

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SHOVEL TESTING  
PORTION 21 OF THE FARM UITKOMST  
PATERNOSTER  
VREDENBURG-SALDANHA MUNICIPALITY  
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Report prepared for

**MR PAUL FREIDBERG**

By

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## **Executive summary**

Shovel testing in Portion 21 of the Farm Uitkomst, Paternoster, has established that no below ground archaeological deposits occur over the site.

The following recommendations are made:

- No archaeological excavations are required.
- No shellfish sampling is required.
- A professional archaeologist must monitor bulk earthworks and excavations for services.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs. Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Mr Paul Freidberg instructed the Agency for Cultural Resource Management (ACRM) to undertake shovel testing in Portion 21 of the Farm Uitkomst, in Paternoster, Vredenburg-Saldanha District, in the Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

Except for a few Later Stone Age stone tools, one small piece of Cape coastal pottery and a one small piece of ostrich eggshell, no other archaeological heritage remains were located during a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the above property (Kaplan 2005a).

However, given the known archaeological sensitivity of the Paternoster region, Heritage Western Cape, the delegated provincial heritage authority, requested that shovel testing be undertaken on the affected property in order to ascertain the possible presence, extent and significance of buried archaeological deposits<sup>1</sup>.

Shovel testing is a means of determining the depth and variability of archaeological remains (both subsistence and cultural), in order to determine the extent of further archaeological investigations of specific areas that may be required on the site.

ACRM was subsequently instructed by Mr Friedberg to apply for a permit to undertake the required shovel testing on the affected property.

### **1.2 Description of the affected property**

Portion 21 of the Farm Uitkomst Paternoster (S 32° 48 444 E 17° 53 723 set on map datum WGS 84) is located directly alongside Mosselbank Road in Paternoster (Figure 2). The northern and eastern boundaries of the site are very degraded as a result of surrounding residential development and dumping of building rubble and domestic refuse.

The affected property comprises a series of low, undulating frontal vegetated sand dunes, intersected by several vegetated dune plumes, or deflated basins. A number of small footpaths cut across the property. Modern shellfish remains are scattered over the site and in the numerous footpaths, mixed occasionally with bits of rusted metal, glass, plastic and other domestic debris.

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<sup>1</sup> Heritage Western Cape letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2005. Ref. No. C13/3/6/2/1/1/1/1/C4.

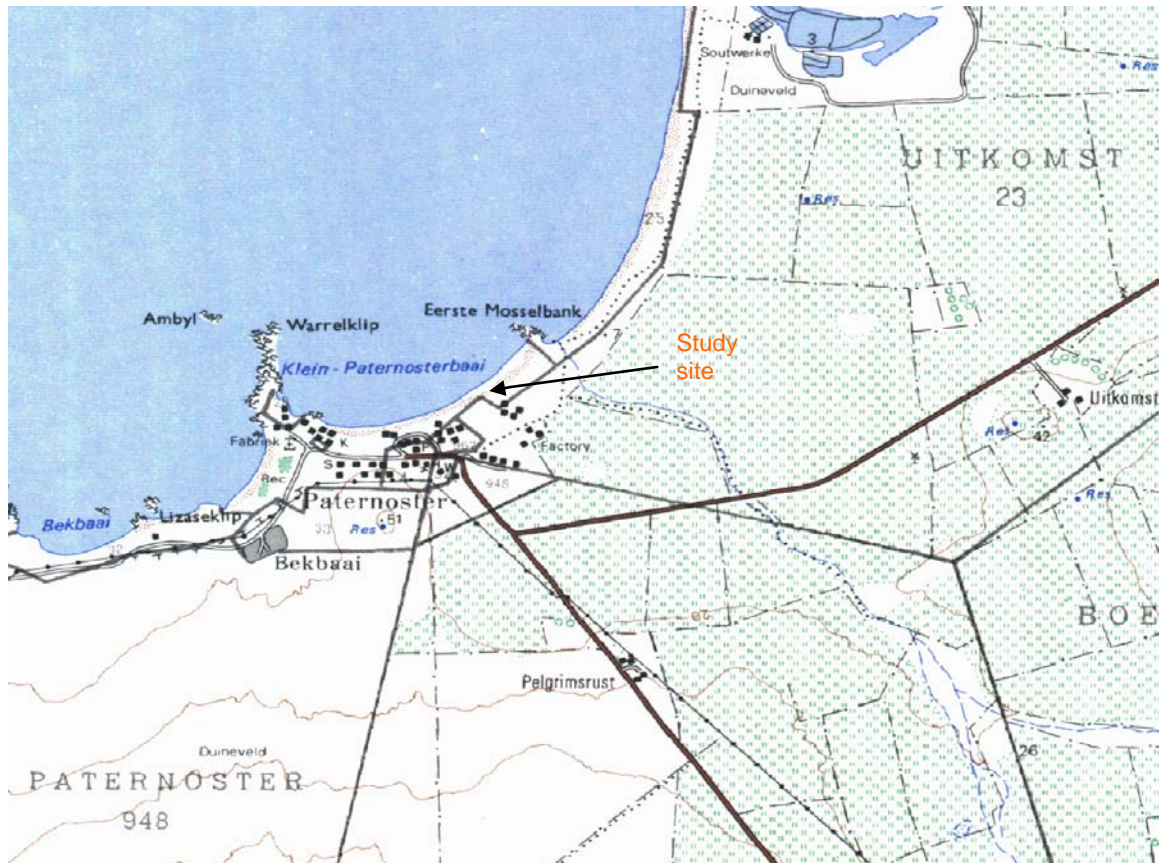


Figure 1. Site locality map (1:50 000 Map Reference No. 3217 DB & DD Vredenburg).



Figure 2. View of the affected property taken from Mosselbank Road.

### **1.3 Archaeological background of the study area**

A number of archaeological impact assessments have been undertaken in Paternoster in recent years, in direct response to an increase in the demand for residential housing and development in the area (Halkett & Hart 1992a,b; Halkett & Mutti 1998; Hart & Halkett 1995, 1998a,b; Kaplan 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005a).

Many sites have been identified and recorded during the course of these surveys, a number of which have also been excavated and sampled (Hart & Halkett 1996; Halkett 1996; Kaplan 2005b, Yates 1998, 2003, 2004a,b).

Excavations and sampling of archaeological deposits in Paternoster appear to indicate that the majority of the sites date within the last 3000-4000 years and overlap the period both before and after the arrival of Khoekhoe pastoralists with domestic stock and pottery.

Later Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (LSA) shell middens in Paternoster appear to be aligned among the higher frontal dunes alongside Mosselbank road. This appears to be a coherent pattern of shell midden distribution in Paternoster. The flatter vegetated dunes west of Mosselbank road appear to contain very little archaeological remains (Kaplan 2005a).

Shovel testing on Portion 37 of the Farm Uitkomst 23 also revealed the presence of a Khoisan burial (Yates 2004a).

## **2. STUDY APPROACH**

### **2.1 Fieldwork**

ACRM applied for and was issued a Permit (No. 2005-07-002) by Heritage Western Cape to dig a series of Test Pits on Portion 21 of the Farm Uitkomst, in order to determine the significance of possible below-ground archaeological deposits.

Heritage Western Cape determined that six test pits be excavated on the above property. The location of the test pits are represented as dotted circles in Figure 3.

Shovel testing took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2005. The archaeological deposits were sieved through a 3mm wide mesh sieve, and sorted for artefacts on site.

### **2.2 Assessment of significance**

The potential for buried archaeological deposits to yield information about past human activities served as the guiding principle for the assessment. Significance of archaeological deposits is based on the diversity and quantity of biological and cultural remains generated.

Greater significance is attributed to archaeological deposits with cultural traces such as stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell and pottery, and biological remains such as mammal, bird and reptile bones, than is normally the case where the remains consisted of marine shell alone.

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<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

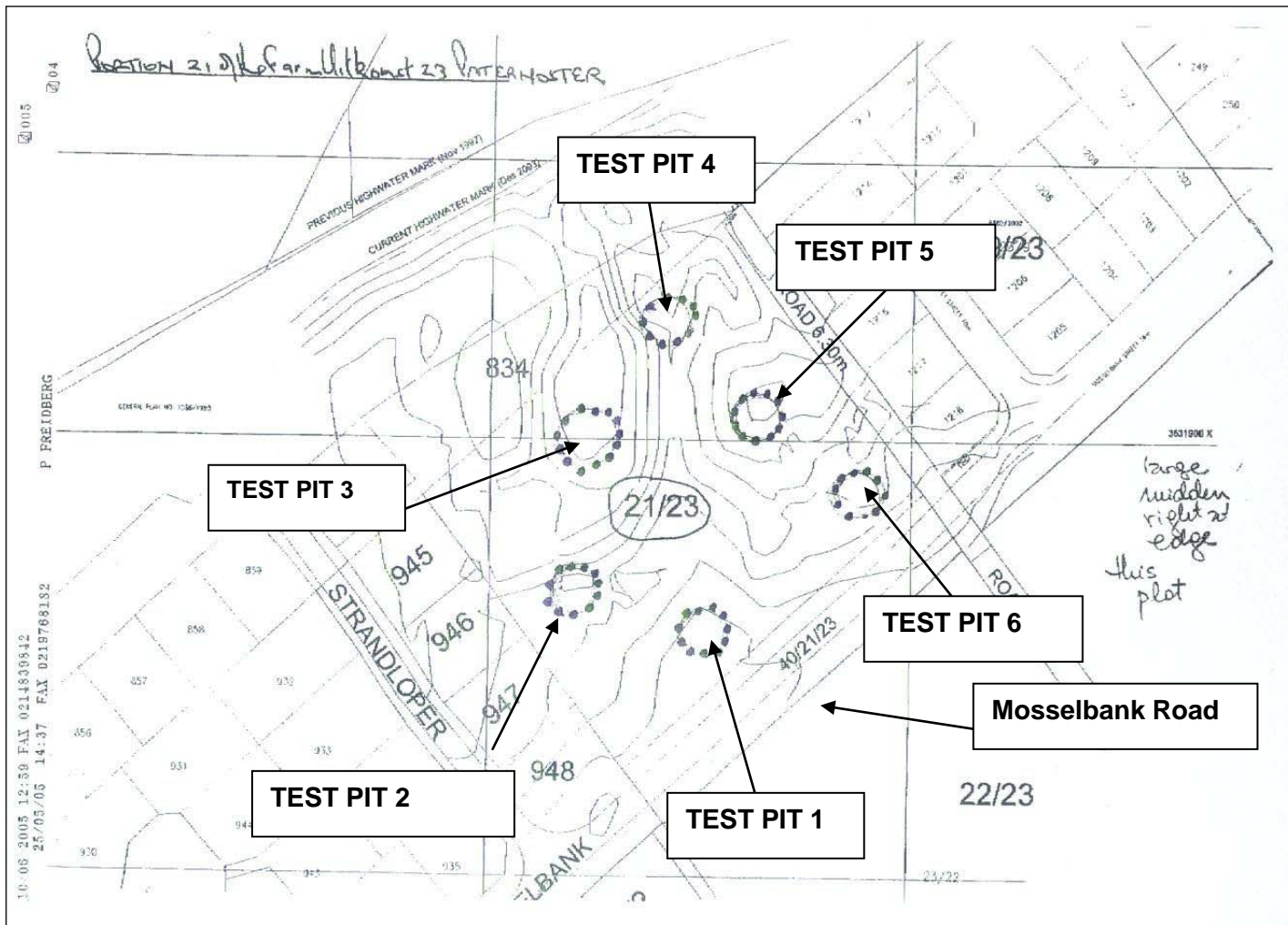


Figure 3. Location of test pits.

### 3. THE AFFECTED HERITAGE RESOURCES

#### 3.1 General observations

Shovel testing has established that no below ground archaeological deposits occur over the site.

#### 3.2 Description of heritage resources<sup>3</sup>

<b>Test Pit 1 (see Figure 4)</b>	
<b>Stratigraphy</b>	
0.0-1.75 m	White beach/dune sand with fine rootlets up to 30 cm below the surface. Some land sterile. Sterile.
<b>Biological &amp; cultural evidence</b>	
0.0-1.75 m	No biological and cultural remains present.

<b>Test Pit 2 (see Figure 5)</b>	
<b>Stratigraphy</b>	
0.0-0.50 m	Wind blown sand
0.50-1.55 m	White dune sand with fine rootlets. One t-shirt collar and one piece of soft plastic. Sterile.
1.55–1.80m	White/yellow dune sand. Sterile
<b>Biological &amp; cultural evidence</b>	
0.0-1.80 m	No biological and pre-colonial cultural remains present.

<b>Test Pit 3 (see Figure 6)</b>	
<b>Stratigraphy</b>	
0.0-0.20 m	White beach/dune sand with fine rootlets.
0.20-1.75 m	White/yellow dune sand with occasional fine rootlets. Sterile.
<b>Biological &amp; cultural evidence</b>	
0.0-1.75 m	No biological and cultural remains present.

<b>Test Pit 4 (see Figure 7)</b>	
<b>Stratigraphy</b>	
0.0-0.15 m	White beach/dune sand with fine rootlets.
0.15 - 1.80 m	White/yellow dune sand. 2 pieces of Trough shell ( <i>Lutreria lutreria</i> ) Essentially sterile.
<b>Biological &amp; cultural evidence</b>	
0.0-1.80 m	No biological and cultural remains present.

<b>Test Pit 5 (see Figure 8)</b>	
<b>Stratigraphy</b>	
0.0-1.55 m	White/yellow dune sand with occasional fine rootlets. Sterile.
<b>Biological &amp; cultural evidence</b>	
0.0-1.55 m	No biological and cultural remains present.

<sup>3</sup> Note that this is just a small sample of deposit sieved and sorted and does not represent the total volume of deposit shovel tested.



Figure 4. Test Pit 1.



Figure 5. Test Pit 2.





Figure 6. Test Pit 3.



Figure 7. Test Pit 4.



Figure 8. Test Pit 5.



Figure 9. Test Pit 6

<b>Test Pit 6 (see Figure 9)</b>	
<b>Stratigraphy</b>	
0.0-0.10 m	White beach sand with fine rootlets and tiny fragments of shell and some building rubble.
0.10-1.65 m	White/yellow beach sand. Sterile.
<b>Biological &amp; cultural evidence</b>	
0.0-1.75 m	No biological and cultural remains present.

#### 4. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

##### 4.1 Overview

Table 1 below presents the proposed mitigation actions in Portion 21 of the Farm Uitkomst Paternoster.

Area	Mitigation Actions
Test Pit 1	None
Test Pit 2	None
Test Pit 3	None
Test Pit 4	None
Test Pit 5	None
Test Pit 6	None

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

Shovel testing in Portion 21 of the Farm Uitkomst, Paternoster, has established that no below ground archaeological deposits occur over the site.

The following recommendations are made

- No systematic archaeological excavations are required.
- No shellfish sampling is required.
- A professional archaeologist must monitor bulk earthworks and excavations for services.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs. Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

#### 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fieldwork team:

Jonathan Kaplan – Principal Investigator

Ashwell Peterson- Assistant

Ryan Toerien - Assistant

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