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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
THE PROPOSED BOUBERGSTRAND EAST-WEST
ACTIVITY/MOBILITY LINKS**

Prepared for

DE VILLIERS BROWNIE ASSOCIATES

By

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Executive summary

No significant archaeological sites or remains were located during a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West Activity/Mobility Links.

The proposed project comprises the construction of a link road between Otto du Plessis Drive, the R27 (West Coast road) and the N7.

The study area is mostly heavily infested with alien and natural vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

The receiving environment is also partially disturbed and modified.

Some occasional fragments of shellfish were located in open spaces west of the R27, but these remains are not considered to be important.

No archaeological remains were located east of the R27.

Important archaeological sites may, however, be exposed once vegetation-clearing operations commence. Scatters of stone tools and shell middens may be located on or behind vegetated dunes, in dune blowouts, or in wind deflated dune slacks.

Buried shell middens and human burial remains may also possibly be uncovered or exposed during road construction activities.

With regard to the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West Activity/Mobility Links, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- The vegetation-clearing programme should be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- All earthworks and excavations related to roadworks should be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is to be briefed by a professional archaeologist what to look out for during vegetation clearing operations and preparation of the site for construction purposes. Levelling and alteration of dunes, for example, may expose buried shell middens and human remains.
- Contractors, staff and particularly plant operators should be briefed what to look out for during vegetation clearing operations and road construction activities.
- Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during vegetation clearing and earthworks should not be disturbed until inspected by the ECO and verified by a professional archaeologist.

- 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.
- Proposed borrow pits should be inspected for archaeological sites/remains.
- The construction EMP should detail reporting procedures to manage the discovery of any heritage artefacts during construction. This would include the recovery or exposure of human burials during construction activities, for example.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

De Villiers Brownlie Associates has requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Bloubergstrand East West Activity/Mobility Links.

The proposed project comprises the construction of a link road between Otto du Plessis Drive, the R27 (West Coast road) and the N7.

The bulk of the work involves the construction of three roads; the East West Activity Spine, the East-West Mobility Route, and the East West Activity Route, including the construction of a ring road, and an intersection at the R27.

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

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the AIA were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site.
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the above area;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the site.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site and the proposed project are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

The area searched for archaeological remains included the proposed link roads from the eastern boundary of the planned Big Bay development, up to the 400 Kv powerline east of the R27.

4. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

The field study was constrained by thick vegetation cover, particularly in the east-west activity route, resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility.

5. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

5.1 Method of survey

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed east-west mobility links.

The surrounding area within the development envelope was also searched for archaeological remains.

A desktop study was undertaken.

6. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF THE STUDY AREA

Archaeological sites are well documented in the study area. A large number of Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) coastal sites have been described (Rudner 1968; Kaplan 1993, 1997, 1998a,b,c,d), some of which have been examined in more detail (Deacon & Goosen 1997; Kaplan 1998c,d; Kaplan 2000a).

LSA as well as much older Middle Stone Age² (MSA) sites have also been documented in the interior of the study area. (Kaplan 2000a,b, 2002).

The sites represent the last remnants of a hunter-gatherer and pastoralist-herder lifestyle that was once present in the Table Bay area thousands of years ago.

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). 'Contact' items such as glass tools have been uncovered from archaeological excavations in Melkbosstrand (Kaplan 1998d).

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

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

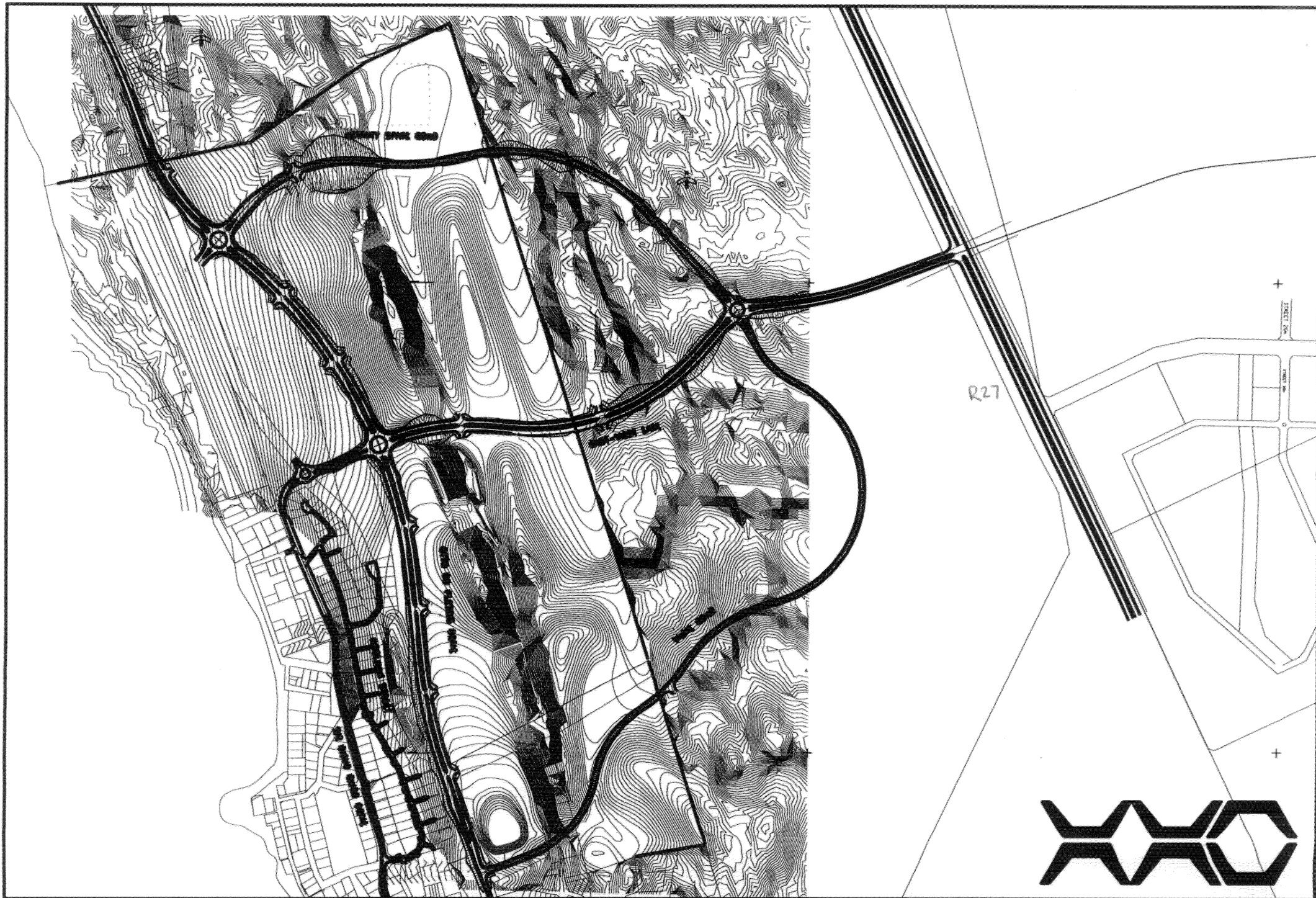


Figure 1. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West Activity/Mobility Links

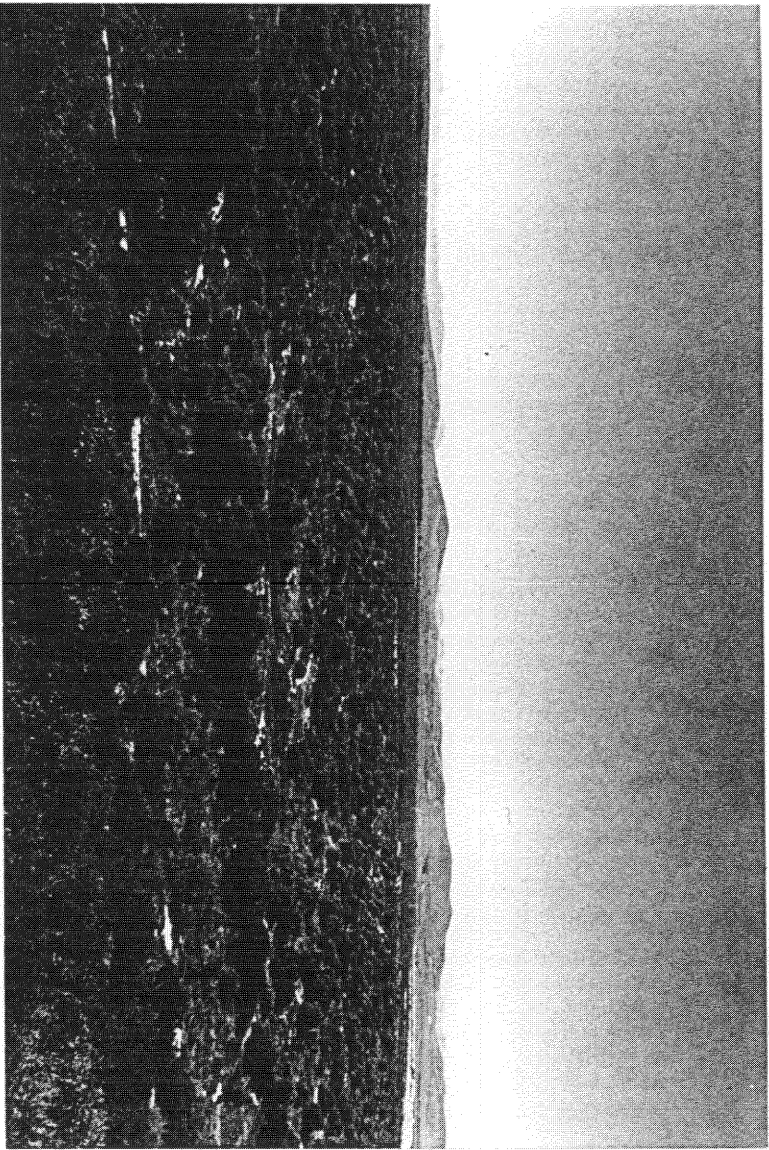


Figure 2. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West Activity/Mobility Link. The study site.

6.1 Burials

At least 17 Khoisan burial sites have been uncovered from the coastal dunes between Milnerton and Melkbosstrand (Abrahams 1988; Deacon & Goosen 1997; Kaplan 1998a, Kaplan 2000c, Kaplan 2002; Yates 2001). The majority of these burials were exposed as a result of earthworks for development purposes. Burials associated with bored stones, stone tools and ostrich eggshell beads have also been excavated on the farm Groot Oliphantskop (Kaplan 1996), between the N7 and the R27.

7. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

7.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

7.1.1 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

7.1.2 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

8. IDENTIFICATION OF RISK SOURCES

The following project actions may impact negatively on archaeological sites. The actions are most likely to occur during the construction phase of the proposed project.

- Vegetation clearing operations may expose or uncover shell middens and artefact scatters.
- Earthworks and excavations may expose or uncover buried shell middens and human remains.

9. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No archaeological remains were located during the Phase 1 AIA.

Occasional fragments of shellfish (Black mussel and limpet) were located in some open spaces west of the R27. These remains are not considered to be important.

10. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological sites is likely to range from low to high.

Important sites may be exposed once vegetation-clearing operations commence. Scatters of stone tools and shell middens may be located on or behind vegetated dunes, in dune blowouts, or in wind deflated dune slacks.

Buried shell middens and human burial remains may also possibly be uncovered or exposed during road construction activities, excavations and earthworks.

11. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

No significant archaeological sites were located during a study of the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West Activity/Mobility Links.

Shell middens and human burial remains may, however, be exposed or uncovered during the construction phase of the project.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Bloubergstrand East-West Activity/Mobility Links, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- The vegetation-clearing programme should be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- All earthworks and excavations related to road works should be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is to be briefed by a professional archaeologist what to look out for during vegetation clearing operations and preparation of the site for construction purposes. Levelling and alteration of dunes, for example, may expose buried shell middens and human remains.
- Contractors, staff and particularly plant operators should be briefed what to look out for during vegetation clearing operations and earthworks.

- Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during vegetation clearing and earthworks should not be disturbed until inspected by the ECO and verified by a professional archaeologist.
- 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.
- Proposed borrow pits should be inspected for archaeological sites/remains.
- The construction EMP should detail reporting procedures to manage the discovery of any heritage artefacts during construction. This would include the recovery or exposure of human burials during construction activities, for example.

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

13. REFERENCES

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