



Attention Bernadette Pawandiwa

**Heritage Scoping Report
Greytown Housing Development
Umvoti Local Municipality, uMzinyathi DM
KwaZulu Natal.**

Project Area and Project description¹

The proposed low-cost housing development is the initiative of the Umvoti Local Municipality through funding by the uMzinyathi DM. A NEMA BAR is currently being pursued by Lwazi Project Management to obtain environmental authorization.

The development involves both site and service expansion and the provision of RDP class housing units.

Observations

eThembeni staff inspected the site on 19 October 2021. The area, spanning 91,5 Hectares. The site is mostly covered with wattle plantations, is sloped on the north-eastern portion levelling out towards the southwest against the R74 (Greytown – Pietermaritzburg Road). The site also features a wetland with several tributaries and shares a boundary with a formal municipal graveyard. The proposed development area is municipal land and has been subject to commercial forestry for at least the last 50 years, with associated de-stumping of old growth root stock.

At the time of the inspection, the development area had been partially clear felled. No housing stands had as yet been laid and access was achieved through existing forestry tracks. (See Figure 1 and Google Earth imagery; kml. loaded to SAHRIS Case File).

¹ Information provided by Lwazi Projects Management

- Surface visibility was fair (See Figures 2, 3, 4) and survey observations revealed no evidence of archaeological cultural debris. Successive episodes of destumping of old growth trees will have rendered any archaeology out of primary context.
- No historical structures that could potentially be impacted by the development were observed during the survey.
- No obvious grave sites were discernable during the walk-over.
- The study area is underlain by Pietermaritzburg Formation shales of the Ecca Group, of the Karoo Supergroup. This lithology is not considered to be palaeontologically sensitive.² Consequently, no further palaeontological studies are recommended.³



Figure 1 Proposed area of Greytown low-cost housing development footprint

² Bordy et.al. 2017. Lithostratigraphy of the Pietermaritzburg Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup), South Africa. Department of Geological Sciences, University of Cape Town.

³ Groenewald. G. 2012. Unpublished Palaeotechnical Report for Amafa KwaZulu-Natali. Pietermaritzburg



Figure 2 Study area looking to the southwest



Figure 3 Surface visibility within previous afforested areas was fair to good



Figure 4 **Current land use**



Figure 5 **Clear felling preceding township layout**

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 proposed 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 considering all information gathered during the initial assessment.