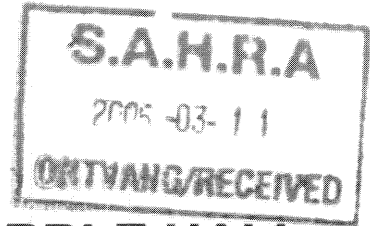


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EnviroXcellence Services cc



**NAGANENG ROAD UPGRADE, MARBLE HALL,
MPUMALANG PROVINCE**

**CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT
SPECIALIST STUDY**



MARCH 2005, POLOKWANE

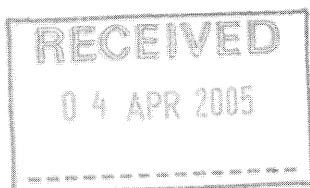
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REPORT DETAILS

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REPORT TITLE:	CULTURALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST STUDY	
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EnviroXcellence Services cc. commissioned this Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) study as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Naganeng road upgrade. The CHA study focus on archaeological, cultural, and historical heritage resources associated with the proposed road upgrade's receiving environment for the purpose of assessing the potential impacts thereon.

The field survey study identified a number of graves and burial sites within the vicinity of the present road route most of which are in the next village of Matlala. These may be affected, albeit indirectly, by the proposed road work. However, these burial sites should not be disturbed because they are not on the direct path of the road upgrade.

No archaeological or other cultural heritage sites were identified along the route of the proposed road upgrade. Even though no archaeological and cultural heritage sites that are directly affected by the proposed road upgrade were identified, in principal, we recommend that a heritage-monitoring program be designed to deal with potential chance archaeological or historical finds, including unmarked human burials that may accidentally be found during development.

From an archaeological and cultural heritage perspective, this study did not identify any archaeological or cultural heritage resources barrier to the proposed road upgrade project.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CHA	Cultural Heritage Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HeSSA	Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions (South Africa)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

DEFINITIONS

Archaeological

Material remains resulting from human activities, which are in a state of disuse and are in, or on, land and which are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures.

Grave

A place of interment (variably referred to as burial), including the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place. A grave may occur in isolation or in association with others where upon it is referred to as situated in a cemetery.

Historic

Material remains resulting from human activities, which are younger than 100 years, but no longer in use, including artefacts, human remains and artificial features and structures.

***In Situ* material**

Material culture and surrounding deposits in their original location and context, for example an archaeological site that has not been disturbed by farming.

CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST STUDY FOR NAGANENG ROAD UPGRADE, MARBLE HALL, MPUMALANGA

1 INTRODUCTION

EnviroXcellence Services appointed Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions cc (South Africa) (HeSSA) to conduct this Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) study for a village road upgrade project in Naganeng, Marble Hall, Mpumalanga Province.

2 AIMS OF THE CHA STUDY

This study sought to:

- Identifying heritage resources affected by the proposed road upgrade and assesses the significance of the resources.
- Evaluate the impact thereon with respect to the socio-economic opportunities and benefits that would be derived from the proposed road upgrade.
- Make recommendations on mitigation measures with the view to reduce specific adverse impacts and enhance specific positive impacts on the heritage resources.

3 BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The proposed project consists of upgrading the existing gravel road that links Naganeng and Matlala Villages. (See Fig 1 map showing the location of the affect villages. The road section targeted for the upgrade is an *in situ* development covering about 10 km in length. It runs generally from west to east passing through built up village areas and land sections previously used for farming. From the existing tarred road in Naganeng Village the proposed road route pass through the village, cross a small stream and *donga* then cut through agricultural and grazing lands before reaching Matlala village to the east.



Plate 1: Proposed road upgrade route comes to Matlala Village to this crossroad area in middle of the village.



Plate 2: Proposed road would pass through currently developed sections of land flanked by built up village settlement.

4 METHODS

We conducted the field survey on the 1st of March 2005. The study sought to identify archaeological, cultural heritage sites such as graves, burial and religious or sacred sites in the area affected by the proposed road work.

Identification of archaeological and cultural sites during surveying depends on visibility and accessibility. All areas along the road route are generally accessible. Most of the portions of affected land are either in village settlements or areas previously disturbed by farming activities. Local community members were also questioned about the other cultural sites that may be affected by the proposed road work.

5 RESULTS

Most of the project area is disturbed by village settlements and agricultural fields and other related land use activities. The proposed route of upgrade follows existing road. Parts of the roadsides are under grass thorn bush cover. There was nevertheless sufficient open ground to expose artefacts. The open veld section between Matlala and Naganeng Villages (area in the vicinity of GPS co-ordinates 25° 09'10.5"S 29° 07' 37.1"E)) has been extensively scraped and eroded to help create a series of dongas, and no sites are now present.

There are a number of cemeteries and individual graves located within village homestead properties along the road route:

- Graveyard with 6 and possibly more graves about 40m off the road –GPS location 25° 09'16.3" S 29° 09'19.1" E in Matlala Village;
- Abandoned homestead with a grave in Matlala Village about 300m from crossroad junction where road upgrade would begin –GPS location 25° 09'15.7" S 29° 09'18.6" E;
- Fenced off property about 15m from the present road with 12 visibly marked graves – GPS location 25° 09'15.1" S 29° 09'16.0" E;
- 5 graves in a small fenced off yard about 10m from present road –GPS location 25° 09'14.7" S 29° 09'07.4" E;
- Isolated grave located within an abandoned homestead about 10m from present road under a large Marula tree on left/south side of road going out of Matlala Village –GPS location 25° 09'15.2" S 29° 09'03.3" E;
- A cemetery that is no longer being used in middle of Naganeng Village opposite Lehwelere School –GPS location 25° 09'17.6" S 29° 06'37.2" E;

No archaeological or other cultural or historical heritage resources were identified on the rest of the road route.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If at all possible, the road upgrade should avoid all the cemeteries and identified graves. The grave sites are not directly within the road's reach but they may be disturbed during road work. If some of the graves can not be avoided, then their removal will have to comply with the South African Heritage Resources Agency legislation and the Human Tissues Act.

No other finds of significance were recorded along the road route. Therefore there is no cultural or archaeological heritage reason why the Naganeng road upgrade development should not take place.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

Kgobokwane

Nganeng

20km Section

Kaplyn

KHLES RIV
Mabala

