

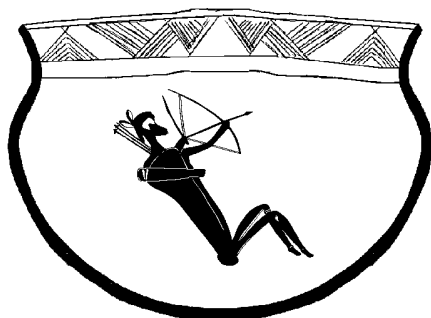
**The archaeological survey of Hillendale Mine:  
April 2007**

**For Exxaro Pty (Ltd)**

**Date: 13 April 2007**

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Umlando undertook its monthly survey at Hillendale mine in April 2007. Exxaro had specifically requested a survey as a new area had been cleared that was previously noted as being sensitive and requiring a survey.

The main part of the newly cleared area had no artefacts. As we surveyed further uphill, a few stone tools and pottery sherds were observed. The stone tools probably date to the Late Stone Age. The sherds became more numerous towards the top of the hill and we also observed fragments of slag. These artefacts appear to be Early Iron Age pottery sherds, however the few decorated pieces were too small to make a positive identification.

The newly exposed area is the periphery of the site. We surveyed along a road cutting that went into the sugar cane field and noted two Ntshekane sherds and more pieces of slag. It appears that the main site occurs under the current sugar cane.

This sugar is marked for clearance in 2 – 3 weeks time and we will resurvey and assess the site. We expect to find some form of metallurgical activity under the sugar cane. If this activity does occur we may need to excavate the site, especially if it is a Ntshekane site.

The Ntshekane period dates from AD 950 – AD 1030. This is the first Ntshekane period site to be recorded in the Hillendale vicinity. Other Ntshekane sites have been recorded north of Richards Bay, and this site will be useful as a comparative site.

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<sup>1</sup> S 28° 49' 41.8" E 31° 56' 16.3" – WGS84