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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY -
SALAMANDER COVE

Prepared for

SALAMANDER COVE DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY (PTY) LTD

BY

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Executive summary

One Later Stone Age (LSA) scraper, two LSA flakes and one LSA chunk were found during an archaeological survey of erven 3660 and 3662 in Saldanha Bay, the site of the planned Salamander Cove project. The stone tools were found in severely disturbed contexts on portions of the site planned for development and are not considered to be archaeologically significant. No archaeological mitigation is therefore required.

Large amounts of broken glass, ceramics and metal were also found on top of a large vegetation covered sand dune on the site. This material is also in a disturbed context and is probably derived from an old dump site. The material is also not considered to be culturally significant. As a result no archaeological mitigation is required.

Archaeological visibility in the study area is extremely low, except for some open clearings which occur in places. The major part of the development is on land zoned for agriculture, and is characterised by severe overgrazing and disturbance.

The archaeological study was confined to the two erven, but focussed specifically on features above the 6 m contour. It is here, on or close to the large sand dune and small hill at the southern boundary of the site, that the stone tools and dump site were located.

The impact of the planned Salamander Cove Development project on archaeological sites or remains is considered to be low to negligible. The probability of sites being uncovered during earthmoving activities is also low.

It is recommended that the planned development should be allowed to proceed.

There is the possibility, however, of human burial remains being uncovered during earthmoving activities, especially on or close to the large sand dune overlooking Camp Street. Should any human remains be uncovered during earthmoving, a professional archaeologist should be immediately informed and should be allowed to intervene where necessary. Intervention may require emergency excavation to take place.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and brief

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management has been requested by the Salamander Cove Development Company (Pty) Ltd to undertake a baseline archaeological study of the planned Salamander Cove project. The planned project incorporates a large residential development, as well as commercial and light industrial nodes, and a variety of sporting and recreational facilities.

The aim of the archaeological study is to locate, identify, and map archaeological 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.

1.2 Terms of reference

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to undertake an archaeological study of the planned Salamander Cove project;
2. to identify and assess any sites of archaeological interest that may exist in the planned development, including their status, impact and significance;
3. to identify measures to maintain any valuable sites that may exist in the study area.

1.3 The study site

campus

The study site for the planned development is erven 3660 and 3662 in Saldanha Bay, located about 3 kilometers from the West coast town of Saldanha Bay (Figure 1). The site is accessed from Camp Road on the southern boundary of the site project, and is clearly marked.

The archaeological study focussed on the erven 3662 and 3660, with particular attention being paid to features above the 6 m contour.

2. Study approach

The approach used in the study is the standard archaeological procedure for a study of this nature. It entailed a foot survey of the planned development.

In addition to the field survey, an examination of the sexists record in the South African Museum was also undertaken. No archaeological sites have been recorded in the study area. Saldanha Bay, however, contains sites of both national and international significance (Kaplan 1995). Similar impact assessment have been undertaken in the study area, including studies of the Saldanha Steel Project and the proposed Alpha Saldanha Cement Project,

both projects located on land nearby to the current study site (Kaplan 1996, 1997 in prep.).

3. Results of the impact assessment

1. One Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) end scraper, one LSA flake and two LSA silcrete chunks were located during the survey. The tools, all isolated finds, were found in severely disturbed contexts, close to or associated with two prominent features on the site (Figure 1). This included a small hill about 500 metres to the west of the entrance to the site, and a large vegetation-covered sand dune a further 1 kilometer west of the hill, both overlooking Camp Street.

Significance of finds: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

2. Large amounts of broken pieces of glass, ceramics, and metal were found scattered above a large vegetation covered sand dune about 1½ kilometers from the entrance to the site overlooking Camp Street (Figure 1). The material is in a disturbed context and most likely represents the remains of an old dump site.

Significance of finds: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

4. Impact statement

The impact of the planned Salamander Cove Development project on archaeological sites will be low to negligible. The probability of locating sites or remains of significance during earthmoving is activities is also considered to be low. Some tools may be uncovered during these activities, however, but these will likely be uncovered in already disturbed contexts.

The few stone tools and the dump site remains were located in already severely disturbed contexts and are not considered to be culturally significant.

There is the possibility, however, of human burial remains being uncovered during earthmoving activities. The most likely place for remains to be uncovered would be on or close to the large sand dune overlooking Camp Street. Should any human remains be uncovered during the construction phase of the Salamander Cove Development project, a professional archaeologist should be immediately informed and should be allowed to intervene where necessary. Intervention may require emergency excavations to take place.

1. A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

5. Recommendations

With regard to the planned Salamander Cove Development project, the following recommendations are made.

1. The planned development should be allowed to proceed.
2. Contractors and workers should be informed of the possibility of human burial remains being uncovered during earthmoving activities, and ~~to~~ inform the developers immediately should this occur.

6. References

Kaplan, J. 1995. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponta do Oura. Report prepared for the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism.

Kaplan, J. Archaeological study - Saldanha Steel Project. Report prepared for Saldanha Steel (Pty Ltd.

Kaplan, J. 1997 (in prep.). Archaeological study - Alpha Saldanha Cement Project. Report prepared for Mark Wood Consultants on behalf of Alpha Cement (Pty) Ltd.

