

# Archaeological Impact Assessment

**Title:** St Dicks Aeroport.

Proposal to develop a 'Fly In Estate' with runways, hangers and housing on parts of two farm properties, Nassau and Windhoek, 7 km south of Malmesbury, adjacent to the R302.

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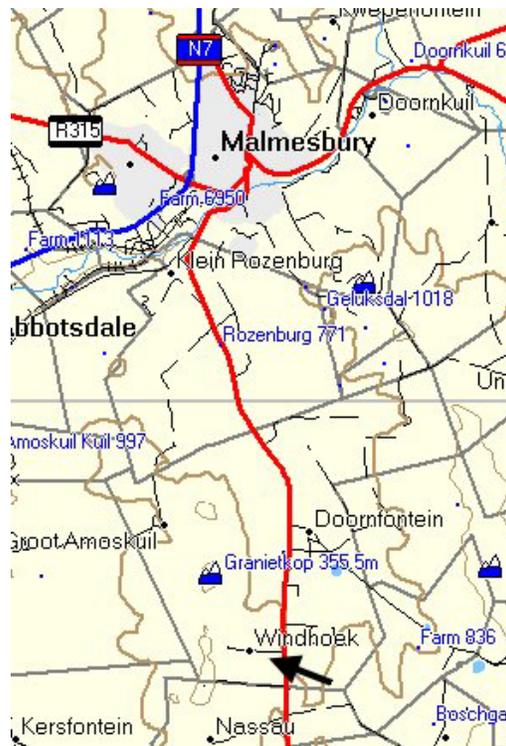
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**Figure 1.** Location of the proposed Fly In Estate on the farms Nassau and Windhoek, adjacent to the R302, 7 km south of Malmesbury. (3318 DA Philadelphia, 1:50 000)

## **Executive Summary**

A survey of the archaeological resources on the area to be developed as a Fly In Estate on the farms Windhoek and Nassau, west of the R302 and 7 km south of Malmesbury, was carried out. Sand mining has extensively disturbed the area but this has provided good exposures of the subsurface. No archaeological materials were observed in sections through undisturbed ground or in the piles of disturbed ground. It is considered that the proposed development will have minimal impact on archaeological resources.

## **Background Information**

The proposed development of a Fly In Estate, 7 km south of Malmesbury and on the west side of the R302, will comprise a 1.6 km landing strip, hangers, roads and a housing component, 180 ha in extent, on the farm Windhoek (Farm No. 814/4 Doornfontein, Malmesbury District, development portion 140 ha of the total size 260.94 ha) extending onto part (40 ha) of Nassau (Farm No. 890 Doornekraal, Malmesbury District) (Figure 1). The housing component planned (Figure 2) will include 371 subdivided units (airport estates, airport erven and eco estates).

The Windhoek homestead and werf (S 33° 32' 20.654": E 18° 43' 45.460"), the only significant structures, will be encompassed by the development and will be retained as an entity. The assessment of these buildings and the development as a whole from the aspect of the built environment will be the subject of a separate report to be prepared by the heritage consultant, Mr Robin Ellis.

This report is part of an EIA and part of an application for rezoning to residential as well as special development.

## **Archaeological Background**

This is a general area where Stone Age hunter-gatherer and later herder and colonial archaeological remains may occur. No major archaeological sites are known in the close proximity.

## **Description of the property**

The property is on the eastern slopes of a line of granite hills. The development will be below the crest line of the hills. The R302 runs along the bottom slope. The slope has been and is being extensively mined for sands and only partially rehabilitated with the replanting of vineyards.

## **Methodology**

The survey was a random GPS track across the property designed to optimise encountering archaeological occurrences. Exposures on the property were examined. The survey was carried out over two separate visits.

## **Observations and Results**

The slope below the granite hills is covered in a thick mantle of colluvial sands that have been mined to a depth of up to 2 metres in places. Basal ferruginous concretions and even massive ferricrete are exposed locally limiting the depth of mining. The mining activities have caused very extensive disturbance of the surficial deposits throughout the area of the proposed development. Exposure sections associated with mining were systematically examined and none showed any archaeological materials in the subsurface. No archaeological materials were observed on the surface.

There is a quarry above the property on the line of granite hills. The surrounds were examined but no archaeological materials seen.

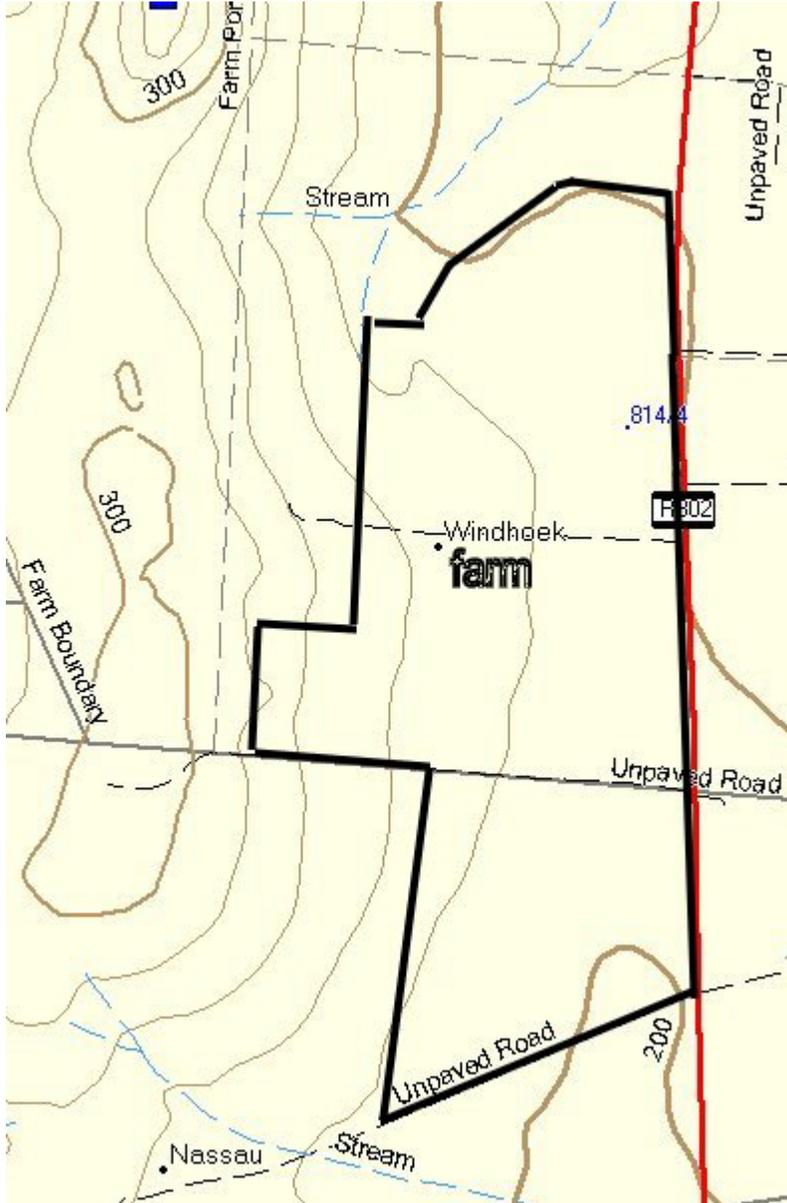
## **Sources of Risk and Statement of Significance**

The area of the proposed development has been extensively disturbed but exposures are good. As no archaeological finds were noted in any exposures or on the surface the risks that development on the property will uncover any archaeological remains are considered very low.

The significance is rated low

## **Recommended Mitigations**

It is recommended that should any excavations by chance uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological materials including human remains that Heritage Western Cape is notified (Mr N Ndlovu, Senior Heritage Officer – Archaeologist, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town 8000, Tel: 021 483 9687, Fax: 021 483 9842, [ndlovu@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:ndlovu@pgwc.gov.za) ). Features like burials for example can occur in unpredictable locations.



**Figure 2. Outline of the area to be developed west of the R302 and below the granite hills marked by the 300 m contour. (Scale 650 m from Windhoek homestead to R302).**



Figure 3. Proposed development on the property.



**Figure 4. Sand mining on the upper slopes of Windhoek.**



**Figure 5. Satellite view of sand mining activities, Windhoek homestead in center.**