

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
PRECINCT 2, 3, 4, 5 AND 6
MALMESBURY
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**Portion of Erf 317, a Portion of Erf 7455, a Portion of Farm Oranje
Fontein 1113, Portion of Farm 771 Rozenburg, Portion of Portion 1 of
Farm 697 and a Portion of Portion 2 of Farm 695
Malmesbury**

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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 large, mixed-use development on several parcels of land (Precincts 2-6) in Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed development provides for the construction of more than 6000 single residential and 'affordable housing units', a retirement village, business, commercial and light industrial enterprises, and institutional services such as a church, schools, college, crèche, medi-clinic and wellness centre. Open Space and associated infrastructure such as a railway, roads and services are also provided for.

The subject erven comprise farmland and grazing lands that have been utilized for many decades. The receiving environment is in a completely transformed and modified state.

The following findings were made:

Precincts 2 and 4: A few Early Stone Age tools were documented during the study, but these occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

Precinct 5: Broken and flaked quartzite cobbles were documented during the study but the remains occur in a disturbed and degraded context.

Precincts 3 and 6: A few Early Stone, Middle Stone Age and Later Stone Age flake tools were documented during the study, but the remains occur in a very disturbed and degraded context.

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

The archaeological impact assessment of the proposed development of Precincts 2-6 in Malmesbury has identified no significant impacts to important pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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 (AIA) for a proposed large, mixed-use development on several parcels of land (Precincts 2-6) in Malmesbury, in the Western Cape Province.

The affected properties comprise the following erven and farms:

- **Precincts 2 and 4:** a Portion of Erf 317, a Portion of Erf 7455 and a Portion of Farm Oranje Fontein 1113, Malmesbury.
- **Precinct 5:** a Portion of Farm 771 Rozenburg and a Portion of Farm Oranje Fontein 1113, Malmesbury.
- **Precincts 3 and 6:** a Portion of Portion 1 of Farm 697 and a Portion of Portion 2 of Farm 695, Malmesbury.

The proposed development provides for the construction of more than 6000 single residential and 'affordable housing units' a retirement village, business, commercial and light industrial enterprises, and institutional services such as a church, schools, college, crèche, medi-clinic and wellness centre. Public Open Space (including walking trails, parks and recreational areas) and associated infrastructure such as railways and roads are also provided for. The affected properties are currently zoned Agriculture and portions will be rezoned and sub-divided to accommodate the proposed development activities. A Phase 1 AIA of Precinct 1 was undertaken in 2006 (Kaplan 2006a)

The extent of the proposed development (about 329 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). Large parts of the study area however, including the Diep River floodplain (in Precinct 2 and 4) and a large wetland system (in Precinct 3 and 5) will be retained as Public Open Space and will not be developed.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological remains that will be impacted by the planning and construction of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts. Heritage consultant Mr Bruce Eitzen 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 identify and map archaeological resources on the site;
3. to determine the importance of any archaeological resources, and
4. 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.

The study site is situated in Malmesbury in the Swartland region of the Western Cape Province. Malmesbury has been identified as a core area for large-scale residential, commercial and industrial development in the Province.

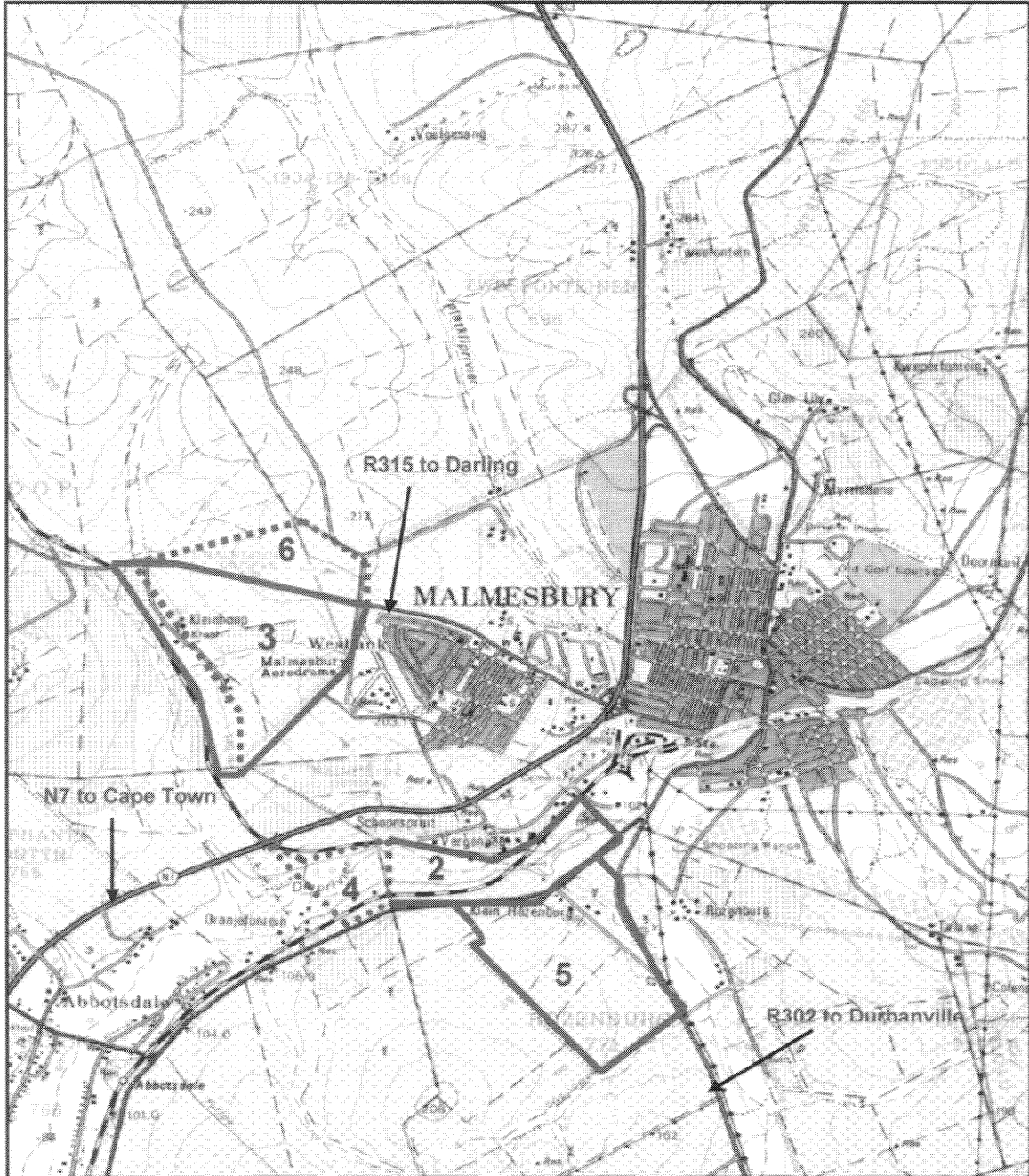


Figure 1. Locality Map (3318 BC Malmesbury) indicating the various development Precincts, 2-6

An aerial photograph of the proposed development erven is illustrated in Figure 2. As can be seen, the receiving environment comprises mostly agricultural lands.

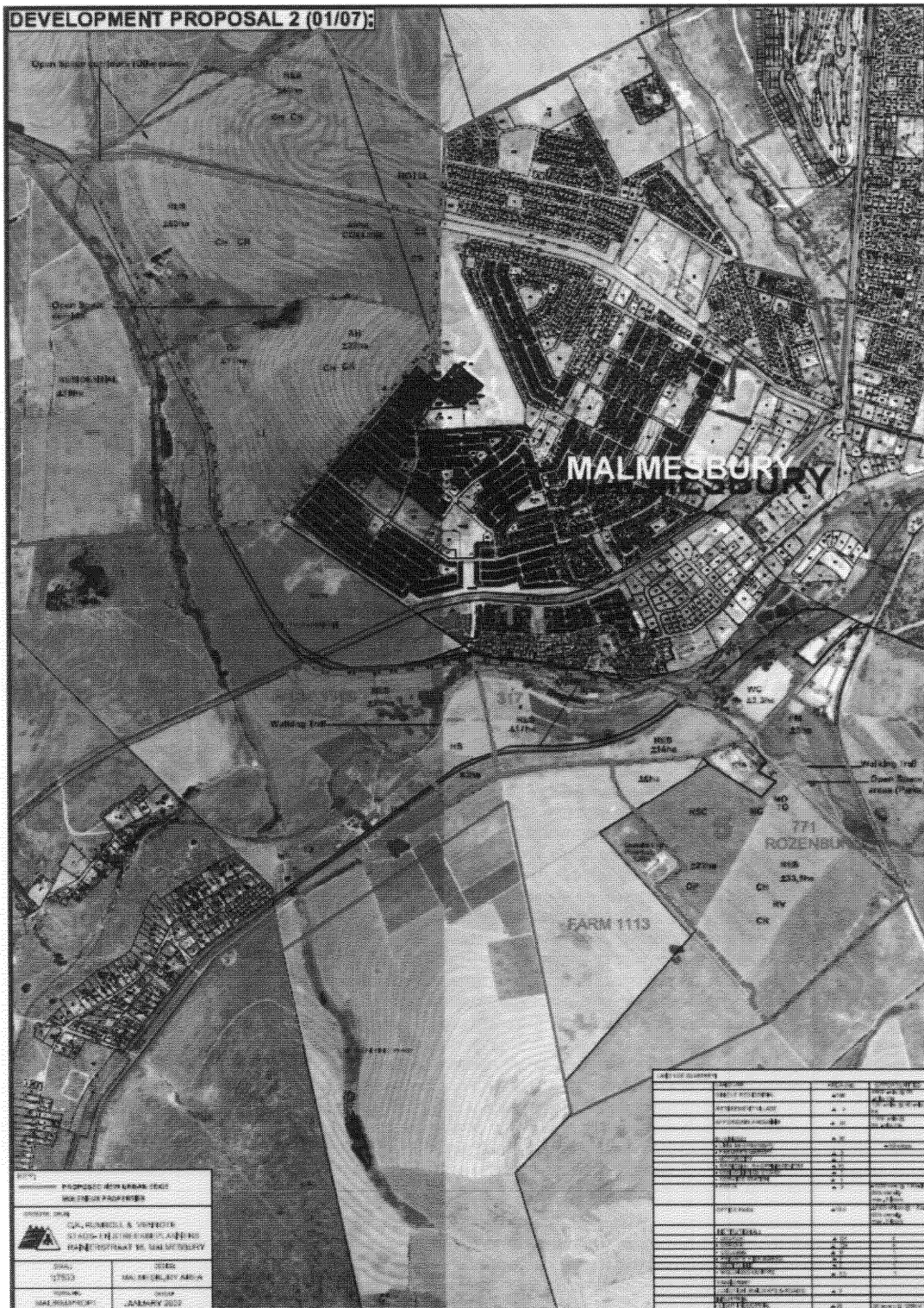


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study area indicating the proposed development erven

3.1 Precinct 2 and 4

Precincts 2 and 4 are located alongside (i.e. east of) the Diep River and immediately west of the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road. A portion of Precinct 4 borders the N7 in the south west. Alongside the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road, the farmlands have recently been ploughed and planted with wheat and Lucerne. Alongside the railway line, some of the lands have been contoured and planted with grain crops. Significant portions alongside the Diep River floodplain remain grasslands, but plough lines attest to previous years ploughing. The portion of Precinct 4 alongside the N7 has been heavily contoured and planted with wheat. The above lands have been systematically farmed for many years and the receiving environment is in a highly transformed and altered state (Figures 3-10).



Figure 3. Precinct 2. View facing south



Figure 5. Precinct 2. View facing north west. Malmesbury is to the left of the plate



Figure 4. Precinct 2. View of the Diep River floodplain facing south west



Figure 6. Precinct 2. View of the Diep River floodplain facing north west



Figure 7. Precinct 4. View from the N7 facing east



Figure 9. Precinct 4. View from alongside the Kalbaskraal road facing south



Figure 8. Precinct 4. View facing south west. Arrow indicates the N7



Figure 10. Precinct 4. View from alongside the Kalbaskraal road facing south

3.2 Precinct 5

Precinct 5 is bordered by the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road in the west, the R302 to Durbanville in the north east and farmlands in the south. A small portion of Precinct 5 is located between the Diep River and the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road. A significant portion of the subject property alongside the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road comprises wetlands and grasslands that will be retained as Public Open Space. The greater portion of Precinct 5, however, comprises extensive farmlands that have been recently ploughed and planted with wheat and grain crops. No significant landscape features occur on the site and the receiving environment is in a highly transformed and altered state (Figures 11-16).



Figure 11. Precinct 5. View facing south east



Figure 14. Precinct 5. View facing south west



Figure 12. Precinct 5. View facing south east



Figure 15. Precinct 5. View facing west and the town of Malmesbury



Figure 13. Precinct 5. View facing west and the town of Malmesbury



Figure 16. Precinct 5. View facing north east

3.3 Precinct 3 and 6

Precinct 3 borders the R315 to Darling in the north, a railway line in the south and Lingalethu Township in the east. The receiving environment comprises mainly grazing land including lands that have, for many years, been contoured and ploughed with cereal crops such as wheat and Lucerne. A large block of vineyards occur in the north western corner of the proposed site. A farmhouse werf and outbuildings occur alongside. Virtually no natural vegetation remains on the site, due to a long history of agricultural activity. No significant landscape features occur on the site. The surrounding land use comprises rural farmland to the south, west and north. A long trench, more than 6m deep and 2kms long has been excavated along the entire eastern boundary of the property. The receiving environment is in a highly transformed and altered state (Figures 17-22).

Precinct 6 borders farmland in the north and west, the R315 in the south and Malmesbury in the east. The site has been used for growing wheat for many decades and has recently been ploughed and planted. It is fairly heavily contoured in the south and west, where the slopes are gentle to relatively steep. There are no significant landscape features on the site. The receiving environment is in a highly transformed and altered state (Figures 23-28).

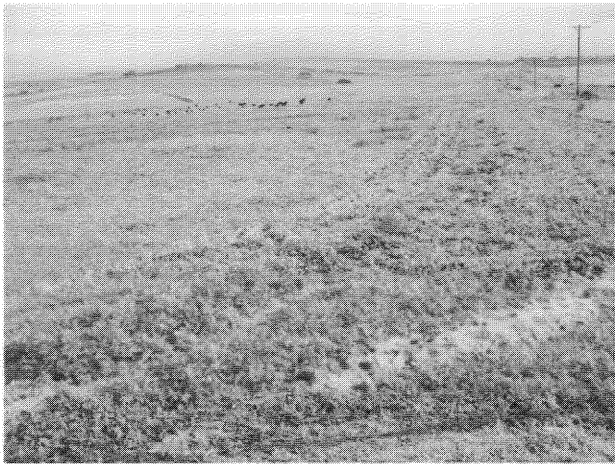


Figure 17. Precinct 3. View facing west

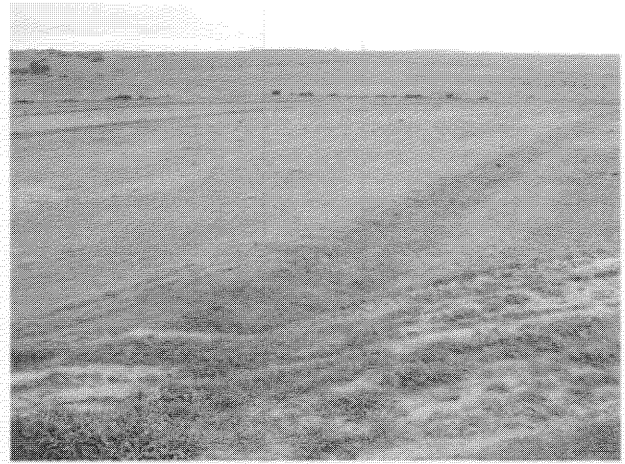


Figure 19. Precinct 3. View facing west

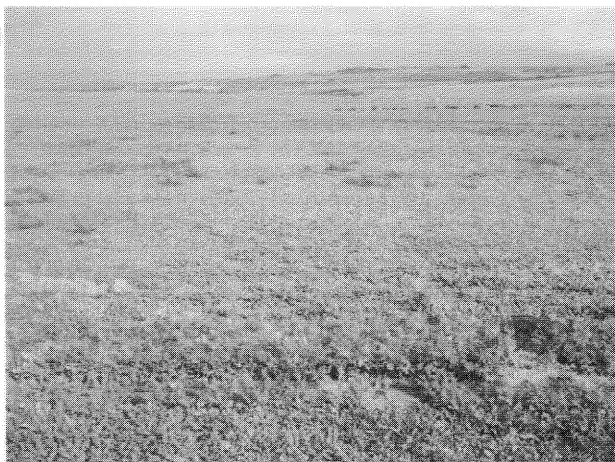


Figure 18. Precinct 3. View facing south west

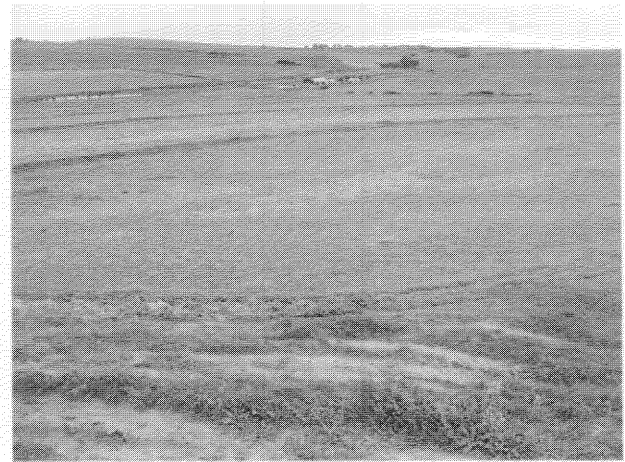


Figure 20. Precinct 3. View facing south west



Figure 21. Precinct 3. View facing south east

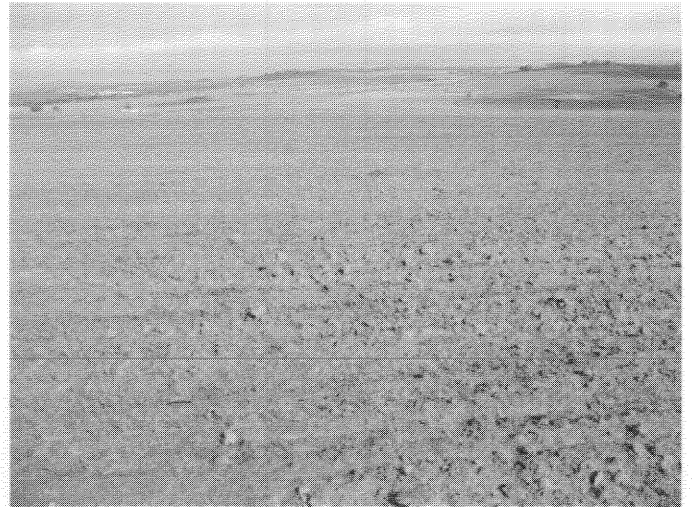


Figure 24. Precinct 6. View facing south



Figure 22. Precinct 3. View facing south east



Figure 25. Precinct 6. View facing south west



Figure 23. Precinct 6. View facing south



Figure 26. Precinct 6. View facing south west



Figure 27. Precinct 6. View facing west



Figure 28. Precinct 6. View facing west

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The survey took the form of multiple foot transects across the effected erven.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 14th, 15th and 16th June, 2007.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no major constraints or limitations associated with the study. However, grazing lands alongside the Diep River are covered in thick grass resulting in low archaeological visibility. Some of the wheat lands are also covered in new plantings of wheat and Lucerne, also resulting in low archaeological visibility on the ground.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no potential (archaeological) risks associated with the proposed development, as the receiving environment has been severely modified and transformed as a result of decades of agricultural activity.

4.4 Results of the desk top study

Malmesbury has been identified as a core area for large scale industrial, commercial and residential development. As a result, several archaeological impact assessments have been carried out in the area.

Early Stone Age (ESA) tools in Malmesbury, were first documented and reported during a study of the proposed Schoonspruit Country Estate development (Precinct 1), situated alongside the N7 and the Diep River (Kaplan 2006a). ESA tools were also documented on land identified for the planned Mount Royal Golf Estate situated about 4 kms north of

Malmesbury (Kaplan 2004), while several Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were found on the farm Rooidraai about 5 kms north west of Malmesbury (Kaplan 2006b). ESA tools have been recorded on the Farm Klipfontein to the north of the town (Kaplan 2007a). Pre-feasibility studies for the proposed Malmesbury Mall and the proposed Malmesbury Lifestyle Centre have identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains (Kaplan 2007b, c). ESA tools have been documented on the Farm Amoskuil, about 2.5 kms south of Malmesbury, alongside the N7 (Kaplan 2007d). Later Stone Age tools have also been recorded and mapped on the Farm Olyvenhoek situated about 10 km south of Malmesbury on the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road (Kaplan 2006c). ESA tools have been found on smallholdings at Tierfontein about 10 kms south west of Malmesbury and on several farms surrounding the Perdeberg Mountain (pers. observation). All the above tools have been located in disturbed and mostly highly transformed landscapes.

Studies undertaken to date in Malmesbury indicate that the region is not an area of pre-colonial archaeological importance. This may have much to do with the fact that the region (the Swartland) has been characterised by intensive agriculture activities (mainly wheat farming) for more than 100 years and that the archaeological landscape has already been largely destroyed.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

6.1 Precinct 2 and 4

Some broken and flaked quartzite cobbles/chunks were documented in the long wide strip of ploughed and planted farmlands alongside the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road (Precinct 2 and 4). One broken/snapped ESA flake was also found here. The fields alongside the road are littered with small pieces of broken quartzite and quartz pebbles.

One large flaked chunk and several broken quartzite cobbles were located in the contoured and ploughed farmlands between the Diep River and the N7 (Precinct 4). One large piece of a (glazed) stone-ware was also found in the fields. These lands have been transformed and altered as a result of many years of intensive agriculture activity. No flake tools were found in the floodplain of the Diep River, although several large pieces of rounded quartz cobbles were noted, some of which have been smashed and broken.

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

6.2 Precinct 5

Broken and flaked quartzite cobbles were found in the deeply ploughed and planted farmlands alongside the Malmesbury-Kalbaskraal road. No flakes or formal tools were found. However, many small pieces of rounded quartzite and small quartz pebbles and gravel bits occur on the extensive, west facing slopes. It is interesting to note, that with the exception of these fields, very little stone was noted over the remainder of Precinct 5.

6.3 Precinct 3 and 6

One large ESA miscellaneous retouched flake/cleaver, one smaller partially retouched flake, one flaked quartzite chunk/core, one snapped LSA indurated shale utilized flake, and a few small quartz flakes and chunks were located in the ploughed farmlands in the north eastern portion of Precinct 6 (Figure 29). Several discreet scatters of rough quartzite, rounded quartz chunks and cobbles, and many pieces of broken and smashed quartz and gravel bits were noted on the steeper south west facing slopes in the north western portion of the site. These fields have been heavily contoured and terraced and numerous small piles of rough quartzite have been stacked alongside the terraces.

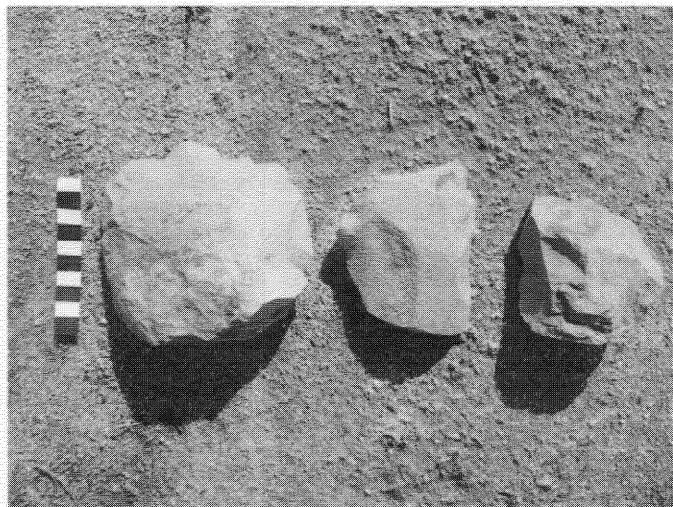


Figure 29. Tools from Precinct 6. Scale is in cm

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

One ESA quartzite core and one broken MSA faceted indurated shale blade was documented in the gravel road circling the block of vineyards in the north western portion of Precinct 3 (Figure 30). Some glass and pieces of broken white porcelain were also found in this area. One quartzite flaked chunk and one broken quartzite flake was found on a large patch of disturbed farmland alongside the R315 to Darling. The tools all occur in a disturbed context. No tools were found over the remainder of the site. No tools were noted in the 6 m deep, 2 km long trench that has been excavated alongside Lingalethu Township on the eastern boundary of the property, nor on the associated spoil dumps. Scatters of quartzite and some sandstone occur alongside the railway line in the southern portion of the property, but no artefacts were found.

The archeological remains have been rated as having low local significance

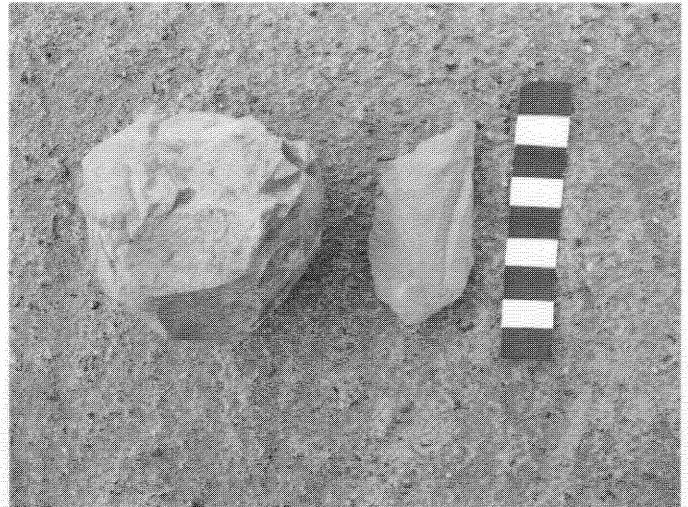


Figure 30. Tools from Precinct 3. Scale is in cm

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 proposed development activities.

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

Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been heavily transformed by decades of intensive agricultural activity.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Malmesbury has rated the potential impacts to important archaeological heritage material as being **very low**.

- 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.

9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2007a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Portion 2 of Farm 690 and Remainder of the Farm Klipfontein 688 (Glen Lily) Malmesbury. Report prepared for CK Rumboll. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2007b. Pre-feasibility study, proposed Malmesbury Mall, Malmesbury. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management

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Kaplan, J. 2006a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Schoonspruit Country Estate Portion of Erf 317, Portion of Erf 7455 & Erf 882 Malmesbury. Report prepared for CK Rumboll and Partners. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed construction of an earth dam on Farm No. 1102 Roidraai Malmesbury. Report prepared for Envirodinamik. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006c. 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.

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