

CASE NO. 201111303SB1119E

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION, SUBDIVISION AND
REZONING OF ERVEN 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142
4143, 4144, & 4145 (ERF 3997) STILL BAY WEST,
WESTERN CAPE**

Prepared for

SHARPLES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

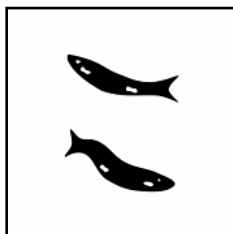
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Executive summary

1. Introduction

ACRM was instructed by Sharples Environmental Services (SES) to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed consolidation, subdivision, and rezoning of Erven 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142, 4143, 4144, and 4145 (Erf 3997) in Still Bay in the Western Cape.

Erf 3997 is located at the coast, within a private gated, residential property development called Skilpiesbaai Lifestyle Estate.

2. The development proposal

The Applicant (W. Nel & Irma Oosthuizen Trust) is proposing to consolidate, subdivide and rezone Erf 3997 (the 'site') to allow for the development of five new erven. In addition, two existing, but undeveloped erven (i. e. Erven 4143 & 4144), are proposed to be rezoned and incorporated into Open Space. Therefore, apart from two existing residential homes on Erf 4141 and Erf 4145, the remaining erven are all undeveloped.

The extent of Erf 3997 is 1.86ha, of which 1.02ha has been given over to Open Space. The development footprint of the proposed five new erven is only 0.3157ha.

A HIA, comprising an archaeological study was requested by Heritage Western Cape (HWC) following the submission of a Notice of Intent to Develop (NID).

The coastline around Still Bay is a known sensitive archaeological landscape. Pre-colonial shell middens and well-preserved stone built tidal fishtraps (or *visvywers*) have all been recorded in the area.

HWC requested that comments from the local municipality, Interested and Affected Persons (I&APs), and registered conservation bodies must also be included in the integrated HIA report.

SES is the appointed independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner responsible for facilitating the Basic Assessment process for Environmental Authorization.

3. Aim

The overall purpose of the study is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources in Erf 3997, and to determine the potential impacts of any future development on archaeological resources.

4. Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

5. Findings

A field assessment took place on 03 January 2021 in which the following observations were made:

- No archaeological traces were recorded in Erf 3997.
- No archaeological resources were recorded in the immediate surrounding area, either.

6. Identification of potential risks

Buried shell midden deposits and unmarked Khoisan burials may be exposed during excavations for building foundations and services, but the probability of this occurring is rated as being low.

7. Comments from the local municipality and registered conservation bodies

To date, no heritage related comments were received from the Hessequa Local Municipality, I&APs, or any registered conservation bodies.

8. Conclusion

The study has identified no impacts to archaeological resources that will need to be mitigated prior to any future development commencing on the site.

Indications are that the Erf 3997 is not a sensitive archaeological site.

The overall impact significance of the proposed consolidation, subdivision, and rezoning of Erven 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142 4143, 4144, and 4145 (i. e. Erf 3997) on archaeological heritage is assessed as LOW and therefore there are no objections, on archaeological grounds, to any eventual development proceeding.

9. Recommendations:

1. No archaeological mitigation is required prior to construction excavations commencing.
2. No archaeological monitoring is required during construction excavations.
3. Should any buried shell midden deposits, or unmarked human remains be uncovered during construction excavations these must be immediately reported to the archaeologist who will inform Heritage Western Cape. Burials especially, must not be disturbed until inspected by a professional archaeologist.

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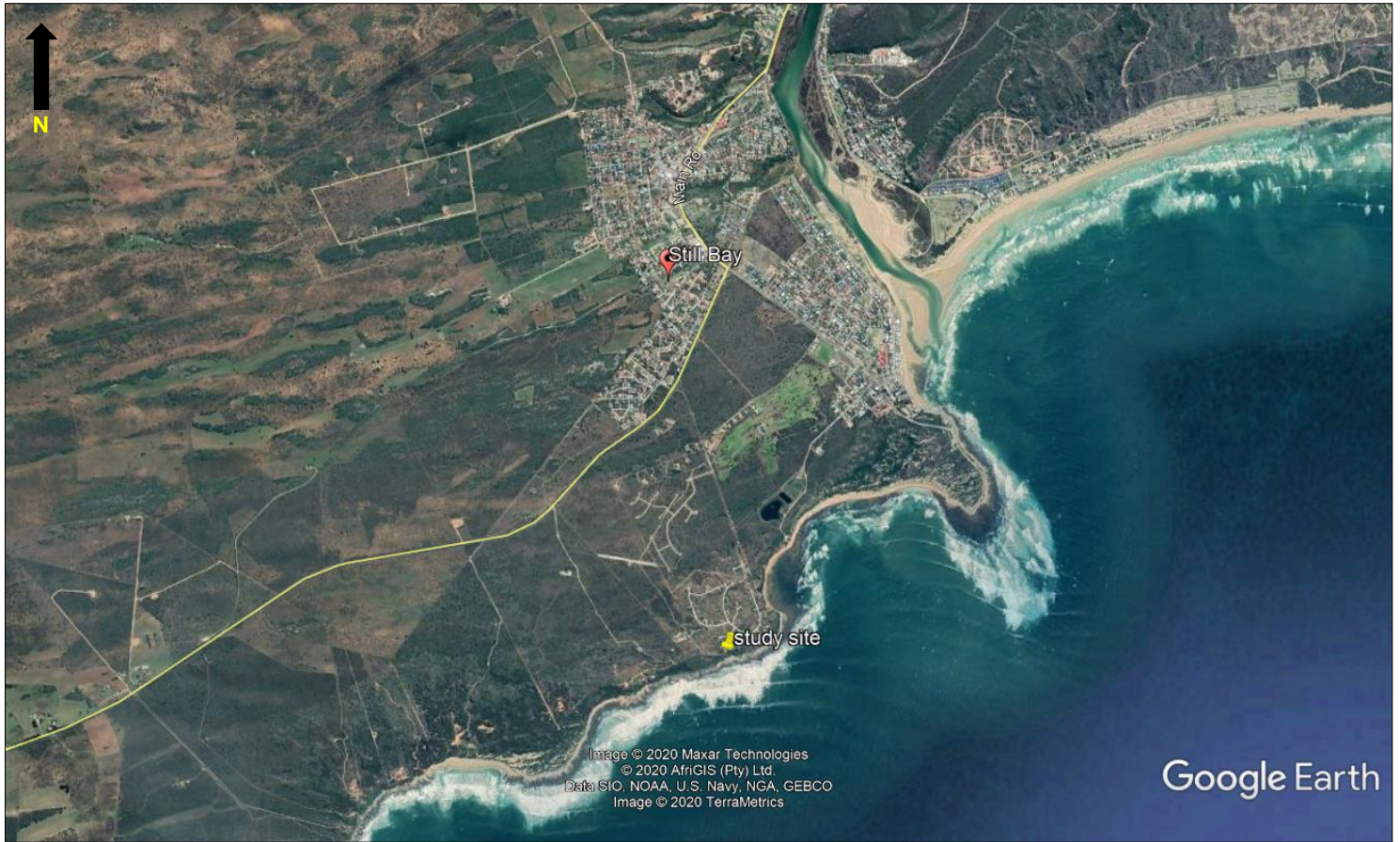


Figure 2. Aerial photograph indicating the location of Erf 3997 (yellow pin) in Still Bay West

2. THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposal entails the consolidation, subdivision and rezoning of Erven 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142, 4143, 4144 and 4145 (Erf 3997). The Applicant (W. Nel & Irma Oosthuizen Trust) is proposing to consolidate, subdivide and rezone Erf 3997 (the 'site') to allow for the development of five new erven. Engineering services including sewerage, electricity and roads are also included in the development proposal.

In addition, two existing, but undeveloped erven (i. e. Erven 4143 & 4144), are proposed to be rezoned and incorporated into Open Space. Therefore, apart from two existing residential homes on Erf 4141 (974m) and Erf 4145 (1550m), the remaining erven are all undeveloped (Figures 3 & 4).

The extent of Erf 3997 is 1.86ha, of which 1.02ha has been given over to Open Space. The development footprint of the proposed five new erven is only 0.3157ha.



Figure 3. Proposed site development plan (Sharples Environmental Services 2020 BAR).



Figure 4. Aerial photograph of the proposed site (Sharples Environmental Services 2020 BAR).

A HIA, comprising an archaeological study was requested by Heritage Western Cape (HWC) following the submission of a Notice of Intent to Develop (NID).

HWC requested that the comments from the local municipality, Interested and Affected Persons (I&APs), and registered conservation bodies must also be included in the integrated HIA report.

SES is the appointed independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner responsible for facilitating the Basic Assessment process for Environmental Authorization.

3. LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) makes provision for a compulsory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) when an area exceeding 5000m² is being developed. This is to determine if the area contains heritage sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure that they are not damaged or destroyed during development.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);
- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);
- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society, and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were to:

- Identify archaeological resources that might be impacted by any future development of the site;
- Assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources on Erf 3997;
- Assess the significance of any impacts resulting from any proposed development, and
- Identify measures to protect archaeological resources that may exist in Erf 3997.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Erf 3997 (34°24'5.42"S 21°24'34.31"E) is located at the coast within a private gated, residential development called Skilpiesbaai Lifestyle Estate. The 1.86ha property is situated alongside Perlemoen Crescent, set back from a steep, densely vegetated back dune ridge overlooking the ocean and the rocky shoreline below (Figure 5). Apart from two existing houses on the property (i. e. Erf 4141 & Erf 4145), the site is undeveloped, but is fairly severely degraded (Figures 6-10). An old calcrete gravel road bisects the property (visible below & in Figure 7), while several fairly deep pits have also been excavated on the site. Some surface calcrete is also exposed. Dumping of some building rubble covers a portion of the property, while some scraping has also taken place. A few pieces of modern marine shellfish were noted scattered about the site. The northern boundary of the property alongside Perlemoen Crescent has been artificially raised as a result of construction of the road. There are no buildings, structures or features on the site. Surrounding land use is residential (Skilpiesbaai Lifestyle Estate), undeveloped land, and recreation (beach, surfing, fishing, etc). The shoreline below the steep vegetated dunes is characterized by a long rocky coast with several informal pedestrian footpaths. There are well preserved fishtraps (*visvywers*) located close by at Noordkapperpunt.



Figure 5. Google aerial photograph of Erf 3997 Still Bay West.



Figure 6. View of the site facing south west. Arrows indicate the two existing houses (Erf 4141 & Erf 4145) on the property.



Figure 7. View of the site facing south west. Perlemoen Crescent is in the righthand corner of the plate. Note the old calcrete gravel road that bisects the property.



Figure 8. View of the site facing east. Perlemoen Crescent is in the left hand, corner. Note how the site has been artificially raised.



Figure 9. View of the site facing east with surrounding residential homes.



Figure 10. View of the site facing east. Arrow indicates Erf 4145. All the area in the photograph falls within the proposed Open Space. Note the steep vegetated ridge to the right of the plate overlooking the ocean.

6. STUDY APPROACH

6.1 Method

The overall purpose of the study is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources on Erf 3997, and to determine the potential impacts of any future development on such resources.

A field assessment was undertaken on 03 January 2021.

A track path of the survey was captured.

A literature survey was also carried out to assess the heritage context surrounding the proposed development site.

6.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study. Access to the study site was easy and archaeological visibility was very, good.

6.3 Identification of potential risks

It is considered highly unlikely but buried shell midden deposits may be exposed during excavations for foundations and services.

Unmarked Khoisan burials may be intersected during excavations for foundations and services, but the probability of this occurring is also rated as being low.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The coastline around Still Bay is a known sensitive archaeological landscape (Kaplan 1993). Pre-colonial shell middens have been recorded adjacent the rocky shoreline at Morris Point, Kleinplaatjie, Noordkapperpunt, the mouth of the `Kafferkuilsrivier, Geelkrans, and in the back-dune area at Preekstoel and the Garcia State Forest in Still Bay East (Hart 1991; Kaplan 1993, 2007, 2014; Orton 2005; Rudner 1968; Kaplan personnel observation). The rocky shoreline around this area is rich in marine resources, particularly shellfish, and acted as foci that attracted Later Stone Age (LSA) hunter gatherer forager people. Shellfish meat was most likely cooked in pots and on open fires. Other marine resources caught included sea birds, fish, crayfish, and seal.

Still Bay, however, is best known for the well-preserved fish traps (*visvuywers*) that occur in the area. Stone built fishtraps occur in the intertidal zone at Noordkapperpunt not far from Erf 3997 and have also been recorded at Gourikwa Private Nature Reserve (formerly Rheins Nature Reserve) further to the north (Kaplan 1997) and at Gouritz River (Kaplan 2015). For many years archaeologists have assumed that these stone walled `dams' originated among LSA hunter-gatherers who lived on the coast after 3000 years ago (Avery 1975; Goodwin 1946; Gribble 2005). Research, however, comprising a combination of archaeological excavations and archival work has shown that most, if not all of these features, were built by poor whites (*bywoners*) in the late 1800s and early 1900s, who looked after coastal properties on behalf of absent farmers at the time (Hine 2008). The fishtraps were built to supplement subsistence activities, which also included small scale vegetable farming.

8. RESULTS

No surface archaeological resources were recorded during the field assessment of Erf 3997 (Figure 11).

No archaeological traces were noted in any of the excavated pits on the property, or alongside Perlemoen Crescent where the northern boundary of the site has been artificially raised as a result of construction of the road.

No archaeological traces were recorded in the proposed Open Space area, either.

Indications are that Erf 3997 is not a sensitive archaeological site.



Figure 11. Track paths in red

9. IMPACT STATEMENT

The results of the study indicate that any proposed future development on Erf 3997 will not impact on archaeological resources.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, REGISTERED CONSERVATION BODIES AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

At the time of writing, no heritage related comments were received from the Hessequa Local Municipality, Interested and Affected Parties, or any registered conservation bodies.

11. CONCLUSION

The study has identified no impacts to archaeological resources that will need to be mitigated prior to any future development of the affected site.

Erf 3997 is not a sensitive archaeological site.

Buried shell midden deposits and unmarked Khoisan remains may be intercepted during excavations for foundations and services, but the probability of this occurring is rated as being very LOW.

The overall impact significance of the proposed consolidation, subdivision and rezoning of Erven 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142, 4143, 4144 and 4145 (Erf 3997) in Still Bay West on archaeological resources is assessed as LOW.

Therefore, there are no objections to any future development on the property.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding the proposed consolidation, subdivision, rezoning and future development of Erven 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142, 4143, 4144 and 4145 (Erf 3997) in Still Bay West, the following recommendations are made:

1. No archaeological mitigation is required prior to any construction excavations commencing.
2. No archaeological monitoring is required during construction excavations.
3. Should any buried shell midden deposits, or unmarked human remains be uncovered during construction activities these must be immediately reported to the archaeologist who will inform Heritage Western Cape. Burials must not be disturbed until inspected by a professional archaeologist.

13. REFERENCES

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