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15 March 2005

Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Property: Portions 7 & 8 Blaauw Klip 510 Stellenbosch

Owner: Mr & Mrs BL Williams

Developer: Liberté Trust

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Ms Margaret Neethling 021 461 0036

Summary

A survey of the property showed Acheulian artefacts but no other archaeological remains. As the context is disturbed and the finds isolated the significance is rated as low. The risk of the proposed development impacting on the archaeological resources is rated as low and no mitigation is recommended.

Assessment

The property was visited with Mr Kempen on Friday 11 March 2005. Three hours were spent in traversing, mapping and assessing the possible archaeological impacts of development on the property. GPS readings of latitude and longitude given in the text are based on the setting WSG 84.

Description of Property

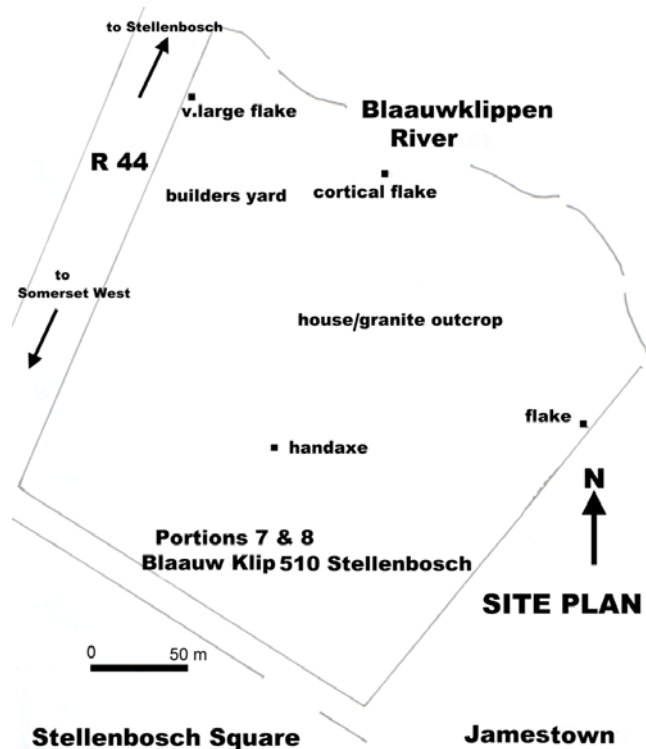
The property borders the R 44 road linking Stellenbosch and Somerset West and is adjacent to the Stellenbosch Square shopping complex and the settlement of Jamestown. It currently houses the office, workshops, builder's yard and home of the building contractor BL Williams. The proposed development is a retirement village with 131 dwelling units, club and frail care facilities. It will be a high-density development affecting the whole property.



The property has been used for open storage of building materials and these materials cover a significant area. There are also dumps of imported fill and parts of the property have been infilled. The surface disturbance is extensive.

Description of archaeological occurrences

Acheulian artefacts are predictable in this area and they represent the only Stone Age remains observed on the property. These are individual finds and do not constitute an occurrence and in all cases the context is probably disturbed and even highly disturbed. Although of typological interest the significance is rated as low.



On the northern part of the property along a track parallel to the R 44 and leading to a pump house (33°58.367 S; 18°50.589 E), a typologically distinctive very large (200x130x65 mm), side struck, quartzite flake was noted. It is the type of flake blank produced for biface manufacture. This artefact was lying in an on a granitic gravel with clasts that have a mean size of 40 mm, considerably smaller than the artefact itself (Photo 1). Although the level of the track may be close to that of the natural surface, an elevated major road on the boundary borders the track on one side and a line of fill forming a berm on the other. Given this level of localised disturbance and earthmoving the piece is unlikely to be *in situ*.

An artificial terrace has been created by fill between the river forming the northern boundary and outbuildings of the yard. There are random heaps of later dumped material. A side struck, cortical flake (80x120 mm) with a plain platform in quartzite (33°58.391 S; 18°50.652 E), typical of the products from biface making, was noted on the surface. It may have been brought in with fill.

Buildings of the yard, the house and garden and a granite outcrop occupy the central portion of the property. On the eastern margin exposed in a track, an end struck flake with a plain platform and two dorsal scars, in quartzite was plotted (33°58.474 S; 18°50.729 E). Considered to be Acheulian, this isolated piece exposed on a slope is in a disturbed context.

Along the southern boundary of the site there has been considerable earth moving with the infilling of a dam. On the slope below the dumped materials and at the eastern end of a row of containers, fronted by a track, a thick, pick-like handaxe (Photo 2) was plotted (33°58.483 S; 18°50.621 E). The biface (165x110x85 mm) in quartzite with 20 plus shaping scars is pick-like in that the point is poorly developed. It was lying proud of the ground surface and is clearly not *in situ*. It may have been collected elsewhere and recently discarded there.

No Stone Age or historical archaeological finds more recent than the Acheulian were recorded. Ms M Neethling will provide a separate assessment of the buildings on the property.

Sources of risk

The high density of the proposed building program will entail cut and fill works on the property. The substrate would be colluvium draped over a granite rise. Although there may be Acheulian artefacts incorporated in the colluvium the context would be geological rather than archaeological given the slope of the terrain. The risk of the development impacting on any archaeological resources is considered low.

Mitigation

None is proposed.

Conclusion

The surface of the property has been much altered through use as a builder's yard and dump area for fill. There are a few Acheulian artefacts exposed but these are isolated finds out of context and do not constitute occurrences of note. The risk of the proposed development having an impact on archaeological resources is considered low and no mitigation is recommended.

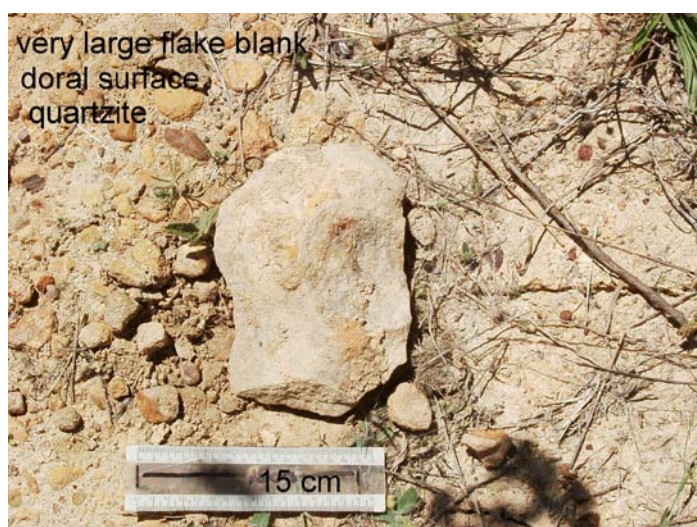


Photo 1 Very large Acheulian in track on the northern portion



Photo 2. Pick-like handaxe loose on the surface