

The Archaeological Survey of the Hillendale Mine

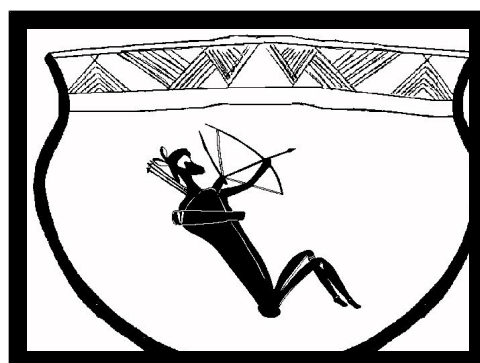
For Exxaro Pty (Ltd)

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando undertook its monthly survey at the Hillendale mine for Exxaro (Pty) Ltd, in November 2008. The mine had not progressed far over the last two months and limited new areas had been exposed. No news sites were recorded; however, artefacts had been exposed. These new areas are to the southeast of the area surveyed in September.

RESULTS

No new sites had been exposed by the earth moving activity.

I did notice that Exxaro is preparing to mine the Umhlatuze Valley Sugar (UVS) land, especially those areas near the houses. While the houses probably post-date the 1940's, some of the original buildings date to the 1910 when the farm was established¹. This means that there will be middens (that is rubbish dumps) older than 60 years. These middens are protected by the KZN Heritage Act.

I suggest that all middens that are exposed during the demolition of the houses are left intact until I have assessed them, and ascertained their correct age. The sampling of the early middens may yield information regarding the initial occupation of this farm.

¹ D Whelan. 2007. Historical and Architectural Impact Assessment Report for the Umhlatuze Valley Sugar Company model village site on the Farm UVS 16362, Umhlatuze, Uthungulu District Municipality. Report for Exxaro.