

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF A
PORTION OF FARM 28, AND PORTION 1 OF FARM
PATERNOSTER 26, PATERNOSTER, WESTERN CAPE
PROVINCE.**

Prepared for

**BCD
Town and Regional Planners**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by BCD Town Planners and Architects to undertake a phase 1 investigation of a portion of farm 28 and portion 1 of farm Paternoster 26, Paternoster, Western Cape Province (Figure 1). It has been proposed that the area be rezoned and sub-divided with the result that archaeological sites may be negatively impacted by future development.

The archaeology Contracts Office undertook to:

1. Search the portions of land in question to locate archaeological and/or historical material or structures protected by existing legislation
2. Conduct small test excavations to establish the sub-surface extent and depth of buried archaeological material
3. Plot any such finds on a suitable map of the area and establish co-ordinates using an averaging GPS
4. Photograph any such finds if necessary
5. Prepare a report indicating if any material will be impacted as well as suitable mitigatory action if required.

2. BACKGROUND

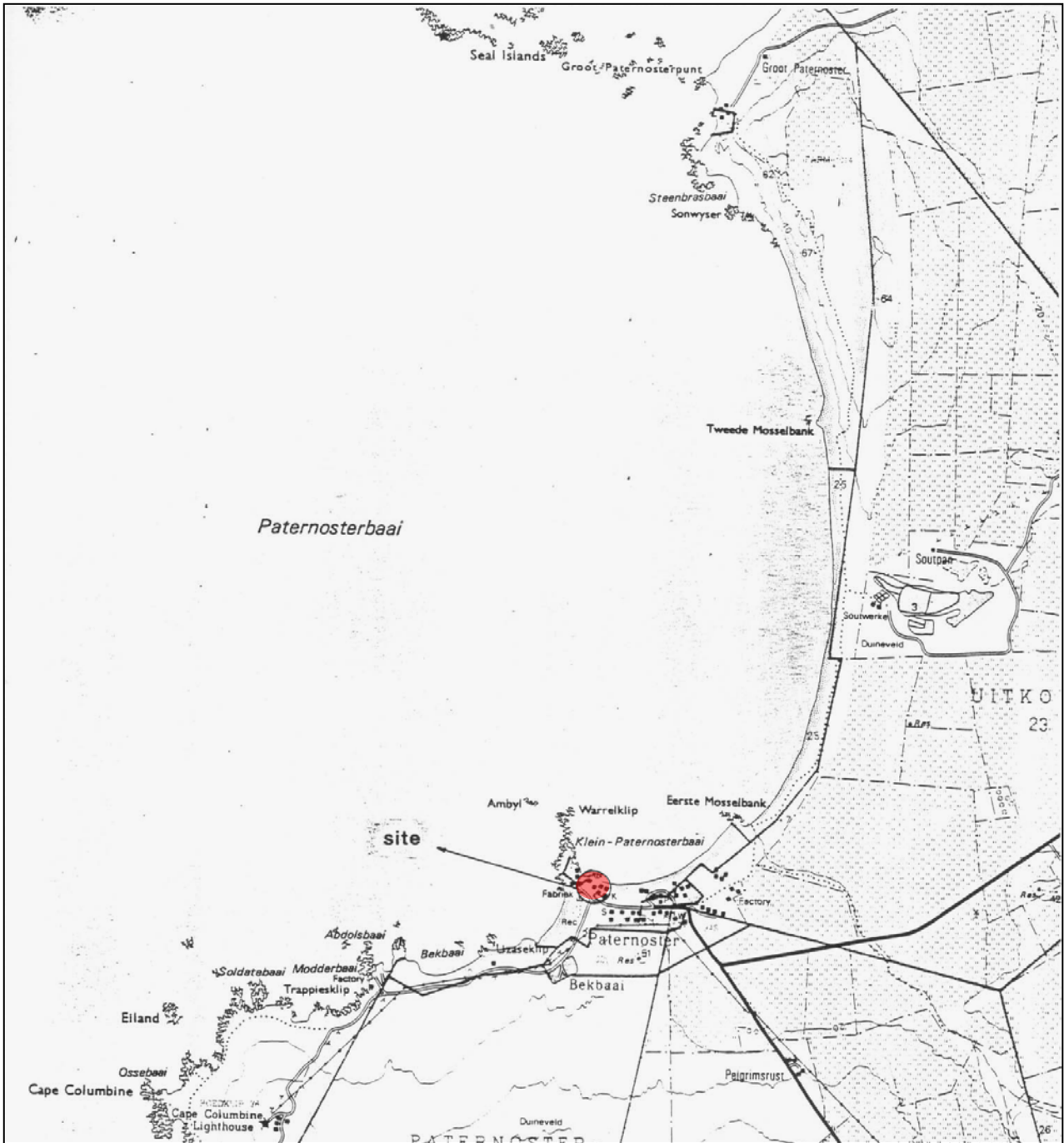
Prior to 1800 years ago the south western Cape was inhabited by hunter/gatherers (San) people whose economy was based upon exploitation of a wide range of terrestrial animals and indigenous plant foods. This diet was supplemented by various marine animals, especially shellfish, when it was possible to make use of them. This changed after 2000 years ago with the arrival of Khoi Khoi herding groups who introduced domestic animals (sheep and later cattle) along with the technique of making pottery into the Cape.

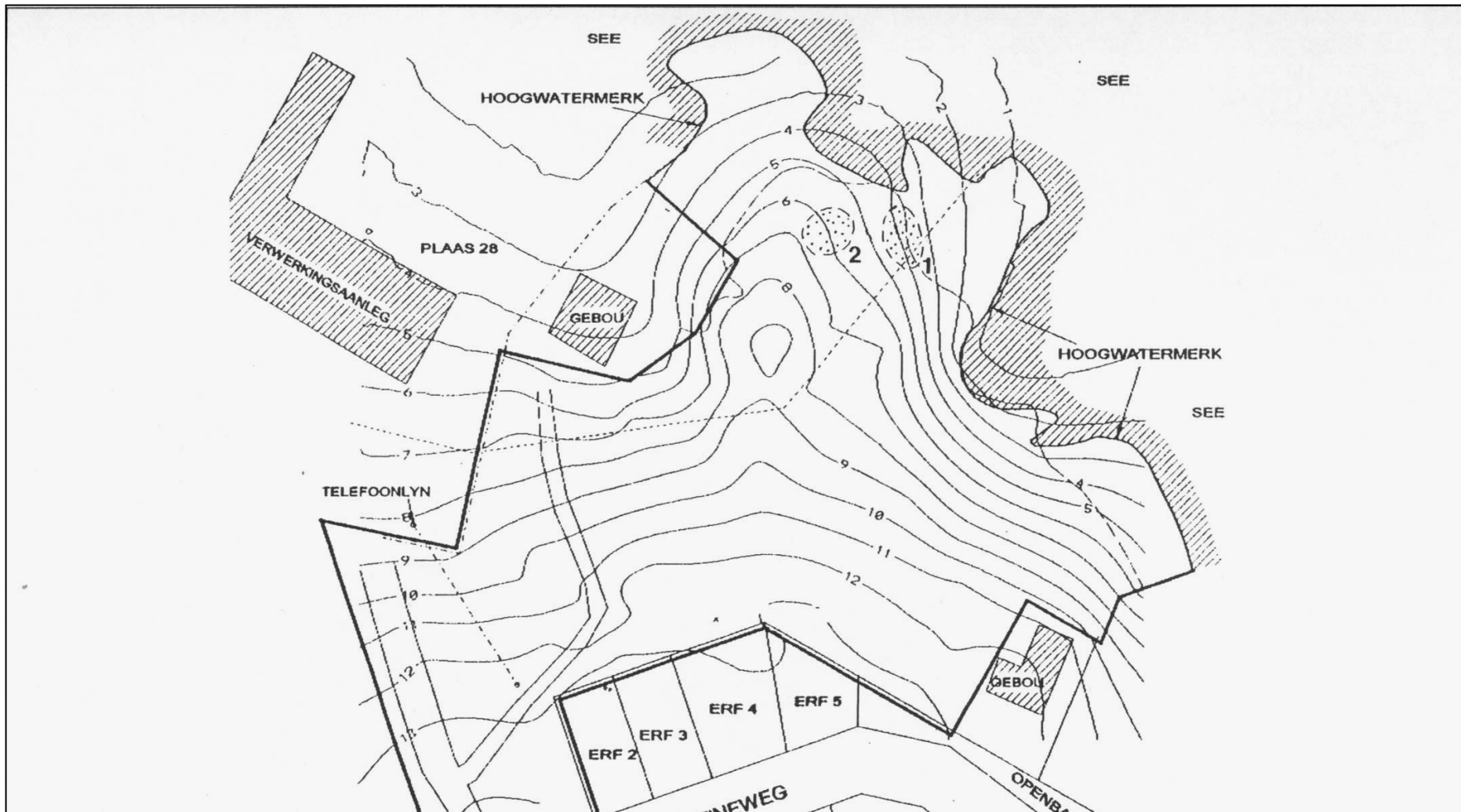
The Vredenburg peninsula subsequently became one of the centers of pre-colonial stock herding - the local shales and granites providing vital nutrients in the grazing for domestic stock that are not available on the Cape Peninsula or the sandstone mountains of the Cape Fold Belt.

To this day unresolved questions about the origins, ecology and lifestyle of early pastoralists in southern Africa have attracted the interest of historians, archaeologists and anthropologists alike. The Vredenburg area is at present one of the few areas of the Cape where both pastoralist and hunter/gatherer sites have been recognised, making the preservation, recording and study of archaeological sites all the more important.

3. RESULTS

Two archaeological sites were located in the survey area. One of these is a prehistoric midden while the other is the foundation of a small fisherman's cottage. Both of these are technically protected by the provisions of the National Monuments Act of 1969 as amended. These sites are described in detail below along with ratings of significance. The locations of the sites are shown on Figure 2.





oster.

2 Area of investigation - Portion of farm 28 and a portion of portion 1 of Paternoster No. 26, Patern
 Reference: BCD plan no. 2.246.01 Scale: 1:1000 (reduced)

3.1 Site 1

This is a stone foundation of a small dwelling partially covered by drift sands. The exposed area of foundation indicates that the structure was probably a small vernacular style cottage similar to some of the older fisherman's houses that exist in Paternoster today. There are no surface indications of associated historic midden material.

Importance: Medium - low. Structures of this type still exist, however many older examples in the area have been demolished.

Impact: High. Development nearby may result in destruction of the foundations.

Mitigation: Avoidance of the vicinity of the site would be desirable. If this is not possible the foundations will need to be exposed, recorded and photographed. The presence of historic middens in the area should be checked by test excavation.

3.2 Site 2

Co-ordinates: 32° 48.4197' S 17° 53.1718' E

This is a Late Stone Age shell midden lying among some low granite boulders. The surface of the site has been disturbed by deflation and recent activity while other areas have been covered by active sand movement. A small test excavation revealed that below the surface the material is much better preserved but not clearly stratified. The dominant shell species on the site is *Choromytilus meridionalis* (Black mussel), while whelks and limpets (*Patella granatina* and *Patella granularis*) occur in lesser quantities. Several stone artefacts in the form of silcrete flakes were observed on the surface. No ceramics were seen.

Importance: Medium-low. The site is partially disturbed and not clearly stratified.

Impact: High. Building activities close to the site will potentially damage archaeological material.

Mitigation: Certain parts of the site may produce reliable samples of material. If the vicinity of the site is to be impacted by development activities, 2-3m² of deposit should be excavated on those parts of the site that are best preserved. This material must be sorted and curated before development activities begin.

4. CONCLUSION

Site 1 in the development area represents the late 19th or early 20th century vernacular buildings characteristic of the Paternoster fishing village. When the photographer, Arthur Elliot, visited the area at the end of the last century, vernacular cottages were common. Since those times many have been demolished without any record being made of their architectural characteristics. It is therefore important that remains that still exist are conserved and/or recorded.

Site 2 is representative of the Late Stone Age when prehistoric people used to congregate on the shore to collect shellfish, lobsters and other marine animals. Sheltered bays with rocky shorelines were particularly favoured as these provided people with a relatively safe

opportunity to visit to collect species living in or close to rocks at low tide. The fact that no pottery was seen on the site indicates that it may be more than 2000 years old.

5. RECOMMENDATION

1. Both these sites are protected by the provisions of the National Monuments Act of 1969 as amended. If either of the sites is to be destroyed or altered by construction activities, a permit must be obtained by the developer from the National Monuments Council. Before issuing the permit the National Monuments Council may require that an archaeologist is contracted to record and excavate the sites before a permit for their destruction is issued. A copy of this report should be sent to the National Monuments Council. This organisation must be consulted as early as possible in any planning process.

6. PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Survey

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Report

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