

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ERF 36
ST HELENA BAY
SALDANHA -VREDENBURG DISTRICT¹**

Prepared for

WITHERS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

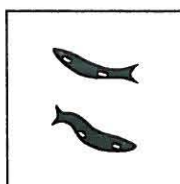
Att: Mr Aubrey Withers
PO Box 6118
Uniedal
7612

aubrey@withersenviro.co.za

Client:

Northern Spark Trading (Pty) Ltd

By



Jonathan Kaplan

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

P.O. Box 159
Riebeeck West
7306

Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755

Cellular: 082 321 0172

Email: acrm@wcaccess.co.za



**MAY
2009**

¹ Revised report

Executive summary

Withers Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed retirement village type development on Erf 36 in St. Helena Bay.

The subject property is currently zoned Fishing Industry and will be rezoned to General Residential to accommodate the proposed development. The property is vacant, but the demolished remains of a fishing factory are still visible on the proposed site. Much of the southern and eastern portion of the property is severely degraded, but the northern and western portion is still relatively undisturbed

The following findings were made:

A shell midden on top of a small dune hummock was documented directly alongside the fence line in the northern portion of the site. Shellfish occurs in open patches on the dune top and is also scattered fairly widely over the surrounding area. Stone tools in quartz, silcrete, quartzite and indurated shale were counted, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the area. Shell midden deposits also occur in the road reserve, outside the boundary of the proposed site.

Large amounts of crushed and fragmented shellfish (probably the remains of a destroyed shell midden) occur among the remains of the factory and building rubble in the southern and eastern portion of the property.

The following recommendations are made:

- Evaluation of the significance of the shell midden and shellfish scatters in the northern and western portion of the property will require shovel testing, before development takes place. If the remains are found to have depth and undisturbed deposit, they will have to be sampled by way of controlled archaeological excavations.
- Bulk earthworks and excavations must be monitored by a professional archaeologist during the construction phase of the project.
- Should any unmarked 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), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr Nick Wiltshire 021 483 9692).

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Executive summary	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Background and brief	3
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	3
3. STUDY AREA	4
4. STUDY APPROACH	7
4.1 Method	7
4.2 Constraints and limitations	7
4.3 Identification of potential risks	7
4.4 Results of the desk top study	8
5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	8
5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act	8
5.2 Archaeology (Section 25 (4))	9
5.3 Burials ground & graves (Section 36 (3))	9
6. FINDINGS	9
7. IMPACT STATEMENT	11
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	11
9. REFERENCES	12

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Withers Environmental Consultants, on behalf of Northern Spark Trading (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed residential development on Erf 36 in St. Helena Bay on the Cape West Coast.

The subject property is currently zoned Fishing Industry and will have to be rezoned to General Residential in order to make provision for the proposed development. The proposed development consists of a retirement housing project comprising ± 164 sectional title units, with communal facilities for care, food preparation and dining, administration, maintenance and recreation. The proposed structure will have two storeys above a semi-basement to accommodate parking. The site is situated with the current urban edge.

The extent of the proposed development (about 1.84 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.

A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist was submitted to Heritage Western Cape by Town Planner Mr Gerhard Erasmus, but an archaeological impact study was not undertaken at the time.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites 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 proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

A proposed site development plan is illustrated in Figure 3.

The subject property is located on the coast in St Helena Bay, approximately 20 km north of Vredenburg. The proposed site is situated directly alongside the Dromedaris Fish Factory which is about 2 kms west of the St. Helena Bay Harbour. The proposed site is vacant, but once supported an industrial building(s) which has since been demolished. The southern and eastern portion of the property (where the factory once stood) is severely degraded, while the northern and western portion is still relatively undisturbed. Dumping of domestic and industrial waste and building rubble covers much of the southern and eastern portion of the study site. The northern and western portion is characterised by low dunes on wind blown sands and is quite well vegetated. Several footpaths intersect this portion of the site. A few flat granite outcroppings occur on the site. The surrounding land use comprises fishing industry, vacant land and group housing (Figures 4-11).

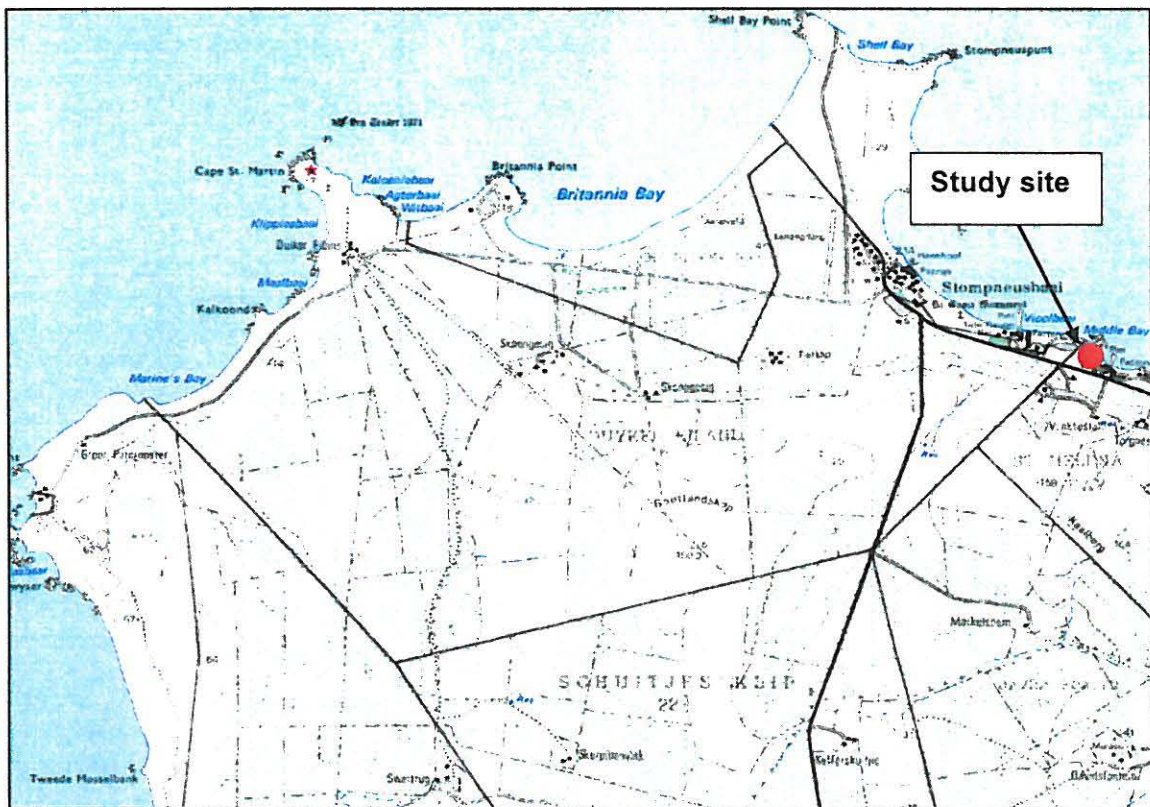


Figure 1. Site locality map (3217 DB & DD Vredenburg)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site indicating the extent of the shell midden (± 4 m contours). The green line is the powerline. The blue line is the boundary of the study site

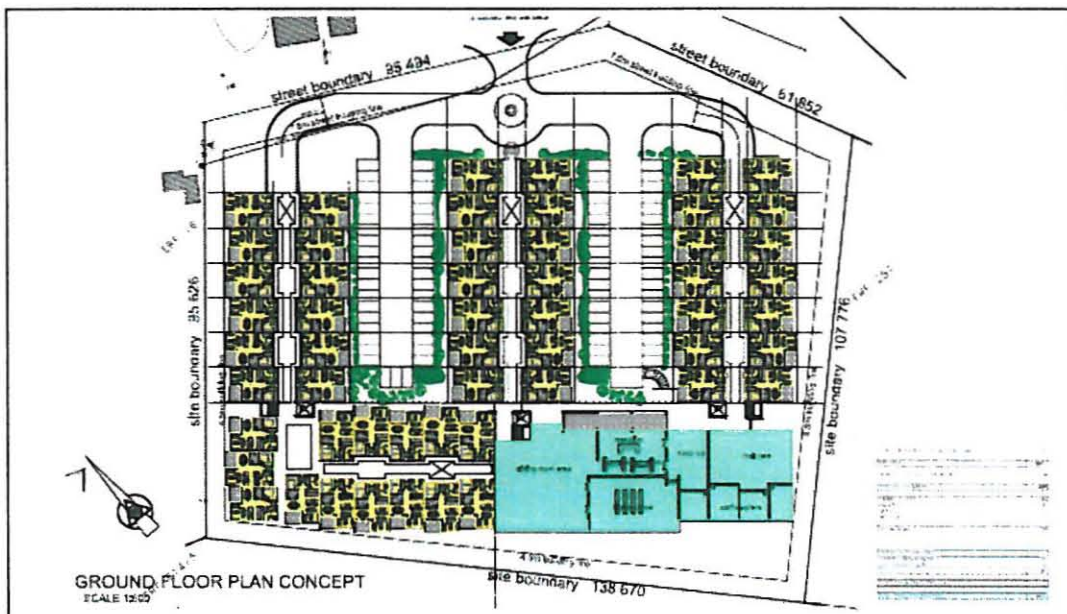


Figure 3. Proposed site development plan



Figure 4. View of the site facing north west

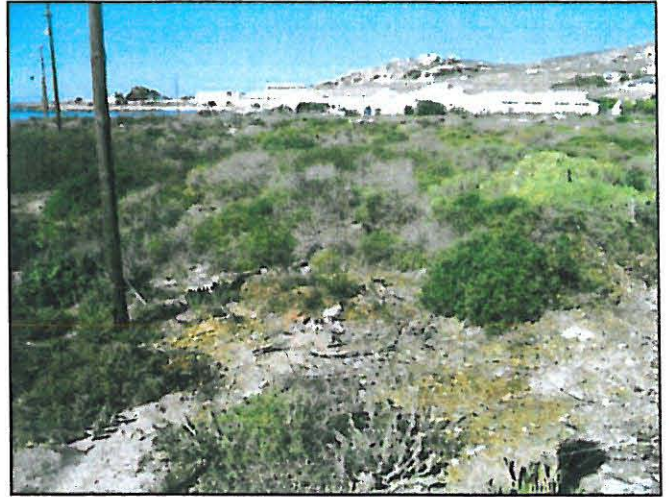


Figure 7. View of the site facing north



Figure 5. View of the site facing west

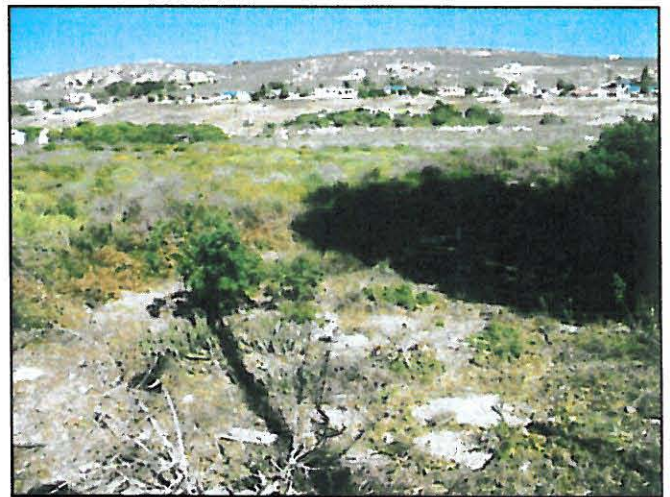


Figure 8. View of the site facing south west



Figure 6. View of the site facing north west



Figure 9. View of the site facing south east



Figure 10. View of the site facing north east



Figure 11. View of the site facing north east

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed site.

Archaeological heritage remains were recorded using a hand-held Garmin Geko 201 GPS unit set on map datum WGS 84.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 8th May, 2009.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study. However, the northern and western portion of the property is quite well vegetated, resulting in fairly low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

The following project actions may likely impact negatively on archaeological heritage remains.

- Bulk earthworks and excavations for services may expose or uncover buried shell middens
- Unmarked human remains may also be exposed during excavations and earthworks

4.4 Results of the desk-top study

The St Helena Bay area has been characterised by increasing residential development and quite a few archaeological impact assessments have been undertaken in the area as a result (Kaplan 2008a,b, 2006a, b, c, 2005a, b, c; Orton 2004). Many sites have been documented during the course of these surveys, a number of which have also been excavated and sampled (Smith *et al* 2008; Smith *et al* 2007a, b). Despite the extensive development of the shoreline area (mainly related to the fishing and fish packaging industry), several well preserved shell middens have been recorded. So far, excavations and sampling of archaeological deposits in St. Helena Bay appear to indicate that the majority of the sites date within the last 2000-3000 years and overlap the period both before and after the arrival of Khoekhoe pastoralists with domestic stock and pottery.

It is well known that large numbers of archaeological sites occur along the rocky shoreline around Duyker Eiland and Britannia Bay, about 5 kms south of St. Helena Bay (Halkett & Hart 1995; Kaplan 1993, 2003, 2006c.d; Thackeray & Cronin 1975). With its rocky shoreline, the St. Helena Bay region clearly acted as foci that attracted both LSA hunter-gatherers and later Khoekhoe herders as it offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods, particularly shellfish, while the local shales and granites provided vital nutrients for domestic stock. Shellfish meat was either cooked in pots or on open fires, but there is also evidence to suggest that meat was dried and smoked. Other marine resources exploited included sea birds, fish, crayfish, seal, dolphin, and even occasionally whales.

Research focussing on the Khoekhoe herder economy around 2000 years ago in the Vredenburg Peninsula has, significantly, also identified large numbers of sites up to several kilometres from the shoreline (Sadr *et al* 1992). Many of these sites, comprising substantial shellfish deposits with pottery and stone tools, are centred round the large granite outcroppings that are ubiquitous in Vredenburg, Paternoster and the St. Helena Bay area (see also Kaplan 2006e). Extensive scatters of shellfish, stone tools, pottery and reused colonial-era artefacts have also recently been found in Britannia Bay, providing, for the first time, compelling evidence of near-coastal herder sites (Kaplan 2006c).

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.1 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

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

Section 36 (3) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), 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. FINDINGS

36/1 (S 32 43 52.9 E 17 59 35.4)

A Later Stone Age (LSA) shell midden (36/1) occurs on a small hummock dune directly alongside the fence line in the northern portion of the site (refer to Figure 2). The extent of the midden/dune has been determined by the land surveyor and is assumed to be correct. The archaeological site is visible from the parking lot and from the coastal road (Figures 12 and 13) Surface shell occurs on open sandy patches on the dune top and slopes (Figures 14-16), while a small lens of in-situ shell midden deposit is also visible alongside the fence line (**in the road reserve**), where the (once large) dune has been cut through by the road. The exposure therefore falls outside the boundary of the proposed site. The construction of the parking area has also cut away part of the sand dune (36/1) and dumping of building rubble waste material is very visible, while much crushed shell is scattered about. This area is very degraded (refer to Figure 12). The surface shell on 36/1 is dominated by limpets (Scutellastra argenvillei, S. tabularis, S. cochlear and Cymbula granatina) including some whole shell, while Black Mussel (Choromytilus meridionalis) and small amounts of whelk and perlemoen (Haliotis midae) is also present. Shellfish is also scattered fairly widely on wind blown patches of sand in the immediate surrounding area and hidden beneath thick bush and scrub, but thins out considerably alongside a small footpath further to the west. No shellfish was noted beyond the footpath, where the sands are more coarse-grained and lighter brown coloured.

A small number of stone tools were counted on the dune and in the surrounding area, including two silcrete flakes (one utilised), three quartz flakes, one quartz chunk, one quartz core, two quartzite flakes, one indurated shale flake and one quartzite miscellaneous grindstone fragment. These isolated tools are spread very thinly over the surrounding area, under a bush, in an open patch of sand, or alongside the small footpath. No pottery or ostrich eggshell was found.

The archaeological remains have been rated as having medium local significance

Large amounts of crushed and fragmented shellfish occurs within the parking area and among the demolished remains and rubble of the industrial building, suggesting that other shell middens once existed on the site, but have since been destroyed (refer to Figure 2) when the factory was built.



Figure 12. 36/1 View facing north



Figure 15. 36/1. View facing south



Figure 13. 36/1. View from the coastal road



Figure 16. 36/1. View facing west



Figure 14. 36/1. View facing north

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Erf 36 in St. Helena Bay, on archaeological remains is likely to be high. The shell midden called 36/1 and surrounding surface scatters of shellfish in the northern and western portion of the proposed site, will be negatively impacted by proposed construction activities.

Unmarked pre-colonial human burials may also be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations for services.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed residential development on Erf 36 St. Helena Bay, the following recommendations are made:

- Evaluation of the significance of the shell midden (36/1) and shellfish scatters in the northern portion of the property will require shovel testing, **before** development takes place. If the remains are found to have depth and undisturbed deposit, they will have to be sampled by way of controlled archaeological excavations.
- Bulk earthworks and excavations must be monitored by a professional archaeologist during the construction phase of the project.
- Should any unmarked 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), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr Nick Wiltshire 021 483 9692).

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. 2008. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development St. Helena Views (Phase 3) Coastal Portion Erf 35 St Helena Bay. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development St. Helena Views (Phase 4). Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment erven 4404, 4405 and 2798. St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for Dennis Moss Partnership. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006c. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Erf 55 and 462 St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for BCD Town and Regional Planners Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006d. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment portion 7 of the Farm Duyker Eiland No. 6. St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006e. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Erf 460 St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Kaplan, J. 2006f. Archaeological scoping Portion of the Farm Duyker Eiland, St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

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. 2005c. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Erven 1878 (Ptn of Erf 20) and 4603 (Ptn of Erf 1878) St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for Dennis Moss Partnership. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2003. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed subdivision of Farm 1014 St. Helena Bay. Report prepared for Peter Pickford. 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.

Sadr, K., Gribble, J. & Euston-Brown, G. 1992. The Vredenburg Peninsula survey, 1991/92. In Smith, A.B. & Muti, B (eds) Guide to archaeological sites in the south western Cape. Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.

Thackeray, F & Cronin, M. 1975. Report on archaeological survey within the Saldanha area. Unpublished report, South African Museum, Cape Town.

Smith, A.B., Mutti, B.J. and Patrick, M. 2008. Archaeological test excavations: Erven 35 and 40 St. Helena Bay – Vredenburg Magisterial District. Report prepared for West Coast Miracles. Cape Archaeological Survey.

Smith, A. B., Mutti, B.J. & Patrick, M. 2007a. Archaeological test excavations: Erven 55 and 462 St. Helena Bay, Vredenburg Magisterial District. Report prepared for Mission Point Trading. Cape Archaeological Survey.

Smith, A. B., Mutti, B.J. & Patrick, M. 2007b. Archaeological test excavations: Erf 460 St. Helena Bay, Vredenburg Magisterial District. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Cape Archaeological Survey.

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

PO Box 159 Riebeeck West 7306 Phone/Fax 022-461 2755

E-mail: acrm@waccess.co.za Cellular: 082 321 0172

25 June, 2009

Att: Mr Nick Wiltshire
Heritage Western Cape
Private Bag X9067
Cape Town, 8000

Dear Nick,

REPORTS FOR APM

Please find the following **REVISED** reports to be presented at the next APM meeting (in July 2009)

- Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed expansion of the Kleingeluk Quarry on Portion 11 of the Farm Hartenbosch No. 217 Mossel Bay
- Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing development on Portion 37 of the Farm Besters Kraal No. 38 Vredenburg
- Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development of Erf 36 St. Helena Bay, Vredenburg-Saldanha

I also refer to your ROD's for the above 3 reports, and subsequent e-mail correspondence with you. I hope the reports now satisfy the APM requirements.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan

