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PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PORTION 1 OF THE FARM HERMANUS ONRUS RIVER NO. 542
CALEDON

Prepared for

DENNIS MOSS PARTNERSHIP

By

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AUGUST
2002

Executive summary

No significant archaeological remains were located during a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 1 of the Farm Hermannus Onrus River No. 542, near Kleinmond on the southern Cape coast.

The proposed development of the farm forms part of the extension of the existing Arabella Fynbos Golf Resort.

A handful of Middle Stone Age flakes were located on the steep mountain slopes and on a flat rocky terrace in the northern portion of the property, above the R44. The tools, although found in-situ, are not considered to be important finds.

Early Stone Age tools were also found on the elevated banks above the Bot River Estuary, among a dense grove of Blue Gum trees. The tools were found in a severely disturbed context and have been given low importance ratings.

The overall impact of the proposed project on archaeological remains is thus considered to be low.

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

With regard to the proposed development of Portion 1 of the Farm Hermannus Onrus River No. 542, Caledon, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No more detailed studies are required

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Dennis Moss Partnership requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Portion 1 of the farm Hermanus Onrus River No. 542, near Kleinmond on the Southern Cape coast.

The proposed development of the Portion 1 of the farm forms part of the extension of the existing Arabella Fynbos Golf Resort, which currently comprises a hotel, golf course and residential development. The extent of the property is some 453 ha.

The aim of the AIA is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, 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 site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
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 site.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1.

The property is located in the Overberg region of the Western Cape Province, some 8 kms from the town of Kleinmond and some 30 kms from Hermanus.

The northern portion of the property, above the R44, is alternately infested with alien vegetation and natural veld (Figure 2). Some small outcroppings of sandstone occur on the steep upper slopes.

The southern portion of the property, below the R44, is largely infested with alien vegetation (mainly large Blue Gums) (Figure 3). Some natural veld does occur in places.

Current development in the southern portion of the property comprises the Ysterklip farmstead with main house, outbuildings and labourers' cottages. A large dam is located alongside the R44. A portion of the property also comprises agricultural fields

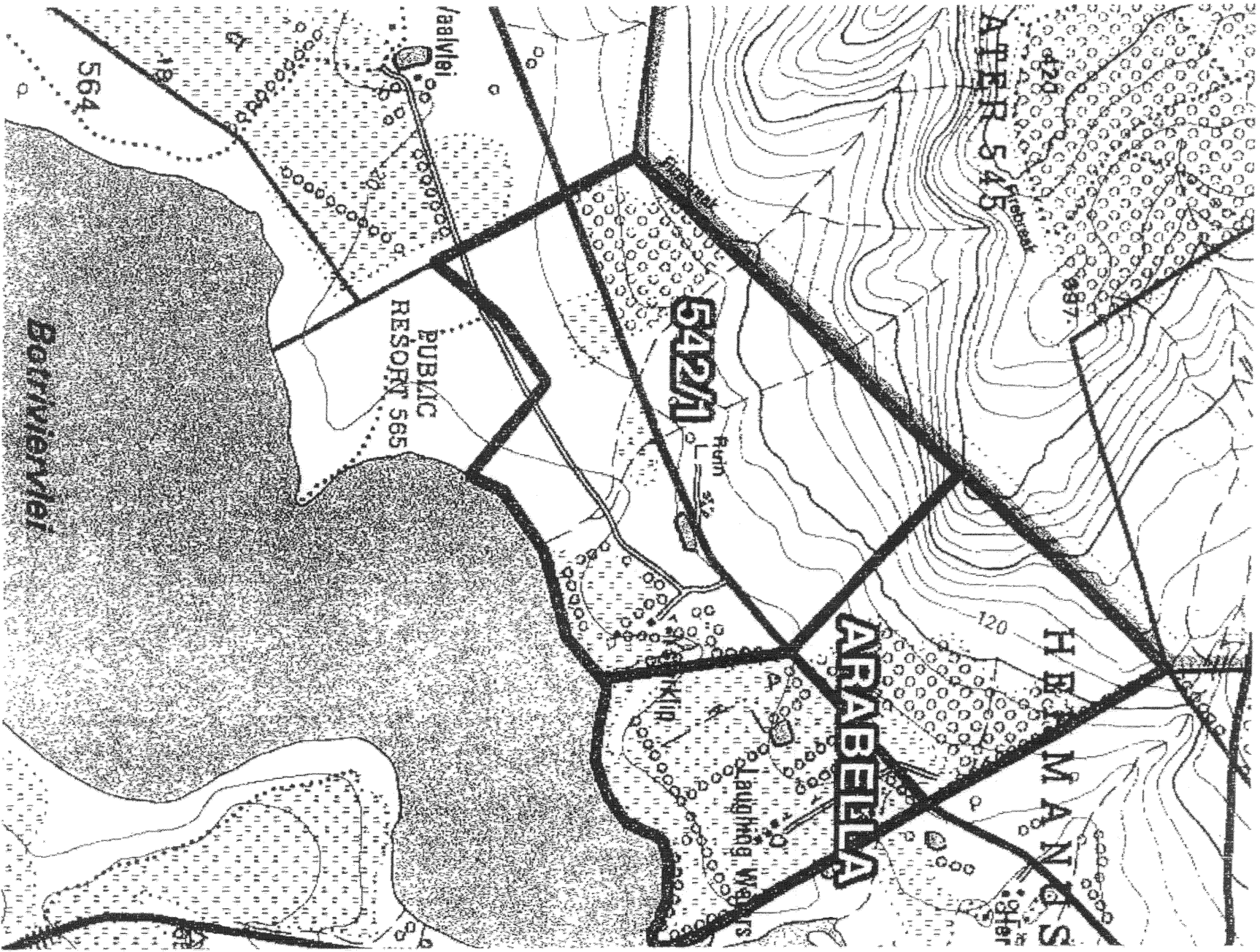


Figure 1. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 1 of the Farm Hermanus Onrus River No. 542. Location of the study site.

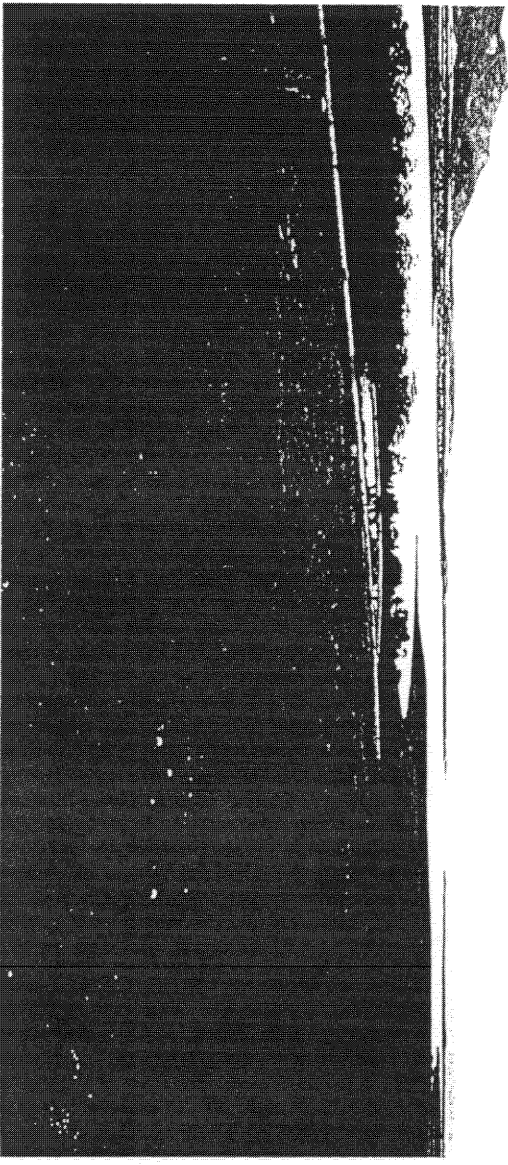


Figure 2. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 1 of the Farm Hermannus Onrus River No. 542. The study site.

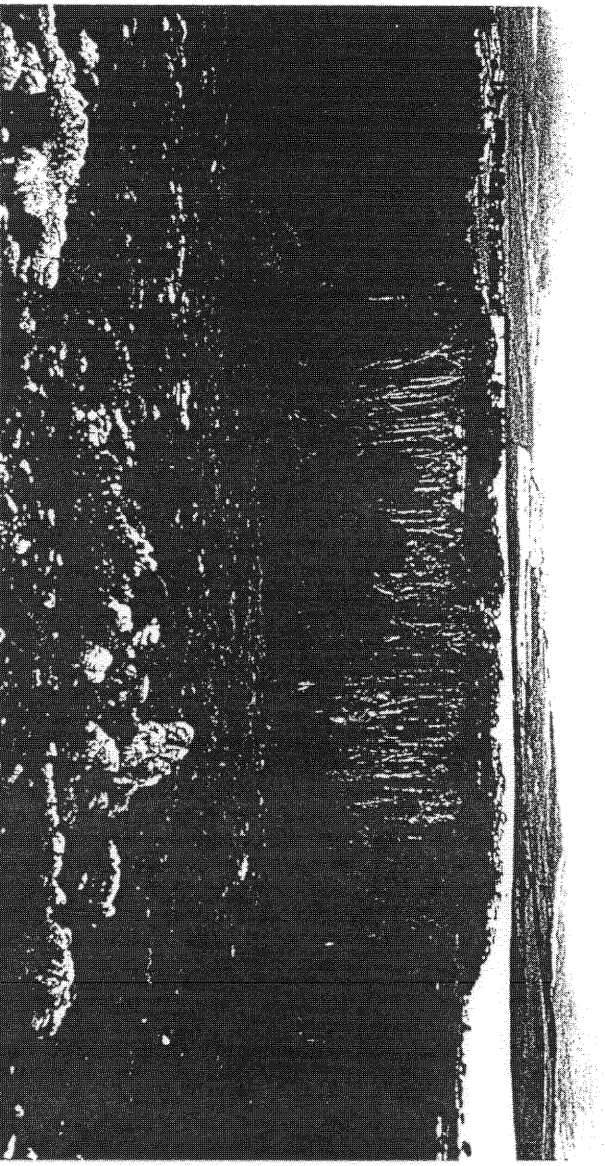


Figure 3. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 1 of the Farm Hermannus Onrus River No. 542. The study site.

A Heritage Impact Assessment of the farm has been carried out by Aikman Associates.

4. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

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

5. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the study entailed a detailed ground survey of the property. All rocky kopjes and outcrops on the steep northern slopes above the R44 were also searched for possible rock paintings. No painting sites were found.

6. RESULTS OF THE STUDY

Four Middle Stone¹ (MSA) flakes were located on a flat rocky terrace above the steep, well vegetated slopes, in the northern portion of the property. Two MSA flakes and one possible MSA core were also found on the steep slopes below the rocky terrace. The tools, although found in-situ, are not considered to be important finds.

The artefacts will not be negatively impacted by the proposed project as the tools were located outside of the development envelope.

MSA and Early Stone Age² (ESA) tools are not uncommon in the area, and have been recorded in a variety of contexts (Kaplan 1995, 1998, 2002a, b, c). Such tools are commonly found on mountain slopes, in disturbed and degraded areas, in borrow pits and near water sources.

Significance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

Five large Early Stone Age tools were also found on the elevated banks above the Bot River Estuary, among a dense grove of Blue Gum trees. The tools, comprising four cores and a flaked cobble, were found in a severely disturbed context, in an area covered with river gravels and large cobbles (Figure 4).

Importance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

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

² A term referring to the period between 2 million and 200 000 years ago.

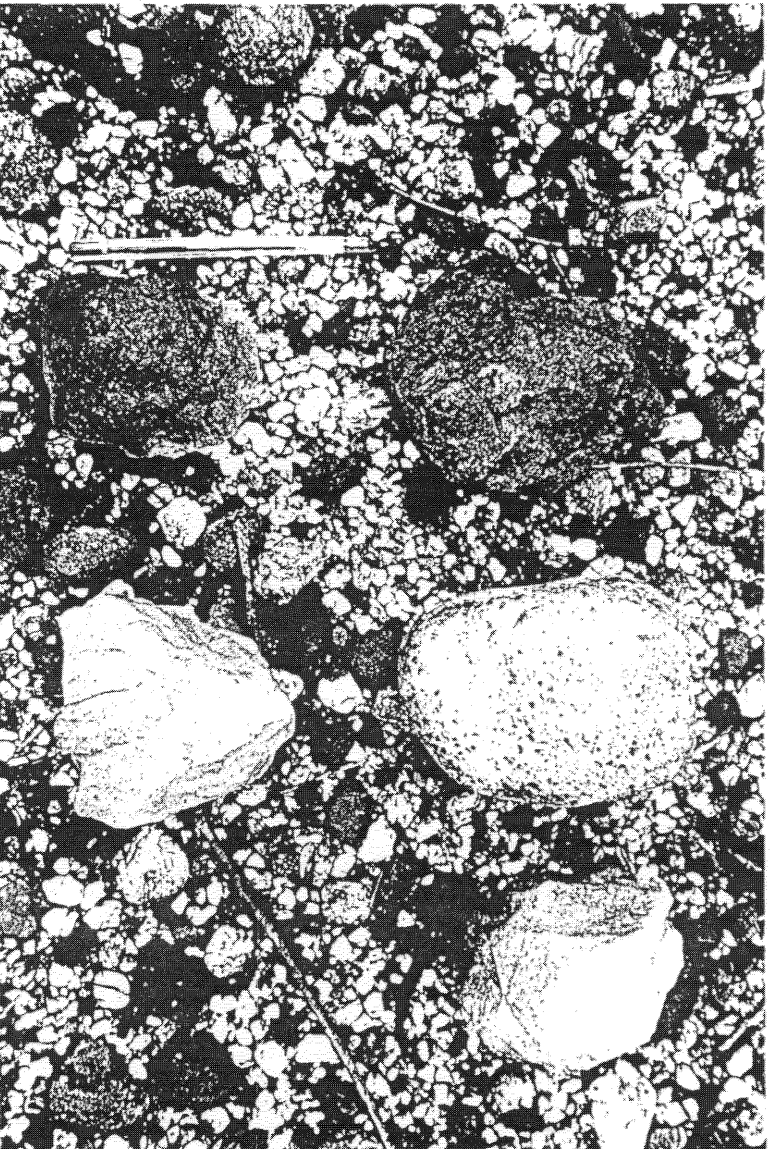


Figure 4. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 1 of the Farm Hermannus Onrus River No. 542. Early Stone Age tools.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological sites/remains is considered to be low.

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

8. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

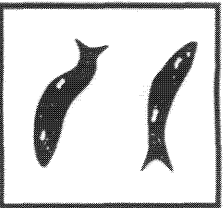
With regard to the proposed development of Portion 1 of the farm Hermannus Onrus River No. 542 Caledon, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No further detailed studies are required.

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

10. REFERENCES

- Kaplan, J. 1995. Archaeological study, Bonnita Spring Water Bottling Plant. Report prepared for Dennis Moss Partnership. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 1998. Archaeological study, Ikapa Quarry, Grabauw. Report prepared for Ecosense. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2000a. Heritage Impact Assessment, Arabella Fynbos Golf Resort, Kleinmond. Report prepared for Dennis Moss Partnership. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2000b. Archaeological Sensitivity Analysis Erf 2 Gordons Bay. Report prepared for Crowther Campbell & Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2000c. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment and Heritage Review. The proposed N1 N2 Winefields Toll Highway Project. Report prepared for Crowther Campbell & Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.



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30 August 2002

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Dear Mary

**REPORTS: PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS,
PORTION 1 OF THE FARM HERMANUS-ONRUS RIVER NO. 542 CALEDON;
KOEKENAAP; AND LUTZVILLE WEST**

Please find copies of the above three reports.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Kaplan

