

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
PORTION 6 OF THE FARM 575 AFDAKSRIVIER  
CALEDON**

Prepared for

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## Executive summary

De Villiers Brownlie Associates, on behalf of Afdakrivier Property Development (Pty) Ltd, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed mixed-use development on Portion 6 of the Farm 575 Afdakrivier, near Hawston on the southern Cape coast.

The extent of the proposed development 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 aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage 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.

Heritage consultant Mr Henry Aikman has been appointed to complete the required Heritage Western Cape 'Notification of Intent to Develop' (NID) checklist.

A low-density scatter of Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools were found in a gravel road situated alongside the R43. The remains occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context. The bulk of the site is infested with alien vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

### **The archaeological heritage remains have been graded 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 development activities.

Stone Age tools may, however, be exposed or uncovered on underlying gravel and clay deposits during bulk earthworks and excavations for services, once the topsoil has been removed from the site.

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

With regard to the proposed development of Portion 6 of the 575 Afdakrivier, the following recommendations are made

- Vegetation clearing operations and bulk earthworks must be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 462 4502) or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and brief

De Villiers Brownlie Associates, on behalf of Afdakrivier Property Development (Pty) Ltd, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed mixed-use development, (comprising residential, retail, and light industrial) on Portion 6 of the farm 575 Afdakrivier, near Hawston on the southern Cape coast.

The property is currently zone Agricultural Zone 1.

The extent of the proposed development (85.3 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 aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage 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.

Heritage consultant Henry Aikman has been appointed to complete the required Heritage Western Cape 'Notification of Intent to Develop' (NID) checklist.

## 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 assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- 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.

The subject property (S° 34 22 930 E° 19 08 314 on map datum wgs 84) is located alongside the R43, between the towns of Fisherhaven and Hawston on the southern Cape coast. Larger towns in the study area include Bot River and Hermanus. The large, flat site is infested with alien vegetation, but some open patches on wind-blown sands do occur. According to botanist Mr Barrie Lowe (pers. comm.), the soils in the area comprise old, acidic sands, possibly originally coastal, but also possibly colluvial from the mountainside, underlain by clay and gravel. Several small tracks and footpaths intersect the site. The site has also been used for dumping. Evidence of recent burning also occurs in parts. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the site, although the Bot River Estuary is located to the west of the property. The receiving environment is fairly severely degraded (Figures 3-8). The surrounding landscape is rural and mountains in the east, and residential development in the north and south.

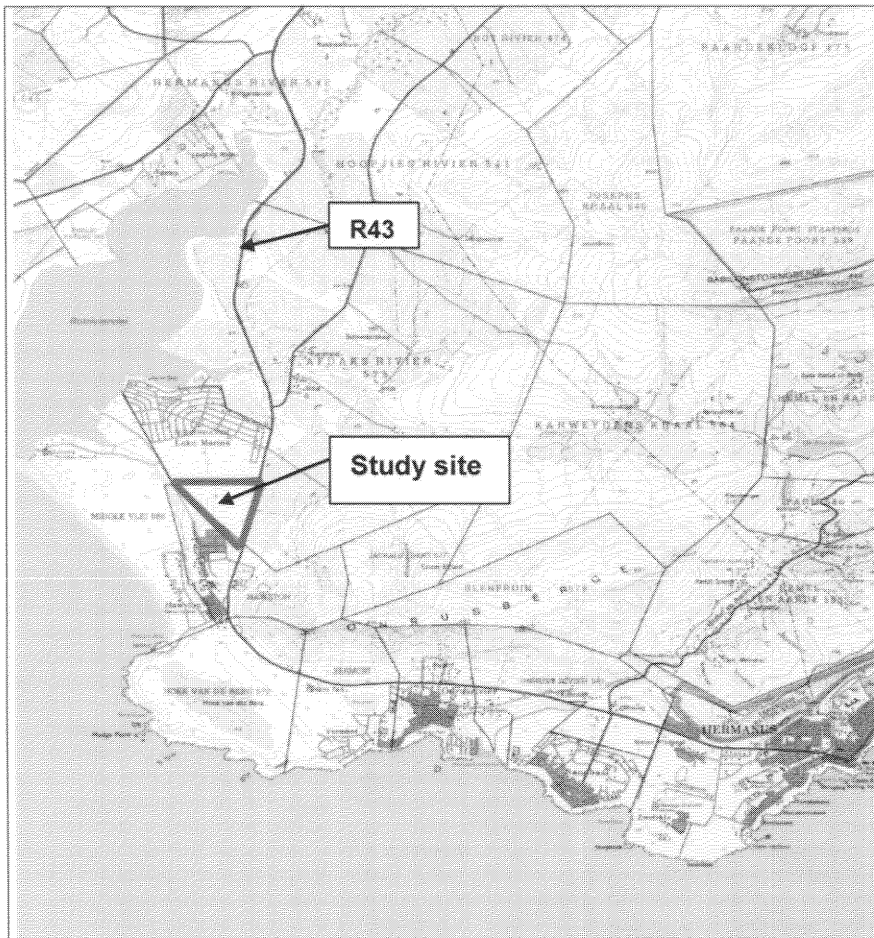
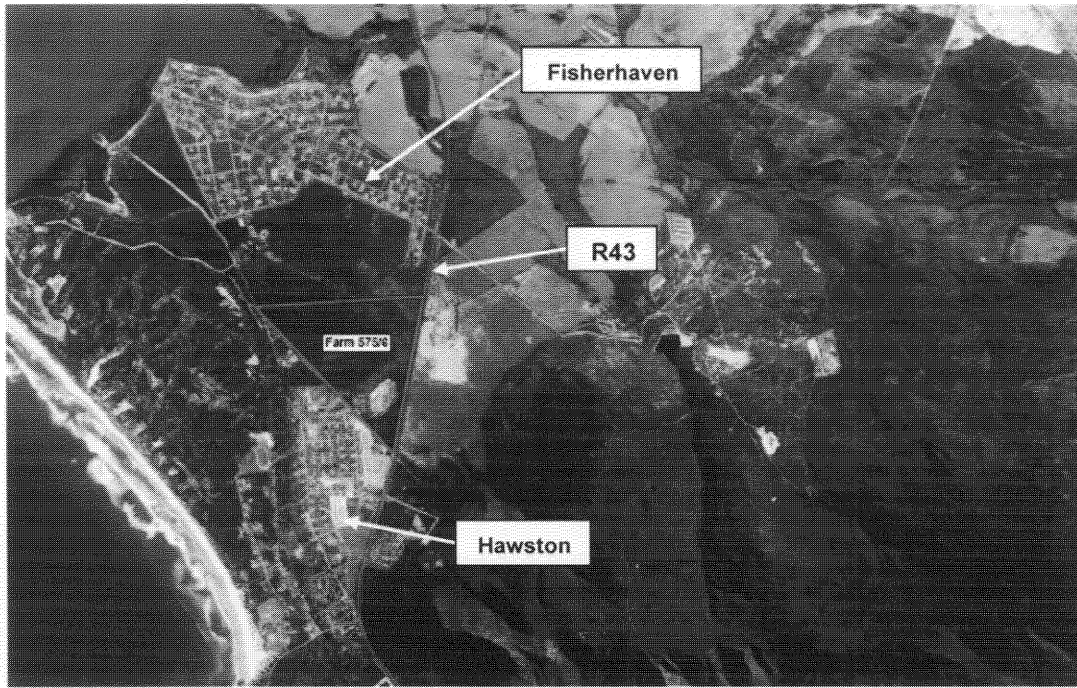


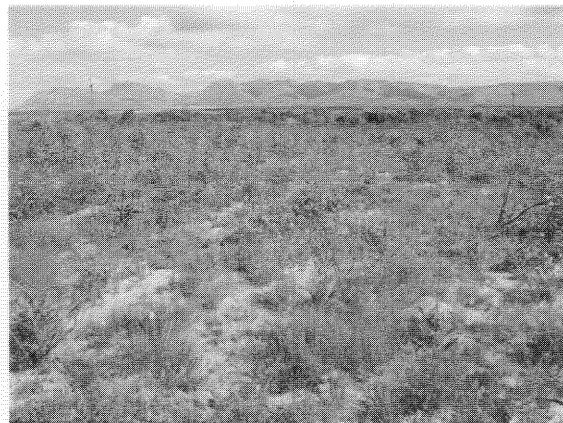
Figure 1. Locality Map (3419 AC Hermanus)



**Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the proposed site**



**Figure 3. View of the site facing southwest**



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

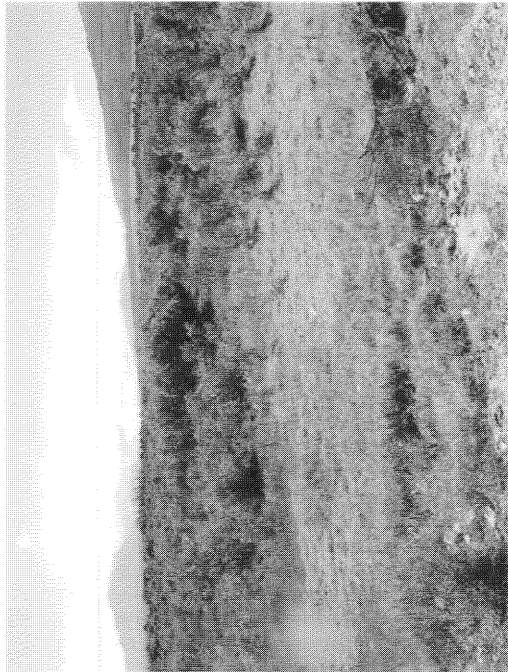




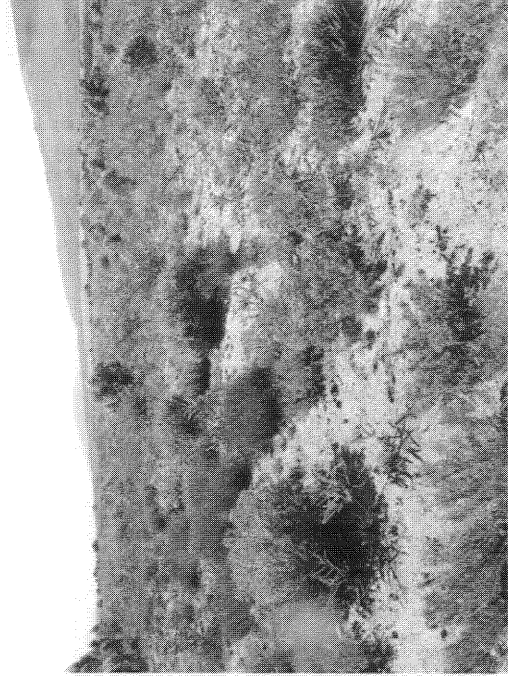
**Figure 5. View of the site facing north west**



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



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



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

## **4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

### **4.1 Method**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the subject property

A desktop study was also undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2006.

### **4.2 Constraints and limitations**

A large portion of the study area is infested with alien vegetation resulting in poor archaeological visibility. Thick grass and leaf cover also limits archaeological visibility. Some large open sandy patches do occur, however.

### **4.3 Identification of potential risks**

Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools may be uncovered on underlying gravel and clay deposits below the surface sands, during bulk earthworks for infrastructure and services.

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

### **4.4 Results of the desk-top study**

Several archaeological studies in the Bot River area have yielded mixed results.

Low-density scatters of Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were located during an archaeological assessment of the Arabella Fynbos Golf Resort near Bot River (Kaplan 2002). An assessment of an overhead powerline between Bot River and Hermanus yielded a handful of ESA and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools in farmlands alongside the R43 (Kaplan 2004), while a study of Benguela Cove, a housing development on the east bank of the Bot River, recorded high density scatters of ESA tools, including hand axes and other formal tools (Kaplan 2003a). Low density scatters of ESA tools have also been located on the remainder of the farm Afdakrivier, to the east of the R43 (personnel observation) A rare Stone Age silcrete quarry site was located alongside the R43, on land set aside for a proposed Equestrian and Polo Estate (Kaplan 2003b). Low-density scatters of ESA tools were also located during the same study. A study for a proposed water pipeline from the Hermanus River to serve portions of a farm alongside the Bot River-Hermanus Road, failed to locate any archaeological heritage remains (Kaplan 2006a). ESA tools including a unifacial handaxe, and several MSA and Later Stone Age (LSA) artefacts were found recently during an archaeological assessment of a proposed housing development on Portion 5, and a Portion of Farm Compagniesdrift in Bot River (Kaplan 2006b, c).



## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of Portion 6 of the farm Afdakrivier No. 575.

### **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 HHR 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. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION**

A low density scatter of Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools was located during the baseline study. All the tools were found in a gravel track located alongside the R43 (refer to Figure 2). The ESA tools comprise two large side-struck flakes, one large broken core, and one large chunk. The MSA tools comprise two triangular-shaped flakes, one displaying a characteristic faceted platform. The tools are all in locally-available quartzite. The remains occur in a severely degraded and disturbed context.

**The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.**

## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

ESA and MSA tools may be exposed on underlying gravel and clay deposits during earthworks and excavations for services.

Unmarked human burials may also be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

## **8. CONCLUDING 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.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed mixed-use development on Portion 6 of the Farm 575 Afdakrivier, the following recommendations are made.

- Vegetation clearing operations and bulk earthworks must be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- 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 462 4502) or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

## 10. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2006a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed water pipeline from the Hermanus River to serve Portions 7 & 8 of the Farm Hermanus River No. 542. Report prepared for Site Plan Consulting. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development portion 5 of Farm 436 (Compagniesdrift) Caledon. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

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