

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Title: Group Housing Erf 2483 Vredenburg.

Proposal to develop on 2.8266 Ha of land, owned by the Saldanha Bay Municipality, off R399 on the northern boundary of Vredenburg, zoned unspecified, used as open space/village commonage, in **Saldanha Bay 'B' Municipality, Western Cape**. A rezoning application is required.

Author of this report:

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Commissioned by Environmental Consultants

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Developer

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Executive Summary

A survey was conducted of a 2.8266 ha portion of Erf 2483, owned by the Saldanha Bay Municipality, to be developed for housing was surveyed. No archaeological or palaeontological remains were noted. No impact on heritage resources is anticipated.

Background Information

This erf bordered by Leyden and Zeeburg streets and the R399 to Paternoster is on the urban edge of Vredenburg (Figure1).

Archaeological Background

The general Saldanha area includes numerous archaeological sites of different ages especially towards the coast.

Description of the property

The property (Figure 1) is low lying, level ground in a depression, a wetland that has been drained by deep ditch that transects the property. It has not been previously habitable. There are signs of intense dune mole activity. Some recent land snails shells associated with the drainage furrow were noted.

Methodology

The property (Figure 2) is open with low, sparse vegetation. Visibility is high.

Observations and Results

There are no buildings or structures on the property. No prehistoric archaeological artefacts were observed.

Sources of Risk and Statement of Significance

The apparent absence of archaeological materials on the surface or associated with the excavations for drainage suggests the risk of further developments uncovering material is very low. The significance of the property in terms of the archaeology and palaeontology is rated as low.

The low elevation of the property relative to the surrounds suggests the visual impact of development will be limited. To the north, land use is rural with Florida Farm, a plant nursery, marking the beginning of the farmland. The development will not significantly compromise the boundary between town and country.

Recommended Mitigations

It is recommended that should any excavations by chance uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological materials including human remains that Heritage Western Cape is notified (Mr N Ndlovu, Senior Heritage Officer – Archaeologist, Private Bag X9067, Cape Town 8000, Tel: 021 483 9687, Fax: 021 483 9842, ndlovu@pgwc.gov.za).

Conclusions

The examination of this undeveloped property did not reveal any archaeological, palaeontological or other heritage resources that may be impacted by development.



Figure 1. Erf 2483 Vredenburg bordering R399 to Paternoster.



Figure 2. View across the southern part of the site with Leyden Street on the right. The notice refers to the engineers responsible for the drainage channel crossing the property.