

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
TSHELIMNYAMA PHASE 4 HOUSING PROJECT**

**FOR KERRY SEPPINGS ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS**

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Kerry Seppings Environmental Management Specialists to undertake a preliminary heritage assessment of the proposed housing project in Tshelimnyama, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal (fig. 1).

The area is located between 0.6km and 2km southeast of the Marianhill Toll Plaza. The proposed area consists of hills and steep inclines. The surface soils have been generally disturbed by informal settlement and afforestation (in the past). The gradient of the area is very steep: it drops ~200m down in 250m across in some areas (an average of 1:1), while the southern hill has a slightly less steep gradient. This makes it a highly unlikely area for human occupation.

Despite the gradient and informal development, the database noted that four archaeological sites exist in the area. One of these is an important rock shelter that has yielded at least 200 000 years of human occupation. The area was thus archaeologically sensitive and warranted a survey.

This report does not deal with recent graves that occur in the informal settlement, although they are noted. No heritage sites were noted in the affected area and the development may proceed.

The impacts on the area will be:

- Low cost housing
- Related servitudes

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. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal, including known provincial and national memorials and other protected sites, battlefields and cemeteries in southern Africa. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

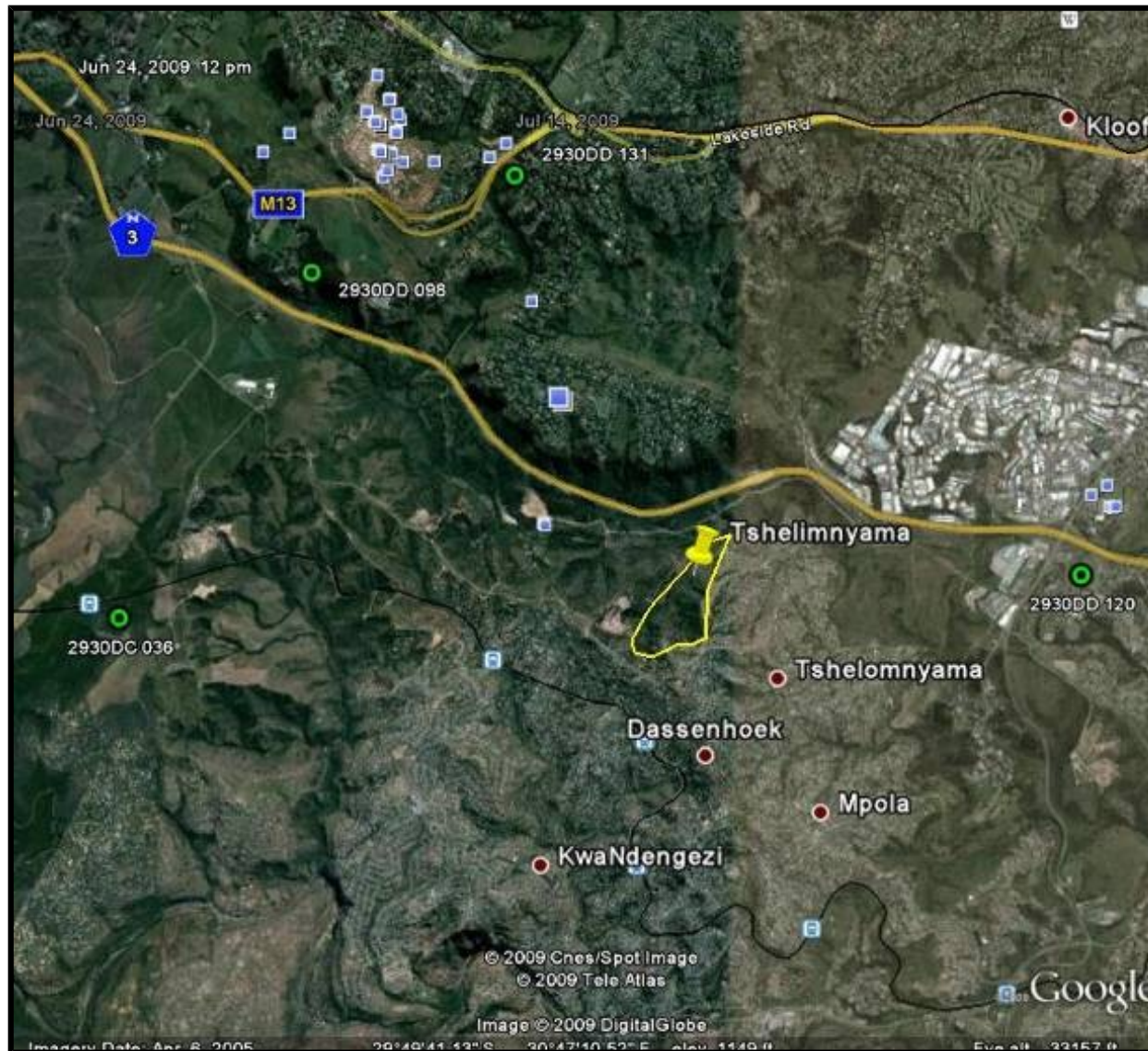
8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

FIG. 1: GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA

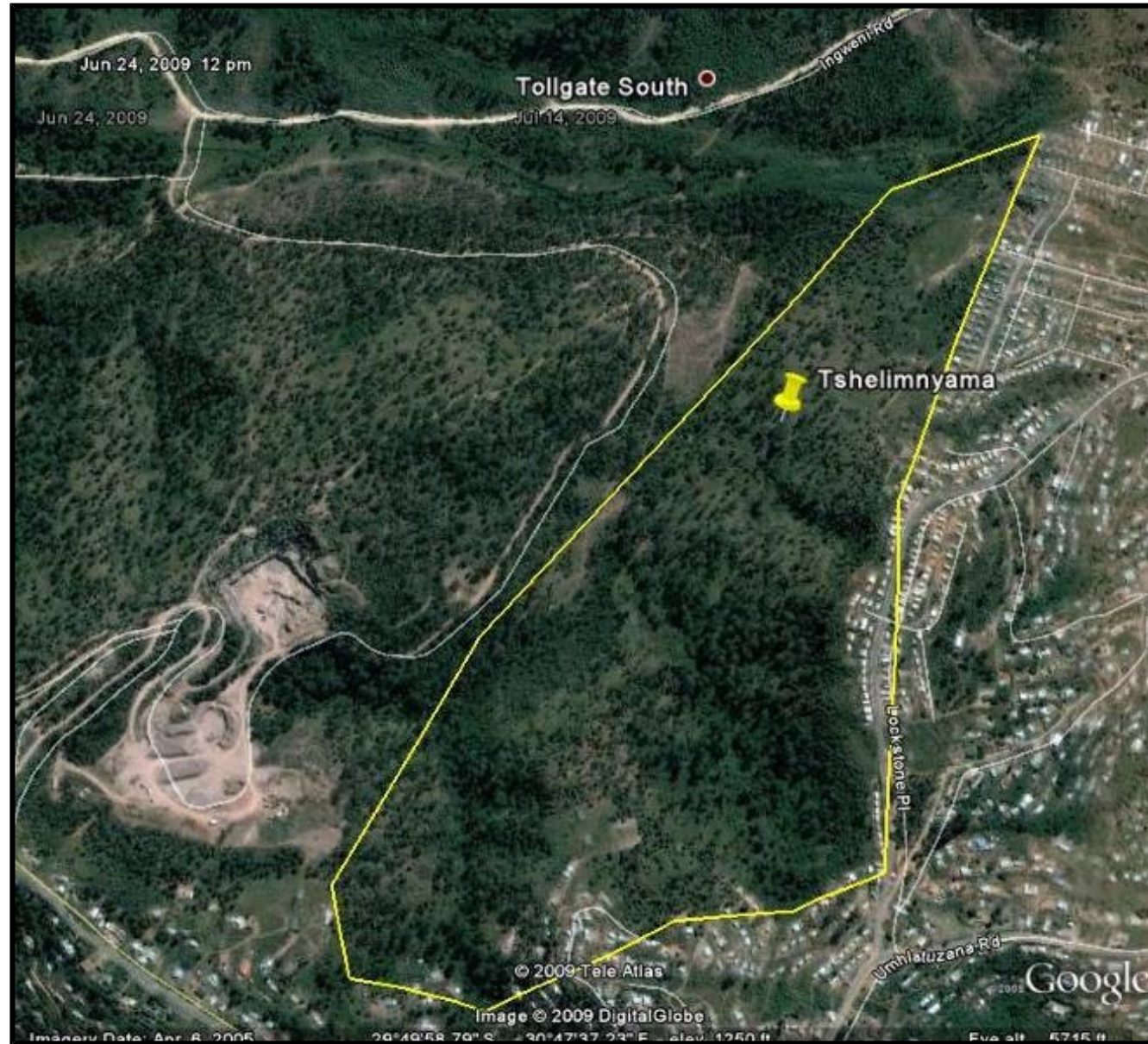


FIG. 2: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES¹



¹ Green circle = archaeological sites

FIG. 3: APPROXIMATE OUTLINE FO THE AFFECTED AREA



RESULTS

The desktop study indicated that four archaeological sites have been previously recorded within a 5km radius of the study area (fig. 2). These sites consists of, Late Iron Age sites near the tops of hills, and a one rock shelter that has at least~200 000 years of human occupation.

The study area was disturbed on the top with informal settlements, while the slopes have been afforested over the years (fig. 3). The steep slopes make the area undesirable for human occupation, unless there are rock shelters or overhangs The preferred area of abode would the be on the top of the hills and these have been mostly disturbed by the low cost housing settlements.

No archaeological sites were observed in the study area. I was informed of four graves along the southern part of the development. I did not survey these graves, as they belong to the current settlement and are thus younger than 60 years in age. That is, they do not fall under the heritage legislation. The locations of these graves have been mapped by Ndebele, Kirby Planners. Since the graves are younger than 60 years, they would fall under the social impact assessment and municipal by-laws.

The area does not appear to have palaeontologically sensitive formations near the surface that may be affected by low cost housing.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

No archaeological sites were observed in the study area. No further assessment would be required in terms of heritage management.

The occurrence of human graves needs specific mention. Below is a summary of the procedures relating to graves older and younger than 60 years.

In this case, only the sections relating to graves younger than 60 years need to be followed.

The Legislation and Procedures Related To Human Remains²:

1. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), and KZN heritage Act of 1997, graves older than 60 years (not in a municipal graveyard) are protected. Human remains younger than 60 years should be handled only by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act. Anyone who wishes to develop an area where there are graves older than 60 years is required to follow the process described in the legislation (section 36 and associated regulations). The specialist will require a permit from the heritage resources authority:
2. The preferred decision is to move the development so that the graves may remain undisturbed. If this is done, the developer must satisfy SAHRA/KZN Heritage (for older graves) that adequate arrangements have been made to protect the graves on site from the impact of the development. This usually involves fencing the grave(yard) and setting up a small site management plan indicating who will be responsible for maintaining the graves and how this is legally tied into the development. It is recommended that a distance of 10-20 m is left undisturbed between the grave and the fence around the graves.
3. If the developer wishes to relocate or disturb the graves:
 - 3.1. A 60-day public participation (social consultation) process as required by section 36, must be undertaken to identify any direct descendants of those buried on the property. This allows for a period of consultation with any family members or community to ascertain what their wishes are for the burials. It involves notices to the public on site and through representative media. This may be done by the archaeologist, who can explain the process, but for large or sensitive sites, a social consultant should be employed. Archaeologists often work with undertakers, who rebury the human remains (for older graves).

² In this case since the graves are younger than 60 years an archaeologist is not required.

- 3.2. If as a result of the public participation, the family (where descendants are identified) or the community agree to the relocation process then the graves may be relocated.
4. Permission must be obtained before exhumation takes place from the landowner where the graves are located, and from the owners/managers of the graveyard to which the remains will be relocated.
 5. Other relevant legislation must be complied with, including the Human Tissues Act (National Department of Health) and any ordinances of the Provincial Department of Health.

I suggest that the living descendants are located as soon as possible and informed about the proposed development, especially if they are to be affected. There should be no development within 20m of each grave, unless permission has been given by the family.

CONCLUSION

Umlando undertook a heritage survey of a proposed housing development in Tshelimnyama, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. While archaeological sites have been observed in the general area, no sites were observed in the affected area. No further heritage mitigation is required for this project. The occurrence of more recent human graves will need to be dealt with on an individual family basis. The living descendants will have to be consulted if these graves are to be affected in any manner.