

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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19 February, 2007

Att : Ms Kate Bezuidenhout
Jeffares & Green (Pty) Ltd
Consulting Engineers
PO Box 38561
Pinelands
7430

Dear Ms Bezuidenhout

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF DR1153 RIEBEEKS RIVIER MALMESBURY

1. Introduction and brief

Jeffares & Green Consulting Engineers¹ on behalf of the Western Cape Provincial Administration Department of Transport and Public Works requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an archaeological investigation of the proposed realignment of Riebeeksrivier Road (DR1153) on the Farm Voorspoed near Riebeeck West in the Malmesbury District, Western Cape Province (Figure 1).

It is proposed to realign a 1.3 km section of DR1153 from just north of the entrance to the Farm Swavelberg. The proposed realignment will result in a safer and better quality ride for motorists. *1.3 km*

Three route Options have been considered, but the proposed Option 3 is the preferred route. Figure 2 illustrates the route of the preferred realignment.

No borrow pits will be utilised and all construction material will be sourced from local suppliers. *no borrow-pits*

The extent of the proposed development (a linear development exceeding more than 300 m in length) 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 negatively 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.

¹ Jeffares & Green Consulting Engineers Fax (021) 532 0950

*Comment BELCOM Street
↓
1153 road route*

2. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological investigation are to:

- Identify and map heritage resources in the proposed realignment;
- Determine the importance of heritage resources in the proposed realignment;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed project.

A 'Notification of Intent to Develop' checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and, together with the specialist archaeology report, been submitted to Heritage Western Cape Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) for comment. N10

3. The site

Voorspoed Farm is located on the western side of Kasteelberg about eight kms from the town of Riebeeck West in the Swartland (refer to Figure 1). Access to DR1153 is gained from the R46, situated between Malmesbury and Riebeeck Kasteel. The existing gravel road (i.e. DR1153) is about 8km long and the farm Voorspoed is located about 7.5 km from the intersection.

The receiving environment of the proposed route (i.e. Option 3) comprises old agricultural lands; mainly vineyards and vacant and cleared farmland (Figures 3-6).

4. Approach to the study

The proposed realignment of DR1153 was searched on foot.

The site visit and assessment took place on 09 February, 2007.

Specialist heritage consultant Mr Henry Aikman was consulted with regard to a historic farmhouse located on the Farm Voorspoed.

5. Results of the study

No pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains were located during the study.

The proposed realignment will, however, be located about 100 m west of a historic farmhouse on the farm Voorspoed. Dated around 1876, the façade and much of the original features of the simple Cape Longhouse has been retained (Figures 8 & 9), but the form of the house has been altered, or 'Victorianised'. According to heritage consultant Henry Aikman, the (presumably) original thatch roof has been replaced by a galvanised hip roof, while the walls of the farmhouse have been lifted to add a loft. Other Victorian elements that have been added to the original 3-bay building include coin moulding around the windows, a closed veranda and cast-iron columns. 1876

In addition, an entire new, pseudo-Cape Dutch home and wing has been added alongside and behind the building (Figures 10 & 11). The original Cape farmhouse has therefore lost much of its architectural integrity, and its 'sense of place' within the rural landscape has been seriously compromised.

6. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed realignment of a portion of DR1153 on pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains is likely to be very low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is also likely to be improbable.

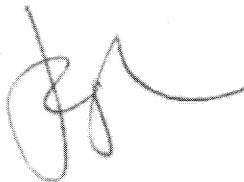
The impact of the proposed realignment on the integrity and 'sense of place' of the historic Voorspoed farmhouse will be low, as the dwelling has been altered and added onto.

The visual impact will also be low as the farmhouse occupies no landmark status in the rural landscape (Aikman pers. comm.), being almost wholly obscured by a row of Blue Gum trees (refer to Figures 12-14).

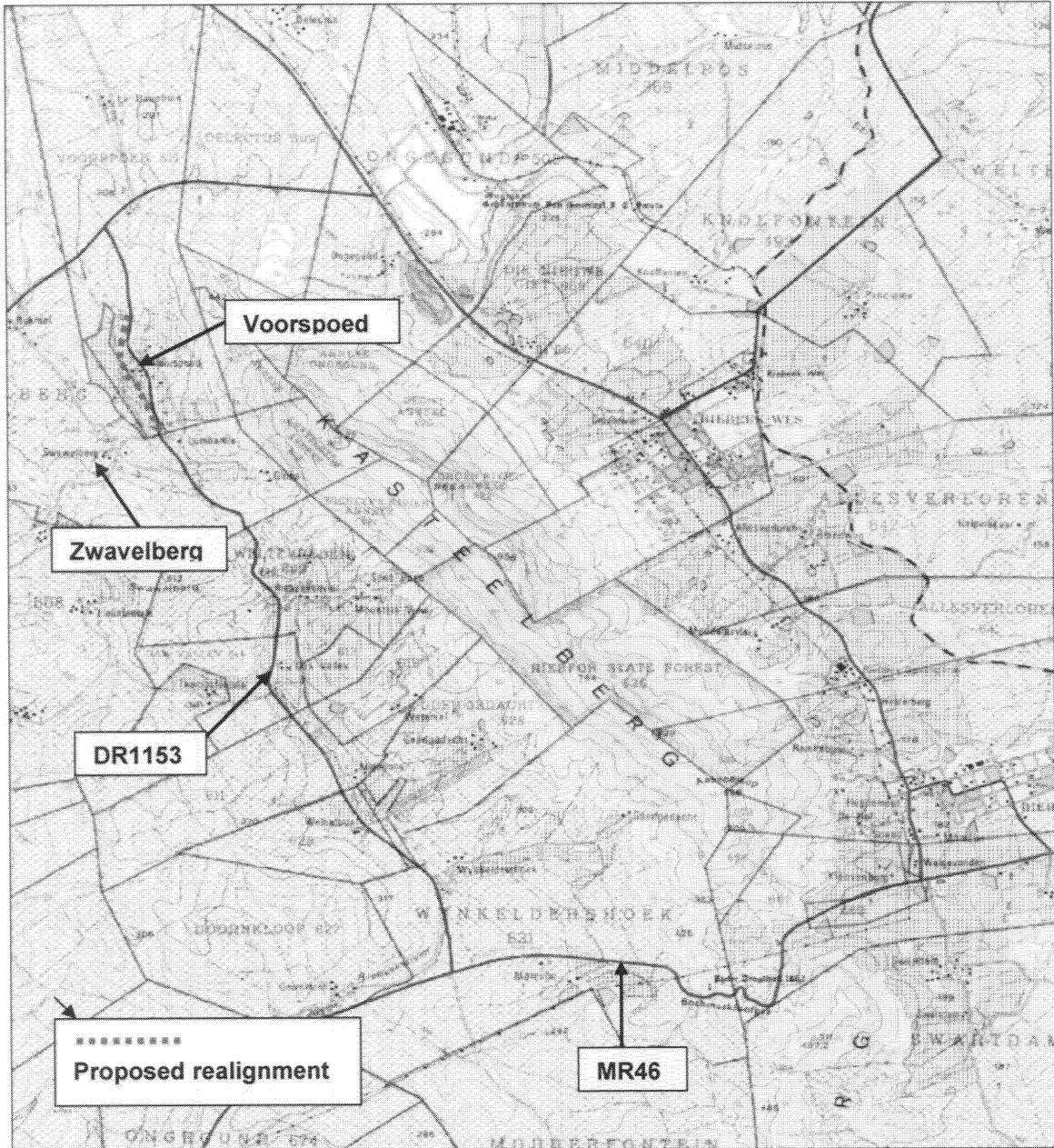
7. Conclusion

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has shown that proposed the upgrading of a portion of DR1153 (Voorspoed) should be allowed to proceed as planned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Kaplan



Locality Map (3318BD Riebeeek Kasteel)

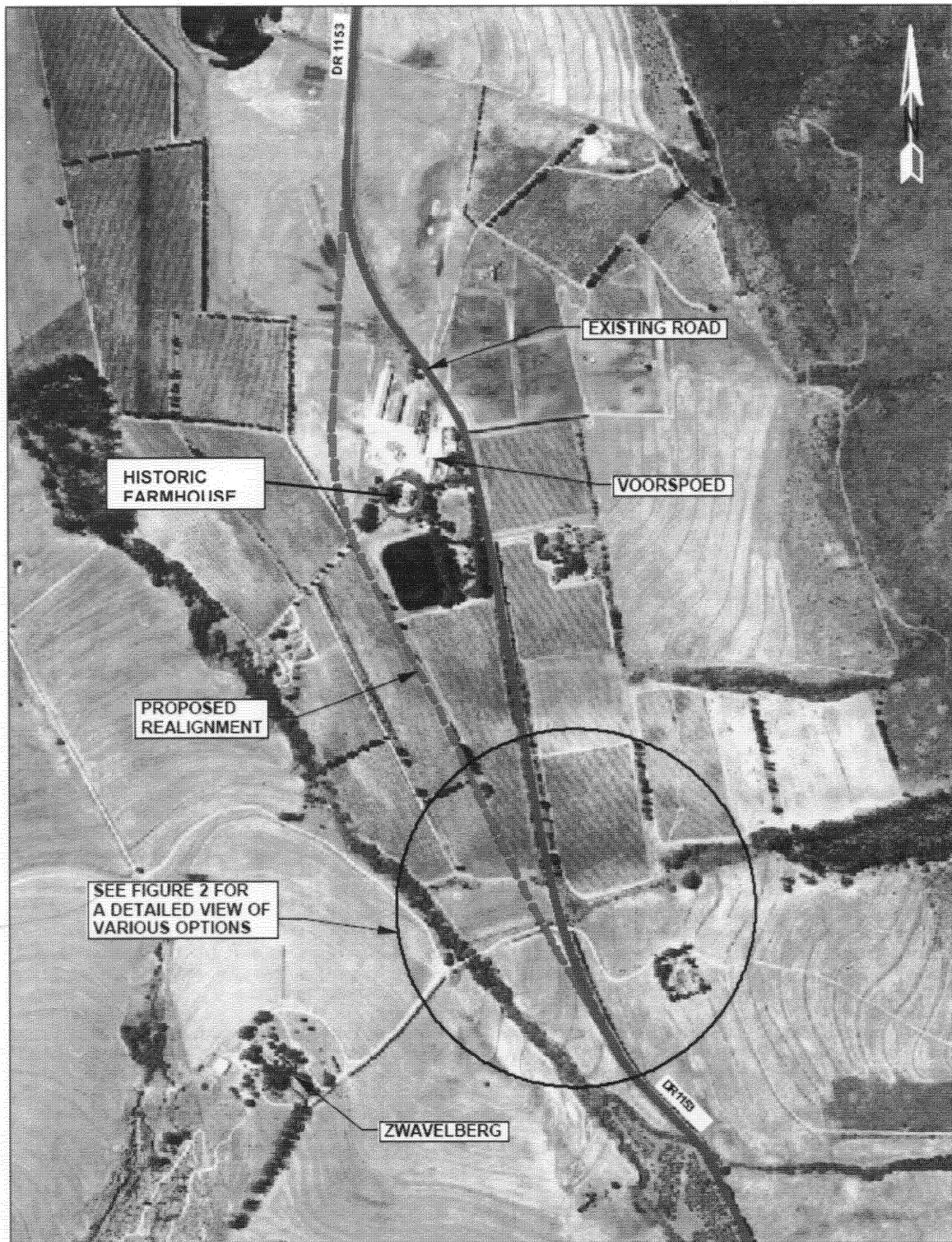


Figure 2. Proposed realignment (Option 3)

This is Fig. 2



Figure 7. Proposed realignment facing north. Arrow indicates DR1153

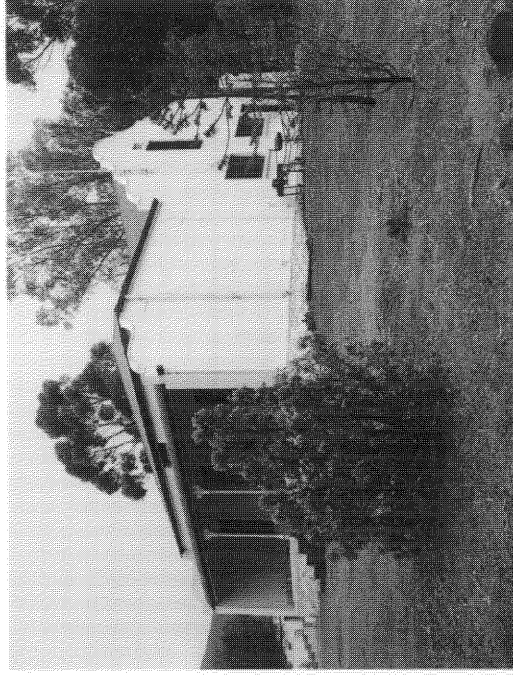


Figure 9. Historic house. Note new additions



Figure 8. Historic house. Note new additions



Figure 10. Historic house. Note new additions



Figure 11. Pseudo Cape-Dutch house. Completely new construction



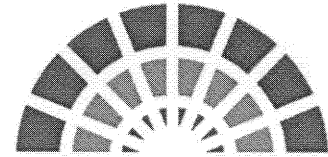
Figure 13. Historic house. View from proposed realignment.



Figure 12. Historic house



Figure 14. Historic house. View from proposed realignment.



Ilifa leMveli leNtshona Koloni
Erfenis Wes-Kaap
Heritage Western Cape

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Cape Town, 27 March 2007

Mr. J. Kaplan
Agency for Cultural Resource Management
P. O. Box 159
Riebeeck West, 7306

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

Re: PHASE 1 AIA – PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF DR1153, RIEBEEKS RIVIER, MALMESBURY

The Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Committee of the Western Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, Heritage Western Cape (HWC), at a meeting held on 27 March 2007, discussed the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed realignment of DR1153, Riebeeks Rivier, Malmesburg.

The following was noted:

- i) The proposed realignment will be about 1.3 km, from the north of the entrance to Farm Swavelberg. There would be no borrow pits associated with the proposed realignment of the district road.
- ii) A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) was completed by the archaeologist and submitted to HWC (BELCOM serving staff) for comment.
- iii) A historic house, dating back to 1976 was located. This house has been changed over years, becoming 'Victorianised' would not be affected by the proposed realignment. Mr. H. Aikman, a Heritage specialist, was consulted for advice with regards to the historic house. The probability of locating significant archaeological materials is low.

From the APM Committee area of competency, the following decisions were made.

- i) There were no objections to the development with regard to archaeological and palaeontological resources.
- ii) In the event that human burials or archaeological resources are uncovered or exposed during earthworks or excavations, they must be reported immediately to the South African Heritage Resources Agency – for burials only (Att: Mrs M. Leslie or Mrs. C. Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) and Heritage Western Cape (Att: Ndukuyakhe Ndlovu 021 483 9685). An archaeologist will be required to remove the remains at the expense of the developer.

Yours faithfully

Ndukuyakhe Ndlovu
Senior Heritage Officer: Archaeologist

www.capegateway.gov.za/culture_sport

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