



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

COMMITTEE MEETING**DATES:**

GDRC: 27/05/19

EXCO: 20/06/19

HRM COM: 05/07/19

COUNCIL: 29/07/19

DECLARATION SUBMISSION

SAHRIS SITE ID: 11832

SAHRIS SITE CATEGORY: Archaeological – Rock Painting Landscape

SIGNIFICANCE CATEGORY (THEMES): Archaeological; Aesthetic, Research, Socio-economic

ENQUIRIES: Ms H. Weldon

ITEM: Proposal for National Heritage Site Declaration: Bushmanskloof Rock Painting Landscape, Clanwilliam, Western Cape

A1. BACKGROUND

- A1.1. Situated at the north-eastern edge of the Cedarberg Wilderness Area, in the Agter-Pakhuis area, the Bushmanskloof Rock Painting Landscape represents the remarkably well-preserved record of the Late Stone Age in southern Africa. The paintings are associated to the traditions of San hunter-gatherer and Khoekhoe herders dating back to 10 000years ago.
- A1.2. Falling within the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve, the rock painting sites are situated in the near-pristine environment that would have been very similar to that in which the creators of art would have inhabited.
- A1.3. The excellent state of conservation, the concentration, clarity and detail of the paintings, the environment in which they are situated as well as the long term and ongoing monitoring and management of the sites provides an unprecedented opportunity for archaeological research into the San and Khoekhoe way of life as well as preventative rock art conservation research.
- A1.4. The area has already been the subject of extensive academic work dating back to the late 1950s, and includes the work of Dr Timothy Maggs' rock art survey of the

south-western Cape in the 1960s and the University of Cape Town's Spatial Archaeology Research Unit's work led by Prof. John Parkington in the 1980s and 1990s. Please see below selected references as per the Grading Submission.

- A1.4. The Tollman family purchased the farm in 2004 and established the exclusive, luxury wilderness destination, the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat, with focus around the rock paintings. The Tollman family have invested tremendously to the continued preservation and monitoring of the rock paintings as well as the social and economic upliftment of staff working for the reserve, showcasing heritage conservation directly and tangibly benefit communities.
- A1.5. The sites were nominated on by the Tollman family on 11th October 2017 to further preserve and protect the rock paintings. It is the family's intention to nominate these sites to UNESCO for inscription as a World Heritage Site.
- A1.6. Council graded the site as a Grade 1 site on 29 October 2018.

A2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- A2.1. *Bushmanskloof encompasses a Rock Painting Archaeological Landscape that bears graphic testimony to the complete social, political, spiritual and economic history of Stone Age hunter gatherers and Khoekhoe-speaking pastoralists, who inhabited the region for at least the past 10 000 years.*
- A2.2. *The first instances in the world of direct dating of rock art by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry was achieved from one of the rock painting sites on the reserve during the 1980s, and the exceptional state of preservation of material used at the painted sites provides rare opportunities for direct dating of the art. The rock paintings coupled with the existence of undisturbed, related archaeological deposits within numerous painted shelters, makes Bushmanskloof a landscape with exceptional archaeological research potential.*
- A2.3. *Numerous sites are characterized by painted imagery that exhibits outstanding clarity of colours and remarkably high levels of detail, along with a great volume of painted figures and a profusion of physically large figures and other, enigmatic imagery, making Bushmanskloof a Rock Painting Landscape of outstanding aesthetic significance.*
- A2.4. *The sites are located within a near-pristine natural environment with effective access control, and where scientific research is actively encouraged. Site visits are facilitated by trained guides, and benefit from regular conservation monitoring, as part of a conservation management plan that been implemented for more than a decade. Allowing for unique research into the efficacy of preventative heritage conservation measures.*
- A2.5. *Bushmanskloof therefore represents a unique combination of extraordinary aesthetic value and scientific research value, in a single, undisturbed landscape.*

A3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A3.1 Bushmanskloof Rock Painting Landscape is situated in the north-eastern corner of the Cedarberg within the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve. The remarkably well-preserved sites in the near-pristine environment, as well as the long-term implementation of a rock art management and regular monitoring offer an exceptional archaeological and preventative rock art management research potential.
- A3.2. The site was nominated by the owners of the property, the Tollman Family. The Tollman family through the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat (Pty)Ltd, manage the site and have implemented a Rock Art Management plan together with regular monitoring.
- A3.3. SAHRA did not received any objections to the proposed declaration. Cape Nature however raised a concern that precedence was given to an individual property and that the rock art was not seen within the wider context of the regional Cedarberg Mountain Complex.
- A3.4. The site has been assessed and graded as a Grade 1 site by Council on 29th October 2018.

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1. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION

- 1.1. The submission is made to discuss and recommend the declaration of the collection of Rock Art Sites known as Bushmanskloof Rock Painting Landscape within the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve; Clanwilliam; Western Cape

2. LANDOWNER'S DETAILS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS DECLARATION

- 2.1. The site owned and managed by the Tollman Family, who also nominated the site for declaration.

Ms V.Tollman
The Tollman Family Trust
c/o M. Tollman
Chief Executive Officer
Cullinan Holdings Ltd
Chiappini Square
17 Chiappini Street
Cape Town
8001

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION

- 3.1. Letters of notification were sent on 11th March 2019 to the following interested and affected parties, with the 60-day period ending on the 10th May 2019.

- Management of the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat including the Rock Art Curator and Head Guide
- Prof. John Parkington (Department of Archaeology at UCT)
- Cape Nature
- Cedarberg Local Municipality

- West Coast District Municipality
- Western Cape Provincial Government
- Heritage Western Cape
- Department of Arts and Culture
- South African Tourism
- United Nations World Tourism Organisation

3.2. Acknowledgments of receipt of the notifications were received from the Cedarberg Local Municipality, Western Cape Government and Prof John Parkington.

3.3. Formal responses were received from Heritage Western Cape in support of the declaration and Cape Nature. Cape Nature support the declaration but have raised that the archaeological heritage of the Cedarberg Mountain Complex (including Bushmanskloof) is of significance that it should be seen within the wider context and declaration of such should take precedence over individual properties

3.4. Letters of support were attached to the nomination from United National World Tourism Organisation and Prof Parkington.

4. OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE (AS PER THE TITLE DEEDS)

4.1. The rock painting sites that make up the Bushmanskloof Rock Painting Landscape, within the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve occur on Farm 633, Clanwilliam, Remainder of Farm Uitkyk 138 Clanwilliam, Remainder of Farm Zandbrug 137 Clanwilliam and Portion 2 of Farm Sevilla 135 Clanwilliam,

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE DECLARED (SITE BOUNDARIES)

Site Name	Erf No / Farm	Province	Nearest Town	Municipality		Survey Diagram	Deed
				Local	District		
Bushmanskloof Rock Painting Landscape	Farm 633	WC	Clanwilliam	Cedarberg	West Coast	1868/2004	1899/2017
	Remainder of Farm Uitkyk 138	WC	Clanwilliam	Cedarberg	West Coast		1899/2017
	Remainder of Farm Zandbrug 137	WC	Clanwilliam	Cedarberg	West Coast		1899/2017

	Portion 2 of Farm Sevilla 135 Clanwilliam,	WC	Clanwilliam	Cedarberg	West Coast		1899/2017
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Co-ordinates:

Reserve Boundary (RB)	Lat	Lon
RB1	-32.066780°	19.105699°
RB2 (<i>North-east corner</i>)	-32.066367°	19.127550°
RB3 (<i>Eastern-most point</i>)	-32.123983°	19.182100°
RB4	-32.124160°	19.175368°
RB5	-32.137823°	19.171578°
RB6	-32.143109°	19.179116°
RB7	-32.155371°	19.182777°
RB8	-32.165545°	19.167516°
RB9	-32.175018°	19.161444°
RB10 (<i>Southern-most point</i>)	-32.175387°	19.152138°
RB11	-32.124236°	19.123404°
RB12	-32.131300°	19.099217°
RB13	-32.142317°	19.092283°
RB14 (<i>Western-most point</i>)	-32.140358°	19.086722°
RB15	-32.118981°	19.092967°
RB16	-32.111851°	19.084417°
RB17	-32.104177°	19.085947°
RB18	-32.094973°	19.101357°
RB19	-32.111246°	19.111223°
RB20	-32.082802°	19.093565°
RB21	-32.080443°	19.103361°
RB22 (<i>North-west corner</i>)	-32.073718°	19.095414°

6. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE

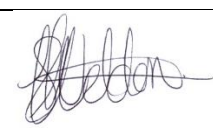
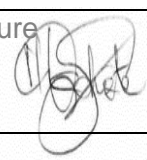
- 6.1. The rock painting sites are all managed and regularly monitored by trained staff of the Bushmanskloof Reserve. All visits to the sites are with trained guides.
- 6.2. As per the Grading submission, there is an extensive Rock Art Management Plan guiding the management and monitoring of the sites. (Appendix A)
- 6.3. In addition to the Conservation Management Plan a heritage agreement will be negotiated with the landowners to formally outline the roles and responsibilities in terms of the declarations such as permit applications and regular inspections.

7. RESOURCE UTILIZATION

7.1. The site is currently and will remain an exclusive luxury wilderness tourist destination operated under the Red Carnation Hotel Collection as the Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat (Pty) Ltd.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1. It is recommended that the declaration of the Bushmanskloof Rock Painting Landscape is approved

Prepared By:		Supported By:	
Heidi Weldon Heritage Officer: Grading and Declaration		Nkosazana Machete Manager: Heritage Protection	Signature 
Date: 20 May 2019		Date: 23 May 2019	

Recommendation supported by GDRC		Recommendation not supported by GDRC	
Mamakomoreng Nkhasi-Lesaoana Chairperson: GDRC		Signature	
Date:			

Recommendation supported by EXCo		Recommendation not supported by EXCo	
Adv Lungisa Malgas Chairperson: EXCo		Signature	
Date:			

Recommendation supported by HRM Committee		Recommendation not supported by HRM Committee	
Prof. H.C. Bredekamp Chairperson: HRM Committee		Signature	
Date:			

Recommendation supported by Council		Recommendation not supported by Council	
Prof. S. Bouillon Chairperson: Council		Signature	
Date:			

SELECTED REFERENCES (As per the Grading Submission)

Blundell, G. & Lewis-Williams, J.D. 1998. **Fragile Heritage: a rock art field guide**. Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand Press.

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The Nature Conservation Corporation, 2005. **Environmental Management Plan for Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Retreat**. Cape Town: The Nature Conservation Corporation.

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