

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED BIRDSWOOD
SHOPPING CENTRE**

**FOR MSA ENVIRONMENTAL, LEGAL & MINING
SERVICES**

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By Gavin Anderson

**Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource
Management**

PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

**Phone/fax: 035-7531785 Fax: 0865445631 cell:
0836585362**



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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by MSA: Environmental, Legal & Mining Services to undertake a heritage survey of the proposed Birdswood Shopping Centre, Richards Bay.

The proposed development area is located (fig. 1). The area has been largely disturbed by road and housing servitudes. Umlando originally wrote a letter to Amafa KZN suggesting that the area be excluded from a survey for the following reasons:

- The desktop analyses suggests that the area has little if any archaeological material
- The area is disturbed
- Most of the area is covered in grass that will result in poor archaeological visibility: on site inspections during construction, activity would yield better results.
- Umlando has driven past the area on many occasions and thus knows the proposed area. Our 15 years experience in KZN strongly suggests that there are no sites in the area.

Despite the above Amafa KZN insisted on a survey, and this was undertaken on 28 April 2009. No sites were recorded in the affected area.

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps. The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases from both Umlando and the Natal Museum. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal. This database does; however, tend to be restricted to archaeological and palaeontological sites. The desktop allows for a site assessment of archaeological sensitivity. The second step is to undertake the foot survey.

FIG. 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED BIRDSWOOD SHOPPING CENTRE

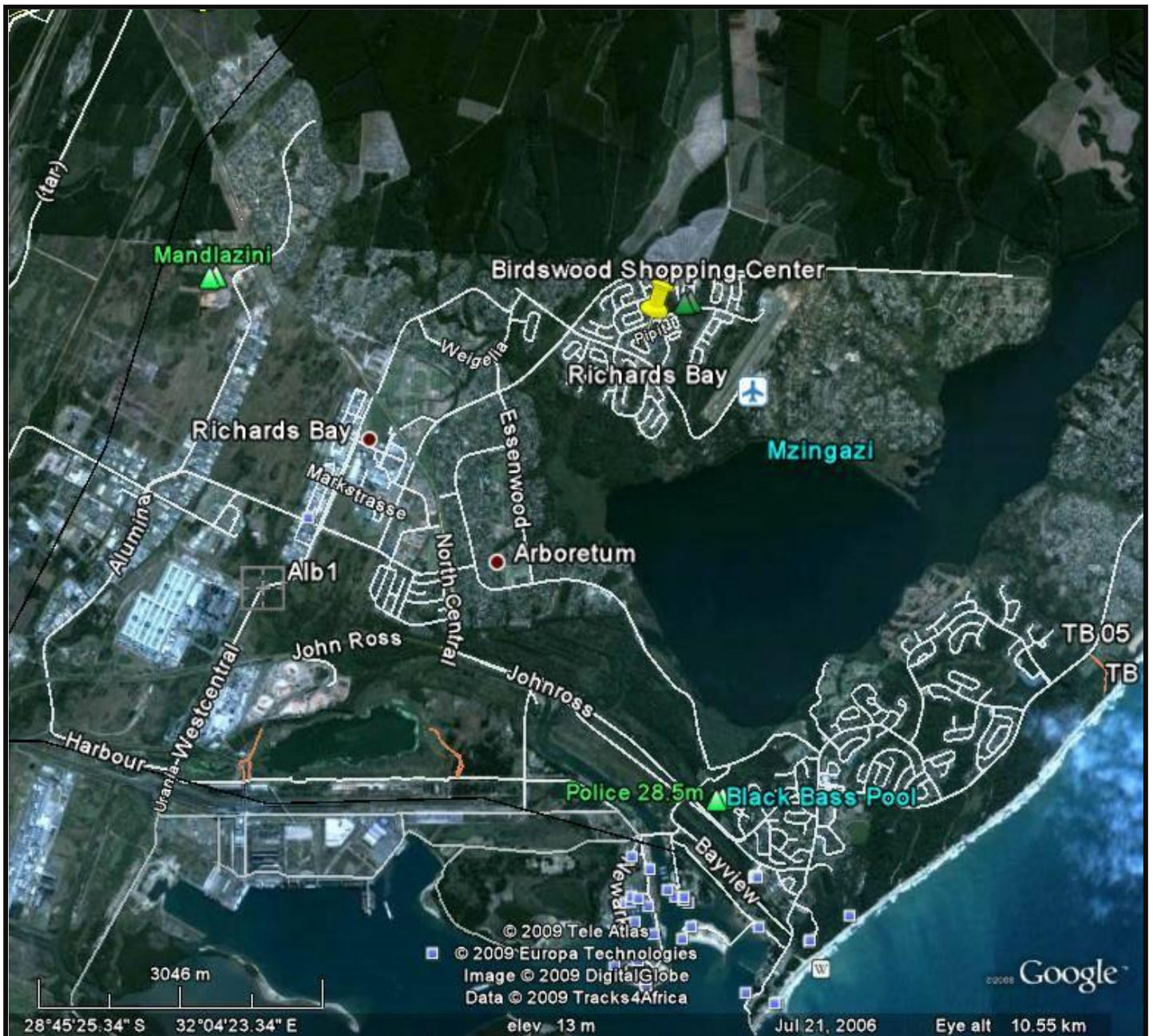
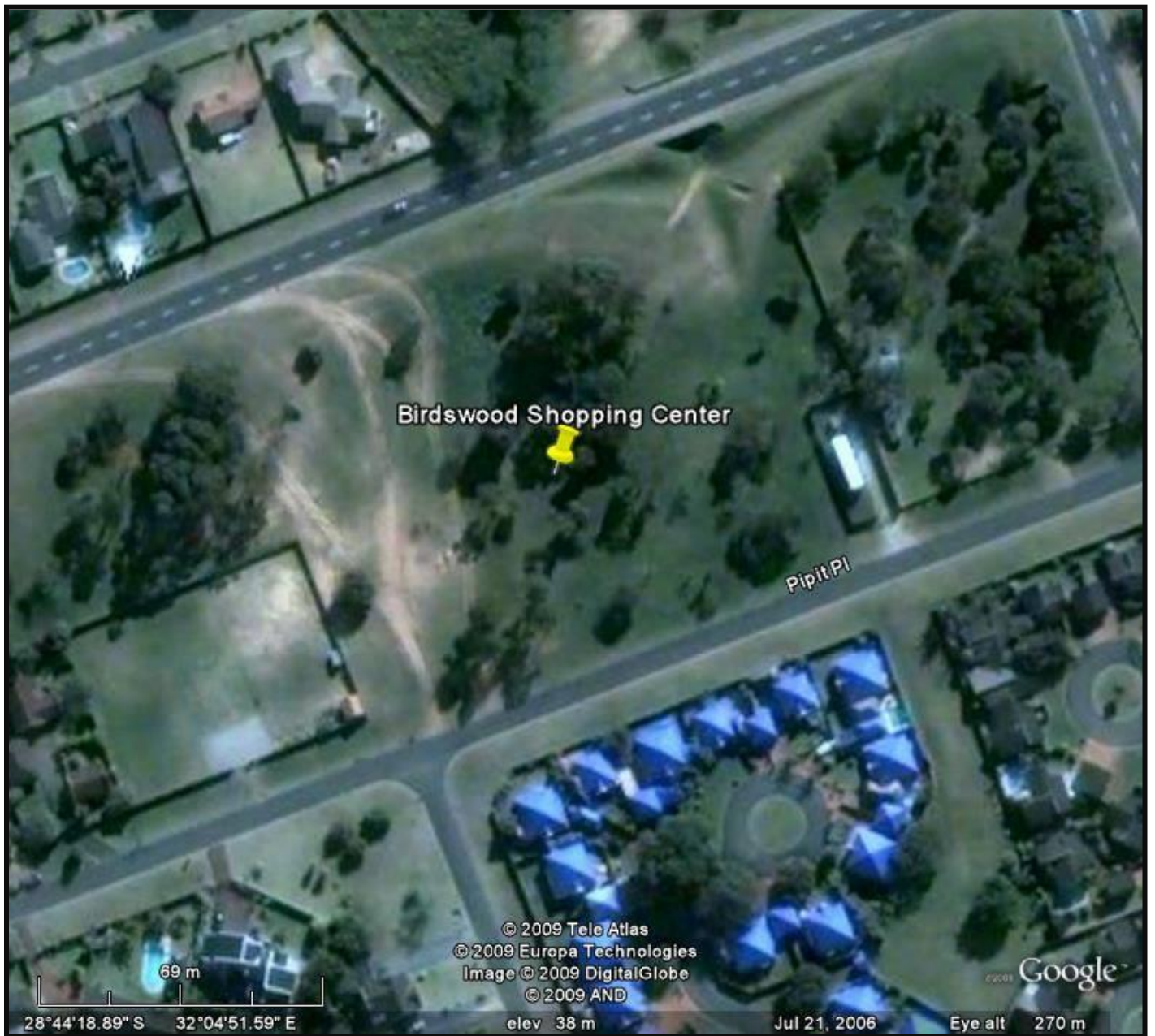


FIG. 2: AERIAL VIEW OF THE PROPOSED BIRDSWOOD SHOPPING CENTER



RESULTS

No archaeological or other heritage related sites were observed. The nearest known archaeological site occurs ~5km away from the development. This does not mean that there are no archaeological closer to the development. Rather, the development is in a disturbed area where it would be highly unlikely for archaeological sites to occur.

Much of the area was also under grass resulting in poor subsurface detection. Only a small portion of land was uncovered and this is visible in Figure 2.

CONCLUSION

A heritage survey of the proposed Birdwood Shopping Centre was undertaken. Amafa KZN (Pietermaritzburg office) insisted on this survey despite various requests for it to be omitted from the process. No heritage sites were located during the survey.