The Archaeological Survey of the Zulti North Mining Lease

For Richards Bay Minerals

Date: 31 August 2010

By Gavin Anderson and Louise Anderson
Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource
Management

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Umlando undertook its monthly archaeological surveys of the Zulti North Mining lease on 13 August 2010 and 31 August 2010.

MINING POND A

MPA 41

MPA 41 is located on the first dune cordon from the sea. It consists of EIA and LIA pottery on the surface. There are several middens on the surface and these are mostly in a secondary context. One midden with burnt shell is still in a primary context. The middens consist mainly of *Perna perna* and oyster, although there is a higher occurrence of *Patella spp.* at this site in comparison to other sites in the area. There also scatters of faunal remains and slag across the site. A near complete goat skeleton was observed and sampled.

The pottery is related several phases: Mzonjani and Ntshekane for the EIA, and then Group 7 and historical Period.

The site is of medium significance and will be monitored and sampled.

MINING POND C

No new sites recorded.

MINING POND D

No new sites recorded.

MINING POND E

MPE 102

MPE 102 is located on the very top of the first high dune, from the interior. It consists of at least three shell middens, pottery and bovid bone.

The site is of low significance and no further mitigation is required.

AMS

No new sites recorded.

We received a phone call to investigate some remains that were observed in the sieves at AMS2 (near MPD). We collected the remains and determined that it was the partial remains of a human cranium. The maxillae were missing.

Our discussions with the mining operator determined that the remains probably slumped down from the first mine cutting several months ago, as they were busy with the second cutting. The second cutting is at least 5m below. This would explain why only a fragment of the human skeleton remained, i.e. the skeleton had been previously dispersed. No sites have been directly associated with this skeleton¹

The cranium was boxed with its provenience and is currently in the RBM archaeological store room. The site is referred to as AMS23.

CONCLUSION

The August 2010 survey yielded two new sites. Several previously recorded sites were re-visited.

All sites will be monitored in the future for as long as it remains possible.

APPENDIX A SITE RECORD FORMS

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

Umlando: Archaeological Tourism & Resource Management Po. Box 102532; Meeren-See, 3901 Ph: 035-59175 / 0836585326 / 0723481327

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age: Early Iron Age: Late Iron Age: x Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: MPE 102

Official Name: Local Name: Map Sheet:

GPS reading: S 28 32 57.7 E: 32 21 27.8 Alt: 111m

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

Follow the "in" road to MPE dunes, turn right at the sharp bend. The site is located on the very top of the first high dune from the current location of MPE.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open Merits conservation: No

Threats: Yes

What threats: RBM Mining

RECORDING:

Graphic record: None

Digital pictures: Tracings: Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 13/08/2010

Owner: References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

The site consists of at least 3x shell middens, pottery and bovid bone.

UMLANDO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

Umlando: Archaeological Tourism & Resource Management P.O. Box 102332, Meer-en-Sec, 3901 Ph: 033-7531785 / 0836658362 / 0723481327

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age:

Early Iron Age: x Late Iron Age: x Historical Period: x

Recorder's Site No.: MPA 41

Official Name: Local Name: Map Sheet:

GPS reading: S 28 37 29.1 E: 32 17 46.1 Alt: 62m

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: SKETCH OR DESCRIPTION.

The site is located on the 2nd dune from the sea.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: Yes

Threats: Yes

What threats: RBM Mining

RECORDING:

Graphic record: None

Digital pictures: Tracings: Re-drawings:

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 102532, Meerensee, 3901

Date: 31/08/2010

Owner: References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

The site consists of EIA and LIA pottery, several shell middens, some patella, bone, slag and a Goat skeleton.