

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
BLAUWERG CITY – M12 EXTENSION

Prepared for

NINHAM SHAND ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION

By

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Executive summary

Two archaeological sites were located during a baseline study of the proposed M12 extension, Blaauwberg City.

The proposed project envisages the alignment of the M12 from the proposed N7 interchange to the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West arterial.

M12/1 comprises a very diffuse scatter of stone tools on fairly compact, light grey-coloured sand, about 350 metres northwest of Potsdam Road, on the farm Welbeloond.

M12/2 comprises a relatively large and extensive scatter of stone tools, close to a fence line, on soft white sand, about 300 metres west of the Welbeloond farmstead.

Both sites are in a severely disturbed context as a result of trampling, overgrazing and dumping.

In addition, a few stone artefacts were located in the ESKOM servitude north of the Diep River.

A large portion of the study site north of the Diep River is heavily infested with alien vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

The proposed alignment of the M12 will impact negatively on the “sense of place” on the farmstead (**M12/3**) at Welbeloond. The farm was one of the oldest of the Dutch East India Company’s cattle posts, and is probably as old as the nearby Vissershok (1768) farmstead. Despite being modified externally, the Cape Dutch homestead (dated 1785) is still considered to be historically significant. The original outbuildings including sheds, stable and feed silos are intact and retain their integrity.

The farmstead has been given a medium to high significance rating.

The archaeological sites/remains located during the study have been given a low significance rating.

The significance of the impact of the proposed road on archaeological sites is considered to be low.

The probability of locating important archaeological sites during implementation of the project is also low.

Human burial remains may, however, be uncovered or disturbed during earthworks.

With regard to the construction of the M12 extension, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- Should any human burial remains be uncovered or disturbed during earthworks, a professional archaeologist must be immediately informed. Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times.
- The proposed route will impact negatively on the 'sense of place' of the Welbeloond homestead. The National Monuments Council should be consulted with regard to the desirability of the proposed route.
- No further detailed studies are required.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Ninhan Shand Environmental Section has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a baseline archaeological study of the M12 extension, Blaauwberg.

The proposed project envisages the alignment of the M12 from the proposed N7 interchange at Potsdam Road, to the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West arterial, including the realignment of Potsdam Road.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively 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 review previous archaeological work done in the area;
2. to compile a report describing
 - an overview of the local and regional cultural/archaeological context of the study area;
 - the cultural/archaeological aspects along the route;
 - any unique or significant sites encountered;
 - a description and assessment of the significance of the impact on the cultural/archaeological resources associated with the proposed road (on a nominal scale of very low, low, medium, high and very high);
 - detailed guideline measures to manage and mitigate any impacts, particularly during the construction phase, and an assessment of their likely success; and
3. to indicate any sites/areas of cultural or historical significance on the maps provided, using GPS to fix locations.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed project is illustrated in Figure 1. The route is approximately 5 kms long.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

4.1 Method of survey

The approach used in the baseline archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed alignment, including the road reserve. The study site north of the Diep River is heavily infested with alien Port Jackson, resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility. This area was not searched in detail.

Archaeological sites located during the study have been described, photographed and mapped (Figure 2). GPS co-ordinates have been provided for each site recorded.

A desktop study was also undertaken

4.2 Overview of the local and regional cultural/archaeological context of the study area

The local and regional historical and archaeological context of the study area has been reasonably well documented.

According to the records of the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the South African Museum, no sites have been recorded in the immediate study area. However, in a wider, more regional context, Rudner (1968 & unpublished field notes) reported a continuous series of Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) shell middens occurring in the frontal dunes from Paarden Eiland to Melkbosstrand. The majority of these sites have been lost as a result of residential and recreational development (Kaplan 1993).

Shell middens have been recorded at Kreeftebaai, Bontkop and Ouskip (Melkbosstrand), while marginal and disturbed scatters of shell midden remains, stone tools, ostrich eggshell and pottery have been located among the flat vegetated dunes alongside Otto du Plessis Drive. (Kaplan 1998a, 2000a).

Diffuse scatters of shellfish remains were also located during scoping for the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West arterial ((Kaplan 1999), while Middle Stone Age² (MSA) artefacts were located during a study of Blaauwberg City Phase 2 (Kaplan 2000b).

Fragmented shellfish remains and marginal to relatively high density scatters of stone artefacts were located during a study for the proposed Rietvlei Environment Centre (Kaplan 1998b). Shell middens have also been located and excavated in Melkbosstrand (Deacon & Goosen 1997; Kaplan 1997, 1998a,b,c, Kaplan 2000c in prep.).

LSA sites both east and north of Blouberg Hill, comprising scatters of stone tools, pottery and ostrich eggshell, as well as a Stone Age quarry site, have been located on the farms Blaauwberg (Joyces Diary), Groot Oliphantskop, Vaatjie, and Brakkuil (Kaplan 1996, 1998d, 2000a). Bored stones and even more ancient Early Stone Age³

¹ A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

² A term referring to the period between 20 000 and 200 000 years ago.

³ A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 2 million years ago.

(ESA) tools have been collected from ploughed fields on the farms Vaaijie, Witdam and Brakkuil (Kaplan 2000a).

There are numerous historical accounts of Khoi groups and 'Strandlopers' (Khoi entrepreneurs in the trade between the Dutch and the Khoi) peopling the Table Bay coastline before and shortly after the arrival of the early Dutch settlers at the Cape in 1652 (Smith 1983). Sites dating to the 'contact' period have been located and excavated in Melkbosstrand (Kaplan 1998d,e, 2000c in prep.).

A number of Khoisan burials have been uncovered and exposed from the coastal dunes at Milnerton and Melkbosstrand (Abrahams 1988; Deacon & Goosen 1997; Kaplan 1998a, Kaplan 2000c in prep.), mostly as a result of development related activities. Burials associated with bored stones, stone tools and ostrich eggshell beads have also been excavated on the farm Groot Oliphantskop (Kaplan 1996).

Small caves located in the vegetated kloofs on Blaauwberg Hill, served apparently as lookout points for the Khoi, to alert them to ships coming into Table Bay (Kaplan 1998a).

Bloubergsvlei farm, east of Blaauwberg Hill, is the site of the historic Battle of Blouberg, which took place on 6 January 1806. In this battle, the Dutch East India Company forces were defeated by a British expeditionary force, heralding the start of the second British occupation of the Cape, and the final end of Dutch rule.

During the VOC period at the Cape, forts and trading outposts were established in the Table Bay area, at Blouberg, Riet Valley, Vissershok and Jan Biesjies Craal (Milnerton). Most of these have since been lost in the sands of time, but the farmstead at Vissershok is of considerable historical and architectural significance (Fransen & Cook 1980). Stone-lined wells and freshwater springs were also excavated at Bloubergsvlei and Blouberg (Kaplan 1998a, 1999).

The Old Cape Road (or Northward route from the Cape) went past the Riet Vlei and behind Blouberg Hill (Mossop 1963). The remains of the road are still visible on the farms Groot Oliphantskop and Vaaijie (Kaplan 2000a).

The World War II buildings and radar station on top of Blouberg Hill are also of historical significance.

Unsubstantiated reports also claim that sailing ships were able to navigate up the Diep River (in the study area), as far as Vissershok, about 13 kms from the river mouth, but these were probably shallow barges or ships boats (CSIR Report 1988).

5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Two reasonably coherent archaeological sites were located during the M12 baseline study.

M12/1 GPS reading S 33°48.299 E 18°32.454

The site comprises a very diffuse scatter of LSA tools, including flakes, chunks and a few cores, in silcrete and quartz, on fairly compact, light grey-coloured sands, about 350 northwest of Potsdam Road. The site is located almost directly beneath the ESKOM transmission lines, in a cattle track, on the farm Welbeloond (Figure 3). Modern material such as glass, rusted metal, plastic and pieces of ceramics litter the ground. The site is in a severely disturbed context.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

M12/2 GPS reading S 33°48.177 E 18°32.318

The site comprises a relatively large and extensive scatter of LSA tools, including modified and unmodified flakes, chunks, bladelets, cores, two lower grindstones, and retouched tools in silcrete and quartz, close to a fence line, on soft white sand, about 300 metres west of the Welbeloond farmstead (Figure 4). A few MSA flakes were also found. The site has been severely disturbed as a result of overgrazing, trampling and dumping.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

A few MSA and LSA tools were found in the ESKOM servitude north of the Diep River. The material is in a severely disturbed context.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

M12/3 Welbeloond Farm

Originally known as Bommelshok, the farm was one of the oldest of the Dutch East India Company's cattle posts, being mentioned in the Journal of 1677 when Johan Bax was governor. The farmstead is probably as old as the nearby Viissershok (1768) homestead and took its name from Jan van Brommel.

The Cape Dutch homestead (dated 1785) is now L-shaped, but it was probably once U-shaped. The second back wing exists, but is connected to the front by a flat-roofed link. The house appears to have assumed its present form in the middle of the 19th century or soon afterwards. Both the external and internal woodwork belong to that period, and the triangular gable is certainly 19th century (Fransen & Cook 1980).

The original cast iron roof has been replaced; some windows and doors have been replaced, while the front stoep has been closed off. Despite being modified externally, the homestead is still considered to be historically significant.

The outbuildings, with iron roofs and clipped end-gables, are placed round a forecourt slightly played in plan. One building, standing exactly opposite the homestead, has a clipped centre gable too (Fransen & Cook).

The farmstead still retains its rural 'sense of place'

Conservation rating: **medium-high**

Suggested mitigation: **National Monuments Council to be consulted with regard to the desirability of the proposed route**

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed road on archaeological sites is considered to be low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites during implementation of the project is also low.

Human burial remains may however be uncovered or exposed during earthworks.

The proposed road will likely impact negatively on the rural "sense of place" on the farmstead at Welbeloond.

7. CRITERIA USED IN THE EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The criteria used in the evaluating the importance of archaeological sites includes the following:

- the state of preservation of the site;
- the range and density of cultural material present on the site;
- the type of site; for example cave, shell midden, open air site;
- the approximate age of the site;
- rarity of occurrence; and
- regional, national and international importance

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed alignment of the M12, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. Should any human burial remains be uncovered or disturbed during earthworks, a professional archaeologist must be immediately informed. Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times. Contractors and workers should be informed of the probability of burial(s) being uncovered, prior to earthworks commencing.
3. The proposed route will impact negatively on the 'sense of place' of the farmstead at Welbeloond. The National Monuments Council should be consulted with regard to the desirability of the proposed route.
4. No further detailed studies are required.

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

9. REFERENCES

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3318DC BELLVILLE

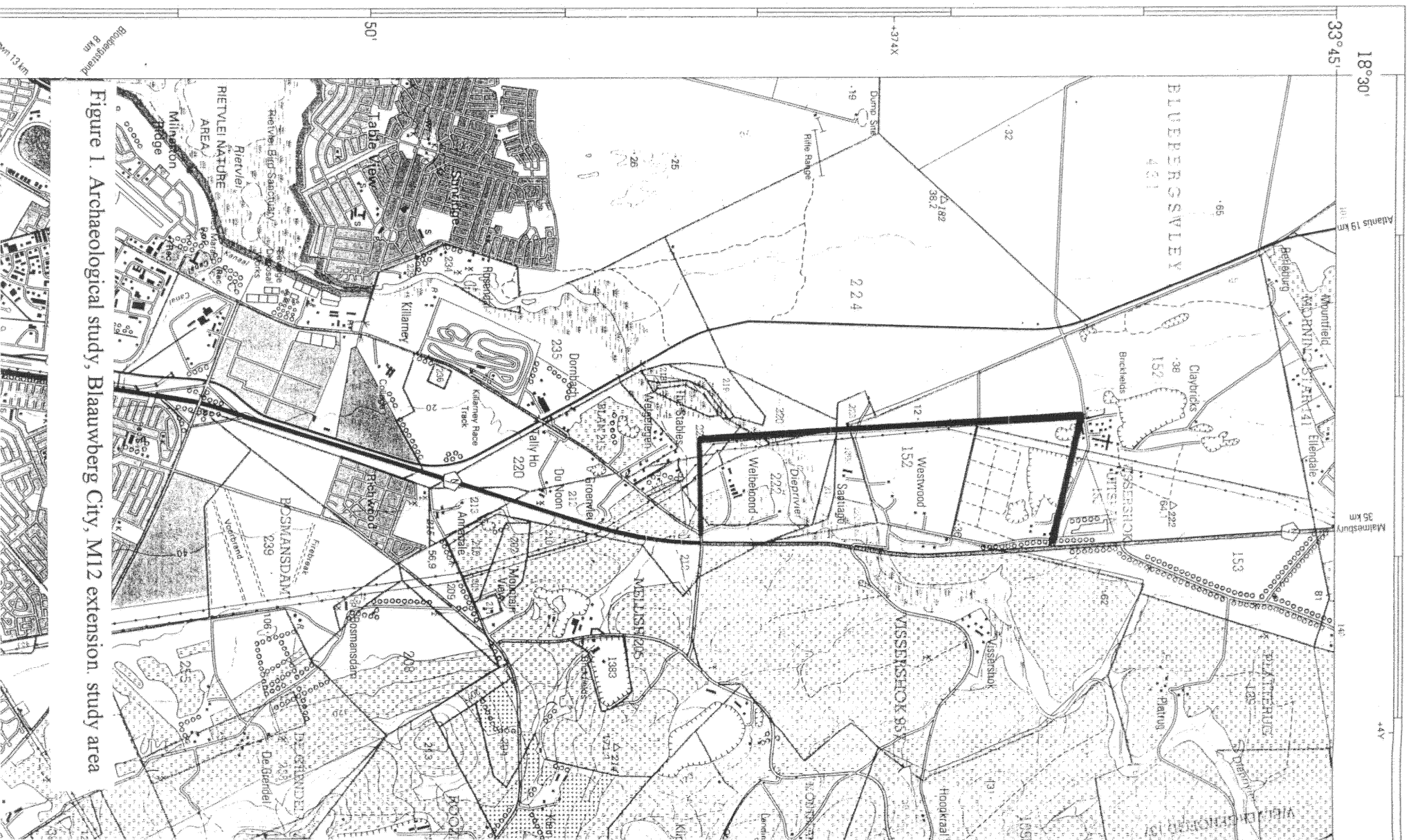
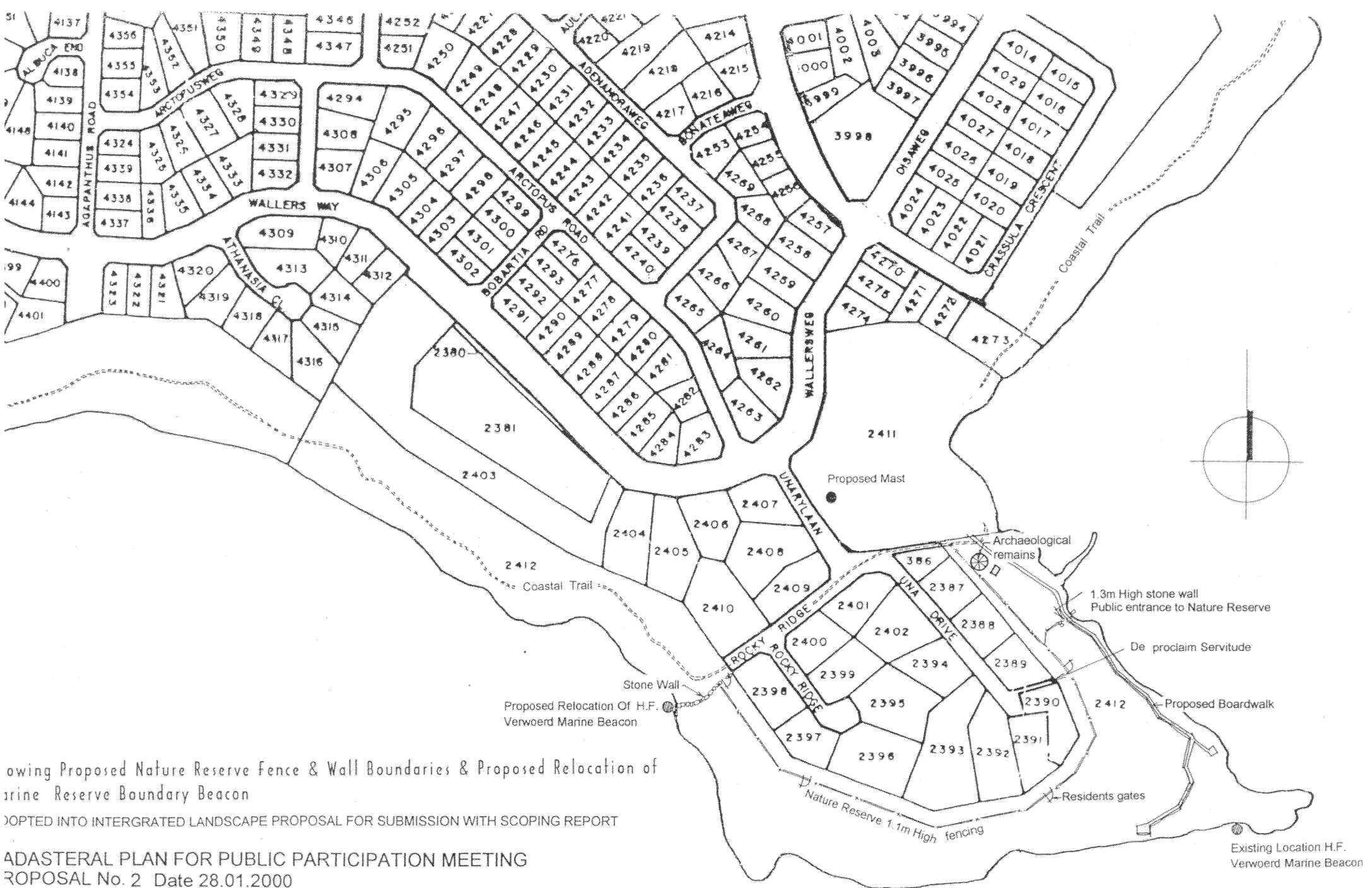


Figure 1. Archaeological study, Blaauwberg City, M12 extension, study area



showing Proposed Nature Reserve Fence & Wall Boundaries & Proposed Relocation of
 Marine Reserve Boundary Beacon

ADOPTED INTO INTERGRATED LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL FOR SUBMISSION WITH SCOPING REPORT

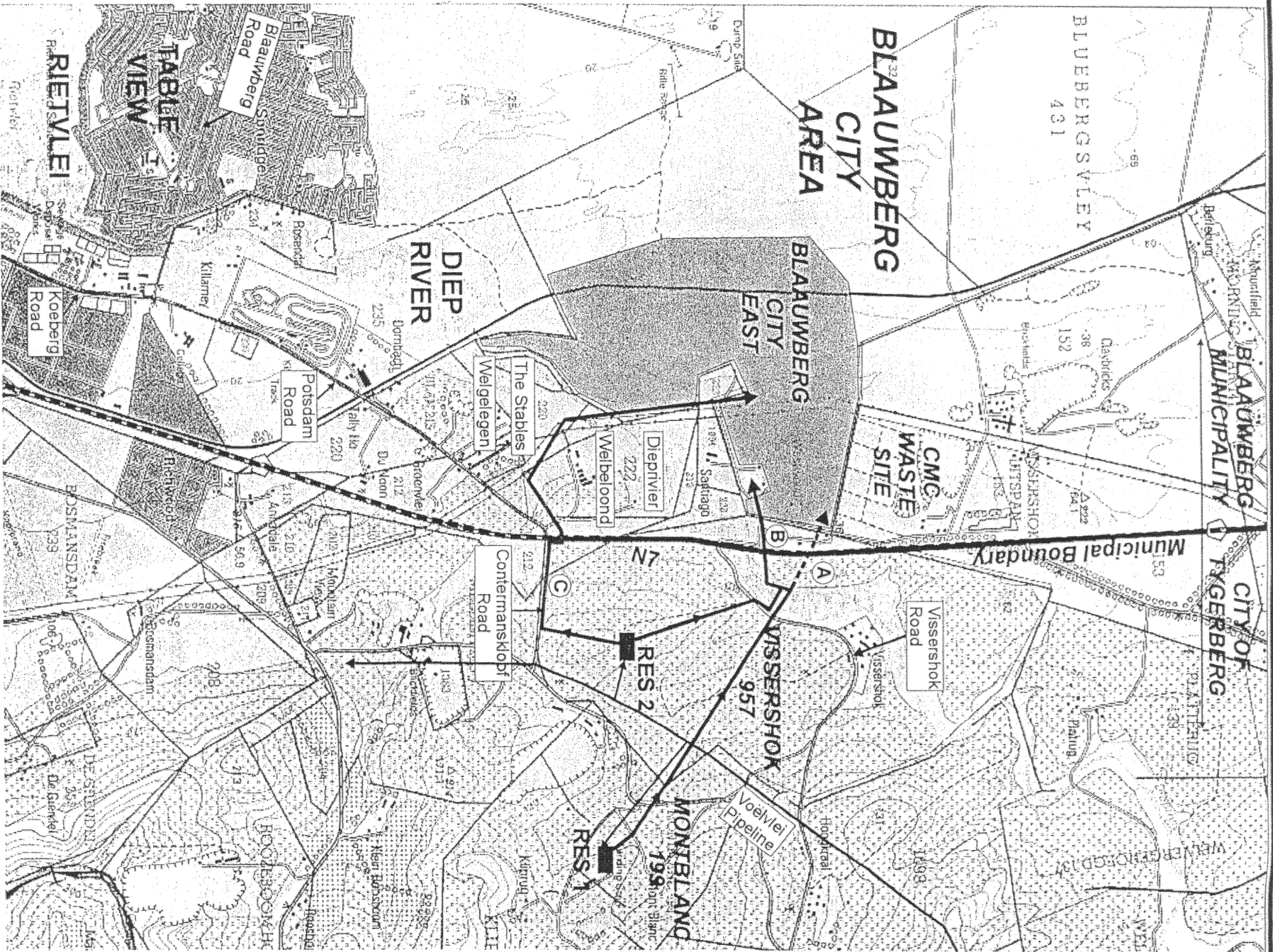
ADASTRAL PLAN FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING
 PROPOSAL No. 2 Date 28.01.2000

TONY POINT - BETTY'S BAY

Scale NTS.

Tilly McNarland Landscape Architect Tel. 021 7861953

DWG No. 4B



- Reservoir
- Pipeline
- RES 1: Proposed reservoir site alternative 1
- RES 2: Proposed reservoir site alternative 2

- A & B: Alternative routes for pipelines from RES 1 or RES 2 to cross the Diep River and N7
- C: Alternative route for the pipeline from RES 2 to cross the Diep River and N7

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Figure 1. Archaeological study, Blaauwberg City East Bulk Service Infrastructure: study site

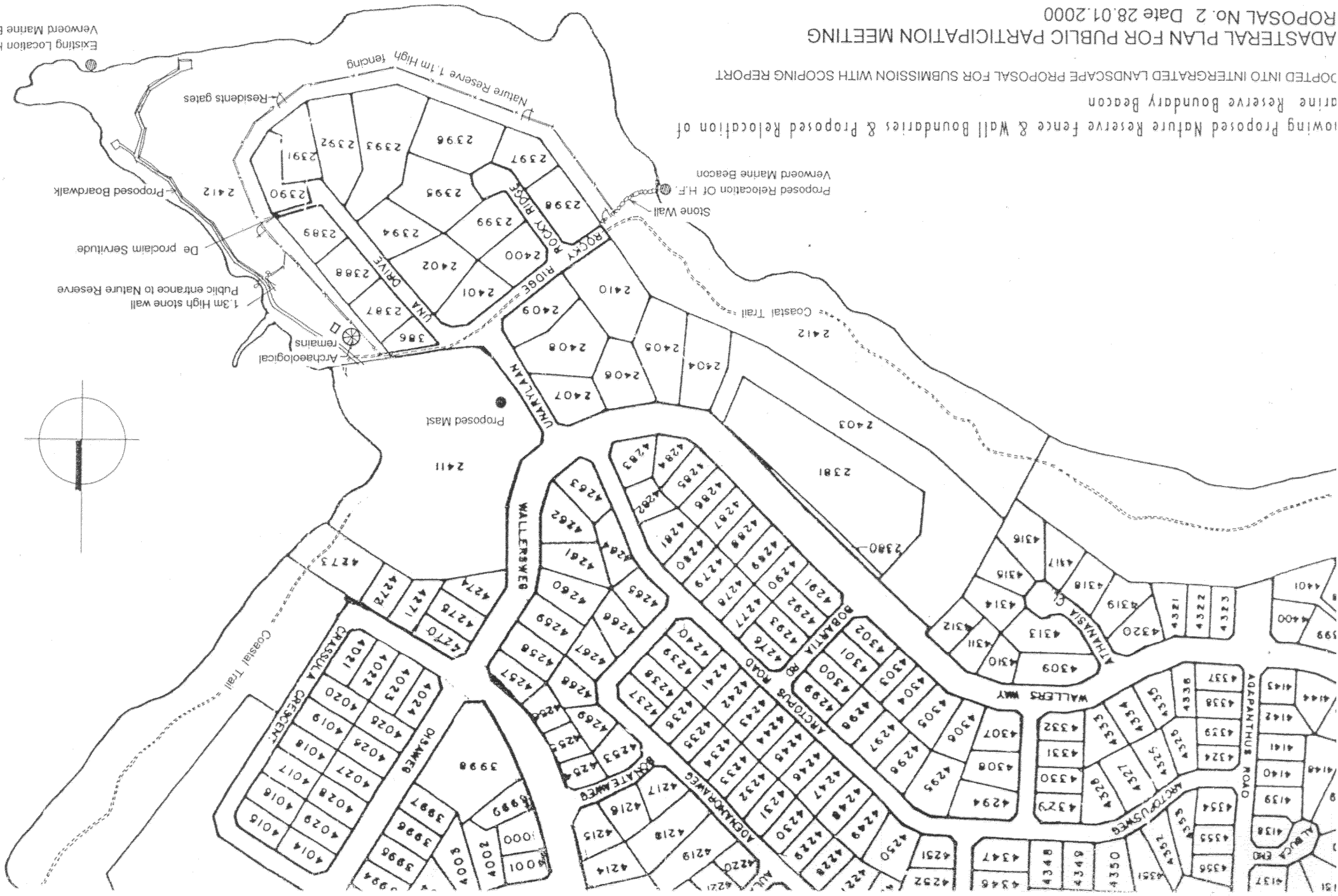
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ROPOSAL No. 2 Date 28.01.2000

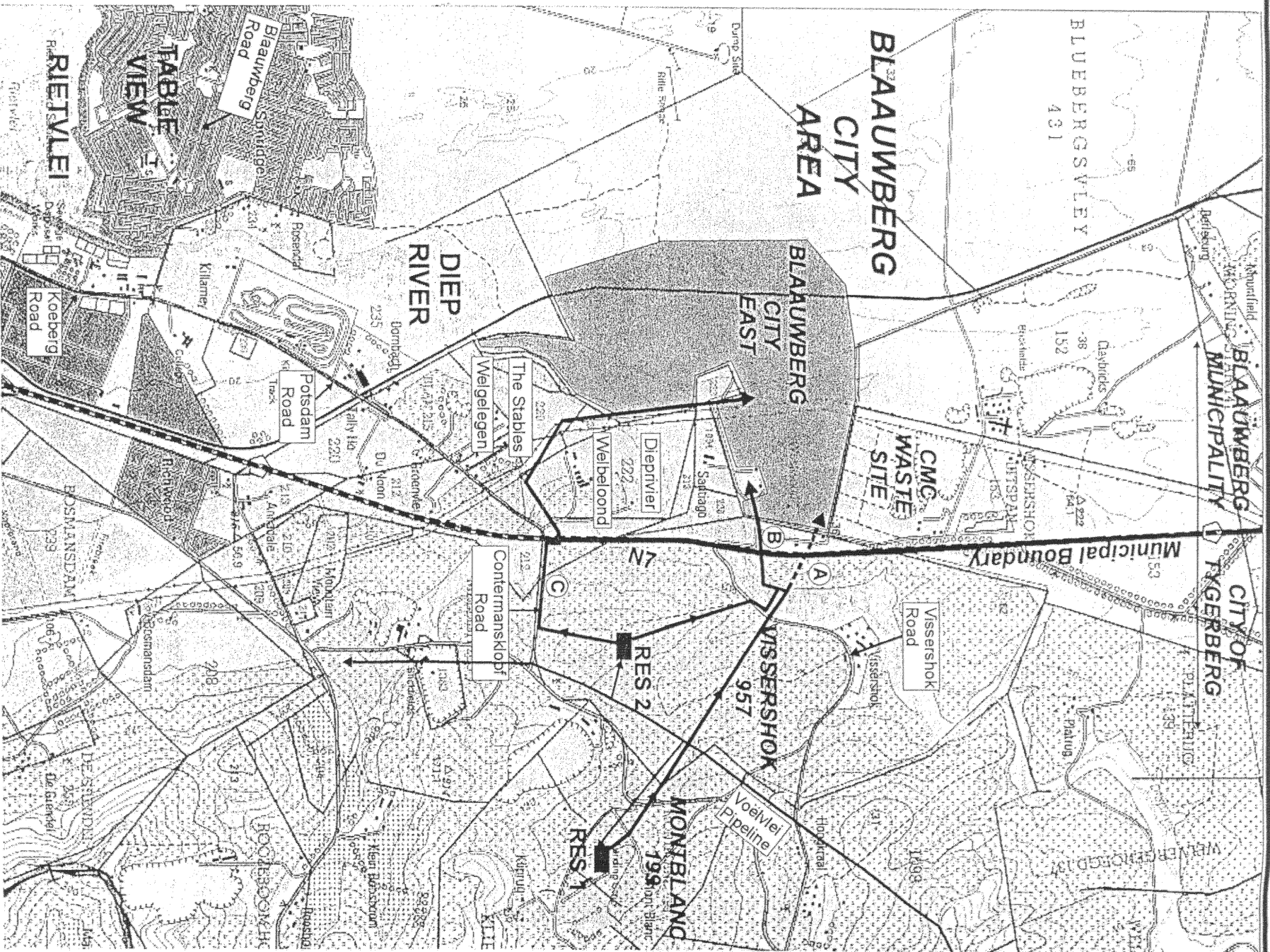
City McFarland Landscape Architect Tel. 021 7861953

Scale NTS.

Following Proposed Nature Reserve Fence & Wall Boundaries & Proposed Relocation of
 Drive Reserve Boundary Beacon
 COPTED INTO INTERGRATED LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL FOR SUBMISSION WITH SCOPING REPORT



Existing Location H.F.
 Verwerd Marine Beacon



■ Reservoir
 → Pipeline

RES 1: Proposed reservoir site alternative 1
 RES 2: Proposed reservoir site alternative 2

A & B: Alternative routes for pipelines from
 RES 1 or RES 2 to cross the Diep River and N7
 C: Alternative route for the pipeline from RES 2
 to cross the Diep River and N7

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 CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Figure 1. Archaeological study, Blaauwberg City East Bulk Service Infrastructure: study site