



eThembeni Cultural Heritage

Amafa aKwazulu-Natali
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25 October 2017

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Heritage Scoping Report
Development of 2.0 km and upgrading of 2.0 km gravel road in Chachacha Village
Gxobanyawo, Msinga LM, Mzinyathi District DM, KwaZulu-Natal.**

Project Area and Project description¹

The project involves development of 2.0 km and upgrading of existing 2.0 km gravel road through the dispersed Chachacha settlement near Gxobanyawo, located within the Msinga Local Municipality. The final road carriageway width of both sections of gravel road will be widened to five meters (5m) as per Standard Type 7A District Road in accordance with the Department of Transport specifications.

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

Observations

Mbomvu Traditional Authority; iNkosi Pano Joseph Ngubane.

eThembeni staff inspected the study area on 31 August 2017 (See Figure 1). The proposed road follows the alignment of existing rudimentary sledge and donkey tracks that have been hand excavated in places to allow access for light vehicular traffic to some *imizi*. (See Figure 2). Much of the alignment traverses along a steep south-west facing scarp slope, infested with thick stands of feral black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*).

No road construction had been incepted along existing roads and track alignments into the village, although these were obviously manually maintained periodically. The only graves observed within 20m of the route alignment are clearly apparent (Figure 3). Their locations are tabled below:

¹ Information provided by EAP: Magasela and Associates

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| S28° 43.068' | E30° 33.005' |
|---------------------|---------------------|

It is recommended that these graves² be barriered with ski netting during the construction phase.

All other observed graves were located within the fenced precincts of individual homesteads. Spot checks along the route yielded no evidence of any archaeological residues of any significance.

The proposed alignment is underlain with Vryheid Formation sandstones and shales that are intruded by dolerite. However, the entire road alignment traverses over shallow sandy clay colluvial soils derived from extensive decomposition of the underlying shales and sandstones; observed to be 1-2 m deep in manually cut access routes to various *imizi*. Road construction is unlikely to exceed vertical depths of 1,5m and consequently no impact on the underlying hard rock is anticipated.



Figure 1 Locality map of the proposed Chachacha Village access-road alignment and attendant lithostratigraphy

² Graves of Ngubane family who currently reside some 250m away from the burial ground. Are aware of and welcome the proposed road upgrade (pers.com. LvS. 31.08.2017).



Figure 2 Existing servitude from which the Chachacha Village access-road will be constructed (Note intrusive dolerite)



Figure 3 Cluster of six graves in cleared feral wattle plantation (S28° 43.068'; E30° 33.005')



Figure 4 Alignment along SSW facing scarp through feral wattle stands and between existing *imizi*. The Thukela Valley is due South.

Recommendatons

Apart from the grave cluster noted above, no other heritage resources of significance were observed during this heritage scoping exercise. We request therefore that Amafa allow the road construction to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation. The grave-site recommendations above and 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 Amafa.

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.