

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY FOR A PROPOSED RETIREMENT VILLAGE ON ERF 61, GLENCAIRN, SIMONSTWON MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE

(Assessment conducted under Section 38 (8) of the
National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) as part of an EIA)

Prepared for

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UCT Archaeology Contracts Office was requested by Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants to conduct an assessment of part of erf 61, Glencairn, in the Simonstown Magisterial District. A retirement village is proposed on the site. Part of the development site has been cultivated and developed, while the remainder is natural but invaded with alien vegetation. A forest of stone pines form a prominent feature on the local landscape.

No archaeological resources were located and, although the ground visibility was very poor, it is considered unlikely that any will be present on the site.

No objections to the proposed development can be raised from an archaeological point of view.

20 July 2011

Declaration of independence:

I, Jayson Orton, am an independent specialist consultant who is in no way connected with the proponent, other than in terms of the delivery of consulting services.

I hold a Master degree in archaeology and have been consulting since 2004 in the Northern, Eastern and Western Cape Provinces. I am an accredited Principal Investigators with the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA, member No. 233).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jayson Orton', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jayson Orton

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION	4
3. METHODS.....	5
3.1. Limitations	5
4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.....	6
5. HERITAGE CONTEXT	9
6. FINDINGS.....	9
7. CONCLUSION.....	9
8. REFERENCES	9

1. INTRODUCTION

The UCT Archaeology Contracts Office was requested by Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants to conduct an archaeological assessment of part of erf 61 in Glencairn (Figures 1 & 2). A retirement village is planned on the site. The erf is currently used as a children's campsite and the remainder of it will continue to function as such after development of the retirement village. This report forms part of an application being prepared primarily by Lize Malan.

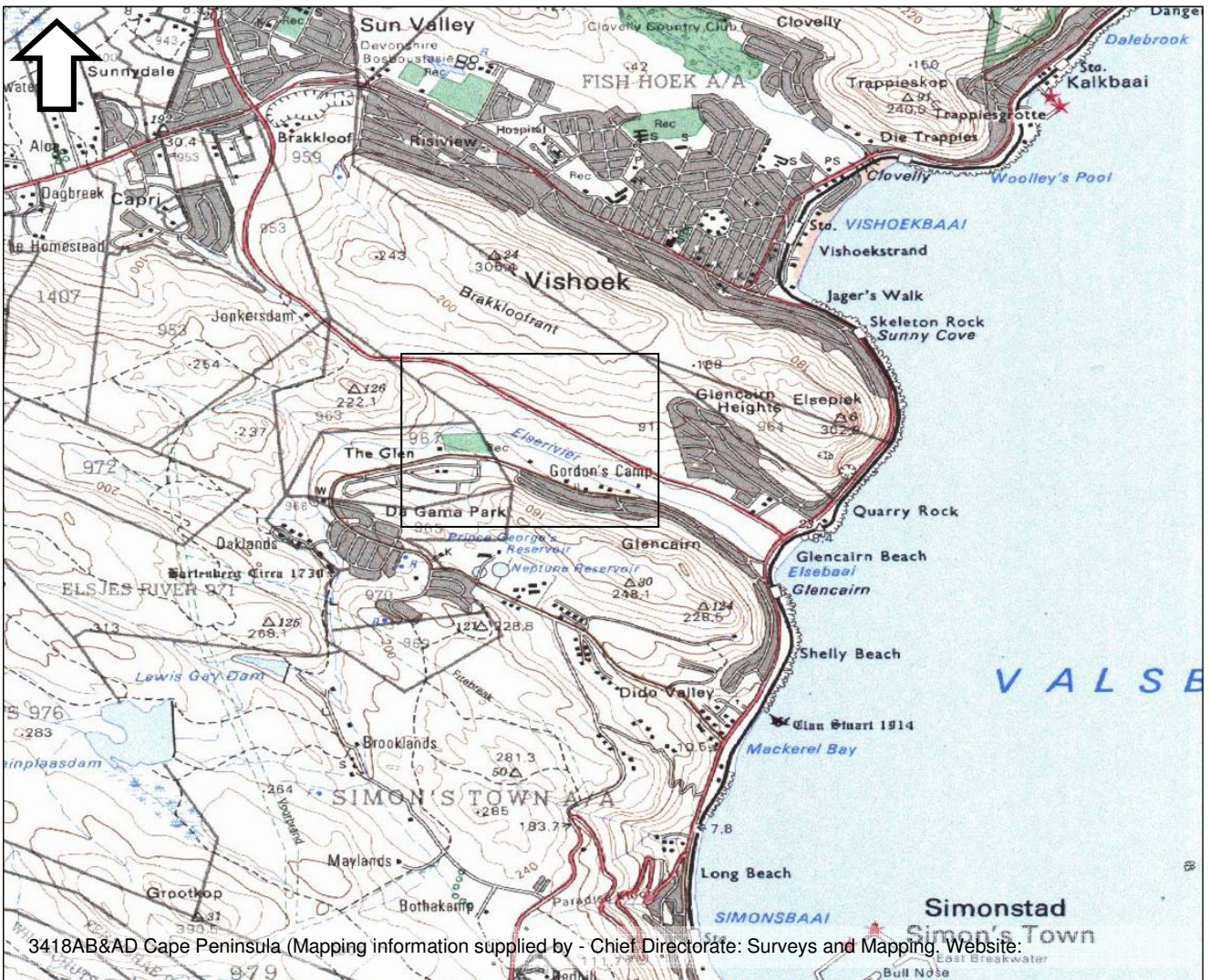


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the site in Glencairn valley. The area enclosed by the rectangle is enlarged in Figure 2.

2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) No. 25 of 1999 protects a variety of heritage resources including palaeontological, prehistoric and historical material (including ruins) more than 100 years old (Section 35), human remains older than 60 years and located outside of a formal cemetery administered by a local authority (Section 36) and non-ruined structures older than 60 years (Section 34). Landscapes with cultural significance are also protected

under the definition of the National Estate (Section 3 (3.2d)). Section 38 (2a) states that if there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be affected then an impact assessment report must be submitted. The present report serves as the archaeological component.

Since the project is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, Heritage Western Cape (HWC) is required to provide comment on the proposed project in order to facilitate final decision making by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).



Figure 2: Aerial photograph of the study area showing the erf boundary (red polygon) and the area demarcated for development (southwest of the orange line).

3. METHODS

A field survey of the site was carried on foot out by Jayson Orton on 14th July 2011. Note that only the development area was searched since the remainder will remain as is. The site was recorded photographically. A handheld GPS unit set to the WGS84 datum was used to record walk paths during the survey (Figure 3). A brief archaeological background was also compiled to inform the decision-making process.

3.1. Limitations

The survey was severely hampered by very thick grass and bush on the site and a definitive statement on the archaeology on the site is not possible. However, the lack of known archaeological resources in the area and the sites very close proximity to a river perhaps limits the possibility of there really being archaeological sites present.



Figure 3: Aerial view of the site showing walk-paths (blue lines) recorded during the survey.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Much of the site is covered by thick grass and bush and some areas are terraced for sports fields and campsite buildings. These latter are totally transformed. The site and its immediate surroundings are strongly characterised by a forest of stone pines. Analysis of 1944 aerial photography suggests that this western half of the site has never been cultivated or developed.



Figure 4: View eastwards at the eastern end of the proposed development area. Note the three terraces with sports field and access road on the lowest and highest respectively.



Figure 5: View westwards from the eastern part of the site showing extant buildings that form part of the current camping facilities.



Figure 6: View eastwards across the central part of the site showing extant buildings and thick grass.



Figure 7: View south over the middle part of the site showing exposed boulders and Port Jackson bush.



Figure 8: View east over the western part of the site showing dense grass close to the river.



Figure 9: View south across the eastern and central part of the site showing terraces, grass and trees. The river runs through the foreground from right to left.



Figure 10: View south from the Glencairn Expressway (a prominent scenic route) overlooking the site and showing the forest of mature stone pines that characterises the area. Welcome Cottage, dating to the early 19th century, is arrowed on the right.

5. HERITAGE CONTEXT

Although much pre-colonial archaeology is on record from the Cape Peninsula, little is known of the Glencairn valley. Unfortunately residential and road development probably destroyed most archaeological sites along the coast which is where the majority of settlement would have been. Inland on the Cape Peninsula archaeological sites are known from sand dunes and in rock shelters on the mountain slopes. Other surveys in the Glencairn valley have yielded nothing.

Although Welcome Farm (or Welcome Cottage) was built in the early 1800s (Fransen 2004), the house is probably too far away to have resulted in any domestic rubbish being disposed of on the current study site. The historical core of Glencairn village lies a little more than 1 km down the valley to the east.

6. FINDINGS

No archaeological material of any sort was seen on the site but the presence of the many mature pine trees that characterise the area is noted. The extant structures on site are less than 60 years of age and are of no heritage value.

7. CONCLUSION

No objections to the proposed development can be raised from an archaeological point of view.

8. REFERENCES

Fransen, H. 2004. The old buildings of the Cape. Jeppestown: Jonathan Ball.