



**eTHEMBENI
CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

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31 March 2017

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

Heritage Scoping Report

**Proposed construction of 7.6 km gravel road in Obisini Village
on the Farm Qamu Location 17484
Msinga LM, Mzinyathi District DM, KwaZulu-Natal.**

Project Area and Project description¹

The project involves construction of 7.6km gravel road in Obisini Village on the farm Qamu Location 17486. The site is located in the Obisini Village area and falls under the jurisdiction of the Msinga Local Municipality and Umzinyathi District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Qama Traditional Authority; iNkosi Velaphi Majozi

The gravel road will be constructed as Standard Type 7A District Road in accordance with the Department of Transport specifications. The final road carriageway width will be twelve (12m) meters.

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations require a Basic Assessment to be undertaken in terms of NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.

Observations

eThembeni staff inspected the study area on 03-04 March 2017. Road construction had already been incepted along existing roads and track alignments. In the greenfield sections all observed graves and cemeteries that fall within 20m of the final road carriageway were marked. Local informants were aware of the proposed road upgrades and were supportive of the initiative. Induna Zondi and Messers Bekizitha Zuma, Madondo and Maphumulo were invaluable in pointing out grave sites that were observed to be potentially impacted by the road alignments in the Obisini area. These grave sites are tabled below.

¹ Information provided by EAP: Magasela and Associates

Obisini Graves within 20m of the road servitude

Ob2 G16	28°36'05.62"S	30°16'37.64"E	> 20m
Ob2 G15	28°35'51.44"S	30°17'09.12"E	>20m
Ob2 G14	28°35'35.62"S	30°17'18.09"E	<20m
Ob2 G13	28°35'34.34"S	30°17'19.81"E	<20m
Ob2 G12	28°35'35.56"S	30°17'19.20"E	<20m
Ob1 G11	28°34'50.35"S	30°18'9.69"E	<20m
Ob1 G 8-9-10	28°34'50.20"S	30°18'9.74"E	<20m
Ob1 G7	28°34'50.62"S	30°18'12.97"E	<20m
Ob1 G5 - 6	28°34'45.07"S	30°18'33.71"E	<20m
Ob1 G4	28°34'44.73"S	30°18'33.98"E	<20m
Ob1 G3	28°34'44.27"S	30°18'34.60"E	<20m
Ob1 G2	28°34'44.67"S	30°18'34.38"E	<20m
Ob1 G1	28°34'43.27"S	30°18'34.45"E	<20m

Apart from randomly scattered colluvially washed and patinated hornfels MSAdebitage and flakes washing out of water courses and along rill lines, no concentrations of archaeologically significant Stone Age material was observed. Adiaagnostic pottery fragments (< 1-2 cm) were observed in the vicinities of both extant and abandoned homesteads. These fragments too appear to have moved downslope under colluvial action and were rounded and abraded by water action. They are considered to be of historically recent origin and little heritage significance.

The SAHRIS Palaeontology sensitivity map indicates the area to be of insignificant to moderate sensitivity (grey-green). The predominant lithology is Dwyka tillite overlain by Vryheid and Pietermaritzburg formation shales of the Eccagroup. An extensive network of dolerite sills, sheets and dykes is ubiquitously intrusive into the former Karoo Supergroup, consequently restricting significant fossil occurrence. No further palaeontology assessment or monitoring is recommended.

No other heritage resources of any significance were observed within the proposed road alignments surveyed

See survey track data shown in Appendix 1.

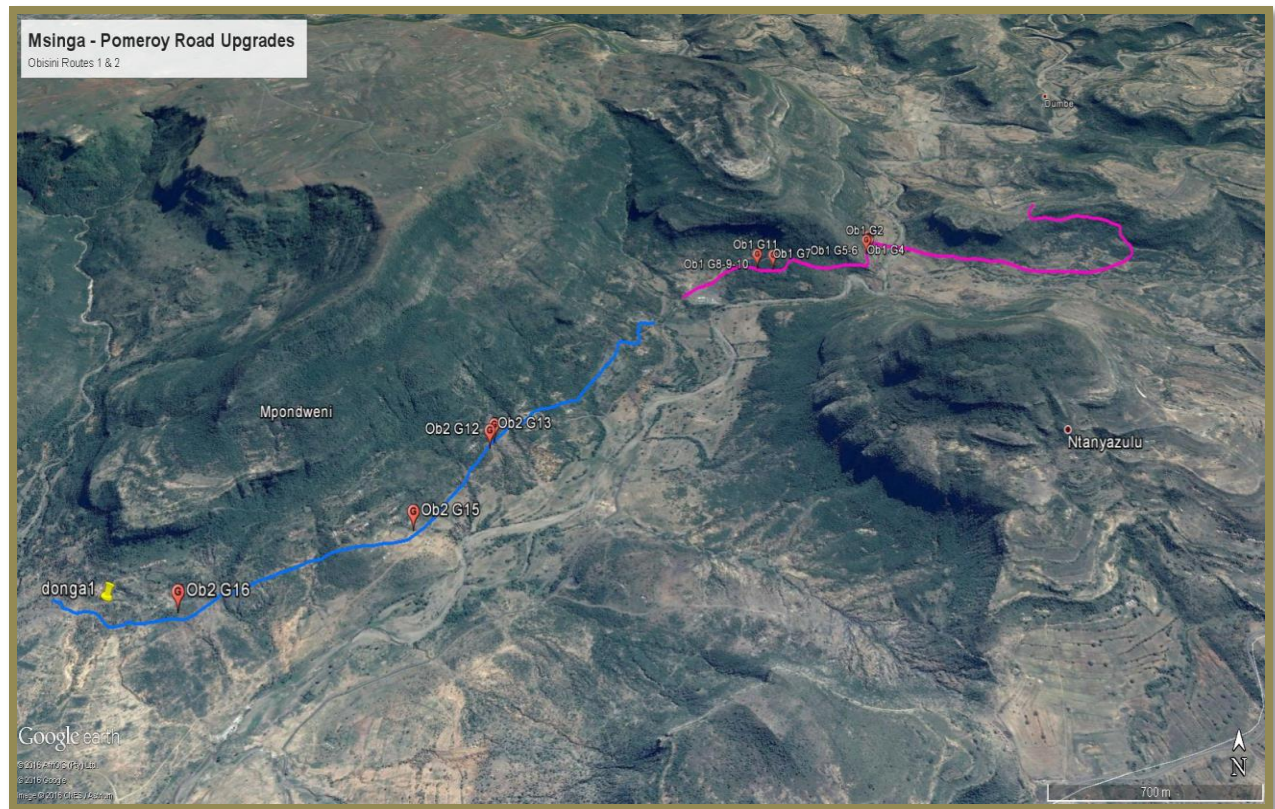


Figure 1 Locality map of the proposed Obisini road alignments



Figure 2 Obisini road upgrade along existing road alignment



Figure 3 Typical stone-packed grave



Figure 4 Stone-packed grave in close proximity to graded existing alignment



Figure 5 Graves located precariously above the hanging wall of a road cutting



Figure 6 Typical donga environment within which scattered colluvially washed and patinated hornfels MSA debitage was observed

.Recommendations

All graves tabled above (see also Appendix 3) must be fenced by the contractor or his agents prior to road construction starting in the “greenfield” belts of Obisini Routes 1 & 2. Fencing should comprise of metal standards and 3 strands of barbed wire to a height of 1,2m.

In the light of no other heritage resources of significance being observed during this heritage scoping exercise undertaken, we request that Amafa grant an exemption from an HIA for the proposed road project, allowing the enterprise to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation. The protocols contained in Appendix 2 should be adhered to with oversight by the appointed project CLO (Community Liaison Officer) and ECO (Environmental Control Officer).

In this regard, please can you notify us timeously via the loaded SAHRIS case file as to the decision of Amafa.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Len van Schalkwyk'.

Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Investigator.

Appendix 1
Survey Track Data

Obisini Track A:

Type	Coordinates	Photo ID:
Track start	28°34'37.88"S 30°19'11.29"E	20170303_103534
Track end	28°36'5.11"S 30°16'20.69"E	20170303_121456
Graves #1-6	28°34'44.73"S 30°18'33.98"E	20170303_105509
		20170303_105907
		20170303_105945
		20170303_110110
Grave #7	28°34'50.62"S 30°18'12.97"E	20170303_111216
Grave #8-11	28°34'50.20"S 30°18'9.74"E	20170303_111503
		20170303_111523
Grave #12 -14	28°35'35.56"S 30°17'19.20"E	20170303_113533
		20170303_113741
		20170303_113930
Grave #15	28°35'51.44"S 30°17'9.12"E	20170303_120207
Grave #16	28°36'5.62"S 30°16'37.64"E	20170303_121204
Donga	28°36'5.14"S 30°16'26.67"E	20170303_124951
		20170303_124958

Obisini Track B:

Type	Coordinates	Photo ID:
Track start	28°36'50.39"S 30°23'14.56"E	20170303_142419
Track end	28°34'27.79"S 30°25'18.23"E	20170303_140135
Old Homestead/Kraal	28°36'40.48"S 30°23'20.09"E	20170303_142907
Old Homestead/Kraal	28°36'5.04"S 30°23'27.03"E	20170303_143826
Old Homestead/Kraal	28°34'58.08"S 30°24'16.09"E	20170303_151828
Old Homestead/Kraal	28°34'51.41"S 30°24'24.47"E	20170303_152240
Graves #1	28°35'51.08"S 30°23'22.36"E	20170303_144841
Graves #2	28°35'50.74"S 30°23'22.28"E	20170303_145118
Graves #3	28°35'48.06"S 30°23'25.79"E	20170303_145543
Graves #4(3+)	28°35'47.72"S 30°23'31.77"E	20170303_150008
Graves #5 (x2)	28°35'24.30"S 30°23'44.45"E	20170303_150815

Appendix 2

Protocol for the identification, protection and recovery of heritage resources during construction and operation

It is possible that sub-surface heritage resources will be encountered during the construction phase of this project. The Project Engineer, Environmental Control Officer and all other persons responsible for site management and excavation should be aware that indicators of sub-surface sites could include:

- Ash deposits (unnaturally grey appearance of soil compared to the surrounding substrate);
- Concentrations of humanly modified stone and stone tools;
- Bone concentrations, either animal or human;
- Ceramic fragments, including potsherds;
- Stone concentrations that appear to be formally arranged (may indicate the presence of an underlying burial); and
- Fossilised remains of fauna and flora, including trees.

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

- All construction within a radius of at least 20m of the indicator 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, s/he should be contacted and a site inspection arranged as soon as possible.
- If no heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (Heritage KZN must be notified [Tel. 033 3946543; archaeology@amafapmb.co.za]
- The South African Police Services should be notified by a SAHRA 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 scoping and assessment.

Appendix 3

Obisini Graves within 20m of the road servitude

Ob2 G16	28°36'05.62"S	30°16'37.64"E	> 20m
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