

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF FARM NOORSEKLOOF 327, JEFFREY'S BAY.

Prepared for: Integrated Environmental Management Unit
36 River Road
Walmer
Port Elizabeth
6070

Compiled by: Dr Johan Binneman
Department of Archaeology
Albany Museum
Somerset Street
Grahamstown 6139

June 2006

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF FARM NOORSEKLOOF 327, JEFFREY'S BAY.**

Dr Johan Binneman
Department of Archaeology
Albany Museum
Grahamstown
6139

PROPOSAL

The original proposal was to do a survey of possible archaeological heritage sites on the remainder of farm Noorsekloof 327, in Jeffrey's Bay, to establish the range and importance of the heritage sites, the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

**INVESTIGATION
Archaeological survey**

The surveyed area consisted of a long and narrow piece of land situated between the narrow gauge railway line and the old national road. The land is covered by grass and small bushes and there are also at least two vleis areas. The area was investigated on foot. Apart from a few 'stone tools' no other archaeological material was found. This in part was due to the ground cover, but nevertheless, it would appear that previous activities such as the construction and maintenance of both the highway and the railway line disturbed much of the land. For example, some of the 'stone tools' found which appeared to be of 'archaeological origin' were in actual fact from the gravels used for the railway line and were the result of gravel production. Other stone tools which can be attributed to Middle Stone Age and even Earlier Stone Age - older than 250 000 years old, most probably also came from the gravels used for the railway line. These type of stone tools are found in the gravelled terraces throughout the region at various contour intervals (200 m, 100 m, 60 m and 30 m) and are related to a descending sequence of high sea levels (Butzer & Helgren 1972).

No visible archaeological sites were found during the investigation. One reason is that the entire area is covered by grass and other vegetation.

Community consultation

Consultation with the Gamatkwa KhoiSan First Nation, was conducted with Mr K. Reichert as required by the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999, Section 38(3e). Mr K. Reichert will communicate their recommendations to the Integrated Environmental Management Unit.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY OF THE AREA

The proposed area for development is of very low cultural sensitivity and development may proceed. It is highly unlikely that any archaeological or historical material would be located during development, but archaeological sites and material may be exposed after the top soil is removed. See appendix for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the unlikely event that any concentrations of archaeological material are uncovered during further development of the site, it should be reported to the nearest archaeologist and/or the South African Heritage Resources Agency immediately so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material.
2. Construction managers/foremen should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites.

BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Jeffrey's Bay coastline between the Kabeljous and Kromme River Mouths once housed thousands of archaeological sites, including the remains of the indigenous people (Rudner 1968). Most of these sites have disappeared due to the development while others were covered by dune sand and vegetation (Binneman 2001, 2005).

The most common archaeological sites are shell middens (relatively large piles of marine shell) found usually concentrated opposite rocky coasts, but also along sandy beaches if there was a large enough source of white mussel (people refer to these as 'strandloper middens'). These were campsites of San hunter-gatherers, Khoi herders and KhoiSan peoples who lived along the immediate coast (up to 5 km) and collected marine foods. Mixed with the shell are other food remains, cultural material and often human remains are found in the middens. In general middens date from the past 8 000 years. Also associated with middens are large stone floors which were probably used as cooking platforms.

Other archaeological sites may consist of concentrations of stone artefact and/or bone remains. Some of the stone tools may date back to 100 000 years old, and the fossil bone occurrences along the coast may also date this old. These fossil remains represent large bovids and other animals of which many are extinct today. In the gravel terraces and on the hill tops of the area large stone tools from the Earlier Stone Age can be found dating to some 1 million years old (Laidler 1947).

GENERAL REMARKS

It must be emphasised that the conclusions and recommendations expressed in this archaeological heritage sensitivity investigation are based on the visibility of archaeological sites/material and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Many sites may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the event of such finds being uncovered, (during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed. The onus is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

It must also be clear that Phase I Specialist Reports (Archaeological Impact Assessments - AIA) will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should give a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

REFERENCES

- Binneman, J.N.F. 2001. An introduction to a Later Stone Age coastal research project along the south-eastern Cape coast. *Southern African Field Archaeology* 10:75-87.
- Binneman, J.N.F. 2005. Archaeological research along the south-eastern Cape coast part1: open-air shell middens Southern African Field Archaeology 13 & 14:49-77. 2004/2005.
- Butzer, K.W. & Helgren, D.M. 1972. Late Cainozoic evolution of the Cape coast between Knysna and Cape St Francis. *Quaternary Research* 2:143-169.
- Laidler, P.W. 1947. The evolution of Middle Palaeolithic technique at Geelhoutboom, near Kareedouw, in the southern Cape. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa* 31:283-313.
- Rudner, J. 1968. Strandloper pottery from South and South West Africa. *Annals of the South African Museum*49:441-663.

APPENDIX: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM COASTAL AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers

1. Shell middens

Shell middens can be defined as an accumulation of marine shell deposited by human agents rather than the result of marine activity. The shells are concentrated in a specific locality above the high-water mark and frequently contain stone tools, pottery, bone and occasionally also human remains. Shell middens may be of various sizes and depths, but an accumulation which exceeds 1 m² in extent, should be reported to an archaeologist.

2. Human Skeletal material

Human remains, whether the complete remains of an individual buried during the past, or scattered human remains resulting from disturbance of the grave, should be reported. In general the remains are buried in a flexed position on their sides, but are also found buried in a sitting position with a flat stone capping and developers are requested to be on the alert for this.

3. Fossil bone

Fossil bones may be found embedded in calcere deposits at the site. Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

4. Stone artefacts

These are difficult for the layman to identify. However, large accumulations of flaked stones which do not appear to have been distributed naturally, should be reported. If the stone tools are associated with bone remains, development should be halted immediately and archaeologists notified.

5. Stone features and platforms

They come in different forms and sizes, but are easy to identify. The most common are an accumulation of roughly circular fire cracked stones tightly spaced and filled in with charcoal and marine shell. They are usually 1-2 metres in diameter and may represent cooking platform for shell fish. Others may resemble circular single row cobble stone markers. These are different sizes and may be the remains of wind breaks or cooking shelters.

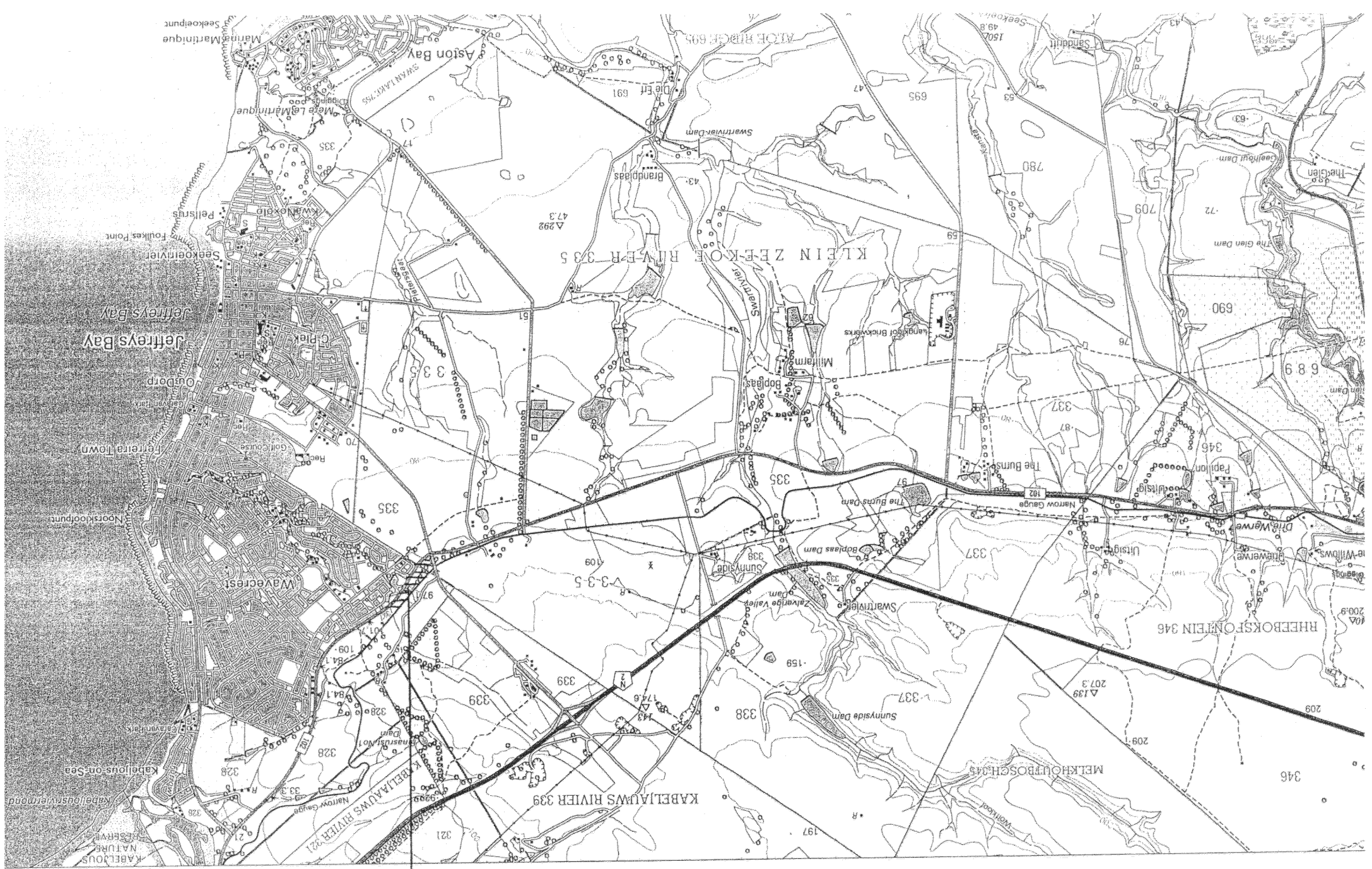
6. Historical artefacts or features

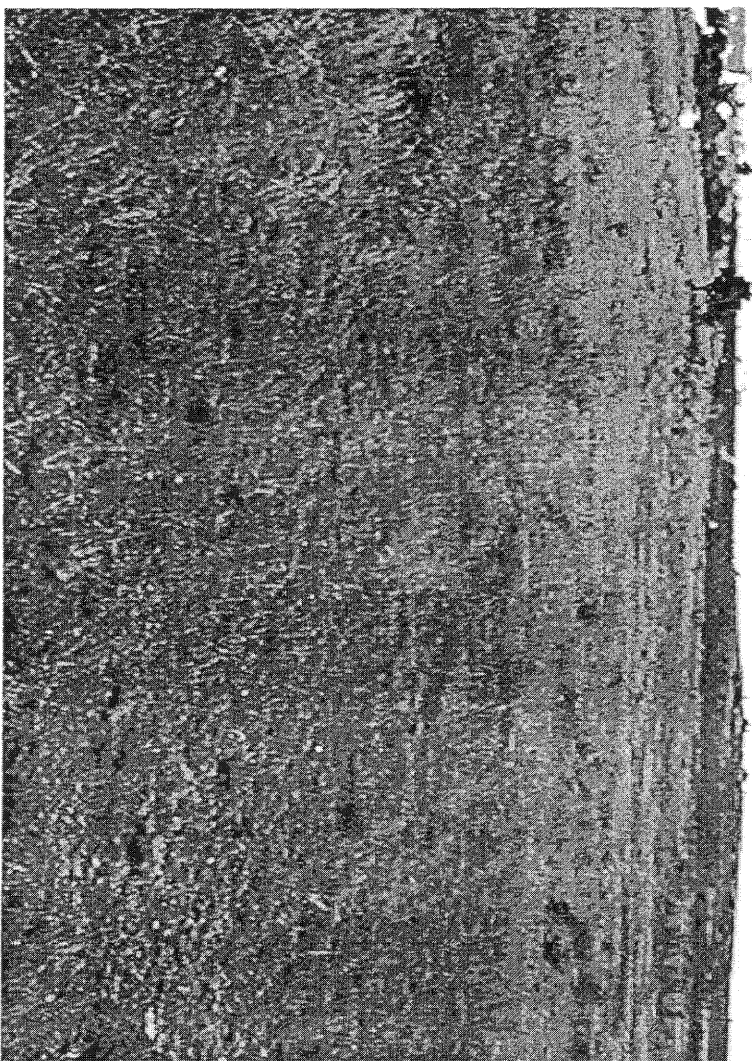
These are easy to identified and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.

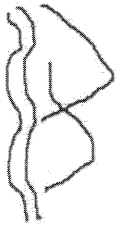
RP 34221 BB HUNANSDORD

1:50 000

Proposed
Dusekfontein
Port Elizabeth
13 km
10 km
17 km







GAMTKWA
KHOISAN FIRST NATION
(Association Incorporated Under Section 21)

REGISTRATION NO. 2005/035372/08

P.O Box 106
Hankey
6200

Tel. : 042-287 0664
Cell. : 076 2016 283

10 JULY 2006

CEN
Integrated Environmental Management Unit
Rivierweg 36
Walmer
Port Elizabeth
6070

Dear Dr. Cohen,

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY : REMAINDER OF FARM NOORSEKLOOF
327**

We refer to our previous correspondence in the above regard.

We have studied the archaeological report submitted by Dr. Binneman, and we agree with his recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the process.

Regards


CHIEF M. WILLIAMS
GAMTKWA TRIBE