

PHASE I SURVEY REPORT: PORTION 15, DUIKER EILAND

by

Andrew B. Smith
Department of Archaeology
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7700
(021) 650-2354

930
.102
SMI

MARCH 1992



2002 0240

SA Heritage Resources Agency Library

PHASE 1 SURVEY REPORT: DUIKER EILAND, FEBRUARY 1990

Instructions were given by Mr. H.H. Nieuwoudt of Vredenburg/Saldanha Municipality to begin a Phase 1 archaeological survey of Portion 15 of the Farm Duiker Eiland No.6 on the Vredenburg Peninsula. The survey was carried out on the 26/27th February, 1992. Mr. W. Spamer was with us briefly during part of the survey on the 26th.

General Introduction

The Vredenburg Peninsula was a focus for coastal exploitation by prehistoric people throughout the Later Pleistocene and Holocene. There are many sites to be found covering the period c.120,000 years ago to well within the colonial period after 1652. Of major archaeological interest is the site of Kasteelberg, behind Paternoster, which has become a standard for archaeological study on the Peninsula. The site has been well-excavated and many radiocarbon dates run on material from the excavations (Smith, 1987--enclosed). From this work we have information on Middle Stone Age occupation, but our best samples and detailed data come from just before 2000 years ago when the site was occupied by hunting/foraging people. The social life of these people was severely impacted by incoming herders with domestic sheep, some 1800 years ago. From these excavations we have a good idea what to expect from other sites in and around the Vredenburg Peninsula.

Duiker Eiland

The farm Duiker Eiland was studied in 1978 by Robertshaw (1979--see enclosed) when several shell middens were excavated. Of interest were the number of cobble fireplaces identified by Robertshaw, as well as his analysis of the shellfish from the sites. During our own survey we found several barnacles of the genus *Coronula* sp. at site DKE1. These are parasitically found on the larger whales, such as the Humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) (Smithers, 1983:337), and adhere to the skin of the whale. This is rare evidence of whale use on this part of the coast by prehistoric people (see Smith & Kinahan, 1984; Smith, 1991), and only known from two other sites: Elands Bay Cave and Dunefield Midden (Jerardino, in prep).

Portion 15 of Duiker Eiland No.6: Archaeological Sites Identified (map 1)

DKE1: sand dune deflation hollow, c. 100m. from beach among coastal dunes. Shellfish (mostly limpets, few mussels), broken cobbles and pottery. Whale barnacles.

DKE1a: possibly southward extension of DKE1 (dune moles bringing material to the surface).

DKE1b: cairn of 8 large boulders

DKE2: large site (150 x 25m) on high ridge of stable sand dunes overlooking rocky coastline (road cuts across

site). Shellfish (mostly limpets, some mussels, whelks and perlemoen). Broken cobbles, pottery, tortoise bone -- depth deposit est. 15-20cm.

DK2a: shell midden cut by road down to the beach (same material as above)

DK3 & DK4: probable extensions of DK2 (same material)

MaB1: Shell midden on stabilised dune overlooking the sea. There are two parts to the site:

- a) a slightly curved stone wall 10m from
- b) shell midden deposits: limpets, mussel, whelks + flaked cobbles and 3 cobble hearths in a line.

MaB2: Shell midden on stabilized dune overlooking the sea (similar to MaB1, but smaller, with only one cobble hearth).

MaB4: Limited scatter of shell and quartz flakes in field near road.

MaB5: Just beyond boundary fence among large granite boulders, above high water and storm beach line:
--shellfish, broken cobbles
--possibly up to 30cm deposit.

Conclusions

The survey showed that there are several sites which are potentially threatened by any future construction work. The sites DKE2, MaB1 and MaB2 are particularly important, since they all appear to contain spatial information relating to the cobble hearths. They may also yield information about whale use, as shown in the DKE1 example. These sites need to be properly preserved.

Recommendations

If there is any question of construction taking place close to these sites it is recommended that they be fenced off. If, however, construction is going to take place on those dune ridges, then Phase II excavations need to take place to remove the deposits.

Careful monitoring of the construction needs to take place to avoid damage to the sites. Since I have not seen the proposed lay-out of the buildings and roads, I cannot comment on where the greatest problems might lie. Further discussion on this needs to take place before construction begins, especially, as I understand it, buildings with be constructed on the dunes overlooking the sea.

References

Jerardino, A. in prep. Indirect evidence for whales on archaeological sites.

Robertshaw, P.T. 1979. Excavations at Duiker Eiland, Vredenburg district, Cape Province. *Ann. Cape Prov. Mus. (Hum. Sci.)*1:1-26.

Smith, A.B. 1987. Seasonal exploitation of resources on the Vredenburg Peninsula after 2000 B.P. in Parkington, J.E. & Hall, M. (eds) *Papers in the Prehistory of the Western Cape, South Africa*. Oxford: BAR International Series 332:393-402

Smith, A.B. 1991. Living off the fat of the land: resource exploitation at Kasteelberg, Southwestern Cape. *Nyame Akuma* 36:20-23.

Smith, A.B. & Kinahan, J. 1984. The invisible whale. *World Archaeology* 16:89-97.

Smithers, R.H.N. (1983) *The Mammals of Southern African Subregion*. Univ. Of Pretoria