

# Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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**19 February, 2007**

Att: Mr Hennie Taljaard  
I.C. @ Plan  
Town Planners  
10 A Pastorie Park  
Somerset West  
7130

Dear Mr Taljaard

## **PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PORTION 21 OF FARM FIRLANDS 959 GORDONS BAY WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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

I.C. @ Plan Town Planners<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of the Adamastor Trust requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed rezoning and subdivision of Portion 21 of Farm 959 Firlands, Gordon's Bay, in the Western Cape Province. *rezoning & subdivision*

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the affected property entails the establishment of nine lifestyle smallholdings with a minimum plot size of 1.0 ha each and a private road giving access to the units. *9 lifestyle smallholdings + private road*

The affected property is currently zoned for Agriculture Zone 1.

There are no restrictive conditions of title contained within the Title Deed that inhibit the subdivision of the property.

The extent of the proposed development (about 9.55 ha) 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 site visit and assessment took place on 02 February 2007.

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the site is illustrated in Figure 2.

<sup>1</sup> IC @ Plan Fax: (021) 850 0401

## **2. Terms of reference**

The Terms of Reference for the specialist Archaeological Impact Assessment are to:

- Identify and map heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine the importance of heritage resources on the proposed site;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

A 'Notification to Heritage Western Cape of Intent to Develop' checklist has also been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) for comment. MD

A copy of the archaeological assessment has been included with the above submission.

## **3. The site (S° 34 03 360 E 18° 54 540 on map datum wgs 84)**

The property is situated alongside a gravel road in the Firlands area, to the south of the N2 Highway. Access to the site is gained from Sir Lowry's Pass/Gordons Bay Road (off the N2). The property is for the most part underutilised. About half the site comprises vacant 'farmland', while the remainder comprise natural veld (Figures 3-6). The southern portion and eastern boundary of the property are covered with a mix of natural and alien vegetation resulting in low archaeological visibility. The south facing slopes of the property are fairly steep. A modern residential home is located in the north eastern corner of the property (Figure 7), while a labourer's cottage and outbuildings are located in the north western corner (Figure 8). A small earth dam is located close to the centre. There is considerable disturbance (excavation and earthworks) in the north eastern portion.

The surrounding land use comprises small holdings, bed and breakfast facilities, guest lodge establishments and several small cottage industries.

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

The property was subjected to a foot survey.

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

Two Early Stone Age quartzite chunks and one crude Early Stone Age quartzite flake were located in the disturbed and degraded lands in the north eastern portion of the property, about 40 m south east of the modern house.

**The archaeological heritage remains have been rated as having low local significance**

It is interesting to note that a study of Portion 18 of Farm 959 Firlands (adjacent to the subject property) failed to locate any archaeological heritage remains.<sup>2</sup>

#### **6. Impact statement**

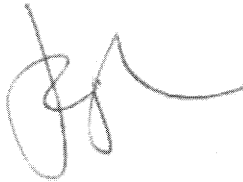
The impact of the proposed development on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be very low.

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

#### **7. Conclusion**

The archaeological assessment has shown that Portion 21 of Farm Firlands 959, Gordon's Bay is suitable for development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK' or similar initials, followed by a horizontal line.

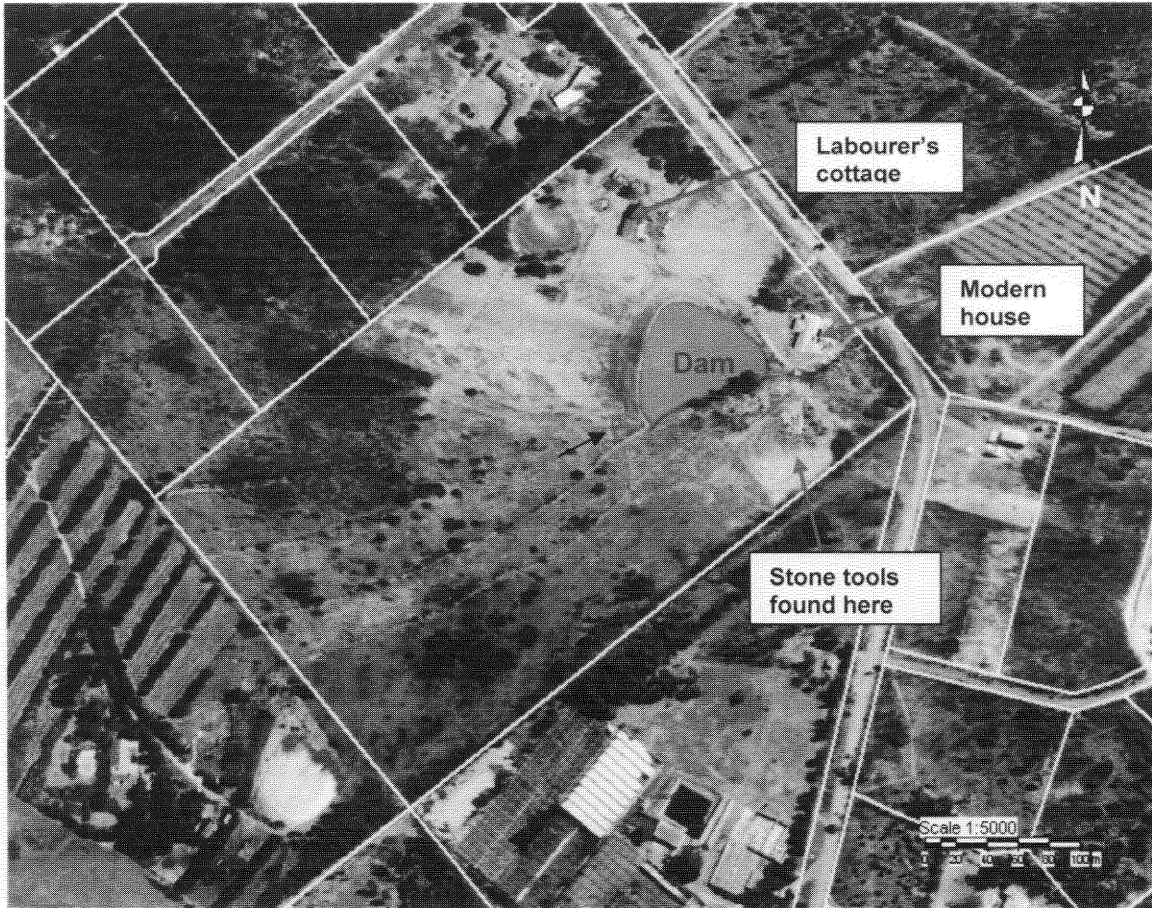
Jonathan Kaplan

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<sup>2</sup> Kaplan, J. 2006. Phase 1 AIA Portion 18 of Farm 959 Firlands Gordons Bay. Report prepared for IC@ Plan. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.



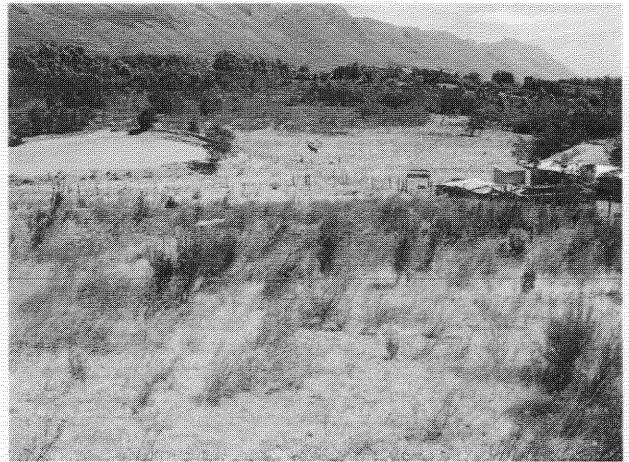
Figure 1. Locality map (3418 BB Somerset West)



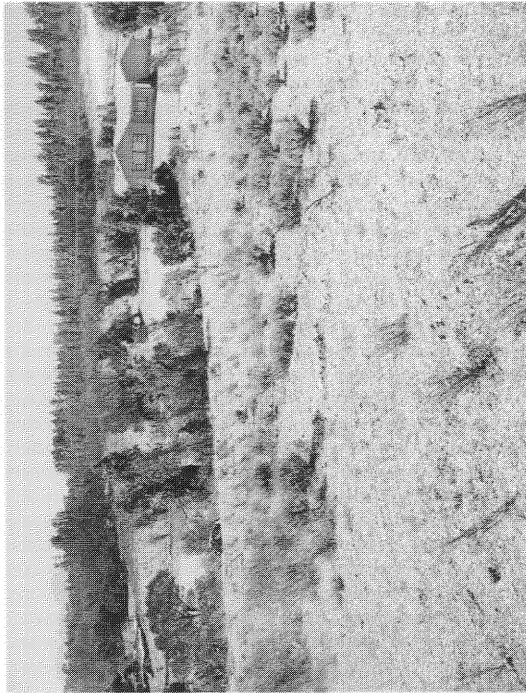
**Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site**



**Figure 3. View of the site facing south**



**Figure 4. View of the site facing south**



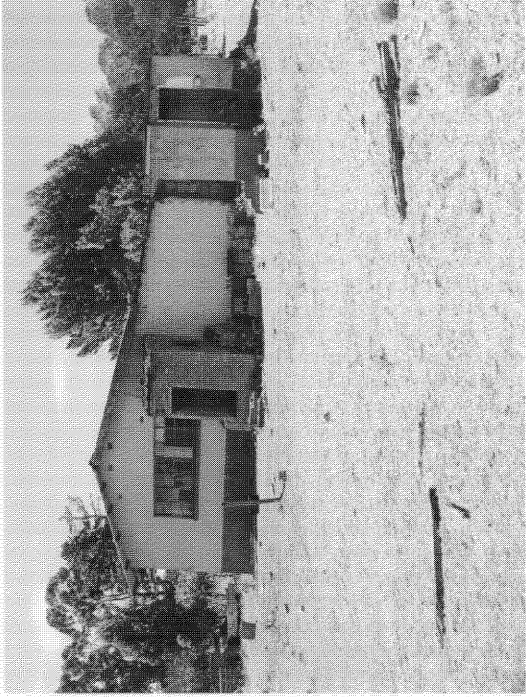
**Figure 5. View of the site facing north**



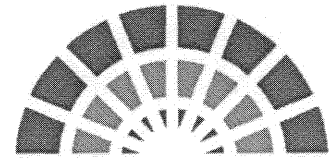
**Figure 7. Modern house**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing north**



**Figure 8. Labourers' cottage**



Ilifa leMyeli leNtshona Koloni  
Erfenis Wes-Kaap  
Heritage Western Cape

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Cape Town, 27 March 2007

Mr. J. Kaplan  
Agency for Cultural Resource Management  
P. O. Box 159  
Riebeeck West, 7306

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

**Re: PHASE 1 AIA – PROPOSED LIFESTYLE SMALLHOLDINGS, PORTION 21 OF FARM FIRLANDS 959, GORDONS BAY**

The Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Committee of the Western Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, Heritage Western Cape (HWC), at a meeting held on 27 March 2007, discussed the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed lifestyle smallholdings and a private road, Gordon's Bay.

The following was noted:

- i) The property is currently zoned Agriculture Zone 1 and would need to be rezoned and subdivided to accommodate the proposed development.
- ii) A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) was completed by the archaeologist and submitted to HWC (BELCOM serving staff) for comment.
- iii) Two Early Stone Age (ESA) quartzite chunks and one crude ESA quartzite flake were located. These were found in disturbed context and thus a low archaeological grading. This is common with other AIAs done in the area.

From the APM Committee area of competency, the following decisions were made.

- i) There were no objections to the development with regard to archaeological and palaeontological resources.
- ii) In the event that human burials or archaeological resources are uncovered or exposed during earthworks or excavations, they must be reported immediately to the South African Heritage Resources Agency – for burials only (Att: Mrs M. Leslie or Mrs. C. Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) and Heritage Western Cape (Att: Ndukuyakhe Ndlovu 021 483 9685). An archaeologist will be required to remove the remains at the expense of the developer.

Yours faithfully

Ndukuyakhe Ndlovu  
Senior Heritage Officer: Archaeologist

[www.capegateway.gov.za/culture\\_sport](http://www.capegateway.gov.za/culture_sport)

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