

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
KLEINMOND HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Prepared for

WHALE COAST PROJECTS

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Prepared by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the invitation of Mr. G. E. Stark of Mitchell Duplessis Associates, the Kleinmond Harbour area was visited during August 1998 to assess the impact of proposed landward and seaward development on archaeological sites in the vicinity. No archaeological sites were noted on the property with the exception of six concrete postholes below the high-water mark. These postholes are the probable remains of a structure in the fishing village that made way for the existing breakwater. It is recommended that Whale Coast Projects be permitted to proceed with their plans to develop the Kleinmond Harbour area. However, as the postholes are the only tangible reminder of the position of the village, the Kleinmond community should be consulted on their future conservation.

INTRODUCTION

At the invitation of Mr G.E. Stark of Mitchell Duplessis Associates, the Kleinmond Harbour area was visited on August 1998 to assess the impact that the proposed development would have on any archaeological sites. Landward and seaward development is intended. The existing harbour is to be upgraded and commercial and residential development (155 units) is under consideration.

The development will cover an area of approximately 13 hectares.

The brief was as follows:

- survey the proposed harbour development area and locate and record the position of archaeological sites
- assess the significance of such archaeological sites and the impact of the proposed harbour development on them, and
- produce a report on the investigation and recommend mitigatory measures needed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Numerous archaeological sites have been recorded in the Hangklip/Kleinmond/Hawston area. These archaeological sites include Later Stone Age open station shell middens, a few cave sites, fish-traps and some burial sites (Kaplan 1993). Earlier Stone Age sites and Later Stone Age shell middens have been described by Rudner (Kaplan 1993) at the coastal reserve at Kleinmond. Shell middens are of importance because they are the last traces of the life-ways of Khoisan people such as the Strandlopers that Van Riebeeck and Diaz encountered.

METHOD

The area that will be affected by the proposed Kleinmond Harbour Development was traversed. Archaeological sites discovered during the traverse were recorded and their locations determined with a Geographical Positioning System (GPS).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES LOCATED

Archaeological visibility was low because a large part of the surveyed area consists of fill material and wetlands. No archaeological sites were noted on the property except for six concrete postholes below the high water mark at 34°20'44" S 19°00'48" E (*vide* map). These are probably the remains of a structure in the fishing village that made way for the existing harbour breakwater. Efforts to locate documentation and photographs of the original fishing village at the Kleinmond municipality were unsuccessful.

No archaeological sites were noted on the rocky "krans" with Milkwood scrub to the east of the slipway. Existing footpaths which were inspected did not cut into any coastal middens, nor were any middens located in the area west of the slipway. It was mentioned by Mr Starke that the rocky outcrop to the west of the slipway was used as an open air church. This was confirmed by municipal workers at the site who lived in the fishing village before it was demolished.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Other than the historical significance of the postholes the area has little archaeological significance. The church activities on the rocky outcrop may be classified as living heritage and as this is in a protected area the impact of the development is rated as low. The concrete postholes may be significant in the sense that they are the only remains of the old fishing village after the forced removal of the traditional inhabitants to Protea Dorp. The significance of the postholes is potentially high. The development will have a negative impact as will natural weathering processes as they are below the highwater mark.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that Whale Coast Projects be permitted to proceed with their plans to develop the Kleinmond Harbour.
- It is recommended that the Kleinmond community be consulted on the future conservation of the postholes. They may serve as a reminder and tribute to the people who were forcefully removed to Protea Dorp. An option would be to remove them and display them elsewhere with adequate information as part of the Harbour Development, thus serving as a tourist attraction. This would mitigate the effects of natural weathering.

- It is recommended that an appeal be made to the local community for any information and photographs relevant to the fishing village. It was a focus of the local community and part of their heritage.

REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponta do Oura. Department of Environmental Affairs and tourism.

Report prepared by Ryno Goosen and Sarah Wurz

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