

9/2/072/0023

**A HERITAGE SCOPING STUDY OF ERWEN 58, 64, 65, 66,  
67 & 596, ELANDS BAY**

Prepared for

**BKS (Pty) Ltd**

March 2005



Prepared by

**D.J. Halkett**

**Archaeology Contracts Office**  
Department of Archaeology  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag  
Rondebosch  
7701

Phone (021) 650 2357

Fax (021) 650 2352

Email [DJH@age.uct.ac.za](mailto:DJH@age.uct.ac.za)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. INTRODUCTION.....  | 3  |
| 2. METHOD .....   | 3  |
| 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT .....                               | 3  |
| 3.1 Baboon Point (west) .....   | 3  |
| 3.2 Baboon Point (north) .....  | 3  |
| 3.3 The "Island" .....  | 5  |
| 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA..... | 5  |
| 4.1 ERF 64.....   | 5  |
| 4.1.1 LABOUR COMPOUND.....  | 5  |
| 4.1.2 WORLD WAR 2 RADAR STATION .....   | 7  |
| 4.1.3 ELANDS BAY CAVE (EB1) .....   | 7  |
| 4.2 ERF 65 .....  | 10 |
| 4.2.1 LABOUR COMPOUND .....   | 10 |
| 4.2.2 ELANDS BAY OPEN (EB12).....   | 10 |
| 4.3 ERF 66 .....  | 11 |
| 4.3.1 BORROW PIT.....   | 11 |
| 4.3.1.1 Borrow Pit Midden (BPM).....  | 11 |
| 4.3.1.2 Borrow Pit MSA (EB17).....  | 11 |
| 4.3.2 MEGA MIDDEN (EB15).....   | 11 |
| 4.3.3 ESA AND MSA ON SUMMIT.....  | 12 |
| 4.4 ERF 67 .....  | 12 |
| 4.4.1 HALSTONE MIDDEN (DM21) .....  | 12 |
| 4.4.2 MINOR SITES (DM7 AND DM20) .....  | 12 |
| 4.5 ERF 596.....  | 14 |
| 4.6 ERF 58 .....  | 14 |
| 5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS .....   | 14 |
| 6. REFERENCES.....  | 14 |

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Archaeology Contracts Office was appointed by BKS<sup>1</sup> to provide information to inform the initial planning processes on erven 58, 64, 65, 66, 67 & 596 at Elands Bay where it is intended to build a number of residential units (Figures 1, 2). This study is therefore at a scoping level rather than a full impact assessment. The properties and proposed developments in question are all located on, and around Baboon Point, or Cape Deseada as it is also known, while erf 58 lies on its own on a piece of land near the mouth of the Verloren Vlei. Future applications will involve rezoning and subdivision. In the case of erf 58, subdivision for 18 single residential units, and at the other erven at Baboon Point, rezoning and subdivision for a combination of low, medium and higher density development.

## **2. METHOD**

Elands Bay has for many years been a focus of archaeological study resulting in the identification of numerous archaeological sites in the landscape, including a number of sites within the boundaries of the above properties. The site locations and recording sheets form part of the collections of The Spatial Archaeology Research Unit (SARU) at the University of Cape Town and were consulted as the basis for this report. Since most of these sites were located and recorded prior to the advent of GPS technology, site locations are recorded on the database by way of dots on 1:50 000 topographical maps. In order to more accurately plot and describe the present condition of the more significant sites, a brief one day visit was made to the affected properties on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005. GPS fixes were made with a Garmin 3+ using the WGS84 datum. As the positions of sites were known and the fact that the area has been well searched in the past, no new site survey was undertaken at this time.

## **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT**

### **3.1 Baboon Point (west)**

The topography consists of a rocky vertical cliff line in the east and steep rocky scree slopes leading down to a relatively flat coastal plain and rocky shoreline. Sandy beach is encountered a little distance to the south. The area to the west of the cliff line at Baboon Point is at present relatively undeveloped other than the Second World War structures and the Labour Compound. Both of these facilities resulted in impacts to both the natural and archaeological environments as both involved "cut and fill" preparation of the sites prior to construction. In addition a borrow pit was created during the removal of material for the construction of the radar station road. At present the area around the compound is degraded and several of the buildings have been demolished with no removal of the rubble. One of the buildings is still being used for accommodation. Other features are the road to South Point and the railway, and the various crayfish factory buildings which line the northern shore of the point.

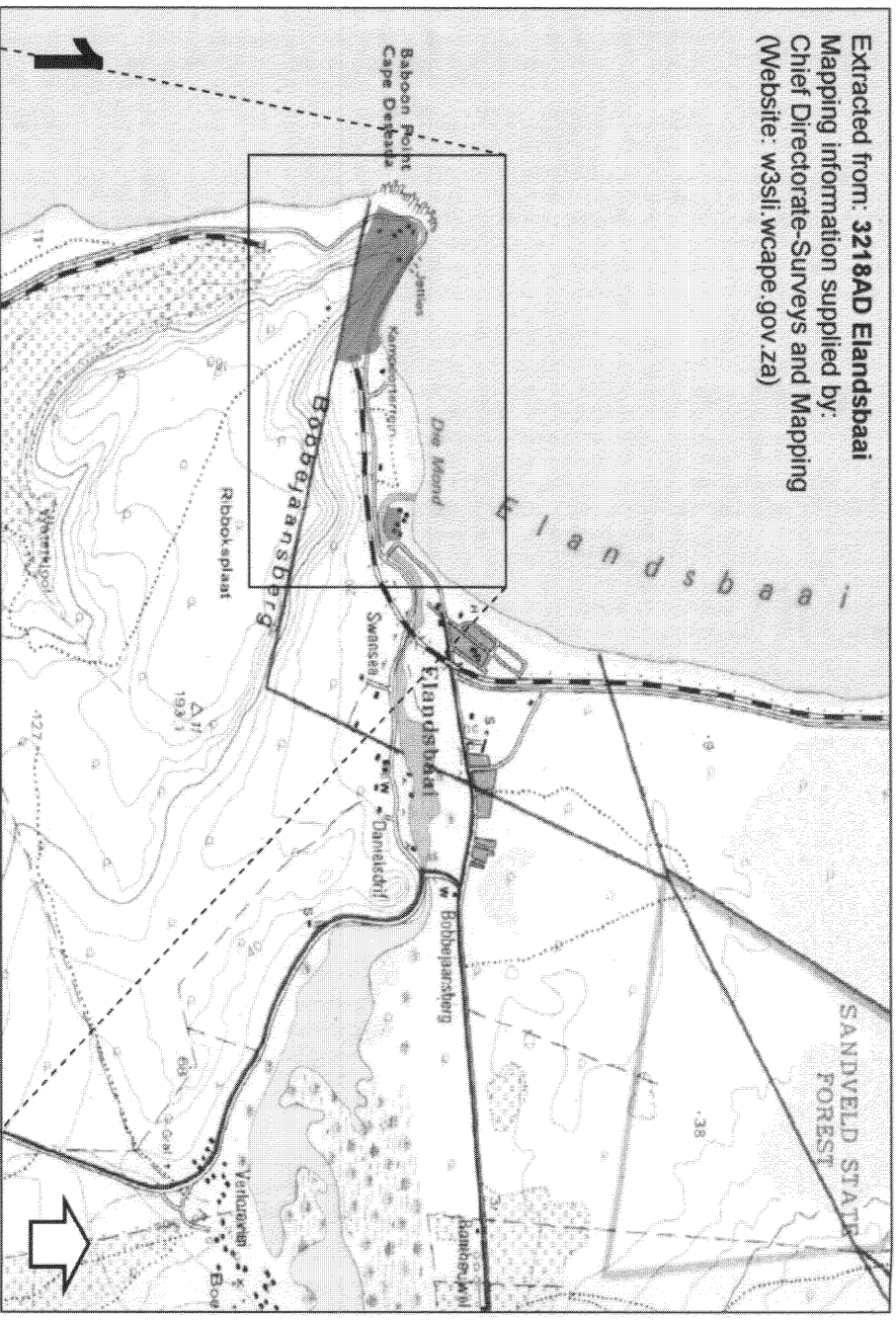
### **3.2 Baboon Point (north)**

The topography consists of steep lower slopes leading up to vertical rocky cliffs. The nearby sandy beach has led to the formation of a dune below the cliff line. The major feature of this area is the crayfish factories and road. The area is otherwise relatively undeveloped apart

---

<sup>1</sup> BKS (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 112, Bellville, 7535. Ph 021-950 7500 Fax 021-950 7502 Att: Mr. P. Hugo

Extracted from: **3218AD Elandsbaai**  
Mapping information supplied by:  
Chief Directorate-Surveys and Mapping  
(Website: [w3.sil.wcape.gov.za](http://w3.sil.wcape.gov.za))



Cadastral information and figure supplied by BKS (Pty) Ltd

from the Sea Fisheries building and some residential development to the west of the vlei mouth.

### 3.3 The "Island"

This piece of land lies immediately to the east of the vlei mouth where it enters the sea, and is essentially surrounded by the vlei where it curves inland to the south and west. To the north is the beach and on the east is an informal parking area used by surfers and others visiting the beach. The topography is relatively flat with some recent dune formation. A number of structures were present here in the past and some degradation occurred as a result of these developments. No standing buildings survive here today. Rubble resulting from the demolition of an old shed/cold storage facility is still piled on the site. Residential development exists towards the east on the opposite side of the vlei.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA

The archaeological sites described here were located during academic research programs undertaken by the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town. The Labour Compound and the radar station fell outside the range of those programs and so have never been fully investigated. We have concentrated on the sites which we believe may/will have implications for the location of new development and the positions are indicated on Figure 3. Heritage resources are as defined in section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (NHRA). Very basically, the NHRA covers all archaeological sites and material over 100 years old, and buildings/structures over 60 years old. Certain sites, although they may not be formally protected by the above aspects of the NHRA, may have local community significance. Issues or places such as these will be identified during the public participation process required by the EIA. Our assessments of the significance and to some extent the restrictions and mitigation of the Labour Compound and Radar Station are preliminary and need to be informed by additional studies and the EIA in some instances

### 4.1 ERF 64

#### 4.1.1 LABOUR COMPOUND

(Location on the southern end S 32°19'03.4" E 18°19'01.3")

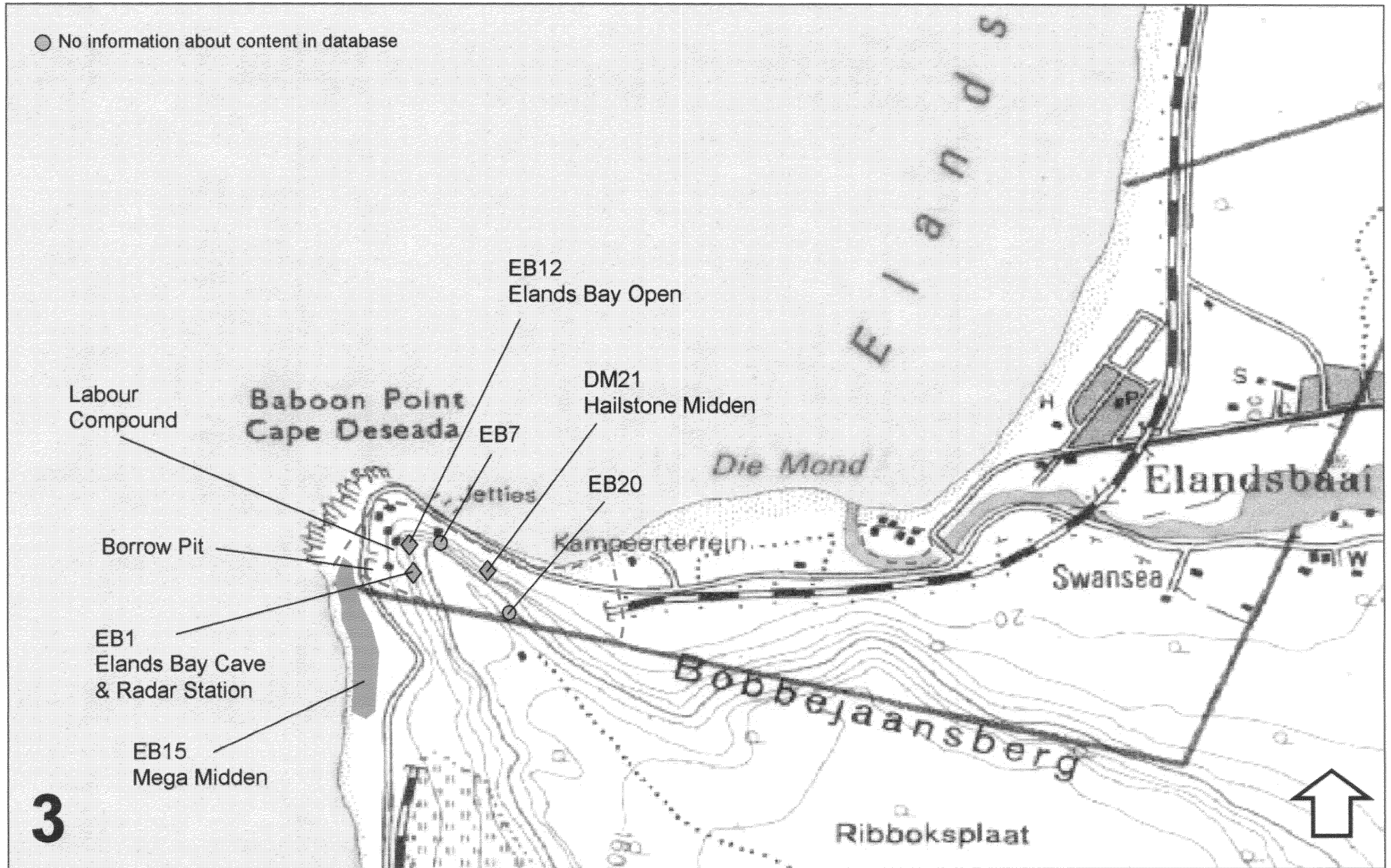
This is understood to have been erected in the 1960's to house migrant labourers who worked in the local fishing industry. Although originally consisting of a number of structures of various uses, only two remain today. The one is a long building containing a number of residential quarters. The other building is also residential and is still in use today. Further investigation needs to be undertaken to establish if the second building was originally a barrack for the Radar Station personnel. The bases of a number of the demolished structures can still be seen and seem to consist of toilet blocks. It is not clear if the compound extended across parts of both erf 65 and erf 64.

**Significance:** May have local community significance

**Restrictions:** Buildings are probably less than 60 years old but this needs to be verified. One of the buildings used by the compound may have been part of the WW2 radar station and may be older than 60 years.



○ No information about content in database



**Mitigation:** The remaining structures of the compound could probably be demolished if it is shown that they are less than 60 years old. They should probably be photographed and positions established on a plan before demolition

#### **4.1.2 WORLD WAR 2 RADAR STATION**

S 32°19'02.5 E 18°19'05.1

Erected during World War 2 as part of the coastal defence network, this was one of a few secret installations using technology developed in South Africa to provide early warning of the approach of enemy ships and aircraft. What remains today are the operations room and radar platform, 2 toilets, a building that housed a generator, a road and possibly a barrack (now part of the labour compound). Old cement fence posts and barbed wire still mark the perimeter in places. The borrow pit (described below) was provided material for the road.

**Significance:** One of the few remaining examples of these installations and probably the only one of this type left on the west coast. This has considerable significance from a military history perspective. The site will have local and national significance (and possibly international?).

**Restrictions:** It is believed that the buildings and possibly the military precinct as a whole is protected under the NHRRA of 1999. It is unlikely that demolition will be permitted. New development may not be permitted in the immediate vicinity or that would impede historical views of the coastline.

**Mitigation:** If demolition is not permitted, some form of adaptive re-use may be considered. The buildings would function excellently as a site museum. A management plan for the resource would be required.

#### **4.1.3 ELANDS BAY CAVE (EB1)**

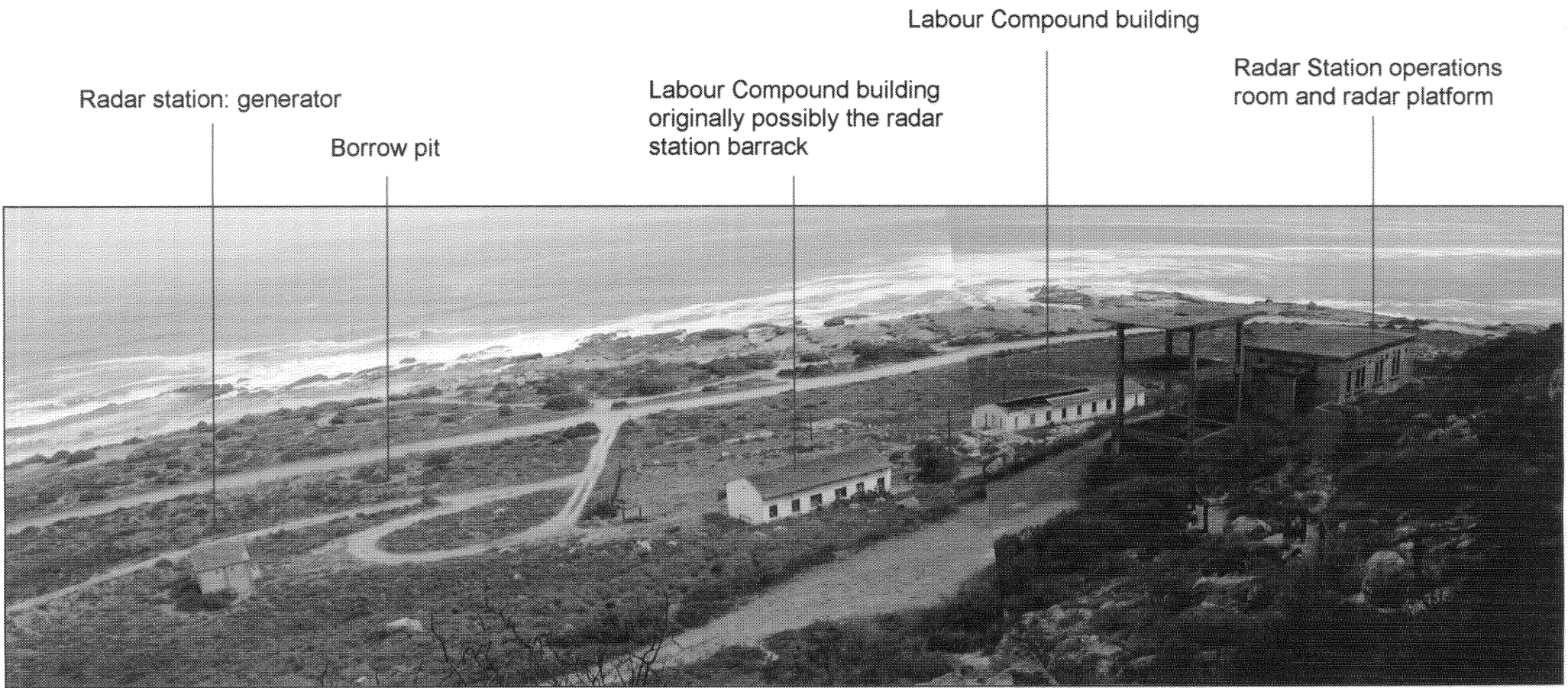
S 32°19'04.4"E 18°19'05.2"E

Elands Bay Cave is one of a small number of large coastal caves which provide evidence for a long period of human occupation that extends back some 60,000 years. The deep, stratified archaeological deposits are thus of great importance for future research into the exploitation of marine resources by the earliest occupants of the coastline. In addition, the cave contains a substantial number of rock paintings.

**Significance:** The cave and its archaeological deposits are of local, national and international, significance.

**Restrictions:** It is unlikely that development would be permitted in the immediate vicinity of the cave, or that impeded the view of the coast from the cave.

**Mitigation:** Any development in the vicinity would increase the likelihood of damage to the cave and deposits. A management plan would be required to offset potential impacts.



**Plate 1:** View of the area in front of Elands Bay Cave



Elands Bay Cave



**Plate 2:** View of the Radar station and Elands Bay Cave

## 4.2 ERF 65

### 4.2.1 LABOUR COMPOUND

See point 4.1.1

### 4.2.2 ELANDS BAY OPEN (EB12)

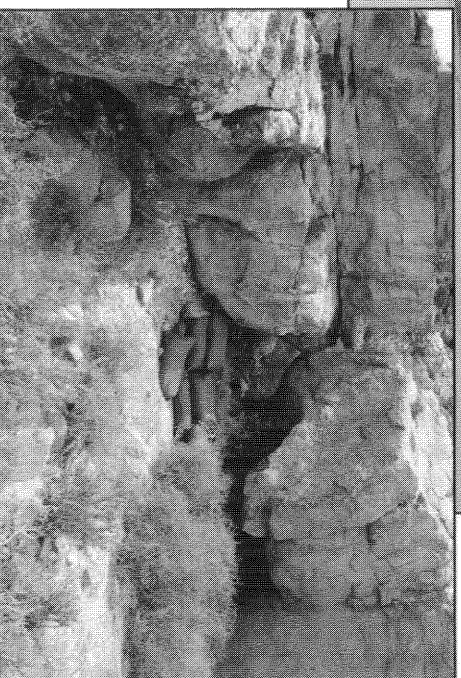
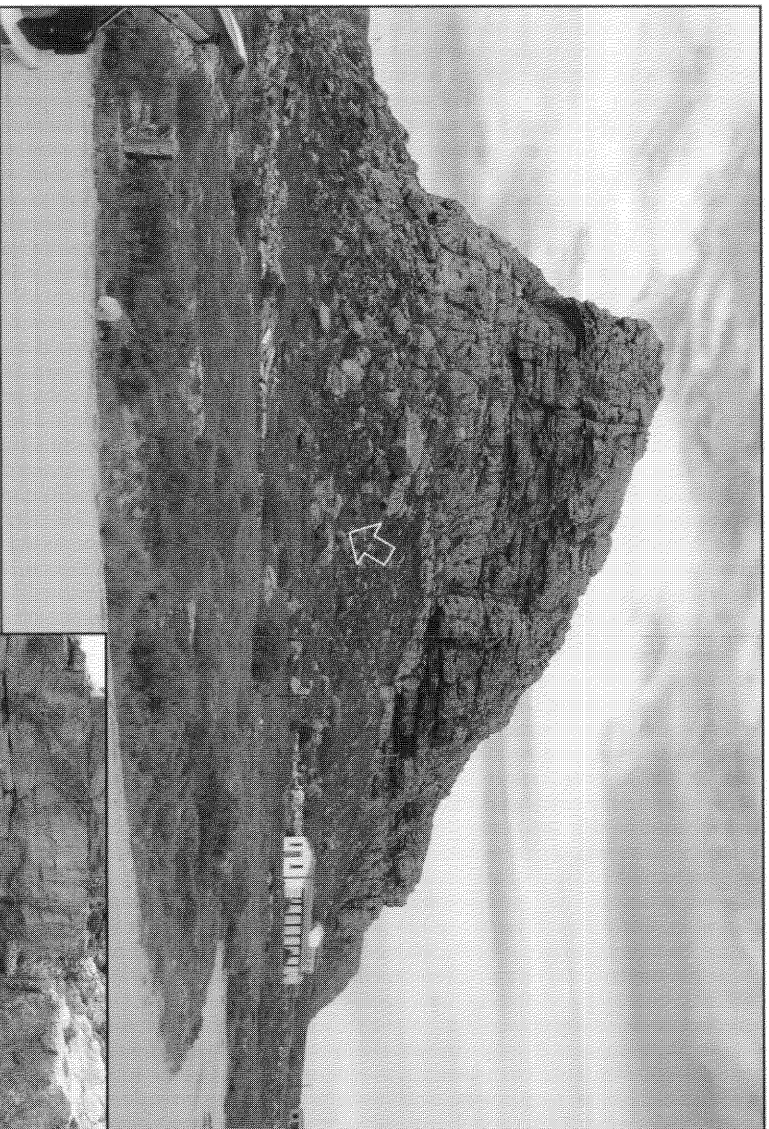
S 32°18'59.7" E 18°19'01.9"

This is an archaeological site that built up as the result of human use of the space defined by a number of prominent boulders. A stratified archaeological deposit (shell midden) in a small overhang formed by two of the boulders has been partially excavated (Horwitz 1979).

**Significance:** The site has local and national significance.

**Restrictions:** Development will not be permitted on this site or in the immediate vicinity without considerable mitigation.

**Mitigation:** If not mitigated through major excavation and/or collection of archaeological material, the site would have to be demarcated and remaining deposits protected. A management plan for the site would be required.



**Plates 3 & 4:** Elands Bay Open – location on the slope and a detail of the remaining archaeological deposit protected by sand bags

#### 4.3 ERF 66

##### 4.3.1 BORROW PIT

The following GPS co-ordinates mark the approximate outline of the borrow pit:

S 32°19'03.9" E 18°18'57.9"  
S 32°19'04.1" E 18°18'58.7"  
S 32°19'04.8" E 18°18'59.4"  
S 32°19'05.5" E 18°18'59.2"  
S 32°19'05.5" E 18°18'58.4"  
S 32°19'04.7" E 18°18'57.9"

The pit was excavated to provide material for the building of the radar station road. In the process, buried archaeological material was exposed in some areas.

**Significance:** We do not believe that the borrow pit itself has any significance.

##### 4.3.1.1 Borrow Pit Midden (BPM)

S 32°19'04.1" E 18°18'57.9"

A shell midden, rich in bird bone is present in the western section of the pit extending below the public road. This has been partially excavated.

**Significance:** The site has local and national significance.

**Restrictions:** The site could be easily mitigated and would not impose any restriction on development.

**Mitigation:** Could be mitigated by excavation and collection of archaeological material.

##### 4.3.1.2 Borrow Pit MSA (EB17)

Stone artefactual material and small amounts of fossil bone, and marine shell have been noted in the northern section of the borrow pit, and eroding from the radar road embankment. There is also a considerable amount of ostrich eggshell. This phenomenon has not been fully explored although a test pit was excavated here in the mid 1990's. (Parkington et al 2004).

**Significance:** The site has local, national and international significance.

**Restrictions:** No development would be permitted at this location until a program of test excavations had determined the extent of the MSA deposits.

**Mitigation:** If deposits were localised, the site could be mitigated.

##### 4.3.2 MEGA MIDDEN (EB15)

The northern edge of this feature extends approximately to a point opposite to the entry to the radar station road. It is located on the western side of the road. Mega middens are shell mounds that built up very quickly between 2000 and 3000 BP. As the name suggests they contain huge amounts of shellfish remains although artefactual material tends to be less common. Another midden of this type can be found further down the coast at South Point.

**Significance:** These sites have local and national significance.

**Restrictions:** It would seem that only a small part of this midden falls within the proposed development area and would probably pose no major impediments to development.

**Mitigation:** A program of test holes would need to be excavated to determine the extent of the archaeological deposits. If deposits existed in the development zone these could probably be mitigated through excavation and collection.

#### 4.3.3 ESA AND MSA ON SUMMIT

No sites are identified on the summit in the database. However, reports have been made of Early and Middle Stone Age material near the top the western cliff.

**Significance:** These have relatively low significance if they are in secondary context.

**Restrictions:** These should not cause any restriction to development.

**Mitigation:** These would be described and collected if necessary.

#### 4.4 ERF 67

##### 4.4.1 HAILSTONE MIDDEN (DM21)

The following GPS co-ordinates mark the approximate outline of hailstone midden:

S 32°19'06.3" E 18°19'17.8"  
S 32°19'06.7" E 18°19'17.6"  
S 32°19'07.2" E 18°19'18.5"  
S 32°19'06.6" E 18°19'18.0"

This archaeological site consists of a shell midden that lies atop a dune that has built up against the northern side of Baboon Point. The site has been partially excavated (Noli 1986) and results indicate that the site accumulated around 900BP. A large number of sherds of indigenous ceramics are found on the surface here. Views of the site are shown in Plates 5 and 6

**Significance:** The site has local and national significance.

**Restrictions:** Provided the site was fully mitigated, there should be no restriction to development.

**Mitigation:** the site is quite extensive but could be mitigated by way of collection and excavation of archaeological deposits.

##### 4.4.2 MINOR SITES (DM7 AND DM20)

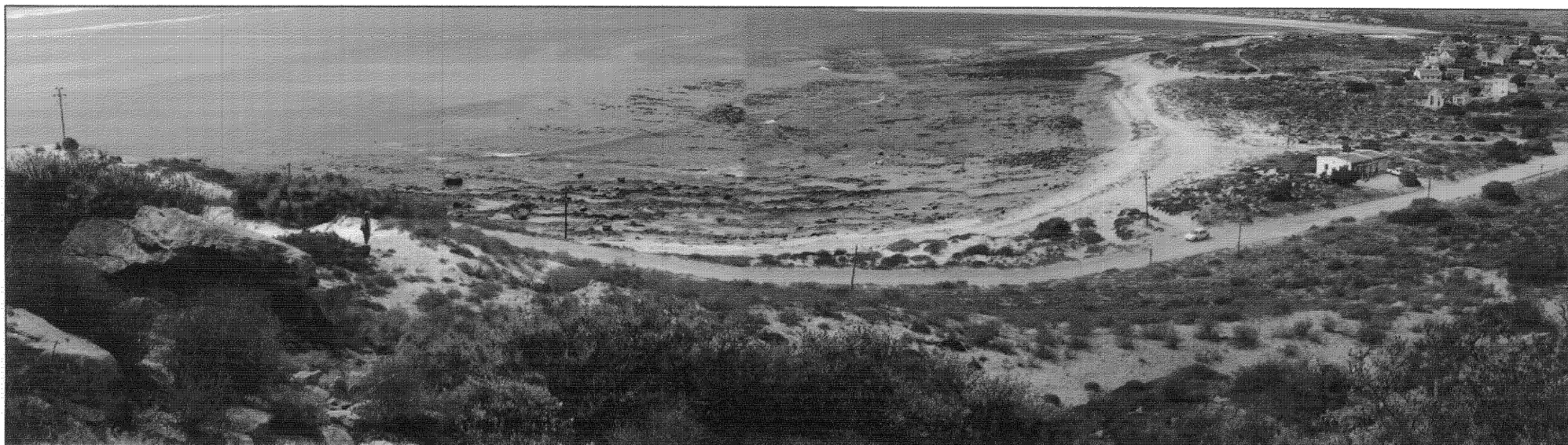
We have determined locations from the database but could not find any descriptions of the site content. These sites seem to be in the cliff line and as such would probably not be impacted directly by development. These are probably small rock painting sites.

**Significance:** Unknown at this time

**Restrictions:** Unknown at this time but probably no restriction to development.

**Mitigation:** Management plans would be required to offset the indirect impacts of development in the vicinity.





**Plate 5:** Hailstone Midden. The main site is situated in the photo above where the human figure is standing.

**Plate 6:** The position of the midden in relation to the railway tunnel and the point is shown.





#### **4.5 ERF 596**

No archaeological sites are known to occur here. Views of the area are shown in Plates 7 and 8.

#### **4.6 ERF 58**

No archaeological sites are known to occur here.

### **5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

The heritage resources presented in this report are believed to be a fairly comprehensive list of what is present in the potential development area. There may still be some minor sites which have not been entered into the database for various reasons, but it is believed that these would not be of such a nature that they would seriously affect the placement of development. If development continues in further stages of planning, the area would need to be subjected to a full Heritage Impact Assessment.

The greatest concentration of archaeological material in terms of the proposed development is located in and around Elands Bay Cave. Any development in this area will have to take cognisance of the natural and man-made environments. We believe that any development that will impede views of and from the radar station and the cave will meet resistance from the heritage authorities. Issues with relation to the old Labour Compound may surface during the public participation process.

Pre-colonial human remains have been located in the general Elands Bay area and are often found where there are concentrations of archaeological material. It is not possible to predict the locations as these types of graves were often unmarked.

### **6. REFERENCES**

- Buchanan, W.F. 1985. Sea shells ashore: A study of the role of shellfish in prehistoric diet and lifestyle at Eland's Bay, South Africa. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of Cape Town.
- Horwitz, L. 1979. From materialism to middens: a case study at Eland's Bay, western Cape, South Africa. Unpublished B.A. Hons project, University of Cape Town.
- Noli, D. 1986. The excavations at Hailstone Midden (HSM), Eland's Bay, Western Cape Province, with observations on the determination of diet. Unpublished B.A. Hons project, University of Cape Town.
- Parkington, J.E. 1981. The effects of environmental change on the scheduling of visits to the Eland's Bay Cave, Cape Province. In: Hodder, I. Isaac, G. and Hammond, N. (eds) *Patterns of the Past: Studies in Honour of David Clarke*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Parkington, J.E., Poggenpoel, C., Halkett, D. and Hart, T. 2004. Initial observations on the Middle Stone Age coastal settlement in the western Cape, South Africa. In: Conard, Nicholas J. (ed) *Settlement Dynamics of the Middle Palaeolithic And Middle Stone Age*. Vol 2. Kerns Verlag: Tübingen.



**Plate 7:** The "Island" shown surrounded by the Verloren Vlei (dry).

**Plate 8:** The remains of a demolished building on the Island

