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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY:
LETODI PRIVATE NATURE
RESERVE

Prepared for

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By

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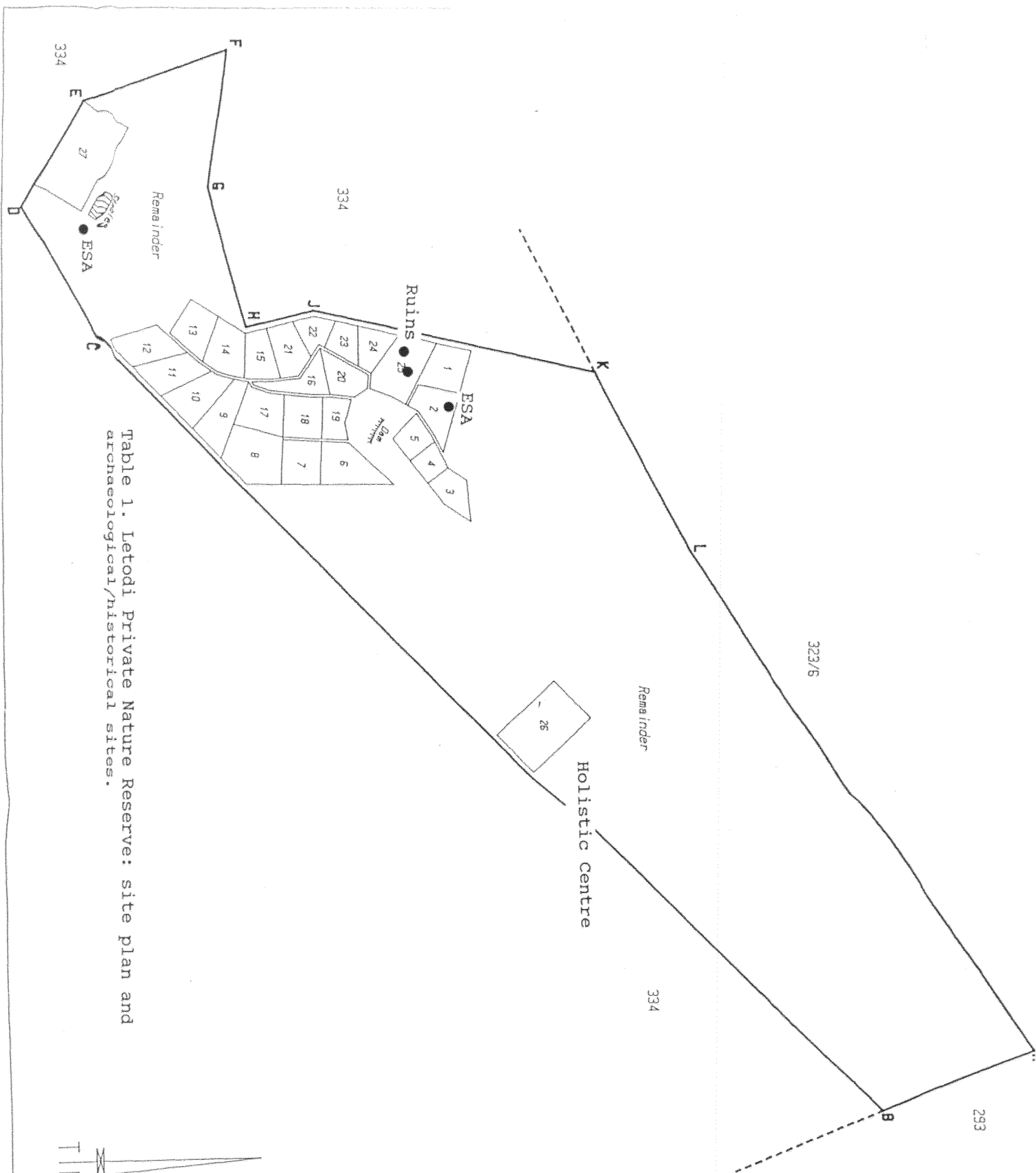


Table 1. Letodi Private Nature Reserve: site plan and archaeological/historical sites.

Executive Summary

Three Early Stone Age (ESA) flakes and two ESA cores were located in a study undertaken in the proposed Letodi Private Nature Reserve, Tulbach. The remains of two old ruined buildings and a stone circle were also found.

The stone tools were found in severely disturbed contexts on a portion of the farm proposed for development and are not considered to be culturally significant. No archaeological mitigation is therefore required. The ruined buildings are in a severe state of disrepair and are not considered to be architecturally significant and conservation worthy.

Archaeological visibility in the study area is extremely low. The major part of the development is on land previously zoned for agriculture and is mainly covered by pioneer plants such as Renosterbos and Cliffortia. The remainder portion of the farm is occupied by exotic plants such as Black Wattle, Bluegum, Rooikrans and Pine.

The archaeological study focussed specifically on four proposed development zones; the guest house, stable block, residential portions and holistic centre. The greater portion of the farm will be developed as a private nature reserve with a reticulum of defined hiking and horse trails. This portion of the farm was not searched as the archaeological impact will be low to negligible.

The impact of the proposed physical development on archaeological sites or remains is considered to be low to negligible. The probability of sites being uncovered during earthmoving activities are also low.

It is recommended that the proposed development should be allowed to proceed.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and brief

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management has been requested by Mr R.C. Hack to undertake a baseline archaeological study of the proposed Letodi Private Nature Reserve, Tulbach.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by planning, construction and implementation of the proposed development and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to undertake an archaeological study of the proposed Letodi Private Nature Reserve, focussing specifically on the proposed residential units, guest house, stable block and holistic centre;
2. to identify and assess any sites of archaeological interest that may exist in the proposed development zones, including their status, impact and significance;
3. to identify measures to maintain any valuable sites that may exist in the study area.

1.2 The study site

The study site is portion 4 of the Farm De Liefde No. 321 in the Tulbach district of the Cape Province. The property is situated against the southern slope of Mostershoek's Twins which forms part of the Waaihoekberge and is 104,2 ha in extent.

The property is accessed from the Romansrivier turnoff on the R43 which is approximately 6 km from the junction of the R 43 and Bainskloof Pass.

The major part of the development is on land previously zoned for agriculture and is mainly covered by pioneer plants such as Renosterbos and Cliffortia. The remainder portion is occupied by exotic plants such as Black Wattle, Bluegum, Rooikrans and Pine.

The archaeological study focussed specifically on four proposed development zones (Figure 1). The greater portion of the farm (approximately 85 ha) will be developed as a private nature reserve with a reticulum of defined hiking and horse trails. The nature reserve area is mainly covered by indigenous fynbos and Protea. This portion of the farm was not searched as the archaeological impact will be low to negligible.

1. The Holistic center with conference facilities, guest suites and staff quarters¹ is situated on a steep west-facing slope and overlooks the proposed development zone. Approximately 1.5 ha, this portion is covered by indigenous fynbos and Protea.

2. Residential portion: 25 single resort portions are planned in this area, which are mainly located within a thicket of Bluegum and Black Wattle trees, and bounded on its eastern margin by a forested glade, a small dam and a perennial stream.

3. The stable block¹ is located in the portion of once cultivated wheat fields, but is now covered by pioneer Renosterbos and Cliffortia.

4. The guest house with 10 guest suites, staff quarters and ancillary facilities¹ is located in the portion of once cultivated wheat field, but is now covered by pioneer Renosterbos and Cliffortia.

Existing track roads on the farm were also searched for archaeological remains.

2. Study approach

The approach used in the study is the standard archaeological procedure for a study of this nature. It entailed a foot survey of the proposed portions of the farm to be physically developed (Figure 1).

In addition to the field survey, an examination of the existing records in the South African Museum was also undertaken. No archaeological sites have been recorded in the study area.

3. Results of the impact assessment

1. Three Early Stone Age¹ (ESA) flakes and two ESA cores were located during the study. Two cores and one flake were found in a severely disturbed context on clay gravels within the proposed residential portion (Figure 1). Two ESA flakes were found in severely disturbed contexts within the proposed guest house and stable block portion of the farm (Figure 1).

Significance of finds: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

2. The remains of two old ruined buildings and a stone circle were found in a thicket of Bluegum trees in the proposed residential portion of the farm (Figure 1). The larger ruin comprises the remains of a 3-4 roomed

1. a term referring to the period between 2 million and 200 000 years in southern African precolonial history.

dwelling built of stone and clay bricks. The smaller ruin is a one-roomed dwelling built of stone.

The buildings are in a severe state of disrepair, with collapsed walls and roofs. The buildings are not considered to be architecturally significant or worthy of conservation.

Significance of finds: low

Suggested mitigation: none required

4. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed Letodi Private Nature Reserve development on archaeological sites or remains will be low to negligible. The probability of locating sites or remains during earthmoving activities is also considered to be low. Some tools may be uncovered, but these will likely be uncovered in already very disturbed contexts.

The few stone tools found were located in severely disturbed context and are not considered to be culturally significant. The stone and brick ruined buildings are in a severe state of disrepair and are not considered conservation worthy or architecturally significant.

6. Recommendations

- x 1. The proposed Letodi Private Nature Reserve development should be allowed to proceed.