

**SITE INSPECTION OF HUMAN REMAINS AT  
INANDA ROAD FOR THE ETHEKWINI BRT**

**FOR ECA CONSULTING**

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## 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 eThekweni Transport Authority (ETA) is mandated and is responsible for the planning, implementation and operations of public transport in the City. In terms of the National Public Transport Agenda, the ETA is similarly charged to deliver fully functional integrated public transport networks that respond to the needs of the users. The ETA has completed the wall to wall Integrated Rapid Public Transportation Network (IRPTN) Plan, in response to the National Public Transport Agenda which proposes a fully functional integrated public transport network plan which incorporates a range of models. The IRPTN is designed to replace the existing transport system with a high quality, high frequency, integrated, scheduled service” (ECA document 2020)

Umlando was requested to undertake a site visit to the exposed grave and advise accordingly, on the 29 July 2020. A site visit was only possible on the 11 August 2020. We were informed that KARI and the SAPS had been informed regarding the grave(s).

Figures 1 – 4 show the location of the development.



FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE HUMAN REMAINS





FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

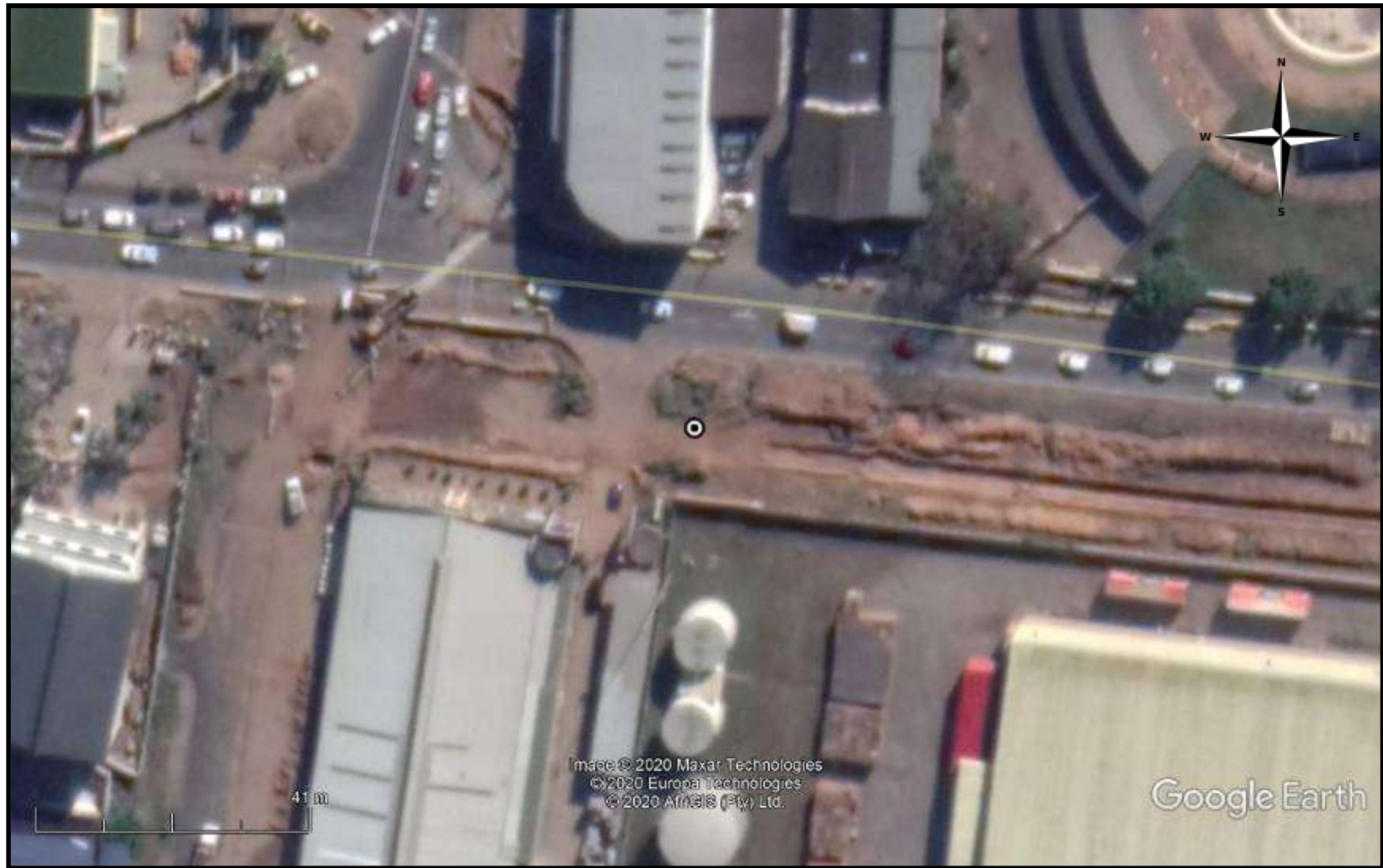




FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT





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.”

## 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 have been no prior surveys in the study area nor are there any recorded cemeteries (fig. 5). There are several listed historical buildings.

The 1937 aerial photograph indicates that the area was under afforestation and agricultural land (fig. 6). Inanda Road was a dirt road at this stage.

The 1942 topographical map indicates that this area was under blue gum, afforestation with agricultural land to the south. (fig. 7).

The 1957 1: 50 000 topographical map indicates [waiting for map] (fig. 8).

In summary, the desktop study indicates that there were no human settlements or cemeteries up to 1942 in this area. [Waiting map]

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

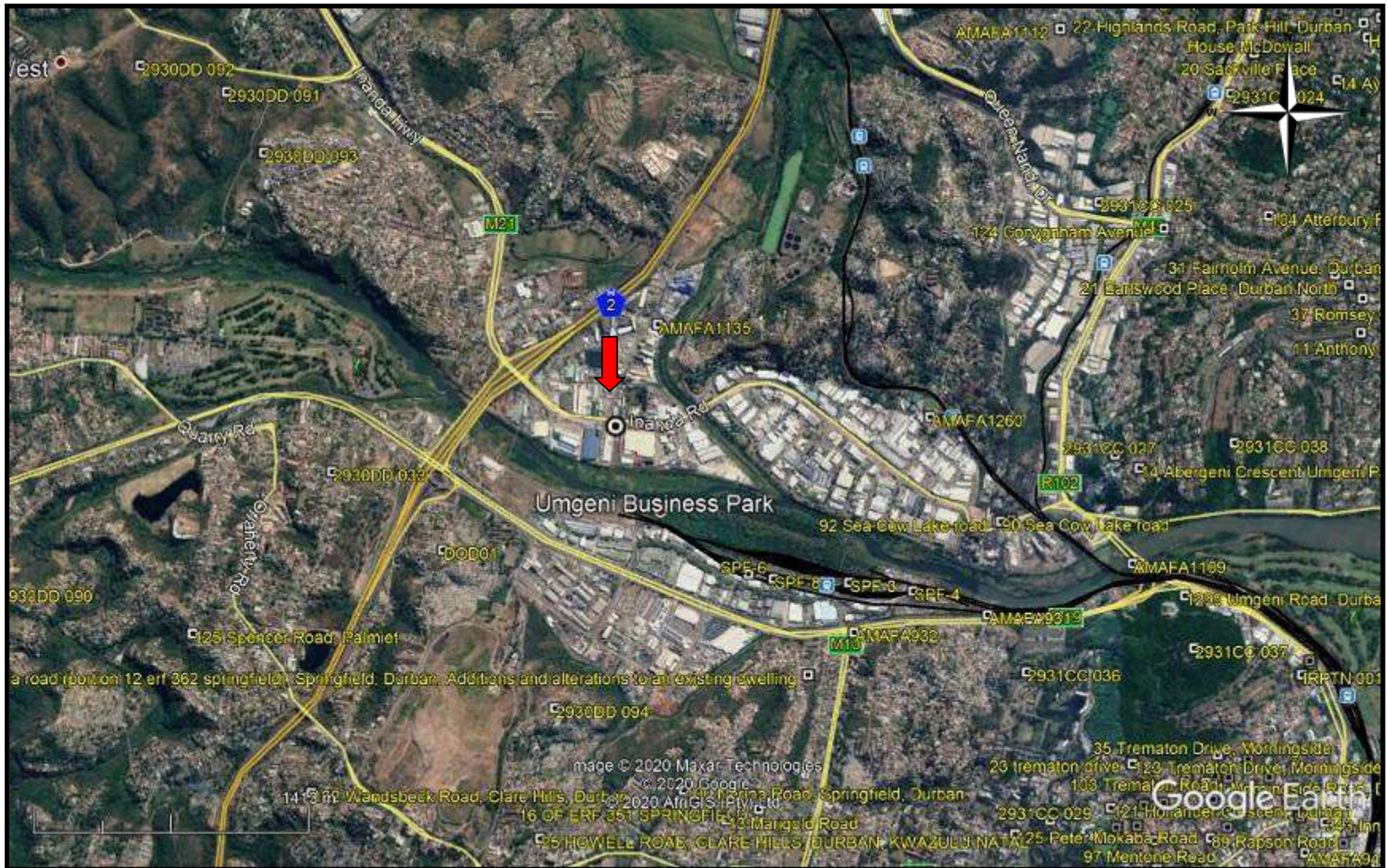


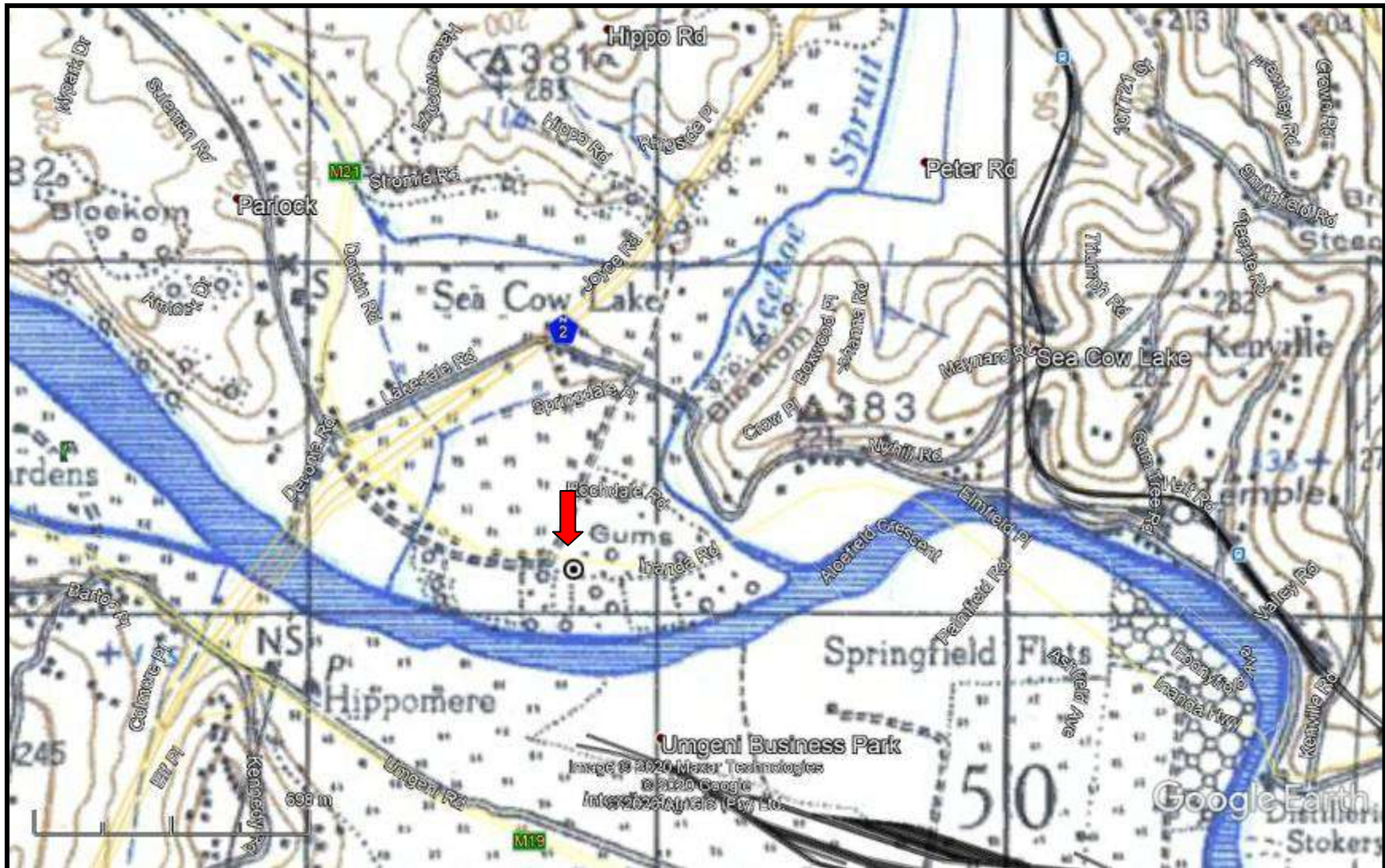


FIG. 6: LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN 1937





FIG., 7: LOCATION OF GRAVES IN 1942





**FIG. 8: LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN 1957/1968**

Waiting for map



DRAFT

## FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

A field survey was undertaken on 11 August 2020, where the ECO and supervisor were present. On arrival, I was informed that members of the Greenwood SAPS had already removed the skeletal remains. I was informed that the grave was exposed while cutting a trench by a back actor. The scoop had just removed the top of the grave/shroud, all work stopped, and protocol was followed. The SAPS had then come and removed the human remains.

I was then shown photographs of the grave and the remains that were removed (fig. 9). It appears that the person was wrapped in clothing, possibly a sari or similar, and then wrapped in a type of plastic. The photographs indicate that the person was lying on their back in an approximate north-south orientation. The photographs also indicate that the person was just underneath previous pipe servitudes and somehow was not disturbed. Alternatively, the human remains were placed during the trenching for the original servitudes and subsequently covered. Without being on site, it will be difficult to reconstruct the deposition and stratigraphy.

The on-site inspection noted that part of the shroud was still in the section of the cutting (fig. 10). I could not detect evidence for a recent excavation in the sections of the cutting and it appears that the servitudes (and grave) occurred before the last road works/tarring was placed, i.e. the layer of tar above part of the grave and servitudes has not been excavated. I did not observe more bones in the excavations. A fragmented human fibula/tibia was recovered by a construction worker 10m from the grave whilst I was on site. This was bagged separately.

I also inspected the spoil heaps above the excavations. The one spoil heap closest to the grave had two (possible) human humeri with both epiphyses missing (fig. 11). There were several fragments of garment and plastic similar to that of the grave below. The spoil heap here appears to be directly associated

with the grave and will probably contain more human remains. I suggested on-site that this spoil heap is immediately demarcated as a no-go zone. The spoil heap should be sieved for the remaining human bones: The initial pictures showed very few human remains and these need to be tallied with what was removed by the SAPS.

The on-site ECO will be responsible for temporarily storing any artefacts and human remains from this area. These must be documented and photographed. The additional remains should be handed over to the SAPS officers who originally removed the remains.

**Age of the grave:**

The human bones do not have any flesh on them, nor are they recent. They are consistent with faunal remains that have been in acidic beach soil for several years (according to my experience with human remains). The stratigraphy of the grave indicates that the grave itself was dug before the servitudes were in place. Unfortunately, the current excavations destroyed most of the stratigraphy that would have assisted in dating the remains.

A second method of dating the grave would be to look at any grave goods associated with the deceased. This would include jewellery, clothing, etc. Unfortunately, much of this appears to have been removed at some stage after the grave was noted. This makes the sieving of the spoil heap more important. I would need to see the SAPS collection as well to determine if any grave goods were received.

I did sample one old bottle that was lying in the spoil heap. While it is acontextual, it might give an indication to maximum age. The bottle is, however, a standard Worcestershire Sauce bottle that has been in use for decades. Only the patina on the bottle suggests that it is several decades old.



**FIG. 9: HUMAN REMAINS WHEN FOUND AND REMOVED**





FIG., 10: STRATIGRAPHY OF THE GRAVE AREA<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Part of the topsoil recently collapsed over the central part of the grave creating an impression of a hole.



FIG. 11: HUMAN REMAINS AND CLOTHING ON THE SPOIL HEAP<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> White arrow = human remains, yellow arrow = clothing



## Recommendations:

I suggest the following:

1. An accurate audit is undertaken from the SAPS to determine what was removed.
2. A statement from the police is taken regarding the history of their removal. The grave should not have been removed since it is protected by the Heritage Legislation as well. This is not meant to place blame on any individuals but rather as a means to ensure it does not re-occur: few people are adept with all legislation regarding human graves. The result should be for the Heritage Legislation regarding graves to be form part of police training and a refresher course undertaken.
3. The spoil heap should be sieved for possible more remains and/or artefacts. These should be returned to the main collection.
4. An attempt to date any artefacts associated with the spoil heap and/or grave should be made.
5. If the remains are not part of a crime scene, then they should be handed over to KARI for storage. The KZN Heritage Act states that human remains outside of formal cemeteries may be protected by KARI. A forensic/physical; pathologist would be able to determine this if needed.
6. KARI will need to comment on the removal of the human remains and agree to store them, in conjunction with the SAPS.

## CONCLUSION

Pending final map information

### **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.



Gavin Anderson  
Archaeologist/Heritage Impact Assessor