

RBM April survey and April-May monitoring of TB1-3

The archaeological survey was conducted at the Richards Bay Minerals mining lease at the end of April 2005. No news sites were recorded.

A human mandible was recovered from the sieves at the Town Boards lease area a few days after the April survey. Three skeletons have been previously recorded in this area, and Rynhard Kok and I agreed that we should undertake at least a daily monitoring of this area¹. The monitoring consisted of approximately a foot survey over the three sites that were recorded in this area. Since we recently moved to Richards bay, this would not affect the budget in terms of disbursements.

The monitoring has been underway for at least two weeks and several artefacts have been observed and/or sampled. These include:

- The mandible of the child from SK1/2
- Fragment of a decorated dagga pipe
- Pottery with perforations
- Decorated pottery
- Faunal samples
- Marine shell samples

TB1 and TB2 have been monitored, and some test-pit excavations should be undertaken for TB3. This area is important in that it is the most southerly section of this specific dune system in the area and may have geographical and/or topographical significance for archaeological sites.

¹ I was on paternity leave and could not undertake more time for this monitoring