

**49 van Riebeeck Street
Stellenbosch 7600
South Africa**

Professor Hilary John Deacon, PhD
Consulting Archaeologist, Cultural Resource Manager
Tel/Fax International +27 21 887 1540 - National 021 887 1540 e-mail hjdeacon@iafrica.com

20-07-01

Attention: Craig Stevenson
K&T (Pty) Ltd
Box 3132
Cape Town 8000

Dear Mr Stevenson

Re: Archaeological site assessment in Mossel Bay

I have carried out a Phase 1 impact assessment of the Mosselview Service Station site as per arrangement and please find my report attached.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Deacon

Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment

Site: Mosselview Service Station Marsh Street, Mossel Bay

Brief

The brief from Mr C Stevenson of Kantey & Templer was to assess the Earlier Stone Age occurrence of stone artefacts on the property being developed by Shell SA (Pty) Ltd.

Assessment

A visit to the site on Wednesday 25 July 01 confirmed the presence of stone artefacts on and adjacent to the property. The artefacts occur on or in a stony lag deposit that is better exposed in the eroded upslope position of the site. There, as in the footing of the boundary wall of the Bayview Hospital, the stone clasts can be seen to fill irregularities in the Table Mountain Group bedrock. In runnels draining waters from such positions immediately above the site the stony clasts form a pavement. There is a thicker surficial cover of sands on the site itself but the stony pavement of clasts will extend below this cover. The artefacts are not in primary context and they are dispersed rather than concentrated.

Significance

The artefact occurrence does not have potential for archaeological investigation beyond this Phase 1. Mr Stevenson collected the most significant artefact, a well-made cordiform handaxe. This is of an artefact type that dates minimally to 400 000 years ago and is a trace fossil of the earliest inhabitants of the Cape. It is significant that a handaxe was found there. Similar artefacts have been collected in the surrounds of Mossel Bay, some have been deposited in the local museum, but the specific locations are not identified. This is an identifiable find site and that makes it significant.

Mitigation

Artefacts removed from their locations lose significance. The ideal is to preserve them in their context or keep them on site. There is potential here to promote heritage awareness by a simple display recording the find at the Mosselview Service Station to be constructed there. This could be done in collaboration with the Museum Manager (Ms Linda Labuschagne), Dias Museum, Private Bag X1, Mossel Bay 6500 (Tel 044 6911 067, Fax 044 6911 915, email diasmuseum@mweb.co.za).

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that development on the site proceed without archaeological mitigation.
2. It is recommended that the find of Acheulian artefacts on the site be recorded in a simple display to be designed in conjunction with the Diaz Museum. The handaxe collected by Mr Stevenson can be the focus. This display should carry a heritage awareness and conservation message.

Professor HJ Deacon
Stellenbosch

31 July 01