

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
ERF 3  
ROBERTSON  
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for

**BOLAND ENVIRO**

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*Contract BELCOM 311106*

**OCTOBER  
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## Executive summary

Boland Enviro, on behalf of Erf 3 Robertson Property Investment (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development on Erf 3 Robertson, in the Western Cape Province.

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/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 NID (Notification of Intent to Develop) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist.

One Early Stone Age quartzite flake, one possible quartzite core, and several possible quartzite chunks were located during the baseline study.

**The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.**

A historic 'kruithuis' (or gunpowder house) dated 1911, is situated just outside the south eastern boundary of the proposed site. The feature was declared a National Monument in 1977 and will **not be** impacted by the proposed development.

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 construction activities.

It is unlikely, but unmarked pre-colonial human burials may be exposed or uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and brief

Boland Enviro, on behalf of Erf 3 Robertson Property Investment (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment in Erf 3 Robertson, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property envisages a housing development consisting of 140 single residential units, including internal streets, services and open space.

140 houses  
& associated  
infrastructure.

The property is currently zoned Agricultural and will be rezoned for residential development.

- remains

The extent of the proposed development (11.77 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 NID (Notification of Intent to Develop) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist, and together with the specialist archaeologist report, been submitted to Heritage Western Cape Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) for comment.

N.I.D.

## 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 ( $S^{\circ} 33 47 50 0 E^{\circ} 19 52 15.5$  on map datum wgs 84) is situated about 1.5 km north-west of Robertson, within the current urban edge. The steep, rocky, south west facing site is very well vegetated with acacia thorn trees and thick bush (Figures 3 & 4). Several gravel roads intersect the property. Erosion dongas and sheet wash is present on the middle slopes. Some dumping is also present in this area (Figure 5). There are no significant landscape features on the proposed site, although a small stream feeding into a farm dam is located alongside the eastern boundary of the property. The surrounding land-use comprises rural farms (fruit and vineyards) and small holdings. The town cemetery is located nearby.

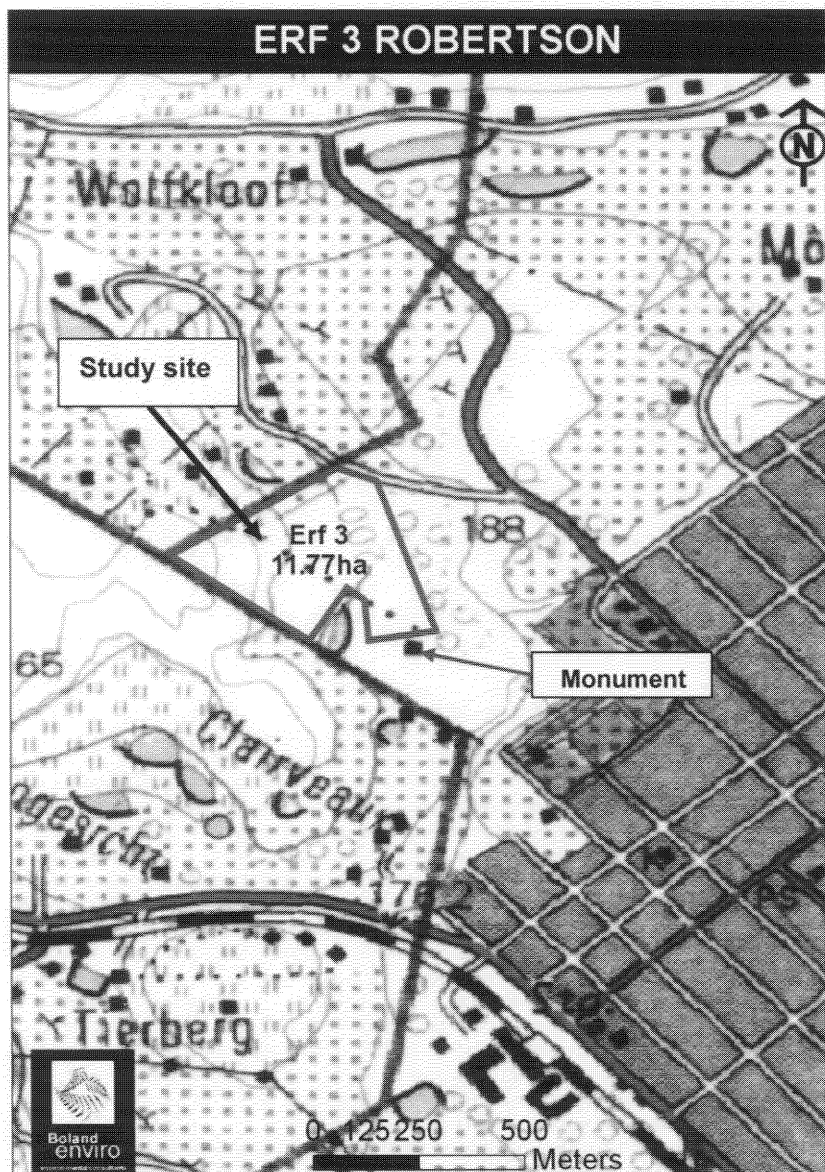


Figure 1: Locality map (3319DD Robertson)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site



**Figure 3. View of the site facing north. Robertson is in the background**



**Figure 4. View of the site facing north. Robertson is in the background**



**Figure 5. View of the site facing north. Robertson is in the background**

## 4. STUDY APPROACH

### 4.1 Method

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

The site visit and assessment took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2006.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

### 4.2 Constraints and limitations

The subject property is steep and well vegetated, resulting in poor archaeological visibility.

*Steep slope,  
Vegetation*

### 4.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no archaeological risks associated with the project.

It is unlikely (given the rocky and steep terrain of the receiving environment), but unmarked human burials may be uncovered or exposed during bulk earthworks and excavations.

### 4.4 Results of the desk-top study

Little archaeological work has been done in the Robertson area. A few Early Stone Age tools (ESA) were located during a survey for the proposed Silverstrand development, a residential and golf course development alongside the Breede River, just outside the town (Kaplan 2003).

*Archaeology of  
the area not  
well-known*

According to Tim Hart (pers. comm.), the Archaeology Contracts Office has not undertaken any heritage surveys in Robertson.

## 5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of Erf 3 Robertson.

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

The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) requires that "...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"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

#### 5.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))

Section 34 (1) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years.

### 5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, 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))

Section 36 (3) of the NHRA stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (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. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION**

One Early Stone Age quartzite flake, one possible quartzite core, and several possible quartzite chunks were located during the baseline study. The remains are very thinly and unevenly dispersed over the property. The 'tools' occur on the upper slopes, in the gravel roads and on the eroded and sheet-washed slopes in the central portion of the proposed site. The remains occur in a severely disturbed context.

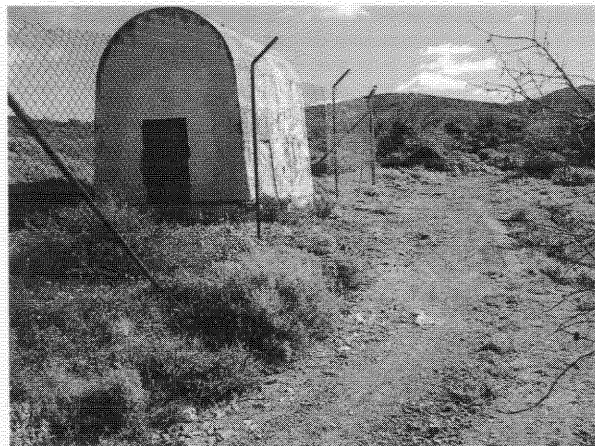
**The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.**

### 6.1 Other finds

A historic 'kruithuis' (or gunpowder house) dated 1911, is situated alongside a gravel track just outside the south eastern boundary of the proposed site (refer to Figure 2 & Figure 6). GPS co-ordinates for the site are S° 33 47 940 E° 19 52 444. The structure was declared a National Monument in 1977, and is fenced off. According to Ms Becky Sachs (pers. comm.) of the Robertson Museum, the gunpowder house was built by Barry and Nephews, a large supply-order company operating in the Robertson area during the time. The monument is also indicated on the Robertson topographical map (refer to Figure 1). The National Monument plaque has unfortunately been removed from the site. Older than 60 years, the structure is protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

What is it  
gunpowder house?

The feature has been noted by the developers and planners, and will **not be** impacted by the proposed development.



**Figure 6. The historical gunpowder house, or 'kruithuis'**



## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The impact of the proposed development on pre-colonial 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.

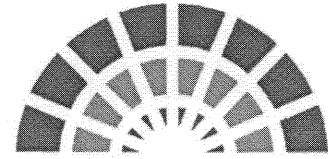
It is unlikely, but unmarked pre-colonial burials may be uncovered during bulk earthworks and excavations.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Erf 3 in Robertson has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

## 9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2003. Archaeological study proposed development Silverstrand Golf and Country Estate, Robertson. Report prepared for Ecosense. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.



Ilifa leMveli leNtshona Koloni  
Erfenis Wes-Kaap  
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Cape Town, 27 March 2007

Mr. J. Kaplan  
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Dear Mr. Kaplan,

**Re: PHASE 1 AIA – PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, Erf 3, ROBERTSON,  
BREDE RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT**

The Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Committee of the Western Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, Heritage Western Cape (HWC), at a meeting held on 27 March 2007, discussed the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed housing development, Erf 3, Robertson.

The following was noted:

- i) A notification of Intent to Develop (NID) has been completed by Mr. Kaplan and submitted to HWC.
- ii) One Early Stone Age (ESA), one possible core and several quartzite chunks were located on site. These have been graded as of low significance.
- iii) There is a historic gunpowder house. This house dates back to 1911, but is located outside the boundaries of the property identified for the proposed development and will not be impacted upon.

From the APM Committee area of competency, the following decisions were made.

- i) There were no objections to the development with regard to archaeological and palaeontological resources.
- ii) In the event that human burials or archaeological resources are uncovered or exposed during earthworks or excavations, they must be reported immediately to the South African Heritage Resources Agency – for burials only (Att: Mrs M. Leslie or Mrs. C. Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) and Heritage Western Cape (Att: Ndukuyakhe Ndlovu 021 483 9685). An archaeologist will be required to remove the remains at the expense of the developer.

Yours faithfully

Ndukuyakhe Ndlovu  
Senior Heritage Officer: Archaeologist

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