

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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**22 September, 2006**

Att: Ms Megan Anderson  
Megan Anderson Landscape Architects  
PO Box 2607  
Clareinch  
7740

Dear Ms Anderson

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REHABILITATION OF MAIN ROAD (MR172) BETWEEN HELSHOOGTE AND BOSCHENDAL STELLENBOSCH DISTRICT WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

### **1. Introduction and brief**

Megan Anderson Landscape Architects<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape (Department of Public Works and Transport) requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an archaeological investigation for the proposed rehabilitation of Main Road (MR172), situated between Heshoogte and Boschendal in the Stellenbosch District, in the Western Cape Province.

The existing road (R103) alignment remains as is, except for in front of the Pniel Congregational Church where the (new) road is realigned through open land to the north east, before curving back onto the existing road near the Pniel Sports Field. No borrow pits will be utilised and all construction material will be sourced from local suppliers.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Megan Anderson Landscape Architects is represented by Ms Megan Anderson, PO Box 2607, Clareinch, 7740. Fax: 887 9900

## **2. Terms of reference**

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological investigation are to:

- Identify and map pre-colonial heritage resources in the proposed realignment;
- Determine the importance of pre-colonial heritage resources in the proposed realignment;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the pre-colonial heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed project.

Heritage Consultant Ms Sarah Winter has been appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project. The archaeological investigation forms part of the HIA.

## **3. The site**

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

The existing road (R310) winds through farmlands and the historic settlements of Priel and Johannesdal, situated in the Dwars River Valley. The surrounding land use comprises rural, residential, schools, sports fields, graveyards, light industrial and commercial.

The proposed realignment, about 500 m long, will pass open land to the north east of the existing road (i.e. De Goede Hoop Farm) before curving back onto the existing road near the Priel Sports Field.

The receiving environment comprises agricultural lands and some open space (Figures 2-4), constituting an already disturbed and altered environment.

## **4. Approach to the study**

The existing road (R310), from Johannesdal to the R45 intersection, was subjected to a foot and vehicle survey.

The proposed realignment across De Goede Hoop was searched on foot (refer to Figures 2-4).

The site visit and assessment took place on 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2006.

## **5. Results of the study**

No archaeological heritage remains were located along the road (R310) between Johannesburg and the intersection with the R45.

Seven Early Stone Age (ESA) implements, including three quartzite flakes, two quartzite chunks and two broken/split quartzite cobbles were counted during the archaeological investigation. All the tools were found on the upper, east facing slopes on the De Goede Hoop property, to the west of the Phiel Congregational Church (refer to Figure 2). The tools all occur in a severely disturbed context. No formal tools were found.

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

A small handful of undecorated white porcelain was also found on the lower slopes of the agricultural field, alongside the gravel access road.

It is interesting to note that ESA tools were located on the De Goede Hoop property during a Phase 1 archaeological study for the proposed development of the Boschendal lands<sup>2</sup>. ESA tools are very common in the Franschoek/Dwars River Valley, but occur mostly in a disturbed and degraded context<sup>3</sup>.

## **6. Impact statement**

The impact of the proposed realignment of the MR172, between Helshoogte and Boschendal on 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.

Except for one major deviation across De Goede Hoop, the existing road (R310) will stay within its current alignment.

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<sup>2</sup> Kaplan, J. 2005. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development of the Boschendal Lands Dwars River Valley. Report prepared for Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

<sup>3</sup> Kaplan, J. 2005a. Archaeological Impact Assessment the proposed bulk water supply infrastructure planning study for the City of Cape Town. Report prepared for Orrie Welby – Solomon cc/BKS (Pty) Ltd Joint Venture. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.  
Kaplan, J. 2003. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed Berg Water Project Supplementary Scheme. Report prepared for Arup Environmental. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.  
Kaplan, J. 1998. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed Languedoc Social Housing Project. Report prepared for Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

## 7. Conclusion

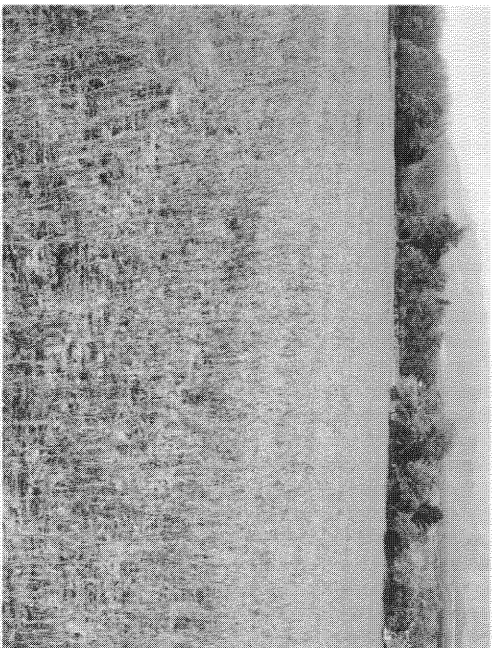
The archaeological investigation has shown that the proposed realignment of the MR172 between Helshoogte and Boschendal, in the Stellenbosch District, should be allowed to proceed as planned

Yours sincerely

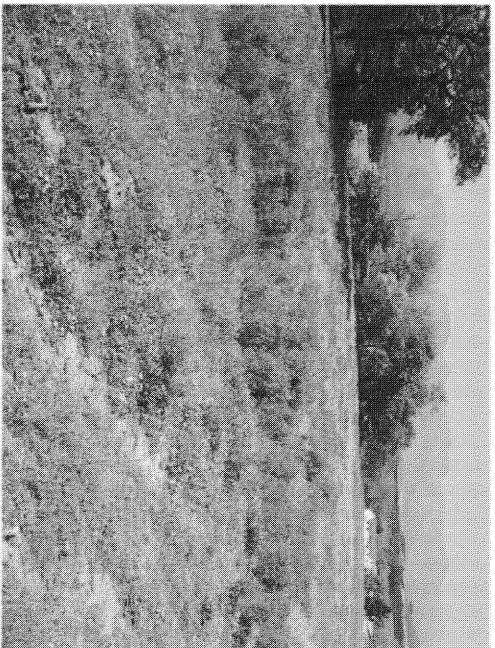
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Jonathan Kaplan

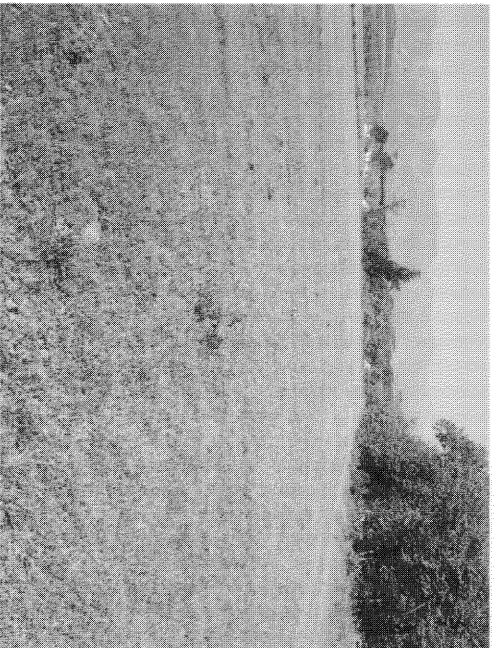




**Figure 2. Route of the proposed realignment facing east.**



**Figure 3. Route of the proposed realignment facing east.**



**Figure 4. Route of the proposed realignment facing east.**