

**A LETTER OF EXEMPTION FOR MT FRERE POLICE
STATION**

FOR Urban Dynamics Eastern Cape

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By Gavin Anderson

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Management**

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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 South African Police Service (SAPS) intends to develop a new re-established Police Station in Mount Frere. Urban Dynamics Eastern Cape (UDEC) has been appointed to undertake the site assessment and has subsequently appointed Habitat Link Consulting (Pty) Ltd to provide an environmental screening report for the proposed development. The proposed police station will be situated in the middle of the town of Mount Frere (approximately 100 km north of Mthatha) and is located within the Umzimvubu Local Municipality, seated within the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

The proposed development will be approximately 6 500 m² occurring within a property that is a total area of 8 200 m². The proposed area for the expansion of the police station is currently vegetated with a number of grasses and alien vegetation, but is completely surrounded by existing infrastructure and other built-up areas.

The proposed development site consists of significant grass cover, with a small number of plant species (predominantly alien species) and a number of trees scattered within the area. Within the site, there is an existing building as well as the foundations of a demolished structure and several areas of litter and waste. The site is bordered by a retail centre to the east and three roads to the north, south and east. A large amount of litter is scattered and dumped throughout the site” (HLC screening report 2020).

Umlando was requested to assist in a desktop HIA to determine if further heritage management will be required. Figures 1 – 4 show the location of the site.

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

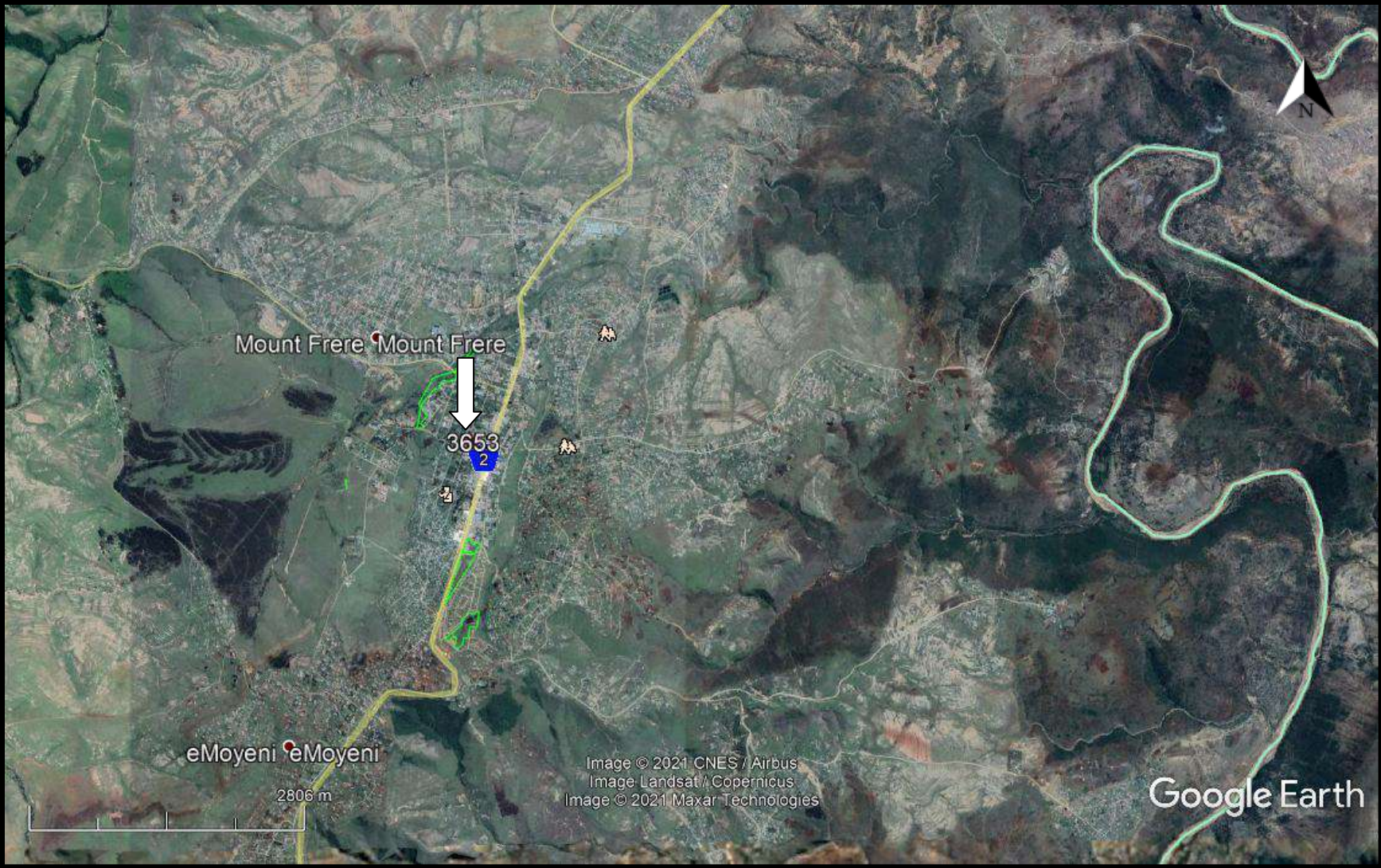


FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA



FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA (1996)

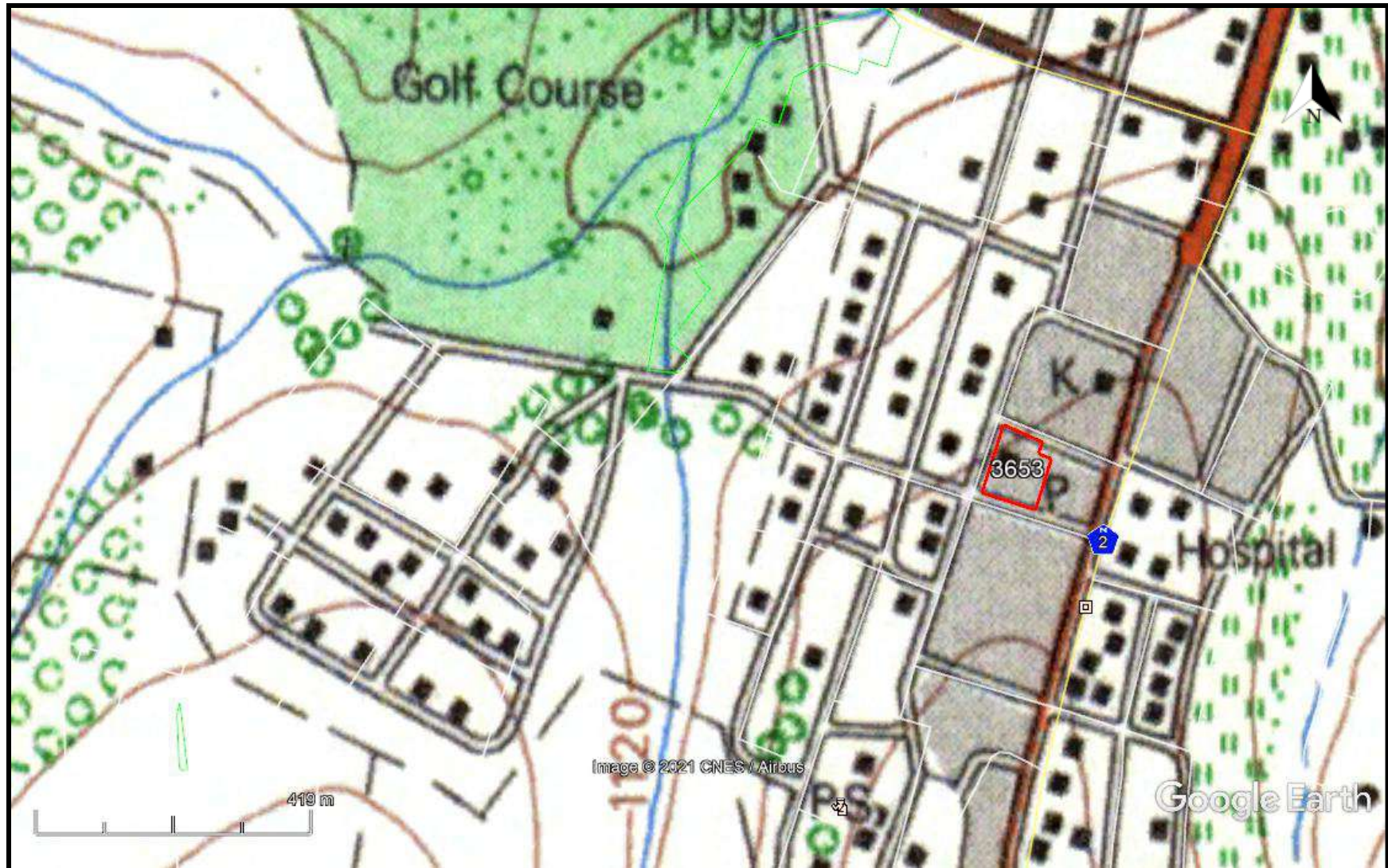


FIG. 4: SCENIC VIEWS OF THE SITE



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. The high density of development in the area has resulted in any archaeological sites being destroyed.

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

Mt Frere, now named KwaBhaca, was named after Sir Bartle Frere and founded in 1876. While it formed part of East Griqualand and was given to Adam Kok by the British government, it originally fell under the Bhaca polity.

The 1937 (fig. 6) aerial map indicates that there were three buildings in the study area. These buildings, or their foundation, still exist. They are thus older than 60 years in age and would require a permit to demolish and/or alter. This permit will involve a built environment assessment.

The 1968 topographical map (fig. 7) indicates that the police buildings still existed.

The study area is of very high palaeontological sensitivity (fig. 8). However, the previous buildings and infrastructure would have damaged the upper 2m of potential deposit.

FIG. 5: LOCATION OF KNOWN HERITAGE SITES NEAR THE STUDY AREA

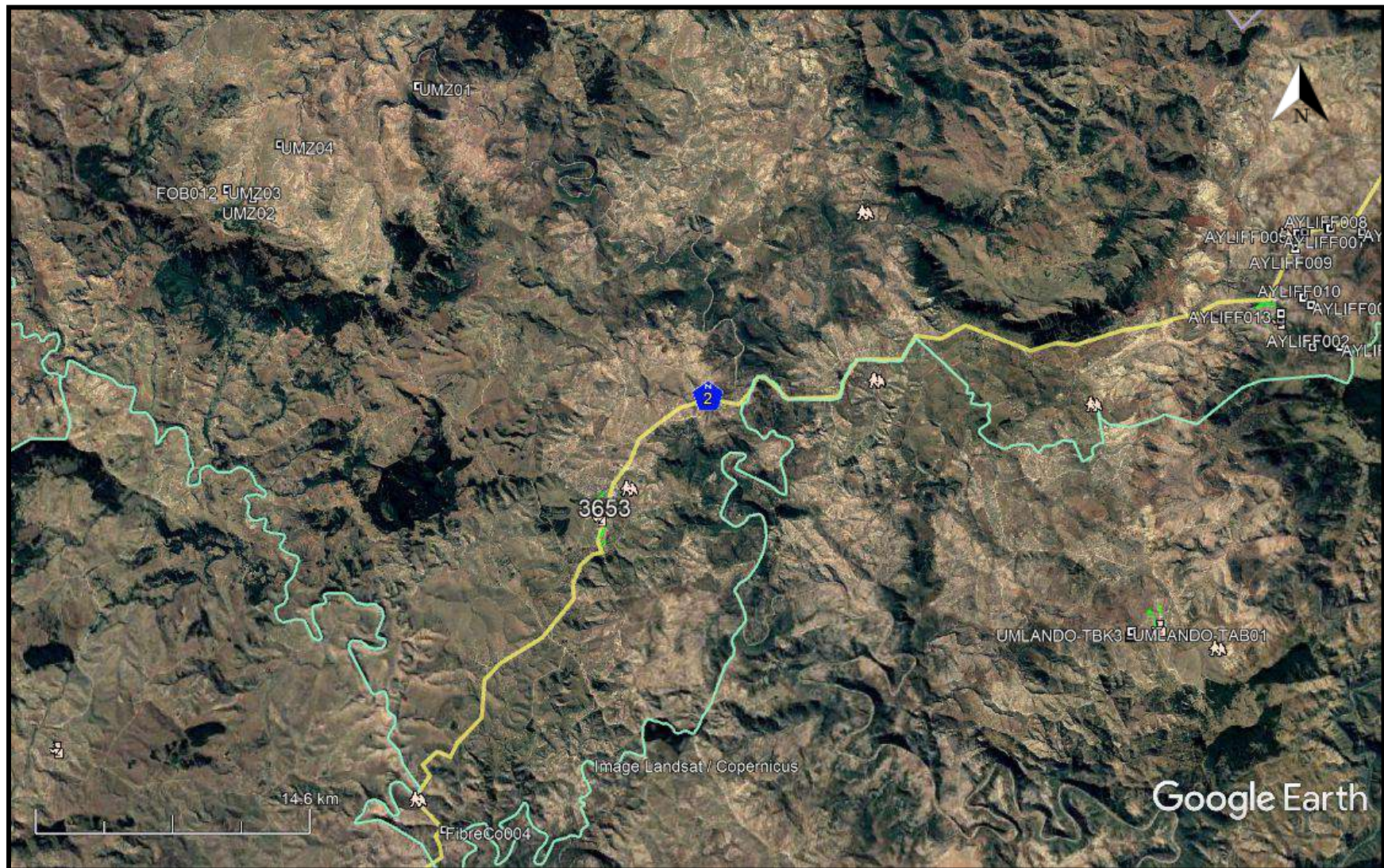


FIG. 6: STUDY AREA IN 1937¹



¹ 207_016_27791

FIG. 7: STUDY AREA IN 1982

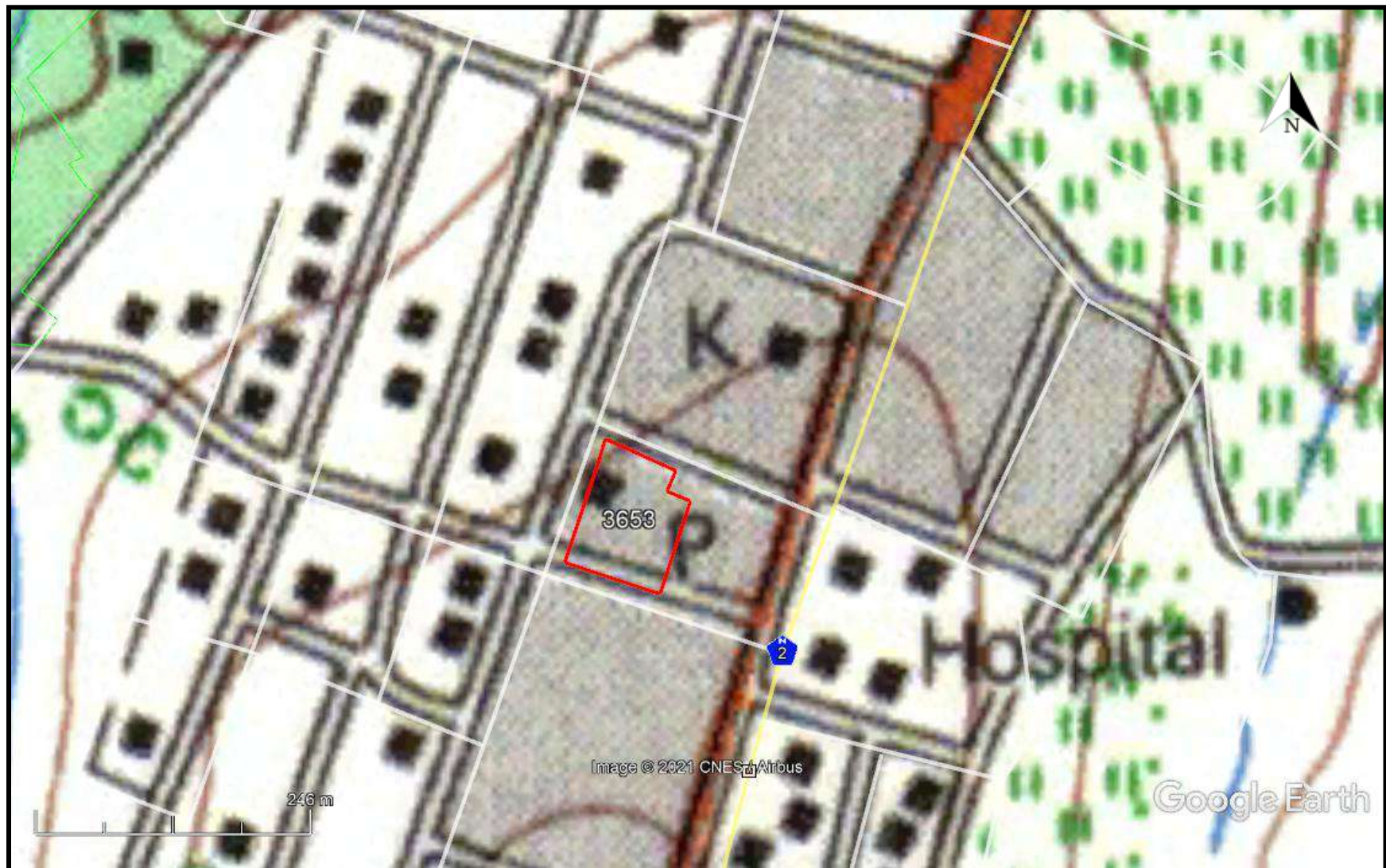


FIG. 8: PALAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

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.

CONCLUSION

The proposed development for the Mt Frere Police Station occurs on highly disturbed land. This has resulted in potential archaeological and palaeontological sites being destroyed for the upper 2m of deposit.

The proposed police station occurs on the original police station grounds that appear to predate 1937. The buildings may be associated with the magistrate's

court. Since the buildings, and/or foundations are older than 60 years in age, they will require a permit from ECHPRA to be destroyed or altered. This will involve a site assessment by a suitably qualified architect.

REFERENCES

207_016_27791

DD Mt Frere 1982, 1996

SAHRIS Database

Umlando Database

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Anderson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Gavin Anderson
Archaeologist/Heritage Impact Assessor

