

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
PORTION 25 OF THE FARM COMPAGNIESDRIFT NO. 436
CALEDON**

Prepared for

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Executive summary

Dirisana Environmental and Ecological Consultants, on behalf of Mr Koos Jonker, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed housing development on Portion 25 of the Farm Compagniesdrift 436, Caledon.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the subject property, from Agriculture, to Residential and Smallholding, provides for the development of 57 single residential erven, and three smallholdings, including infrastructure such as roads, water provision and electricity.

The extent of the proposed development (nearly 15 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.

Heritage Consultant Dr Matilda Burden has been appointed to undertake a preliminary Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project. The archaeological study forms part of the HIA.

Located on the south eastern edge of the town of Bot River, the western boundary of the property is formed by the Houwhoek Pass (the N2) between Cape Town and Caledon.

For planning purposes, the subject property has been divided into four Blocks; namely A-D. Block A (the residential component) is infested with alien vegetation and is severely degraded. A small graveyard is also located within Block A. Blocks B-D (the proposed smallholdings) is located on steep, rocky mountain slopes and covered in natural vegetation (Fynbos). Several small quarries occur in Blocks B and C.

A low-density scatter of Early Stone Age tools were found in Block C, and in the gravel road forming the southern boundary of the subject property.

No pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains were located in Blocks A, B and D.

The archaeological finds are consistent with similar low density scatters of Early Stone Age tools that have been encountered in the Bot Rive region.

The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.

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

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a Portion 25 of the Farm Compagniesdrift No. 436 Caledon, has rated the potential impacts to archaeological heritage material as being low provided that.

- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs M. Leslie 462 4502) or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Dirisana Environmental and Ecological Consultants, on behalf of Mr Koos Jonker, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed housing development on Portion 25 of the Farm Compagniesdrift 436, Caledon.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the subject property, from Agriculture, to Residential and Smallholding, provides for the development of 57 single residential erven and three smallholdings, including infrastructure such as roads, water provision and electricity.

The extent of the proposed development (nearly 15 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.

Heritage Consultant Dr Matilda Burden has been appointed to undertake a preliminary Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project. The AIA forms part of the HIA.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological 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 assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- 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 proposed 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.

The proposed site (GPS co-ordinates S° 34 13 173 E 19° 11 491 on map datum wgs 84) is located on the south eastern edge of the Town of Bot River in the Overberg region of the Western Cape Province (Figures 3-6). The western boundary of the property is formed by the Houwhoek Pass (the N2) between Cape Town and Caledon. The southern boundary of the property is formed by a railway line.

For planning purposes, the subject property has been divided into four Blocks; namely A-D. Block A (the residential component) is infested with alien vegetation and is in a severely degraded state. Dumping of domestic refuse from a nearby informal settlement is also widespread. A small cemetery is located within Block A, alongside a gravel road, while several other graves stand alone (Figures & & 8).

Blocks B-D will be sold as three separate smallholdings and are located on steep, rocky-strewn mountain slopes, and covered in natural vegetation (Fynbos). Several small quartzite and sandstone quarries occur in Blocks B and C.

The surrounding landscape is rural in the south and mountains in the north. Low cost as well as informal housing dominates the surrounding landscape in the east.

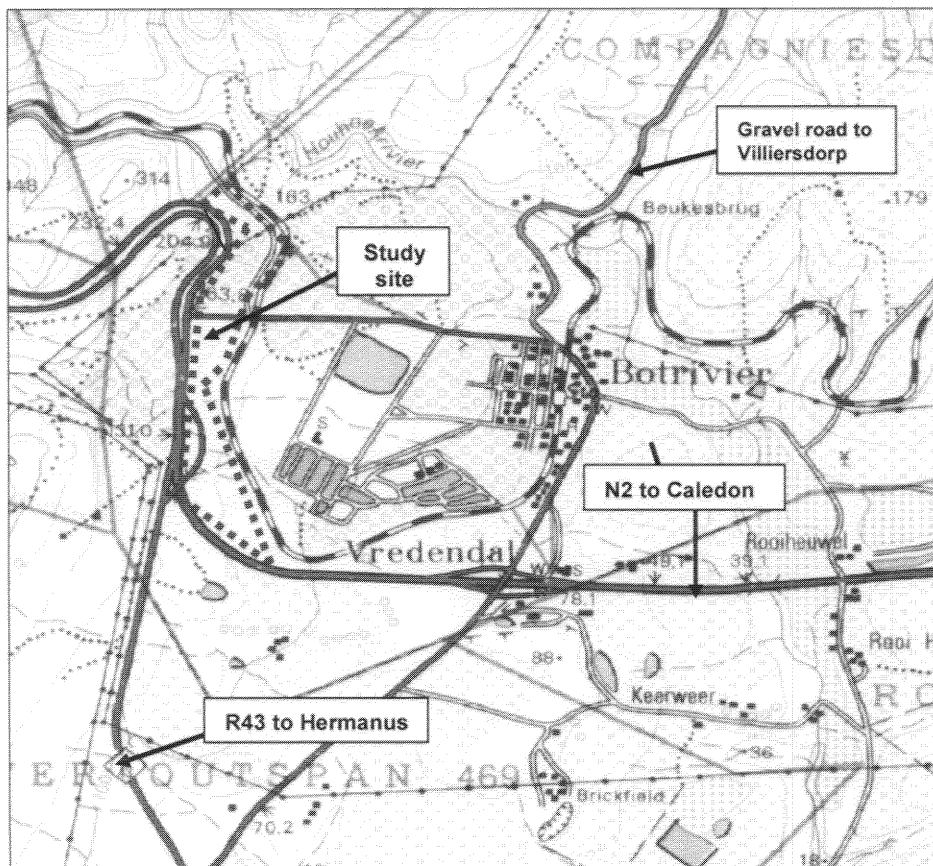


Figure 1. Locality Map (3419 AB Caledon)

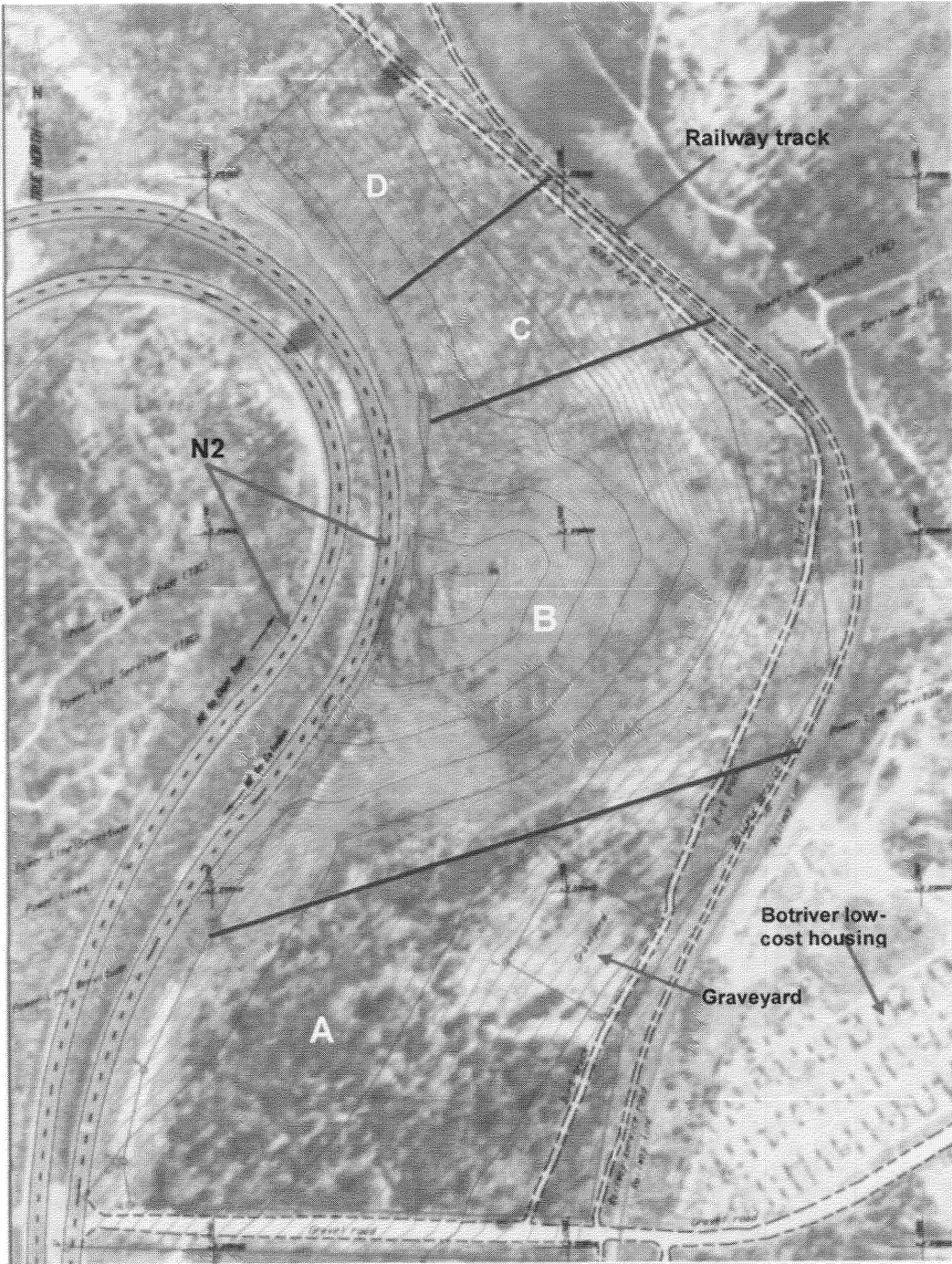


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the proposed site, indicating block A-D



Figure 3. View of the site facing north taken from the N2

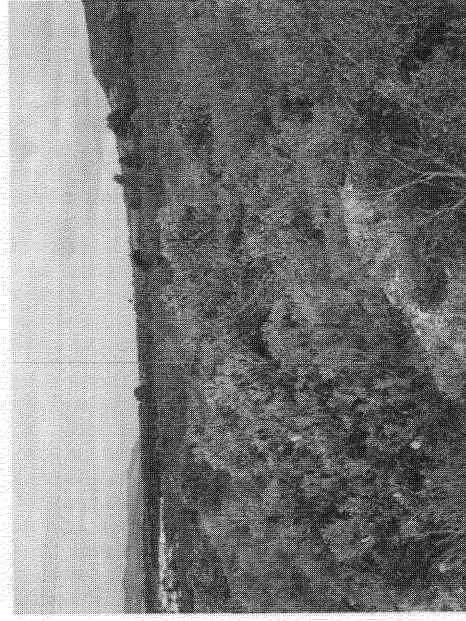


Figure 4. View of Block A & B facing north east

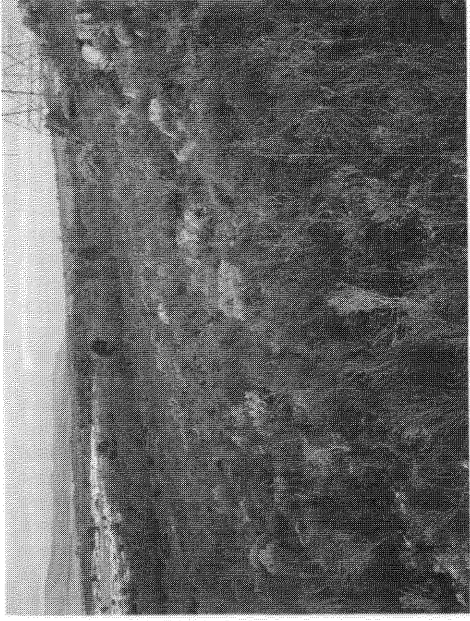


Figure 5. View of Block A & B facing north east

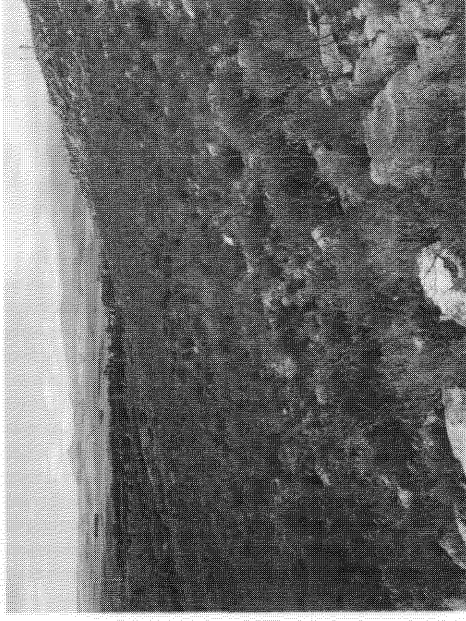


Figure 6. View of Blocks D & C facing north east



Figure 7. Cemetery in Block A

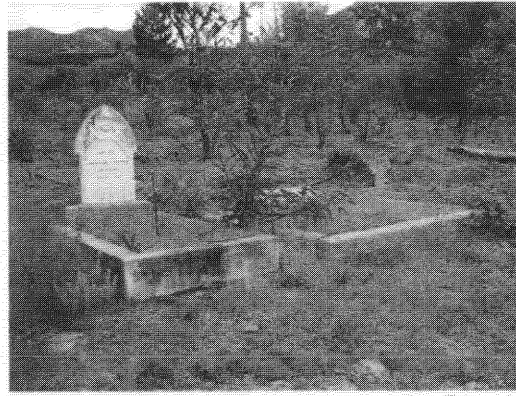


Figure 8. Stand alone graves in Block A.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological heritage study entailed a foot survey of the subject property

A desktop study was also undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 7th of August 2006.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

Block A is infested with alien vegetation resulting in poor archaeological visibility. Although accessible, Blocks B-D is very steep and rocky and covered in natural veld.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

It is unlikely, but pre-colonial human burials may be uncovered or exposed during bulk earthworks and excavations

4.4 Results of the desk-top study

Several archaeological studies in the Bot River area have yielded mixed results.

Low-density scatters of Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were located during an assessment of the Arabella Fynbos Golf Resort (Kaplan 2002). An assessment of an overhead powerline between Bot River and Hermanus yielded a handful of ESA and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools in farmlands east and west of the R43 (Kaplan 2004), while a study of Benguela Cove, a housing development on the east bank of the Bot River recorded high density scatters of ESA tools, including hand axes and other formal tools (Kaplan 2003a). A rare Stone Age silcrete quarry site was located alongside the R43, on land set aside for a proposed Equestrian and Polo Estate (Kaplan 2003b). Low-density scatters of ESA tools were also located during the same study. A study for a proposed water pipeline from the Hermanus River to serve portions of a farm alongside the Bot River-Hermanus Road, failed to locate any archaeological heritage remains (Kaplan 2006a). ESA tools including a unifacial handaxe, and several MSA and Later Stone Age (LSA)

artefacts were found recently during an archaeological assessment of a proposed housing development on Portion 5 of Farm 436 Caledon, situated less than 200 m south west of the subject property (Kaplan 2006b).

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 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).

5.2 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 the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

5.3 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

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

5.4 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, 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.

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

Two Early Stone Age flakes were found on the lower, rocky slopes of Block C, and one more in the gravel road alongside the southern boundary of the subject property. One ESA flake was also found near the old quarry in Block C. The tools are all in locally-available quartzite and made from rounded river cobbles. No formal tools were found.

The above finds are consistent with other low density scatters that have been encountered in the Bot River area.

The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed housing and smallholding development on important archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

It is unlikely, but unmarked human burials may be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

8. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development on Portion 25 of Farm Compagniesdrift No. 436 Caledon, the following recommendations are made.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 462 4502) or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

10. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2006a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed water pipeline from the Hermanus River to serve Portions 7 & 8 of the Farm Hermanus River No. 542. Report prepared for Site Plan Consulting. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006 b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development portion 5 of Farm 436 (Compagniesdrift) Caledon. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2004. Archaeological scan of the proposed Houhoek to Hermanus double circuit 66Kv overhead powerline and extension to the Afdaks switching station. Report prepared for Eskom Land Development. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2003a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed rezoning and subdivision Portion 4 of the Farm No. 781 Caledon. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2003b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment. Proposed rezoning and subdivision Portion 8-10 of the Farm Afdakrivier, No. 575 Caledon. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2002. Archaeological study, Arabella Fynbos Golf Resort. Report prepared for Dennis Moss Partnership. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.