

U. SHORES

Field Note U12a8. Archaeology - Fish traps – Ryspunt

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 near Ryspunt (Figures 2 to 4).



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

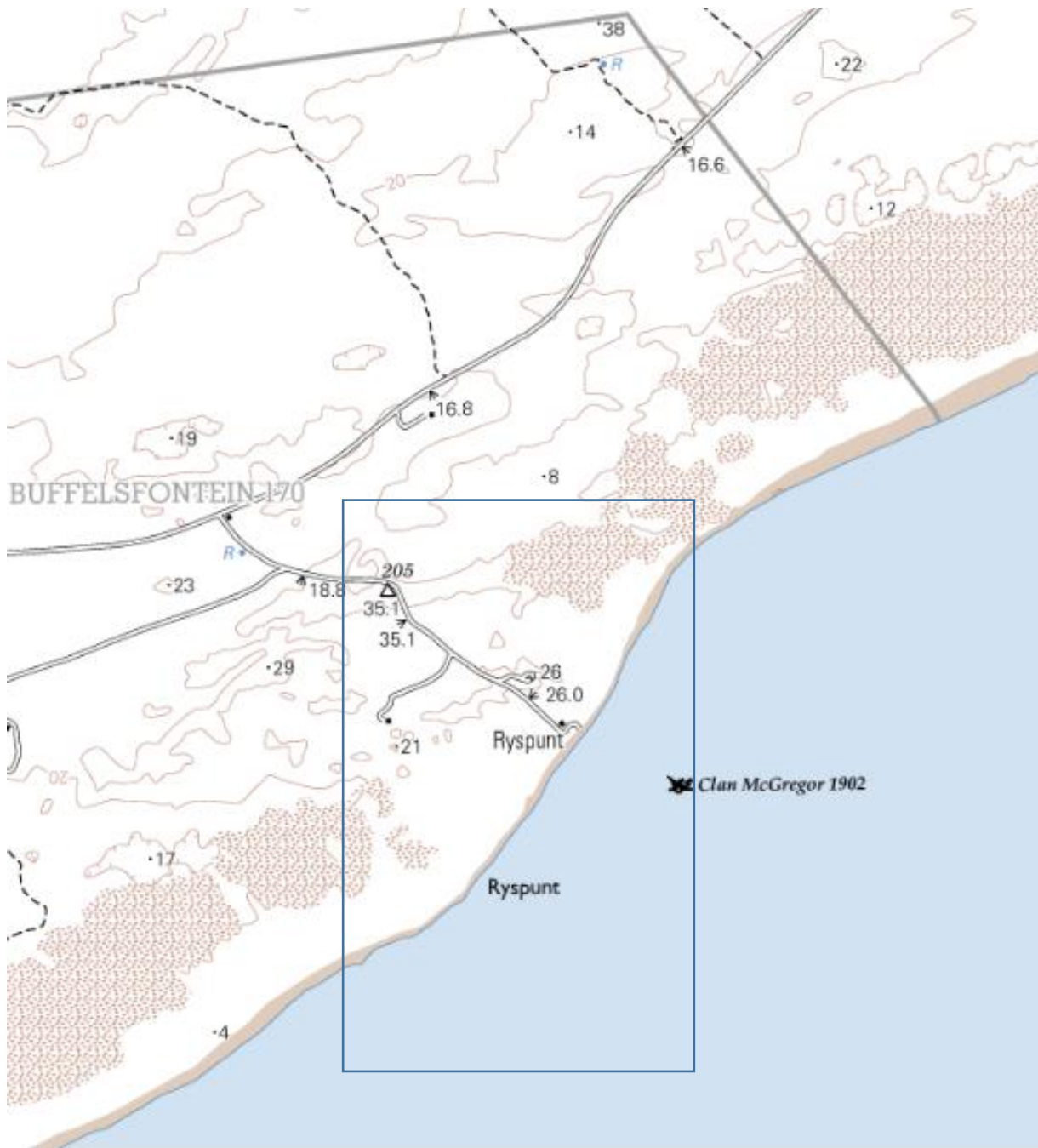


Figure 2. Topography map of Ryspunt. The fish trap clusters are in the boxed area, enlarged in Figures 3 and 4.

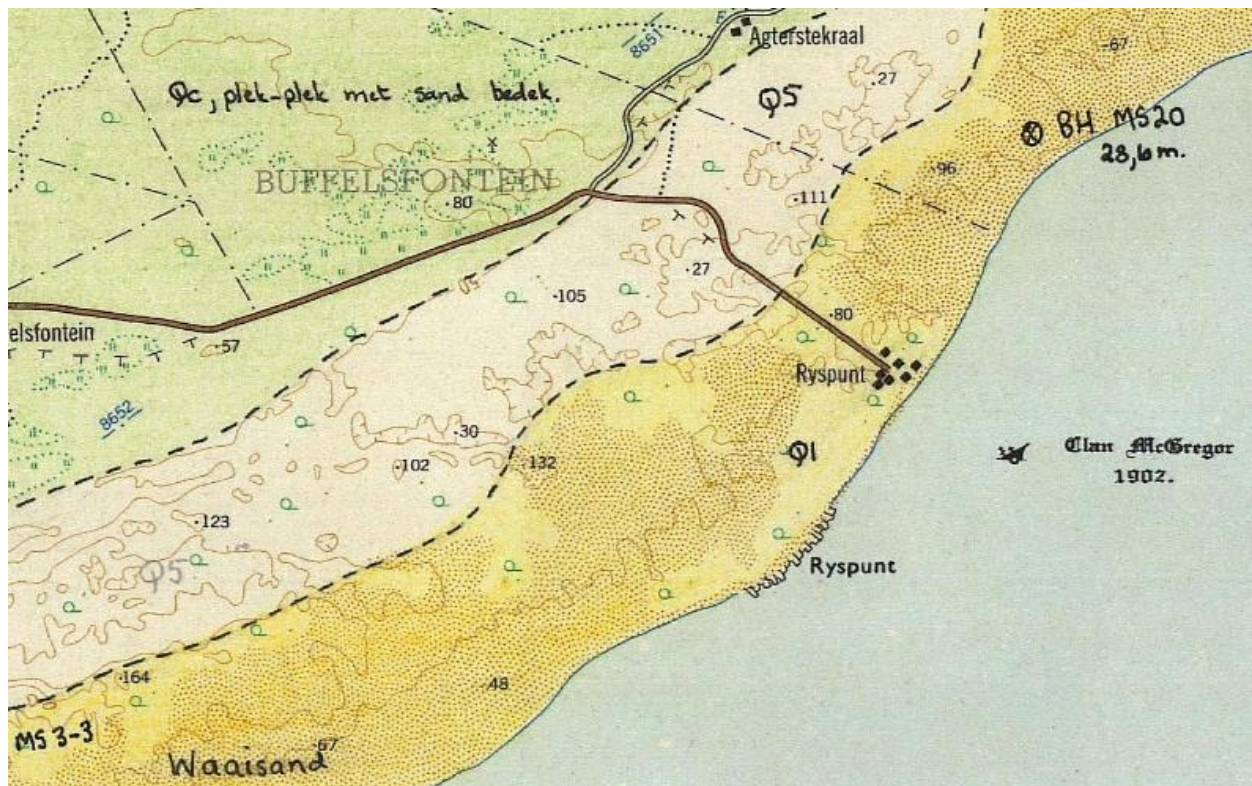
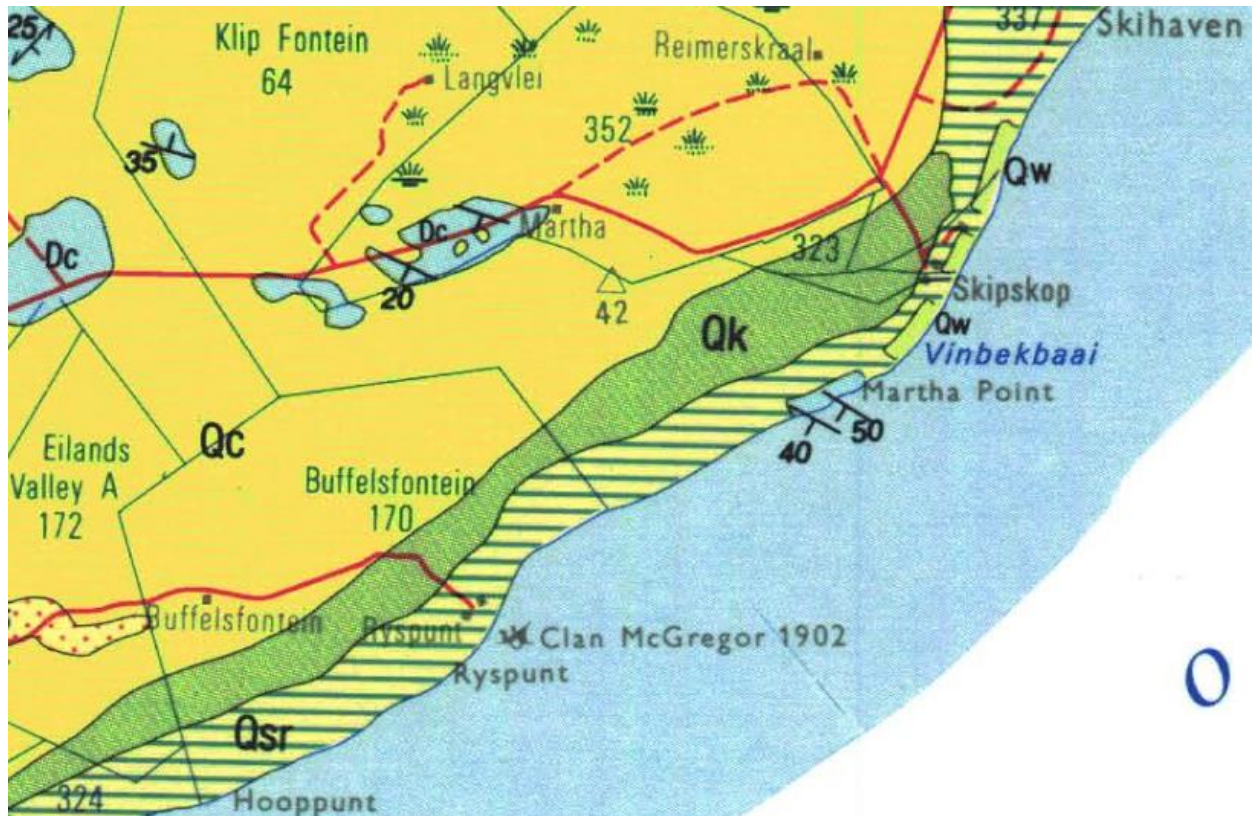


Figure 3. Geology maps of the Ryspunt fish traps area: Top – Riversdale, 1:250,000, 1993; bottom – 3420CB field sheet, 1:50,000, J Malan, 1984. The map gives no description of the rock formations at Ryspunt.

Near Ryspunt there are four trap clusters, located along a ~2.5 km segment of the shore, containing ~15 traps in total (Figure 4). The author is unaware of any study of this series of clusters. The satellite images show the rocky belt and the traps built on it both exposed and covered, or partly covered, with sand. The clusters are described from the southwest to the northeast (Figures 5 to 8). As access to the Overberg test Range is denied, there are no ground photographs.



Figure 4. Satellite image of the Ryspunt fish trap clusters (boxes, enlarged below, from southwest to northeast).

The individual traps are distinguished from satellite images (Figures 5 to 8).



Figure 5. Satellite images of Cluster 1. Top - the traps are covered, or partly covered, with sand; bottom – the traps are exposed.



Figure 6. Satellite images of Cluster 2. Top - the traps are covered, or partly covered, with sand; bottom – the traps are exposed.



Figure 7. Satellite images of Cluster 3. Top - the traps are covered, or partly covered, with sand; bottom – the traps are exposed.



Figure 8a. Satellite image of Cluster 4 when the traps are covered, or partly covered, with sand.



Figure 8b. Satellite image of Cluster 4 when the traps are exposed.

This series of fish trap clusters and the formations which constitute the rocky belt will be studied when permit is granted by the OTR.

The wreck of Clan McGregor is situated ~400 m from the shoreline (Figure 9).

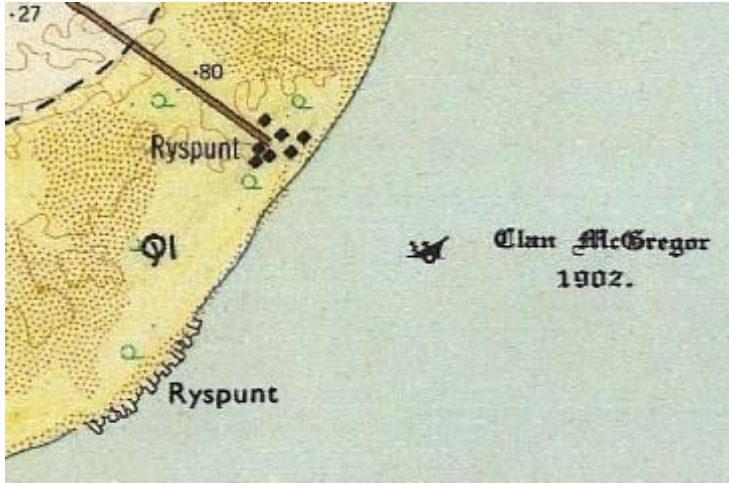


Figure 9. The wreck of Clan McGregor, ~400 m from the shoreline. Top - map; middle and bottom – satellite images. Arrow point to the wreck.