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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT'S BAY FIELD SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AT SAND KRAAL 197, GEORGE, SOUTH WESTERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The potential sites for the development of the Ballot's Bay Field School and Education Centre on the farm Sand Kraal 197 near George, South Western Cape, were visited and inspected for any cultural and historical remains. The property is controlled by the Ballot's Bay Environmental Conservancy Trust and the development as an environmental education centre is planned to be ecologically friendly with a low density and a minimum impact on the environment.

The land represents old plough lands and existing bulldozed platforms will mainly be exploited for development.

In general, the vegetation consists of rehabilitated coastal Fynbos, while the platforms are covered with dense stands of Kikuyu grass.

A random collection of Early Stone Age hand axes originates from the plough lands. A small assemblage of flaked tools, which resemble Middle Stone Age artefacts probably originate from the same source. These artefacts are kept at the site but they are of course out of context and will only be used as display material.

I conclude that the planned developments will have an insignificant effect on the cultural and historical heritage of the area. Further planning of the proposed project could continue.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided the opportunity to visit the sites proposed for development. The various sites were examined on foot and sites and finds were recorded on camera and plotted by GPS.

The only limitation, if any, could have been the thick stand of grass, Fynbos and natural vegetation in the undisturbed areas.

Methodology

1. Site visit.
2. Study of topo-cadstral map.

INVESTIGATION

The different sites selected for the Ballot's Bay Field School and Education Centre are located on the farm Sand kraal 197 near George, Southern Cape. The developments will include two environmental education centres, storage facilities, fifteen chalets on six different stands and five cottages near the beach. The existing road system will be used inside the reserve.

The site was visited on 12 May 2006 in the company of Joggie van Staden from Bohlweki Environmental Consultants in George. The different sites were investigated on foot and observations and finds were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical remains and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

The farm Sand kraal 197 borders on the sea and is located between Ballot's Bay and Herolds Bay about 8km from George. The land lies south east of the Thembaletu informal township (Fig.1).

Vegetation in the areas identified for development consists mainly of rehabilitated coastal Fynbos (Fig.14), while the platforms are covered with thick stands of Kikuyu grass and Fynbos elements (Fig.9). The dense cover in the kloofs consists of indigenous trees, coastal shrubs and Fynbos (Fig.22).

The following GPS (Cape scale) coordinates were taken:

AREA

- 1 Storage facilities** 34°00'49"S 022°31'23"E Altitude 157m (Fig.15).
- 2 Water reservoir**
- 3 Dam 1** 34°01'01"S 022°31'33"E Altitude 149m.
- 4 Air force dam** 34°01'19"S 022°31'08"E Altitude 155m (Fig.11).

5	E3 centre A	34°01'04"S 022°31'46"E Altitude 137m.
6	E3 centre B	34°01'16"S 022°31'12"E Altitude 146m.
7	Multi purpose hall	34°00'55"S 022°31'43"E Altitude 149m (Fig.4).
8-12	e3 Chalets	34°01'07"S 022°31'31"E Altitude 151m.
13	e3 Cottages	
14	e3 Base	34°01'24"S 022°31'32"E Altitude 21m (Fig.21).
15	Water reservoir	34°00'55"S 022°31'43"E Altitude 149m.
	Entrance gate	34°00'49"S 022°31'28"E Altitude 174m.
	Gecko Point	34°01'26"S 022°31'23"E Altitude 106m (Fig.13).
	Cave at sea level	34°01'18"S 022°31'38"E Altitude 1-2m (Fig.17).

FINDS

The random collecting over many years brought together a collection of Early Stone Age hand axes (Fig.5) from the plough lands. Another small assemblage of flaked tools, which resemble Middle Stone Age artefacts (Fig.8), presumably came from the same source. The source of the material for the manufacture of stone tools could either be from locally derived quartzite from the beach, or pre-Cape rock, river deposits from the coastal plain. These artefacts are of course out of context, but will be kept at the general-purpose hall (Point 7) and will only be used as education and display material.

The cave at sea level (Fig.17) could not be investigated due to high tide at the time of our visit. The cavern is almost inaccessible and consists of an open entrance area with a rear chamber of about 10mx20. Joggie van Staden who had been to the cave previously, relates that the rear hall contains stalactites and stalagmites, but due to seeping water from the rocks at the back, there is no deposit with cultural material on the floor.

According to the town planners, the cave site will be protected and will not become part of the public facilities. Controlled visits will only be allowed under supervision of instructors from the field school.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The lithic assemblage found at the locality of the multi purpose hall, represents a random collection of Early Stone Age hand axes (Fig.5) and flaked artefacts resembling Middle Stone Age material (Fig.8). These artefacts originate from the plough lands, and are of course out of context and will only be used as teaching and display material.

No other cultural, historical or palaeontological features were found during the investigation, nor were there any buildings, graves or burial grounds traced in the area.

The impact on the cultural heritage remains of the proposed development sites at Sand kraal 197 will be of minor significance. It is possible however, that lithic archaeological material could be discovered during the building and construction phase at the selected sites. I recommend that Mr Joggie van Staden should be informed in the case of these discoveries

MITIGATION

No mitigation measures will be required on any of the proposed development sites.

According to the local town planner, the cave at sea level does not contain any cultural material. However, the cavern could be of major significance due to the occurrence of stalactites and stalagmites. I agree that the site should be protected and that it should not be included as part of the public facilities at the field school. Controlled visits should only be undertaken under strict supervision of knowledgeable instructors from the field school.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the planning and the development of the site may proceed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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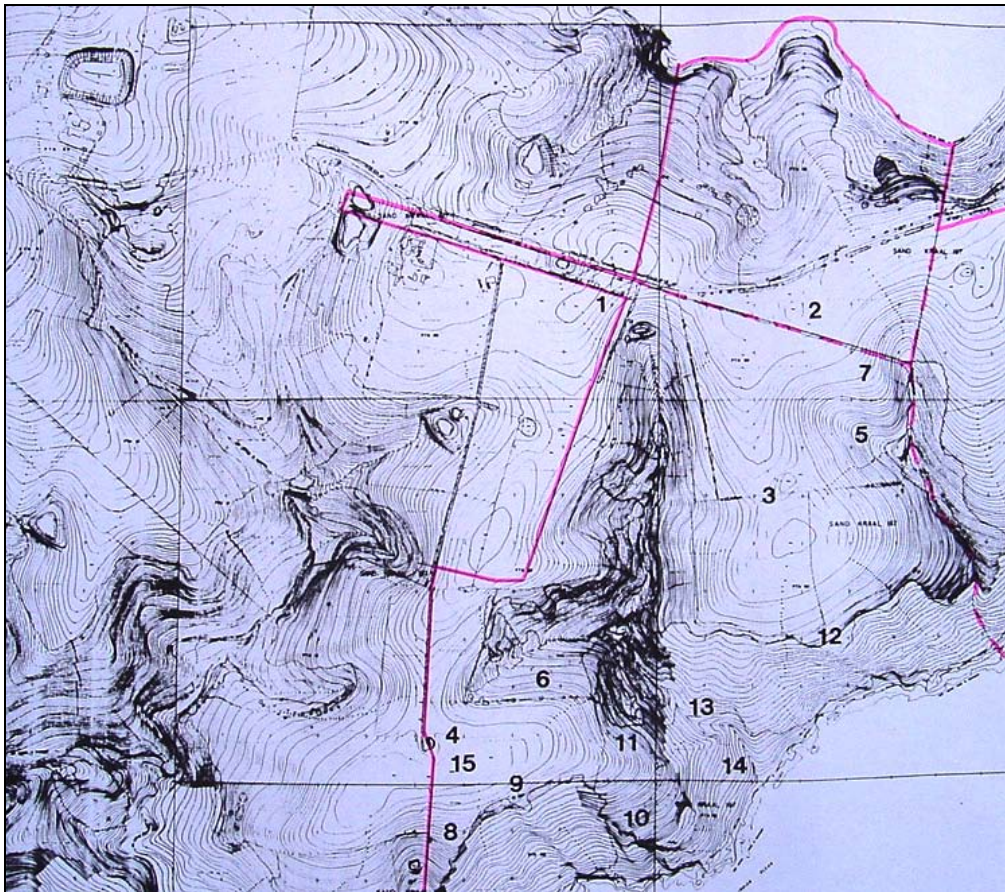
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of George in the south western Cape.



Map 2 Placing of the different areas of development at Ballot's Bay, George.

<u>Proposed Development Plan</u>	
1	Farm Shed
2	Water Reservoir
3	Sewerage Water Treatment
4	Sewerage Water Treatment
5	e3 Centre “A”
6	e3 Centre “B”
7	Multipurpose Hall
8 – 12	e3 Chalets
13	e3 Cottages
14	e3 Base
15	Water Reservoir

Fig.1 Key to development sites indicated on Map 2.



Fig.2 Existing facilities at Sand Kraal 197, George.



Fig.3 Levelled area covered with a stand of Kikuyu grass.



Fig.4 Point 7. Stand for multi purpose hall



Fig.5 Early Stone Age artefacts previously collected from the ploughed lands.



Fig.6 Selection of Acheulian hand axes and Oldowan choppers.



Fig.7 Selection of hand axes and Oldowan choppers. Pocket knife=83mm.



Fig.8 Flaked tools from the same collection. Pocket knife=83mm.



Fig.9 View of the kloof with natural bush and Kikuyu grass cover at front.



Fig.10 Red sterile soil in test pit.



Fig.11 Point 4. Air force dam.



Fig.12 View down to sea level from the site.



Fig.13 View down to sea level from Gecko point facing south.



Fig.14 Rehabilitated Fynbos at the site.



Fig.15 Point 1. Storage facility.



Fig.16 View down towards the cave at sea level.



Fig.17 Cave entrance at sea level.



Fig.18 Point 6. Position of Environmental Centre E3 centre B.



Fig.19 Rocks at sea level form interesting geological features.



Fig.20 Intrusion that resemble molten lava at sea level.



Fig.21 Point 14. Locality of the environmental education base.



Fig.22 Indigenous trees and shrubs form thick stands in the kloofs.