

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF
TWO BORROW PITS ALONG THE MR310
CITRUSDAL**

Prepared for

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By

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Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of two borrow pits alongside the MR310 in Citrusdal has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Megan Anderson Landscape Architects requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of two borrow pits along the MR310 (Middelberg Pass) in Citrusdal, in the Western Cape Province.

The extent of the proposed project 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, 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.

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 sites;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed sites;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed sites;
- 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 sites

3. THE STUDY SITE

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

The borrow pits are located alongside the MR310 (Middelberg Pass) above the town of Citrusdal in the Western Cape Province.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the borrow pits, as well as the immediate surrounding areas (i.e. the proposed footprints)

The site visit and assessment took place on the 25th of July 2005.

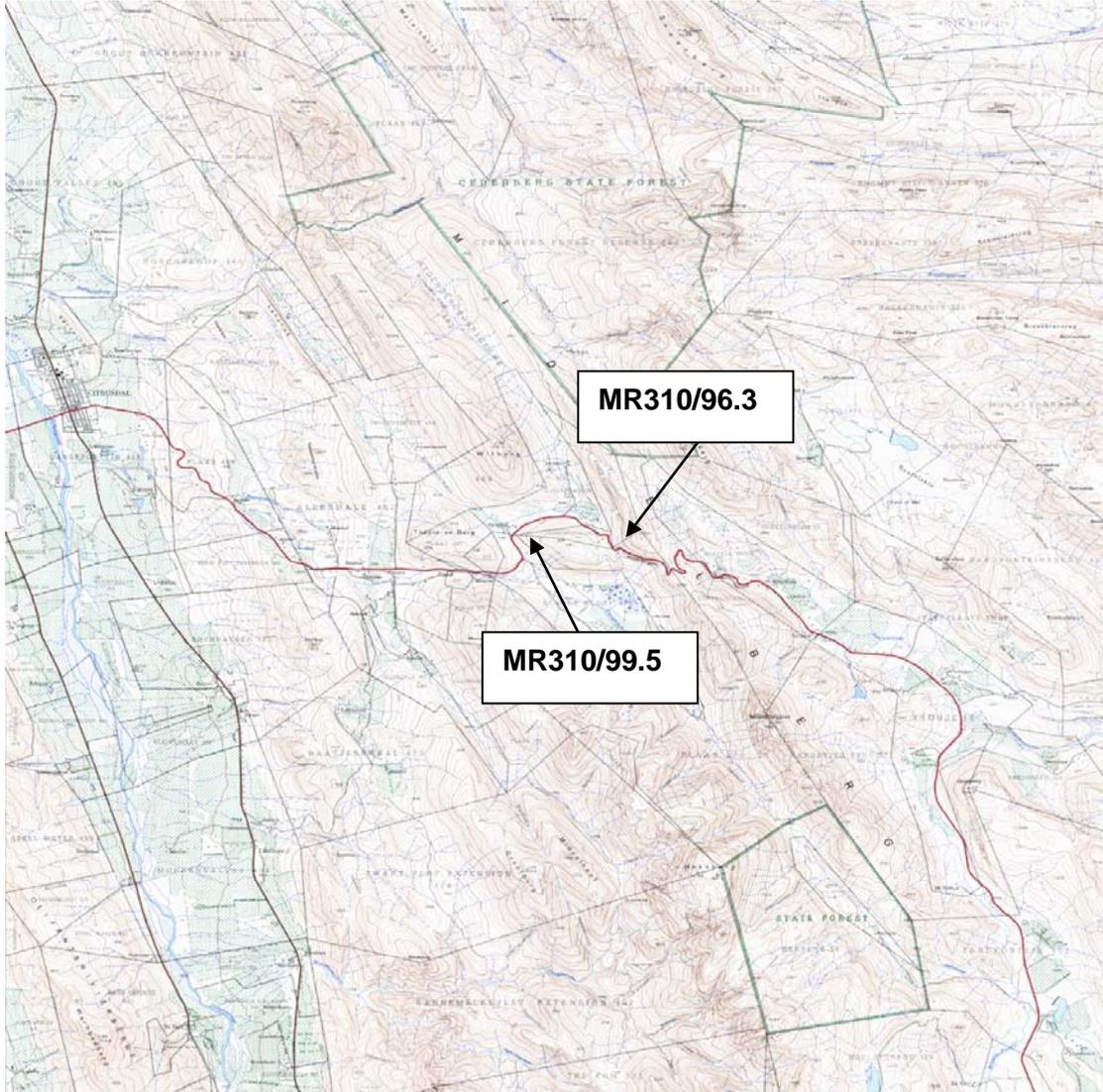


Figure 1. Site locality map (3219 CA Citrusdal)

5. LIMITATIONS

The receiving environment is covered with indigenous vegetation, resulting in relatively poor 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 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.

6.1.2 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.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

MR310/99.5 GPS Reading S 32° 37.504 E 19° 06 888¹

The borrow pit is located on the right hand side of the Middelberg Pass (Figure 2). The site is located on a relatively steep west facing gravel slope, with scattered bush and scrub. Some slope wash occurs in places. No kopjes, rocky outcrops or other significant landscape features occur on the site.

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study

MR310/96.3 GPS Reading S 33° 21.066 E 18° 57 684

The borrow pit is located near the top of the Middelberg Pass (Figure 3). The site is located on a steep, west facing slope, covered with dense Protea bushes. No kopjes, rocky outcrops or other significant landscape features occur on the site.

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study.

¹ GPS readings set on map datum WGS 84



Figure 2. MR310/99.5



Figure 3. MR310/96.3

8. IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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

9. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of two borrow pits alongside the MR310 (Middelberg Pass) in Citrusdal has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological mitigation is required.