

**PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF AN EXISTING
ACCESS ROAD (L2718) TO A TYPE 7A LOCAL
ROAD (GRAVEL ROAD) NEAR NQUTHU,
KWAZULU-NATAL**



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
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

A First Phase Heritage Impact Assessment and survey of the proposed upgrade of an existing access road (I2718) to a type 7a local road (gravel road) near Nquthu, KwaZulu-Natal identified no archaeological and historical sites on the footprint. No graves occurred within 50m from the proposed road. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape. There is no reason from a heritage point of view why the proposed development may not proceed as planned. 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:	Hanslab (Pty) Lmt sub-consulted Active Heritage cc to conduct the heritage impact assessment.
Type of development:	The KZN Department of Transport (DOT) proposes to upgrade the existing access road to a Type 7A Local Road (gravel road) which is 3.761km in length and 6m in width that conforms to DOT standards. The existing road will be upgraded in one of the Nqutu villages on local road L2718. There is an urgent need to ensure safe and reliable means of access. The existing access road is not suitable, and erosion is evident as a direct result of poor drainage. The upgrading of the existing track to a gravel road will address such issues, but more importantly improve access for the local community to basic amenities.
Rezoning or subdivision:	Not applicable
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 area is located near the town of Nqutu in the Nqutu Local Municipality and the uMzinyathi District Municipality. The site for the proposed development is located in one of the villages on local road L2718 (Fig 1). The GPS coordinates for the proposed road upgrade is given as:

Start: S 28° 15' 40.86" E 30° 56' 51.59"

Middle: S 28° 14' 46.31" E 30° 57' 09.10"

End: S 28° 13' 54.85" E 30° 57' 17.65"

The proposed development site is located in an open valley where the general gradient of the site is 1:15-1:20, which indicates generally a flat terrain. There is no presence of

a watercourse in this site. The geology of the region is underlain by three specific geological units, the Vryheid formation, Volksrust formation and Karoo Dolerite. In these formations consists geological outcrops which can be found around the site. Sandstone is one of the major geological features found in close proximity to the site of the proposed development. There are no slopes in the site as the gradient and general terrain is extensively flat. There are no steep slopes or cliffs near the site of development which means that there are no shelters with potential archaeological material near the footprint. There exists extensive gully and donga formation in this region. Soil erosion is prominent due to surface run-off and overgrazing. The general topography of the region as per the site investigation is classified as undulating plains/low hills. Erosion along the road is evident in areas as a direct result of poor drainage of the existing road. The proposed route is transformed by existing footpaths and highly degraded, most natural vegetation have been invaded by alien vegetation along the track. The area can be described as rural. Zulu homesteads are occur adjacent to the proposed road upgrade, especially in the southern section of the study area, and there is ample evidence for small scale subsistence activities.

1.2. Relevant Legislation:

According to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), the heritage resources of South Africa 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).

2 SCOPE OF WORK

This study aims to identify and assess the significance of any heritage and archaeological resources occurring on or adjacent to the proposed development. Based on the significance, the impact of the development on the heritage resources will be determined and appropriate actions to reduce the impact on the heritage resources put forward. In terms of the NHRA, a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of:

- a. its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- b. its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- c. its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- d. its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- e. its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- f. its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- g. its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

- h. its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and
- i. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.

3 BACKGROUND TO HISTORY OF THE AREA

3.1 Archaeology

Portions of the greater Nqutu area have been systematically surveyed for archaeological heritage sites in the past. These were mostly conducted by archaeologists attached to the then Natal Museum as well as by Amafa staff. Sixty sites are recorded in the data base of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. These include fourteen Early Stone Age sites, eight Middle Stone Age sites, ten Later Stone Age sites, three rock painting sites, and forty Later Iron Age sites. The majority of the Early Stone Age sites occur in open air context in large dongas. Middle and Later Stone Age sites occur in context in four rock shelters. Two of these shelters also contain typical San fine line paintings. The majority of the known Later Iron Age sites are situated to the south east of Nqutu. They were located during a large scale survey of the area by archaeologists who were interested in the Later Iron Age ecology of Zululand (Hall 1980). They are demarcated by characteristic stone walling. Three stone walling typologies have been identified in the area namely Type A, C, and D (ibid).

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 Nqutu 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 show that many settlements just consisted of wattle and daub structures. These Later Iron Age sites were most probably inhabited by Nguni-speaking groups who were the direct ancestors of the Zulu (Bryant 1965). However after 1840 some Southern Sotho-speaking Tlokwe people also settled in the area. With the expansion of the Zulu kingdom of King Shaka in the early 1820's the study area became firmly incorporated into this pre-capitalist kingdom. It is not surprising that this area played such a central part in the colonial period history of KwaZulu-Natal. The Battle of Blood River, between

Boer and Zulu, took place to west of the study area in 1838, but it was the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 that was to a large part acted out in the immediate vicinity of the project area. These battle field sites as well as associated graves and buildings of the era are proclaimed heritage sites and are protected by provincial heritage legislation (Derwent 2006).

3.2 Anglo-Zulu War

The Anglo-Zulu War was a military conflict between the British Empire and the Kingdom of Zululand, taking place from January 8 to July 4, 1879, in South Africa. The root cause of the Anglo-Zulu War was the discovery of diamonds in the region, in the land near the Vaal River, in 1867. This led to an increased British interest in the area. But there were two obstacles: the Boers (politically organized in the Orange Free State and the Republic of Transvaal), and the Kingdom of Zululand, which arose in the first half of the 19th century. During the 1870s, West Griqualand, which was the territory where diamonds had been discovered, was annexed to the British Empire. In December 1878, the British High Commissioner, Sir Henry Bartle Frere, sent an ultimatum to Cetshwayo, the King of Zululand. Having obtained no answer to the ultimatum, 15,000 British troops, under the command of Lord Chelmsford, began the invasion of Zululand by January 8, 1879.

The Anglo-Zulu War was savage and comprises a series of eight battles, beginning with the Battle of Isandlwana, at which 22,000 Zulu warriors defeated 1,800 British soldiers on January 22, 1879. Isandlwana was an unexpected blow to the morale of the British empire as it was the scene of the defeat of Imperial & Colonial forces on 22 January 1879 mostly from the 24 Regiment, Natal Carbineers and Natal Native Regiments. This epic battle took place in the southern section of the project area and a memorial on the site commemorates the brave warriors who gave their lives on this day (Derwent 2006). The defence of Rorke's Drift on 22 January 1879, to the south of the project area, followed the defeat of the British forces at Isandlwana and commenced at 16.30 pm and went on through the night to about 4 am. The Mission Station at the foot of the Oskarberg was held by 1st & 2nd Company of the 24th Regiment. It had been left under the command of Major Henry Spalding. The battle eventually left about 370 Zulu dead (4000 under the command of Prince Dabulamazi

kaMpande), and 17 British soldiers dead out of a force of about 100 men. The Zulu's eventually withdrew. Having overcome three military defeats (Battle of Isandlwana, Battle of Intombe, and Battle of Hlobane), the British began gaining the upper hand as they obtained decisive victories in the last four battles of the war: Battle of Kambula (March 29), Battle of Gingindlovu (April 2), Battle of Eshowe (April 3), and Battle of Ulundi (July 4, 1879). After the defeat at Isandlwana, the British were determined to take revenge and defeat the Zulu's led by King Cetshwayo kaMpande, and crossed the White Umfolozi on 4 July 1879 with a force of approximately 5124 men. Led by Lord Chelmsford a, battle took place that day which led to the Zulu defeat. Fort Marshall, situated within the northern section of the project area, was occupied between May & July 1879 by the 24th Regiment. There are 11 soldiers buried there, most dying of wounds from the battle of Ulundi. The ramparts and graves are still visible. As a result of the British victory over the Zulus, the Kingdom of Zululand lost its independence and it became part of a British Colony (ibid).

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

4.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. In addition, the available archaeological literature covering the greater Nqutu area was also consulted. The SAHRIS website was consulted to obtain background information on previous heritage surveys and assessments in the area.

A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted on the 10th September 2015.

In addition, members of local communities were approached to ask for the location of potential grave sites as well as other heritage features in the area.

4.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

4.2.1 *Visibility*

Visibility was good.

4.2.2 *Disturbance*

No disturbance of any heritage sites or features was noted.

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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

5.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Town: Nqutu

Municipality: Nqutu Local Municipality

5.2 Description of the general area surveyed

Although the footprint is disturbed due to overgrazing no heritage sites and graves occur in the immediate environs of the proposed road upgrade. Two Later Iron Age Sites and one Grave Site was observed to occur within 150m from the proposed road upgrade (Fig 2). However, these sites will not be affected by the proposed development and no mitigation measures need to be enforced. The area is also not part of any known cultural landscape.

5.3 Description of sites

Not applicable as no heritage sites occur in the close environs of the footprint.

6 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

6.1 Field Rating

Not applicable, as no heritage sites occur on the footprint.

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

7 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The heritage impact assessment survey identified no archaeological, historical or living heritage sites adjacent to and within 50m of the L2718.
- No graves occur within 50m from the proposed road upgrade
- The project area is not part of any known cultural landscape
- The proposed development may proceed from a heritage perspective, however, developers should restrict all activities within a 100m buffer zone on either side of the proposed road upgrade.
- All heritage sites are protected by heritage legislation and may not be altered or changed without mitigation.

8 MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Google Earth Photograph showing the locality of the Project Area (L2718) near Nqutu in northern KwaZulu-Natal



Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the distribution of known heritage sites in the project area. All these sites occur more than 150m from the proposed road upgrade.



Figure 3. Local access road L2718.



Figure 4. Although rural homesteads are situated adjacent to the L2718 no associated graves occur less than 50m from the proposed road

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