

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE KWATSHATSHU  
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, KING WILLIAMS TOWN,  
EASTERN CAPE.**

**FOR EOH CES**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

“Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) proposes to construct a pedestrian bridge over the Yellow Woods River, near Breidbach, in ward 44 of BCMM, Eastern Cape Province of South Africa

There is currently no formal crossing that links Breidbach and Qualasha to KwaTshatshu and Zwelitsha. The respective communities are separated by the Yellow Woods River. Currently, rocky outcrops in the river bed are being used as crossing points. In times of rain this crossing is submerged and unsafe for use. There are no designated pedestrian crossing points in the immediate vicinity of the respective settlements. When the river is in flow, the only way for pedestrians to cross the river is to make use of the N2 road bridge, some 4 km upstream. This detour over the N2 road bridge increases a typical walking trip from Qualasha to KwaTshatshu significantly from 0.8km to 7.5km” (EOH CES BID 2015).

The affected area relating to the bridge will be a ~50m. The location of the bridge is shown in figures 1 – 3.

The desktop study serves as a request of exemption from further HIA reports.

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE KWATSHATSHU BRIDGE

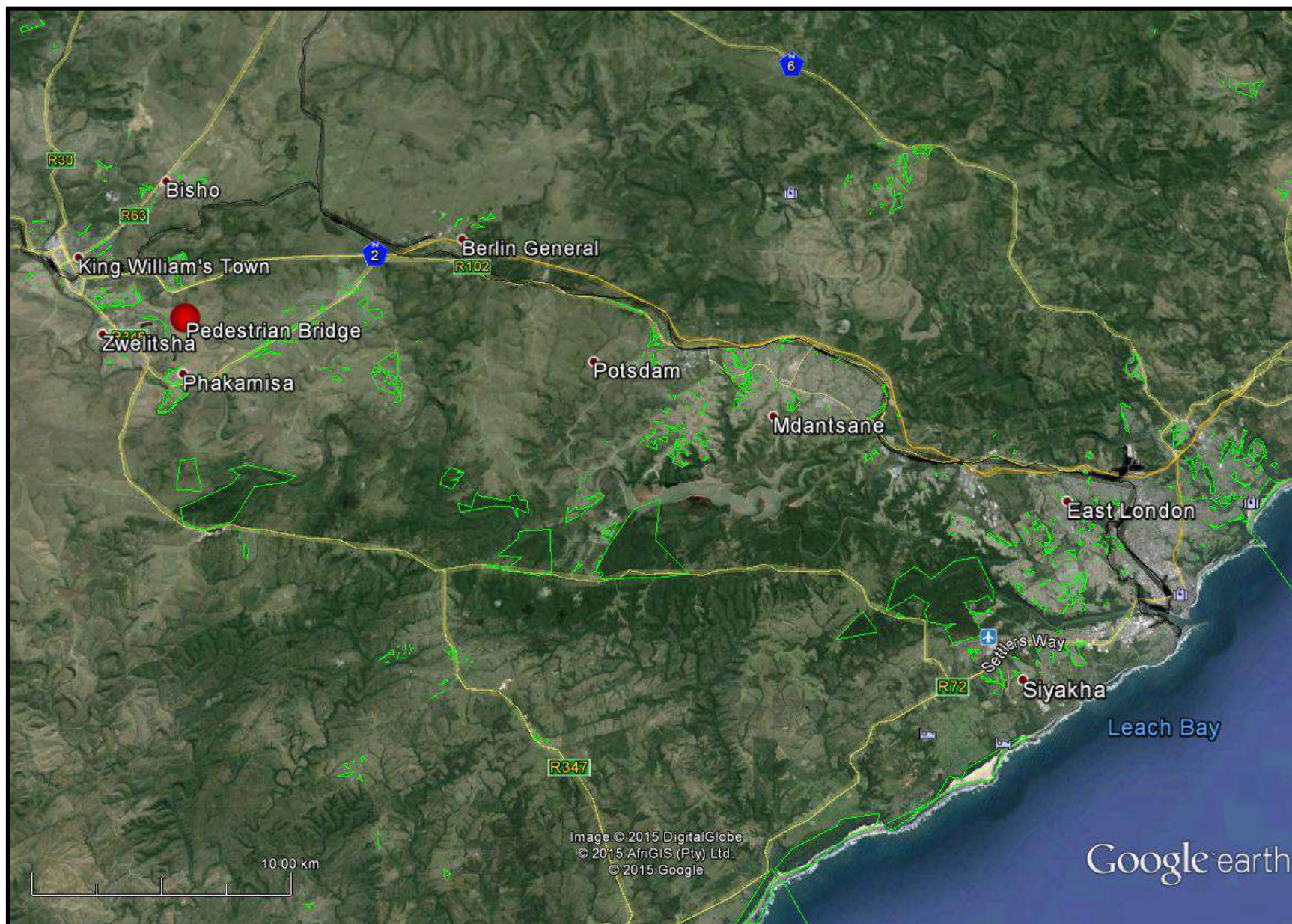


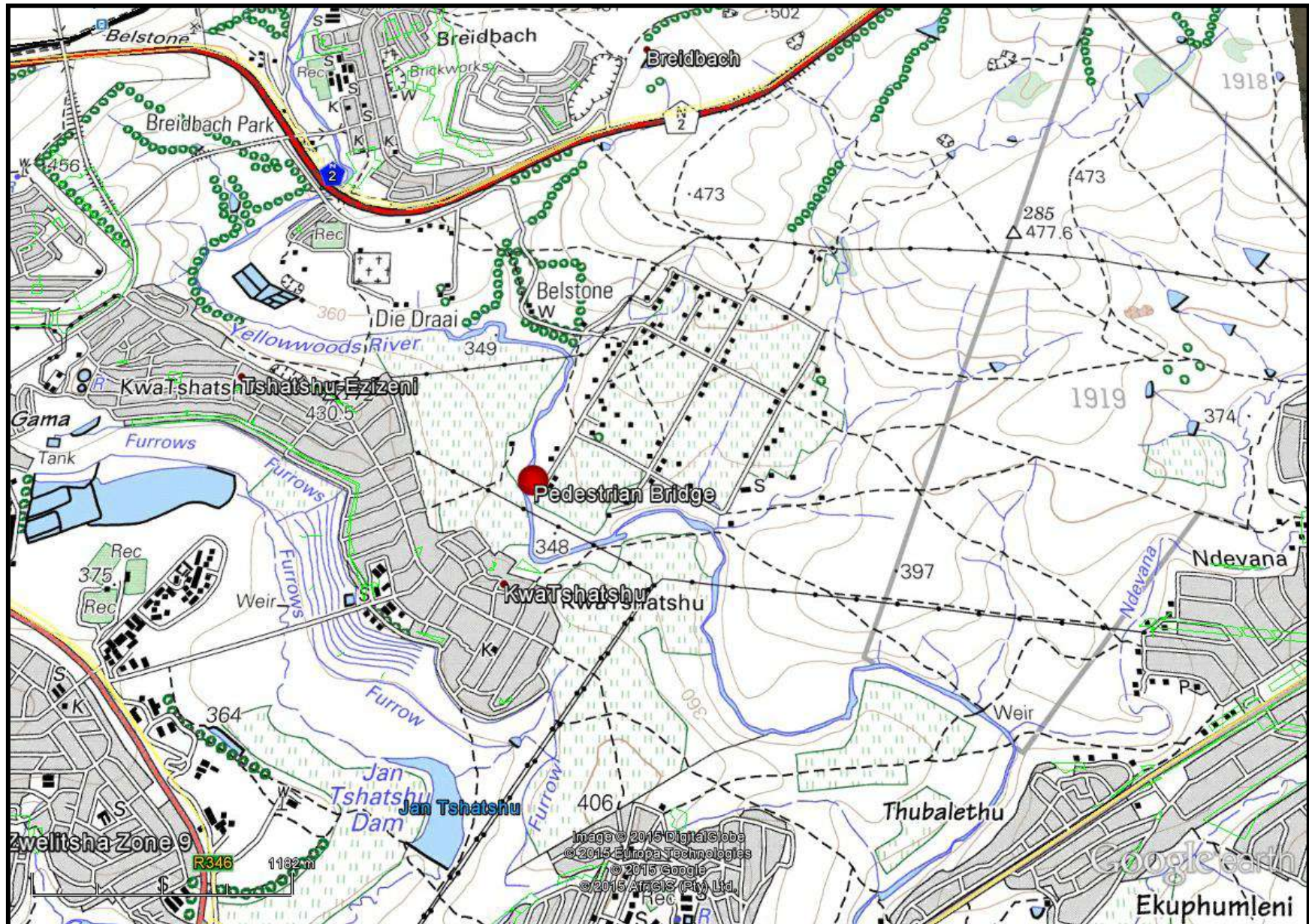


FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE KWATSHATSHU BRIDGE





FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE KWATSHATSHU BRIDGE



## **NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT OF 1999**

The National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (pp 12-14) protects a variety of heritage resources. These resources are defined as follows:

1. “For the purposes of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.
2. Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include—
  - 2.1. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
  - 2.2. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - 2.3. Historical settlements and townscapes;
  - 2.4. Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
  - 2.5. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
  - 2.6. Archaeological and palaeontological sites;
  - 2.7. Graves and burial grounds, including—
    - 2.7.1. Ancestral graves;
    - 2.7.2. Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
    - 2.7.3. Graves of victims of conflict;
    - 2.7.4. Graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
    - 2.7.5. Historical graves and cemeteries; and
    - 2.7.6. Other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
3. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
  - 3.1. Movable objects, including—
4. Objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;



- 4.1. Objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - 4.2. Ethnographic art and objects;
  - 4.3. Military objects;
  - 4.4. objects of decorative or fine art;
  - 4.5. Objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - 4.6. 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).
5. Without limiting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of—
- 5.1. Its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
  - 5.2. Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
  - 5.3. Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
  - 5.4. Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
  - 5.5. Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
  - 5.6. Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
  - 5.7. Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
  - 5.8. 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
  - 5.9. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa"



## METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the database that has been collated by Umlando. These database contain archaeological site locations and basic information from several provinces (information from Umlando surveys and some colleagues), most of the national and provincial monuments and battlefields in Southern Africa (<http://www.vuvuzela.com/googleearth/monuments.html>) and cemeteries in southern Africa (information supplied by the Genealogical Society of Southern Africa). We use 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:50 000 topographical and 1937 aerial photographs where available, to assist in general location and dating of buildings and/or graves. The database is in Google Earth format and thus used as a quick reference when undertaking desktop studies. Where required we would consult with a local data recording centre, however these tend to be fragmented between different institutions and areas and thus difficult to access at times. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

## **Defining significance**

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

### **1. State of preservation of:**

- 1.1. Organic remains:
  - 1.1.1. Faunal
  - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
  - 1.5.1. Ash Features
  - 1.5.2. Graves
  - 1.5.3. Middens
  - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
  - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

### **2. Spatial arrangements:**

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

### **3. Features of the site:**

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

### **4. Research:**

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects

4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

**5. Inter- and intra-site variability**

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

**6. Archaeological Experience:**

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

**7. Educational:**

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

**8. Other Heritage Significance:**

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary



archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

**TABLE 1: SAHRA GRADINGS FOR HERITAGE SITES**

<b>SITE SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>FIELD RATING</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED MITIGATION</b>
<b>High Significance</b>	National Significance	Grade 1	Site conservation / Site development
<b>High Significance</b>	Provincial Significance	Grade 2	Site conservation / Site development
<b>High Significance</b>	Local Significance	Grade 3A / 3B	
<b>High / Medium Significance</b>	Generally Protected A		Site conservation or mitigation prior to development / destruction
<b>Medium Significance</b>	Generally Protected B		Site conservation or mitigation / test excavation / systematic sampling / monitoring prior to or during development / destruction
<b>Low Significance</b>	Generally Protected C		On-site sampling monitoring or no archaeological mitigation required prior to or during development / destruction

## RESULTS

### DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys. No national monuments, battlefields, or historical cemeteries are known to occur in the footprint, although several occur near King Williams Town (fig. 4).

Only one HIA has been undertaken along this section of the road, however, the HIA report is not available on-line (eThembeni 2011) and is referred to from

another report on SAHRIS (PGS Heritage 2013). The survey did not note any significant sites.

The 1955 topographical map shows the land just above the bridge as belonging to the British German Legion. The British German Legion (South Africa) originates from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and has a rich history in King Williams Town (and other parts of the E. Cape) - see Westphal 1892; Wyn Jones 2005. "The implementation of the Group Areas Act during the Apartheid era, was the final blow for a separate German community in the Eastern Cape. To reduce contact between race groups in South Africa, every group was given its own separate piece of land. While the Europeans received by far the most and the best land, they did lose some areas to other groups. One such area was that part of the Eastern Cape which later became the Ciskei. As this was where the first two groups of Germans had been settled, their land was expropriated by the government. All remaining Germans had to move down into the main towns, and as a result, a separate German community in the Eastern Cape ceased to exist" (Rolf Grüner, 1992 in [http://www.safrika.org/kaffraria\\_en.html](http://www.safrika.org/kaffraria_en.html)). This is noticeable in that the later Erf names have been removed from the topographical maps. Many of the original buildings from the German settlements appear to occur in the Google Earth imagery. The bridge does not affect these areas.

The area where the footbridge will occur is currently eroded. Fig. 6 shows the existing area.

FIG. 4: PREVIOUSLY RECORDED HERITAGE SITES IN THE GENERAL AREA





FIG. 5: STUDY AREA IN 1956

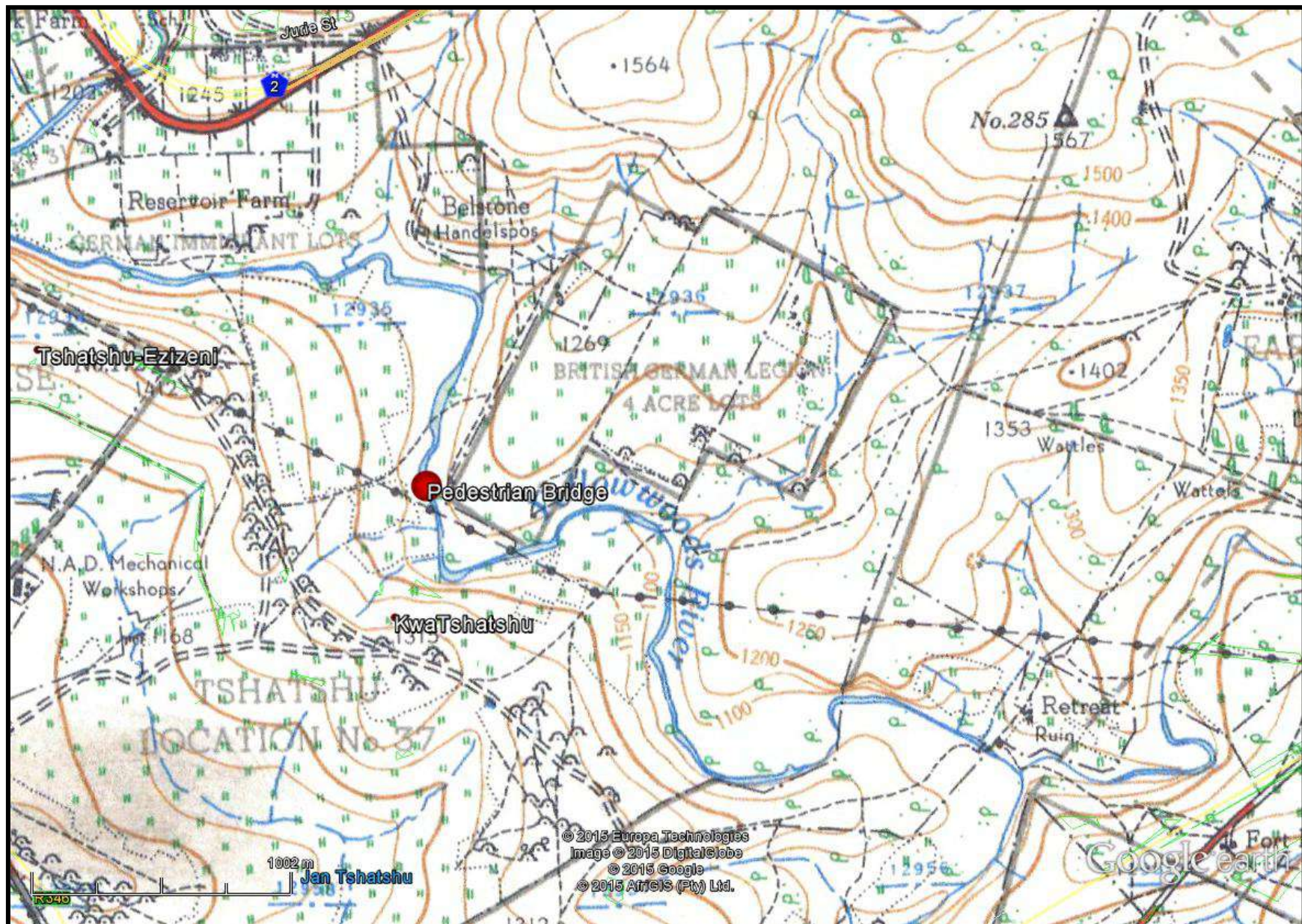




FIG. 6: STUDY AREA IN 2015



## CONCLUSION

A desktop heritage survey was undertaken for the proposed KwaTshatshu Bridge, King Williams Town. The desktop study indicated that the area is of low heritage significance and that no known heritage sites occur within the bridge footprint.

Due to the low sensitivity of the development footprint, I would recommend that the application is exempt from further heritage assessment.

## REFERENCES

[http://www.safrika.org/kafraria\\_en.html](http://www.safrika.org/kafraria_en.html)

PGS Heritage. 2013. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment For The Proposed Upgrade of The King William's Town Bulk Regional Sewage Scheme, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape.

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