

**PROPOSED ABATTOIR AND ASSOCIATED
PROCESSING PLANT, P107 ROAD TO NONOTI,
ILEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
KWAZULU-NATAL**

Desktop Heritage Assessment

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
AUTHOR DETAILS	iii
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND	4
3. LOCATION	5
4. TERMS OF REFERENCE & METHODOLOGY	8
5. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE AREA	8
6. DESKTOP ASSESSMENT	9
7. CONCLUSION	10
8. MITIGATION MEASURES	11
9. REFERENCES	13

FIGURES

Figure 1: Project area depicted in magenta	6
Figure 2: Google Earth image showing abattoir development outlined in red	7
Figure 3: 1:50 000 map (2931AD)	10
Figure 4: Fossil sensitivity of area of abattoir	11

AUTHOR DETAILS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Kwa Justice Foods (Pty) Ltd intends providing a new abattoir in the KwaZulu-Natal north coast region where cattle, sheep and goats will be processed. A total development footprint of approximately 1 hectare will be divided into:

- State of the art abattoir buildings totally $\pm 4000\text{m}^2$ which includes:
- A lairage/ pre-abattoir holding facility ($\pm 1700\text{m}^2$);
- High throughput abattoir ($\pm 1000\text{m}^2$);
- Meat processing and production facility ($\pm 1000\text{m}^2$);
- Parking, workshop, security and ancillaries ($\pm 300\text{m}^2$)
- Open yards $\pm 6000\text{m}^2$ for storage of livestock

This report serves as a desktop heritage assessment for the proposed abattoir.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The proposed development is approximately 1 ha in size therefore the development triggers Section 38 (1) (c) (i) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). The relevant section of the NHRA states that:

“(1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as—

(c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site —

(i) exceeding 5 000 m² (0.5 ha) in extent;

must notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

The project may also impact on graves, structures, archaeological and palaeontological resources that are protected in terms of sections 33, 34, 35, and 36 of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (No. 4 of 2008) as well as sections 34, 35, and 36 of the NHRA.

In terms of Section 3 of the NHRA, heritage resources are described as follows:

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;

- (f) archaeological and paleontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds, including—
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - (vi) other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) movable objects, including:
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).

The desktop heritage assessment was undertaken to assess whether any heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed abattoir development.

3. LOCATION

The proposed abattoir is situated between the P107 and D761 roads north-west of KwaDukuza (Stanger) in the Nonoti area of northern KwaZulu-Natal. The development will be located on both sides of the D761 road close to the Nonoti River (see **Figures 1 and 2** below). The approximate mid-point of the new abattoir is at: 29°16'2599"S / 31°18'36.77"E.



Figure 1: Project area depicted in magenta



Figure 2: Google Earth image showing abattoir development outlined in red

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE & METHODOLOGY

Undertake a desktop heritage assessment in order to determine the possible existence of heritage resources in the project area that could be impacted by the development of the abattoir and associated processing plant.

A survey of literature was undertaken of the larger area in order to place the project in a historical context. Several HIAs undertaken in the wider geographical area were found on the SAHRIS database that provided data regarding the area.

This desktop heritage assessment will be submitted to the heritage authority of KwaZulu-Natal, namely Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa) for their assessment and comment.

5. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE AREA

James Liege Hulett (founder of the sugar company Huletts South African Refineries Ltd now known as Tongaat Hulett) advertised for a farm in 1860 in the Nonoti area and successfully leased an area of 600 acres, which he called Kearsney which is situated approximately 6 km south-west of the project area. He experimented with maize, sweet potatoes, chillies, arrowroot and coffee and also established a trading store. Soon Hulett commanded a flourishing business, which enabled him to purchase several farms in the area where he started his sugar cane farming enterprise (Kearsney Manor 2017:1).

The village of Darnall, 6 km east of the proposed abattoir site, takes its name from the prospector, David Brown, who was one of the first settlers in the district. He named his farm "Darnall" after his home town in Yorkshire, England. When sugar cane arrived from Mauritius and the sugar industry got under-way, from the mid 1840's, Mr. Brown was one of the first to introduce it to the Natal north coast. He set up a sugar mill in 1904, but his milling ventures were not a success financially and Mr Liege Hulett from Kearsney, took over the Darnall mill in 1906. By 1910, Huletts had emerged as a prominent producer ... with large estates at Tinley Manor, Darnall, Amatikulu and uMhlatuzi in Zululand (Guest 1989:316). The Darnall sugar mill is still operational today.

6. DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

The desktop study consisted of analysing various sources (heritage reports and maps) for evidence of prior habitation in the project area. According to Anderson (2015:12), there are archaeological sites in the wider area that include both Stone Age and Iron Age sites. No sites occur in the study area. Many of the sites no longer exist due to sugar cane farming, road works and other developments (such as housing). Sugar cane farming would have destroyed sites that occurred on or near the surface of the land.

No known national, provincial or local heritage sites, battlefields, or cemeteries/graves are known to occur in the project area.

The area where the abattoir is proposed to be located appears to be used for sugar cane farming according to the Google Earth images and 1:50 000 map (2931AD) and is therefore highly disturbed by such activity.

A farm dwelling and associated buildings are situated approximately 80 m south west of the abattoir alongside the P107 road. The building closest to the proposed development is situated approximately 30 m south west of the abattoir. The age of the buildings is unknown; however, it is assumed that the structures will not be impacted by the proposed abattoir development. There could be graves in close proximity to the structures but this could not be ascertained from maps and Google Earth images; however, it is again assumed such sites will not be impacted by the abattoir and associated activities.

According to the 1:50 000 topographical (see **Figure 3** below), a power line crosses through the northern section of the abattoir alongside the D761 road. It does confirm an area that is disturbed by previous and current activities including the construction of power lines.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency's (SAHRA) Fossil Sensitivity Map indicates that the project area is situated in an area of low fossil sensitivity (indicated in blue) with a slight overlap into an area of moderate fossil sensitivity (indicated in green) (see **Figure 4** below). As indicated on the map, an area of low sensitivity requires no further studies whereas an area of moderate sensitivity requires a desktop palaeontological assessment. However, due to the highly disturbed nature of the project area due to agricultural activities, there is a low probability of finding intact fossil finds therefore it is recommended that no further studies are undertaken in this regard. A protocol for fossil finds is included as part of the mitigation measures provided in Chapter 8 of this report.

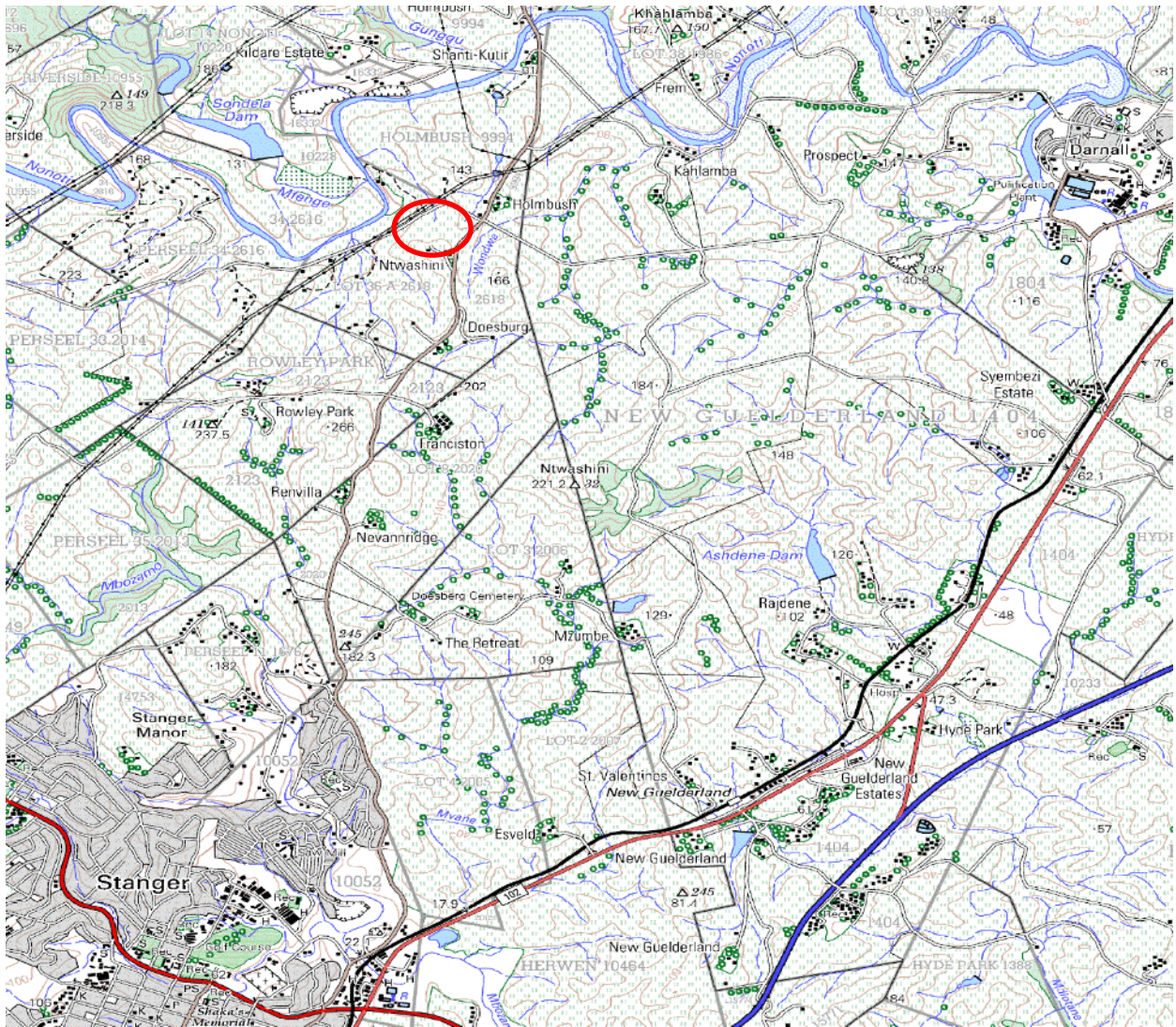


Figure 3:1:50 000 map (2931AD)

7. CONCLUSION

The highly disturbed nature of the area where the Nonoti abattoir and associated processing plant will be situated, indicates that there is a very small chance of finding any intact heritage resources such as graves, archaeological remains, and fossils in the project area. It is the understanding of the specialist that the structures on the south west boundary of the proposed development will not be impacted in any way by the construction of the abattoir and its associated buildings.

Based on the above, it is the specialist's conclusion that the abattoir development can proceed with the proviso that the mitigation measures provided in this report are implemented where necessary.

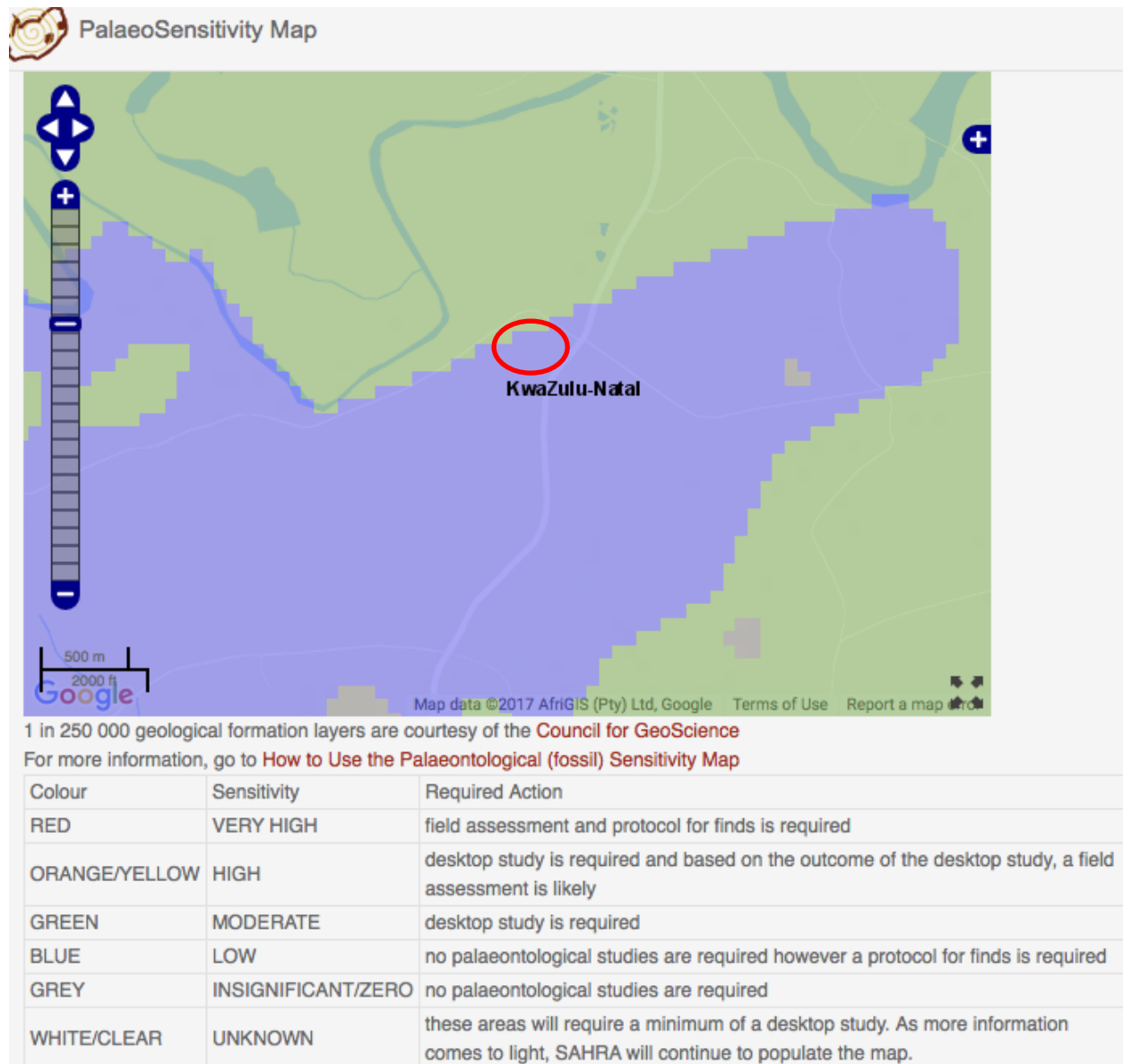


Figure 4: Fossil sensitivity of area of abattoir

8. MITIGATION MEASURES

- For any chance finds, such as archaeological sites, graves, etc., all work must cease in the area affected and the Contractor must immediately inform the Project Manager or Environmental Control Officer (ECO). A registered heritage specialist must be called to site for inspection. The relevant heritage resource agency (Amafa) must also be informed about the finding.
- The heritage specialist will assess the significance of the resource and provide guidance on the way forward.

- Written permission (permits) must be obtained from Amafa if heritage resources, including graves, are to be removed, destroyed or altered.
- All heritage resources found in close proximity to the construction area to be protected by a 3m buffer in which no construction can take place. The buffer material (danger tape, fencing, etc.) must be highly visible to construction crews.
- Under no circumstances may any heritage material be destroyed or removed from site unless under direction of a heritage specialist.
- Should any remains be found on site that could potentially be human remains, the South African Police Service as well as Amafa must be contacted. No SAPS official may remove remains (recent or not) until the correct permit/s have been obtained.
- If there are chance finds of fossils during construction, work in the area of the find must be stopped and a palaeontologist must be called to the site in order to assess the fossils and rescue them if necessary (with an Amafa permit). The fossils must then be housed in a suitable, recognized institute.

9. REFERENCES

Anderson, G. 2015. *HIA study of the proposed construction of offtake 6C potable water pipeline, Siyaphambile to Nonoti, Ilembe District Municipality, KZN*. Unpublished report.

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