

# HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE

Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape

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## Provincial Heritage Site Nomination Form

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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.

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**Proposed Provincial Heritage Site:** Baboon Point, Elands Bay

**Brief Statement of Significance:** *(A full statement of significance is presented below)*

- Baboon Point is significant because it comprises a complex and unique combination of natural and cultural features. No other known area along the entire coastline of the West Coast concentrates a diversity of heritage resources of such high significance.
- It is a prominent and distinctive landscape feature of outstanding beauty that strikes the sea traveller and those approaching it by land in equal measure. From its accessible cliff face, it has commanding views of the land to the north, south and east. The landscape includes an important set of well-preserved archaeological and historical sites that have retained their context in a number of places and demonstrate a long-standing relationship between people and the sea.
- The views across both land and sea were a key attraction that kept people returning to Baboon Point over many thousands of years, as they monitored the movements of animals, the availability of plant and marine foods, the presence of other people and the effects of short- and long-term climatic changes. This relationship with the land was strengthened by the availability of fresh water in Verlorenvlei, abundant shellfish, seals, fish and crayfish, and the protection offered by Elands Bay Cave and other rock shelters.
- The aesthetic value of Baboon Point ranks high because of its landmark qualities in defining important elements of the character of the West Coast landscape and the sense of place of the town of Elands Bay. The promontory is the only place between the Cape Peninsula and Orange River where the mountain comes down to the sea in such a defined manner.
- The natural and cultural landscape features comprise a layered group of archaeological and historical sites interlocked with the landscape in their original setting, that together record the long history of pre-colonial and 20th century human settlement, and that stretches back for hundreds of thousands of years. No other known area along the entire coastline of the West Coast concentrates a diversity of heritage resources of such high significance as Baboon Point (Fig. 1).
  - Elands Bay Cave and the associated shell middens and archaeological and palaeontological sites nearby give more detailed evidence of the cultural history of San hunter-gatherers and Khoekhoe herders and their ancestors, of their reliance on marine and estuarine resources, and of past environments and flora and fauna, over the past 120 000 years than any other place on the west coast of Africa. It is the only site on the entire African continent where rock paintings can be found so close to the coast.

- The historical significance of Baboon Point in colonial times is further enhanced by several World War II radar station buildings. These structures are testimony to the way in which the landmark qualities of Baboon Point and its commanding view of the sea led to its selection for a radar station and to South Africa's role in an historic event of global significance.
- Some of these buildings also have a particular association with the marine environment and important social developments in South Africa as a result of the institutionalised Apartheid system, because they were used to house migrant labourers serving the local fishing industry.

### **Brief Statement of Vulnerability**

Baboon Point is vulnerable to any development that would alter the context of the archaeological and historical sites and their setting in the landscape. Much of the West Coast to the north is in the hands of large diamond and sand mining companies and is not accessible to the public, while coastal properties to the south of the Berg River mouth are being developed for medium- to high-density housing.

Baboon Point is therefore one of the last unspoilt landscapes along the West Coast that retains scenic and heritage qualities of significance. These qualities were recognised nearly ten years ago when the recommendations of the Verlorenvlei Local Structure Plan were approved in 1998 by the Cape Provincial Administration under Section 4 (6) of the Land Use Planning Ordinance even though two of the erven in question are zoned for industrial and residential uses (the other erven affected are undetermined). This structure plan identifies the area south of Baboon Point as a "no development area".

In the late 1990s, the former National Monuments Council identified the archaeological sites in the vicinity as highly significant and proposed Elands Bay Cave as a national monument. Unfortunately, the proposal could not be endorsed by the national Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology before the National Heritage Resources Act came into effect in 2000. The change in legislation put the onus on provincial heritage resources authorities to follow up on identified sites of significance and this proposal follows from the earlier one. Damage to rock art at Elands Bay Cave and to WW II radar station historical buildings caused by graffiti, loitering and lack of maintenance has continued unabated and there is an urgent need to control visitor access as part of a larger conservation management plan that would formally protect Baboon Point and its irreplaceable assets from inappropriate development and vandalism.

**Proposed By:** Dr. Antonieta Jerardino, Ms Sarah Winter & Dr. Antonia Malan  
**Date Proposed:** 07 October 2006 at a meeting of the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Committee of Heritage Western Cape, and at a meeting of the BELCOM Committee on 7 December 2006)  
**Contact Details:** HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE, PRIVATE BAG X9067, Cape Town 8000.

**Name of Property:** Baboon Point (Erven 64, 65, 66 & 67, and part of Verlorenvlei No. 8, Elands Bay)

**Street Number and Street:** N/A

**Suburb:** N/A

**Town:** Elands Bay **District:** Piketberg

**Cadastral Information**

**Erf/ Farm Number:** As surveyed to include Erven 64, 65, part of 66, 67, portion 4 of Verlorenvlei No. 8, and part of the adjoining erf to the south-west of erf 66, Elands Bay.

**Current zoning:** Erf 65 – industrial; Erf 64 – Residential Zone V; Erven 66 & 67 undetermined

**Registration Division:** Piketberg

**Longitude:** .....N/A ..... **Latitude:** .....N/A.....

**Map Reference:** 3218AD Elandsbaai..... **Recording Method:** .....N/A.....

**Type of Resource**

- Place
- Structure
- Archaeological Site
- Palaeontological Site
- Geological Feature
- Grave

**Do moveable objects relating to the site form part of the Nomination?**

**Serial nomination (Is more than one site being nominated as part of a 'Joint Nomination')**

*(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).*

<b>Sphere of Significance</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Med</b>	<b>Low</b>
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?** See page 6

**Owner Erven 65 & 66:** Midnight Storm Investments 170 (Pty) Ltd

**Postal Address:** Private Bag 2757, Pretoria 0001

**Telephone:** ..... **Fax:** ..... **Cell:** 082 498 4462

**E-Mail:** stoneattorneys@yebo.co.za **Web Page:** N/A

**Contact Person:** *(If different from above. Please supply contact details);* Mr. Viljoen Stone (Stone Attorneys) and Dr A.F. Lambrechts, for BKS,

**Owner Erven 64 & 67:** Department of Public Works, Republic of South Africa

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

**Postal Address:** Private Bag X65, Pretoria 0001/ Private Bag X9155, Cape Town 8000

Telephone: ..... Fax: (012) 325 6380/ (021) 483 5353... Cell: .....

E-Mail: [Dfourie@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:Dfourie@pgwc.gov.za) Web Page: <http://www.publicworks.gov.za>

Contact Person: (If different from above. Please supply contact details); Mr. Shawn Phillips (Acting Director General: Pretoria)/ Mr. Deon Fourie (Property Manager: Western Cape)

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*(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

Provincial, high

Provincial, high

Provincial, high

#### 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.

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

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

### 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.

Provincial, high

Provincial, high

### 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. ✓

National, high

- 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. ✓

Provincial, medium

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

Provincial and National, high

- 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. ✓

Provincial, medium

Provincial, medium-high

**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. ✓

Provincial, high

Provincial, high

**6. Representativity:**

**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. ✓

Provincial, high

Provincial, high

Signature:..... Date:.....

## **What other similar sites are there, and how do they compare?**

The rich overlay of precolonial archaeology, later colonial developments, and landscape qualities makes Baboon Point unique along the West Coast. As explained in greater detail in the Expanded Statement of Significance, the history of Baboon Point spans much of the period from the early beginnings of anatomically modern humans, the ancient ancestors of the pre-colonial San and Khoekhoe peoples of southern Africa. This process began during the Middle Stone Age before 120 000 years ago and continued during the cultural development of San Later Stone Age hunter-gatherer populations, whose rock paintings adorn Elands Bay Cave, and the emergence of the herder way of life introduced by Khoekhoe tribes over the last 2000 years, as evident from the deposits at Hail Storm Midden. While other sites in the Western Cape, such as the Robberg Peninsula near Plettenberg Bay, Blombos Cave near Stillbay, Boomplaas Cave in the Cango Valley and Die Kelders Cave near Hermanus, as well as Klasies River in the Eastern Cape, cover a similar time period, the sites around Baboon Point are the only ones on the West Coast that combine such a wide range of sites and undisturbed evidence for changes in the cultural and natural environment.

Collectively, the cluster of historical features associated with European colonists at Baboon Point is also unique along the West Coast. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, early European ships used Baboon Point as a landmark for navigation as indicated by the first name for Baboon Point, "Cape Deseada" (from Portuguese "*Desejada*" meaning wanted or desired) (see also Fig. 1). Although not immediately evident to the modern eye, the early colonial presence started in earnest with the modification of a relatively pristine landscape when land was granted for intense grazing and agriculture from the 18th century onwards (Deeds records, Cape Town Archives, see below Short history of the Place). Tracks and dirt roads became another mark on the landscape during these early historical times and are still evident today. They were followed much later by the erection of the World War II radar station and ancillary structures. These structures placed Baboon Point within an historical context of global significance.

The aesthetic landscape qualities of Baboon Point, along with its historical and cultural associations, compare in general terms with few other geographical features along the West Coast north of Cape Town. Cape Point (part of Table Mountain National Park) is a comparable landscape feature of historical value, and although more prominent and much better known than Baboon Point, it has a much lower concentration of heritage resources than its northern counterpart. Donkergat in the Churchhaven Peninsula (managed by the South African Navy) has some of the aesthetic qualities of Baboon Point, but its historical or cultural associations are unknown or unformulated.

Long-term archaeological research has contributed a substantial amount of information on the pre-colonial history of Baboon Point and has also targeted other areas of the Western Cape Province, such as the Vredenburg Peninsula, the Cederberg, Overberg, Still Bay, Mossel Bay, Cango Valley and Plettenberg Bay. Important insights into the long and rich history of early cultural developments and related environmental data have been derived from these other research initiatives, but the results in the Elands Bay area have been a major source of key information about the exploitation of marine resources that is not duplicated anywhere else on the African continent.

## Expanded statement of significance

### 1. **Historical Value:** It is important in the community, or pattern of history because of the following values listed in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act, and expanded in the criteria set out by Heritage Western Cape for provincial heritage sites.

- 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.

The known archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources located at Baboon Point are described in detail in **Appendix A** and their location is shown in Figure 2. This summary gives a broad chronological account of the evolution of the landscape in terms of settlement patterns and cultural diversity, effectively providing a chronicle of the history of the indigenous San and Khoekhoe people and their ancestors. People have been visiting Baboon Point and making use of its natural resources for several hundred thousand years. The evidence for their presence can be clearly seen in their stone and bone tools, their pottery, the remains of the marine and land animals they ate, the rock paintings they left on the walls of Elands Bay Cave and, finally, the structures they built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Investigation of the evidence, undertaken by Professor John Parkington and his students at the University of Cape Town since the late 1960s, is one of the best known inter-disciplinary projects in South Africa, and has become one of the hallmarks of research on African coastal adaptations (summarized in Parkington 2006). The results form part of a body of knowledge central to the understanding of precolonial history in southern Africa, as taught in universities and as illustrated by classic textbooks on southern African Archaeology (Deacon & Deacon 1999; Mitchell 2002).

i) The story of the evolution of the cultural landscape and changing settlement patterns in the Elands Bay area, and Baboon Point in particular, shows that shifts in environmental conditions affected subsistence strategies and dietary preferences, as well as fluctuations in population density and cultural contact. Initially, small groups of Earlier Stone Age people camped on the hillside more than 300 000 years ago and left a few stone tools behind. No bones or shells have been found with the tools, and it is not yet known whether these early humans were regularly eating fish or shellfish.

After the Last Interglacial about 120 000-100 000 years ago, when global temperatures were similar to those of the present, the Last Glacial period between about 100 000 and 10 000 years ago saw global temperatures drop by between 5 and 8 degrees C. The increase in permanent ice at the poles meant that at the Last Glacial Maximum 18 000 years ago, the sea level was as much as 130 m below the present level world-wide. Whereas Elands Bay cave is within sight of the sea today, 18 000 years ago the sea was more than 30 km away.

Some time after 150 000 years ago, Middle Stone Age people lived in Elands Bay Cave, but only their stone tools remain. There are also Middle Stone Age tools on the slope below Baboon Point that were found in the disturbed ground of a borrow pit (BPM-MSA) on erven 64 and 66. Open sites such as this one are rarely found, and the significance of BPM-MSA is further enhanced by finds of shells and fossilised bone associated with the Middle Stone Age tools. This suggests that at least part of this site was occupied during the Last Interglacial when the sea level was similar to the present, but the types of stone tools found indicate that other parts were occupied about 60 or 70 000 years ago when the sea level was lower than it is today. The evidence from Elands Bay Cave and the borrow pit midden together confirm that the settlement pattern of Middle Stone Age people included living in the open and in rock shelters.

ii) The richness and diversity of cultural features that record the human occupation and evolution of the West Coast is no-where better illustrated than in Later Stone Age sites occupied during the last 13 000 years at Elands Bay, with Baboon Point sites playing a significant role in this regard. As the ice caps began melting after 14 000 years ago, the sea level rose fairly rapidly. By 13 000 years ago, when the first Later Stone Age people lived in Elands Bay Cave, the sea level was 90 m below present and the coastline was 25 km away. Analysis of the bones in the cave show that all the animals eaten by the people living there were terrestrial and included extinct species such as the giant buffalo and the Cape horse. There were forests of trees along the Verlorenvlei River indicating that rain fell during all seasons of the year. By 11 000 years ago the coast was only 5 km from Baboon Point and the people living in the cave were catching estuarine fish in the vlei and bringing them back home to eat. They were also collecting large numbers of shellfish, crayfish, seals and tortoise, as well as hunting game animals. Strangely, between 8000 and 4000 years ago, when it was several degrees C warmer than at present and the sea level rose briefly above the present, no-one has yet found evidence that people lived in Elands Bay Cave or in the open along this stretch of coast. However, sites just south and north of Lamberts Bay were visited more regularly.

After 4000 years ago, people returned to Baboon Point and Elands Bay Cave to harvest shellfish and fish, hunt small buck and collect small game and plant foods, but a thousand years later they abandoned the cave again. Between 3000 and 2000 years ago, a series of large open sites packed with shell and small amounts of stone artefacts and animal bones, called megamiddens, where shellfish were consumed and possibly also dried for later use, were formed at Baboon Point near the rocky shore. One of these, Cape Deseada Midden (CDM), is present at Baboon Point on Erf 65 and portion 8 of Verlorenvlei 8. It is situated on an old beach formed when the sea level was about 2 m higher than at present during the Holocene period between about 6000 and 3500 years ago. The midden itself is therefore younger than 3000 years and the raised beach can be seen in other exposures on Erf 65 as well.

Rock paintings are difficult to date directly, but those at Baboon Point clearly relate to the beliefs and ritual practices of San hunter-gatherers. The large eland paintings on the walls of Elands Bay Cave probably gave the town its name. The hundreds of handprints are typical of the region where they often overlie older paintings, and the presence of several paintings that could be sheep suggest that some of the rock art here probably dates to between about 500 and 1500 years ago.

By 2000 years ago, when the sea level approximated that of today, there was a major social and economic change along the west coast when herders with domesticated sheep, and later cattle, moved into the region from further north. They were the ancestors of the Khoekhoe people who were met by European sailors along the coast after 1488 AD. Several Baboon Point sites, including Elands Bay Cave and the midden at Elands Bay Open (EBO), have clear evidence of the presence of herders in the form of sheep bones and pottery that date to more than a thousand years before Europeans came to these shores. There is also evidence from sites such as Hail Storm Midden (HSM) on Erf 66 that San hunter-gatherers continued to visit the coast to collect shellfish, crayfish, seals and other marine resources within the last 1000 years.

The most recent sites at Baboon Point that are of heritage significance date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They comprise both foundations and standing structures used for migrant labourers in the fishing industry, and a World War II radar station at Baboon Point (Fig 2: S6 & S7, Fig. 3, see **Appendix A**) that reminds us of South Africa's involvement in a historic event of global significance.

iii) The layers of history evident at Baboon Point record a number of important cultural events and developments that have contributed significantly to our knowledge of human occupation and evolution in the Western Cape Province. These include phases in the evolution of indigenous culture such as:

a) changes in stone artefact manufacture;

- b) the introduction of new technologies by incoming groups (e.g. ceramic pottery about 2000 years ago);
- c) shifts in the species of animals that were hunted or gathered for food;
- d) marked changes in the way that natural food resources were exploited (e.g., marine *versus* terrestrial) that can be closely related to fluctuations in environment and/or to population levels;
- e) the introduction of new economies (hunting and gathering *versus* domestic stock keeping) as a result of cultural contact and/or less-well understood processes of cultural diffusion;
- f) development of artistic expressions of cosmological and ritual meaning in the form of rock paintings and decorated artefacts; and
- g) industrial development in the form of buildings to house fishermen and the radar station that protected South Africa's shores.

## **2. Aesthetic Value: 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,

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.

Section 3(2)(d) of the NHRA includes landscapes and natural features of cultural significance as heritage resources of value to the present community and for the enjoyment of future generations. The site comprising Baboon Point promontory contributes significantly to the aesthetic qualities of the West Coast region as explained below. These need to be weighed up against the fact that much of the West Coast is being changed irreversibly by large diamond and sand mining companies and is, therefore, out of reach for the average South African. **Appendix B** addresses issues in connection with identified aesthetic qualities of cultural environs or natural landscapes within the context of current provincial policy planning issues.

- a) Baboon Point is a largely unspoilt natural landscape feature, which together with the estuary and coastline comprises a critical component of the West Coast landscape character. The visual-spatial qualities of the landscape convey a sense of remoteness, its dramatic setting defined by the contrasting steep cliffs and narrow coastal plain, and the striking historical setting of the radar station against the ridgeline. This is particularly the case when approaching the site along the dirt road to the south and to a lesser extent from the north.
- b) The regional landmark quality of the place is formed by the termination point of Bobbejaansberg bounded by the mouth of Verlorenvlei and is a defining element of the West Coast landscape character that consists of long stretches of sandy beaches interspersed with peninsulas, rocky points, bays, inlets, estuaries, lagoons and vleis and within which a nodal pattern of settlement is generally contained. It is the only place between the Cape Peninsula and the Orange River where the mountain comes down to the sea in such a prominent manner.
- c) Baboon Point contributes significantly to the "place-making" qualities of Elands Bay. As a local visual landmark it frames views of Elands Bay from the north and along the approach from the south and forms an exceptionally prominent green edge to a narrow coastal plain and dramatic entry point to the bay, especially where the mountain meets the sea.
- d) Elands Bay is a good example of a place that has not been too badly affected by recent urban development that in other places have disregarded special natural and cultural qualities. Its settlement character has evolved over a long period, largely in response to the constraints and opportunities of the natural environment, including the mountain, vlei

and coastline and the availability of water. Growing popularity of Elands Bay as a holiday destination will increase pressure to develop places of high amenity value but, as recommended in the Verlorenvlei Local Structure Plan, this should not be at the expense of protecting the natural and cultural character of Baboon Point.

- e) The dramatic setting of the radar station overlooks the sea, and is especially significant when it becomes visible along the approach road from the south against the ridgeline sloping down to the sea and the "sea surveillance" qualities are imbued within this image.
- f) The historical layering of Baboon Point forms part of its landscape significance, relating its use for precolonial habitation and subsistence, World War II defence and surveillance, 20th century settlement of migrant workers linked to more recent commercial fishing uses, and on-going research by archaeologists.
- g) The artistic and aesthetic value of San rock art in Elands Bay Cave displays the development of motifs as part of an ancient artistic expression and associated cosmological and ritual meanings. The unusually large paintings of eland in the cave probably gave Eland's Bay its name.

### **3. Scientific Value: 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.

**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.

i) Clearly, as shown above (Expanded Statement of Significance: Historical Value) the cultural sequence from many sites at Baboon Point contribute significantly to the understanding of the cultural history of the Western Cape Province and southern Africa as a whole (see also **Appendix A**). Moreover, EBC is part of a small cohort of very ancient and deeply stratified caves in southern Africa excavated over the last 40 years or so, including: Nelson Bay Cave (Western Cape), Boomplaas Cave (WC), Die Kelders (WC), Klasies River Mouth (Eastern Cape), Border Cave (KwaZulu-Natal), Sibudu (KZN), Rose Cottage Cave (Free State), Bushman Rock Shelter (Mpumalanga), Sehonghong (Lesotho), and Apollo 11 Cave (Namibia). EBC, along with these other sites, is central to the understanding of precolonial history in southern Africa, as taught in many universities and as illustrated by classic textbooks on southern African Archaeology (Deacon & Deacon 1999; Mitchell 2002). Its study has been central to the education of several generations of professional archaeologists and this has been reflected in the media and popular publications as well.

Baboon Point archaeological sites not only contribute valuable insights into cultural developments, settlement and subsistence patterns over many millennia, but they are also unique reservoirs of scientific information about past environments and population structures of near pristine marine animal species that are still exploited today. These reconstructions of past environments ("palaeoenvironments") are of great importance for at least three reasons, namely:

1. They indicate whether or not the environment limited the freedom of choice of Khoisan groups when deciding on which foods to hunt and collect and where to live. 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. For example, environmental change affects availability of food resources so people have to change their diet and mobility; on the other hand these choices might also be affected by social dynamics.
2. Archaeological sites inform climatologists today in their effort to generate models for predicting future climate and weather trends. When read alongside geological observations (e.g. changes in sea-level), these models can also bring greater

confidence to governments and businesses in the formulation of environmental and planning policies, and timely detection of vulnerabilities related to business investments. The use of this type of information (analogues and examples from the past) for the prediction of global warming in the near future is a case in point, and resources such as mid-Holocene raised beaches, that indicate exactly where along the coast sea-levels reached in the past, must be protected.

3. Comparison of the species and size of shellfish and fish collected by people over the past 10 000 years or more with those available and collected today can help researchers and authorities to determine sustainable fishing and culling quotas, and to understand the nature of human impact and what might have affected the distribution in the past. Through complicated mathematical studies, Marine and Coastal Management scientists use the early historical and/or archaeological data as their starting point for an ecological system "in equilibrium". The results of this work have direct bearing on the conservation of natural resources and, by default, on the livelihood of people employed in the relevant industries.

#### **4. Social Value: 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.

i) Soon after the start of grazing rights granted at Verlorenvlei in 1731 (see below, Short History of the Place), Baboon Point and land immediately to the east was reserved as government land for fishing purposes (Fig. 4: SG No. 374 of 1837). The more recent fishing economy at Elands Bay has been based on line fishing and rock lobster ('crayfish') catches, the latter representing 25% of the national total in 1993 (Chittenden & Nicks Partnership 1996). The present crayfish factory at Baboon Point was established in the 1950s (Van Zyl 1995), and as the local and international demand for this highly priced fishing resource escalated over the years, additional labour to that available locally was needed. As a result, migrant labourers from other provinces were brought in on a seasonal basis between November and May in order to cope with increasing fishing demands. Until 1996 at least, migrant labourers were housed in a fenced compound that included some of the World War II structures at Baboon Point (Fig. 2: S2 – S5).

What can be called the 'migrant labour phenomenon' during Apartheid years was a direct result of the implementation of racist policies of separate development. The best-known example is the multi-million Rand South African mining industry which was largely supported by a system of migrant labourers. Apart from poor working conditions, social and family fabric was fragmented and altered irreparably with resulting losses in customs, language and increased acculturation into the dominant white establishment. This brutal system was also supporting several other industries in the Western Cape, such as fruit and wine production as well as fishing among others. Migrant labourers working in these other sectors of the economy felt the same cost to their lives, their families and communities of origin as their fellow miners in other regions of the country.

South Africans and future generations must not forget the sinister nature of the Apartheid system and how deeply and negatively it affected the lives of so many people. The scarring social realities of the past represented in the compound buildings on Erf 64 at Baboon Point are part of this dire past, and as such must be properly acknowledged along with the sites of World War II surveillance, early European settler incursion, and the millennia-long presence of indigenous San and Khoekhoe groups and their ancestors. The buildings should therefore not be destroyed or modified extensively, and their environmental context should not be radically changed through major residential development. Oral history research could add

significantly to the information already available. This and other aspects of South African history can be publicised through displays and information at an on-site visitor centre.

ii) The significance of Baboon Point regarding its contribution to a community's sense of place and identity is also evaluated in this section in terms of an increasing awareness of pre-colonial history and a growing public interest in knowing more about South Africa's history before the arrival of Europeans in the 15th century. This is expressed by educational groups and the tourism industry among others. South Africans are in search of their roots as they face the challenges of a newly acquired democracy and new social orders and relationships.

Archaeological sites and buildings 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, they allow visitors to connect with a time when other groups of people with a very different culture to ours lived there, how they became replaced and/or absorbed into another dominant culture as a result of European incursion and colonization, the participation of their descendants in a global historical event, and later movement and settlement of black migrant labours as a result of the implementation of the Apartheid legal system. Such recognition helps to acknowledge, accept and affirm cultural diversity, contributing in this way to reconcile us with our turbulent past since the 15th century and shape a new national character and identity.

Baboon Point is a unique place in the Western Cape, where a variety of heritage resources (archaeological sites, buildings and landscape) of high significance are concentrated. The sites themselves and their history have the potential to become an appropriate resource for the education of our society. Of relevance here is to examine some of the most common and widespread perceptions of Khoisan societies who lived there 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, practised some rituals, sometimes painted the walls of caves and shelters they visited, and all of this they did 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 show that San societies were dynamic and inventive 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 at Baboon Point 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 Khoisan people. It is likely that the local community has some ancestral links with San and Khoekhoe populations, and the nature and extent of these linkages could be explored further for empowerment and educational reasons.

The former National Monuments Council (now SAHRA) and HWC began promoting the educational role of Elands Bay Cave at Baboon Point in the 1990s and again in 2005/6 by providing more secure access to the site, protecting the cave floor, erecting signage for site interpretation and cleaning of graffiti. Other examples of promoting the precolonial history at Baboon Point and further afield are John Parkington's recent series of popular level publications (Parkington 2003, 2006) and the signboards illustrating the use of marine resources by the San and Khoekhoen that have been erected by Marine and Coastal Management. **Appendix B** suggests further development of educational facilities at Baboon

Point such as upgrading of existing buildings and establishment of an information and education centre along the lines of eco- and heritage tourism.

## 5. **Rarity: 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.
- i) The site comprising Baboon Point promontory possesses rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes and phenomena in terms of the following:
- a) EBC is one of three known large caves along the entire West Coast that provide evidence of several thousand years of occupation. Moreover, EBC is the only one known along this coastline with a history that extends for more than 150 000 years. The other two are Steenbokfontein Cave just south of Lamberts Bay and Spoeg River Cave in Namaqualand (Northern Cape) (see **Appendix A**).
  - b) MSA palaeontological site on the eastern edge of the borrow pit is, at present, the only known MSA shell midden occurrence between Saldanha Bay and immediately north of the Olifants River mouth (see **Appendix A**).
  - c) CDM is one of a few surviving large shell middens known as "megamiddens" along the West Coast. CDM shows that a distinctive way of life and land-use was common during a particular period during our pre-colonial past (see **Appendix A**). As such, CDM is a rare type of site and has importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life.
  - d) Hail Storm Midden has one of the best examples of a shell midden that was occupied by Khoekhoe herders along this part of the West Coast. Along with EBC, HSM is also one of two archaeological sites in the Elands Bay area with well-preserved and abundant Cape rock lobster remains that allow for meaningful analyses and statistical interpretation of these remains. Cape rock lobster remains are present in several other sites within the Elands Bay area, but in low densities and not as well preserved, which hampers any meaningful interpretation of these findings (see **Appendix A**).
  - e) The radar station is one of few remaining examples of such installations left on the West Coast. It has considerable significance from a military history perspective. Being installed between 1943 and 1944 it was probably the last, most northerly and most isolated of our radar stations to be established. It was strategically located at a time when Saldanha had become an important replenishment port for shipping (see **Appendix A**).
- ii) Baboon Point promontory possesses 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 in terms of the archaeological sites and the history these unravel (see **Appendix A**).

The life of San hunter-gatherers and that of the ancestors of the historically known Khoekhoe sheep- and cattle-owning people followed distinctive ways of life no longer present in South Africa. In fact, this way of life hardly survives anywhere in the whole of sub-continental Africa. Their descendants were either annihilated by wars and epidemics, or enslaved and acculturated by the dominant colonial forces over the last four centuries or so. Glimpses into their customs, conception of the world and symbolic universe are reflected in rock paintings (which are present at EBC), particular artefacts preserved in the archaeological record

(decorative objects such as beads and pendants, ochre pieces, etc), and systematic burial of their dead in living sites. The role of these ancestral people as part of this nation is hardly recognized beyond the South African coat of arms, and instead their image is often distorted with the use and perpetuation of derogatory stereotypes. Although knowledge about their customs and way of life grows with academic and conservation studies done at universities and museums, the landscape that they once inhabited is rapidly being lost forever. Baboon Point is one of the last surviving landscapes along the West Coast that is still accessible to all South Africans and where testimony of past Khoisan presence and later post-colonial developments of global significance feature strongly.

**6. Representivity: 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 principle 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.
- i) Baboon Point has most of the principal characteristics of a West Coast cultural landscape that consists typically of stretches of sandy beach, interspersed with peninsulas and bays, as well as estuaries or coastal lagoons, and within which a particular pattern of pre-colonial and historical settlement has taken place. Much of the West Coast has been damaged by the activities of diamond and sand miners and the original characteristics cannot be adequately rehabilitated. Baboon Point should therefore be protected as one of the last unspoilt and representative landscapes along the West Coast.
- ii) See above contents of section on the Expanded Statement of Significance in terms of its Historical Value and **Appendix A**.

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

A range of heritage resources of high significance is located on Baboon Point which itself provides a unique landmark setting along the West Coast. In particular:

- The historical significance of Baboon Point is contained in numerous archaeological sites that record the history of the San and Khoekhoe and their ancestors, and major cultural developments and settlement patterns, over more than 120 000 years.
- The aesthetic significance is demonstrated in the almost unparalleled landmark qualities of Baboon Point and its role in combining important elements of the West Coast landscape character with the history of human settlement, including well-preserved San rock paintings of eland that give Eland's Bay its name.
- The scientific value lies in the results of comprehensive archaeological and palaeontological research that has taken place around Baboon Point. These studies have generated unique information about San and Khoekhoe responses to environmental change, about the scale and environmental effects of climate change, and in particular the use of marine resources in the past that is helpful in setting a baseline against which to model the sustainability of modern fishing methods.
- The social values are embedded in the World War II radar station buildings that represent a particular aspect of the social history of Baboon Point, namely that of migrant labour serving the local fishing industry as established during the Apartheid regime.
- The rare and/or endangered aspects of natural and cultural heritage represented at Baboon Point include the layered history of the ancestors of the San, Khoekhoe and their modern descendants, as well as aspects of 20th century and environmental history, that are still intact in their landscape context and can be fitted together with information from a variety of sites.
- Finally, Baboon Point represents a set of cultural and environmental values that disappear rapidly in the wake of development. Once disturbed, they cannot be renewed or replaced.

For these reasons, the protection of Baboon Point is urgently needed to safeguard its valuable and unique heritage for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. The West Coast Regional Services Council and Cape Provincial Administration recognized this need ten years ago with a vision to have the entire Verlorenvlei area declared a Provincial Nature Reserve managed by Cape Nature Conservation to ensure the protection of archaeological sites (Chittenden Nicks 1996: Volume 2: 62). This initiative, however, has lost momentum over the years for unknown reasons.

The pressures exerted by relatively dense and expensive coastal development in the Vredenburg Peninsula have pushed development further north, such as at Elands Bay. As a result, a steady increase in the numbers of properties being sold and holiday houses being built has been felt in Elands Bay, particularly to the west of Verlorenvlei mouth and along the beach north of the village.

Apart from farming activities and construction of roads and the railway, development in Elands Bay has meant significant losses to our heritage. A large archaeological site (known to archaeologists as Public Resort 1 "megamidden") located between Verlorenvlei mouth and the rock lobster factory, was almost completely obliterated about twelve years ago to give way to holiday houses, services and access roads. Within the last 5 years, at least two old buildings (one of which was probably older than 60 years) were demolished without the necessary permits from relevant authorities. Buried shell middens have also been intercepted by recent road building immediately north of the causeway below the railway bridge that crosses Verlorenvlei. Palaeontological shell deposits attesting to the existence of higher sea levels about 125 000 years ago and full estuarine conditions at Verlorenvlei, were also damaged substantially by the re-alignment and light surfacing of the MR535 that accesses Elands Bay village from the south east.

## Short history of the place

### Baboon Point – Pre-Colonial History

Please refer to "Expanded Statement of Significance: Historical Value" and **Appendix A** for a summary of the early history before European presence at the Cape of Good Hope.

### Verloren Vlei and Baboon Point – Documented History

Europeans visited the area for the first time in 1682. The Swede, Olaf Bergh, was one of the earliest travellers to undertake the journey up to Namaqualand. The purpose of his journeys was to negotiate with the 'Sousequase and Gourisse Hottentots', to trade and to familiarise himself with the region up the Cape west coast. Isaq Schrijver of Leiden was also sent north by Governor Simon van der Stel to barter for cattle and to look for minerals.

Olaf Bergh referred to the river as the Zandrivier. The name Verloren Vlei was possibly taken from the Khoe-San word 'quaecoma', which means lonely waters or lost estuary (<http://www.elandsbay.co.za/verlorenvlei.htm>). On the map of the journey taken by Starrenburg in 1705 along the 'Northern Highway', the Verloren River is named Quaecoma.

Elands Bay was used by graziers from the early 1700s. Grazing rights to the 'Hoek van Verlorenvlei' were leased by Gerrit Moo from 1731 (CA: RLR 9/2 p.409), Michiel (de) Groot from 1741 (RLR 10/1 p.255), Lt Jacobus Cuylets from 1751 (RLR 12/3 p.611) and Gerrit Cloete (Jacobsz) from 1753 (RLR 13 p.553). There may have been impermanent structures built to shelter herdsmen at this period, but these have left no trace at Baboon Point.

Robert Gordon made the earliest archaeological observations in South Africa on 19 December 1785 at Baboon Point, when he recognized that many of the shell heaps were not the result of natural processes or animal activities, but that of "Strand Bosjemans" (Raper & Boucher 1988: 402).

Strung out along the Verloren Vallei are groups of modest homesteads and outbuildings (Fransen 2004: 350). Verlorenvlei, a typical farm, is on the south side of the vlei some 5 km from Elands Bay, and was granted as a loan-place in 1723. In 1762 it was leased by Gerrit Cloete the Elder, but between 1769 and 1773 it was owned by Andries Greef, who held a number of loan places along the coast. After his death it passed to a son of Jacobus Coetse (Jansz) but from 1779 to 1787 the grazing rights of 'Verloren Valleij this side of the Lange Valleij' were rented by Jan Jurgen Kotze. Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Theunis Erasmus Smit (ancestor of the present owner) acquired the farm and at one period he owned most of the grazing from Velddrif to Lambert's Bay. Annually the foremen, farmhands and shepherds from the various farms gathered at Velddrif, where they caught fish and sold it to neighbouring farmers. Eventually some of them settled there to form the nucleus of Velddrif.

Detailed studies and inventories have been undertaken of the several mostly nameless individual buildings at Verloren Vlei. Nearly all of these are longhouses under low thatch roofs. Sinclair (1980) counted some 25 longhouses, and several threshing-floors, in what had become a veritable hamlet. One, a 40-m longhouse (half of it outbuilding), was probably built or extended by Theunis Erasmus Smit soon after 1800. Many related families, especially the older members, gathered around Oom Theunis Smit at Verlorenvlei and Smits, Coetzes, Kotzes, Mosterts and others occupied the simple long houses which comprise the settlement. Few of these houses now survive.

According to the Deeds Office summary records, the property known previously as Erf 63 on Baboon Point (land including all erven proposed for formal protection in this nomination) was formerly the farm 'Rheboks Plaat Berg' (Fig. 6). There is no information for a farm of this name on the SGO database, and preliminary research found no trace of a farm number. Erf 63 Elandsbaai, consisting of 195 morgen and 450 square feet of land, was granted to Floris Johannes Jacobus Brand in 1924 (see SG dgm 3189/1922 appended to Piq. Q. 3-20 [Piquetberg Quitrent Grants vol.3 page 20] dated 23 January 1924). It was transferred from

H.J.J. Brand to Daniel Erasmus Smit in 1934, and then subdivided by Smit in 1958 before being transferred to various people, including members of his family and Marine Products Corporation of Africa Ltd.

Marine Products established a crayfish factory on Baboon Point in the 1950s (Van Zyl 1995: 197-199). It held a quota that was supplied by Messrs Engelbrecht, van der Westhuizen and Karkalis. Engelbrecht owned Elandsbaai Handelsmaatskappy, which took transfer of a portion of Smit's property in 1973.

The fishing company buildings (on erven 64 and 65) are shown on SG diagram no.10625 of 1951 (Fig. 3). They also show up clearly on dated aerial photographs, including the structures that have since been demolished.

When P.W. Botha was Minister of Community Development and Coloured Affairs from 1961 to 1964 he unsuccessfully attempted to have Eland's Bay declared a 'coloured' area.

In the mid-1970s, the Sishen-Saldanha railway line was constructed through Eland's Bay. Fortunately for conservation of the visual qualities of Baboon Point, a tunnel was constructed through the mountain and the railway is not visible from the sea.

### **Physical description of the heritage resource**

The site here referred to as "Baboon Point" consists of five erven (Elands Bay 64, 65, 66 & 67 and Portion 4 of Verlorenvlei No. 8) as well as a portion of Verlorenvlei No. 6. Baboon Point, also known by the Portuguese name of "Cape Deseada", is a 180 m high and steep promontory surrounded by a narrow coastal plain that widens towards the south, although remaining extremely contracted below the north-facing cliffs until close to the mouth of Verlorenvlei to the east (Figs 1 & 2). Massive rocky reefs at the point itself shape a crenulated sea edge, with long, white sandy beaches sweeping to the south of these reefs and to the north of Verlorenvlei mouth (Fig. 7).

### **List of repositories curating moveable objects removed from the site**

Archaeological material recovered from the various sites excavated from the erven nominated for formal protection are housed at either the stores of IZIKO: South African Museum and/or the Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town. A detailed account follows:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Repository</u>
Elands Bay Cave	IZIKO: South African Museum and Department of Archaeology, UCT
Elands Bay Open	IZIKO: South African Museum and Department of Archaeology, UCT
LSA-Borrow Pit Midden	Department of Archaeology, UCT
Cape Deseada Midden	Department of Archaeology, UCT
Hail Storm Midden	IZIKO: South African Museum

**Statement of current protections and restrictions (e.g. previous national monument; register of immoveable property; conservation area; current zoning; servitudes)**

Erven 64, 65, 66 and 67 are currently protected provisionally for a total of two years as officially stated in Notice 193 of the Provincial Gazette No. 6362 published on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006. This provisional protection was applied to these properties for the purpose of further investigation in terms of their possible formal protection under s. 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25, 1999). This nomination for Provincial Heritage Status is the result of such investigation.

The existing zoning status of the erven included in the nomination is as follows:

Erf 64: Residential Zone V  
 Erf 65: Industrial  
 Erf 66: Undetermined  
 Erf 67: Undetermined

The current draft Spatial Development Framework for Elands Bay designates Erven 64, 65 and 67 for industrial development purposes, and Erf 66 as undetermined. However, this policy planning framework has not yet been approved by the Council of the Cederberg Municipality and has therefore not superseded the proposals of the Local Structure Plan dated 1996 within which the area to the south of Baboon Point is designated as a "no-development" area.

**List of heritage organizations consulted or in the process of being consulted on the proposed nomination**

- 1) South African Heritage Resources Agency
- 2) Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists: letter of endorsement attached (end of document)
- 3) Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town: letter of endorsement attached (end of document)

**List of Interested and Affected Parties consulted or in the process of being consulted**

- 1) Midnight Storm 170 (Pty) Ltd
- 2) Eland's Bay Environmental and Development Action Group (EBEDAG)
- 3) Lamberts Bay & Elands Bay Environmental Group
- 4) Department of Public Works

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## **Acknowledgements**

This nomination would not have been possible without the input and help of other professionals. Thanks and due to Mr. Royden Yates for field inspection and site recording at Baboon Point and compilation of Figure 2. Mr. John Pether provided a written summary account on the significance of fossil raised beaches, which formed the base for the description and assessment of heritage significance of the mid-Holocene raised beach in Erf 65. Mr. Derek Chittenden (CNdV) made an original copy of the Verlorenvlei Structure Plan available to us, which proved to be vital to the motivation of this nomination. Prof. John Parkington (UCT) provided copies of several bibliographic references. We are most grateful to Mr. Geoff Mangin for providing us with bibliography and personal knowledge on World War II radar installations. Thanks are due to Ms Adele Pretorius, Manager of Blaauwberg Conservation area (City of Cape Town), for taking time to show the renovated buildings and surviving structures of the World War II Blaauwberg radar station complex, and for providing information on these buildings and the process leading to their renovation. Input was also made by the HWC Declaration Review Committee for Baboon Point.