

HERITAGE SENSITIVITY STUDY OF BORDJESDRIF AND BUFFELSBAAI, CAPE POINT SECTION OF THE CPNP

Prepared for
SRK Consulting

October 2002



Prepared by
Tim Hart

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

Phone (021) 650 2357
Fax (021) 650 2352
Email tjg@age.uct.ac.za

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by SRK Consulting to undertake a heritage sensitivity study at Bordjesrif and Buffelsbaai, Cape Point section of the Cape Peninsula National Park. An environmental camp is planned for Bordjesrif while amenities at Buffelsbaai are to be upgraded.

- The study established that there is a significant shell midden at Bordjesrif. Measures must be taken to protect it during construction activities and a conservation policy adopted to minimize future impacts from people residing at the proposed camp.
- The northwards vista from the Bordjesrif tidal pool has special qualities.
- Buffelsbaai is archaeologically rich. Sites in the area include shell middens, tidal fish traps, and an historic limekiln. Upgrading of amenities will cause minimal impacts provided that activities are kept away from middens and trial excavations precede trenches for services.
- The general area is of historical interest as it was here that Portuguese navigator, Bartholomew Diaz made landfall. During the 18-19th centuries colonial farmers quarried limestone and established kilns.
- Bordjesrif, declared a "non white" facility during the *apartheid* era, used to be a popular gathering place over the festive season. Although decreased accessibility in recent years has affected its use, the proposed camp will represent diminishment of a recreational area for people continue to traditionally gather at Bordjesrif over the festive season.
- The proposed environmental camp creates an opportunity for heritage education using local history, places and resources.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	5
1.1	TERMS OF REFERENCE	5
2	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	6
2.1	PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS	6
2.2	DEMISE OF THE INDIGENOUS INHABITANTS	6
2.3	COLONIAL EXPANSION	7
2.4	BUFFELSBAAI AND BORDJESRIF IN THE 20TH CENTURY	8
3	METHOD	8
3.1	DELINEATION OF AREAS OF SENSITIVITY	8
4	FINDINGS.....	9
4.1	BORDJESRIF	9
4.1.1	<i>Defense Force facility</i>	<i>9</i>
4.1.2	<i>BOR 1 and BOR 1A.....</i>	<i>9</i>
4.2	BORDJESRIF HERITAGE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES.....	10
4.2.1	<i>Archaeology.....</i>	<i>10</i>
4.2.2	<i>Intangible heritage</i>	<i>10</i>
4.3	BUFFELSBAAI	11
4.3.1	<i>BF1.....</i>	<i>11</i>
4.3.2	<i>BF 2.....</i>	<i>11</i>
4.3.3	<i>BF 3.....</i>	<i>12</i>
4.3.4	<i>BF 4.....</i>	<i>12</i>
4.3.5	<i>BF 5&6</i>	<i>13</i>
4.3.6	<i>BF 7.....</i>	<i>13</i>
4.3.7	<i>Upgrading of public toilets.....</i>	<i>13</i>
4.4	BUFFELSBAAI HERITAGE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES	14
4.5	RECENT HERITAGE CONCERNS - SOCIAL IMPACTS	14
5	EDUCATION.....	14
6	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
6.1	BORDJESRIF	15
6.2	BUFFELSBAAI	15
7	REFERENCES.....	15

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Archaeology - the study of human societies through their physical remains - both above and belowground.

Caravel - a small lateen rigged sailing vessel used by Portuguese mariners.

Choromytilus meridionalis - black mussel shellfish.

Haliotis midae - perlemoen shellfish.

Heritage - that which we inherit.

In-situ - in undisturbed or primary context or position

Late Stone Age - the 40 000 years of human prehistory in southern Africa.

Limekiln - a charcoal fired furnace for heating shells or calcrete to make mortar or limewash.

Midden - an accumulation of food remains and artefacts resulting from human settlement.

Padrao - a stone cross about 2m tall and weighing about 500 kg, these were placed by Portuguese explorers at places where they made landfall.

Patella sp. - limpet shellfish.

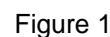
Quena - transhumant herding peoples (*Hottentots, Khoi Khoi*) who came with domestic stock and pottery into southern Africa about 2000 years ago.

Stratified - deposit that accumulates in layers from oldest to youngest.

Turbo sarmaticus - alikreukel shellfish.

Visvywer - a prehistoric piled stone fish trap or dam for trapping fish at spring tide.

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by SRK Consulting to conduct an archaeological assessment at Bordjesdrif and Buffelsbaai in the Cape Point section of the Cape Peninsula National Park (Figure 1). The work is an aspect of the sensitivity analysis that is currently being undertaken by a team of consultants to inform the planning of a proposed Environmental Camp at Bordjesrif, and upgrading of the recreational area at Buffelsbaai. The purpose of this study is to identify areas of sensitivity and opportunity for the proposed environment-friendly developments.



The terms of reference for the study, which are not intended to be definitive but serve as a guide for consistency of approach for the consulting team, are indicated below.

- Attend a team site visit on the 7th of August 2002 to provide all team members with the opportunity of interacting with each other to enable an integrated approach to the site analysis;
- Review previous archaeological and cultural resource studies of the area and update or refine these where appropriate;
- Undertake further fieldwork to identify and map sensitive heritage resources on site (base map available);
- Assess the significance and sensitivity of identified heritage resources;
- Produce a brief report identifying sensitive areas and the degrees of sensitivity (criteria used in the sensitivity evaluation should be clearly stated);
- Heritage associated with the site, which may not be directly spatially represented but contributes to the "sense of place";
- Conservation significance of various heritage resources;
- Areas which require special attention and which should be maintained or rehabilitated where required;
- Recommendations to minimize potential negative impacts and enhance positive impacts and which could feed into the site guidelines and project design;
- Proposals with respect to education opportunities and display of archaeological and cultural material;
- Attend a project team workshop to discuss various findings of the site sensitivity analysis;
- Provide input once draft sketch plans have been completed on the likely impact of proposals in the light of the initial findings of the sensitivity analysis.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historical period with respect to the South Peninsula has been summarized to some extent by Avery and Salter (1996) while Hallinan (pers. comm.) has acquired a great deal of information over the years through his personal research. These and other sources provide enough information to extrapolate a brief history of the study area.

2.1 Portuguese explorers

The area has a particular historical significance as it is believed to have been the first point on the Cape Peninsula reached by the European explorer, Bartholomew Diaz in 1497 on his voyage of discovery to the continent of Africa in an attempt to open trade routes to the east. It was common at that time, for Portuguese vessels undertaking voyages of exploration at that time to carry with them up to six ready-made *Padraos* or limestone crosses (Axelson 1938:417). These *Padraos* were erected at landfalls for several reasons: "partly as proof that the navigator had reached the neighbourhood he maintained; partly as proof of the priority of Portugal in the discovered waters; partly as symbol of Portuguese sovereignty in the discovered waters; and partly as a symbol of Christianity." According to Axelson (1938) crosses would probably have been placed as close as possible to landing spots on prominent locations. Axelson spent many years searching for *Padraos* along the southern African coastline, and was successful in locating *Padraos* at Kwaaihoek (Eastern Cape), Mossel Bay (Cape) and Luderitz (Namibia). Despite a painstaking search by Axelson, the Cape Point *Padrao* has never been found. The recent discovery of an enigmatic engraving site and "slot" cut in the limestone in the vicinity of Bordjesrif prompted the commissioning of a field study by David Halkett (2002). Halkett, after investigating the site concluded; "at present we are still conducting an investigation on the basis of conjecture. We need to first eliminate recent human activities in the area as the most likely source of the engraving and quarrying, before we can hope to convince ourselves and others that they were executed by Portuguese explorers."

2.2 Demise of the indigenous inhabitants

During the early days of the colony, the relationship between the Dutch and the Quena (*Hottentot* herders) was one of uneasy co-operation, with a great deal of bartering taking place primarily to get regular supplies of fresh meat for re-victualing ships. However, as the colony grew and *free burghers* were granted lands further away from Cape Town, grazing lands previously available to the Quena were encroached upon. The conflict for land began a process of attrition which when accompanied by several deadly smallpox epidemics broke down the indigenous population and its political structures. Those who survived were pressed into service as farm labour or settled around several large mission stations that had been established in the Cape.

There is no doubt that groups of Quena herders were active on the Peninsula during the early colonial period. The diary of Jan van Riebeeck makes mention of the fact that cattle stolen from the VOC (Dutch East India Company) were driven by the "Hottentots" to Hout Bay and various parts of the Peninsula. Although Hout Bay is specifically mentioned in historical texts and would have been favoured by people who kept cattle due to the granite soils of the area, there is good archaeological evidence to indicate that prehistoric people were herding sheep in other areas as well. Remains of sheep and Cape Coastal Pottery have been recovered from archaeological excavations at both Smitswinkel Bay Cave and at Bonteberg Cave in the Cape Point Nature Reserve. The high frequency of Late Stone Age sites and shell middens on conserved parts of the Peninsula indicates that the area was consistently inhabited by prehistoric hunters and herders before, during and shortly after the advent of European settlement. Avery and Salter (1996) indicate that indigenous groups were still active in the South Peninsula at the end of the 18th century. Parts of Cape Point were a designated

hunting area, while families of mixed origin, possibly descendents of indigenous groups squeezed a living out of informal small-scale cultivation and stock keeping on the Peninsula's depleted soils.

2.3 Colonial expansion

European expansion on the Peninsula accelerated after 1659 by which time the European colonists were beginning to exert control over the indigenous inhabitants. Muizenberg was permanently garrisoned from circa 1670 onwards, while Simonstown was declared an official anchorage in 1743. At the same time the first official land grants were made to a few free burgher farmers (Imhoffs Gift, Poespaskraal and Schusterskraal (Wildschutsbrandt) on the South Peninsula, the motivation being the need to re-victual ships, which called in at Simonstown during the winter months. The pass at Muizenberg and later on, the Ou Kaapse weg was the beginning of a difficult access route onto the Peninsula, which became even more treacherous south of Simonstown. For this reason, the DEIC government was reluctant to make many formal land grants to people on the Peninsula due to difficulties of administration. A few quitrent grants were awarded to farmers near Cape Point in the late 18th century, however, indications are that much of the land use was probably informal - ad hoc stock posts set up by "squatter farmers". There was a small farm "Diemerskraal" which has been occupied by Jacobus van Reenen (1758) close to Bordjesdrif while the Aurret family controlled "Buffels Fontein" since the late 1700's (Surveyor Generals Office, Cape Point land grants 1750-1900).

After the British took over the Cape in 1806 there was an administrative hiatus for about 7 years until the new colonial administration got to grips with the administration of land grants (Hallinan pers. Com.). Although a number of small-scale farmers lived in the area, in many instances their rights to land were informal or based on quitrent agreements. Once Simonstown was declared a permanent British naval port in 1809, it became advantageous for the government of the time to encourage farming activities that would supply the growing settlement at Simonstown. After a government proclamation in 1813, the existing small farms were given freehold rights and a number of new farms were granted. In 1822 the farm Paardekloof is indicated as being owned by a "Hottentot" while Klaasjagers River (extending from Oliphants Punt to Scarborough) was owned by Jeremias Aurret, whose family was prominent in the Simonstown and Muizenberg trek fishing and whaling business. J. Osmond was formally granted the quitrent farm "Buffels Fontein" in 1813 incorporating the areas today known as Buffelsbaai and Bordjesrif. It is very unlikely that agriculture was satisfactorily sustainable on the south Peninsula farms despite reasonable rainfall. The Table Mountain Sand Stone soils are notoriously depleted in terms of trace elements essential for raising cattle. It is possible that from time to time the settlers were able to raise a few wheat crops but they would have battled with poor yields and soil exhaustion. People probably survived through subsistence farming, growing vegetables and raising of small stock. Like the San and Quena who previously occupied the Peninsula, exploitation of natural resources, as well as fishing, whaling, lime burning and quarrying would have been essential to the well being of these early farmers.

There is good archaeological evidence (Mazel 1980, Halkett 2002) to support the fact that the limestones at Bordjesrif (Black Rocks) were extensively quarried over a fairly long period of time, however the details of events are not well understood. National Parks employees have also found several iron chisels in the area. In several places the limestone shows scars where rectangular slabs of rock were removed, possibly shipped out in complete blocks for construction work. The presence of limekilns at Black Rocks and Buffelsbaai are clear indicators that cement and lime wash was being prepared. The process involved the burning of shell or limestone (any form of calcium-carbonate). The resulting product could be finely crushed to make lime powder or coarse mortar which, when mixed with water, undergoes a chemical reaction and hardens. It is quite possible that many prehistoric shell middens on the Peninsula provided the raw material for making local cement.

There is no doubt that before proclamation of the reserve, Bordjesrif was a degraded area littered with waste from quarrying and cut through by wagon tracks. The area has regenerated to the extent that its past is not immediately evident.

2.4 Buffelsbaai and Bordjesrif in the 20th century

Hallinan (pers comm) has collected oral histories and testimony indicating that in the earlier half of the 20th century, Buffelsbaai was a popular recreational area for camping and fishing, with reasonable access being granted by Smit, the landowner, to communities on the Peninsula. After creation of the Cape Point Nature Reserve and during the *apartheid* era Buffelsbaai was declared a "whites only" facility, and continued to be a popular recreational area used by the "white" community. The "coloured" community was effectively denied use of this amenity, being allocated the Bordjesrif area.

In the early half of the 20th century, Bordjesrif was rather more inaccessible, with *Port-Jackson* having invaded much what is now the recreational area. Nevertheless, the area was popular with fishermen who used to travel to the area along the coast from Buffelsbaai. Hallinan (pers comm.) has oral testimony that fishermen built a very successful tidal fish trap at Bordjesrif, having on odd occasions caught large quantities of *harders*, which were transported away on donkey carts (no remains of the fish trap have survived). During the *apartheid* era, Bordjesrif was declared a "non-white" recreational area. Being the only one in the park that offered a safe tidal pool for "non-whites", it was immensely popular to the point that over the Christmas and New Year period the site became crowded. Even after the dismantlement of petty *apartheid* in the late 1980's and the opening of all amenities to all race groups, Bordjesrif remained a popular year-end gathering spot.

The Cape Peninsula National Park Planning Survey indicates that the current high gate fees implemented in recent years have caused some resentment among locals, especially fishermen who have to pay an extra fee, and poorer communities who used to frequent Bordjesrif for their annual Christmas/New Year gathering (CPNP Planning Report 2001). Busses are no longer permitted along the Bordjesrif road, which has made access to the area difficult for group outings.

3 METHOD

Two previous archaeological surveys of Cape Point Nature Reserve recorded archaeological sites at both Bordjesrif and Buffelsbaai (Olivier 1977, Poggenpoel and Halkett, 1990). While the observations made during these surveys are valid, the sites found were mostly plotted on a scale of 1:50 000. This particular sensitivity study required that the sites be evaluated and plotted in rather more detail on aerial photographs provided to the study team. This report is specifically focused on the two areas: Buffelsbaai and Bordjesrif.

The area was searched for surface evidence of archaeological material. Three trial holes excavated by the geological consultants were checked for evidence of buried archaeological material. These were typically 1.5-1.8m deep. Any sites that were located were recorded on copies of the base plans provided by the client (co-ordinates are available on request). The contents of the sites were noted and evaluated.

3.1 Delineation of areas of sensitivity

Areas of sensitivity are indicated on Figures 2 (Bordjesrif) and Figures 3 (Buffelsbaai). Only three sensitivity ratings are used. These are indicated below.

Sensitive and protected sites: Heritage sites that have a documented history, middens and other archaeological sites which are undisturbed and stratified and protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA).

Protected sites: Heritage sites, archaeological sites and middens, which are protected by NHRA, but are not of high significance due to disturbance. Permits for demolition of such sites may be issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency provided adequate mitigation takes place.

Other: Areas not containing any protected heritage sites.

4 FINDINGS

4.1 Bordjesrif

The location of sensitive areas at Bordjesdrif is indicated on Figure 2.

4.1.1 Defence Force facility

This facility (Plate 1), which is a relic of the cold war, is not more than 60 years old and is therefore not protected by NHRA. It is currently abandoned, the corrugated iron roof has corroded through. A covered concrete culvert leading into the sea contains an underwater cable. The facility is shortly due to be demolished by the Peninsula National Park.



4.1.2 BOR 1 and BOR 1A

Shell midden: This is the only prehistoric archaeological site found within the proposed development area (Plate 2). Sites 1 and 1A represent the remains of a very large midden that has been cut through by the access road to the parking area (shell is exposed in section) and partially impacted by the construction of the Defence Force facility. Site 1 lies just south east of the helicopter-landing pad, while site 1A lies immediately north of the Defense Force facility.



In terms of content, the midden contrasts markedly with those of Buffelsbaai. It is completely dominated by *Haliotis midae*, with other species such as *Turbo sarmaticus* and *Patella tabularis* being present. Sites BOR 1 and 1A lies on one of the most exposed areas (wind rain and spray) on the immediate coast and would not be particularly suitable for residential purposes. It is possible that this site was a de-shelling station for large shellfish species, the size of their shells making them uneconomical to be carried any distance. People extracted the meat from these large species of shellfish, and then transported it back to their places of residence. The Black Rocks area just north of Bordjesrif contains at least 6 substantial archaeological sites in the limestone overhangs and gullies (Yates pers. comm.). Bone spatulas, tools for removing large shellfish from the rocks, were found in the some of the rock shelters by archaeologists surveying the area in the 1970's.

Significance: This interesting midden is very dense in places and likely to be stratified. It possibly represents an aspect of subsistence strategy of prehistoric people who lived at the archaeological sites at Black Rocks.

Status: Sensitive, protected.

Impacts: The site has suffered some damage from the road cutting and the construction of a concrete ramp from the Defense Force site. Despite this, the site contains conservation-worthy material. Provided that development activities related to the proposed environmental camp are situated away from the site, further impacts should be minimal. People clambering over the site will accelerate erosion and displace material.

Conservation policy: An area of immediate concern is the concrete ramp (Plate 3) that has been built on top of site 1A (Defense Force facility). This caused past impacts, however its imminent demolition may cause more damage if this is not done with care. The ramp needs to be broken from the top and the resulting rubble worked down the ramp to avoid damaging the



midden on which it has been built. Dumping of rubble should be confined to the vicinity of the structure.

As for the remainder of the site, people need to be kept away from the steep slopes of the midden. Fencing the site would create an unfortunate visual impact. It would be best that the treatment of the local archaeological sites become an aspect of the house rules for anyone using the proposed camp.

4.2 Bordjesrif heritage conservation guidelines

4.2.1 Archaeology

In all, only 1 site was located in the proposed development area. Furthermore, we are relatively confident that there is not a great deal of other buried material in the area. This means that for planning purposes, archaeological sites are not going to pose any major restrictions apart from the location of site BOR 1&1A.

What is of concern are the secondary impacts that could result from having a large amount of students/learners wandering around the area in an uncontrolled manner. In order to restrict direct damage to archaeological deposits (and other aspects of the environment) it would be best that the persons resident at the proposed environmental camp and visitors alike are restricted to specific recreational areas and specifically set out hiking trails. Although it would be highly desirable to expose people to archaeological sites for educational purposes, it is our experience that unless this is done under strict supervision, people will take material as souvenirs and cause cumulative damage. There are several possible education options that could be put to use (see educational section).

- Sites 1 and 1A are best protected through educating the administration and users of the proposed environmental camp. People need to be aware that archaeological resources are finite and easily damaged. Once damaged, unlike fauna and flora, will never regenerate. People should desist from walking on them, disturbing them or collecting artefacts as souvenirs.

4.2.2 Intangible heritage

The coastline to the north of Bordjesdrif tidal pool and parking area is one of the quietest areas of the National Park outside of the days between Christmas and New Year. The vista to the north represents a stretch of Peninsula coastline that is almost devoid of built structures, and has a timeless quality. It remains one of very few areas that present the appearance of a wilderness, albeit one that has regenerated since 19th century lime quarrying ceased in the area. It is possible that the scenery experienced for thousands of years by prehistoric people, and thereafter by Diaz himself would have been similar to the northwards vista today.

The conservation of "open space" is important, as it is this quality, which imparts identity to the concept of a National Park and a wild place.

The view to the south is rather more cluttered with development, albeit low key. The visual impact of the proposed development looking towards Cape Point is likely to be less obtrusive in terms of the conservation of open space, as this area is already associated with low-key punctuations of the wilderness experience.

- Reusing already developed areas such the parking area, recreation area and tidal pool would minimize impacts to the 'sense of place' and retain the un-interrupted wilderness vista to the north.

4.3 Buffelsbaai

This was a heavily utilised area in the past, containing the remains of a limekiln, tidal fish traps, and several shell middens, two of which are significant. The good supply of fresh water, sheltered bay where fish traps could be built and shellfish that could be easily collected attracted intense prehistoric settlement. Areas of sensitivity are indicated on Figure 3.

4.3.1 BF1

Limekiln and Padrao replica: The site (Plate 4) consists of the remains of a 19th century limekiln, partially covered and grassed over. The walls of the limekiln appear to have collapsed in places. Despite this, the remains have stabilized naturally. The mound created by the kiln has been used for the erection of a replica of a *Padrao* commemorating the landing of Bartholomew Diaz in 1497.



Significance: A locally significant feature dating back to the 19th century when farmers operated several limekilns at Cape Point. Another limekiln that was restored some years ago by Gabriel Fagan Architects is situated at Black Rocks. The original *Padrao*, which was thought to have been erected by Diaz upon landing at Buffelsbaai, has never been found. The replica which was brought over on the commemorative voyage of the Diaz caravel, celebrates the European discovery of Cape of Good Hope by Diaz on his return voyage from Mossel Bay.

Status: Sensitive, protected.

Impacts: Upgrading of services and picnic areas will not impact the site.

Conservation policy: Non-intervention.

4.3.2 BF 2

Tidal fish trap (Visvywer). Thought by Avery (1975) to have been built after the advent of prehistoric pastoralism about 2000 years ago, tidal fish traps (Plate 5) are archaeological features of the south coast. Several examples are known to have existed in False Bay but were converted into tidal swimming pools during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, other examples have survived at Soetwater on the Peninsula. The traps were built by piling stones in the intertidal zone to create an enclosure or dam with steep inner sides and gradually inclined exteriors. Shoals of fish, trapped in the enclosure at low tide could then be speared or gathered. The traps were effective at spring or high tides but had to be periodically maintained to be useful. There are accounts of tidal fish traps that were still successful, and being maintained by communities in the early 20th century.



Significance: A locally significant archaeological feature that has particular group value in association with other large Late Stone Age shell middens at Buffelsbaai. The fish trap, given adequate explanation also has the potential to contribute to environmental education in terms of the way that people exploited marine resources in the past.

Status: Sensitive, protected.

Impacts: No impacts are expected provided that development areas are restricted to upgrading of amenities and picnic sites. The fish trap has been partially damaged by the construction of the tidal pool and natural wave action.

Conservation policy: Non-intervention.

4.3.3 BF 3

Possible tidal fish trap. A small area in the intertidal zone where rocks have been cleared.

Significance: Potentially significant in terms of its association with the complex of archaeological sites at Buffelsbaai.

Status: Sensitive, protected.

Impacts: None expected.

Conservation policy: Non-intervention.

4.3.4 BF 4

Shell Midden: This substantial midden forms a prominent mound (Plate 6) immediately west of the parking area. Its size, roughly 50X80m, makes it one of the largest on the Cape Peninsula. An examination of its surface revealed the presence of quartzite flakes, fragments of red ochre and Cape Coastal pottery indicating that it accumulated after 2000 years ago and may be contemporary and associated with the tidal fish traps. No ostrich eggshell beads were seen, although it is expected that these would have been present. It is likely that any noticeable surface finds will have been collected by day-trippers who have frequented the area for many years.



The shellfish, which make up the bulk of material on the midden are dominated by an unusually wide variety of *Patella* species with *Patella argenvilleae* being visually dominant. Also noticed were *Patella cochlear*, *Patella barbara*, *Patella granularis*, *Patella granatina* as well as a variety of *Burnupena sp*, *Turbo sarmaticus* and *Haliotis midae*. *Choromytilus meridionalis*, which can be collected from more exposed shorelines than that of Buffelsbaai area, are present on the site but not dominant.

Significance: The site is significant for a number of reasons. Well preserved shell middens on the Cape Peninsula are rare, and those that survive are all that is left of what were many that have been destroyed by development activities. The site is in all likelihood stratified. This means that the midden accumulated in layers representing different occupation events. The midden probably contains the bones of the various species of fish that could have been caught in the tidal fish traps, and as such contains potentially important information about changing marine environment.

Status: Sensitive, protected.

Impacts: Since the site lies outside of the established picnic areas, it is unlikely to be impacted by the planned upgrading of amenities.

Conservation Policy: This midden deserves the best possible protection. The area must not be used for future expansion of any picnic sites or parking areas. Day-trippers must be encouraged to stay on the grassed picnic areas.

4.3.5 BF 5&6

Shell Midden: Like BF 4, this is a large midden but has been rather more dispersed and impacted. A small track runs through the center of it, while a “lobe” of the site extends towards the southeast. This is called BF 6 on Figure 3. In terms of content BF 5&6 are very similar to BF 4 with the exception that we did not locate any pottery or other cultural material. This is probably because it is very close to the recreational areas. The site is dominated by *Patella sp.* but *Choromytilus meridionalis* are present. Other shell species noted on the site include *Patella cochlear*, *Patella barbara*, *Patella granularis*, *Patella granatina* as well as a variety of *Burnupena sp.*, *Turbo sarmaticus* and *Haliotis midae*.

Significance: Although this site has been impacted in the past, there are areas on it that remain intact, and hence it is worth conservation. Like BF 5, it is of group value in its association with the fish traps. Initial indications are that it is probably not as well stratified as BF 5, but this cannot be properly verified without some form of trial excavation.

Status: Sensitive, protected.

Impacts: Upgrading or development of further picnic and braai areas along the disused track will impact the site if these are constructed along the east side of the track.

Conservation policy: Despite the presence of this midden, there are areas along the track (Plate 7) that can be upgraded (see Figure 3). This includes the extreme end section of the track where there is a collection of 20th century habitation debris as well the west side of the southern half of the track that does not lie on any *in-situ* archaeological material. The site itself is best conserved through non-intervention, and discouraging people from picnicking in non-demarcated areas.



4.3.6 BF 7

Shell midden. This is the most badly damaged of the Buffelsbaai sites. It consists of a few scatters of shell that lie among bushes on the island between the main parking area and the road in front of the tidal pool. In terms of content, the site appears to be very similar to sites 4-6, however it is quite likely that the material is out of context due to construction of the roadway and parking areas. There is a slight possibility that *in-situ* material still exists under the surface of the upper parking area.

Significance: The site has lost some value as a result of previous impacts but still retains research potential. Like other archaeological sites it is protected by section 34 of the South African National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA).

Status: Protected.

Impacts: The site is unlikely to be impacted by upgrading of the recreational areas.

Conservation policy: Non-intervention.

4.3.7 Upgrading of public toilets

The area of 2 pit latrines was examined for surface archaeological material. None was visible on the surface, but given the evident intensity of prehistoric occupation at Buffelsbaai, it is possible that buried lenses of midden material may exist. These could be impacted by digging of foundations, service trenches and septic tanks.

It is suggested that trial excavations be undertaken on the site by an archaeologist before construction work commences. The purpose of this would be to check for the presence of buried material, and sample it if it exists.

4.4 Buffelsbaai heritage conservation guidelines

It is unlikely that the upgrading of amenities will have any major negative impacts on heritage sites. It is also unlikely that views, vistas and "sense of place" will be affected. The following of some simple guidelines will help conserve the heritage sites in the area.

- Trippers need to be encouraged to stay within the grassed recreation areas.
- When establishing new braai or picnic areas, it is best to identify areas that have been disturbed and reuse them. It would also be best to avoid cutting nooks into embankments or dunes that may be archaeologically sensitive.
- Trial excavation should take place before major earthworks/digging to lay services.

4.5 Recent heritage concerns - social impacts

Bordjesrif is no longer easily accessible to communities who previously relied on the low gate fees, and buss transport to get to their traditional recreation spot. The establishment of a camp at Bordjesrif will represent loss habitually used amenity, however there are no statistics available that gauge the strength of sentiment that traditional users hold towards the site. Upgrading of amenities at Buffelsbaai will go some way to accommodating the Bordjesrif trippers, but may not necessarily compensate for loss of "place".

5 EDUCATION

There is enormous potential to further the understanding of the environment by educating people about the history of the way that humans have lived in it and utilized it in the past. A lot is known about the history of the Peninsula National Park as a result of archaeological excavations having taken place at various locations (Peers Cave, Smitswinkel Bay). Aspects of education could focus on how prehistoric people lived in the landscape, the places they favoured and the foods they collected - shellfish, fish, hunted animals and wild edible plants.

Similarly the local history of Cape Point is a topic that could be examined in detail - the story of the discovery of the Point by Dias and other early explorers, the search for the lost Diaz *Padraos*. A fascinating story lies in the history of the way that early colonial farmers attempted to farm the area and the difficulties they suffered in attempting to raise stock and crops on the unsuitable soils of the south Peninsula. They supplemented their income by quarrying stone and burning lime in kilns for local cement; remains of these kilns can be seen at both Buffelsbaai and Bordjesrif.

The opportunity also exists for heritage education in a field setting. One or two local middens could be developed as site museums with information boards, and be visited by groups (under supervision). To supplement this, a small teaching collection of artefacts and bones could be assembled at the environmental camp. This would give learners the opportunity to actually touch the material. Arrangements can be made to loan suitable material from university and museum collections under a SAHRA issued permit.

These few ideas presented above could be a basis for an educational opportunity. It will be necessary to collect and collate the known local history sources, and if necessary obtain primary archival information. An archaeologist or historian could be approached to put together an educational package that teachers could present to visitors at the camp.

6 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Bordjesrif

- The shell midden at Bordjesdrif is significant and sensitive. Visitors and staff at the camp must adopt, as a house rule, a policy to respect archaeological sites.
- There is a very remote chance that development activities on either site may unearth fragments of the lost Diaz *Padrao*. Made of a pinkish-white limestone, possibly containing small marine fossils, the cross was about 2m tall and weighed some 500kg. If anything fitting this description, or any unusual kind of stone is encountered (It has probably been broken up), an archaeologist and SAHRA, and National Parks need to be notified immediately.
- The view to the north of the tidal pool has special wilderness qualities; it would be regrettable if this were interrupted. It is considered a "best case" scenario if areas that have already been developed, be utilized for establishing the camp.
- A suitably qualified person should be appointed to develop a heritage education package that could be used at the camp.

6.2 Buffelsbaai

- Trippers need to be encouraged to stay within the grassed recreation areas.
- When establishing new *braai* or picnic areas, it is best to identify areas that have been disturbed and reuse them. It would also be best to avoid cutting nooks into embankments or dunes that may be archaeologically sensitive (see Figure 3).
- Trial excavation should take place before major earthworks/digging to lay services.

7 REFERENCES

- Avery, G 1975. Discussion on the age and use of tidal fish-traps (viswywers). South African Archaeological Bulletin **30**:104-114.
- Avery, G and Salter, C. 1996. Archaeology and cultural history. Unpublished report prepared for the Cape Metropolitan Council.
- Axelson, E. 1938. Discovery of the farthest pillar erected by Bartholomew Dias. South African Journal of Science, Vol xxxv, 417-429.
- Axelson, E. 1973. Portuguese in south-east Africa: 1488-1600, Struik.
- CPNP Planning Survey 2001. Unpublished document prepared for CPNP.
- Halkett, D. 2002. An initial assessment of engravings on calcrete ridges at Bordjesrif, Cape Point Nature Reserve. Unpublished report prepared for Cape Peninsula National Park. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Olivier, A.M. 1977. The Archaeological Survey of the Cape Peninsula. Unpublished BA (hons) dissertation. Dept Archaeology, UCT.

- Poggenpoel, C. & Halkett, D. 1990. Archaeological survey of the coast and near coastal areas of the Cape Point Nature Reserve. Unpublished report prepared for OVP Associates. UCT: Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
- Mazel, A., Moore, P. & Robey, T. 1980. Excavation of a possible quarry site in the Cape Point Nature Reserve, 1977. Simon's Town Historical Society Bulletin. v11 no1: 20-25.



Figure 2. Sensitive areas at Bordjesdrif

