

Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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10 May, 2007

Att: Mr Paul de Ruyter
Transnet
Room 453
Carlton Centre
150 Commissioner Street
Johannesburg

Dear Mr de Ruyter

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF A PROPOSED BORROW PIT ALONGSIDE THE TRANSNET SISHEN-SALDANHA RAILWAY LINE - LOOP 3

1. Introduction and brief

Transnet requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct an archaeological investigation of a proposed borrow pit at Loop 3, alongside the Sishen-Saldanha Railway Line.

As part of Transnet (Spoornet's) plans to upgrade the Sishen-Saldanha rail line to enable it to increase its rail capacity, each of the 19 passing loops along the 861 km rail line route need to be extended. At each of the loops, approximately 5000 m³ of borrow material will be required in order to provide the necessary platform upon which the new section of railway track will be constructed.

The extent of the proposed development 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).

2. Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the archaeological assessment are to:

- Identify and map archaeological heritage resources in the proposed borrow pit;
- Determine the importance of archaeological heritage resources in the proposed borrow pit;
- Determine and assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

3. The site

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

Loop 3 (S° 31 49 664 E° 18 15 529 on map datum wgs 84) is located about 1.5 km north of Doringbaai on the Cape West coast. Access to the site is via the R362, a gravel road situated between Lamberts Bay and Doringbaai. The proposed site (an existing borrow pit) is located directly alongside the Spoornet Sishen-Saldanha railway line (Figures 2-4).

The proposed site slopes gently west toward the R362 and comprises a typical Strandveld environment, with bush, scrub and open patches of loose, orange/red sands. A slightly elevated, but wind eroded, dune ridge occurs in the eastern portion of the site. There are no significant landscape features occurring on the site or in the immediate surrounding area. A capping of soft, weathered calcrete is present in the existing borrow pit cutting alongside the railway line. Several road tracks intersect the site.

4. Approach to the study

The proposed site was subjected to a foot survey.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 09th April, 2007.

5. Results of the study

Seven Later Stone Age (LSA) silcrete flakes, one snapped quartzite flake, three quartz flakes and two quartz chunks were located during the site inspection (Figure 4). Several of the tools were found in the bottom of the existing borrow pit, while the remainder were documented on compact wind eroded soils in the south eastern portion of the site. One partially retouched silcrete flake was found embedded in the compact sand. No tools were found on the undisturbed surface deposits of the proposed site.

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

6. Impact statement

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be low.

Although flake tools may well be uncovered or exposed during excavations for source material, the probability of locating important archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

Given its proximity to the coast, unmarked human burials may be uncovered during the proposed activities.

7. Conclusion

The study has shown that the no important archaeological heritage remains occur within the proposed borrow pit.

The proposed development of the Loop 3 borrow pit should be allowed to proceed as planned.

Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 021 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Mr N. Ndlovu 021 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaplan', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Kaplan

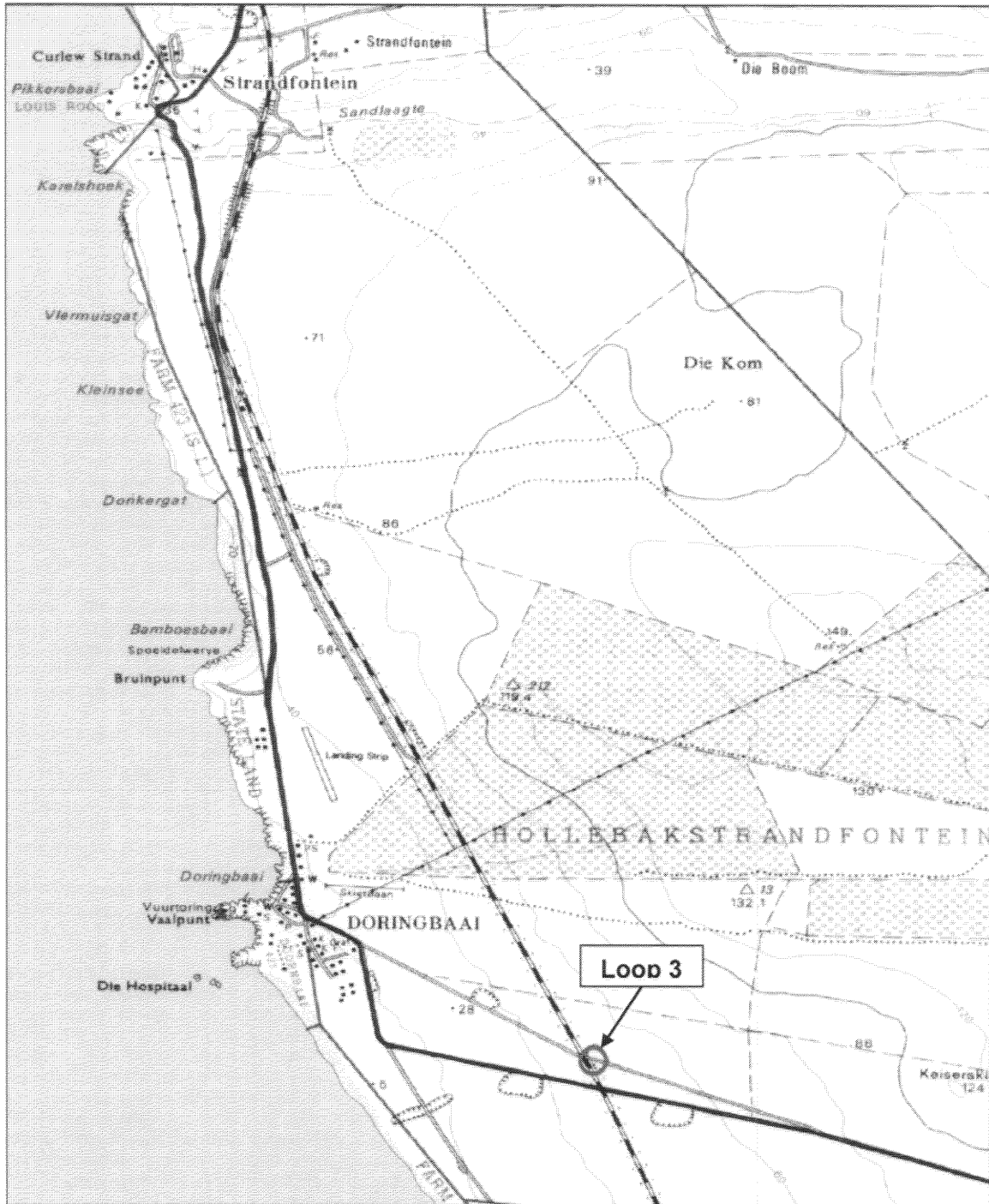


Figure 1. Locality map (3118 CC and DD Doringbaai)

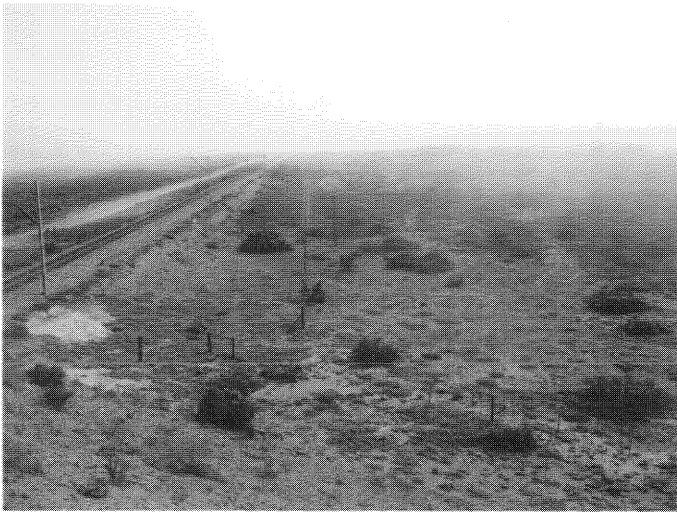


Figure 2. View of site taken from R362

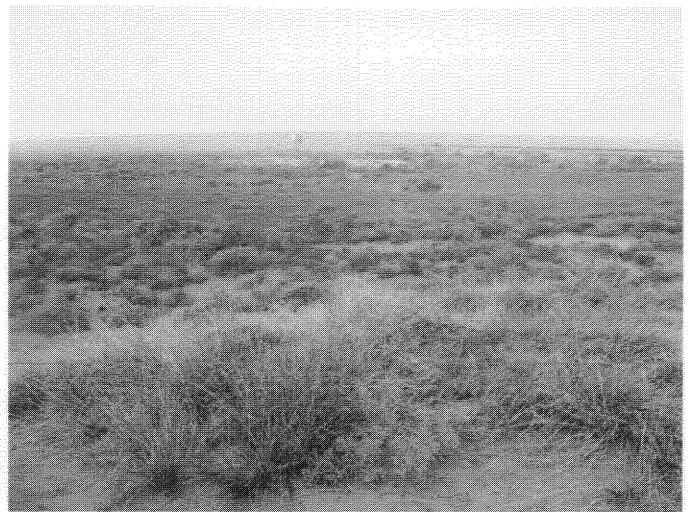


Figure 6. View of borrow pit facing west

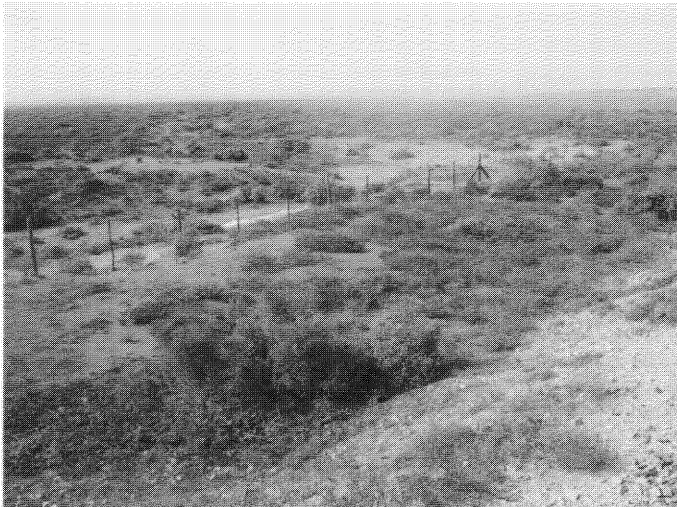


Figure 3. View of borrow pit facing south west

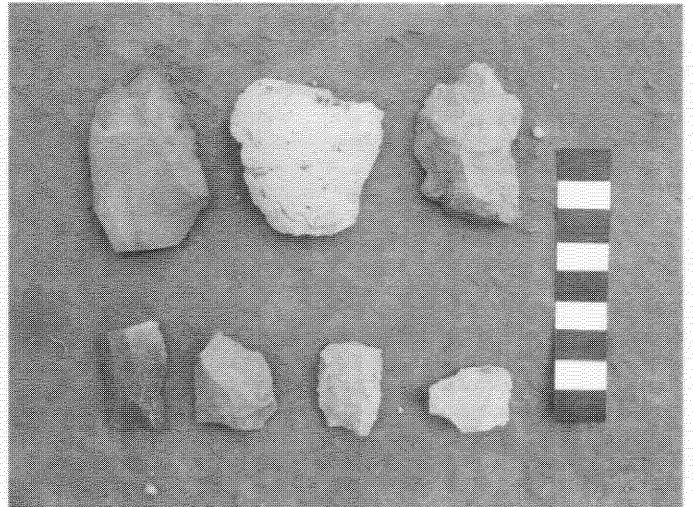


Figure 7. Collection of stone tools. Scale is in cm

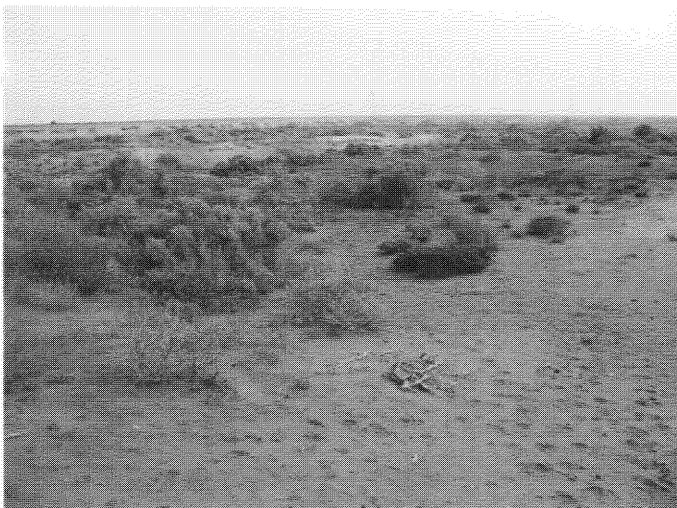


Figure 4. View of borrow pit facing north east