

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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Mr John Ford
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Dear Mr Ford

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF BULK EARTHWORKS AND EXCAVATIONS IN PORTION 1 OF ERF 1050 PATERNOSTER WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management was instructed by Mr John Ford of Rapidough Properties 459 C.C. to undertake archaeological monitoring of bulk earthworks and excavations in Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster in the Vredenburg-Saldanha District, Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

The proposed subdivision and development of Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster comprises single residential development.

Ten residential erven are envisaged.

In March/April 2004, archaeological rescue excavations in Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster were undertaken by archaeologists contracted to Iziko:South African Museum. Initial shovel testing of shell midden deposits on the site indicated that significant depth and variability existed among a large 'megamidden' in a relatively small area in the north-eastern portion of the site¹. Later, archaeological rescue excavations indicated that most of the archaeological remains comprise shellfish, but significant quantities of bone and some cultural material were also recovered from the deposits (Dr Peter Nilssen pers. comm.).

Heritage Western Cape, the delegated provincial heritage authority, subsequently issued a Permit (Permit No. 2004-05-004) to Mr J. Ford on 20 June 2004, to allow the proposed development to proceed.

A condition of the Permit is that archaeological monitoring of bulk earthworks and excavations on the affected property are undertaken by a contracted professional archaeologist.

¹ Yates, R. 2003. Archaeological Heritage Resources Assessment Plot 10 and allied areas of Portion 1 of Farm No. 1050. Report prepared for Rapidough Properties cc.

The Permit issued to Mr J. Ford states that archaeological monitoring in Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster, must be undertaken (specifically) in order to check for possible human burials/burial remains that may be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavation activities.

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management was subsequently appointed by Mr John Ford of Rapidough Properties 459 C.C, to monitor earthworks in Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster, on 14-06-04.

Archaeological monitoring of bulk earthworks in Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster took place over the following days:

- 15-06-04
- 17-06-04
- 21-06-04
- 24-06-04

It is important to note that the bulk of the excavations for services on the property had already been completed by the time the Agency for Cultural Resource Management was instructed by Mr J. Ford to monitor earthwork operations on the site.

An initial inspection of the site revealed that although substantial shell midden deposits were still evident in the north-eastern portion of the site where Iziko:South African Museum archaeological excavations took place (Figure 2), shellfish remains were very thinly dispersed across the remainder of the site.

Bulk excavations were monitored mainly in the western portion of the property, adjacent to Mosselbank Road. Excavations for a new access road and excavation of some of the services were monitored. All remaining exposed service trenches and excavations were inspected for archaeological and possible human burial remains.

No significant shellfish deposits were noted during archaeological monitoring of Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster, other than those that occur in the north-eastern portion of the property, and which have already been sampled.

No human burials/burial remains were exposed or uncovered during the monitoring of earthworks and excavations of the property. It is worthwhile noting, however, that a human burial was recently exposed during the course of archaeological shovel testing in Erf 1050 Paternoster², where substantial and significant archaeological remains have also been noted³.

No further bulk earthworks and deep excavations that might expose or otherwise uncover human burials are envisaged in Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster, until individual property owners commence residential building operations.

² Yates, R. 2004. Archaeological Heritage Resources Assessment Portion 37 of the Farm Uitkomst 23, Paternoster, Saldanha Bay Municipality, Western Cape Province. Report prepared for Deon Van Zyl Consultants.

³ Kaplan, J. 2004. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Portion 37 of the Farm Uitkomst 23, Paternoster. Report prepared for Enviro Dinamik. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Contractors and workers were also briefed by the monitoring archaeologist to look out for any burials and bones that might be exposed during the course of earthworks. A direct line of communication was also established in the event of this occurring. A final site inspection took place on 21-07-04 (Figure 3). Civil works on the site have now been completed. The bulk of shell midden deposits in the north-eastern portion of the site have been destroyed, although some in-situ archaeological remains still occur on the site, alongside Road 91 (Figure 4).

According to Mr John Ford (pers. comm.), representing Rapidough Properties 459 C.C., owners of residential erven in Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster will be required to appoint a professional archaeologist to monitor excavations for all building foundations. This will be a constitutional requirement contained in the homeowner's association.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Kaplan', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Kaplan

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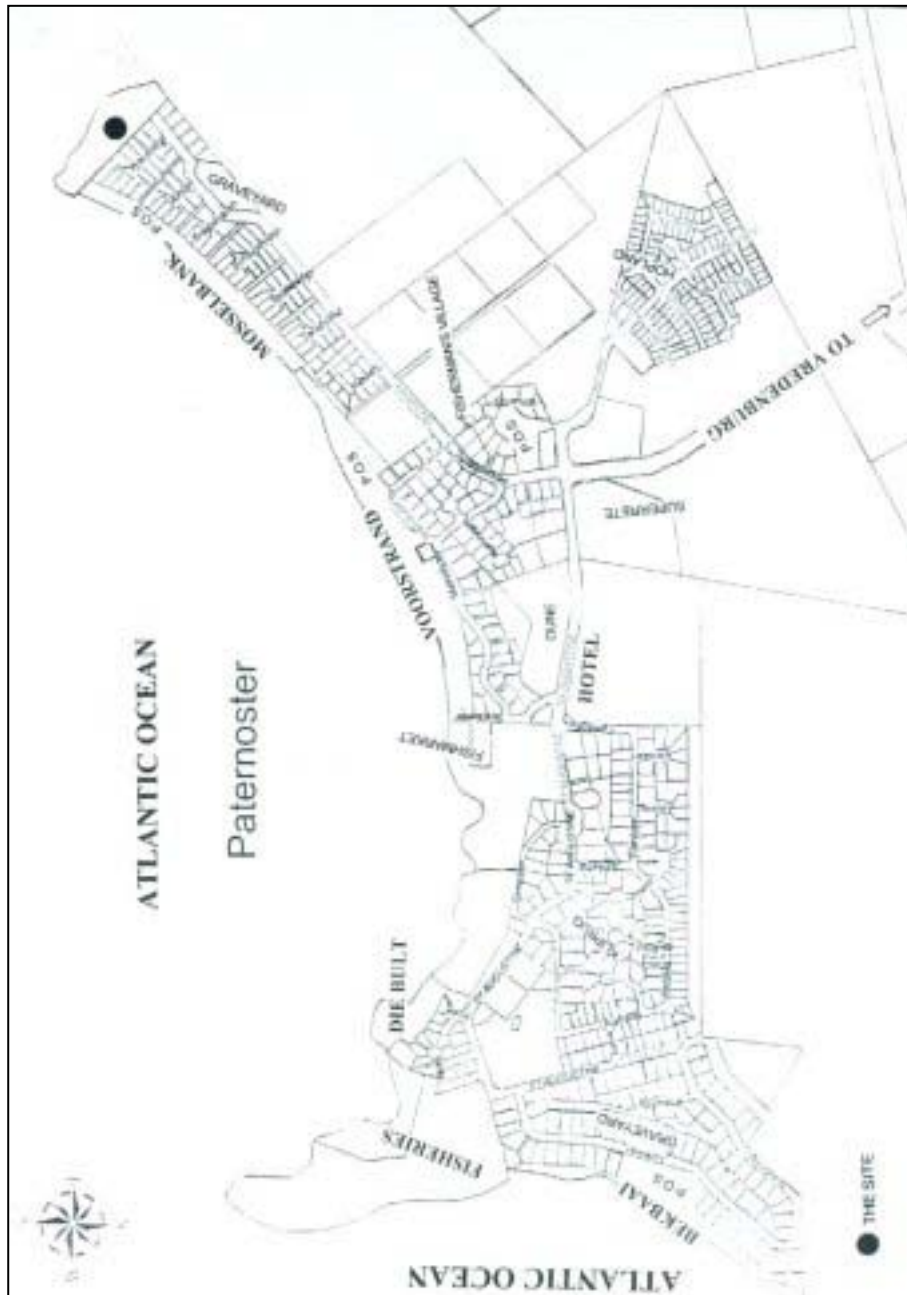


Figure 1. Archaeological monitoring Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster. Location of site.



Figure 2. Archaeological monitoring Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster. Site facing west.



Figure 3. Archaeological monitoring Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster. Site facing west.



Figure 4. Archaeological monitoring Portion 1 of Erf 1050 Paternoster. Remains of midden in north-eastern portion of site.