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ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
ERFS 194, 195 & 196,
SUIDERSTRAND, CAPE AGULHAS^H₁

Prepared for

ANNIEK~~A~~ DE KOCK

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management
P.O. Box 159
Riebeeck West
7306
Ph/Fax: 02246 855
e-mail: gilliker@africa.com

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Executive summary

Small patches and thin scatters of fragmented marine shell, some pottery and a few unmodified chunks and flakes (including an incomplete bored stone) were located during a baseline archaeological study of Erf 194-196 at Suiderstrand, west of Cape Agulhas on the Cape south coast.

The planned Suiderstrand development consists of approximately 250 sites on a combined area of 25 hectares located immediately behind existing properties on vegetated stable dunes about 500 metres from the coast.

The study area is densely vegetated resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility.

The archaeological remains, probably representing small food parcels of shell, were found in open spaces among the vegetated backward dunes in Erf 196. Thin fragmented shell scatters with stone tools were also located in the south-western portion of the site, while fragmented and disturbed shell remains were found in road cuttings on the boundaries of Erf 196.

No archaeological remains were located in Erf 194 and 195.

The planned Suiderstrand development will impact directly on the archaeological remains in Erf 196. The remains have, however, been given a low significance rating. The significance of the impacts on the archaeological remains in Erf 196 is also considered to be low to negligible. As a result no archaeological mitigation is required.

Earthmoving and the development of servitudes may, however, potentially impact on human burial remains. Burials will need to be treated sensitively if uncovered during implementation of the project.

An archaeologist will need to intervene in the event of burials being disturbed. Burials or burial remains should not be removed until examined by an archaeologist.

An archaeological contingency fund should be set aside by the owner(s) of Erf 194-196 in the event of burials being uncovered during earthworks.

These conditions should be incorporated into the approved deeds of sale so prospective buyers are aware of the issues pertaining to human burials.

These conditions should be also incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan for the planned development.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and brief

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management (ACRM) has been requested by Anneke De Kock Environmental Consultant to undertake a baseline archaeological survey of Erfs 194, 195 and 196 in Suiderstrand, about five kilometers west of the town of Cape Agulhas on the Cape south coast, the site for the proposed Suiderstrand development.

The proposed development, comprising approximately 250 sites, is situated immediately behind existing properties among vegetated stable dunes about 500 metres from the coast.

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

2. Term 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 on the site;
 2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
 3. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development; and
 4. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist.
- ### 3. The study site

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

The study site comprises a combined area of about 25 hectares, characterised by stable vegetated dunes. The site is densely vegetated resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4. Study approach and documentation of archaeological sites

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the baseline archaeological survey entailed a detailed foot survey of Erf 194-196 at Suiderstrand.

In addition to the field survey an examination of the existing records in the South African Museum was also undertaken.

According to the records of the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the South African Museum, no sites have been recorded or mapped in the affected area, but sites have been described at Brandfontein, Hoek se Baai, Gruis se Baai, Oubaai, Bloubaai and Vlei se Bank (Kaplan 1993:26). These sites include open station shell middens and ancient tidal fish traps (viswywers).

There is strong evidence for the correlation between the distribution of coastal archaeological sites and physical features in the coastal zone (Kaplan 1993). For example, land forms and features such as rocky headlands, wavecut rocky platforms and dunes acted as magnets in the distribution of sites. These features acted as foci that attracted Stone Age people as they offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods, particularly shellfish. The Suiderstrand coastal zone is characterised by such features.

4.2 Documentation of archaeological sites

The archaeological occurrences located in the study area are described according to accepted archaeological recording techniques. These include a written description of the occurrences recorded. All the occurrences have been plotted on the 1:10 000 orthophoto (3419 DD 10 Suiderstrand). The occurrences were not photographed and no Global Positioning System (GPS) readings were taken.

5. Results of the impact assessment

Small patches of fragmented marine shell, some Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) pottery and a few stone flakes were located during the baseline study in Erf 196 (Figure 2).

Erf 196.

Surface patches of fragmented marine shell (limpet and turbo) representing small food parcels were located in some open spaces among vegetated dunes in the north-

1. A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa. The presence of pottery on the Suiderstrand sites dates these sites to within the last 2000 years

western portion of the site. A large piece of blackened pottery (rim sherd) was found with one small patch of shell, while three small pieces of thin walled red burnished pottery were associated with another shell patch.

Some metal scraps, building rubble, glass and pieces of late nineteenth to early twentieth century ceramics were also found at the base of a disturbed dune in the north-western portion of the site.

Two small scatters of fragmented marine shell (limpet) and one silcrete flake were located on the northern boundary of the site a few metres from the gravel road.

A thin disturbed scatter of fragmented marine shell (limpet, turbo and brown mussel) and a few quartzite stone flakes and chunks were located in the south-western portion of the site.

A few pieces of fragmented marine shell (limpet) were located in some open spaces on south-facing, wind eroded-dunes in the eastern portion of Erf 194.

Some shell was also found on flat patches of unconsolidated calcrete in the southern portion of the erf. An incomplete bored stone was also found.

Impact of development on archaeological sites: high

Significance of impacts: low

Significance of finds: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

Erf 194.

No archaeological sites or remains were located in Erf 194.

Erf 195.

No archaeological sites or remains were located in Erf 195.

In addition to the Suiderstrand study, shell middens and open sites with shell were located adjacent to Erf 196. These sites have not been officially recorded.

6. Impact statement

The planned Suiderstrand development will impact directly on the archaeological remains located in Erf 196. The significance of the impacts, however, is considered to be low to negligible.

Human burials may be uncovered during earthmoving activities and the laying of services.

7. Legislation

All archaeological sites, including human burials, are protected by the National Monuments Act (Act No. 28 of 1969 as amended). It is an offence to disturb, remove, or destroy from its original site, or excavate any such site without a permit from the National Monuments Council.

8. Recommendations

With regard to the planned Suiderstrand development, the following recommendations are made:

1. No immediate archaeological mitigation is required.
2. Earthmoving and the development of servitudes may potentially impact on human burial remains. Burials will need to be treated sensitively if uncovered during implementation of the project.

Appropriate strategies aimed at recovering human burials, should they be encountered during earthmoving activities, will need to be developed and applied.

An archaeologist will need to intervene in the event of burials being disturbed during earthworks. Burials or burial remains should not be removed until examined by an archaeologist.

An archaeological contingency fund should be set aside by the owner(s) of Erf 194, 195 and 196 in the event of this occurring.

These conditions should be incorporated into approved deeds of sale so that prospective buyers are aware of the issues pertaining to human burials.

These conditions should also be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan for the planned development.

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

9. References

Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponta do Oura. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Agency for Cultural Resource Management: Riebeeck West.



Figure 1 PHASE LAYOUT

Figure 2. Suiderstrand Archaeological Study: location of archaeological remains

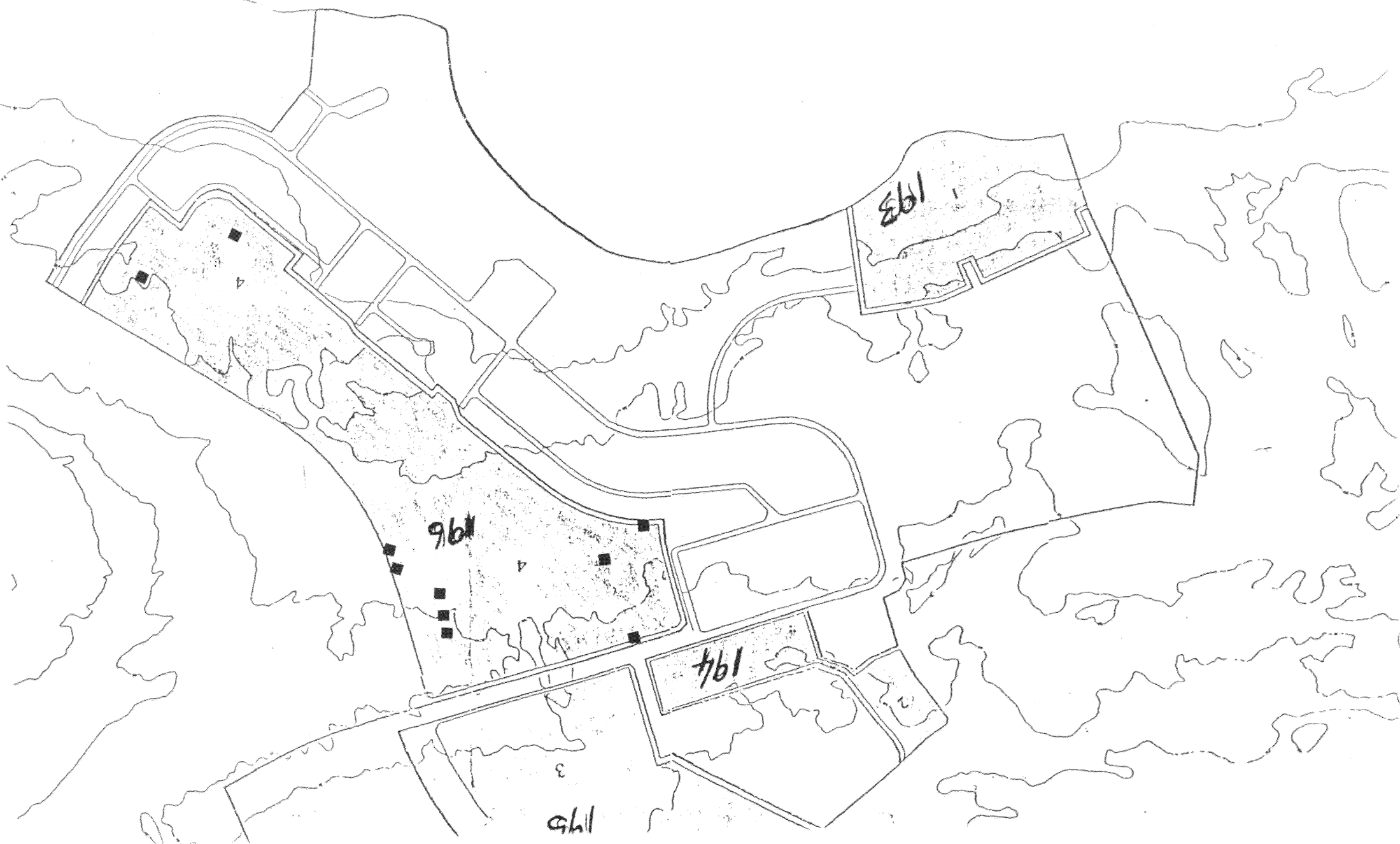




Figure 1. Suiderstrand Archaeological Study: study area