

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED N11-P32
INTERSECTION UPGRADE**

FOR AFZELIA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CC

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TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION.....3
METHOD.....6
RESULTS.....9
MANAGEMENT PLAN.....10
CONCLUSION.....10

TABLE OF FIGURES

FIG. 1: GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADE.....4
FIG. 2: PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE ROAD UPGRADE.....5
FIG. 3: HISTORICAL LOCATION OF LIMIT HILL.....9

INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Afzelia Environmental Consultants cc to undertake a heritage assessment of the proposed upgrade of the existing N11/P32 intersection. The area is located in Ladysmith, KwaZulu-Natal, near the light industry section and nearby the railway. The area has been affected by various infrastructures relating to the light industry, roads, transmission lines, and possible water reticulation networks. The area is thus not in a pristine environment in terms of heritage sites. There are wetlands in the affected area. The site location is illustrated in figure 1, while figure 2 illustrates the affected area.

The general Ladysmith area is known to have many sites related to the Siege of Ladysmith. These sites tend to be demarcated on the general tourism maps as well as by means of signboards, and even on Google Earth. The areas between the various hills and battles may produce artefacts relating to the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, however these would be opportunistic finds.

The impacts on the area will be:

- Widening of the roads
- Related road infrastructure.

The survey was undertaken in late March 2010, and no heritage sites were located in the affected area.

FIG. 1: GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADE

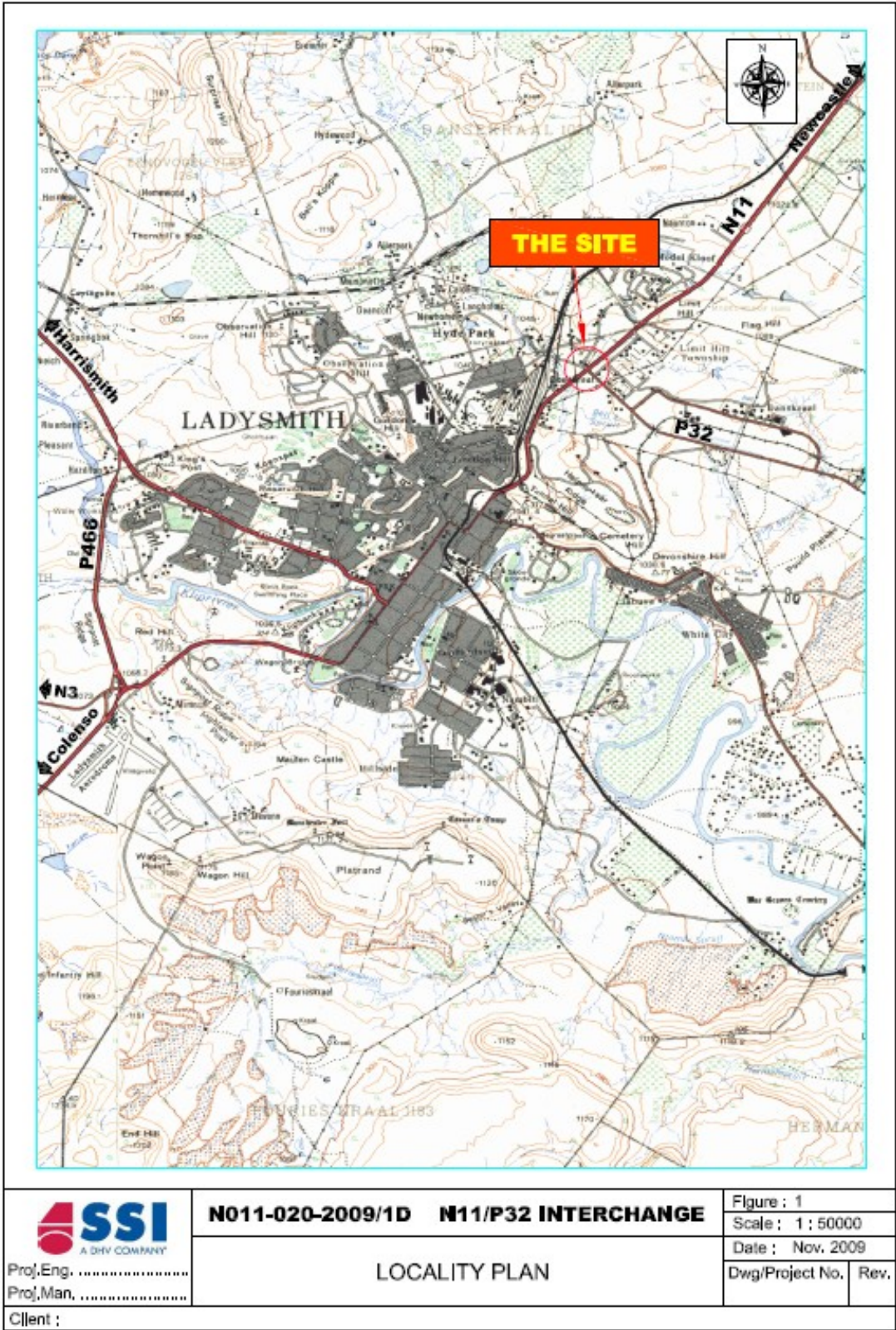
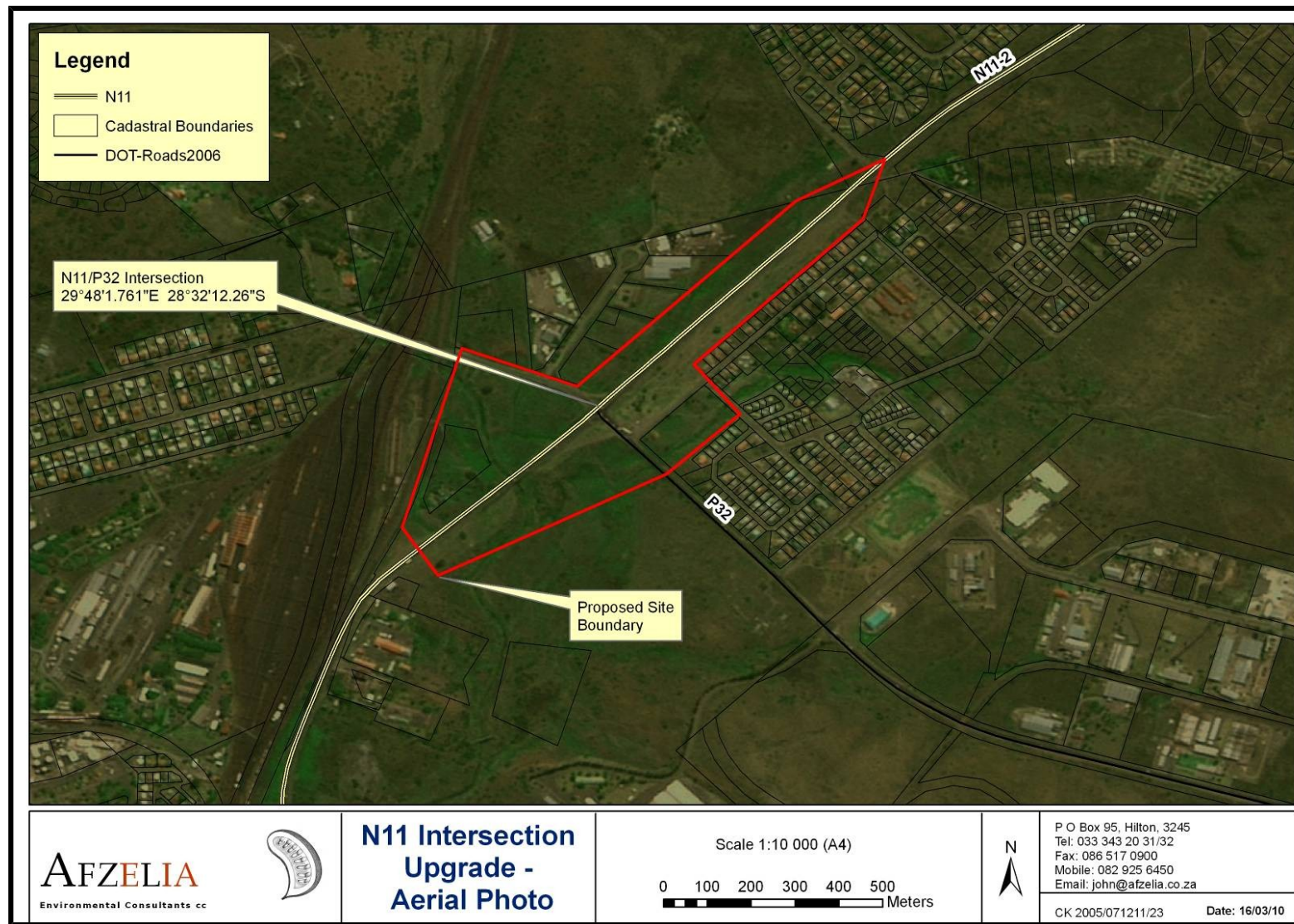


FIG. 2: PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE ROAD UPGRADE



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 archaeological sites in KwaZulu-Natal, and known 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

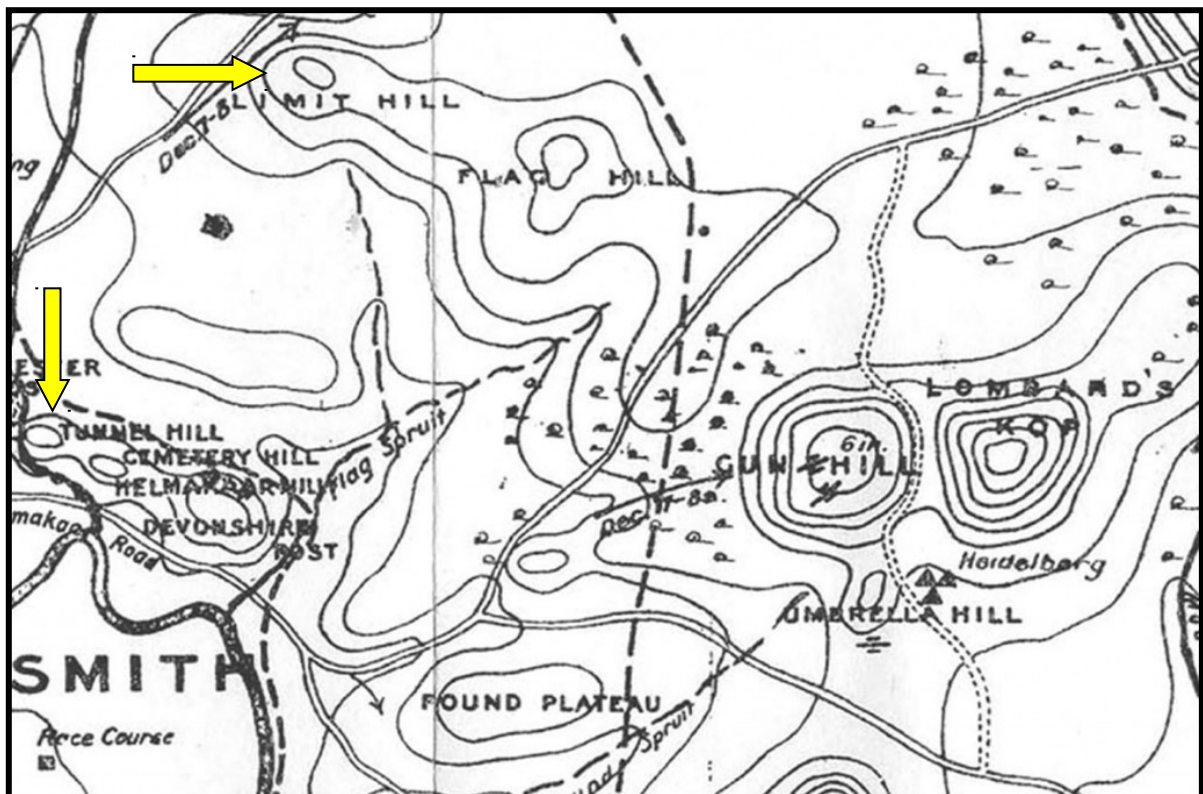
8.5. Living Heritage Sites

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.

RESULTS

Limit Hill occurs within 400m of the northern part of the proposed upgrade. It saw several occupations by the British forces during the Siege of Ladysmith. In addition to this, the existing road experienced troop movement, although the road was not in the same place in the past (see fig. 3). The map clearly shows that there are no troops stationed between Limit Hill and Tunnel Hill, and this is the approximate direction of the current road. The road expansion is therefore unlikely to damage an old encampment, if it still existed. This area is now a residential and light industrial zone and thus very little information will be left intact after the development.

FIG. 3: HISTORICAL LOCATION OF LIMIT HILL¹

¹ The railway line is in the approximate same location. It is interesting to note the area in front of Tunnel Hill and the railway is not a wetland in 1899.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since no heritage sites occur in the affected area, no specific management plan is required. It would be ideal to go over the area with a metal detector; however, the intensity of servitudes and the development would make it a futile exercise. The development should note that if any military artefacts are located, then it should be reported to Amafa KZN immediately. It would also be illegal to keep any Anglo-Boer War artefacts that may be found.

CONCLUSION

A heritage survey was undertaken of the proposed N11-P32 road upgrade. The area was noted for having 2nd Anglo-Boer War activity, but there were no encampments or specific battles along the road. There is chance that artefacts relating to this war will occur in the development, as they would occur all over Ladysmith. If any artefacts are observed then it needs to be reported to Amafa KZN.