



eThembeni Cultural Heritage

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25 October 2017

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Heritage Scoping Report
Proposed development of 1.7 km and upgrading of 2.8 km gravel road in Esidumbeni Village
Msinga LM, Mzinyathi District DM, KwaZulu-Natal.**

Project Area and Project description¹

The project involves the development 1.7 km and upgrading of existing 2.80 km of gravel road in Esidumbeni Village. The final road carriageway width of both sections of gravel road will be widened to five meters (5m) 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 upgrade follows the alignment of an existing track that has been hand-packed with rocks in places to allow access for light vehicular traffic to some *imizi* (see Figure 2), and to the Izingizini dip tank located on the banks of the Nadi stream. Much of the alignment traverses parallel to the stream bank and at km 2.8 fords the stream course to the north bank. The “greenfield” portion of the proposed road swings NNW away from the ford and then ENE along the higher ground parallel to stream bank. This alignment follows existing donkey, sledge and footpaths that connect the dispersed fields and *imizi* that line the stream courses’ northern bank.

¹ Information provided by EAP: Magasela and Associates

All observed graves were located within the fenced precincts of individual homesteads. No evidence of any archaeological residues of any significance were observed when surveying this “greenfield” portion of the alignment. Caution must however be exercised between the following Points (Figure 2).

Pt.A	28° 47.644'S	30° 39.321'E	Pt.B	28° 47.758'S	30° 39.319'E
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Between these two points (Figure 2) the proposed alignment skirts a substantial abandoned homestead precinct. The appointed CLO/ECO must engage with families in the immediately adjacent extant homesteads to ensure that no graves associated with the abandoned structures are impacted.

The Nadi drainage, and consequently the proposed road alignment, is underlain with Dwyka Group tillites and flanked by Ecca Group sandstones and shales (Pietermaritzburg Formation)² that are intruded by dolerite. Neither are here palaeontologically significant^{3,4}

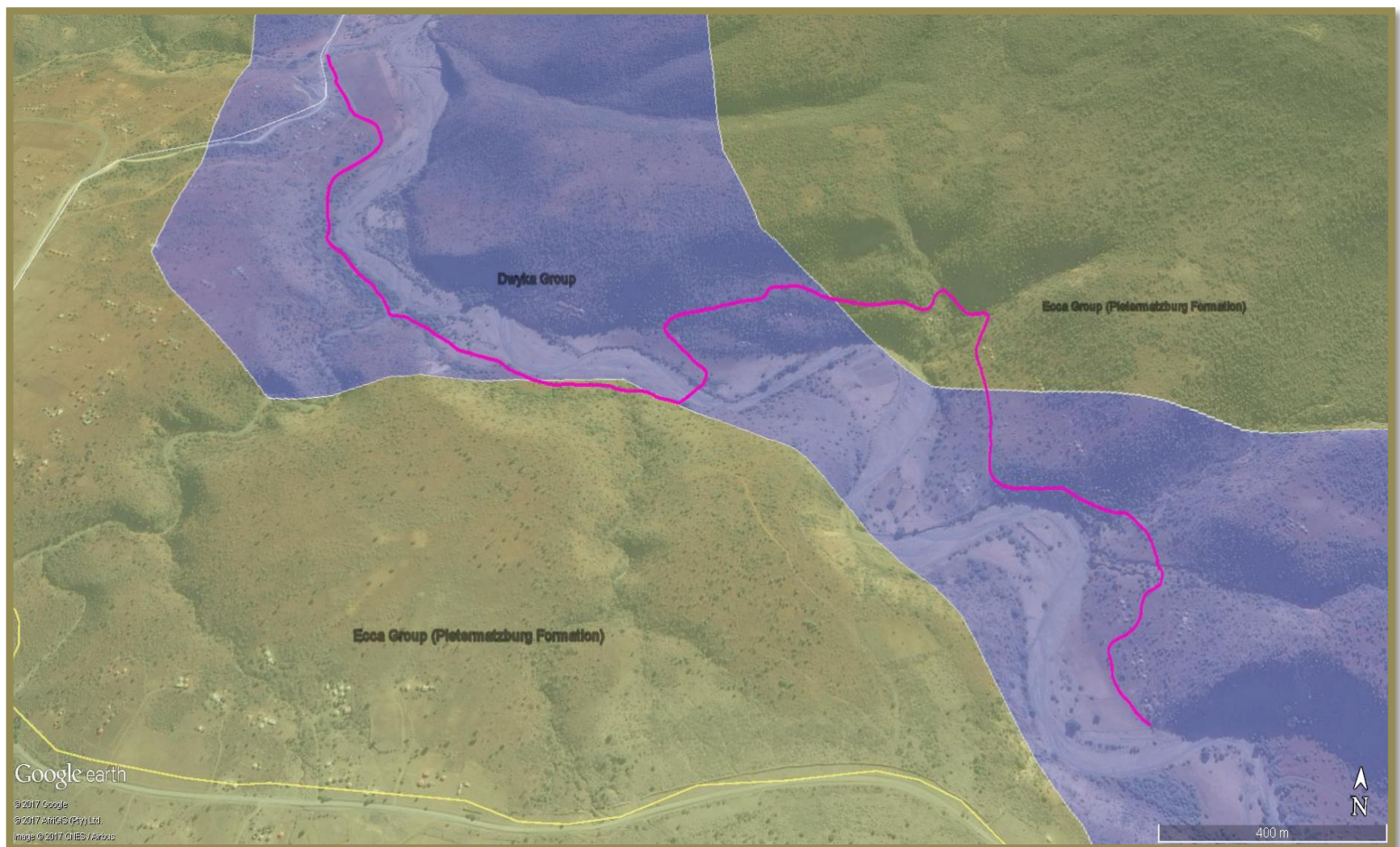


Figure 1 Locality map of the proposed Esidumbeni access-road alignment and attendant lithostratigraphy

² <http://www.geoscience.org.za/index.php/publication/downloadable-material> .rsa_1m_shape_layer

³ <https://www.heritagekzn.co.za/reports-publications-policy/miscellaneous-documents?download=21:palaeontological-sensitivity-map-of-kzn>

⁴ <http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/fossil-heritage-layer-browser>

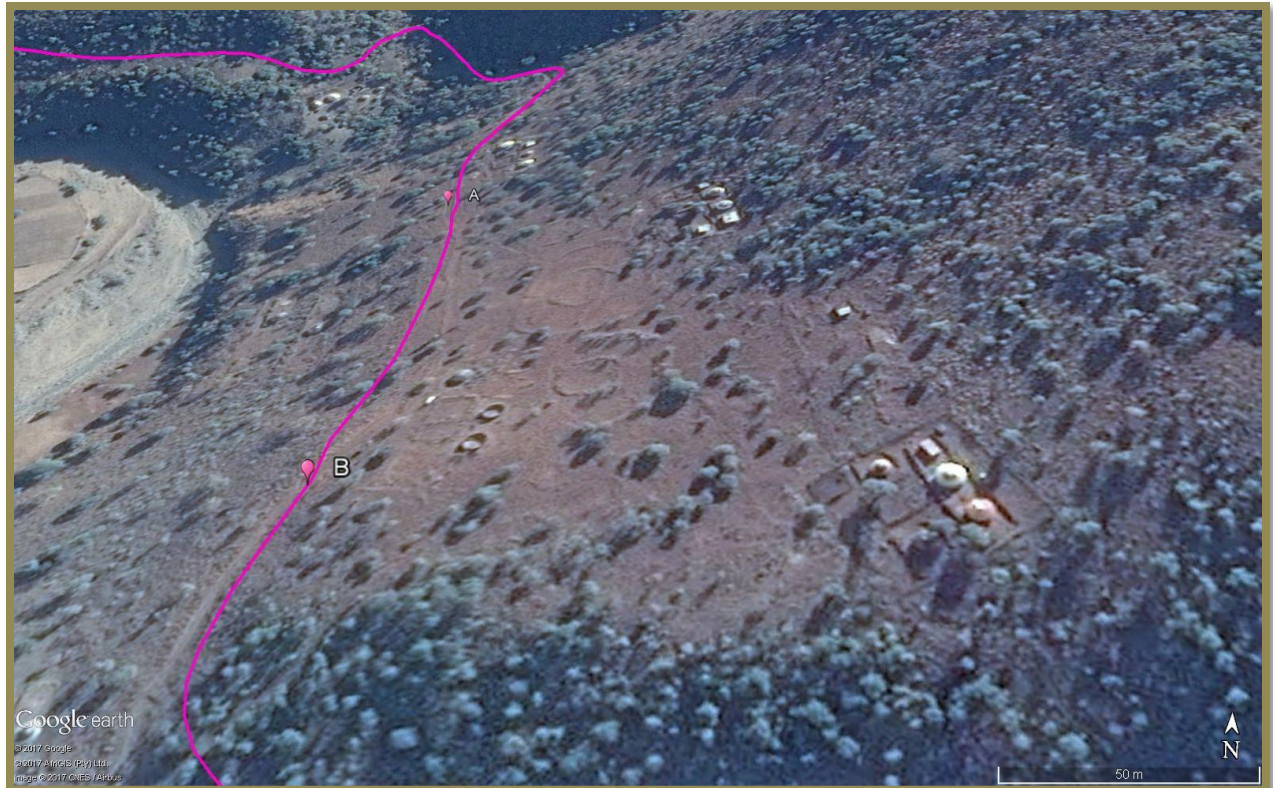


Figure 2 Greenfield route - existing track along which the Esidumbeni access-road will be constructed (NB. heed cautionary for graves possibly associated with abandoned homestead precinct)



Figure 3 Existing track along which the Esidumbeni access-road will be constructed



Figure 4 Dry season ford over the Nadi Stream. “Greenfield” route starts on the far (N) bank



Figure 5 Existing track to be upgraded

Recommendatons

Apart from the cautionary regarding graves associated with the abandoned homestead noted above (Figure 2), 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.