

The Archaeological Survey of Hillendale Mine

For Exxaro Pty (Ltd)

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Umlando undertook an archaeological survey at Hillendale mine in Mid August 2007. We revisited an area that had been previously cleared (EXX1a and EXX1b) as Exxaro staff had reported observing at least one near complete pot on the surface. The last few weeks of heavy rain and wind has resulted in many artefacts and potential furnaces to be more exposed.

The whole area is a scatter of artefacts ranging from Early Iron Age (Ntshekane Period) to the more recent Historical or Late Iron Age: called EXX1a and EXX1b, respectively. The Ntshekane pottery is concentrated on the lower parts of the hill, while the Historical/Late Iron Age pottery occurs throughout the area.

The collected material consists of:

- Several fragments of slag
 - Solid slag from the centre of a furnace
 - Small pieces of slag that has flowed over
 - Slag that has cooled down in sand (seen by the rough bowl shape at the base)
- 2 tuyere fragments
- several upper grinding stones of various sizes (5 cm – 20cm in diameter)
- decorated pottery that includes
 - 4 rows of alternating bands on the neck between cross hatching
 - cross-hatching is in rectangles or squares
 - Alternating bands with an *iSumpa* on the upper band
 - 4 thick horizontal grooves on the (presumed) neck
 - oblique grooves on the (presumed) neck
 - embossed chevron on neck
 - +10 thin horizontal grooves on the (presumed) neck

- 14 alternating oblique bands (semi-chevron pattern) with double row of near horizontal grooves
- 3 oblique grooves on the rim, with 3 rows of rectangular comb-stamped impressions
- Rim notching.
- Bone
 - Scapula from possible hippo
 - Distal epiphyses from possible hippo
 - Large bovid metapodial
 - Large bovid teeth (burnt)
- Suncrush orange glass bottle dating to c. 1960s – has patent number for bottle manufacturer on the base¹.

We will continue to monitor and sample this general area.

¹ The cooldrink company would buy the glass bottles from the manufacturer, who specifically made the bottles for Suncrush. It also includes the patent number that refers to the type of bottle that was registered.