

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PORTION 4 OF THE FARM OLIFANTSDOORN NO. 210  
ROBERTSON**

Prepared for

**ECOSENSE**

By

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portion 4 of the farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

No old buildings, structures or features occur in the proposed study area.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Ecosense Consulting Environmentalists/Ecologists requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Portion 4 of the farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson.

The proposed development of Portion 4 of the farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 envisages approximately 25 stone and timber chalets, managing the remainder of the property as the Groot Toren Nature Reserve.

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

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the study were:

1. to determine whether any features, structures or artefacts of historical and/or archaeological value exist that must be taken into account during development of the study area, and
2. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological and historical sites that may exist within the proposed site.

## **3. APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

### **3.1 Method of survey**

The approach followed in the AIA entailed a detailed foot survey of Portion 4 of the farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson.

This included a search of all of the immediate surrounding kopjes and rocky outcrops for rock paintings and caves.

The extent of the study site is about 10 ha.

## **4. THE STUDY AREA**

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

The affected site is situated on the northern slopes of the Riviersonderend Mountain range, approximately 11 km south of McGregor, along the road between McGregor and Bonnievale (Figure 2).

Except for a small corrugated iron ablution facility, the study site is vacant, and thickly covered with indigenous veld (Figures 3 & 4), resulting in low archaeological visibility. A few small rocky kopjes and sandstone outcroppings occur in northern portion of the affected property. The western slopes of the site are relatively steep. Some old tracks (since overgrown) once used by flower cutters occur on the site.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

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

#### **5.1.1 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.

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

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA, 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. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISKS**

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



Figure 1. Archaeological study Portion 4 of the Farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson. Locality map of the study area.

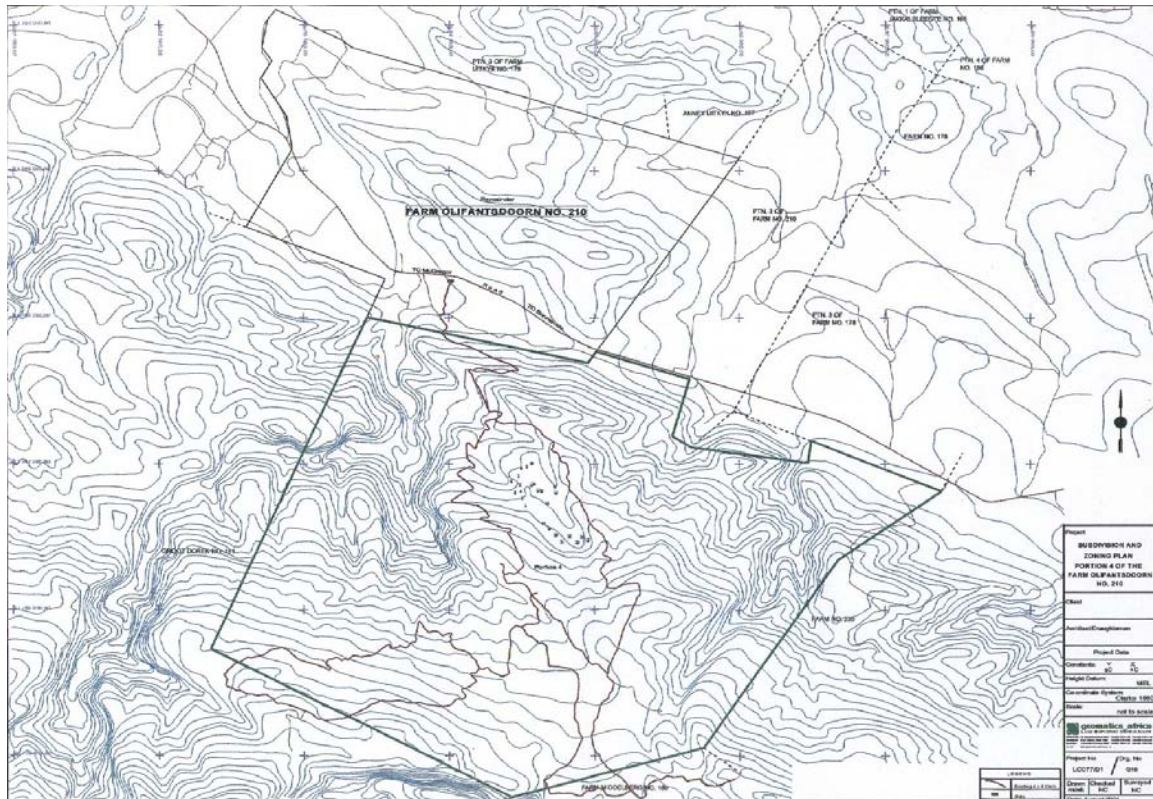


Figure 2. Archaeological study Portion 4 of the Farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson. The proposed site.



Figure 3. Archaeological study Portion 4 of the Farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson.  
View of the site facing north.



Figure 4. Archaeological study Portion 4 of the Farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson.  
View of the site facing north-east toward Robertson.

## 7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

Only one Early Stone Age<sup>1</sup> (ESA) flake, two Middle Stone Age<sup>2</sup> (MSA) cores and one MSA flake were located during the survey of Portion 4 of the farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson. The tools were found alongside an old gravel track that cuts across the property in the south eastern portion of the affected site.

Two MSA cores and one MSA flake with a prepared platform were found in a steep 4 x 4 track that occurs in the immediate surrounding area.

One MSA flake was also found beneath a small shallow sandstone shelter on the edge of the proposed site.

All the stone artefacts located on the property are in locally available quartzite.

One snapped Later Stone Age<sup>3</sup> (LSA) chalcedony flake was found in the gravel track close to the Klipspringer Hut, which lies outside the boundary of the proposed site. The source of the chalcedony is unknown, but must have been brought into the area from a considerable distance.

Significance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

No rock paintings or caves/shelters with archaeological deposit were located on the affected site, or among the immediate surrounding kopjes and rocky outcrops.

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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.



## 8. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains is likely to be very low.

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

The assessment of the potential impact on archaeological resources is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Archaeological impact assessment of the proposed development of Portion 4 of the Farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson: Impact: Destruction of archaeological resources.

	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
<b>Extent</b>	Site specific	Site specific
<b>Duration</b>	Temporary	Temporary
<b>Intensity</b>	Low	Low
<b>Probability</b>	Improbable	Improbable
<b>Significance</b>	Low	Very low
<b>Status</b>	Positive	Positive
<b>Confidence</b>	High	High

## 9. CONCLUSION

The study has shown that no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of Portion 4 of the farm Olifantsdoorn No. 210 Robertson, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No more detailed studies are required.