

# Recommendation regarding an Archaeological Impact Assessment

Proposed Desalination Plant, Erven 4117 and 705, Plettenberg Bay,  
Bitou, Eden, Western Cape Province

prepared for

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by



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## **Introduction**

With respect to the above-named activity, Heritage Western Cape issued a RoD requiring a desktop Paleontological Impact Assessment and an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for Erf 705 (unique RoD ID 905 and unique Case ID 1036). The former is handled by Mr John Pether while the present document deals with the archaeological component.

Mr. Patrick Killick of Aurecon (see contact details on title page), acting on behalf of the applicant, approached me on the above subject. According to Mr. Killick, "It is highly unlikely that this site (Erf 705) will be approved over the preferred site (Erf 4117) and we are therefore reluctant to undertake the study. Please could you consider the site Erf 705 and advise us on the potential significance of archaeological materials that may be found there" (Killick pers. Comm.).

Mr. Killick supplied locality information as well as a photographic record of the site. Erf 705 is situated immediately NW of the SW bank of the Keurbooms River mouth (Figures 1 and 2). The property is covered in grass and disturbances to its sediments include roads, a pump station and associated pipelines (Plate 1). As evidenced by photographs in Plate 1, archaeological visibility is near zero. Vegetation cover on Erf 705 and the area between the road and river to the SE is also shown in Figure 2.

## **Recommendations**

Due to thick grass cover across the property, it is certain that an AIA will conclude that archaeological visibility is inadequate for an assessment, and that archaeological monitoring should be conducted during vegetation clearing and earthmoving activities.

Since it is improbable that Erf 705 will be used for the desalination plant, and because archaeological visibility is severely restricted, it is recommended that an AIA is not required for this property. Nevertheless, should the site be authorised for the proposed activity, it is then recommended that archaeological monitoring be conducted by a professional archaeologist during the vegetation clearing and earthmoving phase of construction. To ensure that this requirement is met, it is recommended that HWC issue a written comment to Aurecon requesting that such requirement be stipulated in the Environmental Management Plan and the DEA&DP's RoD.

## **Figures and Plates** (on following pages)

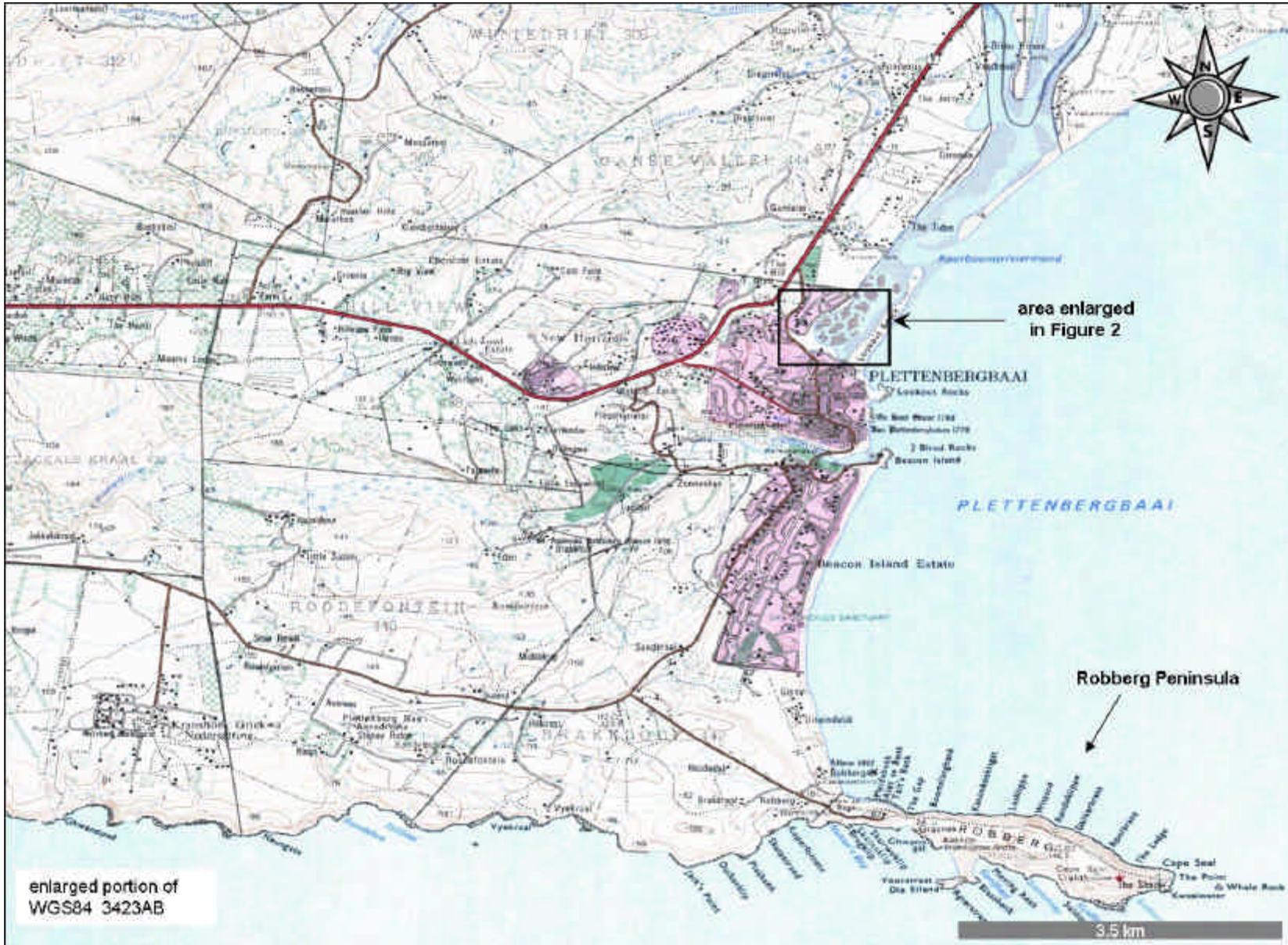


Figure 1. General location of Erf 705 in relation to Plettenberg Bay and the Keurbooms River, South Cape Coast, Western Cape.



Figure 2. Enlarged area as indicated in Figure 1 showing the location of Erf 705, its proximity to the high water mark, disturbances and vegetation cover (courtesy Google™).



Plate 1. Panoramic views of Erf 705 showing disturbances and vegetation cover. Compass bearing names indicate bearing point in view. (photos courtesy Patrick Killick – Aurecon)