

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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20 February, 2007

Att: Ms Olivia Braaf
Braaf Environmental Practitioners
PO Box 692
Kuils River
7579

Dear Ms Braaf

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A CEMETERY ON ERF 34 WELLINGTON WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Introduction and brief

Braaf Environmental Practitioners¹, on behalf of Drakenstein Municipality requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed establishment of a cemetery on Erf 34 Wellington, in the Western Cape Province.

The subject property currently has a Split Zoning, comprising Private Open Space (Golf Course), Local Authority and Industrial. Facilitation of the proposed development requires rezoning (for the establishment of a cemetery) that will comprise a cemetery for about 10 000 graves, a road, including internal paths and parking, superburial blocks, a berm section, an administration area with amenities and a park area.

The extent of the proposed development (about 5.3 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).

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

¹ Braaf Environmental Practitioners is represented by Ms Olivia Braaf. Fax: 0866588166

2. Terms of reference

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

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

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

3. The study site

The subject property (S° 33 39 046 E° 18 58 986 on map datum wgs 84) is located in the Wellington Industrial Area, about 1 km south west of the Boland town of Wellington, inside the current urban edge. The proposed site is part of the Wellington Commonage and was a portion of the farm Champagne on which the town of Wellington was later established. Access to the site is gained from Champagne Road. The property is situated adjacent to the Wellington Golf Course and directly north of the Wellington Municipal Dump site. The property is vacant and flat and has no significant landscape features. Several small footpaths and a wide gravel road, cut across the site. The property is covered with dry winter grass that has recently been burnt. The receiving environment is disturbed and in a severely degraded and modified state (Figures 3-6).

Evidence of previous farming-related activities occurs on the property. The remnants of (small) building foundations (possibly enclosures for animals) and several piles of concrete, concrete blocks and commercial building bricks occur on the site (Figure 7), while a concrete drinking trough is located alongside the southern boundary (Figure 8). These remains are of no historical or cultural value.

4. Approach to the study

The subject property was surveyed on foot.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 13th February, 2007.

5. Results of the study

Surprisingly, a few Stone Age tools were located during the baseline study. These include one dark coloured Early Stone Age (ESA) quartzite core, three large ESA quartzite cobble flakes, and several flaked and broken quartzite river cobbles. One smaller, triangular-shaped Middle Stone Age quartzite flake was also documented.

Apart from the core that was found alongside a small footpath, all the tools were found among a bed of rounded river quartzite cobbles deliberately spread around the central portion of the site. The river stone has most likely been brought onto the site (probably from the nearby Berg River), as they appear to be associated with the bulk of the building rubble and small foundations reported above.

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

6. Impact statement

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

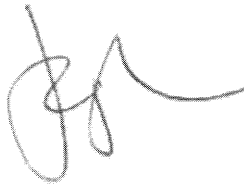
The probability of locating significant archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be highly improbable.

7. Conclusion

The archaeological assessment has shown that Erf 34, Wellington is suitable for the establishment of a cemetery development.

The affected property is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive, vulnerable or threatened.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaplan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Kaplan



Figure 1. Locality Map (3318 DB Paarl)

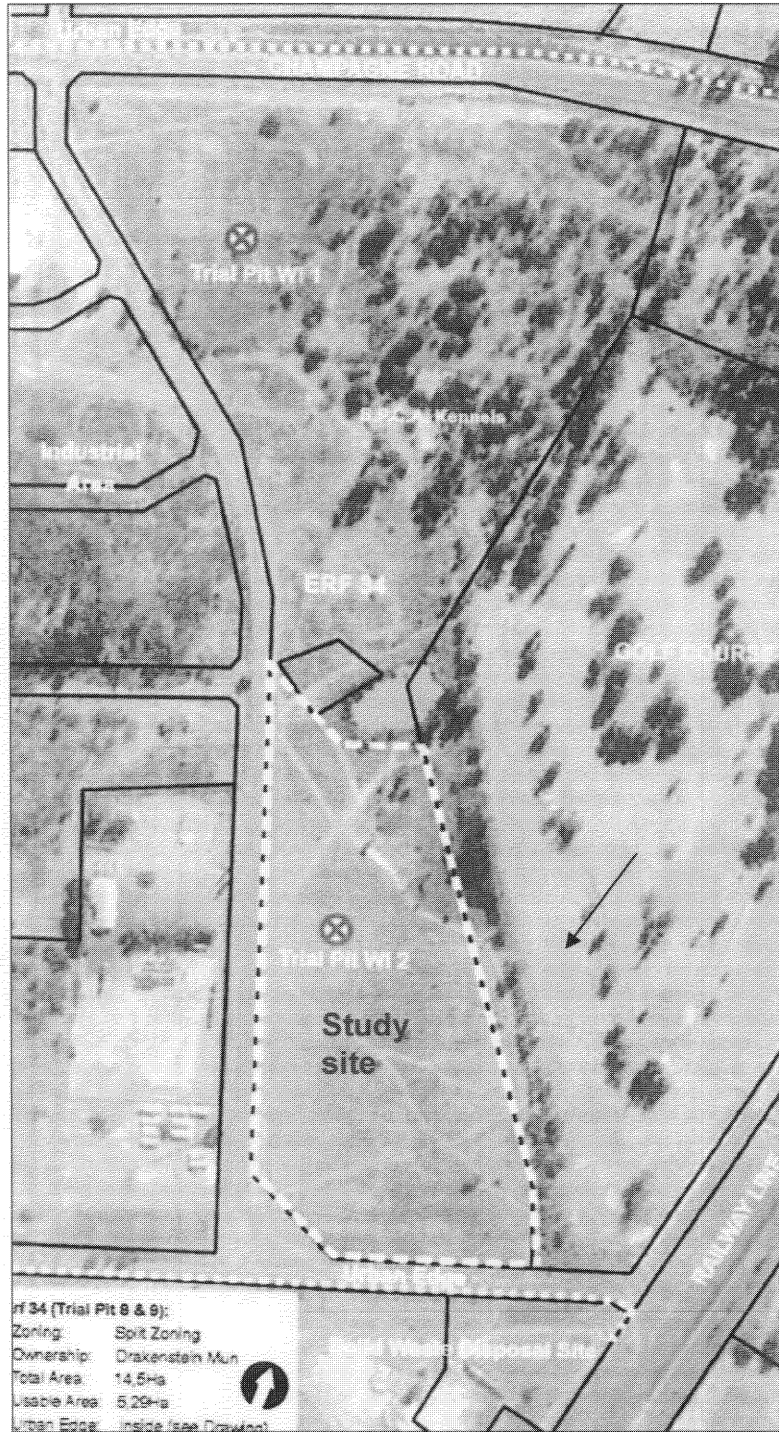


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

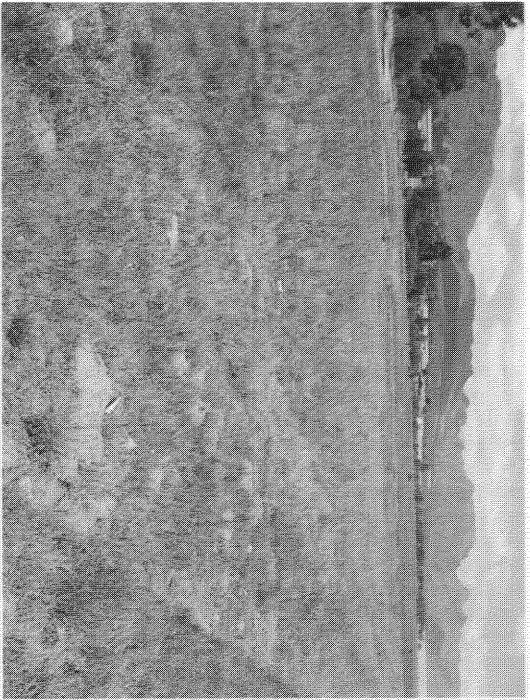


Figure 3. View of the site facing south east



Figure 4. View of the site facing south



Figure 5. View of the site facing north



Figure 6. View of the site facing north



Figure 7. Arrow indicates remains of modern building foundations



Figure 8. Concrete drinking trough