

**PHASE ONE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED THE UPGRADE OF THE P57
ROAD FROM EZINQOLENI TO THE MTAMVUNA
RIVER BRIDGE, WITHIN THE EZINQOLENI
LOCAL AND UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES,
KWAZULU-NATAL**



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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 (2010).
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 upgrade of the P 57 from Ezingoleni to the Mtamvuna River Bridge, within the Ezingoleni Local and Ugu District Municipalities, KwaZulu-Natal, identified ten heritage sites adjacent to the proposed road upgrade. A buffer must be strictly maintained around these sites. Should this not be possible then a phase two heritage impact assessment should be called for in order to investigate grave exhumation and potential rescue excavation of relevant sites. The Shobashobane Massacre Memorial sites situated near the P 57 have provincial heritage status and should not be altered in any way. 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:	Under Government Notice No R. 543 of 2010, the Applicant, Department of Transport, is required to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The Applicant has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Basic Assessment process for the proposed development. Active Heritage cc has been sub-consulted by Green Door Environmental to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment for this project.
Type of development:	<p>The Applicant, the Department of Transport, proposes to upgrade the P57 Road, between Ezingoleni and the Mtamvuna River Bridge, within the Ezingoleni Local and Ugu District Municipalities, KwaZuluNatal. It is proposed to upgrade the gravel P57 Road to a blacktop road. An additional climbing lane will be added and the road will be re-aligned to accommodate the additional lane and an increased speed limit. The upgraded road will have a significantly positive socio-economic impact on the local community and people travelling from the Eastern Cape, as the road is the shortest alternative road to the N2. Once the road is improved and upgraded to a blacktop road, it will be able to serve as a main route between the Provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.</p> <p>The proposed roads upgrade will comprise of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The upgrade the gravel P57 Road to a blacktop road (12.5km); ◆ Minor re-alignment to accommodate an increased speed limit on the re-surfaced road; ◆ The addition of a climbing lane on the steeper sections of the road; ◆ The resurfacing of the Mtamvuna River Bridge; and ◆ The addition of formal Bus stops at intervals all along the road,

	for use by the surrounding community.
Rezoning or subdivision:	na
Terms of reference	To carry out a phase one 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)

1.1. Details of the area surveyed:

The study area is situated within the Eziqoleni Local and Ugu District Municipalities, KwaZulu-Natal approximately 32 km south east of Harding and approximately 24 km west of Margate in southern KwaZulu-Natal (Fig 1). The section of P 57 earmarked for a road upgrade is approximately 12km long. The GPS coordinates for the footprint is:

Start: S 30° 47' 07.58" E 30° 08' 01.17".

End: S 30° 5' 15.62" E 30° 04' 13.46"

1.2. Cultural Heritage legislation

According to Section 3 (2) of the NHRA, 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 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 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).”

In terms of section 3 (3) 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.”

2 BACKGROUND TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF AREA

The study area has never been systematically surveyed for archaeological sites in the past. However, the greater Port Shepstone area to the east of the study area has been surveyed by archaeologists of the then Natal Museum in the 1970's and 1980's. Further inland the Paddock and greater Oribi Gorge areas, situated to the immediate east of the study area, are well known to archaeological researchers. These surveys were originally conducted by staff associated with the then Natal Parks Board in the 1970's. However, more professional surveys were conducted by archaeologists such as J. H. Cable in the early 1980's (Cable 1984) and later by various archaeologists attached to the Natal Museum (Mazel 1989; Mitchell 2005).

The available evidence, as captured in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum heritage site inventories, indicates that the area to the immediate north east and east of the study area contains a wide spectrum of archaeological sites covering different time-periods and cultural traditions. These include Early, Middle and later Stone Age sites, Early Iron Age sites, Later Iron Age sites, and some historical sites. Various buildings and farmsteads belonging to the Victorian and Edwardian periods occur in the area especially in the close environs of Paddock. These are also protected by heritage legislation.

Stone Age sites of all the main periods and cultural traditions occur along the coastal cordon. Most of these occur in open air contexts as exposed by donga and sheet

erosion. The occurrence of Early Stone Age tools in the near vicinity of permanent water resources is typical of this tradition. These tools were most probably made by early hominins such as *Homo erectus* or *Homo ergaster*. Based on typological criteria they most probably date back to between 300 000 and 1.7 million years ago. The presence of the first anatomically modern people (i.e. *Homo sapiens sapiens*) in the area is indicated by the presence of a few Middle Stone Age blades and flakes. These most probably dates back to between 40 000 and 200 000 years ago. The later Stone Age flakes and various rock painting sites identified in the area are associated with the San (Bushmen) and their direct ancestors. These most probably dates back to between 200 and 20 000 years ago.

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. By 1500 years ago these early Bantu-speaking farmers also arrived in the project area. Due to the fact that these first farmers introduced metal technology to southern Africa they are designated as the Early Iron Age in archaeological literature. Their distinct ceramic pottery is classified to styles known as “Msuluzi” (AD 500-700), Ndongondwane (AD 700-800) and Ntshokane (AD 800-900). Most of the Early Iron Age sites in the greater Ugu District Municipality belong to these traditions (Maggs 1989:31; Huffman 2007:325-462). These sites characteristically occur on alluvial or colluvial soil adjacent to large rivers below the 1000m contour. The Early Iron Age farmers originally came from western Africa and brought with them an elaborate initiation complex and a value system centred on the central significance of cattle.

Later Iron Age sites also occur to the north east of the study area. These were Bantu-speaking agropastoralists who arrived in southern Africa after 1000 year ago via East Africa. Later Iron Age communities in KwaZulu-Natal were the direct ancestors of the Zulu-speaking people (Huffman 2007). Many African groups moved through the study area due to the period of tribal turmoil as caused by the expansionistic policies of King Shaka Zulu in the 1820's and subsequent civil wars in Zululand to the north. It is known from oral history that the greater project area was inhabited by Zulu refugees in the 19th century (Bryant 1965) especially by members of the abakwaCele and Lushaba clans. These clans arrived in the project area around 1828 soon after the murder of King Shaka when they were being pursued by supporters of King Dingane (ibid). However, it appears that the lower densely wooded valley areas were only occupied later. According to oral history most of the historical settlement of the area took place on the higher altitude grassland areas.

Archaeological sites in the near vicinity of the project area include 1 Middle Stone Age site and 3 Later Stone Age rock art sites situated adjacent to the Umtavuna River approximately 50km downstream from the project area. The rock art sites form part of the eastern seaboard coastal rock art zone. Most of these occur in sandstone shelters and depict red monochrome paintings although rare polychrome paintings have been recorded at a rock shelter in the Umtavuna Nature Reserve. None, however, have been recorded in the study area. No Iron Age sites were identified in the project area although one later Iron Age site occurs about 7km to the north of the study area.

The Harding area is inhabited by a number of tribes of diverse origin such as the Mawu and the Jali who derive from the Mpondo; the Cele, Nhlungwini and Nyuswa who are of Zulu origin and one mixed tribe, the Nkumbini founded by the British ivory trader Frank Fynn. The town was established in 1813 as a magisterial and police post on the rather unruly frontier between the colony of Natal and Griqualand East. For a period of time the greater Harding area was a no mans land of gun-runners, smugglers and a retreat for shady characters. In this setting Harding grew into an atmospheric little town and it eventually became a municipality in 1911. The area contains no provincial heritage sites (Derwent 2008).

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SURVEY

3.1 Methodology

A desktop study was conducted of the archaeological databases housed in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and the SAHRA inventory of heritage sites. The SAHRIS website of heritage resources and previous Cultural Resource Management (CRM) surveys was also consulted. Aerial photographs of the area were surveyed. In addition, the available archaeological and historical literature covering KwaZulu-Natal was also consulted.

A site visit was made to the project area on 7 June 2015. A ground survey, following standard and accepted archaeological procedures, was conducted. The consultant walked the study area on foot and surveyed potential hotspot areas for heritage sites.

3.2 Restrictions encountered during the survey

3.2.1 Visibility

Visibility was good.

3.2.2 Disturbance

No disturbance of any potential heritage sites was noted.

3.3 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.

4 DESCRIPTION OF SITES AND MATERIAL OBSERVED

4.1 Locational data

Province: KwaZulu-Natal

Towns: Harding, Margate, Port Shepstone

Municipality: Ugu District Municipality.


4.2 Description of the general area surveyed



The study area is dominated by disturbed grasslands that slopes down towards the Umtavuna River. Rural homesteads are scattered throughout the landscape although many tend to be concentrated adjacent to access roads.





5 HERITAGE SITES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE (HERITAGE VALUE)

Ten heritage sites were located during the ground survey. These included abandoned houses with possible “hidden” grave sites, visible graves, two memorials relating to the Freedom Struggle in the area, an old church building, an old trading store, and a Shembe religious site. (Table 2). Most of the route and the diversions have houses and/or homesteads close to where the roads upgrade is proposed to be situated. Potential graves associated with these homesteads are not clearly visible. However, several local people said that residents bury their dead at home hence the possibility of impacting on graves 30m either side of the road is high.

Table 2. Context of Heritage Sites Located During Survey

No	Location	Description	Mitigation	Photograph
1 (Fig 2)	30°47'2 2.9"S 30°07'5 0.5"E	Abandoned house/s, at least one grave (as per conversation with passer-by); graves not clearly visible but close to abandoned building; within 30m of road route	Maintain a buffer zone of at least 20m around these structures. The site is rated as low to medium significant (Table 4)	
2 (Fig 2)	30°47'3 0.1"S 30°07'2 8.3"E	Possibly a grave within fenced area immediately above P57 road; indicating proximity of sites to project areas	Maintain a buffer zone of at least 20m around the grave. The site is rated as low to medium significance (Table 4)	

<p>3 (Fig 2)</p>	<p>30°47'3 3.21"S 30°07'2 4.65"E</p>	<p>Memorial to victims of the Shobashobane massacre that took place on 25/12/1995; site contains memorial and about 6 graves with headstones</p> <p>In the decade preceding the attack the area was the scene of a prolonged struggle between warlords aligned to either the IFP or ANC. During the massacre, about 600 alleged IFP supporters went through the area; hundreds of people were injured and 19 died. At least 90 huts were burned down (Source: Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation documents, www.sahistory.org.za)</p> <p>Site is more than 30 m from road route so should not be directly impacted by proposed road upgrade.</p>	<p>Maintain a buffer zone of at least 30m around the memorial. The site is not threatened by the proposed development It has provincial significance (Tables 3 & 4).</p>	
<p>4 (Fig 2)</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Graves and fencing around memorial site</p>	<p>Maintain a buffer zone of 30m around this heritage site. The site is not threatened by the proposed development. The site has provincial significance (Tables 3 & 4)</p>	

<p>5 (Fig 3)</p>	<p>30°48'3 9.09"S 30°06'5 5.15"E</p>	<p>Second Shobashobane massacre memorial and graves. More graves than at first memorial (\pm 18 graves); Falls within 30 m of road.</p>	<p>Maintain a buffer zone of 30m around this heritage site. The site is not threatened by the proposed development. The site has provincial significance (Tables 3 & 4)</p>	
<p>6 (Fig 3)</p>	<p>30°48'4 1.36"S 30°06'5 3.73"E</p>	<p>Church, It does not appear to be >60 years but I could not establish its date. The church is situated approx. 45m from centre of road.</p>	<p>Maintain a buffer zone of 10m around this old church to protect it against possible construction damage. The site is rated as of medium significance Table 4.</p>	
<p>7 (Fig 3)</p>	<p>30°49'4 4.2"S 30°06'1 1.0"E</p>	<p>White stone ringed worship area (possibly Shembe); situated just off the P57 road and falls very close to and within 30m of road route.</p> <p>The homestead adjacent to the worship area has graves according to a local woman who was fetching water from a communal tap close to site.</p>	<p>Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around this site. The site is rated as low to medium significance (Tables 3 & 4).</p> <p>Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around this site. The site is rated as low to medium significance (Tables 3 & 4).</p>	 




8 (Fig 4)	30°48'2 2.6"S 30°07'0 5.7"E	Abandoned / demolished homestead – people living next to site said that it used to belong to Gumede and that there are graves close to the remains of the homestead	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around this site. The site is rated as low to medium significance (Table 4)	
		Homestead close to above remains is that of Gumbushe; they too have at least one grave below the house	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around this site. The site is rated as low to medium significance (Table 4).	
9 (Fig 4)	30°50'0 5.1"S 30°06'0 9.9"E	Formal grave inside property – grave of Cele; within 30m of road route.	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around this site. The site is rated as low to medium significance (Table 4).	
10	30°51'1 0.62"S 30°04'2 1.15"E	Mpunzi Drift Store – possibly >60 years; within 30 m of road route.	Maintain a buffer zone of 20m around this site. The site is rated as low to medium significance (Table 4).	

Table 3. Evaluation and statement of significance.

	Significance	Rating
1.	Historic and political significance - The importance of the cultural heritage in the community or pattern of South Africa's history.	High – the Shobasobane Massacre Memorials qualify for Provincial Heritage Site status

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.	Medium to high in terms of the Shobasobane Massacre Memorials
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.	The Shembe religious site can be rated as of medium significance
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.	High
9.	The significance of the site relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	None.

5.1 Field Rating

- The Shobashobane Memorials have provincial heritage status (Grade 11) (Table 4). They should not be damaged or altered under any circumstances.
- All the other identified heritage sites, including graves, have medium significance (Generally Protected B) (Table 4). These sites need to be recorded and further evaluated, as part of a phase two heritage impact assessment, before destruction will be allowed.

Table 4. 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

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- All heritage sites are protected by national and provincial heritage legislation. It is therefore suggested that the developer enforce buffer zones around all these sites as suggested in Table 2. This will entail altering the road trajectory slightly in the near vicinity of these sites.
- Where it is not possible to alter the road trajectory a phase two heritage impact assessment will be necessary in order to investigate possible grave removal and rescue excavation prior to development.
- It is also important to point out that some graves may have been “invisible” during the initial survey. The exact locality of these graves may be known to relatives. Should the road upgrading exercise expose any graves then the upgrading should cease immediately pending an evaluation by a heritage consultant or the provincial heritage authority, Amafa.
- The South African National Heritage Act requires that operations exposing archaeological and historical residues, including graves, should cease immediately pending an evaluation by the heritage authorities.

7 MAPS

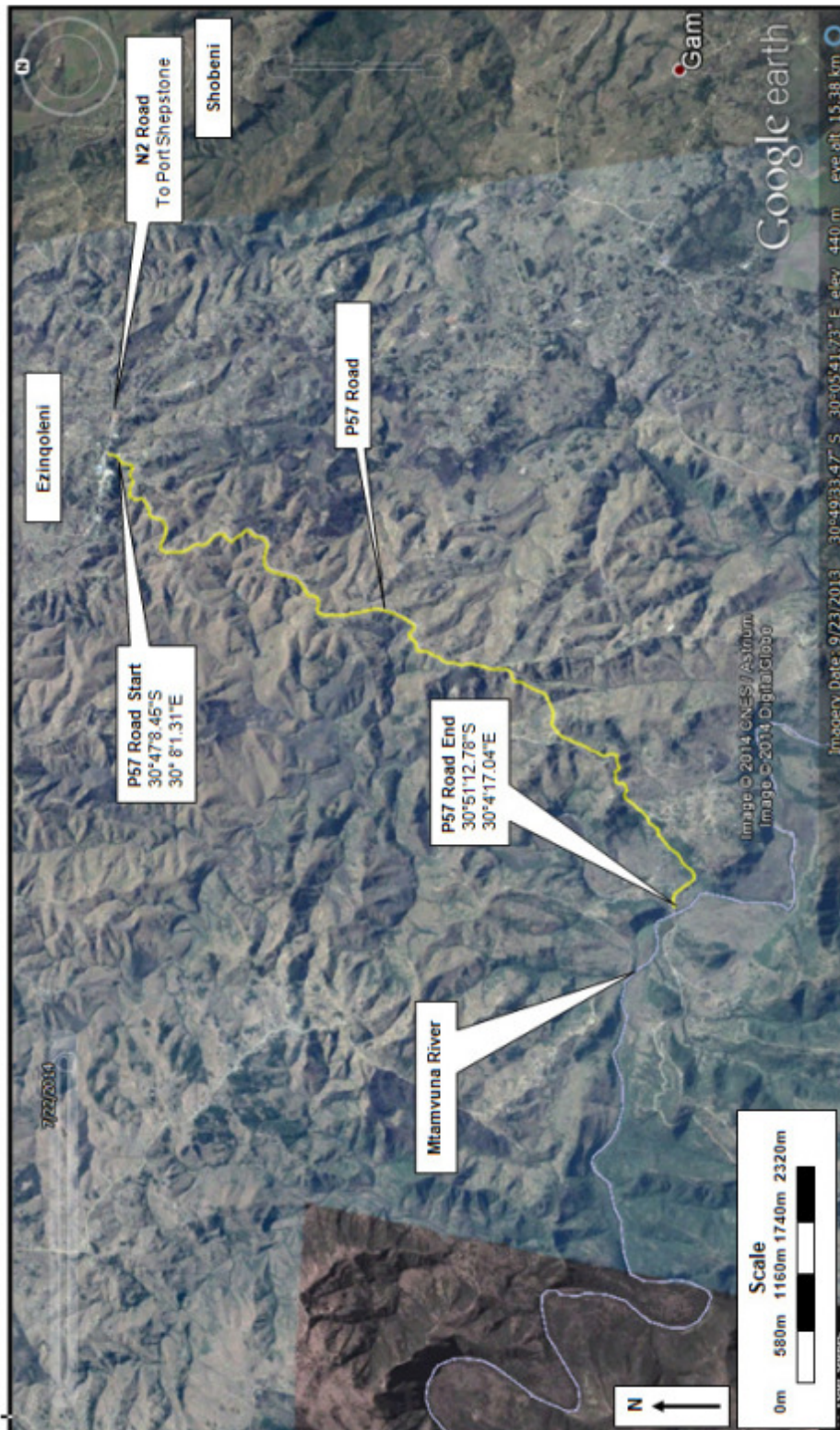


Figure 1. Map showing the locality of the study area (Source: Green Door)

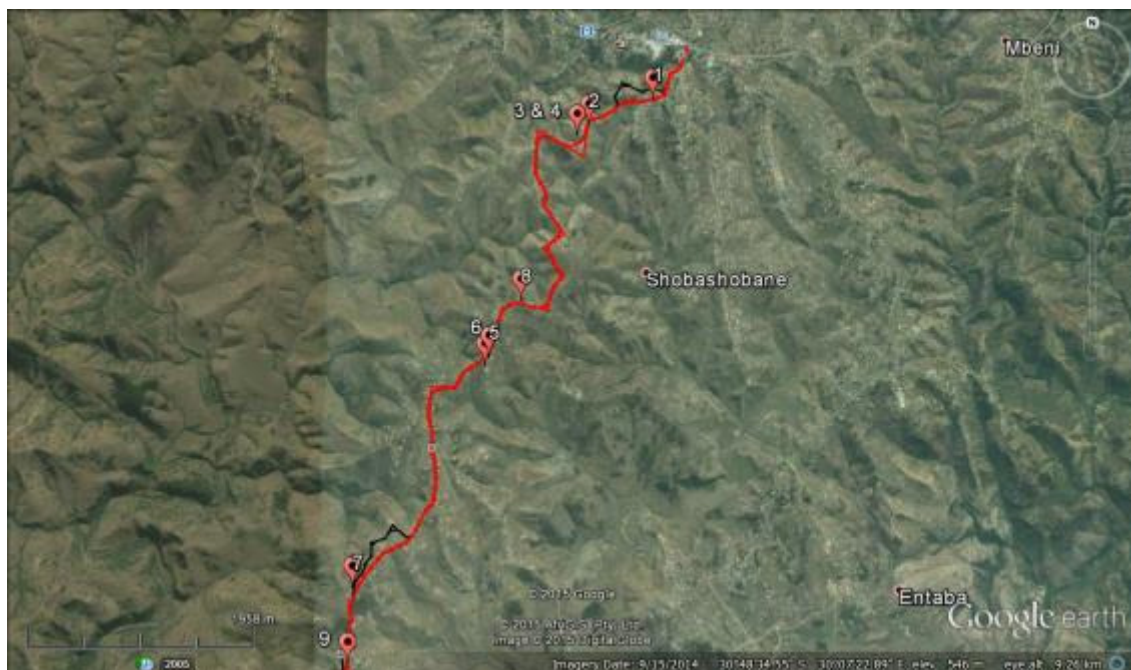


Figure 2. Google aerial photograph showing the distribution of heritage sites adjacent to the P 57 in southern KZN.

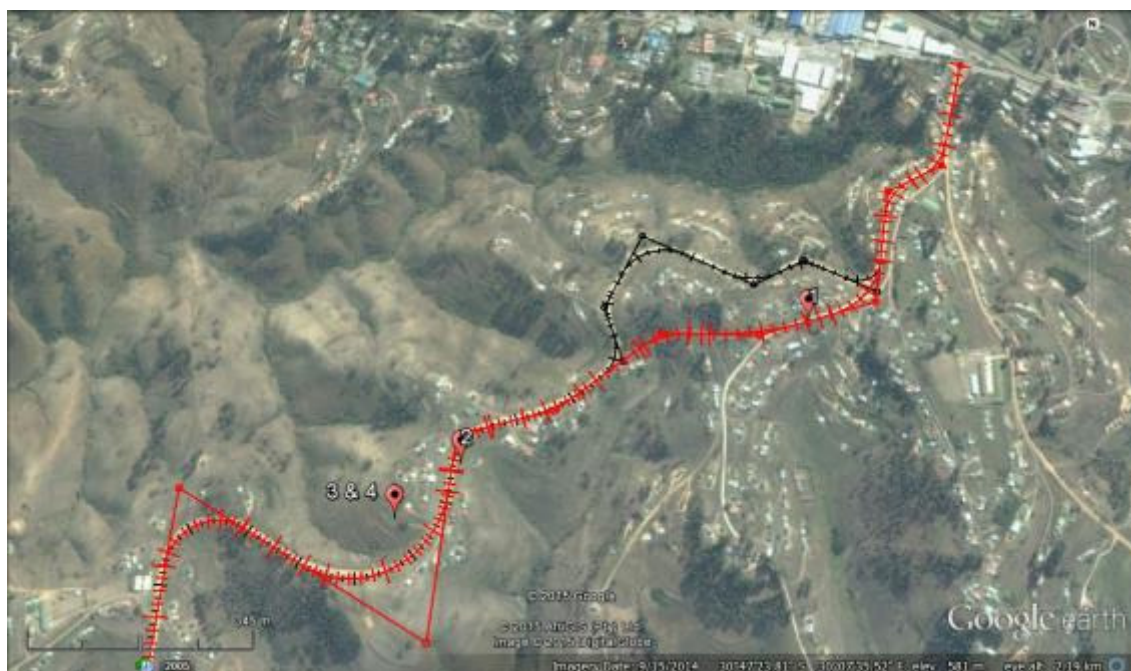


Figure 3. Google aerial photograph showing the distribution of heritage sites in the northern section of the P 57.



Figure 4. Google aerial photograph showing the distribution of heritage sites adjacent to the southern section of the P 57

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