

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EXCAVATIONS FOR RBM,

For

Date:

By Gavin and Louise Anderson

Umlando: Archaeological Tourism and Resource Management

PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965



Umlando undertook an archaeological excavation and survey in March 2005. The excavation was to complete the initial excavations of February and to undertake the monthly survey.

The Excavations

The excavations were a continuation of the February excavations at AMS3. The February excavations consisted of four 1m X 1m squares in a shell midden. The last excavated square had another shell lens below the main lens. This lower lens extended northwards and contained bone and charcoal. We removed one 1m X 1m square of this lens to obtain an adequate sample.

We have not completed the analysis of this material and will submit a report shortly.

The Survey

Mining Pond A

No new sites were recorded at Mining Pond A

Mining Pond C

No new sites were recorded at Mining Pond C

Mining Pond D

A ceramic bowl was handed in to the Rehab. Offices. This bowl was found near a previously recorded site of MPD78. We will tentatively place this bowl with that site.

Mining Pond E

No new sites were recorded at Mining Pond C

Town Board

The Town Board lease was resurveyed. The site TB3 was demarcated or potential excavations in the near future. A single skeleton was recovered from this area previously. The area has been cleared and man artefacts are visible on the surface. Potential spatial patterns exist at the site. These features include shell middens, ash features and general middens. More skeletons may exist at this site as well.

AMS North

One site was recorded at AMS North: AMS4. Site is a scatter of artefacts along the crest of the dune. Pottery includes some Mzonjani sherds (Early Iron Age), as well as thin-walled LIA sherds. Some shell fragments exists and they are mostly *P. perna*. One upper grinding stone observed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age: X

Late Iron Age ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: AMS4

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S: 28 33' 48.1"; E 32 20' 31.2" (alt = 76m)

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Site is on crest of dune approx. 30m seawards of AMS3. More of site will be exposed later.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM mining

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Tracings

Black & White photographs

Re-drawings

Date: 31/03.05

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site is a scatter of artefacts along the crest of the dune. Pottery includes 2 x Mzonjani sherds, as well as thin-walled LIA sherds.

Some shell exists and is mostly *P. perna*. 1 x upper grinding stone observed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: MPD74

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S: 28 34' 58.9" E:32 20' 30" (alt = 60m)

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Follow MPD's new electricity line Site is located on the opposite side of pylon # MPD44

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Black & White photographs

Tracings

Re-drawings

Date: 03/02/2005

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Ephemeral scatter of *P. perna* and undecorated pottery.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: MPD75

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S 28 35' 02" E 32 20' 25.6" (alt = 35m)

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Opposite Pylon # MPD42, along dune ridge. Middle of dune system

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Open

Merits conservation: No

Threats: Yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Tracings

Black & White photographs

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date: 03/02/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of a small ephemeral scatter of *P. perna* and *Patella spp.*. Some undecorated pottery.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: MPD76

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S 28 35' 04.1"; E32 20' 24" (alt = 34m)

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Same as previous site, but next to pylon # MPD41

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: yes

Merits conservation: no

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Tracings

Black & White photographs

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date: 03/02/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

Large scatter of shell (approx. 5m diameter) and some pottery. Shell is brown mussel, oyster and limpet. Pottery is thin-walled and undecorated. 1 x upper grindingstone.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: MPD77

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S: 28 35' 11.9" E: 32 20' 17.3" (alt = 34m)

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

As before, next to pylon # MPD38

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open

Merits conservation: no

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Tracings

Black & White photographs

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date: 03/02/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

Ephemeral scatter of mostly brown mussel and some limpet. Some shell is burnt, but probably from recent burn. Midden is very disturbed and may have been bigger.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: MPD78

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S 28 34' 59.4" E: 32 20' 17.1"

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Site is located along top of 2nd dune cordon from the ocean.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open midden

Merits conservation: no

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Tracings

Black & White photographs

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date: 03/02/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

1 midden of *P. perna*. Pottery is undecorated. 1 x orange-red rim-lip (adiagnostic).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: MPC83

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S 28 37' 04.5" E: 32 17' 58" (alt = 50m)

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

1st high dune from current MPC location (probably 2nd dune ridge from lake).

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: Middens/open

Merits conservation: possible

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Black & White photographs

Tracings

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date

03/02/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

Site consists of 4 small middens of mostly brown mussel and some limpets. Small middens have sampling potential.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: MPA34

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S: 28 37 53.3" E: 32 17' 28.1" (alt = 44m)

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Site is located on small dune adjacent to MPA33 skeleton.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open

Merits conservation: no

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Tracings

Black & White photographs

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date: 03/02/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

Ephemeral scatter of shell over a large area (approx. 50m radius). Mostly brown mussel and some limpet. Pottery is undecorated and thin-walled.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: x

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: TB1

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S 28 45' 45.6" E: 32 08' 25.7"

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Follow dune route towards RBM mining lease from Richards Bay. Turn right just after horse riding school onto the dirt road. Follow this road, and curves, towards the trig beacons. Site is located around these 2 beacons.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open, midden, skeletons

Merits conservation: yes

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: video and digital photos

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date: 02/02/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

Pottery is LIA shells impressed patterns, as well as lip notching. A lot of domestic cattle and fish bones scattered around the site.

Skeletons heavily disturbed by human activity. And parts of remains recovered before reburial. Area excavated for the rest of the remains, and mainly foot bones and 1 x arm not removed. Arm has iron bangle, but the bangle is fractured. Feet indicate sitting position and facing sunrise.

Juvenile bones found amongst the illegal excavated remains, and the rib bones were observed a few meters upslope.

Shell in area of graves but no other grave goods seen.

RBM procedures regarding human remains has been officially documented and put into place.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: ?

Historical Period: ?

Recorder's Site No.: TB2

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S 28 45' 48.5" E 32 08' 20.8"

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Lower dune directly south of TB1.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open

Merits conservation: resurvey

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Tracings

Black & White photographs

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date:

Description of site and artefactual content.

Scatter of pottery, shell and bone.. 1 x whole undecorated pot observed.

Mitigation: Resurvey this site until cleared by mine.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD FORM

SITE CATEGORY: (X where applicable)

Stone Age

Early Iron Age:

Late Iron Age: x

Historical Period:

Recorder's Site No.: TB3

Official Name:

Local Name:

Map Sheet: 2832CA KwaMbonambi

Map Reference: S: 28 45' 44.2" E: 32 08' 25.1"

GPS reading? yes

Directions to site: Sketch or description.

Same as TB1, except this site is on dune to east and much lower.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Type of Site: open settlement

Merits conservation: yes

Threats: yes

What threats: RBM

RECORDING:

Details of graphic record: N/A

Colour slides:

Black & White photographs

Tracings

Re-drawings

Recorder/Informant: Name: Gavin and Louise Anderson

Address: PO Box 491, Mkuze, 3965

Owner State

References:

Date: 02/03/2005

Description of site and artefactual content.

Settlement with various features (middens, ash dumps, general middens), and variety of artefacts. Shell: large oyster, mussel, large whelks (2B identified), possible ivory bangle, undecorated pottery, lots of large bovid bone, fish and human. Skeleton has been disturbed by bulldozer and only feet are *in situ*. Feet face sunset: rest of body had been displaced and we saved what we could.