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Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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08 March 2005

*received
2005-03-25*

Ms Ingrid Germishuys
I.C. @ Plan
Town Planners
10 A Pastorie Park
Somerset West
7130

Dear Ms Germishuys

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PORTION 2 OF FARM 420 KUILS RIVER WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Brief

I.C. @ Plan Town Planners requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing development situated on Portion 2 of Farm 420 Kuils River, in the Western Cape Province.

The extent of the proposed development (some 4.7 hectares) 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 site visit and assessment took place on 07 March 2005.

Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed development.

2. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment are to:

- Identify and map archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of archaeological heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological heritage resources; and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

3. The affected site

Portion 2 of Farm 420 (GPS reading S° 33 56 868 E 18° 42 027 set on map datum WGS 84) is located off the M12 between Stellenbosch and Kullis River, directly opposite the Saxenburg Industrial Park. Access to the site is via a small gravel service road called 'Dampad', off the M12.

The receiving environment is severely degraded, comprising old agricultural and grazing lands (Figures 2 & 3). The property has been divided into 4 fenced camps, used alternately for small scale mixed farming such as dairy, poultry, sheep, pigs, and some vegetable farming. A small portion of the property, also severely degraded as a result of dumping, is located directly opposite the M12 (Figure 4).

Some buildings and structures occur on the property. These include the original farm house (Figures 5 & 6), a stable, dairy, storage sheds and other farm-related buildings. Most of the buildings are quite modern (comprising prefabricated and block cement), while some of the older buildings have been converted, altered and/or modified. For example, a wall and gable has been added onto the end of the original farmhouse by the current owner of the property (see Figure 6), while a portion at the end of the dairy/stable/store shed has been converted into a small farmstall (Figure 7).

The buildings, including the farm house, and dairy/stable/store shed are, however, older than 60 years of age and are therefore protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA).

Relating to structures, Section 34 (1) of the NHRA states that:

'No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.'

The buildings, however, are not considered to be architecturally significant, nor do they occupy a 'sense of place' unique to the surrounding rural and industrial environment.

It is the intention of the developer to demolish all buildings and structures on the property.

4. Approach to the study

The 4.7 ha property was subjected to a detailed foot survey.

5. Findings

No pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains were located during the baseline survey of the property.

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be very low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be highly improbable.

6. Recommendations

The archaeological study has shown that the proposed site (portion 2 of Farm 420 Kuils River) is suitable for development provided that:

- A permit is obtained from Heritage Western Cape, the delegated Provincial Heritage Authority, in order to demolish all buildings older than 60 years of age.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' with a flourish at the end.

Jonathan Kaplan

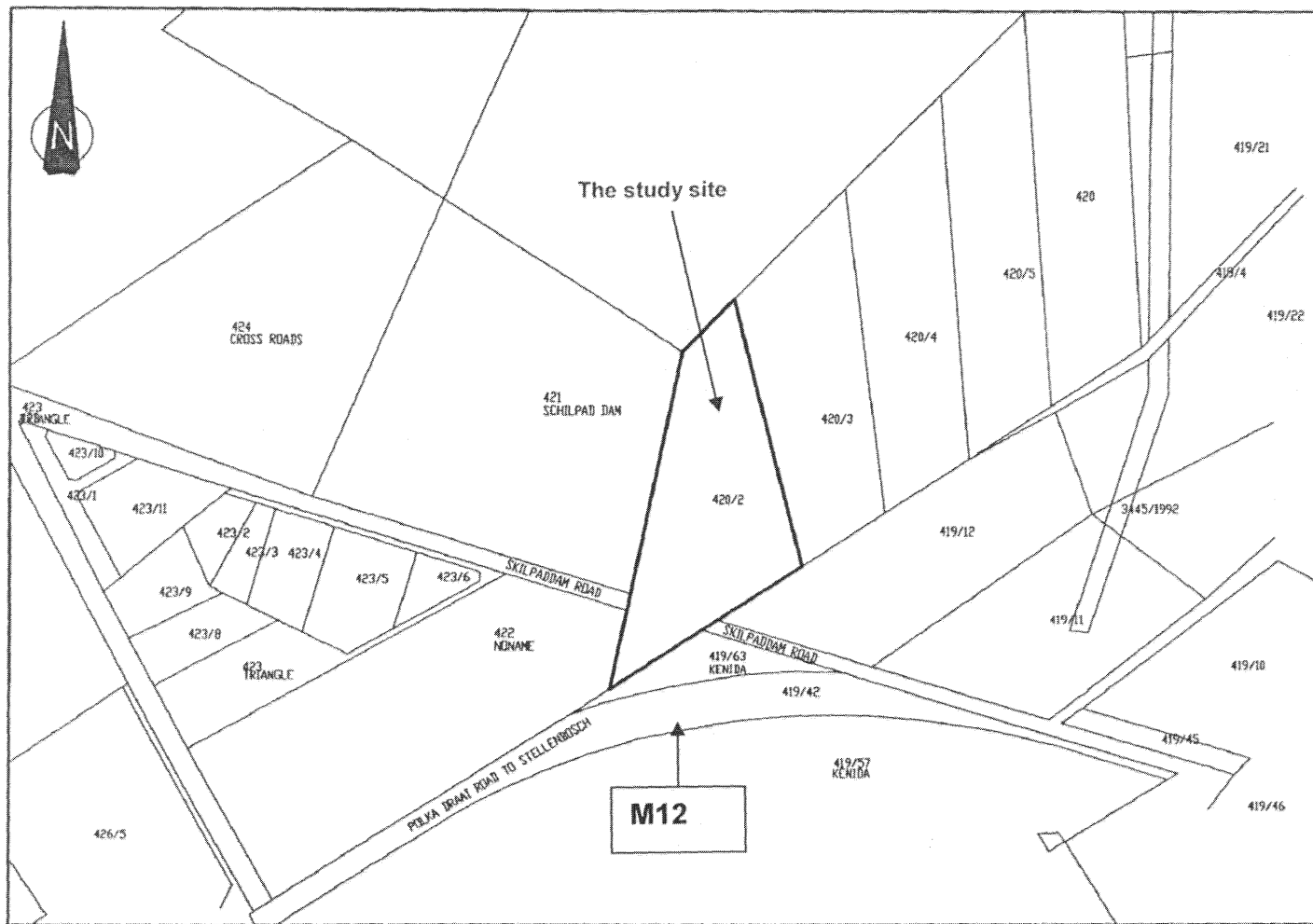


Figure 1. Locality plan

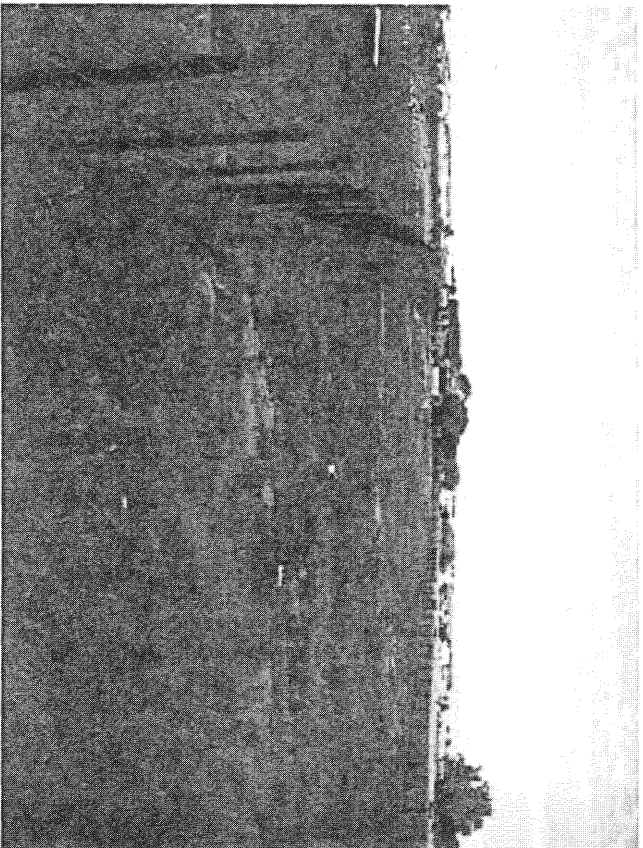


Figure 2. View of the site facing south.

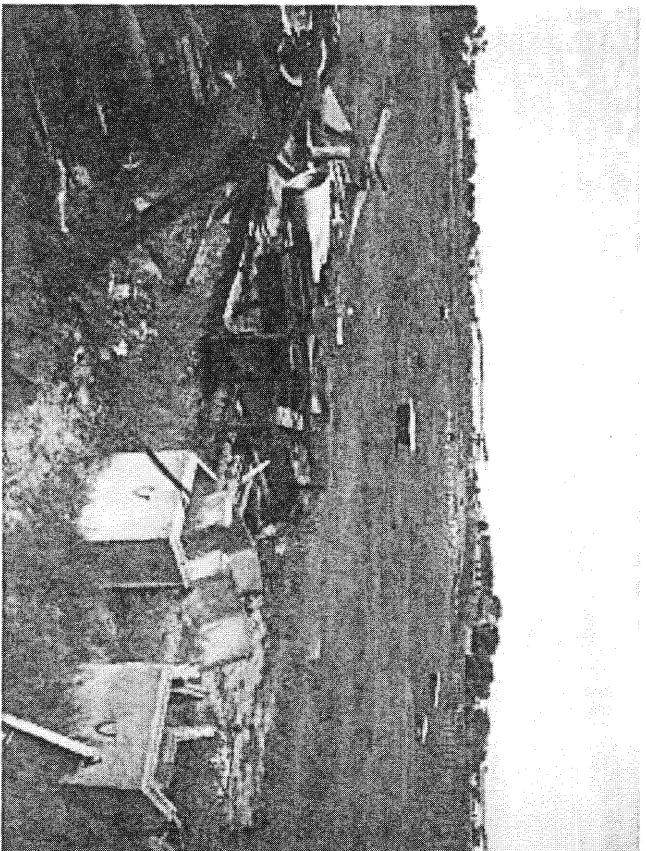


Figure 3. View of the site facing south.

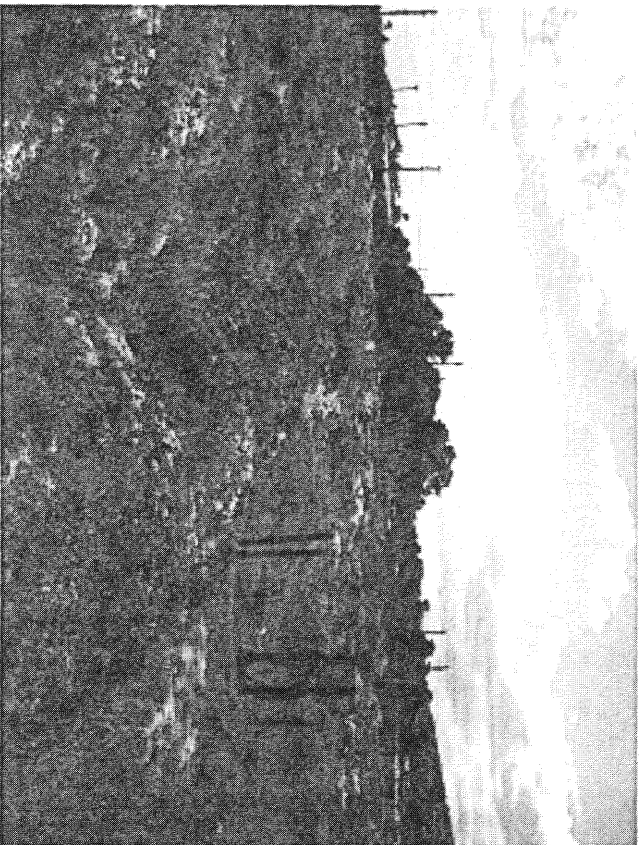


Figure 4. View of a portion of the site directly opposite the M12.

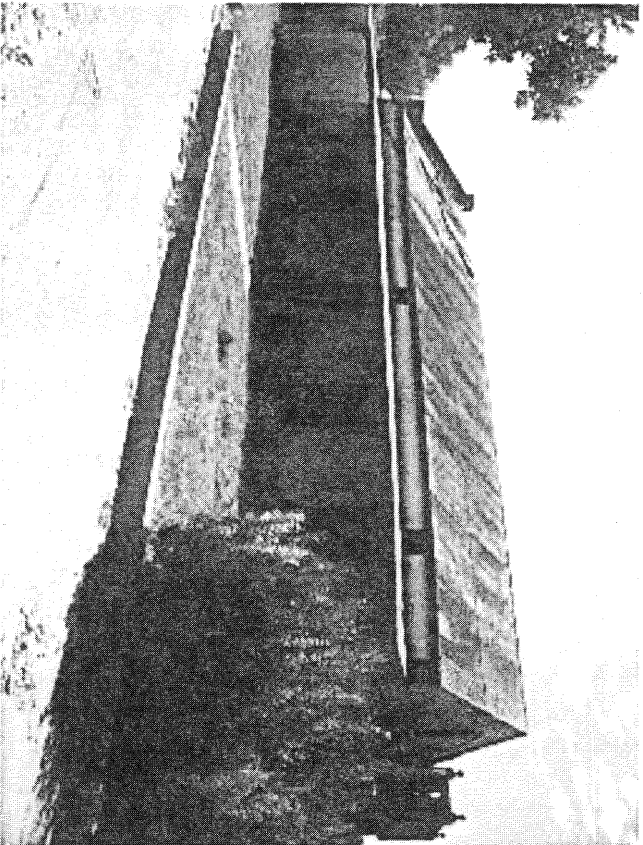


Figure 5. View of the front of the main farm house

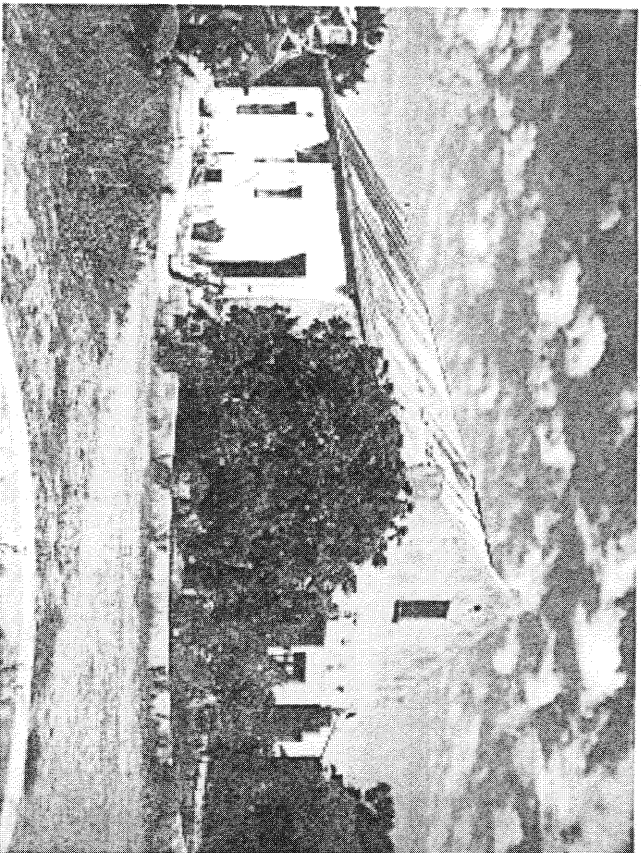


Figure 6. View of the back of the main farm house. The plastered wall and gable was added on by the current owner of the property.

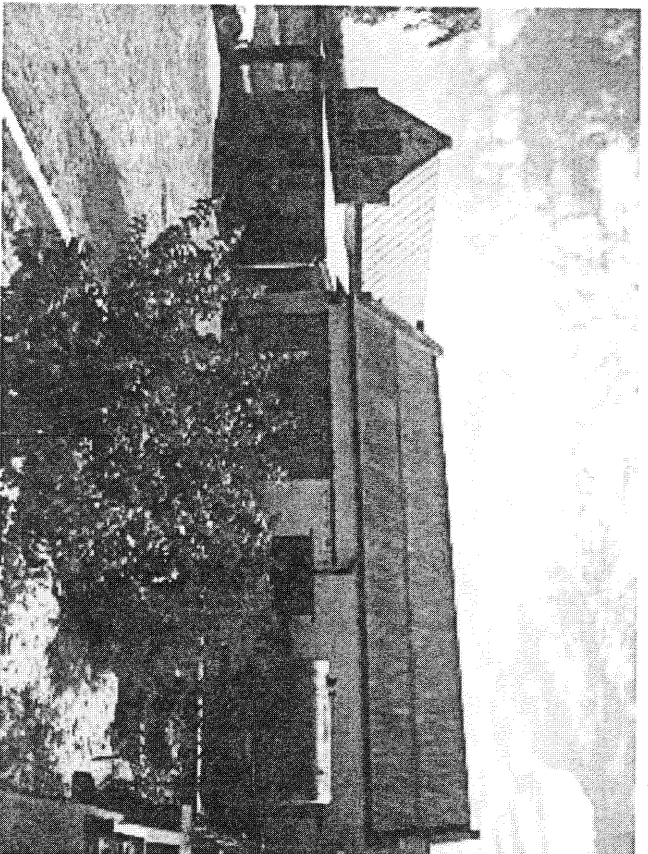


Figure 7. Converted milking shed/stables/store