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**PHASE ONE SURVEY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
RESOURCES ON ERVEN 34, 515 AND ARNISTON DOWNS
260, WAENHUISKRANS, BREDASDORP DISTRICT.**

Prepared for

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by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A low intensity of Later Stone Age shell middens, probably dating to the Late Holocene are visible on the surface of the surveyed area. Similar occurrences are fairly widespread in the surrounding area, particularly in the near coastal zone. Stone tools located during the survey are not *in situ* and qualify as finds of minor significance. Interviews conducted with local residents indicate the existence of a burial ground (ca. Late 19th C.) near the north-eastern boundary of the surveyed area. A possible historical structure was located in the south eastern corner but its context is not assured. Measures of mitigation are deemed necessary in the event of construction or other operations in the surveyed area.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Brief

Henshilwood, Yates & Winter cc was commissioned to undertake a specialist archaeological and historical study of a near coastal area on Erven 34, 5151 and Arniston Downs 260, Waenhuiskrans (both abbreviated here to AD) proposed for rezoning, sub-division and the construction of housing. The instruction was to survey the entire area for evidence of cultural resources. The terms of reference for the study are the identification and assessment of archaeological and historical resources; an evaluation of the extent, duration and intensity of the proposed impact, the probability of occurrence and the significance of likely impact, status of impact and degree of confidence in predictions.

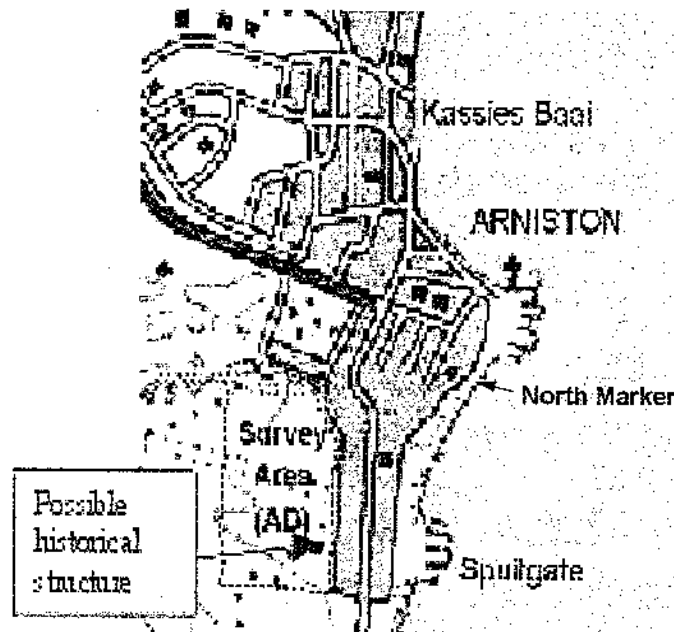


Fig 1. Survey area and major landmarks

Geological Background

The study area consists of unconsolidated aeolian littoral sand of the Witzand formation and lies between the 15 - 20 m contour. The sand forms an undulating dune mound that is well vegetated. The adjacent intertidal, stretching from Spuitgate in the south to the north marker (site of old water tower) is rocky interspersed with sandy beach areas and subject to heavy seasonal wave action.

The local bedrock of the Table Mountain Group (TMS) has an uneven surface varying from below sea level to a maximum height of probably more than six metres onshore. In geological terms the dune mound overlying bedrock and calcretes near the shoreline (~50 m) is a recent feature, having formed after a high stand of the sea dated around the South African coast to between 4000 to 3000 years ago (Yates et al 1986; Miller et al 1993; Marker & Miller 1993). Calcretes and calcarenites to the west of the shoreline date mainly to the Pleistocene and Mio-Pliocene and overlie the basal TMS. The Holocene marine high penetrated only a short way inland of the current shoreline due to resistance from the older calcrete cliffs. The erosion of these cliff faces is evident along the whole beach line adjacent to the surveyed area.

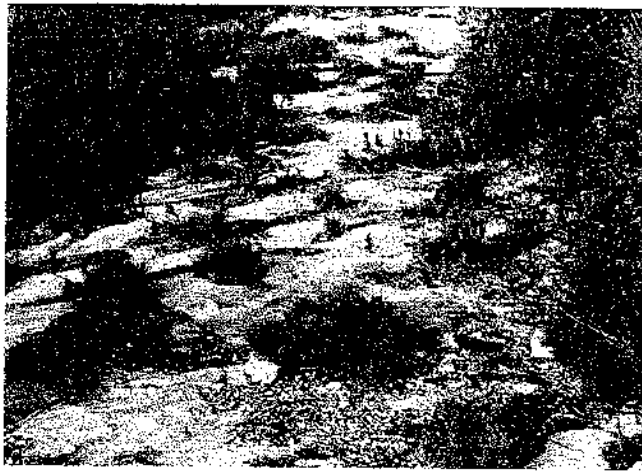


Fig. 2. Calccrete hardpan surface in AD (for location see Fig. 3 e)

The dunes within AD are of Holocene age and several metres thick. Towards the southern boundary water erosion has exposed underlying calccrete hard pan surfaces about 15 m asl that are considerably older, probably Pleistocene. We would expect that archaeological deposits from the Later- and Middle Stone would accumulate on similar surfaces within deflated dune hollows.

Archaeological Background

The archaeology of the Cape, including the Waenshuiskrans and Bredasdorp area covers a period of around 1 million years. The earliest traces of human presence, mostly found within river valleys, consist of scatters of stone artefacts. The Early Stone Age (ESA) dates from 1 million to 200, 000 years ago. Subsistence was based on hunting and scavenging animal foods and the gathering of plants, mainly in areas close to large rivers. Stone tool styles were restricted, the best known being the hand-axe. It was probably used as a general food processing instrument and possibly as a weapon.

The Middle Stone Age dates from 200,000 to 30,000 years ago. The archaeological record for this time is substantially richer because of better preservation of food debris and stone artefacts. In the southern Cape, the living and activity sites of the MSA often occur in carbonate rich sediments, usually located near the shoreline but are also found on the coastal plain stretching towards the Langeberg mountain range. MSA subsistence was broader based and included marine foods and small terrestrial animals. Tool kits were more sophisticated and stone tools or debitage may be found scattered across the south western Cape landscape.

The final broad phase of human history in Cape, the Later Stone Age, began about 30,000 years ago. Sites dating to the last 8,000 years, common along the shoreline and inter-montane areas, were occupied mainly by San hunter gatherers. Remains include marine and freshwater shell, beads, chipped and ground stone artefacts and the bones of fish, seals, birds, tortoises and antelope. After 2,000 years ago sheep bones and potsherds in Cape sites mark a change from pure hunting and gathering to a mixed economy that included pastoralism. Extensive areas of the southern Cape, including the grazing-rich Swellendam, Caledon and Breede River areas were used by pastoralists known as the Khoekhoe. The arrival of the Dutch in the 17th C. caused their ultimate demise, partly due to the Dutch expansionist policy but also by decimation from European diseases, mainly smallpox.

1.2. Historical Background

The area known as Amiston and Kassiesbaai (also known as Waenshuiskrans) was settled in c.1820, approximately 5 years after the wreck of the *Amiston*. When the *Amiston* wrecked in 1815 no people were living in the immediate vicinity. The six survivors of the *Amiston* camped on the beach until discovered some weeks later by inland farmers (Buman 1989).

By 1820 a small fishing community was living at Kassiesbaai (Fig. 1). The settlement was situated on Crown Land. In 1836 the land passed into private ownership as part of the farm, Amiston Dunes. In 1841 the owners of this farm, the Swart family, gave 10 morgen of land, on which the fishing village was located, to the community. By 1905 the fishing community had grown to 300 people. At this time, Amiston Dune was acquired by the Pratt family. After the family challenged the rights of the fishing community to the land, the Supreme Court upheld the rights of the community and in 1937 the Pratt family transferred a portion of their farm to the "Fisherman's Union of Wagenhuiskrans". This land comprised approximately 80 historical buildings, forming part of the historical fishing village of Kassiesbaai (National Monuments Council plaque erected at Kassiesbaai in 1986; correspondence dated 1905, Buman 1989; Walton 1995; Preserve Amiston brochure undated).

The original extent of the historical fishing village of Kassiesbaai has not yet been determined. However, there is evidence that the fishing village extended south of the existing village. There are a few historical cottages situated within the neighbouring holiday town of Amiston. These buildings predate the time when Amiston was formally laid out in the 1960s. According to Doris Murtz (80 years old), an ex-resident of Kassiesbaai, the historical fishing village originally extended south of Kassiesbaai along the coastline towards Harbour Road. However, when Amiston was zoned a white area during the 1960s in accordance with the Group Areas Act of 1958, the existing coloured community was relocated. As a result many of the historical fisherman's cottages were demolished.

1.3. Study Area

The study area is restricted to a 700 m wide strip west of Harbour Street reaching from the municipal campsite in the north to the boundary of the CNC conservation area in the south (see Fig. 1). The survey area excludes the private erven numbered 129 – 142 located on the eastern side of Harbour Street.



Fig. 3. Proposed development area AD: a) cemetery b) shell midden c) shell midden d) silcrete dump e) hardpan calcrete f) dump

2. STUDY APPROACH

The area was surveyed by searching in N-S sectors of 20 m width. The study was limited to surface archaeological materials and no excavations were done. Note was taken of profiles evident near the dirt road (Fig. 3 c). Representative artefacts were gathered, photographed and replaced. No permanent collection of materials was made. Ground visibility was average but occasional heavy undergrowth obscured some dune areas. The approach assumed that a) any materials found were likely to be Later Stone Age and/or Middle Stone Age and would need to be visible on the dune surface or in deflation hollows b) that materials of significance would be relatively lightly scattered and c) that there may be little *in situ* material, apart from shell middens, due to rapid dune movement. These assumptions are justified by general archaeological knowledge of similar areas. The methods adopted are appropriate for the type of terrain that constitutes the study area.

3. ASSESSMENT OF SURVEYED AREA

Coastal survey

A survey of the intertidal zone from Spuitgate to the north marker (site of old water tower) (Fig.1) established a dense shellfish presence, particularly where overlying calcrites extended into the sea forming rocky banks. The most common species are



Perna perna, *Patella* sp. and *Turbo sarmaticus*. Later Stone Age shellfish middens are thinly scattered in the adjacent near coastal zone indicating occasional prehistoric use of coastal resources.

The expectation was that shellfish middens were also likely to be present deeper in the coastal dune cordon based on our experience in other areas (e.g. at De Hoop and Blombos).

Fig. 4. Prehistoric shell midden near north marker (site of old water tower)

Vegetation

The survey area AD consists of undulating dunes that are fairly heavily vegetated by, in most cases, pioneer coastal fynbos species such as blombos (*Metasia muricata*), bitou (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) and marram grass (*Ammophilla arenaria*). The alien *Acacia cyclops* is well established in parts of AD but the area is still dominated by fynbos. Historic photographs of AD and surrounds indicate substantially less vegetation in the early 20th C suggesting dunes were likely to have had a higher mobility. Coastal development is the prime cause of pressure on coastal vegetation, particularly in the south western Cape. Without the maintenance of conservation areas we will be unable to maintain sustainable use of the coastal region (cf. Lubke et al 1997).

Archaeology

There is scant surface evidence of prehistoric human use of this dunefield. Two shell middens were located (Fig. 3 b & c) but both are fairly ephemeral. There is no other

surface indication of shell scatters or other signs of human habitation. Based on our experience elsewhere in this region there is a high probability that further middens are located in AD but obscured by dune sand. In particular archaeological deposits are likely to deflate onto hardpan calcrete areas (cf. Fig. 2).



Fig. 5. Shell midden on SE edge of surveyed area (for location see Fig. 3 b)

A substantial deposit of flaked silcrete is located near a hardpan calcrete (Fig. 3 e). Silcrete is a preferred material for making stone tools in the Cape region and is regularly found in coastal archaeological sites. The silcrete

deposits in AD were mined elsewhere, probably in combination with calcretes, crushed and brought here to surface and stabilise the dirt road that runs through AD to Galjoengat in the SW. Some of the silcrete flakes are anthropogenic but were probably produced elsewhere and transported here as road fill. No other stone artefacts were located in the study area.

Fig. 6. Silcrete core in road fill

Prehistoric burials are commonly found in near coastal dune areas and there is a good possibility of human skeletal exposure if construction commences.

The conclusion is that there are few visible archaeological deposits but a high likelihood of a low to low- medium density of buried archaeological materials within the survey area.



Oral History Interviews

An initial interview with a local resident Dr. Frikkie Taute provided some background to the oral history of the Waenshuiskrans area. It was decided to follow this up with extensive personal interviews with some of the older residents of Kassiesbaai. This was to establish whether the historical fishing village ever extended as far as the study area and to locate the position of the graveyard in AD. None of the interviewees have any memory of any historical buildings being situated within the study area. However, some of those interviewed mentioned, with certainty, the existence of an historical graveyard. No information could be obtained on the people buried at this graveyard. One of the interviewees located the approximate area of the graveyard near the north-east border of the study area AD.

Historical Site Survey

The remains of a built walled structure, consisting of calcrete rubble and mortar, typical of the historical buildings in the area, was located. However, these remains did not appear to be *in situ*. A 1986 topographical map of the area indicates the existence of a building within the study area (Fig. 1). Whether or not this structure formed part of the building marked on the map is not possible to determine at this stage. Situated 10-20 m

distance from the remains was a small surface scatter of 20th century English earthenware ceramics but it could not be reliably determined if these were in context.

No other visible *in situ* evidence of historical built structures was located within the study area. While the approximate location of a graveyard near the north-east boundary of the study area was identified by a resident of Kassiesbaai, no visible evidence of the graveyard was found. An investigation of the marked graves at the historical cemetery situated at the entrance to Arniston indicates that it dates to the early 20th century. It is therefore likely there was an earlier graveyard linked to the primary settlement history of the area. In view of the expressed certainty by Kassiesbaai residents of the existence of a graveyard, there is a high possibility of it being located within the study area.

4. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACTS

4.1. Extent of the impact

The spatial scale of the impacts are local and within the boundaries of the study area.

4.2. Duration of the impact

The life span of the impact will be permanent

4.3. Intensity of the impact

Intensity of the impact on archaeological materials is high.

4.4. Probability of occurrence

The probability of locating and/or disturbing archaeological materials worthy of conservation is high.

4.5. Significance of the impact

The significance of the impact of the proposed development in the study area is medium – high.

4.6. Status of impact

The impacts of the proposed development will have a negative effect.

4.7. Degree of confidence in predictions

The level of confidence in predictions is high.

5. IMPACT DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

Earth moving and grading will substantially disturb archaeological and historical materials relative to the current status quo.

Table 1: Impacts on cultural resources without management/mitigation actions

Impact: *Loss of assemblages and/or structures of archaeological and historical importance.*

Stage in project life-cycle	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance	Status	Confidence
Construction	Local	Permanent	High	High	High	Negative	High
Operational	Local	Permanent	High	High	High	Negative	High

6. RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

1. That a Phase 2 survey is conducted prior to the commencement of construction, or it becoming operational, to test for the presence of buried archaeological material, historical structures and historical burials.
2. That a line series of 1x1 m test pits, ~ 25 – 40 m apart and about midway between the western and eastern boundary are excavated between the south and north boundaries to test for subterranean archaeological deposits
3. That an archaeologist be present during any preliminary levelling or bulldozing prior to construction, particularly during excavations in the area where the graveyard may be located.
4. That an archaeologist be contacted in the event of the uncovering of any archaeological materials, including shell and human bone and historical structures during any of the construction or operational phases.

7. DISCUSSION

The only surface finds of archaeological significance in the surveyed area were two shell scatters dating to the LSA. Stone tools were present but were probably transported here from elsewhere as road fill. Apart from the two shell scatters (Fig. 3 b & c) there are no visible *in situ* deposits of archaeological material nor preservation of prehistoric occupation horizons, features or organic substances. There is a probable 19th C graveyard in the north eastern corner, according to oral evidence and the possibility of an historical structure (see Fig. 1).

As there is a high possibility of buried archaeological and/or historical material occurring a Phase 2 is recommended to test for these deposits. Further that an archaeologist is present during ground clearance and levelling operations and is on stand-by during the construction or operational phases in the event that archaeological materials are located.

8. ADDENDUM

RELEVANT STATUTORY PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, BURIALS AND HISTORICAL STRUCTURES

1. All archaeological sites and material, historical structures and burials are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act of 1999).

2. No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure older than 60 years without a permit of approval issued by the South African Heritage Agency.
3. A permit of approval is required to excavate, destroy, damage or remove from its original position any archaeological site or material.
4. Any person who discovers archaeological sites or material in the course of development must immediately report the find to the South African Heritage Resources Agency.
5. If the heritage authority has any reasonable cause to believe that any activity or development will destroy, damage or alter any archaeological site, no permit has been obtained and an archaeological impact assessment has not been undertaken, then SAHRA may:
 - serve on the owner or occupier of the site or the person undertaking the development an order for the development to cease immediately for such period as is specified in the order
 - carry out an archaeological investigation at the cost of the owner, developer or occupier for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not an archaeological site exists and whether mitigation is necessary;
6. No person may destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position any grave or burial older than 60 years.

9. REFERENCES

- BURMAN, Jose. 1989. *Hermanus. Human Rousseau*. Cape Town.
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Documents

- Preserve Amiston brochure (undated). Caitex Oil S.A. (Pty) Limited
- Correspondence (1905). Signed by residents of Waenshuiskrantz and addressed to Dr. A.G. Viljoen and G. Joel Krige, members of the Legislative Assembly, Division of Caledon. (Un sourced document)

Interviews

- 1) Mr. Samuel Martinus (70 years old), Kassiesbaai resident
- 2) Ms. Helena Newman (81 years old), Kassiesbaai resident
- 3) Dr. Frikkie Taute, Amiston resident
- 4) Ms. Doris Murtz (80 years old), ex-resident of Kassiesbaai (interview conducted by Ron Martin, South African Heritage Resources Agency)
- 5) Other unidentified Kassiesbaai residents

Acknowledgments

We thank the residents of Kassiesbaai for their co-operation and patience during oral interviews. Dr Frikke Taute kindly supplied valuable information on the oral history of the area. Colin and Bev Bird provided welcome sustenance and accommodation during the survey period. SAHRA provided access to historical documents on the Arniston area. Mr. Du Preez provided documents and an EIA assessment (authored by A. de Kock) relating to the proposed Arniston development. Interviews with Ms Winstanley provided valuable background to the proposed project. We are grateful to them all.