

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE ARRIVAL YARD AT
THE RICHARDS BAY COAL TERMINAL**

**FOR CYMBIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ENVIRO-SOCIAL
CONSULTING SERVICES**

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Cymbian Environmental Enviro-Social Consulting Services, to undertake a heritage survey of a 'Proposed New Infrastructure at the Arrival Yard at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal', Port of Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal. The proposed development consists of the following:

- extending the road from the tidal gates to the first bridge for ~3km. The road will occur in current road servitude and not extend for more than 3.5m beyond the current boundary.
- two 40m span bridges across the tidal gate
- construction of a third railway line

There are currently other servitudes to the west of the current road, and these would have disturbed the area to a large degree.

The area is located (fig. 1). Several sites have been recorded in the general area of the harbour and there was thus good reason to believe that sites would occur in the affected area. These sites include Stone Age, Iron Age and Palaeontological sites.

No sites were recorded during the course of the survey.

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. Consulting with the relevant authorities will also cover known battlefields and historical sites. We also

consult with an historical architect and an historian where necessary. The initial archaeological survey (i.e. fieldwork) consists of a foot survey where the selected area was covered. 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, especially pottery. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts and these are 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. We attempt to recover as many artefacts from these sites by means of systematic sampling, as opposed to sampling diagnostic artefacts only.

Defining significance

Archaeological 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.

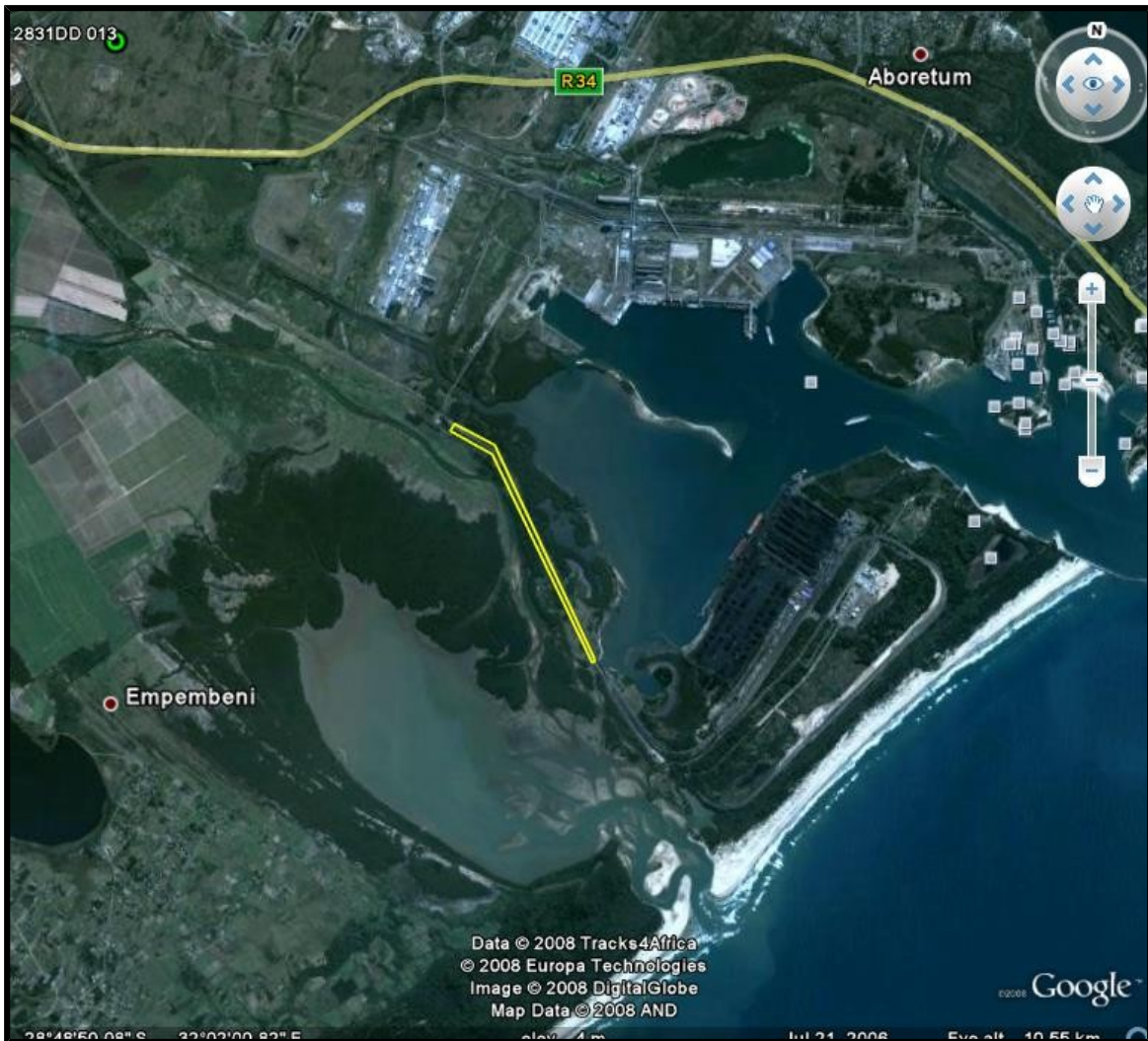
The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may 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

The area to be affected was under dense vegetation, resulting in poor archaeological visibility. To counter this I concentrated on those areas that had cleared areas or those that had been previously disturbed by buildings and/or construction. We did not observe any heritage sites in these areas. One area, near had been substantially disturbed. The only objects of note were marine shells that may or may not be recent.

Previous work in the area has uncovered substantial palaeontological remains. These are however more than 2m below the current surface and will thus not be affected by the proposed development.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED AREA¹



¹ Yellow double line is the affected area

CONCLUSION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

An heritage survey of the upgrade of the road, railway and tidal gate bridges at the arrival yard of the Port of Richards Bay was undertaken. Despite the limited visibility in the area, due to dense vegetation, I am confident in that I covered enough of the area to state that there are no heritage remains on the surface. I also note that there are substantial palaeontological remains below the surface: approximately 2m below the surface.

If the current development intends to excavate more than 1m below the surface, then a qualified heritage practitioner should be on site, in case palaeontological remains are uncovered.