

The archaeological survey of Richards Bay Minerals

**For Richards Bay Minerals
& Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali**

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

PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965



Umlando undertook an archaeological survey of the Richards Bay Minerals mining lease in January 2004. The aim of the survey was to observe the status of various mining ponds in relation to our previous visit. We also submitted our 2004 report and had brief discussions with Rynhard Kok regarding the demarcation of archaeological sites.

The survey did not record any new sites. We did notice, however, that AMS3 (recorded in October 2004) had an extension to the site. This extension consists of a shell midden, decorated pottery, and bone fragments. The pottery had circular impressions on the body, as well as some shell-impressed decorations. Some of the pottery was sampled. We intend to excavate this part of the site in February, early March.

Our discussions with Rynhard Kok consisted of means of demarcating archaeological sites that have excavation potential, directly after they have been surveyed. The demarcation will be in the form of painted poles as used to demarcate the ecostrips and mining zones. For now, we will be using green poles as for ecostrips. The idea behind this demarcation is to sensitise bulldozer operators (and others) that that specific area is not to be disturbed.

Two sites will be demarcated shortly: STM (extension) and AMS3 (extension).