

*Phase 1 Arch - Investigations: Fisherman's world II. Appendix A Fig 2:  
Cape Coast Group & Companies - B1 ACO. Jan 1995*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by Douglas Roberts and Peter Loebenber Architects to conduct a Phase 1 archaeological assessment of Fishermans World (Phase 2) on behalf of their Client, Mr Stanley Dorman of the Cape Coast Group of Companies<sup>1</sup>.

The Archaeology Contracts Office undertook to:

1. Assess the property for indications of archaeological material.
2. Produce a report indicating the kinds of archaeological sites that are present on the property, comment on the significance of the finds, and where necessary presenting options for mitigation of the sites in the context of the proposed development.

### 2. PREVIOUS RESEARCH IN THIS AREA

Many sites in the Hour 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 (Halkett and Hart 1994). Four sites have been excavated in the Hour Bay area. These are Hour 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). Recently M<sup>rs</sup> M. Wilson of the SA Museum excavated a buried midden on the Baviaanskloof River. This site has been radiocarbon dated to within the last 2000 years (Wilson pers. comm.). The successful compilation of the chronology of human habitation of any area is dependent upon adequate sampling of many archaeological sites from different time periods. Although there is a some information about Hour Bay more excavated samples are required to complete the picture.

### 3. METHOD

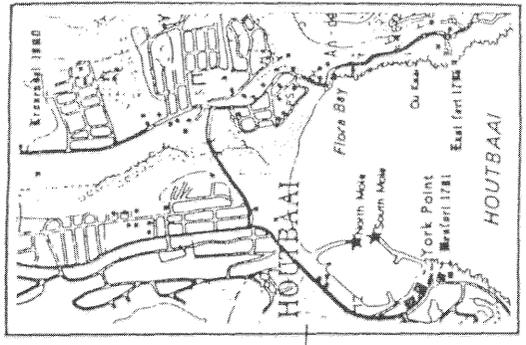
Fulfillment of the brief required the ACO to visit and systematically search the development area (as identified on the plan provided by the client) on foot for archaeological sites. Sites located were plotted and evaluated for their archaeological significance and mitigation requirements. In some instances test excavations were made to verify the presence of archaeological material below the surface. Figure 1 is a map showing the property and the location of archaeological sites.

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- Site FW 1
- Site FW 2
- Site FW 3

coloured  
area  
enlarged  
below



NOTE  
FINAL REFERENCE TO INTRODUCTION  
TO PART C CONDITIONS DETAIL

RECORD 1 PLAN  
MAY 2014  
TO 14 (2) IN DMS  
WITH NSC

2-01 (PRIVATE  
WATER SPACE)



extract from development plan

#### 4. RESULTS

The development proposal involves the construction of a shopping center, parking and road access on a portion of land bounded by Princes Road and a milkwood grove towards the north, and the confluence of the Disa and Baviaanskloof rivers in the south. The area is characterised by heavily vegetated dunes with some milkwood trees. Preparation of the site for development will involve clearing and leveling the land by bulldozing the dune tops into lower lying areas. This means that any archaeological material on the dune tops will be severely impacted, while sites in the deflated area will be covered over. Our assessment of the archaeological sites in the development area has been made in terms of the scale of earthmoving operation that is envisaged.

##### FW 1

Towards the western side of the property is a cleared strip of land where the Regional Services Council excavated a trench for the placement of a large sewage line. On the south end of the cleared area are large quantities of 20th century rubble and associated occupation debris including fragments of ceramics (refined earthenwares), bottle glass and bone. The types of ceramics noted are extremely diverse and fairly recent. Mr S. Dorman (pers. comm.) informed us that a number of fishermen's cottages stood in the area but these were demolished in the 1950s after the settlement was declared a slum. The surface material seen scattered around this area almost certainly relates to these fishermen's cottages.

**Importance:** Medium-low. The archaeological potential of this site is not significant but the remains of the Cottages and associated artefacts which may be buried below the dunes can be considered to be of local/community interest.

**Impact:** Heavy machinery will destroy any buried structures and damage or expose artefactual material.

**Mitigation:** This is optional. If it is desired that these remains are investigated, the site can be excavated by hand before the earth moving operation begins. Close monitoring of the earth moving operation may also afford the opportunity to expose material. It is possible that interesting artefacts and features will be recovered which can be incorporated into a on-site display.

##### FW 2

This is a prehistoric site which lies close to the north west boundary of the property. Artefactual material is also present on the other side of the boundary fence close to Princess Street. The location of the archaeological material in the cleared area raised the possibility that it had been brought to the surface when the trench for the RSC sewage line was excavated. It was therefore important to establish whether any more *in situ* material existed below the surface so 4 test pits were dug accordingly in various parts of the site.

The surface material consisted of a scatter of shellfish which consists of a fragmented *Choromytilus meridionalis* background with various species of *Patella* sp. present (*P. argenvillei*, *P. granatina*, *P. granularis*, *P. Cochlear*). *Oxysteles* sp. and whelks were also seen on the surface. Cultural material noted includes fragments of Cape Coastal

Pottery (indicating that the site is less than 2000 years old), ostrich eggshell beads and fragments of flaked stone. Two of the test excavations, which were sunk to a depth of 1.4m, contained a lens of dispersed shell at a depth of 1.2m. These contained similar species of shell to that seen on the surface with the addition of *Haliotis midae*. One of the excavations penetrated a complex of rodent borrows (?) which contained 2 dense pockets of *C. Meridionalis* with ash and charcoal fragments. This is an indication that there could be a buried lens in the vicinity.

**Importance:** Medium-low. Although the surface material has been disturbed, the general degradation and loss of archaeological material through development activities in Hout Bay (and on the Peninsula) means that material cannot afford to be lost.

**Impact:** The surface material will be crushed by heavy machinery. It is possible that buried material will not directly impacted as this is one of the lower lying parts of the development area which may be landscaped over.

**Mitigation:** Surface scrape and collection of material is required before earthmoving begins. If levels area to be lowered here, the earth moving needs to be monitored by an archaeologist.

### FW 3

The high dunes and hollows on the north west side of the property are heavily vegetated by dense bush and a number of milkwoods. There are surface indications of prehistoric midden material throughout this area. In the recent past a large milkwood tree in the development area has afforded shelter to a squatting community. This is evident by the quantity of modern debris laying under its branches. In the past these natural shelters were utilised by prehistoric people in a similar way. It is possible that many more milkwoods used to grow in this vicinity which would explain the wide distribution of archaeological material in the area.

**Importance:** Medium-high. *In situ* material may exist in some of the dune bodies and under existing milkwood trees. Since so many archaeological sites have been destroyed on the Cape Peninsula, the archaeological material here should be considered to be of regional importance.

**Impact:** All the material on the dune tops will be destroyed by earthmoving. That which lies in the hollows will be covered by sand during the leveling process. The action of tracked earthmoving machinery moving on any part of area will damage archaeological material.

**Mitigation:** Samples of archaeological material will need to be excavated before earthmoving begins, then sorted and curated. The earthmoving operation should be monitored in case deeply buried lenses exist within the dune bodies. These will need to be sampled as quickly as possible so as not to interfere with the earthmoving operation.

## 5. PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

Although the immediate shoreline close to the development area is not highly productive in terms of marine resources, the Disa river and estuary as well as the convenient shelter under the milkwood groves provided circumstances suitable for the settlement of prehistoric people. The presence of pottery on one of the sites indicates

that people were living in the area within the last 2000 years. Their diet consisted of numerous species of shellfish but it would appear that black mussels were favoured. Fish from the Disa estuary, snaring and hunting of animals, wild vegetable foods and possibly products from domestic animals would also have been important.

It is our belief that the archaeological material is associated with areas where milkwood trees were common. The result of this is what appears to be a general scatter of midden material dispersed throughout the thickly vegetated northern portion of the site. Test excavations (where possible) have not produced substantial evidence of buried archaeological material although this possibility cannot be discounted. It is quite possible that other archaeological sites may exist in the milkwood grove north east of the development area, but as yet, their existence needs to be verified. The Milkwood grove is in the process of being handed over for management by the Hour Bay museum.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Mitigation of shell midden material requires that the site is subject to controlled excavation by qualified and experienced archaeologists and assistants working under a permit issued by the National Monuments Council. All shell middens are explicitly protected by the National Monuments Act of 1969 (as amended).

1. The proposed development as indicated on the plan (Douglas Roberts and Peter Loebenbergl) will result in historic material on site FW 1 and prehistoric material on sites FW 2 and FW 3 being impacted. The destruction of sites FW 2 and FW 3 will require mitigation in the form of a program of excavation and collection before construction work can take place. The purpose of such a program is to obtain a representative sample of the material to characterize the different kinds of archaeological material and so establish an archive that can be used by interested persons in the future.
2. Mitigation of site FW 1 should be voluntary.
3. Buried midden material may exist deeply buried in the vegetated dune bodies. Some of these areas are so densely vegetated that it is going to be very difficult to apply standard archaeological methods. The test excavations encountered extreme root congestion. It is suggested that leveling of the high dune tops be monitored by an archaeologist. If archaeological material is encountered, the earth moving machinery should be redirected while the material is sampled.
4. It is possible that human remains will be encountered during the course of the development. Such finds, besides providing a great deal of information to scientists, are also protected by the National Monuments Act and Human Tissue Act. It is important that they are removed by an archaeologist under controlled circumstances so that the context of the remains can be noted. The remains will have to housed in an institution licensed for this purpose. Finds of this nature should be reported to the South African Museum, a University, or National Monuments Council.
5. Should any areas other than that already subject to a phase 1 archaeological assessment be set aside for development, these too, should be subject to an archaeological survey.

6. It is suggested that the developer approach the West Cape regional manager, National Monuments Council (Ms Laura Robinson). The measures that need to be taken to mitigate the archaeological sites will require the approval of the Archaeology Plans Committee of the National Monuments Council. It is suggested that a meeting should be arranged (preferably on site) with this committee to negotiate a suitable program for the mitigation of archaeological material in the development zone. When the archaeological material has been mitigated to their satisfaction, they will issue a permit for its destruction.

## 7. REFERENCES

- Buchanan, W.F. 1977. Rescue dig at a Late Stone Age cave, Hour Bay, Cape Province. Unpub. archaeology additional project, UCT.  
 Inskeep, R. 1976. A note on the Melkbos and Hour 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.  
 Halkett, D., Hart. T., 1994. Phase 1 archaeological survey of erf 3366, Hour Bay. ACO report prepared for The Planning Partnership.

## 8. PROFESSIONAL TEAM.

Field work and report preparation:

Field work:

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