

**Proposed Cemetery - Portion 8 of Erf 225, Mossel Bay Farms,  
Mossel Bay Municipal District: Archaeological heritage  
scoping report**

by

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## **Executive Summary**

*The study area is notably disturbed as a result of former activities associated with agriculture and “construction”. While archaeological heritage materials protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) of 1999 occur within the study area, the bulk are not in primary context and therefore of no scientific or heritage value.*

*The presence of Stone Age implements in stone piles and as isolated occurrences suggests that similar archaeological materials may be present sub-surface. Consequently, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring be implemented during vegetation clearing and earthmoving activities. Four mounds (two of stone and two of earth and stone) – recorded during fieldwork - that may represent graves require further investigation. If the latter are graves, and they are older than 60 years, then they should be avoided and/or incorporated into the cemetery as they are protected by the NHRA of 1999. An assemblage of large stones and concrete also require further assessment.*

*The proposed cemetery does not appear to threaten archaeological heritage resources. Provided that the Mossel Bay Municipality complies with decisions of Heritage Western Cape taken with respect to this report, it is recommended that the ROD be issued for the development of the proposed cemetery,*

## Introduction

Resource Management Services on behalf of the Mossel Bay Municipality commissioned MAPCRM to conduct an Archaeological Scoping Survey of a Proposed Cemetery (Portion 8 of Erf 225, Mossel Bay Farms), in the Mossel Bay Municipal District (Figure 1).

## Study Area

The affected area lies immediately south of Mossdustria, east of Mossgas and west of the – R 327 - Herbertsdale Road (see Figures 1, 2 and 3). The boundaries of the proposed cemetery are unmarked and therefore the scoping study included the entire area as indicated in Figure 3. The study area is approximately 80 hectares in extent. Archaeological visibility is very low with more than 95% of the ground surface covered by grass, bush, shrub and Port Jackson (see Plates 1 through 4).

Numerous traces indicate that the area is significantly disturbed by former activities associated with agriculture and “construction”.

## Method

The study area was examined on foot. Records (notes, GPS readings, digital photography) were made of archaeological and potential archaeological occurrences. A full photographic record is available on request from the author.

## Results

1. An isolated Early Stone Age or Middle Stone Age core was recorded near the southern extent of the study area (Plate 1). A handful of similar occurrences were noted during the study.  
Hand held GPS fix: 34° 17057 S, 22° 00514 E
2. Two stone piles/cairns potentially marking graves are aligned east to west (Plate 2). These stone piles appear different from numerous other stone piles recorded during the study (Plate 4).  
Hand held GPS fix: 34° 16786 S, 22° 01138 E
3. Collection of large stones with raised central area (Plate 3). No obvious structural remains visible and no artefacts recorded. A few concrete blocks were noted that do not appear modern.  
Hand held GPS fix: 34° 16776 S, 22° 00952 E
4. Several stone piles that are clearly not natural accumulations (Plate 4). Potentially the result of clearing fields for cultivation or dumps from stone cleared elsewhere. Some stone piles are reminiscent of hunting stands. A few stone piles include Early Stone Age and/or Middle Stone Age artefacts (Plate 5).  
Hand held GPS fixes: 34° 16700 S, 22° 00821 E; 34° 16705 S, 22° 00730 E; 34° 16750 S, 22° 00684 E; 34° 16748 S, 22° 00342 E; 34° 16698 S, 22° 00399 E; 34° 16675 S, 22° 00444 E; 34° 16642 S, 22° 00627 E; 34° 16518 S, 22° 00448 E
5. Two equal sized mounds of earth and stone that lie side by side are potential graves. This suggestion is based on these mounds are different from stone piles recorded in 4 above.  
Hand held GPS fix: 34° 16334 S, 22° 00725 E

## **Assessment of finds**

Isolated stone artefacts of Early Stone Age and/or Middle Stone Age origin occur in very low densities. Poor archaeological visibility may be the cause of this and it is possible that more artefacts of similar origin occur underneath vegetation and sub-surface. Nevertheless, evidence for considerable disturbance of sediments in the study area suggests that these artefacts are mostly in secondary context and thus of negligible archaeological significance.

The 4 potential graves (2 and 5 above) and assemblage of large stones and concrete blocks (3 above) require further investigation, but almost certainly date from the historic period.

The numerous stone piles (4 above) are of no archaeological significance and almost certainly relate to clearing fields for cultivation and/or are dumps of stones cleared elsewhere. The few Stone Age artefacts recorded in some of these piles are in secondary context and thus of no archaeological significance.

## **Recommendations arising from scoping survey**

While archaeological heritage materials occur within the study area and are protected formally under the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) of 1999, they are mostly in secondary context and are present as isolated occurrences. It is possible that further materials are exposed during vegetation clearing and earthmoving activities. It is recommended, therefore, that archaeological monitoring be implemented during the above mentioned development activities. In the event that significant archaeological materials are exposed as a result of development activities, then they must be dealt with in accordance with the NHRA of 1999.

The potential graves (2 and 5 above) and assemblage of large stones and concrete blocks (3 above) require further investigation during an Archaeological Heritage Impact Assessment of those features as part of a broader Environmental Impact Assessment.

It is recommended that the ROD be issued for the development of the proposed cemetery with the provision that the Mossel Bay Municipality abide fully by the decisions of Heritage Western Cape taken with respect to this report.

# Figures and Plates



Figure 1. Location of study area relative to the coastal town of Mossel Bay, Western Cape Province.

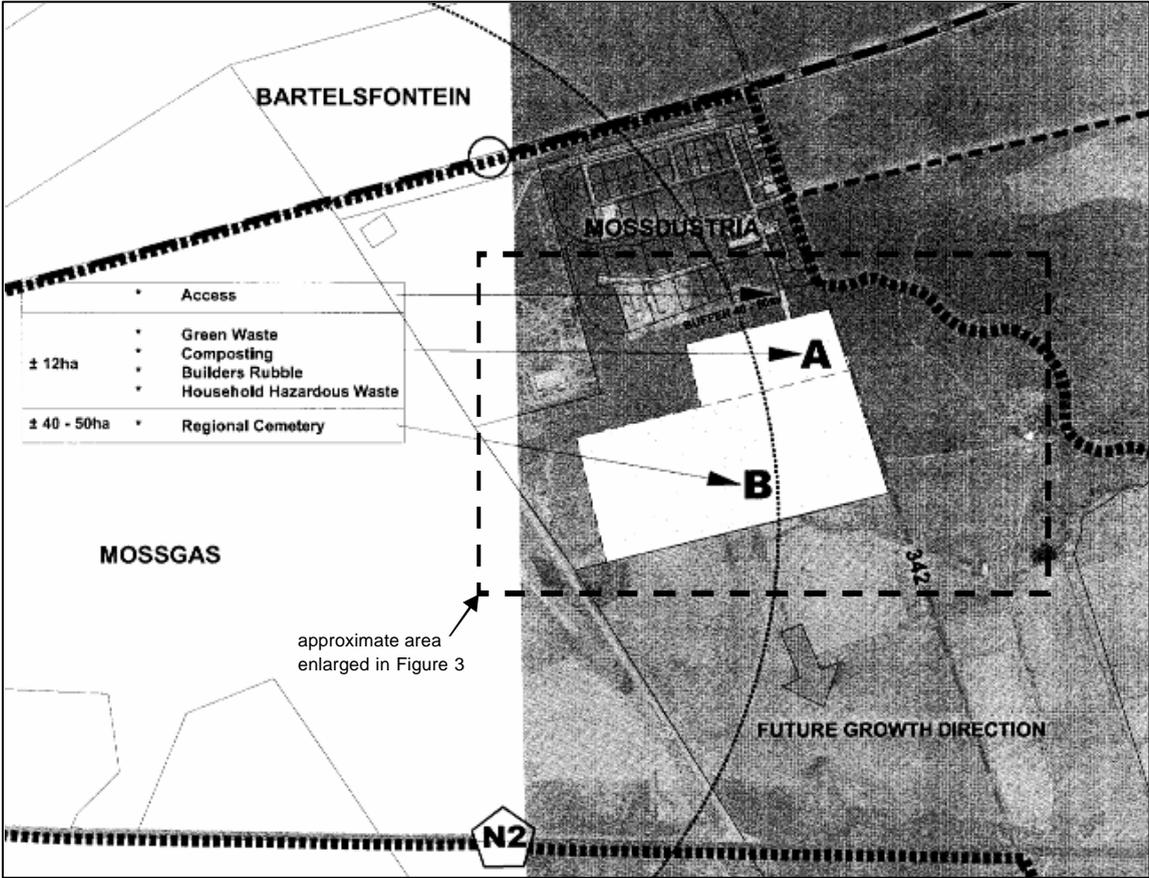


Figure 2. Enlarged area as indicated in Figure 1.

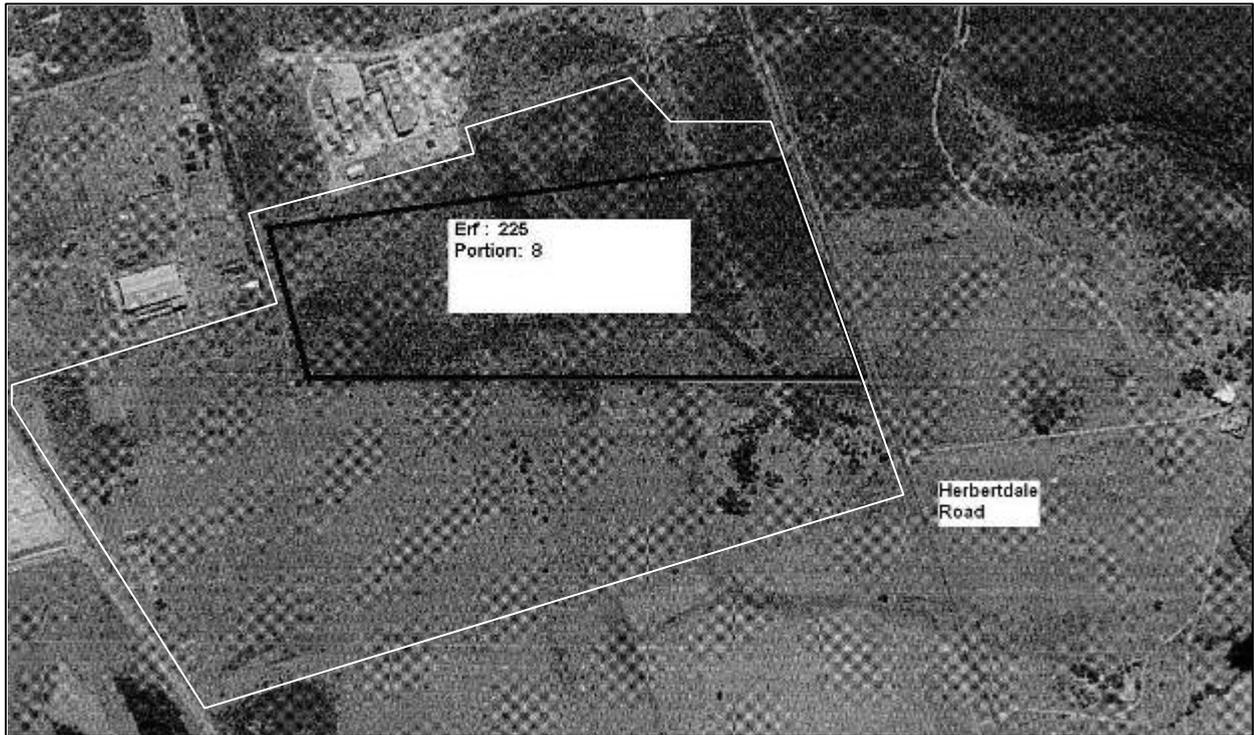


Figure 3. Enlarged area as indicated in Figure 2. White border indicates extent of study area.



Plate 1. Isolated Early Stone Age or Middle Stone Age artefact.



Plate 2. Stone pile or cairn. Potential grave. Cold drink can for scale.



Plate 3. Assemblage of large stones and concrete blocks.



Plate 4. Example of stone piles. Day pack (backpack) for scale.



Plate 5. Examples of stone artefacts recorded in certain stone piles.