

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  
PORTION 2 OF THE FARM HOTTENTOTSBOSCH NO. 80  
RIVERSDALE**

Prepared for

**ENVIROAFRICA**

By

**Agency for Cultural Resource Management**

P.O. Box 159

Riebeeck West

7306

Ph/Fax: 022 461 2755

Cellular: 082 321 0172

E-mail: [acrm@waccess.co.za](mailto:acrm@waccess.co.za)

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## **Executive summary**

Environmental consultants, EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of a proposed housing development on Portion 2 of the Farm Hottentosbosch No. 80, Riversdale, near Heidelberg, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed subdivision and rezoning of a portion of Portion 2 of the Farm Hottentosbosch No. 80 Riversdale, provides for the construction of between 40 and 60 chalets in four discreet development nodes.

The extent of the proposed development 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 and 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 to Heritage Western Cape of Intent to Develop' form has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) for comment.

A copy of the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment report has been included with this submission.

Small numbers of Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were located in two of the proposed four development nodes, but these are very thinly dispersed over the effected environment, and occur in a disturbed context.

Several ESA tools were also noted in the highly degraded gravel access road leading to the proposed development nodes.

The archaeological heritage remains located during the study have been graded 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 development activities.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Independent environmental consultants, EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing development on Portion 2 of the Farm Hottentosbosch No. 80, Riversdale, near Heidelberg, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed subdivision and rezoning of a portion of Portion 2 of the Farm Hottentosbosch No. 80, Riversdale, provides for the construction of between 40 and 60 chalets in four discreet development nodes.

The extent of the proposed development 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, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

A 'Notification to Heritage Western Cape of Intent to Develop' form has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) for comment.

A copy of the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment report has been included with the above submission.

## **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 four development nodes;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed development nodes;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed development nodes;
- 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 development nodes

### **3. THE STUDY SITE**

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2 illustrates the location of the proposed four development nodes.

No aerial photograph of the farm is available.

Access to the affected property, called Palmyra, is via the Gysmanshoek Pass, about 25 kms north east of Heidelberg in the Western Cape Province.

The affected property is currently zoned Agriculture.

The nearly 700 ha property nestles beneath the Helderberg Mountains, on fairly steep, south, south west and south east facing slopes (Figure 3). A 25 ha portion of the farm has previously been used for small-scale cattle farming and grazing, while the rest of the property has remained largely unutilised. The property is currently no longer farmed, but some flower harvesting on the higher slopes of the farm does take place. The surrounding land use is mainly cattle, sheep and dairy farming.

The current owners live in a house dating to 1965, while several older, ruined and renovated buildings also occur on the property (Figures 4-6)

Four proposed development nodes on the farm have been identified and these are illustrated in Figures 7-13 (refer also to Figure 2).

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

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

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of each of the proposed four development nodes.

The immediate surrounding areas were also searched for archaeological heritage remains, including access roads.

Archaeological heritage remains located during the study have been recorded using a Garmin Geko 201 GPS set on map datum WGS 84

The site visit and assessment took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2005.

### **5. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS**

There were no limitations or constraints associated with the proposed development.

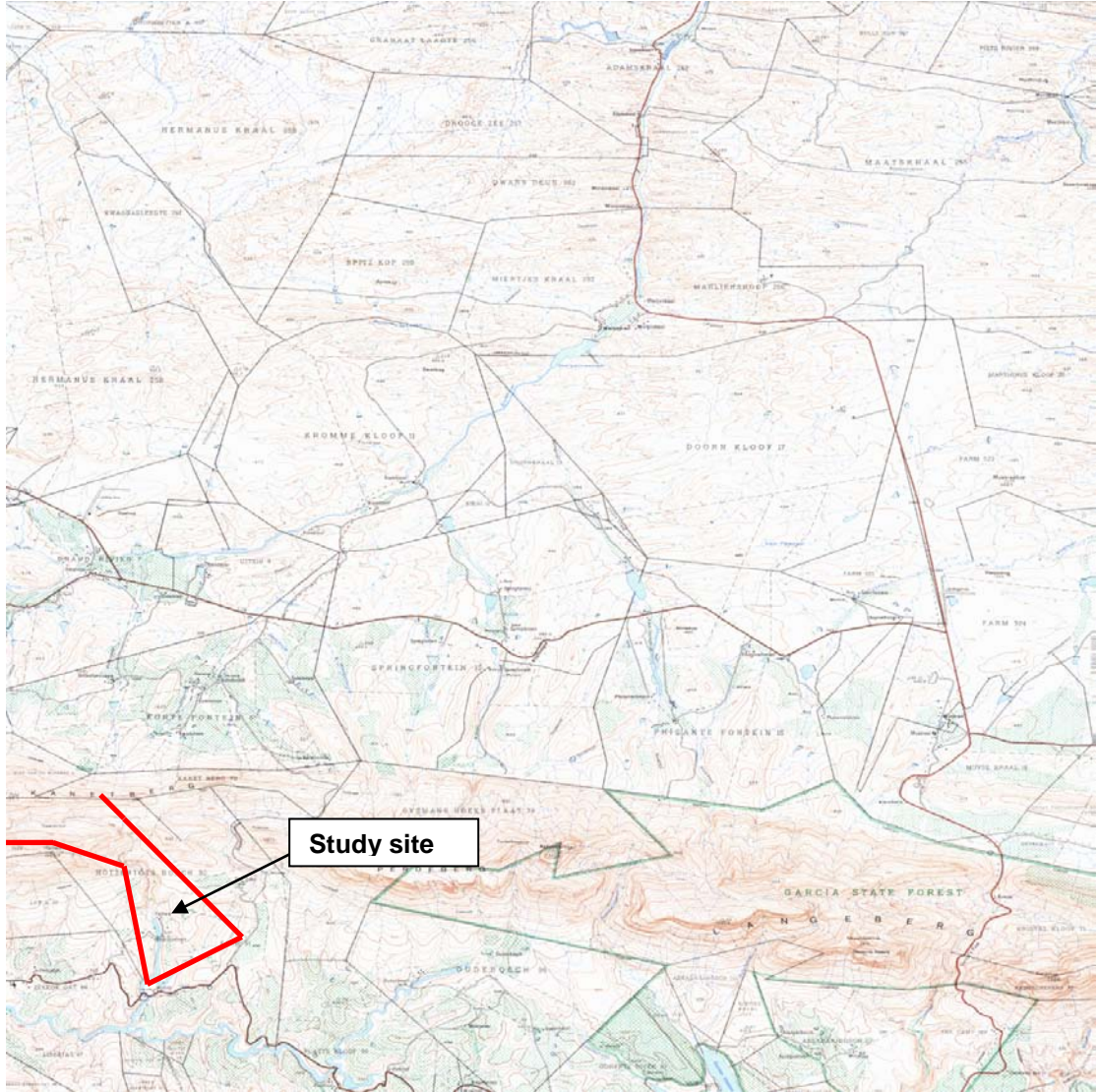


Figure 1. Locality Map (1: 50 000 Map Reference No. 3321 CC Muiskraal).

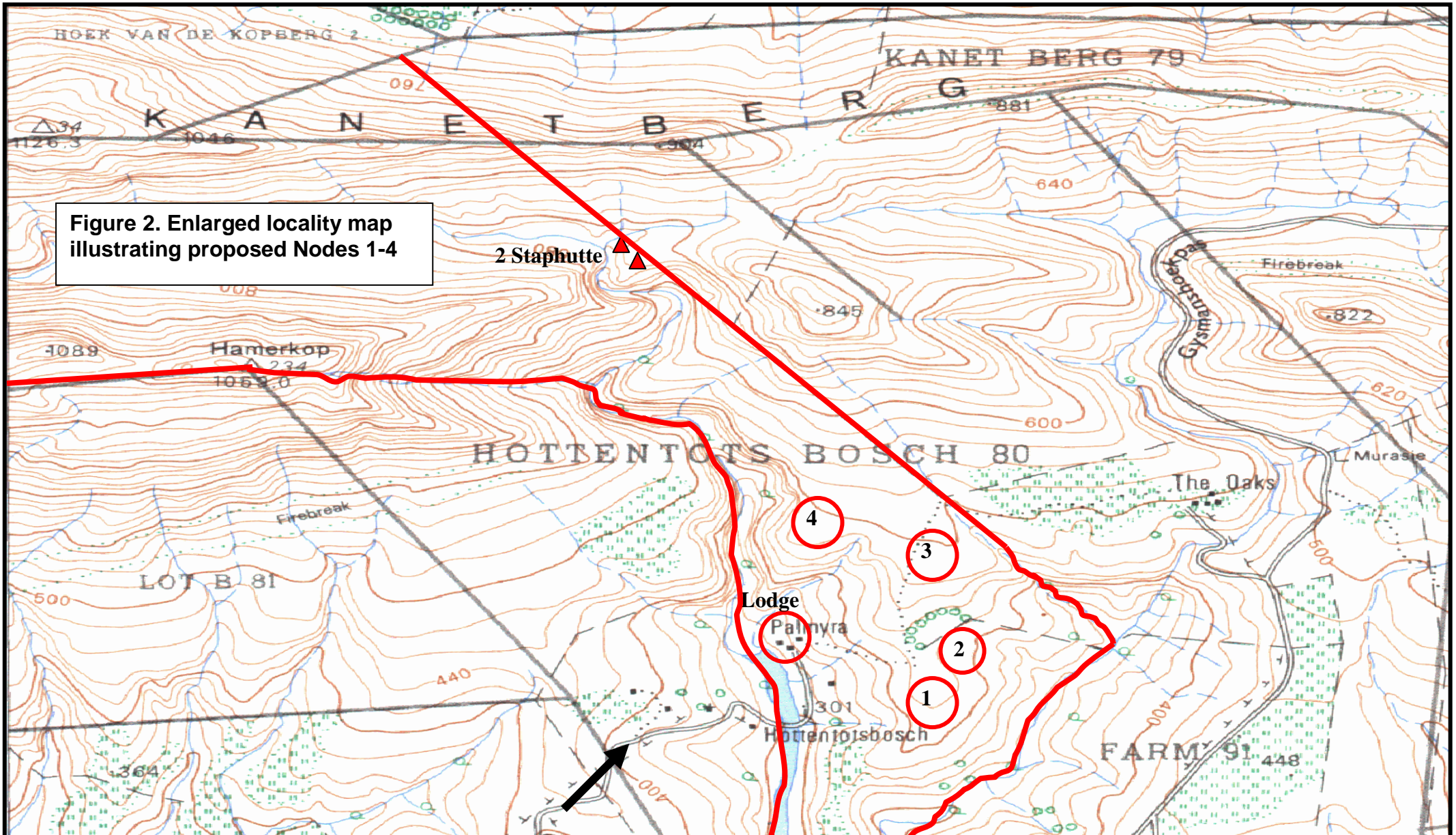


Figure 2. Enlarged locality map illustrating proposed Nodes 1-4



Figure 3. Extended view of the farm facing north.



Figure 4. Renovated house on the farm.



Figure 5. Renovated house on the farm.



Figure 6. Ruined building on the farm (view from the north side).



Figure 7. Ruined building on the farm (view from the front).





Figure 8. Node 1. View facing south west.



Figure 9. Node 2. View facing east.



Figure 10. Node 2. View facing north east.



Figure 11. Node 3.

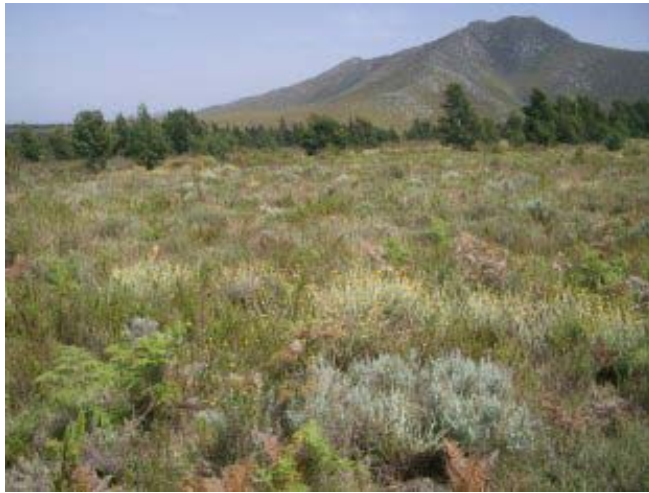


Figure 12. Node 4. View facing north west.



Figure 13. Node 4. View facing south west.

## **6. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **6.1 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).

#### **6.1.1 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 the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

#### **6.1.2 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.

#### **6.1.3 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.

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

### **Node 1 (GPS reading S 33° 57 41.7 E 21° 02 23.3)**

Four Early Stone Age tools were located on the grassy west-facing slopes of Node 1. These comprise large, crude flakes in coarse-grained quartzite.

### **Node 2 (GPS reading S 33° 57 38.0 E 21° 02 27.8)**

No archaeological heritage remains were located in Node 2.

### **Node 3 (GPS reading S 33° 57 34.3 E 21° 02 24.7)**

The site is located in an old Pine Forest. Some old Kaolin diggings occur within the proposed footprint. One MSA flake in white quartzite was found in the access road running through the forest.

### **Node 4 (GPS reading S 33° 57 10.1 E 21° 02 23.3)**

No archaeological heritage remains were located in Node 4.

### **7.1 Access roads and surrounding areas**

Several ESA tools, including one irregular core, and three crude quartzite flakes were found in the severely degraded steep gravel access road leading from the main farm house to the four proposed development nodes. The access road will be upgraded. No new access roads are envisaged.

Several ESA quartzite flakes were located in the surrounding area south-west of Node 1, in a secondary access road. A few ESA flakes, including one large core and at least two large chunks/flaked cobbles were located among several piles of stone cleared from the surrounding fields. According to the current owner of Palmyra Farm, Mr John Hurland (pers. comm.), much of the stone from these rock piles have been used on the existing farm roads as anti-erosion measures.

**The low-density scatter of tools located during the study has been graded low local significance.**

A collection of some of the tools located during the study are illustrated in Figures 14 and 15.



Figure 14. Collection of ESA tools. Scale is in cm.



Figure 15. Collection of ESA tools. Scale is in cm.

## **8. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The impact of the proposed rezoning, subdivision and development of Portion 2 of the Farm Hottentotsbosch No. 80, Riversdale, on important archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

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

## **9. CONCLUSION**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 2 of the Farm Hottentotsbosch No. 80, Riversdale, near Heidelberg in the Western Cape Province, has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.