

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT AMS19

FOR RICHARDS BAY MINERALS

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc undertook rescue excavations of a smelting site that had been exposed by bulldozer activity in the Richards Bay Minerals Zulti North mining lease. The site was initially recorded in early January 2009, and excavated in the last week of January 2009.

The site is indicated in figures 1 and 2, and illustrated in figure 3. The site is located on the top of the western last dune. The site is on a relatively small flat area, on a narrow section of the dune, and overlooks the hinterland. The dune runs in a northeast-southwest alignment.

METHOD

The site was divided into 38 3m x 3m squares. A small test-pit was undertaken in the centre of each square to determine the depth of deposit. Those squares with some form of deposit were marked for excavation.

Several shell middens occur along the southwestern part of the site. I bulk sampled¹ the one midden that appeared to be mostly intact - ~2m radius. Three middens were not bulk sampled, and two were not excavated.

Squares were also placed in the area of a high density of slag and possible furnace fragments.

We also sampled material that occurred on the surface, especially the artefacts that were on the slope of the dune.

¹ A Bulk Sample is a sample where everything is kept as a representative of the site. Non-bulk samples have only the important finds kept, and shell and stones etc. are thrown away.

FIG. 1: LOCATION OF AMS19 IN RELATION TO RICHARDS BAY

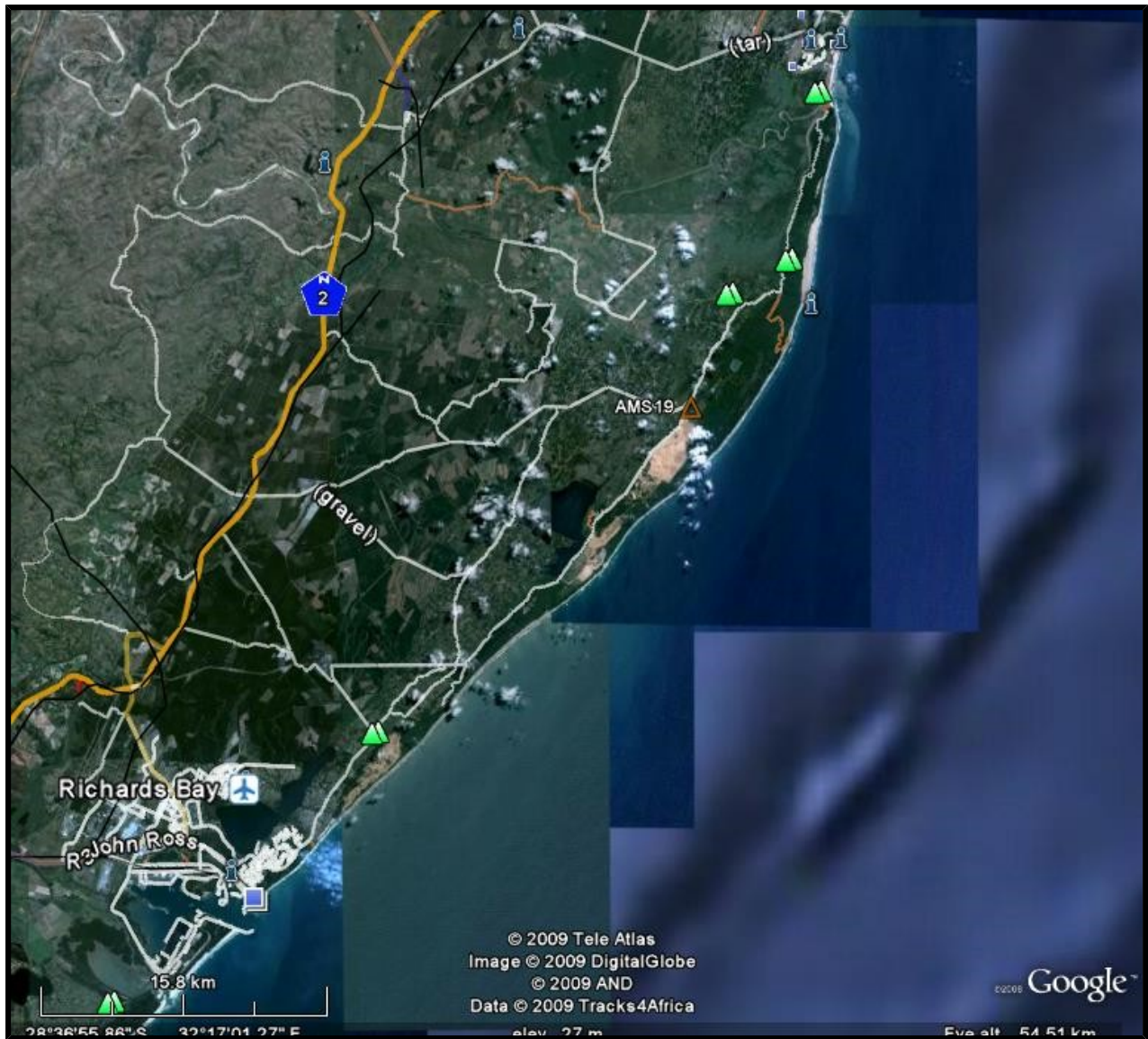


FIG. 2: LOCATION OF AMS19 IN RELATION TO THE DUNE SYSTEM



FIG. 3: VIEW OF AMS19

Northeast view



Southwest view



RESULTS

SHELL MIDDENS

FURNACE AREA

HUMAN BURIAL

FIG. 4: SHELL MIDDENS

MANAGEMENT PLAN

CONCLUSION

An heritage survey of the proposed

