



HERITAGE

Contracts and Archaeological Consulting

Ref: St Philips Primary School refurbishment

10 February, 2014

Amafa/Heritage KwaZulu-Natal

PO Box 2685

Pietermaritzburg

3200

Attention: Annie van de Venter-Radford

Dear Annie

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE ST PHILIPS PRIMARY SCHOOL, NDUMO, KZN.

Background

MDH Construction Joint Venture is currently busy with the refurbishment to the existing St Philips Primary school at Ndumo situated in Northern Natal. The project is therefore exempt from an EIA or BA process and therefore no Heritage Assessment was conducted. There is however a grave at the school next to existing class rooms that according to the headmistress causes the children of the school great distress. The school have lodged applications to have the grave removed since the 1990's.

HCAC was appointed to relocate the grave to a suitable cemetery but when the relocation process started AMAFA indicated that they have no official record of the development, the grave site or an HIA (that is a pre requisite for the permit application). HCAC visited the study area on 4 February 2014 and based on the field observations made, supports and application for exemption from a full HIA.

The study area

The existing St Philips Primary School is located at S26 55 24.9 E32 15 27.7 (Figure 1). The site is located on Portion 1 of the Farm Ndumo, Number 9714 within the

Josini Municipality. The site is extensively impacted on by construction activities for the existing school buildings that were constructed in 1989.

A local informant, the previous principal of the school Mr. Don Mthembu was consulted regarding the history of the school. He has intimate knowledge of the school as he was a pupil there and then in 1976 started as a teacher at the school where he later became Principal in 1989 until his retirement. The school was started in 1953 as a mission school on an adjacent property until 1974 when the government took ownership of the school. Then in 1989 the school moved to its current location where the land was donated by the Rutherford family and the existing buildings constructed between 1989 and 1995 when the Peace Foundation erected asbestos class rooms. The issue of the grave was raised during this period but no solution was found and the grave was left where it was. The grave is located approximately 2 meters from the walkway in front of the class rooms within a square formed by existing structures that forms a natural play area for the pupils.

The grave is aligned east to west with an inscribed sandstone headstone. The inscription on the headstone reads as follows:

In memory of
Rifleman
John G. Maritz
who died
20th April 1919
aged 26 years

Erected by his comrades

The South African War Graves Commission indicated that Rifleman Maritz passed away from Black Water Fever on 20 April 1919. The only next of kin listed was his mother, based in Wellington.

3073-19/5/15-5,000

Name *John Gijster Maritz*
 Rank and No. *2358 Rifleman, C. Squadron*
 Regiment *3rd Regiment. S.A.M.R.*
 Next-of-Kin *Mother: Mr. E. Maritz, Hellington, Cape Province.*
Rs engaged 8/18 R0103

REFERENCE *47.*
 Papers or Report. *Arrested 8.9.13. Born 28.7.1894*

Date.	Hospital.	Nature of Illness.	REMARKS.
<i>15/16 29/16</i>		<i>vac leave full pay R043.</i>	
<i>Died of Blackwater fever at Ndumu (natal) on 20th April 1919. R0115.</i>			

P.T.O

Figure 1: Service records of Rifleman Maritz

During a site visit that was conducted on the 4th of February no archaeological, historical or palaeontological resources were noted within the school footprint. No impact is expected on the built environment as the building is not protected by the 60 year act. Based on the extensive disturbance to the site no Stone Age or Iron Age material was noted. Again due to the disturbed character of the site no surface indicators of any possible grave sites other than the formal grave of Rifleman Maritz were recorded.

Potential archaeological impacts resulting from all phases of the project is considered to be low.

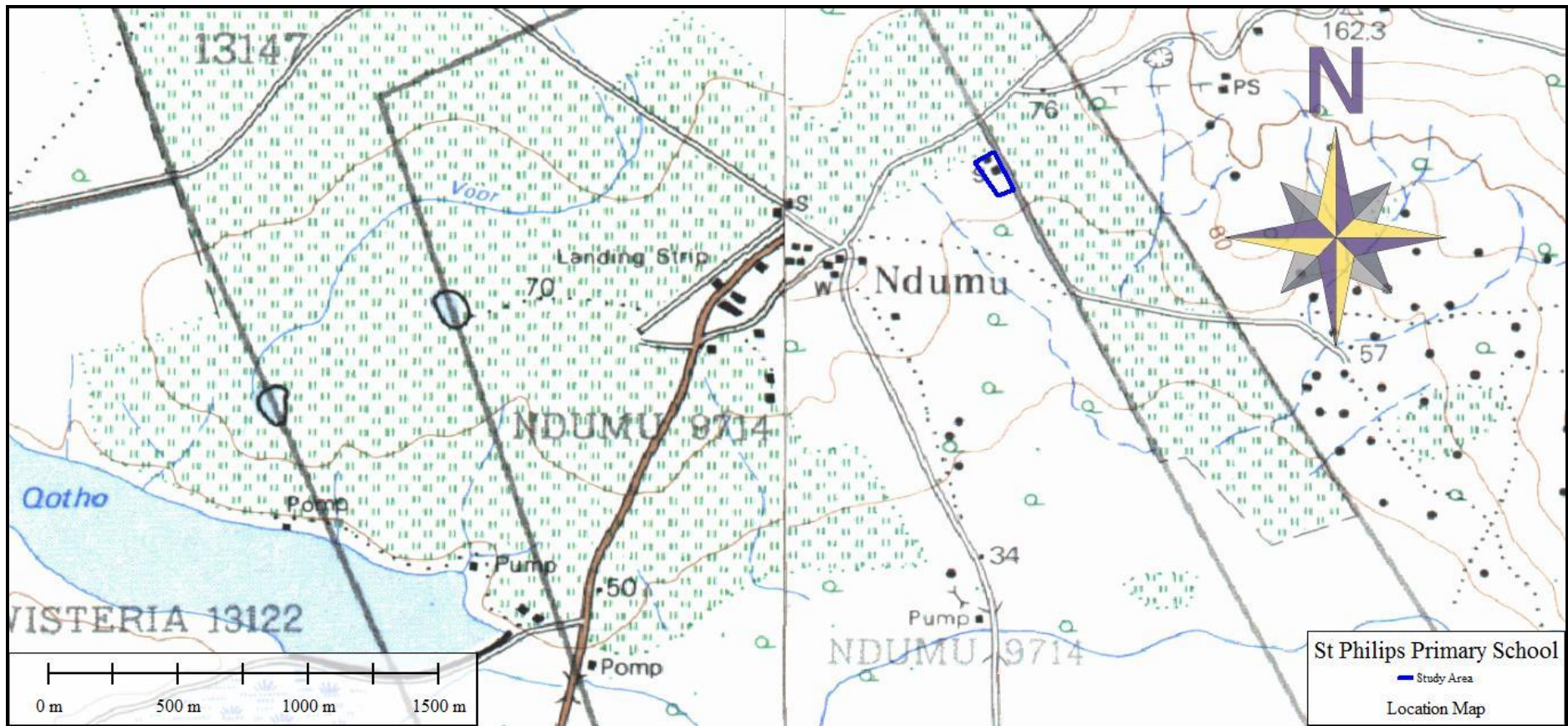


Figure 2: Location Map



Figure 3: Google Image of the area indicating the location of the grave.



Figure 4. In Scripted sandstone gravestone of Rifleman Maritz



Figure 5: Grave close to existing school buildings



Figure 6: Existing buildings on site



Figure 7: Existing buildings on site.

Conclusion

With the exception of the formal grave, from a heritage perspective the disturbed character of the site does not warrant a full Phase 1 study as it is anticipated that there is no archaeological sites, cultural heritage sites, historic structures, burial grounds or isolated artefacts likely to be present on the affected landscape, due to the disturbed nature of the site. As such, we support the application from a full phase 1 HIA.

In the unlikely event that any sites might occur within the proposed site the following recommendations are made and are the responsibility of the site foreman of the project to implement these:

- If during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

If the above mentioned recommendations are adhered by we support the application for exemption from a full phase 1 AIA.

Any further queries can be forwarded to Jaco van der Walt on Cell: +27 82 373 8491 or to jaco.heritage@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaco van der Walt'.

Jaco van der Walt
Archaeologist
Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting CC (HCAC)