

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
KAROO HERITAGE ESTATE AND OUDTSHOORN GOLF CLUB
OUDTSHOORN**

Prepared for

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Executive summary

Environmental Consultants, Hilland Associates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Karoo Heritage Estate and Oudtshoorn Golf Club, in the Western Cape Province.

Oudtshoorn Golf Club is an existing 18-hole golf course development with club house and associated amenities.

The intention of the development is to upgrade the existing golf club, including the development of a 120-room Boutique Hotel.

The development also envisages a residential estate surrounding the upgraded golf course.

The extent of the proposed development (about 250 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 heritage 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.

Ron Martin Heritage Consultancy has been appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project.

The archaeological heritage assessment forms part of the HIA.

Relatively large numbers of Early Stone Age (ESA) and Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were located during the archaeological assessment, but these are spread thinly over the surrounding environment, and occur mostly in a disturbed and highly modified and degraded context. A few Later Stone Age tools were also recorded during the baseline study.

The study site and surrounding area has been heavily impacted on over many years, mainly as a result of large quarrying and diggings, sand mining, dumping and the widespread use of 4 x 4 and other off-road vehicles. Overgrazing, slope wash and erosion is also evident over the site and the surrounding area.

The archaeological heritage remains located during the study have been graded low local significance.

It is important to note that large numbers of unmarked graves occur in a recognised, but informal cemetery alongside the town's oldest cemetery, on land immediately to the north west of the existing golf course club.

The graves, comprising raised mounds covered with round quartzite cobbles, some scattered with marine shell, are located on the hill slopes close to the proposed development footprint.

Unless formally protected and maintained, the proposed development may impact negatively on these sensitive burial sites.

It is recommended that the informal cemetery be mapped in detail, and all burial mounds be identified and recorded.

A set back line should also be established between the footprint of the proposed development and the cemetery, so that the integrity of the cemetery is maintained and the graves protected.

A large formal cemetery is also located south east of the existing golf club course club, but this area is not threatened by the proposed development.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has, however, identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Independent Environmental Consultants, Hilland Associates requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Karoo Heritage Estate and Oudtshoorn Golf Club, in the Western Cape Province.

The intention of the development is to upgrade the existing Oudtshoorn golf club, including the development of a 120-room Boutique Hotel.

The development also envisages a residential estate surrounding the upgraded golf course. About 512 units are planned.

The affected property is currently zoned Recreational and Rural.

The properties forming the subject matter of this report are known as:

- Erven 5116
- Erven 3065
- Erven 3055
- Portions of Erven 1 & 2 Oudtshoorn

The extent of the proposed development (about 250 ha including the existing golf course) 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 consultants Ron Martin Heritage Consultancy have been appointed to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project.

The archaeological heritage assessment 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 the site is illustrated in Figure 2.

A conceptual site development plan is illustrated in Figure 3.

Oudtshoorn Golf Club is an existing 18-hole golf course development with club house and associated amenities (e.g. squash courts).

Two access roads currently serve the proposed development. The one is the existing Oudtshoorn Golf Club access off St. Saviour Street and the other the existing access road to the Correctional Services facility.

The study site and surrounding area has been heavily impacted on over many years, mainly as a result of large quarrying and diggings, sand mining, dumping and the (illegal) widespread use of 4 x 4 and other off-road vehicles. Overgrazing, slope wash and erosion is also very evident over the site and the surrounding area.

Surrounding land uses include existing residential development of Oudtshoorn to the south and west, open veld to the north and east (including the Grootkop Natural Heritage Site), and State Land (Correctional Services Facility and cemeteries).

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological assessment entailed a foot survey of the study site, with special focus on the proposed development footprint.

It is important to note that the development footprint has been deliberately and intentionally located in the disturbed areas, although overall, the site is already highly degraded.

Land surrounding the proposed development footprint was also searched, including a cursory assessment of the Grootkop Natural Heritage Site.

The archaeologist was also specifically requested to investigate the informal cemetery north west of the existing golf course club, as well to determine the possible existence of graves of historic significance on the site¹.

Archaeological heritage remains located during the study have been recorded using a Garmin Geko 201 GPS set on map datum WGS 84

¹ Heritage Western Cape letter (Ref. C13/3/6/2/2/1/1/C19) dated 21-10-2005.

Figure 1. Location map for Oudtshoorn Golf Estate

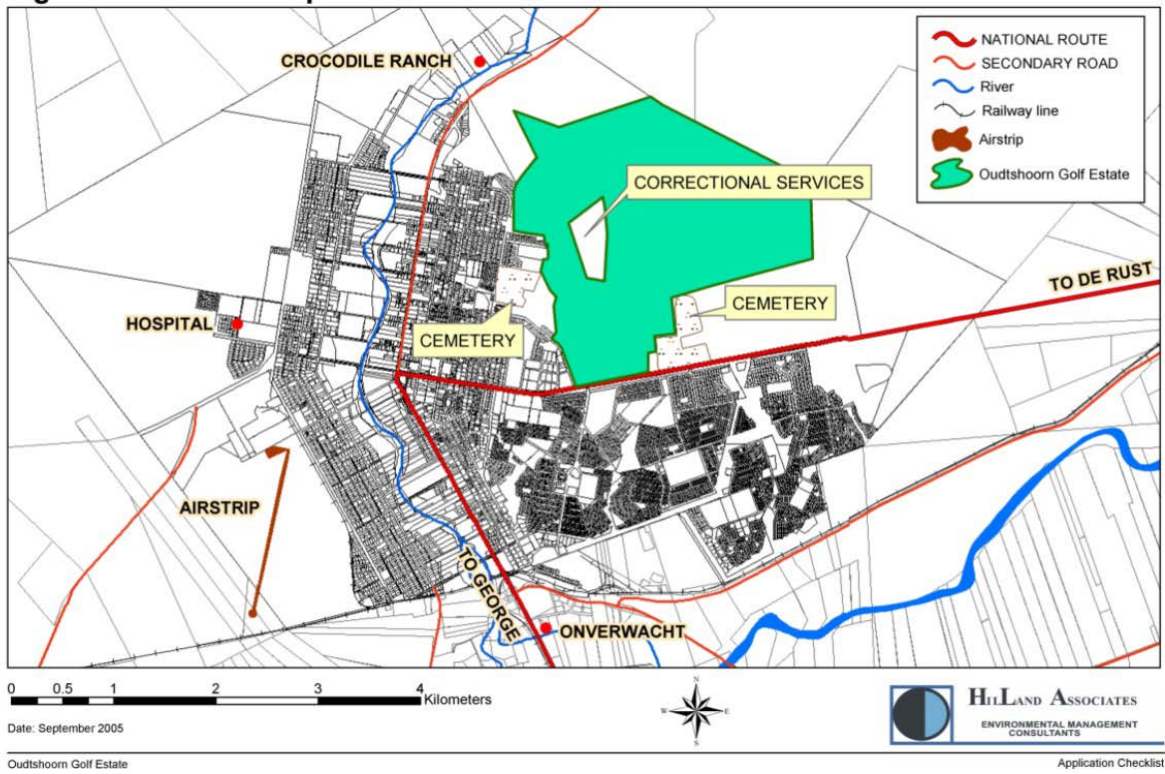


Figure 1. Locality Map



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

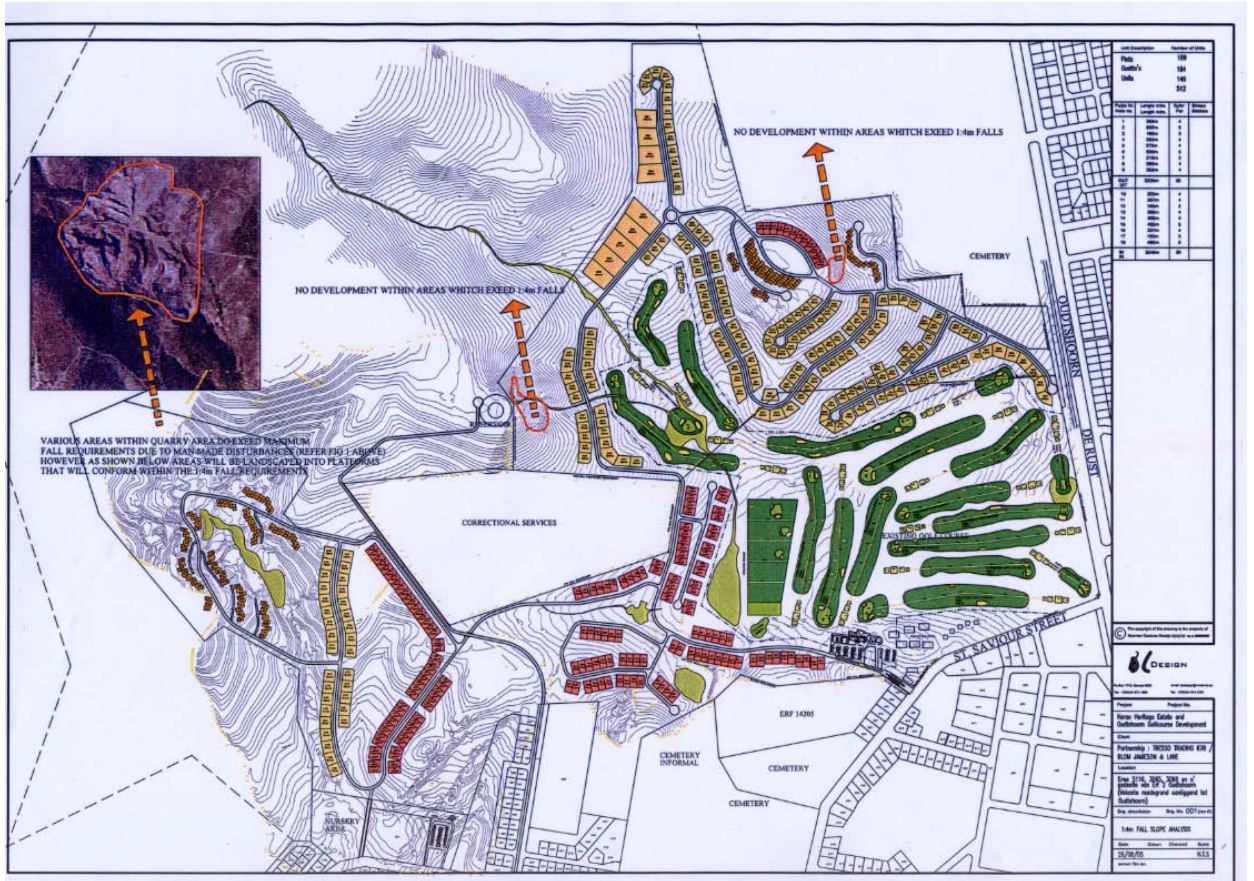


Figure 3. Conceptual site development plan

The site visit and assessment took place on the 15th and 16th of November 2005.

5. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

There were no limitations or constraints associated with the study.

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. FINDINGS

Area 1 (refer to Figure 2)

A low-density scatter of Early Stone Age (ESA) tools was located in Area 1 (Figures 4 & 5). A few Middle Stone Age (MSA) tools were also found.

The ESA tools include large unmodified flakes, several retouched flakes and chunks, including some split and partially flaked cobbles. No formal tools such as hand axes, choppers or cleavers were found in Area 1.

The MSA tools comprise smaller, triangular-shaped flakes, including several with prepared platforms, smaller irregular-shaped cores, and several edge-retouched and utilised flakes. No formal tools such as points and backed tools were noted.

All the tools are made on locally available, fine-grained quartzites.

The tools were all located in a severely disturbed and degraded context. Most were found in or alongside the gravel roads in the surrounding area, among diggings, spoil dumps, road embankments, and disturbed areas such as parking areas and roads.

Several tools were also noted on the steep west-facing slopes overlooking the formal and informal cemetery. Small footpaths, tracks, and deep erosion dongas cover these slopes and the surrounding area. Overgrazing and extensive slope wash is also very evident.

The low-density scatter of tools has been graded low local significance.

A collection of tools is illustrated in Figures 6 & 7.



Figure 4. Area 1. View of the site facing north. The Correctional Services Facility is to the right of the plate



Figure 5. Area 1. View of the site facing south



Figure 6. Collection of stone tools from Area 1. Scale is in cm.



Figure 7. Collection of stone tools from Area 1. Scale is in cm.

Area 2 (refer to Figure 2)

Relatively large numbers of ESA and MSA tools were located in Area 2 (Figures 8 & 9).

The majority of stone tools were found in the large, severely disturbed and highly altered and degraded area around the old sand mine, currently the site of the Oudtshoorn Pistol Club. Most of the tools found comprise unmodified flakes, chunks and cores. No formal ESA tools were found. Relatively large numbers of triangular-shaped MSA flakes, both small and large, were also found, several with faceted (prepared) platforms. Some utilisation and edge retouch is also evident along one or both edges of the tools.

It is interesting to note that a handful of Later Stone Age (LSA) tools were also noted in this area. These include a retouched flake (possibly a side scraper), and several small round cores.

A low-density scatter of ESA tools (large flakes and chunks) was also found on the stone-strewn hillocks and flatter (disturbed) area alongside the road leading to the Correctional Services Facility (refer to Figure 9).

Almost all the tools located in Area 2 are made on locally available quartzites, but it is interesting to note that the few LSA tools found are made on both fine-grained indurated shale and quartzite, while at least one of the small round cores is in chalcedony. Quartz is ubiquitous in the surrounding area, but does not appear to have been widely used for the manufacture of stone tools. Indurated shale was most likely obtained locally, but the source of the chalcedony is unknown, but must have been brought in from elsewhere.

The medium density scatter of tools has been graded low local significance.

A collection of tools from Area 2 is illustrated in Figures 10 - 14.



Figure 8. Area 2. View of the site facing south west. Note the large sand mine in centre of the plate.



Figure 9. Area 2. View of the site facing north east. The Correctional Services Facility is the right of the plate. The large sand mine is in the top left hand corner of the plate



Figure 10. Collection of stone tools from Area 2. Scale is in cm.



Figure 11. Collection of stone tools from Area 2. Scale is in cm



Figure 12. Collection of stone tools from Area 2. Scale is in cm.



Figure 13. Collection of stone tools from Area 2. The LSA side scraper is at the bottom right hand corner of the plate. Scale is in cm



Figure 14. Collection of stone tools from Area 2. Scale is in cm.

Area 3 (refer to Figure 2)

A low density scatter of ESA and MSA tools were located in Area 3 (Figures 15 & 16). Except for a strip land immediately to the east of the golf course (Figure 17), this area is heavily disturbed and degraded as a result of large-scale diggings, quarrying, dumping and overgrazing. Slope wash and long deep erosion dongas also occur on the site and in the surrounding area.

ESA tools located include large flakes (some pointed and utilised), chunks, and several split/flaked cobbles. One small bifacial handaxe was found in the road leading down to the cemetery, while an incomplete hand axe was also found on a degraded slope amongst some diggings.

MSA tools located include several prepared flakes, prepared cores and several retouched and utilised flakes. It is interesting to note that one 'hollow-based' point was also found in the gravel road alongside the golf course. These types of tools were first noted from a rock shelter in Natal (Kaplan 1990).

All the tools are made on locally available, fine-grained quartzites.

The low-density scatter of tools has been graded low local significance.

A collection of tools from Area 3 is illustrated in Figures 18-20.



Figure 15. Area 3. View of the site facing south east.



Figure 16. Area 3. View of the site facing south west. The existing Oudtshoorn golf course is to the right of the plate



Figure 17. Area 3. View of the site facing south west. The existing Oudtshoorn golf course is to the right of the plate



Figure 18. Collection of stone tools from Area 3. Scale is in cm. The hand axe is in the top right hand corner of the plate.



Figure 19. Collection of stone tools from Area 3. Scale is in cm.



Figure 20. Collection of stone tools from Area 3. The hollow-based point is in the bottom right hand of the plate.

7.1 Grootkop Natural Heritage Site

A low-density scatter of ESA and a few MSA tools were located during a cursory assessment of the Grootkop Natural Heritage Site. The site unfortunately has been heavily impacted on by the illegal use of 4 x 4 and other off road vehicles. Numerous tracks and small footpaths occur over the site. Some dumping and digging is also evident.

8. GRAVES

Several cemeteries surround the study site (refer to Figure 1).

A large, formal cemetery is located south east of the existing golf course, behind Area 3. The cemetery is not threatened by the proposed development, as a substantial set back line has been established.

However, large numbers of graves occur in a recognised, but informal cemetery, alongside the town's oldest cemetery, on land immediately to the north west of the existing golf course club (Figure 21).

Many of the graves in the (informal) cemetery are clearly identified, with elaborate headstones and footstones. The more clearly marked graves occur mainly on the lower and middle slopes of the cemetery. Scattered in between the graves, on the middle and upper slopes of the cemetery, occur numerous unmarked graves, comprising simple raised mounds of earth covered with round quartzite cobbles, and scattered with marine shell and occasional broken glass jars and porcelain. It is clear that many of the graves have not been visited or maintained over many years, and is barely visible in the landscape.



Figure 21. View of the informal cemetery facing west.

Two coherent groups of burial mounds have been identified.

Group 1 (S° 33 25 099 E° 22 13 002)

The Group 1 graves comprise between 40 and 50 burial mounds laid out in linear rows alongside a small eroded path, about 120 m below the crest of the hill (Figures 22 & 23). Many of the graves comprise just a few small round quartzite cobbles scattered over a raised mound of earth, while others are clearly visible, comprising raised mounds of closely packed round quartzite cobbles. Many of the mounds are scattered with marine shell (including limpets, perlemoen, whelk and small (Bittersweet) clams). A few glass jars, fragments of glass, porcelain and rusted metal lie scattered about. Some of mounds have both head and footstones, denoting Christian burials.



Figure 22. View of the cemetery facing west. Many of the graves are hidden among the bushes. Note the footpath to the right of the plate.



Figure 23. View of some of the graves facing east. Note the scattered shell.

Group 2 (S° 33 25 068 E° 22 13 038)

The Group 2 graves comprise about 20 burial mounds located close together, about 200 m directly east of the Eljara facility for the physically disabled, and about 150 m below the crest of hill (Figures 24 & 25). As with the Group 1 graves, the stone packed earth mounds are scattered with marine shell and occasional broken glass jars, rusted metal and pieces of porcelain. The presence of head and footstones also denote Christian burials. Several formal graves are located close by.

Although the Group 2 burials will not be directly impacted by the proposed development, they appear to fall within the footprint of the proposed development. Unless formally protected and maintained, the proposed development may impact negatively on these sensitive graves².



Figure 24. View of the cemetery facing west. The graves can be clearly seen.



Figure 25. View of some of the graves facing east.

² Ron Martin Heritage Consultancy has been instructed by the developers to undertake a more detailed study of the cemetery, including gathering of oral histories relating to the 'site' and the graves.

9. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on important pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

The study site and surrounding area (including the Grootkop Natural Heritage Site) has been highly altered and degraded by activities such as quarrying, mining, digging, dumping, roads and the illegal use of 4 x 4 vehicles and other off-road vehicles.

The proposed development may, however, impact negatively on a number of unmarked (and unprotected graves) in the north-western portion of the study site.

10. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Karoo Heritage Estate and Oudtshoorn Golf Club has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

Unmarked graves may be negatively impacted by the proposed development, however.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Karoo Heritage Estate and Oudtshoorn Golf Club, the following recommendations are made

- The informal cemetery must be mapped in detail, and all graves identified and recorded.
- A set back line must be established between the proposed development and the cemetery, so that the integrity of the cemetery is maintained, and graves are protected.

12. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 1990. The Umhlatuzana Rock Shelter sequence: 100 000 years of Stone Age history. *Natal Museum Journal of Humanities* 2:1-94