

# Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA)

erf 70 at Castle Rock

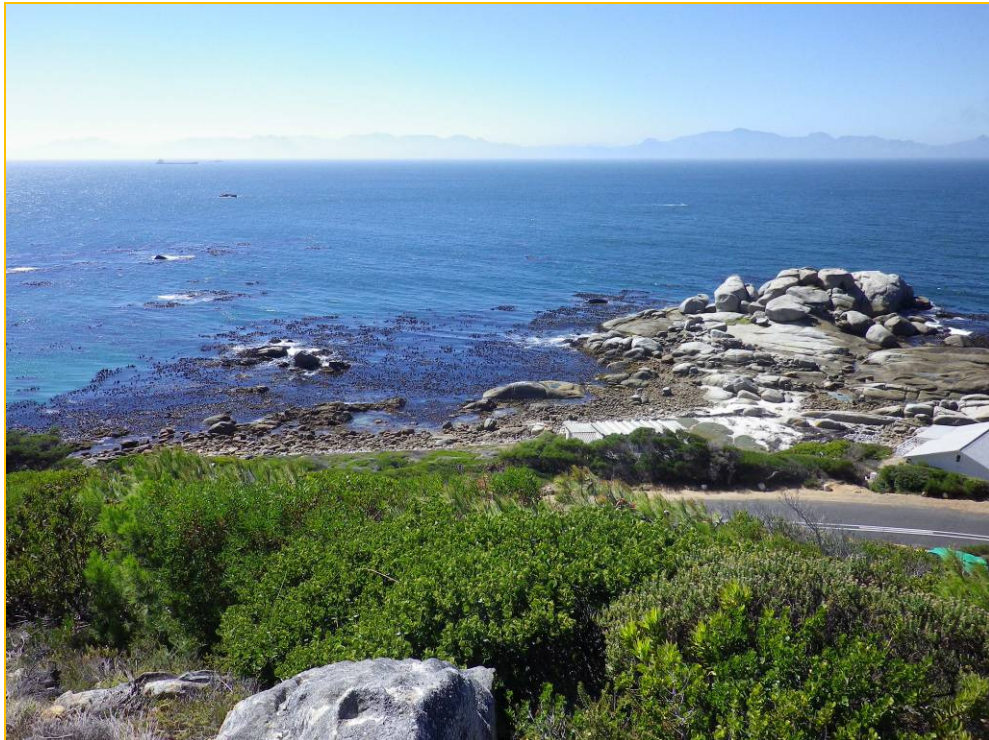
Simon's Town

A report prepared for

KHULA environmental consultants

[nicksteytler@telkomsa.net](mailto:nicksteytler@telkomsa.net)

on behalf of their client THE CRUITHNE TRUST



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View from erf 70 down to Castle Rock

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Dr Ute A Seemann, Heritage Archaeologist & Consultant was commissioned by Nick Steytler of KHULA environmental consultants on behalf of their client, The Cruithne Trust, to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) in connection with a proposed development at erf 70, Castle Rock, Simon's Town.

The property was surveyed by the author and two assistants according to current professional standards on 26 March 2012. In carrying out the fieldwork no limitations were encountered. The upper half of the property – a steep slope - is covered by near natural vegetation, i.e. Peninsula Sandstone *Fnbos* and Peninsula Granite *Fynbos* with some *rooikrantz* and stunted pine.

The site had not been developed since it was surveyed in 1916, but some years ago a driveway was constructed from the Main Road/M4 up the hill and a flat area for a future building development created on the lower half of the property.

The property was found devoid of any remains of human habitation, except the debris left by casual visitors and the earthmoving crew during the last ten or more years. The sandy beach below at the rocky shore to the east and north were and are ideal gathering places. Miller's Point some hundred meters to the north contains numerous shell middens from pre-historic people and debris from visitors and inhabitants of the last two to three hundred years.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE FINDS: Nil**

**SIGNIFICANCE: Nil**

**RECOMMENDATION: permission for the development to be given by Heritage Western Cape**

## CONTENTS

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	PAGE
1. Executive summary .....	2
2. Baseline description .....	4
3. Historic notes .....	5
4. Deeds Office Records .....	8
5. The Survey .....	10
6. Conclusions .....	13
7. References .....	13

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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Frontispiece: View from erf 70 down to Castle Rock

Fig. 1 Google photograph of Castle Rock, 2012 .....	4
Fig. 2 Lot 21A, erf 70, Castle Rock as seen from the upper slope .....	6
Fig. 3 Erf 70, survey diagram 1530/1920 .....	8
Fig. 4 Erf 72: the parent erf, survey diagram 2490/1920 .....	9
Fig. 5 Mr Hugo's original grant, dated 1822 .....	10
Fig. 6 Erf 70, Castle Rock, locality plan .....	11
Fig. 7 -14 Survey photographs of erf 70.....	11/12

## 2. BASELINE DESCRIPTION

Erf 70, Castle Rock, Simon's Town is situated to the south of the well-known recreation area of Miller's Point at the False Bay Coast of the Cape Peninsula on the Main Road/M4 to Cape Point. The basic co-ordinates are 34°14'22"S and 18°28'33"E (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Google photograph of erf 70, Castle Rock, 2012.

The property is facing north east, adjoining the tarred main road to Cape Point, erf 74 to the north, government property to the west and erf 83 to the south. Half of the site has been levelled for future development. The upper half of the property – a steep slope - is covered by near natural vegetation, i.e. Peninsula Sandstone *Fynbos* and Peninsula Granite *Fynbos*. The dominant species are: *Erica*, *mastersiella digitata* (very common), *protea leucospermum*, *protea leucodendron*, *restios* and others with some *rooikrans*, *hakeas* and stunted pine infestation<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Ross Turner, pers. comm. 26.02.2012

### .3. HISTORIC NOTES

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Before Europeans reached Table Bay to settle permanently in 1652, two groups of indigenous people, the Khoi-San and the Khoi-Khoi herders peopled the Cape Peninsula. The Khoi-Khoi kept fat-tailed sheep and indigenous cattle and adhered to a fixed yearly transhumance migration. Wagon routes followed these cattle tracks, and later contemporary roads (such as the road to Cape Point) were constructed along the same paths.

Hart & Halkett wrote, that

“People have been living on the Cape Peninsula for at least half a million years ... Early Stone Age artefacts have been found at various locations in the Cape Point Nature Reserve ... Late Stone Age People were the ancestors of the San (Bushmen) and the Khoi-Khoi (Hottentots). The San created the shell middens (accumulations of shellfish, bone and stone artifacts) dating to within the last two thousand years, still to be found along the seashores of the Atlantic and False Bay.<sup>2</sup>

These shell middens are still to be found at Miller’s Point.

Hall and Halkett continued:

*“ ... Groups of Khoi-Khoi herders were active in the Peninsula during the early colonial period ...the diary of Jan van Riebeeck makes mention of cattle stolen from the Dutch East India Company (VOC) ... and then driven to Hout Bay and various parts of the Peninsula ... ”.*

Simon’s Town was declared the winter anchorage of the VOC in 1743. The first land grants, made around this time, finally drove the remnants of the Hottentot tribes into what is now the Cape Point Nature Reserve. Informal land grants to Europeans, Hottentots and people of mixed descend were formalized during the first years of the British administration.

In 1822 the authorities at the Cape made a land grant, consisting of 94 morgen, a strip of coastal land south of Miller’s Point, to Pieter Francois Hugo. Margaret Cairns describes this property as such:

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<sup>2</sup> Hart, Tim & Halkett, Dave, Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town in Jess Hughes & Associates. 2000, *Environmental Baseline Study of Dido Valley, Cape Peninsula*.



“The ground was steep, unproductive, rocky mountainside, although three streams and several springs did provide water”<sup>3</sup>.

It was accessible by a *doordrift*, a rough cattle track or dirt path with a permanent ‘right-of-way’ to the South Peninsula farms.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the property stayed in the Hugo family. Castle Rock became a famous fishing spot on the way to Cape Point. By 1914 a new coastal route<sup>4</sup> made the Castle Rock area a valuable asset. The Hugos employed a surveyor to lay out the estate and the lots were auctioned between 1916 and 1920.

Lot 21A (later erf 70, (Fig. 2).) was sold by JHEM Hugo to Edward Moresby-White on 29.10.1921.

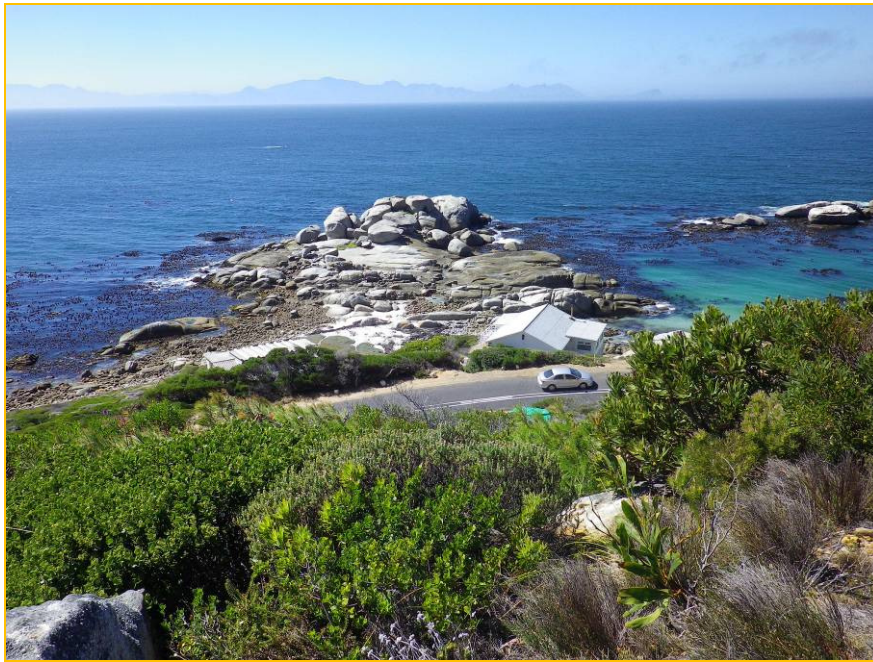


Fig. 2. Lot 21A, erf 70, Castle Rock, 2012, as seen from the upper slope.

The properties at Castle Rock were mostly handed down within certain families.

Over the years the owners of erf 21A (erf 70) were:

<sup>3</sup> Cairns, Margaret. 1993. *Chronicles of Castle Rock*. Published privately by the author. ISBN 0-620-18211-3, page 10.

<sup>4</sup> To the light house at Cape Point.

Date	Survey diagram	Transferor	Transferee
Before 1822		Crown Land	
1822	Erf 72 Simon's Town	Grant to Mr PF Hugo	
		In the Hugo family	
1916 - 1921	Plan C 54, Castle Rock Estate	Auction of subdivided lots (erven) to several transferees	
29.10.1921	Lot 21A = erf 70 survey diagram 1530/1920	JHEM Hugo to Edward Moresby-White	
07.08.1940	Erf 70	Estate late E Moresby-White	Albert Harry Day, born 07.02.1870
24.08.1961		Estate late AH Day	A. Mills Fenwick, born 13.03.1921 (White Group)
31.12.1964		AM Fenwick	Peter Lovel Wilshere, born 26.05.1921 (White Group)
23.03.1967		PL Wilshere	Kenneth Neil MacPherson, born 06.10.1923 (White Group)
05.11.1981		KN MacPherson	Roma Eleanor Lester, (born MacPherson on 23.03.1953) MOCP to Clive David Lester (White Group)
1994		Roma Eleanor Lester	Mark and Gwendolyn Oakly
2004		M.K. and G. Oakly	Louise Isolde Spengler (White Group)
2010			Purchased by CRUITHNE TRUST

4. DEEDS OFFICE RECORDS

4.1 Erf 70, Castle Rock, Simon's Town

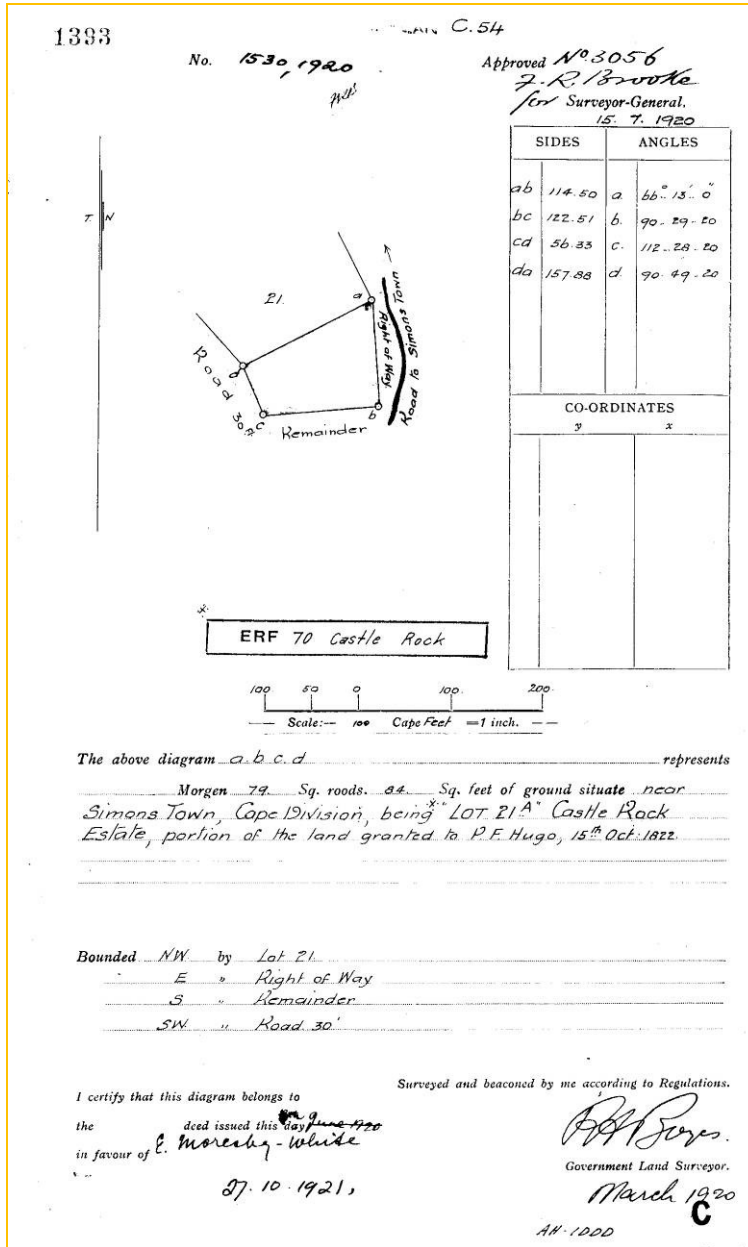


Fig. 3  
 Erf 70 Castle Rock  
 (Reference: Surveyor  
 General, Cape Town,  
 Survey Diagram  
 1530/1920)



### 4.2 The parent: erf 72, Castle Rock Estate

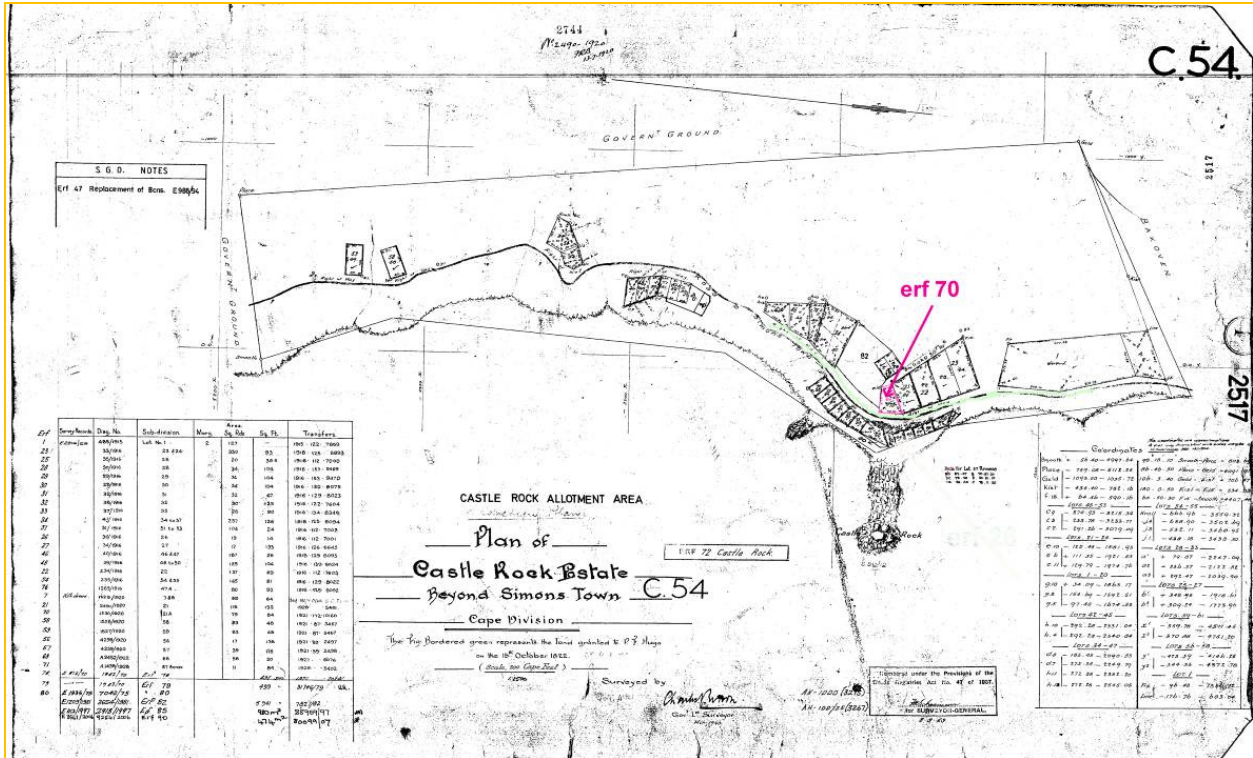


Fig. 4. The parent erf 72, Castle Rock Estate (Reference: Surveyor General, Cape Town, Dgr 2490/1920 and General Plan C.54). On the left the dates and transfer deeds of the buyers of the lots, 1916-1921.

### 4.3 The grandparent: Simon’s Town Quitrents, Vol. 9, No 43

The above survey diagram (Fig. 5) also outlines the original Simon’s Town Quitrent Grant to Mr PF Hugo in 1822, from which the lots ‘for sale’ were subdivided. The remainder of the property, known as ‘remaining extent of erf 72’ was disposed of by the Hugo family after 1928.

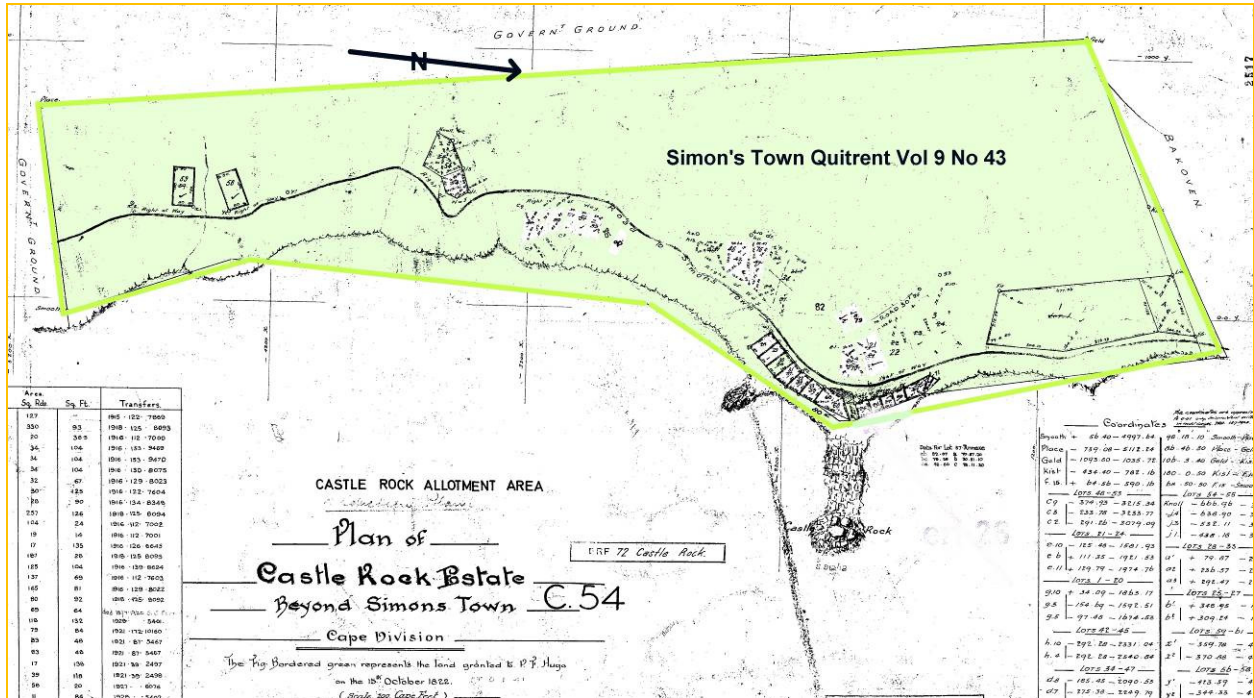


Fig. 5. The original grant to Mr PF Hugo, 1822. (Reference: Surveyor General, Cape Town, Dgr 2490/1920 and General Plan C.54).

## 5. THE SURVEY

To determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites or artefacts of significance on the property erf 70, Castle Rock, it was traversed on foot as far as was possible by two archaeological field assistants to gather archaeological data by 'direct observation' according to present professional standards. No limitations were experienced.

The property's upper half consisted of a steep slope, covered by near natural vegetation, i.e. Peninsula Sandstone *Fnbos* and Peninsula Granite *Fynbos* with some *rooikrantz* and stunted pine. The lower half of the property had been accessed by a pathway and a platform for a future dwelling leveled out of the mountain.

No artefactual remains could be located anywhere.

The following photographs illustrate these points (Figs 6-14)

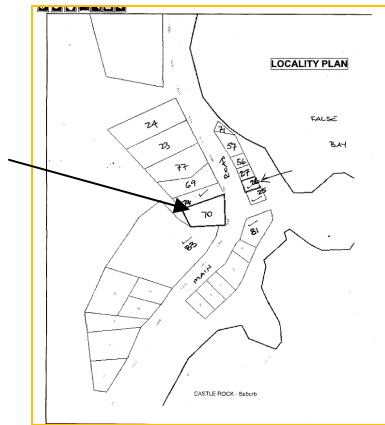


Fig. 6.  
Erf 70, Castle Rock, locality plan, 2010



Fig. 7.  
Access road to erf 70 from the Main Road/M4  
to Cape Point



Fig. 8.  
The platform excavated out of the mountain for  
future development.



Fig. 9.  
Er 70, the vegetation below the platform.



Fig. 10.  
Erf 70, view from the platform up the mountain.





Fig. 11. Close-up of some of the vegetation on the upper slope of erf 70, Castle Rock



Fig. 12. A footpath on the upper slope of erf 70, Castle Rock.



Fig. 13.  
Erf 70, Castle Rock, view from the upper beacons of the property to the NE



Fig. 14.  
Erf 70, Castle Rock from beyond the upper beacons, human disturbance in the form of a path lined with bricks.

## 5.1 Results of the Survey

- No pre-colonial sites were located on the site.
- No historical/architectural remains were found
- There is much disturbance by human agency.

## 5.2 Observations

The property has never been developed.

The vegetation on erf 70 and generally at Castle Rock estate has been subjected to several bush fires during the past eighty years or so. The Peninsula Sandstone and peninsula Granite *fynbos* vegetation regenerated itself after each fire, with the addition of some alien infestations, such as *hakea*, *rooikrans* and stunted pine. The Heritage value of Castle Rock and surrounds will not be compromised if this property is developed.

## 6. CONCLUSION

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**IMPORTANCE OF THE FINDS: NIL**

**SIGNIFICANCE: NIL**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Permission for the development to be given by Heritage Western Cape**

## 7. REFERENCES

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Deeds Office, Cape Town

Surveyor Generals Office, Cape Town

Cape Archives

Google Earth satellite photographs

Cairns, Margaret. 1993. *Chronicles of Castle Rock*. Published privately by the author. ISBN 0-620-18211-3.

Hart, Tim & Halkett, Dave, Archaeology Contracts Office, University of Cape Town in Jess Hughes & Associates. 2000, *Environmental Baseline Study of Dido Valley, Cape Peninsula*.