



Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Heritage Scoping Report

Proposed Cemetery at Craigside, Dundee Endumeni Local Municipality, Mzinyathi DM, KwaZulu-Natal

Project Area and Project description¹

The proposed cemetery is located in the Craigside suburb within the townlands of Dundee. (See Figure 1.). 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.²

The proposed development involves the establishment of a new cemetery, including access road and ancillary infrastructure, providing an unspecified number of grave sites, covering an area of approximately 13.0 hectares on the property Portion 72 of the farm Craigside No. 2272-HT. The property is registered to the Endumeni Local Municipality under Title Deed T5164/1942, registered on 29th. September 1942. Diagram Deed T2830/942 records a property extent of 63.7583 ha.

Included in the project will be:

- the establishment of a 20m long tarred access road leading from the access gate to the cemetery to Nyanyadu Street;
- 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, with male and female toilets;
- municipal services as required;
- internal tarred (6m wide) and gravel (4m wide) access roads;

¹ Information provided by the appointed EAP, Geoff Silk.

² The National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, as amended.

- storm water management infrastructure;
- 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.

The site is completely undeveloped, however there are a small number of trees that will be required to be felled where they interfere with the grave sites and other infrastructure. Where there is no interference the trees will be left in place.

The implementation of the proposed cemetery will be by the Endumeni LM.



Figure 1 Location of new Cemetery at Craigside within the townlands of Dundee
(see kml. Loaded to SAHRIS Case File)

Observations

eThembeni staff inspected the site on 10 February 2020. Located along Nyanyadu Street, Dundee, the site is nearly completely covered in grass with the exception of some trees on the eastern and boundaries. The site appears to have been used as a grazing camp in the past and is currently informally grazed by livestock from Craigside township. Consequently, surface visibility was fair.

No standing structures or visible foundations are present, and no archaeological residues were observed.



Figure 2 Aerial view of the proposed Cemetery site at Craigside



Figure 3 Landscape view of the proposed Cemetery site at Craigside

The site further formed part of an inspection in 2012 when eThembeni assessed the Dundee Bulk Water Supply provision to Craigside and the Talana Museum Precinct. This assessment was issued a No Objection R.o.D by Amafa. [Amafa ref: (12/10/30-01)].

The underlying lithology comprises Vryheid Formation shales and sandstones with coal seams. Whilst these are listed as being palaeontologically sensitive they are overlain by deep colluvial subsoils and will not be affected by the proposed development activities.³ Soil tests conducted during the EIA process indicate the site substrate to be sufficiently deep and well drained to permit use for burials.

See further images loaded to the SAHRIS Case File.

³ 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.