

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
LIFE STYLE VILLAGE  
PORTION 13 (PORTION OF PORTION 3)  
OF THE FARM 244 ZAGTE VALLEY  
TULBAGH**

Prepared for

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### Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed Life Style Village development on Portion 13 (Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm 244 Zagte Valley in Tulbagh has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

The proposed (new) housing development forms part of the much larger proposed Schalkenbosch Golf and Conservancy Estate.

Early Stone Age (ESA) tools were documented on the subject property, but the remains are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape, and appear mostly in a disturbed and degraded context. ESA tools were also found among several large piles of rocks that have been collected from the property.

The specialist archaeological impact assessment of Portion 13 (Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm 244 Zagte Valley in Tulbagh has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being low provided that:

- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie or Ms Colette Scheermeyer 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 483 9687).

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and brief

BKS (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of Dezzo Trading 243 Proprietary Limited requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for a proposed housing development on Portion 13 (Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm 244 Zagte Valley in Tulbagh.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the subject property provides for the development of 105 residential erven, including internal streets and services. The subject property is currently zoned Agriculture.

The proposed (new) Life Style Village development forms part of the much larger proposed Schalkenbosch Golf and Conservancy Estate, which has already been subjected to a Phase 1 AIA (Kaplan 2006a).

A full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for Schalkenbosch has been undertaken by heritage consultants Melanie Atwell and Graham Jacobs. HIA

Portion 13 (Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm 244 Zagte Valley was not included in the former archaeological study.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist for the proposed Life Style Village development has also been completed by heritage consultant Graham Jacobs. NID

The extent of the proposed development (11.4 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/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.

## 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 site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- 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 site

### 3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

The study site is situated about 5 km south east of Tulbagh, adjacent to the R46 link road between Wolseley and Tulbagh. The proposed site comprises mainly rehabilitated agricultural lands with a large coverage of natural pioneer veld (grass, bush and scrub (Figures 3-9). Alien trees (Port Jackson) occur sporadically over the property, as do a number of small informal footpaths. A small perennial stream runs through the western portion of the site. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the subject property. A ruined farm labourer's cottage and small earth dam occurs in the north western corner of the property (Figure 10), while a burnt out farm homestead occurs in the south eastern corner (Figure 11). The surrounding land use comprises mainly rural farmland (wheat and vineyards) and encroaching residential development. A cemetery is located adjacent to the subject property in the north east. GPS co-ordinates for the site are S° 33 17 756 E° 19 08 394 on map datum wgs 84.

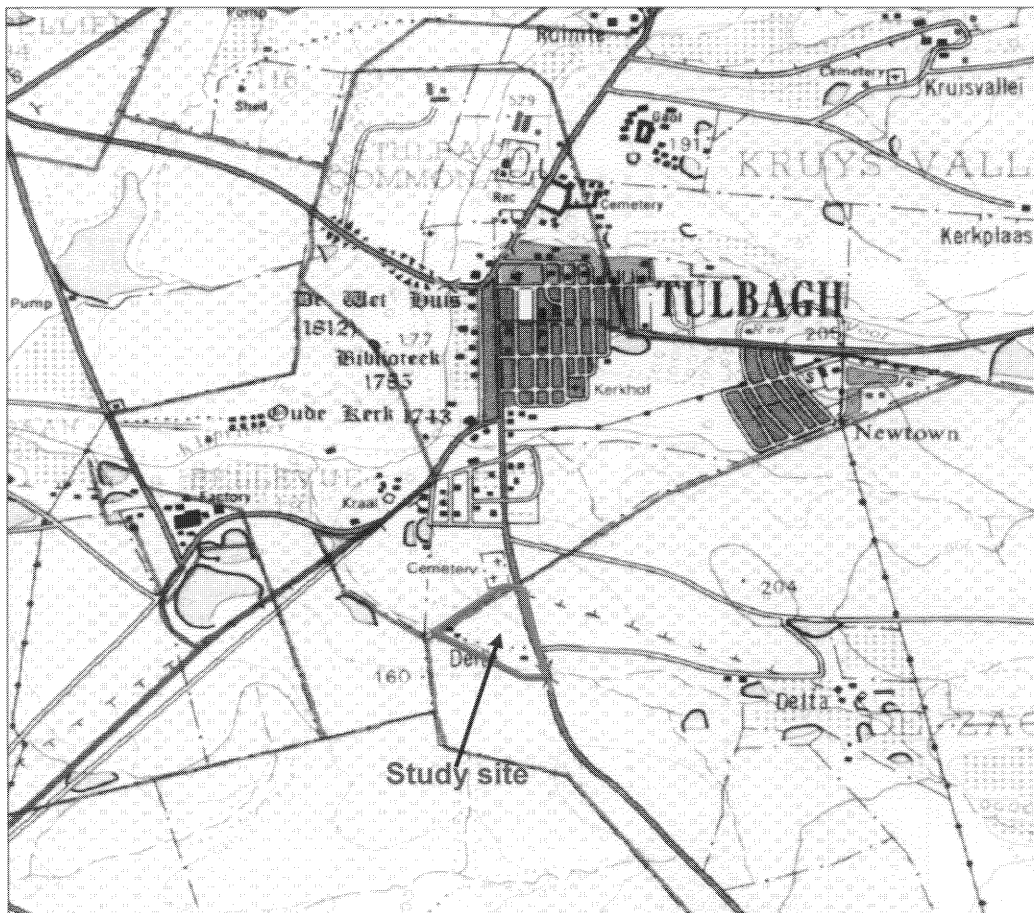


Figure 1. Locality Map (3319 AC Tulbagh)

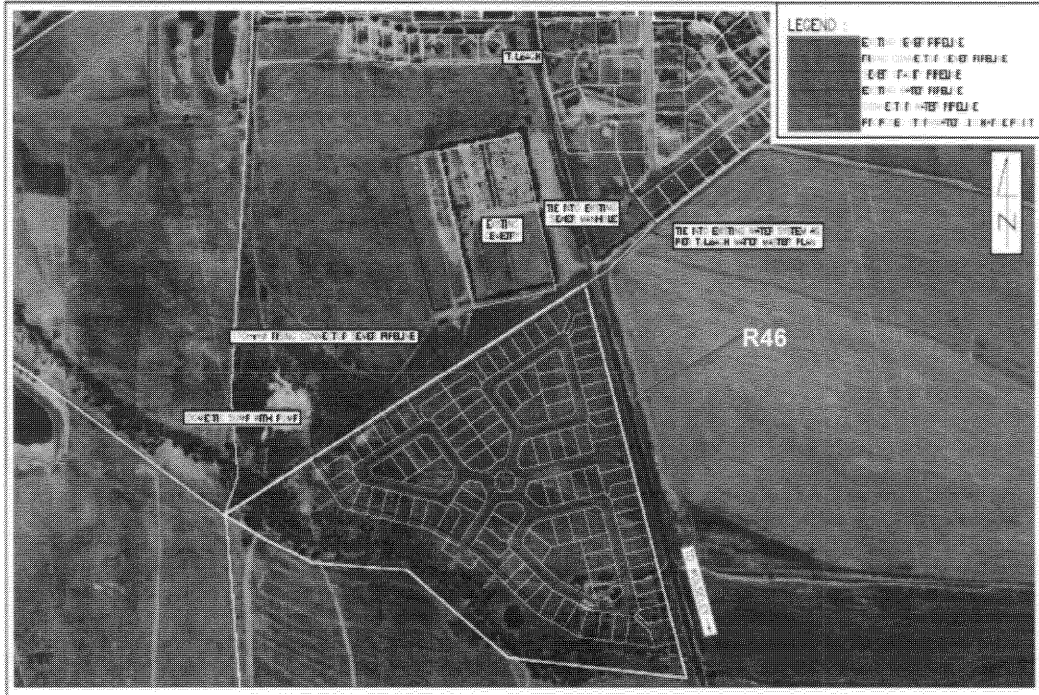


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

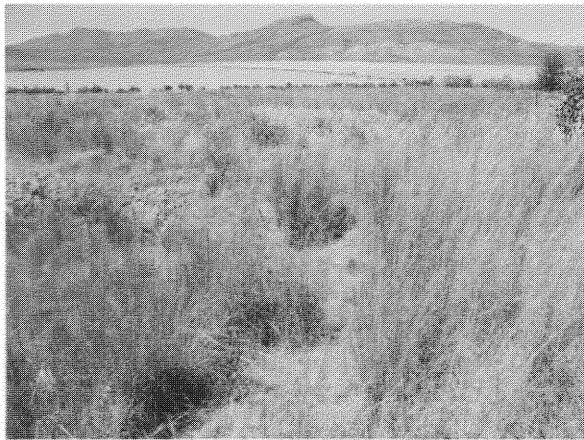


Figure 3. View of the site facing south west

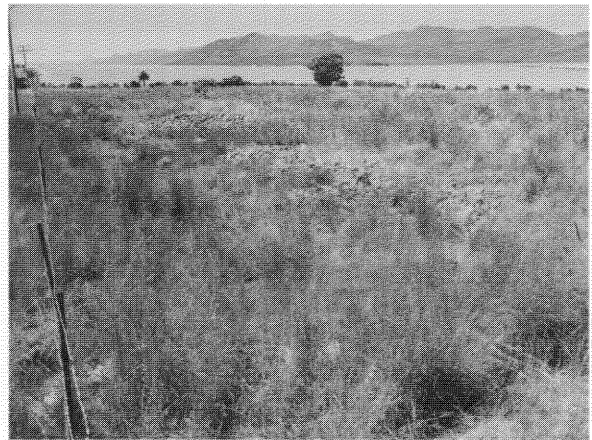
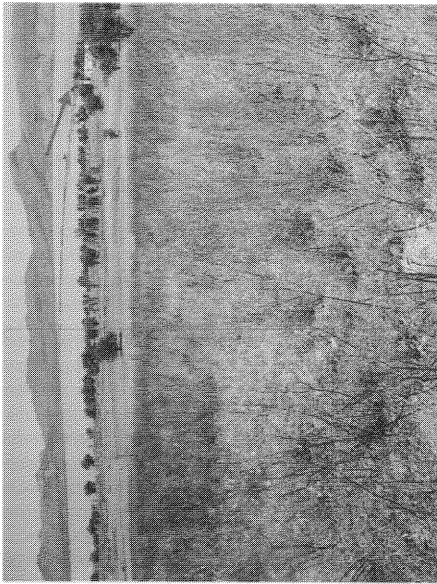


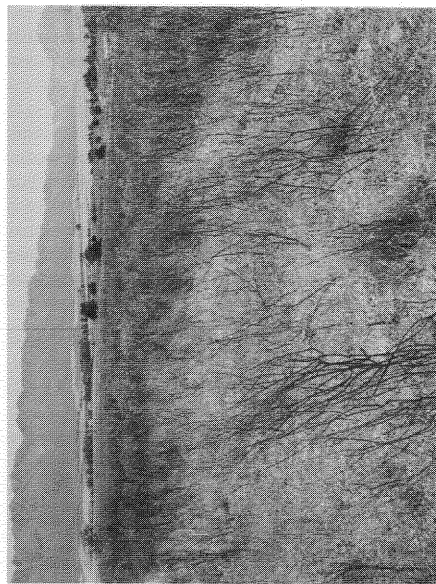
Figure 4. View of the site facing south



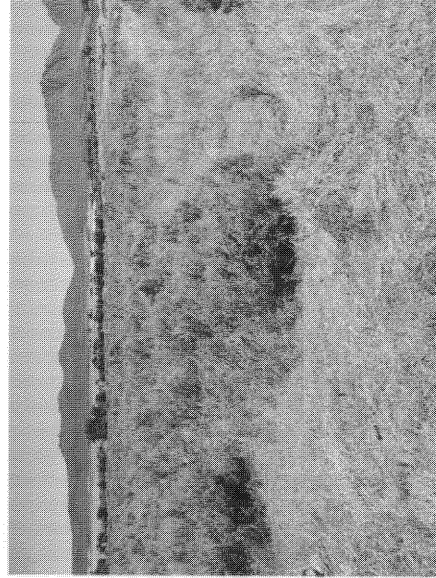
**Figure 5. View of the site facing west. Arrow indicates farm labourer's cottage**



**Figure 7. View of the site facing south east. The Witzberg Mountains are in the distance**



**Figure 6. View of the site facing south east. The Witzberg Mountains are in the distance**



**Figure 7. View of the site facing west. The Voelvlei Mountains are in the distance**



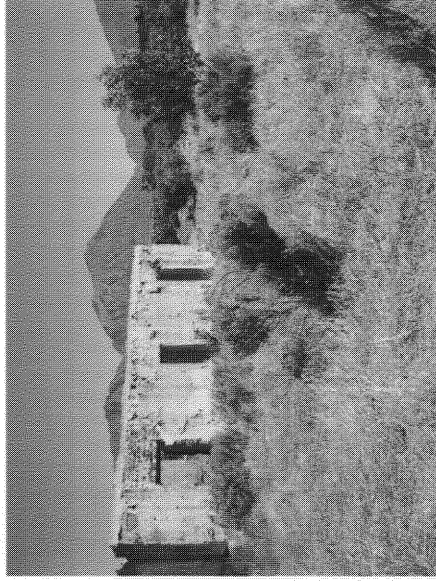
**Figure 8. View of the site facing north west. The Obiekwa Mountains are in the distance**



**Figure 10. Ruined and burnt out farmstead**



**Figure 9. View of the site facing north west. The Obiekwa Mountains are in the distance**



**Figure 11. Ruined labourer's cottage**



## **4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

### **4.1 Method of survey**

The approach followed in the archaeological heritage study entailed a foot survey of the proposed site. The site visit and assessment took place on the 10 January 2007.

A desktop study was also undertaken.

### **4.2 Constraints and limitations**

A large portion of the site is well vegetated with dry winter grasses, bush and scrub, resulting in low archaeological visibility. However, foot access was possible and the whole property was covered in the survey.

### **4.3 Identification of potential risks**

There are no potential archaeological risks associated with the proposed project.

### **4.4 Results of the desk-top survey**

Several archaeological impact assessments in Tulbagh have been undertaken in recent years.

Large numbers of Early Stone Age (ESA) tools, including more than 40 handaxes, have been documented on the Farm Schalkenbosch, adjacent to the subject property (Kaplan 2006a). Relatively large numbers of ESA tools were also recorded during a study of the proposed upgrading of an overhead powerline between Tulbagh and Waterval (Kaplan 2002), while large numbers of ESA tools have been reported in disturbed farmlands alongside the TR 21/1 between Tulbagh and Wolseley (Kaplan 2006b). A resident on the Farm Erfdeel in Tulbagh has also collected large numbers of tools from surrounding farms in the Tulbagh Valley (Kaplan 2006c). Rock paintings have been located by the archaeologist near the source of the Waterval River, a tributary flowing into the Klein Berg River and several small caves and shelters with deposits have been inspected on the mountain slopes alongside the Klein Berg River in the Nuwekloof Pass between Gouda and Tulbagh.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

The following section provides a brief overview of the relevant legislation with regard to the archaeology of Portion 13 (Portion of Portion 3) of the Farm 244 Zagte Valley.

### **5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)**

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m<sup>2</sup>, or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

### **5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))**

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

### **5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))**

Section 36 (3) of the HHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), 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.

## **6. FINDINGS**

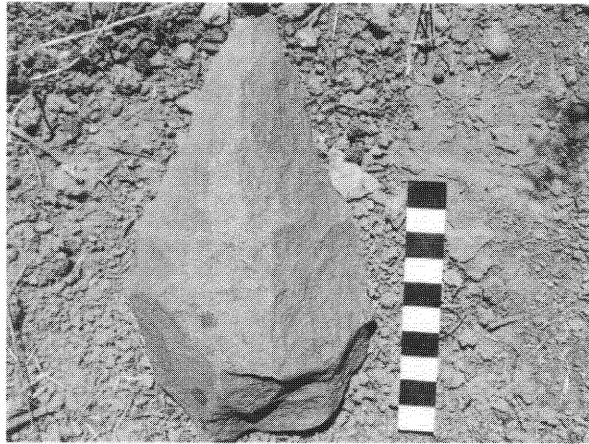
ESA tools were documented on the subject property, but the remains are spread very thinly and unevenly over the surrounding landscape. There is no coherent spatial distribution in the scatter of tools located by the archaeologist. In comparison with the large numbers of tools documented on the adjacent Farm Schalkenbosch, the stone artefact densities are very low. The majority of tools were located on higher ground, in the north eastern portion of the property, while several tools were found alongside the northern and eastern boundary fence lines. A few tools were also located on a spoil dump next to a test pit in the northern portion of the site. A layer of large rounded quartzite cobbles about 50 cm thick is underlain by weathered quartzite's and clay deposits. The surface tools all occur in a clearly disturbed and transformed context. No tools were found in the grasslands/river floodplain in the western portion of the site (refer to Figure 7).

The majority of tools comprise large unmodified side-struck flakes, split and flaked cobbles, edge damaged cobbles, large round cores, large chunks (some flaked), and flatter bifacial flakes, retouched and partially modified flakes (not quite cleavers/choppers). Several large manuports, or unworked river cobbles were also recorded in the landscape. A relatively large number of tools are also patinated and weathered, indicating considerable antiquity. Only one unifacial handaxe was found (Figure 12), while several incomplete (bifacial and unifacial) handaxes and handaxe blanks were also noted. While the majority of tools are in locally available river rounded quartzite cobbles, several large flakes and chunks in quartz were also documented.

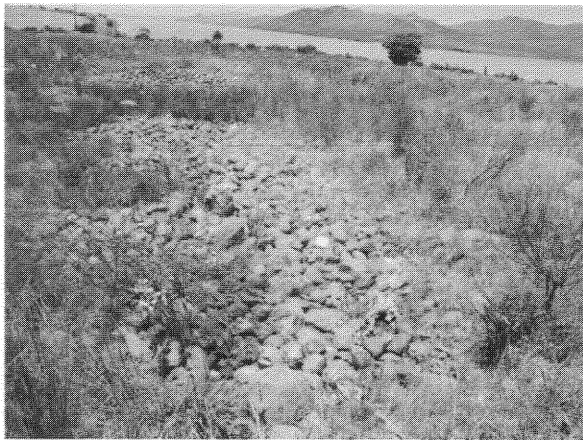
It is also important to note that ESA tools were found among several large piles of quartzite stone that have been collected from the property (Figures 13 and 14). Many of the cobbles and tools on these piles are also highly weathered and patinated.

ESA tools such as those described above are not uncommon in the intensively farmed agricultural lands of the Tulbagh valley.

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



**Figure 12. Handaxe. Scale is in cm**



**Figure 13. Piles of rocks cleared from the property contain ESA tools**



**Figure 14. Piles of rocks cleared from the property contain ESA tools**

### **6.1 Other finds**

A few small fragments of white and pink ceramic material and some blue glass were found near the ruined (older) labourer's cottage in the north western portion of the site. Larger amounts of rusted metal, broken glass, tin and building material lie scattered about. No middens or dumps were located surrounding the cottage.

No historical material was noted around the main farm building, whose form, fabric and building material is more modern.

Several ESA tools were also located in the car park of the cemetery.

## 7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed housing development on important pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

The probability of locating significant pre-colonial archaeological heritage remains during implementation (i.e. the Construction Phase) of the proposed project is likely to be improbable.

It is unlikely, but unmarked human burials may be uncovered or exposed during earthworks and excavations.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological heritage impact assessment of Portion 13 (portion of Portion 3) of the Farm 244 Zagte Valley, in Tulbagh, in the Western Cape Province, has rated the potential impacts to archaeological material as being very low provided that.

- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie or Ms Colette Scheermeyer 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 483 9687).

## 9. REFERENCES

Kaplan, 2006a. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment proposed development Schalkenbosch Estate, Tulbagh. Report prepared for Chand Environmental Consultants. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

Kaplan, J. 2006c. Phase 1 proposed upgrading of TR 22/1 between Gouda and Wolseley and TR 23/3 between Gouda and Porterville. Report prepared for CCA Environmental (Pty) Ltd. Agency for Cultural Resource Management.

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