



Heritage Scoping Report

Proposed upgrade and construction of a Thokoza gravel access road at Emthaleni, Msinga LM, Mzinyathi District DM, KwaZulu-Natal.

Project Area and Project description ¹

The project involves the upgrade and construction the Thokoza gravel access road at Emthaleni (Qama Traditional Authority under iNkosi Velaphi Majozi); within the Msinga Local Municipality and Umzinyathi District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal.

	Start Point	End Point
Thokoza Access Road	28° 31' 55.39" S	28° 31' 40.09" S
	30° 30' 35.57" E	30° 31' 06.35" E

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 six comma five (6,5m) 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 17 April 2019. According to Google Pro imagery all the proposed road upgrades are aligned along existing roads and tracks. Graves and cemeteries appear to fall well outside the final road carriageways. Local informants are aware of the proposed road upgrades and are supportive of the initiative. No burial sites are anticipated to be potentially impacted by the road alignments in the Emthaleni area.

¹ Information provided by EAP: Isolendalo Environmental Consulting

Apart from randomly scattered colluvially washed and patinated hornfels MSA debitage flakes washing out of water courses and along rill lines, no concentrations of archaeologically significant Stone Age material were observed. Adiaagnostic pottery fragments (< 1-2 cm) are ubiquitously observed in the vicinities of both extant and abandoned homesteads. These fragments appear to move downslope under colluvial action and are generally 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 Ecca group. An extensive network of dolerite sills, sheets and dykes is ubiquitously intrusive into the former Karoo Supergroup, consequently restricting significant fossil occurrence.² No further palaeontology assessment or monitoring is recommended.

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

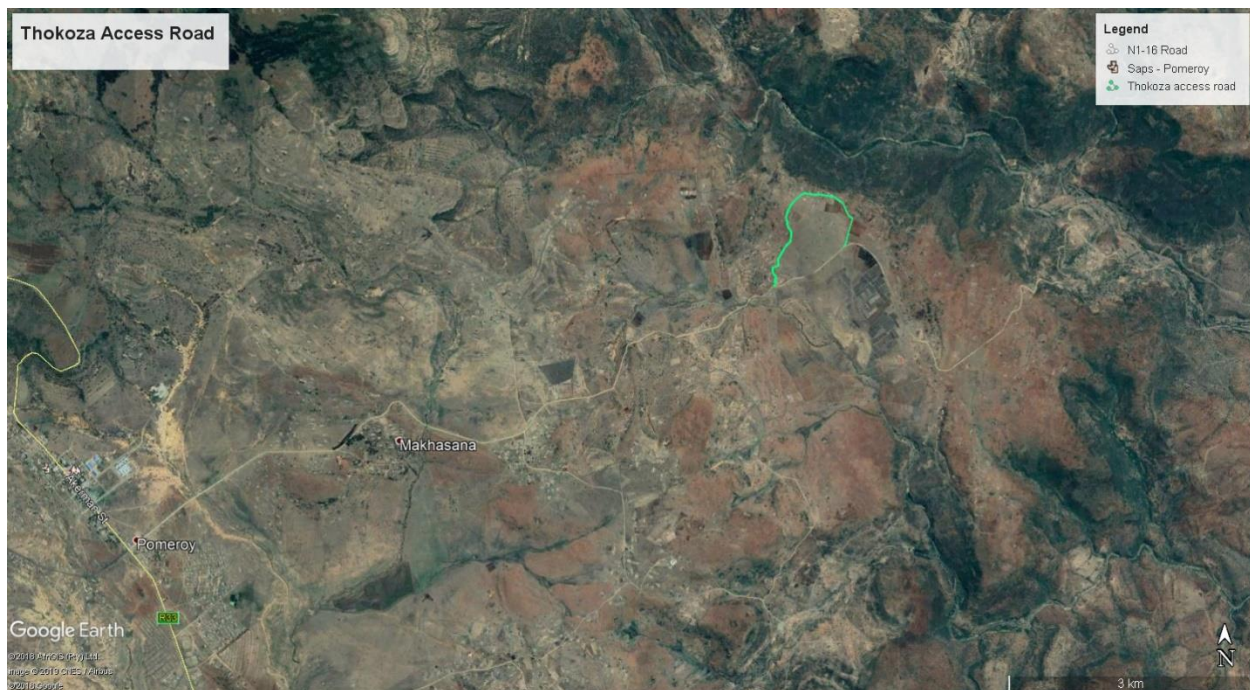


Figure 1 Locality map of the proposed Thokoza road upgrade alignments

² Palaeontological Technical Report for KZN. Groenewald, G. 2012

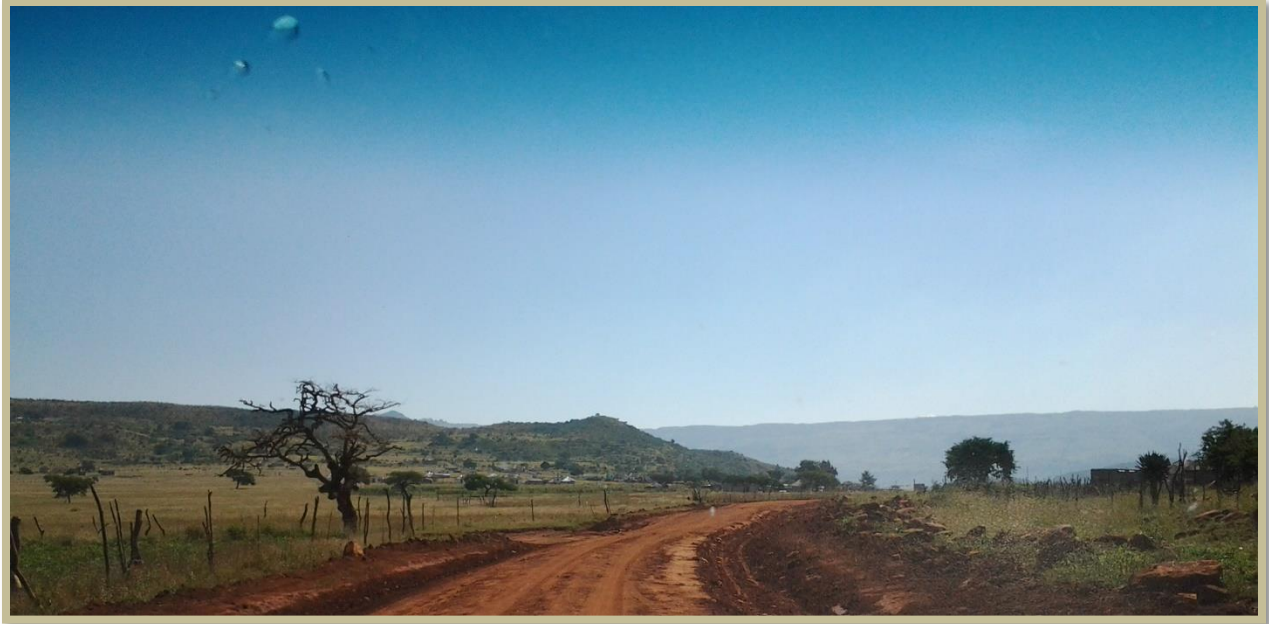


Figure 2 Thokoza road upgrade along existing previously graded inter *imizi* tracks

See GPS survey track loaded to SAHRIS.

Recommendations

Accordingly, as a consequence of the 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 1 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 the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute.

Yours sincerely

Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Investigator.

Appendix 1

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.