revealed no graves or other heritage sites. The dwelling is located 60m west of the eastern boundary of the project area.

The area between the road running through the length of the project area and the eastern boundary still shows signs of previous cultivation with some terracing and furrows faintly visible. No heritage sites were found during the inspection.

A large football field is located towards the centre of the western section of the project area. On the western edge of the football field temporary houses called Lindela houses were found. On the northern boundary of the football field is a Shembe temple with several structures including one that is under construction. The site is fenced off and could not be accessed.

South-east of the businesses is an area which is most likely the site of the remains of the homestead which is visible on the 1944 aerial image. There are the remains of a concrete floor/foundation or platform as well as drains and a line of trees that may indicate an access road to the house. Due to very dense vegetation, it could not be determined if there are graves

associated with the homestead or any other heritage resources. The access road from the south is still faintly visible.

A desktop palaeontological study found that the site falls in the Dwyka Group and the Pietermaritzburg Formation, both of which are indicated as moderately sensitive. Of the seven facies recognised in the Dwyka Group, fossil plant fragments have only been recognised from the mudrock facies that have been recorded around Douglas in the Northern Cape, even though the Dwyka Group exposures are very extensive. The early Permian Pietermaritzburg Formation was deposited in shallow and deep-water settings. Only shallow water palaeoenvironments have trace fossils of worm burrows, invertebrate traces and very rare fragmented and transported plant material. The geological structures suggest that the rocks are either much too old to contain fossils or the right age for early terrestrial plants and invertebrates. Since there is an extremely small chance that fossils from the Dwyka Group may be disturbed, it is recommended that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been included in the EMPr for the project. The potential impact to fossil heritage resources is assessed as very low.

The project area is quite disturbed by previous cultivation and habitation and currently by roads, businesses and sports facilities. Two areas of interest were found during the site inspection, namely the Shembe temple and secondly, the remains of the homestead mentioned above.

Although the Shembe temple is not protected by heritage legislation, it is of importance to the Shembe community living in the area. It is therefore recommended that the temple and associated structures be excluded from the development. However, if this is not possible, then the Shembe community should be consulted as to where the temple can be moved.

The site of the homestead needs to be cleared of vegetation in order to determine whether there are any graves related to the site. A polygon of the area to be cleared has been provided to the EAP. The clearing and inspection of this site must be undertaken prior to any excavations been undertaken. If graves are found, it should be noted that graves are protected in terms of section 39 (1) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act. It is recommended that graves are not moved.

The Glenwood South East housing project may proceed as long as the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in this report and in the desktop palaeontological study are implemented and adhered to where necessary.

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APPENDIX 1

Desktop palaeontological study

I, **Jean Lois Beater**, act as an independent specialist for this project and I do not have any vested interest either business, financial, personal or other, in the proposed activity other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

SPECIALIST DETAILS

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

1. INTRODUCTION

The Msunduzi Local Municipality proposes constructing low-cost houses for the community of Glenwood which is located within Ward 38 of the Municipality. The project will focus on the construction of houses and other related infrastructure. The housing development scheme will comprise of 377 residential free-standing units and 2 566 residential walk-up units. The property is owned by the Local Municipality.

The Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was undertaken to establish if any heritage resources would be impacted by the proposed housing development.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The site is approximately 49.59 hectares (495900 m²) in size hence it triggers section 41 (1) (c)(i) and (ii) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, 2018 (Act No 5 of 2018) which lists developments or activities that require an HIA. The relevant sub-section refers to: any development or other activity which will change the character of a site- (i) exceeding 5000 m² and (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.

The project may also impact graves, structures, archaeological and palaeontological resources that are protected in terms of sections 37, 38, 39, and 40 of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, 2018.

In terms of section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act 1999 (Act No 25 of 199), heritage resources are:

- (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) 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).

3. LOCATION

The study area is located in Glenwood township within the Msunduzi Local Municipality and is located approximately six kilometres north east of the centre Pietermaritzburg (**Fig. 1**). There is residential development on three sides of the site whilst its eastern boundary is located adjacent to sugar cane fields (**Fig. 2**). The centre of the site is at 29°35'11.8" S; 30°26'31.3" E.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Undertake a Phase 1 HIA in order to determine the possible existence of heritage resources, as listed above, that could be impacted by the proposed housing project. Provide mitigation measures to limit or avoid the impact of the proposed project on heritage resources (if any).

Submit the HIA report to the provincial heritage resources authority, namely the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute (hereafter referred to as the Institute), for their consideration and comment.

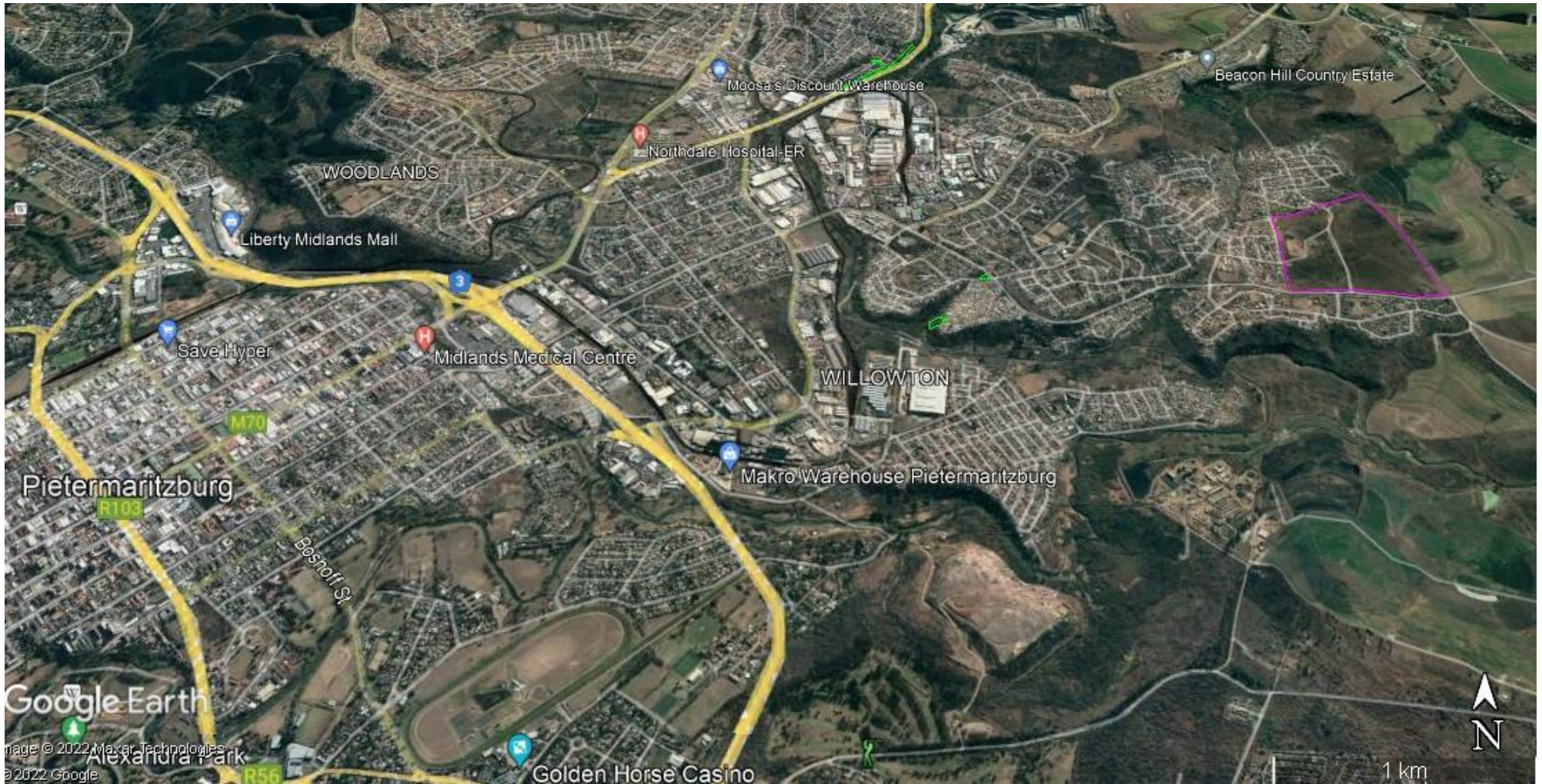


Figure 1: Location of project site outlined in purple in relation to centre of Pietermaritzburg

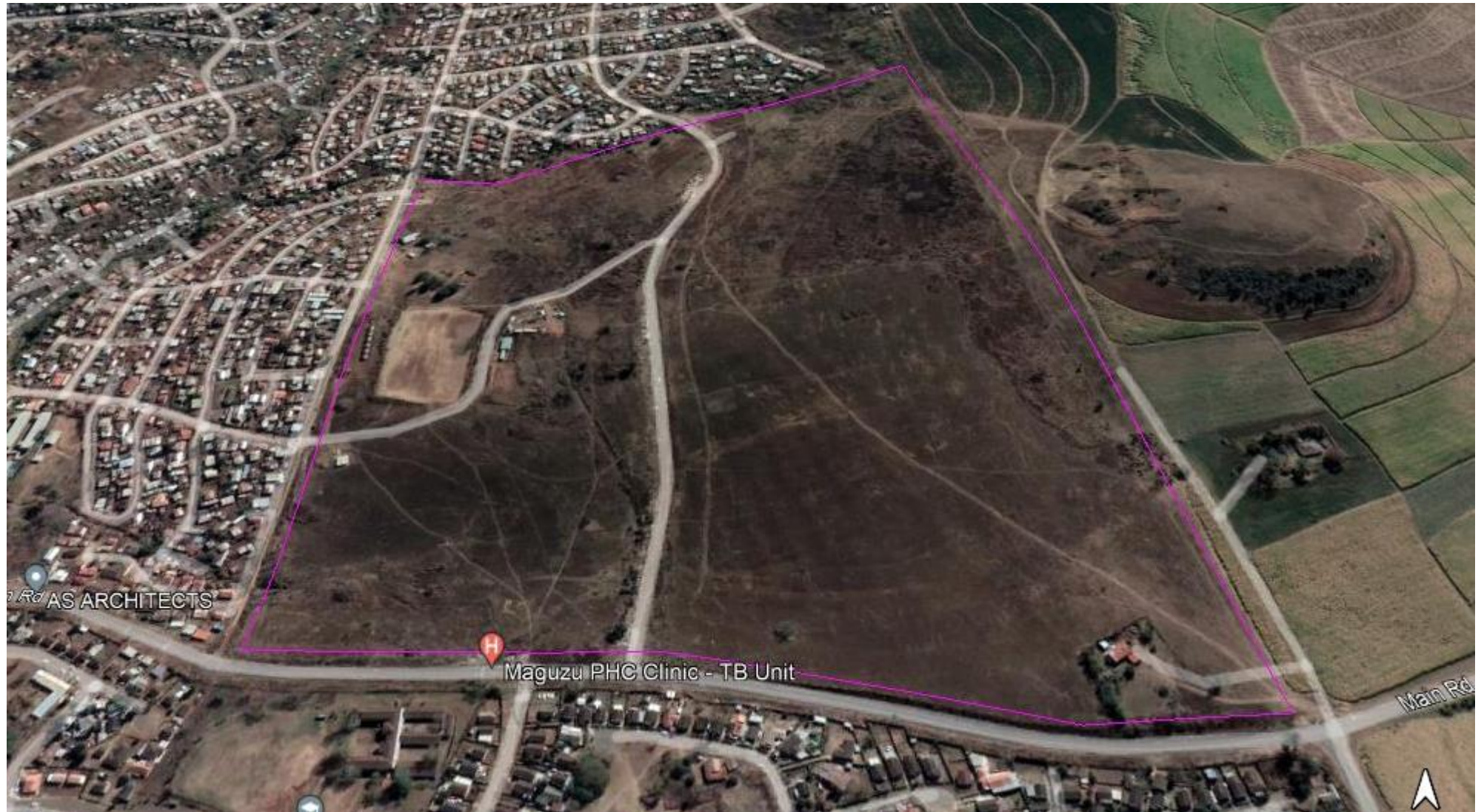


Figure 2: Closer view of project area outlined in purple

5. METHODOLOGY

A survey of literature, including other heritage impact assessment reports completed for the surrounding area, was undertaken in order to ascertain the history of the area and what type of heritage resources have or may be found in the area of development.

An inspection of the site was undertaken on 02 March 2022. Sites conditions were fairly good. Vegetation and grass cover was dense in many areas but accessible in most part.

6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF AREA

The greater Pietermaritzburg area and surrounds have a long history of occupation by Stone Age hunter gather groups, Iron Age farming communities and colonial settlers. Middle Stone Age sites occur around the greater Pietermaritzburg area and are often located in rock shelters. The arrival of Nguni speaking farming communities from Western Africa during the first half of the 1st millennium AD marked the end of the Stone Age in Southern Africa. During the Early Iron Age, settlements were situated on valley floors and next to rivers. The Later Iron Age period is characterised by stone walled settlements. These Later Iron Age communities in KwaZulu-Natal were the direct ancestors of the present-day Zulu people (NGT Holdings 2018: 24-26).

During the historical period the KwaZulu-Natal region was often left in turmoil due to wars and conflict between the different groups that settled in the area. In the beginning of the 19th century various Nguni-speaking communities settled on the larger Umngeni Valley area which is located to the north of Pietermaritzburg. During the Mfecane/Difaqane at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries, communities who had settled in KwaZulu-Natal were displaced and forced to move by wars between the Zulu chiefdoms (NGT Holdings 2018:26)

Voortrekkers, dissatisfied with British rule, started to move from the Cape and in 1837 Piet Retief led the Voortrekkers into Natal, where he met with King Dingane to arrange for permission to settle in Natal (NGT Holdings:26). After the Battle of Ncome/Blood River, the Voortrekkers settled across the province and named Pietermaritzburg after their leaders Piet Retief and Gert Maritz. In 1843, the town was taken over by the British and became an important staging post in the Colony of Natal (Derwent 2006:58).

About 2km south-east of the project site is Bishopstowe. Bishopstowe was the homestead of Bishop John Colenso, his wife and their three daughters. A mission station known as Ekukanyeni or the “Home of Light” was built next to the Colenso residence. Some of the old buildings are still standing and are used today as a private residence. The Colenso family played a significant role in various events in Pietermaritzburg and Natal in the mid-to-late 19th century (Alcock 2014:15).

According to Coad (2015:1-2), Siboniso Ndlovu started investigating the settlement patterns of the coloured community in Pietermaritzburg prior to the advent of apartheid in 1948 when they tended to occupy the gaps between the other race groups. They were sparsely scattered around the city and lived among the African community in Edendale and in back-yard dwellings where they worked as servants in the white suburbs. There were also small groups living in Berg, Boshoff and Retief streets, as well as a substantial number in Raisethorpe. Ironically, the Group Areas Act proved a turning point for the coloured community as it meant they were recognised and designated settlements were created for them. First came Woodlands; this was followed by Eastwood and Cinderella Park as well as Glenwood. According to Ndinda (2009:322-323), settlement in Glenwood II and Thembalihle was through land invasions and was motivated by the need for refuge from political violence in the early 1990s.

The 1944 aerial photograph of the project area shows a large homestead/farmstead and associated buildings in the project area and cultivation on either side of the road to the homestead. The road running along the southern boundary of the project is visible.

In the 1968 aerial image (**Fig. 4**), the homestead appears slightly reduced in size and there is additional cultivation immediately north of the homestead and associated buildings.



Figure 3: 1944 aerial image with project area outlined in yellow

7. RESULTS OF SITE INSPECTION

The site was inspected on foot. The specialist parked at a business which sells building material. It is located very close to the remains of the homestead mentioned above. The specialist spoke to the owner of this business, Thulani Mkhize. He said that there were no graves on the project site. The graves that he was aware of are located north of the project area on the hill. The specialist also spoke to Cecilia Nqubeka who resides close to the project area. She also said that she was unaware of the presence of graves on the project site.

Next door to the business mentioned above are a number of structures and below these is a large football field. These are visible on **Fig. 2** above. A road runs the length of the property and there is extensive dumping of rubbish along the road as well as burning of rubbish in places.



Figure 4: 1968 aerial image of project area

There is a dwelling with associated buildings in the south-eastern corner of the project site. The dwelling starts to appear on maps from the 1980s so it is not a protected structure. The dwelling is currently occupied. An inspection around the dwelling revealed no graves or other heritage sites. The dwelling is located 60m west of the eastern boundary of the project area. Sugar cane is growing along the eastern boundary.



Figure 5: Dwelling and associated building / garage



Figure 6: View of dwelling looking west



Figure 7: Eastern boundary with sugar cane in background

The area between the road running through the length of the project area and the eastern boundary still shows signs of previous cultivation with some terracing and furrows faintly visible. Some sections are overgrown with invasive vegetation and other sections are covered with a fairly thick grass layer.



Figure 8: Section of eastern flank of project area



Figure 9: View across eastern section towards Pietermaritzburg



Figure 10: Looking northwards over eastern flank of project area



Figure 11: Road running length of project area looking northwards



Figure 12: Business in centre of project area

A large football field is located opposite the business depicted above and towards the centre of the western section of the project area. On the western edge of the football field temporary houses called Lindela houses were found. These are temporary housing for people awaiting permanent houses. On the northern boundary of the football field is a Shembe temple with

several associated structures including one that is in the process of being constructed. The site is fenced off and could not be accessed.



Figure 13: Football field



Figure 14: Lindela temporary housing



Figure 15: Shembe temple and associated structure



Figure 16: View of southern half of project area from football field

Behind or south-east of the business and other structures is an area which is most likely the site of the remains of the homestead discussed in Chapter 6 of this report. There are the remains of a concrete floor/foundation or platform as well as drains and a line of trees that may indicate an access road. Due to very dense vegetation around the site, it could not be determined if there

are graves associated with the homestead or any other heritage resources. The access road from the south which is visible in **Figs. 3 – 4** is still faintly visible.



Figure 17: Remains of concrete floor or platform



Figure 18: Remains of drain



Figure 19: Original access road still visible

Areas of concern noted during the site inspection are listed below.

Table 1: List of areas of concern

COORDINATES	HERITAGE RESOURCE	SIGNIFICANCE + MITIGATION MEASURES
Centre of site 29°35'10.3" S 30°26'25.7" E	Remains of homestead	Low heritage significance; however, if graves are found once the area is cleared, then it will be an area of high heritage significance & a buffer of 20m will need to be placed around the graves to protect them from construction activities
29°35'06.6" S 30°26'20.2" E	Shembe temple & associated buildings	Low/negligible heritage significance; leave <i>in-situ</i> if possible

A desktop palaeontological study, undertaken for the project, found that the site falls in the Dwyka Group and the Pietermaritzburg Formation, both of which are indicated as moderately sensitive and some Jurassic dolerite that has no fossils because it is an igneous rock. The Dwyka *Glossopteris* flora outcrops are very sporadic and rare. Of the seven facies recognised in the Dwyka Group, fossil plant fragments have only been recognised from the mudrock facies. These have been recorded from around Douglas in the Northern Cape, even though the Dwyka Group exposures are very extensive. The early Permian Pietermaritzburg Formation was deposited in shallow and deep-water settings. Only the shallow water palaeoenvironments have trace fossils

of worm burrows, invertebrate traces and very rare fragmented and transported plant material (Bamford 2022:9-10).

The geological structures suggest that the rocks are either much too old to contain fossils or the right age for early terrestrial plants and invertebrates. Furthermore, the material to be excavated is soil and this does not preserve fossils. Since there is an extremely small chance that fossils from the Dwyka Group may be disturbed, it is recommended that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the project. The potential impact to fossil heritage resources is assessed as very low (Bamford 2022:11).

8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The project area is quite disturbed by previous cultivation and habitation (homestead/farmstead) and currently by roads, businesses and sports facilities. Two areas of interest were found during the site inspection, namely the Shembe temple and secondly, the remains of the homestead mentioned above.

Although the Shembe temple is not protected by heritage legislation, it is of importance to the Shembe community living in the area. It is therefore recommended that the temple and associated structures be excluded from the development. However, if this is not possible, then the Shembe community should be consulted as to where the temple can be moved. This may be difficult as there are several permanent structures associated with the temple.

The site of the homestead needs to be cleared of vegetation in order to determine whether there are any graves related to the site. A polygon of the area to be cleared has been provided to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), Sphe Consulting Services. The clearing and inspection of the site must be undertaken prior to any excavations been undertaken in that particular area.

If graves are found, it should be noted that graves are protected in terms of section 39 (1) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act which states that graves or burial grounds older than 60 years or deemed to be of heritage significance by a heritage authority- (a) not otherwise protected by the above Act and (b) not located in a formal cemetery managed or administered by a local authority, may not be damaged, altered, exhumed, inundated, removed from its original position, or otherwise disturbed without the prior written approval of the Institute having been obtained on written application to the Institute.

Graves are highly significant to many people and there are many traditional, cultural and personal sensitivities and norms concerning damage to graves or the relocation of graves. It is recommended that graves are not moved. If, however, the graves need to be altered or moved from the project area, the procedure provided in section 5 of the Draft KwaZulu-Natal & Research Institute Regulations, 2021 must be followed

The Glenwood South East housing project may proceed as long as the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in this report and in the desktop palaeontological study are implemented and adhered to where necessary.

9. MITIGATION MEASURES

- For any chance heritage finds, all work must cease in the area affected and the Contractor must immediately inform the Project Manager. A heritage specialist must be called to site to inspect the finding/s. The relevant heritage resource agency (the Institute) must be informed about the finding/s.
- The specialist will assess the significance of the resource/s and provide guidance on the way forward.
- Permits must be obtained from the Institute if heritage resources are to be removed, destroyed or altered.
- Under no circumstances may any heritage material be destroyed or removed from the project site unless under direction of a heritage specialist.
- Should any recent remains be found on site that could potentially be human remains, the South African Police Service as well as the Institute must be contacted. No SAPS official may remove remains (recent or not) until the correct permit/s have been obtained.
- A Fossil Chance Find Protocol must be included in the EMPr for the proposed construction of the project.

10. REFERENCES

Alcock, P.G. 2014. *The hills above Pietermaritzburg: an appreciation.* (https://hiltonvillage.co.za/images/The_Hills_Above_Pietermaritzburg.pdf)

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Ndinda, C. 2009. 'But now I dream about my house': Women's empowerment and housing delivery in urban KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. In *Development Southern Africa*. 26. 317-333. (<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227611238>)

NGT Holdings. 2018. *Heritage Impact Assessment report for the proposed development of a SMME training centre and youth enterprise park on Erf 1977 Edendale-CC located in the Msunduzi Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa.*