

9/2/018/2/0057

9/2/018/0057

MARY

same

(21

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY  
BLOUBERGSTRAND  
BIG BAY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Prepared for

**DE VILLIERS BROWNIE ASSOCIATES**

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management  
Specialists in Archaeological Studies & Heritage Resource Management  
P.O. Box 159  
Riebeeck West  
7306  
Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755  
Mobile: 082 321 0172  
E-mail: [acrm@mbury.nw.co.za](mailto:acrm@mbury.nw.co.za)

**NOVEMBER  
2000**

3

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times. Human remains should not be removed until inspected by a professional archaeologist.

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

4

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

de Villiers Brownlie Associates has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake an archaeological study of the proposed Bloubergstrand Big Bay Development Framework.

The proposed plan makes provision for a mixed use development, comprising single, medium and high residential, commercial, open space and associated land uses.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the proposed project, to propose measures to mitigate against the impact and to guide the development process.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to write up an overview of the local and regional cultural/archaeological context of the study area
2. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance.
3. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
4. to assess the sensitivity and significance of archaeological sites;
5. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
6. 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 project is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

The site is located on the Atlantic coast north of Bloubergstrand and comprises an area of approximately 117 ha. The site is located on either side of Otto Du Plessis Drive and between the West Coast Road (R27) to the east and Big Bay to the west.

5

## 4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

### 4.1 Method of survey

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the study site.

A desktop study was also undertaken

### 4.2 Overview of the regional archaeological and historical context of the study area

The archaeological and historical 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.

Rudner (1968 & unpublished field notes) described an extensive series of Later Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (LSA) shell middens occurring in the frontal dunes all the way from Paarden Eiland to Melkbosstrand. Most of these sites, however, have been destroyed as a result of residential and recreational development (Kaplan 1993).

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

Diffuse scatters of shellfish remains were also located during scoping for the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West arterial (Kaplan 1999).

Fragmented shellfish remains and marginal to relatively large 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).

Later Stone Age (LSA) sites were, located during a study of the proposed M12 Extension, while stone artefacts were also located in the ESKOM servitude north of the Diep River (Kaplan 2000a). Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) artefacts were also found during a study of Blaauwberg City Phase 2 (Kaplan 2000b).

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

<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

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 Oliphantkop, Vaaijie, and Brakkuil (Kaplan 1996, 1998d, 2000c). Bored stones and even more ancient Early Stone Age<sup>3</sup> (ESA) tools have been collected from ploughed fields on the farms Vaaijie, Witdam and Brakkuil (Kaplan 2000c).

There are numerous historical accounts of '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 Dutch settlers at the Cape in 1652 (Smith 1983). Important sites dating to the 'contact' period have been located and excavated in Melkbosstrand (Kaplan 1998d,e, 2000d).

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

At least 13 Khoisan burials have also been uncovered from the coastal dunes between Milnerton and Melkbosstrand (Abrahams 1988; Deacon & Goosen 1997; Kaplan 1998a, Kaplan 2000d), of which the majority were exposed as a result of earthworks and trenching. Burials associated with bored stones, stone tools and ostrich eggshell beads have also been excavated on the farm Groot Oliphantkop (Kaplan 1996).

During the VOC period at the Cape, numerous forts and trading outposts were established in the Table Bay area, at Blouberg, Riet Valley, Vissershok and Jan Biesjes Craal (Milnerton). Most of these sites have since been lost in the sands of time.

The farmstead at Vissershok (1768) is of considerable historical and architectural significance (Fransen & Cook 1980). The historic Cape Dutch homestead at Welbeloond farm (1785) was also recorded during the M12 study (Kaplan 2000a). Stone-lined wells and freshwater springs were also excavated by the early settlers, at Bloubergsvlei and Blouberg (Kaplan 1998a, 1999).

The Old Cape Road (or Northward route from the Cape) skirted the Riet Vlei and Blouberg Hill on its eastern flanks (Mossop 1963). The remains of the road are still visible on the farms Groot Oliphantkop and Vaaijie (Kaplan 2000c).

Bloubergsvlei farm (see Figure 2) 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.

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

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

7

Unsubstantiated reports claim that sailing ships were able to navigate up the Diep River, as far as Visserstok, 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

### Big Bay 1. GPS location S 33° 48 078 E 18° 27 900

Eight pieces of LSA Cape coastal Khoisan pottery, two pieces of ostrich eggshell and some fragmented and dispersed shellfish remains were located on a steep sandy slope in a large, extensively cleared and disturbed area in the south western portion of the study area (Figure 3).

Four of the potsherds are red burnished, while four pieces are unburnished (Figure 4). At least three vessels are represented on the site. Some non-human animal bone was also found. One MSA quartzite core was found in the gravel road overlooking the site. The site is in a severely disturbed context.

Significance of finds: low

Conservation rating: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

### Big Bay 2. GPS reading S 33° 47 336 E 18° 27 259

Two small pieces of Cape coastal pottery, two pieces of ostrich eggshell and three LSA flakes were located in a shell strewn dune slack north of Big Bay (Figures 5 & 6). Glass, metal and some building rubble covers the site, which is also in a very disturbed context.

Significance of finds: low

Conservation rating: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

## 6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed Bloubergstrand Big Bay Development Framework on archaeological sites is considered to be medium to high.

The probability of locating archaeological sites in the study area, once alien vegetation has been cleared, is considered to be medium to high. Sites may be located on or behind dune ridges, in dune blowouts, or in wind deflated basins.

8

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

## 7. CRITERIA USED IN THE EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The criteria used in evaluating the importance of archaeological sites in the study area include 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. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

No significant archaeological sites were located during a study of the proposed Bloubergstrand Big Bay Development Framework.

A few potsherds, some stone flakes and ostrich eggshell was found in a dune slack north of Big Bay.

Eight potsherds, two pieces of ostrich eggshell and some shellfish remains were located in a large, extensively cleared area in the south western portion of the study site. This suggests that further sites are likely to be exposed once removal of alien vegetation proceeds. Numerous sites were recorded this way during monitoring of the Atlantic Beach Golf Course development (Kaplan 1998c).

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

## 9. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites and human burial remains 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).

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Bloubergstrand Big Bay Development Framework, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- Owing to poor visibility caused by alien vegetation, a more detailed archaeological study is required. The study should be phased, as development proceeds, and should coincide with the removal and clearing of alien vegetation.

Should any sites be located during monitoring, some archaeological sampling may be required. Funds should be set aside in the event of this occurring.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times. Human remains should not be removed until inspected by a professional archaeologist.

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

## 11. REFERENCES

- Abrahams, G. 1983. The report on human skeletal remains and associated artefacts from Milnerton Beach, Cape Province. South African Archaeological Bulletin 38:33-35.
- CSIR Report. 1988. Estuaries of the Cape: Part 2. Rietvlei and Diep.
- Deacon, H.J. & Goosen, R.J. (1977). Phase 2 archaeological assessment. Milkwood Place Development, Melkbosstrand. Technical Report. Report prepared for Investment Facility Company Five Zero Two (Pty) Ltd. Department of Archaeology, University of Stellenbosch.
- Fransen, H. & Cook, M.A. 1980. The Old Buildings of the Cape. AA Balkema. Cape Town.
- Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone between the Orange River and Ponto do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 1996. Archaeological and cultural impact assessment. Omega substation. Report prepared for Nihnam Shand Consulting Engineers. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.



10

- o Kaplan, J. 1997. Archaeological study, proposed Melkbosstrand Golf Village. Report prepared for Crowther Campbell & Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 1998a. Archaeological and historical study, proposed Blaauwberg Nature Reserve. Report prepared for OVP & Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 1998b. Archaeological study, proposed Rietvlei Environmental Centre. Report prepared for CSIR Environmentek. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 1998c. Archaeological study, proposed Melkbosstrand CBD. Report prepared for BCD Town and Regional Planners and Architects. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 1998d. Archaeological excavations at Cape Atlantic 1 (CA 1), Melkbosstrand. Report prepared for Johnnie Property Developments (Pty) Ltd. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 1998e. Archaeological excavations at Atlantic Beach, Melkbosstrand. Report prepared for Johnnie Property Developments (Pty) Ltd. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 1999. Archaeological and historical study, proposed Bloubergstrand East-West arterial road. Report prepared for Erica van den Horst Environmental Consultant cc. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 2000a. Archaeological study, Blaauwberg City – M12 Extension. Report prepared for Nihnam Shand Environmental Section. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 2000b. Archaeological study. Blaauwberg City Phase 2. Report prepared for COASTEC. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 2000c. Archaeological and historical study, Sout River Catchment Management Plan. Report prepared for SRK Consulting Engineers and Scientists. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- o Kaplan, J. 2000d. Archaeological excavations, Melkbos Shopping Centre, Melkbosstrand. Final report prepared for Colliers RMS. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Mossop, E.E. 1963. Old Cape Highways. Maskew Miller. Cape Town.
- Rudner, J. 1968. Strandloper pottery from South and South West Africa. Annals of the South Africa Museum 49:441-663.

11

Smith, A.B. 1983. Prehistoric pastoralism in the Southwestern Cape, South Africa.  
World Archaeology 15:79-87.