

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSEMENT OF PORTIONS OF FARMS 1142 AND 1143 (BOEKENHOUDSKLOOF) FRANSCHOEK

Prepared for

Interdesign Landscape Architects

September 2001



Prepared by

Archaeology Contracts Office

Department of Archaeology

University of Cape Town

Private Bag

Rondebosch

7701

Phone (021) 650 2357

Fax (021) 650 2352

Email TJG@age.uct.ac.za

1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by Interdesign Landscape Architects (Pty) Ltd on behalf of their client, Boekenhoudskloof Country Estate, to conduct a heritage impact assessment on a portion of land on farms 1142 and 1143, Paarl District (Figure1).

The client intends to develop a 36 hectare portion of land adjacent to the Franschhoek river into sectional title housing units. The existing historical farmhouse will be used as a reception/cultural center.

Members of ACO have visited the affected area to assess it for:

- The presence of prehistoric artefacts (as protected by the SAHRA act)
- Historic structures, foundations and artefacts (as protected by the SAHRA act)
- Graveyards (as protected by the SAHRA act)
- Impacts to historic landscape.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF LAND

The land in question is currently a cultivated field and vineyard on the east bank of the Franschhoek river. All the land has been previously ploughed. The Boekenhoudskloof Farm house is situated on the west bank of the river, being just visible from the development area through dense riverine vegetation. Boekenhoudskloof is considered to be one of the oldest land grants in the area dating to the end of the 17th century. The farmhouse is considered to be historically important on account of its architectural qualities, but is not a declared National Monument. There are no structures on the portion of land identified for development.

3. METHOD

The land was searched on foot for physical evidence of archaeological material. No trial excavations were dug. No restrictions to the study were encountered.

4. FINDINGS

Prehistoric material: Two quartz flakes of indeterminate age were found in different parts of the proposed development. They are not considered significant.

Historical material (over 100 years of age): None found.

Graveyards: No surface indications in the form of grave markers were found.

Historic landscape Impact: Franschhoek, first farmed by Huguenot settlers and freeburghers at the end of the 17th century is an early center of farming in the Cape. Its identity and attractiveness is very closely linked with its historic past, its historic buildings and rural quality. Residential densification of the area will result in cumulative impacts to the “sense of place” and alter the significance of the area at large.

Development of parts of Boekenhoutskloof, and other farms like it will add to cumulative negative impacts to the historic landscape of the Franschhoek Valley.

Figure 2 Table of impacts

RESOURCE	EXTENT	DURATION	INTENSITY	PROBABILITY	LEGAL	SIGNIFICANCE
Prehistoric	low	permanent	low	medium	Protected	low
Historic	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	Protected	Na/
Graveyards	N/a	N/a	N/a	low	Protected	N/a
Landscape	low	permanent	medium	high	regional planning issue	medium

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Indications are that there is no historical or archaeological material in the development area that will require mitigation. In these terms there are no restrictions on development activities.
- The proposed development will contribute to overall change in the historic landscape of the Valley. This however is a regional planning issue and should be considered by the local authority in terms of their heritage management and planning policies. Sensitive development harmonizing new structures with the rural landscape will go some way to lessening the impact.
- A copy of this report must be forwarded to SAHRA (South African Heritage Resources Agency 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town).

Tim Hart (MA Archaeology)
Jayson Orton (BA Hons Archaeology)

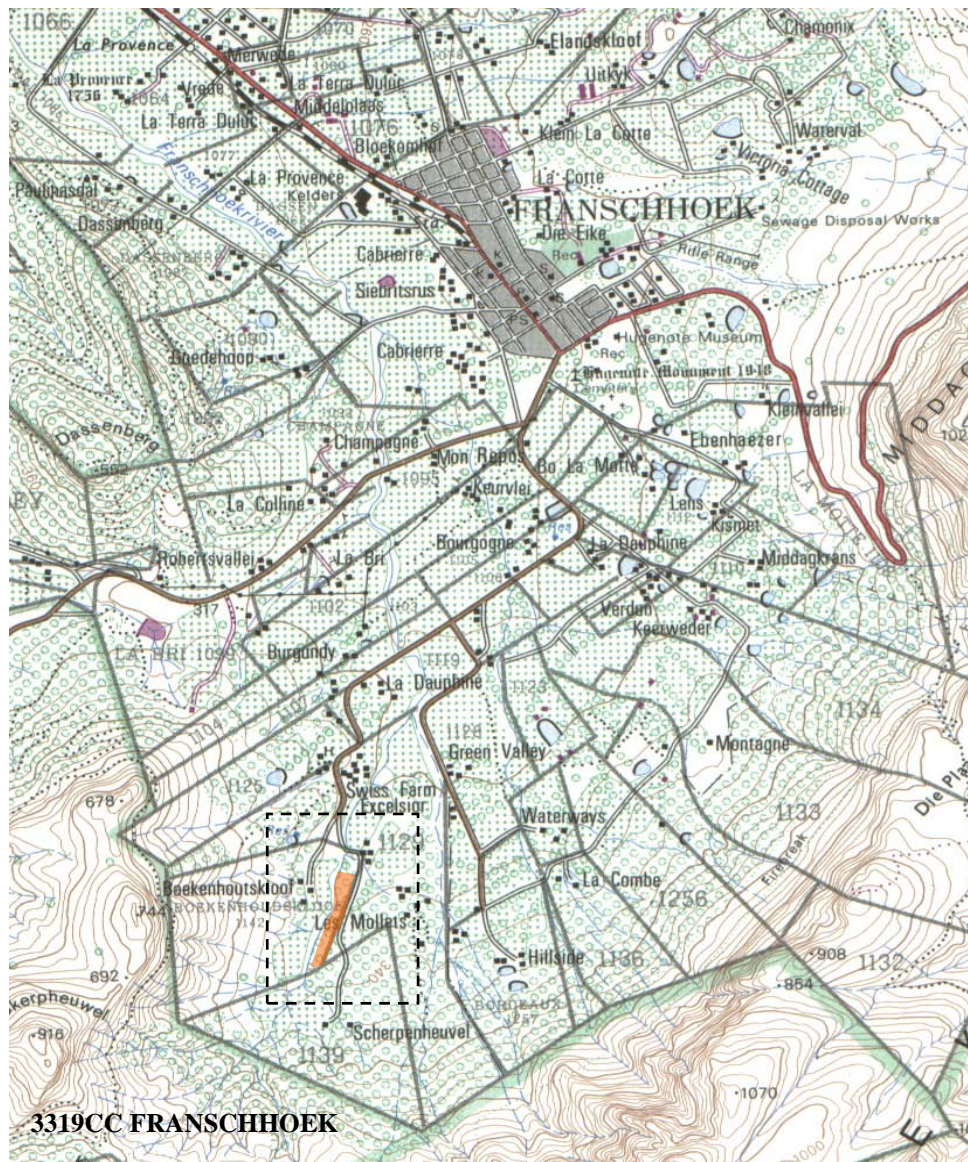


Figure 1