

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ERF 3366 HOUT BAY

Prepared for

The Planning Partnership

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office was asked to conduct a Phase 1 archaeological survey of erf 3366, Hout Bay, by The Planning Partnership for ABSA Properties (Pty) Ltd. In our brief an area was specified for this investigation (see Figure 1.). The purpose of this survey has been to identify any sites of prehistoric or historic value and to assess the potential impacts of development on them. In terms of the National Monuments Act of 1969 (as amended) all shell middens are protected and may not be disturbed or removed without the authority of that body. Shell middens are accumulations of shell, bone and artefacts that result from human occupation.

2. PREVIOUS RESEARCH IN THIS AREA

Many sites in the Hout Bay valley have been destroyed over the years by unchecked development, particularly along the coastal strip. Middens are known to exist in the area but have never been systematically recorded. Prof. Ray Inskeep of UCT and Mr. M. Wilson of the SA Museum have had radiocarbon dates run on some middens although the locations of these are not clear. Three sites have been excavated namely, Hout Bay Cave (Buchanan 1977), Logie's Rock at Sandy Bay (Rudner & Rudner 1956), and the Sandy Bay Midden, excavated by Townley Johnson but not published (burials were removed during this excavation and are housed at the medical school at UCT.). These excavations provide a basis for comparison of shellfish species as well as a chronology for the area.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ON ERF 3366

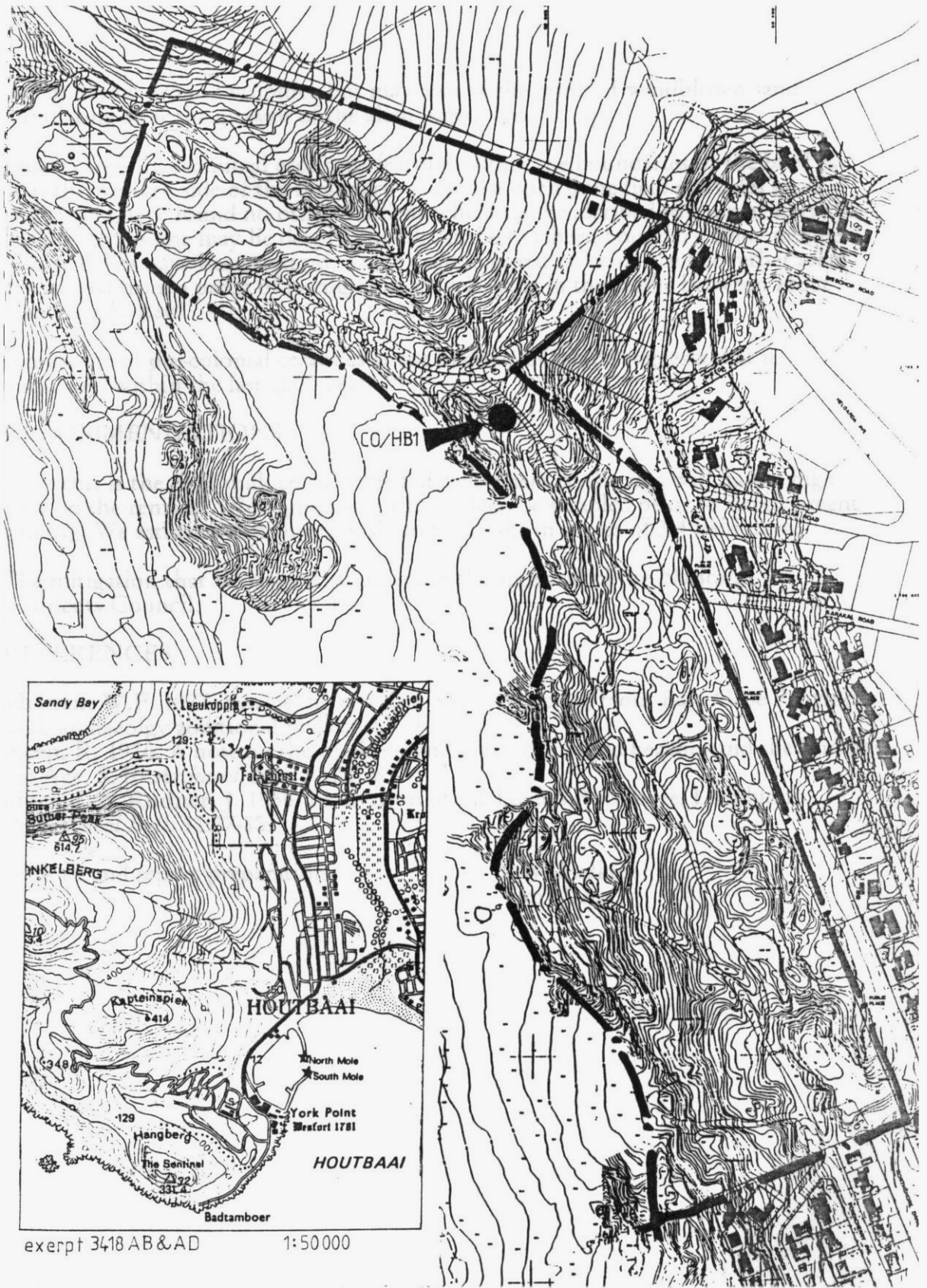
The area with which this survey is concerned is at present mostly covered by dense Port Jackson bush. Several tracks however transect the area and make access possible. Visibility is reduced and we have based our observations on transects run from the pathways as well as from looking at clear patches in the bush.

Only one site has been located. The position has been marked on Figure 1. The co-ordinates established utilising GPS (Global Positioning System) are 34⁰01'3968 S, 18⁰20'3448 E.

3.1 CO/HB1

This site consists of a single lens of shell. It lies in the side of a small dune and has been exposed by erosion precipitated by a path. Testing suggests that this lens continues into the body of the dune and there seems to be no indication of any material at greater depth. One fragment of pre-colonial ceramic and a single stone flake were noticed. On the basis of the spread of eroded shell, we estimate that in the order of 10m² of midden may still be preserved below the dune. Shellfish species include *Choromytilis meridionalis* (black mussel), *Turbo sarmaticus* (alikeukel), *Burnupena* sp (whelk), *Patella argenvillei*, *P. cochlear*, *P.granatina*, and *P. granularis* (limpets). No relative frequencies have been compiled for the shellfish although the impression was that numerous black mussels were represented.

Research potential: medium to low. Some form of sampling required.



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AREA DESIGNATED FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

0 25 50



4. DISCUSSION

The area of the investigation lies midway between the productive shorelines of Hout Bay and Sandy Bay. The presence of a midden within this area is therefore not unexpected. The fact that only one midden was located may in part be ascribed to the problem of low ground visibility but may also be the result of windblown sand accumulating after the growth of the alien vegetation.

We have carefully examined erosional features within the boundaries of the brief as well as the western side of the boundary where the open dune field provides good visibility and have found no other middens which can be ascribed to human activity. It is likely that some may lie deeply buried. At the northern boundary some Middle Stone Age flakes have been noticed. These do not appear to be in situ but rather seem to be derived from a patch of ferruginous gravels lying in the saddle between Hout Bay and Sandy Bay.

The presence of pre-colonial ceramics at the midden CO/HB1 suggests that it accumulated within the last 2000 years.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Since this is the only midden identified, development of the area will have a high impact on the remains. We suggest that this midden be sampled prior to development beginning. We estimate that this task should not take in excess of 3-4 field days.
2. The mitigation that we suggest is subject to the approval of the National Monuments Council.

6. REFERENCES

- Buchanan, W.F. 1977. Rescue dig at a Late Stone Age cave, Hout Bay, Cape Province. Unpub archaeolgy additional project, UCT.
- Inskeep, R. 1976. A note on the Melkbos and Hout Bay raised beaches and the Middle Stone Age. *S.Afr.Archaeol.Bull.* 31:26-28.
- Rudner, I. & Rudner, J. 1956. Excavation of the Logie's Rock cave, Llandudno. *S.Afr.Archaeol.Bull.* 11:77-80.

7. PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Fieldwork and report preparation

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