

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
FARM ERFDEEL NO. 374
TULBAGH**

Prepared for

ENVIROAFRICA

By

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Executive summary

EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing development on the Farm Erfdeel No. 374 Tulbagh, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of a small portion of the affected property provides for the development of nine high end residential units, in four proposed development Nodes.

The extent of the proposed development (less than 1.0 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 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.

A 'Notification to Heritage Western Cape of Intent to Develop' checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCOM) for comment. A copy of the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment report has been included with this submission.

Proposed development Nodes 1 and 2 are located above a small farm dam on steep, south east facing slopes in the shadow of the Groot Winterhoek Mountains. Node 3 is located on the edge of a farm dam on a level, gravel turnaround, and Node 4 is located alongside a small farm dam on a site almost completely surrounded by fruit trees.

The surrounding land use comprises intensive fruit orchards. The northern boundary of Erfdeel forms a buffer with the Groot Winterhoek Forest Reserve.

No archaeological heritage remains were located during the study of the proposed development Nodes.

It is interesting to note, however, that the previous owner of the farm amassed a large collection of Early Stone Age tools, collected over many years from the Tulbagh Valley and surrounding countryside.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to development activities.

The specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the Farm Erfdeel in Tulbagh has rated the potential impacts to archaeological heritage material as being very low.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

EnviroAfrica requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed housing development on the Farm Erfdeel No. 374 in Tulbagh, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of a small portion of the affected property provides for the development of nine high end residential units, in four proposed development Nodes.

The farm is currently zoned Agriculture I (fruit orchards). An application will be made to rezone a small portion of the farm to Resort Zone II.

The extent of the proposed development (less than 1.0 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 aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

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

A copy of the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment report has been included with the above submission.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed development Nodes;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed development Nodes;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed development Nodes;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed development Nodes.

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1¹.

Access to Erfdeel Farm is through the town of Tulbagh in the Western Cape. The affected property is located in the shadow of the Groot Winterhoek Mountains. The surrounding land use comprises intensive fruit orchards. The northern boundary of the farm forms a buffer with the Groot Winterhoek Forest Reserve.

Four development nodes are envisaged (refer to Figure 2).

No new access roads will be constructed for the proposed project. Existing farm roads will be upgraded.

Node 1 (GPS readings S° 33 10 988 E° 19 08 944)

Node 1 is located on the north eastern boundary of the farm on very steep south east facing slopes above a small farm dam (Figures 3 & 4). The proposed site was previously used for wine grapes, remnants of which still occur on the site. The site is well grassed and vegetated with low bushes. Two units are planned for Node 1.

Node 2 (GPS readings S° 33 11 116 E° 19 08 859)

Node 2 is located on steep south east facing slopes above a small farm dam (Figures 5 & 6) on the lower slopes of the farm. The land was previously used for vineyard planting, remnants of which still occur on the site. The site is well grassed with a patch of thick indigenous forest and a river which feeds into the dam. Five units are planned for Node 1.

Node 3 (GPS readings S° 33 10 877 E° 19 08 661)

Node 3 is located on a flat compacted clay and gravel turnaround on the edge of a farm dam on the northern boundary of the affected property (Figures 7 & 8). The proposed site has been completely transformed. One unit is planned for Node 3.

Node 4 (GPS readings S° 33 11 052 E° 19 08 619)

Node 4 is located on the north western boundary of the Farm, alongside a small gravel road and on the edge of a small farm dam (Figures 9 & 10). Facing west, the 300 m² building footprint is almost completely surrounded by fruit trees. One unit is planned for Node 4.

No old buildings or other built structures or features occur within or close to the proposed four development Nodes.

¹ Unfortunately, no aerial photograph of the site is available

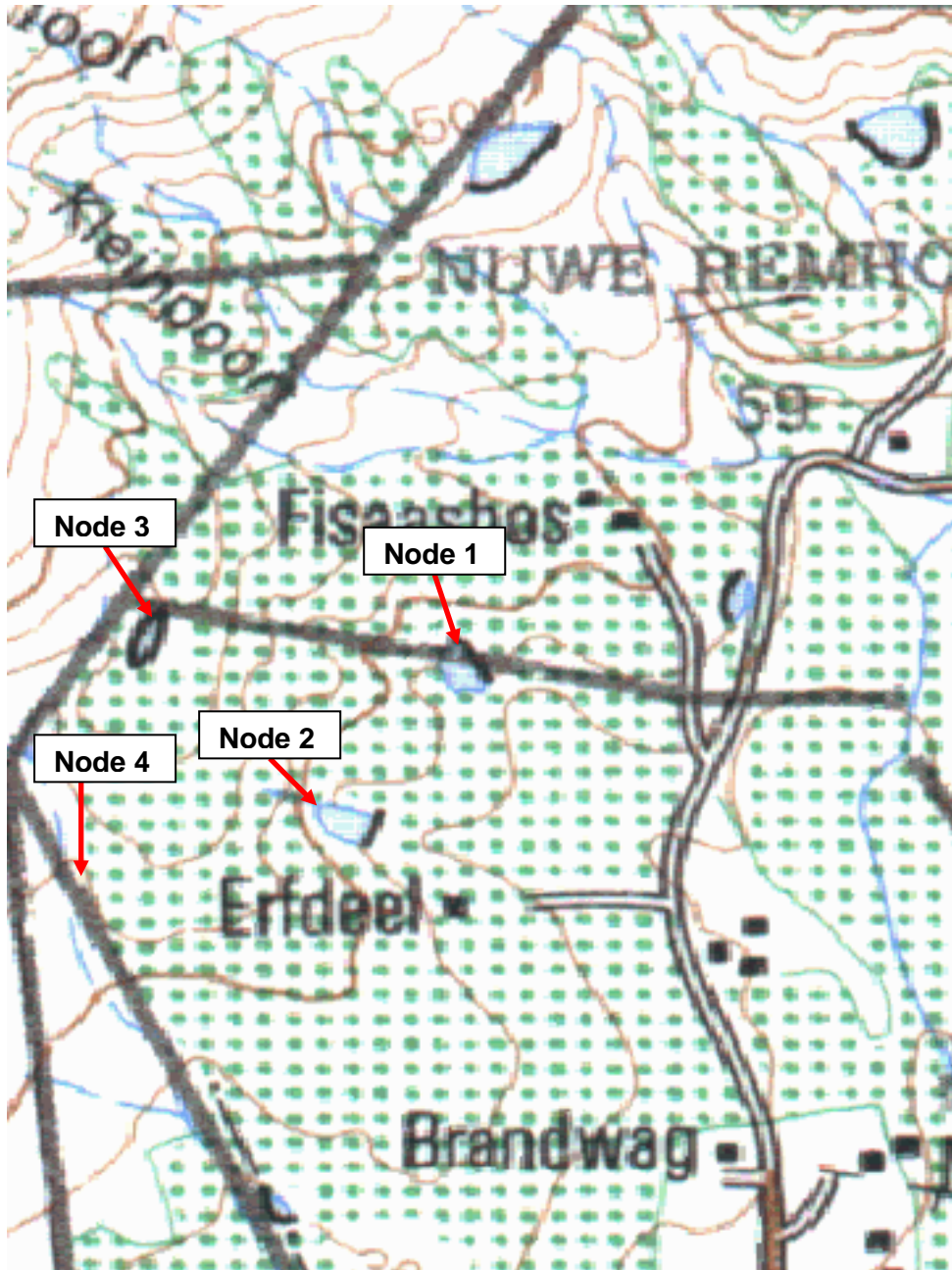


Figure 2. Erfdeel Farm: proposed development Nodes



Figure 3. Node 1. View of the site facing north west. The Groot Winterhoek Mountains are in the background. Note the surrounding fruit orchards.



Figure 4. Node 1. View of the Tulbagh Valley facing south east. Node 1 is located just above the dam in the foreground. Arrow indicates the site.



Figure 5. Node 2. View of the site facing north west. The Groot Winterhoek Mountains are in the background. Note the small kloof of indigenous forest.



Figure 6. Node 2. View of the Tulbagh Valley facing south east. Node 2 is located just above and to the right of the dam in the foreground. Arrow indicates the site.



Figure 7. Node 3. View of the site facing north. The Groot Winterhoek Mountains form an impressive backdrop. Arrow indicates the site.



Figure 8. Node 3. View of the site facing south. The Tulbagh Valley is in the foreground.



Figure 9. Node 4. View of the site (in the immediate foreground) facing south west.



Figure 10. View of the site facing north east. The Witsenberg Mountains are in the background. Arrow indicates the site.

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological heritage study entailed a detailed foot survey of each of the proposed four development Nodes.

A desktop study was undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 13 January 2005.

5. CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

There were no limitations or constraints associated with the proposed development.

6. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

`...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

`...the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development exceeding 300 m in length, (also) requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

6.1.1 Structures (Section 34 (1))

No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), or Heritage Western Cape.

6.1.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

6.1.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

7.1 Node 1

No archaeological heritage remains were located in Node 1.

7.2 Node 2

No archaeological heritage remains were located in Node 2.

7.3 Node 3

No archaeological heritage remains were located in Node 3.

7.4 Node 4

No archaeological heritage remains were located in Node 4.

It is very interesting to note, however, that the previous owner of the Farm Erfdeel amassed a very large collection, numbering several or more hundred, of mainly Early Stone Age² (ESA) tools, including large numbers of well-crafted handaxes, choppers and cleavers (Figures 11 & 12). The tools were collected mainly from the surrounding farmlands in the Tulbagh Valley, but also from other regions of South Africa.

ESA tools such as those viewed by the archaeologist are not uncommon in the intensively farmed agricultural lands of Tulbagh (Kaplan 2005, 2002).

² A term referring to the period between 2 million and 200 000 years ago.



Figure 11. Collection of just some of the mainly ESA tools collected by the previous owner of Erfdeel Farm



Figure 12. Collection of just some of the mainly ESA tools collected by the previous owner of Erfdeel Farm.

8. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed housing development on the Farm Erfdeel No. 374 Tulbagh, on important 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.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological heritage impact assessment of the Farm Erfdeel No. 374, in Tulbagh, in the Western Cape Province, has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being very low provided that.

- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

10. REFERENCES

Kaplan, J. 2005. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed Conservancy and Golf Estate Schalkenbosch Estate, Tulbagh. Report prepared for Chand Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2002. Archaeological study Tulbagh 66 Kv refurbishment. Report prepared for Eskom Land Development. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.