

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF PORTION 1 OF PATERNOSTER 26 AND PORTION 9 OF PATERNOSTER 23

Prepared for

BCD Inc
Town and Regional Planners

October 1995



Prepared by

Archaeology Contracts Office
Department of Archaeology
University of Cape Town
Private Bag Rondebosch
7700

Phone 650 2357
Fax 650 2352
Email djh@Beattie.uct.ac.za

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. BACKGROUND	3
3. METHOD	3
4. RESULTS	3
4.1 PAT 1	5
4.2 PAT 2	5
4.3 PAT 3	5
5. CONCLUSIONS	6
6. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
7. PROFESSIONAL TEAM	6

1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office was appointed to assess certain portions of land situated at the village of Paternoster on the Vredenburg peninsula. The land under examination consists of portion 1 of Paternoster 26 and portion 9 of Paternoster 23. Eight houses exist on portion 26/1 but these are several years old.

The Contracts Office undertook to:

1. Search the area for archaeological sites
2. Evaluate the significance of archaeological material and suggest options for mitigation in the event of negative impacts occurring as a result of development.
3. Produce a report detailing the findings.

2. BACKGROUND

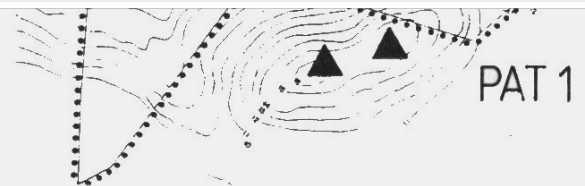
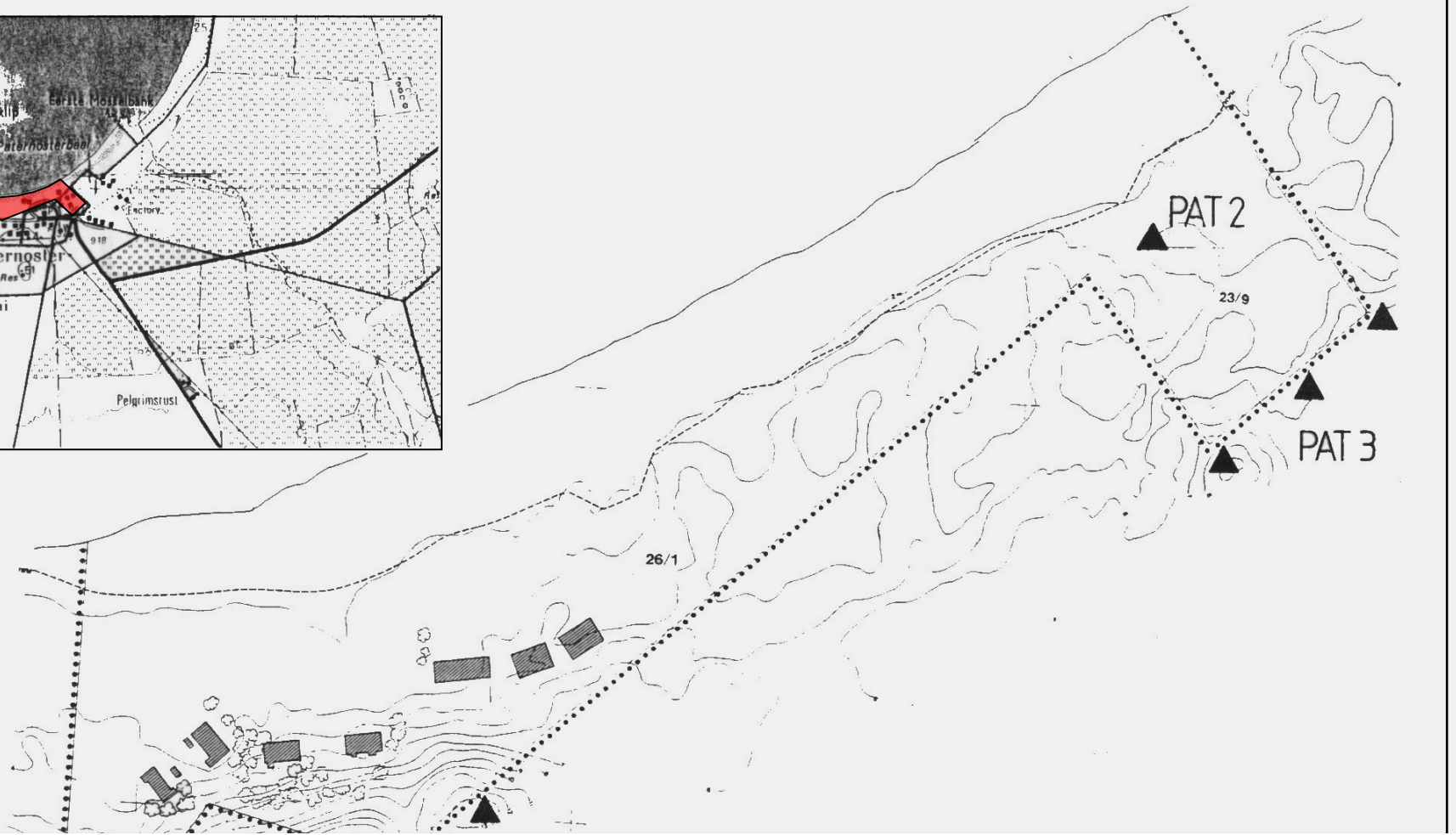
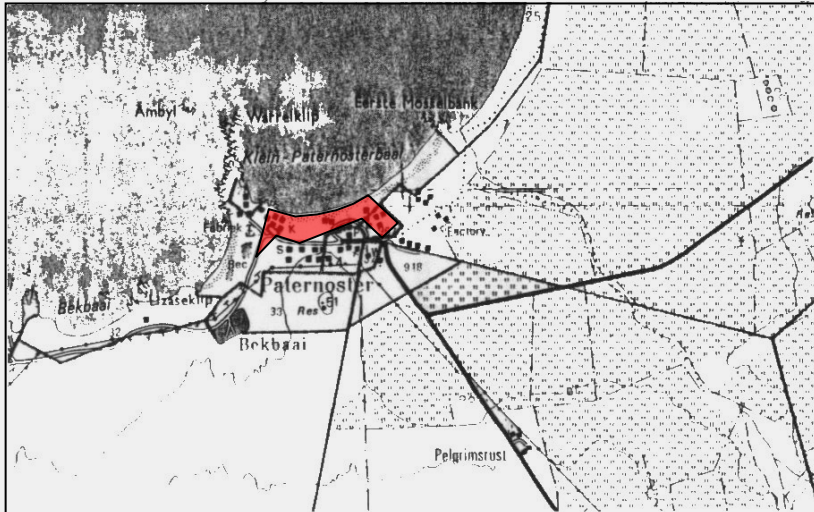
The Vredenburg Peninsula has been the focus of a number of research excavations by archaeologists over recent years. It is now accepted that the area with its unique granite geology and shoreline formations was favoured by prehistoric people. Prior to 1800 years ago the south western Cape was inhabited by hunter/gatherers (San) people whose economy was based on the exploitation of wild animals, marine animals and indigenous plant foods. This changed with the arrival of Khoi herding groups who introduced a new economic order based on the herding of domesticated sheep and cattle. The Vredenburg Peninsula (although rich in sites of early hunter/gatherers) subsequently became a center of the prehistoric herding economy - the local shales and granites providing vital nutrients not available on the Cape Peninsula or the sandstone mountains of the Cape Fold Belt. To this day unresolved questions about the about the ecology and lifestyle of early pastoralists have attracted the interest of historians, archaeologists and anthropologists alike.

3. METHOD

The target area, identified on a plan supplied with the brief, was searched on foot for sites. The absence of fences or fence posts (except for two) and surveyor's pegs made identification of the precise physical boundaries difficult particularly in portion 26/9. Sites have been plotted with a global positioning system (GPS). The location of the property and archaeological sites is shown on Figure 1.

4. RESULTS

Houses do exist on part of the area and these and the immediate surrounds hold little promise for archaeological material. Similarly, the beach frontage bordering the property shows traces of disturbance. No developed foredune is present and the land is therefore mostly featureless, the exception being the substantial dune formation behind the houses (which is the prominence which can be seen immediately in front of the hotel).



▲ archaeological sites



1

4.1 PAT 1

32°48.5413S 17°53.5473E
32°48.5262S 17°53.5906E

The site consists of two prominent dunes behind the houses. Only a part of these sites lie within the area under investigation. The GPS readings were taken from the densest portions of the middens which lie outside the boundaries. These sites consist of a dense surface covering of mixed limpet and mussel shells. Buried lenses of shell will surely exist here. As most of the sites lie beyond the boundaries, no test pits were sunk.

Importance: High

Impact: Any earthmoving along the edge of the dune will damage archaeological material.

Mitigation: Any proposed site works which may take place in this vicinity should be assessed at the planning stage to determine if negative impacts will occur. It may be necessary to excavate some of the site to prevent loss of archaeological material.

4.2 PAT 2

32°48.3824S 17°53.8002E

The site consists of a raised platform which appears to be the remains of a building. Several blocks of limestone are scattered around the base of the platform while at the one side is a depression in which some walling is still present. This walling is plastered with modern cement. It is quite likely that this was a small cottage that was demolished as a result of the Group Areas policy of 1967.

Importance: Low

Impact: Not much of this feature is left. No artefactual material of obvious vintage was observed in the area.

Mitigation: No mitigation required.

4.3 PAT 3

32°48.4394S 17°53.8244E

The site consists of a capping of midden on a low sand mound. The mound is the only prominent feature at this point. The absence of physical boundaries makes it difficult to assess whether this site lies inside the property. I suspect that it lies just outside. Two additional mounds are found approximately 100 meters away on either side. The shell component is a mixture of limpets and mussels. Stone artefactual material and bone was observed on the surface.

Importance: High

Impact: As the sites lie outside the boundary it is not expected that there will be direct impact unless services or access points are located here. Care should be taken to ensure that secondary impacts do not occur during any earthmoving that may take place within portion 26/9.

Mitigation: No mitigation required unless the sites will be disturbed by services or roads.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Important archaeological sites have only been located on the boundaries of the property in two places. The precise impacts which may result to these sites is impossible to determine until such time as more definite plans for development are prepared.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 If there is to be development close to the known middens, plans should be submitted for assessment by the National Monuments Council.

7. PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Fieldwork

Dave Halkett
Mzwondile Sasa
Mnzunzima Mjikeliso

Report

Dave Halkett
Tim Hart