



**Attention      Bernadet Pawandiwa**

## **Heritage Scoping Report**

### **Proposed Cemetery at Glencoe Endumeni Local Municipality, Mzinyathi DM, KwaZulu-Natal**

#### **Project Area and Project description<sup>1</sup>**

The project involves the establishment of a new cemetery, including access road and ancillary infrastructure, providing an unspecified number of grave sites, covering an area of just under 7.9 hectares on the property Erf 1574 in the Township of Glencoe. The property is registered to the Endumeni Local Municipality under Title Deed T5982/1957, registered on 12 July 1957. Diagram Deed T5978/957 (extent of 14.186 ha. (See Figure 1).

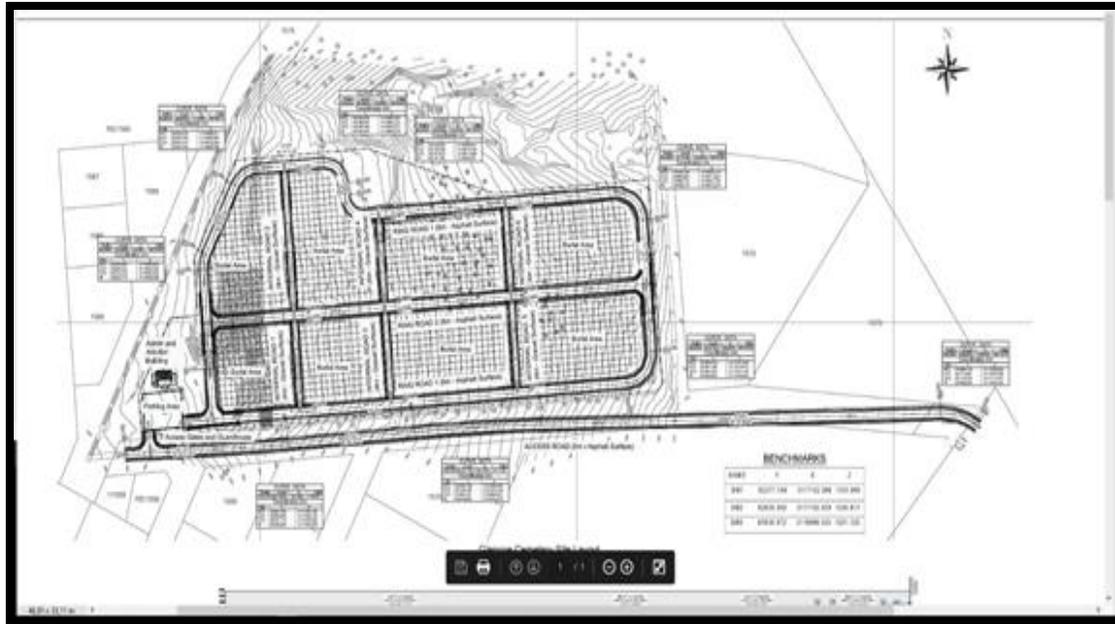
Included in the project will be:

- the establishment of a 675m long tarred access road on Alice Road, leading from the access point to the cemetery to Karel Landman Street, with associated storm water management infrastructure.
- lockable pedestrian and vehicle access gates with guard house.
- a tarred parking area for approximately 20 vehicles.
- a combined administration and ablution block sited adjacent to the parking area
- municipal services as required.
- internal tarred (6m wide) and gravel (4m wide) access roads.
- the perimeter of the site shall be closed off with palisade fencing.

The water supply to the facility, the sewage connection and power supply shall be linked to the respective Municipal services.

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<sup>1</sup> Information provided by the appointed EAP, Geoff Silk



**Figure 1.** Proposed Cemetery Layout. (Original pdf. Loaded to SAHRIS Case File).

There are several derelict structures and foundations within the footprint that will require demolishing and the residual material will be removed from site for disposal at a registered disposal site for that type of waste.

The implementation of the proposed cemetery will be implemented by the Endumeni LM. Geoff Silk is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner appointed to assist with the environmental authorization process. A Basic Assessment Report is required in terms of NEMA.<sup>2</sup>

### **Observations**

eThembeni staff inspected the site on 10 February 2020. The Erf is situated on the corner of Kommando and Alice Street, Glencoe, and borders the railway line. The site is largely grassed, with copses of trees and a patchwork of residual plant beds. One standing structure, a derelict ablution block, can be found on the western section of the site, and is surrounded by several other built feature ruins, including foundations, walkways and drainage covers towards the eastern side.

The erf appears to have functioned as a recreation park in the recent historical past and was associated with the railway station and its attendant railway residences. All the park infrastructure is in ruin and display signs of rampant vandalism. The gardens and lawns are unkept and the tree stands have been left to go feral. The park's historical context within the remaining townscape has been lost.

<sup>2</sup> The National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, as amended.



**Figure 2.** Erf 1574, Glencoe. The previous municipal park now earmarked for cemetery development.



**Figure 3.** Previous municipal park infrastructure.  
See further images loaded to the SAHRIS Case File.

The underlying lithology comprises Karoo dolerites and therefore has no palaeontological sensitivity.<sup>3</sup>

No heritage resources of significance were observed during the field inspection.

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<sup>3</sup> Gideon Groenewald. Palaeontological Technical Report for KwaZulu-Natal. Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali. 2012.

## **Recommendations**

In the absence of any heritage resources of significance, and that no further palaeontological mitigation is required, we accordingly request that Amafa allow the cemetery development to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation; suffice that the protocols in Appendix 1 are made binding to any Environmental Authorisations issued.

Please can you notify us timeously, via the loaded SAHRIS Case File, as to the decision of Amafa in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk  
Principle Investigator.

## Appendix 1

### 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 the initial assessment.