

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
PORTION 43 OF THE FARM GUSTROUW 918
BROADLANDS
SOMERSET WEST
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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Executive summary

De Villiers Brownlie Associates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed mixed-use development near Somerset West, in the Western Cape Province.

The subject property, which is about 62 ha in extent, is located alongside the N2. Virtually no natural vegetation occurs on the site which for the last 25-30 years been used for cultivating instant lawn. A few modern farm buildings, horse stables and storage sheds occur on the property. Apart from the Lowry's River that flow through the eastern portion of the property, there are, no significant landscape features occurring on the proposed site.

The aim of the study is to locate and map pre-colonial archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be 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 Mr Heritage Aikman has been appointed to complete the required Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

Early Stone Age flake tools were located on the property but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over surrounding landscape. Most of the tools were found among diggings and spoil dumps near the western boundary of the subject property, and on the banks of a farm dam alongside the N2.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having 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.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

De Villiers Brownlie Associates on behalf of Power Cape Developments (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed mixed-use development near Somerset West, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed project provides for a commercial, business/office park and industrial development. Provision is also made for Open Space and associated infrastructure including internal streets and services.

The property is currently zoned Agriculture, and will be rezoned and subdivided to accommodate the proposed activity.

The extent of the proposed development (62.26 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 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 Mr Henry Aikman has been appointed to complete the required Heritage Western Cape, Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to undertake a site visit and desk top survey;
2. to describe the archaeological baseline of the area;
3. to identify and map archaeological resources on the site;
4. to determine the importance of any archaeological resources, and
5. 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.

A proposed site development plan is illustrated in Figure 3.

The subject property (S° 34 07 527 E° 18 53 511 on map datum wgs 84) is situated alongside the N2, about 5 kms south east of the town of Somerset West. The site is currently occupied by Helderberg Instant Lawns, which for the last 25-30 years has been cultivating instant lawns for domestic gardens. The remainder of the property comprises vacant agricultural lands, mainly Kikuyu grass. As a result, the proposed site is in a transformed and modified state (Figures 4-11). An earth dam occurs in the south western portion of the site, alongside the N2. A small wetland also occurs alongside the N2. Several modern farm buildings, comprising office and staff accommodation, a labourers' cottage, horse stables and sheds, are also present on the property (Figures 12 & 13). Apart from the partially canalized Lowry's River which flows through the eastern portion of the property, there are no significant landscape features occurring on the proposed site. A network of gravel roads, intersect the site. Substantial bulk services (including a new Eskom overhead powerline) are already established on the farm. The surrounding land use comprises a mix of vacant unutilized farmland, smallholdings, low cost and residential housing, commercial enterprises and industrial activities.

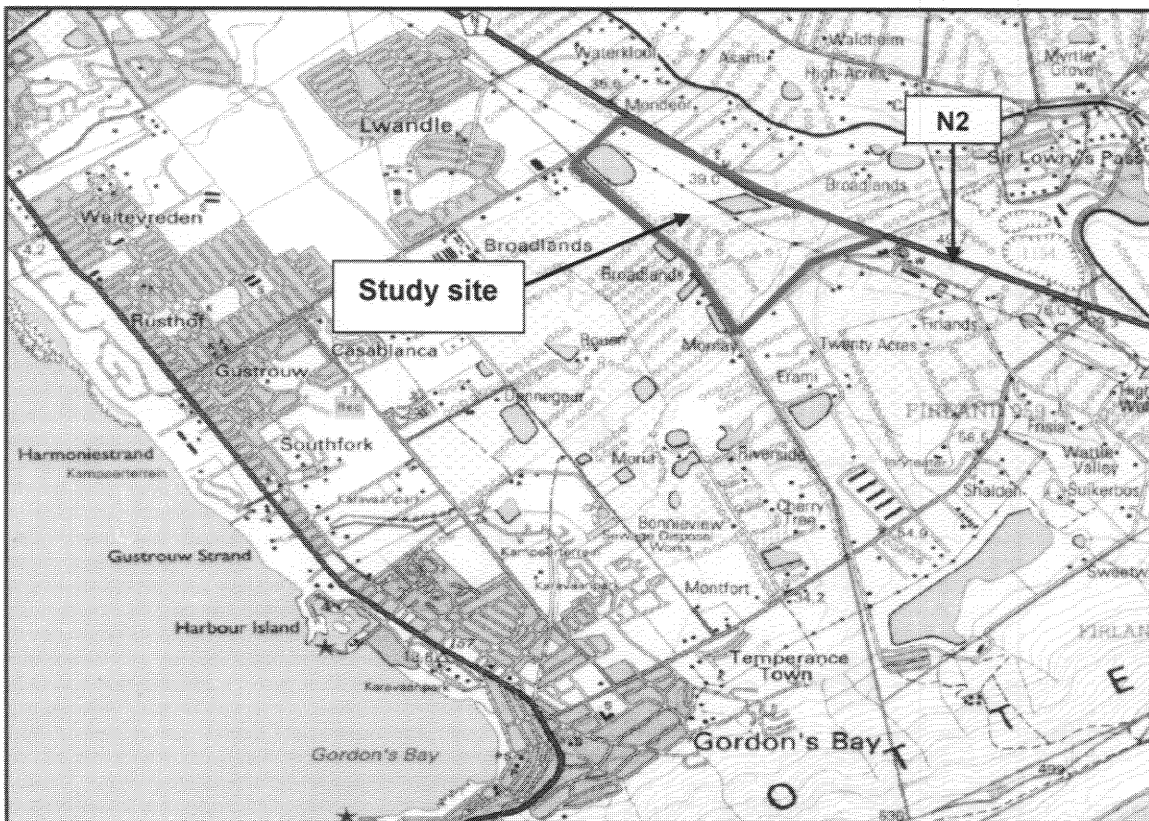


Figure 1. Locality Map (3418BB Somerset West)

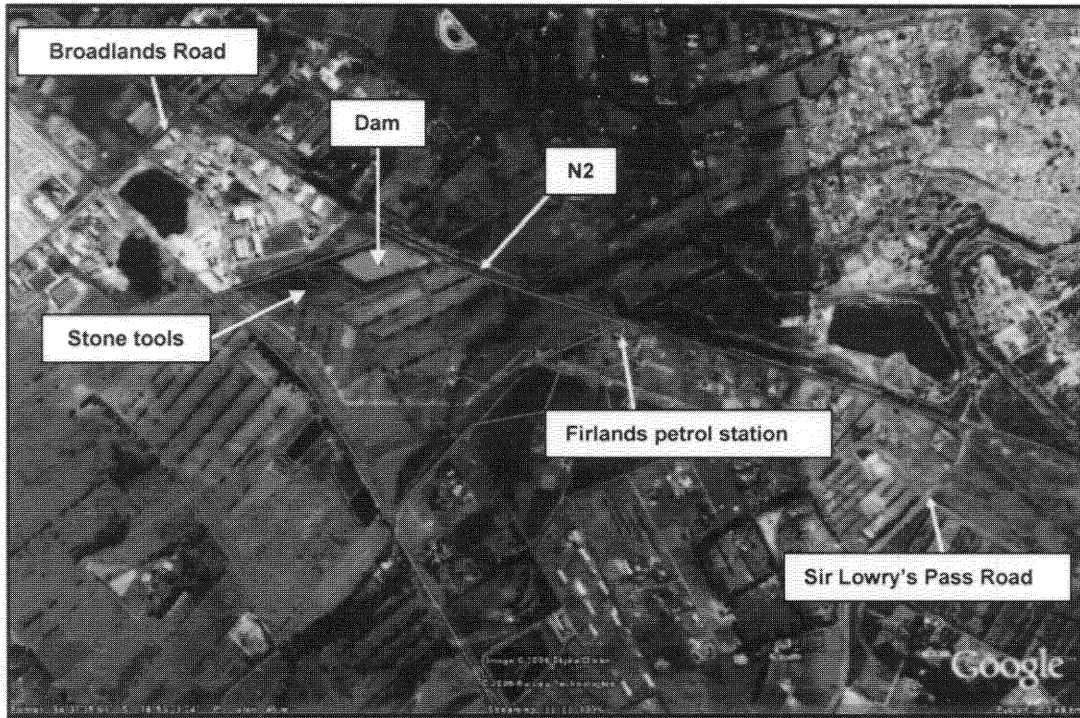


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

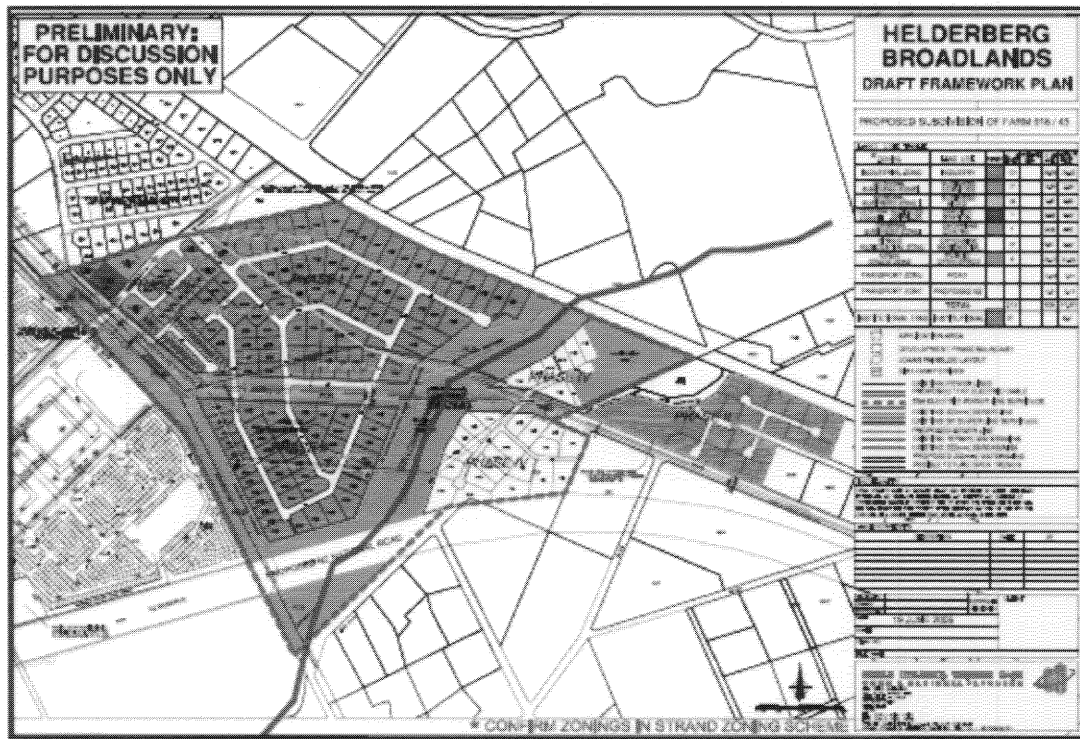


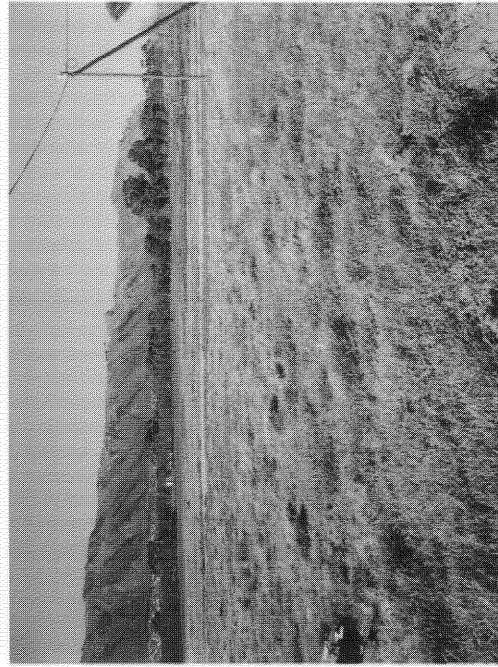
Figure 3. Proposed site layout plan



Figure 4. View of the site facing south from the N2



Figure 6. View of the site facing north



**Figure 5. View of the site facing south east from the N2
Gordons Bay mountains are in the distance**



**Figure 7. View of the site facing north west. The
Heiderberg Mountains can be seen in the distance**



Figure 8. View of the site facing west



Figure 9. View of the site facing north west

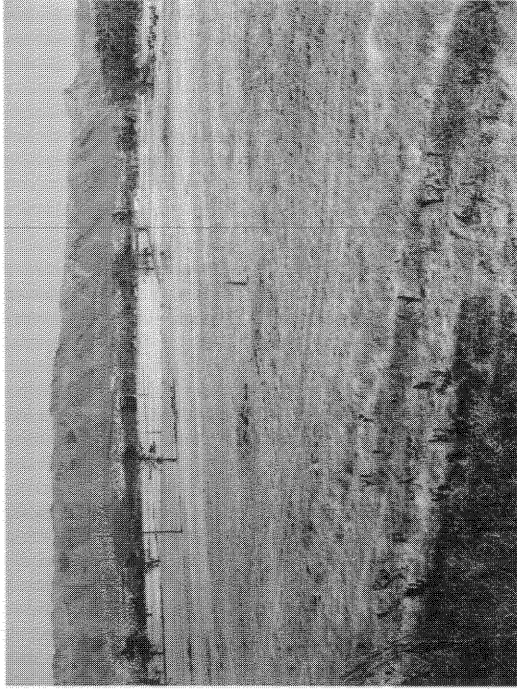


Figure 10. View of the site facing east



Figure 11. View of the site facing south east



Figure 12. Stables and sheds on the farm

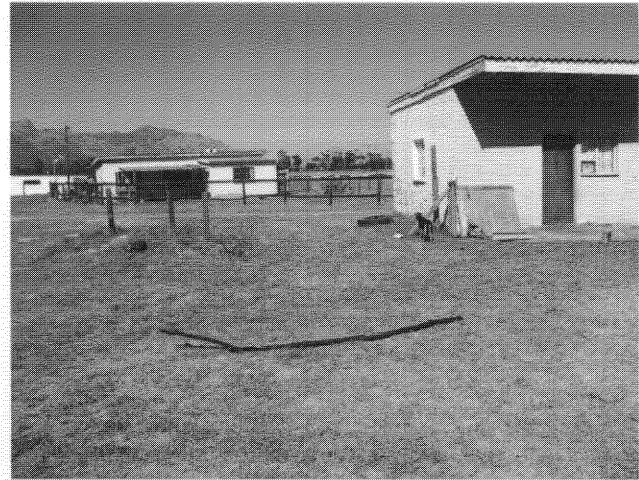


Figure 13. Modern buildings on the farm

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

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

The site visit and assessment took place on the 12th March, 2007.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no potential (archaeological) risks associated with the proposed development.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

Several AIA's have been undertaken in the study area, focusing mainly on small holdings in the Somerset West, Gordons Bay and Strand area. A retouched Early Stone Age (ESA) flake tool was documented on Portion 8 of the Farm Firlands No. 959, situated immediately to the east of the subject property (Kaplan 2007a). A few ESA flakes and chunks were also documented on Portions 18 and 21 of the Farm Firlands No 959, alongside Sir Lowry's Pass Road (Kaplan 2006a, Kaplan 2007b). An ESA flake and an MSA flake were found on Erf 6259 Gordons Bay, situated to the south of the subject property (Kaplan 2006b). ESA and a few MSA tools were also documented during a study of the proposed upgrading of the N2 in the Somerset West/Sir Lowry's Pass area (Kaplan 2003).

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the subject property.

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...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"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that 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.

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

Section 36 (3) of the HHR stipulates that 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.

6. FINDINGS

A handful of ESA tools were located during the baseline archaeological study, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape, and occur in a very disturbed and modified context.

A large, retouched quartzite flake and a quartzite chunk were found in the north eastern portion of the study site, among some digging for a newly erected Eskom overhead powerline.

Several large ESA quartzite flakes were documented among diggings (refuse pits) and associated spoil dumps near the western boundary of the study site (refer to Figure 2).

A few ESA quartzite flakes and chunks and one flaked chunk/core were documented on the clay bank of the earth dam situated alongside the N2.

Two ESA quartzite flakes were also documented alongside an excavation trench situated between the earth dam and the above spoil dumps.

The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance.

7. IMPACT 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 the proposed development activities.

The probability of locating important pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed mixed-use development on Portion 43 of the Farm Gustrouw No. 918, has rated the potential impacts to important archaeological heritage material as being low provided that.

- 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 (021) 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu (021) 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2007a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Portion 8 of Farm Firlands No. 959 Gordons Bay. Report prepared for CCA Environmental (Pty) Ltd. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2007b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Portion 21 of Farm Firlands No. 959 Gordons Bay. Report prepared for IC @ Plan. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Portion 18 of Farm Firlands No. 959 Gordons Bay. Report prepared for IC @ Plan. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Erf 6259 Gordons Bay. Report prepared for IC @ Plan. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2003. Phase 1 AIA proposed N1 N2 Winelands Toll Road Project. Report prepared for Crowther Campbell and Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.