

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
FARM BRAKKE FONTEIN NO 231, SWELLENDAM DISTRICT,
WESTERN CAPE**

for

TPS Consulting Town and Regional Planners

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Heritage Western Cape requested a phase 1 archaeological impact assessment of the approximately 4000m² that will be impacted on by development of accommodation facilities at the farm Brakke Fontein No 231 for the Overberg Game Lodge. It is in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999).

No heritage resources were located on the area to be developed, the access road and area where electricity cables and water pipes will be placed.

It is recommended that rezoning and development goes ahead.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

This AIA is part of an application for rezoning to a Residential Zone V (Residential Building – Licensed Hotel). The owner and developer Mr Andre Thirion (SA Property Trader, PO Box 469, Green Point, 8051, 083 2752410) intends to develop the rest of the farm, measuring some 1484 ha as a Game Farm (1004ha) and a Private Nature Reserve (480ha) (Figures 1 & 2). It will be known as the Overberg Game Lodge. The request from HWC was to ground search the area that will be impacted on by the construction of accommodation facilities (approximately 4000m²).

Legislation and Terms of reference

The national legal framework for the protection and management of the cultural environment is the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) Act No. 25 of 1999, and also the legal and policy frameworks aimed at the protection of the environment, e.g. the Environment Conservation Act (ECA) (Act No. 73 of 1989) and associated EIA regulations and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). Section 38 of the NHRA requires heritage assessments as a stand-alone or as a specialist component of the EIA process.

Heritage Western Cape requested a phase 1 archaeological impact assessment in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) of the approximately 4000m² that will be impacted on by development of accommodation facilities at the Brakke Fontein Farm for the Overberg game lodge.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE AREA

The ADRC at the Iziko Museums of Cape Town has no record of archaeological sites on this farm. It is known that the Khoekhoen lived in the area some 1000 years ago, but archaeological traces of this occupation are sparse.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY & METHODOLOGY

The farm Brakke Fontein No 231, magisterial district of Swellendam, lies approximately 5 km from the Stormsvlei turn off on the N2 between Riviersonderend and Swellendam. The turn-off to the farm on the Stormsvlei road is at 34° 02.631' S 20°05.190'E.

A foot survey of the area of the proposed development was undertaken. A buffer zone (Figure 3) and the access road to the site, an existing dirt track that will also be used for the placement of electricity and water conduits, were also searched.

I traversed the area on foot for one and three quarter hours on Saturday 2 December 2006 at 10 metre transects. GPS readings were taken using a Garmin GPS e-trex (map datum WGS84) with an accuracy of 4 meters. As visible on Figures 2 and 4, the area to be developed is disturbed by agricultural activities (ploughing and wheat farming). Visibility was reasonable but somewhat obscured by vegetation (Figure 4).

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITES

The following GPS positions demarcate the area searched (Figure 3).

Table 1: GPS of polygon searched

No (see Figure 3)	Description	GPS reading
1	Outer limit of buffer zone	34° 02.566' S 20°05.744'E
2	Outer limit at the gully of buffer zone	34° 02.630' S 20°05.763'E
3	Boundary of area to be developed	34° 02.502' S 20°05.693'E
4	Boundary of area to be developed	34° 02.590' S 20°05.787'E
5	Boundary of area to be developed	34° 02.546' S 20°05.706'E
6	Boundary of area to be developed	34° 02.523' S 20°05.728'E

No traces of archeological evidence could be found. Consequently a statement of significance and field ratings are unnecessary.

Recommendations enclosed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

As there are no archaeological resources on the property, it is recommended that rezoning and development goes ahead.

Acknowledgements: Mr Thirion is thanked for accompanying me on the survey and Mr Ron Brunings for providing the background information.

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6. FIGURES

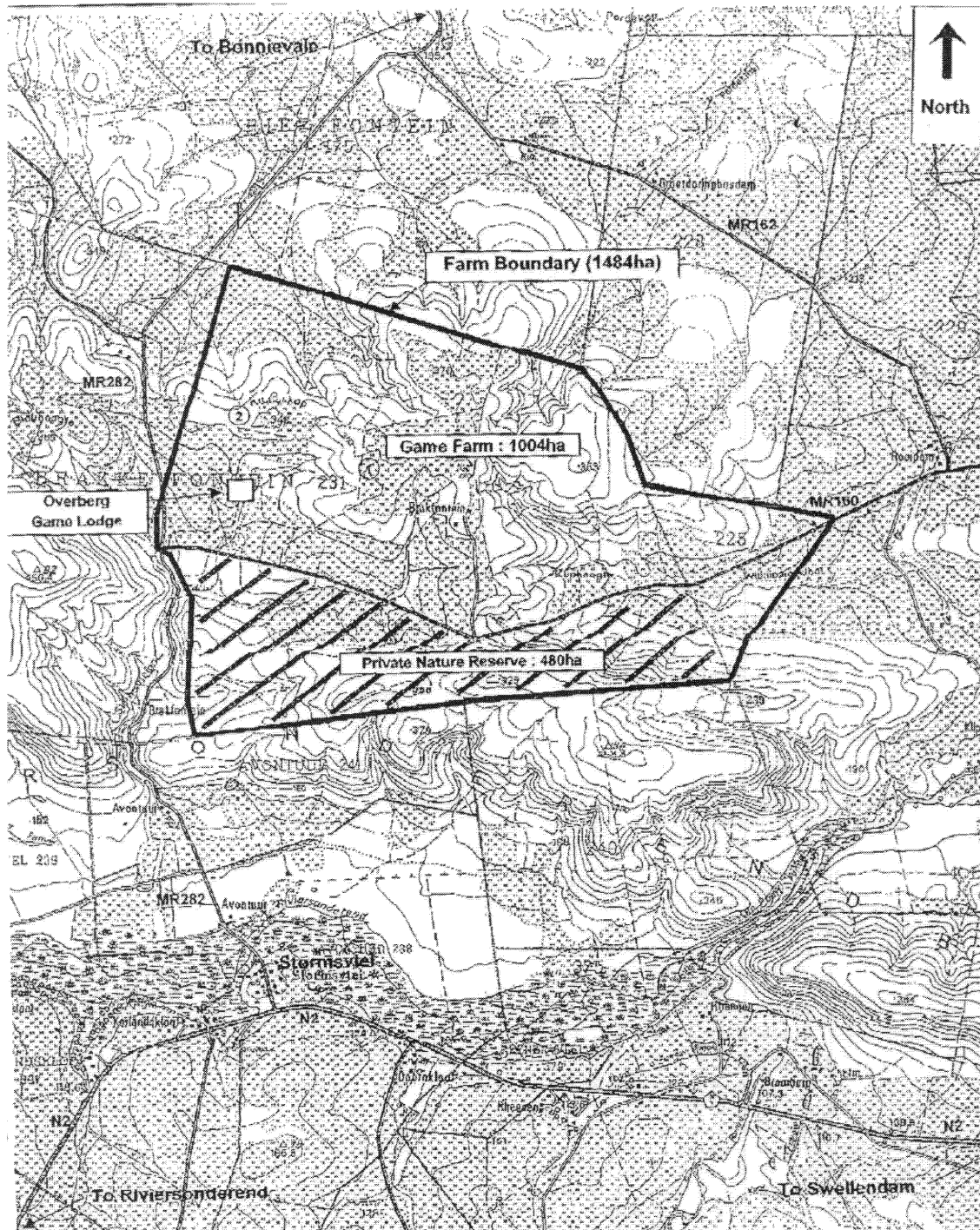


Figure 1: 1:50 000 map indicating the area to be developed

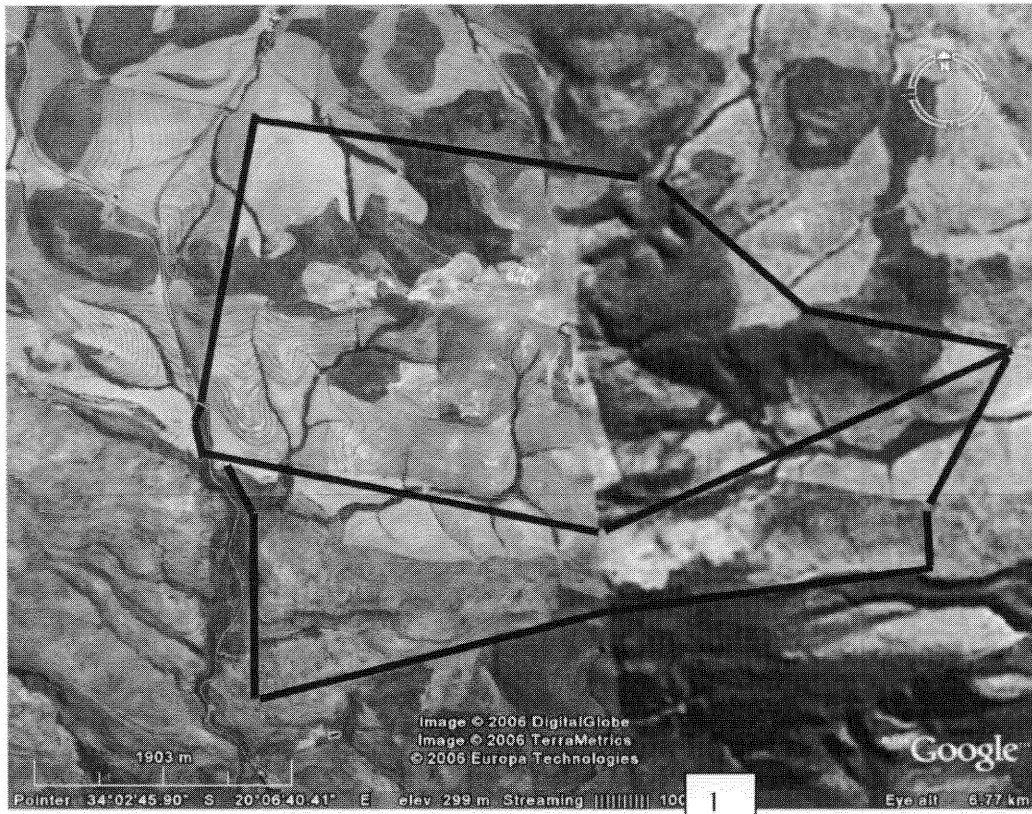


Figure 2: Aerial photograph (Google) showing area to be developed.

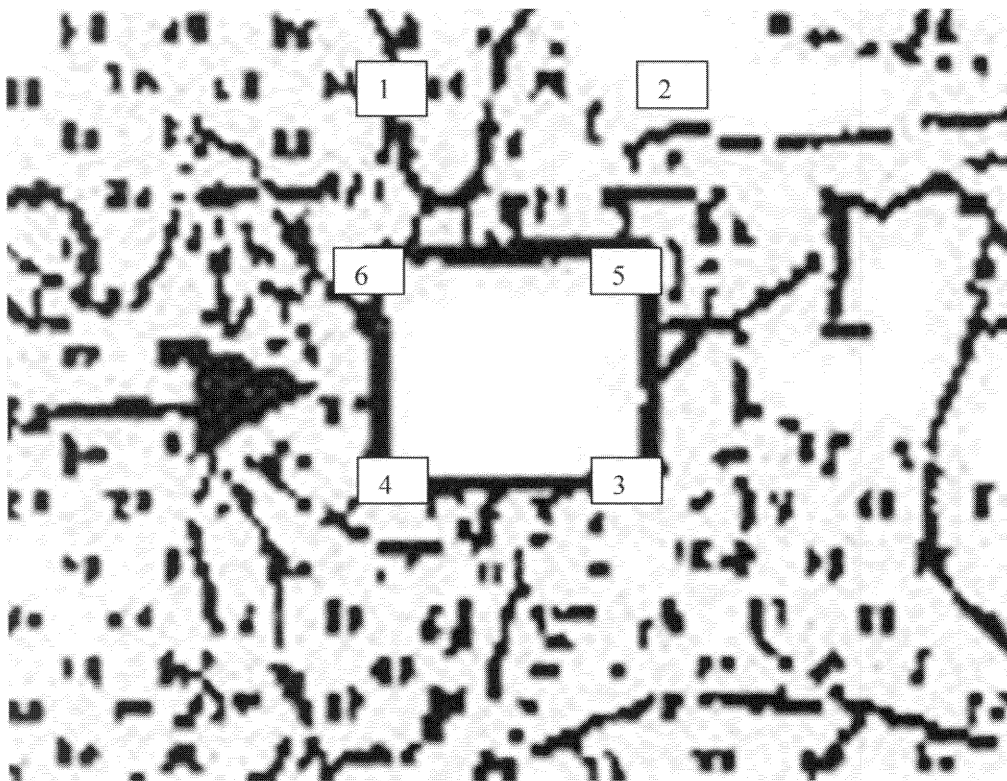


Figure 3: Schematic drawing of the area to be developed indicating the core development area and buffer zone, and GPS readings (see Table 1).



Figure 4 Site of proposed development



Figure 4: Vegetation cover affecting visibility

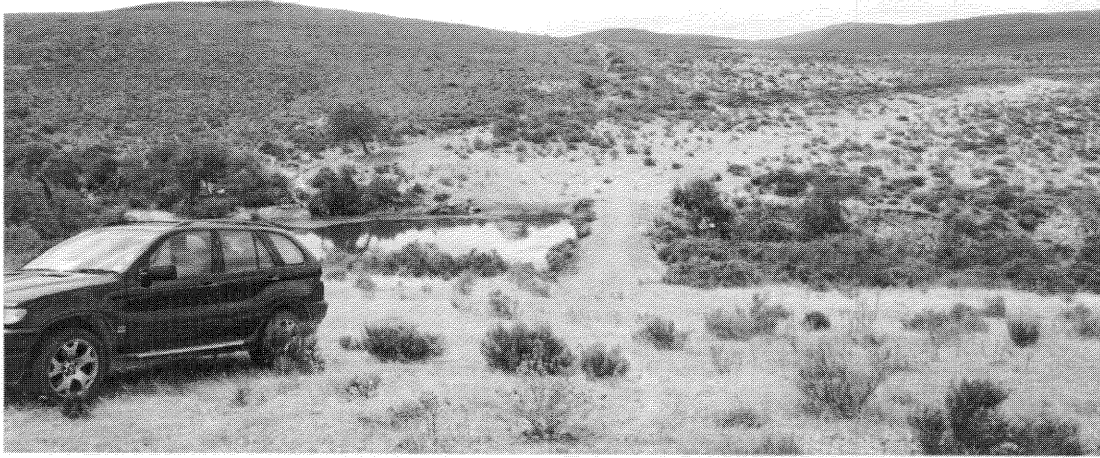


Figure 5: Site of the proposed lodge close to GPS reading No 5 of Table 1



Figure 7: Access road to the lodge site



Figure 8: Gully at the boundary of buffer zone investigated ('2' Table 1)