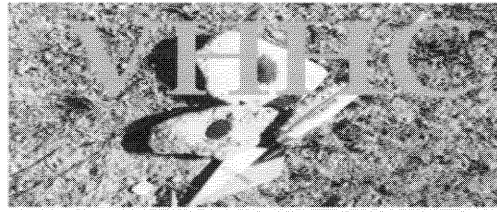


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PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT
ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION OF MANZINI-NUMBI ROAD AND
HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE, ENHLANZENI DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Report Prepared for:

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Survey Conducted and Report Prepared by:
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June 2008



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1. INTRODUCTION

R&F Environmental Services were appointed to handle the environmental aspects of the proposed Construction of (1.6) Manzini-Numbi road and a high level Bridge. R&F Environmental Services appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants (VHHC) cc to conduct an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment study as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed road upgrading project. The project area is already developed and proposed work will be *in situ* upgrade of existing road.

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) forms an integral part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required by the National Environmental Management Act, [NEMA] 107 of 1998. This HIA report then becomes an integral part of the environmental impact assessment that is to be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (DEDET) - Environmental Impact Management office, in support of the application. The information presented in this report provides the background and the basis for the Heritage Resources component of the project impact assessment in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, [NHRA] 25 of 1999. The impact assessment focuses primarily on heritage sites.

The project proposal constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act [NHRA] No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

Historical remains

Section 34(1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

Archaeological remains

Section 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority:

- destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite

Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority:

- (i) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (ii) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Culture resource management

Section 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development:

- must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

***‘development’** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including:

- (i) Construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;

- (ii) Any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (iii) Any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

"place means a site, area or region, a building or other structure ..."

*"structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground ..."

2. AIM OF STUDY

The aim of this Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study was to determine the presence or not of heritage resources such as archaeological and historical sites and features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance, and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at the affected site.

Project Developers and Consultants

Developers are encouraged to consider archaeological values in their project planning and design from the outset. This will minimize scheduling and budget difficulties at later stages. As Consultants in the heritage assessment process, we were responsible for: *(see table 1)*

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Determining the presence of heritage sites that may be adversely impacted by the proposed development, and evaluate their significance. ❖ Identification of potential adverse impacts to heritage sites protected under the National Heritage Resources Act No: 25 of 1999. ❖ Assessing of the heritage significance of identified heritage sites to assist in the development of appropriate mitigation strategies. ❖ Make recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of protected or otherwise significant heritage sites. ❖ Reporting the results of these studies to the Heritage Authorities. |
|---|

Table 1

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

- (I) Assess the significance of the known cultural resources within the borders of proposed development area, in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.
- (II) Develop mitigation or control measures for impact minimization and cultural resources preservation
- (III) Develop procedures to be implemented if previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during the construction activities.

4. TERMINOLOGY

The following aspects have direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- **Archaeological sites** are places where people lived and left evidence of their presence in the form of artifacts, food remains and other traces such as rock paintings or engravings, burials, fireplaces and structures.
- **Cultural Resources** are all non-physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- **Cultural Significance** is the aesthetic, historical, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.
- **Conservation** means all the processes of managing a place to retain its cultural significance.
- **Historic** means significant in history.
- **Historical** means belonging to the past.
- **In Situ material** means archaeological remains that have not been disturbed.

- **Place** means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, together with pertinent contents, surroundings and historical and archaeological deposits.
- **Preservation** means protecting and maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration or change, and may include stabilization where necessary.

5. METHODOLOGY

The study consisted of standard field survey covering the proposed road upgrade. The survey also covered the proposed bridge site. In practice, most archaeological and historical sites are found through systematic survey of the target landscapes. The survey therefore, sought to identify cultural heritage sites including graves, burial grounds and contemporary religious or sacred ceremonial sites associated with the proposed road route.

On the 25th June 2008 (VHHC) heritage specialist conducted the reconnaissance survey in order to familiarize himself with the proposed road upgrade and an area earmarked for the proposed construction of a bridge. On the 26th of June, VHHC specialist conducted an impact assessment by transecting the affected landscape on foot looking for indicators of archaeological and any other cultural materials in the affected areas. In part the field officer also inspected soil profiles for potential archaeological materials that may still be trapped *in situ* in an area already disturbed by previous earthmoving activities.

6. SITE LOCATION

The project area is situated within the Enhlanzeni District Municipality of Mpumalanga Province between Manzini and Mgcobaneni Villages. About 13km south of Hezeview town and about 30km north eastern side of White river town. The proposed road is having two sections, section 1 will start at the north eastern side of the nsikanzi river (GPS25° 10' 40.9" E31° 08' 57.3") and end at the junction to Manzini Village (GPS25° 11' 05.9" E31° 08' 40.8"). The second section will start next to Fanastone Car wash (GPS25° 11' 20.7" E31° 08' 37.8") and end at 500m from the start at Ngcobaneni village (GPS25° 11' 39.3" E31° 08' 41.1").

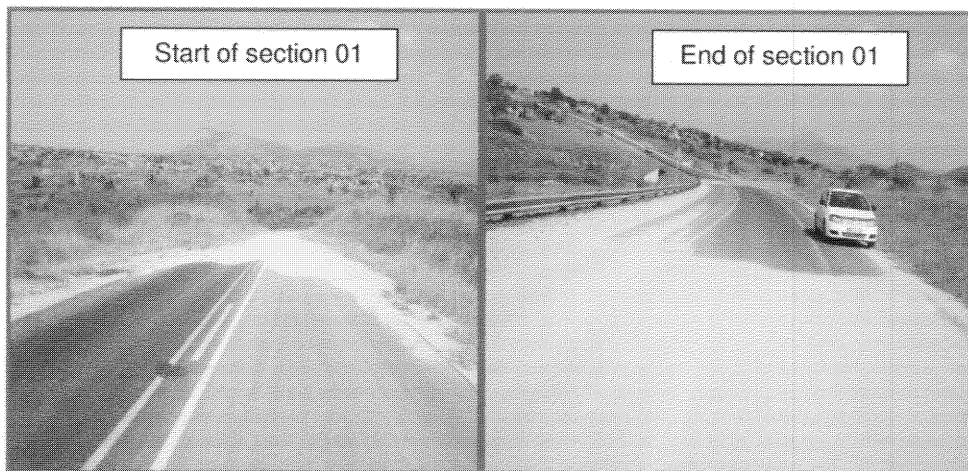


Figure 1: View of section 1

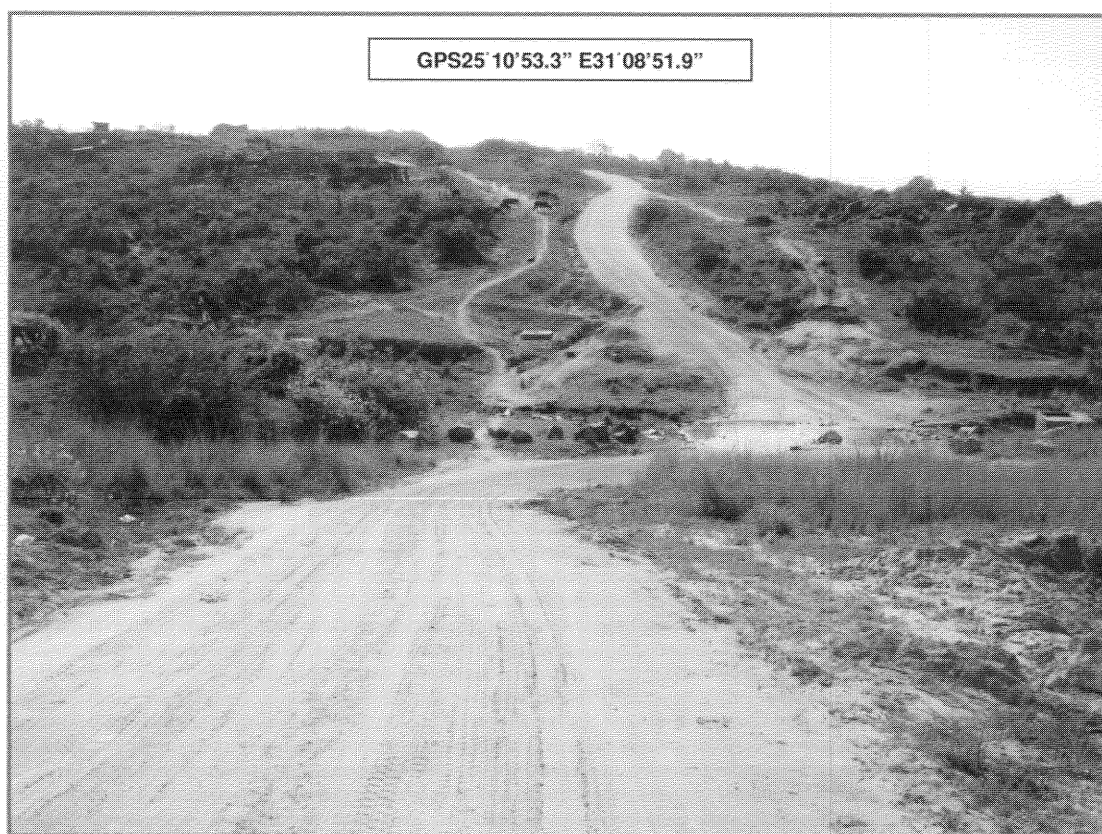


Figure 2: View of Nsikanzi River where the proposed bridge will be constructed.

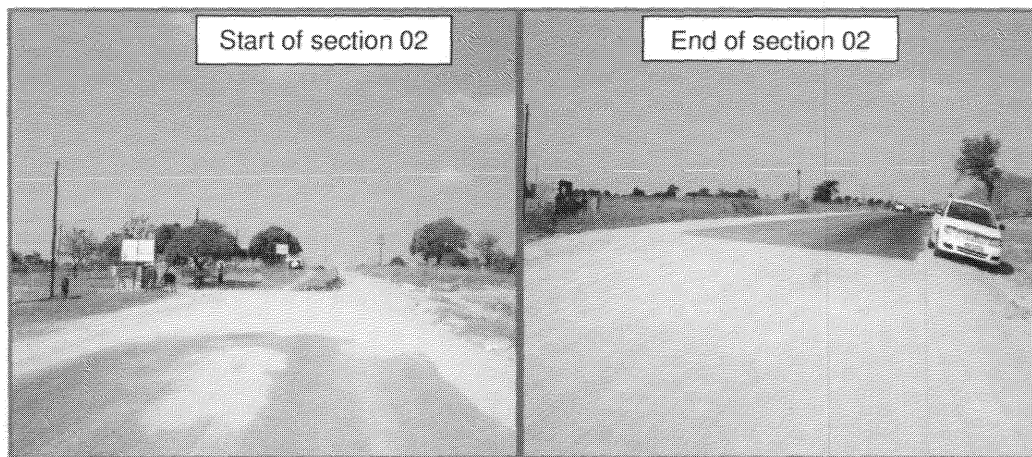


Figure 3: View of section 2

7. RESULT OF THE SURVEY

One VHHC heritage specialist conducted a heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed project covering the affected area. No archaeological or any other categories of physical cultural heritage resources were identified within the affected project area.

No signs of heritage resources such as archaeological sites were found that would be significantly impacted on by the development. However, there is a probability of encountering chance finds during earth-moving and construction activities. From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.

However, the discovery of previously undetected subsurface heritage remains on the site during construction must be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

8. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

No mitigation measures are recommended for this project. However, the developers should consider possible presence of unmarked burials that might be discovered during construction activities.

Furthermore, the South African Heritage Resources Agency should be notified if human remains falling under the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) are accidentally uncovered during vegetation clearing and earth moving activities.

Reference

Bickford, A and Sullivan, S. 1977. "Assessing the research significance of historic sites" in S Sullivan and s. Bowdler (eds), *Site Surveys and Significance assessment in Australian Archaeology*. Canberra: ANU.

Hester, T.R., Shafer H.J. and Feder, K.L. 1997. *Field Methods in Archaeology*, 7th edn, Mountain View California: Mayfield Publishing Co,

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)

10. AUTHORS

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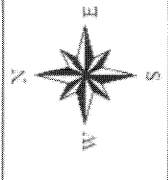
Mr Frans Roodt (BA Hons, MA Archaeology, Post Grad. Dip. Museology; UP)
Principal Investigator.

Upgrading of Roads

Prepared For:
**R & F
 Environmental
 Consulting**

Prepared By:
VHHC

- Model: GFD_2012_2.010
- Map: Section 2 and 3 of 102C 027
- Map: Section 2 and 3 of 102C 027
- Map: Section 2 of 102C 027
- Map: Section 3 of 102C 027
- Map: Section 3 of 102C 027
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Proposed road
 to be upgraded