

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE ON PORTION 22 AND 40 OF THE FARM  
WITTEKLIP NO. 466, PORT ELIZABETH DISTRICT, EASTERN CAPE**

**Prepared for:** CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit  
36 River Road  
Walmer  
Port Elizabeth  
6070  
Tel: 041 5812983/5817811  
Fax: 041 5812983

**Compiled by:** Dr Johan Binneman  
**On behalf of:** Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants  
P.O. Box 689  
Jeffrey's Bay  
6330  
Tel: 042 962096  
Cell: 0728006322  
email: kobusreichert@yahoo.com

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**Note:** This report follows the minimum standard guidelines required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency for compiling Archaeological Heritage Phase 1 Impact Assessment (AHIA) reports.

## **SUMMARY**

### **Proposal**

The original proposal was to conduct a survey of possible archaeological heritage sites for the proposed agricultural village on portion 22 and 40 of the farm Witteklip No. 466, Port Elizabeth District, Eastern Cape; to establish the range and importance of the heritage sites, the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

### **The investigation**

No visible archaeological sites were found during the investigation. The entire property is covered by dense grass, patches of fynbos, shrubs and alien vegetation. Sites and/or material may be exposed during development.

### **Cultural sensitivity**

The area investigated is of low cultural sensitivity, but important material may be exposed after the top soil is removed (for example human remains).

### **Recommendations**

If any concentrations of archaeological material are uncovered during development it should be reported immediately to the nearest archaeologist, museum and/or the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

### **Status**

The report is part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

### **The type of development**

Shopping centre and mixed use development.

### **The Developer**

Calvus Properties (Pty) Ltd  
P.O. Box 12630  
Centrahil  
Port Elizabeth  
6006

### **The Consultant**

CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit  
36 River Road  
Walmer  
Port Elizabeth  
6070  
Tel: 041 5812983/5817811  
Fax: 041 5812983

### **Terms of reference**

Conduct a survey of possible archaeological heritage sites for the proposed agricultural village on portion 22 and 40 of the farm Witteklip No. 466, Port Elizabeth District, Eastern Cape; to establish the range and importance of the heritage sites, the potential impact of the development and to make recommendations to minimize possible damage to these sites.

## **BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Literature review**

Little is known about the archaeology of the immediate area, mainly because no systematic research has been conducted there. The oldest evidence of the early inhabitants in this area are large stone tools, called handaxes and cleavers, which can be found amongst river gravels and in old spring deposits in the region (Deacon 1970). These large stone tools are from a time period called the Earlier Stone Age (ESA) and may date between 1 million and 250 000 years old. The large Handaxes and cleavers were replaced by smaller stone tools called the Middle Stone Age (MSA) flake and blade industries. Evidence of MSA sites occur throughout the region and date between 200 000 and 30 000 years old. Fossil bone may in rare cases be associated with MSA occurrences. (Deacon & Deacon 1999).

The majority of archaeological sites found in the area date from the past 10 000 years (called the Later Stone Age) and are associated with the campsites of San hunter-gatherers and Khoi pastoralists. These sites are difficult to find because they are in the open veld and often covered by vegetation and sand. Sometimes these sites are only represented by a few stone tools and fragments of bone. The preservation of these sites is poor and it is not always possible to date them Africa (Deacon & Deacon 1999). There are many San hunter-gatherers sites in the nearby Elandsberg and Groot Winterhoekberg Mountains. Here caves and rock shelters were occupied by the San during the Later Stone Age and contain paintings along the walls. The last San/KhoiSan group was killed by Commando's in the Groendal area in the 1880s.

Some 2 000 years ago Khoi pastoralists occupied the region and lived mainly in small settlements. They were the first food producers in South Africa and introduced domesticated animals (sheep, goat and cattle) and ceramic vessels to southern.

The most common archaeological sites along the nearby coast are shell middens (relatively large piles of marine shell) found usually concentrated opposite rocky coasts, but also along sandy beaches (people refer to these as 'strandloper middens') (Rudner 1968). These were campsites of San hunter-gatherers, Khoi herders and KhoiSan peoples who lived along the immediate coast (up to 5 km) and collected marine foods. Mixed with the shell are other food remains, cultural material and often human remains are found in the middens. In general middens date from the past 6 000 years. Also associated with middens are large stone floors which were probably used as cooking platforms (Binneman 2001, 2005).

## References

- Binneman, J.N.F. 2001. An introduction to a Later Stone Age coastal research project along the south-eastern Cape coast. *Southern African Field Archaeology* 10:75-87.
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- Deacon, H.J. 1970. The Acheulian occupation at Amanzi Springs, Uitenhage District, Cape Province. *Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums*. 8:89-189.
- Deacon, H.J. & Deacon, J. *Human beginnings in South Africa*. Cape Town: David Phillips Publishers.
- Rudner, J. 1968. Strandloper pottery from South and South West Africa. *Annals of the South African Museum* 49:441-663.

## Relevant impact assessments

None nearby

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

### Area surveyed

#### Location data

The proposed Witteklip agricultural village (Portions 22 and 40 of the farm Witteklip) is situated 36 kilometres west of the Port Elizabeth CBD, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Port Elizabeth District, Eastern Cape (Maps 1-2). It is situated at the junction and next to the R102 and N2 roads to Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth respectively and between the narrow gauge railway line and the R102.

## Map

1:50 000 3325 CC Loerie

## **Methodology**

GPS readings were taken with a Garmin Plus II

The investigation was conducted on foot. The entire property is covered by dense grass and patches fynbos, exotic trees and shrubs. Large area have been ploughed and planted with grass. Other land use disturbances of the property include small scale agricultural activities, residential houses and structures (GPS reading close to centre, 33.54.8,46S; 25.13.55,42E) (Figs 1-4). No archaeological sites/materials were found.



**Figs 1-4. Different views of the property for the proposed Witteklip development.**

## **Survey/Description of sites**

No visible archaeological sites were found.

## **Discussion**

The proposed area for development is of low cultural sensitivity. The area investigated is situated further than 5 km from the coast and falls outside the maximum distance shell middens are

expected to be found from the beach. It is unlikely that any archaeological or historical material of any value will be found *in situ* or of any contextual value. Notwithstanding, there is always a possibility that human remains and/or other archaeological and historical material may be uncovered during the development removed. Such material must be reported to the nearest museum, archaeologist or to the South African Heritage Resources Agency if exposed (see general remarks and conditions below).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. In the unlikely event that any concentrations of archaeological material are exposed during construction, all work in that area should stop and it should be reported immediately to the nearest museum/archaeologist or to the South African Heritage Resources Agency so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time should be allowed to remove/collect such material (See appendix 1 for a list of possible archaeological sites that maybe found in the area).
2. Construction managers/foremen should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites.

## GENERAL REMARKS AND CONDITIONS

**Note:** This report is a phase 1 archaeological heritage impact assessment/investigation only and does not include or exempt other required heritage impact assessments (see below).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 35) requires a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in order that all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance are protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects.

It must be emphasised that the conclusions and recommendations expressed in this archaeological heritage sensitivity investigation are based on the visibility of archaeological sites/features and may not therefore, reflect the true state of affairs. Many sites/features may be covered by soil and vegetation and will only be located once this has been removed. In the event of such finds being uncovered, (such as during any phase of construction work), archaeologists must be informed immediately so that they can investigate the importance of the sites and excavate or collect material before it is destroyed. The onus is on the developer to ensure that this agreement is honoured in accordance with the National Heritage Act No. 25 of 1999.

It must also be clear that Archaeological Specialist Reports (AIAs) will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority. The final decision rests with the heritage resources authority, which should grant a permit or a formal letter of permission for the destruction of any cultural sites.

## **APPENDIX 1: IDENTIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND MATERIAL FROM INLAND AREAS: guidelines and procedures for developers**

### 1. Human skeletal material

Human remains, whether the complete remains of an individual buried during the past, or scattered human remains resulting from disturbance of the grave, should be reported. In general the remains are buried in a flexed position on their sides, but are also found buried in a sitting position with a flat stone capping and developers are requested to be on the alert for this.

### 2. Fossil bone

Any concentrations of bones, whether fossilized or not, should be reported.

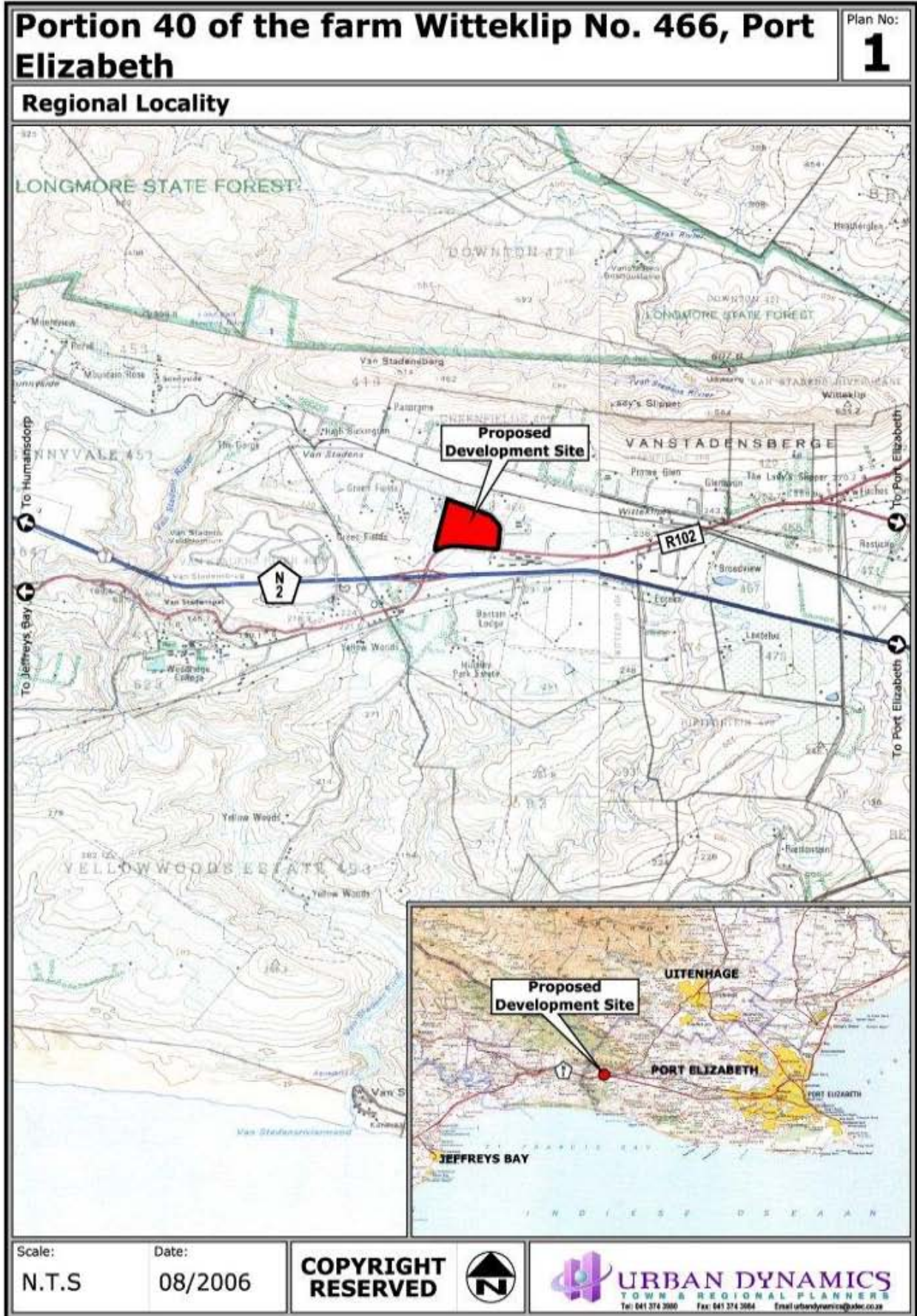
### 3. Stone artefacts

These are difficult for the layman to identify. However, large accumulations of flaked stones which do not appear to have been distributed naturally should be reported. If the stone tools are associated with bone remains, development should be halted immediately and archaeologists notified.

### 4. Historical artefacts or features

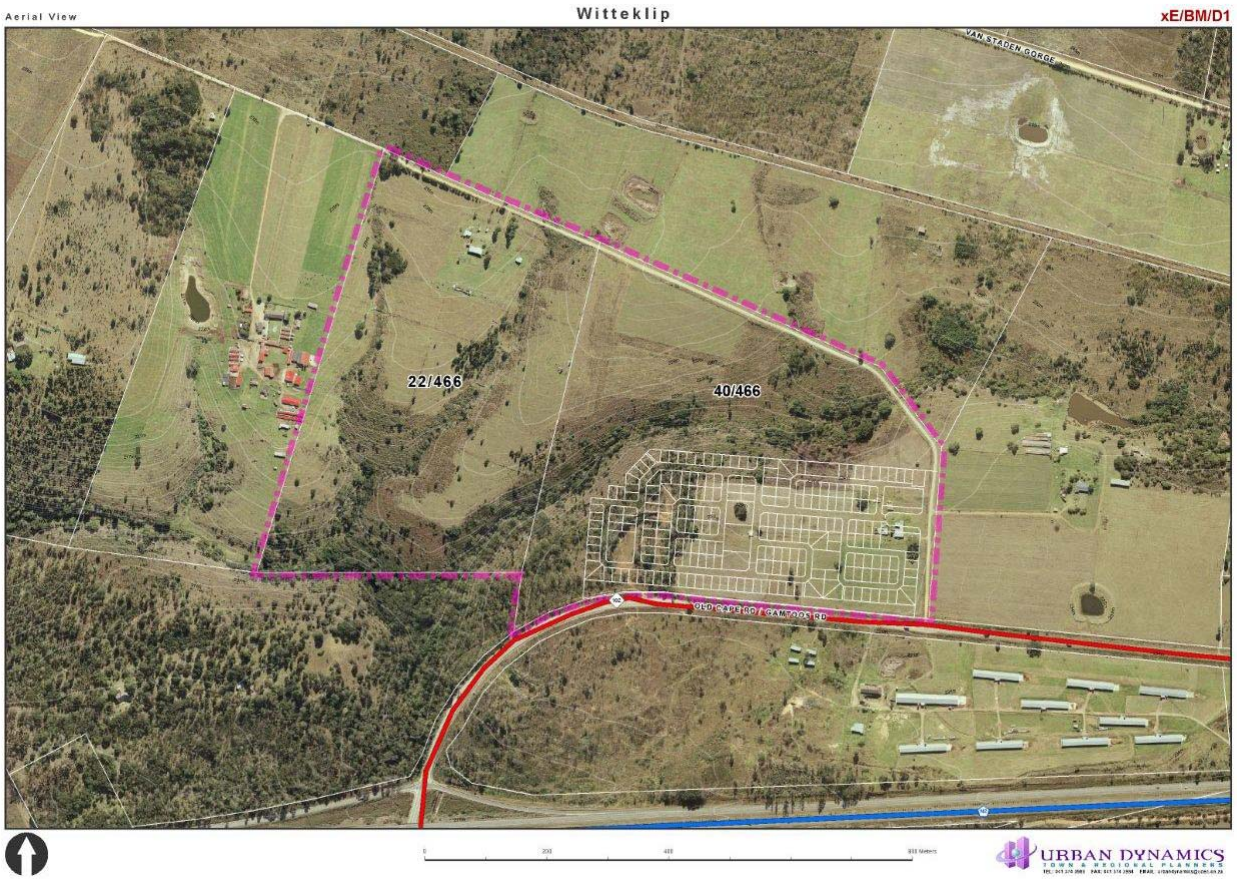
These are easy to identified and include foundations of buildings or other construction features and items from domestic and military activities.





Map 1. 1:50 000 map indicating the location of the proposed Witteklip development (map courtesy of CEN).





**Map 2. Aerial photograph (courtesy CEN) indicating the pocation of the proposed Witteklip development.**