

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ERVEN 1878 (PTN OF ERF 20) & 4603 (PTN OF ERF 1878)
ST. HELENA
SALDANHA -VREDENBURG DISTRICT**

Prepared for

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Executive summary

Dennis Moss Partnership requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erven 1878 (Portion of Erf 20) and 4603 (Portion of Erf 1878) in St. Helena Bay on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property is for the purpose of a residential housing development, to be known as Sandpiper Village.

The extent of the proposed development (about 4.0 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

No pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains were located during the specialist baseline study.

However, several buildings and structures, including the original farmhouse (circa 1880), occur on the property. The original 4-roomed flat-roof building has, however, undergone significant and substantial renovations and alterations, from 1936 till 1953, and again in 1993, when it was converted into what is now the Palm Restaurant. The large Palm tree behind the restaurant was planted in 1942.

The building does not retain its architectural integrity, or form, but, despite the significant alterations made to it, is still protected under the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999, which states that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by Heritage Western Cape, the delegated Provincial Heritage Authority.

The remaining farm-related buildings and structures are mostly recent, but a (highly altered) shed may also be older than 60 years.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

The specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the above property has rated the potential impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material as being low.

With regard to the proposed development of Erven 1878 (Portion of Erf 20) and 4603 (Portion of Erf 1878) St Helena Bay, the following recommendations are made:

- 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 and brief

Dennis Moss Partnership requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Erven 1878 (Portion of Erf 20) and 4603 (Portion of Erf 1878) St Helena Bay, on the Cape West Coast.

The extent of the proposed development (about 4 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property is for the purpose of single residential housing development, to be known as Sandpiper Village.

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

The site visit and assessment took place on 29 July 2005.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the affected property is illustrated in Figure 2.

The property (S 32° 45 06.2 E 18° 00 75.2 on map datum WGS 84) is located in St Helena Bay, on the Cape West Coast. Access to the site is via the main road between St. Helena Bay and Hanna's Bay. A large sign alongside main road identifies the property. A landmark restaurant in St. Helena Bay known as the Palm is located on the property.

The bulk of the site comprises old agricultural lands comprising highly weathered quartzite soils (Figures 3-6). Dune mole rat activity is extensive over the property. A large dam is positioned near the north eastern boundary of the site. Old excavations, earthworks, and several roads and footpaths, occur over a large portion of the study site (refer to Figure 2). There are no significant landscape features such as granite outcroppings on the property. The site is overall severely degraded and disturbed.

Several buildings and structures, including the original farmhouse (circa 1880), occur on the property (refer to Figure 2). The original 4-roomed flat-roof building has, however, undergone significant and substantial renovations and alterations, both internally and externally, from 1936 till 1953, and again in 1993, when it was converted into what is now the Palm Restaurant (Figures 7 & 8). Several rooms have been added onto the end and side of the building, including a large fireplace when the Palm restaurant was established. All the original windows, doors and flat zinc roof have been replaced. Front and back stoeps were also added on after 1993.

The large Palm tree behind the restaurant was planted in 1942¹.

The building does not retain its architectural integrity, or form, but despite the significant alterations made to it, is still protected under the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999, which states that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by Heritage Western Cape, the delegated Provincial Heritage Authority.

The remaining structures, such as a large shed (Figure 9), stables, milking areas, outbuildings, several cottages, storerooms and other farm related structures, were all built after 1936, but are not considered to be architecturally significant. The shed has been highly altered but may be older than 60 years.

¹ Information relating to the farmhouse was supplied by Mev. H. Pienaar who was born in the original farmhouse and planted the palm tree as a teenager.

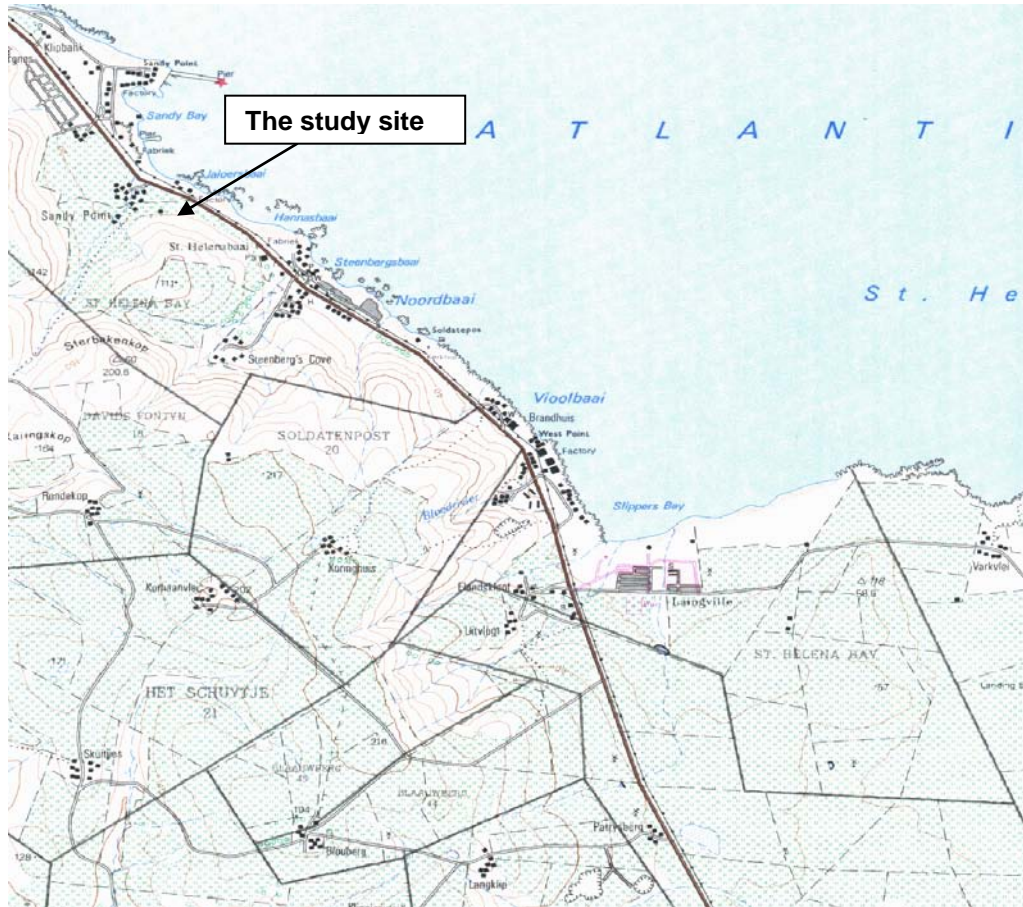


Figure 1. Site locality map (1:50 000 3218 CA & CC Veldrif).



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the property



Figure 3. The site facing south east from the main road.



Figure 4. The site facing north east from the main road.



Figure 5. The site facing north west.



Figure 6. The site facing west from the dam.



Figure 7. The Palm Restaurant.



Figure 8. The Palm Restaraunt



Figure 9. The barn.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the specialist archaeological study entailed a detailed survey of the affected property.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4.2 Limitations

There were no limitations associated with the study.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

5.1.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

5.1.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.1.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the specialist baseline study.

It is, however, interesting to note that an extensive scatter of fragmented shellfish remains and large numbers of stone artefacts (in quartz, quartzite and silcrete) have been recorded on the adjacent property, while several low-density scatters of marine shellfish and stone artefacts were located during a study of nearby Erf 2793 (Kaplan 2005a). Several quartz flakes and fragments of shellfish were also noted on weathered quartzite soils during an archaeological assessment of a proposed pipeline and reservoir in nearby Hanna's Bay (Kaplan 2005b).

It is well known that large numbers of archaeological sites occur along the rocky shoreline in the St. Helena Bay area (Kaplan 1993; Halkett & Hart 1995). Rocky shorelines were favoured by both Later Stone Age² hunter-gatherers and Khoi

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

herders in the past, as it offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Erven 1878 (Portion of Erf 20) and 4603 (Portion of Erf 1878) St. Helena Bay on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

Human burials may, however, be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological impact assessment of Erven 1878 (Portion of Erf 20) and 4603 (Portion of Erf 1878) St Helena Bay, has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low provided that:

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

9. REFERENCES

Halkett, D. & Hart. T. 1995. A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 6 of the farm Dyker Eiland, St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for Beyers, A.W. Land Surveyors and Township Consultants. Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town.

Kaplan, J. 2005a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Erf 2793 St. Helena Bay Saldanha-Vredenburg District. Report prepared for BCD Town and Regional Planners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2005b. Archaeological assessment the proposed Hanna's Bay reservoir pump station and pipeline Saldanha – Vredenburg District. Report prepared for Aubrey Withers Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponta do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.