



**SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE  
RESOURCES AGENCY**

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**NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION –  
WAENHUISKRANZ CULTURAL LANDSCAPE, including the **KASSIESBAAI FISHING  
VILLAGE, ARNISTON/ WAENHUISKRANZ, BREDASDORP DISTRICT.****

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**Please note: Statement of Significance, pp 2-6; Recommendation pp 12.**

*“The riches of our land do not belong to only one generation. If we do not jealously guard the diversity of our cultural heritage, our future may become that of a faceless mass- people who do not know from where they have come or where they are going. It is our duty, indeed our privilege, to be in a position to preserve our fine heritage” Dr Anton Rupert*



**Figure 1: Waenhuiskranz Cultural Landscape: View of Kassiesbaai from Dollas Downs looking south**

<b>Property Description<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Erf/ Farm #</b>	<b>Previous Description</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Extent</b>
Kassiesbaai fishing village	Erf 416		Vissersunie Waenhuiskranz	9.6380 H
	Portion 19 of farm 264	Portion of ptn 13, farm 264	Vissersunie Waenhuiskranz	1.1002 H
Property associated with Kassiesbaai	Portion 13 of farm 264	Portion of ptn 7, farm 264	Overberg Regional Services Council	5.5220 H
	Erf 117		Church of the Province of Southern Africa – Cape Town	9253 SQM
	Portions of farm 260, Arniston Downs		Bredasdorp Municipality	
Site of memorial for the East Indiaman "Arniston"	Remainder of Erf 120		Arniston Strand Estates Pty Ltd.	
Fisherman's Cottage, Pratt St.	Erf 49		Provincial Heritage Site (Multiple owners)	495 SQM
Kassiesbaai harbour and slipway area	Erf 172	Portion of 115	Republic of South Africa	1463 SQM
Kassiesbaai harbour and slipway area	Erf 173	Portion of 120	Republic of South Africa	3714 SQM
Surrounding coastal dune area	Portion 7 of farm 264, Dollas Downs		St Markus Bay Investments (Pty.) Ltd.	163.5784 H
	Portion 4 of farm 264, Dollas Downs		Mr HB Pratt	8.3341 H

Figure 2: Description of properties comprising Waenhuiskranz Cultural Landscape

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is an extremely significant living heritage resource of national importance and grade 1 status. It holds historical, aesthetic, social spiritual and scientific value, is the only heritage resource of its kind, and is representative of a particular class of cultural place and object, namely a South African coastal fishing community.

Fishing villages and lifestyles, set within vibrant and naturally beautiful cultural landscapes and presenting an unusual charm and simplicity, used to adorn the southern coastal region of the African continent. Today these are considered a threatened South African cultural heritage.

The idyllic coastal landscape of Waenhuiskranz/ Arniston holds the fishing village of Kassiesbaai as well as Dollas Downs, a long curve of unspoilt sandy beach northeast of Kassiesbaai. It is an historic coastal region that tells not only of the lifestyle of fishermen in this country but of a history where many a lives were taken by the ocean in a series of shipwrecks along this coast. The Arniston, an English East India ship in government service, wrecked on the coast nearby in 1815, and the graves of its victims (soldiers and passengers, including children) as well as archaeological sites of the Later Stone Age

<sup>1</sup> See Appendices B and C for site location and diagrams

period are present on the property of Dollas Downs. On the south-western side of Arniston Downs, is the holiday town known as Arniston, its coast internationally known as a place of unspoilt scenic beauty.



*Figure 3: View of Kassiesbaai, looking North - Note the harbour slipway still used by the local fishermen.*

Inextricably linked to their surrounding environment, including Dollas Downs, the Kassiesbaai community depend on its resources for the survival of their unique and special way of life. It has shaped their landscape and lifestyle. The extended coastal region, beach and dunes, is as much a part of the fishermen's village as the houses of Kassiesbaai that have been so heralded for their charm. Kassiesbaai and Dollas Downs together form a cultural landscape of significant heritage value, part of the true living heritage of South Africa.

**For the purposes of grading the significance, the following categories have been utilised:**

***Living heritage:***

Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is the only living example of a largely self-sufficient South African coastal fishing community that exhibits the original fishermen's way of life and interaction with their environment.

Compared to other fishing villages of the west and southern coasts of southern Africa, Waenhuiskranz is unique. Most fishing 'villages', specifically along the West Coast are just a few simple buildings erected by past commercial fishing industries to house the labourers that worked for them on a seasonal basis<sup>2</sup>. At Waenhuiskranz, however, the settlement was originally established and used by the fishing community to support them in a subsistent manner, in much the same way as their descendents still do today. The inhabitants are permanent residents and still pursue a mostly self-sustainable lifestyle largely supported by fishing practices.

Various forced removals, be they politically, economically or socially motivated, have destroyed many of the coastal fishing villages similar to the one at Waenhuiskranz. Some fishing villages were abandoned with subsequent neglect causing them to fall into disrepair, others were demolished to make way for new developments, and many were converted into holiday accommodation for the wealthy. A previous fishermen's village and community at Hotagterklip was struck by the past racial practices and inhabitants were forcefully removed to a nearby coloured settlement. The sustainable way of life they

<sup>2</sup> Smith, C. 1979, Die Visserboukuns van die Kaapse Weskus en Suidkus. BA(Hons) Thesis, Stellenbosch University, pg. 71-2.

had known for generations was taken from them without consent or question. This was the experience of most fishing villages along the southern Cape coast<sup>3</sup>.

***Historical value:***

- The Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is important in the community and pattern of history:
- It is a living example of the evolution of the cultural landscapes and settlement patterns of communities, mostly fishermen, along the southern African coastal region.
- It exhibits the richness of cultural features of these fishing communities.
- It is associated with the many shipwrecks, specifically the Arniston shipwreck, whose survivors and wreckage had a significant role to play in the coastal population of the southern Cape as well as the architectural style of the houses built by these fishing communities. Up to this day remains from the Arniston wreck are exposed on the beach at Dollas Downs from time to time.
- The fishermen's cottages present an exceptional historically significant vernacular architecture and settlement structure that was once common along the coast and is now found nowhere else in southern Africa.
- The Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape has a strong and special relationship with the life and work of coastal fishermen, a group of people who hold a unique importance in South African history. It is the only landscape where a fishing community still lives in the place and manner of their forefathers, despite the struggles with colonialism and forced removals that so many other communities could not withstand.
- Its relationship with freed slaves links this cultural landscape directly to the history of slavery in South Africa.



*Figure 4: Fishermen's cottages at Kassiesbaai*

***Aesthetic value:***

Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is important in exhibiting the particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the fishing community that inhabits the place:

- The vernacular fishermen's cottages, as well as the settlement as a whole, have a specific layout pattern and structure that are important as creative and innovative designs and achievements<sup>4</sup>.
- The village of Kassiesbaai is an integral contribution to the aesthetic value of its setting, Dollas Downs, demonstrated by it being a landmark quality and having an impact on important vistas contributing to the natural landscape in which it is located.

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix D for photographs of Hotagterklip houses.

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix C for site diagram of Kassiesbaai structure and layout pattern.

- Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is an historic precinct where the significant and special individual components, such as the architecture, natural beauty, community spirit and activities, create an important aesthetic character, which collectively form a significant townscape as well as a cultural landscape.

***Social value:***

The entire cultural landscape of Waenhuiskranz holds a strong and special relationship with the fishing community and local people of Kassiesbaai. It is highly valued by the entire community for reasons of social, cultural, spiritual, symbolic and aesthetic associations and is integral to contributing to the community's sense of place. Occupied by hunter-gatherer groups from around 3000 years ago, then by Khoekhoe groups and most recently by the fishing communities of the southern Cape coast, the Waenhuiskranz landscape has been used for the economic and recreational benefit and survival of its various communities for centuries. The Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is today occupied by, amongst others, the descendants of the first peoples of the area.

***Rarity:***

Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape possesses uncommon, rare and endangered aspects of the natural and cultural heritage:

- The largest single settlement of its kind still inhabited by fishermen, the Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is different from other surviving fishing villages in South Africa in that it is still inhabited by the descendants of the original fishing community that established the place.
- Kassiesbaai is a rare cultural heritage as it is the only surviving fishing community that managed to withstand the forced removals of apartheid and maintain the ownership of their land and homes as well as their lifestyle. Their relatively quiet and largely self-sustainable lifestyle, many generations old, is the only way of life known to most inhabitants. Unfortunately, however, the heritage, reflected through their unique social history expressed architecturally in the cottages that survive to this day, is often placed under threat by insensitive developments within and around the village.
- The Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function and design in danger of being lost and is of exceptional interest to the region and nation as the only example of a living 'traditional' coastal fishing community and lifestyle.

***Scientific value:***

The Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape has potential to yield information that will contribute to the understanding of natural and cultural heritage in South Africa:

- It contributes to the wider understanding of the lives of coastal fishing communities that have inhabited South Africa for centuries, as the people who live there now still follow this age-old fishing lifestyle.
- The vernacular cottages represent the technical and creative achievements of the fishing community, both historically in the form of the "kassieshuise" built from ships' wreckage and currently in the form of the vernacular that were once so common along the South African coast.
- An archaeological study identified 34 Later Stone Age sites. These Later Stone Age sites dates back to the last 3000 years, comprising high density scatters of marine shell, stone implements, ostrich eggshell, ochre, and pottery located on exposed consolidated calcretes and in wind-deflated basins.
- An ancient tidal fishtrap (viswywer) of the kind built and used by early coastal inhabitants, for at least the last 2000 years, exists near Langklipkrans on the beach between Kassiesbaai and Dollas Downs<sup>5</sup>.



*Figure 5: Fishtraps near Struispunt*

<sup>5</sup> Agency for Cultural Heritage Management, 1997, Archaeological Stud

***Spiritual value:***

Graves from the wreck of the Arniston (1815) are believed to be present, largely on the Dollas Downs property. Indigenous Khoekhoe or San burials may also be present on the Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape.

***Representivity:***

Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of an age-old fishermen’s cultural landscape and environment. It also demonstrates the principle characteristics of human activities, such as way of life, philosophy, custom, land-use, function, design and technique in the environment of the nation.

***Sphere of significance:***

National

SAHRA’s protection has the potential to alter the detrimental devaluation of a unique South African heritage that tells of a courageous fishing community that survived the adversities of past injustices and the challenges of poverty, and to add to South Africa’s rare and irreplaceable heritage. The Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape including Kassiesbaai and adjacent Dollas Downs is a place of rare and invaluable heritage value that deserves to be conserved and managed effectively and sustainably for future South African generations to enjoy.



*Figure 6: Waenhuiskranz fishermen*

**MOTIVATION FOR DECLARATION**

As a cultural landscape and living heritage site, Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape has the potential to reflect a way of life of a specific South African community, one that has historical significance to the nation. It represents both the tangible and intangible aspects of the fishing community’s culture. However, the way of life and living environment of the inhabitants of the Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is being threatened on a daily basis due to a lack of effective protection or management of this valuable heritage resource. Economic and development pressures are forcing the residents to change their lifestyle and seek other places and ways of survival.

Considering the incredible significance of the Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape in terms of historical, aesthetic, social, scientific and spiritual value (as discussed above), as well as the rarity and representivity of the site as a unique example of the southern Cape coastal fishing lifestyle, the site of the Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is considered to be of national, Grade 1 heritage status. Proper grading and declaration of this site will allow for more effective and efficient management and ensure that the evolution of the cultural and natural landscape will occur in a sensitive and informed manner that considers all interested and affected parties.



*Figure 7: Kassiesbaai residents Mrs Murtz and her friend.*

Kassiesbaai is currently protected as a provincial heritage site and Dollas Downs has recently received provisional protection as a potential grade 1 site. In light of the above significance evaluation, it is strongly felt that the two sites should, firstly be considered as an inextricable whole, namely the

Waenhuiskranz Cultural Landscape, and secondly that this unique and special living heritage landscape most definitely deserves declaration as a National Heritage Site as soon as possible.

## CULTURAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### Waenhuiskranz Cultural Landscape



*Figure 8: Kassiesbaai*

The south western Cape coast has a history of much assimilation and interaction between people from various origins with various motives for being there. The current population of the Waenhuiskranz area, and Kassiesbaai specifically, is made up of the descendants of all these various people, a true and living reflection of a significant part of South Africa's diverse and multi-cultural history.

Prior to 1800 years ago the south western Cape was inhabited by hunter-gatherer (San) people whose economy was based on the exploitation of wild animals, marine animals and indigenous plant foods. This changed with the arrival of Khoekhoe herding groups who introduced a new economic order based on the herding of domesticated sheep and cattle<sup>6</sup>. By the seventeenth century various Khoekhoe groups inhabited the south western Cape coastal belt, the Hessequa being the resident group of the Bredasdorp area, including Waenhuiskranz/ Arniston<sup>7</sup>. Many of the surnames of the present local people in this area still hold evidence of their original clan names translated into the Dutch equivalent, such as Engel.

Since the fifteenth century when Portuguese vessels started exploring the African coast, many ships of different origins have come aground along the treacherous south western Cape coast, such as the Arniston (1815). Most shipwreck victims were killed, starved to death or were absorbed into local tribes. In many cases shipwrecked slaves would voluntarily drop out of the cross-country rescue expeditions, as they sought their freedom by escaping, choosing to remain with the local people<sup>8</sup>. Descendants of these shipwreck victims that became absorbed into the local groups thus make up a part of the population of the southern Cape coast, many of the current local fishermen having surnames that attest to this, such as Newman. In 1815 the Arniston, a English East Indiaman carrying seaman, soldiers and passengers, including women and children, from India to England, was wrecked off the coast with a loss of 372 lives. 331 victims of the shipwreck were buried in unknown locations in the sand dunes behind the beach. Up to this day the wreckage of the ship is exposed from time to time. A small monument in memory of four children that died in the shipwreck and buried there was erected on a dune in 1819 by the children's father. Today only the foundation of this original monument remains<sup>9</sup>. Many freeblacks from the Cape, who would leave when their term of imprisonment expired, were granted lands far

<sup>6</sup> Archaeology Contracts Office, 1992. "First Phase Archaeological Survey of Paternoster Bay, Paternoster"

<sup>7</sup> Walton, J. 1995. *Cape Cottages*. p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Uys, I. ? *Survivors of Africa's Oceans*.

<sup>9</sup> Burrows, E. H. 1994. *The Overberg Odyssey*, pg. 178.

removed from Cape Town so as to minimise their influence and, thus, also ended up in settlements along the southern coast. A building on the small farm Agterstekraal, which is part of the Armscor estate near Waenhuiskranz, is reputed to have been built by a free slave<sup>10</sup>.

The bay in which Waenhuiskranz is situated was settled in the years after the wreck of the Arniston (1815), at which time there were no people living in sedentary settlements in the immediate vicinity<sup>11</sup>. By 1820 a small fishing community was living in a village they called Kassiesbaai, a name derived from the paraffin *kassies* (Afrikaans translation for cases or boxes) that washed up on shore from shipwrecks and used by the local people as building material for their homes<sup>12</sup>. Cases were stacked on top of one another with the sides worked off with clay plaster and covered with a thatch roof. Cottages were later built of limestone, lime plastered and lime-washed with thatched roofs (all materials found naturally in the surrounding region) the vernacular built form of the Sand and Strandveld region.

Until 1836 the village was situated on Crown Land, after which it passed into ownership as part of the farm, Arniston Downs. Kassiesbaai and Dollas Downs forms part of what was named the Arniston Downs in 1836, when it was allocated to the farming corporation Reitz, Breda, Joubert and Kie. Over the years it had numerous changes in ownership. The Swart family took ownership in 1847 after the dismantling of the above-mentioned corporation and legally transferred ten *morgen* of the land, on which the fishing village was located, into the ownership of the community because of their loyal service to the Swarts. By 1905 the fishing community had grown to 300 people.

In 1906 Arniston Downs became the property of the Pratt brothers. They measured out a portion of their farm for a small town, which was named Arniston by the surveyor. On taking ownership of the land, the Pratt-brothers decided that they were not happy with the coloured fishermen occupying ten *morgen* of this new town, which they considered their land. The fishing community of Waenhuiskranz sent out a petition against the Pratt brothers to protect their land and fishing rights as inhabitants of that place. At this stage many of the fishermen had already been living at Waenhuiskranz for at least 50 years. The Pratt-brothers took the case to the Supreme Court in the Cape to question the property rights of the fishermen. The court allowed for “*five plots to be set aside for the fishermen, as they seemed to have prescriptive right, and a further ten morgen be set aside as a reserve for the rest.*” The five fishermen that already had prescriptive land rights, namely Jan Hopie, Piet Maritz, George Murtz, Hendrick Newman and Michiel Dyers, were each given an erf in the new town. The rest of the fishing community, which at this stage still lived near the Spuitgate and Oubaai (now Roman Beach), were given 10 *morgen* of land on the eastern side of the new town at the price of one shilling and gradually moved there over time. The 10 *morgen* 86 sq. rds. 9 (Lot E) became a reserve for the fishermen as part of the farm Arniston Downs finally granted to the Pratt-brothers in November 1906<sup>13</sup>. According to the petition and in addition to this land, in 1905 the Kassiesbaai community also received the rights to free thoroughfare for sections of the beach, a 200ft wide strip of land between the high water mark and the “rooilyn”, to uphold their fishing rights. This servitude holds up to this day<sup>14</sup>. In 1937 the Pratt family formally transferred a portion of their farm to the “Fishermen’s Union of Wagenhuiskrans”. This land comprised approximately 80 historical buildings, forming part of the historical fishing village of Kassiesbaai. Kassiesbaai was proclaimed a National Monument by the NMC in 1986.

Due to economic and political pressures over the last century the self-sustainable fishing villages and communities of the south western Cape coast, of which there were once many, began to disintegrate and disperse. By the middle of the twentieth century the Kassiesbaai community had lost its vitality. The fishermen were being deprived of their livelihood through commercial competition by trawlers.

<sup>10</sup> Walton, J. 1995. Cape Cottages. p. 4.

<sup>11</sup> Henshilwood, C. and Winter, S. 2000. Phase One Survey of Cultural Heritage Resources on Erven 34, 515 and Arniston Downs 260, Waenhuiskranz, Bredasdorp District. p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> Pistorius, P. 2001. “Kassiesbaai, Waenhuiskranz: Riglyne vir bewaring en ontwikkeling”.

<sup>13</sup> See Appendix C for the site diagram showing the allotted land.

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix C for diagrams showing the servitude area.



Apartheid segregation laws exacerbated this trend marking off areas inhabited by such fishing communities for development of ‘white areas’, mostly holiday schemes for a rich and privileged few. According to Doris Murtz, an ex-resident of Kassiesbaai, the historical fishing village originally extended south of Kassiesbaai along the coastline towards Harbour Road<sup>15</sup>. The house on Pratt Street (erf 49) is a historical fishermen’s cottage situated within the neighbouring holiday town of Arniston. It predates the time when Arniston was formally laid out in the 1960’s.



*Figure 9: Historical fishermen’s cottage, Pratt Street, Arniston (erf 49)*



*Figure 10: Kassiesbaai residents today*

However, when Arniston was zoned a “white area” during the 1960’s in accordance with the Group Areas Act of 1958, the existing coloured community was relocated. As a result many of the historical fishermen’s houses were demolished. Many Kassiesbaai residents consequently moved away from Waenhuiskranz to find employment elsewhere. As a result of neglect the attractive thatched houses were falling into disrepair and in 1975-76 a “Preserve Arniston’ committee was established to revive local interest in the community<sup>16</sup> and to save the last few remaining houses. This campaign was effective and many of the vulnerable houses were repaired<sup>17</sup> and community facilities provided, leading to many fishermen and their families returning to continue the lifestyle that their forefathers lived. Kassiesbaai community is one of the very few, if not the only fishing community that not only managed to escape the wrath of the Apartheid regime, but has also kept their cultural heritage alive.

Kassiesbaai, and its extended cultural landscape, is therefore a living heritage site that reflects the story of many communities who fell to the injustices of the past and a celebration of this specific community who struggled and firmly withstood repeated attempts to disown them from their land and lifestyle, a generations-old land and lifestyle inherited by them from their ancestors who had lived there for centuries.

## DESCRIPTION

Kassiesbaai fishing village and Dollas Downs are inextricably linked, forming the Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape that should be imagined and treated as a whole. Having been located within the historic farm Arniston Downs, this land was originally intended for fishing and cattle grazing as required by the people who lived in the area<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> Henshilwood, C. and Winter, S. 2000. Phase One Survey of Cultural Heritage Resources on Erven 34, 515 and Arniston Downs 260, Waenhuiskranz, Bredasdorp District. p. 3.

<sup>16</sup> Walton, J. 1995. Cape Cottages. p. 56.

<sup>17</sup> See Appendix D for photographs showing the state of cottages before and after their renovations.

<sup>18</sup> Swellendam Qts 17/11 1.6.1836. Title Deeds Office – see Appendix C

The provincial heritage site Kassiesbaai at Waenhuiskranz/ Arniston (Erf 416, Arniston) and the farm Dollas Downs (Ptn 19 of 264/13, Bredasdorp), is reserved for the use of the fishermen of Waenhuiskranz, a part of the historic “Arniston Downs” situated in the Division of Bredasdorp<sup>19</sup>.

The Dollas Downs property (Farm 264 Ptns 7,4) lies on the coast adjacent to the fishermen’s village (provincial heritage site) of Kassiesbaai at Waenhuiskranz. It extends north-eastwards to the boundary of the Armscor/ Denel (Overberg Testing Range) land, marked by a tall security fence running across the beach and into the sea. Behind the dunes the property is also bounded by Armscor/ Denel land. The property consists of the sandy shore backed by sand. Behind this are tall, shifting sand dunes and exposed consolidated calcrete with localised vegetation of fynbos and invasive aliens. There are at present a few illegally erected, unfinished structures on the property, but the property is largely used for recreation, e.g. walking along the beach, and an illegal 4x4 route to the dismay of the owner. Although it is private property, access is uncontrolled<sup>20</sup>.

## CONSERVATION POTENTIAL

### 1. Kassiesbaai

<i>Condition:</i>	Well preserved and the last remaining example of a living subsistence fishing village in South Africa.
<i>Use:</i>	Fishing community in season and residential area mostly for the traditional fishermen.
<i>Owner’s attitude:</i>	The Kassiesbaai community wish for their heritage to be protected to ensure that it is bequeathed to future generations. They would like the sustainable management of their heritage resources.
<i>Threat:</i>	The way of life of the community is inextricably linked to their surrounding environment. Insensitive developments threaten this generations-old lifestyle and the indigenous knowledge that the community holds.

### 2. Dollas Downs

<i>Condition:</i>	Natural almost pristine landscape.
<i>Use:</i>	Recreational, undeveloped dunes.
<i>Owner’s attitude:</i>	Wish to secure the property to keep illegal 4x4 driving at bay. Also wish to establish a holiday accommodation in the form of guest cottages on the farm.
<i>Threat:</i>	Separation of this land from the Kassiesbaai inhabitants threatens to divorce them from their sustainable and subsistent lifestyle. Insensitive development adjacent to Kassiesbaai, posing a possible further threat to the livelihood of this impoverished community.

## DEVELOPMENT THREAT

### DEVELOPERS:

Kassiesbaai (Erf 416 and Ptn 19 of farm 264):	Individual residents
Dollas Downs (Ptn 7 of farm 264):	St Markus Bay Investments (Pty) Ltd.

<sup>19</sup> See Appendix C for site diagram showing historic Arniston Downs.

<sup>20</sup> See Appendix C for site diagram of Dollas Downs and Appendix D for photographs showing the illegal development that has occurred there.

Both Kassiesbaai (provincial heritage site) and Dollas Downs (provisionally protected national heritage site) are experiencing mounting development pressure considered an enormous threat to the heritage value of this region.

**Kassiesbaai:**

In terms of Section 58 of the NHRA management of the site falls within the ambit of the newly established provincial heritage authority, Heritage Western Cape (HWC) and is thereby protected as a provincial heritage resource.

Although Kassiesbaai is a provincial heritage site, increasing community impatience has led to illegal alterations having taken place. The motives of the Vissersunie, currently the administrative authority for Kassiesbaai, have become questionable and may not represent the ideals and views of the majority of residents of Kassiesbaai.

**Dollas Downs<sup>21</sup>:**

The Dollas Downs portion of the cultural landscape in question is currently under specific development threat:

This coastal region has been identified as a sensitive natural environment of national significance, with most of it protected by South African National Parks (SanParks) as national reserves and De Hoop protected as a provincial reserve. The Dollas Downs farm forming part of the portion of the coast has not been incorporated into the park. Its contextual value to both the Kassiesbaai fishing village and the national parks is, therefore, unquestionable. The land is still zoned as agricultural although no farming activities are taking place. The relevant state bodies have requested various studies such as an Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEM), an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Archaeological Assessment, which have since been commissioned and completed. A few development proposals have been submitted, scrutinised, changed and put through extensive public review. The current owner has recently submitted a proposal for development of parts of the site to SAHRA and this is currently being investigated. It is felt by heritage specialists, however, that the full heritage significance of the site should first be assessed before a response in relation to development is given to the owners. It is hoped that the provisional protection of the site as a national heritage site will stall current development on the site that is in direct contravention with the NHRA (No 25 of 1999).

As motivated above, the site together with the significant South African heritage it encompasses, is considered a national treasure and justifies national intervention. The responsible provincial heritage authority, Heritage Western Cape, has recognised the grade 1 heritage significance of Dollas Downs (264/7) and has, thus, decided that SAHRA should forthwith deal with the site's protection, declaration and management as a national heritage site.

**Public Participation<sup>22</sup>:**

Extensive public participation has been conducted since 1997 when the development of the site was being proposed. The response to the development of this sight was a groundswell of negative public opinion from both the Arniston residence as well as the neighbouring fishing community of Kassiesbaai that forms part of the cultural landscape.



*Figure 11: View of Dollas Downs*

<sup>21</sup> See Appendix 4 for photographs showing the unlawful development on Dollas Downs property.

<sup>22</sup> See Appendices E and F for public and media response to proposed development in the Waenhuiskranz area.

## VULNERABILITY

Ineffective and insensitive management of the Waenhuiskranz cultural landscape is resulting in the social and economic degeneration of the place and the community's way of life. Many of the residents of Kassiesbaai are finding it increasingly difficult and almost impossible to sustain their largely subsistent fishing lifestyle due to competition from the commercial fishing industry and a lack of income producing opportunities in the area. New built and economic development schemes are also constantly proposed and such insensitive development of the site, or its surrounding area, exacerbates the degradation of the fishing community lifestyle and heritage and threatens the generations-old lifestyle and the indigenous knowledge that the community holds.

Home to one of the only surviving living and practicing fishing communities today, this living heritage site is threatened with losing its significance and value, which lies in the lifestyle of the people who live there and the surrounding environment which sustains and creates the context to this way of life. Without national heritage status and the protection that this affords, the people of Kassiesbaai are unable to maintain their homes and lifestyle, a threat that may cause us to lose this irreplaceable South African heritage resource forever.

Graves from the wreck of the Arniston (1815) and Khoekhoe burials may be encountered during the implementation of any development project. Appropriate strategies aimed at the recovery of human burials still need to be developed.



*Figure 12: Kassiesbaai slipway with fishing boats*

## STATEMENT OF CURRENT PROTECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

### 1. Kassiesbaai

Provincial heritage site

### 2. Dollas Down, Arniston Downs

Provisionally protected national heritage site

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the property known as Waenhuiskranz Cultural Landscape as described in *Figure 2: Description of properties comprising Waenhuiskranz Cultural Landscape (pp 2)*, together with all heritage resources associated with it, such as buildings, objects, intangible resources, environmental resources, etc. situated in the Bredasdorp District, be graded as a grade 1 site and declared a national heritage site in terms of Section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act.

## APPENDICES

Herewith attached please find:

- A. Bibliography** of documentation relating to the heritage resource.
- B. Site Location** – ordered according to the Property Description table on page 2.
- C. Site Diagrams and title deeds** (Main Report File)
- D. Photographs**
  - Dollas Downs dunes
  - Kassiesbaai
  - Historic Kassiesbaai
  - Illegal developments on Dollas Downs dunes
  - Hotagterklip houses
- E. Public Comment** (Main Report File)
  - Petition against Dollas Downs development
  - Emails: Objections to proposed development at Dollas Downs
- F. Media** (Main Report File)
  - Newspaper media
  - Video - Arniston

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*Boy in Kassiesbaai*

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