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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE  
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL  
DEVELOPMENTS AT SCHOEMANSHOEK,  
OUDTSHOORN, SOUTH WESTERN CAPE**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed residential developments are planned at Schoemanshoek, Oudtshoorn, South Western Cape.

The developments will include a leisure residential settlement, a proposed holiday resort with caravan park and tennis courts and the formalising of the existing labourer's settlement known as Spieskamp.

The area consists mainly of cultivated land and contains a number of graves and a graveyard. No other archaeological, cultural or historical material was found. Some of the existing buildings could be older than 60 years but it seems that these features are located outside the proposed area of development and will not be affected by the planned developments.

No reason could be found to delay further developments and planning of the site.

**INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

**INVESTIGATION**

The sites for the proposed residential developments at Schoemanshoek, Oudtshoorn, were visited on 18 September 2006.

Developments (Map 2) will include a leisure residential settlement consisting of 60 stands (Map 3), a proposed holiday resort with caravan park and tennis courts (Map 4) and the formalising of the existing labourer's settlement known as Spieskamp (Map 4).

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

### **LOCALITY**

The farm Roodewal 47 lies along the Cango Caves route outside Oudtshoorn in the South Western Cape (Map 1). The proposed residential developments at Schoemanshoek will be placed above the Grobbelaars River at various subdivisions of the property (Map 2).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

Farm Stead	33°28'24"S 022°15'04"E	Altitude 438m (Fig.18).
Northern point	33°28'17"S 022°14'57"E	Altitude 326m (Fig.7).
North West corner	33°28'22"S 022°14'55"E	Altitude 429m (Fig.8).
Spieskamp	33°28'28"S 022°15'12"E	Altitude 453m (Figs.10-14).
Graves (Entrance)	33°28'17"S 022°15'18"E	Altitude 438m (Figs.6&15).
Chalets	33°28'18"S 022°15'16"E	Altitude 438m (Fig.16).
Caravan Park	33°28'19"S 022°15'15"E	Altitude 434m (Fig.17).

### **RESULTS**

The area consists mainly of cultivated land (Figs.1,16&17) and contains a number of graves and a graveyard (Figs.3-6). No other archaeological, cultural or historical material was found. Some of the existing buildings (Fig.2) could be older than 60 years, but it seems that these features are located outside the proposed area of development and will not be affected by the planned developments.

### **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

It is anticipated that the proposed residential developments at Schoemanshoek, Oudtshoorn, will have no impact on any historical and cultural heritage remains of the area.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and I recommend that the proposed residential developments at Schoemanshoek, Oudtshoorn, should proceed.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Elbi Bredenkamp and Christine Fouché of Enviroworks Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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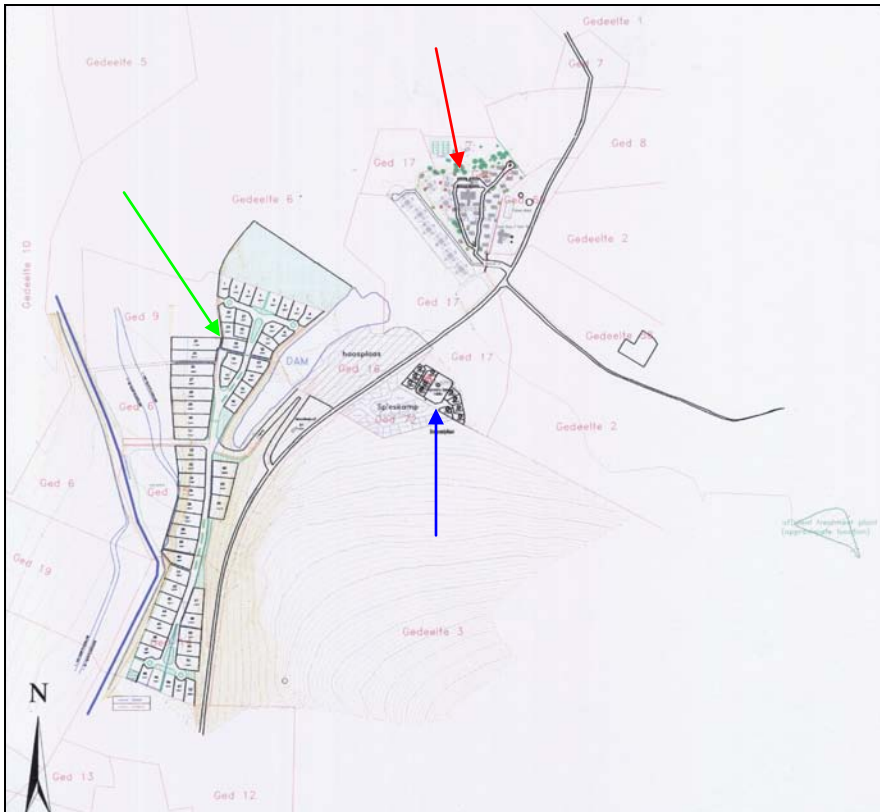
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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



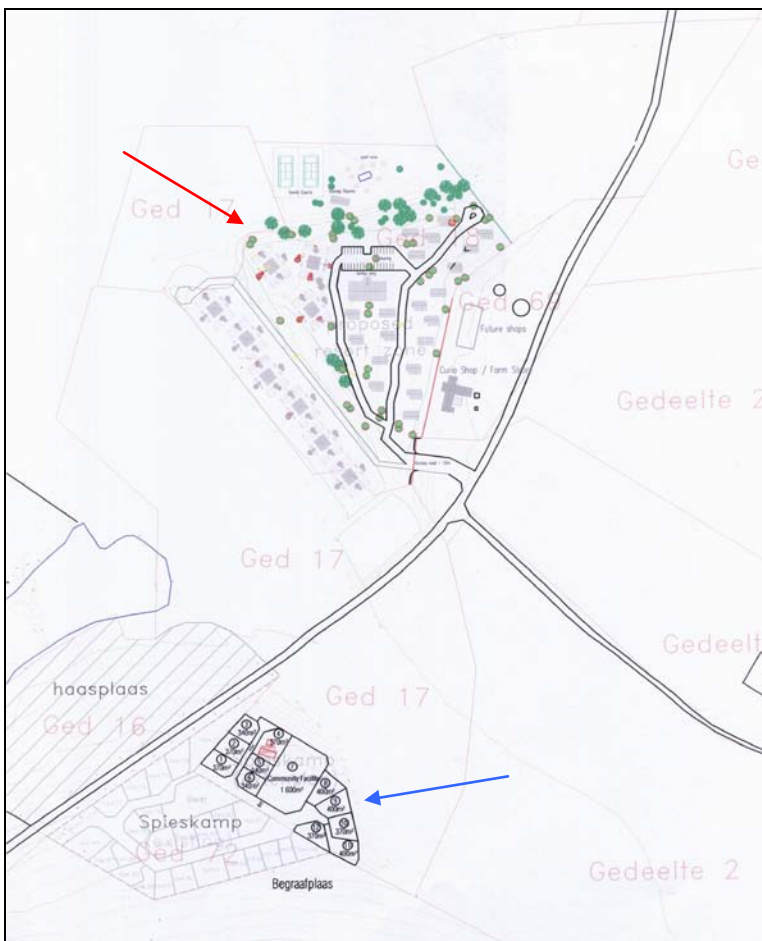
Map 1 Oudtshoorn in relation to George and other towns in the South Western Cape.



Map 2 Layout of the proposed developments with the leisure residential area indicated by the green arrow, the resort designated in red and the formalised Spieskamp (blue arrow).



Map 3 Layout of the 60 stands of the leisure residential development.



Map 4 Detail of the resort area (red arrow) and the formalising and extensions to Spieskamp (blue arrow).



Fig.1 General view of the area at Schoemanshoek, outside Oudtshoorn, South Western Cape.



Fig.2 An old house in the Schoemanshoek area outside Oudtshoorn.  
A clear example of the local building style.

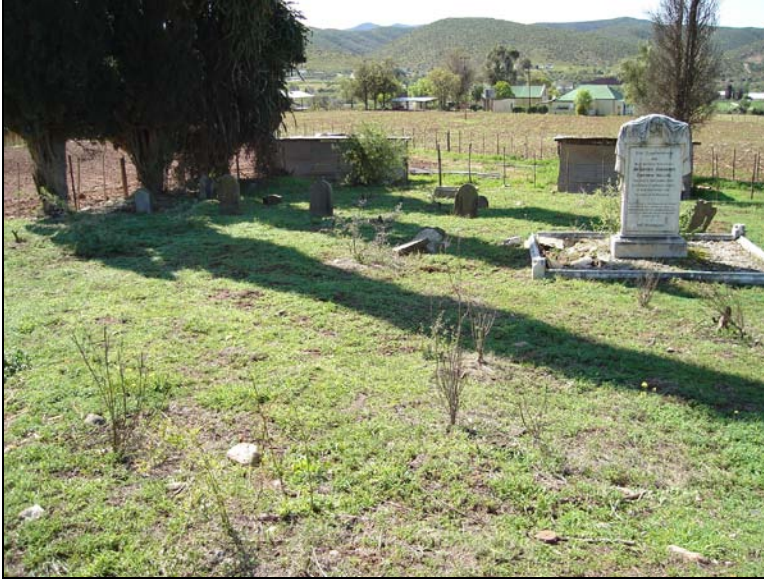


Fig.3 One of several graveyards in the area.



Fig.4 A graveyard of the Schoeman family.



Fig.5 Other graves in the Schoeman family graveyard.



Fig.6 A grave of some of the first pioneers in the area.





Fig.7 Northern limit of the proposed developments on the farm Roodewal 47, Oudtshoorn.



Fig.8 View of the north western limit at Roodewal 47, Oudtshoorn.



Fig.9 Another view of the north western limit at Roodewal 47, Oudtshoorn..



Fig.10 The existing houses of the staff quarters at Spieskamp.



Fig.11 View from the Spieskamp developments facing north.



Fig.12 The proposed area of development at Spieskamp.



Fig.13 Water washed pebbles on the surface at Spieskamp.



Fig.14 Water washed stone pebbles near the Spieskamp development.



Fig.15 Main entrance to the proposed developments at Roodewal 47, Oudtshoorn.



Fig.16 Locality of the proposed chalets at Roodewal 47, Oudtshoorn.



Fig.17 View of the proposed locality of the caravan park at Roodewal 47, Oudtshoorn.



Fig.18 The farm stead along the road at Roodewal 47, Oudtshoorn.