

The Archaeological Survey of Hillendale Mine

For Exxaro Pty (Ltd)

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Umlando undertook an archaeological survey at Hillendale mine in early June 2007. We revisited an area that had been previously cleared as well as a new small cleared area. The weekend of heavy rain had allowed for artefacts and potential furnaces to be more visible and thus we resurveyed the previously surveyed area.

The whole area is a scatter of artefacts ranging from Early Iron Age (Ntshekane Period) to the more recent Historical or Late Iron Age. The Ntshekane pottery is concentrated on the lower parts of the hill, while the Historical/Late Iron Age pottery occurs throughout the area. Two pieces of slag, and some quartz and quartzite hammer stones and flakes were observed. Nothing in this immediate area suggests that there is a furnace. However, the Ntshekane sherds appear to increase in density to the northeast of the site. This area is in the new mining lease and will be mined at a later stage.

We sampled a few of the sherds.

For interest we have attached a map indicating the locations of all recorded sites at the Hillendale Mine for the current mining lease (Fig 1). Hil01 is excluded from this as it is outside of the current mining lease.

