

**HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE**  
Provincial Heritage Authority of the Western Cape  
Private Bag X9067, Cape Town, 8001  
Tel: 021 483 9672 Fax: 021 483 9842

**ORIGINAL**

**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:** Mike Taylor's Midden.....

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

There are only a handful of shell middens along the West Coast of South Africa that are as large and deep as Mike Taylor's Midden (MTM). These very large sites, named "megamiddens", are the expression of unique social and economic (subsistence) solutions to environmental and demographic challenges that pre-colonial San hunter-gatherers had to face between 3000 and 2000 years before present (BP). MTM megamidden is at least 350 m long and 200 m wide and has a depth that varies between 1.0 and 1.5 m. MTM dates to between 980 and 2800 BP, however, much of this occupational sequence dates to between 2100 and 2500 BP. For this reason, MTM is singular among megamiddens in that it offers the best chronological resolution (greatest volume for shortest period of time) for the later part of this unique period of the pre-colonial history of South Africa. A road running through it and camping activities are currently impacting MTM. Moreover, development is intended immediately south of MTM, therefore making it vulnerable and threatened by it.

**Proposed By:** Dr. Antonieta Jerardino ... **Date Proposed:** 03 August 2005

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

**Name of Property:** Mosselbaai Natuureservat Cc

**Street Number and Street:** Not applicable

**Suburb:** Not applicable

**Town:** Elands Bay (nearest)..... **District:** Piketberg Magisterial District

**Cadastral Information**

**Erf/ Farm Number:** Portion of Verlorenvlei Farm 8, Elandsbaai

**Registration Division:** Title Deed T71717/1992

**Longitude:** 18°19 15 E

**Latitude:** 32°20 45 S

**Map Reference:** 1: 50 000, 3218AD, Elandsbaai... **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: .....  
*(If state-owned; responsible department and official position of contact)*

Postal Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Fax: ..... Cell: .....

E-Mail: ..... Web Page: .....

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

- \* 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 attachments (Figures 1-3)
- \* Photographs and plans; see attachments (Figure 4)
- \*\* 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; Sheet D
- \*\* Bibliography of documentation relating to the heritage resource; see attachments
- \*\* 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).*

## 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  
nation, 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 nation, Province, region or community.
- iv. Importance as an example for technical, creative, design or artistic  
excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period

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**Provincial, high**  
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**Provincial, high**  
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**Provincial, high**  
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**No**  
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#### 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  
organisations whose life, works or activities have been significant  
within the history of the nation, Province, region or community.

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**No**  
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#### c. It has significance relating to the history of slavery

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

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**No**  
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### 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.

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**No**  
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**No**  
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**No**  
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**Not applicable**  
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### 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,

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

- ii. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of the universe or of the development of the earth.
- 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.
- iv. Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the nation, Province, region or locality. ✓

**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.

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

**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.
- 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 nation, Province, region or locality. ✓

**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.
- 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.

Signature:.....

Date:.....

**Provincial, high**

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**No**

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**Provincial, medium**

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**Provincial, medium**

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**No**

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

MTM is probably the second largest among the 13 megamiddens known to exist or have existed along the West Coast of South Africa (Figures 1 & 2). It is also by far the one megamidden that has received greatest attention from researchers. Several small-scale excavations have been undertaken at 8 megamiddens, with more extensive sampling undertaken at MTM. Excavations at MTM have helped considerably to characterize these types of sites, to establish their variability across time and space, and to investigate their possible site function. Nevertheless, despite this research effort dedicated to MTM, published observations on this site are still of preliminary character as stated by their authors (Jerardino & Yates 1997).

These concentrated research efforts have shown that much of MTM occupational sequence dates to between 2100 and 2500 BP. For this reason, MTM is singular among megamiddens in that it offers the best chronological resolution (greatest volume for shortest period of time) for the later part of this unique period of the pre-colonial history of South Africa.

MTM is also one of two megamiddens capped with deposits dating to within the last 2000 years (so-called "pottery period") and one of a few sites in the Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay areas that have deposit dating to the earlier part of this period (c. 1800). In fact, MTM is unique in being the only open site with early pottery period occupation and the one site with potentially the most extensive archaeological occupations in the Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay areas dating to this period. The few others sites in the Lamberts Bay and Elands Bay area with deposits dating to the early pottery period are caves and rock shelters.

The introduction of pottery and domestic stock (fat-tailed sheep) around 2000 years ago was one of the most eventful cultural transitions experienced by indigenous San groups in southern Africa. Much of the research on the last 2000 years of pre-colonial history in the Western Cape has focused on finding possible differences in site-use, technology and subsistence between local San hunter-gatherer groups and stock-keeping groups within the last 1500 years. The issue of origins and mechanisms of dispersal of ceramic technology and domestic stock into southern Africa, and the Western Cape in particular, has largely been dealt with theoretical models based on linguistic research, recent ethnography, and limited archaeological evidence. Surprisingly, no systematic research by way of archaeological excavation targeting early-pottery (2000 – 1500 years BP) period deposits in the Western Cape has been undertaken. This is an important project that awaits execution, and MTM is among one of the best candidates for such endeavour.

In sum, MTM stands out as one of the largest and, to some extent, best-studied megamiddens along the West Coast. It offers, like no other site of its type, the best chronological resolution for the second half of the megamidden period, during which coastal San hunter-gatherers showed unique social and subsistence adaptations. MTM is also the only open site, and potentially the largest known site, along the West Coast of South Africa to hold deposits dating to the early-pottery period.

**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 MTM, reflect a unique settlement and subsistence pattern characteristic of indigenous populations living along the West Coast between 3000 and 2000 before present (BP). Research in the Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay areas has shown that 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 (tortoises, steenbok, grysbok and hares). These dietary preferences contrast also with those reconstructed from before and after the "megamidden period" (3000 – 2000 years BP) (Jerardino 1996). Research at this site has shown that there is considerable variability across space (from one sampling point to another) and time (from top to bottom of stratigraphic sequence) at MTM (Jerardino & Yates 1997). Before these changes could be meaningfully interpreted, further study at this site is essential for the proper understanding of this and other megamiddens at a minimum level at least. Given also that much of MTM dates to the second half of this period, conservation and study of MTM will allow a better insight to the social, economic, and environmental factors that brought the megamidden period to an end. Was the end of this period related to the appearance of a new mode of production and social relations, such as those that are characteristic to pastoralism, and which seem to have made an appearance in the West Coast about 2000 years BP? Did the megamidden period come to an end as a progressive development over a few centuries triggered by factors internal to the society that lived it? Few sites can offer any such insight, and MTM is one of the best candidates to do so.
- 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 (Jerardino 1996). This subsistence economy found a later expression in 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 much of South Africa. 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 end of the megamidden period and the origins and spread of domestic stock along the West Coast.

- 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.

The reconstruction of Holocene (last 10 000 years) past environments can be done with relatively good success through various scientific techniques and analyses, such as: the quantification of sediments (type and relative amount) and their characteristics (size, shape of grains and chemical traces), the establishment of pollen spectra, the identification of botanical species from microscopic analysis of charcoal remains from human and natural origin, and isotopic analyses on charcoal remains, marine shell and animal bones among others. All of these scientific analyses can contribute significantly to the understanding of the evolution of the natural environment over a relatively short period of time (e.g., 1000 years) of the West Coast when applied to material from MTM and other megamiddens. These palaeoenvironmental reconstructions are of great importance in order to know whether or not the environment limited the freedom of choice of pre-colonial San groups in any way when formulating their subsistence and settlement strategies. To understand the interplay between environmental imperatives and the drive of social forces internal to a society is key to current debate on the causal links of human cultural evolution.

Detail palaeoenvironmental reconstructions are also of great value to climatologists today in their effort to generate models for the prediction of future climatological/ weather trends. Earlier pilot and pioneering studies of sediments (granulometry) and charcoal remains (botanical species identification and isotopic analyses) from MTM (Buchanan 1988; February 1992) as well as isotopic analysis of marine shell from other nearby sites (Cohen et al. 1992) show convincingly the great value of this site as a unique archive of past environments (marine and terrestrial).

An additional scientific value of MTM resides in its potential to elucidate the way pre-colonial people related to their marine environment and whether they were able to impact on it given the extractive capacity that was used to fulfil their subsistence needs. Large volumes of black mussels and other shellfish were removed from the rocks of Mussel Point, processed and consumed, and their many thousands of shells discarded behind this reef where the site now stands. This happened at a time when population densities of indigenous hunter-gatherers had reached a maximum in the Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay areas. Since so much shellfish was exploited over 400 years, the question that begs to be asked is whether or not pre-colonial people were able to impact on shellfish colonies growing under environmental conditions dominant at that time. Non-industrial exploitation of shellfish and other marine life can bring significant impacts on shellfish species as shown from studies in South Africa and elsewhere in the world (Durán et al. 1987; Jerardino et al. 1992; Jeremy et al. 2001; Rice et al. 1989; Siegfried & Hockey 1985; Spennemann 1986; Swadling 1976). Some evidence for such behaviour has been proposed for South Africa's past (Klein et al. 2004), although much work still remains to be done to support this case. The main evidence used in ecological and archaeological studies to ascertain human impact on shellfish colonies consists of changing mean sizes of shellfish, with shrinking sizes indicating human impact on these species. The systematic study of metrical data from black mussel shells along with that of palaeoenvironmental indicators obtained from MTM has the potential to offer one of the most thorough tests ever done for such human behaviour in the pre-colonial history of South Africa.

4) Social Value:

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

Archaeological sites, such as MTM, are the tangible expressions of past human activities. Knowing about them and understanding the human history they encapsulate is of fundamental importance, not just to scholars, but also to people in their search for new or expanded cultural identities and social roots. As such, it "*lies at the heart of our spiritual well-being and has the power to build our nation!*" (Preamble: NHRA, No. 25, 1999). As a physical place, it offers a space and ecological context close to the original one, allowing visitors to connect with a time when other groups of people with a very different culture to ours lived there. Such recognition helps to acknowledge, accept and affirm cultural diversity, contributing in this way to reconcile our turbulent past since the XV Century and shape a new national character and identity.

MTM is the expression of a unique period of pre-colonial history in the Western Cape and, possibly, in South Africa as a whole. The site itself and the history it narrates have the potential to become also an appropriate resource for the education of our society. Of relevance here is to examine some of the most common and widespread perceptions of San societies who lived in the past. Probably, the most widespread notion of the San is that these were "simple people who were organized in small groups, foraged and hunted as the need to do so came about, practiced some rituals, sometimes painted the walls of caves and shelters they visited, and all of this they did so for many millennia and without changing much". Underpinning this perception is their assumed primitiveness, lack of cultural sophistication, precariousness and inability to evolve as if frozen in time. Other perceptions indulge in racist arguments, condemning San people to a low place in the human evolutionary scale. Just as much as rock art research has shown that San paintings reflect a rich and complex world imbued with deep symbolic meaning, archaeological studies are able to show that San societies were dynamic and inventive entities in the way they dealt with the challenges posed by the natural environment and threats to their social well being. The interpretation and promotion of archaeological sites like MTM can show that the pre-colonial past is not a homogenous, simple and almost inconsequential sequence of human history. Instead, it can offer an opportunity to South Africans and overseas visitors to recognize the complexity behind this history and to marvel at the great creative capacity of the human spirit as shown by the adaptive ability of San people.

5) Rarity:

- iii. 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 nation, Province, region or locality.

As one of a few surviving megamiddens along the West Coast, MTM shows that a distinctive way of life and land-use was common during a particular period of time during our pre-colonial past [see **Sheet A** and points **1)** and **3)**]. As such, MTM importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life is high.

For those who might think that the number of surviving megamiddens is beyond the strictly necessary because these sites reflect more or less the same history and because not much will be gained by excavating more from them, it is important to note an important factor in the advancement of archaeological research. 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 archaeologists. The later, particularly, do improve with the development of new scientific techniques and the proposition of new theoretical models within the social sciences. What scholars are unable to know at present might well be accessible to future generations of researchers. Consequently, even if current research might not

be able to expand significantly on already known aspects of MTM history, protection of this site is still imperative because future research is likely to do so. The history of archaeological research in many parts of the world is full of examples where little or nothing is left from important archaeological sites that would yield more information given present research methods and interpretative frameworks.

MTM is also one of the few sites along the West Coast of South Africa that retains faunal and material remains of visits that underwent soon after the introduction of domestic life stock into southern Africa. Given indirect evidence from the species composition of marine shell frequencies as recorded from several test pits (Jerardino & Yates 1997), MTM could potentially hold some of the largest deposits dating to this early period. The protection, conservation and study of MTM 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 a source for scientific research and promotion of our cultural heritage.

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

The development of new coastal holiday resorts and expansion of earlier existing coastal villages, as well as the building or upgrade of access roads along the West Coast has accelerated over the last ten years. This growth and expansion has been happening in a northerly direction as localities nearer Cape Town become saturated with housing development, prime views are difficult to access and/or land becomes more expensive. The main locations for these new developments are usually at or near rocky points and mouths of rivers and/or coastal lagoons, because of their obvious aesthetic value. This choice of place conforms to a fairly predictive pattern. The Vredenburg Peninsula has been the main target of developers focusing along the West Coast within the last 10 years because this region offers these characteristics and also basic infrastructure from where to expand services (water, electricity, sewage, etc). Its proximity to Cape Town and international airport is also seen as a marketing advantage. Although this development has meant new and great gains for many, unfortunately, it has also meant great loss of heritage for the people of this province and nation.

The land north of the Vredenburg Peninsula is currently much less developed and coastal views are characterized by kilometre-long stretches of largely pristine sandy beaches punctuated by rocky reefs. This shoreline is also dominated by strong winds and frequent rough sea conditions. With few exceptions, fresh water resources are markedly less abundant than in the Vredenburg Peninsula as a result of the dramatic drop in the mean annual precipitation north of the Berg River mouth. The aesthetic qualities of this coastline, however, are some of the best this province has to offer. Services and infrastructure are not as widespread along this coastline and travel distance to Cape Town is much greater as from the Vredenburg Peninsula. Nevertheless, these less advantageous circumstances have not deterred developers in their relentless search for new profitable business ventures. Some recent nodes of relatively moderate, but fast, development have taken place in several localities north of the Berg River mouth. From south to north, these are: Elands Bay, Lamberts Bay, Dooringbaai and Strandfontein. The general geographic distribution of known and surviving megamiddens neatly overlaps with this stretch of coastline (Figure 2). Before long, new areas for development will be sought, and the formula for best location choice will be applied once again, posing concrete threats to megamiddens as these are always situated behind prominent rocky reefs and often near fresh water features. The earlier interest expressed in 1998 by the owners of Mosselbaai Privaat Natuurreservaat Cc to erect holiday houses where MTM is located reflects this predicted trend. Thanks to the effective attention and action of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) between 1998 and 2001, the proposed development was diverted away and to the south from MTM location.

Plans for housing development in Portion of Verlorenvlei Farm 8, Elandsbaai, are dormant at the moment, partly because of long delays experienced by the owners in complying with the requirements set by various authorities (e.g., the official form for re-zoning applications changed while owners were attending to the matter). Also, the original list of landowners changed as a result of property rights being sold. However, a new application will be submitted soon as expressed by one of the owners, namely Mr. Nelis Visagie (telephonic conversation held on 06 June 2005, 12:40hr).

The timing for the nomination and eventual declaration of MTM as a Provincial Heritage Site is right. Mr. Visagie has been aware of the heritage significance of MTM at least since 1998, when an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) was conducted by Dr. Peter Nilssen (1998) in that property. Because of it and the conservation interests underlined by the Private Nature Reserve status of this property, Mr. Visagie did express his support for the declaration of MTM as an official Heritage Site in the past and has done so now again.

Consequently, given:

- a) the overall high historical, scientific and social value of MTM,
- b) the singularity of MTM among the few surviving megamiddens along the West Coast,
- c) the accelerated pace of development along the West Coast north of the Berg River at types of locations where megamiddens are usually situated,
- d) and the good disposition shown by the owners,

the need for nominating and declaring Mike Taylor's Midden as a Provincial Heritage Site is urgent and the chances of success are realistically high.

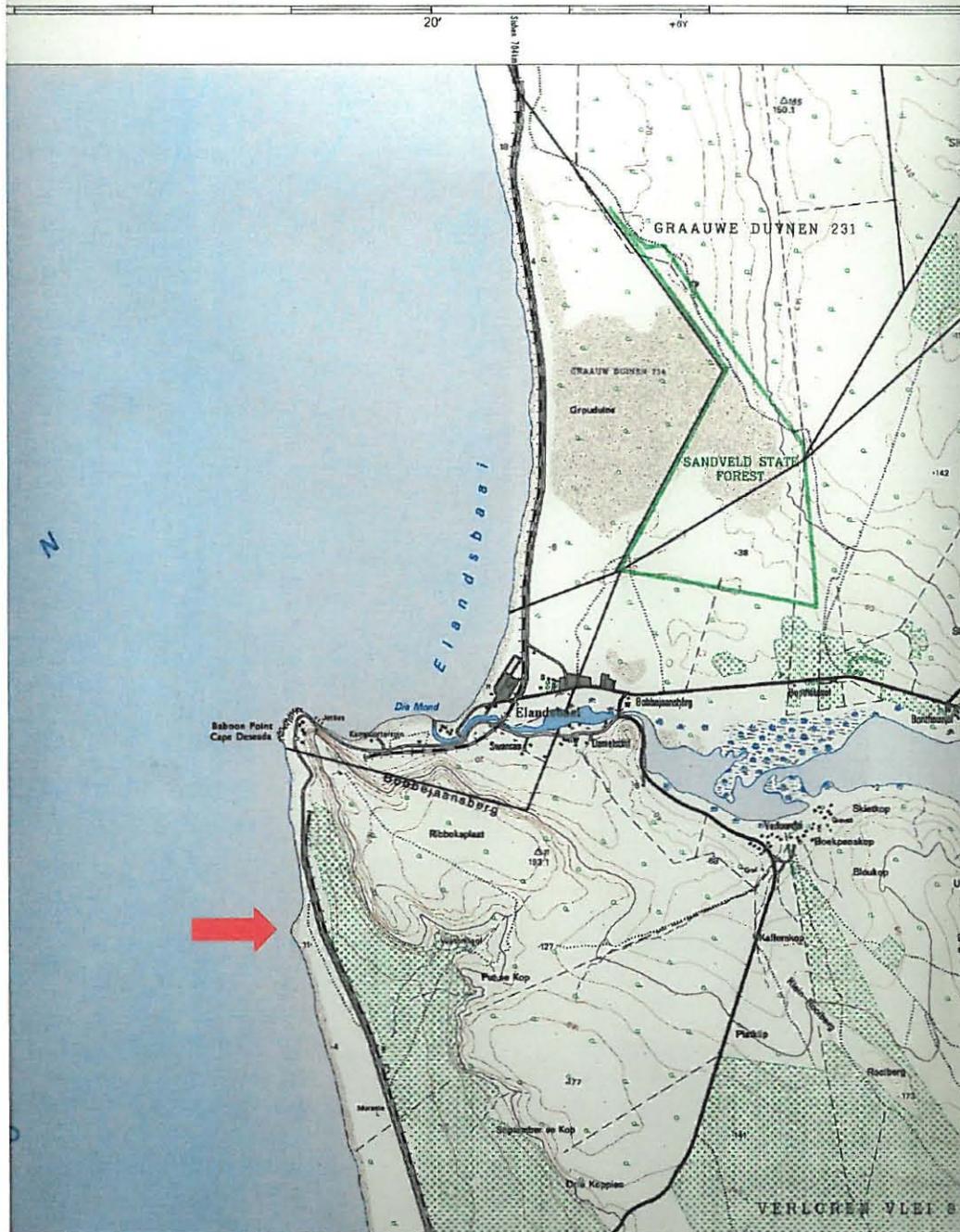
## **Sheet D: Physical description of the heritage resource**

Portion of Verlorenvlei Farm 8 consist of densely-vegetated sand dunes of low to medium height (8 – 12 meters) located immediately behind the shoreline which is characterized by a headland (Mussel Point) surrounded by long sandy beaches (Figures 1 & 3). Dune topography is most marked along the coastal front behind Mussel Point where access to this reef involves a relatively steep slope. Undeveloped or agricultural lands border the property in other directions. Several road tracks and walking paths run through this property and archaeological site. As established by Nilssen (1998: figures 1 & 2), other heritage resources are located in this property besides MTM. These include a gypsum quarry, the ruins of an old farmhouse, small outbuilding and windmill, as well as several medium and low-density shell scatter with variable frequencies of artefacts. The public has access to this property, but only by foot from the north (built-in gap in fence). Driving of vehicles into this property through a gate on the northern boundary was common in the past, but this involved driving over MTM. Access with 4x4 vehicles is now restricted to the ten owners and through a recently built dirt road located on the south-eastern end of this property. The boundaries of MTM are reasonably well known as revealed through past research and AIA work (Buchanan 1988, Jerardino & Yates 1997, Nilssen 1998). The shape of MTM surface deposits resembles a crescent with a north-easterly extension, covering an area of at least 60 000 m<sup>2</sup>. An official surveyor will establish the exact boundaries of MTM plus a buffer zone for the purpose of declaring it a Provincial Heritage Site.

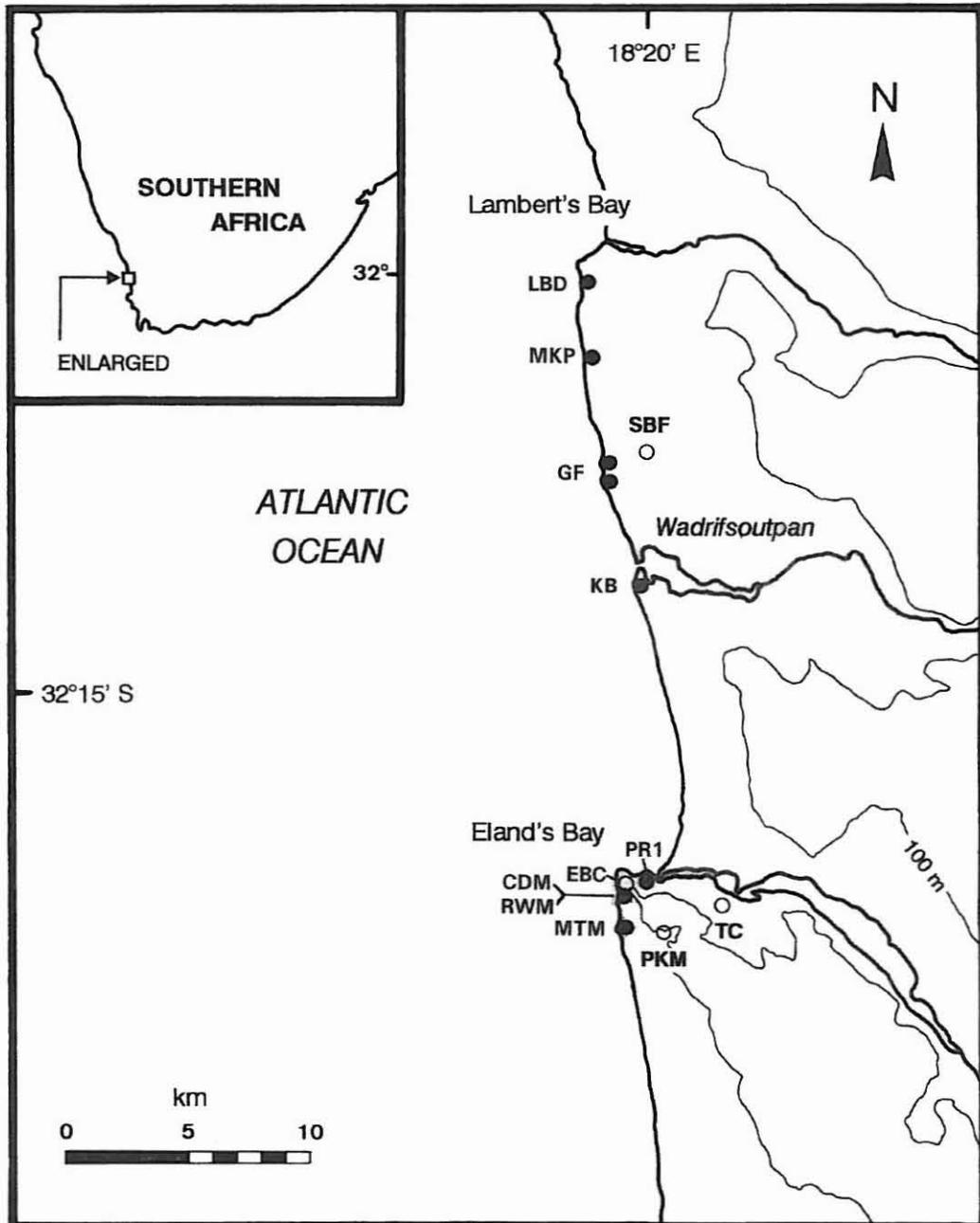
## **Sheet D: List of repositories where these archaeological samples are housed**

Archaeological material recovered from MTM is presently housed at only one such repository, namely the stores of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.

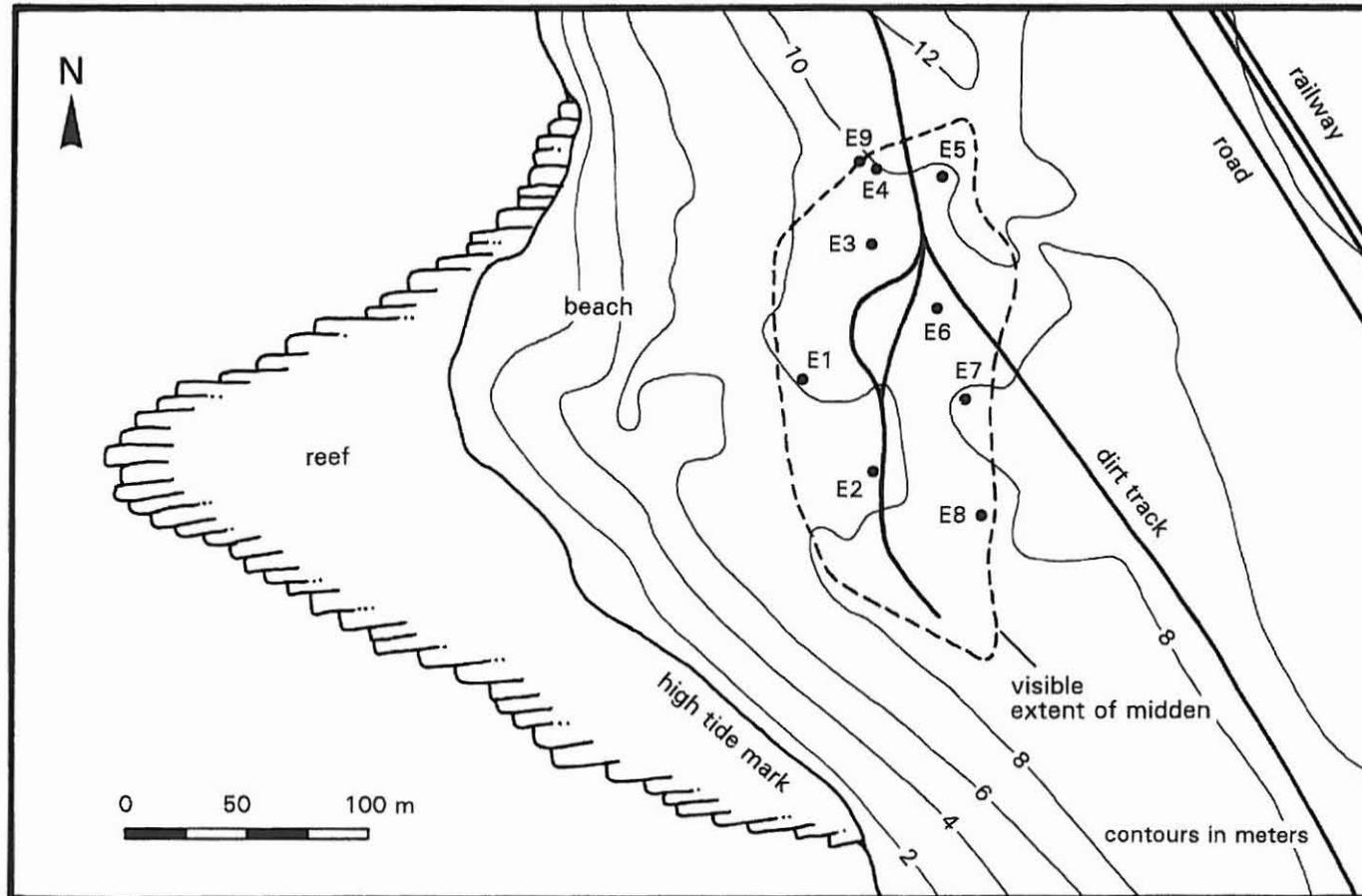
# 3218AD ELANDSBAAI



**Figure 1:** Geographic location of Mike Taylor's Midden (MTM) in 1:50 000 map.



**Figure 2:** location of some of the known archaeological sites in the Elands Bay and Lamberts Bay areas, including megamiddens. MTM: Mike Taylor's Midden, PKM: Pancho's Kitchen Midden, CDM: Cape Deseada Midden, RWM: Rail Way Midden, TC: Tortoise Cave, EBC: Elands Bay Cave, PR1: Public Resort 1, KB: Kreefbaai sites, GF: Grootrif sites, SBF: Steenbokfontein Cave, MKP: Malkoppan, LBD: Lamberts Bay Dump. Full circles show sites with megamiddens, empty circles show caves and shelters.



**Figure 3:** Mike Taylor's Midden site plan showing position of excavated archaeological test pits. Dashed line indicates site boundaries as known in 1997, although later work done by Nilssen (1998) showed that these extend beyond this mark.



a) North entrance



b) View of reefs opposite MTM



c) View of reefs and position of MTM (arrow)



d) MTM central mound, view south-west



e) MTM central mound, view to south



f) Close to north edge of site: view to south-east

Figure 4: Visual description of the physical environment of Mike Taylor's Midden, pictures taken 22 June 2005.

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