

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
VILADALMEIDA
YZERFONTEIN**

**Portion of Portion 27 of the Farm Yzerfontein No. 560
Malmesbury**

Prepared for

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HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICE
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Executive summary

Enviro Logic requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Portion of Portion 27 of the Farm Yzerfontein No. 560, on the Cape West Coast.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/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.

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

The following findings were made:

A few fragments of shellfish, a broken quartzite cobble, three quartz flakes and one broken quartzite flake was documented during the study.

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 proposed development activities.

With regard to the proposed development of Portion of Portion 27 of the Farm Yzerfontein No. 560 Malmesbury, the following recommendations are made:

- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, 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).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Enviro Logic, on behalf of Marble Gold 342 (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 Portion 27 of the Farm Yzerfontein No. 560, Malmesbury (Swartland Municipality), on the Cape West Coast.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property is for the purpose of a residential housing development consisting of 95 single residential units (\pm 3.66 ha) and about 60 flats (\pm 1.39), Private Open Space (1.30 ha) and associated infrastructure including internal streets and services. The property is currently zoned Agriculture.

The extent of the proposed development (nearly 7 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 study site is about 16 ha in extent.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has also 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:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- 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 Figures 2 and 3.

The subject property (S° 32 20 670 E° 18 09 859 on map datum wgs 84) is located east of the town of Yzerfontein and south of Main Road MR215 (Yzerfontein - Darling Main Road). The proposed site borders MR215 on the northern side and the Fisherman's Haven residential development on the eastern side (Figures 4-8). Agricultural land borders the site in the south. The upper (western) slopes of the property are very thickly vegetated with fairly pristine indigenous veld, while the lower (flatter) slopes comprise old agricultural lands that have not been ploughed for about 10 years. The botanists report (Helm 2006) recommends no residential development on the upper slopes due to its High Conservation status. Test pits have been excavated over the property and the soils are alkaline with a high proportion of weathered limestone under the surface, and scattered chunks of limestone on the surface. A relatively large (borrow) pit has been excavated alongside the MR215 in the north western portion of the property (Figure 9). A round concrete dam and concrete and limestone block are situated in the south eastern corner (Figure 10). The property is situated within an area characterised by increasing residential and small holding development.

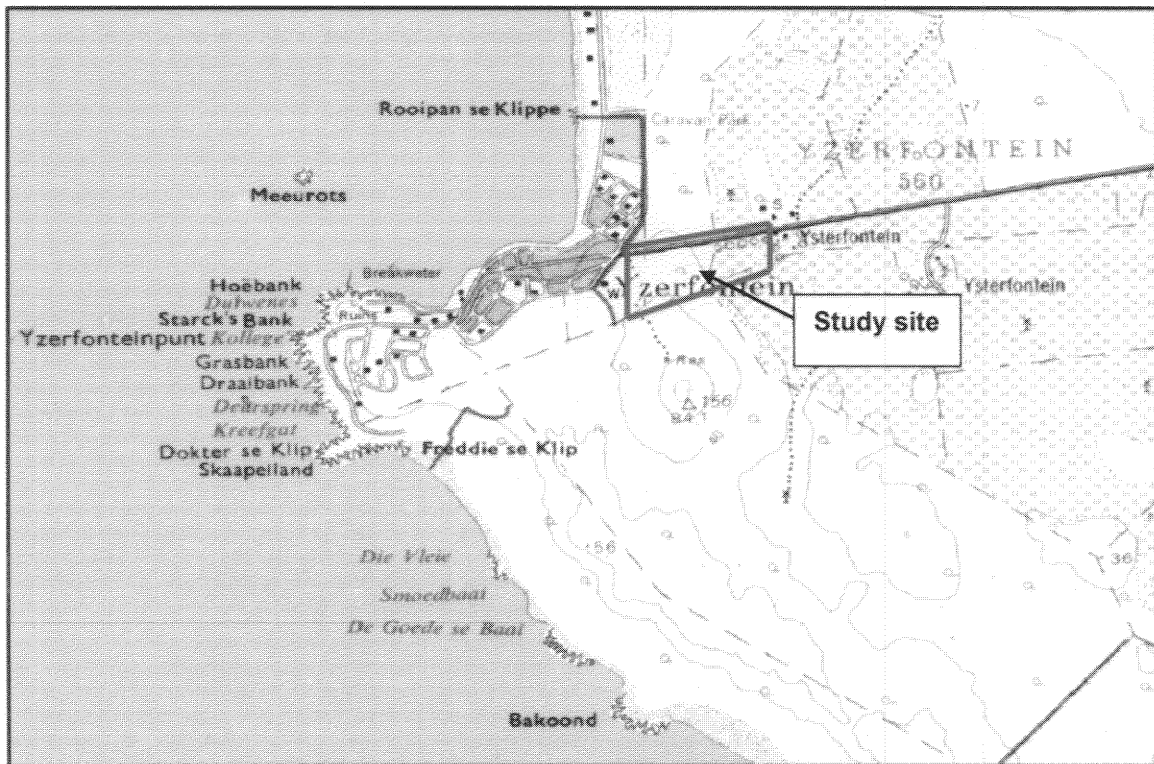


Figure 1. Locality map (3318 AC Yzerfontein)

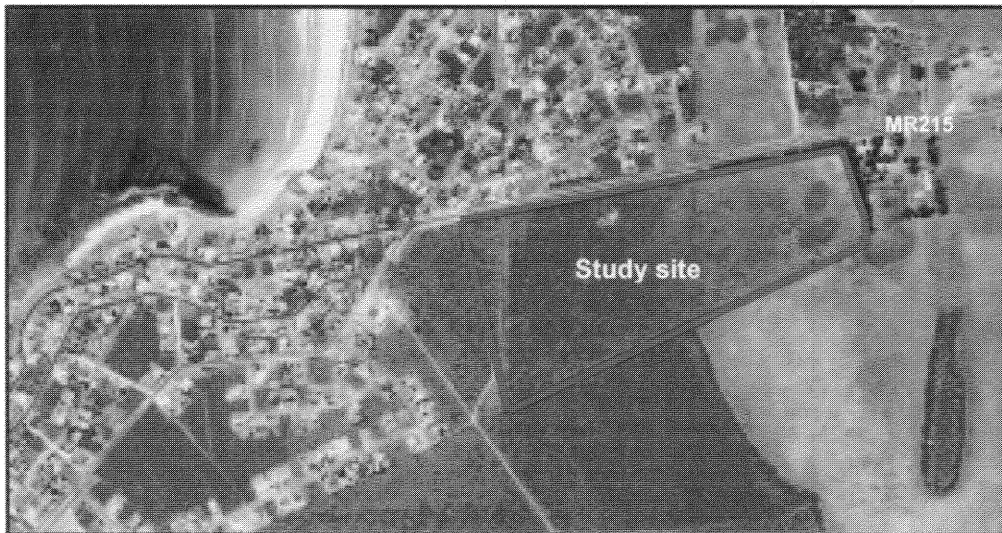


Figure 2. Aerial photograph indicating the site in a wider Yzerfontein context

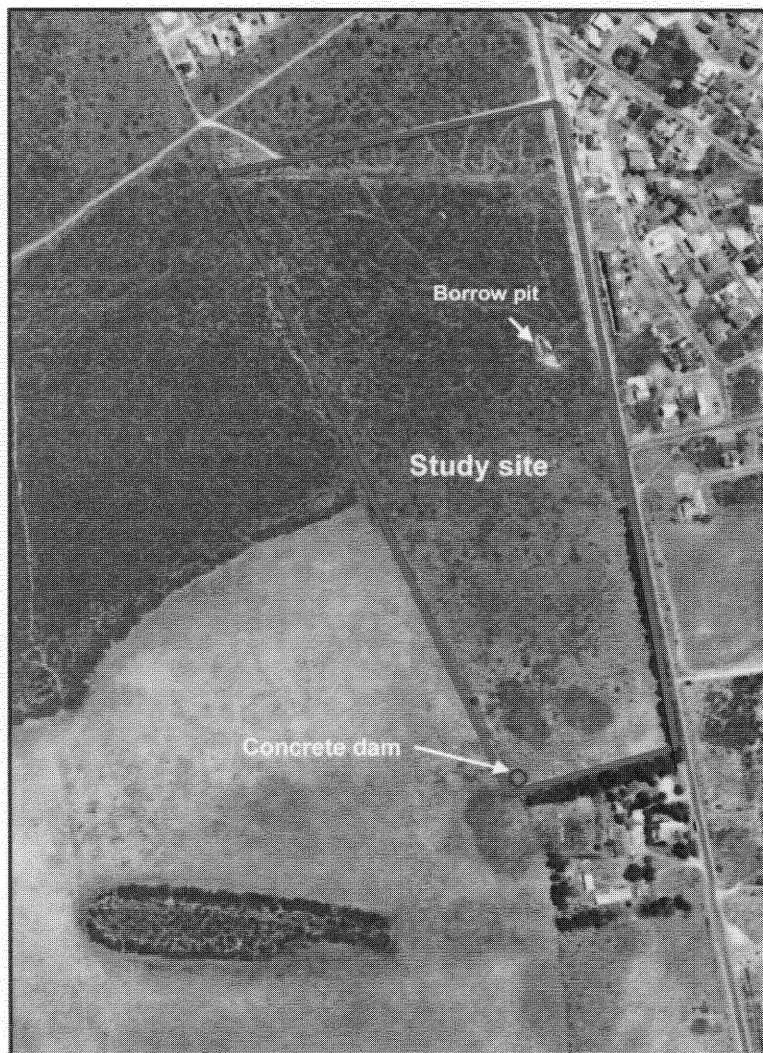


Figure 3. Close up aerial photograph of the study site



Figure 4. View of the site facing east.



Figure 7. View of the site facing west.



Figure 5. View of the site facing east



Figure 8. View of the site facing west.



Figure 6. View of the site facing north east.



Figure 9. Borrow pit alongside MR215.



Figure 10. Concrete dam and block.

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological impact assessment entailed a detailed survey of the study site (see Figure 3).

Archaeological heritage remains were recorded using a hand-held Garmin Geko 201 GPS unit set on map datum wgs 84.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 12th July, 2007.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.2 Limitations

The upper, western slopes of the study site are almost completely covered in thick natural veld, resulting in very low archaeological visibility (see Figures 4-6).

4.3 Results of the desk-top study

The coastal zone in Yzerfontein is known to contain many archaeological, as well as palaeontological sites (Avery 1994; Avery *et al* 1990; Halkett & Hart 1995; Kaplan 2005a 1999, 1993, 1996; Mabutt 1955; Rudner 1968). Further away from the coast, however, the density of archaeological sites seems to decrease (Kaplan 1993, 1998).

The archaeological richness in Yzerfontein is determined largely by its rocky shoreline formation which was favoured by both Later Stone Age (LSA) hunter-gatherers and probably Khoi herders in the past, as it offered greater opportunities for the exploitation of marine foods, while the local shales and granites provided vital nutrients for domestic stock. It is here that large quantities of shellfish species were stripped from the rocks, or collected at low tides, processed, and consumed by indigenous people. Other marine resources exploited included sea birds, fish, crayfish, seal, dolphin, and even occasionally whales. Shellfish meat was either cooked in pots or on open fires, but there is also evidence to suggest that meat was dried and smoked.

At Yzerfontein, shell middens are clustered inshore of the rocky shoreline (Kaplan 1993). Shovel testing of shell midden deposits at Bakoond (see Figure 1), for example, has indicated the presence of deposits several metres containing stone tools, bone, pottery, ostrich eggshell beads and pottery (Kaplan 2005b; Orton 2007). According to Orton *pers. comm.*), occupation at Bakoond is shown to have been in the form of small campsites spread randomly across the peninsula with the marine resources of the vicinity having been the main factor drawing people to the area. Iziko: South African Museum has also been conducting excavations at a Middle Stone Age shell midden above the harbour, for several years.

Severe disturbance of archaeological sites at Yzerfontein has taken place over a number of years, due mainly to an increase in residential development in the area, and the accompanying physical and human pressures. Many of the Yzerfontein archaeological sites have been severely disturbed and damaged as a result of these activities. Sadly, some of these sites have been completely destroyed as well (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 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

A few fragments of Black Mussel (Choromytilus meridionalis) a weathered and water worn fragment of White Mussel (Perna perna), a broken quartzite cobble, three quartz flakes and one broken quartzite flake, was documented during the study.

The stone tools and most of the shellfish were located in the upper western portion of the study site, which has been recommended as a 'no development' zone due to its High Conservation status (Helme 2006).

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

No archaeological remains were found in any of the test pits, including the large borrow pit excavated alongside MR215, nor among the associated spoil dumps.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be **low**.

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

Unmarked human burials may possibly be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological impact assessment of Portion of Portion 27 of the Farm Yzerfontein No. 560 (Malmesbury), has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692).

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