

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON THE FARM DIAMANT
PAARL**

Prepared for

ENVIROAFRICA

By

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Executive summary

EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of a proposed housing development on the farm Diamant, Paarl, in the Western Cape Province.

The extent of the proposed development (about 22.5 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 aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological sites and 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.

Heritage Consultant Mr Chris Snelling has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project.

The AIA forms part of the HIA.

A few Stone Age tools were located during the specialist study, and these are spread very thinly over the affected site. The footprint for the proposed development is an old granite quarry, and is covered with exotic trees. Overall, the receiving environment is severely degraded and modified.

The low-density scatter of archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.

The specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low.

The archaeological assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of a proposed housing development on the farm Diamant, Paarl, in the Western Cape Province.

About 33 housing units are envisaged.

The extent of the proposed development (about 22.5 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 aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

Heritage Consultant Mr Chris Snelling has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project. The AIA forms part of the HIA.

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 Diamant Farm, indicating the proposed 22.5 ha site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The property (S 33° 46 31.5 E 18° 56 16.2 set on map datum WGS 84) is located on the steep mountain slope below Paarl Mountain, on the farm Diamant, near Paarl in the Western Cape Province (Figure 3).

Access to the farm is from the R44, off the N2. The entrance to the property is clearly marked.

The proposed site once formed part of a fairly large granite quarry, which has been worked out. Several old excavations and diggings are still visible, and large piles of unused and cut granite, other rock types and several large spoil dumps, occur on the site (Figures 3-5). Several gravel access roads are present on the steep west-facing slopes of the site, which is almost totally obscured by exotic Pine, Blue Gum and Port Jackson trees. The surrounding land use comprises mainly vineyards. Some disused and rusted mine-related industry equipment occurs on the lowermost slopes of the property, close to several farm labourer cottages (Figure 6).

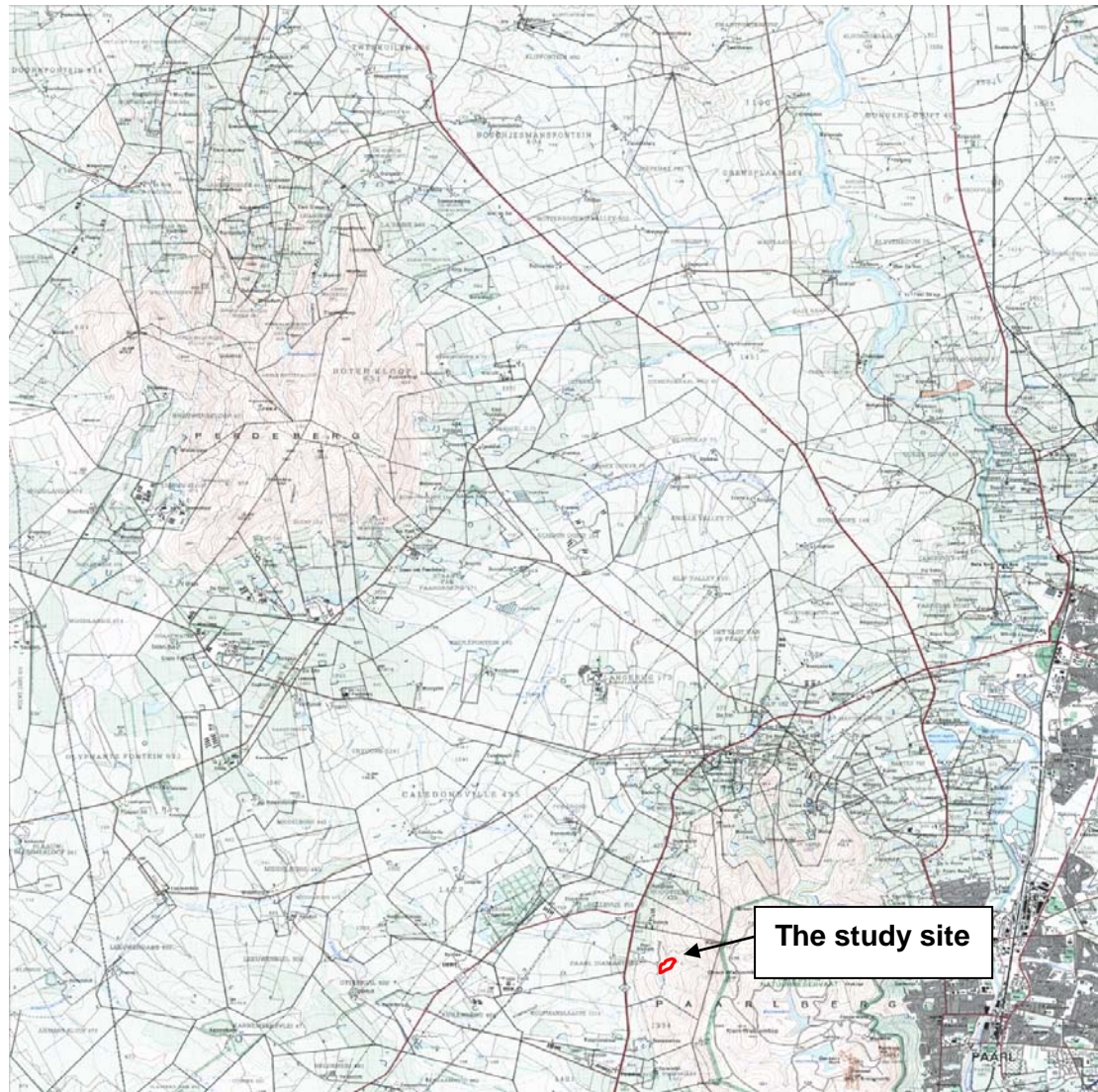


Figure 1. Locality map (3318 DB Paarl)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of Diamante Farm indicating the 22.5 ha footprint.



Figure 3. View of the forested site from the steep mountain slopes.



Figure 4. Worked out quarry on the site.



Figure 5. Worked out quarry on the site.



Figure 6. View from the site facing north west



Figure 7. Old mine-industry equipment

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the proposed 22.5ha site.

The site visit and assessment took place on 20th May 2005.

5. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

There were no limitations or constraints associated with the proposed project.

6. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

...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 in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

6.1.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

6.1.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

6.1.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, 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.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

Six Later Stone Age and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were located during the study, but these are spread very thinly over the receiving environment.

Two typical triangular-shaped MSA flakes (both with characteristic faceted platforms) made on locally available quartzite were located in one of the gravel access road on the site.

Four Later Stone Age tools, including two small, thin flakes, one small core, and one chunk were located during the study. The tools were found in one of the several gravel roads that access the property, while one flake was noted in one of the worked out quarries. One of the tools are in quartzite, while two are, interestingly, made on silcrete. The small irregular core is in cobble quartz. The quartzite and quartz is locally available, but the source of the silcrete is unknown.

The tools all occur in a secondary and severely disturbed context.

It is interesting to note that LSA tools in the Paarl region are rare, which are mostly dominated by Early Stone Age and MSA remains.

The low-density scatter of archaeological material has been graded low local significance and no mitigation is required.

8. IMPACT STATEMENT

The specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low.

The probability of locating significant precolonial archaeological remains during implementation of the proposed project is likely to be improbable.

9. CONCLUSION

The archaeological assessment of the proposed housing development on a 22.5 ha portion of the farm Diamant in Paarl, has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

The receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.