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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCOPING BLAAUWBERG CITY PHASE 3

Prepared for

COASTEC

By

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Coastal and Environmental Consultants (COASTEC) have requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake archaeological scoping/assessment of the planned Blaauwberg City Phase 3 development in Bloubergstrand.

Phase 3 of the project comprises mainly residential development.

The aim of the study is to assess the archaeological visibility and potential of the site and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact of the proposed development.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance;
- 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.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

A site visit and desktop study was undertaken.

5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No archaeological sites or archaeological remains were located during an assessment of Blaauwberg City Phase 3. According to the records of the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the South African Museum (Cape Town) no archaeological sites have been located in the study area.

A very diffuse scatter of shellfish remains and calcareous nodules were located among some dunes in the south-western portion of the site, but no associated archaeological remains were found.

The study site is heavily infested with alien vegetation, resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility.

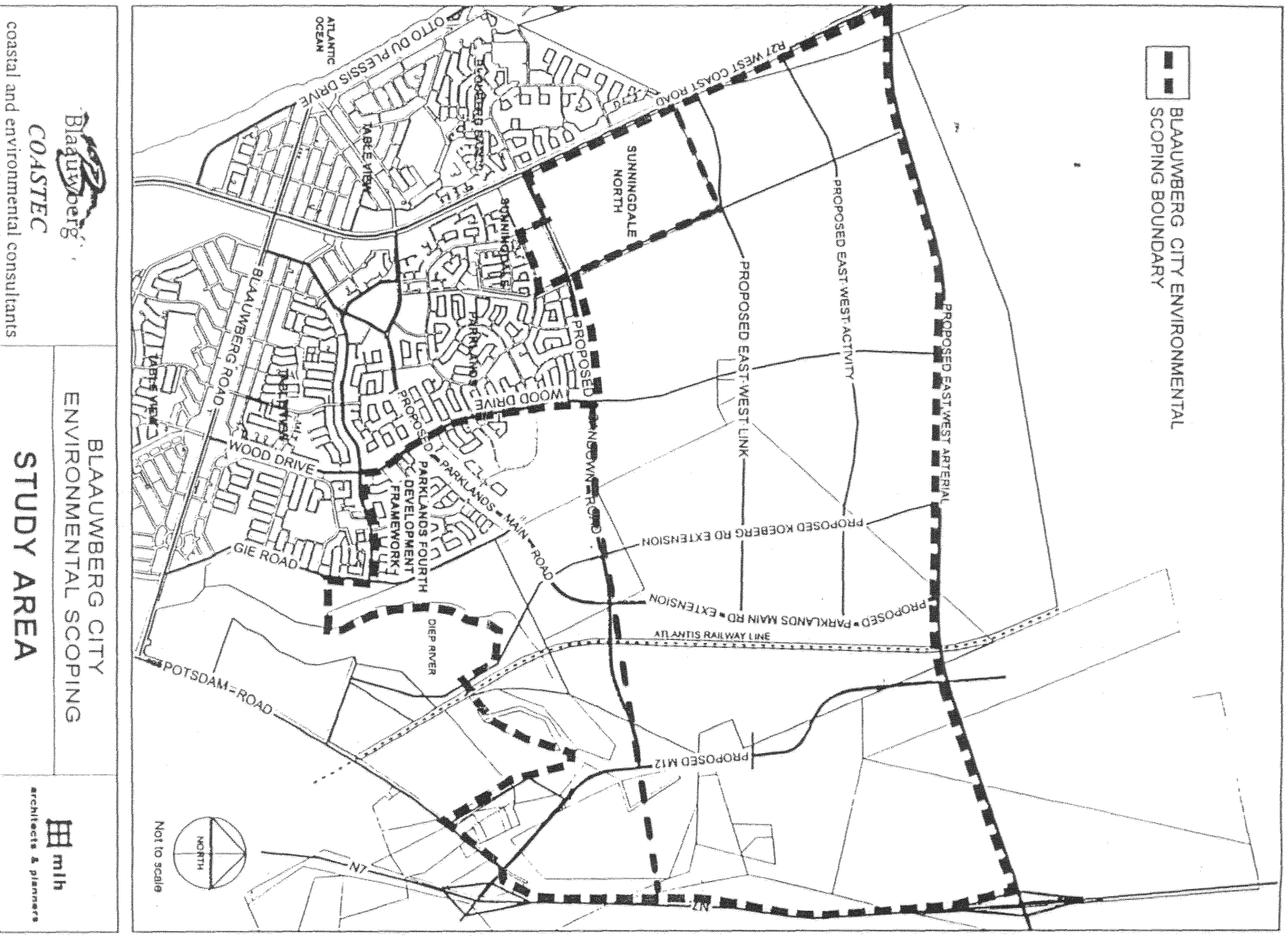


Figure 1. Archaeological scoping, Blaauwberg City Phase 3: study site

It is, however, worthwhile noting that two Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) sites were located during a study of the proposed M12 Extension (Kaplan 2000a), while a very diffuse scatter of Middle Stone Age² (MSA) tools were located during an assessment of Blaauwberg City Phase 2 (Kaplan 2000b). A few stone artefacts were also located in the ESKOM servitude north of the Diep River (Kaplan 2000a). All the sites are in a severely disturbed context, however, and have been given low significance ratings. The historic Cape Dutch homestead at Welbeloond farm (1785) was also recorded during the M12 Extension study (Kaplan 2000a).

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the planned Blaauwberg City Phase 3 development on significant archaeological remains is considered to be medium-low.

The probability of locating archaeological sites during implementation of the project is considered to be medium-high. Such sites may be located in dune blowouts, on or behind dune ridges, or in wind deflated basins (Kaplan 1998).

Historical sites such as old wells and springs and the remains of Dutch trading outposts may also be encountered during implementation of the project (Kaplan 1998).

The Old Cape Road (or Northward bound route from Cape Town) also passed through the study area (Mossoop 1963). Remains of the road are still visible on the farms Groot Oliphantskop and Vaatjie, north of the R305 (Kaplan 2000c), and may be encountered in the Phase 3 study area.

Human burial remains may also be located during earthworks.

7. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites, including human burial remains, and buildings and structures over 60 years of age are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). The Act came into effect on 01 April 2000, and replaces the National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969).

It is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

The National Monuments Council ceased to exist on 01 April 2000 and has been replaced by the SAHRA

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.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the planned Blaauwberg City Phase 3 development, the following archaeological recommendations are made:

1. A more detailed archaeological study of Phase 3 is required. The study should be phased, as development proceeds, and coincide with the removal and clearing of alien vegetation.

Such a study should also include an assessment of the proposed East-West Activity, the proposed East-West Link, the proposed Koeberg Road Extension, and the proposed Parklands Main road Extension (see Figure 1).

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.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Plans Committee.

9. REFERENCES

- Kaplan, J. 1998. Archaeological study, proposed Blaauwberg Nature Reserve. Report prepared for O VP & Associates. Riebeeck West Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
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