

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED UILKRAALS LAGOON SANCTUARY
CALEDON DISTRICT**

Prepared for

UILKRAALS LAGOON SANCTUARY (PTY) LTD

By

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Executive summary

Uilkraals Lagoon Sanctuary (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing development on Portions 36 and 37 of the farm Fransche Kraal No. 708, near Gansbaai (Caledon District), in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of Portions 36 and 37 of the farm Fransche Kraal No. 708 provides for the development of about 95 single residential units on the west bank of the Uilenkraals River.

Approximately 90% of the property will be rezoned to Private Open Space, while the remaining 10% will be rezoned for residential development.

The extent of the proposed development (63 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 aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

The study area is infested with alien vegetation resulting in low archaeological visibility. Pockets of natural indigenous vegetation occur in places.

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the baseline study.

No old buildings or structures occur on the property.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

The specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portions 36 and 37 of the farm Fransche Kraal No. 708, near Gansbaai, has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low provided that.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Uilkraals Lagoon Sanctuary (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of a proposed housing development on Portions 36 and 37 of the farm Fransche Kraal No. 708, near Gansbaai, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of Portions 36 and 37 of the farm Fransche Kraal No. 708 provides for the development of about 95 single residential units on the west bank of the Uilkraals River.

Approximately 90% of the property will be rezoned to Private Open Space, while the remaining 10% will be rezoned for residential development.

The extent of the proposed development (nearly 63 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 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. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the study site is illustrated in Figure 2.

Portions 36 and 37 of the Farm Fransche Kraal No. 708 (at S 34° 33 10 E° 19 26 20 on map datum WGS 84), is located on the west bank of the Uilenkraals River, approximately 5 km from Gansbaai.

The Uilenkraals River mouth opens at the town of Franskraalstrand (Figure 3). Access to the site is via two single-track roads alongside the gravel road to Baardskeerdersbos. Several smaller tracks and footpaths occur over the site, most likely used by fisher folk gaining access to the Uilenkraals River and the floodplain.

The study area is infested with alien vegetation (refer to Figure 2). Pockets of natural indigenous vegetation occur in places, including mountain Fynbos as well as vleiland vegetation. Some small-scale quarrying has taken place on Portion 37 of the affected property, as well as some indiscriminate bulldozing. Two small dams occur on Portion 37 of the affected property, alongside the road to Baardskeerdersbos.

Other than a concrete drinking trough located near one of the dams, and a temporary (abandoned and ruined) structure and some related fencing on Portion 37 of the affected property, no old buildings or structures occur on the remainder of the property.

Other than the Uilenkraals River, no significant landscape features such as rocky outcrops occur on the property.



Figure 1. Locality map (3419 CB Gansbaai)

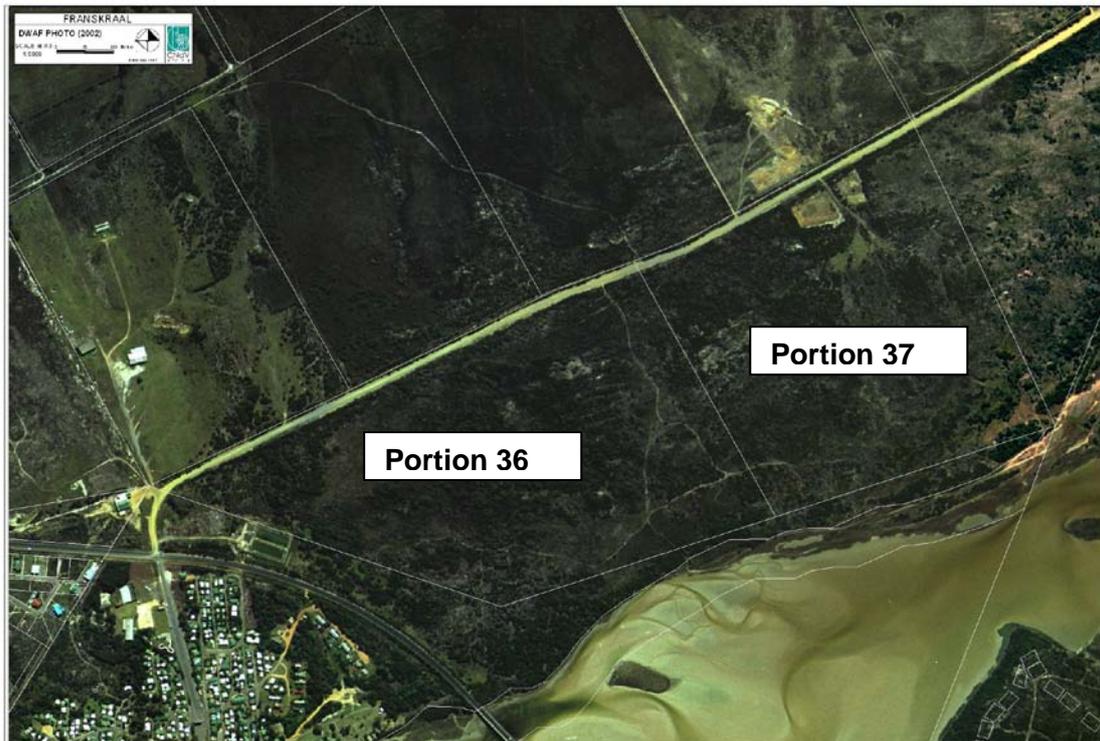


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the site.



Figure 3. Photograph of the site taken from the Uilenkraals River bridge. Note the infestation of alien vegetation.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed development.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 17th of October 2005.

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 Age¹ (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, Kaplan 2005a; 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 2005b).

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; 2005c in prep.; Nilssen 2004). A Perlemoen-rich midden at Pearly Beach produced a date of 1450 ± 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.

It is worth noting that a Phase 1 AIA of the proposed Uilenvlei Private Nature Reserve, a property located on the opposite (east) bank of the Uilenkraals River, was undertaken in December 2004 (Kaplan 2004). A few archaeological heritage remains were located during this study, which were graded low local significance.

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

5. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

The study area is infested with alien vegetation resulting in low archaeological visibility.

6. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 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 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

6.1.1 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.

6.1.2 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.

6.1.3 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.

7. FINDINGS

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the baseline study.

8. 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.

Human burials may, however, be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

Shell middens and open habitation sites may also be exposed during vegetation-clearing operations.

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

Table 1. Archaeological impact assessment of the proposed Uilkraals Lagoon Sanctuary: Impact: Destruction of archaeological resources.

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

9. 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.

10. SITE SUITABILITY

The assessment has shown that no archaeological heritage 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.

11. CONCLUSION

The specialist archaeological assessment of the proposed Uilkraals Lagoon Sanctuary 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 vegetation clearing operations and construction activities.
- Human burials uncovered during bulk earthworks not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

12. REFERENCES

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