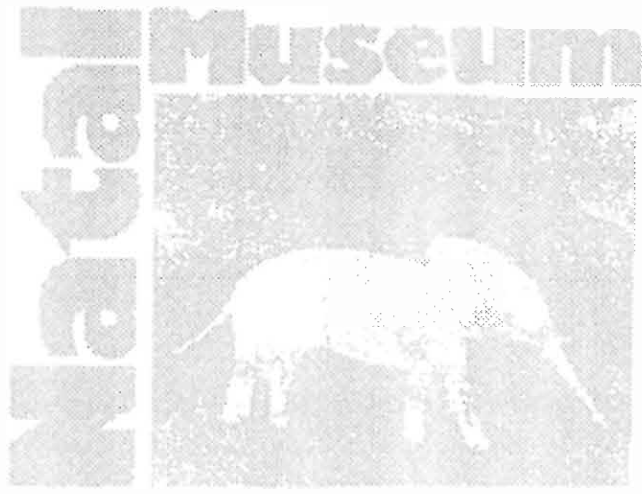
Archaeological Excavations at Simbithi Eco-Estate

For Simbithi Eco-Estates

By
By Gavin Anderson
Institute for Cultural Resource Management, Natal Museum, Private Bag 9070, Pietermaritzburg, 3200

January 2004



INTRODUCTION

Simbithi Eco-Estate Pty (Ltd) contracted the Institute for Cultural Resource Management to undertake archaeological excavations at previously recorded archaeological sites. These sites were regarded as having medium significance during the initial survey undertaken by the Institute for Cultural Resource Management in 2002.

Four sites required mitigation in terms of test-pit excavations, and one site needed to be re-analysed. The test-pit excavations were used to determine the full significance of a site prior to its destruction.

Three sites were excavated (BSE1, BSE2 and BSE9) while BSE5 and BSE7 were re-assessed and did not required further mitigation.

BSE1

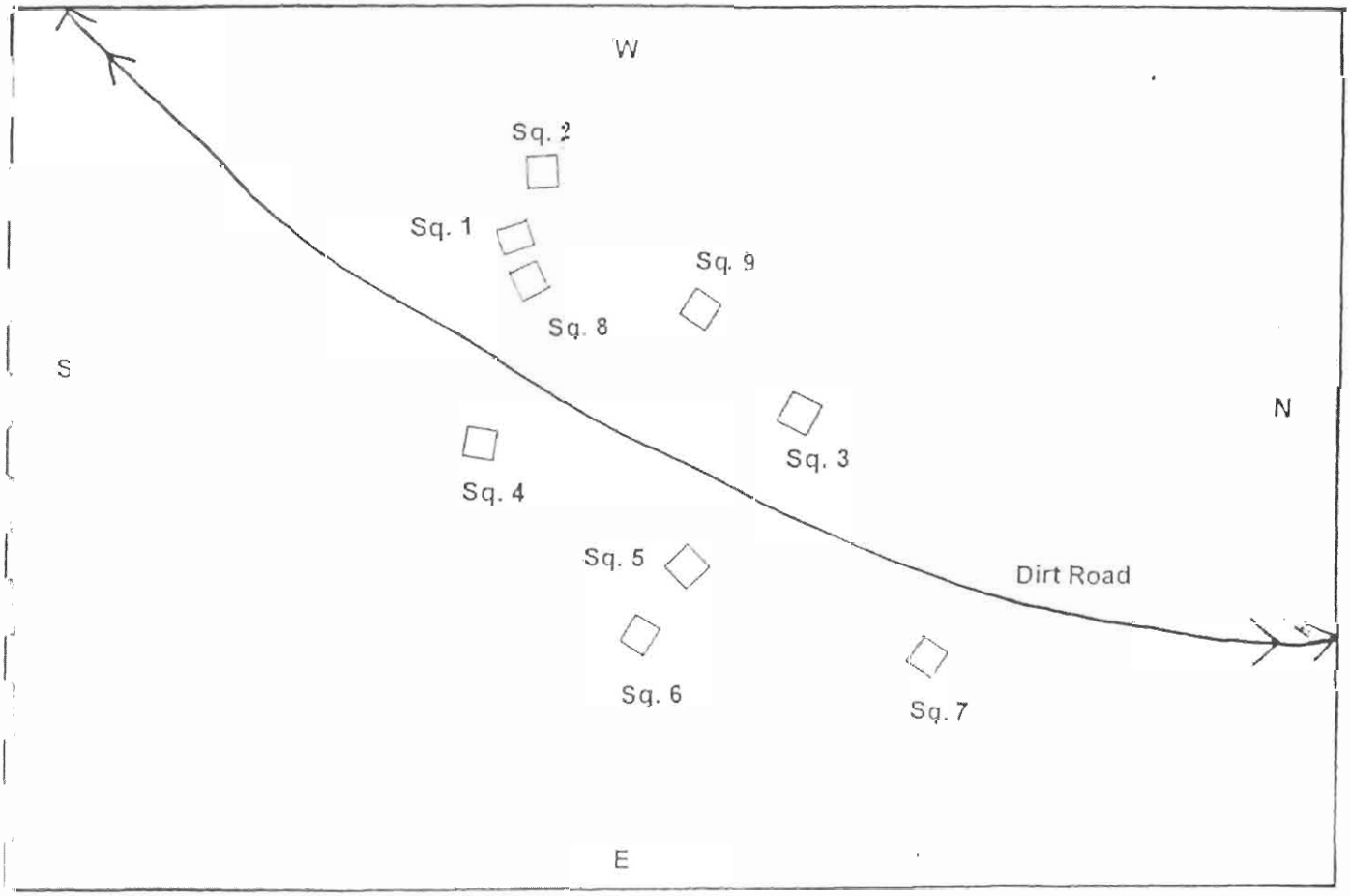
BSE1 is located mostly in the saddle of two small hills. A total of nine 2 m x 2 m squares were excavated to approximately 50 cm below the surface (fig. 1).

The stratigraphy of the soil is very basic. The top soil varied between 10 and 20 cm in depth. Below this was a (Soft) Brown Sand ±20 cm in depth, a and finally a red clay-like sand or a shale layer. The red clay-like sand and the shale layer was archaeologically sterile.

The artefacts include: pottery, bone, glass bead, stone, daga and slag.

Fig. 1

BSE 1 Excavation Plan (1:500)



The glass bead was a small blue bead with two grooves on it. The bone was not well preserved and tended to belong to domestic mammals such as cattle and/or goats. Only a few fragments of slag were recovered. The low density of the slag suggests that this area was for iron smithying, not smelting. The stone fragments tend to be from upper grinding stones. Only one square had hut floor daga fragments.

The pottery tends to be undecorated and only one sherd had two *amasumpa*.

Only one feature was excavated at BSE1. This feature came from Sq. 3, Spit 4. The feature is a small pit (23 cm deep) and contained 2 fragments of pottery.

The excavations at BSE1 are completed and no further mitigation is required.

DISCUSSION

The excavations at BSE1 lasted for 1.5 days, until I decided that there would be no value in continued excavations. There was no spatial information, and the artefactual content was poor.

The archaeological excavations for BSE1 are complete and no further mitigation is required.

BSE2

BSE2 is located on the top of a kidney-shaped hill. The hilltop is relatively flat, but not very wide. A total of sixteen 2 m x 2 m squares were excavated (fig. 2).

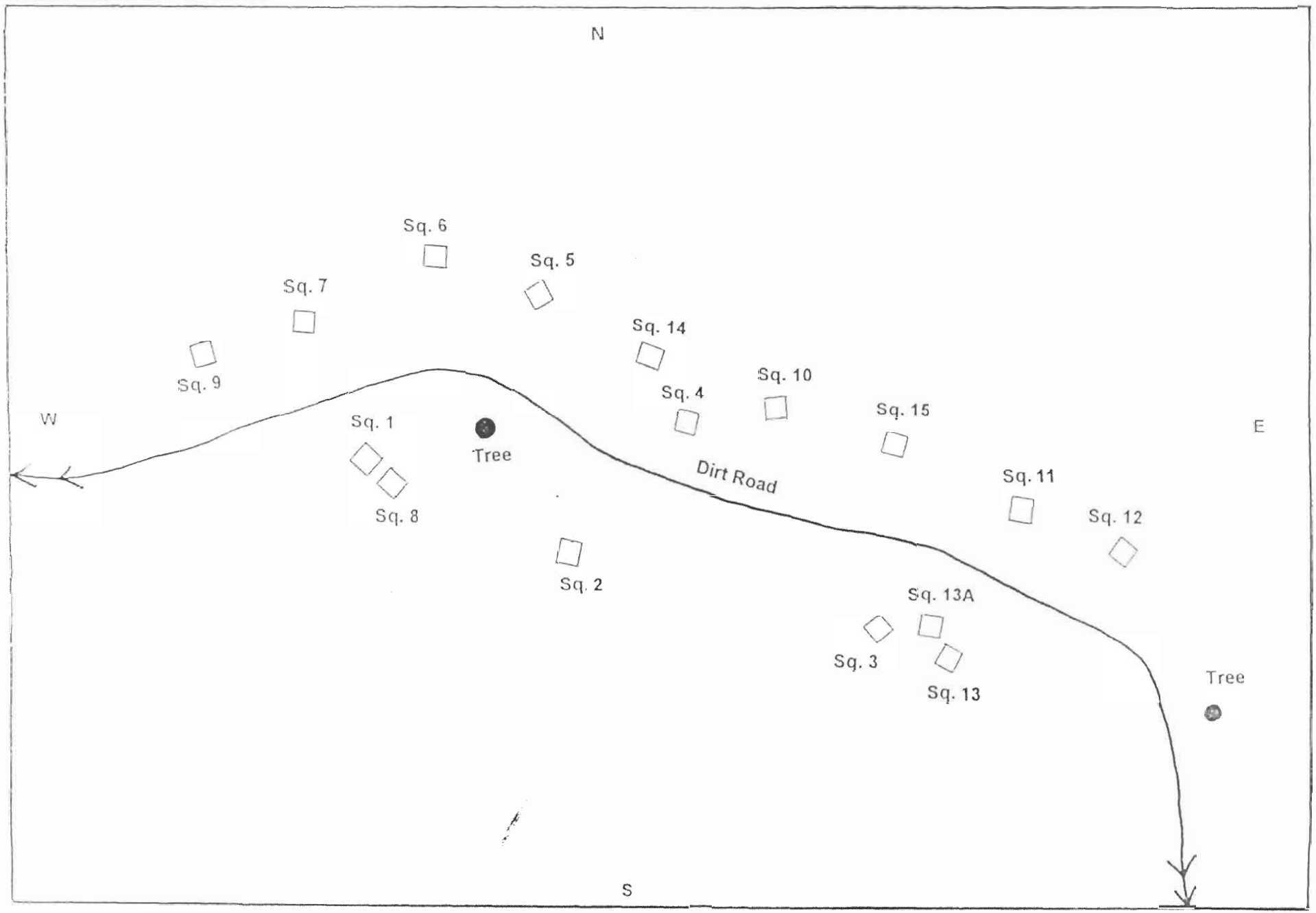
The stratigraphy from the site varied between squares. The western and southern part of the hill tends to be more shallow than the northern and eastern sides. The archaeological deposit can vary up to 70 cm in places, however most of the deposit occurred 30 cm – 50 cm below the surface. The archaeological horizon is restricted to the Brown Sand that occurs below the topsoil and above the sterile red clay-like sand.

FEATURES

Stone Feature 1 occurs in Sq. 1, Spit 3. This feature is a semi-circle of quarts and shale stones - one is a lower grindingstone fragment. It is ± 50cm in diameter. A few rocks appear to have been cracked by fire. No artefacts are associated with this feature.

Pit 1 is located in Sq. 7, Spit 4. The pit is 28 cm deep and ±40 cm in diameter. The pit consisted of mostly granary daga fragments, a few stones and some pottery.

Fig. 2 BSE 2 Excavation Plan (1:500)



Pit 2 is located in Sq. 12, Spit 5. The Pit is ±25 cm deep and 60 cm in diameter. The soil surrounding the pit is grey-black in colour, and some sherds were recorded.

Pottery Concentration 1 occurs in Sq. 4. This area has a high density of artefacts, of which pottery is the most common.

Pottery Concentration 2 occurs in Sq.'s 11 and 11A, and in Spits 5 to 6. This concentration is at the edge of the daga floor, and at least two near complete pots were found in association with the hut floor and pottery concentration.

Daga Concentrations occur in three squares at the site: Sq. 3, 11/11A and 13. These are probably the remains of hut floors. They tend to be poorly preserved and only portions remain. This is the first east coast site, from the Late Iron Age, that has produced definitive daga hut flooring. All floors were associated with high densities of pottery, some burnt daga, and a few fragments of stone. The one daga floor has reed impressions.

ARTEFACTS

Slag was found in a few isolated squares. The amount of slag on the site suggests that only smithying occurred here. A large piece of bowl-shaped slag was located in Sq. 14.

Most of the pottery is undecorated and only a few sherds were decorated. One near complete pot has a decorated spout : the decorations are a double row of *amasumpa* extending from the spout onto the shoulder of the pot. Another decoration is the shell-edged lip (a 'wavy' lip). Lip notching and triangular lip notching also occurs.

Various types of stone artefacts were recorded. The most common stone artefact is an upper grinding stone. A few broken lower grindingstones were also excavated.

A few shell patches were recovered during the course of the excavations. The shell consists mainly of brown mussels, oysters and limpets. No large shell midden was recovered.

Faunal remains were scarce on this site. Most of the faunal remains are adiagnostic, and only a few cow teeth were excavated.

DISCUSSION

BSE2 yielded a variation of the normal coastal site spatial layout. Most coastal Late Iron Age sites tend to have pattern of houses (semi-)surrounding a central cattle pen. The BSE2 houses tend to occur only on the eastern parts of the site, while the center tends to be a non-domestic working area. The most important find is the decorated vessel with a spout: a previously unrecorded artefact in KwaZulu-Natal.

As with the other excavated sites, very few artefacts were recovered from the site.

The archaeological excavations for BSE9 are complete and no further mitigation is required.

BSE5 and BSE7

These two sites were re-assessed during the course of the excavations, and after the cane had been cut. Both sites were regarded as having low significance, and thus do not require further mitigation.

BSE9

BSE9 is located on the eastern borders of the property development. BSE9 is on one of the taller hills and overlooks Thompsons Bay. A total of 18 2m x 2m squares were excavated to varying depths. This square had better preserved shell middens, however, the organic remains are not as well preserved as with other coastal sites.

The stratigraphy of the site is similar to the other sites. There is a top soil, followed by a brown sand (which tends to have the archaeological material), then a hard red clay-like sand. The base tends to be stone/gravel. Fig.'s 4 – 12 indicate the varied depths of the deposit. Note the difference in depth in the main cultural horizons between the different squares. The center squares are clearly more shallow than the perimeter squares.

Fig. 3 BSE 9 Excavation Plan (1:500)

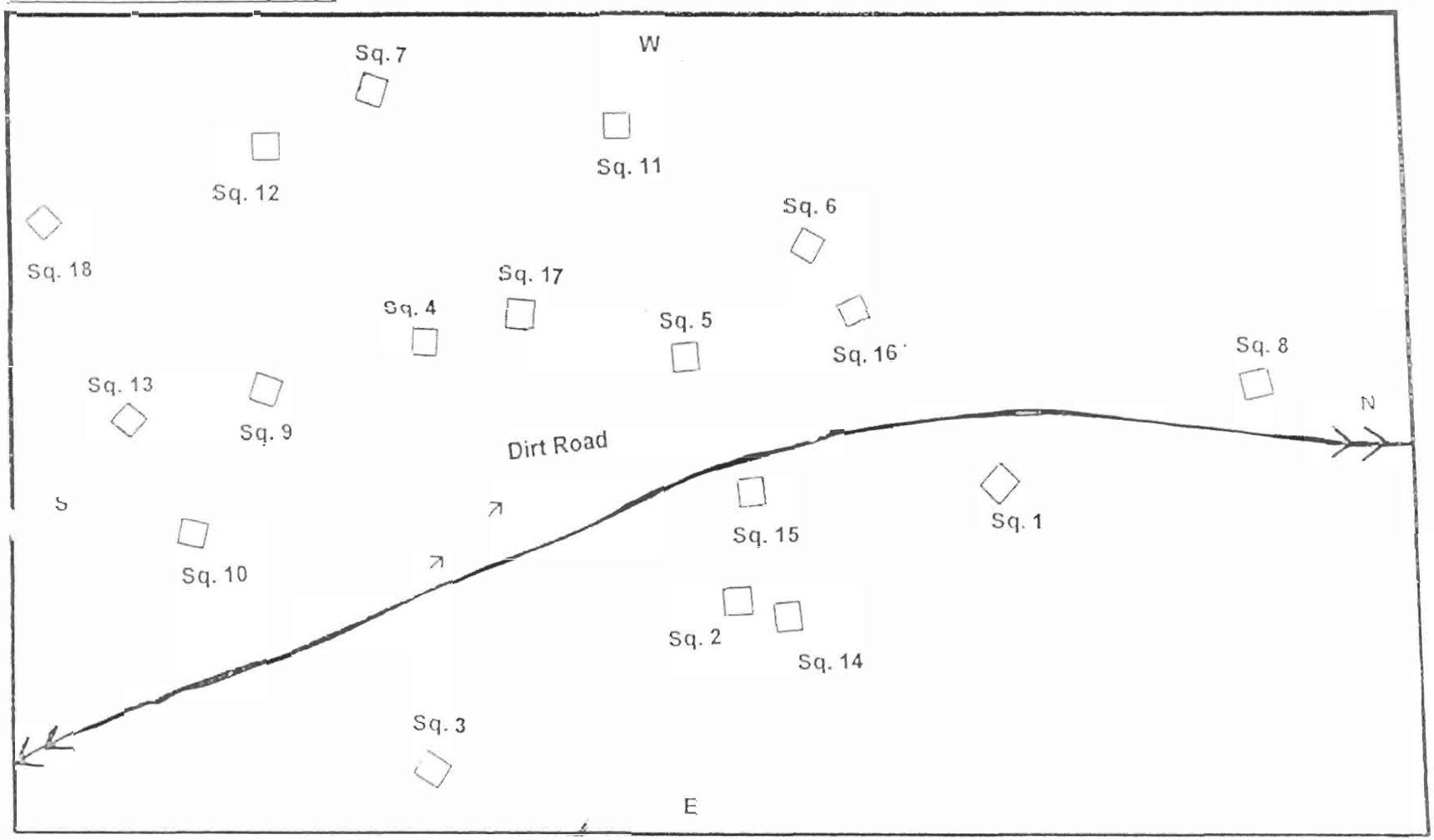


Fig. 4.

.4:BSE 9 Sq. 4 East Section (N - S) (1:10)

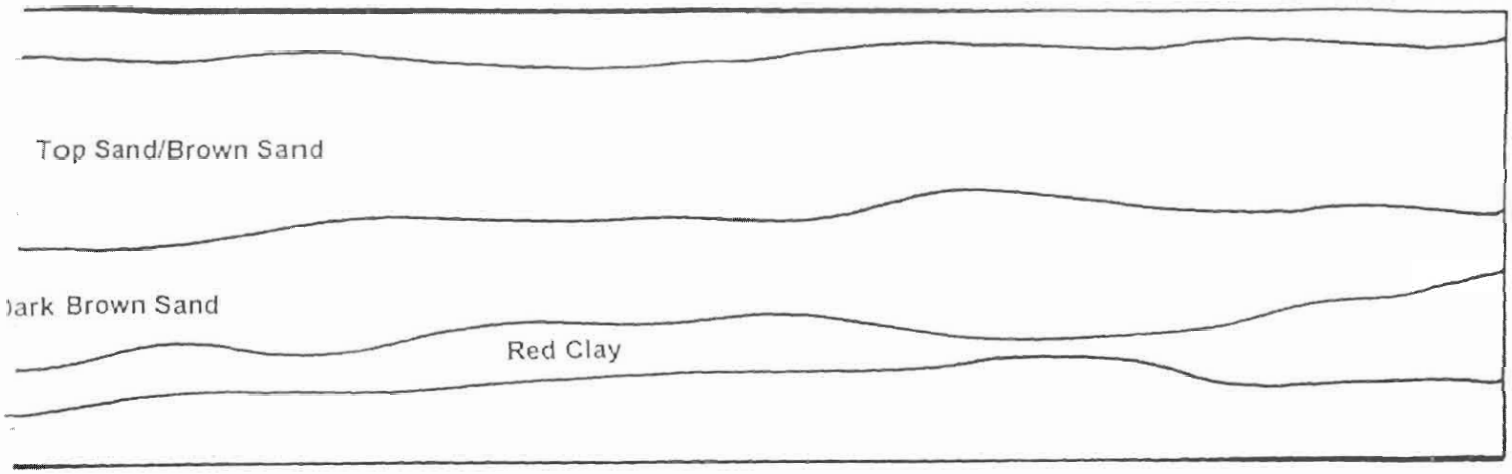
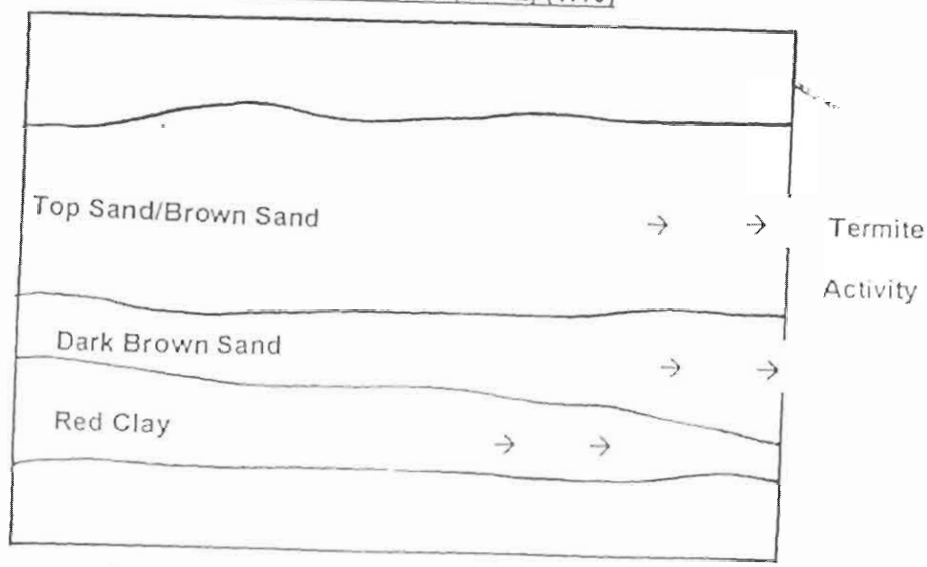
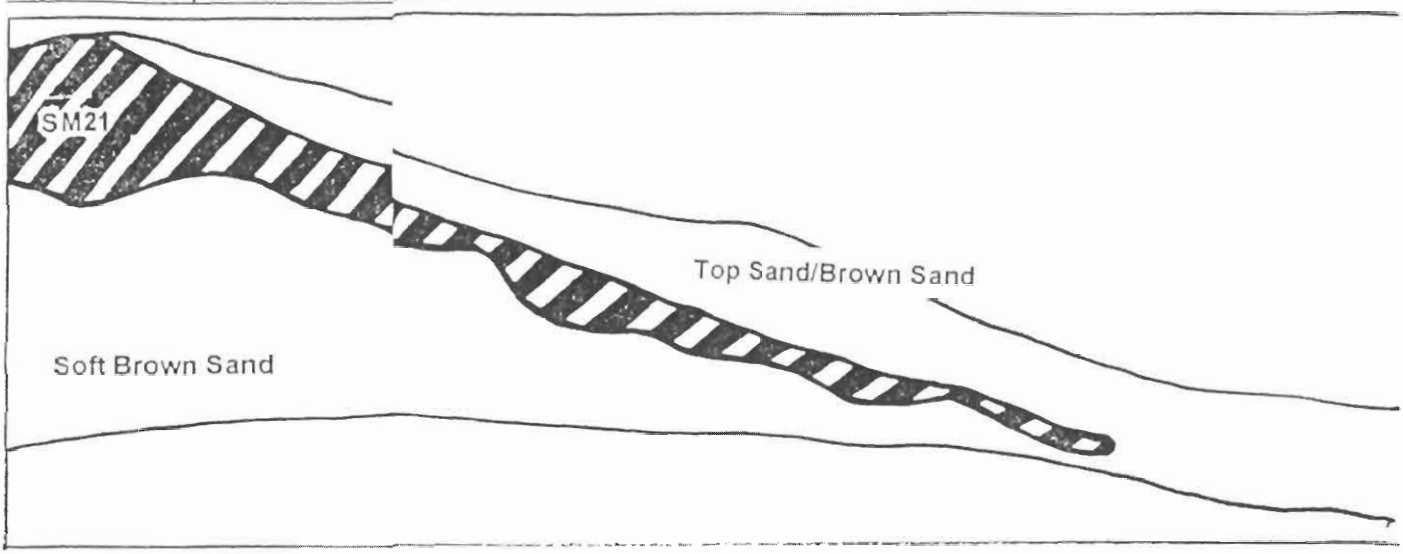


Fig.5:BSE 9 Sq. 4 North Section (W - E) (1:10)



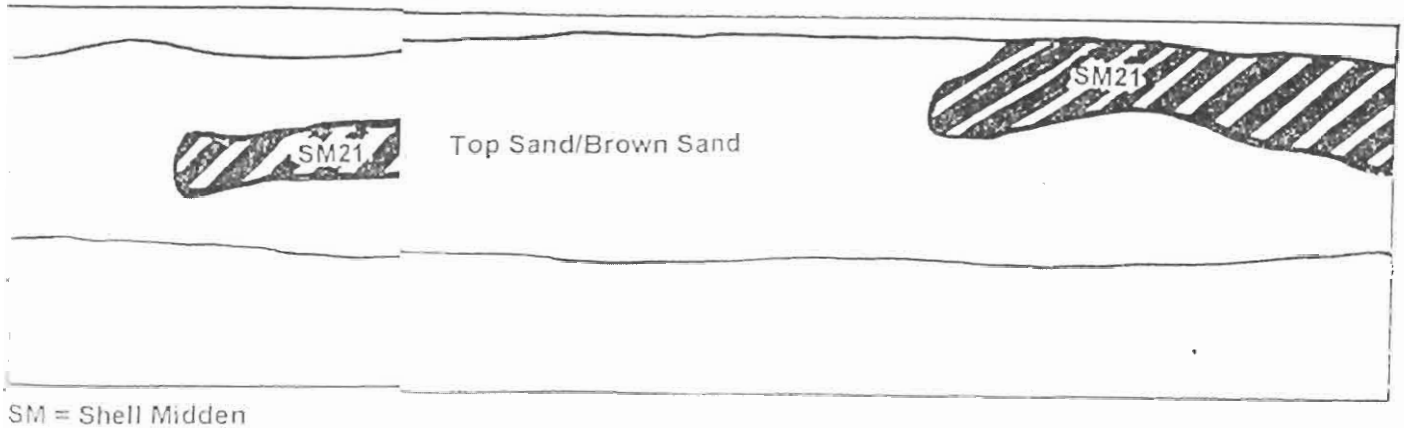
0 – 60CM = Dark Brown Sand flecked with shell

Fig.6:BSE 9 Sq. 3 North Section (10)



SM = Shell Midden

Fig.7:BSE 9 Sq. 3 West Section (10)



SM = Shell Midden

Fig. 8

8:BSE 9 Sq. 7 West Section (S - N) (1:10)

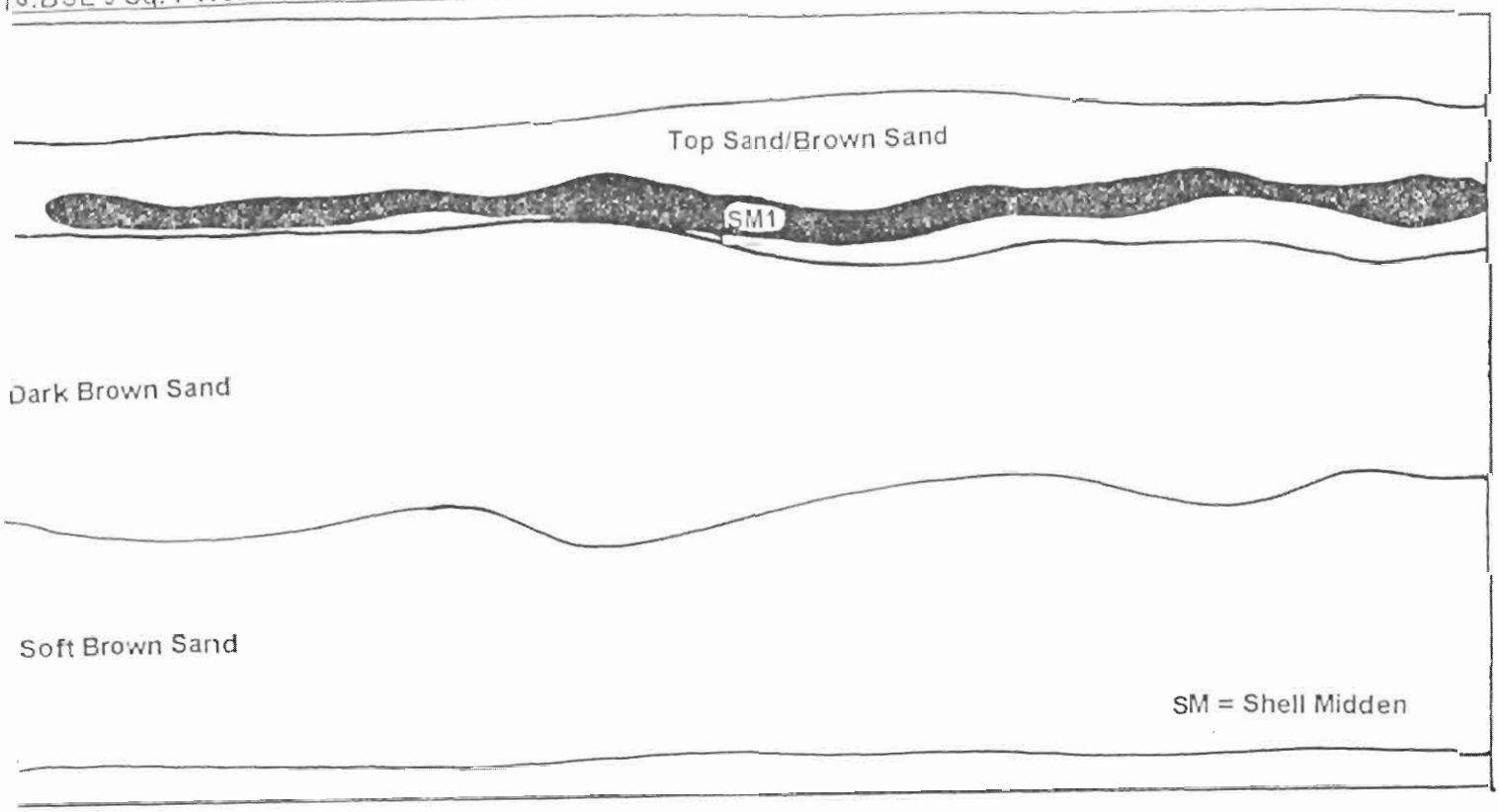


Fig.9:BSE 9 Sq. 7 North Section (W - E) (1:10)

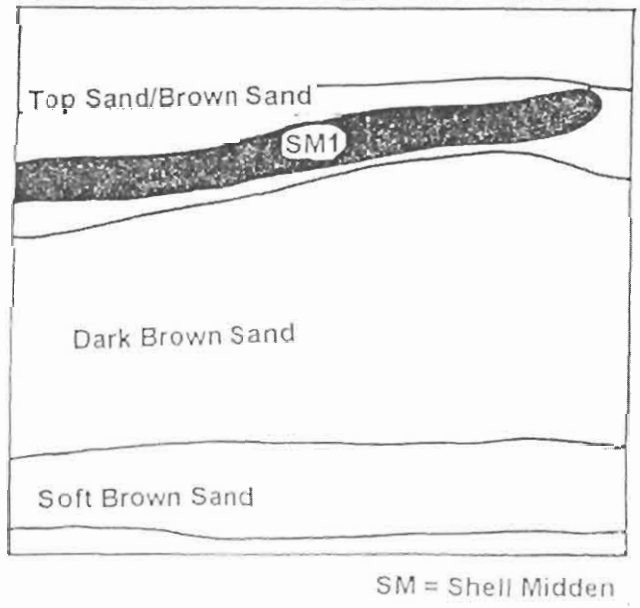


Fig. 10.

a:BSE 9 Sq. 2 East Section (N - S) (1:10)

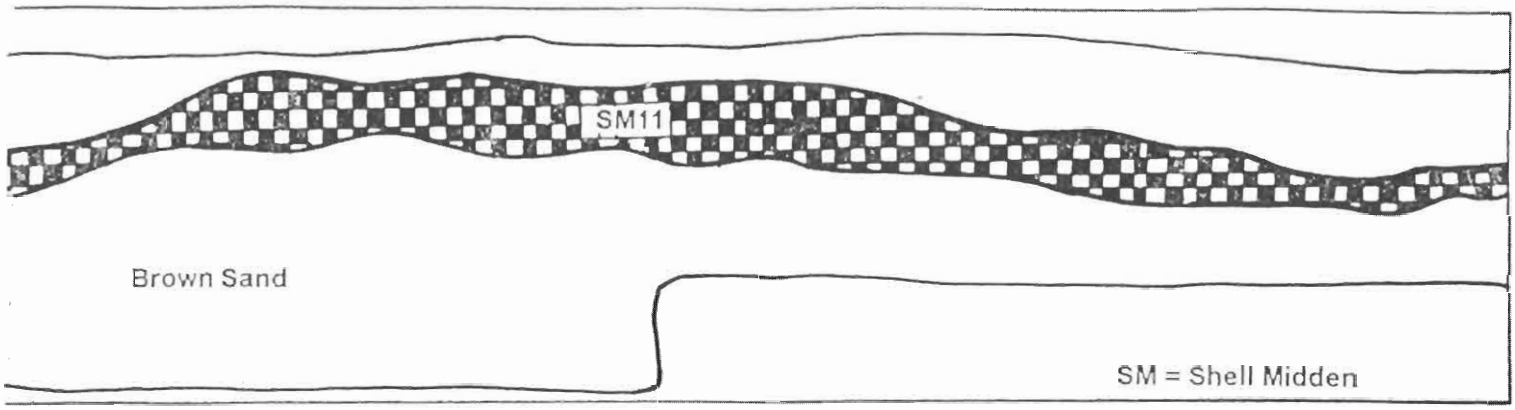
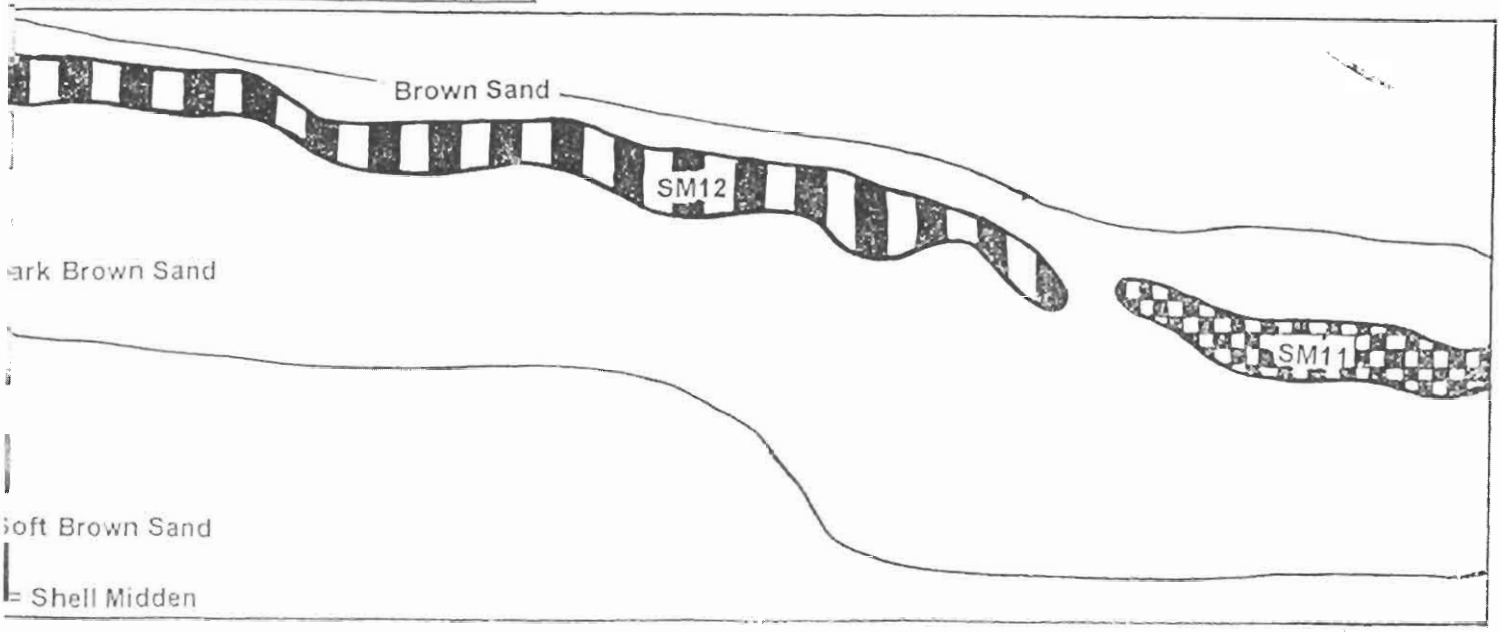


Fig. 11

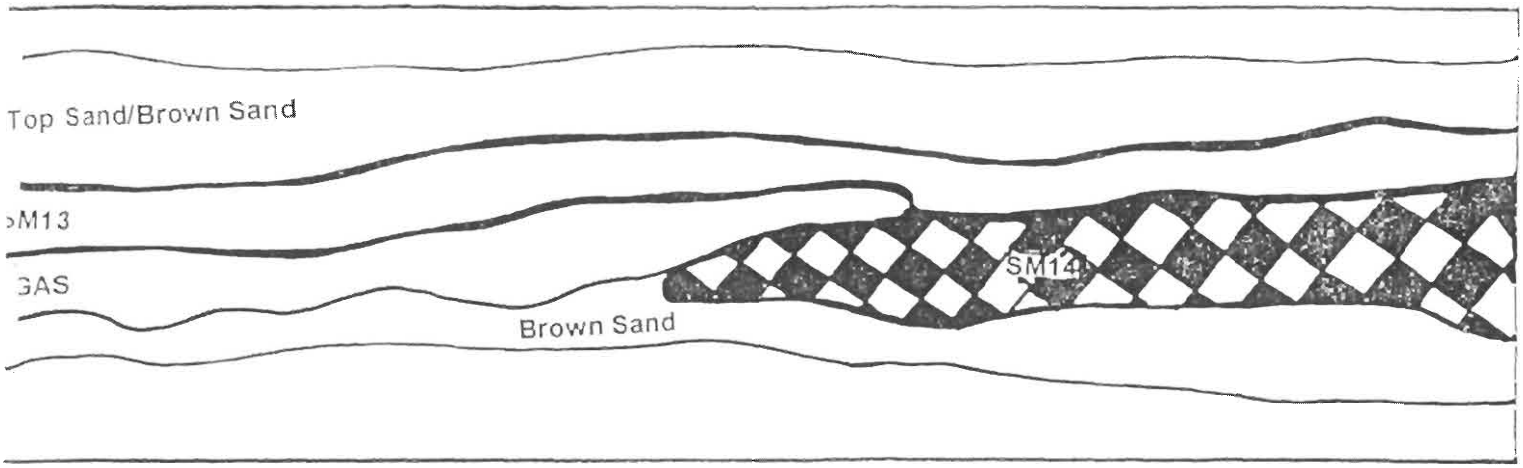
:BSE 9 Sq. 2 North Section (W - E) (1:10)



ts interfere with the midden between 60 – 800cm

Fig. 12

Fig.12:BSE 9 Sq. 14 East Section (N - S) (1:10)

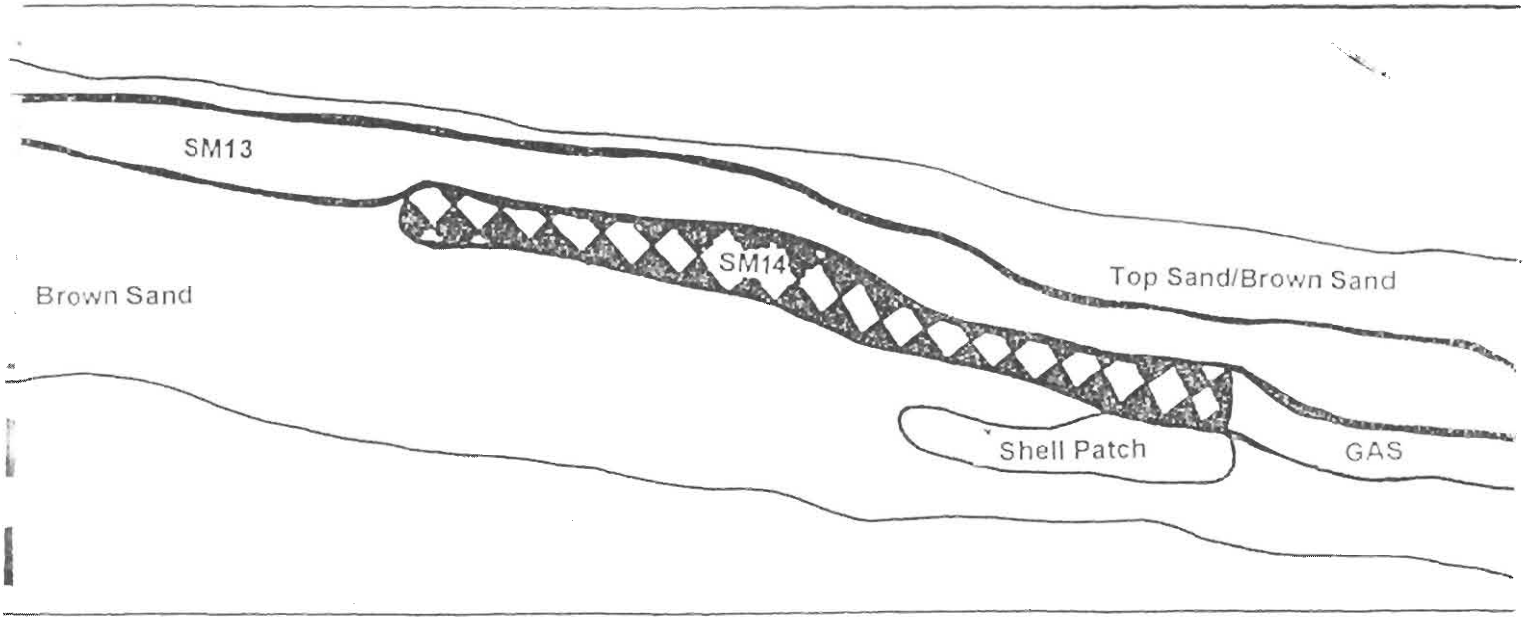


M = Shell Midden

AS = Grey Ashy Soil with Shell

Fig. 13

Fig.13:BSE 9 Sq. 14 North Section (W - E) (1:10)

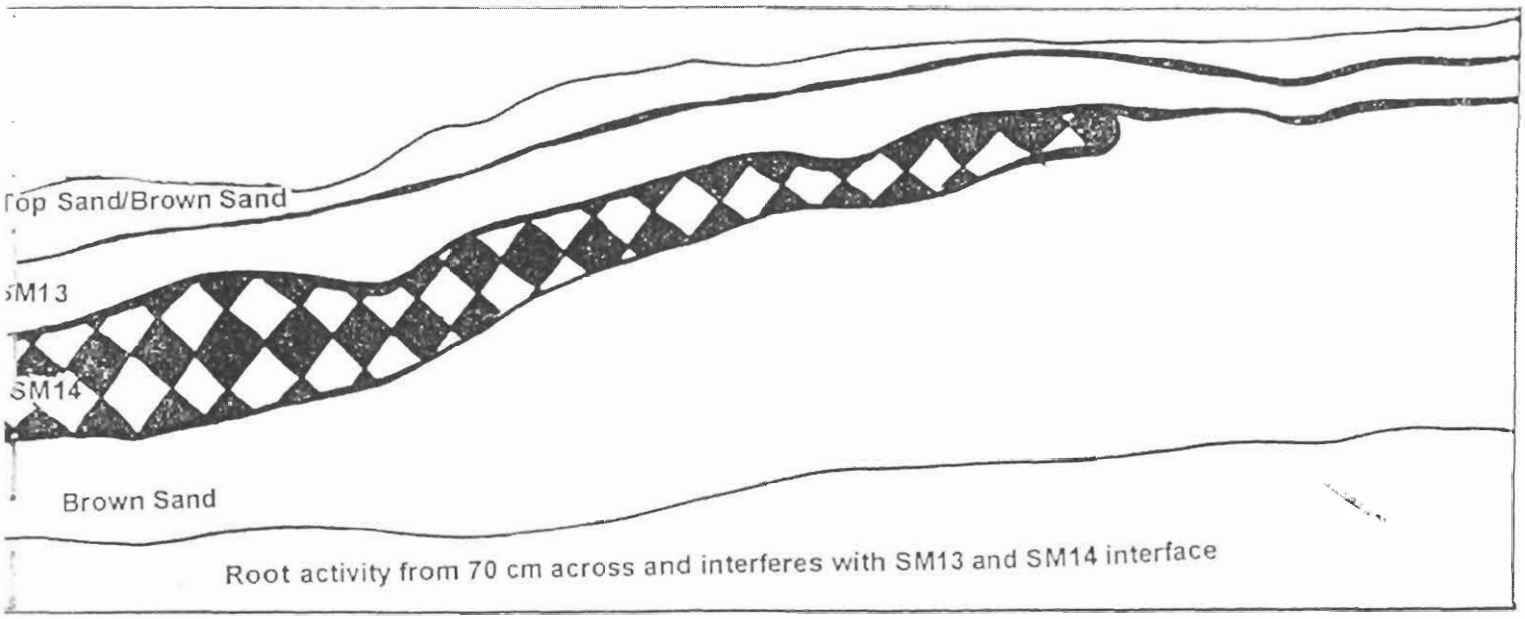


M = Shell Midden

AS = Grey Ashy Soil with Shell

Fig. 14

BSE 9 Sq. 14 South Section (E - W) (1:10)



SM = Shell Midden

As with BSE2, BSE9 did not have a standard deposit. The perimeter squares have a deeper archaeological deposit, in comparison with the middle squares and those to the east. The perimeter squares also contain the shell middens. This suggests that the hill was originally not as wide as it is at the moment.

FEATURES

Shell Midden 1 (SM1) is located in Sq. 7, Spit 1. Parts of this midden were bulked for future research. The midden was an ephemeral layer of shell, that appears to have been disturbed by sugar cane farming.

Shell Midden 21 (SM21) is located in Square 3, Spit 2. Parts of this midden were bulked for future research. SM21 consisted of a compacted layer of mostly brown mussels, and some limpets and oysters. Several pottery and stone fragments were observed in the midden, however, very few bones were excavated.

Shell Middens 11 – 12 are located in Sq. 2, Spits 1 – 4. The midden is a very compacted shell midden of mostly brown mussel and some oyster. The thickest part of the midden is ± 30 cm in depth. The shell lenses extended over half of the square and peter out along the southwestern corners. Parts of the midden were bulk sampled for future research while the others were sieved and sorted on site. As with the other large middens, there are several pottery sherds, however, few faunal remains. This is anomalous for shell middens of this time period in this geographical area. It appears that SM11 –

12 are two middens, separated by a thin brown sand lens. A total of 8 and 7 buckets of shell were removed for SM11 and SM12, respectively.

SM13 – SM14 occur in Sq. 14, Spits 1 – 4. These lenses are similar to SM11 – 12: they are highly compacted shell lenses that extend over the entire and adjacent squares. There is a thin ashy lens between SM13 and SM14. This ashy lens varies in thickness, is not visible in the sections, and contains burnt shell. A total of 49 and 31 buckets of shell were removed for SM13 and SM14, respectively.

SM21 – 22 is located in Sq. 3, Spits 2 – 4. It is similar in size, and content as the other large shell middens.

Fire Pit 1 is located in Sq. 7 Spit 5. It is a small depression of shell below SM1. It is 11 cm deep and ±40 cm in diameter. No other artefacts were observed in this fire pit.

FINDINGS

Pottery:

Most of the pottery is undecorated. However, three types of pottery decoration occurred on the site:

- Lip notching
- Lip with circular impressions on lip.
- Single row of circular impressions on the lip and shoulder

Daga:

Fragments of daga were recorded in the shell middens. These are probably granary floor fragments.

Charcoal:

Small fragments of charcoal were recovered from the shell middens. The sample size tends to be too small for radiocarbon dates, however large enough to undertake tree species identification.

Bone:

Very few bone fragments were recovered. The few identifiable fragments belong to domestic bovids.

Shell:

The most common shell is brown mussel, followed by oyster, and then limpets. Other shell species on the site are probably either for adornments or attached to the main food shells.

Slag:

Only a few pieces of slag were recorded in the northern areas of the square. Small fragments of iron ore were also recovered.

DISCUSSION

BSE9 did not yield as much information as I thought it would have yielded, from the initial assessment. While a very well defined spatial

relationship exists on the site, the artefactual component is disappointing. The spatial component clearly shows a small settlement with shell middens demarcating the outer 'circle' of the site (except for the east), while little activity appears to have occurred in the center of the site. Iron working occurred at the north of the site. It is incongruous that so many shell middens, with such a high density of shells, yields so few bones, and shallow deposits (in the center of the site). This in itself makes the site interesting and different to other coastal sites.

The archaeological excavations for BSE9 are complete and no further mitigation is required.

CONCLUSION

The Excavations at the Simbithi Eco-Estate occurred over a nine day period. All three sites yielded little artefactual material, with a few exceptions. The main exception was the decorated vessel with a spout. The spatial components of the site were different to other excavated sites in the area, and this may be a redeeming factor for the each site's significance. The spatial layout of the sites tended to differ from other excavated sites along the coast in KwaZulu-Natal.

The archaeological mitigation for each site is complete and no further mitigation is required.

Amafa AkwaZulu-Natali

Heritage KwaZulu-Natal

Erfenis KwaZulu-Natal

PO Box 523
Ulundi 3838
Tel: 035 8702050/1/2
Fax: 035 8702054
Email: amafahq@mweb.co.za
Website: www.heritagekzn.co.za

P.O. Box 2685, Pietermaritzburg 3200

Tel: (033) 394 6543 Fax: (033) 342 6097
E-mail: amafa.pmb@mweb.co.za

2004-12-17

Att:	Dr. J Deacon	Fax:	(021) 887 1540
	Ms. M Leslie	Fax:	(021) 462 4509
	Dr. J. Binneman	Fax:	(046) 622 2398
	Prof. L. Wadley	Fax:	(011) 339 1620
	Prof. G. Avery	Fax:	(021) 481 3993
CC:	Gavin Anderson	Fax:	(035) 595 8485

SIMBITHI ECO-ESTATE, SHAKA'S ROCK
(Amafa ref. 04/03/17-01)

Dear All,

Attached please find the report by Gavin Whitelaw on the mitigation of the Simbithi Eco-Estate, Shaka's Rock. The CRM assessment and mitigation was done in 2003 and the original report by Gavin Anderson submitted in January 2004. Subsequently members of the review committee requested a site inspection and report. The site inspection was done and the report compiled by Gavin Whitelaw, as suggested Iron Age specialist in KwaZulu-Natal.

Yours Sincerely,
Karen van Ryneveld

Report on CRM project at Simbithi Eco-estate, Ballito

Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali archaeologist Ms Karen van Ryneveld requested that I evaluate the CRM work and report done by Mr Gavin Anderson of Natal Museum at the Simbithi Eco-estate, Ballito. This followed the receipt by Amafa of negative comments on Mr Anderson's report from members of the Amafa Permit Review Committee (see attached). The comments essentially cover two points:

1. the quality of the report and
2. the adequacy of the mitigation.

I deal first with the mitigation of the sites.

Ms van Ryneveld and I visited Simbithi Eco-estate on 10 June 2004 and met Mr Guy Nicolson, co-ordinator of the Environmental Impact Assessment, who guided us to the sites in question. These were sites labelled by Mr Anderson in his report as BSE 1, BSE 2 and BSE 9. The site record forms with the National Site Numbers and co-ordinates of these and other sites mentioned in Mr Anderson's report are attached.

From the surface indications, there was little to suggest that any further work was necessary at BSE 1 and BSE 2. Archaeological visibility was mixed; the sugar cane had been cut, but some parts were more covered with trash and regrowth than others. I noticed only widely scattered and for the most part isolated sherds on the surface. Mr Anderson had backfilled his trenches, but I relocated some of these.

BSE 9 was clearly a more important site. However, by the time of my visit this had largely been destroyed by earthmoving. There seemed little point in halting construction activity to retain a very small part of the site for possible further mitigation.

In his rescue excavation, Mr Anderson's approach was to scatter a set of excavation trenches across the area of the site in attempting to locate features and finds of interest (though he does not say this). According to his report, Mr Anderson has developed an idea of how Late Iron Age sites are arranged on hills in the coastal belt (see p6 for instance). On future jobs of this kind, therefore, he could reconsider his excavation strategy in the light of this knowledge, perhaps moving to more focused excavations on particular features and the areas that surround them. For instance, it could have been useful at BSE 9 to focus excavation on middens and the areas in front of them in an effort to learn more about the relationship between huts, courtyards and middens. This could yield more of value than the same volume of scattered and isolated excavations. That said, I recognise that sites such as those at the Simbithi Eco-estate are difficult to deal with from an archaeological point of view.

I turn now to the report and make the following comments to open discussion on CRM reporting requirements in general. Archaeological mitigation reports should be of publishable quality, even when the mitigation yields little of value. For the most part, mitigation reports are most comparable to published site reports, which make baseline information available to the archaeological community; they are the bread and butter of archaeological literature. Mitigation and other CRM reports should also stand independent of the development since project names can change and are not necessarily the official names attached to pieces of land.

If we accept these points as reporting principles, then mitigation reports should contain as least the following (I also draw attention to the minimum standards for archaeological work recommended by the SA3 and incorporated into the by-laws of the National Monuments Council):

1. the National Site Number (NSN) and co-ordinates of each site. Each NSN is unique and cannot be allocated to another site. It therefore identifies a site without room for error, which is not the case for recorder's site numbers such as BSE 1, or even site names. NSNs are allocated by regional recording centres for archaeological data, of which there are six in the country. This is the national system for archaeological site identification.
2. a map of at least 1: 50 000 scale indicating the location of the sites and, preferably, the area surveyed at the phase 1 stage of the project.
3. a description of the site.
4. logic of the mitigation strategy. This relates to the site description and the significance rating applied to the site, i.e., the mitigation is determined by reasons for the site's significance.
5. description of the mitigation and its yield. This should include, where appropriate, accurate plans, section drawings, artefact and feature drawings and photographs.
6. discussion of results. This should place the sites in the regional context and indicate how the mitigation has contributed to archaeological knowledge or highlighted areas for future research. From the point of view of the developer, this section provides justification for the money spent.

Mr Anderson's Simbithi report only partly meets this set of proposed requirements. There is no map of the affected area, nor descriptions of the sites. Site descriptions are almost certainly contained in the phase 1 survey report, but I recommend that they be included here too, so that the mitigation report can stand on its own. Alternatively, copies of the recording centre's site record forms, which include site descriptions, should be attached to the mitigation report. These record forms also contain the NSN, co-ordinates and other data.

No logic for the mitigation strategy is provided and, as I have indicated, it might be fruitful to consider other strategies in the light of Mr Anderson's current knowledge of these kind of sites. Other sections of the report could be improved with more attention to detail, in particular the description of the mitigation and its yield (point 4 above) and discussion of results (point 5 above). What is it, for instance, about the daga concentrations on BSE 2 that suggest hut floors? How is this daga distinguished from granary daga? Why is a spouted vessel important in the regional sequence?

As one Permit Review Committee member has noted, also indicated by their critique, it is not really possible to evaluate the significance of the sites from the report, nor the contribution of the mitigation to archaeological knowledge. To help achieve these aims in future, I suggest that Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali and SAHRA together develop minimum standards for archaeological reporting, to which CRM practitioners should adhere.

Gavin Whitelaw
Natal Museum
8 December 2004

Gavin Whitelaw

From: gavery@iziko.org.za
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2004 5:13 PM
To: amafa.pmb@pixie.co.za
Subject: RE: Simbithi

Hi Corinne,

Thanks very much - what a difference.

BSE 1 - No comments

BSE 2 - I do not believe that this occurrence has been sufficiently mitigated. Since the report notes that this is a variation of the normal coastal site layout and the first east coast Late Iron Age site to have produced definitive daga hut flooring I am surprised that there were no extensions to the test squares to look for more remains, which might help to establish floor dimensions and characteristics (perhaps areas where preservation of floors was better), other spatial information, including other features, and to extract a larger sample of ceramics and other associated artefactual material and food debris. Location of a previously unrecorded spouted vessel should surely have been followed up in the hope of recovering more fragments or additional examples. The importance of the BSE2 observation is underlined by Schofield (1948) who mentions spouts in his NC2 description, but that they could not be associated with any particular type of vessel. I assume that Anderson is correct in saying that spouts have not been found since.

BSE 5 & 7 - No comments

BSE 9 - Some of the midden material is dense and it would have been appropriate to note the size of the bulk samples kept and, possibly to extend the test excavations. This site is also described as being different from other coastal sites. Again, spatial issues should have been further examined to establish more details about the site, iron working, the extent of shell middens and whether middens with more bone exist in untested areas.

The concept that 2x2 m test excavations are adequate may be true in many instances, but interesting and important findings made during the test excavations should be followed up on and the need for further mitigation considered. The use of the term "test" implies that extensions can and should be made when necessary. This is not just a numbers game; it is particularly important to ensure that an archive that will meet the analytical and intellectual needs of future research is recovered. Extended excavations may achieve this, but it must also be borne in mind that in some cases, the very concept of mitigation, which is essentially a compromise, may be unacceptable and that the no-go principle should then be considered until appropriate research standards can be applied, if we are to adequately preserve our heritage and fulfil the responsibilities delegated to us.

It is my belief that site BSE 2, in particular has not been adequately mitigated. Consequently I recommend that further mitigation be considered. Consultation on this with an Iron Age archaeologist like Gavin Whitelaw, who is familiar with the current extent of knowledge in KZN, is recommended.

Regards,

Graham

Dr Graham Avery
Archaeozoologist
Natural History Division: Cenozoic Studies
Iziko Museums of Cape Town
Box 61, Cape Town 8000
Phone:+27-21-481 3888; Fax:+27-21-481 3993; cell: 083 441 0028

Gavin Whitelaw

From: Prof Lyn Wadley [wadleyl@geoarc.wits.ac.za]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2004 3:29 PM
To: Amafa AkwaZulu Natali
Subject: Permit Simbithi Eco-Estate

Dear Corinne
The sites look quite interesting and it is impossible from the scanty reports submitted to know whether the sites should or shouldn't be destroyed. Our Honours students would fail their CRM report exercises if they submitted such reports.

I am not an IA specialist so I relayed the reports to one in our department, without giving away the identity of the author of the report. The feeling is that someone not involved with CRM, for example, Gavin Whitelaw, should be asked to visit particularly BSE 9, but possibly also BSE 1 to assess their value independently. The report does not illustrate the pottery, indicate how many huts there are or in any way provide information that can usefully be interpreted.

The sites cannot be destroyed until we have a better idea of what is going on there.
Best wishes
Lyn

NATAL MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Site category:

	E	M	L	I	RA
SA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
IA	☐	☑		☐	☐
	E	L		I	HIS

For Recording Centre Use

National site number: 2931CA 203

Accession number: 2004/01

Accession institute: Natal Museum

Recorder's site number: BSE 1 + BSE 1 extension

Official name: Lot 56 931

Local name:

Map sheet: 2931CA Verulam

Site co-ordinates: S29 31 20, E31 12 43. Ext S29 31 19, E31 12 48 ☑ **GPS reading**

Directions to site: Take N2 towards Ballito. At circle at the BP garage, take Leanora Drive (behind the BP). Take first small lane to left (towards BED 1). Follow line of trees along he track down BED 1 hill. Next hill is site.

Site type: Midden, surface

Merits conservation/salvage?:

Threat ☑ **What threat?:** Beverly Sugar Estates Extension Development

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Pictoral record:

Where stored?:

Recorder's details: Gavin Anderson, Louise van Heerden, Bonginkosi Mbanjwa (all Natal Museum

Date of recording: Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Owner/Occupier:

Site description: Site is on small hill under dense sugar cane.
Shell: at least 3 shell middens (Perna perna and oyster).
Stone: quartzite and shale grindstones and utilised/ smoothed stones.
Pottery: many thin-walled sherds with rims/lips; mostly orange through brown in colour.
Slag: a few small pieces.
Ore: fragments.

Comments/References: Significance: medium.
Mitigation: test pits.
CRM report to Guy Nicolson. See: Anderson, G. 2004. Archaeological excavations at Simbithi Eco-estate. ICRM report, Natal Museum.

NATAL MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Site category:

	E	M	L	I	RA
SA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
IA	☑	☑		☐	☐
	E	L		I	HIS

For Recording Centre Use

National site number: 2931CA 204

Accession number: 2003/4

Accession institute: Natal Museum

Recorder's site number: BSE 2

Official name: Lot 56 931

Local name:

Map sheet: 2931CA Verulam

Site co-ordinates: S29 31 05, E31 12 50 ☑ **GPS reading**

Directions to site: Take N2 towards Ballito. At circle at the BP garage, take Leanora Drive (behind the BP). Take first small lane to left (towards BED 1). Follow line of trees along the track down BED 1 hill. Site is on second hill after BED 1, the hill just after BSE 1 (2931CA 203).

Site type: Midden, surface

Merits conservation/salvage?: Yes

Threat ☑ **What threat?:** Beverly Sugar Estates Extension Development

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Pictoral record: None

Where stored?:

Recorder's details: Gavin Anderson, Louise van Heerden, Bonginkosi Mbanjwa (all Natal Museum

Date of recording: Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Owner/Occupier:

Site description: Site extends across the whole of the hill crest. The hill has a kidney shape.
Artefacts: daga (possibly granary bin?).
Pottery: 1 x slightly everted rim; LIA pottery (thinwalled) on reddish clay; some sherds which may possibly be EIA which points to double occupation of the site; 1 x possibly EIA sherd (decorated) (sketch in site record).
Shell: oyster and limpets.
1 x upper grindstone.
There's quite a bit of slag on the site and iron ore concentrations.
The site is in dense sugarcane which makes it difficult to assess exact size and content.

Comments/References: Test pits on the northern side of the site. See: Anderson, G. 2004. Archaeological excavations at Simbithi Eco-estate. ICRM report, Natal Museum.

NATAL MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Site category:

	E	M	L	I	RA
SA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
IA	☐	☑		☐	☐
	E	L		I	HIS

For Recording Centre Use

National site number: 2931CA 207

Accession number:

Accession institute:

Recorder's site number: BSE 5

Official name: Lot 56 931

Local name:

Map sheet: 2931CA Verulam

Site co-ordinates: S29 30 41 E31 12 28 ☑ **GPS reading**

Directions to site: The site is across the stream from Site 2931CA 204, directly towards the north-west. It is on the hill closest to the row of trees that serves as a border.

Site type: Surface

Merits conservation/salvage?:

Threat ☐ **What threat?:**

Pictoral record:

Where stored?:

Recorder's details: Gavin Anderson, Louise van Heerden, Bonginkosi Mbanjwa (all Natal Museum

Date of recording: 11 February 2003

Owner/Occupier:

Site description: The site is located on the top of the hill. The exact size and content can only be determined once the sugarcane has been cut.
The site consists of pottery and slag.
Pottery: a scatter of LIA potsherds on various types/colours of clay.
Slag: small pieces of slag, in concentrations, possibly an iron smelting site.

Comments/References: Reinspection after the sugar cane was cut indicated that this site is of low significance and mitigation therefore unnecessary (see Anderson, G. 2004. Archaeological excavations at Simbithi Eco-estate. ICRM report, Natal Museum).

NATAL MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Site category:

	E	M	L	I	RA
SA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
IA	☐	☑		☐	☐
	E	L		I	HIS

For Recording Centre Use

National site number: 2931CA 209

Accession number:

Accession institute:

Recorder's site number: BSE 7

Official name: Lot 56 931

Local name:

Map sheet: 2931CA Verulam

Site co-ordinates: S29 30 47 E31 13 08 ☑ **GPS reading**

Directions to site: From Chaka's Rock road take road to the beach. Just before the MTN tower is an intersection to sugarcane fields. Take righthand side road through blue gum trees. Head for high hill with 2 metal water reservoirs.

Site type: Midden

Merits conservation/salvage?:

Threat ☐ **What threat?:**

Pictoral record:

Where stored?:

Recorder's details: Gavin Anderson, Louise van Heerden, Bonginkosi Mbanjwa (all Natal Museum

Date of recording: 11 February 2003

Owner/Occupier:

Site description: Site is on top of high hill with steep slopes along north, east & west sides. Dense scatter of artefacts along southern slopes. Dense sugar cane.
Pottery: variety of sherds, mostly thin-walled and a variety of colours.
Stone: upper grindstones.
Ore: 1 x large fragment.
Shell: scatter of oyster. 1 x midden near top of hill.

Comments/References: Medium significance. Recommended mitigation: test pits. Note that subsequent evaluation after the sugar cane was cut indicated that this site is of low significance and mitigation therefore unnecessary (see Anderson, G. 2004. Archaeological excavations at Simbithi Eco-estate. ICRM report, Natal Museum).

NATAL MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Site category:

	E	M	L	I	RA
SA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
IA	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
	E	L	I	HIS	

For Recording Centre Use

National site number: 2931CA 211

Accession number: 2004/002

Accession institute: Natal Museum

Recorder's site number: BSE 9

Official name: Lot 56 931

Local name:

Map sheet: 2931CA Verulam

Site co-ordinates: S29 31 13 E31 13 25 (5m acc.) ☑ **GPS reading**

Directions to site: Site is located on hilltop east of the hill with the trig beacon, on the lone-standing little hill, first from the ocean.

Site type: Midden

Merits conservation/salvage?:

Threat ☐ **What threat?:**

Pictoral record:

Where stored?:

Recorder's details: Gavin Anderson, Louise van Heerden, Bonginkosi Mbanjwa (all Natal Museum

Date of recording: 11 February 2003

Owner/Occupier:

Site description: The site extends over the whole of the fairly flat top of this hill, which is currently under dense sugarcane. Site has a definite spatial pattern and deposit. G. Whitelaw note after visit, 29 October 2003: midden concentrations occur on the hilltop's northeastern and western edges. These may represent middens of individual houses and so indicate the approximate location of the houses (and back courtyards?). Approach to the settlement may have been from the south where the slope is relatively gentle. This would place slag found on the site at the back of the settlement. The cattle pen was likely situated central to the midden concentrations.
Artefacts: Bone.
Several shell middens with P perna, oyster and limpets.
1 x possible furnace.
Several upper grindstones.
Daga floors.
Pottery: several lip/rim sherds; LIA, thin-walled on various types of clay. G. Whitelaw note: Impressions on lips suggest the site dates to the early second millennium - Moor Park or Blackburn (G. Whitelaw suggests Moor Park).
Slag.
Iron ore.

Comments/References: Medium - high significance.
Mitigation excavation planned. See: Anderson, G. 2004. Archaeological excavations at Simbithi Eco-estate. ICRM report, Natal Museum. See also Whitelaw, G. 2004. Report on CRM project at Simbithi Eco-estate, Ballito. Archaeology Department, Natal Museum (submitted to Amafa).