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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
ARENDS NEST
PLETTENBERG BAY
SOUTHERN CAPE COAST**

Prepared for

HILLAND & ASSOCIATES

By

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Executive summary

No significant archaeological remains were located during an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Arends Nest development in Plettenberg Bay.

The proposed development comprises a bush lodge with a residential component, on a 160 ha site, in Plettenberg Bay.

The site is well covered with indigenous vegetation, resulting in extremely low archaeological visibility.

A few stone artefacts were found alongside the gravel road that cuts across the site.

Stone tools were also located in a road cutting leading up to the site.

These 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 sites during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

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

With regard to the proposed Arends Nest development in Plettenberg Bay, the following recommendations are therefore made.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

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

The proposed development comprises a bush lodge with a residential component, on a 160 ha site.

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.

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.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

The steep site, which overlooks the Bitou River and the Keurboom River, is currently undeveloped. The site is well covered with indigenous vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4. STUDY APPROACH

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

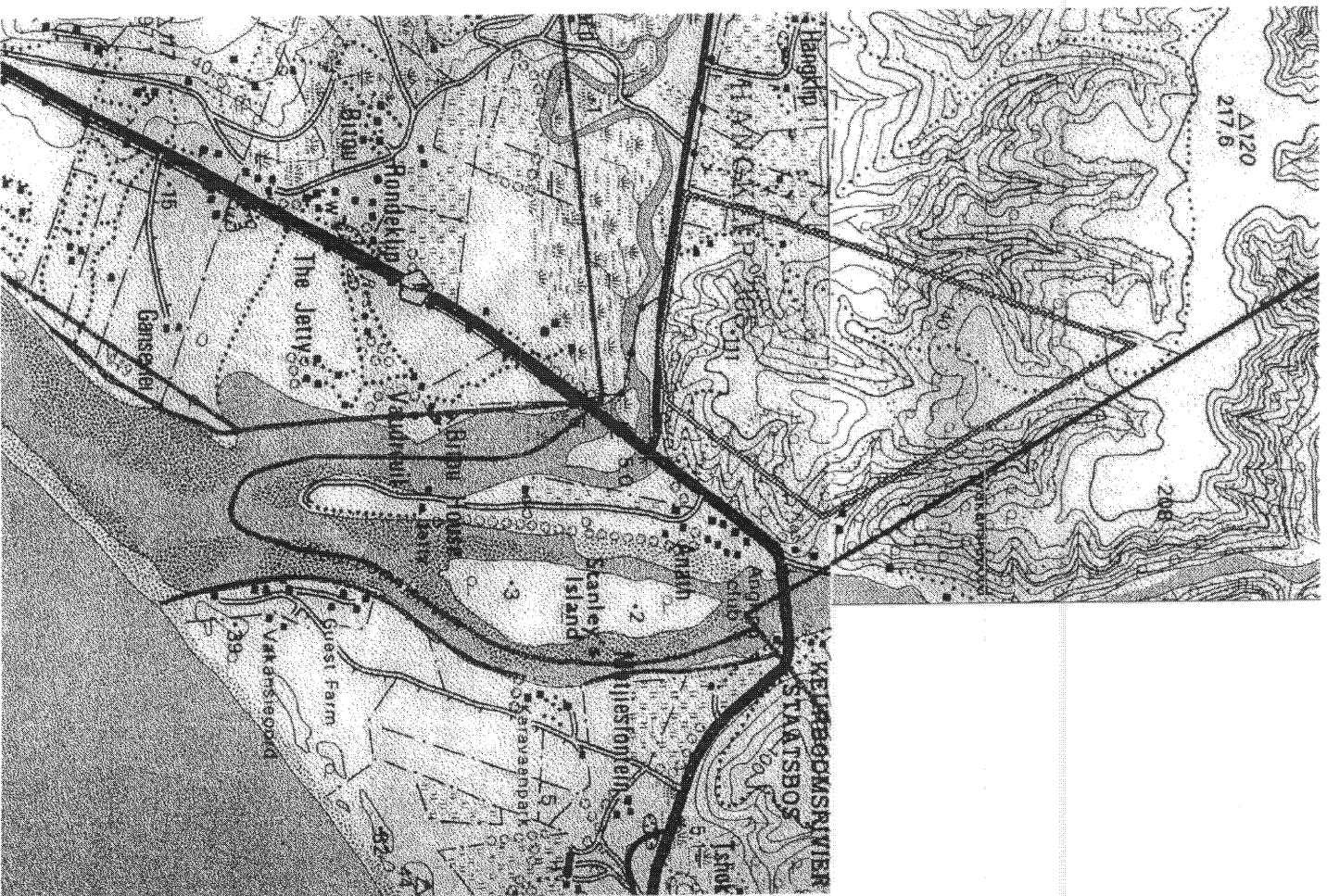


Figure 1: Approximate location of proposed development shown in relation to the Bitou River on a modified 1:50 000 topographical map (Plettenberg Bay 3423 AB & 3323CD). Not to scale.

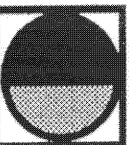
Key



Property boundary

WIT00/206/06

APRIL 2001



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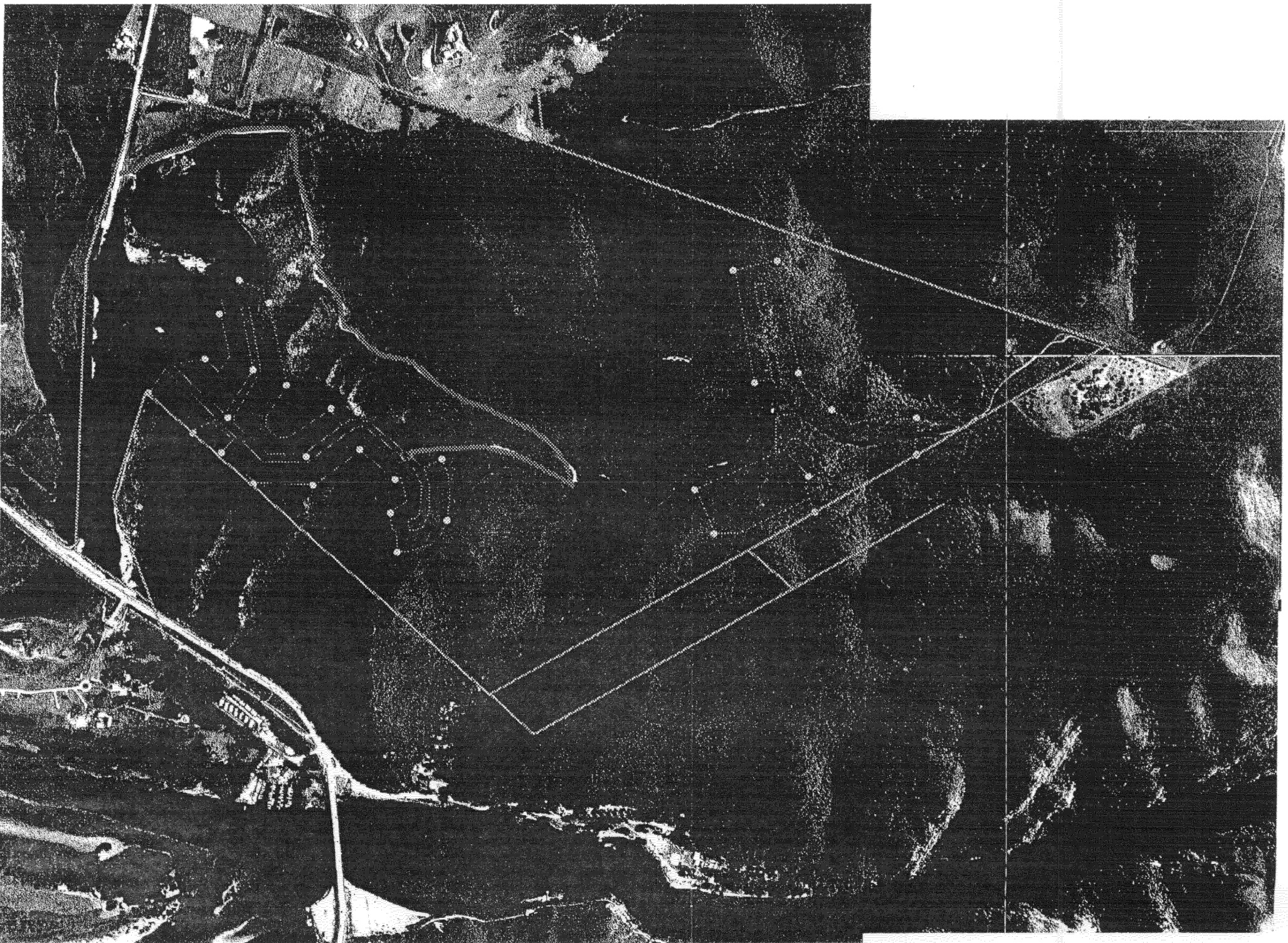


Figure 2. Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development, Arends
Mont. Pittsburg, Pa. Aerial Photo, 1998.

5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A few Middle Stone Age¹ (MSA) quartzite flakes were found alongside the gravel road that cuts across the site.

Early Stone Age² (ESA) flakes, chunks and cores, were located in a road cutting leading up to the site. The tools are derived from a thick layer of river cobbles and rocks visible in the gravel cutting (Figure 3).

ESA tools are not uncommon in the area, and have been recorded in a variety of contexts (Kaplan 1993, 2000a,b, 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 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 Arends Nest development in Plettenberg Bay, the following recommendations are made.

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

¹ A term referring to the period between 250 000 and 20 000 years ago.

² A term referring to the period between 2 million and 250 000 years ago.



Figure 3. Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development, Arends Nest, Plettenberg Bay. Sand and gravel bank leading up to the site

9. REFERENCES

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