

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ERF 4013, BETTY'S BAY

Prepared for

EnviroAfrica

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office conducted an archaeological impact assessment of Erf 4013, Betty's Bay. This involved both a physical examination of the site as well as broad archival research. Light bush cover allowed adequate coverage of the property and historical graves and prehistoric shell middens were found in one area of the Erf.

The archival research showed that the land had not been used for any specific purpose in the past. No documentation relating to the burials was found, but a possible link may be drawn with a graveyard mentioned in connection with a nearby settlement. The location of this latter graveyard is unknown.

The shell middens / shell scatters contained little cultural material but a wide variety of shellfish species. These sites can be regarded as being of moderate to low significance and should be tested in order to allow proper mitigation measures to be decided upon. Five clear graves as well as numerous other possible graves are present. These are protected under Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 and need to be dealt with accordingly. All graves and possible graves should be regarded as being highly significant and sensitive. Unless it is decided not to develop the area where these finds exist, it is recommended that testing of the possible graves take place in order to determine if they contain human remains prior to any further decisions being made. If exhumation is to take place, further archival research and oral histories would need to be conducted beforehand.

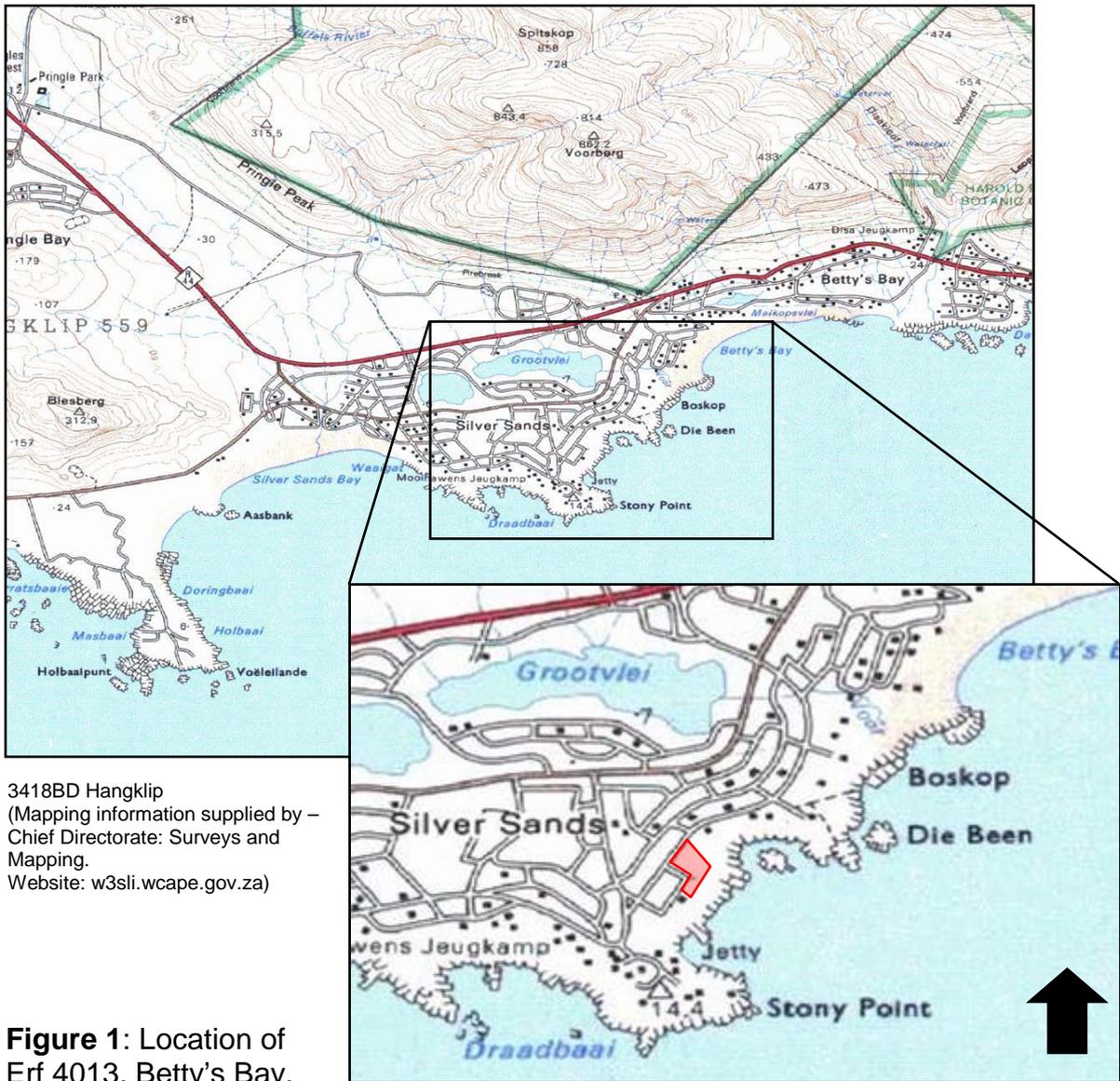
The intention to retain the graves on site needs to be investigated in terms of the rezoning conditions. The legal situation in respect of exhumation of the peripheral graves and reburial in a more defined area of the site should also be investigated.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office was appointed by EnviroAfrica to conduct an archaeological impact assessment of Erf 4013, Betty's Bay. The property is located on Crassula Crescent, immediately behind a small rocky point (Plate 1) and just to the northeast of the historical whaling station recorded by Halkett (1998).



The site is 1.7772 Ha in area and is currently zoned 'Open Space Zone II'. The proponent would like to subdivide and rezone portions of the site to 'Residential Zone 1' in order to create ten residential erven, but has suggested retaining the area containing graves as a feature within the development.

Although the shoreline immediately in front of the site is rocky, a small sandy beach lies just to its east (Figure 1). The southern (coastal) part of the site is fairly flat with occasional small rock outcrops in places. The arm extending to the north, however, has a low hill and several larger rocky areas on it (Plate 2 & Figure 2). It is on this hill that several graves are known to

exist. The remains of the whaling station are situated in the corner of the bay to the south (visible in the background in Plate 1 and indicated by the jetty in Figure 1).



Plate 1: A view looking to the west showing the position of Erf 4013. It comprises much of the vegetated area in the right hand half of the photograph but stops well short of the rocky shore.



Plate 2: A view of the northern part of Erf 4013 showing the hill in the centre of the photograph.

2. METHODS

Prior to our visiting Erf 4013, an archival study was conducted in order to establish the history of land use on the site. This also allowed a historical overview of the area to be compiled. During our site visit, the property was covered on foot and examined visually for any archaeological remains present. Since several known graves exist on the eastern portion of the site, this area was the focus of our search. All finds were photographed and their positions were recorded using a hand-held GPS receiver on the WGS84 datum.

In general ground visibility was good, although (Plate 3) several small patches of primarily indigenous bush were present. In the southern portion of the site alien vegetation had been recently cleared leaving extensive leaf litter. No problems were experienced with locating archaeological material, however, and we consider our coverage of the site to have been sufficiently rigorous.



Plate 3: Ground visibility on the site.

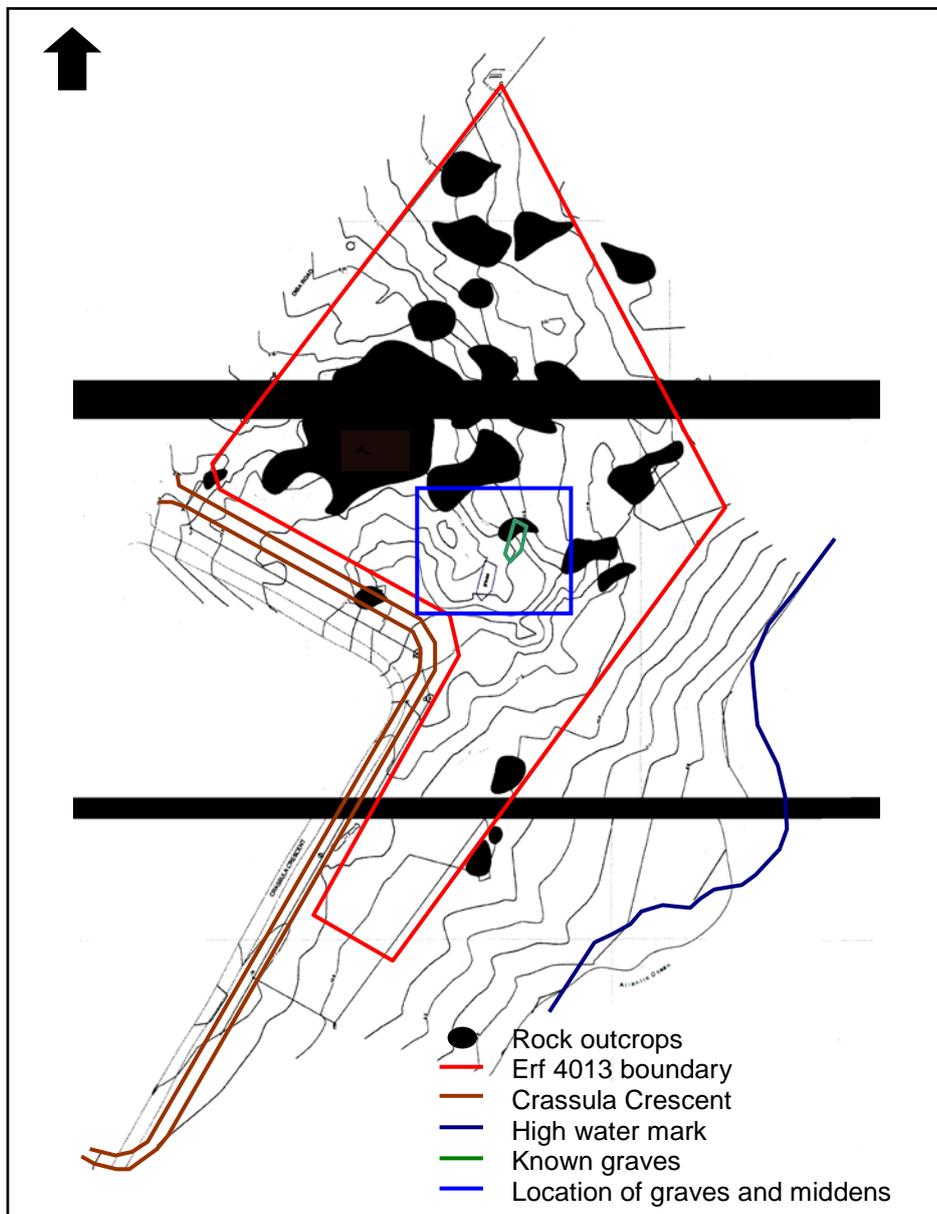


Figure 2: Map of Erf 4013, Betty's Bay, showing the features of the site and the location of historical and archaeological material. See Figure 3 for a schematic layout of finds within the square.

3. FINDINGS

The findings of the survey are presented in several sections according to the types of finds encountered. The archival background is presented first followed by sections on the prehistoric shell middens, possible combinations of prehistoric middens and historic graves, definite historic graves and possible historic graves. A schematic layout of the positions of groups or individual finds in each of these categories is provided in Figure 3.

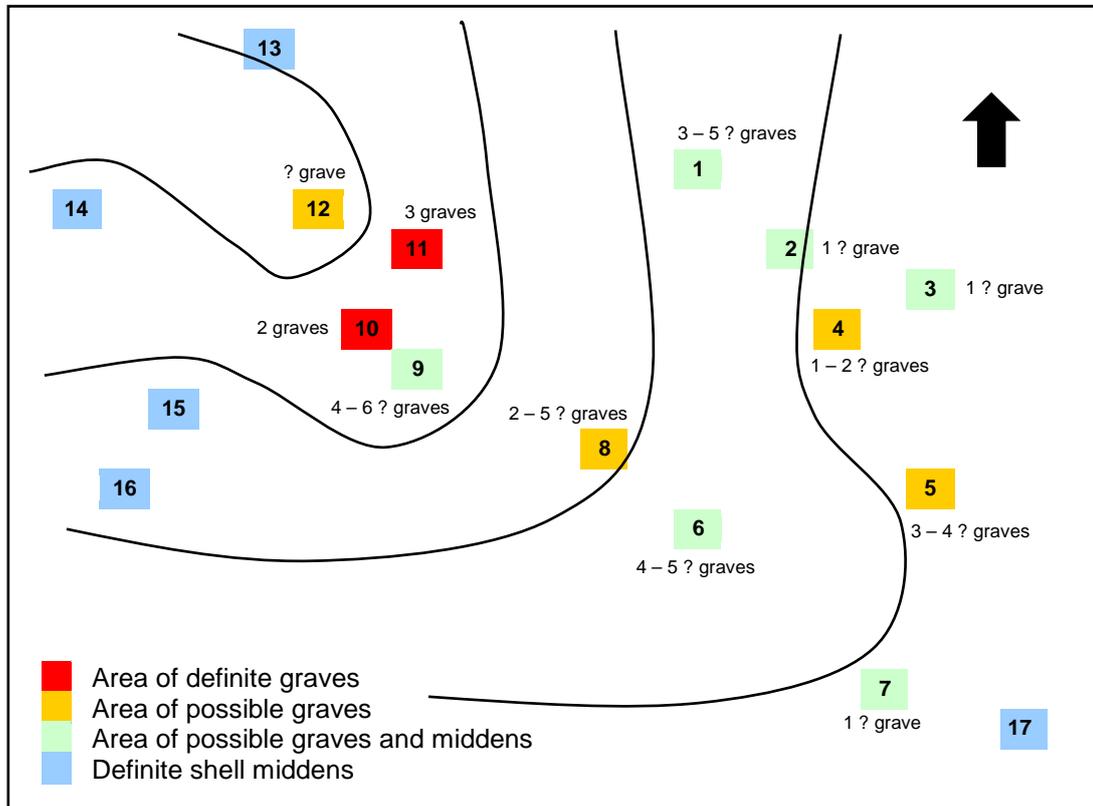


Figure 3: Schematic plan, based on GPS co-ordinates, of the part of Erf 4013 containing historical and Stone Age archaeological material. The site numbers as presented below are included in the diagram and the number of graves at each is indicated where appropriate.

3.1. Archival background

The first permanent settlement of the coastal region of the Overberg occurred during the mid-18th century. Although the first land grants were made at that time, there is evidence to suggest that the area was already used for grazing of cattle prior to this. The Hangklip area also became well known as a haven for runaway slaves and bandits who had escaped from the colony at Cape Town.

Erf 4013 is part of the original farm called Waaigat. By 1885 much of the coastal area between Cape Rooiels and the Palmiet River was owned by William and John Walsch. Their land included the farms Welgemoet, Waaigat, Papkuilsfontein, Buffelvalley and Roode Els Rivier and became known as Hangklip Estate. In the 1930's the estate was bought by Arthur Youldon, Jack Clarence and Harold Porter who obtained the initial planning permission for the establishment of three residential townships on what was then known as Hangklip Farm

(Farm No. 599). With the lack of good access to the area, these initial attempts at residential development met with little success. In the 1960's the Betty's Bay Village Management Board bought portions of the farm Hangklip and subdivided them into residential erven. Between 1970 and 1976 several further sales of large tracts of this land took place and during this time the current form of Erf 4013 evolved.

During the 1960's and 1970's residential development was revived. An aerial photograph dating to 1961 shows the initial road and village layout already in place in the Silversands area to the west of Erf 4013 but little or no development is evident (Plate 4). The vicinity of Erf 4013 (arrowed) still shows no sign of development at this time.

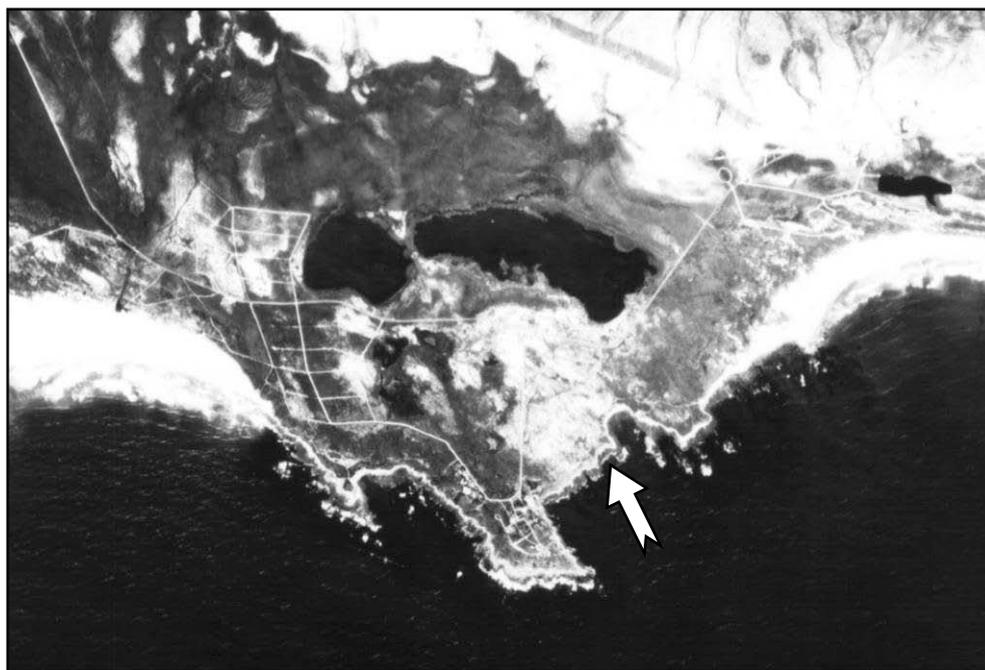


Plate 4: An aerial photograph of the Silversands area taken in 1961 that shows the road and village layout but little or no development. The location of Erf 4013 is indicated by the arrow.

One further point of interest is that in 1885 William Walsch attempted to establish a fishing enterprise near Holbaai. For this purpose Philippine and Malaysian fishermen were brought to the area and settled nearby. A so-called 'Malay burial ground' was associated with this settlement but its location is currently unknown. Although Holbaai is indicated on the map to be some 2 km west of Erf 4013, the possibility exists that the burials present on the site could be the graves related to the fishermen. No connection can be made at this time but this should be considered in any further research.

3.2. Later Stone Age shell middens and scatters

Several shell scatters and shell middens were recorded on Erf 4013. Unfortunately these have been complicated by the presence of historical burials within the immediate area. Both are focussed on the front of the small hill in the centre of the property (Plate 2 & Figures 2 & 3) and it appears that some burials may even have been placed within the shell middens, either deliberately or by chance. The finds are not plotted individually on Figure 2 as they are

all located very close together within a small part of the site and it is not possible to plot them accurately without them being surveyed onto the site plan. Although there is some degree of overlap between the shell middens and scatters, individual GPS co-ordinates are supplied with the descriptions below in order to give them some kind of definite location. Using their GPS co-ordinates, the sites are plotted out schematically in Figure 3 in order to illustrate the physical relationship between them.

Some of the shell middens and scatters appeared undisturbed with the usual types of finds being present. On others, however, we noticed numerous small boulders and cobbles on the surface. These were usually confined to several limited patches. In our experience such concentrations of boulders are highly unlikely to be found on shell middens and we suspect that they indicate disturbance of the sites. The natural Holocene beach is visible a little way to the south of the area containing middens and burials and it seems that this beach may have been intersected by any holes dug into the middens. This section focuses on the Later Stone Age material present with the graves being considered further in the following section.

Altogether five patches of shell midden without any obvious signs of historical disturbance were found. Furthermore, six other patches seemed to have possible graves associated with them. Each patch is briefly described in turn.

The types of marine shell present are not listed for each individual site but rather an estimation on the range of species is provided. Altogether the following species were encountered: *S. argenvillei*, *S. barbara*, *C. granatina*, *S. tabularis*, *Turbo sarmaticus*, *Haliotis midae*, *Burnapena* sp. and *Oxystele* sp. Of these species *C. granatina* and especially *S. barbara* were rare.

3.2.1. Site 13

This is the northern most site on Erf 4013 and is located near the top of the small hill (34° 22' 07.8" S; 18° 53' 39.7" E). The shell lens may be continuous through the top of the hill joining up with Site 14 to the west but without excavation this cannot be verified. A good variety of shell species is present and the extent of visible shell is approximately 5 m by 6 m.

3.2.2. Site 14

As noted above, this occurrence may be continuous with Site 13 and it is located on the south-western edge of the top of the hill (34° 22' 08.2" S; 18° 53' 39.3" E). There is slightly less shell in this area and the scatter covers some 4 m by 5 m. A silcrete adze, the only formal tool seen on the property, was found on this site.

3.2.3. Site 15

This midden is down slope from Site 14 (34° 22' 08.7" S; 18° 53' 39.5" E) and is smaller than the other occurrences noted, covering only 2 m by 3m. The shell is quite thick here with many species represented. A fragment of flaked ochre was also noted.

3.2.4. Site 16

This midden is probably the best, and largest, example found and is located slightly further down towards the foot of the hill (34° 22' 08.9" S; 18° 53' 39.4" E). It contains a good variety

of shell species as well as several quartzite and silcrete flakes. The total area of shell midden exposed is approximately 6 m by 7m.



Plate 5: Photograph of Site 16 showing the type of remains present on the shell midden sites.

3.2.5. Site 17

This site is located away from the other shell middens being near the base of the hill to the southeast ($34^{\circ} 22' 09.5''$ S; $18^{\circ} 53' 41.3''$ E). It is only a small mound of material that appears to be *in situ* shell midden. It lies close to another patch of shell that may have a grave associated with it (see Site 7 below). Most of the recorded shell species are present here.

3.3. Possible Later Stone Age middens with historical graves

In the western parts of South Africa we have frequently seen historical period graves with marine shell or quartz gravel scattered over their surfaces. It seems that the white colour of these materials may be significant. Several of the sites recorded on Erf 4013 appear to be disturbed shell middens but with the disturbances apparently being very isolated. Three scenarios are possible for these sites.

- The sites may contain burials which have disturbed subsurface shell middens, thereby bringing this material to the surface (it may then have been deliberately placed over the graves);
- There may be burials on which midden material collected elsewhere has been deliberately scattered; or
- The sites may simply have some other form of disturbance with no burials being present.

It is not possible without trial excavations to ascertain which of these three scenarios might apply to each of the six instances where apparently disturbed middens were recorded.

3.3.1. Site 1

This site is clearly a prehistoric shell midden although some disturbed patches suggest the possibility of burials here. The site is located on the north-eastern part of the hill ($34^{\circ} 22'$

08.1" S; 18° 53' 40.6" E). The area of shell scatter is large, covering approximately 15 m by 8 m (Plate 6), and a wide variety of shell species is present. Some fragments of ochre and a few flaked artefacts of quartz, quartzite and a rock that may be silcrete were observed. Many cobbles are also present, including some more concentrated, isolated patches (e.g. Plate 7). If there are burials on this site, then between three and five are likely to be present.



Plate 6: The shell scatter associated with Site 1.



Plate 7: One of the stone mounds found at Site 1.

3.3.2. Site 2

This site is located on the eastern side of the hill (34° 22' 08.3" S; 18° 53' 40.8" E). It only has a small scatter of shell but there is a group of approximately 12 to 15 large cobbles suggestive of a possible single grave. The area of shell scatter is about 3 m by 5 m and a wide variety of shell species is present. Quartzite artefacts and ochre were observed on the site suggesting that prehistoric material is definitely present.



Plate 8: The group of cobbles on Site 2.

3.3.3. Site 3

This site is located fairly low on the eastern side of the hill (34° 22' 08.1" S; 18° 53' 40.6" E). It is comprised of a sparse shell scatter of some 10 m by 3 m but with a more concentrated area of 5 m by 3 m in the south-western part. A wide variety of shell species is present. The presence of a quartzite flake and core indicate clear prehistoric material while a concentration of stones suggests the possibility of a grave in the south-western part. If a subsurface midden was intersected by a grave this could explain the coincidental occurrence of the cobbles with the more dense shell patch.

3.3.4. Site 6

The area around this point is somewhat more difficult to interpret and may have more extensive disturbance present. It is located on the side of the south-eastern part of the hill (34° 22' 08.1" S; 18° 53' 40.6" E). A shell scatter of some 10 m by 5 m is present and several quartzite flakes and cores indicate definite prehistoric remains. No very clear signs of possible graves exist but some patches show disturbance that may be associated with graves. Two further possible graves further down the hill, one to the south and one to the south-west of the shell scatter, are also included under this GPS point.

3.3.5. Site 7

This site is located at the extreme south-east part of the hill very near to the shell midden of Site 17 (34° 22' 09.4" S; 18° 53' 41.0" E). The main feature of the site is a patch of cobbles, seemingly packed together and covered with a scatter of shell. This site looks less like a prehistoric midden occurrence since no material other than shell was found here. The variety

of shell, however, suggests that if the cobbles do represent a grave, then shell may have been collected from a nearby midden and scattered over the grave.

3.3.6. Site 9

This site lies in the middle of the cluster on the front edge of the hill (34° 22' 08.6" S; 18° 53' 40.0" E), immediately south of the known graves (Sites 10 & 11). Prehistoric material in the form of quartzite flakes and cores is present but several disturbances suggest the possible presence of graves. At least four may be present with one of these being a mound of cobbles and shell and the other three having cobbles and only a very small amount shell. There may be a fifth burial with this cluster but this is very unclear. A separate possible burial is located a few meters to the south of this cluster and is different in that it has a greater proportion of limpets on it than was observed on all the other occurrences on the property.

3.4. Historical graves

3.4.1. Site 10

This site comprises the south-western pair of the cluster of known graves on the survey diagram (modified in Figure 2). The graves are on the top of the hill in a relatively prominent position (34° 22' 08.5" S; 18° 53' 39.9" E). Both these graves are formalised with headstones and cobbled surfaces. No shell is present.

3.4.2. Site 11

This site represents the other three formal graves and is also on the top of the hill (34° 22' 08.1" S; 18° 53' 40.6" E). These three and the other two formal graves (Site 10) form a straight line but with a gap between the two groups. All three of these graves have headstones and large cobbles on their surfaces. The middle one has shell scattered over it (Plate 9), a clear manifestation of the pattern alluded to in Section 3.3 above. The outer two graves have no shell on them (Plate 10). The north-eastern grave is wider than usual and may possibly represent a double burial.



Plate 9: The central grave of the cluster of three at Site 11. Note the shell on the surface.



Plate 10: The south-western of the three formalised graves at Site 11. This one has no shell on it.

3.5. Possible historical graves

3.5.1. Site 4

Here (34° 22' 08.5" S; 18° 53' 40.9" E) we found an alignment of four cobbles as well as a few other cobbles very nearby. The line looks as though it could be a grave while the other cobbles might represent a second.

3.5.2. Site 5

This site lies on the eastern side and at the foot of the hill (34° 22' 08.9" S; 18° 53' 41.1" E). It consists of a few low mounds of small cobbles and one mound with larger rocks on it. These mounds are perhaps more suggestive than some of the other possible graves recorded in this section. Plate 11 shows one of the low mounds. There may be three or four graves here.

3.5.3. Site 8

This site lies at about mid-height on the front of the hill (34° 22' 08.1" S; 18° 53' 40.6" E). There are two or possibly up to five possible graves in this cluster. While three are very unclear, the other two both have cobbles on them with one having a larger cobble which may represent a crude headstone. While this latter has no shell, the other cobble patch does have shell associated with it. Finds around this GPS point seem to extend towards Site 6 such that the two cover a total area of some 12 m by 12 m.



Plate 11: One of the low mounds of cobbles at Site 5.



Plate 12: The cobble mound at Site 5 with shell on it.



Plate 13: The mound with larger cobbles and no shell at Site 5.

3.5.4. Site 12

This site is right on the flat platform on top of the hill (34° 22' 08.2" S; 18° 53' 39.8" E) very close to the two patches of clear graves (Sites 10 & 11). It is not clear what is present here but a sparse scatter of shell in association with approximately six large cobbles in a random arrangement suggest that there could be graves here. The number of possible graves, however, is impossible to say.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Overall, archaeological material on Erf 4013, Betty's Bay seems difficult to interpret. It is, however, quite clear that there is both historical material in the form of graves and prehistoric Later Stone Age material in the form of shell middens present on the property. These finds are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of findings indicating the presence of prehistoric material and the number of individual graves and possible graves (where applicable) at each site.

Site Number	Prehistoric material	Possible historic graves	Definite historic graves
Site 1	X	3 - 5	
Site 2	X	1	
Site 3	X	1	
Site 4		1 - 2	
Site 5		3 - 4	
Site 6	X	4 - 5	
Site 7	X	1	
Site 8		2 - 5	
Site 9	X	4 - 6	
Site 10			2
Site 11			3
Site 12		?	
Site 13	X		
Site 14	X		
Site 15	X		
Site 16	X		
Site 17	X		

4.1. Prehistoric Later Stone Age shell middens

In general it appears as though there may be several partially or wholly buried shell middens and shell scatters around the hill in the centre of the property. Table 1 indicates which sites have prehistoric midden material present on them. There is very little cultural material associated with these middens and their importance probably lies mainly in any patterning that may be present in the shellfish remains. Of course it is impossible to discount the possibility of finding further *in situ* midden layers beneath the surface and these could be richer in terms of the cultural material they contain. The association of possible graves and midden material may suggest that graves were dug through subsurface shell middens resulting in shell being present at the surface in these areas. From what is visible on the surface of the middens and scatters, it seems that they are likely to date to within the last

3000 years. In general these sites should be regarded as being of low to medium significance.

4.2. Historical graves

There are five clear historical graves on the hill and a large number of possible graves located on and around the hill. Since surface remains are ambiguous, it is impossible to determine whether these possible graves actually contain human remains without doing test excavations. All these sites should be treated as graves until proved otherwise. There seems to be some variety in style in both the definite graves and the possible graves and, as mentioned above, some graves may have been dug into pre-existing subsurface Later Stone Age shell middens. All graves and possible graves should be regarded as being of very high significance.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Prehistoric Later Stone Age shell middens

Clear signs of shell middens and shell scatters are present on the surface of Erf 4013 in the vicinity of the graves. We recommend that some testing of these sites take place in order to establish their depth and content and assist with decisions regarding further mitigation. Testing would entail the excavation of test holes at each site to help quantify the extent of mitigation required for each. Mitigation can vary from sampling of one square meter to obtain shellfish patterning, to a full excavation of several square meters if the content of the sites justifies this.

Later Stone Age burials commonly occur in coastal dunes and it should be borne in mind that prehistoric burials may be present on the site. These can not be located on the surface, nor can their positions be predicted in any way. If at any stage during the development of Erf 4013 human bones are seen, work in the area of the find should stop immediately and the find should be reported to an archaeologist.

5.2. Historical graves

According to Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999, any grave more than 60 years old and located outside of a formal graveyard is protected. All graves and possible graves should be treated with respect and no disturbance of the immediate area of the graves may take place without a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

The process to be followed from this point may be complicated and depending on what decisions are taken with regards to the development, it can follow various directions. We recommend that two stages be undertaken as soon as possible:

- Testing of informal “graves”

There is no doubt that there are some undisputed graves on the Erf. These are defined by stones and have crude headstones. We believe that there are in addition, a number of less formalised graves surrounding the formal ones that are marked by smaller cobbles and sea shells. As we cannot be absolutely sure that the latter are indeed graves, we would suggest

that test excavations be undertaken at a number of these to determine if they in fact contain human remains. This testing is essential for further decision making.

- Determine the legal position with regards to establishment of a graveyard on the site.

A person with good knowledge of the legal processes of land rezoning should be appointed to determine if a graveyard is permissible under the rezoning proposed for Erf 4013, and if so, if it needs to be rezoned as such. Once this has occurred then further decisions regarding the development of the remainder of Erf 4013 can be taken.

Given that there are these uncertainties at present regarding the number of burials and whether it would be permissible to establish a burial ground on Erf 4013, we outline several possible future scenarios in dealing with the burials:

- Perhaps the easiest solution would be to attempt to get the land surrounding all the graves and suspected graves rezoned as appropriate to allow the burials to remain in place. The remainder of Erf 4013 could then be rezoned 'Residential Zone 1' to allow the development to proceed with the burials being protected and left undisturbed (depending on legal findings).
- A second scenario would be to test the informal graves to establish whether human remains are present. If human remains are present, an application could be made to exhume all remains and re-inter them in an existing graveyard in the district. This would allow the entire area of Erf 4013 to be rezoned 'Residential Zone 1'.
- The third option might perhaps be the most difficult to carry out. This would also entail testing of the suspected graves in order to determine exactly how many actual burials are present. If the informal graves contain human remains, application could be made to exhume and re-inter remains in a clearly defined area around the formal graves. This area could then be rezoned with the remainder of the Erf being rezoned 'Residential Zone 1' (depending on legal findings).

All three of these options would require the necessary permissions being obtained from SAHRA. It should be borne in mind that those options involving exhumations (i.e. the latter two) would need to follow a lengthy procedure involving a public participation and advertising process (a period of 60 days from the time of advertising the intention to exhume must lapse before any action can be undertaken at the site). Further archival research and some oral history work would need to be conducted to attempt to identify the graves and establish their context and age. An archaeologist would then need to be appointed to conduct the exhumations in accordance with recognised archaeological procedures.

6. REFERENCES

Halkett, D. 1998. An initial historical study of whaling activities at Stony Point, Betty's Bay. Unpublished report prepared for Hangklip-Kleinmond Municipality by the Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.

7. INVESTIGATION TEAM

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