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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY  
ERF 1626 (BAKOOND), YSTERFONTEIN**

Prepared for

**COMMON GROUND CONSULTING**

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management  
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1999**

## Executive summary

Two archaeological sites were located during a baseline study of Erf 1626, Bakoord, Ysterfontein, on the Cape West coast.

The proposed Bakoord development comprises a hotel, hotel units, limited residential development, sporting, and parking facilities.

Bakoord 1 (**BK 1**) comprises a fairly extensive, but disturbed, scatter of patches of fragmented, shellfish remains, stone tools and ostrich eggshell, located in open spaces in the western and northern portion of the vegetated site. The site is concentrated primarily around the wooden pole in the western portion of the study site.

The construction of an informal road below the degraded frontal dune at Bakoord has also cut through a well preserved shell midden (**BK 2**), resulting in extensive damage to the site. A 10 cm thick layer of in situ shellfish remains, with stone tools and bone, is visible in the dune cutting, while a larger scatter of disturbed shellfish remains, stone artefacts, and bone has spilled downslope from the damaged and eroding dune. Crushed and fragmented shellfish remains lie scattered in the road.

The archaeological remains located during the study have been given a medium to high significance rating.

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological sites in the study area is considered to be high.

The following archaeological recommendations have been made:

- A series of small test excavations should be carried out among the scatter of fragmented shellfish remains at **BK 1** prior to commencement of earthworks. Test excavations should be carried out in order to ascertain the significance of the archaeological deposits. Should excavations confirm the presence of significant remains, further excavations may be required in order to generate a representative sample of archaeological material from the site.
- Although **BK 2** falls outside of the proposed development area, a representative sample of shell midden material should be excavated from the midden prior to proposed dune rehabilitation. This important site has already been severely damaged by the road cutting, continuing erosion of the frontal dune, and the use of 4x4 vehicles. Excavation of this important site should take place as a matter of urgency.
- **BK 2** should be temporarily stabilised with sandbags covered with geotextile, or with Loffelstein blocks to prevent further erosion and loss of further information.
- The use of 4x4 vehicles along this portion of the road where **BK 2** is located, should be prohibited to prevent further damage to the midden.

- **There is also the possibility of human burial remains being uncovered during implementation of the proposed development. Should any human remains be uncovered during earthworks, they should not be disturbed, and should immediately be reported to the consultant archaeologist. Contractors and workers should therefore be informed of the probability of such remains being uncovered during earthworks. Human burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times.**

**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 Common Ground Consulting to undertake a baseline archaeological study of Erf 1626, Bakwood, Ysterfontein, on the Cape West coast.

The proposed development comprises a hotel, hotel units, limited residential development, and sporting and parking facilities.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological sites that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance on the site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
3. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
4. 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. The property is located about two kilometres south of Ysterfontein, and about 90 kms north of Cape Town on the Cape West coast.

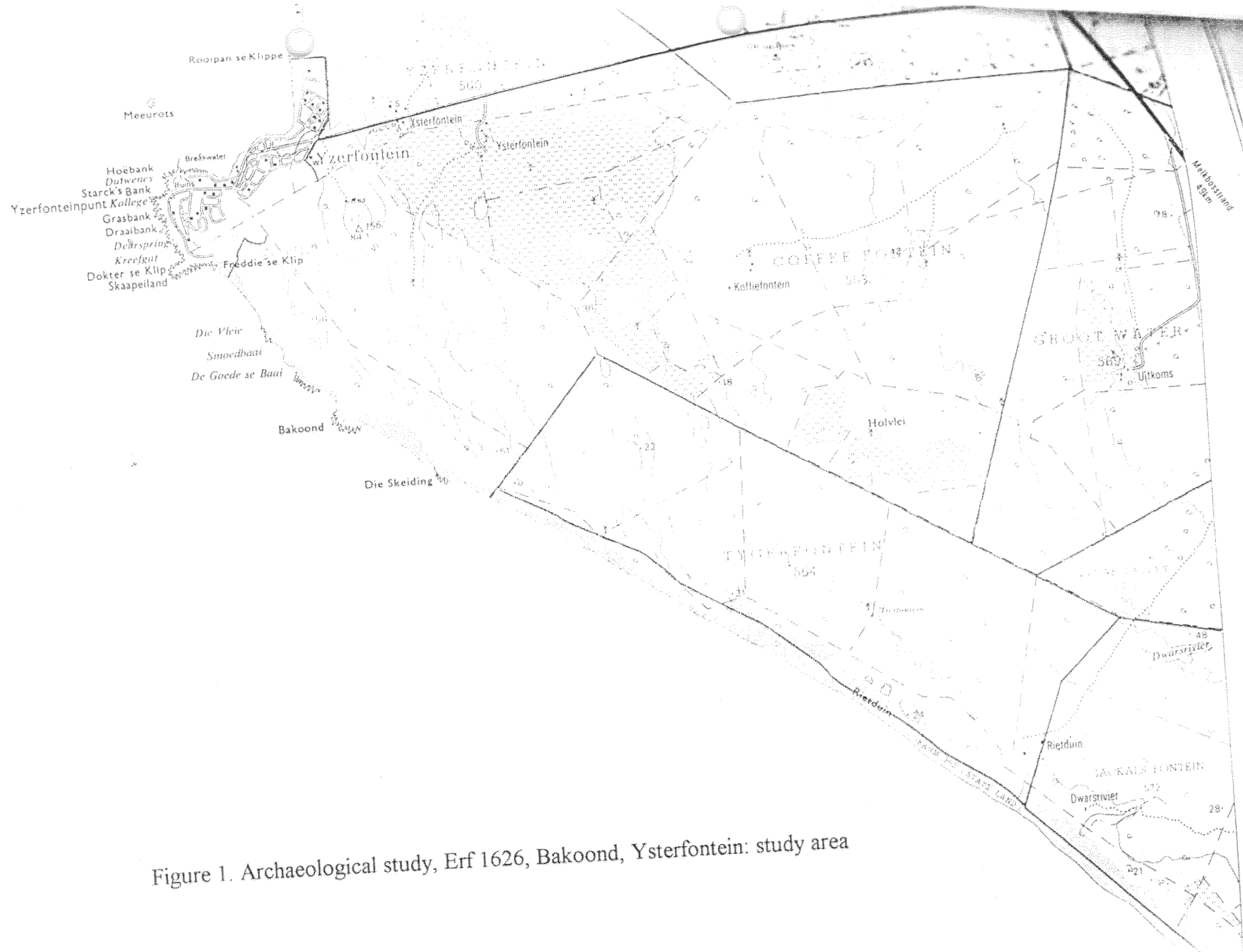


Figure 1. Archaeological study, Erf 1626, Bakoond, Ysterfontein: study area

## 4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

### 4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the proposed site. A desk top study was also undertaken.

According to the records of the South African Museum Archaeological Data Recording Centre, no archaeological sites have been officially recorded at Bakoonid. Two Later Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (LSA) shell and artefact scatters, and two Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) sites with stone artefacts and fossilised bone, have been located south of Bakoonid, on the farm Tygerfontein (Hart & Halkett 1995). And according to Dr Graham Avery of the South African Museum (Cape Town), LSA shell and artefact scatters have been located among the frontal dunes along the beach, both north and south of Bakoonid (Graham Avery, pers. comm.). Dave Halkett of the Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town, reports that MSA occurrences are fairly widespread on the limestone cliffs overlooking this section of coastline (Dave Halkett, pers. comm.).

The archaeological significance of Ysterfontein has been well established, where more than 40 sites have been recorded (Avery 1994; Hart & Halkett 1995; Kaplan 1993; Kaplan 1994; Kaplan 1998; Mabbutt 1955; Rudner 1968). North of the Ysterfontein salt pan is the well known Blombos LSA site reported by Pieninguey (1911). Mineralised bones of extinct buffalo and horse were also located at this site.

Research into the archaeology of the coastal zone has also shown that there is a close correlation between the distribution of archaeological sites and the physical environment (Kaplan 1993). Land forms and features such as exposed rocky headlands were catalysts in the distribution of sites. Rocky headlands such as those that exist at Bakoonid, acted as foci that attracted Stone Age people as they offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods, particularly shellfish.

## 5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Two archaeological sites were located during the baseline study of erf 1626 (Figure 2).

### BK 1

The site is located in the western and northern portion of the study site, concentrated mainly around the wooden pole at Bakoonid (Figure 3). The site comprises a fairly extensive, but disturbed, scatter of patches of fragmented shellfish (mussel and limpet) remains, in open spaces on the well vegetated site. The density of shellfish remains decreases significantly further back from the western portion of the site. Some whole

<sup>1</sup> a term referring to the last 20 000 years of pre colonial history in southern Africa.

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

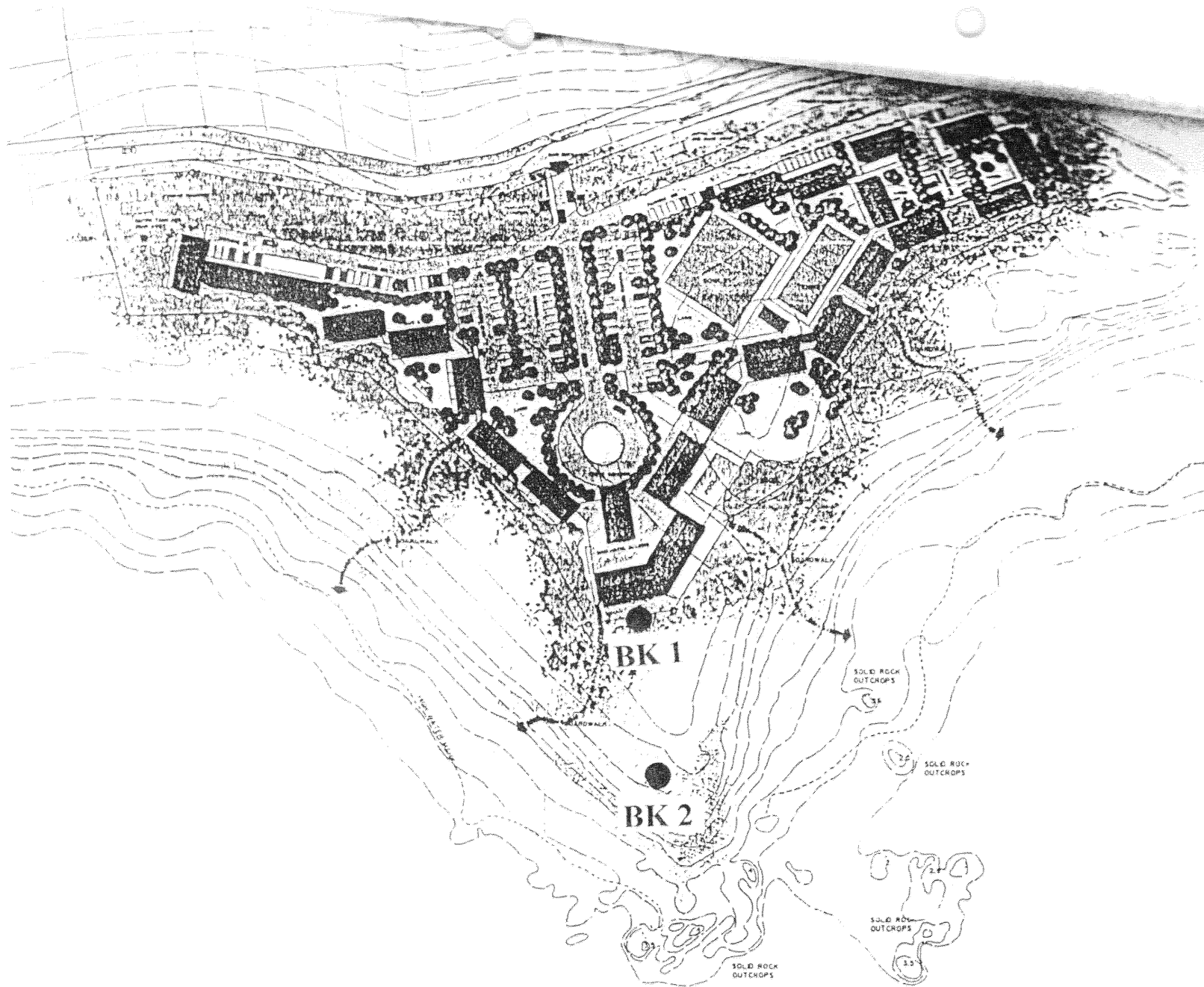


Figure 2. Archaeological study, Erf 1626, Bakoond, Ysterfontein: conceptual drawing and location of archaeological sites

also occurs. Quartzite and quartz stone flakes and chunks, a few small cobbles, an ostrich eggstone, and two pieces of ostrich eggshell, were also found.

Significance of finds: medium

Suggested mitigation: test sampling of the remains to ascertain the significance of the archaeological deposit

**NK 2**

**NK 2** comprises the remains of a well preserved shell midden which has been severely damaged by the construction of an informal road below the degraded frontal dunes at Bakond (figure 4). The road has cut right through the dune, resulting in extensive damage to the site. A 10 cm thick layer of in situ shellfish remains, with stone tools and bone, is visible in the dune cutting, while a large scatter of disturbed shellfish remains, stone and bone has spilled downslope from the eroding dune. Crushed and fragmented shellfish remains lie scattered in the road (Figure 5).

Significance of finds: high

Suggested mitigation: although the site falls outside of the proposed development area, a representative sample of shell midden material should be excavated from the site as a matter of urgency. The site has already been severely damaged by construction of the road, continuing erosion of the frontal dune, and the use of 4x4 vehicles

As a temporary measure the midden should be stabilised with sandbags, or with Löffelstein blocks

**6. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The impact of the proposed development of erf 1626 on archaeological sites is considered to be high.

**7. LEGISLATION**

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

Human burial remains are also protected under the Human Tissues Act

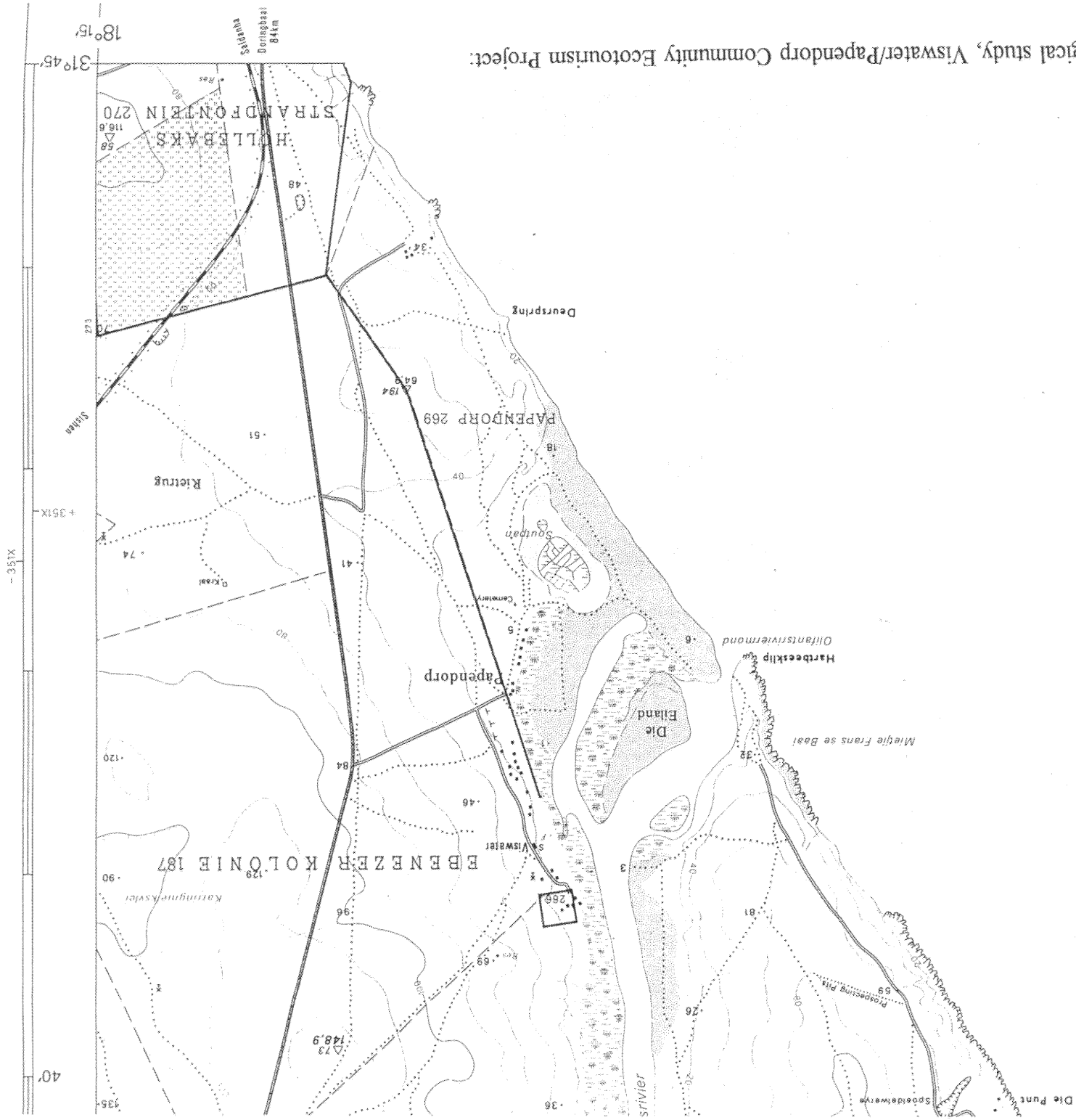




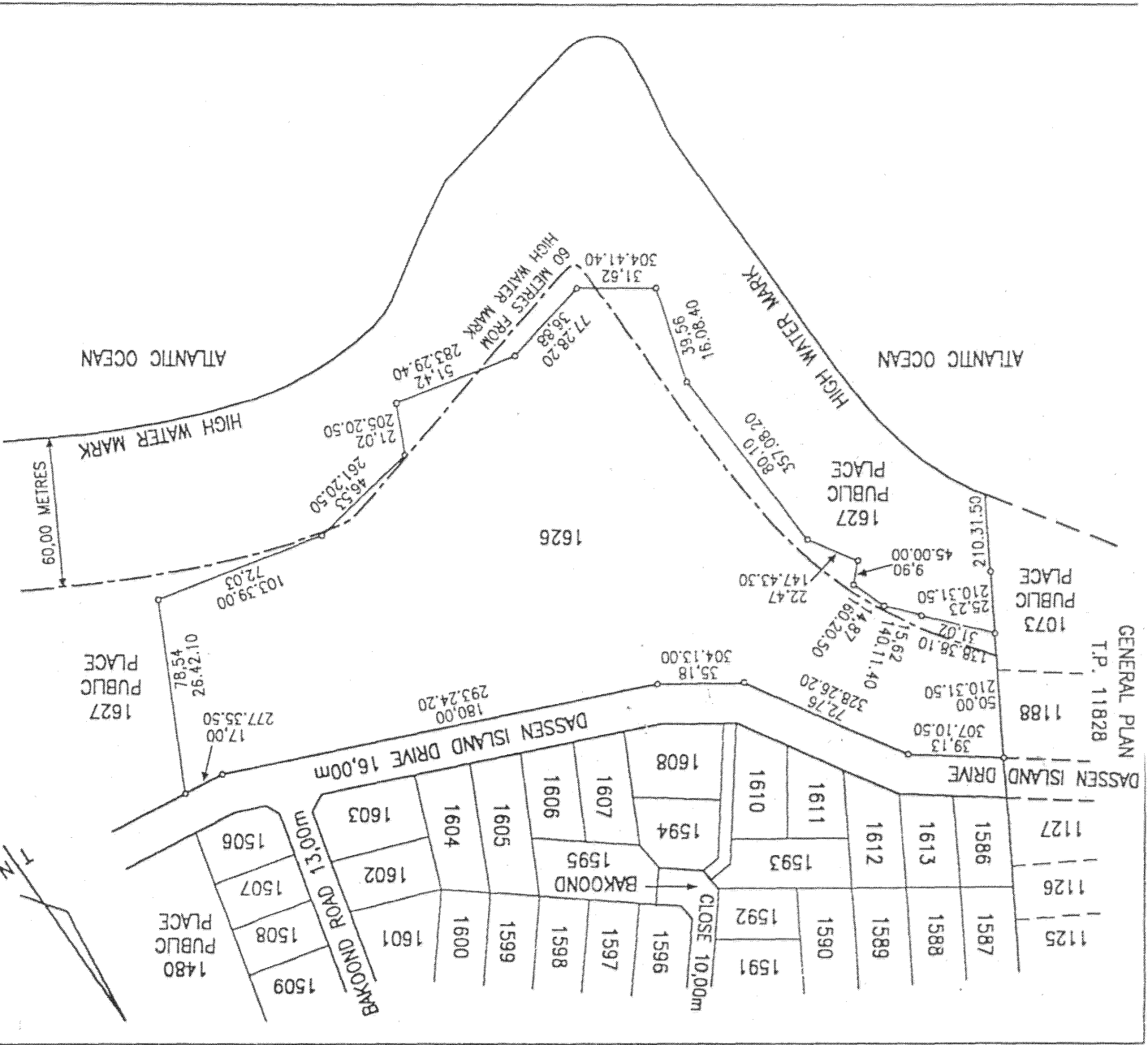
Oort 20  
 144m  
 3000  
 Metrehoogte  
 400m

2000

Figure 1. Archaeological study, Viswater/Papendorp Community Ecotourism Project: study site.



1999



PLAN

OF

ERF 1626 YZERFONTEIN

AS REPRESENTED ON

GENERAL PLAN NO. 7406/1996

BEING A PORTION OF

ERF 1336 YZERFONTEIN

SITUATE IN THE

YZERFONTEIN TRANSITIONAL LOCAL COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT OF MALMESBURY

PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

OWNER

YZERFONTEIN SEASIDE ESTATES (PTY) LTD

PREPARED BY:

John Greenewald

Professional Land Surveyor

Sectonal Title Consultant : Township Planner : Engineering & Topographical Surveyor

SIGNED: *[Signature]*

DATE: 14 SEPTEMBER 1998

DRAWN BY:

EDNA

SURVEY SOLUTIONS

EDNA HIME

104 SANDY LODGE ~ MILNER ROAD ~ SEA POINT, 8005 ~ SOUTH AFRICA

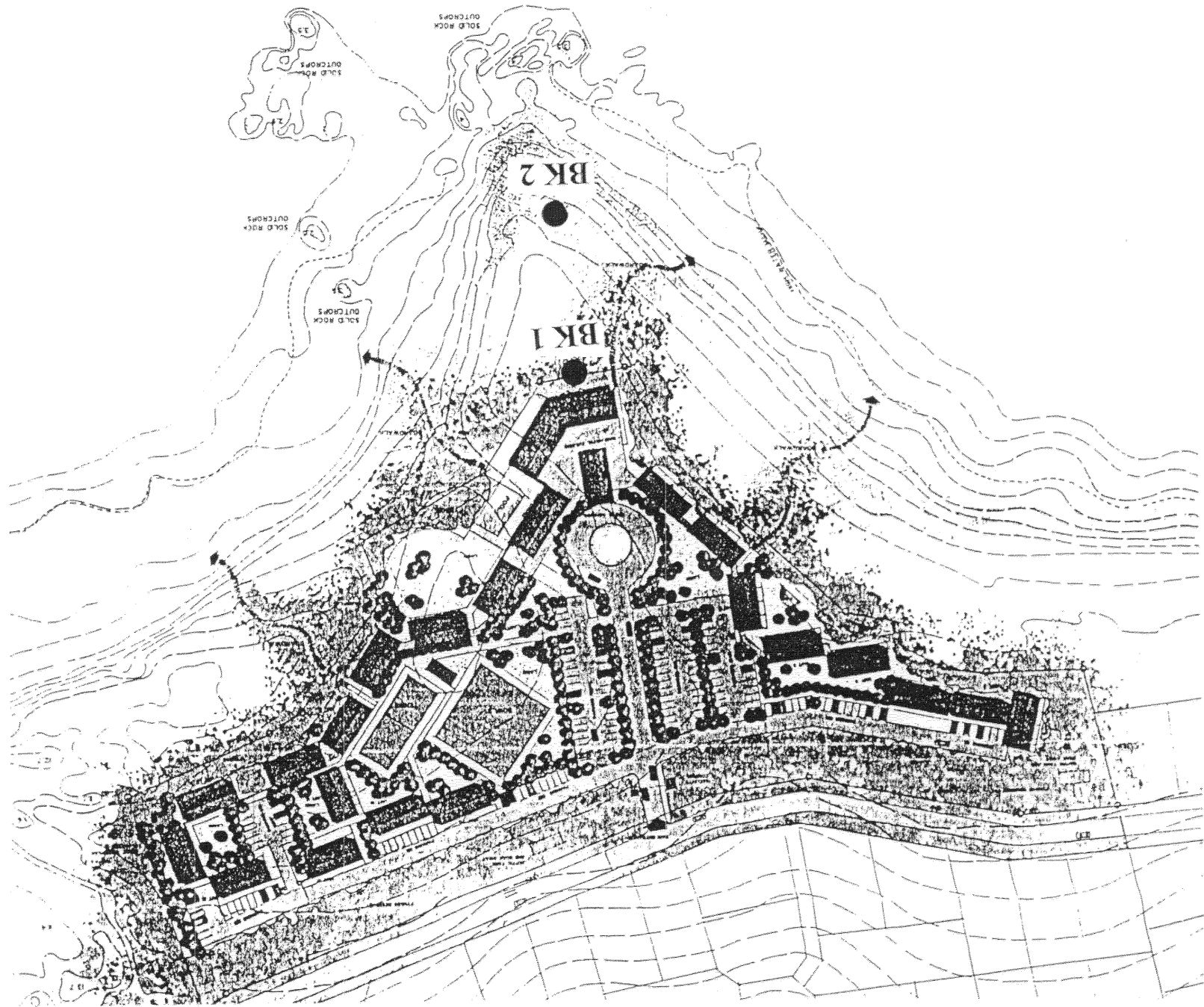
Tel / Fax: (021) 434-9466 ~ E-Mail: tedna@tedna.co.za

SCALE: 1/2500

PLAN NO: YZERFONTEIN.EX17/C/O

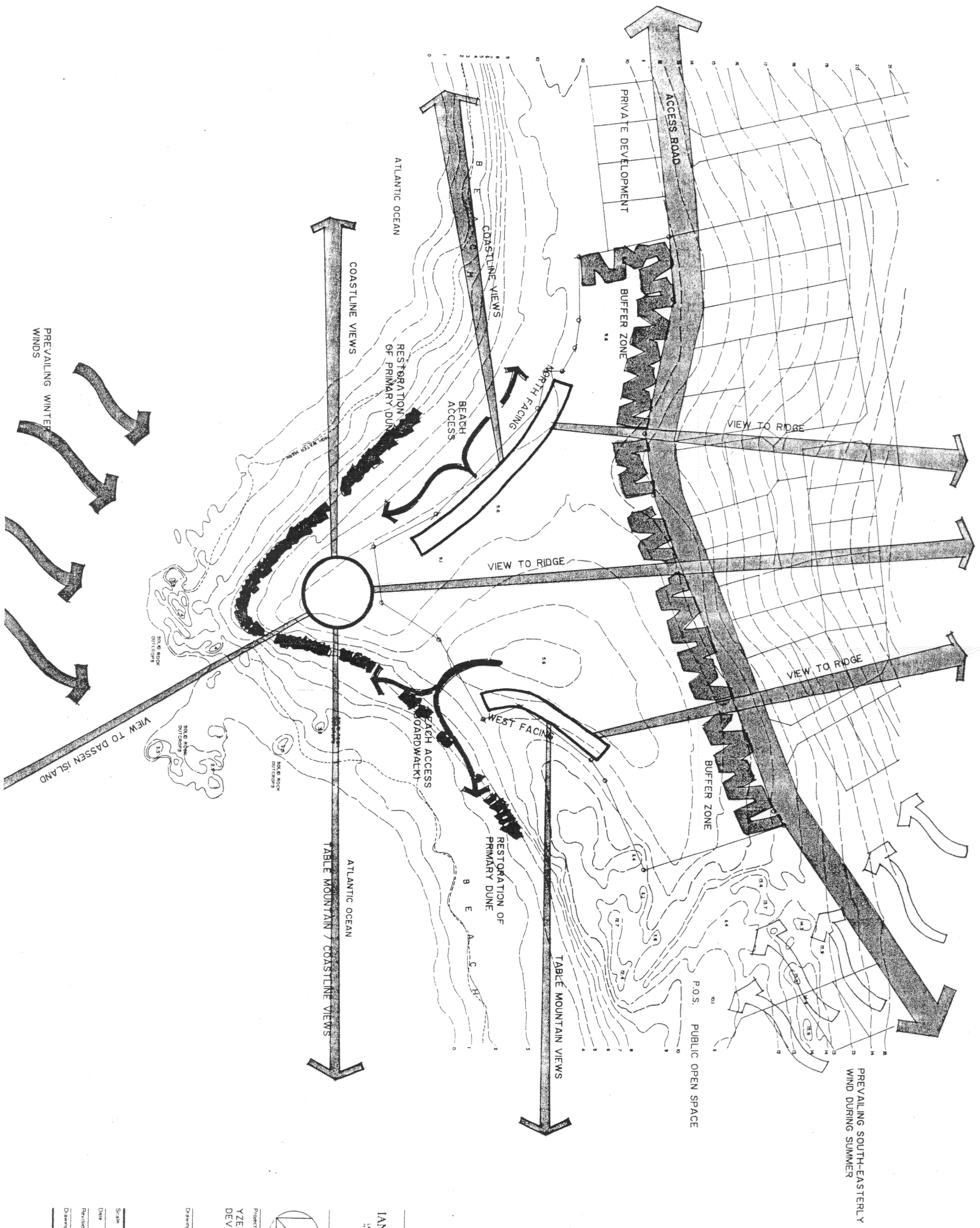
Figure 2. Archaeological study, Erf 1626, Bakoord, Ysterfontein: conceptual drawing and location of archaeological sites

IAN FORD & ASSOCIATES  
 ARCHITECTS  
 1000  
 SCHEMATA 5/1  
 30/05/00 E2  
 SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
 YSTERFONTEIN PROJECT  
 DEVELOPMENT



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TOTAL AREA OF SITE = 174



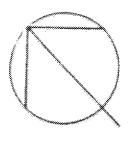
PREVAILING WINTER WINDS

PREVAILING SOUTH-EASTERLY WIND DURING SUMMER

Scale	1 : 1000
Date	DECEMBER 98
Revision	
Drawing number	

Drawing description

Project: YZERFONTEIN PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



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