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HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED HERMANUS GOLF ESTATE

Prepared for

DE VILLIERS BROWNLIE ASSOCIATES

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management
Specialists in Archaeological Studies & Heritage Resource Management
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**JUNE
2001**

Executive summary

A handful of Middle Stone Age tools were located during a heritage impact assessment of the proposed Hermannus Golf Estate.

The proposed project envisages upgrading and extending the existing Hermannus golf course to a golf estate, and includes a large residential development component, public open space and associated activities.

A large portion of the property comprises vacant land, which is heavily infested with alien vegetation.

The stone tools were located alongside a gravel road in the north-eastern portion of the study site. The archaeological remains were found in a severely disturbed context and have been given a low significance rating.

An old building with late Victorian elements added occurs in the south-eastern corner of the study site. The building, which is older than 60 years, has been extensively modified and altered, and does not retain architectural integrity. The building is due to be demolished to make way for the proposed development.

The overall impact of the proposed project on heritage remains is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological and heritage remains during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically or historically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

With regard to the proposed development of the Hermannus Golf Estate, the following heritage recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- Permission by the developers to destroy the building in the south-eastern corner of the property must be obtained from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.
- No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resource Agency.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

De Villiers Brownlie Associates has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a heritage impact assessment (HIA) of the proposed Hermannus Golf Estate.

The proposed project envisages upgrading and extending the existing Hermannus golf course to a golf estate, and includes a large residential development component, public open space and associated activities.

The aim of the HIA is to locate, identify and map heritage remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the planned development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the HIA were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any heritage sites of significance within the proposed site;
2. to identify and map any sites of heritage significance within the above area;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of heritage 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 heritage sites that may exist within the site.

3.0 THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. The site is located within the town of Hermannus, approximately 1.5 km northeast of the CBD, on the lower slopes of the Kleinrivier Mountains.

A large portion of the property comprises vacant land, which is covered with dense alien woodland, dominated by alien trees.



Figure 2. Heritage Impact Assessment, Hermannus Golf Estate : proposed land use.

4.0 LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites, and historical buildings, structures and features over 60 years old are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). The Act came into effect on 01 April 2000, and replaces the National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969).

It is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or historical object or feature, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

5.0 STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the HIA entailed a detailed ground survey of the property.

5.1 Archaeological context of the study area

A range of archaeological sites have been recorded in the Hermanus region (Kaplan 1993). These include cave sites, shell middens, open air sites and ancient fish traps (viswvvers).

The sites that have been recorded in the region reflect human use of the area, particularly of the coastal zone, for many thousands of years and range in age from more than 500 000 years to the very recent buildings which marked the use of the area for farming during the last 200 years.

6.0 RESULTS OF THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A handful of Middle Stone Age¹ (MSA) tools were located during the HIA.

The tools were located alongside a gravel road in the north-eastern portion of the property. The tools, in quartzite, comprised four flakes and a chunk.

The archaeological remains were found in a severely disturbed context and have been given a low significance rating

Significance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

¹ A term referring to the period between 250 000 and 25 000 years ago.

An old building, with late Victorian elements added, occurs in the south-eastern corner of the property (Figures 3 & 4). The building is older than 60 years, but has been fairly extensively altered and modified. The front stoep has been enclosed, a bathroom has been added on at the back of the house, a garage has been built adjacent to the house with an braai area, some doors have been removed, and some of the original sash windows have been replaced with metal windows.

Despite its age and its protected status, the building does not retain any architectural integrity.

According to the Louis de Villiers of de Villiers Brownlie Associates (pers. comm.), the building will be demolished to make way for the proposed development.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **plans to demolish the house must first be approved by the South African Heritage Resources Agency**

7.0 IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on heritage remains is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological and historical sites during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

9.0 IMPACT DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

A summary of the significance of the heritage impacts is presented in Table 1. The HIA has shown that the construction of the access road will have no significantly high negative impacts.

CRITERIA	IMPACT	
	WITHOUT MITIGATION	WITH MITIGATION
Extent	On site	On site
Duration	Short-term	Short-term
Intensity	Low	Low
Probability	Improbable	Improbable
Significance	Low	Low
Status	Negative	Negative
Confidence	High	High

Table 1: Assessment of archaeological impacts of the proposed Hermannus Golf Estate.

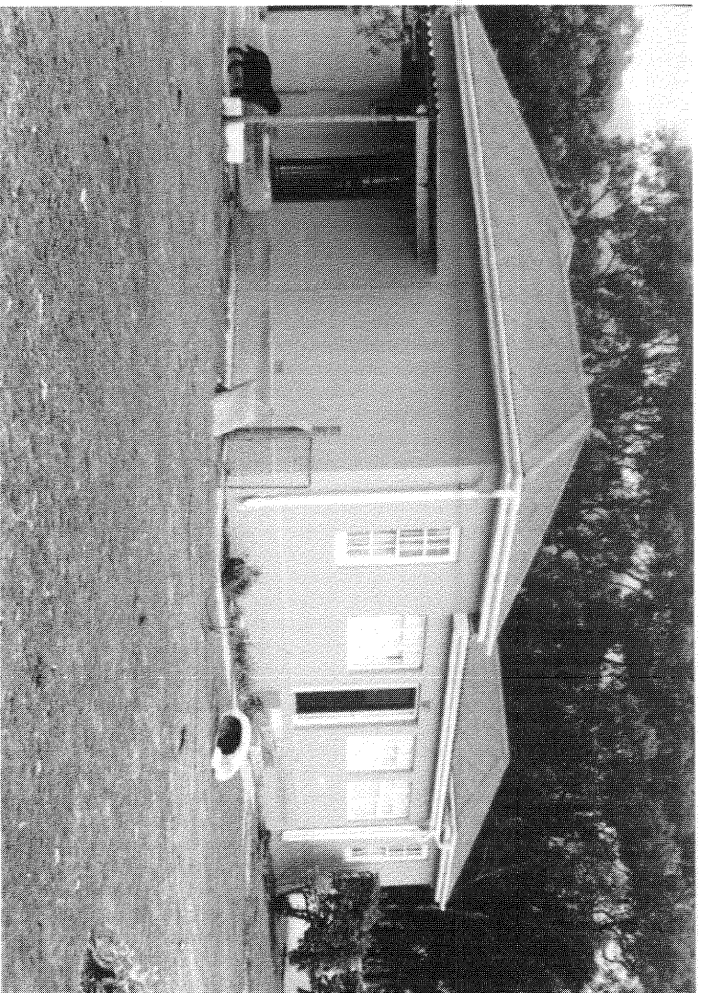


Figure 3. Heritage Impact Assessment, Hermanus Golf Estate : old building



Figure 4. Heritage Impact Assessment Hermanus Golf Estate : old building

10.0 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically or historically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Hermannus Golf Estate development, the following heritage management recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. Permission by the developers to demolish the building in the south-eastern corner of the property must be obtained by the South African Heritage Resources Agency.
3. No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resource Agency

12.0 REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the mouth of the Orange River to Ponto do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

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The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. The site is located within the town of Hermanus, approximately 1.5 km northeast of the CBD, on the lower slopes of the Kleinrivier Mountains.

A large portion of the property comprises vacant land, which is covered with dense alien woodland, dominated by alien trees.

From: "Louis de Villiers" <dbass@con.co.za>
To: Mary Leslie <mleslie@sahra.org.za>
Date: 6/20/01 1:32PM
Subject: Hermannus Golf Estate

Dear Mary

**PROPOSED HERMANUS GOLF ESTATE
HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Attached please find a copy (in MSWord97 format) of the Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by Jonathan Kaplan (Agency for Cultura Resource Management) for the above project.

Please note that this project is subject to the EIA Regulations, so that Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act is applicable. We intend submitting a Scoping Report to DECAS for its consideration in the near future, and would like to include any comments form SAHRA in the Scoping Report.

Would you kindly review the attached HIA as soon as possible, and submit your comments directly to me.

I do not anticipate that you will have any problems with the findings and recommendations of the HIA, and trust that you will concur once you have reviewed the report

Regards

Louis de Villiers
deVilliers Brownlie Associates
21 Menin Avenue
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South Africa
Tel/Fax + 27 21 6744263

CC: Leslie Viljoen <cavcor@iafrica.com>

SAHRA

25/01

South African Heritage Resources Agency

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OUR REF : 9/2/040/1

ENQUIRIES: Mrs M Leslie

E-mail: mleslie@sahra.org.za

Web site: www.sahra.co.za

DATE : 27 Sept 2001 ? See HO file for real date

Louis de Villiers
deVilliers Brownlie Associates
21 Menin Avenue
Claremont
7708

FAX : 021 21 674 4263

Dear Louis

Archaeological Impact Assessment : Proposed Hermannus Golf Estate

We are in support of the recommendations made by the Agency for Cultural Resource Management in respect of this project. Apparently there are no significant archaeological remains in the area.

Of course, archaeological sites may be buried beneath the surface, so it will be necessary to indicate that, should any archaeological material be encountered during development, either SAHRA or an archaeologist must (in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999) be consulted before work proceeds.

Please note that, if the house, which is apparently over 60 years old, is to be altered or demolished, permission from SAHRA's Western Cape Regional Office is required.

Yours sincerely

Mary Leslie: Archaeologist
for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Copy: SAHRA Provincial Office: Western Cape Province

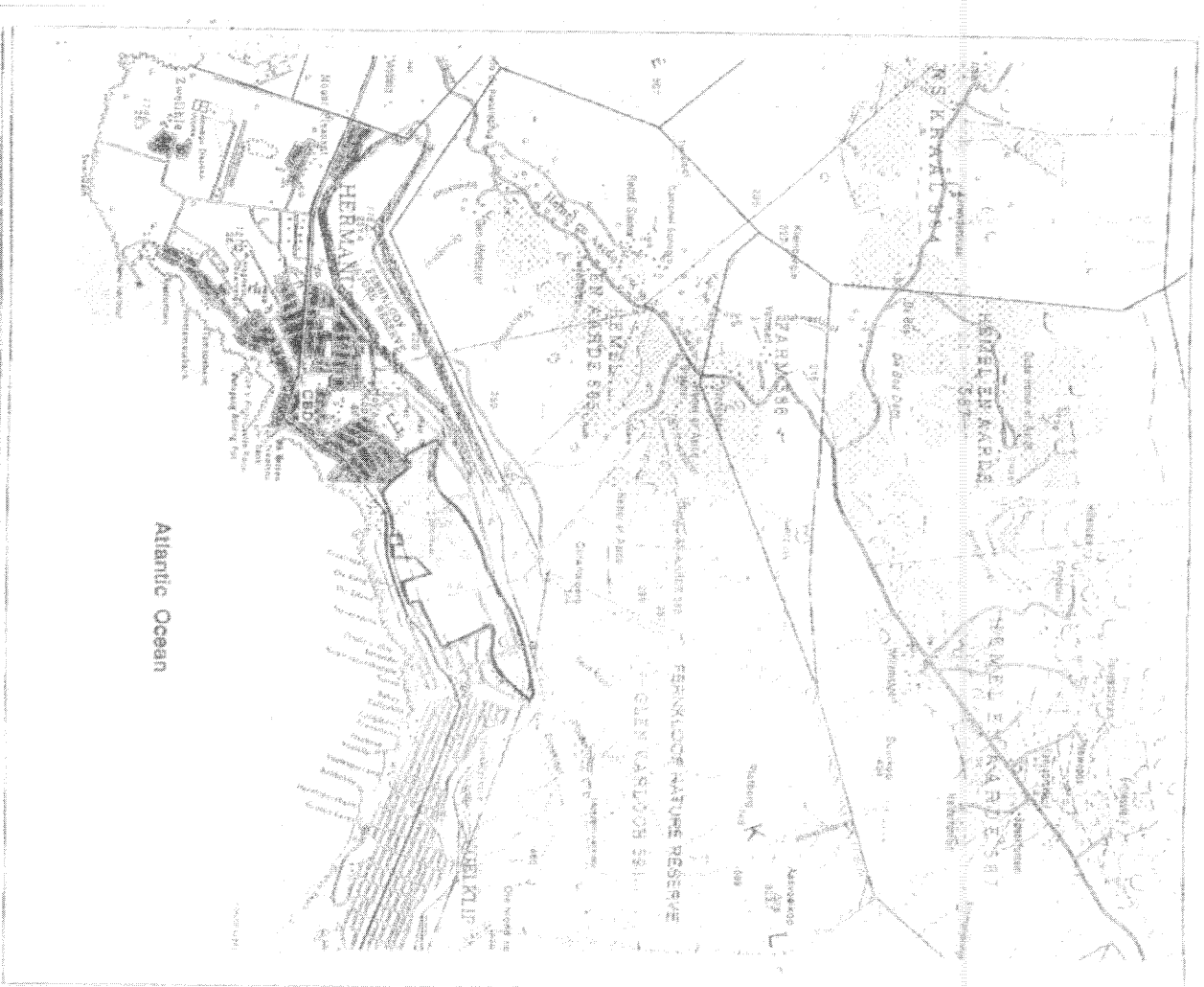


Figure 1. Heritage Impact Assessment, proposed Hermanns Golf Estate : locality