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9 December 2013

**Attention      Bernadet Pawandiwa**

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Application for Exemption from a  
Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of  
Main 385 Road (M50) Upgrade, Hammarsdale,  
eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality,  
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

**Project description**

The eThekweni Economic Development Unit and Planning Department has proposed the upgrading and widening of the Main 385 Road (M50) between Anderson Road and Stanley Metheven Drive, Hammarsdale. This includes the construction of an additional lane in both directions, the widening of the bridge over the Sterkspruit River as well as all associated storm water control. The upgrade and expansion has been proposed to meet the increased traffic pressure associated with the construction of numerous new developments in the area.

The proposed development includes:

- Earthwork excavations to design level,
- Import of suitable materials as per the pavement design report,
- Retaining walls,
- Bridge widening,
- Storm water installation,
- Asphalt sidewalks with barrier/mountable kerbing and
- Ancillary road works.



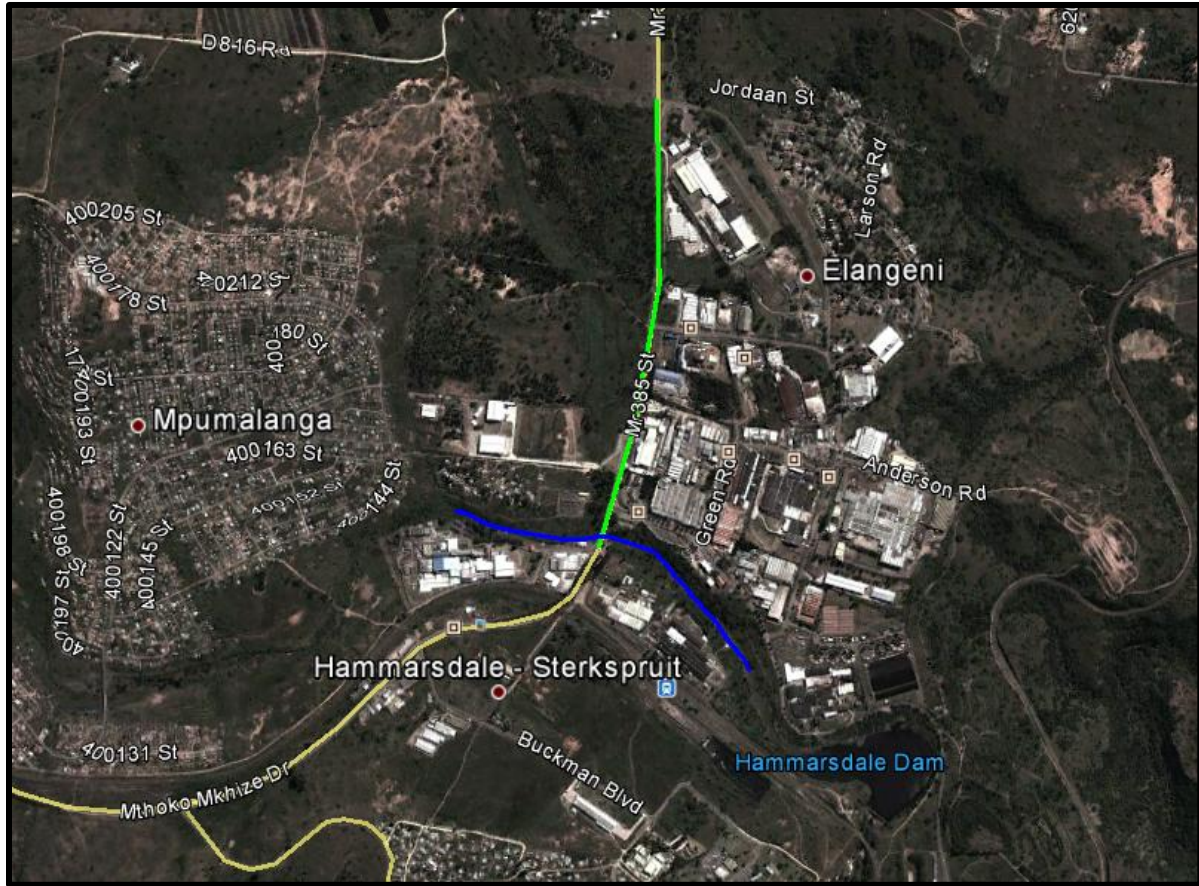


FIGURE 2 LOCATION OF PROPOSED PROJECT (SOURCE: THE CLIENT).

### Site assessment and recommendations

A site inspection on 13 November 2013 revealed that the proposed development site has been subject to decades of severe environmental disturbance, including periodic flooding of the Sterkspruit River; road, bridge and power line constructions; and the operation of numerous commercial and light industrial premises (Figures 3-6).

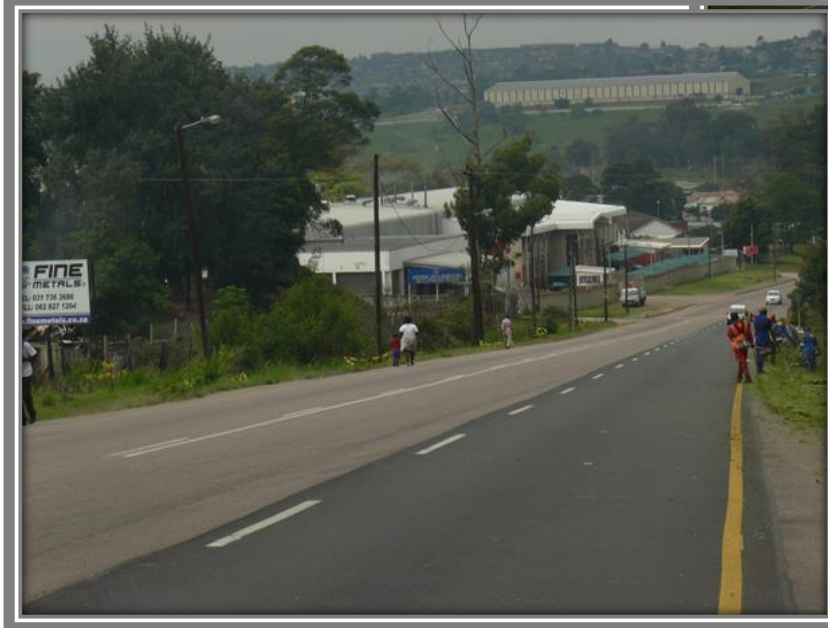
The SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map indicates that the area has low sensitivity, requiring no palaeontological studies. However, a protocol for finds is required (see Appendix).

Accordingly, we request that Amafa grant an exemption from an HIA for this activity, allowing the project to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation.

Yours sincerely

Len van Schalkwyk and Elizabeth Wahl





**FIGURES 3-6**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCES IN THE**  
**PROPOSED PROJECT AREA.**

## Appendix

### Protocol for the Identification, Protection and Recovery of Heritage Resources During Construction and Operation

It is possible that sub-surface heritage resources could be encountered during the construction phase of this project. The Environmental Control Officer and all other persons responsible for site management and excavation should be aware that indicators of sub-surface sites could include:

- Ash deposits (unnaturally grey appearance of soil compared to the surrounding substrate);
- Bone concentrations, either animal or human;
- Ceramic fragments, including potsherds;
- Stone concentrations that appear to be formally arranged (may indicate the presence of an underlying burial, or represent building/structural remains); and
- Fossilised remains of fauna and flora, including trees.

In the event that such indicator(s) of heritage resources are identified, the following actions should be taken immediately:

- All construction within a radius of at least 20m of the indicator should cease. This distance should be increased at the discretion of supervisory staff if heavy machinery or explosives could cause further disturbance to the suspected heritage resource.
- This area must be marked using clearly visible means, such as barrier tape, and all personnel should be informed that it is a no-go area.
- A guard should be appointed to enforce this no-go area if there is any possibility that it could be violated, whether intentionally or inadvertently, by construction staff or members of the public.
- No measures should be taken to cover up the suspected heritage resource with soil, or to collect any remains such as bone or stone.
- If a heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, s/he should be contacted and a site inspection arranged as soon as possible.
- If no heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, the head of archaeology at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office should be contacted; telephone 033 3946 543.
- The South African Police Services should be notified by an Amafa staff member or an independent heritage practitioner if human remains are identified. No SAPS official may disturb or exhume such remains, whether of recent origin or not.
- All parties concerned should respect the potentially sensitive and confidential nature of the heritage resources, particularly human remains, and refrain from making public statements until a mutually agreed time.
- Any extension of the project beyond its current footprint involving vegetation and/or earth clearance should be subject to prior assessment by a qualified heritage practitioner, taking into account all information gathered during this initial HIA.