

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
ERVEN 3132, 633 & 2003
MELKBOSSTRAND**

Prepared for

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By

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Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erven 3132, 633 and 2003 Melkbosstrand has identified no significant archaeological impacts that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

Buried/hidden shell middens and human burials may, however, be exposed or uncovered during vegetation clearing operations, bulk earthworks and excavations.

The following recommendations are made:

- Vegetation clearing operations, bulk earthworks and excavations must be monitored and inspected by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these should immediately be reported the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erven 3132, 633 and 2003 Melkbosstrand, in the Western Cape Province

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the property is for the purpose of a single residential housing development.

The property is currently zoned Rural.

The extent of the proposed development (about 215 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South Africa Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the AIA is to locate and map archaeological-heritage remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to rate the significance of the potential impact, and if necessary to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

The specialist Phase 1 AIA forms part of an Environmental Constraints Study for the proposed project.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the specialist study were:

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

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The large, vacant site is located in Duinefontein, north of Melkbosstrand on the Cape West coast. The relatively flat, undulating site is located alongside Otto du Plessis Drive, north of the Ou Skip Caravan Park and immediately west of the R27 (West Coast Road).

The bulk of the affected site is infested with alien vegetation, with natural Fynbos vegetation confined to several elevated sand dunes in the western and north western portion of the property (Figures 3-6). Very few open spaces occur. There are a number of informal tracks and footpaths that cut across the site, used mainly by woodcutters. Some dumping occurs on the property.

There are no buildings or other structures on the property.

4. STUDY APPROACH

The approach used in the study entailed a detailed foot survey of the affected Erven.

The assessment took place over 2 days on 19th and 20th of July 2005.

More visible archaeological occurrences were recorded and given a co-ordinate using a Garmin Gecko 201 GPS set on map datum WGS 84.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

5. OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF THE STUDY AREA

Archaeological heritage remains are well documented in the coastal zone of the study area (Kaplan 1993). A large number of Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) sites have been described (Rudner 1968; Kaplan 1997, 1998a,b,c, 1999, 2002a), some of which have been examined in more detail (Deacon & Goosen 1997; Kaplan 1998d,e, 2000a, 2004; Sealy *et al* 2004).

There are numerous historical accounts (both written as well as visual) 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).

Recent research has also identified several possible Khoi herder sites in the Table Bay area (Kaplan 2004; Sealy *et al* 2004).

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



Figure 1. Locality Map (3138 BB Melkbosstrand).



Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the site with contours.



Figure 3. View of the study site facing south. Otto du Plessis Drive is to the right of the plate.



Figure 4. View of the study site facing south. Otto du Plessis Drive is to the right of the plate.



Figure 5. View of the study site facing south east.



Figure 6. View of the study site facing south taken from the trig beacon. Blouberg Hill is the background of the plate.

At least 17 Khoisan burial sites have also been found or uncovered from the coastal dunes and sands between Milnerton and Melkbosstrand (Abrahams 1988; Deacon & Goosen 1997; Kaplan 1998a, Kaplan 2000, Kaplan 2002a; Yates 2001). The majority of these burials were exposed as a result of bulk excavations, earthworks and trenching for development. 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 National Road and R27 (West Coast Road).

In more recent years, archaeological sites have been documented in the interior of the study area. 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 2000b). Middle Stone Age² (MSA) artefacts were also found during a study of Blaauwberg City Phase 2 residential development (Kaplan 2000c). The well-known MSA site of Duinefontein is located north of the Koeberg Power Station (Deacon 1976)

Stone tools, pottery and fragments of ostrich eggshell have been located on the farms Blaauwberg (Joyces Dairy), Groot Oliphantskop, Vaatjie, and Brakkuil west of the N7 (Kaplan 1996, 2000d). Sites have also been located alongside the Sout River (Kaplan 2000d).

Bored stones and even more ancient Early Stone Age³ (ESA) tools have been collected from ploughed fields on the farms Vaatjie, Witdam and Brakkuil (Kaplan 2000d).

Rare Stone Age quarry sites have also been documented on the farms Groot Oliphantskop (Kaplan 1996) and Vissershok (Kaplan 2002b).

6. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISKS

The following project actions may potentially impact negatively on archaeological sites.

The actions are most likely to occur during the Construction Phase of the proposed project.

- Vegetation clearing operations, bulk earthworks and excavations for services may expose or uncover buried/hidden archaeological sites, and human burials.

7. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

A large portion of the study site is infested with alien vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

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

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

8. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

8.1.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by Heritage Western Cape (HWC), the responsible provincial resources authority.

8.1.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

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

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

No person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), 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.

9. FINDINGS

Other than a few fragments of shellfish (genus Patella), one weathered whole Patella cochlear shell, two silcrete flakes, one quartzite flake, and one small piece of weathered ostrich eggshell, no coherent archaeological sites were located during the baseline study of the affected site. The archaeological remains are confined to an elevated, vegetated sand dune in the northwestern portion of the site (Erf 3132), immediately southwest of the trig beacon.

A GPS reading for the site is S° 33 41 92.5 E 18° 26 80.9.

The archaeological finds have been graded low local significance and no mitigation is required.

10. IMPACT IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

The impact of the proposed subdivision and development of Erven 3132, 633 and 2003 Melkbosstrand on archaeological heritage remains is rated to be low.

Buried/hidden archaeological sites such as shell middens and human burials may, however, be uncovered or exposed during vegetation clearing operations, bulk earthworks and excavations.

11. MITIGATION MEASURES

The following essential mitigation measures are recommended:

- Vegetation clearing operations, bulk earthworks and excavations must be monitored and inspected by a professional archaeologist.
- If a human burial is encountered by accident during construction, the remains must be left as undisturbed as possible. The local police must be informed as well as the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Mrs. Mary Leslie 021 4624502).

If the burial is deemed to be over 60 years old and no foul play is suspected, an emergency exhumation permit may be issued by SAHRA for an archaeologist to exhume the remains under such provisions as SAHRA deems appropriate.

12. SITE SUITABILITY

The assessment has shown that no significant archaeological heritage remains were located during the baseline survey of Erven 3132, 633 and 2003.

Mitigation measures, as outlined above, will minimise the possible impacts that might occur during the Construction Phase of the proposed project.

The study has shown that the proposed site is suitable for development.

13. CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erven 3132, 663 and 2003 Melkbosstrand has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low provided that:

- Vegetation clearing operations, bulk earthworks and excavations are monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- Human burials uncovered during bulk earthworks not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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