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**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PORTION 12 OF THE FARM 214  
BRACKENFELL**

Prepared for

**DIANE ERASMUS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

By

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### **Executive summary**

A few stone tools were located during a heritage impact assessment of portion 12 of the farm 214, in Brackenfell.

The proposed project envisages residential development comprising single erven, group housing, town housing and public open space.

Present development on the site comprises a farmhouse, outbuildings and cultivated land.

The buildings are fairly recent and are not considered to be historically significant.

The stone tools were located in a severely disturbed context and are not considered to be of scientific value.

It is interesting to note, however, that relatively large numbers of stone tools were found on eroded sandy slopes just beyond the eastern boundary of the study site, in the Crammixon mining area.

Relatively large numbers of stone tools were also found on north-east and south facing slopes of the Brackenfell granite outcrop, overlooking the study site.

The overall impact of the proposed development on heritage remains is considered to be low to negligible.

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

With regard to the proposed development of portion 12 of the farm 214, in Brackenfell, the following heritage recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resource Agency.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Diane Erasmus Environmental Services has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a heritage impact assessment (HIA) of portion 12 of the farm 214, in Brackenfell.

The proposed project envisages residential development comprising single erven, group and town housing and public open space. A road will also be constructed to provide access to the site.

The aim of the HIA is to locate, identify and map archaeological and historical remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

### **2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the HIA were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological or historical sites of significance within the proposed site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological and historical significance within the above area;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological and historical sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
4. to assess the significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological and historical sites that may exist within the site.

### **3.0 THE STUDY SITE**

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

The site is located on the slopes of the Brackenfell granite outcrop.

Present development on the site comprises a farmhouse, outbuildings, cultivation tunnels and cultivated land.

#### 4.0 LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites and buildings over 60 years of age are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). The Act came into effect on 01 April 2000, and replaces the National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969).

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).

#### 5.0 STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the HIA entailed a detailed ground survey of the property.

#### 6.0 RESULTS OF THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A few Middle Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (MSA) flakes were located in the southern portion of the property, on land that has been previously farmed and disturbed.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

The built structures on the site, comprising farmhouse and outbuildings, are fairly recent and are not considered to be historically or architecturally significant.

Vacant land on the site has been previously cultivated and is also in a severely disturbed context. There is a high level of invasion of alien plant species and has been burnt recently. Some dumping has also taken place on the property.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

#### 6.1 Other finds

It is interesting to note that relatively large numbers of MSA and Later Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (LSA) tools were found on compacted, severely eroded sandy slopes, just beyond the eastern boundary of the study site, in the Crammixon mining area (Figure 3). The tools

<sup>1</sup> A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

comprise unmodified flakes, utilised and retouched tools, chunks, blades and cores, in silcrete, fine-grained quartzite, hornfels and quartz.

Relatively large numbers of stone tools were also found on the north-east and south facing slopes of the Brackenfell granite outcrop, overlooking farm 214.

#### **7.0 IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

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

#### **8. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically or historically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

#### **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed development of portion 12 of the farm 214, in Brackenfell, the following heritage management recommendations are made.

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

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resource Agency.