

**PROPOSED RETAIL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 12  
OF GLEDHOW MOUNT NO. 1983, KWADUKUZA  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL**

**Desktop Heritage Assessment**

**July 2022**

**FOR: Confluence Strategic Development & Environmental Partner  
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I, Jean Beater, act as an independent specialist for this project and I do not have any vested interest either business, financial, personal or other, in the proposed activity other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

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### **SPECIALIST DETAILS**

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

uShukela Milling (Pty) Ltd are the landowners of Farm Gledhow No. 1983 located within the KwaDukuza Local Municipality, iLembe District. Farm Gledhow 17461 is 168.2 hectares in extent and is in the process of being subdivided. The greater property is currently zoned Agriculture 1 with portions of the farm still being used for sugarcane farming. RSPG Dev Co. (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of the landowner, propose to construct a retail development on a 10-hectare portion of Farm Gledhow No. 1983. The new portion where the retail development is proposed is on Portion 12 of Farm Gledhow No. 1983 (outlined in yellow in **Figs. 1 and 2** below). The retail development will consist of anchor stores, smaller retail outlets, parking bays and internal road network (public and service roads). The total footprint of the proposed development is approximately 6-hectares (Confluence 2022:1).

A desktop heritage assessment was undertaken as the project site has been under cultivation since 1937 and the possibility of finding intact heritage resources is considered to be very low.

## 2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The development footprint approximately 6 hectares (60000m<sup>2</sup>) hence the proposed development triggers section 41 (1) (c)(i), (ii) and (iii) of the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act, 2018 (Act No 5 of 2018) which lists developments or activities that require an HIA. The relevant sub-sections refer to: any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—

- (i) exceeding 5000 m<sup>2</sup>.

In terms of section 3 of the NHRA, heritage resources are:

- (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) 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).

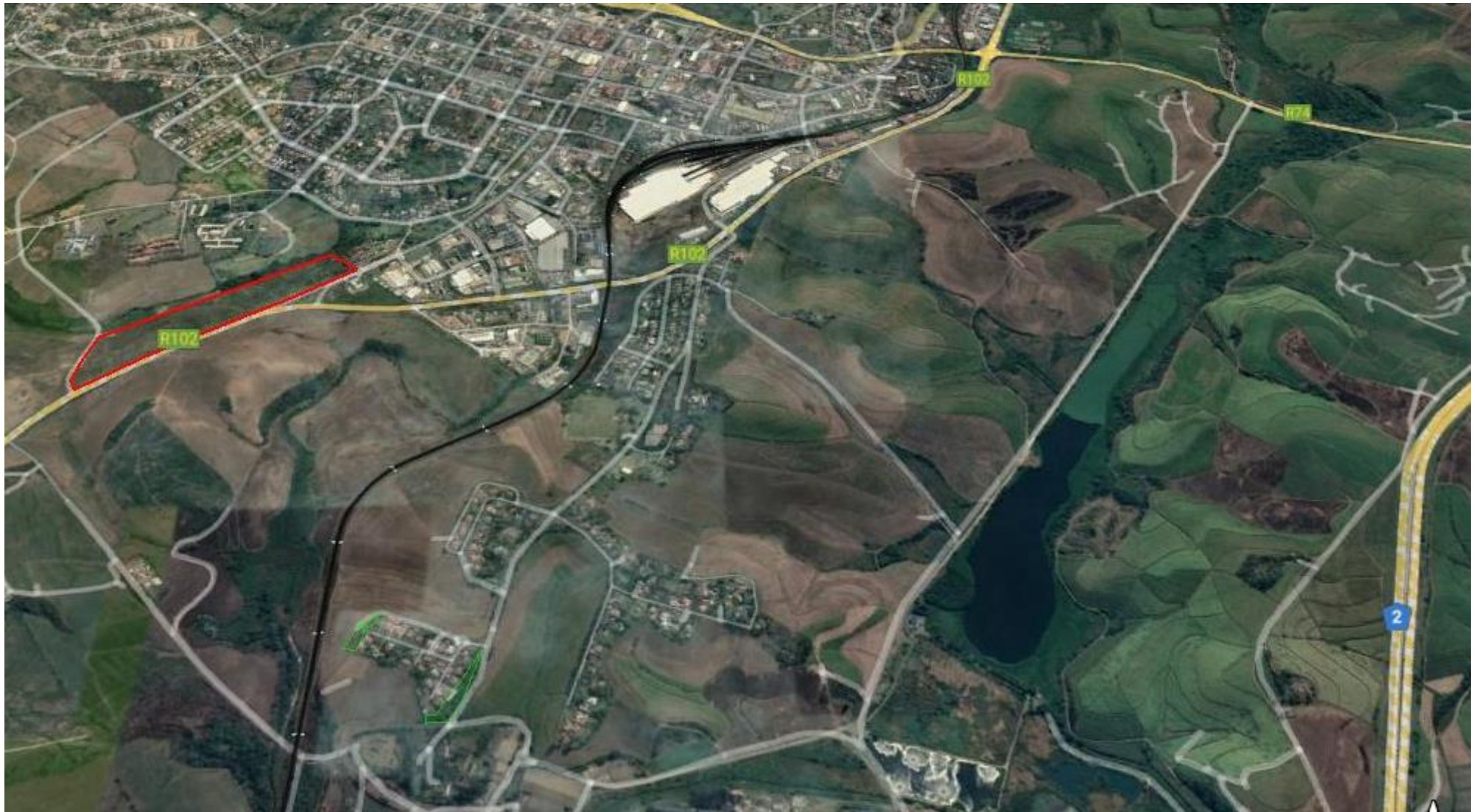
### **3. LOCATION**

The proposed retail development runs parallel to and north west of the R102 road and south of the town of Stanger, KwaDukuza Local Municipality. It is situated between the R102 road and a watercourse and is located approximately 3km west of the N2 highway (see **Figs. 1 and 2**).

### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Undertake a desktop heritage assessment in order to determine the impact of the proposed retail development on heritage resources (if any). Provide mitigation measures, if necessary, to limit or avoid the impact of the proposed project on heritage resources.

Submit the desktop heritage report to the provincial heritage resources authority, the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute (hereafter referred to as the Institute), for their assessment and comment.



**Figure 1: Retail development site outlined in red**





Figure 2: Closer view of proposed development site

## 5. METHODOLOGY

A survey of literature, including other heritage impact assessment reports completed for the surrounding area, was undertaken in order to ascertain the history of the wider area and what type of heritage resources have or may be found in the area or site of development.

Older maps and aerial photographs were consulted in order to understand what the project site was like previously. These maps and photographs were obtained from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's CDNGI geospatial information website ([www.cdnqiportal.co.za](http://www.cdnqiportal.co.za)).

Photographs of the project site were provided by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), Confluence Strategic Development & Environmental Partner.

## 6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PROJECT AREA & SURROUNDINGS

According to Prins (2020:3), the greater Stanger/KwaDukuza area has been relatively well surveyed for heritage sites. The evidence indicates that the wider surrounding area contains a wide spectrum of heritage sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions.

Around 1 700 years ago an initial wave of Early Iron Age People settled along the inland foot of the sand dunes on sandy but humus rich soils which would have ensured good crops for the first year or two after they had been cleared. These early agro-pastoralists produced a characteristic pottery style known as Matola. The Matola people also exploited the wild plant and animal resources of the forest and adjacent sea-shore. By 1 500 years ago another wave of Iron Age migrants entered the area. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as "Msuluzi" (AD 500-700), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshekane (AD 800-900). Three sites belonging to these periods occur along the banks of the Tugela River (Prins 2020:3-4), which is located over 20km north-east of project site.

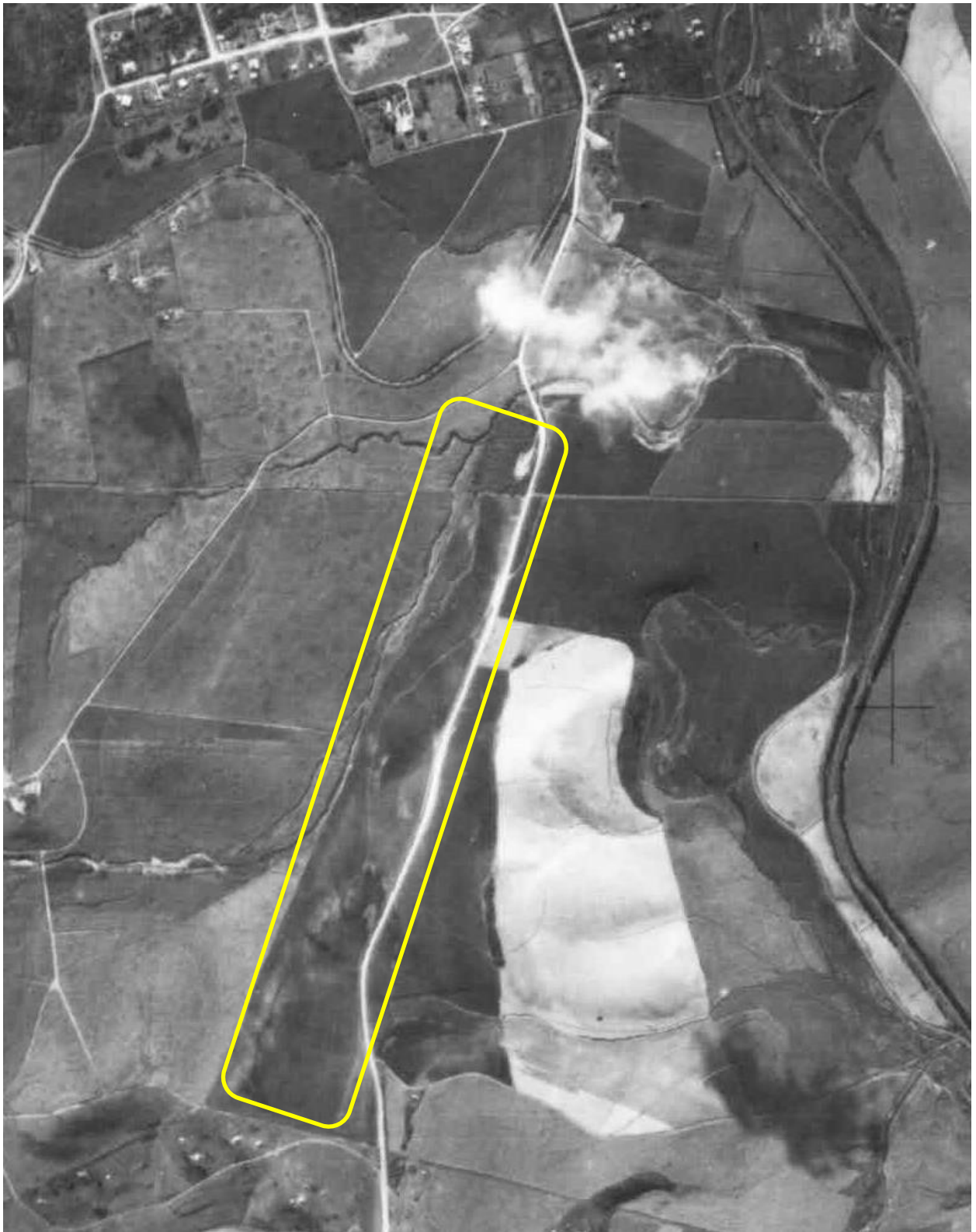
The greater KwaDukuza area is also associated with Zulu King Shaka in the early 1820's. It is at Stanger where King Shaka had his capital, KwaDukuza, and it was here that he was murdered by his half-brothers Dingane and Mhlangane. The exact spot of Shaka's death is thought to be where an old mahogany tree is located in the grounds of the Stanger/KwaDukuza municipal offices. The grain pit where Dingane is thought to have secretly buried Shaka is marked by a large rock in the King Shaka Memorial Garden in the town. In Stanger, near King Shaka's memorial, is



a small river known as Shaka's spring. From here, unpolluted water was collected for the King's use. Nearby on the Imbozamo River, was Shaka's bathing pool and cave where he would rest after swimming. Not much further off is the famous Execution Cliff where executions were carried out (Prins 2020:4). These sites are located to the west and north of the project site.

The town of Stanger was founded in 1873 and proclaimed a township in 1920 becoming a municipality in 1949. The town was named after William Stanger (1811-1854), the first Surveyor-General of Natal (Raper undated:415). The first sugar mill built in KwaZulu-Natal, Gledhow Mill, by C.G.Smith in 1880 is situated a short distance south east of the project area hence the past use of the site for sugar cane cultivation.

The 1937 aerial photograph (**Fig. 3**) shows the project site situated between a road (which was to become the R102) and a watercourse. The site is unoccupied, undeveloped with some cultivation taking place. Pathways and or roads can be seen going through the site.



**Figure 3: 1937 aerial photograph of project site outlined in yellow**

The 1967 aerial photograph (**Fig. 4**) shows the project site under, presumably, sugar cane cultivation with the R102 and watercourse clearly visible.

The 1968 1:50 000 topographic map (2931AD) (**Fig. 5**) of the project site also shows the project site under cultivation as well as the R102 road.



**Figure 4: 1967 aerial image of project site**



Figure 5: Section of 1968 topographic map

## 7. DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

The project area is currently heavily overgrown with indigenous and invasive vegetation as can be seen in **Figs. 6 - 10** below. The years since the earliest image of the site indicate the area was consistently cultivated for sugar cane and possibly other crop cultivation. There has been no habitation on the site hence it is unlikely heritage sites will be present and if there had been, the cultivation of the site would most probably have destroyed such sites. On all the historic images as shown above in **Chapter 6** of this report, there is habitation to the south-west of the site but not on the proposed project site.





**Figure 6: Path through project area that is covered with vegetation**



**Figure 7: View of project area alongside R102 with existing trench**





**Figure 8: Section of project area looking in a north-east direction**



**Figure 9: Section of project area looking over fallow fields towards Stanger**



**Figure 10: Dumping along road which forms western boundary of site**

The project site falls into an area of moderate fossil sensitivity therefore a desktop palaeontological study was undertaken. This study indicates that the site is in the moderately fossiliferous Pietermaritzburg Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup). The Pietermaritzburg Formation was deposited in shallow to deep water conditions and only in the ancient shoreline facies would there be a chance of finding trace fossils such as worm burrows. It should be noted that the proposed project area has been cultivated for sugarcane for decades and no fossils would be present in the soils (Bamford 2022:9).

The desktop study indicates that it is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the covering soils and sands of the Quaternary. There is a small chance that fossils may occur below ground in the shales of the early Permian Pietermaritzburg Formation, therefore a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the Environmental Management Programmer (EMPr). If fossils are found once excavations for amenities, roads and foundations have commenced then they should be rescued and a palaeontologist called to assess and collect a representative sample. The study concluded that the impact on the palaeontological heritage would be low so, as far as the palaeontology is concerned, the project should be authorised (Bamford 2022:11).



## **8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

The project area has been used for sugar cane cultivation since the 1930s (and possibly earlier) hence the chance of finding intact and significant heritage resources is highly unlikely. The site is currently covered with alien and indigenous vegetation with pathways cutting through it. The desktop palaeontological assessment indicated that the potential impact to fossil heritage resources by the proposed retail development will be extremely low.

It is therefore recommended that from a heritage perspective, the proposed retail development can proceed.

## **9. MITIGATION MEASURES**

- For any chance heritage finds, all work must cease in the area affected and the Applicant / Contractor must be immediately informed. A registered heritage specialist must be called to site to inspect the finding/s. The Institute must be informed about the finding/s.
- The heritage specialist will assess the significance of the resource and provide guidance on the way forward.
- Permits must be obtained from the Institute if heritage resources are to be removed, destroyed or altered.
- Under no circumstances may any heritage material be destroyed or removed from site unless under direction of a heritage specialist.
- Should any recent remains be found on site that could potentially be human remains, the South African Police Service as well as the Institute must be contacted. No SAPS official may remove remains (recent or not) until the correct permit/s have been obtained.
- All recommendations and mitigation measures provided in the desktop palaeontological study must be adhered to such as the inclusion of the fossil chance find protocol into the EMPr.

## 10. REFERENCES

Bamford, M. 2022. *Palaeontological impact assessment for the proposed Gledhow Farm retail development, Stanger, KwaZulu-Natal Province. Desktop study (Phase 1)*

Confluence Strategic Development & Environmental Department. 2022. *Background Information Document. Clearance of indigenous vegetation for the Gledhow retail development located on agricultural land and within 32m of a watercourse. KwaDukuza Municipality.*

Prins, F. 2020. *Phase One Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed KwaCele Quarry near Stanger, Kwadukuza Municipality, KZN*

Raper, P.E. *Dictionary of Southern African Place Names*. Pretoria: HSRC