

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PROTEA RIDGE (FARM 948),
KOMMETJIE, SIMONSTOWN DISTRICT, CAPE TOWN METRO**

(Assessment conducted under Section 38 (8) of the
National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999)

Prepared for:
Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office at the University of Cape Town was appointed by Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants to undertake an archaeological impact assessment on Farm Kommetjies Estates No.948 prior to residential development. Alternative 3, the preferred alternative, makes provision for 102 residential erven and its associated infrastructure as well as substantial public open space areas.

The heritage indicators include:

- Widespread distribution of stone artefacts (mainly quartz flakes, chunks and cores) which occur in very low density across the development footprint. They are probably of Later Stone Age origin but they are not considered significant;
- Similar low density scatters of marine shell although these are not necessarily associated with the stone;
- Some of these marine shell scatters appear to be modern shell middens which result from vagrants living on the open land;
- Many of these scatters are found along the lower slopes of the Klein Slangkop hill;
- There are no buildings or graves on the site;
- Historical remains include some marine shell buttons, possibly from a garment destroyed in the recent veld fire and some large concrete blocks (near the fence of the Naval Radio Station) with granite aggregate. The concrete blocks may be derived from a building which was demolished on the site or have been dumped on the open ground as builders' rubble.

No significant archaeological remains were discovered and it is recommended that development may proceed.

It is important to remember that the eastern edge of the development borders on the Table Mountain National Park which has World Heritage status.

If any human remains are uncovered during the development of the site, construction in that area should cease immediately and the SAHRA Burials Unit should be consulted.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office at the University of Cape Town was appointed by Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants to undertake an archaeological impact assessment on Farm Kommetjies Estates No.948 prior to residential development.

The various proposals are discussed below.

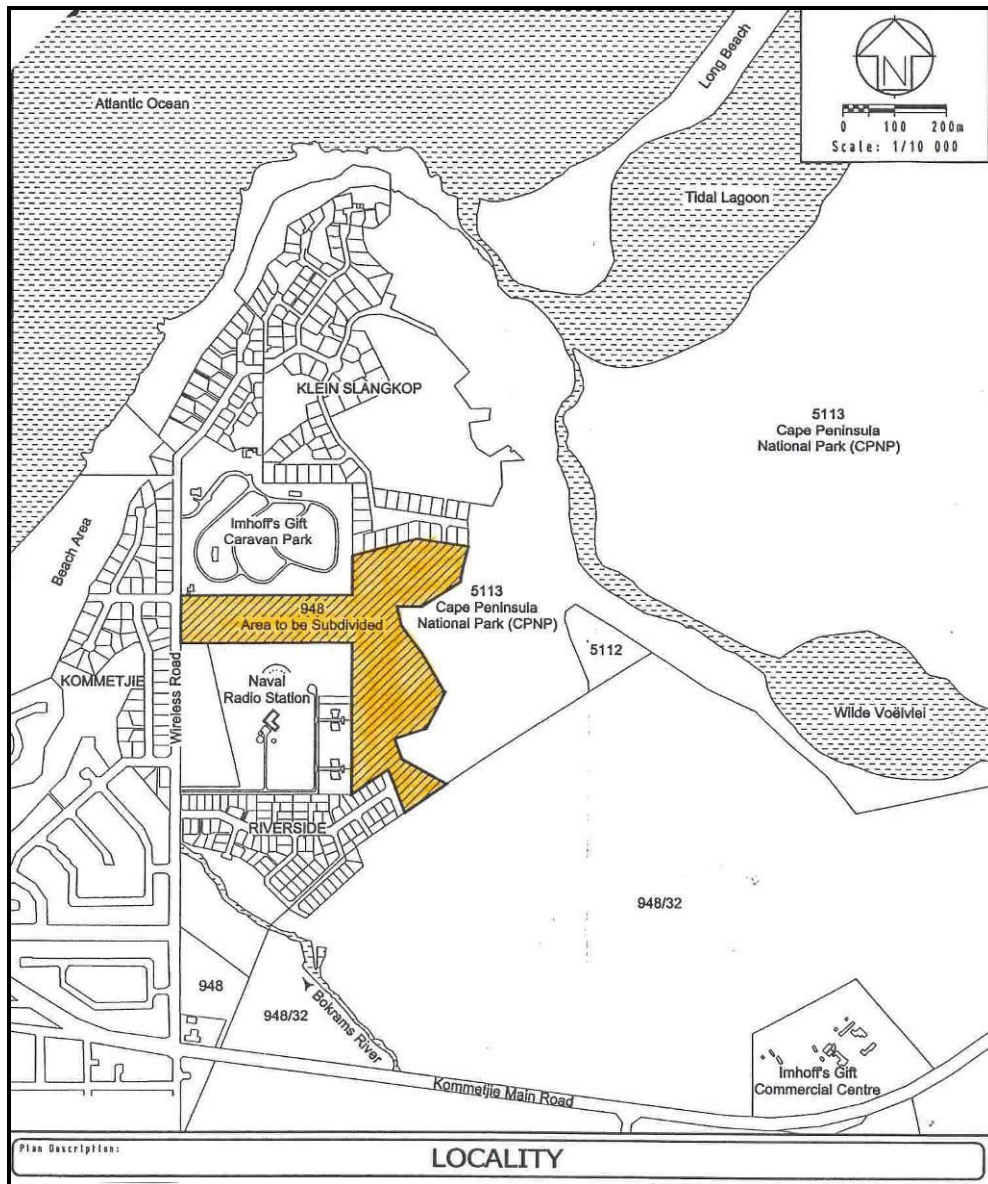


Figure 1: Location of the development area at Kommetjie, Simonstoun District. Map supplied by client.

2. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The original proposal (Alternative 1) makes provision for the development of 102 residential erven and the associated infrastructure, including a crèche, place of worship and some public open space. Access will be obtained via Wireless Road and Riverside Drive with an emergency access via Klein Slangkop Estate (Figure 2).

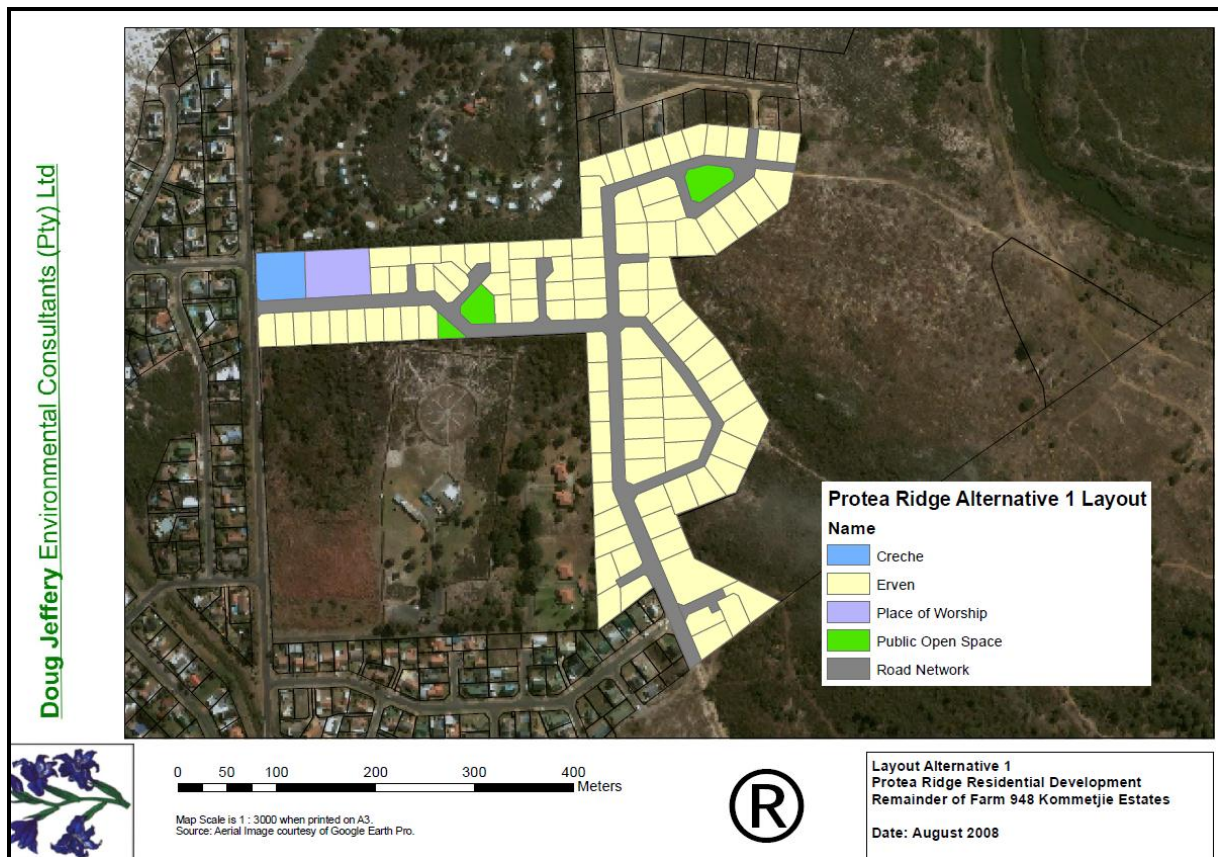


Figure 2: Alternative 1 layout (map supplied by client).

Alternative 1 was the original proposal prior to any studies being undertaken. However, it will be scoped out in the Draft BAR as a non-viable alternative. The environmental impacts of this alternative are for a number of reasons considered inappropriate.

Alternative 2 makes provision for 63 residential erven and its associated infrastructure as well as a crèche and more substantial public open space areas (Figure 3). Access will be obtained via Wireless Road and Riverside Drive. This represents the layout alternative that was used during the advertising of the initial Draft Basic Assessment Report as the Preferred Alternative. For a number of environmental reasons this was then once again amended to form the preferred alternative or Alternative 3.

Alternative 3 is the preferred Alternative and provides for 102 single residential erven and its associated infrastructure (Figure 4). Approximately 57% of the site will be zoned as private open space to be utilised for conservation purposes.

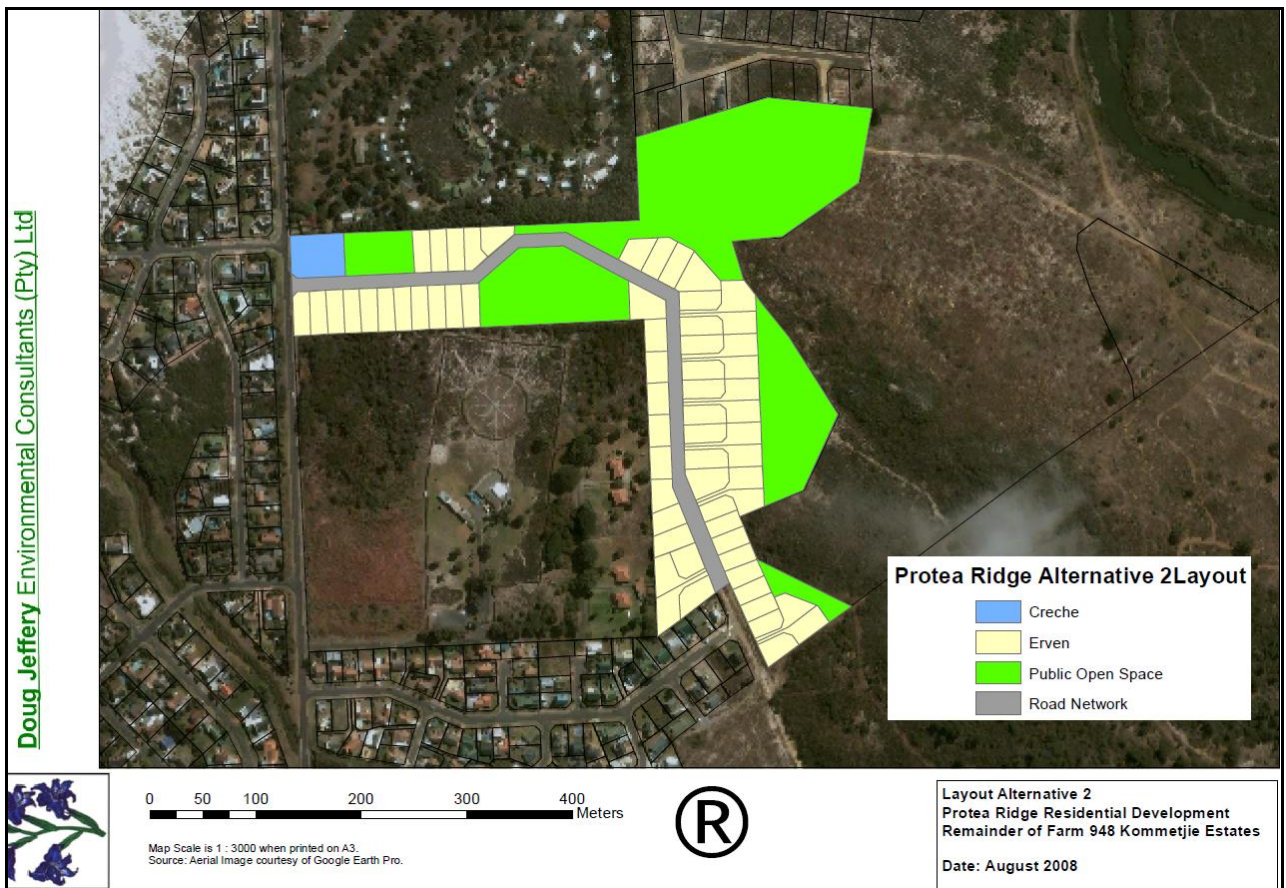


Figure 3: Alternative 2 layout (map supplied by client).

No-Go Alternative (Alternative 4): This alternative is the “no-development alternative” which will result in the *status quo* of the property being maintained. The Applicant can develop the land in terms of its existing land use rights. The property is currently zoned Rural and therefore the land could be used for any type of farming and in particular of an extensive nature, without special consent (in terms of LUPO) having to be obtained before commencement of operations. Agricultural buildings and structures are allowed but these would have to comply with the building clauses and provisions in terms of the local municipality. However, the location of the proposed site, within the context of its surrounds, does not lend itself to farming activities.

The site is surrounded by residential erven along portions of the north, south and western boundaries with the eastern boundary bordering on the Table Mountain National Park. A caravan park is also located along the remainder of the northern boundary with the Naval Radio Station located along the majority of the southern and western boundaries. The property is located inside the Urban Edge and could be considered an appropriate site for infill development.

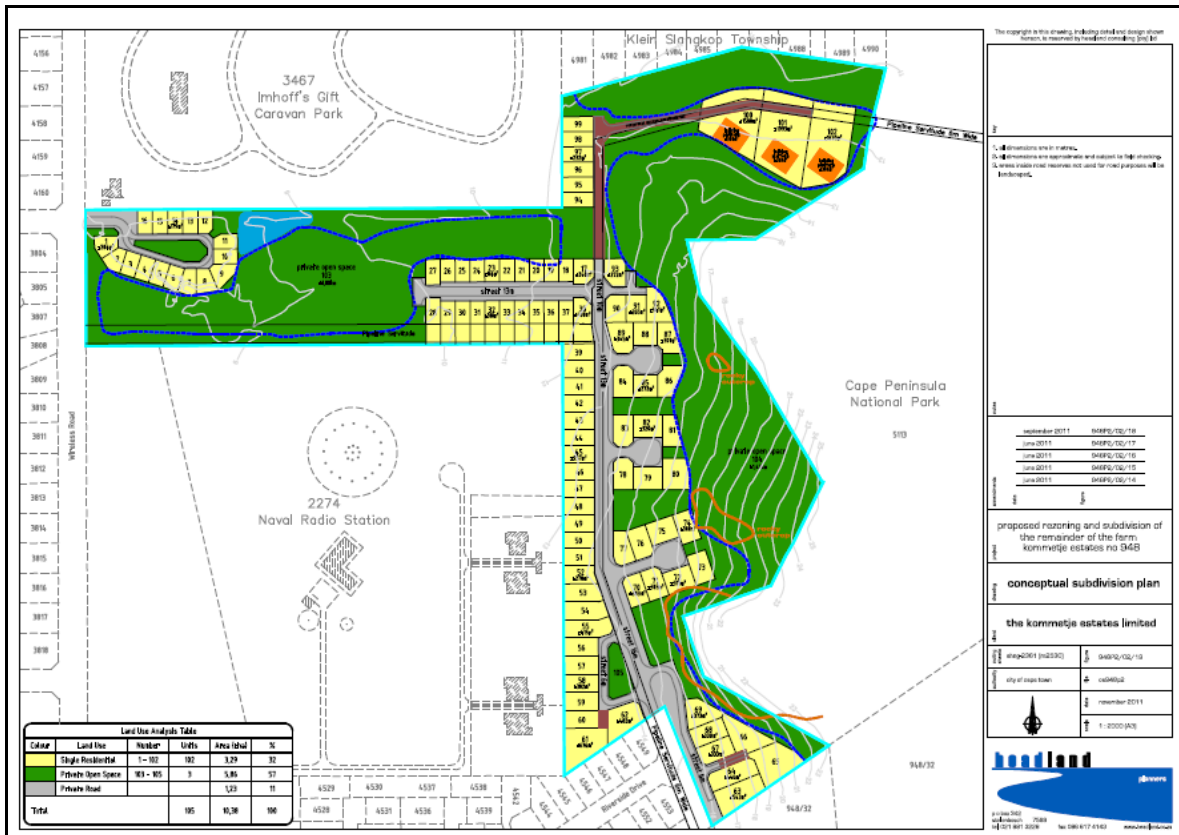


Figure 4: Alternative 3 layout (map supplied by client).

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

An Archaeological Impact Assessment would include:

- Identification of archaeological (prehistoric and colonial) sites through a desk top survey and site visit;
- Rating of significance of archaeological sites on the property;
- Assessment of the impact of development on the archaeology of the property;
- Recommendations for mitigation if necessary.

4. LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (Section 38 (1)) makes provision for a compulsory notification of the intent to development when any development exceeding 5000 m² in extent, or any road or linear development exceeding 300m in length is proposed.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological Sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);
- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);

- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

The eastern boundary of the development borders on the Table Mountain National Park. The Table Mountain National Park is one of 8 protected areas forming part of the serial declaration of the Cape Floral Region as a World Heritage Site in 2004. Only the Table Mountain Park section of the Cape Floral Region has been approved as a Grade 1 site, in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). Table Mountain National Park, which adjoins Farm 948 therefore, has National Heritage and World Heritage status.

5. BACKGROUND TO THE ERF

5.1 Pre-Colonial archaeological Background

There is not a great deal of recent information on the archaeology of Kommetjie. Kaplan (1991) commented “The Noordhoek Valley, of which Klein Slangkoppunt forms a part, is an area rich in archaeological occurrences. Cave sites, stone tool scatters and middens have been recorded there since the 1920s”.

In his honours thesis on the archaeology of the Cape Peninsula, Olivier (undated) commented on the fish trap near the point and the presence of four archaeological middens, only one of any significance. He also noted “two skeletons were removed from the area where the Post Office was constructed. They were on the edge of what was a deflation pan. These skeletons cannot be traced”.

Since this thesis, a few archaeological impact assessments have been conducted in and around Kommetjie, Slangkop and Ocean View.

In 1991, Kaplan undertook rescue excavations of three archaeological sites at Klein Slangkoppunt. These sites were part of thirteen archaeological sites identified during a survey in March 1990 by Parkington and Kaplan of the Archaeology Contracts Office and which were threatened by residential development (Figure 4). A recommendation contained in the report indicated that if the boundaries of the development area were to change, a site inspection should take place to check for further impacts.

Kaplan observed that the sites were located in or close to the first dune cordon, about 50m from the shoreline. While he tested some middens further inland which were threatened by development, he concluded that they were badly deflated and contained little shell, resulting in low research potential. He was of the opinion that two of the middens were less than 1500 years old and were not occupation sites due to the absence of any cultural material. Black mussel was the preferred shellfish, followed by various limpet species. However, the third site comprised an open scatter of shellfish on an exposed dune slope in association with cultural remains such as ostrich eggshell fragments and beads, pottery, shell scrapers, stone flakes and

grinding stones. In addition bone included fish, bird, tortoise, snake, small bovid and seal. Kaplan concluded that this site could be the remains of a permanent or semi-permanent camp of pastoralist peoples.

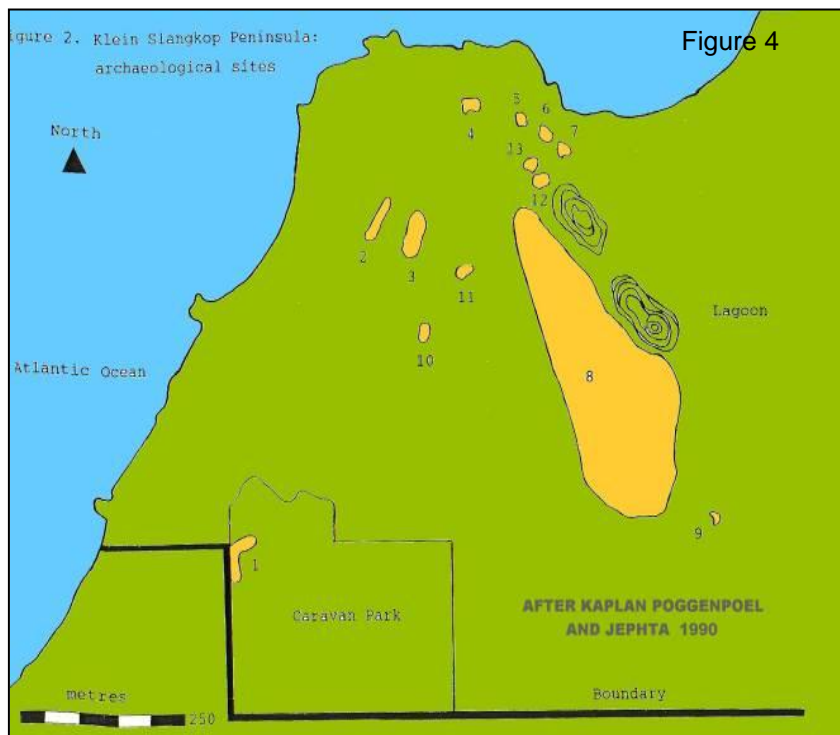


Figure 4: The shell middens identified during the 1990 survey of the area (Kaplan et al. 1990).

In 1999, Halkett undertook a survey of the Soetwater area which lies between the Slangkop lighthouse in the north and the southernmost part of Witsands beach. He identified five shell middens, two containing *in situ* deposits. One midden was of particular importance as a number of stratified shell lenses were recorded and bone and stone artefacts are also present. The ACO undertook a survey of a portion of land, namely Erf 4694 situated at Klein Slangkop, Kommetjie in 2002 but did not record any sites except for a recent midden accumulated by vagrants.

Recently, a number of surveys have been undertaken at Ocean View. Hart & Webley (2009) did not find any archaeological material during their survey of vacant land in and adjoining the settlement, but Kaplan (2004) reported on a recent burial and some Early Stone Age artefacts.

As a final cautionary note, Olivier (undated) noted that modern day squatters were exploiting the marine resources of Klein Slangkoppunt and have built up fairly substantial modern day middens.

5.2 Colonial Archaeological Background

Kommetjie, Ocean View and Noordhoek are located on land at one stage known as “Imhoffs Gift”. The name relates to the Baron Gustav Wilhelm von Imhoff, Governor-general of the Dutch East Indies in Batavia, who ordered the construction of a refreshment station at Simon’s Town in 1743. During his visit, the widow Christina

Rousseau, who had acquired grazing rights near Kommetjie applied to him to grant her the land. At "Imhoff's Gift" vegetables were grown on a portion of the farm known as "Company's Tuin".

The origins of the village of Kommetjie date to around the turn of the 20th century with the "Kommetjie Estate Ltd" listed as a company in 1902, the Kommetjie Road constructed in 1907 and the hotel and school established by at least 1923.

A ship, the Clan Monroe, wrecked off Kommetjie in 1905. According to the SAHRA Shipwreck database (2006) there was only one casualty and the gravestone lay just inland of Slangkoppunt. This gravestone was reported to have been vandalised in 1976, but a stone feature, resembling a crude headstone, was located during the Halkett (1999) survey.

Archival sources point to extensions being added to the Wireless Station in Kommetjie by 1911 suggesting that work had started prior to this date. Hart et al. (2008) discusses the development of infrastructure to support wireless technology in South Africa with respect to the Klipheuwel Radio farm at Durbanville. In his report he points out that the role of South Africa in early wireless communication was surprisingly early. The first broadcasts were made from Kommetjie Lighthouse, then later from a facility in Wireless Road, Kommetjie.

The Slangkop Radio Station was both the main receiving and transmitting station to ships at sea during World War II. Soon after World War II broke out, a radar station-cum-lookout was set up on Slangkop Mountain. The shell of the lookout still exists. On the eve of the war, owing to the interference of manganese ore in the Slangkop Mountain, the radio station was moved to the current site off Wireless Road.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The development footprint has a T-shape design, with the leg running from Wireless Road in an easterly direction toward Klein Slangkop hill. The two arms of the T follow the lower slopes of the hill (Figure 1).



Plate 1: View from the top of Klein Slangkop hill looking westward toward the sea. The development runs along the base of the hill, and down along the line of blue gum trees in the middle of the photograph.



Plate 2: The vegetation to the west of Klein Slangkop has been burnt providing good visibility; **Plate 3:** The vegetation along the northern slopes of the hillside is dense and the ground is difficult to survey.



Plate 4: View towards Klein Slangkop hill with the double fence of the Naval Radio Station on the right.

7. SURVEY METHODS

The property was visited by Lita Webley and Jayson Orton on the 1 June 2011. The survey was conducted on foot, and a Garmin GPS unit was used to record sites and track ways (Plate 6). This AIA is concerned with archaeological remains relating to both the pre-colonial and colonial past.

7.1 Limitations

The strip of land off Wireless Road was covered in Port Jackson bushes but a recent fire has cleared the land of vegetation. Surface visibility was good and there were no limitations to the survey of this area. However, the lower slopes of Klein Slangkop hill are covered in dense coastal vegetation and it was more difficult to examine the soil surface. Nevertheless, this limitation does not affect the results of the survey below.

8. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Ephemeral scatters of quartz flakes, cores and chunks were discovered across most of the terrain. The density of artefacts was very low and the artefacts are not concentrated in sufficient numbers to represent an archaeological site. They are likely to be of Later Stone Age origin but no clearly identifiable artefacts were discovered.

In addition, a number of scatters of marine shell were observed (Table 1). The shell scatters do not occur in any concentration, and a variety of species is represented including mussel and limpet.

Some of the middens are clearly of recent origin and represent the meals of vagrants living against the kopje (Plate 6). This is supported by the old hearths and alcohol bottles found in the area. It is difficult to distinguish between the pre-colonial and recent middens. The more recent middens tend to comprise a single species of shellfish, such as mussels, and the shells are often complete. The older middens consist of a greater variety of shellfish, the shells are often weathered and they are often associated with quartz artefacts. The shellfish and quartz scatters tend to occur in a swathe along the lower slopes of Slangkop.



Plate 5: Quartz artefacts and shell found at Site 3; **Plate 6:** the shell to the left of the GPS possibly represents colonial midden material while the mussels on the right are part of a recent midden (Site 4).



Plate 7: Marine shell buttons; **Plate 8:** Large blocks of concrete with granite aggregate.



Figure 5: View of the tracks and sites recorded during the survey.

In addition to the above remains, we also recorded a small scatter of shell buttons (Plate 7) with evidence of fire damage. They may have come from a single garment which was burnt in the recent veld fire. Finally, there are a number of large blocks of concrete, with granite aggregate (Plate 8) on one corner of the Naval Radio Station. They derive from a building which has since been demolished. There is no obvious foundation or floor indicating where the building may have stood, and it is possible that this rubble is from a building which was demolished elsewhere.

The strip of land from Wireless Road running west-east to Klein Slangkop hill has been heavily transformed through sand mining and the present land surface is possibly a metre under the original ground level. Evidence of sand mining is clear in several large holes. This will have impacted significantly on any archaeological sites which may have occurred in this area.

9. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While there is evidence for pre-colonial activity in the study area, the widespread distribution of stone artefacts (mainly quartz flakes, chunks and cores) occurs in very low density. They are probably of Later Stone Age origin but they are not considered significant.

There are similar low density scatters of marine shell although these are not necessarily associated with the stone. Most of these scatters are found along the lower slopes of the Klein Slangkop hill, which may have a focus of settlement in the past. It is difficult to distinguish between these scatters and more recent shell middens which relate to vagrants. There is ample evidence for the latter in the form of empty alcohol bottles and old fireplaces.

The historical remains include some shell buttons and a number of large concrete blocks. The shell buttons appear to have come from a single garment which may have been burnt during the recent veld fire. The few concrete blocks on one corner of the property are clearly of 20th century date but it is difficult to determine whether they

represent a building, related to the Naval Radio Station, which was demolished in the area or builders rubble introduced from elsewhere.

No significant archaeological remains were discovered and it is recommended that development may proceed.

It is important to remember that the eastern edge of the development borders on the Table Mountain National Park which has World Heritage status and regulations regarding the development may apply.

If any human remains are uncovered during the development of the site, construction in that area should cease immediately and the SAHRA Burials Unit should be consulted.

10. REFERENCES

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TABLE 1: GPS CO-ORDINATES

Site	GPS Co-ordinates	Discussion
Site 1	S34 08 04.5 E18 20 15.6	An ephemeral scatter comprising single fragments of <i>T. sarmaticus</i> , <i>S.granularis</i> , <i>C granatina</i> & <i>Donax</i> sp. with single quartz flake. Also a few fragments of water worn shell.
Site 2	S34 08 05.4 E18 20 28.7	A scatter of stone artefacts, mainly quartz flakes, and at least five fragments of marine shell.
Site 3	S34 08 08.2 E18 20 29.1	A scatter of quartz flakes, chunks and cores as well as limpet and mussel shell on the lower slopes of Klein Slangkop.
Site 4	S34 08 08.6 E18 20 29.6	A scatter of black mussel shells (<i>C. meridionalis</i>) circular patch, representing a recent midden – possibly by vagrants living on the side of Klein Slangkop.
Buttons	S34 08 05.0 E18 20 18.6	A collection of marine shell buttons, located in a small area.
Ruin	S34 08 06.1 E18 20 24.9	Several blocks of concrete, containing granite aggregate. One block contains a complete sand bag.
Sandmine	S34 08 04.2 E18 20 17.0	A sand mine.