

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
FERNWOOD ESTATE  
KNYSNA**

Prepared for

**HILLAND & ASSOCIATES**

By

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## **Executive summary**

Stone Age tools were located during an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Fernwood Estate development in Knysna.

The proposed development comprises about 130 residential units on a 48 ha site overlooking the Knysna Lagoon.

Except for a small municipal reservoir in the north-western corner of the property, the site is currently undeveloped.

Stone Age tools were located on the slopes of a rocky ridge in the western and southern portions of the site. A few tools were also located among a gravel bank and excavation, near a small dam alongside the tar road in the southern portion of the site.

The archaeological remains are not considered to be important.

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

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

Overall, the receiving environment is not archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

With regard to the proposed Fernwood Estate development in the Knysna, the following recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No more detailed studies are required.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Hilland & Associates have requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Fernwood Estate development in Knysna, on the southern Cape coast.

The proposed development comprises about 130 residential units on a 48 ha site overlooking the Knysna Lagoon.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

### **1. 2. Terms of reference**

The terms of reference for the AIA study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance on the proposed site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance on the proposed site;
3. to assess the sensitivity and significance of archaeological sites on the proposed site;
4. to assess the status and 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.

## **2. THE STUDY SITE**

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

Except for a small municipal reservoir in the north-western corner of the site, the property is currently undeveloped. Although the site is well grassed (Figure 2), archaeological visibility is high. Some remnant indigenous forest occurs in the north-eastern portion of the site. A rocky ridge overlooking the Knysna lagoon rings the western and southern portion of the property.

## **3. STUDY APPROACH**

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the property.



#### 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. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (ESA) tools in fine grained quartzite were located on the slopes of a rocky ridge overlooking the Knysna Lagoon, in the western and southern portions of the property. The tools comprise mainly large flakes, cores and chunks (Figure 3). A few tools were also located among a gravel bank and excavation, near a small dam alongside the tar road in the southern portion of the site.

ESA tools are not uncommon in the area and have been recorded in a variety of contexts (Kaplan 1993, 2001).

Importance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

#### 6. IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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

#### 7. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

#### 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Fernwood Estate development in Knysna, the following recommendations are made.

1. No mitigation is required
2. No further detailed studies are required

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<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the period between 2 million and 250 000 years ago.



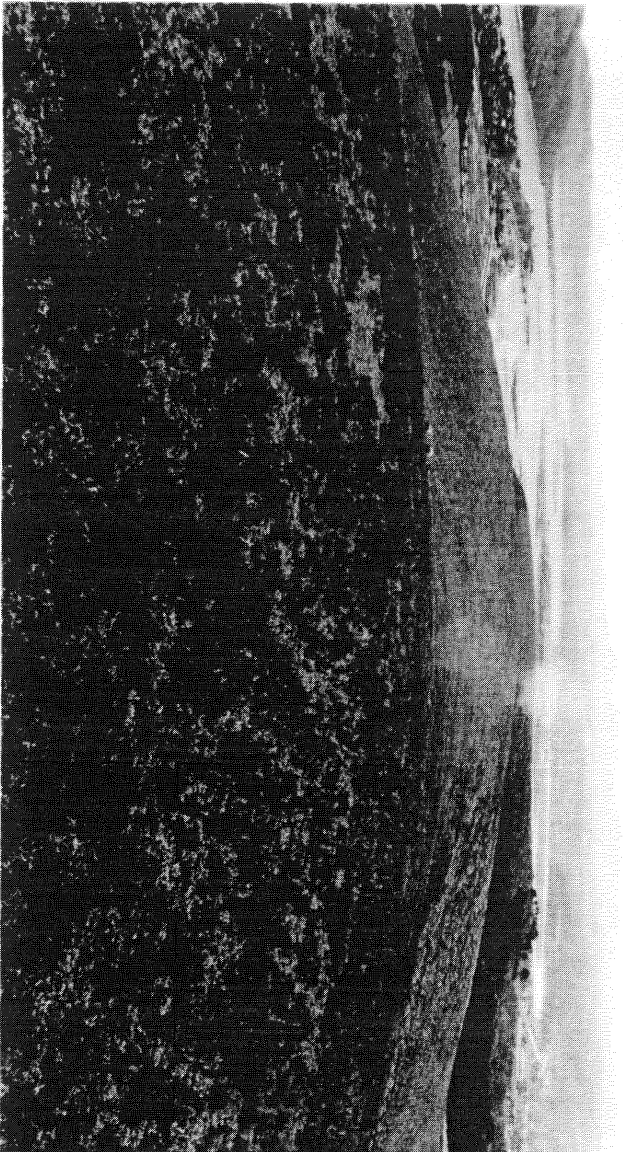


Figure 2. Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development, Fernwood Estate, Knysna. The well grassed study site.



Figure 3. Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development, Fernwood Estate, Knysna. Collection of stone tools.

## 9. REFERENCES

- Kaplan, J. 1993. The state of archaeological information in the coastal zone from the Orange River to Ponto do Ouro. Report prepared for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2001. Heritage Impact Assessment, proposed development, Pezula Private Estate, Knysna. Report prepared for Hilland Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.