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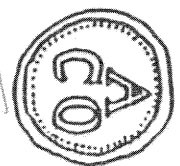


PHASE ONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION: ERF 3007, BETTY'S BAY,
WESTERN CAPE

Prepared for
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WESTERN CAPE REGION
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INTERIM REPORT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SAMPLING AT ERF 3007,
RETTYS BAY, WESTERN CAPE.

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Attention: Mr J. Gribble

INTRODUCTION

This interim report has been prepared with reference to the phase 1 study of the site undertaken by Royden Yates and Tony Manhire in February 1995. Yates and Manhire (1995) located a central dune ridge on the property which was covered with shell midden material. Much of this was dispersed but there were areas where greater density occurred. A stone feature, possibly a burial cairn was located. Yates and Manhire proposed measures to mitigate the destruction of the archaeological material before the development of the site. These have now been fulfilled and are described in this report.

The shell scatter (DVK 1) consisted of five areas of varying characteristics designated areas A-E. Manhire and Yates described the bulk of material on site as being not worthy of systematic excavation apart from the burial cairn. They suggested that *“for fast but monitored spade dug soundings should be made into the eastern side of Area C, the eastern and western portions of Area D respectively and into Area E. Representative sized shell bulks should be taken from the sections after the profiles had been logged and photographed. It is envisaged that this material should be nominally analysed for shells/fish material and the materials housed in an appropriate repository.”*

Area C

A sampling excavation (1m²) was positioned on the east side of the boundary cutting immediately north of Yates and Manhire's auger hole. Two lenses of shell were located, the first (SL1) of these was immediately below the surface (5cm thick) and consisted of *Turbo sp*, *Patella argenvillei*, *Patella barbata* and *Patella tshularis*. The material (7.5 buckets) which was passed through 1.5 and 3mm sieves produced 2 buckets of shell which was bulk bagged on site. The second lens (SL2) which could be a continuation of the first was 125mm thick and graded into sterile white sand. 9 buckets of deposit were sieved producing 2 buckets of shell.

Area D

A 1m² sampling excavation was placed close to the auger hole where there was a dense surface occurrence with shell, broken cobbles and manjorps. The surface material (55) was sampled separately from that below the surface (69). 4 buckets of deposit per unit were sieved through 3mm and 1.5mm screens to produce 1 bucket of shell each.

The shell sample was dominated by limpets, especially *Patella argenvillei*. Quartzite flakes were noted but no bone or formal artefacts were seen in the sample.

A cutting had been made through the top of the dune for a road. The result of this was that Area D was well represented in section. The archaeological material which was of uniform composition lay in the dark humic material close to the surface of the dune. The lens was 200mm thick at the most but gave way to sterile humic sands. Underneath this at a depth of 420mm below surface were sterile white calcified sands.

Area E

A house was under construction close to area E. The septic tank for the house had been excavated and built on the edge of the property close to Area E. The excavation trench for the septic tank had transected a buried stratified midden that lay some 200mm below the surface. Two archaeological lenses were visible. Lens 1 was 340mm thick and very dense. 11 buckets of material were excavated and sorted, while 2 buckets were retained as bulk samples. Bone, stone artefacts and ceramics were present. The shell sample was dominated by *Dysstele* sp, with *Patella* sp, *Turbo* sp and *Haliois* sp being present.

Lens 2 lay below an 80mm thick sandy interface. 4 buckets of material were excavated which produced 1.5 buckets of sieved bulk. The shell sample consisted of whole *Haliois midas*, *Burnupena* sp. and *Patella barbara*. No bone or artefactual material was located.

Stone cairn

This was not excavated at the request of Mr Wallers who has undertaken to make sure that the feature is not disturbed.

CONCLUSION

Samples of shell have been collected representing the different areas seen on the DYK midden complex. For the most part, findings of this report are consistent with that of Yates and Manhire (1995) who feel that the lack of stone and bone on the site render it of moderate importance as a source of information about past behaviour. The exception however is the buried midden in Area E which contains both artefactual material and bone. The site is on the edge of the seaward side of the property and therefore continues underground into the public land adjacent to the shore. The site has suffered some moderate damage as result of building operations. It is best that in future Area E is left well alone. Apart from this single recommendation, it is requested that permission for the development to continue should be considered by the Western Cape Plans Committee of the National Monuments Council. Analysis of the material is not yet complete. This report will be updated at such time that it is.

Reference Yates, R and Manhire, T 1995. Phase 1 archaeological investigation. End 3007, Betty's Bay, Western Cape. Unpublished ACO report prepared for Mr D. Wallers, Property Owner.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by Mr D. Wallers to survey a portion of land rezoned for residential use in Betty's Bay. A central dune ridge on the property is covered by shell midden material. Much of this deposit is dispersed but areas occur with greater density of shell. One stone feature, possibly a burial cairn, is also present. Limited sampling of the shellmiddens for shellfish content and an investigation of the cairn will be necessary.

INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by Mr Donald Wallers to conduct a Phase 1 archaeological assessment of an area designated Erf 3007, 'Betty's Bay' (Figure 1). The proposed development area encompasses approximately 1.911 hectares.

The brief was as follows:

- 2.1 survey the area proposed for development and determine if archaeological materials were present;
- 2.2 assess the significance of any such materials as may be found and the possible impacts on them arising from development activities;
- 2.3 produce a report detailing the results of the investigation and recommending mitigatory measures needed, if any.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

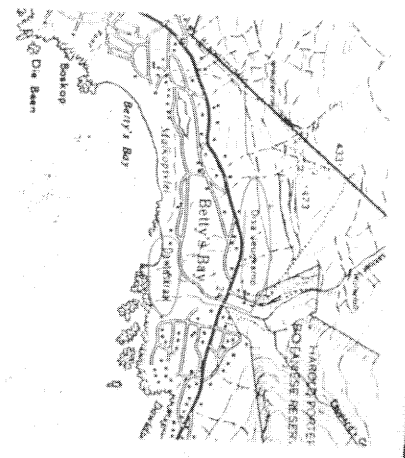
Relatively little is known of the archaeology of the stretch of shoreline from Rooiels to Kleinmond. The first work undertaken was in 1921 when most of the deposits in Rooiels Cave were removed in search of skeletons and implements. Both were found in abundance. Unfortunately, by today's standards, the excavation techniques used were crude, and the results have little value. After the mid century a few coastal surveys were accomplished and fairly extensive work was done on the important Early Stone Age site at Hangklip. The only recent research in the area comprises a re-excavation in 1979 of Rooiels Cave and a survey of the coast from the cave to the Palmiet River mouth. The excavation, limited by the small area of undisturbed deposit, revealed that the coast has been occupied by Later Stone Age hunter-gatherers since at least about 6000 years before present. Some two thousand years ago the herding of sheep and cattle emerged as a way of life. Sites of this time period, including Rooiels Cave, generally contain in them pieces of pottery. Throughout the last six thousand years indigenous society exploited both marine and terrestrial sources of food, and were responsible for the accumulation of the heaps of shell characteristic of shorelines in southern Africa. A total of 75 such open air shellmiddens were located during the survey of 1979, all generally within a short distance from the shoreline.

In summary, the total span of human occupation in the Betty's Bay area is enormous, beginning approximately 1 million / 500 000 years ago (Early Stone Age) and continuing today. The last inhabitants practicing indigenous ways of life disappeared a hundred or so years after colonization in the seventeenth century. Today, the only testimony to these peoples are the sites they created in the course of their daily lives.

4. METHOD

The area was searched for archaeological material as thoroughly as was possible given the dense bush cover. A number of cutlines (Figure 1 & Plate 1), which traverse the area, greatly

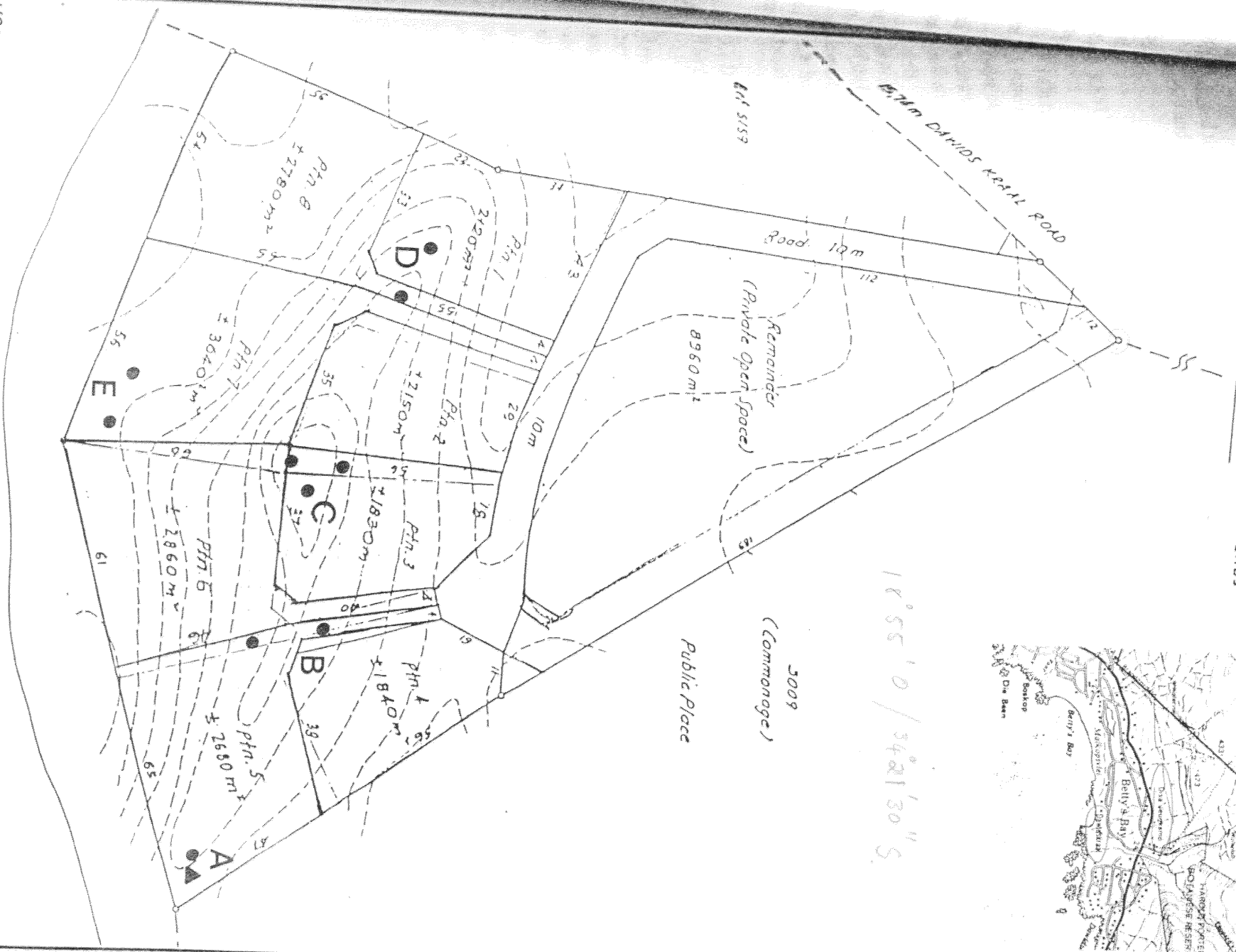
Garden Bay — MAIN ROAD — Hermanus



18°55'0" / 34°21'30" S

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(Commonage)

Public Place



ATLANTIC OCEAN

1:1000

Yellow = approximation of extent of surface shell
green = areas of overlap shall not be considered

and the search. The nature of the material present was determined by inspection of the pits and a number of auger probes.

RESULTS

5.1 Circumstance:

A dune ridge lies in a slight diagonal across the length of the survey area (Plate 1). Virtually the entire dune top comprises a shell midden. It is not possible to identify discrete sites as the scatter appears continuous. We refer to the entire area as site Davids Kraal (DVK) 1. Both the surface indications and the materials retrieved via the auger reveal that very little else is present besides shell. The top thirty centimetres is heavily infiltrated by roots making digging difficult. Material is in situ but probably perturbed to a degree by mole activity both past and present. The density of shell is greater in the western portions of the site. A stone feature occurs in the east and the disturbed remains of another such feature may lie in the west. The presence of pottery on this site indicates an age of less than two thousand years and that the remains fall under what is broadly referred to as the Later Stone Age.

5.2 Description:

The following details refer to areas labelled A, B etc on Figure 1.

Area A: close to the sea-ward corner peg along the eastern boundary cut-line. GPS:

14°21.4225'S; 18°55.5100'E. A stone feature (Figure 1 & Plate 2) exists on periphery of shell scatter. This feature consists of a number of beach cobbles closely packed in a rough circle approximately 0.6 m in diameter. A few stones lie in the general vicinity. The purpose of the stone feature is not determinable without excavation, but it could be a burial marker or a stone packed hearth or platform. There is a moderately dense scatter of shell immediately upslope of the feature. This was augered to 50 cm depth (Figure 1). Shells are distributed in the top 10 cm of dark grey sands. Below that the sand becomes progressively lighter and archaeologically sterile. Shells consist mostly of *Patella argenvillei*, *Turbo sarmaticus* and *Burnupena* sp., with *Haliotis midae*, some mussel and other Patellid species present as well. Bone was not observed. Very little stone was seen, the few pieces being of quartz and quartzite. A few bits of silcrete in addition to those of quartz and quartzite are present in a scatter of shell within the adjacent nature reserve. This may be an extension of the DVK 1 site.

Area B: Intersection point of plots 3,4,5 and 6 (Figure 1). The seaward side of dune ridge has denser concentration of shell than does the landward. Shell is more or less traceable from Area A to B. In an auger hole on the seaward side shell occurred in the top 15 cm of dark organic sands. These sands became lighter with depth and shell free. At 80 cm depth a thin shell lens was encountered, along with a manuport. All the shell appears to be dominated by *P. argenvillei* and *T. sarmaticus* with whelks and other Patellids in addition; very little mussel is encountered. Stone artefacts are rare, and mostly of quartz and quartzite. Two potsherds were seen on the surface and below. An auger hole on the inland side of the dune revealed nothing to 1 m depth besides ephemeral surface traces of midden.

Area C: intersection of plots 2,3,6 and 7 (Figure 1). A moderately dense surface scatter of shell which spills thinly down either side of the dune crest. Two auger holes reveal shell to be scattered through varying depths but nowhere deeper than 40 cm. The road in the cut-line may have removed some material. A third hole to the east encountered a denser deposit at 15 cm

which was not penetrable. The shell composition and stone artefacts appear similar to those described above. The distribution of shell is continuous between Area C and B.

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AREA D

The western end of dune ridge, seawards end of boundary between plots 1 and 2. GPS: 34° 32' 58.18" S, 18° 55.4013E (Figure 1). A moderate to very dense surface scatter of shell, part of which has been intersected by cut-line road (Plate 3). In a small clearing in the western portions of this area is a very prominent surface scatter of mostly *P. argenvillei*, some of which are burnt, as well as numerous cobbles (Plate 4). Deposit here is restricted to the top 10 to 15 cm of grey sand which gives way to white dune sand around 30 to 40 cm. In cut-line section the shell is normally beneath 20 cm of sand and is itself of 20 cm thickness. White dune sand reached at least 60 cm. Numerous dispersed cobbles occur and some metres to the north a number of cobbles clustered cobbles may be the remains of a cairn. Shell is composed of *P. argenvillei*, *T. argenvillei*, whelks as well as some *P. oculus*, *P. longicosta* and *P. granatina*. *Haliotis midae* is present whilst mussels are rare. Quartz and quartzite flakes are present as is one potsherd. An aguer hole 15 m to the east located thick, impenetrable shell beneath 20 to 30 cm of grey sand. Surface shell present between Areas D and C.

Area E: seaward point of boundary between plots 6 and 7. Surface scatter of mostly *H. midae* shells, with a few other species in addition. Two soundings confirm that moderately dense concentrations of *H. midae* occur to at least 20 to 40 cm depth beneath a shallow layer of sand. Depth of deposit unknown. No bone is noted. Quartzite flakes seen on surface and in aguer holes. Shell can be traced on surface of cut-line upslope to Area C.

5.3 Importance:

Not having any bone visibly preserved and displaying a very low content of stone artefacts, the DVK 1 midden complex has only moderate importance as a source of information about past behaviour. The site is however, largely undisturbed and a measure of differences in shellfish composition, most notably between Areas D and E, is evident. The possibility of a human burial beneath the stone pile in Area A has considerable potential to yield a useful observation.

5.4 Impact:

The full impact of development is difficult to assess as no formal plans are available regarding locations of houses and related utilities. Irrespective of this, the small areas of useful deposit are potentially vulnerable, as is the stone feature.

5.5 Suggested Mitigation:

The materials described here are not worth extensive systematic excavation with the exception of the possible burial cairn referred to above. A Phase 2 investigation of this feature must be completed before permission to build is granted. This will entail mapping the feature and penetrating the substrate to at least 1.75 m depth to ensure that no human remains are present. Four fast, but monitored, spade dug soundings should be made into the eastern side of Area C, the eastern and western portions of Area D respectively and into Area E. Representative sieved shell bulks should be taken from the sections after the profiles have been logged and photographed. It is envisaged that this material should be minimally analysed for shellfish composition and the materials housed in an appropriate repository.

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A RECOMMENDATION

4.1 It is recommended that permission be granted for the destruction and or damage of DVK 1 after the suggested mitigatory steps have been undertaken to the satisfaction of the National Monuments Council (NMC).

4.2 The developer(s) must be made aware that in terms of the National Monuments Act any precolonial human skeletal material recovered in the course of building activities is protected by law. Should human remains be uncovered on Erf 3007, they are to be left as found and a consulting archaeologists contracted immediately to arrange prompt professional removal of the skeleton.

Please note that the immediate recommendations of this report are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Council.

7. FIELDWORK AND REPORT PREPARATION

Royden Yates and Anthony Manhire - fieldwork
Royden Yates - report.