

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
ERF 2702  
PIKETBERG**

Prepared for

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## **Executive summary**

Enviro Logic requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Erf 2702 in Piketberg in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property is for the purpose of a residential housing development consisting of 113 single residential units, including public open spaces and associated infrastructure such as public roads and services.

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites/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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has also been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

The following findings were made:

Stone tools were documented on the property, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape and occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

**The archaeological remains have been rated as having low local significance.**

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

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Enviro Logic, on behalf of the Dutch Reformed Church in Piketberg requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Erf 2702 in Piketberg in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property is for the purpose of a residential housing development consisting of 113 single residential units, public open spaces and associated infrastructure such as public roads and services.

The property is currently zoned Agriculture.

The extent of the proposed development (nearly 12 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/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.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has also been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

## **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 proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (S° 32 54 802 E° 18 44 992 on map datum wgs 84) is located west of, and adjacent to, the town of Piketberg, on the slopes of the Piketberg Mountain, about 110 kms north of Cape Town. The property borders farmland in the west, vacant land in the north, and the residential suburbs of Piketberg in the east. Access to the site is from Akasia Street in the north and Tuin Street in the south. The proposed site comprises mainly cultivated lands that are contoured and terraced in the northern portion. The site is currently heavily grazed by cattle. Other than the high mountains overlooking the property there are no significant landscape features on the site, which is severely disturbed and degraded (Figures 3-6). Numerous gravel tracks and footpaths intersect the boundary. Several drainage lines are also present, causing much erosion and (after recent rains) much sheet, wash. There are no buildings or structures on the property. A large Pepper tree is situated near the south eastern corner of the property.

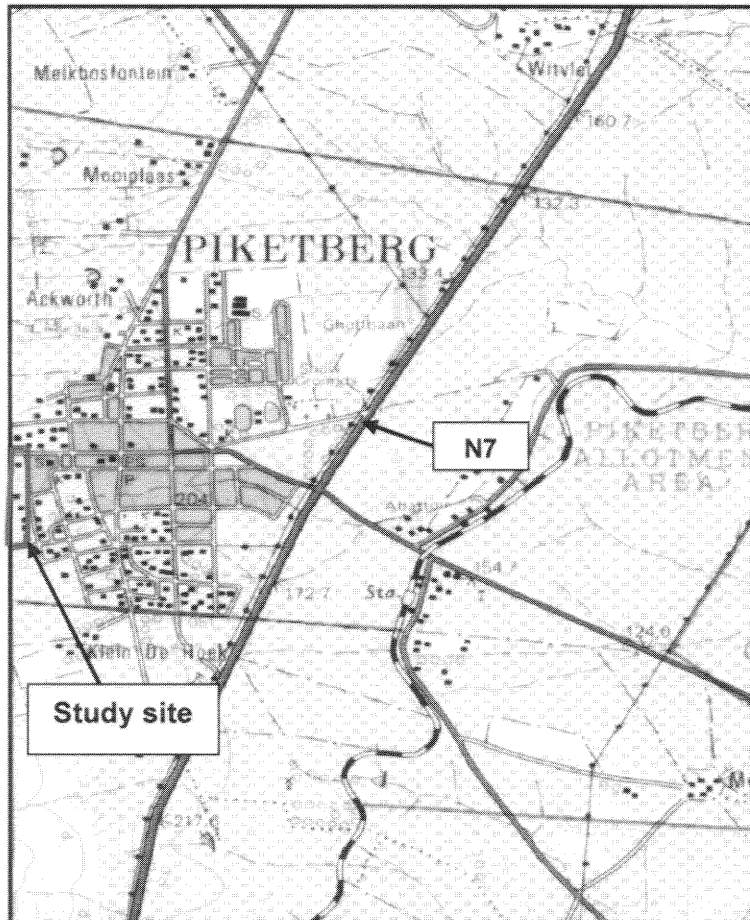


Figure 1. Locality map (3218 DD Piketberg)

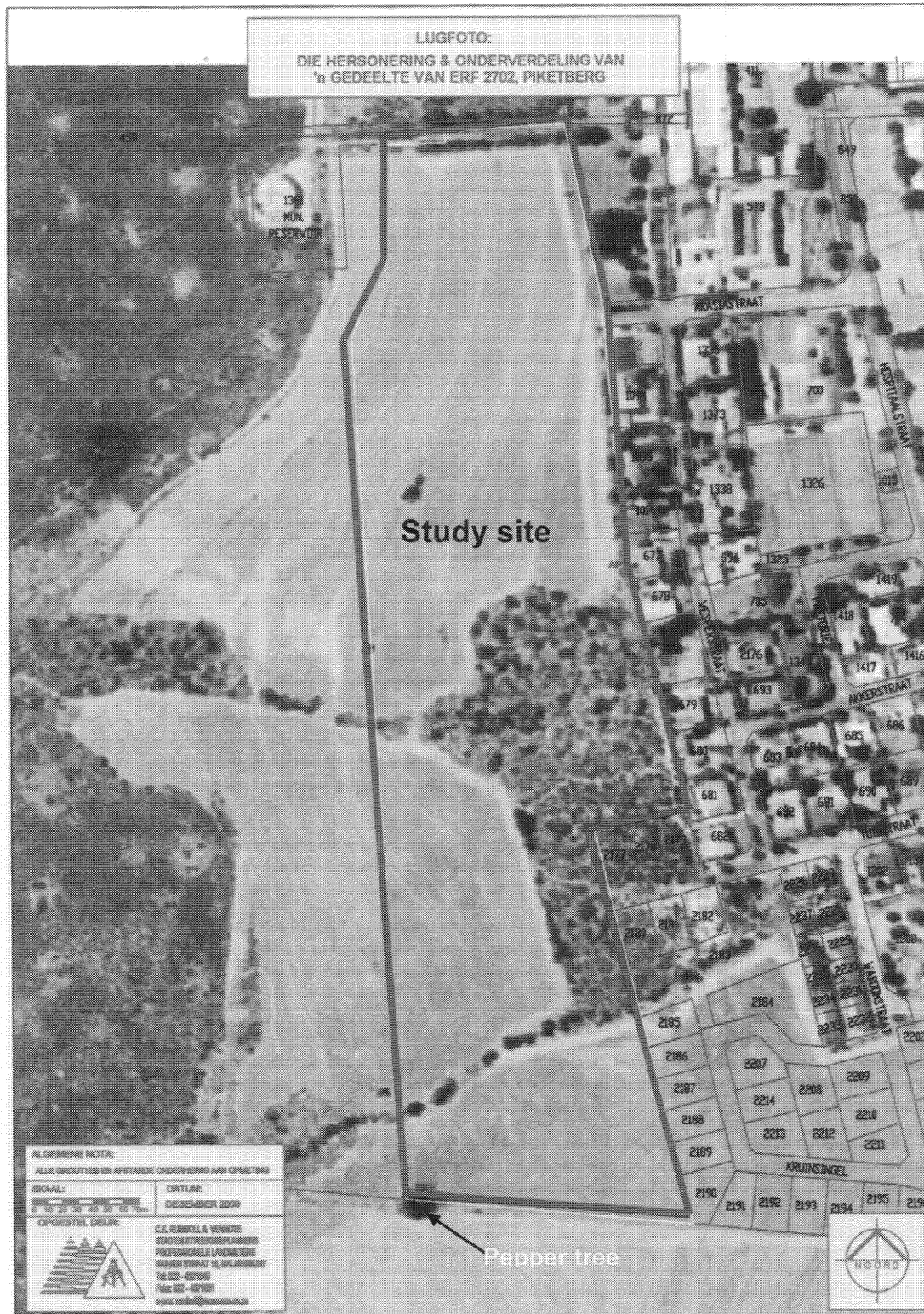
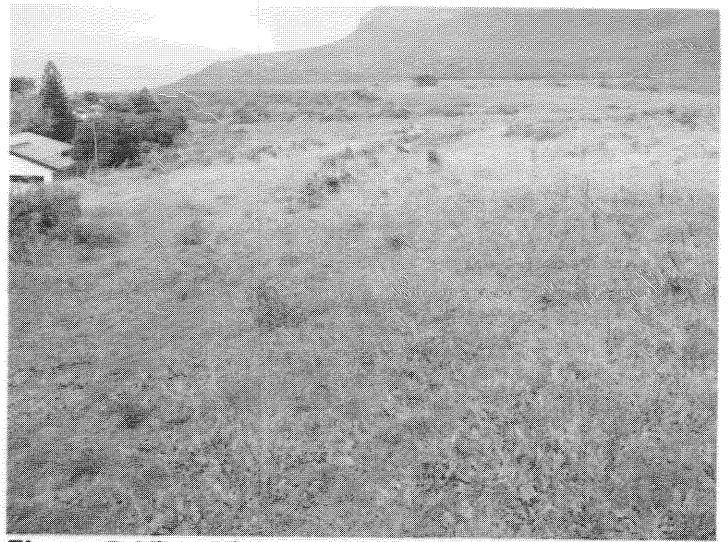


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



**Figure 3. View of the site facing north**



**Figure 5. View of the site facing south**



**Figure 4. View of the site facing south**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing north west**

#### **4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

##### **4.1 Method of survey**

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

The site visit and assessment took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2007.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

##### **4.2 Constrains and limitations**

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study.

### **4.3 Results of the desk-top study**

No archaeological heritage studies have been undertaken within the immediate surrounds of the town of Piketberg, but the Piketberg Mountains contain a number of painted San (or Bushman) sites.

Relatively well-preserved paintings were located during a survey of Portion 64 of the Farm Moutons Valley (Kaplan 2005a), while a single faded handprint was recorded on the property known as Stawelklip, in the early 1940's. Paintings also occur at Bushman's Hollow, and on the farms Akerdraai, Rheeboксfontein, Tweefontein and Langberg (Van der Riet & Bleek 1940). The writer has also viewed painted sites on the farms Staalkrans and Langberg. The rocky, mountainous and broken terrain of the Bo-Piketberg, lends itself to the formation of sandstone overhangs and the high probability of rock art sites being located. Small numbers of Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools have also been documented on the farm Noupoort (Kaplan 2005b) on the Bo Piketberg.

The Bushman's River and Bushman's Hollow, place names on the Bo-Piketberg, also suggests that San hunter-gatherers were present in the area during historic times. According to Dr Graham Avery of Iziko: SA Museum (pers. comm. 1998), Bushmen were recorded, at the bottom of the Piekerneerskloof in the mid 1700s, not far from Piketberg.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1 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 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 relevant sections of the act are outlined below:

### **5.2 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.

### **5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))**

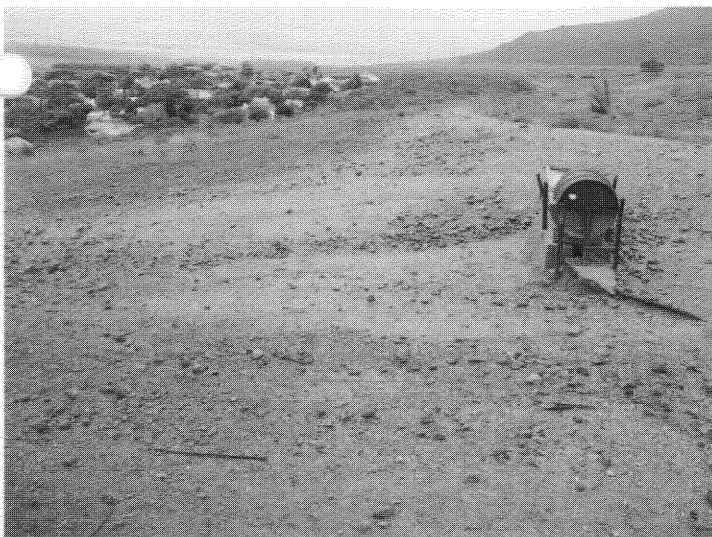
No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

## 6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

A handful of stone tools were documented on the property, but these are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape.

Two ESA quartzite flakes, one MSA faceted flake and several broken and split quartzite cobbles were documented in a large patch of loose gravel alongside the northern boundary of the property (Figure 7). One ESA quartzite flake and several flaked/broken quartzite chunks were also found alongside the contoured terraces on the upper northern slopes of the site. Three MSA quartzite flakes and two Later Stone Age silcrete flakes were found in a small gravel track near the eastern boundary of the site (Figure 8). One quartz core and one silcrete flake were documented in a large patch of sheet wash near a deep donga about 20 m outside the western boundary of the site.

**The archaeological remains have been rated as having low local significance.**



**Figure 7. Loose gravels in the northern boundary of the property**



**Figure 8. Gravel track in the western portion of the study site**

## 7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development of Erf 2702 in Piketberg on archaeological heritage remains is rated as being **low**.

The probability of locating any important archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

It is unlikely given the already transformed nature of the site, but unmarked human burials could possibly be exposed or uncovered during earthworks and excavations.



## 8. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erf 2702 in Piketberg has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692).

## 9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2005a. Archaeological study Versveld Park Rural Resort. Report prepared for EnviroAfrica. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2005b. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed Noupoot Mountain Reserve. Report prepared for Enviro Logic. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Van der Riet, J.M. & Bleek, D.F. 1940. More rock paintings in South Africa from the coastal belt between Albany and Piquitberg. Methuen & Company Limited. London.