

A Phase One Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment For The Proposed Establishment Of A Filling Station On Erf 3148, Howick, Umngeni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

For: Green Door Environmental

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
HISTORIC PERIOD	Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1820 in this part of the country
IRON AGE	Early Iron Age AD 200 - AD 1000 Late Iron Age AD 1000 - AD 1830
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 and associated regulations (2006).
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and associated regulations (2000)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
STONE AGE	Early Stone Age 2 000 000 - 250 000 BP Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase One Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed Establishment Of A Filling Station on Erf 3148, Howick, Umngeni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal identified no heritage sites on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. The results of the ground survey is supported by the desktop study that included an analysis of old aerial photographs and contemporary Google Earth Imagery of the property. There is no need for mitigation as no archaeological and heritage sites occur on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. There is no need for further paleontological studies. Attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Table 1. Background information

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for Green Door Environmental
Type of development:	The applicant, ET Developments CC, wishes to establish a filling station on proposed Portion 1 of Erf 3148, Howick, KwaZulu-Natal (Figs 1 – 5). The proposed filling station will feature fuel storage tanks which will have a combined capacity of approximately 495 m ³ . The storage tanks will comprise petrol, diesel, compressed gas and LPG. The site will also feature an office building, drive-through with fast-food outlet, restaurant and shops.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Rezoning
Terms of reference	To carry out a Phase One Heritage Impact Assessment
Legislative requirements:	The Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The proposed development plot is wedged between the N3 to the east and the R103 to the north (Figs 1 - 4). It covers an area of approximately 146m x 84m. The proposed development plot includes a number of farm buildings (mostly labourers accommodation) (Figs 10 & 11), some shacks and associated structures (Figs 12 & 13). These are all younger than 60 years old and have no heritage value. Paddocks, some planted with kikuyu, comprises the remainder of Erf 3148 (Figs 8 & 9). The GPS co-ordinates for the centre of the proposed development are: S 29° 28' 48.51" E 30° 11' 19.24"

2 BACKGROUND TO HERITAGE RESOURCES OF THE AREA

The greater Howick area is relatively well recorded in terms of archaeological site distribution. Some sites have been recorded by cultural resource consultants who have worked in the area whilst archaeologists from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum have made sporadic visits to the area over a period of three decades. The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the greater Mpophomeni area (including Howick and Merrivale) contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include one Early Stone Age site, four Middle Stone Age sites, twenty Later Stone Age sites, two rock painting sites, eight Later Iron Age sites, and numerous historical sites dating back to the colonial period. Some of the farms in the area contain graves and structures relating to early Voortrekker settlement, however, the majority of older buildings on farmsteads were erected by British colonists after 1850 (Bizley & McKenzie 2007). These are also protected by heritage legislation (Derwent 2006). The name Drie Fonteinen was the original Dutch farm name given to the study area by early Voortrekker Settlers. However, after 1880 the farm was incorporated into the bigger Howick town administrative area.

Most of the Stone Age sites in the area occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet erosion. Some Middle Stone Age flakes, probably dating back to ca. 40 000 – 200 000 years ago, occur in disturbed context in dongas and road cuttings. The majority of Later Stone Age sites as well as rock art sites occur further west in the adjacent area of Nottingham Road. These typically occur in small shelters in the sandstone formations of leading up to the Drakensberg.

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years but the local demography started to change soon after 2000 years ago when the first Bantu-speaking farmers crossed the Limpopo River and arrived in South Africa. Around 800

years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the Umgeni River Valley adjacent to Howick area. These early Nguni-speakers settlements have been called Moor Park after the type site near Estcourt (Huffman 2007). Later Iron Age settlement spread rapidly through the valley and eventually also spread on to the higher altitude areas around Howick and the Karkloof areas. Many of these sites date back to the 18th and early 19th centuries (ibid). Although the majority of sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located in the Dargle and Karkloof Valley areas also show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the Wushe and related groups (Bryant 1965). The Wushe was known to be excellent metal workers and it is not surprising that some archaeological evidence for early metal working has been found in the Karkloof, Nottingham road, and Dargle areas. However, by 1820 the Wushe was dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups and individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial authorities after 1845 where most of them became farm labourers.

After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

The area was also a focal point during the more recent struggle history of South Africa. Nelson Mandela was arrested on the 5th of August 1962 just outside Howick. This historical occurrence was pivotal in the liberation struggle in South Africa. More recently a monument has been erected at the capture site and it is in the process of obtaining provincial monument status. The Mpophomeni Township also saw various protest marches against the Apartheid regime as well as conflict between ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party supporters in the 1980's and early 1990's. Sites belonging to this period also have heritage value, however, more archival and oral history-type research is needed to identify the relevant areas.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and relevant aerial photographs. The SAHRIS website was consulted for data relating to the distribution and significance of heritage sites in the greater project area. Various CRM surveys has been conducted in the greater Howick area during the last 10 years or so. However, none of these covered the actual footprint (for instance see Prins 2018, 2019). In addition, the available heritage literature covering the study area was also consulted. A ground survey, following

standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on 3 December 2019. The consultant also spoke to local pedestrians adjacent to the land earmarked for development.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

3.2.2 Disturbance

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

3.3 Details of equipment used in the survey

GPS: Garmin Etrek

Digital cameras: Canon Powershot A460

All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a level of 5 m.

4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

4.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Towns: Howick, Merrivale

Municipality: Umngeni Municipality

4.2 Assumptions and Limitations

Given the high altitude of approximately 1000m - 1260m above sea level it can be expected that no Early Iron Age sites would occur in the project area as these sites are typically associated with altitudes below 800m above sea level. Although Later Stone Age Sites do occur in the KZN Midlands they are relatively scarce and the absence of any shelter or sandstone outcrops in the area would mitigate for their probable absence in the area. Middle and Early Stone Age open air sites do occur in similar environments and there is a possibility that these archaeological sites may occur in the project area. The area was also occupied by Later Iron Age communities during the historical period - if not before. Unfortunately Later Iron Age communities in this part of

KwaZulu-Natal used less durable materials to build their settlements and the remains of such is not always visible. During the period of the Natal Colonial administration (mid 1800's) the authorities settled many Zulu-speaking communities near Vulindlela and the areas to the south of the project area. It is highly probable the remains of their settlements and associated graves may occur in the area. Zulu-speaking farm labourers often settled on European farms and their graves are often associated with these early farmsteads. The area to the immediate south of the project area also saw conflict between supporters of the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party in the period immediately preceding the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994. It is therefore possible that such 'Struggle-era Sites' or features may be found in the greater Howick area.

4.3 Survey Results

The desktop study do not indicate any archaeological or historical sites within 500m from the project area (Fig 3). All the existing buildings on the project area are younger than 60 years old. There are no graves on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape (Table 2).

Table 2. Evaluation of heritage sites within 50m from the project area.

Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA		
	Significance	Rating
1.	Historic and political significance - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	None
2.	Scientific significance – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.	None.
3.	Research/scientific significance – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	None.
4.	Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	None.
5.	Aesthetic significance – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	None.
6.	Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	None.
7.	Social significance – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	None.
8.	Historic significance – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.	None.
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

5 HERITAGE SITE DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

5.1 Field Rating

Not applicable as no heritage sites occur on the footprint (Table 3).

Table 3. Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)

Level	Details	Action
National (Grade I)	The site is considered to be of National Significance	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade II)	This site is considered to be of Provincial significance	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority
Local Grade IIIA	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be retained as a heritage site
Local Grade IIIB	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be mitigated, and part retained as a heritage site
Generally Protected A	High to medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	The site needs to be recorded before destruction
Generally Protected C	Low significance	No further recording is required before destruction

6 PALEONTOLOGY DESKTOP EVALUATION

A paleontological desktop evaluation was conducted by an analysis of the SAHRIS 'fossil sensitivity map' (Fig 7). The results indicates that the proposed development plot falls within an area with a low paleontological sensitivity (indicated by the colour grey). No further paleontological studies will be required.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological and or heritage sites occur on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. The area has a low paleontological sensitivity. There is no need for mitigation from a heritage perspective.

However, it is important to point out that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that all operations exposing graves as well as archaeological and historical residues as well as fossils should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

8 MAPS AND FIGURES

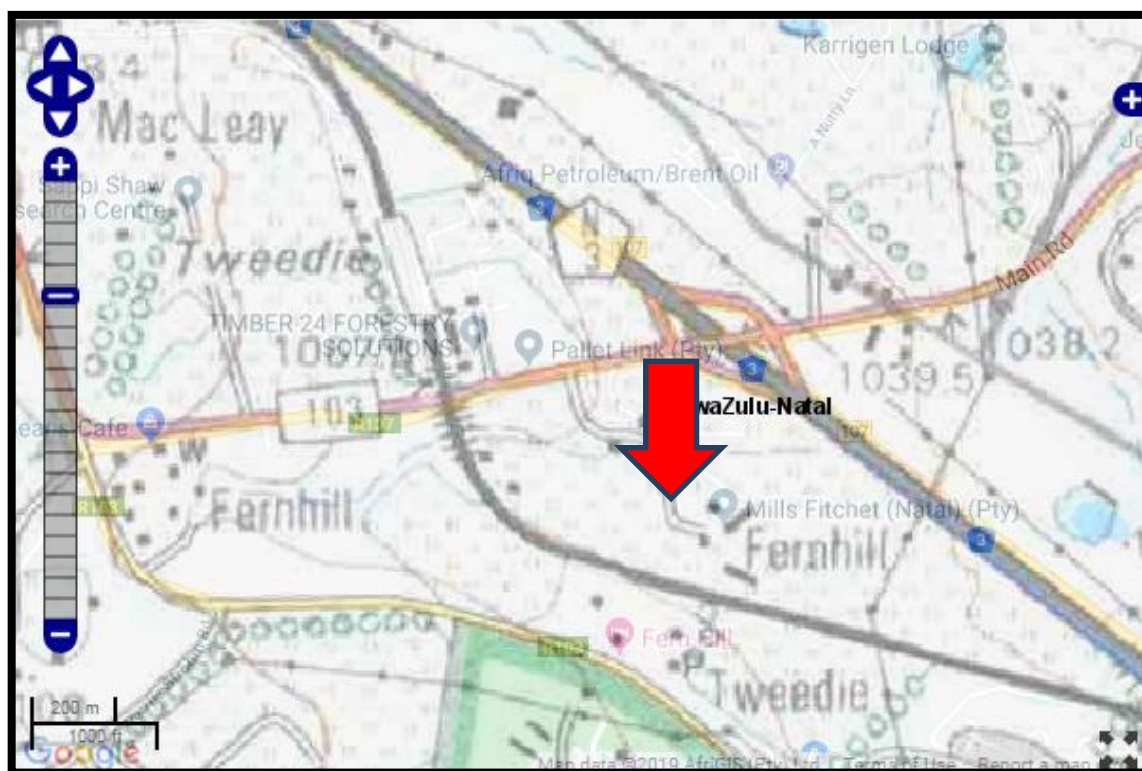


Figure 1. Topographical map showing the location of the project area (red arrow).

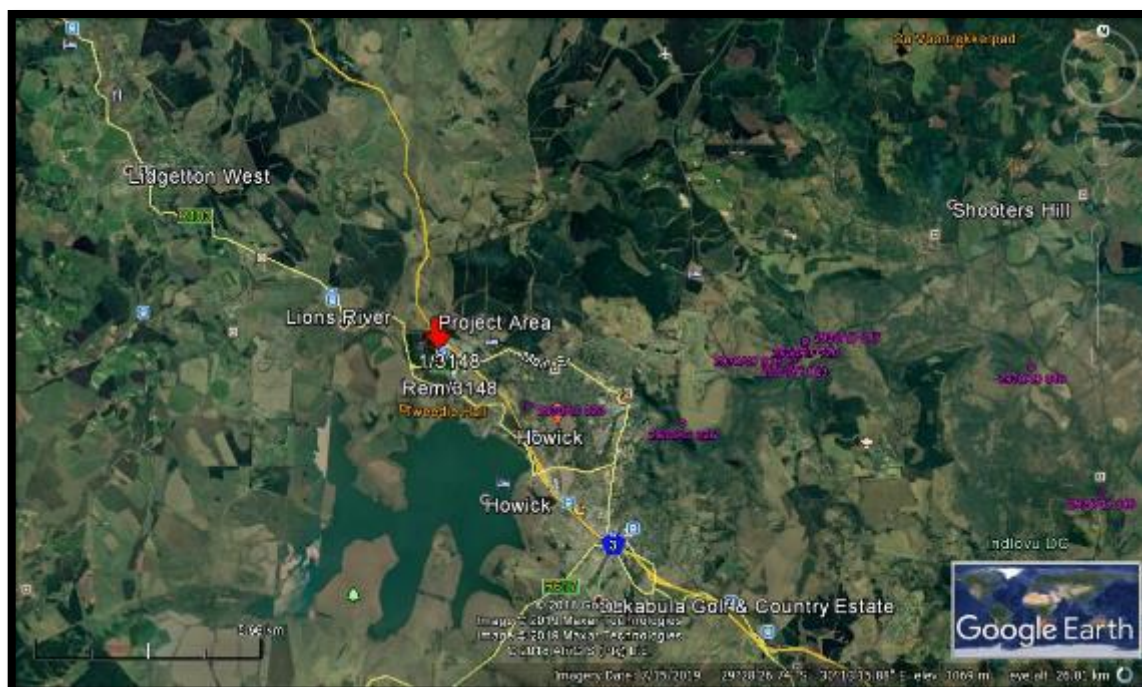


Figure 2. Google Aerial map showing the location of the project area (red arrow). The yellow markers indicate known historical sites. The purple markers indicate known archaeological sites. None of these heritage sites occur closer than 500m to the project area.

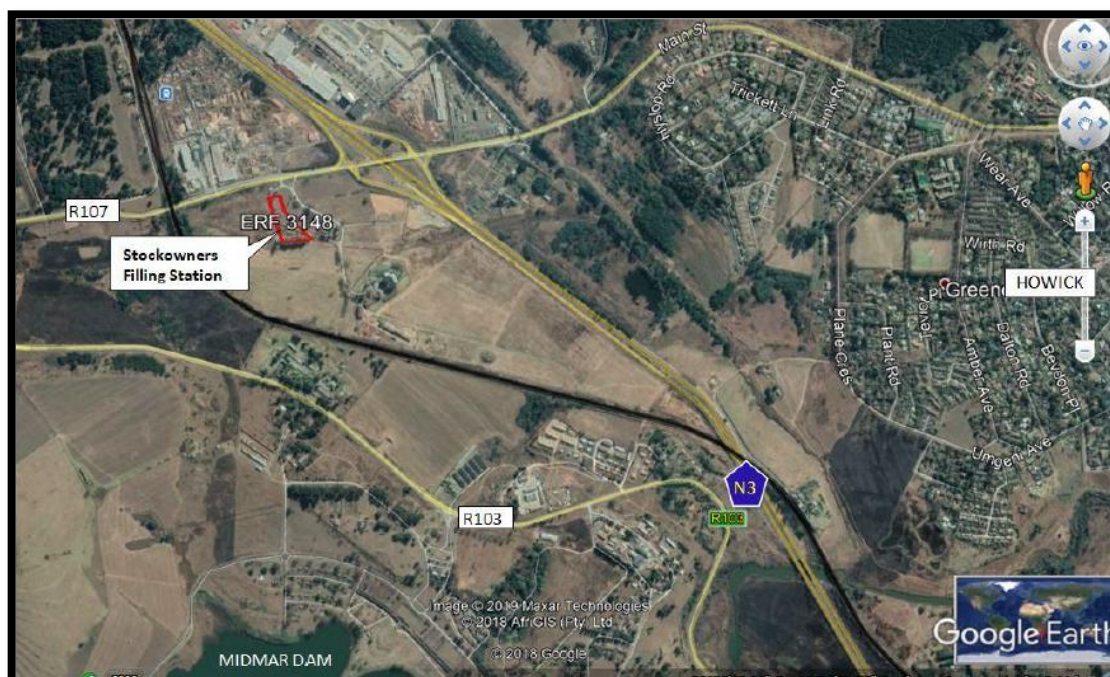


Figure 3. Google Earth Imagery Map showing the location of the project area (demarkated by the red outline) near Howick, Umgeni Municipality (Source: green Door).



Figure 4. Google Earth Imagery showing the location of Erf 3148 (the proposed development plot) adjacent to the R103, Umgeni Municipality.



Figure 5. Location and context of Erf 3138, Umgeni Municipality.

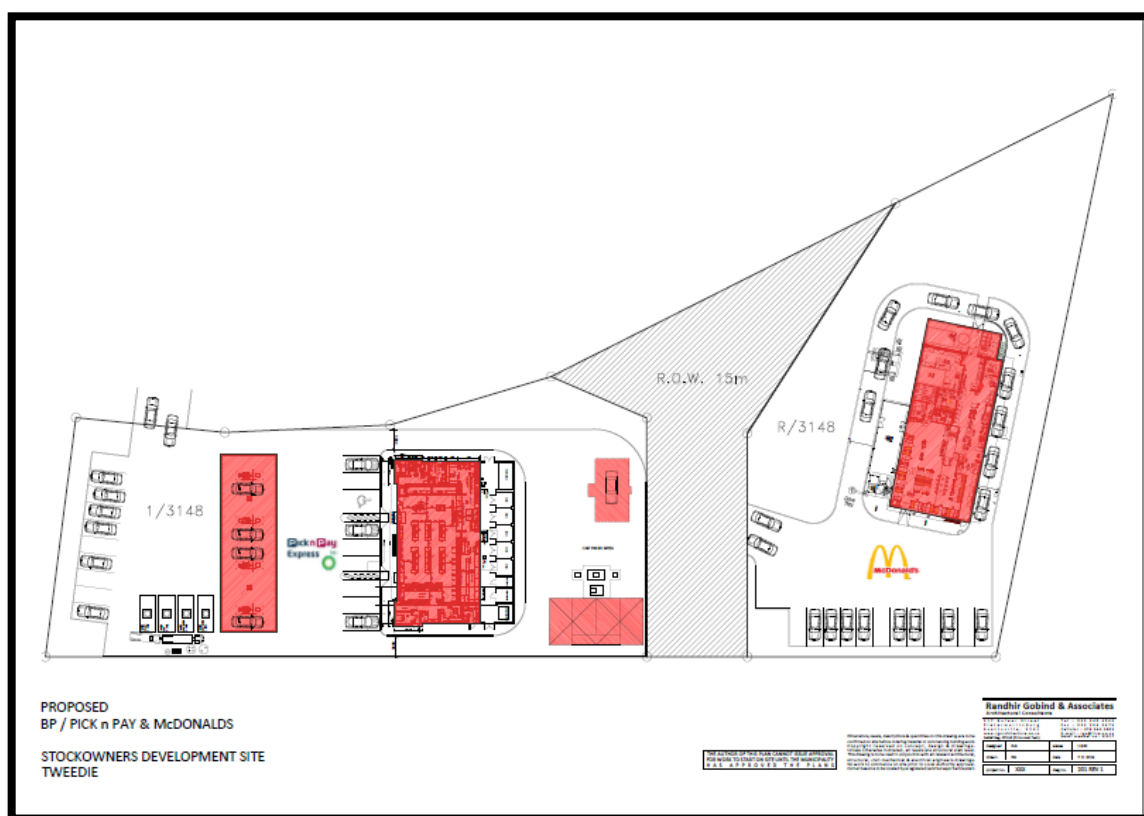


Figure 6. Plan of the proposed development on Erf 3148 (Source: Green Door)

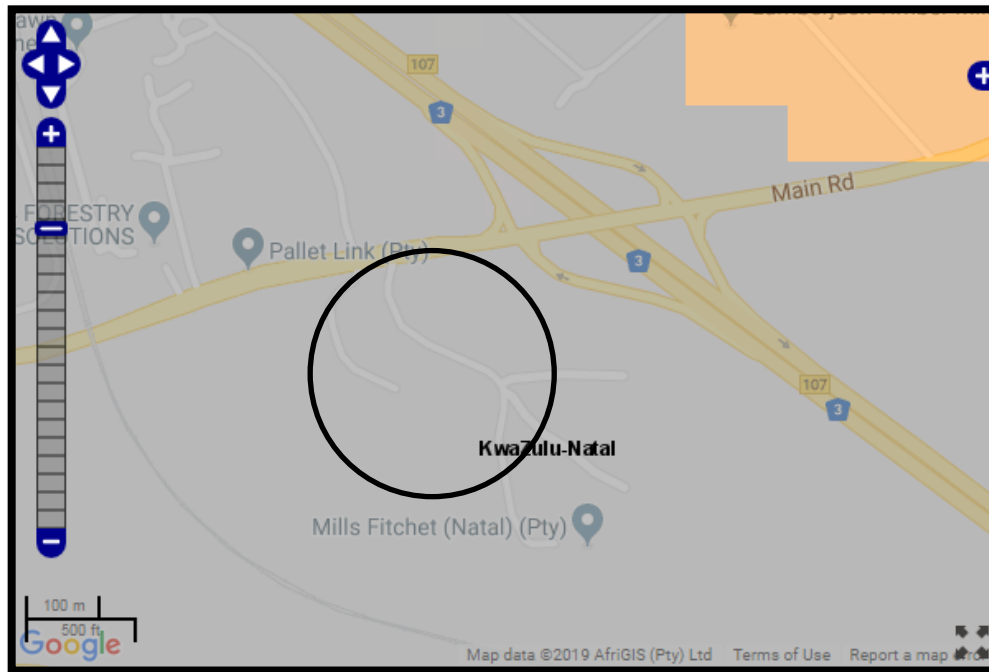


Figure 7. Fossil Sensitivity Map of the project area – indicated by the black polygon. The grey background colour indicates a low fossil sensitivity. No further paleontological studies will be required.



Figure 8. Entrance to the property earmarked for development.



Figure 9. *The greater section of the project area is covered by kikuyu pastures and associated infrastructure.*



Figure 10. *Modern residential building with no heritage value.*



Figure 11. Labourers accommodation: the building is younger than 60 years old and has no heritage value.



Figure 12. Labourers accommodation: these buildings are younger than 60 years old and have no heritage value.



Figure 13. Shacks and associated structures: no heritage value.

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