

U. SHORES

Field Note U12a4. Archaeology - Fish traps – Cape Agulhas

There are twenty-eight sites of intertidal fish trap clusters along the Cape South Coast, eight of which are along the shores of the Study Area. They are (from southwest to northeast): Suiderstrand, Rasperpunt, Cape Agulhas, Struis Bay, Struis Point, Ryspunt, Skipskop and Breede River, containing in total >100 traps of all shapes and sizes (Figure 1). This Field Note is about the trap cluster near Cape Agulhas (Figures 2 to 5).



Figure 1. Satellite image (rotated) showing the locations of fish trap clusters in the Study Area. Arrow points to Cape Agulhas.

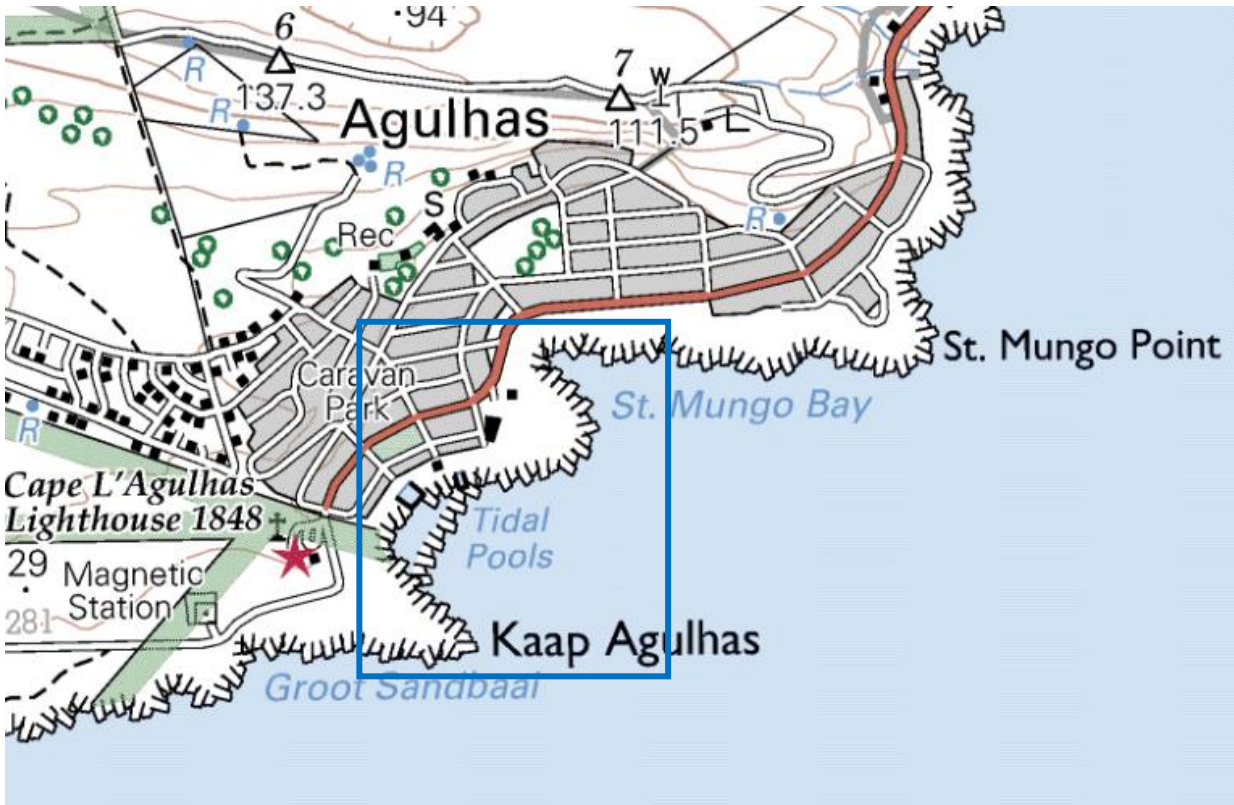


Figure 2. Topography map of Cape Agulhas area. Box enlarged in Figure 4.

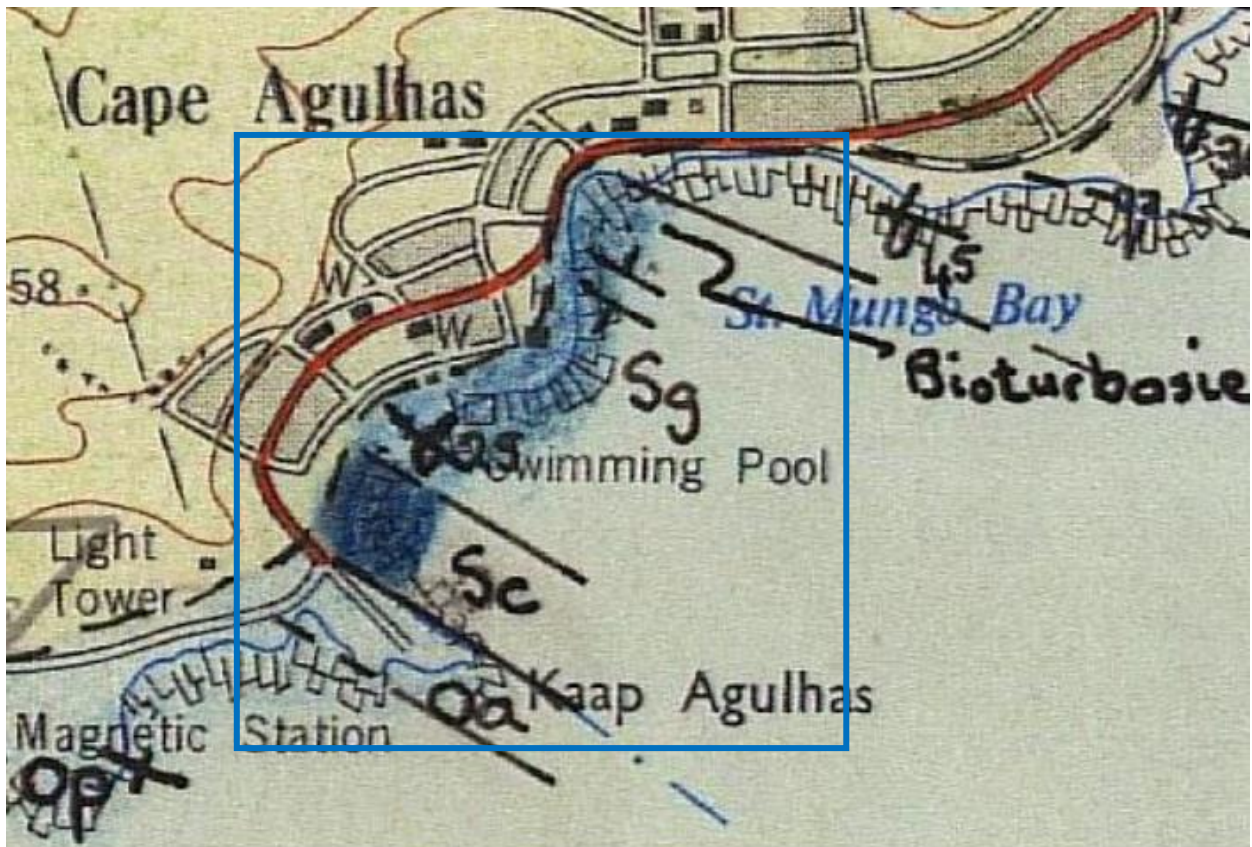


Figure 3. Geology map (J Malan, 1984). The rocky belt around the shore consists of TMG Formations (see Field Notes C2a and C2b). Box enlarged in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Satellite image of the fish trap cluster immediately north of Cape Agulhas. Arrows point to modern-day tidal swimming pools.



Figure 5. The fish traps near Cape Agulhas. View to the southwest. Arrow points to Cape Agulhas.

The traps are distinguished from topography maps and satellite images (Figures 6 to 8).



Figure 6. Topographic map of the fish traps near Cape Agulhas.



Figure 7. Satellite images of the fish traps near Cape Agulhas. Top – at low tide. Bottom – at high tide.



Figure 8. Top, middle and bottom: the fish traps near Cape Agulhas.

The traps are close to, and just below, the Cape Agulhas lighthouse, from which they can be seen at low tide (Figures 8 and 9).



Figure 8. Satellite image of the Cape Agulhas lighthouse (yellow arrow).



Figure 9. View of the Cape Agulhas fish traps from the top of the lighthouse.
Source: The Internet.