

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
ERF 4054 AND ERF 4055
ST. HELENA BAY**

Prepared for

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Executive summary

Conradie Goodwin and Associates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Erf 4054 and Erf 4055 in St. Helena Bay on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property is for the purpose of a residential and group housing development.

The extent of the proposed development (about 3.6 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Chris Snelling has been appointed to complete the required Heritage Western Cape, Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

A large modern home currently occupies Erf 4055, while a smaller modern home/garage occupies the upper slopes of Erf 4054.

Apart from a few pieces of bleached marine shell and a few quartz flakes and chunks, no important archaeological heritage remains were located on the two properties.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

With regard to the proposed development of Erf 4054 and 4055 St Helena Bay, the following recommendations are made:

- Bulk earthworks must be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthmoving operations, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs M. Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Conradie Goodwin and Associates on behalf of Golden Rewards 1207 requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Erf 4054 and Erf 4055 in St. Helena Bay on the Western Cape Coast.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property is for the purpose of a residential and group housing development consisting of 43 units. Provision is also made for public open space, including associated infrastructure such as internal streets and services.

The current zoning of the affected properties is Small Holdings.

The extent of the proposed development (about 3.6 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Chris Snelling has been appointed to complete the required Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed sites;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed sites;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed sites;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed sites

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S° 32 45 126 E° 18 00 378 on map datum wgs 84) is located in St Helena Bay, approximately 20 km north of Vredenburg. The site is located directly behind (i.e. east of) of the Sandpiper Village development.

A large modern home currently occupies Erf 4055, while a smaller modern home/garage occupies the upper slopes of Erf 4054. The remainder of the two properties comprise old agricultural lands characterised by highly weathered loose, quartzite soils on relatively steep west facing slopes. These lands are heavily trampled and disturbed. Some landscaping and a formal garden have been established on Erf 4055. Dune mole rat activity and burrowing is extensive over the two properties. Apart from a few small granite outcroppings that occur on the upper slopes of Erf 4054, there are no significant landscape features on the property, although the surrounding hills are dotted with such outcrops (Figures 3-8).

The property is situated within an area characterised by increasing urban development of a residential, commercial and industrial (harbour, fish processing) nature.

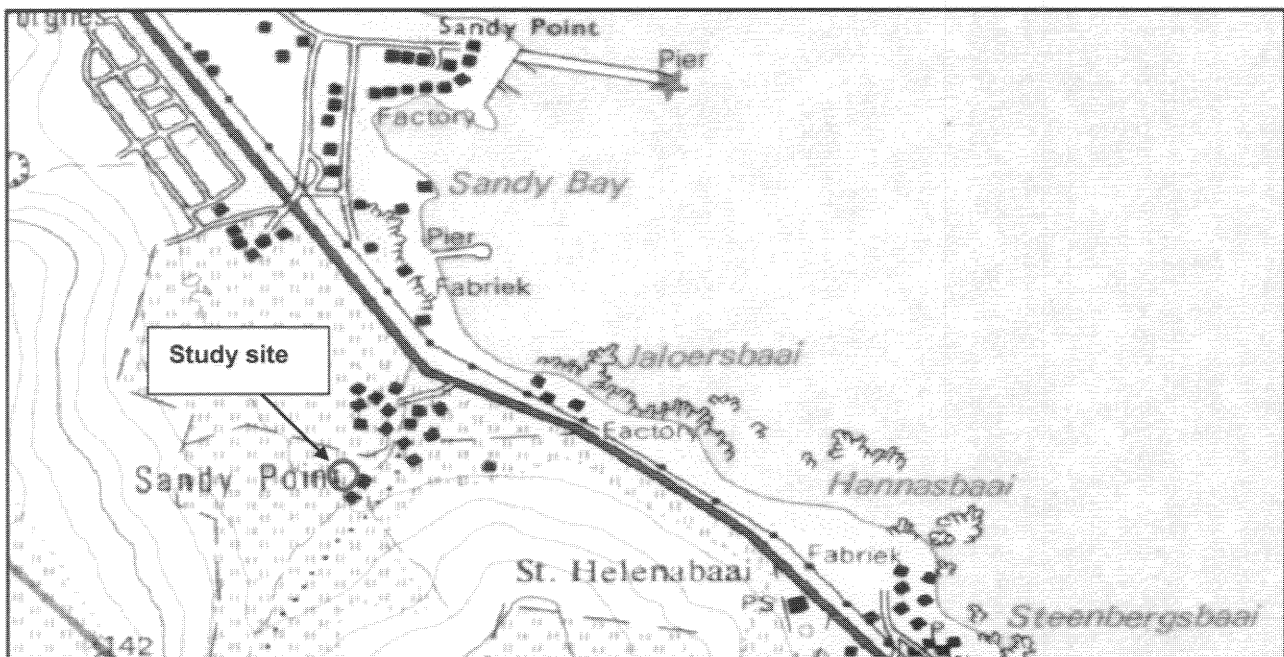


Figure 1. Site locality map (3218 CA & CC Veldriff)

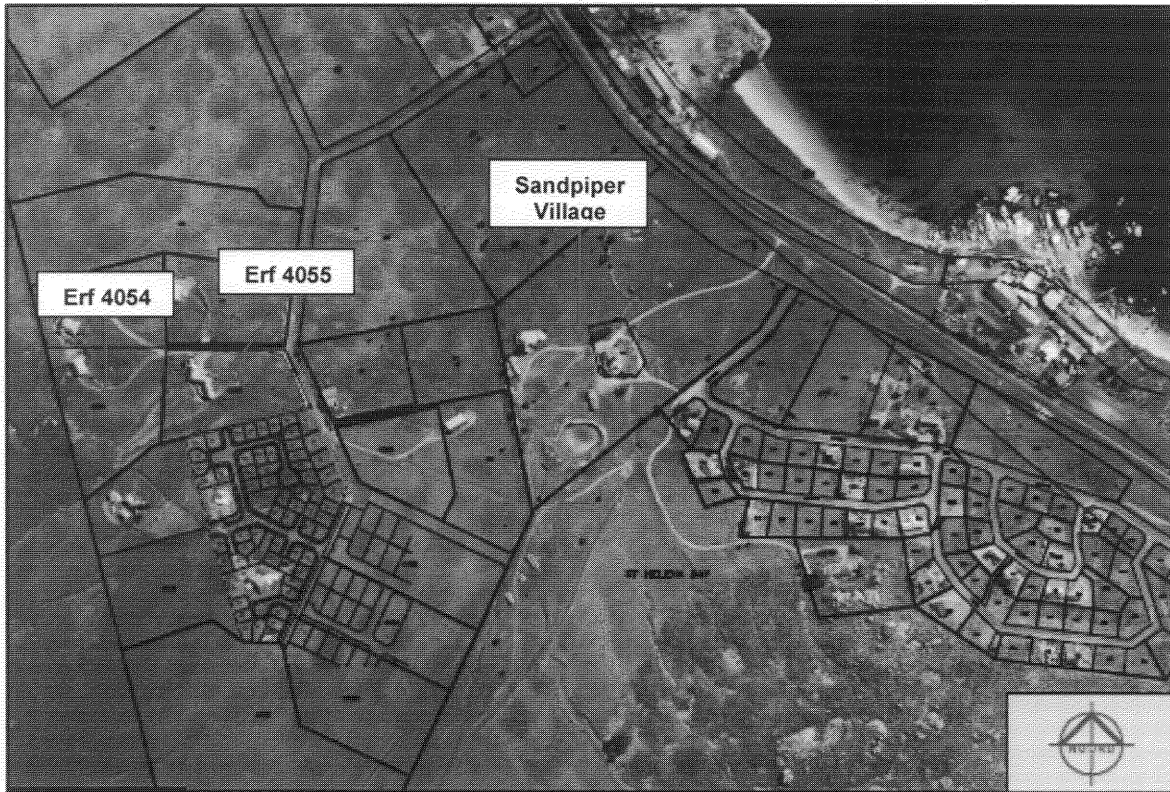


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 3. View of the subject erven facing west



Figure 4. View of the subject erven facing north west

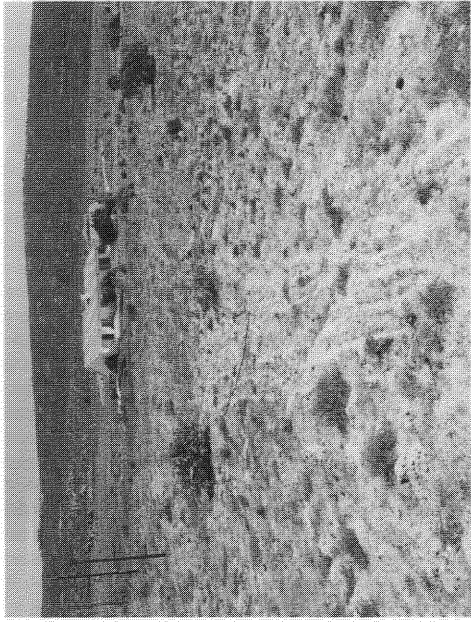


Figure 5. Erf 4055. View of the site facing east



Figure 6. View of the subject erven facing east

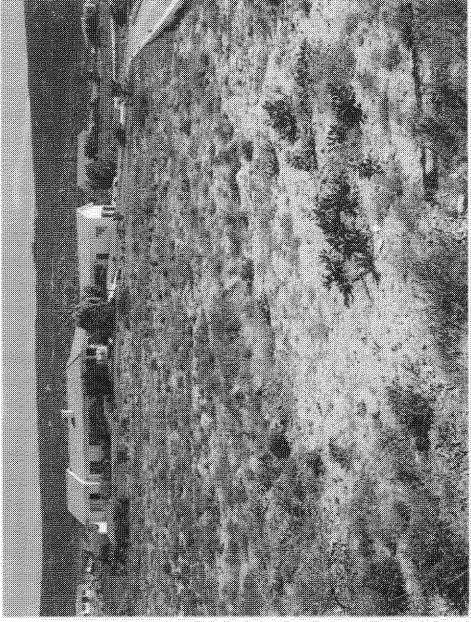


Figure 7. Erf 4055. View of the site facing east



Figure 8. Modern home on Erf 4055

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed survey of the subject erven.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 21st March, 2007.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4.2 Limitations

There were no limitations associated with the study.

4.3 Results of the desk-top study

Archaeological heritage remains have been documented in the immediate surrounding area. Extensive scatters of fragmented shellfish remains and large numbers of stone artefacts have been recorded on the lower slopes of a property south of the subject erven, but these sites have since been destroyed as a result of development activities. A few scattered fragments of shellfish and a thin scatter of stone tools were also documented at Sandpiper Village, a new residential development in St. Helena Bay (Kaplan 2005a). Some weathered and bleached shellfish and a few stone artefacts were located during a study of Erf 4404 and 4405 situated a few hundred metres to the north of the subject erven (Kaplan 2006a), while a thin scatter of stone tools, fragments of weathered and bleached shellfish, and some imported European and Chinese porcelain, were documented on Erf 4056, directly adjacent to the subject erven (Kaplan 2007a). Several low-density scatters of marine shell and stone artefacts have also been located on properties in the immediate surrounding area (Kaplan 2005b, c).

It is well known that large numbers of archaeological sites occur along the rocky shoreline in the St. Helena Bay area, mostly around Duyker Eiland and Britannia Bay (Kaplan 1993; Halkett & Hart 1995; Thackeray & Cronin 1975). Recently, extensive scatters of shellfish, stone tools, pottery and reused colonial artefacts have been found in Britannia Bay, providing compelling evidence for possible near coastal herder sites (Kaplan 2006b, c).

With its rocky shoreline, the St. Helena Bay region acted as foci that attracted both LSA hunter-gatherers and later Khoekhoe herders as it offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods, particularly shellfish, while the local shales and granites provided vital nutrients for domestic stock. Shellfish meat was either cooked in pots or on open fires, but there is also evidence to suggest that meat was dried and smoked. Other marine resources exploited included sea birds, fish, crayfish, seal, dolphin, and even occasionally whales.

Research focussing on the Khoekhoe herder economy around 2000 years ago in the Vredenburg Peninsula has, significantly, identified large numbers of sites up to several kilometres from the shoreline (Sadr *et al* 1992). Many of these sites, comprising substantial shellfish deposits with pottery and stone tools, are centred round the many large granite outcroppings that are ubiquitous in Vredenburg, Paternoster and the St. Helena Bay area.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The relevant sections of the act are as follows

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

6.1 Erf 4054

Apart from a few pieces of bleached marine shell (mainly Limpet and Black Mussel) and a few quartz flakes and chunks, no important archaeological heritage remains were located on Erf 4054.

6.2 Erf 4055

Apart from a few pieces of bleached marine shell (mainly Limpet and Black Mussel) and some quartz flakes and chunks, no important archaeological heritage remains were located on Erf 4055.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Erf 4054 and Erf 4055 in St. Helena Bay on important archaeological heritage remains is likely to be very low.

The probability of locating any significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is also likely to be low.

It should be noted that monitoring of bulk earthworks at Erf 4404 and 4405, has not, apart from a few pieces of shellfish, identified any important sub-surface archaeological heritage remains (Kaplan 2007b in prep.).

Unmarked human burials may, however, be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological impact assessment of Erf 4054 and Erf 4055 St Helena Bay, has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low provided that:

- Bulk earthworks and excavations are monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Ms M. Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692).

9. REFERENCES

Halkett, D. & Hart, T. 1995. A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 6 of the farm Dyker Eiland, St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for Beyers, A.W. Land Surveyors and Township Consultants. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.

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