

The Archaeological Survey Of The Richards Bay Minerals

Mining Lease: April 2004

For Richards Bay Minerals

Date: 28 April 2004

By Gavin and Louise Anderson

Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource Management

PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965



April 2004 Archaeological Survey at RBM

The aim of this survey was to reconnoiter the area after a lengthy break from the last survey in December. The break was due for various reasons; however, the RBM survey has now restarted in earnest. Umlando intends to survey the mining area once a month. We hope that this will allow us to keep closer track of the mining process, and thus in contact with the mining operations and the various departments involved, especially the rehabilitation and public relations departments.

Mining Ponds

MPE

MPE does not appear to have moved further since the previous survey, in terms of vegetation clearance.

One new site was recorded in the MPE area: MPE55. MPE55 is located along the eastern back road of MPE. The site is a scatter of artefacts that have been disturbed by dune mining. There is a small shell midden in the section that has been opened by bulldozer activity. The artefacts consist of thin-walled pottery that is indicative of the Late Iron Age. The faunal remains consist of the ribs and metapodials of a large bovid (probably domesticated bovid). The shell consists only of *Perna perna* (brown mussel).

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

MPD

MPD does not appear to have moved further since the previous survey, in terms of vegetation clearance. No new sites were recorded at MPD

MPC

MPC has moved a significant distance since the previous survey. However, the mining path was preliminary surveyed in December and no major sites were noted.

One site was re-recorded: MPC76. MPC76 has been described in the 2003 report. The part of the site that was re-recorded on this survey consisted of the western side of MPC76, along the ecostrip. Several Mzonjani and Ndongondwane sherds were observed, as well as shell, bone and slag. The bone consisted of aquatic mammal (hippo?). The shell consisted of mostly brown mussel and oyster fragments.

Significance and mitigation: The site was sampled, and has been previously excavated and sampled.

MPB

MPB is re-mining previous mined areas, and is thus omitted from the survey. The areas surrounding MPB, e.g. the dry mining area will in future be monitored.

MPA

We could not find a safe access road to the dune face of MPA. We will survey this area in future surveys.