

1.2-503-0001

**DRAFT**

**CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED UPGRADE OF  
DISTRICT ROAD 08257 BETWEEN ENGCOCO AND IDUTYWA,  
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

**Assessment and report by**

**eThembeni Cultural Heritage**

**incorporating**

**Rainbow Light Gardens**

**Permaculture Designers**

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**for**

**TERRATEST Inc**

**28 October 2002**

## Introduction

Terratest Incorporated, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Jeffares and Green Group, has been appointed for the upgrading of District Road 08257 between Engcobo and Idutywa in the Eastern Cape Province. The proposed upgrade to a surfaced standard, single carriageway road will follow the alignment of the existing road closely.

The permanent road works will include mass earthworks, road layer works, bituminous surfacing, drainage works including culverts and lined side drains and auxiliary road works. The works will include five bridges and the standard surfaced road width will be 9.8 metres. Temporary road works include the construction and final removal of a gravel bypass to accommodate traffic during construction. Material sources include approximately sixteen borrow pits and two quarry sites.

Terratest Incorporated appointed eThembeni Cultural Heritage to undertake a cultural heritage assessment of the area affected by the proposed upgrade, in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Management Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). Section 38 of the Act requires a cultural heritage assessment where the stipulations of subsection 1 pertain:

- (a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
- (b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length;
- (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site –
  - (i) exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
  - (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
  - (iii) involving three or more erven or subdivisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
  - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
- (d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority.

## **Methodology**

Two eThembeni staff members surveyed the area on 23 October 2002, both on foot and in a vehicle, using 1:50 000 topographic maps and 1:10 000 aerial photographs. Since a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) is required to disturb archaeological sites in the Eastern Cape Province, we limited our observations to surface cultural remains, without undertaking excavations or sampling of any nature.

## **Observations**

As stated, the proposed road upgrade follows the current alignment closely. For the most part the road reserve and adjacent areas are highly eroded or otherwise disturbed, particularly in settlement where informal tracks abound. Moreover, proposed quarries and borrow pits are situated adjacent to the road in disturbed areas that essentially are part of the road reserve.

Accordingly, we observed no cultural heritage remains in the area affected by the proposed road realignment. Since the new road will curb further environmental degradation of the road reserve and contribute to the development of the local economy, we believe that the social benefits associated with the project outweigh threats to (potential, unidentified) cultural heritage remains.

**Summary of findings in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Management Act, 1999 Section 38(3)**

(a) the identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected

Not applicable.

(b) an assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6(2) or prescribed under section 7

Not applicable.

(c) an assessment of the impact of development on such heritage resources

Not applicable.

(d) an evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development

Not applicable.

(e) the results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources

Not applicable.

(f) if heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives

Not applicable.

(g) plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after completion of the proposed development

Not applicable.

We recommend that the client submit this report to SAHRA in fulfilment of the requirements of the Heritage Resources Management Act, 1999. According to Section 38(4) of the Act:

The report must be considered timeously by the responsible heritage resources authority which must, after consultation with the person proposing the development, decide –

- (a) whether or not the development may proceed;
- (b) any limitations or conditions to be applied to the development;
- (c) what general protections in terms of this Act apply, and what formal protections may be applied, to such heritage resources;
- (d) whether compensatory action is required in respect of any heritage resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the development; and
- (e) whether the appointment of specialists is required as a condition of approval of the proposal.

However, if permission is granted for development to proceed, the client is reminded that the Act requires that a developer cease all work immediately and notify SAHRA should any heritage resources, as defined in the Act, be uncovered during the course of development activities.