

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
ONGEGUND PHASE 2
PORTION OF FARM 1177 AND FARM 618
MALMESBURY
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for:

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Executive summary

EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion of Farm 1177 and Farm 618 Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province.

The subject property is located adjacent to Ongegund Village, about three kms west of the town of Riebeeck West in the Western Cape Province. The proposed site comprises mostly old farmlands that have not been utilized for about 10 years.

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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (BELCOM) for comment.

A few Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age flake tools were located on the property, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape and occur, in a degraded and disturbed context.

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

A possible burial also occurs on the site. The 'burial', however, is located on the edge of the agricultural lands within the proposed Open Space area, and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

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.

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 (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

EnviroAfrica, on behalf of Rapidough Properties 310 CC, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion of Farm 1177 and Farm 618 Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed development provides for the construction of about 369 single residential erven, a hotel and associated bulk infrastructure such as internal roads and services.

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

Farm 618 will be rezoned Open Space for the establishment of a Private Nature Reserve.

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.

The extent of the proposed residential development (about 34 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).

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (BELCOM) for comment.

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 is located adjacent to Ongegund Village, about three kms west of the town of Riebeek West in the Western Cape Province. Access to the site is via the R311.

Portion of Farm 1177 comprises old, terraced and ploughed farmlands that have not been utilized for about 10 years (Stoffel Smuts pers. comm.) and therefore constitutes a disturbed and transformed landscape (Figures 3-10). Several gravel roads and tracks intersect the property. Farm 618 is located on the steep east facing slopes of the Kasteelberg. Some terracing also occurs on the lower slopes of the mountain. There are no significant landscape features on the property, although a few outcroppings of sandstone occur on the steep mountain slopes.

The surrounding land use comprises the residential development of Ongegund Village alongside the subject property, and farmland (mainly wheat and vineyards) in the north, south, and east of the R311. The PPC cement factory is situated about 1.5 kms north east of the study site.

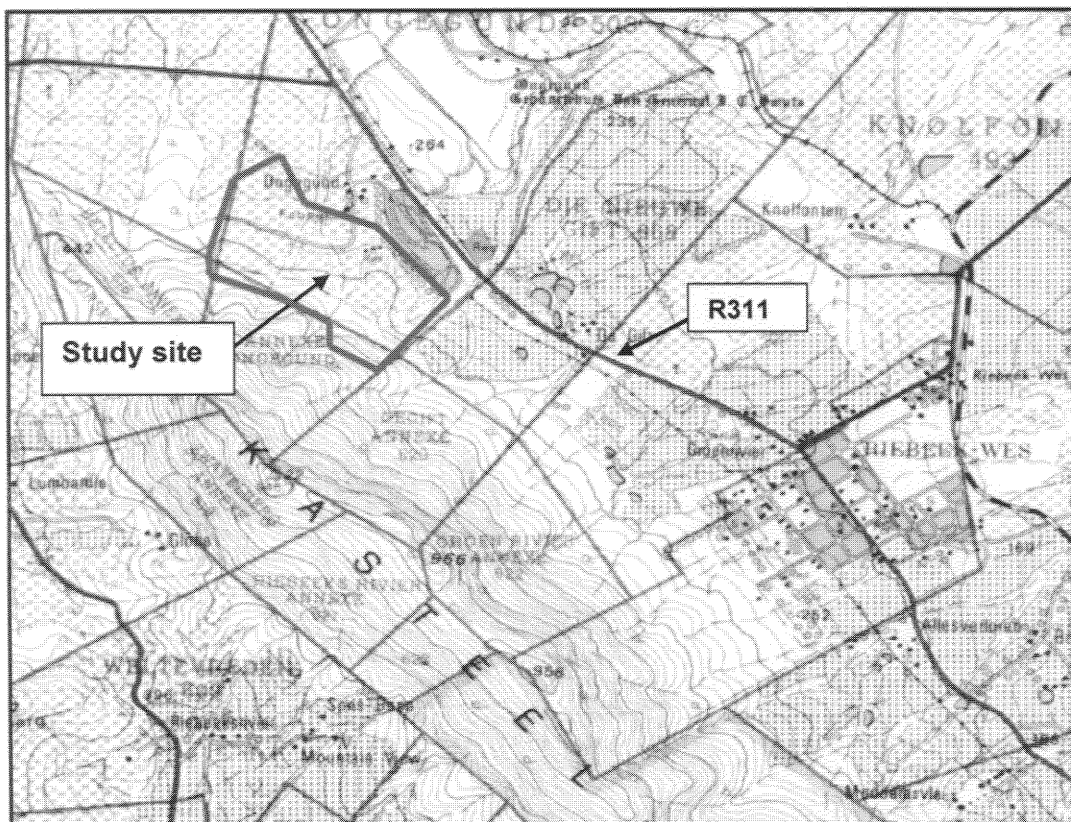


Figure 1. Locality Map (3318 BD Riebeek Kasteel)

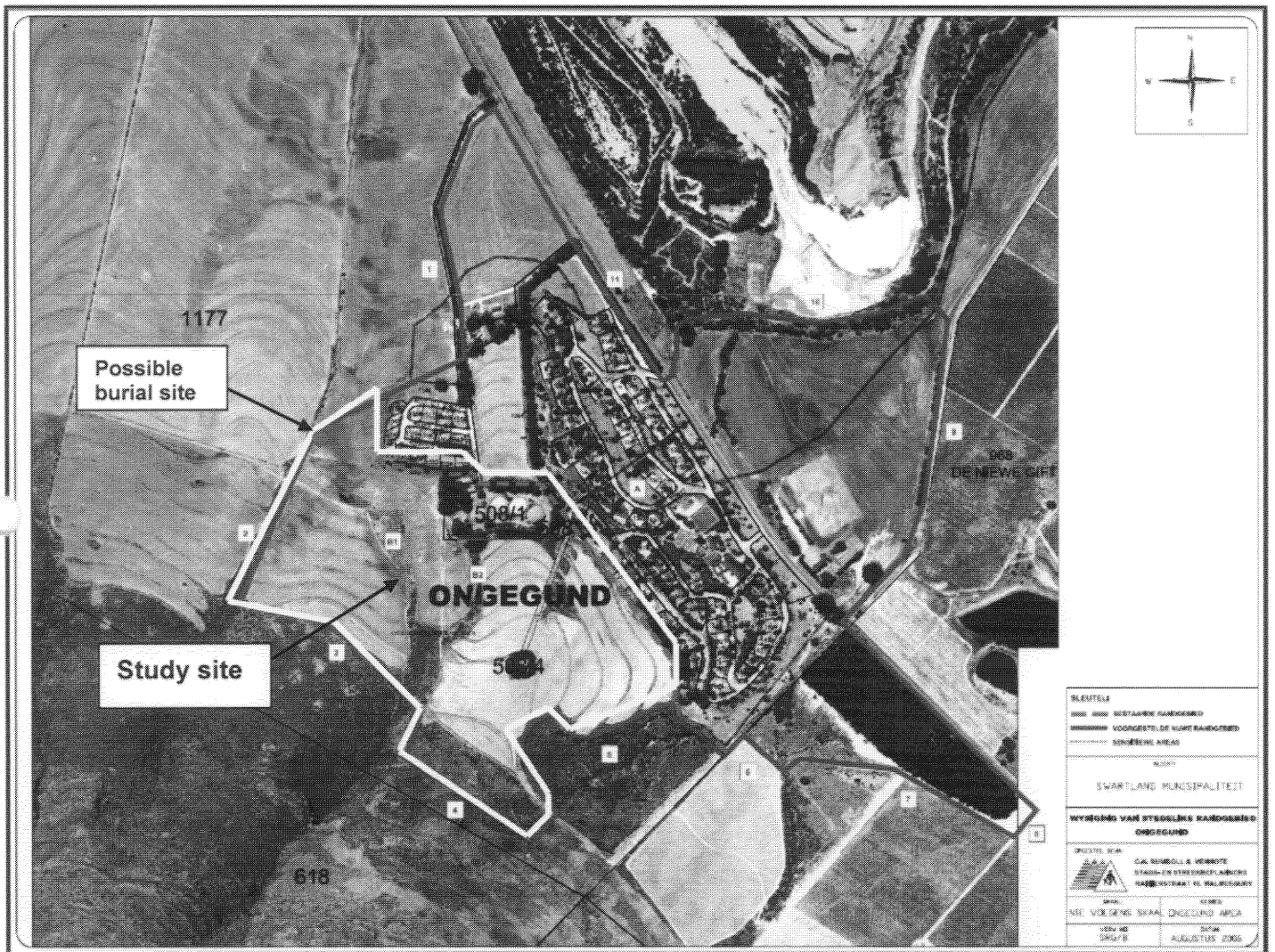


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site and the proposed new urban edge

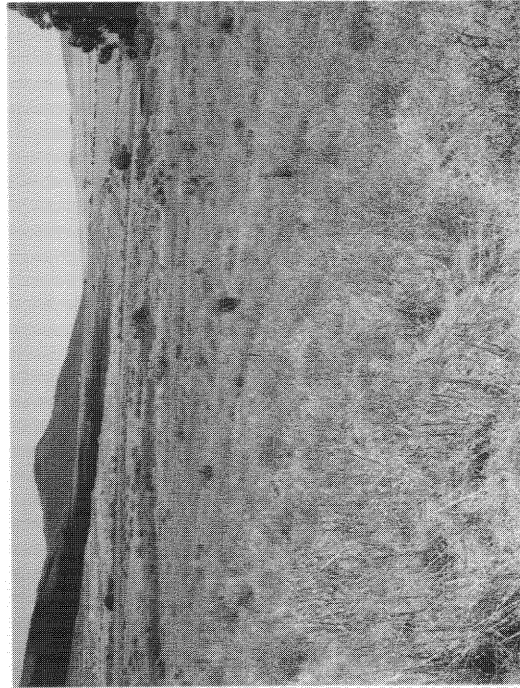


Figure 3. View of the site facing west

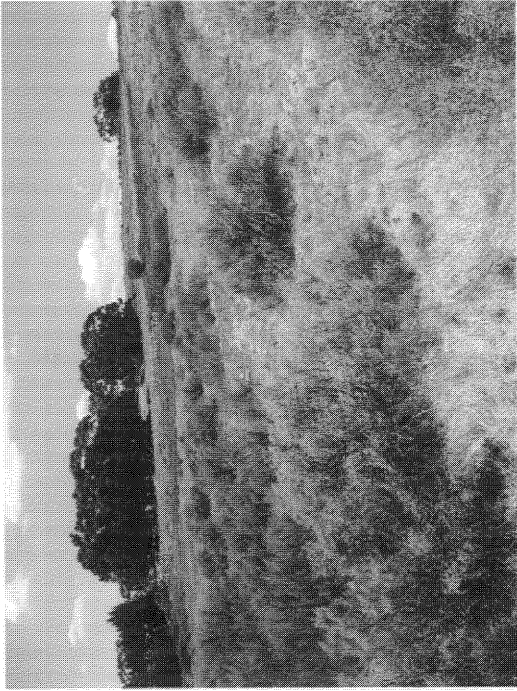


Figure 5 View of the site facing south east



Figure 4. View of the site facing south

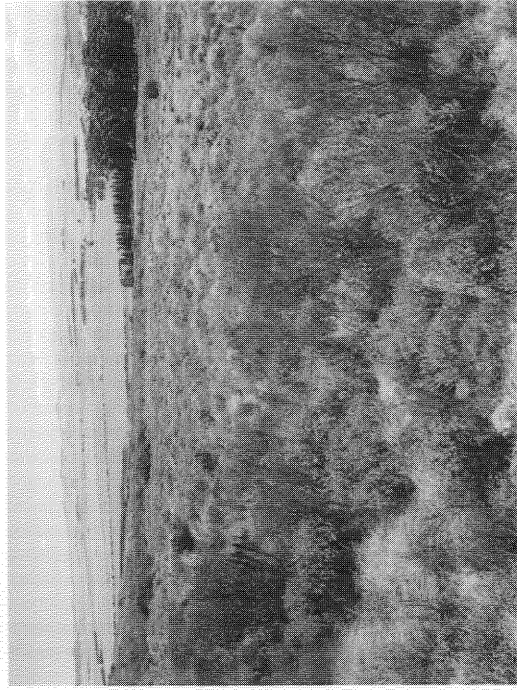


Figure 6. View of the site facing north east

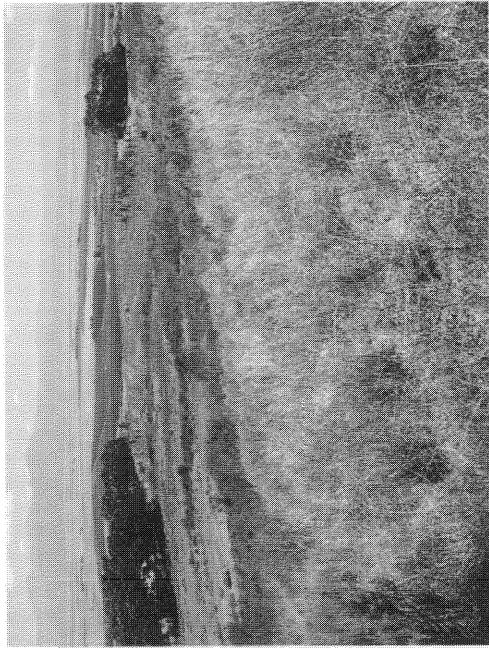


Figure 7. View of the sit facing east toward The Witzenberg can be seen in the distance



Figure 9. View of the site facing north. The PPC cement factory can be seen in the right hand corner of the plate



Figure 8. View of the site facing south east. The Witzenberg can be seen in the distance

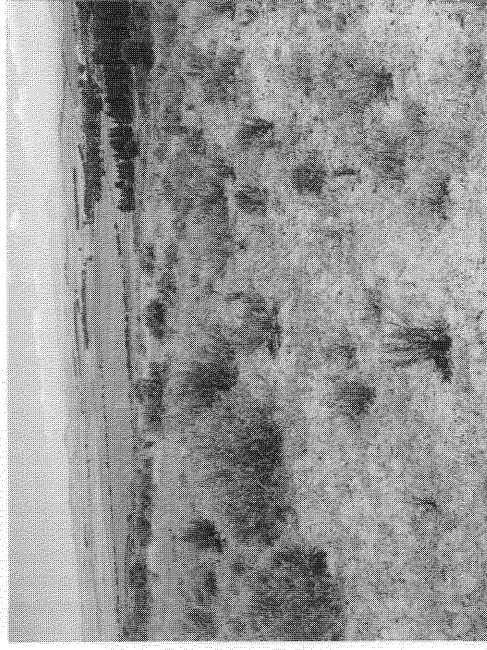


Figure 10. View of the site facing north east

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

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

Although the focus of the study was mainly on the proposed residential development (i.e. Portion of Farm 1177), the lower slopes of the proposed Nature Reserve (i.e. Farm 618) was also searched for archaeological heritage remains. The upper slopes of the Kasteelberg were considered too steep to search

The site visit and assessment took place on the 15th February, 2007.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

Portion of Farm 117 is dominated by long, dry winter grasses, thorny bush, and scrub, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

Farm 618 includes the steep mountain slopes of the Kasteelberg. The slopes are carpeted with a thick layer of natural veld, including thorny bushes, shrubs and trees, resulting in extremely poor archaeological visibility.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no potential pre-colonial archaeological risks associated with the proposed development.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

Within the immediate study area, no detailed or systematic archaeological heritage studies have been undertaken. However, Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools have been found in numerous tracks and gravel roads on several farms in Riebeek West and Riebeek Kasteel, including De Gift (situated directly alongside the subject property), Groenrivier, Allesverloren, Modderasvlei, Helderberg and Kloevenburg. ESA, MSA and some Later Stone Age (LSA) tools have also been found on the lower western slopes of Kasteelberg, on the Farm Zwavelberg. Several large caves on the higher slopes of the Kasteelberg contain MSA tools. Bushman paintings also occur on the Farm Groenrivier in Riebeek West (personnel observation).

There are numerous historical accounts of interactions and conflict occurring between early explorers and indigenous Khoisan groups living around the Berg River, and later settler farmers (or Trekboers) in the Riebeek Valley in the mid 1670's and early 1700's. Inevitably, these later conflicts were mainly over access to land and increasingly scarce resources (mainly wild animals)¹.

¹ Wright, c. 2007. Riebeek Valley Handbook. Essential guide for visitors and residents. Riebeek Valley Publishing.

Jan Smuts was also born on the Farm Ongegund in 1870 – the site of the current PPC cement factory. A barn still exists on the property today, but the original farmhouse has been demolished. The site is owned by PPC and the barn has been converted into a museum and is a declared National Monument. The site is situated about 1.5 kms north east of the subject property.

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 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², 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

Low-density scatters of stone artefacts were located during the baseline study, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape.

The archaeological remains were found mostly in the gravel roads and tracks that intersect the property, as well as on exposed gravels on some of the terraced slopes in the north western portion of the proposed site. A few tools were also found alongside a long excavation trench on the lower mountain slopes in the south western portion of the proposed site. The tools comprise mainly ESA flakes, a few chunks and several broken and flaked cobbles. One partially edge-retouched flake tool was documented. One smaller irregular MSA core and two MSA flakes (one faceted) were also found. The tools are all in locally available quartzite and they all occur in a degraded and disturbed context. The remains are comparable to ESA tools found by the archaeologist on several farms in the surrounding area.

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

No archaeological remains were located on the steep, vegetated slopes of Farm 618.

6.1 Burial

A possible burial occurs in the far north eastern portion of the study site just a few meters from the fence line, on the edge of the agricultural lands (Figure 11 & refer to Figure 2). The 'burial' comprises a small selection of sandstone rocks placed on the ground. No burial mound occurs, and no obvious headstone or footstone is visible. No cultural material, such as glass, pieces of ceramic or marine shell occurs, as noted elsewhere on burial sites in the interior (personal observation).

It is important to note that the 'burial' is located within the Open Space area, and will not be impacted by the proposed development. A GPS co-ordinate for the site is S° 33 20 035 E° 18 50 148 (set on map datum wgs 84).



Figure 11. Possible burial on the Farm Ongegund

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.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Ongegend Phase 2 residential and hotel development near Riebeeck West 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 (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.