

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF  
THREE BORROW PITS ALONGSIDE MR 539 AND DR1487  
CLANWILLIAM  
WESTERN CAPE**

Prepared for

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## Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of three borrow pits alongside MR539 and DR1487 in the Cederberg Wilderness Area in Clanwilliam has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

The borrow pits have been identified as possible material sources for the proposed upgrading and surfacing of MR539 and DR1487, as well as the re-gravelling of DR1487 and DR2182.

Several historical sites and structures and sites of public interest have, however, been recorded alongside DR1487. The heritage sites will not be directly impacted by the proposed project. Their close proximity to the road, however, necessitates that some protective measures are put in place in order to minimise potential negative impacts.

The following recommendations have been made:

- Heritage sites and features, including a cemetery alongside DR1487, must be taped off and demarcated during the entire construction phase of the project. The Environmental Control Officer must ensure that the sites are not damaged, or disturbed in any way.
- These measures must be included in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan for the proposed project.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and brief

Megan Anderson Landscape Architects<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape: Department of Transport and Public Works, requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of three borrow pits situated alongside MR539 and DR1487 in the Cederberg Wilderness Area in Clanwilliam in the South Western Cape.

The borrow pits have been identified as possible material sources for the proposed upgrading and surfacing of MR539 and DR1487, as well as the re-gravelling of DR1487 and DR2182.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological heritage remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning and implementation of the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

**It is important to note that the proposed upgrading of the roads is to stay within the existing road formation.**

## 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 borrow pits, or close to the existing alignment of MR539, DR1487 and DR2182;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed borrow pit sites, or close to the alignment of the above roads;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed borrow sites and study area;
- 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 borrow pits, or close to the existing alignment of the road(s).

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### 3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map indicating the three borrow pits is illustrated in Figure 1.

The study area is the Cederberg Wilderness Area in Clanwilliam in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed Hex River Farm Borrow Pit is located alongside the MR539 (the gravel road) located between Citrusdal and Clanwilliam.

The proposed Cederberg and Dwarsrivier Borrow Pits are located alongside DR1487, situated between Algeria State Forest and Dwarsrivier Farm.

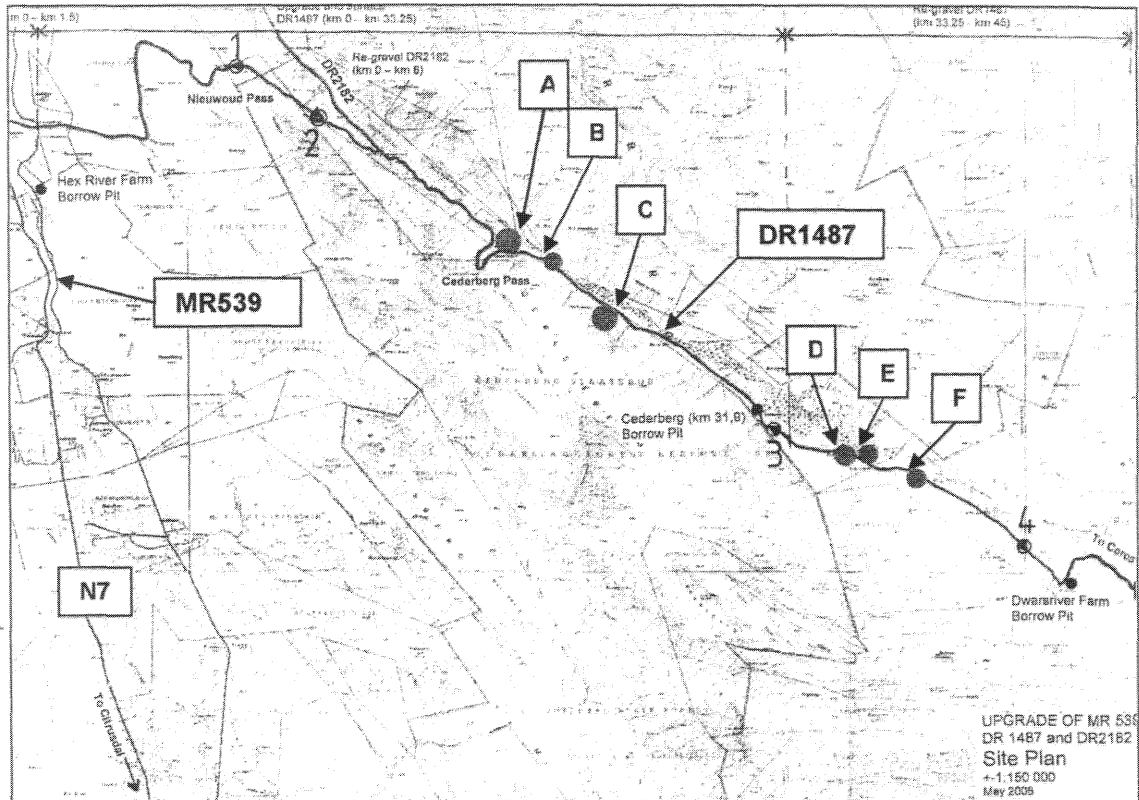


Figure 1. Locality Map (3219 CA Citrusdal & 3219 AC Wuppertal). The map also illustrates cultural heritage sites identified during the study.

### 4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

#### 4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of each of the proposed borrow pits.

Stone walled ruins and features, ruined farm buildings and sites of public interest were also recorded.

Archaeological heritage remains were recorded using a Garmin Geko GPS unit set on map datum WGS 84.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2006.

## **4.2. Constraints and limitations**

There were not constraints or limitations associated with the proposed project.

## **4.3 Potential risks**

The proposed project may, potentially, impact negatively on heritage sites and a cemetery alongside DR1487, at Uitkyk Pass, Malkopkraal, Perdekloof and Kalkoenfontein.

# **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 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), while

...the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development exceeding 300 m in length, (also) requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

### **5.1.1 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 the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

### **5.1.2 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.

### **5.1.3 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. PROPOSED BORROW PITS

### 6.1 Hex River Farm Borrow Pit (GPS readings 32° 22.81.0 E 18° 56 99.0)

The proposed borrow pit is located on south west facing slopes alongside MR539 (Figures 2 & 3). The proposed site is already fairly severely degraded, having been partially scraped and stripped of vegetation. Several trenches for road material have also been excavated. No significant landscape features occur on the site. The surrounding land comprises natural veld.

**Findings:** One broken irregular quartzite core and one large ESA quartzite flake was found during the study.

The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.

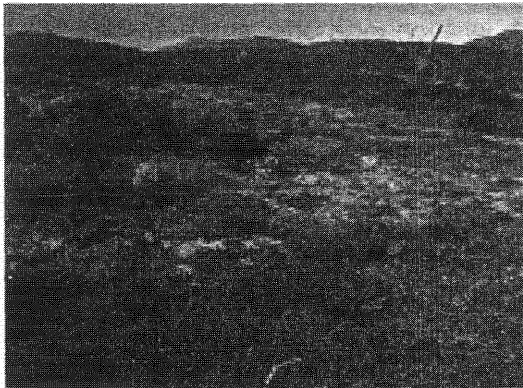


Figure 2. Hex River Farm Borrow Pit.  
View facing south west. Arrow indicates  
MR539

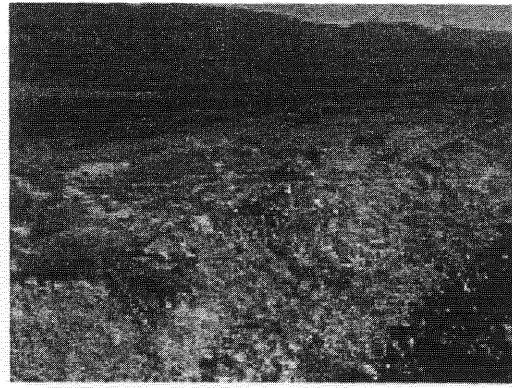


Figure 3. Hex River Farm Borrow Pit  
View facing north west

### 6.2 Cederberg Borrow Pit (GPS reading S 32° 27 86.3 E 19° 11 34.6)

The proposed borrow pit is situated alongside DR1487 (Figures 4 & 5). The proposed site is fairly severely degraded, having been partially scraped and stripped of vegetation. Some deep pits for road material have already been excavated. No significant landscape features occur. The surrounding land comprises natural veld.

**Findings:** No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study.



Figure 4. Cederberg Borrow Pit  
View of the site facing south west

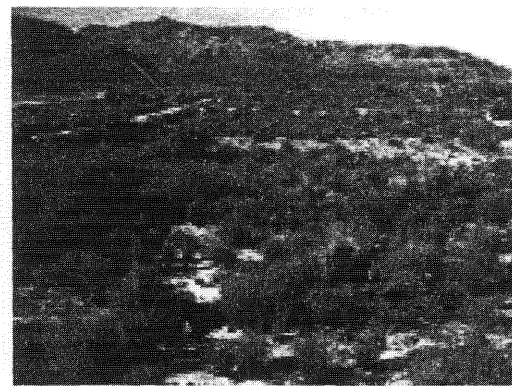
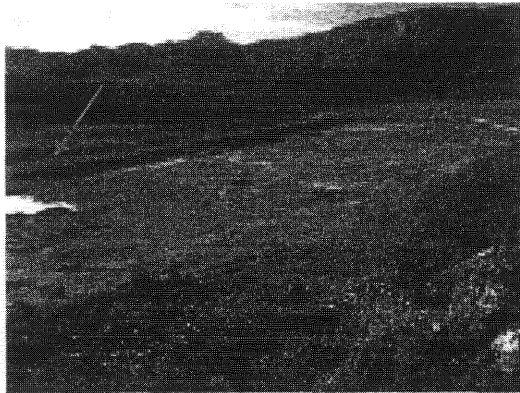


Figure 5. Cederberg Borrow Pit.  
View of the site facing north east.  
Arrow indicates DR1487

### **6.3 Dwarsrivier Farm Borrow Pit (GPS reading S 32° 22 28.1 E 18° 51 98.1)**

The proposed borrow pit is located on the Farm Dwarsrivier, alongside DR1487. The proposed site comprises a large farm dam. The proposed site is already severely degraded. The surrounding land use comprise mainly vineyards and grazing land, with some natural veld occurring.

**Findings:** No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study.



**Figure 6. View of the site facing north west. Arrow indicates DR1487**



**Figure 7. View of the site facing south west. Arrow indicates the Dwarsrivier homestead**

### **6.4 Ruins, cemetery and sites of public interest**

Several historic sites, including stone-walled ruins, stone features, a ruined farm dwelling, a cemetery and sites of public interest were located and identified alongside DR1487 (refer to Figure 1).

No heritage sites were located alongside MR539 and DR2182.

The ruins, including the cemetery, are protected sites in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, and may not be altered or demolished, destroyed or damaged without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

These include the following:

#### **A (GPS reading S° 32 24 41.1 E° 19 06 48.4)**

The ruins of a circular stone walled structure occur on top of a steep cutting at the top of the Uitkyk Pass (Figure 8). The ruins are not visible from the road, but are located directly alongside it, obscured by thick vegetation. The stone circle measure about 4m in diameter and the walls are about 60cm thick. About 4 - 5 m of standing wall is retained (the remainder having collapsed). The wall comprises dry packed rough uncut blocks of locally available sandstone. A surveyor peg and paint is visible inside the ruins. No archaeological heritage remains were found within and outside the ruins, although some (modern) broken glass is present. It has been suggested that the stone circle may date from the Anglo-Boer War, but this has not been confirmed by the consultant.



**B (GPS reading S° 32 25 12.8 E° 19 07 38.1)**

Malkopskraal was, according to Mr Nieuwoud of the Farm Dwarsrivier (pers. comm.), an overnight stop (or 'uitspan') used by farmers when crossing the mountains by ox-wagon on route to Clanwilliam. The site is located alongside DR1487, at the bottom of the Uitkyk Pass (Figure 9).

**C. (GPS reading S° 32 25 89.3 E° 19 07 68.0)**

Moutons Kop is a large, prominent sandstone boulder located alongside DR1487 about 100 m before the turn off to Draaihoek Farm (Figure 10).

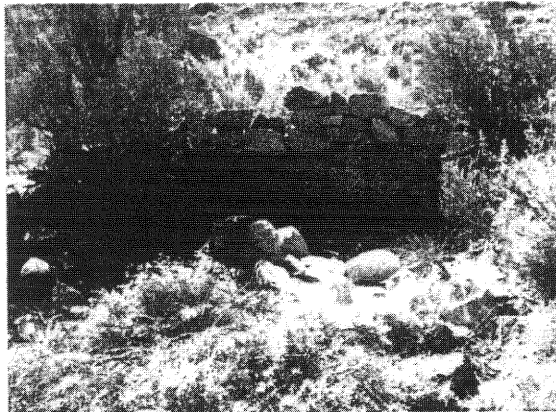


Figure 8. Remains of stone ruins at Uitkyk Pass.

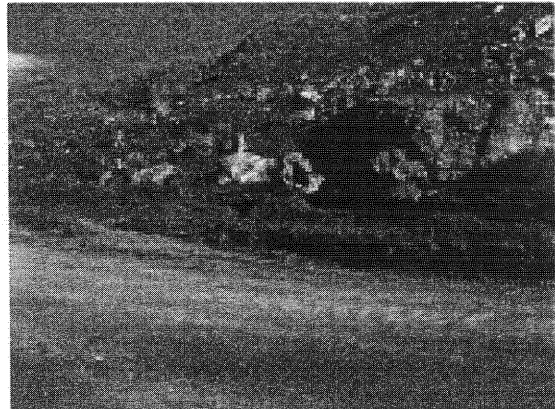


Figure 9. 'Uitspan' at Malkopkraal.

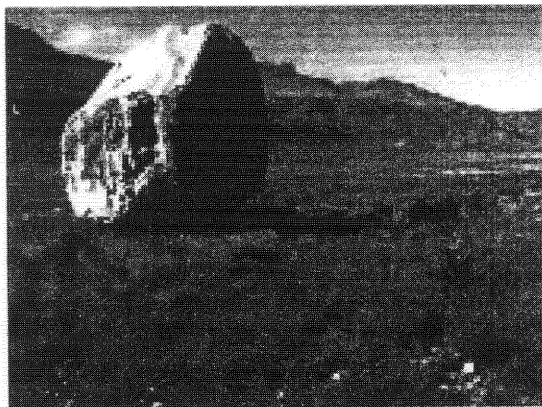
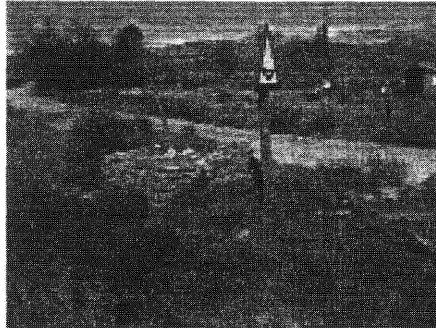


Figure 10. Mouton's Kop.



**D. (GPS reading S° 32 25 89.3 E° 19 07 68.0)**

The remains of a 'laai ramp' (or loading ramp) occurs directly alongside DR1487, opposite a modern home at Perdekloof (about 500 m from the site of the proposed Cederberg Borrow Pit). The remains, about 1.3 m high and 5 m long, comprise a rectangular block of dry packed roughly cut sandstone blocks (Figure 11).



**Figure 11. Laai ramp at Perdekloof.**

**E. (No GPS reading taken)**

A (family) cemetery occurs directly alongside DR1487, about 300 m from the loading ramp at Perdekloof (Figure 12). The south western corner of the walled cemetery is less than 4 m from the road. Thirteen graves were counted inside the cemetery, the earliest dating to 1885.



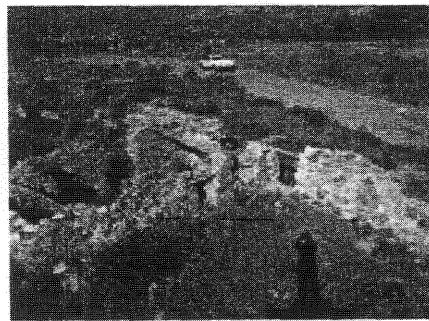
**Figure 12. Stone-walled cemetery at Perdekloof.**

**F. (No GPS reading taken)**

The ruined remains of an old farmhouse or dwelling occur alongside DR1487 at Kalkoenfontein (Figures 13 & 14). Several standing walls cut from sandstone blocks (and roughly plastered), rooms, windows, doorways, wooden beams and lintels are features that are retained.



**Figure 13. Ruined farmhouse at Kalkoenfontein.**



**Figure 14. Ruined farmhouse at Kalkoenfontein.**

## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The impact of the proposed project on pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

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

Heritage remains and a cemetery alongside DR1487 may, however, be negatively impacted by the proposed project.

The public interest sites at Malkopkraal and Mouton's Kop will not be impacted by the proposed project.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of three borrow pits alongside MR539 and DR1487 in the Cederberg Wilderness Area has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

The presence of heritage sites and a cemetery alongside the existing alignment of DR1487, however, necessitates that some protective measures are put in place in order to minimise potential negative impacts during the proposed activities.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed upgrading and surfacing of MR539 and DR1487, as well as the regravelling of DR1487 and DR2182, the following recommendations are made:

- Care should be taken not to disturb or damage heritage sites and features (A & D), a cemetery (E) and the remains of a ruined farmhouse (F) that occur alongside DR1487. The sites must be taped off during the entire construction phase of the project. The Environmental Control Officer must ensure that the sites are not damaged, or disturbed in any way.
- These measures must be included in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan for the proposed project.