

**FIRST PHASE CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT
ASSESSMENT OF THE P236 REHABILITATION,
FROM KM 6.235 TO KM 14.0, NEAR UBOMBO IN
NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL.**



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

For: Royal Haskoning DHV

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11 April 2016

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Frans received his MA (Archaeology) from the University of Stellenbosch and is presently a PhD candidate on social anthropology at Rhodes University. His PhD research topic deals with indigenous San perceptions and interactions with the rock art heritage of the Drakensberg.

Frans was employed as a junior research associate at the then University of Transkei, Botany Department in 1988-1990. Although attached to a Botany Department he conducted a palaeoecological study on the Iron Age of northern Transkei - this study formed the basis for his MA thesis in Archaeology. Frans left the University of Transkei to accept a junior lecturing position at the University of Stellenbosch in 1990. He taught mostly undergraduate courses on World Archaeology and research methodology during this period.

From 1991 – 2001 Frans was appointed as the head of the department of Historical Anthropology at the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. His tasks included academic research and publication, display conceptualization, and curating the African ethnology collections of the Museum. He developed various displays at the Natal Museum on topics ranging from Zulu material culture, traditional healing, and indigenous classificatory systems. During this period Frans also developed a close association with the Departments of Fine Art, Psychology, and Cultural and Media Studies at the then University of Natal. He assisted many post-graduate students with projects relating to the cultural heritage of South Africa. He also taught post-graduate courses

on qualitative research methodology to honours students at the Psychology Department, University of Natal. During this period he served on the editorial boards of the *South African Journal of Field Archaeology* and *Natalia*.

Frans left the Natal Museum in 2001 when approached by a Swiss funding agency to assist an international NGO (Working Group for Indigenous Minorities) with the conceptualization of a San or Bushman museum near Cape Town. During this period he consulted extensively with various San groupings in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. He also made major research and conceptual contributions to the Kamberg and Didima Rock Art Centres in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site.

Between 2003 and 2007 Frans was employed as the Cultural Resource Specialist for the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project – a bilateral conservation project funded through the World Bank. This project involved the facilitation with various stakeholders in order to produce a cultural heritage conservation and development strategy for the adjacent parts of Lesotho and South Africa. Frans was the facilitator for numerous heritage surveys and assessments during this project. This vast area included more than 2000 heritage sites. Many of these sites had to be assessed and heritage management plans designed for them. He had a major input in the drafting of the new Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage site in 2007/2008. A highpoint of his career was the inclusion of Drakensberg San indigenous knowledge systems, with San collaboration, into the management plans of various rock art sites in this world heritage site. He also liaised with the tourism specialist with the drafting of a tourism business plan for the area.

During April 2008 Frans accepted employment at the environmental agency called Strategic Environmental Focus (SEF). His main task was to set-up and run the cultural heritage unit of this national company. During this period he also became an accredited heritage impact assessor and he is rated by both Amafa and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). He completed almost 50 heritage impact assessment reports nation-wide during an 18th month period.

Frans left SEF and started his own heritage consultancy called “Active Heritage cc” in July 2009. Although mostly active along the eastern seaboard his clients also include international companies such as Royal Dutch Shell through Golder Associates, and UNESCO. He has now completed almost 600 heritage conservation and management reports for various clients since the inception of “Active Heritage cc”. Amongst these was a heritage study of the controversial fracking gas exploration of the Karoo Basin and various proposed mining developments in South Africa and proposed developments adjacent to various World Heritage sites. Apart from heritage impact assessments (HIA’s) Frans also assist the National Heritage Council (NHC) through Haley Sharpe Southern Africa’, with heritage site data capturing and analysis for the proposed National Liberation Route World Heritage Site and the national intangible heritage audit. In addition, he is has done background research and conceptualization of the proposed Dinosaur Interpretative Centre at Golden Gate National Park and the

proposed Khoi and San Interpretive Centre at Camdeboo, Eastern Cape Province. During 2009 he also produced the first draft dossier for the nomination of the Sehlabathebe National Park, Lesotho as a UNESCO inscribed world heritage site.

Frans was appointed as temporary lecturer in the department of Heritage and Tourism, UKZN in 2011. He is also a research affiliate at the School of Cultural and Media Studies in the same institution.

Frans's research interests include African Iron Age, paleoecology, rock art research, San ethnography, traditional healers in South Africa, and heritage conservation. Frans has produced more than forty publications on these topics in both popular and academic publications. He is frequently approached by local and international video and film productions in order to assist with research and conceptualization for programmes on African heritage and culture. He has also acted as presenter and specialist for local and international film productions on the rock art of southern Africa. Frans has a wide experience in the fields of museum and interpretive centre display and made a significant contribution to the conceptual planning of displays at the Natal Museum, Golden Horse Casino, Didima Rock Art Centre and !Khwa tu San Heritage Centre. Frans is also the co-founder and active member of "African Antiqua" a small tour company who conducts archaeological and cultural tours world-wide. He is a Thetha accredited cultural tour guide and he has conducted more than 50 tours to heritage sites since 1992.

Declaration of Consultants independence

Frans Prins is an independent consultant to Royal Haskoning DHV and has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which he was appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances whatsoever that compromise the objectivity of this specialist performing such work.



Frans Prins

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EIA	Early Iron Age
ESA	Early Stone Age
HISTORIC PERIOD	Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1820 in this part of the country
IRON AGE	Early Iron Age AD 200 - AD 1000 Late Iron Age AD 1000 - AD 1830
IIA	Intermediate Iron Age
ISA	Intermediate Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age
LSA	Late Stone Age
MSA	Middle Stone Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 and associated regulations (2006).
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and associated regulations (2000)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
STONE AGE	Early Stone Age 2 000 000 - 250 000 BP Middle Stone Age 250 000 - 25 000 BP Late Stone Age 30 000 - until c. AD 200

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A cultural heritage survey of the proposed P236 rehabilitation, from km 6.235 to km 14.0, near Ubombo in northern KwaZulu-Natal located one heritage site adjacent to the proposed development. A buffer zone of 20m must be maintained around this Stone Age Site. There are no graves or other heritage sites located closer than 50m from the P236. The area in the immediate environs of the P236 is also not part of any known cultural landscape. There is no archaeological reason why further development may not proceed as planned. However, attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agency.

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Table 1. Background information

Consultant:	Frans Prins (Active Heritage cc) for Royal Haskoning DHV
Type of development:	<p>Royal Haskoning DHV have been appointed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport (DoT) to perform feasibility studies and to investigate, design and manage the construction for the proposed upgrades to the Provincial Road P236 from km 6.235 to km 14.0 in Ubombo. The proposed upgrade of this portion of the P236 runs from Mkuze to Ubombo, eastwards, over the Ubombo Mountain range and through the Ubombo Nature Reserve.</p> <p>The P236 is currently black top, with two lane widths of approximately 3.0 m each. The project aim is to upgrade the P236 to an 8.5 m wide road with black top surfacing, along with the associated upgraded geometric standards for the required design speed. The engineers have also determined that there is a need for the addition of climbing (crawler) lanes, because of the steep grades and traffic volumes and horizontal curve widening, because of the sharp curves in trying to stay on the existing alignment, this is outlined in a) and b) below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing Lanes on left lane between km 6.380- km 6.610, km 7.300- km 7.530, km 8.650- km 8.980 where the widening the road between these distances to 11,6m, over a distance totaling 790m in length. • Horizontal Curve Widening km 6.450- km 6.525, km 7.810- km 8.70, km 8.570- km 8.640, km 8.920- km 9.030, and km 12.290- km 12.440, where the road width increases to 10,5m. <p>The P236 upgrade will include a number of watercourse pipe crossings and the upgrade of the road width and/or minor re-alignments to the existing road. The width of the road is expected to remain within the existing road reserve of 30 m. There will be one</p>

	<p>lane of traffic in either direction. All the pipe culverts are to be inspected and appropriate remedial actions to be taken as part of the upgrading of the road. Actions to be taken in terms of the existing culverts will be determined by the inspection and also a hydraulic analysis on the capacity of the culverts. It is further expected that water will be abstracted from watercourses in the area for construction activities.</p> <p>The remedial actions may include: Upgrading the culvert capacity; Replace the existing culvert; Structural repairs to the existing culverts; Cleaning of the culverts and Existing culverts will be lengthened where required.</p> <p>The culvert at km 2.4 which is a 4 x 600mm pipe culvert will be upgraded to a 3 cell 1.8m x 2.4m box culvert.</p>
Rezoning or subdivision:	Not applicable
Terms of reference	<p>To carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment as subcontracted by Royal Haskoning DHV.</p> <p>The terms of reference are as per Schedule 2 of the Sub-Consultant Agreement issued by Royal HaskoningDHV.</p>
Legislative requirements:	<p>The Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and following the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997 (Act No. 4 of 2008)</p>

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The P236 is currently black top, with two lane widths of approximately 3.0 m each. The proposed upgrade of this portion (km 6.235 to km 14.0) of the P236 runs from Mkuze to Ubombo, eastwards, over the Ubombo Mountain range and through the Ubombo Nature Reserve. The footprint starts approximately 290m to the south of the town Ubombo in northern KwaZulu-Natal (Fig 1). The. GPS coordinates for the footprint is:

Start: S 27° 33' 46.47" E 32° 04' 55.81"

End: S 27° 36' 02.78" E 32° 04' 02.37"

BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The greater Maputaland is endowed with heritage sites of various traditions and periods spanning the Stone Ages, Iron Ages and the historical period. However, the majority of these occur to the west of the Phongola River in the foothills of the Lebombo Mountains. A second large concentration occurs adjacent to and on the dune gordon along the coastline. The coastal plain, by contrast to the rest of Maputaland, is devoid of known archaeological sites. Oliver Davies, an archaeologist who conducted pioneered research and surveys in northern KwaZulu-Natal in the 1960's and 1970's, commented that the coastal plain was unpromising for archaeological research due to its being covered by superficial sands and bush coverage which affect preservation and visibility (Avery 1980). By contrast, the foothills of the Lebombo near Ubombo in the vicinity of the project area, is well endowed with archaeological sites. The provincial heritage data base of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum lists twenty nine sites in the greater Ubombo area. These include Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, Later Stone Age and Later Iron Age sites.

Based on typological criteria it can be speculated that the known Early Stone Age sites in the greater Ubombo area most probably dates back to between 300 000 and 1.7 million years ago. Some of the stone tools have been identified as belonging to the Acheulian tradition and it is therefore possible that these sites were occupied by an early hominin such as *Homo erectus* or *Homo ergaster*. Middle Stone Age Sites dates back to ca. 40 000 - 200 000 BP. These sites relate to the first anatomically modern people in the world namely *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Most of the Middle Stone Age sites in the greater Maputaland are open air stone tool scatters with little archaeological context. However, some notable cave deposits do occur. The world renowned Border Cave Site, situated approximately 65km to the north of the town of Ingwavuma, is a good example. Humans lived at Border Cave over a period of 200 000 years. The human skeletal remains found in the cave are believed to be some of the oldest evidence of anatomically modern human beings. Various radiometric-dating techniques suggest that Middle Stone Age people were living at Border Cave more than 110 000 years ago. More than a million stone artefacts have been excavated in the cave and an enormous amount of animal material has been recovered from the site as well (Derwent 2006).

Only a handful of Later Stone Age sites have been recorded in the greater Maputaland. These relate to San hunter-gatherers or their immediate ancestors. The stone tool technology are smaller and more diverse and specialised than those made during the Middle Stone Age.

The Early Iron Age of the coastal zone in Maputaland contains ceramic fragments identified as belonging to the Matola phase. The Matola phase sites can be identified with the very first Bantu-speaking agriculturists that entered KwaZulu-Natal approximately 1 600 years ago from Eastern Africa (Maggs 1989). Although oral history indicate that the area was occupied in more recent centuries times by the Thembe-Thonga or their immediate ancestors archaeological sites belonging to this period have not yet been identified. Nevertheless the present African inhabitants of the area, the Thembe-Thonga and the Swazi, have a rich oral history and culture relating to their intimate relationship with the environment spanning many centuries. Aspects of their cultural heritage identified by community representatives as being important include the following:

- Relationship of the local community with the physical environment
- Traditional fishing practices (fonya basket fishing)
- The *indawo* spirit possession cult;
- Wild fruit utilisation;
- The significance of the mothers brother in Thembe-Thonga social organisation;
- Settlement rules and history;
- Thonga language;
- Issues relating to cross border identities;
- Trade across the border;
- History of various traditional authorities in the area;
- Occupation of some areas by refugees of the Zulu wars;
- The grave site of King Dingane; and
- Influence on local customs by refugees of the Mozambican War of 1975-1990.

The conventional view is that that the historical occupants of Maputaland, the Tembe-Thonga, migrated from Karanga in the present day Zimbabwe in the middle of the seventeenth century Junod (1962:23). However, the theory that the African societies of south-east Africa migrated there in fixed ethnic units, as in the case of the Tembe-Thonga, has been questioned by archaeological research and recent research on oral traditions of Zululand and Natal (Maggs 1989). Instead of migrating there in fixed

ethnic groups, it is now argued that the African societies of south-east Africa emerged locally from long established communities of diverse origins and diverse cultures and languages. Nevertheless, whether the Tembe came from Karanga to establish their authority over the people of south-east Africa, or whether they emerged locally, reports from Portuguese sailors indicate that a chief Tembe was in control of the ruling chiefdom in the Delagoa Bay hinterland in the mid-1600s (Wright and C. Hamilton 1989:46-64 and Kuper 1997:74). Tembe and his followers gradually established their authority over the people who lived in this hinterland including the area to the immediate east of the study area. Due to the abilities of their strong and charismatic leaders, the Tembe-Thonga remained a unified chiefdom and gradually extended their influence. This unity was upset in the middle of the eighteenth century when a split in the ruling lineage led to the fragmentation of the chiefdom. The division came after the death of Silamboya in 1746. The descendants of Silamboya's oldest son, Muhali, settled west of the Maputo River and north of the Usuthu River. This group, the senior branch of the Tembe-Thonga, became known as the Mututwen-Tembe. The other part of the Tembe-Thonga followed a junior son of Silamboya, Mangobe, and settled east of the Maputo River. This branch would later become known as the Mabudu or Maputo (Bryant 1965:290). The imposed international border of 1875 bisected the area where the Mabudu branch settled. Being unable to control the vast area under his control, the chief of the junior branch, Mangobe, placed his sons in strategic positions so as to ensure his control. When Mangobe died, his first son, Nkupo, was named chief. However, his younger son, Mabudu, soon established himself as the stronger leader and took the chieftainship from his older brother (Hedges 1978:137). With the army now at his disposal Mabudu was able to dominate all trade between Europeans who landed at Delagoa Bay and local people living in the hinterland. Through this domination the Mabudu became, by the middle of the eighteenth century, the strongest political and economic unit in south-east Africa (Smith 1972:178-184). The people under his authority, which gradually increased, became known as the *abakwaMabudu* or the people of Mabudu's land (Webb and Wright 1979:157). By the early 1800s the Mabudu chiefdom stretched from the Maputo River in the west to the Indian Ocean in the east, and from Delagoa (Maputo) Bay in the north to as far south as Lake St. Lucia (Felgate 1982:1). This extensive area included the present-day Ubombo.

During the early 1800s similar processes of political centralisation were taking place amongst the Mthetwa, Ndwandwe and later the Zulu chiefdoms to the immediate south east of Ubombo. The Zulu eventually defeated the other groups and established

themselves as the dominant power in south-east Africa (Wright & Hamilton 1989:67 and Laband 1995). The Mabudu were never attacked by, nor directly involved in any war with the Zulu. They were, however indirectly affected by wars of conquest the Zulu waged in the northern part of Zululand in the first half of the nineteenth century (Omer-Cooper 1975:57). Various groups of refugees passed through the Mabudu chiefdom during the reign of Shaka. Many of them settled among the Mabudu. The people who crossed the southern boundary of the Mabudu chiefdom brought with them languages and customs foreign to the Mabudu. Over time, Mabudu identity became less distinctive as people adopted many customs of those living south of them (Bryant 1964:292). As more and more people from the southern chiefdoms crossed into the Mabudu chiefdom, an increasing amount of prestige was attached to being Zulu and speaking isiZulu, since the Zulu were the dominant political force. The Zulu cultural influence in the greater Ubombo area was however not complete. People who fled the onslaught of the Zulu only stayed in the area for a short period before they moved on (Felgate 1982:11). Furthermore, in exchange for tribute paid, the Zulu recognised the Mabudu as leaders of a vast territory. This, to an extent, secured their sovereignty (Bradley 1974). The relationship between the Mabudu and the Zulu differed markedly from that which the Zulu instituted with other chiefdoms. Ballard (1978) states that although the Mabudu 'paid tribute to the Zulu kings and cooperated on a military and economic level, they enjoyed much greater independence than the chiefdoms south of St. Lucia. Despite the Zulu influence, Maputaland, remained politically and culturally distinct from areas to the north, south and west. The people of the area spoke a unified language – xiRonga (Thonga). With some exceptions, notably the Ngubane and Khumalo, they accepted the rule of Mabudu chiefs (Felgate 1982:11). They practised customs that were unique to the area and differed from those of their Zulu, Swazi and Tsonga neighbours (Webster 1991:250). Nevertheless, many siSwati-speaking people crossed the nearby border and settled at Ingwavuma and near Ubombo. Today a large percentage of the inhabitants in the immediate vicinity of Ingwavuma are Swazi people, or people with strong cultural and historical links with the Swazi such as the Nyawo Chiefdom. The footprint is situated within traditional Nyawo territory. The Nyawo also played a significant part in the history of the Zulu state situated further south during the reign of King Dingane.

After the defeat of the Zulu by the Voortrekkers during the battle of Blood River in 1838 King Dingane fled to the north and established a new homestead in the Hluhluwe River Valley. From this new location he launched an attack into Swaziland but this attack

was repulsed. It was, however, to become a prime cause of his death. Mpande, the king's half-brother, fled southward in September 1839 with his followers to claim protection from the Voortrekker, fearing that Dingane was intending to have him killed. Mpande and the Boers eventually agreed to attack the king's forces and this led to the battle of Maquongqo, in which Dingane's forces were defeated. King Dingane then fled into the Lebombo mountains, in the close environs of the study area, where he built a homestead, called Esankoleni on the slopes of Hlatikulu hill. This hill was located in the territory of Silevana who was acting as regent for Sambane, heir to the Nyawo chieftainship. Silevana saw King Dingane's presence as a threat and notified a Swazi patrol, under Sonyezane Dlamini. In 1840 the Swazi, with Nyawo help, surrounded the homestead and King Dingane was stabbed by Silevana when he came out of his hut. He was buried at Esankoleni, but the Nyawo were fearful of the possible consequences of killing Zulu Royalty, and tried to brush over their part in the deed by keeping the location of the grave a closely-guarded secret for many years. Today King Dingane's grave is a provincial monument. This monument is situated to the immediate north west of the project area. A small commemorative plaque, which was unveiled by Dr Buthelezi of the Inkhatha Freedom Party, has been placed close to the actual site.

During the colonial period the greater Maputaland area was frequented by hunters, traders, and later missionaries (Bruton *et al* 1980). However, sites and structures associated with these activities need to be identified and placed in an inventory. Likewise during the more recent past many refugees of Mozambique crossed the international border and settled in the area (Klopper 2004). Sites belonging to this more recent "struggle era history" are also protected by national heritage legislation and needs to be surveyed and placed in an inventory.

Apart from human history the greater Maputaland also has extensive fossil deposits and geomorphology dating back to the Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quaternary periods. The Cretaceous fauna yielded by sequences includes ammonites, bivalves, gastropods, and nautiloids in abundance. Vertebrates are uncommon, only fish and reptiles being noted so far. Plant remains are relatively abundant in the form of logs and lignite chips. The Tertiary limestone deposits contain marine macro-fossils, calcareous nanno-fossils and planktic foraminifers (Avery 1980). Shell imprints have been found imprinted in concretions to the immediate south of Thembe Elephant Park and may therefore palaeontological significance (Anderson 2008).

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The SAHRIS website was consulted to obtain information on past heritage surveys in the area and on heritage site particulars. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the greater Ubombo area was also consulted. A ground survey following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted.

2.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

2.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good although the woody vegetation was dense (Figs 3 & 4).

2.2.2 Disturbance

No obvious disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted (but see below).

2.3 Details of equipment used in the survey

GPS: Garmin Etrek

Digital cameras: Canon Powershot A460

All readings were taken using the GPS. Accuracy was to a level of 5 m.

3 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

3.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Town: Ubombo

3.2 Description of heritage resources located during the survey.

Although human settlements and related infrastructure occurs adjacent to the P236, especially in the close vicinity to Ubombo, there are no graves situated within 30m from the Road. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. However, one archaeological occurrence, a Stone Age Site, is situated in the northern section of the footprint adjacent to the Bethesda Hospital (Fig 2).

3.2.1 Stone Age Site

An open air Stone Age site was located adjacent to the P236 by Dr Oliver Davies of the then Natal Museum in 1949. He found a few utilized stone flakes on the surface which he classified as Intermediate Stone Age. The site number for this surface occurrence, as reflected in the KZN Museum National Data Base, is 2732CA006. The GPS coordinates of the Site are: S 27° 34' 9" E 32° 4' 57". The Site was revisited again by the consultant on 10/03/2016. Only one stone flake was observed on the surface during this visit (Fig 5). It is possible that the site was disturbed during the construction of the Bethesda Hospital that is situated approximately 200m to the north of the Site and that some tools were removed during the process. However, no obvious evidence for any disturbance was noted. In fact, it is possible that more stone tools are hidden below surface.

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

4.1 Field Rating

A field rating value of Generally Protected B (Tables 2 & 3) was ascribed to the Site in its present condition. The Site is not regarded as highly significant as similar sites, in a much better state of preservation and potential research value, occur in the general area. The Site must be fully recorded before possible destruction as part of a Phase Two Heritage Impact Assessment. However, it will not be necessary in this instance as it is possible to maintain a buffer zone of 20m around the site.

Table 2. Evaluation and statement of significance

Significance criteria in terms of Section 3(3) of the NHRA		
	Significance	Rating
1.	Historic and political significance - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	None.
2.	Scientific significance – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage.	None.
3.	Research/scientific significance – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage.	Low.
4.	Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	Low.
5.	Aesthetic significance – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	None.
6.	Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	None.
7.	Social significance – Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	None.
8.	Historic significance – Strong or special association with the life and work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.	None.
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

Table 3. Field rating and recommended grading of sites (SAHRA 2005)

Level	Details	Action
National (Grade I)	The site is considered to be of National Significance	Nominated to be declared by SAHRA
Provincial (Grade II)	This site is considered to be of Provincial significance	Nominated to be declared by Provincial Heritage Authority
Local Grade IIIA	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be retained as a heritage site
Local Grade IIIB	This site is considered to be of HIGH significance locally	The site should be mitigated, and part retained as a heritage site
Generally Protected A	High to medium significance	Mitigation necessary before destruction
Generally Protected B	Medium significance	The site needs to be recorded before destruction
Generally Protected C	Low significance	No further recording is required before destruction

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development of the P236 may proceed from a heritage perspective. However, a buffer zone of at least 20m must strictly be maintained around the identified Stone Age Site near the Bethesda Hospital. Should it not be possible to maintain the integrity of the buffer zone then a Phase Two Heritage Impact Assessment must be called for. This Second Phase Assessment will investigate possible mitigation measures for the alteration of the Heritage Site.

- Mitigation measures for the EMPr only includes the maintenance of a buffer zone around the identified Stone Age site.
- There is no need to initiate monitoring requirements for the footprint.
- Conditions for the Environmental Authorisation is subject to the developer respecting the provincial heritage legislation during all phases of the project. This includes ceasing all activities and alerting the provincial heritage authority Amafa if any heritage and/or archaeological material are exposed during the course of the project.
- No consultation was undertaken on site.

6 UNCERTAINTIES, GAPS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Maputaland has a rich archaeological history. It is possible that some heritage sites are masked by the dense vegetation along the P236. Construction work and excavations may yield archaeological and/or cultural material. If any heritage features are exposed by construction work then all work should stop immediately and the provincial heritage agency, Amafa, should be contacted for further evaluation. Attention is drawn to the South African Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act no 4 of 2008) which, requires that operations that expose archaeological or historical remains should cease immediately, pending evaluation by the provincial heritage agent.

7 MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

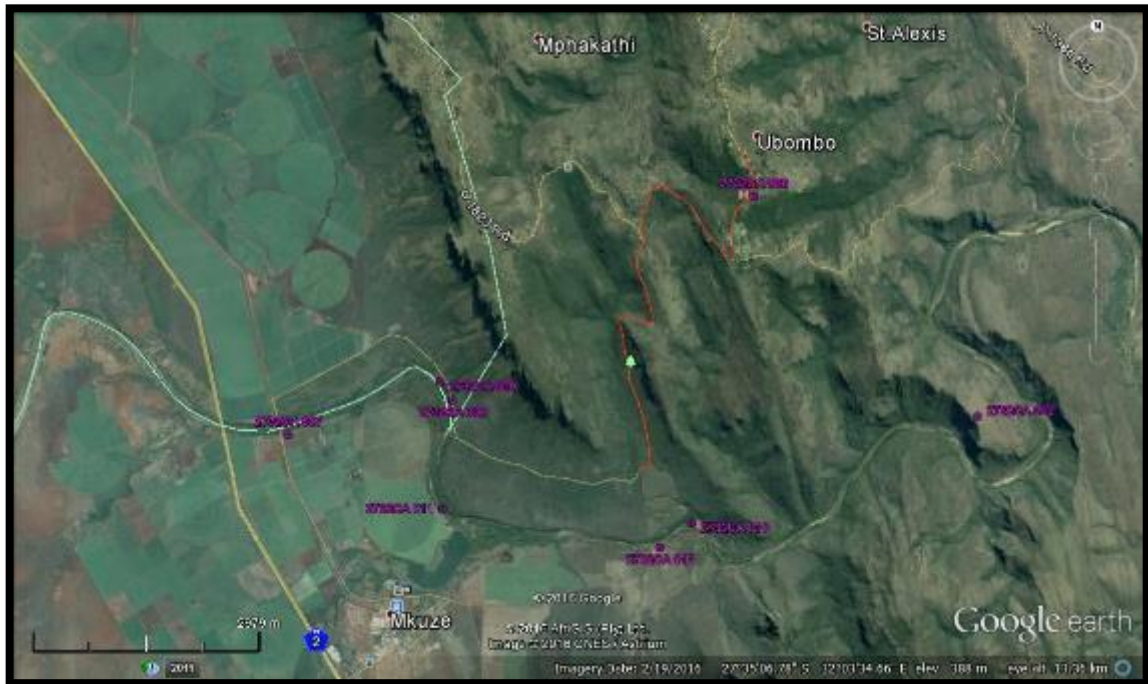


Figure 1. Google aerial photograph showing the location of the P236 (highlighted in red) near Ubombo in northern KwaZulu-Natal. The purple polygons indicated the location of known heritage sites in the greater Ubombo area.



Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the location of Stone Age Site (2732CA 006) to the immediate south of the Bethesda Hospital.



Figure 3. *The P236 winding its way to the mountain pass that leads towards Ubombo.*



Figure 4. *Dense vegetation occurs along the greatest section of the P236.*



Figure 5. A singular stone flake occurs on the surface at Site 2732CA 006. It is possible that other surface material was removed during the construction of the Bethesda Hospital directly adjacent to the Site.

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