

**A PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF  
THE AREA SURROUNDING THE ABANDONED DIE KOP  
QUARRY SITE SITUATED ON THE FARM KLEINEBERG 87/1  
VREDENBURG**

Prepared for

**SITE PLAN CONSULTING**

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## Executive summary

Site Plan Consulting requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the area surrounding the abandoned Die Kop Quarry site, situated on the farm Kleineberg 87/1 near Vredenburg, on the Cape West Coast.

The AIA forms part of an EIA in compilation of the Environmental Management Programme Report, as administered by the Department of Minerals and Energy.

The extent of the proposed development (about 35 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 sites and remains that may be negatively impacted by proposed mining operations, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Later Stone Age tools, several pieces of weathered ostrich eggshell and two small pieces of Cape coastal pottery were located during the baseline study, but are very thinly dispersed over the surrounding environment. A few pieces of weathered marine shellfish were also noted.

By far the most interesting and significant archaeological finds include a utilised and retouched flake made on a glass case bottle, and a large retouched piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century Annular ware. Such finds of re-used European artefacts in a Stone Age Herder context are virtually unknown from the Vredenburg area. The remains have been graded high local significance.

Other than the ruined remains of a concrete reservoir, and some farming and mine-related features, no old buildings or structures occur on the affected property.

No possible Herder kraals were located.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

With regard to proposed mining on the Farm Kleineberg 87/1, Vredenburg, the following recommendations are made:

- The re-used European artifacts should be collected and held in storage for future research purposes.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and brief**

Site Plan Consulting requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the area surrounding the abandoned Die Kop Quarry site, situated on the farm Kleinberg 87/1 near Vredenburg, on the Cape West Coast.

The AIA forms part of an EIA in compilation of the Environmental Management Programme Report as prescribed by the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, administered by the Department of Minerals and Energy.

The quarry has previously been granted a land use departure and it is envisaged that should departure require renewal, such an application will be made.

The extent of the proposed development (about 35 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 proposed mining operations, 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 mining site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed mining site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed mining 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 mining site.

## **3. THE STUDY SITE**

A site locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

The property is located about 10 kms south of Veldrif on the Cape West coast. Access to the site is directly off the N7.

The Kleinberg has been mined for granite deposits in the past (Figure 2). The immediate surrounding area comprises mainly indigenous veld (Figures 3-7). Historically, some grazing has occurred in the surrounding fields. Several small outcroppings of granite occur near the edge of the quarry. Dune mole rat activity is quite extensive over the surrounding area.

Other than the ruined remains of a concrete reservoir, and some farming and mine-related features, no old buildings or structures occur on the affected property.

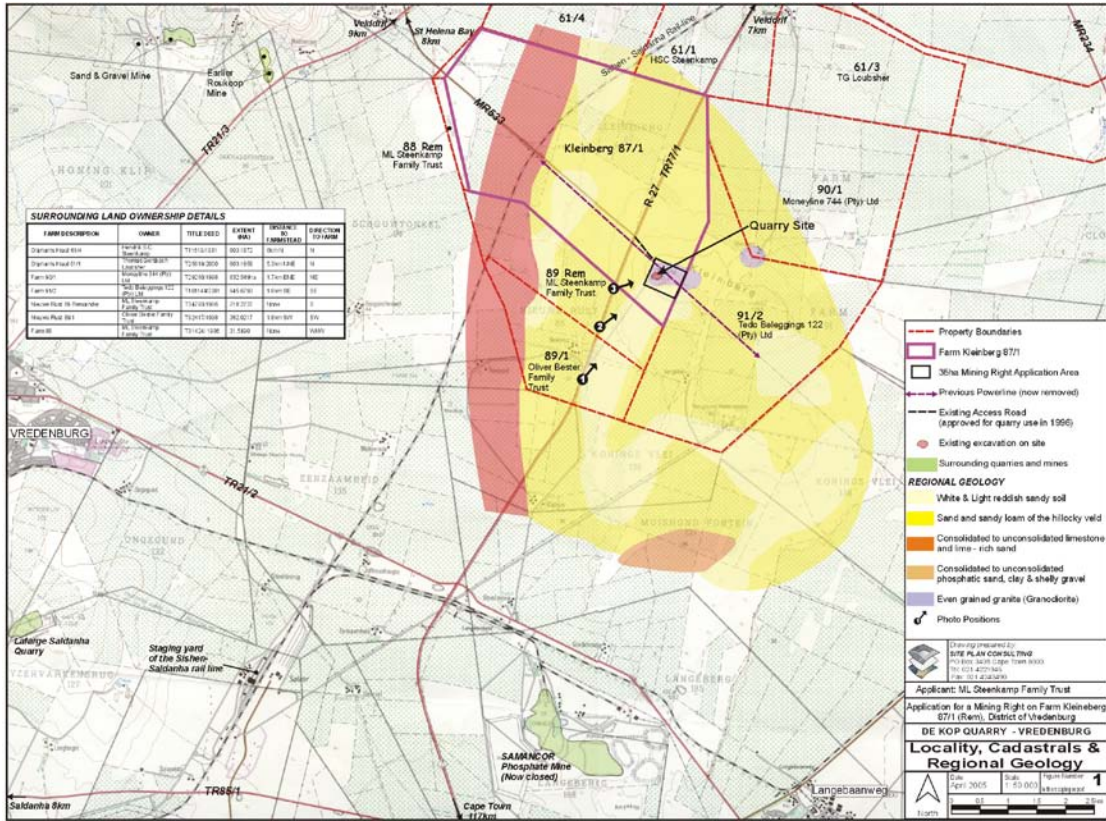


Figure 1. Site locality (Map Ref. No. 3218 CA & CC Veldrif).



Figure 2. The existing quarry.



Figure 3. The site facing north west.



Figure 4. The site facing north.



Figure 5. The site facing north east.



Figure 6. The site facing east.



Figure 7. The site facing south.

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

### **4.1 Method of survey**

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the 35 ha property.

The site visit and assessment took place on 28 July 2005.

More visible archaeological occurrences were recorded and given a co-ordinate using a Gamin Gecko GPS set on map datum WGS 84.

A desktop study was undertaken.

The archaeologist also consulted with Dr Karim Sadr of the School of Geography Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of Witwatersrand. Dr Sadr has been researching the archaeology of Stone Age Herder communities in the Vredenburg area for about 15 years.

### **4.2 Limitations**

The bulk of the study area is covered in indigenous veld, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

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

#### **5.1.1 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.

#### **5.1.2 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.

#### **5.1.3 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.



## 6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESCRIPTION

### DKP 1 (S 32° 53 22.5 E 18° 07 436)

About 25 LSA tools, mostly unmodified flakes and chunks, in silcrete and quartz were located about 75m north east of the existing granite quarry, in a relatively large deflated, but heavily vegetated, area alongside the gravel access road. The tools are spread very thinly over the surrounding area. Two small pieces of undecorated Cape coastal pottery and four large pieces of highly weathered ostrich eggshell were also found. One weathered (complete) limpet (Patella cochlear) shell and one weathered limpet (genus Patella) fragment were noted.

A small, discreet patch of quartz stone was noted about 30 m southeast of the concrete reservoir, and about 25 m north east of the quarry. The stone includes mainly bashed chunks, flakes and chips, but several large unworked quartz cobbles were also found.

Several flakes and chunks in quartz, one silcrete flake and one quartzite flake were found near the remains of the granite outcropping at the edge of the quarry. Such outcroppings, where they occur in the Vredenburg Peninsula, are known locations for precolonial herder sites (Sadr et al 1992).

By far the most interesting and significant archaeological finds include an utilised and retouched 'flake' made on a piece of a glass case bottle, and a large retouched piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century refined Annular earthenware (Figure 8). The retouch on the earthenware occurs on the underside on the raised edge of a bowl, as well as along one edge. Two additional small pieces of refined earthenware and one other piece of glass from an old bottle were also found.

Finds of re-used European artefacts in a Stone Age Herder context are virtually unknown from the Vredenburg area, the equivalent being a flaked brick tile from a 15-17<sup>th</sup> Century kraal from the northern end of the Vredenburg Peninsula (Sadr pers. Comm.). No Herder kraals were located during the assessment of the above property.

**The remains have been graded high local significance.**



Figure 7. Re-worked European artefacts. The item on the right is a piece of indigenous Cape coastal pottery. Scale is in cm.

## **7. IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment has identified significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to proposed mining on the Farm Kleineberg 87/1, Vredenburg-Saldanha District, the following recommendations are made:

- The re-used European artifacts should be collected and held in storage for future research purposes<sup>1</sup>.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during earthworks, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie @ 021 462 4502).

## **9. REFERENCES**

Sadr, K., Gribble, J. & Euston-Brown, G. 1992. The Vredenburg Peninsula survey, 1991/92. In Smith, A.B. & Muti, B (eds) Guide to archaeological sites in the south western Cape. Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr Sadr is in agreement with this recommendation