

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED UILENVLEI PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE  
BREDASDORP DISTRICT**

Prepared for

**Mr Rob Willmot**

On behalf of

**SOUTHERN SPIRIT PROPERTIES 25 (PTY) LTD**

By

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Uilenvlei Private Nature Reserve, on Portion 2 of the Farm Sand Down Estate 220, Bredasdorp District, has identified no archaeological impacts that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

The proposed rezoning of Portion 2 of the farm, from Agriculture Zone I to Resort Zone II and Open Space Zone III (Nature Reserve) is subject to a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Mr Rob Willmot on behalf of Southern Spirit Properties 25 (Pty) Ltd, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Uilenvlei Private Nature Reserve, in the Bredasdorp District of the Western Cape Province

The proposed rezoning of Portion 2 of the farm, from Agriculture Zone I to Resort Zone II and Open Space Zone III (Nature Reserve) is subject to a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment being undertaken, in terms of Section 38 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The proposed rezoning of the farm also provides for the construction of 25 single residential units (in a 'Cape Fisherman Cottage Style') within a development footprint not exceeding 200 m<sup>2</sup> p/residential erven.

The farm is more than 300 ha in extent, but only 1.5 ha, including an existing single access road, will be developed and upgraded.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological and heritage sites that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to rate the significance of the potential impact, and if necessary to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the baseline study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to indicate the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the site.

### 3. STUDY APPROACH

The approach used in the study entailed a detailed foot survey of the proposed development.

The immediate surrounding area was also searched for archaeological heritage remains.

This baseline study also included a survey of the existing access road to the proposed development site, as this road will be upgraded.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

Archaeological research in the Gansbaai/Pearly Beach area has shown that large numbers of sites occur in the coastal zone (Kaplan 1993). The region, with its rocky shoreline, acted as foci that attracted Later Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (LSA) people as it offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods, particularly shellfish.

Shell middens, ancient tidal fishtraps (*visvywers*) and burials (both indigenous and colonial) have been recorded along the rocky shoreline, at Pearly Beach (Avery 1974, 1976; Kaplan 2000, Rudner 1968), Buffelsjachtbaai (Hart & Halkett 1991), Quoin Point, Die Dam, Duinbaai, Soetfontein, Sandy Point, Kleinbaai, Danger Point (Kaplan 1993, 1996; Rudner 1968) and Gansbaai (Hart & Halkett 2003; Kaplan 2005a in prep.).

The archaeological sensitivity of Pearly Beach/Gansbaai area has also been highlighted in the Gansbaai Spatial Development Plan (Steyn Larsen 2003).

Archaeological excavations and sampling of archaeological deposits have also been undertaken in the region (Kaplan 2000a, b; 2005b in prep.; Peter Nilssen pers comm.). A Perlemoen-rich midden at Pearly Beach produced a date of  $1450 \pm 50$  BP (G. Avery, pers. comm.). Avery (1976) suggested that the large Perlemoen-rich middens at Pearly Beach represented processing or 'transit' sites, where large volumes of Perlemoen were collected at low spring tides, when *Haliotis* could be reached. The shellfish represented the optimum resource because of its size.

Avery (1976) argued that shellfish meat was prepared mainly for bulk drying, and then transported to inland sites for storage and consumption. Drying allowed for very large but lighter volumes of protein-rich meat to be transported and stored, free of any pathogenic bacteria (Henshilwood *et al* 1994).

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<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the last 20 000 of precolonial history in southern Africa.

## **4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)**

...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

#### **4.1.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))**

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by Heritage Western Cape (HWC), the responsible provincial resources authority.

#### **4.1.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))**

No person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

#### **4.1.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))**

No person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

As the delegated provincial heritage authority, and in compliance with the terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, a copy of this report must be submitted to HWC, for their approval<sup>2</sup>.

## **5. SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Uilenkrals River mouth opens at the town of Franskraalstrand approximately 5 km east of the town of Gansbaai (Figure 1). The study site is located on the east banks of the Uilenkrals River approximately 1.4 km from the mouth (Figure 2).

The proposed development footprint is on a north-facing limestone ridge bordering on the floodplain areas of the river. The ridge reaches a height of about 16m above sea level in places, falling relatively steeply to the river's edge. Alien vegetation, mostly Rooikrans, covers a large portion of the study site. The only areas that are not heavily infested by Rooikrans are the limestone ridge (Figures 3-8).

There is a gravel/sand access road running from the tarred Franskraalstrand/Pearly Beach road through the study area and over the ridge down onto the floodplain of the river. A small stone quarry (since closed) is also located on the property. No buildings or structures occur on the property.

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<sup>2</sup> The report should be sent to Dr Antoinette Jerardino, Heritage Western Cape, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town, 8000.

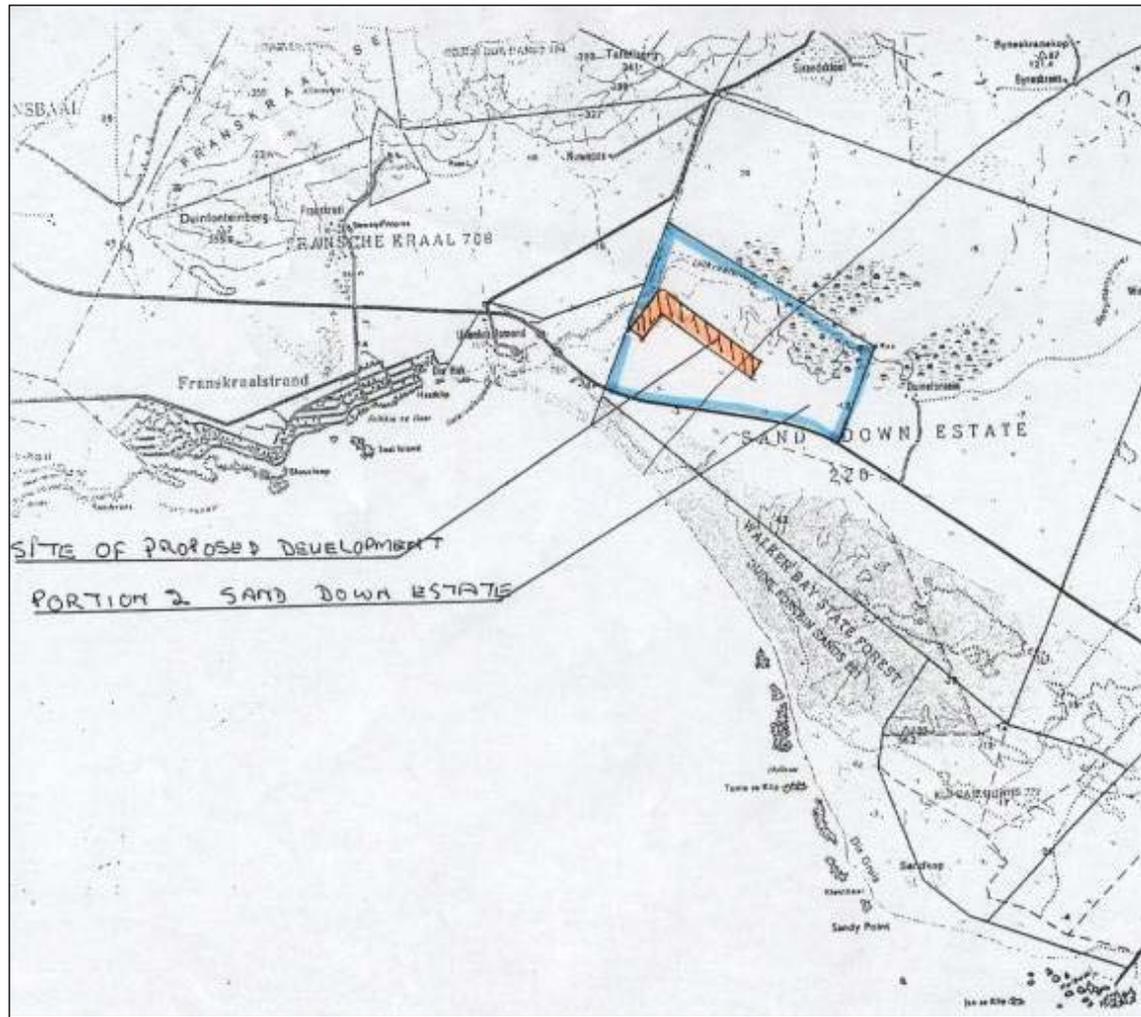


Figure 1. Locality map showing the site in relation to the surrounding area.



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the property illustrating the location of the 25 residential units.



Figure 3. The site facing north.



Figure 4. The site facing south.



Figure 5. The site facing north-east.



Figure 6. The site facing east.



Figure 7. The site facing north.



Figure 8. The site facing south-west

## 6. FINDINGS

### 6.1 The proposed development site and surrounding area

No archaeological heritage remains were located within the proposed development footprint and the immediate surrounding area.

### 6.2 Access road to the proposed development site

No archaeological heritage remains were located in the access road to the proposed development site.

Factors which have led to the paucity of archaeological remains are most likely related to the location of the study area being relatively far removed from the coastline which was a major source of food, and occupation was therefore likely to be closer to the coast at least during LSA times.

## 7. IMPACT IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological heritage remains is rated to be low.

The probability of locating any significant archaeological sites or remains during the implementation (i.e. the Construction Phase) of the proposed project is improbable.

The assessment of the potential impact on archaeological resources is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Archaeological impact assessment of the proposed Uilenvlei Private Nature Reserve and development: Impact: Destruction of archaeological resources.

	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
<b>Extent</b>	Site specific	Site specific
<b>Duration</b>	Temporary	Temporary
<b>Intensity</b>	Low	Low
<b>Probability</b>	Improbable	Improbable
<b>Significance</b>	Low	Very low
<b>Status</b>	Positive	Positive
<b>Confidence</b>	High	High

## **8. MITIGATION MEASURES**

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

- If a human burial is encountered by accident during construction, the remains must be left as undisturbed as possible. The local police must be informed as well as the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Mrs. Mary Leslie 021 4624502). If the burial is deemed to be over 60 years old and no foul play is suspected, an emergency exhumation permit may be issued by SAHRA for an archaeologist to exhume the remains under such provisions as SAHRA deems appropriate.

## **9. SITE SUITABILITY**

The assessment has shown that no archaeological remains were located during the baseline survey of the proposed project.

Mitigation measures, as outlined above, will minimise the possible impacts that might occur during the Construction Phase of the proposed project.

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

## **10. CONCLUSION**

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Uilenvlei Private Nature Reserve and development has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low provided that:

- An archaeologist is immediately informed if any archaeological remains are uncovered during construction activities.
- Human burials uncovered during bulk earthworks not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

## 11. REFERENCES

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