

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PART OF FARM WINDHOEK NO. 449, DISTRICT OF VAN RHYNSDORP, WESTERN CAPE

Prepared for

Matzikama Municipality

28 April 2005

Prepared by

Sarah Wurz (D.Phil)
Proactive Archaeology
PO Box 929
STELLENBOSCH
7599
Cell: 082 449 33 62

Tel: 021 - 851 3301



email: sjdw@sun.ac.za

Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	3
Figure 1: 1:50 000 map (3118DC Klawer) and polygon of research area.	3
2. METHOD	4
3. DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA	4
4. RESULTS	5
Figure 3: Core 'b'	5
5. RECOMMENDATIONS	5

1 Introduction

Johan Grobler of Weskus Omgewingsrehabilitasie Konsultante, Hongerblomstraat 5, Vanrhynsdorp, 8170, requested a phase 1 archaeological study of part of the Farm Windhoek No. 449, Klawer (Figure 1) on behalf of the Matzikama Municipality. This land is in the process of being transferred from the previous owner, Mrs Sarah Mouton, Klawer to the Matzikama Municipality. Development of the property for low-cost housing is planned. The area was investigated for historic and prehistoric archaeological heritage resources that are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999.

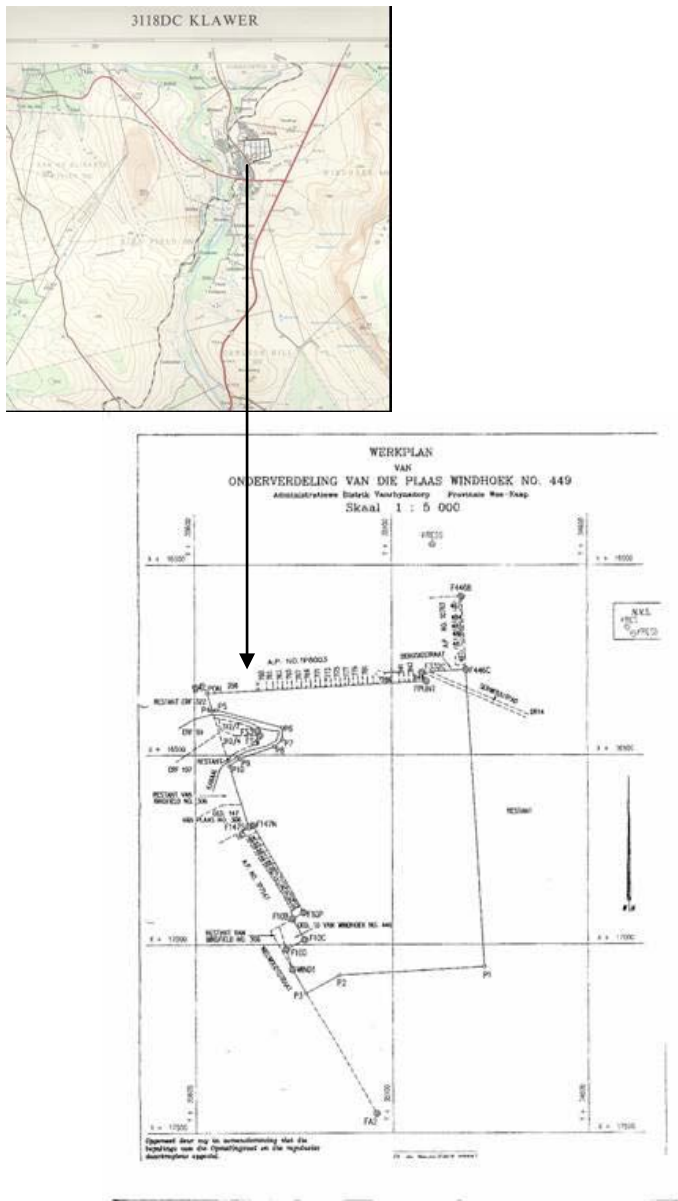


Figure 1: 1:50 000 map (3118DC Klawer) and polygon of research area.

2. Method

The area of proposed development (Figure 1) was visited by myself and an assistant on 23 April 2004. Mr Grobler met us at the site and pointed out the boundaries. An on foot survey was undertaken and archaeological material was plotted using a Garmin GPS e-trex (map datum WGS84) with an accuracy of 4 meters. Photographs were taken with a Cannon Powershot A400 camera. Ground visibility was adequate due to the type of vegetation and the condition of the veld after the dry season.

3. Description of Study area

The study area is close to the N7 highway, and is adjacent to Nieuwoudt Street (Figure 1). Mr HJ Zandberg, who rents the property from Mrs Mouton, presently uses it as grazing for sheep. The study area is fenced and gated from residential properties on its western and northern boundaries, and commercial concerns on the southern boundary. Limited prospecting took place in the study area; there are two dirt tracks on the property and a rivulet that runs to the canal that encroaches the northwestern corner. There are low quantities of building rubble, rusted implements and broken glass in the area.

There are several rocky outcrops, especially in the southern part of the area. The dominant plant species in the area is the *Montinia caryphylacica*. Other species occurring in the area include *Gatenia africana* (kraalbos), *Euphorbia mauritania* (melkbos), *E. tuberculata* (vingerbol), *Cladoraphis spinosa*, *Eragrostis carvula*, *Asparagus capensis* and *microloma* species (pers comm. P.J. Grobler).

There are known rock art in close proximity of the study area, some of it also in the ownership of the Mouton family. The rock art on Windhoek farm, east of the study area (Figure 2), is advertised as a tourist attraction. The Windhoek farm is also known as the area where a skirmish between troops of General Jan Smuts and British troops took place (<http://www.namakwa.com/Dorpe/Klawer/klawer.htm>).



Figure 2: A view from the study area towards the east where rock art (*) occurs

4. Results

No historical archaeological resources were located. The archaeological heritage resources were limited to two cores and one Middle Stone Age trimming flake. The two cores were found within approximately 50 metres from each other: core “a” in silcrete of a yellow hue at 31° 46.559’ S and 18°37.679’E and core “b” in white silcrete at 31° 46.544’ S and 18°37.699’E. The cores are of similar size and similarly reduced. Both show the removal of bladelets on the dorsal surface at the proximal platform and have been worked down to a thickness of approximately 7 mm. The lateral edges of the cores have been thinned extensively and resemble scraper-like retouch. It is likely that these cores date to the Later Stone Age. The trimming Middle Stone Age flake (31° 46.455’ S and 18°37.659’E) is in a grey quartzite.



Figure 3: Core 'b'

5. Recommendations

The archaeological material found is limited to individual artifacts. Although the cores evidence an interesting reduction style, they are not unique and, like the single Middle Stone Age flake, they are not associated with any other archaeological material. In terms of the requirements of section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (1999), the archaeological heritage on part of Farm Windhoek No 449 is of low significance and no mitigation is required. There is no need for further archaeological investigation before development takes place.