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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PORTION 19 OF THE FARM KNORHOEK 830
SOMERSET WEST**

For

DENNIS MOSS PARTNERSHIP

By

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Executive summary

No significant archaeological remains were located during a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Portion 19 of the Farm Knorhoek 830, in Somerset West.

The proposed development of the 31.5 ha property envisages upgrading the existing farm complex, and developing a restaurant and conference facilities.

Small numbers of Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were located alongside a gravel road on the southern boundary of the property.

A few ESA tools were also located near the riverside cottages in the western portion of the property.

The artefacts all occur in a severely disturbed context and have been assigned low importance ratings.

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

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites/remains during implementation (construction and operation) of the project is also likely to be very low.

Overall, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

With regard to the proposed development Portion 19 of the farm Knorhoek 830, Somerset West, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Dennis Moss Partnership have requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Portion 19 of the Farm Knorhoek 830, in Somerset West.

The proposed development of the 31.5 ha property envisages upgrading the existing farm homestead, outbuildings and cottages, and developing a restaurant and conference facilities.

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

The consultancy Henry Aikman & Associates have undertaken a specialist Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the farm.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance.
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
3. to assess the sensitivity and significance of archaeological sites;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site is illustrated in Figure 1.

The 31.5 ha property is located on the western side of Knorhoek Estate in Somerset West.

Current development on the property comprises the historic Knorhoek Cape Dutch homestead (1779) and outbuildings, including water mill and millers cottage. A number of former farm labourer's cottages and service areas (shed, workshops etc.), also occur on the property.

The remainder of the property comprises river areas and grazing for cattle (Figures 2 & 3).

4. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

It is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

5. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the affected property.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

6. RESULTS OF THE STUDY

Small numbers of Early Stone Age¹ (ESA) tools were located during a search of the property.

The tools were located alongside a gravel road and a row of large Blue gum trees in the south-eastern portion of the property. ESA tools were also found among piles of rock removed from nearby grazing fields.

The tools comprise a number of large crude flake tools most likely belonging to the early Acheulean Tradition², some chunks, two cores, and some split cobbles. The tools are most likely derived from degraded and eroded river gravels. The Sir Lowry's River is located about 250 metres to the north.

¹ A term referring to the period between 2 million and 250 000 years ago.

² A term referring to the period roughly between 1.5 million and 250 000 years ago.

Figure 1. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 19 of the farm Knorhoek 830, Somerset West. The study site.



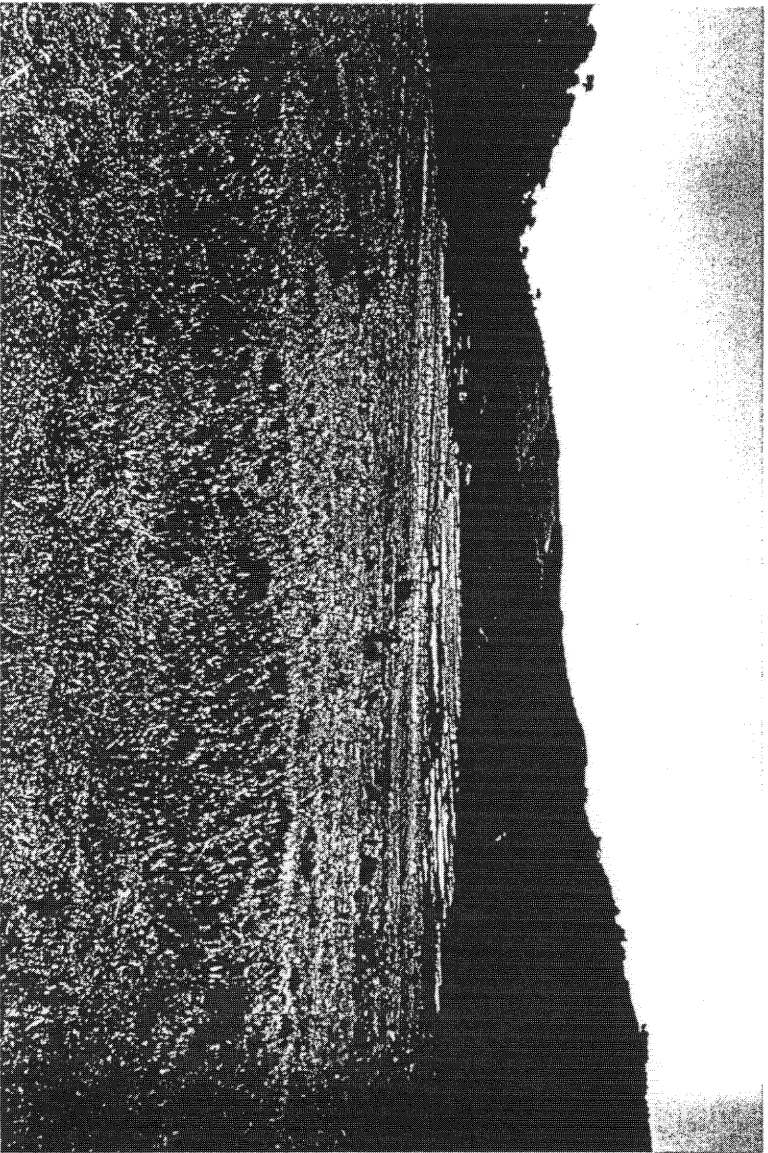


Figure 2. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 19 of the farm Knorhoek 830, Somerset West. The study site looking west, comprising grazing and river areas.

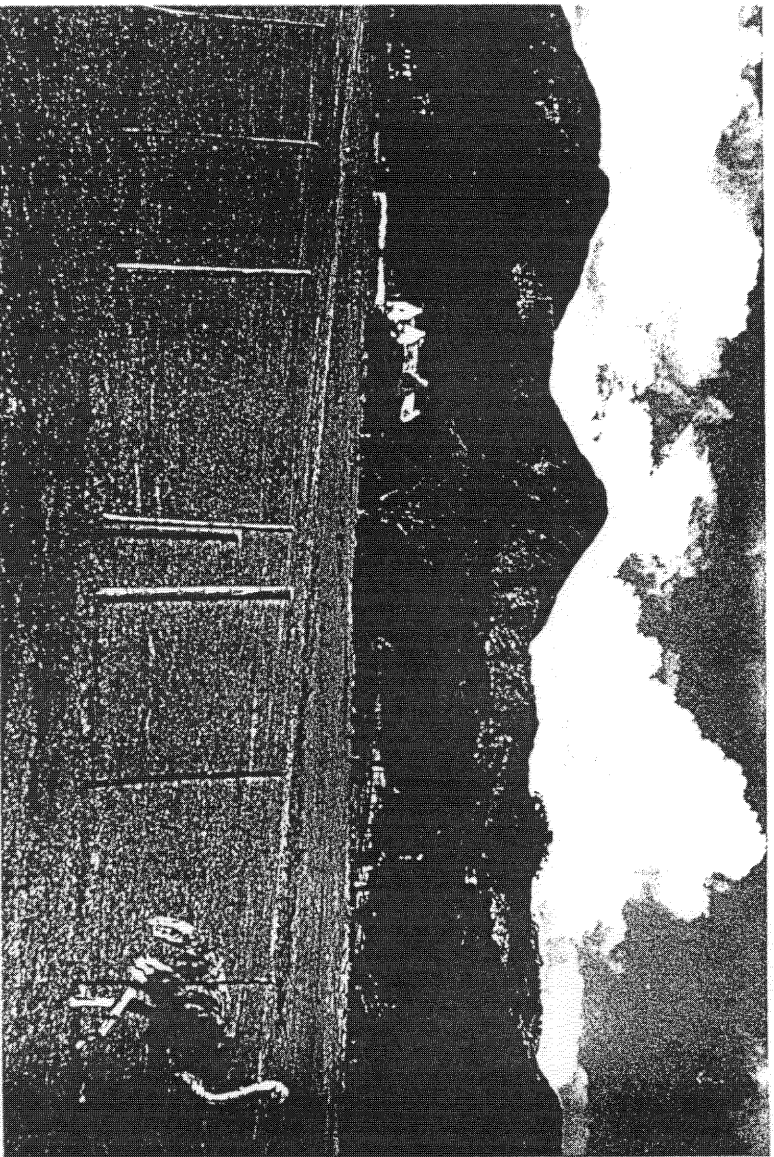


Figure 3. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portion 19 of the farm Knorhoek 830, Somerset West. The study site looking east

Four ESA flakes were also found near the riverside cottages in the western portion of the property, close to the river.

The stone artefacts were all located in a severely disturbed context and have been assigned low importance ratings.

ESA tools are not uncommon in the area, and have been recorded in a variety of contexts (Kaplan 1995, 1998, 2002a, b.). Such tools are commonly found on mountain slopes, in disturbed and degraded areas, in borrow pits and near water sources.

Stone Age tools are likely to be located wherever the surface area has been exposed and physical alteration of the landscape has taken place.

Overall importance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

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

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites/remains during implementation (construction and operation) of the project is also likely to be very low.

8. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Overall, the receiving environment is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of Portion 19 of the farm Knorhoek 830, Somerset West, the following recommendations are made.

- No immediate archaeological mitigation is required.

The recommendations are subject to the approval of SAHRA.

10. REFERENCES

- Kaplan, J. 1995. Archaeological study, Bonnita Spring Water Bottling Plant. Report prepared for Dennis Moss Partnership. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 1998. Archaeological study, Ikapa Quarry, Grabauw. Report prepared for Ecosense. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
- Kaplan, J. 2000a. Archaeological Sensitivity Analysis Erf 2 Gordons Bay. Report prepared for Crowther Campbell & Associates. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
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