

**A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR THE EXEMPTION
OF A FULL PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE IMPACT
ASSESSMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON ERVEN 18
AND 20 PARSONS VLEI, PORT ELIZABETH, NELSON MANDELA BAY
MUNICIPALITY, DISTRICT OF PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for: Doug Jeffrey Environmental Consultants

Contact person: Louise-Mari van Zyl

P.O. Box 44

Klapmuts 7625

Tel 021-875-5272

Fax 021-875-5515

email: louise-mari@dougjeff.co.za

Compiled by: Dr Johan Binneman

Department of Archaeology

Albany museum

Somerset Street

Grahamstown, 6139

Tel.: 046 6222312

Fax: 046 6222398

Email: J.Binneman@ru.ac.za

Historical information prepared by:

Jenny Bennie

Box 13147

Humewood

6013

Tel 041-584-0650

Cell 082-783-6418

Date: April 2008

A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR THE EXEMPTION OF A FULL PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON ERVEN 18 AND 20 PARSONS VLEI, PORT ELIZABETH, NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY, DISTRICT OF PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

PROJECT INFORMATION

The type of development

The proposed development will include sixty group housing units on erven 18 and 20 Parsons Vlei.

The Developer

Midvale Properties CC

The Consultant

Doug Jeffrey Environmental Consultants
Contact person: Louise-Mari van Zyl
P.O. Box 44
Klapmuts 7625
Tel 021-875-5272
Fax 021-875-5515
email: louise-mari@dougjeff.co.za

Terms of reference

The original proposal was to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological and Historical Heritage Impact Assessments for the proposed residential development on erven 18 and 20 Parsons Vlei, Port Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, District of Port Elizabeth; to describe and evaluate the importance of possible archaeological and historical heritage sites; the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Map: 1:50 000 3325CD & 3425AB Uitenhage

Location data

Erven 18 and 20 Parsonsvlei is situated next to Cape Road in the Rowellan Park area, Port Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. Erf No. 18 Parsons Vlei is currently zoned for Industrial 2 and Transport 1 and occupies 0,8769 ha. Erf No. 20 Parsons Vlei is listed as undetermined zoning and is currently vacant and measures 1.7382 ha (Maps 1-3).

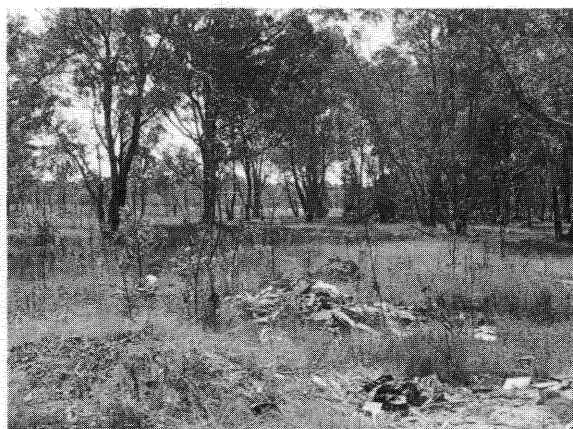
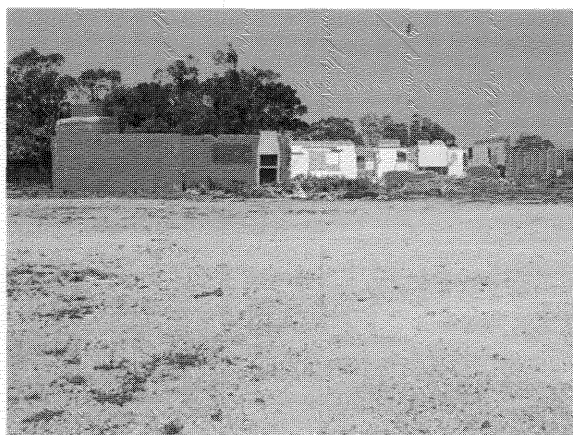
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Methodology

The investigations were conducted on foot. A vibracrete wall runs down the length of one side of the property and the rest appears to be open land. A half demolished restaurant/pub dating from about 2003 and built by the previous owner remains on the property. The building has no historical value

and there would be no merit in restoring or rebuilding it. The rest of the proposed property for development is unoccupied and sixty housing units should not impact on an area that was historically grazing land. This area is the source of the Baakens River. The Glebe lands were always used for grazing of animals and although there is a record of a small wood and iron building on the property in years gone by, this no longer exists (Figs 1-5).

It is obvious that the proposed property for development has been severely disturbed in the recent past and under these circumstances, it would appear unlikely that any other archaeological heritage remains will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value. There are no graves or any buildings or structures older than 60 years. The proposed development may proceed.



Figs 1-4. Different views illustrating the large scale disturbance to the property proposed for residential development.

Conditions

Although it is unlikely that any archaeological or historical heritage remains of any value will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value, there is always a possibility that human remains and/or other archaeological and historical material may be uncovered during the development. If any concentrations of archaeological or historical material are exposed during construction, all work in that area should cease and it should be reported immediately to the nearest museum/archaeologist or to the South African Heritage Resources Agency, so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material (See Appendix A for a list of possible archaeological and historical sites/materials that maybe found in the area).

Letter of recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed property for development, erven 18 and 20 Parsons Vlei, Port Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, District of Port Elizabeth, are exempted from a full Phase 1 Archaeological and Historical Heritage Impact Assessment. The proposed area for development is of low cultural sensitivity and it is believed that it is unlikely that any archaeological or historical heritage remains will be found on the property. The proposed development may proceed as planned.

Note: This letter of recommendation **only** exempt the proposed development from a full Phase 1 Archaeological and Historical Heritage Impact Assessment, but **not** for other heritage impact assessments.

It must also be clear that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 Archaeological and Historical Heritage Impact Assessment will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should give a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 35) requires a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in order that all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance are protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITIONS

It must be emphasised that this letter of recommendation for exemption of a full Phase 1 Archaeological and Historical Heritage Impact Assessment is based on the visibility of archaeological and historical sites/material and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Sites and material may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the unlikely event of such finds being uncovered, (during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed (see attached list of possible archaeological and historical sites and material). The *onus* is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

APPENDIX A: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM COASTAL AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers

1. Shell middens

Shell middens can be defined as an accumulation of marine shell deposited by human agents rather than the result of marine activity. The shells are concentrated in a specific locality above the high-water mark and frequently contain stone tools, pottery, bone and occasionally also human remains. Shell middens may be of various sizes and depths, but an accumulation which exceeds 1 m² in extent, should be reported to an archaeologist.

2. Human Skeletal material

Human remains, whether the complete remains of an individual buried during the past, or scattered human remains resulting from disturbance of the grave, should be reported. In general the remains are buried in a flexed position on their sides, but are also found buried in a sitting position with a flat stone capping and developers are requested to be on the alert for this.

3. Fossil bone

Fossil bones may be found embedded in calcrete deposits at the site. Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

4. Stone artefacts

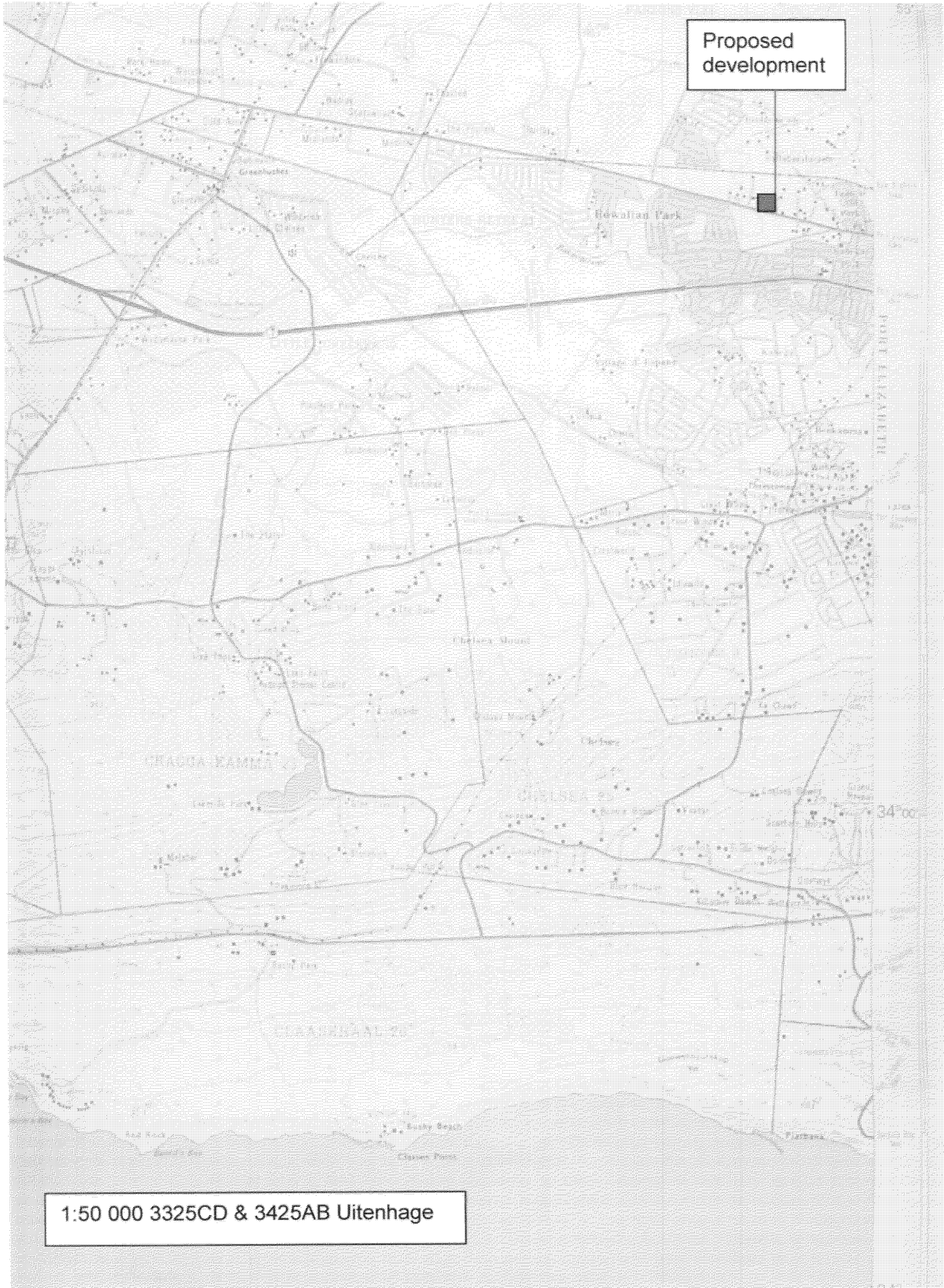
These are difficult for the layman to identify. However, large accumulations of flaked stones which do not appear to have been distributed naturally should be reported. If the stone tools are associated with bone remains, development should be halted immediately and archaeologists notified.

5. Stone features and platforms

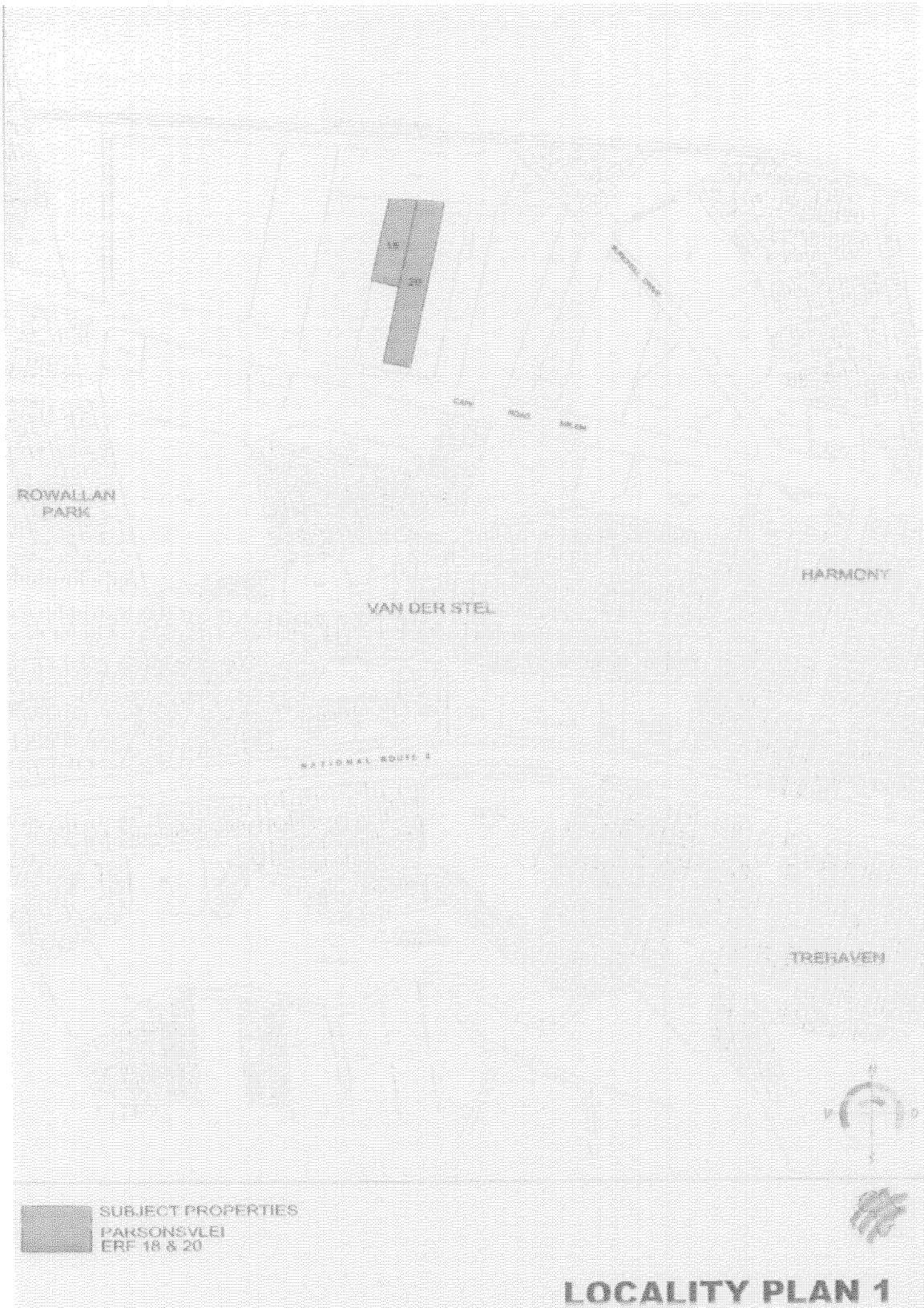
These occur in different forms and sizes, but easily identifiable. The most common are an accumulation of roughly circular fire cracked stones tightly spaced and filled in with charcoal and marine shell. They are usually 1-2 metres in diameter and may represent cooking platforms for shell fish. Others may resemble circular single row cobble stone markers. These occur in different sizes and may be the remains of wind breaks or cooking shelters.

6. Historical artefacts or features

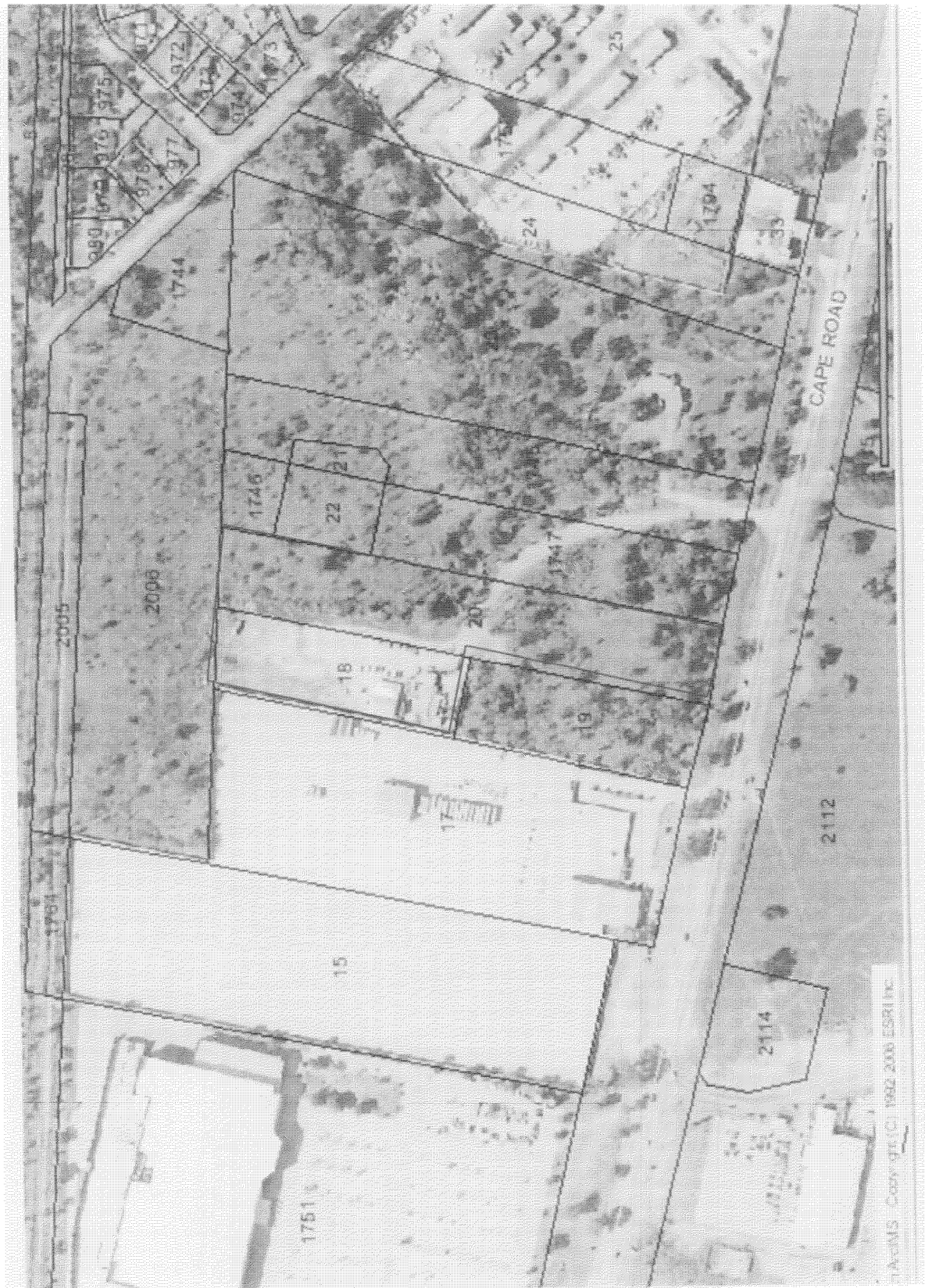
These are easy to identify and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.



Map 1. Location of the proposed development.



Map 2. Locality plan of the proposed development (map courtesy of the developers).



Map 3. Aerial view of the location of the proposed development (map courtesy of the developers).