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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
BLOEKOMBOSCH GROUP
HOUSING PROJECT
FRANSCHHOEK**

Prepared for

DENNIS MOSS PARTNERSHIP

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management
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*Hi Mary, I already responded to this previously.
I include copies of my response.*

**MAY
2001**

8,

Executive summary

Some Stone Age tools were located during an archaeological study of a portion of the remainder of Erf 23, and Erf 580, in Franschhoek.

The proposed Bloekombosch Group Housing Project envisages 67 group housing units, with church, clubhouse, parking area and associated lands uses, on land currently owned and maintained by the Franschhoek Municipality.

The area is currently densely invaded with exotic trees.

The archaeological remains located during the study have been given a low significance rating.

Two cottages, which include five municipal staff housing units occur on the property. The cottages are not considered to be historically or architecturally significant.

A gravel road, that was probably built by Lord Charles Somerset in 1824, cuts across a section of the site. The road, together with a lane of large Bluegum trees that align it, has been identified by the developers as having historical and cultural value, and will be retained during implementation of the project.

The overall impact of the proposed Bloekombosch development on archaeological remains is considered to be low to negligible.

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

With regard to the proposed Bloekombosch Group Housing project in Franschhoek, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resource Agency.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Dennis Moss Partnership has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake an archaeological study of the remainder of Erf 23, and Erf 580, in Franschoek.

The proposed Bloekomposch Group Housing Project envisages 67 group housing units, with church, clubhouse, parking area and associated lands uses, on land currently owned and maintained by the Franschoek Municipality.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological and historical remains/features that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological or historical sites of significance;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological and historical significance;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological and historical sites;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological and historical sites that may exist.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site and the proposed subdivision plan for the Bloekomposch development is illustrated in Figure 1.

The site is situated at the bottom of the Franschoek Pass, about one kilometre from the Franschoek National Monument. The area is currently densely invaded with exotic trees. The site is approximately 6.5 hectares in extent.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF Archaeological SITES

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the property.

5. RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY

Some Early Stone Age¹ and Middle Stone Age² quartzite flakes were located among exposed gravels in the south-eastern portion of the study site. The material was located in a severely disturbed context.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

5.1 Other finds

Two cottages, which include five municipal staff housing units occur on the property (Figures 2 & 3). The buildings are not listed as being over 50 years of age, and are also not listed under historically or architecturally significant buildings in Franschoek (Todeschini *et al* (1988).

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

The historic road that was probably built by Lord Charles Somerset in 1824 cuts across a section of the site (Figure 4). The road, together with a lane of large Bluegum trees that align it, are considered to be of historical and cultural significance. According to the developers, both the road and the tree lanes will be renovated and used as an entrance to the development.

Significance of finds: **high**

Conservation rating: **high**

Suggested mitigation: **according to the developers, the road will be renovated and used as an entrance to the development**

¹ A term referring to the period between 2 million and 200 000 years ago.

² A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed Bloekombosch Group Housing Project on archaeological and historical sites is considered to be low.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

7. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

In general, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Bloekombosch Group Housing Project in Franschoek, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No further detailed studies are required.


The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

9. REFERENCES

Todeschini, F., Japha, D., & Japha V. 1988. Franschoek conservation study. Report prepared for the Franschoek Trust.



Fig 1 Bloekombos NORTH
 Damin de Cabriery
 Franschhoek

 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	
CLIENT	INFRAMAX
PROJECT	FRANSCHHOEK ERF NO. 1696 (BLOEKOMBOS)
DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PLAN 67 GROUP HOUSING UNITS SECURITY VILLAGE
SCALE	1:3127
DATE	28/11/2001
BY	N.T.S.