

# **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF ERF 276, DWARSKERSBOS.**

Prepared for

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**Prepared by**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Erf 276 has been rezoned to sub-divisional area for township development. The National Monuments Council (NMC) requested that an archaeological inspection be conducted prior to allowing development.

## **2. METHOD**

A site visit was undertaken and the area searched on foot. Steel pegs marking the boundaries of the property are present on site making it easy to establish what features fall within the scope of the investigation. Vegetation on the site is moderate making for good surface visibility. Features of interest were identified on a 1:10 000 orthophoto extracts of which are presented below. The area of the investigation is shown on Figure 1.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Pre-colonial sites**

No trace of any pre-colonial occupation was observed. Given that no rocky shoreline exists close to this area, this could have been anticipated (no rocky shoreline would have meant the absence of a major food source in the form of shellfish to the early occupants of the area).

Scattered shell which is to be found over most of the site is there as a result of fluctuating sea levels in the past and has nothing to do with human use of the area.

### **3.2 Buildings**

#### **3.2.1 Existing buildings**

Several buildings are present on the south western portion of the site and are highlighted in Figure 1. The style indicates that originally these would have been thatched and probably formed part of an original fishing community. While some of the buildings have been modernised, many of the original features have been retained. Plates 1- 8 show these houses and their positions can be cross referenced to Figure 1.

Some buildings of the cluster have been demolished in the past. One house has recently been demolished and one (#3) has had its window and door frames removed possibly prior to demolition.

Most of the houses are occupied in some form, either as holiday cottages or permanently, and have been generally well maintained. It is not clear what the future of these buildings is, but it is likely that they fall within the 50 year clause of the National Monuments Act of 1969 (as amended). As such a permit must be obtained from the NMC before they can be demolished.

### **3.2.2 Older structures**

The ruin of an older building was located on top of the low ridge on the south eastern side of the property. A single bluegum tree marks the spot. The materials used for construction here are limestone blocks as opposed to the shell and cement blocks of the other structures seeming to indicate some time difference.

While the presence of this feature is noted it is not believed to be of suitable significance to warrant any further action.

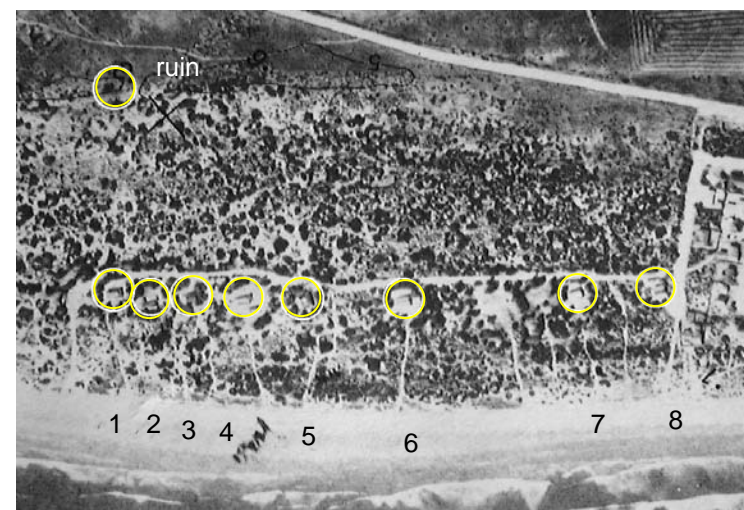
## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i. Existing houses on the property are likely to be protected by the National Monuments Act of 1969 (as amended). If the intention is to demolish buildings (1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8), permission must be obtained from the NMC.
- ii. The presence of the houses suggests that an active community existed here in the past. No surface traces of graves were observed but these may be encountered during earthmoving activities. If human remains are located they should be left undisturbed until they can be removed for reburial. Such finds should immediately be reported to the NMC. Contractors must be made aware of this possibility and must know what to do in the event of such finds being made.

## **4. PROFESSIONAL TEAM**

Fieldwork and report

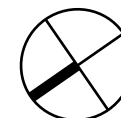
Dave Halkett



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Area of investigation – Erf 276 Dwarskersbos

Orthophoto 3218 CA 20 1993 second edition





1  
Occupied. Much original detail



2  
Vacant. Some original detail



3  
Vacant. Some original detail but frames removed.



4  
Occupied. Much original detail.



5  
Occupied. Modernised. Some original fabric may remain.



6  
Occupied. Modernised. Some original fabric remains.



7  
Occupied. Much original detail



8  
Occupied. Much original detail