

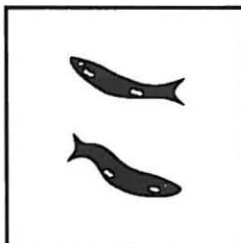
**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
PORTION OF PORTION 4 OF FARM NO. 560
YZERFONTEIN**

Prepared for

P J De Villiers Testamentary Trust

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Executive summary

P J De Villiers Testamentary Trust requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on a Portion of Portion 4 of Farm No. 560 Yzerfontein, on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed site is located on the southern side of the town of Yzerfontein inside the current urban edge. The receiving environment comprises thick, almost impenetrable, natural vegetation resulting in very low archaeological visibility.

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

No archaeological remains were documented during the study.

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.

Shell middens may, however, be exposed or uncovered during vegetation clearing operations.

Buried shell midden deposits may be encountered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

Unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations for services.

Important vertebrate fossils may also be exposed or uncovered should excavations penetrate underlying limestone or associated sediments.

With regard to the proposed development of a Portion of Portion 4 of Farm No. 560 in Yzerfontein, the following recommendations are made:

- Vegetation clearing operations and bulk earthworks must be monitored by a professional archaeologist. Should any important archaeological deposits be uncovered or exposed, sampling and dating of these deposits will be required.
- A specialist palaeontologist must be appointed to inspect and examine excavations and exposures for possible vertebrate fossils (bones) 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 archaeologist, and to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Dr A. Jerardino 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr Calvin van Wyk 021 483 9692).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

P J De Villiers Testamentary Trust requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on a Portion of Portion 4 of Farm No. 560 in Yzerfontein (Swartland Municipality), on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed rezoning of the affected property is for the purpose of a housing development consisting of about 93 units (\pm 4.06 ha). Public Open Space and associated infrastructure including internal streets and engineering services are also included in the development proposal.

The property is currently zoned Agriculture and will be rezoned and subdivided to accommodate the proposed development activities.

The extent of the proposed development (5.34 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 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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

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 proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S 33° 21 10.5 E 18° 09 26.5 on map datum wgs 84) is located in the town of Yzerfontein inside the current urban edge. The slightly sloping site is situated alongside Dassen Island Drive and Atlantic Drive on the southern side of the village. A strip of land alongside Dassen Island Drive and Atlantic Drive has recently been cut, while the remainder of the site is covered in thick natural vegetation, on unconsolidated wind blown sands (Figures 3-8). The remains of an old calcrete road occur alongside Atlantic Drive. Many loose pieces of calcrete occur alongside Dassen Island Drive and Atlantic Drive, while some solid surface calcrete occurs alongside Atlantic Drive. Dumping of building rubble occurs near a row of houses in the western portion of the proposed site. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the proposed site. There are no buildings, or structures or built features on the property. The surrounding land use comprises vacant land to the north and east, while residential development occurs in the south and west.

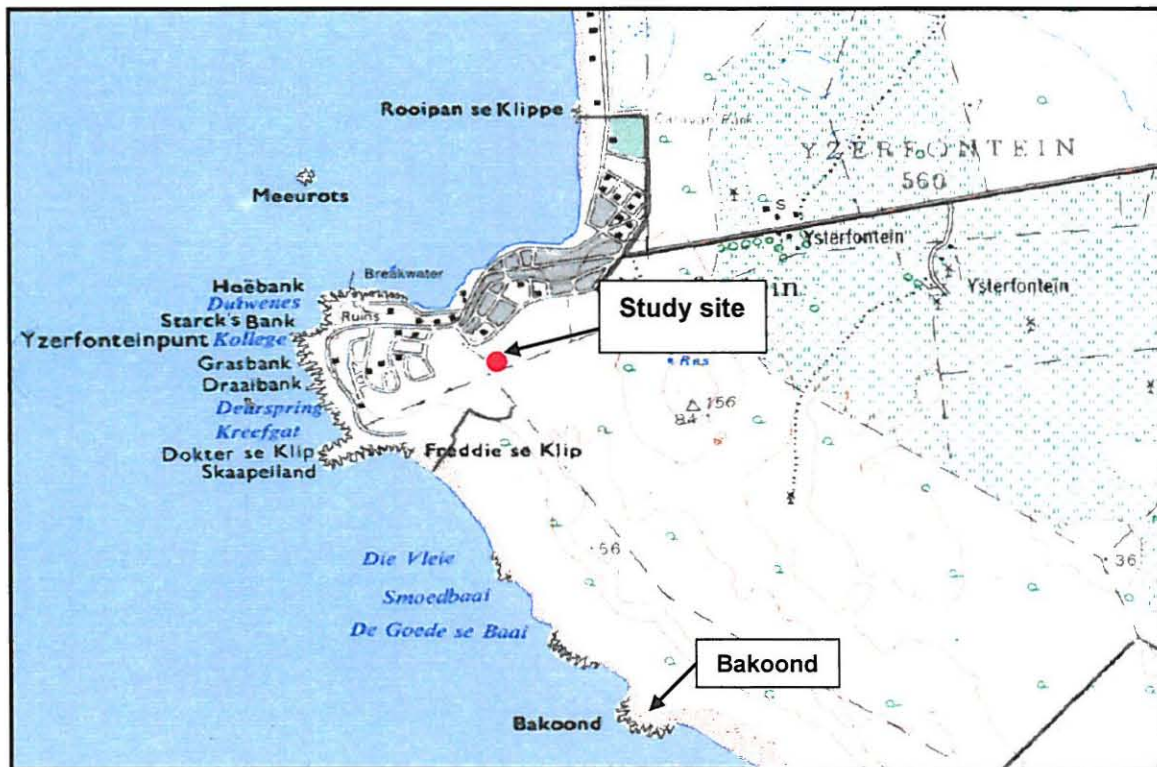


Figure 1. Locality map (3318 AC Yzerfontein)

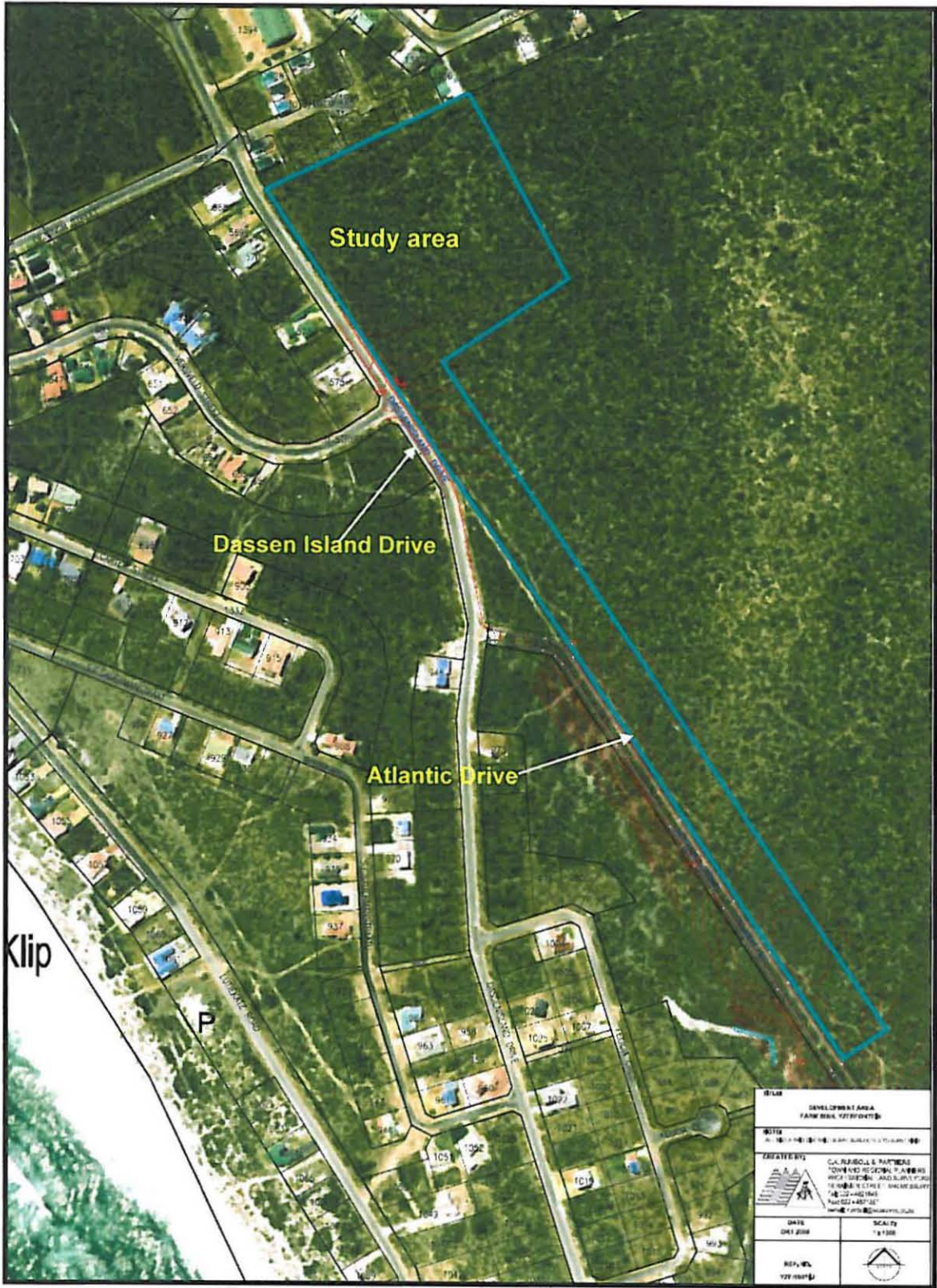


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study area



Figure 3. View of the site facing west



Figure 6. View of the site facing east



Figure 4. View of the site facing east



Figure 7. View of the site facing north east



Figure 5. View of the site facing west



Figure 8. View of the site facing south

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological impact assessment entailed a ground survey of the proposed study site.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 21st October, 2008

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

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

The bulk of the study area is covered in thick natural vegetation, resulting in very low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Results of the desk-top study

The coastal zone in Yzerfontein is known to contain many archaeological, as well as palaeontological sites (Avery *et al* 1990; Halkett & Hart 1995; Kaplan 1993, 2005a 1999, 1993, 1996; Mabutt 1955; Rudner 1968). The archaeological sites comprise mostly shell middens that are aligned alongside the coastal fore dunes. Further away from the coast the density of archaeological sites appears to decrease, although the remnants of sites do occur (Kaplan 1993, 1998, 2007, 2008). Several relatively well preserved sites have been documented around the salt works north east of the town (Avery 1994; Kaplan.1996).

Shovel testing and excavation of shell middens at Bakoond (see Figure 1) has indicated the presence of extensive midden deposits several metres deep containing stone tools, bone, ostrich eggshell beads and pottery (Kaplan 2005b; Orton 2007). According to Orton (2007), occupation at Bakoond is shown to have been in the form of small campsites spread randomly across the peninsula with the marine resources of the vicinity having been the main factor drawing people to the area.

Iziko:South African Museum has also been conducting excavations at an important Middle Stone Age site above the harbour at Yzerfontien

Severe disturbance of archaeological sites at Yzerfontein has, however, taken place over a number of years, due mainly to an increase in residential development in the area, and the accompanying physical and human pressures. Illegal 4 x 4 activity has also impacted negatively on several middens along the coastline. Many of the archaeological sites in Yzerfontein have been severely disturbed and damaged as a result of these activities. Sadly, some of these sites have been completely destroyed as well (personal observation).

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the subject property.

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

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act 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.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHR 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.

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

Section 36 (3) of the HHR 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

No archaeological remains were documented during the baseline study.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

Shell middens may be exposed during vegetation clearing operations.

Buried shell midden deposits may be encountered during earthworks and excavations.

Unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

Important vertebrate fossils may also be exposed or uncovered should excavations penetrate underlying limestone or associated sediments.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of a Portion of Portion 4 of the Farm No. 560 in Yzerfontein, the following recommendations are made:

- Vegetation clearing operations and bulk earthworks must be monitored by a professional archaeologist. Should any important archaeological deposits be uncovered or exposed, sampling and dating of the deposits will be required.
- A specialist palaeontologist must be appointed to inspect and examine excavations and exposures for possible vertebrate fossils (bones) 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 (Dr A. Jerardino 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr C. Van Wyk 021 483 9692).

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