

**USE OF EXISTING P73 BORROW PIT, HLOKOZI,  
UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-  
NATAL**

**Phase 1 Heritage Assessment**

**11 September 2017**

**Client: KSEMS**  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The KwaZulu Natal Department of Transport proposes to utilise an existing borrow pit as a material source for the upgrade of the P73 road. The borrow pit is located alongside the P73 road situated within the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality which is part of the greater Harry Gwala District Municipality. This report serves as the Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) for the proposed utilisation of the P73 borrow pit.

The extent of the existing borrow pit to be utilised could be greater than 5000 m<sup>2</sup> thereby triggering section 38 (1) (c) (i) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) that refers to any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent. In addition, the project may impact on graves, structures, archaeological and palaeontological resources that are protected by the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (No. 4 of 2008) and the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA).

The mid-point of the existing borrow pit is at 30°20'8.91"S / 30°15'51.46"E. It is situated next to and north of Hlokozi High School and south of the R612 road. A site inspection was undertaken on 5 September 2017. Visibility was good. The specialist also spoke to residents regarding the presence of heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed utilisation of the borrow pit.

The area of the existing borrow pit is disturbed by previous quarrying activities. The surrounding area is also disturbed by residences, Hlokozi high school and a power line which is located on the eastern boundary of the borrow pit.

An abandoned building was found between the borrow pit and high school. According to a local resident, the building was a general dealership/store before it was abandoned. Residents did not know the age of the building and it is possible that the building is more than 60 years of age and is therefore protected by 33 (1) (a) of the KZN Heritage Act.

Due to the poor condition of the building as well as the existence of many such structures in KwaZulu-Natal, the building is considered to be of low heritage significance. If the quarry is to impact on the structure, then application for a permit to destroy the building must be obtained from Amafa before the destruction of the building.

There are a number of residences / houses situated just over 15 m from the borrow pit's eastern boundary. The houses are occupied. An inspection of the area around the houses was made and no graves nor other heritage sites were found. The impact of the borrow pit extending into or

moving closer to the houses and thereby destroying the structures would be highly negative to the owners / occupants and is therefore not recommended.

There are several other houses situated east and west of the borrow pit that fall within a 50 m radius of the borrow pit. It is also recommended that these residences are not impacted by utilisation of the borrow pit.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency fossil sensitivity map indicates that the existing borrow pit is situated in an area of insignificant / zero fossil sensitivity which means that no further studies are required.

It is recommended that the use of the borrow pit can proceed with the provision that the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in this report are adhered to and implemented when necessary.

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**AUTHOR DETAILS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Qualifications</b>	<b>Professional Registration</b>
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The KwaZulu Natal Department of Transport (KZN DoT) proposes to utilise an existing borrow pit as a material source for the upgrade of the P73 road. The borrow pit is located alongside the P73 road and is situated within the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality which is part of the greater Harry Gwala District Municipality.

This report serves as the Phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) for the proposed utilisation of the P73 borrow pit.

## 2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The extent of the existing borrow pit to be utilised could be greater than 5000 m<sup>2</sup> thereby triggering section 38(1) (c) (i) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) that refers to—

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

*(i) exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent*

In addition, the project may 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 National Heritage Resources Act (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).

This Phase1 HIA is undertaken to assess whether any heritage resources will be impacted by the use of the existing borrow pit.

### 3. LOCATION

The mid-point of the existing borrow pit is at 30°20'8.91"S / 30°15'51.46"E. It is situated next to and north of Hlokozi High School and south of the R612 road (see **Figures 1 and 2** below).

### 4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Undertake a Phase 1 heritage impact assessment to determine potential heritage resources that may be encountered in the project area as well as any heritage resources within 50 m of the borrow pit.

A description of the potential impacts that the proposed activity may have of any heritage resources must be included as well as mitigation measures to limit or avoid the impact of the proposed activity on heritage resources (if any).

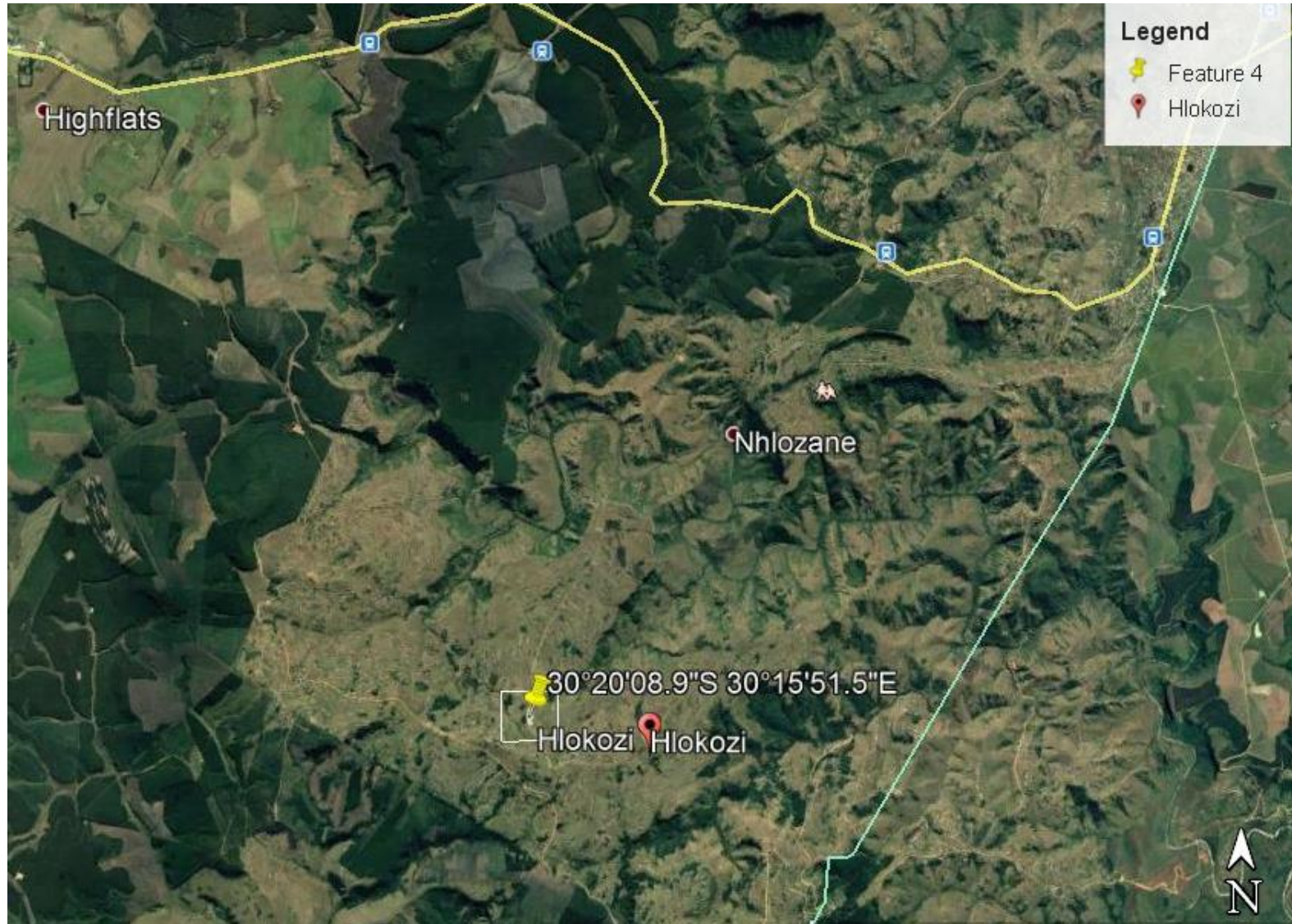


Figure 1: Location of borrow pit within wider environment



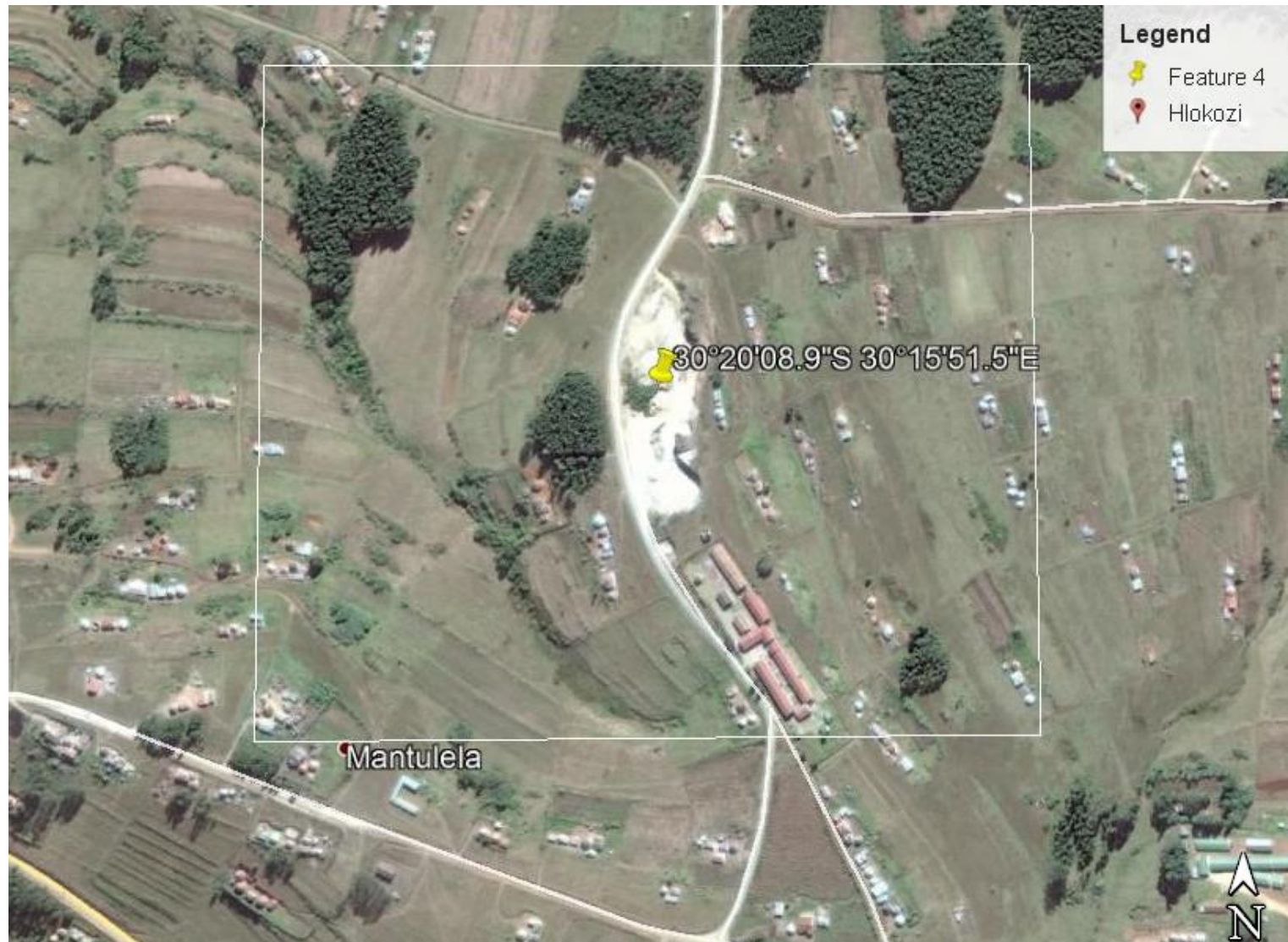


Figure 2: Close-up of existing borrow pit and surrounding land uses

## **5. METHODOLOGY**

A survey of literature, including other HIA reports completed in the area and captured on the SAHRIS database was undertaken in order to be aware of any heritage resources that may have been identified in such reports.

A site inspection was undertaken on 5 September 2017. Visibility was good. The specialist also spoke to residents of the area regarding the presence of heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed use of the borrow pit.

The HIA report will be uploaded on to the SAHRIS database in order that the provincial heritage resources authority, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Amafa), assess and comment on the report.

## **6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA**

According to Prins (2017:4), the greater Ixopo (and project) area has never been intensively surveyed for heritage sites. However, some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area during the last two decades whilst archaeologists from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum have made sporadic visits to the area. The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions.

Archaeological evidence shows that Bantu-speaking agriculturists first settled in southern Africa around AD 300. The earliest agricultural sites in KwaZulu-Natal date to between AD 400 and 550. All are situated close to sources of iron ore, and within 15 km of the coast. Evidence suggests it may have been too dry further inland during that time for successful cultivation. From 650 onwards, however, climatic conditions improved and agriculturists expanded into the valleys of KwaZulu-Natal, where they settled close to rivers in savanna or bushveld environments (eThembeni 2014: 24).

Wright and Hamilton (1989:71) maintain that due to the growing strength of the Zulu Kingdom under King Shaka in the 1820s, organised communal life south of the Thukela River had largely been destroyed by groups like the Bhele, the Thembu, the Chunu and others who had moved

southwards to distance themselves from Zulu power with many groups moving through the larger project area due to the expansionistic policies of Shaka.

Documented history of the Hlokozi area is sparse. The Hlokozi High School which is situated on the southern boundary of the borrow pit was officially opened on 31 July 2012 (KZN Education 2012:1).

## 7. RESULTS OF SITE INSPECTION

As can be expected, the area of the existing borrow pit is extensively disturbed by previous quarrying activities. The surrounding area is also disturbed with residences, Hlokozi high school and a power line which is located on the eastern boundary of the borrow pit.



**Figure 3: Existing borrow pit**

Between the borrow pit and high school, an abandoned building was found. According to a local resident, Mr. Mzamazisi Mtolo, the building was a general dealership/store before it was abandoned. Residents did not know the age of the building and it is possible that the building is more than 60 years of age and is therefore protected by 33 (1) (a) of the KZN Heritage Act which states that 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.



**Figure 4: Remains of general dealership**



**Figure 5: General dealership with school on right**

Due to the poor condition of the building as well as the existence of many such structures in KwaZulu-Natal, the building is considered to be of low heritage significance. If the quarry is to extend into this area and impact on the structure, then application for a permit to destroy the building must be obtained from Amafa before the destruction of the building.

There are a number of residences / houses situated just over 15 m from the borrow pit's eastern boundary. The houses are occupied. An inspection of the area around the houses was made and no graves nor other heritage sites were found. The occupants were not at home during the site inspection. Both Mr. Mtolo and Ms Khonzani Gombela (a local resident) indicated that to their knowledge there were no graves in the area close to the borrow pit.



**Figure 6: Houses located close to eastern boundary of borrow pit**

The impact of the borrow pit extending into or moving closer to the above-mentioned cluster of houses and thereby destroying the structures would be highly negative to the owners / occupants and is therefore not recommended.

There are several other houses situated east and west of the borrow pit that fall within a 50 m radius of the borrow pit. It is also recommended that these residences are not impacted by utilisation of the borrow pit.



**Figure 7: Northern extent of borrow pit**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency fossil sensitivity map indicates that the existing borrow pit is situated in an area of insignificant / zero fossil sensitivity (indicated with grey colour on the map below). This means that no further studies are required. A protocol for fossil finds is included in Chapter 9 below.

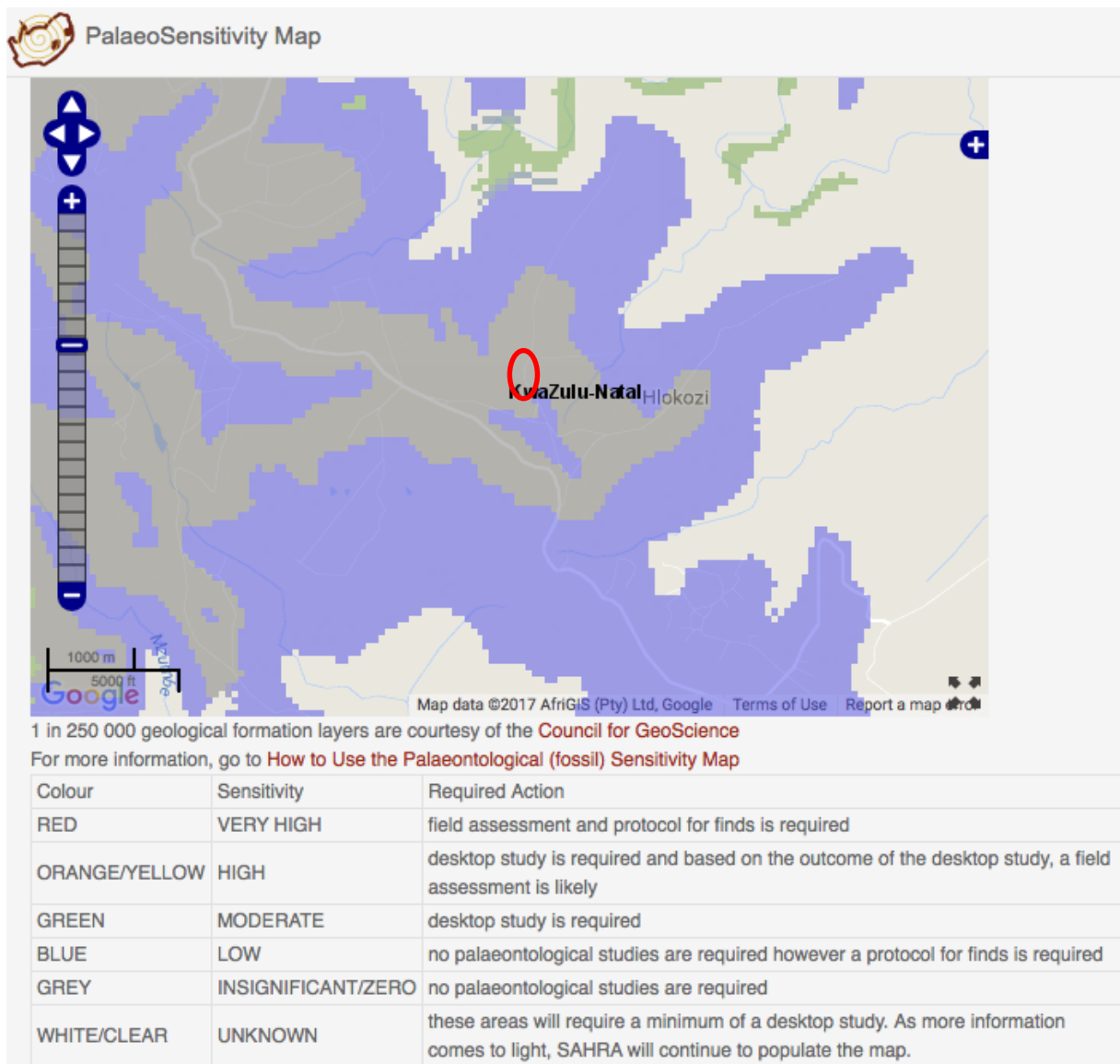
## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

No significant heritage resources were found during the site inspection. The area is highly disturbed by quarrying activities, residences and power lines.

A structure that could be older than 60 years is located between the borrow pit and Hlokozi High School. If the structure is to be impacted by the utilisation of the borrow pit, then application must be made to Amafa for a permit to demolish the building.

There are a number of residences situated just over 15 m from the borrow pit's eastern boundary. The houses are occupied. It is recommended that the proposed utilisation of the borrow pit does not impact on these houses nor on any other houses located close to the borrow pit.

It is recommended that the use of the borrow pit can proceed with the provision that the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in this report are adhered to and implemented when necessary.



**Figure 8: Fossil sensitivity of project area indicated with red circle**

## 9. MITIGATION MEASURES

- For any chance finds of any type of heritage resource, all work must cease in the area affected and the Contractor must immediately inform the Project Manager. 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.
- Permits must be obtained from Amafa if heritage resources are to removed, destroyed or altered.

- All heritage resources found in close proximity to the construction area are to be protected by a 7m 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 is potentially human remains, the South African Police Service (SAPS) should also 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, 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.



## 10. REFERENCES

eThembeni Cultural Heritage. 2014. *Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report. Proposed St. Faiths 400/132kV Sub-Station and Associated Power Lines, Port Sheptstone, uMzumbe, Hibiscus Coast and Ezingoleni Local Municipalities, Ugu District, KwaZulu-Natal*. Unpublished report.

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education. 2012. *Official Opening of Hlokozi High School*. (<http://www.kzneducation.gov.za/Portals/0/Circuiars/General/2012/OFFICIAL%20OPENING%20OF%20HLOKOZI%20HIGH%20SCHOOL.pdf>).

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Wright, J and Hamilton, C. 1989. Traditions and Transformations: The Phongolo-Mzimkhulu regions in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In Duminy, A. and Guest, B. (Eds.) *Natal and Zululand from earliest times to 1910. A new history*. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press and Shuter & Shooter