

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
MPUMALANGA TOWN CENTRE HOUSING PROJECT,
KWAZULU-NATAL**

FOR TRIPLO4 SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

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TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	5
ENVIRONMENT	5
KWAZULU-NATAL HERITAGE ACT NO. 4 OF 2008	10
METHOD	12
Defining significance.....	13
HISTORY OF MPUMALANGA AND HAMMARSDALE	16
RESULTS	18
DESKTOP STUDY	18
PALAEONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	25
FIELD SURVEY.....	25
Feature 459	29
Feature 460	30
Feature 461	31
Feature 462	32
Feature 463	33
Feature 464	34
Feature 465	35
Feature 466	36
Feature 467	37
Feature 468	38
Feature 469	39
Feature 470	40
Feature 471	41
Feature 472	42
Feature 475 & 476.....	44
Features 477 and 478	45
Feature 480	47
Feature 481 - 482	48
MANAGEMENT PLAN	49
CONCLUSION.....	52
REFERENCES	53
EXPERIENCE OF THE HERITAGE CONSULTANT	54
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE	54

TABLE OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 General Location Of The Study Area	6
Fig. 2: Aerial Overview Of The Study Area	7
Fig. 3: Topographical Overview Of The Study Area.....	8
Fig. 4: Scenic Views Of The Study Area	9
Table 1: SAHRA Gradings For Heritage Sites	15
Fig. 5: Location Of Known Heritage Sites Near The Study Area	19
Fig. 6: Original Surveyor General Map (1892)	20
Fig. 7: Original Surveyor General Map (1892)	21
Fig. 7: Study Area In 1937.....	22
Fig. 8: Study Area In 1968.....	23
Table 2: Location Of Human Settlements Recorded In The Desktop Study	24
Fig. 9: Palaeontological Sensitivity Of The Area	25
Table 3: Location Of Features In The Study Area.....	27
Fig. 10: Location Of Settlements And Features	28
Fig. 11: Graves At Feature 459	29
Fig.12 : Graves At Feature 460	30
Fig.13 : Coral Tree At Feature 461	31
Fig. 14: Graves At Feature 462	32

Fig. 15: Grave At Feature 463 33
Fig. 16: Grave At Feature 464 34
Fig. 17: Possible Grave at Feature 465 35
Fig. 18: Possible Grave At Feature 466 36
Fig. 19: Possible Grave At Feature 467 37
Fig. 20: Possible Grave At Feature 468 38
Fig. 21: Possible Grave At Feature 469 39
Fig. 22: Grave At Feature 470 40
Fig. 23: Artefacts At 471 41
Fig. 24: Graves At Feature 472 42
Fig. 25: Grave At Feature 473 43
Fig. 26: Grave At Feature 475 44
Fig. 27: Grave At 477 45
Fig. 28: Possible Grave At Feature 478 46
Fig.29 : Coral Trees And Possible Graves At Feature 479 46
Fig. 30: Muthi Tree At 480 47
Fig. 31: Grave At 481 48

Abbreviations

HP	Historical Period
IIA	Indeterminate Iron Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
EIA	Early Iron Age
ISA	Indeterminate Stone Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment

INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Town Centre Housing Project is an initiative of the eThekweni Municipality, Human Settlements Unit. The site is proposed for a residential housing development and is approximately 110Ha in size. The site is bordered to the north by the Mr385 road and KwaTandaza and Hammarsdale train stations; and Shezi Main road to the south. The development is proposed to comprise approx. 2,000 dwelling units at medium densities with a mix of housing types.

Umlando was appointed by Triplo4 sustainable Solutions Pty (Ltd) to undertake the HIA for the proposed Mpumalanga Town Centre Housing Project. Fig.'s 1 – 4 show the location of the development.

ENVIRONMENT

“There are three general descriptions of the vegetation in the study area. Acocks (1953) published the first comprehensive description of the vegetation of South Africa, which was updated in 1988. The vegetation of the site was classified as Ngongoni Veld (VT 5). This was followed by an attempted improvement (Low & Rebelo 1998) which became widely used due to the inclusion of conservation evaluations for each vegetation type, but is often less rigorous than Acocks’s original publication. The vegetation unit was classified as Coast-Hinterland Bushveld (LR 24) and Moist Upland Grassland (LR 42)....

The study area falls within the Savanna Biome described by Mucina et al. (2006) where it is further divided into the Sub-Escarpment Savanna; Ngongoni Veld (SVs 4) vegetation unit. The grasslands have been historically impacted and degraded due to high levels of human disturbances including sand-mining activities (from 2005-2010) throughout the site and alien vegetation invasion on and surrounding the site” (Cook 2018)

Fig. 1 General Location Of The Study Area

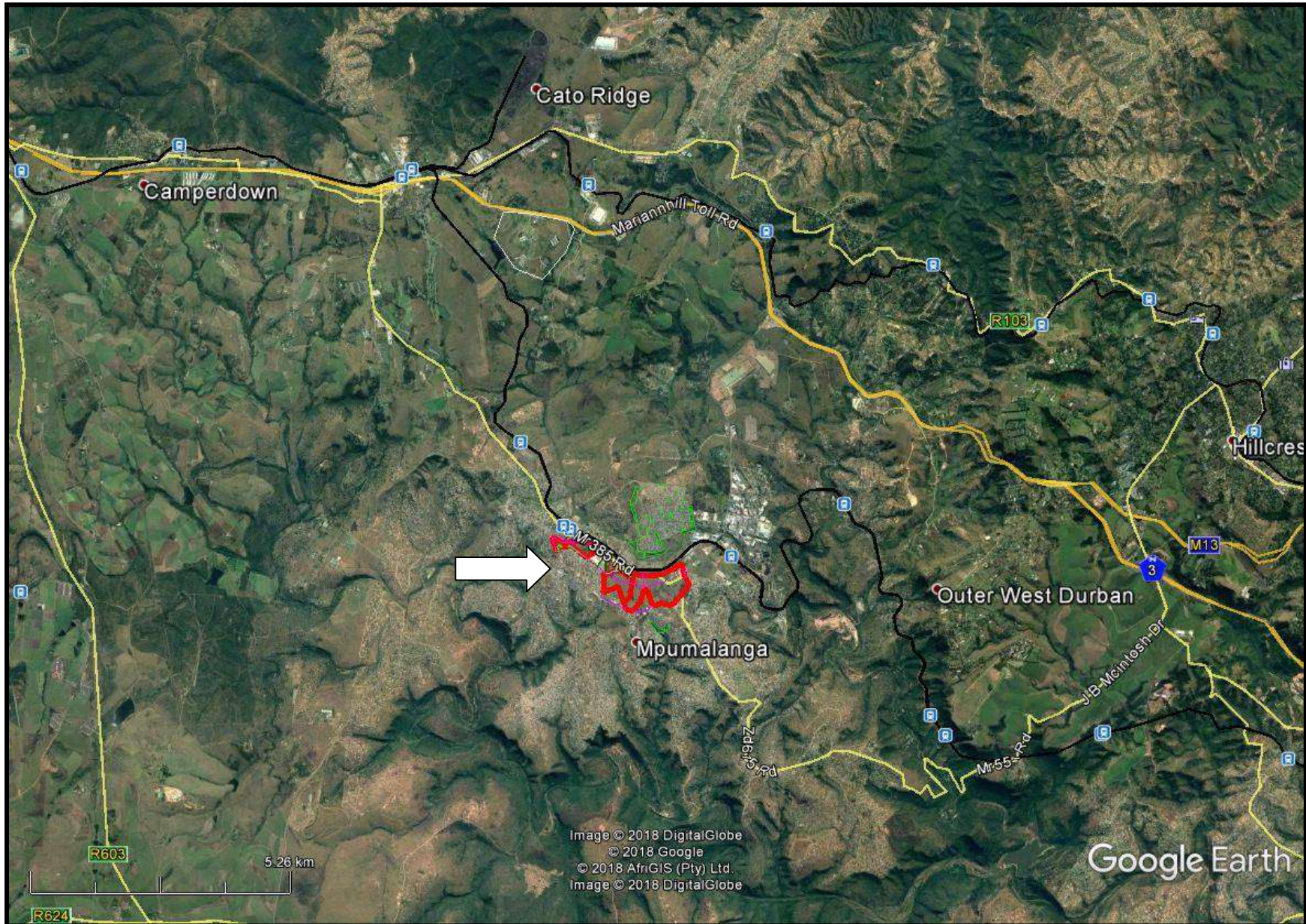


Fig. 3: Topographical Overview Of The Study Area

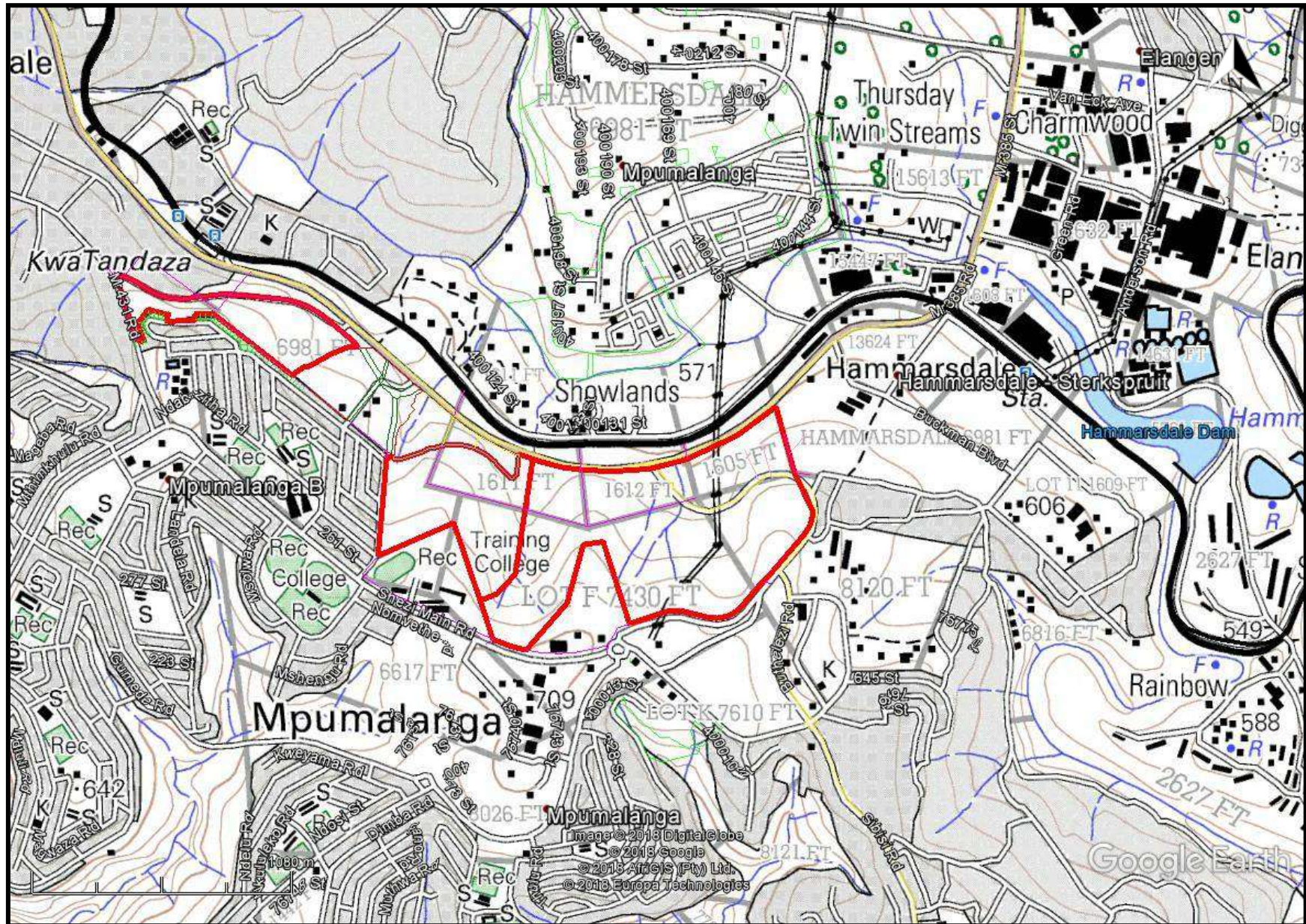


Fig. 4: Scenic Views Of The Study Area



KWAZULU-NATAL HERITAGE ACT NO. 4 OF 2008

“General protection: Structures.—

- No structure which is, or which may reasonably be expected to be older than 60 years, may be demolished, altered or added to without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- Where the Council does not grant approval, the Council must consider special protection in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- The Council may, by notice in the *Gazette*, exempt—
- A defined geographical area; or
- defined categories of sites within a defined geographical area, from the provisions of subsection where the Council is satisfied that heritage resources falling in the defined geographical area or category have been identified and are adequately protected in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- A notice referred to in subsection (2) may, by notice in the *Gazette*, be amended or withdrawn by the Council.

General protection: Graves of victims of conflict.—No person may damage, alter, exhume, or remove from its original position—

- the grave of a victim of conflict;
- a cemetery made up of such graves; or
- any part of a cemetery containing such graves, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- General protection: Traditional burial places.—
- No grave—
- not otherwise protected by this Act; and
- not located in a formal cemetery managed or administered by a local authority, may be damaged, altered, exhumed, removed from its original position, or otherwise disturbed without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

The Council may only issue written approval once the Council is satisfied that—

- the applicant has made a concerted effort to consult with communities and individuals who by tradition may have an interest in the grave; and
- the applicant and the relevant communities or individuals have reached agreement regarding the grave.

General protection: Battlefield sites, archaeological sites, rock art sites, palaeontological sites, historic fortifications, meteorite or meteorite impact sites.—

- No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or

use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

- The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.” (KZN Heritage Act of 2008)

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the database that has been collated by Umlando. These databases contains archaeological site locations and basic information from several provinces (information from Umlando surveys and some colleagues), most of the national and provincial monuments and battlefields in Southern Africa (<http://www.vuvuzela.com/googleearth/monuments.html>) and cemeteries in southern Africa (information supplied by the Genealogical Society of Southern Africa). We use 1st and 2nd edition 1:50 000 topographical and 1937 aerial photographs where available, to assist in general location and dating of buildings and/or graves. The database is in Google Earth format and thus used as a quick reference when undertaking desktop studies. Where required we would consult with a local data recording centre, however these tend to be fragmented between different institutions and areas and thus difficult to access at times. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

2.1. Internal housing arrangements

2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns

2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?

3.2. Is it a type site?

3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

4.1. Providing information on current research projects

4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

- 8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.5. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

The above significance ratings allow one to grade the site according to SAHRA's grading scale. This is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: SAHRA Gradings For Heritage Sites

SITE SIGNIFICANCE	FIELD RATING	GRADE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
High Significance	National Significance	Grade 1	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Provincial Significance	Grade 2	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Local Significance	Grade 3A / 3B	
High Medium Significance	/ Generally Protected A		Site conservation or mitigation prior to development / destruction
Medium Significance	Generally Protected B		Site conservation or mitigation / test excavation / systematic sampling / monitoring prior to or during development / destruction
Low Significance	Generally Protected C		On-site sampling monitoring or no archaeological mitigation required prior to or during development / destruction

HISTORY OF MPUMALANGA AND HAMMARSDALE

“The township of Mpumalanga is situated on the former Methodist mission station ‘Peaceville’ established by Rev. John Allsopp on the farms Woody Glen and Geogedale in 1862 (Faith Marches On, 1956). Allsopp created a community of landowning African Christian converts (known as amakholwa or ‘believers’), who bought property from the missionaries. Land and ownership were central to the original settlement of Mpumalanga.

In 1913 the Natives Land Act restricted all new purchases of land by Africans to existing reserves, which were limited to only 50% of the arable land in South Africa for 85% of the population. Most reserves only allowed communal tenure and very few reserves permitted individual tenure for Africans to buy land in their personal capacity (Beinart, 2013; Etherington, 2005). As a mission reserve ‘Peaceville’ allowed Africans to become landowners, which made it attractive to amakholwa who purchased property there in their own right (Laredo, 1968).

Combined with the particular legal status which permitted Africans to buy, own and lease land, the Methodist mission farm was also close to Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and near to the main transport route between these two towns. The kholwa mission ‘Peaceville’ enabled a different set of living conditions to emerge among residents there. The Christian owners were not governed by the Natal Code, and women could own land too, while the local chief was elected by the community without holding hereditary office, as was customary in rural Tribal Reserves (Laredo, 1968; Marks, 1989).

These conditions attracted a growing community at ‘Peaceville’ mission during the middle of the 20th century. By the 1950s the community on Geogedale farm was

divided into three groups, namely the original kholwa settlers who had been landowners since the mission was established, more recent arrivals who had also bought land in the mission and finally, their tenants. In order to coordinate the increasingly difficult question of land purchase, transfer and inheritance, in 1948 Geogedale residents formed the Bantu Land Owners' Union (Laredo, 1968).

In some ways the terrible violence that erupted at Mpumalanga 30 years later can be traced back to disagreements over land management that arose in the mid-1950s. Other political changes, however, were the result of economic developments. Industrial expansion began in 1958 when clothing manufacturers moved their factories from Durban and Johannesburg to Hammarsdale. Trade union activity was introduced to the community for the first time in the form of South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) (Bonnin et al, 1996).

'Peaceville' mission and the neighbouring industries of Hammarsdale were then identified by apartheid planners as a so-called 'decentralisation point', to draw African workers away from cities in an attempt to reverse the process of urbanisation. Land was simply expropriated from owners or tenants of small properties, with the promise of a house in the new township. A plan for the construction of 10 400 houses was completed at the end of 1966, and Mpumalanga township was formally created in 1968. According to Debby Bonnin, 'The creation of the township and the new political structures that were put into place ultimately provided the basis for the support which Inkatha was to generate and then fight to maintain in the 1980s' (Bonnin, 2007)" (<http://durbanhistorymuseums.org.za/tragic-legacy-in-new-light/>).

RESULTS

DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys. The archaeological database indicates that there are archaeological sites in the general area (fig. 5). These sites include all types of Stone Age and Iron Age sites. No sites occur in the study area.

No national monuments, battlefields, or historical cemeteries are known to occur in the study area.

The Surveyor General Diagrams indicate that the land was first surveyed in 1892. However, since the Peaceville settlement started in 1862, there were probably earlier surveys, or grants.

The 1937 aerial photographs indicate that there are 11 settlements in the study area. Each of these settlements might have human graves. The locations of these are given in Table 2.

The 1968 1:50 000 map indicates that there are 22 settlements within the study area and an additional 3 on the edge. Each of these settlements might have human graves. The locations of these are given in Table 2. The western part of the development was under afforestation.

Fig. 5: Location Of Known Heritage Sites Near The Study Area

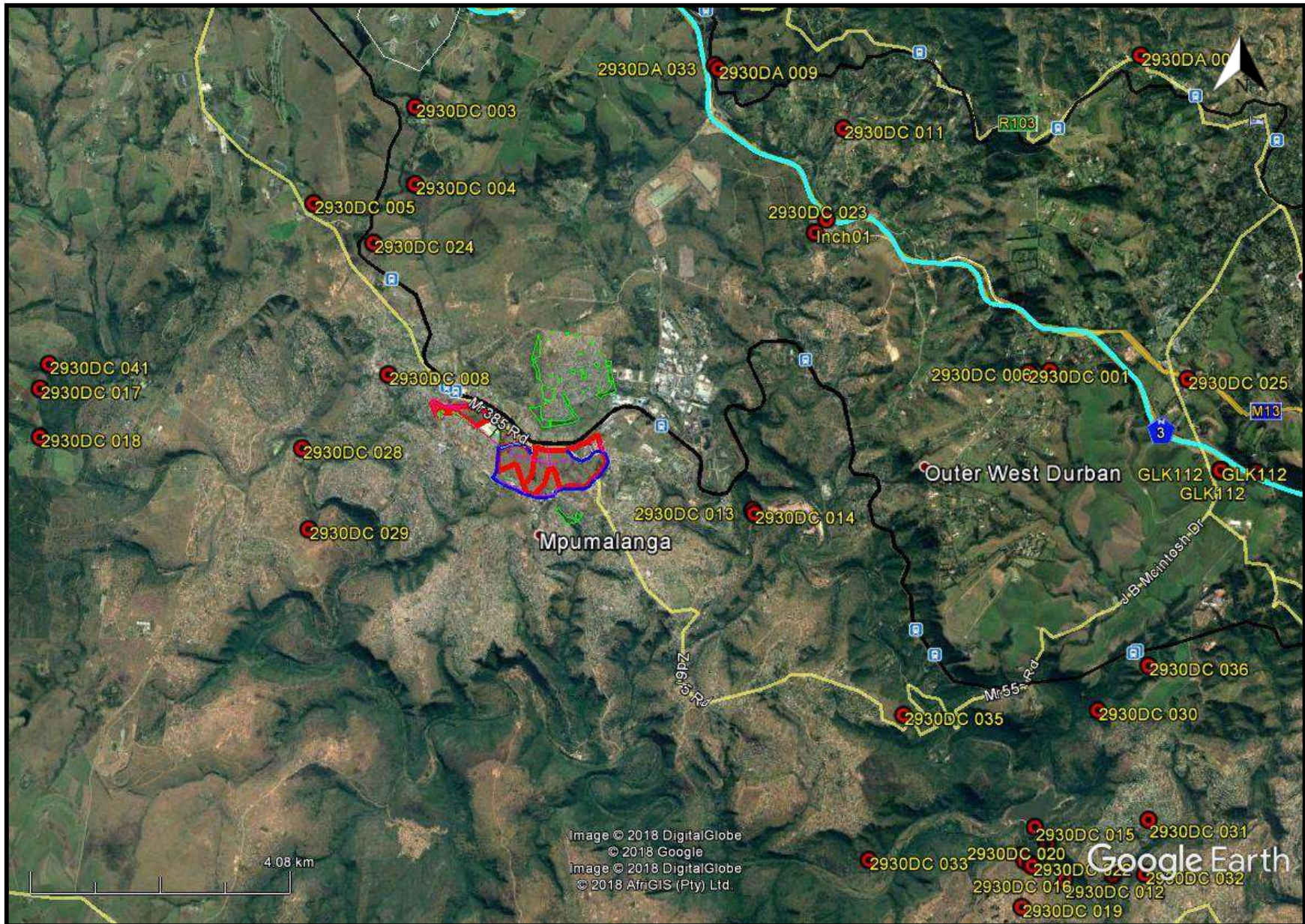


Fig. 6: Original Surveyor General Map (1892)

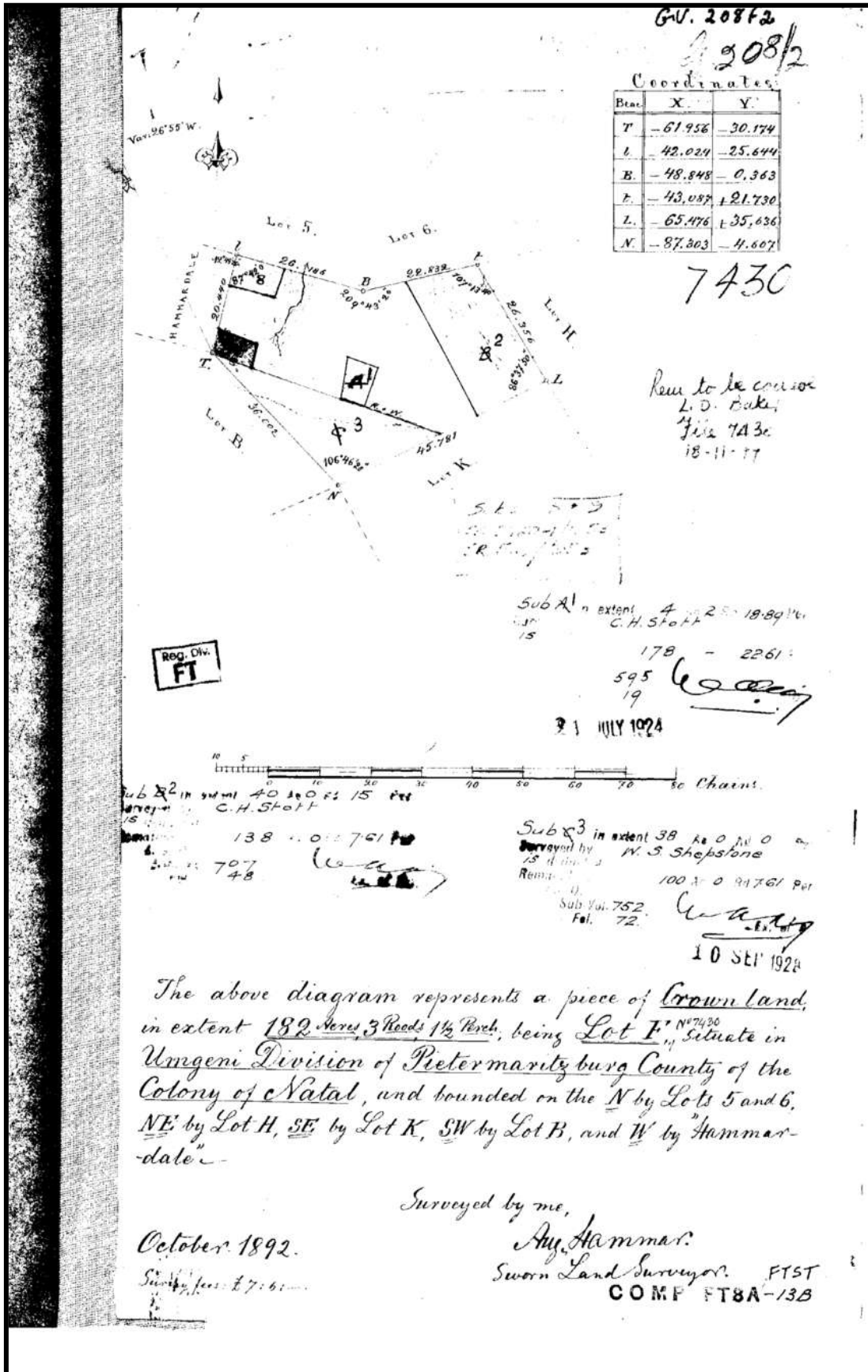


Fig. 7: Original Surveyor General Map (1892)

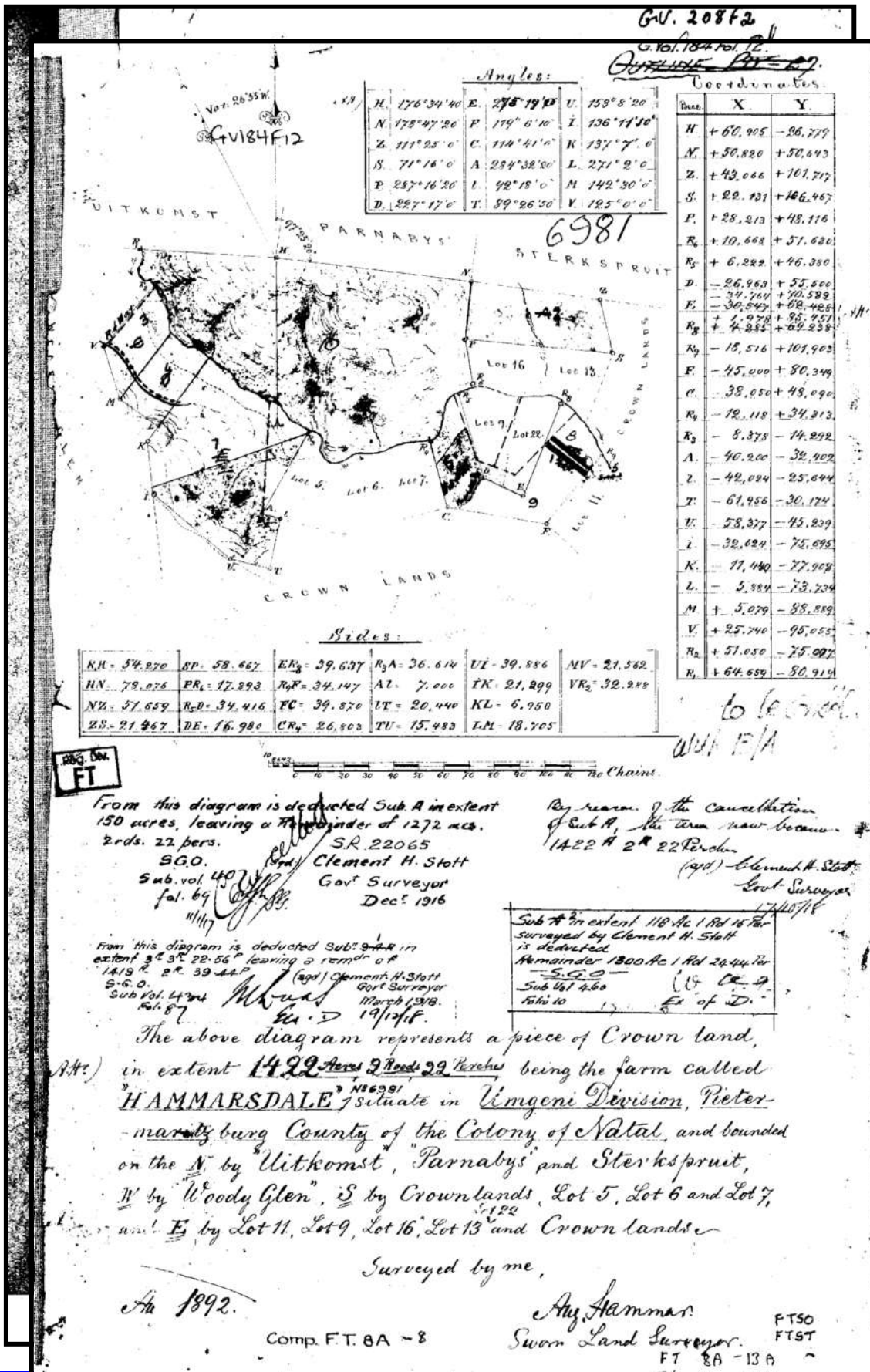


Fig. 7: Study Area In 1937

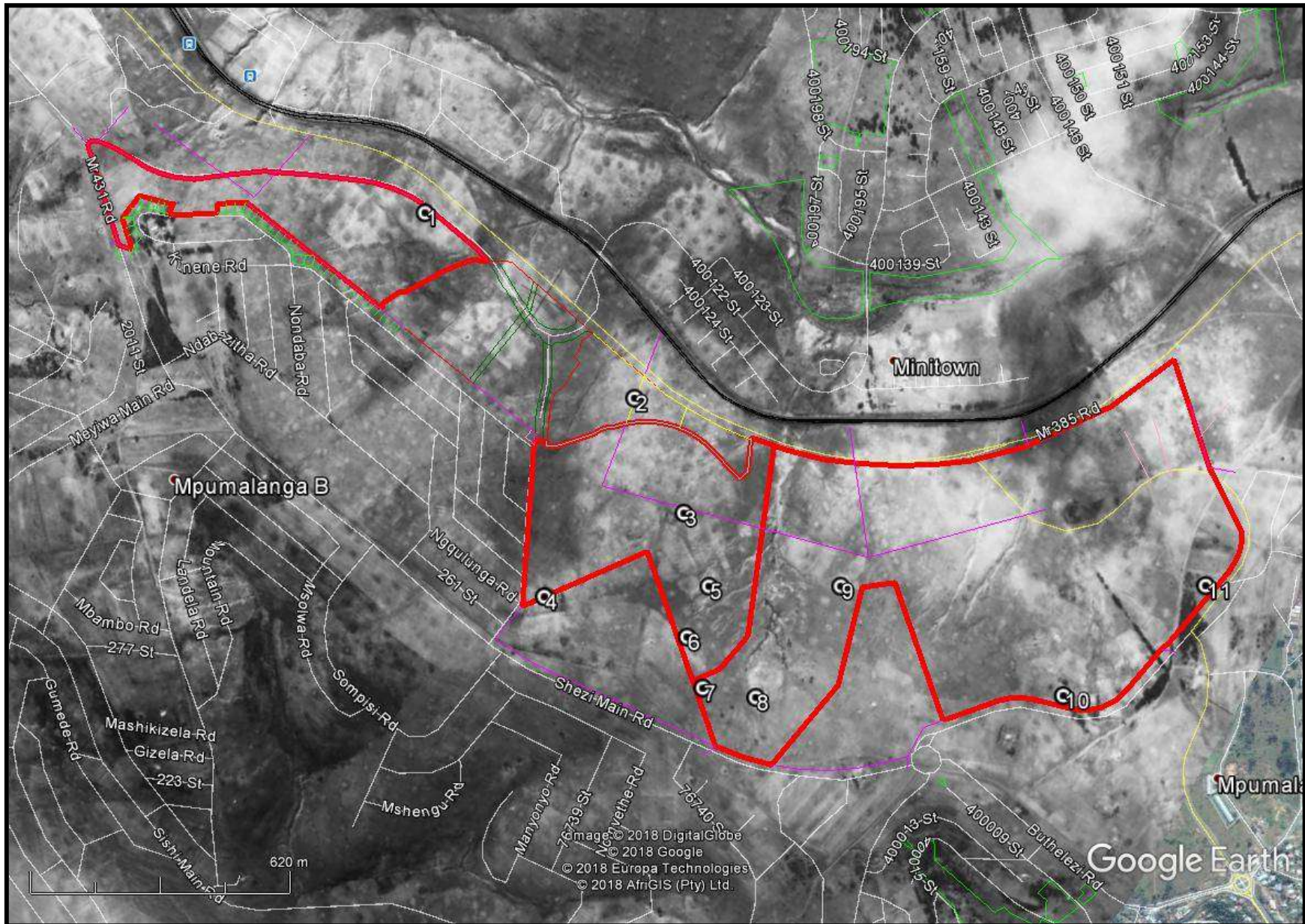


Fig. 8: Study Area In 1968

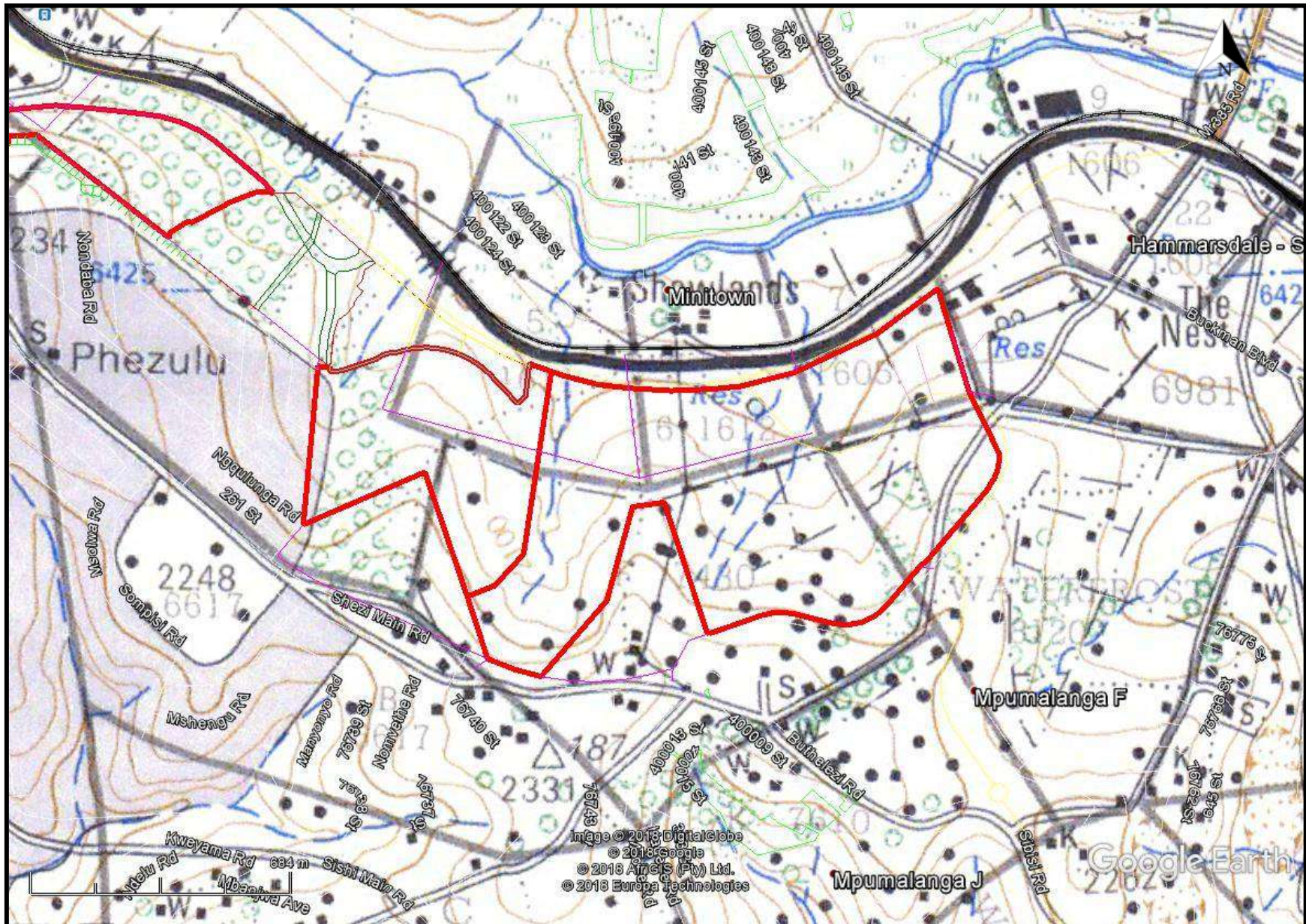


Table 2: Location Of Human Settlements Recorded In The Desktop Study

Date	name	latitude	longitude	Description
1937	1	-29.799388509	30.627534693	Settlement
	2	-29.803431598	30.632804924	Settlement
	3	-29.805945799	30.634047574	Settlement
	4	-29.807732703	30.630575662	Settlement
	5	-29.807538854	30.634674652	Settlement
	6	-29.808610888	30.634121965	Settlement
	7	-29.809696349	30.634508412	Settlement
	8	-29.809916817	30.635830172	Settlement
	9	-29.807528239	30.637968047	Settlement
	10	-29.809863150	30.643459474	Settlement
	11	-29.807502840	30.647039993	Settlement
1968	h01	-29.802931119	30.628412459	Settlement
	h02	-29.806079445	30.634186333	Settlement
	h03	-29.807420466	30.634418596	Settlement
	h03	-29.807420466	30.634418596	Settlement
	h04	-29.810024640	30.634831153	Settlement
	h04	-29.810024640	30.634831153	Settlement
	h05	-29.810636183	30.636192625	Settlement
	h05	-29.810636183	30.636192625	Settlement
	h06	-29.809729513	30.637095273	Settlement
	h06	-29.809729513	30.637095273	Settlement
	h07	-29.807914412	30.637953496	Settlement
	h07	-29.807914412	30.637953496	Settlement
	h08	-29.808076266	30.640173946	Settlement
	h08	-29.808076266	30.640173946	Settlement
	h09	-29.807444606	30.641019680	Settlement
	h09	-29.807444606	30.641019680	Settlement
	h10	-29.807827743	30.642122319	Settlement
	h11	-29.808756541	30.641634995	Settlement
	h12	-29.809774188	30.641423352	Settlement
	h13	-29.809348136	30.642313343	Settlement
	h14	-29.809635635	30.642994372	Settlement
	h15	-29.809186952	30.643198304	Settlement
	h16	-29.810052551	30.643809261	Settlement
	h17	-29.810171742	30.642681643	Settlement
	h18	-29.810281293	30.643404080	Settlement
h19	-29.809658518	30.643998608	Settlement	
h20	-29.808623102	30.643500471	Settlement	
h21	-29.808312468	30.642845929	Settlement	
h211	-29.808051540	30.647010980	Settlement	
h22	-29.805152910	30.646004984	Settlement	
h23	-29.804421254	30.646705041	Settlement	
h24	-29.803644503	30.645478349	Settlement	
h25	-29.803133206	30.646243868	Settlement	

PALAEONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The palaeontological sensitivity map on SAHRIS places the study area in a blue and grey zone. No further PIA is required.

Fig. 9: Palaeontological Sensitivity Of The Area



COLOUR	SENSITIVITY	REQUIRED ACTION
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

FIELD SURVEY

A field survey was undertaken in April 2018. Archaeological visibility was mostly good for identifying living areas, however the vegetation obscured many of the features. Thus, some features that looked like graves were noted as possible graves. I was accompanied by a Community Liaison Officer (CLO).

At the beginning of the field trip, I noticed some elderly people collecting plants. The CLO informed me that the area was used for *muthi* collection. This would fall under a general cultural heritage resource that will be affected by the proposed development. The impact will be negative and permanent unless an area is set aside for these plants, or a *muthi* garden is started to counter the loss of resources.

I requested the CLO to ask one of these collectors if he knew of graves in the study area. He stated that there used to be several houses in the one area, and that the people were forced to leave in 1954. This date could be incorrect as the map indicates 1968. He also said that he knew of at least one house with graves and pointed to its location. He also stated that the descendents still live in the area. We went to this area first since it would form the bases of the graves in the area. That is, the style and general condition of the grave will be used as a baseline to determine other graves. This style is: a low stone cairn 1m x 1.5m that occurs inside the terraced part of the settlement. The terraces varied in size.

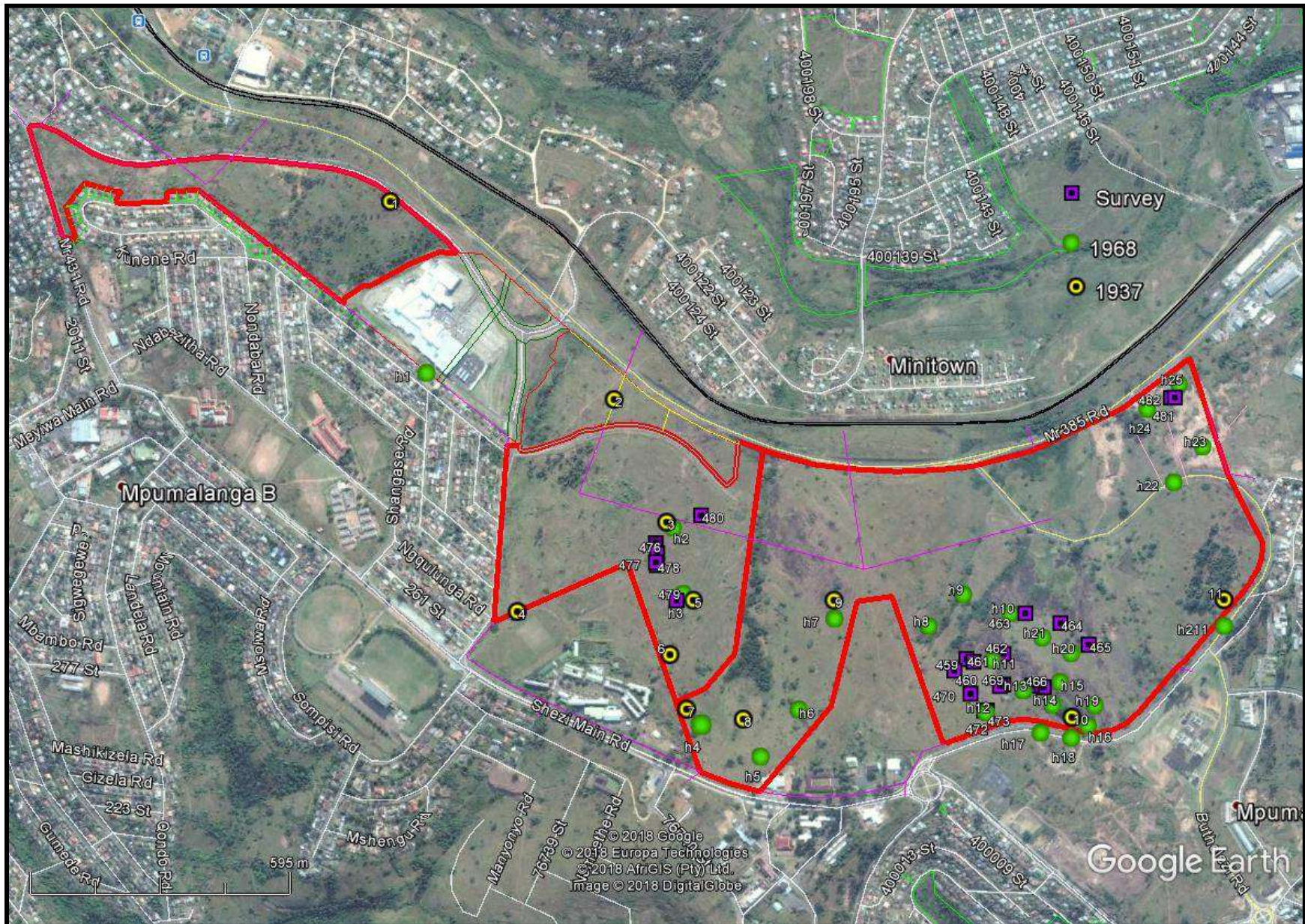
The limitation to the survey was that the ground vegetation was dense and made it difficult to determine if some features were graves. Some features are noted as possible graves and should be treated as graves until proven otherwise. The house foundations are of no significance and only those areas with (possible) graves were noted. All houses noted on the desktop were surveyed unless they obviously did not exist. The new road and sand extraction has affected several of the settlements.

Each feature was given a reference number and there location is given in Table 3. Figure 10 shows the locations of these features in relationship to the desktop sites.

Table 3: Location Of Features In The Study Area

Feature Number	Latitude	Longitude	Description	Associated desktop settlement
459	-29.808944000	30.640752000	Graves x 2	
460	-29.808774000	30.641211000	Graves x 2	H11?
461	-29.808718000	30.641049000	Coral Tree	
462	-29.808619000	30.641926000	Graves x 2	H11?
463	-29.807813000	30.642488000	Grave	H10?
464	-29.808008000	30.643299000	Grave	H21?
465	-29.808438000	30.643939000	Grave?	H20?
466	-29.809270000	30.642815000	Grave?	H15?
467	-29.809240000	30.642546000	Grave?	H13?
468	-29.809217000	30.641875000	Grave?	
469	-29.809244000	30.641794000	Grave?	
470	-29.809393000	30.641099000	Grave	
471	-29.804595	30.646761	Stone tools	
472	-29.809720000	30.641395000	Graves x6+	H12
473	-29.809724000	30.641458000	Grave	H12
475	-29.806373000	30.633788000	Grave	3 and/or H2
476	-29.806577000	30.633819000	Coral Tree	3 and/or H2
477	-29.806761000	30.633789000	Grave?	3 and/or H2
478	-29.806819000	30.633813000	Grave?	3 and/or H2
479	-29.807534000	30.634272000	Grave?	5 and/or H3
480	-29.805815000	30.634860000	Muthi tree	
481	-29.803394000	30.646047000	Grave	H25
482	-29.803389000	30.646136000	Grave?	H25

Fig. 10: Location Of Settlements And Features



Feature 459

Feature 459 is the settlement identified by the informant. The site consists of two stone cairns that are sunken and covered in grass (fig. 11). The graves occur in the terraced area of the settlement.

Significance: The graves are of high significance

Mitigation: The graves need to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 11: Graves At Feature 459



Feature 460

Feature 460 is possible associated with Settlement H11. The site consists of two stone cairns that are sunken and covered in grass (fig. 12). The graves occur in the terraced area of the settlement.

Significance: The graves are of high significance

Mitigation: The graves need to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig.12 : Graves At Feature 460



Feature 461

The site consists of one stone cairn that is sunken and covered in grass (fig. 13). The graves occur in the terraced area of the settlement. There is a coral tree (*Erythrena spp.*) near the possible grave. These trees were traditionally associated with human graves.

Significance: The grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig.13 : Coral Tree At Feature 461



Feature 462

The site consists of two stone cairns that are currently surrounded by a termite mound (fig. 14). The graves occur in the terraced area of the settlement.

Significance: The graves are of high significance

Mitigation: The graves need to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 14: Graves At Feature 462



Feature 463

The site consists of a stone cairn that is covered in grass (fig. 15). The graves occur in the terraced area of the settlement. The grave is probably related to H10.

Significance: The grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 15: Grave At Feature 463



Feature 464

The site consists of a semi-sunken stone cairn that is covered in grass (fig. 16). The grave occurs in the terraced area of the settlement. The grave is probably related to H10.

Significance: The grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 16: Grave At Feature 464



Feature 465

The site consists of a semi-sunken stone cairn that is covered in grass (fig. 17). The possible grave occurs in the terraced area of the settlement. The grave is probably related to H20

Significance: The possible grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 17: Possible Grave at Feature 465



Feature 466

The site consists of a semi-sunken stone cairn. A termite mound occurs in the centre of the grave (fig. 18). The possible grave occurs in the terraced area of the settlement. The grave is probably related to H15

Significance: The possible grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 18: Possible Grave At Feature 466



Feature 467

The site consists of a semi-sunken stone cairn. A termite mound occurs in the centre of the grave (fig. 19). The possible grave occurs in the terraced area of the settlement. The grave is probably related to H13

Significance: The possible grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 19: Possible Grave At Feature 467



Feature 469

The site consists of a semi-sunken stone cairn (fig. 21). The possible grave occurs in the terraced area of the settlement. It is related to Feature 468.

Significance: The possible grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 21: Possible Grave At Feature 469



Feature 470

The site consists of a semi-sunken stone cairn (fig. 22). The grave occurs in the terraced area of the settlement. .

Significance: The graves are of high significance

Mitigation: The graves need to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 22: Grave At Feature 470



Feature 471

The northeastern part of the study area is the remains of a sand borrow pit. Approximately 1m of spoil has been removed. This has exposed a layer of stone tools that date to the ESA and MSA. The ESA artefacts include a hand axe (fig. 23), while the MSA artefacts are general flakes.

Significance: The stone tools are of low significance.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 23: Artefacts At 471



Feature 472

Feature 472 occurs near the top of the hill. According to the informant there used to be a house nearby that was recently demolished: this would be H12 from the desktop. The area consists of at least seven rectangles that have been outlined with stones, and some have been filled with more stone (fig.'s 24 and 25). They all appear to be graves and form a cemetery. Features 472 and 473 mark the edge of the cemetery.

Significance: The graves are of high significance

Mitigation: The graves need to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 24: Graves At Feature 472



Fig. 25: Grave At Feature 473



Feature 475 & 476

The site consists of a raised stone cairn (fig. 26). The grave occurs in the outside of the terraced area of the settlement. The grave is associated with either settlement 3 and/or H2. That is it either dates to c. 1937 or 1968. Feature 476 is a coral tree associate with the site.

Significance: The grave is of high significance

Mitigation: The grave needs to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 26: Grave At Feature 475



Features 477 and 478

These two features are possible graves (fig. 27 & 28). The both are stone cairns near each other and behind the terrace. The terrace nearby has three Coral Trees that could indicate human graves (fig. 29).

Significance: The possible graves are of high significance

Mitigation: The graves need to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 27: Grave At 477



Fig. 28: Possible Grave At Feature 478



Fig.29 : Coral Trees And Possible Graves At Feature 479



Feature 480

This feature was identified by the CLO as a tree used for muthi by the community. There are two trees intertwined of which one is a *Syringa* spp. (fig. 30).

Significance: The tree is of medium significance as it is used for muthi.

Mitigation: The tree should be kept and be incorporated into the development.

SAHRA Rating: 3B

Fig. 30: Muthi Tree At 480



Feature 481 - 482

Features 481 and 482 are near each other. Feature 481 (fig.'s 31) is a grave while Feature 481 is a possible grave. Both features are stone cairns near a terraced area.

Significance: The graves are of high significance

Mitigation: The graves need to be demarcated or noted for reburial

SAHRA Rating: 3A

Fig. 31: Grave At 481



MANAGEMENT PLAN

The heritage survey located several old settlements dating from 1937. Many of these settlements had stone cairns associated with them and these were either graves or possible graves. Due to the age of the cairns, and environmental factors such as termite mounds, it was not possible to verify the graves. The fact that a member of the community confirmed there were graves and indicated the location of one is reason enough to note all stone cairns in the area and treat them as potential graves. The graves are thus probably older than 60 years in age. There is a high probability that more graves could occur in the area, as many were barely visible during the survey. All of the co-ordinates from Tables 2 and 3 need to be part of the management plan. A sensitivity buffer of 50m should be placed around each settlement from Table 2 to indicate areas of very high sensitivity and potential human remains. This does not mean that development may not occur, rather that there might be human graves in the area.

The development has the option of not impacting on the graves or removing them. The first option will entail placing a 20m buffer around each grave and then demarcating them. The demarcation is normally fencing that is placed 5m from the grave. This will need to be undertaken with a public participation process as living descendants have been tentatively identified. The only problem with this is that it will leave large areas in the study area open and may result in planning or logistical problems

The second option will be to remove and relocate the human remains. The developer must follow the guidelines mentioned below otherwise the project may be brought to halt. The process of grave removals is a complex one that requires community consultation, advertisements, several permits, and finally reburial.

Moreover, those graves older than 60 years require a qualified archaeologists to undertake the entire process. This process is summarised as follows¹:

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), and KZN Heritage Act of 1997 and 2008, graves older than 60 years (not in a municipal graveyard) are protected. Human remains younger than 60 years should be handled only by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act. Anyone who wishes to develop an area where there are graves older than 60 years is required to follow the process described in the legislation (section 36 and associated regulations). The specialist will require a permit from the heritage resources authority:

- Determine/ confirm the presence of the graves on the property. Normally the quickest way to proceed is to obtain the service of a professional archaeologist accredited to undertake burial relocations. The archaeologist will provide an estimate of the age of the graves. There may be a need for archival research and possibly test excavations (permit required).
- The preferred decision is to move the development so that the graves may remain undisturbed. If this is done, the developer must satisfy SAHRA/KZN Heritage that adequate arrangements have been made to protect the graves on site from the impact of the development. This usually involves fencing the grave(yard) and setting up a small site management plan indicating who will be responsible for maintaining the graves and how this is legally tied into the development. It is recommended that a distance of 10-20 m is left undisturbed between the grave and the fence around the graves.
- If the developer wishes to relocate or disturb the graves:

¹ Information supplied by SAHRA, and it applies to KZN, although falling under the KZN Heritage Act.

- A 60-day public participation (social consultation) process as required by section 36 (and related regulations), must be undertaken to identify any direct descendants of those buried on the property. This allows for a period of consultation with any family members or community to ascertain what their wishes are for the burials. It involves notices to the public on site and through representative media. This may be done by the archaeologist, who can explain the process, but for large or sensitive sites a social consultant should be employed. Archaeologists often work with undertakers, who rebury the human remains.
- If as a result of the public participation, the family (where descendants are identified) or the community agree to the relocation process then the graves may be relocated.
- The archaeologist must submit a permit application to SAHRA/KZN Heritage for the disinterment of the burials. This must include written approval of the descendants or, if there has not been success in identifying direct descendants, written documentation of the social consultation process, which must indicate to SAHRA's satisfaction, the efforts that have been made to locate them. It must also include details of the exhumation process and the place to which the burials are to be relocated. (There are regulations regarding creating new cemeteries and so this usually means that relocation must be to an established communal rural or formal municipal cemetery.)
- Permission must be obtained before exhumation takes place from the landowner where the graves are located, and from the owners/managers of the graveyard to which the remains will be relocated.
- Other relevant legislation must be complied with, including the Human Tissues Act (National Department of Health) and any ordinances of the Provincial Department of Health). The archaeologist can usually advise about this.

The development will probably remove existing vegetation that is being used for traditional medicine, or *muthi*. It would be appropriate if the development could incorporate a *muthi* garden into its planning so that these resources, and the access to them, are not entirely lost. This can be run by those who collect the plants.

CONCLUSION

A heritage survey was undertaken for the proposed Mpumalanga Town Centre Housing Project. No archaeological sites were recorded during the survey; however, isolated artefacts were noted in the sand borrow pits. These artefacts are in a secondary context and have no significance.

Several human graves, and possible graves, were noted during the survey. All possible graves are treated as human graves until proven otherwise. I suggested that 50m buffers are placed around each recorded settlement to highlight areas of high sensitivity for human graves not recorded during the survey.

The development has two options regarding the human graves. The first option is that the graves are not effected in any manner and are buffered for any future development. The second option is that a full public participation process is undertaken regarding the graves and their potential removal. This process and associated permits will also cover unknown graves exposed during construction.

REFERENCES

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Aerial photographs:

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Data Bases

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EXPERIENCE OF THE HERITAGE CONSULTANT

Gavin Anderson has a M. Phil (in archaeology and social psychology) degree from the University of Cape Town. Gavin has been working as a professional archaeologist and heritage impact assessor since 1995. He joined the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Southern Africa in 1998 when it was formed. Gavin is rated as a Principle Investigator with expertise status in Rock Art, Stone Age and Iron Age studies. In addition to this, he was worked on both West and East Coast shell middens, Anglo-Boer War sites, and Historical Period sites.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Gavin Anderson, declare that I am an independent specialist consultant and have no financial, personal or other interest in the proposed development, nor the developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from fair remuneration for work performed in the delivery of heritage assessment services. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of my performing such work.



Gavin Anderson
Archaeologist/Heritage Impact Assessor