

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SHOVEL TESTING
REMAINDER OF FARM 26 PATERNOSTER
PATERNOSTER
VREDENBURG-SALDANHA MUNICIPALITY
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Report prepared for

PATERNOSTER STRAND (PTY) LTD

By

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Executive summary

The remainder of Farm 26 Paternoster, on the Cape West Coast, contains significant archaeological heritage remains in the form of shell middens.

Most of the remains comprise scattered shellfish but small quantities of bone, stone flakes, ostrich eggshell and beads occur in some of the deposits.

The following recommendations are made:

- Shellfish sampling of archaeological deposits in order to salvage important historical information.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Paternoster Strand (Pty) Ltd instructed the Agency for Cultural Resource Management (ACRM) to undertake shovel testing of archaeological shell midden deposits in the Remainder of Farm Paternoster No. 26, in Paternoster, Vredenburg-Saldanha District, in the Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

Potentially significant archaeological heritage remains in the form of shell middens were recorded during the course of a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the property (Kaplan 2002). Shovel testing was subsequently recommended in order to determine the significance (i.e. spatial extent, depth and variability) of the below ground archaeological deposits.

Shovel testing is an acceptable archaeological practice, as 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 instructed by Paternoster Strand (Pty) Ltd to apply for a permit to undertake the required shovel testing on the affected property.

1.2 Description of the affected property

The Remainder of the Farm Paternoster No. 26 (S 32° 48 53.6 E 17° 53 38.1 set on map datum WGS 84) is located on a relatively steep, north west facing dune slope behind the fresh fish market in Paternoster (Figures 2 & 3). The site comprises a low-density scatter of fragmented shellfish remains in an area about 10 x 10 m in extent.

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 development in the area (Halkett & Hart 1992a,b; Halkett & Mutti 1998; Hart & Halkett 1995, 1998a,b; Kaplan 2002a,b, 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.

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

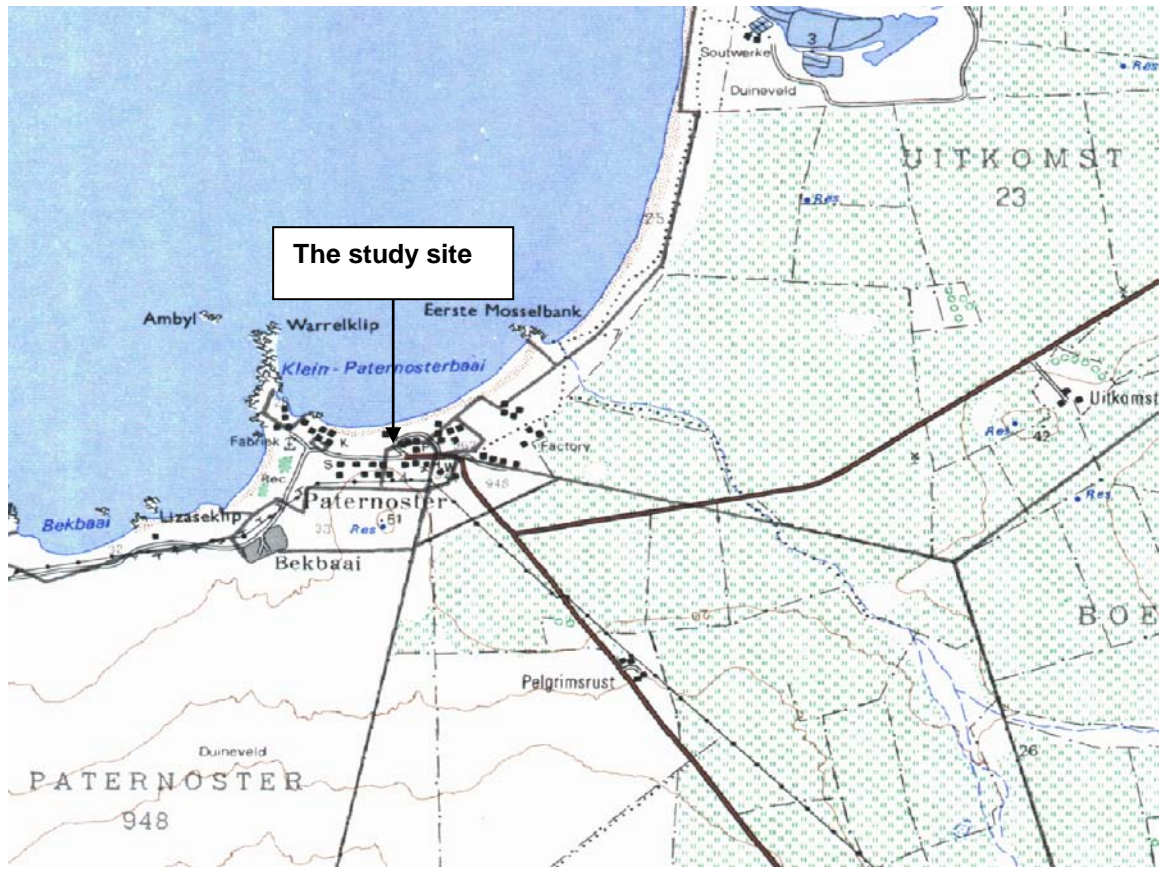


Figure 1. Site locality (1:50 000 Map Ref. No. 3217 DB & DD Vredenburg).



Figure 2. View of the site facing north. The fishmarket is in the foreground.

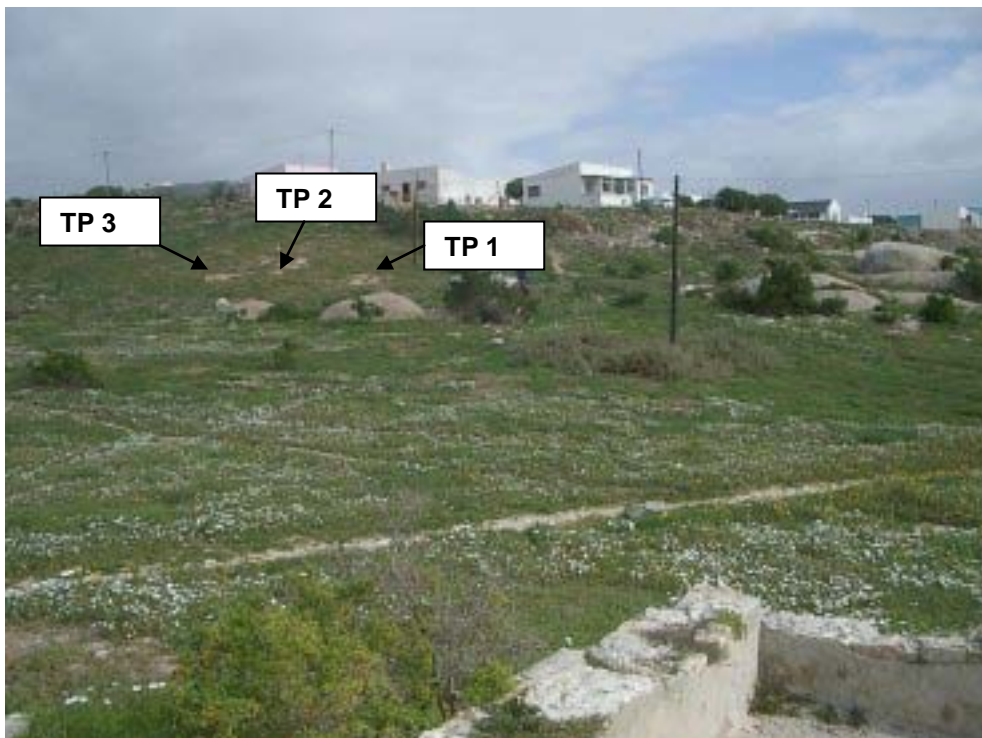


Figure 3. View of the site taken from the fishmarket.

2. STUDY APPROACH

2.1 Fieldwork

ACRM applied for and was issued a Permit (No. 2005-07-003) by Heritage Western Cape, the delegated provincial heritage authority, to dig a series of Test Pits on the Remainder of Farm 26 Paternoster, in order to determine the significance of the below-ground archaeological deposits.

Given the small surface area of the shell midden, Heritage Western Cape requested that shovel testing be limited to no more than three test pits of a surface area no larger than 0.5 sq m¹ (Figure 4).

Shovel testing took place on the 29th February 2005.

The archaeological deposits were sieved through a 3mm wide mesh sieve, and sorted for artefacts on site. No bulk samples of shellfish were kept.

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 was based on the diversity and quantity of biological and cultural remains generated.

Greater significance was 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 was the case where the remains consisted of marine shell alone.

3. THE AFFECTED HERITAGE RESOURCES

3.1 General observations

Shovel testing in the Remainder of Farm 26 Paternoster has established that the below-ground archaeological deposits comprise scattered and dispersed fragments of shellfish remains in a fine, light orange/brown coloured sandy deposit, with occasional stone flakes, ostrich eggshell (including one incomplete bead), and some marine terrestrial fauna. No in-situ shell lenses occur in any of the test pits sampled. No pottery was found.

¹ Heritage Western Cape letter dated 12th July 2005 (HWC Ref. No. C13/3/6/2/1/1/1/C4).

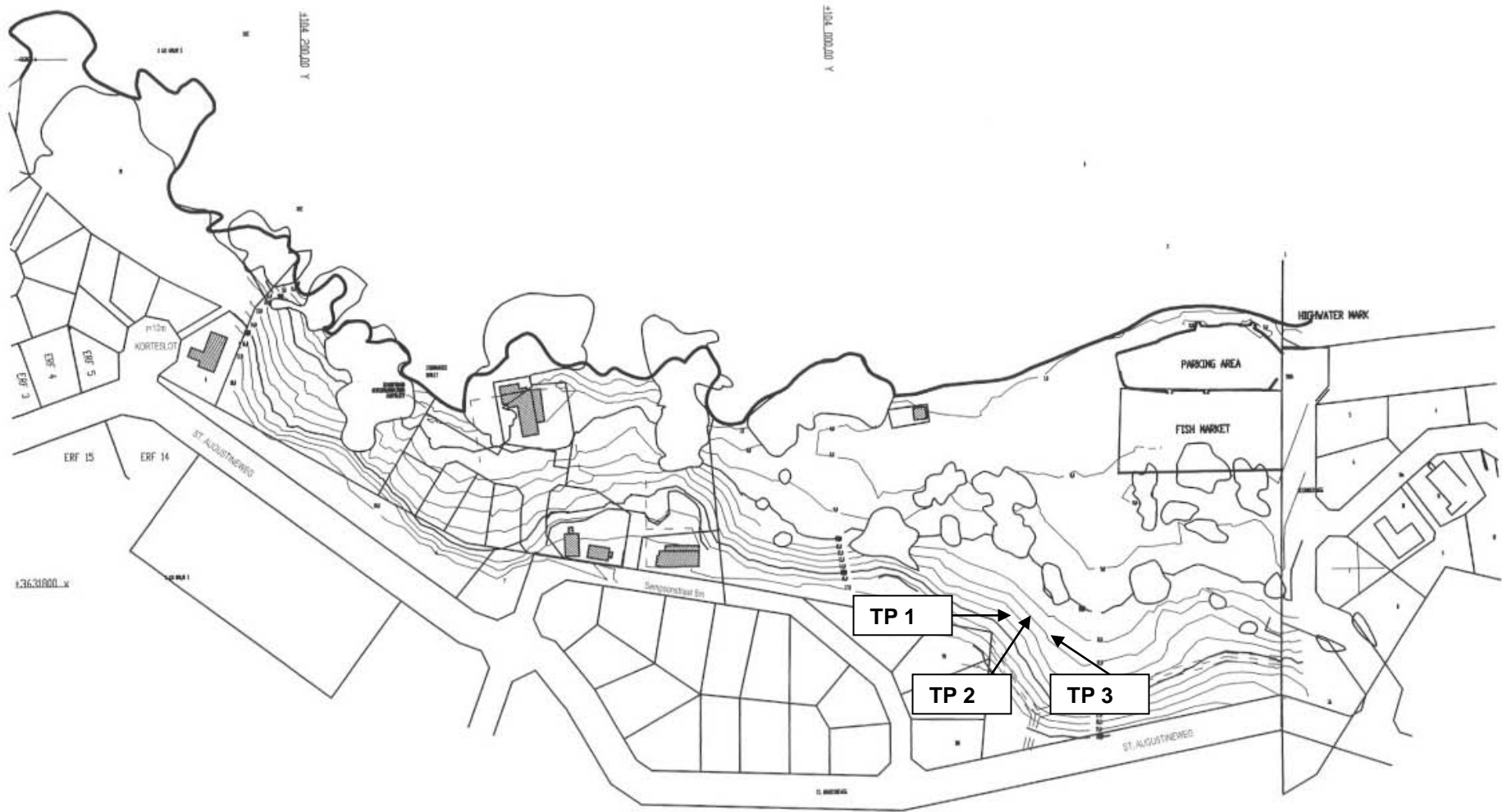


Figure 2. Location of Test Pits 1-3.

3.2 Description of heritage resources²

Test Pit 1 (see Figure 5)	
Stratigraphy	
0.0-0.30m	Light orange/yellow coloured fine, sandy deposit with dispersed & scattered shell fragments. No <u>in-situ</u> shell lenses Fine rootlets present. Larger fragments & a handful of whole limpet shell present. Some burnt shell occurs. Soft calcrete nodules & chunks present. Rusted metal, glass and building rubble also noted.
0.30-1.25m	Lighter yellow coloured fine sandy deposit with some dispersed shell fragments. Shellfish densities much lower, but some whole limpet shell present. Numerous calcrete nodules & chunks present.
1.25-1.35m	Sandy deposit with shell fragments. Compact at base. Essentially sterile
Biological & cultural evidence	
0.0-0.30m	Shellfish dominated by Black Mussel (<u>Choromytilus meridionalis</u>) & limpet species (mainly <u>P. argenvillei</u> & <u>P. granatina</u>). 1 limestone flake, 1 snapped silcrete blade, 1 large silcrete flake, 1 crayfish mandible, 1 small piece of unidentified bone (possibly bird) and several pieces of charcoal. One piece of burnt ostrich eggshell.
0.30-1.25m	Shellfish dominated by Black Mussel and limpet (genus <u>Patella</u>). 1 limestone flake, 1 quartz flake, 1 quartzite chunk, 2 crayfish mandibles and 2 pieces of bone (including one small rodent).
1.25-1.35m	Small shell fragments, some water rolled. No cultural remains present.



Figure 5. Test Pit 1.

² Given the small surface area tested, all the deposit was sieved and sorted for biological and cultural remains.

Test Pit 2 (see Figure 6)	
Stratigraphy	
0.0-0.38m	Light yellow/brown coloured, fine, sandy deposit with rootlets and dispersed & scattered shell fragments. No <u>in-situ</u> shell lenses A handful of whole limpet shell present. Several burnt roots in section. Small calcrete nodules and larger chunks occur. Some burnt shell. Rusted metal and some glass.
0.38-1.30m	Light yellow/brown coloured fine sandy deposit, with dispersed shell fragments. Shellfish densities much lower. A few whole limpet shell present. Deposit more compact at base, yellow/white dune sand.
Biological & cultural evidence	
0.0-0.38m	Shellfish dominated by Black Mussel (<u>Choromytilus meridionalis</u>) & limpet species (mainly <u>P. argenvillei</u> , but also some <u>P. granatina</u> , <u>P. cochlear</u> and <u>P. granularis</u>). 1 quartzite chunk, 3 limestone flakes, 2 silcrete chips and 1 quartz chip.
0.38-1.30m	Shellfish dominated by Black mussel and limpet (genus <u>Patella</u>). 1 silcrete chunk and 1 large limestone flake.



Figure 6. Test Pit 2.

Test Pit 3 (see Figure 7)	
Stratigraphy	
0.0-0.38m	Light grey/brown coloured, fine, soft, sandy deposit with rootlets and dispersed & scattered shell fragments. Some whole shell (limpet) present. No <u>in-situ</u> shell lenses. Numerous small calcrete nodules. Some burnt shell. Rusted metal bits.
0.38-1.30m	Light yellow/brown coloured fine sandy deposit, with dispersed shell fragments. Shellfish densities much lower. No whole shell present. Deposit more compact at base, yellow/white colour. Large numbers of calcrete nodules and large chunks present, including fossil root core.
Biological & cultural evidence	
0.0-0.38m	Shellfish dominated by Black Mussel (<u>Choromytilus meridionalis</u>) & limpet species (mainly <u>P. argenvillei</u> , but also some <u>P. granatina</u> , and <u>P cochlear</u>). 5 limestone flakes, 1 snapped silcrete bladelet, 1 silcrete chip, 2 quartzite chips and 1 quartz chip. One small piece of ostrich eggshell, and 1 incomplete ostrich eggshell bead. Some charcoal. 3 crayfish mandibles and 6 small pieces of unidentified bone (some possible bird).
0.38-1.30m	Shellfish dominated by Black mussel and limpet (genus <u>Patella</u>). 1 limestone flake, 2 quartzite flakes and three small pebbles. 3 pieces of bone, including fish. 1 small crayfish mandible.



Figure 7. Test Pit 3.

4. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

4.1 Overview

Table 1 below presents the proposed mitigation actions in the Remainder of Farm No. 26 Paternoster.

Area	Mitigation Actions
Test Pit 1-3	Shellfish sampling

4.2 Areas of archaeological heritage around Test Pits 1-3

Archaeological heritage deposits in TP 1-3 have the potential to yield some historical information. The deposits contain scattered and dispersed shell midden deposits, with moderate amounts of stone tools, and small amounts of ostrich eggshell (including one incomplete bead) and some marine and terrestrial fauna. No pottery was found.

Archaeologists undertaking shellfish sampling must:

- Establish and document the location of a 1.0 m grid system at and around Test Pits 1-3;
- Excavate surrounding deposits using this grid as the basic mapping control;
- Where possible, follow the natural stratification during the excavation to remove the full depth of the archaeological sediments over the excavation area;
- Sieve the deposits through a minimum mesh size of 3 mm
- Implement professional excavation procedures in the recovery and treatment of finds, including charcoal;
- Sample shellfish both through depth and across space;
- Make a record of the volume, stratification and nature of the archaeological sediments;
- Maintain thorough written, mapping and photographic records throughout the process; and
- Budget for and acquire at least two radiocarbon dates to determine the age of the depositional sequence

The following are the recommended extent for sampling, based on an assessment of the deposits.

Area	Extent of sampling
Test Pit 1-3	3 x 3 metres

5. CONCLUSIONS

Shovel testing in the Remainder of Farm No. 26 Paternoster has determined that there are areas on the site where potentially important below ground archaeological deposits occur. Most of the remains comprise shellfish, but small quantities of stone, bone, charcoal, stone flakes, ostrich eggshell and beads occur in the deposits tested.

These areas have potential to yield some important historical information.

In summary, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

- Areas around Test Pits 1-3 require implementation of shellfish sampling of a size detailed in this report.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fieldwork team:

Jonathan Kaplan – Principal Investigator

Ashwell Peterson- Assistant

Ryan Toerien – Assistant

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