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**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PORTIONS 14, 15 & 16 OF THE FARM KNORHOEK NO. 830
SOMERSET WEST**

Prepared for

ENVIROAFRICA

By

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of Portions 14, 15 and 16 on the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West, 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

EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of Portions 14, 15 and 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, in Somerset West.

The proposed subdivision of Portions 14, 15 and 16 of the farm is for the purpose of the development of nine 'gentleman's residences'.

The extent of the affected properties is as follows:

- Portion 14 = 15 ha
- Portion 15 = 12 ha
- Portion 16 = 14 ha

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

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 sites.
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed sites;
- to assess the sensitivity and significance of archaeological sites within the proposed sites;
- 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 sites.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site is illustrated in Figure 1.

Portions 14, 15 and 16 of the farm comprise large parcels of vacant and old agricultural land (Figures 2-7). Some earthworks and excavations for services have taken place in Portion 14 (Figures 2 & 3). The Sir Lowry's River and its heavily alien vegetation-infested banks bisect Portions 14 and 15 of the property.

A Phase 1 AIA of Portion 19 of the farm Knorhoek No. 830 was undertaken in 2002 (Kaplan 2002). Small numbers of Early Stone Age¹ (ESA) tools were located during the study. The tools were located in a severely disturbed context and given a low importance rating.

Current development on Portion 19 of the farm comprises the historic Knorhoek Cape Dutch homestead (1779), including outbuildings, 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 consultancy Henry Aikman & Associates have undertaken a specialist Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the farm.

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 Heritage Western Cape, acting as the provincial heritage authority.

As the delegated provincial heritage authority, and in compliance with the terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, a copy of this report must be submitted to HWC, for their approval².

5. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of Portions 14, 15 and 16 of the property.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

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

² The report should be sent to Dr Janette Deacon, Chairperson Heritage Western Cape, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town, 8000.

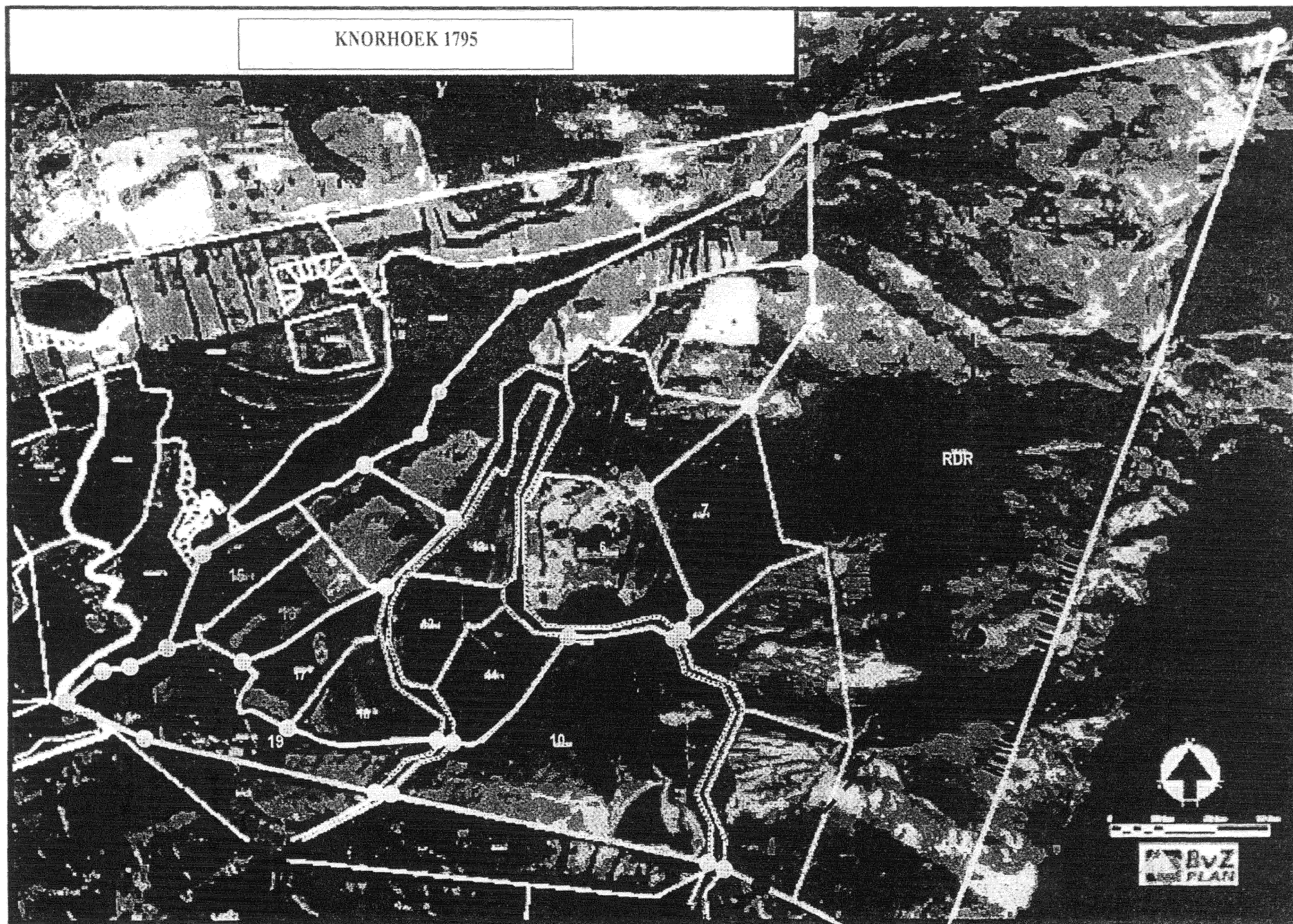


Figure 1. Archaeological Impact Assessment Portions 14, 15 & 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West. The study site

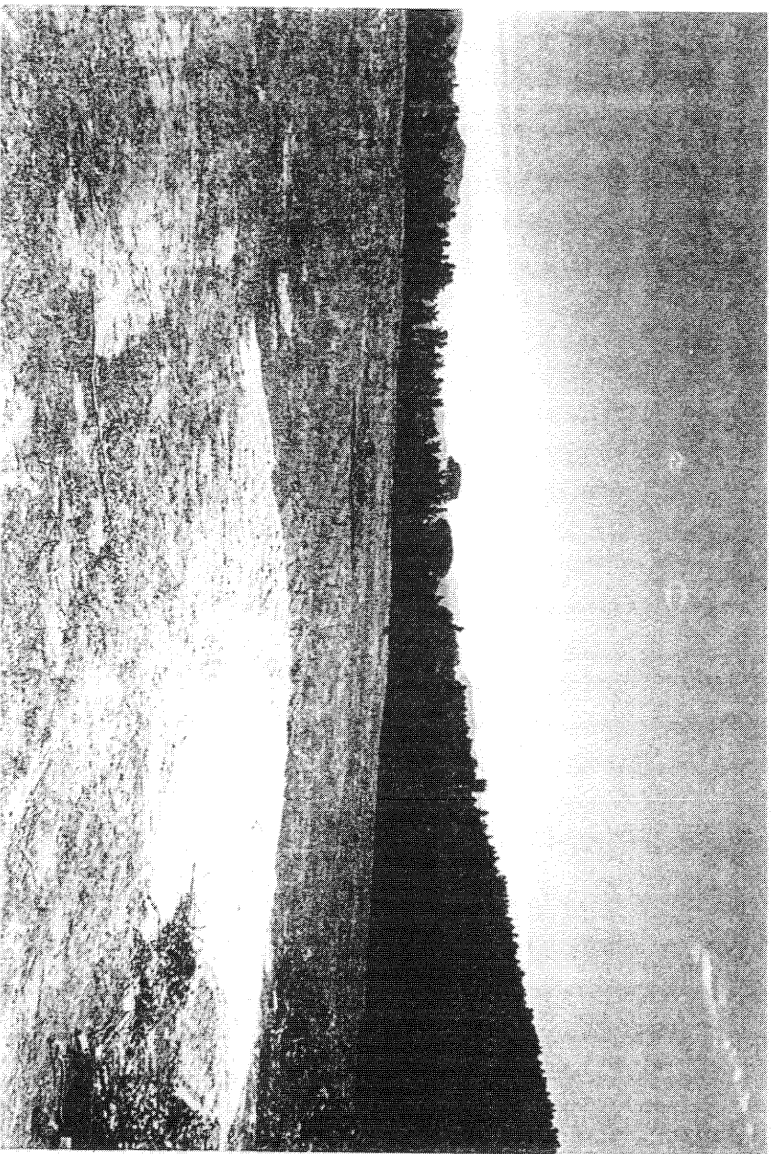


Figure 2. Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portions 14, 15 & 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West. Portion 14.

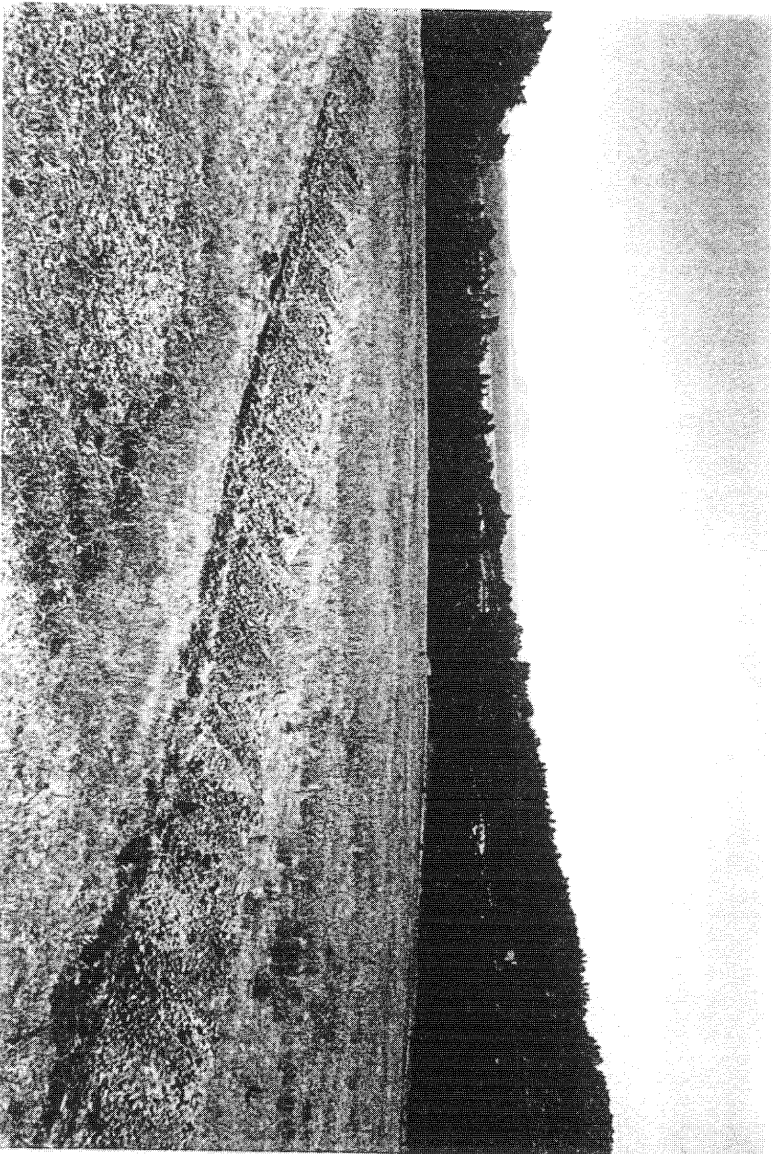


Figure 3. Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portions 14, 15 & 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West. Portion 14.

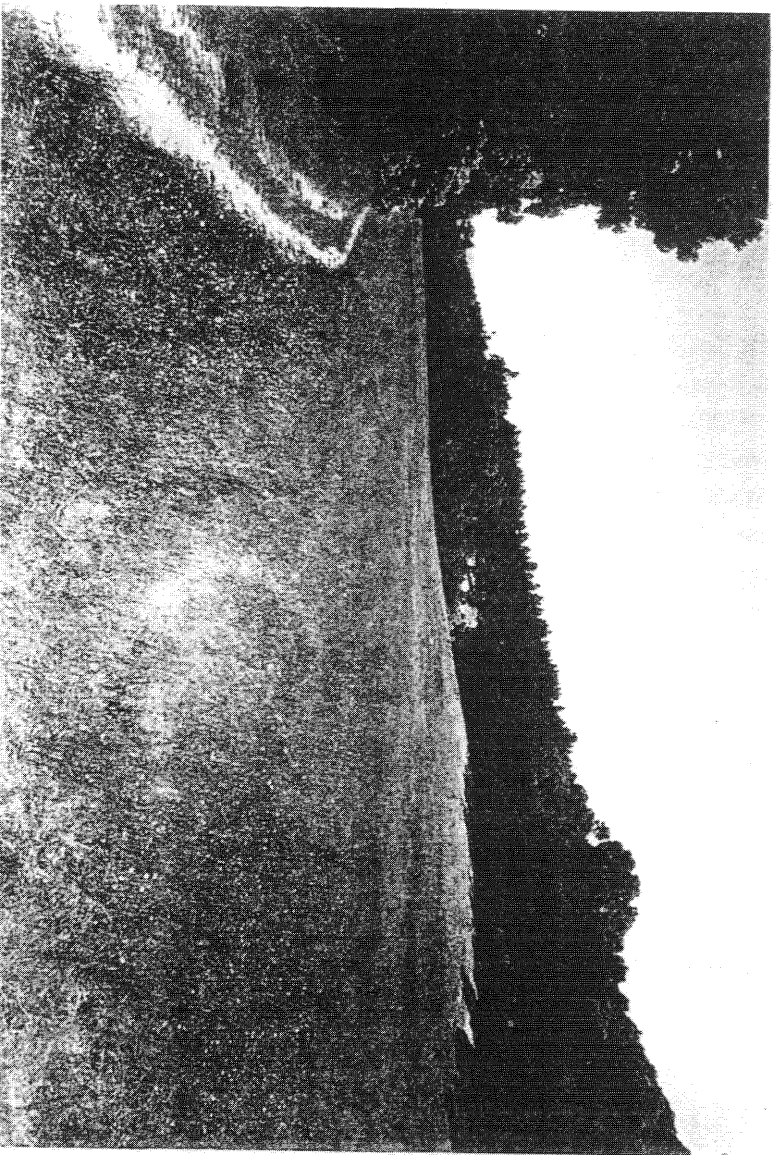


Figure 4. Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portions 14, 15 & 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West. Portion 15.

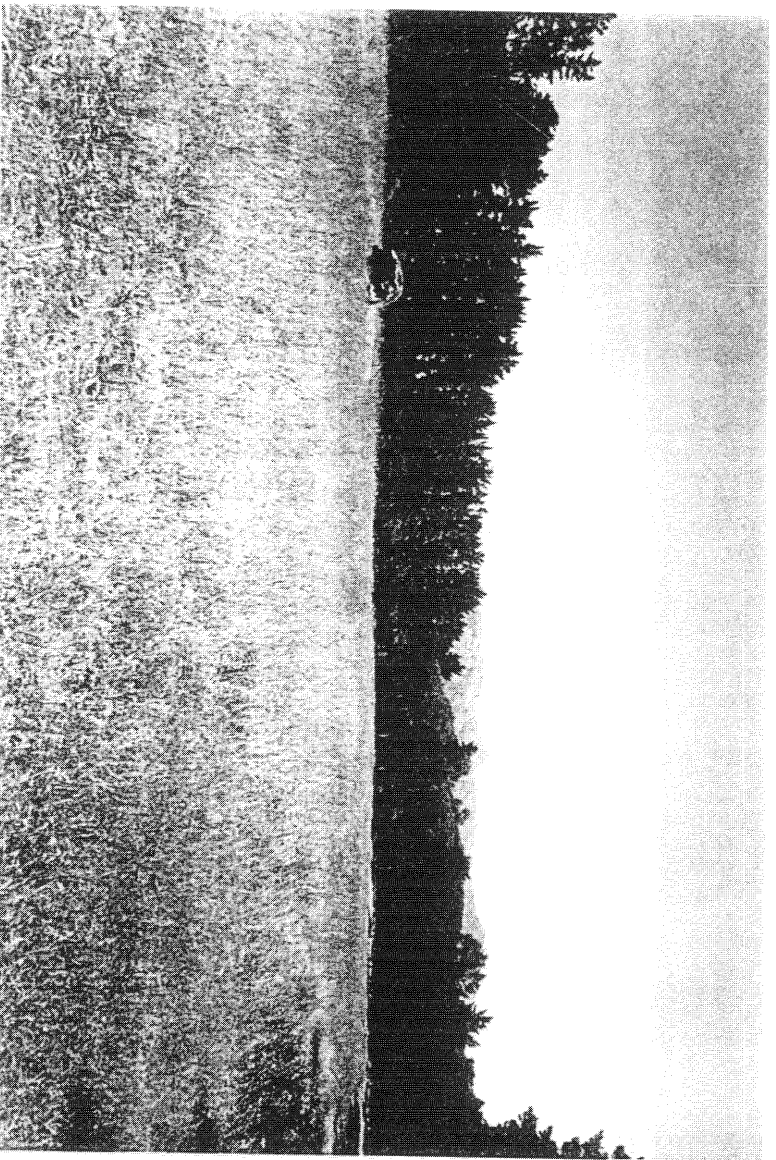


Figure 5. Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portions 14, 15 & 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West. Portion 16.

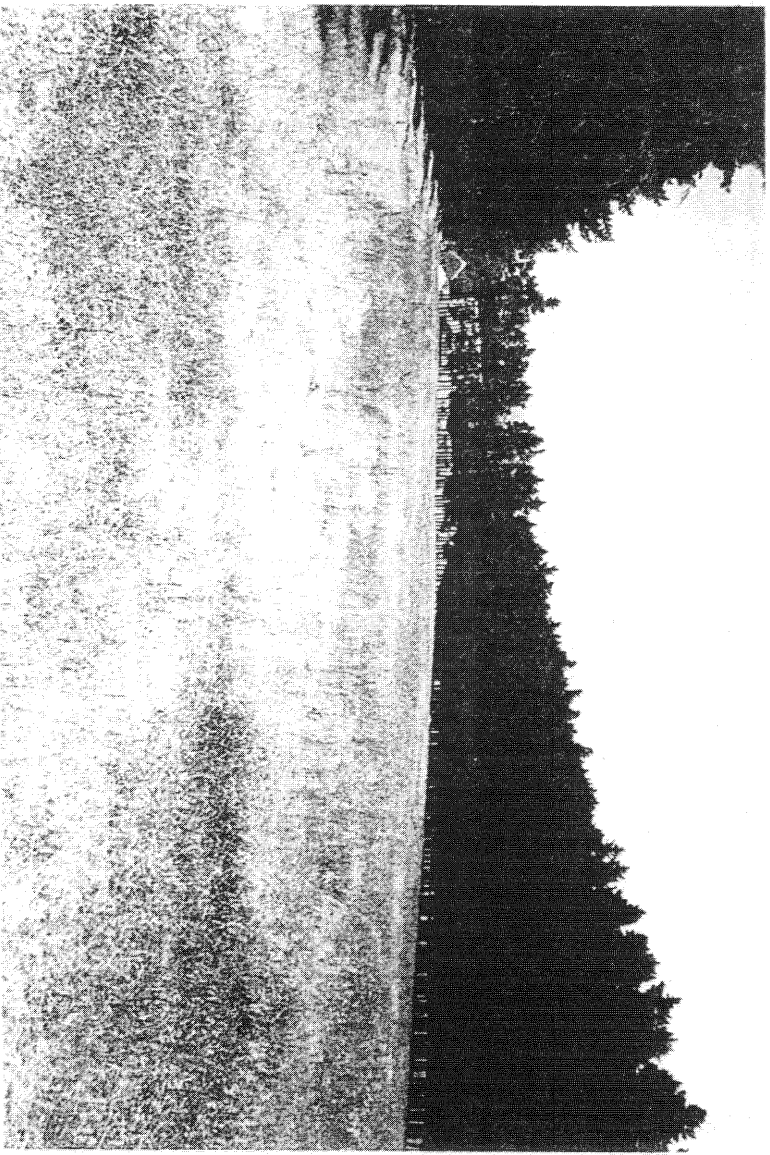


Figure 6. Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portions 14, 15 & 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West. Portion 16.

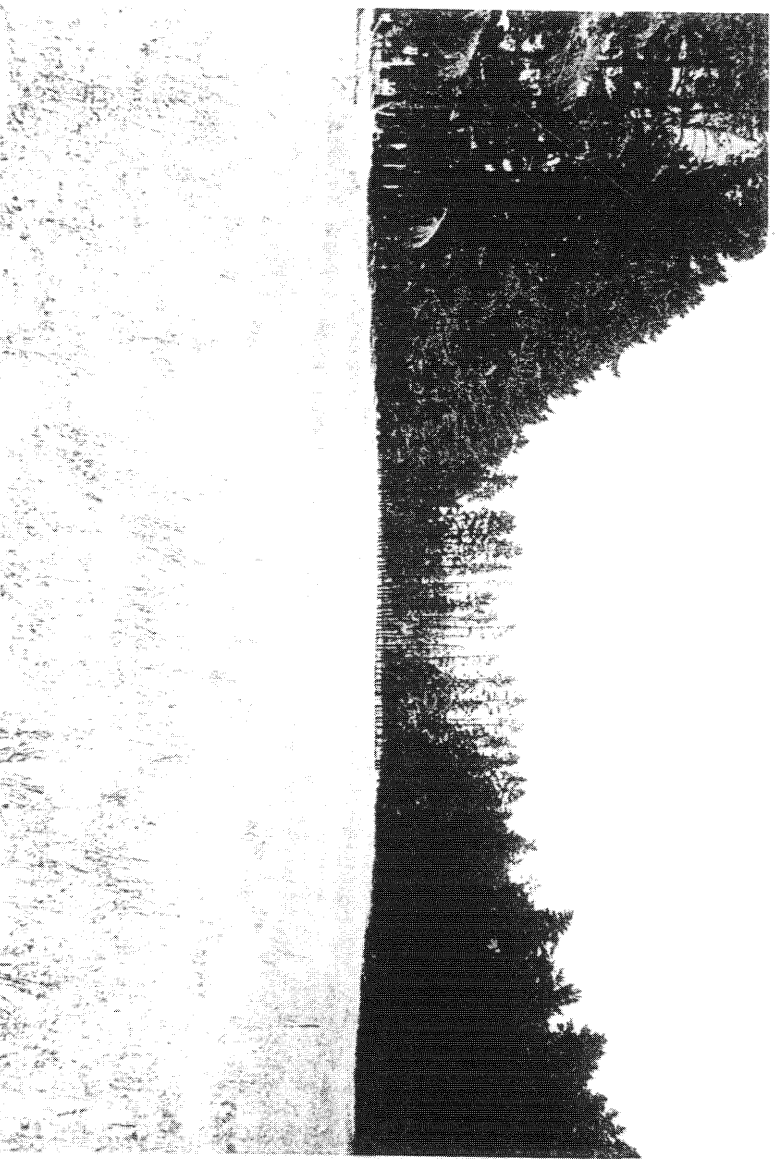


Figure 7. Archaeological Impact Assessment, Portions 14, 15 & 16 of the Farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West. Portion 16.

6. FINDINGS

One large ESA quartzite flake and one ESA split quartzite cobble were located in a small track alongside the Sir Lowry's River in Portion 14.

One ESA quartzite flake was found among a scraped and excavated patch of ground in Portion 14 (see Figure 2). No tools were located in the excavated service trench, nor among the spoil material alongside the trench.

Three ESA quartzite flakes were located in ploughed fields in Portion 15, while one possible Middle Stone Age³ (MSA) flake was located on a raised gravel bank in the northern portion of Portion 15.

The stone artefacts were all located in a severely disturbed context.

ESA tools are not uncommon in the surrounding region, and have been recorded in a variety of contexts (Kaplan 1995, 1998, 2000a, b, 2002, 2003a, b). Such tools are commonly found on steep mountain slopes, in disturbed and degraded areas such as old agricultural lands and old borrow pits and near water sources such as rivers and stream. Tools are commonly found among piles of rocks cleared from old fields.

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

Importance of finds: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

³ A term referring to the period between 250 000 and 20 000 years ago.

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 Portions 14, 15 and 16 of the farm Knorhoek No. 830, Somerset West, the following recommendations are made.

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

10. REFERENCES

- Kaplan, J. 1995. Archaeological study, Bonnia Spring Water Bottling Plant. Report prepared for Dennis Moss Partnership. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.
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- 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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