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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY  
ERF 193, SUIDERSTRAND, SOUTHERN  
CAPE COAST**

Prepared for

**CAPE COASTAL DEVELOPMENTS (PTY) LTD**

By

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### Executive summary

Three archaeological sites were located during a baseline study of Erf 193, Suiderstrand, on the southern Cape coast. In addition, remnant archaeological remains were also located in the study area.

The proposed extension of the Blue Bay development at Suiderstrand comprises a further seven erven, as well as the upgrading of an existing sand track and parking facilities. A private nature reserve is also envisaged.

A well-preserved site with fragmented and whole shell, stone tools and ostrich eggshell, was located in a deflated basin about 20 metres north-east of proposed erven 2. Fragments of shell and a few stone flakes were also located in and on the northern boundary of the erf. The site is relatively undisturbed and has been given a high conservation and significance rating.

A low density scatter of fragmented shellfish remains and a few stone flakes and some ostrich eggshell, was located on a footpath and against an eroding dune, about eight metres north-west of proposed erven 1. The site is severely disturbed and has been given a low conservation and significance rating.

Fragmented shellfish remains and a medium density scatter of stone tools were located a few metres north-west of the boundary of proposed erven 2, in a deflated basin against a vegetated dune slack. Scatters of fragmented shellfish and some stone tools also occur above the vegetated dune and in open spaces. Some fragmented shellfish remains and a few stone tools have spilled into the open space between ervens 1 and 2. The site is disturbed and has been given a low conservation and significance rating.

Remnant archaeological remains, including a few stone flakes and some fragmented shellfish, were located about 50 metres north-west of proposed erven 2. Stone flakes and fragmented shellfish were also located in the proposed parking lot in front of erven 1, as well as in the sandy track which bisects the property.

No archaeological remains were located in proposed erven 3, nor in proposed ervens 4-7, where the frontal dunes are heavily vegetated, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites during implementation of the proposed development is considered to be low. Human burial remains may, however, be uncovered or disturbed during implementation of the proposed development.

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological sites in the study area is considered to be low. Secondary impacts such as increased visitation, and the development of hiking trails may, however, impact negatively on the well-preserved site north-east of erven 2.

With regard to the proposed further development of Erf 193, Suiderstrand, the following recommendations are made.

1. No immediate archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No further in depth studies are required.
3. Should any human remains be disturbed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist. Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times.
4. An Archaeological Management Plan (EMP) is required to protect and manage the well preserved site north-east of erven 2.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management has been requested by Cape Coastal Developments (Pty) Ltd to undertake a baseline archaeological study of Erf 193, Suiderstrand, on the southern Cape coast.

The proposed extension of the Blue Bay development at Suiderstrand comprises a further seven erven located on the flatter stabilised sections of the backward dunes, and/or within shallow depressions between the dunes. The development also proposes the upgrading of an existing sandy track and parking facilities. A private nature reserve is also envisaged.

The aim of the 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. 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 on the site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological and/or cultural 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 proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1. The property is located about 12 kms south of Cape Agulhas, at Suiderstrand, on the southern Cape coast.

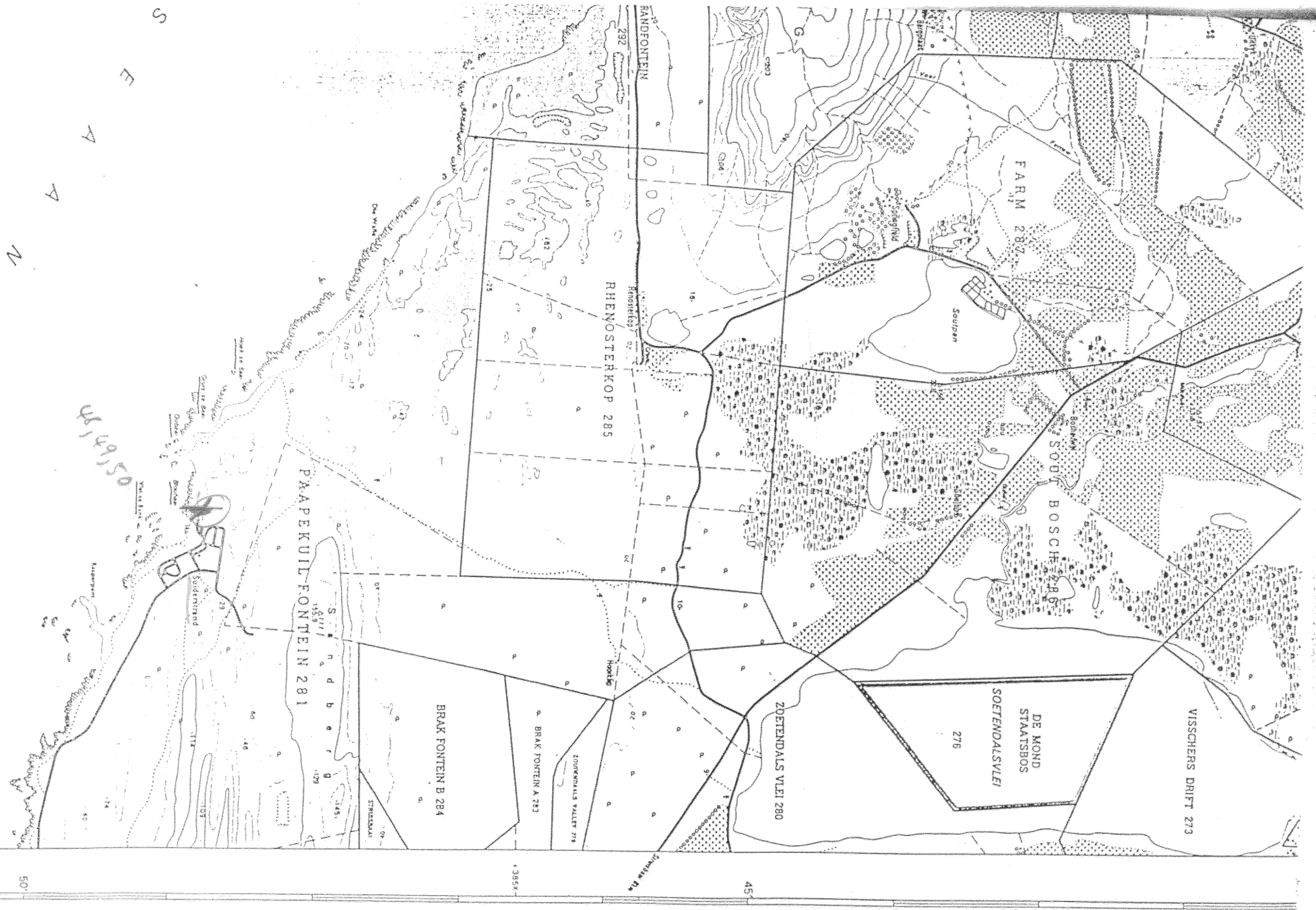


Figure 1. Archaeological study, erf 193, Suiderstrand: study site

## 4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

### 4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the proposed site.

According to the records of the South African Museum Archaeological Data Recording Centre, no archaeological sites have been recorded in the study area. Archaeological sites have, however, been described at Brandfontein, Hoek se Baai, Gruis se Baai, Oubai, Bloubai and Vlei se Bank (Kaplan 1993). Small patches and dispersed scatters of fragmented shellfish remains with pottery and stone tools, were located during a baseline study of Erf's 194, 195 and 196 at Suiderstrand (Kaplan 1997). And shell middens, fishtraps (visywers), and scatters of shellfish remains and stone artefacts, were located during a baseline study of the farm Paapekuisfontein No 281, Cape Agulhas (Kaplan 1998).

Research into the archaeology of the coastal zone has shown that there is a close correlation between the distribution of archaeological sites and the physical environment (Kaplan 1993). Rocky headlands such as those that exist at Suiderstrand/Blue Bay, acted as foci that attracted Stone Age people as they offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods, particularly shellfish.

## 5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Three archaeological sites were located during a study of Erf 193, Suiderstrand (Figure 2). In addition, remnant archaeological remains were also located during the study.

### BB 1

A well-preserved Later Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (LSA) site, with large numbers of whole and fragmented shellfish remains, and stone tools, including mainly unmodified flakes, chunks, cores, flaked and split cobbles, hammerstones, and a miscellaneous grindstone, in quartzite, was located in a deflated basin about 20 metres north-east of erven 2 (Figure 3). Some ostrich eggshell was also found. Scattered shellfish fragments and a few stone flakes were also located in and on the northern boundary of the erf. No pottery was found on the site, suggesting that the site is older than 2000 years<sup>2</sup>.

Significance of finds: **high**

Impact of the development on the finds: **low, but secondary impacts such as increased visitation may impact negatively on the site**

<sup>1</sup> a term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

<sup>2</sup> pottery and sheep was first introduced into South Africa by herders about 2000 years ago.

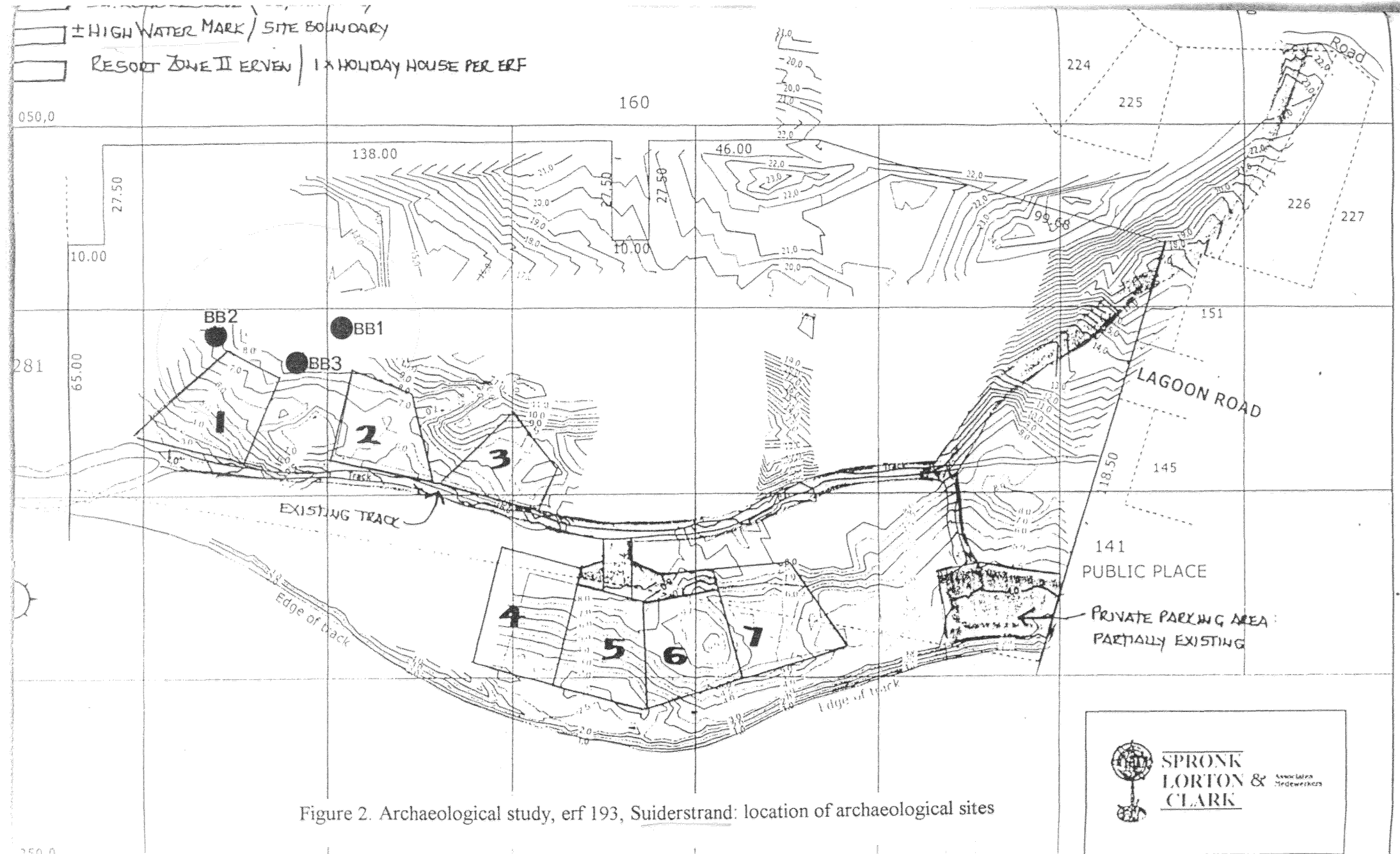
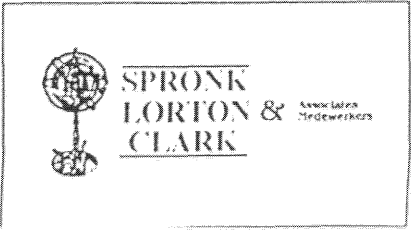


Figure 2. Archaeological study, erf 193, Suiderstrand: location of archaeological sites



Suggested mitigation: **an Archaeological Management Plan should be implemented at the site**

## BB 2

A low density scatter of fragmented shellfish and a few stone flakes and ostrich eggshell was located on an eroded sandy footpath, and against an eroding dune about eight metres north-west of proposed erven 1. The site is severely disturbed and has been given a low conservation rating.

Significance of finds: **low**

Impact of the development on the finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

## BB 3

Fragmented shellfish remains and a medium density scatter of stone tools were located a few metres north-west of the boundary of proposed erven 2, in a deflated basin against a vegetated dune slack (Figure 4). Scatters of fragmented shell and some stone tools also occur above the vegetated dune and in open spaces. Some fragmented shellfish and a few stone tools have spilled into the open space between ervens 1 and 2. The site is disturbed and has been given a low conservation and significance rating.

Significance of finds: **low**

Impact of the development on the finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

Stone tools, and fragmented shellfish remains were also located about 50 metres north-west of erven 2. A few stone flakes and some fragmented shellfish were also located in the proposed parking lot in front of erven 1, as well as in the sandy track which bisects the property.

Significance of finds: **low**

Impact of the development on finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

No archaeological remains were located in proposed erven 3, nor in proposed ervens 4-7, where the frontal dunes are heavily vegetated, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

A few stone flakes were found on the compacted limestone ledge on the boundary of the property, above the high water mark.



## 6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Erf 193 Suiderstrand on significant archaeological sites is considered to be low to negligible. Secondary impacts, such as increased visitation, and the development of hiking trails in the proposed nature reserve may, however, impact negatively on the well preserved site north-east of erven 2.

## 7. LEGISLATION

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

Human burial remains are also protected under the National Monuments Act, and the Human Tissues Act.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of Erf 193 Suiderstrand, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No immediate archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No further in depth studies are required.
3. The proposed development may uncover or disturb human burial remains. Should any human remains be disturbed or uncovered during earthworks and road construction, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist. Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times.
4. An Archaeological Management Plan (EMP) is required to protect and manage the well preserved site north-east of erven 2.

## 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. Riebeeck West: Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 1997. Archaeological study, Erfs 194, 195 & 196, Suiderstrand, Cape Agulhas. Report prepared for Anneke de Kock Environmental Consultant. Riebeeck West. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 1998. Archaeological study, Paapekultfontein No. 281, Cape Agulhas. Report prepared for the Lourens Group. Riebeeck West. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.