

CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED GWALA ROAD EXTENSION UMSHWATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU- NATAL

For: Hanslab (PTY) Ltd



ACTIVE HERITAGE cc.

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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
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 Gwala Road Extension, Umshwathi Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal identified no heritage sites or features on the footprint. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. There is no archaeological reason why the proposed 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) for Hanslab (PTY) Ltd
Type of development:	<p>The applicant (Umshwathi Local Municipality) proposes to extend the existing Gwala Road to a type 7A local road. The proposed extension route (namely Road A and Road B) transverses three watercourses therefore, the applicant proposes to construct box culvert structures at each stream crossing point to allow for the natural flow of water within the watercourse. Road A: is 700m in length and the start point is off OL001925 while Road B: is 850m in length and ends at D1620.</p> <p>There is no formal crossing at the water crossing point and therefore the community does not have access to public transport in the area as a result of in-improved roads by the local municipality. The proposed activity of extending the existing road as well the constructing adequate structures at various crossing points lays the foundation for further development opportunities, thus leading to the socio-economic development of the community. Development in this area is of high priority, and the proposed construction activities can be considered the first step towards uplifting the community. The proposed development project will provide infrastructure as well as the environmental sustainability by rehabilitating the area which has been infested by alien invasive plant species, while providing access for the community. The community will have access to public transport and schools. No dwellings will be relocated as the existing track does not transverse any properties or infringe on the rights of the residents.</p>
Rezoning or subdivision:	n.a
Terms of reference	To carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment
Legislative requirements:	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)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The study site is located adjacent to the R614, off a municipal track approximately 24km south of Dalton (Figs 1 & 2). The area is characterized by agricultural land and scattered low density rural settlements. The current land use and site activities surrounding the two tracks are dominated by agricultural practices and rural households. The proposed project is located within the uMshwathi Local Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The GPS coordinates for the proposed road upgrade are:

Start: 29°22'58"S 30°53'7.24" E

End: 29°23'52"S 30°52'46"E

The GPS coordinates for the proposed box culvert structures are:

B Section Channel 1: 29°23'4.73"S 30°53'4.22" E

B Section Channel 2: 29°23'11"S 30°53'55" E

B Section Channel 3: 29°23'49"S 30°52'24" E

BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

Portions of the greater New Hanover and Dalton areas have been relatively well surveyed for archaeological heritage sites by the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, post-graduate students from the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand, and subsequently by private heritage consultants in the last few years. However, the project area has not been covered in these surveys.

The available evidence, as captured in the Amafa and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that this area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These range from Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Later Stone Age to Early Iron Age, Middle and Later Iron Age sites as well as historical sites relating to the rise of the Zulu Kingdom and the subsequent colonial period. There are four Middle Stone Age sites, four later Stone Age sites, two San rock art sites, seven Later Iron Age sites and two recorded historical period sites in the greater New Hanover area.

The San were the owners of the land for almost 30 000 years but the local demography started to change soon after 2000 years ago when the first Bantu-speaking farmers crossed the Limpopo River and arrived in South Africa. Around 800 years ago, if not earlier, Bantu-speaking farmers also settled in the greater New Hanover area. Although some of the sites constructed by these African farmers consisted of stone walling not all of them were made from stone. Sites located elsewhere in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups such as the Wushe, Zondo and related groups (Bryant 1965). These groups were known to be excellent metal workers and it is not surprising that some archaeological evidence for early metal working has been found near Wartburg. However, by 1820 the original African farmers were dispersed from this area due to the expansionistic policies of the Zulu Kingdom of King Shaka. African refugee groups and individuals were given permission to settle in the area by the British colonial authorities after 1845 where most of them became farm labourers. After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 and the Bambatha Rebellion of 1911 many of the African people in the study area adopted a Zulu ethnic identity.

European settlement of the area started soon after 1838 when the first Voortrekker settlers marked out large farms in the area. However, most of these farms were abandoned in the 1840's when Natal became a British colony only to be reoccupied again by British immigrants. The greater New Hanover area, however, was settled in the 1850s by German families (Derwent 2006). Many of the people living here today are fourth generation Germans, with their language, customs, schooling and worship a legacy from the immigrant farmers and missionaries who arrived in the colony in the mid-19th century. It was in 1850 that cotton planter families founded New Hanover, followed in 1854 by members of the Hermannsburg Mission who settled in what became known as Hermannsburg. More German immigrants, mostly from the Hanover district, followed. As new settlements arose, steeped in the Lutheran faith, churches and schools were built. The Wartburg crest depicts the arrival of the immigrants by sailing vessels; the heraldry of Wartburg castle in Eisenach where Dr Martin Luther translated the bible into German; the 'Luther Rose': and the watchword 'Pray and Work'. These words are also inscribed on the church bell of Kirschdorf, near Wartburg, and reflect the industry of the local community to this day.

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. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the Umgungundlovu District Municipality was also consulted.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on 1 July 2017.

2.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

2.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

2.2.2 Disturbance

No disturbance of any potential heritage features was noted.

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

Municipality: Umshwathi Municipality

Towns: New Hanover, Dalton

3.2 Description of the general area surveyed

The proposed road upgrade is situated in a rural settlement surrounded by sugar cane plantations and commercial farms. Although the area is potentially rich in Iron Age and

Stone Age sites no heritage sites or features were observed on the footprint. The greatest section of the proposed road upgrade is bordered onto by cultivated fields and small-scale subsistence farming activities (Figs 3, 5, 6). Graves are associated with some of the homesteads in the area (Fig 4) but none are located within 100m from the proposed road upgrade. All the residential dwellings adjacent to the proposed road upgrade are younger than 60 years old. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape.

3.3 Heritage sites identified

None

4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

Not applicable as no heritage sites were identified (Table 2).

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.	None.
4.	Scientific significance – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's cultural places/objects.	None.
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.

4.1 Field Rating

Not applicable as no heritage sites were identified.

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 Gwala Road Extension development may proceed from a heritage point of view as no heritage sites or features are in danger of being destroyed or altered. It should, however, be pointed out that the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

6 MAPS AND FIGURES

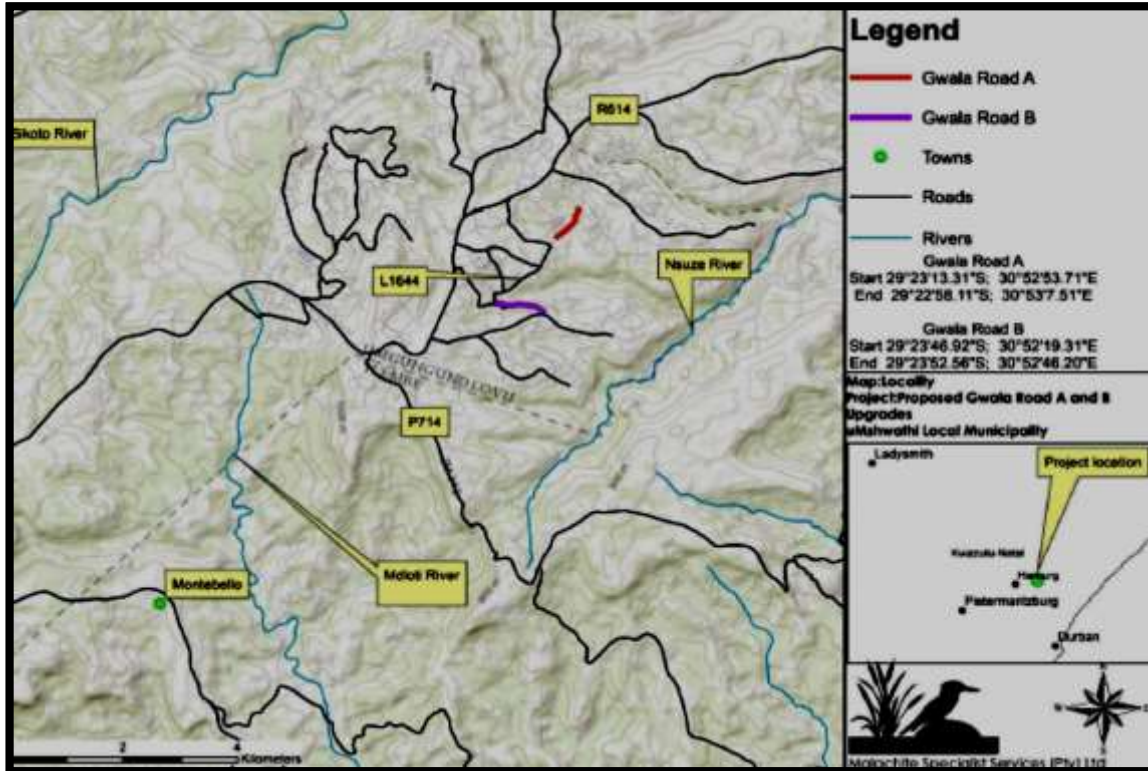


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Gwala Road Extension Development near Dalton in KwaZulu-Natal (Source: Hanslab (PTY) Ltd.)

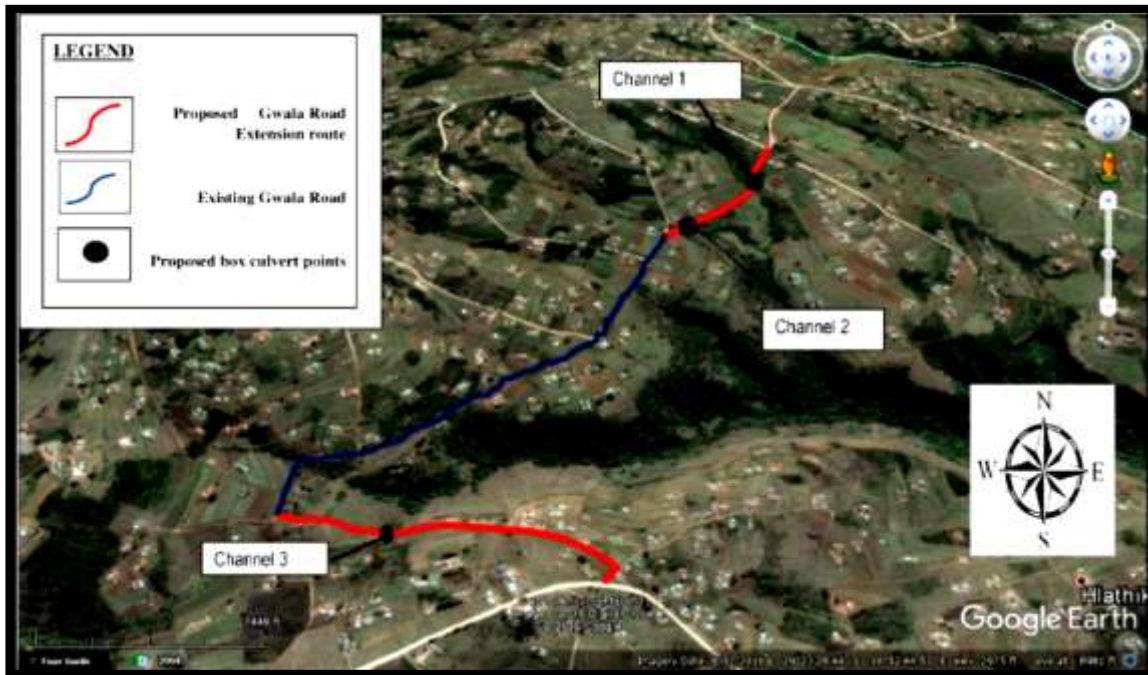


Figure 2. Site layout plan (Source: Hanslab (PTY) Ltd.)



Figure 3. Southern section of the existing Gwala Road. Cultivated fields and small-scale subsistence activities dominate the area.



Figure 4. The existing Gwala Road. Although some homesteads are situated adjacent to the road (blue arrow) none have associated graves.



Figure 5. Track leading towards the valley. No heritage sites occur in this area.



Figure 6. Existing track earmarked for upgrading. No heritage sites occur in this area.

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