

# HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE

ORIGINAL

Provincial Heritage Authority of the Western Cape

Private Bag X9067, Cape Town, 8001  
Tel: 021 483 9842 Fax: 021 483 9695

## Provincial Heritage Site Nomination Form

This form precedes the submission of the 'Nomination Document' and is designed to assist with the grading of heritage resources in terms Section 3(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, as part of the process of declaration as a Provincial Heritage Site (Section 27). Nominated heritage resources that are of special provincial significance will be graded as Grade 2 and considered for Provincial Heritage Site status.

**Proposed Provincial Heritage Site:** Shell mound within Paternoster North Site A (PNNA)

**Brief Statement of Significance:** *(A full statement of significance is required as an attachment)*

Most open shell middens along the west coast of the Western Cape are relatively small in size and their contents are dominated by quantities of marine shells and modest amounts of vertebrate fauna and artefactual remains. PNNA site is an exception to this pattern: it is a large site extending originally about 350 m long by 150 m wide, and some of the sampled shell mounds within its perimeter have shown unique, abundant and diverse faunal material with modest amount of artifacts. This site is likely to date between 3000 and 2000 years ago as inferred from research conducted in the early 1980's. Development is intended where PNNA shell mound is located, therefore making it vulnerable and threatened by it. This application for nomination as a Provincial Heritage Site pertains to the richest shell mound so far sampled within PNNA.

**Proposed By:** Dr. Antonieta Jerardino

**Date Proposed:** 23 November 2004

**Contact Details:** HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE, PRIVATE BAG X9067, Cape Town 8000.

**Name of Property:** Portion 37 of Farm Uitkomst 23

**Street Number and Street:** Not applicable

**Suburb:** Not applicable

**Town:** Paternoster

**District:** Vredenburg Magisterial District

### Cadastral Information

**Erf/ Farm Number:** Portion 37 of the farm Uitkomst 23, Paternoster.

**Registration Division:** .....

**Longitude:** 17° 54 042 E

**Latitude:** 32° 48 317 S

**Map Reference:** 1: 50 000, 3217 DB&DD, Vredenburg. **Recording Method:** .GPS fix (WGS84)

## Type of Resource

Place

Structure

Archaeological Site

Palaeontological Site

Geological Feature

Grave

Do moveable objects relating to the site form part of the Nomination? No

Serial nomination (Is more than one site being nominated as part of a 'Joint Nomination') No

(For serial nominations, complete one form for each site, supply additional details about the information relating to the relation of the sites, and the management and phasing of proposed nomination be attached).

Sphere of Significance	High	Med	Low
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provincial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist group or community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What other similar sites may be compared to the site? How does the site compare to these sites? Sheet A

(Please expand on separate sheet)

Owner: Mr. Deon Brand.

(If state-owned; responsible department and official position of contact)

Postal Address PO Box 56834, Arcadia, Pretoria 0007

Telephone: (012) 369 9180 Fax: (012) 361 5591 Cell: .....

E-Mail: deonbrand@yahoo.com..... Web Page: not applicable

Contact Person: (If different from above. Please supply contact details)

(legal representatives): Ivan Pauw & Partners Attorneys,

- \* Expanded statement of significance; (Refer specifically to significance criteria listed below) - Sheet B
- \* Motivation for declaration as a Provincial Heritage Site, including potential, threats and vulnerabilities; Sheet C
- \* Short history of the place; not applicable
- \* Physical description of the heritage resource; Sheet D
- \* Locality plan (map) and Site Plan; see attachment
- \* Photographs and plans; see attachment
- \*\* List of moveable objects relating to site that are proposed as part of nomination, or for archaeological or palaeontological site ;list of repositories where these are housed;
- \*\* Bibliography of documentation relating to the heritage resource;
- \*\* Statement of current protections and restrictions (e.g. previous national monument; register of immoveable property; conservation area; current zoning; servitudes);
- \*\* List any heritage organizations consulted and their comments on the proposed nomination.
- \*\*\* Site plan (with proposed site boundaries);
- \*\*\* Conservation or management plans (send immediately if any exist);
- \*\*\* Heritage Agreement (if required).

(Please supply those marked (\*) with this nomination form, as well as any others that are already available. Those marked (\*\*) will be requested when the proposal first goes to HWC Council for endorsement (Tentative List of Provincial Heritage Sites). Those marked (\*\*\*) will be required when the Nomination goes to the following Council Meeting for approval as a Provincial Heritage Site).

submit  
see next  
05.05.2005

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Place

Structure

Archaeological Site √

Palaeontological Site

Geological Feature

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International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provincial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist group or community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What other similar sites may be compared to the site? How does the site compare to these sites? Sheet A

(Please expand on separate sheet)

Owner: Mr. Deon Brand.

(If state-owned; responsible department and official position of contact)

Postal Address PO Box 710, Vredenburg 7380

Telephone: (022) 715 1727 Fax: (022) 713 2478 Cell: 083 456 6887

E-Mail: deonbrand@yahoo.com... Web Page: not applicable

Contact Person: (If different from above. Please supply contact details)

(legal representatives): Schoeman & Hamman, PO Box 710, Vredenburg 7380,

- \* Expanded statement of significance; (Refer specifically to significance criteria listed below) - Sheet B
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## Type of Significance

Indicate with a tick

Comment where appropriate.  
Indicate sphere of significance:  
i.e. National, Provincial, Local  
and degree of significance: i.e.  
High, Medium or Low.

### 1. Historical Value

#### a. It is important in the community, or pattern of history?

- i. Importance in the evolution of cultural landscapes and settlement patterns ✓
- ii. Importance in exhibiting density, richness or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the Province, region or locality. ✓
- iii. Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases that have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the Province, region or community. ✓
- iv. Importance as an example for technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period

.....  
**Provincial, high**

**Provincial, high**

**Provincial, high**

**No**

#### b. It has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in history

- i. Importance for close associations with individuals, groups or organizations whose life, works or activities have been significant within the history of the nation, Province, region or community.

**No**

#### c. It has significance relating to the history of slavery

- i. Importance for a direct link to the history of slavery in South Africa.

**No**

### 2. Aesthetic Value

#### a. It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

- i. Importance to a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.
- ii. Importance for its creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.
- iii. Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic values of the setting demonstrated by a landmark quality or having impact on important vistas or otherwise contributing to the identified aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs or the natural landscape within which it is located.
- iv. In the case of an historic precinct, importance for the aesthetic character created by the individual components which collectively form a significant streetscape, townscape or cultural environment.

**No**

**No**

**No**

**Not applicable**

### 3. Scientific Value

#### a. It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage

- i. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site,

teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site. ✓

Provincial, high

ii. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of the universe or of the development of the earth.

No

iii. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of life; the development of plant or animal species, or the biological or cultural development of hominid or human species.

No

iv. Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the Province, region or locality. ✓

Provincial, high

**b. It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period**

i. Importance for its technical innovation or achievement.

No

**4. Social Value**

**a. It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons**

i. Importance as a place highly valued by a community or cultural group for reasons of social, cultural, religious, spiritual, symbolic, aesthetic or educational associations.

No

ii. Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place. ✓

Provincial, medium

**Degrees of Significance**

**5. Rarity:**

**a. It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage**

i. Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes or phenomena.

No

ii. Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced in, or in danger of being lost from, or of exceptional interest to the Province, region or locality. ✓

Provincial, high

**6. Representivity:**

**a. It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects**

i. Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class.

No

ii. Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, Province, region or locality.

No

Signature: .....

Date: .....

16 November 2004

**Sheet A: What other similar sites may be compared to the site? How does the site compare to these sites?**

In terms of size, PNNA compares to another large site in Paternoster (PNNB, located north of the seasonal stream that ends at the sea in Eerste Mosselbank), and also to nearly ten large shell middens located around 100 km north in the Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay areas. These shell middens are referred to as "megamiddens" due to their large size. However, in terms of content, this site is unique among them due to the rich faunal and artefactual material observed. While vast quantities of marine shell and low densities of artefacts and bones of relatively small animals dominate all the other megamiddens, bone is a significant component of this particular shell mound within PNNA. Not only are there abundant bones from small animals such as tortoise, marine birds (e.g., cormorants and gannets), snake and Cape fur seal, but also those from bigger animals, such as: small bovids (steenbok and grysbok), large bovids (eland and buffalo) and extra large animals (elephant). The latter is the first finding of its kind in the Western Cape Province despite many sites having been excavated in this region. Fish bones are also present in PNNA shell mound, which only one of the other megamiddens also contains but in relatively small quantities. Cultural items are also rarely found in most megamiddens, and certainly Ostrich Eggshell (OES) beads are among the rarest of these findings. In PNNA shell mound, OES bead were recovered in relatively large numbers along with occasional stone artefacts and un-worked OES fragments. The latter probably represent eggs used either as food source and/or as water containers.

In sum, PNNA shell mound stands out because it is one of the few megamiddens in existence along the West Coast, and it is singular among these because of its rich and diverse faunal and artefactual content.

**Sheet B: Expanded statement of significance (referring specifically to significance criteria listed in form above)**

- 1) Historical Value: **a)** Importance in the evolution of cultural landscapes and settlement patterns  
**b)** Importance in exhibiting density, richness or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the Province, region or locality  
**c)** Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases that have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the Province, region or community

**a)** Megamiddens, such as PNNA, reflect a unique settlement and subsistence pattern that characterized indigenous populations living along the West Coast between 3000 and 2000 before present (BP). According to research in the Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay areas, human population densities were highest than ever before or after this millennium, with subsistence relying heavily on marine foods (shellfish, fish, Cape fur seal, marine birds,.. etc) and to a lesser extent on terrestrial foods. Among the latter, few were animals that required hunting such as tortoises and small bovids (steenbok, grysbok and hares). These dietary preferences contrast also with those reconstructed from before and after the "megamidden period" (3000 – 2000 years BP). Given the likelihood of PNNA shell mound to date to this period, subsistence preferences in the Paternoster area appear to differ markedly with that maintained at the large sites in areas further north (Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay) during the same time period. Because of the above, the protection, conservation and study of PNNA shell mound will allow greater insight into the evolution of settlement and subsistence patterns along the West Coast against a background of greater diversity than it would have been predicted before.

**b) See contents of Sheet A above.**

**c)** As described in point a), megamiddens make an appearance during a particular time in the history of precolonial occupation of the Western Cape, namely between 3000 and 2000 years BP. Research has shown that these sites not only present us with particular settlement and subsistence solutions never repeated before or after their appearance, but that these also hold the key for understanding the relatively fast spread of the pastoralist economy along the West Coast. This subsistence economy found a later expression with the Khoi groups and tribes during the time of colonial contact with Portuguese sea traders and Dutch settlers.

The appearance of domestic stock and pottery brought about profound changes in the lives of indigenous San groups, and the use of the landscape by them and by the newly configured cultural groups. This historical event constitutes a distinct cultural phase within the Province as well as in the Nation as a whole. These profound changes are reflected by:

- 1) a dispersal of the original population which had concentrated at particular points along the coast,
- 2) a new choice of small shelters for short-term settlement;
- 3) a subsistence returning to collecting and hunting terrestrial animals and plant foods;
- 4) manner in which stone artefacts were manufactured;
- 5) stylistic changes in the way rock art was rendered and the making of OES beads, and simplification in the type of decoration applied to objects such as OES water containers.

Consequently, the protection, conservation and study of PNNA shell mound will also allow for testing recent hypotheses regarding the origins and spread of domestic stock along the West Coast.

*Sheet B continued...*

- 3) Scientific Value: **a)** Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.  
**b)** Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the, Province, region or locality.

**a) and b)** The scientific importance of PNNA shell mound is presented by its potential to add to, and test, previous reconstructions of coastal indigenous settlement and subsistence choices (cultural history). Scientist who would be able to analyse the material from PNNA shell mound would be in a unique position to widen the understanding of the cultural history of the Western Cape Province by virtue of the singularity of the site contents. This has been highlighted in the previous section.

An additional scientific value of PNNA shell mound resides in its potential to add to previous reconstructions of past environments (palaeoenvironmental reconstructions). Given the depth of these deposits and the abundance of sedimentary and faunal remains, these deposits can contribute significantly to the reconstruction of past environments with chronologically well-resolved palaeoenvironmental histories. Scientific analyses invested in quantifying sediment characteristics (size, shape of grains and chemical traces), establishing pollen spectra, and conducting isotopic analysis on marine shells and animal bones can contribute significantly to the understanding of the evolution of the natural environment (marine and terrestrial) of the Western Cape west coast.

- 4) Social Value: Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place

The significance for PNNA shell mound regarding its contribution to a community's sense of place is evaluated in terms of an increasing awareness of pre-colonial history among present and future generations. There is a growing public interest in knowing more about South Africa's history before the arrival of Europeans in the XVth Century as expressed by interest groups and the tourism industry among others. South Africans are in search for their roots as they face the challenges of a newly acquired democracy and those brought about by a new millennium open to globalization and new social orders and relationships. High-income housing and road development contribute with new identities to those who use the newly shaped space where aesthetics and the expression of social status and income power are at the base of it. This type of development has taken little cognisance of other needs shaping other social and cultural identities, which are often that of people who are unable to access that type of developed land. The pre-colonial history of South Africa belongs to all South Africans and by protecting, conserving and studying archaeological sites, a door is opened to those in search of social and cultural identities with greater time depth than the one offered by the arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck in 1652. Unique archaeological sites, such as PNNA shell mound, ought to be protected and conserved to allow South Africans to understand, recognize, identify with, and celebrate a great segment of its history, which had largely remained ignored and denied to people in South Africa.



*Sheet B continued...*

5) Rarity: Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced in, or in danger of being lost from, or of exceptional interest to the Province, region or locality

PNNA shell mound, as a few surviving megamiddens along the West Coast, show that a distinctive way of life and land-use was common during a particular period of time during our pre-colonial history [see **Sheet A** and points **1)** and **3)**]. Insight into life ways, social processes and evolution of the natural landscape that were under way between 3000 and 2000 years ago will depend on the quality of research and analytical tools available to scholars. The later, particularly, shows improvements with the development of advances in new scientific techniques and the proposition of new theoretical models in the social sciences. What scholars are unable to know now might well be possible to future generations of researchers. PNNA is singular among unique sites that megamiddens are known to be. The protection, conservation and study of PNNA shell mound will ensure that this distinctive type of site and the exceptional history it reflects does not disappear without fulfilling its role in South African society as delivered by researchers.

## **Sheet C: Motivation for declaration as a Provincial Heritage Site, including potential threats and vulnerabilities**

Over the last 15 years, the once small fishermen village of Paternoster is rapidly becoming an upmarket holiday resort and resembling in urban density those already established further south along the Atlantic coastline and Overberg area. With this increasing pressure posed on the acquisition and development of land in Paternoster, cultural heritage resources have experienced an equally increasing threat. Not only fishermen's cottages older than 60 years have been destroyed without much consideration of current heritage legislation (National Heritage Resources Act, No 25, 1999), and others remaining under threat, but many pre-colonial archaeological sites have also been impacted by this development.

According to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) information at hand for the last 12 years, from a total of 10 Phase I Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) undertaken in the Paternoster area, only 3 have resulted in Phase II AIA in the form of mitigation and archaeological excavation. Although not all land studied by AIAs has been developed, the small number of Phase II AIAs contrasts markedly with the large extension of the built area including new roads and buildings. Eyewitness accounts from Paternoster area also inform (Prof. A. Smith, UCT) on the irreparable damage and loss of unique archaeological heritage due to ignorance, unwillingness to comply with current legislation or simply contempt for indigenous cultural legacy.

Portion 37 of farm Uitkomst 23 is currently in the plans for development for high-income housing. A Phase I AIA was undertaken in June 2003 at the cost of the developer (Mr. Deon Brand) and several archaeological occurrences were identified. PNNA shell mound is one of them. Because of the development intended in this property, PNNA shell mound is vulnerable and, thus, under threat.

Mr. D. Brand, the contracted town planner and legal advisers have known of HWC intention to nominate this site for Provincial Heritage Status. Neither Mr. D. Brand nor his contacted service providers have ever shown any explicit or implicit opposition to this idea. Mr. D. Brand and them have cooperated at all stages of assessments and decision making on the part of HWC, and have been formally informed of the actual nomination of PNNA shell mound in the next HWC Council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2004 (see attached email letter). Although Mr. D. Brand has responded cautiously to this letter, it appears that he would be willing to come to a mutual agreement.

Consequently, given that:

- a) irreparable loss of archaeological sites has already been experienced in the Paternoster area due to development,
- b) the unique character of many of them (lost and still existing ones),
- c) the singularity of PNNA shell mound among sites along the Western Cape coast,
- d) and the relatively good cooperation shown by the developer,

the need for nominating and declaring PNNA shell mound as a Provincial Heritage Site is urgent and the chances of success are realistically high.

## **Sheet D: Physical description of the heritage resource**

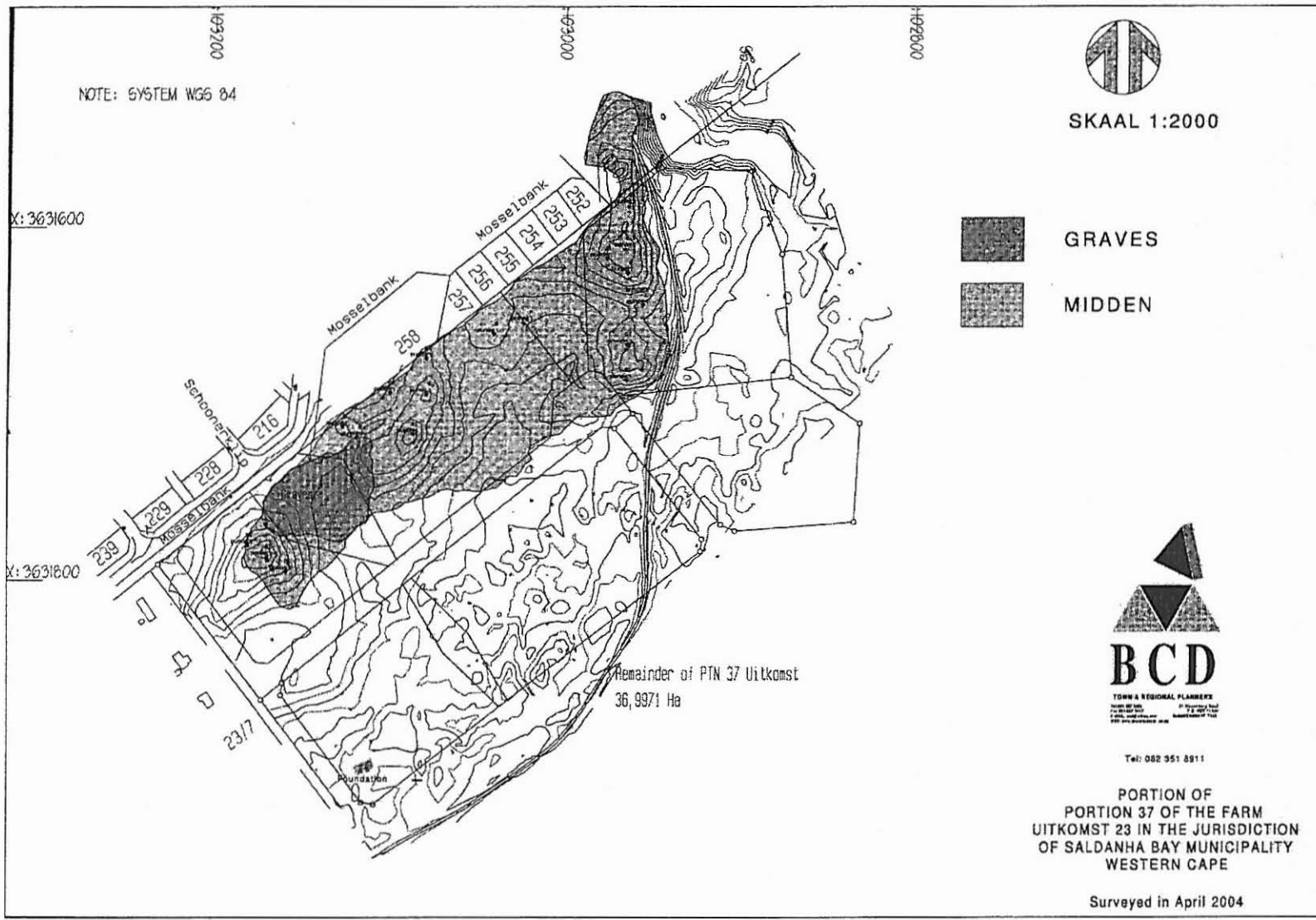
Portion 37 of farm Uitkomst 23 of Paternoster consist of a well-vegetated, undulating dune littoral sands set back a few hundred meters from the shoreline. A sandy beach forms the majority of the adjacent shoreline but a prominent rocky point lies at the northern end (Eerste Mosselbank). Dune topography is most marked along the northwestern boundary of the area where residential properties and a tarred road separate Portion 37 from the modern beach. Undeveloped or former agricultural lands border the property in other directions. A sand track runs diagonally through this property, and an informal cemetery is located within the southwestern corner of this land (see attached map and photographs).

The actual boundaries of PNNA shell mound will be defined at a joint meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2004, where Mr. D. Brand, Mr. D. Van Zyl (town planner), Mr. J. Kaplan (contracted archaeologist), APM Committee members and myself will meet. The decision taken regarding the boundaries of PNNA shell mound should be to the satisfaction of HWC. Nevertheless, approximate dimensions can be provided at this stage: 50 m long and 38 m wide.

**Map Reference: 1: 50 000, 3217 DB&DD, Vredenburg**



**Locality Plan of PNNA shell mound**



Site Plan of PNA shell mound

Provincial Heritage Site Nomination of unique shell mound in Paternoster, Vredenburg Magisterial District: pictures



**Plate 1: view of site facing East-South East, 20 August 2004.**



**Plate 2: view of site facing East-South East, 20 August 2004.**



**Plate 3: view of site facing East, 20 August 2004.**