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ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY  
ROBBERG ESTATE, PLETTENBERG  
BAY

Prepared for:

By

THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

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2000

no adequate map

## Executive summary

Recent archaeological sites were located during a baseline study of Robberg Plettenberg Bay, on the southern Cape coast.

Archaeological study focused on Phase 1 of the proposed development, of which additional phases are planned.

The proposed Robberg Estate development envisages a hotel and residential development.

No archaeological remains were located in either Phase 1A or Phase 1B of the proposed development.

A handful of Early and Middle Stone Age artefacts were, however, located alongside the gravel road leading to the entrance of the Robberg Camp Park, as well as alongside the few gravel roads which are present in the study area.

All of the archaeological remains were located in a severely disturbed or modified context. None of the finds are considered to be significant.

The impact of the proposed Robberg Estate development on archaeological sites is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites/remains during implementation of the proposed project is also considered to be low.

With regard to the proposed Robberg Estate development, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No further detailed studies are required.
- The site is suitable for development.

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and brief

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management has been requested by The Planning Partnership to undertake a baseline archaeological study of Robberg Estate, Plettenberg Bay, on the southern Cape coast,

The proposed development envisages a hotel and residential development.

The aim of the study is to assess the archaeological significance and sensitivity of the site, and to propose measures to mitigate against any significant impacts arising out the proposed development,

### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the baseline study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological or historical sites of significance;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological and/or cultural significance;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites;
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.

### 3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed Robberg Estate development is illustrated in Figure 1. The study site is portion 68 of the farm Brakklouf No. 443.

The archaeological study focused on Phase 1 of the proposed development, of which two additional phases are planned.

### 4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the baseline archaeological study entailed a foot survey of Phase 1 of the proposed development. The study focussed on Phase 1A and 1B of the study area (Figure 1). Although not part of the terms of reference, Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the proposed development were also assessed for archaeological sites. A desktop study was also undertaken.

According to the records of the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the South African Museum in Cape Town, no archaeological sites have been recorded in the study area.

The Plettenberg Bay region and the Robberg Peninsula in particular are, however, well known for its rich occurrence of archaeological sites. More than 36 sites have been recorded and mapped on or close to the Robberg, including 22 caves/rock shelters (Kaplan 1993). Scatter of Middle<sup>1</sup> and Early<sup>2</sup> Stone Age artefacts have also been located along the steep coastal cliffs of the peninsula, along the rocky slopes close to the Robberg road, and further inland. Sites have also been recorded at Uiteindelik and Beacon Island (Kaplan 1993).

Hart & Halkett (1993) also undertook a Phase I assessment of portion 44 of the farm Brakklouf No. 443. No significant archaeological remains were located during the study.

A large collection of oriental ceramics, metal fittings, as well as ships navigational instruments were discovered in the top of a sand adjacent to Robberg Estate (Hart & Halkett 1993). It was assumed that the finds related to the camp of the survivors of the heavily laden Portuguese vessel the Sao Goncalo, which sank off Plettenberg Bay in 1630. Excavations at the site by Smith (1986) located what appeared to be a workshop area, where iron was being smelted and forged. This led to the conclusion that the site was probably the remains of the Sao Gancalos' survivors' camp and workshop area (Smith 1986).

## 5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

23°22'25"E 34°05'50"S

No coherent archaeological sites were located during the baseline study of Robberg Estate.

No archaeological remains were located in either Phase 1A or Phase 1B of the proposed development.

A handful of Early and Middle Stone Age artefacts were, however, located alongside the gravel road leading to the entrance of the Robberg Camp Site. Some artefacts were also located alongside the few gravel roads which are present in the study area. These included large and medium-sized flakes, chunks and split cobbles, all in quartzite.

Significance of finds: low

Conservation rating: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

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

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

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

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

## 7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains in the study area is considered to be low to negligible.

## 8. CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE AND SENSITIVITY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AT ROBBERG ESTATE

The archaeological sensitivity of the Phase 1 area at Robberg Estate is considered to be low. The conservation significance of site is also considered to be low.

## 9. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites are protected by the National Monuments Act (Act No. 28 of 1969 as amended). It is an offence to disturb, remove or destroy from its original site, or excavate any such site without a permit from the National Monuments Council.

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

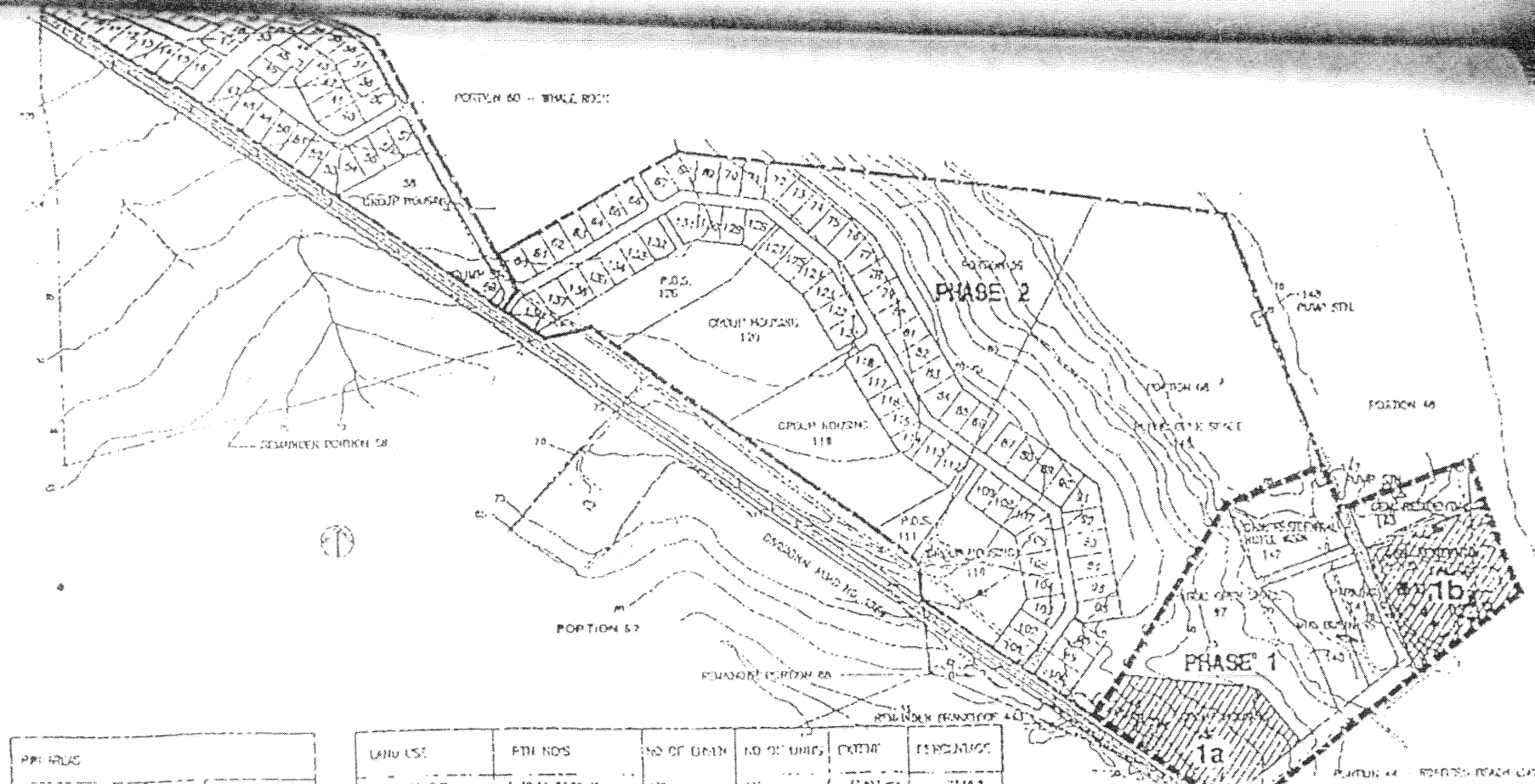
With regard to the proposed Robberg Estate Development, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No further detailed studies are required.
3. The site is suitable for development.

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

## II. REFERENCES

- Hart, T. & Halkett, D. 1993. A Phase 1 Archaeological assessment of portion 44 of the farm Brakkloof No. 443, Plettenberg Bay. Report prepared for Barry Doel Associates. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponta do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Riebeck West. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Smith, A. B. 1986. Excavations at Plettenberg Bay, South Africa of the campsite of the survivors of the wreck of the Sao Goncalo, 1630, The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology and Underwater Exploration.



SCALE 1:1
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SCALE 1:3
SCALE 1:4
SCALE 1:5
SCALE 1:6
SCALE 1:7
SCALE 1:8
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SCALE 1:10

SCALE OF MAP: 1:1000  
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PTN NO.	AREA	USE	LAND USE
PTN 58	11 272 004	11	GROUP HOUSING
PTN 110	13 941 526	21	GROUP HOUSING
PTN 111	26 013 524	31	GROUP HOUSING
PTN 121	22 724 324	21	GROUP HOUSING
PTN 122	26 424 524	32	GROUP HOUSING
PTN 140	7 411 524	10	MINOR BUSINESS
PTN 141	3 131 524		PARKING
PTN 142	8 261 524	24	COMMERCIAL USE ON 110 METRE FRONT
PTN 143	3 431 524	12	GROUPS
PTN 144	15 712 524	45	COMMERCIAL, GROUP HOUSING, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

LAND USE	PTN NOS	NO OF UNITS	NO OF UNITS	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
GROUP HOUSING	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200	110	110	22 000 sqm	21.6%
GROUP HOUSING	58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200	5	5	45 575 sqm	17.5%
GROUPS, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	147, 148	2	24	25 052 sqm	5.25%
GROUPS, PUBLIC	143	1	10	5 430 sqm	3.24%
MINOR BUSINESS	140	1	10	7 411 sqm	3.11%
MINOR BUSINESS	58, 146, 147, 148	4	4	516 sqm	0.32%
PARKING	141	1	1	3 131 sqm	1.37%
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	51, 97, 111, 118, 145	5	5	119 404 sqm	57.44%
PUBLIC ROADS				763 sqm	0.34%
TOTAL		164	164	475 118 sqm	100.0%

PHASE 1 BOUNDARY

**ROBERG ESTATE  
 PLETTENBERG B  
 PHASE 1**

ORIGINAL LAYOUT DESIGN BY  
 YARREN SIMPSON & PARTNERS  
 DRAWING NO. WSA 128.2001 D

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Figure 1. Archaeological study, Robberg Estate, Plettenberg Bay. study site