

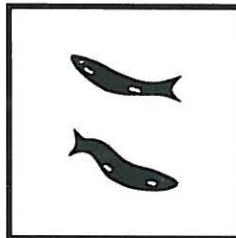
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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE KLEIN MOOIMAAK
REST CAMP
WEST COAST NATIONAL PARK**

Prepared for

South African National Parks

By



Agency for Cultural Resource Management

P.O. Box 159
Riebeeck West
7306

Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755

Cellular: 082 321 0172

E-mail: acrm@wcaccess.co.za



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Executive summary

South African National Parks (SANParks) requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed tourist rest camp at Klein Mooimaak, on the eastern shore of the Langebaan Lagoon, in the West Coast National Park.

Klein Mooimaak is the proposed alternative rest camp site to a proposed rest camp site at Kraalbaai (on the western shore of the Langebaan Lagoon) which was subjected to a Phase 1 AIA in April 2006.

The proposed Klein Mooimaak site is located about 3 kms south west of the entrance to the Langebaan gate in the West Coast National Park. The proposed site is currently used by SANParks staff as a recreational facility, with some infrastructure already in place, such as ablution facilities, picnicking and braai sites and parking. Several concrete foundations and structures also occur on the site, while dumping of building material and rubble is also evident. Much of the site is therefore in an already disturbed context.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological sites 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.

The following findings were made:

Scattered and dispersed fragments and a few patches of water worn marine shellfish were documented on the site. The gravelled picnic and braai areas also covered with crushed marine shell.

No cultural remains such as stone flakes, ostrich eggshell or pottery were found.

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

With regard to the proposed development of the Klein Mooimaak rest camp in the West Coast National Park, the following recommendations are made:

- Bulk earthworks must be monitored by a professional archaeologist. Should any important archaeological deposits be exposed, sampling and dating of the deposits will be required.
- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the archaeologist and to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Dr A. Jerardino 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Ms C. Booth 021 483 9692).

1. INTRODUCTION

South African National Park (SANParks) requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of a tourist rest camp site at Klein Mooimaak in the West Coast National Park, in the Western Cape. Up to 10 chalets, a reception and parking area and associated infrastructure such as engineering services are also planned.

Klein Mooimaak is the proposed alternative rest camp site to the proposed rest camp site at Kraalbaai (on the western shore of the Langebaan Lagoon) which was subjected to a Phase 1 AIA in 2006 (Kaplan 2006).

The proposed Klein Mooimaak site is currently zoned Indeterminate. The applicant (i.e. SANParks) is applying for Resort Zone I status in order to affect the proposed development.

The extent of the proposed development (about 1.0 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 and 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.

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 study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

Klein Mooimaak (S 33° 07.57.9 E 18° 04 13.7 on map datum wgs 84) is located on the eastern shore of the Langebaan Lagoon in the West Coast National Park about 3 kms from the Park entrance gate at Langebaan. Access to the site is via the Seeberg turnoff. A gravel and sandy road leads to the proposed site, passing several older farm buildings on the way. The proposed site is already occupied by a recreational facility that is currently used by SANParks staff. It includes a large levelled area alongside the lagoon that is surrounded by Manitoka trees (Figure 3), which comprises several braai and picnic sites, modern concrete buildings, structures and a metal shack. Some ablution facilities are situated further to the east (Figure 4), while several concrete foundations and structures occur over the remainder of the site. Additional infrastructure includes an abandoned windmill and a large well/borehole. Dumping of building material and rubble and some excavations also occur. The southern portion of the site alongside the lagoon is relatively undisturbed and is characterised by vegetated, low dune hummocks (Figures 5-8). The proposed development will stay within the existing disturbed areas. Beyond the proposed site, the receiving environment comprises mainly low, vegetated hummock dunes alongside the raised shoreline and indigenous veld further inland. There are no significant landscape features on the site, or in the immediate surrounding area.

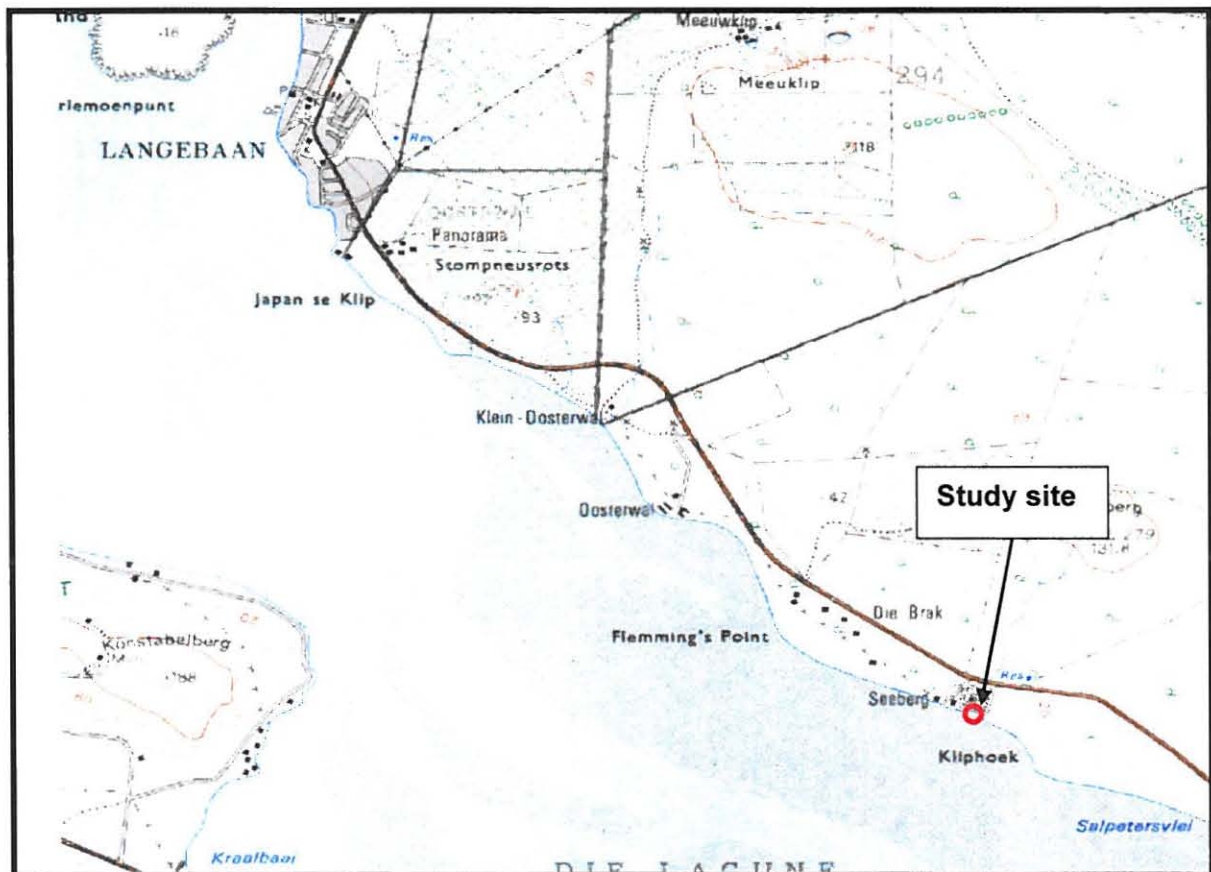


Figure 1. Site locality (3317 BB & 3318 AA Saldanha Bay)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the proposed study site



Figure 3. View of the site facing west



Figure 4. View of the site facing south. Note the ablution facilities



Figure 5. View of the site facing north



Figure 7. View of the site facing east



Figure 6. View of the site facing south



Figure 8. View of the site facing north west

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a ground survey of the proposed site and the immediate surrounding area.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 30th July, 2008.

5. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LANGEBAAN AND THE WEST COAST NATIONAL PARK

More than 40 archaeological sites have been recorded between Lentjiesklip 1 and Lynch Point on the eastern shore of the Langebaan Lagoon (Hart & Halkett 1992; Kaplan 1993, 1999; Parkington & Poggenpoel 1987). Studies have shown that the rocky shoreline at Lentjiesklip and Lynch Point acted as foci that attracted Later Stone Age (LSA) people as they offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods particularly shellfish (Hart 1991; Kaplan 2000).

The archaeology suggests that the pattern of occupation of the Langebaan area in pre-colonial times involved people locating themselves at the coast where large quantities of shellfish was consumed, as well as seals, fish, bird, tortoise and small antelope. Evidence also suggests that LSA people may have been scheduling their visits to collect lower tidal zone shellfish such as limpets and perlemoen (Hart 1991).

Excavations at Lentjiesklip 4 (Parkington *et al* 1988) and Lentjiesklip 2 (Hart 1991) show that some of the sites in the region date to between 4000 and 1800 years ago (Hart 1991), some of which have been found buried up to three metres below the sand body. The domestic and material cultural items generated from these and other excavations indicate a wide range of human responses to opportunities and needs over time. A human burial was also uncovered during excavation of a service trench at Lentjiesklip 2 (Hart 1991).

Research undertaken on behalf of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism (Kaplan 1993) has also established that many sites occur on the western shore of the Langebaan Lagoon, at Posberg, Kreefbaai, Kraalbaai and Stofbergfontein. A survey for the proposed upgrading of the Preekstoel day visitor facility, about 2 kms south of Kraalbaai, located relatively well-preserved (but damaged) middens on the fossil dunes overlooking the Lagoon (Kaplan 2005). Well preserved shell midden deposits, stone tools, pottery and ostrich eggshell were documented during the study for the proposed Kraalbaai rest camp site (Kaplan 2006).

Archaeological excavations have also been conducted in the Posberg Nature Reserve (Smith *et al* 1992:36), which gives a broad picture of aboriginal material culture and economic remains within the past 1000 years in the area, while excavations at Oudepost I, a 17th century Dutch colonial outpost at Kraalbaai, has provided evidence for interaction between soldiers at the small garrison and local Khoi pastoralists more than 300 years ago (Schrire 1992).

More recently, 120 000 year old fossil footprints were discovered in ancient fossil dunes at Kraalbaai (Roberts 1996), among the oldest modern human footprints in the world.

Later Stone Age and Middle Stone Age sites with faunal remains also occur in the large deflation bays of the Geelbek Dune system, about 1.5 km east of the existing Duinepos chalets (Conard *et al* 1999).

It is also well established that vertebrate fossils and archaeological occurrences in the Langebaan Limestone (calcrete) formations and associated deposits in the region are extremely valuable sources of information on the sedimentary, chronological, palaeoenvironmental and palaeoecological context of the development of modern

human behaviour during the Middle Stone Age (MSA) and perhaps even the Early Stone Age (ESA) (Avery 1997).

The reasons for the abundance of fossil archaeological and palaeontological remains in the Langebaan area is in part related to the highly calcareous character of the aeolianites (fossil dunes) and shallow marine sediments. Bones and implements are readily preserved by the rapid carbonate cementation of the strata in which they become entombed.

6. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

...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 in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

6.1.1 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.

6.1.2 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.

6.1.3 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.

7. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

There were no limitations or constraints associated with the archaeological study.

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