

**HIA OF THE PROPOSED UCL AVO PACKAGING PLANT ON
PORTION 22 (OF 18) OF ERF 162 UITMUNTEND,
UMTSHWATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, UMGUNGUNDLOVU
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KZN.**

FOR WALLACE & GREEN (PTY) LTD

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TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	4
KWAZULU NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ACT 05, 2018	10
METHOD	12
Defining significance.....	13
RESULTS	16
DESKTOP STUDY	16
RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION.....	21
REFERENCES	22
EXPERIENCE OF THE HERITAGE CONSULTANT	23
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.....	23

TABLE OF FIGURES

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	6
FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	7
FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT (2002)	8
FIG. 4: SCENIC VIEWS OF THE STUDY AREA	9
TABLE 1: SAHRA GRADINGS FOR HERITAGE SITES	15
FIG. 5: LOCATION OF KNOWN HERITAGE SITES IN THE GENERAL AREA	17
FIG. 6: SURVEYOR GENERAL DIAGRAM OF UITMUNTEND 1964 (1850).....	18
FIG. 7: LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA IN 1937	19
FIG. 8: LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA IN 1968	20
FIG. 9: PALAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY MAP	21

Abbreviations

HP	Historical Period
IIA	Indeterminate Iron Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
EIA	Early Iron Age
ISA	Indeterminate Stone Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment

INTRODUCTION

“The proposed UCL Avo Packaging Plant is located within Portion 22 (of 18) of Erf 162 Uitmundend (Centre Point Coordinates: 29°20'16.12"S; 30°38'0.53"E) adjacent to the UCL Sugar Mill in the town of Dalton, uMtshwathi Local Municipality, uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KZN. The proposed Avo Packaging Plant will be located on a 9.43 ha patch of land (presently under sugarcane cultivation) of which 1.4 ha will be utilised as the development area. As the site is within an active sugarcane farm, the catchment area of the Avo Packaging Plant is also primarily dominated by active sugarcane cultivation as well as a functioning sugar mill. The site is situated on a fairly low gradient slope which drains in a north easterly direction towards the Pambanyoni Stream, a watercourse located approximately 350m downslope of the site.

The UCL Avo Packaging plant will be purchasing the avocados from the surrounding farmers, where it will be packaged and essentially distributed for sale. The study area is surrounded by neighbouring towns of Cool Air and New Hanover, which lies approximately 3.8 km north and 8.4 km west respectively. The study area can be accessed via the R614 (which traverses the town of Dalton) and Jacaranda Road. It is envisaged that the proposed development will seek to employ approximately 64 personnel during the construction phase and 39 staff members during the operational phase broken up into 11 skilled employees and 28 unskilled employees.

The proposed Avo Packing Plant development will encompass the following:

- A Bulk Fruit Storage unit;
- Control Room;
- Carton Manufacture;
- Carton Storage;
- Carton Offload;

- Refrigeration;
- Dispatch area;
- Staff Offices; and
- Canteen area (Wallace & Green BID 2021)”

Umlando was requested to undertake a desktop assessment of the proposed development. Figures 1 – 4 show the location of the development.

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT (2002)

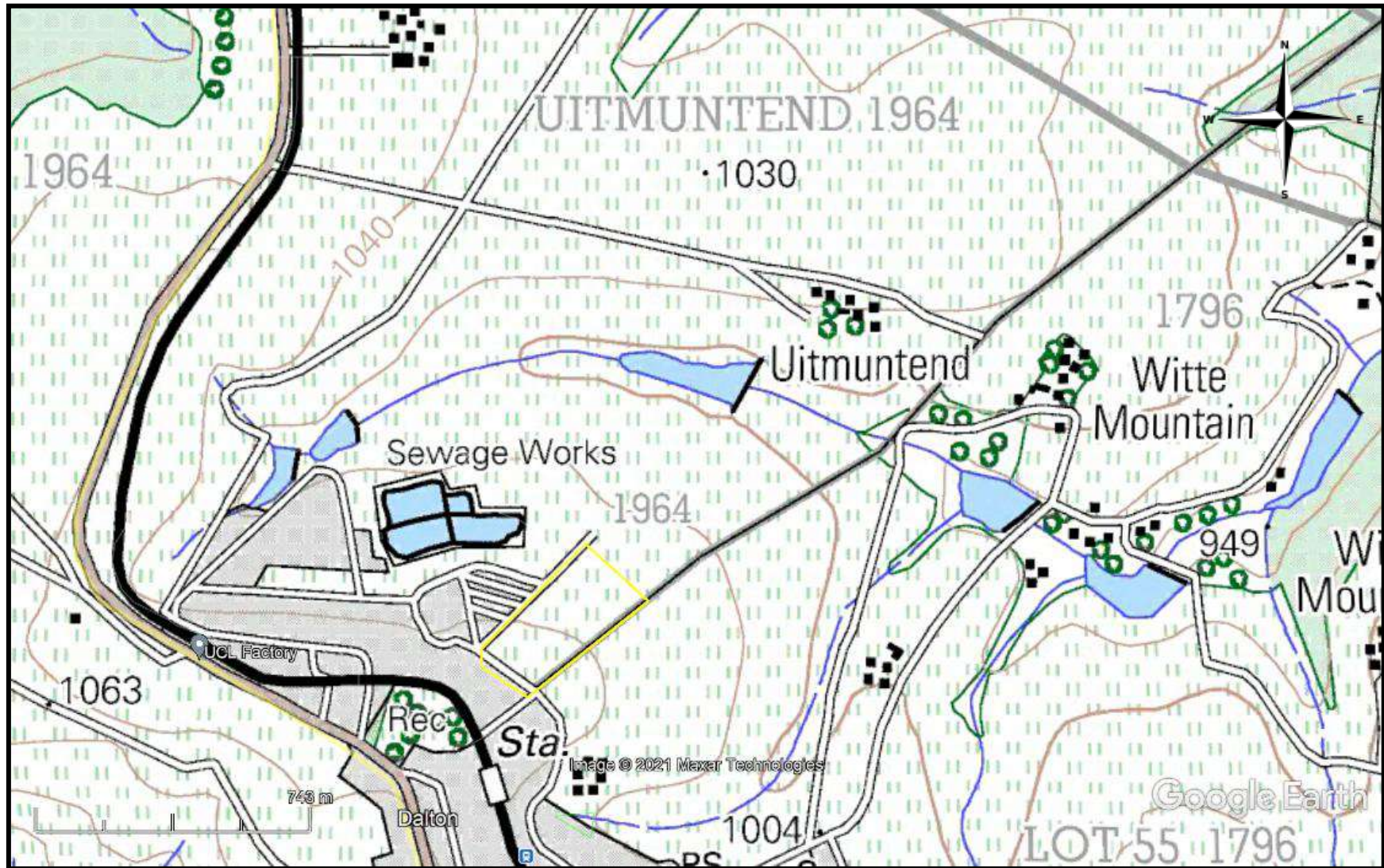


FIG. 4: SCENIC VIEWS OF THE STUDY AREA



KWAZULU NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ACT 05, 2018

“General protection: Structures.—

- 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.
- Where the Council does not grant approval, the Council must consider special protection in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- The Council may, by notice in the *Gazette*, exempt—
- A defined geographical area; or
- defined categories of sites within a defined geographical area, from the provisions of subsection where the Council is satisfied that heritage resources falling in the defined geographical area or category have been identified and are adequately protected in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- A notice referred to in subsection (2) may, by notice in the *Gazette*, be amended or withdrawn by the Council.

General protection: Graves of victims of conflict.—No person may damage, alter, exhume, or remove from its original position—

- the grave of a victim of conflict;
- a cemetery made up of such graves; or
- any part of a cemetery containing such graves, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- General protection: Traditional burial places.—
- No grave—
- not otherwise protected by this Act; and
- not located in a formal cemetery managed or administered by a local authority, may be damaged, altered, exhumed, removed from its original

position, or otherwise disturbed without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

The Council may only issue written approval once the Council is satisfied that—

- the applicant has made a concerted effort to consult with communities and individuals who by tradition may have an interest in the grave; and
- the applicant and the relevant communities or individuals have reached agreement regarding the grave.

General protection: Battlefield sites, archaeological sites, rock art sites, palaeontological sites, historic fortifications, meteorite or meteorite impact sites.—

- No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or

- excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.”

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the database that has been collated by Umlando. This databases contains archaeological site locations and basic information from several provinces (information from Umlando surveys and some colleagues), most of the national and provincial monuments and battlefields in Southern Africa (<http://www.vuvuzela.com/googleearth/monuments.html>) and cemeteries in southern Africa (information supplied by the Genealogical Society of Southern Africa). We use 1st and 2nd edition 1:50 000 topographical and 1937 aerial photographs where available, to assist in general location and dating of buildings and/or graves. The database is in Google Earth format and thus used as a quick reference when undertaking desktop studies. Where required we would consult with a local data recording centre, however these tend to be fragmented between different institutions and areas and thus difficult to access at times. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves

- 1.5.3. Middens
- 1.5.4. Cattle byres
- 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?
- 5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

- 7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?
- 7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?
- 7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

- 8.1. Palaeontological sites
- 8.2. Historical buildings
- 8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites
- 8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.5. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts. Table 1 lists the grading system.

TABLE 1: SAHRA GRADINGS FOR HERITAGE SITES

SITE SIGNIFICANCE	FIELD RATING	GRADE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
High Significance	National Significance	Grade 1	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Provincial Significance	Grade 2	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Local Significance	Grade 3A / 3B	
High / Medium Significance	Generally Protected A		Site conservation or mitigation prior to development / destruction
Medium Significance	Generally Protected B		Site conservation or mitigation / test excavation / systematic sampling / monitoring prior to or during development / destruction
Low Significance	Generally Protected C		On-site sampling monitoring or no archaeological mitigation required prior to or during development / destruction

RESULTS

DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys. There are few archaeological sites in the general area (fig. 5). This is probably a result of few systematic surveys in the area. The area is also of low archaeological value. Anderson (2020) undertook a survey of the P278 and did not record any site along the road or proposed borrow pits. Much of the area was noted for shallow soils and rocky outcrops that are not favourable to archaeological sites.

The land was first surveyed in 1850, and subsequently sold (fig. 6). No buildings are not on the SGD.

The 1937 aerial photograph shows that the study area was under afforestation for some time (fig. 7). The afforestation occurs past 1968 (fig.8). Two buildings occur in the southwest corner of the study area, but these have been subsequently demolished. The area is later converted to sugar cane farming (fig. 3).

Due to the high disturbance of the study area it is unlikely that there will be any archaeological sites, apart from possible isolated artefacts.

The palaeontological sensitivity map indicates that the area is of medium to no sensitivity (fig. 9). Since the area is already disturbed, and the proposed storage area will not remove more than 1m of deposit, the development is highly unlikely to affected unweathered fossil bearing layers.

FIG. 5: LOCATION OF KNOWN HERITAGE SITES IN THE GENERAL AREA

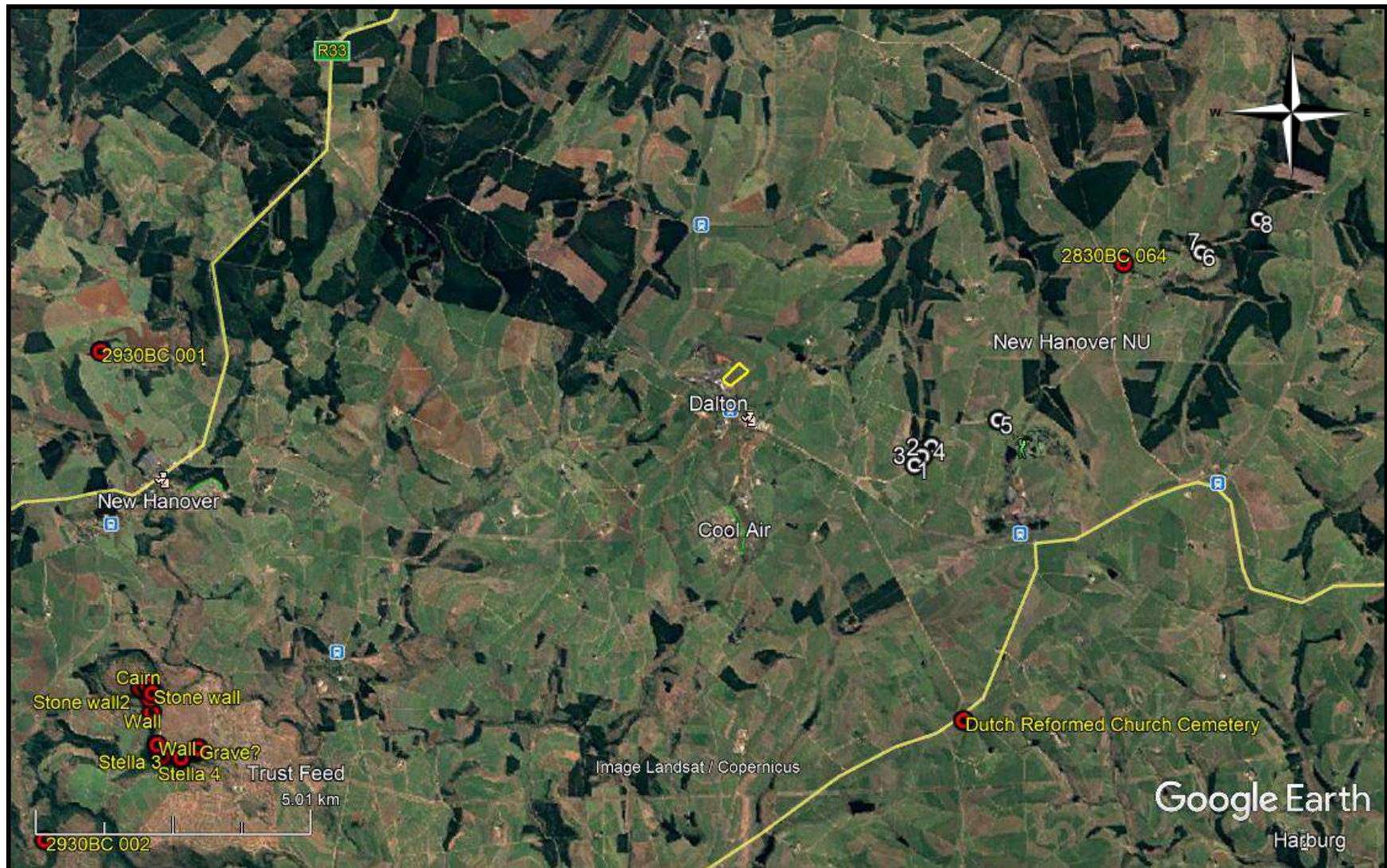


FIG. 6: SURVEYOR GENERAL DIAGRAM OF UITMUNTEND 1964 (1850)

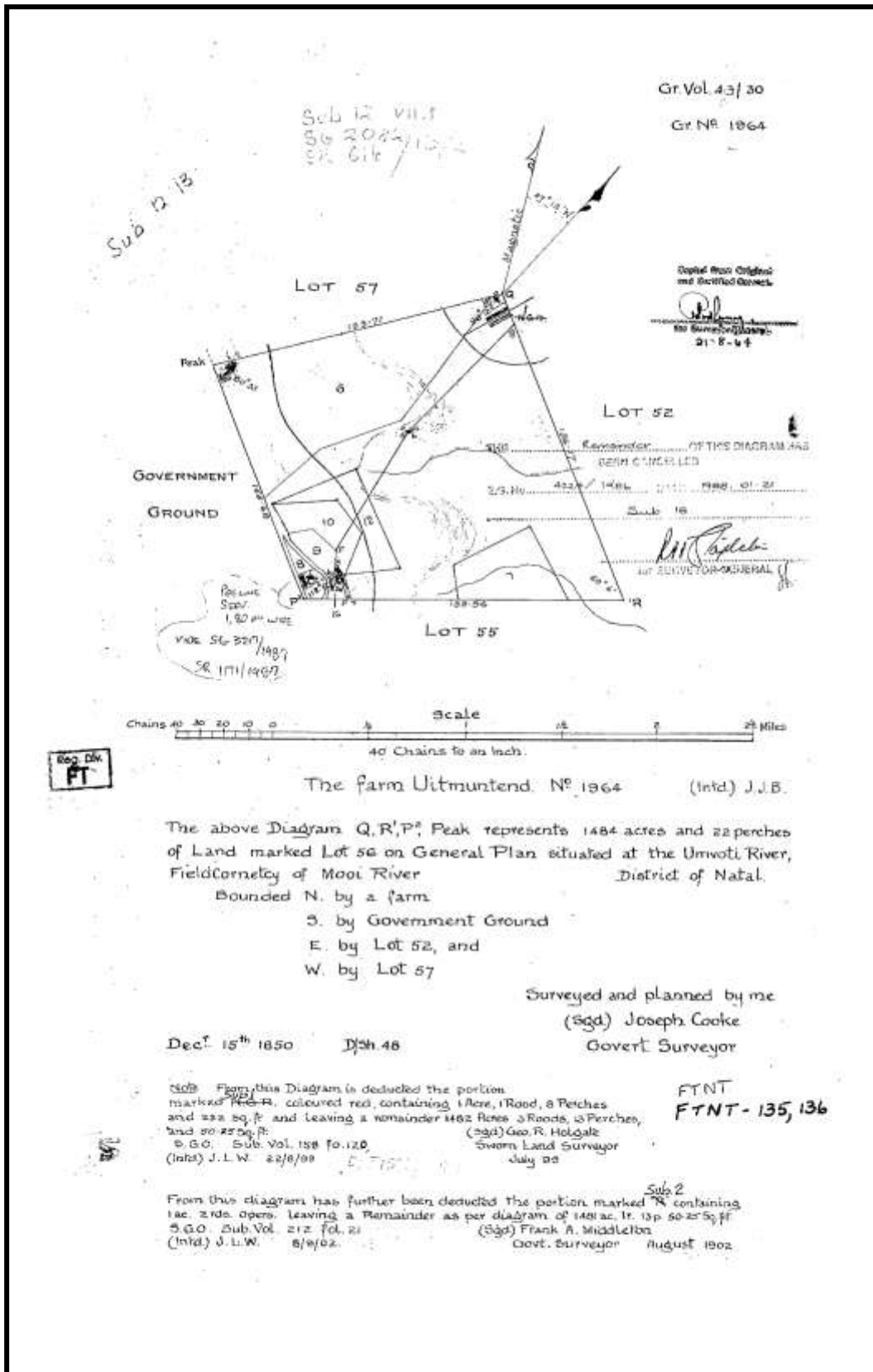


FIG. 7: LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA IN 1937¹



¹ 117B_017_38189

FIG. 8: LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA IN 1968

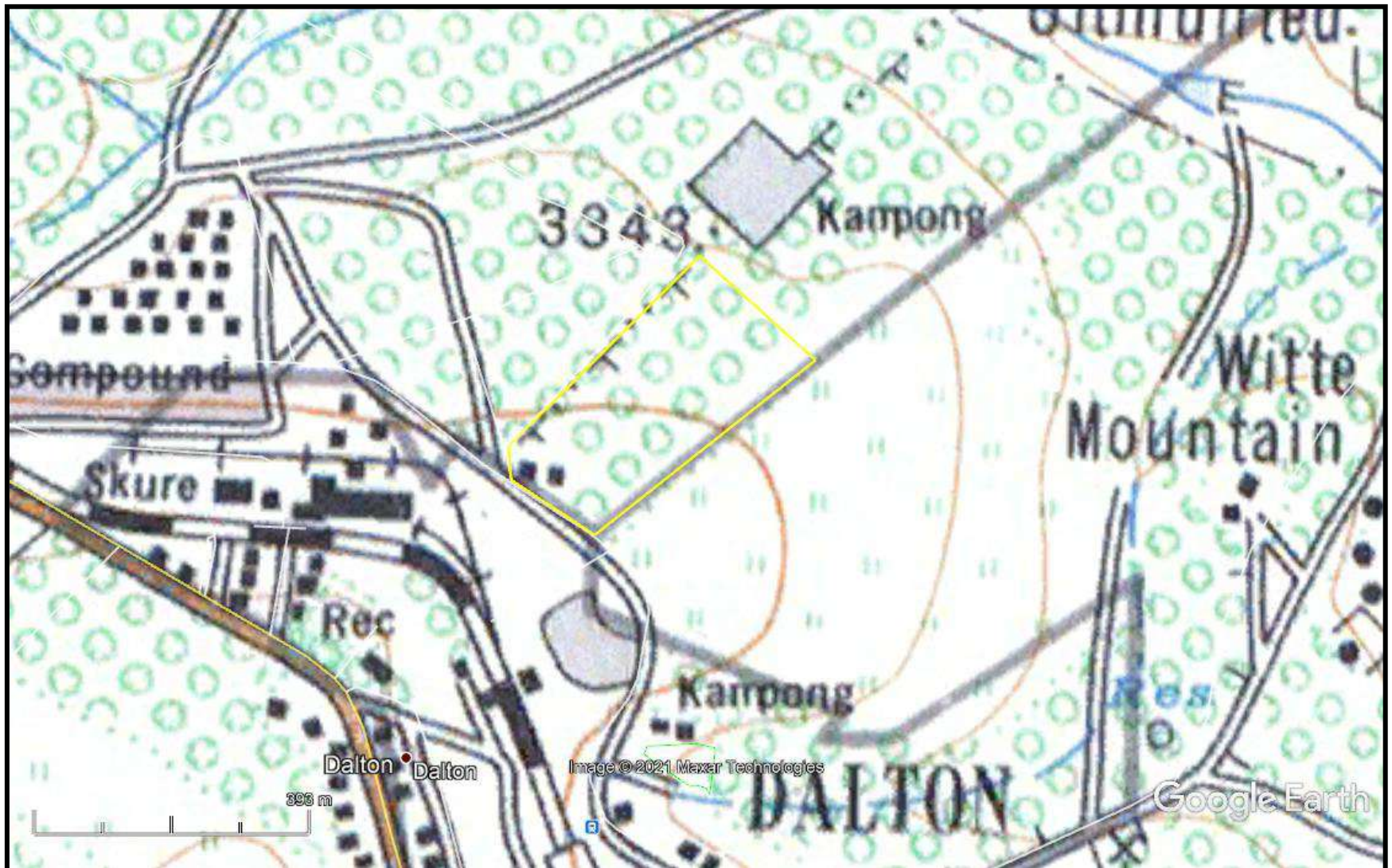


FIG. 9: PALAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY MAP

COLOUR	SENSITIVITY	REQUIRED ACTION
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

The proposed packing plant and related infrastructure are highly unlikely to affect any heritage resources as indicated by the desktop study. No further heritage mitigation will be necessary for this project.

REFERENCES

Anderson, G. 2020. Heritage Survey Of The Upgrading Of Main Road 278 And Two Borrow Pits, KZN. For Enviroedge CC

Maps

N_F0C3T1 (SGD)

117B_017_38189 (aerial)

2930BC New Hanover 1968, 2000

EXPERIENCE OF THE HERITAGE CONSULTANT

Gavin Anderson has a M. Phil (in archaeology and social psychology) degree from the University of Cape Town. Gavin has been working as a professional archaeologist and heritage impact assessor since 1995. He joined the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Southern Africa in 1998 when it was formed. Gavin is rated as a Principle Investigator with expertise status in Rock Art, Stone Age and Iron Age studies. In addition to this, he was worked on both West and East Coast shell middens, Anglo-Boer War sites, and Historical Period sites.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Gavin Anderson, declare that I am an independent specialist consultant and have no financial, personal or other interest in the proposed development, nor the developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from fair remuneration for work performed in the delivery of heritage assessment services. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of my performing such work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Anderson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Gavin Anderson
Archaeologist/Heritage Impact Assessor