

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
DUTTON'S COVE COUNTRY ESTATE  
HEROLDS BAY**

**A PORTION OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 (PORTION OF  
PORTION 6) OF THE FARM BUFFELSFONTEIN NO. 204**

Prepared for

**Sharples Environmental Services**

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## Executive summary

Sharples Environmental Services requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion 7 (Portion of Portion 6) of the Farm Buffelsfontein No. 204 Herolds Bay, near George, in the southern Cape.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/remains that may be negatively 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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has also been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

The subject property has been modified extensively by human intervention and agricultural practices. The majority of the site is currently covered with thick kikuyu grass, resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility. A cluster of farm buildings comprising a modern farmhouse, outbuildings and labourer's cottages occurs near the entrance to the property. Several other buildings occur on the remainder of the property. No historical buildings occur on the farm.

The following findings were made:

Two quartzite Middle Stone Age flakes and one quartzite broken/split cobble were documented during the study.

**The archaeological 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 proposed construction activities.

It is probable, however, that Stone Age artefacts will be uncovered during earthmoving operations during the Construction Phase of the proposed project. It is worth noting that large numbers of Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools have been documented at Oubaai and The Brink Eco-Estate, opposite the subject property.

It is therefore not inconceivable that earth moving operations might expose in-situ material over the less disturbed portions of the proposed site.

With regard to the proposed Dutton's Cove Country Estate development, on the Remainder of Portion 7 (Portion of Portion 6) of the Farm Buffelsfontein No. 204, Herolds Bay, the following recommendations are made:

- Archaeological monitoring of earthmoving operations is required during the Construction Phase of the proposed project.
- 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.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sharples Environmental Services, on behalf of Drommel Properties 389 (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed housing development on Portion 7 (Portion of Portion 6) of the Farm Buffelsfontein No. 204 Herolds Bay, near George, in the southern Cape.

The proposed project makes provision for both high and medium density (Group Housing) and low density housing components. Associated infrastructure includes roads and services. Open Space, communal facilities and retail land uses are also envisaged.

The original development proposal occupied the entire 90 ha property, while the new amended layout effectively occupies only the southern half of the property, which was approved by the Structure Plan Amendment (Sharples Environmental Services 2007).

The subject property is currently zoned Agriculture, and a portion will be rezoned to accommodate the proposed development activities. The remainder of the property will retain its agricultural zoning

The extent of the proposed development (about 30 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 remaining 60 ha will retain its agriculture zoning.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological sites and remains that may be negatively 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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has also been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

## 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 site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- 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 conceptual layout plan is illustrated in Figure 3.

The subject property (S° 34 02 642 E° 22 24 355 on map datum wgs 84) is situated about 18 kms south west of George, immediately north of the small coastal village of Herolds Bay. Access to the property is from the R404 via the N2/Herolds Bay off ramp. The property is accessed via a gravel road immediately after the Oubaai turnoff. The farm is bounded by the R404 in the south, agricultural lands in the north and west and by the Gwaing River and Oubaai Golf Estate in the east. The site has been modified extensively by human intervention and agricultural practices. Almost the entire site is covered in a mix of thick grazing lands (mainly kikuyu) that is regularly cut (Figures 4-14). Some stands of alien trees occur, but mostly in south eastern portion of the site. Sensitive coastal thicket vegetation is present along the margins of the Gwaing River.

Existing infrastructure includes a cluster of buildings near the entrance to the farm (see Figure 4), comprising a modest farmhouse (Figure 15) and outbuildings including sheds (Figures 16 and 17), a prefabricated house (Figure 18) and labourer's cottages (Figure 19). Another labourers' cottage is located some distance away overlooking a farm dam (Figure 20). A newly built modern home is located on the highest point of the property providing a commanding view over the farm (Figure 21). A concrete shed is located at the entrance to Luckoff Farm (Figure 22), and a small ruined school is located in the south western corner of the property, alongside the R404 (Figure 23). None of the buildings are older than 60 years and are therefore not protected under current heritage legislation. Several small farm dams have also been built. There are access roads and tracks leading to various parts of the farm. The property is surrounded by land uses comprising mainly farmland. Oubaai Golf and Residential Estate and The Brink Eco-estate are located immediately to the east and south east of the property.

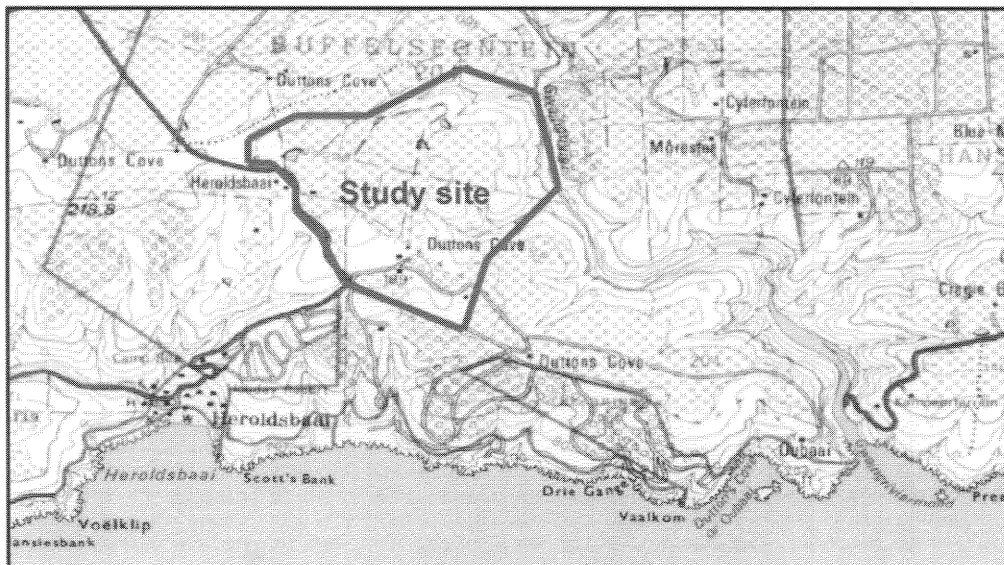


Figure 1. Locality map (3422AB Sedgefield)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the site indicating property boundary

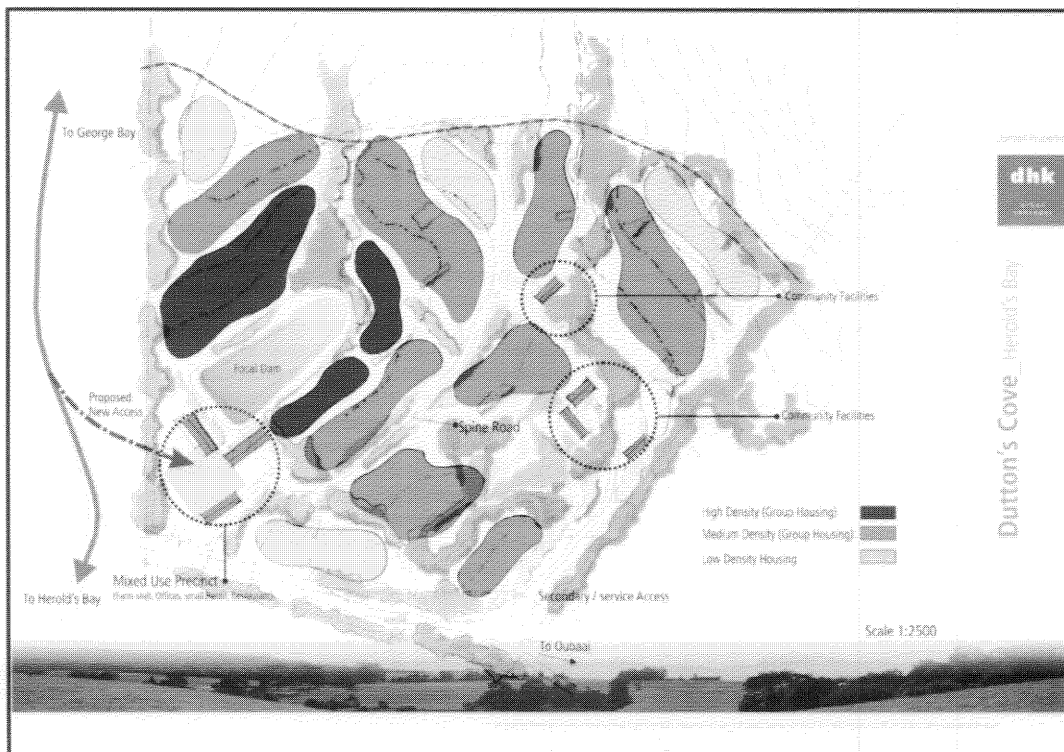


Figure 3. Conceptual site layout plan



**Figure 4. View of the site facing south**



**Figure 7. View of the site facing south east**



**Figure 5. View of the site facing south**



**Figure 8. View of the site facing north east**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing north east**



**Figure 9. View of the site facing north east**





**Figure 10. View of the site facing east**



**Figure 13. View of the site facing west**



**Figure 11. View of the site facing north**



**Figure 14. View of the site facing north west**



**Figure 12. View of the site facing north east**



**Figure 15. Main farmhouse**



**Figure 16. Shed**



**Figure 19. Labourer's cottages**



**Figure 17. Outbuilding**



**Figure 20. Labourer's cottage**



**Figure 18. Pre-fabricated house**



**Figure 21. Modern home**

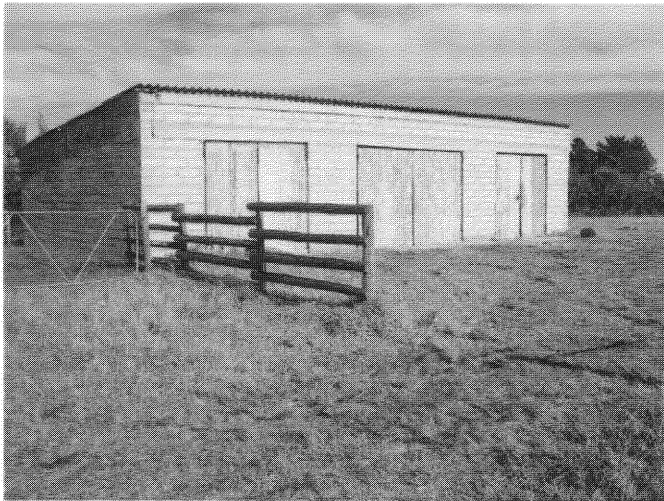


Figure 22. Concrete shed



Figure 23. Ruined school building

## 4. STUDY APPROACH

### 4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the 90 ha property.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

### 4.2 Constraints and limitations

The field study was constrained and severely compromised by the presence of extremely thick kikuyu grass, resulting in very low archaeological visibility. The property is regularly and systematically cut by tractor forming a thick matt of grass over much of farm.

### 4.3 Identification of potential risks

- Earthmoving operations may expose important archaeological heritage remains such as Early and Middle Stone Age tools.
- Unmarked pre-colonial human remains may be uncovered during earthmoving operations.

### 4.4 Results of the desk top study

Studies undertaken to date in the George area indicate that, away from the coast, the density of artefacts scatters tend to be very low (Kaplan 2007a, 2006, 2003a). On, or nearer to the coast, however, archaeological sites are far more ubiquitous and the density of artefact scatters much higher. For example large numbers of Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools have been documented at Oubaai (Kaplan

2001) and The Brink (Kaplan 2004), situated alongside the proposed Dutton's Cove Country Estate development. Shell middens have also been recorded on the high coastal cliffs at Oubaai (Kaplan 2001), while Herolds Bay cave is a National Monument site.

Indeed, research has shown that the majority of sites in the coastal zone occur within about 300 m of the high water mark (Kaplan 1993). This pattern is repeated in the Mossel Bay area as well, where away from the coast artefact densities appear to be quite low (Kaplan 2007b), but are much higher at, or nearer to the coast (Kaplan 2007c, 2003b, 1997).

It is also interesting to note that between 1852 and 1857, Oubaai, or Dutton's Cove as it was then known, was the site of a small harbour to which goods for George were shipped and unloaded. The ruins of a stone warehouse occur alongside the old transport road leading down to Dutton's Cove. Metal ring bolts, used for securing the longboats were also found on the beach during a visit by the archaeologist in November 2003. The rusted remains of a shipwreck, probably that of the trawler the Baywyke which was wrecked in Dutton's Cove is also visible on the beach (Kaplan 2001).

A social history of Buffelsfontein Farm No. 204, arising out of a detailed archival and deeds search, has also been completed (Dumbrell 2006).

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **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 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"

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 NHR 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

Two quartzite Middle Stone Age flakes and one broken quartzite chunk were documented during the study.

The quartzite chunk was found in a collapsed road alongside the farm dam near the main tar road (R404).

One quartzite flake was found in a gravel patch at the end of a short gravel road alongside the R404 (Figure 24), while the other quartzite flake was found in the main access road to the property.

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



**Figure 24. Archaeological context of Stone Age tools**

## 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 proposed development activities.

Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools may, however, very likely be exposed or uncovered in underlying sandy deposits once earthmoving operations penetrate and remove the top soils. Large numbers of surface ESA and MSA tools were documented at Oubaai (Kaplan 2001) and The Brink (Kaplan 2004) directly opposite the subject property.

It is important to note that up to 70 000, ESA tools have been documented during monitoring of earthmoving operations at Pinnacle Point near Mossel Bay (Nilssen 2005 and pers. comm.). ESA and MSA artefacts are located in both the top soil and underlying sandy deposits in stratigraphic sequence, although it does appear as if the bulk of the artefacts are derived from the sandy layer. It is also interesting to note that a carnivore (probably hyena) lair and an accumulation of well-preserved fossil bone were documented in limestone deposits nearly 3 m below the surface (Nilssen pers. comm.) at Pinnacle Point.

The key point is that the archaeology below the surface is undisturbed and it is precisely the context of the finds that is so important for conservation purposes.

Unmarked pre-colonial human remains may also be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

With mitigation, possible archaeological impacts can be minimized and positive impacts enhanced.

The assessment of the potential impacts on archaeological resources is summarised in Table 1.

	<b>Without Mitigation</b>	<b>With Mitigation</b>
<b>Extent</b>	Site specific	Site specific
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent	Temporary
<b>Intensity</b>	Potentially high	Low
<b>Probability</b>	Probable	Improbable
<b>Significance</b>	Potentially high	Low
<b>Confidence</b>	High	High

**Table 1. Archaeological impact assessment of the proposed project.**

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed Dutton's Cove Country Estate development, on the Remainder of Portion 7 (Portion of Portion 6) of the Farm Buffelsfontein No. 204, Herolds Bay, the following recommendations are made:

- Earthmoving activities must be monitored by a professional archaeologist. Archaeological monitoring is a crucial component of conserving and managing archaeological resources on the site. Monitoring should follow the model and procedures developed by Dr. P. Nilssen at Pinnacle Point.
- 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

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