

**The Archaeological Survey of the RBM Zulti North
Mining Lease**

For Richards Bay Minerals

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Umlando undertook its monthly archaeological survey in April 2007. Four new sites was recorded, the partial remains of one human skeleton was excavated.

MPD 80

The main site is located on a small round hill on the third dune cordon from the sea. The main site consists of undecorated thin-walled pottery, a tapered rim with flat lip, two upper grinding stones, and one lower grinding stone made from white beach sandstone.

At the base of the hill is a scatter of *P. perna*.

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

MPD 81

MPD 81 is located on a small dune on the third dune cordon from Lake Nhlabane. The site consists of a small scatter of pottery and grinding stones. The pottery is undecorated. The grinding stones consist of two small lower grinding stones made from white beach sandstone, and one quartz upper grinding stone.

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

MPD 82

The site is located on a small hill between the second and third dune cordon the beach. The site consists of a small scatter of shell (*P. perna*) that was exposed and dispersed by bulldozer activity. More of the site may occur under the vegetation.

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

AMS 13

The site is located on a low hill between the first and second dune cordon from the sea. The site consists of a small scatter of shell and pottery. Shell consists of *P. perna*

and large amount of oyster. The pottery is undecorated and both black and brown in colour. One fragment of a smoking pipe with horizontal incisions was sampled. Three upper grinding stones were also observed.

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

AMS9

We revisited and sampled more artefacts from the AMS9 site. These consisted of several decorated sherds, grinding stones, slag, and stone.

We located the fragmented remains of a human cranium on the slope where Skeleton 1 (SK1) was approximately recorded¹. We excavated the area surrounding the cranium but could not locate any other human remains. We believe this to be related to SK1, as no cranium was recorded for SK1. The cranium has been separately boxed from SK11, and labelled as SK1(?).

General

We have one area of concern: the demarcation of archaeological sites. AMS was partially damaged by bulldozer activity. Fortunately, this was on the eastern edge of the site. A few other sites have been inadvertently damaged in the past as well. We suggest that archaeological sites are given a specific colour to be painted on poles, as is the case for the red (do not enter) and green (eco-strips). We suggest that these poles are painted blue and used to demarcate sites that are no-go areas for bulldozers, vehicles, etc. until the monitoring for that site is completed. A directive from management should be given regarding the new markers and these should also be made more aware via the in-house magazine, tool-box talks, etc.

The above is important in that we are currently monitoring three sites: AMS9, MPD79, and STM. AMS9 has been partially damaged, and we have seen people driving

¹ Skeleton was had mostly slumped with the dune and we had an approximate location.

over MPD79. We have tried demarcating with danger tape, but the tae tends to break in the wind.