

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED  
UPGRADING OF THE M177.

Prepared for Knight, Hall, Hendry and Associates.

Jonathan Kapiian  
AGENCY FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
P.O. Box 159  
Riebeeck West  
6800  
PH/Fax: 02246-855

## INTRODUCTION

This report contains the findings of an initial archaeological survey of MR177 Stellenbosch Arterial. The section of the road under consideration stretches from the Modderfontein intersection in the west to the start of the dual carriageway approximately 11 km to the east at Kaliombo.

The proclaimed reserve for widening is to the north of the existing road through the Belhar residential area. East of Spioenkop the reserve is to the south.

Approximately eight borrow pits for fill material will be located within 1 km from the road centreline.

As part of the initial assessment the Agency for Cultural Resource Management has been asked to determine the archaeological significance of the area. The archaeological input includes.

1. A brief description of the archaeology of the area.
2. Identification of any significant archaeological sites, which occur in a 1 km wide strip on either side of the road, which could be affected by the siting of borrow pits.
3. What would the significance of the impact be should any archaeological site be affected by the widening of the road.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Little is known about the archaeology of the Belhar residential area and the surrounding area affected by the proposed widening of the MR177. The records of the South African Museum Archaeology Data Recording Centre indicate no evidence of any sites, artefactual material or features being found in the area.

Near by at Stellenbosch, however, there are numerous published accounts and observations of Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> and Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> artefacts being recovered from the slopes of the surrounding mountains and in cultivated fields. Many of these finds are out of context and therefore not considered to be archaeologically significant save for comparative and collection purposes.

---

1 A broad term referring to between 2 million and 200 000 years of precolonial history in south Africa

2 A broad term referring to between 200 000 and 25 000 years of precolonial history in South Africa

According to Gabeba Abrahams of the Cultural History Museum the area around the Simon van der Stel Rifle Range, now extensively vegetated, but including open drift sands to the west, is known to contain some early dumping sites, where Victorian period glass bottles have been recovered by bottle diggers. A permit from the National Monuments Council is required should digging for specifically cultural artefacts be undertaken in the area, and these have been granted on occasion.

## SURVEY AND RESULTS

An initial impact assessment of the area located no archaeological sites or artefacts. It is doubtful whether archaeological finds of any significance would be recovered should a detailed survey be undertaken. Thus the significance of the impact can be considered low.

## THE EFFECT OF UPGRADING ON THE MR177

No significant above ground archaeological sites will be affected by the proposed upgrading of the MR177. It is possible, however, that the siting and subsequent digging of borrow pits may yield some artefacts, albeit of minimal significance.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is not likely to be significant impact on above ground archaeological remains in the proposed area.

1. Borrow pits may yield artefacts of some significance. Should this occur an archaeologist should be contacted to assess the importance of the finds.
2. Care should be taken in the siting of borrow pits by avoiding historic (Victorian) dump sites.