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EASTERN CAPE

HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOWER COERNEY BALANCING DAM, SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

GA Environment (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation appointed Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants cc to provide a supplementary statement for the proposed development of the Lower Coerney Balancing Dam on Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepersvlakte No. 98, Farm 713 and Farm Enon Mission 574 (Remaining Extent of Farm 40), Sundays River Valley Municipality, Eastern Cape Province (Maps 1 & 2).

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the proposed agricultural development of the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepersvlakte No. 98 was conducted in 2014 and the report was revised in 2018 (Binneman 2018). The majority of the footprint for the proposed Lower Coerney Balancing Dam falls within the Farm Scheepersvlakte No. 98 and a portion of this footprint overlaps with portions of the future development of Scheepersvlakte Farm that was previously assessed.

This is to state that I have considered the information relevant to the development of the proposed Lower Coerney Dam in the context of the original archaeological assessment. I further confirm that the original assessment for Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepersvlakte No. 98 remains applicable to this project, and that the conclusions and recommendations remain the same, namely that:

- The proposed development will take place near the Sundays River, in an area where one would expect to find freshwater mussel middens. It is recommended that if such features are exposed, it must be reported to the archaeologist at the Albany Museum in Makhanda (Grahamstown) or to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken.
- The ECO must be trained to monitor the clearing of the vegetation. If concentrations of archaeological materials and/or human remains are exposed then all work must stop for an archaeologist to investigate
- An archaeologist should conduct a walkthrough of the area after the vegetation is cleared to check if any significant sites/materials were exposed. Further recommendations will follow after the investigation.

- If any human remains or any other concentrations of archaeological heritage material are exposed during construction, all work must cease and it must be reported immediately to the archaeologist at the Albany Museum (046 622 2312) or to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (043 745 0888). Sufficient time should be allowed to investigate and to remove/collect such material.
- The manager/foreman should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites. It is suggested that a person be trained (ECO) to be on site to report to the site manager if sites are found.

In general, the proposed development of the Lower Coerney Balancing Dam will not increase the archaeological significance of the impacts originally identified and is therefore considered as having **low archaeological significance**.

There are no changes to impacts and their significance ratings as identified in the original AIA and the proposed development should receive the same rating as in the previous report. (See Annexure "A" for the original significance rating converted to the latest format).

Please note that the relevant AIA should be consulted prior to the development for any additional requirements. The Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA) should also be informed of the development for ECPHRA to consider if any further assessments are recommended.

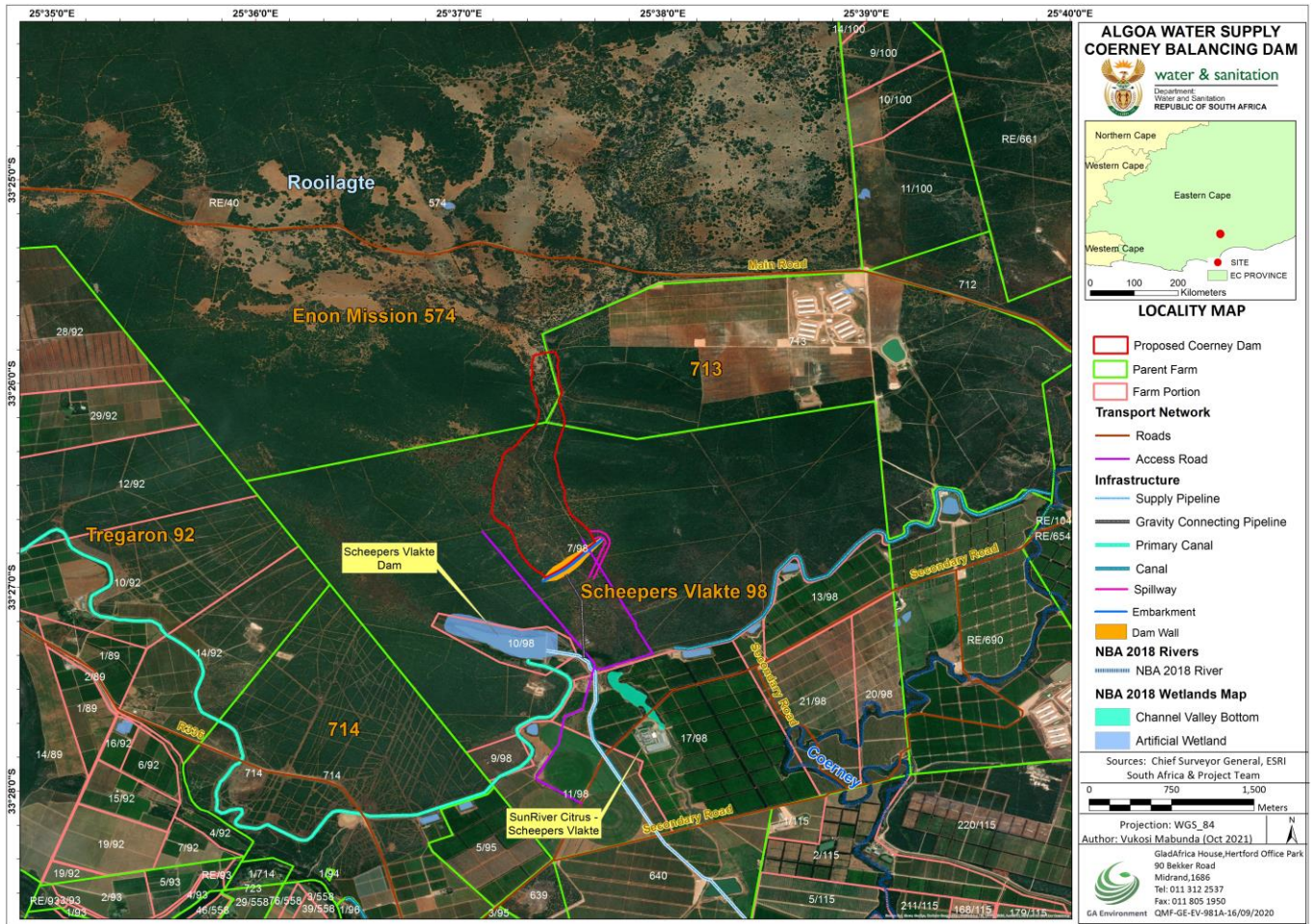
Best Regards



Kobus Reichert

REFERENCES

- Binneman, J. 2014. Revised in 2018. A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed agricultural development of the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepersvlakte No. 98 in the Sunday's River Valley Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province. Prepared for Public Process Consultants. Port Elizabeth. Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants cc. Jeffreys Bay.
- Nortje, J. 2020. Notification letter for the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment, and Water Use Application processes for the proposed Lower Coerney Balancing Dam, Eastern Cape. Prepared for GA GA Environment (Pty) Ltd. Midrand.



Map 1. Locality Map of the proposed Coerney Balancing Dam (Orthophoto map courtesy of GA Environment (Pty) Ltd).

Annexure A

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACTS

Direct impacts

Table 1. The potential physical disturbance and destruction of surface and buried pre-colonial archaeology sites/remains during all developments (rating based on the surface visibility of archaeological remains).

Nature of the Impact	Possible loss of non-renewable heritage resources: The main impact on archaeological sites/remains (if any) will be the physical disturbance of the material and its context. The clearing of the vegetation may expose, disturb and displace archaeological sites/material. However, from the investigation it would appear that the proposed areas earmarked for development are of low archaeological sensitivity. The Earlier Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools observed in the area to be developed are considered to be of low cultural significance, because they are in secondary context and not associated with any other archaeological remains. Notwithstanding, important materials may be covered by soil and vegetation. There are no known graves or buildings older than 60 years on the area surveyed
Extent	Site specific - The impact will be limited to the development footprint.
Duration	Permanent - Disturbance to archaeological material will be permanent.
Intensity	Medium
Probability	Probable – the archaeological material within the proposed development footprint will be disturbed, displaced or destroyed.
Reversibility	Irreversible – Once the archaeological material has been removed or destroyed this impact cannot be reversed
Degree of Confidence	Medium / High
Status and Significance of Impact (no mitigation)	Low Negative (-)
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mitigation is proposed for the property before construction starts because the archaeological remains are of low significance. • the ECO (must be trained) should monitor the clearing of the vegetation and if concentrations of archaeological materials and/or human remains are exposed then all work must stop for an archaeologist to investigate (see below). • An archaeologist should conduct a walkthrough of the area after the vegetation is cleared to check if any significant sites/materials were exposed. Further recommendations will follow after the investigation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any human remains (or any other concentrations of archaeological heritage material) are exposed during construction, all work must cease in the immediate area of the finds and it must be reported immediately to the archaeologist at the Albany Museum (Tel. 046 622 2312) or to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (Tel. 043 745 2811). Sufficient time should be allowed to investigate and to remove/collect such material. Further recommendations will follow from the investigation
Significance and Status (with mitigation)	Neutral (0)
Residual Impact	<p>The cumulative impacts on above and below ground heritage will increase when further developments take place in adjoining areas, such as the planned agricultural developments on Scheepersvlakte Farm. At this stage a portion of the footprint for the proposed Lower Coerney Balancing Dam (36 hectares) overlaps with the planned future developments. It is anticipated that archaeological material uncovered or found during the development will be of low cultural significance similar to those observed during the survey. The cumulative impact of the developments therefore does not change the overall impact rating. Low Negative(-)</p>