

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PEARL VALLEY STAGE II DEVELOPMENT  
DRAKENSTEIN VALLEY**

Report prepared for

**ANNEKE DE KOCK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT**

On behalf of

**NOVELWAY INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD**

By

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## **Executive summary**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Pearl Valley Stage II development in the Drakenstein Valley has identified no significant impacts to precolonial archaeological that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and brief

Anneke de Kock Environmental Consultant, on behalf of Novelway Investments (Pty) Ltd, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Pearl Valley Stage II development located in the Drakenstein Valley, Western Cape Province.

The application to rezone the property (a section of the farm Kliprug) is to allow for the development of the second stage of the Pearl Valley Stage I development.

...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The proposed development comprises the following:

- 18-hole golf course
- Clubhouse
- Hotel
- Restaurant facilities
- 750 resort units
- 200 resort lodges
- Conference centre
- Wellness centre
- Outdoor sporting facilities and recreation centre
- Business node
- Agricultural node

The affected property is about 215 ha in extent.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological heritage remains that may be negatively impacted by the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

Margaret Neethling Heritage Consultant has been appointed by Novelway Investments (Pty) Ltd to undertake a heritage scoping assessment of the site and the proposed development.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
3. to indicate the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites potentially affected by the proposed development;
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 sites that may exist within the proposed site.

## **3. THE STUDY SITE**

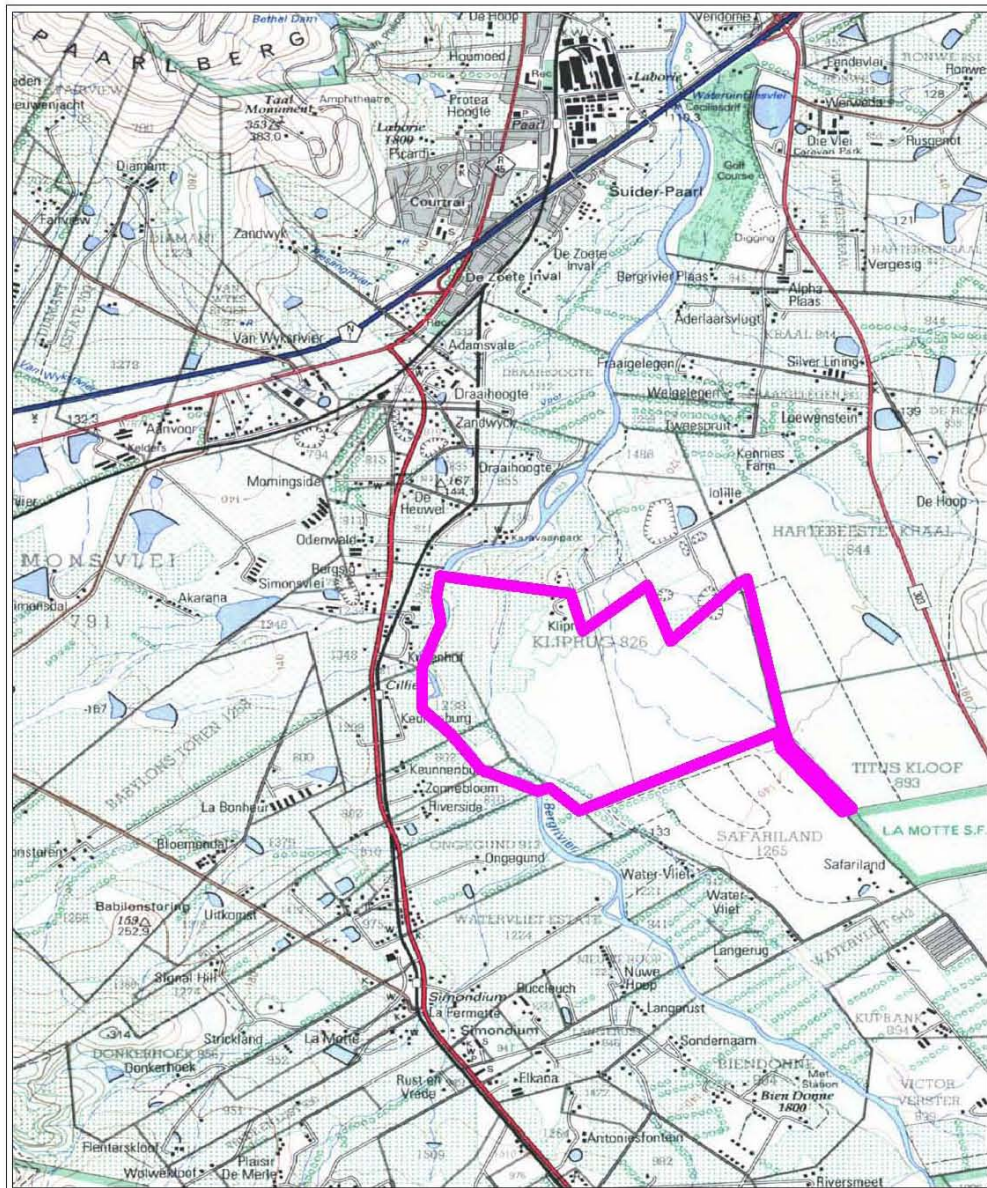
A map of the study area is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the site is illustrated in Figure 2.

A proposed site development plan is illustrated in Figure 3.

The property is situated in the Drakenstein Valley, adjacent to the Pearl Valley Golf Estate and Spa, near Paarl.

At present a large portion of the property is heavily mined (for quartzitic alluvial gravels, cobbles, and boulders) and consists of unrehabilitated land (Figures 4-9). The remainder of the property is unutilised farmland, although a portion of the Berg River floodplain has been planted with vineyards. A relatively large portion of the property is also infested with alien vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility. Overall, the receiving environment is severely degraded and heavily disturbed (Figures 10 &11).



**Notes**

**Caveat**

1. Any areas and dimensions are provisional and will be finalised at time of subdivision survey.
2. All levels are to be confirmed prior to construction.



Scale 1:25000	Date: 29/10/2004	Contours: N/A	System: WG 19
PEARL VALLEY STAGE II LOCALITY PLAN - REGIONAL CONTEXT		<b>NS TERBLANCE AND ASSOCIATES</b> <b>TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS</b> <b>PO BOX 6092 UNIEDAL 7612</b>	
Ref: PA826-11	Dwg: EX-ES.DWG		

Figure 1. Map of the study area.



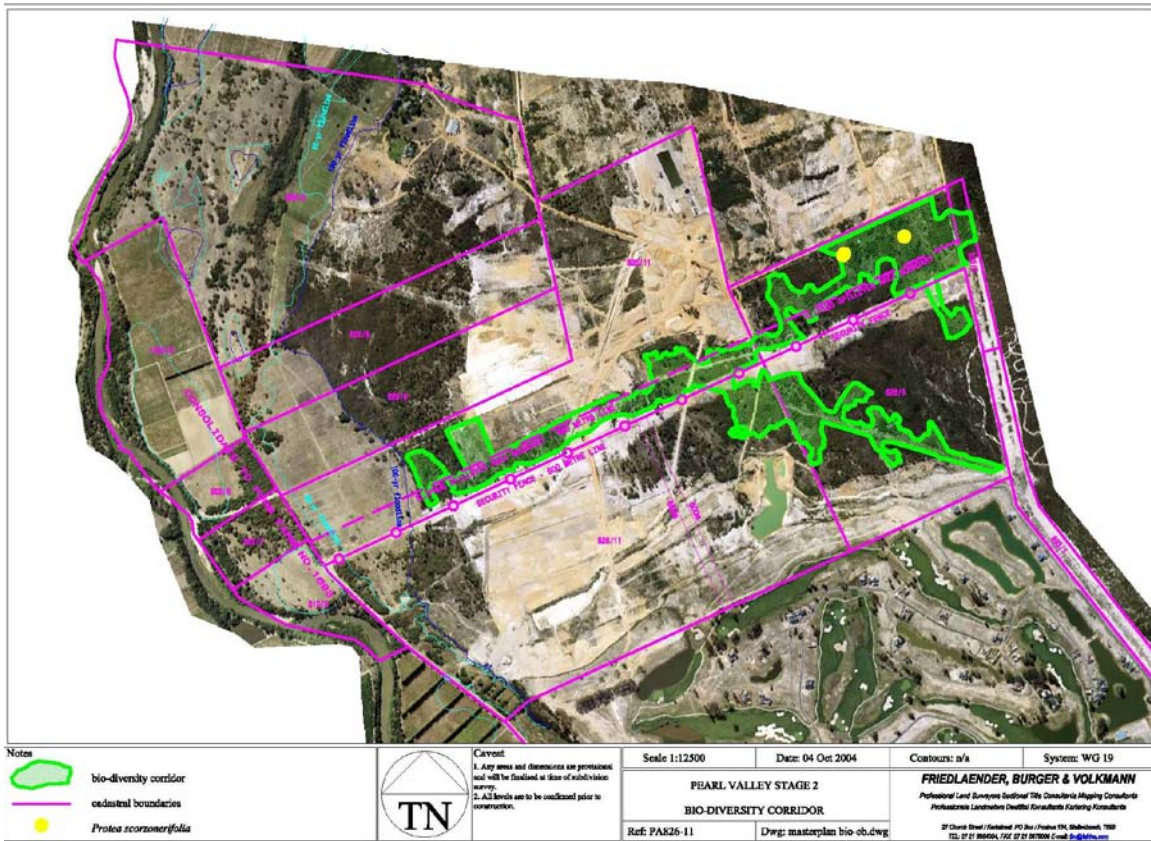


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the site.

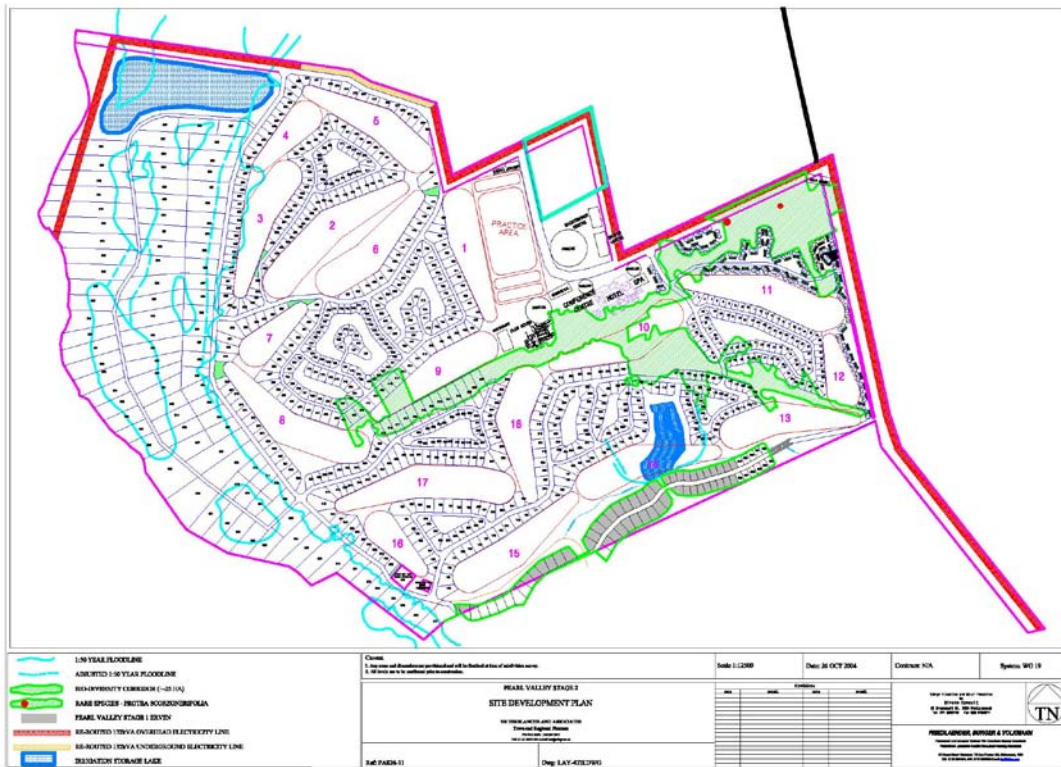


Figure 3. Proposed site development plan.



Figure 4. The site facing south-east.



Figure 5. The site facing west.



Figure 6. The site facing south. Klein Drakenstein is in the distance.





Figure 7. The site facing north. Paarl Rock is in the distance.



Figure 8. The site facing north west.



Figure 9. The site facing north-east.



Figure 10. Vineyard in the Berg River floodplain.



Figure 11. The site facing north. Paarl Rock is in the distance.

## 4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

### 4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a vehicle and foot survey of the proposed Pearl Valley Stage II development.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

Archaeological work undertaken in the Franschoek/Paarl area has recorded relatively large numbers of Stone Age tools (Kaplan 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002a,b, 2003a,b, 2004a,b; Yates & Manhire 1997).

The most commonly-occurring tools in the area are assigned to a period known as the Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (ESA). ESA tools were first discovered on terraces above the Eerste River in Stellenbosch (Peringuey 1902, 1911). Among these was an artefact type of great antiquity recognised as an early handaxe. For many years after this, the ESA of South Africa was referred to as the 'Stellenbosch Culture' until the term was re-defined in the 1960s (Goodwin & Van Riet Lowe 1929).

Today the ESA is divided into the 'Oldowan' period, which is up to 1.7 million years old. This industry is associated with the oldest and most simple human-made artefacts. This was followed by the 'Acheulean' Tradition, a more developed stone artefact industry, characterised by the presence of specific types of stone tools such as handaxes, choppers and cleavers.

Acheulean sites have been recorded throughout South Africa and are especially associated with pans, river terraces, streams, and certain types of rock outcrops. Acheulean tools are also commonly found on mountain slopes, in degraded areas such as slope washes, road and bridge cuttings, excavations, in gravels deposits, vineyards, and in ploughed fields.

Younger Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) and Later Stone Age<sup>3</sup> (LSA) remains appear to be less common in the Franschoek/Paarl area, but such sites are known to occur. LSA rock paintings occur in the Wemmershoek area and on the farm Môreilig (Kaplan 2003b).

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

<sup>2</sup> A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

<sup>3</sup> A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)**

#### **5.1.1 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 Western Cape Heritage, the responsible provincial heritage resources authority.

#### **5.1.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))**

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

## **6. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISKS**

There are no potential precolonial archaeological risks associated with the proposed project.

## **7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION**

The occasional Early Stone Age (ESA) tool was noted on some of the extensive piles of mined river cobbles scattered throughout the site. These included mainly large flakes, chunks, and split/flaked cobbles, all made on locally available quartzite river cobbles.

A few ESA tools were also noted in some of the excavated deposits within the mining area.

At least two Middle Stone Age (MSA) flakes were found among sandy and gravel deposits outside the mining area.

No formal tools were located during the survey.

All the tools were found in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

**Significance of finds:** low

**Suggested mitigation:** none required

## **8. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The impact of the proposed project on precolonial archaeological remains is likely to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant precolonial archaeological remains during implementation of the project is also likely to be low to negligible.

## **9. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

With regard to the proposed Pearl Valley Stage II development, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

The study area has been heavily degraded due to ongoing mining and associated activities.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the proposed Pearl Valley Stage II Development Paarl, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.



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