

Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali 195 Jabu Ndlovu Street Pietermaritzburg 3200 August Telephone 033 3946 543 bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za 22 January 2017

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

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

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

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 eThekwini Metro (Figure 1). The project is planned to deliver low cost housing units, roads and services to the standards of the eThekwini 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)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Information provided by eThekwini Municipality and SRK Consulting

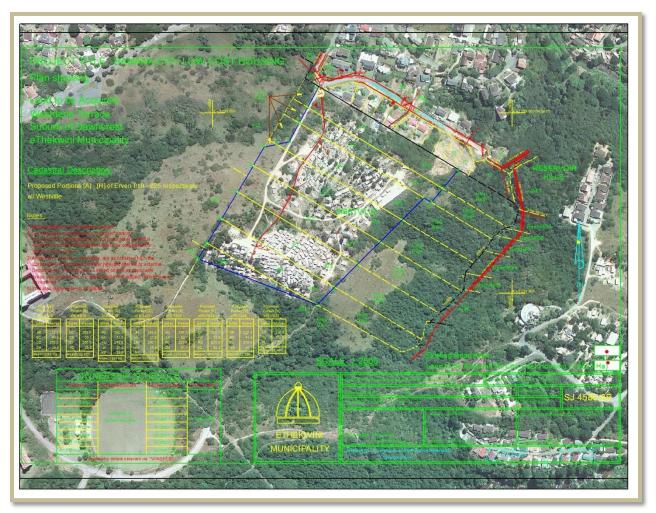


Figure 2 Banana City – Aerial Plan

The project is of strategic importance to the Metro given its prominent and prime locality and its potential to promote more integrated suburbs and more efficient and sustainable human settlements. It is strategically positioned to be a pilot for eThekwini to deal with informal settlements within the urban core. The community of Banana City are internally well organised and cooperative in their quest for upgraded housing and facilities.

SRK Consulting were appointed by eThekwini Municipality to conduct a Basic Assessment of the site in compliance with NEMA requirements and the city's environmental by-laws.

## **Observations**

The settlement commands a hilltop location in the steeply incised and broken topography of the lower Mngeni catchment. Prior to human settlement it would have comprised sour coastal grasslands surrounded by coastal forest scrub and riparian forest elements within drainage lines. There is patchwork evidence of past field cultivation most likely associated with Indian market gardeners pre-1960's. This is further evidenced by the presence of clustered groves of mango trees indicting the prior homestead locations of these farming communities in the general area.

eThembeni staff (LvS)<sup>2</sup> conducted a site visit on 13 January 2017 accompanied by eThekwini Human Settlement staff (Bongs Gumede) and the community liaison officer (Ayanda Ciliza).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Len van Schalkwyk

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 phenomenon<sup>3</sup>.

No graves are located or reported in the immediate precinct of the planned upgrade and expansion and any associated infrastructure and services proposed<sup>4</sup>. 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)<sup>15</sup>. 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 required<sup>6</sup>. Natal Group Sandstone has little to no palaeontological sensitivity.<sup>7</sup>

## 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

LOS Salrachyd

Principle Investigator.

<sup>3</sup> Ibia

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ayanda Ciliza – pers.comm. Residents are legally required and compliant in making use of municipal cemeteries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Groenewald, G. 2012. Unpublished Palaeontological Technical Report for KwaZulu-Natal.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> per.comm. Dr John Almond [Palaeontologist - *Natura Viva* cc. <u>naturaviva@universe.co.za]</u>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid 5