

Public Participation document:

FRANSKRAAL

Overstrand Heritage Landscape Group:

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Prepared for the

Overstrand Municipality

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Site Description:

From the early 19th century to after the Second World War, Franskraal was the land base of the guano collection industry on Dyers Island. The Strandveld Museum is situated on the site of the cottage of the so-called 'Captain of Dyers Island' and a portion of the original cottage was incorporated in the museum building (Fourie pers comm. 2008).

The town itself dates to the post war period which saw similar coastal developments. It is an eclectic mix of building styles, characterised, predominantly by a modest scale.

Historical Background:

1881: Franskraal becomes part of farm Fairfield, stretching from the sea at Gansbaai to near Napier. Originally it was part of the farm Franschekraal. The whole area was owned by the vd Byl family

C1930s: a number of businessmen from Johannesburg formed a syndicate lead by Mr Scharsberg and bought the sea facing portion of Franschekraal. 2000 hectare were bought for development purposes and included the camping grounds of Uilkraalsmond. Franskraal was also known as Frikkeesbaai, after Frederick Andrews who worked guano at Dyers Island. Sampson Dyer, the man associated with starting the guano industry on Dyers Island, has a shack at Franskraal in 1806.

Heritage Significance:

Franskraal has scientific significance in terms of its coastal archaeology.

It also has environmental significance in terms of the groves of mature milkwoods along the coast line. The visual-spatial qualities of the coastal strip of Franskraal overlooking the bay as well as the visual linkages between the Museum, Dyers Island and the slipway are significant.

Franskraal has historical significance as the site of the land base of the guano collection on Dyers Island and its association with the settlement (now abandoned) on Dyers Island. Franskraal has historical association with Sampson Dyer, who came to the Cape as an emancipated slave from America and is considered to be the founder of the guano trade on Dyers Island.

Constraints/Vulnerabilities:

The increased pressure on the coastal areas in terms of holiday houses is also prevalent in Franskraal. Speculative developments are a concern, particularly residential complexes of which the faux Tuscan-style is very popular. These developments are out of character of the area in general and should at no point be visible from the R43 which has scenic route qualities.

Proposed heritage conservation areas and special areas:

Coastal reserve is already protected as nature reserve areas. These areas also would have high potential for coastal archaeology

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Sources:

Hart, T. 2003. Archaeological component in Overstrand Spatial Development Framework

Time line:

Period	Events
Precolonial	Rich coastal archaeology testifying to a long history of human exploitation of coastal marine resources
Dutch: 1652- 1806	1806: Sampson Dyer has a small wooded shack at Franskraal – Dyers Island
End 19 th century – end of WWII	Land base for the guano collection industry of Dyers Island
Post WWII	Development as a coastal resort town c1941, known as Frikkie se Baai in honour of Frederick Andrews who was in charge of the guano collection. Declared a White Group Area under the Group Areas Act in 1970. The Franskraal Syndicate owned most of the land stretching from Kleinbaai to Uilenskraalmond
Post Apartheid	

Site name: Franskraal Museum
Type of resource: Building
Location: 3419 CB: S, E
Erf/Farm : 462/
Address: Seaview Ave Franskraal

Description:

The museum was built in the 1970s and incorporates only a section of the original cottage which served as the land base for the guano collection on Dyers Island. It is built in the style of the Strandveld cottage
Materials: Brick; corrugated iron
Associated landscape features:

Original use: Residential
Current use: Cottage
Landscape type: Relic
Design/Style: Republic
Construction date: 1970
Historical period in which constructed: Mid 20th century and later
Theme: Guano industry
Tourism



Historical information:

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act:
Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Approved grading:

Suggested grading: 3A

Significance: Association with the guano and seal harvesting on Dyers Island, landing place for the guano boats
Repository for local history and artefacts
Part of structure incorporates original hut
Education and tourism value

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Ongoing repair and maintenance

Formal protection in terms of zoning scheme regulations (Grade 3A)

- Conserve
- Remedial action to enhance significance
- Minimal intervention
- Interpretation
- HWC permit of approval required for any demolition, alteration or change in planning status

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources:

Site name: Franskraal House Type of resource: Building
Location: 3419 CB: S, E
Erf/Farm : 220/
Address: Seaview Ave Franskraal

Description:

Ungraded.
Modern replica in the style of the traditional strandveld fisherman's cottage
Materials:
Associated landscape features:

Original use:
Current use:
Landscape type:
Design/Style:
Construction date:
Historical period in which constructed:
Theme:

Historical information:

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act: Older than 60
Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Significance:

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:
Formal protection in terms of zoning scheme regulations (Ungraded)

- Demolition could be considered
- HWC permit of approval required for demolition

Proposed conservation/Special areas:



Approved grading:

Suggested grading:

References/Sources:

Site name: Franskraal House Type of resource: Building
Location: 3419 CB: S, E
Erf/Farm : 295/
Address: Seaview Ave Franskraal

Description:

Ungraded.

Materials:

Associated landscape features:

Original use:

Current use:

Landscape type:

Design/Style:

Construction date:

Historical period in which constructed:

Theme:

Historical information:

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act: Older than 60

Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Significance:

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Formal protection in terms of zoning scheme regulations (Ungraded)

- Demolition could be considered
- HWC permit of approval required for demolition

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources:



Approved grading:

Suggested grading:

Site name: Franskraal Coastal Reserve Type of resource: Natural resource
Location: 3419 CB: S, E
Erf/Farm : /
Address: Franskraal

Description:

Materials:
Associated landscape features:

Original use:
Current use:
Landscape type:
Design/Style:
Construction date:
Historical period in which constructed:
Theme:

Historical information:

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act: Approved grading: Suggested grading:
Responsible heritage authority:

Significance: Reserve of natural coastal fynbos
High potential of archaeological deposits in the coastal dune fields

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources: