

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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11 October 2004

Mr. Nick Loubser
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Dear Nick

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE REMAINDER OF DANGER POINT 1, IRVIN & JOHNSON ABALONE FARM DANGER POINT GANSBAAI

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management (ACRM) was instructed by Mr. Nick Loubser of Irvin & Johnson (I & J), to undertake archaeological monitoring of the destruction of the remainder of the archaeological site known as Danger Point 1 (DP 1) on the farm Klipfontein 711 in the Hermanus District, Western Cape Province (Figure 1). The site will be destroyed by the proposed expansion of operations and development on the farm.

Abundant archaeological remains, in the form of shell middens (or ancient rubbish dumps), occur in the shoreline area on the farm¹. Systematic archaeological excavations at DP 1 were first undertaken in June 2000², which revealed the presence of significant quantities of Perlemoen (*Haliotis midae*) in a stratified context. In addition, the excavation also generated modest numbers of stone tools. DP 1, it was argued, represented primarily a shellfish processing site, where large numbers of Perlemoen were collected at low spring tides when Perlemoen could be reached.

In March 2003, an archaeological scan of the proposed expansion of operations on the farm was undertaken by ACRM³, followed in October 2003 by archaeological sampling and inspection of test pits for the proposed new development⁴.

¹ Kaplan, J. 1996. Archaeological impact study: I & J Abalone Farm, Danger Point, Gansbaai. Report prepared for Irvin & Johnson Limited. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

² Kaplan, J. 2000. Archaeological excavations Danger Point, Gansbaai. Report prepared for Irvin & Johnson Abalone Culture Division. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

³ Letter dated 14 March 2003. Archaeological scan proposed new development Irvin and Johnson Abalone Farm Danger Point Gansbaai

⁴ Letter dated 28 October 2003. Report sampling and inspection of test pits for proposed new development Irvin & Johnson Abalone Farm Danger Point Gansbaai.

In March/April 2004, following a visit to the affected site by Heritage Western Cape (HWC), the delegated provincial heritage authority, further archaeological excavations at DP 1 were undertaken by ACRM (under Permit No. 2004-03-001 dated 24 March 2004), in an area within the proposed new development.

An area approximately 40 m north-east of the 2000 excavation site was chosen for archaeological sampling. The 2004 archaeological excavations revealed about six or seven individual shellfish processing 'stations', where mainly Perlemoen, and smaller amounts of *Turbo samariticus* and Limpets were processed on large flat slabs of locally available rock. Numerous upper grindstones were also found associated with these features. One stone lined and fire-cracked cooking hearth was also excavated. The assumption is that the archaeological deposits and cultural remains generated from the 2000 and 2004 excavations are related in both time and space.

Following the 2004 archaeological excavations at DP 1, and in accordance with provincial heritage legislation, HWC issued a Permit (No. 2004-05-001 dated 14 May 2004) to I & J allowing for the destruction of the remainder of DP 1 to proceed.

A condition of the Permit is that archaeological monitoring of the proposed development be undertaken by a professional archaeologist. The Permit states specifically that monitoring must be undertaken in order to check for possible human burials/burial remains that may be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

To date, no indigenous Khoisan burials have been located on the Farm Klipfontein 711, but a number of accidental finds of human skeletal remains relating to the wreck of the HMS Birkenhead (1752) have been uncovered during the course of earlier excavations on the farm. These remains have been reinterred in the Simon's Town military cemetery, as per the requirements of the International agreement between South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Archaeological monitoring of bulk earthworks and related activities on the Farm Klipfontein 711, took place over the following days:

- o 18 August 2004
- o 19 August 2004

Prior to commencement of bulk earthworks on the farm, contractors, plant operators, workers and I & J staff were briefed by the consultant archaeologist to look out for any burials and bones that might be exposed during the course of such earthworks. Contractors and staff were informed that should any human burials be uncovered or exposed during excavations, these should immediately be reported to the archaeologist.

During the time that the archaeologist was not able to be on site, earthworks were monitored by Mr. Dirkie Kotze of I & J.

Bulk earthworks were monitored across the entire area of proposed expansion. This included cut and fill excavations for the proposed tank platforms, excavations for the header tank, a new access road, as well as destruction of the remainder of DP 1 (Figures 2-10).

No significant shellfish deposits were noted during archaeological monitoring of bulk earthworks on the farm. This included monitoring the destruction of the remainder of DP 1. Although some shellfish (mainly Perlemoen) and moderate amounts of stone tools (mainly large quartzite cobbles (some broken), flakes, hammerstones, grindstone fragments and chunks) were noted during monitoring, no stratified shell midden deposits were exposed during the earthwork activities.

Most of the in-situ archaeological remains were noted in a dune/road cutting alongside the shoreline (see Figure 5). Test sampling, as well as shovel testing in this area in October 2003 and April 2004, revealed very modest amounts of shell and some stone.

No human burials/burial remains were exposed or uncovered during the monitoring of earthworks and excavations on the property.

Bulk earthworks on the farm were completed by 19 August 2004. Some shaping/landscaping and compaction took place on the affected site on 20 August.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan

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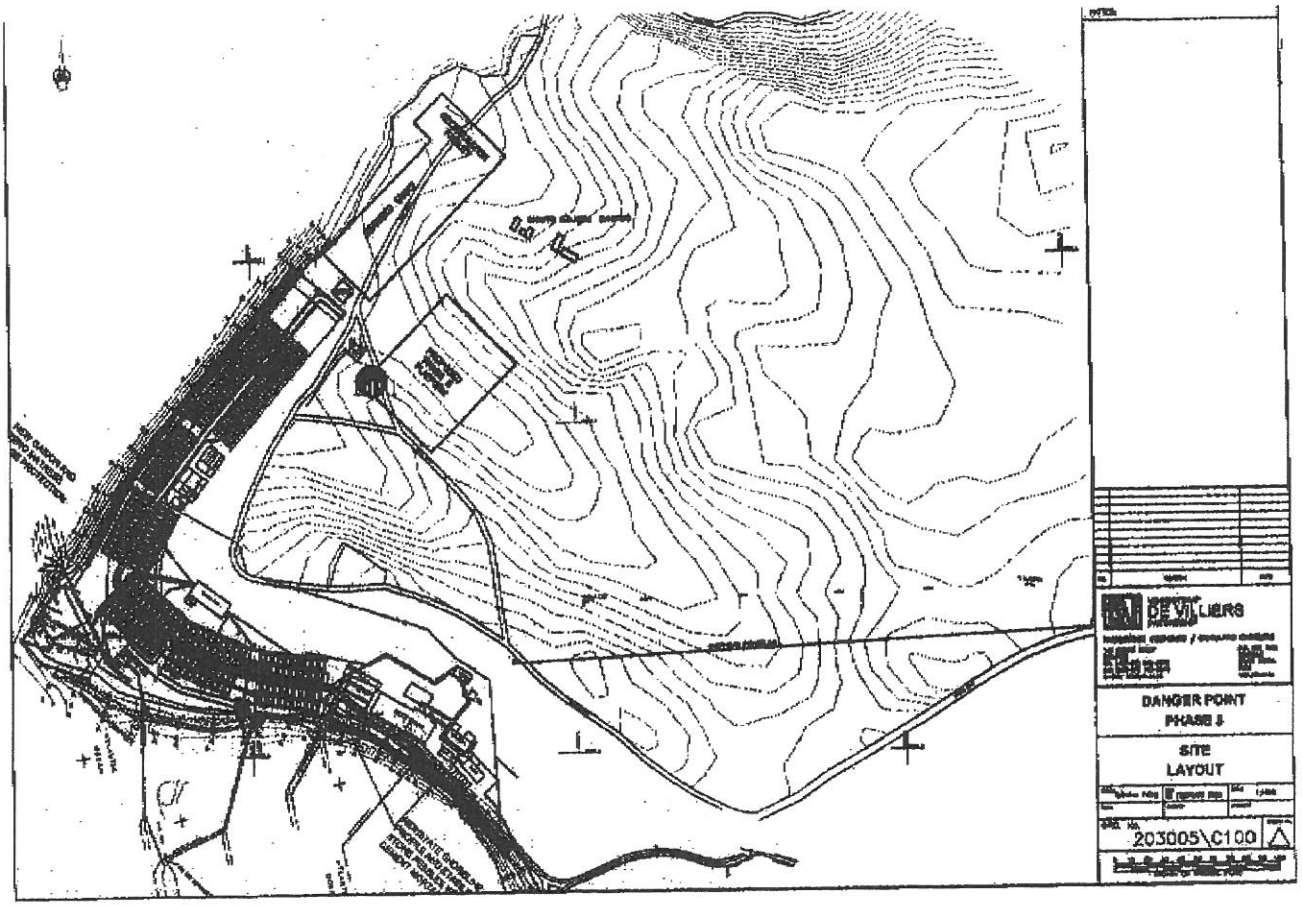
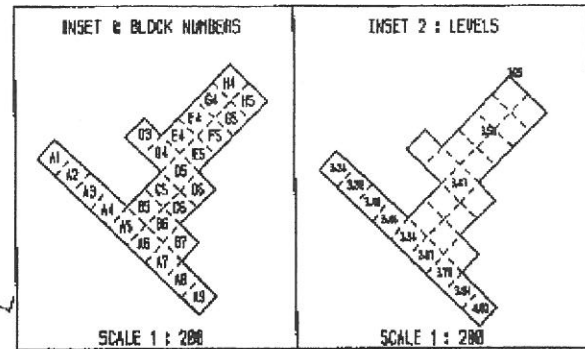
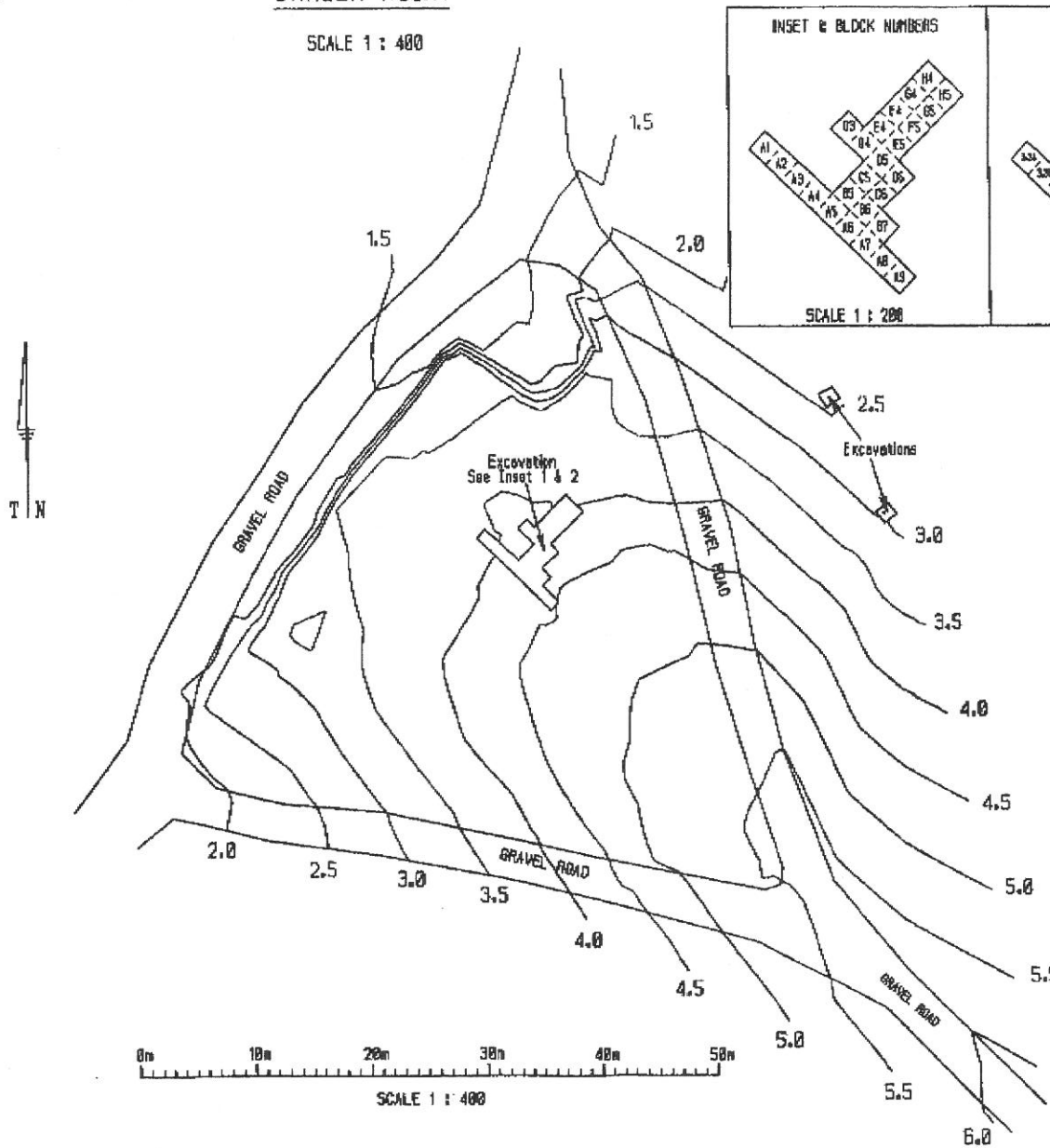


Figure 1. Map of Danger Point and location of DP 1.

EXCAVATION SITE AT I&J ABALONE FARM

DANGER POINT

SCALE 1 : 400



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