

A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF PORTIONS OF LAND AT BEKBAAI AND PATERNOSTERBAAI, PATERNOSTER

Prepared for

**BCD
Town and Regional Planners**

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Prepared by

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1. INTRODUCTION

Phase 1 archaeological assessments of two portions of land at Paternoster were previously undertaken in 1992 (Halkett & Hart 1992a,b). Following the recommendations of these reports, the area known as Paternosterbaai was subjected to a Phase 2 investigation prior to development (Halkett 1996). Recently, developers have requested permission to extend the development onto the area known as Bekbaai as well as into small portions of land that fell outside of the originally inspected areas. The proposed plans, as well as areas that have been inspected and mitigated are shown in figure 1. although the present intention is to limit development to the very eastern portion of the Bekbaai property, SAHRA has requested mitigation of archaeological sites over the whole area to offset damage that may result from increased use of the coastline as a result of development. In addition to inspecting previously unstudied areas, we revisited the Bekbaai sites to determine if the original recommendations (prepared some 10 years ago) were still appropriate. Only one new area of heritage significance was located during the survey. This is a graveyard located in the area referred to as E.

2. METHOD

New areas were indicated on plans sent to us by the client. These areas were inspected on foot and site locations were indicated by means of GPS and marking on plans.

3. OBSERVATIONS

We will only discuss the new areas here. A review of the original recommendations for mitigation of the archaeological sites at Bekbaai will be presented in section 4 of this report.

3.1. Paternoster Bay 8 (PNB 8)

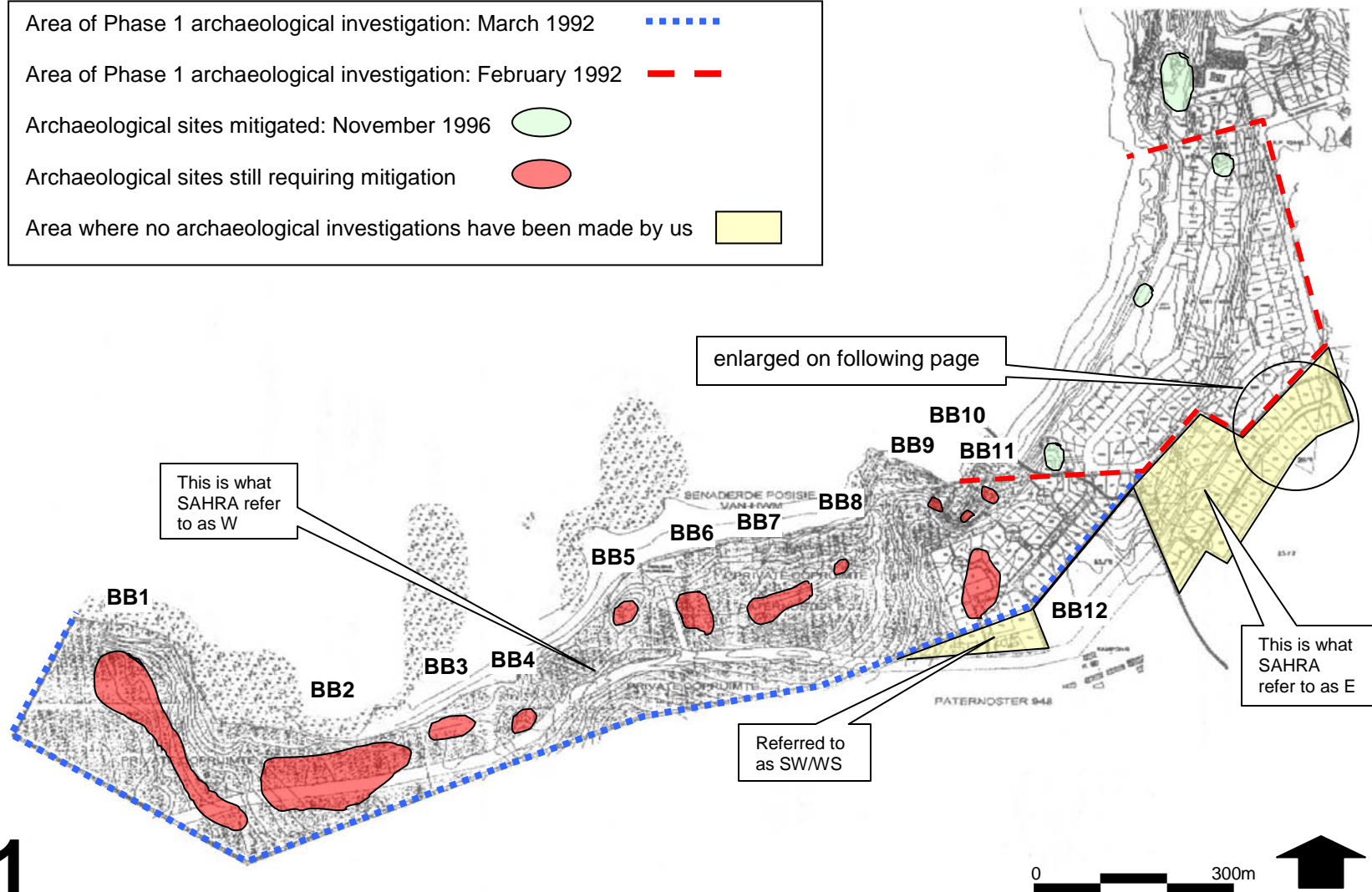


This is a largely informal graveyard located on a low dune area. This graveyard was probably placed here to make use of the soft, deep sand, and to avoid the areas underlying shallow calcretes. While most of the grave outlines are marked by the presence of a few calcrete rocks (Plate 1) , and in some instances have been more prominently placed as

headstones and footstones, it is clear that some rocks have moved over time and therefore no longer mark the positions of graves. The more well preserved of the graves have marine shells placed on top of them. One grave is more formal (Plate 2) and was constructed from cement. A broken headstone lay next to it. The grave is badly vandalised but the headstone inscription is mostly legible to the effect of: *"....wife, Louisa De Abrio, Born 1 Nov 1861, Died 8 Sept 1935. Gone but not forgotten."*



- Area of Phase 1 archaeological investigation: March 1992 ■■■■■
- Area of Phase 1 archaeological investigation: February 1992 ---
- Archaeological sites mitigated: November 1996 ○
- Archaeological sites still requiring mitigation ●
- Area where no archaeological investigations have been made by us ■

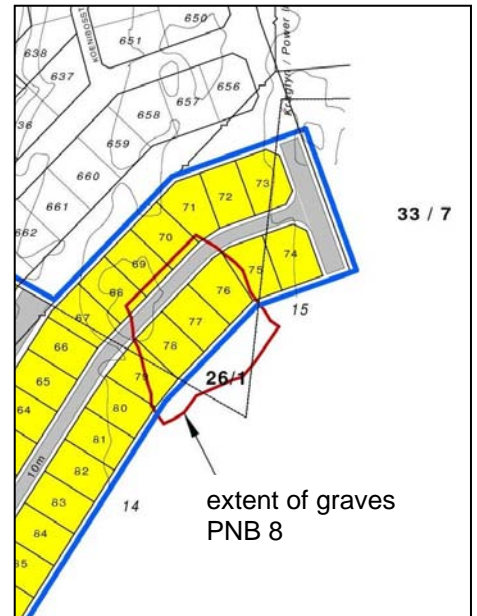


We estimate there to be in the order of 50 graves in the area which covers an area of approximately 40x40 meters.

Since inspecting the site, the location of the graves has been surveyed and located on a plan, a part of which is reproduced here. The approximate GPS location is 32°48'44.5"S and 17°53'06.7"E.

Heritage significance: High

We believe this graveyard to be in excess of 60 years old. As such it is protected under section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (NHRA) and may not be disturbed in any way without a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or Provincial Heritage Resources Authority. In terms of the legislation, if exhumation is intended, it must be preceded by a process in which an attempt is made to trace the history of the site and any next of kin. If it can be demonstrated that this process has been undertaken, a permit may be issued for exhumation.



4. MITIGATION OF SITES AT BEKBAAI

We revisited the sites to assess the mitigation measures that were suggested in 1992. For the most part these still have effect. Exceptions to this are:

- BB 7 and BB 8 - which we had suggested should be protected. We feel that these sites could be mitigated through sampling of the content;
- BB 2 - collect any artefactual material visible on the surface as well as a sample of marine shell remains from an undisturbed area for dating purposes;
- BB 9, BB 10, BB 11 should be sampled in similar fashion to BB 2. This is a very short process designed to preserve a basic record of site content. It is a practice that we have implemented over the last few years on the west coast;
- The dense archaeological content on the western-most bluff of Bekbaai will require fairly substantial intervention. This could perhaps be moderated if the jeep track which runs up onto and over the bluff was discontinued or replaced by a walk path;
- Excavations at the "Fishery Midden" (PNB 7) at Paternoster Bay unearthed a pre-colonial human burial. It is entirely possible that similar remains from unmarked (and unpredictable) localities may be unearthed during construction work. Such material is protected by the NHRA. These finds must be reported to SAHRA and left undisturbed until excavated and collected by an archaeologist;
- Quotations for the mitigation of the pre-colonial shell midden sites at Bekbaai will be submitted separately.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- If the intention is to exhume remains from the cemetery at PNB 8, this must be done in accordance with the NHRA. Full text of the act and the regulations can be found at <http://www.sahra.org.za/>;
- If the cemetery is to be exhumed, it should be done as a self contained project distinct from the project to mitigate the Bekbaai archaeological sites for the reason that

exhumation is subject to a different set of procedures and permit requirements from those pertaining to archaeological sites.

- Although we estimate that there are about 50 graves, it may be that some are unmarked where the stones have been removed or re-used elsewhere. The precise extent of the cemetery should at some stage be established through a more detailed investigation. This will have to be undertaken regardless of whether the site is exhumed or not to determine the limitations on development.

6. TEAM

Fieldwork and report

Dave Halkett
Tim Hart

7. REFERENCES

- Halkett, D. & Hart, T. 1992a. A first phase archaeological survey of Bekbaai, Paternoster. Unpublished report prepared for Brandt, Crous, Steyn and Burger. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.
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