

**U. SHORES**

**Field Note U12a5. Archaeology - Fish traps – Struis Bay**

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, Arniston, Ryspunt, Skipskop and Breede River, containing in total >100 traps of all shapes and sizes (Figure 1). This Field Note is about the trap clusters in Struis Bay (Figures 2 and 3).



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



Figure 2. Topography map of the Struis Bay area (2016). Arrows point to the locations of fish trap clusters.

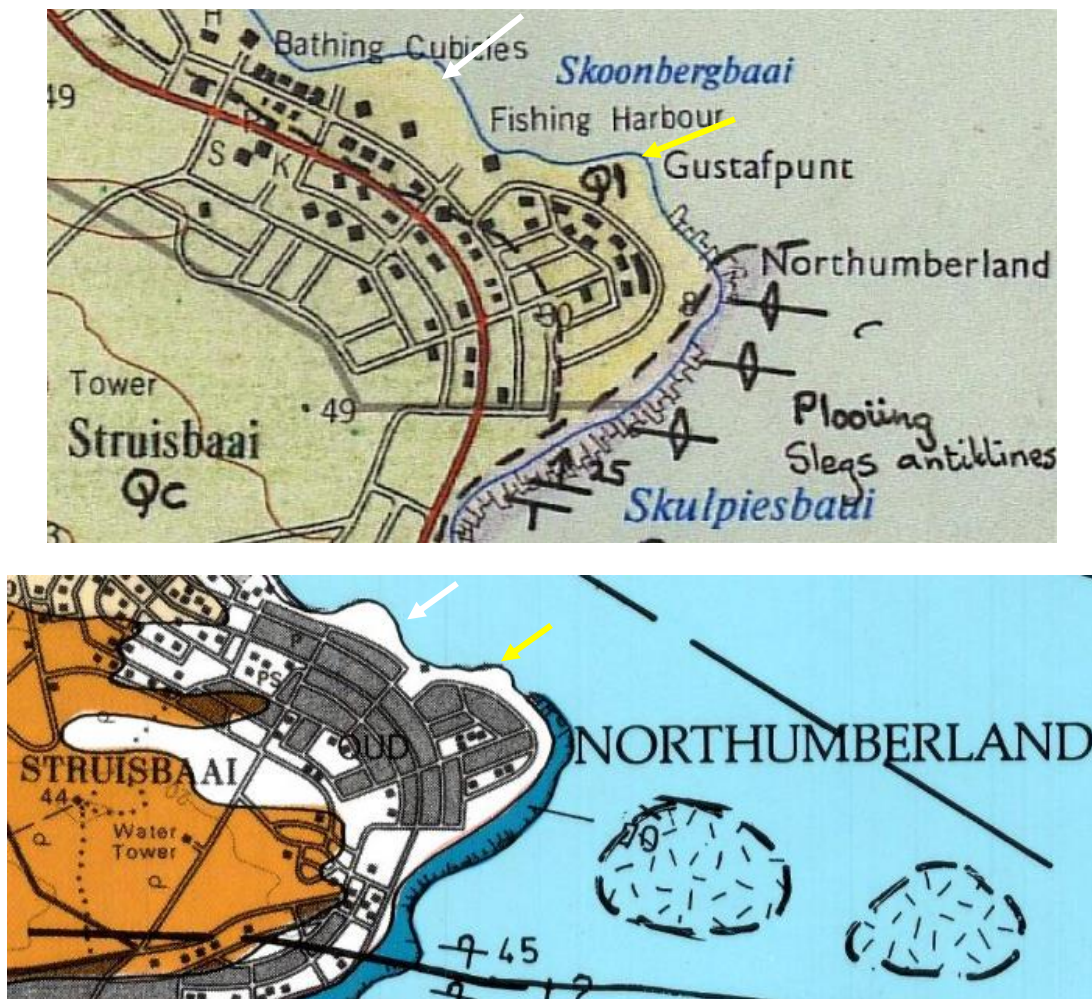


Figure 3. Geology maps of the Struis Bay area. Top - J Malan, 1984; bottom – MAG Andreoli, 1988. The rocky belt around the shore is of the Table Mountain Group Skurweberg Formation. Arrows point to the locations of fish trap clusters (white – western; yellow – eastern cluster).



**Figure 4. Oblique aerial view of Struis Bay in 1938. Trap clusters (white – western; yellow – eastern) can be seen through the water. The dashed line is the line along which the harbour wall was constructed. Blue arrow points to the area where sand was accumulated after the building of the harbour wall.**

Source of the unannotated photograph: LV Kemp MSc Thesis, 2006.



**Figure 5. Oblique aerial view of Struis Bay (must be before 2006, as the harbour wall (approximate location represented by the dashed line) has been in existence before that year. Also, there are no buildings on the strip between the road and the shore (orange arrow). The eastern trap cluster (yellow arrow) can be identified. Blue arrow points to the area where sand was accumulated after the construction of the harbour wall.**

Source of the unannotated photograph: LV Kemp MSc Thesis, 2006.

From the above geology maps and aerial photographs, and from the topography maps shown below (Figure 6) it can be concluded that the amount of sand around Struis Bay was larger in the past, and that there was more sand on, and west of, Gustafpunt. After the sand was removed by waves and currents, more traps became exposed.

The effects of the construction of the harbour wall on sand deposition in Struis Bay are the subjects of future studies.

The deposition of sand along the shores of the Study Area is discussed in another Field Note in this chapter.

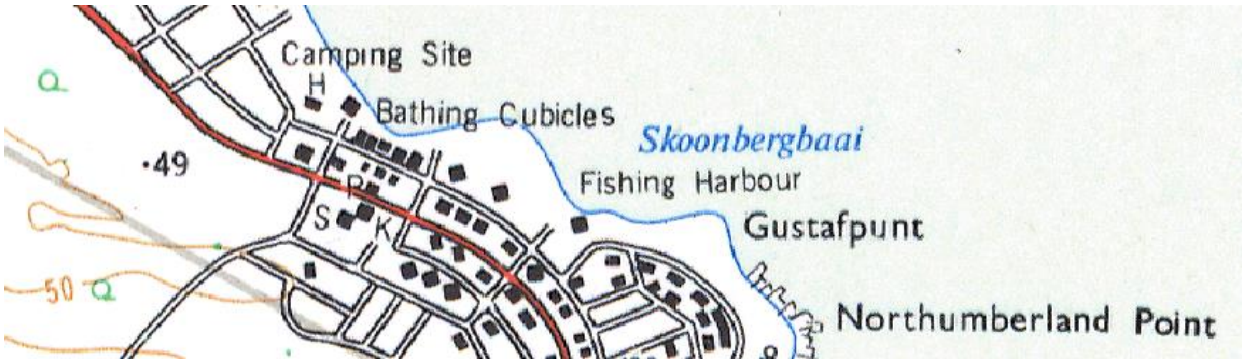


Figure 6. Topography maps of Struis Bay area, from 1944 (top), 1968, 1981 and 2007 (bottom). The rocks on either side of the harbour did not appear on maps before 2007.

The trap clusters in Struis Bay can be easily distinguished from satellite images (Figures 7 to 9).



**Figure 7. Satellite images of Struis Bay. Top – the extent of the rocks offshore can easily be seen through the clear water. Bottom: yellow box - the western trap cluster, enlarged in Figure 8. White box – the eastern trap cluster, enlarged in Figure 9.**



**Figure 8. Satellite image of the Struis Bay western fish trap cluster. Arrows point to traps.**



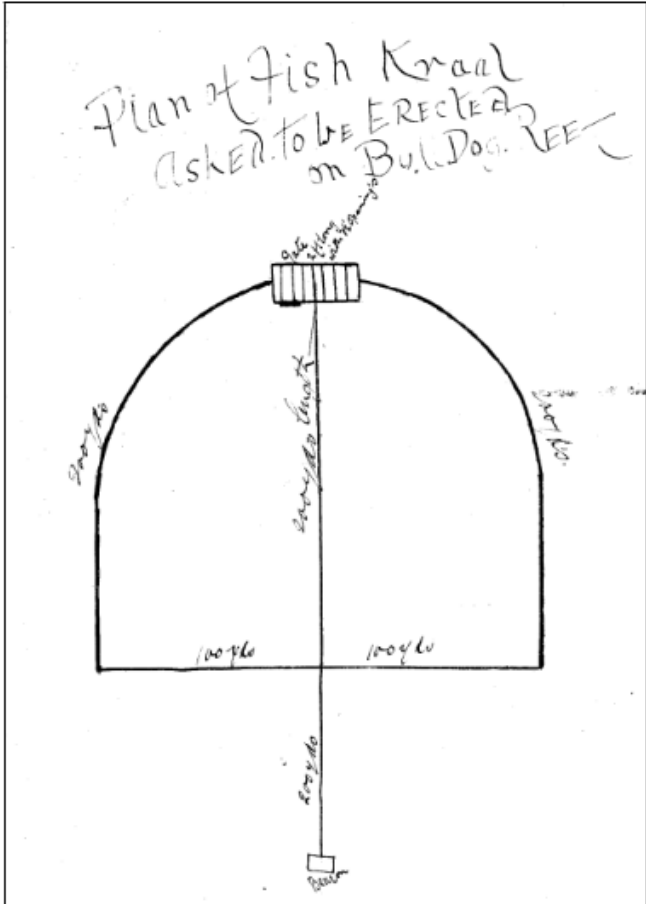
**Figure 9. Satellite image of the Struis Bay eastern fish trap cluster. Arrows point to traps.**

The traps in Struis Bay are built on rock and pebble platforms (Figure 10).

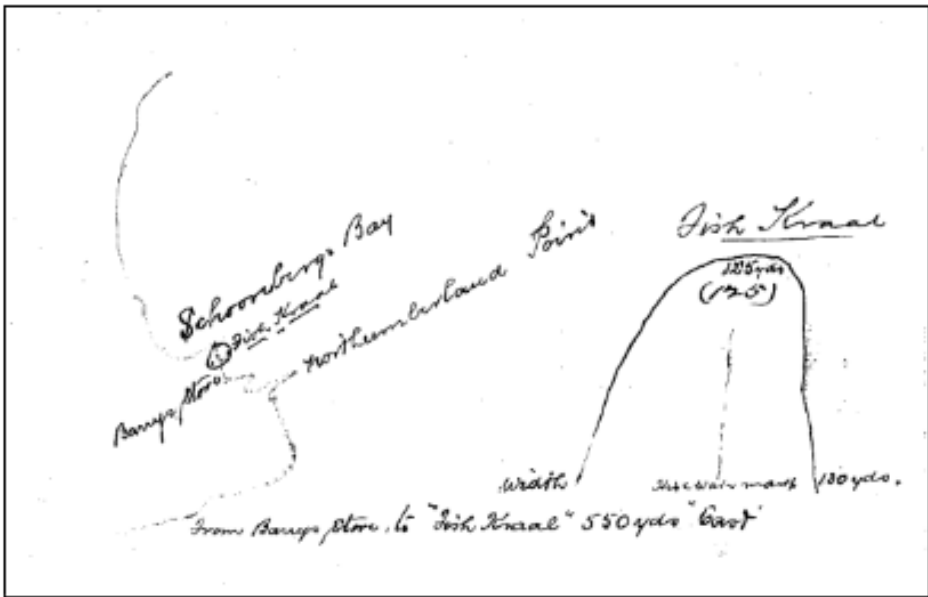


**Figure 10. Top and bottom: fish traps of the western cluster in Struis Bay.**

PJ Hine, who investigated the antiquity of the traps, found in the Cape Archives many plans and sketches for the construction of fish traps submitted to the Cape authorities (Figures 11 and 12).



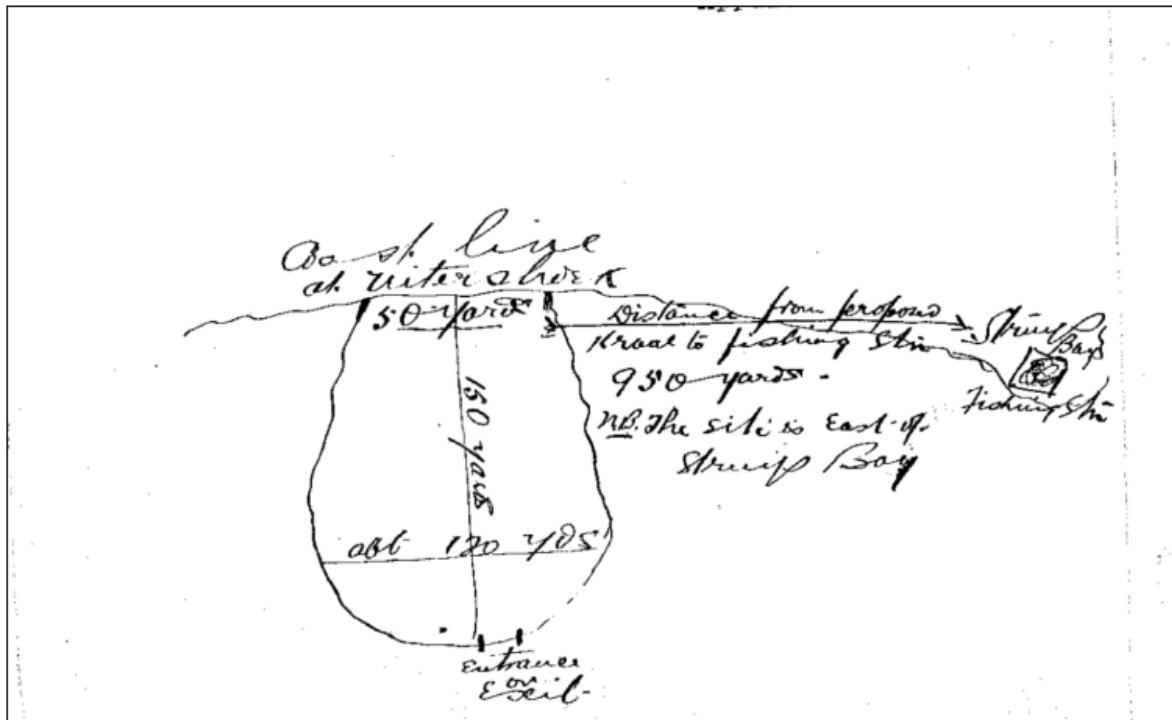
1. Sketch plan of Fish trap of Jan Newman at the beacon of Struis bay. Cape



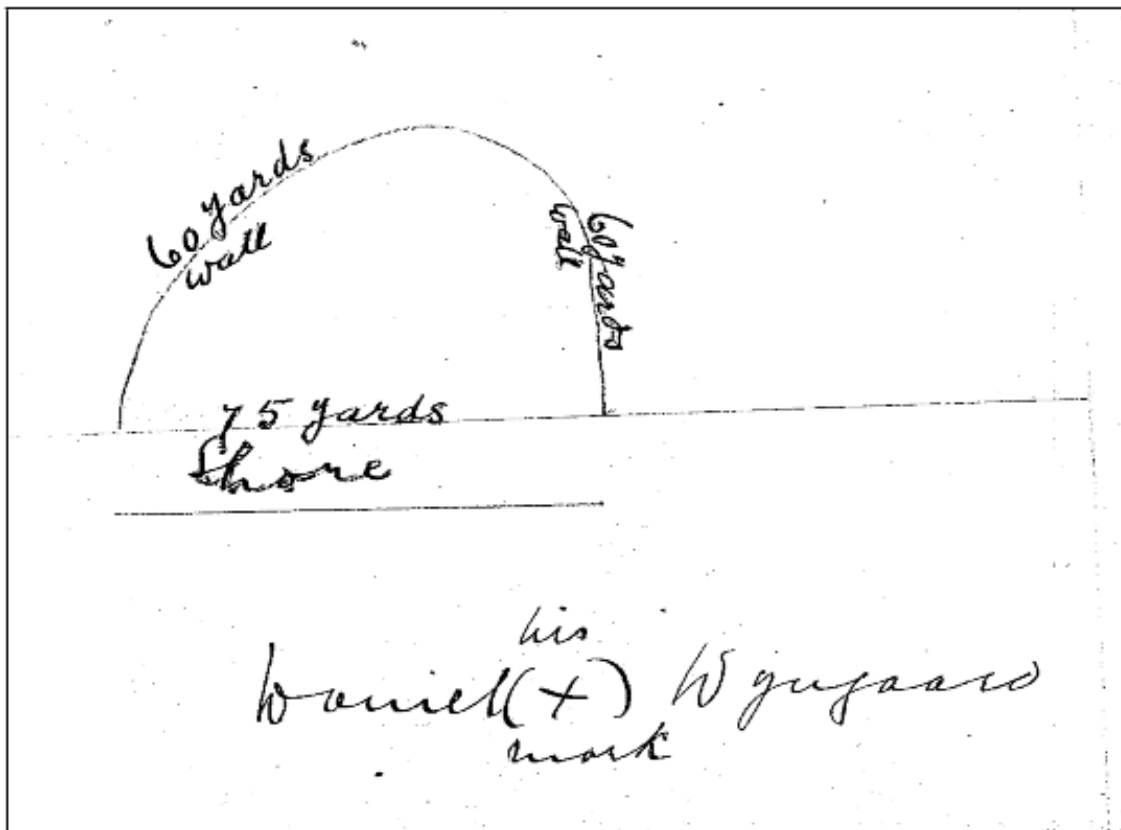
2. Plan of Fish trap of John Swart at Struis Bay. Cape Archives. PAN 55. K13/11.

Figure 11. Top and bottom: plans of fish traps in Struis Bay kept in the Cape Archives.  
Source: PJ Hein, MSc Thesis





4. Plan of Fish trap of M. D. van Breda at Bilers Hoek, Struis Bay. Cape Archives.



Plan of Fish trap of Daniel Wyngaard at Struis Bay. Cape Archives. PAN 55. K

Figure 12. Top and bottom: plans of fish traps in Struis Bay kept in the Cape Archives.

Source: PJ Hein, MSc Thesis

Struis Bay harbour separates the eastern cluster from the western cluster (Figures 13 and 14).



**Figure 13. Satellite image of the Struis Bay harbour.**



**Figure 14. Struis Bay harbour. View to the southeast.**