

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ERVEN 1694, 2529 & 2530
MELKBOSSTRAND**

Prepared for

**COASTEC
COASTAL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS**

By

Jonathan Kaplan

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

P. O. Box 159

Riebeeck West

7306

Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755

Mobile: 082 321 0172

E-mail: acrm@wcaccess.co.za

**FEBRUARY
2002**

extreme north-west of the site. The site is relatively undisturbed and has been given a high conservation rating?² ✓

A few, small patches and thin scatters of shellfish remains were also located among the parallel dunes, alongside the primary barrier dunes, in the west of the site. These dunes are heavily vegetated, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

Apart from a few pieces of white mussel shell, no archaeological remains were located in the dune system in the north-east of the site, alongside the R27.

The results of the HIA ~~has~~ have shown that the dune system in the west of the site is a highly sensitive, vulnerable and threatened archaeological environment, and in light of the proposed development, should be declared a protected and conservation area, and managed accordingly. ✓

With regard to the proposed development of erven 1694, 2529 and 2530, in Melkbosstrand, the following heritage recommendations, to be included in the environmental management plan, are made.

For the construction phase:

- The dune systems located in the west and north-east of the site should be demarcated and protected before any construction work commences.
- The buffer between the protected dune system in the west, and the proposed development area, should extend as far as the large Milkwood tree in the north-west of the site. The buffer should then extend in a straight line south to Melkbosstrand Road.
- An immediate archaeological rescue programme should be implemented in order to recover as much of the exposed human remains from the western sand dunes as possible.
- The archaeological remains among the dunes in the west of the site should be protected by sensitive landscaping, and replanting of indigenous vegetation. Dumped material and rubbish left on the site should be carefully cleaned up, leaving alone all shellfish remains.
- Information/story boards could be erected on the western dunes indicating the presence of archaeological sites.
- Some sampling of the middens in the west of the site may also be required, since the dune system will form part of the public open space and green edge, and will most likely be impacted by an increase in human visitation.
- The shell midden on the parallel dunes in the extreme north-west of the site should be sampled. The well preserved site may be vulnerable once construction commences, and could also be negatively impacted during the operational phase of the project. ✓

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

COASTTEC has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a phase 1 heritage impact assessment (HIA) of erven 1694, 2529 and 2530, in Melkbosstrand.

The proposed development of erven 1694, 2529 and 2530 envisages a mixed-use development, comprising social housing, high and medium value residential housing, community, educational, sport, commercial, and light service industrial facilities. Provision is also made for public open space and a green edge—reference(s)??

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the proposed project, to propose measures to mitigate against the impact and to guide the development process.

The archaeological remains located in the study will be used ~~in the preparation~~ what do you mean by this?? of an environment management plan, for both the construction and operational phases of the proposed project.

delete ✓

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance.
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
3. to assess the sensitivity and significance of archaeological sites;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development;
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist; and
6. to propose actions for inclusion in the environmental management plan.

✓

flatter disturbed areas (Figure 2). The shellfish remains comprise mainly fragmented black mussel shell, with some limpets also occurring. A few stone chunks were found, including one broken upper grindstone.

A relatively well preserved, scatter and in-situ lens of shellfish remains are visible in the disturbed dune bank a few meters from the boundary fence between houses 6 and 7 (Figure 3). Low level dumping of household waste in this area is widespread.

Significance of finds: **medium-high**

Please include a table showing how significance is rated

Suggested mitigation: The dunes should be sensitively landscaped what do mean by this?? Surely not rehaping – if so, then leave as revegetated - and revegetated.
Ditto throughout your report

Some sampling of the archaeological remains may be required, particularly if since the dunes are to will likely be impacted by increased human visitation once the proposed green edge is established – correct throughout:

Site 2 MB 2 GPS reading S 33° 43 262 E 18° 26 554

MB 2 comprises a fairly extensive scatter of shellfish remains about 300 m north of Melkbosstrand Road, on the crest of the dune (Figure 4). The site is very disturbed, but a relatively well preserved patch of midden material occurs in-situ on the eastwest?-facing slopes of the dune. The shellfish remains are dominated by fragmented black mussel, with some limpets also occurring. No stone or other cultural items were found.

A human femur old/modern? was found close to the midden, in a sandy path on the east-facing slopes (Figure 5). Informal sand mining nearby most likely exposed a burial and scattered the remains. No other bone was recovered.

Significance of finds: **medium-high**

Suggested mitigation: **the dunes should be sensitively landscaped and revegetated.**

Some sampling of the archaeological remains may be required, since the dunes will likely be impacted by increased human visitation once the green edge and public open space is established.

An immediate archaeological rescue programme should be implemented in order to recover as much of the human remains from the western dunes as possible.

Site 3 MB 3 GPS reading S 33° 43 194 E 18° 26 528

An extensive scatter of highly fragmented shellfish remains were located about 500 m north of Melkbosstrand Road (Figure 6). The site and the dunes especially have been modified and also severely disturbed, as a result of dumping, illegal sand mining and the use of ORV's and bikes. However, some in-situ and coherent patches of relatively well preserved shellfish material still occurs.

Significance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

John M. M. M.

- Owing to poor visibility caused by alien vegetation, a more detailed archaeological study of the proposed development area between the western dune system and the R27, is required. This study should be phased, as development proceeds, and should coincide with the removal and clearing of alien vegetation. This approach was successfully implemented at the Atlantic Beach Golf Estate, and will also be followed at the proposed Big Bay development in Bloubergstrand — surely this was part of your brief! This is a heavily impacted site, unlike Atlantic Beach. So recommend that the ECO should be aware there could be artefacts and to take appropriate action (below) if these are uncovered. There is certainly no need for yet another study, given the nature of the site....

— okay

Should any significant sites be located during the study, some archaeological sampling may be required. Funds should be set aside by the authorities in the event of this occurring. How much? Precedent elsewhere — is it a prerequisite of the Act? — *Yes per fr mth? No*

- The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is to be briefed by a professional archaeologist what to look out for, particularly during vegetation clearing operations.
- Contractors, staff and plant operators should also be briefed what to look out for, particularly during vegetation clearing operations and the construction phase of the project.
- Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during vegetation clearing and earthworks should not be disturbed until inspected by the ECO and verified by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to a professional archaeologist, or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Burial remains should be treated sensitively at all times. Human remains should not be removed until inspected by a professional archaeologist.

For the operational phase:

- Monitoring the status of the archaeological remains in the dune system in the west of the site should be undertaken on a regular basis.
- Education/awareness programme?

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency Plans Committee.

Perkins & Wood report

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of erven 1694, 2529 and 2530, in Melkbosstrand, the following heritage recommendations, to be included in the environmental management plan, are made.

For the construction phase:

- The dune systems located in the west and north-east of the site should be demarcated and protected before any construction work commences.
- The A buffer between the dune system in the west, and the proposed development site, should be created and should extend as far as the large Milkwood tree in the north-western portion of the site. The buffer should then extend in a straight line south to Melkbosstrand Road. Put buffer on map

• *An immediate archaeological rescue programme should be implemented in order to recover as much of the human remains from the western dunes as possible. — be specific — this very vague — what actions need to be taken for an effective rescue programme*

- The archaeological remains among the dunes in the west of the site should be protected by sensitive landscaping see earlier comments, and replanting of indigenous vegetation. Dumped material and rubbish left on the site should be carefully cleaned up, leaving alone all shellfish remains.
- Information/story boards could be erected on the western dunes indicating the presence of archaeological sites.

• *Some sampling of the middens (MB 1-3) in the west of the site may also be required, since the dune system will form part of the public open space and green edge, and will most likely be impacted by an increase in human visitation.*

Link points in italics

- The shell midden (**MB 4**) on the parallel dune in the extreme north-west of the site should be sampled. The well-preserved site may be vulnerable once construction commences — why?, and could also be negatively impacted during the operational phase of the project — why?. State your reasons and what could be done about them in the EMP

An increase in human activity in the open space, may also impact negatively on this important site.

Could humans not be directed away from the sites or an EE programme created, with managed access to the dunes?