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22 January 2017

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Heritage Scoping Report
Proposed Upgrade of Banana City Informal Settlement
eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality**

Project Area and Project description¹

Banana City is an informal settlement comprising roughly 220 households and is located on land adjacent to and owned by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Westville Campus, between Westville and Reservoir Hills within the eThekweni Metro (Figure 1). The project is planned to deliver low cost housing units, roads and services to the standards of the eThekweni Municipality and the National Department of Human Settlements. Prefeasibility investigations indicate that the project is viable for an upgrade with a potential yield of 528 housing units (Figure 2).



Figure 1 Banana City Informal Settlement in relation to UKZN (Westville Campus)

¹ Information provided by eThekweni Municipality and SRK Consulting

The current informal settlement has spread densely over the hilltop in a tightly massed cluster of modest shanties and shacks (see photographs loaded to SAHRIS) and is a post 1994 phenomenon³.

No graves are located or reported in the immediate precinct of the planned upgrade and expansion and any associated infrastructure and services proposed⁴. Past market gardening activities and the more recent intensive human settlement has masked over any primary context archaeological material that may have been present on the hilltop locality. No residues were observed during the walk over of the site.

The underlying base lithology is Dwyka tillite, unconformably overlain by Natal Group Sandstone. The former formation is considered moderately sensitive in terms of its palaeontology (Groenewald 2012)¹⁵. However, this formation, which was extensively quarried some 1 ½ km east of Banana City; is massive, undifferentiated material of low to no palaeontological significance and no desktop study is required⁶. Natal Group Sandstone has little to no palaeontological sensitivity.⁷

Recommendations

Accordingly, we request that Amafa allow the proposed housing project upgrades to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation.

In this regard, please can you notify us timeously via the loaded SAHRIS case file as to the decision of the heritage agencies.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Investigator.

³ *Ibid*⁴

⁴ Ayanda Ciliza – pers.comm. Residents are legally required and compliant in making use of municipal cemeteries.

⁵ Groenewald, G. 2012. Unpublished Palaeontological Technical Report for KwaZulu-Natal.

⁶ per.comm. Dr John Almond [Palaeontologist - *Natura Viva* cc. naturaviva@universe.co.za]

⁷ *Ibid*⁵