



**ETHEMBENI**  
**CULTURAL**  
**HERITAGE**

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**Attention      Bernadet Pawandiwa**

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Application for Exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment**  
**Proposed Ncibidwane Bridge Upgrade on Road D1240**  
**Imbabazane Local Municipality within the Uthukela District Municipality**

The proposed Ncibidwane river bridge is to be constructed on District Road 1240 under the Department of Transport (DoT) Contract No ZNT 3604/15T. The existing causeway will be removed and a new bridge will be constructed in this location.

The project comprises the construction of a bridge that is approximately 34.7m long and 11.7m wide, with pedestrian walkways. It is possible that road improvement to the abutment sections affected by bridge construction will be required.

**Ncibidwane Bridge Location:** 29°14'20.8"S 29°37'40.6"E.



Application for Exemption is based on the following:

1. Section 38(1) of the NHRA may require an assessment in the case of:
  - the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
  - the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;

**This project does not exceed either of these criteria.**

2. A field inspection was undertaken on 31 July 2016. The bridge locality is within a seasonal flood plain dominated by hygrophilous grasses and sedges (hence the requirement for upgrade as the road is inundated during high water flows) and consequently **no archaeological deposits are expected or were observed.**
3. The bridge is to be anchored on an exposed shelf of Upper Beaufort Series mudstone. The Upper Beaufort Series forms the gently rolling country of the Natal Midlands and the bottom of the lower Drakensberg valleys. It consists of fine to medium grained yellow sandstones and red, green, blue and purple shales and mudstones. Whilst this lithography is known to be fossil bearing, the observed presence of intrusive dolerite in the immediate vicinity of the project *locale* **precludes the presence of fossils within these mudstones** (Vilikazi 2013).

We consequently recommend that the proposed construction be allowed to proceed with no further heritage mitigation.

Sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk

Principal Investigator.

#### **References.**

Vilikazi. N. 2013. A Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment Study for the Proposed Loskop Quarry Re-mining Project, Estcourt, KwaZulu Natal Province. Evolutionary Studies Unit. University of the Witwatersrand . SAHRIS.