

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

5 Stuart Road Rondebosch, 7700 Phone/Fax 021-685 7589  
E-mail: [acrm@waccess.co.za](mailto:acrm@waccess.co.za) Cellular: 082 321 0172

02 March, 2011

**Att:** Mr Roelof Fourie  
City of Cape Town Electricity Directorate  
PPO: Distribution System Development (South)  
Wynberg Electricity Depot  
Rosmead Avenue  
Wynberg  
7800

Dear Mr Fourie,

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SMITSWINKEL BAY CAPE POINT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

### **1. Introduction and brief**

The City of Cape Town Electricity Directorate commissioned the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed development and installation of electrical infrastructure at Smitswinkel Bay, in the Western Cape (Figures 1 & 2).

The proposed development will entail the construction of a substation in the existing parking lot alongside Millers Point road, and the laying of a  $\pm$  600 m long low voltage underground cable in an excavated trench, that will be about 60 cm deep and about 30 cm wide. Four small (supply) kiosks in the Smitswinkel Bay housing development below the road area will also be constructed. Apart from the substation and kiosks there will be no infrastructure built above ground and therefore no negative visual impacts.

The route of the proposed cable is illustrated in Figure 3. The cable will be buried in the fire-break, till the houses below the road, from where it will be buried in narrow footpaths that run between the houses, connecting to the four supply kiosks. Only five of the existing 29 stands will be serviced at this stage of the project.

The purpose of the AIA is to identify any archaeological impacts of the proposed development.

A Section 38 (8) Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) has also been completed by the archaeologist, and submitted to Heritage Western Cape Impact Assessment Review Committee (IARCom) for comment.

## **2. Legal framework**

The National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) makes provision for a compulsory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) when an area exceeding 5000 m<sup>2</sup> is being developed. This is to determine if the area contains heritage sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure that they are not damaged or destroyed during development.

Section 38 of the Act also indicates that any person constructing a powerline or road or similar linear developments exceeding 300m in length is also required to notify the responsible heritage resources authority, who will in turn advise whether an impact assessment report is needed before development can take place.

## **3. Terms of reference**

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment were to:

- Determine whether any archaeological resources will be impacted by the proposed project;
- Determine the importance of archaeological resources that will be impacted by the proposed project, and
- Recommend measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

## **4. The study site**

Smitswinkel Bay is located about 7 kms north of Simonstown on the Millers Point road (Figure 4). The study site is situated within the Cape Peninsula National Park (CPNP). According to resident Mr Hugh Hutchings the first houses in Smitswinkel Bay were established in 1916, when the road above the steep cliffs was built by Italian Prisoners of War. The houses were built for the road engineers. While some of the original dwellings still occur, they have been extensively altered.

Smitswinkel Bay is considered to be a sensitive archaeological landscape. There are several shell middens (that have been very badly damaged by construction of the existing houses (personnel observation). And the well known Smitswinkel Bay Cave is situated less than 1 km from some of the residential units (refer to Figure 2). Later Stone Age shell midden deposits inside the cave have been excavated and dated to about 1400 years ago (Poggenpoel & Robertshaw 1982<sup>1</sup>).

## **5. Approach to the study**

The proposed cable route was searched for archaeological remains. The site for the proposed substation was also inspected. The site visit took place on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. Archaeological occurrences documented during the study were mapped using a Garmin Oregon 300 hand held GPS unit, set on the map datum WGS 84.

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<sup>1</sup> Poggenpoel, C.A., & Robertshaw, P.T. 1982 The excavation of Smitswinkelbaai Cave, Cape Peninsula. South African Archaeological Bulletin 36:29-35.

## 6. Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the proposed project.

## 7. Findings

While no archaeological remains were found at the proposed substation site (Figure 5), or in the existing fire break, shell midden deposits were documented just above the rocky shoreline where they have been very badly damaged by building works and are also visible in a narrow footpath leading down to the cobble beach below the houses (Figure 4). These midden deposits (SM1) are dominated by limpet species (Scutellastra argenvillei, S. cochlear), Turbo Sarmaticus (or Alikreukel), and Black Mussel. Several crude quartzite stone flakes and at least two small pieces of undecorated blackened pottery were also found. The presence of pottery would date the midden within the last 1500-2000 years ago, the same as the dates generated from the cave where pottery was also found, along with bone fish hooks and awls.

Occasional, dispersed and highly fragmented and weathered shell midden deposits (SM2) were also found in the footpaths that connect the houses on the beach, where some of the cabling will be laid. No cultural remains were found in the footpaths.

### 7.1 Significance of finds

The very dispersed and fragmented nature of the surface deposits in the connecting footpaths means that the archaeological deposits have been rated as having low significance.

## 8. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed development of electrical infrastructure at Smitswinkel Bay on archaeological remains is unclear as in-situ deposits may be exposed or intersected during trenching works.

There is also the possibility of unmarked human remains being uncovered during excavations.

## 9. Conclusion

The installation of electrical infrastructure at Smitswinkel Bay may impact on potentially important archaeological deposits.

Unmarked human remains may also be uncovered or intersected during trenching activities.

## 10. Recommendations

With regard to the Smitswinkel Bay Cape Point Electrical Supply the following recommendations are made:

1. Monitoring of trenching activities between the houses should be done by a professional archaeologist

2. Should any important in-situ archaeological deposits be exposed during trenching, some sampling and dating of these deposits will need to be done.
3. Archaeological mitigation is at the cost of the City of Cape Town Electricity Directorate.
4. Should any unmarked human remains be exposed, or uncovered during trenching, these must immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Ms Jenna Lavin 021 483 9685). Human remains will have to be excavated and removed under a permit issued by Heritage Western Cape.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Kaplan', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Kaplan

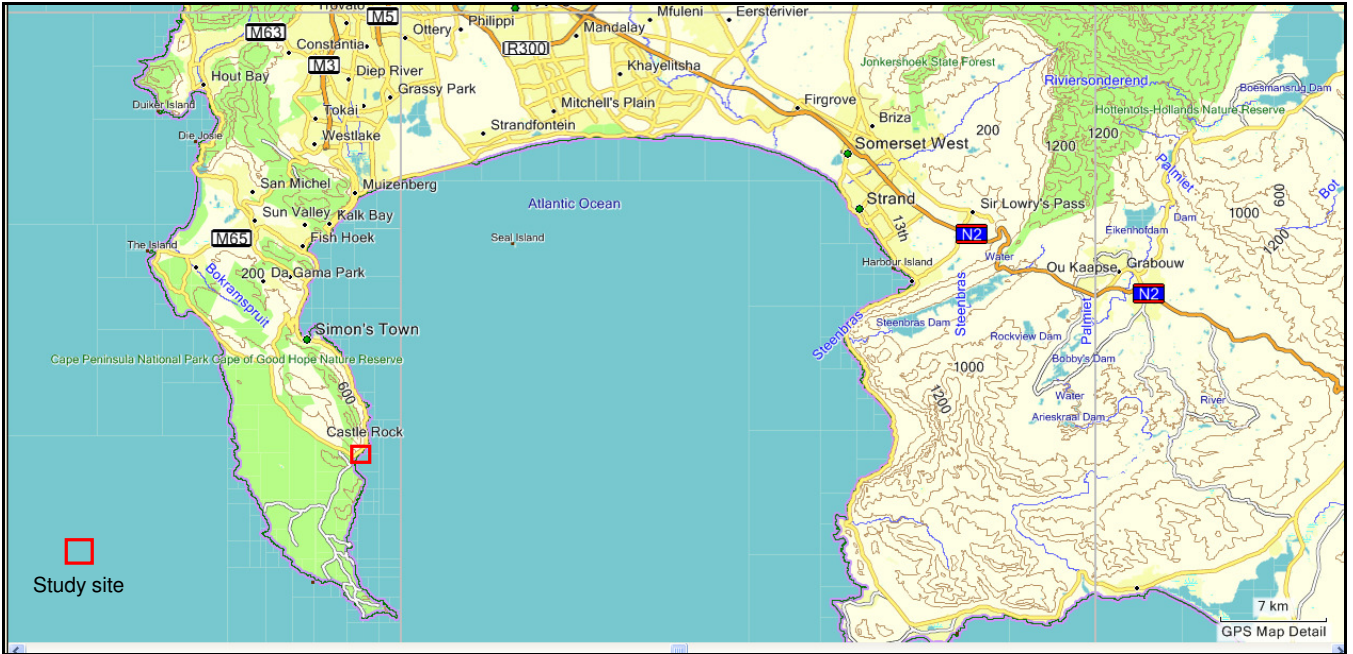


Figure 1 Locality map

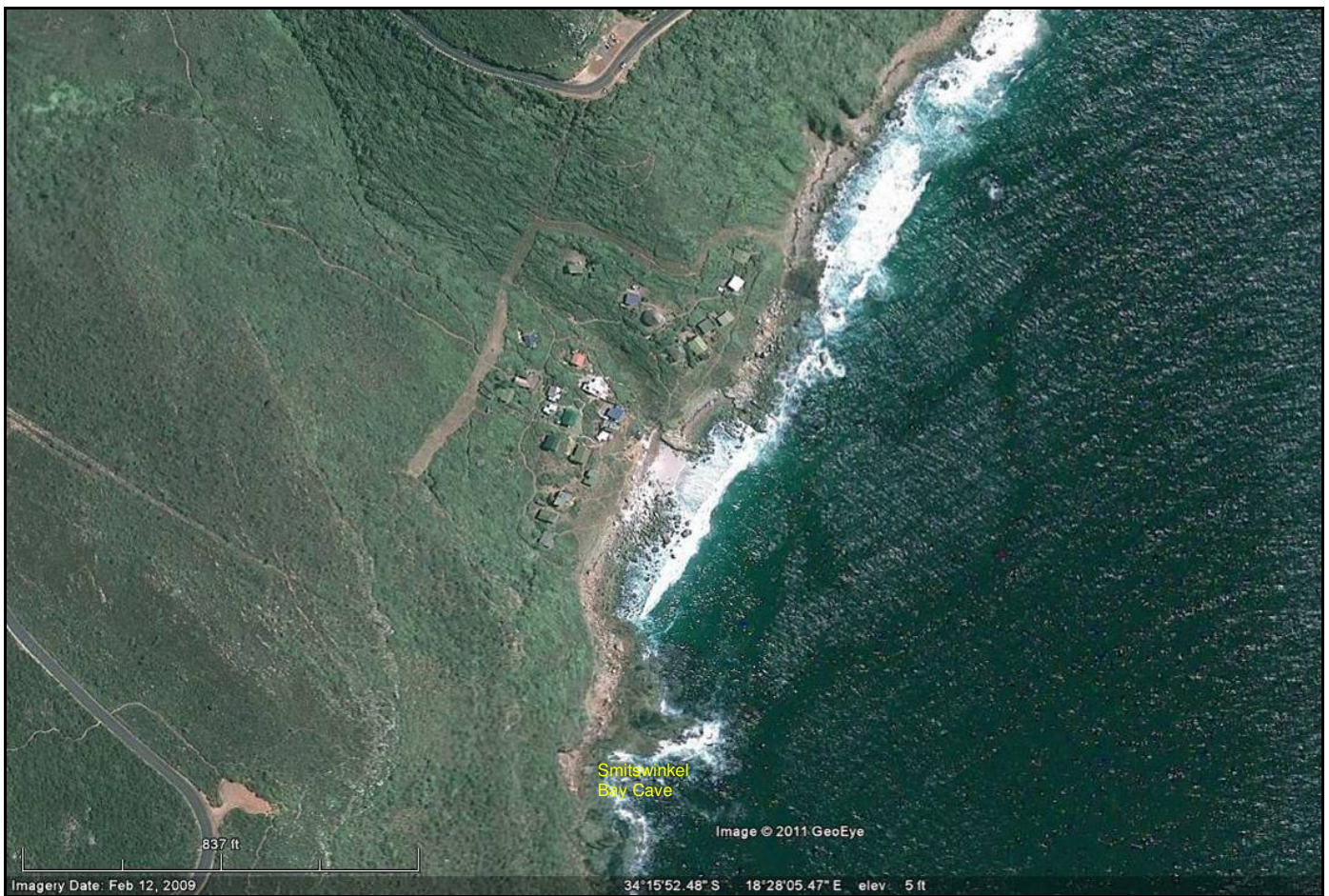


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

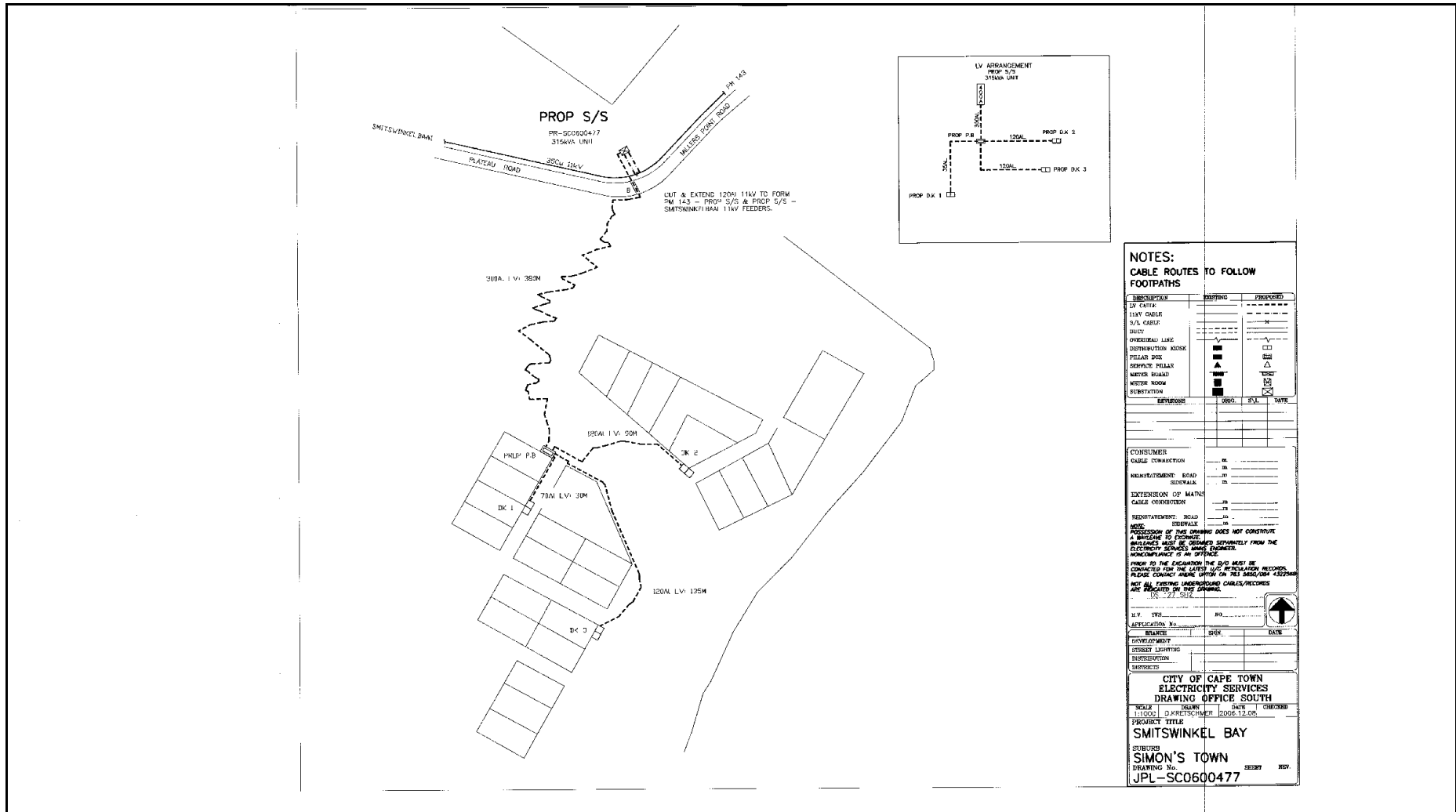


Figure 3. Proposed route for the Smitswinkel Bay electrical cable

**NOTES:**  
**CABLE ROUTES TO FOLLOW**  
**FOOTPATHS**

DESCRIPTION	EXISTING	PROPOSED
11kV CABLE	---	---
33kV CABLE	---	---
300A	---	---
OVERHEAD LINE	---	---
DISTRIBUTION ARCADE	---	---
FILLER BOX	---	---
SERVICE TOWER	---	---
METER BOARD	---	---
METER ROOM	---	---
VEGETATION	---	---

CONSUMER  
 CABLE CONNECTION \_\_\_\_\_ M  
 REINSTATEMENT: ROAD \_\_\_\_\_ M  
 SIDEWALK \_\_\_\_\_ M  
 EXTENSION OF MAIN CABLE CONNECTION \_\_\_\_\_ M  
 REINSTATEMENT: ROAD \_\_\_\_\_ M  
 SIDEWALK \_\_\_\_\_ M  
**NOTE:**  
 POSSESSION OF THIS DRAWING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE SEPARATELY FROM THE ELECTRICAL SERVICES BIDDING DOCUMENTS.  
 PRIOR TO THE EXCAVATION THE S/S MUST BE CONTACTED FOR THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE RECORDS. PLEASE CONTACT MAIN OFFICE ON 7613 5850/584 4327/584 4327/584 4327.  
 NOT ALL EXISTING UNDERGROUND CABLES/RECORDS ARE SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING.  
 02.27.2012

S.P. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
 APPLICATION No. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ DIV. \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEVELOPMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET LIGHTING \_\_\_\_\_  
 DISTRIBUTION \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
**ELECTRICITY SERVICES**  
**DRAWING OFFICE SOUTH**  
 SCALE: 1:1000 DRAWN: DATE: 08/02/2006  
 PROJECT TITLE: SMITSWINKEL BAY  
 SUBURB: SIMON'S TOWN  
 DRAWING No.: JPL - SC0600477





Figure 4. View of Smitswinkel Bay facing north west



Figure 5. Shell midden deposits (SM1)



Figure 6. Parking area on the Cape Point road – site for the proposed substation