

ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ERVEN 4614, 4615, 4617, 4621, 4626

DIDO Valley, Simon's Town

A report prepared for the
City of Cape Town
South Peninsula Municipality
Integrated Human Settlement Services
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr Ute A Seemann, historical / archaeological contract archaeologist was commissioned by Ms Madge Davids and Mr Eddie Thomas of the South Peninsula Administration of the City of Cape Town to undertake an archaeological / historical impact assessment (AIA) of erven 4614, 4615, 4617, 4621 and 4626 Dido Valley, Simon's Town. The City of Cape Town and various stakeholders plan to erect some 600 housing units, a social / commercial hub and a multi-purpose sports field on these properties (see Annexure A).

A surface survey covering the properties conducted on 27 May 2007 revealed no archaeological remains.

The sixty four municipal sub-economic dwellings, built during the late 1940s are of no historical / architectural / aesthetic value.

The municipal dump is of medium historical value.

Importance of the finds: low

Significance: low

Suggested mitigation: NONE

It is recommended that the municipal dump site be sealed and covered.

RECOMMENDATION:

From an archaeological / historical perspective no objections to the housing development could be found

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The brief

Dr Ute A Seemann, historical / archaeological contract archaeologist was commissioned by Ms Madge Davids and Mr Eddie Thomas of the South Peninsula Administration of the City of Cape Town to undertake an archaeological / historical impact assessment (AIA) of erven 4614, 4615, 4617, 4621 and 4626,

Dido Valley, Simon's Town, in accordance with Section (38) of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

The City of Cape Town and various stakeholders plan to erect some 600 housing units, a social / commercial hub and a multi-purpose sports field on these properties (see Annexure A). This report ascertains the archaeological potential, the historical significance and the cultural landscape in which these properties are situated and traces the owners as far as possible.

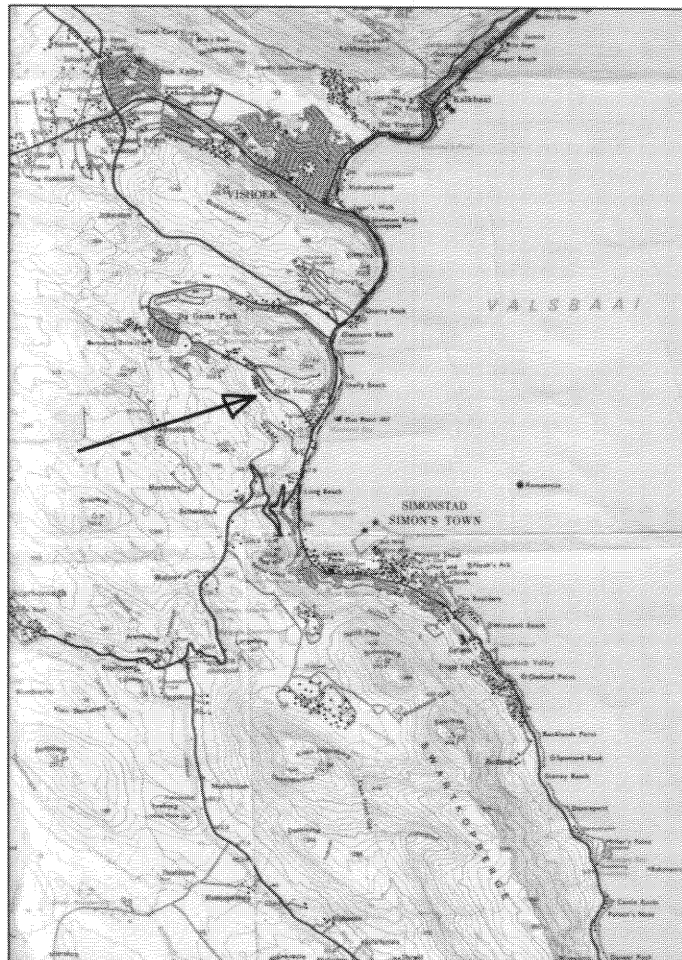


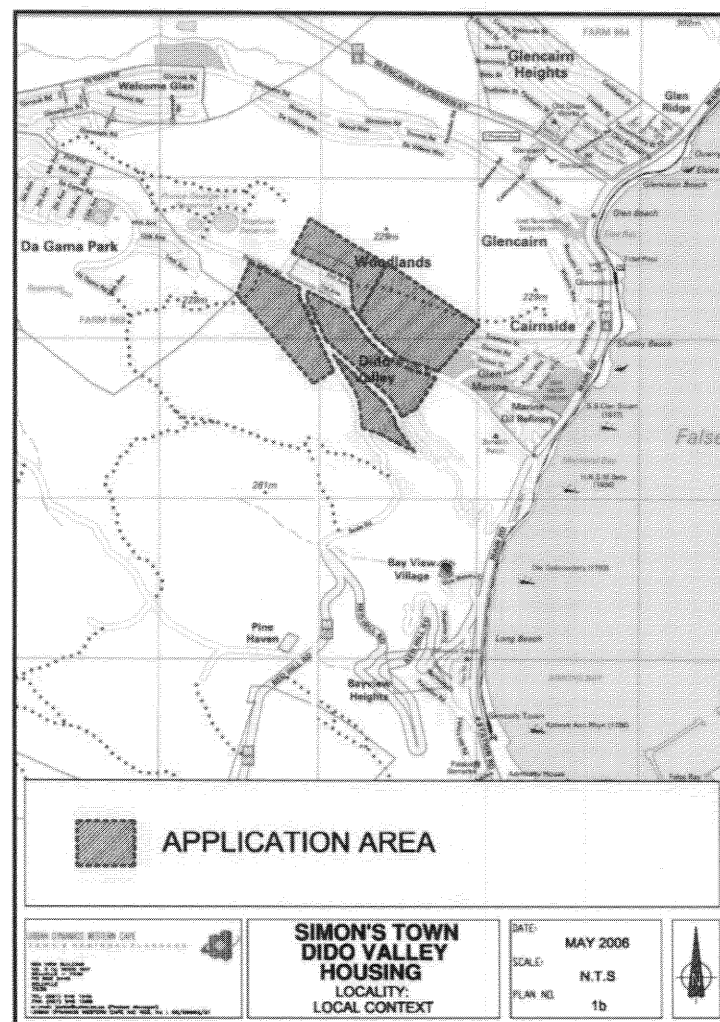
Fig. 1. Locality of Dido Valley, between Fish Hoek and Simon's Town.
(Street Guide to Cape Town, 9th Edition, 1:20000, dated 1997/8)

1.2 Baseline description

Dido Valley is located on the False Bay coast between the former municipalities of Fish Hoek and Simon's Town on the scenic route to the Cape Point Nature Reserve. The road through Dido Valley leads from the corner of Main Road at the – now demolished - Marine Oil factory and the Glen Marine suburban development to the naval township of Da Gama Park, passing a small settlement of some 27 inhabited houses, called Woodlands. Two rows of 1950s council houses on the southern slopes of the valley, whose inhabitants had been relocated in terms of the Group Areas Act of 1966 (Act No 36 of 1966) have burned down in the big fire of 2000.

The erven under investigation are situated approximately $34^{\circ}10'15''$ S, $18^{\circ}25'30''$ E.

Fig. 2. Locality and context of the erven under investigation in Dido Valley, Simon's Town.
(Street Guide to Cape Town, 9th Edition, 1997/8)
(With permission from Urban Dynamics Western Cape)



An aerial photograph taken in 1998 puts the properties in relation to the Table Mountain National Park, the naval properties north and south of the valley and the main coastal road to the south. (Fig. 3)

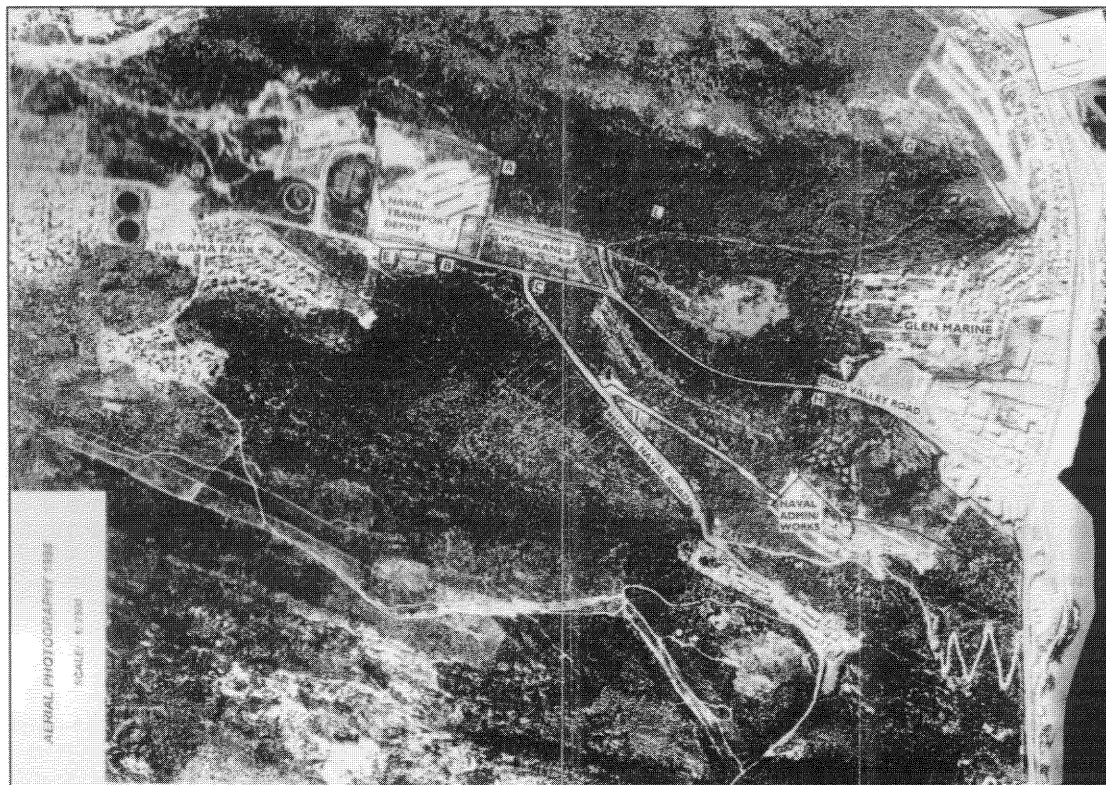


Fig. 3. Dido Valley, aerial photograph, 1998. (Reference: Jess Hughes & Associates. 2000. Environmental Baseline Study of Dido Valley, Cape Peninsula)

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The pre-historic period

At the beginning of 2000 a Draft Environmental Baseline Study of Dido Valley, Cape Peninsula was done by Jess Hughes & Associates for the South Peninsula Municipality. Specialist studies were undertaken and amongst them an archaeological survey of Dido Valley¹. Hart & Halkett's report dealt comprehensively with the pre-history of the Cape Peninsula and it seems prudent to include excerpts of their report.

¹ Hart, Tim & Halkett, Dave, *Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town*. In Jess Hughes & Associates. 2000. Environmental Baseline Study of Dido Valley, Cape Peninsula.

Hart & Halkett wrote, that

“People have been living on the Cape Peninsula for at least half a million years ... Early Stone Age artefacts have been found at various locations in the Cape Point Nature Reserve ... made by members of the species *Homo erectus/Homo ergaster* ...”

Middle Stone Age deposits (tools etc) were found in caves and rock shelters at Fish Hoek and Kalk Bay. The people who made them, lived between twenty thousand and two hundred thousand years ago and were an early form of *Homo sapiens*. “They hunted animals, collected plant food and shellfish, lived in rock shelters and camped on open sites”.

Late Stone Age People were the ancestors of the San (Bushmen) and the Khoi-Khoi (Hottentots). The San created the shell middens (accumulations of shellfish, bone and stone artifacts) dating to within the last two thousand years, still to be found along the seashores in Hout Bay, Llandudno and False Bay. They were hunter-gatherers, known as ‘Strandloopers’ by the Europeans and Goringhaikona amongst themselves. Their neighbours, the Goringhaikua, called by Europeans ‘Hottentots’, were nomads, lived in portable *matjieshuises* and sometimes in caves, kept fat-tailed sheep and indigenous cattle, made pottery and ornaments, caught fish, small game and marine mammals.

2.2 The VOC period

“... Groups of Khoi-Khoi herders were active in the Peninsula during the early colonial period”, wrote Hart & Halkett, “the diary of Jan van Riebeeck makes mention of cattle stolen from the Dutch East India Company (VOC) ... and then driven to Hout Bay and various parts of the Peninsula ... when the *Cochoquas* were in conflict with the *Peninsular* Hottentots in 1661, they ... cut the latter off from the valuable pastures at Hout Bay”. As did the Europeans from the pastures in Table Valley and along the Liesbeeck Valley.

Archaeological excavations testify to the presence of sheep and coastal pottery at Smitswinkel Bay Cave and Bonteberg Cave in the CPNP.

Simon’s Town was declared the winter anchorage of the VOC in 1743. The first land grants, made around this time, finally drove the remnants of the Hottentot tribes into what is now the Cape Point Nature Reserve. The need to

re-victual ships led to – probably – informal land grants and stock posts being set up by descendants of Hottentots and slaves.

2.3 The British at the Cape

These informal land grants to Europeans, Hottentots and people of mixed descent were formalised during the first years of the British administration, after 1806². Simon's Town was declared the all year round British Naval Base in 1809.

The road to Simon's Town was difficult to negotiate. Supplies were transported to Simon's Town by ox wagon over the mountains - Ou Kaapse Weg to Imhoff's Gift farm – then either to Fish Hoek Bay or across another set of mountains to Welcome Farm – Oaklands – Brooklands Farm and down the steep pass to Simon's Town. Dido Valley was bi-passed, as were the treacherous quicksands at the coasts of Fish Hoek and Elsjes Bay / Glenairn. The road engineer Thibault re-designed the road along the coast to Simon's Town in 1812-14, but the vast sand dunes at the entrance to the bay defeated maintenance crews over and over again.

One April day in 1835 the famous astronomer John Herschel visited Captain Woolls 'Welcome Farm' and CH Brand's Oaklands Farm at the rear of Dido Valley and had this to say:

“ .. ascended a dreary and rocky waste, where however in sheltered nooks Captain Wolse (?) & Mr ... and Mr ... 's ... have got 'places' i.e. houses with a few stumpy oaks & firs ... Beyond a pass a few wretched huts forming a kind of village of Hottentots & Malays & then after leaving on left the Descent to Simon's Town... descend on the left side (first) into a Table flat the most barren , rugged and desolate ... & there is a wagon track. Here saw a regular Bosjesman & Boy.”³

² For instance, Hannes Flip, “a native of this country”, in 1808 got title to his land, on which he had built a couple of huts and cultivated the remainder ...” (Cape Archives, CO 4825/373). Jacobus Davidsen, a “Hottentot” 3 Morgen, bordering on the land of the Hottentot Fleur in 1817 (Deeds Office, Cape Town, STQ 1.24)

³ Evans, DS, Deeming TJ et al. 1969. Herschel at the Cape, Diaries & Correspondence of Sir John Herschel, 1834-1838. Cape Town: AA Balkema, pp 156/7.

In 1891 the railway was extended to Simon's Town and the coastal road kept in good repair. On the North Battery's⁴ naval property certain gun positions, stores and other utility buildings were erected.

Fig. 4 shows the yet undeveloped Dido Valley.

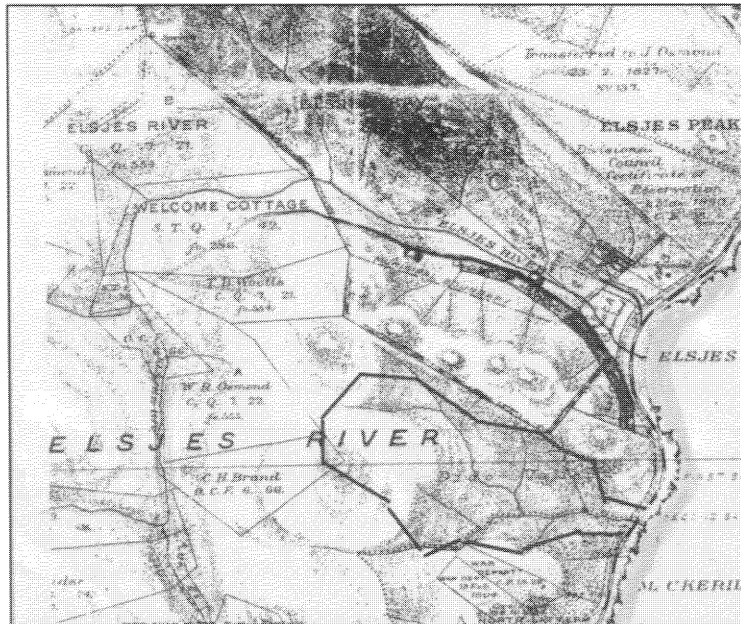


Fig. 4. Dido valley marked in red. Map dated ca 1905 (Simon's Town Museum map collection).

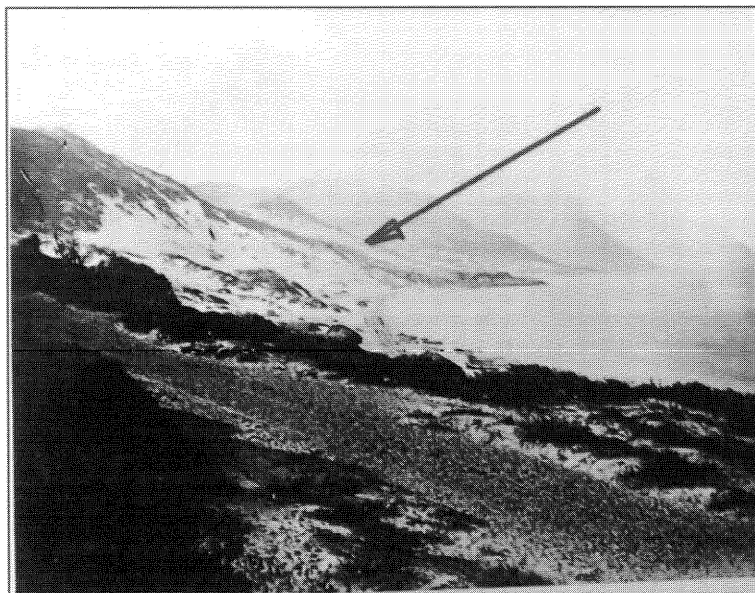


Fig. 5 Dido Valley in the background (**red arrow**), as seen from the Red Hill Road, which descends into Simon's Town, ca 1900.

(Reference: Cape Archives, AG 1682)

Figure 5, above, shows the sand dune (red arrow), which used to cover the mouth of Dido Valley at the beginning of the 20th century. The immense sand dune in the foreground has now also been built over. An aerial photograph of Dido Valley dated 1945 (Fig. 6) shows that the valley was now partially

⁴ Erected in 1781 at the foot of Dido Valley and still in use.

covered with a few *fynbos* species, the path – Dido Valley Road - leads to Second World War military installations.

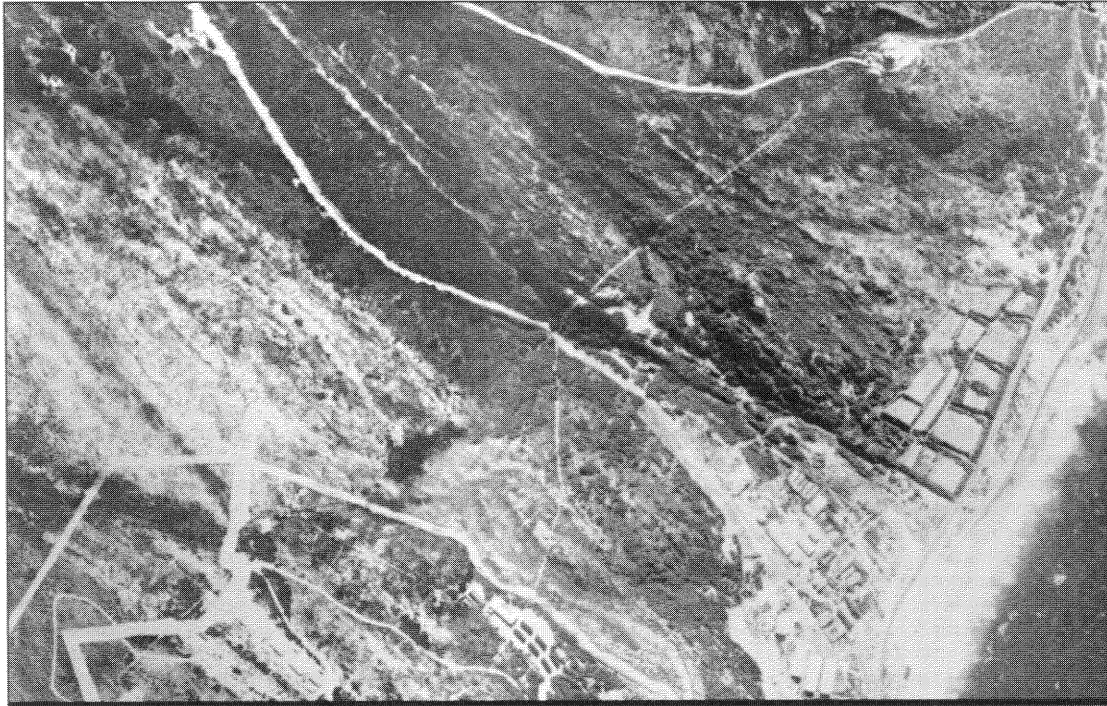


Fig. 6. Aerial photograph of Dido Valley, dated 1945. Dido Valley Road at this time led to Second World War military observation posts on the north slopes, which are now protected by the South African Heritage Resources Act of 1999. (Reference: Chief Directorate Surveys and Mapping, Mowbray).

2.4 Dido valley after 1945

Simon's Town's role as Royal Navy base had attracted people from a variety of nations, voluntary or not. Freed slaves settled there, Royal Navy recruits from the coast of West Africa, "the Kroomen" after their contracts expired, Indian business people opened stores, Xhosa people from the Eastern Cape worked in the construction of the East Dockyard, and Islanders from Tristan da Cunha married into local families. The Second World War brought a boom to local business.

It was said that for over two hundred years "the town was known for its vibrancy, uniqueness and goodwill amongst all people ... Differences of race, colour and creed never played any great part in the inhabitants relation with each other ..."⁵.

⁵ Proposed Simon's Town Land and Housing Development Policy Framework, draft dated 03 September 1998, Simon's Town Museum drawer 'Land Restitution'.

This came to an end with the government's policy of separate group areas acts of 1950 and 1957.

In terms of the Group Areas Act 1966 (Act No 36 of 1966) Simon's Town - including Dido Valley - was declared a "White Group Area", despite strong objections from the whole community. The Black residents had already been moved between 1964 and 1965. More than 4500 people were moved during the next three years.

Amongst those were the following families from Woodlands and the Dido Valley township⁶:

Adams	Faulman	Moses
Adendorff	Flatwell	O'Malley
Amley	Fortuin	Orgill
Amos	Fortune	Petersen
Anderson	George	Plaatjies
Arries	Hayward	Potts
Bailey	Hendricks	Presence
Booyesen	Hendrickse	Raven
Bowman	Jaffa	Roberts
Brown	Jaffer	Sabodien
Bull	Jafta	Samsodien
Charles	Jales	Savage
Clarke	Kallis	Snyman
Conrad	Karriem	Solomons
Craig	Kelly	Soul
Cronje	Kindo	Stober
Darries	Kloppers	Stoufers
Davids	Lamb	Swanepol
Davis	Levendall	Terry
De Bruyn	Majola	Vaaltuin
De Stadler	Marnewick	Visagie
Delcarmie	Marney	Webber
Dick	Matthews	Williams
Dickson	Mentoor	Woodward
Erasmus	Meyer	

2.4.1 Woodlands

In 1956 erf 452 Simon's Town in Dido Valley was surveyed with the intent to establish a township with properties for sale to private individuals. The municipality duly erected council houses (Fig. 7). The properties were then

⁶ This list was compiled by "Project Phoenix", an initiative of the Simon's Town Museum.

sold in 1957. Barely ten years later non-white owners were forced to sell their properties.

The properties are still privately owned.

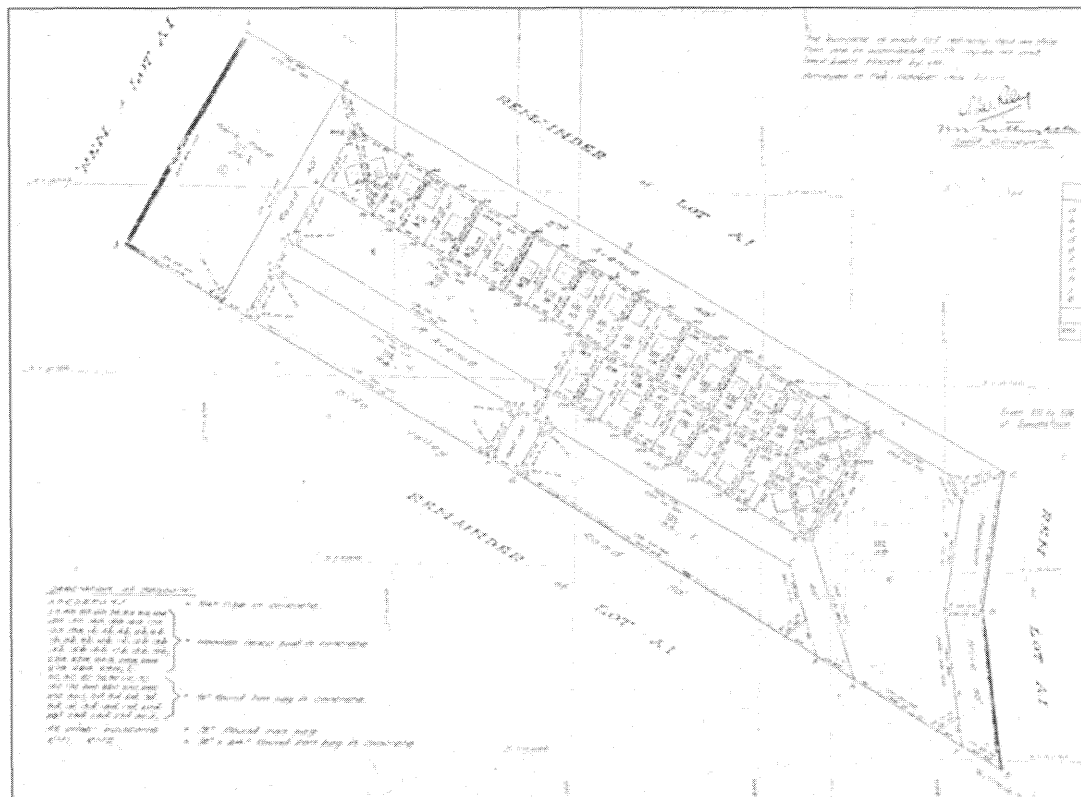


Fig. 7. The township of Woodlands in the Dido Valley, general plan TP 1454 LD. (Surveyor General, Cape Town).

2.4.2 Dido Valley township

The red-brick houses on the southern slopes of Dido Valley were built in the late 1940s by the Municipality to house Simon's Town's "coloured" population⁷. They were rented out to people in the lower income groups. By 1971 all inhabitants had been forcibly removed as this Photograph of 1971 shows (Fig. 8).

⁷ Jess Hughes & Associates. 2000. Environmental Baseline Study of Dido Valley, Cape Peninsula, p 4.



Fig. 8. Dido Valley township in 1971, after the group areas act removals. Dido Valley Road in the foreground. (Simon's Town Museum files, drawer 'Dido Valley')

In early 2000, after the great fire of January, an audit of these brick houses was arranged by the Simon's Town Museum.

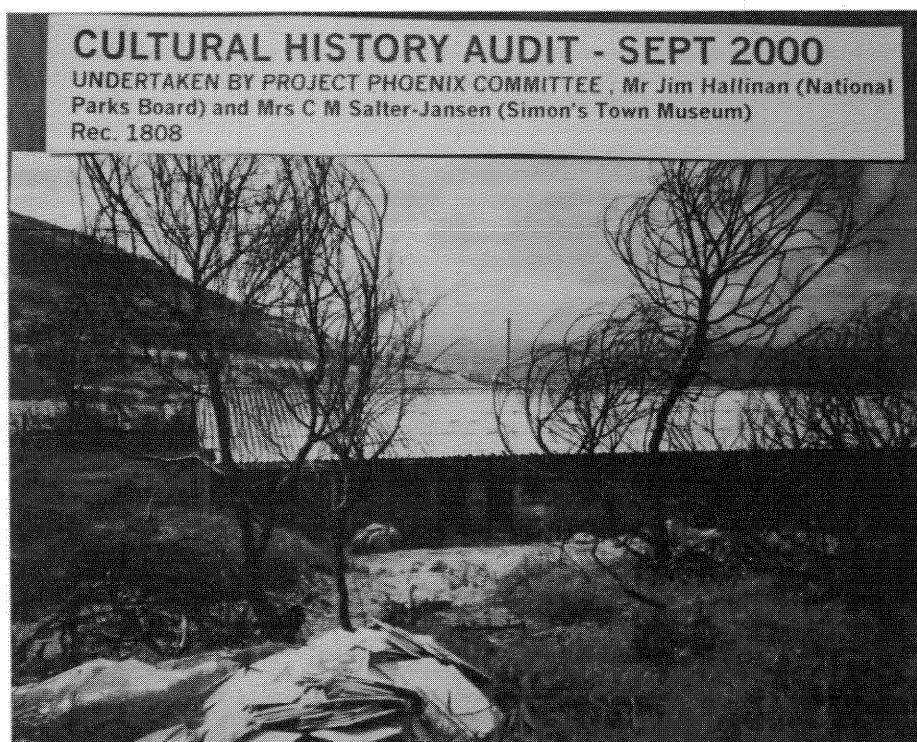


Fig. 9. Dido Valley brick houses after the great fire of January 2000. (Simon's Town Museum, drawer: Dido Valley).

Until 1976 three subdivisions were made from erf 420: erf 437 in 1945, erf 2378 for sub-economic housing in the late 1940s and erf 450 (Woodlands township) in 1957.

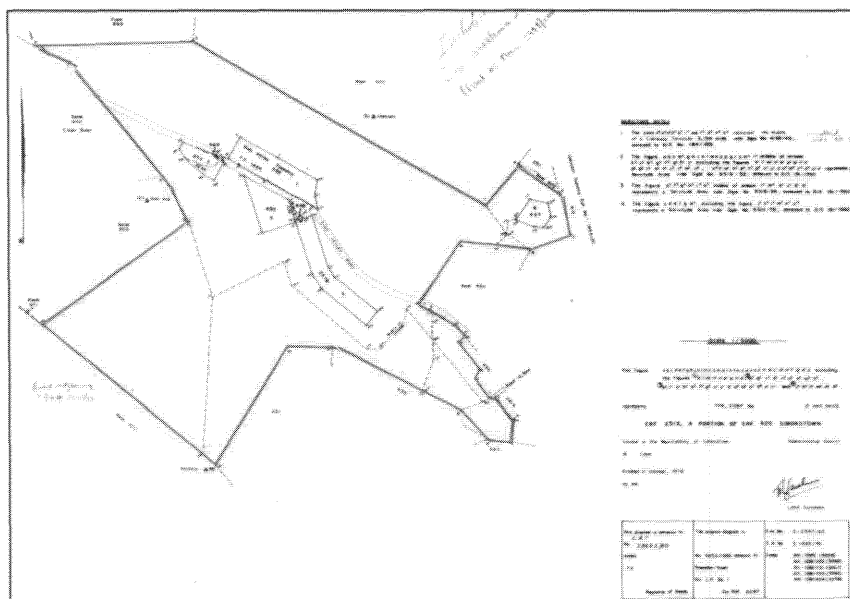


Fig. 11. Erf 2513, Dido Valley, 1976. (Reference: Surveyor General, Cape Town, Survey Diagram No 5035/1976).

Between October 1997 and June 2000 erf 4625 was surveyed, which more or less followed the outline of the survey diagram above. It is not quite clear why the black inked-in erven 4614, 4617 and 4626 are highlighted (Fig. 12).

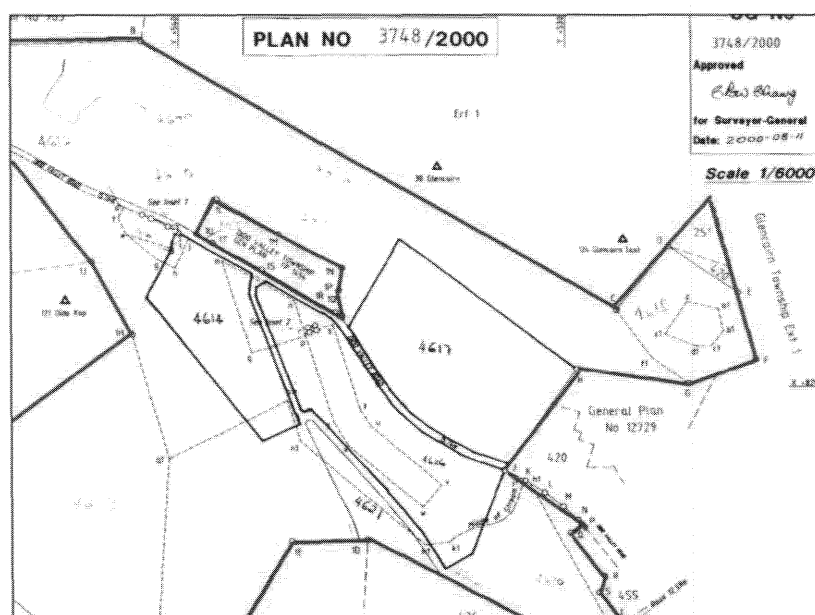


Fig. 12. Erf 4625, Simon's Town, Dido Valley, 2000. excluded are insets 1 and 2. (Surveyor General, Cape Town, Survey Diagram No 3748/2000).

In 2003 erven 4614, 4615 and 4617 were donated to the City of Cape Town. The survey diagrams state for all three "a portion of '2520', crossed out, and substituted with 4625, the actual surveys were conducted in 1998. In 1998 erf 4625 did not even exist.

Fig. 13.
Survey diagram of erf 4614.
Note the heading.
(Surveyor General, Cape
Town, survey diagram
835/1998),

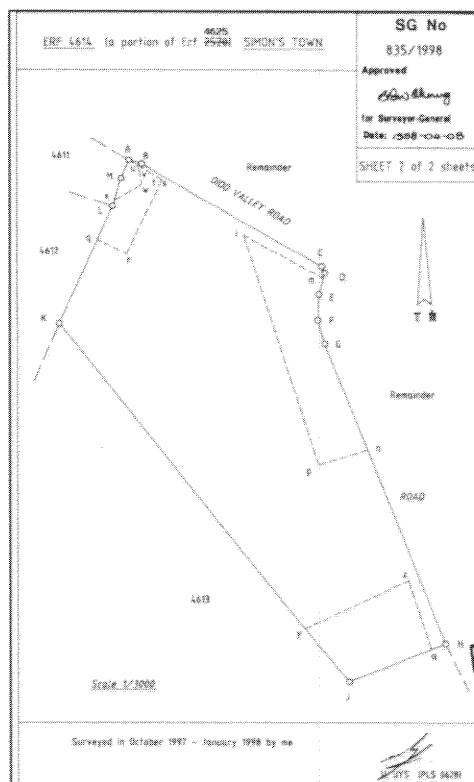
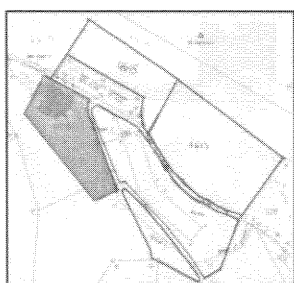


Fig. 14.
Survey diagram of erf 4615.
Note the heading, which
has been twice corrected.
(Surveyor General, Cape
Town, survey diagram
836/1998),

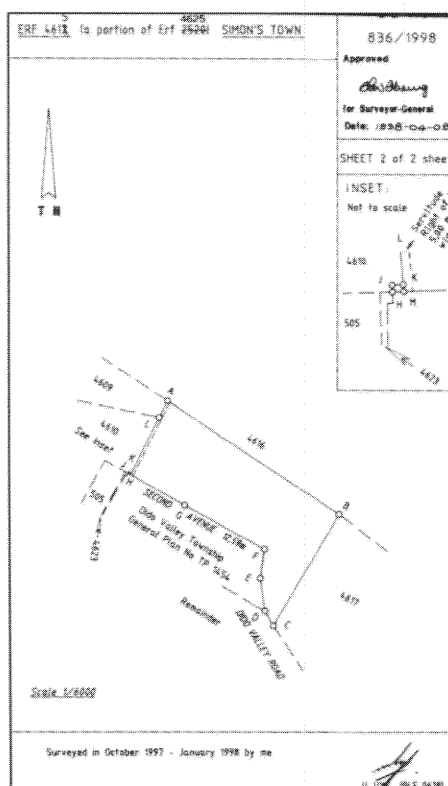
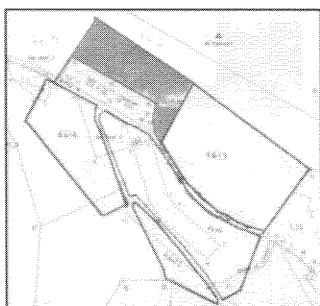


Fig. 15.
Survey diagram of erf 4617.
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(Surveyor General, Cape
Town, survey diagram
838/1998),

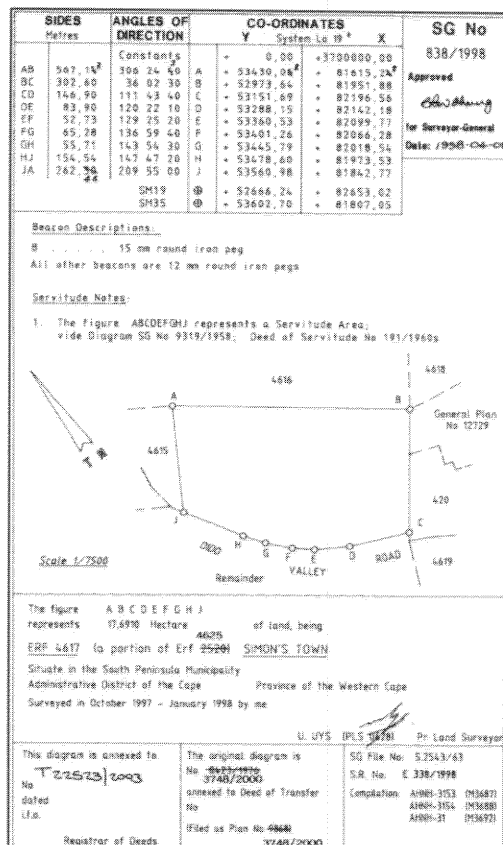
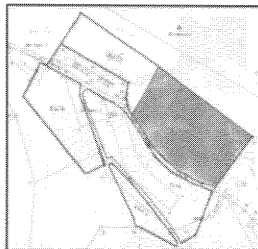


Fig. 16.
Survey diagram of erf 4621.
(Surveyor General, Cape
Town, survey diagram
842/1998),

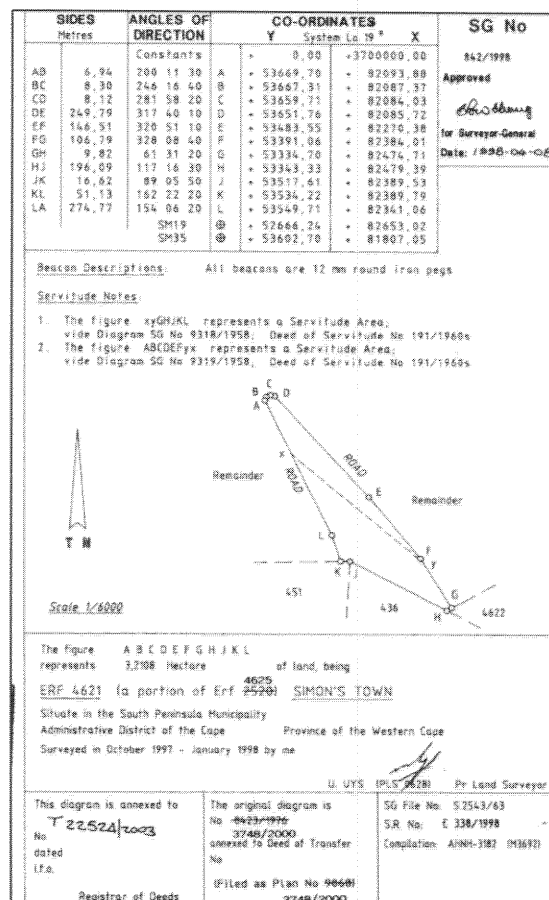
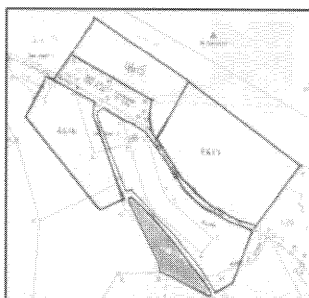
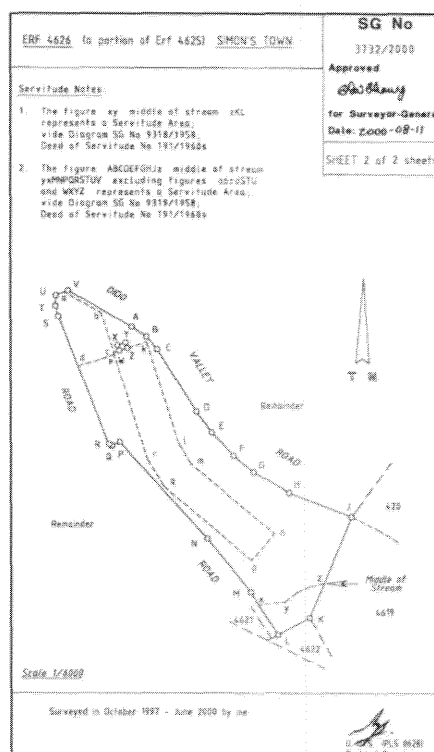
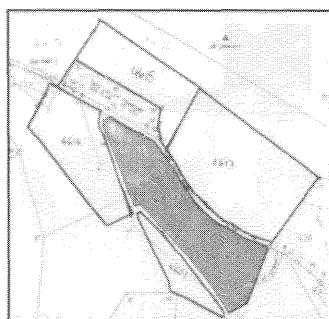


Fig. 17.
Survey diagram of erf 4626.

(Surveyor General, Cape
Town, survey diagram
3732/2000),



Summary

Dido Valley erven 4614, 4615, 4617, 4621 and 4626 were and are owned by state organs.

- Before 1906 it was 'Crown land', i.e. belonging to the British Crown,
- 1907 a grant to the Mayor and Councillors of the Municipality of Simon's Town
- 2000 – erf 4625 created
- subdivisions in 2003 and 2005 in favour of the City of Cape Town

ERF	date transferred	Title Deed	transferred to
4614	2003	T22525/2003	City of Cape Town
4615	2005	T43520/2005	City of Cape Town
4617	2003	T22523/2003	City of Cape Town
4621	2003	T22524/2003	City of Cape Town
4626	2003	T22526/2003	City of Cape Town

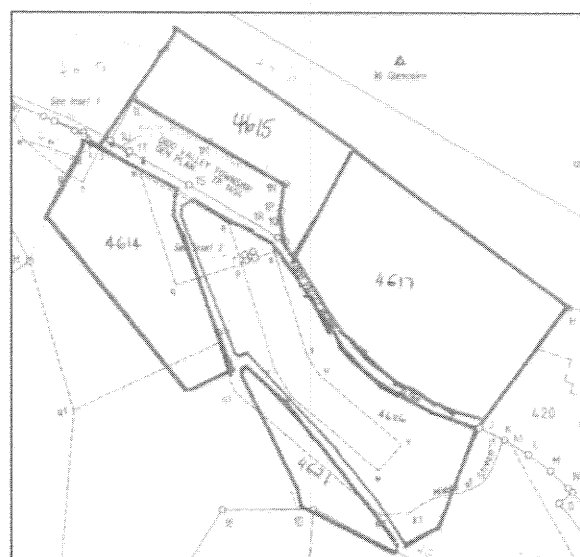
4. THE SURVEY of erven 4614, 4615, 4617, 4621 and 4626 Dido Valley

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHR) (Act No 25 of 1999), the overarching national legal framework, protects *inter alia* structures older than 60 years and indigenous vegetation. Section 3(3) of the NHR Act provides a range of criteria for the identification of sites and assessments of places of cultural significance. In the Western Cape the provincial heritage authority (HWC) is tasked with managing Section 38 of the NHR Act. This survey will aid HWC to assess the significance of archaeological / historical finds (if any) in Dido Valley, their cultural context and make recommendations as to their mitigation.

A surface survey of the properties was conducted on foot by myself and two assistants according to professional standards on 27 May 2007. Restrictions to the survey in the form of physical obstacles were encountered in the form of – at times – dense vegetation, large mounds of household- and building rubbish dumped along two access roads serving Naval bases on the southern slopes, and steep terrain.

This report also makes reference to the survey done by Tim Hart & Dave Halkett of the Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town in 2000⁸.

Fig. 18. Schematic diagram of the erven surveyed: erf 4614, 4615, 4617, 4621 and 4626.



⁸ Jess Hughes & Associates, *ibid*.

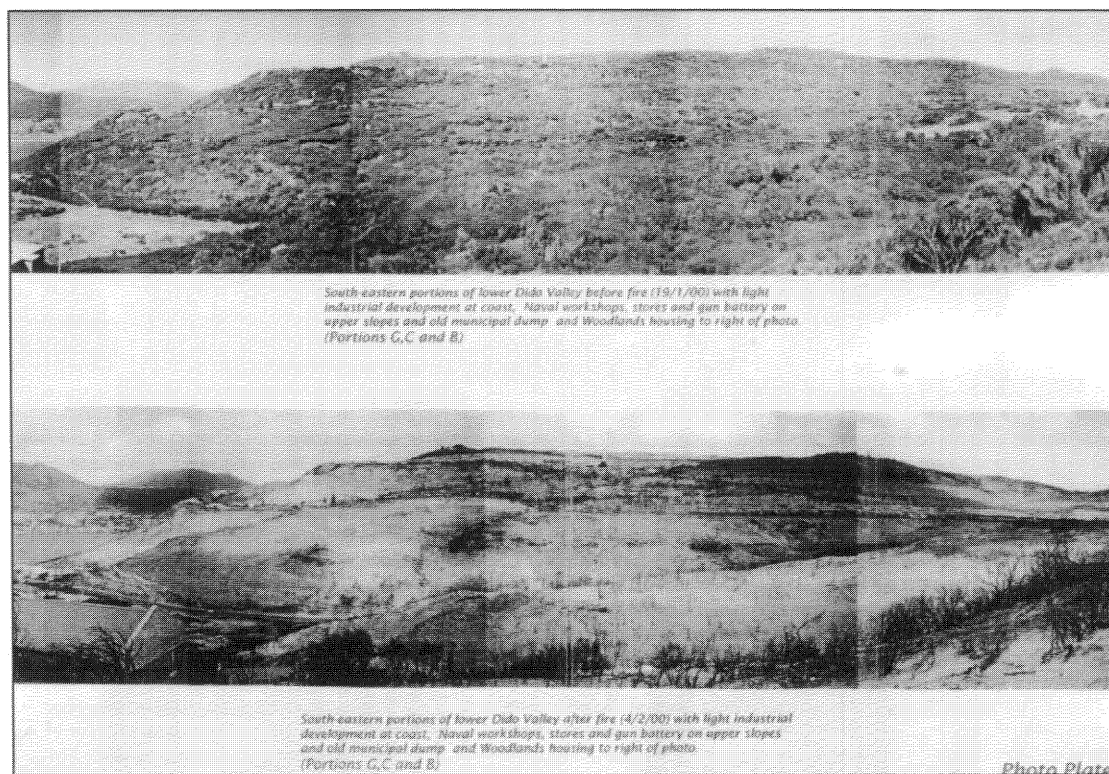


Fig. 19. South portion of Dido Valley before and after the fire of January 2000. (Reference: Jess Hughes & Associates).

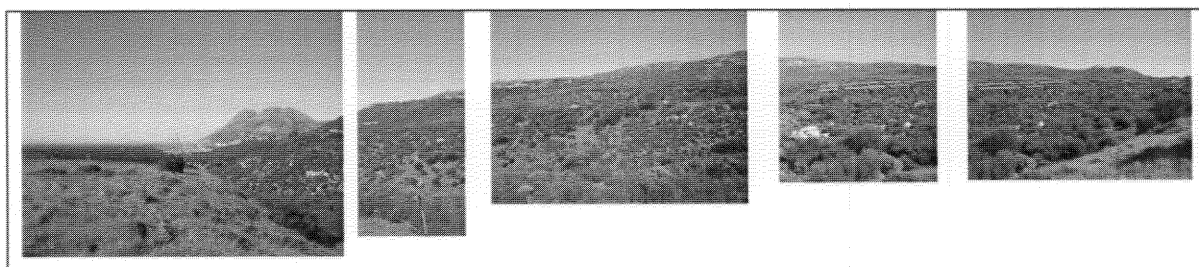


Fig. 20. The south slope of Dido Valley in May 2007, photographed from the dump area on the north slope. Note how the vegetation has recovered.

4.1 The built environment

4.1.1 Dido Valley location

The 64 red brick houses on erf 4626 were erected during the late 1940s by the Municipality of Simon's Town for rent to the lower income strata of the coloured population. This would place them under the protection of HWC.

Since the forced group areas act removals of the late 1960s, these dwellings have been left unoccupied. Subsequently there seems to have been episodes of vandalism, temporary unlawful occupation and devastations by fire.

The following photographs are records taken in 2007.

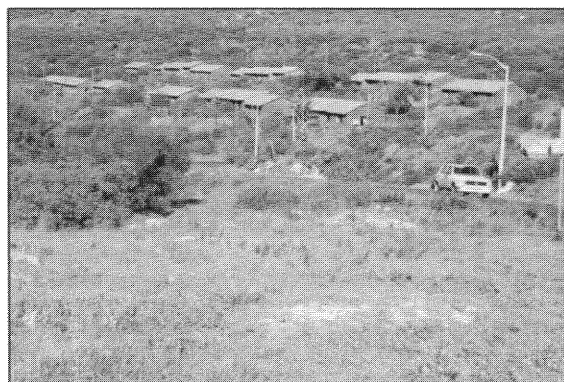


Fig. 21a. The double row of red brick houses on erf 4626. A single row of houses is situated to the left of the picture.

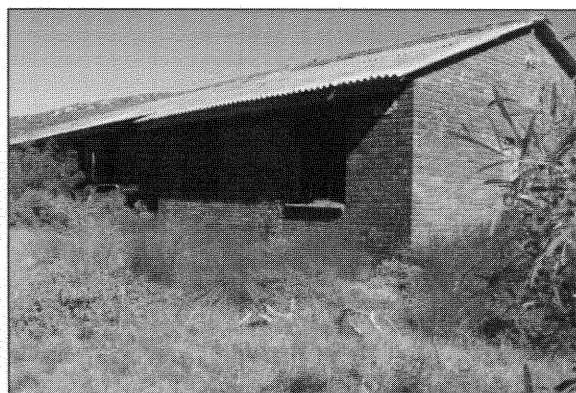


Fig. 21b. Details of the sturdy construction of these houses after almost sixty years..

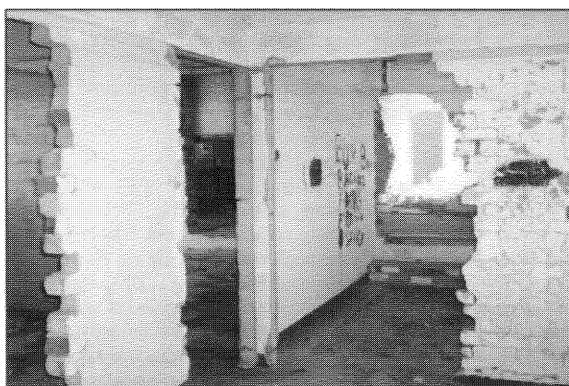


Fig. 21c. Interior of one of the many houses, whose doors, frames, windows, bathroom and kitchen fixtures, floor coverings etc are all expropriated.

The graffiti proclaims that these are the headquarters of the "Bun Boys", a 'gang' of young males.



Fig. 21dc. The kitchen and bathroom / scullery typical of the houses.

No distinguishing archaeological / historical / architectural features were found which would set these houses apart from any other municipality sub-economic housing of the period.

No archaeological features / deposits older than fifty years were found on erf 4626.

4.1.2 Woodlands

As the properties in Woodlands are privately and individually owned, the proposed dense housing scheme is of some concern to the inhabitants⁹.

Erf 4615 is situated to the north-west of and adjoining Woodlands, erf 4617 to the south-east. Both erven are littered with household rubbish and building material.

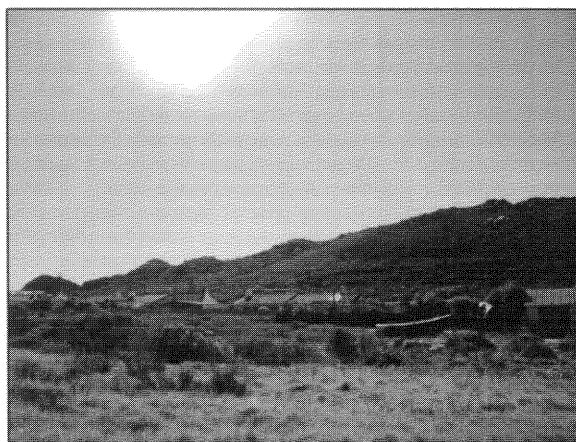


Fig. 22a. Woodlands houses as seen from erf 4617 in 2007. In the foreground are litter-strewn wetlands.

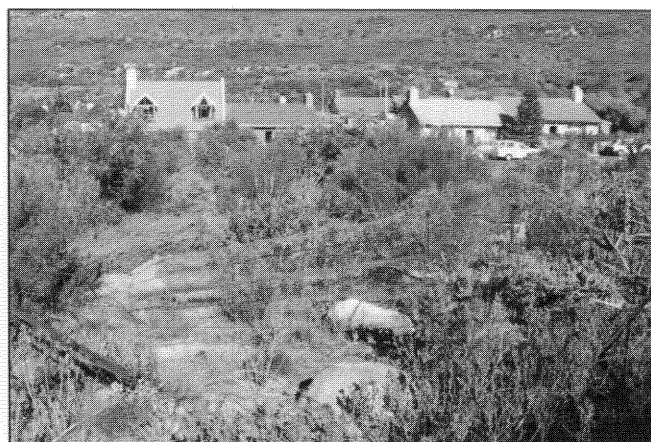


Fig. 22b. Woodlands houses as seen from erf 4615 in 2007.

4.2 The municipal rubbish dump

The former Simon's Town Municipality dump is situated approximately 1km up the northern slope of Dido Valley on erf 4617, behind the recent extension of Glen Marine township. The dump was installed after the Second World War, in 1964 one of our informants remembers collecting household stuff from the dump for restoration and re-use¹⁰. Although the dump was closed in 1975, rubbish is still deposited.

The top layers of this dump seem to consist of industrial cables, metal and plastic refuse, builders rubble and so forth, probably generated by the navy. Erf 4617 is infested throughout with alien vegetation. The flat dump area and its slopes are covered in Kikuyu grass.

The dump is not well compacted. The slopes fall steeply towards Glen Marine.

⁹ The author was approached by some home-owners, some of whom had lived there for over 30 years, during the survey.

¹⁰ Mrs Lydia Kindo, Ocean View, pers. comm. 15 June 2007.



Fig. 23. The Simon's Town Municipality rubbish dump in 1992 – the light green grassed area across the valley. (Reference: Siting of Redhill Informal Settlement, a Report by the 1992 Environmental Science Masters Students of the University of Cape Town).

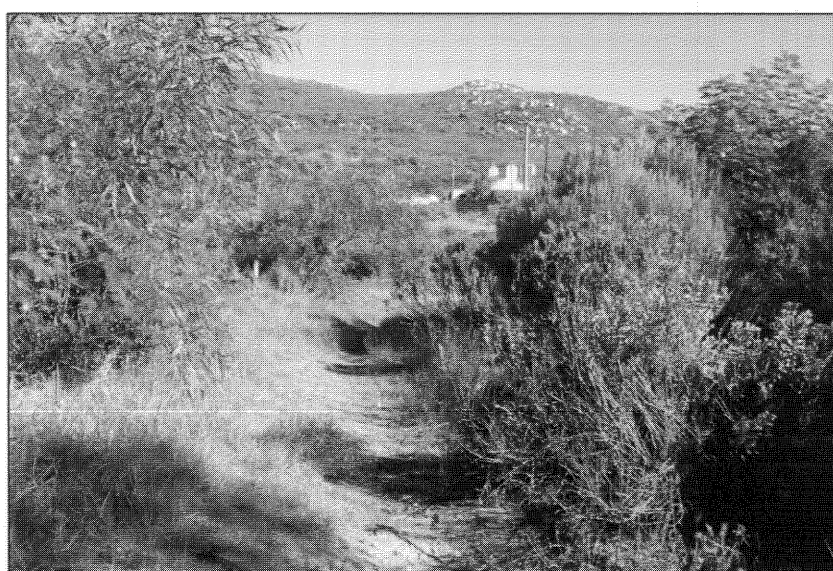


Fig. 24. Heavy rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*) and Port Jackson (*Acacia saligna*) infestation around the approach to the dump from Woodlands, as well as over the whole of erf 4617.

In modern historical archaeology town dumps are viewed as depositories of a town's or village's past. As such, and because there are no other historical dumps extant in and around Simon's Town. It is recommended that the flat dump area of erf 4617 and the dump's slopes be sealed with suitable material, and not to be considered for the provisioning of housing units.

4.3 Erven 4614, 4621 and 4626 on the south slopes of Dido Valley

Erf 4614 is situated to the south-east of the gravel road which leads off the tarred Redhill Naval Road to Naval Administration buildings. The slopes vary from gently to steep. The site itself contains no archaeological deposits. The sides of the gravel road have been used in recent years as a depository for all kinds of builders and household rubbish.

Erf 4621 is a triangular piece of ground between the gravel road and Redhill Naval Road. The upper slopes of erf 4626 are steep.

Restrictions to the survey were encountered on all erven by heavy, rat-infested dumps and all are partially covered with alien vegetation.

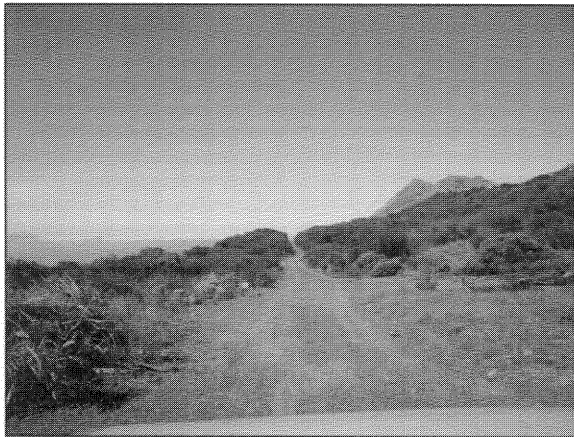


Fig. 25a. The gravel road leading off Redhill Naval Road to naval administration buildings, 2007.

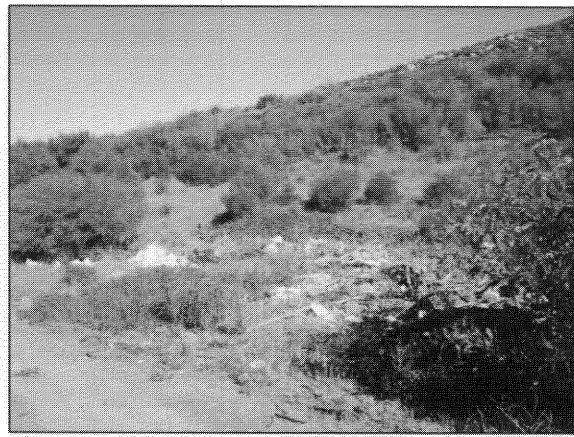


Fig. 25b. A rat-infested rubbish dump on erf 4621, 2007.



Fig. 25c. Rubbish dump on erf 4626 in 2007

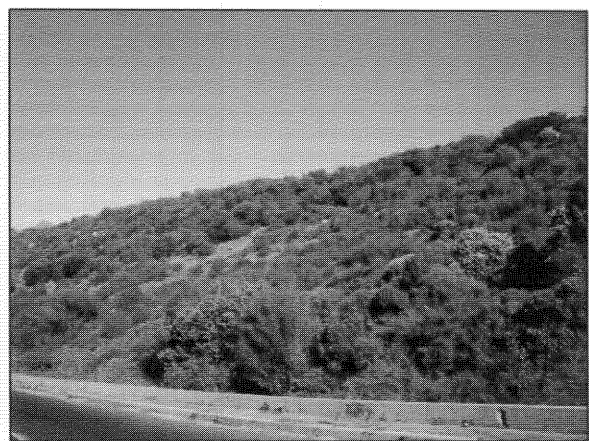


Fig. 25d. The steep slopes of erf 4614, partially covered with alien vegetation.

4.4 Miscellaneous

A couple of small artefacts dating from the Late Stone Age to the late 1960s / early 1970s.

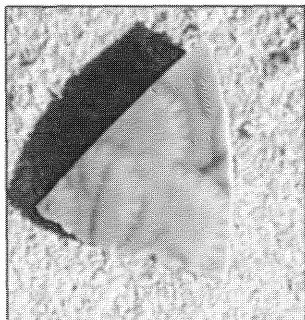


Fig. 26. Fragment of early-mid 19th century British ceramic, Staffordshire ware. One of several we found, but dispersed over erf 4615. Diameter about 200mm

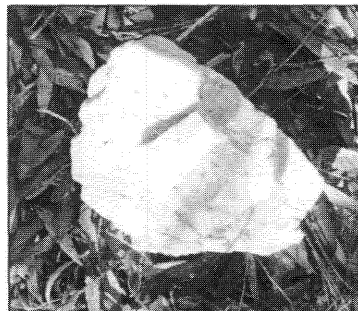


Fig. 27. A Stone tool, probably Late Stone Age (LSA), one of only two we found on erf 4617. Diameter about 200mm.

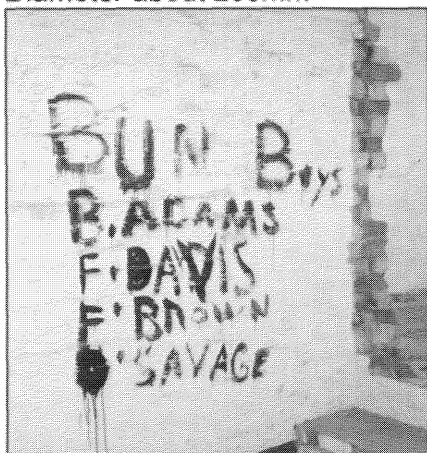


Fig. 28 Graffiti in one of the red-brick council houses of Dido Valley township. Painted with black paint and a brush. The boys are from families evicted under the Group Areas Act.



Fig. 29. It is assumed that a dog was buried here. Erf 4615.



Fig. 30a The upper south-east area of erf 4626 is crossed by a perennial stream.



Fig. 30b. The stream just below where it crosses the gravel road. Note the old gully and drain. 2007.

4.5 Summary

This surface survey, conducted in May 2007, produced no additional significant archaeological material compared to Hart & Halkett's survey immediately after the fire of January 2000. We concur with them that the area was not particularly attractive to prehistoric people and early colonial settlers. The emphasis of this report falls on 20th century developments in the valley, particularly that after 1945. This history is part of the "history of the removal and displacement of the 'coloured' people of Simon's Town", the families that rented the red-brick council houses, and those that owned the properties in Woodlands.

- Scattered occurrences of 19th century refined earthenware ceramics and glass is not considered significant.
- Graffiti painted in the late 1960s / early 1970s display certain youth-related activities, which are still practised in the townships today.
- The Simon's Town municipal dump to the south-east of erf 4617, the last of its kind undisturbed in the South Peninsula, is seen as a historic record of the material remains of the town and its surrounds. We do, however, not know when it was commissioned.

5. RECOMMENDATION and MITIGATION

Importance of the finds: low

Significance: low

Suggested mitigation: NONE

It is recommended that

1. A demolition permit be granted for the 64 red-brick houses,
2. The municipal dump site on the north-east slope of Dido Valley investigated for use as a recreational area, multi-purpose sports field etc.

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7. Acknowledgements

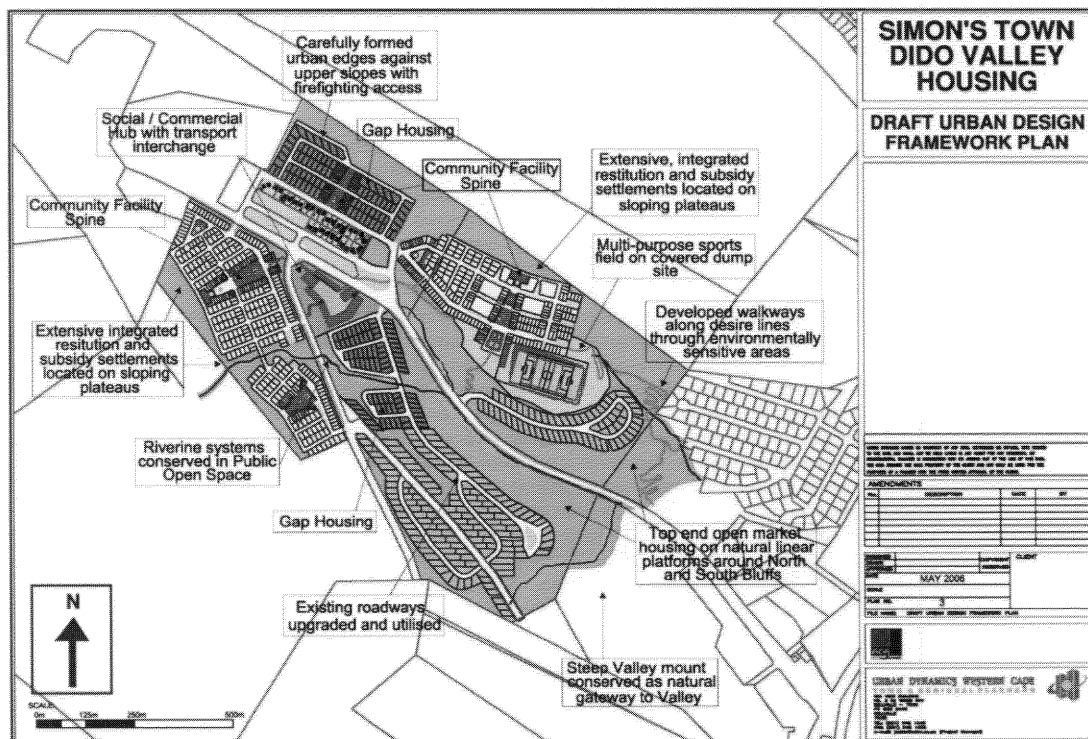
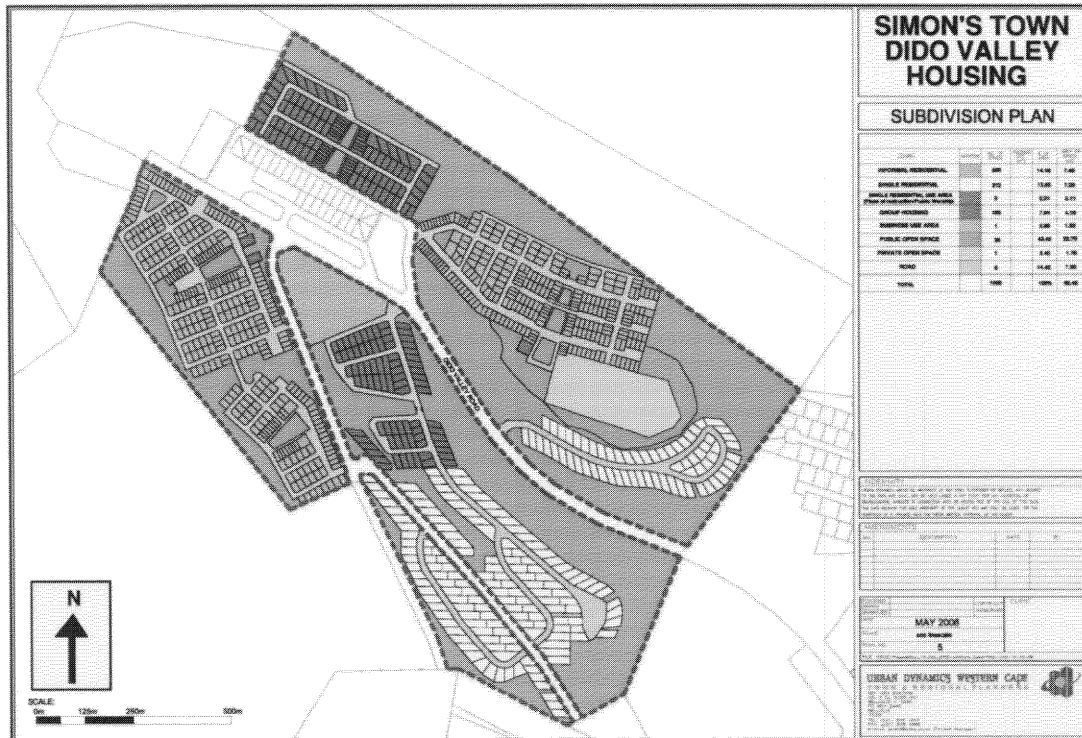
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Ute A. Seemann

(Dr Ute A Seemann)

Cape Town, June 2007

APPENDIX A



Dido Valley, Simon's Town, Housing Project, draft urban design plan for re-dressing the inequalities and inadequacies of previous spatial planning. 2006. (Reference: Urban Dynamics Western Cape Inc.).