

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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Ms. Emily Herschell
Chand Environmental Consultants
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Dear Ms Herschell

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED N2 GATEWAY HOUSING PROJECT AT BOYS TOWN (CROSSROADS) WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Introduction

Chand Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an archaeological assessment of land in Crossroads (Nyanga) that has been set aside for low cost social housing under the auspices of the Western Cape Provincial Government N2 Gateway Housing Project.

About 2 600 residential units are envisaged, including sports fields, a multi purpose indoor centre, school, crèche, church, public open space and associated service infrastructure.

The land is currently owned by the City of Cape Town.

The extent of the proposed development (about 23 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The site visit and assessment took place on 15 August 2005.

2. The study site

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1

An aerial photograph of the affected property is illustrated in Figure 2.

The proposed site is located alongside the N2 and Old Klipfontein Road in Crossroads/Nyanga, in the Western Cape Province.

3. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the specialist archaeological assessment are to:

- Identify and map archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

4. Description of the study site

The site (GPS reading S 33° 59 41.2 E 18° 35 52.8 set on Map Datum WGS 84), known as Boys Town is severely degraded (Figures 3 & 4), the bulk of which is currently occupied by informal shack dwellers. Some recreational open space does occur. The informal settlement was established over 25 years ago, in 1980.

5. Approach to the study

The property was subjected to a partial foot survey.

6. Findings

No pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains were located during the assessment of the site.

7. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be very low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be highly improbable, since the site has already been completely altered.

The proposed site is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

The assessment of the proposed project has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being very low.

8. Recommendations

The study has shown that the proposed site is suitable for development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JK' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jonathan Kaplan

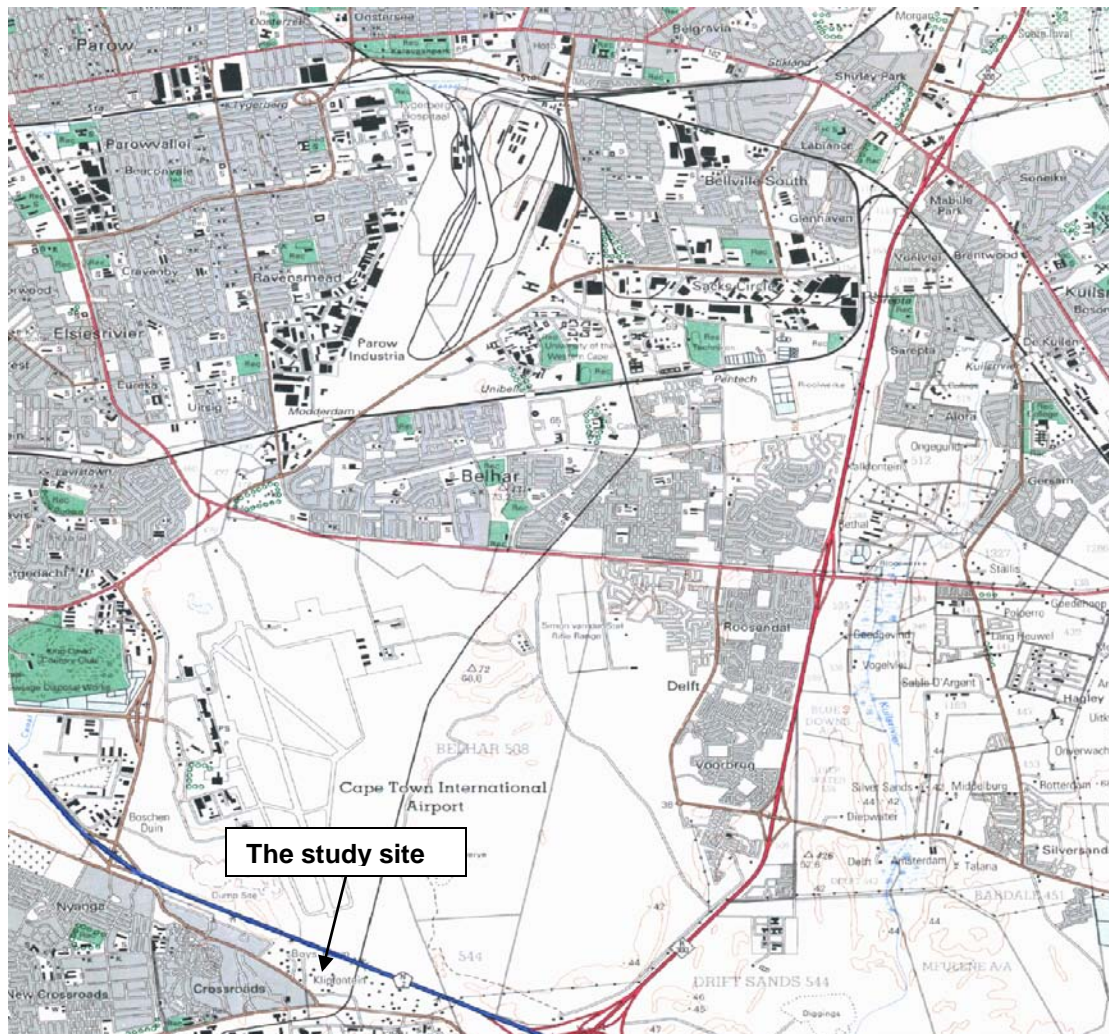


Figure 1. Site locality Map (1:50 000 Map Reference No. 3318 DC Bellville)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the site located between the N2 and Old Klipfontein Road.



Figure 3. The site facing north west.



Figure 4. The site facing north east.