



**eTHEMBENI
CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

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20 September 2017

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

Heritage Scoping Report

**Proposed development of 1.6 km and upgrading of 4.0 km gravel road
Ko-Gabela/Msalvana Village, Msinga LM
Mzinyathi District DM, KwaZulu-Natal.**

Project Area and Project description¹

The project involves the development 1.6 km and upgrading by widening of existing 4.0 km gravel road in Ko-Gabela/Msalvana 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

Qama Traditional Authority; iNkosi Velaphi Majozi

eThembeni staff inspected the study area on 30 August 2017. Some road construction had already been incepted along existing roads and track alignments into the village as a consequence of laying of a community Bulk Water Supply Scheme (BWSS). A single observed grave cluster falls within 20 m of the final road carriageway. These were marked (see Fig.4. below). Local informants were aware of the proposed road upgrades and were supportive of the initiative.

¹ Information provided by EAP: Magasela and Associates

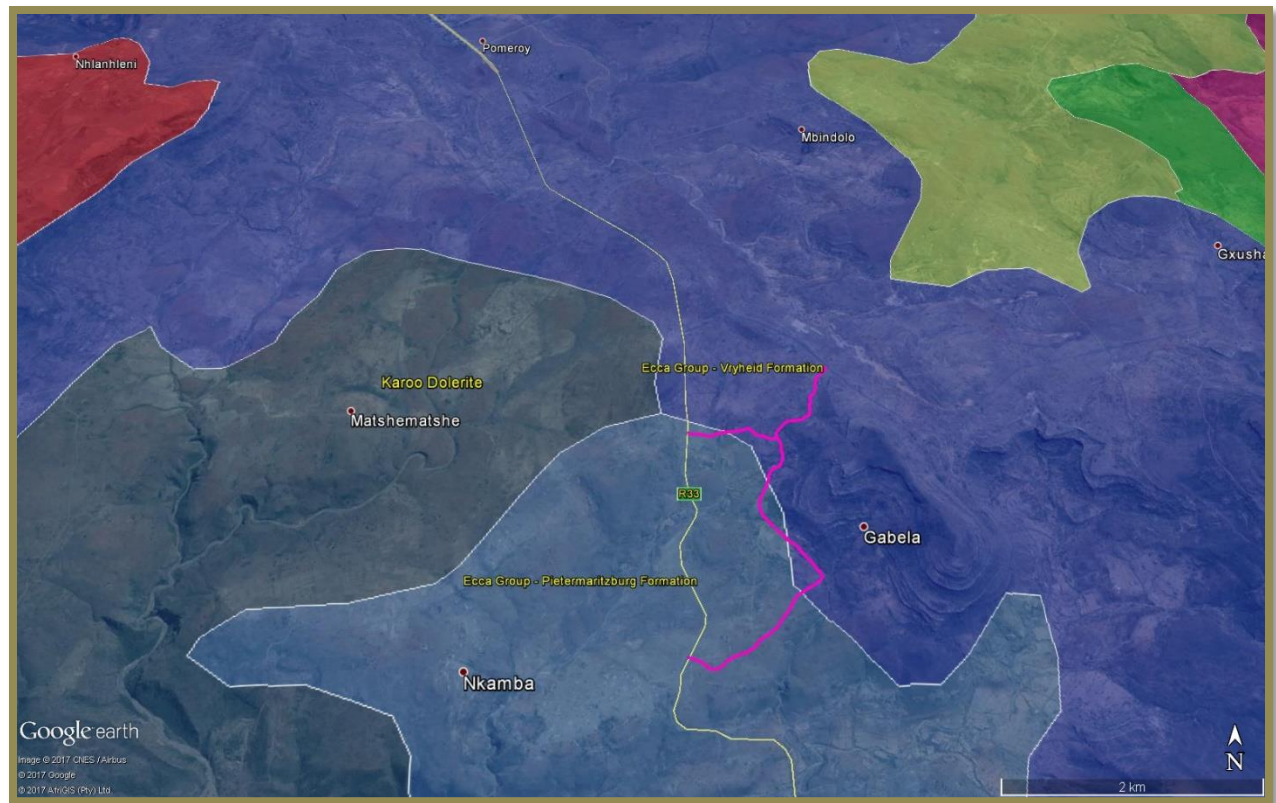


Figure 1 Locality map of the proposed KoGhabela road alignments and Lithostratigraphy



Figure 2. Construction track for community BWSS



Figure 3. Construction track for community BWSS along existing village access road



**Figure 4. KoGhabela Graves within 20m of the road servitude
S28° 36.867' E30° 28.395'**

Apart from randomly scattered colluvially washed and patinated hornfels MSA debitage and flakes washing out of water courses and along rill lines, no concentrations of archaeologically significant Stone Age material was observed. Adiabatic pottery fragments (< 1-2 cm) were observed in the vicinities of both extant and abandoned homesteads. These fragments too appear to have moved downslope under colluvial action and were rounded and abraded by water action. They are considered to be of historically recent origin and little heritage significance.

The SAHRIS Palaeontology sensitivity map indicates the area to be of insignificant to moderate sensitivity (grey-green). The predominant lithology is Dwyka tillite overlain by Vryheid and Pietermaritzburg formation shales of the Ecca group. An extensive network of dolerite sills, sheets and dykes is ubiquitously intrusive into the former Karoo Supergroup, consequently restricting significant fossil occurrence. No further palaeontology assessment or monitoring is recommended.

No other heritage resources of any significance were observed within the proposed road alignments surveyed.

Recommendations

The graves indicated above must be fenced by the contractor or his agents prior to road construction starting in the "greenfield" belts of the Ko-Gabela road. Fencing should comprise of metal standards and 3 strands of barbed wire to a height of 1,2m.

In the light of no other 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
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 exhumate 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.