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07 November 2017

**Attention      Bernadet Pawandiwa**

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

### **Heritage Scoping Report**

**Proposed development of 0.7 km and upgrading of 1.5 km gravel road in Gongolweni Village  
Msinga LM, Mzinyathi District DM, KwaZulu-Natal.**

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

The project involves development 0.7 km and upgrading of existing 1.50 km gravel road in Gongolweni 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**

Chunu Traditional Authority; iNkosi Simakade Mchunu.

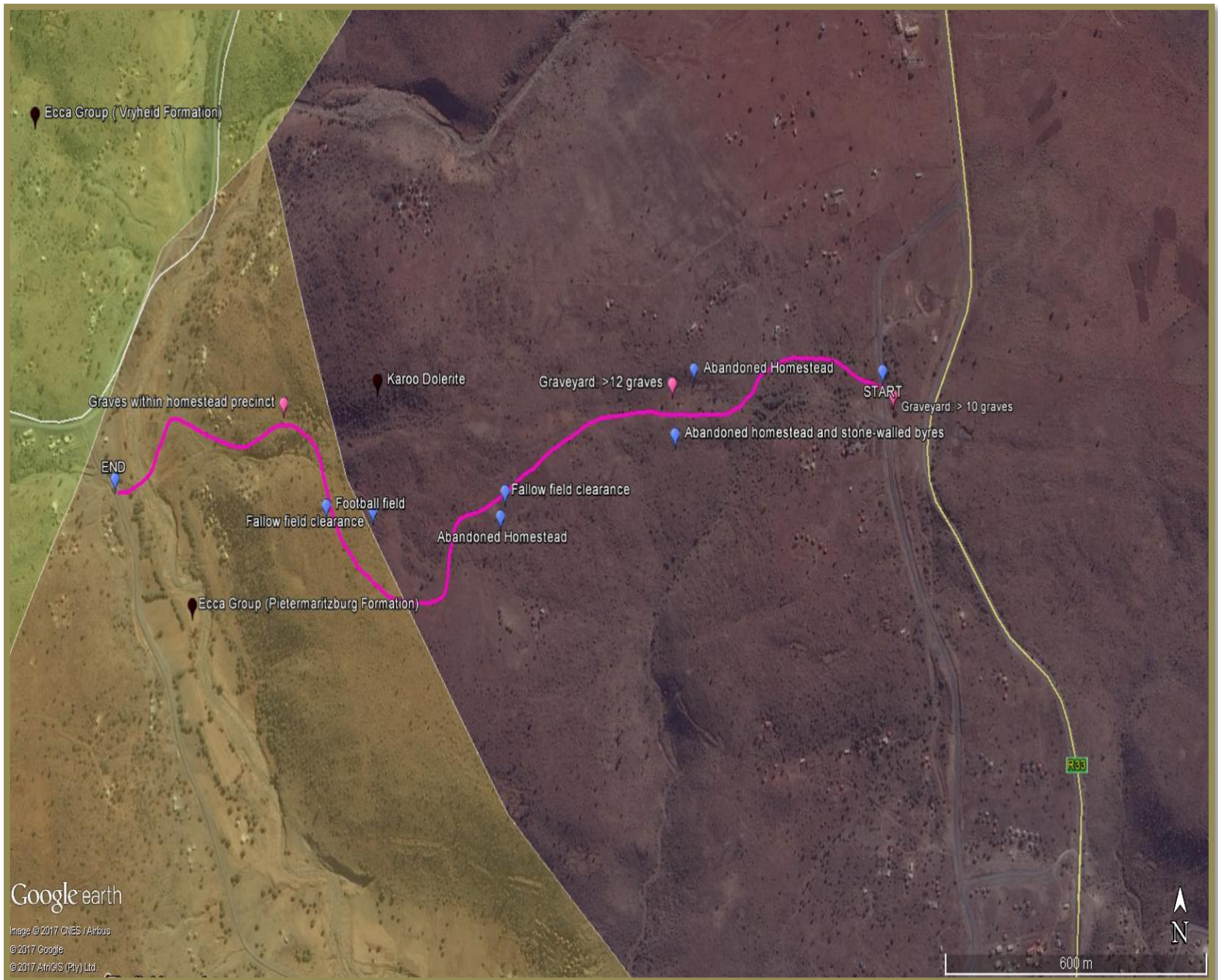
eThembeni staff inspected the study area on 29 August 2017 (See Figure 1). The proposed road starts, following the alignment of an existing well established track, and deviations from this are made along existing hand-cleared access routes to extant *imizi* or to detour steeper topography.

No road construction had been incepted along the existing roads and track alignments of the proposed access road. A cluster of 12 graves were observed just beyond 40m of the route alignment at **S28° 50.564' E30° 29.327'**, and another cluster of 10 at **S28° 50.577' E30° 29.635'**, 40 m north of the access road start. All are stone-packed and highly visible and in the custodianship of nearby families (see Figure 2). Apart from the former, 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.

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

The greater portion of the alignment traverses a dolerite scree slope, descending into the Gongolweni stream, where black Pietermaritzburg shales are exposed (Ecce Group). No impact on fossil sensitive strata are anticipated).



**Figure 1** Locality map of the proposed Gongolweni access-road alignment





**Figure 2** Grave cluster in the vicinity (c.40 m) of the start of the access road



**Figure 3** Dolerite scree through which road will be bulldozed





Figure 4

Existing hand-cleared track through dolerite scree along which access road will be constructed

## Recommendations

In the light of no heritage resources of significance being observed during this heritage field scoping, as undertaken; we request that Amafa allow the road construction 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](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.