

**The archaeological survey of the revised
Cornubia substation**

For EDP

Date: 15 March 2005

By Gavin and Louise Anderson

**Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource
Management**

PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965



INTRODUCTION

Umlando was contracted by EDP to undertake an archaeological survey for the revised Cornubia substation. Previously the area to the north was demarcated and excavated by the Institute for Cultural Resource Management. Subsequently, the effected area has been relocated to the southern hill. Archaeological material was noted in this area and further mitigation is required.

He area was initially surveyed a few years ago, however the site has now been relocated. Appendix B has the survey report associated with this development.

THE SITE

The new revised area is referred to as COR3. COR3 still had very dense sugar cane at the time of survey. However, we surveyed the tracks/road surrounding the affected area to determine if any archaeological material existed near the site. A few pottery sherds and grinding stone fragments were visible on the surface. This was similar to the initial survey results of COR2 (the site that was previously excavated).

The pottery is mostly thin-walled suggesting a Late Iron Age, or Historical Period, occupation. Unlike COR2, there were no shell middens visible, however this could have been a result of the dense sugar cane.

Significance:

The material observed at COR3 does not appear to be very dense, nor to be dissimilar to that excavated at the upper levels of COR2. COR2 and COR3 initially appear to be settlements of similar times alternatively parts of a larger settlement.

Mitigation:

COR2 has been previously excavated and both a Late and Early Iron occupation was recovered. Neither occupation appears to have been of high significance. However, there is always a possibility of human skeletal remains that may occur at these sites, as well as previously unobserved features.

We recommend that an archaeologist be on site during the earthmoving phase of this development. The archaeologist would monitor the developed area and ensure that potentially important archaeological material is not lost.

The archaeologist would be responsible for ensuring that any potentially significant material would be recovered, or salvaged, before the destruction of the site. The archaeologist would also be allowed to stop any further development if significant material was located during the course of the earthmoving phase.

CONCLUSION

Umlando conducted the archaeological survey of the revised Cornubia substation, in early March 2005. The survey recorded a new site, COR3, and this will require archaeological monitoring during the course of the operational phase. The archaeologist withholds the right to stop development if any significant material occurs during this phase.

The developer will need to apply for a destruction permit for COR3, as well as for parts of COR2. The underground cables associated with substation will affect COR2. We suggest that a general destruction permit be issued for both sites provided that the archaeological mitigation is undertaken.

APPENDIX A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM FOR COR3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age X

Historical Period: X

Recorder's Site No.: COR3

Official Name: Rem of Portion 829 Lot 31 No. 1560

Local Name: X

Map Sheet: 2931AD

Map Reference:

GPS reading? S29 43' 01.8" E31 03' 56.3"

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

As for COR2, however, this site is on the next property south of the tree line, and slightly above (or east) of the new levelled area besides the freeway.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open

Merits conservation: possible

Threats: yes

What threats: Durban metro electricity substation

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Black & White photographs

Tracings

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site has heavily vegetated by sugar cane. Several artefacts noted along the tracks to the north and east of the proposed development. Pottery is Late Iron Age to Historical Period, although Early Iron Age may exist below.



APPENDIX B
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

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 (*Ostridae 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.

