

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF
PATERNOSTER A 34
PATERNOSTER
CAPE WEST COAST**

Prepared for

BCD TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS

By

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**APRIL
2002**

Executive Summary

Significant archaeological remains were located during a Phase 1 archaeological study of Paternoster A 34, near Vredenburg on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed development envisages a mixed-use development, comprising single residential erven, a museum, central business district (CBD), parking area, and public open space.

The bulk of the residential component of the proposed development is located directly behind the Paternoster Hotel, where only a handful of Stone Age tools were found. The archaeological remains were located in a disturbed context and are not considered to be significant.

Two old sheds occur in a large open space adjacent to the hotel. This area has been identified as a 'focus point' for the proposed development. Built out of dressed sandstone blocks, it is likely that the buildings were once part of a farm complex and may represent some of the earliest buildings in Paternoster. The buildings are older than 60 years and are therefore protected under the provisions of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

The proposed CBD and parking area is located at the toe of a large prominent sand dune directly in front of and to the right of the Paternoster Hotel. Crushed and fragmented shellfish remains were located in a footpath in the proposed parking area, and in thin patches on the ground. The site has been severely disturbed by earthworks and human agents.

The large dune in the centre of the village will be retained as public open space. The dune, however, contains dense areas of buried and exposed shellfish remains, of which some have been severely disturbed and damaged as a result of human agents. The shell midden has been given a medium-high significance rating.

The impact of the proposed development of Paternoster A 34 on significant archaeological remains is likely to be high.

Secondary impacts such as the anticipated increase in tourists, visitors and residents to Paternoster, will continue to impact negatively on the prominent shell midden on top of the large dune in front of the hotel.

The probability of locating significant archaeological remains during implementation of the project is considered to be medium-high.

Human burial remains may also be uncovered or exposed during earthworks and construction of the proposed CBD and parking area.

With regard to the proposed development Paternoster A 34, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

The proposed parking area should not extend beyond the toe of the large sand dune in front of and to the right of the Paternoster Hotel.

A buffer between the sand dune and the boundary of the proposed parking area should be created.

The shell midden on the large dune should be sampled, in line with recommendations made in a previous report (Halkett & Mutti 1998:4).

A profile of the midden could be preserved and a section sealed in-situ. The site could also be developed as a tourism product. This is in line with proposals contained in 'Guidelines for the Management and Development of a Paternoster Heritage Trail' (Tyrrell & Kaplan 2000:18).

Raised boardwalks above the large dune could be constructed. This, together with information/story boards and visitor viewing platforms will prevent further damage to the site, and enhance the tourist experience.

Public access paths around and over the dunes should be upgraded to raised boardwalks, in order to protect the archaeological remains.

No sand should be removed from the dunes for building purposes, as they contain substantial and potentially significant archaeological material.

Monitoring the status of the shell midden on the dunes should be undertaken during the construction and operational phase of the proposed project. This could be done by an ECO (Environmental Control Officer).

Contractors and plant operators should be briefed what to look out for, particularly during the construction phase of the project.

Should any archaeological remains be uncovered during earthworks, these should be brought to the attention of the ECO (Environment Control Officer) and/or consulting archaeologist.

Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks should not be disturbed until inspected and verified by a professional archaeologist.

Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times. Human remains should not be removed until inspected by a professional archaeologist.

A building conservation specialist should assess the two old buildings adjacent to the Paternoster Hotel.

Any plans to demolish, renovate, restore or alter the buildings must first be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

The buildings are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) and may not be altered in any way without a permit issued by SAHRA.

The proposed museum/information centre could be developed in line with proposals contained in 'Guidelines for the Management and Development of a Paternoster Heritage Trail' (Tyrrell & Kaplan 2000:18).

No shellfish derived from archaeological sites/shell middens may be used to surface the proposed footpaths. Shellfish deposits for surfacing footpaths should first be verified by a professional archaeologist.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resource Agency.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

BCD Town and Regional Planners has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a phase 1 archaeological study of Paternoster A 34, in Paternoster, on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed development of the property envisages a mixed-use development, comprising residential erven, a central business district (CBD), public parking, a museum, and public open space.

The aim of the archaeological study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning and construction of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the above area;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
4. to assess the significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the site.

3.0 THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1.

The site is centrally located in the town of Paternoster, approximately 18 kms from Vredenburg, and about 120 kms north of Cape Town.

4.0 RESULTS OF THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The archaeological sites located during the study are illustrated in Figure 2.

A 34-1

Two old sheds occur in a large open space adjacent to the hotel (Figure 3). This area has been identified as a 'focus point' for the proposed development.

Built out of dressed limestone blocks, the buildings originally probably had a thatched roof. It is likely that the buildings were once part of a farm complex and may represent some of the earliest buildings in Paternoster. The buildings are older than 60 years.

Significance of buildings: **medium-high**

Suggested mitigation: **a building conservation specialist should assess the buildings**

the buildings are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) and may not be altered without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency

A 34-2

The proposed parking area and CBD (Figure 4) is located at the toe of a large prominent sand dune in front of, and to the right of the Paternoster Hotel. Crushed shellfish remains were located in the footpath and in patches in the proposed parking area, and in patches on the CBD site. The site has been severely disturbed.

The large dune directly in front of the hotel will be retained as public open space (Figure 1). The dune contains dense areas of buried and exposed Later Stone Age (LSA) shellfish remains. Black mussel dominate the shellfish species on the, while limpets occur in lesser quantities. A small quantity of flaked stone tools was also located during a small test excavation of the site (Halkett & Mutti 1998:2). The shell midden has been severely disturbed and damaged as a result of trampling, the construction of footpaths over and alongside the dunes and collapse of shellfish remains (Figures 5-8).

A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

Significance of finds: **medium-high**

Suggested mitigation: **The site should be sampled in line with recommendations contained in the Halkett and Mutti (1998) report**

the site should also be developed in line with proposals contained in 'Guidelines for the Management and Development of a Paternoster Heritage Trail' (Tyrrell & Kaplan 2000)

A 34-3

A handful of Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were located behind the Paternoster Hotel, where the bulk of the residential component of the proposed development will take place. The tools were found in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

Significance of find: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

5.0 IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Paternoster A 34 on significant archaeological remains is likely to be high.

Secondary impacts such as the anticipated increase in tourists, visitors and residents to Paternoster, will continue to impact negatively on shell midden remains on the sand dune in front of the hotel.

The probability of locating significant archaeological remains during implementation of the project is considered to be medium-high.

Human burial remains may be uncovered or exposed during earthworks and construction of the proposed CBD and parking area.

A term referring to the period between 250 000 and 20 000 years ago.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development Paternoster A 34, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

The proposed parking area should not extend beyond the toe of the large sand dune in front of and to the right of the Paternoster Hotel.

A buffer between the sand dune and the boundary of the proposed parking area should be created.

The shell midden on the large dune should be sampled, in line with recommendations made in a previous report (Halkett & Mutti 1998:4).

A profile of the midden could be preserved and a section sealed in-situ. The site could also be developed as a tourism product. This is in line with proposals contained in 'Guidelines for the Management and Development of a Paternoster Heritage Trail' (Tyrrell & Kaplan 2000:18).

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The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resource Agency.

7.0 REFERENCES

Halkett, D. & Mutti, B. 1998. A Phase 1 archaeological investigation of Farm 1062 (previously 967) Paternoster. Report prepared for BCD Town and Regional Planners. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.

Tyrrell, H. & Kaplan, J. 2000. Guidelines for the management and development of a Paternoster Heritage Trail. Report prepared for the West Coast Investment Initiative. Tyrrell Communications and Agency for Cultural Resource Management.