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KUILS RIVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Portion of Erf 3418 (Brackenfell) and 35069 (Bellville), SOETE INVAL

Executive Summary

No archaeological or palaeontological resources were located on the property of the proposed development. The risk of development uncovering buried remains is rated as extremely low. No mitigation is recommended.

Background

The brief from Sillito Environmental Consulting was to carry out an archaeological heritage impact assessment on the properties described below. The potential impact on any historic buildings on the property was not part of the brief and is to be the subject of an independent heritage assessment.

Description of Property

The property, comprising portions of two erfs, 3418 and 34069, is part of the original farm Soete Inval lying along the Kuils River, immediately north of the Bottelary Road and west of the R300. The total area is almost 28 ha. It shown on the 1:50 000 Bellville 3318DC sheet at 33°54.326 S; 18°40.386 E (WGS84). Part of this area will be developed for industrial use.

The property has been intensively farmed, dairy, pigs and chickens, and lands levelled. Parts are subject to flooding and recent rains had caused erosion of the banks and extensive wash particularly in the southern areas.

Methodology

In advance of the survey two orientation visits were made to the area. The survey conducted Wednesday 13 April from 8h30 –12h00. The area was traversed on foot with special attention paid to erosion features.

Description of Occurrences and Exposures

The sands that blanket the Cape Flats underlie the property. In the course of agricultural activities any natural dunal features have been eliminated. The donga systems bordering the river and the riverbanks that provide the best subsurface exposures failed to reveal any palaeontological or archaeological remains.

Sources of Risk

The surficial sands are unlikely to preserve any materials in context because they have been much disturbed through agricultural activities. Development of the low lying property will require fill rather than excavation and reduces the risk of impacts on any deeply buried materials. The only risk that can be anticipated would be from deep soundings for foundations that intersect *in situ* sands below any fill. The risk that such excavations may intersect buried archaeological or palaeontological materials is considered extremely low.

Recommended Mitigations

None are recommended other than should any excavations in the course of development by chance uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological remains including human remains that Heritage Western Cape (Dr A Jerardino Tel: 483 9672 Fax: 483 9842) is notified.

Conclusions

The survey of the property bordering the Kuils River revealed no archaeological or palaeontological remains. The development is unlikely to have any impact on such resources. No mitigation in respect of such resources is recommended.