

The proposed construction of the Klein Boesmans (Mathamo) and Little Tugela (Injisuthi) Bridges and associated stormwater infrastructure within the Dubezi Local Municipality.



Enquiries: Bernadet Pawandiwa
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CaseID: 9114

Date: Thursday February 11, 2016

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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act 4 of 2008)

Attention: KwaZulu-Natal - Department of Transport
Private Bag X9043
Pietermaritzburg
3200

The KwaZulu-Natal (KZNDOT) propose to upgrade the Klein Boesmans bridge (commonly known as Mathamo Bridge to the local community members) along District Road D69 within the Imbabazane Local and Uthukela District Municipalities. The proposed bridge structure will be constructed across the Little Bushman's (Klein Boesmans) River and will be approximately 23 metres in length and 11.8 metres wide. A detour road will be constructed before the existing structure is demolished. Upon completion the new bridge will have two way traffic and a pedestrian walkway on both sides. The need for a new bridge at this location arises from the DoTs initiative to upgrade the existing low level bridge. The existing low level bridge is not enable to convey a 10-year flood discharge without overflowing onto the roadway. The KZNDOT also propose to upgrade the Little Tugela Bridge (commonly known as the Injisuthi Bridge to the local community members) along District Road D214 within the Imbabazane Local and Uthukela District Municipalities. The proposed bridge structure will be constructed across the Little Tugela River and will be approximately 57 metres in length and 10.96 metres wide. The new bridge will be situated approximately 6 metres downstream from the existing bridge which will not be demolished but reserved for pedestrians. The bridge will be accompanied by a 500m realignment of District Road D214 on either side of the new bridge. The need for a new bridge at this location arises from the KZNDOTs initiative to upgrade the existing one lane bridge to dual lane bridge. This initiative was necessitated by the community outcry after numerous car accidents one of which resulted in fatalities.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on this development proposal entailing construction of the two bridges and approach road realignment.

We concur with the survey recommendations on the Injisuthi Bridge by the heritage specialist Gavin Anderson in which he places emphasis in that :

1. "The bridge may be rebuilt, however the existing structures should be incorporated with the new structures.
2. The monument should not be affected by the new bridge.
3. A palaeontologist will be required if the construction impacts on the bedrock.
4. The Dept. Of Transport will need to apply to Amafa KZN for a permit to alter the bridge. The application will need full details of the new bridge design indicating how the older bridge will be incorporated.

With regards to fossil sensitivity on the Injisuthi site, Gideon Groenewald offers the following recommendations that we also concur with:



Amafa AkwaZulu-Natal
Heritage KwaZulu-Natal
Erfenis KwaZulu-Natal

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Website: www.heritagekzn.co.za

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1. The EAP and ECO of the project must be informed of the fact that numerous fossils have been described from the geological formations that underlies the development site.
2. All sections of the development where bedrock is exposed due to erosion or where geotechnical surveys indicate that bedrock will be exposed during excavation, must be inspected by a Professional Palaeontologist and fossils collected according to SAHRA and AMAFA specifications as part of a Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment.

With regards to the Mathamo Bridge site survey by Frans Prins, an old disused bridge or drift, the existing Mathamo bridge, a San Rock Art site located just approximately 40 metres was noted. These features or structures should not be damaged, altered or disturbed without a permit from Amafa. No archaeological material should be removed from its original position or collected without a permit. An archaeologist has to be appointed for purposes of monitoring the development process. This will require the following mitigation measures:

1. Full pre-development and post-development site recording by an archaeologist
2. Induction and sensitisation of the construction team about rock art and other heritage resources in the vicinity of the development site.
3. The developer has to provide Amafa the construction schedule before commencement of work.
4. The watching brief or monitoring regime is required to ensure that there is no disturbance to the rock art. The monitoring regime will be discussed and agreed upon by the heritage practitioner and Amafa after receipt of the construction schedule.

Due to the sensitivity of the general area of proposed development, the developer is required to ensure that the construction team undergoes an induction on nature of heritage resources and general rules regarding protection of heritage resources. The developer and construction team should ensure that the recommendations stipulated herein are strictly adhered to.

In view of the findings outlined in the HIA Report by Gavin Anderson of Umlando and Frans Prins of Active Heritage that we received for the above proposed development, we have no objection to the proposed development within limits of the prescribed mitigation measures and recommendations outlined in the reports and stipulated herein.

You are also required to adhere to the below-mentioned standard conditions:

Conditions:

1. Amafa should be contacted if any heritage objects are identified during earthmoving activities and all development should cease until further notice.
2. No structures older than sixty years or parts thereof are allowed to be demolished altered or extended without a permit from Amafa.
3. No activities are allowed within 50m of a site, which contains rock art.



**Amafa AkwaZulu-Natali
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4. Sources of all natural materials (including topsoil, sands, natural gravels, crushed stone, asphalt, etc.) must be obtained in a sustainable manner and in compliance with the heritage legislation.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Bernadet Pawandiwa
Senior Heritage Officer
Amafa/Heritage KwaZulu Natal

Annie van de Venter Radford
Deputy Director: Research, Professional Services and Compliance
Amafa/Heritage KwaZulu Natal

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/356357>
(EDTEA, Ref: DC23-0013-2015)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to Amafa immediately.
3. Amafa reserves the right to request additional information as required.



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