

The Institute for Cultural Resource Management undertook an archaeological survey of the Cornubia and Gateway Substations for Durban Metro Electricity. The sites are located on hills northwest of Umhlanga and with the N2 intersecting the sites.

Two archaeological sites were recorded during the course of the survey. The substations will affect these sites and Durban Metro Electricity will be required to apply for a permit to damage each of these sites.

### **COR1**

COR1 is in the vicinity of the Cornubia substation. The site consists of several pottery sherds and some marine shell (*Ostridaeae spp.*) scattered along the hill. The highest concentration sherds are located along the northeastern part of the hill. An archaeological deposit probably occurs at the site.

The site probably dates to the Late Iron Age.

Significance: The site is of low-medium archaeological significance. There is a potential for more material remains to occur on the site.

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required, however, I would suggest that an archaeologist be on site during the earthmoving phase of the contract. This would be to ensure that potential material might be rescued.

### **COR2**

COR2 is located at the Gateway substation. The site consists of a high density of artefacts along the hill. The artefacts include a variety of sherds, and marine shell, as well as an archaeological deposit.

Several decorated sherds were recorded. These included a rim with oval impressions, and one sherd with a wart. These are indicative of early to middle late Iron Age sites.

Several concentrations of marine shell were also observed. These are indicative of subsurface features, such as shell middens.

The surface scatter suggests that a spatial component may occur at the site as well.

Significance: The site is of medium archaeological significance. This is due to the decorated sherds, archaeological deposit and shell middens.

Mitigation: Several test-pit excavations should occur on the site prior to the earthmoving phase. These test-pit excavations will determine the full potential of the archaeological site. **The test-pit excavations may require further excavations if more information that is significant is recovered.**

## CONCLUSION

The archaeological survey of the Cornubia and Gateway substations recorded an archaeological site at each development. The Cornubia site requires no further mitigation; however, an archaeologist should be on site during the earthmoving phase. This will ensure that potential information may not be destroyed. The second site occurs at the Gateway substation and requires test-pit excavations.

Durban Metro Electricity will require a permit to damage these sites. This is in compliance with the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997. The permit is available from KwaZulu-Natal Heritage/Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali.