

Historical Maps

[Maps](#) are a universal medium of communication and are easily understood and appreciated by most, regardless of language, culture or background. A map is an accurate *interpretation* of a point in time of the earth surface; a map is not an exact image of the earth surface as it incorporates the bias of the cartographer and/or purpose of the map.



Care should always be taken when using maps as a research tool as the history and purpose need to be understood in order to accurately interpret historical maps. It should also be taken into consideration that the positional and factual accuracy of historical maps are always questionable.

Historical maps are a very useful method of record keeping that incorporates political view, names and human behaviour of the time. A map gives the reader an accurate glimpse into time regarding people's views, beliefs and popular ideas of the time. (Maps prior to 1994 are a glimpse into South Africa's history, where the divide between races are clearly visible; place names also give the reader an indication of who was in power at the time and of their political views. South African maps prior to 1994 is not a true reflection on population/race distribution as cartographic rules dictated that African Townships should not be prominent on maps)

Maps - as we know them today - date back to 2300 BC and can give us very valuable information on the history of the world. Early navigators provided us with surprisingly good maps that illustrated their travels, feelings towards native tribes, animals encountered and knowledge of the land and areas explored.

Historical Aerial Photography

[Aerial photography](#) provides us with an exact snapshot of the earth surface at the time of exposure with no bias or outside influences which makes for an excellent way of obtaining information and record keeping. Aerial photography lacks human influence and does not give the viewer any additional information such as of political times, human influences or governments of the time. Aerial photography can be used in a variety of applications as there are no data

extraction and generalisation that occur during the map creation process. Thus there is a good place for both to be used for record keeping and interpreting information.

Old maps have become collector's pieces and the ensuing trade has created awareness of antique maps while ensuring the preservation and access to historical information. The science of photogrammetry (precise measurements from aerial photography) is not as well known as cartography and does not have the same appeal to the general public, therefore historical aerial photography is not as easily accessible.

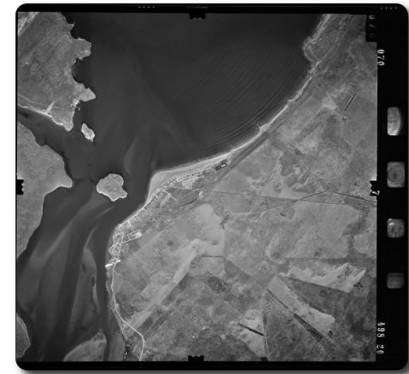
Maps & Aerial photography are an invaluable and irreplaceable source of data and will always be the most accurate way of recording what is happening on the earth surface.

Karto

Karto has been involved in the mapping of erven along the west coast to establish terrain changes that have taken place since development along the coastline has started.

Aerial photography dating back to 1938 was sourced and scanned at a high resolution to ensure measurements to the highest possible accuracy.

From the aerial photography the movement of the dunes, the changing coastline and development was closely studied to monitor and document the changes over a 70 year period.



Two sites were identified as part of the study. On one site the claim that a 5m dune existed on the erven was proved and development could go ahead as planned; existing height restriction could be lifted as required. The second site claimed to have had dunes of approximately 1.6m running through the area, however, it was clear from the aerial photography that the terrain was flat and no dunes existed on the property. Unfortunately the height restrictions in this area remained fixed.

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