

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY ERF 1679, PEARLY BEACH, SOUTHERN CAPE COAST

COPY FOR REVIEWERS

Executive summary

Two coherent sites were located during a baseline archaeological study of erf 1676, Pearly Beach, in the southern Cape coast.

The sites comprise very low density scatters of fragmented shellfish remains in open patches of sand in the northwestern portion of the study area.

In addition, thin, scattered fragments of shellfish remains were located in open patches of sand among the vegetated frontal dunes, as well as in a few open patches of sand among the vegetated backward dunes in the study area.

The study site is well vegetated, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

The proposed development envisages 10 residential units.

The archaeological sites located during the study have been given a low significance rating.

The impact of the proposed development of erf 1679 on archaeological sites is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites during implementation of the project is considered to be low.

Human burial remains may, however be uncovered or disturbed during earthworks and the laying of services.

With regard to the development of erf 1679, Pearly Beach, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- Should any human burial remains be uncovered or disturbed during earthworks, a professional archaeologist must be immediately informed. Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times.
- No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Council Plans Committee.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake an archaeological study of erf 1679 in Pearly Beach, in the southern Cape coast.

The proposed development envisages 10 residential units.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the baseline archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of erf 1679.

All archaeological sites located during the study have been described, photographed, and mapped on the site plan provided. Each site has been given a conservation – significance rating. GPS co-ordinates have also been provided for each site.

A limited desktop study was also undertaken

According to the records of the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the South African Museum, no sites have been recorded in erf 1679.

Large numbers of shell middens have, however, been described and mapped in Pearly Beach, a number of which have been systematically excavated (Avery 1974, 1976). Sites have also been described and mapped at Gansbaai, Danger Point, Kleinbaai, and Uilkraalsmond (Kaplan 1993, 1996).

5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Two coherent sites were located during the baseline archaeological study. In addition, a number of thinly dispersed scatters of fragmented shellfish remains were also located during the study.

The study site is also well vegetated, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

PB1 GPS reading 34°40.149 19°30.057

The site comprises very thin patches of fragmented shellfish remains (limpet, perlemoen, burnupena and whelk) in open patches of sand, in the northwestern portion of erf 1679. One broken white mussel scraper was also found.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

PB2 GPS reading 34°40.151 19°30.050

The site comprises very thin patches of fragmented shellfish remains (limpet, whelk burnupena and perlemoen) in open patches of sand above the vegetated dune ridge, alongside van Breda Street, in the northwestern corner of the erf. Some deep pits have been dug in this portion of the erf. No archaeological stratigraphy is present.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

In addition to the sites described above, thin, dispersed patches of fragmented shellfish remains were located in open spaces among the vegetated frontal dunes, as well as in a few open patches among the flat vegetated dunes in the north-western portion of the study area.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the planned development of erf 1679 in Pearly Beach on archaeological sites is considered to be low to negligible.

7. CRITERIA USED IN THE EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The criteria used in the evaluating the importance of archaeological sites includes the following:

- the state of preservation of the site;
- the range and density of cultural material present on the site;
- the type of site; for example cave, shell midden, open air site;
- the approximate age of the site;
- rarity of occurrence; and
- regional, national and international importance

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the planned development of erf 1679 Pearly Beach, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. Should any human burial remains be uncovered or disturbed during earthworks, a professional archaeologist must be immediately informed. Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times.
3. No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Plans Committee.

9. REFERENCES

Avery, G. 1974. Open station shell middens and associated features from the Pearly Beach area, south-western Cape. *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 29:104-114.

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