

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SOMERSET WEST BUSINESS PARK SEWER
SOMERSET WEST
CAPE TOWN**

Prepared for

ENVIROAFRICA

Client: **City of Cape Town**

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

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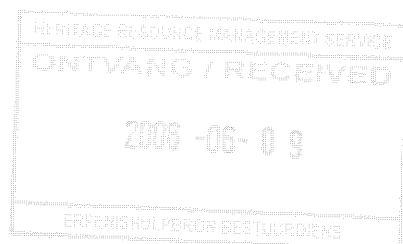
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Executive summary

EnviroAfrica, on behalf of the City of Cape Town, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Somerset West Business Park Bulk Sewer.

The project comprises the construction of an underground pipeline, to be built more or less alongside the Lourens River, in Somerset West/Strand, in the Western Cape Province.

A proposed (Option 1) and proposed alternative (Option 2) route, is envisaged.

Option 2 is the preferred route.

The proposed pipeline is about 2.5 kms long.

The extent of the proposed development (a linear development exceeding more than 300 m in length) 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.

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study.

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

With regard to the proposed Somerset West Business Park Bulk Sewer, the following recommendations are made:

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- The project should be allowed to proceed as planned.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations for the proposed pipeline, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

EnviroAfrica¹, on behalf of the City of Cape Town, requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Somerset West Business Park Bulk Sewer.

The proposed project comprises the construction of an underground bulk sewer pipeline, to be built more or less alongside the Lourens River, in Somerset West/Strand, in the Western Cape Province.

A proposed (Option 1) and proposed alternative (Option 2) pipeline route, is envisaged.

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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 and proposed alternative pipeline route;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed routes;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed routes;
- 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 routes.

¹ The City of Cape Town is represented by Mr Jerry Avis of EnviroAfrica. PO Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135. Fax 855 5338.

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph illustrating the proposed (Option 1) and proposed alternative (Option 2) line is illustrated in Figure 2.

Option 2 (the preferred route)

The proposed bulk sewer line will start to the south of the N2 near Gerber Boulevard. It will cross the Lourens River and turn south west alongside Victoria Road (M149). It will cross Broadway (R44) and continue through the Dick Dent Bird Sanctuary and the Strand Golf course, to connect with the existing Trappies Line near Beach Road on the banks of the Lourens River (Figures 3-8 & 16).

Option 1

The proposed line will run alongside the east bank of the Lourens River, passing the Goede Hoop Cemetery. It will cross Broadway to the south east of the Lourens River Bridge and continue alongside the bank of the Lourens River to connect with the Trappies Line near Beach Road on the banks of the River (9-16)

The receiving environment is already severely modified and altered.

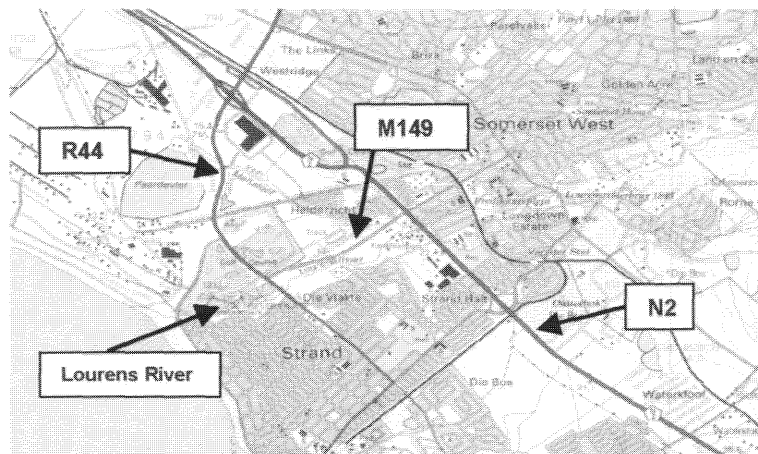


Figure 1. Site locality (3418 BB Somerset West)

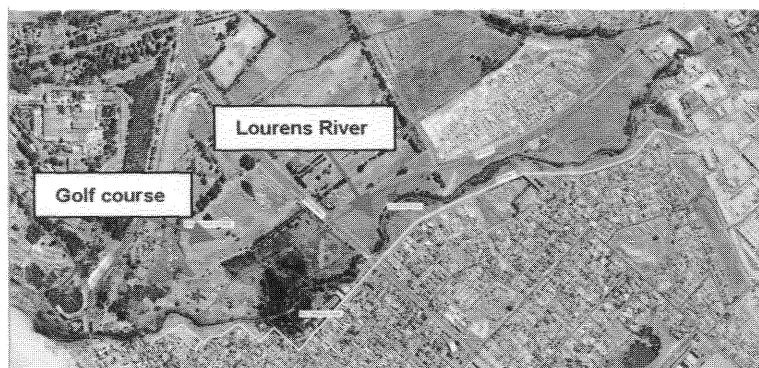


Figure 2. Route Plan. Yellow = Option 1. Red = Option 2 (the preferred route).

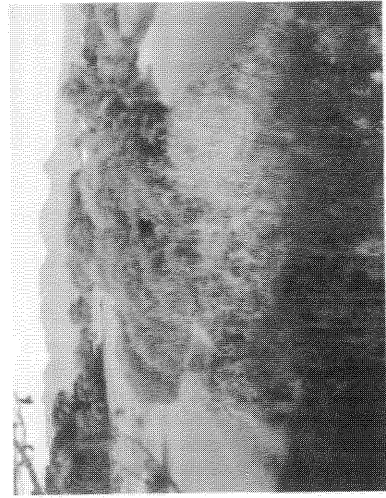


Figure 3. Option 2. View of the proposed route taken from Beach Road. The Lourens River is to the right of the plate. The Strand Golf Course is to the left of the plate

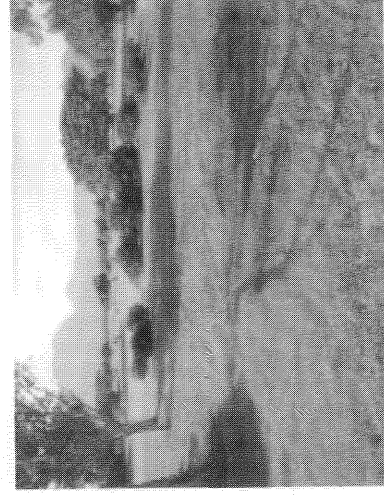


Figure 4. Option 2. View of the proposed route through the Strand Golf Course

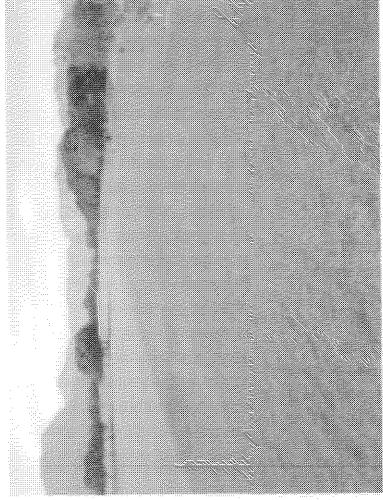


Figure 5. Option 2. View of the proposed route through the Strand Golf Course. The Dick Bent Bird Sanctuary is at the top (rhs) of the plate

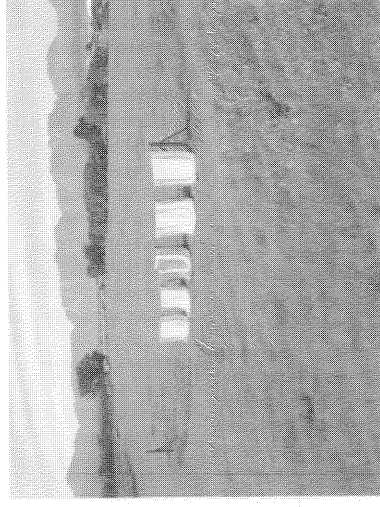


Figure 6. Option 2. View of the proposed route alongside the M149 (Victoria Road)



Figure 9. Option 1. View of the proposed route alongside De Ruyter Road.



Figure 10. Option 1. View of the proposed route alongside De Ruyter Road.



Figure 7. Option 2. View of the proposed route alongside the M149 (Victoria Road)



Figure 8. Option 2. View of the proposed route alongside the M149 (Victoria Road)



Figure 11. Option 1. View of the proposed route alongside the east bank of the Lourens River



Figure 13. Option 1. View of the proposed route alongside Woltemade Road



Figure 12. Option 1. View of the proposed route alongside the east bank of the Lourens River



Figure 14. Option 1. View of the proposed route alongside Lourensriver Road

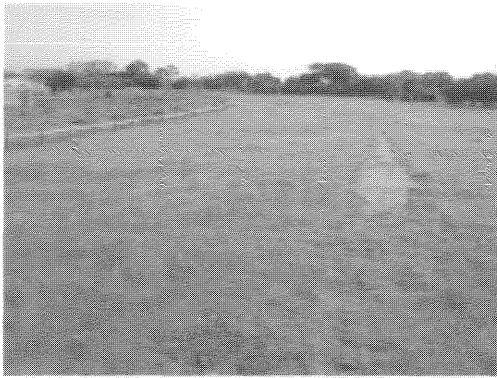


Figure 15. Option 1. View of the proposed route alongside Enslin St. The tree line marks the Lourens river



Figure 16. Mouth of the Lourens River taken from Beach Road.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of both the proposed and proposed alternative pipeline routes (i.e. Options 1 and 2).

The site visit took place on the 29th of May 2006.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

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

4.3 Results of the desk-top study

No pre-colonial archaeological heritage sites have been located in the immediate vicinity of the Lourens River, although it is very likely that the river and its associated resources (plants, fish and animals), would have been exploited by hunter-gatherers and herders during pre-colonial times.

Along the coastline, however, Rudner (1968) reported that there used to be a continuous series of shell middens stretching all the way from Gordons Bay to the Strand. Some of these sites were excavated by Schapera (1930). Sadly, most of the archaeological sites have been destroyed, as a result of rapid commercial and residential development in the Somerset West/Strand coastal zone over the last 50 years.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

...the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development exceeding 300 m in length, requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 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.

6. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No archaeological heritage remains were located during an assessment of the proposed and proposed alternative pipeline routes.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed Somerset West Business Park Bulk Sewer, on important archaeological heritage remains is likely to be very low.

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

8. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Somerset West Business Park Bulk Sewer, the following recommendations are made:

- No archaeological mitigation is required
- The project should be allowed to proceed as planned.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations for the proposed pipeline, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

10. REFERENCES

Rudner, J. 1968. Strandloper pottery from South and South West Africa. *Annals of the South African Museum* 49:441-663

Schapera, I. 1930. *The Khoisan peoples of South Africa*. London: Routledge and Keegan Paul.