



# *eThekweni Cultural Heritage*

Amafa aKwazulu-Natali  
195 Jabu Ndlovu Street  
Pietermaritzburg 3200  
Telephone 033 3946 543  
[bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za](mailto:bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za)

06 October 2017

**Attention      Bernadet Pawandiwa**

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

## **Heritage Scoping Report**

### **Proposed upgrading of existing 4.9 km gravel road in JD Village, eNhlalakahle Msinga LM, Mzinyathi District DM, KwaZulu-Natal.**

#### **Project Area and Project description<sup>1</sup>**

The project involves upgrading of existing 4.90 km gravel road in JD Village. The final road carriageway width of existing 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**

Qunu Traditional Authority; iNkosi Simakade Mchunu.

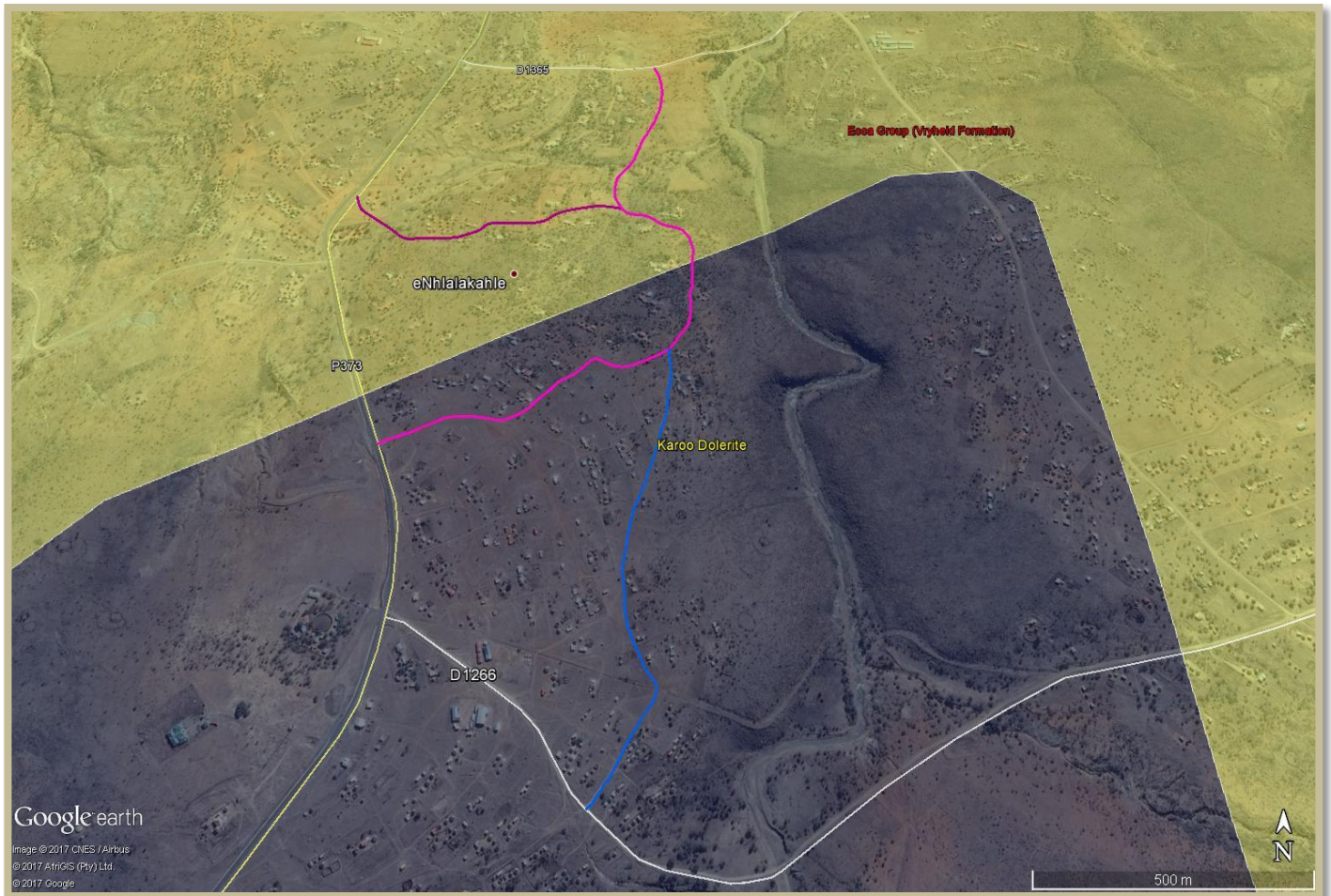
eThekweni staff inspected the study area on 31 August 2017. The proposed alignments are between District Roads D1365 and D1266, parallel to and interconnecting with the P373 (See Figure 1).

JD Village is a settlement of historically recent establishment (post 1994), and comprises a peri-urban settlement pattern where homesteads and gardens are fenced and the intervening spaces are utilized communally for the running of livestock (see Figure 2). No road construction had been incepted along existing roads and track alignments into the village, although these were obviously graded periodically. No graves were observed within 20m of the route alignment. All 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 shorter portions of the alignment (c. 1250 m) traverses a block indicated as Red (Very High Sensitivity) on the SAHRIS Palaeontological Sensitivity Map. This comprises light grey, coarse to fine-grained sandstone, and siltstones of the Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group). Intrusive Karoo dolerites underlie the balance of the study area.

<sup>1</sup> Information provided by EAP: Magasela and Associates

These traverses, and in fact all the proposed road alignments, runs over deep colluvial clayey sandy soils derived from extensive upslope sheet erosion gravitating towards the Mhlangana River drainage. Road construction is unlikely to exceed vertical depths of 1,5m and consequently no impact on the underlying lithology is anticipated.



**Figure 1** Locality of the proposed JD Village access-road alignments and the prevailing lithostratigraphy



**Figure 2** Existing servitude along which the main JD Village access-road will be constructed

## **Recommendations**

In the light of no heritage resources of significance being observed during this heritage scoping exercise undertaken, we request that Amafa allow 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 Amafa.

Yours sincerely

*Len van Schalkwyk*

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](mailto: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.