

AN INITIAL CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OF ERF 7490 AND FISH HOEK STATION, FISH HOEK

Prepared for

COASTEC

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Prepared by

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1. INTRODUCTION

A proposal to develop erf 7490 in Fish Hoek requires rezoning from railway purposes to residential and commercial use. A cultural resource assessment was requested as part of the EIA. As the EIA is still in the initial scoping phase, the information presented in this report is preliminary. The location of the assessed area is shown in Figure 1.

The assessment has not found any trace of pre-colonial material but has identified buildings which are by virtue of their age protected under the 50 year clause of the National Monuments Act of 1969 (as amended).

2. METHOD

The proposed development site was visited and inspected. Having ascertained that some protected buildings would potentially be impacted, a visit was made to the Fish Hoek Museum to examine early photographs of the area to determine the approximate age of buildings and to establish if any other features could be identified.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The locations of the residential and commercial components of the development are shown on Figure 2. Although not shown on the plans supplied by the developer, a number of existing houses exist on the western side of the site. These were presumably erected by the railways to accommodate staff. The remainder of the site consists of vacant land with traces of demolished structures, probably related to the railways are found in various places. The site was almost certainly originally covered by coastal dunes and has been substantially landscaped for the construction of the railway and houses. Surfacing in the form of cinder and other materials has been introduced to stabilise the surface.

The commercial component will be located at Fish Hoek station.

4. RESULTS

No pre-colonial archaeological remains have been identified in the development area. While this material may have existed here in the past, landscaping by the railways in the past would have removed all traces thereof.

A single dwelling at the northern end of erf 7490 was in existence in 1934 and may relate to the early railway development. While the other dwellings on the site appear to date to the 1950's this fact will have to be confirmed by research in the deeds office.

The traces of demolished structures are likely to be related to railway activities and are not considered to be sensitive.

Development of the station will potentially impact the existing ticket office and a small square building immediately to the south. These structures should be considered as sensitive and additional research in the deeds office will need to be conducted to establish their history.

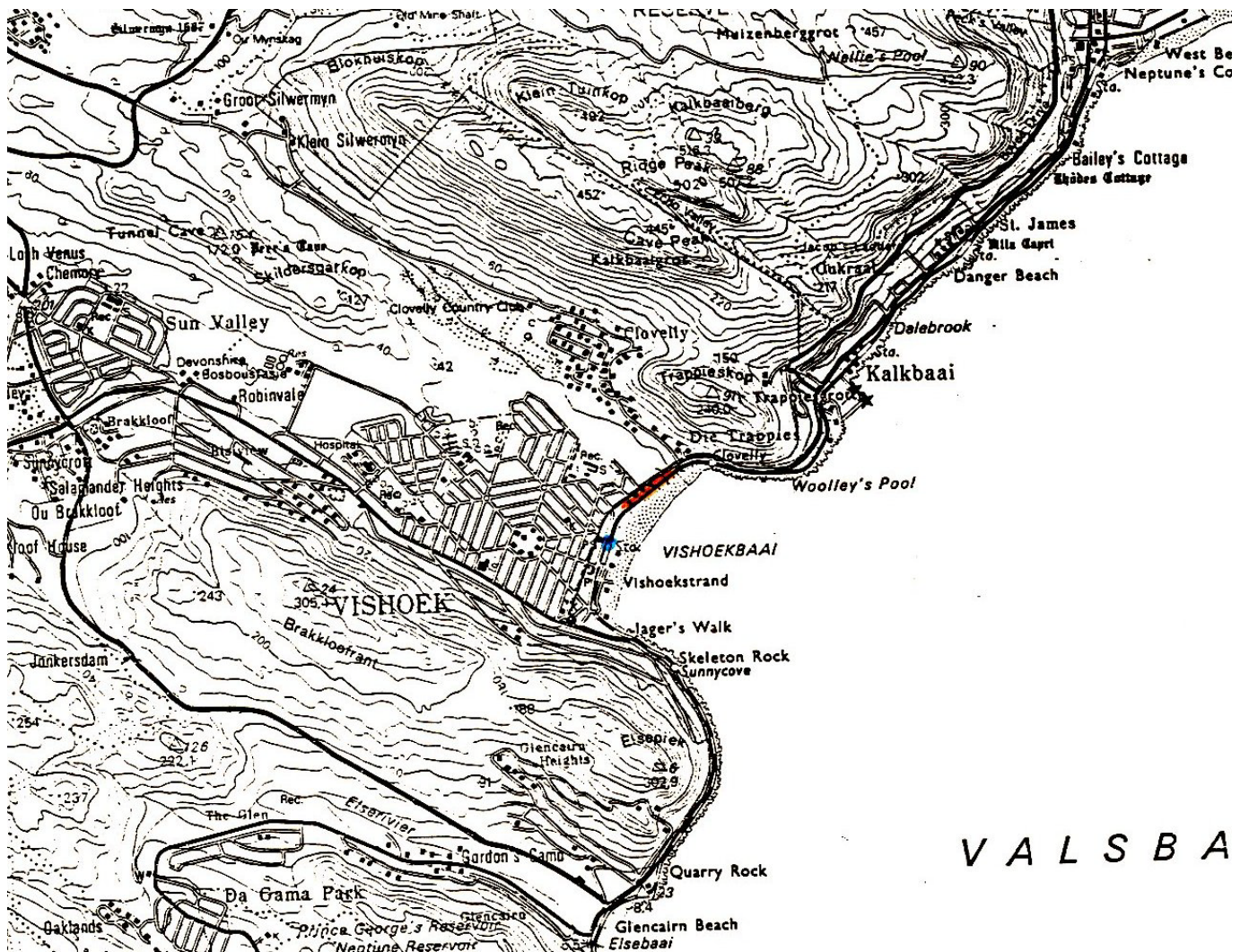
5. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 At least three buildings are believed to be protected under the 50 year clause of the National Monuments Act of 1969 (as amended). More detailed studies should be undertaken to establish the age and history of these buildings as well as the age of other dwellings on the proposed residential site (although we believe that these are more recent and probably not protected). Demolition of buildings older than 50 years requires permission from the National Monuments Council.

6. PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Report and Fieldwork

Dave Halkett



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LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1:50 000

