

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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**19 April 2005**

Mr Bernard de Wit  
EnviroAfrica  
PO Box 5367  
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Dear Bernard

## **REPORT: VISIT TO INSPECT AND MONITOR EXCAVATIONS FOR BULK SERVICES CAPE ST. MARTIN DEVELOPMENT VREDENBURG DISTRICT**

I visited Duiker Eiland on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 in the company of the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the Cape St. Martin development.

We proceeded to visit each of the shell middens described in the Halkett and Hart report<sup>1</sup> to ensure that the middens have been properly demarcated during the Construction Phase of the project. These sites were pegged out during a visit to the site by the archaeologist in January 2005<sup>2</sup>.

I can confirm that these measures are in place and the sites are properly secured.

I also inspected the trenches for bulk services in order to check for any buried archaeological remains, including evidence for human burials.

The spoil dumps alongside the trenches were also inspected for shellfish deposits, cultural items and bones.

Bulk earthworks were also monitored in the northern portion of the property.

According to the ECO, contractors and all workers on the Cape St Martin site were briefed before commencement of excavations, with regard to the possible discovery of human remains on the site.

Each of the workers, including plant operators, I spoke to was familiar with the procedure to follow in case any human remains were uncovered or exposed during excavations.

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<sup>1</sup> Halkett, D. & Hart, T. 1995. A Phase 1 Archaeological 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, Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.

<sup>2</sup> Kaplan, J. 2005. Report on site visit to assess shell middens at proposed cape St. Martin development Vredenburg District. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Most of the trenches are located behind the barrier dunes on the property (Figure 1), well away from the demarcated shell middens, but a section of the service trench in the southern portion of the property has been excavated over the dunes.

While no archaeological heritage remains were located during inspections of the trenches behind the barrier dunes, archaeological shellfish remains were noted on some of the spoil dumps alongside trenches excavated over the dunes in the southern portion of the property (Figure 2).

A thin (2-3 cm thick), discontinuous layer of in-situ shellfish (mainly Black Mussel) with some stone tools (broken quartzite cobbles) was noted in several places in the excavation profiles in this portion of the property (Figure 3). These layers of shellfish occur about 70 cm below the surface of the dunes, in a soft white windblown sandy deposit.

No evidence for any human burials was noted during careful inspection of the trenches.

Monitoring of bulk earthworks in the northern portion of the property did not locate any archaeological heritage remains (Figure 4).

The remains of a old beach deposit (possibly of late Holocene age) of round quartzite cobbles and shell underlying a layer of fossil dune several meters thick was noted in the deep excavation trench in the northern portion of the property (Figure 5). The deposits in these deep trenches contrast markedly with the soft wind blown sandy deposits in the southern portion of the property.

With regard to the requirements set out by Dr A. Jerardino of Heritage Western Cape in her email to Mr Andre Lambrechts of BKS on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2004 and the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005, I can confirm that the following has now been complied with:

- The shell middens DE 3-5 and DE 7 and DE 8 have been cordoned off and are protected and secure.
- Bulk excavations for services have been monitored and inspected by a professional archaeologist.
- A copy of the required Environmental Management Plan has been submitted to Heritage Western Cape.

Two recommendations were made in my report to EnviroAfrica dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2005; namely that

- Signage/information storage boards should be erected close to the complex of shell middens known as DE 3-5, and DE 7 and DE 8 indicating the presence of important archaeological sites on the property and the need to protect and conserve them.

Signage must be supplied and paid for by the developers. The text and the positioning of the signage should be determined by a professional archaeologist.

- Prospective property owners should be made aware, in the form of an official letter, of the presence of important archaeological sites in the Admiralty Zone.

A Homeowners Association could also apply to Heritage Western Cape to become official custodians of the archaeological remains in the Admiralty Zone and thus accept responsibility for their protection.

Such an arrangement in the form of a Heritage Agreement is provided for in terms of Section 42 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), and is subject to the implementation of a Heritage Management Plan.

These measures should be included in the Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) for the planned project.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Kaplan

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Figure 1. Excavation trenches in the southern portion of the property.



Figure 2. Shellfish remains on spoil dumps in the southern portion of the property.



Figure 3. In-situ shellfish remains in trench in the southern portion of the property.



Figure 4. Deep excavation trench in the northern portion of the property.



Figure 5. Cobble and shell beach deposit underlying layer of fossil dune.