



Amafa Heritage and Research Institute
195 Langalibalele St
PIETERMARITZBURG 32001.
Tel. 033 3946543.

12 June 2023

Attention: HIA Review Committee
khanyi.zondi@amafainstitute.org.za

Proposed Mitigation of Unmarked Grave

The '53 Pipeline is an Umgeni Water (UW) prestressed concrete pipeline. This pipeline forms part of Umgeni Water's bulk conveyance pipelines and is an integral part of the system for supply to eThekweni, especially the newly constructed Western Aqueduct which conveys water to various terminal end reservoirs in the eThekweni region. This pipeline is currently in the road reserve and needs to be relocated to allow for major upgrades to the N3 in the vicinity of Ashburton.

During site clearance for the new pipeline, contractors reported the finding of potential artefacts which had features of a grave. Immediately construction operations halted within the area. In adherence to the Chance Finds Protocol for the contract (see Appendix 1 below), eThembeni Cultural Heritage was requested by Praxos 373, the appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO), to undertake a site investigation to confirm the grave site and suggest appropriate mitigation.

A site inspection was duly conducted on Thursday 1st June 2023 at 13:00 with the Dedicated Environmental Officer (DEO) appointed by the contractor, Assistant Resident Engineer (ARE) and Environmental Control Officer (ECO) appointed by the Consultant were present.

I confirmed that their initial assessment was correct and that a single unmarked grave had been identified. The contractors had immediately barricaded the grave site with netting on its discovery.

The grave site is located within the UW 10m-wide registered servitude. The most pressing concern was the possibility of a work stoppage and delays to pipe excavation operations as this will have a knock-on effect to the SANRAL National Route 3 (N3) upgrades. We then assessed the grave's location in relation to the surveyed edge of the servitude and confirmed that, from the central axis of the grave to the edge of the servitude, the pipeline can be re-aligned 3m away from grave without any disturbance to the heritage feature.



Figure 1 Unmarked grave as revealed during bush clearing activities located at 29° 39' 14.73" S, 30° 27' 09.62" E.
(See kml loaded to SAHRIS Case File)

I then proposed the following mitigation actions:

1. That the grave site be fenced (2m x 3m) by means of 1.2m high Y-bar fencing standards strung with 4 strands of barbed wire. Ski-netting should be attached to the fence to enhance visibility during construction activities.
2. On completion of construction activities and during servitude rehabilitation the grave site should have a sign attached indicating a grave. This for visibility in the event of future maintenance activities along the servitude. A schematic of the pipeline re-alignment is attached (see Appendix 2 and image as loaded to the SAHRIS Case File).
3. The DEO shall communicate to the workers the findings of this report and safe working procedures within this sensitive area.
4. I have requested that the fence be erected immediately, prior to a response from the AMAFA Heritage and Research Institute, in order to ensure the sanctity of the grave site.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk

Principle Heritage Practitioner.

Appendix 1
Chance Finds Protocol

(u) Potential Heritage Resources

In the event that indicator(s) of heritage resources are identified during construction, the following actions should be taken immediately:

- All construction within a radius of at least 20 m of the heritage resource should cease. This distance should be increased at the discretion of supervisory staff if heavy machinery or explosives could cause further disturbance to the suspected heritage resource.
- This area must be marked using clearly visible means, such as barrier tape, and all personnel should be informed that it is a no-go area.
- A guard should be appointed to enforce this no-go area if there is any possibility that it could be violated, whether intentionally or inadvertently, by construction staff or members of the public.
- No measures should be taken to cover up the suspected heritage resource with soil, or to collect any remains such as bone or stone.
- If a heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, he/she should be contacted and a site inspection arranged as soon as possible.
- If no heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, the head of archaeology at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office should be contacted; Tel: 033 3946 543.
- The South African Police Services should be notified by an Amafa staff member or an independent heritage practitioner if human remains are identified. No SAPS official may disturb or exhume such remains, whether of recent origin or not.
- All parties concerned should respect the potentially sensitive and confidential nature of the heritage resources, particularly human remains, and refrain from making public statements until a mutually agreed time.
- Any extension of the project beyond its current footprint involving vegetation and/or earth clearance should be subject to prior assessment by a qualified heritage practitioner, taking into account all information gathered during this initial heritage impact assessment.

Appendix 2

