

Heritage Impact Assessment Mngazi River Bridge:
SANRAL proposal for new access roads, bridge and stormwater channels

Mngazi River

Eastern Cape

South Africa



HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HISTORICAL COMPONENT) PROPOSED RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE WESTERN APPROACH TO MNGAZI RIVER BRIDGE, TRANSKEI, EASTERN CAPE

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Declaration:

I, Jenny Bennie, declare that I have no financial or personal interest in the proposed upgrade, its developers or any of their subsidiaries, apart from the provision of heritage assessment services.

Jenny Bennie
Historian
April 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents the historical component of the Heritage Impact Assessment reviewing the area of the proposed amended crossing and work on the western side of the R 61 at Mngazi River bridge, Transkei, Eastern Cape, which encompasses the modification of access road and the creation of storm water channels. The project will include a survey of any affected structures or houses over 60 years of age and possible graves in the vicinity.

The historical report follows the minimum standard guidelines required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Proposal

- To conduct a desktop survey of any known and suspected graves or burial sites in the vicinity of the proposed upgrade and expansion work
- To assess any built structures of historical importance in the demarcated area
- To assess the significance and impact on these areas

Survey

The survey was conducted to establish how many remaining historical structures and grave or burial sites of more than 60 years old are likely to be affected by the proposed alterations at Mngazi River bridge.

The site is situated approximately 71km from Mthatha on the R61 on the way to Port St Johns at the coast (S31°36'40.4; E029° 24' 19.6). Undergrowth on the western side of the bridge was being cleared at the time of a field trip in March 2014. There is a proliferation of alien plants such as lantana in the immediate vicinity. No graveyards or informal graves were found in the designated area in the preliminary survey although there has always been a tendency of individuals to bury their dead on their own land, so these areas should be regarded as sensitive.

Sites uncovered during the extension and upgrading of the area should be dealt with on an *ad hoc* basis.

No impact on historical sites will be allowed without an appropriate permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

Recommendations

1. The South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) or Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Agency permit committee (ECPHRA) needs to be informed, and a permit issued, if any significant structures, buildings, graves, walls or historic trees older than 60 years are to be removed, altered, cleared or demolished on the project site.
Contact person: Ms. Africa Maxongo,
Administration Officer, Built Environment – ECPHRA
74 Alexandra Road, King Williams Town 5600
Cell: 084 2787 590; Tel: 043-745-0888;
2. If any unusual or sensitive material is found when excavating the site, work should stop immediately until a proper investigation is launched by SAHRA, an archaeologist and/or the historian.
3. No cultural heritage resources, as defined and protected under the NHRA (Section 25) 1999, were identified on the Mngazi River adjacent land west of the bridge. Upgrades should not impact negatively on any heritage resources.

4. Development must not take place within 10 -15m of any informal or designated graveyards or burial sites. It would appear from oral history and consultations that no known graves are to be found in the proposed area.



Fig 1 View of Mngazi River bridge from west bank looking towards the east bank March 2014.

All photographs in this document taken by J S Bennie

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	
Proposal, Survey, Recommendations	3
Table of Contents	5
List of Figures and Tables	6
Glossary of Terms and Acronyms	7
1. National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)	8
2. Introduction and Terms of Reference	13
3. Study Approach and methodology	14
3.1 Extent of the Assessment	
3.2 Methodology	
3.2.1 Preliminary investigation	14
3.2.2 Limitations	14
4. Description of Affected Environment	14
4.1 Location	
4.2 Cultural Sensitivity	15
5. History	16
5.1. Pre-history	16
5.2 Early History	16
5.3 Contemporary History	17
6. Sites	17
6.1 East Bank Mngazi River bridge	17
6.2 West Bank Mngazi River bridge	
6.3 Notice of Basic Assessment Process	27
6.4 The Settlements in the area	29
7. Site Significance and Assessment	31
7.1 Heritage Assessment and Grading	31
7.2 Statement of Significance	31
7.3 Impact Assessment	31
8. Recommended Management Measures	32
8.1 Objectives	32
8.2 Control	32
9. Conclusion	33
10. References	33
11. Oral Sources	34

List of Figures and Tables

Fig 1 View of Mngazi River bridge from west bank looking towards the east bank March 2014

Fig 2 Locality maps Fig 26 Mngazi River bridge almost obscured by *lantana* –west bank

Fig 3 & 4 Grassland and rolling hills typical of the local topography

Fig 5 & 6 Inhabitants from local villages

Fig 7 Contrasting styles of vernacular architecture from traditional to modern

Fig 8 Access road on east Fig 35 & Fig 36 Setting up NoBA and getting signatures from local residents

bank to be re-aligned Fig 45 Outhouse, cottage and water tank in background

Fig 9-12 View of R61 over Mngazi bridge and east bank of river

Fig 13 Bush cleared on east bank of Mngazi River bridge looking north-west

Fig 32 & 33 Setting up notices at sites 1 and 2

S31° 36'34.73"; E029° 24'18.66"

Fig 14 R61 Mngazi River Bridge looking towards Mthatha

Fig 15 View looking west of area for stormwater channels and new alignment of road

Fig 16 Looking south-east from west bank of Mngazi River with settlements in distance.

Fig 17- 19 View of new build houses on west bank

Fig 20 View of dirt road and wetland (right) on west bank parallel to the R61

Fig 21 Alien growth in vicinity of proposed works

Fig 22 Clearing bush on west bank looking towards new homesteads to be affected by project

Fig 23 Bridge over Mngazi River on R 61 Dead, cleared growth in foreground

Fig 24 R61 over Mngazi River bridge showing access road to be re-aligned on east bank in foreground

Fig 25 R61 over bridge looking towards Port St Johns

Fig 26 Mngazi River bridge almost obscured by *lantana* –west bank

Fig 27- 28 Alien growth near bridge site

Fig 29 Settlement on west bank of Mngazi River looking west

Fig 30 Settlement on west bank Fig 34 Setting up NoBA at site 3 with member of community of Mngazi River looking south

Fig 31 Notice of Basic Assessment in English and Xhosa

Fig 32 & 33 Setting up notices at sites 1 and 2

Fig 34 Setting up NoBA at site 3 with member of community

Fig 35 & Fig 36 Setting up NoBA and getting signatures from local residents

Fig 37 - 44 Settlements in area under review. Note soil erosion on road above right

Fig 46 Zanemvula Junior Primary School at top of hill about 3km from Mngazi River Bridge

Fig 47 Typical group of houses belonging to a family unit

Table 1: Impact Assessment

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS	Environmental Impact Management Services
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
NOBA	Notice of Basic Assessment
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resource Agency
SANRAL	South African National Roads Authority
SAMA	South African Museums Association

1. NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (NO 25 OF 1999)

Definitions

Section 2

In this Act, unless the context requires otherwise:

ii. “*Archaeological*” means –

a) material remains resulting from human activity 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;

b) rock art, being any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10 m of such representation;

viii. “*Development*” means any physical intervention, excavation or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of a 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 –

a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or structure at a place;

b) carrying out any works on or over or under a place;

c) subdivision or consolidation of land comprising, a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;

d) constructing or putting up for display signs or hoardings;

e) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and

f) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

xiii. “*Grave*” means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of such a place, and any other structure on or associated with such place;

xxi. “*Living heritage*” means the intangible aspects of inherited culture, and may include –

a) cultural tradition;

b) oral history;

c) performance;

d) ritual;

e) popular memory;

f) skills and techniques;

g) indigenous knowledge systems; and

h) the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships.

xxxi. “*Palaeontological*” means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace;

xli. “*Site*” means any area of land, including land covered by water, and including any structures or objects thereon;

xliv. “*Structure*” means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith;

National Estate

Section 3

1) For the purposes of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.

2) Without limiting the generality of subsection 1), the national estate may include –

a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;

b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;

c) historical settlements and townscapes;

d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;

e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance

f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;

g) graves and burial grounds, including –

i. ancestral graves;

- ii. royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
- iii. graves of victims of conflict
- iv. graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
- v. historical graves and cemeteries; and
- vi. other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No 65 of 1983)
- h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- i) movable objects, including –
 - i. objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - ii. objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - iii. ethnographic art and objects;
 - iv. military objects;
 - v. objects of decorative or fine art;
 - vi. objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - vii. books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1 xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No 43 of 1996).

Structures

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.

Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites

Section 35

1) Subject to the provisions of section 8, the protection of archaeological and palaeontological sites and material and meteorites is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority: Provided that the protection of any wreck in the territorial waters and the maritime cultural zone shall be the responsibility of SAHRA.

2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (8)(a), all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. The responsible heritage authority must, on behalf of the State, at its discretion ensure that such objects are lodged in a museum or other public institution that has a collection policy acceptable to the heritage resources authority and may in so doing establish such terms and conditions it sees fit for the conservation of such objects.

3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority –

a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;

b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;

c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or

d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

5) When the responsible heritage resources authority has reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development which will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological or palaeontological site is under way, and where no application for a permit has been submitted and no heritage resources management procedure in terms of section 38 has been followed, it may –

a) serve on the owner or occupier of the site or on the person undertaking such development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order;

- b) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not an archaeological or palaeontological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
 - c) if mitigation is deemed by the heritage resources authority to be necessary, assist the person on whom the order has been served under paragraph a) to apply for a permit as required in subsection 4); and
 - d) recover the costs of such investigation from the owner or occupier of the land on which it is believed an archaeological or palaeontological site is located or from the person proposing to undertake the development if no application for a permit is received within two weeks of the order being served.
- 6) The responsible heritage resources authority may, after consultation with the owner of the land on which an archaeological or palaeontological site or meteorite is situated, serve a notice on the owner or any other controlling authority, to prevent activities within a specified distance from such site or meteorite.

Burial Grounds and Graves

Section 36

- 3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority –
- a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
 - b) 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
 - c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph a) or b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.
- 4) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for the destruction of any burial ground or grave referred to in subsection 3a) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made satisfactory arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such graves, at the cost of the applicant and in accordance with any regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority.
- 5) SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection 3b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by the responsible heritage resources authority –
- a) made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and
 - b) reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such grave or burial ground.
- 6) Subject to the provision of any other law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority –
- a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
 - b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the contents of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangements as it deems fit.

Heritage Resources Management

Section 38

- 1) Subject to the provisions of subsections 7), 8) and 9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as –
- 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. 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 which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
 - d) the rezoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m. in extent; or
 - e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.
- 2) The responsible heritage resources authority must, within 14 days of receipt of a notification in terms of subsection 1) –
- a) if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected by such development, notify the person who intends to undertake the development to submit an impact assessment report. Such report must be compiled at the cost of the person proposing the development, by a person or persons approved by the responsible heritage resources authority with relevant qualifications and experience and professional standing in heritage resources management; or
 - b) notify the person concerned that this section does not apply.
- 3) The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection 2a) ...
- 4) 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 protection 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.
- 5) A provincial heritage resource authority shall not make any decision under section (4) with respect to any development which impacts on a heritage resource protected at national level unless it has consulted with SAHRA.

The legislation in terms of the project

With regard to this project, Section 38 of the NHRA (25 of 1999) states that an assessment of potential heritage resources in the development area needs to be done. This is the purpose of the desktop study and the in situ survey. These processes identify potential heritage sites. If such a site is uncovered during the project, a historian needs to be contacted to assess the find. A decision, in conjunction with SAHRA, will be made regarding its cultural significance. Depending on the outcome, the contractor can apply for a permit to SAHRA in terms of Section 35 of the NHRA.

Appointment and Powers of Heritage Inspectors

Section 50

- 7) Subject to the provision of any other law, a heritage inspector or any other person authorised by a heritage resources authority in writing, may at all reasonable times enter upon any land or premises for the purpose of inspecting any heritage resource protected in terms of the provisions of this Act, or any other property in respect of which the heritage resources authority is exercising its functions and powers in terms of this Act, and may take photographs, make measurements and sketches and use any other means of recording information necessary for the purposes of this Act.
- 8) A heritage inspector may at any time inspect work being done under a permit issued in terms of this Act and may for that purpose at all reasonable times enter any place protected in terms of this Act.
- 9) Where a heritage inspector has reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence in terms of this Act has been, is being, or is about to be committed, the heritage inspector may with such assistance as he or she thinks necessary –

- a) enter and search any place, premises, vehicle, vessel or craft, and for that purpose stop and detain any vehicle, vessel or craft, in or on which the heritage inspector believes, on reasonable grounds, there is evidence related to that offence;
- b) confiscate and detain any heritage resource or evidence concerned with the commission of the offence pending any further order from the responsible heritage resources authority; and
- c) take such action as is reasonably necessary to prevent the commission of an offence in terms of this Act.

10) A heritage inspector may, if there is reason to believe that any work is being done or any action is being taken in contravention of this Act or the conditions of a permit issued in terms of this Act, order the immediate cessation of such work or action pending any further order from the responsible heritage resources authority.

2. Introduction and Terms of Reference

In accordance with the NHRA (see above), Mrs Jenny Bennie was approached by GP Kriel of Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd to conduct the historical component of the Heritage Impact Assessment to determine whether any structures older than 60 years or objects of cultural significance would be affected during the proposed construction of new access roads, storm water channels and a bridge over the Mngazi River situated on the R61, 71 km outside Mthatha en route to Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape.

The scope of the work included a desktop study, consisting of known and possible graves and burial sites ascertained through oral resources. In addition, a survey of the built environment in the designated vicinity was undertaken in order to identify potential cultural sites. The impact of the upgrade needs to be evaluated and recommendations made regarding the effects on such sites. An assessment of the sensitivity and significance of these will be considered and the influence on the local communities will be evaluated.

This report is one section of the Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) as required by the EIA Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, (1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) and is intended for submission to SAHRA.

3. Study Approach and methodology

3.1 Extent of the Assessment

This survey and impact assessment is concerned primarily with aspects of the built environment and burial sites as described in Section 36.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Preliminary investigation

A database was compiled from the available written and oral sources. The objective of this investigation is to assess the possible impact of the proposed stormwater channels and re-aligning of the R61 in the vicinity of Mngazi bridge and the effect if any, on the historical built environment and/or the likelihood of finding graves in the area.

A four phase approach to heritage sites requires understanding the site; assessing the cultural significance; assessing its vulnerability and proposing relevant suitable management policies if necessary.

It is crucial to undertake historical research and analysis to prevent actions which could be detrimental to the significance of the sites; and also to provide a framework in which a future conservation plan could be put forward if deemed necessary.

3.2.2 Limitations

Poor written records and unreliable oral histories make accurate assessment difficult. A database of local graves would make it easier but the movement of families off the land and the lack of information passed on to new tenants and owners makes for a constantly evolving research tool as information is uncovered and added, both a hindrance and help.

4. Description of the Affected Environment

4.1 Physical features of the defined area:

This area of the eastern Cape, which covers a relatively small part of a much larger province, consists of relatively mild terrain. The Mngazi is just one of a number of rivers that rises in the mountains and cuts through the landscape flowing into the Indian Ocean.

The region is geologically dominated by Beaufort sandstones, with bands of the older Ecca and Dwyka series found closer to the coast. Table Mountain Sandstone forms the steep cliffs abutting the sea. Much of the territory under review is grassland. The larger river valleys, such as that of the Mngazi, are flanked with Valley Bushveld, where acacias and euphorbias dominate. There has also been an explosion of alien vegetation such as lantana in the area and some of the land is overgrazed with soil erosion occurring especially on dirt roads and paths. This area has a comparatively high average rainfall with temperate weather due to its relative proximity to the sea.



Fig 3 & 4 Grassland and rolling hills typical of the local topography

4.2 Cultural sensitivity

The inhabitants of Transkei all share the isiXhosa language, but they make up several markedly different tribes which include the Pondo, Bomvana, Bhaca, Thembu, and the Xhosa tribe itself. Each cultural group lives under a chieftaincy and they retain their own customs and traditions. Many families grow maize and millet and keep cattle, goats and chickens. Characteristic of the landscape are clusters of thatched bungalows, painted in various bright colours, although today there is a wider variety of architecture in the western tradition to be found. It is possible that culturally sensitive pre-18th century artefacts might occur as Early, Middle and Stone Age man probably passed through this area. Sixteen residents in the area were consulted.



Fig 5 & 6 Inhabitants from local villages





Fig 7 Contrasting styles of vernacular architecture from traditional to modern

5. History

5.1 Pre-history

A short overview

About 2.5 million years ago archaic humans developed in Africa. Artefacts of the period found scattered at random in the vicinity over the years probably prove that early man existed in this area. Middle Stone Age man, anatomically modern humans, left behind tools in the form of scrapers, flakes and knives. The Late Stone Age peoples in turn, deposited their evidence in coastal middens, as did the Strandlopers, who were the last primitive groups of people to have lived along the Eastern Cape shores. The San (hunter-gathers) were subjugated and assimilated, first by the Khoekhoen (cattle herders) and then by the amaXhosa and early European immigrants. History records that the remaining early inhabitants of southern Africa were subsequently decimated by smallpox in 1740.

5.2 Early History

The siNtho speaking amaXhosa were to be found as far east as the Keiskamma River by the mid 17th Century. They originated from Mount Cameroon in West Africa from crop growing people who farmed with wood and stone implements and herded goats. Moving south east they acquired cattle and reached Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Wild Coast circa 1500 years ago. These Early Iron Age people were relatively sedentary, cultivating crops and smelting iron and copper. The unreliable summer rains west of the Kei River may have constrained their migration.

Five hundred years ago the Later Iron Age people, whose culture was linked specifically to cattle and who formed two language groups, namely the seSotho (interior) and the Nguni (of whom the amaXhosa were part, living on coastal lands), began to rapidly expand their territory. Clashes between the Khoekhoen and Nguni were inevitable, resulting in the absorption of the

former. The name Xhosa is probably derived from the Khoekhoe word //kosa meaning “kingly men”. The three characteristic clicks found in the Xhosa language today is a legacy of the San and Khoi. There are twelve Xhosa speaking tribes.

The early history of the Transkei is largely dependent on oral history, stories that have filtered down through the generations. Xhosa speakers first had contact with Europeans when they came across those who had been shipwrecked. Many that remained behind came to be known as the “umlungu” clan.

5.3 Contemporary History

Amongst the different Xhosa clans, trade was integral and dates back four hundred years. Tobacco and cannabis was bartered for metal. In the late 18th Century land became an issue with those fleeing from Shaka and the Zulus in the north and the British and Dutch expanding from the south. It led to the inevitable clashes, and during the 19th century nine wars were fought. The turning point for the Xhosa though came with the “cattle killing” in 1856. With the resulting famine, they were forced to capitulate and by 1858 all chiefdoms, apart from the Mpondo, ‘had submitted to colonial administration’.

The area was governed by the Cape Provincial Administration, initially under the British. From 1948, under the Nationalist party government, ‘separate development’ policies resulted in ‘self-government’ in 1963. The Transkei, which incorporated many, but not all, of the Xhosa speaking tribes, was granted ‘full independence’ in 1976.

In 1994 the territory became part of the vast and diverse Eastern Cape. Despite this, it remains a unique region in many ways. Much of the population still leads lives similar to their ancestors of the 16th and 17th centuries. Traditional practices and governance persist and there is a determination on the part of many rural people to retain elements of their heritage. Western culture and modern ways are embraced, but alongside traditional methods.

6. Sites

6.1 East Bank of the Mngazi River Bridge

The area around the Mngazi River bridge reflects vernacular architecture and a combination of both rural and western ways of life. The original proposed access road over the bridge on the east bank joined about halfway along the dirt road (shown below), avoiding its confluence with the tarred R61 on a blind bend.



Fig 8 Access road on east bank to be re-aligned



Fig 9-12 View of R61 over Mngazi bridge and east bank of river



**Fig 13 Bush cleared on east bank of Mngazi River bridge looking north-west
S31° 36'34.73"; E029° 24'18.66"**



Fig 14 R61 Mngazi River Bridge looking towards Mthatha

6.2 West Bank



Fig 15 View looking west of area for stormwater channels and new alignment of road



Fig 16 Looking south-east from west bank of Mngazi River with settlements in distance.



Fig 17- 19 View of new build houses on west bank



Fig 20 View of dirt road and wetland (right) on west bank parallel to the R61



Fig 21 Alien growth in vicinity of proposed works



Fig 22 Clearing bush on west bank looking towards new homesteads to be affected by project



Fig 23 Bridge over Mngazi River on R 61 Dead, cleared growth in foreground



Fig 24 R61 over Mngazi River bridge showing access road to be re-aligned on east bank in foreground



Fig 25 R61 over bridge looking towards Port St Johns



Fig 26 Mngazi River bridge almost obscured by *lantana* –west bank



Fig 27- 28 Alien growth near bridge site





Fig 29 Settlement on west bank of Mngazi River looking west



Fig 30 Settlement on west bank of Mngazi River looking south

6.3. Notice of Basic Assessment Process

The notices below were erected at specific sites by EIMS on 27 March 2014 in accordance with EIA regulations. They cover Environmental Services for the proposed special development projects on the R61 between Mthatha and Port St Johns and state: Notice is given in terms of Regulation 54 Government notice of the 2010 EIA regulations promulgated under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998 – NEMA), of the intent to carry out the following activity:- the abovementioned project received an environmental authorization on the 11 December 2013 for the construction of the Mngazi River bridge and access road, however the applicant SANRAL has proposed a new layout for the access roads and Mngazi River bridge. Therefore, an up-dated application is required to be submitted to the relevant authorities. The activities involve the construction of new access road and bridge structure over the Mngazi River. The site is located 71km outside Mthatha, enroute to Port St Johns. The project details are provided in the table below:

EIMS reference	0936B
Geographical coordinates	31°36'34.73"S; 29°24'18.66"E
NEMA Listed Activities	LN 1: 11, 18, 22 LN 3: 12, 13, 14, 16



Fig 31 Notice of Basic Assessment in English and Xhosa



Fig 32 & 33 Setting up notices at sites 1 and 2



Fig 34 Setting up NoBA at site 3 with member of community



Fig 35 & Fig 36 Setting up NoBA and getting signatures from local residents

6.4 The Settlements in the area



Fig 37 - 44 Settlements in area under review. Note soil erosion on road above right



Fig 45 Outhouse, cottage and water tank in background



Fig 46 Zanemvula Junior Primary School at top of hill about 3km from Mngazi River Bridge



Fig 47 Typical group of houses belonging to a family unit

7. Site significance and assessment

Recommendations regarding the construction of new access roads and bridge structure over the Mngazi River by SANRAL

7.1 Heritage Assessment and Grading

According to the NHRA, No 25 of 1999 Section 2(v) the significance of heritage sites and artefacts is determined by its aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technical value in relation to the uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.

The NHRA stipulates the assessment criteria and grading of archaeological sites. The following categories are distinguished in Section 7 of the Act.

- Grade 1 Heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance
- Grade II Heritage resources which although forming part of the national estate, can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the province or region and
- Grade III Other heritage resources worthy of conservation, on a local authority level

The occurrence of sites with Grade 1 significance will demand that the development activities be drastically altered in order to retain these sites in their original state. For Grade II and Grade III sites, the application of mitigation measures would allow the development activities to continue.

The criteria, as set out in section 7 of the NHRA, No 25 of 1999 were applied to the identified sites.

7.2 Statement of significance

In terms of Section 7 of the NHRA the sites known to occur in the relevant area are evaluated to have the following significance:

Grade III Burial sites and gravestones were not found in the area surveyed and the houses and built structures likely to be affected are not older than 60 years of age. If during work on the new access roads, stormwater channels and bridge over the Mngazi River anything of historical or archaeological interest is uncovered, the significance will need to be re-assessed.

7.3 Impact Assessment

Impact Name	Impacts on heritage features				
Phase	Construction and Operation				
Alternative	Alternative 1				
Environmental Risk					
Attribute	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	Attribute	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
Nature of Impact	-1	-1	Magnitude of Impact	4	3
Extent of Impact	2	2	Reversibility of Impact	5	5
Duration of Impact	3	3	Probability	3	2
Environmental Risk (Pre-mitigation)					-10.50
Mitigation Measures					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of any heritage objects, burial sites, gravestones or early built structures within the project boundary against vandalism, destruction and theft • Contractors and workers should be notified that artefacts and parts of the built environment might be exposed during the expansion and upgrade • Should any heritage objects be exposed during excavation, work on that area should cease immediately and the archaeologist/historian be informed immediately • All discoveries shall be reported immediately to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. Acting on advice from specialists, the Environmental Control Officer will advise the necessary actions to be taken • Under no circumstances shall any artefact be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site, and • Contractors and workers shall be advised of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or paleontological artefacts as set out in the NHRA (Act No 25 of 1999) Section 51 (1) 	
Environmental Risk (Post-mitigation)	-6.50
Degree of confidence in impact prediction:	High
Impact Prioritisation	
Public Response	1
No public comments have been received	
Cumulative Impacts	1
No cumulative impacts are associated with this impact.	
Degree of potential irreplaceable loss of resources	1
This impact will not lead to irreplaceable loss of resources.	
Prioritisation Factor	1.00
Final Significance	-6.50

8. Recommended Management Measures

Heritage sites are fixed features in the environment, occurring within specific spatial confines. Any impact on them is permanent and non-reversible. Those resources that cannot be avoided and that are directly impacted by the proposed upgrading and expansion can be excavated/recorded and a management plan developed for future action. Those sites that are not impacted on can be written into the management plan, whence they can be avoided or cared for in the future.

8.1 Objectives

- Protection of any heritage objects, burial sites, gravestones or early built structures within the project boundary against vandalism, destruction and theft
- Contractors and workers should be notified that artefacts and parts of the built environment might be exposed during the expansion and upgrade
- Should any heritage objects be exposed during excavation, work on that area should cease immediately and the archaeologist/historian be informed immediately
- All discoveries shall be reported immediately to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. Acting on advice from specialists, the Environmental Control Officer will advise the necessary actions to be taken
- Under no circumstances shall any artefact be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site, and
- Contractors and workers shall be advised of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or palaeontological artefacts as set out in the NHRA (Act No 25 of 1999) Section 51 (1)

8.2 Control

In order to achieve the above the following should be in place

- A person or entity e.g. the Environmental Control Officer, should be tasked to take responsibility for any heritage sites that may be uncovered and should be held accountable for any damage. This person must take responsibility to contact the heritage practitioner to assess any sites uncovered during the project.

9. Conclusion

The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate and document any sites or sensitive areas of the built environment and possible graves and informal burial sites in the vicinity of the intended construction around Mngazi River bridge.

Based on the study it can be concluded that

- The homesteads affected do not fall into the 60 year clause and can therefore be altered.
- There do not appear to be any graves, formal or informal, in the proposed area. However, caution should be exercised as the researcher was not totally convinced as to the reliability of the oral consultations as many residents seemed to be relatively recent occupants of the properties and therefore not informed as to historic sites. Work should halt immediately should any of the above be found.
- No impact on heritage sites, features or objects can be allowed without a valid permit from SAHRA

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