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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED BUFFELSDRIFT PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE
OUDTSHOORN**

Prepared for

SHARPLES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

By

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Sharpley Environmental Services requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve in Oudtshoorn, in the southern Cape.

The proposed project comprises the development of a small bush camp, and a restaurant and chalet complex.

Five adjoining farms make up the proposed nature reserve. These are:

- A portion of Portion 1 of the farm Buffelsdrift 248 Oudtshoorn
- A portion of Portion 2 of the farm Buffelsdrift 248 Oudtshoorn
- A portion of Portion 3 of the farm Buffelsdrift 248 Oudtshoorn
- A portion of the remainder of the farm Buffelsdrift 248 Oudtshoorn
- A portion of the farm Napiersgift 85 Oudtshoorn

The aim of the AIA is to locate, identify and map any archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning and construction of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the AIA were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed sites;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed sites;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
4. to assess the significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed sites; and
6. to propose actions for inclusion in the Construction Environmental Management Plan for the proposed project.

3. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the study entailed a detailed ground survey of the proposed development footprints and the immediate surrounding area.

The proposed access road to the bush camp and the proposed sewerage ponds were also searched for archaeological remains.

4. THE STUDY SITE

A locality plan of the study area is illustrated in Figure 1.

The site is located about 8 kilometres north-east of Oudtshoorn, on the tarred road to the Cango Caves. The total area of the five adjoining farms combined is approximately 1500 hectares.

The topography, landscape features and localities of the proposed development nodes are illustrated in Figure 2. The Alternative Bush Camp was not assessed, as this site has been discounted.

The proposed restaurant and chalet complex will be centred around a dam in the western portion of the property (Figure 3). The footprint and surrounding area is already fairly disturbed. The north facing slopes of the site comprises sheet-eroded gravels on a compact stony gravel surface. Drainage off the site has resulted in gully erosion at the proposed restaurant site.

The proposed Rooikoppe Bush Camp, situated along an eroded and degraded stony gravel ridge (Figure 4), will comprise about 5-7 structures, a kitchen and living room area. The surrounding terrain is natural thicket.

The proposed access road to the bush camp will follow the route of an old ridge top road, already eroded by overgrazing and wind and water (Figure 5).

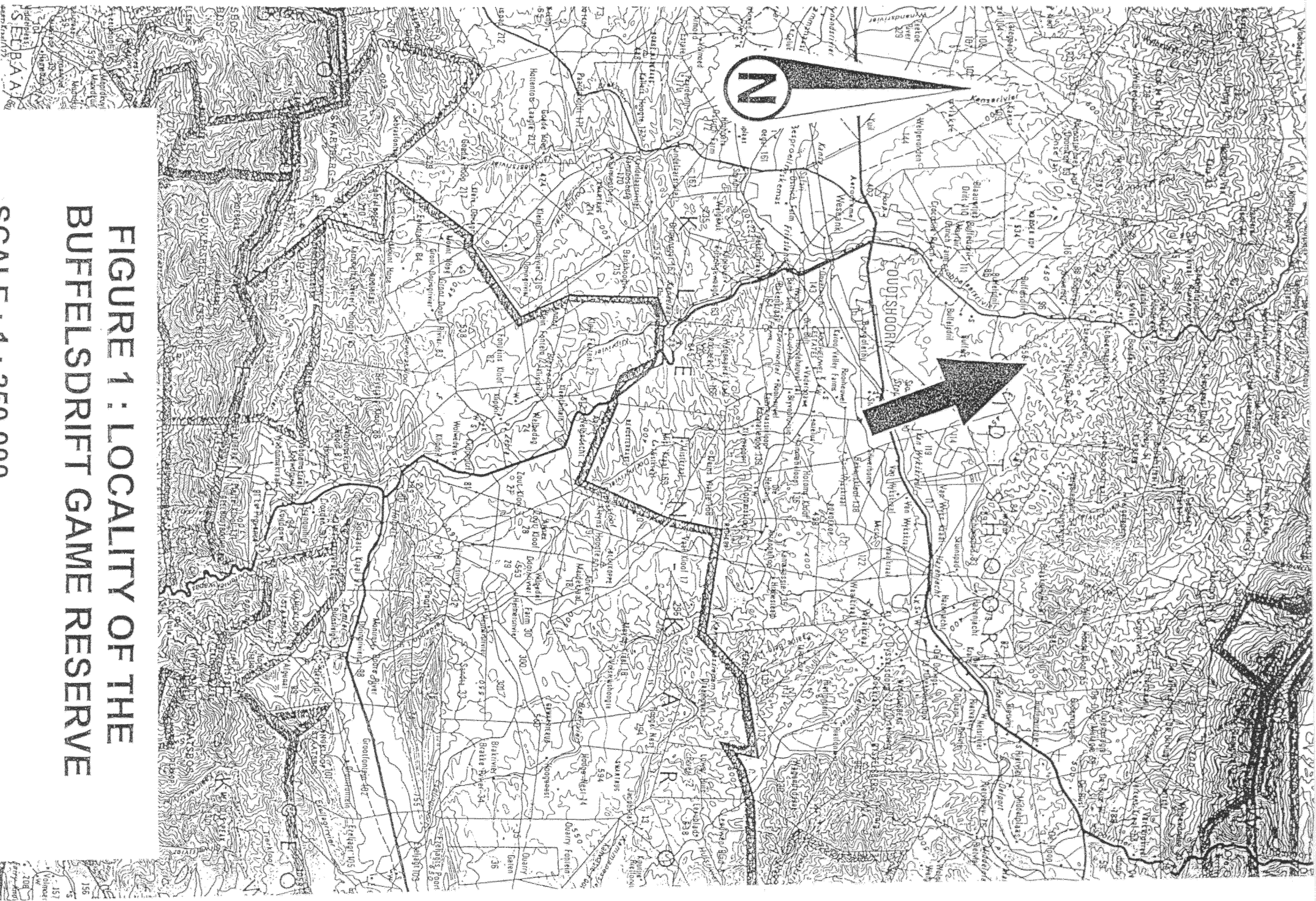
The sewerage pond will be sited north of the dam, and will make use of the existing excavation trench. The pipeline will be buried in an area of former cultivated lands (Figure 6). The surrounding terrain is therefore already severely disturbed.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

5.1.1 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

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

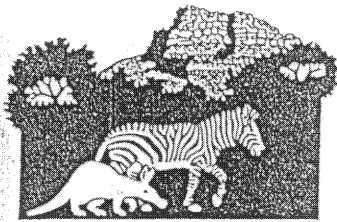


**FIGURE 1: LOCALITY OF THE
BUFFELSDRIFT GAME RESERVE**

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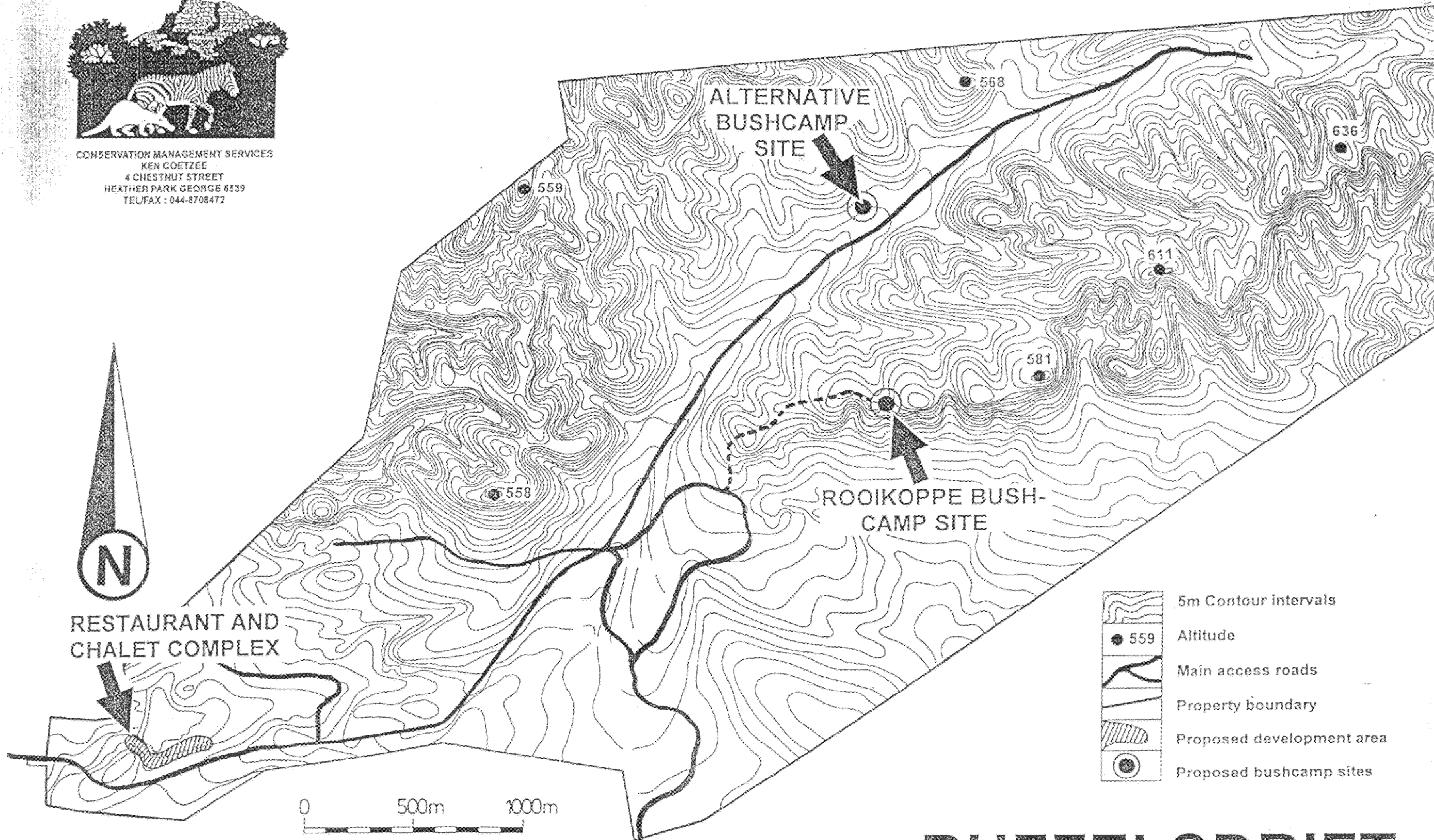


FIG 2 : TOPOGRAPHY , LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND LOCALITIES OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

BUFFELSDRIFT GAME RESERVE

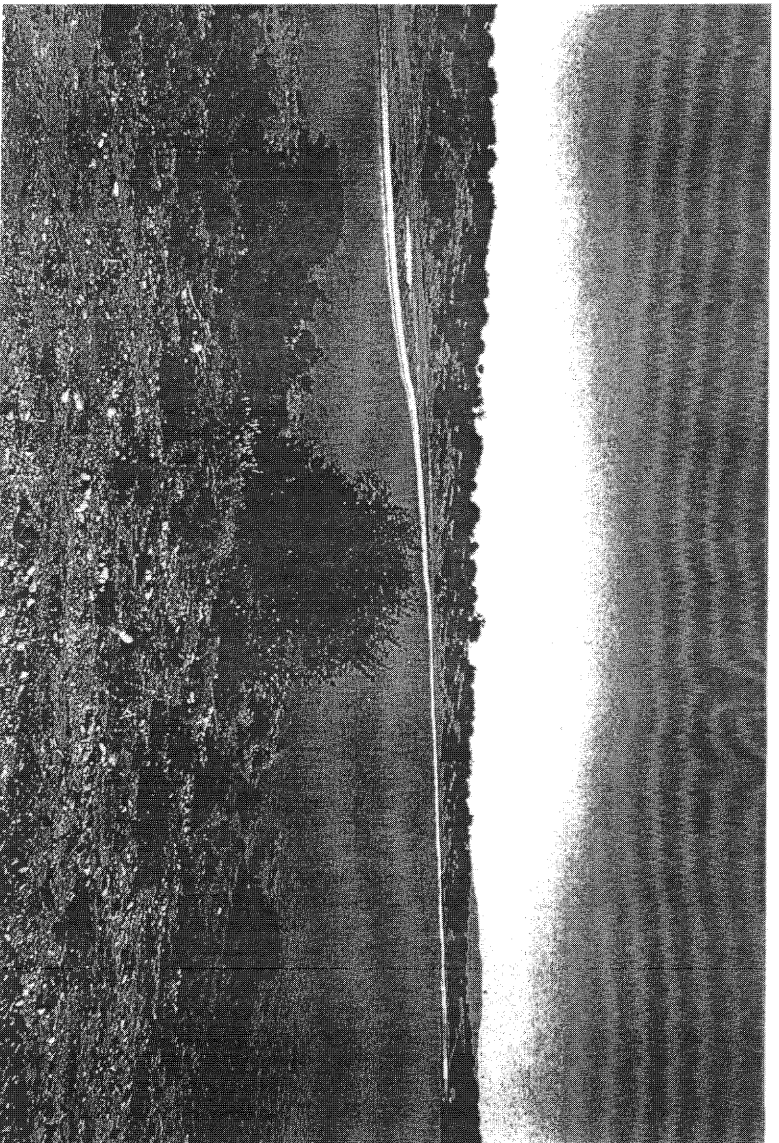


Figure 3. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve. The proposed restaurant and chalet complex is located on the far bank of the dam.

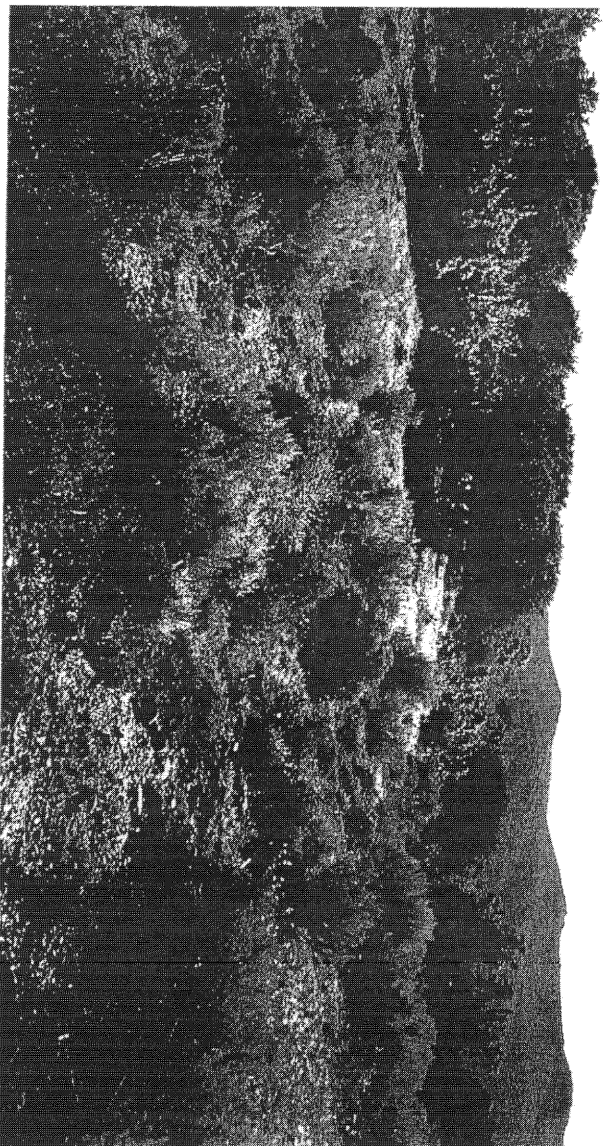


Figure 4. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve. The proposed Rooikoppe Bush Camp.

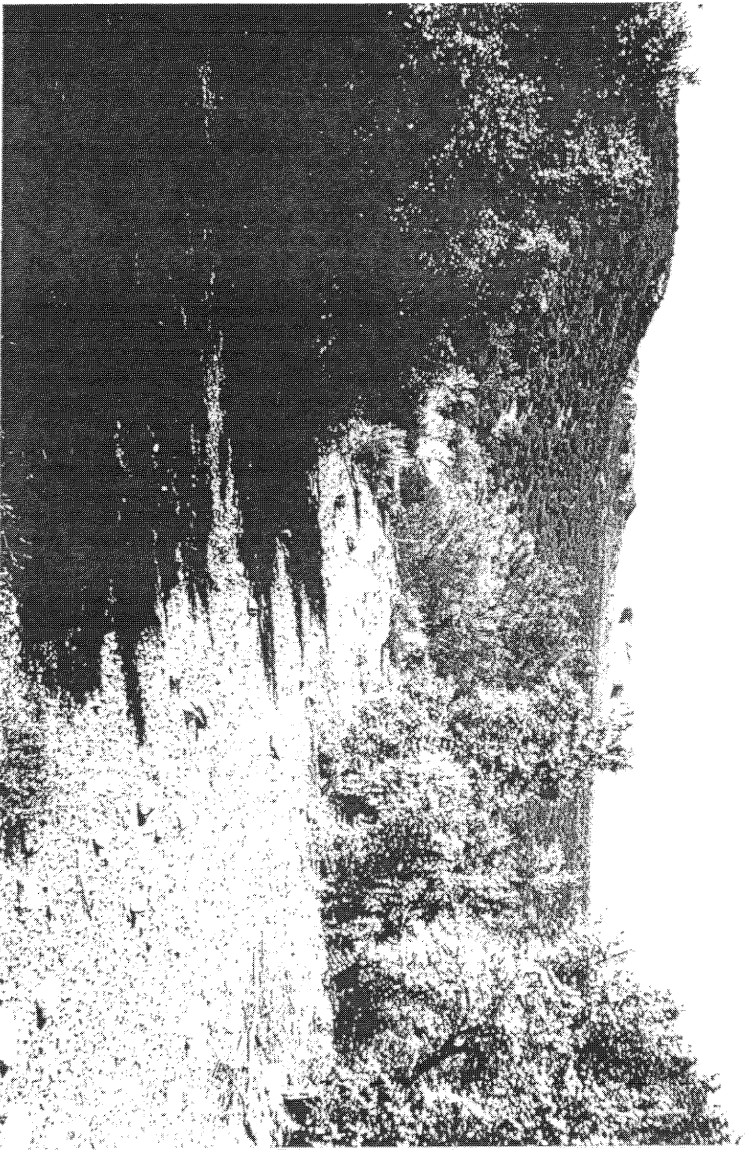


Figure 5. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve. The proposed access road to the Rooikoppe Bush Camp.

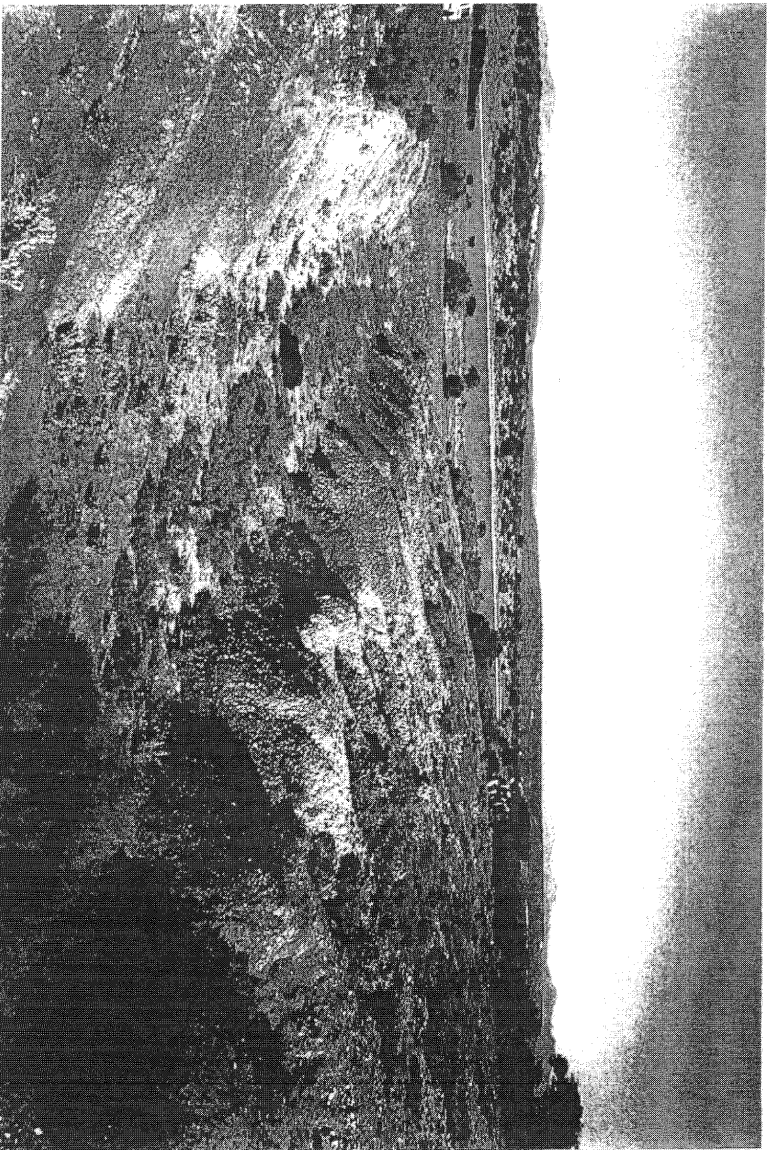


Figure 6. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve. The proposed sewerage pond.

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

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.

5.2 Application requirements and procedure

Permit applications must be made on the official form:

- *Application for permit to destroy: Archaeological and palaeontological sites and meteorites;*
- *Application for permit: Burial Grounds and Graves.*

Permit application forms are available from SAHRA, and Heritage Western Cape

6. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISKS

There are no potential significant archaeological risks associated with the project.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

7.1 Rooikoppe Bush Camp and access road

Relatively large numbers of Middle Stone Age¹ (MSA) tools, including some retouched knives/blades, unmodified flakes, cores, a hammerstone, chunks, a possible grindstone, and miscellaneous retouched tools were located in the 1 km access road to the proposed Rooikoppe Bush Camp (Figure 7). A few flakes, a core and two chunks were located in the bush campsite.

Importance of finds: **LOW**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

7.2 Restaurant and chalet complex

A few crude MSA flakes, chunks and a core were located among the loose gravels on the north facing slopes of the proposed restaurant and chalet complex (Figure 8).

Importance of finds: **LOW**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

¹ A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

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Figure 7. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve. Collection of MSA tools from the proposed access road and the proposed Rooikoppe Bush Camp.



Figure 8. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve. Collection of MSA tools from the proposed restaurant and chalet complex.



Figure 9. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve. Collection of MSA tools from the proposed sewerage pond.

7.3 Sewerage ponds

MSA tools, including flakes, chunks, some cores and two retouched blade tools were located on either side of the excavation trench (Figure 9). The sewerage pond will make use of the existing trench.

Importance of finds: **LOW**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

8. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains will be low to negligible.

The probability of locating any significant archaeological remains during implementation of the project is also likely to be low.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Buffelsdrift Private Nature Reserve, the following recommendations are made:

1. No mitigation is required
2. The project should be allowed to proceed as planned.