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**PHASE 1: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE FARM NEW
YEARS DRIFT WEST NO 274, REGISTER DIVISION ALBANY.**

Prepared for: Lizelle Gregory
Bokamoso
P O Box 11375
Maroelana
0161

Prepared by: Dr Lita Webley
Albany Museum
Somerset Street
Grahamstown
6139

Tel: (046) 6222312
Fax: (046) 6222398
Email: L.Webley@ru.ac.za

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment undertaken on behalf of Bokamoso to assess the possible impact of the sub-division of the farm New Years Drift West No 274 (557 ha in extent) on the heritage resources of the area. The intention is to sub-divide the land into 199 plots which will be sold to the public. Prospective buyers will have a view of the Dam and be living next to the Bushman Sands Game Reserve and the town of Alicedale (Fig. 1 & 2).

1 day survey

The farm New Years Drift West (Fig. 3) adjoins the Bushman Sands Game Reserve, Bushman Sands Hotel and golf course in Alicedale, Eastern Cape Province. The Bushman Sands Game Reserve is situated on 4000 hectares of former farmland.

The initial assessment was undertaken in March 2006, but the final report was only completed in June 2007 after confirmation was reached on the terms of the contract.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To undertake a first phase survey of the farm New Years Drift West No 274 in the division of Albany to determine the impact of the sub-division of the farm on the heritage (including archaeological heritage) resources. This would include:

- a review of the existing literature
- provide a description of the areas of cultural and historical importance
- provide accurate locations with GPS co-ordinates
- provide an assessment of their sensitivity and protection status
- *→ measures for mitigation of possible impact?*

THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT

The heritage impact assessment was undertaken in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999). Section 38 of the Act clearly indicates that any person constructing a road or similar linear developments exceeding 300m in length or developing an area exceeding 5000 square metres in extent is required to notify the responsible heritage resources authority or SAHRA. SAHRA will in turn advise whether an impact assessment report is needed before development can take place.

The National Heritage Resources Act protects all archaeological sites and material, palaeontological material and meteorites. It is an offense to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or disturb any archaeological sites without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Act (SAHRA).

With regard burial grounds and graves, Section 36 (3) of the Act clearly stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage authority or SAHRA, (a) destroy, damage or exhume the grave of the victim of conflict; (b) destroy, damage or exhume any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. With regard subsection 3 (b), SAHRA may not issue a permit for the destruction of a grave or burial ground unless it is satisfied that the applicant has made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial

ground, and reached an agreement with such communities about the future of such grave or burial ground.

Section 34 of the Act stipulates that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) is also given protection under the Act. Section 24 of the Act makes provision for provincial heritage resources authorities to maintain a register of heritage resources and to set up management plans for their preservation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Nieuwejaarsdrift was at one time a very large farm but by 1962 the 1:50 000 map (3326 AC) shows the farm had been divided into New Years Drift West, New Years Drift East and New Years Drift South. The earliest references to the name date to the 1770s when it was visited by both Governor Van Plettenberg and the early traveller, Anders Sparrman. Lichtenstein referred to the farm as belonging to Jan Booysen in 1803. There is a document (SMD 470) in the Albany History Museum which shows that the farm New Year's Drift was granted to an H. Bezuidenhout on 30 November 1843 (it was then 2 879 ha in extent). New Years Drift (west) and (south) were owned by OJ Goosen in 1897 and New Years Drift (east) was owned by EJ Wilmot in 1898. There is no information on the history of the original farmhouse or any significant events relating to the farm. At one time during the 20th century, the farm was owned by a certain Wessels, who apparently also owned Hoffman's Kloof.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND TO THE AREA

The area is most famously known for the site Wilton, on the farm Hoffman's Kloof which is located some 7 km south-east of the Dam. First excavated by Hewitt and Stapleton in the 1920s and later by J Deacon in the 1970s, the site became the type locality of the Wilton culture.

However, there are also a number of small painted shelters in the Alicedale area. HJ Deacon visited a rock art site on the south side of the road on the bend of the New Years River Dam in 1963. This site has not been discovered again. It is reported to be located in a jumble of quartzite koppies. There have been reports (Prof D MacLennan, Rhodes University) of small rock shelters with paintings from Death Valley, a barren area on the farm Witteklip some 7km to the east. In 1996, J Deacon, B Jackson and L Webley visited the farm Witteklip (now called Burchell's Nature Reserve) to remove graffiti from a rock art panel on the farm.

After the purchase of farms in the area around the town of Alicedale to establish the Bushman Sands Game Reserve, the Albany Museum received numerous reports of the discovery of rock art sites in the Reserve. Some of these sites, it is believed, have been developed for tourism purposes. For example, the 2007 issue of the National Arts Festival programme includes a "Train Tour" to Alicedale and a "tour to the

recently discovered Bushman Cave Shelter accompanied by a guide and “real Bushman Trackers” to view untouched historical Rock Art dating back to 4000BC”. There is also a reference in the programme to “Farmhouse lunch under the trees at “Wilton Culture” historical farmhouse”.

This is the information which is available on the internet relating to the Bushman Sands Nature Reserve: *“The Africa of a bygone era is further recaptured by the Bushman paintings some of which are accessible in the reserve and can be viewed on request. Dating back thousands of years, these rock art paintings ensure that the cultural legacy of the Khoi San people remains for years to come. Another unique feature is the massive 200ha New Years Dam in the heart of the reserve. Originally built as a source of water for the steam trains, the dam now sustains the wildlife in the arid Eastern Cape landscape. Interesting features on game drives include the historical site of the Battle of Death valley and the Sunset cruises on the New Years Dam”.*

However, the archaeologists at the Albany Museum have not been asked to view the sites within the Bushman Sands Game Reserve and cannot comment on them.

// NB?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The area was surveyed on 3 March 2006. I was accompanied by Ms Lizelle Gregory of Bokamoso Landscape Architects and Environmental Consulting and Mr Jean Nel, property owner of New Years Drift West No 274. The survey took the form of a drive by four wheel drive vehicle across the property, in particular examining the area to the north-west and north of the New Year's Dam which are going to be divided into 199 plots. We examined on foot all the small river systems which run into the dam for possible rocky outcrops. However there was no sign of any areas suitable for shelters. We also examined on foot the higher lying areas for possible stone tool scatters. None were observed.

557 ha

IMPACT IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The Alicedale area contains a number of important archaeological sites such as Wilton. The development of a new area of farmland could potentially damage or destroy archaeological sites in the area. Any damage to archaeological sites is permanent. This is because archaeological sites are non-renewable and once destroyed, the information is lost forever.

The survey failed to locate any **archaeological sites or material on the property New Years Drift West**. No stone tools, bone, pottery or historical material was observed while walking across the area. It is possible that archaeological sites may have existed along the banks of the New Years River which has subsequently been covered by the waters of the Dam. The original farmhouse, outbuildings and graveyard of the property are located to the south of the New Year's Dam (see Fig.3). There are no historical structures or graveyards on the portion which is going to be sub-divided for development. Further, the nature of the topography precludes any rocky outcrops which could include shelters for human occupation or rock art. It is the

area to the **south** of the Dam which contains more precipitous areas which are more likely to include overhangs or shelters.

It would appear that the portion of the farm which is destined for development is of low sensitivity and the probability that important archaeological and historical sites will be threatened is very low. In terms of the archaeology of this area, no mitigation measures need to be undertaken as no archaeological sites are threatened. My degree of confidence with regard this assessment is high.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey of the area failed to identify a single stone artefact or other archaeological remains which might suggest earlier occupation of the area. I would therefore recommend that development of the area might take place

However, the contractors should take every care to avoid destroying archaeological or historical sites which may be located beneath the soil surface. When excavations for the foundations of the plots takes place, contractors should look for the following features:

1. Human remains including burials.
2. Scatters of stone tools or concentrations of animal bones.
3. Scatters of historical material, including blue and white china, metal, glass, etc relating to earlier occupation of the area.

TERMINOLOGY

Middle Stone Age: Stone tools from this period are often made on fine-grained stone and they reflect a more controlled use of the flaking properties. These tools date between 200 000 and 40 000 years ago.

Later Stone Age: LSA peoples were ancestral to the San (Bushmen) and lived in South Africa between 40 000 years ago and colonial times. Later Stone Age tools are typically made on fine grained cherts and chalcedonies, although quartz tools are also very common. They are generally microlithic in size and conform to certain designs, such as scraper, segments and adzes. They are easy to recognize and date.

REFERENCES

Deacon, J. 1972. Wilton: an assessment after fifty years. South African Archaeological Bulletin 27: 10-48.

Hewitt, J et al. 1921. On several implements and ornaments from Strandloper sites in the Eastern Cape. South African Association for the Advancement of Science Vol 18.

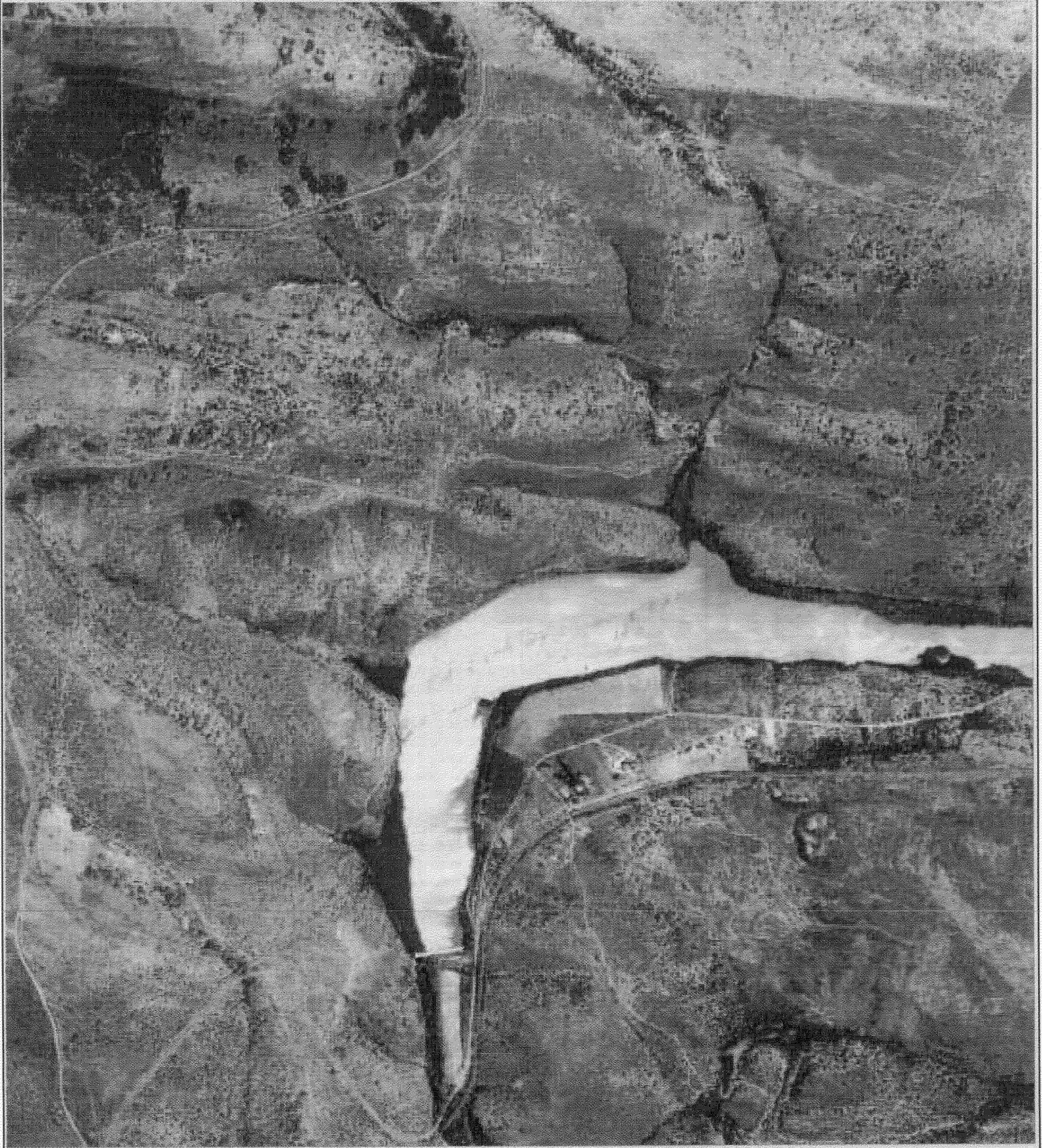
Skead, CJ. Unpublished records of Eastern Cape farms. Archives of the Albany Museum.



Figure 1: The location of Alicedale, the New Years Drift Dam, Wilton Cave and Grahamstown.

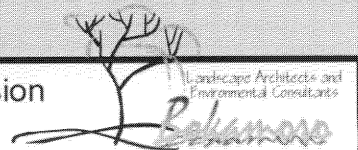


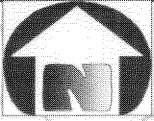
Study Area



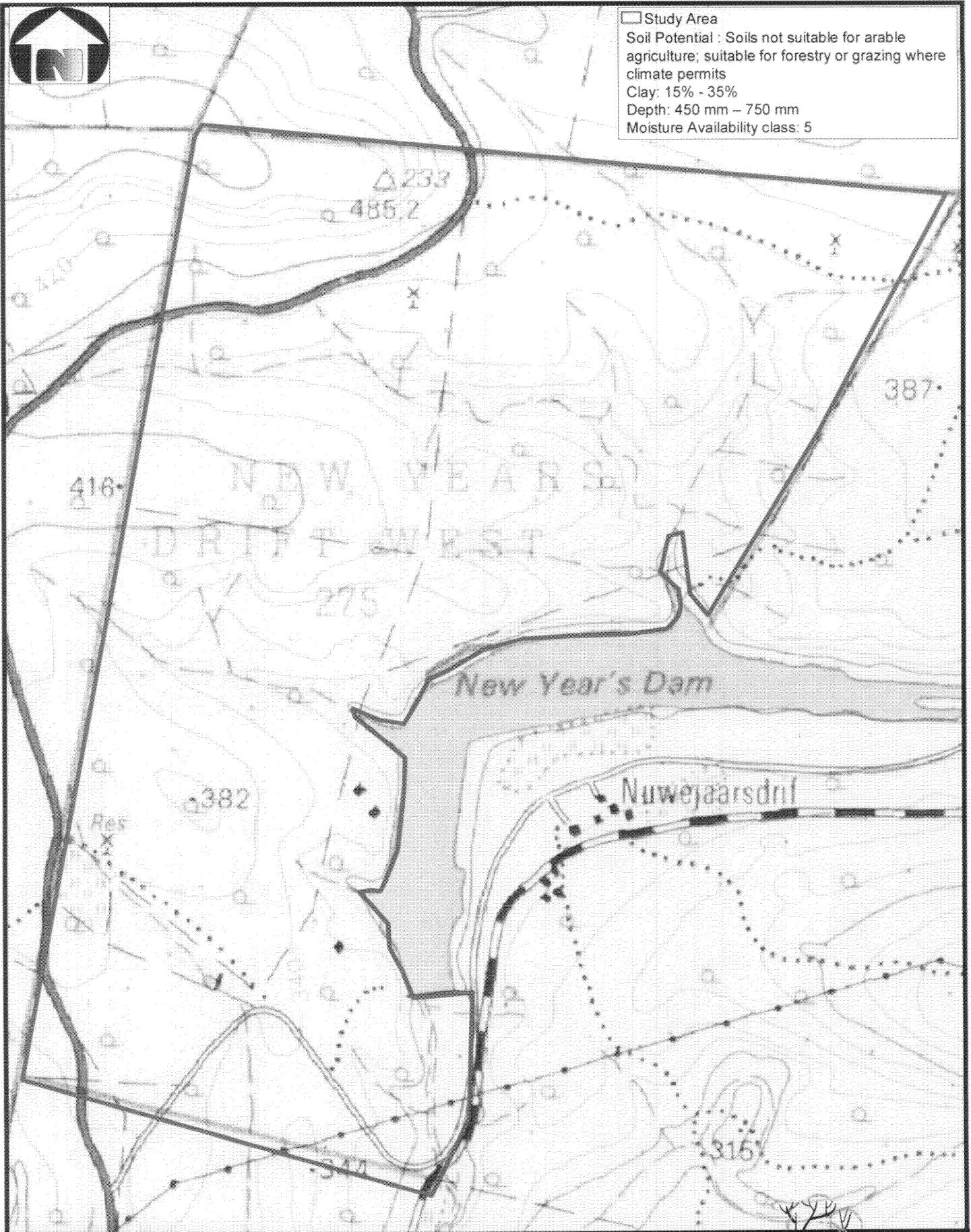
Aerial
Map

New Years Drift West No 274, Registration Division
Albany R.D.





□ Study Area
Soil Potential : Soils not suitable for arable agriculture; suitable for forestry or grazing where climate permits
Clay: 15% - 35%
Depth: 450 mm - 750 mm
Moisture Availability class: 5



Soils
Characteristic

New Years Drift West No 274, Registration Division
Albany R.D.





ALBANY MUSEUM

SOMERSET STREET • GRAHAMSTOWN • 6139 • EASTERN CAPE • SOUTH AFRICA
TELEPHONE: (046) 622 2312 • FAX: (046) 622 2398 • HERBARIUM: (046) 622 2638
Established 1855

Mrs M Leslie
South African Heritage Resources Agency
P O Box 4637
Cape Town
8000



20 June 2007

Dear Mary

PHASE 1: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE FARM NEW YEARS DRIFT WEST NO 274, REGISTER DIVISION ALBANY

Please find enclosed a copy of the report submitted to the client.

The actual fieldwork was done in March 2006, but subsequently the client failed to respond to my emails and letters and the final report was therefore never completed or submitted.

I was recently (June 2007) approached by the client again and asked to submit the report. After agreement was reached on the budget, the report was completed and submitted.

There are no archaeological sites in the area identified for development. I do however, raise my concerns about rock art sites which have been found on lands belonging to the Bushman Sands Game Reserve (on the adjoining property) and which have been opened for tourism purposes. I have sent you a separate letter in this regard.

Best wishes

Dr Lita Webley
Manager: Albany Museum