

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
SCHOONSPRUIT COUNTRY ESTATE  
PORTION OF ERF 317, PORTION OF ERF 7455 & ERF 882  
MALMESBURY  
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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## Executive summary

CK Rumboll and Partners requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development in Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province.

The development site consists of 3 properties and is about 28 ha in extent. The subject property is located west of the town of Malmesbury, inside the urban edge. Virtually no natural vegetation occurs on the site due to a long history of agriculture. Currently the site is dominated by common alien grasses, and constitutes a severely disturbed and transformed landscape.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Graham Jacobs has been appointed to complete the required Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

A few Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age flake tools were located in the south eastern portion of the property, but these occur in a degraded and disturbed context.

**The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance.**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

CK Rumboll and Partners on behalf of Schoonspruit Country Estate Malmesbury (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion of Erf 317, Portion of Erf 7455 and Erf 82, Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province.

To be known as Schoonspruit Country Estate, the proposed development provides for the construction 357 single residential erven, two general residential erven (comprising 284 units), Private Open Space and associated infrastructure such as internal roads and services.

The property is currently zoned Agriculture, and will be rezoned and subdivided to accommodate the proposed development activities.

The extent of the proposed development (28.44 ha) 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 aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Graham Jacobs has been appointed to complete the required Heritage Western Cape, Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to undertake a site visit and desk top survey;
2. to describe the archaeological baseline of the area;
3. to identify and map archaeological resources on the site;
4. to determine the importance of any archaeological resources, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site

### 3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S° 33 28 411 E° 18 42 484 on map datum wgs 84) is located less than 1 km south west of the town of Malmesbury inside the current urban edge. The property borders the N7 National Road on the northern side and industrial erven on the eastern side. In the south, the property borders a railway line and in the west agricultural land. The property slopes gently from the west to the east. The historic Schoonspruit farmstead is located in the north eastern portion of the site. Currently the site is vacant with little agricultural activity taking place. Virtually no natural vegetation remains on the site due to a long history of agricultural activity. The current groundcover present on the site is thick Kikuyu grass that was, until recently, grown for commercial use. Virtually the entire site is dominated by these and other common alien grasses (Figures 3-10). No significant landscape features occur on the site, although the Diep River is situated just to the east of the railway line. The surrounding land use comprises rural farmland to the south and east, industrial development to the north and low cost housing to the west of the N7. The receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive or threatened, as it is in a highly transformed and degraded state.

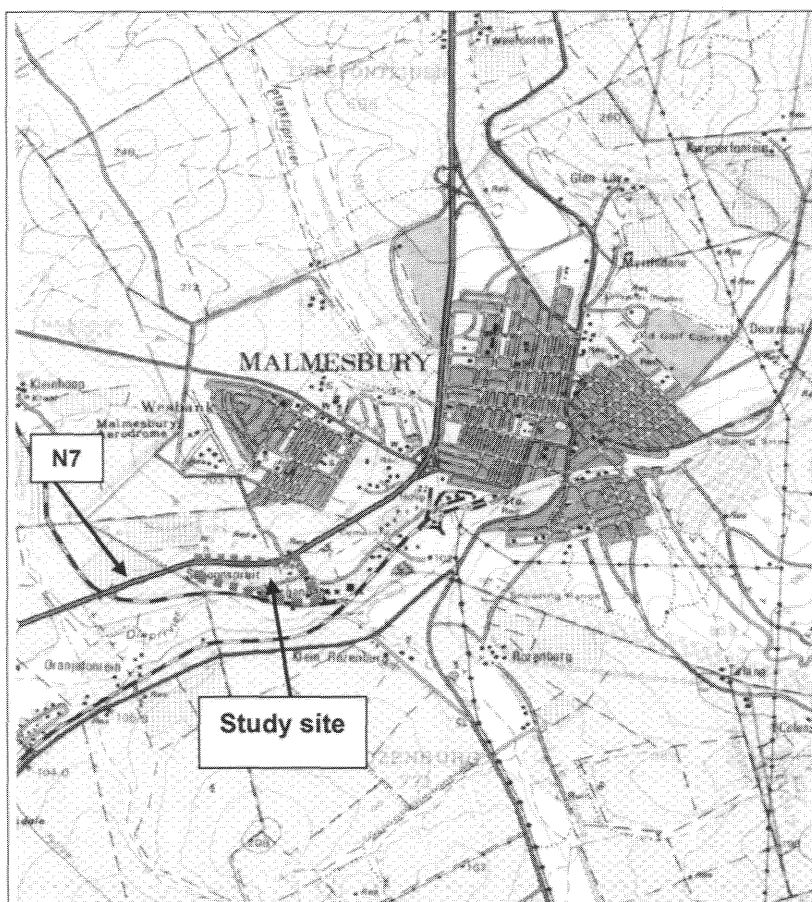
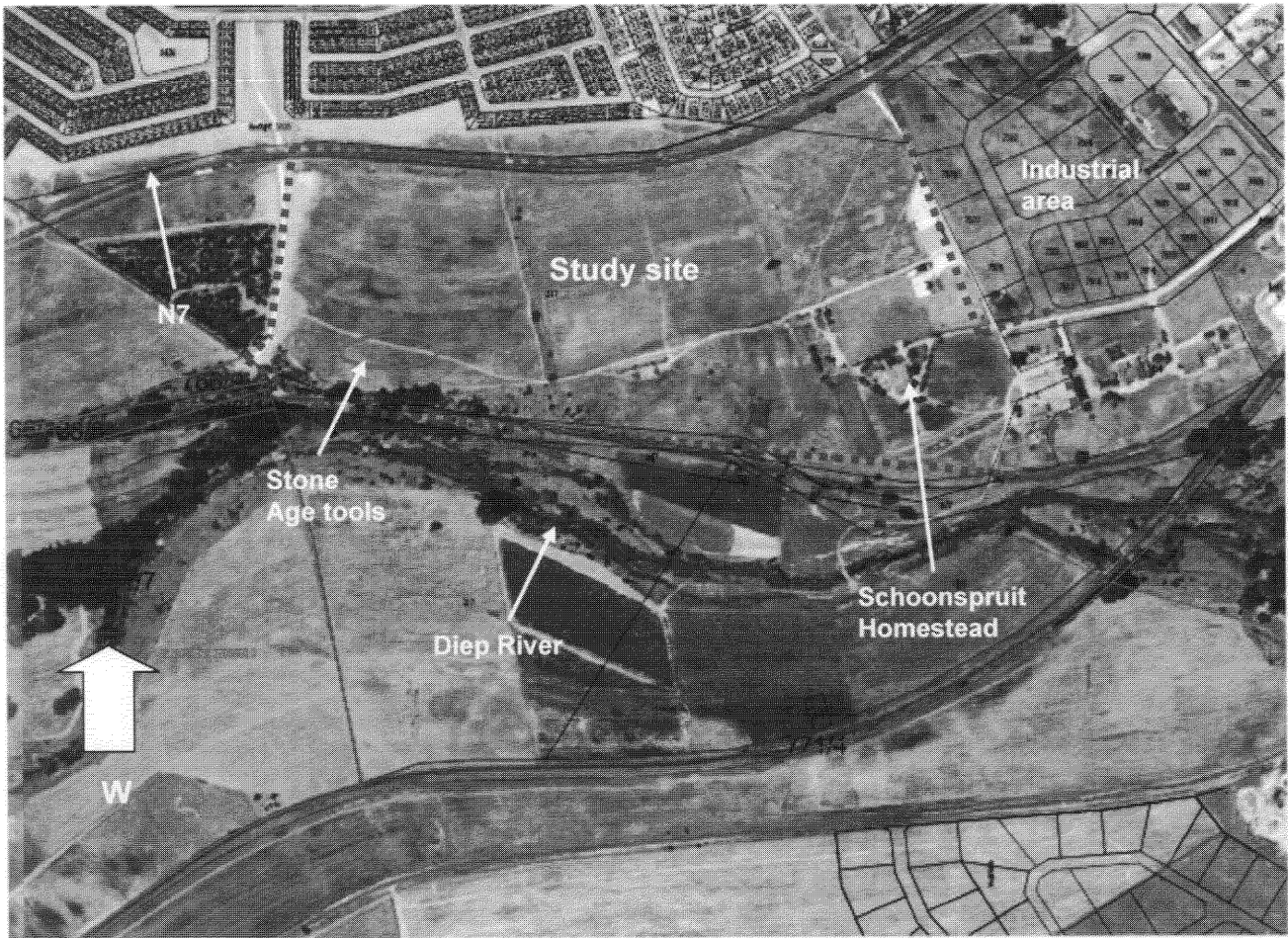
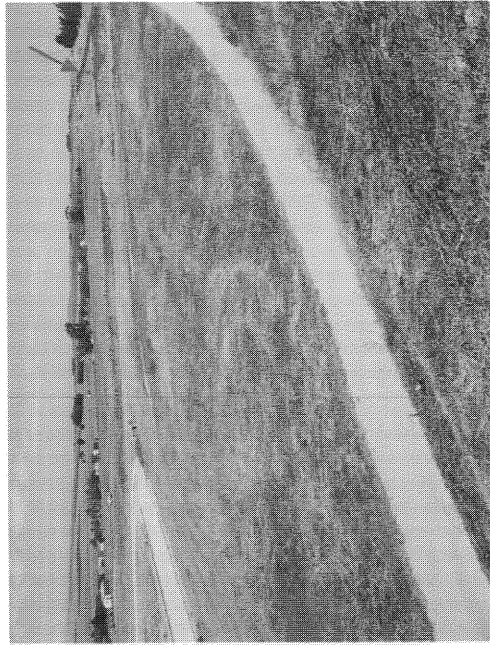


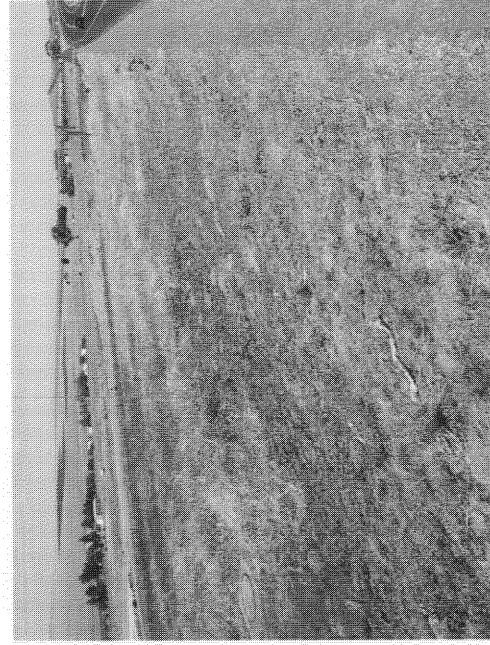
Figure 1. Locality Map (3318 BC Malmesbury)



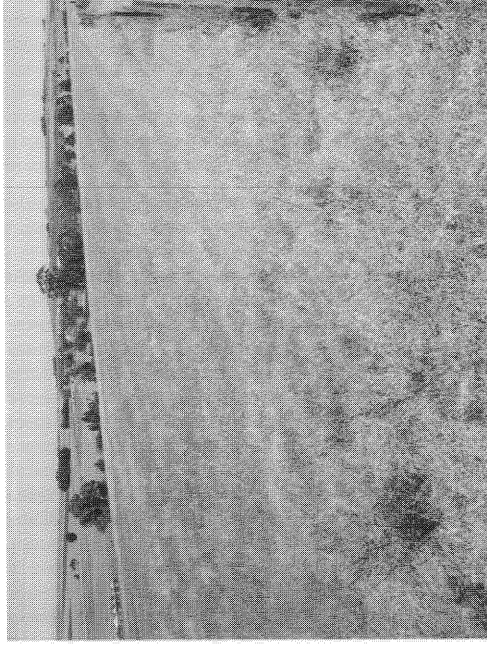
**Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site**



**Figure 3. Long view of the site facing south. Arrow indicates the N7**



**Figure 4. View of the site facing south. Arrow indicates the N7**



**Figure 5. View of the site facing south east**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing south east. The line of trees marks the southern boundary of the property**



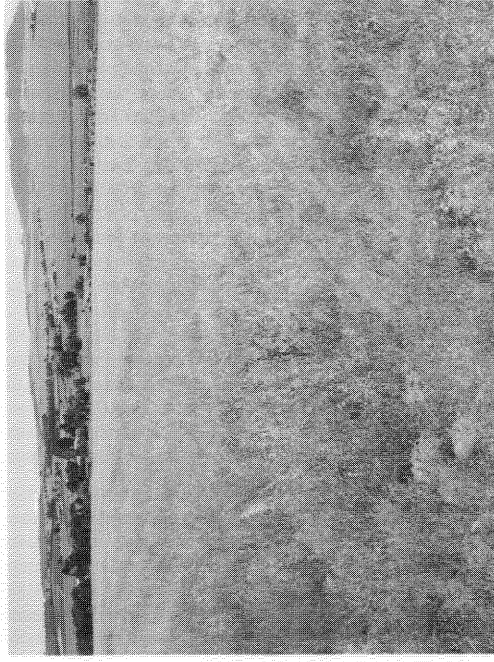
**Figure 7. View of the site facing north east**



**Figure 9. View of the site facing north east toward Malmesbury**



**Figure 8. View of the site facing north east. The Stone tools were located in this burnt out area.**



**Figure 10. View of the site facing north east toward Malmesbury.**



## **4. STUDY APPROACH**

### **4.1 Method**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed site. Excavations and earthworks (outside the study site) in the northern portion of the property were also inspected.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.

### **4.2 Constraints and limitations**

The proposed site is dominated by common alien grasses, resulting in low archaeological visibility. However, a fairly large tract of land in the south eastern portion of the site has recently been burnt, allowing good ground visibility.

### **4.3 Identification of potential risks**

There are no potential (archaeological) risks associated with the proposed development.

### **4.4 Results of the desk top study**

Within the immediate study area, no archaeological heritage studies have been undertaken. However, Stone Age tools have been documented on the Farm Klipfontein north east of Malmesbury (Kaplan in prep.) and on land identified for the Mount Royal Golf Estate north west of Malmesbury (Kaplan 2004). Later Stone Age sites have been identified on the Farm Olyvenhoek about 10 km south east of Malmesbury (Kaplan 2006a). Early Stone Age tools have been found near Tierfontein about 10 kms south west of Malmesbury (personal observation). Early Stone Age (ESA) tools have also been found on several farms surrounding the Perdeberg Mountain, south east of Malmesbury (personal observation).

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of the subject property.

### **5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)**

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

### **5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))**

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

### **5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))**

Section 36 (3) of the HHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

### **6. FINDINGS**

Three Early Stone Age flakes, two Middle Stone Age flakes and several flaked and broken/damaged quartzite cobbles were located within a fairly large burnt out area alongside the railway line in the south eastern portion of the property (refer to Figures 2 & 8). The middle and lower slopes of the property are partially covered with loose quartzite stone and rounded cobbles. The railway line is situated just west of the floodplain of the Diep River.

The Stone Age tools are in quartzite and occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

**The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance.**

No archaeological heritage remains were located over the remainder of the property, which is dominated by thick alien grasses.

No archaeological remains were located among the excavations, cuttings and spoil dumps in the northern portion of the property – outside the study site.

### **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

The probability of locating important pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

*No objections*

*If human burials ...*

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Schoonspruit Country Estate development has rated the potential impacts to important archaeological heritage material as being low provided that.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Dr A. Jerardino 021 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

## 9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2006a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed sand mining on a part of the Farm Olyvenhoek 818 Remainder, Malmesbury. Report prepared for Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. in prep. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, proposed development Glen Lilly (Portion 2 of the Farm 690, 687 and the Remainder of the Farm Klipfontein No. 688) Malmesbury Western Cape Province. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2004. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed Mount Royal Golf and Country Estate Malmesbury. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.