

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ST. FRANCIS BAY PENINSULA

FOR: SANTAREMA BAY LTD

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development and township expansion, denies archaeologists the opportunity to investigate early human history thoroughly. Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources. Their destruction and exploitation means the loss of all South Africans cultural heritage.

At the request of Santarema Ltd, I have been asked to conduct an archaeological investigation of the St. Francis Bay Peninsula, in order to: 1. identify the archaeological sites along the peninsula including the area covered by the present nature reserve; 2. comment on what--is known about the early human history of the peninsula and; 3. to advise on how best to establish a small site museum or information centre to inform the public on the local history and the importance of preserving and/or protecting archaeological sites.

St. Francis Bay, on the south-eastern Cape coast of South Africa, is presently being developed as a coastal resort by Santareme Bay Ltd. Development started on the Santareme Bay Township in 1971, which has since been completed. Current development involving the building of roads, parking facilities, drainage systems, plot levelling and landscaping, has virtually been completed, and the only major development still to be done is the building of a small boat harbour and recreational facilities. A striking features of this area is the number of archaeological sites to be found. The immediate coastline and adjacent dunes contain many sites. It is interesting to note, that the development of the road networks in Phase 1 and 2, resulted in a number of sites being identified, which otherwise would not have been located by the foot survey.

slopes. The ephemeral scatter is dominated by Perna perna, and Patella tabularis occurs as well.

SFB 2 is a large midden, approximately 50 metres from the intertidal rocks, and about 30 metres west of SFB 1. A reservoir is built on top of the midden. The shell on top of the dune is thus highly fragmented, but a few quartzite stone flakes and chunks were found. Midden material including quartzite stone flakes erodes out of a path cutting leading up to the reservoir. A band of midden material about 30 cm thick erodes out of the north and south-facing road cutting which separates SFB 1 from SFB 2. Fragmented midden material, stone flakes, chunks and cobbles litter the road which leads to a four-wheel drive track which runs along the coast toward Santarema Bay Township. The shell in the road cutting and those on top of the midden is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis, Turbo sarmaticus, Patella argenvillei, and Oxystele sinensis.

SFB 3 is approximately 100 metres west of SFB 2, on the four-wheel drive track leading to Santarema Bay Township. Midden material erodes out of the road cutting and lies scattered and fragmented in the track. Ephemeral scatters of midden material lie exposed on the east facing dunes. In the road cutting and on the dune slopes the midden material is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis, and a few Oxystele sinensis and Turbo sarmaticus. The midden is badly damaged, except for the exposed patches on the dune slopes.

SFB 4 is about 30 metres west from SFB 3 along the jeep track, and probably part of the SFB 3 and SFB 2 complex. Midden material erodes out of the road cutting and lies scattered in the track,

top of the dunes and lie scattered among the bulldozed banks and landscaped plots.

SFB 8 is a large midden in Abalone Avenue located on plots 1850-1854 and 1795. Midden debris erodes out of the road cutting and lies scattered all along the north-facing dunes, and in trenches along both sides of the road. The midden is dominated by Patella tabularis and Perna perna, while some Turbo sarmaticus, Patella cochlear and Oxysteles sinensis is present. Middens SFB 7 and SFB 8 are probably part of one larger complex of middens.

SFB 9 is a large midden located on plots 1822-1829 in Cowrie Crescent. Rich midden material lies exposed on top of the levelled plots, and in dumps of piled up sand. The major portion of the midden has been disturbed by road construction. The midden is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis and Turbo sarmaticus, while Patella longicosta, Oxysteles sinensis and Patella cochlear also occur. A few pottery sherds and numerous stone flakes, chunks and a few cores are scattered among the remains of the midden. An interesting feature of SFB 9 is a circle of flaking debris in association with two cores.

SFB 10 At the bottom of Cockle Street about 20 metres behind SFB 2 are the remains of a midden which has been destroyed by dumping and levelling. The midden material is fragmented, but is dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis, while some Patella longicosta, Haliotis midae, Oxysteles sinensis, Turbo sarmaticus, Patella cochlear and Patella argenvillei also occur. A few stone flakes lie scattered about.

includes all three middens. Its subdivisions by plots is, again, purely arbitrary. SFB 13 is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis, but Turbo sarmaticus, Donax serra, Oxystele sinensis, Haliotis midae, Patella cochlear, Patella argenvillei, and Patella longicosta also occur. Numerous stone flakes, cobbles, and chunks are scattered among the midden, particularly on plots 1982, 1983 1985 and 1986

SFB 14 is the remains of a large midden (plots 1734 & 1735 & 1744) at the end of Tom Brown Boulevard, which has since been destroyed by road cutting, levelling and a drainage system. The midden material lies scattered among the plots, but is dispersed and highly fragmented. The midden material is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis, Patella cochlear and Patella longicosta. Some Turbo sarmaticus, Patella argenvillei, Haliotis midae and Haliotis parva (small perlemoen), and Oxystele sinensis occur as well.

SFB 15 and SFB 16 is a large midden complex located in Oyster Row (plots 1536-1547). Midden debris lies scattered and fragmented along both sides of the road cutting and on the levelled plots, but is well concentrated on the south-facing plot 1538. SFB 15 and SFB 16 is almost completely destroyed by the road cutting, except that which remains on plot 1538. The middens are dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis, and Patella cochlear. Turbo sarmaticus, Patella argenvillei, Haliotis midae, Haliotis parva, Patella oculus and Achatina (freshwater snail) also occur. Associated with the midden are some quartzite stone flakes, chunks and cobbles, but mainly concentrated on plots 1542 and 1543.

SFB 20 is a widespread scatter of midden material at the corner of Coriander Crescent and Padrone Crescent (plots 1566-1568, 1597 & 1598). Although SFB 20 has been badly damaged by the road cutting, some well preserved midden, rich in pottery and stone flakes, chunks and cores, is still visible on plots 1566 and 1567, with ephemeral scatters on plots 1597 and 1598. The midden is dominated by Perna perna, but Patella tabularis, Patella argenvillei, Turbo sarmaticus, Donax serra, Oxystele sinensis, Patella longicosta, Patella cochlear and Achatina also occur.

SFB 21 Toward the middle of Tom Brown Boulevard, on a west facing dune (plot 1516), is a scatter of midden material with a fairly thick concentration on the highest point of the plot. The midden is dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis, with Donax serra, Turbo sarmaticus, Patella cochlear, patella longicosta, and Oxystele sinensis occurring. Quartzite flakes, cobbles, chunks and cores, and a few silcrete stone flakes cover the midden.

SFB 22 is a thin scatter of fragmented midden material on both sides of the road cut bank along the length of Diaz Drive (plots 1618-1628, 1675-1683). The midden is dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis, but some Patella cochlear Oxystele sinensis and Achatina occur as well. Quartzite flakes and chunks and one upper grindstone were found.

SFB 23 is a small patch of fragmented midden material at the end of a tractor path on the corner of Cayenne Close and Tom Brown Boulevard (plots 1684 & 1685), while ephemeral scatters of highly fragmented midden material occur up and down the length of Cayenne Close (plots 1693-1698, 1661-1667). The midden on plots

SFB 26 is a large midden (about 35m x 15m) exposed on a large, south-facing dune at the beginning of the dune belt, and about 15 metres downslope from SFB 25. The shell on the dune slope is fragmented, but is well consolidated and undisturbed at the top of the dune. The midden is dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis, but Patella longicosta, Patella argenvillei, Patella cochlear, Donax serra, Turbo sarmaticus, Oxystele sinensis, and Haliotis midae occur as well. Active stone working has taken place on this midden, and a few stone circles littered with flakes, cobbles, cobble cores, chunks, pebble cores and some utilised and miscellaneous retouched pieces are found. A few pieces of burnt bone occur on the midden as well.

SFB 27-SFB 29 is a complex of well preserved and compact middens about 10 metres from SFB 26, and separated from each other by thin wind-blown dune cordons of about four metres each. Scattered fragments of shell are deposited around the midden. All are dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis, but shells of Patella cochlear, Patella argenvillei, Patella longicosta, Turbo sarmaticus, Oxystele sinensis, Donax serra, and Haliotis midae occur as well. Quartzite flakes, cobbles, chunks and cores are scattered over all three middens. More Donax serra occurs on SFB 29, but this midden is still dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis.

SFB 30 is a scatter of fragmented shell leading up slope to a consolidated patch of midden, about 10 metres away from SFB 29, on the north-facing bush covered dunes. The shell composition is the same as SFB 24-SFB 29, but there is very little stone working here when compared to the SFB 24-29.

SFB 34 is nearer the mouth of the dune belt, and consists of a smaller outcrop of quartzite boulders associated with a high degree of stone flaking activity. The quartzite boulders extend almost down to the sea along the north-facing bank. A scatter of midden material, which includes mainly Patella tabularis and Perna perna, and some Patella cochlear and Turbo sarmaticus, is found among the boulders. SFB 33 and SFB 34 are essentially both quarry or factory sites.

SFB 35 is about 30 metres from SFB 34 and a few metres above the jeep track leading to Cape St. Francis point. The midden is mainly covered by bush, but four or five fairly extensive outcroppings of midden material are exposed on the east-facing dune slope. The midden is dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis. Some Patella cochlear, Oxystele sinensis, Patella longicosta, Patella argenvillei, Donax serra, Turbo sarmaticus and Haliotis midae occur. Stone flakes and cobbles lie scattered among the midden.

SFB 36 is a small, insignificant scatter of highly fragmented shell located along a small, seldom used jeep track approximately 500 metres inland from shoreline from the main jeep track down the coast. The midden scatter is dominated by Perna perna and Patella tabularis. Some stone flakes and chunks are associated with the shell.

SFB 37 is an extensive series of exposures of very substantial herder middens. The shells from this accumulation are concentrated on east-facing dunes about 100 metres immediately behind the intertidal rock outcrop. The shells from this accumulation are visible in the four-wheel-drive track which runs

metres) to the intertidal rocks, SFB 38 at one time probably consisted of a very large midden, which has since been destroyed.

SFB 39 As the main jeep track along the coast from Santarema Bay Township turns inland to go Cape St. Francis point, midden material is visible eroding out of a east-facing bush-covered dune. The midden is badly wind blown and only a small patch is preserved. Perna perna, Patella longicosta and Turbo sarmaticus are the dominant shells occurring. Some stone flakes are associated with the midden.

SFB 40 is visible at the beginning of a small footpath leading off the jeep track, about 100 metres from the main complex of SFB 37 middens. Scatters of fragmented midden material and stone lies in the footpath. Scatters of not very impressive midden lie exposed on a west-facing slope. Midden material includes Patella cochlear, Patella longicosta, Patella argenvillei, Turbo sarmaticus and Donax serra.

SFB 41 is a midden eroding out of a west-facing bush-covered dune about midway along St Francis Drive (plot 1632), between Cinnamon Street and Diaz Drive. Midden material is reasonably well compacted at the top of the dune, while fragmented midden material lies on the dune slope. The midden is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis, Patella cochlear, Patella argenvillei, and Turbo sarmaticus, while some Oxysteles sinensis and Patella oculus also occurs.

SFB 42 is a thin scatter of midden material lying on top of some small bush-covered dunes in Mussel Avenue (plots 1901-1905 & 1954, 1955 & 1957). SFB 42 is probably part of the same complex

SFB 46 is a midden eroding out of the east-facing bank of a series of bush-covered dunes just off the jeep track along the coastline, and almost on the boundary in front of plot 1738, on the site where the proposed harbour is to be built (plot 1494). The midden material is fragmented and lies scattered close to the jeep track. It is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis and Turbo sarmaticus. Some Oxystele sinensis and a bit of stone is also visible.

SFB 47 is a midden eroding out of the east facing bank of a bush-covered dune, approximately 20 metres along the jeep track from SFB 46, on the site where the proposed harbour is to be built (plot 1494) and just before the track leaves the coast and goes up to the fisherman's cottage. The midden is fairly well preserved, but scattered and fragmented midden material lies in the jeep track and in the cutting where the track becomes a dirt road. The midden is dominated by Perna perna, Patella tabularis, Turbo sarmaticus, and Haliotis midae. Some Oxystele sinensis is present too. Stone flakes and chunks lie on the surface of the road.

SFB 48 is a midden partially exposed on a small bush-covered dune right on the jeep track cutting, approximately 20 metres from SFB 47. Fragmented midden material lies scattered along the track and is dominated by Perna perna.

SFB 49 is a series of midden complexes eroding out of the east-facing vegetation covered dunes, located alongside the four-wheel-drive track along the coastline, and visible almost to SFB 5. This entire area has been designated for the proposed building of the harbour. The midden material is fairly well preserved in

Perna perna and Oxystele sinensis. Perna perna is the most available and abundant shellfish species along the coast. Species from the lower balanoid zone such as Patella tabularis and Patella cochlear, where species have greater meat mass per individual, are virtually absent from these middens. Exploitation also ignored the white sand mussel, Donax serra, even at sites adjacent to sandy beaches where this species can be found.

These shell middens mark the appearance of pastoralist groups who inhabited the south-eastern Cape coast roughly 1700 years ago.

Binneman is of the opinion that there were two groups of indigenous people living along the coast: those who possessed sheep and herded them in the adjacent dune grassland and exploited the coast as a major food source; and those groups without sheep who practised a 'Strandloper' way of life.

2. Middens without pottery but with a quartzite stone industry.

These sites usually contain a large number of quartzite stone tools, i.e. hammerstones, bored stones, grindstones, cores, rubbers, flakes and large segments (crescent-shaped tools thought to be parts of composite points for arrow heads). According to Binneman these segments appear to have a restricted geographical distribution, and are mainly abundant in the eastern Cape. These middens date between 2000 and 4500 years BP and possibly represent the remains of hunter-gatherers who lived permanently along the coast and lived by fishing and collecting marine resources.

The analysis of the shellfish remains from these middens indicate a different collecting strategy from that of the pastoralist

factory or quarry sites. These sites are located in a major dune bay between the dune ridges in the nature reserve (SFB 32 & 33). Most of the dune area is underlain by calcrete floors which occasionally form large outcrops between the dunes. These hard calcrete floors act as traps and large amounts of archaeological material are found on these floors. Extensive outcroppings of quartzite boulders are associated with the dune bay. Stone tools, flakes, chunks and cores lie scattered amongst the boulders. The identical assemblages are to be found on many of the shell middens and are undoubtedly derived from, and associated with, the factory sites. The factory sites which have been surveyed are all located in the nature reserve. Incidental to the high degree of flaking activity, are occasionally ephemeral scatters of fragmented shell.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Two specific recommendations conclude this report. Firstly, I have been asked to comment on the how best I believe a small site museum or information centre, which the developers propose building for the community, could accurately relate to the archaeological remains on the peninsula. It has been proposed that the site museum be built at the boundary of Phase 2 and the nature reserve (Fig 1).

Site museums or information centres represent an ideal way in which archaeological information can be made accessible to the general public. Site museums can, in my opinion, fulfill three functions. A site museum, designed and built in close consultation with professional museum staff, is an ideal way in which a reflection of the past can be portrayed and appreciated.

earlier in the report, the majority of shell middens in the region, particularly those in Phase 1 and 2, have been badly damaged as a result of development. There is, however, a vast amount of information still contained in the remaining midden material, and it is advised that these be adequately sampled in order to rescue this information and use it for the proposed site museum.

If the site museum is not built, it is still advised that the middens are adequately sampled. The eventual complete destruction of the middens in Phase 1 and 2, would mean that vital information would be lost forever. There are important archaeological advantages to rescuing these sites. The data base may be increased by rescuing these sites, which in turn may inform archaeologists about new aspects of the early lives of the indigenous people. For example, burials may be recovered which may throw new light on the religious practices of the San and Khoi.

St. Francis Bay can make a substantial contribution to our growing knowledge of the lives of the indigenous people. By expanding the area of excavation, archaeological features such as hearths and activity areas, may be uncovered. The recovery of these features contain crucial spatial information about the way in which communities organised themselves socially and domestically. In this respect it is recommended that a fieldwork programme be initiated prior to harbour construction so that archaeological remains in danger can be rescued.

There is a good chance that features such as burials be uncovered and it is important that contact be ~~made~~ with archaeologists so that they can respond quickly to this ~~case~~. The region is rich in archaeological sites and developments and archaeologists alike have a responsibility to protect and/or rescue them.